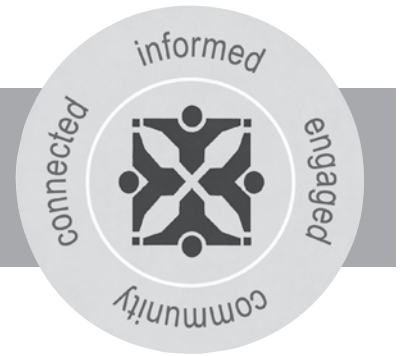


# Our vision...our future...our Columbia



## What is a “vision”?

It's an expression of citizens' shared goals, plans and core values for the next five, 10 or even 15 years. Our community vision statements cover a wide range of issues...things that matter to the people who live and work here. Columbia continues to grow and change. Without a vision, we could lose opportunities to make our community the best it can be. To view the vision report, visit [www.GoColumbiaMo.com](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com) and click on the “community visioning” button.

## How do we assure that the vision is implemented in the community?

Because of citizens' strong commitment to the vision, it's already being implemented and guiding decisions made by government, organizations and individuals. What's needed next is a progress report that knits together all these local actions and lets citizens know how they can contribute to implementing the vision. This is significant, shared community responsibility.

## What's next? Is it still possible for citizens to be involved with the community vision?

More than 1,000 citizens contributed to the community vision, and that was just the beginning. There are many opportunities to participate, no matter what your level of interest or involvement.

- **Creating a Vision Commission** – The Columbia City Council will be considering an ordinance to appoint an advisory group responsible for keeping track of progress made in carrying out the vision and letting the public know how things are going. To learn more about the proposal and provide comments online, visit the City of Columbia's community visioning site at [www.GoColumbiaMo.com](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com), or check out the community “Watchword” vision blog sponsored by the Columbia Missourian at <http://thewatchwordpress.com>.
- **Serving on the Columbia Vision Commission** – If approved, the Vision Commission will need active, engaged citizen members who care deeply about implementing the community vision. Keep alert to continuing updates if you want to apply for Commission membership.
- **Implementing the vision plan** – If you're already doing work relevant to the community vision, your project or organization should be included in the continually updated vision resource inventory. This will help make connections among those who have similar goals and who can become more effective by working together. If you have a specific interest, consider working with existing projects or volunteering through local government and private programs.
- **Finding a niche** – Though broad and comprehensive, the community vision is made up of many specific actions. To find a good fit for your special skills and interests, complete the online survey, sign up for email messages from the City of Columbia's Office of Volunteer Services and discover the opportunity that's waiting for you in the City of Columbia's community visioning section at [www.GoColumbiaMo.com](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com).
- **Making connections** – If you want to provide information on projects and resources related to the community vision, use the online survey featured on the “Watchword” visioning blog at <http://thewatchwordpress.com>. In addition to attending public meetings and discussions, leave your comments, or pose your questions, at the Watchword site, or on the City's website, [www.GoColumbiaMo.com](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com).
- **Staying informed** – Sign up for City of Columbia email communications at [www.GoColumbiaMo.com](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com). Watch other sources, such as news media and local organizations, for news on vision updates and events.

## *Imagine Columbia's Future: The Community Vision Leads to Implementation*

Imagine Columbia's Future began in May 2006 as a community-wide discussion sponsored by the City of Columbia, Missouri and assisted by consultant ACP Visioning + Planning, Ltd. The resulting "Final Vision Report" reflects the collective efforts of more than 1,000 citizens to imagine a community even better than what we have now. To see the Final Vision Report, visit [www.GoColumbiaMo.com](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com) and click on the "community visioning" button.

In that collection of citizens were several groups with formal responsibilities to facilitate the visioning process, including (among others):

- A 25-member Vision Committee whose members facilitated citizen discussions of broad topics and then wrote the Final Vision Report based on those talks; and
- Citizen Topic Groups that focused on 13 broad topics, including development of specific goals, actions and strategies.

Achieving the community's vision requires an implementation plan that follows the Vision Committee's recommendations for achieving the goals and strategies in the final report (see the report, Supplement to Chapter 5). As proposed, the plan would include: 1) an inventory of existing government and non-government actions that fit with the scope of the vision or reflect its general themes; 2) an inventory of resources needed to make more progress toward specific goals; 3) a list of specific tasks that could be implemented within a two-year period, starting with fiscal years 2010 and 2011; and 4) guidelines for convening additional dialogues needed to move the vision forward.

In fact, implementation started as soon as the City Council accepted the Final Vision Report in February 2008. A partial inventory of what is underway can be found at [thewatchword.wordpress.com](http://thewatchword.wordpress.com) and will be expanded over time. No one is waiting for the release of the implementation plan to move forward with projects that fit with the spirit of the community vision.

### **Citizen Topic Group Action Plans**

Although not reproduced verbatim within the proposed implementation plan, all Citizen Topic Group actions plans were reviewed and are reflected in various ways, especially in the groupings of seven strategy themes. This makes it easier for a wider audience to understand how the vision will be implemented. The groupings highlight both overlaps in strategies and also possibilities for collaboration among boards, commissions, departments and other organizations.

For another perspective, the proposed plan also lists all the Citizen Topic Group goals alphabetically (by topic group) and again, by the City government agency or board expected to be involved in implementation. The proposed plan does not assume that City government has sole responsibility for achieving the vision, but it makes logical connections that will help push the work forward.

### **Connecting Events**

**October 18, 2008**

"Keys to the City," a vision-related opportunity, initiated by the Columbia City Council, to learn more about City government

**December 31, 2008**

"First Night" celebration of old year's end, new year's beginning and progress to implement vision