

AUTUMN 2022

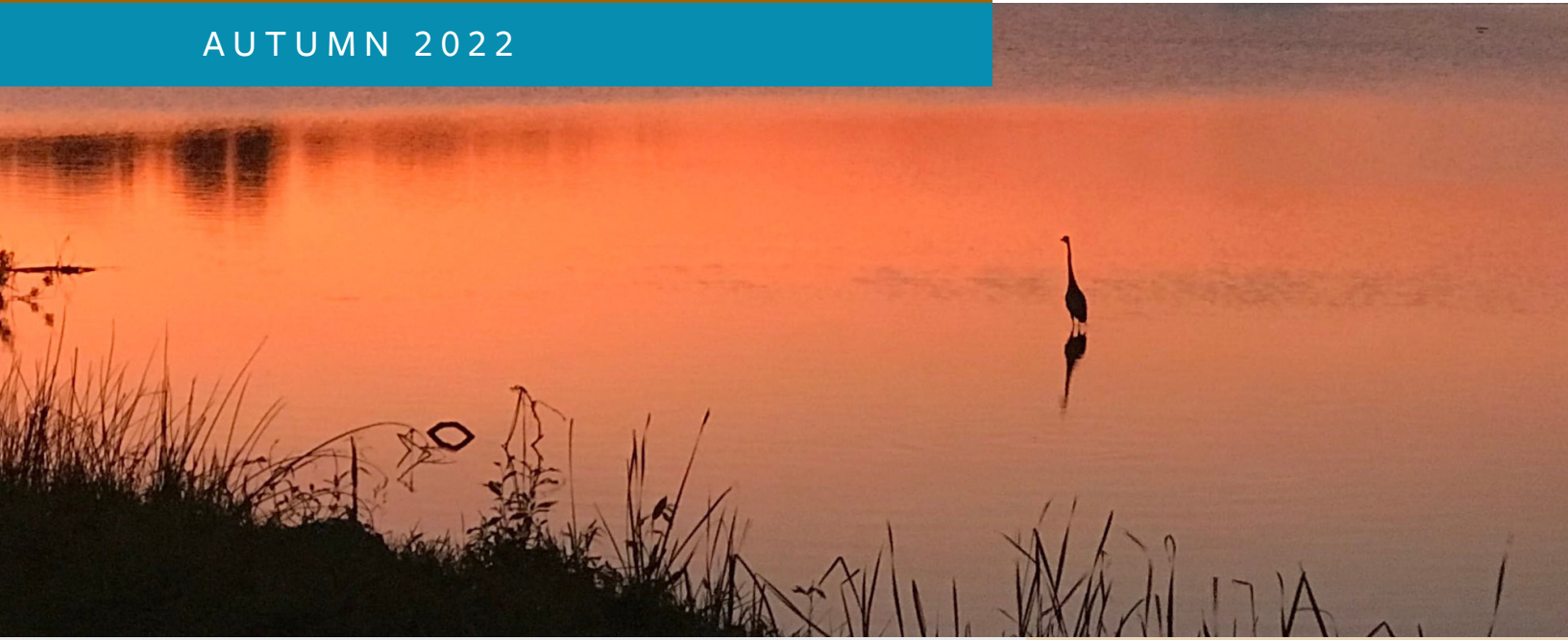


Photo: Frisco Lake, Exceptional Services, Customer Service Manager Jillian Foster

## FORESTRY TEAM GREENS OLATHE

Olathe Forestry team members are highly trained industrial athletes, pictured with one of the giant northern red oaks at Stagecoach Park, from left:

### Elevated level

Thomas Westerhaus, forester;  
Cameron Smith, forester; and  
Toby Blue, forester

### Ground level

Nathan Newell, park maintenance worker I; Mike Katzer, sr. forester; Warren Witty, park maintenance worker I; Jared Doran, city arborist; Austin Bible, park maintenance worker II; Gary Siler, park maintenance worker I; and Stacy Rugg, forester.



