

2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Osage Nation has made significant progress in achieving milestones that align with the priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan. This progress is inspired by its people's collective input and vision, reflected in the Strategic Plan, which serves as a guide rooted in their voices.

Previous Accomplishments: Milestones expanded from the 2007 Strategic Plan

- Membership enrollment in the Osage Nation has grown steadily over time. It increased from 9,748 members at the end of December 2007 to 22,457 in June 2020, and further to 25,781 by May 2024.
- Implementation of the Wahzhazhe Early Learning Academy for children from 18 months to 8th grade to be immersed in the language and culture of the Osage.
- Development of Bird Creek Farms, now known as Harvest Land, to be an agricultural base to produce healthy food for Osage Nation members with a future goal towards commercial markets.
- Purchased a 43,000-acre ranch, reclaiming a massive tract of land within the heart of the original reservation boundaries and expanding our land base. Osage Ranch operates a successful cattle business on the ranch land, which is also home to 85 bison.
- Preliminary planning for the expansion of the Osage Nation Museum.
- Establishment of 7 tribal gaming casinos, which provide the main source of revenue for Osage Nation government and program operations including the Health Benefit Card, Scholarships and Burial Assistance.
- Compacted with Indian Health Service and took over management of the Osage Nation WahZhaZhe Health Center, which has added additional services such as dental, optometry and mammograms.



2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES:

- The Community Development Financial Institute (CDFI) has been established.
- A \$5 million State Small Business Credit Initiative program has been created.
- Completing the Visitors Center expansion and renovation boosts economic growth by attracting more tourists.
- A partnership with Oklahoma State University was established to tour the feedlot and develop a feeding plan for cattle, which will supply Butcher House, the Osage Nation meat processing plant.
- The Skyway 36 Renovation Project, funded by a combination of grants and tribal resources, is underway to transform the hangar and offices into a drone testing facility. Leased to Osage LLC, this project will generate ongoing revenue and income for the Osage Nation, supporting future economic development.
- The Osage Nation has already begun developing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to diversify revenue streams, strengthen our economy, and open opportunities for funding from the EDA to support future projects.

TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN CULTURAL PRESERVATION PRIORITIES:

- The Language Program has expanded significantly.
- Completing the Visitors Center expansion enhances cultural preservation by providing a space for learning about Osage history and current activities.
- Daposka Ahnkodapi teaches Wahzhazhe words and sentences to students daily, focusing on revitalizing the language among our youth.
- The collaboration and completion of the Killers of the Flower Moon movie were vital for preserving Osage culture. It brought national attention to the historical events that shaped the community and fostered a greater understanding of our heritage.
- Adding multiple videos to the multimedia collections and launching a culture portal are significant steps in preserving Osage culture.
- Purchase of the Osage historical site of St. Paul Francis. St. Paul Francis serves as a focal point for education and outreach, raising awareness of Osage culture among community members and visitors.
- The Osage 2229 Digitization Project is crucial for cultural preservation. It digitizes and archives essential historical documents, photographs, and artifacts of the Osage Nation.
- Attendance at the Osage Nation Museum (ONM) has increased by 28% over the past year.
- The Osage Veterans Page launched so Osage tribal citizens could submit Veterans' biographies and photographs online.



2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN EDUCATION PRIORITIES:

- Partnership with Teach for America brings opportunities and resources to Osage students attending a post-secondary institution.
- Increased services for Osage students by offering after-school programs and financial literacy curricula.
- Daposka maintains its accreditation from the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) and adheres to State Curriculum Standards.
- The Osage Pathfinder Development (OPD) Program has been established to equip Osage students with technical proficiency in aerospace and aviation career fields. This will enable them to obtain all necessary FAA certifications for flying and instructing both unmanned and manned aircraft commercially.
- Implementation of the Annual College and Career Fair successfully for students.
- Osage Nation Education Department (ONED) has achieved full accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission to offer complete degree programs through Tulsa Community College, making classes available to the community and high school students.
- Wahzhazhe Early Learning Academy (WELA) continues its partnership with Tri-County Tech for the professional development of teachers and staff
- ONED partners with Pawnee Nation College (PNC), Northern Oklahoma College (NOC), and Kansas State University (KSU) to offer post-secondary education classes.
- WELA completed a new 18,752 sq. ft. state-of-the-art childcare center in Pawhuska.
- The Education Department oversees the Explorer Program for youth.

TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES PRIORITIES:

- New lease agreement for the ranch with Osage LLC focuses on land conservation, emphasizing wildlife protection, allowing Tribal members to forage, and developing land-based resources for the benefit of the Osage people.
- ON provides events and programs on the Osage Nation Ranch, including a youth hunt to teach responsible hunting practices, respect for the land, cultural significance for animals, environmental stewardship, self-sufficiency, survival skills, and education about safe and responsible hunting tools.
- Secured additional federal funding to support and expand the ongoing orphaned well programs, enhancing the capacity to address environmental concerns and accelerate the safe closure and remediation of abandoned wells.



2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN HEALTH PRIORITIES:

- The new WahZhaZhe Health Center is being built to bring specialized care to the rural area of Pawhuska, OK.
- The WahZhaZhe Health Center (WZZHC) operates two mobile medical units, extending the clinic's primary care services.
- WZZHC has drastically increased the number of providers and specialists who serve tribal patients and their families better.
- Completion of new adults and adolescents at Osage Nation Behavioral Center to treat Native Americans struggling with substance abuse.
- Successful implementation of exercise classes at Title VI facilities, improving the physical health and quality of life for elderly community members.
- Development of the Osage Nation Outdoor Health Complex, promoting healthy lifestyle habits for Osages of all ages.
- The Harvest Land Farmer's Market is a vital initiative for the Osage Nation, promoting local agriculture and providing community access to fresh, healthy produce.
- Completion and expansions of Osage Nation-owned Senior Housing complexes in Pawhuska, Hominy, and Fairfax.
- The Wahzhazhe Health Center (WZZHC) hosts various community-driven events, such as the diabetes run/walk and cultural nights.
- Partnerships have been established with Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma for medical student rotations, enhancing educational opportunities.
- Efforts are underway to develop an Osage-owned Assisted Living facility in Hominy, OK, which would provide quality care and support for Osage elders.

TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN GOVERNANCE AND JUSTICE PRIORITIES:

- The Osage Nation has made significant strides in increasing accessibility to leadership by providing cabinet secretaries' contact information and consistently updating the Osage Nation's official websites and social media pages.
- The Osage Vote website, designed to focus on younger generations, uses smartphone-compatible technology to provide users with easy access to their voter status, voting history, mail-in ballot details, sample ballots, and polling location directions.

TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN CONNECTION PRIORITIES:

- Osage Nation is now providing 21 classes with an option for in-person or online language classes.
- K-12 lesson plans are available on the Osage Nation website's cultural portal. The lessons cover Osage life, Osage People in the Past, and Osage Nation Today, with links to additional resources.
- Osage culture media collections are available on the Osage Nation website's culture portal. These multimedia resources include educational and instructional videos, photography, and podcasts, providing global access to learning.



2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN COMMUNICATIONS PRIORITIES:

- The Osage Nation's email open rate averages over 50% of our 8,000+ subscribers, well above the standard 12% open rate for email marketing. This shows that email is an effective way to reach Osages.
- The Resource Directory is updated with a dedicated link on the Osage Nation website, which publicizes the programs and services available to Osages worldwide.
- Mailed a postcard about the new service portal to all constituents (over 12,000 residents).
- Over the past year, Osage Nation's social media saw remarkable growth, including a 272% increase in Facebook fans, a 3,750% rise in engagement, and a 3,704% boost in impressions, with key posts reaching up to 801,000 people.
- The Language & Culture video collection has collected twenty-thousand to fifty-thousand views and counting, according to data.
 - Wahzhazhe Ribbon Work, 51,736 views
 - Intergenerational Cooking 50,099 views
 - Women's Dressing, 30,529 views
 - Funeral Practices, 24,458 views

TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN ACCESSIBILITY TO SERVICES AND PROGRAMS PRIORITIES:

- The Resource Directory has been updated to include all departments and programs, showcasing available services for Osages worldwide. It is now accessible to everyone through a link on the Osage Nation website.
- Created a Legislative module on the Osage Nation website to improve legislative document administration and search.
- The Osage Nation website has an updated design that better suits the Organization's overall brand aesthetic. This increases accessibility to leadership and real-time events affecting the Nation's citizens.
- Successfully enhanced fiber infrastructure, expanding access to high-speed broadband across the Osage Nation campus and reservation.
- Successfully developed a service portal, providing global access to service applications, while the culture and language portal offers streamlined access to a vast library of cultural media, classes, educational videos, and podcasts.



