



COMMUNITY VISION AND
ACTION PLAN
COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

Citizen Topic Group members listen to
pre-meeting announcement.

3. The Vision for Columbia's Future

Introduction

During the idea-gathering phase of the process, 13 topics emerged as critical components of the desired future for Columbia. Thirteen Citizen Topic Groups were formed based on volunteer community members' passions and areas of expertise. Within each Citizen Topic Group, members identified specific subtopics and used these subtopics to help frame their efforts. Working with the ideas generated during the idea-gathering phase of the process, the Citizen Topic Groups created the vision statements, goals, and strategies necessary to guide the future vision for Columbia. A list of all 13 Citizen Topic Groups and their related subtopics can be found in the sidebar on the next page.

The Groups met monthly (and sometimes more frequently) over a six-month period to develop the vision statements and goals found in this chapter. The specific strategies designed to achieve each of these goals and support the respective vision statements are detailed in Chapter 4 – Goals, Strategies, and Action Plans.

Citizen Topic Groups, with Subtopics

1. Arts and Culture
 - a. Means
 - b. Ends
2. Community Character
 - a. Community Appearance
 - b. Historic Preservation
 - c. Revitalization
3. Community Facilities and Services
 - a. Library
 - b. Law Enforcement
 - c. Public Safety
 - d. Public Works
4. Community Pride and Human Relations
 - a. Youth
 - b. Diversity and Inclusion
 - c. Sense of Community
5. Development
 - a. Infrastructure
 - b. Land Preservation
 - c. Neighborhoods
 - d. Plan and Manage Growth
6. Downtown
 - a. Investments
 - b. Housing
 - c. Mobility
7. Economic Development
 - a. Economic Development
 - b. Airport
 - c. Jobs and Job Training
 - d. Science and Technology
8. Education
 - a. Facilities
 - b. Resource Allocation
 - c. Quality Education/Curriculum and Programs
9. Environment
 - a. Environmental Quality
 - b. Resource Conservation
 - c. Energy Efficiency
10. Governance and Decision Making
 - a. Structure
11. Health, Social Services, and Affordable Housing
 - a. Social Services
 - b. Affordable Housing
 - c. Health
12. Parks, Recreation, and Greenways
 - a. Parks
 - b. Recreation
 - c. Greenways
 - d. Trails
13. Transportation
 - a. Non-motorized Transportation
 - b. Advance Planning and Development
 - c. Road Network and Traffic Management
 - d. Public and Human Services Transportation

The Vision

Vision statements and goals are critical components of Columbia's vision for the future. There are 13 vision statements – one for each topic. There are 41 goals – one for each subtopic. Collectively, the vision statements and goals address all aspects of life in Columbia, and illustrate the collective hopes and aspirations of the community. They paint a vivid picture of what the Columbia community will strive to become in the years ahead.

Arts and Culture

Vision Statement: Arts and culture resources, artists and institutions are accessible to all, are supported by the community and provide a rich network of creative opportunities.

Goals:

- **Means:** Columbia will both sustain and creatively expand its foundation for arts and culture in our community.
- **Ends:** Arts and culture will be central to daily life and accessible to all equally in Columbia.

Community Character

Vision Statement: 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.

Goals:

- **Community Appearance:** Columbia will preserve its existing character and enhance the city's natural and man-made aesthetics.
- **Historic Preservation:** Historic areas will be identified, valued, and preserved through education, enforcement, and incentives.
- **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 for energy efficiency and tailored renewable energy sources, and for restoring neighborhoods with abandoned and substandard structures.

Community Facilities and Services

Vision Statement: High level, comprehensive, responsive services--- from library, to police, emergency, substance abuse, and public works--- keep the city clean, safe, and beautiful, and citizens informed and knowledgeable; provide equitable treatment to all, incorporate input from citizens, and support the high quality of life of the community.

Goals:

- **Library:** Access to library services, facilities, and community meeting spaces will be increased.
- **Law Enforcement:** The relationship between the Columbia Police Department and the community will be positive and mutually respectful.
- **Public Safety:** Community members will be safe and secure.
- **Public Works:** City services will be efficient, effective, and expanded.

