



# City of Lawrence

**The Flame | March 2021**

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

*Langston Hughes*

## Parks & Recreation Celebrates its 75th Anniversary!

The City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department is celebrating the summit of anniversaries in 2021 as it reaches its watershed moment through 75 years of serving the Lawrence community. April 2021 will officially mark 75 years since the start of our Parks & Recreation Department.

Organized recreation programs began in Lawrence in the summer of 1940 with a volunteer recreation council. In 1945, the Kansas Legislature passed the Recreation Enabling Act, which allowed communities across the state to organize recreation programs as a tax-supported measure. Lawrence was one of the first communities to take advantage of the new law and voted its passage on Tuesday, April 2, 1946, creating the Lawrence Recreation Commission.

Further legislation from the Kansas Legislature in July 1965 allowed for the Lawrence Recreation Commission to be dissolved, which would give the green light to the City of Lawrence to combine parks and recreation into one system, formally becoming a City of Lawrence department in January 1966.

Since its inception, the Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department has dedicated itself to providing excellent City services, striving to enhance the quality of life for the Lawrence community. The department has been a finalist for the National Recreation and Park Association's Gold Medal Award program four times – 1997, 1998, 2015 and 2018. In 2013, Parks and Recreation received the Kansas Governor's Council on Fitness Kansas Health Champion Award and also received the Blue Cross/Blue Shield

Kansas Recreation and Park Association's BlueCHIP Award in 2011, 2013 and 2016.

The Parks and Recreation Department has also helped the City achieve Tree City USA City status for 42 consecutive years. The department not only provides services in parks and recreation activities, but over the years has developed hike/bike trails, a golf course, landscaping in public spaces and many other services for the Lawrence community.

The department continues to promote healthy, active lifestyles with programs, activities and classes aimed to get people moving and improving their quality of life. To see what is currently available from the City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department, please visit the department website: [lprd.org](http://lprd.org).



*From then to now: South Park in Downtown Lawrence has long been a hub for Parks & Recreation.*

City info available online at [lawrenceks.org](http://lawrenceks.org) and on cable Channel 25.

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# Do you have an irrigation system for your lawn?

## *Backflow preventer testing is required by City Code*

If you have an irrigation system (aka sprinkler system) for your property, make sure you have your backflow preventer tested and repaired as needed. City Code requires annual testing of backflow preventers to ensure that Lawrence's drinking water supply remains protected from sources of possible contamination, including lawn chemicals and fertilizers, bacteria, and pathogens.

The City recommends having your backflow preventer tested as early in the irrigation season as possible. This is to identify any potential defects and maximize protection for the full season.

Irrigation system backflow preventer testing is due by August 1, 2021. To find a list of certified testers, as well as additional information about backflow prevention, visit [lawrenceks.org/backflow](http://lawrenceks.org/backflow).

You can also follow these tips to help conserve water and utilize your irrigation system effectively:

- Check sprinkler heads regularly to ensure they are applying water evenly and not wasting water on sidewalks, driveways and streets.
- Irrigate early in the morning or in the evening once the sun goes down to reduce evaporation and discourage diseases.
- Water lawns only when needed. Many turfgrasses, such as bermuda, go dormant during periods of minimal rainfall and recover when rainfall returns to normal. Signs you may need to water include if you leave footprints when you walk across the lawn or if the grass has a blue cast.



## Pothole Problems? Let us know on Lawrence Listens.

The end of winter weather means the start of pothole season. Pothole problems can be one of the biggest annoyances for our residents every spring, and this year we're here to make it a little easier for you to report your concerns to us.

Lawrence Listens is the best way to request assistance from the City for a variety of issues, including potholes. Download the app (QR codes to the right) or go to our website to get started. Once there you can submit requests for assistance and follow

along as we respond in real-time within the app or on the web page. Lawrence Listens is online at [lawrenceks.org/listens](http://lawrenceks.org/listens).

QR Code for  
Apple Users



QR Code for  
Android Users



## Residents urged to complete COVID-19 Vaccine Interest Form

If you are a Douglas County resident interested in receiving a COVID-19 vaccination, please fill out the online Douglas County Vaccine Interest Form: [dgcoks.org/vaccineinterestform](http://dgcoks.org/vaccineinterestform).

This form allows residents to indicate their interest in receiving the vaccine and will help the Unified Command Vaccination Unit determine for which phase the resident may qualify. The form will also help providers notify individuals – with instructions on how to schedule an appointment – when a vaccine becomes available. Local agencies that are providing vaccinations will use these forms to verify registration and appointments.

Tips for completing the form:

- It is easiest to complete the form on a computer instead of a smart phone or tablet.
- After successfully submitting the form, you will see a message that says, "Great! Your information was sent successfully." The message will include a green check mark.
- If you do not fill out the form correctly, you will receive a message in red that says, "Survey contains errors." Errors must be corrected to submit the form successfully.
- Each individual in a household or family needs to fill out a form.
- Be sure to include an email or phone number, so you can be contacted.

Completing the form does not create an appointment or reserve a vaccine, but it will help planners identify for which phase individuals qualify and help streamline the notification and scheduling process as more vaccine doses become available.

For residents without access to a computer, a friend or family member can submit the interest form on their behalf. Individuals can also visit Lawrence Public Library to complete the form online.

If residents need assistance filling out the form, contact the Senior Resource Center of Douglas County at 785-842-0543. Staff will return calls during business hours in the order calls are received.

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*We create a community where all enjoy life and feel at home.*