



# Subarea Visioning Workshops

On December 12, 2019, the City held two Subarea Visioning Workshops. The first was for students and was held at Jenks High School, where a total of 19 student council members participated. The same workshop format was conducted publicly with the larger community later that evening at Spain Ranch, a local wedding and events venue. At the Community Subarea Visioning Workshop, a total of 28 community members participated.

## Workshop Format

In each of the workshops, participants were divided into groups, provided with markers and given large maps of the Downtown and Riverfront subareas. Each group worked as a team to draw their vision for these key areas of Jenks on the map. Topics were suggested to guide each table's discussion, including the following:

- Unique Assets to Preserve
- Development/Redevelopment Opportunities
- Roadway Network
- Bike and Pedestrian Network
- Urban Design and Streetscape Improvements
- Parks, Plazas and Gathering Spaces
- Other Topics

In addition to marking up the map, each group recorded recommendations. At the end of the workshop, spokespeople for the groups presented their subarea visions and recommendations, reporting back to the larger audience. These recommendations and ideas will provide a starting point for the subarea chapters of the Horizon Jenks Comprehensive Plan.

The summary presents the thoughts, comments, and opinions received in the workshop. Some comments were shared with the entire group, while others were recorded on the maps and in the accompanying packets. The items identified in this summary are not recommendations or observations of the consultant, rather, they represent feedback and comments received from participants.

## Downtown Subarea Themes

Between the two workshops and across groups, participants indicated a desire for a livelier and more active Main Street environment in Downtown Jenks. Each of the groups provided recommendations that were consistent with a goal of building on existing assets and improving Downtown. Participants attempted to provide recommendations to increase Downtown's appeal in the region while maintaining its status as the heart of the City of Jenks.

While the groups showed a strong appreciation for the City's current Downtown, they also identified opportunities for new businesses, new programming in Downtown Commons Park, and a variety of other ways to make Downtown a destination. Supporting the desire for more activity, many drew sidewalk improvements on the maps to indicate where pedestrian activity should be encouraged. The groups identified the Main Street shopping district, Downtown Commons Park, and the historic buildings along Main Street as unique assets to preserve and maintain. Most groups indicated an appreciation for the existing local businesses, but a few noted that there are not enough antique shops. Where the groups identified specific redevelopment sites and opportunities, they often indicated specific businesses or business types that they felt could locate in the Downtown to improve it.

Participants identified several smaller scale improvements to support their goals, including streetscaping, murals, and additional decorative lighting. Many stated that a more cohesive appearance was desired for Downtown buildings, and that better landscaping is needed.

*The following list includes Downtown topic items and recommendations identified on the maps or in the packets in both workshops across all groups.*

### Unique Assets

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- Main Street shopping district
- The three historic Main Street blocks
- The old high school gym
- Historic homes in Old Town Jenks
- The historic Downtown
- The old bus barn at the high school
- Downtown antique shops
- Downtown Commons Park
- The lights across the street
- Jenks High School Central Campus
- Jenks Public School Early Childhood Center

### Development/Redevelopment Opportunities

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- Additional shops
- Many shops need a facelift
- Redesign the Ron's retail complex
- Develop the Tulsa County Library property
- Juanita's Mexican Restaurant at Main Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street
- Redevelop Main Street blocks for entertainment/restaurants
- The KFC and the area behind it
- Mixed use and brownstones on Main Street
- Develop the former natural/organic grocery store retail space
- The area around McDonalds
- New shops off 7<sup>th</sup> Street

## Specific Developments Desired

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- Coffee shops
- Sprouts
- New restaurants
- A restaurant with a rooftop
- More boutiques

## Roadway Network

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- More turn lanes in Downtown area, especially to reduce congestion during school drop off in morning
- Downtown traffic bypass to avoid Main Street if needed, via A Street or Aquarium Place
- Potential for parking garages, three to four stories max
- Remove stop signs where possible to encourage traffic flow
- Better parking Downtown
- Improve 7<sup>th</sup> Street to the roundabout
- Improve 1<sup>st</sup> Street to the outlet mall
- Improve the east entrance to Main Street
- More parking in the rear on Main Street

## Bike and Pedestrian Network

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- More sidewalks around whole blocks in Downtown and Old Town Jenks
- Create a bike trail connecting south Jenks to Main Street
- Sidewalk improvements all along Main Street
- Create bike and pedestrian improvements along 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets

