

Spotlight on **BLUE SPRINGS**

M A G A Z I N E

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Downtown Blue Springs Begins Taking Shape

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COVER PHOTO: Construction continues on Main Street for the Downtown Streetscape Project.



The Blue Springs Police Department's Community Services Bureau visit with residents during their bimonthly Police and Community Together (P.A.C.T.) event. They hand out free, fun items and discuss why it's important to work together to keep Blue Springs safe. Watch social media for the next scheduled event.

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DISTRICT 3

Nick Brummel
Jeremy Rowan

Summer Road Projects Enhance Travel Throughout Blue Springs



RD Mize Road



*Adams Dairy Parkway
and Duncan Road*



Adams Dairy Parkway



Mock Avenue

This summer, road crews paved several major thoroughfares throughout the City of Blue Springs. These included:

- Right turn lane from Adams Dairy Parkway to Duncan Road
- Adams Dairy Parkway from 40 Highway to I-70
- RD Mize Road from Adams Dairy Parkway to 15th Street
- Mock/Coronado from 7 Highway to Adams Dairy Parkway
- 15th Street from South Outer Road to 40 Highway
- South Outer Road from 7 Highway to Woods Chapel Road
- Woods Chapel Road from 40 Highway to I-70
- 19th Street from 40 Highway to Moreland School Road

Downtown Streetscape Construction Begins



Artist rendering of Main Street westbound from 11th Street

On June 1, construction began on the Downtown Streetscape Project, a major investment designed to create a safer, more walkable and vibrant downtown district while advancing the community's long-term Downtown Master Plan.

The Downtown Streetscapes Project will cover Main Street from 15th Street to MO-7 Hwy, as well as 11th Street from Main to Walnut Street. This project includes the replacement of the current asphalt road with concrete, the replacement of the water main under Main Street, the widening of the sidewalks with

a brick decorative edge and the inclusion of safety measures to encourage a pedestrian-friendly atmosphere. The project will be conducted in five phases:

- **Phase 1** – 15th Street to 12th Street
- **Phase 2** – 12th Street to 11th Street
- **Phase 3** – 11th Street to 9th Street
- **Phase 4** – 9th Street to MO-7 Hwy
- **Phase 5** – 11th Street from Main Street to Walnut Street

Each phase will generally include underground utility work, grading and removals, street lighting

installation, new pavement construction, landscaping, and pavement marking. Roadways within active work zones will be closed to through traffic during construction. Sidewalk access will be maintained as much as possible to allow pedestrian access to homes and businesses.

The project is part of the City's broader downtown revitalization efforts focused on improving the streetscape, encouraging redevelopment, supporting local businesses and creating new opportunities for residents and visitors to gather and connect in Downtown Blue Springs.

Key objectives of the Downtown

Revitalization initiative include:

- Creating a more pedestrian-friendly environment through improved streetscapes and accessibility.
- Developing Central Park as a recreational and community gathering destination.
- Encouraging higher-density residential development to attract new residents to downtown.
- Supporting a business-friendly environment with a mix of commercial uses.
- Promoting redevelopment of underutilized properties in alignment with the Downtown Master Plan.
- Utilizing grants and redevelopment incentives to encourage future investment.

"Downtown Blue Springs is the heart of our community, and these improvements represent an important investment in its future," said Blue Springs Mayor Chris Lievsay. "This project will help create a safer, more welcoming environment for residents, businesses and visitors while laying the foundation for continued growth and revitalization for years to come."

The Downtown Streetscape Project follows voter approval of a \$40 million bond issue in August 2024 that included \$5 million dedicated to Downtown Master Plan capital improvements such as sidewalks, curbs and streetscape enhancements.

In April 2025, the City Council established the Downtown Streetscape Enhancements Task Force to help guide the project's design elements, including streetlight styles and colors for Main Street and 11th Street. The City also partnered with Cochran Engineering to assist with Main Street improvements and public engagement efforts.

As part of the planning process, the City hosted a public meeting in June 2025, to present streetscape renderings and gather community input through public forums, interactive exercises and an online survey. Feedback collected from residents and stakeholders was later presented to the Mayor and City Council to help inform final project decisions. The streetscape improvements are designed to:

- Create a safer and more inviting pedestrian environment.
- Encourage walking between downtown

destinations.

