

"We Have Tomorrow – Bright Before Us, Like A Flame." *Langston Hughes*



PROTECT YOUR PIPES

As temperatures get low this winter, please remember to take care of the pipes in your house. Here are some easy tips to avoid frozen water pipes:

1. Disconnect outside hoses
2. Repair leaking faucets outside
3. Cover outside faucets
4. Keep furnaces set to at least 55°

OUR MISSION

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

City information is available
at lawrenceks.org and on
cable Channel 25.

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23rd St. fully reopens in December 2023!

As we conclude one exciting construction project, there is more ahead! We're sharing a preview of some of the improvements we have in store for our community in 2024.

Our team is excited to announce that we're wrapping up the 23rd St. construction project on time! We plan to have all lanes of 23rd St. open to traffic in December 2023.

This construction has been a long process that ultimately resulted in a renewed eastern entrance to our community. The project included improvements to the pavement, storm sewer, traffic signals, shared-use paths, transit stops, and water mains along the East 23rd St. corridor.

We recognize the burden this long construction project had on our neighboring businesses and we want to thank them for their cooperation as we got this work done. We are excited for our community to come experience the reconstructed East 23rd St. corridor for themselves!

Looking Ahead to 2024

As we wrap up our 2023 construction projects, we have a number of initiatives scheduled to begin in 2024.

There will be three projects along 6th St. from Massachusetts St. to Folks Road. The upcoming work will address mill/overlay, storm sewer, sidewalks, shared-use paths, waterlines and signal improvements. The first project is from Iowa St. to Folks Road and it will start before the end of 2023.

Other projects coming up in 2024 include:

- Mill and overlay on N 2nd St. and N 3rd St. from Lincoln Street to Highway 24
- 11th St. reconstruction from Ohio St. to Indiana St.
- Louisiana St. reconstruction from 11th St. to 12th St.
- Mill and overlay on Wakarusa Dr. from 6th St. to Queens Road
- Ongoing reconstruction on Wakarusa Dr. from Research Pkwy to Clinton Pkwy

For more information on construction projects in Lawrence, subscribe to our weekly updates: lawrenceks.org/subscription.

PARKS, RECREATION, ARTS AND CULTURE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Get involved in the future of Parks & Rec!

The City of Lawrence is working on a plan to fully align the Parks and Recreation Department with the city-wide strategic plan — specifically the Unmistakable Identity outcome. The goal of the Unmistakable Identity outcome is to continue Lawrence's legacy as a welcoming community, synonymous with arts, diverse culture, fun and a quintessential downtown. City parks and community events contribute to the vibrancy experienced by all people in Lawrence.

We're calling this new plan the Parks, Recreation, Arts and Culture Comprehensive Plan. It will focus on the Unmistakable Identity outcome and formally integrating arts and culture as part of the Parks and Recreation Department.

The City is working with Confluence, a firm based in Kansas City, to help our community develop a more inclusive and robust plan to meet our goals.

The work started with the creation of a steering committee comprised of Lawrence residents who are invested in these outcomes.

We've already hosted numerous public meetings to get feedback on what this community prioritizes most when it comes to parks, recreation, arts and culture. Additionally, we currently have an online survey available on our project website that seeks community feedback on various priorities as they relate to the plan. You can access that survey online at lawrenceks.org/community-engagement/lprd-comp-plan.



Pictured: In 2022, Community members gather at the grand opening of "Through Other Eyes," a sculpture located at the path leading to Eisenhower Park behind LKPD headquarters.

The Village opening soon with 50 cabins

To continue to provide shelter to our unhoused neighbors, the City of Lawrence is building a Pallet Shelter Village, known as "The Village," at 256 N. Michigan St.

The Village will provide 50 single-bed cabins in a support setting with wrap-around services for those experiencing homelessness. It will provide a non-congregate shelter for veterans, elderly individuals, disabled individuals, and women without children fleeing domestic violence.

The Village will be fully gated with keycard access, will have lighting and cameras, and there will be 24-hour staff presence. Residents will have access to a community space, as well as picnic tables, bike racks, an onsite pantry, and more.

At the time of writing The Flame, the City

is scheduled for cabin construction and installation at the site from November 28 through December 2, barring weather or other related delays.

The Village is considered emergency shelter, meaning the cabins serve as temporary shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness. Increased emergency shelter capacity is integral to our success in ending chronic homelessness in our community.

In addition to emergency shelter, our community requires an increase of affordable housing and permanent supportive housing, to end chronic homelessness. An increase to all three of these assets has been identified in the City and County joint plan to end chronic homelessness, known as *A Place For Everyone*.

City continuing with Land Development Code update

During the Summer of 2022, the City of Lawrence launched an effort to overhaul its Land Development Code (LDC). The LDC is the set of regulations that guide how development should occur in our community. It is vitally important for the future development of our community.

The LDC is one of the primary tools used to implement Plan 2040 — the comprehensive plan for the City of Lawrence and Douglas County — and the Lawrence Strategic Plan.

Overarching goals for the LDC update include:

- Establishing a simpler and more consistent set of development procedures
- Identifying opportunities to achieve City goals related to climate change, sustainability, housing, economic development, and other community priorities
- Making the LDC more user-friendly, searchable, and easy to understand
- Creating more predictable development outcomes

As of November 2023, two of the draft modules are now available to review online for the updated LDC.

Module 1 addresses zoning districts and uses. The draft published in July 2023 introduces updates to the lineup of zoning districts, including dimensional standards (building setbacks, height standards, lot coverage, etc.), and land uses allowed by right or by review in each district.

Module 2 addresses development standards. The draft published in November 2023 includes site and structure standards; mobility and connectivity; subdivision design and improvement; parking, loading, and access; environmentally sensitive lands and natural resources; landscaping and buffering; and exterior lighting.

The City anticipates releasing the third and final module, which covers administration and procedures, in spring 2024. After the public has a chance to review and provide feedback on Module 3, the consolidated draft will be presented for review and adoption. City staff anticipate having the final version of the Land Development Code completed in Summer 2024.

More information — and opportunities to review the draft modules — is on the project website: lawrenceldc.konveio.com.