

Garden City's Comprehensive Plan VISION

1. Why is this process important to you and Garden City?

"When you bring together the talents of all our people there is no limit to what we can accomplish."

-participant in Garden City Comprehensive Plan Visioning Session, January, 2009

- We must have better, more diverse jobs.
- Everyone should be part of a process to make it work.
- The community must thrive if I am to be successful.
- Opportunity to see what other people want.
- If the process is as strong as I think, we will be able to go back to revisit the plan and check on progress.
- To generate enthusiasm.
- Was invited.
- See that past is honored.
- To see if we can create opportunities.
- Curiosity.
- To see Garden City become a center, a leader in the region in many areas.
- To represent those who don't have voice.
- Want to get involved to give back.
- Because this process is forward looking.
- Want to voice my opinion.
- See the beautiful things about our community such as arts perpetuated.
- Interested in keeping Garden City good.
- As a land owner want to know what is happening and will happen.
- Want to learn about the community.
- As mayor want to hear citizens.
- Would like for my kids to come home but we must have opportunities for them.
- Important to include what is good for families.
- Believe in vision and leadership.
- Want to see Garden City grow and prosper.
- My duty as a person who lives here.
- Interested in leaving a legacy.
- This is a time of opportunity in the world – I want us to take advantage of this time.
- I believe in the process.
- So can all get along.
- To learn from everybody.
- Listening to the taxpayers-they are out boss.
- Brainstorming generates excitement.
- Don't want Garden City to be remote America anymore.
- We have a great city-others are envious-let's keep it that way.
- Art and beauty need to be advocated for.
- Tired of west vs east Kansas.

2. What do you celebrate about Garden City? What are our assets?

“An incredible little nook in the country.”

-participant in Garden City Comprehensive Plan Visioning Process, January, 2009

- Friendly.
- Incredible history.
- We stand up for what we believe in such as passing the bond issue.
- Hub for amenities and health care.
- Embraces diversity as a way of life because it has been here for three/four generations.
- Foresight.
- Straight forward, honest, caring, compassionate people.
- Enthusiasm about past and future.
- Forward thinking.
- Art Center.
- Opportunity to do what I do professionally in a place that I love.
- Beautiful.
- Citizen participation – the government has freed the structure to allow us in.
- People connections and relationships are many and deep.
- The community college.
- Varied job opportunities.
- People support non-profit organizations.
- Family ties.
- So much to do here.
- Diverse medical services.
- Accessible transportation.
- Community accepts who it is.
- Our diverse, multicultural population.
- The active and vital arts community.
- Wide open spaces.
- Not too big, not too small.
- Family oriented.
- Public art.
- All of the drama, art, and cultural activities for kids.
- Safe, nice place – a solid ground to raise my kids.
- Citizens willingness to give time: *“if they volunteer they show up.”*
- Clean and well-kept city.
- Progressive nature of government: *“We chose a different path than Dodge City and it shows.”*
- Accepting different points of view.
- Habitat for Humanities puts people in homes and on the tax rolls.
- Inclusive Citizens’ Academy.
- Small town feel here
- Public schools help non-English speakers learn English.
- Community pride.
- Innovative.
- Taxpayers are willing to invest.
- Collaboration as we work to meet needs.
- Resiliency.
- Diverse and healthy agricultural economy.
- Community cares about schools.
- Pioneer spirit.
- Closeness and trust.
- Faith communities.
- Willingness of city officials to invest in quality of life.
- THE PEOPLE.
- Willingness of people to work with city government.
- Doesn’t take too long to get anywhere.

3. What are the challenges we face?

- Youth involvement; opportunities for youth – “*nothing to do*”.
- Entertainment especially for young professionals.
- Increase entertainment/enrichment for all ages but focus on YP’s.
- Poverty-hunger – especially west side of town.
- Housing: rundown, low standard, not affordable and good quality, need rentals.
- Generational differences – workplace. Leadership, etc.
- Community is cliquish.
- Diversify funding for projects other than property tax.
- Adult education and workforce training.
- Communication and language.
- Cost of living/taxes/FEMA.
- Infrastructure.
- Cultural absorption.
- Not working together on issues.
- Economic development; diversify the economy; THE ECONOMY!
- Life skills (responsible behavior of body and mind).
- Lack of pride in what we have.
- Tri-city competition.
- Recreation.
- Aligning commitment to needs and/or wants.
- Retention: people and businesses.
- Health Care: cost of, accessibility, insurance, urgent care center.
- Transportation: keeping Amtrak, Greyhound, improving access to air transportation.
- Jobs: attracting businesses, higher skill jobs.
- Trained workforce.
- Technology.
- Location.
- Retain and return youth.
- Support for youth
- Information resource for new families.
- Schools.
- Community involvement.
- Flood plain.
- Physical health.
- Some non-acceptance of diversity.
- Public safety.
- Employment opportunities.

