



## Lenexa Vision 2020

*Lenexa's Vision for the Future Now!*



# **Lenexa Vision 2020**

**August 1997**

**City of Lenexa  
12350 W. 87th Street  
Parkway  
Lenexa, KS 66215  
Phone 1 913 477 7500**

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## Vision

Showing commitment to a superior quality of life and respect for the natural environment, Lenexa will provide an atmosphere where people desire to live, work, and play. Our unique villages and parklands, residential, commercial and industrial developments will reflect a community in which the heritage of the past and the pride of the present are preserved for citizens of the future.

RESOLUTION NO. 97-73

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE VISION 2020 STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE INDIVIDUAL TASK FORCES AND CITIZENS OF LENEXA, JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS, AND TO DIRECT STAFF TO PREPARE STRATEGIC INITIATIVES FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION.

WHEREAS, the Governing Body determined that a formal plan for the future of Lenexa based on direct input from the community was a priority; and

WHEREAS, the process began with the selection of a Steering Committee and Facilitator in July of 1996; and

WHEREAS, the facilitator and Steering Committee assisted Lenexa residents to participate and formulate certain visions of how they would like to see Lenexa develop; and

WHEREAS, from the town meetings individuals were selected to work in conjunction with the Steering Committee with the assistance of staff to form six (6) task force committees—Community Spirit & Recreation, Commercial Development, Residential Development, Economic Development, Education, and Infrastructure and Transportation; and

WHEREAS, that each task force worked from November to April preparing goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS, the goals and objectives from each task force were combined into a final report presented this day to the Governing Body.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF LENEXA, KANSAS:

SECTION ONE: The future development of Lenexa is a high-priority goal of the Governing Body; and as such, the Governing Body established as one of its goals to develop a plan for the future based on direct input from the community.

SECTION TWO: With the assistance from the community, the task forces, the Steering Committee, and the facilitator, Lenexa's Vision 2020 project is just beginning with the acceptance of the final report document presented this date along with direction to the staff to prepare strategic initiatives for future discussion.

ACCEPTED by the Governing Body this 19th day of August, 1997.

SIGNED by the Mayor this 19th day of August, 1997.

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Joan Bowman, Mayor

[SEAL]

ATTEST:

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Sandra Howell, Administration Director/City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Cynthia L. Harmison, City Attorney



## **LETTER FROM THE CHAIR**

### **July 1997**

Mayor Joan Bowman and the City Council desired a plan to continue a successful future for Lenexa. The Mayor brought together a group of individuals with varied backgrounds and a mixture of citizens who have been involved for a number of years along with citizens volunteering for the first time in the community. This mixture allowed us to reflect on our history and add new ideas for our future. After meeting with the citizens at town meetings, we discovered they liked Lenexa and wanted to expand upon the many wonderful attributes we already possess.

Over 2500 people hours of work have gone into this document from many wonderful volunteers. These individuals expanded their knowledge more than we could put into words. In addition to a long range plan, I foresee a new group of volunteers to be tapped for future involvement in the City.

The Task Forces studied their issues by researching, listening to guest speakers, and attending field trips. All the Task Forces were invited on a bus tour of Lenexa to see the current City boundaries, existing developments, and sites for future developments. The Education Task Force had a panel discussion with representatives from all three school districts in Lenexa. Community Spirit toured a recreation facility in Liberty, Missouri. Commercial Development and Infrastructure and Transportation learned from their long list of professional guest speakers that covered a variety of topics. Economic Development attended a meeting of the Lenexa Economic Development Council to hear the current plan being proposed. Residential Development had the privilege of hearing Randall Arendt speak about open

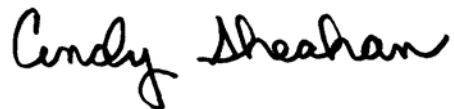
space. Hugh Zimmer shared his past and current developments with all the Task Forces. You will learn from their research and education by reading the visions and goals presented in this document.

The Steering Committee united the rough drafts into the final document after several long meetings and advice from a professional writer. We are all proud of the document and will watch the future of Lenexa grow from the ideas formulated in the document.

Last August seems a long time ago from where we are today. I am impressed by the individuals and their commitment to this project. The knowledge they have gained and shared with us is amazing. The guest speakers and topics have enlightened so many. My thanks to all those who were involved in this project.

The visions and goals will see the City of Lenexa into a new century: and we will continue to be a community that is a great place to work, live, and play.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy Sheahan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cindy Sheahan  
Lenexa Vision 2020 Steering Committee Chair



## HISTORY

Mayor Joan Bowman and the City Council elected to complete a Community Strategic Planning Process. The process would look at the future of Lenexa into the year 2020. The Governing Body's first action was to hire consultant Carl Neu in June 1996. In July 1996, Mayor Bowman accepted applications from citizens to form a Strategic Planning Steering Committee and selected eleven members and appointed two city staff members.

Orientation for the Steering Committee was in late August 1996 lead by Carl Neu. The Steering Committee studied the Governing Body's goals, set a work schedule, and discussed the function of the committee. From this date, the committee began meeting twice a month to accomplish the objective of completing the final draft by July 1997. "Lenexa Vision 2020" was selected as the name and a logo was designed. The next undertaking was to plan and organize the town meetings to receive input from the citizens of Lenexa.

The town meetings were on October 1 and 2, 1996, at the Lenexa Community Center. Carl Neu trained the Steering Committee members and Lenexa City staff to facilitate the round table discussions that enabled input from everyone that attended. Father Thom Savage, National Seminars, and David Warm, Executive Director of the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), were the guest speakers. David presented concrete facts while Father Thom led the group to envision anything was possible. Between the two evenings, the participants envisioned the future of Lenexa into the year 2020 and shared ideas that resulted in over fifty critical issues.



The Steering Committee utilized the fifty critical issues and compiled them into six main areas for Task Forces to study. The Task Forces created were Community Spirit & Recreation, Commercial Development, Residential Development, Economic Development, Education, and Infrastructure and Transportation. In addition to the Task Force issues, a list of Umbrella Issues was developed that would affect all the Task Forces.

The Steering Committee selected Task Force members from applications citizens submitted. The volunteers were a cross section of citizens committed to meet weekly from December 1996 until April 1997 to research their issues and create a rough draft for the Steering Committee. These volunteers included an architect, doctor, stay-at-home parent, PTA leaders, minister, federal employee, attorneys, engineers, retirees, and representatives from many other occupations. You were represented by real citizens to capture the vision of Lenexa.

Carl Neu guided the Task Force members through a team building process in November 1996 as their first step. From that time on the Task Forces worked together as teams to study and research the issues envisioned at the Town Meetings. Members from the Steering Committee acted as liaisons on each Task Force. The liaisons were responsible for keeping the Steering Committee informed and up to date as the Task Forces progressed. Each Task Force also had City staff members appointed to facilitate communication.

In April, after many hours of hard work, the rough drafts were given to the Steering Committee for review. The Steering Committee merged the six reports into a final document. The Lenexa Governing Body reviewed the document; then the Steering Committee held another Town Meeting to present the research to the entire City for review. After the Town Meeting, the final document was presented to the Governing Body as a working document for the future planning of Lenexa. The Governing Body has the privilege of implementing the visions into the year 2020.

