



December 1, 2025


The City of London Tourism Commission would like to clarify the status and history of the financing connected to **The Wilderness Road Event Center at the Laurel County Regional Fairgrounds**. As an SPGE, Tourism leases the project acreage—and several other properties—from the City of London, which holds title to the land.

Earlier this year, Tourism secured a loan with a local bank for up to \$5 million to support development of the Event Center. Although the loan was approved at that amount, Tourism anticipated using roughly \$2 million. The intent to proceed with this financing was presented publicly during a City Council meeting, and no objections were raised at that time. Because the property is owned by the City, the Mayor's signature was required on the loan documents to satisfy the bank's ownership requirements.

As of today, the loan balance is approximately \$872,000. Last week, the bank agreed to refinance the loan, not to exceed the current balance, solely in the name of the Tourism Commission, fully releasing the City of London, and the Fairgrounds property, from any connection or obligation to this loan. At a special called meeting held on Wednesday, November 26, the commission agreed to and approved the terms of the new financing presented. This action ensures the project will continue.

City of London Tourism (DBA London Tourism & Parks) operates as a Special Purpose Government Entity that functions independently from the city and is governed by a volunteer board of directors. The Commission presents and sponsors many of the community's key tourism and seasonal events. The commission also leases from the city and manages a variety of community assets totaling nearly 1,000 acres. These include Levi Jackson Wilderness Road Park, which contains the fairgrounds and Wilderness Road Event Center, as well as Mill Street Park, Whitley Branch Veterans Park, Town Center, Wellness Park, the Community Center, and the Farmers Market.

The Tourism Commission remains committed to transparency, responsible stewardship of public resources, and continued progress on projects that benefit the residents and visitors of London and Laurel County.



529 South Main Street  
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London, KY is a beautiful town with a rich history and scenic views. It is a great place to visit and enjoy the outdoors. The town is located in the heart of the Bluegrass region and is surrounded by rolling hills and fields. There are many parks and trails in the area, and the weather is perfect for outdoor activities. London is a great place to visit and enjoy the outdoors.

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