



FROM THE DESK OF
MAYOR MONROE NICHOLS

DATE:
September 4, 2026

Dear Councilors,

I am pleased to share the final report of the Sustainability Task Force. This body, composed of community members, subject-matter experts, and City staff, has spent the past year evaluating opportunities for Tulsa to strengthen its long-term environmental, operational, and financial resilience based largely on the comprehensive plan this city adopted in 2023.

The report includes two sets of recommendations that are focused on improving sustainability across City operations and community systems. Five of these recommendations are overarching and 48 are recommended actions from the city's comprehensive plan, *planitulsa*, that the task force identified as most aligned with sustainability and current city priorities.

The overarching recommendations represent thoughtful ways that the city can embed sustainability into its institutions and policies. One of those recommendations was the establishment of a sustainability commission and I look forward to working with city council on that process. To keep the task force's momentum going, my office would like to take an initial step by establishing the sustainability commission through executive order. This would help us jumpstart the work and focus on outcomes, while partnering with the City Council on an ordinance for the commission.

The report also includes recommended actions from our comprehensive plan, *planitulsa*. As part of our commitment to transparency and implementation readiness, we asked department heads to review the 48 *planitulsa* recommended actions relevant to their areas and report the status of each as completed, in progress, planned, not planned, or stalled. Their responses are included alongside the report for your review. These responses are meant to serve as a point-in-time assessment of recommended actions. The status of these actions may change over time as more resources become available.

Together, the report and status review of recommended actions provide a comprehensive picture of where progress is already occurring and where additional alignment, resources, or policy direction may support further action. We look forward to continuing to work closely with the Council as we evaluate next steps.

Thank you for your continued leadership and partnership in building a more sustainable future for Tulsa.

Sincerely,

Monroe Nichols, IV
Mayor | City of Tulsa

Recommendation Review Sheet

Planitusa Action #	Action Language	Current Progress	Additional Notes
Parks & Recreation			
PR 1.4.3	Explore implementation of a “workreation” program for children to participate in the maintenance of park facilities by completing simple tasks with incentives, including free admission to programming and other activities.	Not Currently Planned	"Allow for free attendance to pools for litter pick-up, but would look to expand in the form of paid internships." - Parks, Culture & Recreation
PR 3.4.1	Evaluate destination parks to determine needs for capital improvements or additional programming.	Ongoing	"Capital improvements are generally tracked; programming opportunities are not evaluated. Funding needed. Destination parks conversations are ongoing." - Parks, Culture & Recreation
PR 5.1.3	Host and permit events and programs to promote healthy lifestyles, healthy ecosystems, and environmental stewardship.1	Ongoing	"Have some programming; need to increase. Funding needed." - Parks, Culture & Recreation
PR 5.4.1	Support efforts to establish new community gardens, urban farms, and food forests.	Ongoing	"Planning covered the cost of a new waterline for a Community Garden at Crosbie Heights, located next to the Belafonte Community Center." - Planning & Neighborhoods "Chamberlain will have a community garden. Parks wants all Centers and more to have Community Gardens. Funding needed." - Parks, Culture & Recreation
PR 7.2.2	Utilize landscaping and urban forestry management approaches to increase shade and reduce urban heat island (UHI) effects.	Not Currently Planned	"Would need to be in conjunction with other city departments, Up With Trees, and an inventory. Up With Trees has generally identified areas; continued evaluation needed." - Parks, Culture & Recreation
PR 9.3.2	Evaluate progress on maintenance issues on annual basis to calibrate.	Not Currently Planned	"No annual progress evaluation. PMs and work orders are completed as funding allows." - Parks, Culture & Recreation
Environment & Natural Resources			
EN 2.6.3	Ensure stormwater needs are assessed during the capital funding project identification phase.	Ongoing	"When capital programs are prepared, all costs are included. Stormwater projects are funded through stormwater fees. Current backlog is tracked by Water & Sewer." - Public Works