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# Umbrella Issues

The input gained through the town meetings provided a basis for determining the critical issues facing the community. Additionally, through that town meeting process, common values and beliefs became evident. These values overlapped all the critical issues so were identified by the Steering Committee as “Umbrella Issues.” Part of each Task Force team’s responsibility was to ensure that those values or umbrella issues were addressed and incorporated into the Vision they were developing. Following are the five values that the reader will see woven throughout all six task force reports:

## **Safety**

The community feels it is imperative that Lenexa continue to be a place where people feel safe in their homes, neighborhoods, and businesses.

## **Financial Implications**

The community understands that there are financial limitations that will affect accomplishing the Vision. It does not want big tax increases and encourages consideration of creative financing tools.

## **Opportunities for All**

The community recognizes the overall value of having diversity in its people and supports special consideration of ideas that provide encouragement for enhancing their diversity.

## **Environment**

The community values its environment and encourages decisions be made giving due consideration and appropriate balance to preservation of the natural environment.

## **Intergovernmental & Private Sector Coordination**

The community recognizes that the City of Lenexa is a part of a larger metropolitan area and that good coordination and communication with other government agencies and with the private sector are imperative to our own success.



# Participants

## City Governing Body

Joan Bowman, Mayor April 1995  
(Councilmember September 1988 - April 1995)

- Michael Boehm April 1995
- Richard Dyer January 1997
- Jane T. Klein April 1997  
(Previous April 1983 - April 1995)
- Diane Linver April 1989
- Larry McAulay April 1981
- Thomas Nolte April 1995
- John T. Ramsey April 1995
- Todd Van Wyngarden May 1997

- David Huff May 1993 - December 1996
- Lou Serrone April 1989 - April 1997
- David Stephens June 1987 - April 1997

## Steering Committee Members

Cindy Sheahan, Chairperson/Customer Service Supervisor  
Brian A. McNichols, Vice Chairperson/Consultant

- Eugene P. Amos, Funeral Director
- Joan Bowman, Mayor
- Robert E. Campbell, Architect
- Julie Elfving, Federal Employee
- Susan Longmire, Lenexa Chamber President
- Larry McAulay, Councilmember/Attorney
- Bill Meyer, City Planner
- Bill Pape, Clergy
- Greg Peterson, Executive Search

### City Staff Liaisons

- Carol Gonzales, Management Services Director
- Bill Nicks, Parks and Recreation Director
- Debbie McKay, Administrative Assistant
- Pam VanMeerhaeghe, Executive Secretary
- Linda Joseph, Recording Secretary

### Project Consultant

- Carl Neu, Neu & Associates

## Acknowledgments

The Steering Committee wishes to thank those individuals who expressed their interest by donating their time to contribute ideas and/or share their expertise in making Lenexa's "vision" become a reality.

- Jennifer Lindsey, Graphical Artist
- April Mason, Professional Writer
- Carl Neu, Neu & Associates
- Father Thom Savage, National Seminars
- David Warm, Executive Director of Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)

## **Community Spirit & Recreation Task Force**

Judy Tuckness, Chairperson  
Frank Andrews, Vice Chairperson

- Valerie Jansen
- Bob Lillie
- John Mehnert
- Cheryl Schroeder

City Staff Liaison

- Susan Blattner
- Jim Finlen

Steering Committee Liaison

- Bill Pape

## **Commercial Development Task Force**

Tim Bangert, Chairperson  
Christy Marsh, Vice Chairperson

- Bill Anthony
- Pat Harris
- Bob Rose
- Danny Slaughter

City Staff Liaison

- Brant Gaul

Steering Committee Liaison

- Robert E. Campbell



## **Residential Development Task Force**

Mona Coffin, Chairperson

Kevin Transue, Vice Chairperson

- Dale Ernst
- Lance Green
- Gunnard Nelson
- Elaine Roth
- Clyde White

City Staff Liaison

- Glenda Dietz

Steering Committee Liaison

- Julie Elfving

## **Economic Development Task Force**

Rocky Green, Chairperson

- Pat Daniels
- Ann Keener
- Laura Lawson
- Linda Nichols
- Todd Van Wyngarden
- Carl White

City Staff Liaison

- Dennis Howard
- Laura Lawson

Steering Committee Liaison

- Greg Peterson
- Susan Longmire

## **Education Task Force**

Debra Bender, Chairperson

Carolyn Holloway, Vice Chairperson

- Rick Brown
- Donald Norwood
- Karen Poe
- Karen Taylor

City Staff Liaison

- Sandy Landis
- Rick Fagan

Steering Committee Liaison

- Gene Amos

## **Infrastructure and Transportation Task Force**

Dale Trott, Chairperson

Marcia Martinek, Vice Chairperson

- Richard Killeen
- Ellen Miller
- Frank Weimer

City Staff Liaison

- Ron Norris
- Jackie Brizendine

Steering Committee Liaison

- Brian McNichols



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# Community Spirit & Recreation

## Vision Statement

To provide for the continual enrichment of the community through leisure and cultural activities and enhancement of Lenexa's image.

## *Goals*

- Identity
- Beautification
- Recreation
- Community Involvement

# Identity

## Goal 1

Create a unique physical symbol to clearly identify the City of Lenexa.

## Rationale

There is a need for a physical symbol to identify Lenexa that can be used in marketing, publicity, and community spirit.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Appoint a task force to identify a unique physical symbol to be used in various promotions for the community. This symbol would be used at many locations throughout Lenexa, and would become the official City logo. Over time, this would establish continuity of Lenexa's identity.
- Uses for the new symbol include:
  1. Key entry points to Lenexa off all interstate highways and major thoroughfares. These entryways would be identified by landscaping, sculpture, and signage using the uniform theme and identity.
    - A key entry point is the southeast corner of 87th Street Parkway and Quivira Road. The annex building currently located on this site could be utilized as a public facility. Locating the Lenexa Convention and Visitors' Bureau in conjunction with the

visitors' center, museum, art gallery, etc., would be an appropriate use for this space. The exterior grounds could then be developed into a pocket park with landscaping, sculptures, and fountains to make it easily identifiable from adjacent streets.

- Another key entry point is the U.S. 69 bypass over I-35. The hillside lends itself well to landscaping in the form of a flower bed and/or architectural design using the Lenexa symbol or identifying sculpture.
2. A strong part of Lenexa's heritage is the historical identity of its "Old Town" and historic homes. All historic buildings in Lenexa should be identified, and their history recorded. Appropriate signage displaying Lenexa's new symbol and identifying the history of each structure could then be installed.
  3. Existing water towers could also become vehicles for displaying this newly identified symbol in an artistic format.

# Beautification

## Goal 2

Make Lenexa a city of trees, with aesthetically pleasing landscaping in every neighborhood, commercial area, traffic-way, and park.

