

# Report to the Community



2025  
nicholasville.org

# Letter from the Mayor

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we reflect on 2025, I am proud of how Nicholasville continues to grow while holding on to the sense of community that makes our City unique. This past year has brought important milestones, and we are preparing for even more in 2026.



One of the most exciting steps forward is the long-awaited community recreation center. After more than two decades of planning, we officially broke ground this year. When completed in 2026, this facility will provide opportunities for athletics, wellness, and connection that will serve generations of Nicholasville families.

We also took action to strengthen public safety. Land was acquired this year for a future fifth fire station on the west side of Nicholasville, an investment that will help us keep pace with our City's growth. In addition, the commission approved funding for a new fire engine, an important resource that will take time to build but will be ready to serve our community in just a few years.

Behind the scenes, we continue to invest in the infrastructure that supports our daily lives. With the wastewater treatment plant expansion completed last year, our City now has the capacity needed to meet the demands of our growing population well into the future.

Nicholasville remains one of the fastest growing cities in Kentucky, and with that growth comes new opportunities. I believe we are meeting those opportunities head-on — with smart planning, strong partnerships, and a commitment to quality of life.

Finally, I encourage you to enjoy the many community events that bring us together. From our community festivals to concerts at Performance Park, these gatherings remind us of the strength and warmth of our City.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your mayor. My family and I are proud to call Nicholasville home, and I look forward to all we will accomplish together in 2026.

Sincerely,

Alex Carter, Mayor

# Inside

- Commissioners ..... 3
- Planning and Zoning ..... 4
- Mental Health ..... 5
- Drones NPD ..... 6
- NFD Public Education ..... 7
- Municipal Center ..... 8
- Utilities ..... 9
- Pickleball ..... 10
- Tourism ..... 11
- Economic Development ..... 12
- Rec Center ..... 13
- Stormwater ..... 14
- Nicholasville By The #'s ..... 15

The public is invited to attend all City Commission meetings. To see upcoming meetings, meeting agendas, and meeting minutes, visit [nicholasville.org/city-commission](http://nicholasville.org/city-commission).

# Your 2025 City Commission



**Pete Sutherland**  
Streets and Cemetery

**Patty Teater**  
Electric and Meter

**Alex Carter**  
Mayor, Administration and Finance

**Bethany Davis Brown**  
Public Safety, Police & Fire

**Dexter Knight**  
Water and Sewer

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## PAWN TO PILLAR: Nicholasville's Masterclass in Steady Small-Town Growth

"It's important to ensure that development is in line with our population growth and is balanced on the north and south ends of Nicholasville."

TIM CROSS, *Planning and Zoning Director*

In Nicholasville, growth isn't a roll of the dice — it's a calculated strategy, much like a masterful game of chess. The Nicholasville Planning and Zoning Department serves as the city's grandmaster, carefully positioning each piece of development to ensure that every move supports a vibrant, balanced, and sustainable future.

Just like in chess, every new subdivision, commercial site, and infrastructure investment is placed to fit the overall vision by preserving the small-town character and unique charm that draws people to Nicholasville in the first place.

"It's great to see our little city growing and thriving, but we're not trying to be the Lexington or Louisville — we want to be the best Nicholasville we can be," said Planning and Zoning Director Tim Cross. "It's important to ensure that development is in line with our population growth and is balanced on the north and south ends of Nicholasville."



Tim Cross, *Planning and Zoning Director*, reviewing zoning maps with other City personnel.

For the last decade, Nicholasville has ranked in the top ten fastest growing communities in Kentucky, even without a major interstate, a landmark university or a massive economic powerhouse like Toyota Manufacturing. Nicholasville has stayed competitive in the Central Bluegrass region on the backs of small businesses and entrepreneurship. Areas of Jessamine County like the Bluegrass Industrial Park, Enterprise Park, and the new Jennette Industrial Park, will ensure future economic growth.

