

**EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY**

LENEXA
VISION ★
**20
40**



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INTRODUCTION

Vision 2040 was shaped by thousands of community members with a real love for their hometown. There is pride in the community that Vision 2020 and Vision 2030 created.

- People feel connected because of the many social offerings, festivals, fun activities and places.
- People feel welcome because Lenexa is a community that is open to new ideas and new people.
- People are drawn to Lenexa’s interesting places, history and natural beauty.
- People live in safe neighborhoods with quality housing, good schools and nearby shops and services.
- Lenexa’s city services are highly rated by residents, the cost of living is reasonable and there are many employment opportunities, diverse businesses and economic stability.

What more is there to do?

Lenexa is a community that is **THRIVING**, **CONNECTED** and **ALIVE**! But, the world as we know it today will not exist 20+ years in the future. To maintain what we love about Lenexa, action is needed. To take what we love about Lenexa to the next level, it will involve the entire community. The vision process was convened by the city, but Lenexa’s vision for 2040 will be realized through strong community partnerships.





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.

WE PRIORITIZE THE HEALTH OF OUR COMMUNITY BY:

1. Creating neighborhood nodes.
2. Developing healthy corridors.
3. Creating intergenerational communities.
4. Connecting people to nature and open spaces.
5. Building community partnerships.

1. WE CREATE NEIGHBORHOOD NODES BY:

- Focusing new commercial construction in concentrated, more walkable centers.
- Concentrating commercial development near the intersections of major arterials to prevent linear or strip development along major streets.
- Improving pedestrian connections and circulation throughout commercial areas to encourage walking.
- Allowing shared parking and reducing parking minimums to lower the cost of development, allow more green spaces and slow traffic to improve pedestrian safety.
- Enhancing sense of community at nodes by designing gathering spots and encouraging events.
- Celebrating cultural diversity of surrounding neighborhoods and providing a unique sense of identity for each node.

2. WE DEVELOP HEALTHY CORRIDORS BY:

- Accommodating all modes of transportation with comfortable, safe streets for everyone.
- Engaging people who live, work and travel along the corridor.
 - » Creating pet-friendly green spaces, providing pet waste stations and accommodating outdoor seating at restaurants.
 - » Creating a defined identity for the corridor, conserving what is special or unique to an area and incorporating the vibe of the surrounding area.
 - » Engaging residents and local business owners in development of the corridor.

- » Facilitating long-term improvements and maintenance of public infrastructure and private property along the corridor.
- » Using technology to inform and engage people to improve their user experience in the corridor.
- Creating linkages to other parts of the city.
 - » Developing safe and easily identifiable connections, including sidewalks and trails.
 - » Partnering with public and private agencies to provide transit, including enhanced bus service.
- Increasing police visibility through community policing along healthy corridors and targeting speed enforcement to reduce accidents and improve overall safety.
- Providing high-quality, responsive fire and emergency services by maintaining an Insurance Services Office (ISO) 1 rating, fire agency accreditation and appropriate response times as the community grows.

3. WE CREATE INTERGENERATIONAL COMMUNITIES BY:

- Continuing to provide community education programs that provide hands-on learning opportunities such as Learning About Lenexa, Citizens Police Academy and Citizens Fire Academy.
- Encouraging the development of shared sites and programs that involve one or more organizations delivering services to unrelated younger people and older adults at the same location.
- Developing intergenerational programs that provide opportunities for people of all ages to interact with each other at the Community Center, Rec Center, Senior

Center, Public Market, Farmers Market, library, schools, universities and other public spaces.

- Partnering with other agencies and neighboring communities to deliver indoor, outdoor, passive and active recreational programming for all ages and abilities, including exercise, sports, adventure, entertainment, clubs, hobbies and travel.
- Incorporating playground equipment near senior living areas to provide opportunities for people of all ages to interact.

4. WE CONNECT PEOPLE TO NATURE AND OPEN SPACES BY:

- Protecting and building community understanding of significant cultural and ecological resources, including natural areas and historic and archaeological sites.
- Securing sustainable funding sources to ensure high-quality parks, recreation and cultural opportunities for all residents.
- Continuing to make trail connections to the greater Kansas City regional trail systems, including future connections to the proposed Santa Fe national historic trail that runs through Lenexa, as well as designating trails along stream corridors.
- Conserving quality open space so that as the community continues to develop, people can enjoy the outdoors.
- Encouraging green spaces in industrial and commercial developments and redevelopments that serve as gathering spaces for employees where they can spend time outdoors.
- Strategically locating parks near or in neighborhood nodes.

