



Rockaway Beach Waterfront Redevelopment Plan



Acknowledgements

City Leadership

Mayor Jim Harriger

Missouri State University 2024 Planning Practicum

Instructor

Dr. Krista Evans

Students

Averin Jackson

Brendan Justin

Christine Lotigo

Evan Cook

Gabi Torres

Garrett Jackson

Michael Foster

Pratika Banjara

Ryan Ramaker

Jacob Wimsatt

Content

1.	Introduction	P5
2.	Demographics	P12
3.	Natural Resources	P14
4.	Economic Development	P32
5.	Recreation	P39
6.	Land Use	P47
7.	Community Facilities & Infrastructure	P51
8.	Transportation	P56
9.	Cultural Resources	P65
10.	Implementation	P69
11.	Additional Resources	P83
12.	Appendix	P87

Introduction

Introduction

This plan has been developed by the Spring 2024 Planning Practicum class at Missouri State University. We have been tasked with developing a comprehensive plan to help strengthen the community, provide recreational opportunities, instill economic and environmental resilience, restore adequate water quality in Lake Taneycomo, and build upon Rockaway Beach's existing history and strong community network.

Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of the Waterfront Development Plan for the City of Rockaway Beach is to provide a framework for the development, growth, and wellbeing of the area along Lake Taneycomo and Beach Boulevard in Rockaway Beach, MO. This plan serves as a tool for the City of Rockaway Beach and community members to implement a their future envisionment of the area.

Timeline of the Planning Process

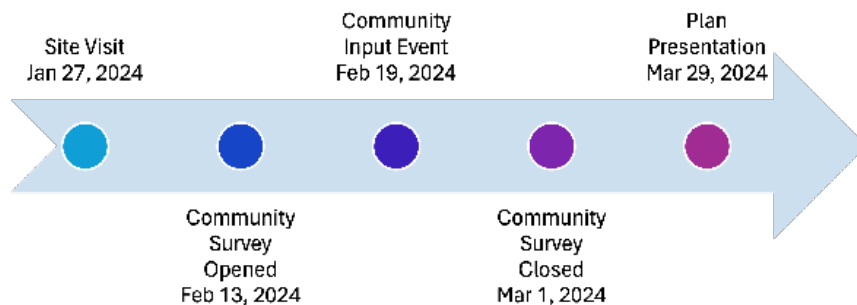


Photo Credit: Christine Lotigo, MSU Planning Practicum.

Vision Statement

We envision a future for the Rockaway Beach waterfront with a harmonious and carefully crafted balance of nature and commerce where people can come to live, work, and play. The Rockaway Beach Waterfront Redevelopment Plan is a commitment to transform the city into a thriving and hospitable community that appreciates its past while looking to the future.

The Plan recognizes opportunities to revitalize the community by restoring desirable use of the city's waterfront, introducing new businesses and attractions to expand the tax base, maintaining and improving aging community infrastructure, and capitalizing on the community's natural resources and inherent advantages as a quiet, rural community near to significant tourist destinations.

For the plan, we have developed a list of core principles that we believe the Plan should focus on. The Rockaway Beach waterfront should be:

- Accessible – Friendly to people of all ages and mobility levels
- Practical – Focused on ideas and actions that are attainable and will be used by the community long-term
- Business Friendly – Welcoming and supportive of both new and existing businesses
- Community Oriented – Host an environment that encourages community gatherings and events
- Environmentally Friendly – Support a healthy and sustainable relationship between the natural and built environments

Planning Process

The Rockaway Beach Waterfront Redevelopment Plan is a result of a community outreach process and continued research by the Missouri State University Planning Practicum. This process involved a site visit, community event, survey, and a windshield survey by the students to analyze existing conditions.

Site Visit

The Missouri State University Planning Practicum class embarked on a site visit to the Rockaway Beach lakefront on January 27th, 2024. This visit was important for the students to better understand the conditions of the lakefront area. Students were also able to locate and determine the parameters of the redevelopment plan.

Community Engagement

At the heart of the vision for the Rockaway Beach Waterfront Redevelopment Plan is the commitment to community involvement and input. For the success of a plan, community engagement with residents, businesses, and stakeholders is very crucial in ensuring all concerns are addressed in the final plan. The Missouri State University Planning Practicum involved the community through a survey and an engagement event.

Community Input Event

On February 19, 2024, a community input event was held at the Leonard Stevens Community Center in Rockaway Beach. This event hosted about seventeen community members who provided valuable input and feedback towards the lakefront redevelopment plan. The event lasted for approximately an hour with four different activities that required engagement from the members.

Members were asked to sign in upon arrival and provided with the community survey to be filled out before the start of the event. Once this was completed, a formal introduction was given by the students

ROCKAWAY BEACH
WATERFRONT REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

**COMMUNITY INPUT
EVENT & SURVEY**

Come join us and discuss the future of Rockaway Beach!

Monday,
February 19, 2024
@6PM-7PM

[Take our community survey!](#)

[Closes Friday, March 1st, 2024](#)

Leonard Stevens
Community Center
located at:
2764 Cave Ave,
Rockaway Beach,
MO 65740

City of
Rockaway
Beach
Inc. 1934

Missouri State
UNIVERSITY
Planning Practicum
Spring 2024

Photo Credit: MSU Planning Practicum. Flyer used to advertise the community input event and survey. Design by Jacob Wimsatt.

which described the purpose of the event and the layout of the activities. The members were then divided into three groups of four to five members. Each group was given fifteen minutes to complete an activity. This allowed members to give their input and ideas at all activities. Each activity was managed by two to three students who facilitated the community's feedback.

SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Activity

This activity involved community members addressing the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of Rockaway Beach. The students facilitated the discussion allowing members to list what they liked and disliked about their lakefront, and also what new insights or improvements they would like to see.

Questions Activity

Community members were asked three questions pertaining to Rockaway beach and provided with post-it notes to write their answers. Students then placed the post-it notes on the corresponding question boards. The questions include; "What do you like about the lakefront currently?", "What do you not like about the lakefront currently?", and "What changes or improvements would you like to see on the lakefront?".

Charette/Picture Activity

The charrettes activity involved showing photos of concepts of how similar lakefronts have been developed. The pictures showed different aspects from fishing, playgrounds, swimming, food trucks, sidewalks, boat access, visitor center, pavilions, and community events. Members were then provided with green dot stickers to place on the ones they liked and red for those they disliked. In addition, community members provided explanations for their choices to the students and they also had the opportunity to list any other ideas.



(Above 3 Images) Photo Credit: MSU Planning Practicum. Picture of Community Input Event.

Word Cloud Activity

The fourth activity involved a Word Cloud activity that entailed community members providing one-word answers to questions about Rockaway Beach. Questions asked included; "What is your biggest concern with the Rockaway Beach Waterfront?" and "If money was no concern, what would you improve about or add to the Rockaway Beach Waterfront?" This was conducted both online and on paper, wherein the data was then collected, and results displayed to the community members later in the event.

Community Survey

The MSU Practicum class created a public survey to gain additional input from community members. The survey was conducted from February 13-March 1, 2024 and was offered both online and in paper form. Flyers advertng the community event and survey were distributed at businesses in Rockaway Beach. Paper surveys were distributed at the community input event and an online link was provided on the City's Facebook page. QR codes linked to the survey were sent with resident utility bills.

The respondents were asked various questions regarding their thoughts about the existing conditions of the Rockaway Beach Lakefront and ideas for its future. The survey also included questions which allowed respondents to provide any additional feedback or their opinions on areas not included. Thirty-one survey responses were collected, allowing the MSU Practicum class to use their responses as a guide for the redevelopment plan.



Photo Credit: MSU Planning Practicum. Above is a collage of the responses received in the Word Cloud Activity: What is your biggest concern with the Rockaway Beach Waterfront?

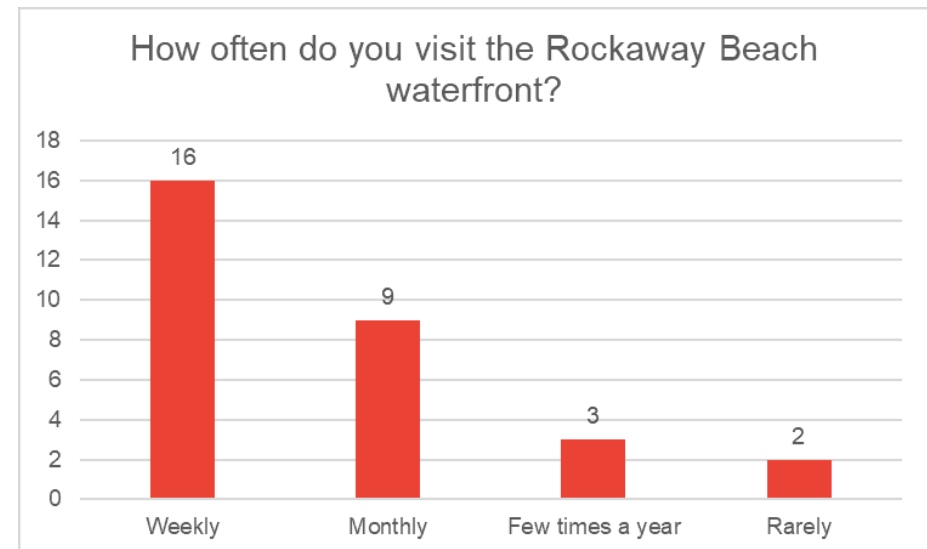


Image Credit: MSU Planning Practicum. Results of survey question.

Community Feedback and Input

Engaging with the community provided a significant amount of local input for the creation of the lakefront redevelopment plan. The Rockaway Beach waterfront offers significant potential for a thriving community through new business and recreation opportunities. This would preserve the area's natural aesthetic and the community's rural character.

Through the community feedback, the Planning Practicum determined the following community needs for the lakefront's redevelopment.

- Community members expressed a great concern for addressing silt and algae collections in Lake Taneycomo. These issues represent a large scope of the challenges inhibiting lakefront redevelopment.
- Residents also desire an enhanced and active business climate on the lakefront that is supportive of smaller and locally owned shops. These actions would reduce the number of abandoned buildings along the waterfront. Potential business attractions mentioned by community members included a floating restaurant, food trucks, and entertainment options.
- Community-based events were another experience that residents wish to see on the lakefront as these would allow greater public interactions and community prosperity in Rockaway Beach. Example events mentioned by community members included fishing tournaments, boating activities, music concerts, and art displays.

- Residents also wanted to see more recreation opportunities available on the waterfront to create a more vibrant community. These recreation activities proposed included walkable streets, cycling routes, public parks, playgrounds, and outdoor sport facilities.

Based on the collective community input received by the Planning Practicum, the following focus areas were created:

- Economic Development
- Land Use & Zoning
- Transportation
- Recreation
- Community Facilities & Infrastructure
- Natural Resources
- Historic Preservation

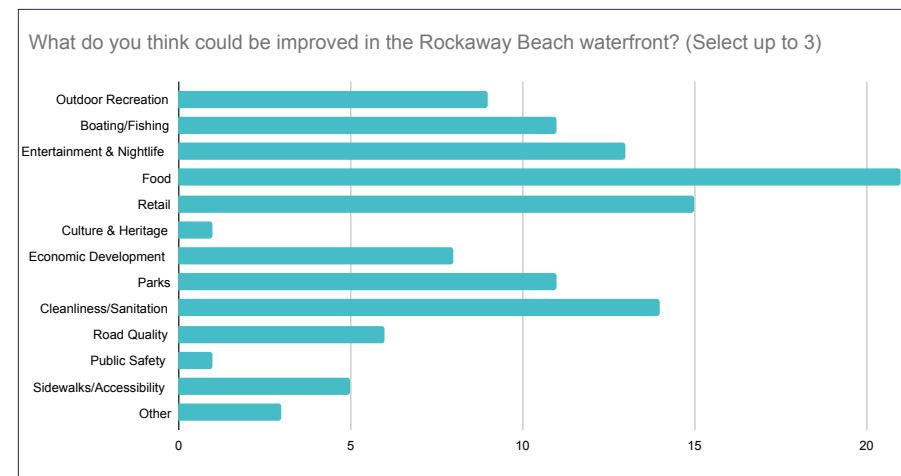


Image Credit: MSU Planning Practicum.
Results of survey question.

History of Rockaway Beach & Lake Taneycomo

The location of Rockaway Beach has been important for generations because of its placement at the confluence of Bull Creek and White River. Prior to European settlement the area was home to the Osage people. Early settlers used surrounding waterways for transportation and for powering a mill at nearby Pedrow along the now-Springfield-Harrison Road. This predated the period when the mill and community were subject to major infrastructure projects such as the completion of Powersite Dam and creation of Lake Taneycomo in 1913.

Rockaway Beach was initially developed as a vacation community on the shores of Lake Taneycomo by William and Anna Merriam around 1914. Over time, a dance hall, pavilion, gas station, grocery store, restaurants, hotels, and dozens of cabins were built. The community became a booming and renowned resort town by the middle of the 20th century, attracting visitors from Springfield, Kansas City, and more distant parts of the Midwest.

The waters of Lake Taneycomo were altered with the construction of Table Rock Dam in 1958. The release of water from the new dam, upstream on the White River, caused the waters of Lake Taneycomo to become much cooler. Table Rock Lake soon became the primary attraction for watersports and fishing, especially for trout, and would become the dominant activity on Lake Taneycomo.

The community's reputation was harmed by a riot during Independence Day celebrations in 1965, comprising mostly of college students and out-of-town youth activists. Coupled with

the development of Branson's tourism industry in the late 20th century, the tourism economy of Rockaway Beach began to stagnate. At the same time, the rate of tourists declined simultaneous to the gradual city population increases over the last several decades. Consequently, the shifting business and tourism dynamics of the Tri-Lakes region has transformed Rockaway Beach into a bedroom community for the Branson area but continues to attract visitors who enjoy fishing and the small-town atmosphere the city is known for.

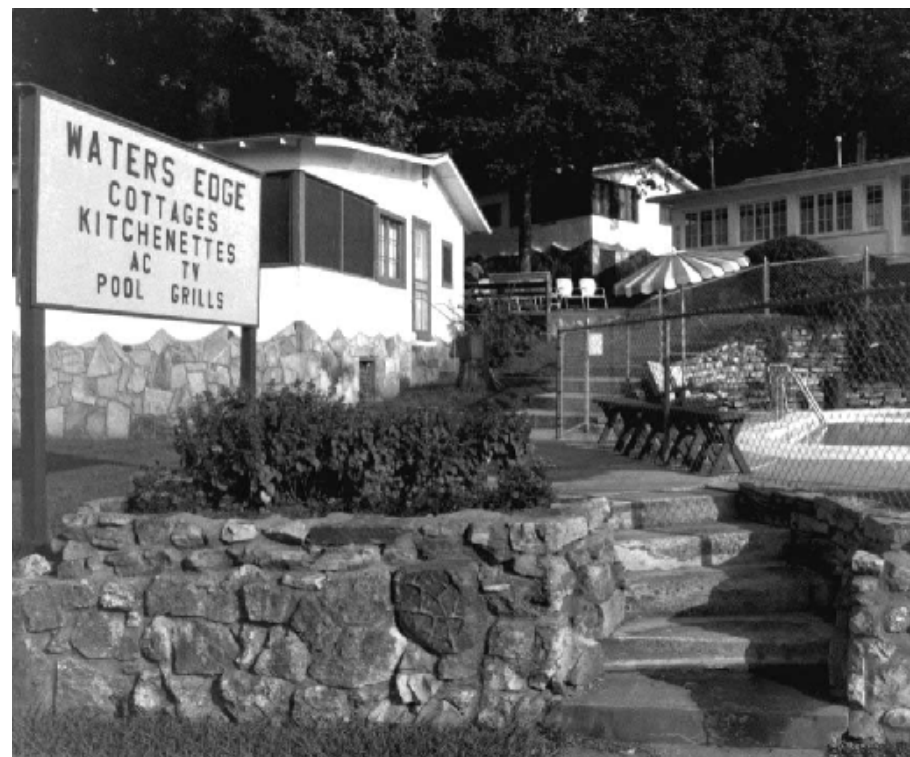


Image Credit: Missouri State Parks.

Demographics

Demographics

Demographic information was collected from Data USA. The following demographic statistics are listed below:

- Population: 773 (as of 2023)
- Median Age: 54.3
- Poverty Rate: 9.62
- Median Household Income: \$45,294
- Median Property Value: \$96,500

There is not much ethnic diversity reflected in Rockaway Beach’s demographics, with reports showing that a majority of residents are White (Non-Hispanic), roughly 676 people, 64 black residents, and about 17 multiracial residents. Other racial demographics not mentioned comprised a percentage or less of the area population There. Records also indicate that the foreign-born population rate is 0.906%, which translates into about 7 people.

Economic Data

Records show that the current economy of Rockaway Beach employs about 322 people. The three largest industries are Accommodation and Food Services, Manufacturing, and Retail Trade. The highest-paying industries in Rockaway Beach are Transportation/Warehousing and Real Estate.

Data from the Census Bureau show that from 2020 to 2021, employment in Rockaway Beach declined at a rate of -16.1%. Per capita income is \$22,607. Most records show that most of the population have either some college education, but no conferred degree, or are high school graduates.

Occupations in Rockaway Beach, MO



Image Credit: DataUSA

2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021

Natural Resources

Natural Resources

This section provides recommendations for rectifying and improving existing environmental conditions in the City of Rockaway Beach, Missouri, to improve natural quality and aesthetics for the area. Situated near Lake Taneycomo, the City of Rockaway Beach hosts a diverse array of natural landscapes, features, and wildlife that make it an appealing location to create long-lasting memories. As will be addressed, the prominent issues affecting Rockaway Beach concern sedimentation (silt), water quality, algal blooms, and lakefront regulatory policy. Coupled with these priorities is a desire to create tourist-attracting wildlife activities that foster recreational opportunity and future tourism for the City of Rockaway Beach. Resourceful information including funding opportunities and contacts are included in this section.



Photo Credit: Branson Tourism Center



Photo Credit: Branson Register (2017).



Photo Credit: Wert, 2023 - Branson Tri-Lake News.

Silt and Sedimentation

For several years, Rockaway Beach has experienced a gradual buildup and fill of silt in its waters. The sources of this buildup are linked to annual flooding that transports and deposits silt into Lake Taneycomo. Other possible sources include the construction of Branson Landing, adding U.S. 65 lanes that allowed silt to drain into the lake, and Bull Creek transporting fine sediment into the lake. This has created murky and shallow waters that have fostered destructive algae growth and navigation, as well as visibility issues for boaters. Listed below are recommended step-by-step processes for cleaning up lake silt deposits.

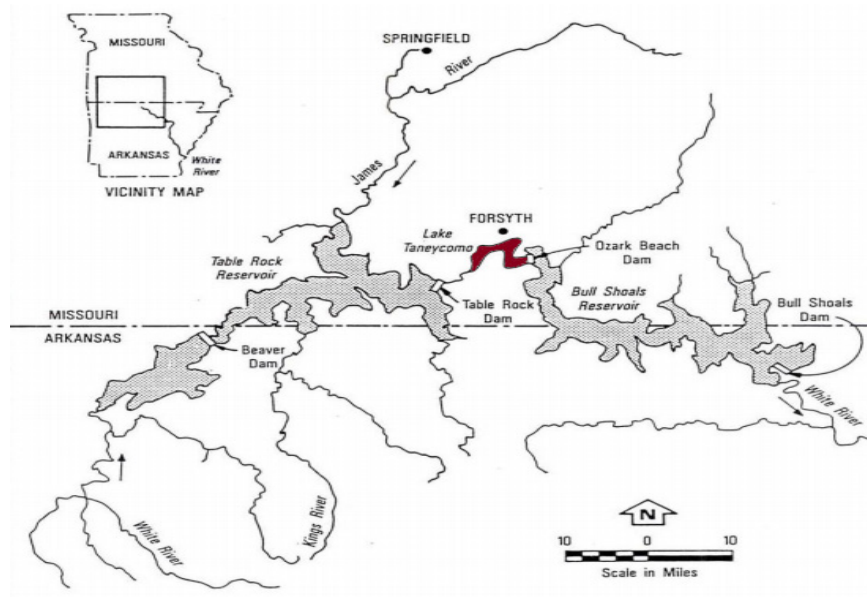


Photo Credit: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (1992). Map of Little Rock District, Lake Taneycomo in Dark Red.



Photo Credit: Reinig, 2012 – Branson Tri-Lakes News. Picture of silty-water coloration in Lake Taneycomo.

Goals and Objectives

Goal: Remove current and future sedimentation buildup in the lake.

Objective: Defer to Alternative 5 in the 2022 Sedimentation Study as the selected approach.

Step 1: Review the 2022 Sedimentation Study for Rockaway Beach, Missouri.

Step 2: Reexamine the provisions embedded in Alternative 5.

Step 3: Reaffirm Council and Community commitment to the strategy.

Objective: Review existing statutory guidelines to determine legally permissible removal processes.

Step 1: Consult the United States Army Corp of Engineers (US-

ACE) regional office to determine allowable silt removal strategies*.

Step 2: Access and survey Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act for statutory reference.

Step 3: Access and survey Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) for statutory reference.

