

SUMMER 2020



Black Bob Park

## OLATHE RESPONDS TO PANDEMIC'S CITY BUDGET IMPACTS

The City of Olathe is responding to the significant economic impact from the COVID-19 stay-at-home order, similar to the financial fallout to local and state governments throughout the nation. The City's approved 2020 budget will see reduced revenues, and these decreases are expected to carry over to the City's 2021 budget. For 2020, early estimates point to \$18 million in reduced revenues, or approximately 16 percent of the City's total 2020 budget.

In Olathe, half of the City's general fund budget revenue is derived from sales tax. The stay-at-home order has greatly impacted overall sales, including retail, car dealerships, accommodations, and food services. In addition, utilities franchise fees are expected to be diminished because of business closures.

On April 21, City Manager Michael Wilkes presented to the City Council several immediate measures to move toward balancing the City's 2020 budget, including:

- a citywide hiring freeze of both current and future vacant positions
- a spending cap on non-personnel related expenses
- scheduled two-week citywide employee furloughs (excluding front-line police officers and firefighters).

Some planned projects and City services may be impacted because of revenue loss. The City is monitoring finances and making necessary adjustments with the goal of continued delivery of the highest quality public services to Olathe residents.

### City Workers Protect Community Page 5

While public safety and public works employees are visible during a pandemic, other City employees provide critical safety services behind the scenes.

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Visit [OlatheKS.org](https://www.OlatheKS.org) and Click on **NEWS** for additional Olathe news.



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

### LISTEN AND MEASURE: HOW WE USE DATA TO MAKE TOUGH DECISIONS

Listening to residents and using data are more important than ever as we face challenging economic times resulting from COVID-19's impacts. How we handle upcoming City budget decisions will most certainly affect some services.

Thankfully, the City of Olathe's financial foundation includes future-ready, long-term stability and strategic thinking that prioritizes City resources and investments based on your input. The community-based Olathe 2040: Future Ready Strategic Plan will assist us in decision making as we focus on its goals and measures.

#### We Are Listening

Since 2000, Olathe has asked citizens to participate in the DirectionFinder® citizen survey as an objective platform to assess City services, gain important input to help set resident priorities, evaluate trends, and compare Olathe's performance with other cities throughout the nation.

When asked what City services are most important, traffic flow/traffic management, and public safety are consistently residents' priorities.

Olathe's allocation of resources to smoother traffic flow continues with more improvements, including the I-35 & 119th Street Interchange project. It will upgrade the existing interchange to a diverging diamond configuration, and widen the



bridges over the BNSF rails to allow three through lanes of 119th Street traffic. Greater turn lane capacity is also planned at Renner Road.

#### We Are Measuring

This spring, we asked residents, area businesses, and the school district to provide input about the I-35 & 119th Street Interchange construction traffic control and schedule for improvements. One thousand survey respondents provided input. That data is of great value as we plan the interchange. Construction is tentatively scheduled to start in late 2020 or early 2021.

Along with listening to residents, we use results-based analysis to provide citizens the best return on their tax-dollar investment. Olathe tracks and measures performance to identify service efficiencies. In our current situation, this reporting is especially vital in tracking areas most important to residents when service demands may outpace available



funding. We are analyzing data for any insights that may better prepare Olathe to weather this recession.

While most major traffic improvement projects will go on as planned, the City of Olathe is preparing to make some "tough decisions" about City services during this summer's budget development. We will listen, use data and our long-term plans to make the necessary budget adjustments.

The City of Olathe faced and overcame economic challenges in 2001, and in 2007-2008. We are resilient and we will continue on the path that made Olathe one of the nation's leading cities.

I have no doubt that Olathe will remain the destination of choice for families looking to settle down in a strong and thriving community.

Sincerely,

Michael Copeland  
Mayor

### TRACK OLATHE'S PERFORMANCE

Visit [OlatheKS.org/  
Government/Performance-  
Management](http://OlatheKS.org/Government/Performance-Management) to see performance measures in key City service areas.



