



City of St. Louis
**SUSTAINABLE
 NEIGHBORHOOD
 TOOLKIT**

Version 1.0

*This is a living document.
 Check these City websites for the latest
 version of this Toolkit:
www.stlouis-mo.gov/sustainability
www.sustainableneighborhood.net*



LETTER FROM MAYOR FRANCIS G. SLAY

City of St. Louis Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative



November 1, 2013

People are what make St. Louis so special – their energy, passion and creativity help keep us moving forward. Given the right tools and inspiration, the sky is the limit. This is why the City has launched a Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative, to build on our greatest asset - the people of St. Louis. Two key elements of this new initiative are holding a Sustainable Neighborhood Small Grant Competition and creating a Sustainable Neighborhood Toolkit. This Toolkit is specifically tailored to the City of St. Louis – its wonderful projects, supporting governmental structure and many opportunities. The Sustainable Neighborhood Toolkit was designed to be a useful resource for advancing sustainability in our City, and to empower our neighborhoods’ leaders and residents with a broad range of ideas and the information they need to get started in bringing those ideas to fruition.

This Sustainable Neighborhood Toolkit is also a key item on my Sustainability Action Agenda and is an important step in the implementation of the City of St. Louis Sustainability Plan. That plan, adopted by the City’s Planning Commission in January of 2013, presents a blueprint for achieving a future in the City of St. Louis that is more vibrant, more prosperous, more diverse, more equitable and more environmentally sustainable. It is a vision that celebrates the City’s existing assets and strengths, but also recognizes that we can and must do more to achieve these goals. Most importantly, it is not only my vision; it is a vision crafted by and for the entire St. Louis community. And just as the vision was created by all of us, we must all work together to achieve it.

Working together we can truly make a difference. I hope you will find this document useful in your neighborhood. Thank you for all you are doing to improve our community and invest in our City’s future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Francis G. Slay".

Francis G. Slay
Mayor, City of St. Louis



AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTOR

City of St. Louis Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative

City of St. Louis Sustainability



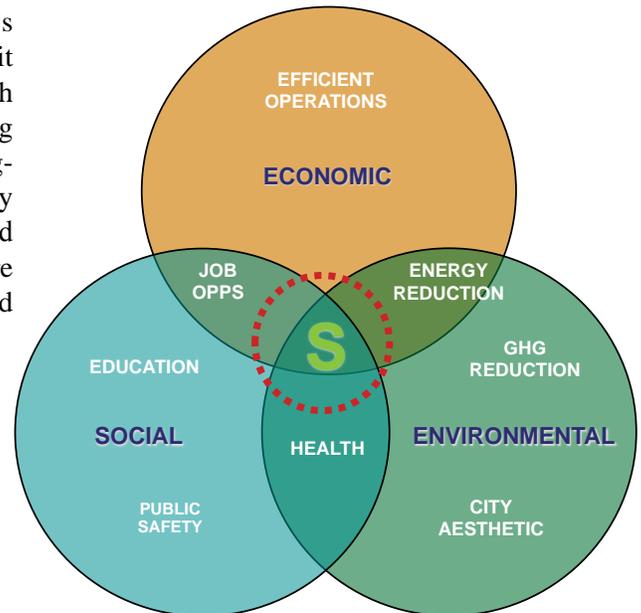
Catherine L. Werner, JD, LEED AP
Office of the Mayor, City of St. Louis

St. Louis is made up of 79 wonderful and unique neighborhoods that are in many ways the heart of the City. And the people who live, work, learn and play in these neighborhoods are the very soul of the City. These neighborhoods are what give St. Louis its character, and the quality of life experienced is directly linked to actions taken by individuals at the community level. Seemingly small changes at the neighborhood scale collectively can provide significant and meaningful impact for improved sustainability in the City and the region. By engaging our neighborhoods' residents and leaders in the process, we can draw on the assets, knowledge and great ideas already embedded in our City.

The City's Sustainable Neighborhood Toolkit is designed to be a resource for those who seek to strengthen the City by working to make their neighborhoods stronger and more sustainable. It is our hope that residents, neighborhood organizations, schools, religious organizations, community groups and others will use this toolkit to glean inspiration, obtain ideas, learn about potential resources and become familiar with how to partner with the City in order to create neighborhood improvements that are more sustainable.

Like the City of St. Louis Sustainability Plan and the Mayor's Sustainability Action Agenda, the Sustainable Neighborhood Toolkit both incorporates and integrates social and economic goals with environmental ones. This "triple bottom line" approach to realizing sustainability is one that will help ensure that outcomes have long-term viability. Similarly, both the ideas in the City's Sustainability Plan and the specific tools included in this Sustainable Neighborhood Toolkit are organized by the following seven thematic goals, but are also cross-referenced to suggest ways in which they can be combined or leveraged to achieve even greater impact.

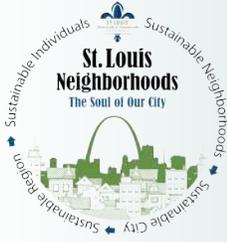
Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology
Arts, Culture & Innovation
Empowerment, Diversity & Equity
Health, Well-Being & Safety
Infrastructure, Facilities & Transportation
Education, Training & Leadership
Prosperity, Opportunity & Employment



As excited as we are to share this resource with you, we also see it as just the first of many phases of this effort to help support and encourage the people who deeply care about their neighborhood and who are willing to take action to improve their quality of life. We intend for this toolkit to be a living document that will expand over time. The first addition will be to activate the toolkit on a searchable website. The online toolkit will also serve as a growing Idea Bank of neighborhood-scale sustainability projects – including many that have already been implemented in the City. The City's Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative will also continue to look for ways to help build capacity in neighborhoods, such as by holding workshops on neighborhood organizational leadership and fund-raising.

We hope you will find the City's Sustainable Neighborhood Toolkit to be a valuable resource. Perhaps the City's greatest resource, however, is not a booklet or website, but rather you and your neighbor. People are the reason things get done. The dedication, energy, passion and generosity of the people in our community has made all the difference and will continue to be the greatest reason why ideas come to life and meaningful change occurs. Thank you for all you are doing to advance sustainability in the City of St. Louis and partnering with us on this journey together.





Sustainable Neighborhood Toolkit

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. TOOLS INDEX	5
2. ORGANIZING FOR NEIGHBORHOOD SUCCESS	6
3. FUNDING FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT	10
4. REFERENCES & RESOURCES FOR NEIGHBORHOOD SUSTAINABILITY	12
5. TOOLS	14
A. Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology	15
B. Arts, Culture & Innovation	26
C. Empowerment, Diversity & Equity	35
D. Health, Well-Being & Safety	42
E. Infrastructure, Facilities & Transportation	51
F. Education, Training & Leadership	62
G. Prosperity, Opportunity & Employment	69
6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	76

1. TOOLS INDEX

- A. Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology**.....15
 - 1. Use Native Plants for Habitat or Biodiversity.....16
 - 2. Plant and Care For Trees.....18
 - 3. Secure Vacant Buildings.....20
 - 4. Preserve Existing Buildings.....22
 - 5. Clean the Streets & Beautify the Streetscape.....24

- B. Arts, Culture & Innovation**.....26
 - 6. Create Public Art Installations or Exhibits.....27
 - 7. Paint Intersections or Building Murals.....29
 - 8. Develop Creative New Uses for Vacant Land.....31
 - 9. Foster Activity with Public Seating, Programs, and Furniture.....33

- C. Empowerment, Diversity & Equity**.....35
 - 10. Develop a Neighborhood Sustainability Asset Inventory.....36
 - 11. Organize a Walking Group or Community Fitness Program.....38
 - 12. Make a Healthy Corner Store & Encourage Healthy Eating.....40

- D. Health, Well-Being & Safety**.....42
 - 13. Start a Bike Share or Bike Hub.....43
 - 14. Establish a Community Garden or Local Food Installation.....45
 - 15. Start or Enhance a Neighborhood Safety Program.....47
 - 16. Develop Safe Routes to School or a Walking School Bus.....49

- E. Infrastructure, Facilities & Transportation**.....51
 - 17. Install Rain Gardens or Bioswales.....52
 - 18. Convert Hardscape Areas into Pervious Surfaces.....54
 - 19. Disconnect Downspouts & Install Rain Barrels.....56
 - 20. Hold a Neighborhood Energy Challenge.....58
 - 21. Create a Cool or White Roofs Program.....60

- F. Education, Training & Leadership**.....62
 - 22. Conduct a Weatherization Training Program.....63
 - 23. Develop a Neighborhood Walking Tour & Market Your Neighborhood.....65
 - 24. Create a Recycling Challenge & Education Program.....67

- G. Prosperity, Opportunity & Employment**.....69
 - 25. Start a Shop Local or Green Business Campaign.....70
 - 26. Launch a Neighborhood Timebank.....72
 - 27. Establish a Community Tool Library.....74

2. ORGANIZING FOR NEIGHBORHOOD SUCCESS

City of St. Louis Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative

Some of the most effective strategies for realizing a successful neighborhood-scale project are to build on the strength and energy of people in the community, and to partner with others who share common goals and interests. Implementing the tools in the Sustainable Neighborhood Toolkit will be easier and more effective when people work together. Below are some general recommendations for identifying an existing neighborhood organization in the City of St. Louis, as well as tips for starting a new one.

Working with a neighborhood organization will likely be important when implementing any of the tools in the City's Sustainable Neighborhood Toolkit.

Existing Neighborhood Associations and Organizations

A neighborhood association is a group of people who work together to effect neighborhood changes and improvements, such as neighborhood safety, beautification, and social activities. Neighborhood organizations often establish norms, guidelines, or requirements for the good of the neighborhood as a whole. Rules and regulations are shared through education, outreach, and communications. Your neighborhood organization is one of the most effective groups to help you move forward with your sustainable neighborhood ideas. To learn if there is a neighborhood association already in your neighborhood, check the [City of St. Louis](#) website for the most current list of neighborhood organizations. This is a list of all the neighborhood associations in St. Louis as of October 2013:

- 3rd Ward Town Hall
- 18th Ward Committee Meeting
- 4200 Maryland Block Association
- 5000 Raymond
- 5100-5200 Cabanne (Blk Unit 2302a)
- Academy-Sherman Park Neighborhood Association
- Ashbury Church Block Association
- Baden Improvement Association
- Benton Park Neighborhood Association
- Benton Park West Neighborhood Association
- Better Family Life Incorporated
- Bevo Area Ambassadors/Bevo Area Historical Society
- Bevo Area Community Improvement Corporation
- Bevo-Long Community Education Center
- Botanical Heights Neighborhood Association
- Boulevard Heights Improvement Association
- Buder Park Neighborhood Association
- Carondelet Community Betterment Federation (Ccbf)
- Carondelet/Holly Hills Landlord's Association
- Cathedral Square Special Business District
- Ccbf Business Group
- Central West End Association
- Central West End Neighborhood Security Initiative
- Cheltenham Neighborhood Association
- Cherokee Antique Row Merchants Association
- Cherokee Station Business Association
- Cherokee-Lemp Special Business District
- Chippewa/Broadway Business Association
- Chippewa Neighborhood Association
- Chippewa Park Community Association
- Clayton-Tamm Community Association
- Clifton Heights Neighborhood Association
- Compton Hills Neighborhood Association
- Compton Hills Reservoir Square Neighborhood Association
- Compton Heights Neighborhood Association
- Council Of Lafayette Square
- Dogtown Business Association
- Downtown Dutchtown Business Association
- Downtown St Louis Partnership Inc
- Downtown St Louis Residents Association
- Dr Martin Luther King Business Advancement Assoc.
- Dr Martin Luther King Merchants Association
- Dutchtown South Community Corporation
- Dutchtown Trinity
- Dutchtown West Neighborhood Association
- Eads Park Neighborhood Association
- East Gate District Association
- Ellendale Neighborhood Association
- Five Star Senior Center
- Flora Place Association
- Ford Community Education Center
- Forest Park Southeast Safety Initiative
- Forest Park Southeast Development Corporation
- Forest Park South Business Association
- Fountain Park/Lewis Place Neighborhood Association
- Fox Park Neighborhood Association
- Franz Park Community Association
- Gate District East Neighborhood Association
- Gravois Park Block Link Association
- Gibson Heights Neighborhood Association
- Gate District Business Association
- Gate District East Neighborhood Association
- Gate District West Neighborhood Association
- Grand Center Community Improvement District
- Grand Oak Hill Community Corporation
- Grand Tower Grove Betterment Association
- Gravois Business Association
- Gravois South Business Association
- Hamilton Heights Neighborhood Organization Inc.
- Hill 2000 Inc
- Hill Business Association
- Hi-Pointe Business Association
- Hi-Pointe Resident Association

- Desales Community Housing Corporation
- Historic Ville Alliance
- Holly Hills Improvement Association
- Kingshighway Hills Neighborhood Association
- Laclede's Landing Merchant's Association
- Laclede-West Pine Neighborhood Association
- Lafayette Park Conservancy
- Lafayette Square Business Association
- Lafayette Square Neighborhood Association
- Lafayette Square Restoration Committee
- Lewis Place
- Lillian Circle Neighborhood Development
- Lindenwood Neighborhood Association
- Macklind Business District
- Marine Villa Neighborhood Association
- McKinley Heights Neighborhood Association
- Morganford Neighborhood Association
- Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Association
- Near Southside Neighborhood Coalition
- North Side Gateway Center (Closed)
- Near Northside Neighborhood Council
- Neighborhood Council
- Newport Heights Improvement Association
- North Grand Business And Merchants Association
- North Newstead Association
- Northside Community Center Youth And Senior Programs
- Northside Neighborhood Action Association
- O'fallon Community Organization
- Old North St Louis Restoration Group
- Park West Development Corporation
- Princeton Heights Neighborhood Association
- Shaw Neighborhood Improvement Association
- Shenandoah Crossings Business Association
- Skinker Debaliviere Community Council
- Skinker Debaliviere Community Development Committee
- Skinker Debaliviere Community Housing Corporation
- Soulard Business Association
- Soulard Restoration Group
- South Broadway Merchant's Association
- South Grand Community Improvement District
- Southampton Neighborhood Association
- Southampton Neighborhood Association
- Southwest Garden Neighborhood Association
- Southwest Garden Property Owners Association
- Southwest Neighborhood Housing Corporation
- St Hills Neighborhood Association
- St Louis Hills Estate #1 Trustees
- St Louis North Business Association St. Louis North Business Association
- St Vincent Park Neighborhood Association
- Tiffany Neighborhood Association
- Tilles Park Neighborhood Association
- Tower Grove Business Association
- Tower Grove East Neighborhood Association
- Tower Grove Heights
- Tower Grove Heights Block Captains
- Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association
- Tower Grove South
- Tower Grove South Block Captains
- Trinity Neighborhood
- Trustees Of South Broadway Shopping Center
- Urban League
- Vashon/Jeff-Vanderlou Initiative
- Villanova Neighborhood Association
- Washington Place Special Business District
- Waterman Lake Improvement District
- Westminster/Lake Special Business District
- Westminster Tri-Block Association
- Woodward Now

To become involved with your neighborhood organization, you can attend meetings or events. Build relationships so you can tap into the resources that your neighborhood organization already has access to, such as a communication network of active residents and funding opportunities.

Create or Join an Organization in your Neighborhood

What if your neighborhood doesn't have an association? You can pursue your efforts without a supporting organization, but it will likely take more work to communicate with neighbors and get participants involved. You can partner with other organizations in your neighborhood, such as non-profits, churches, libraries, youth groups, school groups, and universities. Contact the [City of St. Louis Neighborhood Stabilization Office](#) to get help finding a neighborhood organization.

Create a Business Organization

If you are a business owner, you may want to create a business association or district. A neighborhood business association or district organizes local businesses to establish collective branding and marketing, street improvements, sidewalk improvements, pedestrian lighting, and building façade improvements. Some are associations representing specific geographies, others are more formal districts with a taxing structure and other powers and resources. They also provide a supportive environment for new and entrepreneurial businesses to grow. Local businesses provide employment opportunities, shopping and entertainment opportunities, and daily services to residents, often without the need for a car. Work with other businesses on your street or in your neighborhood and with the [St. Louis Development Corporation](#) to start the process.

2. ORGANIZING FOR NEIGHBORHOOD SUCCESS

City of St. Louis Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative

Engage your Neighbors

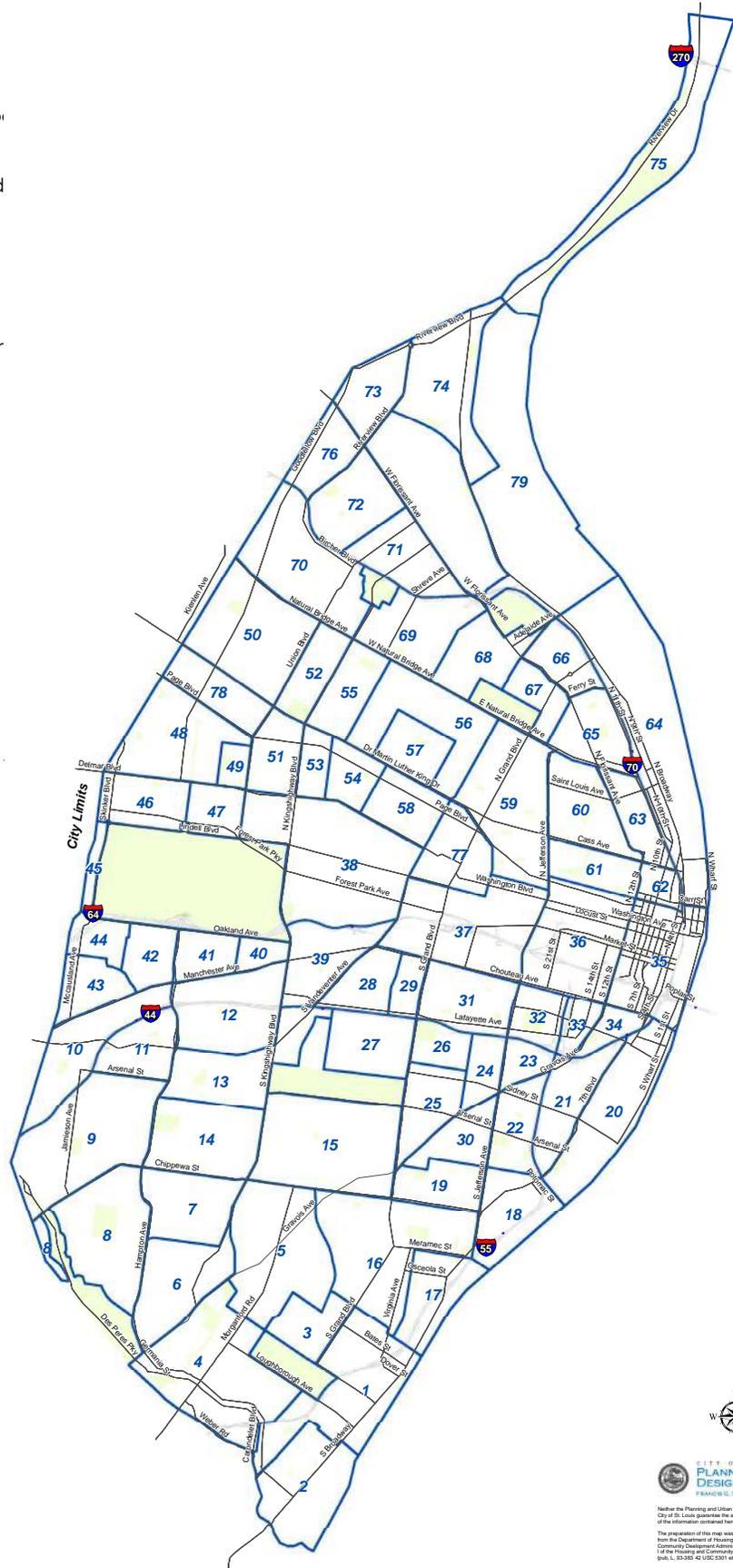
Engaging your neighbors can often be the most challenging part of project implementation, but communities that work together toward achieving their shared values and ideas can realize great success in communicating, building trust, and convening to discuss ideas, needs, and goals. To engage your neighbors, try some of the following ideas, possibly partnering with your neighborhood organization or other community group.

- **Create an Informational Flyer or Newsletter:** Reach out to your community members through an existing newsletter, or by creating a new one. An informational flyer or newsletter can be printed and distributed or created digitally and shared electronically. Newsletters can be easily and inexpensively created by hand or with simple computer programs. Computers and printers are typically available through libraries, community centers, and training centers. Neighborhood youth or other volunteers can help distribute the newsletter throughout your neighborhood. The newsletter should give the basic and most important information: who, what, where, when, and why. Invite people to participate in your process. Make it exciting, fun, and interesting for all participants.
- **Use the Internet and Social Media:** Many people today use the web and social media to get up-to-date information about local events and neighborhood activities. Using popular sites like Facebook, Twitter, and blogs can be a good way to reach people that use computers often or have smart phones. Creating a Facebook page, blog, or Twitter feed for your neighborhood organization or project is a great way to start the conversation and connect with some of your neighbors. Sites like www.nextdoor.com help organize neighborhoods as well. Personal meetings and events, however, are typically the best way to make progress and build a network.
- **Hold Community Events:** Community events are a great way to meet your neighbors and have fun. Informal events, such as outdoor movie nights, potluck dinners, pick-up games, arts and crafts exchanges, walking groups, trivia night, and other similar events, are fun and encourage neighborhood community and collaboration.
- **Be Inclusive:** Tailor your communications and events to as many people in the neighborhood as possible. Make sure that text is large enough to read easily by seniors. Offer food and activities for young children. Ensure there is access to meetings for people with disabilities.
- **Be Resourceful:** Recognize the talented people and wealth of resources available to you. During your project, choose the right people for specific tasks, such as leader, fundraising, secretary, youth activities, construction, and communication based on their skills, background, and interests.

