



# The Bixby Beacon

City of Bixby Newsletter

Volume VI, Issue I  
**SUMMER 2016**

## A Note from the Mayor:

Over the past year, Bixby has seen new restaurants like Jimmy's Egg and IHOP choose us. We've seen ideas in development and quality of life come forth and be discussed in public forums and then passed at the polls, telling us that how we live in Bixby is as important as the house we live in or the stores we visit.

Bixby is a place people want to call home. We have an excellent school system, an attractive quality of life, and enticing neighborhoods; Bixby is a community I'm proud to serve. As we grow, we must maintain the things that make us a great place to live. It's time to renew our commitment to our city through needed infrastructure improvements.

Last year, I promised you'd see ideas to address wastewater treatment, storm water management, streets and parks, community amenities, and public safety. Together with the hard work of the entire City Council and our talented City staff, voters in Bixby had a chance last fall to consider sales tax based propositions. The initiatives passed with 70% or better voter approval, giving Bixby a clear mandate to move forward with additional Public Safety and streets personnel; with Downtown River District development and improvements; and with sustained funding for our outstanding public parks.

Now, it's time to focus on the next necessary piece of keeping Bixby an outstanding place to call home. August 23rd, 2016, voters will have a chance to vote on four propositions that form our 2016 Bond Package. Voters approved infrastructure related bond packages in 2006 and again in 2011, and this newsletter also carries a report on the status of those projects. I'm proud of the work accomplished and the financial responsibility our City has shown in leveraging federal, state, and grant dollars whenever possible to maximize the return on our citizens' investments into their community.

Before putting together this package, City staff and Councilors met with members of the public to gather input on what projects and issues were most important to our citizens. I think the projects in this bond package reflect the ideas our citizens expressed, backed by planning, engineering, and the vision of the City Council.

### Here is what the 2016 Bond Package will accomplish:

**Proposition 1 provides \$975,000** for the purpose of engineering, studying, constructing, redesigning, and improving water drainage within South Bixby.

**Proposition 2 will provide \$4.2 million** for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, reconstructing, improving, remodeling and repairing public safety buildings and facilities and acquiring necessary lands therefor, and purchasing and installing public safety equipment. You can see a detailed list of the items in the package elsewhere in this newsletter.

**Proposition 3 will provide \$11.8 million** for street improvements. A detailed list of the roadways that will be addressed in this package can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

**Proposition 4 will provide \$975,000** to improve both Bentley Park and Bixhoma Lake. This work, chosen through a public input process, will entail the repurposing of the rodeo arena into multi-use athletic fields at Bentley Park and adding much needed additional parking. It will also fund the purchasing, designing, constructing, equipping, improving, extending, renovating, repairing and beautifying of Bixhoma Lake in accordance with the Master Plan for the Lake. Funding in this proposition is split equally between these two parks, both centerpieces in maintaining our quality of life in Bixby for the long term.

### What is the cost?

So, what happens to our property taxes in Bixby if the propositions pass? The new bond will restore the millage to the same ad



# The Bixby Beacon

valorem (property tax) rates approved in the 2006 Bond and in the 2011 Bond issues – 13.5 mills (or \$135/year for each \$100,000 of assessed property value). The City’s portion of the ad valorem tax, as it is without any changes, is 12.3 mills (or \$123/year for each \$100,000 of assessed property value). So, the net impact will be \$12 per year (or \$1/month) for each \$100,000 of assessed property value. For example, a homeowner has a home with an assessed value of \$250,000, the tax impact of making this reinvestment into

Bixby’s future would be \$30 per year, and would return our property tax rates for bond projects to the same level they were after the last voter-approved bond package in 2011.

I encourage every citizen to learn about the proposals, call or contact your councilor if you have questions or want to discuss the issues, and exercise your right to vote on August 23rd.

John Easton, Mayor of Bixby

## City of Bixby Financial Status S&P Global Ratings

Community	Rating
Oklahoma City	AAA
Bixby	AA+
Jenks	AA+
Sand Springs	AA
Tulsa	AA
Bartlesville	AA -
Bethany	AA -
Broken Arrow	AA -
Edmond Public Works Authority	AA -
Lawton	AA -
Midwest City	AA -
Moore	AA -
Stillwater	AA -
Yukon	AA -
Sapulpa	A+

**More information on the 2016 Bond Package, a PDF of this newsletter, and a ballot language document are available on [bixbyok.gov](http://bixbyok.gov).**

**Your vote counts. Vote August 23rd.**

## What is the Tax Impact of 2016 Bond Package

The 2016 Bond Package, if passed, will restore the millage to the same ad valorem (property tax) rates approved in the 2006 Bond and in the 2011 Bond issues – 13.5 mills (or \$135/year for each \$100,000 of assessed property value).

