

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE



PROJECT REPORT

April 2025

1-CENT SALES TAX PROJECT CATEGORIES

Beautification
Community Development
Economic Development
Infrastructure

Crime, Drug, &
Alcohol Prevention
Housing
Project Maintenance

Completed Projects



Community Splash Pads

The newly installed splash pads and McCray and Mahuron Park were launched in May. These have been well-received by the public. The splash pads are free and operate from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Willow Tree Golf Course Renovation

The Willow Tree Golf Course clubhouse renovation is complete with custom merchandise fixtures, new flooring and paint, improved lounge areas, and remodeled restrooms. A public ribbon cutting was hosted in May to celebrate these improvements. Much of this work was completed in-house by city staff.



Downtown Parking

As new businesses continue to open in Downtown Liberal, a parking lot at the intersection of Third Street and Lincoln Avenue has been leased by the City for off-street public parking. This lot is centrally located and serves multiple businesses in the area with high foot traffic. Enhanced signage has been added to public parking areas to invite visitors to stop and stay Downtown.

Pet Waste Stations

Pet cleanup waste stations will be installed this week at multiple city parks to encourage responsible pet ownership and reduce waste left behind on our grounds. This has been a common request from residents.



Liberal Police Department Cadet Graduation

A class of 40 students have graduated from the most recent Cadet program at the Liberal Police Department. These students learn about the various career opportunities and work involved in community law enforcement. The program is accepting new applications for the summer session beginning in June.

Current Projects

Launch Liberal 2035 Comprehensive Plan

A publicly available draft of the Launch Liberal 2035 comprehensive plan is expected to be released in early June. 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. The building’s roof and gutter system will be addressed with these grant funds and matching funds from the one-cent sales tax. Future repairs to the building’s foundation will be required.



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.

Liberal Animal Shelter Dog Park

The Liberal Animal Shelter is moving forward 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.

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.

Park Lighting

Staff are arranging plans 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.

Fitness Court Area

Staff have drawn up plans for outdoor workout equipment, surfacing, shade, and other amenities to create a fitness area to replace a playground which was removed from Light Park (north of Adventure Bay Water Park).



Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant

A project manager from the Federal Railroad Administration has been assigned to our railroad crossing grade separation development project for a second overpass in Liberal. Staff are awaiting final federal agreement documents, which will then allow staff to move forward with project activities.

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.

Program Reports

Housing Programs

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

PROGRAM	# AWARDS YEAR-TO-DATE	\$ AWARDS YEAR-TO-DATE
Paint-the-Town	24	\$12,000
First Time Homebuyer	21	\$63,000
Housing Construction Incentive	5	\$37,500
Emergency Home Repair	38	\$97,980
*NEW: Fence Program	0	\$0

Façade Improvement Program

The following awards were provided for the façade grant program from January-April 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.

Sales Tax Information



Our city webpage for the 1-cent sales tax has been updated to share information about the tax and projects these funds have helped create. Residents can visit cityofliberal.org/salestax to learn more.