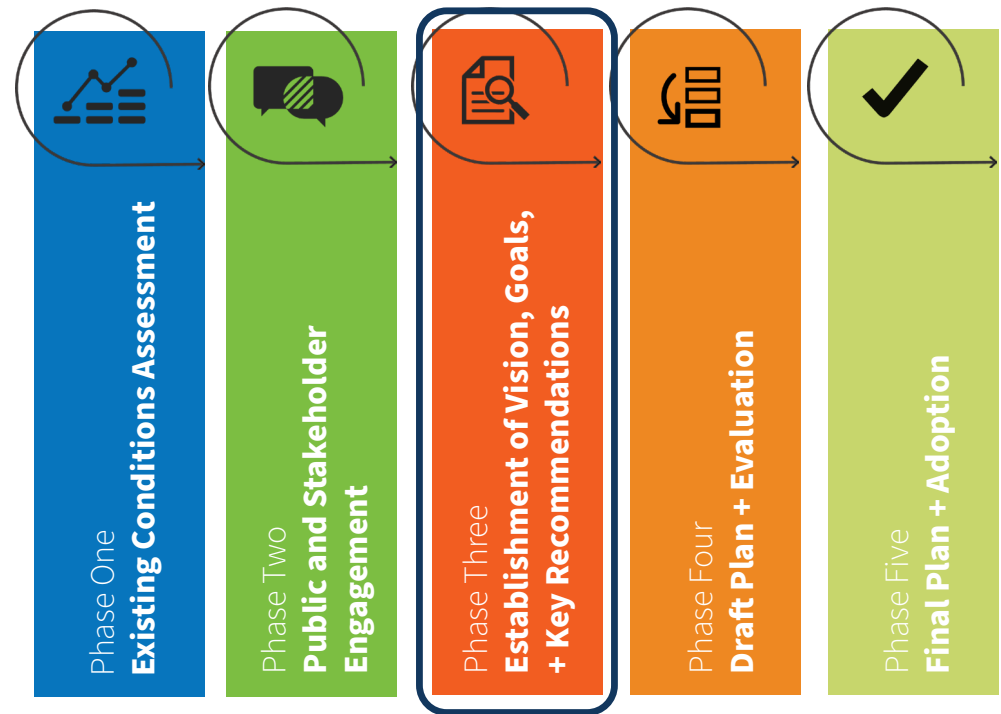# BELTON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

key recommendations summary report

key recommendations summary report

Overview

Upon completion of Phase 1 - Existing Conditions Assessment and Phase 2 - Public and Stakeholder Engagement, a key recommendations summary report has been created to overview the most important goals, vision, and priorities heading into plan writing.

Phase One
Existing Conditions Assessment

Phase Two
Public and Stakeholder Engagement

Phase Three
Establishment of Vision, Goals, + Key Recommendations

Phase Four
Draft Plan + Evaluation

Phase Five
Final Plan + Adoption

Guiding Principles

COMMUNITY SERVICES

PARKS AND RECREATION

HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOODS

CONNECTIVITY AND ACCESS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY IDENTITY

BELTON

DOWNTOWN

CAFE

vision statement

What is a Vision Statement?

A vision statement outlines a community's long-term goals for the future in terms of growth and impact on residents. It speaks to a community's overarching goals and ideals for the future.

A vision statement should be:

- **Ambitious** - a challenge to strive for
- **Feasible** - not easy but not impossible
- **Broad** - all goals should fit under it
- **Strategic** - relevant and makes sense

Vision Statement

We aspire to cultivate a vibrant community that is accessible, connected, and forward-thinking. In our pursuit of excellence, Belton is dedicated to providing high-quality services that enhance the health and safety of residents. Our city is committed to fostering an environment that supports and attracts residents and businesses within the community.

