



TOPEKA

CITY SWAP

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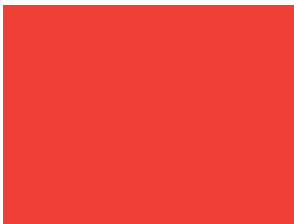


BlueCross BlueShield

Kansas

olsson

2025





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2025 CITY SWAP – TOPEKA/LINCOLN ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVAL TOPEKA

3:00 PM Check in at Cyrus Hotel
3:30 PM Assemble in Cyrus Hotel courtyard.
3:40 PM Walk to Townsite Tower
3:55 PM Arrive at Townsite 16
4:00 PM Townsite Tower Reception
4:10 PM Mayor Padilla, Welcome Remarks
4:25 PM Bob Ross, CMO – Itinerary
4:30 PM Open Networking
5:30 PM Guests depart for dining on their own at suggested restaurants and activities downtown.

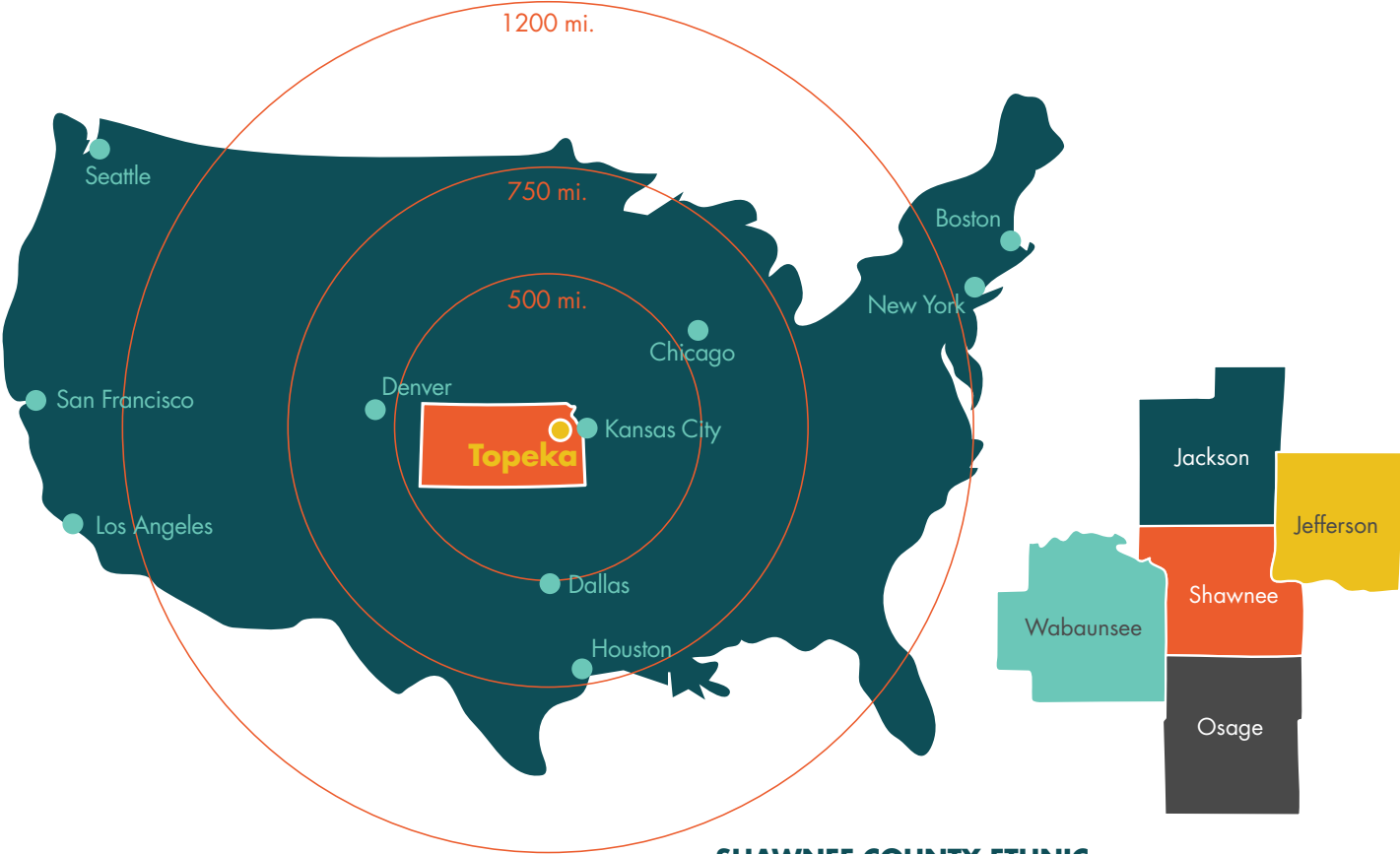
10:40 AM Walk to Innovation Center Downtown – Plug and Play
10:45 AM Tour of Link Innovation Labs
11:15 AM Bus to NOTO Arts District
11:30 AM Arrive at Redbud Park
11:35 AM Proceed Topeka Public Library
11:50 AM Assemble in the Library Rotunda with Library CEO Marie Pyko
12:20 PM Depart for Lunch
12:30 PM Lunch at Kay's Garden – Topeka Zoo
12:45 PM Gage Park Panel Discussion with Zoo Director Christina Castellano, Children's Museum Director Dene Mosier, and Sean Dixon, president Visit Topeka

DAY 2: CITY SWAP TOUR

7:30 AM Breakfast Served - Cyrus Hotel Ballroom
8:25 AM Opening Remarks - Juliet Abdel and Jason Ball
8:30 AM Topeka Area Sports Commission
Sean Dixon and Mike Bell
9:10 AM Economic Development Panel:
Molly Howey, Stephanie Moran,
Trina Goss, and Rhett Flood
9:55 AM Dismiss for Morning Excursion
10:15 AM Topeka Area of Interest Tour
10:25 AM Stop 1: Evergy Plaza

1:30 PM Choose between tour of Giraffes and Mini Train Ride
Ride BUS or WALK 0.5 MILES to
2:15 PM Kansas Children's Discovery Center Tour
3:00 PM Bus from KCDC to West Ridge Mall
3:15 PM Arrive at West Ridge Mall
3:30 PM Presentation with Staci Williams
4:30 PM Bus returns to Cyrus Hotel
4:45 PM Arrival at Cyrus Hotel
5:00 PM Departure to Lincoln, NE

TOPEKA/SHAWNEE CO. DEMOGRAPHICS



POPULATION

MSA* (5 counties)	232,322
City of Topeka	125,475
Shawnee County	177,746
State of Kansas	2,940,546

Source: 2023 U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program (PEP)

*Metropolitan Statistical Area: Shawnee, Jackson, Jefferson, Wabaunsee and Osage Counties

SHAWNEE COUNTY ETHNIC POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

White	72%
Black/African-American	6%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1%
Asian	1%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0%
Two or more races	6%

Source: 2023 Census

Note: People of Hispanic or Latino origins represent 14% of the population which is included in each of the above racial distributions. Hispanics may be of any race.

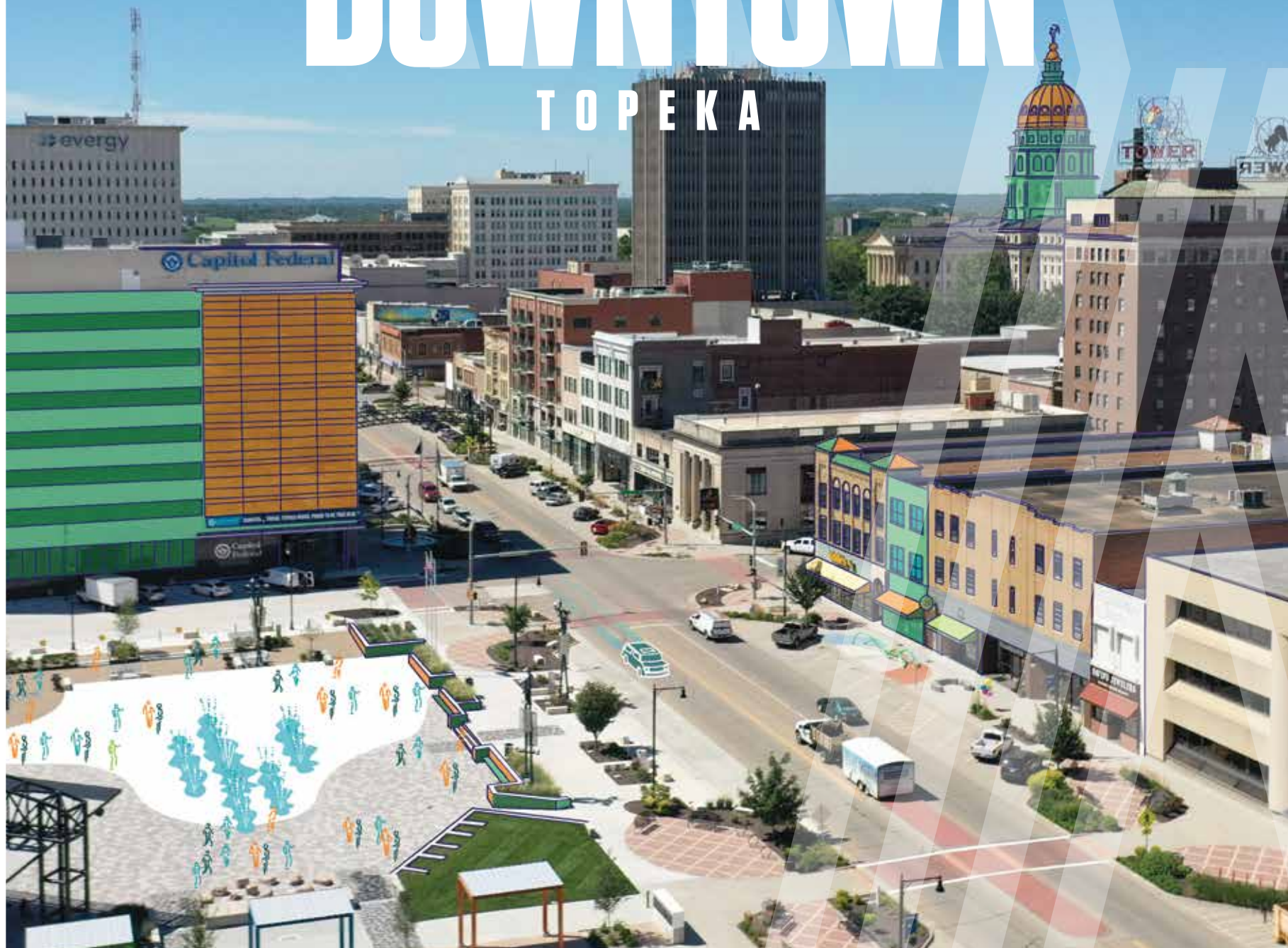
TOPEKA/SHAWNEE COUNTY MSA POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

Age	Shawnee	Jackson	Jefferson	Osage	Wabaunsee	Totals
0 to 9 years	21,113	1,807	1,993	1,829	900	27,642
10 to 19 years	23,865	1,851	2,286	2,165	931	31,098
20 to 44 years	54,654	3,643	5,044	4,295	1,883	69,519
45 to 64 years	42,597	3,359	5,100	4,138	1,783	56,977
65+ years	33,317	2,708	3,904	3,397	1,560	44,886
Totals	177,746	13,368	18,327	15,824	7,057	232,322
Median Age	40.3	40.7	43.2	42	43.8	41.82

*The demographic data in this report is compiled from several sources using a specialized process.

Sources include annual population estimates and population projections from the US Census Bureau, and birth and mortality rates from the US Health Department.

Drawn to **DOWNTOWN** TOPEKA





Drawn to **YOU!**

Downtown wants you! Our team at downtown Topeka invite you to be a part of our vibrant and growing community. With significant investments in infrastructure and a bustling atmosphere, our city center is ideal for your business. Topeka offers various incentives to support new businesses. Additionally, a supportive network of local entrepreneurs and organizations is ready to collaborate.

Explore our guide to discover the opportunities and incentives available to help your business thrive. We look forward to the possibility of welcoming you to downtown Topeka.



2,000 RESIDENTS

LIVE DOWNTOWN IN 900 HOUSING
UNITS, WITH 176 IN THE PLANNING
OR CONSTRUCTION PHASE.

23,000 JOBS

MAKE DOWNTOWN TOPEKA THE
HIGHEST CONCENTRATION OF
EMPLOYMENT IN THE REGION.

(Downtown contains 25% of the city's jobs in
less than 2% of the land area)

7.1 MILLION SQ.FT.

OF OFFICE SPACE IS AVAILABLE
IN DOWNTOWN TOPEKA, WITH
OCCUPANCY WELL OVER 90%.

11 POCKET PARKS

DOT THE DOWNTOWN
STREETSCAPE. \$4.5 MILLION IN
PRIVATE FUNDS WERE RAISED FOR
THE POCKET PARKS, FOUNTAINS,
ARCHES, STATUES, MEDALLIONS
AND STATE SYMBOLS.

18% HIGHER WAGES

ON AVERAGE ARE REPORTED DOWNTOWN,
COMPARED TO THE REST OF THE REGION.

\$137 MILLION

IN RETAIL SALES ARE REPORTED UP AND DOWN THE
KANSAS AVENUE CORRIDOR EACH YEAR.

EASY ACCESS

TO LOCAL AND REGIONAL DESTINATIONS, AS I-70
TRAVELS THROUGH DOWNTOWN TOPEKA.

MASTER PLAN

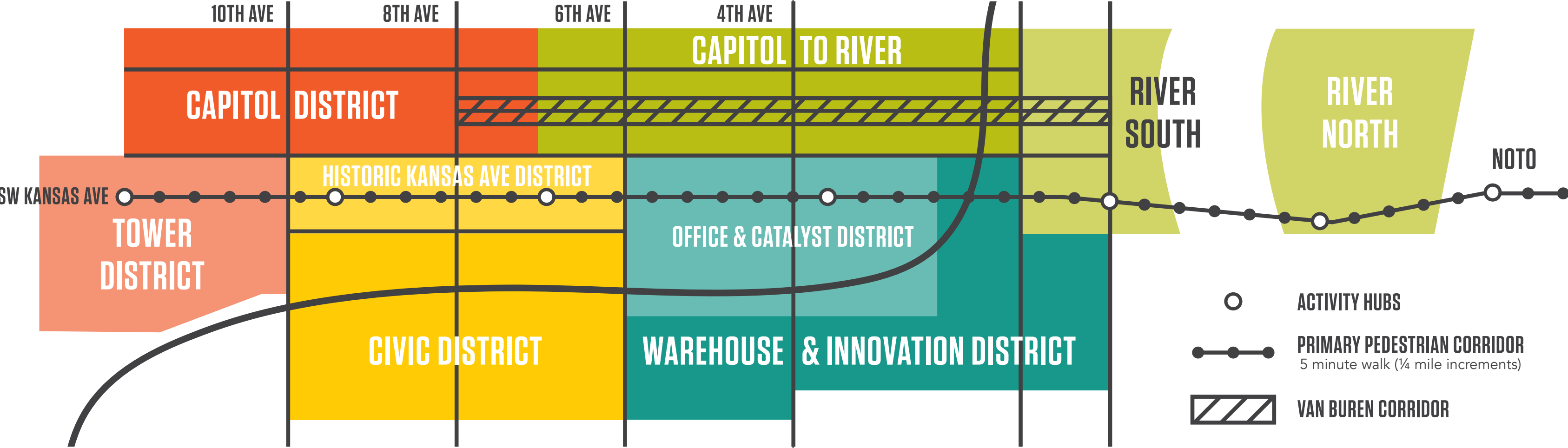
DISTRICTS

DEVELOP DOWNTOWN

Downtown Topeka encompasses 740 acres of property that is prime for development. While existing properties provide an abundance of opportunity, the 2019 Downtown Topeka Market Study – Development Strategies found new development could support 900 new housing units, 690,000 square feet of retail space, 300,000 square feet of new or rehabbed office space, and 200 new hotel rooms. Imagine what you could do with that space. We'll allow you to draw your own conclusions!

MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Federal, state and local government, Evergy, Capital Federal Headquarters, Stormont-Vail Health Care, BNSF Railway, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas, as well as a number of other financial and professional service organizations.





Discover **DOWNTOWN**

You'll find some of the friendliest people downtown, not only in our hospitality industry, but on the smiles you'll see on the avenue. There's an unmistakable energy that draws in visitors and residents alike. From special experiences at our boutique hotel and charming shops, to constant programming at our newest attraction, the Every Plaza, we invite you to discover downtown and all it has to offer.

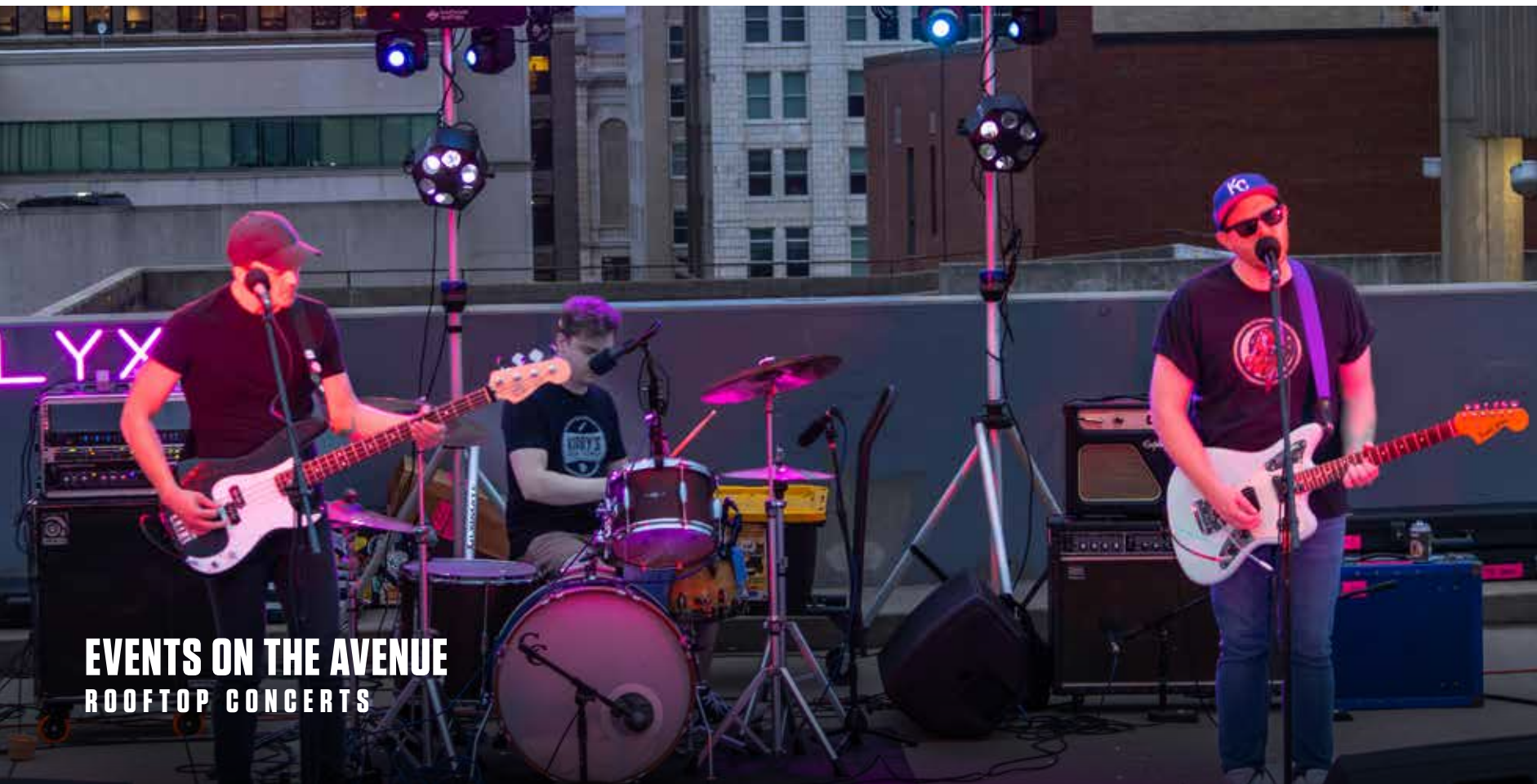


“EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK, GREAT DEVELOPMENT AND GREAT PEOPLE ARE MAKING DOWNTOWN TOPEKA AN AMAZING PLACE TO WORK, LIVE AND VISIT, CYRUS HOTEL SERVES AS A DESTINATION FOR VISITORS TO OUR GREAT CITY, AS WELL AS OUR OWN CITIZENS. I AM EXCITED FOR OUR OWN BRILLIANT FUTURE HERE IN TOPEKA.”

– Cody Foster. Owner and Founderr of Lead Development Firm AIM Strategies



EVERGY PLAZA
PARK & EVENTS PLAZA



EVENTS ON THE AVENUE
ROOFTOP CONCERTS



CYRUS HOTEL
UPSCALE HOTEL & RESTAURANT

**200 NEW
ROOMS OF
HOSPITALITY
SPACE COULD BE
SUPPORTED.**

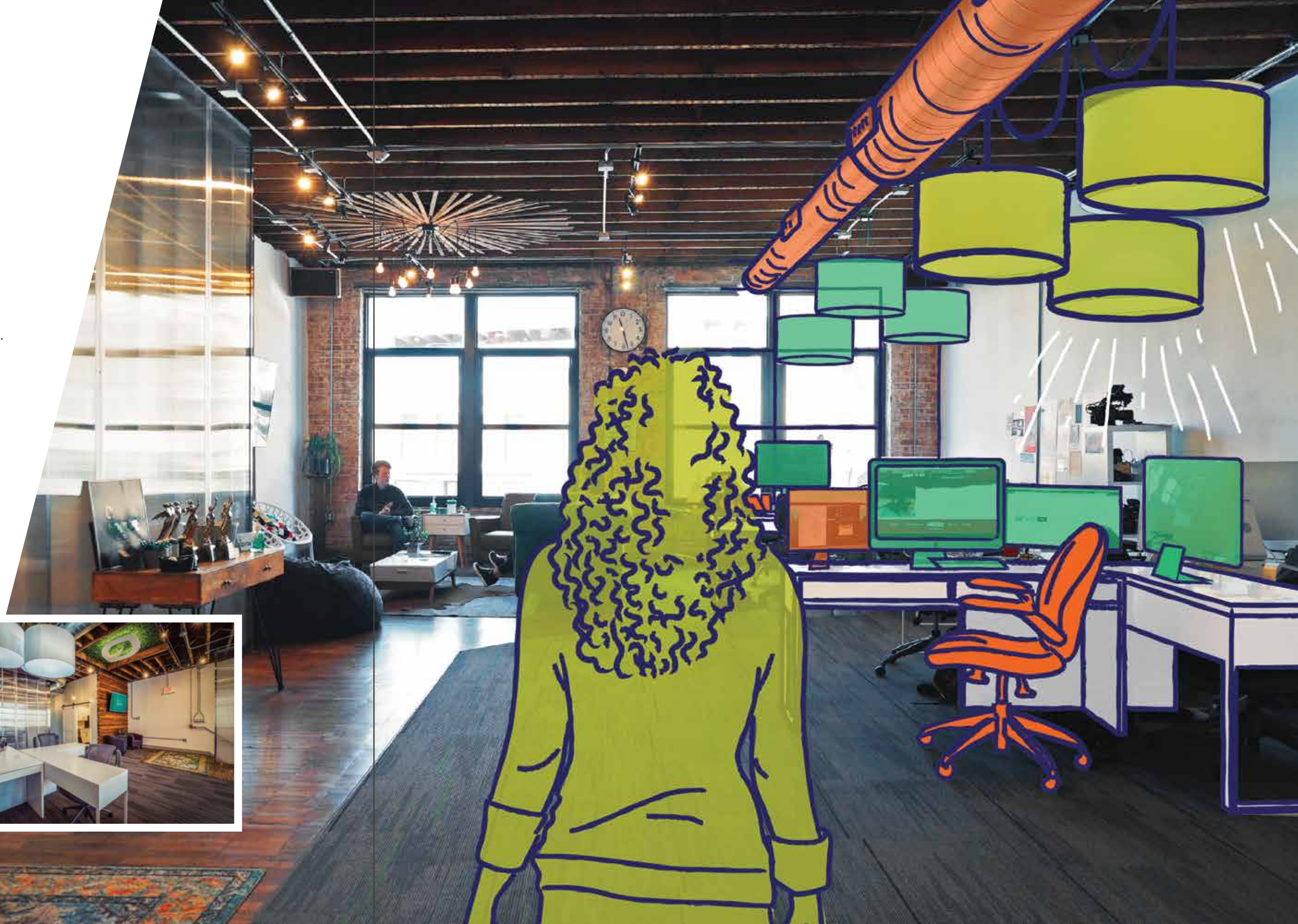
*2019 Downtown Topeka
Market Study –
Development Strategies.*

Driven DOWNTOWN

Topeka is built on a foundation of entrepreneurship and innovation. Our founders were driven, and that same mentality is alive today. Downtown is the heart of our business community, and the renewed commitment to this epicenter can be felt here and beyond. Whether you are a new or seasoned professional, downtown Topeka holds opportunities for everyone to succeed and be driven toward their goals.