On the housing front, Nicholasville continues to grow with intention, offering a mix of new subdivisions tailored to various needs. Communities like Hanley Place, Burley Ridge, Halfhill Estates, and the multi-phased West Place feature homes in the mid-to-higher price range with more space and upscale options. Meanwhile, neighborhoods such as The Arbor offer more compact and affordable homes. "Not everyone can afford a \$500,000 home," Cross said. "We need to provide opportunities for first-time buyers to put down roots in our community."

At Keene Landings, Chipotle is open, Panera will open soon and construction has started on Cattleman's Roadhouse. Plans are underway for Kroger to build a new superstore on U.S. 27 and for another major retailer, such as TJ Maxx or another store from the TJX Companies line, to take over there in Brannon Crossing.

Nicholasville's growth may be carefully mapped like a chessboard, but it's not a solo game. Residents are encouraged to get engaged with the strategy — attend city meetings, ask questions, voice concerns, and learn how each move fits into the city's long-term vision.

"Whether you're a long-time resident or new to our community, your voice matters," Cross said. "We're building this city together—and every perspective helps make the next move smarter."

## BACKING THE BRAVE: Wellness Programs Focus On First Responders

"When we invest in the health of our first responders, we're not just helping them—we're protecting the heart of our community."

MICHAEL FLEMING, *Police Chief*

When Nicholasville first responders answer a call, they're stepping into someone's worst day — bringing the calm, courage, and compassion we admire. But beyond the flashing lights and sirens, and long after the scene is clear, our brave and selfless police officers and firefighters sometimes quietly struggle with the mental and physical toll of the job. Even heroes need help. That's why the City of Nicholasville has made the well-being of first responders a priority with programs aimed at ensuring our protectors are okay when the uniforms come off.

Police Chief Michael Fleming sees mental health as an important consideration among those in uniform.



Corey Boston, *NPD Officer*, utilizing the NPD fitness facilities to stay physically and mentally fit.

"Our officers see things most people never have to," Chief Fleming said. "It's their job to walk into trauma, danger, and heartbreak, and they carry those moments with them long after the call ends. They're strong, but they're human. And it's our responsibility to make sure they have the support they need, not just to do the job, but to stay healthy in body, mind, and spirit."

Fleming said programs like Fit Force encourage regular exercise and wellness habits, while trauma-informed training helps officers process difficult calls and maintain their mental health over time.

Fire Chief Craig Cox said the department is also committed to giving firefighters support to stay healthy. Firefighters train regularly in station gyms to maintain their physical strength, but they also rely on peer support teams and the city's Employee Assistance Program for counseling and therapy services.

Employees from both departments are eligible to utilize the Kentucky First Responder Peer Support Team, which provides confidential, peer-led support to emergency personnel across the state. Whether it's support in the aftermath of a tragedy at work or in their personal lives, trained peers are available to help fellow responders process trauma, reduce stress and anxiety, deal with depression and suicidal thoughts and combat sleeplessness.

Nicholasville's approach also aligns with national efforts led by organizations like the First Responders Foundation, which advocates for mental wellness, peer support, and access to counseling. Local therapists in the area are stepping up to offer trauma-informed care tailored to the unique challenges first responders face.

"When we invest in the health of our first responders, we're not just helping them—we're protecting the heart of our community," Chief Fleming said. "Our officers and firefighters give everything they have, every single day. They deserve to be supported, not just as professionals, but as people. Because when they're well, our whole city is stronger."

## DRONES TO DRILLS: NPD Fights Crime with Tech and Training

“Having a drone program is a game-changer for smaller departments like ours with limited resources.”

CHIEF MICHAEL FLEMING, *Nicholasville Police Department*

Attention, bad guys! Don't let the quaint charm of Nicholasville deceive you. It may be a small town, but its police department is anything but small-time. With the latest technology and top-tier training, the Nicholasville Police Department is proving that they can have a big impact on crime.

Just ask the crooks from the Cleveland, Ohio area who made the mistake of bringing contraband to Nicholasville. They were quickly apprehended, thanks to new drones the department purchased with a grant from Norfolk Southern.

