



# City of Arkansas City

## PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

### AGENDA

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Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 5:30 PM – 400 W Madison Ave, Arkansas City, KS

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**GoToMeeting:** <https://meet.goto.com/878898757> or call: +1 (312) 757-3121 **Access Code:** 878-898-757

#### Call to Order

#### Roll Call

Mary Benton\_\_ Lloyd Colston\_\_ Brandon Jellings\_\_ Ian Kuhn\_\_ Kyle Lewis\_\_ Cody Richardson\_\_  
Tom Wheatley\_\_

#### Public Comments

*Persons who wish to address the Planning Commission regarding items not on the agenda. Speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes. Any presentation is for information purposes only. No action will be taken.*

#### Consent Agenda

1. Meeting Minutes, **September 13, 2022 meeting.**

#### Comprehensive Plan

2. Comprehensive Plan discussion

#### Other Items

#### Adjournment

Motion \_\_ 2nd \_\_ Result: \_\_



# City of Arkansas City

## PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

### MINUTES

Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 5:30 PM – 118 W Central Ave, Arkansas City, KS

Chairman Ian Kuhn called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

#### Roll Call

Members of the board present for this meeting included Mary Benton, Lloyd Colston, Brandon Jellings, Ian Kuhn, Kyle Lewis, Cody Richardson and Tom Wheatley. Also present was Mayor Canyon Gingham, Kim Wickham and Jason Brewer.

#### Declaration

Chair Ian Kuhn asked the that if there were any Planning Commission members to make a declaration of any conflict of interest or of any Ex parte or outside communication that might influence their ability to hear all sides on any item on the agenda so they might come to a fair decision. **No such declarations were made.**

#### Public Comments

Persons who wish to address the Planning Commission regarding items not on the agenda. Speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes. Any presentation is for information purposes only. No action will be taken. **No such comments were made.**

#### Consent Agenda

**1. Meeting Minutes, August 9, 2022 meeting.**

Lloyd Colston made the motion to approve the minutes and Tom Wheatley made the second. The motion was carried.

#### Board of Zoning Appeals

**2. Recess the Planning Commission and convene the Board of Zoning Appeals**

Lloyd Colston made the motion to recess the Planning Commission and convene the Board of Zoning Appeals and Tom Wheatley made the second. The motion was carried.

**3. Elect a chair and vice-chair for 2022**

Josh White explained that the board had not met since there had been changes so a new chair and vice-chair needed to be selected. Mary Benton made the motion for Tom Wheatley to be Chair of the Board of Zoning Appeals and Ian Kuhn the vice-chair and Lloyd Colston made the second. The motion was carried.

**4. Hold a public hearing to consider the advisability of granting a variance for a lot split that would result in lot sizes of only 3,834 and 2,807.6 square feet at 211 & 217 W Jefferson Avenue.**

Lloyd Colston made the motion to open the public hearing. Tom Wheatley seconded the motion. Motion carried. Josh White explained to the board that Kim Wickham requested the variance, she was present. Josh explained to the board what the minimum lot size is and that he did have some concerns; however, there are several areas nearby that are the same way as the variance. The county states the properties were built in 1910 and were remodeled in 2018 when purchased by the Delbert Morgan Estate. Kuhn asked what the current lot size is, White answered it was 5600 square ft. After White explained the criteria, he said he didn't feel that it would be a negative impact on the neighborhood. If there were to be a disaster, they may not be able to rebuild. There is a hardship, as the problem was not created by the current property owner. White went through the presentation slides with pictures of the properties. Staff felt that this should be supported. Lloyd Colston asked about the life safety issue, houses were to close in the first place, and what staff thinking about this. White explained that we were not creating the problem, but trying to fix an existing problem. Jasd

Brewer approached the board and explained who Delbert Morgan was and who Kim Wickham was. Brewer explained that he was the families' estate attorney. Kuhn clarified if the houses were unoccupied, both houses were unoccupied, but would not be able to sell one property because they are on the same lot. Kuhn asked if there were separate utilities, currently yes; however the sewer lines would have to be looked at. Brewer explained that he owners would not change anything, but there are other areas that are non-conforming in that area. Ian Kuhn had an issue making these acceptations, but with this particular situation, he didn't feel it should be an issue. Brandon Jellings likes ideas like this, because it allows two different families to have their own house. Colston mentioned that there is a housing issue in the city, but this would help with that issue. Colston asked Kim Wickham if this didn't pass what the hardship should be. Wickham stated that her dad would purchase bad houses and would fix them up. They need to sell some houses in order to liquidate the estate some more. Richardson asked about the fence between the houses. Wickham stated that they would do their best to make the lots equal. Jellings stated that when a person is trying to make revenue, a person doesn't want to replace things like that. Kuhn asked if there were any requirements the board would want, there was none. Ian Kuhn moved to close the public hearing at 5:55 PM and Lloyd Colston made the second. The motion was carried.

**Roll Call:** Yes: Benton, Colston, Kuhn, Lewis Richardson Wheatley No: None **Result 7-0.** The motion was declared passed.

#### 5. **Adjourn the Board of Zoning Appeals Sine Die and reconvene the Planning Commission**

Cody made the motion to adjourn the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting at 5:58 PM and Tom Wheatley made the second. The motion was carried.

### **Comprehensive Plan**

#### 6. **Comprehensive Plan discussion**

White stated that in July the board discussed Parks and Rec. Because it was a long meeting, this discussion was not complete, so that topic needed to be finished this evening. White explained the process for the Comprehensive Plan and that the board try to get it wrapped up, because it has been discussed for 1.5 years. He stated what the future meetings would entail to get the comprehensive plan finished and hold a public hearing in January 2023. He stated that it was difficult to get input from the public. Kuhn asked about the flash vote, White said it wasn't pursued much because of cost. Colston stated that the public likes to complain on Facebook, but not come to the table with ideas to make things better. White told the board that the new PIO will start next month and hopefully can help get the information out for the Comp Plan. Kuhn asked about what the City has for Social Media. White explained that the city has Facebook and has several followers and the public is used to seeing city information. Colston explained that Twitter has taken off with ACPD, ACFD and the Chamber. Kuhn asked White to put something together to present to the board to get the information out as best as possible. Kuhn felt that maybe the PC should bite the bullet and have some longer sessions to get a final comp plan draft. He asked what the consequences of pushing the comp plan out. He asked White to put together some sort of a list/report; pros/cons, etc. and asked if any board members would be opposed to coming in on a weekend to get the comp plan done. One person said it would be difficult for the weekend. Colston said we need to get this right for the legacy of the city. White will make a synopsis and the board will determine what needs to happen at that time to get the comp plan done. There was further discussion on goals and actions.

### **Adjournment**

Lloyd Colston made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 PM and Tom Wheatley made the second motion. The motion carried.



