


Vision 2020 Report Card – August 2007

Community Spirit & Recreation	
Goals	Status
<p>Identity: Create a unique physical symbol to clearly identify the City of Lenexa</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>The Lenexa logo is used consistently on city publications, signs, web site, vehicles, advertising, promotional items, and apparel, etc.</p> <p>Construction of Prairie Star Parkway and 87th Street Parkway from Goddard to Pflumm Road create an identity in Lenexa.</p>
<p>Beautification: Make Lenexa a city of trees, with aesthetically pleasing landscaping in every neighborhood, commercial area, trafficway, and park.</p>	<p>The City of Lenexa believes excellence in the built environment, in harmony with the natural environment, is critical to creating and maintaining a quality of life that is pleasant and desirable and that adds value to the overall community. The city has attempted to actualize these values in the design and construction of various capital projects and in the Rain to Recreation program.</p> <p>Examples include the Prairie Star bridge as well as Prairie Star Parkway itself, the 87th Street Parkway interchange with I-35/U.S. 69 Highway, the 87th Street reconstruction from Quivira to Pflumm, reconstruction of Monticello Road, Lake Lenexa, and the various wetlands and trails throughout the city.</p> <p>Lenexa continues to maintain strong landscape ordinances to encourage aesthetically pleasing landscapes throughout the city.</p> <p>Lenexa has earned the designation “Tree City USA” 19 years consecutively. Each year in celebration of Arbor Day, Lenexa provides free tree seedlings to third-grade students in Lenexa elementary schools.</p> <p>Through the city’s Rain to Recreation efforts, Lenexa is able to protect water quality, wildlife habitats and the natural environment. Many of the bioengineered solutions add a green and natural landscaping element.</p> <p>Lenexa has gone to great effort to plant native plantings in the medians along Prairie Star Parkway. The installation of a sprinkler system will aid in the establishment and ongoing survival during dry years.</p>
<p>Recreation: Develop and maintain interior and exterior spaces for community recreation that will be diverse enough to meet the requirements of Lenexa’s residents.</p>	<p>Lenexa continues to purchase necessary ground for parks and recreational activities. The following parks have been built during the past 10 years or currently are under construction: Freedom Fields, Lake Lenexa/Black Hoof Park, Mize Lake/Cedar Station Park, Buffalo Meadows, Craig Crossing, Resurrection Cemetery park. The city also is working on the master plan for the park/lake in the vicinity of 91st Street and Clare.</p> <p>An 18-hole public/private golf course is being built due west of City Center on the southwest corner of Renner and 87th Street Parkway and is anticipated to open this fall.</p> <p>The city has built numerous trails that connect with the county’s trail system.</p> <p>The Lenexa Conference Center was completed in 2002, and along with the Community Center, Senior Center, and Armory, it serves the community as a site for social and recreational events. It also serves the business community with high-tech conferencing solutions in a unique setting for meetings, training, and other business functions.</p>

	<p>The city continues to plan for Lenexa’s Civic Center in partnership with other governmental entities. Parks & Recreation Impact Fees are used to help pay for new recreational areas and public art.</p>
<p>Community Involvement: Develop activities for Lenexa residents to promote and develop community spirit and involvement</p>	<p>Each year, the city continues to host the Great Lenexa Barbeque-Kansas State Championship, Lenexa Freedom Run, July 4 parade and fireworks, pet fair, Midnight Bike Ride, Waterfest, Spinach Festival, Williams Foods Chili Challenge, pumpkin carving, Enchanted Forest, Old Town Lighting Ceremony, and senior holiday lunch.</p> <p>Unique to Spring 2007 was the community planned Lenexa 100th Celebration. New annual events might be spurred from some of the 100 year festivities (ie Lenexa Star Quest).</p> <p>Lenexa continues to support and encourage the efforts of the Lenexa Historical Society to preserve Lenexa’s heritage. Legler Barn Museum turns 25 in 2008.</p> <p>Lenexa promotes its heritage through preserving the agricultural background of the community. One project was the history video of the Thompson Barn.</p> <p>The Rain to Recreation division organizes Earth Day activities and other water-quality/environmental programs such as storm drain marking events and stream clean up activities for citizen involvement each year.</p>

