



GARDNER

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**ANNUAL
REPORT**

Blazing New Trails



Cheryl Harrison-Lee, ICMA-CM
Gardner City Administrator

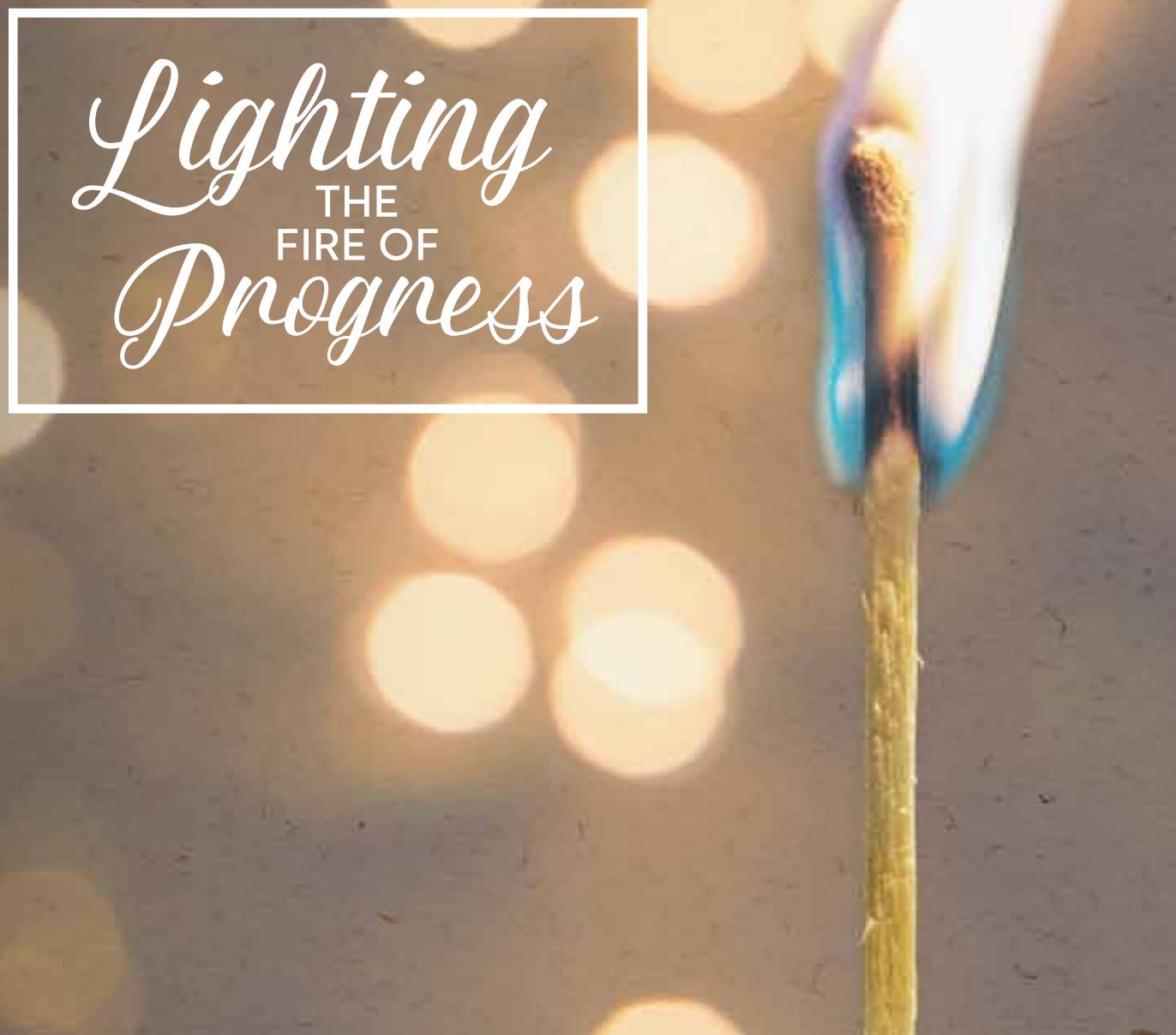
It is with great pleasure that I present the City of Gardner Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2017. This document encompasses the hard work and dedication of our high-performing employees who are committed to delivering exceptional service to our 21,000 residents.

