

# Baldwin County Georgia



**BALDWIN COUNTY  
AWARDED \$4.9 MILLION  
FOR STREETScape AND  
CITY IMPROVEMENTS**



**GET ALL THE DETAILS ON PAGE 2 >>**

## **Baldwin County Government**

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## **Phone**

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## **Hours**

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
M-F except holidays



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# Baldwin County Awarded \$4.9M in RAISE Grant Funds for Oconee Heights Neighborhood Improvements



U.S. Senators Reverend Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff have announced a significant federal investment of \$4.9 million in Baldwin County for the Oconee Heights Streetscape and Safety Improvements Project. The funding will be utilized to enhance community connectivity by adding pedestrian pathways, completing sidewalk connections, and implementing solar-powered lighting fixtures throughout the Oconee Heights neighborhood. Moreover, the grant will address infrastructure issues by replacing three failing culverts.

The proposed project will consist of one-way streets on S. Jefferson Street, S. Elbert Street, Bell Avenue and Coombs Avenue. The one-way streets will have streetlights and multi-use (walking/bicycling) paths. The one-way streets will be repaved and storm drain improvements will be made if necessary. Additionally, a sidewalk will be constructed on Vinson Highway from McDade's Grocery to Caraker Avenue.

The \$4.9 million in federal funding is allocated through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. This program enables the Department of Transportation (DOT) to invest in transportation infrastructure projects that align with national objectives. Congress has allocated over \$12 billion across fourteen rounds of National Infrastructure Investments to fund projects with significant local or regional impact. The RAISE program allows DOT to evaluate projects based on their merits, ensuring that taxpayers receive the highest value for every dollar invested.

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Senator Warnock emphasized the importance of federal investments in every corner of the state to invigorate rural communities, with the grant for Baldwin County exemplifying the positive impact of people-focused policymaking. Senator Ossoff was pleased to announce the major boost that the bipartisan infrastructure law will provide to the Baldwin County Oconee streetscape project. He commended the collaboration with Chairwoman Davis and Baldwin County leadership in making this progress possible, highlighting the project's potential to enhance the quality of life for county residents.

Chairwoman Emily Davis of the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners expressed her gratitude to Senators Ossoff and Warnock for their support in making the community safer and more livable. She emphasized the need for public investment in the historic black neighborhood of Oconee Heights, which has faced challenges due to job losses at Central State Hospital. The project will now provide safe travel options for residents to access new job opportunities, grocery stores, and local colleges downtown.

Baldwin County Commissioner Henry Craig also expressed gratitude for the significant award, emphasizing the transformative impact it will have on the community and neighborhood. The federal investment represents an opportunity to improve living conditions and make lasting changes in one of the county's oldest and most vulnerable areas. The Oconee Heights Streetscape and Safety Improvements Project originated from the work of two University of Georgia classes that made Oconee Heights the focus of their thesis project. The project's vision, developed through community meetings, aims to create a safer neighborhood and facilitate safe travel for Oconee Heights residents to the old Central State Hospital campus, grocery stores, colleges, and downtown via walking and bicycling. Baldwin County Manager Carlos Tobar is grateful to Senators Ossoff and Warnock for their support in making the county accessible, safe, sustainable, and equitable. The federal funding will help fulfill Baldwin County's efforts to improve transportation infrastructure and promote community well-being.



## Boddie Voting Precinct Nears Completion

The new Boddie Voting Precinct at the old Baldwin County jail is nearing completion.

EK Bethea, pictured to the left, is putting the finishing touches to the voting area.

# City of Milledgeville and Baldwin County Meet To Discuss TSPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement

The city and county met to discuss the TSPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement that both parties will need to adopt in order for there to be a vote on TSPLOST on November 7, 2023. County commissioners received feedback from the community in 2018, the last time the county and city had a TSPLOST referendum on a ballot. The majority of the comments had one theme: to be more specific with the project list in the future. The commissioners have done so and made sure to list the road names they propose to work on and re-pave. The TSPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement, which must be



approved by both the city and county, will facilitate the distribution of net proceeds, which is expected to be \$45,000,000.00 during its five-year term. The proposed agreement also states that the City of Milledgeville will receive 35% of the net proceeds distributed by the State, with the remaining 65% of the net proceeds distributed by the State to be received by the County.

If the TSPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement is approved by both parties by the end of July 2023, the commissioners will make public the list of roads, in priority order, that will get paved. A small amount of TSPLOST proceeds will be set aside to match grants the county will pursue to replace the bridges on Roberts Rd NW, Horace Veal Rd, and OQuinns Pond Rd, right-of-way maintenance, and vehicle equipment.

