


# ANNUAL REPORT












2019



**BROKEN ARROW**  
*Where opportunity lives*





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# Top 10 Milestones



Named 9<sup>th</sup> Lowest Crime City in U.S.



Vietnam War Memorial Moves to Veterans Park



Named Best U.S. City for 1<sup>st</sup> Time Homebuyers



Scotfest moves to BA Events Park



Build Our Future BA GO Bond Passes



First Dog Park in BA Opens



Milestone Project in the Rose District Breaks Ground



BA Schools & City Create Tiger Creek Nature Park



New Orleans & Elm Revitalization Study Kicks Off



Named Most Livable Small U.S. City

# A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

2018 was a great year for Broken Arrow. A lot has been accomplished thanks to the hard work of our amazing staff, engaged citizens and my fellow dedicated council members.

First off, on behalf of the City Council, I want to again thank all Broken Arrow citizens for passing the 2018 Build Our Future BA General Obligation Bond in August. This was a landmark decision for the future of the City, and thanks to the wealth of resident feedback received, the bond package will keep the City on the right track as we continue to grow and maintain a high quality of life.

This has truly been a groundbreaking year for the City. We were recognized numerous times for being a vibrant, safe and innovative community. We opened the City's first dog park and started several new initiatives to prepare Broken Arrow for the future. And most exciting of all, the City's largest public school won its first state football championship – Go Tigers!

Broken Arrow is really on a roll. I'm proud to represent this City and the fine people who live here.



Craig Thurmond  
*Broken Arrow Mayor*



# A Vibrant & Award Winning City

Broken Arrow has long been a destination for making a home, raising a family, youth sports, shopping and entertainment. The hugely successful revitalization of the Rose District draws hundreds of visitors each month. Our public safety record is superb. All these things are what make the City an attractive place.

In February, the Rose District was named one of USA Today's Top 50 Most Charming Main Streets in America. In May, the City was recognized as the 9th lowest-crime City in the U.S. by Business Insider. The next month, the U.S. Conference of Mayors named Broken Arrow the Most Livable Small U.S. City.

Summer kept on rolling as WalletHub named Broken Arrow as the Best U.S. City for first time home buyers in July. In November, state and local government news website Route Fifty made Broken Arrow a finalist for their Navigator Awards. And in December, website 24/7 Wall Street named the City as the 19th Safest in America.



In 2018, BA was recognized as being a safe, vibrant & innovative city on five occasions



# Build Our Future BA GO BOND

## Thank you, Broken Arrow!

In August, Broken Arrow voters approved all six propositions for the 2018 Build Our Future BA General Obligation (GO) Bond. This is the largest municipal bond package in the history of the City of Broken Arrow.

The complete package totals \$210 million, to be issued over 10 years. The GO bond projects will not increase the City’s property tax rate. New bonds will only be issued as old bonds are paid off.

The projects are divided into 6 propositions:



### Transportation

*\$142.625 Million*



### Public Facilities

*\$16.8 Million*



### Public Safety

*\$20.35 Million*



### Stormwater

*\$7.5 Million*



### Parks & Recreation

*\$17.75 Million*



### Drainage

*\$5.5 Million*





## Major Improvements Will Include:

- Widen Houston (81<sup>st</sup>) Street from Garnett Road to Aspen (145<sup>th</sup>) Avenue
- Widen 23<sup>rd</sup> Street (County Line) Between Omaha (51<sup>st</sup>) & Albany (61<sup>st</sup>) Street
- Improve Intersections on 9<sup>th</sup> Street (Lynn Lane) Near Highway 51
- Construct Meeting Center for Veterans
- Construct Senior Citizen Center Annex Facility
- Improve Drainage in Neighborhoods
- Build Fire Station No. 7
- Develop a New Park in Southwest BA
- Sidewalk Connectivity

The 88 projects  
will take  
approximately  
13 years to  
complete

The first bond for the Build Our Future BA GO Bond package was sold in late fall 2017 and will fund numerous street projects, parks improvements, stormwater and drainage issues, the veterans meeting center and the senior center annex.

*Visit [BuildOurFutureBA.com](http://BuildOurFutureBA.com) for up-to-date details on the bond package.*

# Keeping Us Safe

Broken Arrow is an attractive City to many people largely because of how safe it is and the quality of our public safety services. That reputation can be attributed to the Broken Arrow Police and Fire Departments. The dedicated men and women in both departments are committed to providing the highest level of customer service possible in every situation.

