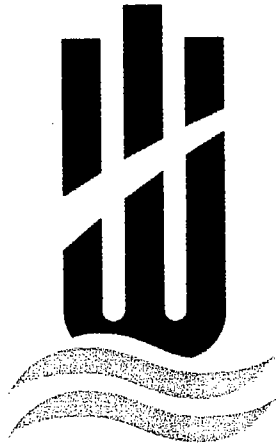


City of Wichita



*Recent
Projects
Completed*



C I T Y O F
W I C H I T A

Accomplishments
1996 to 2004

Compiled by the City Manager's Office
With Assistance from All Departments

July 16, 2004

DOWNTOWN

- The City has invested \$157 million over the past decade in **core area improvements**, through the CIP, to strengthen the heart of our community. The goal is to make downtown Wichita a more desirable destination for residents and tourists, retain and increase business activity, and increase the number of people who live in the heart of the community.
- The **Old Town District** is a unique public-private project with a primary goal of converting the decayed and dormant turn-of-the-century historic warehouse district into a vibrant new mixed-use development. Investment in the Old Town District by the City, developers, businesses, and banking community is in excess of \$120 million.
- **The Hotel at Old Town**, the result of a public/private partnership, opened in Old Town in Spring 1999. The \$9.5 million project renovated the historic Keen Kutter building into a high quality, extended stay lodging location. The adjoining parking garage, which is open to the public as well as Hotel guests, was built and is maintained by the City.
- **The Old Town Cineplex** project, with a public investment of nearly \$10 million, opened in 2003. This project has significantly expanded the boundaries of the Old Town area and stimulated additional redevelopment, primarily small retail outlets. The area also includes a landscaped public square for outdoor events.
- **The Museum of World Treasures** and the **Kansas Sports Hall of Fame** both relocated to Old Town locations. The Hall of Fame relocated from Abilene Kansas, while the Museum of World Treasures moved and expanded from another downtown location in Wichita.
- **River corridor improvements**, on both the east and west banks of the river near the "Keeper of the Plains," are estimated at nearly \$32 million to enhance the public's enjoyment of this great community natural asset. This was approved in December 2003 pending budget and will create a world-class corridor to support the tourism initiative's goal of attracting more visitors to Wichita.
- **Exploration Place** is one of many examples of the community coming together through various partnerships to create a spectacular new amenity. The City's commitment to relocate McLean Boulevard and supply the land was met generously by Sedgwick County and the business community. The \$60 million investment in this 100,000 square foot facility truly changed the face of Wichita.
- The now City-owned **Hyatt Hotel and Conference Center** is a \$40 million dollar partnership. Citing the lack of quality hotels in the downtown as the main reason for the lack of convention business – a key economic development tool – this hotel anchors the convention center. Wichita is the only city its size in the country to have a first class Hyatt Hotel and the first site of Hyatt's new franchise concept.
- **The Eaton Hotel Renovation** is a \$15 million dollar partnership with a private developer to restore this important historic structure into a mixed-use facility consisting of offices, apartments, and retail stores. This project rehabilitated an important area of downtown that links the Old Town area to the rest of

downtown. It also addressed the City Council's goals to increase residents, businesses, and retail downtown. This project has received local, state, regional and national awards for its unique public-private partnership.

