

INSIDE GARDNER

FALL 2024



KILL CREEK WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION

The Gardner City Council recently approved the expansion of the Kill Creek Water Resource Recovery Facility (KCWRRF), a crucial project for the city's wastewater management system. Originally constructed in 2003, the KCWRRF was designed to handle 2.5 million gallons of wastewater per day (MGD), with a peak capacity of 7.5 MGD.

However, the rapid growth of Gardner and its surrounding areas has significantly increased the demand on the facility, making this expansion essential.

“In 2003, Gardner's population was less than half of what it is now. Here we are, 20-plus years later, and our wastewater needs have changed,” said Mayor Todd Winters. “The expansion of the water treatment plant is necessary to meet Gardner's current and future wastewater

management needs. As our community continues to grow, it's vital that our infrastructure evolves to support this growth.”

The need for increased capacity was first identified in 2017 through the findings of the Wastewater Master Plan update. This update revealed that several components of Gardner's existing wastewater

system were nearing or had already reached their capacity limits. These findings also emphasized the urgency of upgrading the city's wastewater infrastructure to meet both current demands and future growth projections. Furthermore, restrictions imposed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) required the city to expand its existing wastewater treatment facility.

The \$37 million expansion project will increase the facility's capacity by an additional 2.5 MGD. It will also introduce a new train of treatment and sedimentation basins, along with significant upgrades, including a sludge thickener, digester basins and a UV disinfection system. The project will also address various operational, equipment, code compliance, and safety issues within the existing facility.

“Approving the KCWRRF expansion is a proactive measure to safeguard our city's future,” said Mayor Winters. “The facility has served us well for over two decades, and this expansion will allow it to continue doing so for many more years, accommodating the growth and development that Gardner is experiencing.”

The city plans to use General Obligation Bonds to finance the expansion project. Future debt service payments will come from the Wastewater Fund. The city anticipates increasing wastewater rates by 4.2 percent annually until 2031 in order to fund this project and other planned sewer infrastructure projects.

KDHE has set a deadline of spring 2026 for the expansion to be operational.



NEW BUSINESS NEWS OLATHE FORD RV CENTER EXPANSION PROJECT

Olathe Ford RV Center is currently undergoing an exciting expansion at its 19310 Gardner Road location. This project includes the construction of a new service building and a wash building, making way for ten new service bays, a huge detail center, and a four-bay body shop with a 60-foot paint booth! Despite the ongoing work, Olathe Ford RV Center is still open and fully operational. The expansion is expected to be completed by the end of the year.





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A message from

MAYOR TODD WINTERS

And just like that, summer is over! I hope you had the chance to participate in some of the many great local events, such as the Independence Day Festival at Celebration Park, the Johnson County Fair, the Fair Parade and the Gardner Grind mud run.

Did you catch Fox 4's Zip Trip segment featuring Gardner? They spent the morning of Friday, July 26, highlighting our town. Everyone did an amazing job representing Gardner, and it was fantastic for viewers to see how wonderful our community is!

We welcomed several new businesses, including Blazing Trails Martial Arts, Sunshine Smiles Pediatric Dentistry and Dollar Tree. We also held a ribbon cutting for Wild Rye Ranch, which, while not within our city limits, operates a community garden for the Hope Market.

Housing continues to flourish, with multiple subdivisions adding new phases of development.

We also recently approved Flint Hills Development, which will include upscale four- and six-plex townhomes just west of the Justice Center.

Great things are happening in Gardner!

As always, I am proud to be your Mayor!

CROSSWALK SAFETY

IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

The school year is in full swing, which means more pedestrians are out and about, especially around schools and busy intersections. Crosswalks are designed to provide a safe place for pedestrians to cross the road, but they only work effectively when both drivers and pedestrians use them correctly. That's why the city takes time each year to raise awareness about the importance of crosswalk safety and remind the public that everyone has a role in preventing accidents at crosswalks. By adhering to the following rules and tips, all travelers can contribute to a safer environment for everyone on the road.

PEDESTRIANS:



STAY ALERT

Avoid distractions like phones or headphones when crossing the street. Make eye contact with drivers to ensure they see you.

USE MARKED CROSSWALKS

Always cross at designated crosswalks or intersections where drivers expect to see pedestrians. Pedestrians should not enter a crosswalk when a vehicle is close.

OBEY TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Only cross when the pedestrian signal indicates it's safe, even if the road seems clear. Look left, right, and left again before and while crossing the street.

DRIVERS:



YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS

Always give the right of way to pedestrians in crosswalks. Slow down and be prepared to stop when approaching a crosswalk, especially in areas with heavy foot traffic.

BE CAUTIOUS IN SCHOOL ZONES AND RESIDENTIAL AREAS

These areas often have children who may unexpectedly enter the street. Stay vigilant and reduce speed. Watch for and obey crossing guards.

AVOID DISTRACTIONS

Keep your focus on the road, especially near crosswalks, where pedestrians may suddenly appear.

BICYCLISTS:



DISMOUNT AT CROSSWALKS

When approaching a crosswalk, dismount and walk your bike across to ensure visibility and safety. (If bicyclists do not dismount, they serve as motorists and must yield to pedestrians.)

FOLLOW TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Obey all traffic lights and signals, just as you would when driving a vehicle. Wait for the pedestrian signal before crossing.

USE BIKE LANES

Where available, use designated bike lanes instead of sidewalks, and yield to pedestrians at crosswalks.

BE VISIBLE

Use lights and wear reflective gear, especially in low-light conditions, to ensure that drivers and pedestrians can see you.

WARNING ALARMS FOR THE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

Smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms save lives, but typical alarms may not alert people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Special alarms and devices ensure everyone is warned in case of fire or high CO levels.