City of St. Louis Neighborhoods

1. Carondelet
2. Patch
3. Holly Hills
4. Boulevard Heights
5. Bevo Mill
6. Princeton Heights
7. South Hampton
8. St. Louis Hills
9. Lindenwood Park
10. Ellendale
11. Clifton Heights
12. The Hill
13. Southwest Garden
14. North Hampton
15. Tower Grove South
16. Dutchtown
17. Mount Pleasant
18. Marine Villa
19. Gravois Park
20. Kosciusko
21. Soulard
22. Benton Park
23. McKinley Heights
24. Fox Park
25. Tower Grove East
26. Compton Heights
27. Shaw
28. Botanical Heights
29. Tiffany
30. Benton Park West
31. The Gate District
32. Lafayette Square
33. Peabody Darst Webbe
34. LaSalle Park
35. Downtown
36. Downtown West
37. Midtown
38. Central West End
39. Forest Park South East
40. Kings Oak
41. Cheltenham
42. Clayton-Tamm
43. Franz Park
44. Hi-Pointe
45. Wydown Skinker
46. Skinker DeBaliviere
47. DeBaliviere Place
48. West End
49. Visitation Park
50. Wells Goodfellow
51. Academy
52. Kingsway West
53. Fountain Park
54. Lewis Place
55. Kingsway East
56. Greater Ville
57. The Ville
58. Vandeventer
59. Jeff Vanderlou
60. St. Louis Place
61. Carr Square
62. Columbus Square
63. Old North St. Louis
64. Near North Riverfront
65. Hyde Park

66. College Hill
67. Fairground Neighb
68. O'Fallon
69. Penrose
70. Mark Twain I-70 Ind
71. Mark Twain
72. Walnut Park East
73. North Pointe
74. Baden
75. Riverview
76. Walnut Park West
77. Covenant Blu-Grar
78. Hamilton Heights
79. North Riverfront



3. FUNDING FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT

City of St. Louis Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative

Neighborhood projects often entail a combination of resources, from volunteer time to materials to financial support. It is important to identify a budget and plan for obtaining the needed support. Many resources and tools already exist to help you attain the funding and materials you need. Common ways neighborhood projects receive financing include collaboration with some of the following partners.

Potential Collaborators:

- **Non-Profits** are charitable organizations that have received tax-exempt status because they direct funding to the causes they support. If your project aligns with the goals and expectations of a non-profit organization, you want to approach that non-profit to help fund your neighborhood project. For instance, the 13th Street Community Garden in Old North St. Louis is provided materials and resources by Gateway Greening, a non-profit that strengthens St. Louis communities through gardening and urban agriculture provisions.
- To apply for funding from a non-profit, research organizations with the same goals and aspirations as your project. Most non-profits require an application form and a detailed description, schematics, or photographs to describe your plan for a neighborhood project. There are often resources in the [City's Public Libraries](#) to help you, too.
- **Alderman** The Board of Aldermen is the legislative body of the City of St. Louis responsible for the passage of ordinances, including the annual budget. Each Alderman obtains funding through the 1/2 Cent Ward Capital Improvement Sales Tax. The amount of funds allocated to each alderman varies from year to year and can include various capital improvements located on publicly-owned property, including street right-of-way and parks. There are twenty-eight aldermen, one from each ward in the City, and a President. A complete list of Aldermen is below. To find more information, visit <http://stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/aldermen/>
 - Ward 01 Sharon Tyus
 - Ward 02 Dionne Flowers
 - Ward 03 Freeman M. Bosley Sr.
 - Ward 04 Samuel L Moore
 - Ward 05 Tammika Hubbard
 - Ward 06 Christine Ingrassia
 - Ward 07 Phyllis Young
 - Ward 08 Stephen Conway
 - Ward 09 Kenneth Ortmann
 - Ward 10 Joseph Vollmer
 - Ward 11 Thomas Albert Villa
 - Ward 12 Larry Arnowitz
 - Ward 13 Fred Wessels
 - Ward 14 Carol Howard
 - Ward 15 Jennifer Florida
 - Ward 16 Donna Baringer
 - Ward 17 Joseph D. Roddy
 - Ward 18 Terry Kennedy
 - Ward 19 Marlene E Davis
 - Ward 20 Craig N Schmid
 - Ward 21 Antonio D French
 - Ward 22 Jeffrey L Boyd
 - Ward 23 Joseph Vaccaro
 - Ward 24 Scott Ogilvie
 - Ward 25 Shane Cohn
 - Ward 26 Frank Williamson
 - Ward 27 Chris Carter
 - Ward 28 Lyda Krewson
- **Neighborhood Organizations** are groups that often provide funds, services, and event planning to residents of their neighborhood. In order to receive support from these groups, you will likely need to schedule a time to present your project to the Board of Directors at a monthly community meeting. Contact information for your Neighborhood Organization can be found online. For example, the Southwest Garden Neighborhood Home Improvement and Garden Tour is sponsored by the SWGNA, and is one way to educate neighbors about sustainable home repair and gardening practices.
- **Community Housing Corporations** are usually non-profit organizations that aspire to improve the safety, cleanliness, sustainability, and affordability of residential properties within a neighborhood. By contacting a community housing corporation that provides services in your area, you may receive the resources you need to start your sustainable neighborhood project. The DeSales Community Housing Corporation, for example, has historically provided marketing services to the Tower Grove East and Fox Park neighborhoods in order to promote home buying and rehabilitation in those neighborhoods.

Techniques:

- **Grants** are funding opportunities provided by non-profit organizations, government agencies, cultural or educational institutions, corporations, and foundations based upon the submittal of a written proposal. Typically, many project leaders apply for any one grant and the project(s) with the best and most organized proposal are awarded funding. For example, Luminary Center for the Arts, a non-profit providing a platform for the presentation of innovative art, music, and cultural projects, was awarded a grant from the Regional Arts Commission to support their programs.
- **Competitions** are sometimes sponsored by non-profit organizations, government agencies, cultural or educational institutions, corporations, and foundations to address a particular challenge or issue. Design and idea competitions ask community members and others to submit drawings, videos, posters, essays, or other kinds of proposals that showcase their idea. For example, the Sustainable Land Lab Competition is a partnership between Washington University in St. Louis and the City of St. Louis. Five projects were selected as winners in the first round to move forward with implementation of creative ideas to reuse vacant land in north St. Louis. Each winner was awarded \$5,000 and a two year land lease to implement their sustainable idea.
- **Fundraising** is the process of raising both money and enthusiasm for your neighborhood project by selling goods and services or holding events. Sweet Sensations is a St. Louis organization that teaches entrepreneurial skills and sustainability practices to young residents through beekeeping. They help fund some of their programming by selling the honey they produce on a lot in the Greater Ville neighborhood.
- **Crowdsourcing** is the collective effort of a large group of people that pool small amounts of their own money to support efforts that improve their community. Websites such as [Kickstarter](#), [Indiegogo](#), and [Crowdfunder](#) provide opportunities for an organization to make a pitch for their idea or project using a video or recorded speech. A pitch should explain the big idea, community benefits, process, and for what the money will be used. This type of fundraising opportunity is also available in St. Louis. Local St. Louis crowdfunding events like [Sloup](#), organizations like [Invest STL](#), websites like [Rally STL](#), and idea sharing events like [Pecha Kucha](#) are fun and successful at getting ideas moving forward with community funding and support. These events usually have food and drink and bring a wide range of people and ideas together. This gives a chance for residents to meet the people proposing the ideas, ask questions, and be involved with the entire process. National online crowdfunding websites can be used to completely fund or earn the remainder of funding needed for projects.

4. REFERENCES & RESOURCES FOR NEIGHBORHOOD SUSTAINABILITY

City of St. Louis Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative

City of St. Louis

- **City of St. Louis Sustainability Plan**
<http://stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/mayor/initiatives/sustainability/plan/index.cfm>
- **Mayor's Sustainability Action Agenda**
<http://stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/mayor/documents/mayor-slay-sustainability-action-agenda-2013-2018.cfm>
- **Office of Sustainability**
<http://www.stlouis-mo.gov/sustainability>
- **Set The Pace St. Louis**
<http://www.setthepacestlouis.com/>
- **Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative**
<http://www.sustainableneighborhood.net>

- **Affordable Housing Commission**
<http://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/affordable-housing/>
- **Board of Public Service**
<http://stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/public-service/index.cfm>
- **Building Division**
<http://stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/public-safety/building/>
- **Community Development Administration**
<http://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/community-development/>
- **Cultural Resources Office**
<http://stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/planning/cultural-resources/index.cfm>
- **Land Reutilization Authority**
<http://stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/sldc/real-estate/lra-owned-property-search.cfm>
- **Neighborhood Stabilization Office**
<http://stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/public-safety/neighborhood-stabilization-office/index.cfm>
- **Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department**
<http://stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/parks/index.cfm>
- **Planning and Urban Design Agency**
<http://stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/planning/>
- **Public Safety Department**
<http://stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/public-safety/>
- **Refuse Division**
<http://stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/street/refuse/>
- **St. Louis Development Corporation**
<http://stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/sldc/index.cfm>
- **Streets Department**
<http://stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/street/index.cfm>

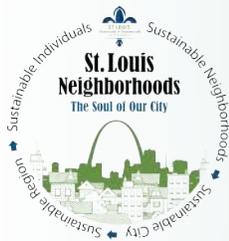
Additional Local Resources

- **Brightside STL**
<http://www.brightsidestl.org/>
- **East-West Gateway Council of Governments**
<http://www.ewgateway.org/>
- **Focus St. Louis**
<http://www.focus-stl.org/Default.aspx>
- **Gateway Greening**
<http://www.gatewaygreening.org/>
- **Great Rivers Greenway District**
<http://www.greatriversgreenway.org/>
- **Metropolitan Sewer District**
<http://www.stlmsd.com/home>
- **Mission St. Louis**
<http://www.missionstl.org/>
- **Missouri Department of Conservation**
<http://mdc.mo.gov/>
- **Missouri Department of Economic Development**
<http://ded.mo.gov/home.aspx>
- **Missouri Department of Natural Resources**
<https://www.dnr.mo.gov/shpo/taxcrdts.htm>
- **OneSTL**
<http://www.onestl.org/>
- **St. Louis Green**
<http://stlouisgreen.com/>
- **St. Louis Public Schools**
<http://www.slps.org>
- **Sustainable Land Lab Competition**
<http://sustainablecities.wustl.edu/land-labs-competition/summary-schedule/>
- **Trailnet**
<http://www.trailnet.org/>
- **United Way of Greater St. Louis**
<http://www.stl.unitedway.org/>

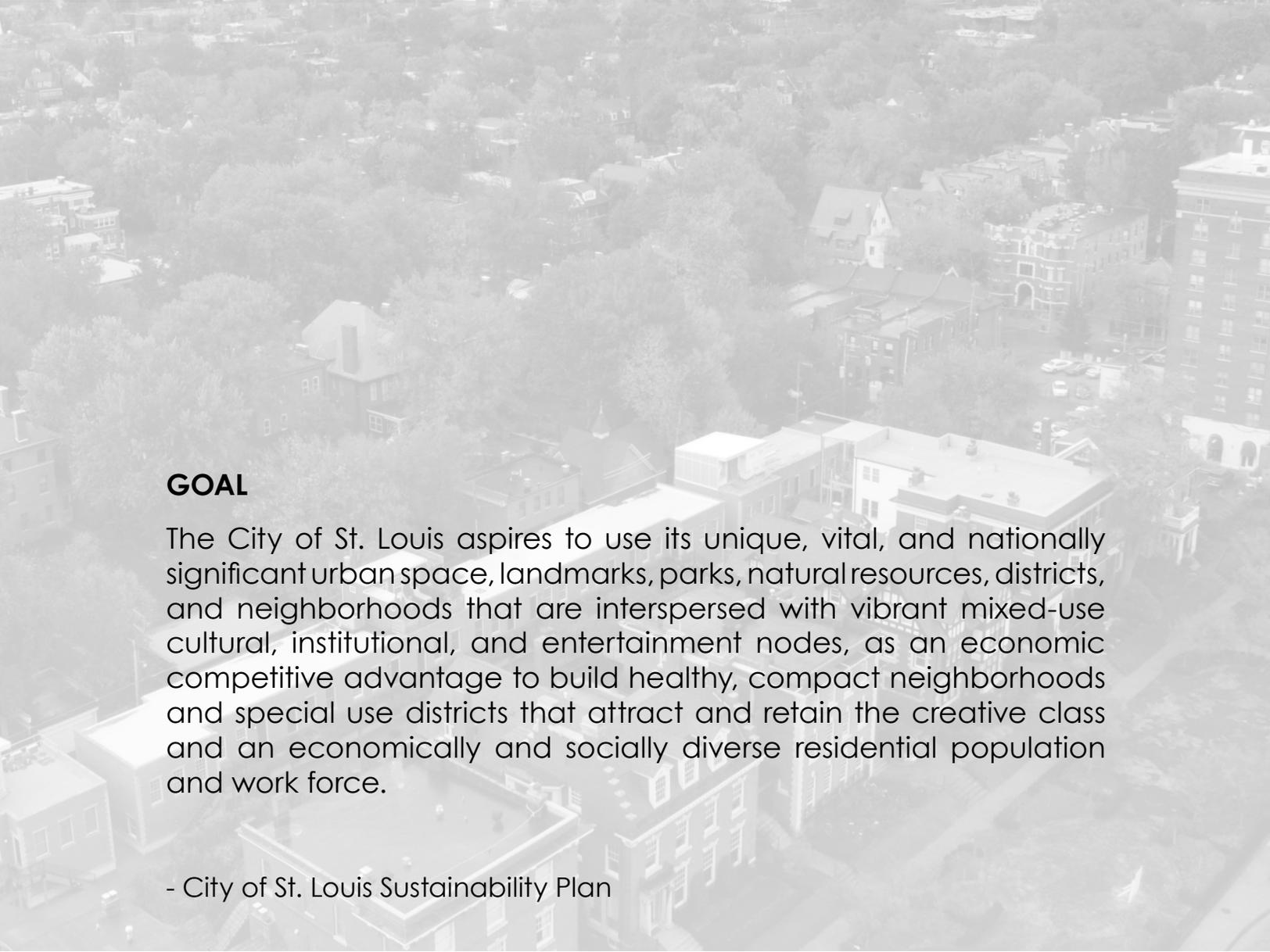
Other Resources

- **Better Block**
<http://betterblock.org/>
- **Candy Chang**
<http://candychang.com/>
- **Detroit Collaborative Design Center**
<http://www.dcdc-udm.org/community/impact/howto/>
- **Good Ideas for Cities**
<http://www.good.is/ideas-for-cities>
- **Mid-America Regional Council**
<http://marc.org/>
- **Project for Public Spaces**
<http://www.pps.org/>
- **Tactical Urbanism**
http://issuu.com/streetplanscollaborative/docs/tactical_urbanism_vol_2_final?e=4528751/2585800
- **US Department of Energy**
<http://energy.gov/>
- **US Department of Housing and Urban Development**
<http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD>
- **US Environmental Protection Agency**
<http://www.epa.gov/>
- **US Department of Transportation**
<http://www.dot.gov/>
- **USGBC**
<http://www.usgbc.org/user/login?destination=/account/ballots>

5. TOOLS	14
A. Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology	15
B. Arts, Culture & Innovation	26
C. Empowerment, Diversity & Equity	35
D. Health, Well-Being & Safety	42
E. Infrastructure, Facilities & Transportation	51
F. Education, Training & Leadership	62
G. Prosperity, Opportunity & Employment	69



5. TOOLS



GOAL

The City of St. Louis aspires to use its unique, vital, and nationally significant urban space, landmarks, parks, natural resources, districts, and neighborhoods that are interspersed with vibrant mixed-use cultural, institutional, and entertainment nodes, as an economic competitive advantage to build healthy, compact neighborhoods and special use districts that attract and retain the creative class and an economically and socially diverse residential population and work force.

- City of St. Louis Sustainability Plan

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

USE NATIVE PLANTS FOR HABITAT OR BIODIVERSITY

City of St. Louis Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative



Pollinator Garden at Monarch Watch Headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas. catherinesherman.wordpress.com

DESCRIPTION

Native plants and flowers indigenous to Missouri are typically hardiest and most acclimated to St. Louis growing conditions. Native species are well-suited to the local climate and soil, and they attract beneficial insects, birds, bees, and other creatures to create a healthier and more biodiverse urban habitat. They usually require less water, chemical fertilizer, and maintenance so they keep soils, rivers, and streams healthy, and improve human connection with landscape and wildlife. Natives attract pollinators and enhance urban production of herbs, fruit, vegetables, and honey. They beautify the neighborhood and encourage active living, education, and monetary savings.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

- Improved biodiversity, local habitat, and neighborhood greening
- Conserved water use and filtered stormwater runoff
- Reduced fertilizer pollution in rivers and streams
- Improved air, water, and energy savings and lowered local temperature
- Improved air quality from carbon sequestration
- Decreased chances of invasive plant species

Social

- Reduced exposure to harmful chemicals
- Improved public perception of the neighborhood or site
- Increased access to natural areas for beauty, recreation, and learning

Economic

- Reduced funds spent on replanting, yard waste disposal, fertilizer, water, lawn mowing, and long-term maintenance
- Potential to sell products like honey or berries

Native prairie project in Old North St. Louis, contributed by Gateway Greening.



Native Plants being planted for the 2010 **Bring Conservation Home** Program through St. Louis Audubon Society

RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, native plants can make a greener, healthier, and more beautiful neighborhood. Think about saving water and energy, local food, urban gardens, and green infrastructure. Native plants and flowers can work well with the following tools:

- **Convert Hardscape Areas to Pervious Surfaces**
- **Establish a Community Garden or Local Food Installation**
- **Install Rain Gardens or Bioswales**

EXAMPLES

Thurman Gateway Park, St. Louis, MO

Native prairie connecting distant areas to create a natural resource corridor.

13th Street Community Garden, Old North, St. Louis, MO

A Hub Community Garden providing food for the North City Farmers Market.

Florissant Community Garden, Florissant, MO

Garden and pollination project with the community, **PAUSE**, the St. Louis Zoo, National Museums of Kenya, and Tohono Chui Park.



Urban Farm Tour - St. Louis

GET STARTED

1. **Vision** Create a long-term vision and goal for the program or a green committee that is inclusive of the entire community, including youth, seniors, business owners, and all residents. Consider the organizing structure, future projects, and possible partners.
2. **Inform** To benefit the community most, the pilot project should be visible and accessible to the public and have educational material and signage to inform visitors about the project and program.
3. **Brainstorm** Brainstorm what kind of native plant project or program will be best for your neighborhood. Ask the following questions:
 - Who will maintain the project or run the program?
 - How will neighbors benefit in the future, and how can they be involved?
 - Does the neighborhood association have funding or will outside resources be needed?
 - What are the objectives? Habitat; Education; Pollination; Green Space; Water Filtration; or Attracting birds, bees, and butterflies?
4. **Research** There are numerous resources available in St. Louis for getting ideas, how-to instructions, examples, guidance, and funding for creating a native landscape project. Helpful organizations are **Gateway Greening**, **Brightside St. Louis**, **PAUSE St. Louis Zoo**, **the EPA**, and **Wild Ones**. To determine what native plants are best suited for your project, where to plant them, and how to care for them, visit **Missouri Botanical Garden**, **Grow Native!**, and **Missouri Department of Conservation**. For information about birds, insects, and other fauna, visit **St. Louis Audubon Society**, **Powder Valley Conservation Center**, and **Missouri Department of Conservation**. Some other helpful links can be found on blogs, including **St. Louis Zoo Beneficial Pollinators**, **Urban Farm Online**, **Startabeehive.com**, and **Fromthebathtub**.
5. **Find a Site** If working on public property such as a park or **Land Reutilization Authority (LRA)** owned lot, be sure to coordinate with the **Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department** or the **St. Louis Development Corporation (SLDC)**. LRA properties can usually be leased for a nominal fee if your use is approved.
6. **Design** Design a pilot project. Use the above listed resources to create a design and construction plan. Work with those resources and perhaps a local gardener or landscape architect to help with the design. Consider the maintenance and upkeep of the landscape and who will be responsible for its care, particularly if there are active elements like bees or harvesting of fruits, vegetables, or herbs. Ensure the overall safety of residents in the design and placement of active elements.
7. **Organize** Organize and advertise workdays. Contact your neighborhood association for help and volunteers. Ensure that you have plants, soil, and other materials delivered on time. Ask community members to lend tools, gloves, and other necessary equipment for planting or plan to buy necessary equipment beforehand.
8. **Work** Host your workday(s)! Gather and assign tasks to your volunteers and build your native landscape. Organize this event at the right time of year so your plants will thrive and your naturescape will be successful. Plan for maintenance and upkeep days following the initial workdays to make sure your plants are flourishing.



RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the following goals and strategies:

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies: C5-Maintain Public spaces and neighborhood streets; E5-Promote inclusion of native plants and habitats on public and private land; H3-Provide special lot-purchasing programs and encourage creative temporary and permanent land uses; H8-Enhance community cleaning and beautification efforts.

Health, Well-Being & Safety

Strategies: B4-Educate residents about alternatives to use of toxic materials and hazardous chemicals; B6-Remediate and redevelop contaminated land.

OPPORTUNITIES

1. Host events and programs that take advantage of the new installation or greenspace and build community involvement and support such as native plant workshops, farmer's markets, urban wildlife programs, healthy eating programs, children's gardening classes,

For the most current examples, updated tools, and information, visit the City's Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative website:

SUSTAINABLENEIGHBORHOOD.NET

PLANT AND CARE FOR TREES

City of St. Louis Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative



Grace Hill Settlement House Tree Planting, St. Louis, MO

DESCRIPTION

Urban trees have been shown to have a positive impact on the quality of streets and open space, neighborhood property value, stormwater runoff, and health of the environment, people, and other species. Storms, age, and climate change can have a detrimental effect on urban trees, so creating a tree replacement, reforestation, or planting program is a way to ensure that your neighborhood will have a healthy tree canopy now and into the future. Programs can range from long term implementation plans to one day events for planting many trees, so choosing the best program for your neighborhood and residents is important in successful reforestation.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

- Improved air, water, and soil quality
- Reduced urban heat island effect
- Improved biodiversity and species habitat

Social

- Increased safety, walkability, and street character
- Improved local health and well-being from cleaner air, water, and soil
- Improved sense of place, public spaces, and ownership in community
- Preserved and improved character of streets, parks, and neighborhoods
- Training in gardening, planting, care, and environmental benefits of trees for local residents and youth

Economic

- Reduced energy use and utility costs
- Increased property values for individual residents and owners



Forest ReLeaf Missouri's Donna Cobble speaking at an American Corps Service Day with Grace Hill Settlement House



New trees planted at Brightside, St. Louis

RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, planting trees can contribute to a healthier, safer, and more sustainable neighborhood. Think about healthy streets, food resources, good public spaces, and native plants. Try combining tree planting with:

- **Establish a Community Garden or Local Food Installation**
- **Use Native Plants for Habitat or Biodiversity**
- **Clean the Streets & Beautify the Streetscape**

EXAMPLES

McKinley Meadows, McKinley Heights, St. Louis, MO

Awarded a grant to plant fruit trees from the Sustainable Neighborhood Small Grant Competition.

Bee Sweet Urban Orchard, St. Louis, MO

A half century old rejuvenated urban orchard now growing fruit and vegetables.

Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood Beautification Committee, St. Louis, MO

Monitors landscaping, planting new trees, and hosting green events.



USAgain tree planting, University City, MO

GET STARTED

1. **Benefits** Trees have many significant benefits for your community, your local economy, and for the environment. Urban trees improve the safety and walkability of streets, shade sidewalks and roads, reduce the urban heat island effect, and enhance plazas and parks to make them more inviting. Studies have shown that street trees increase adjacent property values, bring benefits to the homeowner, and absorb stormwater to reduce chances of flooding on your property and your street. They also absorb carbon dioxide, cool the air, and provide habitats for urban wildlife that support biological diversity.
2. **Various Programs** There are various programs offered to residents and neighborhoods depending on the type and prospective location of your trees.
 - If you are interested in planting street trees in the tree lawn - the city easement along public streets - the **St. Louis Forestry Division** has a **Street Tree Planting Program** that plants trees at no charge to the adjacent property owner. Citizens can request a street tree adjacent to their property by contacting the Citizen's Service Bureau at 314-622-4800. Reference the **Street Tree Information Bulletin**.
 - If you are interested in planting a tree on your personal, public, or not-for-profit property, the **Missouri Urban Trees** guide can also help with species selection, planting, and maintenance procedures. Trees can be obtained for free or reduced cost through organizations such as **Forest Releaf of Missouri** and **USAgain**.
 - If you are interested in planting fruit trees on community property, such as a community orchard, the **Fruit Tree Planting Foundation** has supported projects in St. Louis in the past.
 - Different trees are better suited for certain locations, so make sure to choose the best kind of tree for your purpose; native trees, street trees, decorative trees, and even fruit trees can be part of your planting strategy. To get more information about the best trees to use in St. Louis, reference **the Missouri Native Species guide**. To learn how to plant trees, find information at **arborday.org**, **arborday.org/tips**, and **extension.missouri.edu**.
3. **Establishment & Maintenance** There are various methods of planting trees, and most of them require volunteers and help from other organizations, particularly with tools needed to dig, plant, and water trees. For example, you can:
 - Host a one day planting event in the spring in collaboration with **Arbor Day** and the **Arbor Day Foundation** or **St. Louis Earth Day**. Often, fall is the best time to plant a tree.
 - Create a volunteer-based ongoing program for tree planting, education, and maintenance in your neighborhood in partnership with a local organization such as **Gateway Greening**, **Forest Releaf**, **Missouri Botanical Garden**, **Missouri Department of Conservation**, **St. Louis Wild Ones**, **Missouri 4-H**, and the **Open Space Council**. For example, **Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood** has a Green Committee that monitors landscaping, plants new trees, and hosts green events.



Grace Hill Settlement House tree planting day

RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the character, vitality and ecology of your entire neighborhood. It also contributes to the following strategies:

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies D7-Expand the City's urban tree canopy; D8-Develop a city-wide public and private reforestation campaign.

Health, Well-being & Safety

Strategies: B1-Promote awareness, education and program development around air quality issues; C3-Support urban agriculture opportunities in the city.

Infrastructure, Facilities & Transportation

Strategies: E2-Incorporate green infrastructure practices.

Education, Training & Leadership

Strategies: E1-Educate and empower citizens in methods and benefits of being environmentally sustainable.

OPPORTUNITIES

1. Consider partnering with a citizen scientist organization to track and measure trees to ensure healthy growth and measure benefits. Create bird houses or boxes to support various species.
2. Create partnerships and sponsorship programs with local businesses or organizations to incentivize volunteer planting and maintaining of trees.

For the most current examples, updated tools, and information, visit the City's Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative website:

SUSTAINABLENEIGHBORHOOD.NET

SECURE VACANT BUILDINGS

City of St. Louis Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative



Closed Church's Chicken in Delmar Loop Painted by Peat Wollace

DESCRIPTION

St. Louis has many vacant buildings that are assets waiting to be tapped, but these buildings can also be a burden on their surrounding communities. Buildings with historic features or unique design elements add character and charm to a neighborhood, but if they are vacant and in disrepair, they can be unsafe and unsightly, and can encourage crime that leads to further decay, declining property values, and a decrease in neighborhood morale and vibrancy. Working with the City to board up buildings and maintaining the properties' lawns can increase safety, preserve the structures, and reduce the negative effects that vacancy can have on the neighborhood.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

- Improved safety with more secure and structurally sound buildings
- Ability to recycle building materials
- Reduced blighted buildings and possibility for enriching public art

Social

- Reduced crime and increased safety
- Improved sense of place and ownership in the community
- Preserved historic character of neighborhoods

Economic

- Local residents are trained in construction, community preservation, and building safety
- Stabilized property values from a decrease in blighted properties



Vacant Building Board Up Day in Old North St. Louis



1435 Salisbury Before it was renovated

RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, securing vacant buildings can contribute to a greater and more holistic, sustainable neighborhood. Think about community cohesion, public art, local prosperity, public safety, and healthy vibrant communities. Try combining this tool with:

- **Develop a Neighborhood Sustainability Asset Inventory**
- **Create Public Art Installations or Exhibits**
- **Paint Intersections or Buildings Murals**
- **Conduct a Weatherization Training Program**

EXAMPLES

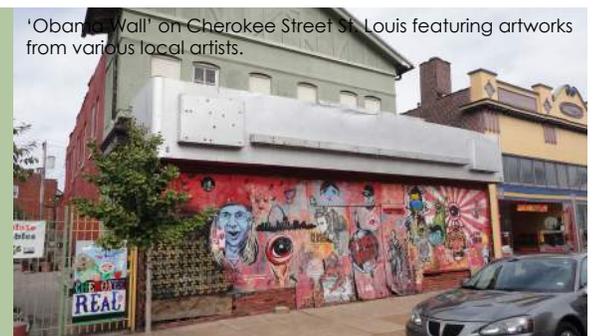
Problem Properties Task Force, St. Louis, MO

Collaborative practice between city and volunteer lawyers to get owners to clean up rundown properties. Can be implemented in any neighborhood.

Do It Yourself Blight Busting, Detroit, MI

Local volunteers work to board up vacant buildings and clean vacant lots.

'Obama Wall' on Cherokee Street St. Louis featuring artworks from various local artists.



GET STARTED

1. **Reach Out** Engage your **Neighborhood Stabilization Office** and the **St. Louis Problem Properties Task Force**. The program targets owners of run-down properties or properties with a lot of nuisance crimes. Owners either clean up their properties or face lawsuits or jail time. Private lawyers working for free are available to represent neighborhoods that want problem properties cleaned up.
2. **Create** Creating public art for abandoned buildings can beautify the neighborhood, address building safety issues, preserve buildings for later rehab, and engage the public. Murals on storefronts, boarded windows, and panels attached to building facades create a lively and energetic street. Work with your **Neighborhood Stabilization Officer** to have boards cut to size and delivered for use in your project. Examples of public art engaging or addressing the issues of abandoned buildings include:
 - **Paint the Ply** - paint the plywood on vacant buildings with artistic designs
 - Paint Murals on Buildings - **Philly Paint**, **Abandoned Church**, **Detroit Demolition Disneyland**, **The Living Wall**, **Tacoma fight blight with art**, **Building Sculptures**.
3. **Engage** Create a public input campaign or installation that encourages the public to get input about the future of the building or neighborhood while securing or increasing safety on the vacant property. Examples include:
 - <http://iwishthiswas.cc/>
 - <http://candychang.com/looking-for-love-again/>
 - <http://candychang.com/community-chalkboards/>
 - <http://candychang.com/before-i-die-in-nola/>
4. **Prevent** Innovate creative ways to stop violations of building and historic codes by collaborating with the **Citizens Service Bureau** to alert City officials to unapproved alterations, dumping, brick theft and illegal demolition. Work with local art and community building programs such as the **Affordable Housing Commission**, **Rebuild Foundation**, **Community Builders Network**, **UMSL Community Partnership Project**, and **Kresge Foundation** to find resources to support community preservation and community arts. Also, see the film **Brick By Chance and Fortune** for more information.
5. **Document** Catalog vacant properties available for redevelopment - a map of assets - by engaging residents, youth, and volunteers, to document vacant and/or historic buildings and to promote the advantages available (historic tax credits, tax abatement) for the rehabilitation of historic buildings. Share the information online, through social media, through your neighborhood or local business association, or as a brochure or printed report.



RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the following goals and strategies:

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies B7-Encourage communities to improve their own neighborhood; F1-Preserve and reuse buildings as a means of achieving sustainability; F4-Protect historic residential and commercial properties vulnerable to foreclosure, tax forfeiture, or demolition; F5-Promote redevelopment of historic homes and commercial properties; F6-Prevent scavenging of bricks, metals, and other materials from vacant buildings; F8-Promote public engagement in the historic preservation movement; G5-Promote neighborhood stabilization efforts; G6-Experiment with new ways to raise funds and build partnerships to build sustainable and affordable housing; H6-Maintain appearance of vacant land and abandoned properties; H8-Enhance community cleaning and beautification efforts.

Arts, Culture & Innovation

Strategies: A3-Include youth development and education within art and culture projects and programs; E1-Use distinctive public art, architecture, landscape, and streetscape to build city and neighborhood identity; E4-Use temporary public art projects and programs to revitalize underutilized city areas.

Education, Training & Leadership

Strategies: E1-Educate and empower citizens in methods of being environmentally sustainable.

Prosperity, Opportunity & Employment

Strategies: C1-Reuse existing buildings for inexpensive incubation of entrepreneurial ideas.

For the most current examples, updated tools, and information, visit the City's Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative website:

SUSTAINABLENEIGHBORHOOD.NET

PRESERVE EXISTING BUILDINGS

City of St. Louis Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative



Historically preserved buildings in South St. Louis, MO

DESCRIPTION

Existing buildings are inherently sustainable. Preservation maximizes the use of existing materials and infrastructure, reduces waste, and preserves the historic character and charm of a neighborhood. Preserving buildings saves the energy embedded in existing buildings, takes advantage of original sustainable design features, and prevents needless demolition, waste, and use of new materials. Preservation can apply to individual buildings, a district, a landscape, or a whole neighborhood. Preservation is a long term project and goal for a neighborhood or building and should be approached collaboratively by tapping into localized and city resources.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

- Improved safety with more cohesive blocks and sound buildings
- Reclaimed buildings and building materials reduce need for new building materials
- Reuse of blighted buildings
- Lowered embedded climate cost in existing buildings

Social

- Improved sense of place and ownership in the community
- Preserved historic character of neighborhoods

Economic

- Local residents are trained in preservation processes and construction techniques
- Stabilized property values and decreased blighted properties
- Improved property values



Historic Lafayette Square Neighborhood, St. Louis



Historic rehabilitation by Crown Square

RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, preserving historic buildings can contribute to a greater and more holistic, sustainable neighborhood. Think about community cohesion, unique neighborhoods, community history, and healthy vibrant communities. Try combining this tool with:

- **Develop a Neighborhood Sustainability Asset Inventory**
- **Secure Vacant Buildings**
- **Conduct a Weatherization Training Program**
- **Hold a Neighborhood Energy Challenge**

EXAMPLES

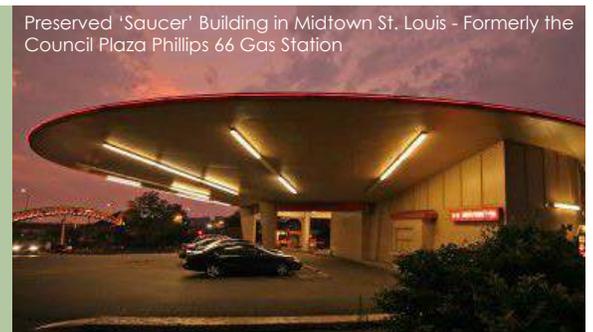
Lafayette Square, St. Louis, MO

Collaboration between individual property owners, neighborhood associations, and the City of St. Louis created the first historic district in the city and helped revive the neighborhood.

Council Plaza Phillips 66 Gas Station, St. Louis, MO

A distinctive gas station in midtown St. Louis that was renovated and reused instead of demolished, thanks to collective community activism.

Preserved 'Saucer' Building in Midtown St. Louis - Formerly the Council Plaza Phillips 66 Gas Station



GET STARTED

- 1. Reach Out** Engage your **Neighborhood Stabilization Officer, the Cultural Resources Office (CRO), State Historic Preservation Office at the Missouri Department of Natural Resources**, neighborhood association, and Alderman to get initial information about the current status of your neighborhood or building. Many areas in the City not designated as historic districts have similar character and buildings and certainly are the settings for strong, sustainable neighborhoods. Many of the tools recommended for historic buildings and districts have much wider applicability.
- 2. Work in Your Neighborhood** Work closely with your neighborhood organizations, advocates, and other residents to help preserve, reuse, or rehabilitate historic or existing buildings that contribute to the fabric of the neighborhood. Your neighborhood may be a designated historic district, so understand the opportunities and regulations of that designation. Even if it is not a historic district, preserving buildings is important and very possible. To begin:

 - Contact your neighborhood association or CRO to find out historic district status and regulations.
 - Contact your neighborhood association to find out which buildings are available for rehabilitation.
 - Work with your neighborhood association to attract small firms or individuals to undertake rehabs.
 - Work with CRO, preservation organizations and advocates and rehab groups in the city if you are passionate about a certain building or place. Experienced preservationists or advocates can give guidance about how to approach a situation most effectively.

Getting your neighborhood designated as a historic district may be possible, but is not a solution in and of itself. There are criteria to be met and it is a long term project that takes significant time, organization, and resources. Talk with your Alderman and the **CRO** for more information.
- 3. Understand Available Financing** To preserve individual buildings, State & Federal Historic Tax Credits combined can cover 45% of historic rehabilitation costs, giving property owners great incentive to reinvest and rehabilitate. These incentives are available to buildings in designated national or certified local historic districts. The **State Historic Preservation Office at the Missouri Department of Natural Resources** has information about requirements and eligibility for State and Federal Historic Tax Credits. Other funding resources can be found at the **Missouri Department of Economic Development**, and **HUD**.

OPPORTUNITIES

- 1. Document** Catalog properties available for redevelopment, properties recently rehabbed, or historic properties for sale by engaging residents, youth, volunteers, to document potential and historic buildings and to promote the advantages available (historic tax credits, tax abatement) for the rehabilitation of historic or existing buildings. Share success stories and this information with neighbors, social media, and neighborhood associations to build interest in your community.
- 2. Programs** Participate in or create programs to fund or support energy efficiency upgrades, weatherization, and building stabilization. One example is **Set The Pace St. Louis**, a program to fund energy efficient renovations in the City of St. Louis.

An old gas service station was rehabbed into a new restaurant Olio in Botanical Heights by UIC. Photo by Aaron Bunse.



RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the following goals and strategies:

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies B7-Encourage communities to improve their own neighborhood; F1-Preserve and reuse buildings as a means of achieving sustainability; F4-Protect historic residential and commercial properties vulnerable to foreclosure, tax forfeiture, or demolition; F5-Promote redevelopment of historic homes and commercial properties; F6-Prevent scavenging of bricks, metals, and other materials from vacant buildings; F8-Promote public engagement in the historic preservation movement; G5-Promote neighborhood stabilization efforts; G6-Experiment with new ways to raise funds and build partnerships to build sustainable and affordable housing; H6-Maintain appearance of vacant land and abandoned properties; H8-Enhance community cleaning and beautification efforts.

Arts, Culture & Innovation

Strategies: A3-Include youth development and education within art and culture projects and programs; E1-Use distinctive public art, architecture, landscape, and streetscape to build city and neighborhood identity; E4-Use temporary public art projects and programs to revitalize underutilized city areas.

Education, Training & Leadership

Strategies: E1-Educate and empower citizens in methods of being environmentally sustainable.

Prosperity, Opportunity & Employment

Strategies: C1-Reuse existing buildings for inexpensive incubation of entrepreneurial ideas.

For the most current examples, updated tools, and information, visit the City's Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative website:

SUSTAINABLENEIGHBORHOOD.NET

CLEAN THE STREETS & BEAUTIFY THE STREETScape

City of St. Louis Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative



Branch Street Clean Up, St. Louis, MO

DESCRIPTION

Street clean up programs and projects can vary but generally include a regularly scheduled day that the community gathers to clean up debris, weeds, and overgrown landscaping. Planter Boxes are small to medium sized boxed beds that can be planted with any variety of shrubs, grasses, and flowers. They can be put anywhere to make an area more green, beautify a street or block, or to create a more pleasant streetscape. Hanging plants can be used for beautification and greening and help bring a sense of pride and ownership to a neighborhood.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

- Improved air, water, and soil quality
- Increased micro habitat for small animals and insects

Social

- Engaged neighbors collaborating to beautify neighborhood
- Improved sense of place and ownership in community
- Training local residents to clean, plant, and care for plants
- Increased safety makes streets more walkable and bikeable
- Edible plants provide local food

Economic

- Improved property values
- Improved appearance and safer streets support new residents and businesses
- Added beauty and value to the neighborhood



New planters with decorative street name labels in Forest Park Southeast



Improved planters at St. Vincent Greenway, Amherst Park

RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, cleaning streets and installing planters can contribute to a greener and more attractive neighborhood. Think about encouraging walking, creating safe streets, and improving neighborhood appearance. Try combining this tool with:

- **Foster Activity with Public Seating, Programs, and Furniture**
- **Secure Vacant Buildings**
- **Preserve Existing Buildings**
- **Use Native Plants for Habitat or Biodiversity**
- **Paint Intersections or Building Murals**

EXAMPLES

Fresh City Project, Cherokee Street, St. Louis, MO

Gives discounts at local businesses for volunteers that help clean streets.

St. Louis Dream Center North St. Louis Adopt-A-Block, St. Louis, MO

Teens volunteer over the weekend to clean up neighborhood streets and alleys.

iClean 2013, St. Charles, MO

Local volunteers clean and beautify streets of historic downtown St. Charles.



Clean up volunteers

GET STARTED

1. **Contact Brightside St. Louis**, part of the City's Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department, and learn about their annual **Project Blitz**, the most well known street clean-up organization in St. Louis. Brightside will work with your neighborhood as long as you have a block captain that is organizing your community. To find out if you have a block captain, contact your neighborhood association. You can fill out a block captain form [here](#).
2. **Organize** Your Block Captain will have to **request tools**. Brightside will supply trash bags and tools needed to host a clean-up day, as long as you prepare in advance. Step by step preparation instructions are available [here](#). Contact the **Street Department** or **Missouri Botanical Garden** for tips on plants.
3. **Collaborate** Brightside St. Louis also has a **Graffiti Removal Program**, a **Litter-Awareness Program**, and the **'Lend Me A Hand Tool' Program** that assists neighborhoods in clean-up efforts.
4. **Work** You can host your own clean-up day by working closely with your neighborhood association. Helpful step-by-step organizing guides for planning, getting volunteers, advertising, getting tools, and implementing the day can be found here:
 - http://www.grassrootsgrantmakers.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Neighborhood_Cleanup.pdf
 - <http://lancaster.unl.edu/community/articles/organizecleanup.shtml>
 - <http://www.happynews.com/living/cleaningtips/organizing-community-cleanup.htm>
5. **Work** When working independently, you may have to ask volunteers to bring tools such as garbage bags, gloves, rakes, lawn mowers, etc. Contact the **Streets Department** to request a large dumpster for bulk waste or to schedule your clean-up day around the bulk waste removal schedule, which occurs once a month and is included in standard waste service fees.
6. **Beautify** Ask **Gateway Greening** or **Brightside** for yardwaste dumpsters to provide yardwaste disposal. To start beautification, create or rejuvenate planter boxes to add green landscape. They help with water, habitat, and clean air, and improve the image of your neighborhood. If your neighborhood does not have a green committee, start one with other interested residents to spearhead current and future green projects.
7. **Rejuvenate** Rejuvenate existing planters before creating new planters. Create a schedule to maintain the planters with volunteers throughout the growing season. Work with artists, volunteers, and youth to paint or decorate the planters or to create an enhanced or more usable public space similar to the planters at **St. Vincent Greenway and Ruth Porter Park**.
8. **Select** When creating new planters, contact the Streets Department to see if they can supply 'Schoemehl Pots' to match existing planters in your community.
9. **Workday** If organized appropriately, planters can be ordered and installed by the City. Your neighborhood association may also be able to fund the project. In **Forest Park Southeast**, new corner planters are funded and maintained by Washington University Medical Redevelopment Center.
10. **Maintenance** Maintain plantings by consistently watering, weeding, and mulching.



RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the urban character, vitality and ecology for the entire neighborhood. It supports the following objectives and strategies:

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies: B7-Encourage communities to improve their own neighborhood; C1-Design public spaces and neighborhood streets as gathering spaces for people; H8-Enhance cleaning and beautification efforts; C5-Maintain public spaces and neighborhood streets.

Art, Culture & Innovation

Strategies: E1-Use distinctive public art, architecture, landscape, and streetscape to build city and neighborhood identity.

Infrastructure, Facilities & Transportation

Strategies: E2-Incorporate green infrastructure practices

For the most current examples, updated tools, and information, visit the City's Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative website:

SUSTAINABLENEIGHBORHOOD.NET



GOAL

The City of St. Louis aspires to grow its existing, vibrant, diverse and nationally significant arts, culture, entertainment, creative, and innovation industries, and leverage them in order to both deliver and reflect sustainability at the local level and result in meaningful economic development opportunities for the community at large.

- City of St. Louis Sustainability Plan

Arts, Culture & Innovation

CREATE PUBLIC ART INSTALLATIONS OR EXHIBITS



Carondelet Mural on South Broadway, St. Louis, MO

DESCRIPTION

Public art installations and exhibits seek to engage local residents and employ local artists to highlight the unique history and character of a neighborhood while enlivening a public space, advancing social and environmental cohesion in the community, and bringing beauty and pleasure to residents and visitors. Paintings, sculptures, buildings, lighting, music, events, and temporary installations can all contribute to the identity and overall revitalization of a community. Promoting public art or public events for fun, aesthetics, and identity will build the story of a neighborhood in a lasting and influential way.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

- Highlighted environmental assets or conditions
- Beautified public spaces
- Can showcase aspects of important objects and historic places

Social

- Bolstered community identity and solidarity
- Revitalized spaces with bright and vibrant elements
- Spurred neighborhood-wide revitalization efforts
- Employed, trained, and educated community artists, residents, and youth
- Advertised history and culture of the community

Economic

- Improved, stabilized, and attractive neighborhood streetscapes that boost property values
- Commissions for local artists
- Local artists and impactful projects funded by creative public events



Mural at Vintage Vinyl in the Loop, St. Louis, MO

Jason Peters
Unfilled, 2008
Courtesy of The Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts
© Robert Pettus



RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, this strategy can make a great impact on the perception, beauty, culture, and revitalization of your neighborhood. Think about great public spaces, better streets, community identity, and the local economy. Try combining Public Art with:

- **Secure Vacant Buildings**
- **Preserve Existing Buildings**
- **Foster Activity with Public Seating, Programs, and Furniture**
- **Hold a Neighborhood Energy Challenge**
- **Develop Safe Routes to School or a Walking School Bus**

EXAMPLES

Paint Louis, St. Louis, MO

An annual art event to repaint the Mississippi river flood wall.

