

DE SOTO

KANSAS

Community Guide



Come Build Your Life With Us!

Welcome to the City of De Soto



Come Build Your Life With Us!

Close your eyes and envision the elements of a perfect setting for your family or for your employees. You may see an area calmed by its setting on the quiet banks of the Kansas River in the middle of rolling hills and wooded neighborhoods. Top on that list is probably one of the State's most respected public school districts with a commitment to quality instructors and modern facilities.

A perfect setting would be one with affordable and attractive housing located far enough from the congestion, crime, and stress of a more fully-developed city and its first-ring suburbs; however, that perfect setting would be within a few short minutes from the entertainment and cultural offerings of that same city by means of a modern 4-lane highway. In short, that perfect setting offers the best of both worlds.

Your business goods will travel to north/south and east/west interstates without ever going through local neighborhoods or encountering one stop light. Need rail service? We have that covered, too. While we're at it, let's throw in Kansas University right next door, a local source for a well-educated labor pool and for major college sports and cultural opportunities. How's that for wrapping up the perfect setting?

We offer it all for a family wanting a safe, school-focused, and attractive setting where your neighbors quickly become your friends and for the business seeking advantages of transportation and an educated labor pool. Our local government has a proven track record of making "red tape" and "bureaucracy" concepts that are unfamiliar to local businesses that have partnered up with us to make De Soto their address.

Give us a look and you'll begin to understand why De Soto is part of the Kansas City and Lawrence communities on the one hand, but is a wonderful alternative on the other.

Mayor David Anderson



"Public/private partnership," "cooperation," "synergy." Communities frequently market such buzz words until we become numb to them. We expect to hear those words from community leaders trying to attract new economic development ventures. But to paraphrase former Dallas Cowboys' football coach Jimmy Johnson, it is easy to talk the talk...but it's another challenge to walk the walk.

That distinction--so pointedly illustrated by the Cowboys coach--between promise and action is what makes De Soto a champion in partnering with prospective businesses. We are not a large city with a large and impersonal development process tied up in red tape and bureaucracy. We are similar to most communities as we "talk the talk" about our desire for new economic development. But we are different; we "walk the walk" and roll up our sleeves and work with developers and businesses to reduce red tape. Our small staff of energetic professionals has little respect for "bureaucracy." We take ownership in others' development and business efforts. We focus our energies on finding ways to make your project work rather than throwing up rules and regulations that often frustrate and discourage development.

If you want to see your business and development efforts go from idea to reality, then look at De Soto and work with our proven "can-do" attitude. We are open for business.

Patrick Guilfoyle
City Administrator

De Soto...Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

Founded in 1857, the City of De Soto celebrated its sesquicentennial anniversary in 2007. Named for the Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto, several families of settlers first established the town around a steam saw mill near the Kansas River. The lives of De Soto's founding families continued on much the same as those of other small, riverside communities of that time, with modest increases in population throughout the first three decades of the 20th century.

In spring of 1942, plans to hurriedly construct a munitions plant on a 9,080 acre site to the Southwest of De Soto were announced. The \$100 million project soon brought a fantastic number of workers to the area. A May 1943 article from the Kansas City Star reported a town rapidly growing, with a population increase from 400 to 1,000 persons in under a year. This sudden overflow in population put a great strain on housing and other resources in the city. Many original residents prospered during this time, buying property and starting new businesses.

Production flowed steadily at the Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant until the plant went on standby in March 1948, with small scale production following shortly after. Many of the plant's previous employees stayed on in De Soto, commuting to work in nearby cities, helping to establish it as a "town of homes".

Today, De Soto residents are afforded the benefits of living in a growing community with easy access to other communities in the Kansas City Metropolitan area. From city and county parks amenities, wonderful schools and businesses that have their North American headquarters in De Soto, there's something for everyone. De Soto's impressive list of local businesses provides residents with access to some of the area's top employers. New residential development is available that will also provide you with the home of your dreams. The city of De Soto has carefully planned its growth to provide a balanced and welcoming community.

