

Work on Updated Downtown Plan Recommendations Moving Forward

The importance of Olathe's downtown is apparent in the community's efforts to enliven the heart of the city. The community completed the original Envision Olathe Downtown Plan and Streetscape Master Plan in 2003. The City uses these planning documents regularly to promote downtown revitalization, and several of the plans' recommendations are seen today in downtown public investments and improvements.

An updated 2018 Envision Olathe Downtown Plan has a renewed focus led by public investment in downtown. Several upcoming projects will further reshape downtown for years to come, particularly the new Johnson County Courthouse.

Why the Downtown Plan Update?

- To continue efforts of Envision Olathe
- To reinforce the community's vision and commitment to downtown
- To stimulate investment in entrepreneurship
- To provide necessary infrastructure.

The Envision Olathe Plan creates a feasible program for development and implementation by combining input from the public with a review of development trends and market potential. During



Possible South Kansas Avenue downtown streetscape

the past year, more than 1,200 involved community members provided input and feedback around the project. The plan's concepts and principles are derived from the opinions and perceptions of those who best know downtown Olathe – the residents, business owners, and many

others who work or invest their time and capital in downtown.

The Goal

Envision Olathe builds on the character of downtown to create an enduring, vibrant district that links back to Olathe's rich history, celebrates the present, and lays a foundation for a bright future.

See What's Next Downtown, Page 3



Possible downtown alley enhancements between Cherry and Chestnut Streets



Find additional Olathe news at OlatheKS.org. Click on NEWS.

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Mayor's Message

Technology and Planning Help Shape Our Future

Olathe's status as a **Smart City** finds us at the forefront of communities applying emerging technologies to better serve residents. We have embraced a culture of innovation that is setting our city apart as we prepare for the future.

Our ongoing commitment to keeping you safe is evidenced by the groundbreaking communications technology recently implemented by the Fire Department. We are the first Fire Department in Kansas to use **FirstNet**, a nationwide, wireless broadband network for first responders. This means fire personnel communications will never compete for a connection on a congested network, which is critical in emergency situations and during large public events.



*Vehicles equipped with time-to-green light technology communicate with Olathe's Advanced Traffic Management System.
Image courtesy of Audi of America, Inc.*

In another example of applying leading-edge technology, Olathe is the only city in our part of the country offering drivers **time-to-green** traffic light information. Equipped cars receive real-time signal information from our Advanced Traffic Management System, monitoring traffic lights via our on-board 4G LTE data connection. Included on the instrument display is a countdown-to-green feature, indicating when your traffic signal will change to green. While this feature is currently only available on select 2017 and 2018 Audi models, we expect the technology to expand to other car makers. As additional cars offer the technology, it will provide our traffic system with

more data to help us target specific areas for improvement. This is important for Olathe motorists, who will benefit from more efficient signal timing and safer, smoother traffic flow.

As we incorporate new technology to work smarter and more efficiently, we are ensuring a high quality of life for our residents today and their children and grandchildren tomorrow. Planning processes and long-range planning documents help ensure we are **Future Ready**. In 2014, our community completed the **Parks Master Plan**, a blueprint for keeping Olathe a green, healthy, and livable city. The exciting enhancements occurring at Lake Olathe are part of the 2016 **Lake Olathe Park Master Plan**. Key recommendations for our evolving downtown are included in the recently-adopted **Envision Olathe Downtown Plan**, which is based on public input and current development



and marketing trends. We are very grateful to the many residents, businesses, and organizations who participated in the development of these vital plans.

Our planning is ongoing this year, as we solicit community input for a new 20-year **Olathe Strategic Plan**. We're eager to develop a bold vision that is uniquely Olathe, and we're calling the process **Olathe 2040: Future Ready**. We look forward to engaging you in our strategic planning efforts, continuing our focus on your highest priorities, now and in the future.

Wishing you a safe and happy summer,

Michael Copeland
Mayor

What's Next Downtown?

