



IMAGINE SHAWNEE

Inspiring our community to create a shared vision for Shawnee's future

Summary of Imagineering Session 1 Shawnee, Kansas July 15, 2019

The first Imagineering Session was held on July 15, 2019. Approximately 60 residents attended the session which was facilitated by SGR. Participants were asked to discuss a series of questions about the city as a part of collecting community input for the Imagine Shawnee Plan. These questions were discussed in small groups and a spokesperson reported to the larger group the essence of what they discussed. Each time a new set of questions were presented, the groups were reformed. Below is a summary of the answers that were given.

1. What do you like most about living in Shawnee?

- Schools+
- Location+
- Housing
- Access+++
- People+
- Bike friendly trails
- Leadership

- Traffic+
- Affordable housing+
- Small town feeling+
- Convenience
- Parks and trails+
- Community events+
- Open spaces, hills, green space, trees+
- Buy and shop locally+
- Close to restaurants in other cities
- Public safety+
- Overall vibe
- Community involvement+
- Openness
- Transit time to work/school
- Amenities+
- Sense of community
- Beautiful

2. What is One thing you would like to change about Shawnee?

- Planned growth+
- Revitalize areas+
- Better code enforcement+
- Destination places++++
- Stop incentivizing new development+
- Keep more green space
- More fine dining
- Downtown destination
- Walkability
- More commercial development+
- Bridge east/west divide+
- Revitalize downtown
- Economic development in all areas of the city
- More restaurants+
- More high-end developments

3. What is One thing you would like to stay the same?

- Sense of community+
- Open space++++
- East/West as one town
- Not a cookie cutter town

- Bike-ability+
- Rural feel
- Small town feel+++++++
- Transportation
- Quality parks and recreation++++
- Accessibility+
- Breweries
- Not a lot of strip malls

4. What are the Strengths of Shawnee?

- Police, Fire, Public Works++
- Sense of community++
- Access to highways++
- Housing price-points+
- Schools+
- Strong history
- People care/Sense of belonging
- Roots with wings
- Diversity
- Accessibility to local government
- Space for new development
- Low crime
- City leadership
- Public involvement+
- Natural beauty
- Government structure/staff+
- Parks and Rec+
- Ways to get involved
- Government staff and stability
- Accessibility to the rest of the city
- Volunteers and city staff

5. What are the Weaknesses of Shawnee?

- Infrastructure+++
- East/West Divide++
- Nieman Now Codes
- No new businesses
- Shawnee Mission Parkway traffic
- Reputation
- Attracting new business

- Parking
- Traffic congestion
- Walkability+
- Implementation
- Small business trouble
- Need more restaurants
- Hostile to development
- Good pay for public safety
- Weak tax base+
- Code enforcement
- Rundown strip malls
- Streets/sidewalks
- Divisiveness of community
- Leadership
- Poor east side infrastructure
- Road repairs taking too long

6. What are the Opportunities for Shawnee?

- Small town feel+
- Location++
- Bring back fireworks+
- Revitalization
- Improve on current things
- 435 Land Development++
- Diversified housing
- Valley of Champions
- Workspace/remote workers
- Downtown++
- Trails to connect East/West
- Events to connect East/West
- Nieman/Entertainment+
- Available land++
- Long term plan
- Increase recreation opportunities
- Well-balanced city
- Indoor/Outdoor Recreation
- Revitalization of Core areas+
- Use land and assets wisely
- Health
- People want things close to home
- Nieman Now
- Transparency in government

- Increased technology
- Sidewalks
- More entertainment+
- Parks
- Relationship with Lenexa
- Open land and a long-term plan for development

7. What are the Threats to Shawnee?

- Retain businesses
- Impact of population growth
- Infrastructure++
- Online Businesses vs Brick and Mortar Businesses+
- Stagnation
- Diversity of tax base+++
- Too large to be a bedroom community
- East/West Divide++
- Multi-family housing+
- Fear of change+
- Uncooperative landowners
- Aging population+
- Not welcoming to businesses
- Too much development too fast++
- No long-term plan+
- Developing in an environmentally friendly way
- Housing diversity
- Competition
- Complacency
- Lack of funds
- Lack of skilled workers
- Lack of community cohesiveness
- Avoid tax wars with new and old developments
- Failing to keep up with infrastructure

8. What Needs to be Improved or Added?

- Finish Nieman Now
- Downtown Revitalization
- Commercial Development
- Multi-use Outdoor Facility
- Fostering Development
- Entertainment
- Housing Diversity

- Incentivize people 18-35 years old to move here
- Attracting small businesses
- Larger commercial tax base

9. **What Should City Council be Focused on for the Future?**

- Economic Development Planning+
- Infrastructure for future development++
- Diversified tax base+
- Bold envisioning comprehensive plan and communicating it+
- Long-range plan but don't forget about the current
- Revitalization/Re-zoning
- Keep citizens informed
- Listen to citizens
- Downtown development
- More community engagement
- Fiscal responsibility+