

# El Reno Insights

*It's good to be here.*

## 2024 END-OF-THE-YEAR WRAP UP

As we welcome a new year, it's a great time to reflect on the significant progress El Reno made in 2024. Many transformative projects that began this year are poised for completion in 2025, all aimed at enhancing the quality of life for residents of El Reno and Canadian County. Our commitment to making El Reno an exceptional place to live, work, and raise a family remains unwavering. We are focused on delivering the improvements our community wants to see while continuing to elevate the standard of services we provide.



Several of these milestone projects are tied to Route 66, a vital part of our city's heritage. The restoration of the iconic Filling Station is well underway, with its grand reopening scheduled for May 2025. We also secured funding for the first phase of our downtown streetscape project, which will transform the pedestrian experience and make downtown a destination for residents and visitors alike.

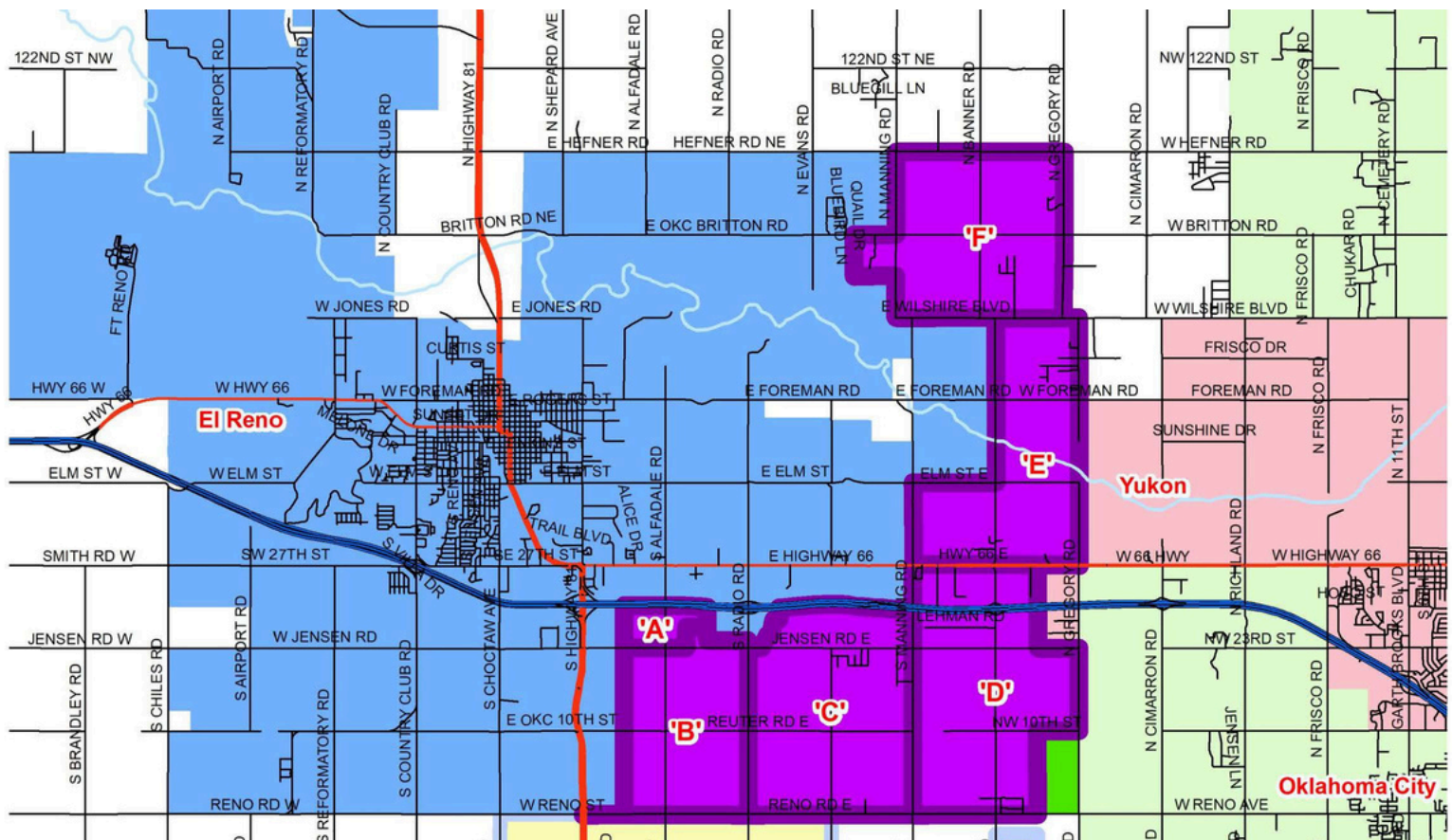
Additionally, in 2024, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation began construction on the Route 66/US 81 roundabout, a project designed to enhance safety and traffic flow at this critical intersection. El Reno Fast Connect fiber internet has also seen rapid growth, bringing high-speed connectivity to more areas of our community. These projects represent a bold step forward, positioning El Reno for continued growth and success as we move into the next quarter of the century.

One of the major projects currently underway is the annexation of land on the east side of town, extending just past the Banner Road interchange. Understandably, this initiative has sparked some questions. What many may not realize is that this annexation will restore the city's boundaries to align closely with the pre-1977 city limits, excluding parcels annexed by Yukon and Oklahoma City since that time.