## Rationale

A community that is beautified by integrated landscaping and public art attracts businesses, homeowners, and visitors. It develops community pride and enhances property values.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Establish a uniform tree-planting program that will benefit not only the newer sections of town, but will also address the needs of the older areas. To begin this program and identify current and future maintenance needs, an inventory of all existing trees located within public rights of way and parks should be accomplished as soon as possible. A financial assistance program including the City, residents, and businesses should be developed to share the cost of the tree-planting program.
- Continue to implement strong landscape ordinances to encourage aesthetically pleasing landscapes in all new commercial and residential development, and to effectively maintain and preserve Lenexa's existing landscapes and urban forest.

- Strongly encourage wildlife preservation to maintain and preserve as much of the natural environment as possible.
- Develop a plan for the purchase and placement of public art. Public art should be integrated into the landscape wherever possible.
- Develop key entryways to the City, and consider plans for bike paths, walkways, and horse trails.
- Establish a “Lenexa Beautification Program” to target commercial, residential, and both major and minor corridors for group projects. These projects could include clean-up campaigns, adopt-a-street, renovation, updating and landscaping improvements, and public art campaigns.



# Recreation

## Goal 3

Develop and maintain interior and exterior spaces for community recreation that will be diverse enough to meet the requirements of Lenexa's residents.

## Rationale

Lenexa's residents have clearly stated their strong desire for multi-use recreational facilities and programs. Lenexa should develop these multi-use facilities and programs to meet the needs of residents.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Build and maintain parks in Lenexa. The City should continue to purchase the necessary grounds to continue development of tot-lots, community parks, and multi-purpose parks.
- Build and maintain an affordable public golf course with an adjacent, full-service mega community center. The community center should include the following amenities: theater, reception and/or ballroom, classrooms, meeting rooms, kitchen, gymnasium, weight and exercise room, indoor/outdoor swimming, tennis and basketball areas, and clubhouse with a proshop for the golf course. This entire complex would be encircled by an extensive trail system.



- Interconnect extensive trails for hiking, biking, walking, jogging, and equestrian activities with existing trails wherever possible. Develop a linear park system to allow residents to travel within the parks without using existing roadways.



# Community Involvement

## Goal 4

Develop activities for Lenexa residents to promote and develop community spirit and involvement.

## Rationale

A community of involved residents takes pride in their surroundings. In order for Lenexa to grow and attract businesses and homeowners, it must have a strong base of community involvement.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Form a task force to establish a comparable international Sister City to identify, develop, and implement exchange programs on major areas identified as mutually important and desirable.
- Continue to update and expand on the festivals now in place, and seek to develop and expand new festivals.
- Promote the funding and encourage the growth of a community theater group that will support the performing arts, dance, drama, and music.
- Promote and encourage the establishment of a City band utilizing the talents of the community.
- Facilitate the use of the bike trails and community involvement. For example, Lenexa could

implement a bike loaner program, known as a “yellow-bike project” in other communities.

- Promote Lenexa’s heritage by preserving the agricultural background of our community. For example, an animal petting park could be established.
- Continue to support and encourage the efforts of the Lenexa Historical Society to preserve Lenexa’s heritage.



## Areas for Further Study

- Several of these proposed facilities, especially the public golf course and the mega community center, will require substantial funding. Study ways to acquire additional dollars. One option would be to present the community with a public bond issue. Other options would be to set aside dedicated City funding or explore privatization.

## Acknowledgments

The Community Spirit & Recreation Task Force wishes to thank those individuals who expressed their interest by donating their time to contribute ideas and/or share their expertise in making Lenexa's "vision" become a reality.

- Charles Anderson, Liberty, Missouri, Community Center
- Heidi Bilardo, Commercial Arts



# Commercial Development

## Vision Statement

To provide for the continual enhancement of Lenexa's premier commercial environment, building upon our reputation throughout the metropolitan business community as a leader in quality, innovative building design, and user-friendly commercial spaces.

## *Goals*

- Business Parks
- Lenexa "City Center"
- Festival/Market Place
- Retail Development
- "Old Town" Area
- Sub-Surface Development
- Visual Impact

# Business Parks

## Goal 1

Maintain a higher ratio of commercial to residential development, providing high-quality, well-maintained business parks close to residential areas.

## Rationale

Lenexa's concentration of business parks is our community's greatest strength. Our business parks offer superior, attractive facilities for business operations of all types and sizes, and a diversity of employment opportunities. A balance of non-residential and residential development will ensure a balanced tax base and allow the City to continue to provide high-quality services for all residents and business owners.

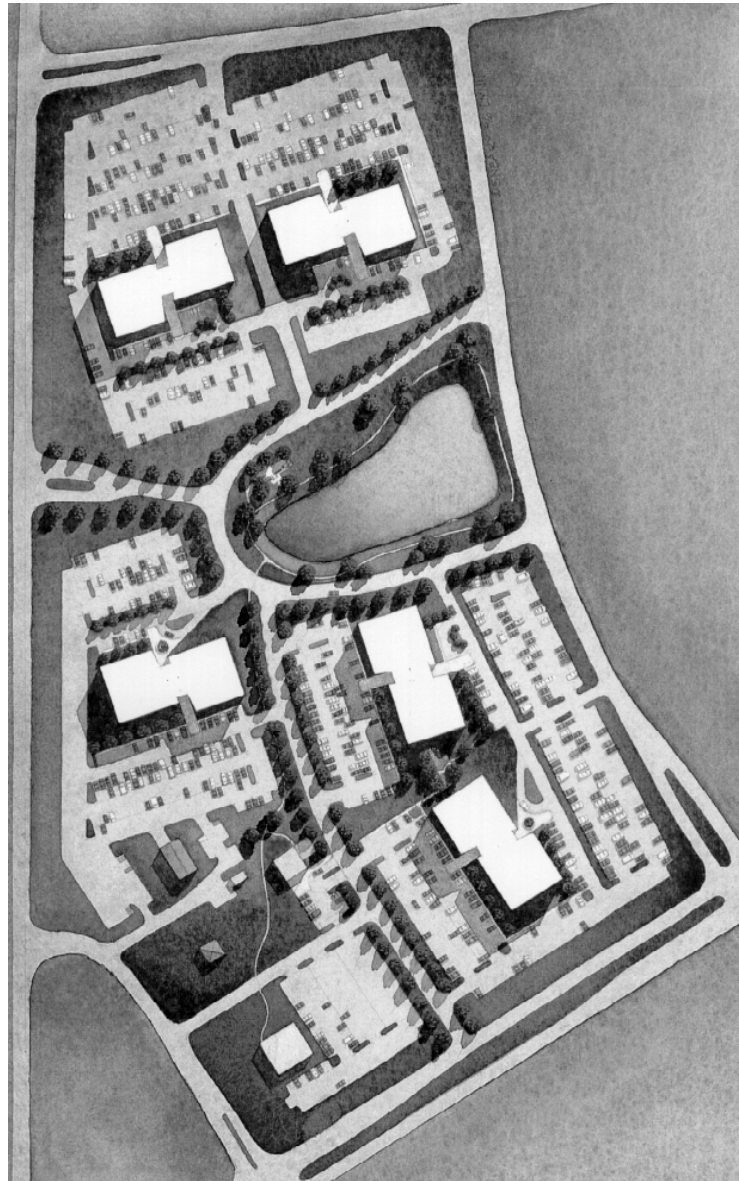
## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Create and promote Lenexa's image as a "quality business community" through increased publicity and marketing.
- Improve communications between developers and City Hall to facilitate the approval process for commercial projects.
- Encourage mixed-use zoning to incorporate restaurants and other support facilities in or near business parks.
- Review and enhance aesthetic requirements for business parks that address good lighting, good

sound and sight buffering, and adequate, unobtrusive employee parking.

