

Public Facilities

Goal and Work Plan Priorities

Goal Statement

Provide responsive, high quality, effective, and efficient public facilities, and services that establishes Duncan as a place that creates, restores, and preserves a connected and accessible community through a resilient and sustainable built and natural environment for the current and future residents.

Work Plan Priorities

General Public Facilities Priorities

Grow additional community gardens in areas designated as being food deserts

According to a recent study conducted by Oklahoma State University, a century ago about 90% of Americans were farmers but that has drastically dropped to a mere 2%. This means that much of our fresh fruits and vegetables are imported from other states and countries which puts a significant strain on our local food system. Further, we are seeing more and more “food deserts” occurring as socioeconomic and transportation conditions are limited ease of access to healthier foods. This is occurring in Duncan, and one way to begin reversing the negative impacts of these conditions is to establish community gardens and farmer’s markets in key locations that can serve our citizens. Think Ability established the first set of community gardens and operates a farmer’s market and partnerships with this organization can be a great opportunity for Duncan.



City of Duncan to conduct a feasibility study for a mobile library and/or satellite facility east of the railroad

Public libraries are expected to provide free and equal access to their resources and services to all citizens of the community in which they serve. Andrew Carnegie believed that giving the opportunity to gain knowledge to the “industrious and ambitious; not those who need everything done for them, but those who, being the most ambitious and able to help themselves, deserve and will be benefited by help from others” when asked why 1,689 Carnegie Libraries were built in the United States. This access to knowledge is critical for our future leaders, entrepreneurs, and those that seek to better themselves. Duncan’s Public Libraries understands there is still a need to provide resources throughout the community and that access is often difficult for those challenged with socioeconomic and transportation hardships that need to be addressed. Consideration of a mobile library or satellite facility on the east end of Duncan would improve the quality of life for those residents.



City of Duncan to conduct a feasibility study of acquiring Resthaven Cemetery

Resthaven Cemetery on the north end of Duncan has fallen into a state of disrepair which has caused citizens to seek help from the City of Duncan leadership.

Duncan's City Council has listened to the public's request and has struck a deal with the private ownership group of Resthaven and is in the final stages of acquiring the property. City staff have already begun inspections of the property with the intent of putting together a proper plan of action to move forward with general maintenance and improvements that our citizens with loved ones buried at this location deserve. This acquisition will not only provide for the families that have family at Resthaven, but also provides an opportunity to enhance an important Gateway to Duncan on the north end.



Public Facilities and Accessibility Priorities

Ensure all public facilities accommodate citizens with disabilities

About 17.5 of all Oklahomans (more than one in six) have a disability. These disabilities include visual, hearing, ambulatory, cognitive, self-care, and independent living disabilities. Knowing this, and realizing these numbers continue to grow, it is important to ensure that all public facilities are designed and maintained to accommodate citizens with disabilities. The ability to enter, use, and enjoy public buildings and facilities is a right that all should enjoy but many of our public spaces and buildings lack the appropriate improvements to accommodate citizens with one or more disabilities. The City of Duncan, while partnering with local non-profits, should prepare a plan that begins focusing on improvements needed and funding sources to begin making our community accessible for all.



Senior and community centers grow additional programs that benefit citizens

Senior and community centers are great assets for communities as we continue to see growth in the aging population. The centers often provide a means for socialization, group activities, opportunities to explore new hobbies, and even exercise. What more citizens have asked for would be to see an expansion of services that may include the teaching of "life skills" that could benefit multiple generations such as tax assistance, social security assistance, cooking and nutrition, minor repair to electronics, and sewing. Many of these mentioned "life skills" are things our seniors have already learned to do and have a new opportunity to share their knowledge with others in the community.



Public Facilities and Connectivity Priorities

Public facilities with digital signage utilize display space to share upcoming community events

Information is knowledge, and knowledge is power. Providing our citizens with information about upcoming events, projects, and programs can help our citizens better prepare, plan, and engage with activities and occurrences. Duncan residents have noted that there are several public facilities and private businesses that now utilize digital signage and have asked that consideration be given to utilizing these for sharing information with the public. Key locations include the Stephens County Fairgrounds, Duncan Public Library, Duncan Public Schools, and several churches and financial institutions have incorporated digital signage at their facilities where partnerships can be formed to allow the dissemination of community information.