## SANTA FE & RIDGEVIEW INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS PROMPT TEMPORARY SANTA FE CLOSURE

### Traffic Flow Improvements Underway at One of Olathe's Busiest Intersections

In order to make intersection improvements, E. Santa Fe Street closed to through traffic between Rawhide and Emma Streets beginning June 1, 2020. While the City regrets the inconvenience the closure will cause, it is an important step to make a significant improvement in traffic flow. The closure is necessary to replace a deteriorated sanitary sewer line that runs deep below both the eastbound and westbound lanes of Santa Fe Street. This ensures a safe work area and protects the traveling public. The closure is for a maximum of 16 weeks, with detours posted. North and south traffic lanes on Ridgeview Road remain open and all access to businesses is available.

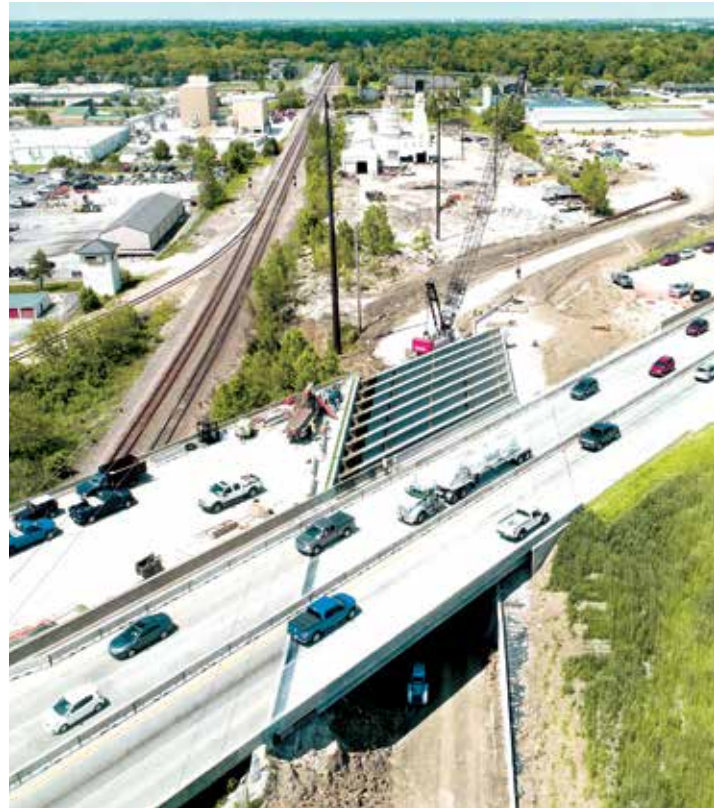
Upon completion, the intersection will have two left turn and two through lanes for each intersection quadrant, dedicated right turn lanes for northbound, southbound, and eastbound traffic, and a shared through/right turn lane for westbound traffic.

## OLATHE ACCELERATES STREET RESURFACING SCHEDULE

Two major roadways received maintenance ahead of schedule this year because of the COVID-19 stay-at-home order. New pavement resurfacing was completed on 127th Street, I-35 to Black Bob Road, and work began in May on Ridgeview Road, 151st to 159th Street. Normally, the road work would have started after spring's school dismissal.

## NEW ROUTE PROGRESSING UNDER I-35 TO EASE 151ST STREET TRAFFIC

Work on an alternate route from the 151st Street area to Old 56 Highway and Church Street moves ahead with excavation under I-35 for the Mahaffie Circle extension (below). The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is lengthening the I-35 bridges over the railroad to accommodate the new street. As project partners, the KDOT Economic Development Program is providing \$7 million in funding, and Garmin is providing \$1.8 million for the project. The City of Olathe's contribution is \$6 million. The expected completion of the project is fall 2020.