Arts In Transit, St. Louis, MO

Partnership between local artists and Metro to create art pieces in and around transit stations, on buses, and MetroLink trains.

Sloup, St. Louis, MO

A monthly crowd sourced fundraiser for a community based project.



Rainer Kehres &
Sebastian Hungerer
CHORUS, 2008
Courtesy of The Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts
© Sebastian Hungerer and Rainer Kehres

GET STARTED

- 1. Reference** Use this step-by-step guide: [The Public Art Roadmap](#). It identifies **10 basic steps**:
 - Form a working group
 - Define and plan the project
 - Get legal status and insurance
 - Raise money
 - Find an artist
 - Working with the artist
 - Permits and agency reviews
 - Develop a maintenance plan
 - Build the project
 - Celebrate

Also see this guide at [National Endowment for the Arts](#).

The **Public Art Toolkit** spells these steps out in detail:

- Idea Development
 - Location Analysis
 - Permissions and Permits
 - Financing and Funding
 - Artist Selection
 - Community Engagement
 - Fabrication and Installation
 - Conservation and Restoration
- 2. Find a Location** For permitting, see the [City Public Art Ordinance 68793](#) and research the following:
 - Is the site publicly owned or privately owned?
 - Does the site have any special considerations, such as historical status or weak infrastructure?
 - Is the project temporary or permanent?
 - Who will maintain ownership and maintenance responsibility?
 - What are the legal concerns or city permitting procedures?
 - 3. Connect and Fund** Work with a local arts center, foundation, artist, or museum to connect your group with artists and funding sources. Some arts organizations in St. Louis are:
 - [Regional Arts Commission](#)
 - [Arts and Education Council](#)
 - [Art St. Louis](#)
 - [Lemp Neighborhood Arts Center](#)
 - [Luminary Arts Center](#)
 - [Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts](#)
 - [St. Louis Art Museum](#)
 - [Metro Arts in Transit](#)
 - [Perennial STL](#)
 - [Contemporary Art Museum](#)
 - [COCA STL](#)
 - [St. Louis Art Works](#)
 - 4. Engage** Review the art with the property owner and the community to gain support. Gather feedback at a public meeting, and work with the artist to meet the needs.
 - 5. Install** Schedule installation, and if possible, include volunteers from the neighborhood to help with installation or construction tasks.

INFORMATION & INSPIRATION

- Public art has the opportunity to engage residents, bring notice to something special or compelling about your neighborhood, enliven an underused place, preserve something, or improve the beauty or safety of a place. Public art projects often highlight the challenges of neighborhoods including vacant land, blighted buildings, and unused storefronts. Some of the following projects can serve as inspiration:
 - [Murals on Broadway, St. Louis, MO](#)
 - [CHOROUS, St. Louis, MO](#)
 - [Dan Flavin: Constructed Light; the Light Project, St. Louis, MO](#)
 - [Demolition Disneyland, Detroit, MI](#)
 - [Street Culture Mash, Detroit, MI](#)
 - [Philly Painting, Philadelphia, PA](#)
 - [Painted Church, Washington DC](#)



Temporary Light Installation, Citygarden, St. Louis, MO.

RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the following goals and strategies:

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies: B7-Encourage communities to improve their own neighborhood; D6-Increase visual identity and branding of city parks; F1-Preserve and reuse buildings as a means of achieving sustainability; F5-Promote the redevelopment of historic homes and commercial properties; F7-Encourage the reuse of historic building materials; H8-Enhance community cleaning and beautification efforts

Arts, Culture & Innovation

Strategies: B3-Provide all residents with access to basic arts and cultural amenities, experiences, events, instruction, and resources; C5-Target developing arts & cultural districts for streetscape and public space improvements; E1-Use distinctive public art, architecture, landscape, and streetscape to build City and neighborhood identity; E4-Use temporary public art projects and programs to revitalize under utilized city areas; E6-Foster art and design that beautifies public transit; G4-Involve artists and the 'creative class' in the community; G6-Develop partnerships to find new venues for artists and creative industries.



Painting of the Grove Mural 2010

DESCRIPTION

A building or intersection mural is a public art piece that the community can design and paint to add color, identity, and vibrancy to their neighborhood. Building murals can draw great attention to something unique and exciting about the neighborhood and intersection paintings can slow automobile traffic, make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists, and create a place to gather for special events. Painted buildings and intersections beautify the neighborhood, support local artists, and create a safer and more identifiable place, increasing the livability and value of your neighborhood.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

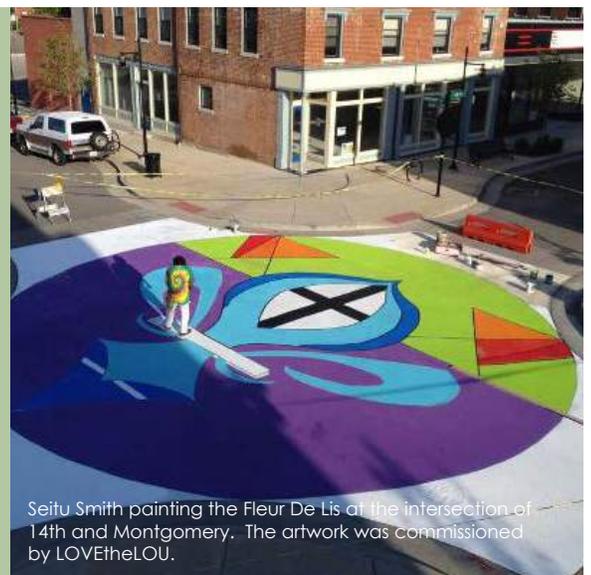
- Preserved and beautified buildings that save embodied energy

Social

- Safer intersections for pedestrians and cyclists
- Enhanced community identity and solidarity
- Revitalized spaces with bright colors and beautiful art

Economic

- Cleaner and more attractive areas tend to stabilize or boost property values.
- Commissions for local artists



Seitu Smith painting the Fleur De Lis at the intersection of 14th and Montgomery. The artwork was commissioned by LOVEtheLOU.



Painted intersection in Portland, Oregon. Photo by Jonathan Maus

RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, this strategy can make an even greater impact on the move toward sustainability in your neighborhood. Think about complete streets, safety and accessibility, preservation, public art, and community identity. Try combining Building and Intersection Murals with:

- **Secure Vacant Buildings**
- **Preserve Existing Buildings**
- **Foster Activity with Public Seating, Programs, and Furniture**
- **Create Public Art Installations or Exhibits**

EXAMPLES

Murals on Broadway, Carondelet Neighborhood, St. Louis, MO

Unites communities and artists to create transformational public artwork.

Building Murals in Forest Park Southeast, St. Louis, MO

Partnership between local artist and boys and girls club.

14th and Warren, Old North St. Louis, Missouri

The painted intersection is the first of seven being created in the neighborhood.



Painted Schoemel Pot, Pept Wallaeger

GET STARTED

- 1. Choose a Location** Choose a building or intersection you are interested in painting. Contact the **Cultural Resources Office** to find out if there are any historic building or district restrictions that could limit your project.
- 2. Connect** If working in an intersection, contact the **City of St. Louis Board of Public Service (BPS)** and the **City of St. Louis Street Department** to confirm the intersection/area is eligible for painting, find out the street reconstruction/recoating schedule, etc. If the intersection is eligible, they can give you a street map to use for your design. Read "**PIP Public Works Checklist**" - a checklist from the 'Paint the Pavement' Project in St. Paul, MN - for details about some things that might be asked of you during the permitting process.

If working on a building, coordinate with the building owner. If the building is owned by the **St. Louis LRA**, contact them about buying or leasing the building or about the possibility of painting an exterior wall.

- 3. Design** Hold gatherings with your neighbors and/or a local artist to design and then create your street painting.
- 4. Lead** Form a project team that will usher the entire project through completion. The project team should plan a process where as many neighbors as possible have a chance to be involved in some aspect. This may be done in many ways - open workshops with many neighborhoods, asking people to submit their designs, door-to-door tallying, asking individuals to volunteer, etc. The project team will be responsible for organizing neighborhood participation in the project and overseeing future usage and maintenance.
- 5. Fund** Reach out to local, regional, and state art organizations such as **RAC** and **Missouri Arts Council** that could help provide ideas, resources, or funding.
- 6. Create** Draw your intersection design using the BPS base map and following the requirements of BPS. You may be required to use approved traffic marking paint and anti-skid additive. The paint only comes in white, red, yellow, and blue, but can be mixed. Look at this document **for more information about paint**. Your local **PPG Porter Paints** is one place to buy paint. Draw a building mural according to the scale of the building. Building paint comes in many more colors and should be sealed with a top coat.
- 7. Submit** Complete and submit the required BPS documents including gathering signatures, if required. BPS will return a copy of the agreement if your project is approved or contact you if they have questions about your submission. If working on a building, get approval from the building owner and from the neighborhood organization.
- 8. Paint** Plan and prepare for your painting day or days. Organize bought or borrowed supplies. Assign tasks and involve as many of the talents and skills of local residents as possible in construction, installation, and clean up. Make sure to set a rain date.



RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the following goals and strategies:

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies: F5-Promote the redevelopment of historic homes and commercial properties; H8-Enhance community cleaning and beautification efforts.

Arts, Culture & Innovation

Strategies: C5-Target developing arts & cultural districts for streetscape and public space improvements; E1-Use distinctive public art, architecture, landscape, and streetscape to build City and neighborhood identity; E4-Use temporary public art projects and programs to revitalize underutilized city areas; G4-Involve artists and the 'creative class' in the community; G6-Develop partnerships to find new venues for artists and creative industries.

DEVELOP CREATIVE NEW USES FOR VACANT LAND



City of St. Louis Sustainability



Future site of Bistro Box, a winner in the 2013 Sustainable Land Lab Competition

DESCRIPTION

Like many other post-industrial cities, vacant land is abundant in the City of St. Louis and it seeks to foster the creative reuse of City owned vacant land. Neighborhoods can brainstorm creative new uses for vacant property or pull from existing ideas generated by design competitions and projects such as the Sustainable LandLab Competition or the Sustainable Neighborhood Small Grant Competition. Use these resources and other tools at hand to create an exciting new place that contributes to your neighborhood in sustainable ways.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

- Cleaner soil, water, and air, which contributes healthy food, a better habitat for urban animals, and improved plant diversity, tree canopy, and more

Social

- Reduced crime and increased safety with more occupied & activated lots
- Improved sense of place and ownership in the community
- Added cultural or recreational amenities
- Opportunities for training, research, and learning in various practices for local residents

Economic

- Reduced City dollars spent on maintenance and upkeep
- Occupied and maintained lots increase surrounding property values
- Additional jobs, volunteer opportunities, and learning experiences



Teen workers at Sweet Sensations, an entrepreneurial bee-keeping project on vacant land in The Greater Ville



Proposal for Cherokee Street Community Garden

RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, utilizing vacant property can contribute to a greater and more holistic, sustainable neighborhood. Think about community cohesion, public art, local prosperity, public safety, and healthy vibrant communities. Try combining your creative idea with:

- **Foster Activity with Public Seating, Programs, and Furniture**
- **Establish a Community Garden or Local Food Installation**
- **Create Public Art Installations or Exhibits**

EXAMPLES

Sunflower+ Project: StL, Old North, St. Louis, MO

Sunflowers improve aesthetics, remediate soil, and create a sellable product.

PXSTL Design Competition, St. Louis, MO

Temporary, community-focused project called Freecell to be implemented across from the Pulitzer Foundation.

Sweet Sensations, The Greater Ville, St. Louis, MO

Teaching youth small business and entrepreneurship skills with beekeeping.



Site of the future Mighty Mississippians project in Old North St. Louis

GET STARTED

- 1. Research** St. Louis is a national leader in the creative use of vacant land. Visit and research the various competitions and projects that have been successful on vacant land in the past. Some existing competitions, projects, and ideas can be found here:
 - [Sustainable Land Lab Competition](#)
 - [Sustainable Neighborhood Small Grant Competition](#)
 - [PXSTL](#)
 - [Urban Land Institute](#)
 - [Open/Closed St. Louis](#)
 - [2013 Olin Sustainability Case Competition](#)
 - [Pruitt Igoe Now](#)
 - [Rally STL](#)
 - [Mind the Gap \(Detroit\)](#)
 - [Candy Chang](#)
 - [Spontaneous Interventions](#)
- 2. Find a Site** Determine what vacant lot in your neighborhood is best suited to a creative reuse and its owner. If it is owned by the [St. Louis LRA](#), follow the steps outlined to acquire the property. Detailed instructions about that process can be found [here](#).
- 3. Create a Proposal** To acquire vacant property, you must typically have a project proposal and a letter of support from your alderman. Create a proposal for your design idea with drawings, a video, a poster, a website, or some other form of communication to express your ideas. Some examples can be taken from recent projects.
- 4. Fund** Once you have a vacant lot idea and supporting drawings, there are a number of ways to try to get funding for your project:
 - Submit it to one of the competitions hosted by the City or another organization, such as the [Sustainable Land Lab Competition](#) or the [Sustainable Neighborhood Small Grant Competition](#). You can check the [City of St. Louis Sustainability Office](#), www.stlouis-mo.gov/sustainability, for information about new and ongoing competitions or funding opportunities.
 - Approach your neighborhood association about how to apply for grant funds or CDBG funding.
 - Approach non-profits for help in writing grants or other fund-raising strategies.
 - Approach local churches or other community institutions about fund-raising, donations, or sponsorship for your project.
- 5. Implement** To generate ideas for vacant lots in your neighborhood you can host your own competition, public meeting, or workshop to get input from neighbors, organizations, artists, and other groups. This can be focused around one vacant lot or building or to get input on various lots. Often a workshop or charrette - an intensive brainstorming session - is the best and most fun way to get community members to participate and generate ideas. Look at some common [charrette guidelines](#) and work with existing organizations to create a big and exciting event. Invite business owners, residents, youth, school groups, and more.



RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the following goals and strategies:

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies: C1-Design public spaces and neighborhood streets as gathering spaces for people; B7-Encourage communities to improve their own neighborhood; H6-Maintain appearance of vacant land and abandoned properties.

Art, Culture & Entertainment

Strategies: E4-Use temporary public art projects and programs to revitalize underused City areas; E7-Encourage collaborations that build places and destinations through art; G6-Develop partnerships to find new venues for artists and creative industries.

Health, Well-Being & Safety

Strategies: A5-Plan and design buildings, spaces, and environments for safety; Include activity options, program opportunities and cultural attributes in greenways and public spaces.

The temporary Laskey Landscape at Washington University
Sam Fox School



DESCRIPTION

Public seating or street furniture is a do-it-yourself (DIY) installation of a chair, a group of chairs, a bench, a surface, or something similar that is designed for the general public to use in daily life. Seating is designed and placed to create active streets and public spaces, like a bus stop, a sunny corner on a busy street, or another unique place in your neighborhood. Chess tables, lightweight moveable furniture, chalk boards, information kiosks, interactive furniture, and wifi stations are all examples of street furniture that encourages lingering, public activities, interaction with neighbors, and vibrancy.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

- More pleasant, user friendly outdoor environments
- Improved everyday public spaces that are underused or run down

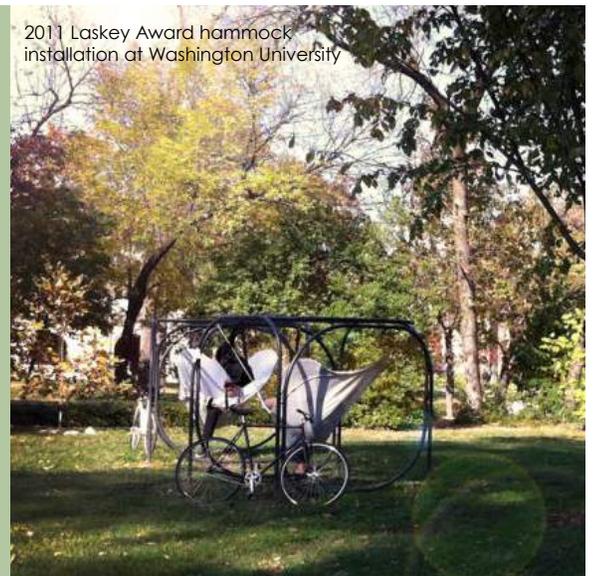
Social

- Increased access to friendly and fun urban places
- More places for communities to interact and socialize
- Engaged public discussing sustainability
- More active and safer public places
- Enhanced functionality of existing places and spaces in your neighborhood

Economic

- Increased value of public places

2011 Laskey Award hammock
installation at Washington University



Outdoor public chess tables

RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, this strategy can make an even greater and more holistic move toward sustainability in your neighborhood. Think about community public spaces, greening your neighborhood, using vacant lots, neighborhood safety, and communicating sustainable ideas or gathering ideas from your neighbors. Try combining street furniture with:

- **Create Public Art Installations or Exhibits**
- **Establish a Community Garden or Local Food Installation**
- **Develop Creative New Uses for Vacant Land**

EXAMPLES

Chess Pocket Park, St. Louis, MO; Chess Club of St. Louis, Central West End
Proposal for Old North St. Louis public chess tables in a new park.

Hang-out - Hammocks, 2011, St. Louis, MO

Winner of the Laskey competition, held each year at Washington University, created public hammock seating. (<http://laskeybuild2011.wordpress.com>)

Urban Seat by Damien Gires, Ireland

Lightweight and easy to install urban furniture installed on existing posts.



Bushwaffle inflatable furniture by Rebar
<http://www.bushwaffle.com/project-background>

GET STARTED

- 1. Collaborate** Support local artists by collaborating to create an innovative design for your public furniture. Draw inspiration from existing projects, templates, or instructions that already exist, such as:
 - **Spontaneous Interventions**
 - **Tactical Urbanism**
 - **IBM Street Billboards**
 - **The Friendship Bench**
 - **Project for Public Spaces**
 - **Candy Chang**
 - **Roosevelt Par**
- 2. Design** Design your furniture or program to make spaces engaging and fun for all neighbors. Creating places where people can rest comfortably, relax, hang-out, play, and interact with each other adds vibrancy to the neighborhood. Often called third places - a social place other than home or work - these areas are the necessary venues for creating a vibrant social life. Consider enhancing your furniture or program with technologies such as wifi, social media, and more to encourage innovation and usefulness.
- 3. Find a Site** Choose one or a few locations that might be best for installing seating or furniture. Select places that could benefit from seating or furniture, such as busy streets with wide sidewalks, places where people gather already, or places that could be much better if they had seating or furniture, such as underused parks. Choose public places such as sidewalks, parks, bus stops, or streets. If you want to install public furniture on private property, talk to the land owner to make sure they approve and support your idea for creating public seating, and ensure that they understand it is public and open for anyone to use.
- 4. Coordinate** If installing in a park or public plaza, ensure that you get permission from the **Parks Department**. If installing on the sidewalk, contact the **Streets Department** to see if you need a permit. If creating a larger installation, coordinate with the **Building Division**.
- 5. Fund** Funding for street furniture projects can be sought through various organizations supporting neighborhoods, arts, public spaces, community development, and active living. Work with your neighborhood association, **Missouri Arts Council**, and the **Regional Arts Commission**. Contact local businesses, churches, or other organizations like **Sloup** to see if they can help fund your project as well.
- 6. Plan** Determine if you will need volunteers to help build or install your street furniture or public space amenities. Advertise what kinds of skills, tools, and materials you may need and schedule your workday(s). Host a construction and installation day where your group of volunteers build and/or install the furniture on the site(s). Ensure that you have proper safety equipment, tools, and materials.



RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the following goals and strategies:

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies: C1-Design public spaces and neighborhood streets as gathering spaces for people.

Arts, Culture & Innovation

Strategies: E7-Encourage collaborations that build destinations and places through art; F7-Develop a 'homesteading' live/work program G3-Harness community energy and interest in the arts through volunteer programs.

Health, Well-Being & Safety

Strategies: D1-Include activity options, program opportunities, and cultural attributes in greenways and public spaces; D4-Design buildings to encourage physical activity.



GOAL

The City of St. Louis aspires to empower its social and human capital by strengthening its social, cultural, and economic diversity and creating a higher level of respect and civic participation in order to attract, support, and facilitate dialogue, urban innovation, population, and jobs, in order to create an equitable, transparent and inclusive environment for those who live, work, learn, and play in the City.

- City of St. Louis Sustainability Plan

Empowerment, Diversity & Equity

DEVELOP A NEIGHBORHOOD-COMMUNITY ASSET INVENTORY

City of St. Louis Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative



DESCRIPTION

An asset inventory is the process of collecting and documenting the positive attributes and features of your neighborhood: both physical things such as buildings and parks, and social assets like residents, businesses, and organizations. This can be done in a number of ways, but hosting events like photographing days, walking tours, mapping tours, and interviews with residents are all ways to take stock of your neighborhood. This information can then be shared to celebrate and serve as a baseline for future efforts.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

- Preserved parks, trees, open space, and existing buildings

Social

- Residents becoming aware and invested in neighborhood assets
- Improved positive public image for your neighborhood
- Can be used in the future for asset-based planning
- Voice given to neighbors and residents about what is important and an asset in their neighborhood

Economic

- New and continued investment in the community
- Targeted specific new neighborhood developments
- New residents and businesses attracted through the new marketing tool



(en) Visioning Hyde Park



RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, creating a neighborhood asset inventory can contribute to a more connected, prouder, and more marketable community. Think about community cohesion, public art, local prosperity, and healthy vibrant communities. Try combining this tool with:

- [Develop a Neighborhood Walking Tour & Market Your Neighborhood](#)
- [Create Public Art Installations or Exhibits](#)
- [Start a Shop Local or Green Business Campaign](#)

EXAMPLES

(en)Visioning Hyde Park, St. Louis, MO

A summer art and photography project for middle school students.

Southwest Garden Neighborhood Asset Inventory, St. Louis, MO

SLU students documented Physical Assets, Community Assets, Environmental Assets, Economic Development, and Transportation.

Cherokee Street OpenStreetMap #editathon, St. Louis, MO

A community mapping event of the main street held in 2013 by OpenDataSTL.



