



# Achieve Shawnee

## Section 2

**Section 2** describes the guiding principles, goals, and policies that contribute to the overall vision for the future of Shawnee. The vision was developed based on the input gathered throughout the public engagement process on the issues, concerns, and opportunities facing the City, as detailed in **Appendix B**.

The vision and associated guiding principles are an expression of future aspirations and paint a picture of the type of community Shawnee would like to be in the future. Each recommendation put forth in the Comprehensive Plan is intended to achieve the vision and guiding principles, at least in part.



Shawnee has been a great place to raise our children and call home. We appreciate the convenient dining and shopping opportunities, as well as the great people we have met over the years. We enjoy attending community events... Shawnee has provided good memories that will last a lifetime.

- Shawnee resident

# What will we Achieve, Shawnee?

A fundamental part of the planning process is defining a community's vision and what its community members are striving for together. In a community of nearly 70,000 people there is incredible diversity of opinion, thought, and vision. During the development of the Comprehensive Plan, a tremendous effort to engage and involve the public and stakeholders was undertaken so that their voices could be heard and listened to, and subsequently reflected in this Comprehensive Plan. This Comprehensive Plan also has the responsibility to reflect the direction in which these citizens want their community to grow, as well as what they have defined as the critical issues to address and define success in their own terms.

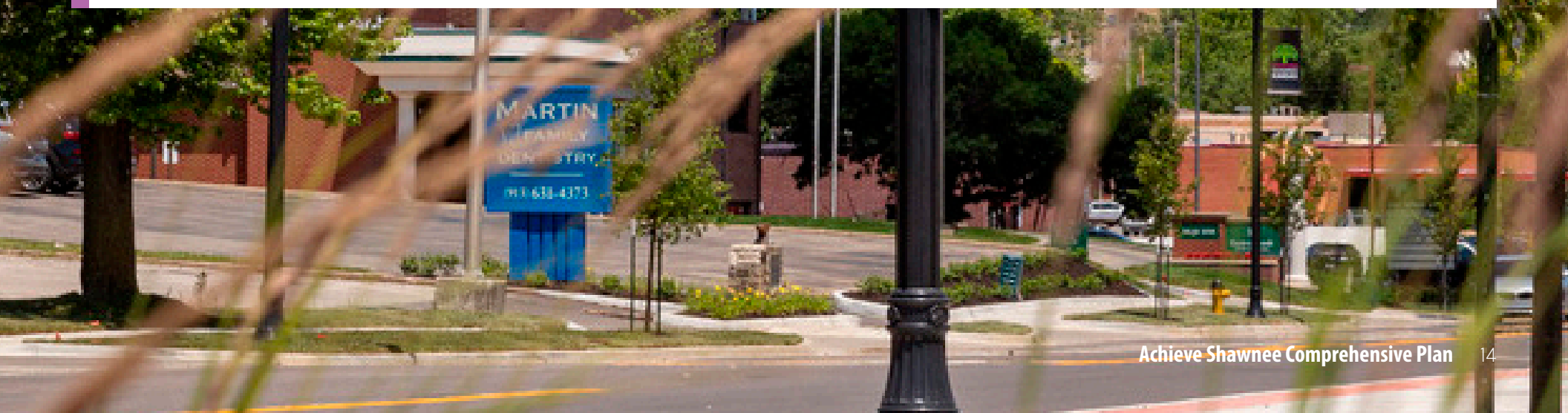
Diversity of thought and opinion means not everyone will agree on a singular direction. Further, not any one persons' opinions or ideas may be represented, even in a document as robust as this one. What is important in the development of this Comprehensive Plan and its recommendations is that there were multiple avenues for community input and the development of citizen consensus. This consensus building means agreeing on what is possible or what is the best way forward considering not a singular viewpoint, but many.

This is where the vision and guiding principles are born: from the voices of Shawnee.



# Vision

*Capitalizing on its strong community values, vast open space, and connectivity citywide and regionally, Shawnee aspires to be a place where people of all walks of life want to call home, grow a business, raise a family, recreate, and spend time.*



# Guiding Principles

Our vision is supported by six guiding principles, detailed in **Figure 2.1**. These guiding principles inform all aspects of the Comprehensive Plan and provide an organizing framework for this section. Each guiding principle is supported by a discussion of where Shawnee is today—both what is working well, and where there are opportunities for improvement—and a discussion of where the community has indicated they would like Shawnee to be in the future. Integral to each guiding principle is the notion that the City of Shawnee exists to serve its community members. The guiding principles are not listed in order of importance. Progress is needed in each area to support the community’s vision.

**Figure 2.1** Comprehensive Plan Guiding Principles



# Comprehensive Plan Goals and Policies

The goals and policies that follow each guiding principle articulate steps the City will take—either alone, or in partnership with others—to support the advancement of the guiding principles through day-to-day decision-making. The Comprehensive Plan policies are comprehensive in nature, considering existing policies, codes, and ordinances; current planning initiatives; and recent adopted plans. In particular, Comprehensive Plan policies are informed by the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and Imagine Shawnee, both of which were developed based on significant community input, as well as the Sustainable Shawnee program—an ongoing effort by the City to foster a more sustainable and environmentally-friendly community.

The goals and policies in this section should be used as a reference as questions arise or general guidance is needed about the City’s policy position on a particular topic.

## What is a Policy?

Comprehensive plan policies are adopted as a representation of community values. Policies articulate a preferred direction for the community in response to specific issues, problems, opportunities, or initiatives.

Policies are made on behalf of the public - both what would benefit the community, as well as what the public has indicated is important to them. At the comprehensive plan level, policies may cover a range of topics that influence the built and natural environment, as well as those that influence the quality of life of residents—land use, housing, transportation and street design, parks and recreation, economy, conservation, downtown development, and more.