- Using greenways to protect water courses and preserve historic landscapes such as patches of hardwood forest and grassland areas.
- Installing outdoor exercise equipment for all ages along trails and in parks.
- Expanding existing community gardens to meet demand.

5. WE BUILD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS BY:

- Facilitating access to medical and mental health services, including preventative services.
- Partnering with the Johnson County Department of Health & Environment, health systems and other agencies to develop programming and services, such as blood pressure testing, rehabilitation education and fall prevention.
- Sponsoring or working with a partner to hold an annual community health fair.
- Expanding early intervention programs to facilitate wellness, such as first responders working side by side with mental health providers.
- Promoting healthy cooking programs.
- Connecting local farmers to schools and local restaurants.
- Facilitating volunteerism.
 - » Using technology to notify people about community events and volunteer opportunities.
 - » Encouraging people to plant trees, clean up parks and work together on a community goal.



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.

WE STRIVE TO BE RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE MOST LIVEABLE PLACES IN AMERICA BY:

1. Creating welcoming gateways.
2. Creating inspiring places that are flexible, connected and sustainable.
3. Activating public places, commercial spaces and neighborhoods.

1. WE CREATE WELCOMING GATEWAYS AND CORRIDORS BY:

- Creating a sense that you have arrived in Lenexa through installation of branded features.
 - » Implementing Lenexa’s gateway signage plan.
 - » Installing wayfinding signage that helps people of all ages and abilities navigate through Lenexa.
- Transforming major corridors into thriving places.
 - » Reviewing Lenexa’s existing codes and regulations to make them more flexible for redevelopment and infill development.
 - » Supporting quality, flexible design of buildings and an innovative mix of land uses to appropriately integrate them into the community.
 - » Incorporating public art into gateways and corridors.

2. WE CREATE INSPIRING PLACES THAT ARE FLEXIBLE, CONNECTED AND SUSTAINABLE BY:

- Creating inviting places that connect people, businesses and neighborhoods by reflecting the community’s culture, geography and history.
 - » Addressing physical barriers such as major highways and at-grade railroad crossings.
 - » Connecting Old Town, the Community Center and surrounding neighborhoods with a pedestrian crossing over the railroad.
 - » Designing gathering places into business areas.
 - » Connecting people to nearby businesses from home or work.
- Encouraging businesses to beautify their buildings and surrounding landscape to make the space more inviting.

- » Focusing on low-cost, high-impact improvements such as seating, outdoor cafés, public art, striping of crosswalks, community gardens and murals.
- » Implementing temporary and permanent public art features in public and commercial places.

3. WE ACTIVATE PUBLIC PLACES, COMMERCIAL SPACES AND NEIGHBORHOODS BY:

- Working with businesses to create regular pop-up events in their spaces.
 - » Incorporating kids' activities and intergenerational activities.
 - » Creating a speaker series.
 - » Offering something different to connect people in a variety of fun, interactive and exciting ways.
 - » Including a range of reasons to be in the space: a place to gather, art to touch, music to hear, food to eat, history to experience and people to meet.
- Fostering the development of an outdoor music venue in Old Town.
- Supporting partnerships and educational programs that celebrate diversity.
- Encouraging block parties and neighborhood get-togethers that activate smaller geographic areas through grants and donated services.
- Investing in adequate staffing and using volunteers to plan and coordinate events.
- Incorporating innovative recreational features and attractions such as splash parks and public art.
- Continuing to support festivals and activities throughout the city, including City Center, Old Town and city parks.



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.

WE CREATE VIBRANT NEIGHBORHOODS BY OFFERING A VARIETY OF HOUSING TYPES, SIZES, PRICES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERACTION BY:

1. Building neighborhoods with a sense of community.
2. Preserving existing housing to protect and enhance the character of neighborhoods.
3. Supporting aging in place.
4. Cultivating attainably priced housing.

