

INSIDE GARDNER

SUMMER 2023



PREVENTING ILLICIT DISCHARGE TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY

Stormwater runoff is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. It flows from rooftops, paved areas, bare soil, and lawns into storm drains or ditches. Storm sewers and ditches collect stormwater runoff and empty it directly to local bodies of water. Ideally, stormwater runoff would be free of contaminants. In reality, it picks up pollutants such as animal waste, pesticides, fertilizers, salt, oil and grease, soil and debris and transports them to waterways where they are discharged without treatment. This is stormwater pollution, also known as illicit discharge. Learn more about this pollution and the steps the public can take to help protect the city's water quality.

WHAT IS AN ILLICIT DISCHARGE?

Any polluting substance, liquid or solid that enters the city's storm sewer system that is not entirely comprised of stormwater runoff. Illicit discharge generally occurs by direct dumping or suspension of the pollutant in runoff during storm events.

WHY IS ILLICIT DISCHARGE HARMFUL?

These substances enter downstream creeks, ponds and lakes, threatening animal life and contaminating the public's drinking water supply. Some illicitly discharged material can even contribute to harmful algal blooms in downstream water bodies that can be dangerous and even fatal to fish populations, household pets and human life.

Common illicit discharges include:

- Motor oil and other automotive fluids
- Paints
- Construction materials (including soil erosion and concrete wash water)
- Cooking oil and grease
- Solvents
- Sanitary sewage
- Cleaners, soaps and detergents
- Pesticides, fertilizers and weed killers

HOW CAN RESIDENTS HELP PREVENT ILLICIT DISCHARGE?

- Never dump anything down storm drains.
- Prevent outdoor spills using drip pans or drop cloths to contain fluids.
- Immediately clean spills with cat litter, sawdust or other absorbent material. Follow proper disposal methods when finished.
- Store liquid chemicals, cleaners and other fluids indoors or under cover in leak-proof containers.
- Follow the manufacturer's application directions when using lawn fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides. Sweep granular applications of these products back into your lawn and off of streets, sidewalks and driveways. Never fertilize ahead of predicted rainfall events or over-apply these products, as this can result in high concentrations of them entering the city's storm sewer system. This harms the downstream waterways and provides no benefit to your lawn.
- Do not dispose of grass clippings, leaves or other yard wastes into stormwater inlets. Sweep or blow grass clippings back into your yard and compost or properly dispose of other yard waste.
- Properly dispose of household hazardous wastes. Many can be disposed of or recycled through Johnson County's Household Hazardous Waste program. Visit www.jocogov.org/departments/environment/hazardous-materials for more information.

To report a suspected stormwater discharge violation, visit gardnerkansas.gov/reportillicitdischarge. Further information on the restriction of illicit discharges can be found in Chapter 14.20 of Gardner's Municipal Code at www.gardnerkansas.gov/government/city-code.

CONSTRUCTION FOR NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH'S NEW BUILDING UNDERWAY

In late fall of this year, New Life Community Church will open its doors to its new building on 188th Street, east of Gardner Road. Outgrowing their current location, the new 51,546-square-foot facility will provide plenty of space for worship services, community activities, and for their New Life Christian Academy, a K-4th grade school. The additional space will provide a large parking area, outside benches, and a walking path connected to the South Center Street Trail. Visit newlifegardner.com for more information.





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A message from

MAYOR TODD WINTERS

It's summertime! The warm temperatures will surely bring the smell of barbeques and the crack of the bat as baseball and softball leagues begin to play.

This is a busy time of the year for our Parks and Recreation Department. Two projects will kick off very soon: the installation of our new inclusive playground at Veterans Park and the Quail Meadows Trail Project.

Of course, summer means that it is time for our annual Independence Day Festival at Celebration Park! This year's free concert will feature Jameson Rodgers with an awesome firework show afterward!

Speaking of fireworks, I want to remind everyone that fireworks are legal in Gardner from July 2-4. We are happy that many citizens can enjoy this activity with their friends and family. As always, please be considerate of others. Only shoot them during the legal times, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., and clean up at the end of each night.

Last year, thanks to a generous donation from Wal-Mart, we provided free noise-canceling headphones to those with sensory issues or PTSD. We also partnered with Gardner Pet Supply to provide free calming pet treats. We had such a great response last year, and we plan to have these items available again this year.

August brings two great family activities to our community. I am excited to see that the Johnson County parade is returning on August 5! And August 19 and 20, we welcome back the Blue Angels to Gardner as part of the 2023 Air Show!

Housing continues to thrive as Cypress Creek, just east of the High School, has started construction. Additionally, we are working on a proposal to bring much-needed senior housing to the undeveloped land between Grand Star Elementary School and the railroad tracks. We anticipate this project will include villas and independent and dependent living for our senior community.

On the retail side, Transport Brewery has opened its doors downtown, and MY Play Café opened on S. Moonlight Road. A new convenience store will soon begin construction on the east side of I-35 as part of the Grata Project. We anticipate more retail businesses to follow them soon! The old Price Chopper building has been undergoing a major reconstruction, dividing it into four separate spaces with their own entrances. As of this writing, there are no confirmed tenants, but look for that to change soon!

Have a great summer, and I look forward to seeing you at one of our many events!

As always, I am proud to be your Mayor!