Trees not only grace Olathe with beauty, they also clean the air, filter pollutants from groundwater, slow stormwater to decrease flooding, and provide shade to reduce energy costs. In addition, trees can help reduce stress in people, improve overall health and development, and encourage physical activity.

Supporting these important tree assets is a skilled Olathe Forestry team who actively maintains 75,000 trees on City of Olathe property – including those in parks, medians, trails, and at City facilities. This team is passionate about the job that brings invaluable communitywide benefits. (Continued on page 4.)

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



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

The lights of the carnival rides shining down Kansas Avenue, the sounds of the local school marching bands, and the tastes of grange pups and cotton candy dazzled when Johnson County Old Settlers Days returned to Downtown Olathe this fall. After a two-year hiatus, it was fantastic to see our friends and neighbors come together again and enjoy this community tradition.

This year, Olathe's downtown provided a newly **renovated Johnson County Square and Kansas Avenue improvements**. Soon after Old Settlers Days, work began on the square's second phase of improvements, including a multi-purpose lighted stage, play area, and a historical plaza. We are excited to host this active public event space through our partnership with Johnson County. Next year, we look forward to more Fourth Fridays, and the Olathe Arts Festival coming downtown.

Recently completed Kansas Avenue streetscape and adjacent street paving build upon downtown's previous improvements with decorative streetlights, a protected cycle track, new sidewalks, new crosswalks, and landscaping.

Construction moves forward on the **Olathe Downtown Library**, at Santa Fe and Chestnut. Work on the building exterior is nearly complete, while interior work is making good progress.

## DESTINATION DOWNTOWN OLATHE

Completion of the four-story building is expected in early 2023.

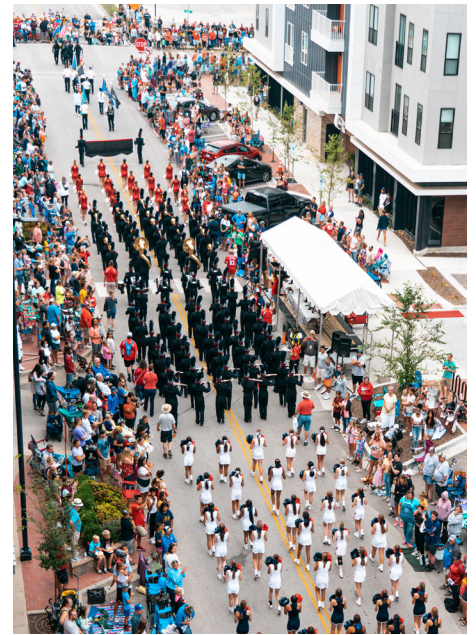
Next year the **Mill Creek Stormwater project** will also be finished. In addition to stormwater improvements, it will include a new half-mile trail section providing access to downtown and the new library.

### Other Downtown Happenings

We continue having private development interest for downtown locations. Among those is Sunflower Development's two-story **office building** planned at Kansas Avenue and Poplar Street.

The new **Arrello apartment homes**, which opened in early 2022, are 76 percent occupied and 82 percent pre-leased. Many individuals are coming from out of state to recently acquired jobs in the area. Others have relocated from apartments in neighboring cities or have recently sold their houses and transitioned into apartment living. We're delighted to have new residents moving to downtown!

While we celebrate what's new, we also treasure Olathe's rich heritage. On Dec. 10, 2022, the **Olathe Historical Society House Tour** resumes with five homes open to the public. Tickets are available after Nov. 1 at the Heritage Center and the Junque Drawer. For more information, visit [OlatheHistoricalSociety.org](http://OlatheHistoricalSociety.org).



*An estimated 200,000 people attended Johnson County Old Settlers over the three days and at least 75,000 came for the parade.*

Both public and private investments are creating a thriving downtown Olathe. A great deal has been accomplished in the heart of our city, yet we look forward to continued efforts working with residents, businesses, and Johnson County on downtown's next chapter.

Sincerely,

John Bacon  
Mayor



*Rolling Ridge Elementary first grade students with Mayor John Bacon*

In 2022, Mayor Bacon read to all first graders at Olathe Public Schools Title I schools and gave each child a book as part of Mayor Bacon's Book Club. These are opportunities to share the love of reading and ask the mayor questions, while also hearing about the importance of being a good citizen.