WHEN AWAKE

Strobe lights flash when a smoke alarm sounds, alerting those who are deaf or hard of hearing to potential danger.

WHEN ASLEEP

A pillow or bed shaker, activated by a standard smoke alarm, wakes and alerts users to fire conditions. Pairing this with a high-intensity strobe light can be more effective.

LOW-FREQUENCY ALARMS

These alarms, using a low-frequency sound, are better suited to wake a person with mild to severe hearing loss.

BATTERY SIGNALS

Special alarms can also alert users when the battery is low. Research and select products that meet your needs. These can be easily installed without professional help and are available in home improvement stores, online and on manufacturer websites. Choose devices listed by a qualified testing laboratory, indicated on the product's packaging.

Smoke Alarms

- Install in every bedroom, outside sleeping areas, and on every level, including the basement.
- Opt for interconnected smoke alarms for full-home coverage.
 - Test alarms monthly and replace them every 10 years.

CO Alarms

- Install outside each sleeping area and on every home level, including the basement and attic.
- Avoid placing alarms near fireplaces or fuel-burning appliances. Check local laws for placement.
- Replace CO alarms every 5-10 years, following the manufacturer's instructions.

Make a Plan

- Everyone should know the sounds and signals of the alarms. When the alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Have a meeting place and call 9-1-1 from a mobile phone or a neighbor's phone.

Reduce Your Risk

- Installing both smoke alarms and fire sprinklers reduce the risk of death in a home fire by 82% compared to having neither.



For questions regarding smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, contact Johnson County Fire District #1 at (913) 764-7635.

PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

This fall, the city will launch its 9th annual Pavement Management Program to address critical road improvements. Contractors will construct ADA enhancements and replace curbs and gutters at various locations throughout the city, including Jennifer Street, Jessica Street, N. Oak Street, Ash Street, Locust Street, Evergreen Street, S. Sumac Street, S. Cedar Street, and Mockingbird Street. (Scan the QR code to view a map with all locations.) Residents are advised to move their vehicles from project areas when directed. Lawn signs will be posted at least 24 hours before work begins, providing instructions to those affected. The city will also provide updates on any projects that may impact traffic.

Scan to view 2024 map



*The Pavement Management Program is funded by the half-cent infrastructure special sales tax.

2024 VETERANS APPRECIATION EVENT



Calling all Gardner veterans! On Monday, Nov. 11, Unified School District 231 and the City of Gardner will host a Veterans Appreciation Program to honor and celebrate Gardner veterans for their dedication and service to our country. The program starts at 1 p.m. at Gardner Edgerton High School, 425 Waverly Road. Gardner veterans should RSVP by calling (913) 856-0939 or emailing jtigerstrom-kelley@gardnerkansas.gov. Each veteran should be prepared to provide their name, branch, years of service and contact information.



GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS

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

 **MARK BALDWIN**
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(913) 538-1878
mbaldwin@gardnerkansas.gov

 **KACY DEATON**
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 **MARK WIEHN**
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UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (MONDAYS AT 7PM)

Sept. 16 Oct. 7 Oct. 21 Nov. 4 Nov. 18

 View more City Council meeting dates at GARDNERKANSAS.GOV

POSTAL PATRON GARDNER, KS 66030



www.GardnerKansas.gov



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PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Additional program information can be found at GARDNERPARKS.COM. 

YOUTH PROGRAMS

YOUTH PROGRAMS	DATE	REG. DEADLINE	AGE	COSTS
Fall TinyTykes Soccer	Sept 14-Oct 19	Sept 13	Ages 2-5	\$85/player
Safe Sitter Essentials Course	Oct 11	Oct 10	6th-8th gr.	\$55
Flag Football Tournament	Nov 2	Oct 28	1st-6th gr.	\$150/team
Youth Recreational Basketball	Jan 4-Mar 1	Nov 3	1st-6th gr.	\$85/player

ADULT/FAMILY PROGRAMS

ADULT/FAMILY PROGRAMS	DATE	REG. DEADLINE	AGE	COSTS
Movie in the Park	Sept 13	N/A	All ages	Free
WITS Workout	Oct 7	Oct 3	Ages 55+	\$5
Hunter Safety Course	Oct 9, 10 & 12	Oct 9	Ages 11+	\$15
Boo Bash	Oct 24	Oct 24	All ages	\$4
WITS Workout	Nov 4	Oct 31	Ages 55+	\$5

Gardner Parks and Recreation is hosting our 28th Annual Halloween Boo Bash at Celebration Park. Join us for an evening of ghostly games, rides, spooktacular activities, lots of candy, prizes, a haunted walking trail along the playground (weather permitting) and more. This is sure to be one of the biggest and best parties of the year! Little ghosts and goblins can come dressed in their cutest, silliest and homemade costumes. There will be fun and entertainment for all, along with prize drawings throughout the night for everyone with a pre-purchased wristband! Wristbands will be sold in advance at City Hall from October 1 to October 24 and will include a prize drawing ticket. Wristbands can be purchased at City Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. until Thursday, October 24, at the discounted rate of \$4. Wristbands will be \$5 per child at the event. Entrance to the event will be located under the 12-foot skeletons.



GARDNER'S BOO BASH

- **Thursday, October 24 (rainout: Friday, October 25)**
- **6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (low-sensory 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. | must buy a low-sensory wristband)**
- **\$4 per wristband \$5 per wristband after October 24 at 5:00 p.m.**
- **Celebration Park 32501 W. 159th St. Gardner, KS 66030**

All ages welcome; Must have a wristband for activities and access to all games and rides

Parents are free and will not need a wristband
Please note: some rides will have an age limit

No refunds
No pets allowed at event