**Note: Should miscommunication occur, regulatory or related information is supplied by these agency/organizational web-sites.*

Objective: Evaluate the cost stipulations of dredging processes to determine fiscal viability.

Step 1: Conduct a cost analysis of removing the island causeway and dredging the dock area*.

Step 1: Research external funding opportunities from federal, state, and nonprofit databases; can defer to the funding table below for suggestions.

Step 2: Determine if the researched external funding possibilities satisfy cost requirements.

Step 3: Evaluate the funding conditions (and/or requirements) to include time frame, mandates, special provisions, etc.

Step 4: After evaluating dredging costs and funding stipulations, apply to selected funding source databases.

Note: See Section Resources Table.

Objective: Obtain authorization from the USACE to proceed with dredging activities.

Step 1: Notify the Little Rock District Regulatory Program of intentions to receive dredging authorization.

Step 2: Complete and submit the Engineer Form 4345 Application to the Little Rock District Office.

Objective: Contract silt removal, filtration, and transportation activities to a reputable dredging firm.

Step 1: Draft the solicitation offer to include product/service needs, project objectives, evaluation criteria, etc.

Step 2: Publicize the contract solicitation.

Step 3: Evaluate bids and proposals per solicitation evaluation and project criteria.

Step 4: Award the contract to the selected firm and debrief on project conditions.

Objective: Pending authorization and financial assistance, implement the provisions of Alternative 5.

Step 1: Remove the causeway bridge connected to the island to facilitate increased water flow.

Step 2: Dredge the dock area of Lake Taneycomo to an elevation of 695 ft, as specified in the 2022 Sedimentation Study - Alternative 5.

Step 3: Monitor the contractor firm's performance and compliance with contract terms/conditions.

Objective: Evaluate the effectiveness of sediment removal and water flow from the Alternative 5 strategy (post-1 year).

Step 1: Conduct site visits at Lake Taneycomo in the Rockaway Beach area to evaluate sediment concentration in the water.

Step 2: Defer hydrologic data and hydraulic modeling mechanisms (referenced in the 2022 Sedimentation Study) to assess flow rates*.

Step 3: Determine after examining these components whether Alternative 5 was an effective solution.

Note: See Section Resources Table.

Objective: Establish a future conditional dredging maintenance program for continual silt removal (can be re-dredged in 5, 10, 15 year intervals post-initial dredging).

Step 1: Contact the USACE to determine the permit process and conditions for dredging maintenance.

Step 2: Evaluate the feasibility of implementing an ongoing dredging maintenance program*(1).

Step 3: Establish connections or partnerships with intergovernmental, nonprofit, and private actors to facilitate a future dredging maintenance program.

Step 4: Modify the current contract conditions or eliminate the agreement*(2).

*Note(1): See Section Resources Table.

*Note(2): Depending on the performance of the current contractor and if future dredging is deemed necessary, the City of Rockaway Beach should reevaluate its contract conditions.

Goal: Establish a municipal partnership with the City of Branson for silt removal.

Objective: Propose the idea of a municipal partnership involving the City of Branson to the City Council and Community.

Step 1: Hold a City Council meeting and/or public event that can solicit feedback on the proposition.

about the importance of maintaining a respectful distance from wildlife and minimizing human impacts on their natural behav-

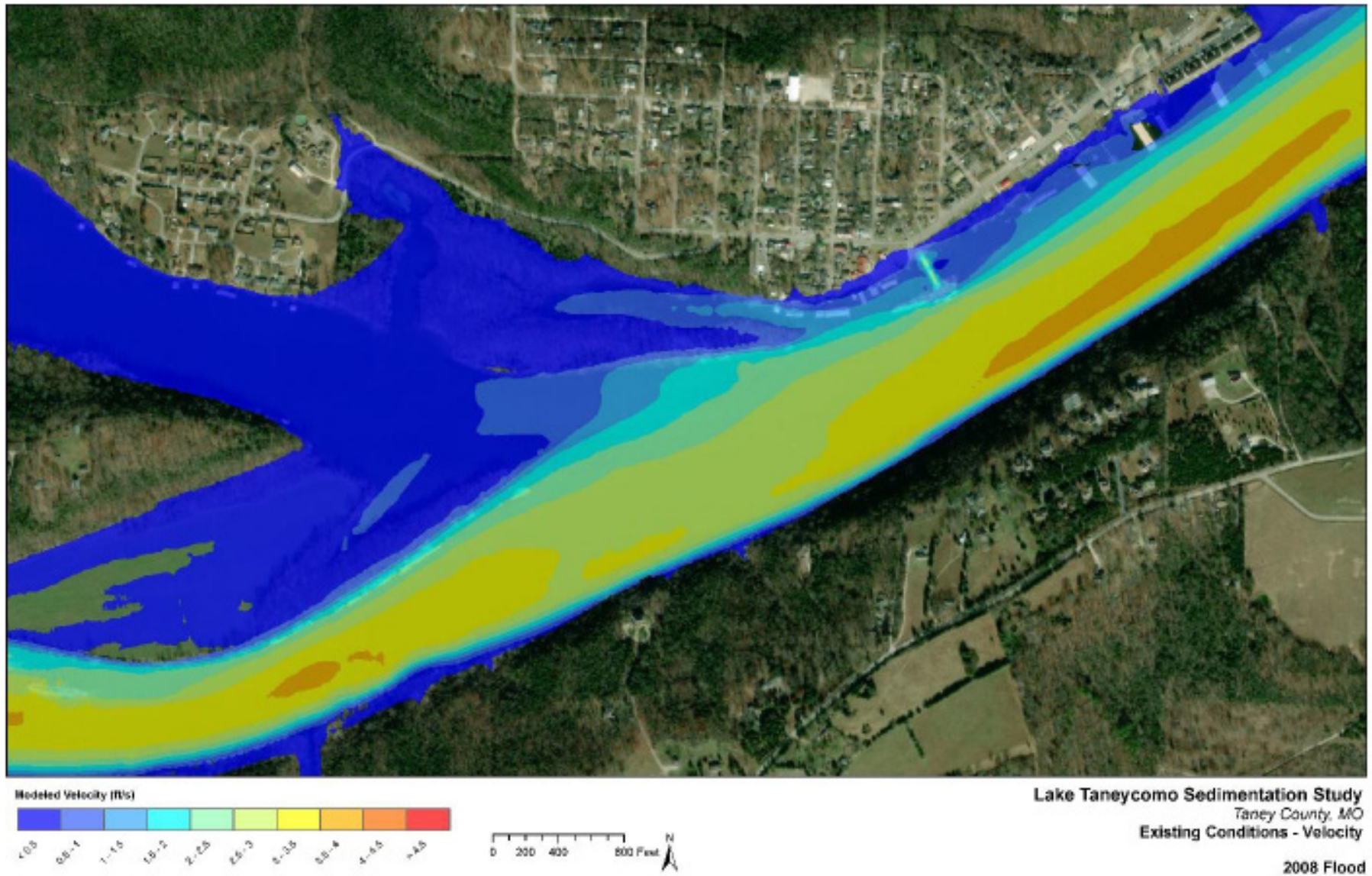


Photo Credit: Lake Taneycomo Sedimentation Study (Figure 14) - Current Velocity Conditions - Taney County, MO.

Step 2: Ensure that the City Council and community members are supportive of a municipal partnership.

Objective: Determine the feasibility and practicality of partnering with the City of Branson.

Step 1: Indicate the administrative and financial resources the City of Branson could provide to assist with silt removal.

Step 2: Weigh the benefits and potential limitations of inviting the City of Branson into a partnership.

Objective: Construct a foundational framework for this potential municipal partnership.

Step 1: Define the purpose, goals, and objectives of this partnership.

Step 2: Outline the conditions, obligations, and terms of this partnership between both municipal actors*.

Step 3: Propose the framework to the City Council and community members to officiate support and/or commitment.

**Note: This is meant to define the administrative and fiscal obligations that each municipal actor would be responsible for.*

Objective: Communicate with the Mayor of Branson to propose this partnership.

Step 1: Reach out to the Mayor of Branson via telephone, email, or any other communication method.

Step 2: Determine if the Mayor of Branson is supportive of a municipal partnership.

Objective: Establish a timeframe for meeting with the Mayor of Branson to discuss hydrologic conditions in Lake Taneycomo (contingent on mayoral approval).

Step 1: Setup a quarterly meeting for each fiscal year between the Mayors of Branson and Rockaway Beach.

Step 2: Outline the agenda and objectives of these quarterly meetings, then proceed.

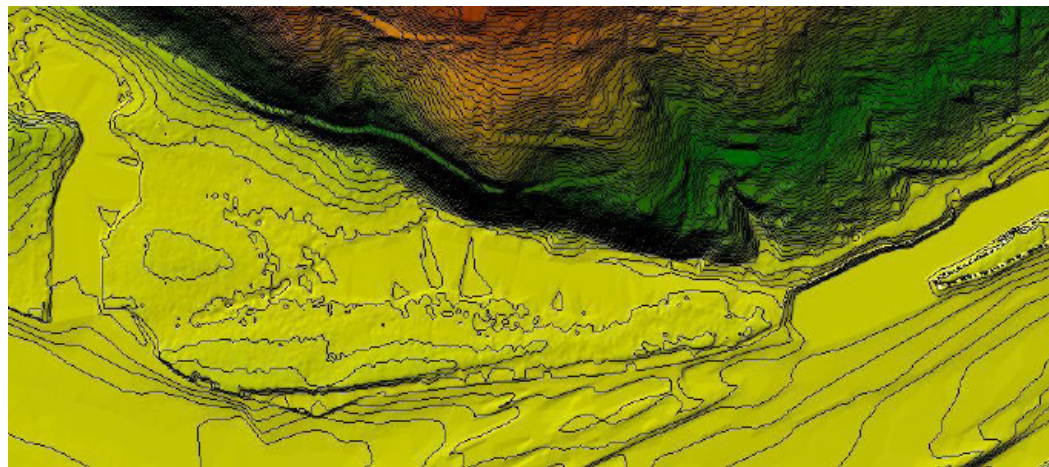


Photo Credit: Lake Taneycomo Sedimentation Study - Taney County, MO; this illustration displays Alternative 5 topography with an inclusion of 2 feet contours.

Grants	Description
<p>Bass Pro Shops & Cabela's Outdoor Fund</p>	<p>This is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charity that provides investment for programs and initiatives emphasizing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife and Habitat Conservation. • Outdoor Recreation. • Sportsmen Rights. • Military and Veteran Support. • Community Development in the Ozarks. <p>The dollar amount awarded to applicants varies; contingent upon the conditions and intentions of the project. *Note: The dredging initiative (Alternative 5) is linked to the broader goal of community development.</p>
<p>Community Foundation of the Ozarks - Taney County Grants</p>	<p>The Community Foundation of the Ozarks provides several grant and funding opportunities for a variety of purposes. These include community development, rural/regional assistance, education support, etc.</p> <p>There is currently a Taney County Grant-Application portal in operation specific to the area that is accepting project funding requests; the amount of possible funding allotted is unknown. Below is a link that can be accessed to create an official account to apply for funding.</p> <p>Link: https://www.grantinterface.com/Process/Apply?urlkey=cfozarksgrants</p>
<p>Friends of the Reservoirs Small Project Grant</p>	<p>Grant program established by the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership (RFHP) to provide annual funds to initiatives dealing with water, wildlife, and quality of life concerns.</p> <p>Capped funding for eligible projects ranges from \$10,000-\$75,000; an equivalent matching fund is typically required.</p> <p>To qualify for exclusive funding opportunities and related benefits, it is recommended to become an official member - this requires a one-time \$25.00 application fee.</p>
<p>Plugged-InCommunityEnhancement Initiative (WRVEC)</p>	<p>This is a grant program provided by the White River Valley Electric Cooperative (WREC). The grant monies provided by this fund can be directed toward various purposes, including economic development, community revitalization, enhanced livability, etc.</p> <p>The maximum amount allotted to projects approximates \$10,000.00. Note: If project costs exceed this threshold, evidence of fulfilling remaining costs must be demonstrated.</p>

Algae Treatment

Rockaway Beach has encountered significant growth of algae plant populations, considered to be harmful to local wildlife and residents. Algae problems are more apparent during the summertime due to low water flow, low rain activity, and increased sunlight. Other possible explanations are linked to point and nonpoint sources, including wastewater treatment, agricultural runoff, fertilization runoff, etc. *Ceratophyllum Demersum* (Coon Tail), an algae species sponsored by silt buildup, has created navigation problems for boats by wrapping around their propellers. Below are listed remedial activities that can be pursued to provide direct and immediate treatment of algal blooms inhabiting Rockaway Beach, Missouri **only if lake dredging and causeway removal (in Alternative 5) are not permitted.**



Photo Credit: VanMetre, 2020 - KY3 News

Goals and Objectives

Goal: Reduce existing algal populations in the lakefront.

Objective: Identify the type (or species) of algae inhabiting the lakefront near Rockaway Beach.

Step 1: Examine the coloration, texture, and other characteristics of the algal bloom.

Step 2: Record the observations in a separate filing or documentation; provide photographic illustrations.

Step 3: Report samples and documented material (site observations) to the EPA Regional 7 Office for algal identification.

Objective: Review existing statutory guidelines from state and federal sources to determine the legality and recommended procedure for algal treatment.

Step 1: Contact the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) to inquire about existing algal treatment regulations and recommended chemical treatment solutions.

Step 2: Contact the Regional 7 EPA Office to inquire about



Photo Credit: Ackerman, 2019 – MDR. Illustration of algal bloom chemical treatment applied to lake sources in Minnesota; a representation of a replicable remedial solution to algal treatment in Lake Taneycomo.

existing algal treatment regulations and recommendations for chemical treatment.

Objective: Determine the costs of implementing a temporary chemical treatment strategy for the lakefront.

Step 1: Identify the costs of obtaining algal-treating chemical products and other relevant equipment for later application.

Step 2: Explore potential funding sources from local, state, federal, and nonprofit sources (can defer to the provided funding table).

Step 3: Determine if external funding resources satisfy cost requirements.

Step 4: Apply to selected funding databases.

Objective: Apply a chemical treatment solution to extinguish the algal blooms in Lake Taneycomo.

Step 1: After consulting with federal and state sources, select a feasible, safe, and practical chemical solution to address the algal problem.

Step 2: Direct the prescribed chemical or herbicide solution toward the congregations of algae blooms in the lake for treatment*.

**Note: Please defer to the directions, restrictions, and warnings of the recommended chemical product.*

Objective: Evaluate the post-ecological consequences of chemical treatment effectiveness.

Step 1: Conduct a site visit by observing and measuring the quantity of algal blooms in the lake within a reasonable time-frame after chemical treatment application.

Step 2: Determine the effectiveness of algal-chemical treatment and if algal blooms are reduced.

Step 3: Decide if additional chemical treatment is necessary.

Water Quality

Under a recently proposed water quality rule from the Environmental Protection Agency, Lake Taneycomo, Mark Twain Lake and Lake of the Ozarks are among 113 lakes and reservoirs in Missouri that would be defined as “impaired” or too polluted for human use. The water quality issues along the Rockaway Beach waterfront arise from multiple pollution sources, most notably nutrient pollution, stormwater runoff, and various contaminants. These pollutants not only degrade ecological health, endanger public well-being, and restrict recreational opportunities. High levels of bacteria, toxins, and trash render the water unsafe for fishing and are dangerous for both animals and people. Additionally, outdated infrastructure systems exacerbate the conditions of these issues by creating impervious surfaces and accessible infiltration sources for pollutants. To restore Rockaway Beach to a healthy ecological atmosphere for residents, visitors, and wildlife, it is important to address these matters in a comprehensive and practical manner.

Goals and Objectives

Goal: Improve current water quality conditions in Lake Taneycomo to promote ecological sustainability.

Objective: Mitigate direct and indirect runoff sources in Lake Taneycomo.

Step 1: Identify pollution sources such as nutrient filtration, excess stormwater runoff, household discharges, and other potential contaminants.

Step 2: Prioritize the most significant pollution sources identified and consider both short-term and long-term impacts of addressing (or not addressing) those sources.

Step 3: Implement green infrastructure systems such as rain gardens, permeable pavement, and green roofs to absorb and

filter stormwater runoff.

Step 4: Design infrastructure systems such as shoreline buffers to minimize pollution runoff and enhance ecosystem resilience.

Objective: Reduce single-use plastic consumption.

Step 1: Develop a targeted public awareness campaign to educate residents, businesses, and visitors about the environmental impacts of plastic waste and the importance of reducing and recycling plastic materials.

Step 2: Develop and implement strategies to mitigate plastic waste accumulation along the waterfront, including installing litter traps, promoting community clean-up events, and supporting local initiatives to reduce plastic usage, as well as encourage proper waste disposal.

Step 3: Implement policies and regulations to reduce reliance on single-use plastics in the Rockaway Beach area.

Step 4: Improve waste management infrastructure in the form of recycling centers to facilitate proper disposal and plastic waste renewal.

Step 5: Collaborate with local businesses, community organizations, and government agencies to develop innovative solutions for reducing plastic waste in Rockaway Beach.

Objective: Implement practical strategies to contain sewage discharge and other contamination sources.

Step 1: Identify areas susceptible to leaks, overflows, and other contamination sources.

Step 2: Upgrade and modernize sewage treatment facilities to improve treatment capacity and efficiency.

Step 3: Conduct regular inspections, repairs, and replacements of aging infrastructure systems.

Step 4: Establish emergency response protocols and contingency plans adaptable to sewage spills and leaks, including procedures for notification, containment, cleanup, and public health advisories.



Photo Credit: Storm Water System. An example of a litter trap.

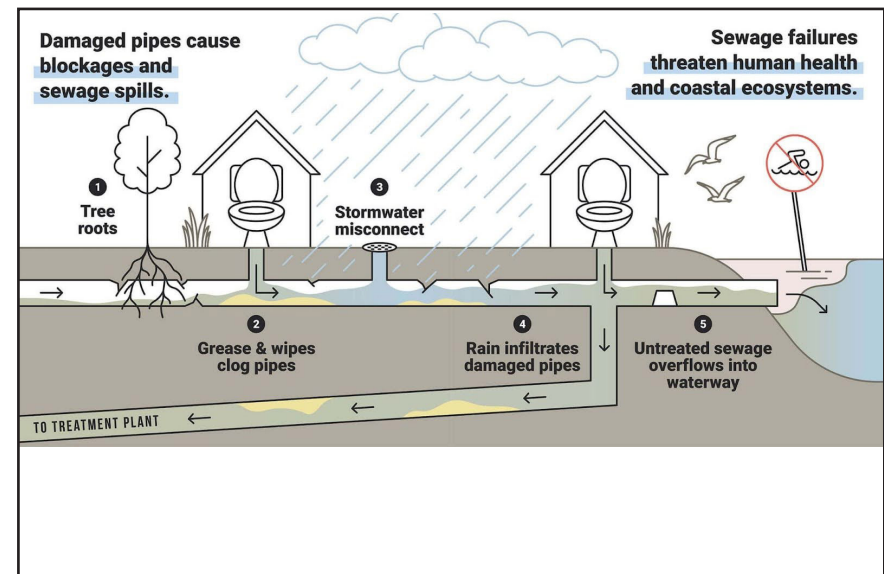


Photo Credit: Surfrider.org. Figure showing a sewage spill.

Grants	Description
EPA Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)	<p>Comprehensive and flexible funding opportunities are provided by the CWSRF to include purposes of wastewater treatment, nonpoint pollution, estuary projects, stormwater, water recycling, etc. Important to note, that project intentions should be oriented toward water quality needs.</p> <p>The type of assistance includes loans, purchase of debt or refinancing, guarantees, insurance, additional subsidization, etc.</p>
Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)	<p>This is a FEMA mitigation grant program that prioritizes pre-disaster flood hazards via annual appropriations.</p> <p>To qualify for funding, the community must be in good standing with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).</p> <p>This program is considered inflexible and less financially resourceful compared to other mitigation funding. The cost share is usually 25 percent unless for repetitive loss properties - <10%.</p>
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)	<p>FEMA mitigation grant program that provides funding assistance for all post-disaster hazards. The funding stems from presidentially declared disasters and the project state/area must have experienced a federal disaster declaration*.</p> <p>Local-scaled projects experience higher likelihoods of receiving funding awards and eligibility requirements are flexible.</p> <p>Awarded projects must be completed within a 36-month timeframe; the cost-share is usually 25 percent.</p> <p>*Note: In August 2023, certain areas in Missouri (including Taney County) were declared a federal disaster area due to severe storms, flooding, tornado events, etc.</p>
MDED Community Development Block Grants	<p>Provided by the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED), funding is provided for various purposes relating to improving drinking water and wastewater systems.</p>
MDNR Clean Water Engineering Reports Grant	<p>The grant provided by this source assists smaller rural communities with engineering costs associated with proposed wastewater treatment and collection system improvements.</p> <p>The particular areas that this funding can be directed toward include: fulfilling additional permit requirements, addressing inflow and infiltration, improvements to existing wastewater systems, etc.</p> <p>Eligible jurisdictions must serve a population of less than 10,000 residents to qualify for funding.</p>

Grants	Description
MDNR Section 319 Non-point Source Subgrants	These grants are designed to provide assistive funding in restoring and protecting watersheds impaired by nonpoint source pollution. Funding supports the planning and implementation of direct practices that control, reduce, or manage sources of nonpoint pollution.
MDNRSourceWaterProtection Project Grant	Funding is provided to support various source protection programs including awareness, education, and implementation. The source waters refer to streams, lakes, springs, and groundwater aquifers that provide drinking water. The central purpose of this grant is to assist activities related to water contamination protection.
MDNRSection604(b) Water Quality Management Planning Grant	Grants are provided to complement comprehensive, regional, and interstate organizational plans emphasizing water quality management. Eligible activities include identification and comprehension of pollution issues and developing management strategies. *When the funding cycle begins, a project solicitation request specifies project elements (i.e. time-frame, scope, etc.).
USDA Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program	This program supplies funding opportunities through long-term and low-interest loans/grants to ensure clean and dependable drinking water, sewage disposal, stormwater drainage, and other related water quality activities. Eligible applicants include rural areas with a population of 10,000 or fewer people.

