
Insights on the North Lawrence Community: A Survey Report

January 9, 2023

Survey and results compiled by Jennifer Burnes and Kirsty Feltz on a volunteer basis
on behalf of the North Lawrence Improvement Association.

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Executive Summary

In response to a survey conducted in North Lawrence, residents have shared their concerns and priorities for the community. Based on their feedback, we have compiled a list of recommendations to address the issues and improve the neighborhood. The top priorities identified by residents include safety, property conditions, and access to amenities and services. Other areas of concern include transportation, street conditions, and community engagement. There were multiple mentions of the need for improved sidewalks, street maintenance, and traffic control, as well as concerns about the condition of houses and yards in the neighborhood. Additionally, community members highlighted the need for improved safety measures at parks and public spaces, as well as addressing the issue of homelessness in the area. Another common theme among responses was the desire for more community amenities, such as a grocery store and community center. Residents want to see improvements that will positively impact their daily lives in North Lawrence.

We propose the following actions to address these issues but leave it to the NLIA and community members to help determine how these actions should be implemented.

1. Improve the physical condition of the community by addressing abandoned or dilapidated buildings, maintaining sidewalks and streets, and ensuring that yards and properties are well-kept.
2. Enhance safety in the community by addressing drug activity, improving train crossing safety, and increasing security at parks and recreational areas.
3. Increase access to amenities and services, including better grocery options, more restaurants and bars, and improved access to the riverfront.
4. Promote a sense of community and inclusivity by supporting local schools, creating opportunities for neighbors to connect and engage with each other, and finding ways to support and empower those who are struggling.
5. Address the presence of homeless individuals in the community. While this issue is often grouped with concerns about safety, we recognize that homelessness is a complex issue that affects not only the safety of the community, but also the well-being of the homeless individuals themselves. By addressing homelessness in a compassionate and holistic manner, the community can work towards improving the lives of all its members.

Given these recommendations, the NLIA may want to consider ideas that focus on addressing these issues and finding ways to improve the quality of life in North Lawrence. This could include continuing to advocate for increased funding for community development initiatives, continuing to search and apply for community grants, working with local government and community organizations to address safety concerns, and finding ways to support and promote local businesses and amenities.

It is also worth highlighting the positive aspects of the North Lawrence community. Survey responses indicated that the residents appreciate the natural beauty and outdoor recreational

opportunities in the area. The parks, river, and levee trail were frequently mentioned as favorite community features. Additionally, the tight-knit and supportive neighborhood was cited as a positive aspect of living in North Lawrence. Overall, it appears that North Lawrence residents value a sense of connection with their neighbors and the opportunity to spend time in nature.

Background

A survey was conducted in the summer of 2022 to gather insights on the thoughts and concerns of the North Lawrence community. The survey was initiated by a small group of community members with the approval of the North Lawrence Improvement Association (NLIA). The survey aimed to understand the community's priorities, what they would like to see changed or improved upon, and what issues that need to be addressed.

Part of the impetus for creating the survey and speaking to community members is to spread the word about the NLIA and the work they do, as well as to let people know they have an avenue in which they can get involved in their local community.

The survey and results were compiled on a voluntary basis by community members Jennifer Burnes and Kirsty Feltz. The survey collected responses from 150 individuals and households between July 14 and November 18 using a Google form. Printed copies were available to anyone who requested one.

Favorite Things About North Lawrence

The North Lawrence community has many strengths and assets that make it a desirable place to live. In the survey, respondents were asked about their favorite things about the community, and many shared positive sentiments about the area. This section of the report highlights some of the most frequently mentioned aspects of the community that residents appreciate and cherish. It is important to recognize and celebrate these positive aspects as they contribute to the overall well-being and sense of community in North Lawrence.

Based on the 127 responses provided, the following characteristics of the North Lawrence neighborhood were frequently mentioned:

- A sense of community and togetherness among neighbors
- Proximity to downtown and the river/levee
- Diversity of people and homes in the neighborhood
- Quiet, friendly atmosphere
- Natural beauty and green spaces
- Eclectic and unique qualities of the neighborhood
- Access to parks, bike trails, and other outdoor amenities
- A small town feel
- Good neighbors

Specific examples mentioned by residents include:

A sense of togetherness, neighbors helping neighbors

all of my neighbors are very nice and it is a very quiet neighborhood

Close to downtown. Quiet yet not. Every house is different. Everyone is friendly and acts as a community.