# Planning Commission Agenda Item

**Meeting Date:** 10/11/22  
**From:** Josh White, Principal Planner  
**Item:** Comprehensive Plan discussion

**Purpose:** Comprehensive Plan discussion

**Background:**

As requested, I have provided a synopsis of the plan. It is in the form of an executive summary. This executive summary was also used in the previous plan but I have updated it to match this plan.

The topic of discussion this month is Infrastructure and Transportation. Based on discussion this is likely the most important chapter besides land use that the Planning Commission wishes to focus on. We will spend a good amount of time going over possible goals and actions.

Since there are no public hearing this month and in order to speed up this process, I'd like to also focus on Community Health Goals and Actions at this meeting. In November we can wrap up discussion on this topic and move into Land Use. At the December meeting we can wrap up Land Use and the future land use map and determine if we are ready to set a public hearing for January.

**Action:**

Hold discussion.

**Attachments:**

**Draft Chapters, Executive Summary**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### AN OVERVIEW TO THE ARKANSAS CITY 2022 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

One primary purpose of this Comprehensive Plan is to provide a rational basis for zoning decisions, patterns of land use, and actions (both public and private) affecting the physical development of Arkansas City as well as its economic development. This Plan seeks to coordinate publicly-financed capital improvements, such as streets, sewers and water lines, with private development activities that produce homes and businesses.

Another primary purpose of this Plan is to identify and articulate the needs and desires of the citizens of Arkansas City. While undertaking such a task is always challenging – and results are inherently subject to differing interpretations – this Plan enjoys the benefit of multiple surveys completed by citizens in 2021-22 and much of the results from the 2013 Survey are also still recognized. These survey results – which are reported in detail throughout the text of the Plan – are supplemented by input from other sources from the community as well as numerous other recent studies on housing, the economy, infrastructure, and community health. That input – both fact and opinion – was first extensively reviewed and analyzed by the Arkansas City Planning Commission. This document is the workproduct of citizens who are knowledgeable of their community’s past, its present, and who desire to convey and energize the possibilities for the future.

This Comprehensive Plan, once it is adopted by the City Commission, is the City’s official policy guide for future development. As such the Plan: sets out the City’s planning-related goals; provides a data resource base for long-range and strategic planning; identifies factors influencing growth and development in the area; makes recommendations as to future land use and development in the area so as to guide future planning decisions; and recommends adoption of zoning regulations to enable implementation of the goals set forth in the Plan. Those goals are to **promote economic growth and land use development, and to do so in a manner which protects, and enhances, the factors which already make Arkansas City a good place to live.**

The Planning Area for this Plan includes the land within Arkansas City’s corporate city limits as well as unincorporated lands specified as the City's "Growth Area". The Future Land Use Maps which are part of the Plan cover the Planning Area.

While Kansas law does not require any city to adopt a Comprehensive Plan, a proper plan is recognized in the law as a means to help cities reach goals and develop an environment that is aesthetically pleasing, safe, operates efficiently, and strives for equitable treatment for all citizens.

While a Comprehensive Plan is not itself a law that can be enforced – as compared to zoning regulations which are – the Plan nonetheless plays a direct role in land use regulatory actions by the City, and as such directly affects property owners and developers. The Plan will be used as a guide by the Arkansas City Planning Commission and City Commission when considering rezoning, condition use permits, and other requests. A legally-recognized

criterion for City consideration of a rezoning is whether the proposed rezoning is consistent with the City's adopted plan.

This revision to the 2013 Comprehensive Plan updates the plan including by providing updated data and the update of goals and actions. This document should not be construed as a brand new plan but rather an updated and revised one. The Planning Commission desired to develop goals that were measurable and specific. Every attempt has been made to achieve that directive. In each Chapter, with the exception of the first two, goals and actions are organized around priorities. Generally where specific actions build on a goal they will be listed immediately following the goal. Some goals may not have specific actions listed. Short term priority means a goal or action should be achieved within the next 5 years. Medium term priority means it should be achieved within 5-10 years. A long term priority means it should be achieved in 10 or more years. A brief synopsis of each of the Chapters follows:

**Chapters One and Two** provide some basic background information, demographic data, history and trends relevant to Arkansas City and some detail as to the nature and extent of some of the assets and resources which help define the "character" of the community. For example, schools, civic organizations, community events and municipal services are described. No attempt has been made to fully list and describe all elements of the community, as such would be a task that would overshadow the fundamental purpose of this Plan.

**Chapter Three – Housing and Neighborhoods.** The goals relating to housing can be stated generally as taking actions to **encourage residential development that will serve the entire community**. This means housing size, type (single-family, detached, duplexes, etc.) and cost that meet the needs of large families and small, higher, middle and lower income, young adults and seniors. It is not the goal of the City government to play a direct role in the housing market but to seek to remove as many obstacles as is possible.

**Chapter Four – Economic Development.** The goals relating to Arkansas City's economic development are as broad and far-ranging as those for housing: to take actions that will **promote the growth of existing businesses and at the same time create an atmosphere that will appeal to new employees that the community wants to have**. The role of the City will be to encourage and facilitate the efforts of organizations presently engaged in economic development activities.

**Chapter Five – Parks, Recreation and Natural and Historic Resources.** The 2013 community survey identified a general sense of satisfaction with the number and maintenance of existing City parks. Survey responses also showed support for extending the hike and bike trail, and for development of a wetland for wildlife habitat and park and hike and bike trail purposes. The City owns a large number of parcels and structures, including small and seldom-used parks. The City should study each of those properties and determine whether disposition is in the best interests of the community.

**Chapter Six – Infrastructure and Transportation.** The 2013 survey, and other sources, reveals the community is well aware of the importance of a reliable supply of good quality water, the public sewer system and stormwater management. The goals set out in this chapter show the need for capital improvements with respect to all of those municipal services. As

for the transportation infrastructure there is a need for a systematic program for improvements to streets and sidewalks to catch up on deferred maintenance.

**Chapter Seven - Community Health.** This chapter shows the connection that exists between housing and health of community members, the economy and health, and municipal services and programs and health. The community's health care resources are described, including the City-County Health Department, and recent studies relating to health care and conditions are summarized. The impact of the Coronavirus pandemic cannot be overemphasized. COVID-19 has changed the healthcare picture forever. It brought to the forefront issues on how public health is handled. Now, more than ever, the City must work to promote public health by promoting our local health institutions and to ensure that public health is looked at in all planning decisions.

**Chapter Eight –Land Use/Growth Management.** The goals in the Plan relating to how the City grows, and what land use is most appropriate for a given piece of property, are broad and far-reaching. Implementing strategies to attain land use goals is important to achieving other goals set forth in the Plan.

The 2013 Plan called for the City's new land use regulations, and development occurring in accordance with those regulations, to preserve the existing character of Arkansas City while at the same time promoting the area's economic development, growth and prosperity. Sufficient land area needs to be identified to serve housing needs. Those regulations were developed and have, for the most part, worked well. However, with changes in the community and technologies there is a need to update the regulations to reflect the current trends in place today.

