

# WELCOME TO THE LENEXA CITY BOOK!



An important part of what you study in third grade is learning about communities where you and others live. In this book you will be reading and learning information about your city that hopefully will be remembered in the future as well.

This city book is about the city of Lenexa because your school is located in Lenexa. Some of you live in Lenexa and some of you may live in neighboring cities. You will learn about city government, the police and fire departments, the structure of the city and topics that will help you better understand what it is like to live in a community.

As students and as citizens it is important to understand how a community works and the services the city provides to those that live and work there. We also hope that you will consider sharing what you have learned about Lenexa with your family.

Good luck to you as you learn about the city of Lenexa.

## **The City Book Author Team**

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Thanks to the City of Lenexa, the Kansas Historical Society, the Lenexa Historical Society and the Johnson County Museum for their assistance and their permission to use the images in this booklet.



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# A Message from the Mayor

**Directions:** The Mayor has sent you a secret message! To decode the message, first solve the math problems below. Then, match your answer to the letter in the Puzzle Key at the bottom of the page. Write the letter under the answer to discover what the Mayor wants you to know. The first problem has been done for you.

$\begin{array}{r} 6 \\ + 5 \\ \hline 11 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 7 \\ + 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 14 \\ + 5 \\ \hline \end{array}$
K			

$\begin{array}{r} 24 \\ - 23 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 9 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 13 \\ - 8 \\ \hline \end{array}$

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$\begin{array}{r} 18 \\ + 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 5 \\ \times 3 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 24 \\ - 9 \\ \hline \end{array}$

!



## Puzzle Key

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z

# LENEXA HISTORY



**Early Inhabitants** The first residents of Lenexa were Native Americans.

Archeologists found 8,000 year-old Indian Arrow points at a Lenexa farm. In 1825, the United States government signed a treaty with the **Kansa Indians** to buy that land that is now Johnson County. Also in 1825, the **Santa Fe Trail** was made to help traders transport goods from Kansas City to Santa Fe, New Mexico. The trail crossed through the southeast part of Lenexa. The **Legler Barn**, shown below, was once a station for wagon trails on the Santa Fe Trail.



A Lenexa Historical Society volunteer shows students a replica of a Prairie Schooner used on the Sante Fe Trail.



Visit the Legler Barn to see more early Lenexa artifacts.

## Famous Lenexans

### WILD BILL HICKOK



Wild Bill was a famous soldier, border scout, and lawman in the Old West. He was known for his fast draw and was a two-gun champion. Wild Bill lived in

Lenexa for two years in the 1850s. His first **law-enforcement** job was as **constable** (sheriff) for Monticello Township in

Johnson County. Although Wild Bill only lived in Lenexa for a short time, he is honored at Wild Bill Hickok Park at 85<sup>th</sup> Terrace and Clare Road.

### OCTAVE CHANUTE

Octave Chanute moved to Kansas City to design the Hannibal Bridge, the first railroad bridge to cross the Missouri River. He was already a famous airplane designer, who had worked with the Wright brothers.

After the bridge was finished, Chanute decided to stay in the area. He became a founding father of Lenexa. He purchased farm land from C.A. Bradshaw and designed the original layout of the city on August 26, 1869.





The Southbound Frisco steam train in Lenexa (circa 1905).

## WILLIAM STRANG



Railroads were important to the development of Lenexa. They brought goods and people out to what was “the country.” Lenexa became a station point for the Strang Line

commuter rail line, which ran until the 1930s. William Strang, Jr. spent \$1.8 million building the Strang Line. His bright red street cars were easily identified.



The 1910 “Geraldine” Strang line car was named after WB Strang’s niece.



This train accident occurred in the 1920s just north of 87<sup>th</sup> street near present day Interstate 35. Experts believe the steam train’s boiler exploded, separating the boiler from the main frame and wheels of the locomotive.

## J.C. NICHOLS

J.C. Nichols was a famous city planner, developer, community builder and realtor.

Born in Lenexa in the late 1800s, J.C. Nichols is most well known for

his development of the Country Club Plaza in Kansas City, MO.



HOME SCHOOL CONNECTION: Granite markers have been placed in the Old Town sidewalks marking Chanute’s original town site. Have an adult take you down to Old Town to find the five granite sidewalk markers. You’ll be walking the same path that Octave Chanute walked as he created Lenexa.



# Growth of Lenexa

With the help of the railroad, Lenexa grew into a farming community. Immigrants from Belgium, Germany, Scotland, Switzerland, and Ireland arrived from the eastern United States and from Europe. They settled on land that used to belong to the Native Americans and began farming. In the 1930s, Lenexa was known as the “**Spinach Capital of the World**” for the huge number of spinach farms in the area. The city continued to be a market center for area farms and fruit orchards until the 1950s. At that time, highways developed and Kansas Citians began moving out to the suburbs. Lenexa’s population grew from 803 in 1950 to more than 48,000 today.



Spinach farmers deliver their produce to market.



Lenexa street scene, looking east from Santa Fe Trail Drive and Pflumm Road. Bicycles, wagons, and automobiles competed for space on Johnson County’s early dirt roads. Farmers and businessman organized Good Roads Associations to lobby for improved roads.



In Old Town looking south on Pflumm Road from the railroad tracks. The house in the center background is Harley Haskins' house, which was built in the 1904. The house has been converted to office use for the "Cat Clinic."



The good roads came – Lenexa road improvements 1920s

# How Did Lenexa Get Its Name?



In 1869, the city of Lenexa, Kansas took its name from the Shawnee Indian woman **Na Nex Se**. Na Nex Se was the wife of Chief Black Hoof.

After Black Hoof's death, she continued to farm their 18 acres of

cultivated farmland. Papers from 1866, held by the Kansas State Historical Society, show that she harvested 500 bushels of corn, 200 bushels of oats and 100 bushels of potatoes. She also raised cattle and pigs.

Lenexa city leaders saw Na Nex Se as a hardworking, strong, dignified, mature woman who was proud of her American Indian heritage. We continue to honor Na Nex Se today with the sculpture that stands outside City Hall. Look for it when you visit.



**Nervous Horse** – early 1920s. Many horses faced losing their jobs as transportation changed in Lenexa. This picture is thought to show one of the first cars in Lenexa. The stable was located on Haskins Street across from the present day city park maintenance building.