The City’s portion of the current ad valorem tax (if the bond does not pass) is 12.3 mills (or \$123/year for each \$100,000 of assessed property value). The net impact of making the 2016 Bond Package reinvestment into Bixby will be \$12 per year (or \$1/month) per each \$100,000 of assessed property value.



**Net Impact of the 2016 Bond Package = \$12/year (or \$1/month) / \$100,000 of assessed property value**

**Example: Home with assessed value of \$250,000 = \$30/year additional tax**



# Bixby 2016 Bond Package Projects

## Proposition 1: Drainage Upgrades / \$975,000 Allocation

Description/Location	Project Scope	Project Objectives	Dedicated Funding
South Bixby storm water drainage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engineering and construction of infrastructure to improve water drainage within South Bixby</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High frequency storm flood relief for areas adjacent to and south of 161st Street in Bixby</li> </ul>	<b>\$975,000</b>

## Proposition 2: Public Safety / \$4,125,000 Allocation

Description/Location	Project Scope	Project Objectives	Dedicated Funding
Property security camera system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchase and installation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased security for city facilities and property</li> </ul>	<b>\$150,000</b>
Police gun range relocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land acquisition</li> <li>Relocate, re-install and improve facilities and equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and acquire land in less populated area</li> <li>Added capacity and flexibility for law enforcement training</li> </ul>	<b>\$225,000</b>
Purchase fire trucks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two (2) engines</li> <li>One (1) ladder truck</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replace aging vehicles</li> <li>Reduce maintenance costs and increase reliability</li> </ul>	<b>\$2,579,900</b>

## Proposition 3: Street Renovations / \$11,833,000 Allocation

Description/Location	Project Scope	Project Objectives	Dedicated Funding
131st: Memorial to Mingo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide 100-year storm water drainage for entire corridor</li> <li>Add lanes / lane turning length</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eliminate street flooding</li> <li>Increase traffic capacity</li> <li>Reduce congestion</li> </ul>	<b>\$2,575,260</b>
131st: Sheridan to Memorial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rehabilitate street base, paving, shoulders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve local drainage</li> <li>Increase drivability</li> <li>Improve pavement structure</li> </ul>	<b>\$1,259,594</b>
121st: Memorial to 85th E. Ave.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend turning lane and four-lane road section east of Fire Station No. 2</li> <li>Lengthen bridge west of Fire Station No. 2 to accommodate additional lanes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase traffic capacity</li> <li>Reduce congestion at Memorial</li> <li>Ensure accessibility for Fire Station</li> </ul>	<b>\$1,109,636</b>
Harvard & 151st Intersection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signalize intersection</li> <li>Add lane capacity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe turning for future school</li> <li>Maximize funding by coordinating with Tulsa Co.</li> </ul>	<b>\$1,365,601</b>
111th: Memorial to 86th E. Ave.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend turning lane and four-lane road section on the east side of Memorial</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase merge lane safety</li> <li>Reduce congestion</li> <li>Improve movements at commercial driveways</li> </ul>	<b>\$1,974,709</b>

## Proposition 4: Parks & Recreation / \$975,000 Allocation

Description/Location	Project Scope	Project Objectives	Dedicated Funding
Bentley Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parking lot and parking area improvements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>297 additional paved parking spaces and space for grass overflow parking</li> </ul>	<b>\$227,500</b>
Repurpose rodeo arena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reconfigure, grading, and equipping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Redevelop existing park area into multi-use athletic fields to better serve community recreational needs</li> </ul>	<b>\$227,500</b>
Bixhoma Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve existing and add new lake access and facilities including: gate, entry, restroom, docks, boat launches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate improvements outlined in the Bixhoma Lake Master Plan</li> <li>Leverage grant funding opportunities using bond funds to increase project scope</li> </ul>	<b>\$227,500</b>

# The Bixby Beacon

## A Note from the City Manager

As we bring a new community investment initiative to Bixby voters for consideration, I want to draw attention to the themes of the 2016 Bond package. Beginning with the 2006 Bond, continuing in the 2011 Bond, and again through the 4 for Bixby Vision 2025 Extension last fall, each of our recent community investment initiatives has reflected specific financial and project characteristics that were a direct result of public participation in formulating the projects.