Diverse types of people, down to earth, feels like a small town, ag fields nearby, funky, river access, space, good neighborhood bars

Ease of leaving the Lawrence area.i.e 70, 24, etc...

Feels like a small community. Diverse. Close to the river, bike trails, & downtown. Neighborhood parks & and neighborhood school, Woodlawn Elementary.

Feels rural, but close to all the downtown amenities. Neighbors watch out for each other, even if we don't know each other well. Levee trail. River trails. Eclectic population.

Gardens, flowers, produce for sale

I have only lived here a month, but I view North Law so far as unique, stands up for all beliefs, kind, creative, collaborative, individuals working together for a better community, accepting, diverse, low-key, natural/nature focused, modest, quirky, and mostly thoughtful.

Soil, unique laid back vibe, POTENTIAL

The abundance of green space (unfortunately fast disappearing) and that it's a working class neighborhood

Woodlawn, neighbors, nearby playgrounds, levee trail, Kaw Valley Pub and Gaslight music and La Tropicana, El Matador and Johnny's, walkability especially to downtown, big yards, amazing soil

We love the community, the nature, the farms, gardens, live and let live nature of neighborhood

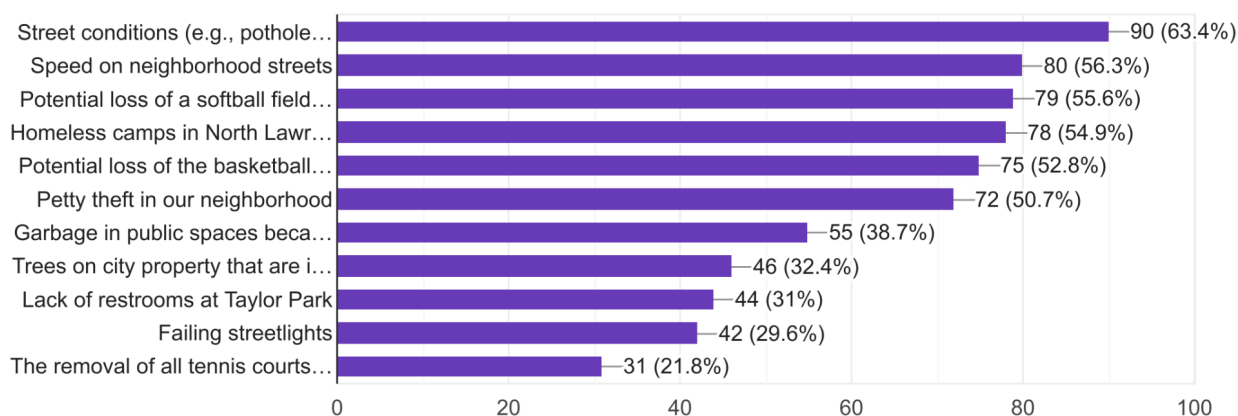
Concerns Residents Would Like to See Addressed in North Lawrence

Despite the many positive aspects of the North Lawrence community, residents also have several concerns they would like to see addressed. These include issues such as property and street conditions, general safety, and access to amenities and services. Additionally, there were several comments about the need for better security at parks and other public spaces, and addressing the issue of homelessness. Overall, it's clear that community members want to see improvements that will enhance the quality of life in North Lawrence.

The responses to the two questions in this section addressed specific concerns that residents would like to see addressed by the North Lawrence Improvement Association (NLIA) or other organizations. The first question provided a selection of options that allowed respondents to choose multiple concerns, some of which had previously been mentioned as areas of concern within the community. Additional concerns were provided in response to an open-ended question.

Community members have previously expressed the following concerns/issues. Please select those items that you agree are issues or concerns that you would like to see addressed.

142 responses



Note: More than one selection was allowed, so percentages add up to >100%.

Top concerns selected by residents include street conditions (63.4%), speed on neighborhood streets (56.3%), potential loss of a softball field at Lyons Park (55.6%), and the homeless camps in North Lawrence (54.9%).