EN 4.1.6	Establish a citywide tree inventory and develop a Street Tree Master Plan in coordination with Up With Trees.	Ongoing	"Assume Parks would take the lead on this since they have the largest share of trees. We would be an active partner with our ROW and Stormwater locations." - Public Works "Parks completed a Parks partial inventory Summer of '25, continuing this year in Summer '26 with a grant funded intern, and will still have more to complete after the internship. I believe Up With Trees maintains an inventory of trees they plant with Sreets." - Parks, Culture & Recreation
EN 5.1.1	Increase municipal participation at the Oklahoma Corporation Commission to reduce regulatory barriers to renewable energy production.	Planned but not Started	"Mayor's Office will create a strategy with the Director of Government Affairs to engage at the OCC." - Mayor's Office
EN 5.1.3	Engage PSO to develop energy programs dedicated to renewable energy, energy efficiency, electric vehicles, battery storage, and microgrids.	Planned but not Started	"Mayor's Office will engage PSO in this disucssion." - Mayor's Office
EN 5.5.2	Adopt the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) for new construction. ³	Ongoing	"The State OUBC has created a committee working on the Energy Code. Our Inspection Manager is on the committee. They plan to adopt the 2024 Energy Code in 2027." - Development Services
EN 5.5.3	Increase building code enforcement and building inspector education opportunities to ensure compliance with energy efficiency requirements.	Planned but not Started	"Once OUBC adopts energy code, training will become available. Yes, training will be needed for inspectors, contractors, and builders." - Development Services
EN 5.5.6	Evaluate whether to cease opting out of PSO's energy efficiency requirements.	Not Currently Planned	"Would like future Sustainability Commission to evaluate and make recommendations." - Mayor's Office
EN 7.4.1	Annually update the content for the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) Scorecard.	Not Currently Planned	"Would like future Sustainability Commission to evaluate and make recommendations." - Mayor's Office
EN 3.2.1	Develop a program to implement green infrastructure improvements, starting with streets that contribute the highest rates of runoff volume and pollutants to the stormwater system.	Not Currently Planned	"Not sure what this pertains to on streets. There are no viable alternatives to current pavement options utilized. Pervious pavement is not an option for arterial and non-arterial streets." - Public Works "Parks may install LID in the form of a vegetated swale at Johnson Park. Other similar opportunities exist." - Parks, Culture & Recreation

EN 3.4.2	Develop regulations and stormwater management standards for alternative methods of development that better retain natural site drainage and reduce impervious surface coverage, such as low-impact development and green infrastructure.	Ongoing	"LID standards have been adopted and are encouraged on developments. Impervious areas related to commercial developments continue to be a business decision on how they proceed on their needs for their developments." - Public Works "Yes, if we could incentivise or require certain." - Development Services
EN 4.3.3	Enhance the capacity and funding for naturalist positions and maintenance needs across all of Tulsa's parks and wildlife refuge facilities.	Not Currently Planned	"Not currently funded." - Parks, Culture & Recreation
EN 6.3.6	Support existing work with local industrial employers to determine ways to reduce hazardous emissions through the Sustainable Tulsa SCOR3CARD. (The Sustainability Alliance-Scor3card)	Not Currently Planned	"Would like future Sustainability Commission to evaluate and make recommendations." - Mayor's Office
Economic Development			
ED 1.1.3	Coordinate across departments to align planning and implementation of new infrastructure intended to support localized economic growth.	Ongoing	"We coordinate every Thursday with various departments on upcoming developments." - Public Works
Housing and Neighborhoods			
HN 3.4.1	Encourage new and innovative housing types for affordability and sustainability.	Ongoing	"Planning initiatives to support this effort include the Neighborhood Infill Overlay (NIO), the T-Town Home Catalog, and other zoning code amendments." - Planning & Neighborhoods "This has begun. Difficulty arises around water and sewer layouts and fire access." - Development Services
HN 4.3.4	Leverage public properties for the development of affordable housing.	Ongoing	"In June 2026, the City issued a Request for Proposals for 2 City-owned parcels and 3 parcels owned by Tulsa Public Schools. The City is currently reviewing the proposals and the Mayor's Senior Advisor for Housing is continuing to work with departments and other stakeholders to identify other properties for potential development." - Mayor's Office

