Vision Commission Report on Topic 2. Community Character
February 2015

The Vision Commission began in January 2009 with the charge to track, measure and report on progress of vision implementation to the community. Beginning November of 2013, the Commission plans to deliver regular reports on one of the thirteen Vision Topics using at least three ways to track and measure progress on the Vision:

1. Report the scope of **Implementation Efforts** taken to address strategies and objectives in the Vision document.
2. Recognize **Significant Events** that could have an impact on one or more of the 13 Visions.
3. Develop a set of **Progress Indicators** that will help the community see whether the 13 Visions and their related goals are being fulfilled.

Vision: Columbia protects and encourages the expression of its historic and natural character, uniting the community with sustainable, healthy planning and design, beautifying the streets and lives of its citizens.

2.1. Appearance - Columbia will preserve its existing character and enhance the city's natural and man-made aesthetics.
2.2. Preservation - Historic areas will be identified, valued and preserved through education, enforcement and incentives.
2.3. Revitalization - Columbia will utilize, encourage, reward and enforce urban planning designs to promote walking and visiting, to screen for noise and lights, to preserve and restore historic areas both green and civic, and to increase a spirit of community. Columbia will provide and advertise incentives for building and retrofitting homes and businesses for energy efficiency and tailored renewable energy sources, and for restoring neighborhoods with abandoned and substandard structures.

Implementation Efforts

2.1 Appearance	2.1.1 City creates a Landscape Board that drafts a streetscape plan preserving existing character or look of neighborhoods	There is no Landscape Board, but EEC is willing to serve as a tree board to oversee tree removals
	2.1.2 Billboards are regulated	Billboards are covered in the city's sign ordinance
	2.1.3 Utilities are underground	In 2013 city staff estimated that undergrounding new lines in the southwest part of the city would add about 10% to the average utility bill, so the council has gone with overhead lines
	2.1.4 Business Loop and Providence are "cleaned up"	CATSO 2008 6.4.8 p39 - There is a plan for burying utilities and adding sidewalks on Bus 70 @ www. gocolumbiamo.com/Planning/Documents/LRTPFinalCorrectVersionno appendicesWebPage062008.pdf
	2.1.5 There is a gateway plan	The CID has approved downtown gateway design plans, but still needs to fundraise and get council approval
	2.1.6 There is assistance for homeowners (to make their properties more attractive?)	Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program and Code Deficiency Abatement Program - www.gocolumbiamo.com/Planning/Housing_Programs/#frontyard
	2.1.7 Sustainable and edible plantings are promoted	Community Garden Coalition and Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture efforts
	2.1.8 There is outreach and education (about appearance?)	Planning Department's HomeWorks Home Maintenance Training - www.gocolumbiamo.com/Planning/Forms/home-works-training.php
2.2 Preservation A+	2.2.1 City identifies someone to find resources for preservation who helps property owners preserve historic property	Historic Preservation Commission
	2.2.2 City appoints a Historic Preservation Board to find funding	Historic Preservation Commission is charged with helping to find funding
	2.2.3 City creates a webpage and informational pamphlets to educate neighborhoods about their historic importance and available incentives	Historic Preservation Commission @ http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Planning/Commissions/HPC/
2.3 Revitalization A+	2.3.1 City enforces and/or enacts stronger ordinances against absentee or irresponsible landlords	Neighborhood Response Team, Rental Compliance Law, Dilapidated Building Removal Program, Crime Free Programs, Substantial Rental Rehabilitation Programs www.gocolumbiamo. com/Police/Programs/ Crime_Prevention/Crime_Free/index.php, Chronic Nuisance Ordinance, Office of Neighborhood Services -www.gocolumbiamo. com/Neighborhoods/
	2.3.2 City provides and advertises incentives for efficient building and retrofitting, MU advises homeowners about opportunities	Planning Department's HomeWorks Home Maintenance Training - http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Planning/Forms/home-works-training.php Neighborhood Services implements neighborhood

		planning process for neighborhoods and neighborhood associations in September 2014
	2.3.3 City adopts more mixed-use zoning to encourage walkability, screening, preservation, sense of community	City completes Columbia Imagined plan which outlines how to implement goals related to Visioning Topics

Significant Events in the past year

2013
December
Grove Construction almost finished with Heibel-March restoration - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/grove-construction-almost-finished-with-heibel-march-restoration/article_9bee790a-6a07-11e3-b65b-10604b9f6eda.html

2014
January
Second-home zoning change inches towards vote - http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/171651/second-home-zoning-change-inches-towards-vote/

Proposed change allows additional house on lots in Columbia - http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/170479/proposed-change-allows-additional-house-on-lots-in-columbia/

February
Second-home zoning change inches towards vote - http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/171651/second-home-zoning-change-inches-towards-vote/

March
Columbia City Council agrees to fix brick roads, add more - http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/172550/columbia-city-council-agrees-to-fix-brick-roads-add-more/