Open streets in Old North St. Louis

GET STARTED

- 1. Research** A neighborhood asset is anything that can be used to improve the perception or the quality of community life. It can be a person, a natural resource, a tool, a physical structure or place, a community service, or a business. Ask yourself a few questions and get an organization or other residents involved to help:
 - What is the size of my community? Find more information at the [Planning and Urban Design Agency](#) and through their [census](#).
 - Who is available to help me do the work? You can involve volunteers, other organizations, students, seniors, etc.
 - How much time can we dedicate to this task? Will it be one week, one month, or as much time as it takes?
 - What financial resources do we have to support the work? Some resources can be found through [foundations](#), [grants](#), and organizations such as [United Way](#) and the [Community Builders Network](#). Southwest Garden Partnered with [SLU](#) and Hyde Park Partnered with [Rebuild Foundation](#).

The [Asset-Based Community Development Institute](#) offers a guide at <http://www.abcdinstitute.org/docs/kelloggabcd.pdf>.
- 2. Determine Assets** Next, determine what assets you want to inventory. Examples can be found [here](#) and through [HUD's guide available here](#).
- 3. Gather Information** Determine how to gather information. You can use a paper survey, an online survey, door-to-door surveys, or questionnaires at special events. Determine the kinds of questions you want to ask. Some examples can be found [here](#) and [here](#).
- 4. Present Information** Asset inventories do not have to be a list. Some of the most interesting results come from projects that combine the unique talents of residents with an overall goal highlighting the assets. Combining artistic skills such as drawing, photography, graphic design, video, and website development can create exciting results. Achieve this with a community event such as a charrette or community work session, a school assembly, a walking/photography audit, an interview, or photo booth at local event, store, or farmers market.

OPPORTUNITIES

- 1. Advertise** Use the neighborhood assets to support actions that will improve your community. For example, you can:
 - Begin an [asset-based community development process](#).
 - Use assets to tackle a new community project
 - Publish a book, website, or report so the community can use the information for neighborhood improvement
 - Market your neighborhood to attract new residents and businesses
 - Target a particular area for development
 - Find ways to bring existing groups together to pool resources
- 2. Exchange** Create a program for exchanging assets, ranging from individual skill-swaps to cost-sharing.
- 3. Share** Share the information you have collected by creating something special for people to reference. Some examples are:
 - A book or report - available at local stores, the library, schools, and online.
 - A website - interactive and easily accessible to a wide group of people.
 - A video - this can be shared in schools, homes, libraries, and online.
 - A public art installation - visually show the results of your inventory for the whole community to see. One example is [Walk Your City](#).



RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the health and well-being of the entire neighborhood. This tool supports the following goals and strategies:

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies F3-Create additional events, resources and publications that document and celebrate St. Louis' heritage; F8-Promote public engagement in the historic preservation movement; J1-Engage in place-based planning and improvements around community anchors.

Arts, Culture & Innovation

Strategies: E3-expand arts and cultural events and outdoor programs.

Empowerment, Diversity & Equity

Strategies: A5-Offer a variety of cultural events and awareness programs that celebrate diversity in the City of St. Louis.

Education, Training & Leadership

Strategies: H1-Develop a virtual meeting network; E1-Educated and empower citizens in methods and benefits of being environmentally sustainable.

Prosperity, Opportunity & Employment

Strategies: B7-Market assets and accomplishments of the City to attract new and retain existing residents; D5-Market and encourage living within the City of St. Louis for recent college graduates regardless of where in the region they are employed. G4-Market City assets to draw visitors to city neighborhoods.

For the most current examples, updated tools, and information, visit the City's Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative website:

SUSTAINABLENEIGHBORHOOD.NET

ORGANIZE A WALKING GROUP OR COMMUNITY FITNESS PROGRAM

City of St. Louis Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative

CMT Ten Toes Express Program



DESCRIPTION

A Walking Group is a group of residents that have a regularly scheduled time to walk around the neighborhood to be healthy and social at the same time. A community fitness program is similar, but can involve more kinds of activities, including yoga, running, park fitness courses, bike rides, dance classes, and pick up sports games. Collective fitness is typically easier to commit to than individual fitness programs, and it also promotes neighborhood solidarity, use of public spaces, and overall neighborhood safety.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

- Added value to parks and public spaces
- Support for alternative transportation use
- More people spending time outside and among nature

Social

- New and stronger community relationships
- Healthier lifestyles for participating residents
- Positive activation of local, public outdoor space
- Increased pedestrian safety

Economic

- Increased access to, and awareness of, local and neighborhood businesses
- Reduced health problems and lower medical costs for healthier individuals

Ferguson Youth Bike Club



Outdoor yoga in Tower Grove Park

RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, a walking group or community fitness program can contribute to a healthier, more active, and safer neighborhood. Think about community cohesion, public safety, local prosperity, and healthy, vibrant communities. Try combining this with:

- **Foster Activity with Public Seating, Programs, and Furniture**
- **Establish a Community Garden or Local Food Installation**
- **Create Public Art Installations or Exhibits**
- **Develop Safe Routes to School or a Walking School Bus**

EXAMPLES

Midtown Walking Club in Forest Park Southeast, St. Louis, MO

Weekly walking group to build community cohesiveness and increase safety.

Citizens for Modern Transit (CMT) Ten Toes Group, St. Louis, MO

Focuses on health and utilizes public transportation to explore St. Louis.



Cycling group at the Trestle in north St. Louis

GET STARTED

1. **Benefits** For many people, finding time and resources to exercise regularly is difficult. Family and work obligations get in the way of good health, and a gym can be expensive and hard to get to. Having regular opportunities and the encouragement of others can help reduce barriers to participation. Exercising in your neighborhood or local park does not take excessive travel time or require a membership fee.
2. **Search** There may be a fitness group in your neighborhood or park already. Check with your neighbors and neighborhood association to get more information. [Meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) is also a popular site for organizing fitness groups, so check there for more information. Programs inclusive of youth and seniors are a good way to reach more people.
3. **Choose an Activity** If you are just beginning, decide what kind of exercise you want to do. The most basic is to begin with a walking group for 30 minutes to one hour per session. You can meet once a week or more than that depending on what works for your schedule. Other fitness programs can also include yoga, dancing, pick-up sports games, jogging, and bike riding. Plan for the activity to happen throughout your neighborhood or in a local park. For example, dance classes could be held in a pavilion and yoga can be held in the park similar to [Yoga in the Park in Tower Grove Park](#).
4. **Schedule** Choose a convenient time for exercising and send out notices and invitations. You can start with friends and if you want to expand your group, contact your neighborhood association to put an ad in the newsletter, create flyers for mailboxes, or talk to parents at your neighborhood school. Provide your name and phone number or email address so people can contact you. Consider how many people you want to be in your walking group or fitness program. If you are unsure of what kind of exercise you want to do or what time, solicit input from other members.
5. **Encourage** Create goals or challenges to keep everyone interested and progressing. A challenge is not meant to make competition within the group, but to encourage one another to keep participating. For example, you can count the number of steps you take each week, and next week, try to take more.
6. **Play** Occupying your neighborhood streets and parks makes them safer. If neighbors see a group of friendly residents using parks and sidewalks for fitness and fun, there is less chance of unwanted behavior since community residents are around to observe. To take extra precaution however, contact the police and inform them of your schedule and route. They will be able to give you safety tips and can patrol the route while you are there.
7. **Track your progress** Often, seeing your progress written down brings an extra sense of accomplishment. You can do this at home, keep a blog, or post it on a public bulletin board at your community center or park. Making your activities public encourages others in your neighborhood to be proactive about their health as well.
8. **Make it Fun** Public infrastructure improvements in your parks or on your streets can make your fitness routine more of a community activity. Creative sidewalk markings or clever signs like [Walk Your City](#) can make neighborhood exercise safe, accessible, and fun for everyone.



RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the following goals and strategies:

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies: B7-Encourage communities to improve their own neighborhood; D2-Develop a healthy active living program that utilizes city parks; G5-Promote neighborhood stabilization efforts.

Arts, Culture & Innovation

Strategies: E3-Expand arts and cultural events and outdoor programs.

Empowerment, Diversity & Equity

Strategies: D3-Encourage inter-generational programs that bring together seniors and youth; D5-Promote healthy senior living programs at community facilities.

Health, Well-Being & Safety

Strategies: D1-Include activity options, program opportunities and cultural attributes in greenways and public spaces; D2-Promote public events that feature fitness and physical activity; D3-Encourage physical activity and physical modes of transportation.

For the most current examples, updated tools, and information, visit the City's Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative website:

SUSTAINABLENEIGHBORHOOD.NET

MAKE A HEALTHY CORNER STORE & ENCOURAGE HEALTHY EATING

City of St. Louis Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative



Health food signage in the upgraded corner store

DESCRIPTION

By encouraging stores to improve their food and service offerings to be more healthy and local, they encourage and enable healthier eating habits in the most accessible places for residents. Stores can also be places to introduce new food varieties, share tips, offer classes, or provide helpful resources to educate buyers about healthy eating. Upgrades can be made to both the inside of the store. Inside can include new shelves, marketing of healthy food, and the layout of the shop. Exterior improvements can include signage, lighting, accessibility, and general building improvements.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

- Residents walking and biking for short trips instead of driving long distances to get fresh food

Social

- Increased overall health because of better access to healthy food options
- Decreased rates of obesity, diabetes, and heart disease
- Healthier children and adults will live longer
- Flexibility to meet unique tastes and preferences of residents
- Increased sense of place and neighborhood identity with unique stores

Economic

- Growth of new customers and more business from existing customers
- Support for community gardens, local farms, and farmers
- Support for local independent businesses keeps money in the local economy



Upgraded D&F Grocery Store in Dutchtown, St. Louis



Fresh Produce in an upgraded corner store

RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, upgrading your local corner store and teaching healthy eating habits can contribute to a greater and more holistic, sustainable neighborhood. Think about access to fresh, healthy food options, local prosperity, and healthy vibrant communities. Try combining these various strategies with:

- **Establish a Community Garden or Local Food Installation**
- **Start a Shop Local or Green Business Campaign**

EXAMPLES

Manchester Market in the Grove, St. Louis, MO

The updated market puts fresh meat and produce in a more visible and accessible place near the front.

D&F Grocery in Dutchtown, St. Louis, MO

New name and products improved image of store and neighborhood.

Carrie's Corner Market, St. Louis, MO

Improves ADA accessibility and educational material for customers.



Upgraded Manchester Market in the Grove

GET STARTED

1. **Collaborate** If you are a corner store owner and are interested in upgrading your store, approach the team at the St. Louis Healthy Corner Store Project to get started. This organization is a joint program of the University of Missouri Extension, City of St. Louis Departments of Health and Public Safety, and the St. Louis Development Corporation.
2. **Contact** If you are a neighborhood resident that sees the need for an upgrade to your local corner store, approach the store owner and talk about the possibility of participating in the St. Louis Healthy Corner Store Project. If more support is needed, work with your neighborhood association.
3. **Learn** Review the [St. Louis Healthy Corner Store Resource Guide](#), the [Healthy Corner Stores Network](#), [PolicyLink](#), and [Market Makeovers](#).
4. **Plan** The [Market Makeovers](#) website offers great information about what to do before, during, and after your market makeover, including tips on finding funding, building community support, and marketing.
5. **Seek Funding** Funding for your project can come from various sources, including grant funding, monies from your neighborhood association, or from private investors. Some sources to consider are [United Way of St. Louis](#), [Missouri Foundation for Health](#), [St. Louis Department of Health](#), [City Greens](#), [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Local Funding Partnerships](#), [US Department of Agriculture](#), and the [US Department of Housing and Urban Development](#).
6. **Partner** Consider the benefits of partnering with a local school or university to get help redesigning and rebuilding a part of your store with shelves or awnings, designing new marketing materials, a marketing campaign, signage for new products, creating a budget and funding plan, or creating partnerships with local gardens and farms.

OPPORTUNITIES

1. **Educate** Educational programs to accompany your new food choices can vary depending on your resources. You can offer guided tours of your store, speak about healthy eating and healthy food choices at neighborhood or local school meetings, participate with children in the neighborhood to promote and teach about healthy food, offer recipe booklets that use fresh and healthy ingredients, or create a sample section so customers can try fresh produce or healthy recipes. There are many organizations that support health food education that you may be able to partner with including [Small Changes for Health](#), [STL Food Factory](#), [HELP-SLPS](#), [Trailnet](#), local churches, schools, and restaurants.
2. **Go Local** Healthy markets can be supported by nearby community gardens, food cooperatives, and local farmers markets. Store owners can feature weekly specials from gardens or markets while also involving the farmers or sellers to create recipes or cooking classes for the items on sale.



Samples of healthy foods at a corner store.

RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the following goals and strategies:

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies J4-Preserve neighborhood residential areas, and commercial and mixed uses on corners and major urban corridors.

Empowerment, Diversity & Equity

Strategies: C10-Ensure youth and families have access to healthy food; F4-Ensure equal distribution of healthy food options.

Health, Well-being & Safety

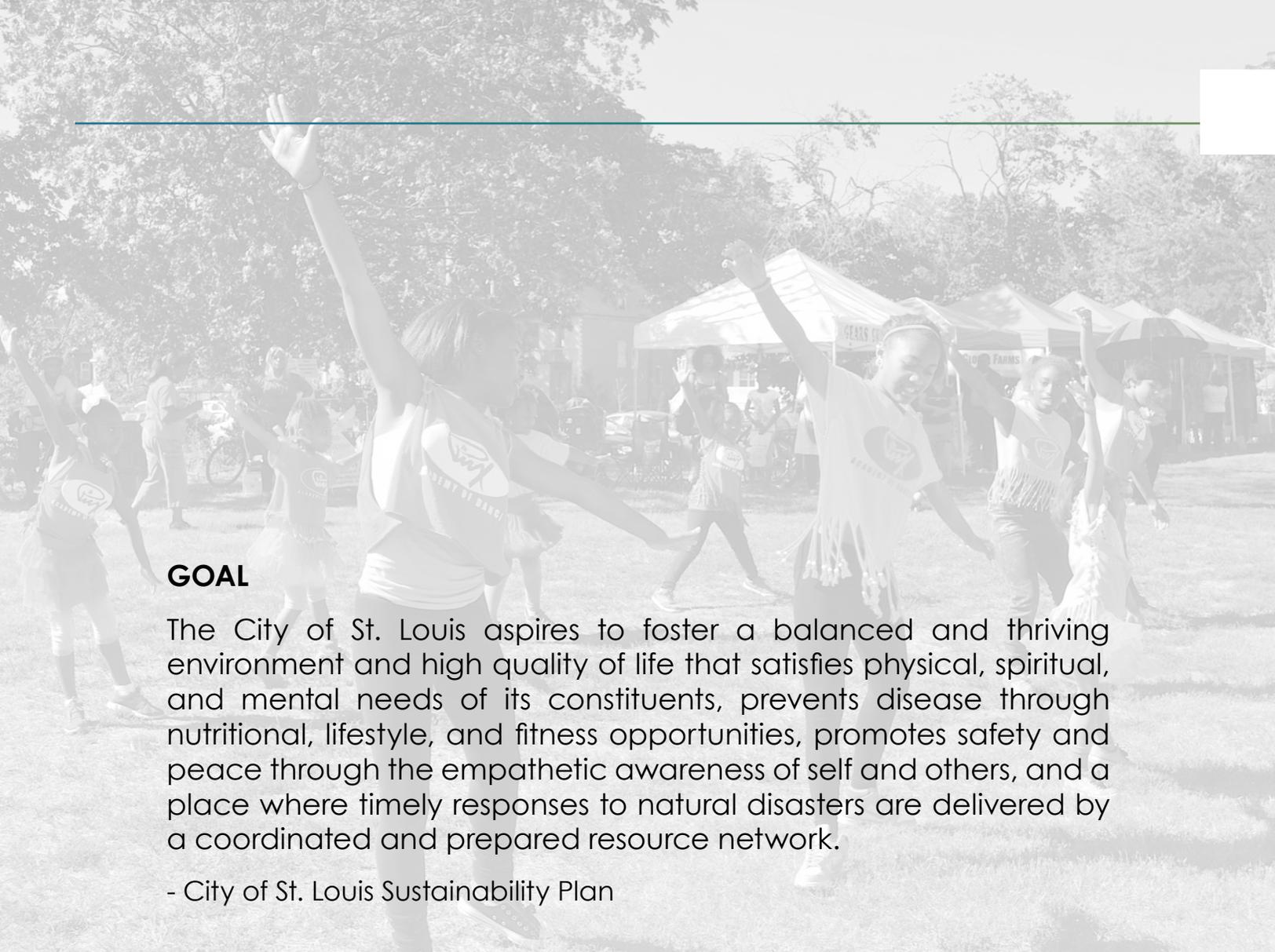
Strategies: C1-Eliminate food deserts and improve access to fresh produce; C2-Connect Food growers with food eaters; C5-Make farmers markets and other local food access systems readily available to everyone; C6-Make healthy food options the most convenient choice; C7-provide education on nutrition.

Prosperity, Opportunity & Employment

Strategies: B2-Encourage small scale redevelopment with economic incentives; C3-Focus on small business as a key part of the City and global economy.

For the most current examples, updated tools, and information, visit the City's Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative website:

SUSTAINABLENEIGHBORHOOD.NET



GOAL

The City of St. Louis aspires to foster a balanced and thriving environment and high quality of life that satisfies physical, spiritual, and mental needs of its constituents, prevents disease through nutritional, lifestyle, and fitness opportunities, promotes safety and peace through the empathetic awareness of self and others, and a place where timely responses to natural disasters are delivered by a coordinated and prepared resource network.

- City of St. Louis Sustainability Plan

Health, Well-Being & Safety

START A BIKE SHARE OR BIKE HUB



Bike repair and storage stations, St. Louis

DESCRIPTION

A bike hub is a customizable station, building, pavilion, or place in a community where residents and visitors can access a variety of bike services, including any combination of a repair station, air, bike rentals or sharing, educational and encouragement programs, short and long term storage, repair training programs, and small retail products. A bike hub will be different in every community and should be customized and operated to meet the needs of that community.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

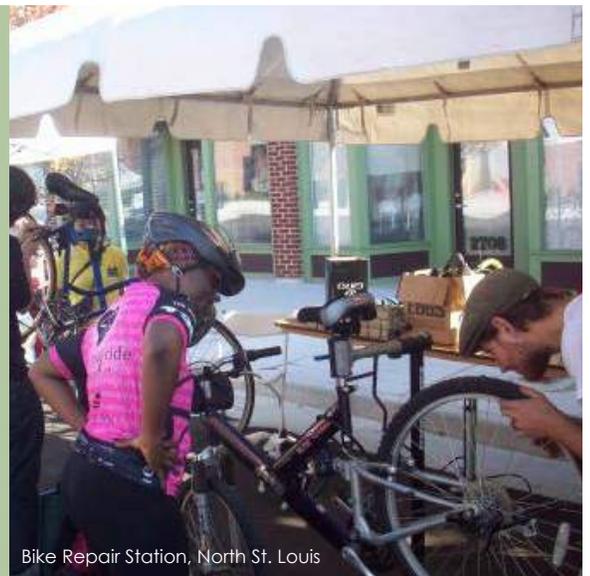
- Reduced greenhouse gases and air pollution because of increased bike trips and reduced car trips
- Recycled, re-purposed, or donated materials used in construction and management

Social

- Increased bikeability with better bike services and amenities, which encourage more people to cycle instead of drive
- Community participation in healthy and beneficial activities
- Equitable forms of transportation, especially for youth and seniors

Economic

- Spurred neighborhood investment in bike infrastructure
- More money at local shops and businesses because cyclists tend to spend more than drivers



Bike Repair Station, North St. Louis



Youth Education Class at St. Louis B Works earn a bike class

RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, a bike hub can make an even greater and more holistic move toward sustainability in your neighborhood. Think about parks and public spaces, transportation and access, youth education, greening your neighborhood, using vacant lots, and neighborhood safety. Try combining a bike hub with:

- **Organize a Walking Group or Community Fitness Program**
- **Develop Creative New Uses for Vacant Land**
- **Foster Activity with Public Seating, Programs, and Furniture**
- **Hold a Neighborhood Energy Challenge**

EXAMPLES

Downtown Bicycle Station, St. Louis, MO

The region's first full service commuter bike facility.

Community Cycle Center, Portland, OR

Designed and built by the community in 2 weeks. Offers training, low cost repairs, repair stations, and tune-ups.

West End Bikers Club, St. Louis, MO

Educational programming, job-training, & entrepreneurship with partners



St. Louis Downtown Bicycle Station

GET STARTED

- 1. Gather** Organize a group of residents committed to creating a bike hub. Contact your local neighborhood association, **Great Rivers Greenway District (GRG)**, or **Trailnet** to see if there are any existing plans for bike amenities in your neighborhood. They may be able to put you in touch with local experts and other interested neighbors and give you guidance about working with the community.
- 2. Organize** Create a clear plan for your bike hub. Identify elements to include in your bike hub. Some major things to consider are:
 - Will it be a building, a pavilion, or a series of smaller **repair stations** around the neighborhood?
 - Can you partner with a local institution, school, business, church, park, or other organization to create a bike hub in or at an existing building?
 - How will it be publicly accessible? Will it be on privately owned land or **in an existing building**? Will it be in a park, on a sidewalk, or on a vacant lot?
 - How will it be managed? Who is in charge of maintenance, stocking, scheduling, etc?
 - Will it be staffed? Will volunteers donate time like a **bike co-op**? Or is it stand-alone and just available for public use anytime like a **bike repair stand**?
 - Will there be educational programming, bike sharing, training, or organized events/rides? Think about working with a local bike shop or organization to create programming.

Download and/or print a copy of the **Regional Gateway Bike Plan** to see how your neighborhood connects to current or planned bike routes. Also contact the **Board of Public Service** about bike plans and amenities. Draw maps, write a concise bike hub plan, and clearly show what you plan on creating.