“WHEN LOOKING FOR A LOCATION TO GROW OUR COMPANY, I KNEW KANSAS AVENUE WAS WHERE I WANTED TO BE. LIKE ANY PROJECT, THERE WERE A FEW BUMPS ALONG THE WAY, BUT I WAS THANKFUL FOR THE SUPPORT PROVIDED BY DOWNTOWN TOPEKA, INC. I KNEW WE MADE THE RIGHT DECISION.”

– Caleb Asher, President & CEO of Sprout Creative





**CAPITOL FEDERAL
BANK**



**ARCHITECT ONE
ARCHITECTURE FIRM TO
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**



**CLAYTON WEALTH PARTNERS
FINANCIAL SERVICES**



**DOCKING STATE
OFFICE BUILDING**



**KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT**

**STARTING IN 2024,
TOPEKA WILL WELCOME
OVER 1,200 NEW
EMPLOYEES WITH THE
OPENING OF THE KDHE
LABORATORY, THE
NEW DOCKING STATE
OFFICE BUILDING, AND
THE ARRIVAL OF THE
STORMONT VAIL HEALTH
CARE HEADQUARTERS—
ALL WITHIN A FIVE-
MINUTE WALK OF
KANSAS AVENUE.**



Dine DOWNTOWN

Downtown Topeka is a foodie's dream, with options ranging from coffee shops and diners, to restaurants that feature American favorites and beverages on tap, cuisine from around the world, or high-end dining. Whether you are looking for lunch with friends or a unique experience for that special client, downtown has it all. No matter your taste, we know you'll find a favorite spot when you dine downtown.

“WE ARE PLEASED TO BRING THIS BREWERY AND DINING EXPERIENCE TO THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN, WE FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO PAY HOMAGE TO OUR RICH RAILROAD HISTORY, WHICH LITERALLY PUT TOPEKA ON THE MAP, WHILE SUPPORTING THE CURRENT REVITALIZATION EFFORTS.”

– Seth Wagoner, CEO of AIM Strategies



**18% HIGHER WAGES ON AVERAGE ARE REPORTED
DOWNTOWN, COMPARED TO THE REST OF THE REGION.**

2019 Downtown Topeka Market Study – Development Strategies.



**IRON RAIL BREWING
BREWERY & RESTAURANT**



**WEATHER ROOM
CYRUS HOTEL**



**THE PENNANT
FUN DINING**



**THE WHITE LINEN
FINE DINING**



Dress **DOWNTOWN**

Downtown Topeka is all dressed up and ready to welcome guests to the party. There was a time that downtown was THE place for shopping, but like many communities those trends changed, and online sales replaced storefronts. However, we are excited to welcome new specialty shops, boutiques and other retail as they begin making an appearance once again. Check it out, and get ready to dress downtown.



690,000 SQUARE
FEET OF RETAIL
SPACE COULD BE
SUPPORTED.

2019 Downtown Topeka
Market Study –
Development Strategies.



HUNTER & LAINE
GIFT SHOP & BOUTIQUE



HAZEL HILL CHOCOLATE
HANDMADE CHOCOLATE & CONFECTION-



MOBURTS
SPICES & MORE



SAFELY SUNNING
AIRBRUSH TANNING

Dwell DOWNTOWN

You can have it all when you live, work and play in downtown Topeka. With much to see and do just outside your window, it's no wonder why so many are making a home on and off of Kansas Avenue. That trend doesn't seem to be slowing down anytime soon, so whether you develop a loft or turn an old school building or warehouse into housing units, more residents are choosing to dwell downtown.

“WHAT IS REALLY EXCITING ABOUT DOWNTOWN TOPEKA RIGHT NOW IS THAT SO MANY PEOPLE WANT TO BE A PART OF THE EXCITEMENT. IN THE LAST 3-4 YEARS, WE HAVE DEVELOPED OVER 40 RESIDENTIAL LOFTS AND NONE OF THOSE LOFTS HAVE SAT VACANT FOR MORE THAN 2 WEEKS. THERE IS AN ENERGY DOWNTOWN THAT I HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE AND WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF EVERGY PLAZA AND ADDITIONAL RESTAURANTS, I DON'T SEE IT SLOWING DOWN.”

— Mark Burenheide, Jackson Lofts





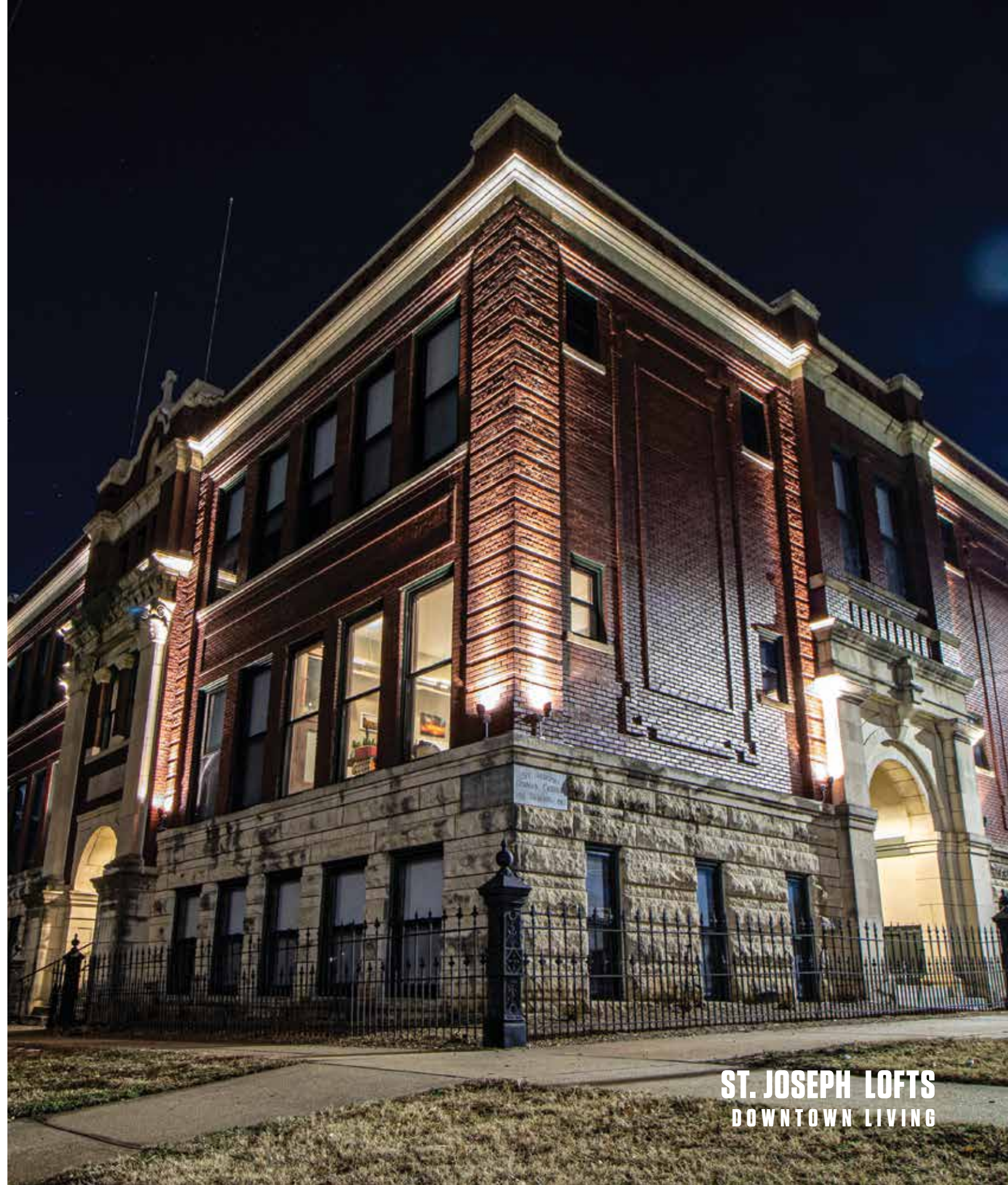
TOPEKA DOWNTOWN LOFTS
DOWNTOWN LIVING



THE LOFTS AT 718
DOWNTOWN LIVING



TOPEKA DOWNTOWN LOFTS
DOWNTOWN LIVING



ST. JOSEPH LOFTS
DOWNTOWN LIVING

900 NEW HOUSING UNITS COULD BE SUPPORTED DOWNTOWN

*2019 Downtown
Topeka Market Study –
Development Strategies.*

A MESSAGE FROM SEAN DIXON



Since officially incorporating in 1857, Topeka has developed a strong community based around a thriving downtown. But in recent years, this “business district” has emerged as the center of Topeka’s culture, commerce, history and entertainment. Indeed, today Topekans are living, working, dining, shopping, playing, strolling, as well as, enjoying entertainment of all kinds. With all eyes focused on this surge of activity, it’s no wonder that local entrepreneurs are investing in downtown.

Just in the last few years, the Dynamic Core, the epicenter of Downtown Topeka, has welcomed new residential developments and businesses that have become major downtown draws; this includes the likes of the Brew Bank, Cyrus Hotel, The Pennant, Iron Rail Brewing, White Linen and more. What’s more, in 2020 Downtown Topeka welcomed the Evergy Plaza, the community’s newest outdoor gathering space for events and live entertainment.

New developments are happening every day. But there is still so much potential to explore. Now is the time to get drawn into Downtown Topeka.

Sean Dixon
Interim President
Downtown Topeka, Inc. | Greater Topeka Partnership

DRAWN TO INCENTIVES

Developers see a wide range of incentives. Some represent major cash infusions and tax breaks, while others include invaluable teams of professionals ready to remove barriers, quickly getting you up and running. Downtown Topeka will draw you in thanks to a blend of competitive incentives, but better yet, we’ve already done some of the legwork for you. Below are just a few resources that are in place to best support your project!

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

The Capital Business Improvement District (BID) supports the growth of Downtown Topeka in a number of ways. From promoting the district through various marketing tools and special events to ensuring amenities are well maintained and security is a priority, our downtown district is well-cared for and ready to greet your customers and guests, or friends and family.

TAX INCREMENT FINANCE (TIF) DISTRICT

This special downtown tax district targets redevelopment areas from which future tax revenues are diverted to finance infrastructure improvements and/or development. Topeka’s unique approach to the downtown TIF district made headlines as an example of how we get creative when it comes to supporting your project. Rather than simply helping you through the process, we already did some of the work for you by ensuring the entire district is eligible for this incentive.

OPPORTUNITY ZONE

This state incentive provides investors preferential tax treatment for capital gains invested in low income communities designated as Opportunity Zones. The program encourages long-term investment in economically distressed areas and promotes economic growth. Projects in Downtown Topeka qualify for this incentive.

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

Tax rebates are provided to property owners making improvements that raise the appraised value of residential property by 10 percent or commercial property by 20 percent. The intent is to promote the rehabilitation, conservation, and redevelopment of downtown and various neighborhoods. Historic properties receive rebates up to 95 percent for 10 years, as well as intensive care neighborhoods and all “new” constructed infill housing.

DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

The South Kansas Avenue Commercial Historic District encompasses a little more than nine core blocks of downtown. Listed on the National Register in 2015, the district includes over 100 properties featuring a century of architectural styles. More than 70 are listed within the National Register as “contributors” to the district. Properties in this area are eligible for additional state and federal historic preservation tax credits.

We don’t believe in cookie cutter options, so we’d love to visit with you about how we can best support your project. For more information on these incentives or others, visit www.downtown.topekapartnership.com/incentives or call 785.234.2644



EVERGY PLAZA
PARK & EVENTS PLAZA

100,000 VISITORS

**ARE DRAWN TO EVENTS AND
FESTIVALS HELD DOWNTOWN,
WHILE EVERGY PLAZA SERVES
AS A MAJOR DRAW WITH 250
PLANNED EVENTS A YEAR.**



DOWNTOWN TOPEKA

719 S. Kansas Ave, Suite 100 Topeka, Kansas 66603

785-234-2644 | Toll-Free: 800.235.1030

DOWNTOWNTOPEKA.ORG





ROAD WARRIORS

TOPEKA'S SPORTS ECONOMIC OUTFLOW

ALL SPORTS



1256

**SURVEY
RESPONSES**

AVERAGE NUMBER OF SPORTS
PER RESPONSE: 2.3

**AVERAGE
NUMBER OF
TRIPS PER YEAR**

3.49



4.22

**AVERAGE
NUMBER IN
TRAVELING PARTY**



\$161

**AVERAGE
DAY TRIP
SPENDING**

* assuming all are day trips



\$404

**AVERAGE
OVERNIGHT
SPENDING**

* assuming all are overnights



ADULTS

2.23

KIDS

1.99

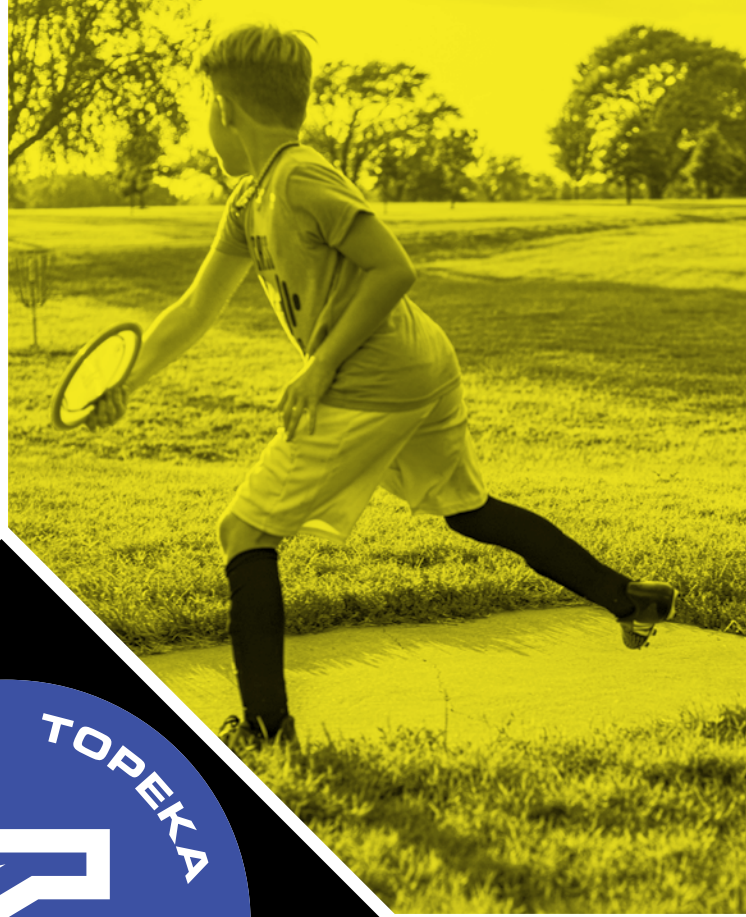


**ANNUAL ESTIMATED
OUTFLOW ACROSS
ALL SPORTS:**

\$7,134,109

* assuming all trips are overnights

SURVEY COMPLETED IN NOVEMBER 2023 DATA COMPILED BY WM ANALYTICS



Sports Facilities Guide



CAPITAL PLAY

TOPEKA, KANSAS

As the capital of Kansas, Topeka offers the convenience of a big city with the exceptional service and friendly people of a small town. Conveniently located in the Heart of America, Topeka is easily accessible by car, air, bus or train. Discover how Topeka can help you host a pitch-perfect tournament or a winning championship.

GETTING HERE

Topeka is at the crossroads of I-70 and I-335, providing exceptional east-west and north-south access. The Kansas City International Airport is within one hour's drive, providing quick and easy flights all around the world.

PROUD TO HOST

- NHPA World Horseshoe Pitching Championship
- Kansas Kids Wrestling Folkstyle Championship
- PWBA Topeka Open
- NAIA National Wrestling Championship
- NJCAA Indoor Track and Field & Half Marathon Championships
- U.S. Finals Cheer & Dance
- Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference Softball & Soccer
- NJCAA Jayhawk Conference Region VI Softball & Soccer
- Central Zones Swimming Championship
- Governor's Cup Soccer Tournament
- Sunflower State Games



"Our Olympic-style sports festival would not be possible without the support of the area's facilities and venues. Topeka has some of the region's finest facilities and we are proud to show them off to participants from all four corners of the state."

Lindsay Ransom-Engelken, Executive Director of Sunflower State Games

STORMONT VAIL EVENTS CENTER

The Stormont Vail Events Center is a multi-facility complex designed for numerous uses. Whether it's hosting a volleyball tournament or a horse show, Events Center offers affordable, flexible facilities for many purposes.

The venue, which opened in 1987, has hosted WWE Smackdown, Bob Dylan, Cirque de Soleil, the Arab Shrine Circus, Carrie Underwood, Sesame Street Live, KISS, Disney on Ice, Jeff Dunham and more.

LANDON ARENA

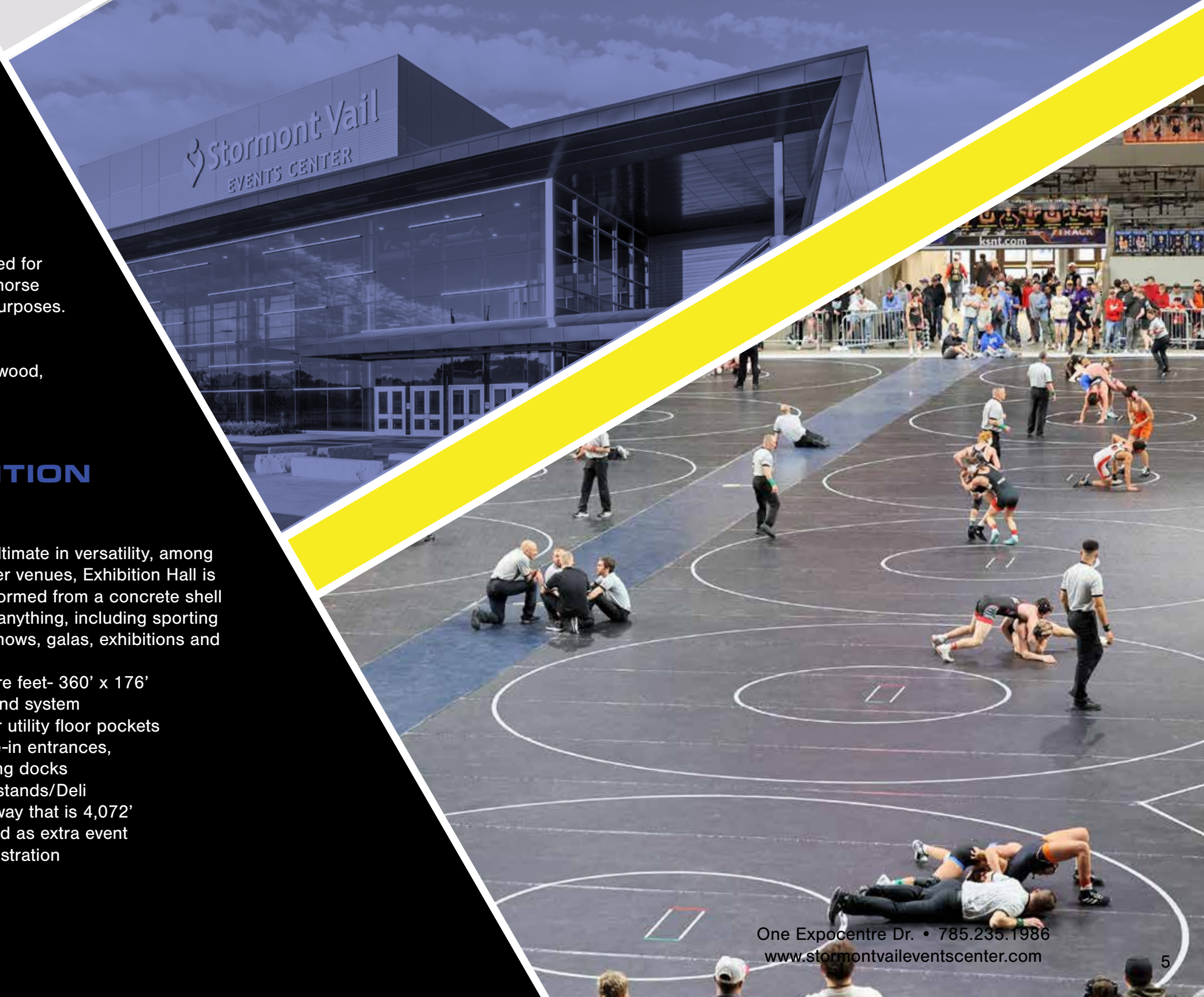
Landon Arena hosts volleyball, boxing, wrestling and basketball, among many other events. The venue boasts state-of-the-art video boards, lighting and sound system.

- 22,400 square feet- 111' x 221' and a 71' ceiling
- 7,700 seating capacity
- One 800 amp power source, and one 400 amp power source
- 13'9" x 13'2" drive-in entrance
- Ice rink and dasherboards

EXHIBITION HALL

Providing the ultimate in versatility, among the Event Center venues, Exhibition Hall is routinely transformed from a concrete shell into just about anything, including sporting events, trade shows, galas, exhibitions and more.