- Improve accessibility and address ADA conflicts identified in the Downtown Master Plan.
- Enhance the appearance and functionality of downtown public spaces.

In addition to streetscape improvements, the City is moving forward with the multi-phase Central Park Project located at 11th and Walnut near Main Street. This will transform the currently undeveloped area into a community space featuring improved sidewalks and parking, a loop trail around the lake, gathering spaces, and landscaping.

Phase 2 of the project began in early August. Additional updates on construction timelines, traffic impacts and project milestones will be shared by the City on its social media platforms throughout the duration of the project.



Artist rendering of 11th Street southbound to Walnut



Downtown Streetscape FAQs

What is the project timeline for the Main Street Improvements Project?

The Main Street Improvements Project will cover Main Street from 15th Street to MO-7 Hwy, as well as 11th Street from Main to Walnut Street. This project includes the replacement of the current asphalt road with concrete, the replacement of the water main under Main Street, the widening of sidewalks with a brick decorative edge and the inclusion of safety measures to encourage a pedestrian friendly atmosphere. The phases are as follows:

- Phase 1 - 15th Street to 12th Street
- Phase 2 - 12th Street to 11th Street
- Phase 3 - 11th Street to 9th Street
- Phase 4 - 9th Street to MO-7 Hwy
- Phase 5 - 11th Street from Main Street to Walnut Street

What will each phase of the project entail?

Each phase will generally include underground utility work, grading and removals, street lighting installation, new pavement construction, landscaping, and pavement marking. Roadways within active work zones will be closed to through traffic during construction. Sidewalk access will be maintained as much as possible to allow pedestrian access to homes and businesses.

Why will the parking layout be changing on Main Street?

In an effort to create a pedestrian friendly environment for the Downtown Blue Springs Area, the sidewalks on both sides of Main Street will be widened. Wider sidewalks improve pedestrian safety, boost accessibility (accommodating



for stroller and wheelchair traffic), and encourage walking. They create room for two-way traffic, provide a buffer from traffic, and allow space for amenities like trees, benches, and outdoor dining. Widening the sidewalks will narrow the road on Main Street, which necessitates the reconfiguring of the parking layout.

What is a bump out?

A bump out is a traffic calming device that extends the curb and sidewalk into the roadway, narrowing the road at the intersection. This makes pedestrians more visible to vehicles by providing a protected area with a short crossing distance and also protects parked cars on the roadway.

Why are these improvements happening?

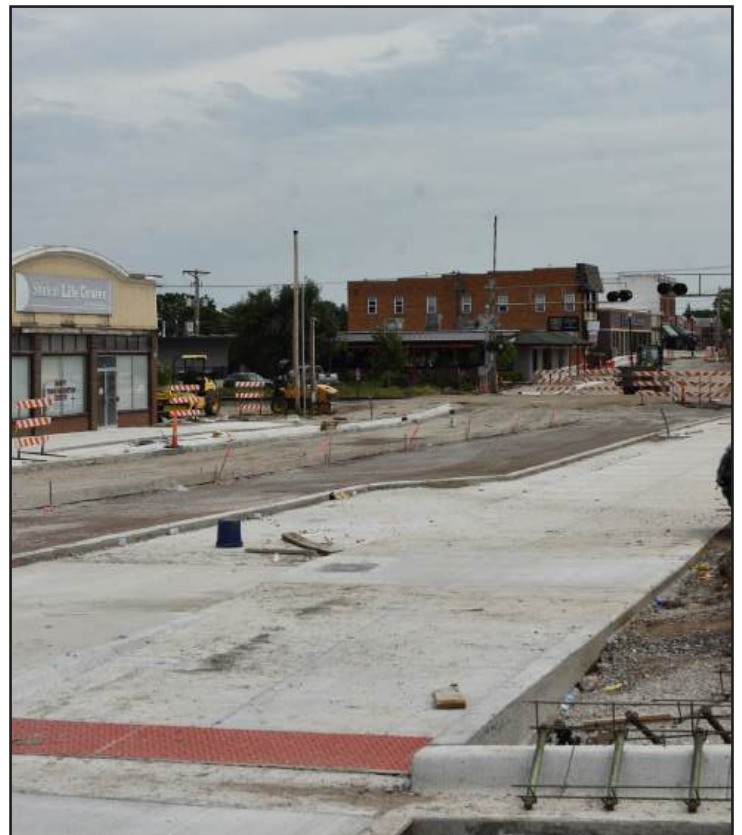
Blue Springs residents approved a \$40 million bond in August 2024 for various improvements throughout the City, which included \$5 million for Downtown Master Plan Capital improvements, including sidewalks, curbs, and streetscapes. These Downtown improvements reflect the desires and feedback provided by residents for both the 2024 Downtown Master Plan and the City of Blue Springs Strategic Plan 2025–30 stakeholder engagement sessions. The proposed streetscape design will also update the Main Street streetscapes with pedestrian safety measures that are needed. The final parking and sidewalk configurations offered will be compliant with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices to account for additional bump outs, street safety measures, parking distance from stop bars/crosswalks, etc. The improvements will also address the ADA conflicts that were identified by the 2024 Downtown Master Plan.