As we look to tomorrow, we realize that our forefathers created a community with foresight, determination and dreams of building a community that stands the test of times. We've seen that a once-small river town experienced changes throughout the past century, but out of all of it comes one common theme...De Soto is "home". De Soto is well-positioned to ensure that the community's quality of life and business community will continue to be as strong as it is today.

Come Build Your Life With Us!

De Soto...Come Build Your Life With Us!

De Soto, Kansas is a great place to live. Located in the second largest county in Kansas, De Soto, with a population of 5,550, offers metropolitan advantages along with a small town flavor. An abundance of recreation and cultural activities, beautiful neighborhoods and a low cost of living, delivered with friendly attitude and warm smiles await you.

De Soto is a young community, with 30% of our population under the age of 19 and is a great place to raise a family. The median age for De Soto is 35 years and over 75% of homeowners have children. It's easy to see that De Soto is a thriving community and a popular choice to grow your family.

De Soto residents as well as the Kansas City area take advantage of a very low cost of living. This means that the cost of doing business is lower, which results in higher salaries for its employees. Our low cost of living enables residents to purchase homes more affordably than in other markets. De Soto's home values, at \$173,662, are under the Johnson County average, which allows residents to purchase more home for their dollar.



Unified School District No. 232 - De Soto, Shawnee, Lenexa, Olathe

One of the fastest growing school districts in Kansas is De Soto Unified School District No. 232, which serves students in north-west Johnson County. It is a Gold Medal school district and ranks in the top 16 percent of all school systems in the country.

The district's 100+ square miles (which make it geographically the largest in Johnson County) encompass De Soto, 60 percent of Shawnee, 40 percent of Lenexa, a portion of Olathe and two townships. USD 232 offers 12 attendance centers: seven elementary schools, three middle schools, and two high schools. Each classroom is staffed with highly qualified professionals who are dedicated and passionate about student learning.

Students continue to improve test scores and rank above their state and national peers on both the Kansas assessments and the ACT college entrance exam. The school district achieved Adequate Yearly Progress in 2010 as more students are meeting and exceeding the standards in Mathematics and Reading. "Our students scored well above their state peers and have shown growth in all tests areas," said Earl Martin, director of teaching and learning. "This success can be attributed to the outstanding teachers, administrators, and educational programs we provide for our children." Martin also said the positive progress is linked to the continued support schools receive from parents and community members.

The Board of Education showed its commitment to student learning by approving new Advanced Placement courses. Beginning in 2010 and over the next four years, the district will boost academic rigor at the secondary level by increasing the opportunities for students to be instructed in Pre- Advanced Placement strategies (middle school) and enroll in College Prep and Advanced Placement/College Now course work at the high school level.

Scholarships

The Class of 2009 set a district record for scholarships, receiving nearly \$3 million from 60 colleges and universities.



Credits Required for Graduation

The district requires 25 credits to graduate from high school, with more than 98 percent of graduates moving on to college, vocational/technical school, or military service.

Content	USD 232 Credits for Graduation	Kansas Credits for Graduation
Mathematics	4	3
English/Com. Arts	4.5	4
Science	3	3
History/Government	3.5	3
Physical Education	1.5	1
Fine Arts	1	1
Electives	7.5	6
TOTAL	25	21

Did you know?

Unified School District 232 is ranked in the **top ten** of area school districts, as listed by Ingram's magazine. The district is also in the **top three** for the highest percentage of students who take the ACT college entrance exam.

Contact Us

To learn more, visit the Web site at www.usd232.org or contact the administrative offices, (913) 667-6200.