### IMPORTANT CITY PHONE NUMBERS

Regular Business Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
[OlatheKS.org/ServicesDirectory](http://OlatheKS.org/ServicesDirectory)

<b>EMERGENCY</b> .....	911
<b>Emergency TDD/TTY Calls</b> .....	911
<b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b> (TDD/Voice) .....	971-8600
<b>CUSTOMER SERVICE</b> (Billing, Trash, Water & Sewer) 1385 S. Robinson .....	971-9311
<b>FIRE ADMINISTRATION</b> (Non-Emergency) 1225 S. Hamilton Circle .....	971-7900

<b>OLATHE PUBLIC LIBRARY - Indian Creek</b> 16100 W. 135th St. ....	971-6835
<b>OLATHE PUBLIC LIBRARY - Temporary Location</b> 1078A W. Santa Fe .....	971-6850
<b>OLATHE PARKS &amp; RECREATION /COMMUNITY CENTER (TDD/Voice)</b> 1205 E. Kansas City Rd .....	971-8563
<b>POLICE DEPARTMENT</b> 501 E. 56 Highway .....	971-7500
<b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b> 100 E. Santa Fe .....	971-8735

### OLATHE CITY COUNCIL

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## OLATHE'S VEHICLE MAINTENANCE RANKS IN NORTH AMERICA'S TOP 50 FLEETS

The City of Olathe Vehicle Maintenance Division made the list of the Best Fleets in North America by Governing Magazine. The team is currently ranked No. 43. In 2019, they were ranked No. 81. Best Fleets recognizes peak performing fleet operations for a “criteria of excellence,” encompassing areas such as accountability, technology and information, doing it right the first time, efficiency, and resources stewardship.

Vehicle Maintenance keeps more than 1,300 pieces of City equipment running smoothly, providing uninterrupted services for Public Works (including Engineering, Solid Waste, Stormwater, Streets, and Utilities), Fire, Police, Parks and Recreation, and more. The operation

includes 25 employees who work in the service center, parts room, tire shop, and office. The evening shift performs nearly all the fleet's preventive maintenance to allow vehicular and equipment availability during the day when they're most needed.

Olathe is a regional government leader in “greening” the fleet by earning \$3,397,500 in grants and funding for the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fuel conversion of vehicles. Twenty-five Solid Waste collection trucks and two street sweepers are fueled at the CNG fill station, built in partnership with Johnson County Government. This environmental and financial stewardship will continue with plans to make the entire Solid Waste fleet CNG-fueled.



## HOME BUILDING NUMBERS INCREASE

Residential construction in Olathe shows 182 building permits issued through April 30, 2020, up from 139 permits issued during the same period in 2019.

Olathe leads Johnson County in single-family, residential development, and continues as the city with the most single-family homes built during the past several years.



## COUNTY AND STATE COORDINATE PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSES

In Olathe, public health is within the jurisdiction of the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). Public health authority during emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, lies with higher levels of government to strengthen the response to emergencies. The Johnson County Department of Health and Environment's mission is to protect the health and environment, prevent disease and promote wellness for all who live, work, and play in Johnson County. KDHE's mission is to protect and improve the health and environment of all Kansans.

Visit [JoCoGov.org/Coronavirus](https://JoCoGov.org/Coronavirus), and [Coronavirus.KDHEKS.gov](https://Coronavirus.KDHEKS.gov) for the latest information about COVID-19. Olathe specific information is available at [OlatheKS.org/Coronavirus](https://OlatheKS.org/Coronavirus).



## CITY WORKERS PROTECT COMMUNITY – OUT FRONT AND BEHIND THE SCENES

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Olathe residents continue receiving City of Olathe critical services that sustain public health and safety. Water and wastewater, fire, police, emergency medical, traffic control, street repair, vehicle maintenance, and solid waste collection services are among them. Customer services and information technology provide support these ongoing services depend on. Not as visible to the community, yet critical, is the work of Facilities Maintenance employees.

Facilities Maintenance is the primary maintenance provider for City buildings, such as City Hall, Police, Fire, Municipal Court, and Public Works facilities to name just a few. In total, Facilities Maintenance manages 21 critical City service buildings and infrastructure.