This annexation is a transformative, generational effort designed to enhance the quality of life for future generations in Canadian County. As the fastest-growing county in Oklahoma—and one of the fastest-growing in the nation—Canadian County has significant potential for development. Over recent years, we've experienced increasing development pressures in unincorporated areas, a trend that is expected to continue.

Without proper development standards and regulations, conflicts between land uses, such as industrial developments adjacent to residential neighborhoods, are likely to arise. While zoning, code enforcement, and building inspections may sometimes be perceived negatively, these tools were established in response to the challenges of industrialization and urbanization. They exist to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of residents and to foster thoughtful development within our community.

Below, you'll find the proposed annexation map and an attached fact sheet with additional details. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out—we're here to help.





## ANNEXATION INFORMATION

We understand you may have questions about annexation and how it affects you and your property. This guide provides answers to some common concerns. Additional questions that arise will be addressed on our website. Below, we've compiled key information on what to expect when an area is annexed into the City of El Reno.

### 1. Property Taxes

The City of El Reno does not collect or receive any property taxes directly. Annexation into the City will not result in an increase in your property taxes.

### 2. Trash & Recycling Service

The City of El Reno contracts with the Oklahoma Environmental Management Authority (OEMA) to provide weekly curbside trash collection. The service rates are as follows:

- \$17.25 per month for the first polycart
- \$12.75 per month for each additional polycart
- \$10.00 per month for each recycling polycart

Residents are also entitled to free bulk trash disposal at the OEMA landfill during March, June, September, and December.

State law permits annexed customers to continue utilizing their current private trash service. The City Council is expected to adopt an ordinance providing guidance for residents who wish to retain private service.

Burning of leaves and tree limbs is allowed within City limits in compliance with Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) regulations. A \$10 Burn Permit, available through the El Reno Fire Department, is required. Burning of trash is strictly prohibited where trash collection services are available.

### 3. Ambulance Service

Upon annexation, ambulance services will continue to be provided to the annexed territory.

### 4. 911 Services

There will be no changes to the 911 tax assessed to your landline or cell phone. Approximately one week following annexation, emergency calls will be routed to El Reno's 911 dispatch center, which operates 24/7 under the El Reno Police Department.

### 5. Fire Services

For properties west of Banner Road, the El Reno Fire Department currently provides fire protection. Upon annexation, residents will no longer be charged for fire department responses.

For properties east of Banner Road, fire services will transition to the El Reno Fire Department immediately after annexation, with no associated response fees.

### 6. El Reno Police Department

The El Reno Police Department will begin providing law enforcement services to annexed areas immediately upon annexation.

### 7. Animal Control Services

El Reno Animal Control services will also commence immediately after annexation to address any animal-related concerns.

### 8. Water Service

Most properties in the proposed annexation area are serviced by rural water districts, such as the Canadian County Water Authority (Banner Rural Water District) or Green Valley Rural Water District. The City of El Reno cannot legally provide water services to these areas.

For areas outside of rural water district boundaries, El Reno water services may be available. Interested residents are encouraged to coordinate with City representatives to explore service options.

### 9. Internet Service

El Reno is actively building out a Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) broadband network. Priority will be given to areas within city limits, and annexed areas will be incorporated into the broader service rollout.

### 10. Sewer Service

The El Reno sanitary sewer system operates entirely on customer funding. If sufficient interest exists among residents, the City will facilitate discussions to evaluate the feasibility of extending sanitary sewer services.

## **11. Streets**

Section line roads in the area are currently maintained by Canadian County. Upon annexation, the City of El Reno will assume responsibility for maintaining these roads, as well as any additional roads previously maintained by the County.

## **12. Elections and City Representation**

Following annexation, the area will likely fall under either Ward 2, represented by Councilmember Pete Stapperfend, or Ward 3, represented by Councilmember David Black.

All registered voters in annexed areas will be eligible to participate in municipal elections.

## **13. Zoning**

Upon annexation, all properties will initially be zoned as General Agricultural A-1. City staff from the Community Development Department will work with property owners over the coming months to ensure appropriate zoning classifications are assigned.

## **14. Building Codes**

State law mandates compliance with state building codes for all properties. Following annexation, the El Reno Community Development Department will assume responsibility for code enforcement and inspections, replacing the Oklahoma Construction Industries Board.

## **15. Permits**

Building permits are required for new structures, including but not limited to, homes, accessory buildings, and swimming pools. Routine projects, such as basic remodeling or fixture replacement, generally do not require permits.

## **16. Code Enforcement**

The City of El Reno enforces ordinances to maintain clean and safe properties. This includes ensuring grass remains below 12 inches and that structures are adequately maintained. The Community Development team is available to assist in resolving any compliance issues.

## **17. Street Lighting**

The installation of street lighting in annexed areas

may be approved by the City Council. Streetlights are funded through sales tax revenue.

## **18. Street Names and Addresses**

The City of El Reno utilizes its own addressing system. Following annexation, City departments will assess the need for updates to street names or addresses to ensure emergency personnel are able to quickly find your property when needed. A transition period of several months is typically provided before changes take full effect.

## **19. School District**

Being inside or outside of the city limits does not change the school district you belong to.