The City of Olathe is already working toward the plan's implementation through feasibility studies, grant applications, and project prioritization. Several specific actions are underway:

- Improvement strategies through the Healthy Neighborhood Initiative
- Available incentives, such as the new Downtown Storefront Improvement Grant, and tax abatements through the Neighborhood Revitalization Program for the Original Town area
- Formal organization of the Downtown Olathe Business Association
- Special events such as Fourth Fridays, and Chick Events that foster community

A proposed Mill Creek Trail concept could link existing and new downtown destinations and areas to the north and south.



- pride and support downtown
- Codes and policy tool development to implement the Envision Olathe Downtown Plan.

To learn more about the Envision Olathe Downtown Plan, visit: OlatheKS.org/DowntownOlathe

Olathe Memorial Cemetery Begins Revestment Process



Olathe Memorial Cemetery is going through an extensive process to locate and notify owners and/or their heirs of cemetery lots that were purchased many years ago and have not had any burial activity in at least 50 years. These cemetery lots are eligible for revestment by Kansas statute KSA-1440 if not claimed by the original owners or their heirs. Our first priority is to locate unused lot owners and/or their heirs. However, if they remain unclaimed, a court date will be set to return ownership back to the cemetery whereby they will be deemed eligible to sell. This process allows the cemetery to continue providing quality service to the community for many years to come.

Visit Cemetery.OlatheKS.org to see if you or a loved one purchased lots with no burial activity for at least 50 years.

Important City Phone Numbers

Regular Business Hours:

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Except for **Emergency 911**, and unless otherwise noted

EMERGENCY 911

Emergency TDD/TTY Calls 911

GENERAL INFORMATION (TDD/Voice) 971-8600

CUSTOMER SERVICE

1385 S. Robinson 971-9311

Billing, Trash, Water & Sewer

FIRE ADMINISTRATION

1225 S. Hamilton Circle (Non-Emergency) 971-7900

Printed on recyclable paper.



OlatheKS.org/ServicesDirectory

OLATHE PUBLIC LIBRARY

201 E. Park St. 971-6850

13511 S. Mur-Len Rd. 971-6835

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

OLATHE COMMUNITY CENTER

1205 E. Kansas City Rd. (TDD/Voice) ... 971-8563

POLICE DEPARTMENT

501 E. 56 Highway 971-7500

HUMAN RESOURCES

100 E. Santa Fe 971-8735

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CONNECT WITH US



Apps available on the App Store and Google Play

OLATHE CONNECT TrashDay

What's Being Built in Olathe

A Lion's Choice restaurant is planned at 14189 W. 135th St., in front of the Menards building. The restaurant is based out of St. Louis and will be the first location in the Kansas City Metro area.



A new rock climbing facility is planned within the Parkside Business Center, southeast of Ridgeview and Kansas City Road. RoKC opened their first location in North Kansas City in 2016 and Olathe will be the third location for the locally-based company. The planned activities include a variety of climbing walls, fitness area, coffee shop, and retail space.



A senior assisted living facility is currently under construction at 15700 W. 151st St., west of Black Bob Road. Benton House of Olathe will feature 55 living units and is expected to open in 2018.

New Online Utility Account Service and Refreshed Bill Format

City of Olathe utility customers can access a new online utility account service at BillPay.OlatheKS.org. The updated service is easier to use and offers several new features, including:

- **Connect with Live eChat**



Click on the eChat icon at the top right of the screen to communicate directly with a customer service representative (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.).

- **Pay your bill without registering**

It's easy to make a payment. Just enter your utility account number.

- **Register your account for additional options**

It's free and there is no convenience fee to pay bills.

- **Manage your billing and payment**

View bill and payment history. Request payment arrangements.

- **Manage your account**

Manage your password, and update user settings and account profiles.

- **Set your notification preferences**

Receive eBills or printed bills for one or more accounts.

Olathe utility customers will see a refreshed bill format, which provides a water usage history chart and additional space for customer messages. The bill includes a code, which can be scanned and will route you to an online payment option.

Questions about the new online utility account service or the bill format can be directed to Olathe Customer Service, 913-971-9311.

The Olathe Police Department wants you to remember the following crime prevention tips to keep your family, home, and property safe this summer.