Any updates to the City's land use regulations and future zoning actions need to take into account the goals relating to commercial and industrial growth. Again the goal is not just "enough" land zoned to meet such demands, but land that is well-suited and well-situated for such development given all the interrelated goals of this Comprehensive Plan.

**Future Land Use Maps.** The Future Land Use Maps are a component of this Plan. They show the desired future land use for property within the corporate city limits and within the designated unincorporated area known as the "Growth Area". The land uses as designated on the map do not specifically utilize the proposed new zoning regulations' classification of zoning districts, instead use is made of more generic land use classifications (agricultural, industrial, residential, etc.) that will be more useful to citizens, property owners and the Planning Commission and Governing Body as rezonings are considered.

It is important to understand that the Future Land Use Maps are not zoning maps. They do not impose zoning upon any property. The maps provide a picture of what the community believes the best and/or most likely land uses will be in the future.

## Chapter Six: Infrastructure and Transportation

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- 6.1 Introduction**
- 6.2 Vision**
- 6.3 Survey Responses and Comments**
- 6.4 Existing Infrastructure and Transportation Systems**
- 6.5 Goals and Actions**

### **6.1 INTRODUCTION**

The quality and condition of infrastructure and transportation systems affect all communities and are central to the development or redevelopment of neighborhoods, regardless of the particular land use of a neighborhood. Meeting citizen needs for municipal services such as water, sanitary sewer, and transportation of goods and people within the community is a basic function of any city and is critical to maintaining an adequate quality of life for citizens. It is equally important in efforts to secure economic development.

### **6.2 VISION**

The City will be proactive in developing the best, most cost-effective methods of addressing the current shortcomings in its aging street network, aging utility network, and maintaining the flood protection systems, thereby positioning the city for desired growth.

### **6.3 SURVEY RESPONSES AND COMMENTS**

In early 2013, when asked for their input in a community survey conducted for this comprehensive plan, citizens responded they rated the quality of the City's infrastructure system as average, with the highest satisfaction with the sewer system. When asked how willing they were to pay increased taxes or fees for a variety of items, citizens ranked infrastructure improvements third as something they were very willing (24%) to pay for and first among the items they were somewhat willing to pay increased fees or taxes (50%). Further, when asked what three issues were the most important related to property development, the issue identified as most important was existing public water and sewer service, by a wide margin.



When asked about their level of agreement with the following statements, the results were:

		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
A.	The overall street network in the City meets the needs of citizens	5%	14%	24%	<b>49%</b>	8%	687
B.	I support further construction of pathways and sidewalks to promote walking and bicycling in the City	11%	17%	26%	<b>34%</b>	13%	689
C.	The speed at which drivers travel in residential areas is unsafe	7%	22%	27%	<b>30%</b>	15%	689
D.	Obeying stop signs and signals in residential areas is a concern	6%	18%	29%	<b>31%</b>	16%	681
E.	I support a program for sidewalk replacement in residential areas	6%	14%	35%	<b>36%</b>	9%	672
F.	I support the use of public dollars for rail connections for passenger train service between Fort Worth, Oklahoma City, Wichita and Kansas City	11%	9%	23%	28%	<b>29%</b>	744
G.	I support City removal of snow on main arterials but not residential side streets	11%	23%	21%	<b>35%</b>	10%	685
H.	I support modernizing streetlights to reduce energy costs	5%	10%	30%	<b>41%</b>	15%	686
I.	I support reduced mowing and trimming along city streets to save public funds	13%	36%	<b>29%</b>	17%	6%	696
J.	I support planning for the West Bypass connection to Madison	11%	18%	<b>41%</b>	23%	8%	678
K.	The City needs to increase its planning efforts to encourage quality development	2%	7%	38%	<b>41%</b>	12%	685
L.	The City should encourage development within the City by offering incentives for redevelopment of properties	5%	7%	30%	<b>42%</b>	16%	689
M.	I support future expansion of the city limits if developers share in the cost of infrastructure improvements	8%	10%	28%	<b>40%</b>	13%	685
N.	The City is making acceptable progress on ADA/Handicap Accessible Routes	3%	6%	<b>46%</b>	38%	8%	664
O.	I support preservation of brick streets in the historic downtown area	10%	11%	27%	<b>32%</b>	20%	693
P.	I support preservation of all the brick streets in the City	14%	15%	<b>31%</b>	22%	18%	697

The city has begun designing a water treatment plant for the community and as part of the survey, wanted to gauge community support for some aspects of that plant, as follows:

To make the best use of investment in the Water Treatment Plant Project the City should:		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
A.	Create a wetland for water re-use and educational programs for USD 470, Cowley College and the community	7%	9%	31%	<b>38%</b>	15%	655
B.	Create a wetland for a cleaner environment and to maximize usage of our limited water resources	6%	7%	27%	<b>41%</b>	19%	655
C.	Pursue opportunities to sell water to the casinos and communities south of the City	10%	15%	28%	<b>33%</b>	14%	635
D.	Explore new programs with Cowley College for the training of water treatment plant operators	5%	6%	30%	<b>43%</b>	16%	660
E.	Pursue sustainable building practices when constructing the new plant	2%	2%	26%	<b>47%</b>	22%	673

Given the history of flooding in the City, the management of stormwater is important, so survey information was requested on this subject. When asked for their support for regulations that continued to make stormwater management and reduction of flooding a priority, 72% either agreed or strongly agreed. The feeling on other stormwater-related questions was not as strong, though 59% agreed or strongly agreed that working to improve the environment and rivers by having cleaner stormwater should also be action the City should take. Other stormwater survey questions resulted in a majority of neutral answers, so either more education or clarity needs to be had on these issues including requiring reduced runoff, stormwater impact fees, and exempting non-profits from stormwater fees.

**6.4 EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS**

The City has been somewhat proactive in studying and investing in water and wastewater infrastructure over the years, but less so with regards to roads and stormwater systems. More work is needed to provide good management and growth of the existing transportation, water and wastewater systems for the future.

**Water**

A sound water system is crucial to any community and its ability to grow. Water supply, storage and distribution, including water flow, must be considered not only for meeting the needs of citizens on a daily basis, but also for firefighting. The City’s water



sources are from ground water rights to ten well areas that are fed by the Arkansas River in the Ark Alluvium aquifer system. Some of the water rights are vested, but two are not. A vested right is fixed, unalterable and irrevocable, giving the city the most certainty. The vested combined water rights held by the City provide for 408 million gallons per year at a rate not to exceed 3,100 gallons per minute. Combined with the non-vested rights, the total rate of diversion from all ten wells is 1.264 billion gallons per year, with a not to exceed total of 6,000 per minute. During the drought, summer 2012, a record five million gallons per day was treated. The treatment consists primarily of chlorine and lime, with fluoride and other chemicals added as well.