“When they fled from the police, the drone captured them throwing the contraband out the window. This evidence was crucial in securing their conviction, and they are now serving time,” explained Chief Michael Fleming.



*Two of the NPD's Drone Operators practice drone procedures.*

The department currently has six pilots, all sworn officers, trained to operate the drones. First responders nationwide are increasingly using drones to gather evidence, assist with crash scene reconstruction, monitor large crowds, and conduct early reconnaissance of dangerous scenes.

“Having a drone program is a game-changer for smaller departments like ours with limited resources. It's a cost-effective eyes-in-the-sky alternative to pricey helicopter surveillance,” Fleming said. “For example, when we're searching for a missing child in a wooded area, we can use the drones to spot heat signatures and zero in on specific locations.”

In addition to cutting-edge technology, ensuring that officers receive top-notch training is crucial to maintaining the city's safety and security. The department utilizes a range of training methods to ensure its officers are among the best trained in the profession. These comprehensive training programs provide real-life experience in controlled environments, preparing officers to make good decisions when every second counts.

One such initiative is the construction of a non-lethal shoot house, which will help officers learn to de-escalate tense situations and sharpen their situational awareness. The walls and doorways of the house, inspired by one in Lexington, make it feel like a different house for various training exercises.

“We want our officers to be the best trained in the profession and equipped with the finest tools to combat crime,” said Chief Fleming. “It's our unwavering commitment to making Nicholasville the safest place on earth, where every resident can feel protected and at peace.”

## NICHOLASVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT Fighting Fires with Community Safety Education

“Our ultimate goal is to create a community where everyone feels safe, prepared and empowered to prevent tragedies.”

JOSH BOLTON, *Fire Marshal*

In his time with the Nicholasville Fire Department, Chief Craig Cox has responded to many heart-wrenching fires he'll never forget. The worst ones, he says, are those that could have been prevented with a little safety education.

“It breaks our hearts to see lives and homes lost in fires that could have been avoided, so we see fire prevention as a key part of our job as firefighters,” Cox said. “We would much rather help prevent a tragedy than rescue someone who could have avoided a dangerous situation if they had only known better.”

Nicholasville's recent growth spurt has led to a higher demand for emergency services, including fire alarms at homes and industrial facilities, medical emergencies ranging from vehicle accidents to drug overdoses, mutual aid with other agencies, and rescue operations. To meet this demand, the department continues to expand its capacity to ensure community safety. Plans are underway for a fifth fire station and the purchase of a new engine.

One of the department's most important investments, Cox said, is in educating residents about fire safety. “When residents are educated about fire hazards and safety measures, they are better equipped to protect themselves and their loved ones. This proactive approach not only saves lives but also reduces the strain on our emergency services, allowing us to respond more effectively when incidents do occur.”

The department hosts annual events such as Fire Prevention Safety Day in October, where families can explore fire prevention tools and resources. Throughout the year, the department provides information about family fire escape planning, carbon monoxide awareness, and smoke alarm maintenance. The department has downloadable fire safety brochures on its website.

Fire Marshal Josh Bolton, who began volunteering with the fire department in his hometown at the age of 16, takes pride in teaching Nicholasville children lessons that may one day save their lives. The department visits area schools to share fire safety information, discuss emergency response careers, and introduce children to Sparky the Fire Dog.



*Firefighters teaching kids about fire safety at the NFD's annual Fire Prevention Day.*

“I have a soft spot for kids,” he said. “If they are ever in a bad situation, I want them to have the tools to act until we arrive. You never know – what they learn could save their life or the lives of their entire family.”

This time of year is critical for fire education, as most home fires occur in the fall and winter when families spend more time indoors and create heating and cooking hazards. Key winter safety messages include ensuring chimneys are clean, having furnaces inspected and replacing filters, and using space heaters according to the manufacturer's instructions. Businesses and industries are urged to maintain fire extinguishers, hoods, and suppression systems, and train employees on what to do in an emergency.

Residents are always welcome to call the fire department for fire prevention guidance.

