

6 East 6th Street, Lawrence, KS 66044

www.lawrenceplanning.org

Phone (785) 832-3150 Fax(785) 832-3160

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

Scott McCullough joined the department as Director of Planning and Development Services this past summer. This position heads the newly merged Planning and Neighborhood Resources departments and starts the move towards a new "one-stop shop" for all development needs.

ASSISTANCE AND APPLICATIONS

A great deal of the department's time is spent handling information requests from the development community, other departments, neighborhood groups, and the general public. 2007 marked the first year that the department started tracking the number of inquiries. The Planning Division handled over 20,000 separate phone calls, emails and in-person inquiries during 2007. As a department that amounts to roughly 12 different requests for information an hour. Of those 20,000 inquiries, it is important to note that over 7,000 were from in-person contact.

A total of 586 applications were reviewed by the Planning Division in 2007, an almost 9% increase over the number of applications reviewed in 2006. Also in 2007, 539 acres were annexed into the City of Lawrence.

GOT A QUESTION?

**WE ALWAYS HAVE A
"PLANNER OF THE DAY" ON DUTY!**

GIVE US A CALL AT 832-3150.

HISTORIC RESOURCES

In 2007, over 170 projects were reviewed under state and local preservation law, including 61 projects under Chapter 22 of the Code of the City of Lawrence, 157 Design Review Projects; and 12 Federal Section 106 Reviews. This represents an 18% increase in applications reviewed compared to 2006.

In addition to project reviews, the Historic Resources Administrator, **Lynne Braddock Zollner**, secured 2 new Certified Local Government Grants for a Design Review Intern & a Historic Resources Survey of South Massachusetts Street. A total of 5 grants, including a *Save America's Treasures Grant* for the Carnegie Library, were administered in 2007.



936-938 Kentucky Street, Contributing Structure to the new Oread Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2007.

80 new properties were surveyed in 2007 and three properties were added to the Lawrence Register of Historic Places. Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2007 include: The Oread Historic District (includes 169 buildings and structures); the East Lawrence Industrial District (includes 10 buildings and structures); the Double Hyperbolic Parabaloid House; the House House; and Plymouth Congregational Church.

POPULATION

Planning staff submitted challenges to the 2006 population estimates for both the City of Lawrence and Douglas County in September. The challenges emphasized building permit data which indicated that both Lawrence's and Douglas County's population is growing. Both challenges were accepted putting the 2006 City of Lawrence population estimate at 89,110 people and the Douglas County population at 112,559 people. Staff works hard throughout the year in an ongoing effort to track the growth of our community through population data. This represents the second year the City of Lawrence and Douglas County have successfully challenged the Census Bureau's population estimates.

SMARTCODE

The City of Lawrence retained PlaceMakers, a national planning and development advisory firm, to develop a form-based Traditional Neighborhood Design (TND) development code known as the SmartCode. PlaceMakers held a weeklong charrette (design workshop) from January 31st through February 6th, 2007. A series of public meetings, stakeholder interviews, and design work took place during the charrette. The products of the intensive efforts of the charrette are the Lawrence SmartCode and Charrette Report. Those documents, along with a link to the charrette web site, are located here: <http://www.lawrenceplanning.org/TND.shtml>.

The adoption process for the Lawrence SmartCode was initiated in December 2007, and will move forward for public hearings before the governing bodies in 2008.



Conceptual sketch of 19th and Haskell Ave. from charrette that took place in February 2007.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

The Planning Division welcomed **Anson Gock**, Senior Transportation Planner, and **Davonna Morgan**, Transportation Planner to the planning staff in 2007. Their main task in the past year has been to coordinate the update of *Transportation 2030 (T2030)*, the long range transportation plan for the urbanized region that includes the City of Lawrence and surrounding area of Douglas County. *T2030* identifies future transportation investments for all modes of transportation; including motor vehicles, public transit, and pedestrian and bicycle transportation. *T2030* updates and replaces the *T2025* Long Range Transportation Plan.



Cover for the Transportation 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan

T2030 identifies specific services and projects for each mode of travel that will be necessary to meet the transportation needs of the region through 2030. The plan is currently in its draft phase, set for public review and comment. Once comments have been addressed and revisions have been made, the Plan will be ready for adoption. Final adoption of *T2030* by the Metropolitan Planning Organization Board is anticipated in March 2008.

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB!!!

WWW.LAWRENCEPLANNING.ORG

FLOODPLAIN

The City of Lawrence participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) administered by FEMA, making flood insurance available to all community property owners. In addition, the city participates in the Community Rating System (CRS) which enables property owners to receive a discount on flood insurance. As part of our participation in the CRS program, the Planning Division conducts numerous outreach activities throughout the year, including placing a flood information brochure in all water bills during August. The brochure provides information on obtaining flood insurance, flood safety, obtaining a floodplain development permit, and historical information on floods in Lawrence.

In 2007, the Planning Division processed 14 floodplain permits.