- 75,500 square feet- 360' x 176'
- In-house sound system
- 30' on center utility floor pockets
- Two 13' drive-in entrances, Six 14' loading docks
- Concession stands/Deli
- Atrium entryway that is 4,072' can be utilized as extra event space or registration





HOMETOWN HEROES

Aaron Crow, reliever for the Miami Marlins, began his major league career in 2011 the Kansas City Royals. He is one of only two Topeka natives to ever be drafted in the first round of the MLB draft.

LAKE SHAWNEE

Baseball, softball and a multi-purpose field are all part of the newest athletic additions at Lake Shawnee and could be the site of your next big tournament. The Bettis Family Sports Complex alone includes six lighted baseball diamonds, which have played host to several NBC World Series. For the water sport enthusiasts, Lake Shawnee also offers various opportunities in scenic surroundings.

The lake grounds are 1,100 acres total and include:

- 410 acres of water for fishing, boating, rowing and sailing
- First class baseball and softball facilities
- Tennis courts and soccer fields
- 18-hole golf course and disc golf course
- Sand volleyball courts

ENVISTA SOFTBALL COMPLEX

- Four turf fields, all with Musco lighting
- Fields accommodate ages 4 through collegiate level
- All fields have a 200' fence
- Backstop netting allowing for optimal spectator viewing

BETTIS FAMILY SPORTS COMPLEX

- Six baseball fields and one all-purpose field
- Two PeeWee fields with 240' center field
- One gopher field with 260' center field
- Pony field has a left and right field of 300' and 385' center
- Jerry Robertson Field has a 330' left and a 320' right with a 400' center

All fields are equipped with Musco lighting.

HUMMER SPORTS PARK

Hummer Sports Park's state-of-the-art facilities can host football, track and field, soccer, baseball, softball and swimming, all in one convenient location. No other sports complex in the region can compare to Topeka's Hummer Sports Park, which features:

- 6,000 seat football stadium
- Two baseball fields
- Olympic-size competition pool
- Two softball fields
- 2,000 seat soccer stadium
- Eight-lane track

MIKE A. TORREZ BASEBALL COMPLEX

Named after MLB player Mike Torrez, a Topeka native, the Mike A. Torrez Baseball Complex features two professional level fields with warning tracks. The fescue blend "Natural Grass Playing Field Systems" are composed of a modified sand base rootzone with a sub-drainage system and an irrigation system.

- 325' down the lines, 385' to center field
- 500 seating capacity for each field
- Covered dugouts with bullpens
- Netted batting cage nearby

WEAVER-ERWIN STADIUM

- Football stadium seats up to 6,000 fans
- Concession and rest room facilities easily accessible
- Wheelchair seating in grandstand and visitor area

DID YOU KNOW?

Many swimmers from the Topeka area have swam at the Capitol Federal Natatorium as high schoolers, only to go on to become DI swimmers. This includes Emily Dicus, University of Virginia; Sammie Schurig, University of Kansas; Haley Molden, University of Kansas; Grant Rogers, University of Texas and Shara Stafford – University of Florida.

CAPITOL FEDERAL NATATORIUM

- Olympic-sized 50-meter by 25-yard swimming pool
- 11,000 square feet of deck space
- Touch pad timing
- 1,100 spectator seating capacity
- Full locker room facilities
- Community multipurpose room
- Warm-up area and crash area for swimmers

2701 SW East Circle Dr S #1 • 785.295.3750
www.HummerSportsPark.com

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY

Lee Arena and Yager Stadium are home to the Washburn Ichabods basketball teams, volleyball team, women's soccer team and the football team. Each of these venues has received state-of-the-art updates in the last 10 years. The teams compete at the Division II level and play in the MIAA Conference.

LEE ARENA

- Seating capacity of 4,150
- Office and meeting rooms overlooking court
- Well-appointed booster room overlooking the court
- Daktronics equipment with the ability to show video, graphics, statistics and more

YAGER STADIUM

- Hosts the annual 6A football state championship
- Sportex field, professional quality turf
- Recently renovated press box includes sky box suites and booster rooms
 - Seating capacity of 7,200
 - Football specific facility

HOMETOWN HEROES

Michael Wilhoite, a native Topekan, was the 2012 special teams captain of the Super Bowl champion San Francisco 49ers. He played his high school football at Highland Park High School, his college football at Washburn. Cary Williams, a Washburn graduate, also played in the 2012 Super Bowl, lining up at safety for the Baltimore Ravens.



1700 SW College Ave. • 785.670.1134
www.WUSports.com

WASHBURN INDOOR ATHLETIC FACILITY

Washburn opened the Indoor Athletic Facility in November of 2020. The facility features a 200m, six lane, banked track as well as a 110-yard synthetic turf practice field which is 50-yards wide for football, women's soccer, baseball and softball to practice.

2055 SW Washburn Terrace E



BOWLING FACILITIES

Gage Bowl and West Ridge Lanes offer a premier location for all of your bowling events. Each with ample space, they make great locations for tournaments.

GAGE BOWL

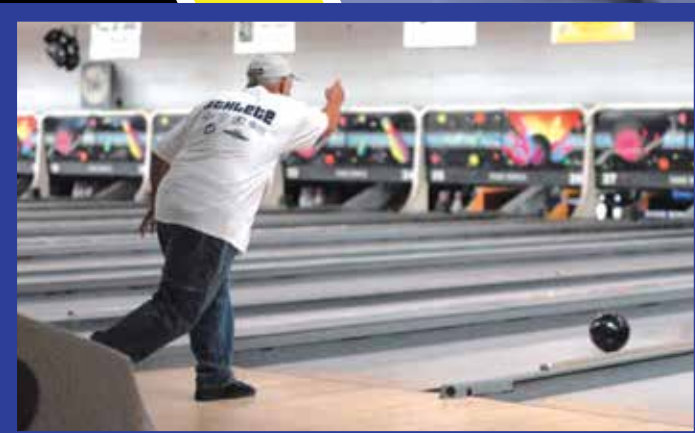
- 40 lanes, surfaced with Brunswick's Pro Lane
- Full service restaurant and bar, as well as banquet room
- Pro shop

4200 SW Huntoon St. • 785.272.1881
www.GageBowl.net

WEST RIDGE LANES

- Host of 2015 PWBA Topeka Open
- 32 lanes
- Features bowling, go-karts and mini-golf
- Full service
- Pro shop

1935 SW Westport Dr. • 785.273.3333
www.WestRidgeLanesFFC.com



ILIFF COMMONS

Iliff Commons is a cross country course featuring several miles of fescue trails through the prairie grass and woods. Iliff Commons can host numerous sporting events and activities including walking, running, crosscountry and mountain biking.

NE 31st St & NE Kincaid Rd 785.357.1854
www.DoctorIliff.com/commons.html

EXTREME SPORTS

Topeka offers multiple venues for extreme sports enthusiasts to show off their best moves. Three skate parks, one BMX racing course and one quarter midget racing track call Topeka home and are available for tournament events.

MOUSETRAP SKATE PARK

- Topeka's first skate park
- Features bowled corner, rails and flat bank channel gap

801 NE Poplar St. • 785.368.6868

RIP-ON SKATE PARK

- 9,310 square foot facility
- Features two pyramids, ramps, quarter pipes, grind rails and more

2400 SW Washburn Ave. • 785.368.6868

CHESNEY SKATE PARK

- 5,000 square foot facility
- Provides a 4-foot quarter pipe, a mini spine, a fun box with ledge

SW 18th and Clay St. • 785.368.6868

HEARTLAND BMX

- 1,200 foot dirt track designed for BMX racing
- One of two BMX racing tracks in Kansas
- Holds sanctioned events Mondays and Wednesdays

4801 SW Shunga Dr. • 785.271.1269
www.HeartlandBMX.com



TOPEKA QUARTER MIDGET TRACK

- State-of-the-art banked concrete oval racetrack with scoring tower
- Constructed for kids ages 5-16
- Concession stand, covered bleachers and a large staging area

1121 SW University Blvd. • www.TKQMA.net



SUNFLOWER SOCCER COMPLEX

The Sunflower Soccer Complex's fields are commonly referred to as "the best grass fields in the state of Kansas."

The organization began in 1983 with a handful of teams and now boasts more than 170 teams, with players ranging from ages 4-14. They offer recreational, competitive and classic leagues.

- Permanent concessions and restroom
- Paved parking lot
 - Sixteen total fields, including a championship field
 - All grass fields
 - The facility is 108 acres
 - Home to biannual Governor's Cup Soccer Invitational
 - Plenty of spectator areas



4829 NW 17th St. • 785.233.9700
www.topekasoccerclub.com





HORSESHOE FACILITIES

One of the best horseshoe facilities in the Midwest is located in picturesque Gage Park. The 18 full walkway practice courts are made of grass extended platforms and clay pits. Gage Park has been a staple of Topeka since opening in 1899 and its 160-acre space offers multiple facilities including a swimming pool, the Topeka Zoological Park, the Helen Hocker Theater, a fishing pond and more.

635 SW Gage Blvd • Parks.SNCO.us

DID YOU KNOW?

Topeka hosted the NHPA World Horseshoe Championship in 2015, bringing more than 1,400 pitchers from around the world. Frank Elroy Jackson, of Blue Mound, Kansas, competed in the first world horseshoe championship in 1909 and won the event, beating 33 other contestants. The event was held in Bronson, Kansas. He also participated in multiple Topeka tournaments in his lifetime.



TENNIS FACILITIES

Kossover Tennis Facility and Wood Valley Racquet Club offer a premier mix of outdoor, hard surface tennis courts and indoor cement, laminate courts. Together, they provide an optimal variety of tournament ready courts.

KOSSOVER TENNIS FACILITY

- 18 hard surface tennis courts
- Nine lighted courts
- Stadium center court and pro shop

2540 SW Gage Blvd • 785.273.0030

WOOD VALLEY RACQUET CLUB

- 6 indoor courts, laminate-coated cement
- Massage therapy and personal training
- Serves adult and youth tennis

2909 SW 37th St • 785.266.8000
www.GenesiHealthClubs.com

PICKLEBALL

To meet the demand for this growing sport, tennis courts in a central park were converted into dedicated pickleball courts.

HUGHES PARK

- 18-court pickleball complex

725 SW Orleans • www.TopekaPickleball.com

SOFTBALL FACILITIES

If softball is your game, you can “Play ball” at parks across Topeka. Experienced in hosting a wide variety of tournaments, our numerous softball fields can easily accommodate your big event.

RUEGER PARK SOFTBALL COMPLEX

- Four diamonds with 300’ fences
- Tournament quality lighting
- Concession and restroom building

2851 S. Kansas Ave. • 785.368.3808

SHAWNEE NORTH SPORTS COMPLEX

- Four diamond complex
- Covered dugouts
- Concession area

400 NE 43rd • 785.267.1156

FELKER SOFTBALL COMPLEX

- Four diamond complex
- Bullpen, concession stand and restroom
- Covered stands for spectators

25th & Gage Blvd. • 785.273.6170

KEN BERRY FIELDS

- 11 fields of all sizes and for all age ranges
- Organized by Southwest Youth Athletic Association in the early 1970s
- Consists of more than 150 teams

61st & Wanamaker Rd. • 785.213.3565



HOMETOWN HEROES

Allen “Kent” Berry, born in Kansas City, played professional baseball from 1962-1975. He was selected as an all-star for the 1967 season and received two Gold Glove Awards, in 1970 and 1972. He had a career .255 batting average. He was a 1959 graduate of Washburn Rural High School in Topeka, where he starred in football, track and basketball.

MULTI-SPORT FACILITIES

Featuring flexible indoor space for youth and adult sports, Sport Zone and Topeka Sports Factory are excellent venues for tournaments and field sports during the offseason.

SPORT ZONE

Offering indoor and outdoor space for league sports, tournaments and more.

- Six volleyball courts
- Four basketball courts
- Six indoor soccer fields
- Four football fields
- 400 acres of flexible land

3909 SW Burlingame Rd. • 785.267.4658
www.ISportZone.com



EQUESTRIAN ARENAS

Topeka offers several locations for equestrian events and has hosted qualifying events for the PRCA Rodeo.

R.R. DOMER LIVESTOCK ARENA

- 245 10' x 10' stalls, 240' x 120' competition arena and 200' x 150' covered exercise area
- 76 electrical hook-ups for trailers and campers with dump station

One Expocentre Dr. • 785.235.1986
www.stormontvaileventscenter.com

NORTH TOPEKA SADDLE CLUB

- Arena is active with mounted shootings, play nights, barrel racing jackpots and annual Kansas High School Rodeo Association rodeo
- Host of the Topeka PRCA Rodeo

7341 NW Topeka Blvd. • 785.246.1920



GOLF FACILITIES

There are many fine golfing facilities in the Shawnee County area. Whether you're an amateur or professional player, the courses range in skill level to provide your group with the appropriate challenge. With courses like Berkshire, Cypress Ridge and Shawnee Country Club, the Shawnee County area is a golfer's dream.

FIREKEEPER GOLF COURSE

This challenging course was designed by PGA winner Notah Begay III and has been named the best course in Kansas by Golfweek Magazine. It is located in the heart of the Prairie Band Reservation in Mayetta and is the only golf course in the nation that site entirely on Native American reservation ground.

- Over 7,000 yards of play and par of 72
- The Firekeeper Pro Shop
- No.1 ranking in 2011 as a public access course in Kansas

12524 150th Rd. • 785.966.2100

www.FireKeeperGolf.com

LAKE SHAWNEE GOLF COURSE

The 18-hole course at the Lake Shawnee Golf Course facility features 6,357 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 68. It also features a course rating is 70.0 and it has a slope rating of 118.

- Fairways use Zoysia grass, greens use Bentgrass
- Maintained by Lake Shawnee Golf Management
- Clubhouse and pro shop

4141 SE East Edge Rd. • 785.267.2295

www.LakeShawneeGolf.com



HOMETOWN HEROES

Gary Woodland, a Topeka native, currently plays on the PGA Tour. He has played professionally since 2007 and won the U.S. Open in 2019 for his first major championship and sixth professional victory.

FIELD SPORTS

Two venues in Topeka are aimed at shooting enthusiasts. Whether you're looking to hold an event or just do some target shooting, these venues have you covered.

RAVENWOOD LODGE

- Featured on "Pull—America's Top Gun Clubs" and "Field & Stream TV"
- Offers mix of bird hunting opportunities and clay target shooting

10147 SW 61st St.
785.256.6444
www.RavenwoodLodge.com

CAPITAL CITY GUN CLUB

- Private shooting range
- Range for hi-power weapons, pistols, blackpowder guns, and more

12200 NW 4th St.
785.478.4682
www.CapitalCityGunClub.com



DISC GOLF

Topeka offers three disc golf courses for use. Topeka also hosts the two day Mighty Shunga Open, a Tier A disc golf tournament, which brings upwards of 120 people to the capital city.

18 BASKET COURSES

- Lake Shawnee Disc Golf Course, 3100 SE Tinman Circle
- Crestview Park Disc Golf Course, SW Fairlawn Rd & SW Shunga Dr.

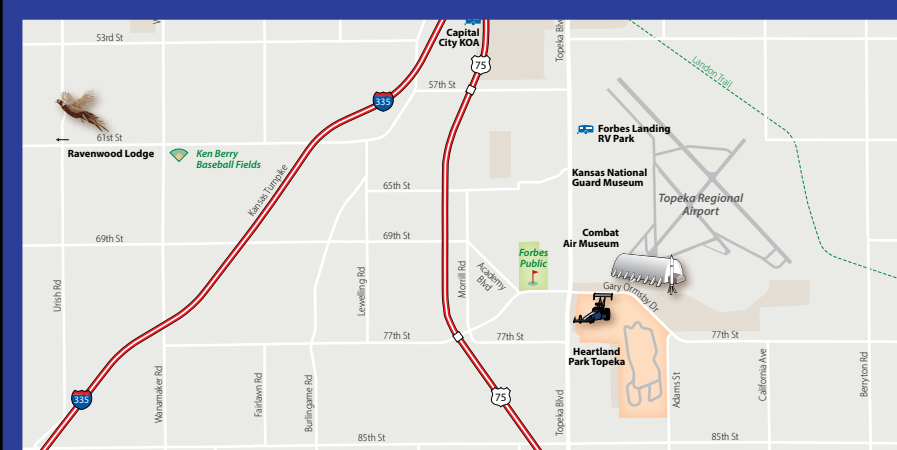
9 BASKET COURSE

- Rice Park Disc Golf Course, 500-521 SE 5th St.





TOPEKA FACILITY MAP



SOUTH TOPEKA

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MAP KEY

- 1 HUMMER SPORTS PARK
- 2 STORMONT VAIL EVENTS CENTER
- 3 LAKE SHAWNEE
- 4 SPORTS ZONE
- 5 WASHBURN UNIVERSITY
- TRAIL
- GOLF COURSE
- HOSPITAL
- RV PARK
- RIVER ACCESS



TOPEKA AREA
SPORTS COMMISSION





DEMOGRAPHICS
TRANSPORTATION
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT
HIGHER EDUCATION
CULTURAL LIFESTYLES
PERMITTING
ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL, GOVERNANCE
QUALITY OF LIFE

go
>topeka

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A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF GO TOPEKA

CAN DO is the spirit Topeka, Kansas has towards business. We are committed to helping your company's operations thrive should you choose Kansas' capital city. The greater Topeka area is a flexible community, and our size is a strength. We emphasize public-private collaboration to enable us to meet your needs and encourage business growth to drive our region forward.

INCENTIVES: GO Topeka offers aggressive cash incentives for land, property, equipment, jobs, and training.

WORKFORCE: Topeka and Shawnee County has a labor draw of approximately 400,000 people located within a 45-minute drive.

INFRASTRUCTURE: We are built for business and situated at the crossroads of several major highways and interstates, six of which converge in Topeka, providing easy access to on and off ramps and to all points in the city.

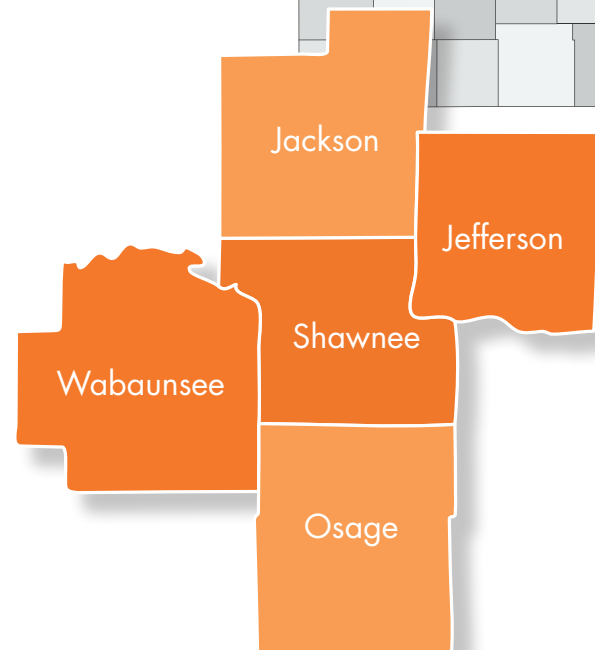
TALENT: Four major universities within a 60-mile radius – The University of Kansas, Kansas State University, Emporia State University, and Washburn University with a combined enrollment of 65,000 and over 12,000 graduates per year.

We'd love to help you capitalize on the opportunities available, and we look forward to welcoming you to the capital city! Come join the positive momentum in Topeka, Kansas!

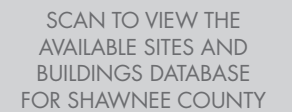


Calla Haggard
Calla Haggard

TOPEKA MSA INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING COUNTIES



City of Topeka	58 sq. miles
Shawnee County	552 sq. miles



A map of the United States illustrating a network of highways and three concentric circles centered on Kansas City. The circles represent distances of 500 Mi., 750 Mi., and 1200 Mi. from the center. Major cities marked include Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Denver, Dallas, Houston, Chicago, New York, and Boston. A red rectangle highlights the central region around Kansas City.

DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION

MSA* (5 counties)	232,995
City of Topeka	126,431
Shawnee County	178,625
State of Kansas	2,937,150

Source: 2022 ACS 5-year Estimates

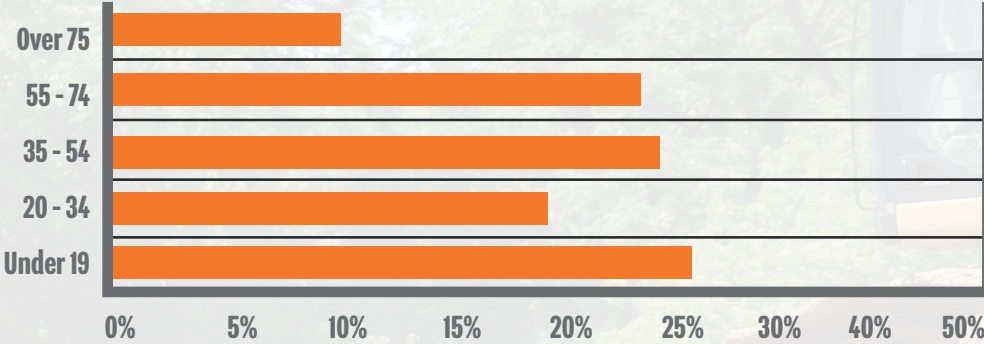
*Metropolitan Statistical Area: Shawnee, Jackson, Jefferson, Wabaunsee and Osage Counties

SHAWNEE COUNTY ETHNIC POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

White	77.8%
Hispanic or Latino	13.3%
Black/African-American	8%
Other Race	7.7%

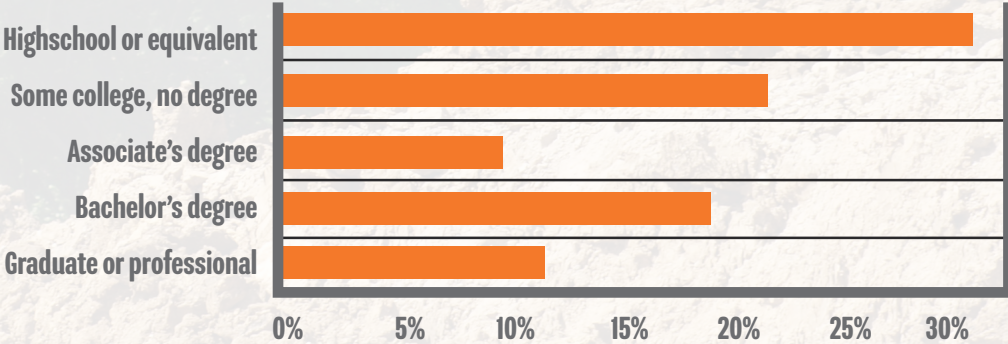
Source: ACS S1401, DP05, S1901

POPULATION BY AGE (Median Age: 39.4)



Source: 2022 ACS 1-year Estimate

EDUCATION ATTAINMENT (25 year & older)



Source: 2022 ACS 1-year estimates

TAXES

SALES TAX RATES

9.35%

State	6.5%
County	1.35%
Topeka	1.5%

COST OF LIVING

The Cost of Living Index estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. When applied to wages and salaries, the result is a measure of relative purchasing power.

