

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE CITY

From Hall to Home, here's your gateway to being in the know!

With this new mailed publication, we're striving to bridge the gap between the City and its citizens, AKA Hall to Home. We understand the importance of reaching you through various channels that best suit your preferences and needs. We want to ensure that you stay connected and informed every step of the way. From traditional print communication methods to digital platforms, we are committed to providing you with a multitude of ways to effortlessly engage with your City.

CONNECT WITH US



Notify JoCo

Sign up for De Soto's Notify JoCo and receive tailored, real-time text, phone, or email updates on road projects, utility outages, severe weather, events, and more in your neighborhood.

notifyjoco.org



Email Newsletter

Sign up for our email newsletter, delivered the first and third Fridays following City Council meetings.

desotoks.us/newsletters



Social Media

Follow us on popular social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, to stay connected and receive real-time updates.



Public Meetings

Join us for in-person open houses where you can connect with project leaders, City Council, City Staff, and more! **Upcoming July 12th.**



Development Hub

Visit the development hub for all De Soto growth-related information and updates, including what's happening at Astra and Flint, project timelines, and FAQs. desotoks.us/development



Utility Bill Newsletter

You'll find this one-pager, in both English & Spanish, in your utility bill or online.

desotoks.us/newsletters



City Website

Visit our user-friendly website, where you can find comprehensive information about City services, public announcements, important documents, and more. desotoks.us



Community Events

You'll see us tabling at your favorite summertime events; come say hi! **Upcoming July 21st.**

DE SOTO

KANSAS

Community Newsletter for the Residents of De Soto



**SUMMER
2023**

IN THIS ISSUE

Mayor Message	1
Ottawa Street Complete	1
Event Calendar	2
Open House	2
Construction	2
KDOT Updates	3
Stay Connected	4

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



MAYOR RICK WALKER

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

I hope this letter finds you well and filled with excitement as we embark on a new chapter in the growth and development of our beloved city. Today, I have the pleasure of sharing two significant pieces of news with you that will shape our community for years to come.

Firstly, I am delighted to announce the official opening of Ottawa Street! On June 23rd, members of Council, staff, and the community gathered to cut the ceremonial ribbon and celebrate the completion of the Ottawa Street Reconstruction Project. This project, which has been long-awaited and highly anticipated, marks a momentous milestone in our journey towards enhancing the connectivity and safety of our city.

For nearly two decades, Riverfest Park has stood as an underutilized recreational resource due to the lack of a safe and convenient walking route. Pedestrians were forced to navigate busy streets and two sets of railroad tracks, posing potential risks and inconveniences. Recognizing this need, we embarked on a mission to enhance pedestrian connectivity, and thanks to the tireless efforts of many dedicated individuals and organizations, we have now realized that vision.

The completion of the Ottawa Street Project brings us a remarkable, complete street, catering to autos, pedestrians, and bicyclists. The project not only includes a new sidewalk along Ottawa Street but also improves the roadway and reconstructs the railroad crossing, creating a quiet zone to enhance safety and tranquility. We are truly celebrating a triumph of community collaboration, perseverance, and a steadfast commitment to progress.



Secondly, I am thrilled to introduce our new mailed newsletter, the piece you're holding in your hand. As a part of our ongoing efforts to keep you informed and engaged, we have launched this publication as a direct channel of communication from City Hall to your home. This newsletter will serve as a comprehensive source of news and updates about City projects, initiatives, events, and more. It is designed to provide you with valuable insights, foster community engagement, and ensure that you are well-informed about the happenings in our vibrant city.

Last year, we conducted our inaugural community survey to gather feedback from you, our residents. Your input was invaluable in shaping the direction of our communication efforts. One of the key insights we gained was your desire to hear more about City activity directly from the City itself. This mailed publication is our response to your feedback -- because we're committed to keeping you informed, engaged, and empowered as we navigate the exciting growth and development of our community.

I encourage each and every one of you to take advantage of all our outreach resources. Stay connected by print and online, explore the website, attend City events, and participate in the various opportunities for engagement. Together, we can build a stronger and more vibrant community, where every voice is heard, and every citizen plays a vital role in shaping our future.

