

APRIL 2008

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

Vision:

Platte County governmental entities and constituencies will strive for collaboration and the sharing of resources among local governments, businesses, social service and health agencies, faith communities, and educational institutions to accomplish mutual goals.

Goals:

- a) Identify examples of existing partnerships/collaborations that are successful and use them as models for future efforts.
 - i. Identify and categorize current successful partnerships/collaborations e.g. health, education, and recreation.
 - ii. Describe the purpose they serve and need they meet.
 - iii. List current and future needs to which they can be applied.
 - iv. Conduct partnerships study to identify best practices in other regions across the country.
- b) Enhance partnerships to improve access to health and wellness services.
 - i. Implement a process to identify unmet needs and assess the effectiveness of current partnerships and determine appropriate ways county government should participate in solutions.
 - ii. Revise partnerships as needed.
 - iii. Establish new partnerships that will help serve unmet needs.
- c) Optimize resources through collaboration among all parks and recreation departments, school districts, sports entities, and the arts.
 - i. Continue Platte County/Kansas City Park Partners Forum and include all park/recreation interest groups and organizations in the discussion.
 - ii. Identify and keep current database of county liaisons with all parks and recreation departments, school districts, sports entities, and arts organizations in the county to optimize resources.
 - iii. Work with partners and Friends organizations to develop one-stop information stations for parks and recreation amenities and services including websites, newsletters, and other forms.
 - iv. Discuss partnerships and collaboration issues at county staff meetings.
- d) Improve transportation for people who need access to countywide health and human services.
 - i. Survey health and human service providers in the county regarding clients' unmet transportation needs.
 - ii. Direct clients to existing services such as Share-A-Fare and OATS if they qualify and if their transportation needs can be met by such services.
 - iii. Explore establishment of new transportation services for those clients whose needs cannot be met by existing services.
- e) Promote use of the 2-1-1 phone number to provide social services information.
 - i. Institute an ongoing, countywide public information effort to educate and inform residents regarding social service information that can be obtained through use of 2-1-1, including in all county publications.

- f) Facilitate the development of a regional animal shelter.
 - i. Convene meeting of county municipalities and stakeholder groups to determine interest in a regional Platte County animal shelter.
 - ii. Conduct comprehensive needs assessment.
 - iii. Based on study outcomes and appropriate roles for county government, assist with securing partners and establishment of interlocal agreements for such a facility.
 - iv. Develop a plan to identify methods to pay for the location, construction, maintenance, and operation of the facility.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Vision:

Platte County will focus on sustainability while it expands quality employment opportunities through well-planned commercial, industrial, and residential development; encourages tourism; enhances the quality of life of our community; protects our natural resources; and embraces our historical identity.

Goals:*Economic Development Goals*

- a) Develop a formal county economic development policy consistent with the county land use plan.
 - i. Establish an Economic Task Force, established by the County Commission, to create an economic development policy that is consistent with defined economic objectives and supportive of intended land use.
 - ii. Link to the green incentives outlined in goal “c” of environment and sustainability.¹

- b) Nurture relationships with the City of Kansas City, Missouri; Platte County communities; and other stakeholders to develop common economic development goals.
 - i. Under the direction of the Platte County Economic Development Council, establish a municipal committee comprising elected and/or appointed members of each municipality and the County Commission to meet on a quarterly basis.

- c) Support resources for workforce development that create and retain quality jobs.
 - i. Ensure that economic development incentives are used for the creation of *quality* and *sustainable* jobs.
 - ii. Work with area agencies to develop workforce training to enhance the skills of Platte County residents.

- d) Promote the awareness of economic development goals.
 - i. Work with the EDC to create a comprehensive public information program targeted to county residents, businesses, political jurisdictions, and community organizations that clearly articulates economic development goals, programs and successes.
 - ii. Work with the EDC to publicize economic development efforts in the countywide newsletter.

- e) Strengthen neighborhoods and improve access to quality and affordable housing.
 - i. Partner with Northland Neighborhoods Inc. (NNI) to help identify and develop the next generation of neighborhood association leaders.
 - ii. Increase home ownership by funneling renters through NNI’s homebuyers programs.
 - iii. Align planning and zoning codes that encourage mixed income housing development.