1. WE BUILD NEIGHBORHOODS WITH A SENSE OF COMMUNITY BY:

- Creating connectivity that is convenient and safe between neighborhoods and from neighborhoods to area businesses and amenities.
 - » Connecting neighborhoods to amenities with safe, well-maintained sidewalks and trails.
 - » Encouraging development and re-development oriented to the public street.
 - » Retrofitting street lighting in more mature neighborhoods to achieve better light levels.
 - » Adding wider sidewalks in older neighborhoods, where practical.
 - » Increasing traffic safety through thoughtful roadway design and traffic calming.
- Continuing to invest in community policing efforts to strengthen public safety in neighborhoods.
- Considering code changes that allow for more diverse housing types within specific zoning districts.

2. WE PRESERVE EXISTING HOUSING AND PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE CHARACTER OF NEIGHBORHOODS BY:

- Utilizing existing programs and exploring additional opportunities to revitalize more mature neighborhoods and encourage housing renovation.
- Considering changes to multifamily design standards to require high-quality materials and design so the units remain attractive and retain value long into the future.

- Allowing innovative and flexible development that fits in with the surrounding neighborhood, ranging from renovation, accessory dwelling units, zero-lot line development, infill and redevelopment.
- Continuing to proactively enforce property maintenance codes and the rental inspection program to ensure the sustained quality of existing housing stock.

3. WE SUPPORT AGING IN PLACE BY:

- Considering the needs of people of all ages and abilities in neighborhoods — parks, transportation, public safety and communications.
 - » Providing seating areas along trails.
 - » Offering residents information about assessing and protecting their property to strengthen public safety.
- Providing age- and ability-friendly housing options.
 - » Allowing for and encouraging a range of housing options at attainable price points.
 - » Encouraging developers to include features that meet the different mobility needs of people regardless of age, disability or other factors, including zero-entry homes.
 - » Connecting residents to resources which provide technical assistance for retrofitting their homes to age in place.
 - » Accommodating multigenerational living, including accessory and shared dwellings that meet the needs of all ages and generations.
- Considering enhanced educational, social and recreational programming at the Community Center and Senior Center.

- Supporting regional partnerships that provide accessible transportation options.
- Attracting housing options that meet the future market demand for empty nesters and seniors, including the development of maintenance-free villas, patio homes and condominiums.

4. WE CULTIVATE ATTAINABLY PRICED HOUSING BY:

- Considering opportunities to reduce the cost of entry-level housing options.
 - » Holding a dialogue with developers to understand where the difficulty lies with financing, so the city can learn how to encourage more attainable housing.
 - » Allowing shared open space and smaller yards.
 - » Reducing off-street parking requirements and allowing shared parking areas.
 - » Allowing creative lot configurations, innovative home design and use of materials that maintain a high quality of housing but reduce costs to build.
 - » Encouraging shared neighborhood amenities, including city-owned pocket parks.
- Encouraging a variety of housing styles and price points.
 - » Preserving existing neighborhood quality and home values by blending diverse housing types with surrounding neighborhood character and scale.
 - » Considering creative, adaptive reuses of buildings that are currently non-residential to be retrofitted to housing, where appropriate.
 - » Making targeted public-sector infrastructure improvements to incent housing variety and price.

- » Consider design standards that will make smaller units/higher-density construction look more consistent with single-family, detached housing.
- Minimizing long-term costs for residents.
 - » Landscaping to minimize long-term maintenance costs.
 - » Incorporating the natural landscape in all development.
 - » Encouraging sustainable and efficient construction and renovation practices.
 - » Considering the location of public transit connections to enhance transportation options near attainable housing.
- Encouraging infill parcels in residential neighborhoods to be developed as small-scale, medium-density multifamily housing such as townhomes or four-plexes, where appropriate.
- Working cooperatively with other city and county government partners to develop a housing plan that ensures safe, suitable, affordable housing for all county residents.



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.

WE INTEGRATE INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION BY:

1. Connecting to the regional transportation system.
2. Creating a seamless transportation system.
3. Managing assets to proactively address community needs.
4. Enhancing the transportation system performance.
5. Investing in infrastructure maintenance and capital improvements.

1. WE CONNECT TO THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM BY:

- Collaborating with other jurisdictions to make regional connections.
- Supporting investments to transportation infrastructure that are not within Lenexa's direct control but will benefit Lenexa and the region (e.g., interchange projects).
- Using technology to get people to and from highways in the most efficient manner.