Thank you all for your support and trust in our City's leadership. It is an honor and privilege to serve as your mayor, and I am excited to continue working alongside you to create a brighter, better connected future for De Soto.

Wishing you all the best,

Mayor Rick Walker

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 23
Concert - Lost Wax
 Riverfest Park, 7:00pm-10:00pm

July 4
Independence Day Fireworks
 Riverfest Park, 7:00pm-10:00pm

July 8
Movie - Top Gun Maverick
 Riverfest Park, 9:00pm

July 12
Community Open House
 City Hall Community Center,
 6:00pm - 8:00pm

July 15
Touch-A-Truck
 Miller Park, 11:00am - 2:00pm

July 21
Concert - Surfin' USA & Vinyl Revival
 Riverfest Park, 7:00pm-10:00pm

July 28
Splash n' Play Night Swim
 Aquatic Center, 8:00pm - 10:00pm
 Admission \$1/person

August 5
Movie - Encanto
 Riverfest Park, 8:45pm

August 18
Concert - Elton John Experience
 Riverfest Park, 7:00pm-10:00pm

August 31 - September 2
De Soto Days Festival
 desotodays.com

September 4
Doggie Plunge
 Aquatic Center, 10:00am - 12:00pm
 Admission \$1/dog

September 16
Movie - Super Mario Bros.
 Riverfest Park, 7:45pm

October 14
Movie - TBA Halloween Movie
 Riverfest Park, 7:00pm
 Free popcorn

De Soto Newsletter | 2

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Join us for a community-wide open house, focusing on growth and development in De Soto, from 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, July 12th in the Community Center (gymnasium). Residents can drop in at any point during the event and visit tables hosted by a range of agency partners involved in preparing the community for new developments. **Learn more about:**

- Road and construction updates
- City infrastructure upgrades
- Job training opportunities
- Project timelines and more



DESIGNING DE SOTO | GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT OPEN HOUSE

The event is open to anyone interested in learning more about De Soto's future.

Traductora de español en el evento.

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS



OTTAWA STREET SIDEWALK | 82ND TO 83RD STREET

OTTAWA STREET SIDEWALK

This summer we're constructing a sidewalk along Ottawa Street from 82nd to 83rd Street with the use of \$90,000 in funding from the Community Development Block Grant program. This sidewalk will further increase connectivity across the City.

the "old pool" site, at the corner of 83rd St. and Ferry Rd. This is to supplement the currently limited parking for the baseball/softball/T-ball/soccer game patrons.

2023 IN-HOUSE STREET PROJECTS

Due to their pavement conditions, the following project sites were selected* for the 2023 in-house Street Maintenance Program:

1. **West 82nd Pl. & Caress St.:** 6" Overlay
2. **North Corliss Rd. to Railroad Gate:** 6" Overlay
3. **West 82nd St. from Corliss Rd.** to approx. 473' west: 6" Overlay
4. **Cedar Creek Road South of W 88th St.** towards Lenexa city limit: 1"-2" Overlay

*These projects are budget dependent; if a project is not completed in 2023, they will be the top priority for 2024.

2023 ANNUAL SIDEWALK PROGRAM

This year the annual sidewalk program budget will be dedicated to improving sidewalk conditions in the Timber Trails neighborhood.

MILLER PARK PARKING LOT

By the end of 2023, we'll have more, much-needed parking at Miller Park! We'll start construction in July on a new parking lot over



INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS | INTERACTIVE MAP

KDOT TRAFFIC PROJECTS

103RD STREET WIDENING

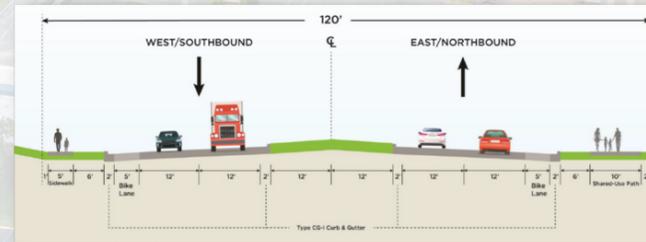
The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) has committed to delivering the transportation infrastructure improvements necessary to support the newly announced Panasonic Energy Co. electric vehicle (EV) battery manufacturing facility in De Soto.

