

G GARDNER

KANSAS
Blazing New Trails



The City of Gardner Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2015 chronicles a year of hard work and accomplishments for a municipal organization of nearly 140 employees who provide the highest level of service to the community and perform every duty with excellence. Through the vision and guidance of our Governing Body, city staff pursued opportunities that focused on maintaining and improving the city's existing infrastructure and assets while continuing to plan for growth and enhancing fiscal stewardship to efficiently promote core services.

During 2015, we continued to build upon our work to position Gardner for long-term economic growth and prosperity. Major accomplishments in this area include the completion of our Growth Management Strategy that identifies future growth and development decisions and also the development of our Economic Development Incentive Policy to help attract businesses to Gardner.

This year also marked the successful passage of the .5% Special Purpose Sales Tax Renewal that will help address our infrastructure needs and improve the quality of life for our citizens. Maintenance and improvements will begin this summer.

Lastly, we also celebrated the launch of our new brand identity consisting of a new logo that represents speed, forward movement and progress. "Blazing New Trails" serves as the official tagline, and together with the logo symbolizes both the city's historic trails and its vision for continued business growth and development.

As you read this annual report in detail, you will see some of the additional accomplishments of 2015, demonstrating the important work executed year round by city staff.

It is a new day in Gardner, and through our partnership with our residents and businesses, we will continue to stay on this positive trajectory towards economic prosperity. We are "Blazing New Trails," and I believe these trails will lead to an even better 2016.



Cheryl Harrison-Lee
Gardner City Administrator

GARDNER CITY HALL

Sections



GOVERNING BODY



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PARKS AND RECREATION



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AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



GOVERNING BODY



CHRIS MORROW

MAYOR



STEVE SHUTE

COUNCIL PRESIDENT



DR. TODD WINTERS

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT



LEE MOORE

COUNCILMEMBER



RICH MELTON

COUNCILMEMBER



KRISTY HARRISON

COUNCILMEMBER

The Mayor and City Council form the City of Gardner's Governing Body. The Governing Body is responsible for establishing and enforcing all municipal laws, ensuring that municipal services meet the desires of the community and formulating policies that guide the operation of the City organization. The Governing Body has established the following four strategic goals to guide the City's vision:

- Promote Economic Development**
- Improve Quality of Life**
- Infrastructure and Asset Management**
- Fiscal Stewardship**

JANUARY 29, 1861

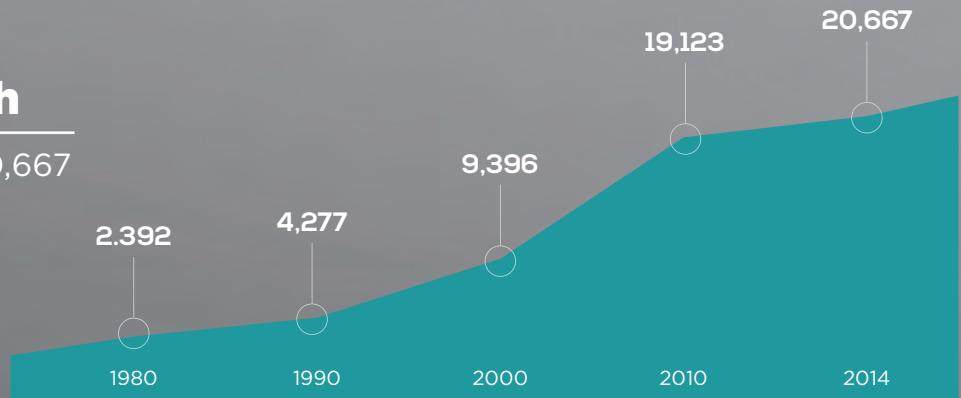


DEMOGRAPHICS

Gardner, Kansas is one of the most rapidly-growing communities in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Located along Interstate 35, just 25 miles from downtown Kansas City, Gardner is a historic community with a keen vision for the future. Its roots stretch back over 150 years to its founding in 1857 along the route of the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails. Presently, Gardner is home to over 20,000 residents and includes seven elementary schools, three middle schools and one high school. Gardner is committed to maintaining its traditional small-town values while focusing on providing for future growth and development.

Population Growth

The 2014 population of 20,667 was an 8.1% increase from 2010.