Commercial Development	
Goals	Status
Business Parks: Maintain higher ratio of commercial to residential development, providing high-quality, well-maintained business parks close to residential areas.	Lenexa's hallmark has always been its high-quality business and office parks. While the share of commercial valuation declines in comparison to residential valuation as the city grows, commercial valuation continues to exceed residential valuation slightly in Lenexa. And the ever-increasing rooftops create a market for retail centers that will produce sales tax, which is growing as a dominant revenue source for the city.
Lenexa City Center: Develop a 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.	On May 16, 2006, the Governing Body approved a development agreement with Copaken, White & Blitt to be the master developer of the City Center site located at the southwest corner of Renner Boulevard and 87 th Street Parkway. Phase one plans have been approved and public infrastructure construction is complete and the first 2 buildings are under construction for City Center East Village, a 17-acre mixed use project located on the southeast corner. Final plans also have been approved for 102 townhomes, 30 detached single family homes and 315 apartments at City Center North Village located on the northwest corner of the intersection and permits have been issued to begin street construction this summer. Due west of City Center, the Golf Club of Kansas has received preliminary plan approval for an 18-hole golf course, clubhouse, offices and residential units. The golf course is currently under construction and anticipated to open in the fall of 2007.
Festival/Market Place: Create a major retail/family entertainment destination hub at the intersection of highways K-7 and K-10.	Developers are showing interest in the K-10 and K-7 vicinity. Preliminary plans for a 550,000 sq. ft. power center and 62,000 sq. ft. neighborhood center have been approved by the Governing Body. Other large tracts are now becoming available for development.
Retail Development: Revitalize existing retail centers and develop new retail services in Lenexa. Promote a "village concept" integrating residential, commercial, and retail needs.	In 2006 and 2007 YTD, Lenexa approved preliminary plans for 4 retail centers totaling 765,000 sq. ft. and currently under consideration is a 58,000 sq. ft. neighborhood center. In addition, plans for the Lenexa City Center neighborhood contain an additional 1.1 million sq. ft. of retail as well as 1.2 million sq. ft. of office, civic space, 1500 residences and 785 hotel rooms. The city also established TIF districts along I-435 and I-35 to promote retail and mixed use development. Plans have been pedestrian friendly and complete with open space meeting areas.
"Old Town" Area: Enable Lenexa's Old Town area to thrive and enhance its historic theme.	Lenexa has worked closely with Old Town and Friends of Old Town (FOOT) to promote community activities such as the Street Fair. Lenexa created three revitalization programs to assist property owners in Old Town including incorporating a large portion of Old Town in a Neighborhood Revitalization District.
Sub-Surface Development: Encourage development of Lenexa's unique sub-surface space to its maximum potential, thereby accelerating development of surface properties.	Meritex has successfully developed 1.9 million square feet of underground space and is on course to develop as much as 3.1 million square feet of underground space. This has been possible through a unique public-private partnership with the City using tax increment financing to reclaim the mine.
Visual Impact: Establish Lenexa's visual identity as the highest quality built commercial environment in the metropolitan area.	Lenexa has a reputation for high expectations in terms of architecture, landscaping, and signage. In April 2007, the Planning Commission and Governing Body approved City Center guidelines. The Planning Department will begin developing non-residential design guidelines later in 2007.