Policy is ultimately adopted by governments (in this case, the City of Shawnee). However, the inspiration for the policies often come from outside of the governing body and/or from the public. Policymaking is therefore an ongoing process without a clear beginning or end since decisions about who will benefit and who will bear any burden resulting from the policy are continually reassessed, revisited, and revised.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLE 1

# Strong Neighborhoods (SN)

Shawnee's neighborhoods are a key component of the community's hometown feel. Long-time residents and new transplants alike value Shawnee's family-friendly atmosphere, abundant parks and recreational opportunities, and distinctive natural setting, as well as the ability to find a home that meets their unique needs. Shawnee's neighborhoods also offer a variety of lifestyle options—ranging from the urban setting of downtown to traditional neighborhoods with tree-lined streets to semi-rural acreages with wooded hillsides and open pastures.

As Shawnee continues to grow, it will be important to reinvest in existing neighborhoods while continuing to expand the supply of housing options that appeal to—and are affordable to—young families, single professionals, and first-time home buyers seeking to put down roots in Shawnee. Providing more opportunities for apartments, townhomes, patio homes, and other alternatives to the single family home will also ensure that long-time residents who wish to stay in Shawnee as they age, retire, and experience other life changes have that opportunity.



# Goals and Policies

## Goal SN-1. Expand housing options to meet the needs of current and future generations.

### **Policy SN-1.1: Mix of Housing Types**

Ensure that the Future Land Use Framework (see *Figure 3.3*) and Zoning Code provide opportunities for a mixture of detached, attached, and multi-family housing options at varying densities and price points.

### **Policy SN-1.2: Age-in-Place Opportunities**

Encourage development that enhances the ability of Shawnee residents to transition to different housing options within the community as their needs and lifestyles change over time.

### **Policy SN-1.3: Affordable and Attainable Housing Strategy**

Encourage the development of smaller attached and detached units that provide young families, singles, and others an opportunity to establish roots in Shawnee. Identify a range of regulatory and financial strategies to help incentivize affordable and attainable housing development.

### **Policy SN-1.4: Regional Housing Initiatives**

Continue to work with regional partners to remove barriers to safe, stable, and attainable housing for all through updates to education and outreach, allocation of resources, targeted updates to codes and regulations, and day-to-day decision-making.

## Understanding Housing Terminology

### **ATTAINABLE (WORKFORCE) HOUSING**

Attainable housing is not the same as affordable housing or subsidized housing. Attainable housing refers to market rate housing for-sale that is unsubsidized, profitable, and meet the needs of those with incomes between 80% and 120% of the Area Median Income. The price points for attainable housing vary by metro area depending on the Area Median Income, with FHA Loan Limits typically hovering around 115% of Area Median Income. Attainable Housing is sometimes called workforce housing because it is important to have teachers, nurses, firefighters, daycare providers, police officers, retail workers, and others who make up the workforce living in the community.

### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Housing and Urban Development (HUD), a federal agency, defines affordable housing as housing that costs no more than 30% of a household's monthly income. That means rent and utilities in an apartment or the monthly mortgage payment and housing expenses for a homeowner should be less than 30% of a household's monthly income to be considered affordable. In 2018, the estimated median household income in Johnson County ranged from as low as \$52,364 in De Soto to \$84,507 in Shawnee to \$250,000 in Mission Hills. The median household income for the entire county is \$86,746.

*Source: Housing for All Toolkit - Johnson County, Kansas and Municipalities, Draft June 2021.*



## Goal SN-2. Protect the character of existing neighborhoods.

### **Policy SN-2.1: Compatible Development**

Require transitions in density and intensity and other compatibility measures (e.g., lighting, screening, etc.) where non-residential or higher-intensity residential development abut a lower-intensity neighborhood—existing or planned.

### **Policy SN-2.2: Compatible Infill**

Encourage targeted infill development that is designed to be compatible with the scale and character-defining features of the existing neighborhood.

### **Policy SN-2.3: Code Enforcement**

Establish innovative code enforcement strategies to promote beautification through education and partnerships.

### **Policy SN-2.4: Historic Resources**

Conduct a historic resources survey to identify areas or structures within Shawnee's older neighborhoods that warrant protection (e.g., design standards and guidelines to support the sensitive rehabilitation of historic homes, creation of local historic districts, etc.).

## Goal SN-3. Encourage the revitalization of older neighborhoods.

### **Policy SN-3.1: Existing Housing Stock**

Support the retention and rehabilitation of existing housing stock as a core component of the affordable and attainable housing supply in the region.

### **Policy SN-3.2: Stabilization and Revitalization**

Work with residents and property owners in neighborhoods experiencing signs of distress to promote stabilization and revitalization and assist at-risk populations. Prioritize infrastructure improvements (e.g., sidewalks, shared use paths, storm drainage, etc.) and other neighborhood enhancements that address safety, connectivity, or other quality of life considerations.

### **Policy SN-3.3: Services and Amenities**

Prioritize opportunities to increase access to services and amenities in underserved areas of the community through targeted investment in infrastructure or services, siting of public facilities, enhanced pedestrian and bicycle connections, or other mechanisms.

### **Policy SN-3.4: Property Maintenance Practices**

Support residents in through safe building codes that promote routine property maintenance, as well as new construction and renovation.



## What are Shared Use Paths?

The term shared use path refers to a pathway physically separated from motorized vehicular traffic by some type of buffer (e.g., open space, landscaping, or other physical barrier). Shared use paths serve many users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, skaters, wheelchair users, joggers, and other nonmotorized users. These facilities are most commonly designed for two-way travel. Shared use paths are meant to be comprehensive in the users they serve, but can also be thought of as trails, multiuse trails, bike paths, hiker/biker trails, or other similar terms.

*Source: American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), Federal Highway Administration*



*An example of a shared use path in Shawnee*

## Goal SN-4. Concentrate higher-density housing near services and amenities.

### Policy SN-4.1: Downtown Housing

Support a blend of housing options, including cottage, mixed, and attached, within the downtown area. Transition the density, intensity, and character of housing options along the edge of the downtown area, where it abuts existing single family neighborhoods to ensure compatibility with existing uses. (Refer to the Downtown District land use description in **Section 3** for guidance on the distribution and intensity of uses in and adjacent to Downtown.)