- **Douglas Street improvements**, which include major streetscape and a new bridge, represent approximately \$10 million expended by the City to beautify and improve the operation of this vital business and visitor corridor. The Douglas Street Bridge received the American Concrete Institute's 2000 Bridges Award for its use of artistic enhancements.
- The **Lewis Street bridge replacement** was an investment of \$5 million to lengthen the life of the bridge and improve its traffic operation. This project, along with the Douglas Street Bridge, represents the City's commitment to **community beautification through public art**.
- By spending \$3.4 million to make **Main Street a two-way street** between Kellogg and Douglas, the City helped improve one of Wichita's most important tourism corridors. Main Street now serves as an impressive gateway to downtown and creates greater access and visibility to the area's beautiful historic structures and hotel and convention facilities.
- **The Way Finding System** is a \$507,000 signage system that graphically directs people to destinations downtown. The ability to more easily find important destinations makes the core area more inviting to visitors and residents.
- **Wichita Transit Authority's \$7 million storage, administration, and maintenance (SAM) facility** allows for more efficient system operations and room for growth. The funding for this facility included \$5.6 million in federal funds.
- **Reflection Square**, an approximately \$600,000 project, commemorates an important site in Wichita's and the Civil Rights Movement's history – the former Woolworth's location. This interactive park provides a pleasant setting for visitors, residents, and workers in the downtown area while commemorating an important historical site.
- **Lawrence Dumont Stadium** in 2001 received a \$3 million dollar face-lift to improve the ballpark's look and functionality. Since 1989, the City has spent \$10 Million to renovate and upgrade this facility.
- **West Douglas, from the Arkansas River to Seneca**, was reconstructed in 2003 to provide diagonal parking, a traffic circle, new lighting and landscaping, as well as replacing the deteriorated street and sidewalk. The \$2.7 Million project has provided new amenities that complement the historic Delano neighborhood.
- **Sidewalk Café** procedures, authorized via an ordinance adopted by the City Council, in 2001 have resulted in a number of sidewalk cafes on public property in Old Town and Delano.

- In 2003, the city acquired the former Kansas Paint manufacturing facility and property located in Old Town. The buildings on the site were demolished and an 87-car surface parking lot is being constructed for completion Summer 2004.
- **Wichita Ambassador Program** began in 2002 for downtown Wichita. This program combines parking enforcement with hospitality services for visitors.

ECONOMIC

- The City of Wichita's long hard fight against the **unfair electric rates** charged by Western Resources paid off. Instead of \$151-million rate hike, the KCC ordered the company to reduce rates by \$41-million.
- **Attracting lower cost air service** to Wichita is an important economic development objective. In 2003, 1,431,610 passengers flew out of Wichita, surpassing the record that was set in 1996 when passenger traffic was at 1,427,542. Overall, since the inception of Fair Fares in 2001, passenger volume has jumped nearly 27%. While passenger traffic has continued to rise since the inception of Fair Fares two years ago, ticket prices have steadily fallen. The average one-way fare out of Mid-Continent Airport in 2003 was \$137, compared with \$182 in 2002 and \$216 in 2001. In total, conservative estimates state that passengers have saved \$85 million on airfares since low-cost airlines AirTran Airways, Frontier JetExpress and Allegiant Air entered the market. *Aviation Daily* ranked ICT as the 19th fastest growing airport in the country.
- In 2003, Wichita Mid-Continent Airport received \$4.5 Million in Discretionary Funds from the Federal Aviation Administration.
 - A **Master Plan** project is under way which will evaluate Jabara Airport and Mid-Continent Airport's current status and assets, and will provide guidance as to the future development of the terminal building and airport.
 - In an effort to further expand and develop the airport, 216 acres of land have been acquired for Jabara Airport. Furthermore, to address the parking needs resulting from the increased passenger traffic at Mid-Continent Airport, a project was approved in March 2004 to construct a 460-space remote parking lot. Shuttle service will also be provided to this lot upon its completion in November 2004.
 - Shuttle service between the Mid-Continent Airport terminal building and the long-term parking lot was implemented in November 2003 to assist travelers.
 - **Taxiway "M"** was completed in late 2002 at a project cost of \$9,100,000. This taxiway will accommodate development on the east side of the Mid-Continent Airport airfield.
- The **Regional Economic Area Partnership** was formed, due to the City of Wichita's leadership, to generate stronger influence in Topeka and to improve economic development efforts through cooperation in South Central Kansas. Today, the 30 local governments from seven counties -- who account for 25% of the state's population and income -- regularly work in unison to improve this region.