Residential Development	
Goals	Status
<p>Common Open Space: Provide for the incorporation of open space within Lenexa’s residential developments that preserves and enhances the natural beauty of the environment.</p>	<p>Lenexa has purchased 100 acres of land for a park and lake west of K-7 to preserve a portion of the land as natural open space.</p> <p>The Rain to Recreation program has offered numerous opportunities to provide open space to Lenexa’s residential communities. The stream setback ordinance, adopted in 2002, sets development back from city streams and in many cases affords the ability to construct amenities such as trails in these areas. In all cases it provides preservation of habitat and green space as well as a wildlife corridor. In addition the various lakes, wetlands and other water quality features are designed with the idea of incorporating open space and recreational opportunities, whether active or passive.</p> <p>Also through the Rain to Recreation efforts, the city adopted the transfer of development rights in 2002.</p>
<p>Community: Promote a variety of housing to support the needs and desires of diverse socioeconomic groups, and encourage a spirit of “community.”</p>	<p>Residential development since 2000 has ranged from high-end homes to assisted senior citizen housing cottages priced in the \$170,000 range.</p>
<p>Quality Design/Construction: Establish a recognized identity in the metro 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.</p>	<p>Lenexa has a long-standing reputation for well-planned office, retail and residential areas connected by aesthetically pleasing boulevards, streamways, trails and parks. The voters and city leaders have taken that reputation to a new level since 2000 with the adoption of Rain to Recreation, which protects streamways and steep slopes and makes them enhancements to development.</p> <p>Lenexa’s Unified Development Code (UDC) sets high architectural, landscaping and signage standards that create a built environment attractive to residents and business people. In 2007, the city updated its City Center design guidelines, and is developing nonresidential design guidelines as well as guidelines for traditional neighborhood developments.</p>
<p>Maintenance: Maintain the city as a whole by recognizing the need and responsibility of maintaining, improving, reviving, or rebuilding mature and/or declining neighborhood communities.</p>	<p>Lenexa has spent considerable dollars in road, storm water and streamway improvements in established neighborhoods. CDBG projects have been targeted in Old Town for the last 25 years and have rejuvenated a number of residential blocks in that area. In 2005, in recognition of the need to preserve and potentially redevelop mature areas of the city, Lenexa completed a comprehensive conservation and redevelopment study. In 2006, Lenexa created a neighborhood revitalization district and three programs as incentive to redevelop older areas of the city and is also examining a rental licensing and inspection program to help maintain housing stock.</p> <p>Lenexa has an active program of preserving and maintaining existing infrastructure to the highest practical level, consistent with overall community needs and budget availability. The city’s pavement management program inventories all city streets, including their present condition and projected future condition. A condition index is assigned to each street segment, and an appropriate maintenance strategy is planned for each segment. This proactive approach results in the timely maintenance of curbs, sidewalks and pavement. Public buildings are also inventoried as to their condition and projected maintenance needs. A multi-year program to address those needs is then established. Lenexa is beginning this same process for the storm water system as well.</p>

Economic Development	
Goals	Status
<p>Environmental Balance: Maintain a balance between Lenexa’s natural and manmade environments, preserving key natural features while promoting quality growth and development.</p>	<p>The Rain to Recreation Program has spearheaded many new policies. The following is a list and brief description of each.</p> <p>In March of 2002, Lenexa was the first community in the metro area to adopt a stream setback ordinance, which applies to the fast growing portion of Lenexa west of I-435. Subsequently a quasi-transfer of development rights ordinance was adopted to offer incentive for developers to dedicate stream setbacks to the city where necessary for trails, parks or other critical watershed needs.</p> <p>In the previous year, the city adopted a new Land Disturbance Ordinance addressing the issue of erosion and sediment control. Sediment is the number one pollutant in an urbanizing environment. The ordinance was later amended with the latest tools and technologies that were created through a collaborative effort with APWA and MARC and was adopted in the summer of 2004.</p> <p>The city adopted in April 2004 new storm water drainage standards titled APWA 5600, which sought to encourage open conveyance primarily of natural streams and provides means for protecting natural streams. A new Storm Water Quality Best Management Practices Manual was adopted for all new private and public construction employee technologies such as infiltration trenches, bio-retention cells, wetlands, porous pavements and rain gardens. The city found opportunities to reduce impervious areas (streets and parking lots) without compromising safety in reducing street widths in residential areas and the drive isles of retail parking lots. The city worked with a subcommittee of the LEDC to ensure that the appropriate balance between growth and the environment was struck. These measures were adopted in April 2004 with the full support of LEDC.</p>
<p>High-Tech Businesses: Lenexa should emphasize expansion of existing technology businesses, and work to attract new high tech businesses.</p>	<p>Since the adoption of the Vision 2020 plan, Lenexa has become a hotbed for high-tech, cutting-edge businesses. Nearly every company that has located or expanded in Lenexa over the last 10 years could be considered technology advanced in at least some portion of their operation. There is no business sector considered more cutting-edge than bio-science, and with the addition or expansion of such companies as PRA International and JRH Bioscience to the city’s existing business base, Lenexa has solidified its position as the city with the most bio-science companies in the State of Kansas.</p> <p>An explosion of development over that last 8 years along Renner Boulevard has resulted in the location of several major headquarters operations including Community America Credit Union, T-Mobile, US Central Credit Union, Silpada, Applebee’s Intl., and freightquote.com, all sophisticated, high-tech operations.</p> <p>Since 2000, Lenexa has announced over half a billion dollars in capital investment from over 75 new and expanding companies, resulting in the creation and retention of over 6,000 jobs. The goals identified in the Vision 2020 plan have certainly been realized, and with millions of square feet of business park zoning available for future development. They will continue to serve as a guiding principle in the city’s economic development efforts.</p>
<p>Business Environment: Build the perception of Lenexa as a</p>	<p>Lenexa has seen record growth in development in recent years. The city’s relationship with the Lenexa Economic Development Council is a model that others</p>