- Emphasize exceptional design in new business parks with incentives for developers who include people-friendly features in business areas (green space, paths, trees, natural areas, gathering places).





# Lenexa “City Center”

## Goal 2

Develop a Lenexa “City Center” as a central meeting place for residents, with a new downtown and a gathering area integrating retail sites, commercial uses, entertainment opportunities, community activity centers, public buildings, and institutional buildings (somewhere in the vicinity of the Renner Boulevard Corridor).

## Rationale

The focus of Lenexa’s development should be on its geographic center. Creating this city center as a premier destination point, uniquely situated near major traffic access points, will establish linkage between the east and west sections of Lenexa. The new Lenexa “City Center” could also be an example to other cities for the design of successful “new downtown” areas as well as a vitalizing development thrust for the entire Renner Boulevard Corridor.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Aggressively seek out a developer for the “City Center.”
- Incorporate the “City Center” concept into the current comprehensive plan to ensure the future availability of land.
- Study, plan, and expand upon the new Lenexa “City Center” vision.

# Festival/Market Place

## Goal 3

Create a major retail/family entertainment destination hub at the intersection of highways K-7 and K-10.

## Rationale

Potential exists for a major retail hub near highways K-7 and K-10, to be developed by Lenexa or a bordering city. This major center could be designed as a multi-purpose entertainment and activity destination, providing a lively urban experience in a secure suburban environment. We should take advantage of this opportunity for future tax dollars, jobs, services, and development before another adjacent city does.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Actively pursue development of a festival marketplace/family entertainment hub in western Lenexa.
- This multi-purpose center should include a variety of tenants, such as office, hotel, theater, recreation, retail, and restaurants.
- Aggressively market this location to premier national retail/entertainment developers.
- Continue to monitor market activity and work with developers to ensure success of the project.

# Retail Development

## Goal 4

Revitalize existing retail centers and develop new retail services in Lenexa. Promote a “village concept” integrating residential, commercial, and retail needs.

## Rationale

The commercial real estate business will continue to change. Shoppers will have greater time constraints and will demand easy access to retail centers close to home. Lenexa’s unique retail services must maintain a competitive edge with local malls.

The future westward growth of Lenexa will demand additional retail facilities. Allowing mixed uses for commercial, retail and residential areas will help Lenexa stay ahead of market trends.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Revitalize existing retail centers with better landscaping, improved, safer lighting, and well-designed graphic banners and seasonal decorations. Encourage architectural renovation and updating of existing older retail centers.
- Encourage “U” or “M” shaped, multi-street centers with storefront parking rather than “L” shaped strip malls. Encourage pedestrian interaction from adjacent residential neighborhoods. Discourage large areas of asphalt, and locate overflow parking to the rear.

- Strategically locate retail developments, avoiding over-concentration of any one-street intersection. Discourage additional strip or ribbon commercial development along a major City street.
- Zone retail areas for multi-use to allow for residential and office spaces in second-story, storefront buildings.
- Provide development incentives or zoning regulations to ensure more usable green space in new retail development areas.
- Emphasize taste and appeal in signage rather than size. Place prominent collective signage at the corners of shopping villages to identify tenants.



# “Old Town” Area

## Goal 5

Enable Lenexa’s “Old Town” area to thrive and enhance its historic theme.

## Rationale

Since Old Town is the heart of “original” Lenexa, to keep it vital, it must have a character that makes it unique among its peers. It must compete effectively with the many other options people have as a place to live, shop, eat, and be entertained.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Develop a structured, centralized parking area with a perimeter of commercial uses.
- Provide incentives for historic renovation or new construction that replicates or complements this special historic zoning.
- Encourage and promote various forms of multi-family residential housing to include rent-assisted and retirement housing surrounding and adjacent to the commercial core of Old Town through rezoning and incentives.
- Remodel the Senior Center and the Lenexa Community Center facades to more closely integrate with the historic theme of Old Town.

- Design and erect “entrances” to the Old Town district by constructing gateways and signage that designate it as a unique place.
- Consider a new entryway into Old Town. Possible locations include Monrovia at 87th Street Parkway; Pflumm Road at 87th Street Parkway; Pflumm Road at 95th Street; and Santa Fe Trail Drive at 95th Street.
- Consider larger informational signage along major routes (especially on 87th Street Parkway and 95th Street) directing visitors to Old Town.
- Expand the focus on Old Town as the center of excitement and interest in Lenexa by continuing the festivals and holiday celebrations that have occurred in the past. Explore other ideas including additional community events, outdoor sculptures, a fountain plaza, seasonal decorations, etc.
- Reinforce special historic zoning and design review regulations for buildings and streetscapes in the Old Town district.
- Encourage and assist the effort of the Old Town Merchants’ Association to create an ongoing and permanent Lenexa Farmers’ Market. A permanent open structure could be an addition to the Old Town environment.

# Sub-Surface Development

## Goal 6

Encourage development of Lenexa's unique sub-surface space to its maximum potential, thereby accelerating development of surface properties.

## Rationale

Lenexa has the potential for development of millions of square feet of unique, sub-surface property situated at the geographic center of our City. Our sub-surface areas are one-of-a-kind in Johnson County.

Sub-surface development is less expensive than surface alternatives, is close to major transportation access, and offers convenient opportunities for large truck-staging areas. Because of perceived safety concerns, development of sub-surface space dispels uncertainty for potential developers above and below the surface along the entire Renner Boulevard Corridor. Sub-surface areas are ready for development with building codes already in place.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Aggressively market sub-surface development, emphasizing its strengths and unique character through intense positive publicity (educational tours, public displays, media coverage, etc.).
- The City of Lenexa should be the first to promote surface development of sub-surface areas by purchasing property for a public facility such as a recreational, educational, or institutional building.

- Consider incentives for sub-surface developers.
- Provide good design guidelines for buffering and aesthetically pleasing treatment of entrances and staging areas.
- Require mining companies to remove all unsightly evidence of former mining activity above ground as soon as possible, and return surrounding areas to their natural state through proper grading and revegetation.





# Visual Impact

## Goal 7

Establish Lenexa’s visual identity as the highest quality built commercial environment in the metropolitan area.

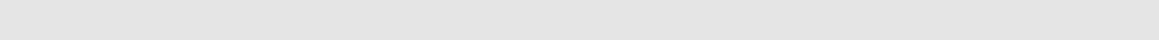
## Rationale

An aesthetically appealing community will attract new quality businesses, retail establishments, and residents to Lenexa. Maintaining a balance between commercial development and the natural beauty of the environment will protect Lenexa’s high-quality atmosphere and will preserve and enhance property values.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Establish user-friendly architectural and site design guidelines for each development type so that existing and prospective businesses, developers, and residents can more clearly understand the City’s expectations for quality development.
- Promote diversity in architectural design among developments and variation within developments to reduce cookie-cutter or “same style” appearance.
- Encourage creative, unique building designs which provide a significant cultural, historical, or aesthetic contribution.