- The partnership formed with Cessna to open the **Cessna Training Facility** provided much needed revitalization to the 21st Street Corridor and has provided essential job training skills for hundreds of low-income residents in the area. The original \$400,000 loan by the City has grown into a \$40 million public-private partnership that has created more than 300 permanent jobs for the Center's graduates.
- A new **Cessna Citation Service Center** is under construction near Mid-Continent Airport. This new 450,000 square foot facility and attendant infrastructure support projects are being built at a cost of slightly more than \$100 million. When completed, it will be the largest general aviation-business aircraft maintenance facility in the world, and Wichita will be the premier location for Cessna Citation service. More than over 800 jobs will be created and the estimated annual economic impact to the area will exceed \$56 million.
- As a result of the City's **economic development incentives**, nearly 5,200 jobs have been created over the past 5 years.
- The City's aggressive **annexation program** has resulted in adding of 26.9 square miles to the City of Wichita in the past 8 years. 2.3 square miles were added in 2002 and 2.1 square miles were added in 2003.
- The **Heart of Wichita campaign** utilized professional marketing techniques to increase visibility and use of programs aimed at increasing redevelopment in the community's core area. Success was realized early on when more than 700 inquiries were received within the first week of its debut (a typical week's worth of phone calls was 50 inquiries for the various home improvement/ownership programs). This campaign obtained national recognition when it was selected for the *Savvy Award for Best Marketing Campaign* by the City-County Communications and Marketing Association.
- The City's **development departments** through a continuous improvement model developed by General Electric have reduced time in the processing of development projects from between 35%-75%. In addition, improvements have been made in customer service for developers as well as consistency, reliability and predictability in project reviews. National recognition has been received for these improvements.
- The **Strategic Master Plan for Tourism (aka Tourism Initiative)**, a community visioning project authored by renowned national tourism consultant Alf Nucifora, set a comprehensive strategy to increase visitors to Wichita, generate significant economic benefits, and enhance the area's quality of life. This 5-year plan involves attraction development, new special events (such as the Aviation Festival) and conventions (such as the Women's International Bowling Congress, expected to draw over 40,000 bowlers and generate \$23 million in economic benefits), and increasing residents' pride in the community.
- The **Wichita Aviation Festival** was initiated in 2002. This new festival has already been extremely successful, hosting over 100,000 visitors in 2003. This fall event, coupled with the late spring River Festival, creates two large festival events for Wichitians and visitors.

ENVIRONMENT

- The **Equus Beds Recharge Demonstration Project** was initiated to ensure Wichita and surrounding areas have a sufficient water supply for decades to come. To date, the project has recharged more than one billion gallons of water back into the Equus Beds.
- **Clean up of the Arkansas River** is an important step to protect the community's most important natural resource through the efforts of the advisory committees and the *Our River, Our Responsibility* campaign. The study to monitor and identify sources of pollution represents an innovative way of using technology and intergovernmental cooperation to improve the region's water quality.
- The City eliminated one sanitary sewer crossing the **Little Arkansas River** and is designing the replacement of another crossing, to eliminate the possibility of sanitary sewage leaking into the River. The City also smoke tested and televised the sewers in the **Riverside area** and discovered and corrected one cross connection between the sanitary sewer system and the storm drain system.
- **The Gilbert & Mosley Project** is considered to be one of the most innovative public-private partnerships ever created to address a complex environmental problem of groundwater contamination. This project has earned the City of Wichita national recognition for its efforts to locally address a serious community challenge by avoiding Superfund intervention, a potential public health risk and a negative impact on the local economy. The City of Wichita received the prestigious Ford Foundation's Innovations in State and Local Government Award from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government for its forward-thinking leadership and its will to create revolutionary practices to accomplish community goals. This innovative designation avoided SuperFund status, which would have effectively halted development in areas of Downtown and Old Town. Without this project, Old Town would not be what it is today.
- The Brooks **Construction and Demolition Landfill** is in operation. With the closure of the City-owned Brooks Landfill on October 9, 2001, the City needed a landfill to dispose of construction and demolition waste. Utilizing the private transfer station system would cost City taxpayers an estimated \$3.5 million a year in tipping fees. That is an unreasonable cost for disposal of street sweepings and demolition waste. Brooks C&D Landfill is operated by a contractor, under City supervision. City waste is accepted free of charge, and the landfill is also available to the public for a fee. The fees help offset the cost of City solid waste programs such as tree limb disposal and neighborhood clean-ups.
- Significant investments have been made to maintain efficient and environmentally sound **sewage treatment facilities**. Plant #2 receives primary treated wastewater from Plant #1 and is designed to treat 54 mgd of wastewater daily. After completion of treatment, flow from Plant #2 is discharged into the Arkansas River. In 2003 the Water & Sewer Department completed construction and placed in operation the **Cowskin Water Quality Reclamation Facility** and associated **Main Pumping Station**. This facility is the most advanced treatment facility in the region. The facility includes walking trails, fishing venues and a future reconstructed wetland. An \$8.5 million rehabilitation project at Plant #2 was completed and placed in operation in 2002. Significant improvements were made in preliminary and primary treatment processes and the method of disinfecting treated wastewater was converted from

