



LINDSBORG, KANSAS

# Strategic Plan

---

2021 - 2024

---



# Vision

## **In 2040...**

People choose Lindsborg, Little Sweden USA, a welcoming, diverse, and sustainable community with a high quality of life where we embrace the arts, innovation, and lifelong learning so everyone can flourish.

***Lindsborg is home.***

# Goals & Objectives

## COMMUNITY IDENTITY

### HISTORY & HERITAGE

**Goal: Celebrate our unique community identity.**

Objective 1: Preserve our history and heritage.

Objective 2: Preserve our cultural legacy of the arts, innovation, and creativity.

**Goal: Welcome, include, and embrace all residents and visitors.**

Objective: Increase people's sense of belonging in the community.

### CULTURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

**Goal: Preserve our historic and cultural resources.**

Objective: Strengthen the preservation efforts of our most valued historic buildings and sites for future generations.

### COMMUNITY APPEARANCE

**Goal: Enhance our community's visual appearance.**

Objective: Improve the visual appearance of neighborhoods, major commercial corridors, historic sites, and community gateways.

## RESILIENT ECONOMY

### CHILDCARE

**Goal: Support childcare opportunities to meet the needs of all.**

Objective: Increase the availability of high-quality childcare

### EDUCATION

**Goal: Enhance education opportunities for all ages and abilities.**

Objective: Strengthen education opportunities to grow our population and increase our prosperity.

### JOBS & WORKFORCE

**Goal: Prepare Lindsborg's workforce for the jobs of the future.**

Objective: Attract a highly skilled and diverse workforce to fill available jobs.

### ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

**Goal: Ensure Lindsborg's economy is sustainable and resilient to future impacts**

Objective 1: Increase collaboration with regional economic development partners.

Objective 2: Diversify the economic base.

## SAFE & HEALTHY COMMUNITY

### PUBLIC SAFETY

**Goal: Provide public safety services for all that maintain standards of excellence**

Objective: Improve public safety response times to provide the highest level of service for Lindsborg residents, even as the community grows.

### RECREATION & LEISURE

**Goal: Support a healthy and happy community by improving recreation opportunities for all.**

Objective: Increase indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities.

## BUILT ENVIRONMENT

### NEIGHBORHOODS & HOUSING

**Goal: Support a range of housing types and prices to meet the market demand and resident needs.**

Objective: Expand the variety of housing types to support residents of all ages and abilities.

### MOBILITY & TRANSPORTATION

**Goal: Support a multimodal transportation network that is complete, equitable, and accessible for all ages and abilities.**

Objective: Enhance connections between where people live and where they work and play.

**Goal: Enhance the movement of people and goods through efficient and sustainable infrastructure.**

Objective: Improve convenience, flexibility, and safety of the transportation system.

### INFRASTRUCTURE & UTILITIES

**Goal: Provide infrastructure and utilities that are flexible, efficient, and support a high quality of life for future generations.**

Objective: Provide and maintain infrastructure at a sustainable cost.

### PUBLIC FACILITIES

**Goal: Provide public facilities and City services for all that meet standards of excellence.**

Objective: Maintain best practice levels for City services as we grow and develop.

# Community IDENTITY

## GOALS

Celebrate our unique community identity.

Welcome, include, and embrace all residents and visitors.

Preserve our historic and cultural resources.

Enhance our community's visual appearance.

## HISTORY & HERITAGE

**STRATEGY:** Preserve the traditions of Lindsborg's Swedish heritage as a foundation of our community's identity.

### LOCAL ACTIONS

#### Partnerships & Collaboration

- ✓ Encourage City leadership to engage in neighborhood and community-wide events.

**STRATEGY:** Support and enhance the artistic, innovative, and creative culture.

### LOCAL ACTIONS:

#### Programs or Services

- ✓ Encourage community partners in their efforts to create a Christmas Village during the holiday to supplement existing holiday events, offering opportunities to promote local artists, Swedish holiday traditions, and provide a range of holiday-related foods and activities. ▲

**STRATEGY:** Expand beyond our Swedish beginnings to include and celebrate the heritage and culture of all, attracting new residents and ensuring the highest quality of life for the entire community.