Community Pride and Human Relations

Vision Statement: Our vision of Columbia's future is one where we all embrace and help create a welcoming, just, responsive, proactive, understanding, and respectful environment for residents and visitors alike – celebrating, rather than denigrating our collective diversity.

Goals:

- **Youth:** Columbia will develop and promote a central resource (and possibly place), creating environments that will cultivate responsible citizenship among young people.
- **Diversity and Inclusion:** Columbia will be an inclusive community where people from all walks of life hear, appreciate, understand, respect, and trust each other, and where positive relationships are fostered and human rights are advanced.
- **Sense of Community:** Connections between families, neighborhoods, and the community-at-large will be actively promoted through events, through broad, effective, and all-inclusive communication, and through interactive and fun community challenges.

Development

Vision Statement: Columbia, Boone County and the surrounding region protect and preserve the natural environment, agricultural areas, and cultural resources; provide adequate infrastructure; include diverse, mixed-use, walkable and bicycle friendly neighborhoods; and develop in ways that positively contribute to and sustain community culture, heritage, and character. Our community accomplishes these ends through an open, inclusive, transparent, predictable, and accountable planning process with fair allocation of costs.

Goals:

- **Infrastructure:** We envision a community with a well planned, proactive growth strategy that addresses the manner in which infrastructure (including but not limited to roads, utilities and other common facilities used by the community) is developed and maintained, that offers a fair and balanced approach regarding how payment for infrastructure is shared, that offers flexibility to

accommodate change, and that provides coordination among all potential stakeholders.

- **Land Preservation:** Land will be preserved throughout Columbia and Boone County to protect farmland, scenic views, natural topographies, rural atmosphere, watersheds, healthy streams, natural areas, native species, and unique environmentally sensitive areas, thereby enhancing quality of life.
- **Neighborhoods:** Columbians will live in well-maintained, environmentally sound neighborhoods that include a range of housing options and prices; that are within walking distance of amenities such as schools, places of worship, shopping and recreation facilities; and that are supported by citywide bicycle, pedestrian, and transit systems.
- **Plan and Manage Growth:** We envision a community with an open, transparent, inclusive planning process that values and manages growth, that protects the environment and the city character, and that is beneficial and equitable to all.

Downtown

Vision Statement: Downtown Columbia is a hip and vibrant district with a diversity of easily accessible businesses, residences, attractions, and institutions; it is an exciting gathering place for all types of people.

Goals:

- **Investments:** Significant investments in the physical, community, and business environment, as well as the tools to leverage economic strength will bring vibrancy and diversity of culture, professions, and businesses, and lead to major attractions and exciting destinations.
- **Housing:** Downtown Columbia will have a variety of safe housing options, including new and revitalized units, for all age groups and income levels with easy access to desirable amenities. Development and design guidelines will be instituted.
- **Mobility:** People and vehicles will have easy access to downtown businesses and services and enhanced movement within and through the downtown area.

Economic Development

Vision Statement: Columbia will attract, retain, and encourage business growth by establishing a business-friendly climate, enhancing regional economic partnerships, and fostering a digital infrastructure.

Goals:

- **Economic Development:** Columbia will attract, retain, and encourage the growth of new businesses by establishing a business-friendly climate, enhancing regional economic partnerships, and promoting reciprocal business relationships.

- **Airport:** In the future, it will be possible to efficiently and cost-effectively fly into and out of Columbia to save time and money.
- **Jobs and Job Training:** In the future, Columbia will have an employment base that is trained and qualified to work in a variety of industries. Employers will provide “decent” wages with benefits that provide opportunities for professional development, further education, good health, and quality of life.
- **Science and Technology:** By 2020, Columbia and Boone County will be known internationally as a leader of science and technology innovation, having produced more than 25 successful new high technology business start-ups in Boone County.

Education

Vision Statement: Excellent education programs and facilities are available to students of all ages in a variety of programs that both support each individual's goals and address the diverse social, economic, and environmental needs of the community.

Goals:

- **Facilities:** Educational facilities in Columbia will benefit and meet the current and long range needs of the entire community through plans for shared usage and focused attention to technology, the environment, and energy efficiency.
- **Resource Allocation:** The community and all its public and private entities will work together to ensure that resources for education are allocated effectively through all life stages.
- **Quality Education/Curriculum and Programs:** Columbia will provide a continuum of high quality educational opportunities that enable students of all ages and abilities to achieve individualized learning and training goals that ultimately improve quality of life.