chlorine gas to ultraviolet light disinfection. During the first quarter of 2004, plant modifications to the **Four Mile Creek Treatment Plant** were completed. Treatment capacity at this facility was increased from 1.5 million gallons per day to 3.0.

- On April 1, 2001, the City assumed ownership and operation of Sedgwick County's **Four Mile Creek** sewage treatment facility. Afterwards, the facility was rehabilitated and upgraded to increase the treatment capacity from 1.5 million gallons per day to 3.0 million gallons per day.
- Water and Sewer discovered and repaired a leak on a sanitary sewer crossing **Four Mile Creek**, eliminating stream water from entering the pipe and overtaxing the treatment plant. Sewer staff also conducted sump pump inspections in the Four Mile Creek collection area and eliminated 100 improper sump pump connections.
- The City completed negotiation of a **wholesale water contract with the City of Derby** in June of 2001. Additionally, a **wholesale wastewater treatment contract** was successfully negotiated with the **City of Kechi**. The contracts are complete; service to Derby started in 2004 and service to Kechi in 2003.
- Upgraded **Biosolids Treatment and Recycling facilities and procedures**, investing \$31 million, used to dispose of solid waste from the sewer treatment process. By treating and recycling this waste, the City is able to reduce the materials taken to the Brooks Landfill and provide area farmers with fertilizer to help grow their crops.
- A comprehensive **Code of Management Practices for Silver and Mercury** discharges has been implemented. This voluntary compliance program targets photo finishers, dentists and other medical offices. Silver rich solutions from the photo developing processors, which was previously discharged to the sanitary sewer, is now treated for silver removal and disposed at an approved facility. Best management practices are now in place to reduce the amount of mercury from dental restorations.
- A \$4.4 million investment at the **Cheney Pump Station** involves rehabilitation of the facility, which was put into service in 1965. These changes increase the capacity of the pump station from 20 million gallons per day to 80 million gallons per day capacity. The majority of the City's water supply comes from Cheney Reservoir.
- **The Cheney Watershed Protection Project** is a partnership with area farmers and producers in the watershed to reduce pollution entering the reservoir and extend the life of the reservoir. The project was designated one of the best projects of its kind in the nation in an awards ceremony at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- The City has invested more than \$33 million to improve the **storm water system** to protect lives and property from flooding since the Storm Water Utility was established in 1992. The widening of the Canal along I-135 is a \$3.5 million project. In response to the flooding of the Cowskin Creek in west Wichita, the City is spending approximately \$5 million of local funds to lessen the occurrence of future flooding.

- The **Brooks Landfill Groundwater Remediation System** was developed, at a cost of \$1.5 million, by Public Works and Camp Dresser & McKee to remove contaminants from groundwater downstream from the landfill. This system consists of an air stripping operation at the landfill boundary, and a groundwater extraction/sir stripping operation a half-mile away. It received the American Academy of Environmental Engineers' 1999 Grand Prize for Design.
- The **Great Plains Nature Center** is a collaborative effort between the United States Department of Interior, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, and the City's Parks and Recreation Department to fund and staff a facility devoted to instruction about natural resources in the Great Plains region.
- In 1998, EPA recognized the City of Wichita as implementing the **best national pretreatment program** in Category II (Sewer utilities that permit between 50 and 100 industries). The City was recognized for having an innovative enforcement and inspection program, which results in the Wichita industries maintaining a 96% compliance rate with pretreatment regulatory requirements.