### LOCAL ACTIONS:

#### Practice Improvements

- ✓ Encourage festival committees to expand programming to include more people and cultures in existing community events – anyone who wants to participate in our community life is welcome and we declare them a Lindsborgian from day one.

#### Programs or Services

- ✓ Leverage the Lindsborg Art Walk to encourage more significant community interaction for all residents.
- ✓ Encourage neighborhoods to host block parties to create greater community and resident cohesion.

## CULTURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

**STRATEGY:** Preserve, restore, and reuse historic resources such as buildings, sites, landmarks, or districts with exceptional value, quality, or that illustrate the cultural heritage of Lindsborg.

### LOCAL ACTIONS

#### Partnerships & Collaboration

- ✓ Work with McPherson County to identify the best course of action to revitalize the McPherson County Old Mill Museum and property.

## COMMUNITY APPEARANCE

**STRATEGY:** Beautify all areas of our community to provide a high quality of life for all residents and provide a welcoming environment for visitors.

### LOCAL ACTIONS

#### Plan Development

- ✓ Maintain an ongoing strategy for marketing the City as a high-quality living environment as a facet of the economic development program. (2005 Comprehensive Plan)

#### Facilities or Infrastructure Improvements

- ✓ Evaluate the need to increase gateways, signage, and wayfinding markers and ensure they are welcoming, prominent, attractive, informative, and represent Lindsborg's community identity.

# Safe & Healthy COMMUNITY

## GOALS

Provide public safety services for all that maintain standards of excellence.

Support a healthy and happy community by improving recreation opportunities for all.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

**STRATEGY:** Enhance public safety services and programs.

### LOCAL ACTIONS

#### Education & Outreach

- ✓ Keep the community informed about all public safety services and policies, especially as the community grows and services change. ▲

#### Practice Improvements

- ✓ Explore opportunities for private or county-wide EMS. (2020 City Budget)

## RECREATION & LEISURE

**STRATEGY:** Plan for equitable access to parks, recreation, arts, cultural, and leisure programs and facilities – reachable by all persons regardless of social or economic backgrounds.

### LOCAL ACTIONS

#### Education & Outreach

- ✓ Facilitate community dialogue and focus on decision making for a new community-owned recreation and wellness activity center. (2018-2020 City Council Strategic Plan)

#### Facilities or Infrastructure Improvements

- ✓ Consider converting some tennis facilities into pickleball courts.

# Built ENVIRONMENT

## GOALS

Support a range of housing types and prices to meet the market demand and resident needs.

Support a multimodal transportation network that is complete, equitable, and accessible for all ages and abilities.

Enhance the movement of people and goods through efficient and sustainable infrastructure.

Provide infrastructure and utilities that are flexible, efficient, and support a high quality of life for future generations.

Provide public facilities and City services for all that meet standards of excellence.

## NEIGHBORHOODS & HOUSING

**STRATEGY:** Provide a range of housing types – size, configuration, tenure, age, and ownership structure – to accommodate changing demands.

### LOCAL ACTIONS

#### Policy & Code Adjustment

- ✓ Consider adoption of policies to allow for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in existing residential neighborhoods. ▲

## INFRASTRUCTURE & UTILITIES

**STRATEGY:** Maintain quality existing infrastructure and invest in new infrastructure that supports growth.

### LOCAL ACTIONS

#### Enforcement & Incentives

- ✓ Prioritize infill redevelopment of underutilized parcels of land served by existing infrastructure and services.

**STRATEGY:** Enhance the efficiency and reliability of energy through renewable sources.

### LOCAL ACTIONS

#### Education & Outreach

- ✓ Promote the City's diversified power supply portfolio and provide educational materials to the community regarding renewable energy benefits.

#### Programs or Services

- ✓ Implement an automated metering infrastructure system.
- ✓ Evaluate residential Level 2 electric vehicle charging.