During the COVID-19 stay-at-home order, Facilities Maintenance’s priority shifted to proactive tactics to protect City staff’s work spaces, as they provided uninterrupted essential services. A stepped-up disinfection allowed employees to work in a clean environment and safely return to their families. That level of disinfection continues.

“Although there is heightened awareness in times of crisis, our overarching Facilities Maintenance objective is consistent. Protect and serve those who serve and protect our community,” says Facilities Manager Bob Reynolds.

“I couldn’t be more proud of our staff and their high level of commitment and stewardship,” says Reynolds.





# Know Your **NOs**

Don't tangle or contaminate curb-side recycling



### Tanglers

Hoses, cords, holiday lights, etc. tangle up the recycling equipment and belong in the trash.



### Plastic Film

Return clean, dry plastic bags, wraps, and packaging to your local grocery store.



### Textiles

Donate clothing and textiles to a convenience center or thrift store.



### Green Waste

Throw all grass clippings, tree limbs, brush, and weeds in your green yard cart or brown lawn bags.



### Construction Material

Rocks, concrete, dirt, PVC pipes, and wood belong in the gray trash cart.



### Styrofoam

Remove Styrofoam from all boxes and dispose in your gray trash cart.

Items must be clean of food and debris with caps and lids removed before being recycled.

**Glass must be taken to a Ripple Glass Drop-Off Site.** For more information visit [OlatheKS.org/Recycling](http://OlatheKS.org/Recycling)

### No Bagged Recyclables

Bagged recyclables are the #1 contaminant. **Keep your recyclables loose and free!**



## KEEP IT CONTAINED AT RECYCLING DROP-OFF CENTERS

Cardboard and glass containers may be recycled in east Olathe at 13600 S. Alden Street and in west Olathe at 395 N. 7 Highway. All cardboard must be broken down and folded to fit in the recycling containers.

**All materials taken to any of Olathe's drop-off recycling centers must be placed inside the containers and not left outside them. If the containers are full, please recycle materials at a different time. The containers are emptied each day.**

Recycling materials may also be taken to the Olathe Compost Facility, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday – Saturday, 1100 N. Hedge Lane. View the list of materials accepted at [OlatheKS.org/Recycling](http://OlatheKS.org/Recycling).