*The Downtown District is generally defined as 55th Street on the north, Shawnee Mission Parkway on the south, Quivira Road on the west, and the City boundary on the east.*

### Policy SN-4.2: Priority Locations for Higher-Density Housing

Encourage higher-intensity housing along major corridors and as part of mixed use activity centers near I-435 and Shawnee Mission Parkway, along the K-7 Corridor, and in the Downtown area. (See **Figure 3.3** for additional guidance.)

### Policy SN-4.3: Relationship to Adjacent Neighborhoods

Require transitions in height, scale, and building mass along the shared street frontage or lot line(s) where higher-density housing abuts areas of existing or planned single family housing to respect the character of existing neighborhoods.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLE 2

# Lively Spaces (LS)

When asked to describe what they love about Shawnee, many people mention the ability to participate in friendly, community-oriented events and activities that contribute to Shawnee's hometown feel. People value the ability to live in a growing, vibrant community while also maintaining the ability to know their neighbors and local business owners and see familiar faces around town. Shawnee Town 1929 is a significant asset in this regard and serves as the community's primary gathering space. Downtown Shawnee is also a significant asset. The area is emerging as a community destination through ongoing revitalization efforts and an influx of public and private investment. These efforts have resulted in the restoration of historic resources like the Aztec Theater and a burgeoning concentration of unique local businesses. Shawnee is also fortunate to be recognized as a premier sports and recreation destination within the region, and tournaments and other related activities provide a significant benefit to the local economy.

As Shawnee looks to the future, it will be important to continue to invest in and build upon these assets—expanding unique shopping, dining, entertainment, and recreational opportunities that appeal to residents, as well as visitors from around the region. Ongoing planning for the transformation of the Kansas Riverfront into a major recreational destination will continue to be a long-term focus as and emerge as a true legacy for the next generation of Shawnee residents.



# Goals and Policies

## Goal LS-1. Promote Shawnee’s history, hometown feel, and sense of community.

### **Policy LS-1.1: Historic Resources**

Promote the preservation, rehabilitation, and maintenance of Shawnee’s historic resources. Encourage the designation and interpretation of individual resources of significance after determining through surveys what resources exist, how significant those resources are, the nature and degree of their threat to preservation, and possible methods for their protection.

### **Policy LS-1.2: Community Identity**

Protect the assets and amenities that contribute to Shawnee’s identity and sense of community—tree-covered hillsides, diverse neighborhoods, historic resources, and extensive parks, shared use paths, and open spaces.

### **Policy LS-1.3: Gateways**

Define major community gateways through distinctive signage, landscaping, public art, consistent branding, and other features that convey the spirit and identity of Shawnee, while also distinguishing it from adjacent communities.

### **Policy LS-1.4: Community Events and Gathering Spaces**

Continue to invest in improvements to facilities and amenities at Shawnee Town 1929, in Downtown Shawnee, and in parks and other locations to expand opportunities for programmed community events, as well as informal community gatherings and day-to-day activities.

### **Policy LS-1.5: Education and Tourism**

Continue to support the efforts of Shawnee Town 1929, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), local museums, the Johnson County Library, Visit Shawnee, and other organizations that provide programs to help educate residents and visitors about the history and culture of the Shawnee area.

## Goal LS-2. Make Downtown Shawnee a premier, interactive, and unique destination.

### Policy LS-2.1: Mix of Uses

Promote a vibrant mix of uses in Downtown—restaurants, retail, arts, entertainment, office, and housing. (Refer to the Downtown land use description in **Section 3** for guidance on the distribution and intensity of uses in and adjacent to Downtown.)

### Policy LS-2.2: Public Realm

Support the continued transformation of Downtown’s public realm—sidewalks, plazas, alleys, pocket parks, and other outdoor spaces. Expand the use of distinctive urban design elements, public art, street trees, pedestrian blub-outs, landscaping, and other features to visually unify the public realm and create spaces that are inviting, accessible, and attractive for people.

### Policy LS-2.3: Special Events

Collaborate with Downtown business and arts and cultural interests to expand signature events (e.g., Moonlight Market, Concerts in the Park, Old Shawnee Days, historic walking tours) that support local businesses, foster a sense of community, and increase awareness of what Downtown Shawnee has to offer.

### Policy LS-2.4: Character and Feel

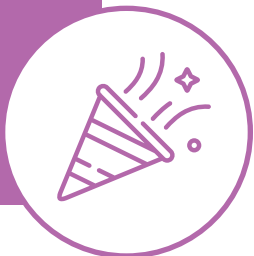
Reinforce the character of Downtown Shawnee and the surrounding neighborhoods by encouraging the rehabilitation, restoration, and adaptive reuse of historic structures while providing opportunities for the complementary infill, additions, and redevelopment.



*Gateway monument marking entry to Downtown Shawnee*



*Activity during 2021 Moonlight Market*



## Goal LS-3. Reinforce Shawnee’s reputation as a top-ranking regional destination for recreation.

### **Policy LS-3.1: Riverfront Area**

Support the phased development of an outdoor entertainment district along the Kansas River as a destination for the community and the surrounding region. Incorporate a variety of water- and land-based recreation opportunities—both southwest and northeast of K-7—that showcase the area’s natural resources and appeal to a wide range of users. See **Figure 5.3** and accompanying description of Riverfront Park and Kaw Lake Park and Recreation Area.

### **Policy LS-3.2: Valley of Champions**

Continue to develop the Valley of Champions concept for the area around the Mid-America and Mid-America West Sports Complexes, Stump Park, and the other recreational amenities in the area, as a multi-faceted recreation destination with unique indoor and outdoor active recreation opportunities. See **Figure 5.4** and accompanying description.

### **Policy LS-3.3: Mid-America Sports Complex**

Continue to reinforce the role of the Mid-America and Mid-America West Sports Complexes as premier destination for softball and baseball tournaments in the Midwest through the expansion of playing field capacity and integration of visitor services such as restaurants and lodging.