**Modern-day Main Street** keeps much of its original charm.

**Lenexa students** enjoy their City Hall fieldtrip.



# Lenexa Timeline

**Directions:** Help! The timeline below must list the years of important events that have happened in Lenexa history. However, some of the years and important events are missing. Use what you have learned and the History of Lenexa pages to fill in the missing information.

YEAR	IMPORTANT EVENT
1825	The United States government signed a treaty with the _____ Indians to buy the land that is now Johnson County.
_____	The Santa Fe Trail is created to help traders transport goods from Kansas City to Santa-Fe, New Mexico. Lenexa is an important stop on the trail.
1850s	
_____	Octave Chanute purchases the land for the city of Lenexa from C.A. Bradshaw. Legend has it that our city was almost named after Bradshaw, but founding fathers instead chose "Na Nex Se" as our town's namesake.
late 1860s	Developer J.C. Nichols is born in Lenexa. Nichols is perhaps best known for the beautiful Country Club Plaza in Kansas City, Missouri.
1904	
1930s	Thanks to the growth of the railroad and the influx of immigrant farmers from across Europe, Lenexa becomes known at the _____ Capital of the World.
<b>BONUS QUESTION!</b>	
_____	Can you name the birthday for the City of Lenexa?



# Signposts to History

Streets in our city are often named for famous citizens, regional Native American tribes, or something from nature like local trees and flowers. Put your know-how to the test by sorting these street signs into the correct category. Hint: some may fit in more than one column!

APACHE RD.

LACKMAN RD.

LONE ELM RD.

BRADSHAW RD.

FLINT ST.

PFLUMM RD.

BLACKFISH PKWY.

RENNER BLVD.

COTTONWOOD

STRANG LINE RD.

MONTICELLO RD.

BITTERSWEET TERR.

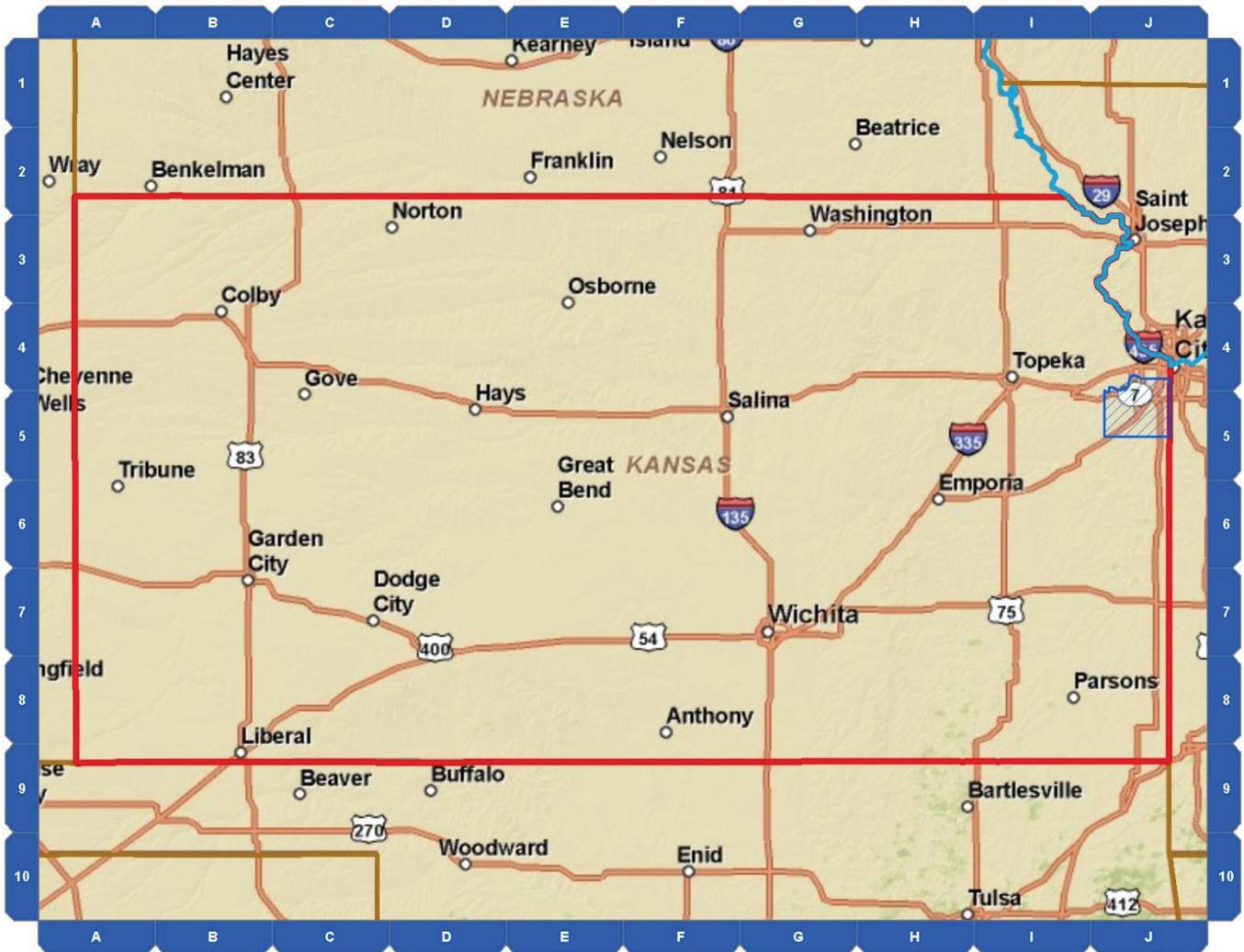
**ABBREVIATIONS**  
 Cities use **abbreviations**, or shortened forms of words, so that the name of a road will fit on a sign. Here are some common abbreviations:

**AVE. = Avenue**  
**BLVD. = Boulevard**  
**LANE = Lane**  
**PKWY. = Parkway**  
**RD. = Road**  
**RTE. = Route**  
**ST. = Street**  
**TERR. = Terrace**  
**TPK. = Turnpike**  
**WAY = Way**

<u>Famous Citizens</u>	<u>Native Americans</u>	<u>Nature</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

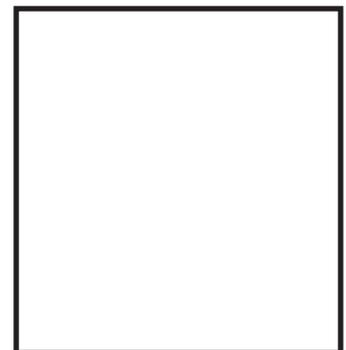
 **Think Time:** Add three of the streets in your neighborhood to the chart.