How will construction proceed during each phase?

Each phase will be sequenced to install the water line & curb/sidewalk first, while maintaining the existing street surface except where installing utilities which will be covered during and after installation. This will involve rerouting pedestrian traffic onto the street surface and back onto sidewalks as construction progresses while the entire section of the street from 15th to 12th street is fully closed. Once the sidewalks are finished, they will re-open to pedestrian traffic, which then the streets will be removed and re-paved. Signage will be posted and barricades installed to clearly identify pedestrian routes, helping to separate pedestrians from construction.

How will this affect Downtown Blue Springs events or the Fall Fun Festival?

The City has been working with both Downtown Blue Springs and the Blue Springs Chamber of Commerce to develop plans and contingencies for events during the course of the Main Street Improvements Project. Any changes to event layouts will be distributed in advance of any scheduled event.



A Look Back: Celebrating



America's 250th Birthday



City to Launch New Website Soon



The City of Blue Springs is preparing to launch a new website designed to provide residents, businesses and visitors with a more modern, accessible and user-friendly online experience.

The redesigned website has been built to make it easier to find information, access City services and stay connected with local government.

The project represents a significant investment in customer service and reflects the

City's commitment to providing convenient access to information and resources online. The new website also supports the City's transition to its new web domain, bluespringsmo.gov.

A key focus of the redesign is accessibility. The website has been developed to meet current accessibility standards, helping ensure that users of all abilities can easily navigate the site and access information. By prioritizing ADA compliance, the City is creating a more inclusive digital experience for the entire community.

Visitors will notice a cleaner appearance, streamlined navigation and enhanced search tools that make finding information faster and more intuitive. Whether users are looking for City Council agendas, paying utility bills, reporting concerns, registering for Parks and Recreation programs or learning about City projects, the new website is designed to simplify the process.

Additional features of the new website include:

- A modern, mobile-

responsive design that works seamlessly on smartphones, tablets and desktop computers.

- Enhanced search functionality to quickly locate information and services.
- Improved access to online forms, applications and services.
- Better organization of City departments, programs and resources.
- Expanded accessibility tools and features for users with disabilities.

As part of the transition, current subscribers to website notifications will be asked to create a new account and resubscribe after the website launches. This will ensure they continue receiving updates on City Council agendas, bid postings, news releases, project updates and other important announcements.

The City encourages residents to explore the new website once it launches and provide feedback as staff continue to enhance and improve the online experience.



The new website is designed to serve as a central hub for information about the City of Blue Springs, making it easier than ever to access services, stay informed and engage with local government.

From community events and

project updates to online services and meeting information, the site will provide a modern platform that better meets the needs of the community while supporting the City's ongoing commitment to transparency, accessibility and customer service.

No Kidding, Goats Take Over Woods Chapel Park and



Sometimes the best solution to a growing problem comes on four legs.