Area Private Schools

Accelerated Schools

10713 Barkley St., Overland Park, KS 66211,
(913) 341-6666, part-time
Grades K-Adult, full-time 4-12

Bishop Miede Catholic School

5041 Reinhardt, Shawnee Mission, KS 66205,
(913) 262-2700, Catholic
Grades K-12

Heritage Christian Academy

15020 Black Bob Rd., Olathe, KS 66062, (913)
782-3262, Grades K-12

Holy Cross Catholic School

8101 West 95th St., Overland Park, KS 66214,
(913) 492-2582, Catholic,
Grades K-8

Holy Spirit Catholic School

11300 West 103rd St., Overland Park, KS
66214, (913) 492-2582, Catholic,
Grades K-8

Holy Trinity Catholic School

13600 West 92nd St., Lenexa, KS 66215,
(913) 888-3250, Catholic,
Grades P-8

Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy

5801 W. 115th St., Overland Park, KS 66211,
(913) 327-8150, Jewish,
Grades K-12

Kansas City Christian School

4801 W. 79th St., Prairie Village, KS 66208,
(913) 648-5227, Evangelical
Christian, Grades K-12, daycare
preschool

Kansas City College & Bible School

74 01 Metcalf, Overland Park, KS 66204,
(913) 722-0272, P-College,
daycare, Home School program,
Overland Christian High

Maranatha Academy

6826 Lackman Rd., Shawnee, KS 66217,
(913) 631-1715, Christian,
Grades K-12

Midland Adventist

6915 Maurer Rd., Shawnee, KS 66217,
(913) 268-7400, Seventh Day
Adventist, Grades K-12

Oxford Park Academy

13200 Nall, Overland Park., KS 66209
(913) 897-2774, Grades P-8

Prince of Peace Catholic School

16000 West 143rd ST., Olathe, KS 66062,
(913) 764-0650, Catholic
Grades P-8

Queen of the Holy Rosary Catholic School

6915 West 71st St., Overland Park, KS 66204,
(913) 432—6350, Catholic,
Grades P-8

St. Joseph Catholic School

11505 Johnson Dr., Shawnee, KS 66203
(913) 631-7730, Catholic,
Grades K-8

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School

11411 Pflumm Rd., Overland Park, KS 66215,
(913) 345-1411, Catholic
Grades 9-12

Universities and Colleges

Baker University

P.O. Box 65
Baldwin City, KS 66006
1 (800) 873-4282

Baker Univ. in Kansas City

6600 College Blvd., Suite 340,
Overland Park, KS
66211, (913) 491-4432

Friends University

5700 Broadmoor, Suite 1020,
Mission, KS 66205, (913) 236-9191
1 (800) 794-6945

Johnson County Community College

12345 College Blvd., Overland Park,
KS 66210, (913) 469-8500

Mid-America Nazarene University

2030 East College Way, Olathe, KS
66062, (913) 782-3750

Ottawa University — Kansas City

4370 W. 109th St., Suite 200, Overland Park,
KS 66211, (913) 266-8600

University of Kansas

Lawrence, KS 66045
(785) 864-2700

University of Kansas Regents Center

12600 Quivira Rd., Overland Park,
KS 66213, (913) 897-8400

Local Industry

De Soto Chamber of Commerce



The De Soto Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit, membership organization of over 180 business members in the De Soto area. Doubling its size in less than a decade, the Chamber offers frequent events which are designed to increase exposure for businesses. The Membership Directory is distributed annually and is utilized as an important tool for recognizing businesses that support the De Soto community. The De Soto Chamber of Commerce has been recognized in the Kansas City Business Journal's Top 25 Area Chambers of Commerce in addition to networking events at the Kansas Speedway.

The Chamber should be the first stop for those who want to start a business in the De Soto area. As a strong networking organization, the Chamber can increase your exposure to its 180+ members and help make important and lasting business connections. The De Soto Economic Development Council, which operates under the umbrella of the Chamber, can provide resource referrals, contacts and incentive information.

De Soto Economic Development Council



Making a business location decision can be intimidating, and the Economic Development Council (EDC) can help your company locate and expand in De Soto. Our staff will assist clients throughout the development process, and will facilitate necessary contacts and provide information, such as the city's incentive policy and demographic information.

