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A rendering from Athco shows the design of a playground for SW Bricktown Park.



# In Your Neighborhood

SUMMER 2018

A Newsletter from the Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative

## SAVE THE DATE! National Night Out Block Parties Planned for Tuesday, August 7

The SW Bricktown, College Grove, and Farmington Park neighborhoods all are planning their own National Night Out events. Follow the Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative and neighborhood Facebook pages for more details, and check out more information on your respective neighborhood below.

**SW Bricktown Neighborhood Block Party from 6-9 p.m.:** SW Bricktown's Block Party includes a cookout, entertainment from a local DJ, inflatables, and opportunities to meet and visit with emergency responders.

**College Grove Neighborhood Block Party from 5:30-9 p.m.:** Hutchinson Community College has agreed to host College Grove's block party on the college's lawn between 12th & 13th avenues along Plum Street. Event details will be posted on Facebook.

**Farmington Park Neighborhood Block Party from 6-8:30 p.m.:** Residents are invited to celebrate 100 years since the neighborhood was established with a cookout in Farmington Park from 6-7 p.m. Hot dogs and sides provided, but residents are welcome to bring a dessert to share. After the cookout, there will be activities in the park as well as an opportunity to vote on the logo for neighborhood signage.

Hutchinson Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative is provided through a partnership with the City of Hutchinson & Hutch Rec. For more information, visit Hutch Rec at [www.hutchrec.com](http://www.hutchrec.com) or the Hutchinson Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative Facebook page.



## SW BRICKTOWN GETTING PLAYGROUND, PICNIC SHELTER

After a few years of planning, major improvements are on their way this summer to SW Bricktown Park, located at the junction of First Avenue and Jefferson Street.

In mid-May, Hutchinson City Council approved a proposal for a \$60,000 playground to go along with a \$15,000 picnic shelter. They will be the first new park features since the neighborhood began organizing.

"Both of those will be installed this summer," Parks and Facilities Director Justin Combs told City Council. "Which is pretty exciting, coming into a budget year when we really didn't have anything planned for SW Bricktown Park. By the end of the summer we're going to have a playground and a picnic shelter."

So how are they being paid for if the city didn't have a budget for them? Because of neighborhood efforts. Hutch Rec committed the \$15,000 for the picnic shelter out of grant funds for the neighborhood from the Kansas Health Foundation. The \$60,000 for the playground is split evenly between a donation from Heartland Credit Union and the same Kansas Health Foundation grant.

Combs said the city is working on picking a day for a community build for the playground, when volunteers will be involved in installation.

The proposal from Athco shows multiple climbing structures and slides, swings (including toddler swings), a seated zip line, and a face-to-face tandem swing, among other features.

### Park improvement timeline

- 2014: Reno Western Corp. donates a lot adjacent to what was then named Ashmeade Park to the Hutchinson Land Bank.
- September 2015: The Hutchinson Land Bank donates the lot to the City of Hutchinson to expand the park.
- June 2016: SW Bricktown neighbors begin giving input to consultant Vireo on what they want to see in the park, as well as at nearby Shadduck Park.
- Early 2017: Vireo provides concepts for both parks based on neighborhood input.
- June 2017: Hutchinson renames Ashmeade Park as SW Bricktown Park following a neighborhood petition for the name change.
- Summer 2018: Playground and picnic shelter to be installed in SW Bricktown Park.

# Hutch Homeowner Opportunities

**Zero-Interest Home Repair Loan Program:** Provides interest-free loans for certain home improvement projects. There are no income restrictions and both rental and owner occupied houses qualify. **Contact Amy Allison at 620-694-2635 for more information.**

**Down Payment Match Incentive:** Applicants must purchase a home in the SW Bricktown, College Grove or Houston Whiteside Neighborhoods to be eligible for up to \$2,500 assistance in down payment and closing costs match. **Contact Charlene Mosier at 620-694-2639 for more information.**

**Brush Up Hutch!:** The City may be able to help with the cost of paint. In 2017, 12 houses were painted or approved to be painted. Look at the before/after pictures on the left on what a difference this program makes. **Contact Charlene Mosier at 620-694-2639 for more information.**



## College Grove has busy week in April

(pictured above) Hutchinson High School students freshen up a sidewalk stencil in the College Grove neighborhood on April 27.

The College Grove neighborhood had an eventful week at the end of April.

On Tuesday, April 24, city crews planted 17 new trees in the 400 block of East 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, where street trees had been devastated by disease in the past. (See the story to the right)

Then on Friday, April 27, volunteers from Hutchinson High School painted or retouched dozens of sidewalk stencils throughout the neighborhood.