<p>development-friendly high-quality business environment.</p>	<p>follow. Companies that share Lenexa’s vision of sustainable development and quality growth have chosen Lenexa as a place in which to do business.</p>
<p>Strategic Marketing Plan: Develop an aggressive, consistent, professional, strategic marketing plan for economic development in the community.</p>	<p>The Lenexa Economic Development Council develops a new marketing plan each year designed to work in conjunction with the Kansas Department of Commerce, the Kansas City Area Development Council, and the Johnson County Partnership, all of which have marketing components of their overall programs.</p> <p>Historically, marketing efforts have been multi-faceted, using varying combinations of print advertising, printed promotional pieces, trade shows, and hosting or visiting with relocation consultants across the country.</p> <p>Depending upon industry trends or targeted industry sectors, the mix varies from year to year. From late 2003 through 2005, the chamber featured the “half-full” print campaign. Now, it moves toward more personal contact through targeted industry trade shows and with presentations to relocation consultants.</p> <p>The city has shifted more attention to the attraction of retail in the last couple of years. One effort is attendance at the ICSC and other retail trade shows in an effort to showcase City Center and other retail opportunities in Lenexa.</p> <p>Since the adoption of Vision 2020, the overall goal of a strong partnership between the city and chamber has been realized and has resulted in the Lenexa Economic Development Council working continually toward the quality growth and development of the community. The results, measured in the hundreds of millions of dollars in new investment and thousands of new jobs, speak for themselves.</p>
<p>Safety: Maintain a low crime, accident, and fire occurrence rate so businesses, travelers and residents feel safe in all areas of Lenexa.</p>	<p>The Police Department continues to target criminal activity by initiating proactive programs such as the Crime Resistant Community Partnership in the motels, apartment complexes and storage facilities; the underage drinking initiative; safe schools initiative; and the computerized e-notification network. The Traffic Safety Unit emphasizes target enforcement areas and DUI enforcement. A newly initiated crime reduction partnership has been forged between the Police Department and the Developers of City Center. This effort is designed to provide enhanced crime prevention, proactive patrol and video surveillance with the goal being to reduce the number of construction site thefts and damage to equipment. These crimes are common throughout the Metro in sites of this type. The ground work has also been laid with the Developer to install infrastructure and work together to provide video/security capability in the completed center.</p> <p>The Fire Department provides proactive programs such as fire and life safety education to City employees, community groups and businesses. The Fire Department is aggressive toward timely and thorough annual fire inspections in an effort to keep Lenexa businesses and residents safe.</p> <p>The Fire Department is an ISO Class 2 community (one of the best in Kansas) and an Internationally Accredited Agency by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International.</p>
<p>Tax Policies: Continue a tax policy that makes Lenexa attractive for both residential and commercial development</p>	<p>The city adopted an amended tax abatement policy and a new tax increment financing and transportation development district policies and approved a total of 5 TIF districts to encourage and incent commercial economic development.</p> <p>The TIF districts and project plans approved to date include:</p>

- City Center Redevelopment District (amended the District in 2005 to expand the area of the district)
 - City Center Redevelopment Project Plan One (Land Acquisition)
 - City Center Redevelopment Project Plan Two (City Center East)
 - City Center Redevelopment Project Plan Three (City Center North)
- Mining Redevelopment District
 - In March 2004 the city approved Project Plan One for the Mining TIF (the golf course reclamation and remediation plan)
- South Mining Redevelopment District
- Meritex Redevelopment District
 - Approved an amended Project Plan One that included a portion of Ridgeview and 99th St. for possible TIF eligible reimbursement in July 2002.
- I35-95th Street Redevelopment District

These projects will aid in creating a great deal of investment in the community (residential and commercial).