The EDC has a vast amount of site and building information through the LocationOne Information System database, which will provide a important information on available land and buildings for consideration. The De Soto EDC works closely with the Kansas Department of Commerce, and will assist clients with information on state assistance, investment tax credits, job creation tax credits and job training. Staff works closely with the City of De Soto throughout the development approval process.

The De Soto Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Council are eager and willing to assist any size of business and to show clients that doing business in De Soto is advantageous. Our goal is to ensure that De Soto is a great place, to live, work and play.



De Soto Chamber of Commerce/EDC

Office: 913-583-1585

Fax: 913-585-1821

www.desotoks.org



A Great Place to Work

Located in the center of Johnson County's prestigious "Smart Corridor", De Soto's location with three exits on K-10 Highway has created prime properties for business expansion and development. Perfectly situated between Kansas City and the University of Kansas, De Soto offers a rapidly growing local market, outstanding access to the region's 1-million-member strong labor force and upgraded infrastructure already in place.

Operating a business in De Soto is a smart business decision. Johnson County is a net importer of workers, and the county draws over 11,000 workers from neighboring counties. Employers can draw from a highly educated local labor pool, with the increased continuation of De Soto residents graduating with college degrees. The De Soto Economic Development Council provides workforce development assistance to businesses to ensure that companies have a healthy and viable labor pool.

De Soto realizes several businesses who call De Soto their headquarters. Mr. Goodcents Franchise Systems, Inc. and Custom Foods both have headquarters in Commerce Park, De Soto's premier business park which conveniently sits along K-10 Highway. Huhtamaki Americas, Inc., the maker of Chinet® and Engineered Air, the largest HVAC manufacturer in the Midwest, call De Soto their North American headquarters. Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health, one of the world's leading manufacturers of animal health supplies is also located in De Soto.

From large businesses to small businesses, De Soto is a great place to live, work and play. The expansion of existing industries and the attraction of new businesses are top priorities for the community. The governing body is dedicated to ensure a streamlined and expeditious process for businesses who consider a De Soto location. For more information on locating or expanding your business, contact the De Soto Economic Development Council, 913-583-1585.

De Soto's Major Employers

Custom Foods, Inc.

Engineered Air

Hillside Village of De Soto

Huhtamaki Americas, Inc.

Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health

Mr. Goodcents Franchise Systems, Inc.

Oncimmune USA, LLC

Performance Glass

Rehrig Pacific

USD 232



Helpful Phone Numbers

City of De Soto www.destoks.gov

The City government of De Soto is constantly working toward improved administration of the community they serve.

By using a combination of small town values, innovation and common sense, they hope to make De Soto an ever-improving place to live.

De Soto City Government
P.O. Box C
De Soto, Kansas 66018
(913) 583-1182
(913) 583-3123

Mayor..... (913) 583-3362
City Administrator.....(913) 583-1182 x120
City Attorney.....(913) 583-1182 x125
City Clerk.....(913) 583-1182 x110
City Engineer.....((913) 583-1182 x116
City Planner.....(913) 583-1182 x115
City Building Official.....(913) 583-1182 x130
Parks & Rec Director.....(913) 583-1182 x127
Aquatic Center Manager.....(913) 583-1182 x131
Aquatic Center.....(913) 583-1182 x132
Street Superintendent.....(913) 583-1182 x126
City Shop..... (913) 583-3379
Animal Control - Jo. Co. Sheriff Dept..... (913) 782-0720
Water Superintendent.....(913) 583-1182 x119
Water Plant..... (913) 583-1749

GOVERNMENT

City of De Soto..... 913-583-1182
De Soto Multi-Service Center..... 913-583-1152
De Soto Post Office..... 1-800-275-8777
Johnson County Government..... 913-715-8999

SCHOOL DISTRICT

USD 232..... 913-667-6200

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

For emergencies, please dial 9-1-1.