The following issues were mentioned most frequently in the 116 open-ended responses as areas residents would like to see addressed in the North Lawrence community:

- Property conditions (includes neglected lawns, junk accumulation, and run-down properties)
- Safety (includes railroad crossing upgrades, boat ramp and bike trail parking security, loose and unleashed dogs, drug activity in parks, streetlights, and speeding)
- Infrastructure (includes sidewalks, road maintenance, standing water and drainage, and street conditions)
- Community resources (includes grocery stores, restaurants, bars, and business development)
- Environmental concerns (includes flood prevention, mosquito control, and celebrating the river)
- Quality of life (includes property taxes, mental health and disability assistance with home maintenance, support for homeless and homeless camps, and preserving Woodlawn Elementary)
- Traffic (includes semi-truck route and speed on local streets)

Specific examples mentioned by residents include:

#1 A good grocery store, #2 Dilapidated and unkept residential land and housing, #3 Train crossing safety, #4 Better security at boat ramp and bike trail parking area

More and better maintained sidewalks— I have two dogs and usually have to end up walking in the middle of the street to comfortably walk them, and if there is a sidewalk it's narrow and/or overgrown by a neighbor's yard. Generally not that nice to walk on and would prefer to take walks in other parts of the town

Access to basic groceries besides Dollar General, healthier/local options, Neighbors that don't maintain the exterior of homes/yards be held accountable by the city to clean up and/or offer volunteer services to clean up with them. No random cannon going off

The city refusing to take care of the Mill Street alley; Making sure we keep Woodlawn School open; The railroad tracks by the grain elevator need repair; Slow down the traffic on Elm Street; Lack of a grocery store

abandoned buildings, buildings in extremely poor repair, lack of more expensive high-end housing (lack of economic diversity). I would like to see a complete ban on homeless camping east of the bridge all the way to the city limits as was done in Watson Park. The giant homeless campsite west of the bridge on vacant land behind Johnnie's looks terrible and presents many problems. A possible long-term solution on that site is to allow a luxury condo development with spectacular river and sunset views to take place there, as was being proposed before COVID. I would also like to see the intersection of 2nd and Locust be made more business, pedestrian, and bike friendly by lowering the speed limit to 35 mph on 2nd St beginning at Lyon all the way across the river.

Clean up of some of the lots in North Lawrence. Keeping property clear and free of debris and weeds, unwanted critters, etc. Small business additions since we can't seem to get any interest from bigger businesses to locate over here. A real grocery store would be great and I can't believe this still is non-existent.

Developed access points to Riverfront Park. Prohibit "camping" in Riverfront Park and along the Lawrence River Trail. Better trash/litter management along same areas.

Homeless people setting up camp by our walking paths. As a woman I can no longer enjoy taking walks alone. This city needs to do something about the homeless. Be it an ordinance that no camps can be within x amount of feet of walking paths and parks. Also I'd like to see more presence of police patrolling no law.

Loud music from Kaw Valley Public House - I live MANY blocks away & hear it inside my house with windows closed. Owners are not receptive to living peacefully with their neighbors & getting close to calling cops & addressing it with city leaders. This is a residential neighborhood, not a bar district. Some nights music has gone past midnight (week nights).

Need more sidewalks, people are needing to walk on the streets, sidewalk next to ballpark needs to be widened--can't walk side by side; some sidewalks can't be navigated because of overgrowth; railroad tracks must be worked on to become smoother!! Ditches need to be cleaned up by mowing or weed eating. Need better lighting for north st. & 7th st. our cul-de-sac is very dark. Need shelters at bus stops.

More levee access points - I believe the City has an easement at 6th. Maybe that could accommodate a pedestrian path? As a young family with a toddler it would be great if we could incorporate the levee on our walks without having to commit to the entire stretch between 3rd and 8th streets (though we have been known to haul the stroller up the steep path by Walnut park). It seems that this added access could help curb the apparent issue of transient people trespassing to access the levee.

Transient/houseless People - I struggle with what to write here. The situation has definitely changed a lot in the past 6 years (recently moved back to NoLaw). I am interested to learn more about how to help people that are truly in need while balancing the interests of our neighborhood."

