

CREATE A BETTER PLACE

It's 2040 and St. Joseph's downtown is teeming with shops, activities, and the arts. Known as "one of the best downtowns in America," St. Joseph's downtown boutique hotels and conference space fill with visitors who come to enjoy its historic charm, ease, and hospitality. Visitors and residents alike walk or bike along the Parkway System that connects the community to downtown and the Missouri River Commons, a development that emerged along the riverfront and showcases locally-owned food trucks, intimate outdoor performance venues, and a park where children – and the young at heart – can play. St. Joseph's neighborhoods and its housing are well maintained, attracting new families and new urban homesteaders willing to invest and improve our historic homes and older neighborhoods. Crime has been reduced as the community has come together to address the issues that lead to crime and provide resources to combat criminal activity. The community honors its history by investing in new infrastructure that is both beautiful and inspiring, whether that's architecturally-inspired boulevards and bridges or public art and greenspaces that encourage public gatherings. St. Joseph has become a place that residents want to stay, and others choose to move to.

2040 GOALS

By 2040, St. Joseph's quality of life will be known throughout the Midwest because the community focused on the following goals realizing to grow and prosper we must be better:

- St. Joseph's residents are connected to their community through strong neighborhood associations that meet regularly, define neighborhood improvement projects and needs, and ensure that residents feel engaged in their local government. Neighborhood groups are credited with working with local police to lower the city's crime rate and St. Joseph achieves the rank of "top 10 safest cities" in America.
- Our public transit system is agile, efficient and responsive. Residents and visitors easily move among downtown, local attractions, residential areas, and retail.
- St. Joseph's hotel/motel tax, fueled by increasing tourism, generates additional revenue, which is reinvested into further infrastructure and development of the Parkway System and riverfront.
- The community's entertainment venues like the Krug Park Amphitheater are refreshed and reinvented to support St. Joseph's existing arts and entertainment, and a new generation of entertainment venues are created, expanding arts and cultural amenities enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

- The Chamber, Convention and Visitors Bureau and Downtown interests work together on a dynamic and ambitious plan to attract visitors and private sector investment, such as restaurants and retail to downtown St. Joseph, providing a destination for visitors and residents.
- As part of a newly-created downtown Arts District, an artist incubator is created in collaboration with MWSU, offering teaching venues and gallery space for local artists and attracting artists from across the country to teach and take advantage of St. Joseph's Artist-in-Residence Program.
- The City, with its abundance of outdoor and recreational amenities, pursues initiatives that enhance and expand these amenities, becoming a nationally-recognized destination for outdoor enthusiasts and various sports tournaments.
- The City pursues residential housing regulations along with capital investment and development incentives as part of an overall strategy to bring back St. Joseph's older neighborhoods. The effort stimulates private investment leading to redevelopment and overall improvement of the community's housing stock. The result is that the older neighborhoods are the most sought after by young couples and families moving to St. Joseph.
- To address trash and litter, the City adopts a comprehensive solid waste collection program that includes curbside residential recycling.

What “positive disruptions” would increase our performance in this strategy?

- The decommissioning of Interstate 229 and the vision of City leaders to use the riverfront for one of the most historic and exciting greenspace developments in Missouri – the new Missouri River Commons.
- A light-rail system connecting Kansas City and St. Joseph is built as a first phase that will ultimately also connect Omaha. This creates the first mega-region in the Midwest.
- Voters approve a general obligation bond to fund enhanced community amenities and residential infrastructure improvements.
- The City agrees to invest 1 percent of all new infrastructure spending for public art, and beautification, to ensure that all new infrastructure is both functional and inspiring.
- The City connects the Parkway System to downtown and extends it to the new riverfront development.
- The City, as part of its Capital Improvement Program, builds a multi-million dollar Youth Sports Complex attracting tournaments and teams throughout the Midwest.
- A new boutique hotel is developed downtown.
- A new conference and meeting facility is constructed that allows the community to pursue small conventions and association meetings.
- A Land Bank and Redevelopment Authority is created to address blight and stimulate new investment in the older neighborhoods of St. Joseph.