

# Lincoln and Sylvan Grove downtowns eligible to pursue historic designations

*Spencer Preservation to present findings next week*



**Above: 1922 Decoration Day Parade in downtown Lincoln.** (Photo courtesy of the Lincoln County Historical Museum.) **Right: Sylvan Grove Main Street on Decoration Day in 1910.** (Photo courtesy of the Sylvan Historical Society.)

Historical surveys are complete, and both downtown Lincoln and downtown Sylvan Grove were found eligible to pursue historical designation, either in Kansas or the National Register of Historic Places.

By Hailey Dixon

For the Lincoln Sentinel

Following surveys, several areas within Lincoln County have been determined eligible for historic designation.

"I'm thrilled the overall downtown districts are eligible, and hope that each community will want to move forward with the actual designation process," said Kelly Larson, Lincoln County Economic Development Foundation Executive Director. "Being designated opens up marketing opportunities to attract visitors into a community, but it also provides financial resources to property owners to maintain and improve their properties."

Downtown Lincoln and

Lincoln City Park are eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, while Downtown Sylvan Grove is eligible for the Register of Historic Kansas Places.

The National Register of Historic Places lists historic properties across the country, according to Live Lincoln County.

"Now that these surveys have been completed, the next step is to hold the public meetings and talk about what being eligible for designation means and get a sense whether the property owners and city councils would like to move forward with an actual designation," Larson said. A public meeting for Lincoln



is planned for June 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lincoln County Historical Museum in Lincoln to discuss the surveys. Another meeting for the public to discuss Sylvan Grove's Downtown is planned for June 18 at 7 p.m. at the American Legion Hall in Sylvan Grove.

"That will help the city council and myself gauge whether there is any interest in moving forward with the actual designation process or not," Larson said.

Last year, LCEDF gained a grant from the Kansas Historical Society to imple-

ment a survey within the two downtown areas, and the Lincoln City Park. The funding from the grant allowed the hiring of Brenda Spencer of Spencer Preservation to conduct the surveys, according to the Live Lincoln County website.

Spencer then submitted reports of her research findings about the areas for possible designation status. The reports include maps of the areas, as well as historical information about the community and

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