The city's new water treatment system is expected to solve a number of problems that exist in the current treatment plant, with redundancy of equipment such as the clarifiers, lime system, and other equipment that has outlived its functionality. The new plant will have pump valves that open gradually, a much better system for the supply system. The plant will provide six million gallons of water a day at capacity. There will be two one-million-gallon clear wells constructed as well as better storage of chlorine. New technology will allow monitoring operations from off-site.



A city's water supply must also provide the water storage needed to adequately fight fires. Average daily demand should be supplemented by at least enough water to fight a four-hour fire. Included in the supply calculations is water stored in water towers. The two elevated storage towers in Arkansas City, one 1,500,000 gallons, one 500,000 gallons, aid in water supply, particularly for fire flow. Other benefits of water storage are meeting peak hourly demand fluctuations and emergency supply due to interruption in source. Bryant Standpipe has a capacity of 1.5 million

gallons and is located at 306 W. Bryant Road. Goff Tower has a capacity of 500,000 gallons and is located at 418 Goff Industrial Park Road. A current issue in the water supply system is the need to address flow concerns, through a looped system, east of the Walnut River.

### ***Sanitary Sewer***

Essential to the health of citizens in all cities is appropriate sanitary sewer treatment. Timely extension of sewer service lines is critical to development. Such extensions are affected greatly by topography. The most economical system uses topography within drainage basins, allowing gravity to move waste. The costs are more affordable at both installation time and over time, reducing ongoing maintenance. However, lift stations are necessary in some locations. Good planning takes into account which areas can be served with gravity and which areas cannot, and future land use classification is one way to show that this factor is understood. Once waste is collected, mechanical and biological processes break it down. The final treatment separates the mixture into water and bio-solids. In Arkansas City, the treated wastewater is returned to the Arkansas River.

The sanitary sewer treatment plant is located at 1701 S. M Street and went online in 1958. There have been some major modifications such as the grit settling basin converted to aeration tank in 1980, along with pump upgrade, recirculation wetwell and pump station construction. Since 2000, the effluent pump station and UV disinfection were constructed, barscreens replaced and clarifier return sludge valves replaced. Also, pumps were replaced and a laboratory upgrade made. More recently, in 2009 the final clarifier drive was replaced and in 2011 the primary clarifiers were rebuilt. The capacity of the plant is

2.1 million gallons a day (MGD), average flow, with a maximum of 4.7 MGD, and an hourly peak of 6.6 MGD. The City's average flow is 1.2 MGD, with peak flows historically in July of 2007 (flooding) of 7.2 MGD. The treatment process is an extended aeration secondary which means the ammonia is removed by nitrification, with two biological processes trickling filters and activated sludge. The sludge handling is an anaerobic digestion dewatered in drying beds, which produces Class A EQ bio-solids. Within the next five years, the City will have to evaluate the life of the Wastewater Treatment Facility to determine if additional upgrades are best or if a new plant will be required to be constructed to meet the community needs.

The sanitary system is comprised of 80 miles of sanitary sewers mains and five lift stations. The system outlet for all lines is the municipal wastewater treatment plant in southeast Arkansas City, at 1701 South M Street.

### ***Other Utilities***

Electrical supply is provided by Evergy and natural gas is supplied by Kansas Gas Service. Local telephone service is provided by AT&T and cable by Cox Communication.

### ***Stormwater Management***

Stormwater volume and flow can limit future development. Areas with a significant propensity to flooding are commonly designated as a 100-year floodplain, hence there is a 1% chance that they will flood each year. It is preferable to avoid any urban development in the floodplain; although development regulations recognize a distinction should be made between the floodway and the flood-fringe.

The floodway incorporates the center channel of the waterway and carries a majority of the floodwaters, or in other terms, the center portion of the floodplain which can carry an additional one foot of water after the entire floodplain has been filled.

The flood-fringe is the area between the floodway and the edge of the floodplain. Land within this area can be developed if precautionary measures are taken. These measures include building on enough fill to raise the level of the lowest floor a minimum of one foot above the base flood elevation, or sufficiently floodproofing the building itself from hydrostatic and hydrodynamic effects.

A floodplain management program was adopted by the City in the early 1980s, but the most recent regulation was adopted in August of 2010, after a study to determine the flood hazard areas. By having the areas mapped and regulations adopted, owners of property are eligible to purchase flood insurance.

Floodplains include area around both the Arkansas River and the Walnut River. While much of the built area of the community near the rivers is protected by levees, they are still at risk in the event of a levee failure. In Arkansas City, the length of levee is eleven miles, the longest of any city in the state on a per capita basis.

A map showing the floodplain in and around Arkansas City is included at Appendix I. The map illustrates the potential risk of flood surrounding the community, except to the north and northwest.

The flood of early November 1998 was the most significant flood in recent history with 430 structures damaged by floodwater and 88 destroyed, along with approximately 3000 people evacuated in and around the City. There was eight million dollars in property damage. While the local rainfall was 5.5 inches, the basin received six to ten inches of rain north of the City, worsened by higher than normal precipitation in the month prior. Peak gauge reading was 28.89 feet for the Arkansas River and 32.45 feet for the Walnut. The primary reasons the east side of the community experienced significant flooding were the new levee south of Madison Street was not completed due to some archeological discoveries that delayed levee construction, and a failure of the old levee east of the City's F Street burn pit.

One significant improvement in recent years is the levee/bypass project for U.S. Highway 77, which offers additional protection for the eastern portion of the community from flooding of the Walnut River. This work was completed in 2000. Continuing to enforce stormwater regulations, discouraging development in certain areas, and maintaining the levee system are essential to protecting the City.

The Public Services Department is responsible for stormwater system maintenance and improvements. There are two canal areas that drain water to the Walnut River. These are maintained by the City, "C" Street and the city's "historic" district canal.



**Transportation**

**Existing Road and Highway Network**

Arkansas City has excellent access to major transportation systems in Kansas through its connections to U.S. Highway 77 (north-south) and U.S. Highway 166 (east-west). These connections allow for both export and import of goods via truck as well as transporting people for work, tourism, or shopping.

Northbound U.S. Highway 77 carries an average of over 11,200 vehicles per day, with the southbound count lower at just over 9,200. The bypass count ranges from 4,430 to 5,170 according to the Kansas Department of Transportation map published for July 2012. The eastbound traffic on U.S. Highway 166 is just over 4,000 vehicles daily just outside the city limit and westbound is nearly 3,500 vehicles. Highway connections feed the interior road networks to facilitate transportation needs within the community. Primary growth is expected along U.S. Highway 77, north of the community, in keeping with recent trends and because other areas will be difficult to develop due to floodplains.