- Create and implement standards for maintaining and updating existing business parks.
  - Update and enhance Lenexa's landscape, streetscape, and storm drainage design standards.
  - Renovate and find new uses for aging and distressed areas.
  - Develop and enforce cleanliness standards for all retail areas.
- 

## Acknowledgments

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# Residential Development

## Vision Statement

To make the City of Lenexa a community of safe, friendly neighborhoods with well-designed, top-quality residential communities which maintain open space and enhance quality of life.

## *Goals*

- Common Open Space
- Community
- Quality Design/Construction
- Maintenance

# Common Open Space

## Goal 1

Provide for the incorporation of open space within Lenexa’s residential developments that preserves and enhances the natural beauty of the environment.

## Rationale

Currently most Lenexa residents work in other parts of the metropolitan area. Their decision to live in Lenexa is based in part upon our City’s clean appearance and its proximity to the area’s rural boundary. Increasing residential development has, in many areas, resulted in “cookie cutter communities” and reduced Lenexa’s availability of open space.

“Open space” means land designated as common ground shared by the residents of a community. It may include public park land, residential commons and land purchased solely to protect the natural environment. It does not include lawn areas, traffic medians, or other developed land.

Lenexa should maintain and enhance common ground within our developments, preserving open areas for future generations. Studies have shown that properties consistently sell faster and command a higher appreciation in developments in which the preservation and maintenance of common green space has been a priority.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Adopt a philosophy of land conservation as the central organizing principle around which house lots and streets are designed, and in which a sense

of “nature” is maintained. Engage in dialogue with surrounding cities and the County in order to develop an area-wide map of conservation and development.

- Establish a Lenexa map depicting streamway and greenway corridors. Incorporate the map in new development plans to ensure continuity and an interconnected network of green space among developments throughout the City. While doing this, the City should continue its partnership with MARC and neighboring cities on the Kansas City Metropolitan Greenway System project.
- Establish zoning laws that mandate a “four-step” conservation subdivision process for neighborhood community design. The four-step process entails: identifying potential conservation areas and designing for the creation of open spaces; locating home sites by creating as many view lots as possible, and ensuring that usable open space is located within convenient walking distance from all home sites; designing street and trail alignments to include single-loaded streets with views, interconnected streets, and pedestrian and bicycle linkages; and drawing in lot lines.

Popularly referred to as “golf course communities without the golf course,” the new zoning classifications would provide for developments that incorporate a combination of clustered homes on smaller lots with common grounds for resident recreation and interaction.

- Provide for generous streamway setbacks with appropriate buffers. Design streamway buffers to accommodate the complementary goals of open space preservation, wildlife habitat, stormwater management, bank stabilization, and erosion control. Establish the “fully urbanized” floodplain boundary and keep free of residential development.

- Retain desirable existing vegetation when planning new development. New plantings should consist of adaptive vegetation (plants suitable for our region of the country) and observe sound landscaping principles for our environment.
- Provide educational programs for Lenexa citizens on the advantages of open space design, buffered land uses, and the preservation of the environment, as contrasted with conventional development methods that have created the suburban sprawl we experience today.



# Community

## Goal 2

Promote a variety of housing to support the needs and desires of diverse socioeconomic groups, and encourage a spirit of “community.”

## Rationale

No matter the economic strength of any individual, owning one’s own home creates a pride of ownership that, in turn, contributes to the overall quality of the City. Our boundaries must contain not only the popular structures that satisfy today’s home buyers, but also a variety of housing opportunities for future diversity in our socioeconomic makeup.

The demand for housing is projected to shift from larger homes to smaller homes, single-level housing, maintenance-provided properties, and convenient, pedestrian-accessible commercial developments. By recognizing this trend, the City can proactively establish a foothold for the future while providing quality residences for singles, first-time buyers, and “empty-nesters” today.

The typical suburban pattern of development is based on single-use zoning that hinders the satisfaction of daily needs and requires access by automobile. “Neotraditional” development, based on the concept of the traditional neighborhood, strives to incorporate a variety of needs into a single unit so residents can satisfy more of their daily requirements within convenient walking distances. This slower pace promotes a peaceful spirit of community where neighbors take the time to stop and talk to one another.



## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Establish design guidelines pertaining to new development that promote the neighborhood concept, which would facilitate community interaction and provide varied housing opportunities. Examine “neotraditional” community design that allows pedestrian access to daily needs, slows traffic movement, and incorporates front-porch designs, rear alley garages, etc.
- Encourage mixed-use development in town centers where a variety of goods, services, and jobs are available within convenient walking distance. These mixed-uses would integrate neighborhood commercial needs (coffee shops, corner groceries, and cafes) with varied housing types (larger homes, smaller homes, above-retail apartments, etc.).
- Make Lenexa pedestrian friendly by creating a master plan to link neighborhoods to each other and to commercial areas by attractive paths and walkways.
- Introduce housing guidelines that would provide affordable housing for a diverse range of income levels. This might include quality-built attached housing or smaller houses on smaller lots.
- Encourage development such as patio homes, ranch homes, maintained communities, etc., meeting the needs of singles, young families, “empty nesters,” and the elderly, as well as assist those desiring privacy by providing for larger lot developments. Consider providing a greater diversity of lot and house sizes within the same development.

- Enhance community interaction and maintain a “small town” atmosphere by providing for central public gathering places and developing neighborhood focus points such as gazebos and common village greens.

# Quality Design/Construction

## Goal 3

Establish a recognized identity in the metropolitan area as an attractive environment of varied and unique residential neighborhoods where high standards for architectural design, quality construction, and sensitivity to the natural character of the land are maintained and valued.

## Rationale

Residential neighborhoods that represent strength and stability are naturally desirable. Selection and quality drive all markets. Lenexa should distinguish itself by establishing a variety of quality choices in residential development.

Lenexa should grow gracefully, in a manner consistent with the traditional character of the community, so that new development fits harmoniously into the town fabric and helps to reinforce the local sense of “home.”

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Use open-space design to conserve our lands, retain a sense of nature, stop suburban sprawl, encourage clustered housing, and develop neighborhood interaction. In order to promote open-space developments and other imaginative conservation-conscious designs, the City should provide incentives to creative, flexible developers who follow conservation subdivision principles.
- Provide for flexibility in building guidelines to promote diversity in architectural design

(including building styles, setbacks, and articulation) and building materials, while maintaining quality control in both.