4. Who lives here?

- Homemakers
- New corporations and businesses
- White collar workers
- Lawyers
- Blue collar workers
- Faith filled people
- Unhealthy people
- People with abundant resources
- Extended families (several generations of one family)
- People looking for new opportunities
- Cowboys and cowgirls
- Progressive people
- Not in my backyard people
- Educated
- Non-educated
- Tyson new hires who come with nothing
- Daycare providers
- Mom and Pop business owners
- Adults without high school diploma
- Crowded high schools
- Low income first generation families
- Teen-ager drop outs
- New teachers
- Women
- Artists
- Faith communities
- Without life skills
- Young families
- Transient workers
- College students
- Pastors/priests
- Welfare recipients
- Rental property owners
- Native Garden City residents
- Generational families (deep roots)
- Hispanic
- Farmers
- Unemployed
- Children 0-12
- Pregnant teens
- Business owners
- High school personnel
- Social workers who are overwhelmed with needy
- People lacking a family doctor
- People with no car
- Disabled without resources
- Frail elderly
- Southeast Asians
- Underemployed
- Vietnamese
- Youth
- Somalis
- German Mennonite
- New English speakers
- Illiterate
- High School youth
- Mexican Mennonites
- Elderly
- Grandparents raising grandchildren
- Young couples with little children
- Burma refugees
- Elderly with no family
- Grade school personnel
- Medical community
- Fixed income residents
- Uneducated Hispanics
- Production workers
- Young married and young singles
- FCYP: Gen Xers and Yers
- Single parent families
- Teachers
- Mentally ill disabled
- Professionals: doctors, nurses, therapists, youth counselors
- Technically savvy young people
- People who need long term care and assisted living
- THEN YOU HAVE THE NORMAL PEOPLE

5. What is our dream?

- Garden City should be a place that is aesthetically pleasing – an inviting place where a family’s basic needs are met and surpassed; people are valued for and celebrated for their diversity; and where there are lots of great things to do.
- Garden City should be a place of unlimited opportunities, where the only limitation is self imposed.
- Garden City is a place a family would desire to live and acquire lifelong friends; provides opportunities to be successful in your life and to grow in the area through school, arts, and recreation opportunities.
- Garden City is a place where career opportunities are available in a community that holds quality of life in high priority.
- Garden City will be committed to being friendly and family oriented, with opportunities for Education, Employment, and personal and community growth.
- Garden City should be the envy of every other city in Kansas because of its opportunities to live, to work, to grow, to enjoy life for people of all ages and many cultures.
- Garden City should be a regional hub where everybody’s dreams are nourished.
- **“Garden of Life”** Garden City should be a progressive community where families of all types, generations and ethnicities can flourish.
- Garden City should offer a place to raise children in a safe environment where youth is celebrated and there are opportunities for jobs with advancement.
- Garden City should be a place where all students and residents have the opportunity to learn Spanish and English; with opportunities for personal and professional growth while enjoying abundant shopping and entertainment.
- Garden City should be a place that people can afford to live where they love to be.
- Garden City should be a culturally diverse community that offers a welcoming array of opportunities to live and prosper for families, singles, immigrants, elderly, retirees, professionals, youth.
- Garden City should be a model for inclusive communities by ensuring that its citizens are safe, educated and healthy.

