

## Appendix B: 2013 Community Survey Citizen Comments City of Arkansas City

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Following are selected comments provided by citizens on the 2013 community survey document. Some of the comments have had minor editing of grammar and spelling. The selection is intended to provide an objective cross-section of the full range of constructive comments of citizens – from high praise to harsh criticism.

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### ***STREETS/SIDEWALKS:***

I think this town should be utterly ashamed of itself with street maintenance. Either remove the bricks or find a crew who knows proper maintenance. Vehicles are too costly and repairs too costly.

Change some of the speed limits from the bypass south. Build more turning lanes on North Summit.

The streets and railroad tracks in Sleeth Addition desperately need repair. The residents in Sleeth are homeowners too and taxpayers. We maintain our property and deserve to have the same repairs as the rest of this town.

I would really love to see the brick roads replaced with regular road! The bricks are bad on people's vehicles and I have never met anyone who lives here only for our historic landmarks and roads. I have lived on South A Street in the past. That road is brick and when a brick would break up, it would slam my car around. Terrible! I do what I can to avoid those roads also because I am disabled, and the vibration makes my pain skyrocket. Please properly pave the brick roads.

I would like to know where the money is going for the street repairs. Need to clean up the roads into the City. Tell me which way into town -- north, east, west and south -- is the most beautiful and if you were passing through would you want to move here. I don't think so, it is so trashy.

City needs to do something about dirt roads in the city limits. The road graders do a pathetic job! They go down one side and throw all the rock at the edge. Do the same to the other side of the street and leave with big holes in the middle of the street. We have had the same holes for at least five years in our road.

Why hasn't railroad crossing in south end of town been repaired (S. 1st to 2nd)? When are we going to do something with these damn rough brick streets? Historical streets be damned. You can rip up the bricks and sell them and blacktop the streets like Ponca City has done.

The brick streets are a problem, but they are beautiful. They give the town charm. Too bad the uptown part is covered.

I feel Ark City needs to establish a better sidewalk network. Summit Street/Kansas Avenue/8th St./Radio Lane/Chestnut. There are too many close calls of almost hitting people on bikes or people/children walking especially on Kansas Ave.

I do not feel we need to keep the brick streets. They are rough and very slick in bad weather. Bricks are missing and so rough your vehicle shakes and rattles. Other streets in this town have potholes also. Can't keep rattles out of vehicles with these roads.

City needs to expand street construction to developments where home construction has advanced, but streets have not. It is unacceptable to pay thousands annually in property taxes and have to travel on unpaved gravel streets. Charden Addition is a perfect example.

April 2008, we voted a 1/2 cent sales tax for street repairs and blacktop over the bricks. This should have generated approximately \$12 million. We have had very little street repair. This has been a very big rip off of our taxes.

Maintenance of brick streets. Replace missing bricks, raise sinking bricks. These brick streets are an asset to the city. They need full-time maintenance.

Please do not spend any more money to reduce energy on streetlights. Do something to make them "lights".

Instead of more miles of "hike & bike" trails, why not improve our number of sidewalks on blocks that have no sidewalks. Taking an evening stroll around the neighborhood would be healthy and also increase a sense of community and one wouldn't have to drive a mile or two to get there. Also, our children wouldn't have to walk in the street going to and from school.

I think that every gravel road and street should be oil sealed and graveled in the city limits. There should not be a gravel road or street in the city limits. That would reduce a big expense -- manpower, motor grader, dump trucks, maintenance, tires, insurance.

#### ***CODE ENFORCEMENT-BUILDINGS AND LAND:***

Make people clean up their yards more. Make people aware of your compost. Have more clean-up/pick-up days and especially help the elderly who cannot physically do manual labor. Ask for volunteers to help with pick-up trucks for loading materials, etc.

Property owners should trim branches and plants extending over and down sidewalks. Existing codes must start being applied. Repair sidewalks and bill the properties. Start going after housing cleanup with existing codes and especially all rental houses, i.e., broken glass, etc.