HN 4.2.4	Ensure affordable housing development is located in high opportunity areas with adequate access to public transportation, jobs, schools, and amenities.	Ongoing	"The City is actively working to incentivize development of vacant lots in existing neighborhoods, with adequate access to public transportation, jobs, schools, and amenities. The City has enacted the Vacancy Improvement Program, Building Permit Fee Reduction, Nuisance Lien Waiver, T-Town HOME Catalog, and Faith-Based Housing Initiative, many of which can be used together, to reduce costs and time to build housing in established high opportunity areas." - Mayor's Office
HN 4.3.5	Embed affordable housing goals and funding into Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and other public incentives, particularly in areas of high need.	Ongoing	"The City is working to finalize a policy which would encourage housing at multiple affordability levels in Tax Increment Financing Districts. Also, the City's recent programs (Vacancy Improvement Program, Building Permit Fee Reduction, Nuisance Lien Waiver) require affordable housing. The T-Town HOME Catalog and Faith-Based Housing Initiative don't require affordable housing but do encourage it." - Mayor's Office
Transportation			
TR 6.1.6	Increase tree canopy along transportation corridors to mitigate urban heat island effect and assist in improving air quality.	Ongoing	"Continue to utilize ROW funds from the PSO franchise fees to plant and maintain trees in the street ROW throughout the City of Tulsa." - Public Works
TR 1.3.3	Evaluate the feasibility of a fare-free transit system.	Not Currently Planned	"Since the publication of <i>planitulsa</i> , MetroLink has implemented free fares for youth under 18, but there is currently no funding available to expand to an entirely fare-free system." - Mayor's Office
TR 1.5.5	Support mobile grocery distribution services, particularly to serve older adults and Tulsans with mobility limitations.	Not Currently Planned	
TR 2.3.3	Establish a position focused on bicycle and pedestrian coordination to identify and pursue funding and be the primary point of contact for these initiatives.	Not Currently Planned	
TR 5.1.1	Incentivize mixed-use zoning and land uses along bus rapid transit routes.	Ongoing	"There are continuous efforts to promote density and mixed-use along the existing BRT corridors, including the MX incentive program and other high-density zoning districts." - Planning & Neighborhoods

Public Services			
PS 06.5.2	Identify areas of the city that have higher rates of refusal to participate in the curbside recycling program and engage with residents in those areas to identify potential challenges and promote participation.	Ongoing	"The recycling program is included in the base trash service provided to the citizens. We have very few customers who opt out of the recycling program. We have been working on education to reduce the contamination rates within the program and have hit a historic low at the last semi-annual audit. Our Community Involvement Coordinator works on education efforts citywide." - Public Works
PS 02.2.1	Create a Facility Condition Index (FCI) to inform future budget and capital needs.	Stalled	"During this process, the Terracon report was released that covers some of this, but not all." - Parks, Culture & Recreation
PS 05.7.1	Convene a group of stakeholders to begin discussions about the best approaches for mitigating fire risks at Tulsa's wildland- urban interfaces (WUI).	Not Currently Planned	"Parks definitely has areas with a larger fuel load, but no funding or expertise." - Parks, Culture & Recreation
PS 06.3.2	Periodically evaluate the feasibility of adding recycling services for multi-dwelling unit residential properties, and study the potential participation rate of multi-dwelling unit residents, the costs associated with the service, the rate of contamination in comparison to detached housing properties, and other relevant information needed to properly plan full adoption of multi-dwelling unit property recycling services.	Not Currently Planned	"Commercial providers currently take the refuse generated at the various sites serviced and remove recyclable materials prior to disposing of non-recyclable materials. The City of Tulsa does not oversee this recycling effort on commercial providers, but have been told during our commercial haulers study in the past that they recycle all items they can. Some offer separate recycling containers if the multi-dwelling locations desire, but most do not due to the space required and the need to build additional items to hide the dumpsters required by code." - Public Works
PS 09.2.1	Establish a working relationship with the school districts within the city limits to collaborate on land use and development initiatives, such as planning for and siting new schools, expanding joint-use opportunities, and redeveloping closed schools.	Ongoing	"The City is coordinating with Tulsa Public Schools to identify properties for potential housing opportunities. An RFP was developed in coordination with TPS to solicit interest in a list of identified sites." - Planning & Neighborhoods "There are not currently, but could be potential partnerships for recreation/park amenities." - Parks, Culture & Recreation
Future Land Use			
LU 4.4.6	Permit and facilitate alternative options for healthy food access, including urban agriculture, community gardening, food forests, and farmers' markets.	Not Currently Planned	"The Mayor's Office of Health and Well-being is working with multiple partners to expand healthy food options in Tulsa through a recent TSET grant." - Mayor's Office "Parks would like to be involved." - Parks, Culture & Recreation

