

2006 Progress Report and Strategic Plan Update



Olathe City Council – Back Row, from left: J. Michael Wilkes, City Manager; Kathleen Huttman, Ward 3; Marge Vogt, Ward 4; Beverly Wittenborn, Ward 1; and Jim Randall, Ward 2 and Mayor Pro Tem. Front row, from left: Bob Montgomery, At-large; Michael Copeland, Mayor; and John Bacon, At-large.

As we celebrate the City of Olathe's 150th birthday in 2007, we can look upon 2006 as a very productive year leading up to our city's sesquicentennial.

Among the remarkable events of 2006 is the growth of valuable community partnerships. One such example is the announcement of the planned Kansas State University Bioscience Campus in Olathe. Another notable, is Olathe's continued efforts to improve traffic congestion and traffic management, especially east-west traffic flow. Projects such as the newly opened 127th Street Overpass and construction of the elevated railroad tracks on the east BNSF rail line will have a far-reaching impact in this community.

We believe planning strategically as a community based upon priority direction from residents is working. We are grateful to the many residents who take the time to respond to citizen surveys, participate in various public involvement opportunities, strategic planning, or who contact us about a local government issue.

Take a moment to look at the next few pages and see how the City of Olathe is doing. Although space does not allow an all inclusive account, this report offers some highlights of 2006, categorized in the community's strategic planning areas.

Olathe's first 150 years have proven solid and fruitful. We have a responsibility as a community to take steps in the right direction for future generations of Olathe residents. Please join us as we celebrate our rich history and anticipate an exciting future for our city.

— Olathe City Council

National Recognitions and Awards

- Received the International City/County Management Association **Community Health and Safety Program Excellence Award** for the Work Taxi Coupon Program
- Recognized as a **Best Place to Live** by Money Magazine
- Designated a **high performer Section 8 program** by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Earned the National Arbor Day Foundation's **Tree City U.S.A.** and Growth Award City designations
- Received the **Gold Leaf Award** from the International Society of Arboriculture, Midwestern Chapter
- Received the **Award of Merit** for the Turning Public Housing into HOMES and Welcome Home programs from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
- Presented the Environmental Protection Agency and Kansas Water Environment Association **First Place Bio-Solids Management Award**
- Awarded a National Association of Clean Water Agencies **National Gold Award** for the Cedar Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant and a Silver Award for the Harold Street Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Received the Kansas Water Environment Association **Class 3 Collection System Award**

Active Life Styles

Well-maintained and mature parks, and recreation promoting wellness for residents to enjoy is Olathe's active life styles strategy for 2023. During 2006:

- Updated and adopted the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, addressing indoor and outdoor recreation
- Broke ground for the Mahaffie Heritage Center, at Ridgeview and Kansas City Road
- Acquired Ensor Historic Site, 18995 W. 183rd Street, for preservation and future parkland
- Completed South Hampton Neighborhood Park, 16360 S. Warwick Street
- Hosted the Summer Concert Series at Frontier Park, attracting an average of 3,000 people a concert
- Started many new recreation programs in 2006, including It Starts in the Parks, Youth Theatre, Daddy-Daughter Ball and Champions of Character parent seminars

2006 Progress Report and Strategic Plan Update

Water Plant No. 2 expansion project completed



✓ Public Services

A full-service city recognized for customer service responsiveness and service delivery is the strategy for public services and administration in 2023. The City of Olathe moved forward in several public service areas during 2006:

- Completed expansion of Water Plant No. 2, doubling the City's overall water treatment capacity to better serve water customers
- Placed the first fully automated solid waste trucks into service to reduce worker injuries and increase efficiency
- Implemented online bill payment capability for City utility bills, offering an additional convenience for customers
- Expanded the Household Hazardous Waste facility's operating hours, providing year-round collection events and scheduled drop-offs, and started a computer recycling program
- Cleaned more than 1 million feet of sewer system to minimize backups

SmartCart trash collection



✓ Transportation

A well-planned, effective, safe transportation network system for the public is the 2023 Olathe transportation strategy. Work was completed or began on transportation projects with significant impact for Olathe motorists, especially for east-west travel improvement through the city.