# DESTINATION DOWNTOWN OLATHE



Johnson County Old Settlers



New Office Building (rendering)



Johnson County Square Phase 2 (rendering)



Fourth Friday



Fourth Floor View Downtown Library



Downtown Library



Fourth Friday



Johnson County Old Settlers

## IMPORTANT CITY PHONE NUMBERS

Regular Business Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

[OlatheKS.org/ServicesDirectory](http://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

## OLATHE CITY COUNCIL

**John Bacon**  
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913-971-8500  
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jbacon@olatheks.org

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rwmccoy@olatheks.org

**Kevin Gilmore**  
At-Large  
Mayor Pro Tem  
913-768-8285  
kpgilmore@olatheks.org

**Robyn Essex**  
Ward 1  
913-971-6368  
rressex@olatheks.org

**Adam Mickelson**  
Ward 2  
913-538-1197  
amickelson@olatheks.org

**LeEtta Felter**  
Ward 3  
913-971-6995  
lfelter@olatheks.org

**Marge Vogt**  
Ward 4  
913-269-0625  
mvogt@olatheks.org

(Continued from page 1)

## FORESTRY TEAM GREENS OLATHE

“This is the best Forestry team out there,” says City Arborist Jared Doran. “They have a high level of dedication and very diverse skills including tree care, planting, removal, and pruning.”

The Forestry team works each day to enhance the quality of life in Olathe by advancing a safe, healthy, and diverse urban forest. Four team members are Kansas-certified Arborists, two team members are International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)-certified, and City Arborist Jared Doran is an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist, Municipal Specialist.

This year, Olathe received the Tree City USA award for the 39th consecutive year, and a Growth Award for 29 years, longer than any city in Kansas. This recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation is awarded to cities that display their four “overarching standards.” The Growth Award is presented to communities that “display increased levels of tree care and community engagement.”

For everyone’s safety, the Forestry team has focused on removing emerald ash borer-infested trees during the past few years. The team’s skills and equipment mean no outside help is needed for tree removals. In addition, the team:

- Maintains all the landscape and irrigation in more than 45 miles of street medians
- Prunes more than 40 miles of trails, four times each year to keep the trails clear of limbs and the public safe
- Removed 545 dead and high-risk trees along all Olathe trails, parks, public buildings, and green spaces (2021)
- Planted more than 1,400 trees in 2021, striving to plant more trees than those removed.

## Olathe FAST FACTS

City of Olathe Parks and Recreation offer a variety of ways to practice healthy lifestyles.

- An estimated 3.3 million people visited Olathe parks in 2021.
- Newly released 2022 aquatics season numbers: 120,000 visited City pools and 35,000 visited the Lake Olathe Aqua Park/rentals
- Approximately 25,000 recreation program participants in 2021

## Sweet Tee’s and Olathe Public Library Announce Partnership

The Library is excited to announce that local Olathe coffee shop Sweet Tee’s will operate the café at both the Indian Creek Library and the future Downtown Library. Enjoy Sweet Tee’s specialty coffee drinks, smoothies, baked goods, snacks, and ready-to-eat lunch items. Sweet Tee’s is proud to serve DogWatch coffee beans, locally roasted in Olathe. Visit Sweet Tee’s at Indian Creek Library Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Have You Taken the Service Line Survey?

The City of Olathe still needs your help in identifying water service line materials. Please consider completing a short survey to help identify the water line in your home. Visit [OlatheKS.org/WaterLines](https://OlatheKS.org/WaterLines) to take the survey and learn more about Olathe’s efforts to update water service lines.



**Get emergency notifications about weather warnings, public safety alerts, and water main breaks.**

**If you haven’t signed up for this notification system, do so at [NotifyJoCo.org](https://NotifyJoCo.org).**

**You have options for customizing your locations and contact preferences to get alerts at home, work, by phone, email, or text.**

## WHAT’S BEING BUILT IN OLATHE



### Santa Fe Trail Middle School

The Santa Fe Trail Middle School, originally built in 1968 at the northeast corner of Ridgeview Road and Harold Street, will soon be replaced with a new school building. The new two-story middle school will be built where the current track and field is located and a new track and field will be built where the current building stands. Students and staff will stay in the current building until the new building opens in fall 2024.



