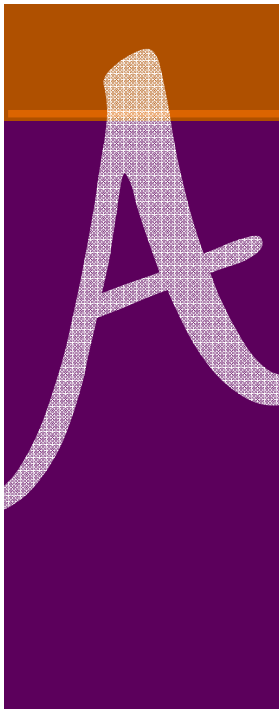

A COMMUNITY VISION

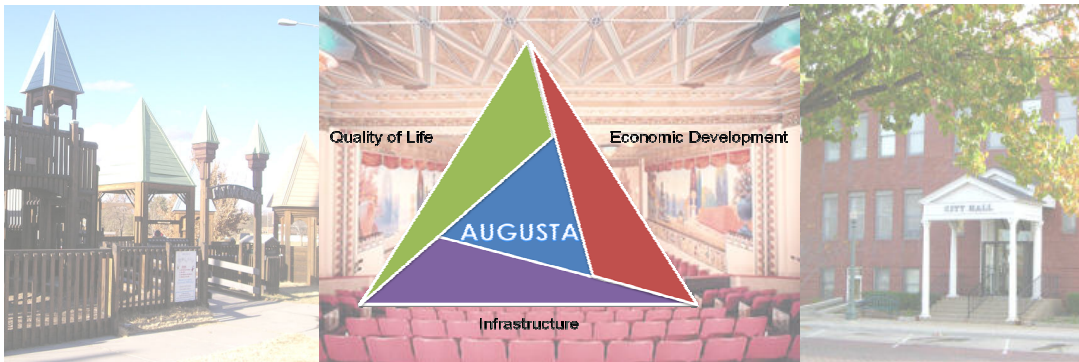
for the City of Augusta, Kansas

2008

Vision **AUGUSTA**



Augusta - Where the metro's edge meets the prairie's serenity offering the perfect blend of opportunity and proximity for living, commerce and culture.



QUALITY OF LIFE

Foundation Goal: To create a safe, “front porch” community in which excellent educational opportunities abound and residents can lead healthy lifestyles and enjoy a vibrant mix of arts and culture.

Strategies

Recreation & Arts

1. Develop a Civic/Wellness Center that is easily accessible and provides a variety of recreational and civic services.
2. Review the City’s Park Master Plan and develop a list of priorities to schedule and implement.
3. Develop downtown’s (Red Brick District) art and historical amenities:
 - Art Gallery restoration and expansion of programs and events.
 - Augusta Historical Museum development of exhibits, grounds and events.
 - Kansas Museum of Military History development of exhibits and events.
 - Frisco Depot restoration and historical designation.
 - Sculpture Walk and Bike Path along Frisco Rail corridor.
 - Expand streetscape enhancements that support our arts and heritage. Supportive enhancements may include hanging flower baskets, seasonal flags, historic signs, fountain, defining entrance, statuary, monuments, etc. All enhancements have the intent to provide an inviting backdrop for the continued promotion of culture within our community.
4. Create opportunities for youth to invest in and demonstrate care for Augusta by encouraging groups to plan, fundraise, and seek support for establishment of a skate park or updated playground equipment.

Education

Continue to provide excellent education resources and support that encourages and promotes learning from preschool through adulthood by:

1. Maintaining school facilities to meet the changing educational and technological needs of the Augusta students.
2. Providing competitive teacher salaries to attract and to retain the best teachers.
3. Providing access to quality pre-K programs to all Augusta children.
4. Encouraging business/education partnerships to create internship/mentoring programs.
 - Establish programs for teachers to visit/intern with local businesses regarding the content they teach.
 - Match students with meaningful projects within the community.
5. Maintaining small class sizes and neighborhood schools where parents can be involved and easily engage in their child’s education.
6. Preparing a highly educated and motivated workforce.
7. Creating a center for academic and technical education in a niche area such as wind energy or aviation.
8. Building a stronger partnership with Butler Community College to increase its presence in Augusta.
9. Creating strategies to differentiate the learning experiences provided in our community through such measures as the increased and earlier introduction of foreign languages.