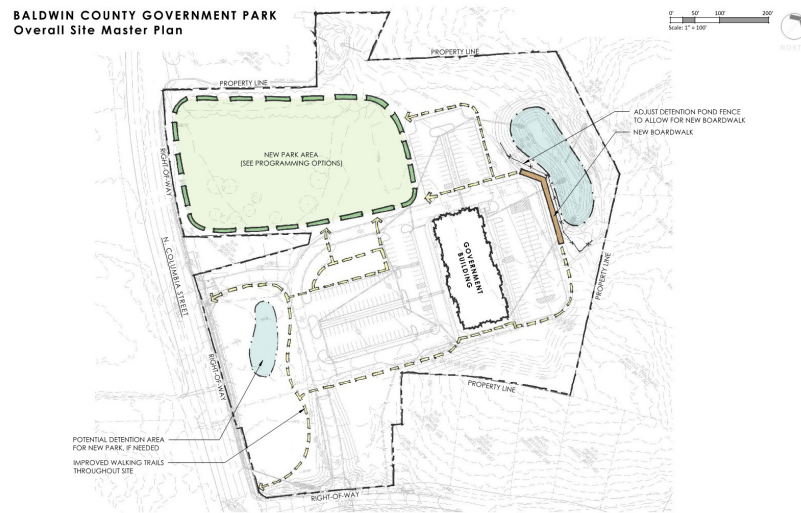
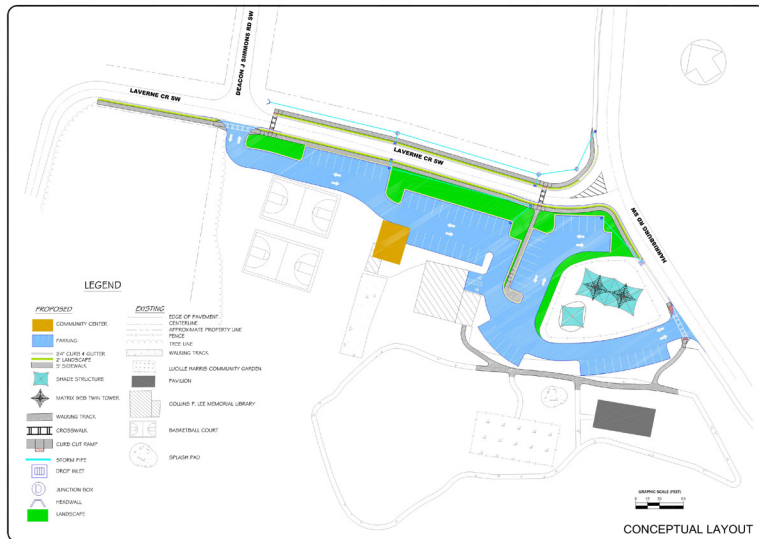


## Allenwood Subdivision Storm Drain Replacement

Storm Drain replacement in the Allenwood Subdivision is expected to come to completion in late August, weather permitting.

The project is moving slower than anticipated because of the recent rains.

# Harrisburg Streetscape and Baldwin County Government Park Update



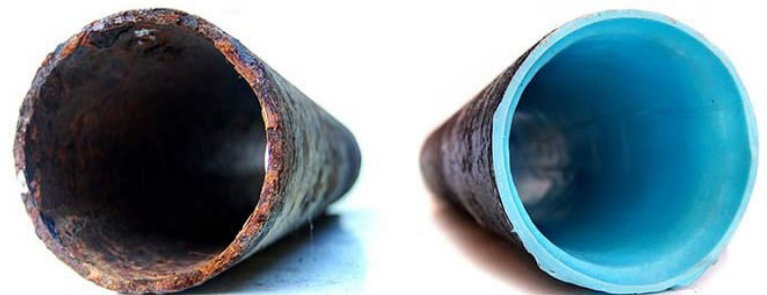
The Harrisburg Streetscape and Baldwin County Government Park Request for Proposals for Design Services has been advertised. Proposals are due for both projects on July 21st at noon. Commissioners expect to award a contract for design services on August 1, 2023. Shown above are preliminary conceptual plans for the parks. The park improvements ultimately will look different once the design firm is selected and prepares a final design.

## CDBG Sewer Replacement Project Update

The 2023 CDBG Sewer Replacement Project has been advertised for construction.

Bids will open on Tuesday, July 25th at 10:30am. Commissioners anticipate awarding a contract on August 1, 2023.

Construction should start later this summer. The sewer lines east of Vinson Hwy will be replaced on Daphney St SE, Martin Dr SE, Stuart Cir SE, Lee Dr SE, and a portion of Lee St SE.



Before

After

## City of Milledgeville Approves Landbank Authority



On June 27, 2023 the City of Milledgeville approved the Intergovernmental Contract between Baldwin County and City of Milledgeville, creating the Baldwin County Land Bank.

The contract the city approved does have some minor edits and the Baldwin

County Board of Commissioners will vote on those revisions at an upcoming meeting.

The land bank is important because the county cannot gift land to another party. It can gift land to a land bank authority and then the land bank authority can gift land to Habitat for Humanity or other nonprofit organizations. The county coordinated with Habitat for Humanity - Milledgeville Baldwin County when it applied for a Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP) grant to build four new houses for families in need. The county will gift two lots for that purpose. This valuable collaboration between the city, county and Habitat for Humanity -Milledgeville Baldwin County helped secure the CHIP grant.

## Water Pipe Replacement In Coopers Community



Tie-ins are scheduled to be completed in two weeks.

The next step after the tie-ins is to test the water.

The Water & Sewer Department expects to complete this water pipe replacement work at the end of July.