

OTHER DOWNTOWN PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

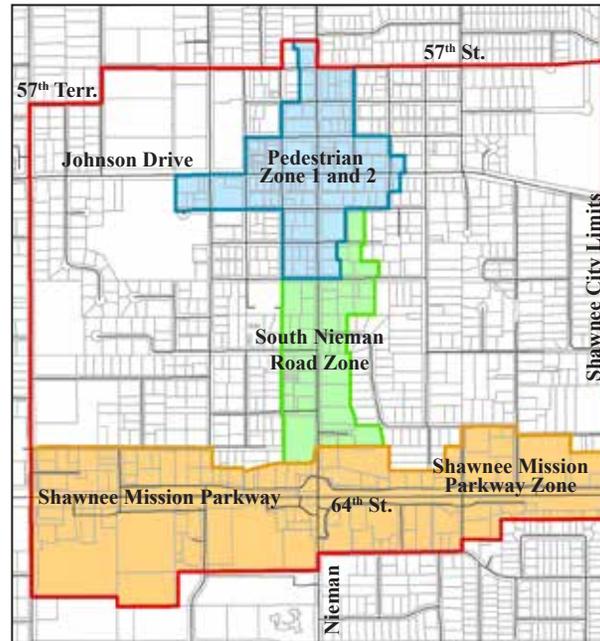
Business Incentive Program - Low interest loans for downtown owners for remodel or updates.

Downtown Improvement Incentive Program - Property tax rebate on increase in value due to improvements made.

BACKGROUND

In February 2002, the City Council authorized a study of the downtown area. The report generated through that project included many recommendations, and culminated in the appointment of the Shawnee Downtown Partnership (SDP) in late 2002. Since, the establishment of the SDP, numerous efforts have been made towards enhancing the viability of the Shawnee Downtown area. Beautification efforts and establishing more visual continuity in the downtown area, especially as it relates to buildings, has been a priority of the SDP. At their October 9, 2003, meeting, the SDP voted unanimously to recommend that the Council establish a grant program and a loan buy down program to provide additional encouragement to business and property owners to improve the appearance of their buildings.

SHAWNEE DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM BOUNDARIES



Downtown Improvement Grant

SHAWNEE



For further information, contact the
Planning Department
11110 Johnson Drive
Shawnee, Kansas 66203
Phone: 913-742-6226
Fax: 913-631-7351



SHAWNEE
DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP

ARE YOU MAKING AN IMPROVEMENT TO YOUR DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL BUILDING?

Maintaining a positive image is important to the City. The appearance of the downtown area plays a vital role in the perception of the quality of the community. The City wants to encourage businesses to invest in their buildings by making attractive improvements on building exteriors. The improved appearance of building will make downtown more attractive to customers and to new businesses, contributing to the enhanced viability of the entire area, and to the entire community.

PROGRAM

- A grant will be awarded as a reimbursement for actual costs for architectural services and/or construction costs or materials for exterior remodeling or new construction.
- Grants are available for \$2,000 and \$5,000.
- Funding for the Grant Program will be provided from the City's General Fund, from monies allocated for the Shawnee Downtown Partnership, as well as funds received from the Downtown Improvement Incentive Program.
- Continuation of the program will be considered by the Shawnee Governing Body on an annual basis.



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Only commercial buildings or properties are eligible.
- The building or property must be located in the Downtown Improvement Incentive Area.
- To be eligible for a \$5,000 grant the property must be located in the Pedestrian Zone or South Nieman Road Zone.
- Based on the scope and type of improvement, a building permit may be required. City Planning staff may be able to administratively approve the improvement, or it might require Planning Commission approval. All required permits and approvals must be granted prior to the commencement of work.
- Any exterior remodel in the Pedestrian Zones, Phases I and II, must conform to Downtown Design Guidelines, or be a restoration to original design as determined by the Planning Department staff. All improvements outside the Pedestrian Zone must be approved by the Planning Commission.
- The improvement must be in conformance with the City of Shawnee Municipal Code and other applicable building codes.
- In order to receive the \$2,000 grant, the total cost of the improvements must equal or exceed \$5,000. To receive the \$5,000 grant the total cost of the improvements must equal or exceed \$10,000.

- Eligible improvements include, but are not limited to: facade restoration, window/door repair or replacement, masonry, awnings, signage, exterior lighting, painting, and landscaping. New construction is also eligible.
- Five \$5,000 grants will be available annually for commercial buildings in the Pedestrian Zone and the South Nieman Road districts, provided eligible improvements of at least \$10,000 are undertaken.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications are available in the Planning Department at Shawnee City Hall, 11110 Johnson Drive, Shawnee, Kansas 66203.
- The completed application should be submitted to the Planning Department upon completion of the work.
- Applications must include a description of the renovation, remodeling, or new construction plans.

RECEIVING THE GRANT

- Upon completion of the project, along with the application form, the applicant must submit receipts to the Planning Department totaling in excess of \$5,000.
- Upon submittal of adequate receipts, the City will issue a check to the applicant in the amount of \$2,000, during the next normal accounts payable process.