## Urban Design and Streetscape Improvements

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- Extend the decorative lighting all the way down Main Street
- Resurface or retexture sidewalks on Main Street
- Create a more blended or cohesive look for buildings in the Downtown
- Better landscape the Downtown area
- Beautify the roadway all the way along Main Street
- Add streetlights on the unlit portion of Main Street
- Create better signage for pedestrian crosswalks Downtown
- Create a mural, public art, or something to take pictures with

## Parks, Plazas and Gathering Spaces

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- Bring more restaurants Downtown
- More parking for Downtown Commons Park
- A new park and gathering space near Main and 5<sup>th</sup>
- Plaza or gathering space off 6<sup>th</sup> Street
- Better utilize and host more events at Downtown Commons Park

## Other Topics

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- There are too many antique shops
- Downtown should be trendy and upscale
- Create adequate parking for the new Starbucks so it's not like Tulsa Hills, with inadequate parking and a difficult entrance
- Create a sustainable irrigation system

## Riverfront Subarea Themes

Participants communicated that the Jenks Riverfront Subarea should be a destination and asset for all in the community. Groups envisioned the Riverfront as a unique area with a distinctive mix of uses and activities – a place to walk, bike, and relax, but also a place to shop and dine. Recommendations consistently aligned with improving the retail and restaurant options along the Riverfront while making it a cohesive and more enjoyable waterfront for the City.

Groups identified the Riverwalk, the Oklahoma Aquarium, and the 96<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge as unique Riverfront assets. There was a consensus that the Riverfront is essential to the City as a unique economic, historic, and open space amenity that must be celebrated, maintained, and improved. The incoming outlet mall was identified as a future asset which participants thought could potentially increase Riverfront activity.

Multimodal connectivity was a key theme between groups as they identified a variety of bike and pedestrian routes to the south of the City, to Main Street and Downtown, and to the outlet mall site. Long term, one group identified water taxis as a creative way to activate and embrace the River.

*The following list includes Riverfront topic items and recommendations identified on the maps or in the packets in both workshops across all groups.*

### Unique Assets

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- The Riverwalk
- The Aquarium
- Undeveloped land on the Arkansas River
- The Arkansas River
- The Aquarium Trail
- 96th Street Bridge
- The outlet mall

### Development/Redevelopment Opportunities

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- Undeveloped land between the outlet mall and the River
- The area southeast of the Aquarium
- redevelop old dilapidated house by Riverwalk - make as an additional Riverwalk parking area to ease congestion
- in current parking, especially during events
- The Aquarium needs a facelift
- Develop the land around the Aquarium to draw people into Downtown
- Improve the parking areas near the Aquarium with new development

### Specific Developments Desired

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- A new hotel/spa/conference center near to the Aquarium
- A gym with rooftop yoga
- More trendy places and high profile stores
- More retail and shops in the Riverwalk
- A drive-in movie theater or a high end movie theater
- A Krispy Kreme
- A Sky Zone trampoline park

### Roadway Network

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- Improve road quality and pavement
- Create additional Riverfront parking

## Bike and Pedestrian Network

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- New bike and pedestrian routes from Main Street to the River; from B Street to the River to 1<sup>st</sup> Street
- New bike path behind the Aquarium along the River
- Walking/biking path from Riverwalk to the outlet mall
- Nature walks near the River

## Urban Design and Streetscape Improvements

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- Expand upon current signage, creating a new system that is both directional and informative
- Add art to the 96<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge
- Add a water or fire feature
- Better signage to direct people to the Aquarium

## Parks, Plazas and Gathering Spaces

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- The Riverfront should be more like a park
- A new park by the Aquarium
- The rear of the Aquarium should take better advantage of the River
- Leave some natural areas for scenic beauty

## Other Topics

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- Build a low water dam to keep water in river by the Riverwalk and pedestrian bridge
- Water taxi
- Gondola across the River
- More trash or recycling bins (use the Disney rule that people will only walk 30 feet before dropping trash)
- More entertainment on the Riverfront including bands and musicians
- Consider food trucks near the Aquarium
- Examples of good areas to reference include Guthrie Green Park in Tulsa, Magnolia Market in Waco, and Brookside Collective in Tulsa
- The First OK Bank building is too big; it obscures views of the River
- Bury utilities underground