Employer	Type of Business/Product	# of Employees
USD 231	K-12 Education	800
Wal-Mart	Retail	250
Meadowbrook Rehabilitation Hospital	Rehabilitation Hospital	174
Coleman	Warehouse/Distribution	167
TradeNet Publishing	Publisher	130
Price Chopper	Grocery	130
City of Gardner	Municipal Government and Services	128
Medical Lodge Gardner	Nursing/Rehabilitation	111
D.O.T. Label	Packaging Products	86
Cramer	Sports Medicine Products	50

Demographic Overview 2014 unless noted



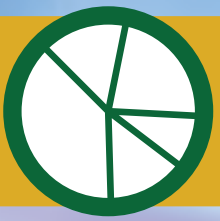
Gardner median resident age **31.8 yrs**
 Kansas median resident age **36 yrs**



Gardner estimated median household income (2013) **\$66,981**
 Kansas estimated median household income (2013) **\$51,332**



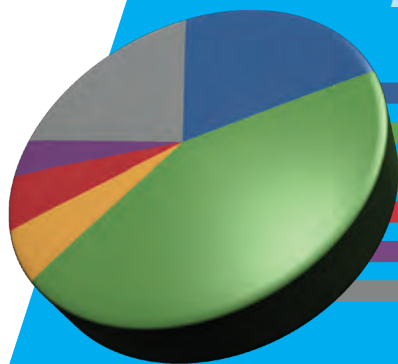
Gardner estimated median house or condo value (2013) **\$159,900**
 Kansas estimated median house or condo value (2013) **\$128,400**
 Gardner median gross rent (2013) **\$926**



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

- The City's taxable assessed valuation increased 7.3% over the FY 2015 Budget.
- The Water Development Fund was consolidated into the Water Fund and the Wastewater Development Fund was consolidated into the Wastewater Fund to improve cash flows and fund balance resulting in the ability to hold utility rates constant for both utilities in 2016 while still absorbing the additional costs of needed improvements identified in the utilities assessments.
- The budget included a dedicated pool of \$250,000 for merit increases and the implementation of career ladders as the second phase of implementation of the 2015 Salary Study. The City provided career ladders as promotional opportunities for employees to encourage continuous improvement and progression as a high-performance organization.
- Shifted two mills from the General Fund levy to the Debt Service Fund levy to cover special assessment delinquencies.
- Realigned resources to implement strategic goals as established by the Governing Body.
- Maintained rates for water, wastewater and electric utilities.

BUDGETED EXPENDITURES FISCAL YEAR 2016



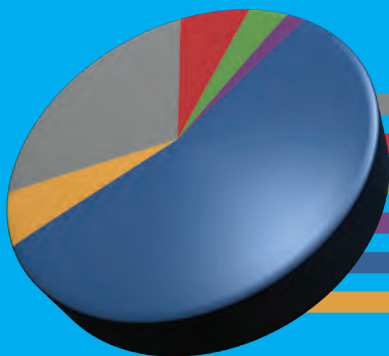
FUND TYPE	REVENUE	% OF TOTAL
Personal Services	\$ 11,530,000	23.1%
Operating	\$ 20,956,700	41.9%
Capital Outlay	\$ 2,872,688	5.7%
Capital Improvement	\$ 2,929,700	5.9%
Transfers	\$ 1,969,300	3.9%
Debt Service	\$ 9,747,500	19.5%
TOTAL	\$ 50,005,888	100%



ADMINISTRATION

- Developed an Economic Development Incentive Policy
- Held the Economic Development Symposium “Growth by Choice or by Chance”
- Developed the 2016-2020 Capital Improvement Program
- Held Governing Body Budget Policy Workshop for the 2016 Budget
- Collaborated with Finance to research and prepare for the 0.5% Special Sales Tax initiative
- Completed KERIT audit and earned a 5% discount on workman’s compensation rates
- Conducted an Employee Engagement Survey
- Created an Employee Engagement Committee
- Created city brand including new logo and tagline
- Held Citizen Workshops for Budget Priorities and the Capital Improvements Program
- Developed Business Plans for each department
- Launched “Gardner You!” Citizen Academy
- Completed IT infrastructure upgrades at City Hall
- Implemented a compensation study

REVENUE BY FUND TYPE FISCAL YEAR 2016



FUND TYPE	REVENUE	% OF TOTAL
General Fund	\$ 12,236,700	26.1%
Debt Service	\$ 3,295,200	7.0%
Special Revenue funds	\$ 2,085,500	4.4%
Capital Projects Funds	\$ 1,012,100	2.2%
Enterprise Funds	\$ 25,423,900	54.2%
Internal Serv. Funds	\$ 2,855,000	6.1%
TOTAL	\$ 46,908,400	100%



BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Completed the Growth Management Strategy for annexation of property
- Coordinated Orscheln's property development process
- Awarded \$200,000 in CDBG funds for the improvement of the Senior Center
- Completed draft of the I-35 & 191st Street Interchange SubArea Plan
- Developed an action list for implementing the 2015 Comprehensive Plan update
- Aided in the transfer of utility and easement property into the Gardner parks system
- Worked with local developers to create 84 additional housing units
- Co-hosted the 2015 Developers Expo with Southwest Johnson County Economic Development Corporation





FINANCE

- Prepared the 2015A bond sale to refinance existing debt, saving \$329,000 in interest cost
- Developed accounting and reporting procedures for compliance with GASB 68 and GASB 71 (Proportionate share of KPERs unfunded pension liability)
- Implemented voice payment response system for improved customer service by enabling utility customers to pay by phone
- Reincorporated electric rates into the Municipal Code
- Implemented “Time to Pay” docket to improve customer service providing additional option to appear before the judge
- Developed debt covenant template to ensure mandated IRS and SEC reporting compliance
- Implemented required Kansas Criminal Justice Information Systems security compliance