To continue providing that level of attention to residents, both public safety departments require investment. Thanks to the Vision 2025 sales tax renewal approved by voters in November 2015, the Police and Fire Departments have had a dedicated revenue fund since January 2017 to help maintain services.

As part of the Vision promise, the Police Department committed to hire 20 new police officers. The first 15 of those officers hit the streets in 2018 after successfully completing the Police Academy.

Many residents are still unaware the Broken Arrow Fire Department provides the emergency medical service for the City. In fact about 80 percent of calls to the Fire Department are medical related. Three new ambulances replaced aging units in the fleet this year, helping the Fire Department reach patients quickly to start rendering aid.





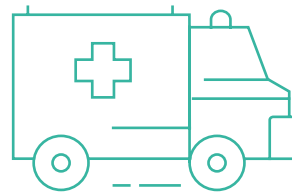
Hired 15 New  
Police Officers



Hired 20 New  
Firefighters



80% of Fire Dept Calls  
Medical Related



3 New  
Ambulances

# A New Facade In The Rose District

The north end of the Rose District will soon be transformed by a four-story, \$22 million mixed use development at 305 N. Main St. — formerly the site of the First Assembly of God Church.

In September, the City of Broken Arrow, Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Corporation (EDC), and Milestone Capital LLC officially broke ground on the four-story building that will eventually have 31,000 square feet of commercial space on the ground floor and approximately 90 apartments on the three levels above.

First announced in 2017, the project was designed by Cyntergy Architecture + Engineering, and Cowen Construction is overseeing its construction. The project will cost nearly \$22 million, financed through Milestone, a company specifically created for this development and future Rose District projects. Construction should be complete in the summer of 2020.





## Redevelopment Study: Elm & New Orleans

There's no question that commercial activity in the Elm Place and New Orleans (101st) Street area is in a period of transition. What was once a vibrant shopping corridor with stores like K-Mart, Old Time Pottery and Hobby Lobby, has seen businesses either close or relocate to other parts of town within the past two decades.

The City of Broken Arrow has a vested interest in making sure this area once again becomes a thriving retail district. An effort began in earnest in August 2017, when the Broken Arrow City Council requested an economic development feasibility study, to explore ways the intersection could be redeveloped for the benefit of the whole community. The City also held a workshop to engage residents and business owners about their vision for the area. Catalyst Commercial is now completing a report on their research and interviews with stakeholders; the findings will be made public in 2019.

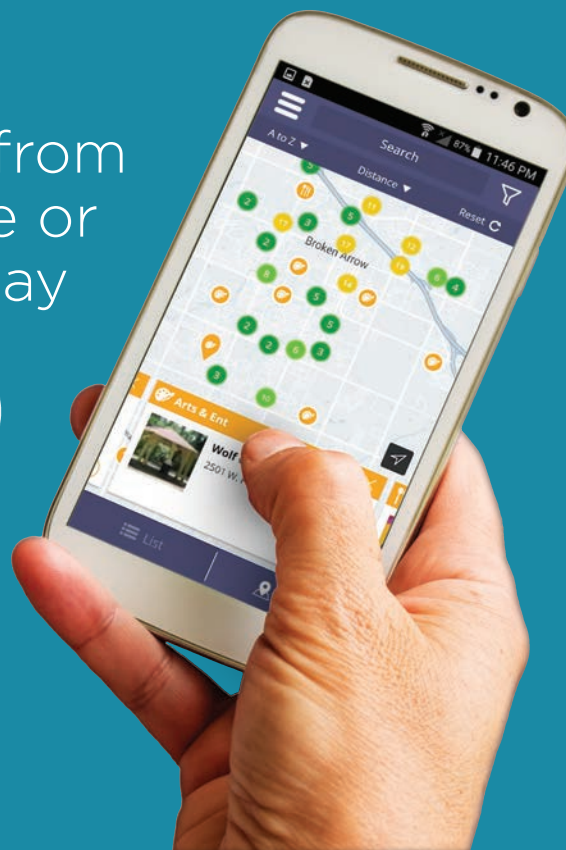
# Discover BA Again With The Visit Broken Arrow App

Introduced in September, the Visit Broken Arrow app is a next generation travel and tourism tool that increases the visibility of all Broken Arrow has to offer, such as restaurants, specialty shops, hotels, events and the Rose District.