### OASA Behavioral Health Hospital

OASA Behavioral Health Hospital will be constructed near Old 56 Highway and Harrison Street. The 79,700 square foot facility will provide outpatient services as well as 96 beds for inpatient care and is anticipated to open in late 2024.



# APPROVED 2023 BUDGET & 2023-27 CIP



**1/4-MILL PROPERTY  
TAX RATE DECREASE**



**DEDICATED TO PUBLIC  
SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION**

# AA+

**BOND RATING FOR  
FINANCIAL FLEXIBILITY**



**8 OF 13 APPROVED NEW FTE  
POSITIONS ARE POLICE/FIRE**

**INVESTING IN CITIZEN  
PRIORITIES THROUGH KEY  
CIP PROJECTS INCLUDING:**

- **119TH STREET - WOODLAND TO NORTHGATE**
- **SANTA FE - RIDGEVIEW TO MUR-LEN (PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING)**
- **NEW POLICE HEADQUARTERS**
- **4.9-MILE TRAIL CONNECTING LAKE OLATHE TO CEDAR LAKE**

## WATER TREATMENT PLANT NO. 1 DEMOLITION SIGN OF CITY GROWTH

The City of Olathe recently demolished the treatment facilities of Water Plant No. 1, 600 S. Curtis St., which was built in 1950 and replaced by Water Plant No. 2 to serve growing Olathe. The former plant could produce 2 MGD (million gallons daily) when Lake Olathe was the water supply source. Wells along the Kansas River now supply Olathe water.

City planning ensured newer facilities with higher capacities to take a growing community into the future. Water Plant No. 2, located on W. 83rd Street in Lenexa, was constructed to provide 4 MGD with room to grow. Over time, additional wells, basins, systems, and other buildings were added to the facility to make it the 32 MGD facility it is today. And the best part? There is still room to grow!

## PROJECT UPDATES

### Mill Creek Stormwater, North of Santa Fe

Spruce Street, Woodland Street to Chestnut Street, is currently closed for new bridge construction. It's expected to open in November 2022. Chestnut Street, Spruce Street to Prairie Street, closed Sept. 15 for a four to five month duration. The entire project's completion is expected in early 2023. For more information, visit [OlatheKS.org/MillCreek](http://OlatheKS.org/MillCreek)

### Kansas Avenue, Santa Fe Street to Cedar Street

Kansas Avenue and adjacent streets reopened with new pavement in time for September's Johnson County Old Settlers Days. Decorative streetlights, an upgraded traffic signal at Loula Street, and a two-way cycle track on the east side of Kansas were also installed. Landscaping, brick crosswalks, and removable post installations occur this fall. The posts will allow temporary street closings for public events, such as Old Settlers.

### Cedar Creek Parkway, South of College Boulevard

Cedar Creek Parkway's base asphalt, sidewalk, and trail are complete. A transformer shortage is impacting streetlight completion with Evergy waiting for delivery. Landscaping, irrigation, and Cedar Creek Parkway's final stabilization are scheduled through October. Surface asphalt and striping will follow landscaping, with substantial completion anticipated by the end of October dependent on streetlight power availability.

### Pflumm Road, 143rd Street to 151st Street

Pflumm Road phase 1 improvements opened to traffic in September. The second phase has been extended to 143rd Street and is moving forward. This will allow most of the road to open to traffic for winter 2022-2023. Due to material shortages, traffic signal equipment for the 143rd and 151st and Pflumm intersections is not expected for delivery prior to 2023. Construction of these intersections is tentatively scheduled for the spring of 2023.



## TRASH TRUCKS DISPLAY WINNING ARTWORK

Artwork depicting iconic Olathe places is displayed on several trash trucks you may see around town, thanks to the winners of an art contest held this summer.

