

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE



PROJECT REPORT

May 2025

1-CENT SALES TAX PROJECT CATEGORIES

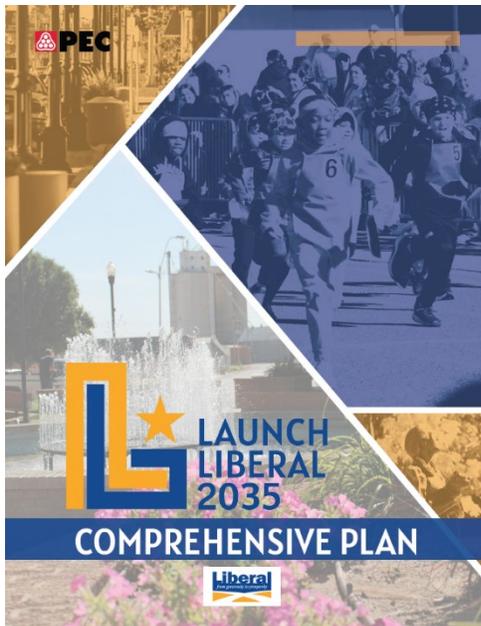
Beautification
Community Development
Economic Development
Infrastructure

Crime, Drug, &
Alcohol Prevention
Housing
Project Maintenance

Current Projects

Liberal Municipal Concert Band

We are excited to introduce our new concert band, which is scheduled for two performances this summer at the Light Park Pavilion. The band is comprised of a diverse and talented group of musicians from across our community and will play a variety of music for park guests. Shows will begin at 7 p.m. on **Friday, June 20th** and **Saturday, July 19th**. Local food vendors will be on-site an hour before each performance. This is a free community event.



Launch Liberal 2035 Comprehensive Plan

A public draft of the Launch Liberal 2035 comprehensive plan is now available at cityofliberal.org/launchliberal. The plan includes information on how the plan was created; a summary of public feedback collected; our core values and goals; and an implementation plan portion which outlines future action items to meet Liberal's future development goals.

Following a public review period, this plan will be presented and public hearings will be opened at the Planning & Zoning Commission and Liberal City Commission meetings prior to official adoption.

Rock Island Depot Repair

The city has been awarded \$77k from the Kansas Historical Society's Heritage Trust Fund program to assist with needed repairs to the Rock Island Depot. Bids will be opened soon to start with the building's roof replacement. One-cent sales tax funds will serve as the local match for grant funds. Further repairs to the building's gutter system and foundation will also be required.

Liberal Animal Shelter Dog Park

Work will begin soon at the Liberal Animal Shelter to create an enclosed outdoor space for shelter dogs to exercise and socialize. This project is being completed in partnership with the Liberal Rotary Club, which is donating funds to assist with this project.

Light Park Fitness Court

The Commission has approved a new fitness court project, which will replace a playground area which was removed from Light Park (north of Adventure Bay Water Park). The court will include outdoor workout equipment, turf surfacing, shade, and other amenities.

