

El Reno Insights

It's good to be here.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM (TAP)

El Reno is thrilled to share an early look at the vision for our upcoming Downtown Streetscape Project! Thanks to a \$1.2 million grant from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), the first phase of this multi-year project is now underway, focusing solely on streetscaping enhancements such as sidewalks, landscaping, and benches; however, this funding can't be used for general street repairs.

This conceptual rendering showcases our vision, with plans for enhanced sidewalks, new lighting, lush landscaping, and inviting street furniture. These upgrades are designed to create a more beautiful, pedestrian-friendly downtown, transforming it into a vibrant and welcoming space for residents and visitors alike.



DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER 10- Chamber's Veteran's Day Parade

NOVEMBER 11- Veteran's Day

NOVEMBER 12- City Council Meeting

NOVEMBER 28-29- Thanksgiving / City Offices Closed



DOWNTOWN HIGHLIGHTS

The Downtown Revitalization Grant program has been a game-changer for many local businesses! This initiative, which covers up to \$5,000 in façade improvements per address, started with funds the City received from the filming of *Twisters*. Due to high interest and numerous businesses taking advantage of the opportunity, the City Council allocated an additional \$25,000 to support even more improvements. The front of this building on Rock Island is a perfect example of this program in action, helping to enhance and beautify our downtown spaces.

In addition, sidewalk reconstruction/repairs funded by the City of El Reno is completed, addressing important maintenance to boost safety and accessibility for all who visit downtown destinations.

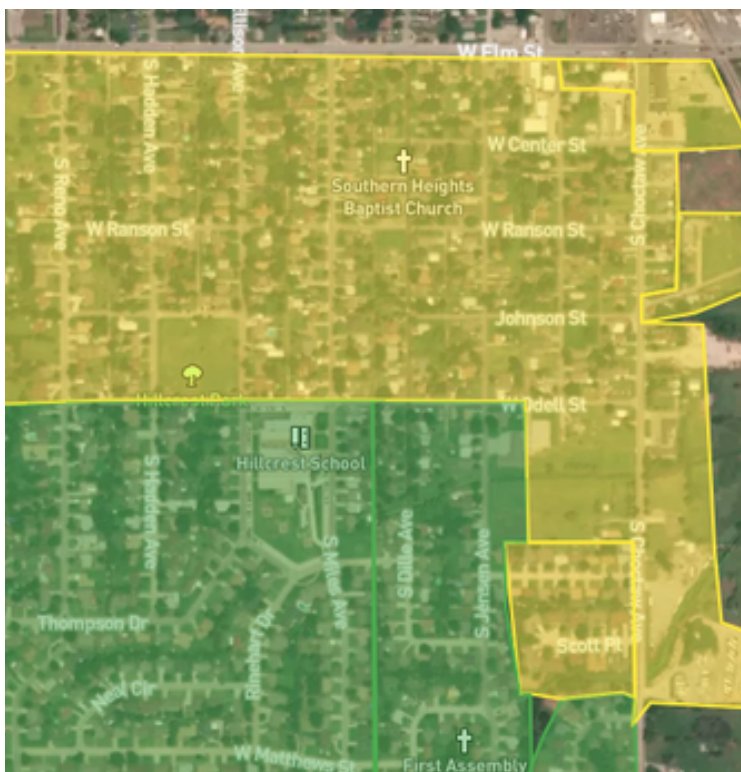
Mark your calendars for El Reno's festive downtown events! The Christmas Parade will take place on Saturday, December 7, followed by the Holly Jolly Trolley and other Christmas activities on Saturday, December 14. Stay tuned for more details on these holiday happenings, and come celebrate the season with us downtown!

STREETS & STORMWATER DEPARTMENT

We saw a massive amount of rainfall at the start of the month, which put our infrastructure to the test and led to some flooding on a few roadways. The water has since receded, and we've been clearing debris from our drainage structures and bridges. We're now gearing up to begin a couple of drainage improvement projects. Soon, South Country Club Road across from Adams Park will get a new storm drain, and we'll also be upgrading the drainage channel between South Jensen Avenue and South Dille Avenue. Work on these is set to kick off at the end of November.

Back in 2022, the City of El Reno secured loan forgiveness funding to develop a city-wide master drainage plan. The highest-priority projects from that plan are now set to be engineered. You might recall that we received additional loan forgiveness in the amount of \$1.5 million through the Oklahoma Water Resources Board specifically for stormwater drainage engineering. Once these projects are fully engineered and we have construction drawings in hand, we'll apply for additional OWRB funding to cover construction. As El Reno continues to grow, we know how important it is to keep improving our drainage systems, and we're actively seeking additional resources to maximize the impact of local tax dollars.

On the road construction side, Foreman Road between Manning Road and Banner Road is now completely resurfaced—a big upgrade for this key route connecting residents to the city. More road improvements are coming, with help from ODOT's resurfacing program on U.S. 81 and Route 66 later in 2025.



FAST CONNECT

The yellow highlighted area from Odell Street to Elm Street marks the newest expansion of fiber internet. By the time you read this, the area will be live, and residents will be able to have Fast Connect service!

Fiber construction will keep progressing throughout the city over the coming year. We'll keep you updated as new areas become available.

Residents interested in learning more about Fast Connect or would like to sign up for the service can visit our website, [El Reno Fiber](https://www.elreno.net/fiber).

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

Our water line projects are moving right along! The Mitchell waterline is now 75% complete, with the Elm waterline at 80%. Construction for the Radio Road waterline is set to begin on December 2nd. In addition to these projects, our city crews have been hard at work maintaining our water distribution system. They've repaired several water mains and service lines, set new service lines where needed, and tackled a 12" irrigation line repair at the golf course, which will really help keep things running smoothly there. Thanks to these efforts, we're keeping the water flowing strong!