Missouri Point Source Nutrient Trading Program

This program constitutes a market-tailored approach to nutrient reductions in local water resources to improve water quality in stream, river, or lake sources. Permittees (or participants) can access and trade nutrient credits that enable lowered compliance costs, adopted technological modifications, and optimization.

Since Rockaway Beach does not fall under a “Restricted Trading Zone” and is without permitted limits, it operates under state-wide phosphorus level restrictions. This means that the municipality must produce five consecutive years of water effluent (nutrients) data to translate into credit generation.

Monthly observations of phosphorous nutrients are required to qualify for nutrient credits.

Note: Additional information can be on the Missouri Department of Natural Resource Website.

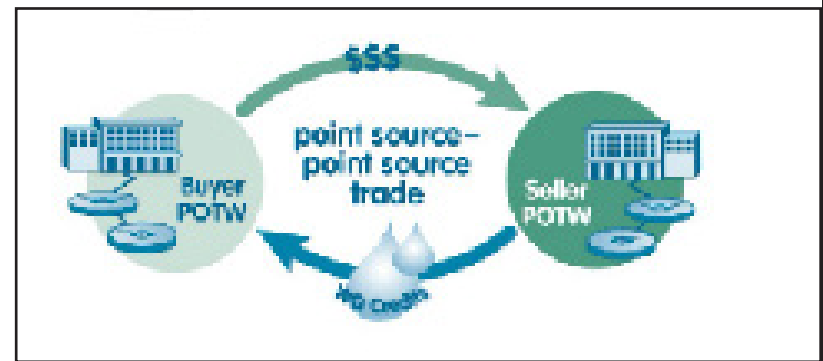


Photo Credit: Draft Missouri Point Source Nutrient Trading Program - MDNR, 2024; this illustration showcases how the nutrient trading program operates.

Wildlife Habitat

The biodiversity of the Rockaway Beach waterfront faces significant threats due to habitat degradation, pollution, and human encroachment. These factors contribute to the decline of native species, disrupt ecological order, and diminish overall ecosystem resilience. The loss of critical habitats, such as wetlands, dunes, and marshes, further exacerbates the situation by reducing available natural resources and shelter for wildlife species. Therefore, conservation efforts are essential to protect and restore these habitats, ensuring the survival of diverse species and maintaining the ecological integrity of the Rockaway Beach area.

Goals and Objectives

Goal: Preserve and enhance wildlife habitat diversity in the Rockaway Beach area.

Objective: Mitigate occurrences of human-wildlife conflicts.

Step 1: Conduct surveys to assess human-wildlife interactions and identify potential conflict hotspots, considering factors such as habitat fragmentation, food availability, and human activities.

Step 2: Develop and implement strategies to minimize human-wildlife conflicts, such as habitat modification, deterrents, and public education campaigns to promote coexistence and reduce negative interactions.

Step 3: Engage with residents, businesses, and stakeholders to raise awareness about wildlife conservation and the importance of respecting natural habitats and wildlife behavior.

Step 4: Establish guidelines for responding to wildlife incidents, including wildlife rescue, relocation, and conflict resolution.

Objective: Implement conservation measures to preserve the Rockaway Beach ecosystem.

Step 1: Identify critical habitat locations and threats to the survival of species in the Rockaway Beach area.

Step 2: Establish green corridors and wildlife corridors to enhance biodiversity and connectivity between habitats.

Step 3: Implement conservation measures to protect and restore critical habitats for species, including habitat preservation, restoration, and management activities.

Step 4: Enforce regulations and restrictions to minimize disturbances to species and their habitats, including habitat encroachment, pollution, and other activities.

Step 5: Coordinate with local communities, schools, and businesses with connections in ecosystem restoration and stewardship projects.



Photo Credit: Research Gate. Figure showing human impact on wildlife.

Goal: Promote wildlife conservation awareness and education.

Objective: Promote community-wide wildlife conservation efforts.

Step 1: Develop educational programs and outreach initiatives to raise awareness about local wildlife species, their habitats, and the importance of conservation.

Step 2: Organize community events, such as guided nature walks, wildlife observation tours, and habitat restoration workshops.

Step 3: Collaborate with schools, youth groups, and educational institutions to integrate wildlife conservation topics into curriculum and extracurricular activities, promoting environmental literacy and stewardship among students.

Step 4: Establish partnerships with local media outlets, online platforms, and social media influencers to disseminate information about wildlife conservation issues, conservation success stories, and opportunities for community involvement.

Step 5: Provide resources and assistance for citizen science projects, such as wildlife monitoring programs and habitat mapping initiatives, empowering residents to contribute valuable data and insights to conservation efforts.

Step 6: Recognize and celebrate community members, businesses, and organizations that demonstrate outstanding commitment to wildlife conservation through awards, incentives, and public recognition.

Objective: Enhance recreational opportunities compatible with ecosystem conservation.

Step 1: Develop recreational plans that prioritize low-impact activities such as hiking, bird watching, and wildlife photography to minimize disturbance.

Step 2: Establish designated viewing areas and implement interpretive signage and educational programs to inform visitors

Grants	Description
<p>Bass Pro Shops & Cabela's Outdoor Fund</p>	<p>This is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charity that provides investment for programs and initiatives emphasizing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife and Habitat Conservation. • Outdoor Recreation. • Sportsmen Rights. • Military and Veteran Support. • Community Development in the Ozarks. <p>The dollar amount awarded to applicants varies; contingent upon the conditions and intentions of the project.</p>
<p>Friends of the Reservoirs Small Project Grant</p>	<p>Grant program established by the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership (RFHP) to provide annual funds to initiatives dealing with water, wildlife, and quality of life concerns.</p> <p>Capped funding for eligible projects ranges from \$10,000-\$75,000; an equivalent matching fund is typically required.</p> <p>To qualify for exclusive funding opportunities and related benefits, it is recommended to become an official member - this requires a one-time \$25.00 application fee.</p>
<p>NFWF Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Restoration Fund</p>	<p>Funding provided by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) addresses hardwood forest and wetland restoration, enhancement, and conservation practices.</p> <p>This funding source can be used to preserve existing ecological systems and improve regional water.</p>

Aesthetic Views and Sustainable Fishing Practices

The scenic beauty and recreational opportunities of the Rockaway Beach waterfront are intimately connected to local natural resources, including coastal landscapes, marine ecosystems, and abundant fisheries. However, unregulated development, pollution, and ecological overexploitation threaten the sustainability of these resources, compromising both their ecological integrity and their value as cultural and recreational assets. Balancing the preservation of natural landscapes with responsible fishing and leisure activities is crucial to ensuring the long-term health and enjoyment of the rockaway beach area.

Goals and Objectives

Goal: Enhance the current scenic views in Rockaway Beach.

Objective: Preserve coastal landscapes and scenic vistas.

Step 1: Conduct landscape assessments to identify key scenic viewpoints, natural landmarks, and sensitive habitats along the Rockaway Beach waterfront.

Step 2: Develop scenic conservation plans and zoning regulations to protect designated scenic areas from incompatible development, visual pollution, and habitat degradation.

Step 3: Implement landscaping and beautification projects to enhance public access points, waterfront parks, and scenic overlooks.

Step 4: Collaborate with artists, designers, and community stakeholders to incorporate public art installations, interpretive signage, and educational exhibits that celebrate the beauty and ecological significance of the Rockaway Beach landscape.

Goal: Promote sustainable fishing practices for recreational purposes.



Photo Credit: Explore Branson. Example of a scenic waterfront.



Photo Credit: HipPostcard. Lake Taneycomo Shoreline view.

Objective: Incorporate sustainable fishing practices and habitat conservation into the recreational atmosphere of Rockaway Beach.

Step 1: Centralize community education of fishing regulations set by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) to encourage legal fishing practices.

Step 2: Collaborate with local fisheries and implement habitat restoration and enhancement projects to improve spawning grounds, nursery habitats, and foraging areas for fish and other aquatic species.

Step 3: Provide educational resources and outreach programs to inform boaters and recreational fishers of sustainable fishing practices, ethical angling techniques, and the significance of fish habitat conservation.

Step 4: Collaborate with local fishing guides to promote education on safe and ethical fishing practices.

Objective: Foster collaboration and partnerships for sustainable fisheries management.

Step 1: Engage with stakeholders, including recreational anglers, commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen, on fisheries management strategies and regulatory policies to develop a potential fishery management system.

Step 2: Forge partnerships with government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and industry associations to leverage resources, expertise, and funding support for sustainable fisheries research, conservation projects, and outreach initiatives.

Step 3: Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions and regional stakeholders to address transboundary fishery issues, promote harmonized management approaches, and support collective efforts to conserve shared fishery resources and habitats.





Photo Credit: Missouri Department of Conservation. A fishing regulation guideline.









Photo Credit: BC Wildlife Federation. Fish habitat and riparian workshops.

Grants	Description
Bass Pro Shops & Cabela's Outdoor Fund	<p>This is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charity that provides investment for programs and initiatives emphasizing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife and Habitat Conservation. • Outdoor Recreation. • Sportsmen Rights. • Military and Veteran Support. • Community Development in the Ozarks. <p>The dollar amount awarded to applicants varies; contingent upon the conditions and intentions of the project.</p>
NFWF Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Restoration Fund	<p>Funding provided by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) addresses hardwood forest and wetland restoration, enhancement, and conservation practices.</p> <p>This funding source can be used to preserve existing ecological systems and improve regional water.</p>
Plugged-In Community Enhancement Initiative (WRVEC)	<p>This is a grant program provided by the White River Valley Electric Cooperative (WREC). The grant monies provided by this fund can be directed toward various purposes, including economic development, community revitalization, enhanced livability, etc.</p> <p>The maximum amount allotted to projects approximates \$10,000.00.</p> <p>Note: If project costs exceed this threshold, evidence of fulfilling remaining costs must be demonstrated.</p>

Agency Contacts Table

Environmental Protection Agency	Missouri Department of Natural Resources	Missouri Department of Conservation	U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
Phone: (800) 223-0425	Phone: (417) 891-4300	Phone: (417) 895-6880	Phone: (501) 340-1950
Point of Contact: Eric Gibbs	Point of Contact: Tanya Turner	Point of Contact: Paul Johnson	Point of Contact: Rocky Pressley
			

Section Resources Table

<p>Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG)</p>	<p>Contact: Jason Ray / JasonRay@MissouriState.edu</p> <p>Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) is a local association for the ten counties that encompass Southwest Missouri.</p> <p>The services provided by their organization include communication, data collection, economic development, grant writing, local planning, etc.</p>	
<p>Friends of Reservoirs</p>	<p>Contact: Doug Nygren (316-213-1975)</p> <p>Friends of Reservoirs is a multi-state association that provides exclusive benefits for members including grant writing/application assistance, funding access, technical support, networking, etc.</p>	
<p>Environmental Finance Center (EFC)</p>	<p>Contact: Nicholas Willis / (316) 978-6538 (nicholas.willis@wichita.edu)</p> <p>The Environmental Finance Center is a national environmental resource center, with an office stationed at Wichita State University in Wichita, Kansas.</p> <p>EFC provides many services including professional development/training, technical support, and research assistance to help communities manage environmental protection and compliance costs.</p>	
<p>Heartland Environmental Justice Center</p>	<p>Contact: Jeffrey Severin (316-945-6615)</p> <p>Heartland Environmental Justice Center is a technical assistance organization that operates within the EFC at Wichita State University, specializing in environmental justice and equity-related concerns.</p> <p>The services provided are at no cost and are customized to meet community needs. These services or support measures include grant-searching assistance, needs assessments, project budget creation, networking, navigating government procedures, etc.</p>	
<p>Community Foundation of the Ozarks</p>	<p>Contact: Alice Wingo / (417) 447-5364 (awingo@cfozarks.org)</p> <p>Community Foundation of the Ozarks is a local organization of community volunteers, professional networks, and regional affiliate donors.</p> <p>Although their services are largely confined to grantmaking and funding, other services are provided. These include nonprofit management, networking, and establishing foundational partnerships.</p>	
<p>Inter-Fluve</p>	<p>Contact: Midwest Location in Lodi, Wisconsin (608-354-8260)</p> <p>Inter-Fluve is an employee-based operation that prioritizes investigating, designing, and restoring rivers, lakes, wetlands, etc. The scope of services provided includes dam removal, floodplain reconnection, watershed planning, estuary restoration, technical guideline designs, etc.</p>	

Economic Development

Economic Development

Economic Development

Economic development is a key part of a community's success and can provide services, as well as employment opportunities for that community. The economic development section addresses the current economic conditions of Rockaway Beach including business and employment information, feedback from the survey and charette, goals and objectives for the economic development, as well as steps to complete the goals and objectives. Economic development should promote the creation of new businesses and employment opportunities, together with supporting existing jobs and businesses.

Current Conditions

According to data from the American Community Survey, there are 21 businesses in Rockaway Beach. The largest employer is the Pizza Cellar restaurant with an employee capacity of 15 people. The majority of businesses in the City of Rockaway Beach employ less than 5 people; most of those businesses are hotels and motels. There are several storefronts along the main street that are currently vacant and buildings in a state of structural disrepair. Rockaway Beach also currently lacks retail and essential businesses.

Due to the small population inhabiting Rockaway Beach, attracting larger businesses and franchise businesses will pose serious challenges. Focusing on smaller local businesses will translate into improved economic circumstances for the city. The vast majority of businesses located within Rockaway Beach are locally owned centers. Historically, many Rockaway Beaches businesses have faced mismanagement issues and severe fi-

nancial divestment, and have suffered from a decline in tourism. In recent years, Rockaway Beach has witnessed some renewed interest in business activity. Investments have been made in remodeling several buildings and opening newer businesses. There are several other factors at play affecting the economic climate of Rockaway Beach such as an inactive Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce is considered a highly influential element of a community for promoting economic development and furthering business owners' interests. Such a resource can also help identify business owners relevant to the area that can potentially entail mutual economic partnerships, benefiting the community. At the same time, the Chamber of Commerce can help with networking events or functions, providing resources, as well as mentorship programs.

Branding

Rockaway Beach currently does not have a specific branding campaign that has partly been damaged by historical circumstances. Branding can be extremely helpful in facilitating marketing city features and qualities to potential visitors. Effective branding can differentiate a city from other municipalities and create a sense of place and belonging, as well as closer social connectedness. Even though this practice is more common in larger cities, smaller communities can also utilize branding to help increase economic activity. The current website for the City of Rockaway Beach is outdated and does not have updated information, as well as contain broken links (tabs). These observed issues create potential website navigation issues for prospective visitors. The presented website information could be better organized to ensure easier navigation and collection of information.

Employment Information

The employment rate in Rockaway Beach is 41% according to the 2022 ACS 5-year estimate. This is far lower than the Missouri Average of 60.1% and lower than Taney County's 55.2%. Most are employed through a private company, with this figure being 79.3% and 12.7% are employed through a private not-for-profit organization. The remaining employees are either self-employed (3.8%) or are considered local, state, or federal government employees. Most employees in the area work an average of 37.9 hours, similar to Merriam Woods and the state average in Missouri of 39 hours.

The occupations for most Rockaway Beach residents are in production, transportation, and other labor-related fields at 67 employees. This figure is followed by sales and office occupations at 58, service occupations at 53, management, business, science, and arts occupations at 38, and natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations at 21 employees.

Economic-Related Survey Results

After conducting a community survey and gathering input from the charette, feedback has indicated a strong desire for increased economic development in Rockaway Beach. Residents cited an inclination for more small and local businesses. Residents also shared their preferences for certain business institutions to include restaurants, small-scale shops, entertainment, and a gas station.

Waterfront Restaurant with Boat Access

Rockaway Beach community members expressed immense interest in the idea of a floating restaurant on the waterfront. This type of project would generate much needed tax revenue for the community and incorporate additional businesses into Rockaway Beach and surrounding communities. Even though the City of Rockaway Beach will not be operating this restaurant,

this section will provide information and guidance to create favorable conditions to attract private investment for this project.

Goals and Objectives

Goal: Promote small business development in Rockaway Beach.

Objective: Re-establish the Rockaway Beach Chamber of Commerce.

Step 1: Determine if there is expressed interest in re-establishing the Chamber of Commerce.

Step 2: Review the documentation and bylaws of the previous Chamber of Commerce.

Step 3: Identify and connect with potential members.

Step 4: Create or update existing Chamber of Commerce provisions.

Step 5: Consider partnering with another Chamber of Commerce to reduce cost obligations.

Step 6: Organize regular meetings and events.

Objective: Partner with a small business incubator to increase financial resources and educational opportunities for potential business owners.

Step 1: Identify small business incubators in the region.

Step 2: Reach out to a small business incubator for a potential partnership.

Step 3: Create community awareness of a proposed business partnership.

Objective: Identify funding opportunities for small businesses.

Step 1: Identify state and federal grant programs for small businesses.

Step 2: Identify incentives for assisting with small business start-up costs.

Step 3: Identify and partner with a local bank to provide funding through a revolving loan.

Goal: Promote a business-supportive environment to encourage economic development.

Objective: Modernize the City of Rockaway Beach website.

Step 1: Determine the person or organization to complete website updates (i.e. volunteer or web design firm).

Step 2: Identify funding requirements for website redesign.

Step 3: Update website links to include current information, event dates, business information, and social media resources.

Step 4: Verify the accessibility of the updated website for mobile users.

Step 5: Include relevant government documents on the website to include zoning codes, permits, business licenses, and comprehensive plans.

Objective: Create a branding campaign for Rockaway Beach.

Step 1: Identify unique or important characteristics of Rockaway Beach.

Step 2: Determine the scope of marketing (i.e. volunteer-based or by a private party).

Step 3: Sponsor an open house event to receive community input.

Step 4: Pick colors, slogans, logos/seals, and themes.

Step 5: Incorporate branding into the city website.

Step 6: Utilize social media resources for marketing and city or event information.

Objective: Eliminate zoning obstacles to facilitate business creation.

Step 1: Review current zoning codes and city ordinances to determine relevant obstacles to creating a new business such as parking requirements, lot minimums, etc.

Step 2: Amend identified zoning obstacles to better accommodate businesses.

Objective: Identify and create an index of vacant commercial properties.

Step 1: Create an index for all of Rockaway Beaches' vacant commercial properties.

Step 2: Connect with all property owners to inquire about property vacancies.

Step 3: Consider connecting with the Taney County Partnership to list vacant properties on their website.

Objectives: Permit low-cost and temporary businesses in Rockaway Beach.

Step 1: Determine the types of temporary businesses that will be permitted.

Step 2: Select a time of year and location for temporary businesses to operate.

Step 3: Identify scheduled times or events for pop-up shops to occur.

Goal: Implement a floating restaurant business on Lake Taneycomo.

Objective: Create parking space for the restaurant.*

**Note: The availability of parking is an extremely important section that will be crucial for this section as additional business activity means greater traffic intensity.*

Step 1: Construct additional parking units to accompany the current on-street parking on the waterfront.

Step 2: Comply with parking restrictions outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

a. Per ADA requirements, there must be one accessible parking space for every 25 space.

b. Per ADA requirement, for smaller-sized restaurants, with fewer than four spaces, there must be at least one accessible spot.

Step 3: Ensure available premium and on-site parking (low minimum) that can be expanded at the recommendation of investors.

Objective: Attracting potential restaurant owners to operate the floating restaurant.*

**Note: Attracting potential restaurant owners is needed because the projected land is privately owned.*

Step 1: Advertise this restaurant opportunity on social media sites.

Step 2: Partner with Taney County Partnership or seek out a third party for marketing opportunity.

Step 3: Exercise Tax Increment Financing (TIFS), only if necessary, and adhere to eligibility requirements.

Step 4: Consider the following questions when implementing the restaurant:

- Income levels of the area?
- What aspects of a restaurant would the community want?
- How frequently does this community dine out?
- What season(s) will this restaurant be open?
- Which audience will this restaurant appeal to (tourists, locals, or both)?

Objective: Facilitate the physical construction of the restaurant.*

**Note: The actual development of the restaurant will require both technical aspects by designated engineers and planning aspects by the city. These aspects include location, additional parking, and restoring site water quality.*

Step 1: Apply for a permit through the Army Corps of Engi-

neers (USACE).

Step 2: Determine the physical property (or location) of the restaurant.

Step 3: Verify additional parking requirements (or expansion possibilities).