2. WE CREATE A SEAMLESS TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM BY:

- Making streets comfortable and safe places for all modes of transportation, including pedestrian, bicycle, car and public transit.
- Creating connections by installing new and filling gaps in sidewalk networks so they better connect to places people want to go.
- Using technology to move people and goods more safely and efficiently throughout Lenexa and the region.
- Creating a traffic operations center to maximize the use of technology, gain efficiencies and improve system performance.
- Evaluating current requirements for sidewalk construction in new developments.

3. WE MANAGE ASSETS TO PROACTIVELY ADDRESS COMMUNITY NEEDS BY:

- Using available data to identify trends, predict needs and make informed decisions for investments in infrastructure, technology, facilities and services.

- Enhancing technology to maintain effective police, fire and ambulance services and increase first responder safety.
- Sharing infrastructure information with regional partners to improve efficiency and safety of the regional transportation network.
- Allocating facilities, equipment and staff to provide adequate emergency services response times to all areas of the community.

4. WE ENHANCE THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PERFORMANCE BY:

- Developing partnerships with third-party transportation providers, so consumers get the transportation they desire.
- Planning for pickup, drop-off and waiting areas to accommodate ride-sharing, autonomous vehicles and other evolving transit options.
- Preparing for secure vehicle-to-infrastructure communication as standards develop and the city's role is defined.
- Collaborating with providers to bring next-generation telecommunication connections to the community.

5. WE INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BY:

- Considering life-cycle costs when determining the most cost-effective methods and materials for constructing and maintaining infrastructure and transportation assets.
- Continuing to allocate long-term, sustainable funding for infrastructure and transportation investments.
- Investing in flexible facilities, equipment and staff to meet current needs and address future needs.
- Pursuing innovative transportation, infrastructure and facility funding opportunities.



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.

WE SUPPORT A THRIVING ECONOMY BY:

1. Diversifying our economy.
2. Attracting innovation.
3. Reimagining retail, commercial and industrial areas.
4. Growing our already strong business sectors.
5. Maintaining the city's reputation as a development-friendly community.

1. WE FURTHER DIVERSIFY OUR ECONOMY BY:

- Attracting a highly qualified, diverse workforce by creating commercial spaces that are attractive because of their unique character, innovative features, green spaces and connection to retail shops, restaurants and housing.
- Working with employers on transportation needs to move people and goods more efficiently.
- Forming partnerships with educational institutions to provide relevant degree programs, training and certifications in future growth industries.
- Supporting our existing businesses so they can expand and grow.

2. WE ATTRACT INNOVATION BY:

- Supporting the community's entrepreneurship ecosystem to accelerate research, innovation and commercial applications in both the startup and corporate environments.
- Developing, attracting and retaining diverse talent needed to increase Lenexa's pace of innovation and accelerate economic growth.
- Encouraging development of transit-accessible, technologically connected commercial areas that offer mixed-use housing, office and retail.
- Encouraging the development of coworking spaces to foster business collaboration.

3. WE REIMAGINE RETAIL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL AREAS BY:

- Encouraging the development of flexible buildings to meet today's needs and those of the future.
- Repurposing warehouses and big-box retail buildings to new uses.
- Encouraging boutique shops, ethnic restaurants and artisan makers to locate in Lenexa.
- Encouraging development and redevelopment of industrial areas with increased density, less surface parking and innovative, mixed-use facilities.
- Improving industrial areas through walkability and connections to retail areas, neighborhoods, trails and open space to attract the workforce of the future.
- Working with employers to provide amenities that attract workers.