¹ *Environment & Sustainability Goal C*: “Promote and provide incentives for green jobs and industries.”

- f) Ensure adequate infrastructure to support economic development and tourism.
 - i. Support municipalities in adopting smart growth strategies and incorporate infrastructure master plans into their planning documents.
 - ii. Support action steps in Transportation and Infrastructure goal “f” to protect existing transportation corridors.²
 - iii. Support action steps in Transportation and Infrastructure goal “c” to coordinate with local governments to adopt minimum requirements for new public improvements.³
 - iv. Support the EDC’s efforts to foster community development activities in small Platte County municipalities.

Tourism Goals

- g) Support and facilitate the development of attractions and programs, including Kansas City International Airport, that are necessary to promote tourism, the arts, and the quality of life.
 - i. Expand participation in cultural arts organizations to identify specific areas underserved by Platte County and work together to implement said programs and facilities.
 - ii. Identify private partners to assist in these endeavors.
- h) Become a more significant component of the Kansas City regional tourism market.
 - i. Continue to actively coordinate and cooperate with Kansas City metro, regional, and statewide destination management entities to promote Platte County tourism.
- i) Promote the awareness of tourism goals.
 - i. Create a comprehensive public information program targeted to county residents, businesses, political jurisdictions, and community organizations that clearly articulates tourism goals, programs, and successes.
 - ii. Publicize tourism efforts in the countywide newsletter.
- j) Celebrate and encourage the county’s diverse historical identities.
 - i. Work with Platte County, metropolitan Kansas City, regional, state and federal historical organizations to inventory all historically significant parcels and features within Platte County.
 - ii. Encourage the use of conservation zones or conservation overlay districts in the county planning system to preserve historic features.
 - iii. Coordinate marketing efforts that promote historic sites.
 - iv. Consider incentives to maintain historical identities and interpret significance of historical parcels and features.

² *Transportation & Infrastructure Goal F:* “Protect existing transportation corridors and preserve future corridors to accommodate future growth and capacity requirements.”

³ *Transportation & Infrastructure Goal C:* “Coordinate with local governing entities to adopt minimum requirements for new public improvements.”

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Vision:

Platte County will be a healthy, sustainable community that values and protects its natural resources.

Goals:

- a) Develop a citizen commission, with staff and budget, to allow the county to accomplish environmental goals.
 - i. Appoint members to the "Platte County Environmental Awareness Commission."
 - ii. Develop a vision, mission statement, goals, and guidelines for the commission.
 - iii. Deliver quarterly reports at County Commission meetings.
 - iv. Assess program effectiveness and decide on appropriate funding for the next fiscal year.
 - v. Determine whether to create a new county staff position or to add sustainability responsibilities to an existing county staff position.
- b) Work to ensure that sustainability is a leading priority in all county decisions.
 - i. Include the "Platte County Environmental Awareness Commission" when making decisions that may have a substantial effect on the environment.
 - ii. Consult the green master plan to ensure compliance.
 - iii. Provide sustainability training for county employees.
 - iv. Ask how each project, program, or development affects the sustainability of Platte County and how it addresses the county's sustainability goals.
 - v. Update county zoning and subdivision ordinances to reflect environmental goals.
- c) Promote and provide incentives for green jobs and industries.
 - i. Establish incentives to attract green jobs and industries.
 - ii. Publicize the incentives program.
 - iii. Work with the EDC and other organizations to recruit and retain green industries.
 - iv. Promote "environmental goals" for projects seeking public financing or tax abatement.
- d) Take a proactive approach to collaborating with MARC and others to create a sustainable region.
 - i. Actively participate in efforts to become the greenest region in America.
 - ii. Ensure Platte County is represented at MARC environment and sustainability meetings or forums.
 - iii. Work to implement MetroGreen and other regional efforts.
- e) Develop a public education program to raise awareness and understanding of sustainability.
 - i. Join the Kansas City Environmental Education Network (KCEEN), which provides environmental resources and education.