The financial theme has been consistent – hold tax rates to previous levels, whether sales tax or ad valorem (property) tax. Last year’s Bixby Vision tax was an extension of the current sales tax that was being collected by Tulsa County as part of the Vision 2025 package and did not increase the tax rates in Bixby. The 2006 and 2011 General Obligation (G.O.) Bonds were based upon a levy rate of 13.5 mills of ad valorem tax. Our proposed 2016 G.O. Bond

is based on the same 13.5 mills as our previous bond packages. Elsewhere in this newsletter you’ll find some examples of how the 2016 Bond Package will impact ad valorem taxes on assessed property value in Bixby, but essentially, if passed, the 2016 Bond Package will return our millage rate on property taxes to the same rate as in 2006 and 2011.

While the projects in each initiative have been centered on the same basic themes – Public Safety, Quality of Life, and Transportation, they have also had specific focus areas in response to our community’s changes and growth. For example, the 4 for Bixby Vision 2025 sales tax extension prioritized projects to spur Economic Development in our Downtown and along the River as well as provided additional funding capacity for Public Safety personnel. The 2006 Bond funded the creation of Bentley Park and added additional traffic capacity for Memorial intersections and to

the Bixby High School campus. The 2011 Bond was used to expand Bentley Park and again address major intersection needs. However, the transportation work focused on leveraging local dollars (Bond funds) to provide match dollars for obtaining federal grants. Our taxpayer funds were stretched from \$1,000,000 to what will likely become \$3,000,000 in federal funds to upgrade the Mingo corridor – growing our net project capability to an estimated \$4,000,000. (See the “Bixby Previously Funded Project Update” in this newsletter.)

For the 2016 Bond Package, safety is the theme. If passed, this bond will provide specific equipment needs for our Police and Fire Departments, address flooding issues, improve routes to schools, expand busy intersections, add more parking within Bentley Park, and improve access to and around Lake Bixhoma.