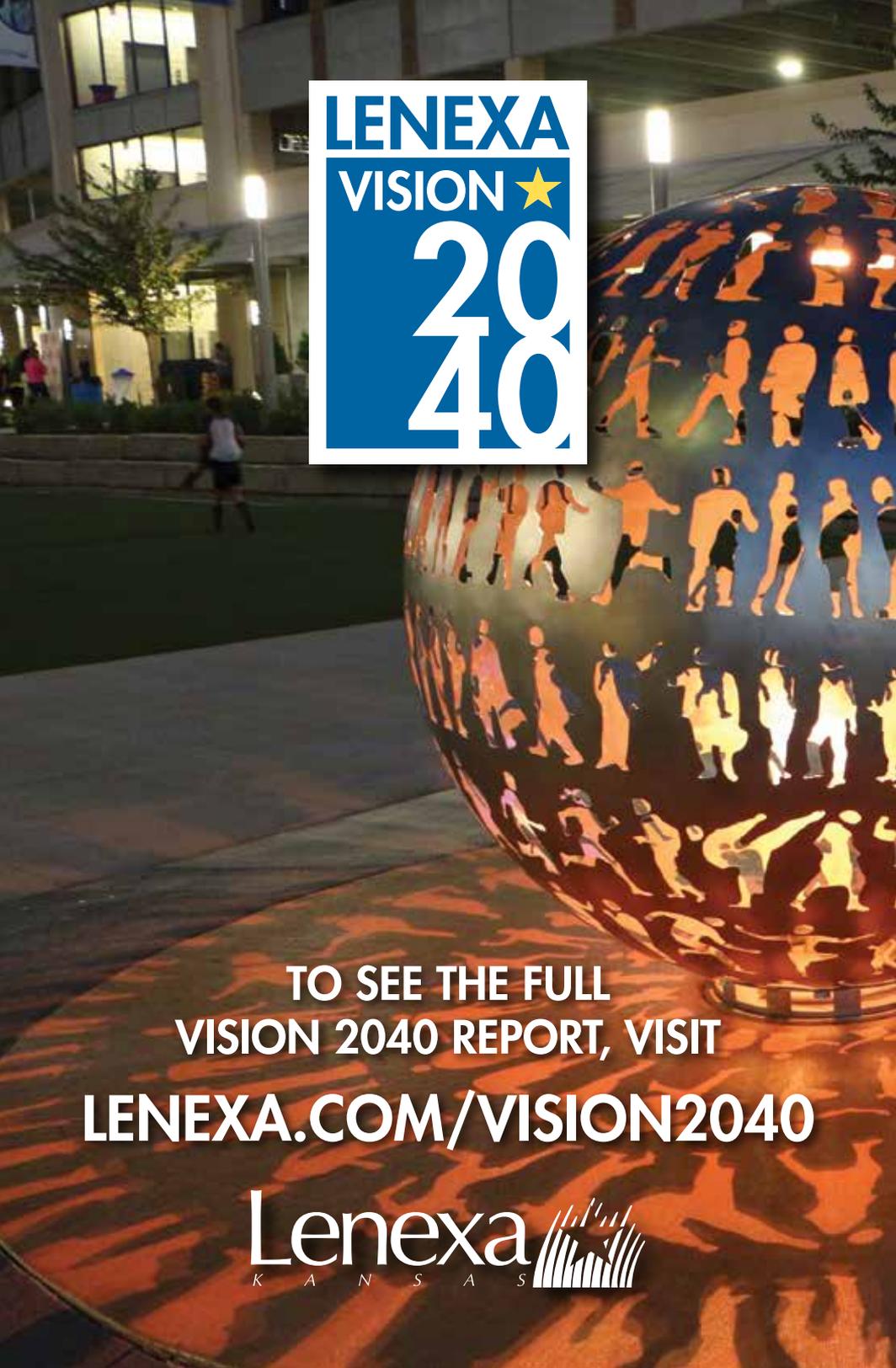
4. WE GROW OUR ALREADY STRONG BUSINESS SECTORS BY:

- Connecting logistics firms with local universities that research best practices and teach logistics and supply chain management.
- Encouraging another commercial kitchen, an art incubator or maker space.
- Attracting destinations and experiential development such as:
 - » A recreation facility
 - » An outdoor entertainment venue
 - » A museum or center to celebrate Lenexa's love of art, culture, history and diversity

- Working with schools to encourage the development of skilled tradespeople to fill labor shortages so construction labor is readily available and construction costs are minimized.

5. WE MAINTAIN THE CITY'S REPUTATION AS A DEVELOPMENT-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY BY:

- Maintaining a mix of non-residential and residential development to ensure a balanced tax base.
- Encouraging revitalization of and reinvestment in established neighborhoods and commercial areas.
- Continuing to promote the city's outstanding quality of life elements, unique brand and positive image throughout the region.
- Facilitating a timely and predictable development review process which emphasizes cooperation between city staff and developers.
- Maintaining competitive economic development policies and utilizing incentives to achieve community goals and ensure high-quality commercial development.



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