First of all, I think our City is making great improvements in cleaning up this town.... I am all for beautification of our streets--planting trees, flowers and grass to help our town appear clean. Areas that need improvement are Summit south of Madison and Madison west of Summit, plus 8th Street which is our in-town bypass. Homes on 8th especially look bad, trashy, cluttered with junk. And 8th Street is bumpy.

The appearance of the City is becoming worse and worse. One thing is parking anywhere. The other is rental property not being maintained. Also, old dilapidated property.

I think the zoning people have gone a little too much on unpainted houses. We should not have trash or high grass and weeds in our yards but there are many people that are struggling to make ends meet and cannot afford to paint their houses. If some way, we could help them it would be better than forcing them to paint when they can just afford utility bills and food for their family. The water bill alone is almost too much for a large family.

There is a lack of trust with the city government employees. No confidence that honesty will prevail. Code enforcement were bullies and if you stood up to them, you would start getting parking tickets, etc. It was a bad situation. The real estate taxes are too high for our community. We have lost local businesses because

of that. As long as code enforcement is so aggressive, people will leave. This is not a million-dollar town. It is full of working-class people -- young couples and the elderly. Stop treating us bad.

Houses here need to be fixed up. They look bad. Code enforcement has shown no improvement. Time to clean up cars, yards. Why are some so overlooked?

### ***HOUSING:***

Change some of the building codes that keep builders from building new houses. The codes need to be reviewed. They are old.

The quality of housing in Arkansas City is very poor. I live in an addition that is one of Arkansas City's newer additions and my house is 32 years old. If you drive anywhere in town on any block more houses than not are in poor repair/condition. Winfield did a much better job planning for the future with building new housing developments.

There are very few nice homes for sale that newcomers/professionals would want to move into.

If more people owned their homes rather than renting, they might take more pride in the residence's appearance. What could the City do to encourage more home ownership -- subsidize financing?

Affordable housing is probably the biggest problem. I believe most people have a good attitude about living in Arkansas City.

Why can't the city get some of the old buildings in this town and turn them into something that can be used. All we do is tear down the beautiful old buildings. The old AC building could be turned into apartments for older people. With affordable renting prices. I would approve a tax raise for that.

There are too many old broken-down houses. They look terrible from the outside; they may be very nice on the inside.

Lack of rental housing for low income households. Some rentals we looked at were just awful -- definitely not up to code. Couldn't live in any of them. Forces people to Winfield.

### ***ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/JOBS:***

We need more manufacturing. We need more jobs to keep our people working close to home. Probably have 65% of the people working out-of-town. If you want more taxes for your City, get some good jobs here. Keep your kids here where they can make a good living and your town will grow on its own.

If the City is doing a good job maintaining services, economic development will happen.

We have to find a balance for quality of life for all citizens. There is a strong need to grow our local downtown as well as support businesses on the edge of town. I know tax dollars are our largest resource but if we overtax the "money makers" (businesses) there will soon be no "money makers".

We have a great public-school system and great two-year college. What we need is a greater opportunity for jobs that pay higher wages and full-time employment. Many people work two jobs just to make ends meet.

You must provide the same services you do now, but it is important to lower taxes in order to have more building for residences inside the city limits than outside the city limits. If you were going to build a new house today you would want to build it outside the city limits in order to keep your property taxes low and services even lower like water and utilities because of no city franchise fees. If you truly want more businesses downtown get rid of your city sales tax all together. I think businesses would flock in here and you could have some redevelopment of the downtown.

Taxes are an issue but if we don't work to increase our tax base, we will only have fewer people and businesses to pay to keep us at the current level.

What I don't understand is why the city (commissioners-management) won't encourage outside factories to come here. If we have to bit, the bullet and give them tax breaks or water sewage breaks then do it. Our people here should be priority for jobs.

By protecting our local retailers from competition from national retailers we have lost our position as a retail center to places like Ponca City and Derby. City and Chamber of Commerce need to work together. City officials could actively support Chamber efforts personally.

The biggest problem facing Arkansas City residents is the lack of jobs that can provide even an acceptable wage. Antique stores and gift shops are great, but we need more retail stores. Our wonderful community college is probably our biggest asset.