Jared Cottle, City Manager



South Bixby Drainage Upgrades



131st, Mingo to Memorial



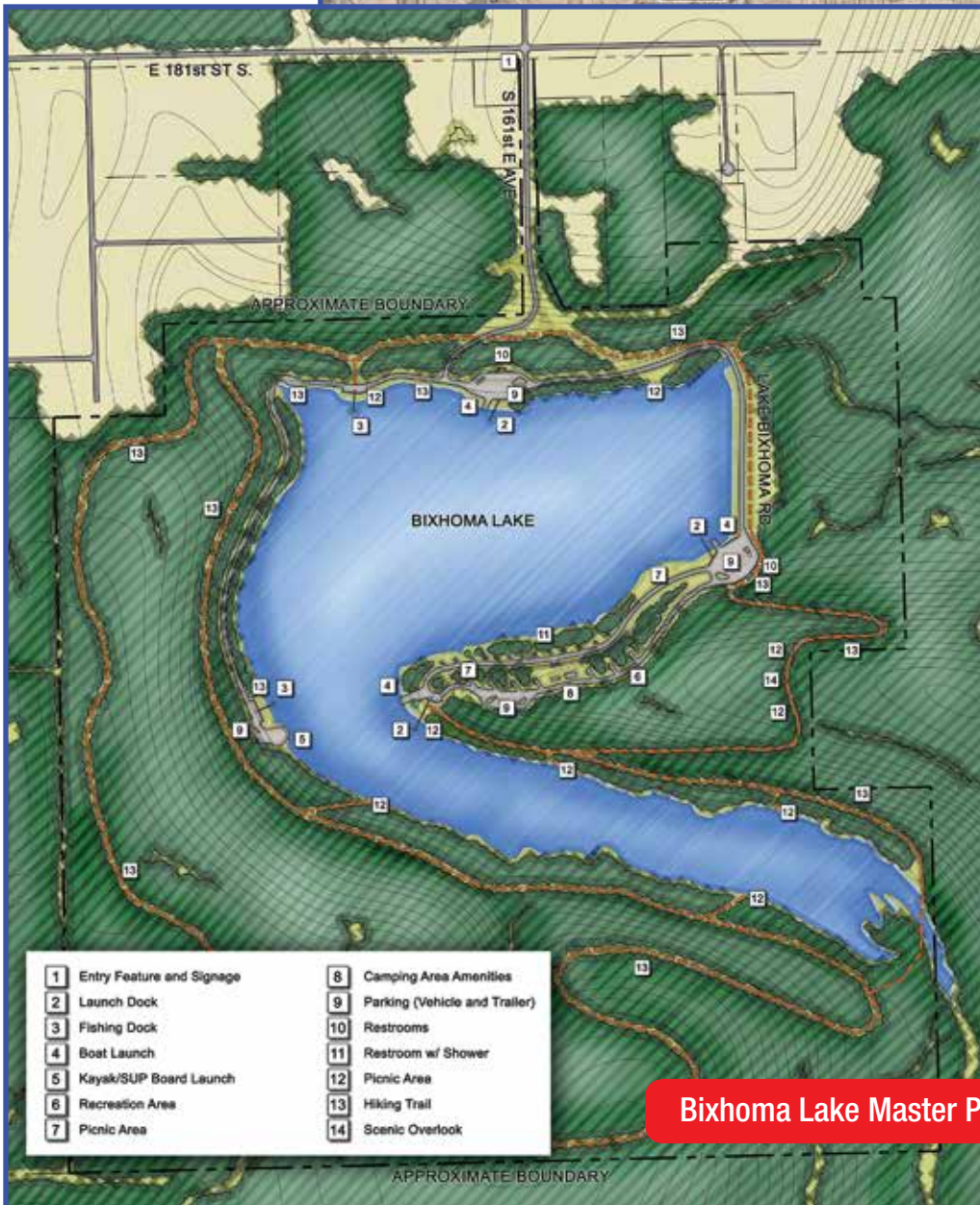


Add paved parking lots and grass overflow parking throughout the park.



Bentley Park

Convert rodeo arena area into multi-use athletic fields – for example: football, rugby, and lacrosse.



Bixhoma Lake Master Plan

## Bixby Previously Funded Project Update

Transportation			
Description/Location	Project Scope	Project Status	Funding Source(s)
111th & Mingo Intersection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffic signal</li> <li>Widen all legs to 3-lanes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>June 2016 Bid Opening by ODOT</li> <li>July 2016 Bid Award to Tri-Star Construction</li> <li>Construction start Fall 2016</li> </ul>	<b>\$424,687</b> (2011 bond) <b>+ \$1,052,132</b> (Federal STP Funds)
121st & Mingo Intersection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffic signal</li> <li>Widen all legs to 3-lanes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Right-of-way negotiations underway</li> <li>Construction upon completion of 111th &amp; Mingo or 131st &amp; Mingo</li> </ul>	<b>\$350,000</b> (est.) (2011 bond) <b>+ \$1,000,000</b> (est.) (Federal STP Funds)
131st & Mingo Intersection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffic signal</li> <li>Widen all legs to 3-lanes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Right-of-way negotiations nearing completion</li> <li>Construction upon completion of 111th &amp; Mingo or 121st &amp; Mingo</li> </ul>	<b>\$350,000</b> (est.) (2011 bond) <b>+ \$1,000,000</b> (est.) (Federal STP Funds)
146th & Memorial Intersection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffic signal</li> <li>Widen east leg to 3-lanes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction complete</li> </ul>	<b>\$621,960</b> in federal grant funds
136th & Memorial Intersection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Widen Memorial to 5-lanes</li> <li>Add center turning lane</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction complete</li> </ul>	<b>\$266,150</b> in state funds

Trails			
Description/Location	Project Scope	Project Status	Funding Source(s)
East Fry Creek Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7,880' trail extension</li> <li>Begin at Cross Creek on 131st</li> <li>End at Twin Creeks on 121st</li> <li>Follows East Fry Creek Channel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ODOT funding released for Trail and Fry Creek Tributary bridge</li> <li>Consultant selection underway</li> </ul>	2011 bond match + <b>\$500,000</b> in federal grant funds
Bixby Trail Master Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify future trail alignments</li> <li>Identify trail priorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public meetings: Times, dates, and locations TBA</li> <li>Coordination on Trail connection to River Parks possible with Tulsa funding for River Parks trail connection between 101st and 121st &amp; Yale</li> </ul>	The Master Plan will guide future grant applications

