



Region 7

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Fact Sheet

May 2006

LAND REVITALIZATION

Atchison Riverfront Development Area, Atchison, Kansas

INTRODUCTION

The City of Atchison, Kansas is a small, rural community located on the banks of the Missouri River in northeastern Kansas. The population of Atchison is 10,200. This historic city was the second to be incorporated in Kansas, and once was home to some of the West's most famous companies, including the Pony Express and Overland Stage and Mail Company.

By the early 1900s, the population boomed to 20,000. However, due to a declining economy and a loss of businesses and jobs to other Western states, the city's population declined by nearly half. The county's median household income is about 20 percent less than the national average. In 2003, the City received a \$200,000 assessment grant for hazardous substances under the Brownfields Program.

Between 2003 and 2004, the City was hoping for redevelopment of the Commercial Street Corridor sites into commercial outlets and a riverfront park. This redevelopment would revitalize the downtown area, attracting new businesses and increase tourism in time for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration on July 4, 2004, with the

focus of redevelopment on the Atchison riverfront area. Since, 2004, the Atchison Community developed a Riverfront Development Task Force, and completed a comprehensive strategic plan which identified the downtown riverfront area as the number one priority for development. The Task Force felt the riverfront area had the greatest concentration of historically, architecturally and culturally significant structures and sites, and was the focus of efforts to improve the image of the City.



Riverfront Development Area

One of the most important actions for the City was to purchase key abandoned commercial property that was ripe for redevelopment. The primary goals of the master plan was to extend the retail district to the riverfront, enhance the role of commercial activity, treat the entire area as one unified district, and utilize

existing historic buildings in the overall redevelopment plan.



Commercial Street Corridor Project



Riverfront Construction



Riverfront Construction



Riverfront Construction

The City of Atchison plans to continue its efforts to redevelop the riverfront area by designating more areas prime for development, and by working with existing and new businesses.

For Additional Information, contact David Doyle, Land Reuse Coordinator, (800) 223-0425 or (913) 551-7667