FINANCIAL

- The City's 2004 adopted budget totals more than \$368 million. This represents the 10th consecutive year the **mill levy has not increased (since 1993 mill levy for the 1994 budget)**. During this time period, the City's population grew by 14% and land area expanded by 30%.
- The 2004-2013 **Capital Improvement Program** provides for \$1.5 billion in capital investments. The 10 mills required to fund capital investments are not increased to fulfill this accelerated plan.
- The City has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) **Distinguished Budget Award** every year since 1989; it also holds the GFOA **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting** for the past 30 years, longer than any other governmental entity in Kansas. Additionally, the City has received the **Certificate of Excellence Award** from the Municipal Treasurer's Association for its investment policy (the only governmental entity in Kansas to receive this recognition), the **National Purchasing Institute Excellence in Procurement** award for the last three years, and the **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for Pension Systems** for the last four years.

FREEWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

- The 2004-2013 CIP allocates \$96.8 million to construct **Kellogg to a six-lane freeway** from Rock Road in east Wichita to Maize Street in west Wichita by 2006. Since 1990, \$480 million has been committed to construct the Kellogg freeway, including the Downtown Flyover and interchanges at Rock, Woodlawn, Oliver, Seneca, Meridian/K42, Ridge, Tyler and Maize. This commitment is a testament to the community's resolve to ensure safer travel and strengthen the economic potential of the region. Wichita residents will pay the "lion's share" of that totaling nearly 70% out of local sales tax dollars.

- Construction of **K-96 freeway around northeast** Wichita was a \$60 million investment to provide a vital transportation capability for one of the City's fastest growing areas. In addition, the Kansas Department of Transportation has adopted a corridor location plan for a future **Northwest loop** to serve this fast growing area. Right of way and environmental assessment plans are underway.
- Funding is secured for **railroad mitigation and elevated trackage** totals \$110.5 million. This issue emerged as a result of expanded rail service through the City as a result of the Southern Pacific railroad merger. Funding sources for this project are: state (\$50 million), federal (\$26.7 million), Union Pacific (\$16.2 million) and City (\$17.6 Million). This project will improve both train and vehicle traffic flow and safety downtown and along the Pawnee corridor.
- Grant proposals for **Transportation Enhancement projects** were developed, resulting in awards totaling \$3,181,000 over the past 5 years. They include bike/hike trail extensions (Zoo Blvd, etc.), scenic environment (3rd St. Drainage, etc.), and historic preservation (Kansas Firefighter's Museum) categories.

HEALTH

- The **Metropolitan Medical Response System** (MMRS) is a comprehensive community plan to handle large-scale disasters. City and County public safety operations work in cooperation with the medical community to ensure preparedness in advance of major incidents.
- **Project Access** is another partnership between the City, County, medical institutions, and non-profit community to provide medical care to the uninsured residents.
- The City's Animal Shelter and the Kansas Humane Society both have plans to construct new facilities to meet the growing need for animal care and sheltering. The two organizations have come together to study the feasibility of joining forces to address issues and develop a partnership to serve the community.

INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE

- There has been a one-third **reduction in sewer stoppages** in the past 5 years. Sewer backups resulting from surcharging during rain events have been eliminated. Sewer stoppages have been further reduced 3% in the past 5 years.
- **Storm water inflow** to the sewer system has been reduced by 30 million gallons per rain event in the past 5 years
- There has been a **rehabilitation of 140,000 feet of sanitary sewers** in the past 5 years and an 11% expansion of the sanitary sewer system. The sewer system mileage expanded 10% from 1999-2003. The City rehabilitated 210,400 feet from 2000-2003.