Several houses in our neighborhood have severely neglected their lawns and yards. I'm assuming some are because of severe mental illness and/or disability so I don't want to contact the city and make things worse for them. As such, I'm wondering if we could create a group willing to help these people deal with upkeep and lawn maintenance and clean up (and maybe anything else they might need). Another issue is loose and unleashed dogs - we need a way to keep dog owners accountable for safety purposes.

Traffic- probably not specific to North Lawrence but I seldom see any enforcement by police. Lyons Park - need to bring back tennis court. Also some fitness areas would be nice. Better snow removal. Clean up of homeless camp areas and further prevention of areas being used. I think the trash along the levee trail is disgusting and should be removed by the individuals responsible and to not be an added expense to Lawrence residents.

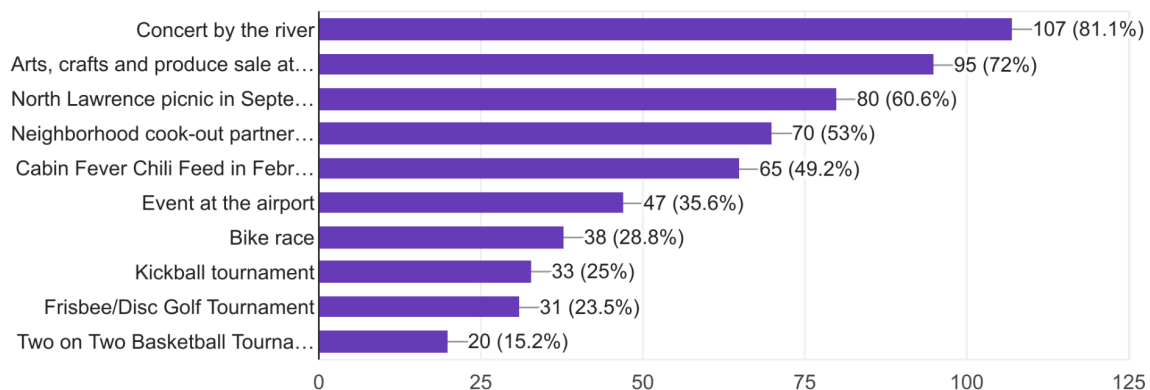
Fundraising Ideas

The community members of North Lawrence have also shared their thoughts on fundraising ideas to improve the neighborhood. Many ideas were suggested such as organizing community events, partnering with local businesses, and fitness related events. These ideas demonstrate the willingness of the community to come together and contribute towards making North Lawrence a better place to live.

The responses included selections of suggestions for fundraising events and activities that have been previously organized or discussed within the community, as well as additional ideas that were offered in response to an open-ended question.

Select all ideas of interest below.

132 responses



Note: More than one selection was allowed, so percentages add up to >100%.

Top fundraiser ideas selected by residents include concert by the river (81.1%), arts, crats, and produce sale at the depot (72%), and a North Lawrence picnic in September (60.6%).

Based on the 35 open-ended responses provided, the following fundraising ideas were frequently mentioned:

- Fitness events (bike race, pickleball tournament, 5K run/walk)
- Food-related events (BBQ competition, bake sale, farm to table dinner, international potluck, food trucks, lemonade and bake sale, cooking class)
- Community events (carnival, car show, car wash and garage sale, open houses for local businesses, holiday open house, porch/yard concerts, plant sale, produce stall)
- Cultural events (outdoor movie screening, cocktail learning class, paint along event)

- Outdoor events (bonfire with s'mores, outdoor summer movie nights, softball tournament, trail cleanup day, walking history tour)

Specific examples mentioned by residents include:

The Runner's club that sometimes hold events in North Lawrence could be helpful in sponsoring/organizing a charity run; Sunflower Bike Shop might be helpful in sponsoring/organizing a race event or at least including North Lawrence in its events and information.