“Our ultimate goal is to create a community where everyone feels safe, prepared and empowered to prevent tragedies,” Bolton said.

## STREAMLINED SERVICES AHEAD: Nicholasville Builds Modern Municipal Hub

“This project reflects the heart of what Nicholasville stands for—a community that invests in its people and prepares for the future.”

MAYOR ALEX CARTER

**N**icholasville is building more than a new Municipal Center — it’s building stronger connections. After years on the city’s wish list, this long-awaited project is finally coming to life.

City leaders recently broke ground on the facility, marking the start of construction on a space that will bring multiple departments together under one roof, making local government more accessible and responsive, said Mayor Alex Carter.

“When teams work side by side, communication improves, decisions happen faster, and residents get the benefit of streamlined services,” Carter said. “This modern space is designed to turn collaboration into better experiences for everyone who calls Nicholasville home.”

The Municipal Center has been part of the city’s vision for decades, and now that vision is becoming reality. For years, city offices have been retrofitted, inadequate in size, and scattered across multiple buildings, making it more challenging for departments to coordinate and for residents to locate the information they need. The new center changes that by organizing Administration, Finance, Utilities, Planning and Zoning, and Engineering under one roof. This means fewer trips, faster answers, and a more welcoming, connected experience for residents.

The new three-story, 30,068-square-foot building will be constructed on the site of the current City Hall and adjacent lots, including the former Pizza Hut and Utility Office. The center will feature expanded public meeting areas for City Commission sessions and community events, state-of-the-art technology to enhance service delivery and communication, improved accessibility for all visitors, and a drive-up utility payment window for added convenience.

With Nicholasville’s population growing more than 55 percent since 2000, this project is about meeting today’s needs and building for tomorrow, Carter said.

“This project reflects the heart of what Nicholasville stands for—a community that invests in its people and prepares for the future,” said Carter.

Construction is expected to be completed by summer 2027, representing a \$17 million investment in Nicholasville’s future.



Municipal Center rendering provided by Brandstetter Carroll Inc.

While the new center takes shape, some city offices have temporarily relocated to keep services running smoothly:

**Utilities Customer Services & Tax Payments**  
Now at 714 S. Main Street (formerly City National Bank)

**Finance, Human Resources & Tax Administration**  
Now at 109 Shannon Parkway

**City Hall Offices**  
Remain at their current location until the new center opens

These short-term moves ensure residents continue to receive the services they need while Nicholasville builds a modern, unified space that will make connecting with your city easier than ever.



### INSIDE THE VISION: How the New Center is Designed to Serve

From the ground up, the new Municipal Center is built to serve Nicholasville for decades to come. Every detail—from layout to materials—was designed with accessibility, collaboration, and community in mind. Here’s what’s inside:

#### Lower Level

Accessible from the south parking lot on Stratton Drive, this level will house a community room for public meetings, including City Commission and Planning and Zoning sessions.

#### Second Floor

With at-grade access from the north parking lot, this floor will accommodate City Administration, Finance, and Utility offices. It will feature a utility payment counter and a convenient drive-up window.

#### Third Floor

Dedicated to Planning and Zoning, Engineering, and Water/Sewer departments, strategically placed based on public foot traffic and interdepartmental collaboration.

#### Exterior and Interior Design

The building will showcase a durable brick and stone façade with ample windows for natural light. Interior finishes will prioritize durability and ease of maintenance.

## MODERN TOOLS, LOCAL SUPPORT: Making Utilities Work Better for You

**T**he Nicholasville Utilities Department made significant strides in the past two years in capitalizing on emerging technology, expanding customer communication, and adapting to rapid community growth. With nearly 2,700 new utility accounts for 2025, the team focused on streamlining internal operations while improving the overall customer experience.

Among the biggest improvements was the department’s investment in digital tools. Online account signups, bill reminders, and a new customer text line gave residents easier ways to manage their utilities. More than 30 states were represented by customers using the digital sign-up option, highlighting how these tools reduce friction, especially for new residents.