- 3. Design** If you are creating a building, structure, or pavilion, you need a site and will have to work with an architect or designer. Try to get services donated from a neighbor, a local design firm, design school students/classes, **GRG**, or **Trailnet**. For permitting, work with the **Building Division**. If you need a site or locations for the bike hub, secure the land (lease or rent) from **St. Louis LRA** or arrange it with the land owner. If in a park, contact the **Parks Department**.
- 4. Coordinate** If you are installing in a private location - whether a private building lobby or private sidewalk - ensure you have written permission from the owner and clear understanding about the project and who is responsible for long term maintenance/stocking, etc.
- 5. Coordinate** If you're installing on a sidewalk, median, plaza, or other public location, work with the **City of St. Louis Board of Public Service** and the **Street Department** to get permission and regulations about locations, public safety, and installation requirements.
- 6. Market** Create an information/marketing strategy. Consider partnering with an organization like **GRG**, **Trailnet**, or a local marketing business to create a name/brand for your bike hub, so you can clearly tell your story, distribute information, and communicate with users. Consider how people will learn about the project, location(s), hours, or programs/events. You can create a website or use other local resources such as the **Trailnet** or **GRG** website to advertise events or locations of the bike hub.
- 7. Build Support** Get feedback and support. Hold community meeting(s) to build support and address concerns. Include youth, seniors, local bike organizations, your neighborhood association, and nearby businesses.
- 8. Prepare** Create a time line for construction/installation. Will construction/installation be done by community volunteers? What tools, equipment, and safety gear are needed? Advertise workdays and gather a list of volunteers and their various contributions or responsibilities.
- 9. Order** Order your supplies in time for your workdays.
- 10. Work** Host your workday(s). Plan so volunteers know their roles, all tools are available, and everyone can work efficiently and safely. Ensure that volunteers are wearing proper safety attire.
- 11. Follow Up** Document before and after conditions, celebrate your success, and then evaluate, monitor, and maintain the bike hub and its activeness in your community.



CyclingSavvy group ride in Botanical Heights



Bike vending machine at Handlebar

RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the following goals and strategies:

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies: H3-Provide special lot-purchasing programs and encourage creative temporary or permanent land uses.

Empowerment, Diversity & Equity

Strategies: C9-Improve the availability of transportation for youth; F2-Ensure residents have access to public transit and alternate modes of transportation

Health, Well-Being & Safety

Strategies: D3-Encourage physical activity and physical modes of commuting

Infrastructure, Facilities & Transportation

Strategies: A4-Promote cycling amenities and infrastructure; A6-Conduct outreach and advocacy program which advance multi-modal commuting options.

ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY GARDEN OR LOCAL FOOD INSTALLATION



City of St. Louis Sustainability



Gardening internship with Grace Hill Settlement House

DESCRIPTION

A community garden is most often a single piece of land, tended collectively by a group of people to grow herbs, vegetables, fruits, flowers, shrubs, and trees. A local food installation is a smaller and more tactical method of growing food in your neighborhood that can be implemented if a community garden is not feasible. These projects are smaller and either in the public right of way or on private property. Some examples include the **Fruit Fence**, a **Roof Top Garden**, or a **Window Farm**.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

- Improved biodiversity, local habitat, soil quality, and neighborhood greening
- Reduced stormwater runoff
- Reduced waste from food purchasing and transportation
- Reused and cleaned abandoned properties

Social

- Increased access to healthy, nutritious, and local food
- Engaged, active, and healthier neighbors
- Educational opportunities
- Reduced crime
- Encouraged inter-generational relationships

Economic

- Reliable source of local food and increased food independence
- Improved and stabilized property values
- Food can be sold at local restaurants or farmers markets

Clemens Community Garden in University City, MO



Garden Internship Program through Grace Hill Settlement House in St. Louis, Missouri

RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, this strategy can make an even greater and more holistic move toward sustainability in your neighborhood. Think about garden to table programs, healthy cooking and eating courses, local restaurants, farmers markets, and youth and seniors programs to create a larger positive impact. Try combining this tool with:

- **Start a Shop Local or Green Business Campaign**
- **Use Native Plants for Habitat or Biodiversity**
- **Convert Hardscape Areas to Pervious Surfaces**

EXAMPLES

13th Street Community Garden, Old North St. Louis, Missouri

Started in 2008 to grow fresh food for the North City Farmers Market

Urban Harvest STL Food Roof, St. Louis, Missouri

Urban Agriculture, Education, and Community in Downtown St. Louis.

McKinley Meadows Edible Forest

A community garden under construction on a vacant LRA lot.



Eastside Garden Project at Jones Park in East St. Louis
<http://helmlamp.com/2011/09/05/featured-post-three-2/>

GET STARTED

- 1. Resources** For how to create a community garden in St. Louis visit the websites [Missouri Botanical Garden](#), [American Community Gardening Association](#), [CommunityGarden.org](#), the [EPA](#), [Missouri Extension](#), and [Gateway Greening](#).
- 2. Choose a Location** Find and secure a site for your garden or installation. Go by foot or by bike to see which site suits your needs. Consider who owns the land, such as the [City of St. Louis Land Reutilization Authority \(LRA\)](#) (which leases land for \$1 for urban gardens), churches, non-profit organizations, or businesses; these groups may be able to sell, rent, or donate land or may want to be a partner in your garden or installation. Consider site conditions and soil quality to inform clean up or prep work that may be necessary. Tips can be found at [Gateway Greening](#) and the [EPA](#). Consider access to sunlight and water - you can get access to water by talking to an Alderman, Block Captain, or NSO, or applying to the City of St. Louis for a grant to get water access. A good list of other things to consider is at [Rebel Tomato](#).
- 3. Budget** Identify resources needed to start your garden or installation. This includes design and construction costs, site clean up costs, tools, infrastructure (such as a water source), equipment, plants, and seeds. Information on additional funding, tools, learning materials, plants, or seeds is at [Gateway Greening](#), [Missouri Botanical Garden](#), and [Rebel Tomato](#).
- 4. Plan** Design the garden. Accommodate children, the elderly, and people of all abilities. Raised beds, wider paths, and benches can be used to create a more usable space. Ensure safety and security in your garden as well (tips can be found through [Missouri Extension](#)). Create a planting, care, and maintenance plan that meets the needs of all your neighbors. Identify resources for acquiring plants through any of the above resources, including [Gateway Greening](#) and [Rebel Tomato](#).
- 5. Organize** Develop the garden membership structure. Decide whether and how many beds are available, how they will be assigned, and how the garden will be managed overall. Identify space for storing tools, making compost, and pathways. Plant flowers or shrubs around the garden's edges to promote good will with non-gardening neighbors, passersby and municipal authorities. Create clear Gardener Guidelines, Garden Rules, or Contract in writing. Work with your planning group to revise and refine your guidelines. Look at [Missouri Extension](#) for a good list of issues to consider.
- 6. Gather Support** Build community support with ongoing community meetings or events to get the participation and investment of your neighbors.
- 7. Construct** Build the garden or installation. This usually takes place over a few regularly scheduled workdays. It is helpful if one or more people can lead various projects and coordinate equipment, supplies, and volunteers.
- 8. Share** Determine how the products of the garden will be distributed. Will they be divided equally? Will each grower eat their own? Will any be sold at market or to other neighbors? See www.nolo.com for suggestions.
- 9. Participation** Ensure ongoing participation and communication. Create a bulletin board, mailer, phone tree, email list, or website for sharing information, events, tips, and ongoing maintenance for your garden or installation.



Young girl working on the Tire Garden, East St. Louis

RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the following goals and strategies:

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies: D9-Utilize existing park and greenspace improvements to drive economic and community development; H3-Provide special lot-purchasing programs and encourage creative temporary and permanent land uses; H8-Enhance community cleaning and beautification efforts; Objective I-Build Vibrant Community-Based Urban Agriculture Industry

Empowerment, Diversity & Equity

Strategies: C3-Provide early-education and supplemental youth education programs; C2-Provide affordable after-school, summer enrichment, and volunteer programs; C3-Develop supervised entertainment, recreation, and commercial areas for youth; C7-Develop a green jobs program for youth; C10-Ensure youth and families have access to healthy food; F1-Address blighting and environmental health hazards; F4-Ensure equal distribution of healthy food options.

Health, Well-Being & Safety

Strategies: C1-Eliminate food deserts and improve access to fresh produce; C2-Connect food growers with food eaters; C3-Support urban agriculture opportunities in the City; C5-Make farmers markets and other local access systems readily available for everyone; C6-Make healthy food options the most convenient choice.

START OR ENHANCE A NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY PROGRAM



City of St. Louis Sustainability



DESCRIPTION

Neighborhood safety programs such as Block Captain Programs, National Night Out, Neighborhood Watch Organizations, and the popular Neighborhood Ownership Model can establish a system for residents to work together with Metro Police and with the Neighborhood Stabilization office to reduce crime and make residents safer. The Neighborhood Ownership Model establishes a way for residents to work with police officers, prosecutors, and judges to reduce crime. These kinds of programs, when well organized, have been shown to have a major positive impact on the safety and security of neighborhoods in St. Louis.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

- Reduced crime and crime related activities to help clean up streets and vacant lots and buildings
- Increased safety so people are more inclined to walk and bike rather than drive for short trips, which encourages sustainability, healthy lifestyles, and more inexpensive infrastructure

Social

- Collaborative community effort for increased safety fosters neighborhood ownership and responsibility
- Improved sense of place and personal investment in community
- Improved perception of neighborhood safety and security
- Meeting and learning from your neighbors

Economic

- Reduced crime for improved property values
- Reduced crime for improved chances for neighborhood reinvestment
- Safer and more productive local businesses



RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, creating a neighborhood safety program can contribute to a greater and more sustainable neighborhood. Think about community cohesion and vibrant communities. Try combining these various strategies with:

- **Secure Vacant Buildings**
- **Preserve Existing Buildings**
- **Organize a Walking Group or Community Fitness Program**
- **Clean the Streets & Beautify the Streetscape**

EXAMPLES

FPSE Block Captain Program and Neighborhood Ownership Model, St. Louis, MO

The Forest Park Southeast neighborhood has seen significant improvements.

Lafayette Square Neighborhood Ownership Model, St. Louis, MO

Pioneered the NOM in 2010.

Bevo Neighborhood Watch, St. Louis, MO

Trains citizens on proper patrol behavior and maintains citizen participation.



GET STARTED

- 1. Research & Contact** There are numerous resources available to you for starting your neighborhood safety organization. The **Neighborhood Ownership Model** has proven successful throughout the City. It is a citizen-led partnership between police, prosecutors, and neighborhood volunteers to reduce crime. Each neighborhood tailors the plan to fit their unique circumstances and needs. It has three general categories:
 - Citizens-based solutions including citizen's patrols, neighborhood safety boards, and neighborhood planning teams.
 - Government partnerships including Neighborhood Orders of Protection, dedicated neighborhood liaison officers, and victim impact statements.
 - Technology-based solutions including cameras, crime alert emails, and phone chains.

Mike Petetit of Lafayette Square has guided many neighborhoods through the process of starting the Neighborhood Ownership Model including places like **Forest Park Southeast**, **Dutchtown**, **the Ville and Greater Ville**, and **Shaw**. If you're interested in learning more about the Neighborhood Ownership Model or to request a comprehensive copy, call the Circuit Attorney's Office at 314-622-4941. More information can be found [here](#).

The St. Louis **Neighborhood Stabilization Office** is also a good resource for citizens to work with the City and their Neighborhood Stabilization Officer to address physical and behavioral neighborhood issues.

- 2. Choose the Best Scale** Depending on your neighborhood, it may be best to start at the smaller scale of the block to address safety and community issues. The Block Captain Program is a way to get started. An NSO Team publication says, 'Block units create the foundation for a stronger, safer, and more vital neighborhood.' A good summary of duties and responsibilities can be found at the **FPSE** website. You can also reference the **FPSE Block Captain Handbook** and talk to your Neighborhood Association and your **NSO**. This handbook on **How to Organize Your Block** is a good starting point.
- 3. Create a Group** A **Neighborhood Citizens on Patrol Program** is another effective tool for improving safety in your neighborhood. Neighborhood groups will assign neighbors to organized units to patrol streets. These members are trained by the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department to identify problems and engage law enforcement to intervene when they believe a crime is occurring. To set up training, you can contact Sergeant Catherine Dennis at the SLMPD by calling 314-444-5638.
- 4. Host an Event** **National Night Out** is also a positive way to improve safety, reduce crime, and get to know your neighbors. Each year, this unique crime/drug prevention event is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. These block parties are also often sponsored by the City NSO. Visit the website to get more information and register your neighborhood.



Neighborhood safety meeting, Old North St. Louis

RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the following goals and strategies:

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies G5-Promote neighborhood stabilization efforts.

Empowerment, Diversity & Equity

Strategies: F3-Ensure all neighborhoods are safe and perceived to be safe.

Health, Well-being & Safety

Strategies: A1-Establish a community security structure; A2-Create opportunities for positive dialogue between police officers and the local community



Trailnet's Safe Routes to School

DESCRIPTION

Safe Routes to School is a national and international movement to create safe, convenient, and fun opportunities for children to bicycle and walk to and from school. Funding is available to cities and school districts for infrastructure projects like sidewalk construction, as well as educational and encouragement programs. The program has been designed to reverse the decline in children walking and bicycling to schools. Safe Routes to School can also play a critical role in reversing the alarming nationwide trend toward childhood obesity and inactivity.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

- Increased transportation choices that improve personal health and reduce waste, energy consumption, and pollution associated with car travel

Social

- Improved safety for children's commutes to school
- Healthier and more equitable modes of transportation
- Stronger neighborhood relationships between both children and parents

Economic

- Reduced cost of transportation for parents
- Increased walkability for more foot traffic to local businesses



Parents after a Walk to school event by Trailnet



Trailnet's Safe Routes to School

RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, safe routes to school can contribute to a healthier, more active, more participatory, and more sustainable neighborhood. Think about community cohesion, public art, local prosperity, public safety, and healthy vibrant communities. Try combining this with strategies such as:

- **Foster Activity with Public Seating, Programs, and Furniture**
- **Organize a Walking Group or Community Fitness Program**
- **Paint Intersections or Building Murals**

EXAMPLES

St. Louis Public School (SLPS) Walk to School event, St. Louis, MO

Trailnet, schools, parents, and volunteers organized the event for 100 kids.

Christ the King Catholic School, University City, MO

Principal Susan Hooker hosted the walk to school day in 2011 as part of October National Walk to School Month.

Clay Community Education Full Service School, Saint Louis, MO

Hosted event to encourage kids to walk to school every day.



Walking School Bus in Columbia, MO

GET STARTED

- Contact** Contact the principal of your child's school to inform them of your interest in having a walking or biking event. Work with them throughout the process to ensure proper scheduling, volunteers, and support for teachers.
- Connect Trailnet** is dedicated to promoting walking and biking in St. Louis. Their Safe Routes to School programs and events educate teachers, parents, and children and get them all engaged in healthy and active lifestyles. They offer organizational support for your events, so contact them to learn more about programming.
- Organize Supervisors** Walking school buses or bike trains are usually a group of kids that go to school with at least one adult supervisor along a safe route. Trailnet events usually include an educational component for kids, many parents, teachers, volunteers, name tags, and refreshments.
- Plan Long Term** One time events are fun and educational, but for many communities, one event is not enough to change the daily routine of parents and kids. During your Walk to School Event, talk with parents and teachers to get contact information from those that are interested in starting a regular Walking School Bus or Bike Train. Plan to contact them soon after to organize a regular schedule and work out more details.
- Schedule** Meet with interested parents to see who is available to lead the kids group on which days of the week. Organize a schedule and test your plan for one month. Assess if there are any changes that need to be made or if anything can be improved. Keep in contact with your school to update them on your progress. Special incentives like mileage tracking and bike clinics are important to keep parents and kids excited. More information about how to create an ongoing walk or bike to school programs can be found at walkbiketoschool.org/keep-going/ongoing-activities.
- Combine Forces** If not all children are within walking distance, consider a compromise by combining a Walking School Bus with a carpool.
- Create a Project** The [Missouri Department of Transportation](#) is a member of the [national Safe Routes to School](#) Organization, so they often have grant funding available to communities for infrastructure improvements such as repairing sidewalks, ensuring ADA accessibility, improving crosswalks and cross signals, and more. More information can also be found through the [Missouri Bike Federation](#). After establishing a route to school, assess the physical environment to see if anything can be done to improve the walking experience, such as improving sidewalks, adding trees, or adding bike lanes. Work with the [City Streets Department](#) and the [City Forestry Department](#) to request some of the changes. If more funding is needed, work with your neighborhood association to get grants for improving the route.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Involve Parents** Involving parents in walking and biking to school is important for long term success. Consider creating a parents **walking group** that meets after the kids are dropped off to encourage active and healthy lifestyles.



RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the following goals and strategies:

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies: B6-Implement a safe routes to school program for neighborhood children; C2-Increase support and funding to bring programs and activities to public spaces; D2-Develop a healthy active living program that utilizes city parks; G5-Promote neighborhood stabilization efforts; H8-Enhance community cleaning and beautification efforts.

Empowerment, Diversity & Equity

Strategies: F2-Ensure that residents have access to public transit and alternative modes of transportation.

Health, Well-Being & Safety

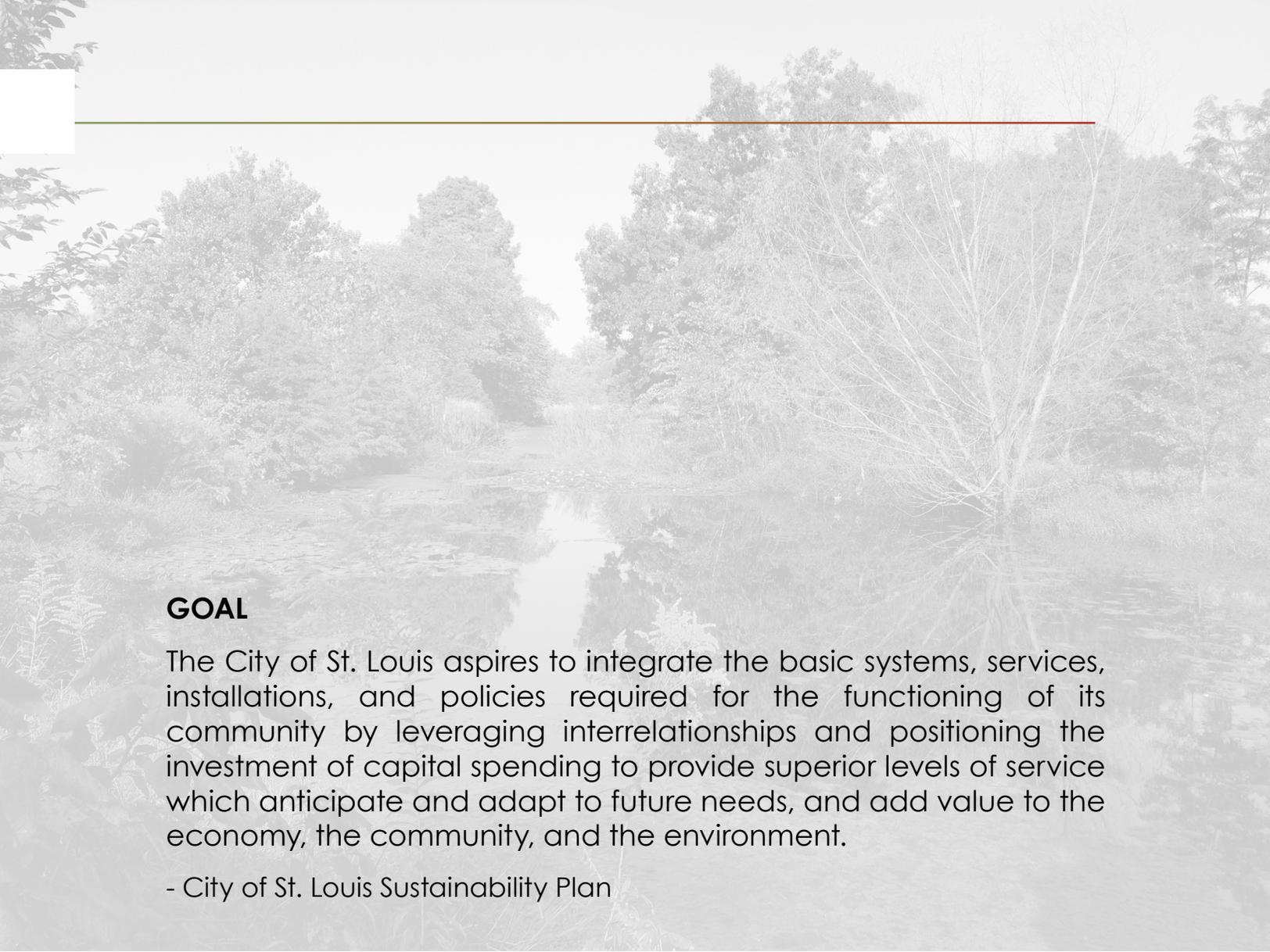
Strategies: D1-Include activity options, program opportunities and cultural attributes in greenways and public spaces. D2-Promote public events that feature fitness and physical activity; D3-Encourage physical activity and physical modes of commuting.

Infrastructure, Facilities & Transportation

Strategies: A4-Promote cycling amenities and infrastructure.

Education, Training & Leadership

Strategies: A1-Build a strong connection between individual schools and the neighborhoods and families they serve; B3-Provide transportation to and scholarships for early childhood programs; E1-Educate and empower citizens in methods and benefits of being environmentally sustainable.



GOAL

The City of St. Louis aspires to integrate the basic systems, services, installations, and policies required for the functioning of its community by leveraging interrelationships and positioning the investment of capital spending to provide superior levels of service which anticipate and adapt to future needs, and add value to the economy, the community, and the environment.

- City of St. Louis Sustainability Plan



Infrastructure, Facilities & Transportation

INSTALL RAIN GARDENS OR BIOSWALES

City of St. Louis Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative



Neighborhood Streetside bioswale - Elmer Avenue

DESCRIPTION

A rain garden is a planted depression or a hole that collects rainwater runoff from impervious urban areas, like roofs, driveways, walkways, parking lots, and compacted lawn areas; and then allows it to be absorbed back into the ground. A bioswale is similar, but it is specifically meant to clean water and slow run-off as it is directed to flow from one point to another - perhaps from a parking lot to a rain garden. Both are designed with native plants that clean water, slow it down, and encourage absorption to relieve pressure on our gray water systems, sewers, streams, and rivers.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

- Reduced impact on sewers, streams, and rivers
- Decreased water pollution and increased ground water infiltration
- Greening, biodiversity, native plants, and habitat for less maintenance and a more beautiful neighborhood
- Support for urban animal habitat
- Reduced risk of soil erosion

Social

- More beautiful, comfortable, and safer streets and blocks
- Reduced risk of flooding
- Improved access to natural landscapes and urban habitats
- Opportunities for learning

Economic

- Reduced maintenance on gray water systems
- Reduced risk of combined sewer overflow and associated costs
- Improved neighborhood appearance and value



Rain Garden, Downtown St. Louis



Downtown St. Louis Rain Garden with HOK

RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, rain gardens and bioswales can contribute to a greater and more holistic sustainable neighborhood. Think about neighborhood greening, streetscape, safety, biodiversity and habitat, and community gardens. Try combining rain gardens and bioswales with:

- **Convert Hardscape Areas to Pervious Surfaces**
- **Establish a Community Garden or Local Food Installation**
- **Plant and Care For Trees**
- **Use Native Plants for Habitat or Biodiversity**

EXAMPLES

Downtown St. Louis Rain Gardens, St. Louis, MO

Some of the first rain gardens in St. Louis.