1 COMMUNITY SERVICES
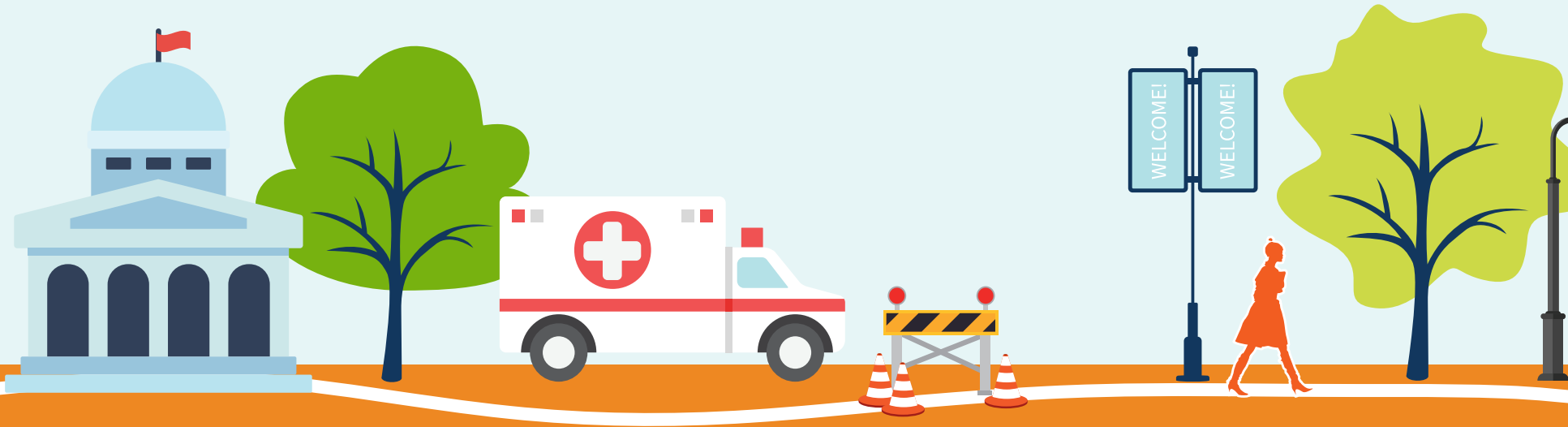
Belton provides exceptional community services to all residents. Staff levels and facilities support the long-term growth of the city.

What we heard

Input from the general public and staff showed a strong desire to have continued strong support of essential services such as fire, police, and EMS. A new city hall with multi-functional community space and a more efficient development review process were also mentioned.

What we found

The City of Belton currently has approximately 94 acres of public land under its ownership. This land is occupied by various community services including City Hall, the Annex, water treatment facilities, and other important services.

Priorities to Accomplish

New Public Civic Space

Help provide a higher level of service for residents with a larger city hall with public/civic space that can serve as a gathering space with expanded service capabilities.

Adequate Staffing + Retention

Staffing and retention will assist in providing high-quality work places, services, and supportive facilities for a growing staff and community.

Neighborhood Improvement

Continue to build capacity and utilize community-based strategies to further maintain an aesthetically appealing, clean, and safe community.

Address Homelessness

Be a leading force in addressing the homeless community's needs in Belton, as well as promote and support a regional effort to address homelessness in South KC and the greater Metro.

Transparency and Engagement

Implement changes to increase public engagement and transparency of government functions in Belton.

Enhance Public Safety

Add additional Police, Fire and EMS services where necessary to ensure there are ample emergency services available to residents, as well as those within the planning boundary, as Belton grows.

2 PARKS & RECREATION

> **Belton residents live in an active and connected community with high quality parks and facilities for all to enjoy.**

What we heard

The feedback from community meetings indicated a strong desire to enhance and expand the parks system in Belton. Additionally, safe access for pedestrians and bicyclists to and between parks was also important. The ETC survey confirmed support for these type of investments.

What we found

The level of service analysis for parks in Belton revealed that the community is currently under-served by parks today. Improving the park acres per 1,000 residents should be a key priority in the Plan.

Priorities to Accomplish

Develop + Maintain Facilities with a Regional Draw

Explore unique regional amenities, facilities, and potential locations for development.

Expand the Trail Network

Prioritize trail connectivity both locally and regionally, while continuing to identify and complete trail expansions within the community.

Update Development Code

Update the development code to increase the number of required parks + public space included in new development, as well as require higher beautification standards.

