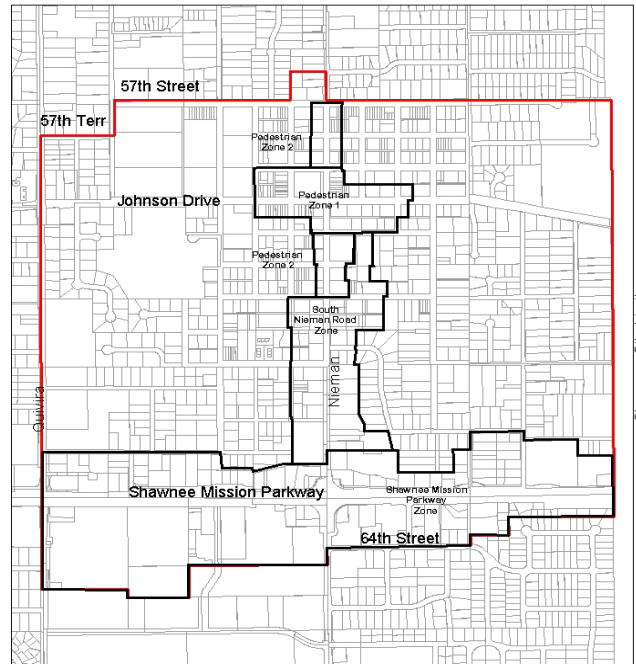


Background

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 toward 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



City of Shawnee

11110 Johnson Drive
Shawnee, KS 66203

Phone: 913-631-2500

Fax: 913-631-7351

www.cityofshawnee.org

**SHAWNEE
DOWNTOWN
PARTNERSHIP**

Downtown Improvement Grant



City of Shawnee

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 buildings 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.
- The grant will be in an amount up to \$2,000.
- Funding for the Grant Program will be provided from the City's General Fund, from monies allocated for the Shawnee Downtown Partnership.
- 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 buildings or property must be located in the Downtown Improvement Incentive Program area.
- 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 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.
- The total cost of the improvements must equal or exceed \$5,000. In order to receive the \$2,000 payment, the applicant must show receipts for work or service performed totaling more than \$5,000.
- Eligible improvements include, but are not limited to: façade restoration, window/door repair or replacement, masonry, awnings, signage, exterior lighting, painting, and landscaping. New construction is also eligible.



- Each building will only be provided one grant throughout the life of the program.

Application Process

- Applications are available in the Planning Department at Shawnee City Hall, 11110 Johnson Drive, Shawnee, KS 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.

Other Downtown Programs Available

Loan 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.

Contact the City Planning Department for more information 913-631-2500, ext. 226