- ii. Make environmental information – current issues, trends, energy reduction, native plans, etc – available through traditional and electronic means, including a new countywide newsletter.
 - iii. Coordinate countywide environmental awareness events.
 - iv. Conduct an environmental awareness workshop.
 - v. Encourage participation in events such as Earth Hour, Missouri Recycles Day, Earth Day, and Arbor Day.
 - vi. Encourage schools to participate in the Missouri Recycles Day K-12 poster contest.
- f) Develop and implement a countywide waste minimization and recycling plan.
- i. Promote MARC's recyclespot.org, which provides recycling resources for the region.
 - ii. Implement a waste minimization and recycling plan and provide adequate staff and infrastructure.
 - iii. Advertise the countywide waste minimization and recycling plan.
 - iv. Ensure that all areas of the county have access to a recycling center.
- g) Develop and implement a green master plan that addresses land preservation, climate protection, natural stormwater management, and public transportation.
- i. Adopt green master plan priorities and action steps.
 - ii. Update the green master plan annually.
 - iii. Consider public transportation options to reduce energy consumption and decrease pollution.
 - iv. Include stormwater and clean water as major elements in the green master plan.

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GROWTH AND PLANNING

Vision:

Platte County will foster logical growth from existing infrastructure and development supported by adequate infrastructure to create a sustainable community with a high quality of life that preserves the characteristics that make Platte County unique.

Goals:

- a) Review and update the zoning ordinances and update the land use plan and land use map to reflect quality development preserving green space.
 - i. Encourage quality development in Platte County.
 - ii. Ensure that the Land Use Plan, Subdivision Regulations, and Zoning Ordinance are in line with Platte Profile.
 - iii. Incorporate sustainable concepts into county planning documents, including updated ordinances and land use plans.
 - iv. Conduct a feasibility study to analyze long range planning implementation tools and strategies.

- b) Coordinate planning efforts and facilitate communication between all political jurisdictions.
 - i. Participate in regional planning efforts spearheaded by MARC.
 - ii. Review planning and application process to facilitate better participation from political jurisdictions.
 - iii. Facilitate periodic meetings with political jurisdictions and other groups to discuss long range planning issues.

- c) Encourage growth patterns based on available infrastructure, physical and geographical considerations, and abundant green space.
 - i. Include existing infrastructure, environmental, and physical considerations as major planning elements in updating the Land Use Plan, Zoning Ordinance, and Subdivision Regulations.
 - ii. Use regulatory tools to preserve and connect green space.
 - iii. Adopt an Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance.
 - iv. Promote infill development and development that is consistent with the Profile and Land Use Plans.

- d) Encourage communication and education about planning and growth issues in urban, suburban, and agricultural areas and encourage property owners/developers to conduct independent neighborhood meetings before submitting an application.
 - i. Amend county practices to encourage meetings between developers and local neighborhoods to inform residents about upcoming development plans.
 - ii. Utilize a new countywide newsletter and electronic methods to inform the public about planning issues.
 - iii. Publish development plans online for public review.
 - iv. Review public notification process and materials to ensure the county is effectively communicating information to the public (public notice signs, mailings, and agendas).

- e) Allow zoning and subdivision tools, when appropriate, for developments that adhere to community goals such as preserving significant open spaces, natural resources, and agricultural lands.
 - i. Study the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations to protect the county's natural and agricultural resources and preserve open space.
 - ii. Develop an additional exclusion to the "10 acre" requirement in the Rural Policy that allows exclusions in return for protection of agricultural lands from further subdivision.
 - iii. Amend the Planned Unit Development, Conservations District, and Planned Residential Districts to create effective tools to encourage mixed-used and appropriate new development patterns in Platte County.
 - iv. Explore new tools that can be used to implement development consistent with the Platte Profile Plan.

- f) Adopt standards that will make commercial and industrial development meet minimum aesthetic guidelines.
 - i. Consider establishing and publishing clear development and design guidelines that require new commercial and industrial construction to be compatible with the existing character of the area.
 - ii. Consider establishing and enforcing property maintenance codes to make sure that all properties do not detract from the aesthetic appeal desired by the community.