Double-Up Improvements

Ensure all City projects are multi-faceted by including trails, pedestrian amenities, and landscaping where possible.

Leverage Rights-of-Way + City-Owned Property

Create a long-term plan for utilizing all city-owned property, in the floodplain and in the right-of-way, for expanding the city's trail network and recreational amenities.

Create More Gathering Places

Emphasize and invest in the need for more gathering places, or public space, through the development process and project evaluation to increase the city's level of service.

3 CONNECTIVITY & ACCESS
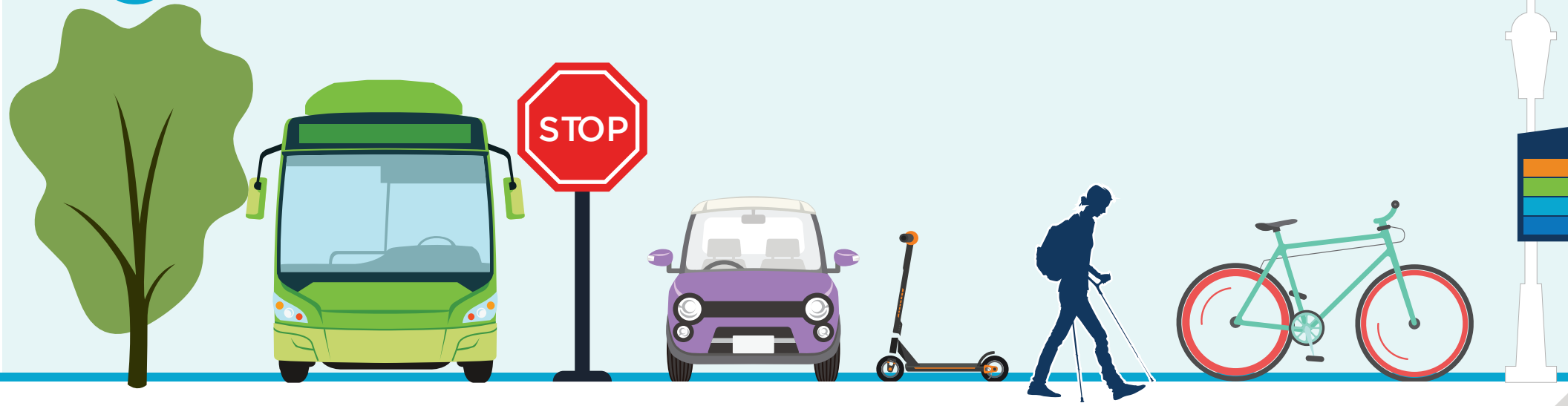
Belton is safe, efficient, and serviced by various modes of transit. People can easily drive, bike, or walk to our many amenities.

What we heard

Traffic along major roadways was a consistent issue identified by the public. There is support for traffic calming measures to reduce congestion and create more redundancy in the street system. Sidewalk and trail connectivity was also a key priority - people want to travel safely to amenities via walking or biking while also support vehicular transport as a primary mode.

What we found

There are limited trails that connect pedestrians and bicyclists to key destinations in the community. Additionally, the conditions and completeness of the sidewalk network is spotty. Identification and prioritization of improvement routes should be considered in the Plan.

Priorities to Accomplish

15-Minute City

Residents in Belton should be able reach quality of life amenities within a 15-minute walk or bike.

Future Streets Plan

Establish a Future Streets Plan to identify future arterials and major collector street alignments that will compliment the proposed growth pattern in the Future Land Use Plan.

Complete Streets

Improve efficiency, safety, and accessibility of roads through reviewing and updating street design standards and classifications based on the Comprehensive Plan goals and the City's Complete Streets Ordinance.

Partnerships for Improvements

Work with MARC, Missouri Department of Transportation, neighboring cities, and railroad representatives to find solutions for improvements at highway interchanges and railroad crossings.

Active Transportation

Identify and develop a permanent funding source and program for sidewalk maintenance and implementation to increase connectivity and walkability in Belton.

4 HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOODS

> There is a diverse and available supply of housing for all life stages. Our neighborhoods are walkable and safe.