Walking History Tour - The history of North Lawrence is significant and intriguing and I think the more that people know, even seemingly mundane tidbits, helps form a stronger sense of community and belonging (surely I'm not the only non-history-major millennial who feels this way). In addition to the tidbits gathered from searching online and books, there is surely a ton of information stored amongst residents of the neighborhood. Bike Race - Great idea as cycling is really one of our local amenities. The river trails are a favorite of many cyclists even outside of Lawrence. Also, gravel riding is a huge part of cycling these days, especially in Kansas. The many gravel/dirt roads north of Lawrence are a local gem as well with interesting and scenic terrain.

Holiday open house at the Train depot

Produce stalls that neighbors can put extra produce in and people pay what they can. Worst case scenario, people get fresh produce. Best case scenario, funds generated would go toward NLIA.

Recruit local musicians to perform a "porch/yard" concert at neighborhood homes for residents to enjoy. Include "tip jars" for donations to NLIA.

Sell general NoLaw merch: tshirts, stickers, etc.

outdoor summer movie nights, softball tournament, history of north lawrence walking tour, trail cleanup day (we clean the trails in exchange for a donation from the city)

Improvements or Additions Residents Would Like to See at North Lawrence Parks

The survey results reflect North Lawrence residents' love of the outdoors and the recognition of potential including improvements to park facilities. Respondents expressed excitement about the potential addition of a splash pad and desire for additional amenities without the removal of existing ones. There is a desire to enhance the community's connection to the river, with a focus on maintaining and cleaning the area, as well as making it and the levee accessible to all residents. Overall, community members want to see their parks become more functional, inviting, and safe spaces for all residents.

The following suggestions of improvement or additions were mentioned most frequently in the 79 open-ended responses:

- Park amenities (additional open shelter house at Walnut Park, bathrooms at John Taylor Park, benches and picnic tables, working water fountains, updated playground equipment)
- Outdoor activities (basketball nets at Walnut Park, tennis courts returned to Lyon Park, development of access points along Riverfront Park at 2nd, 4th, and 6th Streets, renovation of Lyon Park)
- Pedestrian access (pedestrian bridge over river from Walnut Park to the East side of Marriott/RiverFront, crosswalk and connecting sidewalk at intersection of Lyons and 7th, walking trails at John Taylor Park)
- Park maintenance (general upkeep, grass cutting at Lyons Park, sidewalk repair at Lyons Park, timely removal of trash)
- Community resources (community center specifically for North Lawrence, water fountains, dispensers for pets at John Taylor Park)
- Safety concerns (lighting, homeless individuals occupying shelter spaces and making park space feel off limits or unwelcome, "poop" stations at all parks)
- Special features (water park, outdoor workout stations, unique sculpture or artwork for kids)

Specific examples mentioned by residents include:

Taylor park could have a portable restroom not porta-potties - it could have running water and a waste collection system but would not be practical in freezing weather.

Off leash dog park that is kept up with trails and fenced area.

More trash receptacles. Regular cleaning. Clean and sanitary public restrooms and showers, open 24/7.

More equipment for young children (baby swings, small slides, etc), rubber ground surface

John Taylor - Garbage rummaged through, collected and abandoned. Restroom to accommodate not only park users but community garden too.

Walnut Park - Gravel or paved path to the shelters/playground.

I love playing basketball with my husband at Lyons park, and my daughter loves their playground (and the smaller one right over by the levee trail/river). It would be great if we could get more features at these locations. I've heard rumors of a splash pad as a possibility?

Unique sculpture or artwork that kids can get on/use by local artist. Similar to Watson park in Fayetteville, AR.

Updated playground equipment

Outdoor workout stations on levee or nearby for adults

Other Thoughts/Concerns Shared by Residents

The final open-ended section of the survey asked for any other thoughts or concerns residents wanted to share. Issues reported mirrored concerns mentioned elsewhere in the survey, such as speeding on local streets, overgrown or uncared for lots, and the presence of homeless individuals in the community. Additionally, there were calls for better pedestrian amenities, such as crosswalks and sidewalks, and for the development of access points along the Riverfront Park. Overall, it is clear that community members have a wide range of concerns and ideas for how to improve the community and make it a better place to live for all residents.

