

TEAM

MAHASKA: ONE NEIGHBORHOOD, MANY COMMUNITIES

TOGETHER ENHANCING ALL OF MAHASKA



Photo By: Joe Albright, University Park City Council

A REPORT ON THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF TEAM MAHASKA
Prepared by Dunbar/Jones PLC

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TEAM MAHASKA

IMPROVING THE MAHASKA COMMUNITY FOR ALL

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HOW IT BEGAN

INFORMATION/COMMUNICATION

Team Mahaska is a broad-based group with representatives from government, schools, non-profits, and more. Team Mahaska has developed this strategic plan to help identify countywide issues and to put together a plan of action to improve the quality of life for its 22,000 residents. Its primary role has been and will continue to be one of providing information about various issues and to communicate that information to the Mahaska Community.



WHERE ARE WE GOING?

WE LISTENED

Team Mahaska has developed the following plan based on a series of 13 workshops held throughout the county that asked a) what can be done to improve Mahaska County and its various neighborhoods, b) what are the issues facing the Mahaska Community as you see them, and c) who should be involved, both groups and individuals. Many thoughts and ideas were compiled and analyzed during the input process. Those thoughts and ideas became the basis for developing the future direction of Team Mahaska.

This plan is a framework for action. To be effective over time, the goals, objectives, and accomplishments will be analyzed and success measured on an annual basis. This annual assessment of effectiveness will insure that Team Mahaska is responding to the Mahaska Community so that this plan is a living document.



TEAM MAHASKA

BROAD-BASED GROUP

CITIES

Barnes City
Beacon
Eddyville
Fremont
Keomah Village
Leighton
New Sharon
Oskaloosa
Rose Hill
University Park

EDUCATION

School Districts
Eddyville Blakesburg
Fremont
North Mahaska
Oskaloosa
Twin Cedars

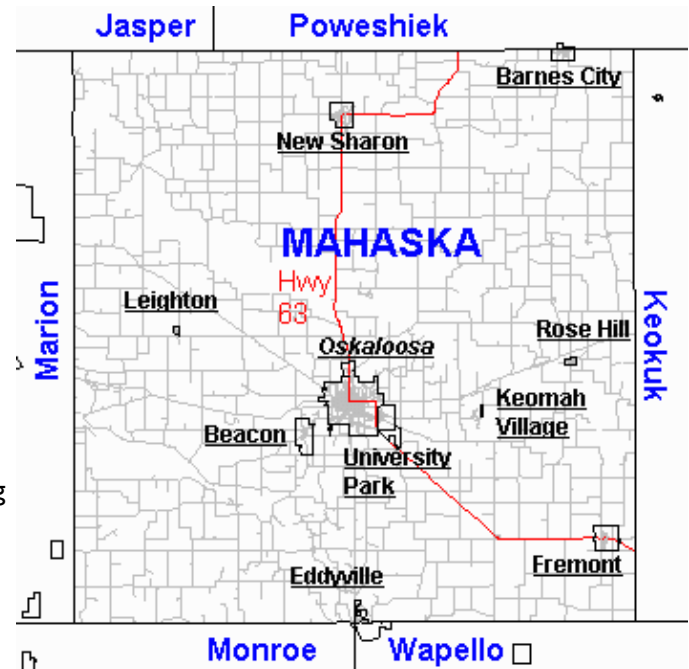
University
William Penn University

COUNTY

Rural Residents
Board of Supervisors

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Mahaska County Ag and Rural Development
Oskaloosa Park Board
Mahaska Community Recreation Foundation
SUCCESS
Oskaloosa Area Chamber & Development Group
Mahaska Future View
Farm Bureau
Mahaska Health Partnership
Citizens



MISSION STATEMENT

ONE NEIGHBORHOOD, MANY COMMUNITIES
TOGETHER ENHANCING ALL OF MAHASKA

Team Mahaska



GOAL

STRENGTHEN COMMUNICATION AND BUILD COOPERATION AMONG ALL STAKEHOLDERS

CREATE A TEAM MAHASKA WEBSITE

Develop an up-to-date, one-stop Internet site with broad base participation by local government entities in the county and at least twenty service organizations operating in the county.

SHARE RESOURCES

Identify services, activities, or functions where multiple governments can combine efforts to reduce expenditures and increase efficiency.

DEVELOP COMMON GOALS

Identify and adopt goals common among all government entities. Implement these goals through an interactive process where each entity is free to pursue local priorities for countywide benefit.

TEAM MAHASKA'S ROLE

- Recruit members and identify subcommittees.
- Inventory and assess existing websites for public and nonprofit organizations.
- Identify opportunities for pilot sharing program.
- Identify and compile common goals and priorities between local governments.
- Measure success of each effort and modify for future.

GOAL 2

PREPARE LEADERS AND CREATE EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

INCREASE CITIZEN AWARENESS OF GOVERNMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND SERVICES

Form countywide work group to identify best options for increased citizen participation.

Form countywide work group to identify best options for increased citizen awareness.

Issue monthly news releases that highlight roles of various governments.

DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT ENTITIES AND CIVIC GROUPS

Explore new ways to encourage public and private group interaction for community benefit.

TEAM MAHASKA'S ROLE

- Form and organize work groups.
- Communicate work group results.
- Identify existing and potential partnerships.
- Conduct partnering workshops.
- Measure success of each effort and modify for future.

GOAL 3

PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WORK GROUP

Establish a work group to monitor the technological needs of the county and identify potential solutions. The charge of this working team includes the identification of existing technology, existing and potential users, methods to increase access, and costs and benefits.

RECREATION PLANS FOR COMMUNITY PARKS

Identify the recreational needs of the county through the development of a recreation plan.

TEAM MAHASKA'S ROLE

- Form and organize work groups.
- Communicate work group results.
- Identify potential funding sources.
- Measure success of each effort and modify for future.

GOAL 4

RETAIN AND ATTRACT NEW DEVELOPMENTS

RETAIN A STABLE AND EFFECTIVE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Reinforce the role of a multi-community Chamber that actively pursues economic development opportunities.

COMPLETE A COUNTYWIDE HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Develop a comprehensive survey that analyzes the housing needs of communities and unincorporated areas and presents strategies for strengthening the local housing market.

TEAM MAHASKA'S ROLE

- Form and organize work groups.
- Communicate work group results.
- Identify action steps.
- Identify potential funding/support.
- Measure success of each effort and modify for future.

CALL TO ACTION

IMPROVING THE MAHASKA COMMUNITY FOR ALL

Improving the Mahaska Community for all is a process that is driven from many directions by many groups, sectors, and individuals. Team Mahaska is committed to the long-term improvement of the Mahaska Community through a process that recognizes the needs of the entire community.

The future of the Mahaska Community will be a product of the information, communication, and facilitation that takes place today. Identifying, addressing, and developing action-oriented solutions to today's issues will establish a foundation on which tomorrow can be built.

Implementing the goals of this plan will require a broad-based effort and involvement throughout the community by groups, sectors, and individuals. Measuring the success of each goal area will be an integral part of the implementation process. Each year, each goal area will be analyzed to determine the level and type of accomplishment achieved and to factor into the planning for the next year's effort.

Team Mahaska is looking toward the quality of life of the Mahaska Community through this plan for future direction. Our actions must be oriented to the implementation of the plan. We care about and are committed to the future of the entire Mahaska Community.

GET INVOLVED

Team Mahaska is a broad-based group whose only interest is in the improvement of the Mahaska Community for all. If you would like more information or would like to participate in improving the Mahaska Community through a specific goal area or in some other way, please contact us.

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