- Encourage high-quality design and construction standards for neighborhood communities to promote variety and consistent quality (but not “sameness”) in architecture design and ensure that community integrity is maintained. Encourage builders to observe high quality by requiring adherence to approved certification programs. Other standards to consider would be such things as avoiding repetitious patterns of “cookie cutter” design, requiring noise protection from major arteries and highways, and reducing light pollution.
- Require environmentally sensitive site and structure construction methods and cutting-edge energy efficiency methods.
- Promote consistent quality in landscape design and execution, and ensure that the approved designs are complementary across neighboring community boundaries. Continue strong requirements regarding tree plantings along new streets and developments, and landscape screening for parking lots associated with residential areas.
- Promote the “village” concept in neighborhood community planning, and provide for visual corridors that terminate with architectural themes (e.g., important buildings, fountains, or statues).
- Employ architectural design and materials for affordable housing that are compatible with other homes in the area.
- Find developers willing to “champion the cause” of establishing unique and innovative housing concepts.

# Maintenance

## Goal 4

Maintain the City as a whole by recognizing the need and responsibility of maintaining, improving, reviving, or rebuilding mature and/or declining neighborhood communities.

## Rationale

Many cities address needs only as they become critical. Because Lenexa is still relatively young, we have a unique opportunity to plan for an undeniable future when mature areas begin to decline. Further, we have the opportunity to address anticipated problems and develop solutions before their times arrive.

Although Lenexa has land yet undeveloped to the west, land is finite and plans must be made to preserve our current environment, not only for ourselves, but also for future generations. We should not be afraid to retain what remains positive and to remove, renovate, or rehabilitate diminishing communities within our boundaries.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Inventory all building stock in Lenexa to determine those areas most in need of upgrading. Seek creative approaches to home and neighborhood improvement, such as volunteer groups or other civic organizations.
- Establish guidelines pertaining to the rehabilitation of existing development for mixed-use

development, such as apartments over retail and neighborhood-scale establishments within residential areas.

- Establish a master plan for the renovation of the “Old Town” area into a unique “theme” area incorporating traditional architecture and providing unique housing opportunities for singles, empty-nesters, and seniors. Concepts might include over-store apartments, single-floor homes, and pedestrian-accessible grocery stores, post offices, and restaurants. Gather input from local residents, churches, and other stakeholders.
- Consider and plan for the ownership and maintenance of all existing principle drainage-ways, creeks, and waterways within the City. These watercourses will need a continuous maintenance program which could be integrated into the pathways program or recreation plans of the City.
- Continue to fund the budget dedicated to the annual upkeep of older streets, parks, trails, sidewalks, streetlights, etc.



## Areas for Further Study

- Investigate the possibility of areas in Lenexa that should be permanently protected from development. Consider such measures as urban growth boundaries, and preservation of agricultural areas as farmland.
- Seek ways to reduce dependence on the automobile for important daily activities. Determine public transportation needs as more open-space development and neighborhoods are built, lessening private automobile transportation.
- Study ways to encourage and promote home ownership.
- Research the process of renewal in other cities of our size with an emphasis on preventing blight.
- Consider increasing emphasis on the building and codes enforcement program to ensure sustained or improved quality in the condition of residential buildings.
- Seek out funding sources for home improvements.

## Acknowledgments

The Residential Development Task Force wishes to thank those individuals who expressed their interest by donating their time to contribute ideas and/or share their expertise in making Lenexa's "vision" become a reality.

- Randall Arendt, Vice President of Natural Lands Trust and Author
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# Economic Development

## Vision Statement

To develop innovative policies and creative marketing strategies to attract new technology and diverse businesses to Lenexa while maintaining and enhancing existing businesses and balancing the livability of our community, its families, natural resources, and environment.

## *Goals*

- Environmental Balance
- High-Tech Businesses
- Business Environment
- Strategic Marketing Plan
- Safety
- Tax Policies

# Environmental Balance

## Goal 1

Maintain a balance between Lenexa's natural and manmade environments, preserving key natural features while promoting quality growth and development.

## Rationale

Our environment is a vital resource, and preservation of it an integral part of the culture, economy, and health of Lenexa, both in its residential and business communities. Undeveloped portions of Lenexa contain many environmental features considered beneficial to economic development including geology, underground mines, elevation and slope, soil and water conditions, and natural vegetation. Our community must continually recognize the economic development benefits of these diverse natural resources and the responsibility that comes with their preservation.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Maintain the established baseline water and soil quality guidelines, and ensure protective measures for their preservation.
- Maintain high air and water quality standards.
- In all areas of development, maintain ample public open spaces.
- When possible, utilize and preserve the natural vegetation and lay of the land by attracting environmentally friendly businesses.

- Building codes should reflect a balance between the needs of the environment and business.
- Identify existing brownfield areas as potential areas for economic development.



# High-Tech Businesses

## Goal 2

Lenexa should emphasize expansion of existing high-tech businesses, and work to attract new high-tech businesses.

## Rationale

Thanks to our partnerships with visionary developers and cooperative utility companies, our City has demonstrated its ability to provide the highly reliable services (e.g., ISDN lines and fiber optics) high-tech companies require. In the past, Johnson County has been an excellent source of educated, skilled employees needed to staff these businesses and has also been able to provide attractive housing and amenities for employee relocation. To remain competitive in this arena, our City should lead the metropolitan area in expanding these strengths.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Emphasize growth and acquisition of businesses that use, develop, and manufacture high-tech, electronic equipment.
- Provide the most reliable power source and distribution system modern technology permits.
- Provide high-capacity telephone lines, cables, and central office equipment needed by businesses which have high-volume information transfer requirements.

- Consider a cost-benefit analysis of the long-range potential when addressing the financial commitments required to move in this direction.



# Business Environment

## Goal 3

Build the perception of Lenexa as a development-friendly, high-quality business environment.

## Rationale

Continued growth and development of Lenexa’s business and residential sectors will best be achieved by creating an environment which helps businesses grow and prosper.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Implement an ongoing public relations and marketing effort to emphasize the outstanding success and features of Lenexa’s business community. This strategy is already being addressed by the City, Chamber of Commerce, and Lenexa Economic Development Council (LEDC).
- Periodically review and evaluate City policies to ensure that they are “customer focused,” and that any new policy or change that improves the overall “user-friendliness” of a policy is heavily promoted to builders, developers, and the public.
- The Governing Body’s recently developed “Partners in Progress” program effectively creates a mechanism for connecting the business community with their elected officials, the City staff, the Chamber, and the LEDC. This program should continue, and a similar program could be created to work directly with developers.

# Strategic Marketing Plan

## Goal 4

Develop an aggressive, consistent, professional, strategic marketing plan for economic development in the community.

## Rationale

Our economic development goals can best be served by a cohesive, strategic marketing effort. We are an incredibly strong business community, as evidenced by the fact that seventy *Fortune 500* companies currently conduct business in our community.

By building upon Lenexa's image as a community in which certain types of businesses will thrive, and directing our activities toward this end at all times, we will attract those types of companies and proactively affect our own growth and development.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- All future annual economic development marketing plans should include public relations and media campaigns, focused literature, theme campaign development, and targeted marketing strategies. These strategies should have deadlines and benchmarks for implementation. Progress should be reviewed against goals at regular intervals.
- Create public/private partnerships that creatively explore the development of non-tax related and/or privately funded incentive packages that would

give our community a competitive advantage in the highly-competitive economic development marketplace.





