

THE SEDALIA MASTER PLAN
CHAPTER THREE: THE FUTURE OF SEDALIA

3 PLANNING IN SEDALIA

In 2007, the City of Sedalia began the process of updating the *Sedalia Master Plan*. Due to an increase in growth and development issues, city officials, staff and residents reached the decision to conduct a master plan. In order to ensure that future development occur in an organized, sustainable and resource sensitive manner, a plan devised from public input was needed.

To this point in the *Sedalia Master Plan*, many issues were addressed such as: legality of a Master Plan, previous planning endeavors, existing community conditions and the planning process. This Chapter, *The Future of Sedalia*, focuses on the goal of the plan and answers the question “What kind of community do we want to become?”

3.1 FUTURE GOALS

In the future, Sedalia will be known as having made evident, sustainable progress towards the shared goal of making the community a pleasant and dynamic place to live, work, play and visit. This quality of life will be reflected in the abundant opportunities to engage in commerce, invest in quality housing, earn a competitive living, and raise families in a safe and nurturing environment with a strong community heritage that will be preserved for generations to come.

As well as the small-town, friendly atmosphere for residents and visitors, the economic climate in Sedalia will ensure that investors consider the community a good place to own property and conduct business. In the future, there will be a wider mix of specialty businesses and services to attract a younger market segment that will generate increased cash flow into the area. Existing businesses are recognized as crucial elements to the economy and will be maintained and expanded in order to keep them current and relevant to the overall economy of Sedalia. New uses will also be found to support contemporary activities and remind the citizens and visitors of the history of the community. The long-term sustainability of Sedalia will be strengthened as a source for economic development- a better shopping environment, great jobs potential, an enhanced tax base and subsequent additional value to citizens.

Sedalia is a highly connected place, and many visitors pass through on the way to the Lake of the Ozarks and other places. Others come to experience the Missouri State Fair and the Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival each summer. Visitors to Sedalia will be impressed by the pioneering, discovery-minded spirit of its people as reflected in its many events, festivals and recreation.

Enthusiasm and energy will be the prevailing spirit of investors, residents and visitors in the future of Sedalia. Sedalians have placed a great amount of time, effort and funding into making the community a special place and this Master Plan will help to reinforce the elements of Sedalia’s unique situation and will act as a guiding tool for years to come.