The City Council adopted the minimum infrastructure standards ordinance which has proven to be very beneficial in allowing developers to pay a share of the infrastructure improvements that otherwise would have been the sole responsibility of the city at a time when the CIP had the capacity. Due to this change in philosophy, a number of developers have been taking advantage of the opportunity to create Special Benefit Districts. These districts aid the developer in financing the costs of their improvements when the developers are ready to construct. Over the past two years, the city has partnered with the development community on seven roadway improvements through the use of Special Benefit Districts.

The projects to date include:

- Public streets related to the City Center East Development
- 95th Street (1300 ft. east of Monticello)
- Clare Road (2588 ft. South of Prairie Star Parkway)
- Prairie Star Parkway (1935 ft west of Canyon Creek Boulevard)
- 99th Street (500 ft. east of Canyon Creek Boulevard)
- Clare Road (Prairie Star Parkway northerly 4000')
- Clare Road (83rd Street southerly 4200')

These projects will aid in creating a great deal of investment in the community ranging from residential and retail development to an additional Junior High School. The total value of these projects is greater than \$27.9 million. A number of additional projects are being considered as possible Special Benefit Districts by developers. These projects will likely be before the Governing Body throughout 2007.

Lenexa was able to attract several major companies (LabOne, Community America Credit Union, Robbie Mfg., Silpada, PRA, and Applebee's) through prudent use of tax policies, generating \$139 million in investments and 2,100 jobs for the city.

<p>Linkage: Strengthen and promote “linkage” or community partnerships among Lenexa’s citizens, businesses, schools, and government.</p>	<p>The city continues to initiate and support opportunities that foster partnerships with citizens, businesses, schools and other governments. Some efforts include the KAP dinners and Leadership Lenexa. The city is also working with 5 other governmental entities on a civic center conceptual design and potential partnerships.</p>
<p>Location: Attract and assure development of sites for learning facilities.</p>	<p>Great schools are the lifeblood of a community. Since 2000, Lenexa has worked closely with the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas in opening St. James Academy, the Olathe School District in opening Manchester Park Elementary School, and selecting sites for two new schools, and the DeSoto School District in selecting a campus for a future middle and high school. Parks and Recreation has ongoing talks with the schools on joint programming of facilities.</p>