- Keep your home's windows and doors locked at all times.
- Keep expensive items out of view from windows.
- If you're working in the yard, lock doors, windows, and the garage.
- Don't keep ladders or other equipment in the yard that could be used to gain access to your home.
- Keep the mower or any other equipment in a locked garage or shed.
- Keep shrubs, bushes, hedges, and fences to a height of three feet or less.
- Residential lighting should be used to illuminate home entry points. Motion detector lights are an inexpensive deterrent for areas where continuous lighting is unnecessary.
- Be aware of home improvement scams. Don't buy anything door to door that you have not solicited.
- Research companies to make sure that they are legitimate, and contact the police if you have suspicions of a scam.
- Keep your car doors locked, even when the car is parked in the driveway.

Lake Olathe Improvements in Process

Through creative design and careful implementation, the completed facilities will provide the City of Olathe and the Kansas City Metro area with extraordinary park experiences and recreational programs to benefit countless park users.

— Lake Olathe Park Master Plan

Following years of planning, significant improvements are occurring at Lake Olathe. This summer, infrastructure improvements are taking place, including new roads and trails water, sewer, and electrical work. Roads on the east side of Lake Olathe Park and the east shoreline are closed during construction. Lake Shore Drive, on the lake's west side, will periodically close through early July.

This spring, more than 150 children and their families provided input into the destination nature playground's design. Their feedback is being incorporated into the playground's features,

which will have a maze, climbing tower, climbing logs and stones, and water elements.

By summer 2019, completed phase one improvements are expected, including:

- Gateway entrances at Santa Fe Street and Dennis Avenue
- Beaver Shelter improvements with restrooms
- Destination nature playground
- Swimming beach
- Marina and aquatics learning area
- Dock and fishing pavilion
- The Landing, a 6,500 square foot rentable building on the lake's east side
- Four miles of accessible hard and soft surface trails.

Visit OlatheKS.org/LakeOlathe to see more planned improvements in phase one.



Wider Sidewalks, Bike Lanes Support Safety and Active Lives

Residents have access to more non-motorized ways to move around Olathe as an active lifestyle transportation system expands throughout the city.

Active lifestyle transportation includes walking, jogging, bicycling, and other forms of non-motorized transportation, supported in Olathe's Transportation Master Plan. You may have noticed wider sidewalks and bicycle lanes along main streets, and the pedestrian/bicycle trails are also growing. The focus is providing families and users of all skill levels and abilities to feel comfortable and safe as they travel in the city.

Recent and Upcoming Active Transportation Projects

Multi-use trails, Lake Olathe, Meadow Lane Trail

Ten-foot sidewalk and on-street bike lanes, 143rd Street, Pflumm Road to Quivira

Eight-foot sidewalks

- Mur-Len Road, 135th to 143rd Street, 151st to 167th Street
- 119th Street, Black Bob Road to Pflumm Road
- College Boulevard, K-7 Highway to Clare Road, Lone Elm Road to Woodland Road
- 143rd Street, Black Bob Road to Pflumm Road
- 159th Street, I-35 to Old 56 Highway
- Santa Fe, Kansas City Road to Ridgeview Road.

Earth News

from the City of Olathe, Kansas

Students Immersed in Water Education



possible by a partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency and Wichita State University. The Green Technologies Academy is located at Olathe West High School.

Aqua Fest!

The City of Olathe's Stormwater Division brought Aqua Fest to third graders at Ravenwood Elementary and Black Bob Elementary Schools on May 10. This annual event highlights the water cycle, streams, watersheds, pollution, erosion, and the energy required to move water.

Students Experience Work in Water Day

This spring, Green Technologies 21st Century Academy students participated in a Work in Water Day to learn more about a career in water and the water utility's role in their community. Students learned about skills, technology, and met the people working to ensure the public has access to safe, healthy drinking water, and water recycling. The City of Olathe provided tours of the Olathe Water Treatment Plant, Environmental Laboratory, and the Cedar Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. This learning experience is



Outdoor Watering Tips

Make every drop count. Water early or late in the day to reduce evaporation. Build your soil with compost and mulch, and choose low water use plants.

Water slowly to prevent surface runoff and give water time to penetrate. If water puddles on the surface before it is absorbed by the soil, start and stop your watering several times, as needed, to allow the water to soak in.

