

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



The trails at Prairie Park Nature Center just got a lot more exciting! We've added eight big interpretive signs that showcase the diverse wildlife, flora, history, and unique ecosystems found along our main mile loop.

But that's not all!

You can also explore twelve interactive Nature's Narrative signs that let you scan and listen to fascinating environmental highlights throughout the park.

The new signage was made possible with support from the Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council.



## Mark your calendar for Fall Fun!

Our Parks, Recreation and Culture team is planning a variety of activities for Lawrence residents to enjoy this autumn.

### Monarch Tagging on the Prairie

Join Prairie Park Nature Center for a free Monarch Tagging event amidst the blooms of our prairie in its full glory! This free event is Saturday, Sept. 27 from 9-11 a.m.

Tagging helps scientists track monarch migration routes and monitor population health, guiding efforts to protect these iconic pollinators and their habitats.

We'll provide all the supplies — tags, butterfly nets, and expert guidance — so you can help gently catch, tag, and release monarchs as they migrate south. Come on down to connect with conservation, community, and the magic of the monarchs.

### Walktober | Walk the Loop

Looking for a fun way to get outside in the cool October temperatures? Join us at 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays this October (Oct. 2, Oct. 9, Oct. 16 and Oct. 23) to explore the Lawrence Loop for Walktober!

Each week we will discover a new part of the trail in one to four mile segments.

Just starting your walking journey? No problem! Walkers can go as far as desired

each week with no pressure to reach a finish line or end destination.

Come as you are and connect with fellow community members! Walk the Loop is a FREE event to the public and no registration is required. Just wear your walking shoes.

Visit [lawrenceks.org/lprd/specialevents](http://lawrenceks.org/lprd/specialevents) for information on where to meet each week.

### Autumn Harvest Festival

Celebrate the Season at the Autumn Harvest Festival! Join us from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 5, in South Park for our only outdoor artisan fair of the year!

This year's festival will feature:

- Handmade goods
- Food Trucks
- Live Music
- Kids Zone

Stroll through the park and explore handcrafted treasures from talented local artisans, including jewelry, paintings, textiles, pottery, home décor, and more! Don't miss this chance to shop local and embrace the beauty of the harvest season.

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.

The Flame is published by the City of  
Lawrence, 785-832-3000



*Fall Fun, continued from front page*

### Halloween Paint-In

Come join us in spreading Halloween spirit through Downtown Lawrence! The City of Lawrence, Downtown Lawrence, Inc. and the Lawrence Breakfast Optimists Club will hold the Halloween Paint-In on Saturday, Oct. 18. Participants will paint Halloween or fall designs on downtown windows.

This event is free and open to anyone in the third grade and older. Participants must be pre-registered and submit a sketch in advance to Abby Bush-Wilder: [awilder@lawrenceks.org](mailto:awilder@lawrenceks.org). The registration deadline is 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 3.

### Spooktacular Night at Prairie Park Nature Center

Join us from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25 for a Spooktacular Night at Prairie Park Nature Center! Dress in costume, enjoy trick-or-treating, and explore the center for

a unique sensory experience. We will provide red lights for viewing our resident critters in the dark.

See nocturnal animals in action and enjoy activities like picking out balloon animals,

playing games, a dance party to Halloween jams, and indulging in a caramel apple bar!

Attendees ages three and up are \$10. Children aged 2 and under are admitted free of charge with a registered adult.



## Protect Our Stormwater: Keep Hazardous Waste Out of Our Drains

Ever wonder where stormwater goes after it runs off your driveway or street? Straight to our creeks, rivers, and streams – untreated. That means anything that makes its way into a storm drain goes right along for the ride.

Unfortunately, we sometimes see things in the stormwater system that don't belong there: paint, pesticides, lawn chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze... even the occasional bucket of mystery liquid.

These "illicit discharges" can harm aquatic life, pollute drinking water sources, and make it harder for everyone to enjoy our local waterways.

In Lawrence, our stormwater eventually flows into the Kansas River and the Wakarusa River – both of which are critical for local ecosystems and recreation.

Chemicals like pesticides can disrupt the food chain for fish, oil can coat and suffocate aquatic habitats, and antifreeze (which is toxic to pets and wildlife) can spread quickly downstream. Even paint can release heavy metals and solvents that harm the health of our streams.

### The Easy Fix: The Household Hazardous Waste Facility

Here's the good news: there's an easy way to keep hazardous waste out of the storm drains and out of the environment. The Lawrence-Douglas County Household Hazardous Waste Facility (HHW) is here to help!

At the HHW Facility, you can safely drop off:

- Paint & paint thinners (instead of letting them wash away, where they can release harmful chemicals into water supplies)
- Motor oil & antifreeze (which can contaminate soil and groundwater if poured out improperly)
- Pesticides & lawn chemicals (which can kill beneficial insects, birds, and pollinators)
- Household cleaners & solvents (which can change water pH and harm aquatic life)

### A Second Life for Good Products

Not everything you bring in goes straight to disposal. Usable materials like paint, cleaning products, and garden chemicals can find a second life through the Product Reuse Store. That means fewer resources wasted and more items put back to good use – all at no cost to residents.

### How to Make it Happen

Dropping off your items at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility has never been easier. The facility operates by appointment only, making your visit quick, convenient, and tailored to your schedule.

You'll find the HHW Facility at 2201 Kresge Road in Lawrence. It's open Tuesday through Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. by appointment, and on select Saturdays for those who can't make it during the

week.

And it's not just for drop-offs – the Product Reuse Store is open during the same appointment times.

You can schedule a visit to browse free, good-quality items like paint, cleaners, and lawn care products that have been turned in but are still perfectly usable.

Making an appointment is simple:

- Go to [lawrenceks.org/swm/hhw](http://lawrenceks.org/swm/hhw)
- Select a date and time that works for you (for drop-off or Product Reuse Store visits)
- Gather your items – or your shopping list – for your appointment
- Come to the HHW Facility, and our friendly team will take care of the rest

By using the HHW Facility, you're helping to protect our Kansas River and Wakarusa River, keep hazardous waste out of the landfill, and support a cleaner, healthier Lawrence for people, pets, and wildlife.

"Every drop of oil, every splash of paint we keep out of the stormwater system makes a difference," said Jonathan Gutierrez, Environmental Manager for the City of Lawrence. "When residents take hazardous waste to the HHW Facility, they're directly protecting the health of our rivers and our community."

Learn more about the HHW at: [lawrenceks.org/swm/hhw](http://lawrenceks.org/swm/hhw).