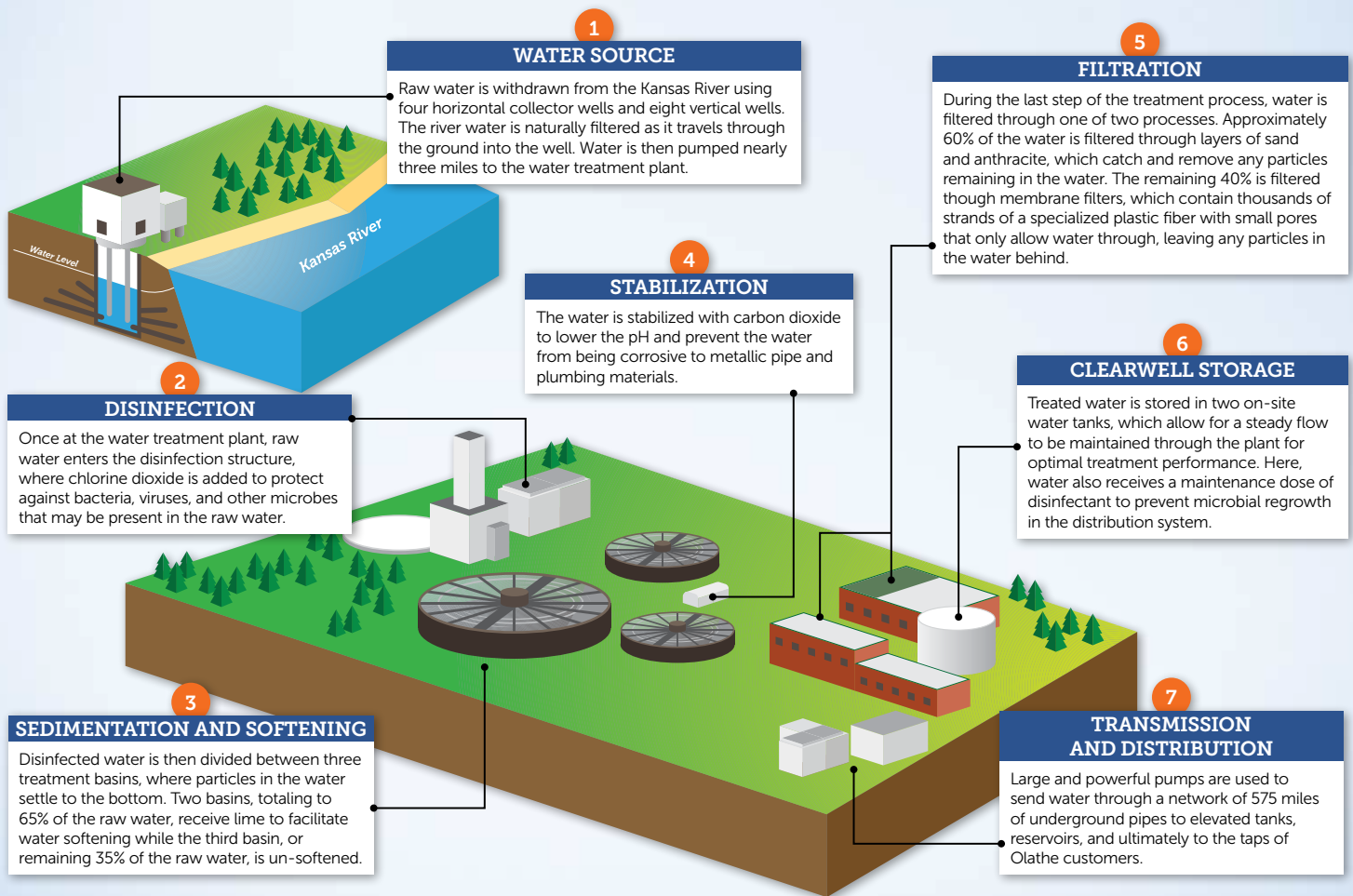
## 2020 WATER QUALITY REPORT AVAILABLE

The City of Olathe produces 4.2 billion gallons of quality drinking water that meets and exceeds standards. The 2020 Water Quality Report tells the story of how exceptional drinking water is provided to approximately 136,000 residents in Olathe and surrounding areas. See the report at [OlatheKS.org/WaterQuality](http://OlatheKS.org/WaterQuality).



# City of Olathe Water Treatment Process

The City of Olathe produces safe, quality drinking water, meeting or exceeding all state and federal requirements. The City conducts more than 90,000 tests each year to detect and remedy any health, safety or water quality issues. To read the latest Water Quality Report, visit [OlatheKS.org/WaterQuality](http://OlatheKS.org/WaterQuality).



LIME TANK

**Upgrades at Olathe's Water Treatment Plant are rehabilitating critical treatment plant infrastructure for reliable operation now and into the future, as well as ensuring the taste and quality of drinking water produced. The Water Treatment Plant provides drinking water to approximately 136,000 residents in Olathe and surrounding areas.**

**Lime feed improvements** increase safety for staff, who maintain the system, and ensure reliable operation for the water softening process. Construction of this project is complete and the new equipment is operational.

**Basins modifications**, with lime addition, provide softening and improve drinking water clarity. Renovations to Basin 2 were completed in April 2020, and have produced a positive effect on treatment efficiency. Basin 4 improvements are scheduled to begin in September 2020.

**A new chlorine dioxide disinfection** process will ensure federal compliance with drinking water regulations into the future and also improve the taste of the drinking water. To date, most construction is complete, and the new equipment will be operational this summer.