The new free custom app sets Broken Arrow apart from the rest of Oklahoma's many tourism destinations. Visit Broken Arrow re-brands visitors' travel experience — engaging them and convincing them to share their experiences with others. It also serves to enhance Broken Arrow's image and helps boost Broken Arrow's many events through social posts and enjoyable stories from visitors. The app allows users to create a custom itinerary of events and places to see during a visit to Broken Arrow, and then have that itinerary with them while on the go.

While designed for visitors, the Visit Broken Arrow app also is useful for residents to rediscover the City in new ways. To download, simply go to the App Store or Google Play and search for "Visit Broken Arrow." The app is also available online at [brokenarrowok.visitwidget.com](http://brokenarrowok.visitwidget.com).

Download it from  
the App Store or  
Google Play





## SCOTFEST Makes BA Its New Home

Broken Arrow was pleased to welcome SCOTFEST to the Events Park in September. After decades in Tulsa, one of Northeastern Oklahoma's largest and longest-running festivals made Broken Arrow its new home in 2018.

SCOTFEST draws tens of thousands of visitors to the City to experience the sounds of flame throwing bagpipes, guitars, drums, fiddles, the hurling of giant cabers, Highland dance and more for the whole family to enjoy. The festival attracts numerous Highland games athletes, who have set many world records at the event, as well as a plethora of regional, national and international folk and Celtic rock bands.

Excitement coursed through the City as another well-known and highly attended event chose Broken Arrow to help further its growth. This partnership will draw thousands of visitors to the City and showcase what Broken Arrow has to offer for years to come.

# Barks & Recreation

In May, the City's first dog park officially opened with dozens of dogs and owners in attendance. Rose West Dog Park features two separate, fenced play areas, one for large dogs and one for small dogs; transition areas so dogs' reactions can be judged before letting them into the play areas; a restroom facility and water fountains for both humans and canines. The existing parking lot was also expanded by 25 spaces, more than double the 18 that existed previously. The restrooms and water fountains also serve cyclists and joggers who frequently use the adjoining Liberty Parkway Trail. Shade structures were added in the fall to provide park goers relief during the hottest times of the year.

Funded by the 2014 General Obligation Bond, construction of the park, restrooms and parking lot cost \$473,000. The five acres of land for the park was donated by Joan and Monte Dunham in October 2011 with the request that the park be named after Rose West, the former owner of the property who enjoyed the wildflowers that grow there.

Located on New Orleans (101st) Street just east of Garnett Road, Rose West Dog Park is open from dawn to dusk every day except Wednesdays when it is closed for cleaning and maintenance.







# Improving Our Parks

Broken Arrow's Parks and Recreation Department is a wonderful piece of the City's offerings to residents. Broken Arrow parks and trails bring thousands of visitors in each year for youth sports, community events, classes and numerous other activities.

To keep offering the best experiences, we must continue to upgrade our parks facilities. In 2018, new playgrounds and restrooms were just a few of the improvements made to maintain a high quality of life in Broken Arrow.





## 2018 Parks Improvements



New Playground at Country Aire Park



New Playground & Splash Pad at Leisure Park



New Playground, Restroom, Pavilion & Lighting at Events Park



Improved Lighting at Indian Springs Sports Complex Soccer Fields



New Vestibule Connecting Battle Creek Clubhouse & Banquet Hall

# Vietnam War Memorial Now Part of Veterans Park

The City of Broken Arrow rededicated the Vietnam War Memorial at Veterans Park during a ceremony in August. The memorial honors the seven Broken Arrow residents who were killed during the Vietnam War.

It was located in Central Park for decades; however, there was a desire to have it relocated across Main Street to Veterans Park, located at 1111 S. Main St. This was done partly because many who visited Veterans Park did not make the trek to the memorial. Also, some events held at Central Park would cause the memorial to be obstructed from view or risked damage to it.

The City Council approved the memorial's relocation in 2017. It was placed in Central Park in spring 1994 after being moved from its previous location in downtown Broken Arrow. Due to concerns moving the granite monument might damage it, a replica was installed at Veterans Park and the original was sent to the Military History Center in the Rose District.





# Anticipated Street Projects Underway

## Widening 9th Street

Construction on 9th Street (Lynn Lane) between the FlightSafety campus and Houston (81st) Street began in the summer. This project will widen 9th Street from two lanes to five at an estimated cost of \$5.9 million. A traffic signal will also be added at the Dallas Street intersection, in front of St. Anne Catholic Church. Weather permitting, work should be done in spring 2019.

