

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



#### TRANSIT POET LAUREATE PROGRAM

Lawrence Transit is launching a Poet Laureate program led by poet and professor Megan Kaminski. The Poet Laureate program offers the chance for Lawrence community members to submit poems to be featured on Lawrence Transit buses and social media in 2024.

The submission deadline is November 1, 2023. You can submit your poem online at: [bit.ly/lawrencetransitpoems](http://bit.ly/lawrencetransitpoems)

*Photo credit: Photos by Pancho Metz*

#### OUR MISSION

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

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

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## Tips for a successful fall planting season

Our horticulture team is responsible for keeping City flower beds, trees and green spaces in tip-top shape throughout the year. As we start fall, they have a few tips for home gardeners.

While spring is the time of year that most people have their mind on their garden, fall is one of the best opportunities both for establishing new plants and doing routine maintenance. Follow our tips to set your garden up for success *before* plants start growing in the spring.

**TIP #1:** Fall is best for seeding lawns, specifically from Sept. 1 – Oct. 15. The cooler nighttime temperatures allow for more efficient watering and there is no competition from annual grassy weeds, like crabgrass.

**TIP #2:** The optimal time to plant most trees is in the fall from September through December. Even though trees go dormant, their roots continue to grow, so you gain additional months toward establishment by planting before the spring. Keep in mind: New trees need water, even when dormant.

**TIP #3:** Perennial plants perform well when planted in the fall. As with trees, they can continue root growth over the winter, which can lead to better blooms come summer. Consider long-blooming plants with interest to local pollinators, such as purple

coneflower, black-eyed Susan, blanket flower and perennial milkweeds.

**TIP #4:** Early spring bulbs like daffodils, hyacinth and tulips are planted in the fall, generally October through December. These bulbs require the freezing temperatures of winter to activate for growing in the spring.

**TIP #5:** If you have an irrigation system, be sure to winterize it before freezing temperatures arrive. We typically experience a freeze by the second week in October, though it can happen earlier. Winterization involves blowing water from the pipes using compressed air, and is best done by a professional or someone with experience.

**TIP #6:** Hate raking leaves? Mulch your leaves instead! Using your mulching lawn mower, chop up leaves as they fall (1-2 times per week), so they don't accumulate heavily or get wet and matted. Dry leaves shred easily into fine particles which quickly decompose into the soil. If you keep up with this regular practice you can avoid raking and actually help recycle nutrients into your lawn. Win-win!

# Big plans ahead for street maintenance

Becoming a more Connected City is one of five outcome areas that shape the City's vision for Lawrence. A Connected City has well-maintained and efficient infrastructure and supports accessible, sustainable methods for safely moving people and information through the community.

To gauge our success with this outcome, we use a community-wide survey and other tools that measure how our residents feel. It's simple: By getting your input and feedback, we can make better choices.

In the 2022 ETC Survey, your comments said you want more funding for improving the condition of our City streets. That's why our team has started work on a five-year street maintenance plan that will invest more than \$80 million in the next five years toward improving streets in our community.

Beyond the investment, there are several other strategies for how we plan to improve your experiences with City streets and transportation, including new engagement tools, additional considerations for accessibility and continued attention toward environmental impacts of our work.

## Interactive Construction Map

We've heard our residents want a better way to learn about construction projects going on around the City. That's why we've created our interactive map for City construction projects: [lawrenceks.org/construction](http://lawrenceks.org/construction). It's a real-time, virtual interface that is updated daily with the latest information on City projects.

With the new map, community members can see upcoming projects, including lane and road closures in their area, and plan their daily commutes accordingly.

## Addressing Accessibility

When looking at street projects, we aim to improve mobility for all residents. By

investing in multimodal transportation, the City's infrastructure becomes more inclusive for all who use it.

Our work on the 23rd St. Reconstruction Project will provide new shared-use paths on both sides of 23rd St., along with improved transit facilities and an added signal for pedestrian crossings at Ponderosa Dr. These improvements will make traveling across our city easier and more accessible for all.

Moving forward, be on the lookout for future work from our team to improve accessibility of sidewalks and install traffic signal timing projects that address accessibility.

## Environmental Impact

Through the passing of the City's Sustainable Projects Policy and our focus on nature-based solutions, we are making a commitment to improving our infrastructure while also maintaining the health and safety of our local environment.

We were selected for the LEED for cities certification program earlier in 2023. As part of the program, our team members will engage with colleagues from across the country as we discuss sustainable ways to bring our vision for Lawrence to life.

Beyond this, the City will continue to use outside verification to ensure we are doing our due diligence in regards to environmental sustainability on all of our City projects, including construction.

Throughout all of our street maintenance efforts, our focus is on our residents, listening to their concerns and taking action when we can. As a City, we'll continue to listen and explore more ways to get your feedback on our efforts.

As always, to sign-up for traffic and construction emails and to learn more about projects taking place in your City, visit [lawrenceks.org/construction](http://lawrenceks.org/construction).



*Pictured: The E 23rd St. Reconstruction Project, which is scheduled to conclude on time in December 2023.*

## RIDE LAWRENCE TRANSIT TO MEMORIAL STADIUM THIS FALL

This football season, leave the stress for in-game moments, not traveling and parking. We're inviting all KU football game attendees to park in Downtown Lawrence then catch a ride to and from Memorial Stadium — all for free!

The Downtown to Memorial Stadium service will be available for all home games. The service will run two hours prior to kick-off and one hour after the game. Signs on the buses will display the route as: #11 Downtown/Football Service.

Bus service will pick up and drop off passengers at only these three stops:

- Riverfront Parking Garage
- Senior Resource Center (745 Vermont)
- Memorial Stadium

Parking will be free in the lower level of the Riverfront Parking Garage and the Vermont Street Parking Garage when KU has a home football game. The service to and from Memorial Stadium is also free for

all passengers as all Lawrence Transit rides are free in 2023.

To get help planning a route or for more information, call (785) 864-4644 or visit the routes pages of our website: [lawrencetransit.org/routes](http://lawrencetransit.org/routes).

