



Lake Olathe Park

PROPOSED CITY OF OLATHE BUDGET IS RESILIENT AND SUPPORTS RECOVERY

Over the past year and a half, slowing sales tax growth in 2019 and financial impacts stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 have presented economic challenges for the City of Olathe. This spring, Olathe acted with spending cuts, delays, and employee furloughs to weather the resulting revenue shortfall. Despite impacts to the 2020 budget, the proposed 2021 budget is a resilient tool and provides a road to recovery, ensuring continued quality services for Olathe residents.



REMAINING STRUCTURALLY SOUND

The resiliency of the 2021 budget is made possible through the City's commitment to a sound foundation of fiscal policies. These policies prepare us for the unexpected. For the past eight years, Olathe has proactively set aside 30 percent of the general fund budget as a reserve. The City of Olathe is recognized for excellence in financial management including its comprehensive financial policies, financial reporting, and performance management.



CONTINUING EXCELLENCE

While the general fund budget will not increase in 2021, the City stands committed to excellence as 3,000-4,000 new residents are expected to move here. "Although our service demands continue to increase, I know we'll see continued excellence" *continued page 3*

"Very strong financial management, with strong financial policies and practices..."

— S&P Global comments about the City of Olathe

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



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

This year the COVID-19 pandemic produced life-changing events that continue testing us all in some way or another. Challenges have come in the form of staying home, continuing essential work, canceling celebrations, and even homeschooling children. If you've experienced the loss of income, illness, or you've lost a loved one, it is our hope that you have been able to find the strength and support you need to get through such a difficult time.

Whatever the situation, Olathe residents continue to demonstrate how resilient they are. Your adaptive actions make us all proud. For example, when it became clear this spring that a mask shortage existed, residents began the volunteer-driven effort Masks of Mercy. Our community stepped up to make fabric-barrier masks

WE ARE RESILIENT. WE OVERCOME CHALLENGES AND MOVE FORWARD.

and 3D-printed masks (N95 equivalent), donating nearly 500 3D-printed masks to our community's first responders and medical personnel. Masks of Mercy teamed up with the Olathe Public Library to secure use of maker space sewing machines and 3D printers, and with Fales Pediatric Dentistry for 3D printers. The Olathe Fire Department provided locations for outdoor bins, in which volunteers could exchange mask-making materials contact-free. Masks of Mercy has provided nearly 20,000 masks for our community and they continue their work.

The City of Olathe is also proving resilient by taking the necessary economic steps to remain fiscally strong despite COVID-19. We've been financially resilient before, and we will once again show our ability to make tough, smart choices, quickly adapt, and bounce back. Though some services will be affected, the City's planning and economic foundation will allow us to weather the financial impacts

while maintaining a first-class quality of life for residents.

What's more, we see resilient residents overcoming the temporary inconvenience from traffic improvements construction. The Santa Fe Street closing west of I-35 requires more time and new travel routes for many. The inconvenience now means we'll soon enjoy a significantly smoother and faster drive through Santa Fe and Ridgeview, one of Olathe's most congested intersections. In addition, the upcoming construction for 119th Street/I-35 Interchange improvements will challenge our ability to adapt to traffic flow changes, as well as having the foresight to see the long-term benefits. I'm particularly eager for drivers to see how much safer the new interchange will be. *See more information on page 4.* Olathe remains committed to addressing improvements in the transportation system.

This year has been unlike any other. But I believe it's Olatheans' resilience that truly defines 2020 thus far. We will continue moving forward as we overcome the challenges before us.

Sincerely,

Michael Copeland
Mayor



Construction of an expanded and improved interchange at 119th Street and I-35 will get underway in the coming months. The interchange will be built as a diverging diamond configuration with additional traffic lanes on 119th Street and more turn lanes on I-35 exit ramps. The project will improve safety and travel times. Learn more at:

OlatheKS.org/119thImprovements

PROPOSED CITY OF OLATHE BUDGET IS RESILIENT AND SUPPORTS RECOVERY

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from the City of Olathe workforce, who are innovative, flexible, and committed to quality customer services,” says City Manager Michael Wilkes.

In 2019, Olathe ranked first in the nation with 93 percent citizen satisfaction with the overall quality of service provided by the City (among cities of 100,000 plus population).