# Map of the State of Kansas

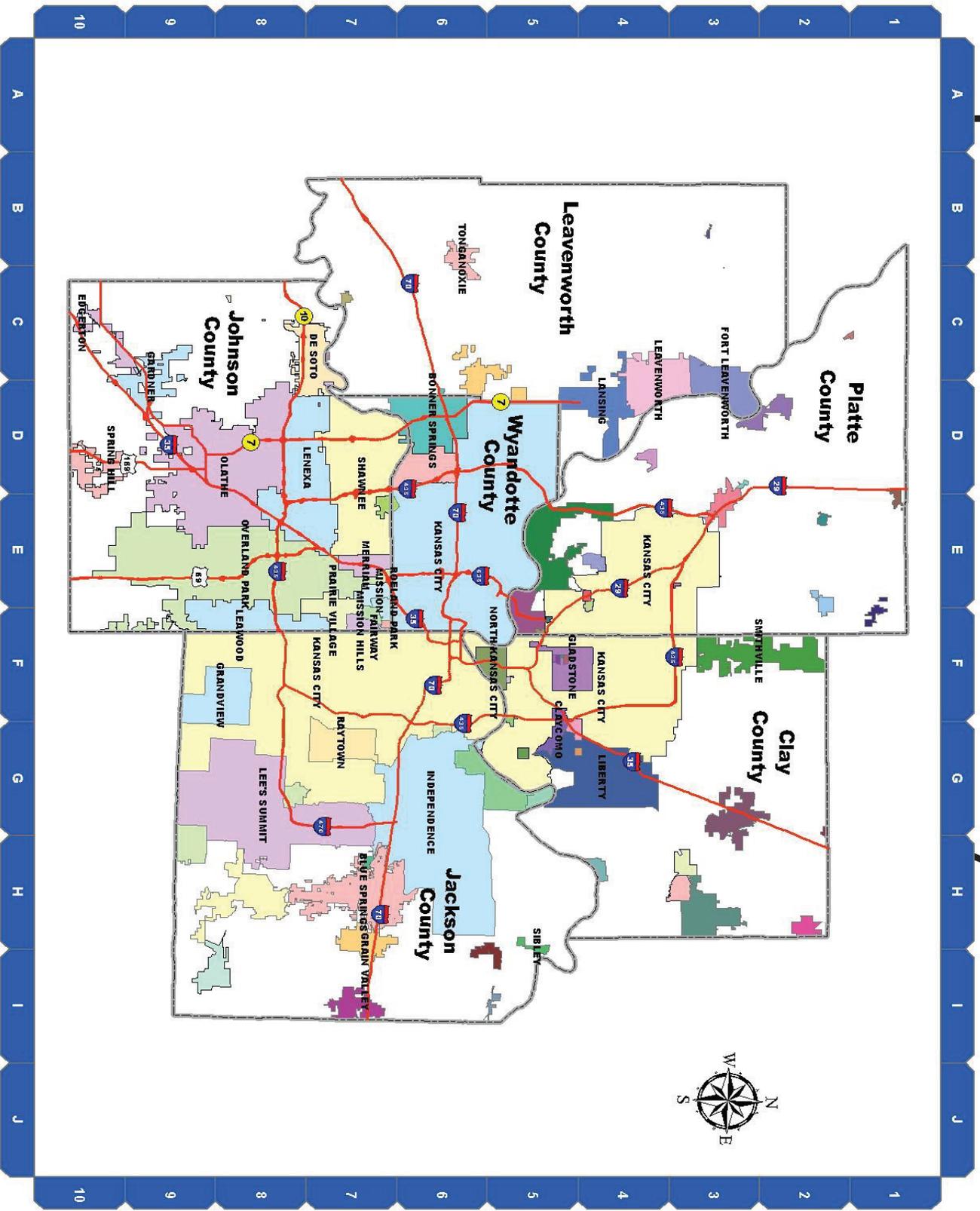


**Think Time:** This map does not have a compass rose. Draw one in the box to the right that has the four cardinal directions.

- What four states border the State of Kansas?
- Why are there different types of highway symbols used on this map? Compare and contrast the symbols with your classmates.