Last year was one marked by many achievements and award-winning recognitions. We made significant strides in increasing our economy, expanding special events and civic engagement, and addressing the infrastructure needs of our growing community.

Anchored by our primary commitment to bring economic development to the city, we set sail on a five-year journey to position Gardner for long-term growth and prosperity. We developed several quintessential documents throughout those years, most recently completing a Capital Improvement Element to manage the condition of our infrastructure over the next 20 years. To add to our repertoire of visionary documents, we also created a citywide Strategic Plan that is a compilation of earlier planning efforts, stakeholder input, and identified capital projects, produced into a multi-year road map for achieving continued success.

This strategic, intentional planning has proven to be impactful as we started experiencing our vision transform into reality. This transformation has come in the form of private investments, job opportunities, additional housing and diversity of services.

Gardner, we have blazed new trails, and as we move forward in 2018, we will continue to build upon our strong culture of service excellence to advance the transformation of this city to an evermore thriving and vibrant community. This is our pledge, because Gardner Guarantees Greatness!



Lighting
THE
FIRE OF
Progress



“Be the shining light in the darkness.”

Julie Reed

Vision

We are recognized as a high-performing progressive organization setting the bar for excellence in service delivery.

Mission

To provide exceptional services to benefit and enrich the community.

Core Values

COMMITMENT

We are passionate about the services we provide. We are loyal to our employees, dedicated to our customers, and steadfast about accomplishing the vision and mission of the organization and community.

INTEGRITY

We are ethical, honest and transparent in our communications and actions.

PROFESSIONALISM

We incorporate industry best practices, achieve desired results and foster respectful relationships.

STEWARDSHIP

We responsibly plan, manage, care for and enhance the community's resources.



The Governing Body established long-term strategic goals to guide their vision and funding decisions for Gardner, Kansas. These goals are: Promote Economic Development, Improve Quality of Life, Increase Infrastructure and Asset Management, and Improve Fiscal Stewardship. They set the priorities for the organization and help bring plans and projects to fruition.

*Back row, left to right: Council President Lee Moore, Mayor Steve Shute, Council Vice President Rich Melton
Front row, left to right: Councilmember Randy Gregorcyk, Councilmember Mark Baldwin, Councilmember Todd Winters*

PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In 2017, we strengthened Gardner's economic ecosystem by securing \$200 million in current and future development. This milestone was accomplished by our strategic efforts to create an environment that attracts and supports economic growth to our community. Our unwavering endeavor to position Gardner as a city of choice for new residential and business development has helped us grow the tax base, provide access to more jobs, and offer our residents more diverse and unique services.

130
new
housing units

211
new
residential lots



Completed citywide Strategic Plan, a multi-year road map for growth and development

DID YOU KNOW?

City staff negotiated the addition of a Conference Center with Hampton Inn developers who originally proposed just constructing rooms.



350+
new
jobs



Eleven new businesses & expansions (received \$200 million in private investments)



Annexed 78 acres of land allowing for the creation of a new subdivision

IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE

We are on a quest to enhance the quality of life of our citizens at an even higher level. Keeping this goal in mind, we introduced new recreational programs and specialty events designed to enrich the lives of those who call Gardner home. We also elevated the safety of our city by increasing our traffic enforcement and implementing new police community programs. Major work to revitalize our downtown Main Street Corridor also continued in 2017, which will attract new businesses and residents, and give our community an even greater sense of pride.

