

Planning and Community Development Department Accomplishments

The Planning and Community Development Department is responsible for planning, zoning, code enforcement, building inspections, CDBG grant administration, and administrative support to the department. There are nine employees in the department. Below is a list of accomplishments achieved by the Planning and Community Development staff to better inform the public about our activities and how we are making Orange a better place to live, work, and play.

2025

- \$47,117 granted to the CDBG program by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to fund social service agencies.
- 2173 building code inspections conducted (2011 passed, 162 failed).
- 1383 permits issued.
- 509 mowings of properties with high grass or weeds conducted.
- 414 code enforcement cases initiated.
- 66 public information requests responded to.
- 53 new single family house permits approved.
- 44 presentations made to City Council.
- 39 Property Information Reports created.
- 24 substandard structures demolished.
- 20 flood gauges installed to alert the public about possible flooding.
- 15 substandard buildings hearings conducted at Municipal Court.
- 14 commercial plans reviewed.
- 11 meetings of the Planning and Zoning Commission conducted.
- 10 meetings of the Historic Preservation Commission meeting conducted.
- 2 meetings of the Board of Adjustments conducted.
- 2 multi-family residential plans reviewed.
- Envision Orange 2050 Master Plan update initiated.
- Ordinance adopted to update building codes to 2021 international codes.
- Ordinances adopted to prohibit 8-liner machines and game rooms in the City.
- Ordinance adopted to re-zone part of 16th Street to MUZD zoning district.
- Ordinance adopted to make the City codes consistent with new State law on home occupations.
- Ordinance adopted to make City codes consistent with new State law on re-zoning requests.
- Ordinance adopted strengthening the regulations on camping on public property.
- Ordinance adopted regulating camping on private property.
- Sidewalks at Cove Recreation Area installed.
- Final plat for Little Cypress Grove Phase II subdivision approved.
- Preliminary plat for Little Cypress Grove Phase II subdivision approved.
- Preliminary plat for The Reserve at Mallard Lakes Phase II approved.
- Preliminary plat for Gloria Phase I subdivision conditionally approved.
- Preliminary plat for Orange Gardens Phase II subdivision approved.
- Replat for 7 Brew approved.
- Final plat for Orange Gardens Phase II subdivision approved.
- Butterfly benches and trash cans at Cove Recreational Area installed.
- New swing set installed at Sunset Park.

- Certificate of Historical Distinction program developed.
- Seminar on buying property provided to City employees.
- Bid for mowing vacant lots with high grass and weeds awarded.
- Public hearing on the proposed budget for the 2025 Annual Action Plan, Year 2 conducted.
- Generator for 303 N. 8th Street installed.
- CDBG Action Plan funding approved.
- Monitored and analyzed proposed legislation at the Texas Legislature.
- Tree stumps removed at Cove Recreation Area.
- Initiated Artificial Intelligence software to create and/or review draft ordinances, memorandums and letters.

2024

- \$46,870 granted to the CDBG program by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to fund social service agencies.
- \$45,000 donated by Dow Sabine River Operations for construction of additional fencing at Cove Recreation Area.
- 2321 building code inspections performed (2134 passed, 187 failed).
- 1463 permits issued.
- 989 mowings of properties with high grass or weeds conducted.
- 460 code violations worked.
- 61 new single family home permits approved.
- 57 presentations made to the City Council.
- 36 structures demolished (not including Sabine Park Apartments).
- 32 substandard building hearings conducted at Municipal Court.
- 31 public information requests handled.
- 11 buildings at Sabine Park Apartments Section 3 demolished.
- 10 Historic Preservation Commission meetings held.
- 8 social service grants awarded.
- 7 wayfinder signs installed (joint project between the City and the Stark Foundation).
- 5 Planning and Zoning Commission meetings held.
- 5 orange trees for the Cove Recreation Area donated by Saxon Becnel & Sons of Texas.
- 3 sunflower benches installed at Lions Den Park.
- Rogers Lumber Company agreed to donate wood chips for the walking trail at the Cove Recreation Area.
- CDBG Handbook updated to comply with federal grant fund requirements.
- Analysis of Impediments conducted to comply with federal grant fund requirements.
- Childrens Village at Cove Recreation Area installed.
- Swings for Cove Recreation Area installed.
- Pavilion for Cove Recreation Area constructed (donated by Dow Sabine River Operations).
- Ordinance revising Rules of Procedure for the Historic Preservation Commission adopted.
- Ordinance regulating massage establishments adopted. Three annual inspections conducted.
- Ordinance amending smoking regulations on City properties amended to include vaping.
- Ordinance updating building fees adopted.
- Ordinance prohibiting additional tobacco stores and vape shops in the city adopted.

