



OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday July 12th, 2023

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

De Soto City Hall

32905 W 84th St, De Soto, KS 66018

Meeting Recap:

The City of De Soto hosted a public open house on July 12th from 6-8pm with city, county, and regional organizations that are planning for growth and development in and around De Soto. This was an event for the community to learn more about different projects and initiatives, ask questions, and hear from project leaders.

The arrival of Panasonic in De Soto brings with it exciting improvements and construction/development opportunities. Many organizations are coordinating to ensure a smooth and transparent experience for the community.

Find out here how partner agencies are working with the City of De Soto on the Panasonic project and growth in the area.



Photo of attendees at the July 12th Open House

Organizations in Attendance:

Astra Enterprise Park
City of De Soto
Clarkson Construction
De Soto Chamber of Commerce
De Soto Economic Development Corporation (EDC)
Everyg
JCCC & America's Small Business Development
Johnson County Department of Planning & Development
Johnson County Park and Recreation District (JCPRD)
Kansas Department of Commerce (KDC)
Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE)
Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT)
Kansas City Kansas Community College (KCKCC)
Northwest Consolidated Fire District (NWCDFD)
USD #232 De Soto School District

City of De Soto

Role:

The City of De Soto is home to the future Panasonic facility and the primary source for project updates and announcements. The City is working to balance quality of life while expanding and upgrading utilities, roads, and services. and area partners to prepare for future growth.

Current projects/initiatives:

- **Designing De Soto Strategic Plan:** develop a community vision, goals, strategies, and actions. This effort has included a series of surveys, open houses, and meetings with stakeholders and elected officials.
- Infrastructure Improvements & Infrastructure map
- Working closely with the De Soto EDC and Chamber on childcare and economic development.

Key takeaways for businesses and residents:

- Create a Community **Strategic Plan**.
- Maintain our sense of community while embracing responsible growth.
- **Improve infrastructure** to benefit and attract new and existing residents and businesses.
- **Collaborate** with area organizations and stakeholders.
- Connect and **enhance transportation** in and around De Soto.

Timelines/milestones:

- Ongoing community engagement and partnerships
- Strategic Plan adopted in December 2023
- City Organizational Plan in Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

Want to know more?



Sign up to Receive City of De Soto e-newsletters & emails. Join the City's e-newsletter: desotoks.us/newsletters



Sign up and customize alerts for NotifyJoco to receive texts, calls and email notifications about De Soto's road closures, utilities, and general communications.: desotoks.us/notifyjoco



Check out the City's new current construction projects map to view current streets, utility, and other infrastructure improvements: desotoks.us/projects

Evergy

Role:

Evergy is **rebuilding and expanding** its transmission and distribution facilities in and around De Soto to **increase the capacity and reliability of power** to be delivered to the area.

Current projects/initiatives:

Because increased electrical power is needed to support Panasonic, **new facilities** will accommodate these needs. Evergy is constructing **two new substations** for the Panasonic facility and reconfiguring its local grid to **improve energy flow** from these substations. These improvements will also increase the reliability and load capacity in the entire De Soto area and beyond.

Key takeaways for businesses and residents:

- Rebuilt lines will **add electrical capacity** and **increase reliability**.
- New substations will interconnect these new lines to help increase the local electrical capacity at the distribution level—while **decreasing the likelihood and duration of power outages**.

Community impacts of projects/initiatives:

These projects will improve the local and regional electrical grid with substantially increased electrical capacity.

Timelines/milestones:

- Distribution line construction is underway from **K-10 South to Panasonic site**.
- Vegetation clearing along 95th Street will begin in **fall 2024**.
- Transmission and appurtenant distribution line construction along 95th Street will take place in **spring 2024**.

Want to know more?

Evergy will host an **open house** later this year for **landowners affected by the transmission line rebuild** along 95th Street. A project webpage will also be available at **evergy.com**.

Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT)

Role:

KDOT is responsible for **delivering the De Soto road improvements** needed to support the new Panasonic facility and other developments in the area.

Current projects/initiatives:

The local road improvements include updating **4.5 miles** of the current two-lane asphalt road to a **new divided 4-lane roadway** with curb, gutter, and sidewalks.

Key takeaways for businesses and residents:

- The local road improvements include updating **4.5 miles** of the current two-lane asphalt road to a **new divided 4-lane roadway** with curb, gutter, and sidewalks.
- The road work will occur along the existing **103rd Street between Evening Star Road and the Lexington Ave./K-10 interchange**, as well as along a **one-mile section of Astra Parkway** from 103rd Street to south of the new Panasonic site.
- Residents and businesses located on Lexington Avenue and 103rd Street **will have access** throughout this project.

Community impacts of projects/initiatives:

- **Road closures began Monday, June 19th** on West 103rd Street between the Sunflower Baseball Fields and Astra Parkway.
- The **ball fields will remain open and accessible** on West 103rd Street via Evening Star Road through **July 31st**.

Timelines/milestones:

The project is scheduled to be completed in **late 2024**.

Want to know more?

Find KDOT @ <https://desotoroadimprovements.ksdot.gov/>

Updates will also go out in the **City of De Soto's e-newsletter** and will be posted on the project webpage, provided above.

Johnson County Planning & Development

Current projects/initiatives:

JoCo Planning & Development is planning for **broadband infrastructure** in the unincorporated area.

Key takeaways for businesses and residents:

- There is a County initiative to assist with the Panasonic development.
- The County's Future land use has been updated.

