

Geneseo Vision 2020

updated February 2012

Today's Strengths

1. Outstanding public safety

Vision

Geneseo is a very safe place

Attributes / Examples

Outstanding local law enforcement engaged in crime prevention and community service

Reliable local services, rarely interrupted, proactively maintained; clean water
Geneseo Fire Protection District

Hammond-Henry Hospital

No derelict buildings or areas

Examples of City Council impact

Additional siren, relocation of repeater tower, upgrade radios, NIMS compliance, etc

Adequate resources to keep lights on, clean water, serviceable streets, etc.
Fire department-friendly governance

Hospital- and physician-friendly local governance

Aggressive zoning and enforcement, aggressive maintenance of public spaces

Possible long-term goals for City Council

Additional staffing, addition of detective

Major investments to electric, sewer, water and streets infrastructure

2. Excellent schools

Geneseo is a great place to learn.

Geneseo School District #228

St Malachy's school

Geneseo Foundation

Residents able to pursue continuing education thanks to proximity to Black Hawk College, BHC east campus, Western Illinois Moline campus and other Quad City-area services

School-friendly local governance; community service officer, crossing guard arrangement, carefully aligned TIF vision

Promote stable/growing enrollment with long term housing growth strategy

Be ready to support post-secondary education opportunities in town; rail development to open transportation to additional education opportunities (Iowa City, etc)

3. Excellence in key pursuits

Geneseo is a great place to play.

Highly regarded programs in sports, music, FFA and other endeavors

School-friendly local governance; FFA relationship at Oakwood Cemetery; appropriate recognition of local accomplishment

4. Outstanding green spaces

Geneseo has outstanding public recreational opportunities

City-owned resources including City Park, Richmond Hill, dog park, etc

Good network of sidewalks, cross walks, pedestrian bridges linking these resources

Geneseo Park District (pool, community center, old athletic field, etc)

Ford Hills, Geneseo Country Club, Izaak Walton League, Geneseo Campground, Hennepin Canal, Bollen Field

Adequate resources to keep parks maintained.

Provide adequate resources to improve and maintain this infrastructure

Cooperative relationship with park district.

Governance that supports other businesses and institutions aligned with outdoor recreation

Growth / upgrade where appropriate; keep playground equipment safe and exciting; keep athletic fields safe and playable

Need a pedestrian walk over Geneseo Creek at southern-most crossing on State Street

Support additional canal development

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Today's Strengths

5. Great sense of community and of tradition

Vision

Geneseo has strong community pride

Attributes / Examples

Community festivals like Music Fest, Christmas Walk, Planes Trains & Automobiles

Aisle of flags, Independence Day fireworks

Well-kept cemeteries

Long-standing local institutions that help pull and keep residents together; school district, Good Samaritan, etc

Examples of City Council impact

Support Chamber of Commerce events

Adequate resources for excellent upkeep at park; support VFW

Adequate resources for excellent upkeep at cemeteries

Support additional development of long term care facilities when appropriate

Possible long-term goals for City Council

Develop north block of city park

6. Historic character, traditional values

Geneseo has a great, traditional, small town character

Healthy traditional institutions and activities

Prominence of well-maintained historic architecture

Tasteful new development

Tasteful re-development

See item #5, sense of community.

Historic preservation district

Smart improvement plans; coordinated zoning ordinances; empowered plan commission

Use of aesthetically-advantages infrastructure elements; for example ornamental lighting, black iron traffic lights

Additional protections / incentives for certain historical properties

7. Family-friendly

Geneseo is a great place to raise a family.

Safe, good schools, healthy; see items 1-4.

Thriving local community groups and events; ice cream socials, farmer's markets etc

Thriving churches

Support strengths listed on items 1-4.

Local governance not restrictive for religious institutions, supportive when appropriate

8. Strong local farm economy

Geneseo has a thriving agricultural base

Excellent area farm ground; long standing, successful local agribusiness

Development decisions affecting businesses and use of farm acres

9. Good breadth and quality of local services

Geneseo has a strong roster of local businesses and services

Retailers and professional services available in town

Support good business climate.

Need to reduce number of vacant store-fronts

Long term plans for growing business base and local employment base

Need process in place to attract and retain businesses/employers

10. Excellent location on I-80

Geneseo is very accessible, a great place to live, work or shop.

Location on major east-west highway

Exit 19

Need to encourage growth and development at interchange

Need significant improvements in appearance of interchange area

Smart investments to secure a role on passenger rail corridor

Strategy to attract desired development; light industrial or warehouse/distribution

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Today's Strengths

11. Vibrant, forward-looking

Vision

Geneseo is a leader in preparing for tomorrow and welcomes smart growth.

Attributes / Examples

Progressive development strategies for city-owned infrastructure

Progressive development strategies that will support private development in housing, retail, and light industrial

City of Geneseo can be counted on to follow through on its plans and commitments

Examples of City Council impact

New waste disposal contract; support expanded recycling program; maintain and expand renewable energy

Participate, gain Arbor Day certification as a Tree City USA.

See item #10 regarding improving appearance of I-80 interchange area..

Engage in long-term planning and budgeting; make commitments carefully and tenaciously complete them

Possible long-term goals for City Council

Implement and promote Recycle Bank program. Expansion of wind garden

Long term tree planting and maintenance plans

12. High quality, reliable local municipal services

Geneseo has excellent streets, water, power and police.

Culture of providing excellent services for city residents; attract and retain top municipal employees

Focus on delivering value in all services, avoid unnecessary cost escalation

Consistent, long term approach to meeting residents' municipal needs

Ensure departments have resources needed; Public Works garage expansion

Annual budgeting process to promote efficient services, cost containment

Consistent focus on key services that support the city's vision; adopt a written vision document, endorsed by city council

Long term staffing and compensation strategies

Continue to develop capital budgeting and prioritization process

Develop management processes that promote consistency even through changes in decision-makers