- Ordinance regulating itinerant vendors on governmental properties or political subdivisions of the State of Texas adopted.
- Ordinance revising sign regulations adopted.
- Site plan and building plans for Take 5 Oil Change approved.
- Site plan and building plans for Insane Chicken approved.
- Site plan and building plans for Las Palmas restaurant approved.
- Site plan and building plans for retail shopping center on 16th Street approved.
- Site plan and building plans for commercial center on Highway 87 approved.
- Site plan and building plans for convenience store at intersection of Highway 87 and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive (northwest corner) approved.
- Building plans for Texas State Rental on Interstate 10 approved.
- Site plan and building plans for Dominos office and architectural office on Allie Payne Drive approved.
- Site plan and building plans for Dugood Credit Union on Interstate 10 approved.
- Site plan and building plans for Studio 17 dance studio on Allie Payne Drive approved.
- Building plans for Thibodaux Divine restaurant on 16th Street approved.
- Building plans for freeze dried food business on Kitty Chapin Avenue approved.
- Building plans for a fourplex residential unit on Park Avenue approved.
- Code enforcement officer procedure developed to meet federal grant fund requirements.
- Purchase of generator for City building at 303 N. 8th Street approved.
- Adopt-a-Spot banners on utility poles and concrete orange at Lions Den Park approved and completed by Ivy League Garden Club of Orange.
- Historic Orange signs approved.

2023 Accomplishments

- \$47,515 was granted to the CDBG program by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to fund social service agencies.
- 1714 permits issued.
- 580 mowings of high grass and weed properties.
- 552 code violations worked.
- 49 substandard building hearings conducted.
- 48 new substandard cases filed.
- 44 demolition bids substandard properties approved and completed.
- 14 Planning and Zoning Commission meetings held.
- 12 butterfly benches bought and received.
- 11 Historic Preservation Commission meetings held.
- 5 new decorative park benches ordered and received.
- 4 Board of Adjustment meetings held.
- 4 decorative cranes for the Library bought and received.
- New truck route ordinance adopted.
- Contract mowing services approved by City Council.
- Adopt-a-Spot mural for Lamar State College-Orange approved and completed.
- Adopt-a-Spot welcome sign improvements for Rotary Club of Orange approved and completed.
- Electric Vehicle Charging Station ordinance adopted by City Council.
- New fence for Lions Den Park approved and installed.

- Game Room Ordinance adopted by City Council.
- Sabine Park Apartments Section 4 buildings demolished (9 buildings). Property owner paid for the demolition.
- Quik Trip replat approved by City Council.
- New Subdivision Ordinance adopted by City Council.
- Amanda Dupree obtained certification as a Code Enforcement Officer.
- New ordinance regulating tent shows, pop-up retail establishments, circuses, for-profit carnivals, etc. and associated fee ordinance adopted.
- Re-zoning ordinance for Whataburger and Whitewater Car Wash on 16th Street adopted by City Council.
- Playscape equipment for Cove Recreational Area approved by City Council and installed.
- Children's Village for Cove Recreational Area approved by City Council and ordered.
- Landscaping at 303 N. 8th Street improved.
- Kiosk at Cove Recreational Center installed.
- Teddy Hilyar hired as a Code Enforcement Officer.
- Park benches for Cove Recreational Area donated and received from Chevron Phillips.
- The Reserve at Mallard Lakes subdivision final plat approved by City Council.
- Little Cypress Grove subdivision final plat approved by City Council.
- Orange Gardens subdivision final plat approved by City Council.
- Floodplain software purchased and installed.

2022 Accomplishments

- 1673 permits issued.
- 76 residential building permits issued.
- 852 mowings of properties with high grass and weeds.
- 28 substandard structures demolished.
- \$175,587 spent on demolitions.
- \$75,000 grant funds received from Dow Sabine River Operations to install playscape equipment at the Cove Recreation Area.
- \$49,412 was granted to the CDBG program by the U.S. Department of Housing and Community development to fund social services agencies.
- 10 Planning and Zoning Commission Cases held.
- 4 Board of Adjustment cases held.
- 39 substandard building hearings conducted.
- 9 Historic Preservation Commission cases held.
- 20 plats processed and filed at Orange County Clerk's Office.
- Grants Planner Rita Monson won national contest from the National Community Development Association for developing a poster for National Community Development Week.
- Ordinance passed pertaining to installation of street lights and fire hydrants in new subdivisions.
- Cove Recreation Area fencing installed.
- Ordinance passed deannexing 2.8 acres of property adjacent to Highway 105.
- Property at I-10 and Simmons Drive re-zoned from IDC zoning district to MUZD zoning district.
- Amanda Dupree hired as a Code Enforcement Officer.
- Randy Holman hired as a Combination Building Inspector.
- Master Plan for Cove Recreation Area presented to City Council.
- Adopt-a-Spot program approved by City Council.

- Development Guide and flyer created.
- Medical Center plans approved.
- 100-unit apartment complex on 23rd Street site plan approved.
- Candlewood Suites hotel plans approved.
- Historic District signs installed.