Environment

Vision Statement: Columbia residents and businesses conserve all the community's natural resources, work cooperatively to apply best planning practices, model energy efficiency, transition to renewable energy, and approach zero waste generation.

Goals:

- **Environmental Quality:** Columbia and its neighboring communities will be a place where the air, water, land, and natural aesthetic qualities of our environment shall be protected by a combination of conservation strategies including, but not limited to, regulations and ordinances, conservation incentives, education programs, and smart growth planning.
- **Resource Conservation:** Columbia will be a model community that approaches zero waste of all primary and secondary forms of energy and goods, and that implements best management practices in order

to protect and conserve its natural resources and intrinsic beauty for future generations.

- **Energy Efficiency:** Columbia will work toward achieving maximum energy efficiency and transition to renewable energy sources.

Governance and Decision Making

Vision Statement: Columbia's governance is a model of transparency, efficiency, and citizen participation that enjoys the strong confidence of its residents.

Goals:

- **Structure:** Columbia's governance is a model of transparency, efficiency, and citizen participation that enjoys the strong confidence of its residents.

Health, Social Services, and Affordable Housing

Vision Statement: Columbia is a supportive, compassionate, healthy community with high quality social services, a first-rate health care system, and safe, quality affordable housing that are accessible to all.

Goals:

- **Social Services:** Columbia will support quality points of entry to access information for high quality and affordable social services to support children, youth, adults, seniors, persons with disabilities, and people with cultural barriers. All social services will be sufficiently funded to work toward the elimination of poverty.
- **Affordable Housing:** A diversity of housing choices will be dispersed throughout the community to achieve an adequate supply of affordable, energy efficient, and accessible housing.
- **Health:** Columbia will be a healthy community. All residents will have timely access to appropriate health care. Effective prevention initiatives will contribute to a healthy community.

Parks, Recreation, and Greenways

Vision Statement: A network of attractive and safe parks and recreational amenities are connected by trails and greenways that provide area residents with access to nature, recreation, and facilities for active play, both indoors and out.

Goals:

- **Parks:** A variety of attractive, well-maintained parks throughout Columbia – including neighborhood parks, regional parks, nature parks, and urban parks – will ensure all residents have access to a full range of outdoor and indoor recreational opportunities.
- **Recreation:** Columbia's recreational needs and desires will be met through effective public and private partnerships that provide outstanding, exciting, and diverse recreational facilities such as, but

not limited to, an ice skating rink, golf courses, tennis courts, soccer fields, ball fields, ball parks, and swimming pools. These facilities will be placed appropriately throughout the city to allow easy access for everyone.

- **Greenways:** An extensive network of greenways will play a significant role in providing transportation options, protecting wildlife corridors, watersheds, and floodplains, and increasing public access to natural and open spaces.
- **Trails:** An extensive, safe network of trails will accommodate a variety of users ranging from recreational to nonmotorized travelers. This network may include roadway and public transportation infrastructure to connect parks, neighborhoods, schools, and businesses.

Transportation

Vision Statement: Columbia and central Missouri, a growing urban community, will have a modern transportation system, which allows its citizens to move about freely within the region using whatever means are desired – automobile, bus, bicycle, walking – and to do so safely, within a reasonable time frame, and without encountering needless congestion.

Goals:

- **Non-Motorized Transportation:** Columbia will enjoy a safe, interconnected, non-motorized transportation network. It will be culturally supported by the citizens as it will encourage social interaction and healthy lifestyles. The roadway, sidewalk, public transit, and trail systems will all tie together into an effective integrated transportation network.
- **Advance Planning and Development:** Columbia will have diverse travel options that allow for safe and efficient travel to and through destination points. Travel options will be compatible with adjacent land uses and coordinated with the transportation timing needs of the community.
- **Road Network and Traffic Management:** A network of safe roadways in and around the city will provide sustainable, efficient mobility to vehicular travel and other modes in a complementary manner.
- **Public and Human Services Transportation:** An efficient, innovative, accessible public and human services transportation system will be fully integrated with all other forms of transportation in Columbia and surrounding communities. It will be possible for all residents to live easily in Columbia without a vehicle.