# Safety

## Goal 5

Maintain a low crime, accident, and fire occurrence rate so businesses, travelers and residents feel safe in all areas of Lenexa.

## Rationale

Lenexa presently enjoys a reputation of being well protected, with low crime and fire occurrences. Lenexa should retain and enhance this reputation.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Continue to ensure fully qualified, competent police and fire protection through excellent, continually updated training. Consider adding a police sub-station to the western fire station as that area develops.
- Explore ways to get residents more involved in crime and fire prevention, possibly even using the Internet or a City-wide computer server. Continue the excellent neighborhood watch and business and community education programs, especially the “Citizens Police Academy” and “Partnerships with Business,” to promote good community attitudes.

City-required fire, smoke, or carbon monoxide alarms and sprinkler systems can merely alert people to take action prior to the fire department's arrival.

- Improve fire safety and fire protection with new discoveries in technology, where applicable, and cost effective. Determine whether a 311 number could be used for non-emergency calls to alleviate overload of the 911 system.
- Support legislation that assists Lenexa's Fire and Police Departments in accomplishing the goals of the community.
- Expand emergency preparedness for disasters such as a train derailment, tornado, and explosion. Recognizing that many Lenexans may have skills or training that could be used during a time of crises, consider establishing a volunteer group that could be trained for assistance.
- Search for the most effective ways to communicate fire safety techniques to residents.
- Implement the most effective crime and fire prevention techniques available. Continue to work with new businesses (and home builders) to ensure high-quality, built-in fire and theft protection.

# Tax Policies

## Goal 6

Continue a tax policy that makes Lenexa attractive for both residential and commercial development.

## Rationale

Historically, Lenexa has had the advantage of a high percentage of tax base derived from business, thus allowing property tax rates to remain competitive.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Strive to maintain the high ratio of tax base derived from business.
- Continue to evaluate tax abatements against a solid cost-benefit analysis.
- Continue responsible spending and debt management, thus minimizing additional tax increase.

## Areas for Further Study

- Continue evaluation of the Lenexa Comprehensive Plan under the natural environment section to ensure that new buildings, site improvements, and roadway construction are in harmony with the natural vegetation, ravines, and areas with steep slope or dramatic topographic changes, trees, and plants.
- The unique environmental features in Lenexa, especially in the undeveloped areas in the western part of the community, will require close attention to the preservation and protection of the key existing environmental features. Consideration needs to be given to revisiting the plans for areas now targeted for development that may be better utilized with innovative land use designs instead of residential or commercial development.
- Consider taking the lead in a county-wide study of providing college and graduate-level technical education far beyond the current availability. The existence of such an institution would provide a source of employees with the knowledge and skills needed to meet the requirements of high-tech businesses Lenexa desires to expand and locate within the City.
- Consider surveying our residents to evaluate their willingness to fund added protective services.
- Gain a better understanding of what our tax ratio will be (business/residential) in the year 2020 if the current land use map is developed as planned.
- Explore the possibility of establishing a non-profit Economic Development Trust Fund to encourage desired businesses to locate in Lenexa and assist in upkeep or renovation of older areas.

## Acknowledgments

The Economic Development Task Force wishes to thank those individuals who expressed their interest by donating their time to contribute ideas and/or share their expertise in making Lenexa’s “vision” become a reality.

- Brant Gaul, Planner III, City of Lenexa
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# Education

## Vision Statement

Ensure that the citizens of Lenexa have life-long learning opportunities necessary to enrich their lives.

## *Goals*

- Leadership
- Learning
- Linkage
- Location

# Leadership

## Goal 1

Lenexa should create an atmosphere that encourages leadership from the business community and citizens in advancing education.

## Rationale

Education must be an ongoing priority within the community.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Appoint a group or committee which represents a cross section of the community to implement a plan of action to achieve the educational goals of the community.

# Learning

## Goal 2

Expand and encourage “learning” opportunities for citizens of all ages.

## Rationale

Education is an ever-changing and lifelong experience. A well-educated, safe and secure population is essential for a community to grow both economically and socially.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Provide learning opportunities to enrich the quality of education. Learning opportunities would include a focus on the following: culture, environment, technology, wellness, civics, history, and service learning/volunteerism.
- Create a speakers’ bureau and teaching corps within the community to enhance learning in the focus areas.
- Define a unique “niche” which will create a specific identity for the City. The community’s support of advanced learning, combined with the City’s wealth of available resources, are conducive for developing an atmosphere which would support a special learning center.
- Develop and execute a plan of action to create a special learning center.



# Linkage

## Goal 3

Strengthen and promote “linkage,” or community partnerships, among Lenexa’s citizens, businesses, schools, and government.

## Rationale

For Lenexa to thrive, it is essential for education to embrace all segments of a community. Shared resources produce greater results.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Identify existing community partnerships and potential for future partnerships, with special emphasis on Lenexa’s unique “niches.” For example, a local business might partner with a technological learning facility.
- Promote optimization of physical, financial, and human resources.
- Continue to support and maintain ongoing excellence in public education.

# Location

## Goal 4

Attract and assure development of sites for learning facilities.

## Rationale

Projected growth demands that we plan now and communicate the need for future education sites.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Establish positive lines of communication between school districts and the City in the selection, planning, and development of public school sites. The City could use communication tools including an Internet home page, citizen-feedback forums, and City representation at school district meetings. In addition, the City could support a cooperative science, math, and technology high school to serve Johnson County.
- Encourage multiple-use facilities by coordinating among the governments, businesses, schools, and residents to identify current needs and available existing structures.
- Establish a unique learning facility(ies) which may include: technology, visual and performing arts, and upper division and post-graduate studies.



## Acknowledgments

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- Dr. Cheryl Polson, Associate Professor for Foundations and Adult Education with the College of Education at Kansas State University
- Dr. David Steward, Assistant Dean for Continuing Education at Kansas State University
- Dr. Ron Wimmer, Superintendent/Olathe School District



# Infrastructure and Transportation

## Vision Statement

To develop transportation, information/communication systems, utilities, and public services for Lenexa that are reliable, safe, and aesthetically pleasing. In so doing, Lenexa will provide leadership that benefits Lenexa and the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area.

## *Goals*

- Timing
- Existing Infrastructure
- Coordinated Planning
- Regional Transportation
- Telecommunications
- Water
- Air Quality

# Timing

## Goal 1

To provide appropriate infrastructure ahead of need.

## Rationale

To grow and develop properly, the community must provide new facilities and services in an orderly fashion and in time to meet the need before it actually exists.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Residential and commercial growth plans should recognize the critical importance of keeping infrastructure ahead of development. At the same time, the City should maintain existing streets, public buildings, etc., at a level commensurate with the community's standards and expectations.
- Utilize all available resources regarding data and trends on prospective growth, projected employment, and socio-economic patterns.
- Emphasize those investments in infrastructure that will attract desirable business and residential development.

# Existing Infrastructure

## Goal 2

Maintain and upgrade Lenexa's existing infrastructure to a level consistent with high-quality and area standards.