Based on the 56 open-ended responses provided, the following categories of other thoughts/concerns were frequently mentioned:

- Development and infrastructure issues (grocery stores, housing density, traffic congestion, stormwater management, sidewalks)
- Community safety and crime prevention (homeless camps, police presence, property maintenance, noise control, speeding)
- Affordability and housing issues (rentals and home sales, affordability and livability, affordable housing)
- Participation and involvement in the community (opportunities to get involved, new blood and young people in the organization, meeting times)

Specific examples mentioned by residents include:

Housing density that could affect stormwater problems and bring increased traffic. Lack of police present for traffic/speeding problems and crime prevention. Preferential treatment of other Lawrence neighborhoods at Lyons Park leading to loss of tennis, basketball, etc.

I am concerned that rentals and sales are driving families out. Please do not let North Lawrence turn into East Lawrence where neighborhoods meant for families are rented to students or priced per bedroom. In other words, I am concerned that existing homes are being purchased by investors, not families. This changes the demographics. I enjoy North Lawrence's socioeconomic diversity and its neighborhood friendly streets that are quirky, walkable, and green. Let's keep NL affordable and livable.

I believe this organization needs new blood. We have new businesses and young people who should be involved.

I would like to see more people taking pride in how their properties look and clean them up.

I would love to know if there is anything I can do to help or if there are opportunities to be involved. If there are any wants for athletics camps or fun activity meets, both my husband and I play sports/ played college sports so we are up for putting in work.

I'd like to see more affordable housing in North Lawrence. I'd like to see a real grocery store open here, like a Trader Joes

I'm very excited to be part of this neighborhood and I'm glad to know that there's an Association trying to make this an even better place to live.

My biggest fear is North Lawrence becoming overly developed. I've lived in the area on and off - mostly on - since 1976. In that time we've certainly seen some improvements thanks to new development, but the primary interest of most developers is money, not neighborhood, and if all the larger lots get split up to make way for more housing the unique nature of the area will be forever lost. I don't have an answer for that, because a major issue in this town is a lack of affordable housing. It's a bit of a double-bind.

We love North Lawrence! The constant train noise is really our only main issue. Thanks!

Conclusion

In conclusion, this survey provides valuable insight into the thoughts, concerns, and needs of the North Lawrence community. The responses highlight a range of issues, from the need for improved park amenities and better public safety to a desire for more businesses and activities in the area. The data gathered in this survey can serve as a valuable resource for the North Lawrence Improvement Association (NLIA), city leaders, and community members as they work to improve the quality of life in the area.

In order to address the needs and wants of the North Lawrence community, the NLIA and city leadership should focus on implementing strategic initiatives that aim to:

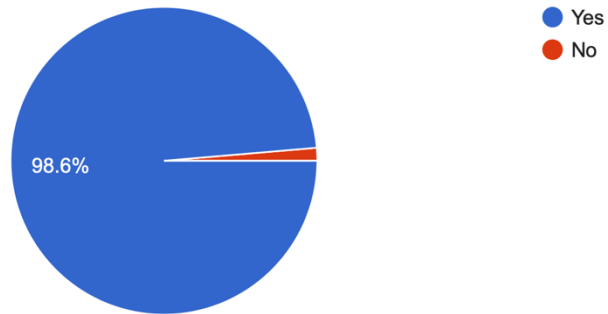
- Improve the overall physical condition of the community.
- Enhance safety in the community.
- Increase access to amenities and services.
- Promote a sense of community and inclusivity.
- Address the presence of homelessness in the community in a compassionate and holistic manner to improve the lives of all members of the community.

Overall, this survey provides important insight for decision makers and makes them aware of the community's needs. By using this data to inform decision making and community development initiatives, the NLIA, city, and community members can work together to create a thriving, inclusive, and livable community for all.

Appendix A – Demographic Questions

Do you live in North Lawrence?

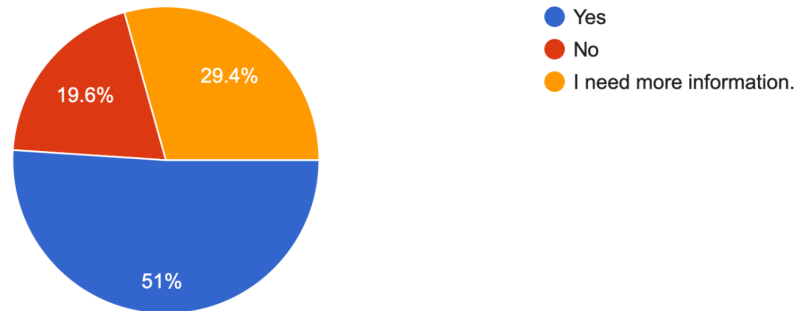
148 responses



Almost all the survey respondents live in North Lawrence.