Community impacts of projects/initiatives:

To ensure a **healthy, long-term collaboration with De Soto** to support a robust economic future.

Timelines/milestones:

- Rural plan to be approved July 2023 with an upcoming broadband meeting scheduled late fall.

Want to know more?

Visit jocogov.org and find us in the **Planning, Housing, and Community Development** section.

Johnson County Parks & Recreation (JCPRD)

Role:

JCPRD Mission: To enrich our community through excellence in parks, recreation, culture, education, and public service, particularly as De Soto grows.

JCPRD Vision: Pursuing innovation and stewardship to sustain and enrich a **thriving park and recreation system that inspires play, culture, and education**, leading to healthy and fulfilling lives for all.

Current projects/initiatives:

Master Plan Updates: Working to **kick off master plan updates** for Kill Creek Park, Sunflower Nature Park, and Kill Creek Streamway, including the ~2000 additional acres JCPRD will be receiving from Sunflower Redevelopment.

Kill Creek Trail Connector: In the beginning stages of a **trail project connecting** Kill Creek Park and Kill Creek Streamway.

Key takeaways for businesses and residents:

Master Plan Updates: JCPRD will be working with a consultant, key stakeholders and the community to **plan the future of the amenities/development** at Kill Creek Park, Sunflower Nature Park, Kill Creek Streamway and the ~2000 additional acres JCPRD will be receiving from Sunflower Redevelopment.

Kill Creek Trail Connector: There are still many pieces to fall into place and the JCPRD Board **moved this project up** to try to time it better with the Panasonic development.

Community impacts of projects/initiatives:

Master Plan Updates: This planning process **lays the foundation for future amenities/development** at Kill Creek Park, Sunflower Nature Park, Kill Creek Streamway, and the ~2000 additional acres JCPRD will be receiving from Sunflower Redevelopment.

Kill Creek Trail Connector: This project connects Kill Creek Park with Kill Creek Streamway and **adds two miles to the trail**. This brings the total trail mileage of Kill Creek Streamway to about **11 contiguous miles!**

Timelines/milestones:

Master Plan Updates: completion anticipated by the **end of 2024**.

Kill Creek Trail Connector: this project is dependent upon:

- Land transfer from Sunflower Redevelopment
- Final anticipated alignment for wastewater lines for Panasonic/future development in this newly annexed area of De Soto.

Want to know more?

Visit Parks & Rec at www.JCPRD.com.

Keep an eye out on **social media** for community **input sessions**, community **surveys**, etc.

Kansas Department of Commerce (KDC)

Role:

The KDC is focused on **project attraction**, coordinating **incentives**, and continuing **relations** around the Panasonic project.

Current projects/initiatives:

Currently, KDC is working on statewide development.

Key takeaways for businesses and residents:

Residents and business owners would want to know that KDC is focused on:

- Attracting Panasonic **suppliers to Kansas**.
- Assisting with **workforce development** efforts for the Panasonic project and those to come.
- **Working with area communities** to make sure they are positioned to grow as they desire in relation to the community's workforce and any potential projects.
- The smooth expansion of Panasonic in Kansas.

Johnson County Community College (JCCC)

Role:

JCCC provides **no-cost small business advising** and **low-cost small business training**. JCCC is functioning as a support organization for the business community in De Soto.

Current projects/initiatives:

While JCCC does not have Panasonic-specific projects, they offer **ongoing services to the business and entrepreneurial community of De Soto**, including a Business Start Up class, business growth program (GAME), and advising services.

Key takeaways for businesses and residents:

Business Start Up – This class walks entrepreneurs through market research, defining their customer and their unique value proposition, preparing financial projections, and introducing them to additional resources they will need along the way (e.g., banker, attorney, insurance, and accountant).

GAME – This cohort provides access to local industry experts who will lead sessions on 10 key areas of business, allows owners to share best practices with other like-minded business owners, gain focus of their business growth, set a growth agenda, and make decisions to take action.

Advising Services – JCCC works one-on-one with small business clients at any stage in the process. They can assist with strategy, marketing, sales, financial analysis, expanding, to name a few.

Community impacts of projects/initiatives:

JCCC aims to **strengthen the local economy** and **create jobs**.

Timelines/milestones:

Ongoing.

Want to know more?

JCCC's website provides more information on services and programs: www.jcccsbdc.com.

Here, you can:

- Follow their **social media** pages for the latest information
- Sign up for their **bi-monthly constant contact**
- Sign up for a **class** or **advising**

De Soto School District (USD #232)

Role:

As public educators, USD 232 **works with the education consortium** to help prepare and **train the local/regional workforce** so they're well-equipped for potential employer's like Panasonic.

Current projects/initiatives:

The school district is committed to its **Real World Learning** and **Work-Based Learning Initiative**, which ensures that students are functionally and well-prepared for the job market.

To that end, USD 232 is looking to **engage with the local business community** to provide students with **internships, job-shadow experiences, and client-connected projects**.

Key takeaways for businesses and residents:

De Soto's school district is focused on different areas of these learning initiatives at different levels, outlined below.

Elementary School

Career Awareness target areas:

Guest speaker
Career fair
Field trip
Tour

Middle School

Career Exploration target areas:

Job shadow
Mock interview
Field trip
Career mentoring

High School

Career Preparation target areas:

Internship/placement (business, industry, community)
Youth registered apprenticeship
Simulated work-based experience (school district)
Client connected project
Entrepreneurship, ownership
Service learning