#### ***CHARACTER OF THE COMMUNITY:***

Our rolling topography, Flint Hills and wheat lands are a plus. Two lakes, two rivers, Grouse Creek, many trees and numerous nearby camps and Strother Field are all great assets.

Arkansas City has always been the Creative City in Cowley County. We have had to be -- not being the county seat. We also have a significant number of nay-sayers. Efforts to improve community pride ought to be part of our future development. We will always do well. We just need to recognize that and support it.

Arkansas City is a great place to live -- friendly people that help their neighbors. Great schools. Great churches.

Overall, this City is a good City! I've enjoyed living here for nearly 51 years. I do wish they had organizations to help people to fix their homes who are elderly and unable to fix their own homes. People could stay in their own homes and pay taxes longer.

The challenge to maintain service levels without increases cost(s) has to keep people who govern up at night. I appreciate your efforts. Like me most people do not really take the time to really "know" the real needs of the average Arkansas Citian. Our greatest strength is we're small enough to care and big enough to try to meet the needs of the citizens. Together with united purpose and mutual goals much can be accomplished. Long-term goals with good planning/planners are the keys to success.

When I saw fourth generations of people moving away from this community that is steeped in its old traditions and its pride from the past due to lack of jobs, lack of income, increasing stressors of more costs for less fulfillment you really have to wonder, how much longer a town of this size, with so little to offer the up and coming businesses or the children born and raised here will last. I know it is partially the signs of the times, however without attracting new blood that wants to stay here through aggressively seeking new

quality job opportunities, I am very concerned for the livelihood of those of us that aren't being hired by the schools, or college or meat packing plant as these seem to be the "diamond" jobs in our fair city. When the primary economic basis of a town's small business is based on Wal-Mart, tattoo parlors and fast food joints, it does not steep me with confidence for a strong economic future for Arkansas City. As we have seen so many businesses and corporations leave our area, the few new ones that hinted they would like to be here, but were turned town, seems to give me a sense of "survival" not dreaming of a future for Arkansas City, nor Cowley County. Good luck with this very real but tricky situation.

After comparing Arkansas City to another town of comparable size, Arkansas City stands way above the other town in two areas. First is the library, and next is the newspaper. Also, the location and services of businesses in the downtown area.

We were away from Ark City for 40+ years; have been back since 2003. This was a great community to grow up in and is a wonderful community to retire in, but I miss the downtown activity and involvement that was here through the 60s. The Burford project and the hiking/biking trails are excellent projects. During my years away, especially the years I lived in a small town in Colorado, I became convinced that good schools, the availability of cultural activities, shopping and dining opportunities, and adequate housing at all price levels are most important for a community to grow.

The racism in this town is a big problem.

We love Arkalalah, its local culture, people love it, and it brings the downtown to life. We need to work out how to bring that kind of life and energy to our city in smaller ways year-round.

I think that Arkansas City can benefit from some sort of deliberative democracy approach. More of an effort needs to be made to get the community involved in its own preservation and rehabilitation. If a community is not engaged, no steps made will bring a positive result. The city needs to actually see where their tax dollars are going. In this city, it's very difficult to see.

In this town we complain about the successful community members, hurl insults at the Hispanic community and ignore the enormous problems of drug abuse and addiction. We have our work cut out for this community, but I am not really sure that we are up to the task. The changes in attitude and leadership in this town are very sad. We need to find something to get this town to feel good about itself again.

Tough decisions are ahead for this community and I appreciate the efforts of those who must make those calls. But, put our tax dollars to use in one place for a purpose and don't fund those not producing. The days of having the city help me because I cannot help myself must be gone. If you cannot help yourself at all, then you need to find a new approach. The money, time and effort are no longer there to continue to drag people along. Help those that show progress and sustainability through their efforts and leadership and let the rest go.

I love Ark City and would like to see it grow. But as long as people choose to go out of town to shop or spend their money at Wal-Mart the city can't grow. We need more loyalty to the local merchants!

I have lived here for seven years and Arkansas City has improved greatly in that time. I look forward to seeing more improvements. It's a beautiful town and a caring community to live in.