The cost of living is 16.1% lower in Topeka, KS MSA than the U.S. Average

COST OF LIVING INDEX

Topeka, KS Metro	83.9
Kansas	90.2
USA	100



INCOME:

INCOME	Shawnee County	Topeka
Median Household Income	\$63,463	\$54,052
Mean Household Income	\$84,874	\$72,948

Source: 2022 ACS 5-year Estimates

MEDIAN HOME VALUE:

Shawnee County, KS	\$159,900
--------------------	------------------

MEDIAN HOME VALUE: SHAWNEE COUNTY

Less than \$50,000	8.9%
\$50,000-\$99,999	18.1%
\$100,000-\$140,999	15.1%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	20%
\$200,000-\$299,999	20.1%
\$300,000-\$499,999	13.7%
\$500,000-\$999,999	3.4%
\$1,000,000 or more	0.7%

KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

GDP MAKEUP BY INDUSTRY	GDP	GDP %
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$1,690,710,000	9.1%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	\$1,255,109,000	9.1%
Manufacturing	\$1,359,929,000	13.8%
Public Administration	\$1,175,308,000	8.5%
Finance and Insurance	\$1,197,154,000	16.2%
Retail Trade	\$713,601,000	4.3%
Wholesale Trade	\$647,609,000	10.1%
Educational Services	\$570,443,000	5.1%
Transportation and Warehousing	\$655,242,000	14.1%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	\$608,083,000	10.8%
Construction	\$496,183,000	14.9%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	\$476,319,000	12.8%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	\$398,400,000	14.3%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	\$357,369,000	19.8%
Information	\$359,460,000	6.6%
Accommodation and Food Services	\$275,230,000	11.4%
Utilities	\$242,202,000	8.0%
Unclassified	\$42,591,000	6.9%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$35,024,000	27.6%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	\$21,710,000	-30.9%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	\$20,739,000	-1.2%

Source: JobsEQ 2022

KEY CHANGES FROM 2022-2023

TOTAL SHAWNEE COUNTY GDP:
\$12,598,413,000

Source: GDP 2022 JobsEQ

1 HOUSING MARKET IN
THE UNITED STATES
WALL STREET JOURNAL/
REALTOR.COM

21.8% AVERAGE
WAGE
INCREASE SINCE 2019

2ND LOWEST
POVERTY
RATE
IN KANSAS 2022,
COUNTIES 100,000+
POPULATION

2.9%
AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT

FIESTA TOPEKA
CELEBRATES
90 YEARS

6B EARNED MEDIA
AUDIENCE
REACH

190 NEW GO
TOPEKA
PROJECTS

6th
TOP TEN
FASTEST
GROWING
COUNTIES
IN KANSAS,
2023 COUNTIES
50,000+
POPULATION

18.4%
2022 GDP
INCREASE
SINCE 2019

#5 / #9
TOP SCHOOL DISTRICTS
IN KANSAS
AUBURN
WASHBURN (5) /
SILVER LAKE (9) NICHE.

\$542.5K
GO TOPEKA SMALL
BUSINESS INCENTIVES

\$6.3M
NEW CAPITAL
INVESTMENT

191
INTERNATIONAL
NEWS PIECES

\$2.8M
INVESTED IN
CHILDCARE

40
NEW
CHOOSE
TOPEKA
FAMILIES

EMPLOYMENT FACTS

**AVERAGE TRAVEL TIME TO WORK IN
TOPEKA, KS:** 18.1 minutes

WORK TRAVEL

- 7,000 (11.5%) individuals travel 25-50 miles into Topeka for work.
- 13,100 (21.5%) individuals travel more than 50 miles for work in Topeka.

TOP 10 EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY IN SNCO

Educational services and health care	22.6%
Public administration	10.5%
Manufacturing	10.4%
Professional, scientific, & management, & administrative & waste management services	8.3%
Finance and insurance and real estate	8%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, & accommodation & food services	7.8%
Construction	7.4%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	6.7%
Other Services	4.2%

PRODUCTIVITY TRACKER:

Shawnee County
Manufacturing
Workforce:

**+22%
MORE
PRODUCTIVE**
than the
National Average

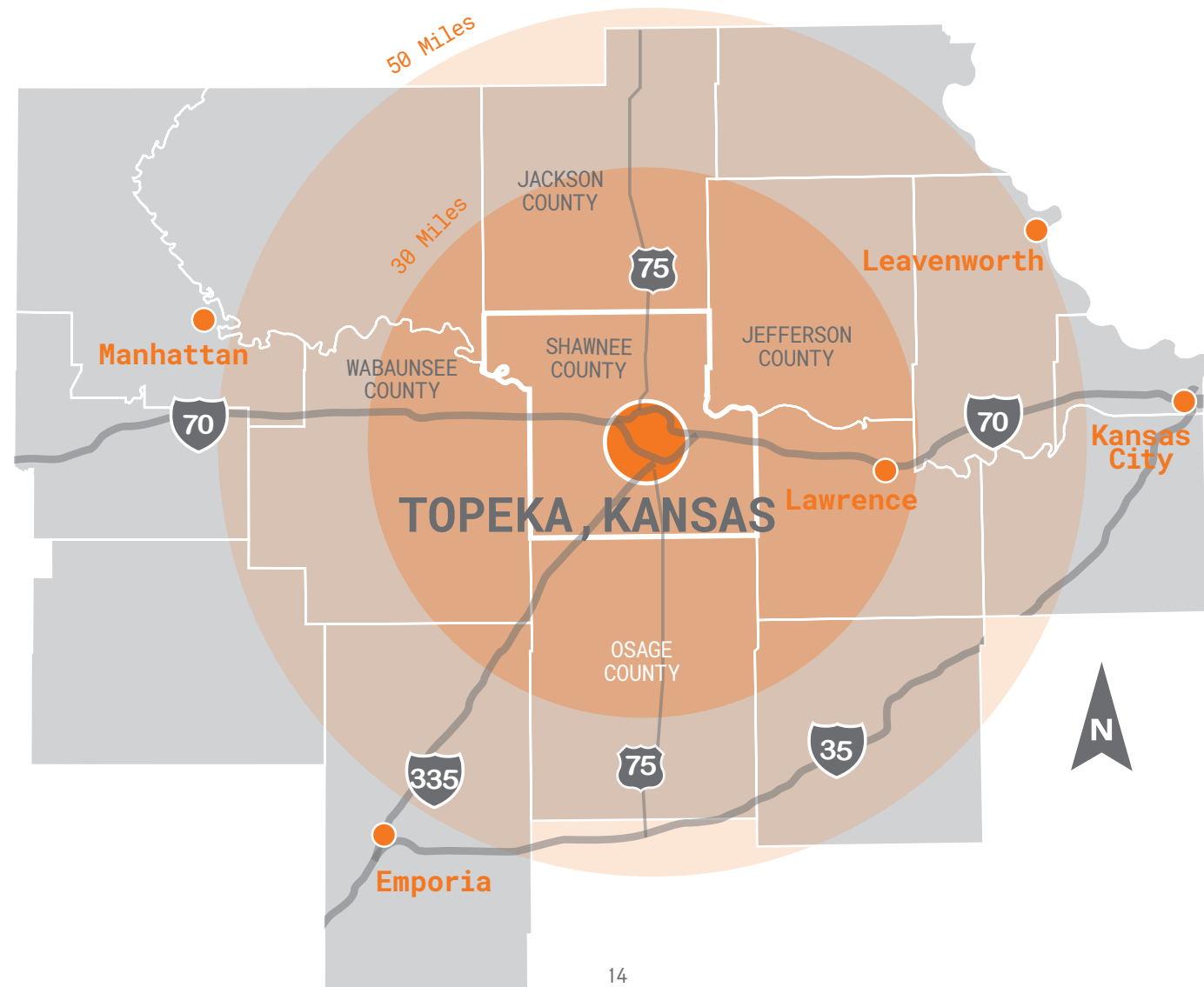
TOP 5 EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION IN SNCO

Management, business, science and arts occupations	31,902
Sales and office occupations	15,444
Service occupations	12,814
Retail trade	9.8%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	11,464
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	8,370

WORKFORCE

WORKFORCE DRAW

400,000 LABOR POOL WITHIN
45-MINUTE DRIVE TIME OF TOPEKA



EMPLOYERS

TOP EMPLOYERS



TOPEKA & SHAWNEE COUNTY LARGEST EMPLOYERS

Topeka is headquarters to national and international companies including: Advisors Excel, American Home Life Insurance, Evergy, Federal Home Loan Bank, Hill's Pet Nutrition, SE2 and Security Benefit.

TOPEKA MSA (5 Counties) EMPLOYMENT

	No. of Employees
Healthcare & Social Assistance	22,000
Public Administration	12,767
Retail Trade	10,285
Educational Services	9,513
Accommodation & Food Services	8,702
Administrative & Support	7,250
Manufacturing	9,037
Finance & Insurance	6,298
Construction	6,843
Transportation & Warehousing	5,759

GOVERNMENT

- City of Topeka
- Coast Guard
- Department of Veteran Affairs
- State of Kansas

INSURANCE/ FINANCIAL

- Advisors Excel
- Capitol Federal
- CoreFirst
- FHLBank Topeka
- Gradient Financial
- Security Benefit

EDUCATION

- Topeka Public Schools
- Washburn University

FOOD MANUFACTURING & PROCESSING

- Bimbo Bakeries
- Cargill
- Crosswinds Pet Foods
- Frito-Lay
- Hill's Pet Nutrition
- JM Smucker
- Mars Wrigley
- Reser's Fine Foods
- The Honest Mill

TRANSPORTATION, UTILITY & COMM.

- AT&T
- BNSF Railway
- Cox Communications
- Evergy

MEDICAL/ HEALTH SERVICES

- Blue Cross & Blue Shield
- Stormont Vail Health
- University of Kansas Health System
- St. Francis Campus

LOGISTICS & DISTRIBUTION

- Goodyear Tire & Rubber
- Home Depot Distribution Center
- PepsiCo
- PTMW
- Target Distribution Center
- US Foods
- Walmart Fulfillment Center

METALWORKING

- Ernest-Spencer
- HME
- PTMW
- Topeka Foundry
- Stevenson Company

COMPANIES THAT CHOSE TOPEKA AS A CENTRAL HUB FOR THEIR OPERATIONS:





FOOD PROCESSING



PROFESSIONAL & FINANCE



AEROSPACE



LOGISTICS & DISTRIBUTION



ADVANCED SYSTEMS TECH



ANIMAL HEALTH & AGTECH

EDUCATION

POSTSECONDARY
EDUCATION
WITHIN 60-MILE
RADIUS

2023 POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT NUMBERS

STATE UNIVERSITIES

University of Kansas	26,206
Kansas State University	22,038
Emporia State University	6,660

LOCAL

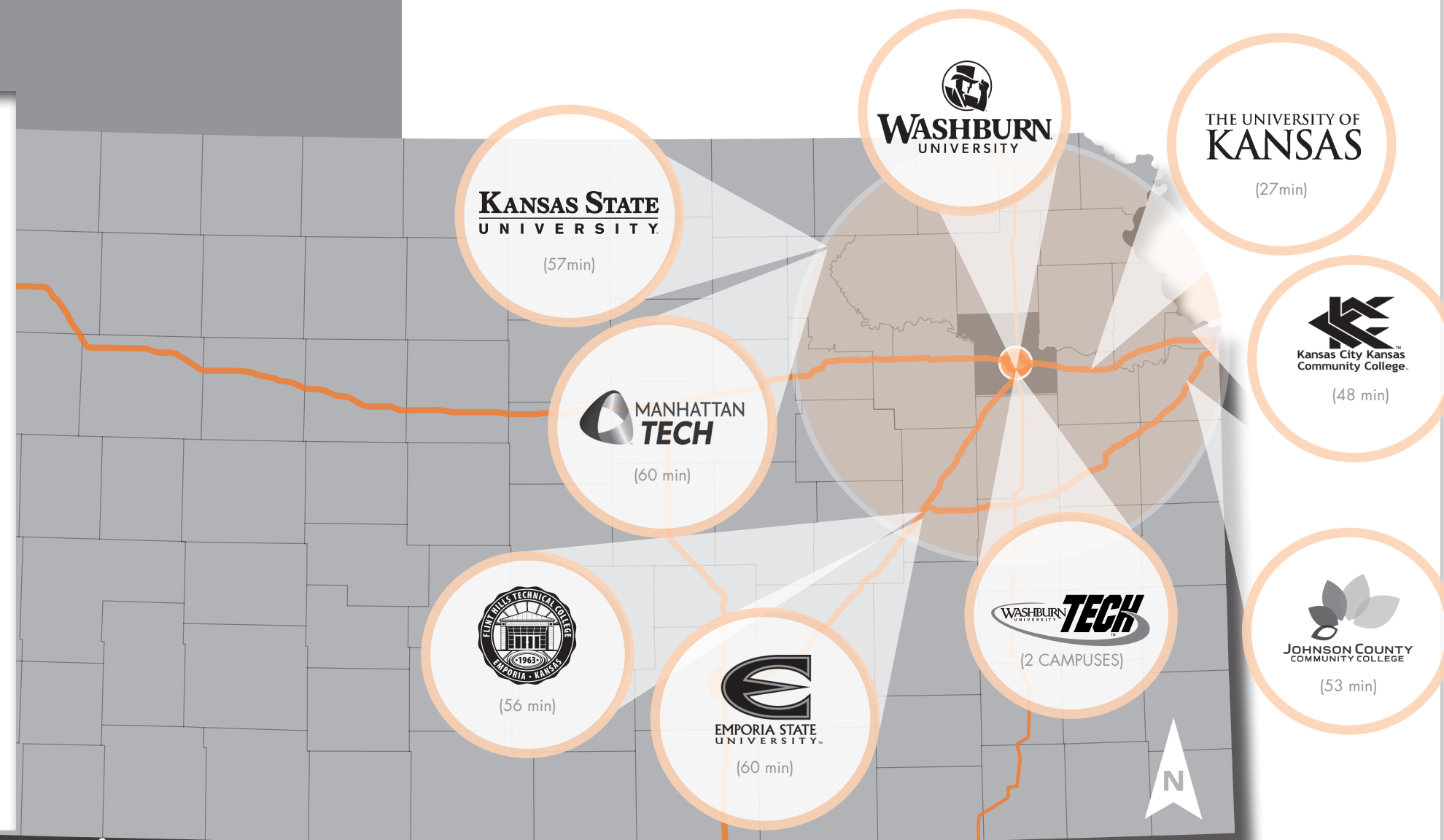
Washburn University	6,302
WUTech	1,583

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Johnson County Community College	24,640
Kansas City Kansas Community College	6,526

TECHNICAL COLLEGES

Manhattan Area Technical College	1,217
Flint Hills Technical College	3,152



HIGHER EDUCATION

WASHBURN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS

- Advanced Systems Technology
- Auto Collision & Refinishing
- Auto Service Technician
- Cabinet/Millwork
- Carpentry (Building Technology)
- Climate & Energy Control (HVAC)
- Commercial & Heavy Construction
- Cosmetology
- Culinary Arts
- Diesel Technology
- Early Childhood Professional
- Electrical Technology
- Emergency Medical Response
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Foundations of Healthcare
- Graphics Technology
- Heavy Diesel Construction Technology
- Industrial Production Technician
- Information Systems Technology
- Machine/Tool Technology
- Fast-Track Machine/Toll
- Medication Aide
- Nurse Aide or Home Health Aide
- Phlebotomy
- Plumbing Technology
- Practical Nursing
- Sterile Processing
- Surgical Technology
- Technical Drafting
- Welding Technology
- Fast-Track Welding

PLACEMENT RATE



94%

Washburn Institute of Technology has two locations in Topeka that offer **customized training** programs where companies can help build the curriculum.

REGIONAL AIRPORT

TOPEKA REGIONAL AIRPORT

- Longest runway in Kansas (12,803 ft)
- 7m001 ft crosswind runway
- 2.7 million sq ft of apron space
- Class D airspace with fewer than 25,000 operations per year
- Category I ILS
- On-site fire and police
- Open 24/7/365
- Zero property taxes



SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
TOPEKA AVIATION

LOCAL INCENTIVES

The passage of the half-cent sales tax in Shawnee County generates \$5 million a year for economic development. The community can focus financial resources on projects that have a substantial impact on the economy. There are a variety of performance-based local incentives available depending on the type of business and the project specifics. These are available for:

- Infrastructure & Land Acquisition
- Construction & Facility Improvements
- Equipment & Machinery
- New Jobs
- Training
- State Incentive Application Reimbursement

STATE OF KANSAS INCENTIVES INCLUDE

- Employment
- Training
- Utilities
- Transportation Improvements
- Industrial Revenue Bonds
- Real Property Tax Abatement



SCAN TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT THE LOCAL
INCENTIVES AVAILABLE



VALUE PROPOSITION

CHOOSE TOPEKA IS AN
INCENTIVE PROGRAM CREATED
TO ENCOURAGE TALENTED
PROFESSIONALS TO RELOCATE
TO THE TOPEKA AND SHAWNEE
COUNTY COMMUNITY.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
CHOOSE TOPEKA

HOW IT WORKS

- Employer funds employee relocation expenses ranging from \$2.5K up to \$15K for a new employee hire, employee transfer, hire of a new Washburn graduate or hire a transitioning military service member. After first year, GO Topeka/JEDO reimburses up to 50% match of the total qualified relocation incentive to the employer for employee retention (Performance based pay).

THE RULES

- Employers must notify GO Topeka of their intent to participate for each employee they choose to offer the talent incentive and receive confirmation of acceptance. Once approved, the employer must document and initiate the request for reimbursement.
- Employer will fund the incentive initially and will submit for reimbursement in the subsequent year for the 50% match, documenting continued residency, employment and payment to the employee.

PROGRAM RESULTS SINCE JANUARY 2023

\$85K TOTAL AVERAGE
SALARY
16.3x RETURN ON
INVESTMENT
83.7x RETURN ON
INVESTMENT
AFTER 5 YEARS



37
HAVE BOUGHT
HOMES IN
SHAWNEE COUNTY

83 FAMILIES
HAVE MOVED
TO SHAWNEE CO.
THROUGH
CHOOSE
TOPEKA 2.0



PARTICIPANTS
RELOCATED
FROM **21 STATES**

44
ARE RENTING

NUMBER OF
EMPLOYERS
PARTICIPATING
IN PROGRAM

75

CHOOSE TOPEKA

INNOVATION

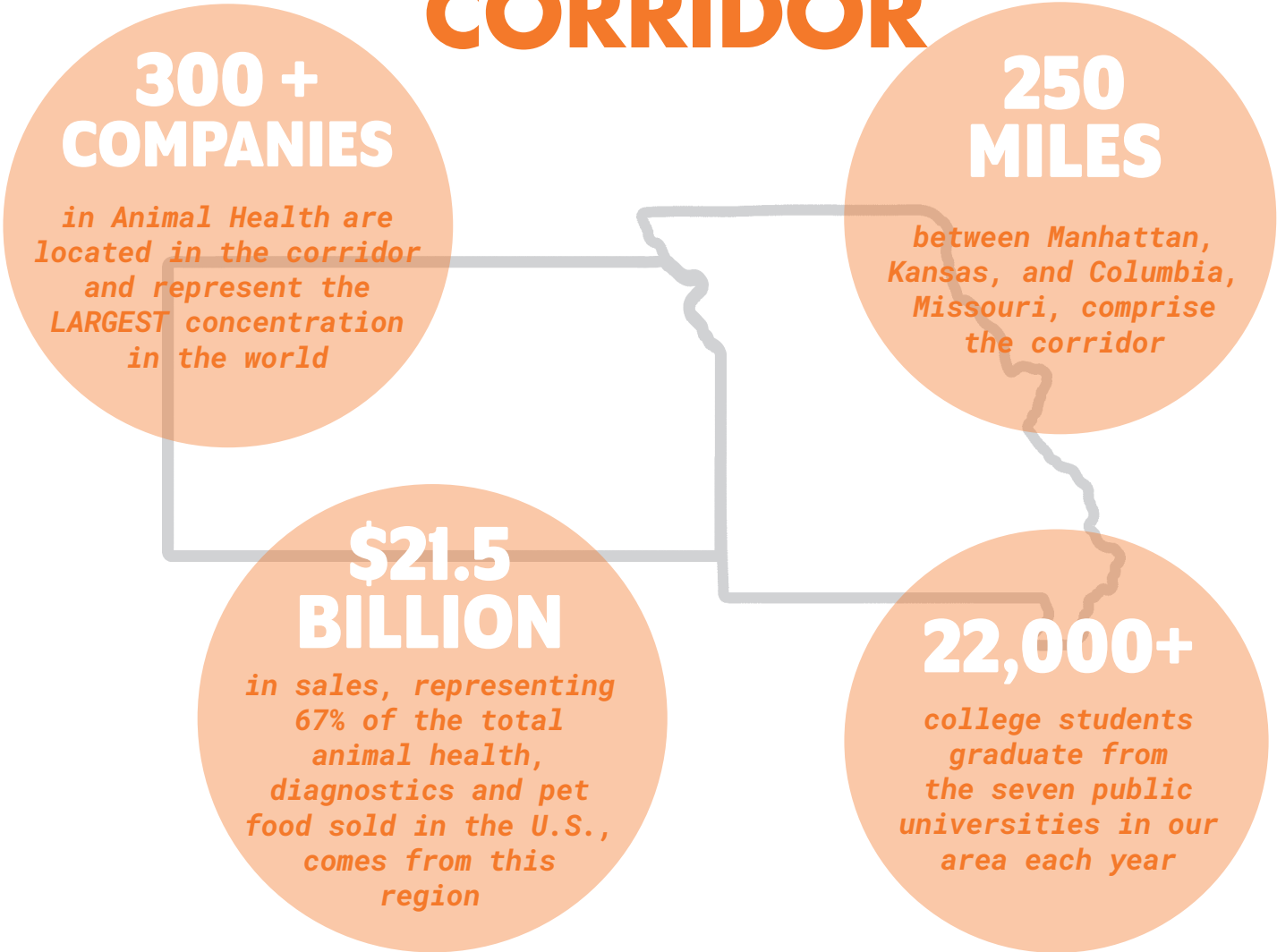
INNOVATION CENTER AND DISTRICT

Topeka and Shawnee County are cultivating a world-class animal health ecosystem, with Plug and Play helping us become the region's center for innovation. Plug and Play is pairing Silicon Valley tech with the region's industry leading research & development, skilled workforce, and animal health companies to turn Topeka into the innovation hub of the Midwest.

Plug and Play is the leading innovation platform, connecting startups, corporations, venture capital firms, universities, and government agencies. Headquartered in Silicon Valley and present in 35+ locations across five continents, they offer corporate innovation programs and help our corporate partners in every stage of their innovation journey, from education to execution. Plug and Play organizes startup accelerator programs and has built an in-house VC model to drive innovation across multiple industries where they're invested in hundreds of successful companies, including Dropbox, Guardant Health, Honey, Lending Club, N26, PayPal and Rappi.