Congratulations to Isaac, Renee, and Favour. The popular contest had 94 entries.

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULES TRASH, RECYCLING, AND YARD WASTE

### Thanksgiving

Collections will be delayed by one day for only Thursday and Friday pickups.

### Christmas Day and New Year's Day

Both holidays fall on a Sunday. Collections will not be impacted during the week.

### Household Hazardous Waste Facility

The facility will not accept household hazardous waste Nov. 25, Nov. 26., and Nov. 27, and will close at noon on Dec. 23. No drop-offs on Dec. 24, Dec. 25, Dec. 31, or Jan. 1.

### Olathe Transfer Station and Compost Facility

These facilities will be closed on Nov. 24, & Dec. 24. They will be open Nov. 25, Nov. 26, & Dec. 31.

Sign up for free collection reminders and holiday schedules. Visit [OlatheKS.org/TrashDay](https://OlatheKS.org/TrashDay), or download the TrashDay app in the App Store or Google Play.



## DISPOSE OF YOUR AUTUMN LEAVES PROPERLY

Are leaves littering your lawn? Here are some helpful tips for cleaning up.

- The City of Olathe provides curbside pickup of leaves placed in compostable paper bags or in Olathe Yard-Carts on your normal trash collection day.
- Free yard waste drop-off is also offered at our Compost Facility, 1100 Hedge Lane, as well as compost and mulch pick-up for yard projects.
- Manage your leaves by mulch mowing as they fall or composting.
- Use mulched leaves in your landscape to provide a winter blanket around shrubs and other hearty plants.
- Refrain from raking or blowing leaves into the street or storm drains. It is illegal and clogs our stormwater system.
- Do NOT place leaves in plastic bags.



Photo: Senior Park Maintenance Worker Jessica Robbs

For more information visit [OlatheKS.org/YardWaste](https://OlatheKS.org/YardWaste)

Visit [OlatheKS.org/OlatheConnect](https://OlatheKS.org/OlatheConnect) with questions about leaf disposal.

# INVESTING IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS

Maintenance of streets continues to be a top priority for Olathe residents. The 2022 DirectionFinder survey results show it as a top resident priority for city services.

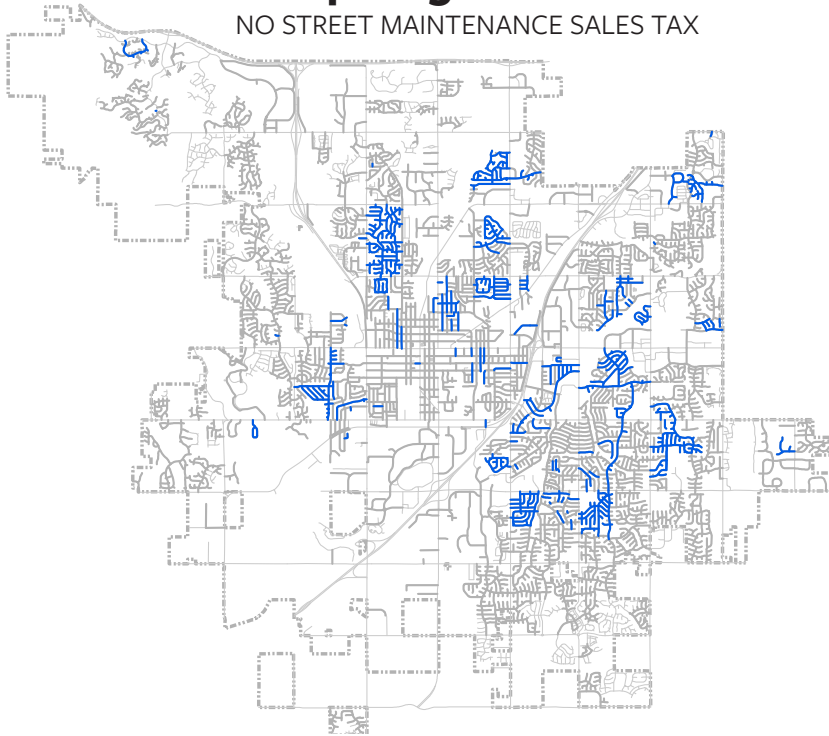
Only traffic flow and traffic management receive greater priority for services emphasis.