On the wastewater side, our team has been busy with maintenance and repairs to keep everything running smoothly. We've worked on lift station pumps and replaced 40 feet of sewer line in the 1100 block of West Warren, tackling this along with other projects with Myers Engineering. We're also staying on top of monthly sewer maintenance, and recently completed repairs on five manhole risers. All these efforts are aimed at keeping our wastewater infrastructure in great shape.

Last month, I shared that during routine quarterly testing, our water plant operator, Inframark, detected elevated levels of trihalomethanes (THMs) at specific testing sites, which showed up in two consecutive tests above the allowed threshold. The team has since identified and resolved the issue. These elevated THM levels led to a Notice of Violation (NOV) from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ). However, there's no need for immediate action, like a "boil order." If it had been an emergency, you'd have been informed right away. As part of regulatory requirements, this month you'll receive a mailed copy of this information for your records.



AIRPORT

A group of U.S. military Apache helicopters made an impressive stop at our airport overnight. The crew, from Colorado Springs, shared that they had flown in after a stop in Liberal, Kansas.

This stopover highlights our airport's growing role as a convenient and strategic stop for many aviation operations. This is why it's important to continue improving and investing in the facilities and service we offer, as it not only impacts our residents, but visitors of all types too.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY

In October, the library welcomed two new team members! Kylie, our new Children's Librarian, brings fresh ideas and a passion for engaging young readers, while Kamerin, our part-time Technical Processor, is already making a wonderful impact. Be sure to stop by and say hello! They also kicked off Make-It Mondays!—a fun weekly program featuring a new craft each month. Join every Monday at 5:30 for some creative fun with friends and neighbors. You can find other activities on the [library website](#).

PARKS

This month, we'll get an update from Halff on the Adams Park and Lake El Reno Master Plan at the November 12th City Council meeting. There's still a lot of work ahead, but it's exciting to see the progress and how the public's ideas are coming to life.

Last week's storms took down several trees in Adams Park. Just like last year, we're planning to plant more trees across our parks. This time, we'll focus on Gadberry Park and along the Sunset Trail. Our goal is to plant 10-20 good-sized trees each year to keep growing our green spaces.

We also welcomed Chad Weinrich as our new Golf Course Superintendent (shown bottom right). Chad brings over 20 years of golf course turf management experience, and we're glad to have him on board! Over the winter, our golf course crew will tackle some seasonal tasks—maintaining carts and mowers, trimming trees, refreshing flowerbeds, and more—to keep the course looking great for everyone.

And, our partnership with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the Adams Park Fitness Court is coming along well (shown bottom left). The ribbon-cutting is set for December 5th!





PUBLIC SAFETY

Congratulations to our Communications Supervisor Jodi Wolff on receiving the OG&E & Oklahoma City Thunder Safety Partner Award! Jodi's dedication and hard work make a tremendous impact on our community every day, and we're thrilled to see her recognized for her outstanding service. Thank you, Jodi, for all that you do!

The City of El Reno has exciting openings in both our Communications Department and our Police Department. If you're passionate about serving the community and want to be part of a dedicated team, consider applying today! Whether you're interested in helping keep our community informed or maintaining safety and security, there's a place for you here. You can find the application on our website, [Employment Opportunities](#).

The City of El Reno reminds residents that wildfires and severe weather can occur outside typical seasons, and preparedness is key. Here are a few tips to help you stay safe:

- **Stay Informed:** Follow local weather and emergency alerts to stay aware of any changes in conditions. Sign up for push notifications and keep an eye on updates.
- **Create Defensible Space Around Your Home:** Reduce wildfire risks by clearing dry leaves, branches, and other flammable materials from around your property.
- **Check Your Emergency Kits:** Ensure your emergency kit is stocked with essentials like water, non-perishable food, a flashlight, and a first-aid kit.
- **Know Evacuation Routes:** Familiarize yourself with local evacuation routes and prepare a plan for your family and pets.

We encourage everyone to stay prepared, even during unexpected seasons. Keeping our community safe is a shared responsibility—thank you for doing your part!

SENIOR CENTER

Exciting news for the El Reno Senior Center! We've partnered with The Shed Grill and Bar to serve up daily lunches for our seniors. Seniors over 60 can enjoy lunch free of charge (though a \$2.50 donation is appreciated), while those under 60 pay just \$4.00. Donations are always welcome, too!

You can find the weekly menu and monthly activity calendar on our website, [Senior Center](#). The activity calendar is published in the Tribune every month.

Come by the senior center, bring your friends, and enjoy some good food and great company. Plus, we're on the lookout for new coordinators to join our team! Check out the link for this and other job opportunities, [Employment Opportunities](#).



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

El Reno's new home construction is booming! In October alone, we issued 16 new home permits, putting us at 114 new homes for 2024. Most of these homes are going up west of South Country Club Road and south of Lake El Reno. From our conversations with builders, we know even more applications are on the way into 2025. Alongside this, we have issued 10 new commercial permits and have ongoing commercial and industrial developments that are set to strengthen our local economy. It's a great time to be in El Reno!

To keep up with demand, our Community Development Department has welcomed two new building inspectors, Brett Deviney and Andrew Ortiz. We're excited to have them on board to help manage the increased workload and support our growing community. Strengthening our community development functions and raising development standards is essential as we grow. This focus not only improves public safety but also enhances quality of life for all our residents. We will continue making improvements to the community development department to ensure quality development.

Thank you for keeping up with the activities in El Reno!

Matt Sandidge, City Manager

(405) 262-4070 • P.O. Drawer 700 • El Reno, Oklahoma 73036