

Memorandum

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SENT VIA EMAIL

To: City of Lenexa
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Re: Draft Vision, Goals, and Policies for Staff Review

The Lenexa Comprehensive Plan vision, goals, and policies represent the values and ideals of the community. These central components of the plan are based on Vision 2040, public engagement conducted as part of the comprehensive planning effort, and the existing conditions analysis, and are intended to reflect the community's ideal future for Lenexa.

The **Vision Statement** is a narrative that links an overarching set of ideals to guide the City and its growth areas into its future. It affirms the community's strengths, desires, and abilities and depicts what the community can achieve following the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan. The narrative is ambitious and inspirational. It serves as the foundation for the Plan's goals, policies, and recommendations.

The **Connection to Vision 2040** section identifies the primary topic area within Vision 2040 that the goals relate to, as well as supporting Vision 2040 strategies from across all relevant topic areas.

The **Goals** describe desired results toward which planning efforts should be directed. They are broad and long-range. They represent an ambition to be sought and require the culmination of many smaller actions to be fully achieved.

The **Policies** support their respective goal and are more specific, actionable, and measurable in nature. They are distinct steps that should be completed to work towards achieving the related goal and overall vision. Policies are presented in the bullet points following each goal.

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Vision Statement

The year is 2040. Lenexa is a vibrant, growing community that is welcoming to all. People are engaged with their City and each other. The City's history, natural beauty, and unique places, such as Old Town, Black Hoof Park, and Lenexa City Center bring people together in exciting ways! A variety of attainable housing choices are available to residents of all backgrounds, no matter their stage of life, socioeconomic status, or physical ability. Amenity-rich neighborhoods provide high quality of life, with convenient access to goods and services, parks and trails, multi-modal transportation options, and exceptional schools.

Lenexa's expanded network of innovative Complete Streets prioritize safe, active, and sustainable connections to improve the livability of current and future residents, workers, and visitors of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. Trails, sidewalks, and bicycle facilities connect neighborhoods to each other and to employment centers and commercial services.

A robust variety of employment opportunities and businesses fuel Lenexa's local economy, supporting a diverse workforce and innovative energy conservation and sustainable development practices. The City thrives by serving neighborhoods and the business community with excellent transportation, infrastructure, and community facilities and programs.

The community celebrates and strengthens its local identity through delivering exceptional city services, programming a range of community events and activities, and providing attractive public spaces for socializing and enjoying the outdoors.

Housing & Neighborhoods

Connection to Vision 2040

Primary Topic Area

Vibrant Neighborhoods. Our vision for Lenexa is to have vibrant neighborhoods that offer a variety of housing types, sizes and prices with opportunities for shopping and support services nearby, as well as convenient public facilities such as quality roads, pedestrian connections, parks and schools.

Vision 2040 Strategies

- **Vibrant Neighborhoods**
 - Building neighborhoods with a sense of community.
 - Preserving existing housing to protect and enhance the character of neighborhoods.
 - Supporting aging in place.
 - Cultivating attainably priced housing.
- **Healthy People**
 - Creating intergenerational communities.
 - Connecting people to nature and open spaces.
 - Building community partnerships.
- **Inviting Places**
 - Creating inspiring places that are flexible, connected, and sustainable.
 - Activating public places, commercial areas, and neighborhoods.

Goal 1

Prioritize creating complete neighborhoods to maintain and elevate Lenexa's high quality of life and desirability.

- Continue to preserve and reinvest in established residential neighborhoods.
- Encourage the development of neighborhood nodes with a balanced mix of housing types, neighborhood-centric commercial and civic uses, and public recreational spaces.
- Build a unified sense of community and local identity within neighborhoods.

Goal 2

Support a diverse range of housing to support residents of all backgrounds and stages of life.

- Promote attainable housing through diverse housing choices and creative housing types.
- Support investment in older, single-family detached housing stock and neighborhoods in a manner that preserves naturally occurring affordable housing.
- Accommodate infill development and consider moderate density increases in established neighborhoods where increased density is determined to be appropriate based on the context of the area.
- Consider a range of housing densities in newly developing areas.
- Consider high density multi-family housing in areas that provide well planned transitions to lower density housing.
- Provide a framework for housing that is welcoming to residents in all stages of life and with all abilities.