## Adding 37th Street

After a lengthy delay due to a gas line relocation by Oklahoma Natural Gas, work resumed on 37th Street (209th East Avenue) between Omaha (51st) and Albany (61st) Streets in October. This new road will serve as an important connection on the north side of the City. Weather permitting, the road should be open in summer 2019 at an estimated cost of \$4 million.



Two long-awaited street projects started in 2018



# Tiger Creek Nature Park: Innovative Partnership Aims To Improve Watershed

In the fall of 2017, the City of Broken Arrow and Broken Arrow Public Schools announced an innovative partnership to turn a detention pond across from the high school into an outdoor science classroom, and ultimately improve water quality for the watershed.

In May 2018, that partnership produced the first results as school and city officials, as well as high school students, launched a floating wetlands into the watershed, renamed Tiger Creek, as part of the project.

Imagined and created by a group of students and City staff, the floating wetlands was designed in the iconic “BA” logo of the school district. It measures approximately 75 feet by 45 feet and is believed to be the largest in the state of Oklahoma.

The project’s mission is to improve water quality by using wetland plants that will absorb the phosphates and nitrates from fertilizer runoff that cause algae blooms. Those plants will also add oxygen to the water and will eventually provide habitats for fish to spawn under. Its success has already spurred interest from neighboring schools and communities.







Photo courtesy of Broken Arrow Public Schools

Numerous local businesses donated goods to see the project through, including:



**Advanced  
Drainage Systems**

Donated All of the PVC  
Pipe & Fittings



**GNC Concrete**

Provided the Concrete Pipe  
Used for Anchorage



**The Metropolitan  
Environmental Trust**

Provided 800 2-Liter Bottles to  
Help Provide Buoyancy



**Grogg's Green Barn**

Provided Some of the Plants Used,  
While the Rest Were Split From Other  
City of Broken Arrow Watersheds

# Important Projects Starting In 2019:



Widen Kensosha (71<sup>st</sup>)  
from Date to Main



Widen Washington (91<sup>st</sup>)  
from Garnett to Olive (129<sup>th</sup>)



Widen 23<sup>rd</sup> Street (County Line)  
Between Kenosha & Houston  
(81<sup>st</sup>), Including a Bridge  
Replacement Over Hwy 51



Widen Albany (61<sup>st</sup>)  
from 9<sup>th</sup> To 23<sup>rd</sup>, in Front  
of BA High School &  
Creekwood Elementary



Widen Florence (111<sup>th</sup>)  
from Olive to Aspen (145<sup>th</sup>)



Numerous Drainage &  
Stormwater Improvements  
All Across the City

# A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

## **Greetings Broken Arrow!**

2018 was a banner year for preparing for Broken Arrow's future. First a huge thank you to voters for approving the 2018 Build Our Future BA GO Bond. We worked on a new Comprehensive Plan and continued infrastructure improvements. In 2019, we start setting plans into action to prepare for the City's future.

In the next year, several infrastructure projects will wrap up while several new ones will begin. The widening of 9th Street (Lynn Lane) will be completed by the end of the summer, as well as many of the improvements to our water treatment plant and our wastewater plant.

Several key initiatives are also going to come to a close or begin. The new Comprehensive Plan and Parks Master Plan will soon be completed, as well as the redevelopment study for the Elm and New Orleans area. In January, the City implemented two pilot projects to examine how curbside recycling can be implemented as part of our sanitation services. These pilots will run for about five months and we're seeking continual feedback from the residents in the trial areas. The City Council will review the results in late summer.

Broken Arrow continues to grow, and as it does, we need to prepare for what the City will become. We will keep our focus on the vision, mission, and priorities of the City. Building streets and infrastructure needed for the future now puts us on the right path to be ready when it's needed down the road.



Michael Spurgeon  
Broken Arrow City Manager



## A Safe, Vibrant & Innovative City

Located in northeast Oklahoma, Broken Arrow has been recognized consistently as one of the best places in America to live and raise a family. With a population nearing 112,000, we set the standard by providing the best municipal programs and services. With destination attractions in the Rose District, the Performing Arts Center, Warren Theatre, Bass Pro Shops and more, residents and visitors have many options when it comes to choosing shopping, dining, cultural and entertainment activities.



