



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



The Prairie Park Nature Center is getting an update! This vital community resource is expanding its footprint and nature-focused programming thanks to an Open Space grant from the Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council. The grant funds a multi-faceted project focused on Mary's Lake that involves restoring shoreline habitat, building a larger fishing dock, updating educational signage, and expanding conservational programming. The project will include a collaboration for internships with students at Haskell Indian Nations University.

Prairie Park anticipates wrapping up the project by May 2026.



Checking in on Downtown Development

Exciting changes are coming to Downtown Lawrence with several new projects actively in the works. The area is always hustling and bustling with activity – and right now it's booming with new development!

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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Press Yards is a redevelopment project that will convert approximately 70,000 square feet of vacant industrial space into an energetic, mixed-use office, entertainment, and retail space. Located on the east side of Massachusetts St. between 6th & 7th streets – in the former Lawrence Journal-World building – this project will also bring the famous Kansas City-based barbeque restaurant Q39 to Lawrence.

The **Turnhalle building** is an iconic historic structure located at the corner of 9th & Rhode Island streets. Originally constructed in 1869, this is the oldest standing community building in the city and has been the subject of remarkable preservation achievements.

Currently, this building is being restored to its original use as a community gathering space. The main floor will have a stage and balcony, and is naturally suited for theater, music performances, movies and special events. The basement will have a restaurant to support the main level as well as operate independently.

New apartments are coming to 815 and 821 Vermont St., filling two long-time vacant lots. The buildings will have commercial space on the main floor with one- and two-bedroom apartments on the second and third floors.

Located on the east side of the 1000 block of New Hampshire Street, **New Hampshire Street Lofts** will be a four-story, mixed-use, affordable housing development project for senior residents.

The first floor will have approximately 15,000 square feet of live-work space and the three upper levels will have 54,000 square feet of affordable senior housing. Amenities will include a community room, exercise facility, computer room with free Wi-Fi, rooftop deck, and green space.

Finally, the City is working to redevelop three of its parking lots into **mixed-use developments**: 711 New Hampshire St., 1020 Vermont St., and 826 Vermont St. These pedestrian-friendly projects are expected to add commercial and residential space to enhance the overall vision of Downtown.

Bulk Pick-Up 101

What you need to know for a hassle-free move

With all the hustle and bustle of the Summer move-in and move-out season, it's easy to forget that bulk items, such as couches, appliances, and electronics, need special attention when it comes to disposal. Here's what you need to know to keep your move smooth and our city streets clean!

No Free Rides for Bulk Items

One common misconception is that bulk items will be picked up free of charge. Unfortunately, that's not the case. When you submit a bulk pick-up request, if the amount of bulk items is excessive or any items are subject to fees, a supervisor will evaluate the site to assess the appropriate cost for the pickup.

These charges will then appear on your next utility bill. So, it's a good idea to be prepared and understand our bulk-pickup process.

How to Schedule a Pickup

Scheduling a pick-up for bulky items is a breeze. Just call us at 785-832-3032 or fill out the online form at lawrenceks.org/swm/trash. Whether it's a trusty old couch, a clunky appliance, or even automobile tires, we've got you covered.

To ensure your bulk items are picked up without any hiccups, plan ahead. Make sure to submit your request well in advance and keep an eye out for any additional charges that may apply. By being proactive, you can avoid surprises and ensure a smooth move-out process.

Recycle and Reuse

Before you throw something out, think about recycling! Obsolete electronic equipment, cardboard boxes, newspapers, plastic bags, and many other recyclable materials don't belong in the trash.

Search the online Recyclable Materials Directory at lawrenceks.org/swm/recycling for local options. Not only will you be helping the environment, but you might also find new homes for items that still have some life left in them.

Let's Keep Lawrence Clean

Moving is already a big job, but with a little bit of planning and these handy tips, disposing of bulk items can be one less thing to worry about.

Remember, keeping our city clean and green is a team effort. By following these guidelines, you'll be doing your part to make Lawrence a better place for everyone.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

October events & happenings

Autumn Harvest Festival

Enjoy being out and about during the beautiful fall weather during the Autumn Harvest Festival! The event will be held outdoors in South Park, 1141 Massachusetts St., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, October 13.

The festival features handmade and commercial goods such as jewelry, paintings, textiles, pottery, home décor, and much more from local artists and entrepreneurs!

If you're interested in having a booth at the fair, contact Parks, Recreation, Arts & Culture: prspecialevents@lawrenceks.org.

Walktober

Walktober – happening throughout the month of October – encourages fitness for all ages and ability levels. We'll be hosting four different group walks along the Lawrence Loop throughout the month. There is no amount anyone has to walk at these events; you're invited to come as you are and walk as far as you'd like!

We will be walking four portions of the loop, one section at a time.

- October 3: We'll meet in the parking lot at Sports Pavilion, 100 Rock Chalk Lane, at 5:30 p.m.
- October 10: We'll meet in the Youth Sports Complex parking lot, 4911 E 27th St., at 5:30 p.m.
- October 17: We'll meet at the Baker Wetlands Discovery Center parking

lot, 1365 N 1250 Rd., at 5:30 p.m.

- October 24: We'll meet at the Constant Park parking lot or park in the lot at 6th & Kentucky, 230 W. 6th St., at 5:30 p.m.

There is no registration needed for these events and they are free to attend. We hope to see you out on the Loop this fall!

Halloween Paint In

The City has partnered with the Lawrence Breakfasts Optimists and Downtown Lawrence, Inc. to hold the 53rd Annual Halloween Paint In! This year's event will be from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, October 19.

As in the past we are requesting downtown merchants donate one or more windows for participants to paint. All participants must turn in a sketch in advance of the event for approval, and then will use tempera paint mixed with cleaner to allow for easy cleaning and removal.

This event is for anyone in grades 3 and above – and adults are welcome too! It is free to participate but pre-registration is required. If you would like to participate, you will need to email a sketch of your intended window art to Abby Bush-Wilder, communications and events coordinator: awilder@lawrenceks.org. After your sketch is approved, a link to register will be provided.

Photos below from 2023 Downtown Lawrence Halloween Paint In.