**Standard Street Classification**

Due to the need to transport both people and goods within the community as well as to and from the community, transportation systems are intricately woven with economic development and land development. Streets are classified based on a hierarchical system considering vehicular movement from one area to another, or from home to work, home to shop, goods from one location to another. This system is generally designed with three basic categories of roads: arterial, collector and local. The arterial are major roadways, designed to carry greater traffic volumes, fed by collector streets, and ideally with only connections from other streets to allow for fewer intersecting points. Collector streets connect local streets, the lowest classification, to arterial streets, the highest classification. Residents leaving home typically drive from their driveway onto a local street, which is then connected to a collector street serving other residents from a particular area, and then enter an arterial road for through traffic to their destination area, then back to a collector/local to work, shop, and to access services.



It is desirable to protect arterials by controlling street access. Private driveways are discouraged on major arterials and should be limited where possible, to promote safe and efficient traffic flow. Access control guidelines may need to be developed as a goal of the comprehensive plan, if they are not provided elsewhere, particularly for arterials and possibly for collectors. In addition, street widths for all classifications of roadways should be determined as an aid to developers and decision makers. As the community grows, considerations for rural roads should also be made for their transition from roadways with ditches to curb and gutter systems.

It is recommended the City forecast which streets are anticipated to become arterials and collectors. Currently, Arkansas City classifies its streets using Kansas Department of Transportation classifications. Map 6-2 identifies these classifications. Ongoing review should occur each year or two to be sure that additional roads are included as development warrants. All other roadways would be classified as local roads.

### ***Air Transportation***

Arkansas City has Strother Field for its local air service, located along U.S. Highway 77, approximately five miles north of the City. The field was built in 1942 for the Army Air Force. Deactivation of the field occurred in 1945 and the field was returned to Winfield and Arkansas City. The airport has two lighted, hard-surfaced, pilot-controlled runways, one 5500 feet, the other 3150, enabling the accommodation of various aircraft. The terminal building was constructed in 1970 along with a conventional hangar to accommodate the pilots' needs, the needs of the FBO, weather updates, charters, aircraft rental and repair, fuel and flight instruction. The master plan for the airport was completed in 1996 and within the next few years it is anticipated a new plan will be needed. Goals at the airport include rehabilitation to both runways and taxiway B, with reconstruction of the terminal apron and construction of a taxi lane as longer-term goals.

### ***Rail Transportation***

Rail service for freight is provided by Burlington Northern Santa Fe, and there are railroad spurs serving businesses in Strother Field that connect to the main lines.

### ***Other Transportation***

The City has only limited public or private operated general public transportation. While the 2013 community survey did not pose questions regarding the need for additional transportation services it is believed there may be demand for more bus or van service to Winfield, Wichita and other nearby communities as well as in-city transportation. It is likely that the demand is greatest among elderly citizens who often have limited transportation options and important travel needs, *e.g.*, specialized medical care.

### ***Pedestrian and Bicycle Paths***

The City has several recreational opportunities for walking, hiking, and biking, and continues to receive citizen support for more. As stated in Chapter 5 of this Plan, providing a connected series of sidewalks and paths is seen as a positive for the community, and is an alternative means of transportation that merits discussion in this chapter. Consideration should be given to utilizing the canal area, levee areas or former railroad corridors as the backbone for a pedestrian network. Connections with major public facilities such as parks and schools enhance transportation opportunities for youth in the community as well. Furthermore, careful attention to developing sidewalk programs that serve not only adjacent properties but also the community at-large can enhance the community through better health and well-being and also be a point of community pride.

## 6.5 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2017, the City built a new state of the art Water Treatment Facility that should serve the community well into the future. The City has also completed a water line replacement project in the Brad Meek and Hillside neighborhoods. An ongoing study on the downtown sewer project has been completed with construction to start soon on replacing many of the aging sanitary sewer lines in the downtown area.

In 2022, the City started upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plant including the addition of a new Administration Building. This will help the City to meet new mandates regarding nutrient removal from sewage.

In 2021, the City was awarded a Cost Share grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation and a CDBG Community Facilities grant to mill and overlay Summit Street between Kansas Avenue and Radio Lane. Construction was completed in Summer 2022. The Public Services Department has also been working on small intersection projects to rebuild the base on several of the problem intersections around town. They have also extensively worked alongside the Environmental Services Department to repair the streets where water main breaks have occurred.

## 6.5 GOALS AND ACTIONS

Goals represent overall vision and desired outcomes. They describe the kind of community Arkansas City leaders hope to offer to citizens to meet their expectations and needs for active living. The following goals and associated actions provide the outline of the vision for infrastructure and transportation. Their purpose is to focus resources for the improvement of these central components which are critical to the sustainability and growth of the City.

Goals or actions are organized around priorities. Generally, where specific actions build on a goal, they will be listed immediately following the goal. Some goals may not have specific actions. Short term priority means it should be achieved within the next 5 years. Medium term priority means it should be achieved within 5-10 years. A long-term priority means it should be achieved in 10 or more years.

Goal/Action	Priority		
	Short	Medium	Long
<b>Establish a general public transportation service, if community needs and support exists for that service</b>			
Form a committee to study and measure the community interest in public transportation		X	
<b>Maintain and improve the city's streets and sidewalks according to an adopted capital improvements schedule and dedicated funding</b>			
Adopt a rolling 10-year schedule for the maintenance of streets and sidewalks; for the extension of streets and sidewalks into newly developing areas; and for areas of the City lacking the desired level of streets and sidewalks. This should be adopted as part of the Capital Improvement Plan.		X	
Inventory street and sidewalk conditions	X		
Develop a dedicated source of funding for street and sidewalk maintenance such as a sales tax.	X		
<b>Make necessary improvements to the water treatment and distribution infrastructure</b>			
Include within the capital improvement plan a schedule for the replacement of water distribution lines so that by the year 2030 no such lines have been in use exceeding 75 years.		X	
Water tower maintenance and painting	X		
Upgrade east pressure zone pump station and add Water tower		X	
Implement the Water Master Plan	X		
<b>Make the necessary improvements to the wastewater system</b>			
Address problems with inflow and infiltration as a high priority item in the City's capital improvement program.	X		
Upgrade wastewater plant to meet regulations, deal with nutrient removal and safety issues	X		
Maintain compliance with future regulation changes			X
Include within the capital improvement plan a schedule for the video inspection of all sanitary sewer lines	X		
Prioritize the replacement of defective lines identified in the video inspection.	X		
Prioritize full staffing training and retention	X		
Cost benefit analysis of internal competencies vs outsourcing.	X		
Downtown sewer line replacement	X		
<b>Improve the storm water management capabilities of the city</b>			
Educate the public on storm water pollution prevention	X		
Study the storm water fee structure to better allocate funds more fairly and incentivize developments that take certain measures to reduce storm water run-off	X		
Participate in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Community Rating System (CRS) to encourage better storm water controls and to reduce flood insurance premiums for our residents	X		



