



Johnson County

Lenexa, Kansas



Good value for taxpayers.

Johnson County, Kansas is a fast growing community. A reflection of this growth is found at the County's own offices. In providing more services to a more diverse population, their leased buildings became crowded and inefficient.

The facilities team ran a thorough financial analysis for a county-owned, environmentally sustainable building that could support a high churn rate and several departments. The numbers justified their decision. One of the ways they saved the taxpayers' dollars initially was through a much faster move-in schedule. The new building was designed and built in 16 months, versus the typical 3 to 3½ years for 128,000 square feet. Much of the speed came from integrating practices so that all the professionals and trades collaborated. They also used many pre-manufactured elements rather than building everything from scratch. That included DIRT Movable Walls.

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Danni Livingston

From the beginning the facilities team wanted to use movable walls, but could not find a system with horizontal support. Plus, they wanted a wall with removable tiles. Facilities Manager, Danni Livingston found what they needed at the DIRT showroom in Chicago. "Removable skins means we can make small changes on the walls or repair them easily," explained Ms. Livingston. "With horizontal support we can hang all our furniture no matter how the wall is configured. This building's supposed to last 100 years, so flexibility was extremely important in all our decisions."

The Johnson County building has gone on to win several awards and has LEED Gold certification. It also dramatically lowered the County's operating costs.

