

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



Introducing our new brand

We're excited to begin rolling out the new City of Lawrence brand! The refreshed design captures the spirit of Lawrence's history while focusing on a vibrant future — but the look is just one part of what we've been working on. Our community is what makes Lawrence special, and the new brand reflects and embodies this community. It takes all kinds of people to create a place as vibrant and unique as Lawrence, and we created our new brand to celebrate and honor this unmistakable place and the people who call it home.

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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Fruit trees & Transit make a great pear

As part ongoing efforts to improve bus stops throughout our community, Lawrence Transit recently partnered with the Lawrence Fruit Tree Project, a program of the Sunrise Project, to plant fruit trees at bus stops in transportation disadvantaged areas of Lawrence.

Next time you're at a Lawrence Transit stop waiting for the bus, take a look around; you just might notice a new fruit tree planted nearby! The City of Lawrence recently planted fruit trees at three local bus stops:

- Bus stop 131 – Haskell Ave. and 16th St.
- Bus stop 368 – Haskell Ave. and 12th St.
- Bus stop 150 – 4th St. and Maine St.

Fruit trees were generously donated by Lawrence Fruit Tree Project, a program of Sunrise Project, and will be cared for by Parks and Recreation staff.

"It's such a pleasure to join in the vision of Lawrence Fruit Tree Project and Lawrence Transit," said Levi Parkin, Forestry Supervisor with Parks and Recreation. "This is a fantastic endeavor to show that food and fruit production can be a part of our everyday lives."

Part of the project's goal is to show that fruit can be a tangible, accessible resource for everyone. It can come from our backyards,

our parks, and our public spaces — including our bus stops.

As part of its wider vision, the City anticipates introducing more plans for accessible, edible landscaping in our community in the future.

The fruit tree plantings are also part of an overall vision from Lawrence Transit to make bus stops joyful, comfortable places that reflect our community.

Lawrence Transit has around 400 bus stops across Lawrence, and fruit trees are just one of the recent efforts toward bus stop improvements. Other recent bus stop improvement projects include the new railroad-themed bus shelter at Haskell and 12th St., eight improvements in 2022 — including ADA boarding pads, shelters and bike racks, and new benches and shelters installed at 19 bus stops around Lawrence in August 2021.

More information on the bus stop improvement program is available online at: lawrencetransit.org/projects/bus-stops.

WATER USAGE TIPS

Use your water wisely this summer!

Kansas summers get HOT, and we're all using extra water this time of year. With the City's inclining block rate* structure for billing water usage, excessive water use in the summer can really add up for Lawrence residents.

Keeping your lawn green can be one of the biggest uses of water in the summer. If you're irrigating, follow these helpful tips to get the most bang for your buck:

- Water early in the morning or in the evening to reduce evaporation and allow more water to reach your lawn's root zone.
- Water only when needed, not on a set schedule. If your grass springs back after you step on it, it doesn't need watering.
- Water your garden by hand or use drip irrigation rather than sprinklers.
- Use a rain barrel to capture water running off your roof to water your garden. Get information about making your own rain barrel at lawrenceks.org/stormwater.
- Mowing at the highest setting on your mower will encourage deeper grass roots, which will reduce the need for watering during dry spells.
- Use a rain gauge to determine when your lawn needs water and to measure how much you're applying. Generally, turf grasses need ¾-1" of water per week. If rain is forecasted, hold off on watering.

Beyond keeping your outdoor watering in check this summer, there are other ways

to conserve and keep your bill low. Here are some helpful tips from our team:

- Fix leaky faucets, showerheads and toilets, which can add up to gallons of water lost every day.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth. Letting the water run while brushing can send gallons of wasted water down the drain.
- Take showers, not baths. Showers use less water (just keep an eye on how long you've been in there).
- Plug your sink or use a wash basin if washing dishes by hand.
- Use a dishwasher – and make sure it is fully loaded!
- Scrape your plate, rather than rinsing it, before loading it into the dishwasher.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the fridge instead of letting the faucet run until the water gets cold.
- Thaw meat in the fridge overnight rather than using running hot water.
- Throw food scraps in the trash rather than using your garbage disposal. (This one helps our sanitary sewer system, too!)
- Wash only full loads of laundry or select the appropriate water level or load size on the washing machine.

*Learn more about the inclining block rate structure for water billing on our website: lawrenceks.org/utility-billing/inclining-block.



2024 City Budget

New this year, the City of Lawrence is introducing an online budget simulation tool called Balancing Act to help us better understand what City programs the community values most.

In Balancing Act, residents will be invited to review where money was allocated in the approved 2023 budget, and then decide whether they would want to change those allocations. The feedback gained from this tool will help our team understand community priorities as we continue to work on the 2024 budget.

To get started on the Balancing Act tool, visit lawrenceks.abalancingact.com/fy23-budget. It will be available throughout June as budget preparation is underway.

The City Manager's Recommended Budget for 2024 will be presented to City Commission in July 2023. Following the presentation, commissioners will review and collect feedback on the budget from community members. The resolution to the adopt the budget is passed in September 2023, and the complete budget book is finalized by November in order to be ready for 2024!

Join us for Summerfest!

New this year, Summerfest is an all-day Independence Day celebration!

The City of Lawrence is excited for this year's Independence Day celebration, Summerfest 2023! This unmistakably exciting event is coming to the Douglas County Fairgrounds on Monday, July 3.

Festivities will kick off at 10 a.m. with an arts and crafts show. The fun-filled, family-friendly day will include live music, recreation class demonstrations, food trucks, kids activities and more!

Summerfest 2023 will be capped off with a patriotic fireworks display beginning after 9 p.m.

More information will be available on our website ahead of the event: lawrenceks.org/summerfest.

We hope to see you there!

SOLID WASTE SUPERHEROES



Donnie Rucker, Michael Bolden and Antonio Pam (left to right) were working their solid waste collection route on April 5, 2023, when they noticed a nearby house fire. They stopped, reported the fire, and worked together to knock on doors and windows to get the occupants of the house out. The three then stayed with the residents until Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical personnel arrived on scene.

We're so proud to have these employees on Team Lawrence! We thank them for their quick action in helping those in need!