Get water right to the roots by using a watering wand, with a shutoff, for small areas. For large areas, use drip

irrigation or a soaker hose under mulch to deliver water right to the roots.

Check the soil before you water. Probe with a finger or trowel to see if the soil is still damp a few inches down. When it is dry down at the root zone, it is time to water.

Water deeply, but less frequently. An hour after watering, check the soil again to see if the water has reached the root zone. Adjust your watering time to moisten the whole root zone, but then wait until the upper few inches of soil are dry before watering again, which encourages deeper roots.

Water Quality Report

Do you know the source of your drinking water? What does the City of Olathe test before water is delivered to your home? Find answers to these questions and much more water information in the 2018 Water Quality Report. It's available at OlatheKS.org.

Hydrants Tested for Safety

If you see water flowing in the street this summer, there's a good chance that fire hydrant testing is occurring. Fire hydrant testing and inspections help ensure the safety of residents and property. Crews from Wachs Water will flow test approximately 1,140 hydrants throughout the city.

The tests may produce sediment or air in water pipes. If you experience discolored water or air in your water line, you can clear your service by turning on faucets until the water clears up. If the problem continues, please call the City of Olathe at 913-971-9311 between 8 a.m.-5 p.m.,



A.J. Brookins, Utility Maintenance, conducts fire hydrant flow testing to help ensure protection of life and property.

Monday-Friday or 913-971-5151 after 5 p.m. To report a concern about fire hydrants or the tests, please call Customer Service, 913-971-9311 or contact OlatheKS.org/OlatheConnect.



DID YOU KNOW?...

City of Olathe fire hydrants are yellow.

WaterOne fire hydrants are yellow with black tops.

Privately-owned fire hydrants are red.

Solid Waste Trucks Fueled with Compressed Natural Gas

- 20-29 percent reduction in emissions
- 7,300 fewer gallons of diesel fuel consumed annually
- 80 percent decibel decrease for reduced noise pollution
- \$1.10 decrease per diesel equivalent gallon
- CNG is domestically produced and less subject to market fluctuations
- Reduced vehicle maintenance costs

A cleaner, quieter, and more cost-efficient solid waste fleet is traveling the streets of Olathe fueled with compressed natural gas (CNG). To better serve Olathe's growing CNG fleet, a new CNG fueling facility has opened, built in collaboration with Johnson County Government. On a given day, up to 50 trash trucks and 100 Johnson County Transit busses can be fueled at the new facility.

Olathe's first CNG trash trucks hit the streets in 2012. By the end of 2018, 21 of these trucks and two street sweepers will serve solid waste customers. The City of Olathe has received \$1.4 million in federal funds (Congestion Mitigation Air Quality) to support the CNG fueling facility and the ongoing replacement of diesel trucks.





P.O. Box 768, Olathe, Kansas 66051-0768

Reader Feedback

Please send your comments to:
Olathe Link
P.O. Box 768
Olathe, KS 66051-0768
linkcomments@OlatheKS.org
913-971-8700

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If you require this material in a black and white format, please contact the Olathe Human Relations manager, 913-971-8827.



OlatheConnect

Look for information or submit a service request 24/7.

OlatheKS.org/OlatheConnect



Receive Olathe news and updates by email or text message. Click on e-notification or the envelope icon at **OlatheKS.org**.



Honor Those Making a Difference with Community Award Nomination

If you know an individual, business, or organization who actively contributes to promoting human rights in the Olathe community, consider nominating them for a Community Award. This annual Olathe Human Relations Commission and Persons with Disabilities Advisory Board program celebrates those making significant contributions in the areas of equality, cultural diversity, and the pursuit of disability inclusiveness.

Award winners will be honored at the Oct. 11 Community Awards Banquet.

Visit **OlatheKS.org/CommunityAwards** to see award categories, submit a nomination, and view past winners.



What is your vision for Olathe?
How does future trend information impact you and Olathe?

This summer, you can expect to see opportunities for your input in shaping Olathe's future vision and goals as Olathe updates its Strategic Plan.

Participate in an online survey, visit an engagement kiosk at the Olathe Public Library or Olathe Community Center. You may even see a mobile outreach unit at a City pool or in your neighborhood.

For more information, visit **OlatheKS.org**.