The department also launched a direct outage reporting line and promoted the use of a live outage map. This map allows residents to track disruptions and progress in real time, while the 833-805-9473 line ensures quicker, more accurate reporting.

“The customer reporting system not only helps us restore service faster, but it also lets us talk directly with the customer throughout the process,” said Travis Ward, Utilities Business Manager.

The department’s efforts extended to affordability as well. Nicholasville continued leveraging hydroelectric energy from the Southeastern Power Administration to reduce peak usage costs. In 2024 alone, this initiative saved customers over \$460,000, bringing total savings since 2020 to more than \$2.6 million.

Modernization wasn’t just about technology. The office team emphasized accessibility and transparency by proactively texting customers about upcoming due dates, penalties, and service interruptions.

“We’re here to help customers stay current, not penalize,” said Ward. “If we can help someone avoid a late fee or a shutoff, that’s a win for everyone.”

As Nicholasville continues to grow, the Nicholasville Utilities Department remains focused on meeting increased demand while helping customers feel supported, informed, and connected.



The temporary Nicholasville Utilities Office is located at 714 South Main Street, Nicholasville, KY.

## NICHOLASVILLE'S GOT GAME: Pickleball Takes Root As Town's New Favorite Sport

"Whether you're a seasoned pro or just learning what a 'dink' is, pickleball is a sport that truly welcomes everyone."

ANESSA SNOWDEN, *Parks and Recreation Director*

If you haven't heard the cheerful pop-pop-pop echoing from City/County Park, it's time to paddle up—pickleball fever has officially hit Nicholasville. To keep pace with the paddle-powered craze, Nicholasville Parks and Recreation unveiled six brand-new courts last summer, turning the park into a lively hub of activity and connection.

If you don't know the big dill about pickleball, it's a fast-growing sport that blends the best of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong. Played on a court roughly the size of a badminton court with a net slightly lower than tennis, players use solid paddles to volley a lightweight, perforated ball—similar to a ping-pong ball—back and forth. It's easy to learn, surprisingly competitive, and perfect for anyone seeking a fun, low-impact, joint-friendly, and cross-generational way to stay active.



Residents playing Pickleball at one of six courts located in City/County Park, with two additional courts located in Lone Oak Park.

It's no surprise that one of the fastest-growing sports in the United States has found a substantial following in Nicholasville.

"Whether you're a seasoned pro or just learning what a 'dink' is, pickleball is a sport that truly welcomes everyone," said Parks and Recreation Director Anessa Snowden. "You don't need fancy gear or years of experience—just bring your enthusiasm and a community spirit and have fun."

Since the courts at City/County Park and Lone Oak Park opened, they have become a magnet for players of all stripes—retirees looking for a fun way to stay active, families trying something new together, and even teens discovering a sport they can play with friends or parents. On any given day, you will find doubles matches in full swing, laughter echoing across the park, and newcomers being welcomed with open arms (and spare paddles).

Good news for winter couch potatoes and folks with the winter blues: Pickleball isn't just a summer sport. Enthusiasts and first-timers can enjoy pickleball year-round on well-lit outdoor courts, and the new recreation center off the bypass will include indoor space for pickleball.

Snowden is excited about Nicholasville's pickleball fever and is proud that residents can enjoy the sport in their own backyard, without having to travel to Lexington.

"If you've never played before, now is the perfect time to try. I love that the local pickleball community is welcoming and eager to help newcomers learn the ropes," Snowden said. "Whether you're looking to compete, stay fit, or simply have fun, pickleball is a great way to connect with others."

## TRAILS TO TASTING: Jessamine Co. Advancing as a Tourist Hotspot

"Tourism isn't just about sightseeing, it's a vital economic engine for our community."

CHARLA REED, *Tourism Director*

Sometimes the best treasures aren't hidden—they're right in our own backyard. Just beyond Lexington's bright lights, Nicholasville, a small town with a big personality, blends historic charm with exciting new additions, making it—and all of Jessamine County—a destination worth visiting for an increasing number of tourists.