2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN SOVEREIGNTY PRIORITIES:

- Expansion of Harvest Land includes a 44,000-square-foot general-use building and a 40,000-square-foot greenhouse.
- Construction of a meat processing plant that will be able to process bison, swine, and bovine with a seasonal venison harvest from the Osage Nation Ranch.
- Wahzhazhe Connect marks a key milestone for the Osage Nation as its first initiative to bring high-speed internet to homes on the Osage reservation, bridging the digital divide. This project improves access to resources, education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, empowering the community and fostering future connectivity.
- The Osage Nation education building has become an official ACT national test center, making it the first tribal Nation in Oklahoma to have its own ACT Test site.
- Ozark National Forest Peak was renamed “WahZhaZhe Summit.”
- Fairfax, Hominy, and Skiatook WELA & Wrap Around centers upgraded to 3 STAR facilities, while the new 18,000 sq. ft. Pawhuska WELA center, with eight classrooms, eliminated the local child care waitlist.
- Multiple Osage Nation programs purchase meats from the Butcher House, strengthening our food sovereignty and supporting self-reliance.
- Osage Nation Wildland Fire prescribed burn of approximately 33,000 thousand acres on the Osage Nation Ranch to control wildfire and safety efforts
- The Osage Nation Roads Department has improved infrastructure and access to ON properties, enhancing sovereignty through effective resource management for community development.
- Real Estate Services has implemented the Restricted Land Program. Contractors are currently building and/or mending fences and repairing and/or building ponds on restricted properties.
- Completed 320 acres of Hazardous Fuel Reduction (HFR) mechanical projects. HFR is a means of lessening wildfire hazards, catastrophic fire and its threat to public and firefighter safety.
- Go Healthy educates participants on processing traditional foods, offers cooking demonstrations focused on food sovereignty and provides healthy meals and fresh produce boxes.



2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN SOVEREIGNTY PRIORITIES:

- The Food Distribution Program has sourced over 500,000 pounds of food products annually, supplementing supplies from Butcher House and Harvest Land.
- WELA purchases meats for all four Osage-run centers from the Butcher House.
- DNR has strengthened the supply chain with Butcher House, ensuring sustainable practices and minimizing waste.
- DNR's CARES cattle and Bison Preserve provide reliable meat for Butcher House and Harvest Land, further supporting the Osage people's economic development and food security.
- The development of the Osage Nation Harvest Land and butcher house enhances food sovereignty by providing access to locally sourced, nutritious foods, promoting health, creating jobs, and stimulating the local economy. These initiatives support sustainable natural resource management and preserve traditional hunting and food preparation practices, strengthening the community's self-sufficiency and cultural identity.
- Since 2021, the Osage Nation has purchased 5,266 acres, including 54 properties and 76 lots, to help increase its land base. Real Estate Services has eliminated the backlog of appraisal requests on restricted land, enabling the Department to facilitate negotiations on surface leases, land sales, and rights-of-way for restricted landowners.
- Conducted Osage Heritage Site Visits – Fort Leonard Wood (Caves & Sacred Sites); St. Louis, Missouri (Mounds & Rock Art); Missouri River, Osage 4 Corners (Villages & Missions); Hannibal (Sacred Bluffs & Riverways)
- Reviewed, commented, and consulted on approximately 10,000 Section 106 projects this year.
- Protected the Osage Nation-owned Nelvada Mounds Site in Lafayette County, MO, by contesting a Special Use Permit for a mining operation that threatens burial mounds and potentially undiscovered burials on adjacent land. Team members of the Osage Nation Historic Preservation testified in a hearing in Kansas City, MO, advocating for the protection of these ancestral sites.
- The Osage Nation Historic Preservation has completed three Osage culture tours for the new Ni- Ki-Ni project at Tower Grove Park in St. Louis. Two of the presentations were filmed so that Tower Grove Park personnel could incorporate portions of the tour into their programming and allow visitors to hear about Osage history.
- The AG's office and DNR are actively advancing Osage Nation water rights, reinforcing the importance of our sovereignty and self-determination.