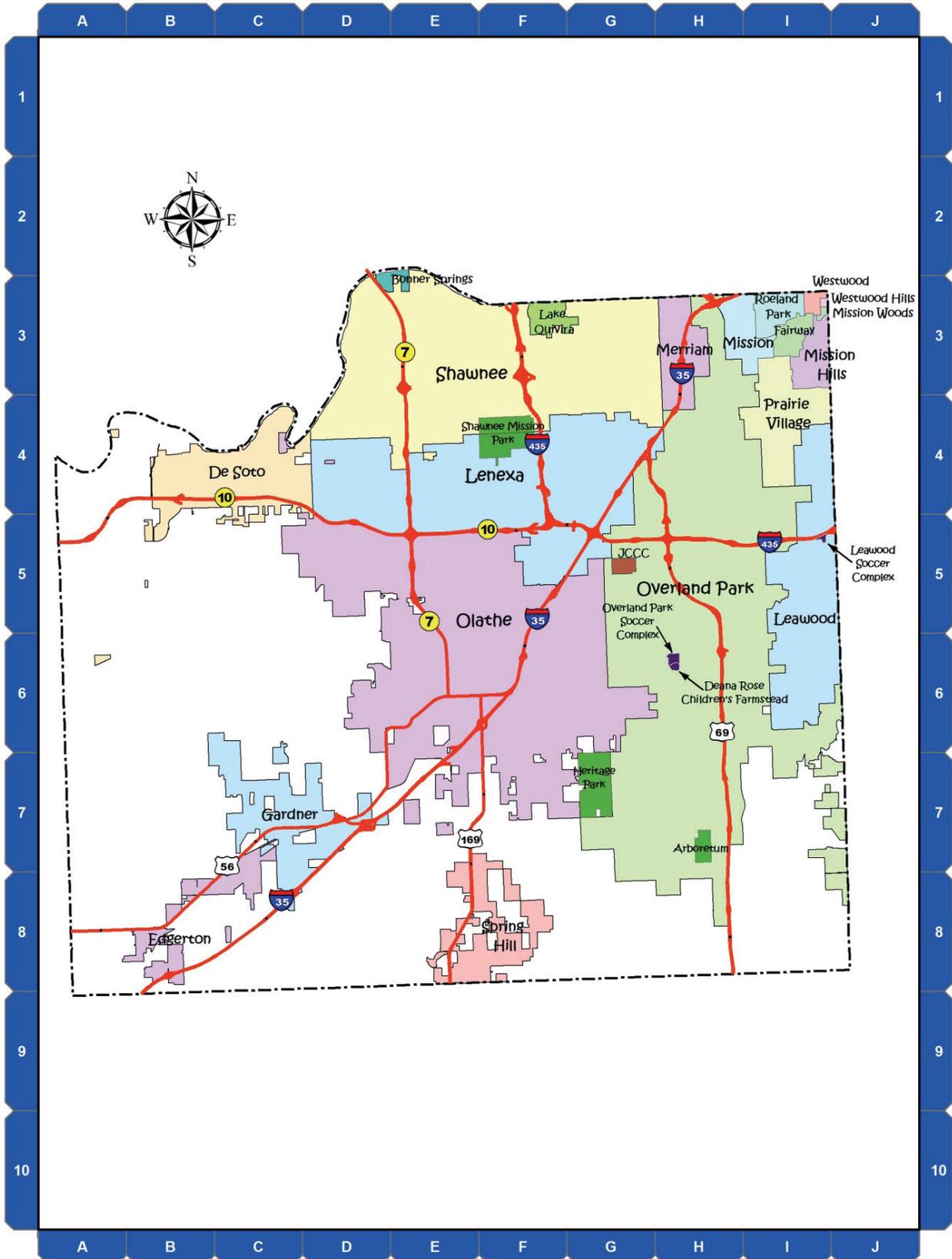


# Map of Greater Kansas City



⊕ **Think Time:**  
 Why do they  
 call this area  
 "Greater  
 Kansas City?"

# Map of Johnson County, Kansas



**Think Time:** Where is our city? What cities border our city?

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

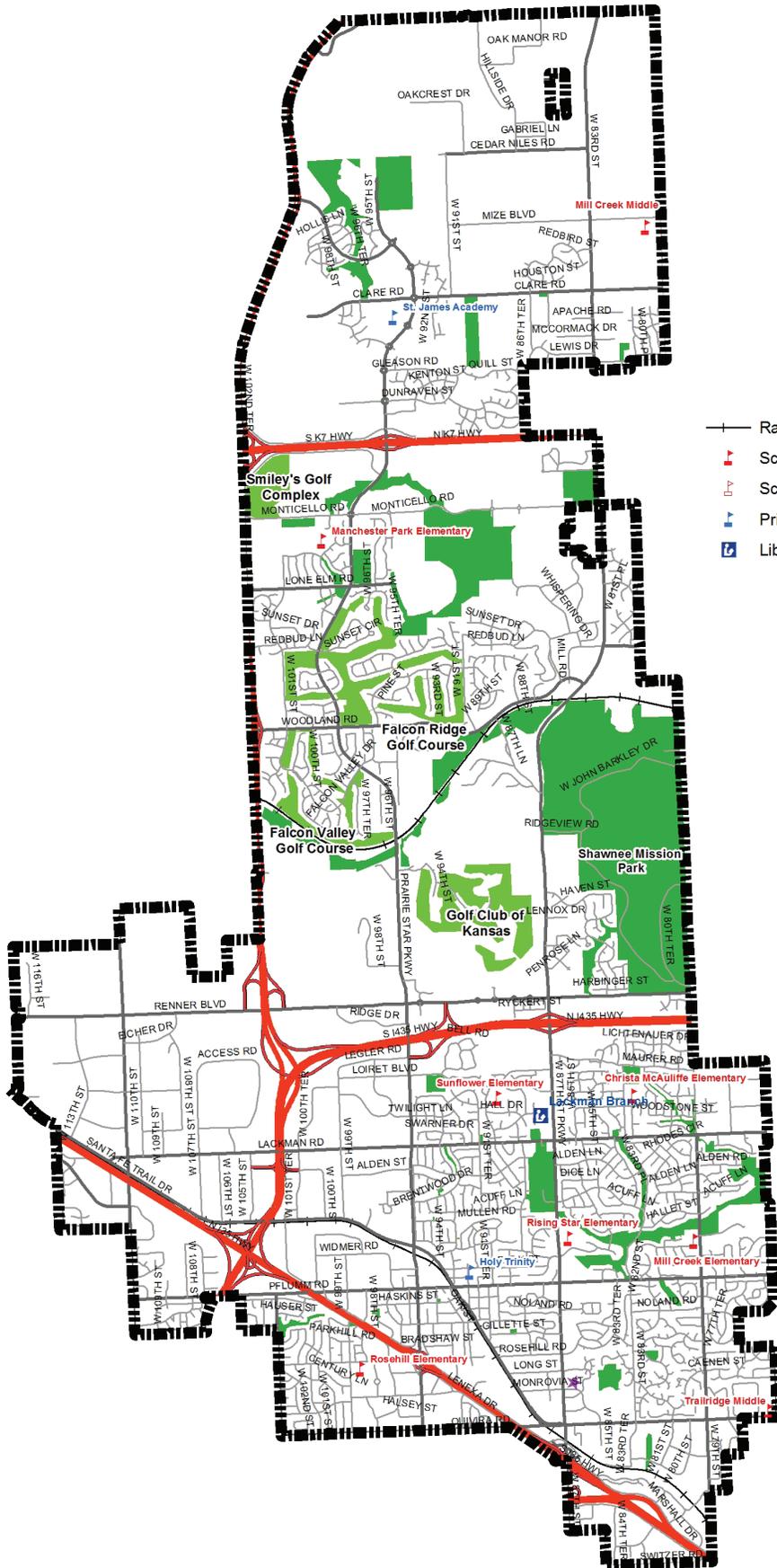
I

J



# City of Lenexa

- Railroads
- Schools
- School Admin. Bldgs.
- Private Schools
- Libraries
- City Hall
- County Courthouse
- Election Office
- County Office
- Golf Courses
- Parks



A

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

I

J

# GOVERNMENT Federal, State, and Local

Use the chart below to see how federal (United States), state (Kansas), and local (city) governments work in the same ways. Fill in the blanks to complete the chart.