LU 1.1.3	Work with other departments to identify obstacles to infill development, including infrastructure capacity and public investment priorities.	Ongoing	"There are on-going coordination meetings both on Thursday morning,s which the Mayor's Office attends, and special meetings held as needed to discuss specific locations." - Public Works
LU 6.2.1	Incentivize rezoning of properties along bus rapid transit (BRT) lines to mixed-use zoning as recommended in the associated BRT Land Use Frameworks.	Ongoing	"There are continuous efforts to promote density and mixed-use along the existing BRT corridors, including the MX incentive program and other high-density zoning districts." - Planning & Neighborhoods
LU 6.2.3	Support higher density residential development along BRT corridors in locations identified in corresponding Land Use Frameworks.	Ongoing	"There are continuous efforts to promote density and mixed-use along the existing BRT corridors, including the MX incentive program and other high-density zoning districts." - Planning & Neighborhoods
LU 9.2.1	Identify barriers to redevelopment of existing buildings, and revise zoning regulations to address issues.	Ongoing	"Housing Feasibility Zoning Code Amendments Part 1 were adopted to facilitate redevelopment of existing buildings for residential use." - Planning & Neighborhoods
LU 10.2.1	Enable "Missing Middle" housing types in developed areas of the city by updating the zoning code.	Ongoing	"Planning initiatives to support this effort include the Neighborhood Infill Overlay (NIO), the T-Town Home Catalog, and other zoning code amendments." - Planning & Neighborhoods
History, Culture, & Creativity			
HCC 4.2.2	Promote high density and mixed-use development.	Ongoing	"This action falls under goal 4, which focuses on Route 66. There are continuous efforts to promote density and mixed-use along the corridor, including the MX incentive program and other high-density zoning districts. The future Route 66 BRT will also encourage this." - Planning & Neighborhoods
Communities			

CO 1.4.1	Facilitate the Mobile City Hall program to provide access to City services and assistance in every Council district.	Ongoing	"Planning organizes 2 Neighborhood Resource Events per year as part of the Neighborhood Academy. These events bring together representatives from various City departments to share services and resources in the same room." - Planning & Neighborhoods "Development Services has done this twice (east and north). Few people participated in this, but I think it is worth continuing." - Development Services "The Department of Resilience and Equity (DRE) supports this work. This year we partnered with Planning and several community partners for an event at Rudisill Library." - Resilience & Equity
CO 5.5.1	Continue supporting naturalization efforts and citizenship ceremonies, including outreach specifically targeted to new residents' voting participation, and a database for immigration legal support.	Ongoing	"Department of Resilience Equity leads this work." - Resilience & Equity
CO 6.1.1	Create and maintain a distribution list of organizations that serve the community, including contact information and services provided, and facilitate the formation of partnerships between local groups by sharing the catalog on the City of Tulsa website.	Ongoing	"DS has distribution lists for developers, contractors, and consultants." - Development Services
CO 6.2.1	Host "open houses" for organizations and groups to learn about, stay connected with, and get involved in civic processes.	Not Currently Planned	"DS would like to be and can be a part of this." - Development Services
CO 6.2.2	Frequently circulate surveys to community organizations that assist with civic work to understand the quality of the working relationship with the City and identify ways to improve.	Ongoing	"Various community engagement efforts led by the Mayor's Office and the City Auditor have included community conversations, a sustainability survey, the Auditor's Evaluate the 918 survey, and a Change.org survey. Expanding these efforts will continue." - Mayor's Office
CO 6.3	Prioritize partnerships and collaborative efforts that address the needs of traditionally underserved and vulnerable populations.	Ongoing	"Planning partners with local organizations to host community events, communicate opportunities, and provide needed resources and services to underserved areas." - Planning & Neighborhoods "Parks currently does this." - Parks, Culture & Recreation

CO 5.1.2	Research, acquire, and disperse funding to support community and neighborhood-led activities and events.	Ongoing	"Planning supports neighborhoods and destinations districts by applying for grants and securing funds through sponsors to support our partners." - Planning & Neighborhoods "Parks has community events and supports community led initiatives. Could increase." - Parks, Culture & Recreation
CO 6.3.2	Using the Tulsa Planning Office's Strategic Planning approach, identify underrepresented groups to engage during planning projects, to serve on steering committees, and to advise on community engagement processes.	Ongoing	"Planning uses the tools and programs derived from the Neighborhood Conditions Index (NCI) to accomplish this action." - Planning & Neighborhoods