### **Policy LS-3.4: Mill Creek/Clear Creek Trail System**

Encourage the integration of shared use path-oriented development and services along the Mill Creek/Clear Creek Trail System—bicycle repair, food and beverage services, and other services and amenities that provide opportunities for shared use path users to stop along the way.

### **Policy LS-3.5: Aquatic Trails**

Establish aquatic trails and supporting points of ingress and egress along the Mill Creek and Kansas River to link users to points northeast and southwest of Shawnee. Explore opportunities for commercial tours or other ecotourism type activities with the potential to attract visitors to Shawnee.

### **Policy LS-3.6: Shawnee Mission Park**

Continue to collaborate with Johnson County Park and Recreation District on the maintenance and enhancement of recreational amenities and services offered at and near Shawnee Mission Park, as well as enhancing pedestrian connections to surrounding neighborhoods.

### **Policy LS-3.7: Johnson County Landfill**

Prepare for the future landfill closure by incorporating programming and uses into current and future parks and recreation system planning. See **Figure 5.5** and accompanying description.

### **Policy LS-3.8: Regional Wayfinding**

Work with the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) and other partners to implement regional wayfinding objectives in Shawnee with a local flair.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLE 3

# Healthy Lifestyles (HL)

As a community, Shawnee recognizes the role that health and wellness plays in the quality of all residents. Shawnee residents enjoy access to more than 1,000 acres of parks, an extensive network of shared use paths, state-of-the-art aquatic facilities, as well as an array of classes, programs, and special events. Access to these amenities encourages the types of physical activity, social interaction, and lifelong learning that contribute to the overall wellbeing of residents. In partnership with Johnson County, local non-profits, volunteers, and other service providers, the City works to ensure residents are aware of and have access to a range of health and human services, educational programs and facilities, and healthy food choices to support positive health outcomes.

As Shawnee looks to the future, maintaining and enhancing current levels of service will be important to address the changing needs of the community and expand access to underserved areas and populations. These considerations will continue to be monitored and addressed through periodic updates to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and individual facility assessments. Opportunities to promote healthy lifestyles will also be encouraged through continued support for businesses and land uses that increase access to healthy, locally produced food.



# Goals and Policies

## Goal HL-1. Develop and maintain an inter-connected and accessible system of parks, shared use paths, and recreational facilities.

### **Policy HL-1.1: Parks and Recreation**

Implement the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to develop a system of parks, shared use paths, and recreational facilities that promotes a healthy community with innovative and inclusive opportunities that fulfill each person's mind, body, and spirit.

### **Policy HL-1.2: Open Space**

Actively pursue opportunities to acquire and retain open space areas that provide watershed functions or wildlife habitat and offer increased access to open space and recreational amenities in underserved neighborhoods. Coordinate development of public and private open spaces through dedications and planned purchase agreements.

### **Policy HL-1.3: Community Trail System**

Create a continuity of regional connections through sidewalks and shared use paths and recognize shared use paths are a viable form of transportation by:

- Connecting sidewalks and shared use paths between development;
- Enhancing public amenities such as sidewalks, landscaping, street trees, and street furniture to improve the pedestrian and bicyclist experience; and
- Encourage linkages of open spaces, parks, recreational facilities, public buildings, and other public spaces along bike routes, walking paths, and other shared use path.

### **Policy HL-1.4: Active and Passive Opportunities**

Provide spaces for both active and passive recreation within one-third of a mile from all residential neighborhoods, prioritizing those activities and trends identified in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

### **Policy HL-1.5: Recreational Programs and Facilities**

Provide a diversity of recreational programs and facilities that meet the needs of the community. Link parks, recreation facilities, and outdoor gathering spaces with programming to bolster social recreation opportunities.



**Policy HL-1.6: Underserved Areas**

Work toward providing equitable locations of programs, parks, facilities, shared use paths, and open space throughout the City and prioritize investment and construction according to the Park Inventory, Analysis, and Recommendations in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

**Policy HL-1.7: Accessibility and Usability**

Incorporate universal design features, such as ramps, restrooms, frequent benches, hard surface paths, and adequate lighting to improve the accessibility and usability of City facilities for all Shawnee residents, regardless of age or ability.

**Goal HL-2. Support healthy and active living among residents of all ages, abilities, and lifestyles.****Policy HL-2.1: Social Equity**

Ensure equitable access to meaningful opportunities for all residents to advance their well-being regardless of their circumstances, age, ability, and impairment. Recognize the critical importance of equity and integrate it into decision- and policy-making, public engagement, and other planning efforts.

**Policy HL-2.2: Programs and Activities**

Provide residents with access to a variety of recreational and wellness services and programs as defined through periodic updates to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

**Policy HL-2.3: Facilities and Amenities**

Align the City's recreational and community-based programs, facilities and amenities with the health and wellness needs of the community. Establish community gathering spaces that welcome all.

**Policy HL-2.4: Land Use and Built Environment**

Encourage the construction of built environments that support active lifestyles including mixed use centers, corridors, and neighborhoods that support walkability, provide safe options for active transportation such as pedestrian and bicycle travel, and designing parks, streets, and other public spaces with the safety and comfort of all users in mind.



## Health and Human Services Partners

While not a direct function of the City of Shawnee, the ability of residents to access the health and human services they need has a direct impact on the overall wellbeing of the community. Numerous organizations in Shawnee, Johnson County, and the surrounding region provide health and human services to the community. Providers include non-profits, county government, and schools, as well as churches and other religious organizations. Some of these providers focus on a specific issue or area of need, while others focus on understanding the broader needs of residents and coordinating resources among related organizations.

The City of Shawnee supports the work of these providers, community volunteers, and others through programs such as the City Faith Partnership, Safe Senior Program, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Caring for Kids, and adoption of the Mental Health Co-Responder model. Many of these efforts are administered by the City's Volunteer Coordinator. Goal HL-3 and the accompanying policies are intended to increase awareness of available programs, and to reinforce the need for continued collaboration between the City of Shawnee, service providers, volunteers, and others in addressing the needs of a growing and changing population.