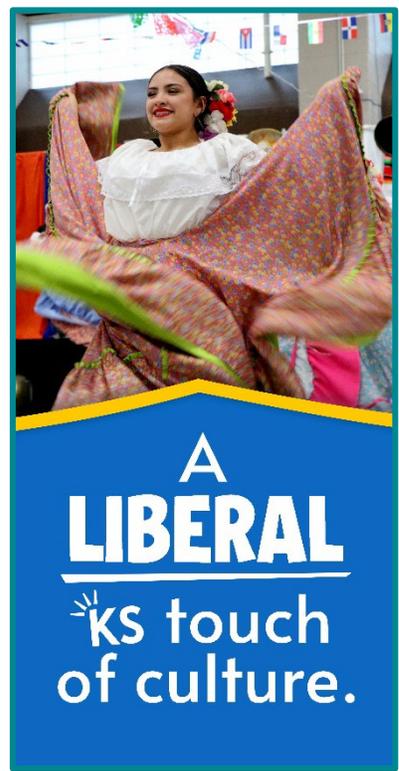
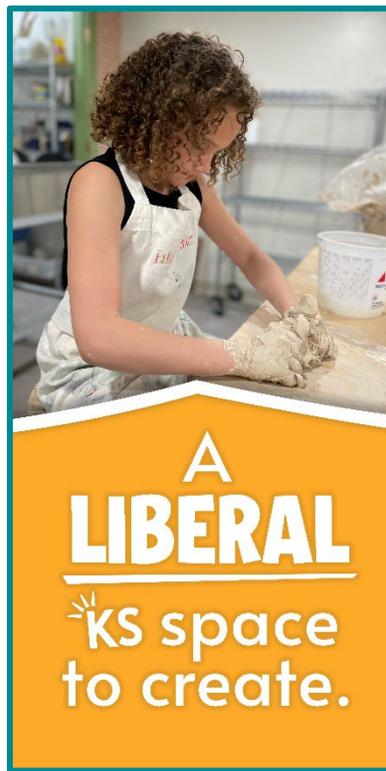
Leete Park Playground Turf

The location of the playground area at Leete Park experiences flooding and mulch is washed away into the park with every heavy rainfall. This results in a playground that is unusable and requires extensive staff cleanup and replacement mulch to keep the play area in usable condition. The Commission has approved new playground turf which will alleviate this problem, improve aesthetics create a more physically accessible playground, and add extra safety protection for falls. The turf carries a 15-year warranty.



Community Art Mural

Our community art mural is being painted and the mural wall has been installed at Light Park. We anticipate this will be completed in June 2025.



Park Banner Flags

Banner flags will be added soon to light poles in Light Park. These banner flags enhance aesthetics, aide in placemaking efforts, and help reinforce our identity as a community. The designs introduce our new branding theme – “A Liberal, KS state of kind.” The theme uses our city name as an adjective with different phrases to emphasize the abundance of great things Liberal has to offer. Light Park will be very busy with community events over the next several months, and this will be a great place to introduce new messaging.

Park Lighting

Staff will present a request to the Commission in June to add additional lighting to city parks to improve safety and the overall visitor experience. The initial set of parks we will focus on are McCray Park (replacement), Country Club Park, Mahuron Park, and Blue Bonnet Park.

McCray Dog Park

Plans continue moving forward to establish a community dog park with a targeted completion date this year. McCray Park near S. Pershing Ave and W. Pine Street has been selected for the site. This project has been frequently requested by our residents.

Future Projects

Sports Complex Parking

There is an increased need for vehicle parking near the National Beef Family Sports Complex to accommodate attendees. Staff are evaluating options to expand available parking.

Gun Range Relocation

Relocation of the current gun range has been an ongoing project idea under discussion. City staff have continued to evaluate an appropriate site location for a proposed range to include an area for the public and a separated space for law enforcement training.

Bus Stop Enhancements

Staff are exploring the addition of seating and possible shelters at bus stops in Liberal.



Liberal Cemetery Expansion

Staff are working on expansion plans for the Liberal Cemetery. The area is expected to expand to the north and could add approximately 50 years of additional space.

Program Reports

Housing Programs

The following awards were provided for housing programs from January-May 2025:

PROGRAM	# AWARDS YEAR-TO-DATE	\$ AWARDS YEAR-TO-DATE
Paint-the-Town	30	\$15,000
First Time Homebuyer	27	\$81,000
Housing Construction Incentive	7	\$52,500
Emergency Home Repair	50	\$133,980
*NEW: Fence Program	0	\$0

Façade Improvement Program

The following awards were provided for the façade grant program from January-May 2025:

PROGRAM	# AWARDS YEAR-TO-DATE	\$ AWARDS YEAR-TO-DATE
Façade Grant	6	\$52,512

Note: There is sufficient budget authority in this fund to increase to \$100,000 in façade grant funds in 2025, so we will continue accepting new applications.