



# City of Lawrence

**The Flame | August 2018**

**"We Have  
Tomorrow —  
Bright Before  
Us, Like A  
Flame."**

*Langston Hughes*

## Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department is a Finalist for National Gold Medal Award

The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association has named Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department as a finalist for the 2018 National Gold Medal Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.

Founded in 1965, the Gold Medal Awards program honors communities in the U.S. that demonstrate excellence in parks and recreation through long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition. Applications are separated into seven classes, with five classes based on population, one class for armed forces and one class for state park systems awarded on odd numbered years.

Lawrence Parks and Recreation is a finalist in the Class III category. This is the fourth time Lawrence Parks and Recreation has been a finalist. The other three years were 1997, 1998 and 2015.

Agencies are judged on their ability to address the needs of those they serve through the collective energies of citizens, staff and elected officials. Lawrence joins three other agencies in its class that will compete for grand honors this year. Those agencies are: Bloomington (Ind.) Parks and Recreation Department, City of Evanston (Ill.), Parks and Recreation and Community Services and Greeley (Colo.) Culture, Parks and Recreation.

A panel of five park and recreation professionals reviews and judges all application materials. Judges are chosen for their considerable experience and knowledge in parks and recreation on both the local and national levels.

This year's finalists will compete for Grand Plaque Award honors this summer, and the seven Grand Plaque recipients will be announced live during the Opening General Session at the 2018 NRPA Annual Conference in Indianapolis, Ind., Tuesday-Thursday, Sept. 25-27. For more information visit [www.lawrenceks.org/lprd/gold-medal-18/](http://www.lawrenceks.org/lprd/gold-medal-18/).



### BIKE PLAN SURVEY

Do you have thoughts about how we can make our region more bicycle friendly? The Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization is updating our Countywide Bikeway Plan. Part of this process is to ask people about their comfort level on various bicycle facility types. We will use this input to develop a comfortable bicycle network across the County. Participate in the survey today – [www.lawrenceks.org/mpo/tellus](http://www.lawrenceks.org/mpo/tellus) - it takes about 10 minutes to complete and will be available until August 31st.

### KEEP YOUR DISTANCE — IT'S THE LAW

When passing a bicyclist leave at least 3 feet of space between your vehicle and the bicyclist. It is the law. If there is not enough room to leave at least 3 feet of space when passing – WAIT until there is.



# Lawrence Nationally Recognized for Sustainability Efforts

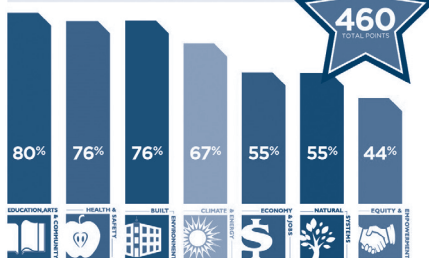
Lawrence continues to make a name for itself when it comes to sustainability. The city was recently featured in two national publications because of how it is putting its commitment to sustainability into action.

## Strategic Plan

Lawrence achieved a 4-STAR Community Rating, the leading sustainability framework and certification program in the United States, in late 2016, just ahead of the development of the City Strategic Plan. STAR Community Rating System provides sustainability national measures and best practices, which matched up with the seven Critical Success Factors in the Strategic Plan. In the end, 11 STAR measures are included in the Strategic Plan, which helps keep the city on track with its



### STAR GOAL AREAS % OF AVAILABLE POINTS AWARDED



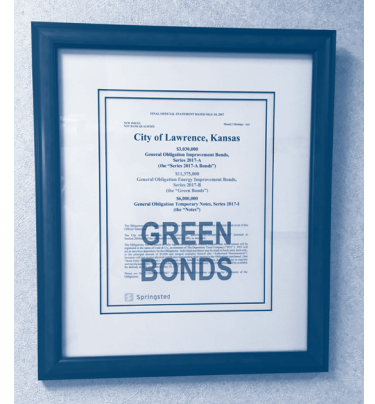
sustainability goals. Because of this approach, Lawrence is featured in a national case study on incorporating sustainability into local government strategic plans.

The full national case study is available here:  
[www.starcommunities.org/star-updates/case-study-integrating-sustainability-targets-into-strategic-plans/](http://www.starcommunities.org/star-updates/case-study-integrating-sustainability-targets-into-strategic-plans/)

Learn more about the City Strategic Plan and our progress at <https://lawrenceks.org/strategic-plan/>

## Green Bonds

It has been a year since the City of Lawrence issued the first Green Bonds in Kansas, and the benefits are already starting to pay off. Local governments issue bonds to finance large projects, and Green Bonds exclusively finance projects that address key areas of environmental concern like climate change, natural resource conservation, and pollution reduction. Lawrence's Green Bonds financed a wide variety of high impact energy efficiency and environmental improvement projects for various City facilities, which directly reduce energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, and save tax dollars. These projects are estimated to save 3,201 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e annually, which is equivalent to the avoidance of burning 3,502,188 pounds of coal. Governing Magazine featured Lawrence in the July cover story "The New Gold Rush for Green Bonds- Investors are lining up to buy them to fund environmental projects."



Full Article: <http://www.governing.com/topics/transportation-infrastructure/gov-green-bonds-environment-climate.html>

## Live a Healthy, Active Lifestyle with Parks & Recreation



Be sure and sign up for fall classes through Lawrence Parks and Recreation to continue living a healthy, active lifestyle. LPRD offers a wide variety of programming with more than 550 programs each season. LPRD is here to assist you in keeping active all year long. Sign up today at [www.lawrenceks.org/lprd](http://www.lawrenceks.org/lprd).

## Construction Ahead



Stay up-to-date with current city construction projects by signing up for our Construction email. We also offer a weekly re-cap of upcoming city construction projects that may affect your commute. Sign up at [www.lawrenceks.org/subscriptions](http://www.lawrenceks.org/subscriptions)

## go green, go paperless

The City of Lawrence offers an e-Billing option to receive your monthly utility billing statement by e-mail only. To sign up for e-Billing, please complete the form at this location - <https://lawrenceks.org/utility-billing/e-billing/>. You will need your utility billing account number available to complete the form.

Questions? Contact  
Utility Billing at  
[utilitybilling@lawrenceks.org](mailto:utilitybilling@lawrenceks.org) or  
785-832-7878.

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Committed to providing excellent city services that enhance the quality of life for the Lawrence community