Ask-A-Nurse..... 913-676-7777
Johnson County Sheriff's Office..... 913-791-5800
Kansas Highway Patrol..... 913-782-8100
Northwest Consolidated Fire District..... 913-583-3886
Poison Control..... 913-588-6633

AREA HOSPITALS

Menorah Medical Center
5721 W. 119th Street..... 913-498-6000

Olathe Medical Center
20333 W. 151st Street..... 913-791-4200

Overland Park Regional Medical Center
10500 Quivira..... 913-541-5000

Shawnee Mission Medical Center
9100 W. 74th Street..... 913-676-2000

Shawnee Mission Medical Center Outpatient Pavilion
23401 Prairie Star Parkway..... 913-676-8500

St. Lukes South
12300 Metcalf Ave. 913-317-7000

CHURCHES

De Soto Baptist Church..... (913) 585-1026
De Soto Community Church..... (913) 585-1662
De Soto United Methodist Church..... (913) 583-1359
Faith Builders International
De Soto..... (913) 583-1670
College Church of the Nazarene
Olathe..... (913) 764-4575
Harvest Ridge Covenant Church
Shawnee..... (913) 441-5500
Holy Family Catholic Church,
Eudora..... (785) 542-2788
Westside Family Church,
Shawnee..... (913) 422-8257
Kaw Prairie Community Lutheran Church
Lenexa..... (913) 764-5722
Sacred Heart Catholic Church,
Shawnee.....(913)422-5700

Helpful Phone Numbers

HOTELS

Super 8 of De Soto 913-583-3880

LIBRARIES

Johnson County Central
Resource Library 913-826-4600

De Soto Library 913-826 -4600

MEETING PLACES

De Soto Community Center 913-583-1182

Zimmerman's Kill Creek Farm..... 913-209-4446

VFW Post 6654 Banquet Info Line 913-585-1100

NEWSPAPERS/PUBLICATIONS

De Soto Explorer..... 913-585-1616

Olathe Daily News 913-764-2211

Kansas City Small Business Journal..... 816-421-5900

Kansas City Star..... 816-234-4545

The Sun Newspaper..... 913-381-1010

ORGANIZATIONS & NON-PROFITS

De Soto Arts Council..... 913-583-3400

De Soto Chamber of Commerce/EDC..... 913-583-1585

De Soto Days Festival, Inc. 913-645-6512

De Soto Masonic Lodge..... 913-585-1650

De Soto Rotary Club 913-583-1806

De Soto Senior Nutrition Center..... 913-585-1762

De Soto VFW Post #6654 913-585-1100

TLC for Children & Families, Inc..... 913-764-2887

YouthFriends..... 913-667-6200

TRANSPORTATION

De Soto Flex Ride (Jo. Co. Transit) 913-782-2210

Amtrak 816-421-3622

Downtown Airport..... 816-471-4946

Johnson County Executive Airport..... 913-715-6000

Johnson County Transit 913-782-2210

Kansas City International Airport (main)..... 816-243-5237

KC Metro Bus Information 816-221-0660

KCI Shuttle 816-243-5000

New Century AirCenter..... 913-715-6000

Informational Websites

De Soto Chamber of Commerce/EDC
www.desotoks.org

City of De Soto
www.desotoks.us

De Soto Area News
www.desotoexplorer.com

Johnson County Government
www.jocogov.org

Election Information
www.jocoelection.org

Johnson County Community College
www.jccc.edu

Kansas City Metropolitan Area
www.kansascity.com

Kansas City Metropolitan Area News
www.kcstar.com

Helpful Business Numbers

Kansas Dept. of Commerce
785-296-5298

Kansas Dept. of Revenue
785-368-8222

Kansas Dept. of Human Resources
913-648-6161

Internal Revenue Service.
800-829-3676

Better Business Bureau
816-421-7800

VOTING/REGISTRATION

Johnson County Election Office..... 913-782-3441

Kansas Driver's License Office
Vehicle Registration 913-432-2266

Festivals & Events

April

Spring Fling in Downtown De Soto

June

Night on the Kaw

July

City of De Soto Fourth of July Festival
Sunflower Art Fest – De Soto Arts Council

