

This report includes 2023 accomplishments and outlines projects to be completed in 2024.

Ellensburg

INSIDER

City Annual Report 2023

Working Toward A Strategic Vision

The City Council's Strategic Vision 2023-2028 represents the most important emerging issues facing the City of Ellensburg and establishes precedence for expenditure of staff and other City resources. In addition to providing essential public services, the vision includes:

- Sustainable Infrastructure
- Economic Vitality
- Safe and Inclusive Community
- Energy and Resource Management
- Housing Affordability

Learn more at www.ellensburgwa.gov/strategicvision

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Sustainable Infrastructure

- Two new Central Transit bus shelters; and two shelter artwork installations.
- Secured grant funding for broadband project to connect City well infrastructure, including partnership to serve rural area (west of City limits) with wireless broadband service.
- Utility billing system implementation upgrade.
- Partnered with Ellensburg Rotary Club and community garden group to repurpose under-utilized Wippel Park, added pollinator garden and public art.
- Replaced flat roof at City Hall.
- Worked with American Legion Board to resolve fire lane issues and reconfigure Reed Park master plan to achieve no net loss of parking. Adopted plan in March 2024.
- Secured Flood Control Assistance Account Program (FCAAP) funding to 3D model and update flood maps within City limits.
- Secured federal and state grants to improve complete streets, infrastructure (bike lanes, paths, ramps, and sidewalks), renewable energy park, and add smart grid technology, etc.
- Adopted new regulations, including: streateries, parklets and sidewalk cafés; emergency housing and shelter zoning; conditional use permits; comprehensive overhaul of the Landmarks and Design section of the code, and demolition standards.



New bus shelter artwork at the Library bus stop



Wippel Park community garden and pollinator garden

Learn more at www.ellensburgwa.gov/sustainability

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www.ellensburgwa.gov/newsletter



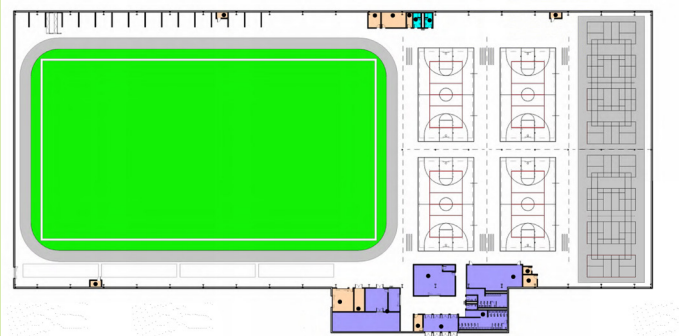
Economic Vitality

- Completed design and contracting for Unity Park. The project is funded by federal State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Project is scheduled to be substantially complete in August 2024.



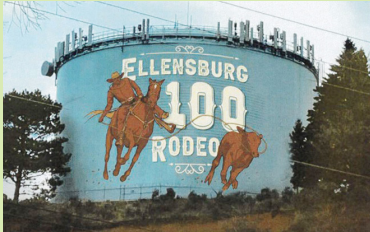
Groundbreaking Ceremony on March 30, 2024

- Completed countywide economic development strategic plan. Drafted and secured Letter of Mutual Partnership between 14 respective agencies, including Kittitas County, all cities, and county organizations, to implement the strategies. Held the first workshop with regional partners to begin working together differently.
- New arts and economic development manager added capacity to advance City priorities, including expansion of creative sector, implementation of regional strategic plan, and submitted application for Certified Creative District, which was awarded in 2024.
- Continued grant-funded capital project manager to expand capacity to complete priority infrastructure projects.
- Updated Rotary Park Master Plan which included space configuration for new Fieldhouse, additional outdoor sports fields, nonprofit miniature railroad, walking/nonmotorized paths, connectivity, etc.