THE MAPS BELOW SHOW THE PROGRESS IN KEEPING GOOD STREETS IN GOOD CONDITION.

## Completed Local and Collector Streets Resurfacing Projects

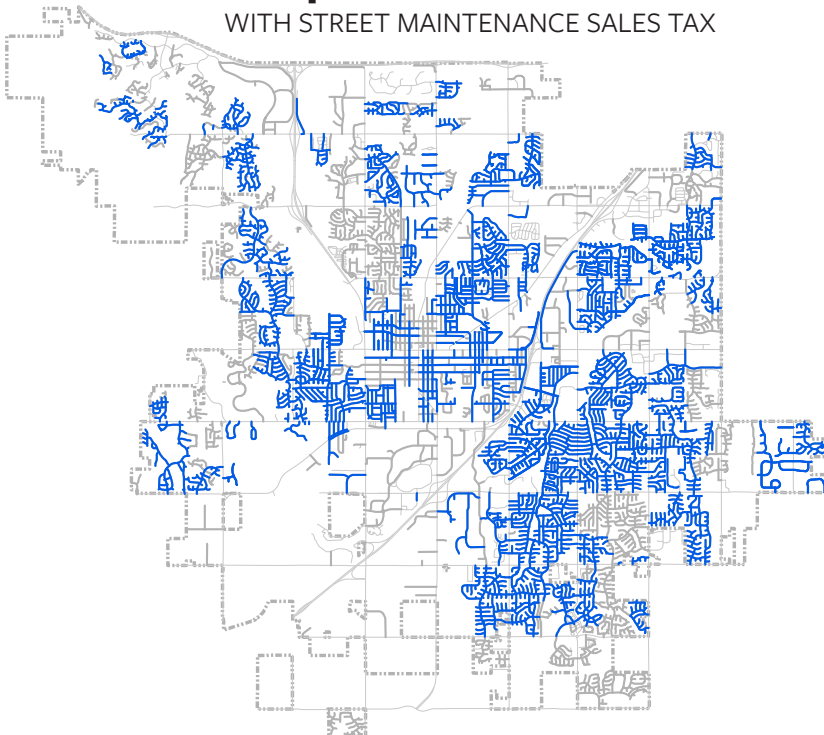
**2004-2013**

NO STREET MAINTENANCE SALES TAX



**2014-2022**

WITH STREET MAINTENANCE SALES TAX



### DOING MORE TO PRESERVE STREETS – 2014-2022

**1,020 lane miles**

Street Preservation Program resurfacing (all types) since initiation of the Street Maintenance Sales Tax

**115 lane miles**

Resurfaced (all types) in 2022 alone

**\$144,081,000**

Total Street Preservation Program expenditures (2022 estimated for end of year)

**\$99,423,327**

Total Street Maintenance Sales Tax funded Street Preservation Program expenditures

**Nearly 70 percent**

Street maintenance funded with Street Maintenance Sales Tax during 2014-2022

### PRESERVATION KEEPS GOOD STREETS IN GOOD CONDITION

- For every \$1 invested now, it saves \$8 in future reconstruction costs.
- A growing community means a growing number of streets. Street preservation is an ongoing program, not a project.



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](http://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](http://OlatheKS.org).**

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Apps available on the App Store and Google Play



# GET MORE



FROM YOUR OLATHE PARKS & REC

### *Help guide the future of Olathe Parks & Rec*

The City of Olathe is updating the Parks & Rec Master Plan to guide future activities, planning, development, and more for the Parks & Rec department, Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm, and both Olathe Public Library locations.

Visit [OlatheKS.org/ParksRecPlan](http://OlatheKS.org/ParksRecPlan) to make your voice heard.



[OlatheKS.org/ParksRecPlan](http://OlatheKS.org/ParksRecPlan)



**THE FUTURE OF OLATHE PARKS & REC IS UP TO YOU!**