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PARKS AND RECREATION

Vision:

To create community through people, partnerships, and an interconnected system of parks, greenways, and conserve natural resources, offering recreational opportunities for all citizens.

Goals:

- a) Continue ensuring that the Platte County parks system is well maintained and safe.
 - i. Review, benchmark, and update Standard Maintenance and Operating Procedures (SMOP) for all county parks and recreational facilities. Include performance measures for park maintenance activities. Recommend adoption by County Commission.
 - ii. Provide training and resources for park department maintenance staff consistent with the SMOP.
 - iii. Plan and develop a five year budget for equipment other resources necessary to appropriately maintain facilities consistent with the SMOP.
 - iv. Work with Platte County Sherriff's Department to continue patrols of park facilities and develop a park safety audit and security program. Increase visibility of staff and security patrols in parks.
 - v. Advocate at local, state, and national level for policies that improve park safety and security.
 - vi. Offer self-defense courses for parks and recreation patrons.
 - vii. Work with school districts to develop educational program for students regarding park safety and security.

- b) Build awareness and promote parks and recreational facilities in Platte County.
 - i. Incorporate parks and recreation material into new countywide newsletter.
 - ii. Commit to continuing quarterly Parks Department-specific newsletters in print and electronic format.
 - iii. Increase visibility/awareness of county parks through other media and photographic resources such as traveling art shows and calendars.
 - iv. Conduct annual parks tour and open house for parks, trails and community centers.
 - v. Continue to support awareness and activity programs such as National Trails Day celebrations at county facilities.
 - vi. Establish and support a county Parks & Recreation Week.
 - vii. Produce parks and recreation annual report.
 - viii. Collaborate with Friends of the Parks organization.
 - ix. Develop connections with the Platte County business community by participating in chamber and EDC functions and other one-on-one advocacy opportunities.
 - x. Publicize how grants from the Platte County Parks Department have improved facilities in county municipalities.
 - xi. Establish ongoing communications and outreach responsibilities to appropriate staff with necessary resources.

- c) Continue collaboration and partnerships for funding and facility use.
 - i. Study and update county standards for park partnership development and sustainability.
 - ii. Work with YMCA to refine and improve current collaboration and identify other ways in which the two organizations can partner.
 - iii. Evaluate with school districts how the county and those entities might partner.
 - iv. Investigate additional opportunities with Kansas City, Missouri as well as other Platte County communities.

- v. Continue supporting and studying new opportunities to work with volunteer athletic associations and cultural arts organizations that are in alignment with the vision and goals of the county.
 - vi. Work with various non-profits and other entities as part of the community partnerships and collaboration goals for funding and facility use.
 - vii. Identify avenues for allowing access to parks and recreation programs and facilities for all social and economic classes.
- d) Continue to improve quality of life by funding a parks and recreation sales tax.
- i. Identify appropriate date to seek voter approval of sales tax extension.
 - ii. Outline success of current tax and what an ongoing tax would support.
 - iii. Establish a citizens' committee and work with existing user groups and partners to generate a public information campaign regarding the tax.
 - iv. Focus on how the sales tax can leverage grants and other donations and promote these successes in the community.
- e) Expand existing indoor and outdoor facilities and create a more diverse park system reflecting citizen desires.
- i. Update the Parks System Master Plan to identify underserved parks and recreation uses and citizen needs for the next five to twenty years.
 - ii. Prioritize development of those uses.
 - iii. Develop sustainability plan to continue expansion/growth of the parks system with emphasis on maintenance and environmental, cultural, and historic asset stewardship.
- f) Continue making high priority land and water-based trail and greenway connections.
- i. Include study of trails and greenways in update of Parks System Master Plan. Focus on multi-use bicycle and pedestrian facilities along greenways, streams, rivers, and upland connectors.
 - ii. Continue planning/coordination involvement in MetroGreen initiative and evaluate future regional partnership opportunities to determine benefit to Platte Countians.
 - iii. Emphasize nature-oriented, trail-based tourism along the Missouri River and Platte River.
 - iv. Evaluate need and demand for other trail/bike/pedestrian-type uses such as equestrian paths and bicycle lanes.
 - v. Tie into action step of growth and planning goal "c," which will use regulatory tools to connect green space.⁴
- g) Encourage significant green space conservation and parks in development.
- i. Work with planning department in *update of land use map* to work toward this goal.
 - ii. Work with planning department in its *review of zoning and subdivision regulations* to achieve this goal.
 - iii. Work with developers to enhance understanding that parks and recreation amenities significantly enhance property values and quality of life.
 - iv. Incorporate green space conservation principles in development of green master plan.