EXECUTIVE	LEGISLATIVE	JUDICIAL
<p>The <b>Executive Branch</b> runs the government.</p>	<p>The <b>Legislative Branch</b> makes the law.</p>	<p>The <b>Judicial Branch</b> enforces the law.</p>
		
<p>President _____</p>	<p>U.S. Capitol Building in _____</p>	<p>U.S. Supreme Court in _____</p>
		
<p>Governor _____</p>	<p>Kansas Statehouse in _____</p>	<p>Kansas Supreme Court in _____</p>
		
<p>Mayor _____</p>	<p>Lenexa City Hall</p>	<p>City court in _____</p>

Complete the analogies:

President : Country :: Mayor : \_\_\_\_\_

Kansas Statehouse : Topeka :: US Capitol Building : \_\_\_\_\_



**Think Time** Create and share your own government analogy.

\_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ :: \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_

# CITY PLANNING

Have you ever thought about the different **zones**, or areas, in your home? You probably have areas set aside for specific purposes such as eating, sleeping, and playing. Cities also have **zones**, or areas, for the different types of buildings that are built.

Cities may have several different planning zones:



The **residential** zone may have houses, apartments, and townhomes.



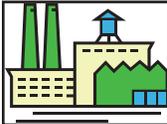
The **farming** zone may have farms and grain elevators.



The **commercial** zone may have office buildings, stores, banks, and restaurants.



The **multipurpose** zone could have schools, churches, libraries, houses, and small businesses.

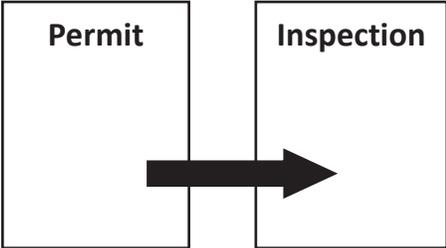


The **industrial** zone may have factories, warehouses, and power plants.

**Zones** help keep a city organized and run smoothly. Cities have a **City Planner** whose job it is to decide how parts of the city should be zoned. They also plan for the city’s growth and development. Businesses and citizens must check with the city planning department before they build to make sure they are allowed to build in that **zone**.

 **Think Time:** You want to build an addition to your house, what do you need to consider?

1. Make it safe.
2. Use proper materials
3. \_\_\_\_\_



# INFRASTRUCTURE

**Infrastructure** is a word used to describe many of the city **facilities** that make life easier for people who live here.

Infrastructure includes city services, how

our transportation systems are connected, and how **utilities** reach businesses and

**residential** homes. **Infra** means *below or beneath*. **Structure** in this word means the way that our city is connected. This makes sense because we don't always see how our city is connected.



Transportation includes the streets, bridges, and highways in our city. The city **infrastructure** includes the sidewalks we use and the bike paths we ride our bikes on. It also includes the Johnson County buses that you might see. In larger cities transportation includes airports, and public transportation such as a subway and railroads.



Utilities such as electricity, water, and gas are a very important part of the city **infrastructure**. Just imagine all the pipes and wires to service all of the people in our city! Other utilities that are connected and a part of the city **infrastructure** are telephone and cable services, radio, and television signals.

**Municipal** services, also called city services, are also a part of the city **infrastructure**. Police and fire protection are important to keeping us safe.



**Think Time:** Schools have infrastructure too. Think about how your school building is organized and how students move through the hallways. What special **rules** or **procedures** are in place for the transportation and communication infrastructure at your school? Look at a school map and discuss with your classmates.

# CITY MONEY

Cities are run like a business. Cities need money so that they can provide **services** to the residents and businesses in their city. All of these **services** cost money.



Cities have **revenues**, money that comes into the city, and **expenses**, money that must be spent to run the city.

The city can never have more **expenses** than it has **revenue**. The city has to make **economic choices** just like you. The city also has to have a **budget**, or plan for spending money, just like your family.



Cities must pay for services such as the police and fire department and other city **employees**.

## TAXES

Some of the money a city receives comes from **taxes**, money that is paid by citizens to the government. The city collects different taxes to pay for services that benefit all of its citizens. One example is a **sales tax**. When you buy **goods**, such as a \$10.00 toy, the actual cost of your toy will be higher because of the additional **sales tax** charged by the city. Another tax is called a **property tax**. Homeowners pay this tax based on the value of their property. Property and sales taxes help the city operate.



🕒 **Think Time:** What are some of the things that a city spends money on to make it a safer and better place to live?

