



Panel discussion of the history and development of Lenexa City Center.



Pillars after wrapping up volunteer clean up at Black Hoof Park-Lake Lenexa.

MAY

The City of Lenexa ranks as the 8th largest city in Kansas with an exponential growth rate since the 1970s. For the month of May, the AIA KC Pillars Leadership Program had the chance to understand the importance of sound development and the positive impacts it has on local community and culture. This month's session focused on the history and evolution of the Lenexa City Center

The group started the day with lunch provided by a local restaurant, Topp'd, which was born of an idea started in the Public Market test kitchen. The Public Market is comprised of local food and non-food merchants and is meant to celebrate the diversity in culture through food, art, and musical performance. The Mayor, City Manager, and developers shared the background of Lenexa City Center which started with the 2020 Vision Plan. Smart growth and good development lead to sustainable decisions and allowed the district to grow.

The group also toured a variety of buildings within the development from City Hall and Public Market, to the Recreation Facilities, and Library. The success of this areas, in many ways, is due in part to the collaboration between City and private development entities. Special emphasis was placed on the importance of a sustainable message. Sustainability in this instance comes in a variety of ways. From the use of building materials to the day-to-day operations, careful thought was placed on being good stewards to the environment.

Before the day ended, the group met with the City of Lenexa Stormwater Superintendent. We toured the Lake Lenexa Dam at Black Hoof Park as precedent of artful ways to embrace stormwater detention. The group also decided to take this opportunity to volunteer and participate in the clean-up of the Oak Shelter and playground spaces.