**112,000**  
Population



**277<sup>th</sup> LARGEST**  
City in U.S.



**55 SQ MILES**  
Land Area



**\$157,700**  
Median Home Value



**\$82,831**  
Median Income



**37**  
Median Age



## **City Council**

The five-member City Council is elected by wards for a term of four years. The Mayor and Vice Mayor are elected within the Council membership. City Council meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of the month at City Hall, 220 S. First Street.

## **City Administration**

The City of Broken Arrow operates under a Council-Manager form of government. The City Council hires the City Manager, who oversees daily operations within the City, much like a CEO is responsible for running a business. City employees provide high quality services that make Broken Arrow one of the best places to live in Oklahoma.



# Broken Arrow City Council



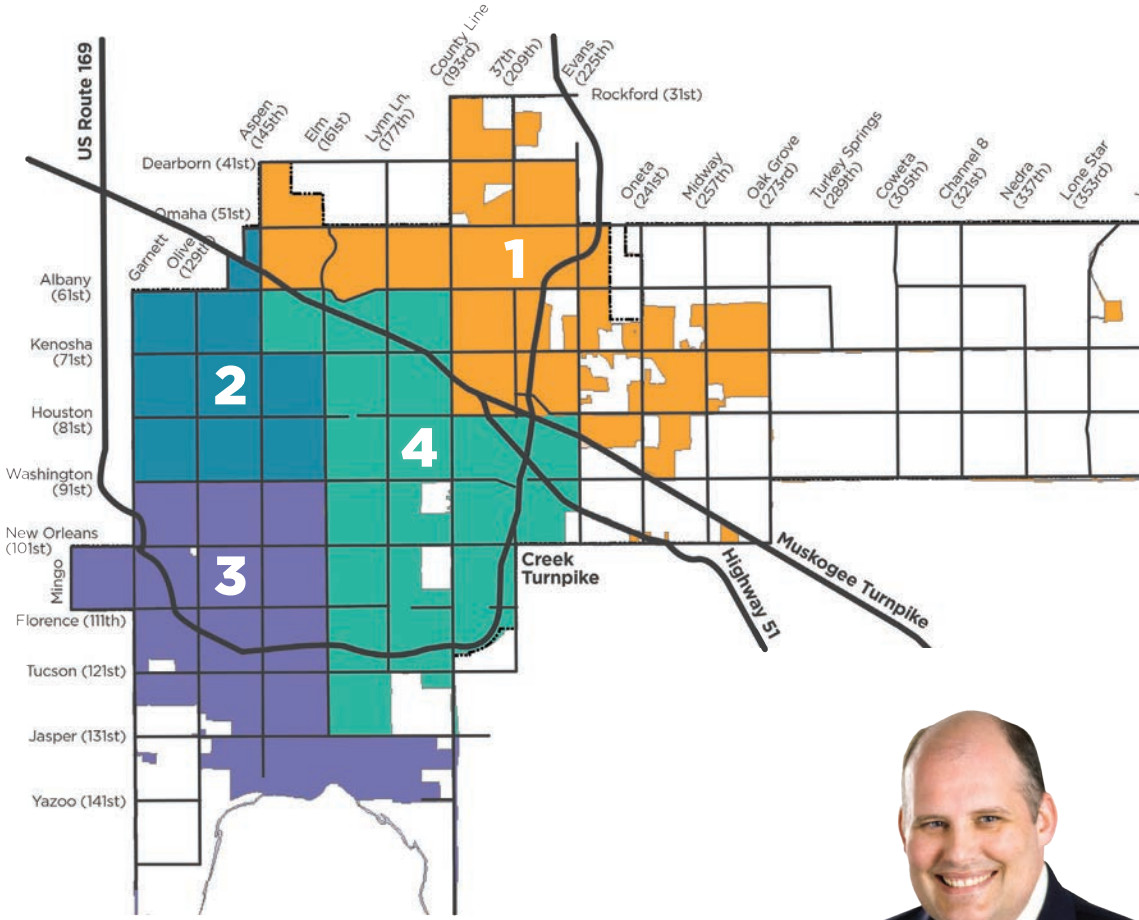
**WARD 1**  
Debra Wimpee  
Councilor



**AT LARGE**  
Johnnie Parks  
Councilor



**WARD 2**  
Craig Thurmond  
Mayor



**WARD 3**  
Mike Lester  
Councilor



**WARD 4**  
Scott Eudey  
Vice Mayor



# BROKEN ARROW

*Where opportunity lives*

## CONNECT

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