## Chapter Seven: Community Health

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- 7.1 Introduction**
- 7.2 Vision**
- 7.3 Background**
- 7.4 Community Health and Comprehensive Planning**
- 7.5 Cowley County Needs Assessment (2012)**
- 7.6 Community Health Needs Assessment (2013)**
- 7.7 The Importance of the Health Care Sector to the Economy of Cowley County (2010)**
- 7.8 Accomplishments**
- 7.9 Goals and Actions**

### 7.1 INTRODUCTION

Comprehensive planning originated in this country primarily out of a need to protect the health of citizens from such threats as urban congestion, unsafe housing and inadequate sanitation. Eliminating disease, overcrowding and incompatible uses were goals worthy of addressing through planning efforts. As time passed, and comprehensive planning evolved, infrastructure and other issues became its focus and health issues were relegated to public health officials. In recent years, subjects that affect the health of citizens have come full circle with the realization the built environment is critical to good health, as are public policies regarding land use and development. While congestion may not be an issue in Arkansas City, access to health providers, access to parks and open space, transportation, access to groceries, and an opportunity for exercise, are all parts of comprehensive planning that can improve health factors for citizens of Arkansas City.

Health starts where we live, work, learn and play. Our surroundings have a profound impact on our overall health, from exposure to toxins to the ability to safely walk or ride a bicycle. The built environment of our communities and neighborhoods plays an important role in providing opportunities for residents to live long, healthy lives. For example, people who live in walkable neighborhoods tend to get more physical activity, and those who live near supermarkets are more likely to eat healthy foods such as fresh fruits and vegetables.

### 7.2 VISION

The City will act by influencing the built environment and setting policy regarding City programs and services to enhance the lives and health of Arkansas City residents. Reducing obesity levels, increasing participation in wellness activities, increasing public education of healthy lifestyle choices, reducing dependence on emergency room care as primary care, and creating good transportation links for walking and biking are recognized means of achieving this vision.

### 7.3 BACKGROUND

#### *Health Care Services*

Arkansas City is home to South Central Kansas Medical Center, which is located at 6401 Patterson Parkway. This new facility was opened in 2011, but the history of the institution dates back to 1905 when it was begun as Mercy Hospital. The facility sits on a large acreage, creating opportunity for expansion and development of a medical campus over time.

The new facility is a single-story building, with over 60,000 square foot of space to meet patient needs for emergency care, with 17 private patient rooms, 5 semi-private rooms, a negative pressure isolation room, and 4 intensive care beds. In addition, there is an obstetrics wing with family birthing suites, with a total of six beds available. There are two operating rooms, two treatment suites for outpatient/inpatient

surgery, as well as radiology and laboratory areas. The Center provides a number of vital services for the community from diabetes support and education, physical therapy, to respiratory therapy and more.

The land and buildings of the Medical Center are owned by the Public Building Commission created by the City. Financing for such came via a 10-year 1/2¢ citywide sales tax which commenced in 2009. The land and buildings are leased to the South Central Kansas Health Foundation. The city manager and a city commissioner are ex officio members of the Foundation's board of directors.

A new facility that helps to bring health care to low income residents was established in 2015. The Community Health Center in Cowley County (CHCCC), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, is the only designated Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Cowley County. It received its FQHC designation in 2015 as the culmination of over six years of grassroots efforts to bring a community health center to Cowley County. The next nearest health center is over 30 miles away, with a drive time of nearly one hour.

Westside Clinic, 221 W. 8th Avenue, Winfield, currently houses services and programs. This 5,000 sq. ft. facility houses nine exam rooms, a minor surgery room, a diagnostic laboratory, an X-ray suite, and a behavioral health counseling space. To further improve health care access, CHCCC seeks to establish a second FQHC clinic in Arkansas City.

The service area for CHCCC is Cowley County, Kansas. The target population is county residents with a household income less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. According to the US Census Bureau, the current population of Cowley County is 34,908, of whom 37.4% (Source: [kansashealthmatters.org](http://kansashealthmatters.org). Retrieved on September 15, 2021) have a household income of less than 200% FPL.

Access to health care and health care utilization is influenced by several factors, including but not limited to: health insurance coverage, availability of health care professionals, cost, geography, and cultural and linguistic accessibility.

CHCCC provides comprehensive, prevention-focused, and integrated primary health care to its target population. Services include but are not limited to well child-care, chronic disease screening, diagnosis and treatment, gynecological care, prenatal and postnatal care, oral health services, pharmacy, behavioral health, laboratory and radiology, health education, and eligibility assistance.

### ***Mental Health***

Mental health services are provided by the Four County Mental Health & Counseling Center, located at Strother Field, 22214 D Street, Winfield. The organization is quasi-governmental, as it is run by a local board of directors but funded with governmental funds as well as private donations and grants. The Center is licensed and has been providing psychiatric and substance abuse services for nearly forty-five years to Arkansas City residents and the region. Their staff has grown over the years, but now exceeds 90 persons, including licensed clinicians. The location in Strother Field, a mid-point, between Winfield and Arkansas City was selected to efficiently serve the regions clients with a new building that was constructed in 2007, with additional leased space nearby.

Services provided to the children, adults, couples and families include medication services, alcohol and substance abuse evaluation and treatment, emergency and crisis resources and intervention, and a large variety of support services through Children/Adult Community Based Services programs. CCMHCC also offers a day-school, cooperating with six regional school districts for this intensive day-treatment service. The area is also fortunate that the organization is home to the Transitions Foster Home Program, the only remaining foster care program sponsored by a community mental health center in Kansas. The Center also partners with Sumner County for the Children Crisis House in Winfield.

## City-Cowley County Health Department

Public health practice can be characterized as a multi-disciplinary approach that includes physicians, nurses, epidemiologists, dietitians, health educators and other professionals who assess common health measures to improve community health and the quality of life by providing interventions and promotion of healthy behaviors.

Local health departments provide a broad range of services including disease surveillance and investigation, immunizations, emergency preparedness, maternal and infant health programs, health promotion and prevention programs, and environmental health services including school and childcare facility inspections.

In 1946 the Cowley County Board of County Commissioners and the Governing Bodies of the cities of Arkansas City and Winfield created the joint City-Cowley County Health Department governed by a local Board of Health.

The Department **vision** is for Cowley County residents to enjoy healthy lives and exercise personal responsibility for their health and the health of their families.

The **mission** of the Department is to promote excellent health, prevent disease, and to protect the environment to benefit all our citizens.

The provision of public health service is focused on population based, community driven interventions. The local health agency provides some individual services as a safety net for those who would not otherwise receive care. The services rendered by the Department are preventative interventions that have been proven to have a direct impact on decreasing the medical costs associated with acute and chronic diseases. This is accomplished by being a well-financed modern public health organization capable of implementing its mission on behalf of the communities it serves.