The schools are great. Main reason we moved out of Wichita. Love Arkalalah. Curbside recycling would be amazing. Good for the community and the environment.

### ***LAW ENFORCEMENT/CRIME:***

Our crime rate is a big concern. I have lost track of all the times I have had things stolen from me (most have never been reported). I've lived in four towns and Arkansas City is by far the worst when it comes to crime.

I find Arkansas City a good place to live, but the lack of dog control is a serious issue. When packs of 2-5 large dogs roam about day and night it is of great danger to people and for small children.

We need to continue animal control. My area is knee-deep in stray cats. This cat thing needs to be the same as dogs, horses, cows.

More money and anything else needed to fight drugs and more effort should be put into deporting those without legal papers. Drugs are our main reason for all crime in Arkansas City.

In our neighborhood the biggest issue is animal control. In the last two months we've had four different dogs come into our yard. Each has behaved aggressively toward anyone who comes outside of the house, and even my husband hesitates to go outside. We've tried calling animal control. In the evenings we've left messages that were never returned. During the weekday, we've received no response and my husband has called the police department for help and advice.

The crime rate in Arkansas City is rising and infiltrating older established neighborhoods. Restrictions and/or fines should be placed on owners who continue to rent to persons known to have drug related arrests or participate in drug related activities. This is a huge problem in southern parts of Arkansas City.

My big concern is Wilson Park. It has become a place for kids to hang out. There is drinking, smoking, drugs, very bad language, and who knows what else. Many of my friends said they have taken their kids to play in the park and end up leaving due to the kids hanging out.

### ***CITY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS:***

Who determines the cost of living for the City? I guarantee that it will always be in the City's favor to increase its income no matter which way it needs to be beneficial for the City. We do believe that current administration is much better than the under-handed, self-serving administrators of the past.

I feel that south of Madison could use more attention. It's dirty, slum looking. Roads are bad. The snow removal on S. 6th Street was pushed to side streets which blocked me in.... The water is not of good quality. We have no storm drains. Water standing in gutters. The street light on 6th & Monroe is defective. Works off and on, dim, etc. for seven years now. We pay taxes too. I feel the south side of Arkansas City is forgotten. Pot holes are real bad (around town).

I have lived here for 27 years and own my home. This City is too worried about beautification than the people that can't afford to pay rent, or eat, or pay their electric or gas bill, or especially their water bill.

We live on North 7th and have a continued problem with water quality. Our water periodically is brown -- and it seems to primarily happen on weekends. We have to flush gallons of water to clear the brown water, which wastes water and adds expense. Very discouraging, to the point that I am ready to leave Arkansas City after living here for decades.

For the foreseeable future, water is the major issue. There will be voices opposing conservation and wetland development, but Arkansas City has a wonderful water supply (compared to our neighbors). If we spend some time, effort and finance on it now, we will be well positioned for future opportunities for development (and customers for our water).

I believe that the water plant should implement settling ponds for backwash and clarifier water recycling placed at the old football field south of the present water plant. I visualize that this would make at least 200,000 to 500,000 gallons per day of water to be recycled back through the water plant as compared to "throwing it away" as is presently practiced. It would also save maintenance of the pumps that send this "throw away" water and eliminate the settling pond presently south of the City shops on Madison. I have operated three separate water plants and two had on-site recycling ponds that saved on chemicals and water brought out of wells and lakes.

I believe the City needs to do away with some of the equipment they have bought over the years. They should hire people (private) to do some of the jobs being done by the City. The reduction would do away with workers comp, wages, insurance, fed deposits, etc. Make people/businesses do the work required and be put on tax roll.

Landlords need to be responsible for water payments as owners of property. Too easy for individuals to change, leave town and not pay.

Would like to see more of the city boards have more flexible times for their meeting times. It is difficult for working people to serve on boards that only have daytime meetings.

City government needs to be more transparent so that the community sees what progress is being made.

I think that we have enough sports fields of any kind. They are an eye sore. We have more than enough trails. What a waste of money. There are miles of streets that people can walk.