MAINTAINING OUR FOUNDATION

Taking care of Olathe’s many assets — the network of streets, utilities, parks, and more — is of prime importance. The proposed 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Plan includes funding for more than 1,135 lanes miles of street maintenance, \$12.4 million in water and sewer line rehabilitation, \$27.5 million to support public safety, and uses \$49.7 million in outside funding for projects.

2021-2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS KEY PROJECTS

- 119th Street/I-35 Interchange Improvements
- Ridgeview Road Improvements, 143rd to 151st Street
- Police Building Expansion, Phase 2
- Fire Station No. 8
- New Downtown Library
- Cedar Creek Trail
- Prairie Center Park Improvements
- 119th Street Improvements, Woodland to Northgate

IMPORTANT CITY PHONE NUMBERS

Regular Business Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
OlatheKS.org/ServicesDirectory

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

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

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MAJOR TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION THROUGHOUT OLATHE



I-35 AND 119TH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



1. Problem: 119th Bridge
High accident rates and not enough capacity for traffic

Solution: Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI)
Improves safety and capacity for traffic while minimizing maintenance and costs

2. Problem: Renner at 119th
Renner congestion backs up interchange traffic, higher rear-end/sideswipe collisions and environmental impacts

Solution: Extended turn lanes
Reduces collisions and environmental impacts, improves efficiency and provides additional access to businesses

3. Problem: I-35 Ramps
Traffic backs up onto I-35 causing higher crash rates and unreliable travel times

Solution: Ramp Expansions
Improves efficiency while reducing collisions and environmental impacts

IN 2021, 119TH STREET LANES ACROSS I-35 TO HAVE TEMPORARY CLOSING

Earlier this year, the City of Olathe surveyed residents, area businesses, and the school district to provide input about traffic control and the schedule for the upcoming interchange improvements. The vast majority of respondents preferred a

shorter construction schedule. Restricting traffic across the bridge (for about three months), will reduce the construction time nearly in half. During the bridge closing, right turn movements on both sides of the 119th Street/I-35 bridge will remain.

Groundbreaking for the interchange project is expected in late 2020 or early 2021. To read more information on this project, visit OlatheKS.org/119thImprovements.

LONE ELM ROAD, OLD 56 HIGHWAY TO 151ST STREET

Work continues on Lone Elm Road. Waterline work is complete, and crews are now working on pavement replacement on the project's northern portion.

Construction is underway to accommodate additional lanes and sidewalks on the bridge over the rail lines. Once complete, this four-lane divided road will improve

traffic flow and safety. Project completion is expected in spring 2021.

MAHAFFIE CIRCLE EXTENSION

Extending Mahaffie Circle under I-35 will provide an alternate route from the 151st Street corridor to Old 56 Highway and

I-35. Crews are working on constructing a retaining wall under I-35 in addition to installing the Mahaffie Circle pavement

base. Mahaffie Circle is expected to be complete in fall 2020.

SANTA FE STREET AND RIDGEVIEW ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

Work on Santa Fe and Ridgeview intersection improvements is running ahead of schedule. This project includes replacing and relocating the sanitary sewer main for improved reliability and future access, removing and replacing curbs and gutters, milling existing asphalt surface, and placing new asphalt surface. Crews will add turn lanes and new traffic signals at Ridgeview.

The City regrets the temporary inconvenience of the street closings during this project. This project will improve traffic flow and safety at one of Olathe's busiest intersections.

Visit OlatheKS.org/SantaFeConstruction to see the latest updates, business access map, and detour routes.

Phase 2 Work

The project's second phase will include widening and work on Ridgeview Road between Spruce Street and Park Street. This work will require closing Ridgeview from Spruce Street to Santa Fe and from Santa Fe to Park Street. Santa Fe will remain open during this phase. This phase of the project is projected to last a maximum of 16 weeks.

A total 4,649 linear feet of sanitary sewer and 27 manholes were replaced as part of the Santa Fe and Ridgeview improvements. This eliminates the need to return to the same location for sewer line rehabilitation.

Right: both 1950-era sanitary sewer and manhole were replaced.