And on Saturday, April 28, about 18 people and three dogs gathered during the first beautiful Saturday of spring for breakfast and conversation at Donuts on the Driveway, the first event of the year. Attendees included at least a couple of people who were at their first neighborhood get-together.

Future Donuts on the Driveway hosts include:

- July: Mike Wallace
- September: Michelle McCartney

Dates will be posted on the College Grove Facebook page, [facebook.com/CollegeGrove](https://www.facebook.com/CollegeGrove).

## Street trees available for neighborhoods needing shade



One block in College Grove welcomed 17 new trees this spring, courtesy of the Hutchinson Tree Board.

Jeremy Lindahl, horticulture and forestry superintendent for the city, said the trees planted were a mix of Chinese pistache, fall fiesta sugar maple, Japanese zelkova, and Princeton elm (a Dutch elm disease-resistant variety of American elm). He said the varieties were chosen for a mix of shade and fall color.

The slow-growing sugar maple also was chosen over the faster-growing silver maple because of its hardiness.

Because of its slow, strong growth, a sugar elm is less brittle than a silver maple of the same size.

If other neighborhoods need a lot of trees, they can contact Lindahl at 620-694-2670 to submit a request to the Tree Board. Lindahl said a minimum of 10 to 15 trees is a good starting point for a project.

### Tree care

As for the newly planted trees, Lindahl said homeowners shouldn't have much to worry about.

"Really, we'll take care of them for the first three years," he said. "Most of that is watering them once a week."

The large stakes, which were put in as a precautionary measure, will be taken out in about six months.

The most important thing for homeowners to worry about is not damaging the trees. Lindahl said that means not mowing or using a string trimmer against the trunk, and not piling mulch right up to the trunk.

The Tree Board is planning to present a seminar on tree pruning this fall at Dillon Nature Center.

## College Grove becomes more walkable with sidewalk projects



College Grove, a pedestrian-friendly neighborhood with plentiful sidewalks, has become even more walkable with construction of new sidewalks in the northeast corner of the neighborhood. A \$222,771 project has added or widened almost 2,000 linear feet of sidewalks, thanks to a Safe Routes to School grant. The project was funded 80 percent by the federal grant, with the other 20 percent from local funding.

The project qualified for the grant because of the presence of Graber Elementary School, 1600 N. Cleveland St.



New sidewalks installed with the project include: 16<sup>th</sup> Terrace between Cleveland and Plum streets; 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Ford and Plum streets; Ford Street between 16<sup>th</sup> Terrace and 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue; and Cleveland Street from Graber Elementary School to 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

The project also includes widening the sidewalk on the south side of 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue that runs north of Don Michael Field and improving pedestrian ramps at the intersections of 17<sup>th</sup> and Plum and 17<sup>th</sup> and Severance. Earlier plans for the project also included a sidewalk along 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Ford and Cleveland Streets. That portion was removed because of safety concerns, said Jeff Schenk, engineering

construction manager for the city. Because of the ditch that runs along that stretch, the sidewalk would have been right next to the street.

## NEW FEATURED NEIGHBORHOOD STARTS ORGANIZING EFFORTS



Residents of the Farmington Park Neighborhood chose the area in pink as the boundaries of the neighborhood.

Hutchinson's newest featured neighborhood now has a name and boundaries.

In a meeting in April, residents proposed the name Farmington Park Neighborhood for the area around Farmington Park in north central Hutchinson, as well as boundaries that match the Farmington subdivision, seen in the accompanying map.

Then, on May 8, a group of more than 20 neighborhood residents voted unanimously to finalize the name and boundaries as proposed in April.

In discussions, the residents quickly identified park improvements, traffic speeds and safety, and social events as topics to tackle.

A number of residents volunteered to form committees, one to prepare a proclamation for City Council recognizing the neighborhood and another to plan a social event for this summer or fall.

In one-one-one discussions and at both meetings, residents have said the neighborhood has a history of organizing events in the park, and folks are looking forward to restarting that tradition.

### In a conversation this spring, City Building Official Trent Maxwell offered his top tips for property maintenance.

- Take care of the paint. "The first thing anyone notices is houses with paint missing," Maxwell said. The good news is the city's Brush Up Hutch! program can reimburse qualifying homeowners for up to \$300 in paint. Learn more about that program at <http://hutchgov.com/979/Brush-Up-Hutch>.
- Repair or replace broken windows instead of boarding them up. Maxwell said it is a relatively simple do-it-yourself project, and it makes an enormous difference in appearance.
- Close any holes in soffit or fascia around the roof. This can be a trickier fix, especially on two-story houses. But birds, squirrels, and other critters will go in any holes and into the attic, where they can cause all manner of problems.
- Mow the yard and clear any overgrown brush. A wild, overgrown yard attracts critters and makes a house look vacant – making it a target for break-ins and theft, Maxwell said.