I have been paying for storm water drainage going on 25 years but I have not had any.

Too many parks, ball parks, unused hiking trails.

Where are the shelters for the homeless? If there is then advertise so people know where to go instead of sleeping in abandoned cars when they're cold.

The paper from the City Manager is nice and keeps John Q. Public informed on the city happenings.

Maybe someday Ark City will have a water park and we need more storm shelters within the community.

You don't take care of the parks now. You need to look at cutting. No more taxes! You need to take care of the services offered now.

You need to find things for kids to do that are not into sports (like video games competitions) to keep them busy and off the street at night.

Considering improvements that need to be made in the city the "wetland" area does not seem to be a feasible idea.

## ***TAXES AND FEES:***

There are "dirt" streets that are poorly maintained in city limits. I pay for storm drainage and yet there is not a storm drain for three blocks. Our taxes are higher than any surrounding cities, but our streets are poor, inadequate and embarrassing. Have some pride in your City!!!

The question I have is, "Try living as a family of two on \$1,700 a month." That is all you will ever get because you are on a fixed income, not only with city utilities, gas, electric, add food, house payment, gasoline, health problems and insurance, auto payments, insurance, property taxes, plus all of the taxes added here and there!

Many people cannot afford taxes to be raised! We have inflationary prices now. More taxes will just make things worse. Try to govern without raising taxes. It is a burden on lower income people and those on Social Security.

I personally don't think this will solve anything. It's no wonder people keep leaving Arkansas City. I only wish I could afford to move.

Need lower taxes! Lower taxes and everything else will take care of itself. Let the free market decide if we need new development.

Don't even start anything new until you get things paid off. Then you wouldn't have to raise taxes. Pay as you go with the tax money you already get.

I would be okay with a small increase in taxes if I could actually see improvements in the community. Please don't forget that there are a number of seniors in the community. These people raised their families here and want to continue living here. Don't "tax" them out.

When it rains (hardly ever) I see no change in our drainage being done, been the same for 30 years. Yet I pay \$3 every month for what.

I think the greatest challenge to Ark City will be to maintain the level of services that we have now without raising the budget or taxes. Our wage and income stay the same year after year while everything else costs more. I have to cut back on expenses to be able to pay the taxes and insurance on my property to buy food and gasoline and everyday needs. I can't keep paying sales taxes for hospitals, schools, water treatment plants, etc. It has to stop somewhere. Government needs to realize we are financially strapped to maintain what we have already.

Tax dollars should be spent on things we need (water and sewer, etc.), not on fun things (bike path or walking path). What is being done to lower our bills (water & taxes)? Tax dollars should never be spent on sports or recreational things.

During these tough economic times it is important to have a very conservative approach. It is necessary to take care of city services, police, fire, water, streets, sanitation and similar necessary items. Parks, hike & bike trails, arts and other cultural expenditures should be cut back until times improve.

We're concerned about the large debt our city has with school bond and hospital bond. A large number of our residents are senior citizens and higher taxes would be a burden.



### ***COMMENTS ENCOMPASSING MULTIPLE TOPICS:***

Arkansas City has a great water supply and with the new water treatment plant we will have a great water system -- without water we are nothing. Should be promoted more. Keep doing everything we can for the college -- our best industry! We live in a small town with the advantages of the small town and fairly close to Wichita and Oklahoma City. Going to the big cities would become easier, making air traffic connects better, etc. Thanks for the great job the City government is doing. No matter what decisions are made, some will think they are terrible.

I think we should work on our infrastructure: old sewer line, water lines. Our streets are full of bumps and potholes. 6th Street south of Kansas Ave. should be opened up to south line north of Chestnut. Other streets finished and our grand streets could all use some updating. We should put our new water treatment plant west of its existing (location) in the old tennis courts. Forget about the water canal. Use some common sense. Also let's give incentives to anyone who wants to put in or improve downtown businesses. Let's be reminded we have way too many empty stores in downtown to survive. If we want our town to prosper.

