

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



### Save the Date: Spring Artisan Fair

On May 2, 2026, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., join us in the Holcom Park Recreation Center gymnasium (indoors) for a showcase of the finest handmade goods from local artisans. The annual show highlights a variety of creations from community entrepreneurs, including jewelry, paintings, textiles, pottery, home décor and more!

### OUR MISSION

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

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

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## Get to know our new Director of Economic Development: Susie Carson

“Businesses truly are the backbone of a community. If I can play even a small part in strengthening that foundation, it is meaningful to me,” said Carson

In January, Susie Carson began her new role as the Economic Development Director for the City of Lawrence – and she’s hitting the ground running! With more than 15 years of economic development and chamber leadership experience, she brings a strong record of supporting business retention, public-private partnerships, workforce development, and regional economic strategy to our community.

While economic development can look different in every community, the job generally includes supporting existing businesses, welcoming thoughtful new investment, helping people develop the skills needed for our workforce, and encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship. These efforts strengthen the local tax base, which helps support our unmistakably vibrant community.

“At its core, economic development is about maintaining and supporting a vibrant community,” said Carson.

“What draws me to this work is how interconnected it all is. While my role focuses on supporting business growth, sustainability, and thoughtful investment, the work ultimately supports families by providing jobs, additional housing, places to gather and dine, and the overall tax base that funds essential services, our quality of life, and the unique character of the community.”

Upon joining the City of Lawrence, Carson has been focused on understanding the current economic development ecosystem and the community’s long-range goals. Her priorities include supporting business growth and expanding our local tax base, while staying aligned with the community’s values and building on the positive momentum already in place in Lawrence.

“I want to be sure our efforts reflect the priorities of our community,” said Carson.



Prior to joining the City of Lawrence, Carson most recently served as Vice President of Membership & Sponsorship Investments at the Olathe Chamber of Commerce where she partnered closely with the City of Olathe to support business expansion efforts, contribute to investment-related discussions, and engage investors and stakeholders in initiatives that promoted Olathe’s economic vitality and help position the community for future investment.

In addition to her role in Lawrence, she is currently working on completing her Master of Public Administration at Wichita State University and is nearing completion of her Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) credential.

“I’ve only been in this role for a few weeks, but I’m truly grateful for the warm welcome I’ve received,” said Carson. “I look forward to continuing to learn more about the community’s vision, opportunities, and challenges, and to approach this role with curiosity, collaboration, and a deep respect for what makes Lawrence unique.”

# Join our Earth Day activities!

Earth Day is an opportunity for our community to come together, raise our voices, and show our love for Planet Earth. This year, the worldwide Earth Day theme is Our Power, Our Planet.

The City of Lawrence is celebrating on Saturday, April 18, with a variety of community-focused activities to keep you busy throughout the day. Additional information on upcoming Earth Day activities will be on the City website: [lawrenceks.gov/sustainability/earth-day](http://lawrenceks.gov/sustainability/earth-day).



## Lawrence Earth Day Fair

Since 2023, the City of Lawrence and the Watkins Museum of History have partnered to host the Lawrence Earth Day Fair. During this annual event, dozens of organizations gather in South Park to offer family-friendly crafts, activities, and information about protecting our planet.

The 2026 Lawrence Earth Day Fair will be from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, April 18, in South Park. Together, let's spread awareness of the earth's amazing natural resources and how we can protect them!

## Kansas Riverbank Cleanup

The Annual Friends of the Kaw Earth Day Kansas River Cleanup will be from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 18. As an event sponsor, the City of Lawrence invites community members to volunteer with Friends of the Kaw to pick up debris along the banks of the Kansas River.

More information and an opportunity to sign up will be on their website closer to the event: [kansasriver.org](http://kansasriver.org).

## Four Quick Recycling Tips

### Keep it loose – no “nesting” items

If recyclables are stuffed inside a cardboard box (or bag), they're hard to sort at the facility and often get treated as trash. Dump your loose items into your blue cart.

### No plastic bags or plastic film

Plastic bags (and plastic film) are not accepted in your blue bins and can tangle sorting equipment and cause shutdowns. Please keep items loose in the cart and never place recyclables inside plastic bags.

### Skip small “bits”

If it's smaller than a credit card, it doesn't belong in the blue cart! Straws, loose bottle caps, utensils, shredded paper, and tiny packaging pieces fall through sorting lines and contaminate other materials.

### Keep hazardous items out

Batteries and electronics are safety hazards and can often cause fires. Scrap metal can damage sorting equipment. These items are not accepted in our blue carts.

Make an appointment with the Household Hazardous Waste facility to drop off batteries and other hazardous waste.

## Compost Facility Opens for 2026 Season

The City of Lawrence Compost Facility, 1420 E. 11th St., is scheduled to open for the 2026 season on Saturday, March 7 (weather permitting). It will be open Saturdays from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. for City residents only (proof of residency required).

The compost facility is available for the community to either drop off yard waste or load and take away compost and woodchips from the facility.

### Yard Waste Drop-Off

Yard waste drop-off is for Lawrence residents only (proof of residency is required). Drop-offs are limited to grass, leaves, and small brush – if it's not one of those three, it can't be accepted.

- Absolutely no plastic bags
- Brush must not be longer than 4 feet
- Brush must not be more than 8 inches in diameter
- Brush must be loose, no ties of any kind
- Leaves and grass may be loose, or in kraft paper bags only
- Drop-offs start at \$10 for small loads. Large loads may cost more.

### Self-Load and City-Load Events

The City offers compost and woodchips for Lawrence residents to collect at the Compost Facility (proof of residency required). Compost and woodchips are not intended for commercial applications.

Self-loaded compost and woodchips cost \$10 per truckload. Small quantities of less than or equal to 20 gallons are free.

The City also offers City-load days at the Compost Facility throughout the year to allow customers to have compost and/or mulch loaded into their trucks or trailers by City staff using loading equipment. All compost facility guidelines are still in effect during City-load events (we do not allow self-load during city load events).

To help with traffic control, a limit of one scoop will be in effect until 11th St. is free of vehicles. Those wishing to haul two or three scoops of material are encouraged to come after 10:30 a.m., though the availability of multiple scoops is not guaranteed. Scoop

limits will be at the discretion of staff and will be determined on site. Please note: the one scoop limit is a total limit per vehicle, not per material.

Compost and wood chips loaded into trucks or trailers by City staff using loading equipment costs \$15 per scoop. One scoop typically fills a pickup truck bed.

2026 City-Load Dates (9 a.m. – 1 p.m.):

- April 4 (Residents only)
- May 2 (Open to all)
- June 6 (Open to all)
- October 3 (Open to all)

\*\*These dates are subject to change depending on weather and material availability.

### COMPOST FACILITY GUIDELINES

- Customers must bring their own tools (e.g., shovels, pitchforks) to load and unload.
- Personal motorized loading equipment (e.g., skid steer) is not allowed.
- Gates to the facility will close promptly at 1 p.m. All customers must be out of the facility by closing time.
- Do NOT stop on the railroad tracks while waiting to enter the facility.
- All transactions are CASH ONLY. Please bring exact change.
- Absolutely no bills larger than \$20 will be accepted.
- No self-load or drop-offs during city-load event days.
- Drop-off and self-load events are for Lawrence residents only.
- City-load events are open to everyone (except our April event for residents ONLY)