The Topeka Animal Health Accelerator, launched in 2020, is supported by founding partners Cargill, Evergy, and Hill's Pet Nutrition.

THE ANIMAL HEALTH CORRIDOR





LINK INNOVATION LABS AND DISTRICT

Topeka is investing in innovation by creating an Innovation Center to serve as a resource hub for innovators to plug in. Link Innovation Labs will consist of mixed-use, co-working, office, lab, and retail space. This will be the home of innovation and entrepreneurship for the Topeka region and headquarters of the Plug and Play startup accelerator program for animal health and ag tech.



TOPEKA IS GROWING AS A HUB FOR INNOVATION,
AND WE ARE EXCITED TO SHOWCASE THE
STRENGTH OF OUR ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM
THROUGH CORPORATE SPONSORS, UNIVERSITY
ENGAGEMENT, STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND
COMMUNITY SUPPORT.

Stephanie Moran
SVP of Innovation
GO Topeka

ESG

ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL, GOVERNANCE

1 **CLEAN AIR**
1st in the nation for ozone
air quality.
*American Lung Assn.,
April 2021*

1 **NUMBER 1 HOUSING
MARKET**
Ranked #1 Housing Market in the
United States.
Wall Street Journal

2 **NEW CULTURAL
FESTIVALS IN
DOWNTOWN** For the
Culture KS & India Mela

**CLEAN &
SAFE** Initiatives begin
Downtown

5 & 6 **GREAT SCHOOLS**
5th and 6th best school dis-
tricts in Kansas.
*Niche, 2022
Best School Districts Rankings*

6 **BEST US CITY
FOR REMOTE
WORK**
6th best city in the US for
remote work, based on
cost of living, startup and
innovation culture.
Forbes, March 2021

1 **BEST STATE
BUSINESS CLIMATE**
1st state for business climate for
West North Central Region.
Site Selector Magazine, June 2021

4 **FASTEST STATE
ECONOMIC
COVID RECOVERY**
4th best state economic
recovery from COVID-19.
Wallet Hub, November 2021

40 **BEST RUN US CITY**
40th best run city in the US,
based on operating efficiency,
quality of service and budget.
Wallet Hub, June 2021



QUALITY OF LIFE

LOCATION DATA

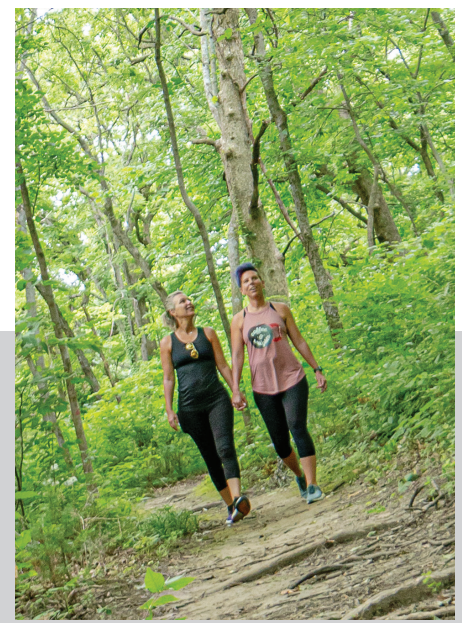
AVERAGE DAILY TEMPERATURES

Month	High	Low
January	39°	8°
February	44°	23°
March	56°	33°
April	67°	44°
May	76°	54°
June	85°	64°
July	90°	68°
August	89°	66°
September	82°	56°
October	69°	45°
November	55°	33°
December	42°	22°

Source: NOAA

DISTANCE

Kansas City	60 miles
Omaha	170 miles
St. Louis	315 miles
Dallas	505 miles
Chicago	550 miles
Denver	560 miles
Houston	740 miles



ENJOY THE TRAILS
Topeka has over 70 miles of connected trails!





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President of GO Topeka
Molly.Howey@TopekaPartnership.com
C 785.231.4707

**go
topeka**

gotopeka.com

ASHLEY LEHMAN
Director of Business Development
Ashley.Lehman@TopekaPartnership.com
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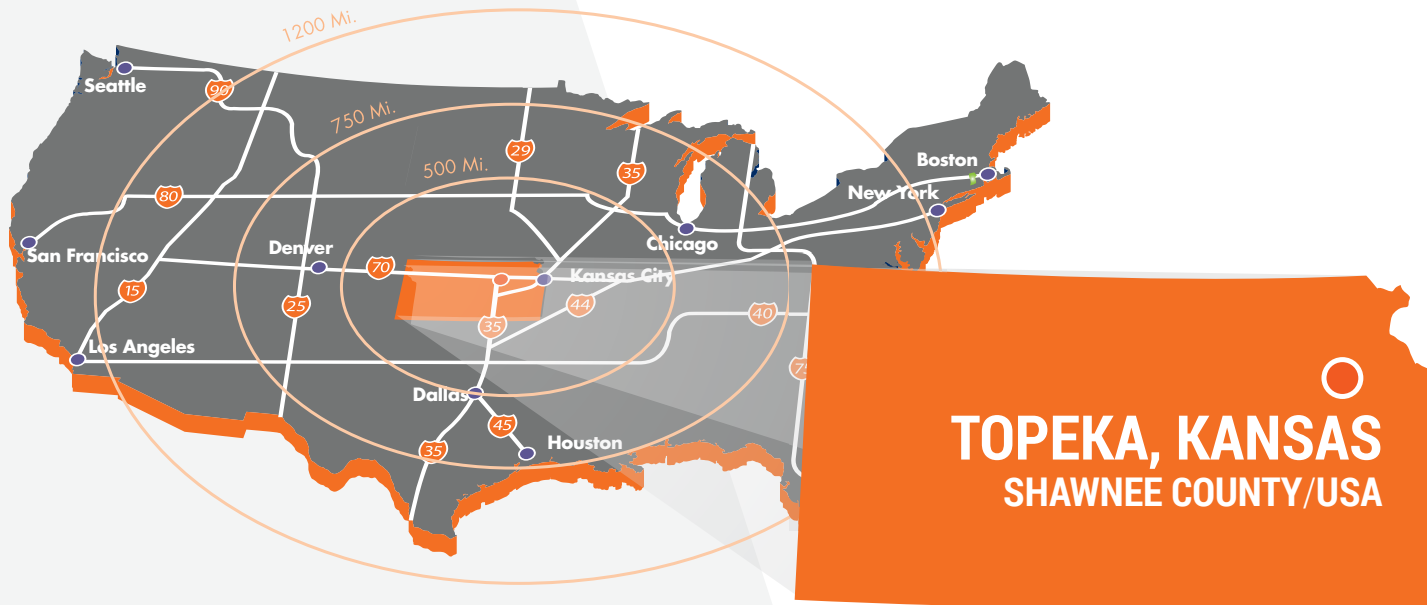


AVIATION NAVIATION NAVIATION TOPEKA TOPEKA TOPEKA **AIR TOPEKA** AVIATION NAVIATION NAVIATION TOPEKA TOPEKA TOPEKA



> go topeka


MTAA
METROPOLITAN TOPEKA AIRPORT AUTHORITY

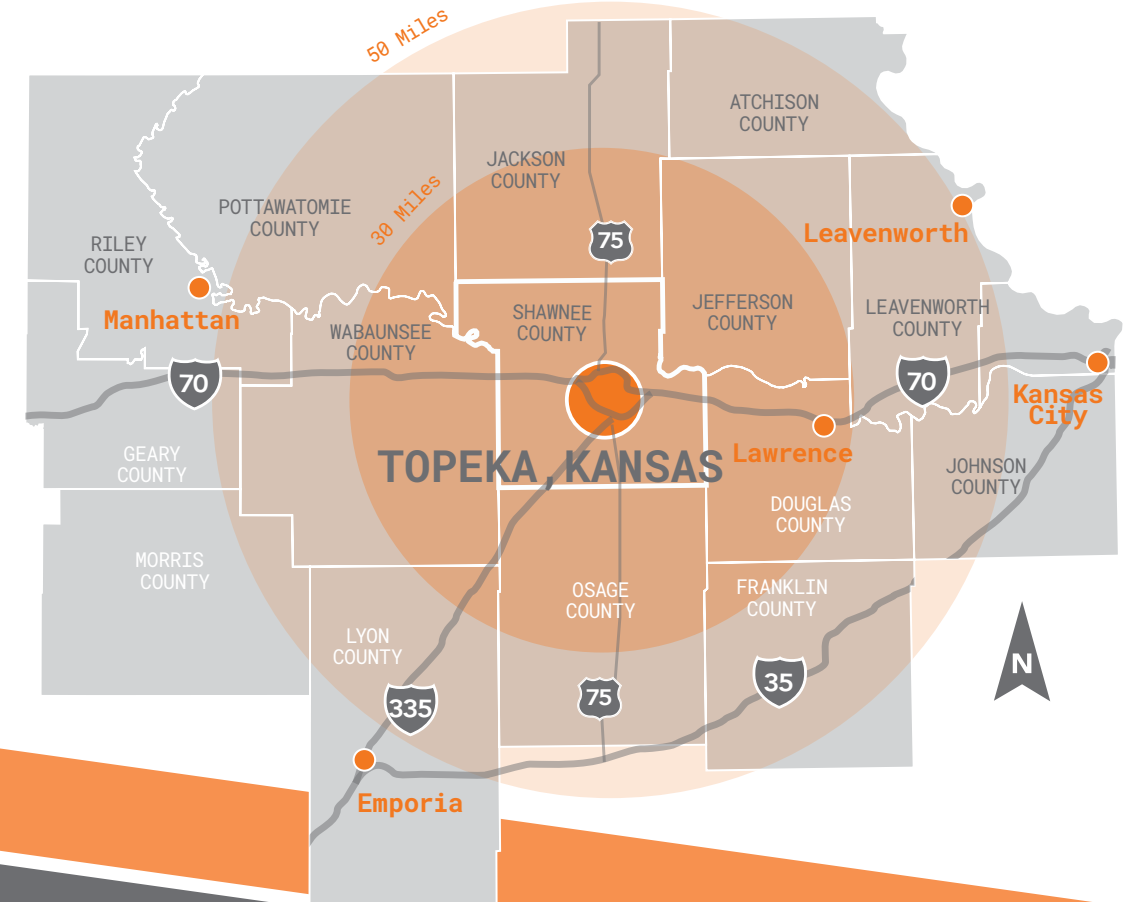


TRANSPORTATION

Highway - Crossroads of several major highways and interstates
Rail - Access to both Union Pacific and BNSF Railway
Air - Less than a one-hour drive to the Kansas City International Airport

WORKFORCE DRAW

400,000 LABOR POOL WITHIN
45 MINUTES OF TOPEKA



POPULATION

MSA* (5 counties): 232,995
 City of Topeka: 126,431
 Shawnee County: 178,625
 State of Kansas: 2,935,922

TAX RATE

Kansas Corporate Tax Rate 3.5%
 Kansas Sales Tax Rate 6.5%
 Shawnee County Sales Tax Rate 1.35%
 City of Topeka Sales Tax Rate 1.5%
Taxes on Airport Properties..... 0%

*Metropolitan Statistical Area:
 Shawnee, Jackson, Jefferson, Wabaunsee and Osage
 Counties Source: 2022 ACS 5-year Estimates

TOP EMPLOYERS



SKILLED WORKFORCE

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY | Salina

Aerospace and Technology Campus (1hr 40min)

AVIATION, ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION DEGREE OPTIONS

Aeronautics	Machine Learning & Autonomous Systems
Applied Manufacturing	Mechanical Engineering Technology
Aviation Electronics Technology	Professional Aviation
Aviation Maintenance Management	Professional Pilot
Aviation Management	Robotics and Automation Engineering Technology
Aviation Safety	Unmanned Aircraft Systems Design and Integration
Composite Repair	Unmanned Aircraft Systems
Computer Systems Technology	Unmanned Aircraft Systems Flight and Operations
Electronic and Computer Engineering Technology	

TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Advanced Multirotor Flight Training	sUAS Commercial Remote Pilot Training
Basic Multirotor Flight Training	UAS Fire & HAZMAT Response Training
Bulk Solids Training	UAS Law Enforcement Training
Drone Imagery Collection, Mapping & Analysis Training	UAS Night Operations

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Engineering (57min)

AVIATION & AEROSPACE DEGREE OPTIONS

Aeronautics
Aviation Electronics Technology (undergraduate certificate)
Aviation Management
Aviation Maintenance Management
Aviation Safety (minor)
Professional Aviation
Professional Pilot
Unmanned Aircraft Systems Design & Integration
Unmanned Aircraft Systems Flight & Operations



PROGRAMS

Advanced Systems Technology
Industrial Production Technician
Information Systems Technology
Machine/Tool Technology
Fast-Track Machine/Tool
Welding Technology

Fast-Track Welding

CERTIFICATES

OSHA-10
3G AWS
NIMS
NCCER Core
NCCER Field Safety
NCCER Electricity Level 1
MSSC Certification

Located in Topeka, Washburn Institute of Technology has two locations that offer customized training programs where companies help build the curriculum to prepare students for the industry they are working in.

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

School of Engineering (27min)

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENTS

Aerospace
Bioengineering
Chemical & Petroleum
Civil, Environmental & Architectural
Physics
Mechanical

AEROSPACE ENGINEERING CURRICULUM

Aerodynamics
Flight Dynamics & Control
Propulsion
Structures
Manufacturing
Instrumentation
Spacecraft Systems

WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

University & Technical School (2hrs)

PROGRAMS

Aerospace Coatings & Paint Technology
Aerospace Manufacturing Technology
Aviation Maintenance Technology (Airframe/Powerplant/General)
Avionics Technology
Composite Technology (Repair/Fabrication)
Nondestructive Testing
Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drone)
Professional Pilot



Within the 190th Air Refueling Wing of the Kansas National Guard, several hundred experienced A&P mechanics already call Topeka home and are eager to continue their post-military careers right here at Forbes Field. This talented core gives Topeka a clear leg up.

MTAA is collaborating closely with Washburn University and Washburn Tech to grow its skilled aeronautical workforce, developing an A&P program to complement existing Advanced Manufacturing programs in the region.

TOPEKA & THE KANSAS AEROSPACE TRIAD

Kansas has a powerful aerospace presence, boasting one of the highest concentrations of skilled aviation workers and engineering prowess in the United States. This Kansas Aerospace Triad encompasses Topeka, Wichita and Salina.

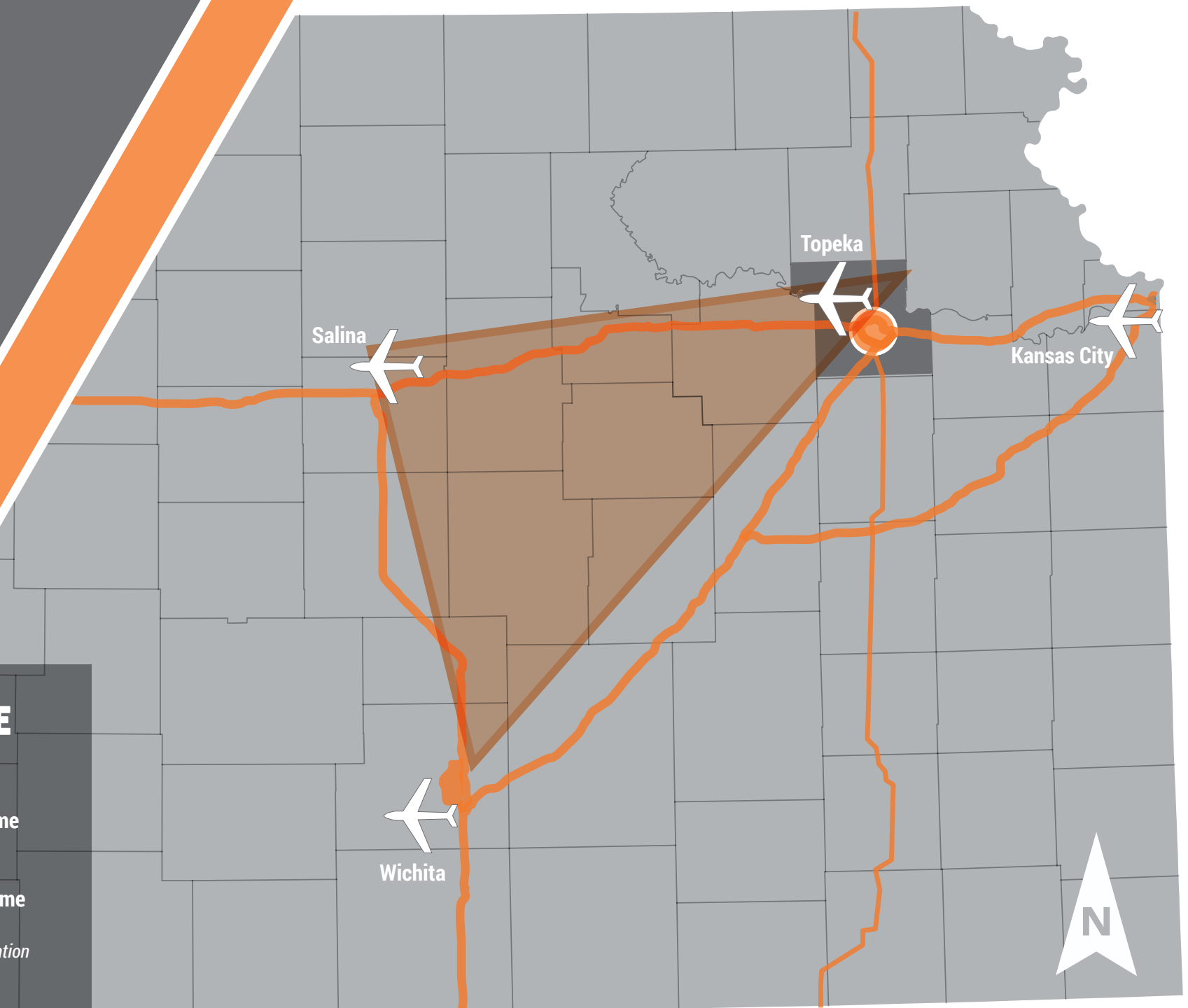
Discover Topeka's unique position on the Kansas Aerospace Triad:

- Longest runway in Kansas (12,803 ft.) – completely reconstructed in 2018
- 7,001 ft. crosswind runway
- 2.7 million sq. ft. of apron space
- Class D Airspace with fewer than 25,000 operations per year
- Category I ILS
- On-site fire and police
- Open 24/7/365
- Interstate access within 5 miles
- 8 miles from downtown Topeka
- Over 400 acres of developable real estate
- Zero property taxes

A WELCOMING CLIMATE FOR AVIATORS:

- VFR to MVFR flight conditions 92% of the time
- Winds predominately out of the north and southwest, lower than 12 knots 74% of the time

(From the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Weather Service in Topeka.)



AVAILABLE LAND AT TOPEKA REGIONAL AIRPORT



AROUND BILLARD MUNICIPAL AIRPORT:

2 RUNWAYS
5,099' x 100'
4,331' x 75'

3 MILES FROM DOWNTOWN TOPEKA

AROUND TOPEKA REGIONAL AIRPORT:

Available land within a 3-mile radius of Topeka Regional Airport.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. CENTRAL CROSSING COMMERCE PARK | A: 75 acres
B: 109 acres
C: 24 acres |
| 2. TOPEKA BLVD & SE 53RD ST | 96 acres |
| 3. 57TH & HWY 75 | 75 acres |
| 4. 57TH & BURLINGAME | 37 acres |
| 5. HARLAN INDUSTRIAL PARK | 109 acres |
| 6. 77TH & HWY 75 | 464+/- acres |



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GO Topeka, President
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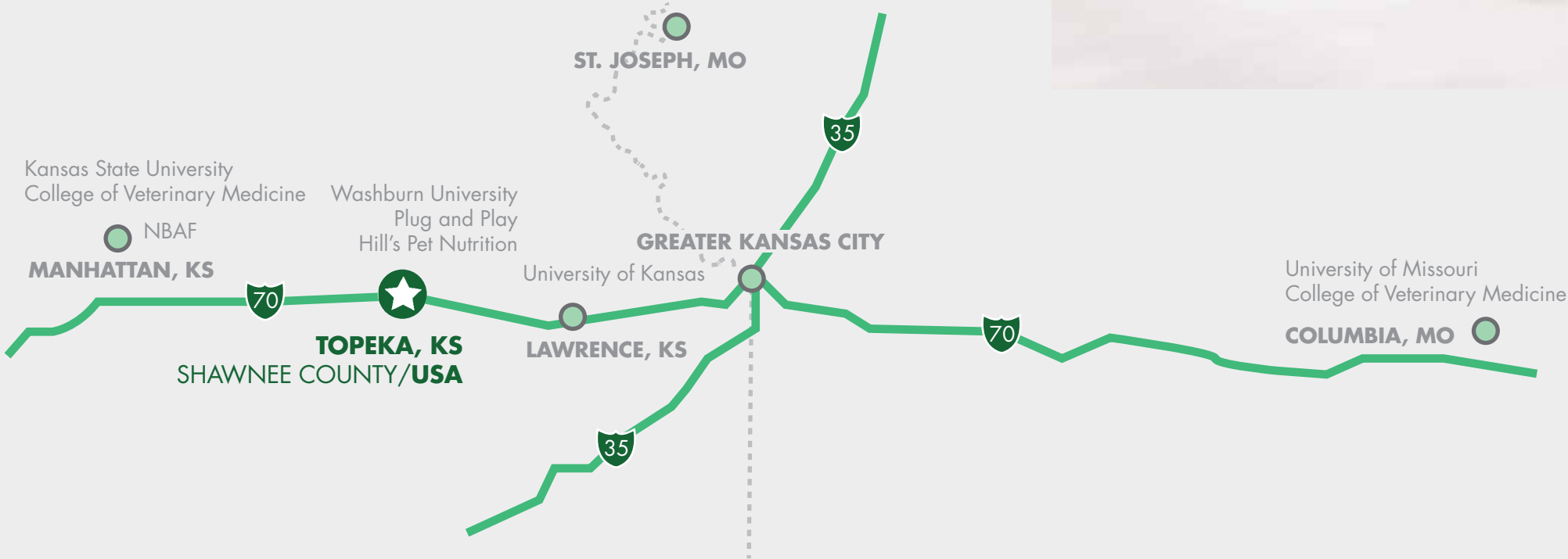
YOUR JOURNEY STARTS HERE



TOPEKA, KANSAS

THE **LINK TO INNOVATION** IS IN TOPEKA AND SHAWNEE COUNTY

REGIONAL COMMUNITY



- **CAPITAL CITY**
- **RESEARCH UNIVERSITY ACCESSIBILITY**
- **ANIMAL HEALTH CORRIDOR**
- **INTERSTATE ACCESS**

BASIC SPECS

- OVER 17,000 SQ. FT.
- 8 LABS, 7000 SQ. FT.
- 2000 SQ. FT. PITCH, TRAINING AND EVENT SPACE
- OFFICE, CO-WORKING AND CONFERENCE SPACE
- COFFEE SHOP ON SITE



NOW LEASING

RATES STARTING AT:

CO-WORKING/DESK \$150/MO

OFFICE \$17/SQ. FT.