Behind the scenes, Visit Jessamine is transforming the visitor experience with bold new initiatives.

Led by Director Charla Reed, the organization this year introduced the Jessamine Wine & Spirits Trail, connecting travelers to local wineries and distilleries. It also opened a Welcome Center and office in the historic Main Street jailhouse, offering maps, merchandise, and insider tips. Even after hours, a digital kiosk on the porch is available 24/7 to help visitors plan their activities, including where to eat, shop, and play. A mobile kiosk now travels to local events, inviting guests to linger and explore.

Art is also part of the story. A vibrant mural in Wilmore and a stunning floral installation in downtown Nicholasville, created by nationally renowned Anat Ronen, showcase Jessamine's creative spirit.

"We're creating new ways for visitors to experience Jessamine County," says Charla Reed, Director of Visit Jessamine. "Our goal is to showcase everything that makes this community special—from historic sites like Camp Nelson to scenic horse farms, and signature events like the Kentucky Wine & Vine Festival. Whether you're here for outdoor adventure, art and culture, or local flavors, there's something for everyone."

The secret behind Jessamine's tourism success? Strategic, creative marketing. Through innovative campaigns and strategic partnerships, Reed ensures the county shines on every platform. Visit Jessamine has rolled out dynamic social media campaigns, expanded its website with video tours, and built a strong presence on Facebook, TikTok, and YouTube. A partnership with Asbury University students and coverage by local media amplify the message, while video ads and live segments on



Visit America's first commercial vineyard, right here in Nicholasville! A must-see stop for history and wine lovers alike.

local television spotlight Jessamine's attractions to a regional audience. The results speak for themselves: In 2024 alone, travelers infused \$87 million into the local economy, supported 544 jobs, and generated \$6.2 million in state and local taxes. Tourism also supports small businesses and a diverse mix of new and established restaurants throughout the county.

"Tourism isn't just about sightseeing, it's a vital economic engine for our community," Reed said. "Every meal, every overnight stay, and every event ticket helps strengthen our community and keep it thriving," Reed adds. "Whether you're a history buff, foodie, art lover, or outdoor enthusiast, there's a trail to explore or an event to enjoy."

Learn more at [visitjessamine.com](http://visitjessamine.com).

## A FAMILIAR LEADER STEPS INTO NEW ROLE: Meyer Ready to Spur Business Growth

“Economic development doesn’t happen in isolation. You have to lock arms with leaders across the region.”

RUSS MEYER, *Economic Development Director*

Russ Meyer knows what it takes to build a thriving community—because he’s done it before. From the mayor’s office in Nicholasville to the halls of the Kentucky General Assembly, Meyer has spent decades making decisions that shaped the future of Central Kentucky. Now, as Jessamine County’s Economic Development Director, he’s leveraging that experience to guide one of the fastest-growing regions in the state.

For Meyer, this new role feels like the culmination of everything he’s learned. Years of navigating budgets, infrastructure projects, and legislative priorities taught him that growth doesn’t happen by chance – it happens through planning, partnerships, and persistence.

When he first became mayor, Nicholasville was on the brink of rapid expansion. His solution was bold: a joint comprehensive plan between the city and county that created a roadmap for growth while protecting quality of life.

“If you plan for it early, you can manage growth in a way that benefits everyone,” Meyer says of the principle that still drives his work today.

His time as a state representative broadened his perspective even further. Meyer learned that local decisions ripple across regions and require collaboration. He worked closely with leaders in surrounding counties and at the state level to advocate for projects that would strengthen Central Kentucky’s economic position.



Russ Meyer, *Economic Development Director*

“Economic development doesn’t happen in isolation,” he explains. “You have to lock arms with leaders across the region.”

Infrastructure was another lesson Meyer carried forward. As mayor, he saw firsthand how roads, utilities, and public services shape opportunity. Businesses don’t just look for a place to build—they look for communities that are ready.