April
Columbia City Council to consider downtown food trucks, alcohol hours - http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/172806/columbia-city-council-to-consider-downtown-food-trucks-alcohol-hours/

June
Recognition sought for fraternity house - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/recognition-sought-for-fraternity-house/article_570e3298-f7d4-11e3-889e-10604b9f6eda.html

July
Historic Preservation Commission organizes downtown walking tours - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/historic-preservation-commission-organizes-downtown-walking-tours/article_871bc33b-d38b-54e7-8458-4139e77774f2.html

Volunteer effort is genesis of Boone Village historical display - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/volunteer-effort-is-genesis-of-boone-village-historical-display/article_f78798dd-e55f-523c-b41f-78fe36915785.html

Columbia City Council approves accessory units on residential lots - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/columbia-city-council-approves-accessory-units-on-residential-lots/article_9de797d0-9c40-57c7-a954-91121e4edf43.html

August
City to host workshops on maintaining, restoring older properties - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/city-to-host-workshops-on-maintaining-restoring-older-properties/article_4051b516-95bd-51ea-8621-1c9276e0c8da.html

City redevelopment program offers affordable housing - http://www.columbiamissourian.com/stories/news/citycounty-government/ - forgotten homes purchased and redeveloped

Sigma Alpha Epsilon house up for spot on national historic registry - http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/177600/sigma-alpha-epsilon-house-up-for-spot-on-national-historic-registry/

Volunteers clean up Rock Quarry Road as panel considers its future - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/volunteers-clean-up-rock-quarry-road-as-panel-considers-its/article_c682e812-d819-52c9-a9ed-97918e1dd1d2.html

CID board approves downtown gateway designs - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/cid-board-approves-downtown-gateway-designs/article_5355a4ba-ddde-50f1-a92f-a314c939b5a9.html

September
City to encourage alternative use of spaces with PARK(ing) Day - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/city-to-encourage-alternative-use-of-spaces-with-park-ing/article_15b6e1a7-a2d0-5b3e-8ba8-d9d871f00ca2.html

Walking tour to highlight churches - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/walking-tour-to-highlight-churches/article_06cf4bf9-6455-5adf-b7b9-1d286c8ff4b2.html

City to build pedway along Forum - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/crime/first-community-violence-forum-draws-crowd-generates-ideas/article_3585a0c9-5ea1-5aae-813d-97ff70f133ae.html

City turning focus on neighborhood planning - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/city-turning-focus-on-neighborhood-planning/article_a938cea0-6b73-5f73-b9f3-7153f1a653d2.html

Walking tour of community gardens set for Monday - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/walking-tour-of-community-gardens-set-for-monday/article_ef6d8c03-3f64-517b-8574-d1714115f6b9.html

City offers volunteers chance to adopt a rain garden - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/city-offers-volunteers-chance-to-adopt-a-rain-garden/article_c1fac8e0-4b0a-5f0a-88cb-30569f7d5b3e.html

Historian leads efforts to preserve original stretch of Boone's Lick Trail - http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/179086/historian-leads-efforts-to-preserve-original-stretch-of-boones-lick-trail/

City to hire mediator to resolve East Campus parking issues - http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/178538/city-to-hire-mediator-to-resolve-east-campus-parking-issues/

Food truck lovers find outdoor cafeteria on the menu at Lucky's - http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/178693/food-truck-lovers-find-outdoor-cafeteria-on-the-menu-at-luckys/

October
Historic Preservation Commission to host twilight walking tour on ghosts and other scary tales - https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Public_Comm/Public_Information/Press_Releases/view.php?id=2792

Historic Preservation Commission taking applications for notable properties - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/historic-preservation-commission-taking-applications-for-notable-properties/article_af42b0a9-e633-5a56-9144-592d52d7b849.html
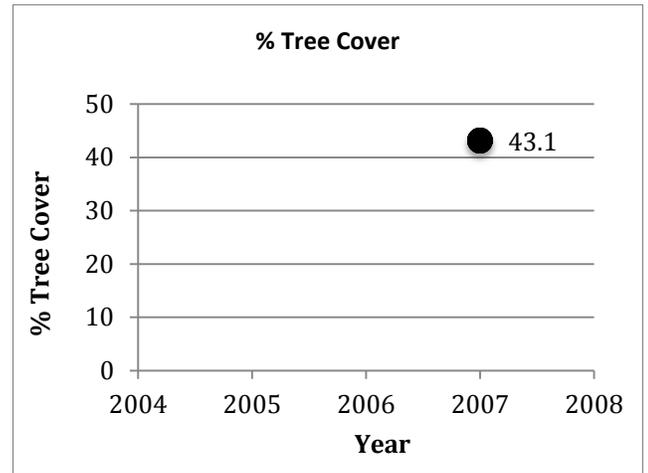
Progress Indicators