Increased overall traffic enforcement and the presence of the department's three certified Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance inspectors



Introduced the Grand Slam Craft Beer and Wine event in conjunction with the Smoke on the Trails BBQ Competition, garnering nearly 1,000 in attendance



Reviewed plans and conducted inspections as needed for USD #231 to complete 48,000 square feet of renovations and expansions to the Gardner Edgerton High School



Initiated the development of 72 housing opportunities for senior citizens at Bethel Estates

Joined the One-mind Campaign, ensuring successful interactions between officers and persons with mental illness

Partnered with citizens for the construction of a new Justice Center



DID YOU KNOW?

As part of the city's new strategic plan, a new performance dashboard was also created. This reporting tool is called G3: Gardner Guarantees Greatness.



GARDNER GUARANTEES GREATNESS

INCREASE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

Addressing our infrastructure needs remains a top priority for the city. Through our Pavement Management Program, we completed maintenance and improvements to 29 percent of our residential streets, including road resurfacing, curb and gutter work, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) enhancements. In addition to bettering our road conditions, we implemented the first phase of our Trail Rehabilitation Program to heighten safety and access for our traveling pedestrians. We also completed our Capital Improvement Element, along with transportation and utility master plans, to strategically address Gardner's infrastructure needs for the next 20 years. Taking these proactive measures will help us maximize the lifespan of our assets as we continue to grow the city.

Constructed two pedestrian bridges to replace the low water crossings on the Gardner Greenway



DID YOU KNOW?

We saved \$250,000 in 2017 when compared to previous years by being proactive in addressing our infrastructure needs through our Pavement Management Program.

Completed 35 new ADA accessible sidewalk curb ramps



Installed traffic signal improvements at Madison and Center streets, creating a protected left-turn lane



Began design work on the Gardner Road and I-35 Interchange improvement project



Secured additional energy resources to ensure future electric capacity for the community

Acquired and expanded water and electrical services to recently annexed property

Completed 38 lane miles of residential street improvements

Reconstructed Center Street, from Kane Street to Grand Street



IMPROVE FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

Gardner's strong financial health rests on our commitment to safeguard the city's resources. This is evident by our track record of providing cost savings to our residents through refinancing and wise investments. Our sound financial planning and fiscal transparency have garnered the city multiple achievement awards. It is our dedication to service excellence and the use of best practices that allows us to financially support several Capital Improvement Projects as well as other city ventures and initiatives.



Obtained \$2.4 million in county funding for roadway and stormwater improvement designs to Santa Fe Street, from Poplar Street to Waverly Road



Obtained over \$500,000 for several major projects through our Grant Program efforts

Negotiated a water supply contract with a neighboring partner, producing \$230,000 in additional revenue



Refinanced existing debt, saving over \$2.6 million in future interest cost over the last five years



Maintained a AA- bond investment rating

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2017, the city received a perfect audit from the IRS after reviewing the city's debt compliance.



Attained a utility billing accuracy rate of 99.99%

GARDNER *works* FOR YOU

We take pride in serving our community through various amenities and resources.



142 MILES
OF POWER LINES



341.95 ACRES
OF PARK LAND



135 MILES
OF WATER MAINS



192 MILES
OF STREETS



71,627
ANNUAL AQUATIC
CENTER VISITORS



726 MG
OF WATER
PRODUCED ANNUALLY



109 MILES
OF SANITARY SEWER

Looking Ahead FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

View the full budget on your phone by scanning this QR code with a QR code scanner app.



Below is a summary of our projected financial activity for Fiscal Year 2018. The illustrations demonstrate both our Projected Revenue by Fund Type and Budgeted Expenditures by Fund Type.





13-time recipient of Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award

Innovative Recreation Program Award for the Grand Slam Craft Beer and Wine event in conjunction with the Smoke on the Trails BBQ Competition



14th Tree City USA Recognition



A W A R D S



Water Fluoridation Quality Achievement Award



Third consecutive Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

2017 Healthy KC Silver Level Certification





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