“When someone invests in your community, they want to know you’re ready,” Meyer says. “That means having a growth plan, an infrastructure plan, and a workforce to match.” Perhaps the most enduring lesson from Meyer’s years in elective office is the value of teamwork. He believes success comes from shared vision and collaboration, and that belief drives his work today. He partners closely with Mayor Alex Carter and Judge David West to align goals for Nicholasville and Jessamine County.

“Economic development is a team sport,” Meyer says. “We all want the same thing—smart growth that strengthens our community.”

For Meyer, stepping away from elective politics wasn’t about leaving public service behind—it was about continuing it in a new way. His years in leadership taught him that growth requires planning, partnerships, and persistence. Now, he’s applying those lessons to ensure Jessamine County thrives as a business hub while preserving the character that makes it unique.

“There’s excitement in our growth,” Meyer says. “Our community gets behind it because they see the difference.”

## A PLACE TO BELONG: New Rec Center Builds on Legacy of Fun For All

“Whether you’re looking to learn a new skill, meet new friends, or simply enjoy a welcoming space to move and relax, this center is being built with you in mind.”

ANESSA SNOWDEN, *Parks and Recreation Director*

Whether it’s dance classes, senior socials, festival fun, or a spirited game of pickleball, Nicholasville Parks and Recreation has long been a place where neighbors connect, families play, and everyone belongs. Now, with the Nicholasville-Jessamine County Recreation Center rising on the horizon, that legacy has room to grow.

More than just a building, the new center is a bold investment in the community’s future. It’s a space designed to inspire wellness, foster connection, and ensure every resident has a place to move, learn, and thrive.

Located off John Preece Drive with easy access from the new bypass, the 59,000-square-foot, \$18 million facility will be the largest indoor recreational space in Jessamine County. It will be designed to welcome people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

“Whether you’re looking to learn a new skill, meet new friends, or simply enjoy a welcoming space to move and relax, this center is being built with you in mind,” said Parks and Recreation Director Anessa Snowden. “We’re trying to make sure we include things for every member of our community.”

Phase 1 of the new center includes gymnasiums, a walking track, and community event rooms, with spaces that will host everything from fitness classes and wellness programs to basketball courts, volleyball, archery, and indoor pickleball. Future phases will include the implementation of aquatics.

Accessibility and inclusion are central to Snowden’s vision for the center, shaped by her background as a special education teacher and her earlier work in developing therapeutic recreation programs for individuals with disabilities.

“Accessibility means different things for different people,” she said. “Whether it’s making sure facilities are physically accessible or ensuring they’re clean, well-maintained, and easy to reach from anywhere in the



Anessa Snowden, *Parks and Recreation Director*, speaking at the Community Rec. Center Groundbreaking Ceremony.

county, we want every resident to participate with the least amount of barriers possible.”

Snowden is proud that Parks and Recreation will continue to enhance the physical, mental and spiritual quality of life for all residents.

“Whether it’s a nature walk, bird watching, or a dance class, people connect in different ways,” she said. “We want to offer those experiences, from birth through the aging process, so everyone can find joy, wellness, and a place to belong.”

The groundbreaking ceremony in May marked a significant milestone, and although the completion date has not been set, anticipation is building. “I joke and say when we get moved into this new building, we’ll already have to start thinking about building the next one because I’m sure we’ll be at capacity,” Snowden said. “We don’t have anything like this yet, and I know it’s going to be something special.”

# SMALL ACTIONS, BIG IMPACT: Residents Urged to Be Stormwater Stewards in All Seasons

"Your vigilance and proactive actions make a significant difference in protecting our environment."

BRIAN CLaar, City Engineer

Every time it rains in Nicholasville, water runs across rooftops, roadways, and lawns, carrying with it much of what it touches – oil and grease in your driveway, poop from your pet, pesticides from your garden, and soap from the last time you washed your car. That water eventually ends up in streams and rivers.

Helping keep our water clean is one of the City's environmental responsibilities.

"Most people don't think about stormwater because, for the most part, it is out of sight and out of mind, but it impacts everyone," said City Engineer Brian Claar. "It's important to remember that whatever is on the ground may end up in our creeks and rivers."