LAB \$30/SQ. FT.

INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE
MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

CONTACT STEPHANIE MORAN AT
Stephanie.Moran@TopekaPartnership.com



SPONSORSHIPS

STARTING AT \$2,000 ANNUALLY

MULTI-YEAR OPTIONS AVAILABLE

CONTACT ASHLEE SPRING AT
Ashlee.Spring@TopekaPartnership.com



OFFICE
SPACE

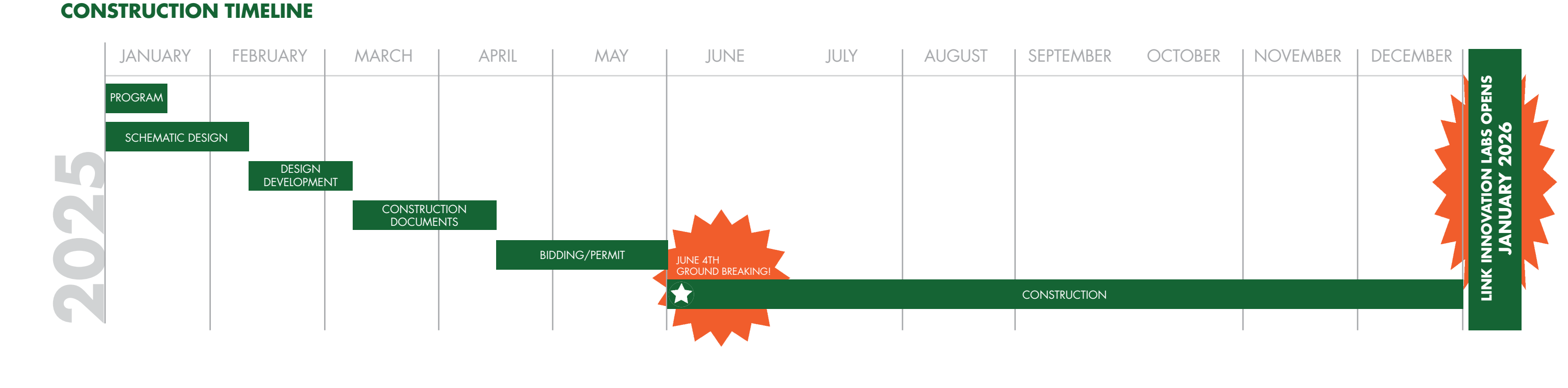


LAB
SPACE



**The home of Plug
and Play Topeka
and a dynamic
entrepreneurial
ecosystem - Link
Innovation Labs
is where startups,
VCs, corporate
partners, and the
community converge.**





TOPEKA LIVING

GO FOR GOLF

Topeka is home to 3 premier golf courses, 7 disc golf courses and 5 mini golf locations.

SWEET MUSIC

This city aims to please, whether you enjoy country, hip hop, pop, rock or Latin music; prefer outdoor venues or indoor events; look for free concerts or the best ticket in town.

RICH HISTORY

As the capital of Kansas, our history runs deep. Dig into our story by visiting the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site, Kansas History Museum, Constitution Hall, Great Overland Station and Historic Ritchie House, among many others.

CHEERS TO TOPEKA

Cocktail bars, breweries, fine wine and coffee shops — no matter your tastes, Topeka has you covered.

create connect collaborate



link innovation labs | topeka, ks



Contact: STEPHANIE MORAN
Senior Vice-President, Innovation
Stephanie.Moran@TopekaPartnership.com
Office: 785.246.6169



Our masterpiece in progress

In the early 2010s, through the Heartland Visioning process, the Topeka community requested an "Arts district" in a survey. The historic North Topeka downtown was suggested as the location for the proposed arts district. Investors purchased many of the historic buildings to begin the revitalization. The area, dubbed the NOTO Arts & Entertainment District, welcomed three businesses in 2011, 12 businesses in 2012 and has since continued to grow to include art galleries, antique and home décor shops, restaurants and bars, all locally owned and operated. Included is the NOTO Arts Center, which serves as the district office as well as an art gallery or a venue for classes and events.

The arts scene is alive and well in the NOTO Arts & Entertainment District, with over 3,000 people visiting every month for the ARTSConnect First Friday Artwalk. Other events held throughout the year attract visitors to NOTO's murals, visiting artists, and more!



Discover NOTO

The NOTO Arts District blends art, culture, and community into one unforgettable experience. From vibrant murals and galleries to unique boutiques and live music, it's the place where Topeka comes to life.



Where Community Meets Creativity

NOTO is Topeka's gathering place for art, culture, and celebration. With monthly art walks, pop-up markets, and inclusive events for all ages, there's always a reason to come back and connect.



Connect

Join us in building a vibrant, creative Topeka. Get involved, become a donor, or bring your talents to NOTO.



www.explorenoto.org



785-408-8996



info@notoartsdistrict.org

Become A friend of
NOTO!





PHASE 1

Brings to life opportunities to immediately activate the river for the community as work continues toward the long term goal of a fully developed riverfront.





RIVERFRONT ADVISORY COUNCIL TASKFORCE

John Hunter, Chair,
Dr. Robert Perez, City Manager,
Bill Riphahn, County Commissioner,
Craig Heideman, Kaw Valley Bank,
Jennifer Woerner, Dirty Girls Adventures,
Dawn Buehler, Riverkeepers & Friends of the Kaw,
Pedro Concepcion, NOTO Arts and
Entertainment District,
Eric Purcell, Clayton Wealth Partners,
Craig Cook, Fidelity Bank,
Kevin Holland, CFS Engineering

Riverfront Advisory Council Support

Kevin Holland, RAC Board Chair-Elect CFS Engineering
Greg Schwerdt, RAC Chair, Schwerdt Design Group
Michelle Stubblefield, Greater Topeka Partnership

RIVERFRONT STRUCTURE

**Topeka/Shawnee County
Riverfront Authority**

Riverfront Advisory Council
housed within the
Greater Topeka Partnership

**Riverfront Advisory Council
Executive Committee**

RAC Subcommittee
Phase 3 efforts.

RAC Taskforce
Phase 1 efforts.

FROM VISION TO REALITY ...

Our vision for a 21st Century Riverfront is to enhance Topeka's quality of life, drive economic development, and foster a deeper connection between the city and its river. It's about creating shared spaces that bring people together across generations. The primary phases toward full implementation include:

Phase 1: Brings to life opportunities to immediately activate the river for the community as work continues toward the long-term goal of a fully developed riverfront.

Phase 2: Shawnee County Parks & Recreation oversight and management from Union Station to Curtis Road.

Phase 3: A full Implementation plan of Riverfront development prior to completion of Polk Quincy Viaduct.

PHASE 1 TASKFORCE PROJECT COMPONENTS AT PLAY

By developing vibrant public spaces in Phase 1 we're paving the way for local businesses, tourism, and long-term job growth.

STEEL REMOVAL - Granted Emergency Action by Corps of Engineers to advance efforts forward. Cost estimates, coordination, and requirements being determined.

BOAT RAMP - Setup, planning and funding needs being developed toward coordination with various local, state, and federal entities toward development - Strong partnership with Friends of the Kaw.

PARKING/TURNAROUND - Research to determine size, cost and planning considerations to address parking is underway.

TRAIL CONNECTIVITY - Generating support to build trails, and connect to the current trail system.

BUILDING ACQUISITION - In discussions with City and County to repurpose Office Building (on Curtis) for education, meeting, storage space, and kayaks and bike rental.

FINANCIAL SETUP - The funding structure is being established through the Greater Topeka Foundation to manage internal, direct, and indirect funding opportunities.

BEAUTIFICATION - Overall landscaping and beautification of the area into a park-like environment.

Once completed, it is intended to have the property and all components of the project be transferred to the County as intended by the original Parks Consolidation Plan.

PHASE 1 COMMITMENT

FUNDING & COLLABORATION

Current estimates for Phase 1 Project Cost: \$1,300,000.00

The Taskforce requests \$400,000 over a two-year period from both the City of Topeka and Shawnee County.

The Riverfront Advisory Council will commit to raising or assist in raising additional amounts if needed to complete Phase 1 project goals.

The City/County would have direct control of their project support funds.

1. The City/County will select a component of the project and complete it using standard in-house project process. They would control the time, process and payment.
2. The City/County may agree to hire an outside contractor to complete a component of the project and pay the contractor directly.
3. The Taskforce, using the money they raised, will pay a contractor for their work on a component of the project.

Of the funds requested, the Riverfront Advisory Council Taskforce requests the transfer of \$25,000 from the City/County to the account at Kaw Valley bank to cover immediate cost of required engineering associated with the permit process for the boat ramp, access road and turnaround.

We request approval of this transfer as soon as possible given the time related to the boat ramp permit approval process.



2 YEARS

MARCH	MAY	JULY	SEPT.	NOV.	JAN.	MARCH	MAY	JULY	SEPT.	NOV.	DEC.
PHASE 1											
FINANCIAL SETUP COMPLETE			FORMALIZE BUILDING ASSESSMENT								
		START ENGINEERING BOAT RAMP									
		SECURE TRAIL FUNDING									

FROM VISION TO IMPLEMENTATION

VISION STATEMENT

To create a riverfront that unites, inspires, and grows Topeka for generations to come.

What This Vision Means for Topeka

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Access to Recreation
- Strengthening Community Ties

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

- Sustainability Focus

ECONOMIC GROWTH

- Job Creation
- Boosting Tourism and Business Revenue

TO LEARN: About the full plan visit
<https://topekapartnership.com/riverfront/riverfront-vision/>

TO CONTRIBUTE:
The Greater Topeka Partnership
Foundation



TO CONNECT:
Greater Topeka Partnership
Michelle Stubblefield
michelle.stubblefield@topekapartnership.com



TOPEKA &
SHAWNEE
COUNTY
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

Strategic Plan

2024 - 2029



Mission

Sparking curiosity and connecting our community through literacy and learning.



Values

- Excellence
- Curiosity
- Literacy
- Freedom
- Teamwork
- Accountability

Executive Summary

The Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library engaged in a collective process to craft a new strategic plan. The library's last formal strategic plan was developed in 2009. Since that time many aspects of community life have shifted most notably after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Working with The Ivy Group Ltd, the plan grew out of a comprehensive community profile, deliberate engagements with residents, and direct involvement from internal and external stakeholders.

This research identified areas of service inequity and confirmed notable growth in the community's oldest and youngest age groups.

It crystallized community-wide aspirations for more opportunities to gather, celebrate and learn.

The community engagement process helped clarify how the library can best align its resources with the community's wants and needs. Residents and stakeholders reported a high level of satisfaction with the library in the online survey and defined a public library's most important role as being a source for books and other media. Across all engagements, people asked for more dedicated library spaces throughout the community, improved access to health care information, diversified entertainment options, more ways to learn and play, and the chance to connect with their neighbors.

The Ivy Group reported their research findings at a planning summit attended by the library's leadership team, trustees and invited community leaders. Staff representing all aspects of the library operations joined for a brainstorming session. Using the research findings, they identified five major themes.

- Connection
- Space
- Learning
- Joy
- People



Community Needs & Interests



CONNECTION

The library will support the diverse needs and interests of the community with services and resources that foster a sense of belonging and collaboration.



SPACE

The library will provide welcoming and inviting physical and digital spaces in which people have easy access to learning, connections and joy.



LEARNING

The library is committed to offering equitable learning and development opportunities to meet the goals and needs of diverse learners.



JOY

The library is committed to providing a variety of programs and services that enrich our community and spark wonder in residents across the county.



PEOPLE

The library will create a work environment where our staff and volunteers are valued, respected and empowered to contribute their best.

From the CEO

Today's public library is more than a place. We welcome everyone through our doors, we travel our community providing outreach services and for many their library is digital and on a device they carry. Public libraries are organizers (yes, the Dewey Decimal system still works), planners and connecting experts who use strategic planning that is reflected in our mission: Sparking curiosity and connecting our community through literacy and learning.

Our library is prepared for an exciting future with a new strategy based on a planning process that includes your voice. You let us know what you need from your library from more than 1,750 responses to a community survey and 9 meetings. You told us that the library is an integral part of your life, and you want more opportunities to learn, explore and connect. What does that look like? I am thrilled to share that it is focused on connection, learning, space, joy and people. Your input has enabled us to create not only a new strategy but also a working document that will empower our library to continue to be a trusted community institution for all our citizens throughout their lives.

The 2024-2029 Strategic Plan is our commitment to being everyone's place to learn, explore and grow. The Topeka and Shawnee County community truly values those connections, and our library plays a role in the social fabric of this amazing city and county.

Sincerely,

MARIE PYKO

CEO, Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library



From the Board of Trustees Chair

Building on a strong library history and foundation, I am pleased to share our 2024-2029 Strategic Plan for the library. This new plan is the result of thousands of community members who answered questions, participated in focus groups and meetings to let us know what truly mattered to them about the future of the library.

I specifically want to thank the following groups who encouraged members to participate in community planning meetings: Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, El Centro, the Leagues of Women Voters Topeka-Shawnee County, Omni Circle, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Seaman School District, Shepherds Center of Topeka, The Sunrise Optimist

Club, Rotary Club of Topeka, United Way of Kaw Valley, Washburn University, Auburn-Washburn School District and the Topeka Public Schools.

The input from people in these organizations and many more community members helps to ensure the library's strategic plan represents the needs and interests of the Topeka and Shawnee County community.

Sincerely,

SHAWN LEISINGER

Chair, Topeka and Shawnee County
Public Library Board of Trustees





CONNECTION

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SPACE

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LEARNING

The library is committed to offering equitable learning and development opportunities to meet the goals and needs of diverse learners.

JOY

The library is committed to providing a variety of programs and services that enrich our community and spark wonder in residents across the county.

PEOPLE

The library will create a work environment where our staff and volunteers are valued, respected and empowered to contribute their best.



DIGITAL EQUITY

The library will help equip individuals with the technology skills and access to resources needed to thrive



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

ACTIONS

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

TRAINING

Increase digital skills in the community

- Expand digital skills training classes (2024)
- Start a digital skills training *On the Road* program (2025)

- Establish a baseline for usage in 2024
- # of digital skills training classes offered increases by 10% by 2025
- # of customers attending classes increases by 10% over previous year (2029)
- Customers report they have improved their digital skills

RESOURCES

Increase access to digital tools and equipment

- Expand device loan program (2025)
- Expand *Get Digital* partnership (2025-2026)

- Establish a baseline for usage in 2024
- # devices borrowed increases and usage increases
- Customers report they have improved their digital skills
- Customers report they have used the digital loan program to increase their access

INNOVATION

Increase opportunities for community members to stay on top of emerging technology trends

- Visit area innovation centers and local technology schools to strengthen local best practices and offerings (2024)
- Develop a marketing plan to increase awareness and participation (2024)
- Offer next-level emerging tech classes (2024-2025)

- Establish a baseline for usage in 2024
- # of emerging tech classes offered at various skill levels increases
- Customers report they have improved their digital skills

DIGITAL EQUITY



SOCIALIZATION & COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



The library will help cultivate and strengthen community connections and resources for all of Topeka and Shawnee County

SOCIALIZATION & COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



	STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	ACTIONS	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
PROGRAMS	Prioritize programming and events that build community and offer opportunities to engage with others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update program review process to support social events for the public (2024) Expand civic engagement events and resources (2025) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a baseline for events in 2024 # attendees at events increases by 10% Customers report they have made a social connection at a library event or program
RESOURCES	Expand access to community resources, especially those that build connections and support mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand use of health information and referral program among staff and the public (2024-2025) Expand the number of organizations that offer community office hours at the library (2025) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a baseline for usage in 2024 # referrals generated through community health collaboration program increases # office hours provided by local organizations at the library increases
COMMUNITY	Expand opportunities for customers to engage in services, collections and events that reflect our diverse community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand marketing of Spanish language collections to community (2024) Explore opportunities for emerging communities to feel connected with the library (2025) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a baseline for usage in 2024 Circulation and engagement with Spanish language resources increases in comparison to previous year # of new community members who have library cards and are actively using the library

ACCESS

The library will be more accessible throughout the community, bringing resources to meet people where they are while continuing to transform library spaces to adapt to the changing needs of the community



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

ACTIONS

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

EXPAND

Develop plan to expand the library's physical presence in the county, with a focus on the feasibility of satellites, kiosks and other service options

- Expand remote lockers to at least two more areas of the community (2025)
- Explore satellite/colocation of library services (2025-2029)

- Progress has been made on two new remote locker locations and the funding source (2025)
- Plan has been developed and/or progress made on satellites, kiosks and/or other service options by 2025

OUTREACH

Develop and implement long-range plan for the future of vehicle-based services and TSCPL@School

- Evaluate current Mobile Delivery Plan (2024)
- Review all outreach services to schools to determine optimal service model including @School and the Adventuremobile (2025)
- Review organizational structure of mobile services (2025)

- Establish a baseline for usage in 2024
- Survey bookmobile users with outcome of 33% returns

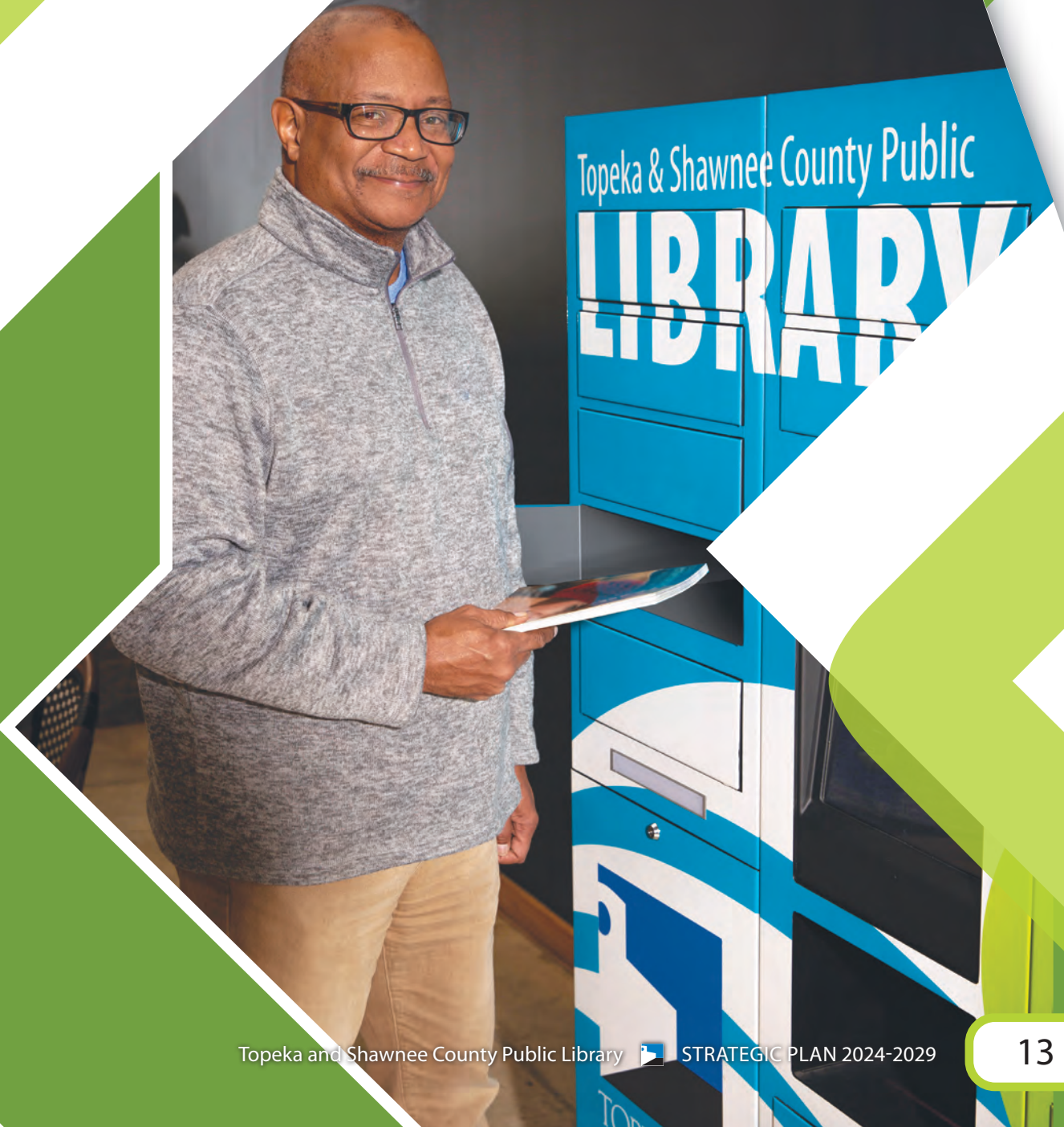
FACILITIES

Update the Facilities Master Plan to include deferred maintenance projects and next phase improvements to library facilities

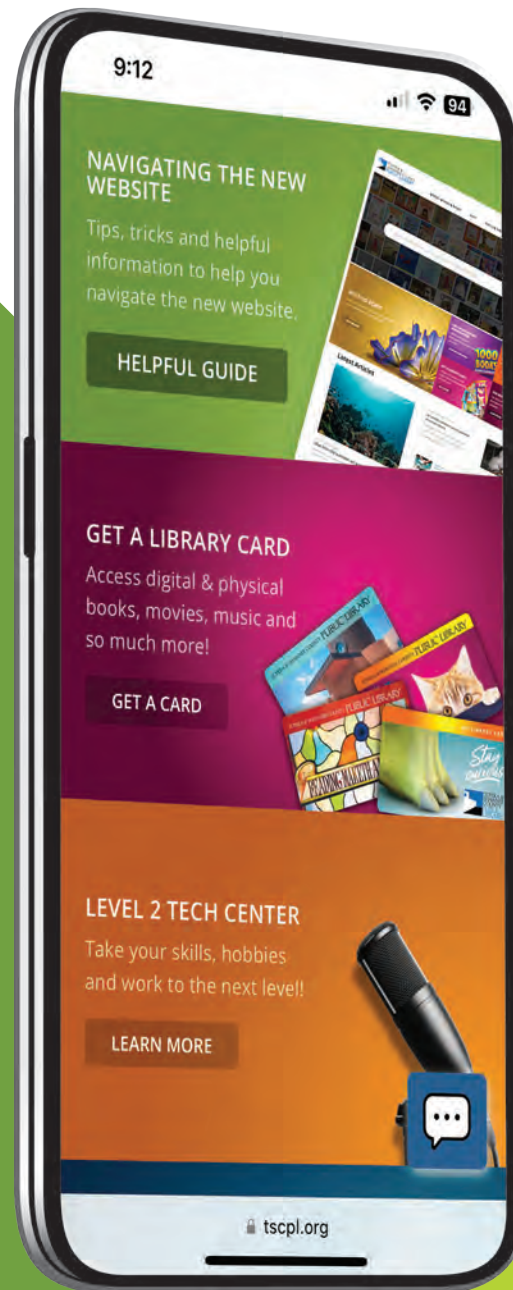
- Complete 2018-2024 Facility Master Plan projects (2025)
- Develop the next phase of the comprehensive facilities plan by reviewing all library spaces and systems (2025-2027)