Strengths: Many new shops are opening. Weaknesses: Schools are going downhill. Streets are in terrible condition all over town! Challenges: Getting new members of community to learn English. Classes are always full -- not enough offered. Attracting new businesses -- without it costing us. They move as soon as tax abatement (10 years) is through.

Greatest strength: Cowley College. Good schools for children. Good programs. Well-rounded entertainment and sports. We lack employment opportunities, however. We need to encourage new business with no taxation for 10 years. Provide water, garbage, etc. free of charge for large manufacturing. Help manufacturing businesses with a little bit extra, maybe offering free garbage service for a while. Build a few of those little windmill electricity providers if you can get the government to help out. Instead of giving out salary raises use the extra money for building the electricity providers this year.

The biggest challenge is to attract businesses that offer good wages. Strengths of the community include our sense of community, our school, and our parks and recreation. Weaknesses include the large number of families and individuals living at or below the poverty level. We do not have good restaurants that offer finer dining. We have a lot of fast food, but these places are not a draw for couples looking to eat out and do some shopping. The lack of sidewalks on Summit Street north of Kansas Ave. and the narrow sidewalks on Kansas Ave. are a real black eye for our community. We need to be sure access is available and safe for those that are walking.

Our biggest challenge is creating and sustaining jobs that will give people a wage that they can live on -- more than minimum wage. Our greatest strength is being a small town with many connections among citizens. Our greatest weakness has been a series of bad decisions made over the years by city government, i.e., flooding in 198 because floodgates not closed; bump-outs obstructing traffic downtown; not even replacing curbs in "beautification" of downtown; spending millions of dollars on a railroad overpass which does nothing to add to our economy, etc.

The livability of Arkansas City has been improved by building and maintenance of USD 470 schools, the opening of new hospital, beautification of the City, and good municipal services. Cowley College is also a great asset to the community providing reasonably priced education, excellent athletic programs, and music/fine arts offerings. We do need increased maintenance of our brick streets and sewer systems. Also, of concern is criminal activity such as drug use, vandalism and theft. However, the police department does

seem to be pursuing criminals and making arrests in many cases. Maintaining downtown properties and attracting new businesses and industries are very important.

Big challenge: improve city services with existing tax base. City needs to help partners aggressively pursue job creation and offering quality of life services to residents. Things like the curbside recycling and redevelopment -- demolition of blighted areas. These are reasons executives of companies live in Winfield. Water plant/stormwater is important but should not squeeze out above-mentioned priorities. City also needs to invest in social and human capital -- Big Brothers, Habitat, arts, historic preservation. A major recreational project, like a river walk, redevelopment of park at bridge on south end of town.

Challenge -- to maintain livability without raising taxes.... Sales tax is too high. Opportunities.... construct another round-about at Madison & bypass. College is an asset, but taxpayers are paying too much to college.

One thing is certain: when a city doesn't move forward, it always moves backward, and that is Ark City in a nutshell. The lack of retail is abhorrent. There is substantial room for improvement in the City's schools. So many houses/yards are staging grounds for junk. Cars parked in front yards are tacky and unattractive. Empty storefronts downtown need to be cleaned up, at least -- broken windows, paper pasted on windows, trim work that needs paint, etc. Much room for improvement! The City is very depressing and showing no sign of changing much.

The city has a huge perception problem. All you have to do is go to Winfield and Ark City starts to look dingy and we can't escape comparison. Winfield is a city of near identical size, in the same county, and only 10 miles away. Yet its culture seems much more vibrant. Here are three areas for improvement: (1) We would really like to see more time and effort invested in improving the downtown. The downtown in a smaller city like Ark City continues to be a quick way to gauge the health of the city overall, especially for people who are visiting. (2) Ark City looks less favorable to visitors and residents alike due to the condition of some of the parks. Boarded up structures, play equipment in poor repair (the park north of the river on Lincoln Ave.), parks with almost nothing there (downtown), and continually dirty restrooms (almost all of them) are a big problem. (3) Local, local, local. Our city has a culture. Let's take pride in it. Where are our programs to support local businesses? Many small cities have strong "shop local" movements to support local, independent businesses, but I don't see anything here. Many of our historic businesses are dying out.