Infrastructure and Transportation	
Goals	Status
<p>Timing: To provide appropriate infrastructure ahead of need</p>	<p>Lenexa has worked to provide the appropriate infrastructure ahead of development. The city had been reasonably successful at doing this until recently when the pace of development in western Lenexa has outstripped the city’s ability to provide that infrastructure. In order to address this concern, the city crafted and adopted the “Adequate Infrastructure” policy that requires streets and other infrastructure to be constructed concurrent with ongoing development. Developments that do not have access to adequate collector or arterial streets cannot be approved under this policy. They must wait until the city is ready to build those street segments, or the developers must build them. In order to facilitate the developer’s ability to do that the city also adopted a Special Benefit District policy.</p>
<p>Existing Infrastructure: Maintain and upgrade Lenexa’s existing infrastructure to a level consistent with high-quality and area standards</p>	<p>Lenexa is committed to maintaining existing infrastructure to a high standard in order to continue the high quality of life citizens expect and deserve. Examples of this include the pavement management program as well as specific projects including the reconstruction of streets in the Old Town area, the 87th Street/I-35/U.S. 69 Highway interchange, Marshall Drive Bridge, College and Pflumm intersection, 87th Street Parkway – Quivira to Pflumm, 93rd & Park, Lackman (105th and 107th Streets), and Monticello Road. In addition there have been numerous storm drainage projects including 77th and Canaen, 83rd Terrace, 103rd and Pflumm, Brentwood, Central Headwaters, and others.</p>
<p>Coordinated Planning: Establish and support regional, intergovernmental, and public/private partnerships that result in coordinated decision-making among communities in Greater Kansas City.</p>	<p>The city has led a major effort to coordinate the 87th Street Parkway, I-35, U.S. 69 Highway reconstruction project with Kansas Department of Transportation, Overland Park, and Johnson County. Other coordinating efforts also are being are done with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MARC (watershed, operation green light, homeland security) • Partnerships with nearby cities, county, state (NEK, KAP, WiFi planning) • K-10 Corridor Association • K-7 Corridor Association <p>Lenexa attempts to work closely with neighboring cities and with the various regional organizations in order to achieve a unified metropolitan approach for regional challenges. Those activities include serving on various committees at MARC, participating in regional planning efforts such as the K-10 corridor study and the K-7 corridor study. In addition, the city’s efforts in the Rain to Recreation program are leading to regional storm water standards and solutions, such as the revised APWA 5600 standards. Lenexa continues to be a leader in the regional Operation Greenlight program wherein signal coordination on an inter-jurisdictional basis is facilitated.</p>
<p>Regional Transportation: Implement a regional multi-modal transportation system to meet the needs of Lenexa’s business and residential communities.</p>	<p>The city is working with Mid-America Regional Council and other regional municipal leaders to craft legislation that would be beneficial to cities in Kansas and Missouri. Also the city is involved in Operation Greenlight, a regional traffic signal coordination system that designates priority corridors for traffic signal coordination across jurisdictional boundaries. It specifies signal equipment, communications equipment, and eventually real time modification of signal timings to accommodate traffic demands on various corridors, hopefully in cooperation with KC Scout. The new OGL traffic operations center is being co-located with KC Scout in Lee’s Summit. Ron Norris has been acting as chair of OGL since its inception, and the city is installing elements of OGL in Lenexa.</p>

<p>Telecommunications: 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.</p>	<p>Lenexa is one of the only communities in the Kansas City metropolitan area with multiple cable providers. The city is well known in the telecom market as a communications leader.</p> <p>The city also reconstructed the historic Thompson Barn into a high-tech conference center providing state-of-the-art technology and conferencing services.</p> <p>Lenexa has developed a WiMax system for the city government to improve efficiency in the field. Lenexa has also played a significant role on the Johnson County Broadband Committee encouraging national telecommunications vendors to deploy wide scale commercial broadband services in Johnson County in the near future.</p>
<p>Water: Develop a comprehensive strategy for water, wastewater, and storm water that benefits all of Lenexa.</p>	<p>The program has been built from the basis of a Comprehensive Watershed Master Plan. Subsequently, watershed studies have been conducted to verify and validate the assumptions and recommendations of the master plan to ensure the right capital projects and expenditures are made by the program. Watershed studies have been conducted on all watersheds in Lenexa including floodplain studies conducted by Johnson County. The program has also conducted Fluvial Geomorphology studies including Little Mill Creek in eastern Lenexa to ensure effective expenditure of utility dollars on stream stabilization and restoration projects.</p> <p>The program per Vision 2020 evaluated the funding of such an initiative. A survey of willingness to pay of resident and businesses was conducted in 1999. A utility was formed in 2000. A subcommittee of the LEDC supported the passage of a 1/8-cent sales tax, which passed by a 78% margin for 2000-2005 and again passed by the same margin in August of 2004 for 2005-2010. This margin is reflective of the survey, which indicated nearly 80% of those surveyed were interested in preserving the environment for quality-of-life purposes. Also working with a subcommittee of LEDC in early 2004 and marrying the use of green infrastructure with a watershed “systems” approach, the acceptance of a capital recovery fee or Systems Development Charge was passed by the City Council in April 2004 with LEDC support.</p>
<p>Air Quality: Recognize the impact of air quality on virtually all infrastructure items.</p>	<p>Lenexa purchased 5 Hybrid SUVs, with money from a grant, for evaluation and distributed them among Police, Fire, Parks and Recreation and Planning Departments. On a regional basis Public Works is participating with MARC on air quality initiatives including the new AirQ program.</p>