2.1 Appearance

% Tree Cover

Capen Park. Photo: Columbia Parks and Recreation

Rationale – In addition to their environmental benefits, trees have significant aesthetic qualities. Establishing tree cover throughout the city will benefit the appearance of individual neighborhoods and of the city as a whole.
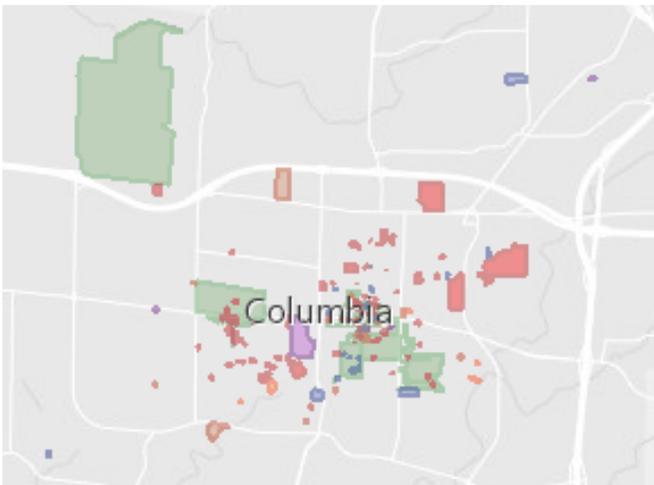**Data Explanation** – Land cover in the Natural Resources Inventory, including the kind of vegetation, can be documented by analyzing spectral signatures of satellite and aerial imagery, with verification by ground truthing. Resources Inventory
Data Source – 2010 http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Maps/NRI/documents/NRIReviewDocument10-1-2010.pdf
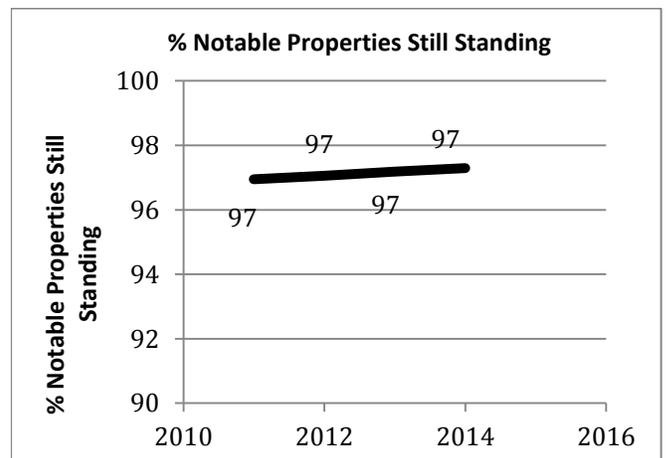**Cautions** – Tree canopy cover by itself says nothing about the age or species of trees, both of which affect aesthetic qualities as well as desirable environmental qualities.

2.2 Preservation

% Notable Properties Still Standing

Map of Columbia's Historic Properties Photo: City of Columbia

Rationale – The percentage of recognized (by the Historic Preservation Commission) structures that continue to exist after recognition is a measure of Columbia's success in preserving its heritage.
Data Explanation – The Historic Preservation Commission recognizes historic properties and reviews demolition permits.
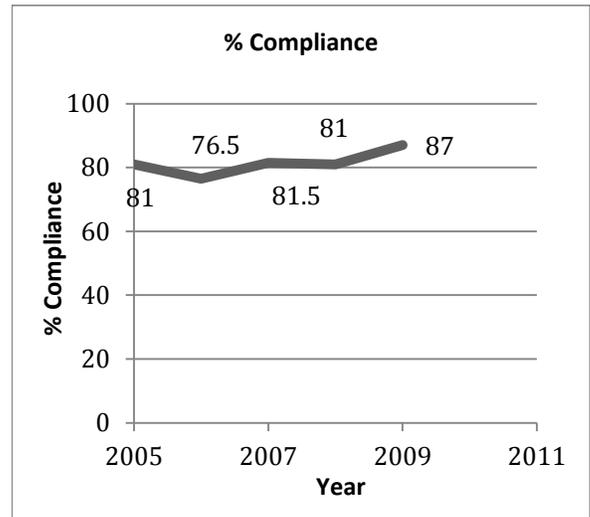**Data Source** – Historic Preservation Commission
Cautions – none at this time

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2.3 Revitalization

% Compliance With Housing Standards

Residential Rehabilitation Project Photo: James Carrel

Rationale – Columbia's Office of Neighborhood Services staff assesses housing units in the geographically defined Neighborhood Response Team (NRT) areas to determine if they meet city codes for property maintenance and residential health. Structures that are substandard are cited and the owners must bring them up to code, therefore contributing to the revitalization of city neighborhoods.
Data Explanation – The data are from the NRT areas and show the % of housing units that comply with city code over the period 2005 to 2009.
Data Source – Neighborhood Response Team, http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Neighborhoods/NRT/
Cautions – The data do not cover the whole city, only those neighborhoods in the central part of the city identified as having problems with substandard housing.