## Goal HL-3. Ensure all residents are aware of and have access to a range of health and human services.

### **Policy HL-3.1: Education and Awareness**

Collaborate with local and regional health and wellness organizations, schools, the medical community, and other service providers to increase awareness of the types of services that are available.

### **Policy HL-3.2: Access to Services**

Coordinate with local service providers, faith organizations, volunteers, and others to connect individuals in need of assistance to the services they need, such as emergency management. Place a particular emphasis on the needs of vulnerable populations such as the elderly, people with disabilities, children and youth, low-income, and those with language barriers.

### **Policy HL-3.3: Community Needs and Partnerships**

Seek opportunities to strengthen partnerships with public, private, and nonprofit agencies to ensure efficient and effective delivery of health and human services to Shawnee residents. Where applicable, seek to optimize facilities, services, and programs that are provided by the City (e.g., recreation and educational offerings) to address the community's changing needs.

## Goal HL-4. Support increased access to local, healthy, and affordable food.

### Policy HL-4.1: Food Sales

Support a distribution of grocers and other healthy food retailers across the community, as well as local farm stands, farmers markets, Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs) and other activities that support the sale of locally produced food products, particularly in areas that are currently underserved.

### Policy HL-4.2: Food Production

Evaluate and pursue opportunities to partner and create community gardens. Continue to allow for small-scale agriculture and the raising of some animals for food production (e.g., backyard chickens) in targeted areas of the City.

### Policy HL-4.3: Education

Incorporate educational opportunities that encourage healthy eating habits as part of the range of courses and programs offered at City facilities, as defined through periodic updates to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

### Policy HL-4.4: Specialty Food Production and Sales

Encourage opportunities for small-scale, specialty food production and processing (e.g., aquaculture, pumpkin patches, wineries) where compatible with adjacent uses.



*Fresh produce tent at Shawnee farmers' market in 2017*



*People conversing at tent at Shawnee farmers' market in 2017*



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## GUIDING PRINCIPLE 4

# Connected Community (CC)

The City has invested heavily in its shared use path network and is systematically working to enhance bicycle and pedestrian connectivity throughout Shawnee. These investments range from improvements to neighborhood infrastructure that help facilitate safe routes to schools to the transformation of portions of Neiman Road, 75th Street, and a pilot project on Johnson Drive into a complete street that prioritizes the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists as well as the flow of vehicles. While significant progress has been made throughout the community, reducing the physical and psychological barrier created by the I-435 corridor between the western and eastern halves of Shawnee remains a focus.

As Shawnee continues to grow, ongoing investments in improvements in existing streets, sidewalks, and shared use pathways will be needed, with an emphasis on improving east-west connections and connections from neighborhoods to nearby services and amenities. An emphasis on the design of new streets and infrastructure will also be needed to ensure complete street and green street elements are integrated to fit the needs of the surrounding development context. Transit and other alternative modes of travel will become increasingly important in the future to meet the needs of all residents. Encouraging compact, walkable development, and transit-supportive densities in targeted locations will increase the viability of future service enhancements.



# Goals and Policies

## Goal CC-1. Develop and maintain an accessible, safe, and efficient multimodal transportation system.

### Policy CC-1.1: Circulation Plan

Continue to use the Circulation Plan (see *Figure 4.1*) as a tool to guide the development of a unified street network within the City of Shawnee, coordinate connections to surrounding communities and the regional highway and freeway system and prioritize improvements.

### Policy CC-1.2: Context-Sensitive Design

Tailor the design of individual street segments to localized topography, drainage, natural features, and the surrounding development context.

### Policy CC-1.3: Right-of-Way Preservation

Preserve right-of-way for future roadway connections as a component of future development and redevelopment consistent with the street classifications assigned on the Circulation Plan (see *Figure 4.1*).

### Policy CC-1.4: System Maintenance

Prioritize maintenance and repair needs as well as correction of existing deficiencies to maintain the quality and enhance safety of the City's transportation system.

### Policy CC-1.5: Regional Transportation Plan

Actively participate in the implementation of—and periodic updates—the current MARC Regional Transportation Plan for the Kansas City area. Coordinate with MARC and other regional partners on land use and transportation decisions of mutual importance.

## What does Multimodal Transportation Mean?

This term refers to transportation facilities designed for joint use by different modes, including trucks, cars, bicycles, scooters, and walkers, with interconnectivity to achieve flexibility in scale and travel distance.

*Source: Mid-America Regional Council Complete Streets Handbook (2018) and others in addressing the needs of a growing and changing population.*

## Goal CC-2. Prioritize multimodal connectivity in transportation decisions, strategies, and investments.

### Policy CC-2.1: Network Gaps and Barriers

Actively work to improve east-west and north-south vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle connectivity and address other network gaps and barriers through the implementation of improvements identified on the Transportation Framework (see **Figure 4.1**) and Parks and Recreation Framework plans (see **Figure 5.1** and **Figure 5.2**).

### Policy CC-2.2: Complete Streets

Seek opportunities to integrate Complete Streets attributes as part of City infrastructure projects to reduce traffic congestion, improve air and water quality, and increase the quality of life of residents by providing safe, convenient, and comfortable routes for walking, bicycling, public transportation, and driving. Prioritize the implementation of Complete Streets in corridors identified on the Transportation Framework (see **Figure 4.1**) as suitable for enhancement.

### Policy CC-2.3: Green Streets

Seek opportunities to integrate Green Streets (see **Figure 4.2**) –either in conjunction with or as an alternative to Complete Streets–as a mechanism to lower the cost of future maintenance and reduce the amount of impervious pavement.