The town is in desperate need of senior housing -- condos, patio homes, etc. Brick streets need maintenance! Our downtown needs redevelopment. Rental properties are abhorrent. Slum lords abound. And we need good restaurants.

For the residents of my home, the environment is a huge issue. We would like to see curb-side recycling like in Winfield. We would also like to see tax incentives for solar panels or wind generators. We do appreciate the walking trail. The city does a good job maintaining it and we enjoy it greatly! Another concern is animal control. Our current officer is doing a great job, but we need a full-time officer! It would also be nice if the officer would answer phone calls instead of letting them go to voice mail, so citizens know if complaints are followed up on. A dog park would be nice! The Humane Society is a great asset to the city/county and should be supported more.

I'm sure water shortages are going to become a problem. We should be more up to date with recycling. Too many empty buildings downtown. Not many shopping opportunities for senior citizens. Enjoy walking at Veterans Lake walking path. Good asset. Brick streets are getting in bad repair. Don't provide water to casinos. They are a detriment to our area.

Suggest city have an arborist to help maintain the health and beauty of the trees in this town. Nice to have racquetball courts for adults in this community. There have to be some codes to enforce business sign design. Great to connect all city districts with a bike path.

### ***NEIGHBORHOODS:***

We have lived in south part of Arkansas City 65 years, having moved here from Oklahoma. In all this time the City has done very little for our area. Take First Street from Madison south to Taylor St. It is a disgrace to the town and has been this way all the years we have lived in this area. Flood water stands in the corner of S. 2nd and Taylor every time it rains and is one big mess.

I pay almost \$3,000 in taxes each year, am within city limits, have no streetlights, our roads are not maintained by the city. There are nine widows in this subdivision with lots of medical problems, but we cannot get out when it snows for many days! There is no public transportation to use. No snow plowing. Where are the benefits for us? We pay some of the largest taxes in this city but are the forgotten!

My home is one block south of Madison Ave. and east of Summit. When I went to sell it a few years back realtors informed me that my house wasn't worth what I had paid for it 10 years ago -- no increase in my investment -- even though the county had increased its value. They said it was because it was a block south of Madison. This seems like red lining my community for no reason. They did say it was because of the influx of people from Mexico. I understand that because the Arkansas River borders the southern end that developing, and annexing cross the river has problems but is that any reason to abandon us. My property taxes are over \$1,000 per year. I'm paying my fair share to the community but am I getting the same from them? We are too small for this attitude. Some of my best neighbors are from Mexico and some of the worst aren't.

More business development south of Kan Pak. Create a more thriving area. Now it is considered low income area. Restaurant, motel, convenience store, manufacturing plant. City should approach more businesses.

The idea of a city that works only works when all levels of government and citizens are all on equal terms. In this case they are not. It seems that the north end of town gets all the benefits and the south...well just look at it. It is embarrassing to see!

### ***OTHER TOPICS:***

I think a lot of this form was developed for the sole purpose of garnering numbers to support "wants" instead of addressing the "needs" and how the comprehensive plan could be updated. Until the City has its problems with water, stormwater, streets, etc. taken care of, forget about hike-bike trails, spending tax money on economic development, etc.

I don't know why you wanted this survey. No matter what the people say, you are going to do what you want. Your mind is already made up.

Thank you for taking an interest in what the people of this community are interested in and what their views are. Amen to that.

There is no reason to "beautify" the downtown anymore. Actually, it looks weird. The downtown lights and street signs are nice, but then you go north or south, and it looks mis-matched.

I feel the city leadership has significantly improved in the area of civic planning. At one time, I seemed as though no one was too concerned with improving our community.

OC Office Building and Carnegie Library: They could be beautiful buildings again.

Sounds like by this survey that all you are looking to do is find more ways to spend money that no one has.

Trying to impose your will on people outside of town will create more Parkerfields and leave Arkansas City landlocked.

Nobody cares if I have any thoughts or opinions because I didn't grow up here or go to school here. People here only care to hear from people who grew up here their whole life and went to school and graduated from this high school and college.