The infrastructure improvements, scheduled for completion in late 2024, include updating about 4.5 miles of the current two-lane asphalt road to a new divided 4-lane roadway with curb, gutter, and sidewalks.

The work will generally be along the existing footprint of 103rd St. between Evening Star Rd. and the Lexington Ave./K-10 interchange, and about one mile of the section on Astra Parkway (formerly Main Ave.) from 103rd St. south to the new project site.

These road improvements will:

- Increase safety for vehicles and pedestrians
- Improve travel times for commuters
- Improve response times for emergency services
- Improve the transportation system to service new businesses and future growth



103RD ST. | CONCEPT DESIGN

Timeline

- **June 19, 2023: Road Closures Begin**
 - **Closed/No Access:** West 103rd St. between the Sunflower Baseball Fields and Astra Parkway
 - **Closed/No Through Traffic:** 103rd St. from Astra Parkway to String Town Rd.
 - **Open through July 31:** The Sunflower Baseball Fields will remain open and accessible on West 103rd St. via Evening Star Rd.
 - **No Access:** To 103rd St. from Edgerton Road or Sunflower Rd.
- **June 2024:** Open 103rd St. from Astra Parkway to Edgerton Rd.
- **December 2024:** Open 103rd St. from Edgerton Rd. to Evening Star Rd. / **substantial completion**
- **May 2025:** Completion of remaining permanent seeding and striping



103RD ST. | CLOSURES

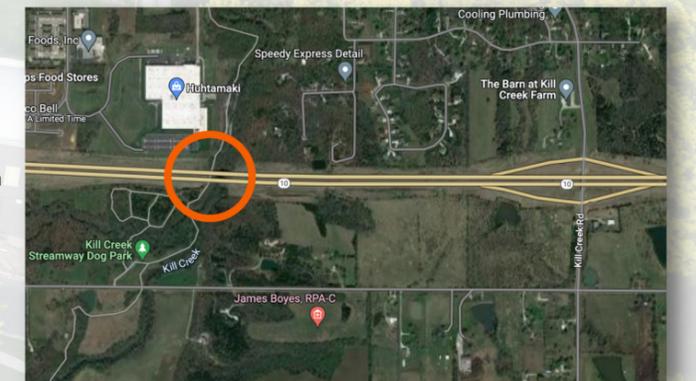
For additional information and updates regarding this project, please visit: desotoroadimprovements.ksdot.gov/



KILL CREEK BRIDGE REDECK

KDOT is redecking the Kill Creek Bridge throughout the rest of the year.

- **Early July 2023:** Traffic modifications begin, including the reduction of K-10 to a single lane in both directions for the duration of the project
- **Mid-July 2023:** Demolition begins
- **September 2023:** Concrete decking pours begin
- **November 2023:** Concrete decking pours complete and traffic fully opens
- **Spring 2024:** Completion of bridge steel painting



K-10, KILL CREEK BRIDGE | REDECKING SITE

PROPERTY ACCESS DURING CONSTRUCTION: What You Need To Know

A number of private and public entities are working on infrastructure projects in De Soto related to road, energy, water, and wastewater improvements. If temporary work needs to happen on your property, here's what you need to know:

- ✓ If you own the impacted property, you'll receive a letter in the mail prior to the work being done.
- ✓ If work is happening in your area, but not on your property, you may receive a general notice, such as a door hanger or letter.
- ✓ We have an online interactive map that details all infrastructure projects online: desotoks.us/projects

- ✓ Generally, existing utilities are located within the road right-of-way or within an easement across privately-held land.
- ✓ With an easement, the resident still owns the property, but there's a legal agreement between you and the easement holder - usually a public utility. (Check your property record at the County if you're unsure.) If this is the case, work may happen without specific notification, but only in the easement.