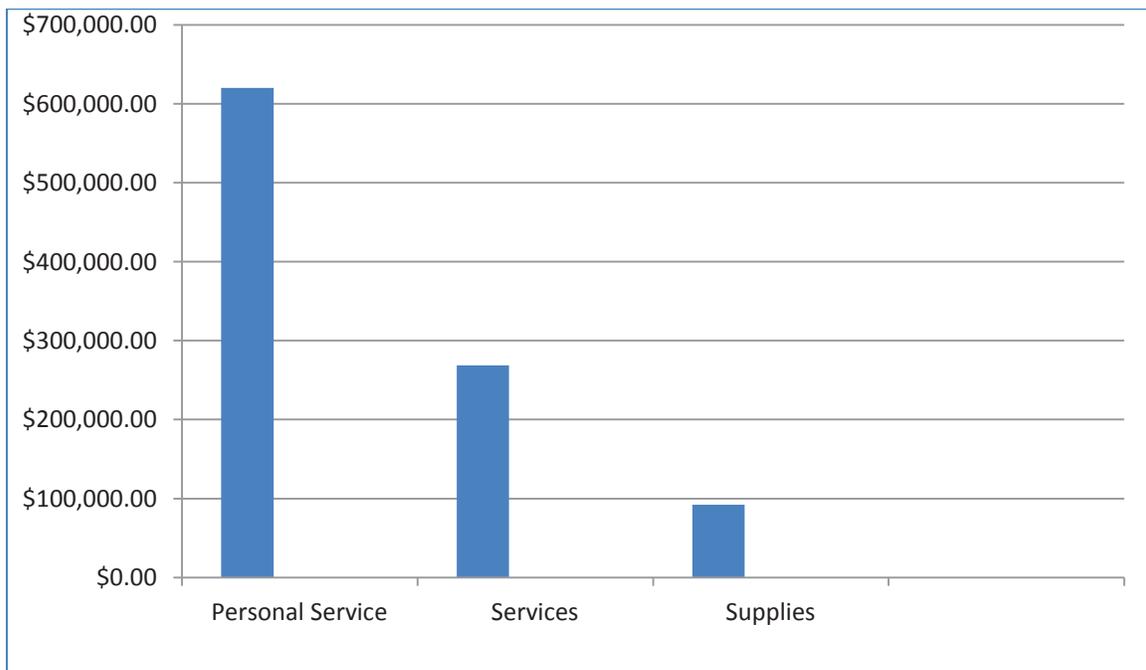
# USER FEES



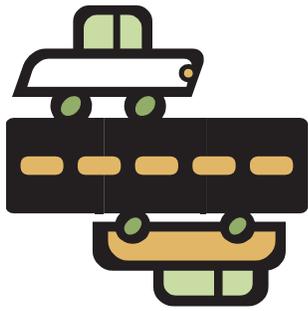
Another way the city gets money is when people pay for a specific **service** they want to use. These services are called **user fees**.

A service that usually charges a user fee is the city swimming pool. These fees are used instead of tax dollars because not all people want to use these services. The price of user fees is based on how much it costs to provide that service.

<b>Goods and Services</b>	<b>Expense</b>
Personal Services (salaries, insurance)	\$ 620,000.00
Services (utilities, insurance, tax)	\$ 268,800.00
Supplies (equipment, concessions, uniforms, tools)	\$ 92,000.00
<b>Total Pool Costs</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>



 **Think Time:** The table above shows the estimated cost to run a city swimming pool during one summer. Find the **TOTAL** cost to run the city pool.



# STREETS and BRIDGES

When people pay taxes, some of that money is used for streets and bridges. In most cities, a **Public Works Department** is responsible for building and repairing these streets and bridges. They also install and maintain the traffic signals, street signs, and street lights. Imagine how hard it would be to go places and be safe if there were no streets or bridges!

	THEN	NOW
<p><b>In the past</b>, people could only go places by walking or riding animals. <b>Now</b>, people still walk places but they have sidewalks that are safe and convenient.</p>	<p>Walking</p> 	<p>Walking</p> 
<p><b>In the past</b>, if many people went to the same places then a dirt or stone path would be made. <b>Now</b>, people travel faster over long distances by using streets and highways.</p>	<p>Streets</p> 	<p>Streets</p> 
<p><b>In the past</b>, people could not travel over water unless they built a simple bridge or used boats. <b>Now</b>, engineers build bridges that can carry thousands of cars and trucks everyday.</p>	<p>Bridges</p> 	<p>Bridges</p> 

 **Think Time:** Which one has changed the most?

# WATER SYSTEMS

At home or at school, you turn on the **faucet** and fresh water comes out. Where does the water come from? And more importantly, where does it go when we make it dirty?

When it rains, water falls into local rivers and streams. That water feeds into **reservoirs**. Water from the **reservoirs** is pumped into the **water treatment plant**. The water passes through a series of filters. Chemicals, such as **fluoride** (for strong teeth) and **chlorine**, remove the last of the germs.

The clean water is then stored in the big water towers you see around the city. A system of buried pipes carries water from the water tower to your home. You turn on the **faucet**, and the cycle begins again.



**Water District #1 of Johnson County** provides water to most of the cities in the county. Water One treats more than 50 million gallons of water each day.

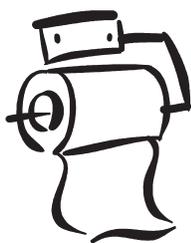
## Why should I care?

- Without a water system, you would have to find your own water. Some of that water might taste bad or even make you sick.
- If we just dump **sewage** directly into lakes and rivers, the fish will get sick and die. Soon all the water would become polluted and would be unfit for swimming.

# Toilet Talk

*So you think it's easy being a toilet?  
I am the first step in an important cycle – the **WATER and WASTE REMOVAL SYSTEM**.*

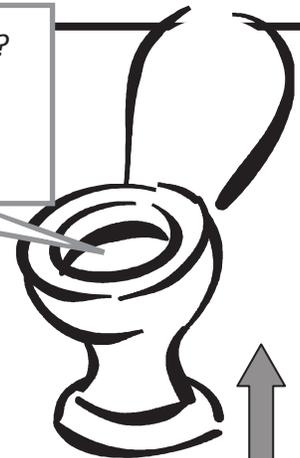
**Stage 1:** Waste is deposited in sink or toilet.



**Stage 2:** Waste is flushed through sewer pipes to city water treatment plant



**Stage 3:** Treatment facility filters out waste and cleans water for reuse in system.



# RAIN TO RECREATION



Your city's **watershed management** program helps to protect people, buildings and the environment. A **watershed** is an area of land that slopes down to a creek or river so that rain falling into that area will flow downhill into a creek or river. The chart below shows landforms, wildlife, and habitats that you may find in your city.

Landforms	Wildlife	Habitats	Examples
Ponds	Fish, frogs, turtles, otters	A small body of <b>freshwater</b> with land all around it; smaller than a lake	
Lakes	Fish, ducks, turtles	A body of freshwater with land all around it; larger than a pond	
River	Fish, turtles, beavers	A large stream of water that runs into a lake, ocean, or another river	
Creek	Floating plants, dragonflies, snails, frogs, fish	A stream smaller than a river	
Wetlands	Birds, dragonflies, frogs and turtles	Shallow pond with water loving plants that filter out <b>pollutants</b> and improve water quality	
Grassland	Snakes, prairie dogs, rabbits, hawks, coyotes, and bison	A large, flat area of grass with very few trees and shrubs	



**Think Time:** Name some of the landforms and wildlife found in your city.

# ENERGY AND RESOURCES

Kansas City Power & Light supplies electric energy to the citizens of our city. Five power plants work around the clock to be sure there is enough electricity for everyone, all



of the time! One way that these power plants generate electricity is to burn coal. Coal is considered a **non-renewable resource**, meaning it cannot be replaced. If people use up all of the non-renewable resources available in order to produce energy, then one day those resources will no longer exist!

**Natural renewable resources** are more energy efficient and can save our environment too. When something is **renewable**, it means that it can be replaced, or brought back. When something is **natural**, it means that it comes from nature. Renewable natural resources are good to use because they are **renewable**. However, you can't just use renewable resources any way you want to and think they will always come back. **Renewable resources** are only renewable if you take good care of them!