CODE & COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATES

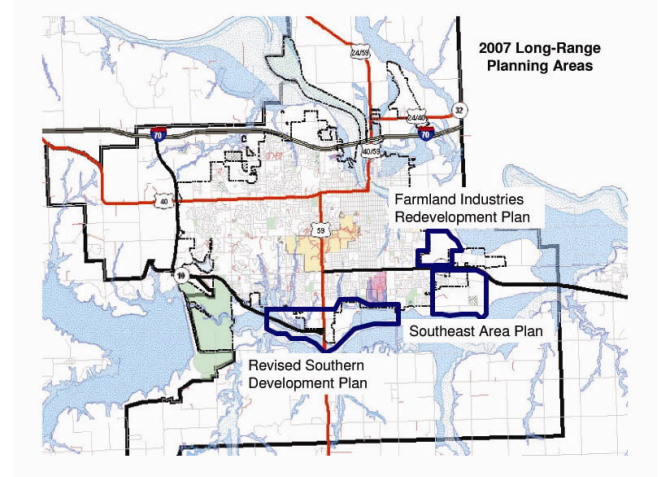
Horizon 2020 was originally adopted in 1998. There have been amendments to various chapters since the adoption of *Horizon 2020* and several complete chapter updates. Ten comprehensive plan amendments were initiated in 2007. A new chapter was added to *Horizon 2020*, Chapter 14 - Specific Plans, incorporating various specific long-range plans as comprehensive plan policy and adding the Hierarchy of Plans to *Horizon 2020*. Ongoing work developing a new Mixed Use district will continue into 2008.

Number of Text Amendments, Comprehensive Plan Amendments & PC Resolutions in 2007		
Text Amendments		
City		37
County		25
Comprehensive Plan Amendments		10
PC Resolutions		8
Total		80

The City and County Commissions adopted complete revisions to the joint subdivision regulations for the City of Lawrence and the unincorporated areas of the County which became effective January 1, 2007.

LONG-RANGE PLANS

Various long range planning documents were substantially completed in 2007 and are awaiting final approvals in the first part of 2008. The Revised Southern Development Plan is an update of the Southern Development Plan and encompasses an area generally east of K-10, south of 31st, west of Haskell Avenue and north of the Wakarusa River. After many years in the process, the Southeast Area Plan moved forward through the process with input from property owners, concerned citizens and commissions. The Farmland Industries Redevelopment Plan is a plan for the long term redevelopment of the former Farmland Industries nitrogen fertilizer plant into usable industrial and open space for the community. Like the previous plans mentioned, this plan is expected to be presented to the governing bodies in early 2008.



Planning Map showing locations of area plans worked on in 2007.

**WANT TO KNOW WHAT ZONING
DISTRICT YOUR PROPERTY IS IN?
WANT TO KNOW IF YOUR PROPERTY IS
LOCATED IN THE FLOODPLAIN?**

**CHECK OUT INTERACTIVE MAPPING
ON THE WEB!!**

WWW.LAWRENCEKS.ORG/CITY_MAPS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

Current Planners **Joe Rexwinkle** and **Mary Miller** and Long-Range Planners **Amy Miller** and **Michelle Leininger** have successfully completed the American Institute of Certified Planners [AICP] examination this year. They join the following members of the Planning staff who have previously achieved this certification: **Sandra Day, Anson Gock, Scott McCullough, Paul Patterson, and Dan Warner.**

AICP is the American Planning Association's professional institute, providing recognized leadership nationwide in the certification of professional planners, ethics, professional development, planning education, and the standards of planning practice. Certified planners use their skills to find solutions to community problems in ways that will carry the community toward its desired long-term goals. As part of maintaining AICP certification, members must earn professional development credits through ongoing training opportunities over a two-year cycle.

Staff attended various training opportunities throughout the year, including:

- The 2007 National Planning Conference sponsored by the American Planning Association.
- The 2007 Missouri American Planning Association (APA) Conference in St. Louis, MO.
- The 2007 National Preservation Conference sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.
- The Kansas Association for Floodplain Management Conference.
- A presentation from the Kansas Forest Service on determining suitability of trees or stands of trees for conservation easements.
- The 2007 Kansas American Planning Association (APA) Conference in Manhattan, KS.
- Staff also attended various lunch lectures put on by the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects that focused on sustainability issues.
- The Kansas Built Environment and Trails summit, hosted by the City of Lawrence.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

The Planning Division provides staff support to various boards and commissions throughout the year, including:

- Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Commission and its sub-committees
- Lawrence City Commission
- Douglas County Board of County Commissioners
- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Historic Resources Commission
- Bicycle Advisory Committee
- USD 497 Boundary Committee
- ECO² Industrial and Open Space Sub-committees

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

David Guntert, GIS Planner and **Renee Yocum**, GIS Analyst provide integral support to the Planning Division, as well as answering requests from the general public. In 2007, they provided support for the SmartCode Charrette and the T2030 process, in addition to recurring monthly duties associated with current planning activities.

In addition, **Renee Yocum**, GIS Analyst, maintains and updates the planning division website which is an important part of the department's customer service and outreach goals.

Training opportunities continued:

- The ESRI International Users Conference.
- Conservation Easement Workshop hosted by the Kansas Biological Survey.