- Individual facilities plan projects are reviewed and if implemented are on time and within budget

ACCESS



DIGITAL LIBRARY





The library will support our digital library customers with an exceptional and seamless experience

DIGITAL LIBRARY

	STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	ACTIONS	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
VISION	Develop a strategic work plan focused on improving the customer experience for the digital library	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Improve the customer experience at major touch points○ Provide easy to use services across platforms (2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Progress benchmarks for the plan are on schedule and focused on improving the customer experience
DIGITAL CUSTOMERS	Provide a positive and dynamic experience with digital library resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Market and promote library digital resources to the community in an engaging way (2024)○ Provide an inclusive search solution that makes database searching easy (2025)○ Develop a customer feedback tool (2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Establish a baseline for usage in 2024○ Database and digital learning product usage increases○ Customers report they would recommend the digital library to a friend
DIGITAL PLATFORMS	Improve customer experience with digital platforms (library app, digital content apps, electronic resources)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Launch the new Digital Library website (2024)○ Perform usability testing on the new website and on the library app, and make improvements (2024)○ Complete Platform Analysis Project (2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Establish a baseline for usage in 2024○ Customers report they find what they need with our new Digital Library website and would recommend the website to a friend○ Customers report they would recommend digital content applications and electronic resources to a friend

READERS & READING

The library will grow and support an engaged community of readers



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

ACTIONS

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

LITERACY

Expand programs and services that build readers and a love of reading in the community

- Create Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) program to support young readers (2024)
- Introduce community storytimes beyond daycares and preschools (2025)
- Expand Reading Challenge Program (2025)

- Establish a baseline for usage in 2024
- % of readers at JDC grows and indicate they like the books available (2025)
- # attendees at storytime programs increases
- Customers report they would recommend the reading challenges to a friend

CONVERSATIONS

Explore new services that foster reading and conversation

- Implement book talks and readers conversations in the newly renovated Readers Lounge (2024)
- Reprioritize book club offerings to focus on role as catalyst and hub for book discussion groups (2026)

- Establish a baseline for usage in 2024
- # of people who attend a book talk increases
- # new book clubs started increases
- Customers report they would recommend attending a book talk to a friend

COLLECTIONS

Curate collections that reflect the interests of our diverse community

- Research feasibility of introducing community advisory groups for curating specialized collections, including those of identified emerging communities (2024)

- Determination of action for advisory groups in 2024
- # of searches for items in new curated specialized collections increases
- Circulation #s for specialized collections are benchmarked and increases

READERS & READING



PLAY & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING



The library will cultivate play and experiential learning activities in library spaces for all age groups

PLAY & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING



	STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	ACTIONS	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
YOUTH	Cultivate play-based learning activities in library spaces and through outreach focused on family engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the updated Kids Library design is infused with play-based learning opportunities (2024-2025) Expand hands-on STEM programming for school-age children (2025) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a baseline for usage in 2024 # families visiting and playing in the Kids Library grows # of school-age children attendance increases by 10% in STEM programming
YOUNG ADULT	Expand opportunities for engaging hands-on activities for young adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the updated young adult space is infused with experiential learning opportunities (2024-2025) Establish relationships with local young adult groups (2024) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a baseline for usage in 2024 Young adults report they enjoyed the experiential learning opportunities # of collaborations with local young adult groups has increased
ADULT	Infuse fun into learning for adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize hands-on experiences in gallery exhibitions that appeal to adult visitors (2025) Expand experiential program offerings for adults (2025) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a baseline for usage in 2024 # of hands-on experiences offered during non-summer exhibitions increases Customers report they would recommend the experiences to a friend

DISCOVER & GROW PASSIONS

The library will support and provide opportunities to experience entertainment, culture and personal growth



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

ACTIONS

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

DISCOVER

Prioritize programs and services that offer unique experiences for all interests, learning styles and age groups

- Update program review process to support unique offerings that can't be found elsewhere (2024)
- Develop a program/service focus for young adults beyond 18 years old (2025)

- # of people who attend unique library offerings increases
- Customers report they appreciate events and classes that connect with their interests
- # of young adults participating in experiences geared to their interests increases

ART

Expand offerings that nurture the next generation of artists and art lovers in the community

- Expand the variety of art creation classes and workshops offered to adults (2025)
- Share vision for traveling and community-based exhibits (2025-2026)
- Develop next phases for Artist in Residence and Curate This programs (2026)

- Establish a baseline for usage in 2024
- # of adults attending art classes and workshops increases
- # of visitors for traveling and community-based exhibits increases
- Visitors report they would recommend the art exhibits to a friend

CREATION

Offer programs, resources and spaces to support and showcase local creators and hobbyists

- Host skill-sharing workshops and groups covering a variety of creative disciplines (2025)
- Research the feasibility of starting a local creators showcase (2025)

- Establish a baseline for participation in 2025
- Creative professionals participate in workshops at a higher number than previously

DISCOVER & GROW PASSIONS



CELEBRATE LOCAL STORIES



The library will amplify the voices of Topeka and Shawnee County through programming, events and resources to honor our culture, heritage and history

CELEBRATE LOCAL STORIES

	STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	ACTIONS	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
DIVERSITY	Offer opportunities for the community to find their story and experience at the library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand library presence at community events focused on culture (2024) Expand collaborations with community groups (2024) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a baseline for usage in 2024 # of outreach events attended by the library increases in comparison to previous year
GENEALOGY	Expand collaborations with community partners to be the best, first and most accessible choice for genealogy research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build a dynamic Genealogy & Local History webpage (2024) Reprioritize genealogy services and collections to serve as a local genealogy hub (2025) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a baseline for usage in 2024 Usage of online genealogy resources increases Customers report they have enjoyed the genealogy resources
HISTORY	Expand resources and events that celebrate the rich history of Topeka and Shawnee County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build a Digital Memory Lab in the Level 2 Tech Center (2024-2025) Prioritize digitization projects that celebrate our rich history (2025) Expand number of local history programs that highlight diverse history (2025-2026) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a baseline for usage in 2024 # of people using the digitized local history increases # of people recording their stories at the library increases in comparison to previous year (2025) More customers report they appreciate events and classes that connect with their interests

TRAINING

Staff and volunteers will have the skills and knowledge to feel confident and empowered to perform their duties and responsibilities effectively



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

ACTIONS

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

PROCESSES

Develop a standard process and practice for all staff on how to effectively work in all public-facing areas of the library

- Organize staff intranet to prioritize coordinated workflows and documentation (2024)

- Staff report they are finding the information and resources they need for each service point/area

FOCUS

Incorporate a focus on principles of inclusion and belonging with staff development

- Respond to staff feedback on training needs and focus (2025)

- # of staff who participate in training opportunities increases
- Staff indicate they feel more confident in their role based on the training classes

RESILIENCE

Expand training focused on social-emotional learning for staff

- Provide training on de-escalation and trauma-informed practices (2024)

- # of staff attending trainings increases
- Staff report feeling more confident in helping customers who may be more challenging

TRAINING



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION



The library will be the employer of choice where staff and volunteers feel confident, trusted, fulfilled and appreciated in their work

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION



	STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	ACTIONS	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
STUDY	Review marketplace to ensure equitable compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in a compensation study (2024) Budget review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compensation study stays on schedule (2024) Recommendation of any updates will be included in budget planning process
CAREER PATH	Investigate potential career paths and plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research education and/or training opportunities to provide career growth in the library (2025) Research feasibility of expanded career path for individual classification levels (2025) Research feasibility of skills-based pay differentials (2026) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of staff indicate there is a career pathway for their job growth increases in comparison to previous year # of staff consider continuing education trainings increases in comparison to previous years Determination of pay structure is finalized for 2027 budget cycle
STRUCTURE	Develop an organizational structure that optimizes the service areas identified that addresses community needs and interest goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the current organizational structure and determine optimal structure related to the new service response work (2024-2025) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress is made to develop a structure that optimizes service focus and reporting

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Connection

- The Topeka and Shawnee County Community Snapshot data indicated broadband internet access remains lower in Shawnee County than Kansas and the U.S. It is estimated 15% of the population is underserved by strong internet access.
- Based on 2023 user research, 500-600 customers use a library computer daily. Customers working directly with staff in the Level 2 Tech Center asked 5,500-8,000 questions per month resulting in 85,378 technology support interactions in 2023.
- In the community survey, respondents over 65 years of age indicated they want more support with internet security.
- In 2023 in collaboration with the *Get Digital* partnership, digital skills training attendance grew and has sustained the numbers. Focus group participants of all ages prefer in-person support and connection at the library.
- 78% of surveyed staff want to increase offerings to English language learners.
- Staff said the library needs to improve strategies to engage Spanish-speaking (60%) and Black (48%) community members.
- 81% of those surveyed are interested in expanding offerings that support mental health and social connections.

Space

- According to the community survey, the most common reason for residents not using the library was lack of time (46%).
- 59% of those surveyed would like to have space to read, study or work in a potential new library site.
- 52% of those surveyed think the primary role of a public library is a community gathering place.
- 60% of those surveyed would like to see programs and events in potential new library sites.
- 76% of those surveyed identified teens aged 12-19 as very important to serve. Staff and community conversation participants noted a decrease in the use and availability of the teen area.
- Community meeting and focus group participants identified transportation as a barrier to accessing library services and the need for branches to provide equitable access to library services.
- 55% of staff identified colocating in outside organizations as the best way to deliver library services to more residents.
- Based on current user research, Digitalians (library users who primarily borrow digital materials) remain consistent at 18% of the customer base. The 2023 annual use statistics show digital library users continue to be a growth area.
- 45.3% of those surveyed indicated they use the library to download digital materials.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Learning

- 60% of those surveyed agree it is very important to expand or enhance offerings to children.
- 80% of those surveyed think the primary role of a public library is a place for children to learn and explore.
- 76% of surveyed staff believe the library should increase offerings to teens.
- 71% of surveyed staff want to increase opportunities for children and teens to learn through play and engagement.
- Topeka has fewer residents with bachelor's degrees (30%) than Kansas and the nation (34%)
- 19% of Topeka residents and 16% of Shawnee County residents are enrolled in undergraduate programs.
- 81% of those surveyed are interested or very interested in expanding offerings that support mental health and social connections.
- According to focus group participants, access to health care is inconsistent in Topeka and Shawnee County.

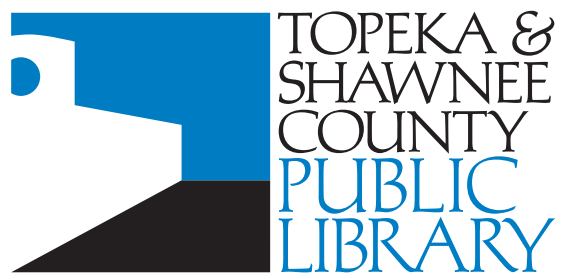
Joy

- Community meeting participants identified a lack of entertainment options and opportunities for parents and children to practice social skills in Topeka and Shawnee County.
- 52.4% of those surveyed use the library for reasons related to hobbies or entertainment.
- 77% of those surveyed are interested or very interested in increased cultural diversity in materials and programs.
- Community meeting participants requested increased content and events by and for the Black community.
- 33.7% of those surveyed indicated their primary reason for using the library is to view exhibits at the Alice C. Sabatini Gallery.
- 27.5% indicated it was to attend a program and 10.3% indicated it was to use local history and genealogy resources.
- Respondents said they enjoy the art lab aspect of the Gallery where they can dabble in art or a craft with family and friends.
- Respondents during the community forums identified the library as a repository for Topeka and Shawnee County history.
- Respondents suggested using the library's podcast and gallery exhibits to highlight the stories of the community.
- 51% of those surveyed indicated enhancing or expanding local history and genealogy resources and services was important.

People

As part of the research for the strategic plan, library staff participated in a survey to identify ways to deliver quality library services. The staff survey identified the following areas:

- The need to review library salaries and benefits.
- The need to review that the library is adequately staffed and appropriately allocated.
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion needs to be included in library policies and procedures.
- Staff areas need improvement.



1515 SW 10th Ave | Topeka, KS 66604 | tscpl.org



Tiger Trails
& Den Academy

topeka zoo
& conservation center

A LEGACY OPPORTUNITY



WHO WE ARE

Mission Statement

To enrich our community through wildlife conservation and education.

Vision Statement

We believe what we do changes the world. Every choice we make helps save the planet.

Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion Statement

We are committed to ensuring everyone feels welcome and valued by striving to create an environment that is as diverse as the wild spaces we are trying to protect.

ACCREDITATION

In 1971, the Foundation for Zoos and Aquariums was established. Today, it is known as the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The organization developed a comprehensive vision to address all aspects of zoo operations, including safety, accreditation, customer service, finance, facilities, and governance.

REBRANDING

The Topeka Zoo has continuously adapted and enhanced its brand over the years. Our aim is to emerge as a front runner in various conservation efforts, actively involving the community and rescuing animals from the brink of extinction. In 2016, we updated our brand to incorporate conservation into our name, highlighting our efforts to enrich the community through wildlife conservation and education.



GOVERNANCE

On April 3, 2021, the City of Topeka and Friends of the Topeka Zoo joined in a Public Private Partnership, transitioning full responsibility for the operations and funding model for the Topeka Zoo & Conservation Center to Friends of the Topeka Zoo. This allowed the zoo to move forward as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. The Topeka Zoo & Conservation Center is now a true performance and mission-based organization, free from limitations associated with a municipal form of governance.

GAGE PARK IMPROVEMENT

During the November 2022 ballot, residents of Shawnee County voted to implement a 0.2% sales tax to support the three entities located within Gage Park, including the Topeka Zoo & Conservation Center. This tax generates annual revenue to sustain the operational budget of the zoo.



A VISION FOR TIGERS

Celebrating our past while looking toward the future.

As a cherished member of our Topeka Zoo family, you have been an integral part of our journey, helping us create a sanctuary where animals thrive, and guests are inspired by the wonders of the natural world. Thanks to generous donors like you, we've achieved remarkable milestones in animal care, conservation, and education. Today, we invite you to join us in looking towards an exciting future—one that will empower the next generation to become passionate animal advocates.

We are thrilled to announce our new habitat called Tiger Trails & Den Academy, a groundbreaking initiative that will transform how our community engages with conservation. This immersive experience will provide guests with an unprecedented view into the lives of our Sumatran tigers, showcasing the transparency of our work in real time. Through carefully designed habitats, guests will witness the challenges these magnificent creatures face in the wild, and the innovative solutions that are helping them not only survive but thrive.

Our new tiger spaces will highlight the cutting-edge training and breeding program that allow these tigers to participate in their own healthcare. From voluntary blood draw to ultrasound, guests will see firsthand how our team collaborates with these incredible animals, ensuring their well-being while supporting global conservation breeding efforts.

But our vision extends beyond just observing. Through the Den Academy, we are committed to nurturing the animal advocates of tomorrow. Children will be empowered through STEM learning and interactive lab activities, gaining hands-on experience that brings science and conservation to life. They will learn about the devastating impact of poaching and discover how they can make a difference. These interactive experiences will not only educate but also instill empathy, as they see the bond between a mother tiger and her cubs—a powerful reminder of what we stand to lose if we don't act now.

Your continued support is vital to making this vision a reality. By contributing to the Tiger Trails & Den Academy, you will leave a lasting legacy—one that ensures future generations understand the importance of conservation and are equipped to protect the wild wonders of our world.

Together, we can inspire and empower our youth, giving them the tools to become the advocates our planet needs. Thank you for being a part of our past successes, and for joining us as we build a future filled with hope, compassion, and a deep commitment to the animals we all cherish.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Dr. Christina Castellano
Chief Executive Officer
Topeka Zoo & Conservation Center



ABOUT SUMATRAN TIGERS

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& conservation center

COMMON NAME: Sumatran Tiger

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Panthera tigris sumatrae*

Sumatran Tigers are the smallest species of Tiger on Earth. They are found only on the Indonesian island of Sumatra, with most of their population existing on nature preserves.

They are considered critically endangered due to habitat loss driven by the palm oil industry, as well as poaching. Several parts of the tiger are utilized in the traditional medicine trade, and their pelts are highly sought after on the black market.

Sumatran Tigers are apex predators within their habitat, with a diet including animals such as wild pigs, deer, monkeys, and fish.

They have webbing between their toes and are considered strong swimmers. They are known to hunt prey, which are less adept at swimming, near the water's edge.

Adult Tigers are solitary animals and will typically only come together to mate. Females give birth to a litter of two to three cubs which will remain with her for about two years.

Fun Fact: Tigers have a range of vocalizations they use to communicate, ranging from an aggressive roar, which can be heard up to two miles away, to the soft and friendly chuff.

SUMATRAN TIGER QUICK FACTS

WHERE THEY LIVE: The Indonesian island of Sumatra

HOW MANY REMAIN:
Approximately 500

MAJOR THREATS: Habitat loss, poaching of tigers and their prey

PROJECTS WE SUPPORT: Tiger-human conflict mitigation, Combating wildlife crime and illegal habitat loss



VISION FOR TIGERS IN TOPEKA

- Engaging platform to inspire youth through the **legacy** of Mark and Bette Morris and their profound contributions to animal wellbeing and conservation.
- Immersive experiences that highlight **transparency** and a 360-degree view of the world of tigers and their conservation challenges and solutions.
- **Innovation** is the foundation to tiger wellbeing that elevates their participation in their own health care.
- **Active, hands-on learning** through a STEM laboratory and themed classroom experience that highlights applied research in animal well-being with a focus on nutrition.
- **Empowerment** through participation in conservation action that tackles the critical issue for tigers – poaching.
- **Conservation breeding program** that builds on the success of our past and ensures a bright future for tigers in nature.
- **Empathy** for tigers fostered through an intimate nursery experience, connecting us with mother and cubs and our shared sense of family.



topeka zoo
& conservation center

OUR GLOBAL EFFORTS

The survival of these magnificent creatures is under constant threat. The island of Sumatra is divided into three main forest landscapes, where 60% of the world’s remaining Sumatran tigers reside. With fewer than 600 tigers left in the wild, they are listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Deforestation, poaching, and human-wildlife conflict continue to push these tigers toward the brink of extinction.

Conservation efforts by the Indonesian government, conservation agencies, and national park staff have led to an increase in the Sumatran tiger population within one of Sumatra’s forests. The Topeka Zoo plays a crucial role in these efforts by sponsoring a ranger in Sumatra. This ranger patrols the forests, tracks down poachers, removes snares, and prevents illegal encroachment on the tiger’s habitat. Beyond deterring illegal activities, the ranger also fosters positive relationships with local communities, helping to resolve conflicts between humans and the wild tiger population.

Nathanael Jawak, our Anti-Poaching Patrol Coordinator, lead our efforts in the Leusser Range working tirelessly to protect these magnificent creatures. His work is essential to ensuring that the Sumatran tiger population continues to grow and thrive, safeguarding a future for these extraordinary animals



Nathanael Jawak
Anti-Poaching
Patrol Coordinator

TOPEKA ZOO’S RECENT ACTIVITY IN TIGER CONSERVATION

In May 2014, the zoo welcomed a litter of three female cubs—Shanti, ChloJo, and Raza—who have since moved on to other zoos.

10% of the Sumatran tigers in AZA-accredited zoos have been born at the Topeka Zoo.

In 2018, four more cubs—Badar, Bintang, Raja, and Zayana—were born to Sanjiv and Jingga, with Zayana now residing at Auckland Zoo in New Zealand, where she has had a cub of her own.

The Topeka Zoo is actively involved in tiger management across AZA-accredited zoos, contributing to increased tiger births through initiatives like the Tiger Husbandry Advisory Team (THAT).

The Topeka Zoo’s success in tiger breeding led to the arrival of Thomas from Kansas City Zoo and Nisha from Jacksonville Zoo in 2023, marking a new chapter in the zoo’s breeding efforts.

The zoo also participates in the Felid TAG Steering Committee, guiding the management and breeding of all cat populations in AZA-accredited facilities.



TIGER TRAILS & DEN ACADEMY

The Topeka Zoo is proud to announce the upcoming launch of the Tiger Trails & Den Academy Program, a groundbreaking initiative set to revolutionize how our community engages with wildlife conservation. This new program offers an immersive experience that will bring guests closer than ever to our Sumatran tigers, providing a unique window into the lives of these magnificent creatures.

An Unprecedented Conservation Experience

The Tiger Trails & Den Academy Program is designed to showcase the transparency of our conservation work in real time. Guests will have the opportunity to witness the daily challenges faced by Sumatran tigers in the wild, from habitat destruction to poaching, and learn about the innovative solutions that are helping these animals not only survive but thrive.

Carefully designed habitats will allow guests to see the tigers' natural behaviors up close, offering an experience that is both educational and deeply moving.

Cutting-Edge Training Programs

One of the highlights of the Tiger Trails & Den Academy Program is the introduction of cutting-edge training programs that empower our tigers to participate in their own healthcare. From voluntary blood draws to ultrasounds, these training sessions will be conducted in full view of the public, demonstrating the strong bond between our animal care team and the tigers.

These programs not only ensure the well-being of our tigers but also support global conservation breeding efforts, reinforcing our commitment to preserving this critically endangered species.

Empowering the Next Generation

Our vision for the Tiger Trails & Den Academy goes beyond observation. We are dedicated to nurturing the animal advocates of tomorrow by providing children with hands-on experiences that bring science and conservation to life. The Den Academy Program will feature STEM laboratory exhibits and interactive activities designed to educate and inspire.

Children will learn about the devastating impact of poaching, understand the importance of conservation, and discover how they can make a difference. These experiences will foster empathy and awareness, particularly as young guests observe the powerful bond between a mother tiger and her cubs—a poignant reminder of what is at stake.




KEY FEATURES OF THE TIGER TRAILS & DEN ACADEMY


- Immersive habitats that provide an up-close look at Sumatran tigers and their behaviors.
- Transparent conservation efforts, allowing guests to witness the challenges and solutions in real time.
- A look into cutting-edge training programs where tigers participate in their own healthcare.
- STEM-focused displays and activities designed to educate and inspire children.
- Empathy-building experiences that highlight the bond between tiger mothers and their cubs.
- Interactive trail with immersive experiences.

“This immersive experience will provide guests with an unprecedented view into the lives of our Sumatran tigers, showcasing the transparency of our work in real time.”





Usually **2-4 tiger cubs** are born per litter.




In short bursts, tigers can run up to **40 mi/hr.**


Tigers can live up to

20


years.




A tiger's stripes are much like our fingerprints — **no two are the same.**



Their tail is typically **3-4 ft** in length.



A tiger's claw is on average **2 inches long**. This is comparable to a common house key.



Tigers are **great swimmers** and can even cross large rivers.