For years, dense brush and invasive vegetation continued to spread throughout portions of Woods Chapel Park. While the Blue Springs Parks & Recreation Maintenance Team worked diligently to manage the overgrowth, the vegetation returned thicker each season, making it increasingly difficult to maintain.

After learning about targeted goat grazing and researching its effectiveness, the Parks Department partnered with Goats Gone Green LLC, a Missouri-based vegetation management company specializing in environmentally friendly brush removal.

In early July, a herd of approximately 40 goats arrived at Woods Chapel Park to begin clearing a heavily overgrown 1.36-acre area. Over the course of about 30 days, the goats

naturally consumed invasive plants, weeds and dense brush that had become difficult to reach with traditional maintenance methods.

Targeted grazing offers an eco-friendly alternative to heavy machinery and chemical herbicides. Goats are particularly effective in sensitive areas where equipment access is limited, helping reduce environmental impacts while restoring visibility and accessibility.

ckle Overgrowth at nd Lake Remembrance



"Their grazing helped relieve overgrowth around the trail of the park and cleared an area where people would have been secluded and unsafe," said Derek Mayden, Assistant Director of Park Services. "This project provided significant labor savings, estimated at approximately 300 staff hours and more than \$10,000 in

equipment maintenance and salary costs."

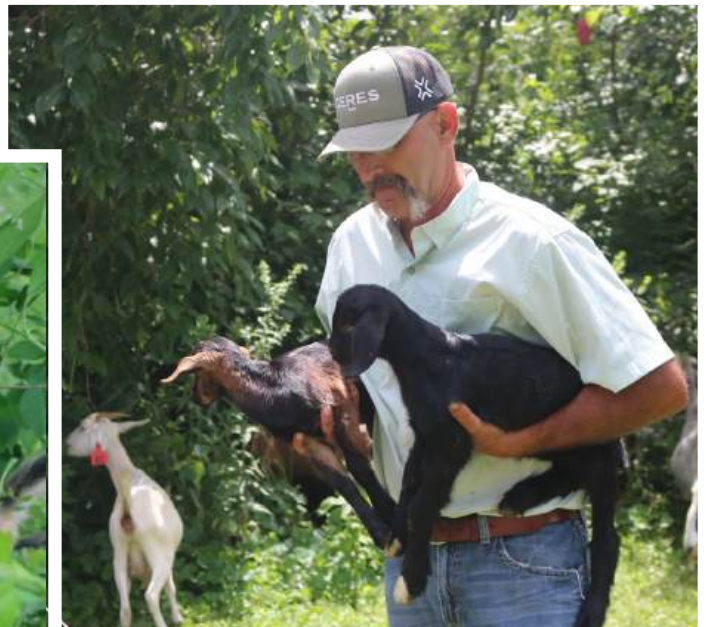
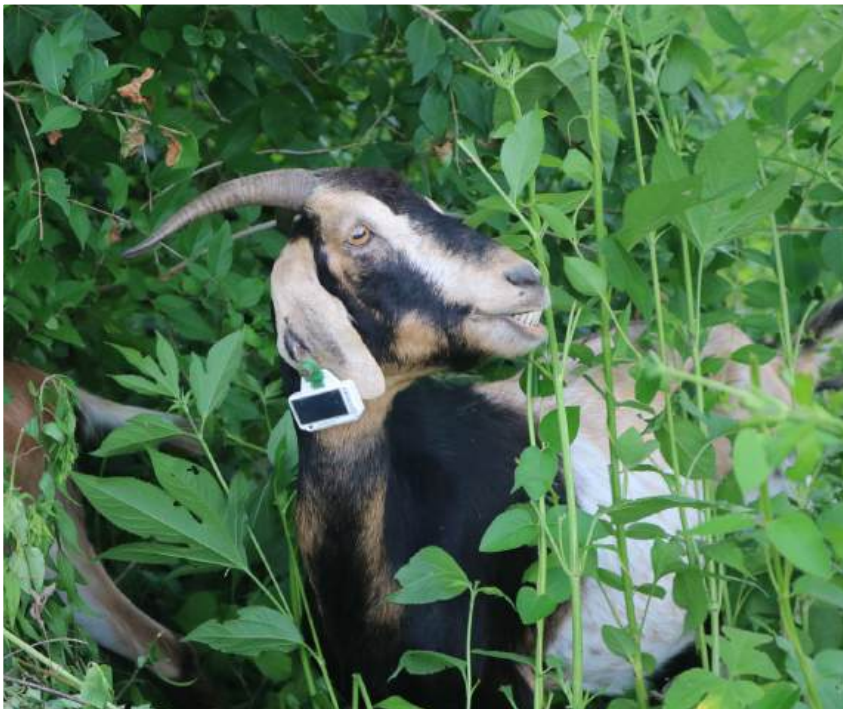
To safely manage the herd, Goats Gone Green installed solar-powered electric fencing around the grazing area, along with additional caution barriers to keep visitors at a safe distance. While residents were encouraged to observe the goats, feeding or touching the animals was discouraged.