CITY RECEIVES GRANT FOR SOUTH CENTER STREET TRAIL REPLACEMENT PROJECT

On June 6, at Veterans Memorial Park, Governor Laura Kelly announced Gardner as a Kansas Department of Transportation Cost-Share* recipient for its South Center Street Trail Replacement Project.

Built in 2003, the South Center Street Trail runs along Center Street, from Grand Street to 189th Terrace. After many years of wear and tear, the trail greatly needs remediation and replacement. The pavement replacement will provide residents with an easy and accessible space for walking and biking to improve their physical health and enjoy the outdoors, and to access services and amenities along the corridor. The improvements will also encourage more pedestrian activity by making it safer and more accessible for all users, including those with mobility limitations and other disabilities. Additionally, it will provide a safer route to area schools, allowing more students to walk or bike.

The project will go before the City Council for approval and to determine the project schedule.

* The Cost Share Program provides financial assistance to local entities for construction projects that improve safety, leverage state funds to increase total transportation investment, and help the rural and urban areas of the state improve the transportation system.

GRILLING SAFELY

Every year, thousands of Americans are injured while using backyard barbecue grills. And with outdoor grilling season here, Johnson County Fire District #1 wanted to remind even the most experienced grillmaster about safety precautions they should adhere to before firing up the grill.



- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- Keep grills clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and trays.
- Never leave grill unattended.
- Always make sure gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

CHARCOAL GRILLS

- If you use a starter fluid, only use charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.



PROPANE LEAKS

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and contact the fire department. Do not move the grill. If the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least 5 minutes before re-lighting it.

WATER QUALITY REPORT AVAILABLE ONLINE

The City of Gardner's 2023 Consumer Confidence Report on water quality is now available at gardnerkansas.gov/waterqualityreport2023. The city offers this annual report for review to assure residents that the public water system provides safe, clean and dependable water according to state and federal regulations. The report covers the previous calendar year and includes water quality data, such as water sources and sample testing results. Results show that the city continues to meet water quality standards per the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Environmental Protection Agency guidelines. Citizens can request a hard copy of the findings by contacting the Utility Department at (913) 856-0980.

NEW PATROL UNIT

Gardner Police Department has incorporated a new patrol unit in its inventory. Due to supply chain issues, the department purchased a white SUV and striped it with blue lettering - a change from its traditional black vehicles with white lettering. The SUV will be assigned primarily as a Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) unit for conducting commercial vehicle inspections, but will also be used for general patrol. Once fully equipped, it will have a full light bar on top of the vehicle to clearly distinguish it as a patrol unit.



GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS

Messages for the Governing Body can be left at (913) 856-0939 or with the following info.



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UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (MONDAYS AT 7PM)

July 3 July 17 August 7 August 21 Sept. 5

View more City Council meeting dates at **GARDNERKANSAS.GOV**



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PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Additional program information can be found at GARDNERPARKS.COM. 

YOUTH PROGRAMS

	DATE	REG. DEADLINE	AGE	COSTS
Night Waves Pool Party	June 29	NA	6th-8th gr	\$6
Inspire Dance Academy Camp	July 10-13	July 9	Ages 4-9	\$75
Inspire Dance Academy Camp	July 24-27	July 23	Ages 4-9	\$75
Creative Skills Soccer Camp	July 31-Aug 4	July 31	Ages 6-16	\$185
Youth Volleyball	Sept 14-Nov 2	Aug 14	3rd-6th gr	\$70
Fall Recreational Soccer	Sept 16-Oct 28	Aug 13	Pre-k - 8th gr	\$80

ADULT/FAMILY PROGRAMS

	DATE	REG. DEADLINE	AGE	COSTS
Scrapbooking	June 30	June 29	Ages 12 & up	\$5
Summer Splash	June 24	NA	All ages	Admission price
Independence Day Festival	July 4	Open Event	All ages	Free
July 4th Celebration at GAC	July 4	NA	All Ages	Admission price
Movie in the Park	July 7	NA	All ages	Free
Flick N' Float	July 13	NA	All ages	\$5
Mother/Daughter Campout	July 14-15	July 5	Ages 5-13	\$20/pair
GAC Membership Appreciation Night	July 27	NA	All members	Free
Father/Son Field Day	July 29	July 21	Ages 5-13	\$40/pair
Gardner Grind	Aug 12	TBD	All ages	TBD
Kids Fishing Derby	Aug 26	Aug 24	Ages 12 & under	\$3
Smoke on the Trails Fest	Sept 9	NA	Ages 21 & up	\$25
Smoke on the Trails Competition	Sept 9-10	Aug 25	All ages	Starts at \$185

SMOKE ON THE TRAILS FEST - SAVE THE DATE!

Gardner Parks and Recreation is hosting our first-ever Smoke on the Trails Fest on Saturday, September 9, 2023, so mark your calendars! We will have music, BBQ and a VIP tasting experience from Kansas breweries, wineries and distilleries. Wristbands for the tasting tent will be \$25 a person, and the age of 21 or up will be enforced at the door. Families can come out and listen to some music while tasting some of our teams' best cooking. The only form of payment that will be accepted is BBQ Bucks. These can be purchased at City Hall prior to the event and at the GPRD tent at the event. Tickets go on sale on August 5. Watch for more details!