

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



Our Parks, Recreation and Culture department is working with the Lawrence Public Library to make it easier to pick up and return library materials. Library users can now return materials at two Parks, Recreation and Culture locations: Prairie Park Nature Center and Sports Pavilion Lawrence.

In May, both locations are also getting new book lockers to hold pickups! Our friends at Lawrence Public Library will be sharing more information on the new locations as they have it, so stay tuned to their website for all the latest: lplks.org.



New Land Development Code now in effect!

As of April 1, 2025, the City of Lawrence has a new Land Development Code, which includes a number of significant changes to improve commercial and residential developments in Lawrence, including the below.

Maximum standards for parking spaces for commercial developments. The new code has maximum parking standards instead of minimum amounts of required parking, which should help drive down the cost of development by no longer requiring specified amounts of parking to meet the building's size.

"Missing Middle" housing to increase affordability. The new code allows for the development of housing that is more than a duplex but less than an apartment complex, for example accessory dwelling units, attached dwellings such as three- and four-plexes, courtyard development, and small lot development. This should help get more housing types mixed into neighborhood developments, which brings more units at different price points to the housing market.

Infill residential development standards for neighborhood compatibility. The new code has Residential Design Standards and Guidelines as well as infill standards so new developments have to match the style of the surrounding area, meaning matching lot

widths, distance to neighbors, distance from streets, etc. This ensures structures and lots look similar.

Neighborhoods with mixed-use commercial businesses. The code refines smaller commercial options and puts more emphasis on mixing uses. This sets it up so smaller businesses could fit within a neighborhood instead of limiting businesses to separate commercial districts.

Environmental protections throughout the code. In an effort for the City of Lawrence to meet our commitment to environmental sustainability, we've added land disturbance/grading requirements, and we've introduced stream buffers, which protect waterway corridors throughout our community.

LDC USER GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE

This is just a snapshot of what's new in the Land Development Code, which is why the City created a user guide that offers a shorter, easier-to-understand way to read the most commonly used parts of the code. The user guide is online at lawrenceks.org/pds.

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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Get Ready for Summerfest 2025!

Summerfest 2025 will bring fun, flavor, and festivities to the Douglas County Fairgrounds on July 3, 2025! Gather your friends and family for an unforgettable day filled with live music, mouthwatering food trucks, and endless entertainment.

- Explore the artisan fair, where local makers, artists, and vendors will showcase handmade goods.
- Enjoy performances from talented musicians throughout the day!
- Bring the whole family for games and activities in the Kids Zone.
- Be amazed by a spectacular drone show, lighting up the night sky.

Mark your calendars, spread the word, and join us for Summerfest 2025!



SUMMERFEST
JULY 3RD 3PM - 10 PM

DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
2120 HARPER STREET
MAIN GROUNDS & BUILDING 21

- Live Music
- Artisan Fair
- Food Trucks
- Drone Show
- Kids Zone & More!

Lawrence KANSAS

MORE INFO: WWW.LAWRENCEKS.ORG/LPRD/SPECIALEVENTS/ARTSANDCRAFTS/

MAY IS AFFORDABLE HOUSING MONTH

Updates on Recent Affordable Housing Trust Fund Awardees

The City of Lawrence works with affordable housing partners as part of A Place For Everyone, our community plan to end chronic homelessness. Simply put, our goals for affordable housing are two-fold:

- Increase the amount of affordable rental and homeownership properties
- Improve access to affordable housing that already exists

One way the City supports affordable housing is the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The following includes updates on a few of the projects funded from 2022-2024.

The Estates of Lawrence *2022 AHTF grantee*

The Estates of Lawrence is a townhome community for seniors 55 and older. The development received \$400,000 in

funding as part of the 2024 grant cycle. They were able to build 38 units in 2024 with most rented out to eligible households, including four households making less than 30% of the area median income and four households making 30-50% of the area median income.

Emergency Rent & Utilities Assistance *2024 AHTF grantee*

The rent and utility assistance programs from the Housing Stabilization Collaborative help ensure households who are cost-burdened – or spending more than 30% of their income on housing – can stay in their homes. The programs decrease housing insecurity by intervening in household crises and even providing supports beyond financial assistance.

The Housing Stabilization Collaborative's

goal was to provide 364 households with more affordable housing options, and that goal was surpassed. In 2024 they were able to support 468 households.

As part of the programs, the Housing Stabilization Collaborative makes follow-up phone calls after the assistance period. Of the 409 calls in 2024, 97% stated they were still housed at the time of the phone call.

Accessible Safe Housing for Seniors *2023 AHTF grantee*

The Accessible, Safe Housing for Seniors program from the Senior Resource Center provides financial aid to low-income seniors for projects that allow seniors to remain safely in their home, preventing or delaying institutional or facility care.

From 2023 through 2024, 12 projects were completed for eleven Lawrence seniors. As of last report, all eleven individuals are successfully still in their home.

Harper 7 *2022 AHTF grantee*

The Harper 7 site, which is an affordable housing development from Tenants to Homeowners, is now complete. The original unit from that parcel was rehabbed and sold in 2023, and six new construction units were completed and sold to income-eligible buyers in 2024.

This site, Harper 7, once hosted only a single home but is now a bustling community of seven neighbors. Site amenities include on-site parking and a rain garden.

Pictured left: The Estates of Lawrence.