Renewable Resources	Non-Renewable Resources



**Think Time:** Decide if these examples are renewable or nonrenewable resources and list them on

the chart above.

- \*Sunlight
- \* Trees
- \* Coal
- \* Plastic
- \*Gasoline
- \* Wind
- \* Water
- \* Oil

# COMMUNICATION

**Communication** is giving or exchanging information by speaking, writing, signing or texting. Do you communicate with your family or friends in different ways? Of course you do!



Long ago **communication** methods were different. Native Americans were able to communicate over long distances by using smoke signals or drums. Other people wrote books or letters. Later the **telegraph** was invented. Technology has changed the way we keep in touch.



running into businesses and homes include electricity, phone and cable television lines. Cellular towers and satellite dishes also allow our cell phones and televisions to receive signals. Communication technology is rapidly changing all over the world. Maybe someday you will design a new way to communicate.

**Technology** has greatly improved the way we **communicate** today. The telephones, computers and televisions that we use are our

Complete this chart to compare how people communicated in the past with how people communicate today.

**communications infrastructure.** Some of the underground and overhead lines



**Think Time:**

Try to think of a new way to communicate. How would it work? Can you draw a picture of yourself using it?

How people communicated long ago (Native Americans, pioneers, explorers)	How we communicate today

# POLICE DEPARTMENT



A **Police Department** is an important **service** provided to your community. The **Patrol Division** is made up of uniformed officers, often called policemen or policewomen. **Police officers** provide protection and **enforce** laws for the citizens of our community. Patrol officers work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. A police officer performs many different duties including patrolling all city areas, going to **9-1-1** calls, making arrests and helping citizens.

For finding criminals, police will sometimes use dogs from a K-9 unit.



These dogs are trained to help police officers do their jobs when investigating crimes or finding missing persons.

The **Investigations Division** of a police department includes **detectives**. Their job includes investigating crimes, interviewing victims and collecting evidence at crime scenes.

The **Staff Services Division** is made up of people such as secretaries and dispatchers who answer the phone when you dial **9-1-1** for an emergency.

Other **services** provided by a police department might include animal control, neighborhood watch programs, school crossing guards and bicycle patrol officers.

9-1-1 what is your emergency?

If you call 9-1-1, you will need to respond quickly with your location information, which is often your home address. Fill in the blanks with your home address:

I live at \_\_\_\_\_  
NUMBERS / STREET NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY / STATE / ZIPCODE

**ONLY DIAL 9-1-1**

**WHEN:** You or someone else is in danger

**WHEN:** You need police, fire, or an ambulance for an emergency



# FIRE DEPARTMENT

A **Fire Department** is an important **service** provided to a community. A firefighter's job is to prevent the **destruction** of life, property and the environment in their city. Firefighters work 24-hour **shifts** and are available to help citizens 365 days a year!

During a shift, the fire station is like their home. Firefighting is a **strenuous** job, which requires both physical and mental strength. Firefighters work to

maintain a high level of physical fitness to help them keep up with the demands of their job and always be prepared.

Firefighters are trained professionals in many areas including ice and **swift** water rescue, **confined spaces** and **hazardous material** training. To prevent fires from starting, some of a firefighter's duties include educating citizens and doing fire **inspections**.



Are the fire engines in your city red or yellow?



**Think Time:** In the event of a fire, a family should have a plan where they should meet outside of their home. Does your family have a fire escape plan? Write about the escape **route** and meeting place you would go to in case there was a fire at your home. Describe your plan below.



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# CATS and DOGS



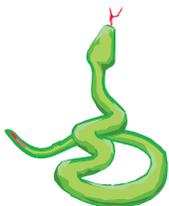
All cats and dogs must be **licensed** with the city. It is important to **license** dogs and cats so the city has a record of your pets. **Licenses** are only given out after the dog or cat gets its **rabies** shots. This helps to keep the city a safer place to play! Also, if your pet ever got lost, the person who finds it can call the city and provide them with the number on your pet's **license** tag. With this information, an animal

control officer could bring your pet back to you.

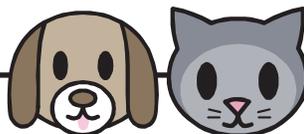
Most cities allow citizens to keep up to two dogs and/or two cats without a special **permit**. Other animals may be kept inside your home without a **permit**, including guinea pigs, hamsters, birds, and other small pets. In most cities it is against the law to keep monkeys, raccoons, foxes or other city wildlife. It is unsafe to keep these animals as household pets. Most cities also have rules about having animals called **livestock**, such as cows, pigs and horses.



Baby monkeys are cute, but they are not allowed as pets in most cities.



Draw your own tag.



**Think Time** Design a tag for your pet. Be sure to include your name, street address, and a phone number to help identify your pet in the event it is ever lost. Include other important information you think should be put on a pet tag.

# PARKS and RECREATION

Many cities have a **Department of Parks and Recreation**. This department's job is to provide citizens with parks and other places to exercise and have fun. They also arrange special events for the community. These events may be planned to celebrate a holiday, the city's history or they may be organized just for fun.



Sar-Ko Par Trails Park is lovely in autumn.

Lenexa is home to 30 different parks. The largest park is **Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park**. It is more than 53 acres, and has a swimming pool, playgrounds, walking trails, and athletic courts and fields. It also houses the **Legler Barn Historic Museum**, a railroad caboose, and a railroad museum.



Cool off at one of Lenexa's pools or waterparks.

Many special events are held each year at Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park. The most popular include the **Spinach Festival** and the **Great Lenexa Barbeque Battle**. The Spinach Festival celebrates Lenexa's unique history as "The Spinach Capital of the World" during the 1930s. Visitors enjoy this September event as they take part in spinach-themed games and contests.



Spinach is not the only treat at the Spinach Festival.

The barbeque battle is held every June, and the contest attracts hundreds of cooks from all over the United States. Contestants compete in different food categories including best ribs and best brisket. Many hope to be crowned Grand Champion of the Lenexa Barbeque Battle, and Kansas State Champion. Not a chef? You can pay to sample the delicious food and to enjoy the entertainment and live music.

## 🕒 Think Time

What opportunities does your city provide for fun, entertainment and relaxation?

# RECYCLING



Use the word bank to fill in the blanks in the information below.

