



City of Westwood Hills March 2019 Newsletter



Westwood Police Department Neighborhood Partnership

Video cameras are one of the better tools law enforcement has at their disposal for detecting and apprehending criminals. If a crime happens in front of your home or business we can ask for permission to use that footage as evidence for prosecution. Please click [HERE](#) for information and to register.



Johnson County is encouraging its residents to sign up to NotifyJoCo by visiting notifyjoco.org or by calling 913 826 5555. This service will send out emergency notifications regarding a variety of events such as, but not limited to, severe weather and road closures. These notifications are not specific to Westwood Hills, but rather the general Johnson County Community.

Yard Waste Collection

Regular weekly collection will resume on April 1, 2019.
Please remember that yard waste must be placed in biodegradable bags.

K-State Research and Extension

K-State Research and Extension offers a gardening calendar, and helpful gardening information. Find out more at: <https://www.johnson.k-state.edu/lawn-garden/gardening-calendar/index.html>

RESCUE YOUR RECYCLING

Plastic bags and wraps can be recycled at drop-off locations, **not in curbside bins.**
Please recycle only clean, dry plastic bags and wraps.



Images courtesy of plasticfilmrecycling.org

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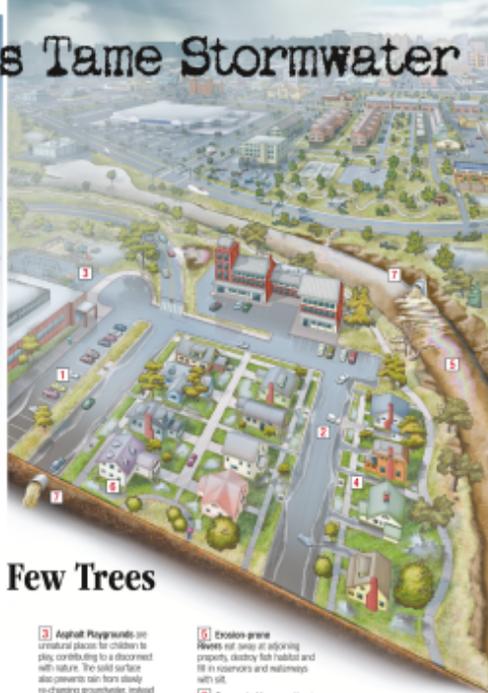
Find a recycling location near you at jocogov.org/recycling101

JOHNSON COUNTY
Health & Environment
11811 S. Sunset Dr.
Olathe, KS 66061

Trees Tame Stormwater

RAIN REDUCES THE BURNING OF FERTILIZER AND SOAKS THE GREEN LANDSCAPE. But as houses, stores, schools, roads and parking lots spread and natural tree cover is lost, so is the absorbing effect of vegetation and soil. The welcome rain becomes costly stormwater runoff. Without the benefit of trees and vegetated infrastructure, waterways are polluted as oils, heavy metal particles and other harmful substances are washed away. Fish and wildlife suffer, drinking water becomes expensive or impossible to collect, property values are reduced, and our living environment is degraded.

Trees make a difference and every tree counts. It's never too late for municipalities, homeowners, businesses, and schools to plant abundant trees to reduce stormwater on site, enhance permeability into the soil, reduce the expense of pipes and treatment plants, and protect environmental quality. For more information, including an interactive version of these pages, please visit arborday.org/stormwater.



Few Trees

- 1 **Treeless Parking Lots** are uncaring, add to stormwater runoff and are a source of heat that is not only uncomfortable but increases air pollution.
- 2 **Treeless Streets** reduce the connectivity of social benefits and ecological services. Following streets, water rushes along the street sides.
- 3 **Asphalt Playgrounds** are unnatural places for children to play, contributing to a disconnected city with nature. The solid surface also prevents rain from slowly recharging groundwater, instead adding extra volume to runoff.
- 4 **Treeless Homes and Farms** reduce property values, increase energy costs and alter rental to risk into gutters.
- 5 **Exposed-grass** lawns are not very lush appearing, they often can't take up heavy rains fast enough. Excessive runoff flows across sidewalks and down driveways and streets.
- 6 **Overwatered** lawns can lead to untreated sewage being swept into waterways. Irrigation is expensive, adding to local tax burdens.

