



Monthly news & updates

May 2023 - CITY OF WESTWOOD HILLS

Upcoming Events:

May

13

2024 Budget Workshop

18

Planning Commission Meeting

June

1

Election Filing Deadline

12

City Council Meeting

15

Planning Commission Meeting



Budget Workshop

The 2024 Budget Workshop will take place on Saturday, May 13, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. at the offices of Higdon and Hale CPA - 6310 Lamar, Suite 110, Overland Park, KS 66202. All residents are welcome to attend.



2023 Elections

The candidate filing deadline is June 1, 2023 (for the November 7, 2023 election). Applications must be submitted in person at the Johnson County Election Office - 2101 E. Kansas City Road, Olathe, KS 66061.

Westwood Hills City Council is comprised of a Mayor and five City Council persons - all serving a two-year term. You can find more information on filing [here](#).



Thank you to our Volunteers!

Thank you to Ed and Janet Gogol, Nancy Ralston, Cheryl and Mike Hill, Martha and Steven Platt, Anne LaPrade, Dustin Neal, Cameron Fiser, and Ludwig Villasi who cleaned up The Green on April 22, 2023! They filled up 14 yard waste bags! The Green would not look as beautiful without these dedicated volunteers.



Stormwater Cost Share Program

The City of Westwood Hills encourages individual homeowners to incorporate Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP) on their properties to aid in the improvement of local and regional water quality.

At the same time, the City encourages planting native plants and trees to support the natural ecosystem and provide food for pollinators like bees and butterflies. The BMP Cost Share program will reimburse applicants up to 50% of eligible expenses, not to exceed a project reimbursement cap for the proper installation of the following best management practices:

Project Type	Project Reimbursement Cap
Rain Barrel	\$75 per barrel, up to two
Native tree planting	\$150 per tree, up to two
Rain garden/pollinator garden	\$1000

Go to containtherainjoco.com for the application. All projects must be installed by October 31, 2023. Requests for refunds must be received by November 30, 2023.

Start planning your garden now. Visit the [K-State Research and Extension Online Gardening Calendar to help with your planning.](#)

Contain the Rain

BY IAN FANNIN-HUGHES

It's that time of year again! Time to get the shovels, gloves and seeds out for another year in the dirt. If you are looking for a way to improve your home AND help the environment, look no further. Johnson County's Contain the Rain Program will be opening for its 13th year this spring to residents who want to help protect our valuable water resources through the installation of native plants and treatment of stormwater. Through this program, Johnson County provides funds for cities to administer reimbursements for residents who install approved projects.



Residents in the following cities are eligible for reimbursement through the Contain the Rain Program:

- De Soto
- Gardner
- Fairway
- Lake Quivira
- Leawood
- Lenexa
- Merriam
- Mission
- Mission Hills
- Overland Park
- Prairie Village
- Roeland Park
- Shawnee
- Westwood
- Westwood Hills
- Plus Unincorporated Johnson County

Residents who wish to receive reimbursement must install one or more of the following projects:

- cisterns
- floating wetlands
- impervious pavement
- native plant swales
- native tree(s)
- rain barrels
- rain gardens

For residents concerned about the environment and climate change, taking part in the Contain the Rain Program is one of the best hands-on actions we can take to make our communities more climate resilient. Projects like rain gardens not only benefit the environment by preventing pollution, but they also help support our local pollinator species, make our lawns more resilient and help reduce unnecessary water usage.

Let's work together to improve water quality and stop stormwater pollution in Johnson County! If you would like more information or already have a project in mind, please visit our program website at containtherainjoco.com. You can find information about your city's program, how to plan a project and resources to help get your project off the drawing board. 🌱

Congratulations to Cameron Fiser and Carly Banks for the May YOTM!



VOLUNTEER



Volunteers Needed for the Environmental Fair

Please consider serving as a volunteer for this year's Go Green 2023 Environmental Fair which is sponsored by all of Johnson County's northeast cities. Last year we won the MARC (Mid America Regional Council) Award for the Best Environmental Education Event. This year it will be better than ever. Last year we had hundreds of attendees and two giant conference areas filled with booths for environmental services, products, and educational materials about not only how to be

better environmental stewards but how to get tax credits for the products we chose to maintain our homes and yards.

We need volunteers who can help out between 7.30 a.m. until noon or any hours between those times on Saturday, September 23, 2023. There is no heavy lifting but mainly our job is to help the vendors/education providers to get to their tables and set up, help the vendors take breaks for a bathroom run, get them coffee or water, or help with announcing and passing out door prizes. Help will also be needed with the children's activity tables.

Providing volunteers is the designated participation mission for the City of Westwood Hills. Any help would be most appreciated. Plus if you know of anyone else who would volunteer – please pass on their name to me. Finally, if you know of any high schoolers who would like Volunteer Credit for high school or for their college applications I will be most happy to write up a glowing report for their service. Please contact Karen Sexton at kis@sextonandshelor.com to volunteer.

Many thanks for your consideration!! More thanks for your willingness to participate!!

Johnson County Revaluation Report

The annual Revaluation Report provides an overview of the valuation process. It includes illustrations and charts showing the impact of residential real estate, commercial real estate, and personal property values in Johnson County. Find the Revaluation Reports [here](#).



The National Suicide Prevention Line is reachable at 988, and the call center will direct callers to local crisis centers for assistance. The existing crisis line for Johnson Country Mental Health Emergency Services is still accessible at (913) 268-0156.



Stormwater Management Plan and Annual Report

The 2021 Stormwater Management Plan and the 2022 SMP Annual Report can be found on the City's [website](#).

CITY OF WESTWOOD HILLS, KS | www.westwoodhillsks.gov

[Visit our website](#)

[Visit our Google Drive](#)



City Information

City Clerk: Beth O'Bryan - clerk@westwoodhillsks.gov - 913-262-6622

Mayor: Rosemary Podrebarac - mayor@westwoodhillsks.gov

City Council

Michael Anfang - Budget and Finance - anfang@rocketmail.com

Ed Gogol - Landscaping - gogol.monday@gmail.com

Karen Sexton - Public Safety - kls@sextonandshelor.com

Dave Schmitz - Public Works - schmittforthecity@gmail.com

John Weedman - john@midwestbinding.com