Goal 3

Promote the development of sustainable and resilient neighborhoods.

- Guide future residential growth into development patterns that respect the natural environment by clustering density on non-sensitive areas of the property.
- Promote sustainable infill development and redevelopment in identified areas.
- Encourage new development and rehabilitation to utilize materials, construction techniques, and infrastructure systems that reduce negative environmental impacts of residential development.
- Preserve and integrate green spaces and high-quality trees in new neighborhood subdivisions.

Economic Development

Connection to Vision 2040

Primary Topic Area

Thriving economy. Our vision for Lenexa is to be a place thriving with economic activity, a variety of business types and innovative people that create jobs and sustainable businesses.

Vision 2040 Strategies

- **Thriving Economy**
 - Diversifying our economy.
 - Attracting innovation.
 - Reimagining retail, commercial and industrial areas.
 - Growing our already strong business sectors.
 - Maintaining the city's reputation as a development-friendly community.
- **Healthy People**
 - Creating neighborhood nodes.
 - Developing healthy corridors.
- **Inviting Places**
 - Creating welcoming gateways.
 - Creating inspiring places that are flexible, connected and sustainable.
 - Activating public places, commercial spaces and neighborhoods.

Goal 1

Promote vibrant, attractive, and unique commercial areas with high economic vitality.

- Promote the creation of neighborhood nodes as unique centers of activity.
- Beautify and enhance the function of commercial corridors.
- Revitalize Old Town as a community destination.
- Continue to develop City Center as a mixed-use destination for commercial, residential, civic, and recreational uses.

Goal 2

Foster a strong local economy that offers a wide range of employment opportunities.

- Support the development of quality industrial, office, and business parks.
- Reinvest in established employment areas.
- Work with private-sector partners to attract and retain an innovative, skilled, and diverse workforce.

Goal 3

Maintain and enhance high-quality, healthy working environments in all commercial and employment areas of the City.

- Encourage sustainable building and site design practices among existing and new businesses as they grow and develop.
- Support the use of appropriately sized and designed alternative energy sources and on-site energy production.
- Partner with local businesses to encourage and foster sustainable development initiatives.

Transportation, Infrastructure, & Mobility

Connection to Vision 2040

Primary Topic Area

Integrated Infrastructure & Transportation. Our vision for Lenexa is seamless transportation and connected infrastructure systems managed to enhance quality and performance while reducing resource consumption, waste, and overall costs.

Vision 2040 Strategies

- **Integrated Infrastructure & Transportation**
 - Connecting to the regional transportation system.
 - Creating a seamless transportation system.
 - Enhancing the transportation system performance.
 - Managing assets to proactively address community needs.
 - Investing in infrastructure maintenance and capital improvements.
- **Inviting Places**
 - Creating welcoming gateways.
- **Thriving Economy**
 - Attracting innovation.
- **Healthy People**
 - Developing healthy corridors.
 - Creating neighborhood nodes.

Goal 1

Provide a safe and convenient multimodal network that serves people of all ages and abilities including pedestrians, bicyclists, scooters, personal vehicles, transit, first responders, freight, and emerging transportation technologies.

- Continue to fill gaps in the roadway system and implement new roadways to support growth, development, and economic activity.
- Fill in existing gaps in the trail, sidewalk, and multiuse path network to ensure that residents and visitors of all ages and abilities can opt-in to use environmentally conscious transportation methods, leveraging the dual benefits of creating sustainable and desirable places and reducing overall number of single occupancy vehicles on roadways.
- Follow the Lenexa Complete Streets Plan and Policy, which includes consideration for developing a mix of transportation elements such as separated bike routes, trails, and shared use side paths that are comfortable for users of all ages and abilities.
- Coordinate with regional partners to right-size transit service and provide reliable and safe first and last mile connections to transit stops.
- Coordinate with regional partners to ensure seamless travel between jurisdictions regardless of travel mode.
- Identify Safe Routes to School programming and infrastructure to ensure children of all ages and abilities have safe and active options for school travel.

Goal 2

Improve safety and access for all users of the transportation system, including the City's most vulnerable residents and those with lack of access to motor vehicles.