Step 4: Investigate current water quality conditions of Lake Taneycomo.

Step 5: Adhere to private property ownership rights and regulations.

Step 6: Facilitate a contacting process to select a restaurant owner (investor).

Step 7: Determine the parameters of the restaurant's location and ensure compliance with existing USACE regulations.

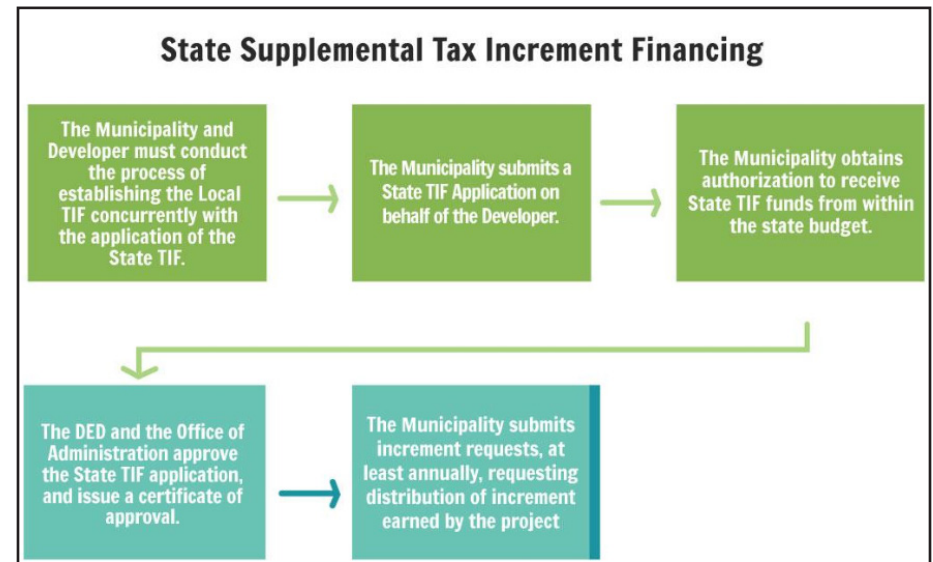


Photo Credit: Missouri Department of Economic Development.

Examples of Waterfront Dining



Photo Credit: MO State Parks



Photo Credit: The Times of India.

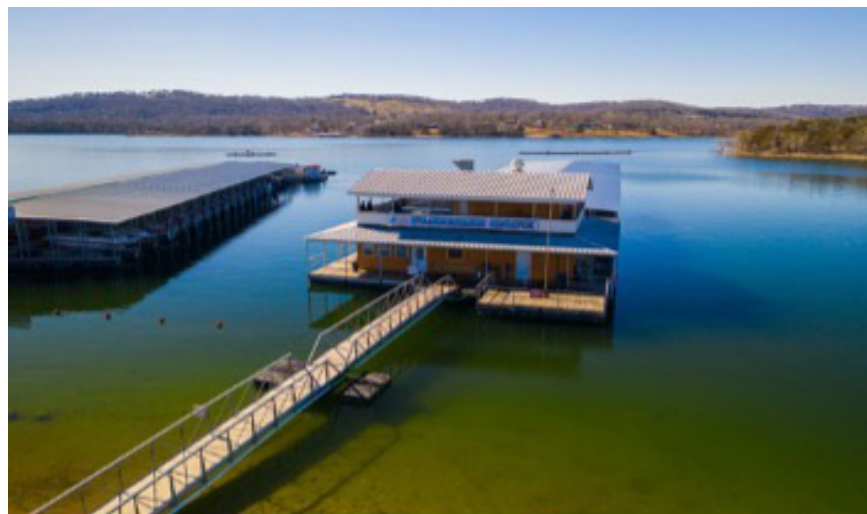


Photo Credit: Indian Point Marina.

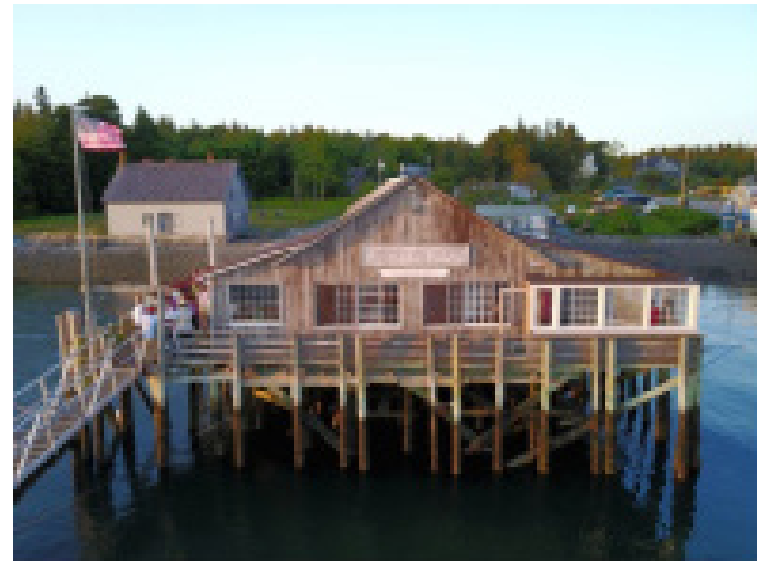


Photo Credit: Isleford Dock Restaurant & Gallery

Funding

Many of the above-stated goals and objectives require funding to achieve them. Many federal and state agencies offer programs that help provide grants and loans to both municipal governments and individuals. These programs can be very beneficial in completing the goals and increase the likelihood of goals being seen to completion. The city can implement initiatives to create funding for community improvements like Tax Increment Financing. Business incubators can provide funding for new businesses. Most business incubators are nonprofit organizations that assist in starting a new business and offer training.

Funding Option	Description
Small Business Administration (SBA)	The 7(a) loan is the main loan offered by the Small Business Administration and can be used for a wide range of business-related costs.
	504 loans are long-term and are intended for the purchase or construction cost of new land, buildings, or machinery and improvements and repairs to existing facilities.
	Microloans are offered for businesses needing 50,000 dollars or less and can be used for various business-related expenses. Microloans cannot be used for paying existing debt or acquiring real estate.
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	The Business and Industry Loan Guarantees program offers loan guarantees to lenders for loans to rural businesses.
	The Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG) must be given to a government entity and cover a wide range of projects that promote economic development for the community.
	The Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program helps provide funding for creating Cooperative Development Centers which can help further the economic development of rural areas.
Missouri Department of Economic Development	The Historic Tax Credit Program provides state tax credits that can be applied to different types of taxes to restore or rehabilitate historic buildings.
Tax Increment Financing (TIF)	Tax Increment Financing (TIF) allows for the property taxes of a redeveloped property to remain the same as the predeveloped site or slightly increased over a set period. The TIF ensures that even if a property's assessed tax value increases the property taxes remain the same. The additional taxes on the assessed property are allocated for funding further revitalization and redevelopment.

Recreation

Recreation

Recreation is considered the core of waterfront parks, encouraging both visitors and resident activity in the area. This section covers both facilities for recreation (such as playgrounds) and occasional recreation activities (such as festivals). The inclusion of community events and improved playground systems were both popular ideas mentioned at the community input event. To support this, 87% of survey respondents mentioned recreation events, activities, or facilities as appealing or potential opportunities for improvement. The current conditions for recreational facilities in the City of Rockaway Beach are as follows:

Playground

There is currently one small playground on the waterfront of Rockaway Beach, and it includes a jungle gym, swing set with two swings for toddler age children and two normal swings. There is also an independent metal slide in the middle of the mulched play area. The playground has some noticeable rusting or degrading conditions in some systems.



Photo Credit: MSU Planning Practicum, Michael Foster.

Basketball Court

Next to the playground is a basketball court. The court is in decent condition, except with peeling paint being an observation. The basketball hoops shown in the above image are in adequate condition with intact nets but could require future cleaning.



Photo Credit: MSU Planning Practicum, Michael Foster.

Picnicking Facilities

The park for the City of Rockaway Beach currently contains thirteen tables, one large pavilion, and four small pavilion setups. The pavilions are in standard condition. The picnic tables require maintenance to address issues such as rust, graffiti, warped wood, and peeling paint.



Photo Credit: MSU Planning Practicum, Michael Foster.

Fishing

Rockaway Beach prides itself on fishing access and currently has a large fishing dock area for people to pursue fishing-related activities. The dock is considered functional to an extent but could benefit from maintenance improvements. The rulers used to measure fish are currently peeling and improvements to this could be resourceful for fishermen to use when adhering to fishing catch and release policy. At the same time, dock also includes a fish cleaning station for cleaning any captured fish. The cleaning station is in functional condition but outdated, meaning that future improvements could be helpful. It is also worth mentioning that the current fishing dock does not have a trash disposal for fishing lines or other trash, prompting safety and sanitary concerns.

Events & Attractions

Rockaway Beach currently showcases a popular Fourth of July celebration. This event has invited people into Rockaway Beach, prompting potential outside interest. However, there is a serious lack of attractions in the City of Rockaway Beach; one attraction



Photo Credit: MSU Planning Practicum, Evan Cook.

in place is the fishing dock, as previously mentioned. To both improve upon existing recreation spaces and events, as well as create new opportunities, the following goals and objectives have been prescribed for Rockaway Beach:

Goals and Objectives

Goal: Create recreational gathering spaces for resident and prospective visitors.

Recreational gathering spaces are important for both tourists and residents of Rockaway Beach. These spaces are also essential for incentivizing social interactions and gatherings in the park. From a resident's perspective, gathering spaces provide reunion opportunities for family and friends, waterfront gratification, and active community-building. For tourists, these spaces provide a space for relaxation and activities independent of home, and to enjoy the natural aesthetics of the waterfront. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is the primary funding

mechanism to be used to facilitate the construction of these gathering spaces and could be used for many of the objectives below.

Objective 1: Expand or replace the existing playground in Rockaway Beach to provide a quality play area for children.

Step 1: Determine whether the existing playground system should be repaired or replaced. This could be done for individual equipment pieces.

Step 2: Determine the scope and features of a new or expanded playground.

- *The scope will be dictated by funding (see Step 3).*
- *Features should be determined through community input activities that solicit perspectives from local parents and children.*
- *A list of examples for potential play equipment can be found on Pages 7-8 of the Public Playground Safety Handbook (<https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/325.pdf>).*
- *Based on the input gathered, a full list of parking equipment needed can be created.*

Step 3: Coordinate with contracted firms to ensure equipment materials are flood resistant, structurally durable, and playground equipment is accessible.

Objective 2: Align picnic facilities with need-based criteria.

Step 1: Restore existing picnic tables to standard or excellent conditions*.

**Note: The current picnic tables are in sufficient shape to be re-used, but restorative maintenance needs to be done to address some issues.*

The wood tops and benches are warped, have peeling paint and graffiti, and contain splinters. The actual wood product is still in decent condition. To address this, two options are available:



Photo Credit: Colorado Academy News

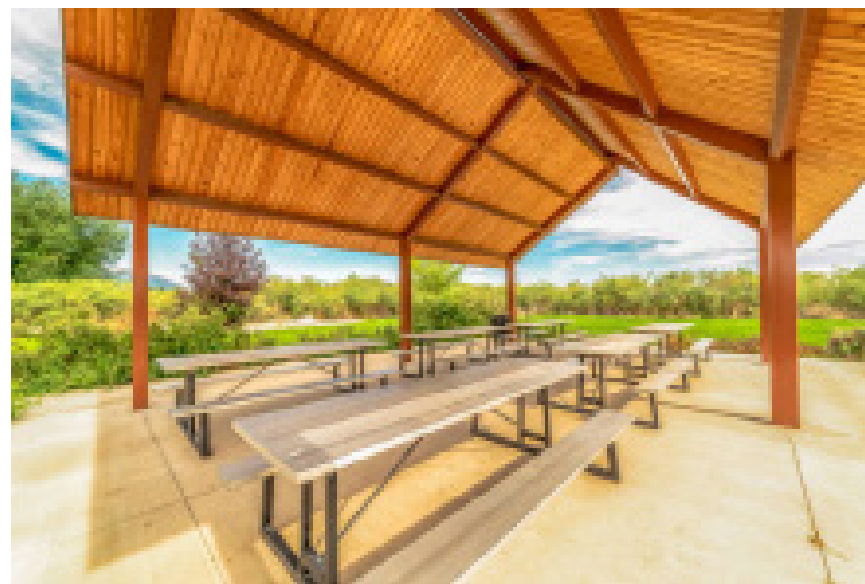


Photo Credit: Istock.

Option 1

Recondition the Existing Wood: This option is more labor intensive, but low-cost intensive. The process involves scraping the paint off the wood and sand until the wood is straight and smooth. Alternatively, if a thick wood planer is available, running the wood through this would accomplish the same task with much less time and effort. After this, the wood can be repainted and reinstalled.

Option 2

Replace the Old Wood: This option is comparatively expensive, but relatively reasonable. The components of this involve removing and discarding the old wood, then purchasing, painting, and installing new wood of the same size.

The existing picnic tables have 2 types of frames: stainless steel and painted metal. The stainless-steel frames are in good condition and require no additional maintenance. Conversely, the painted metal frames have developed surface rust and as a result, the surface must be removed and then a new coat of paint applied. This should be done simultaneously while the wood is removed from the tables to ensure all rust is identified and removed.

Step 2: Determine if current picnicking areas satisfy community needs*.

**Note: This should be done by observing picnicking areas at different times on busy days to determine if overcrowding is an issue. Additionally, observations can be made to determine if additional trashcans are needed.*

If it is deemed necessary, construct more picnic facilities.

- *Choose a location for the new picnic facilities.*
- *Determine if a pavilion should be built to accompany new picnic facilities.*
- *Purchase and install the facilities.*

Objective 3: Install fire pits in a determined location.

Step 1: Identify potential locations for fire pit placement.

These should be placed at least 10 feet, and preferably over 25 feet, from combustible structures, trees, and low hanging tree branches.

Step 1: Identify the style of fire pits to be installed.*

**Note:*

- *Movable fire pits are cheaper, feasible to install, and could be removed before an impending flood, but are less durable and have the potential of being stolen.*
- *Fixed or built-in fire pits are durable and theft proof but are significantly more expensive.*

Step 2: Purchase and install the firepits.

Objective 4: Beautify the community basketball court.

Step 1: Conduct a general cleaning operation of the basketball court.



Photo Credit: Claudia Keating.

Step 2: Repaint the lines on the court.

Step 3: Repaint the retaining wall.

Step 4: Incorporate unique features to beautify the space (a mural on the retaining wall, painting the basketball hoops with interesting colors, or even painting the whole court).*

**Note: Contact a local artist for potential ideas. If applicable, organize a community improvement day with the artist and community to complete the painting.*

Objective 5: Apply and secure funding for the recreational projects mentioned above.

Step 1: Maintain a record of volunteer hours and donated materials, as these count towards the local match requirement for some grants.

Step 2: Apply for the Land and Water Conservation Grant.*

**Note: This grant is defined as a "general purpose grant" that could be used for many of the listed objectives above. (<https://mostateparks.com/page/61215/land-and-water-conservation-fund-lwcf-grants>).*

Step 3: Apply for the Scrap Tire Surface Material Grant.*

**Note: This grant is specific to playground surfacing materials but is a recommended fiscal resource for many projects. (<https://dnr.mo.gov/waste-recycling/what-were-doing/financial-assistance-opportunities/scrap-tire-surface-material-grant>).*

Step 4: Contact Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) to obtain grant-application assistance.*

**Note: (<https://www.smcog.org/contact>)*

Step 5: Coordinate with private donors from organizations such as Community Foundation of the Ozarks to obtain additional project funding.*

**Note: (<https://www.cfozarks.org/>)*



Photo Credit: Architectural Digest.

Goal: Create community-specific events to encourage residential connectedness and tourism.

Objective: Sponsor kayak fishing tournaments at Rockaway Beach.

The objective is to promote the passion of fishing in the Rockaway Beach community while incentivizing tourism. Hosting these tournaments will attract visitors from nearby or distant communities to participate in the event and facilitate economic activity.

Step 1: Remove the silt deposits and weeds around the boat ramp to ensure accessibility during these events; See Natural Resources Section for additional information.

Step 2: Create a communication network between tournament circuits such as MO-Yak and Kayak Anglers of Missouri to coordinate community tournaments.

Step 3: Construct an outline for event parking by identifying suitable spaces for large parking lots.

Step 4: Identify the most viable areas to conduct event award ceremonies; coordinated by the tournament circuit.

Objective: Sponsor community improvement weekends in Rockaway Beach.

These events will rely on volunteer participation of volunteers from community members and emphasize volunteerism as a resource to reduce costs and continue waterfront improvements for Rockaway Beach. This objective will allow the community to facilitate improvements such as trash removal, beautification efforts, or implementing any other necessary or desired improvements.

Step 1: Promote the idea of community volunteerism to solicit concerns and/or suggestions on volunteer-run events.

Step 2: Establish a small committee of people to manage volunteer efforts and coordinate projects for the community improvement weekends.

Step 3: Identify time parameters and other relevant details for these events; the planning can be regular, monthly, or bi-weekly.

Objective: Create a Rockaway Beach Day.

This will create a family friendly event that will interconnect community members by hosting a fun event that includes food, games, live music, etc. This proposition also represents an opportunity to incorporate Rockaway Beach's rich history and culture into the event.

Step 1: Create a volunteer committee to help coordinate and set up a barbeque/fish fry component of this event*.

**Note: The committee will also be responsible for identifying a date and time to hold the event. It is recommended to hold this event annually, but the committee can host it frequently depending on the success of the first event.*

Step 2: Utilize fundraising events to attain additional funding.

**Note: The committee should explore the opportunity to host a fundraising event to secure some funding to assist with expenses that accompany hosting large-scale events.*

Step 3: The created committee should identify the most suitable areas for serving and cooking food and establish a waste disposal system.

Step 4: Expand the scope of activities included on Rockaway Beach Day such as hosting talent shows, live music concerts, or games; determine the feasibility of these activities.

Goal: Incorporate a broader scope of activities and recreation for the Rockaway Beach waterfront.

Objective: Offer kayak and canoe rental opportunities for residents, as well as visitors.

Step 1: Purchase the kayaks and canoes for rental.

Step 2: Establish seasonal employment opportunities by hiring a rental coordinator*.

**Note: This person will also be responsible for cleaning and maintaining the equipment and assisting the customers as well.*

Objective: Implement birdwatching and nature amenities.

Step 1: Install coin operated binoculars in at least two to five locations.

Step 2: Create a wildlife garden featuring native plants, as well as bird houses and feeders; this can be funded by the Prairie Garden Grants Program.

Step 3: Implement a sign as part of the wildlife garden that displays different types of local animal and plant life.

Objective: Upgrade and provide maintenance for at least two municipal fishing docks.

Step 1: Remove spiderwebs, dirt, and other unpleasant conditions to facilitate cleaner dock conditions*.

**Note: This can also be a part of the community improvement weekend.*

Step 2: Communicate with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) to discuss replacing the fishing rulers.

Step 3: Add dock amenities to include a trash and fishing line disposal area, seating, fishing pole holders, and bird watching supplies.

Step 4: Upgrade the fish cleaning station on the dock to align with contemporary conditions*.

**Note: There are several funding opportunities for this available by the MDC through the: Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Program, Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants, or Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP).*

Funding Options

Missouri Conservation Department Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Program
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP)
Prairie Garden Grants Program

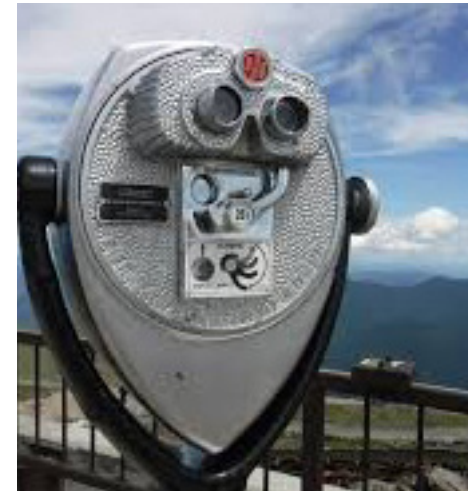


Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons.

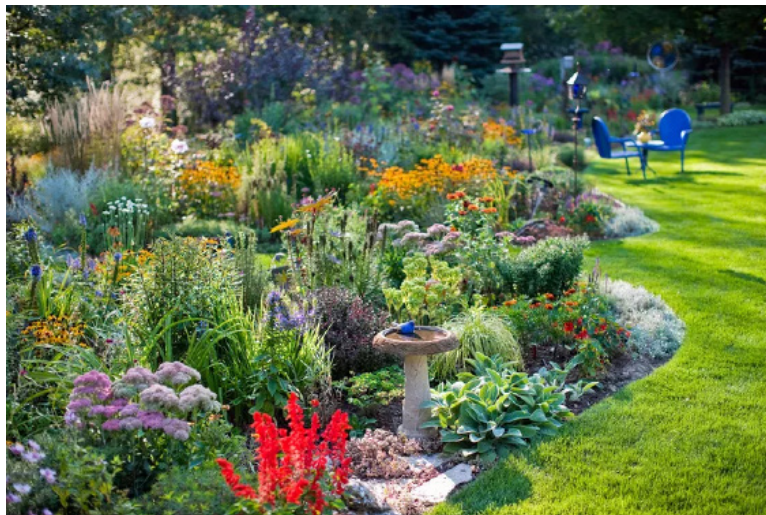


Photo Credit: Better Homes & Gardens.