Green Streets, Portland, OR

A pioneering program to create holistic green streets throughout the city.

University City Rainscape Program, University City, MO

Rebate program to encourage homeowners in the Deercreek Watershed to install landscapes that manage stormwater.



Bioswale at UMSL

GET STARTED

- 1. Organize** Talk to interested neighbors or neighborhood organizations about creating bioswales and/or rain gardens in your neighborhood. Work closely with your neighborhood association and alderman to discuss feasible ideas and any work that has previously been done.
- 2. Find a Site** Brainstorm possible locations for rain gardens or bioswales to see which property owners may be interested or which streets, intersections, or sites would be most appropriate. If planning to work in the public right of way, your project must be coordinated with **Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD)**, **St. Louis Board of Public Service**, and possibly the **Streets Department**. Understand the design requirements for your rain garden or bioswale and work within those guidelines to achieve the best project for your community.
- 3. Design** Design your rain garden or bioswale using best practice standards. How-to guides and plant and design recommendations are available through **MSD**, **Missouri Botanical Garden**, **HOK**, **Rain Garden Network**, **Rain Gardens.org**, and **WikiHow**. You may need to work with approved contractors if there are modifications to curbs, crosswalks, medians, or streets involved.
- 4. Cost and Fund** Price your project to understand installation costs. If more funding is needed, research various city resources and organizations similar to the **University City Rebate Program**, such as **Wild Ones**, **Gateway Greening**, **Missouri Botanical Garden**, and **River Des Peres Watershed**.
- 5. Permit** Once your proposed design is complete, get the proper permissions and permits necessary for construction, and get the design approved by your neighborhood association and community. Coordinate with **Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD)**, **St. Louis Board of Public Service**, and possibly the **Streets Department**.
- 6. Install** Host an installation workday with volunteers from your community to help construct the rain garden. Order materials to ensure that plants, tools, and other construction materials arrive on time. Everyone should have a role and be contributing safely to the project. If two workdays are necessary, plan so there are enough volunteers for 2 days.
- 7. Maintain** A condition of the permit approval will involve developing a plan for maintenance of the rain garden. Identify the type of maintenance activities, such as trash removal, weeding, replacing dead vegetation, trimming, mulching, etc. Determine who will maintain the garden and how often.



RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the following goals and strategies:

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies: B2-Update local street design standards and implement the complete streets ordinance; B7-Encourage communities to improve their own neighborhood.

Infrastructure, Facilities & Transportation

Strategies: E2-Incorporate green infrastructure practices; E3-Use pilot projects to explore ways to achieve net zero stormwater discharge; E4-Reduce wastewater treatment loads and divert wastewater treatment sludge from landfills; E5-Evaluate innovations in water treatment.

Prosperity, Opportunity & Employment

Strategies: A8-Construct sustainable infrastructure improvements.

OPPORTUNITIES

- 1. Share** Document and share the story about your rain garden or bioswale. Ensure that your community knows the benefits of the installation and continues to support and advance neighborhood greening.

For the most current examples, updated tools, and information, visit the City's Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative website:

SUSTAINABLENEIGHBORHOOD.NET

CONVERT HARDSCAPE AREAS TO PERVIOUS SURFACES

City of St. Louis Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative



Volunteers helping Depave a Parking lot. DePave.org

DESCRIPTION

A permeable surface is one made from materials that allow stormwater to move through the surface and soak into the ground. Permeable surfaces can replace current hard surfaces like parking lots, alleys, driveways, patios, and compacted soils. Permeable surfaces can be permeable paving, rain gardens, green spaces, porous concrete, pervious asphalt, or another material. They reduce the negative impacts of paved surfaces, including urban heat island effect, poor air quality, stormwater runoff, flooding, water pollution, non-absorption of groundwater, and continual long-term maintenance while creating new community public spaces.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

- Reduced urban heat island effect, air pollution, water pollution, stormwater runoff, risk of flooding, and long term maintenance cost
- Increased biodiversity, urban habitat, tree canopy cover, ground water absorption, and beautification, if using landscaping and greenspace

Social

- Reduced blight from abandoned or poor condition parking lots
- New neighborhood public space, garden, or landscape
- Reduced crime and improved safety and neighborhood appearance
- Opportunity for residents to reconnect with nature

Economic

- Reduced cost of maintaining vacant or underused lots
- Improved neighborhood appearance, safety, and value with reduced vacancy and underuse



Geyer alley pilot project, St. Louis, MO



Native rain gardens in Citygarden

RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, creating more permeable surfaces can contribute to a safer, healthier, and more beautiful neighborhood. Think about neighborhood greening, community gardens, bike hubs, rain gardens, and bioswales. Try combining permeable surfaces with:

- **Establish a Community Garden or Local Food Installation**
- **Start a Bike Share or Bike Hub**
- **Install Rain Gardens or Bioswales**
- **Use Native Plants for Habitat or Biodiversity**

EXAMPLES

Parking Lot at Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, MO

The parking lot was paved with grass pavers to allow water infiltration.

City of St. Louis Permeable Pavement Alley Pilot Study, St. Louis, MO

In 2007, the city repaved 3 alleys with permeable pavement.

McKinley Meadows, St. Louis, MO

A polluted vacant lot is turned into an edible urban forest.



Sustainable Backyard Home Tour, St. Louis, MO

GET STARTED

1. **Choose a Site** Determine which hard or impervious surfaces you want to recreate or talk to some property owners to see if they are interested in participating in this kind of project. If you have a vacant site in mind, you'll need to contact the [St. Louis LRA](#) about obtaining the property or doing any kind of work on the property. If working in the public right of way with alleys, parking spaces, or streets, work with the [Street Department](#) and the [Board of Public Service](#).
2. **Choose Materials** Use the resources of the [Metropolitan Sewer District \(MSD\)](#) or the [Permeable Pavement Alley Pilot Study](#) to determine what kind of permeable surface will be most appropriate for your project: Pervious concrete, porous asphalt, permeable interlocking concrete pavements, or grass pavers.
3. **Considerations** If you are working with a site that will become a public space after renovation, [DePave](#), a Portland, Oregon-based organization, has been spearheading projects and their website offers many case studies and an in-depth [how-to guide](#) for completing this kind of project. You will need to consider:
 - What kind of space are you making? It can be a community garden, an educational garden at a school, a flower or pollinator garden, a bioswale, or another kind of place.
 - Who will be responsible for the long term maintenance of the new place? If it is public, will it be a park? You should coordinate with your neighborhood association and the [City Parks Department](#) for proper planning process. If it is on private property, that owner would be responsible for maintenance, liability, and security.

The how-to guide addresses other issues like site planning, soil quality, food growing options, permitting, the construction day, volunteers, and more.
4. **Fund** Funding for these kinds of projects may be available through grants, competitions, or community fund-raisers. Contact your neighborhood association for help.
5. **Get Permits** When doing construction, you will need permits from the city, so contact the [Building Permits Division](#) or the [Demolition Permits Division](#).
6. **Install** Construction can be a community building experience with volunteers and other residents installing permeable surfaces. Experts may be needed, so coordinate beforehand with material vendors. Contact [MSD](#) and professional installers if creating a rain garden or bioswale. Work with the contractors of those companies to schedule construction. Before you begin construction, carefully organize your workday participants and volunteers. Make sure everyone has a role, is using proper safety equipment, and you have the proper scale of demolition and construction equipment. Before you dig, call the [Missouri One Call System](#) to have them locate underground utility lines.
7. **Dispose of Waste** Recycle your demolition materials. Concrete can be reused and asphalt can be recycled.
8. **Clean Site** If you plan to grow food, you will need to prepare the soil for planting. Details about this are also in the [Depave How-to Guide](#). When you are ready to plant you can find information about [native plants](#), [rain gardens](#), and [bioswales](#) from those respective tools.



Native plant garden on vacant lot in Forest Park Southeast

RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the following goals and strategies:

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies: C1-Design public spaces and neighborhood streets as gathering spaces for people; C4-Improve school yards, playgrounds, fields, and gyms for physical activity; H3-Provide special lot-purchasing programs and encourage creative temporary or permanent land uses. H4-Continue to remove site contamination and promote brownfield redevelopment; H8-Enhance community cleaning and beautification efforts.

Health, Well-Being & Safety

Strategies: B6-Remediate and redevelop contaminated land.

Infrastructure, Facilities & Transportation

Strategies: E2-Incorporate green infrastructure practices; E3-Use pilot projects to explore ways to achieve net zero stormwater discharge; E6-Raise awareness of storm/waste water impacts through education and outreach programs.

For the most current examples, updated tools, and information, visit the City's Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative website:

SUSTAINABLENEIGHBORHOOD.NET

DISCONNECT DOWNSPOUTS & INSTALL RAIN BARRELS

City of St. Louis Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative



Painting rain barrels with St. Louis Artworks

DESCRIPTION

Downspouts connect directly to the combined sewer system, and during rain events, water can overwhelm the sewer system and cause pollution and wastewater overflow. Disconnecting downspouts and redirecting water is a small but effective way to greatly reduce the amount of water flowing into the sewer. Rain barrels are a common, 'low-tech,' and low cost way to capture water that would otherwise need to be drained and would go unused. Rain barrels are placed beneath a gutter or downspout and capture rainwater during storm events. The captured water can then be used for garden irrigation, washing your car, or other non-potable uses.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

- Reduced pollutant run-off caused by wastewater overflow
- Reduced downstream flow to wastewater treatment plants
- Replenished groundwater supply from rainwater
- Reduced water demand
- Energy savings

Social

- Increased awareness of water and energy conservation
- Reduced stormwater overflow and chances of flooding
- Reduced risk of basement backup and sewer overflow

Economic

- Free water for non-potable uses
- Reduced lawn and garden upkeep costs because rain water is healthier for plants than tap water
- Fewer overflowing sewers reduce risk of incurring EPA fines



Rain barrels by Brightside STL



Rain barrel painting workshop at St. Louis Artworks

RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, disconnecting downspouts and installing rain barrels can contribute to a more connected, prouder, and more marketable community. Think about community cohesion, public art, local prosperity, and healthy vibrant communities. Try combining this tool with:

- **Establish a Community Garden or Local Food Installation**
- **Use Native Plants for Habitat or Biodiversity**
- **Convert Hardscape Areas to Pervious Surfaces**
- **Install Rain Gardens and Bioswales**

EXAMPLES

University City Free Rain Barrel Program, University City, MO

Uses a federal grant to provide free rain barrels to University City residents.

RainScaping Rewards Rebate Program, Brentwood, MO

Assists homeowners in landscaping their property for stormwater runoff.

ArtWork Hand Painted Rain Barrel Teen Apprenticeship Program, St. Louis, MO

Provides inexpensive rain barrels painted by aspiring teenage designers.



Painting rain barrels with St. Louis Artworks

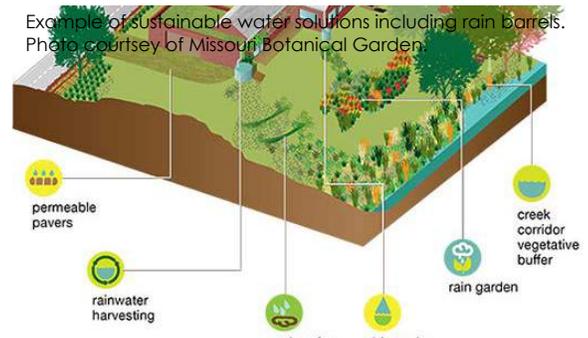
GET STARTED

- 1. Research** Contact local organizations that already have disconnected downspout and rain barrel programs in place, and see if they can direct you to local sources of materials. See [MSD](#), the [River des Peres Watershed Coalition](#), and the [Mid-America Regional Council](#). Search for businesses and restaurants that are disposing of food-grade storage barrels that could be re-purposed into rain barrels.
- 2. Organize** Speak with your neighborhood association leaders and possibly present your ideas at a public meeting.
- 3. Buying** Complete rain barrel systems cost around \$150. Discounts may be available for bulk purchases or for non-profit groups. Funding may also be available through green implementation grants through organizations such as [River Des Peres Watershed Coalition](#), [Deer Creek Watershed Alliance](#), [Missouri Botanical Garden](#), [MSD Project Clear](#), and [Earth Day](#). Annual sales for rain barrels are usually held in Spring and Summer and offer discount pricing.
- 4. Gather Volunteers & Participants** Search for homeowners wanting to participate and volunteers willing to assist residents in installation.
- 5. Work** Hold a workday to disconnect downspouts, install rain barrels, and rain gardens to handle water flow from disconnected downspouts to ensure that rainwater can be absorbed into the ground without causing erosion. Rain barrels may need to have spigots and overflow valves installed and be sealed from mosquitoes and other insects. Be sure barrels are free of contaminants that might pollute rainwater or damage plants.
- 6. Use Rainwater** Rainwater should never be used as drinking water for pets or people. It can be used to wash cars, water lawns and gardens, and to clean exterior surfaces.
- 7. Maintain** Disconnected downspouts and rain barrels require yearly maintenance to remove debris. During winter, it may be necessary to disconnect your rain barrel to prevent freezing and damage.

OPPORTUNITIES

- 1. Decorate** Have neighborhood volunteers of all ages decorate rain barrels or plant greenery around barrels to handle rainwater overflow and to add a defining character to your neighborhood. To raise community excitement for your program, consider hosting a competition for the most beautiful rain barrel on the block.
- 2. Market** Share information about these rainwater strategies to your neighbors at Neighborhood Association and other public meetings. Try finding new, creative ways of using water from disconnected downspouts and rain barrels.
- 3. Track Progress** Track your water savings and share knowledge to encourage neighbors to participate.

Example of sustainable water solutions including rain barrels. Photo courtesy of Missouri Botanical Garden.



RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the following goals and strategies:

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies E3-Restore, clean, and activate the City's waterways;

Infrastructure, Facilities & Transportation

Strategies: E2-Incorporate green infrastructure practices; E3-Use pilot projects to explore ways to achieve net zero stormwater discharge; E4-Reduce wastewater treatment loads and divert wastewater treatment sludge from landfills; F2-Advance responsible water use; F4-Encourage limits on outdoor potable water consumption.

Education, Training & Leadership

Strategies: E1-Educated and empower citizens in methods and benefits of being environmentally sustainable.

For the most current examples, updated tools, and information, visit the City's Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative website:

SUSTAINABLENEIGHBORHOOD.NET

HOLD A NEIGHBORHOOD ENERGY CHALLENGE

City of St. Louis Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative



350.org created temporary billboards to educate about energy and climate at Washington University - Photo by Caitlin Lee

DESCRIPTION

A neighborhood energy challenge is a block or neighborhood-wide competition between individual households, groups of households, or different blocks to collectively reduce energy use. A well-organized competition spreads knowledge, resources, and motivation to help communities save energy and money. The competition will track energy use over time, educate residents about energy conserving strategies, creatively help residents implement some of those strategies, publicly highlight the ongoing efforts, and reward the winning group with some sort of prize or recognition.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

- Reduced energy use
- Conserved raw materials
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions

Social

- Safer and more energy efficient homes
- Reduced risk of power outages at peak demand times
- Increased community solidarity through shared goals, collective action, and positive impacts on community and for individuals

Economic

- Reduced utility bills
- Green job opportunities
- Boost in local home repair industry
- Increased demand for energy saving products



Demonstration of energy and ventilation adult education class. Photo courtesy of Missouri Botanical Garden



Missouri Energy Efficiency Forum

RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, a neighborhood energy challenge can contribute to a greater and more holistic, sustainable neighborhood. Think about community engagement and empowerment, greening, streetscaping, and a public input campaign. Try combining a neighborhood energy challenge with:

- **Create a Cool or White Roofs Program**
- **Create Public Art Installations or Exhibits**
- **Organize a Walking Group or Community Fitness Program**
- **Conduct a Weatherization Training Program**

EXAMPLES

Redwood Neighborhood Energy Challenge, Eureka, CA

Neighbors reduce energy usage as part of a team sponsoring a local school.

Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge, Connecticut

A nonprofit community savings program that engages residents in 14 Connecticut towns to reduce their home's energy use by 20%.

Minnesota Energy Challenge, Minnesota

Neighbors, blocks, or other groups can create teams to compete.



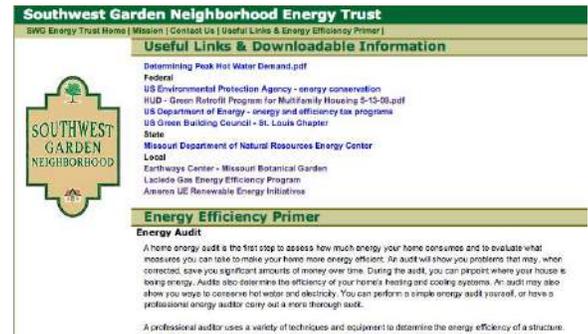
Green energy test. Photo courtesy of Missouri Botanical Garden

GET STARTED

- Research** Research other energy challenges including the examples on the previous page, [FortZED](#), [Salt Lake Community Energy Challenge](#), [Albany Neighborhood Energy Challenge](#), [Power 2 Charlotte Neighborhood Energy Challenge](#), [Central New York Energy Challenge](#), and even tips from the [EPA](#). Gather ideas and tips for how to run a neighborhood energy challenge and decide which tactics are best for your community.
- Plan** Considerations for creating your energy challenge are:
 - How are participants organized? For this scale, organizing by block, street, school, or small group of households or businesses is best. Remember that homeowners, business owners, renters, schools, and even corporations can participate in the challenge.
 - What kind of commitment do participants make? You can have residents sign a pledge.
 - What is the energy reduction goal? Many neighborhoods try to reduce energy use by 10%.
 - How will you track energy use? Participants will have to record energy use and bills over time. Find a creative way to make household changes/updates and energy records be visible or easily accessible, possibly with a public display board of ongoing progress.
 - Is there a time frame for reaching your goal? A suggested time frame is 6 months.
 - What incentives will you provide to encourage participation? In some communities, winners earn neighborhood improvements such as new sidewalks, street trees, street furniture, or rain gardens. Consider partnering other tools as a reward for the energy challenge.
 - How will the challenge be funded and what will the funding go to? Grants may be available through [Ameren](#), [Laclede](#), [Missouri Department of Natural Resources](#), or the [US Department of Energy](#). You can create a resource guide for residents to improve their homes; host a series of helpful workshops of hands-on how-to training sessions for simple home repairs; weatherization; do home energy audits; help fund home energy audits; and, most importantly, create a public competition display or announcement forum that is easily visible in the community.
- Create Resources** Local resources are helpful for residents participating in the challenge. Make this information available to challenge participants and possibly have representatives from these organizations host workshops for challenge participants.
 - For home weatherization, see [Urban League](#), [Laclede Gas](#), [Ameren](#), [Rebuilding Together St. Louis](#), and the [MO Department of Natural Resources](#).
 - For home energy audits, you may be able to [negotiate group rates](#), [get tax reductions](#), [get support](#), or [train local resident volunteers on how to do home energy audits for the neighborhood](#). ([Seattle](#))
 - Work with local utility companies: [Ameren](#), [Laclede Gas](#).

OPPORTUNITIES

- Publicize** Create a publicly visible and accessible component to the challenge. Information, energy statistic updates, progress and other information is usually hard to understand because energy is often invisible, so work with creative local residents and possibly use an art installation to convey information.
- Track & Continue** Track and document neighborhood progress, celebrate the end of the challenge, and reward the winners with prizes. Plan for continuing or expanding the energy challenge in the future.



Southwest Garden Neighborhood Energy Trust
BVG Energy Trust Home | Mission | Contact Us | Useful Links & Energy Efficiency Primer |

Useful Links & Downloadable Information

Determining Peak Hot Water Demand.pdf
Federal
US Environmental Protection Agency - energy conservation
HUD - Green Retrofit Program for Multifamily Housing 5-15-08.pdf
US Department of Energy - energy and efficiency tax programs
US Green Building Council - St. Louis Chapter
State
Missouri Department of Natural Resources Energy Center
Local
Earthways Center - Missouri Botanical Garden
Laclede Gas Energy Efficiency Program
Ameren UE Renewable Energy Initiatives

Energy Efficiency Primer

Energy Audit
A home energy audit is the first step to assess how much energy your home consumes and to evaluate what measures you can take to make your home more energy efficient. An audit will show you problems that may, when corrected, save you significant amounts of money over time. During the audit, you can pinpoint where your house is losing energy. Audits also determine the efficiency of your home's heating and cooling systems. An audit may also allow you ways to conserve hot water and electricity. You can perform a simple energy audit yourself, or have a professional energy auditor carry out a more thorough audit.
A professional auditor uses a variety of techniques and equipment to determine the energy efficiency of a structure. Techniques include thermal envelope audits, blower door, which measures the amount of leaks in the building.

RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the following goals and strategies:

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies: F1-Preserve and reuse buildings as a means of achieving sustainability;

Health, Well-Being and Safety

Strategies: B1-Promote Awareness, education and program development around air quality issues.

Infrastructure, Facilities & Transportation

Strategies: B1-Encourage home and business energy efficiency through energy efficiency and conservation programs; B3-Conduct ongoing energy performance measurement and tracking.

Education, Training & Leadership

Strategies: E1-Educate and empower citizens in methods and benefits of being environmentally sustainable.