The ten (10) essential services of public health are: (1) monitor the health of the community; (2) diagnose and investigate disease; (3) inform, educate and empower people; (4) mobilize community partnerships; (5) develop policies; (6) enforce laws and regulations; (7) link to and provide health services; (8) assure a competent workforce; (9) evaluate quality; and (10) research for new insights.

The City-Cowley County Health Department is recognized as a valued partner in public health policy development.

### 7.4 COMMUNITY HEALTH AND COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

**Introduction.** The built environment -- where we live, work, learn, and play -- impacts our health. The following paragraphs summarize the interplay between the subjects of this Plan and community health.

**Healthy Food.** Eating healthy foods lowers the risk of becoming overweight or obese, key risk factors for chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, and cancer.

Peoples' eating choices are strongly influenced by the food options available to them. For example, living near stores that sell healthy foods influences health. The closer one lives to a grocery store, the easier it is to obtain fresh fruits and vegetables. Proximity to healthy food is associated with greater consumption of healthy



food, and with decreased rates of obesity. Living near sources of unhealthy food can lead to an increased risk for obesity and chronic diseases. When fast food restaurants and convenience stores are more abundant, closer, and cheaper than grocery stores and produce stands, people are less likely and less able to maintain a healthful diet.

Local food production and direct sales increase options for accessing healthy food. Creating new opportunities for farmers markets and produce stands are ways to expand access to healthy food.

**Housing.** There are three housing-related factors that relate directly to community health. These are housing that is unaffordable, unhealthy, or inadequate.

- **Unaffordable Housing:** When unaffordable housing is the only choice available, people are forced to make trade-offs that are associated with poor health, obesity and other chronic diseases. When too large a percentage of income goes to cover rent or mortgages, residents may be unable to afford medical care for themselves or their families. Similarly, they may have to rely on inexpensive foods that contribute to obesity, live in over-crowded conditions that may spread infectious diseases, or suffer from poor mental health. Traditionally, housing is considered affordable if the cost of rent and utilities does not exceed 30% of gross household income.
- **Inadequate Housing:** *Inadequate housing* is housing that is structurally deficient, or having problems such as frayed wiring, lack of plumbing, or narrow stairs without a protective banister.
- **Unhealthy Housing:** *Unhealthy housing* is housing of an age or condition that results in problems such as pest-infested carpeting, indoor mold, or flaking lead paint.

Residents need access to affordable housing that offers the benefits of stability and reduced stress, which translate into reduced risk for chronic disease. Housing should not place an undue financial burden on residents that limits or eliminates resources devoted to self-care and the care of their families. Health is promoted when housing is located near parks, healthy foods, and walkable destinations.

**Transportation and Land Use.** Creating new opportunities to be active as part of daily life can help in reducing obesity, and "active transportation" such as walking, and cycling offers opportunities for exercise. Like all forms of transportation, the ability to benefit from active transportation is intimately tied to the arrangement of land uses in the community and the transportation infrastructure.

Built environments that provide opportunities for physical activity lower the risk of obesity. Neighborhoods with walkable destinations allow residents to get physical activity as part of their everyday routine. Density and a mix of land uses promote active transportation by bringing destinations closer together. For example, a mix of land uses can result in destinations such as restaurants and retail shops to be within walking distance of residents. Buildings that come right up to the sidewalk with ground-level windows and entrances encourage walking, as do amenities such as street trees, benches, and lighting. Streets are more comfortable for pedestrians when blocks, buildings, or vegetation provide a sense of enclosure. A well-connected street network makes bicycling and walking easier and safer. Auto-dependent development reinforces sedentary lifestyles, and spending time driving is associated with a higher likelihood of obesity.

The availability of primary care has a role in preserving good health and preventing illnesses and hospitalizations. Health care facility locations that allow people to use active transportation have the added health benefit of promoting physical activity.

**Economic Development.** Higher incomes are associated with better health. Income is a proven predictor of overall health, and each step up the economic ladder equates to better health. This is indicative not only of better access to health care, but also a greater capacity to engage in healthy behaviors. Employment influences chronic stress and income. Frequent or long-term stress takes a toll on health, and employment is a major influence on stress.

Compact, walkable development that creates vibrant neighborhoods can attract companies and skilled workers than can increase economic opportunity.

Citizens benefit from access to high quality, primary, secondary and higher education and stable employment opportunities that offer living wages. Providing these opportunities requires the community to attract highly skilled workers and create vibrant, attractive places to live, work, and play. A strong local economy helps create opportunities for education and employment.

**Parks and Recreation.** Being physically active reduces the risk of many diseases and improves wellbeing. Access to parks increases the likelihood of physical activity. The number of parks nearby, their size, and their features or amenities can all influence the amount of physical activity people achieve. People who live close to parks are more likely to use them and be physically active. Multi-use trails help people meet physical activity needs for both recreation and transportation purposes. Physical activity in parks is affected by park safety and maintenance. Investments in parks are maximized when people feel safe and comfortable using them for exercise.



Contact with nature can also reduce stress and have positive impacts on mental health. Contact with nature can decrease symptoms of attention deficit disorder. Parks and open space are a way for residents to make contact with nature, and also offer a public gathering space to interact with neighbors and others in the community.

**Safety and Social Connections.** Neighborhoods can undermine a sense of safety if they have characteristics such as narrow sidewalks, dead-end streets and alleys, high speed limits, or the absence of crosswalks. People who perceive their neighborhood as unsafe are less likely to go for walks or use public parks. Adverse health outcomes

associated with lack of safety include obesity, chronic stress, heart disease, and poor mental health.

A high degree of social cohesion is a strong predictor of lower rates of violence. Among middle school youth, positive connections to school and social groups is associated with better mental health, less risk of smoking, less risk of marijuana use, and higher graduation rates. In adults, strong social connections can help reduce stress, assist in coping, improve access to material support such as transportation or information, and improve mental health. Social connections are influenced by features of the built environment that provide opportunities for interaction, such as parks, shops, or front porches. The lack of a social network is associated with higher rates of morbidity and mortality, depression, and cognitive decline. Community centers, parks, libraries and other meeting places provide a social space separate from home and work and play an important role in enhancing social connectedness and a sense of community.

## 7.5 COWLEY COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act requires tax-exempt hospitals to complete a Community Health Needs Assessment every three years. The law requires the Assessment include input from persons having public health knowledge or expertise along with persons representing the broad interest of the community. The Assessment is to identify community needs and adopt a strategy to address those needs.