WOODLAND ROAD

Construction continues on Woodland Road, K-10 Highway to College Boulevard. This street will be widened to a four-lane, divided road, including landscaped medians, sidewalks, bike lanes, and streetlights. A dedicated right turn lane will also be added at K-10 Highway.

The project's expected completion is in winter 2020.

THERE'S STILL TIME TO COMPLETE CENSUS FORM

The deadline to submit the 2020 U.S. Census form is Sept. 30. Data collected will help shape Olathe for current and future residents. Visit OlatheKS.org/Census to take the Census.

Beginning Aug. 11, U.S. Census workers will visit homes of those who have not submitted the U.S. Census form.

Olathe ranks third in U.S. Census self-response rates among U.S. cities with a population of 135,000 or more. Ahead of Olathe is Naperville, Ill. and Elk Grove, Calif., who have reported completion rates up to 80 percent.

As of July 1, 75 percent of Olathe residents have taken the 2020 Census.

TEMPORARY LIBRARY LOCATION OPENS

The temporary Olathe Library location at 1078A W. Santa Fe is now open. This temporary space replaces the location at 201 E. Park St. and will serve as the library's home until a new and permanent library opens in downtown Olathe (projected 2022 opening).

The Olathe Library offers the same operating hours as the Indian Creek Library: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday; 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday; and 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. on Sunday. The first hour of each weekday (9 a.m. – 10 a.m.) is reserved for library customers at higher risk for severe illness, including adults age 65 and older, pregnant women, and those who have underlying medical conditions.

In addition to browsing, self-check outs, and curbside/indoor hold pick up, both libraries offer the following services:

- Staff assistance with book recommendations and requesting materials
- In-person fine payments (including cash payments)



- Public computers (customers limited to one hour per day due to decreased computer availability)
- Limited seating areas for WiFi use
- Printing, copying and faxing.

For COVID-19 service updates, please visit OlatheLibrary.org/COVID-19Updates

DYE TRACING ON THE KANSAS RIVER TO ASSIST IN PROTECTING OUR WATER SUPPLIES

Don't be alarmed if you see the Kansas River flowing with a red hue in the next few months.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and partners are injecting the red dye, known as Rhodamine Water Tracer, during varying flow conditions in Manhattan, Topeka, and Eudora, Kansas. The red dye may be visible to the public as it flows downstream.

This dye tracing study will provide a better understanding of water flow speeds from one location to another. Olathe and other water resource managers will use the data to better respond to potential critical events, such as harmful algal blooms or contaminant spills.

"We're excited this study will provide us critical information to protect our public water supply," says John Gilroy, Olathe environmental services manager. "Knowing the speed of water flow in the Kansas River supports better decisions for making the proper adjustments or providing notifications to protect City of Olathe water customers," says Gilroy.

The City of Olathe is pleased to collaborate with the USGS, the Kansas Water Office, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, The Nature Conservancy, City of Manhattan, City of Topeka, and WaterOne.

Dye tracer studies are common and do not affect drinking water. The dye has been used for decades in hydrologic studies and is approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



PLEASE DRAIN SWIMMING POOLS CORRECTLY

Swimming pool owners should note the required way to drain swimming pools at the close of the swimming season per Olathe Municipal Code. The City of Olathe allows pool owners to discharge only de-chlorinated pool water, except the filter backwash. It is best to allow the water to drain slowly and over a large, grassy area to help disperse the water.

Please remember to make sure the water is:

- discharged at least four feet from all property lines and sidewalks
- not flowing directly into a stream corridor
- not causing erosion from the force of water
- not causing a drainage issue for a neighboring property.

For more information, please contact Michele Silsbee, MLSilsbee@olatheks.org or 913-971-9311.



CITY OF OLATHE OFFERS TEMPORARY OUTDOOR DINING PERMITS

Applications for temporary outdoor dining permits are available to Olathe restaurants that want flexibility for outdoor dining. This COVID-19 business relief measure may allow outdoor dining not otherwise permitted per Olathe Municipal Code.

Table spacing, seating, and cleaning will follow all state and county regulations pertaining to health and safety standards for preventing the spread of COVID-19. Interested applicants are encouraged to review the application for other requirements.

The permit application is available at [OlatheKS.org/Government/Planning](https://www.olatheks.org/Government/Planning) under Licenses, Permits, and Inspections. During this time, the Planning Division is making it a goal to review outdoor dining permit applications in several business days.