Wastewater Treatment			
Description/Location	Project Scope	Project Status	Funding Source(s)
Activated Sludge Treatment Plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New mechanical plant</li> <li>Location: South Lagoon site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preliminary engineering report and workplan submitted to ODEQ</li> <li>Arkansas River water quality study and modeling complete</li> <li>Wasteload allocation study to be submitted to ODEQ, Fall 2016</li> </ul>	City of Bixby funds

## Storm Water Drainage

Description/Location	Project Scope	Project Status	Funding Source(s)
Haikey Creek Flood Protection Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three (3) bridges on 131st</li> <li>• Four (4) bridges on Mingo</li> <li>• Levee along west bank of Haikey Creek</li> <li>• Channel widening of Haikey main stem</li> <li>• Channel reconstruction along Mingo</li> <li>• 920 acres will be removed from floodplain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bridge construction complete</li> <li>• 131st bridges complete</li> <li>• Levee and channel CLOMR approval issued by FEMA</li> <li>• Channel excavation project to be let for bids in August 2016</li> </ul>	Vision 2025 sales tax
CDBG Original Township and Midland Addition Storm Sewer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storm sewer extensions for NE downtown</li> <li>• Connects to Riverview drainage system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction contract awarded</li> <li>• Construction start pending utility relocations to be completed in August 2016</li> </ul>	City of Bixby funds + <b>\$65,000</b> federal grant funds

## Downtown River District

Description/Location	Project Scope	Project Status	Funding Source(s)
River District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Washington Irving Park access</li> <li>• Bentley Park access</li> <li>• River Islands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Architectural Design underway for Park and River Access elements</li> <li>• Conceptual engineering design and environmental evaluation underway for River islands</li> </ul>	Bixby Vision sales tax
Downtown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Master Plan</li> <li>• Landmark and directional signage</li> <li>• Streetscaping – landscaping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design underway</li> </ul>	Bixby Vision sales tax
Washington Irving Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park improvements and expansion as per the Downtown River District Master Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design underway</li> </ul>	2011 Bond + Bixby Vision sales tax
Charley Young Event Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdoor event facilities</li> <li>• Recreation facilities</li> <li>• Streetscaping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction underway – July 2016</li> <li>• Construction completion schedule – April 2017</li> </ul>	Vision 2025 surplus sales tax



## City Of Bixby Comprehensive Plan Update Coming

Over the next year, the 2001 City of Bixby Comprehensive Plan will be revised and updated to anticipate community growth and development over the next 20 years. The Comprehensive Plan guides City expansion. It presents a vision for the future, with long-range goals and objectives for all activities that affect the local government. This includes guidance on how to make decisions on public and private land development proposals, cooperative efforts and issues of pressing concern, such as farmland designation, retail designation, or the rehabilitation of older buildings, neighborhoods, or commercial centers.

### A community comprehensive plan serves the following functions:

- Provides stability
- Balances competing public/private interests, providing the greatest benefits for individuals and the community as a whole
- Helps avoid nuisance conflicts between land uses
- Protects public investments
- Plans development in a way that safeguards various valued resources

- Offers guidance for shaping the appearance of the community
- Promotes economic development and drives the location decisions of prospective firms
- Provides justification for decisions to support zoning requests

### How can you get involved?

Town Hall Meetings – the City will host a number of meetings during Plan formation to:

- Engage public dialogue where citizens can express a collective vision for the future
- Provide a community-wide opportunity to brainstorm
- Create a format where citizens consider and discuss the future of the community

These public meetings will be advertised on the City of Bixby social media sites and the City website, so stay tuned for your role in planning the future of Bixby.

City Council Meetings:	Council meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the City of Bixby website, BixbyOK.gov.	Ward 1	Mayor John Easton	918-232-3800	Term ends 2017
• 6:00 p.m. / 2nd and 4th Mondays each month		Ward 2	Vice-Mayor Brian Guthrie	918-378-8390	Term ends 2017
• City Council Chambers		Ward 3	Harold King	918-277-9456	Term ends 2019
Bixby Municipal Building		Ward 4	Richie Stewart	918-943-6734	Term ends 2018
116 W Needles		Ward 5	Robin Decatur	918-299-8767	Term ends 2020