Fieldhouse Concept Plans (interior turf and court surfaces)

- Initiated funding plan for Fieldhouse at Rotary Park to replace Ellensburg Racquet & Recreation Center (ERRC), lost due to arson on 12/2/2022. Secured funding commitments of nearly \$10 million, including insurance settlement. Implemented design contracts to meet two-year timeline requirements to recoup replacement value to fund construction of new facility. Completed property sale of former ERRC to adjacent owner in "as is" condition (new owner took responsibility for property cleanup).
- Installation of mural on Craig's Hill Water Reservoir to honor the 100th anniversary of the Ellensburg Rodeo.
- Continued partnerships with Kittitas County to inspect bridges, chip seal nearly ten miles of City streets, stripe roadways, and coordinate localized flooding response.
- Legalized use of Wheeled All-Terrain Vehicles (WATV) on City streets.
- Poet Laureate unveiled the Ellensburg City Poem. Scan to read the City Poem.



Craig's Hill Water Tower Rodeo Mural funded by Lodging Tax



Safe and Inclusive Community

- Public meetings continued to be held in-person and virtually.
- New agenda management software that indexes meeting videos; transitioned municipal code to new platform for better integration.
- Added a pet relief station in Downtown, at 4th & Pine.
- Hosted Police Citizen's Academy, Touch-A-Truck, Flood Awareness Workshop, Ride to Renslow, Reconnection Ride, and Coffee with Council events.
- Facilitated Belonging in the Burg World Café style community discussion in partnership with Central Washington University and Ellensburg School District (including interpreters).
- Expanded programming at Library and hosted Human Library event and jigsaw puzzle competitions.
- Coordinated Food Truck Application Packet with KVFR, Public Health, Business Licensing, and Building Division and translated to Spanish to assist prospective businesses in maneuvering the multi-agency requirements for certification and operation of food trucks in the City.
- Continued to provide accessibility and translation services, especially English to Spanish materials.
- Began year-long State Auditor's office Cybersecurity Audit activities to be completed in 2024.
- Continued partnership with Ellensburg School District (ESD) in School Resource Officer Program.
- Police Department was highlighted in the Crime in Washington Report for its high case clearance rate for violent crimes.
- Added Crime Analyst to advance data driven policing.
- Created an ADA Transition Plan to ensure all bus stops and bus shelters are accessible and compliant.
- Increased ADA parking stalls in the downtown area and made adjustments to restrooms to improve accessibility.



Touch-A-Truck is scheduled from 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. June 18, 2024 at Rotary Park



Jigsaw Puzzle Grand Championship Competition at Hal Holmes



School Resource Officer Lucas Anderson at ESD with Roman Johnson

2023 Completed Projects

- Palouse to Cascades (PTC) trail extension and signal at 14th Avenue & Alder Street
- Paved parts of Main Street and Wildcat Way
- Illinois well
- New bridge on Dolarway Road for levee project
- Annual pavement maintenance plan
- Annual sidewalk replacement
- 5th Avenue & Railroad Avenue traffic signal
- Reecer Creek Road & University Way signal
- Downtown micro slurry seal project
- Rotary Park field lights



Ellensburg City Council

The Ellensburg City Council meets twice each month, at 7 p.m., on the first and third Monday in the Council Chambers at Ellensburg City Hall.

All City Council, board, and commission meetings are hybrid.