Photo Credit: Great Days Outdoors.

Land Use

Current Land Use

To determine current land use in Rockaway Beach, the Planning Practicum used data from the Taney County Assessor and Google Maps and Street View. The following land use types were identified:

Commercial

Includes properties used for retail, restaurants, and short-term lodgings (hotels, motels, etc.) These are located primarily along Beach Boulevard.

Single-Family Residential

Residential properties consisting of a single-family home. Many of these are located along streets adjacent to Beach Boulevard.

Multi-Family Residential

Residential properties that contain two or more dwelling units. Examples include duplexes, townhomes, apartments, etc. Most are located along Beach Boulevard close to the waterfront.

Mixed Use

Properties that consist of a mixture of land uses within the same property. Within Rockaway Beach, this primarily means a combination of commercial and residential purposes. These properties are located entirely along Beach Boulevard.

Government/Institutional

This includes properties dedicated to government facilities, services, and uses or other institutions, such as schools, churches, or non-profits. These properties are located throughout the city, primarily along Beach Boulevard.

Parks and Open Space

This includes land dedicated to parks or greenspace, as well as open space along the lakefront. Such properties are located

entirely along the waterfront.

Vacant

Properties that have no current structures or identifiable use and provide opportunities for development. There are many such properties scattered around Rockaway Beach.

Recommendations

Rockaway Beach's current zoning regulations provide adequate breadth for future development, including recommendations made within the Waterfront Redevelopment Plan. However, there are some improvements that may be implemented to help achieve the community's vision for the waterfront and encourage desirable development.

Goals and Objectives

Goal: Ensure zoning codes align with the vision for the waterfront, and related information is accessible for future development.

Objective: Implement adjustments and changes to the City of Rockaway Beach zoning code.

Step 1: Create a designated zoning district for parks and greenspaces.

Step 2: Rezone the city park under the new district.

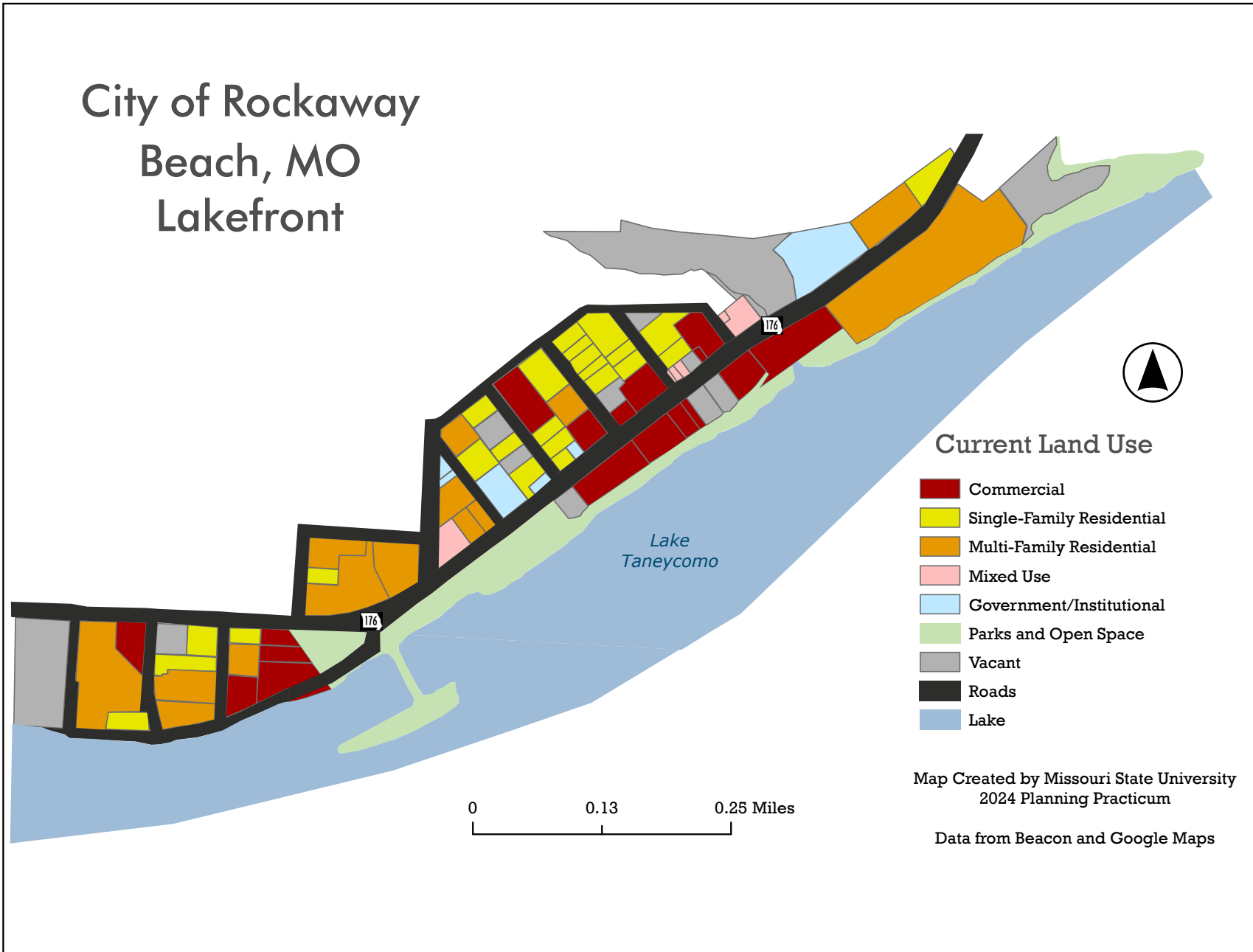
Step 3: Identify additional locations within the city to be rezoned under the new district.

Objective: Ensure zoning code access for potential developers.

Step 1: Scan and digitize the zoning ordinances into a PDF format to allow for easy email transfers.

Step 2: Incorporate full zoning ordinances to the website.

City of Rockaway Beach, MO Lakefront



Community
Facilities &
Infrastructure

Community Facilities & Infrastructure

Infrastructure is often deemed the “silent partner” to many sections in this comprehensive plan. Survey results and data from the community engagement event showcased infrastructure-related projects as the second most requested improvement after food and entertainment. The latter request would also require infrastructure considerations to include parking, adequate sidewalks, and utilities. Real world evaluations confirmed the community’s concerns that much of the infrastructure along the Rockaway Beach waterfront requires varying degrees of maintenance and improvement. It should be noted that this section addresses Physical (Buildings & Bridges) infrastructure, not Digital (website, social media) infrastructure, which was explored in the economic development section of this plan.

The primary objective of this section is to identify infrastructure systems critical to the redevelopment of the Rockaway Beach waterfront area, evaluate current infrastructure conditions, and propose recommendations for improvement. This plan serves to organize and establish priority for each objective based on public welfare concerns, funding, and return on investment (ROIs). Both economic and community benefits were equally weighed while establishing initiatives that can be pursued to accomplish the stated objectives for this project.

There are several items in this (and other) sections that require significant monetary investment. At the same time, many of these discussed items are achievable without large budgetary investment. As discussed in this section, several action items

are achievable through volunteerism and/or minimal unskilled seasonal labor. The proposed amenities can be added incrementally and budgeted for long-term projects. Due to limited funding, prioritization is key to success.

Goals and Objectives

Goal: Identify and evaluate current infrastructure, and implement necessary improvements.

Objective: Continue retaining wall improvements and replacement extending to the intersection of Lotus Ave. and Beach Blvd.

Minimal interest was expressed at the community engagement event or from the survey results regarding the historic preservation of the existing stacked river rock retaining wall sections. The current retaining wall design beginning at the 200’ section going to NE (northeast) from the boat launch parking lot should be extended into the intersection of Lotus Avenue and Beach Road. This is a major project that can be completed in a piecemeal process. The retaining wall design has the capacity to serve several functions, including sidewalk integration, space for murals and advertising, fulfill the role as a crucial piece of stormwater infrastructure, and become a great placemaking opportunity for a unique setting in Rockaway Beach.

Step 1: Clean up debris and remove vegetation surrounding the existing retaining wall sections and establish a maintenance schedule.*

**Note: This can be accomplished with community clean up events.*

Step 2: Use the 1st 200' of the retaining wall (going to NE from the municipal parking lot) as a template for a replicable model along the rest of Beach Boulevard.*

**Note: This section incorporates sidewalks and railings and appears to be in good condition. Locate the plans used for this section of the wall. Working with the existing plans will be more cost effective to replicate than redesigning the extension.*

Step 3: Attain grant funding from the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program via FEMA.

Step 4: Commission artists or local organizations for murals or advertising space along the retaining wall once the retaining wall is remodeled*.

**Note: The retaining wall will enclose the entire municipal park area and help to create a sense of place unique to Rockaway Beach.*

Objective: Redevelop the current causeway through short-term maintenance and long-term removal and replacement.

Short Term:

Step 1: Clean out vegetation, trash, and debris from the three channels that flow under the current bridge and set up a recurring maintenance schedule; this can be done with community clean up events.

Step 2: Identify needed walkway repairs, particularly on the degraded concrete beneath the railings.

Step 3: Replace railings to comply with International Building Code standards.



Photo Credit: MSU Planning Practicum, Brendan Justin.



Photo Credit: MSU Planning Practicum, Brendan Justin. Pedestrian bridge at Nathaniel Greene Park in Springfield, MO.

Long Term:

Step 1: Coordinate with an architect and engineering firm to design a new pedestrian bridge that spans from the sidewalk along Beach Boulevard to the island.

Step 2: Apply for funding source related to causeway removal from the National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration program through BIL grant program*.

**Note: See Sources Section for link to the application and information.*

Step 3: Apply for federal grant funding from the Bridge Investment Program (BIP) through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) federal grant program*.

**Note: Rockaway Beach is eligible for the maximum benefits of this program. See Fast Fact Sheet for application and eligibility requirements in the Sources Section.*

Objective: Improve, maintain, and/or replace city stormwater infrastructure.

The City of Rockaway Beach currently oversees the natural storm water outlet of Lake Taneycomo. However, keeping the existing infrastructure in functional condition is needed. There are sufficient infrastructure systems in place to process stormwater efficiently if minor steps are pursued. The scope of work required for this objective is manageable with volunteer labor.

Step 1: Clean out trash, debris, and vegetation from existing stormwater infrastructure and establish a maintenance schedule.

Step 2: Contract labor for minor repairs to storm outlets and channels along the retaining wall and passing through the park area.

Step 3: Consider the implications of adding impervious structures and the effects on stormwater improvements through an engineer-conducted study.



Photo Credit: MSU Planning Practicum, Brendan Justin. (Above and below).





Photo Credit: MSU Planning Practicum, Brendan Justin.

Objective: Update and repair the Leonard Stevens (Rockaway Beach) Community Center and the public restrooms near the municipal boat ramp.

Step 1: Enact cosmetic updates to the referenced buildings such as new flooring, fresh paint coating, new countertops and cabinets, improved lighting, etc.

Step 2: Apply for grant funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to improve public restroom buildings.

Step 3: Incorporate a FEMA Storm Shelter inside City Hall*.

**Note: There are several funding opportunities available through state and federal sources, including Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) and Safe Room Funding (See sources for application and details).*



Photo Credit: ADK A&E. Photo of a concert exhibit.

Objective: Create an event venue and/or stage within the city park.

Step 1: Rent a stage and audio equipment for events in the short term*.

**Note: There are several businesses in the area that rent equipment for live events. Temporary structures do not require permitting and licenses from the Army Corp of Engineers or FEMA for permanent structures in a floodplain.*

Step 2: Experiment with stage locations for acoustics or sound transmissions.

Step 3: Apply for grant funding through the NRPA (National Recreation and Parks Association) emphasizing nature and community*.

**Note: Rockaway beach should be eligible for a 60/40 cost share although this grant program can only be used to purchase equipment and materials for community events.*

Transportation

Transportation

Rockaway Beach's primary thoroughfare is Beach Boulevard, also referred to as Missouri Route 176, which begins at an intersection with U.S. Route 160 at its eastern end in Forsyth, MO, then maneuvers along the coastline of Lake Taneycomo, becoming the city's main street, looping around the western side of the town before continuing north through Merriam Woods, ultimately intersecting with U.S. Route 65.

For this plan, the primary transportation focus will be on Beach Boulevard. Located along this corridor are many businesses, rentals and apartments, and community facilities, as well as the city park, all in proximity to the waterfront. Currently, the roadway itself is in good condition, being maintained by the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) as a numbered state highway. However, the corridor's pedestrian and boat access and docking facilities require substantial improvements.

Pedestrian Infrastructure

Early in the development process for the Plan, the Planning Practicum conducted a preliminary sidewalk inventory to determine the current quality of sidewalks and walkways throughout the Rockaway Beach waterfront. The following criteria were used:

- Poor conditions consisted of failing sidewalks, large cracks or deemed unsafe.
- Fair condition sidewalks showed signs of age without repair, having relatively flat and smooth surfaces with minimal cracking and overgrowth.
- Good condition sidewalks showed no signs of cracking butting, overgrowth.

Most sidewalks were in either fair or good condition. However, there were several particularly poor sections, primarily located within the city park. To increase community desirability and the usability of the city park, efforts should be pursued to encourage high-quality safe and accessible pedestrian facilities connecting points of interest, businesses, and recreational opportunities along Beach Boulevard and the waterfront.

Goals and Objectives

Goal: Encourage quality, safe, and accessible pedestrian facilities

Objective: Obtain permission from MoDOT to implement changes and improvements along Beach Boulevard (Missouri Route 176) within the right-of-way*.

**Note: This generally extends about 6 feet out on each side of the roadway.*



Poor

Fair

Good

Photo Credit: Jacob Wimsatt, MSU Planning Practicum. Photos taken of sidewalks in Rockaway Beach city park.



Step: Contract with a registered Traffic/Transportation Engineer to develop conceptual plans for the project area*.

**Note: These plans may require additional documentation, such as a traffic study, depending on the scope of the work, and may be negotiable during the preliminary review. If requested, the city should contract with a transportation engineering firm to complete the study.*

Step: Submit conceptual plans to MoDOT* for preliminary review and comment.

**Note: By MoDOT, this refers to either the Transportation Project Designer, Area Engineer, or Traffic Specialist.*

Step: Depending on required changes, complete the recommendations and resubmit to MoDOT*.

**Note: Continue the prior two steps until MoDOT approves and signs the conceptual plans.*

Step: Apply for a Permit to Work on the Right of Way to MoDOT through the Traffic Specialist.

Step: Submit a Notice of Intent to Perform Work to MoDOT two days prior to the beginning of work.

Step: Repeat this process for each project*.

**Note: If two separate work activities (ex. addition of new sidewalks and creation of a crosswalk) occur simultaneously and are proposed as one conceptual plan, then only one permit is required.*

Objective: Ensure regular maintenance of new and existing walkways.

Step: Create a maintenance schedule for sidewalks, crosswalks, and signage within the park and along Beach Boulevard.

Step: Coordinate with local volunteer organizations to plan the regular cleanup and clearance of trash, debris, and other obstacles from sidewalks and crosswalks.

Step: Complete or update a Sidewalk Maintenance Agreement with MoDOT.

Objective: Expand and improve the sidewalk network.

Step: Conduct an inventory of sidewalks and their conditions, or update the preliminary inventory created by the Planning Practicum.

Step: Hold a public prioritization survey to identify areas in most need of improvements.

Step: In coordination with the creation of a new retaining wall along Beach Boulevard, extend sidewalks along the lake side of Beach Boulevard using the added space, connecting to the existing walkway.

Step: Research and implement improved drainage options to ensure sidewalks within the city park remain clear of standing water*.

**Note: Potential options include mudjacking or polylifting the sidewalks (concrete leveling methods that pumps materials under a building, driveway or other sunken concrete to lift it). This would make the sidewalks higher than the surrounding ground, making water less likely to pool there. An alternative would be to dig a shallow trench along the side of the sidewalk adjacent to the retaining wall and road, which would flow into drainage channels.*



Photo Credit. Fort Worth Weekly. Community members sweeping a sidewalk.



Step: Research and apply for local, state, federal, and/or private grants and other funding sources.

Step: Consider private and public sponsoring programs for funding opportunities.

Step: Create a timeline for improvements and expansions.

Objective: Ensure sidewalks, crosswalks, and other walkways are easily accessible for all.

Step: Research and determine exact requirements for ADA compliance*.

**Note: A useful resource would be ADA Best Practices for Tool Kit for State and Local Governments, available on ADA.gov.*

Step: Create a city inventory of non-compliant sidewalks and other walkways.

Step: Increase the width of new and existing sidewalks to meet ADA compliance*.

**Note: ADA compliance requires sidewalks to provide at least 4 feet of walkable space.*

Step: Consider the removal and relocation of certain parking units, streetlights, and installing adequate sidewalk space*.



Photo Credit: Business Though. An example of safe, gradient sidewalk ramps into intersec-

**Note: This is particularly relevant between Larkspur and Lotus Avenues.*

Step: Ensure all sidewalks provide level and gradient transitions between intersections.

Step: Research and apply for local, state, federal, and/or private grants and other funding sources.

Step: Create a timeline that outlines the completion of ADA projects.

Objective: Install structures and physical mechanisms to facilitate pedestrian safety.

Step: Identify locations for crosswalks and pedestrian signage along Beach Boulevard*.

**Note: Although the Planning Practicum has proposed at least one crosswalk at Venus Avenue, the city may wish to have additional crosswalks in the future.*

Step: Incorporate painted or marked crosswalks, as well as corresponding pedestrian signage, at designated locations connecting sidewalks across intersections, and between the city park and Beach Boulevard*.



Photo Credit: Federal Highway Administration. Example of signage for crosswalks.

**Note: The city may also want to implement crosswalk murals.*

Step: Implement traffic speed-slowing measures*.

**Note: Currently, the speed limit along Beach Boulevard is 20 mph, but during on-site visits to Rockaway Beach, members of the Planning Practicum witnessed vehicles exceeding this, rendering street-crossing dangerous. To ensure pedestrian safety, the city may want to add radar speed signs, or speed humps, and road markings before crosswalks, to encourage mindful driving.*

Step: Add detectable warning pads at the edge of sidewalks before intersections and crosswalks to provide alerts and improve safety for vision-impaired individuals.

Step: Examine and implement improvements to street and park lighting.

Step: Research and apply for local, state, federal, and/or private grants and other funding sources.

Step: Create a timeline for safety improvements.



Photo Credit: Carmanah. Example of a smart radar sign.

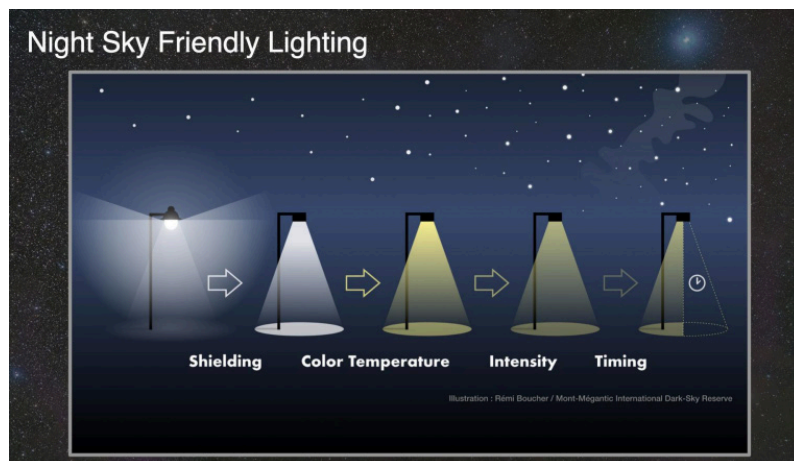


Photo Credit: The Big Bend Sentinel. Demonstration of night sky-style lighting.



Photo Credit: ADA.gov. Example of detectable warning pads for intersections.

Boating Access

The redevelopment of the lakefront provides an opportunity to improve the accessibility and proper utilization of all natural resources. The goals and objectives outlined in this section are designed to prioritize safety, accessibility, sustainability, and equitable usage for all. By fostering recreational use, transportation, and environmental conservation, waterfront experiences will be enriched for all residents. This section also outlines information about possible funding options.

Goal: Enhance boat access on the Rockaway Beach lakefront.

Objective: Improve existing boat launch points on the Rockaway Beach lakefront.

Step 1: Evaluate the current conditions of the boat launch points and consider factors such as accessibility, as well as slope, for improvement*.

**Note: Specific measures will entail repairs to concrete particularly around the perimeter of the ramp and adding railings, bumpers, and lane striping to the ramp to allow multiple boats access during busy hours.*

Step 2: Ensure boat ramps and docking areas comply with local regulations and permits for construction or modification*.

**Note: These permits are enforced and issued by Title 36, Chapter III, Part 327, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).*

Step 3: Improve existing drainage systems to prevent erosion and other damage, and to maintain functionality*.