127th Street Overpass opened

- The 127th Street Overpass at I-35 opened to traffic, facilitating east-west traffic flow and helping reduce congestion in the 119th Street and Santa Fe Avenue interchange areas
- 119th Street improvements, K-7 to Clare Road, and Clare Road improvements, 119th Street to the north were completed
- **Under construction:**
 - Railroad elevation project on the BNSF east tracks to eliminate street-track crossings at Ridgeview Road, Santa Fe Avenue, Loula and Park Streets
 - College Boulevard improvements, Ridgeview Road to Woodland
- Began phase II design of the Advanced Traffic Management System for the K-7 and 151st Street corridors. This expands an important tool to manage traffic congestion and improve traffic flow.

Raising the train tracks



2006 Progress Report and Strategic Plan Update



Fire Station No. 7 construction

✓ Public Safety

A community perceived by citizens as the “safest” community in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area is Olathe’s public safety strategy for 2023. During 2006:

- Adopted an Indoor Clean Air Ordinance. Fire Department began enforcement in November 2006.
- Began construction on Fire Station No. 7, 16110 S. Mur-Len Road, to serve growing southeast Olathe
- Completed a major upgrade to the storm warning system, equipping the community with 31 state of the art sirens
- The School Resource Officer program provided police service to 46 schools and more than 25,000 students and staff
- Implemented a citizen and client-based survey to gauge the performance of police officers during various contacts

- The Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program addressed traffic concerns on residential streets. Thirty-three neighborhood traffic safety sites were new for 2006.
- Enacted revisions to the City ordinance pertaining to dangerous dogs—an ordinance now used by other communities as a model animal behavior based ordinance



Olathe City Hall

✓ Downtown

The vision for downtown Olathe in 2023 is a government and business center that is integrated with the neighborhoods. Several redevelopment plans came to the forefront in 2006 and Olathe continues efforts to make downtown and surrounding neighborhoods a thriving area.

- Completed Tax Increment Finance (TIF) agreements for development projects at Santa Fe Avenue and K-7 Highway
- Began design of a Quiet Zone on the west BNSF rail line, which could silence train horns in downtown Olathe upon order of the Federal Railroad Administration
- Neighborhood Services completed 16 architectural reviews in the Olathe Original Town area
- The second Downtown Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit was installed, featuring nine pieces in the Downtown core area. It is sponsored by the Olathe Public Art and Culture Commission and the City of Olathe.

2006 Progress Report and Strategic Plan Update

OPUS Corporate Ridge



✓ Economic Sustainability A community that balances economic development with prudent financial management practices is Olathe's economic sustainability strategy for 2023. Major economic development occurred in 2006 and the City completed or began long-term plans addressing Olathe's future sustainability.

- Significant development projects approved or under construction include:
 - Avignon, mixed use development, 119th Street and Greenwood
 - Santa Marta, retirement community, 13800 W. 116th Street
 - Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, 119th Street and Renner Road
 - Candlewood Suites, hotel, Southgate Retail Center
 - OPUS Corporate Ridge, multiple office buildings, Ridgeview Road and K-10 Highway
 - Phase II of Olathe Entertainment District, 119th Street and Renner Road
 - Pacific Sunwear distribution center, 167th and Lone Elm Road
 - Wal-Mart, K-7 and Santa Fe Avenue
- Issued building permits on 1,096,143 square feet of non-residential construction with construction value totaling \$105,644,452
- Completed an update to the City's Water Master Plan, and started an update to the Olathe Comprehensive Plan
- Reinforced and created new partnerships throughout the community to provide enhanced services, save money and reach more residents

✓ Diversity The Olathe community's diversity strategy for 2023 is for a welcoming, diverse community. During 2006, the City continued to expand and add new programs to serve Olathe's growing diverse population.

- Established a sister city relationship with Ocotlán, Mexico, agreeing to collaborate for educational, governmental, economic and cultural opportunities and benefits
- Hosted the first Americana Jubilee event celebrating Olathe's diverse multi-cultural heritage
- Began offering videophone service at several City facilities to enhance communication for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Coordinated more than 300 hours of sign language interpretation for 3,200 people
- One thousand forty-seven students participated in the Martin Luther King, Jr. event by submitting essays about the life and teachings of Dr. King. The event was sponsored through a partnership of the Olathe Human Relations Commission, Olathe District Schools and the Olathe Chapter of the NAACP
- Began captioning live, rebroadcast and webcast meetings of the Olathe City Council and Planning Commission on Cable Channel 7

Americana Jubilee