Learn more about the City Council at www.ellensburgwa.gov/citycouncil



Rich Elliott
Mayor



Sarah
Beauchamp



Nancy Goodloe



Nancy Lillquist
Mayor Pro Tem



David Miller



Delano Palmer



Joshua Thompson

Energy and Resource Management

- Adapted policies and procedures for compliance with Climate Commitment Act (CCA) requirements to participate in the State’s carbon allowance auctions and cover emissions through the cap-and-invest program. The City of Ellensburg is the only municipality in Washington State that operates both natural gas and electric utilities.
- Developed legislative priorities for 2024 to address disproportionate impacts of CCA policies on small municipal utility providers. SB6047 eliminated conflict in CCA and Open Public Meetings Act to provide transparency in allowance auctions.
- Produced approximately 2.8 million kWh of solar energy across entire system. Provided incentives for low-income housing and energy conservation measures.
- Developed community-informed Sustainability and Energy Plan, which was adopted by Council in January 2024; added sustainability coordinator position to implement and advance initiatives.
- Completed 10-year collaborative project with Bureau of Reclamation with land swap to accommodate Yakima River enhancements for fish and wildlife habitat while accommodating needs of Twin City Foods to maintain spray fields.
- Hosted Bike Month events.
- Maintained Bicycle Friendly Community Silver status, since 2015.
- Completed a Central Transit Zero-Emissions Plan.



Gov. Jay Inslee Signs SB6047 in March 2024

- Celebrated 40 years of Tree City USA (first city in Washington to be designated) with event and tree give-away.
- Completed tree inventory funded by Washington Department of Natural Resources grant, the first in a series from Urban Forestry Assistance program which will result in development of an Urban Forest Management Plan, update the Municipal Tree Code, create new Street Tree Development Standards, and complete a park tree inventory. Learn more www.ellensburgwa.gov/streettrees



2023 Tree City Celebration



Upcoming Projects

Major projects scheduled for 2024:

- Pfenning Road Pathway (3rd Avenue to Vantage Highway); Pfenning Road sidewalks from Vantage, north to Radio Road. Construction in 2024.
- Reecer Creek Levee Extension from Dolarway bridge to railroad
- Craig’s Hill Water Pressure Zone Project
- Wastewater Treatment Plant renewable natural gas methane recapture (RNG) project
- Fieldhouse (design and funding) at Rotary Park
- New bus stop with shelter at Kittitas County Courthouse
- Anderson Road sewer line extension
- Dolarway Substation improvements
- West University Way pavement
- Unity Park construction
- Brick Road improvements



Housing Affordability

- Housing affordability is a statewide problem. The City has taken several actions to advance affordable housing projects.
- Leveraged local funds for additional Connecting Housing to Infrastructure (CHIP) grant to support Stuart Meadows project in partnership with Habitat for Humanity (to build affordable housing).
 - Planned irrigation ditch repair to enable cottage-style affordable housing development on University Way (formerly Catherine Park).
 - Added new housing and grants coordinator staff position to implement Housing Action Plan and coordinate grants, funding, and contracts.
 - Reviewed new proposals in 2024 for affordable housing development at 1st Avenue and N Pine Street.
 - Partnered with Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) to apply for additional grant funding to build new affordable housing.

In response to the increasing visibility of people experiencing homelessness and behavioral health challenges, and in light of 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision in Martin v. City of Boise, Ellensburg and Kittitas County created an Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness and have worked collaboratively with other nonprofit partners (since 2022) to 1) identify service gaps; 2) update policies for public camping; and 3) start joint planning for a year-round sleep center (location to be determined). Together, the City and County are working to locate and fund a countywide overnight sleep center facility. Learn more at www.ellensburgwa.gov/sleepcenter



Sample Pallet Shelter

2023 By The Numbers

Utilities

- Water Production: 1.55 billion gallons ↑
- Wastewater Treated: 1.14 billion gallons
- Total Gas Customers: 5,021 | New: 104 ↑
- Total Electric Customers: 10,582 | New: 131 ↑
- New Fiber Installed: 3,200 ft ↑
- Total Utility Bills: 121,791 (only includes 11 months of billing due to implementation of new utility billing system)
- 811 Utility Locate Tickets: 3,266 ↓

Energy Conservation

- Rebates: 65 totaling \$293,119 electric | 47 totaling \$87,681 natural gas ↑
- Energy Saved: 827,980 kWh ↑
- Low-income Rebates: \$21,661 electric ↓ | \$61,422 natural gas ↑

Water Quality

- Stormwater: 49.03 miles ↑
- Backflow Prevention Devices: 2,831 ↑
- Stream Quality: 280 tests ↓