**Note: Specific measures could include:*

- *Modify the grade and slope of land surrounding the boat ramp to redirect runoff water away from the ramp.*
- *Install permeable paving surfaces to improve surface drainage and reduce runoff such as concrete mats to create a*

permeable surface.

- *Plant native vegetation along the shoreline to reduce erosion and absorb excess water.*

Step 4: Dredge the dock and boat ramp areas to reduce silt build up, as well as standing water on the launch area*.

**Note: Refer to the Natural Resources Section for more information.*

Objective: Improve the safety and convenience of already existing boat launch facilities.

Step 1: Upgrade dock infrastructure such as adding floating docks to accommodate more boats during peak hours.

Step 2: Improve accessibility for boaters with disabilities by providing ramps, designated parking spaces, and appropriate signage.

Step 3: Install adequate dark sky lighting to improve safety during early mornings and evening hours.

Step 4: Install spigot with pressurized water to allow for boat cleaning at the launch points and trash receptacles*.

**Note: To reduce the spread of invasive Zebra Mussels and maintain the cleanliness of the dock.*

Objective: Expand boating options on the lakefront to improve connectivity with neighboring communities.

Step 1: Evaluate existing boating facilities, amenities, and transportation infrastructure on the lakefront.

Step 2: Conduct a navigation assessment to determine routes, stops, and destinations for a water taxi service.

Step 3: Identify possible water taxi services such as the Lake of the Ozarks Taxi Service which offers on-demand services.

Step 4: Promote access to lakefront attractions such as the Branson Landing with Lake Taneycomo as an alternative means of transportation.

Funding Table

Grant	Description
Traffic Engineering Assistance Program (TEAP)	TEAP is a state-funded program that provides funding to small cities. This program has a funding cap of \$12,000 and requires a minimal 20% matching contribution.
Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	HSIP is a federal-aid program that aims to achieve a reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads, according to the Strategic Highway Safety Plan and state safety plans. This program requires a match of at least 10%.
Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)	TAP is the primary federal funding source for sidewalks, trails, ADA compliance, and a variety of other transportation projects. This program has a funding cap of \$600,000 and requires a match of at least 20%.
MoDOT Cost Share	This program has a minimum matching requirement of 50%.
Safe Streets and Roads for All Program (SS4A)	SS4A provides funding to regional and local initiatives through grants for preventative deaths and injuries on roadways. Both planning and implementation grants are available, depending on the stage of a proposed project. Planning grants have an expected range of \$100k-\$10 million. Implementation grants have an expected range of \$2.5-\$25 million. This program requires a match of at least 20%.
Safe Streets and Roads for All Program (SS4A)	STBG provides flexible funds for highway related construction and improvements on federal-aid routes. This program requires a match of at least 20%.
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	This is a federally funded grant available to any municipality, county, public school, or local government system. The grant offers a maximum of \$500,000 per project, requiring a 50% matching contribution. Eligible projects for this grant must be accessible to the public and include boating and fishing facilities.

Transportation Contacts Table

MoDOT		SMCOG
Area Engineer	Traffic Specialist	Transportation Planner
Name: Beth Schaller	Name: Dusty Sears	Name: Aishwarya Shrestha
Phone: (417) 519-4120	Phone: (417) 891-4300	Email: AishwaryaShrestha@MissouriState.edu
Email: Beth.Schaller@mo-dot.mo.gov	Email: dustin.sears@mo-dot.mo.gov	

Cultural Resources

Cultural Resources

Rockaway Beach contains a rich and unique historical record as a resort and vacation community. Throughout the past several years, many significant structures have been built facilitating the small-town character of the area. The constructed assets along the lakefront, Beach Boulevard, and in other areas of Rockaway Beach can be leveraged for placemaking, community improvement, and economic development using a variety of mechanisms.

Goals and Objectives

Goal: Maintain the historic small-town character of Rockaway Beach, Missouri.

Objective: Complete a survey of historically and culturally significant sites in Rockaway Beach.

Several structures surveyed in 1989 and 1990 have been altered, deteriorated, or are no longer extant, making the intact historic structures more important to the community fabric. It is suggested that an updated survey be completed to determine the properties of cultural or historical significance still in existence and the condition of the structures on those properties.

Step 1: Defer to the Architectural Survey of Rockaway Beach completed in 1990; this report found extensive potential for National Register of Historic Places nominations near Lake Taneycomo.

Step 2: Apply for grants provided by the Missouri State Historic



Photo Credit: Missouri State Parks

Preservation Office.

Step 3: After securing funding, consider partnership with the Bernice S. Warren Center for Archaeological Research at Missouri State University or other specialist to complete an updated architectural survey of potential significant sites.

Objective: If preferred by the City of Rockaway Beach or property owners, information from this survey could be used to establish a historic district or apply to have properties or a district listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Step 1: Collaborate with the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office in preparation for submitting the NRHP application.

Step 2: Gather additional information, records, and documentation to support the application process*.

**Note: Organizations such as the White River Valley Historical Society, Society of Ozarkian Hillcrofters, and Library Center of*

the Ozarks can be consulted for research assistance to collect additional historical information and documentation.

Step 3: Consider and evaluate the benefits of NRHP listing:

- Access to grants and historic preservation tax incentives to promote redevelopment and reuse of historic structures: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservation/historic-preservation-fund.htm> <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/taxincentives/index.htm>
- Development of Heritage Tourism: The promotion of community structures through travel publications which frequently feature historic landmarks, leverage short distance from tourists in Branson can promote local heritage tourism.
- Create a unique sense of place and encourage further community development.
- Tax benefits, such as an income tax deduction, for owners of historic properties who place restrictions on the development of or changes to the property through easements.

Objective: Consider adaptive reuse or repurposing of vacant or underused historic structures to encourage economic development and reduce blighted areas.

Step 1: Amend the wording of the regulations listed in the Downtown Commerical (D-1) Zoning District.

Step 2: Consider options to encourage private development of

small businesses in these spaces. Refer to the Economic Development for guidance.

Step 3: Determine the willingness of current owners to sell existing historic structures for organizations that want to provide development and investment opportunities.

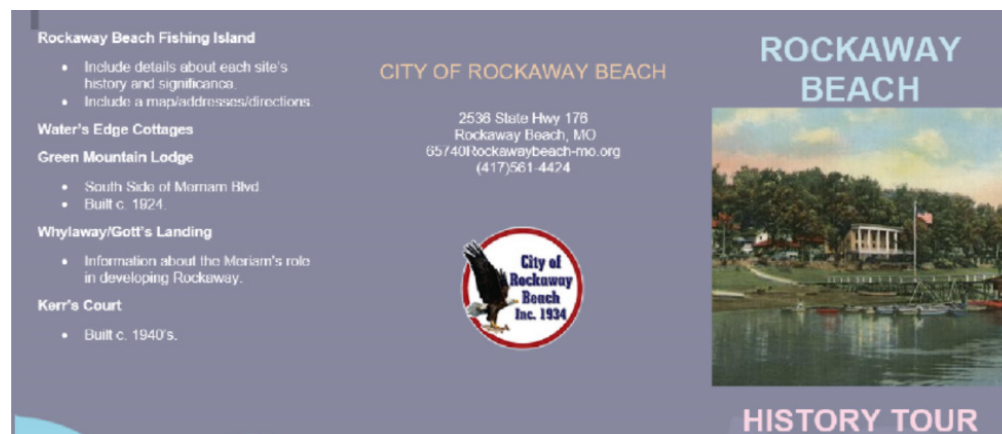
Step 4: Apply for Community Development Block Grants that are available through the Missouri Department of Economic Development.

- Most competitive grants do not require matching funds but some of these grants require 20% matching funds from the applicant, but the State has no requirements on where these funds are derived.
- The City of Rockaway Beach would first want to assess its areas of greatest need then decide who will write the grant (ex: city staff, a team of community members, a consultant), then determine who will administer the grant. Additional information on the application process is available online at: <https://ded.mo.gov/media/pdf/downtown-revitalization-application-and-guidelines>

Objective: Create a historic walking or driving tour that encompasses the Rockaway Beach Lakefront.

Step 1: Identify noteworthy or valuable sites to be included in the tour.

Photo Credit: Garrett Jackson, MSU Planning Practicum, using cardcow.com



- *Utilize existing architectural surveys or newer surveys should the city decide to have one completed.*
- *Collaborate with local history organizations, schools, and libraries to help with determining focus areas.*
- *If enough interest exists locally, consider establishing a Rockaway Beach or Taneycomo Area Historical Society to help guide the development and implementation of this process.*

Step 2: Formulate potential partnerships with other local municipalities such as Branson, Forsyth, Hollister, Merriam Woods, and Reeds Spring to develop a geographically larger Tri-Lakes, Taney County, or Shepherd of the Hills area historic tour.

Step 3: Determine the format and content of the tour. There are multiple possible options including:

- *Creating a website with written directions and information on each tour stop.*
- *Develop a pamphlet with tour information (see below), distribute it with other tourist pamphlets.*
- *Create an audio tour; this could be distributed as a podcast or uploaded to a website.*
- *In addition to the written or audio tour, markers could be placed at each of the tour stops.*



Photo Credit: Missouri State Parks



Photo Credit: Missouri State Parks

Implementation

Implementation

On the following pages is a table outlining expected timelines to complete each of the actions recommended within the Rockaway Beach Waterfront Redevelopment Plan. The definitions for each of the categories on the table were:

- Short-Term: 0-2 Years
- Medium-Term: 2-5 Years
- Long-Term: More than 5 Years

This table will provide an easy to read and access checklist for the City of Rockaway Beach to review and revise as they pursue the recommendations in the previous chapters.

It important to note that many of the action items listed below will require coordination and cooperation with community members, partner organizations and agencies, and private business owners. As such, the timespans suggested in the Implementation Table may be subject to change in response to outside parties.

It is also worth noting that the sections are listed in the Implementation Table is no particular order, and do not reflect the exact order that action should be pursued. Instead, steps should be implemented at the discretion and ability of the city, and should reflect the priorities of the community.

IMPLEMENTATION TABLE	
ROCKAWAY BEACH WATERFRONT REDEVELOPMENT PLAN	
ACTION ITEMS	COMPLETION TIME
CHAPTER TITLE: NATURAL RESOURCES-SILT/SEDIMENTATION	
GOAL: Remove current and future sedimentation buildup in the lake.	
Objective: Defer to Alternative 5 in the 2022 Sedimentation Study as the selected approach.	
STRATEGY: Review the 2022 Sedimentation Study for Rockaway Beach, Missouri.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Reexamine the provisions embedded in Alternative 5.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Reaffirm Council and Community commitment to the strategy.	SHORT-TERM
OBJECTIVE: Review existing statutory guidelines to determine legally permissible removal processes.	
STRATEGY: Consult the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) regional office to determine allowable silt removal strategies*.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Access and survey Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act for statutory reference.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Access and survey Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) for statutory reference.	SHORT-TERM
OBJECTIVE: Evaluate the cost stipulations of dredging processes to determine fiscal viability.	
STRATEGY: Conduct a cost analysis of removing the island causeway and dredging the dock area*.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Research external funding opportunities from federal, state, and nonprofit databases; can defer to the funding table below for suggestions.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Determine if the researched external funding possibilities satisfy cost requirements.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Evaluate the funding conditions (and/or requirements) to include, but are not limited to time frame, mandates, special provisions, etc.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: After evaluating dredging costs and funding stipulations, apply to selected funding source databases.	SHORT-TERM
OBJECTIVE: Obtain authorization from the USACE to proceed with dredging activities.	
STRATEGY: Notify the Little Rock District Regulatory Program of intentions to receive dredging authorization.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Complete and submit the Engineer Form 4345 Application to the Little Rock District Office.	SHORT-TERM
OBJECTIVE: Contract silt removal, filtration, and transportation activities to a reputable dredging firm.	
STRATEGY: Draft the solicitation offer to include product/service needs, project objectives, evaluation criteria, etc.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Publicize the contract solicitation.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Evaluate bids and proposals per solicitation evaluation and project criteria.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Award the contract to the selected firm and debrief on project conditions.	SHORT-TERM
Objective: Pending authorization and financial assistance, implement the provisions of Alternative 5.	
STRATEGY: Remove the causeway bridge connected to the island to facilitate increased water flow.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Dredge the dock area of Lake Taneycomo to an elevation of 695 ft, as specified in the 2022 Sedimentation Study - Alternative 5.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Monitor the contractor firm's performance and compliance with contract terms/conditions.	SHORT-TERM
OBJECTIVE: Evaluate the effectiveness of sediment removal and water flow from the Alternative 5 strategy (post-1 year).	
STRATEGY: Conduct site visits at Lake Taneycomo in the Rockaway Beach area to evaluate sediment concentration in the water.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Defer hydrologic data and hydraulic modeling mechanisms (referenced in the 2022 Sedimentation Study) to assess flow rates*.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Determine after examining these components whether Alternative 5 was an effective solution.	SHORT-TERM
OBJECTIVE: Establish a future conditional dredging maintenance program for continual silt removal (can be re-dredged in 5, 10, 15 year intervals post-initial dredging).	
STRATEGY: Contact the USACE to determine the permit process and conditions for dredging maintenance.	SHORT-TERM

STRATEGY: Evaluate the feasibility of implementing an ongoing dredging maintenance program*(1).	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Establish connections or partnerships with intergovernmental, nonprofit, and private actors to facilitate a future dredging maintenance program.	MEDIUM-TERM
STRATEGY: Modify the current contract conditions or eliminate the agreement*(2).	SHORT-TERM
GOAL: Establish a municipal partnership with the City of Branson for silt removal.	
OBJECTIVE: Propose the idea of a municipal partnership involving the City of Branson to the City Council and Community	
STRATEGY: Hold a City Council meeting and/or public event that can solicit feedback on the proposition.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Ensure that the City Council and community members are supportive of a municipal partnership.	SHORT-TERM
OBJECTIVE: Determine the feasibility and practicality of partnering with the City of Branson.	
STRATEGY: Indicate the administrative and financial resources the City of Branson could provide to assist with silt removal.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Weigh the benefits and potential limitations of inviting the City of Branson into a partnership.	SHORT-TERM
OBJECTIVE: Construct a foundational framework for this potential municipal partnership.	
STRATEGY: Define the purpose, goals, and objectives of this partnership.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Outline the conditions, obligations, and terms of this partnership between both municipal actors*.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Propose the framework to the City Council and community members to officiate support and/or commitment.	SHORT-TERM
Objective: Communicate with the Mayor of Branson to propose this partnership.	
STRATEGY: Reach out to the Mayor of Branson via telephone, email, or any other communication method.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Determine if the Mayor of Branson is supportive of a municipal partnership.	SHORT-TERM
OBJECTIVE: Establish a timeframe for meeting with the Mayor of Branson to discuss hydrologic conditions in Lake Taneycomo (contingent on mayoral approval).	
STRATEGY: Setup a quarterly meeting for each fiscal year between the Mayors of Branson and Rockaway Beach.	LONG-TERM
STRATEGY: Outline the agenda and objectives of these quarterly meetings, then proceed.	LONG-TERM
CHAPTER TITLE: NATURAL RESOURCES-ALGAL TREATMENT	
GOAL: Reduce existing algal populations in the lakefront.	
OBJECTIVE: : Identify the type (or species) of algae inhabiting the lakefront near Rockaway Beach.	
STRATEGY: Examine the coloration, texture, and other characteristics of the algal bloom.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Record the observations in a separate filing or documentation; provide photographic illustrations.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Report samples and documented material (site observations) to the EPA Regional 7 Office for algal identification.	SHORT-TERM
OBJECTIVE: Review existing statutory guidelines from state and federal sources to determine the legality and recommended procedure for algal treatment.	
STRATEGY: Contact the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) to inquire about existing algal treatment regulations and recommended chemical treatment solutions.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Contact the Regional 7 EPA Office to inquire about existing algal treatment regulations and recommendations for chemical treatment.	SHORT-TERM
OBJECTIVE: Determine the costs of implementing a temporary chemical treatment strategy for the lakefront.	
STRATEGY: Identify the costs of obtaining algal-treating chemical products and other relevant equipment for later application.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Explore potential funding sources from local, state, federal, and nonprofit sources (can defer to the provided funding table).	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Determine if external funding resources satisfy cost requirements.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Apply to selected funding databases.	SHORT-TERM
OBJECTIVE: Apply a chemical treatment solution to extinguish the algal blooms in Lake Taneycomo.	
STRATEGY: After consulting with federal and state sources, select a feasible, safe, and practical chemical solution to address the algal problem.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Direct the prescribed chemical or herbicide solution toward the congregations of algae blooms in the lake for treatment*.	SHORT-TERM

OBJECTIVE: Evaluate the post-ecological consequences of chemical treatment effectiveness.	
STRATEGY: Conduct a site visit by observing and measuring the quantity of algal blooms in the lake within a reasonable timeframe after chemical treatment application.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Determine the effectiveness of algal-chemical treatment and if algal blooms are reduced.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Decide if additional chemical treatment is necessary.	LONG-TERM
CHAPTER TITLE: NATURAL RESOURCES-WATER QUALITY	
GOAL: Ensure sustainable and improved water quality.	
OBJECTIVE: Reduce runoff.	
STRATEGY: Identify sources of pollution such as nutrient pollution, stormwater runoff, household discharges, and other potential contaminants.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Address the most significant sources of pollution first, considering both short-term and long-term impacts.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Implement green infrastructure solutions such as rain gardens, permeable pavement, and green roofs to absorb and filter stormwater runoff before it.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Design infrastructure such as shoreline buffers to minimize pollution runoff and enhance ecosystem resilience.	SHORT-TERM
OBJECTIVE: Reduce single-use plastic consumption/ waste- water pollution.	
STRATEGY: Develop targeted public awareness campaigns to educate residents, businesses, and visitors about the environmental impacts of plastic waste and the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling plastic materials.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Develop and implement strategies to mitigate plastic waste accumulation along the waterfront, including installing litter traps, promoting community clean-up events, and supporting local initiatives to reduce plastic usage and encourage proper waste disposal.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Implement policies and regulations to reduce the use of single-use plastics in the rockaway beach area.	MEDIUM-TERM
STRATEGY: Improve waste management infrastructure like recycling centers to facilitate proper disposal and recycling of plastic waste.	MEDIUM-TERM
STRATEGY: Collaborate with local businesses, community organizations, and government agencies to develop innovative solutions for reducing plastic waste in the rockaway beach area.	SHORT-TERM
OBJECTIVE: Reduce sewage discharge and contamination.	
STRATEGY: Identifying areas prone to leaks, overflows, and other sources of contamination.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: In march 2010, An equipment failure at a Rockaway Beach wastewater treatment facility resulted in the release of an estimated 3,000-5,000 gallons of partially treated wastewater into an unnamed tributary of Lake Taneycomo. So, upgrade and modernize sewage treatment facilities to improve treatment capacity and efficiency, reducing the risk of untreated sewage discharge into waterways during heavy rain events or system failures.	LONG-TERM
STRATEGY: Regularly inspect, repair, and replace aging infrastructure, preventing leaks and minimizing the potential for sewage contamination of surface water and groundwater.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Establish emergency response protocols and contingency plans to quickly address sewage spills and leaks, including procedures for notification, containment, cleanup, and public health advisories.	LONG-TERM
CHAPTER TITLE: NATURAL RESOURCES-WILDLIFE HABITAT	
GOAL: Preserve and enhance wildlife habitat diversity.	
Objective: Mitigate human-wildlife conflicts	
STRATEGY: Conduct surveys to assess human-wildlife interactions and identify potential conflict hotspots, considering factors such as habitat fragmentation, food availability, and human activities.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Develop and implement strategies to minimize human-wildlife conflicts, such as habitat modification, deterrents, and public education campaigns to promote coexistence and reduce negative interactions.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Engage with local residents, businesses, and stakeholders to raise awareness about wildlife conservation and the importance of respecting natural habitats and wildlife behavior.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Establish guidelines for responding to wildlife incidents, including wildlife rescue, relocation, and conflict resolution, to ensure the safety of both humans and animals.	SHORT-TERM
OBJECTIVE: Preserve the local ecosystem.	
STRATEGY: Identifying key habitats and threats to the survival of species in the rockaway beach area.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Establish green corridors and wildlife corridors to enhance biodiversity and connectivity between habitats.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Implement conservation measures to protect and restore critical habitats for species, including habitat preservation, restoration, and management activities.	MEDIUM-TERM
STRATEGY: Enforce regulations and restrictions to minimize disturbances to species and their habitats, including habitat encroachment, pollution, and other activities.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Engage local communities, schools, and businesses in ecosystem restoration and stewardship projects, fostering a sense of environmental responsibility and collective action in preserving and enhancing the natural heritage of the rockaway beach area.	SHORT-TERM
GOAL: Promote wildlife conservation awareness and education.	