## PUBLIC FACILITIES

**STRATEGY:** Distribute public facilities throughout the community to support equitable City services.

### LOCAL ACTIONS

#### Facilities or Infrastructure Improvements

- ✓ Consolidate Public Works facilities to continue to attract a skilled workforce and improve efficiencies. ▲

## MOBILITY & TRANSPORTATION

**STRATEGY:** Fill gaps in the transportation network.

### LOCAL ACTIONS

#### Plan Development

- ✓ Plan for expanding the Välkommen Trail system to better connect all neighborhoods to schools, services, and amenities. ▲

#### Inventory, Assessment, or Survey

- ✓ Conduct a sidewalk study and develop a plan to enhance sidewalks and provide safe walking throughout the community.

**STRATEGY:** Improve regional transportation.

### LOCAL ACTIONS

#### Plan Development

- ✓ Continue planning for the proposed interchange at I-135 and Wells Fargo Road to provide a more direct route into Lindsborg for residents and visitors. (2005 Comprehensive Plan) ▲

#### Facilities or Infrastructure Improvements

- ✓ Implement the recommendations for the 2020 Harrison Street Extension & K-4 Grade Separation Removal Study.

**STRATEGY:** Increase safety by managing congestion and improving maintenance.

### LOCAL ACTIONS

#### Facilities or Infrastructure Improvements

- ✓ Implement pedestrian crossing facilities plan on Harrison-Cole at State Street. ▲

**STRATEGY:** Incorporate new technology to ensure a flexible and resilient transportation network.

### LOCAL ACTIONS

#### Facilities or Infrastructure Improvements

- ✓ Evaluate electric utility ownership of Level 3 electric vehicle charging.

# Resilient ECONOMY

## GOALS

Support childcare opportunities to meet the needs of all.

Enhance education opportunities for all ages and abilities.

Prepare Lindsborg's workforce for the jobs of the future.

Ensure Lindsborg's economy is sustainable and resilient to future impacts.

## CHILDCARE

**STRATEGY:** Ensure the community has quality service providers and facilities.

### LOCAL ACTIONS

#### Facilities or Infrastructure Improvements

- ✔ Support the completion of the new Sprout House Project Future childcare facility and plan.

## EDUCATION

**STRATEGY:** Ensure the success and growth of the City, USD 400, and Bethany College into the future.

### LOCAL ACTIONS

#### Education & Outreach

- ✔ Continue to promote the Smoky Valley School District as a well-respected public school system to attract new families to Lindsborg.

#### Practice Improvements

- ✔ Encourage continued enrollment growth for the Smoky Valley School District.

#### Partnerships & Collaboration

- ✔ Work with Smoky Valley School District to improve graduation rates.
- ✔ Support the Smoky Valley School District in efforts to provide the kinds of learning experiences offered in the most highly rated school districts in Kansas. ▲
- ✔ Support the Smoky Valley School District as they continue to champion for all students and their:
  - social and emotional well-being,
  - resiliency,
  - academic excellence,
  - love of the arts,
  - technological savvy,
  - civic engagement, and
  - physical fitness.

## JOBS & WORKFORCE

**STRATEGY:** Increase the available workforce and ensure they are trained to meet job demands.

### LOCAL ACTIONS

#### Education & Outreach

- ✔ Market Lindsborg, and its high quality of life, to a regional, national, and international audience to attract a larger workforce. ▲

#### Partnerships & Collaboration

- ✔ Collaborate with regional partners to recruit new workers into the region.

#### Facilities or Infrastructure Improvements

- ✔ Improve childcare to help locals who might choose to stay in the workforce and to invite people to relocate to Central Kansas. ▲

## ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

**STRATEGY:** Leverage regional relationships to enhance economic development.

### LOCAL ACTIONS

#### Education & Outreach

- ✔ Promote Lindsborg among regional partners as a community for workforce to call home.

**STRATEGY:** Encourage community-based economic development and revitalization.

### LOCAL ACTIONS

#### Plan Development

- ✔ Plan for continued growth of commerce and industry based on sound land development practices that comply with the land use policies outlined in the Comprehensive Plan. (2005 Comprehensive Plan)
- ✔ Provide ample space for industrial and commercial development with convenient access to major transportation systems. (2005 Comprehensive Plan)

**STRATEGY:** Increase tourism.

### LOCAL ACTIONS

#### Partnerships & Collaboration

- ✔ Encourage the development of attractions, including the Old Mill Complex, and expanded artist-in-residence programming.
- ✔ Pursue a downtown hotel that supports tourism and conference center activities.