Claar has stepped up efforts to educate the community on how they can help keep stormwater clean.

"It really comes down to simple actions, like don't litter, clean up after your pets, don't stuff garbage and leaves in storm drains, or toss cigarette butts on the ground. And, of course, dispose of things like oil properly," he said. "Those small things alone can make a huge difference."



Trash lying on the banks of the Kentucky River.

Residents can also help by sharing tips with their neighbors and reporting any suspicious discharges, illegal dumping, clogged storm drains, and possible chemical spills on the city's website.

"By taking these simple steps each season, we can all contribute to keeping our waterways clean and healthy," Claar said. "Your vigilance and proactive actions make a significant difference in protecting our environment."

Reducing stormwater contamination requires diligence all year long. This list of seasonal tips can help:

**WINTER:**

- Snow and Ice Removal: Use environmentally friendly de-icing products and avoid over-salting driveways and sidewalks.
- Snow Storage: Store snow in areas where it can melt and infiltrate into the ground rather than running off into storm drains.
- Permeable Pavements: Use permeable materials for walkways and driveways to allow snowmelt to infiltrate the ground rather than running off.
- Winter Planting: Plant cover crops in your garden to protect the soil from erosion during the winter months.

**SPRING:**

- Garden Preparation: Incorporate rain gardens and native plants to help absorb and filter stormwater.
- Mulching: Apply mulch to garden beds to reduce soil erosion and runoff.
- Rain Gardens: Create rain gardens to capture and filter stormwater runoff from roofs, driveways, and other impervious surfaces.
- Soil Testing: Test your soil before planting to ensure you are using the right amount of fertilizer, reducing the risk of nutrient runoff.

**SUMMER:**

- Watering Practices: Water gardens and lawns early in the morning or late in the evening to reduce evaporation and runoff.
- Pesticide Use: Minimize the use of pesticides and choose organic options to reduce chemical runoff.
- Rainwater Harvesting: Install rain barrels to collect and store rainwater for use during dry periods, reducing the demand on municipal water supplies.
- Native Plants: Use native plants in your landscaping as they are better adapted to local conditions and require less water and maintenance.

**FALL:**

- Leaf Management: Regularly rake and dispose of leaves properly to prevent them from clogging storm drains.
- Composting: Instead of disposing of leaves, consider composting them. This reduces waste and provides valuable nutrients for your garden.
- Gutter Maintenance: Clean gutters and downspouts regularly to prevent blockages that can lead to water overflow and erosion.

# BY THE NUMBERS: A Snapshot of Nicholasville's Recent Growth and Impact

The figures presented reflect the most recent data available from 2024 through 2025. All information is sourced from U.S. Census records, City of Nicholasville reports, state economic reports, and internal departmental projections and models. Where applicable, projected figures are noted.

**33,548**  
POPULATION

**15.9** square miles  
CITY AREA

**466**  
ACRES PUBLIC PARKS

**160 million**  
KWH ELECTRICITY  
DELIVERED

**76**  
SWORN POLICE  
OFFICERS

**57**  
FULL-TIME  
FIREFIGHTERS

**1.564 billion**  
GALLONS WATER  
PROVIDED  
(2025 PROJECTED)

**1,000+**  
BRANNON CROSSING  
JOBS CREATED

**5th**  
FASTEST  
GROWING CITY  
IN KENTUCKY

**\$430,000**  
SEPA HYDRO  
POWER SAVINGS

**\$87 million**  
TOURISM TOTAL  
ECONOMIC IMPACT

**\$19 million**  
TOURISM  
LABOR INCOME



517 North Main Street  
Nicholasville, KY 40356

Presort  
Standard  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Lexington, KY  
Permit No. 850



*Mayor Alex Carter, Economic Development Director Russ Meyer, Judge/Executive David West*



COMMUNITY LEADERS  
WORK TOGETHER:

## **A Renewed Focus on Economic Development**

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For more information, see article on page 12