PARKS & RECREATION



Completed Gardner Aquatic Center rehabilitation project



Hosted multiple baseball & softball tournaments at Celebration and Westside Parks



Introduced new events and activities, including Movies in the Park, Summer Splash event, and Summer Concert Series

- Enhanced activities at the annual 4th of July Celebration, attracting approximately 8,000 attendees
- Coordinated City of Gardner “Make a Difference Day” to promote beautification of the community
- Achieved a record-breaking year for athletic program participation with more than 5,200 registered participants





POLICE



- Initiated bicycle patrol to increase community engagement
- Changed to 10-hour shifts for patrol operations and improved operational structure in order to provide better services to the community and enhance coverage during busy evening hours
- Implemented updated crime map online to create citizen awareness of crime activity

- Began equipping patrol vehicles in uniform fashion for better deployment of needed equipment
- Conducted active shooter training using live simulation rounds for a more realistic training experience for officers
- Created online complaint forms, allowing citizens to report traffic issues and suspected narcotics activity





PUBLIC WORKS

- Transferred 30+ customers from Johnson County Water District No. 7 (JoCo 7) and 4.1 miles of water main to the city. In the process created two 8" emergency interconnects with JoCo 7
- Completed rehabilitation of six manholes along the sanitary sewer interceptor leading to the Kill Creek Plant
- Coordinated installation of traffic signals at Lincoln Lane and Moonlight
- Designed the CDBG project to improve sidewalks and ADA ramps in the vicinity of downtown
- Conducted preliminary analysis of infrastructure needs on the east side of I-35 for future development
- Completed 79 new residential water service taps
- Designed and constructed a new pedestrian crosswalk on Center Street at Brittany Court that included solar powered flashing pedestrian crossing signals
- Worked with the Police Department to complete a Facility Space Needs Assessment for a new Law Enforcement Center
- Inspected and inventoried the City street and trail network to create a Pavement Management System
- Analyzed recommendations for improving traffic signal timing along US-56
- Submitted the Center Street portion of the Grand Street/Kane Street Project to the county to obtain CARS funding
- Reinstated the citywide curbside spring trash cleanup





UTILITIES

- Completed SCADA upgrade for Kill Creek Water Resource Recovery Facility Project
- Completed the North Lift Station Storage Tank Rehabilitation
- Completed the Electric Utility Assessment
- Completed Filter Media in filters at Hillsdale Water Treatment Plant Project
- Revised the Interconnection Agreement for renewable energy utility customers
- Completed the Kill Creek Water Resource Recovery Facility Assessment
- Completed Torque Converter Rebuild CTG No. 1 & 2 Project
- Completed the Pioneer Ridge Electric Distribution Feeder Extension
- Completed the Hillsdale Water Treatment Plant Assessment
- Implemented the Customer Exchange Agreement with Johnson County Water District No. 7





AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

◆ **3RD FASTEST GROWING**

5TH SAFEST AND MOST PEACEFUL PLACE TO LIVE
5TH BEST CITY TO RAISE A FAMILY



Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada in recognition of financial reports that display transparency and full disclosure.



Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

Award by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada for fulfilling nationally recognized guidelines, as well as achieved a budget rated “proficient” in the following four categories that are designed to assess how well the budget serves as:

- A policy document
- A financial plan
- An operations guide
- A communications device



Water Treatment Award

The City of Gardner Hillsdale Water Treatment Facility received a Quality Achievement Award for its high-quality fluoridation practice of consistently adjusting the water fluoride content to the appropriate levels. The proper fluoride adjustments serve as a safe and effective method to prevent tooth decay. Gardner was one of only 29 cities in Kansas to receive such recognition.

ONS

NG CITY IN KANSAS

(KANSAS CITY BUSINESS JOURNAL/MARCH 2015)

PLACE TO LIVE (ONLYINYOURSTATE.COM/AUGUST 2015)

FAMILY (ONLYINYOURSTATE.COM/AUGUST 2015)



Wastewater Plant of the Year

The Kansas Water Environment Association (KWEA) named the City of Gardner's Wastewater Treatment Plant as the 2015 Plant of the Year in Class 4 for their process of converting wastewater into an effluent that can either be reused or returned to the water cycle with minimal environmental impact.



Tree City USA

Gardner achieved Tree City USA status by meeting four core standards of sound urban forestry management: maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry and celebrating Arbor Day.



Special Event of the Year

Last year the City made major improvements to the Aquatic Center including: replacement of the gutter system on the lap lane pool, recoating of the slides and towers, recoating of the play structure, replacement of pool furniture, and painting of all pools. The city held a Summer Splash event to showcase the improvements on June 20. The event included: live music, entertainers, inflatable obstacles, and a synchronized swimming team.



gardnerkansas.gov