OBJECTIVE: Engage the community in wildlife conservation efforts.	
STRATEGY: Develop educational programs and outreach initiatives to raise awareness about local wildlife species, their habitats, and the importance of conservation.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Organize community events, such as guided nature walks, wildlife observation tours, and habitat restoration workshops, to foster appreciation for the natural environment and encourage active participation in conservation activities.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Collaborate with schools, youth groups, and educational institutions to integrate wildlife conservation topics into curriculum and extracurricular activities, promoting environmental literacy and stewardship among students.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Establish partnerships with local media outlets, online platforms, and social media influencers to disseminate information about wildlife conservation issues, conservation success stories, and opportunities for community involvement.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Provide resources and support for citizen science projects, such as wildlife monitoring programs and habitat mapping initiatives, empowering residents to contribute valuable data and insights to conservation efforts.	MEDIUM-TERM
STRATEGY: Recognize and celebrate community members, businesses, and organizations that demonstrate outstanding commitment to wildlife conservation through awards, incentives, and public recognition, inspiring others to follow.	SHORT-TERM
OBJECTIVE: Enhance recreational opportunities with ecosystem conservation in mind.	
STRATEGY: Develop recreational plans that prioritize low-impact activities such as hiking, bird watching, and wildlife photography to minimize disturbance.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Establish designated viewing areas and implement interpretive signage and educational programs to inform visitors about the importance of maintaining a respectful distance from wildlife and minimizing human impacts on their natural behaviors and habitats.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Collaborate with local conservation organizations and wildlife experts to develop guidelines and best practices for responsible wildlife viewing, emphasizing ethical behavior and conservation principles.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Monitor recreational activities and visitor use patterns to assess their impact on ecosystems and wildlife, adjusting management strategies as needed to mitigate negative impacts and promote sustainable recreation.	MEDIUM-TERM
STRATEGY: Engage with the community to promote awareness and appreciation of the natural beauty and ecological value of the rockaway beach area.	SHORT-TERM
CHAPTER TITLE: NATURAL RESOURCES-SCENIC VIEW AND FISHING	
GOAL: Enhance scenic views.	
Objective: Preserve coastal landscapes and scenic vistas.	
STRATEGY: Conduct landscape assessments to identify key scenic viewpoints, natural landmarks, and sensitive habitats along the rockaway beach waterfront.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Develop scenic conservation plans and zoning regulations to protect designated scenic areas from incompatible development, visual pollution, and habitat degradation.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Implement landscaping and beautification projects to enhance public access points, waterfront parks, and scenic overlooks.	MEDIUM-TERM
STRATEGY: Collaborate with artists, designers, and community stakeholders to incorporate public art installations, interpretive signage, and educational exhibits that celebrate the beauty and ecological significance of the rockaway beach landscape.	SHORT-TERM
GOAL: Promote sustainable fishing practices.	
OBJECTIVE: Promote sustainable fishing practices and habitat conservation.	
STRATEGY: Focus on education about the fishing rules and regulations that have been set by the Missouri Department of conservation. This is to help encourage legal fishing practices and discourage illegal practices that could lead to overfishing or some other similar consequence.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Collaborate with local fisheries and implement habitat restoration and enhancement projects to improve spawning grounds, nursery habitats, and foraging areas for fish and other aquatic species.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Provide educational resources and outreach programs to inform boaters, and recreational fishers about sustainable fishing practices, ethical angling techniques, and the importance of conserving fish habitat.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Collaborate with local fishing guides to promote education about safe and ethical fishing practices.	SHORT-TERM
OBJECTIVE: Foster collaboration and partnerships for sustainable fisheries management.	
STRATEGY: Engage with stakeholders, including recreational anglers, commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen, on fisheries management strategies and regulatory policies.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Forge partnerships with government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and industry associations to leverage resources, expertise, and funding support for sustainable fisheries research, conservation projects, and outreach initiatives.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions and regional stakeholders to address transboundary fisheries issues, promote harmonized management approaches, and support collective efforts to conserve shared fishery resources and habitats.	SHORT-TERM
CHAPTER TITLE: ECONOMICS	

GOAL: Promote the development of small business in Rockaway Beach.	
OBJECTIVE: Re-establish the chamber of commerce .	
STRATEGY: See if there is interest in re-establishing the chamber of commerce	MEDIUM-TERM
STRATEGY: Review old Chamber of Commerce documents and Bylaws	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Identify and connect with potential members	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Create or update chamber bylaws.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Consider partnering with another chamber of commerce to reduce costs.	MEDIUM-LONG-TERM
STRATEGY: Organize regular meetings and events.	LONG-TERM
OBJECTIVE: Partner with a small business incubator to increase resources and educational opportunities for potential business owners.	
STRATEGY: Identify small business incubators in the region.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Reach out to a small business incubator to partner with.	MEDIUM-LONG-TERM
STRATEGY: Create awareness in the community of partnership.	MEDIUM-TERM
Objective: Identify funding opportunities for small businesses.	
STRATEGY: Identify state and federal grant programs for small businesses	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Identify incentives for helping with small business start-up costs.	MEDIUM-LONG-TERM
STRATEGY: Identify and partner with a local bank to provide funding through a revolving loan.	LONG-TERM
GOAL: Promote a business-friendly environment to encourage Economic development.	
OBJECTIVE: Modernize the city website.	
STRATEGY: Consider if a volunteer or a company will be hired to update the website.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Identify funding for website redesign.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Update links to include current information, event dates, business information, and social media.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Ensure that the website is useable for mobile users	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Include relevant government documents including zoning code, permits, business license, and comprehensive plan.	SHORT-TERM
OBJECTIVE: Create branding for the Rockaway Beach	
STRATEGY: Identify unique or important characteristics of Rockaway Beach.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Decide if marketing will be volunteer-based or by a private party	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Hold an open house to get community input.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Pick colors, slogans, logos/seals, and themes.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Incorporate branding into the city website	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Utilize social media for marketing, and city/event information.	LONG-TERM
OBJECTIVE: Eliminate zoning obstacles to business creation	
STRATEGY: Review current zoning codes and city ordinances to see if there are obstacles to creating a business such as parking requirements, lot minimums, etc.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Amend any zoning obstacles to better accommodate businesses.	MEDIUM TERM
OBJECTIVE: Identify and create an index of Vacant commercial properties.	
STRATEGY: Create an index for all of Rockaway Beaches' vacant commercial property.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Connect with all property owners to inquire about property vacancy	MEDIUM-LONG-TERM
STRATEGY: Consider connecting with the Taney County partnership to list vacant properties on their website.	MEDIUM-LONG -TERM
OBJECTIVE: Allow for low-cost and temporary businesses.	
STRATEGY: Decide what types of temporary businesses will be allowed	SHORT-TERM

STRATEGY: Decide on time of year and location for temporary businesses.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Identify scheduled times or events for pop-up shops.	SHORT-TERM
CHAPTER TITLE: ECONOMICS-FLOATING RESTAURANT	
GOAL: To implement a floating restaurant, not only for the community but also for the economy.	
Objective: Create parking for the restaurant	
STRATEGY: There is on-street parking all along the waterfront, but we will most likely need more parking elsewhere	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: ADA parking	
a. Per the ADA, one accessible parking space is required for every 25 spaces	SHORT-TERM
b. For smaller restaurants, with fewer than four spaces, there must be at least one accessible spot.	
STRATEGY: Parking will be at a premium, especially on-site, meaning low-minimum parking, potential investors may expand parking if necessary.	SHORT-TERM
OBJECTIVE: Attracting potential restaurant owners	
STRATEGY: Market this opportunity on social media to potential investors	MEDIUM-TERM
STRATEGY: Partner with "Taney County Partnership" for marketing purposes	
a. If none then seek out a third party	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Exercise TIFS, only if necessary. They are a good way to offer incentives	
a. There are eligibility requirements	MEDIUM-TERM
STRATEGY: Important questions to ask:	
a. Income levels of the area?	
b. What aspects of a diner would the community want?	
c. How often does this community dine out?	
d. What seasons will this restaurant be open? Spring and Summer? Or summer and fall?	
e. For tourists or locals or both?	SHORT-TERM
OBJECTIVE: Development of the Restaurant	
STRATEGY: Apply for a permit through the Corps of Engineers	MEDIUM-TERM
STRATEGY: The restaurant will likely go where the go-karts currently are, but an alternate location is two parcels northeast which is vacant land.	N/A
STRATEGY: Parking (will the expansion of parking be necessary)	LONG-TERM
STRATEGY: Investigate the current water quality of the area	
a. Dredging will definitely be a must	
b. You must pay attention to water currents and the water level	LONG-TERM
STRATEGY: This area is privately owned land	N/A
STRATEGY: Contacting other floating restaurant owners	MEDIUM-TERM
STRATEGY: Will it be on private land or off of a public part of land into the water?	
a. What do I need to be in compliance?	
b. Drinking water, either attach to the city water or use holding tanks	
c. Silt is not a problem unless it affects the restaurant's drinking water	
d. Pipes and sewage are up to Rockaway	MEDIUM-TERM
CHAPTER TITLE: RECREATION	
GOAL: Create recreational gathering spaces	
Objective: Expand or replace the existing playground in rockaway beach.	
STRATEGY: Determine whether the existing playground should be repaired or replaced. This could be done for individual pieces of equipment (ex. Replace the slide but keep the swings).	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: Determine the scope and features of the new / expanded playground.	
a. Scope will largely be determined by funding (see step 3)	
b. Features should be determined through community input asking local parents and children what (if any) specific equipment their children would like to play on. - A list of examples for potential play equipment can be found on pages 7-8 of the Public Playground Safety Handbook (https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/325.pdf)	SHORT TERM
c. Based on the input, come up with a full list of equipment the park should have.	
STRATEGY: Ensure with contractors that materials are flood resistant, structures are bolted down, and that the playground is accessible.	MEDIUM TERM

OBJECTIVE: Match picnicking facilities with level of need.	
<p>STRATEGY: Restore existing picnic tables to good condition</p> <p>a. The current picnic tables are in sufficient shape to be reused, but restorative maintenance needs to be done to address some issues.</p> <p>i. The wood tops and benches are warped, have peeling paint and graffiti, and are splintery. The wood itself is still in good condition. There are two options to fix this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Recondition the existing wood. This option is more labor intensive, but very low cost. Scrape the paint off the wood and sand until the wood is straight and smooth. Alternatively, if a thickness wood planer is available, running the wood through this would accomplish the same task with much less time and effort. Then repaint the wood and reinstall. -Replace the old wood. This option is comparatively expensive, but still reasonable. Remove and discard the old wood, then purchase, paint, and install new wood of the same size. <p>b. The existing picnic tables have 2 types of frames: stainless steel and painted metal. The stainless steel frames are in good condition and need no maintenance. The painted metal frames have developed surface rust. The surface needs to be removed and then a new coat of paint needs to be applied. This should be done while the wood is removed from the tables to ensure all rust is identified and removed.</p>	SHORT TERM
<p>STRATEGY: Determine whether current picnicking areas are sufficient for the needs of the community</p> <p>a. This should be done by observing the picnicking areas at different times on busy days to determine if the areas are crowded. Additionally, observe things like trash cans to see if more are needed.</p> <p>b. If it is deemed necessary, build more picnicking facilities</p> <p>i. Choose a location for the new picnicking facilities.</p> <p>ii. Determine whether a pavilion should be built to accompany the new picnicking facilities.</p> <p>iii. Purchase and install the facilities</p>	SHORT TERM
OBJECTIVE: Install fire pits	
<p>STRATEGY: Identify locations for fire pits</p> <p>a. These should be placed no less than 10 feet, and preferably more than 25 feet, from combustible structures, trees, and low hanging tree branches.</p>	SHORT TERM
<p>STRATEGY: Identify style of fire pits to be installed</p> <p>a. Movable fire pits are cheaper, easier to install, and could be removed before an impending flood, but are less durable and have potential of being stolen</p> <p>b. Fixed or built-in fire pits are durable and theft proof, but are significantly more expensive.</p>	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: Purchase and install firepits	MEDIUM TERM
OBJECTIVE: Beautify Basketball Court	
STRATEGY: Do a general cleaning of the basketball court	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: Repaint the lines on the court.	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: Repaint the retaining wall	SHORT TERM
<p>STRATEGY: Add unique features to beautify the space (a mural on the retaining wall, painting the basketball goals in interesting colors, or even painting the whole court)</p> <p>Contact a local artist for ideas. If applicable, organize a community improvement day with the artist and the community to do the painting.</p>	SHORT TERM
OBJECTIVE: Secure funding for steps 1-4	
STRATEGY: Keep track of volunteer hours and donated materials, as these count towards the local match required for some grants.	MEDIUM TERM
STRATEGY: Apply for the Land and Water Conservation Grant (https://mostateparks.com/page/61215/land-and-water-conservation-fund-lwcf-grants). This grant is a general purpose grant that could be used for a lot of the objectives above.	MEDIUM TERM
STRATEGY: Apply for the Scrap Tire Surface Material Grant (https://dnr.mo.gov/waste-recycling/what-were-doing/financial-assistance-opportunities/scrap-tire-surface-material-grant) This grant is specific to the playground's surfacing materials, but is an excellent grant to apply to.	MEDIUM TERM
STRATEGY: Reach out to the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) for help applying to the above 2 and any additional grants. https://www.smco.org/contact	MEDIUM TERM
STRATEGY: Seek private donations The Community Foundation of the Ozarks is a great resource. More information can be found at the link below: https://www.cfozarks.org/	MEDIUM TERM
GOAL: Create more community events.	
Objective: Host kayak fishing tournaments in Rockaway Beach	
STRATEGY: Clear the silt and weeds around the boat ramp area to ensure accessibility during these events. It is important that the boat ramp is functional and in good condition if Rockaway Beach were to host these events. Having a well maintained and functional boat ramp is crucial to ensuring the success of an event like this.	
STRATEGY: Create a line of communication between tournament circuits such as MO-Yak and Kayak Anglers of Missouri to coordinate tournaments in the community.	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: Create a plan for parking during this event. Identify suitable areas such as large parking lots in the town to offer areas to park for those coming into Rockaway Beach for the tournament. Having a parking plan in place for an event like this will ensure that there is ample parking for all participants and will minimize congestion at the beginning and end of the event.	SHORT TERM

STRATEGY: Identify the best areas to conduct the awards ceremonies for the event this can be outdoors or indoors but should be able to accommodate a large number of people. This should also be discussed with whatever tournament circuit will be coordinating the event since they will have a good idea of what will work best based on prior experience.	SHORT TERM
OBJECTIVE: Host community improvement weekends.	
STRATEGY: Promote the idea of volunteerism within the community. It is important to consider the cost of implementing some of these changes and using volunteerism as a way to cut costs while also engaging the community to take part in these improvements.	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: Create a small committee of people willing to lead the volunteer efforts and coordinate projects for the community improvement weekends. This will help to create a sense of direction in tackling these community improvement projects by identifying some of the issues that can be fixed through volunteerism.	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: The committee should also identify a set time to hold these events. The community improvement weekends should be hosted on a somewhat regular basis such as, monthly or bi-weekly, to help encourage participation.	SHORT TERM
OBJECTIVE: Create a Rockaway Beach day	
STRATEGY: Create a committee of volunteers that will help coordinate and set up the barbeque/fish fry part of this event. The committee will also be responsible for identifying a date and time to hold the event. It is recommended to hold this event annually, but the committee has the power to host more or less frequently depending on how the first event goes.	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: Use fundraising as a way to secure any additional funds for the event. The committee should explore the opportunity to host a fundraising event of some kind in order to secure some funding to assist with expenses that may come with hosting an event like this.	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: The committee that is created in the previous steps should identify the best areas to serve and cook food along with creating an efficient system to deal with trash and the serving of the food. The cooking of the food will be up to volunteers.	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: Rockaway Beach Day should also include things other than just food some suggested events include a talent show, live music, and some games. The committee in charge of coordinating the event should assess the feasibility of each of these activities and any other ideas that could be included.	SHORT TERM
GOAL: Create more attractions and things to do along the waterfront of Rockaway Beach.	
OBJECTIVE: Offer kayak and canoe rentals.	
STRATEGY: Purchase kayaks and canoes to rent. Owning the equipment gives the town of Rockaway Beach an opportunity to generate a small source of revenue as well as promoting the use of Lake Taneycomo for recreational purposes.	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: Create a seasonal employment opportunity by hiring someone to coordinate the rentals. This person will also be responsible for cleaning and maintaining the equipment and assisting the customers as well.	SHORT TERM
OBJECTIVE: Implement bird and nature watching amenities to the waterfront of Rockaway Beach.	
STRATEGY: Implement coin operated binoculars in two to five locations. This will provide visitors and locals with binoculars to observe the birds and nature of the area. This will also help to provide a small source of revenue for the city of Rockaway Beach.	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: Create a wildlife garden that features native plants along with bird houses and feeders. The garden is meant to help attract native wildlife and promote native plant species. This will create a great area connection to nature for the people of Rockaway Beach. This can be funded by the Prairie Garden Grants Program.	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: Implement a sign that displays different types of local wildlife and plant life. This should be a part of the wildlife garden and will give people a great resource to use while enjoying Rockaway Beach's natural habitat.	SHORT TERM
OBJECTIVE: Upgrade and maintain the 2 municipal fishing docks	
STRATEGY: Clean the dock up removing the spider webs and all the other various kinds of dirt that are on the dock. It is important that this area is cleaned and well maintained in order to be an enjoyable attraction for visitors and residents of Rockaway Beach. This can also be a part of the community improvement weekend due if the committee sees fit.	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: Create a line of communication with the conservation department to discuss replacing the rulers that are currently on the fishing dock since they are currently peeling and faded making them difficult to use.	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: Create a trash and fishing line disposal area on the fishing dock. There is currently no place to properly dispose of trash and fishing line on the dock. Add amenities like seating, fishing pole holders, and bird watching supplies.	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: Upgrade the fish cleaning station on the fishing dock to a more modern one. This upgrade should not cost a lot of money and can be paid for by applying to MDC: Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Program, Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants, or Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP).	SHORT TERM
CHAPTER TITLE: INFRASTRUCTURE	
GOAL: To identify infrastructure critical to the redevelopment of the Rockaway Beach waterfront area, evaluate current condition of infrastructure, and propose steps to work toward improvement.	
Objective: Retaining Wall Objective- There was little to no interest expressed at the community event or from survey results in the historic preservation of the existing stacked river rock retaining wall sections. The current retaining wall design beginning at the 200' section going NE from the boat launch parking lot should be extended to the intersection of Lotus Ave and Beach Rd. This is a major project but can be completed in segments. The	
STRATEGY: Clean up debris and remove vegetation growing in and around the existing retaining wall sections and establish a maintenance schedule. This can be done with community clean up events.	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: The 1st 200' of the retaining wall going NE from the municipal parking lot is a great template for what should be replicated along Beach Boulevard. This section incorporates sidewalks and railings and looks like it is still in good condition. Locate the plans used for this section of the wall. Working from the existing plans will be more cost effective to replicate than redesigning the extension.	LONG TERM