LOOK FOR NEW PEDESTRIAN BEACON IN DOWNTOWN OLATHE

This fall, a new kind of traffic control device for Olathe will operate at Santa Fe Street and Cherry Street, near the new Johnson County Courthouse and Olathe City Hall. The pedestrian hybrid beacon system includes both vehicular beacons for roadway traffic and pedestrian signals (WALK and DON'T WALK). The vehicular beacons are suspended above the street with two round red lenses side-by-side, above a single yellow lens.

The beacon will be activated only when a pedestrian pushes the activation button at either end of the crosswalk. When activated, the overhead beacon begins flashing yellow before changing to a solid yellow, alerting motorists to slow down and prepare to stop. The beacon will then change to solid red. Motorists must stop for pedestrians to safely cross. While the beacon is red, the pedestrian signals change from DON'T WALK (upraised hand) to WALK (person) indication. Even when the signals indicate it is safe to cross, pedestrians should always make sure traffic has stopped before entering the street. When the beacons begin flashing red, drivers should stop and make sure the crossing is clear before proceeding.

The pedestrian beacon has a unique feature at Santa Fe and Cherry. It is connected to the Santa Fe railroad crossing. When

HOW TO USE THE HYBRID BEACONS

PEDESTRIANS		DRIVERS	
SEE THIS	DO THIS	SEE THIS	DO THIS
	PUSH THE BUTTON		DRIVE Always look for people who plan to cross
	STOP AND WAIT for the walk signal		SLOW DOWN A person has activated the push button
	START CROSSING Always watch for cars		PREPARE TO STOP
	FINISH CROSSING		STOP for pedestrian As with any signal red means STOP
			STOP FIRST Proceed with caution if no people are present

a train is approaching, Santa Fe traffic will be given the priority to clear the railroad crossing. The new pedestrian beacon system will hold DON'T WALK up to one minute before the train arrives. Remember to always wait for the WALK indication before you cross the street.

Later this year, another hybrid pedestrian beacon will be installed at 107th Terrace and Woodland Road. It will serve Meadow Lane Trail users, who cross Woodland Road at this location.



HHW SECOND SATURDAY RESUMES IN SEPTEMBER, APPOINTMENTS ALSO AVAILABLE

The Household Hazardous Waste Second Saturday event will resume on Saturday, Sept. 12: 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. at 1420 S. Robinson Dr.

The HHW facility is also open for drop-offs with appointments on Wednesday through Saturday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Make an online appointment at OlatheKS.org/HHW, or call 913-971-9311.

Customers are asked to remain in their vehicle at all times during the drop-off. Staff will remove the HHW items.

Olathe residents can recycle electronic waste. Olathe residency identification will be required.

TIPS FOR MANAGING FALL YARD WASTE

The same advice for mowing the lawn, “mow it high, let it lie,” also applies to managing fallen leaves. According to experts, periodic mowing to chop up modest amounts of leaves provides a good source of organic fertilizer for the lawn, as long as leaves are not matted and ample grass shows through. If the leaves are in excess, then leaves may need to be raked.

Raked leaves can be put to good use by applying a layer of ground-up leaves to flower beds, vegetable gardens, and around trees and shrubs to provide added insulation during cold temperatures. Or, add leaves to a backyard compost pile, providing the much-needed “brown” materials to balance the “greens.”

If you must bag leaves, dispose of them responsibly. For curbside collection, place leaves in a compostable paper yard waste bag or in an Olathe YardCart. The 95-gallon YardCarts are \$75, plus tax. Purchased carts belong to the residents for the lifetime of the cart. Call Customer Service to order, 913-971-9311 or order online at OlatheKS.org and search YardCart.

Olathe residents may bring yard waste to the Compost Facility with no disposal fee.

Olathe Compost Facility
1100 Hedge Lane
Monday – Saturday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Get other tips for lawn care and reducing yard waste at www.Johnson.K-State.edu.

OlatheLINK

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

Stay Informed

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

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CONNECT WITH US






Apps available
on the App Store
and Google Play

OLATHE CONNECT **OLATHE** TrashDay

Check Mahaffie.org for upcoming events.



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   /mahaffiefarm