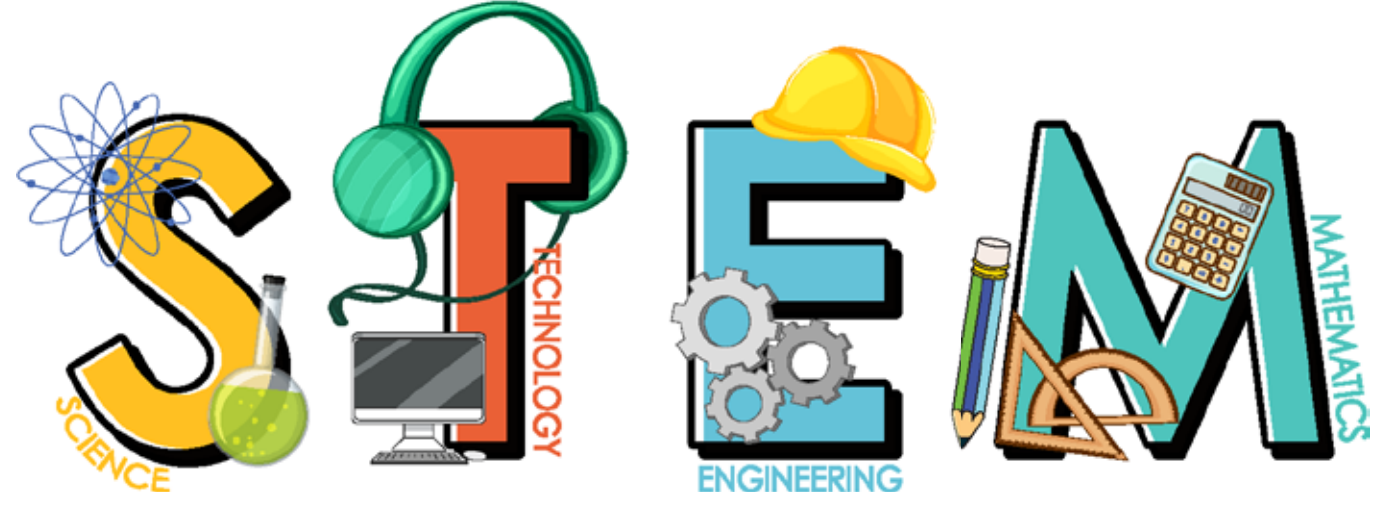
Tigers have

30

teeth.



INSPIRING FUTURE SCIENTISTS



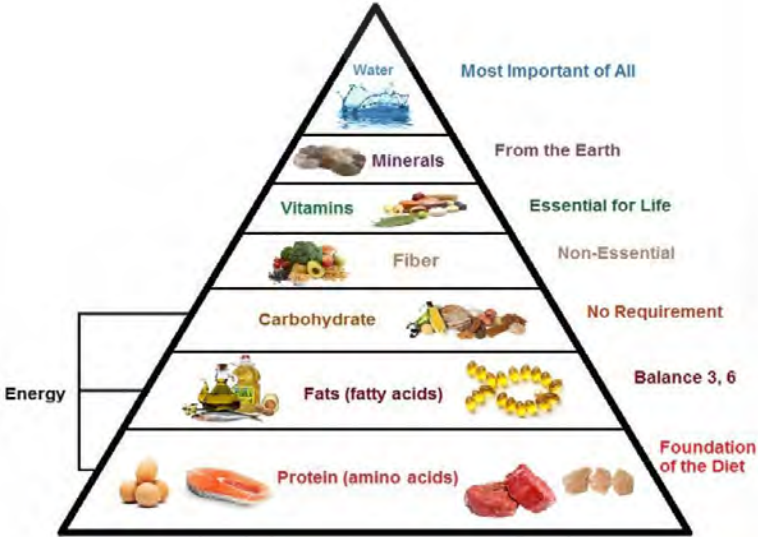
The Tiger Trails & Den Academy is a new initiative that combines STEM learning with wildlife conservation in an engaging and interactive way. As part of this groundbreaking program, children will have the opportunity to participate in a thrilling clues and investigation game designed to teach them how to track a poacher. Through this hands-on activity, young participants will uncover clues, solve puzzles, and learn about the challenges faced by Sumatran tigers, such as habitat destruction and illegal poaching. This immersive experience not only educates children about the importance of conservation but also empowers them to become future wildlife advocates by connecting them directly with real-world conservation issues.

The Topeka Zoo enriches the community through wildlife conservation and education. The zoo's Conservation Committee helps to guide the organization towards practicing, promoting, and supporting conservation at home and around the globe. Our conservation work takes many forms including hands-on conservation work in the field by zoo staff, funding efforts of organizations, making our own facilities greener, and using our animal collection to improve conditions for endangered animals through research in cooperation with other zoos.



INSPIRING FUTURE SCIENTISTS

As our young scientists slip on their lab coats and discover the fundamentals of food and the nutritional needs role playing animal nutritionist. They not only discover what elements are but how combining protein, carbohydrates, vitamins, fatty acids & oils, amino acids combined create a healthy diet for a tiger. By applying taste, texture and variety along with nutritional needs for strong, charismatic animal, we empower and inspire future generations to come. Committing to the wellness of youth today and tomorrow as well as sustaining tigers here and in the wild. Inspiring our future scientists, field researchers, nutritionists, veterinarians, and animal care staff.



THE REMARKABLE WORLD OF VULTURES: NATURE'S CLEANUP CREW



topeka zoo
& conservation center

The White-backed Vulture, often overlooked, plays a crucial role in maintaining the health of its ecosystem. As a key scavenger, this vulture species is essential for preventing disease and recycling nutrients. Here's a closer look at why the White-backed Vulture is so important and the challenges it faces.

White-backed Vultures are indispensable to their habitats due to their scavenging role. By consuming carrion, they help keep the environment clean and limit the spread of disease. Their powerful digestive systems are adapted to handle pathogens found in decaying flesh, preventing potential health hazards for other wildlife and humans.

The White-backed Vulture is adapted for its scavenging lifestyle with keen eyesight that allows it to spot carrion from high altitudes. Its large wingspan helps it glide effortlessly over vast distances in search of food. This adaptation is crucial for locating and efficiently exploiting carcasses across extensive areas.

Despite their essential ecological role, White-backed Vultures face severe threats. Many are critically endangered due to habitat loss,

poisoning, and hunting. Poisoning is particularly problematic, as vultures often ingest toxins while feeding on poisoned carcasses intended for other animals. Habitat destruction further exacerbates these challenges by reducing the availability of food sources.

Protecting the White-backed Vulture requires concerted conservation efforts. Organizations are working to combat poisoning, preserve habitats, and enforce legal protections. Public education and awareness campaigns also play a critical role in fostering a greater appreciation for vultures and their conservation needs.

Efforts such as creating safe zones and breeding programs are vital for the recovery of White-backed Vulture populations. By supporting these initiatives, we can help ensure that this remarkable species continues to fulfill its essential role in the ecosystem and thrives for generations to come.

As indispensable scavengers, they contribute significantly to ecosystem health by preventing the spread of disease and aiding in nutrient recycling.





The Impact of Your Support

The success of the Tiger Trails & Den Academy Program relies on the continued support of our community. By contributing to this initiative, you are not only helping to create a world-class conservation program but also leaving a lasting legacy. Your support ensures that future generations will be equipped to protect the wild wonders of our world and continue the vital work of conservation.

topekazoo.org



Building★ DiScOVery

THE KANSAS CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY CENTER



the
Kansas
Children's
DiScOVery
Center

The need is real and the time is now.

The Kansas Children’s Discovery Center believes play is powerful, and quality play experiences are transformational for children and families. In the first 12 years of operation, the nonprofit children’s museum has brought joy to more than one million visitors from Kansas and beyond. With our current building consistently at capacity, we are on the cusp of an exciting new chapter in our mission to ignite children’s passion for learning.

Our vision is to create an experience where every child can find exciting opportunities to explore, experiment, and learn. To achieve this, we are eager to build three new learning lab classrooms that blend indoor and outdoor learning environments. These cutting-edge learning labs will serve as hubs of innovation and be the foundation for STEAM learning camps and programs for school-aged children. New exhibit space designed for traveling and permanent exhibitions will be added. Enhancing safety and accessibility will be realized through additions of a nursing nook, sensory room, field trip entrance, workshop, and storm shelter.

Our hope is you’ll join with us to build a greater environment of discovery for the next generation of thinkers, dreamers, entrepreneurs, and leaders.

Dené Mosier
President and CEO

Kent Palmberg
Board Chair

“The Kansas Children’s Discovery Center is not only a great partner in the community, but as a nationally renowned children’s museum, they are a driver of Topeka tourism. They are a champion for children and families, improving access to the highest quality, hands-on, interactive learning opportunities available through play and exploration.”

Matt Pivarnik
CEO, Greater Topeka Partnership

Growing Discovery



120,000 to 150,000
Annual Attendance
Projection



1,900 to 2,200
Annual Member Families
Projection



Project Impact



Build Greater Discovery

- An artful, cohesive addition to the north of the current building will more than double the size of the museum from 15,000 to over 30,000 square feet.
- An iconic indoor climbing structure anchored by the tallest climbable sunflower in the world, at two stories tall, will draw tourism and excite visitors of all ages.
- Eleven new exhibit experiences exploring science, water power, civic engagement, dramatic play, and more to inspire learning.



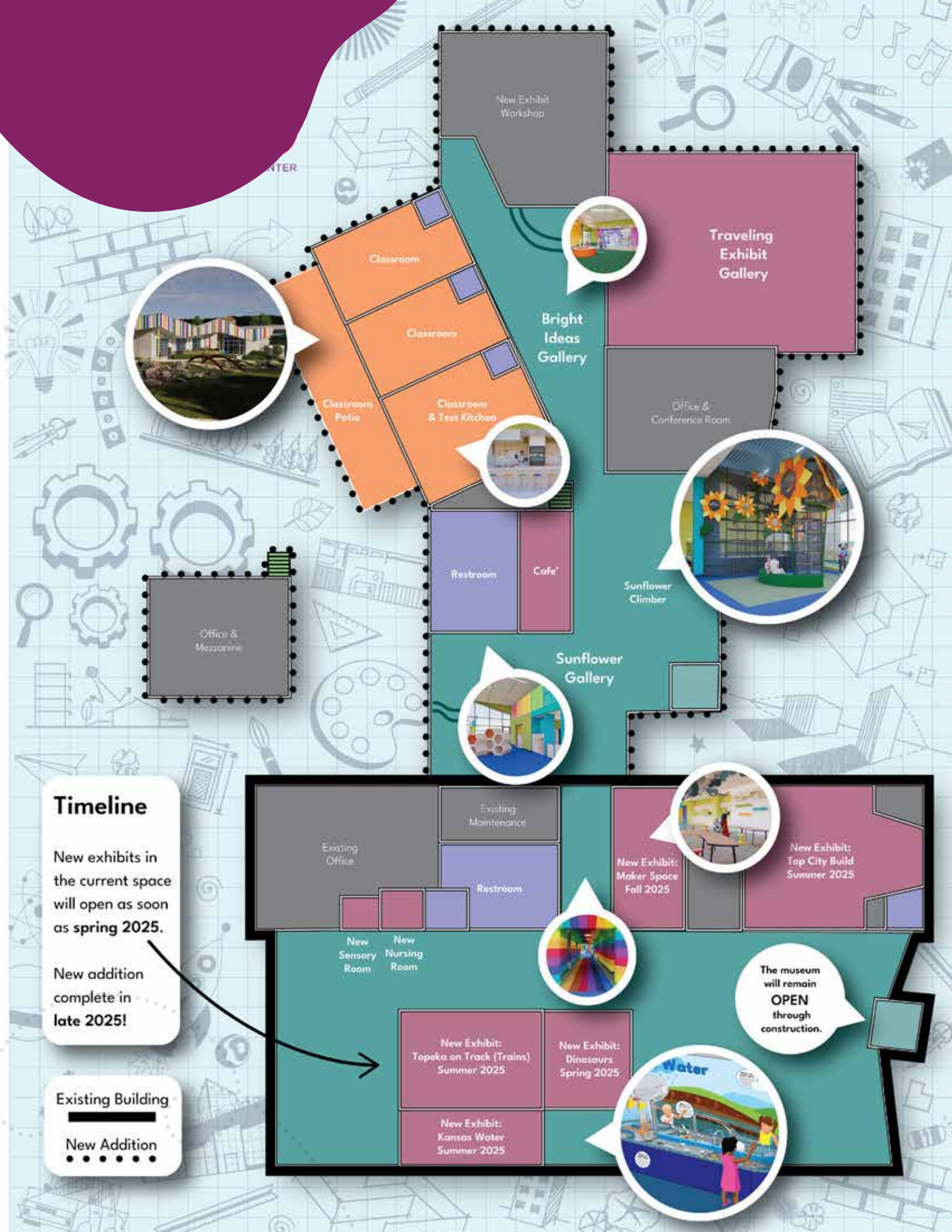
Enhance the Learning Environment

- Three new learning lab classrooms that will create space for quality, STEAM-based childcare for school-age children.
- A 3,000 square foot traveling exhibit gallery to enable the museum to host any traveling exhibit from around the United States.
- Indoor-outdoor learning space connecting a state-of-the-art teaching kitchen with an intergenerational, accessible garden.
- Kansas-themed learning opportunities integrated throughout exhibit spaces to excite the next generation of Kansas leaders and innovators.
- An inventive makerspace that will enable curious children to tinker, explore, and create in a collaborative environment.



Improve Safety and Accessibility

- A secondary entrance will reduce congestion at main entrance to welcome the 10,000+ school children attending field trips each year.
- Caregivers and nursing mothers will be able to utilize a private room for lactation, pumping, or medical needs.
- A sensory room for children experiencing sensory deregulation will enable them to regulate and return to enjoying the museum.
- A storm shelter will provide peace of mind for families, knowing their children are safe in all weather conditions.



Community Investment



1 Million Visitors Since 2011

coming from all 50 states and 23 countries



120,000 Visitors

came to the Discovery Center in 2023, with **50,000 visitors** being welcomed through free or reduced admission in our Access Programs, and more than 1 in 4 visiting from outside Shawnee County.



\$5.8 Million

in annual economic impact to the greater Topeka region

Project Budget

Construction Expenses	\$8,420,000
Architectural Fees (8.15%)	\$686,230
New Exhibits	\$2,100,000
Total	\$11,206,230



the
Kansas
Children's
Discovery
Center

4400 SW 10th Ave. Topeka, KS 66604
(785) 783-8300 or dmosier@kansasdiscovery.org

WWW.KANSASDISCOVERY.ORG

TOPEKA

CHOOSE COMMUNITY





CHOOSE TOPEKA

DEAR REAL ESTATE TEAM,

We invite you to consider Topeka, Kansas, as your next location. The multimillion-dollar redevelopment of West Ridge, a one-million-square-foot commercial center in Kansas's capital, presents a prime opportunity to bring your brand to a thriving community. This mixed-use development will feature premium retail, dining, and office spaces, attracting a diverse and engaged customer base. The revitalized center will welcome 1,500 employees at Advisors Excel's new corporate headquarters, a leader in financial services, ensuring steady foot traffic. Strategically positioned within the Topeka, Lawrence, and Manhattan metro areas, West Ridge benefits from a combined 500,000 residents and a \$30 billion GDP, supporting strong demand for consumer goods. Topeka boasts that 25.75% of households earn over \$100,000, with approximately 42,479 affluent households across the metro, reflecting strong purchasing power. Home to 178,000 residents, Topeka offers a thriving economy, low unemployment, and recognition as a top 20 real estate market over the past five years. Additionally, four nearby universities with nearly 60,000 students contribute to a young, educated population. As Topeka continues to grow, the demand for new retail and dining experiences is growing as well. Your brand has an opportunity to be at the center of this movement, thriving in a dynamic and expanding market.

42,479
HOUSEHOLDS
WITH INCOMES
GREATER THAN
\$100,000

SHOP, WORK, PLAY

WEST RIDGE

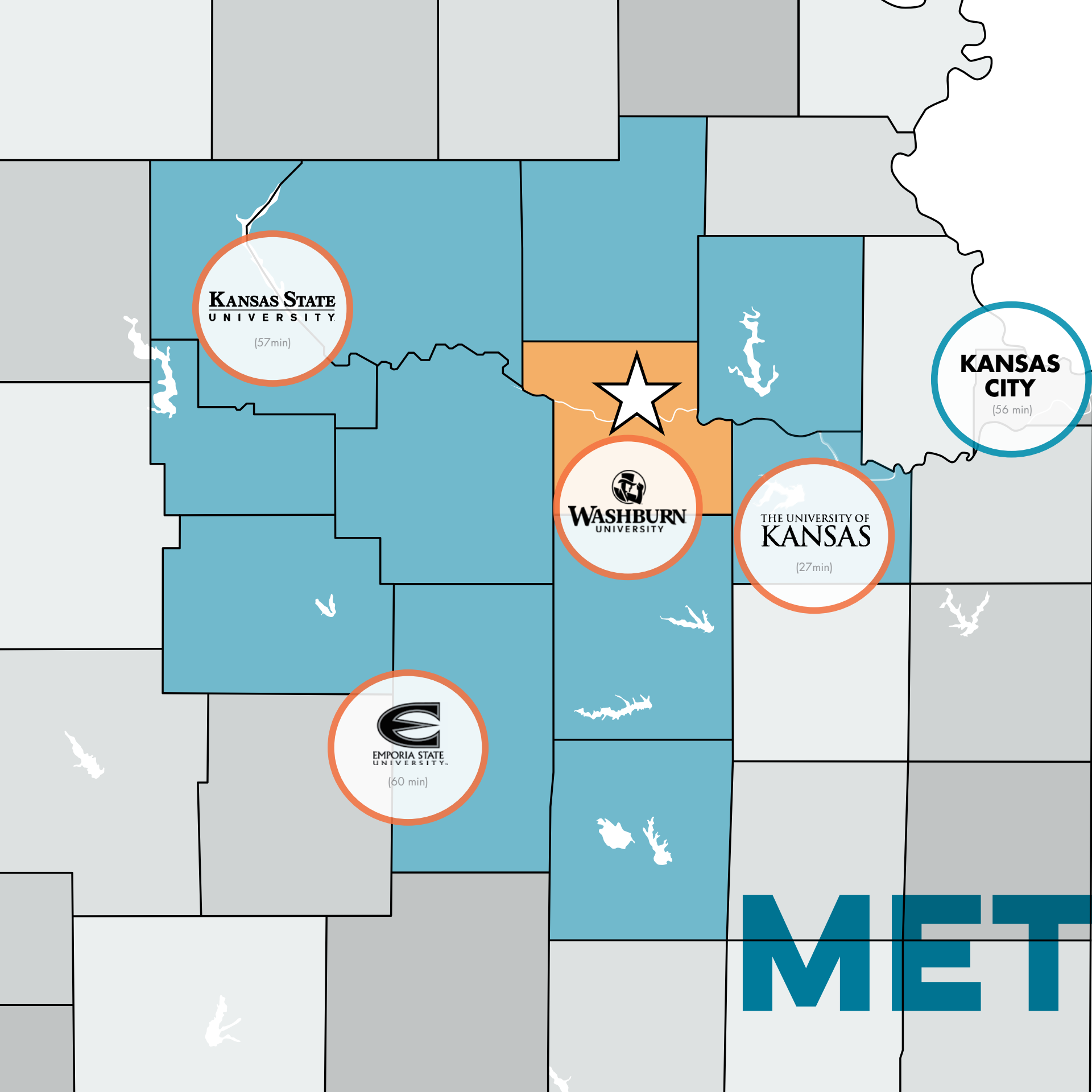
The 992,000-square-foot redevelopment of West Ridge Mall in Topeka, led by Advisors Excel, is transforming the former shopping center into a modern retail and lifestyle destination. This mixed-use project will feature 400,000 square feet of office space and 600,000 square feet of retail and dining, redefining the way people work, shop, and socialize. Anchoring the development, Advisors Excel's new headquarters will bring over 1,500 employees on-site, further energizing the area. West Ridge is set to become a bustling hub of activity, driving economic growth in Topeka's premier commercial corridor. The site offers ample parking and sits at the heart of Wanamaker Road, the region's top retail destination—generating over \$1 billion in retail, grocery, and dining sales in the past 12 months. Conveniently located off Interstates 70 and 470, Wanamaker Road serves as a key commercial artery, drawing customers from across the region. A thriving mix of national retailers—including Target, Sam's Club, Barnes & Noble, Dick's Sporting Goods, PetSmart, and Dillards—makes this corridor a one-stop shopping, dining, and entertainment destination. In 2025, HomeGoods opened across from West Ridge, further solidifying the area's appeal. With its strategic location, diverse retail mix, and strong consumer spending, West Ridge is poised to become a dynamic economic center, shaping the future of Topeka's commercial landscape.



\$1 BILLION IN
ANNUAL RETAIL
SALES ALONG
WANAMAKER
CORRIDOR

FUTURE ADVISORS EXCEL HEADQUARTERS





HOME TO FOUR
UNIVERSITIES
WITH 60,000
STUDENTS

THE GREATER TOPEKA ADVANTAGE

The greater Topeka, Lawrence, and Manhattan metro area is a dynamic 12-county region with over 531,667 residents and a combined GDP of \$33 billion. These communities, each less than one hour from Topeka (excluding Kansas City) are anchored by the capital city of Kansas. The economic region is home to several multi-billion dollar corporate headquarters with 283,367 people employed in the metro. The capitol region is supported by the presence of four major universities: the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, Washburn University, and Emporia State University. Together, these institutions serve a student population of 60,000, creating a vibrant community of young professionals and academics. Your brand in Topeka would cater to the unmet demand of a growing and aspirational customer base, attracting visitors from neighboring areas and universities.

METROPOLITAN

Source: Lightcast. 60 mile retail radius - excluding Kansas City.

NUMBERS

TOPEKA AREA BY THE NUMBERS

Topeka is a city on the rise, experiencing significant growth in both population and economic strength. Over the past five years, Shawnee County has welcomed 1,747 new residents, with projections showing an additional 3,770 by 2028. This upward trend reflects the region's increasing appeal as a place to live and work. The Bureau of Labor and Statistics reported that Topeka was in the top 7% of counties for year over year wage growth for Q3 2024. Furthermore, Washburn University in Topeka saw a historic enrollment surge of 27% in Fall 2024, now serving 7,374 students. Topeka also boasts a dynamic real estate market. According to the Wall Street Journal/Realtor.com Housing Index, the city has held a top ranking for five years, reaching the number one spot in October 2023. Affordable housing, a strong job market, and increasing demand make Topeka a prime location for business growth and expansion.

#1 HOUSING
MARKET 2023

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.



Topeka, Kan., Topped WSJ/Realtor.com Housing Index in Third Quarter

The city is one of five state capital cities ranked among the top 20

“We were open to anything. We knew that it would be slower paced, which we were looking for. We’re both stoked. We love it here.”

**– Steven Perry,
Bellingham, WA
The Wall Street Journal**





TOPEKA IS GROWING AND OUR REGION IS READY TO GROW WITH YOUR BRAND. WE INVITE YOU TO EXPLORE OUR COMMUNITY AND PROSPER WITH US. TOPEKA, AND OUR SURROUNDING CITIES ARE READY TO SUPPORT YOU.

– Mayor Michael Padilla



COMMUNITY



choosetopeka.com