

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

Summer Fun Across Lawrence

Your guide to activities for all ages this summer



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The 2026 artworks for the Unmistakable Public Art Exhibition will be featured in the Otocast app for self-guided tours around downtown Lawrence.

You can download the Otocast app from both the Apple App and Google Play stores.

More information about the Unmistakable Public Art Exhibition is on the City website: lawrenceks.gov/prc/upae.

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

City information is available at lawrenceks.gov and on cable Channel 25.

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This summer is shaping up to be a fun and active time across Lawrence, and Parks, Recreation and Culture is inviting the whole community to join in.

From family events and outdoor adventures to fitness opportunities and evenings at the pool, there are plenty of ways to stay connected, explore something new, and make the most of summer.

National Parks and Recreation Month is celebrated each July, and this year's calendar is packed with opportunities for all ages. Families can kick off the month with Ice Cream in the Park on July 1 at South Park, featuring free ice cream, games, and activities for the community. Summerfest returns July 4 with food trucks, live entertainment, a kids zone, and a drone show celebrating Independence Day and America's 250th.

Looking for ways to stay active? Residents can enjoy free and low-cost activities throughout the month, including:

- Tai Chi in the Park
- Glow Pickleball Tournament
- Free Youth Skateboarding Class
- Sand Volleyball After Dark
- And opportunities to bike the Lawrence Loop or explore one of Lawrence's many parks and trails.

Outdoor enthusiasts can also enjoy kayaking at Mary's Lake, the Moonlight Safari at Prairie Park Nature Center, or a round of golf at Eagle Bend Golf Course.

Dog lovers won't want to miss Bark at the Park on July 23 at Mutt Run Park, and music fans can enjoy the long-running Summer Band Concert Series at South Park.

The Outdoor Aquatic Center offers public swim opportunities all season long, including slides and water features for a range of ages. Adults ages 18 and older can attend Adult Swim Night on July 17, and families can close out National Parks and Recreation Month at the Family Glow Dance on July 31 with music, crafts, pizza, and activities for all ages.

Aquatic Center Hours

The Outdoor Aquatic Center will be open Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, from 1–6 p.m. Regular summer hours begin May 26, with daily public swim and lap swim opportunities throughout the season.

Outdoor Aquatic Center (May 26–August 23)
Public Swimming:

- Memorial Day Hours: 1–6 p.m.
- Monday–Friday: 1–7:30 p.m.
- Saturday & Sunday: 1–6 p.m.

Indoor Aquatic Center Hours (5/26–7/25)
Lap Swimming:

- Monday–Friday: 6:30 a.m.– 12:45 p.m.
- Monday–Thursday: 4:00–7:30 p.m.
- Saturday: 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
- Sunday: CLOSED

Residents can explore the activities calendar and register for programs at lawrenceks.gov/prc. Additional information about the aquatic centers can be found at lawrenceks.gov/prc/aquatics.

Planning a Move Soon?

Use These Easy Tips for a Low Stress Move

Many apartment leases in Lawrence will turn over at the end of July, which means moving season is almost in full swing!

While moving can be complicated, we have a few tips to keep in mind. Please remember: By taking the time to plan ahead, you can make your move a much better experience for all involved!

Bulk Pickup 101: Plan Ahead for a Smoother Move

Moving season can create a lot of extra material at the curb, especially large items like couches, appliances, mattresses, electronics, and tires. A little planning helps keep your move on track, keep streets and sidewalks clear, and helps City crews collect items safely and efficiently.

Large Items Need to Be Scheduled

Large or bulky items are not collected as part of regular trash service. If you have items that do not fit in your trash cart, please schedule a Large Item Pickup before placing them out for collection.

Depending on the type or amount of materials, fees may apply. If a pickup includes excessive material or items that require a fee, a Solid Waste supervisor may review the site and determine the appropriate charge. Any applicable charges will appear on your utility bill.

How to Request a Pickup

To schedule a Large Item Pickup, call Solid Waste Customer Service at 785-832-3032 or submit a request online at lawrenceks.gov/swm/trash

Please submit your request as early as possible, especially during busy summer move-in and move-out periods. Planning ahead helps avoid delays and makes it easier for crews to serve your location.

Before You Toss It, Check Your Options

Not all items are safe to put in your trash or recycling cart. Electronics, lightbulbs, batteries, and other hazardous waste require special care and proper disposal.

Schedule an appointment to dispose of items at our Household Hazardous Waste facility by visiting our website at lawrenceks.gov/swm/hhw.

Find local recycling and disposal options for other items: lawrenceks.gov/recycling.

Help Keep Lawrence Clean

Moving is a big job, but proper disposal does not have to be confusing. Scheduling large item pickups, checking recycling options, and keeping carts and sidewalks clear helps protect neighborhoods, support safe collection and keep Lawrence clean for everyone.

Public Art Meets the World Cup

The City of Lawrence is delighted to showcase the artworks selected for this year's Unmistakable Public Art Exhibition.

This year's exhibition celebrates the spirit of the World Cup through six unique artworks, each offering a different creative perspective on public art and the world's favorite game.

- *Soka Kila Mahali/Soccer Everywhere* by Gary Mark Smith – photo collage on banner at Lawrence City Hall, 6 E 6th St. (pictured on front page)
- *Gestura* by Nathaniel Pierce – stainless steel and acrylic sculpture at the southwest corner of 7th and Massachusetts streets
- *Fútbol 50 v 50* by Randall Warren – painted steel sculpture at the Lawrence Public Library plaza, 707 Vermont St. (pictured right)
- *Close up, Far Out* and *Six Sides of Connection* by Alicia Kelly – cut window graphics displayed at 812 Massachusetts St. and The Roost, 920 Massachusetts St.

- *FRGMNTS {WRLD CP 26}* by Javy Ortiz – painted panels in steel frame, located on the sidewalk east of Massachusetts St. between 8th and 9th streets
- *Lawrence United F.C. Wearable Public Art as Cultural Narrative* by Tim Hossler and Lizzy Arnold – fútbol wearables at select retailers on Massachusetts St. during World Cup

Five of the six artworks will be on display throughout downtown this summer, while the sixth project features Lawrence-inspired fútbol wearable public art that will be available at select shops in Downtown Lawrence.



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Summer Water Usage Tips

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!

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.
- Water your garden by hand or use drip irrigation rather than sprinklers.
- Use a rain barrel to capture water to water your garden.
- Use a rain gauge to determine when your lawn needs water and to measure how much you're applying. Generally, turf grasses need $\frac{3}{4}$ -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:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 on our website: lawrenceks.gov/utility-billing/inclining-block

Help us conserve water during the hotter months while keeping your bill cool!