10. Augusta Public Library will continue to serve as a bridge to knowledge by opening its doors to all and providing informational, educational and recreational opportunities and resources for a lifetime of learning.

Health, Safety & Environment

1. Increase accessibility to critical/urgent care by exploring possibilities for the development of a minor emergency center in the community.
2. Provide after school and summer programs and/or activities for children and identify and implement ways to promote youth leadership and involvement in the community.
3. Develop and implement a curb-side recycling program.
4. Initiate and extend programs that create clean, safe, well-planned neighborhoods by:
 - Reviewing and enforcing ordinances that address vehicles and upkeep and cleanliness of lawns, homes and businesses.
 - Expanding and promoting Neighborhood Watch programs.
 - Developing and fostering neighborhood partnerships with Public Safety Department.
 - Developing and implementing an annual week-long program that utilizes community volunteers and funds to assist low income individuals and the elderly with low cost home improvements.
 - Reviewing the City's growth area to ensure all zoning regulations protect property owners, but also facilitate positive and consistent economic growth in a planned, thoughtful manner.
5. Build sense of community among all ages, from preschoolers to seniors, by encouraging participation in local events, organizations and other volunteer opportunities.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Foundation Goal: To establish a superior business climate by creating strategies which encourage entrepreneurship, collaboration, promotion, sustainability, and development for new and existing businesses.

Strategies

1. Create inviting commercial corridors that aesthetically and economically enhance our City image and promote pride, commerce, and progress.
 - Develop Seventh Avenue Corridor Enhancement plan. Plan will include beautification through banners, sidewalks and landscaping; the creation or revision and enforcement of ordinances, and the establishment as a revitalization district to encourage property upgrades.
 - Encourage development of Office Park, restaurants and other retail establishment along North Ohio Corridor and/or 70th Street.
 - Continue economic incentives in revitalization neighborhoods such as Red Brick District.
 - Develop and enhance the south Hwy 77 entrance to our City by working diligently and aggressively to encourage cleanup and redevelopment of refinery property and other properties that align this corridor.
2. Attract, recruit, retain, and create new business opportunities
 - Create and implement marketing strategy to promote the City of Augusta.

- Develop and support entrepreneurs by providing incentives and resources through grant applications and the Hometown Competitiveness Program.
 - Apply to become an E-Community through Network Kansas and create a team that actively pursues business development, support, and recruitment.
 - Conduct study to evaluate Augustan's purchasing habits and identify areas of leakage to recruit new businesses that fulfill community needs.
3. Pursue Westward Expansion along US Hwy 54/400
 - Conduct a feasibility study to determine costs and economic impact.
 - Acquire land for commercial/industrial park development.
 - Create plan for developing and marketing commercial and residential growth in expansion corridor.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Foundation Goal: To maintain, expand, and plan for infrastructure that supports and encourages improved quality of life and economic development potential.

Strategies

1. Develop and implement a comprehensive capital improvement plan through the City.
 - Plan to examine improvement and expansion of all infrastructure – utilities, parks, streets, buildings, airport, plants (electric, water & wastewater), including growth to the west.
 - Plan to list priorities, funding possibilities and target completion dates
2. Complete Levee Enhancement Project to raise our current 100-year levee to 500-year levee status through cooperative efforts with the US Army Corp of Engineers.
3. Complete the City Lake Dam and Spillway Project to ensure the structure's stability and to be in compliance with State mandates.
4. Enhance and beautify community.
 - Complete Downtown Streetscape project.
 - Continue efforts to enhance historic preservation of buildings and homes.
 - Encourage building new or restoring existing homes through Neighborhood Revitalization program and expand the program to include West 7th Avenue.
 - Create and promote incentives for replacement of sidewalks.
 - Implement financing strategies to create beautification of greenspace, both public and private through planting of trees and landscaping.
 - Maintain and enforce strong, but reasonable, ordinances that promote City pride, prosperity, and beautification.
 - Promote and encourage the development of infrastructure that facilitates healthy habits among seniors such as easily-accessible sidewalks, handrails, benches, and clear signage where needed.