Community center activities focus on program development for neighborhood youth

Every generation understands the importance of having opportunities for youth to develop and mature, improve social skills and work ethics, build stronger relationships, and improve mental and physical health. This is equally true for Duncan as multiple surveys conducted throughout Duncan have shown that youth represent the future of the community. A stronger focus on establishing a balance of programs and opportunities that are easily accessible by all is desired throughout the community and there are several potential partnerships that should be explored with several non-profit agencies, Duncan Public Schools, local churches, and other community organizations that can provide opportunities and purpose to the youth of Duncan.



Senior and community centers establish programs that encourage interactions between youth and seniors

Multiple studies have shown that there are multiple benefits of connecting youth and seniors that includes sharing of wisdom/experiences to learning new technologies, mentorship of life skills to digital literacy, build a stronger sense of community, and improve physical and mental health. The intergenerational programs that encourage interactions enhance the well-being of both generations where the youth feel useful and engaged and the elderly feel valued and celebrated. With existing senior centers, both Duncan Senior Center and Douglass Community Center, being near parks there are loads of opportunities for the community to come together and encourage these interactions and engagement.



Existing Public Facility Improvement Priorities

Continue to grow and expand opportunities offered to the public through the Duncan Public Library

The Duncan Public Library strives to connect our citizens with the opportunities, ideas and resources that are necessary for lifelong learning. Not only does the local library offer books and other reading materials, but the library also provides multiple events daily that allow children, teens and adults opportunities to learn new skills, interact with new friends, and has resources to help citizens discover their family's history. It is important that the City of Duncan continue to provide the resources needed to grow new opportunities and expand existing programs that will help residents learn, grow and accomplish their personal goals.



Continue to maintain and expand cemeteries owned by the City of Duncan

With the passing of our loved ones, residents expect that the cemetery in which they are buried is constantly cared for, attractive, and can provide a pleasant experience for times of visitation. Duncan Public Cemetery, Henderson-Harris Cemetery, and the newly acquired Resthaven Cemetery represent cultural, historical, and environmental treasure troves that need to be preserved for future generations. Local leaders need to provide the necessary resources, when economically feasible, to perform the daily maintenance and allow for future expansion of the community cemeteries.



Continue to grow and expand events hosted by the Stephens County Fairgrounds

The Stephens County Fairgrounds and Expo Center hosts several major events each year bringing thousands of guests to Duncan, Oklahoma. Rodeos, livestock shows, coin shows, craft shows, concerts, weddings, family reunions, and the Stephens County Free Fair are just a handful of the events that occur and showcase the rich history the community has to offer. Continued support is needed to make sure these events stay in Duncan, and through partnerships with private businesses, citizens and the Stephens County Commissioners the future of the fairgrounds will be prosperous.



Work Plan Priorities Matrixes

General Public Facilities Priorities	Start	Timeframe	Key Stakeholders
Grow additional community gardens in areas designated as being food deserts	2025	Mid-Range	Community Development, Think Ability, City Council
City of Duncan to conduct a feasibility study for a mobile library and/or satellite facilities east of the railroad	2025	Long-Range	Community Development, Duncan Public Library, City Council
City of Duncan to conduct a feasibility study of acquiring Resthaven Cemetery	2025	Long-Range	Community Development, Public Works, City Council

Public Facilities and Accessibility Priorities	Start	Timeframe	Key Stakeholders
Ensure all public facilities accommodate citizens with disabilities	2025	Mid-Range	Community Development, Public Works, Think Ability, City Council
Senior and community centers grow additional programs that benefit citizens	2025	Mid-Range	Community Development, Senior Centers, Community Centers, Non-Profits

Public Facilities and Connectivity Priorities	Start	Timeframe	Key Stakeholders
Public facilities with digital signage utilize display to share upcoming community events	2025	Short-Range	Community Development, Non-Profits, Local Businesses
Community center activities focus on program development for neighborhood youth	2025	Long-Range	Community Development, Community Centers, Non-Profits
Senior and community centers establish programs that encourage interactions between youth and seniors	2025	Long-Range	Community Development, Senior Centers, Community Center, Non-Profits

Existing Public Facility Improvement Priorities	Start	Timeframe	Key Stakeholders
Continue to grow and expand opportunities offered to the public through the Duncan Public Library	Ongoing	Ongoing	Duncan Public Library, Friends of the Library, City Council
Continue to maintain and expand cemeteries owned by the City of Duncan	Ongoing	Ongoing	Public Works, Cemetery Department, City Council
Continue to grow and expand events hosted by the Stephens County Fairgrounds	Ongoing	Ongoing	Stephens County Fairgrounds, Stephens County Commissioners

