



GUIDING GROWTH FOR A VIBRANT AND THRIVING
LENEXA
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Park Board Workshop Summary

November 10, 2021 | 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

On Wednesday November 10, 2021, the City of Lenexa and Houseal Lavigne’s project consultant team hosted a Park Board Workshop at City Hall. Attendees were given worksheets prompting them to identify top five issues or concerns confronting the Lenexa community. Next, all responses were written on a large poster board and attendees were asked to select their top three most important issues discussed so far. The group was also asked to identify three specific projects or actions they would like to see undertaken in Lenexa, as well as the City’s primary strengths and assets. The number of attendees who voted or shared the same response is tallied in parentheses. A total of eight paper responses were collected.

Most Important Issues & Concerns

Attendees responded with several issues and concerns facing Lenexa, ranging from real estate development and City services to traffic and economics. The top-voted issues and concerns were:

- Economic viability of the City Center (4)
- Keeping up with the maintenance of aging infrastructure (3)
- Lack of access to mass transit (2)
- Fast pace of the City’s growth (2)

Other Issues

- Traffic at I-87 and I-435
- Affordable housing
- Low sales tax revenue
- Prioritization of small vs. large business development
- Engaging a more diverse range of residents
- Shift from suburban to urban development
- Uncertainty of how to develop into western areas
- Maintaining/expanding quality of City services
- Insufficient funding for police

Most Desired Actions or Projects

Many responses were related to businesses in Lenexa, with differing opinions on whether to prioritize small or large businesses. Other discussed topics included public services and facilities, the development of City Center, transportation, and infrastructure.

Business & Real Estate Development

- Create incentives for new or existing small businesses (2)
- Attract large sales tax generating businesses (e.g., big box stores and car dealers)
- Limit the expansion of more Amazon warehouses
- Increase tax base with retail, working with adjacent cities
- Increase residential development, including single family homes

Public Services & Facilities

- Update the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Expand the police force
- Retain, train, and increase compensation for public safety employees
- Establish a funding source to offer Pre-k for working parents

Development of City Center

- Protect the quality of City Center
- Make City Center self-sustaining, ending subsidies
- Attract more anchor business tenants to City Center

Transportation & Infrastructure

- Assess the viability of a smart transportation/grid street system (2)
- Improve the east-west traffic flow
- Build more infrastructure in western areas of Lenexa
- Add more travel lanes to the intersection of I-435 and 87th Street
- Address traffic issues and create an immediately implementable action plan

Other Actions or Projects

- Allow residents to install solar panels on roofs
- Rethink the east/west balance and the speed of western development
- Improve outreach with more creative methods of connecting with residents

Top Strengths & Assets

Workshop attendees praised Lenexa's quality of life, elected leadership, staff members, and state of real estate development, infrastructure, and businesses. Responses included the following:

Quality of Life

- Quality of life and activities (4)
- Parks and trails (3)
- Sense of public safety (2)
- Urbanized area yet small-town feel (2)
- Affordability of the City relative to its quality of life

Development, Infrastructure, & Businesses

- Lenexa's City Center
- Support for new development
- Access to highways
- The balance of residential and commercial development
- The City's focus on small and medium-sized businesses

City Leadership & Staff

- The dedication and talent of City staff (2)
- Police department quality (2)
- Fiscal responsibility (2)
- City services
- Public communication and outreach with residents