The goats are monitored using GPS tracking technology, allowing the company to track herd locations, grazing activity and overall health. Fresh water is provided on-site,

and the herd is regularly checked by company owner Kyle Alvis and his team throughout the project.

Following their successful work at Woods Chapel Park, the goats moved to areas around Lake Remembrance, where they will continue clearing overgrown vegetation and improving access to parkland and trails.

The project demonstrates how innovative, sustainable solutions can help maintain Blue Springs parks while improving safety, preserving natural areas and reducing maintenance costs.



5 QUESTIONS WITH...

Daniel Sack, Recreation Superintendent, Parks & Recreation



HIGH

1 **What's a fun fact your coworkers might not know about you?**

I played nine years of professional soccer for the Wichita Wings.

2 **What inspired you to get into public service?**

Growing up, people would always ask, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" I know every kid gets asked that. The only answer I could ever come up with was to be a professional soccer player. But I also knew that I enjoyed helping other people. So, in college, I decided to get involved in an after-school program for middle schoolers and the rest is history. I fell in love with the parks and rec world and what it provided for the local community and have been working in P&R departments ever since!

3 **What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?**

Not necessarily a piece of advice, but one Neil DeGrasse Tyson quote that has always stuck with me is, "For me, I am driven by two main philosophies: know more today about the world than I knew yesterday and lessen the suffering of others. You'd be surprised how far that gets you."

4 **If you could instantly master one skill, what would it be?**

I would love to instantly learn every language and speak them fluently. Being able to simply communicate with people allows for so many walls to be broken down.

5 **If you could have lunch with anyone—dead or alive—who would it be?**

I am a big science and astronomy nerd so I would love to share a meal with Carl Sagan.

Did You Know, Blue Springs...?



Did you know there is a flag retirement drop box at Pink Hill Park? For his Eagle Scout project, Aiden Volk designed and built a flag retirement drop box to honor the men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces and to pay tribute to those who have passed. The project was inspired by a conversation with his grandmother about his late grandfather, a U.S. Navy veteran who passed away in 2017. Aiden wanted a meaningful way to honor his grandfather's memory and contribute to his community.

Aiden, a student at Blue Springs High School, discovered his passion for honoring the American flag while attending Brittany Hill Middle School, where he helped raise the flags each morning. This experience instilled in him a sense of pride and respect for the flag and became the inspiration for his Eagle Scout project.

As a member of Boy Scout Troop 1138, Aiden envisioned creating a repository for old and tattered flags to ensure they could be retired properly. Working with his father, he initially planned to construct a wooden box. However, recognizing the importance of durability, Aiden decided to build the drop box using aluminum sheets.



The drop box stands on a concrete pad at the Veterans Way Memorial in Pink Hill Park. Blue Springs Parks & Recreation Maintenance Staff and members of Troop 1138 assisted Aiden in mixing and pouring the concrete to create a sturdy foundation for the box.



Aiden's commitment to the project didn't end there. He plans to maintain the drop box for the rest of his life and hopes to one day pass the responsibility on to his future children, ensuring the legacy of respect for the American flag lives on.

Spooky Springs Halloween Celebration

6 p.m., Saturday, October 24
Young Park



BLUE SPRINGS
MISSOURI