Labels show the form of taking on and reducing pollution. They retain 2-7 percent of more of the water produced by a stormwater event. If it is clearly marked with the atmosphere. As heavy rainwater falls the atmosphere. As heavy rainwater falls the atmosphere. As heavy rainwater falls the atmosphere.



Abundant Trees

- 1 **Well-Landscaped Parking Lots** can be designed to take stormwater runoff and locally the community. They cool parked cars, reducing evaporated gasoline that contributes to air-polluting ozone. Tree shade also cools largely to paved surfaces.
- 2 **Tree-lined Streets** retain large volumes of rainfall, reducing and cleaning runoff. They also increase property values, encourage shopping and business, reduce air pollution, calm traffic and lower noise levels.
- 3 **Nature Explore Classrooms** at schools can be combined with nearby community gardens and natural areas to serve as neighborhood parks. Their organic surfaces increase permeability as they provide valuable play and learning spaces for children.
- 4 **Shaded Homes and Tree-lined Farms** make urban life more pleasant and provide practical benefits such as even heating and air conditioning costs and increased resale value. The tree canopy is also a major contributor to stormwater runoff reduction.
- 5 **Retention Buffers** consisting of trees and shrubs along waterways slow flood waters, reduce erosion, cool the water for fish, and filter harmful runoff from adjacent land.
- 6 **Rain Gardens** hold water onsite, reducing residential runoff and providing habitat for bee hives and other insects. They also filter chemicals during rain events, driveways and streets.
- 7 **Manageable Stormwater Runoff** results from abundant trees, multi-use catch basins and rain gardens, reduced impervious surfaces, and increased ground vegetation. The benefits are lower costs and a more healthy, sustainable environment.



Arbor Day Foundation
arborday.org

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See the .pdf version [here](#).

There will not be a March Planning Commission Meeting.

2019 Home Occupation Licenses

If you operate a business from your home, please complete the [Home Occupation License](#) form and mail the completed application with a \$25.00 check payable to the City of Westwood Hills. Home occupation licenses must be renewed annually.

Construction

If you are considering any work around your property, you may need a permit. Because the entire City is an historic district, all permits must go through the State for review and receive approval of the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in order for the permit to be approved and issued by the City. Permit requests for work which impacts the exterior of your home, especially window and door repair and replacement projects, often receive more stringent SHPO review with a goal of maintaining the historic quality and characteristics of Westwood Hills properties. Although this additional approval by SHPO adds some time to the permit process, projects with costs in excess of \$5,000 may be eligible for the Kansas State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, which is equal to 25 percent of the qualifying expenses on a qualifying project.

Check with the City Clerk at whclerk@gmail.com before starting any work.



Pet Registration

Please register your animals living in Westwood Hills. Please ensure that all your animals are always current on their proper vaccinations. If you need to register a pet now, please fill out the [Pet Registration Form](#) and return to Beth O'Bryan. Westwood Hills allows two cats and two dogs per residence.

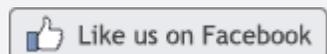
April Meetings

The April regular City Council meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2019. Please contact Beth O'Bryan if you have an item to place on the agenda.

The April Planning Commission meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 18, 2019. Please contact Beth O'Bryan if you have an item to place on the agenda.

Both meetings are held at the Westwood City Hall - 4700 Rainbow Boulevard.

STAY CONNECTED



City Information

City Clerk/Administrator: Beth O'Bryan whclerk@gmail.com - 913-262-6622

Mayor: Paula Schwach - schwach3p@gmail.com

City website: www.westwoodhills.org

City Council

Mary Becker - Landscaping - MXB37@psu.edu

Rosemary Podrebarac - Ordinances and Building - rpodrebarac1@kc.rr.com

Karen Shelor Sexton - Public Safety - kls@sextonandshelor.com

Ludwig Villasi - Public Works - lvillasi@kc.rr.com

John Weedman - Budget and Finance- john@midwestbinding.com

Meetings are held at Westwood City Hall - 4700 Rainbow Blvd.

City of Westwood Hills, 2216 West 49th Street, Westwood Hills, KS 66205

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