Transit

- Transit: 116,980 rides ↑
- Paratransit: 111 rides ↓
- Cabulance: 176 rides ↑
- Bus Shelter Art: 2 new pieces installed ↑

Streets & Sidewalks

- Streets: 90.82 miles ↑
- Street Maintenance: 9.82 chipseal miles ↑
- Street Sweeping: 750 tons sweeping ↓
- Sidewalks: 113.36 miles ↑
- Sidewalk Grinding: 312 locations ↓
- Bike Lanes: 8.7 miles ↑
- Traffic Signals: 28
- Streetlights: 1,685 ↑
- ADA: 3 new bus stop landings ↓
- Tree Removal Permits: 14 ↓
- Fleet: 185 equipment/vehicles ↑
- Lighted Crosswalk: 1 ↑

Parks, Trails, & Recreation

- Parks: 150 developed acres
- Open Space: 1,321 acres
- Tree City USA: 40th year ↑
- Trails: 8.76 miles
- Kittitas Valley Memorial Pool Admission: 47,297 ↑
- Adult Activity Center: 8,082 participants ↑
- Stan Bassett Youth Center: 35 youth/day avg ↑

Library

- Library Cards: 14,608 active ↓
- Resources Checked Out (books, etc.): 173,323 ↑
- Reference Transactions: 3,500 ↑
- Library Programs: 224 programs

Budget & Administration

- Business Licenses: 2,100 active ↑
- New Business Licenses: 500 ↓
- Ordinances: 29 ↑
- Resolutions: 34 ↓
- Public Records Requests: 40 ↑
- Budget: \$117.2 million ↓
- Employees: 232 FTEs ↑
- Payroll Checks Processed: 5,907 ↑
- Survey Responses: 1,917 ↑
- Audit: 0 findings ↓

Housing

- Lots Approved: 62 single family lots ↑
- New Housing Units: 71 ↓
- Residential Permits: 56 ↓
- Affordable Units Planned: 34 ↓
- Certificates of Appropriateness: 17 ↓
- Inspections: 1,672 Residential ↑ | 1,142 Commercial ↑
- Annexations: 4 (207 acres) ↑

Public Safety

- Total Calls: 18,173 ↑
- EPD Calls For Service: 9,796
- Public Records Requests: 1,367 ↓
- Criminal Referrals: 924 ↓
- Detectives Investigated: 253 cases ↓

What’s In A Penny?

The City of Ellensburg receives less than one penny (approximately 0.85 cents) for every dollar spent in Ellensburg to provide general government services.

The sales tax rate in Ellensburg is 8.4%. Out of every dollar spent in the City, the State of Washington receives 6.5 cents, and the remaining 1.9 cents are distributed among eight categories, by rate:

- City of Ellensburg receives approximately 0.85%

- (eighty-five one-hundredths of one percent)
- Kittitas County 0.15%; (fifteen one-hundredths of one percent)
- Public Safety 0.3% (three-tenths of one percent)
- Criminal Justice 0.1% (one-tenth of one percent)
- Juvenile Detention 0.1% (one-tenth of one percent)
- Chemical Dependency/Mental Health (Kittitas County) 0.1% (one-tenth of one percent)
- Affordable Housing 0.1% (one-tenth of one percent)
- Public Transit 0.2% (two-tenths of one percent)

Sales tax is an important revenue for the City. It is used for general government services such as streets, library, police, and parks and recreation. Ellensburg voters approved additional sales tax increases over ten years as well.

City Directory

Emergency Services 9-1-1

KVFR (Fire & EMS) | 509-933-7231 non-emergency
Police Department | 509-962-7280 non-emergency

General Information | 509-962-7204
City Manager | 509-962-7221
Building Permits | 509-962-7231
Hal Holmes | 509-962-7240
Library | 509-962-7250
Electric Division | 509-962-7124
Natural Gas Division | 509-962-7124
Parks & Recreation | 509-925-8638
Public Works & Utilities | 509-962-7230
Utility Billing | 509-962-7201

City of Ellensburg
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