### Policy CC-2.4: Capital Improvement Program

Reflect the City's priorities for multi-modal transportation needs as defined by the goals and policies in this Comprehensive Plan in the annual Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

### Policy CC-2.5: Pilot Programs

Use pilot programs to explore innovative solutions (e.g., traffic calming, pop-up parks, etc.) to short-term concerns while building community support for longer-term infrastructure strategies.

### Policy CC-2.6: Safe Routes to School

Encourage programs that enhance bicycle and pedestrian connections to and from schools to provide safe and healthy options for students and to reduce vehicular congestion in school zones.



## **Goal CC-3. Encourage the use of transit and other alternative modes for local and regional trips.**

### **Policy CC-3.1: Transit Coverage**

Continue to work with Kansas City Area Transportation Authority, Johnson County Transit, MARC, Wyandotte County, and other regional partners to expand the frequency and coverage of bus service within Shawnee and to other parts of the region.

### **Policy CC-3.2: Land Use and Transportation Connection**

Encourage the development of higher-density, mixed use development in areas where higher-frequency transit service exists or is planned to help enhance the feasibility of expanded service in the future.

### **Policy CC-3.3: Transit-Supportive Facilities**

Encourage the incorporation of transit-supportive facilities—park and rides, bike facilities, and dedicated transit stops—as part of major developments or redevelopment efforts.

### **Policy CC-3.4: Bicycle and Trail Facilities**

Continue to expand Shawnee’s network of bikeways, bike paths, bike lanes, and shared use paths in accordance with adopted standards and the Bicycle Routes and Trails Future Plan (see *Figure 5.1*).

### **Policy CC-3.5: Transportation Services**

Continue coordination among transportation providers, human service agencies, and nonprofit organizations to fund accessible and affordable transportation options—such as the Shawnee City Ride Program—that serve older adults, transit dependent populations, and others with special transportation needs.

### **Policy CC-3.6: Alternative Modes of Transportation**

Increase resident and employer awareness of the availability of alternative modes of transportation, including ridesharing options, such as Rideshare KC, or public transportation services, such as RideKC.



## GUIDING PRINCIPLE 5

# Vibrant Economy (VE)

A healthy and vibrant economy requires a balance of residential and non-residential development. Shawnee has been actively pursuing opportunities to revitalize underutilized commercial corridors and centers, establish new employment areas, and attract new businesses to the community. These results of these efforts are visible in the emergence of the Bonner Springs Industrial Parks and Jayhawk Commercial Center, the influx of new retail and office uses along 63rd Street and Neiman Road, and other areas. The shifting dynamics of retail and increased competition throughout the region will require a continued focus on these initiatives.

As Shawnee continues to grow, opportunities to expand retail, dining, entertainment options in Downtown and other mixed use activity centers should be encouraged, as should the integration of future housing needed to support new businesses. Maintaining sufficient inventory of land and space available for office and industrial uses will also be essential to provide opportunities for new businesses and allow existing businesses to sustain or expand their operations while supporting a strong tax base. Non-residential and mixed use development should be sited and scaled to complement Shawnee's character, quality of life, and hometown feel.



# Goals and Policies

## Goal VE-1. Support a diverse and stable economy that is resilient to economic stress.

### Policy VE-1.1: Business Retention and Attraction

Attract and retain business clusters that will create a sustainable business culture by:

- Proactively selecting building sites for future businesses and making them shovel-ready;
- Continue to work with the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce to strengthen and expand the business retention strategies; and
- Using economic, technical, and administrative incentives to foster a business-friendly environment that encourages the expansion of existing and establishment of new businesses.

### Policy VE-1.2: Access to Funding

Work with regional economic partners and the private sector to identify ways to increase funds available to support the growth of local businesses and the creation and growth of new businesses.

### Policy VE-1.3: Existing Business Support

Support and encourage the expansion of existing businesses when not in conflict with the City's efforts to diversify its economy through other policies by coordinating with the Shawnee Economic Development Council to promote resources available to small businesses and businesses that are either expanding or relocating within Shawnee.

### Policy VE-1.4: Home Businesses

Continue to provide flexibility in City codes that allows residents to operate limited business operations from their home, while maintaining residential character.

### Policy VE-1.5.: Productive Tax Base

Encourage a growing tax base that supports the local economy and reduces retail sales tax leakage to neighboring communities.

## Goal VE-2. Address building space, infrastructure needs, and other considerations of target industries.

### Policy VE-2.1: Employment Centers

Establish commercial, business, and office centers in appropriate areas (specific locations to be added) that follow the Future Land Use Framework (see *Figure 3.3*). Create a corporate business park to attract additional Fortune 100 companies.

### Policy VE-2.2: Economic and Market Analysis

Use the Economic and Market Analysis (see *Appendix D*) to guide development decisions and create incentives for target industries.

### Policy VE-2.3: Business Infrastructure

Develop an Infrastructure Development Plan that identifies the City's assets in terms of existing infrastructure, utility rates, and high-speed fiber optic broadband network as well as opportunities for new infrastructure investments to support Shawnee's employment centers and target industries.

### Policy VE-2.4: Proactive Investment and Funding

Proactively invest in infrastructure and amenity projects, using the CIP and other funding and financing tools that will enhance the appeal of high priority employment areas in coordination with public and private partners.

### Policy VE-2.5: Land Use Compatibility

Protect industrial and employment areas from incompatible land uses or conversions to alternative uses.

### Policy VE-2.6: Rail Crossings

Expand the development potential of the riverfront by exploring cost-effective measures to improve access across railroad tracks through grade-separated roadway crossings, greater setbacks, or potential roadway or railroad realignments.



## Goal VE-3. Build Shawnee’s reputation as a regional destination.

### Policy VE-3.1: Local Products and Services

Develop strategies to attract businesses that provide goods and services to residents. Create opportunities for local businesses to showcase their products and services during community events and to gain exposure to visitors to Shawnee.

### Policy VE-3.2. Historic Character

Honor Shawnee’s rich local history by preserving its historical assets (e.g., Shawnee Town 1929) and utilizing them as an economic driver for the City through community events and other public programming.