What we heard

The need for more housing of all types was a consistent key theme heard throughout the process. This includes everything from affordable or entry-level housing to higher-end move-up housing. Additionally, the public desire greater neighborhood identity and aesthetic improvements to support strong neighborhoods.

What we found

Due to the development patterns and demands of historic Belton, there is a healthy mix of housing types in the community today. Housing tenure is skewed more toward homeowners, emphasized by an average household size of 2.5 persons.

Priorities to Accomplish

Neighborhood Identity

Reinforce neighborhood identity through the formulation of neighborhood associations for the beautification and long-term stability of neighborhoods.

Housing Needs Assessment

Conduct a windshield survey to assess the current status of neighborhoods and monitor progress long-term.

Housing Rehabilitation

Invest in home improvement programs and grant opportunities to support property maintenance and upgrades.

Rental Housing Inspection

Continue with the implementation of a rental housing inspection program to improve and maintain rental housing in Belton.

Housing for All Ages + Incomes

Support life-cycle housing types in Belton so current and future residents have access to homes at all range of income levels.

Increase Housing Diversity + Supply

Update the Unified Development Code to encourage and support the development of a variety of housing types at all income levels, as well as improve the quality of life in Belton neighborhoods.

5 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Belton attracts high quality employment opportunities and amenities for existing and new residents.

What we heard

There is generally strong support for the continued growth and development of jobs and industry in Belton. People were generally happy with the recent growth of industrial/flex jobs in town. Additionally, there is a strong desire for more retail and restaurant dining as well as ideas for improving the North Scott Corridor.

What we found

Commercial uses are heavily located on the primary corridors of Belton today- N Scott Ave, 58 Highway, and E North Ave. More intense uses, such as business park or industrial land, is located heavily along I-49 and N Scott Ave.

Priorities to Accomplish

Develop a Primary Employer Preference

Define preferred employer characteristics and refine business incentives offered by the City to help attract and expand desired businesses and industries in the Belton market.

Prime Development Sites

Continue to identify and market key development, or redevelopment sites and facilitate the development process.

Support Small Business Creation

Promote small business creation as a means of wealth-building and community development.

Tourism

Continue to expand efforts from the Tourism Committee and expand tourism opportunities for sports, agriculture, and local businesses.

Business Retention + Expansion

Bolster the awareness of incentive programs among prospective businesses, while identifying needs and assisting existing businesses with employee attraction, retention, and job training.

6 DOWNTOWN

Belton celebrates its history and plans for its future by enhancing and preserving historic Downtown Belton.

What we heard

Downtown Belton was consistently one of the most favorited places in the community. People have been very happy with recent changes but see lots more potential for retail and restaurant growth. Especially, there is interest in supporting business and activity beyond the 9-5 office work hours to create a real destination in Belton.

What we found

Many city-related services, such as City Hall and the Chamber of Commerce, are located along Main Street. This area serves as the primary core for local businesses and events for residents of Belton. There are approximately 42 businesses either in operation or set to open their doors this year along Main Street.
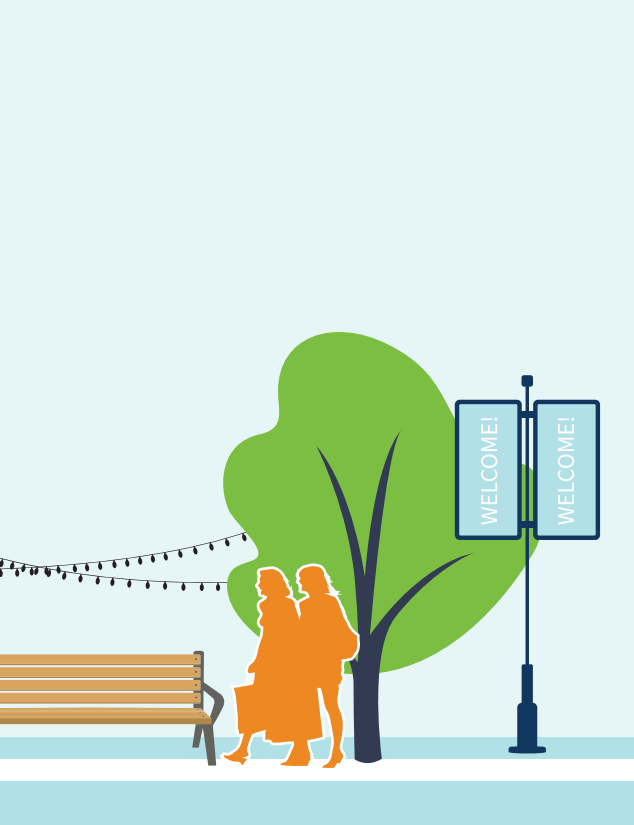
Priorities to Accomplish