Would you like to become a member of the North Lawrence Improvement Association for \$5 per person/annually?

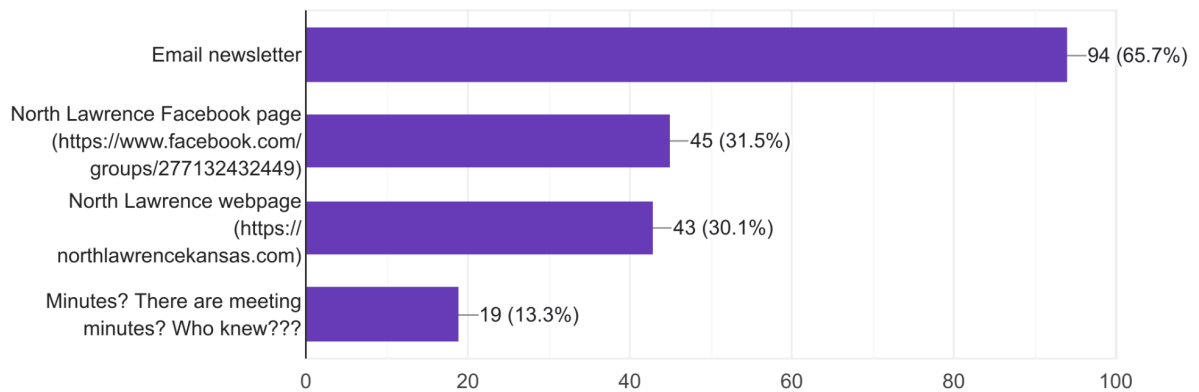
143 responses



The NLIA will follow up with respondents who either need more information or would like to be members and are not currently.

How would you prefer to access the NLIA monthly meeting minutes?

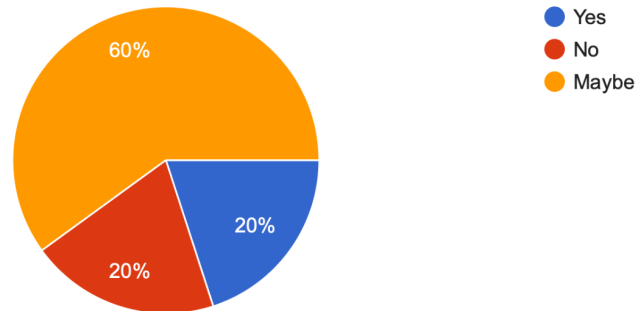
143 responses



Going forward, the NLIA can create an email list to use to share monthly minutes with those who wish to receive them. The minutes will continue to be posted to the North Lawrence Improvement Association Facebook page and webpage.

Would you be interested in attending NLIA meetings monthly (evening of 2nd Monday of each month)?

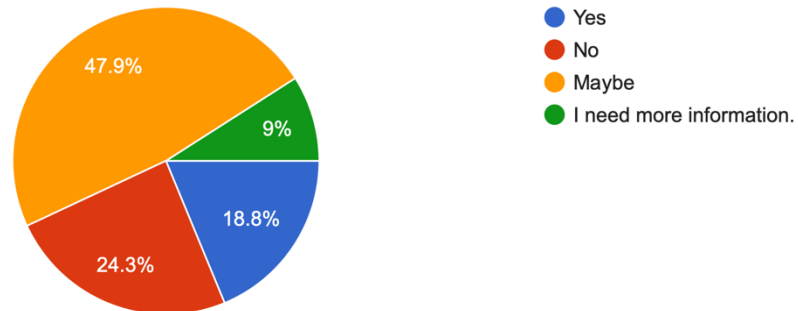
145 responses



NLIA leadership and community members can work together to determine ways to increase membership. Future surveys or conversations can ask what might encourage community members to attend in the future.

