



THIS IS EL DORADO

Commission approves \$2 million ballfield project

Those using the ball fields at East Park, Central and McDonald Stadium can expect to see several improvements over the next four years. The City Commission approved the recommendation of the Excess Sales Tax Committee to move forward with a plan for multi-year improvements totaling a little over \$2 million.

These funds come from the one-cent sales tax collected in 2021, which totaled \$2,974,495. Of that, \$1,650,000 for property tax reduction, \$600,000 is used for street rehabilitation, and \$100,000 for economic development. That left \$624,495 for excess sales tax projects. There also were funds available from previous projects, including \$1,240

from the fire station doors, \$12,297 from the bike path solar lights and \$92,439 from the cemetery road paving. In addition, there is approximately \$100,000 already set aside for McDonald Stadium improvements, \$67,483 for restroom/concession facilities, and \$80,000 for Forest Park improvements.

In addition, the City is in discussions with Butler Community College to help fund improvements on the field they use.

Proposed Ballfield Improvement Program	Amount
East Park Ballfield Improvements	
Concession/Restroom Facility	\$300,000
Fences	\$100,000
Orndorff Bleacher Pad	\$100,000
Scoreboards (Orndorff & Snell Fields)	\$14,000
Backstops & Bullpens	\$12,000
Shade Structures	\$20,000
ESTIMATED TOTAL	\$546,000
Central Field Improvements	
Concession/Restroom Facility	\$300,000
Field Fences	\$225,000
Scoreboards & Lighting	\$36,000
Backstops & Bullpens	\$24,000
Irrigation & Shade Structures	\$25,000
ESTIMATED TOTAL	\$610,000
McDonald Stadium Improvements	
Turf & Mound Replacement	\$315,000
Outfield Fence	\$200,000
Façade Updating	\$150,000
Bleacher Benches	\$100,000
Other Building Improvements	\$96,000
Scoreboard & Backstop	\$45,000
ESTIMATED TOTAL	\$906,000

What's Happening in El Dorado

- Feb. 6 & 20 - City Commission Meetings
- Feb. 12 - Kansas Oil Museum Sunday Speaker Series
- Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day
- Feb. 16 - Kansas City Monarchs and America's National Pastime Presentation at Bradford Library
- Feb. 21 - Kansas Oil Museum History Happy Hour
- Feb. 21 - Coutts Brown Bag Program
- Feb. 21 - Library Book Club
- Feb. 22 - Coutts Caterpillars Preschool Program

Find more events at www.eldoks.com and sign up for notifications of upcoming events.

While these projects would use a majority of the excess sales tax dollars over the next four years, some will be set aside for other projects. In the first two years it was proposed \$630,000 and \$670,000, respectively, be set aside for ballfields, and approximately \$100,000 each year for other projects. Funds available the first year would actually total \$730,471 in excess sales when combined with the remaining amounts from previous projects. Years three and four would each set aside \$425,000 for ballfield improvements, with \$75,000 for other projects each year. The amounts from the savings funds for McDonald Stadium, concessions and Forest Park will be used to reduce the amount taken from the sales tax fund at the end of the project. These numbers are estimates based on excess sales tax in recent years. Sales tax in 2022 has seen another record year, which will be allocated in 2023.

Staff proposed this plan for the ballfield projects because it would allow them to be completed more quickly than if the committee continued to set aside smaller amounts of funds for the different improvements each year. In addition, some of the improvements need to be made now, rather than waiting for funds to accumulate enough money to complete them.

It is estimated the ballfields have approximately 30,000 people in attendance each year for practices and games, with about 60 to 65 percent of those people being local residents.

In addition to the ballpark projects, the committee requested \$150,000 for a new pergola and slide at the swimming pool, which also was approved.

These improvements will begin in 2023, with city staff doing as much of the work as they can.

What your city staff does for you...

Water Distribution & Sewer Maintenance



There are several divisions within the Public Utilities Department. The one that helps keep your water flowing is the Water Distribution and Sewer Maintenance Division.

This division of employees makes sure water is delivered to your home or business by maintaining infrastructure. They respond 24 hours a day to water leaks to ensure customers continue to have the water they need. They are responsible for 129 miles of water distribution mains, as well as 2,919 water main valves, 692 fire hydrants and 5,677 water meters.

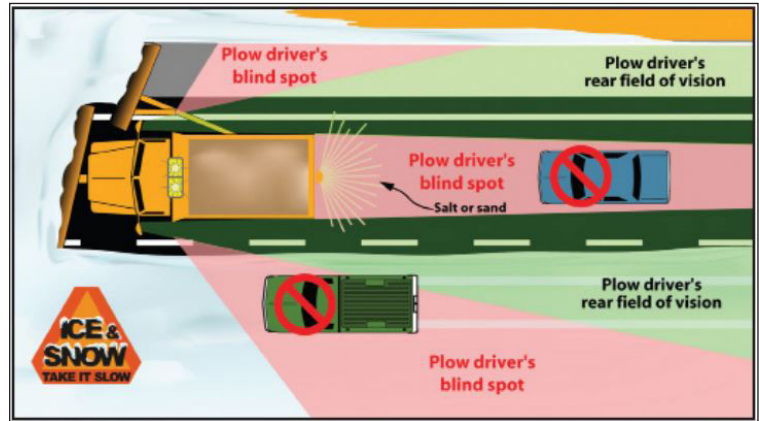
In addition to getting water to homes and businesses, they also are responsible for the sewer system to remove wastewater. They maintain 91 miles of sewer collection lines, 1,872 manholes and 11 lift stations.

The crew is completed with two meter readers who check and read every meter in the city each month and change out meters when necessary.

To report a water leak at your house, please call City Hall at 316-321-9100 from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7:30 a.m. to noon Fridays. To report a water main leak or sewer backup, please call the Utilities Department at 316-322-4448 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday. To report any water or sewer issues after hours, call our on-call personnel at 316-323-4987 or 316-323-4997. We will check the city sewer first, at no expense to the customer, to assist in the elimination of the problem.



You can pick up your 2023 City of El Dorado calendar to keep up with what is happening each month. Calendars are available at City Hall while supplies last.



Stay safe on the road this winter with these snow plow safety tips

Winter brings with it snow and ice, which can make traveling more difficult as you head to work, the store or other destinations.

While staying home in inclement weather is always best, we know that's not always possible, so we have our snowplows ready to clear city streets when needed. To keep your trip as safe as possible it is important to remember a few safety tips when driving near snow plows:

- Give our snow plow drivers plenty of room on the roads. Stay back at least 30 feet from the rear of a snow plow.
- A snow plow driver has a blind spot behind the plow, as well as on both sides. While it is easy for you to see them, they may not be able to see you.
- Snowplows also may create a cloud of snow that can reduce visibility. Never drive into a snow cloud.

Also, please remember:

- if possible, remove vehicles from the streets. This allows our drivers to clear roads from curb to curb.

El Dorado Public Works crews are constantly monitoring weather situations and will respond with treating and plowing roads when appropriate.

When icy weather is predicted you may see anti-icing materials on the streets (unless rain is predicted which would wash it away). Trucks spray a salt brine before a snowstorm to prevent frozen precipitation from bonding to a road's surface.

During a snow storm, crews begin plowing the main streets (Central, Main, Sixth and the Truck Route) and those around schools if there is a chance that school will be in session. As those are cleared, they try to move on to residential streets.

Please always use caution and have patience when driving in the snow to keep everyone on the road safe this winter.