Missouri Main Street Community

Become a Missouri Main Street Community and hire a main street director to coordinate special events, business advertising, and administer grants for Downtown Belton initiatives.

Sidewalk + Streetscape Improvements

Upgrade streetscapes with improved landscaping and infrastructure, re-activate the historic downtown street grid, and improve sidewalks and connectivity.

Downtown Design Standards

Update and expand the Old Town Belton Overlay with new design standards to allow for more infill opportunities, promote the existing historic character, and encourage placemaking to increase the number of businesses and residential units.

Strategic Development Opportunities

Identify City-owned property and potential railroad right-of-way for strategic redevelopment.

Expand + Activate Downtown

Increase the number of businesses and gathering spaces along and adjacent to Main Street.

7 COMMUNITY IDENTITY

Belton fosters a strong sense of place and enhances its unique identity within the Kansas City Metro.

What we heard

Generally, people are proud to live in Belton but feel there is a lack of strong, distinct community identity. There is strong support for fostering a strong sense of place by putting focus on defining a unique identity for Belton that is forward looking while respecting and celebrating its past.

What we found

Belton is roughly 14.25 square miles in size. The city was incorporated in 1872 and has a rich history that impacts the community's operations and identity today.
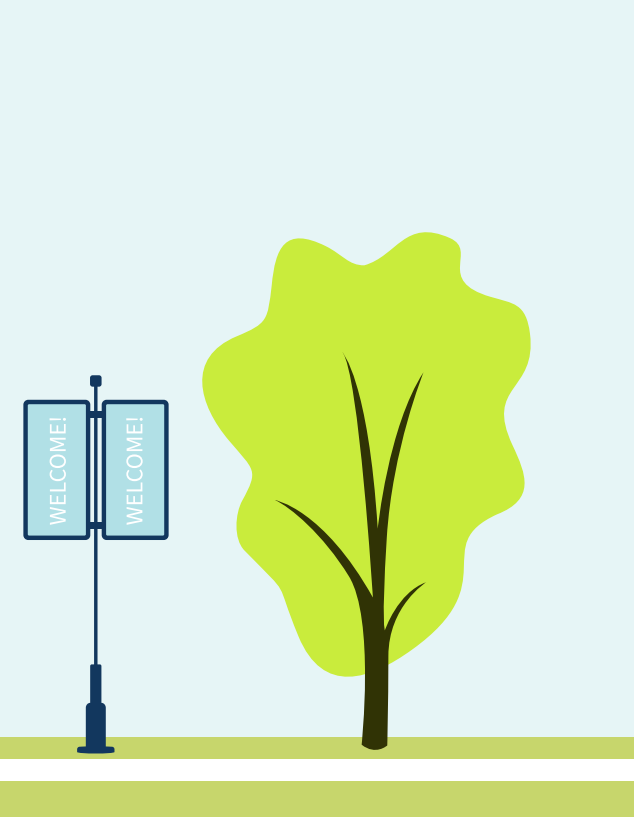
Priorities to Accomplish

Gateway + Wayfinding Signage

Utilize wayfinding signage and branding to promote tourism and community identity.

Belton Branding

Refine and implement Belton branding to be more comprehensive.

Community Events

Identify and host major Belton events that are consistent and high quality to attract residents and visitors to the community.

Showcase Life in Belton

Enhance and invest in the Visit Belton campaign, marketing, and communications both locally and regionally.