We need to protect our \_\_\_\_\_ from being **polluted** by garbage. A large amount of \_\_\_\_\_ is made up of newspapers, plastic, aluminum and glass. We need to cut down on the amount of garbage that is buried in our growing landfills.

Nature provides us with natural \_\_\_\_\_. These include trees for making paper and energy from the wind and the sun. Some materials found in nature, such as coal and oil, are \_\_\_\_\_. This means that when these resources are used up, nature cannot reproduce them.



Ripple Glass Containers allow citizens to recycle glass.

Our landfills continue to grow at a rapid rate. Each year the U.S. has a trash pile that weighs 12 billion tons! Food waste will break down or \_\_\_\_\_ naturally. Certain foods, grass and leaves can be \_\_\_\_\_. This means that they are placed in a pile and **break down** naturally into the soil. Other types of waste may take thousands of years break down.

For every ton of paper we recycle, it saves 17 \_\_\_\_\_. Recycling paper can also cut air \_\_\_\_\_ by 75 percent. Newspaper and glass can also be recycled. If all newspapers were recycled, we would save 41,000 trees daily! Each year Americans throw away 25 billion styrofoam cups. Styrofoam is an example of a \_\_\_\_\_ product, which means it cannot be recycled.

If everyone follows the three R's of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, this will help to reduce the size of landfills.

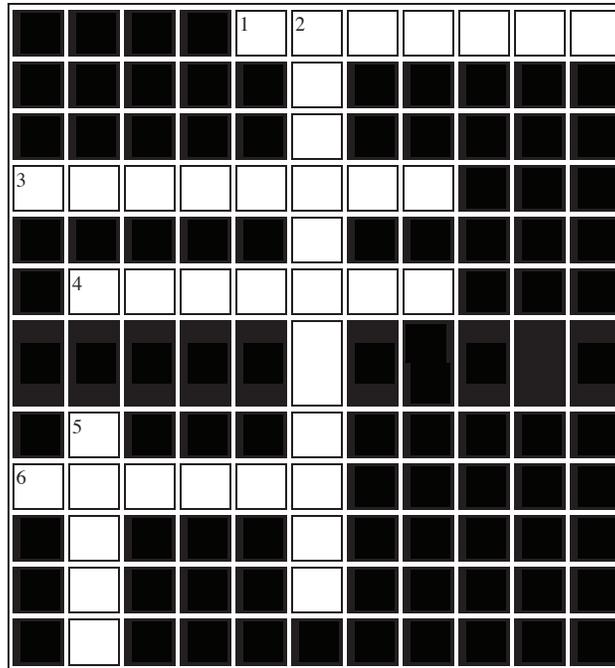
## Word Bank

- non-renewable
- environment
- recycle
- resources
- reuse
- trees
- pollution
- decompose
- composted
- non-recyclable
- waste
- reduce

# RECYCLING

**Recycling** is the process of turning one product into another usable product. Recycling is done to **conserve** the use of **renewable** and **non-renewable** resources and landfills. Many things can be recycled including paper products, cardboard, aluminum, glass and plastic.

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Crossword Puzzle



### Across

1. collect used materials to make new materials instead of throwing them away
3. waste material buried under layers of earth
4. piles of decayed food, scraps, leaves and grass
6. make less waste by decreasing the amount that is thrown away

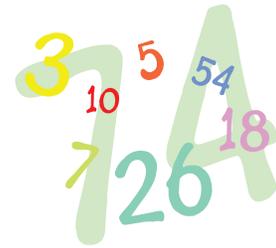
### Down

2. everything that surrounds us; living things
5. use something over again

### Word Bank

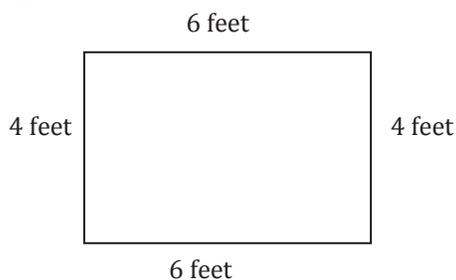
environment	compost	landfill	reuse	reduce	recycle
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# City Math Challenge



Solve the math problems below.

1. You are the city budget manager. Your city wants to add a new tube slide to the city pool. The tube costs \$848.00. The ladder costs \$430.00. The installation costs \$250.00. What would be the total cost for this project?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. The population of children living in the city last year was 16,492. Out of the total number of children, 7,608 were boys. How many more were girls? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Lenexa became a city in 1869. How many candles will there be on Lenexa's birthday cake this year? \_\_\_\_\_
4. It is 1856 and Sally lives right near the Santa Fe Trail. She likes to sit on her front porch and watch the wagon trains roll by. On Monday, she counted 5 wagons. On Tuesday, she saw 10 wagons. On Wednesday, she counted 15 wagons. If the pattern continues, how many wagons would she see on **Friday**?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. If there are three pools in your town, and each pool needs four lifeguards, how many lifeguards does the city manager need to hire this summer? \_\_\_\_\_
6. The city just planted a new garden and needs to purchase fencing to protect the garden from hungry bunnies. A picture of the garden is show below. How much fencing does the Public Works department need to buy? \_\_\_\_\_



7. Josef and Linnea live on a small farm two miles away from their one-room schoolhouse. They walk to school every day. It usually takes them 30 minutes to get to school. If school starts at 8:15 a.m., what time do they need to leave home to be on time for school? \_\_\_\_\_

# RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

## Kids are citizens, too.

### What can WE do?



Cities are great places to live. All cities have laws or rules that help us know what to do to keep our cities clean, safe and beautiful. Grown ups need to be sure they paint their houses or buildings, fix broken windows and keep yards mowed. We are citizens, too! How can you keep our community, school and city a beautiful place to live?

Look at the list of ideas and the chart below. Write each idea under the proper category. Some examples have been given to get you started.

- Mow the grass
  - Plant flowers
  - Throw gum in trash
  - Pull weeds
  - Cross at corners
- Park bikes in racks
  - Put toys away
  - Plant trees
  - Obey traffic signals
  - Do not litter
- Walk on sidewalks
  - Store things out of sight
  - Pick up pet waste
  - Wear a bike helmet

CLEAN	SAFE	BEAUTIFUL
Throw trash in cans	Walk at the swimming pool	Help an adult wash the windows

**Think Time:** Design a poster that shows some ways we can keep our city clean, safe, and beautiful. **Earth Day is April 22.** Ask a city business if they will display your poster.