## Rationale

By the year 2020, the City will be well on its way to being built out. It must keep its attention on maintaining the infrastructure that has been put in place over the years.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Institute a comprehensive inventory, condition analysis, and predictive management information system for all infrastructure elements. With this preparation in place, it will be possible to retain the original ambiance of each of the neighborhoods as they age and mature.
- Give special attention to street surfacing, signage, and curb and sidewalk maintenance in older neighborhoods.
- Conduct all such ongoing maintenance programs with the aim of preserving property values throughout the City.

# Coordinated Planning

## Goal 3

Establish and support regional, intergovernmental, and public/private partnerships that result in coordinated decision-making among communities in Greater Kansas City.

## Rationale

Lenexa's future growth and prosperity are interwoven with the communities in Greater Kansas City. Existing area planning agencies make decisions that involve one or more of our communities which makes it imperative that Lenexa becomes a proactive leader in resolving these issues.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Participate actively on all area-wide committees to assure that Lenexa's interests are represented.
- Encourage City staff and the Chamber of Commerce to take the lead in identifying and resolving regional infrastructure issues.
- Promote public/private partnerships in Lenexa to facilitate and demonstrate creative solutions to infrastructure issues.



# Regional Transportation

## Goal 4

Implement a regional multi-modal transportation system to meet the needs of Lenexa's business and residential communities.

## Rationale

Lenexa's location within the Kansas City Metropolitan area allows opportunities to develop safe, efficient transportation systems for the movement of people and freight.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Replace the current piecemeal planning being conducted by existing independent organizations with a coordinated, area-wide transportation plan which includes commuter rail, buses, freight haulers, and automobiles.
- Optimize the use of facilities and infrastructure which now operate independently, through cooperation with regional planning agencies. Capitalize on the existence of two interstate highways, I-35 [a potential North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Super Corridor] and I-435; two major state highways, K-7 and K-10; and the two Burlington Northern/Santa Fe Railroad routes that pass through Lenexa.
- Support development of a commuter rail system connecting Johnson County with Greater Kansas City. The rail system is important because congestion along the I-35 corridor will likely continue to increase causing I-35 to reach saturation before 2020.

- Address Lenexa’s labor shortage by implementing a regional reverse-commute plan serving Lenexa businesses, in cooperation with Greater Kansas City communities. Workers from surrounding labor pools could then be transported to jobs in Lenexa.
- Develop Johnson County’s first multi-modal transportation center in the vicinity of Old Town Lenexa, in cooperation with Greater Kansas City communities. This could include commuter train, bus linkage, and parking/drop-off areas, providing accessibility to other points within the metroplex.
- Provide a safe, convenient, weather-protected pedestrian connection between the north and south sides of the railroad tracks that connect parking, bus, commercial areas, and commuter stations.
- Employ land use planning and facility design that will enhance multi-modal transportation options; e.g., bike paths, sidewalks, trails, etc., as well as safety, aesthetic, and recreational features.
- Enforce development codes and street design within Lenexa that promote safe and effective movement of people and vehicles.



# Telecommunications

## Goal 5

Make Lenexa “The Communications City of Choice” for businesses and residents. Develop information/communication facilities and services that give Lenexa the national communication advantage with business and residential users.

## Rationale

Telecommunications and information technologies will play an increasingly prominent role in the quality of life for residents and are increasingly essential for economic development and the expansion of our tax base.

A telecommunications emphasis will allow Lenexa to tie-in with the Kansas City Metro area’s America’s SmartCities® initiative, which promotes the area as “the best place in the country to do business electronically.”

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Develop a comprehensive plan to build on the foundation of Lenexa’s many leading-edge telecommunications facilities. The Sprint Network Control Center; Sprint Change Management Center; Sprint Technical Assistance Center; and Southwestern Bell’s fiber rings and switches will provide the beginning of Lenexa’s prominence as “The Communications City of Choice.”
- Develop a right-of-way management plan to provide for installation of towers, fiber optics, emerging technologies, etc.

- Build on public/private partnerships to facilitate development and implementation of Lenexa's communication plan.



## Goal 6

Develop a comprehensive strategy for water, wastewater, and stormwater that benefits all of Lenexa.

## Rationale

Availability of potable water, the disposal of wastewater, and management of stormwater are critical to the viable existence of any city. These are among the largest investments in any new land development, and require long-range planning and time to implement.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Design a comprehensive maintenance program and provide funding for stormwater channels and drainage facilities, including channel maintenance to assure City workers' access to existing easements.
- Control any low- and medium-density development very carefully, remembering that the amount of tax revenue that can be generated is limited, in comparison with more traditional lot sizes.
- Educational efforts that emphasize efficient methods of irrigation and the use of natural landscaping materials requiring less water should be implemented.
- Be prepared to increase the capacity of water mains in anticipation of heavier demand, especially in western areas of Lenexa.

- Expect that the quality and quantity of urban stormwater discharge on streams and rivers will draw increased attention at all levels. The City must prepare to implement closer monitoring and controls of pollutants.
- Investigate a regional approach to drainage in the central and western portions of the City, including regional retention facilities for stormwater management.
- Encourage all new commercial development be connected to the Johnson County Unified Wastewater District.

# Air Quality

## Goal 7

Recognize the impact of air quality on virtually all infrastructure items.

## Rationale

The Kansas City region's clean air strategies have achieved full compliance with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations. Careful and continuous control will be required to stay in compliance.

## Strategies

In order to achieve the above goal, it is recommended that our community explore the following:

- Cooperate with regional governmental bodies in creating an air quality strategy that meets federal and other standards.
- Consider alternative transportation modes that have less negative impact on air quality, such as pedestrian walkways.

## Areas for Further Study

- Review the current philosophy of funding infrastructure development to include recommendations for change.
- Determine future environmental issues that may affect Lenexa’s infrastructure requirements.
- Investigate land use strategies that incorporate the “Rural by Design” concept that could impact future infrastructure needs.
- Consider establishing a utility for stormwater in Lenexa.
- Consider that more Lenexa residents may choose to telecommute in the future. This trend will impact the transportation needs of the Lenexa community.



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- Mike Kelly, Kansas Motor Carriers Association
- Tom Mateer, Sprint PCS
- Bill Meyer, Planning and Development Director, City of Lenexa
- Rob Miller, Johnson County Unified Wastewater District
- Brent Murphy, Kansas City Power & Light Company



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## Conclusion

When the Lenexa Governing Body initiated this process, it was clear that its intent was that this “vision” for the future was to be a living and breathing plan. At the conclusion of this phase of the process (the development of the vision and goals), plans are already underway to ensure that all the stakeholders in the future of Lenexa are informed of the Vision and Goals for the Future. City staff and the Governing Body are preparing to thoroughly integrate the vision and goals of Vision 2020 into daily operations and long-term planning tools. However, it is the Governing Body’s hope that this won’t be just a “City” vision. It hopes other active participants in the community such as the Chamber, the churches, businesses, school districts, volunteer organizations, and others will use the vision and goals expressed here as they plan for their own future as a member of this community.

Steering Committee members plan to remain involved in encouraging progress toward the vision and goals and to assist in conducting periodic reassessments of the community so that changes can be incorporated as the community changes.