### Policy VE-3.3: Outdoor Recreation

Capitalize on the revenue produced from Shawnee’s high-quality open spaces, parks, and other recreational amenities.

### Policy VE-3.4: Agritourism

Support opportunities for agritourism along the northern riverfront and in other appropriate areas of the City.

### Policy VE-3.5: Marketing

Promote Shawnee as a place for health, connectedness, and sense of belonging in every neighborhood. Rebrand the community and create ways to promote a sense of “One Shawnee” throughout the City.

### Policy VE-3.6: Topography and Geography

Embrace Shawnee’s unique topography and geography as a character-defining feature, requiring it to be integrating it into developments and site designs.



*Bird house making in Shawnee Town 1929 in 2021*



*Shawnee Town Speakeasy in 2019*

## GUIDING PRINCIPLE 6

# Sustainable and Resilient Community (SC)

As a community, Shawnee is committed to sustainability. This commitment is evident in the City's ongoing efforts to protect sensitive natural areas through the dedication of public open space and natural areas, invest in energy and water efficiency upgrades to public facilities, encourage solar usage, and other policies associated with the Sustainable Shawnee program. It is also evident in ongoing efforts to revitalize underutilized commercial corridors and centers, establish new employment areas, and attract new businesses to the community. Collectively, these efforts will make it easier for Shawnee residents to live closer to jobs, services, and amenities—improving quality of life while also reducing vehicle miles traveled and associated impacts on the environment.

As Shawnee looks to the future, the environmental, economic, and social needs of the community must be continually considered—and balanced—in plans for future growth and day-to-day decision-making. Achieving this objective will require an expanded focus on sustainable development practices, infill and redevelopment, and higher-density and mixed use development in targeted locations. It will also require an expanded focus on public safety, emergency operations, and hazard mitigation. Notably, some of the assets that contribute to Shawnee's unique character and appeal also make the community more vulnerable to natural disasters. Continued care must also be taken to ensure future development and infrastructure in or adjacent to areas with hilly terrain, along stream corridors, and in the bottomlands of the Kansas River is designed to protect natural resources and be safe and resilient to major storm events.



# Goals and Policies

## Goal SC-1. Promote a balanced mix and distribution of land uses.

### Policy SC-1.1.: Future Land Use Framework

Revise the Zoning Ordinance to support the uses, intensities, and design principles set forth in the Future Land Use Framework (see **Figure 3.3**).

### Policy SC-1.2: Mixed Use and Transit-Supportive Development

Encourage horizontal and vertical mixed use projects featuring commercial, residential, employment and public uses particularly in centers and along corridors as identified in the Future Land Use Framework (see **Figure 3.3**).

### Policy SC-1.3: Entertainment and Restaurant Destinations

Encourage the attraction and retention of a variety of unique entertainment and restaurant destinations throughout the City that draw in both residents and visitors from other communities.

### Policy SC-1.4: Neighborhood Centers

Encourage the integration of small-scale retail areas that provide basic commercial goods and services to meet the daily needs of residents at prominent intersections and in other targeted areas. Prioritize the siting of new neighborhood centers in areas that are easily accessed from surrounding neighborhoods or are currently under-served. neighborhoods.



*Yoga in the Park in 2018*



*Swarner Park in 2019*

## Goal SC-2. Promote a sustainable and efficient pattern of growth.

### Policy SC-2.1: Underutilized Properties

Employ creative strategies to revitalize vacant, blighted, or otherwise underutilized properties—including, but not limited to the adaptive reuse of existing buildings (with uses that complement the uses of adjacent businesses), public/private partnerships, the voluntary consolidation and assemblage of segments of corridors where a property-by-property approach would limit development feasibility, and/or parking reductions for new uses.

### Policy SC-2.2: Infill and Redevelopment

Support the redevelopment of vacant or underutilized sites, surface parking lots, and buildings. Concentrate higher density infill and redevelopment in areas designated for mixed use and in other areas of change where development may be easily accessed on foot, bike, or using existing or planned public transit.

### Policy SC-2.3: Intergovernmental Coordination

Cooperate with neighboring jurisdictions on issues and initiatives of mutual interest where shared revenue and joint governance may be advantageous, such as open space preservation, recreational programs, and conservation easements.

### Policy SC-2.4: Jobs/Housing Balance

Support development patterns and zoning regulations that expand opportunities for people to both live and work in Shawnee.



*Shawnee Municipal Court*



*Johnson Drive through Downtown Shawnee*



## Goal SC-3. Expand the use of development practices that foster a more Sustainable Shawnee

### **Policy SC-3.1: Protection of Natural Features**

Promote the integration of natural areas—mature trees, stream corridors, steep slopes, and other features into the layout and design of new development to protect sensitive landscapes and maximize the protection of open spaces in Shawnee.

### **Policy SC-3.2: Low Impact Development**

Encourage the use of low impact development (LID), green infrastructure, and other site planning strategies to reduce impermeable surfaces on a site.

### **Policy SC-3.3: Building Design**

Encourage the use of materials, design features, fixtures, appliances, and building systems that will reduce indoor water use, lower energy consumption, and/or reduce construction waste.

### **Policy SC-3.4: Clean Energy**

Encourage the use of alternate and renewable sources of energy in new development and pursue a variety of strategies to reduce energy consumption in existing development. Continue to pursue opportunities to integrate clean energy or improve efficiency as part of new City facilities or upgrades to existing facilities.

### **Policy SC-3.5: Native and Xeric Landscaping**

Encourage the use of native and xeric plant species that reduce water usage and provide habitat, food, and other resources to wildlife. Increase awareness of the benefits of native and xeric plant species and of other opportunities to conserve water resources in landscaping (e.g., rain barrels).

### **Policy SC-3.6: Tree Preservation**

Encourage the retention of healthy mature trees in both established and developing areas to protect air quality, reduce stormwater flows, promote energy conservation, and enhance the character of the community.