⁴ *Growth & Planning Goal C*: "Encourage growth patterns based on available infrastructure, physical and geographical considerations, and abundant green space."

APRIL 2008**PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Vision:

Platte County will fund, provide, and staff first-class law enforcement, criminal prosecution, and emergency management and will encourage first-class fire protection, emergency medical services, and public health.

Goals:

- a) Provide up-to-date equipment and adequate space, funding, and staffing to meet the requirements of first-class public safety, law enforcement, criminal prosecution, and emergency management, including public awareness.
 - i. Continue funding of public safety and emergency preparedness as a high priority for county government as evidenced by 2007 citizen survey.
 - ii. Study future needs and establish Platte County-specific "first class county" standards as mandated by state statutes.
 - iii. Conduct space needs analysis of the sheriff's and prosecutor's facilities.
 - iv. Create a technology improvements plan to identify appropriate, up-to-date equipment.
 - v. Encourage funding county staffing needs to meet minimum safety requirements.
 - vi. Include public safety information in a new countywide newsletter.

- b) Facilitate the evaluation of consolidating fire districts and EMS systems.
 - i. Form a Public Safety Improvements Task Force to evaluate effects of consolidation.
 - ii. Include representatives of all services districts in the evaluation process.
 - iii. Make recommendations regarding consolidation.

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TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Vision:

Platte County will support the maintenance and development of a transportation and utility system that meets the needs of citizens through the efficient management of resources and coordination with regional governments.

Goals:

- a) Improve roads and bridges for the safety of the travelling public.
 - i. Assess current conditions of roads and bridges.
 - ii. Develop maintenance plans for county roads and bridges that meet standards.
 - iii. Develop and implement capital improvement plan improve county roads and bridges.

- b) Fund roads and bridge improvements with the transportation sales tax and identify additional funding tools.
 - i. Continue to improve roads and bridges with transportation sales tax revenues.
 - ii. Utilize transportation sales tax as a local match in securing state and federal transportation monies for county road and bridge construction/reconstruction.
 - iii. Explore additional sources for transportation funding.

- c) Coordinate with local governing entities to adopt minimum requirements for new public improvements.
 - i. Facilitate periodic meetings with political jurisdictions and other groups to accomplish transportation and infrastructure goals.
 - ii. Explore the feasibility of adopting minimum requirements for new public improvements.
 - iii. Identify economic effects of such adoption.
 - iv. Make recommendations regarding adoption of minimum requirements.

- d) Evaluate the consolidation of utility and transportation districts within the county.
 - i. Establish a consolidation committee with representatives from the county; sewer, water, and transportation districts; developers; and the public.
 - ii. Explore feasibility of consolidation.
 - iii. Identify economic effects of consolidation.
 - iv. Make recommendations regarding consolidation.

- e) Evaluate the merits of a regional transit system.
 - i. Review the regional structure of the KCATA and the county's involvement.
 - ii. Explore what, if any, changes are needed in the structure to better serve the county's interests.
 - iii. Determine methods for securing changes.

- f) Protect existing transportation corridors and preserve future corridors to accommodate future growth and capacity requirements.
 - i. Update/create comprehensive county master plan identifying land use.

- ii. Determine future transportation (road, bridge, light rail) plans based on current and projected land use.
- iii. Compare existing easements to future transportation plans.
- iv. Secure additional easements if necessary.