- Utilize an approach to safety for new multi-modal infrastructure that is data driven and focuses on designing and managing the transportation system in a way that keeps the risk of users' mistakes low.
- Identify and address unsafe locations and roadway characteristics using best practices in crash data analysis and roadway design to improve safety for all users.
- Consider the importance of enhancing access to transit and sidewalk infrastructure in areas with low-incomes, high-unemployment, zero or one-car households based on U.S. Census data.
- Ensure sidewalks and crossings meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards and are maintained.

Goal 3

Ensure Lenexa's transportation system is sustainable and poised for the future.

- Plan for technologies such as e-scooters, e-bikes, and autonomous and connected vehicles.
- Encourage the use of and provide infrastructure for transportation alternatives that address climate mitigation strategies.
- Include green infrastructure elements early in the design and planning phases of future transportation projects. This may include bioswales, permeable pavement, or other emerging best management practices.

Goal 4

Plan for and prioritize infrastructure improvements to the City's internal and shared transportation systems.

- Continue to maintain existing infrastructure for all modes of transportation.
- Work with utility providers to expand services to support growth.
- Coordinate utility expansion or upgrade projects to work with City transportation or infrastructure projects in the area.
- Work proactively with countywide Watershed Management Organizations on a regional approach to upgrading stormwater management systems and investing in resilient infrastructure.
- Encourage the use of renewable energy sources and green infrastructure options.
- Utilize streetscape infrastructure to beautify the community.
- Align infrastructure needs with capital improvement planning.

Community Services

Connection to Vision 2040

Primary Topic Area

Inviting Places. Our vision for Lenexa is to be a community full of places with beauty, social offerings, and openness that draw people to them.

Vision 2040 Strategies

- **Inviting Places**
 - Creating welcoming gateways.
 - Creating inspiring places that are flexible, connected, and sustainable.
 - Activating public places, commercial spaces, and neighborhoods.

Goal 1

Provide high quality community services as the City grows.

- Coordinate with the school districts as development is proposed to allow for fully informed decision making that accommodates growth.
- Maintain high-level emergency response services.
- Coordinate with Johnson County Library to provide excellent library services.
- Plan for and encourage civic uses to locate in neighborhood nodes.

Goal 2

Be a steward of the environment and emerge as a leader in municipal sustainability.

- Consider strategies to address climate mitigation, such as those included in the Kansas City Regional Climate Action Plan.
- Lead by example to implement sustainability and resiliency best practices when designing and constructing capital improvement projects.
- Lead by example to implement appropriate sustainability and resiliency best practices when reviewing and adopting new building and development codes.
- Celebrate and recognize green actions taken in the community.

Parks, Recreational Facilities, & Open Space

Connection to Vision 2040

Primary Topic Area

Healthy People. Our vision for Lenexa is to be a community where people, throughout their lifespans, are safe, physically active and improve their mental and physical health by spending time outdoors and with each other.

Vision 2040 Strategies

- **Healthy People**
 - Connecting people to nature and open spaces.
- **Inviting Places**
 - Creating inspiring places that are flexible, connected and sustainable.
 - Activating public places, commercial spaces and neighborhoods.
- **Vibrant Neighborhoods**
 - Preserving existing housing to protect and enhance the character of neighborhoods.
- **Integrated Infrastructure & Transportation**
 - Connecting to the regional transportation system.
 - Managing assets to proactively address community needs.
 - Investing in infrastructure maintenance and capital improvements.

Goal 1

Enhance, protect, and increase access to the City's parks and natural assets.

- Ensure all residents have access to high quality parks, recreational facilities, programming, and cultural opportunities.
- Integrate public or private parks and outdoor recreational amenities within a half-mile (10-minute walk) of residences.
- Connect residents to parks and recreational opportunities through trails.
- Continue to reinvest in parks and facilities in established neighborhoods.

Goal 2

Coordinate the development of new parks and recreational facilities as well as the preservation of open space as the City continues to develop.

- Update the 2012 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan to identify new parks and recreational facility needs in the City's growth areas.
- Promote the conservation of open space and key natural features in new development.
- Seek partnerships with school districts and other entities to provide recreational spaces and opportunities for residents.