STRATEGY: Secure grant funding from the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program through FEMA. Rockaway Beach should qualify for up to an 80/20 cost share through this program as an economically disadvantaged community.	MEDIUM TERM
STRATEGY: As sections of the retaining wall are completed, commission or artists for murals and/or sell advertising space. The retaining wall will enclose the entire municipal park area and help to create a sense of place unique to Rockaway Beach.	SHORT TERM
OBJECTIVE: Causeway/Bridge Objective: In the short-term, the current causeway requires some maintenance to the walkway surface, railings, and channels. Over the long-term removal of the causeway is recommended to reduce impediment of water flow which is causing sediment build up and excessive vegetation growth (see natural resources section). The causeway could be replaced with a pedestrian bridge which starts from the	
STRATEGY: Clean out vegetation, trash, and debris from the three channels that flow under the current bridge and set up a recurring maintenance schedule. This can be done with community clean up events.	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: Spot repair walkway where it is needed, particularly where the concrete has degraded on the sides beneath the railings.	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: Replace railings to International Building Code compliant standards.	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: Work with an architect and engineering firm to design a new pedestrian bridge that spans from the sidewalk along Beach Boulevard to the island. Bridge should be sufficient height to reasonably accommodate boating traffic from the boat launch to travel under it.	MEDIUM TERM
STRATEGY: Rockaway Beach is eligible for funding for removal of the current causeway from the National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration program through BIL grant program. See sources section for link to application and information.	LONG TERM
STRATEGY: Apply for federal grant funding from the Bridge Investment Program (BIP) through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) federal grant program. Rockaway Beach is eligible for the maximum benefits of this program, See fast fact sheet for application and eligibility in sources section.	LONG TERM
OBJECTIVE: Storm Water Objective- Rockaway Beach enjoys the natural storm water outlet of Lake Taneycomo, however, keeping the existing infrastructure in functional condition is still necessary. Currently there is sufficient infrastructure in place to process stormwater efficiently if minor steps are taken. The scope of work required for this objective is manageable with volunteer labor.	
STRATEGY: Clean out trash, debris, and vegetation from existing stormwater infrastructure and establish a maintenance schedule.	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: There are several storm outlets and channels along the retaining wall and through the park area which are in need of minor repair. Concrete work would likely require contracted labor.	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: Due to the presence of a FEMA identified floodplain, extra considerations must be taken regarding the impact from improvements on stormwater. The addition of a playground, sidewalks, permanent stage, and other impervious surface may necessitate a storm water study by a qualified engineer.	MEDIUM TERM
OBJECTIVE: Municipal Buildings Objective: Updates and repairs to the Rockaway Beach Community Center and the public restroom facilities located near the boat ramp. Both buildings appear to be structurally sound though in need of modifications. A grant was recently awarded for the community center to update and repair the restrooms. Many of the proposals are quality of life improvements and necessary updates. Namely the addition of a storm shelter to the community center, which not only offers the obvious benefit such a shelter provides but also opens up additional avenues for grant funding and decreases local insurance rates.	
STRATEGY: Spruce them up. Both buildings could benefit from cosmetic updates: new flooring, a fresh coat of paint, power wash the outside, new countertops and cabinets, replace drop-ceiling tiles and lighting. These are relatively cheap objectives and can be done incrementally with volunteer labor.	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: : The public restroom building is eligible for grant funding. An emphasis on replacing existing fixtures with high efficiency toilets, sinks, and lights, are key to securing funding available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure (BIL). These would be competitive grants likely similar to what was awarded for the Community Center restrooms.	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: The addition of FEMA Storm Shelter inside city hall. There are many funding options available both competitive and non, and both state and federal government. Hazard Mitigation Assistance: Safe Room Funding grant program (See sources for application and details) is a great place to start. The benefits of a Storm Shelter are many. Physical protection from tornadoes is highly beneficial for the residents of Rockaway Beach. A FEMA Storm Shelter can reduce local insurance rates. And many of the grants offer funding that can be used for nearly anything else on the building where the storm shelter is located. Take advantage of this.	MEDIUM TERM
OBJECTIVE: Event Venue/Stage Objective - One of the most common requests from the The most obvious place for live events is the Pavilion on the far East side of the park area closest to the go-kart track. This would leave room in the park for seating and good size gatherings while keeping events isolated to city property.	
STRATEGY: Rent a stage and audio equipment for events in the short term. There are several businesses in the area that rent equipment for live events. Temporary structures do not require the permitting and licenses required from the Army Corp of Engineers or FEMA for permanent structures in a floodplain.	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: Experiment with stage locations for acoustics. Should a concert series (See Recreation section), plays in the park, or other live entertainment see success more permanent investment should be considered.	SHORT TERM
STRATEGY: Apply for grant funding through the NRPA (National Recreation and Parks Association) with an emphasis on nature and community. Rockaway beach should be eligible for a 60/40 cost share though this grant program to purchase equipment and materials for community events	MEDIUM TERM
CHAPTER TITLE: CULTURAL RESOURCES	
GOAL: Maintain the historic small-town character of Rockaway Beach, MO.	
Objective: Complete a survey of historically and culturally significant sites in Rockaway Beach.	
STRATEGY: An Architectural Survey of Rockaway Beach was completed in 1990, an updated survey should be completed.	MEDIUM-TERM
STRATEGY: Many surveys are funded as grant projects, The Missouri State Historic Preservation Office manages grants for this purpose, other funding sources may be available. https://mostateparks.com/page/84331/historic-preservation-fund-grants https://mostateparks.com/sites/mostateparks/files/780-2655_5-23_HP_Register-Survey_Grant.pdf	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Once funding is secured, consider partnering with the Bernice S. Warren Center for Archaeological Research at Missouri State University or other specialists in architectural history to complete an updated architectural survey of potential significant sites: Tourist courts/hotels, downtown buildings, lakefront homes, etc.	MEDIUM-TERM
OBJECTIVE: If the city or property owners would like, information from this survey could be used to establish a historic district or apply to have properties or a district listed on the National Register of Historic Places.	
STRATEGY: Collaborate with the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office in preparation for submitting the NRHP application.	MEDIUM-TERM
STRATEGY: Gather additional information, records, and documentation to support the application. Work with organizations like the White River Valley Historical Society, Society of Ozarkian Hillcrofters, and Library Center of the Ozarks for research assistance to collect additional historical information and documentation.	MEDIUM-TERM

<p>STRATEGY: Consider the benefits to NRHP listing:</p> <p>a. Access to grants and historic preservation tax incentives to promote redevelopment and reuse of historic structures: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservation/historic-preservation-fund.htm https://www.nps.gov/subjects/taxincentives/index.htm</p> <p>b. Development of heritage tourism: promotion of community through travel publications which frequently feature historic landmarks, leverage short distance from tourists in Branson to promote local heritage tourism.</p> <p>c. Helps create a unique sense of place and encourages community development.</p> <p>d. Tax benefits, such as an income tax deduction, for owners of historic properties who place restrictions on the development of or changes to the property through use of an easement.</p>	SHORT-TERM
<p>OBJECTIVE: Consider adaptive reuse or repurposing of vacant or underused historic structures to encourage economic development and reduce blight</p>	
<p>STRATEGY: The downtown area along Beach Boulevard and lakefront area, with the exception of the park, are in the Downtown Commercial (D-1) Zoning District. While this zoning district allows for "Dwelling units located above the first floor in non-residential uses", the current wording could unnecessarily restrict possible future mixed-use development. It may be beneficial to amend the wording of this district to encourage broader mixed-use development.</p>	SHORT-TERM
<p>STRATEGY: Consider options to encourage private development of small businesses in these spaces.</p>	SHORT-TERM
<p>STRATEGY: Determine if current owners are amenable to development or the sale of structures to those who wish to develop and invest in the structures.</p>	MEDIUM-TERM
<p>STRATEGY: Community Development Block Grants are available through the Missouri Department of Economic Development to promote downtown revitalization by restoring public facades and demolishing blighted structures as needed along Beach Boulevard.</p> <p>a. Most competitive grants do not require matching funds but some of these grants require 20% matching funds from the applicant, but the State has no requirements on where these funds are derived.</p> <p>b. The city would first want to assess its areas of greatest need then decide who will write the grant (ex: city staff, a team of community members, a consultant), then determine who will administer the grant. Additional information on the application process is available online at: https://ded.mo.gov/media/pdf/downtown-revitalization-application-and-guidelines</p>	LONG-TERM
<p>OBJECTIVE: Create a historic walking or driving tour including the Rockaway Beach Lakefront</p>	
<p>STRATEGY: Identify noteworthy sites to be included in the tour.</p> <p>a. Utilize the existing architectural survey or the new survey if the city decides to have one completed.</p> <p>b. Collaborate with local history organizations, schools, and libraries to help with determining focus areas.</p> <p>c. If enough interest exists locally, consider establishing a Rockaway Beach or Taneycomo Area historical society to help guide the development and implementation of this process.</p>	MEDIUM-TERM
<p>STRATEGY: Consider working with other local municipalities such as Branson, Forsyth, Hollister, Merriam Woods, and Reeds Spring to develop a geographically larger Tri-Lakes, Taney County, or Shepherd of the Hills area historic tour. Expanding the focus area for the tour could bring in visitors and locals from the surrounding area.</p>	MEDIUM-TERM
<p>STRATEGY: Determine the format and content of the tour. There are multiple possible options including:</p> <p>a. Create a website with written directions and information on each tour stop.</p> <p>b. Develop a pamphlet with tour information (see below), distribute with other tourist pamphlets.</p> <p>c. Create an audio tour; this could be distributed as a podcast or uploaded to a website.</p> <p>d. In addition to the written or audio tour, markers could be placed at each of the tour stops.</p>	MEDIUM-TERM
<p>CHAPTER TITLE: TRANSPORTATION</p>	
<p>GOAL: Encourage quality, safe, and accessible pedestrian facilities</p>	
<p>OBJECTIVE: Obtain permission from MoDOT to implement changes and improvements along Beach Boulevard (Missouri Route 176) that are within the right-of-way (which generally extends about 6 feet out on each side).</p>	
<p>STRATEGY: Contract with a registered Traffic/Transportation Engineer to develop conceptual plans for the project area. These plans may require additional documentation, such as a traffic study, depending on the scope of the work, and may be negotiable during the preliminary review. If requested, the city should contract with a transportation engineering firm to complete the study.</p>	SHORT-TERM
<p>STRATEGY: Submit conceptual plans to MoDOT for preliminary review and comment. By MoDOT, this refers to either the Transportation Project Designer, Area Engineer, or Traffic Specialist.</p>	SHORT-TERM
<p>STRATEGY: If changes are required, complete the recommendations and resubmit to MoDOT. Continue the prior two steps until MoDOT approves and signs the conceptual plans.</p>	SHORT-TERM
<p>STRATEGY: Apply for a Permit to Work on the Right of Way to MoDOT through the Traffic Specialist.</p>	SHORT-TERM
<p>STRATEGY: Submit a Notice of Intent to Perform Work to MoDOT two days prior to the beginning of work.</p>	SHORT-TERM
<p>STRATEGY: Repeat this process for each project. If two separate work activities (ex. addition of new sidewalks and creation of a crosswalk) occur simultaneously and are proposed as one conceptual plan, then only one permit is required.</p>	SHORT-TERM
<p>OBJECTIVE: Ensure regular maintenance of new and existing walkways.</p>	
<p>STRATEGY: Create a maintenance schedule for sidewalks, crosswalks, and signage within the park and along Beach Boulevard.</p>	SHORT-TERM
<p>STRATEGY: Coordinate with local volunteer organizations to plan the regular cleanup and clearance of trash, debris, and other obstacles from sidewalks and crosswalks.</p>	SHORT-TERM
<p>STRATEGY: Complete or update a Sidewalk Maintenance Agreement with MoDOT.</p>	MEDIUM-TERM

OBJECTIVE: Expand and improve the sidewalk network	
STRATEGY: Conduct an inventory of sidewalks and their conditions, or update the preliminary inventory created by the Planning Practicum.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Hold a public prioritization survey to identify areas in most need of improvements.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: In coordination with the creation of a new retaining wall along Beach Boulevard, extend sidewalks along the lake side of Beach Boulevard using the added space, connecting to the existing walkway.	LONG-TERM
STRATEGY: Research and implement improved drainage options to ensure sidewalks within the city park remain clear of standing water. Potential options include mudjacking or polylifting the sidewalks (concrete leveling methods that pumps materials under a building, driveway or other sunken concrete to lift it). This would make the sidewalks higher than the surrounding ground, making water less likely to pool there. An alternative would be to dig a shallow trench along the side of the sidewalk adjacent to the retaining wall and road, which would flow into drainage channels.	MEDIUM-TERM
STRATEGY: Research and apply for local, state, federal, and/or private grants and other funding sources.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Consider private and public sponsoring programs for funding opportunities.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Create a timeline for improvements and expansions.	SHORT-TERM
Objective: Ensure sidewalks, crosswalks, and other walkways are easily accessible for all.	
STRATEGY: Research and determine exact requirements for ADA compliance. A useful resource would be ADA Best Practices for Tool Kit for State and Local Governments, available on ADA.gov.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Create a city inventory of non-compliant sidewalks and other walkways.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Widen new or existing sidewalks to meet ADA compliance. ADA compliance requires sidewalks to provide at least 4 feet of walkable space.	MEDIUM-TERM
STRATEGY: Consider removing parking in certain areas along the northern side of Beach Boulevard, and the movement of street lights closer to the road, to provide adequate space along sidewalks. This is particularly relevant between Larkspur and Lotus Avenues.	MEDIUM-TERM
STRATEGY: Ensure all sidewalks provide level and gradient transitions between intersections.	MEDIUM-TERM
STRATEGY: Research and apply for local, state, federal, and/or private grants and other funding sources.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Create a timeline to complete ADA projects.	SHORT-TERM
OBJECTIVE: Ensure pedestrian safety	
STRATEGY: Identify locations for crosswalks and pedestrian signage along Beach Boulevard. Although the Planning Practicum has proposed at least one crosswalk at Venus Avenue, the city may wish to add more in the future.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Add painted or otherwise marked crosswalks, and corresponding pedestrian signage, at designated locations connecting sidewalks across intersections, and between the city park and Beach Boulevard. The city may also want to implement crosswalk murals.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Implement traffic calming (speed-slowing) measures. Currently, the speed limit along Beach Boulevard is 20 mph, but during on-site visits to Rockaway Beach, members of the Planning Practicum witnessed vehicles exceeding this, making crossing the street more dangerous. To ensure pedestrian safety, the city may want to add radar speed signs, or speed humps and road markings before crosswalks, to encourage drivers to be mindful of their speed.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Add detectable warning pads at the edge of sidewalks before intersections and crosswalks to provide alerts and improve safety for individuals with vision impairments.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Examine and implement improvements to street and park lighting.	LONG-TERM
STRATEGY: Research and apply for local, state, federal, and/or private grants and other funding sources.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Create a timeline for safety improvements.	SHORT-TERM
CHAPTER TITLE: TRANSPORTATION-BOAT ACCESS	
GOAL: Enhance boat access on the Rockaway Beach Lakefront	
OBJECTIVE: Improve existing boat launch points on the Rockaway Beach lakefront.	
STRATEGY: Evaluate the current conditions of the boat launch points and consider factors such as accessibility, and slope for improvement. Repairs to concrete particularly around the perimeter of the ramp. Add railings, bumpers, and lane stripings to the ramp to allow multiple boats during busy hours.	MEDIUM-TERM
STRATEGY: Ensure boat ramps and docking areas are in compliance with local regulations and permits for construction or modification. These permits are enforced and issued by Title 36, Chapter III, Part 327, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Improve drainage system to prevent erosion, damage, and maintain functionality. Modify grade and slope of land surrounding the boat ramp to redirect runoff water away from the ramp. Install permeable paving surfaces to improve surface drainage and reduce runoff. Such as concrete mats which create a permeable surface. Planting native vegetation along the shoreline to reduce erosion and absorb excess water.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Dredge the dock and boat ramp areas to reduce silt build up, and standing water on the launch area. Refer to the natural resources section for more information.	MEDIUM-TERM

OBJECTIVE: Improve safety and convenience of already existing boat launch facilities.	
STRATEGY: Upgrade dock infrastructure such as adding floating docks to accommodate more boats during peak hours.	MEDIUM-TERM
STRATEGY: Improve accessibility for boaters with disabilities by providing ramps, designated parking spaces, and appropriate signage.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Install adequate dark sky lighting to improve safety during early mornings and evening hours.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Install spigot with pressurized water to allow for boat clean off at the boat launch and trash receptacles. To reduce the spread of invasive Zebra Mussels and keep the area clean.	SHORT-TERM
OBJECTIVE: Expand boating options on the lakefront to improve connectivity with neighboring lakefront communities.	
STRATEGY: Evaluate the existing boating facilities, amenities, and transportation infrastructure on the lakefront.	MEDIUM-TERM
STRATEGY: Conduct a navigation assessment to determine routes, stops, and destinations for a water taxi service.	MEDIUM-TERM
STRATEGY: Promote access to lakefront attractions like the Branson Landing with Lake Taneycomo as an alternative means of transportation.	MEDIUM-TERM
CHAPTER TITLE: LANDUSE	
GOAL: Ensure zoning code aligns with the vision for the waterfront, and related information is accessible for future development.	
OBJECTIVE: Make adjustments and changes to the city zoning code.	
STRATEGY: Create a designated zoning district for parks and greenspace.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Rezone the city park under the new district.	SHORT-TERM
OBJECTIVE: Ensure that potential developers have access to the zoning code.	
STRATEGY: Scan and digitize the zoning ordinances into PDF format to allow for easy transfer through email.	SHORT-TERM
STRATEGY: Add the full zoning ordinances to the website.	SHORT-TERM
COMPLETION TIME:	
0-2 YEARS: SHORT-TERM	
2-5 YEARS: MEDIUM-TERM	
MORE THAN 5 YEARS: LONG-TERM	

Additional Resources

Transportation

Information on applying for Permits to Work in Right-of-Way
<https://www.modot.org/permits>

MoDOT Policies, Standards, and Regulations
<https://epg.modot.org/index.php>

Information on Mudjacking and Concrete Lifting Techniques
<https://anchorfoundationrepair.net/blog/what-is-mudjacking/>

<https://www.theconcretehero.com/concrete-lifting/>

ADA Compliance Guidelines
<https://archive.ada.gov/pcatoolkit/chap6toolkit.htm>

Information on Land Water Conservation Fund Grants
<https://mostateparks.com/page/61215/land-and-water-conservation-fund-lwcf-grants>

Natural Resources

Bass Pro Community Efforts
<https://about.basspro.com/community/>

Information on Missouri Point Source Nutrient Trading Program
<https://dnr.mo.gov/document-search/draft-missouri-point-source-nutrient-trading-program-march-2024>

Water Financial Assistance Funding Opportunities
<https://dnr.mo.gov/water/what-were-doing/financial-assistance-opportunities>

Information about Interfluve
<https://interfluve.com/our-work/>

Information on Algae Control Methods
<https://mdc.mo.gov/trees-plants/nuisance-native-plants/algae-control>

Branson Tri-Lakes News Article on Rockaway Beach Silt Problem
https://www.bransontrilakesnews.com/news_free/article_1e85ad6e-f3a0-11e1-9cba-001a4bcf887a.html

Branson Tri-Lakes News Article Rockaway Beach Dredging Efforts
https://www.bransontrilakesnews.com/news_free/article_c076b86e-dcba-11e5-affd-97568c2cd9fd.html#google_vignette

Information about CDC Contracting Process
<https://www.cdc.gov/contracts/process/index.html>

Information on EPA Region 7 (Midwest)
<https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-7-midwest>

Overview of Clean Water Act Section 404
<https://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/overview-clean-water-act-section-404>

Information about Friends of Reservoirs
<https://www.friendsofreservoirs.com/>

KY3 News Article on Rockaway Beach Wastewater Treatment Upgrades
<https://www.ky3.com/content/news/Rockaway-Beach-waste-water-treatment-facility-upgrades-protect-Lake-Taneycomo-local-environment-566822621.html>

City of Rockaway Beach, MO Description Page
<https://www.rockawaybeach-mo.org/visitors>

[Information about Section 9 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899](#)

<https://www.spl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Jurisdictional-Determination/Section-10-of-the-Rivers-Harbors-Act/#:~:text=That%20it%20shall%20not%20be,shall%20have%20been%20obtained%20and>

[Guidance for Applying for a Permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers](#)

<https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Applying-for-a-Permit/>

[Information about White River Valley Electric Cooperative Plugged-In Initiative](#)

<https://www.whiteriver.org/community/plugged-in/>

Infrastructure

[Fact Sheet about the Bridge Investment Program \(BIP\)](#)

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/bip_factsheet.cfm

[Information about National Culvert Removal, Replacement & Restoration Grants](#)

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/engineering/hydraulics/culverthyd/aquatic/culvertaop.cfm>

[Sources of FEMA Safe Room Funding](#)

<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/building-science/safe-rooms/funding>

[Information about FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation \(PDM\) Grant Program](#)

<https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/pre-disaster>

Cultural Resources

[Overview and Survey of Lake Taneycomo Beach Towns and Resorts](#)

<https://mostateparks.com/sites/mostateparks/files/Bran-son%20PI%20S3.pdf>

<https://mostateparks.com/sites/mostateparks/files/Bran-son%20PI%20Report.pdf>

[Article about Rockaway Beach's Past and Future](#)

<https://www.ozarksalive.com/stories/anniversary-of-rockaway-beach-riot-a-time-to-look-at-towns-history>

[Information about the Territories of the Osage](#)

<https://native-land.ca/maps/territories/osage/>

[Information about the Archeological and Historical Significance of the Bull Creek Area](#)

<https://thelibrary.org/lochist/periodicals/wrv/v1/N8/s63e.htm>

[Information about Table Rock Dam and Lake](#)

<https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Lakes/Table-Rock-Lake/Dam-and-Lake-Information/>

[KSMU Article about the History of Rockaway Beach Tourism](#)

<https://www.ksmu.org/local-history/2012-09-05/rockaway-beach-from-booming-resort-to-sleepy-fishing-town>

Images

<https://www.fweekly.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/FEATURE-1.jpg>

<https://th.bing.com/th/id/OIP.2Jg6-JjKBWHg2rNkJWSDewHa-HU?pid=ImgDet&w=474&h=468&rs=1>

Additional Resources

<https://highways.dot.gov/sites/fhwa.dot.gov/files/images/Safety/tceprimer41.jpg>

<https://www.cabletiesandmore.com/images/gallery/ada-detectable-warning-pavers-real-life-example-help.png>

<https://bigbendsentinel.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Screen-Shot-2022-01-12-at-15.33.18.png>

<https://thebusinessthought.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/ADA-Requirements-For-A-Sidewalk.jpg>

<https://mostateparks.com/sites/mostateparks/files/Branson%20PI%20S3.pdf>

<https://bransonregister.com/lilleys-lake-taneycomo-trout-fishing-journal-october-20/>

<https://dnr.mo.gov/>

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oQSFkru6LkIo9OIL-W7QEHqbjWKLWKym/edit#heading=h.gjdgxs> (Sedimentation Study - 2022)

<https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/coontail-hornwort>

<https://www.bransontourismcenter.com/branson/lake-taneycomo>

https://www.bransontrilakesnews.com/news/local/article_aef2d7f4-53cb-11ee-9952-bf3a38b55ae9.html

<https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/using-epa-seal-and-logo>

<https://www.kctv5.com/2024/03/22/missouri-department-conservation-partners-add-fish-habitat-smithville-lake/>

<https://www.ky3.com/content/news/Algae-bloom-season-reminds-swimmers-boaters-to-use-caution--571286791.html>

<https://www.mprnews.org/story/2019/07/05/algae-lake-chemical-treatment>

<https://www.publications.usace.army.mil/USACE-Publications/Engineer-Standards-Graphics/>

<https://www.smcog.org/>

Appendix