### **Policy SC-3.7: Green Streets**

Establish criteria for and promote green street practices that capture, retain, and treat stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces such as streets, parking lots, sidewalks, and rooftops (see *Figure 4.2*).



**Policy SC-3.8: Public Infrastructure**

Invest in and improve existing public infrastructure, such as streets, sidewalks, shared use paths, and transit facilities as necessary to extend their useful life and meet the changing needs of the community. Budget adequate funds for the maintenance and operation of public improvements consistent with the City's budget priorities and accept responsibility for the maintenance and operation of those improvements.

**Policy CC-3.9: Transportation-Related Emissions**

Support opportunities to reduce transportation-related emissions through the expansion of electric vehicle infrastructure and other emerging technologies, as appropriate and cost beneficial.

**Goal SC-4. Protect and conserve Shawnee's natural resources and environment.****Policy SC-4.1: Preservation of Open Space and Natural Areas**

Respect the holistic value of undeveloped open space and ensure that open space opportunities are preserved for future generations. Work with landowners, developers, and environmental interests to protect or enhance important natural areas, environmentally sensitive lands, and native wildlife habitat as development occurs (e.g., create new stormwater treatment facilities, preserve native vegetation, protect stream corridors, update the landscape code to include tree and native grass preservation, and other regulatory tools).

**Policy SC-4.2: Noise, Odors, and Light**

Minimize exposure to excessive and disturbing noise, light, and unpleasant odors. Support ongoing efforts to identify, track, and manage emissions, effluents, waste, and other sources of pollution.

**Policy SC-4.3: Water Conservation**

Promote the most efficient use of water through conservation and related practices, particularly within parks and open spaces by requiring water-efficient irrigation techniques.

**Policy SC-4.4: Solid Waste Management**

Promote the appropriate disposal of waste products to minimize exposure to hazardous waste and prevent the contamination of natural resources as described in the Johnson County Solid Waste Management Plan.



**Policy SC-4.5: Waste Reduction and Recycling**

Pursue a variety of programs and strategies that increase waste reduction and recycling among residents and in City facilities (e.g., bi-annual recycling events, printing policies, composting). Provide recycling receptacles in public spaces and facilities, especially those that are heavily used.

**Policy SC-4.6: Johnson County Landfill**

Maintain and continue to monitor remaining life in the Johnson County Landfill. Promote mitigation strategies to reduce offensive outdoor odors produced by the landfill.

**Policy SC-4.7: Stormwater Management**

Provide state-of-the-art stormwater systems through regional partnerships that protect residents' properties. Promote the use of LID practices to manage stormwater runoff and flooding, increase ground infiltration, and reduce the amount of sediment and other pollutants entering surface waters.

**Policy SC-4.8: Stream Corridors**

Promote the preservation of stream corridors for habitat, flood mitigation, and managed public access including shared use path opportunities.

**Policy SC-4.9: Construction Practices**

Prohibit the use of over lot grading and other construction practices that increase the potential for erosion, water and sediment runoff, and other impacts to stream corridors.

**Policy SC-4.10: Conservation Subdivision**

Encourage practices as established by conservation subdivision and cluster development (see description on Page 77).



*Spring Fling Recycling event in 2019*



*Wildlife habitat restoration in 2018*

## Goal SC-5. Optimize opportunities for parks, open space, and other recreational amenities.

### **Policy SC-5.1: Development Requirements**

Incorporate open space and natural resource access into future development, redevelopment, and revitalization projects.

### **Policy SC-5.2: Public/Private Partnerships**

Create partnerships with public and private entities and organizations, such as Homeowner's Associations (HOAs), Johnson County, Shawnee Mission School District, USD 232 (De Soto School District), and others in order to provide public access and connections to existing or planned parks, recreational facilities, or other local and regional facilities not owned by the City of Shawnee.

### **Policy SC-5.3: Education and Volunteerism**

Promote volunteer opportunities (e.g., Wildlife Habitat Restoration) to provide environmental education for residents and foster an environmental stewardship ethic.

### **Policy SC-5.4: System Maintenance**

Protect the long-term health of the parks, open space, and shared use path system through regular maintenance in established neighborhoods and monitoring issues over time to address changing community demands and needs.

### **Policy SC-5.5 Funding Mechanisms**

Identify and secure a range of funding sources that will enable the implementation of the recommendations for individual parks, shared use paths, and recreational programs as identified in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.



## Goal SC-6. Promote a safe and resilient community

### **Policy SC-6.1: Public Safety**

Continue to be a leader in public safety best practices to ensure the City's capacity to provide the highest possible level of public safety and emergency services through the City of Shawnee Police and Fire Departments. Encourage proactive community involvement in resident and business safety through cooperation with law enforcement and emergency personnel, situational awareness, and other volunteer programming. Examples include participation in the Citizen Police and Fire Academies.

### **Policy SC-6.2: Regional Mitigation Planning**

Participate in the implementation of and periodic updates to the most recently adopted Region 7 Hazard Mitigation Plan, collaborating with regional partners to assess risks and vulnerabilities and identify mitigation strategies.

### **Policy SC-6.3: Floodplain Management**

Enforce floodplain regulations within areas of the community in flood hazard areas as designated by the City and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to maintain Shawnee's level 6 rating (or better) for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Ensure development within the floodplain is compatible with the natural tendencies of these areas, such as open space and recreation.

### **Policy SC-6.4: Steep Slopes and Geologic Hazards**

Avoid development on slopes with grades steeper than 15 percent to the maximum extent practicable. Utilize slope stabilization, erosion controls, and stormwater management best practices to reduce risks of erosion, landslides, and other geological hazards.

### **Policy SC-6.5: Continuation of Operation Plan (COOP)**

Update the City's Continuity of Operations Plan to address how critical government operations will continue under a broad range of circumstances.

### **Policy SC-6.6: Emergency Preparedness**

Continue to provide public awareness of natural and man-made hazards in general and at specific high-risk locations. Provide information about measures the public can use to protect themselves, their property, and the community, such as safe rooms.