**A new above ground clearwell** was placed into service in July 2019. The new clearwell replaced aging equipment for renewed service life.

P.O. Box 768  
Olathe, Kansas 66051-0768  
913-971-8700

### OlatheConnect

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

[OlatheKS.org/OlatheConnect](https://OlatheKS.org/OlatheConnect)

### Stay Informed

Receive Olathe news and updates by email or text message. **Click on e-notification or the envelope icon at [OlatheKS.org](https://OlatheKS.org).**

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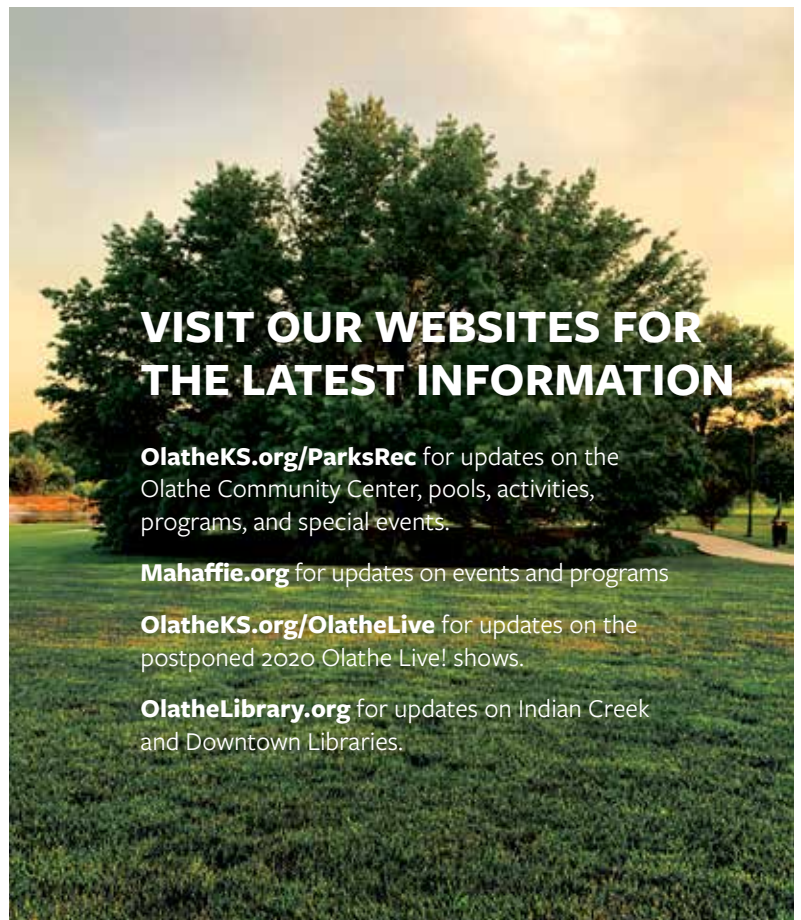


## OLATHEANS LOVE THEIR PARKS

This spring, the value and beauty of Olathe parks was highlighted during the COVID-19 stay-at-home order as more residents found healthy, outdoor opportunities enjoyed together as families. Weekday park usage doubled over previous years, reports Parks and Recreation staff.



Looking for family activities you can do from home? Visit [OlatheKS.org/BringHomeTheFun](https://OlatheKS.org/BringHomeTheFun)



## VISIT OUR WEBSITES FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION

[OlatheKS.org/ParksRec](https://OlatheKS.org/ParksRec) for updates on the Olathe Community Center, pools, activities, programs, and special events.

[Mahaffie.org](https://Mahaffie.org) for updates on events and programs

[OlatheKS.org/OlatheLive](https://OlatheKS.org/OlatheLive) for updates on the postponed 2020 Olathe Live! shows.

[OlatheLibrary.org](https://OlatheLibrary.org) for updates on Indian Creek and Downtown Libraries.