



Chapter 6: Active Community Involvement and Regional Cooperation



For related guiding principles, goals, and policies, refer to: Chapter 3: A Coordinated and Efficient Pattern of Growth; Chapter 5: Efficient Use and Expansion of Public Facilities and Services; Chapter 8: A Balanced Multi-Modal Transportation System.

Background and Intent

The administration of the Comprehensive Plan and its component parts is the joint responsibility of the City of Manhattan, Riley County, and Pottawatomie County. To ensure that the intent of the Comprehensive Plan is carried out, the City and Counties will continue to foster coordination and cooperation between themselves, the Flint Hills Metropolitan Planning Organization, Flint Hills Regional Council, Kansas State University, Flint Hills Economic Development District, Flint Hills Regional Transit Administration, Fort Riley, Manhattan Urban Area Planning Board, Riley County Planning Board, Pottawatomie County Planning Commission, area service providers, and others in the region on issues of shared significance. A range of opportunities for public participation in the planning process will be provided to promote increased awareness and civic engagement among all segments of the community—youth, college students, young families, retirees, and older adults.

Promoting active community involvement and regional cooperation is based on the following guiding principles:

- Strong partnerships and a commitment to collaboration at the local and regional level; and
- A variety of public participation opportunities in the community planning process.

The goals and policies in this chapter, in conjunction with the supporting policy documents identified at the end of this chapter and other goals and policies contained in this Plan, should be used to promote ongoing collaboration among the City, Counties and other agencies and organizations in the region and to promote effective community engagement.

Guiding Principles, Goals, and Policies (RC)

Guiding Principle RC-1: Strong partnerships and a commitment to collaboration at the local and regional level

GOAL RC-1.1: PROMOTE A COORDINATED APPROACH TO LONG-RANGE PLANNING WITHIN THE REGION ON ISSUES OF SHARED SIGNIFICANCE



RC-1.1A: Local and Regional Planning

Coordinate the principles, goals, and policies contained in the Comprehensive Plan with those set forth by other governmental agencies within the region, such as the Flint Hills Metropolitan Planning Organization, Flint Hills Regional Council, Kansas State University, Flint Hills Economic Development District, Flint Hills Regional Transit Administration, Fort Riley, Manhattan Urban Area Planning Board, Riley County Planning Board, Pottawatomie County Planning Commission, area service providers, and others in the region. Actively participate in area-specific or issue-specific plans and studies led by others, with a particular emphasis on plans that address issues of shared significance, such as land use, transportation, the provision of infrastructure and services, housing, economic development, conservation of natural resources, and hazard mitigation.

RC-1.1B: KSU Coordination

Work closely with Kansas State University to coordinate on such issues as the location of growth and development, provision of public facilities and services, conservation of natural resources, and revenue sharing, to ensure that future uses on KSU land both inside and outside of the Campus Core are mutually compatible with the goals and objectives of this Comprehensive Plan, the mission of KSU, the Campus Master Plan, the North Campus Corridor Master Plan, and other supporting plans prepared by KSU.

RC-1.1C: Coordination of Services

Coordinate with internal service departments as well as with other governmental organizations that provide services to residents, such as the school districts, Flint Hills Area Transportation Agency (ATA Bus), Flint Hills Regional Transit



Administration (FHRTA), city and county parks and recreation divisions, and others to ensure that existing and new neighborhoods have adequate services and that existing public facilities are properly maintained to serve the needs of current and future residents.

RC-1.1D: Fort Riley Coordination

Work closely with Fort Riley to coordinate on issues of mutual concern, particularly as it relates to growth and development issues in the western portions of the Planning Area, to minimize land use conflicts and encroachments, and ensure that development is mutually compatible with the goals and objectives of this Comprehensive Plan and the mission of Fort Riley. Ensure that land use and development policies of the City and Riley County are consistent with the Joint Land Use Study for Fort Riley to protect it from incompatible development encroachment.

RC-1.1E: Flint Hills Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Work closely with the Flint Hills MPO and other partners on land use and transportation planning issues in the region. Actively participate in the development of the Flint Hills Transportation Plan and supporting travel demand model. Provide updated Future Land Use map information to the MPO as necessary to ensure consistency.

RC-1.1F: Flint Hills Regional Transit Administration (FHRTA)

Work with the FHRTA and other partners to develop plans for enhanced transit services within the region. Three counties, two cities and KSU have created the FHRTA through an interlocal agreement. The FHRTA is the Designated Recipient of FTA Urbanized Area funds that are allocated to the Manhattan Urban Area. These funds are for transit services within the Manhattan Urban Area or for routes that begin or end in the Manhattan Urban Area.

RC-1.1G: Intergovernmental Agreements

Continue to coordinate on and develop agreements related to issues such as improved planning coordination, location of growth and development, economic development, provision of public facilities and services, conservation of natural resources, revenue sharing, and to discourage development outside of defined urban service/growth areas that would limit the long-term growth potential of the Manhattan Urban Area. Continue discussion between the City and Counties of possibly revising the interlocal agreement and jurisdictional area of the Manhattan Urban Area Planning Board.

GOAL RC-1.2: COORDINATE AND STREAMLINE DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES

RC-1.2A: Review and Streamline Development Processes

Coordinate City and County development review and approval processes to the extent feasible, to increase predictability and efficiency and to reduce housing and development costs.

RC-1.2B: Interdepartmental/Interagency Coordination

Foster a highly integrated approach in the implementation of the Manhattan Urban Area Comprehensive Plan, and other plans and policies to reduce duplication of efforts, promote efficiency, and foster cooperation between City and County departments and partner agencies.

Guiding Principle RC-2: Varied public participation opportunities in the community planning process

GOAL RC-2.1: PROVIDE PROPERTY OWNERS, DEVELOPERS, INVESTORS, AND THE PUBLIC INFORMATION TO ENABLE THEM TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS ABOUT LONG-RANGE PLANNING



RC-2.1A: Citizen Involvement in Planning

Encourage participation from neighborhood-based community organizations, business and professional groups, residents and property owners in land development decisions as well as services and facilities planning. Notify organizations that may be affected by decisions in a timely manner so they have an opportunity to participate and/or sponsor meetings.

RC-2.1B: Encourage Civic Engagement

Provide a range of opportunities—through committee appointments, partnerships with other agencies in the City, Counties, and other parts of the region, and other civic engagement activities — for citizens to participate in and learn about planning processes and governance within the Manhattan Urban Area.

RC-2.1C: Tracking and Monitoring

Promote open communication and a transparent process by providing a centralized access point for the public to monitor the City and Counties annual progress towards the implementation of the goals and policies adopted as part of the Comprehensive Plan.



Related Plans and Policy Documents

The following previously developed documents may or may not have been formally adopted as a part of the Comprehensive Plan; however they provide important background information and policy direction with regard to regional coordination. Refer to [Appendix B: Related Plans and Policy Documents](#) for additional information on each plan and links to the full documents.

- Flint Hills Transportation Plan (In progress)
- Housing Matters: The Flint Hills Frontiers Fair Housing Equity Assessment / Regional Analysis of Impediments (under development)
- New Horizon: Education, Entrepreneurship and Environment in the Flint Hills (2013)
- Flint Hills Regional Growth Plan (2008)
- Flint Hills/Fort Riley Joint Land Use Study (2017)

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