6. What must we work on to make the dream come true?

*“We all agree on our issues and challenges and we have talked and talked about them, but where and when do we start?”
We must DO something!”*

-sentiment from many participants in the Garden City Comprehensive Plan Visioning Sessions of January, 2009

• **Transportation**

1. KDOT
2. four lane highways
3. airport has capability to handle large planes and air fares are affordable
4. low cost public transportation
5. bus travel – inter city
6. expanded air and bus service & rail
7. improved highway
8. streets
9. effective
10. Tri-city

• **Health, Safety, and Security**

1. domestic violence
2. sidewalks everywhere for walking
3. lighting
4. continually emphasizing exercising
5. bike and hiking trails
6. clubs
7. golf course
8. community policing
9. low crime
10. drug free
11. healthy people
12. youth gangs
13. drugs/alcohol
14. utilities provided
15. Infrastructure – lighting, etc.
16. active lifestyles
17. nutrition
18. good drinking water
19. healthy aging
20. healthy children
21. community health professionals
22. supportive culture for healthy life styles
23. recreation
24. fresh air
25. health centers
26. independent living opportunities

• **Regional hub**

1. health
2. commerce
3. manufacturing
4. education
5. entertainment
6. transportation
7. cultural center
8. for everything

- **Affordable living**

1. young
2. seniors
3. taxes
4. quality housing
5. taxes
6. housing
7. utilities
8. health care
9. low income

- **Youth involvement**

1. opportunity for education and training for current and future jobs
2. positive ways to involve youth
3. support those away from families
4. a youth center
5. develop teen leadership
6. character building
7. job training
8. prevention of teen pregnancy
9. drug, alcohol, smoking
10. safe hang-outs in low-income areas

- **Vibrant-up-to date cultural scene; enjoyable quality of life**

1. Convention/Civic Center
2. zoo
3. entertainment
4. cultural oasis
5. historic preservation
6. the cultural center of SW KS
7. beautification for life, heart & soul
8. community center
9. support local artists
10. ethnic arts
11. organizations for specific groups
12. skate team
13. family oriented

10. affordable, quality housing at all income levels
11. low cost
12. single families
13. rentals available
14. lock and leave housing
15. quality housing
16. independent living opportunities

11. every student graduate from H. S. ready for the 21st century work force or college
12. free tutoring
13. 'Seeds of Hope' a jail ministry
14. every student given education to learn Spanish and English
15. every student should be bi-lingual
16. schools
17. positive activities
18. outdoor opportunities
19. sports

14. clubs
15. movies
16. shopping
17. restaurant
18. Garden City Gardens
19. park
20. Talley trail
21. rec centers
22. golf course
23. YMCA
24. arts
25. music

- **Attitude of acceptance, unity**
 1. pride in multi-cultural and multi-diverse population
 2. all residents have opportunity to become multi-lingual
 3. open minded
 4. focused

- **Strong Families**
 1. churches
 2. schools
 3. families playing together
 4. higher education
 5. recreation
 6. medical facilities

- **Prosperous Community: Growing Economy: Strong Job Opportunities**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. diverse industry 2. business growth 3. provide goods and services: retail, manufacturing, health, agriculture 4. pay and support people – police, fire, ems 5. skilled workforce 6. do away with hunger and poverty 7. regional shopping center 8. promoting small businesses 9. recruit industry 10. housing for all economic levels 11. technology 12. diverse business opportunities for all income levels 13. non ag-based 14. the hub of work force education 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. language and ethnic integration 16. health 17. blue/white collars 18. job development 19. workforce development 20. fiscally sound growth 21. thriving progressive, sound economic base 22. retail opportunities: diverse, regional leader, expanded 23. diversify economic base 24. rental properties 25. higher paying opportunities 26. senior job opportunities 27. recruit health care people 28. trained workforce
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- **Environmentally sound**
 1. diversify power supply
 2. a green community
 3. recycle, reuse, reduce
 4. water quality and supply

- **Collaboration/community cooperation**

1. city/county/business
2. better citizen participation in governmental affairs
3. a community that gets it done
4. commitment from volunteers
5. proactive, intentional about reaching its goals
6. we need to understand that it takes everyone to succeed
7. the city administration should be a national model
8. focused

- **Infrastructure**

1. streets
2. utilities
3. housing
4. historic preservation
5. revitalize our 'riverfront'

- **Social Services**

1. transportation
2. senior Center
3. indigent
4. education

- **First Class Education for all**

1. re-training
2. work force
3. language
4. teachers
5. volunteers
6. extended degree programs
7. a community of life long learners
8. personal enrichment

9. work force training
10. college
11. K-12
12. improved educational opportunities
13. wide faceted education
14. workforce to keep youth here
15. educationally rich

- **Downtown**

- **Appearance**

1. recycle
2. win prizes for beautification of city
3. litter
4. no blight

5. downtown
6. parks
7. entries in Garden City
8. houses

- **Community Pride**

1. I'm from Kansas