Summer Season

Fresh Promises Farmers Market
The March of Sunflowers

September

De Soto Days Festival (Labor Day weekend)

October

Cookin' on the Kaw BBQ Contest

Fall Season

De Soto Rotary Chili Cook-off



Recreation

Acres of city and county parks generate an abundance of year-round activities in De Soto. **Miller Park** offers outdoor enthusiasts asphalt, lighted walking trails, baseball and soccer fields, tennis and basketball courts, shelter house and a playground area. The newest addition to city parks is the **De Soto Riverfest Park**. Perfectly situated along the Kansas River (also known as the "Kaw" River), Riverfest Park is utilized as De Soto's premier festival area. Users can walk along a mulched walking trail or access the Kansas River via the boat ramp located within the park. Additional city parks are **Widow Big Knife Park** and **Wilderness Park**. Each consists of heavily wooded areas. Group camping and hiking can be found at Wilderness Park.

The **De Soto Aquatic Center**, a \$2.65 million facility, opened in 2006. The facility offers a full-size open tube slide, family slide, tot slide, spray features, high and low diving boards, vortex, zero-depth entry, and basketball goal. Concessions and change rooms are available. The Aquatic Center is also available for open swim, lap swim, swimming lessons and water fitness.

The **Kill Creek Park** is located on the southern edge of the city and feature 850 acres of hiking trails through largely undeveloped prairie and lowland visas. The 26.5-acre lake is brimming with small trout, bass and catfish. It features a swimming beach, bath-house and marina. **Sunflower Park** is a 60-acre park with natural prairie grasses, lake and nature trails including a trail for the physically challenged. Sunflower Ball Fields has several baseball and softball fields and is home to numerous baseball tournaments and games.



Photo by Rose M. Burgweger



Area Shopping & Motels

Country Club Plaza – Kansas City, Missouri

www.countryclubplaza.com

You won't want to miss the opportunity to visit over 120 stores in this 14-block shopping district which was modeled after Seville, Spain. Enjoy the famous Plaza Lighting ceremony Thanksgiving evening through the holiday season and take a trolley ride.

Crown Center – Kansas City, Missouri

www.crowncenter.com

Situated near Union Station, Crown Center provides great shopping and dining opportunities. Two of the city's most luxurious hotels are adjacent, along with a residential community and entertainment attractions. Crown Center is also home to the worldwide headquarters of Hallmark Cards, Inc.

The Great Mall of the Great Plains – Olathe, Kansas

www.greatmallgreatplains.com

Just 15 short minutes from De Soto, The Great Mall of the Great Plains boasts over 100 shops and also has a 16-screen theater.

The Legends at Village West – Kansas City, Kansas

www.legendsshopping.com

The Legends at Village West offers an abundance of shopping and entertainment opportunities.

Oak Park Mall – Overland Park, Kansas

www.thenewoakparkmall.com

Nearly 200 stores can be found at Oak Park Mall, which is anchored by Dillard's JC Penney, Macy's and Nordstrom.

Town Center Plaza – Leawood, Kansas

www.towncenterlaza.net

Nearly 100 of Kansas City's finest stores and restaurants call Town Center Plaza their home. Enjoy an upscale urban shopping experience in an open-air shopping environment.

Zona Rosa – Kansas City, Missouri

www.zonarosa.com

One of the area's newest outdoor shopping and dining centers, Zona Rosa has over 60 stores and restaurants.

Accomodations

De Soto Inn

32550 Lexington Ave.
De Soto, Kansas 66018
913-585-1926



Super 8 of De Soto

34085 Commerce Drive
De Soto, Kansas 66018
(913) 583-3880



Photo by Carrie Dvorak