### 7.7 THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HEALTH CARE SECTOR TO THE ECONOMY OF COWLEY COUNTY

In December 2010 Kansas Rural Health Works published its report on the "Kansas Rural Health Options Project." Following are excerpts from the introduction and summary of that report:

#### **The Economics of Rural Health Care**

The organization and delivery of health care services have undergone rapid evolution in recent years. For many Americans, the cost of services and access to care are important issues. This certainly is true in many rural areas where communities have struggled to maintain affordable, quality health care systems. As economic forces and technical advances continue to change health care, it is more important than ever for rural community leaders and health care providers to work together to ensure affordable, sustainable health care systems.

#### **The Economic Contribution of the Health Care Sector in Cowley County, Kansas**

The rapidly changing delivery of health services in rural counties has the potential to greatly impact the availability of health care services in the future. These changes include:

- Insufficient Medicare and Medicaid payments to hospitals and providers may force a reduction in the provision of health care services.
- Although Kansas rural health networks are already fairly strong, creation of provider networks may substantially change the delivery of, and access to, local health care services.
- Use of telemedicine could increase access to primary, consultative and specialty health care services at the county level.
- Development of critical access hospitals could help health care services remain in rural counties. Kansas currently has over 80 critical access hospitals.

As a result, the health care sector can have a large impact on the local economy. All of these changes make it imperative that decision makers in Cowley County become proactive in maintaining high quality local health care services.

Health care facilities such as hospitals and nursing homes provide jobs and income to people in the community. As these employees spend their income in the community, a ripple spreads throughout the economy, creating additional jobs and income in other economic sectors.

#### **Summary and Conclusions**

The Health Services sector of Cowley County, Kansas, plays a large role in the area's economy. Health Services represents one of the largest employers in the area and also serves as one of the largest contributors to income. Additionally, the health sector has

indirect impacts on the local economy, creating additional jobs and income in other sectors. The health sector also contributes substantially to retail sales in the region.

While the estimates of economic impact are themselves substantial, they are only a partial accounting of the benefits to the county. Health care industries in rural counties help to preserve the population base, invigorating the communities and school systems. Similarly, many hospitals and nursing care facilities have active community outreach programs that enhance community services and the quality of life for community residents.

A vigorous and sustainable health care system is essential not only for the health and welfare of community residents, but to enhance economic opportunity as well. Health-related sectors are among the fastest growing in economy. Given demographic trends, this growth is likely to continue. The attraction and retention of new business and retirees also depends on access to adequate health care services.

The strategic health planning process helps local communities identify their health care needs; examine the social, economic, and political realities affecting the local delivery of health care; determine what is wanted and what realistically can be achieved to meet their identified health care needs; and develop and mobilize an action plan based on their analysis and planning.

For the strategic health planning process to be most effective, it must be based in the community and driven by the community. This process is about local people solving local problems. The local hospital and health care providers should have input into the decision-making and should support and trust the outcomes, but the community must provide the energy and commitment.

## **7.8 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Since the 2013 Plan, a community health center for low income was successfully established in the County. A Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) was established in Winfield. The Community Health Center in Cowley County has plans to now also establish an additional health center in Arkansas City.

RISE Cowley was established which helps to promote healthy eating, active living and tobacco and vaping cessation throughout the county. The City also received a grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas Pathways to a Healthy Kansas program. The grant is being used to conduct a transportation plan that will in part help to develop more active living through trails, and better pedestrian connectivity throughout the City to help with active living.

## **7.9 GOALS AND ACTIONS**

In light of the recent Coronavirus pandemic, community health has come to the forefront. The pandemic has changed the healthcare picture forever. It brought to the forefront issues on how public health is delivered to the community. Now, more than ever, the City must work to promote public health by promoting our local health institutions and to ensure that public health is looked at in all planning decisions.

Goals or actions are organized around priorities. Generally, where specific actions build on a goal, they will be listed immediately following the goal. Some goals may not have specific actions. Short term priority means it should be achieved within the next 5 years. Medium term priority means it should be achieved within 5-10 years. A long-term priority means it should be achieved in 10 or more years.

GOAL/ACTION	PRIORITY		
<b>Support Efforts to Improve Access to Health Services.</b>	<b>Short</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Long</b>
Improve the public's awareness of available health services.	X		
Encourage higher rates of utilization of basic preventative care.	X		
Encourage providers to offer services at times, and days that allow people to utilize health care services.	X		
Encourage and support Cowley First in its efforts, alongside the South Central Kansas Medical Center and William Newton Memorial Hospital, to study ways to achieve the most cost-effective provision of comprehensive health services to residents of Cowley County.	X		
Assist the Community Health Center in Cowley County (CHCCC) in establishing a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Arkansas City for low income residents.	X		
Work with providers to enhance the availability of childcare and work with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to streamline childcare licensing regulations and policies.	X		
Look at public health in all planning decisions	X		
<b>Encourage a positive view of mental and behavioral health that will encourage citizens to respond to their mental health needs</b>	<b>Short</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Long</b>
Improve the public's awareness of the availability of mental health services.	X		
Encourage mental health providers and primary care providers to implement programs to reduce the stigma of mental illness.	X		
Avoid the inappropriate incarceration of persons with mental health issues and encourage Cowley County to do the same.	X		
Partner with existing organizations to help prevent suicide and other harmful behaviors.			
<b>Increase the opportunities for physical activities for citizens of all ages and abilities</b>	<b>Short</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Long</b>
Maintain and enhance parks and recreation facilities and services consistent with the goals and actions in Chapter 5.		X	
Increase access to parks, recreation and open space.		X	
Provide recreation opportunities for residents of all ages, abilities and economic and cultural backgrounds.	X		
Provide recreation facilities and services needed by various population groups, such as specific age groups or people with special physical requirements.	X		
Whenever possible, consider the impact of public infrastructure decisions, and private development requiring City approval, upon the ability of citizens to walk or bike to their destinations, including parks.	X		
Encourage public and private schools, and childcare providers, to provide ample opportunities for physical activity.	X		
Establish areas for physical activity at City offices and encourage similar actions by other employers.	X		



<b>Encourage easy access to healthy foods</b>	<b>Short</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Long</b>
Encourage the location of food retailers throughout the community	X		
Support and promote farmers markets, produce stands and community gardens.	X		
Consider creating a land use category for urban agriculture, distinguishing it from rural agriculture.			
Encourage healthy foods in city-owned facilities and at City-sponsored events.	X		
<b>Promote Healthy Transportation</b>	<b>Short</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Long</b>
Increase the City's walking and bikeway network.	X		
Increase sidewalk connectivity and safe crossings.	X		
Implement traffic calming on neighborhood streets where appropriate.	X		
<b>Continue working with the city's partners to create a stronger local economy</b>	<b>Short</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Long</b>
Mitigate the health impacts of poverty by encouraging employment opportunities for those in poverty.	X		
When recruiting businesses, place significance on businesses that provide living wage jobs.	X		
Help educational institutions provide students with the support needed for educational success.	X		
Work with educational institutions and businesses to connect educational achievement with employment opportunities in the community	X		