If you are interested in making an impact on what happens in North Lawrence by becoming involved in NLIA association meetings but don't have the time to attend in person, would you be interested in meeting with or talking to a representative to attend and act as your advocate (e.g., you express your concerns/interests to a neutral party who takes them to the NLIA).

144 responses



Full question: If you are interested in making an impact on what happens in North Lawrence by becoming involved in NLIA association meetings but don't have the time to attend in person, would you be interested in meeting with or talking to a representative to attend and act as your advocate (e.g., you express your concerns/interests to a neutral party who takes them to the NLIA).

The number of respondents who selected yes or that they need more information is small. This option will not be pursued at this time.

Appendix B – Survey Questions

Explanation

The information gathered from this survey will help the North Lawrence Improvement Association (NLIA) Board members ensure your voice is heard. They want to know what you like about your neighborhood as well as what improvements you would like to see.

Thank you in advance for your input!

Demographics

We will use this information to keep you up to date with changes and developments in your neighborhood. Attending a meeting is best, however we all have incredibly busy lives making it not only hard to attend meetings regularly but also to remember to check the meeting minutes.

We want to foster community engagement, but we also want to be flexible in gaining and sharing information so that we can continue to make North Lawrence the best neighborhood in Lawrence!

Personal information will only be used for NLIA business.

1. Do you live in North Lawrence?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

2. Name

3. Address

4. Phone Number

5. Email Address

6. Would you like to become a member of the North Lawrence Improvement Association for \$5 per person/annually?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- I need more information.

7. How would you prefer to access the NLIA monthly meeting minutes?

Check all that apply.

- Email newsletter
- North Lawrence Facebook page
(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/277132432449>)

- North Lawrence webpage (<https://northlawrencekansas.com>)
 - Minutes? There are meeting minutes? Who knew???
8. Would you be interested in attending NLIA meetings monthly (evening of 2nd Monday of each month)?
- Mark only one oval.*
- Yes
 - No
 - Maybe
9. If you are interested in making an impact on what happens in North Lawrence by becoming involved in NLIA association meetings but don't have the time to attend in person, would you be interested in meeting with or talking to a representative to attend and act as your advocate (e.g., you express your concerns/interests to a neutral party who takes them to the NLIA).
- Mark only one oval.*
- Yes
 - No
 - Maybe
 - I need more information.

Fundraising

Please share an idea you may have to raise funds for your/our neighborhood Association. Below are some ideas that are currently in motion and other thoughts just to help stimulate creativity. We have an amazing neighborhood filled with incredible talent that we can showcase while raising funds to support our association.

10. Select all ideas of interest below.

Check all that apply.

- Concert by the river
- Arts, crafts and produce sale at the Depot showcasing North Lawrence residents' talents
- North Lawrence picnic in September
- Neighborhood cook-out partnering with Midland Care Connection
- Cabin Fever Chili Feed in February
- Event at the airport
- Bike race
- Kickball tournament
- Frisbee/Disc Golf Tournament

- Two on Two Basketball Tournament

11. Enter other fundraising ideas here.

Additional information

Information in this section will be de-identified. Personal information will be separate from specific comments you make in order to address potential privacy concerns.

12. What are your favorite things about the North Lawrence community?

13. Please list issues you would like to see addressed in the North Lawrence community.

14. Community members have previously expressed the following concerns/issues. Please select those items that you agree are issues or concerns that you would like to see addressed.

Check all that apply.

- Street conditions (e.g., potholes, unpaved streets)
- Speed on neighborhood streets
- Potential loss of a softball field at Lyons Park (this is being considered by the city)
- Homeless camps in North Lawrence (i.e., garbage, fires)
- Potential loss of the basketball court at Lyons Park (this is being considered by the city)
- Petty theft in our neighborhood
- Garbage in public spaces because of the lack of garbage receptacles
- Trees on city property that are in poor health/potential hazards
- Lack of restrooms at Taylor Park
- Failing streetlights
- The removal of all tennis courts at Lyons Park (this has already happened)

15. What improvements or additions would you like to see at any of the North Lawrence parks (list park specifically when making suggestions).

16. Please share any other thoughts or concerns.