For the most current examples, updated tools, and information, visit the City's Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative website:

SUSTAINABLENEIGHBORHOOD.NET

CREATE A COOL OR WHITE ROOFS PROGRAM

City of St. Louis Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative

Microgrid Solar installing solar panels on a white roof for Missouri Botanical Garden



DESCRIPTION

Cool Roofs are highly reflective roofs that absorb less heat from sunlight and keep your building cooler. They allow air conditioning equipment to work less and help to maintain cooler, more constant indoor temperatures. Converting an existing roof into a cool roof most commonly involves the simple application of reflective white or cool color coating, but depending on the slope, roof material, and/or personal preference, it can also be achieved using a range of other products. A Cool Roofs Program can educate community members about Cool Roofs and provide resources to implementation, such as volunteer assistance or work days.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

- Increased occupant comfort
- Decreased air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduced waste associated with roof maintenance
- Reduced contribution to the community's Urban Heat Island Effect

Social

- Safer and more energy efficient homes
- Reduced risk of heat-related illnesses and deaths
- Reduced cost of comfortable living in hot weather
- Reduced stress on the power grid

Economic

- Reduced utility bills associated with air conditioning
- Smaller and longer-lasting air conditioning systems
- Lower roof maintenance costs and wastes
- Federal Energy Star tax credits on qualifying products

A Saint Louis cool white roof from White Caps Green Collars



A demonstration green roof Photo courtesy of Missouri Botanical Garden

RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, creating a cool roofs program can contribute to a greater, healthier, and more energy efficient neighborhood. Think about individual prosperity, public health, and air quality. Try combining this tool with

- **Hold a Neighborhood Energy Challenge**
- **Create a Community Tool Library**
- **Secure Vacant Buildings**
- **Preserve Existing Buildings**
- **Conduct a Weatherization Training Program**

EXAMPLES

'Painting Sustainability', Forest Park Southeast, St. Louis, MO

A 2013 Sustainable Neighborhood Small Grant Competition winning program to help fund Cool Roof projects.

White Roof Project, New York, NY

A nonprofit that pairs sponsors with buildings in need of cool roofs.

Cooler Block Contest, Philadelphia, PA

A 2010 competition to promote energy efficiency at the block scale.



Typical Saint Louis tar roofs

GET STARTED

- 1. Organize** Create a planning committee for your new Cool Roofs Program. Choose people for specific tasks such as leader, fund-raising, secretary, construction, communication, etc.
- 2. Research** Research existing **Cool Roof Programs** in other cities such as **Philadelphia's Coolest Block Contest**, and find out what organizing structure ensures multiple successful cool roof retrofits. Learn about the **benefits** of cool roofs at the **EPA website**, **Energy Star**, **coolroofs.org**, or local **roofing businesses**. Learn about methods of subsidizing the cost of a cool or energy efficient roof using the information at the **Federal Tax Credits for Consumer Energy Efficiency website**, **Set The PACE St. Louis**, and the **Affordable Housing Commission**.
- 3. Know the Types** In general, there are four general types of products that are common for cool roof retrofits:
 - Coatings for low or steep sloped roofs
 - Single-ply membranes for low slope roofs
 - Reflective tiles for low and steep slope roofs
 - Metal for low or steep slope roofs.
- 4. Prepare** Determine if you or volunteers in your neighborhood have the skills, tools, and qualifications to safely and effectively install the proper cool roof. The most user friendly of the four types listed above is Coatings. If installing an elastomeric roof coating, which is similar to a roof grade paint, there is a good chance you and your neighbors can get the job done. Basic steps for installing an elastomeric coating are:
 - Clean your roof of all debris using a leaf blower or broom
 - Pressure wash the roof to remove dirt, stains, and mold using a pressure washer or garden hose.
 - Fix cracks, peeling, and blisters with sealer, reinforcer, and patching fabric.
 - Apply the elastomeric roof coating over the whole roof using rollers or sprayers.

Tutorials and detailed **how to guides** can be found online, and local hardware stores may be able to give you more information. If you do not have the skills or tools, hire a local roofing business for you and your neighbors, perhaps at a discounted price for a group rate.
- 5. Install** Follow the application instructions of your roofing material carefully. Remember that many paints require multiple days of warm, rain-free weather and the painted surface to be scrubbed clean to effectively and durably coat your roof. Schedule enough time to prepare the surface and be aware that you may need to set a rain date.
- 6. Maintain** Set aside time each year to clean and maintain your new roof.

OPPORTUNITIES

- 1. Monitor** Track your utility cost savings and find creative ways to document and inform your community about the benefits of Cool Roofs. Hold events with residents, local businesses, property owners, and environmental experts to discuss the economic and environmental impacts of applying cool roofs to more houses, schools, and businesses.
- 2. Publicize** Create a block or neighborhood wide **Energy Challenge** to encourage tracking of utilities and long term success.
- 3. Educate** Provide training for roof retrofits to neighborhood residents.



Reflective roof in St. Louis

RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the following goals and strategies:

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies B7-Encourage communities to improve their own neighborhood; F1-Preserve and reuse buildings as a means of achieving sustainability; F4-Protect historic residential and commercial properties vulnerable to foreclosure, tax forfeiture, or demolition; F5-Promote redevelopment of historic homes and commercial properties; F8-Promote public engagement in the historic preservation movement; G6-Experiment with new ways to raise funds and build partnerships to build sustainable and affordable housing.

Infrastructure, Facilities & Transportation

Strategies: G2-Strive for the highest levels of energy efficiency and maximize the deployment of clean energy solutions in buildings.

Education, Training & Leadership

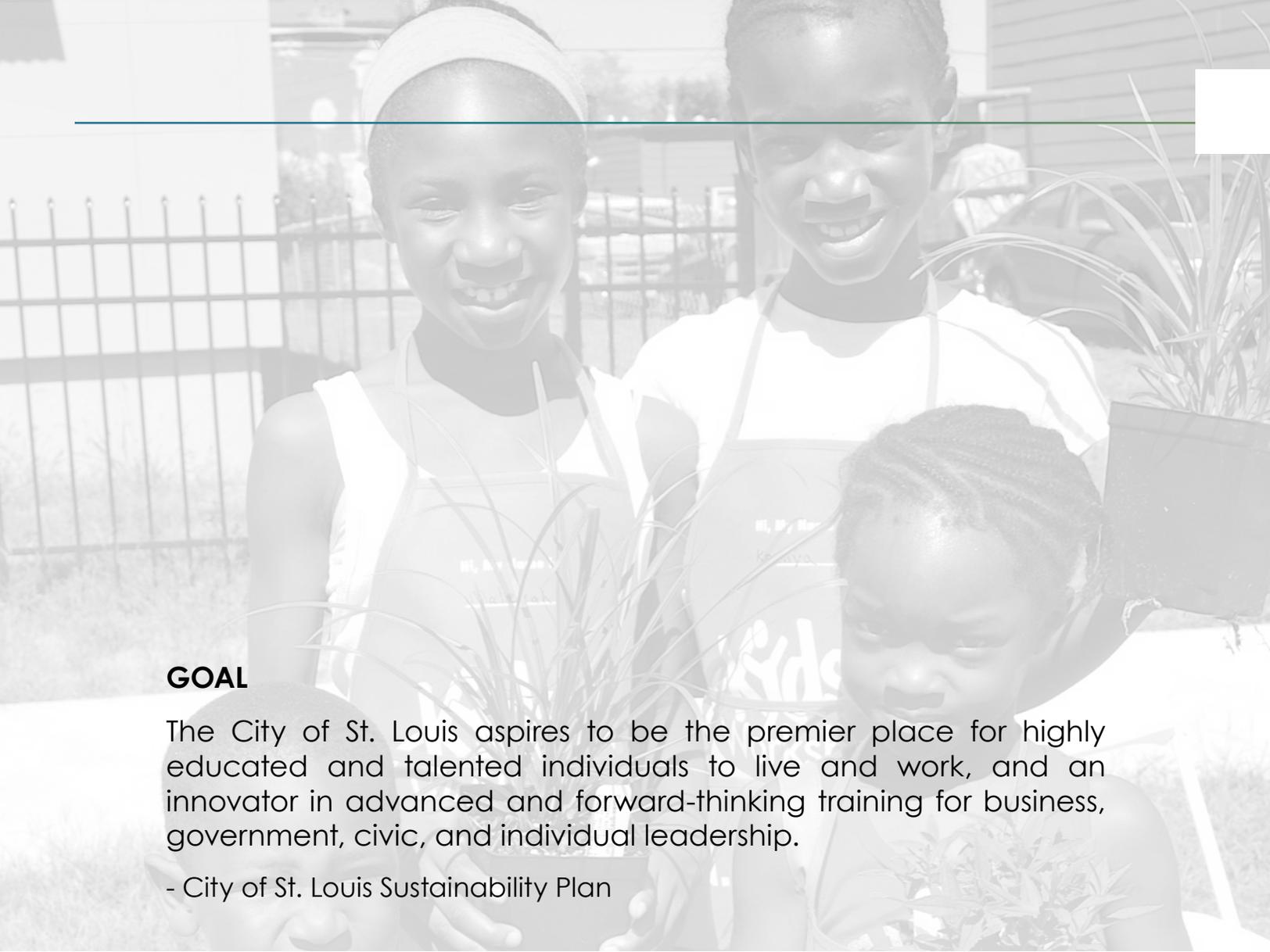
Strategies: E1-Educate and empower citizens in methods of being environmentally sustainable.

Prosperity, Opportunity & Employment

Strategies: B2-Encourage small scale redevelopment and economic incentives.

For the most current examples, updated tools, and information, visit the City's Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative website:

SUSTAINABLENEIGHBORHOOD.NET



GOAL

The City of St. Louis aspires to be the premier place for highly educated and talented individuals to live and work, and an innovator in advanced and forward-thinking training for business, government, civic, and individual leadership.

- City of St. Louis Sustainability Plan

Education, Training & Leadership

CONDUCT A WEATHERIZATION TRAINING PROGRAM



City of St. Louis Sustainability



Urban League weatherization crew replacing a furnace

DESCRIPTION

Weatherization or weatherproofing is the process of protecting a building and its interior from the elements, particularly from sun, rain, and wind to reduce energy use and lower energy costs. In the US, buildings use one third of all energy consumed, so improving energy efficiency in buildings can have a great impact on overall energy consumption. Home weatherization is supported by many organizations nationally and locally. Organizing a block, street, or neighborhood to create a holistic and effective program will bring benefits to individual homeowners and the neighborhood as a whole.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

- Increased awareness of weatherization and its benefits
- Reduced energy consumption associated with heating and cooling
- Reduced energy demands and decreased stress on the power grid
- Reduced air pollution associated with power plant emissions

Social

- Shared knowledge of weatherization tips and practices
- Lower-income families protected from rising energy prices
- Lower-income families have more free income to spend elsewhere or on other necessities
- Stronger community relationships

Economic

- Reduced utility bills associated with heating and cooling
- Increased available income to be saved



Volunteer with Rebuilding Together repairing a window



Missouri Energy Efficiency Forum

RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, hosting a weatherization workday can contribute to a more efficient, holistic, and energy saving neighborhood. Think about local prosperity, energy efficiency, and healthy communities. Try combining this tool with:

- **Secure Vacant Buildings**
- **Preserve Existing Buildings**
- **Hold a Neighborhood Energy Challenge**
- **Create a Cool or White Roofs Program**

EXAMPLES

Rebuilding Together, St. Louis, MO

Host volunteer-run bi-annual rehab and weatherization workdays for senior and disadvantaged homeowners.

World Changers St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

A non-profit providing home repairs to low-income residents of the City.

Habitat for Humanity Old North Weatherization Workshop, St. Louis, MO

A free 2010 workshop on winter weatherization and energy efficiency.



Minority Contractors Institute meeting about weatherization, Old North St. Louis, MO

GET STARTED

- 1. Research** Speak with environmental experts, building contractors, and residents to determine realistic goals and budgets for the homes in your area.
- 2. Collaborate** Work with existing programs that focus on weatherization and energy efficiency such as the **Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis**, the **Community Action Agency of St. Louis County**, **Laclede Gas**, **Ameren**, **Rebuilding Together St. Louis**, the **Affordable Housing Commission**, and the **MO Department of Natural Resources**. These organizations may be able to give you advice on executing your project, suggest opportunities for obtaining funding, and describe how to take advantage of federal tax credits.
- 3. Collaborate** Work with architects and contractors who have experience in designing energy efficient homes. Experts will know how to install energy efficient materials correctly and be sure you are maximizing the investment in your home.
- 4. Permit** Once your proposed design is complete, get the proper permissions and permits necessary for construction through the **Building Division**.
- 5. Prepare** Collaborate with neighbors on purchasing raw materials for your project. If one resident needs to buy insulation, most likely others do too; and you may be able to save money by buying these materials in bulk or by reducing shipping costs. Approach construction good supply stores such as Lowe's or Home Depot to see if there are discounts available to neighborhood organizations or non-profits, or if they will sponsor your workday event with supply donations.
- 6. Fund** Visit **Set the PACE St. Louis** to learn about possible funding opportunities.
- 7. Work** Take advantage of the labor pool of your neighborhood by determining what skills are available and see if members of your community are willing to volunteer or provide services at a low cost. Host an installation workday where neighbors of all ages help each other complete weatherization projects and learn about the benefits of making buildings fit for their environment. Be aware that you may need to hire experts to do work that requires expertise, specialized tools, or may be unsafe to complete on your own.

OPPORTUNITIES

- 1. Document and Publicize** Discuss energy savings with your neighbors and encourage others to take advantage of the cost reduction and environmental benefits of selecting energy efficient products and weatherizing their home. Document your reduction in energy costs and share the data with your neighbors.
- 2. Create a Tour** Consider starting a guided or self-guided walking tour of your neighborhood, highlighting to visitors how easy it can be to update their homes to be energy efficient.



RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the following goals and strategies:

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies B7-Encourage communities to improve their own neighborhood; F1-Preserve and reuse buildings as a means of achieving sustainability; F4-Protect historic residential and commercial properties vulnerable to foreclosure, tax forfeiture, or demolition; F5-Promote redevelopment of historic homes and commercial properties; F8-Promote public engagement in the historic preservation movement; G6-Experiment with new ways to raise funds and build partnerships to build sustainable and affordable housing; H8-Enhance community cleaning and beautification efforts.

Infrastructure, Facilities & Transportation

Strategies: G2-Strive for the highest levels of energy efficiency and maximize the deployment of clean energy solutions in buildings.

Education, Training & Leadership

Strategies: E1-Educate and empower citizens in methods of being environmentally sustainable.

Prosperity, Opportunity & Employment

Strategies: B2-Encourage small scale redevelopment and economic incentives.



Tour in Old North St. Louis

DESCRIPTION

Host themed walking or biking tours of your neighborhood to encourage urban exploration, active lifestyles, and to offer unique insight to your neighborhood for residents and visitors. Examples themes are sustainable backyards, unique homes, green buildings, historic buildings, churches, local businesses, parks, schools, haunted houses, places for kids, etc. Marketing and branding your neighborhood can have a dramatic impact on the perception and actual quality of life for residents, visitors, and business owners. Introduce a unique design, logo, and or slogan that gives an identity to your neighborhood and capitalizes on good and unique qualities.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

- Tours to promote historic preservation or sustainable activities and design features
- Walking and biking to promote sustainable transportation choices

Social

- Increased knowledge, respect, and investment in your neighborhood
- Highlighted successes that create community solidarity
- Marketing and branding that build a common neighborhood vision to unite neighbors
- Unique qualities highlighted to preserve local culture

Economic

- Buildings are preserved and future redevelopment is encouraged
- Investment and promotion for development in the neighborhood
- Marketing and branding that promote local spending and local investment



Bicycle tour in Old North St. Louis



Cherokee Street Marketing

RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, walking tours, marketing, and branding can contribute to a greater and more holistic, sustainable neighborhood. Think about community cohesion, active lifestyles, public art, and local prosperity. Try combining this strategy with:

- **Develop a Neighborhood Sustainability Asset Inventory**
- **Create Public Art Installations or Exhibits**
- **Organize a Walking Group or Community Fitness Program**
- **Paint Intersections or Building Murals**

EXAMPLES

Sustainable Backyard Tour, St. Louis, MO

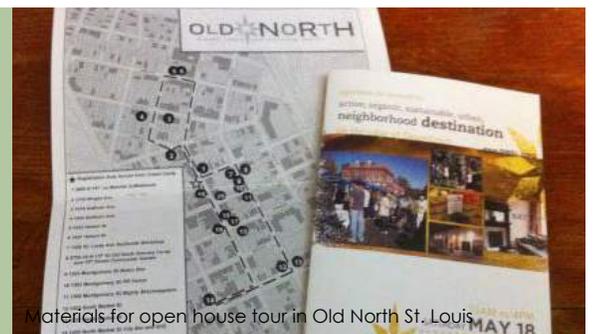
A free, self-guided, open-house-style tour of sustainable outdoor residential spaces around St. Louis.

Cherokee Street Walking Tour hosted by CAM, St. Louis, MO

A historical and contemporary walking tour of the Cherokee St. area.

Forest Park Southeast, St. Louis, MO

Marketing, branding, and signage efforts are improving the neighborhood.



Materials for open house tour in Old North St. Louis

GET STARTED

- 1. Research** A tour and marketing strategy will serve residents and visitors best by highlighting what makes your community exciting and special compared to other neighborhoods. Research and brainstorm with your neighborhood association, long-time residents, youth, and other community organizations about ideas for tours. Visit your library for books about the history of your neighborhood. You can host a community event to get input, conduct a survey, or talk casually with neighbors. Some St. Louis neighborhoods already have tours, so be sure not to duplicate one that already exists.
- 2. Plan** Establish a theme for your tour. Ideas include sustainable backyards, historical buildings and sites, tours for kids, community gardens, churches, public art, local specialty shops (antiques, breweries, artisan foods, etc), architecture, and home open house tours that showcase houses for sale or newly renovated. Some existing tours include [Shaw on Show](#), [FPSE Rehabbers Tour](#), and [Annual Old North House & Community Tour](#).
- 3. Create** Create the tour. Map out the route for walking or biking and write and rehearse the information you or your tour host will be presenting. If you are not hosting, ask an exciting expert or long time resident to volunteer their time. You can also work with an established organization such as a museum, a community group, or an existing tour group such as [Renegade Tours STL](#), [Metropolis Downtown Architectural Walking Tours](#), or [St. Louis Walking Tours](#).
- 4. Schedule & Advertise** Choose a date and time, then advertise your tour. Use your local paper, a neighborhood association newsletter, flyers, a website, and word-of-mouth. Walking/Bike tours can be free, by donation, or by a small cost. If led by volunteers, donations could go toward maintaining a website or creating printed material.
- 5. Share Information** Create a printed card or guide as a take home for tour guests so they remember their experience and are encouraged to participate in future tours. You can also make self-guided tours and put the information online via a map and typed information or a recorded speech for download. A donations button on the website could help raise money.
- 6. Market** Take a similar approach to marketing and highlight all the most special things about your neighborhood. Branding and marketing can have an incredible impact on the perception of your neighborhood, economic development, individual investment, and pride from neighborhood residents. Marketing is most successful when your neighborhood already has organized leadership, a reasonable sense of security, and a revitalization strategy. To begin the marketing and branding process, these online resources provide a good starting point:
 - [What is a Neighborhood Brand](#)
 - [Neighborhood Notes](#)
 - [Community Progress](#)
- 7. Examples** Neighborhoods and districts such as [South Grand](#), [Benton Park](#), [Old North](#), [Covenant Blu/Grand Center](#), and [Midtown Alley](#) are examples of neighborhood branding success stories. [Shaw](#) is going through the process now as well.



CAM Open Studios walking tour of Cherokee and Lemp

RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the following goals and strategies:

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies: B7-Encourage communities to improve their own neighborhood; F3-Create additional events, resources, and publications that document and celebrate St. Louis' heritage; F5-Promote the redevelopment of historic homes and commercial properties.

Health, well-being & Safety

Strategies: D1-Include options, program opportunities and cultural attributes in greenways and public spaces. D2-Promote public events that feature fitness and physical activity.

Prosperity, Opportunity & Employment

Strategies: B7-Market assets and accomplishments of the City to attract new and retain existing residents; G4-Market City assets to draw visitors to City neighborhoods.

CREATE A RECYCLING CHALLENGE & EDUCATION PROGRAM



City of St. Louis Sustainability



DESCRIPTION

Recycling is taking reusable materials out of the waste stream - diverting them from the landfill - and processing them into new materials. Materials such as cardboard, plastic, metal, glass, and paper are commonly recycled in the home and neighborhood. Composting is a method of recycling organic waste such as food scraps, and can also be part of a neighborhood campaign to reduce waste. A recycling challenge or educational campaign gets people informed and excited about reducing waste and saving money. St. Louis has a recycling system, so the infrastructure already exists to boost recycling in your neighborhood and reward your community.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

- Reduced landfill waste
- Conserved energy, water, and raw materials
- Reduced greenhouse gases, air pollution, and soil pollution in landfills

Social

- Cleaner neighborhood
- Neighborhood or block united by common goal of recycling or composting for the good of the community
- Less money spent on garbage disposal frees up money to fund schools, public safety, and park maintenance
- Free or inexpensive compost as fertilizer for community gardens

Economic

- Support for green jobs in recycling and composting industry
- Reduced household cost for landfill waste disposal
- Reduced waste disposal fees for the City
- Money earned for the City so they can provide more services



RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, a recycling challenge, composting program, or education campaign can contribute to a more holistic sustainable neighborhood. Think about reducing landfill waste, saving energy and money, or cleaning up your neighborhood. Try combining recycling with:

- **Hold a Neighborhood Energy Challenge**
- **Establish a Community Garden or Local Food Installation**
- **Convert Hardscape Areas to Pervious Surfaces**
- **Install Rain Gardens or Bioswales**

EXAMPLES

Recycling Block Captain, Chicago, IL

Block captains encourage recycling on their block.

Recycle Full Cycle, Philadelphia, PA

A city wide recycling campaign that rewards participants.

Buckman Neighborhood Compost Project

A neighborhood compost center that is free for residents.



Individual recycle bins for residential and office use.

GET STARTED

- 1. Existing Program** The **City of St. Louis has a Recycling Program** in every ward, a map is in the appendix, and more details can be found at their website. There are alley recycling dumpsters and curbside rollcarts. If you do not have individual recycle bins or dumpsters in your neighborhood, contact the **Refuse Division's Recycling Program** and petition to get more recycling services.
- 2. Educate** Partner with your neighborhood association and interested neighbors to promote and educate about recycling. Some ideas include:
 - Create a volunteer Recycling Block Captain position to encourage recycling by giving monthly updates, tips, and tools. They can answer common recycling questions and help you resolve issues. They can also lead a competition or events.
 - Use promotional materials like magnets, **door hangers**, brightly colored stickers for bins to promote recycling. Create these with help from local green organizations such as **the City Recycling Section, Missouri Recycling Association, and Earth Day St. Louis**. Provide motivational information and the basic rules of recycling.
 - Host an eco-recycling tour so residents can see what happens to their recycling once it leaves their home. **Ladue** has offered a tour in partnership with the University of Missouri.
- 3. Examples** Recycling Challenges or Competitions work best at the block scale. There are many examples including:
 - **Brooklyn Park** • **Seattle, WA**
 - **Providence, RI** • **Philadelphia, PA****Bellefontaine Neighbors** recently participated in the SC Johnson Green Choices Recycling Challenge. Waste Management partnered with RecycleBank.com to register residents and track how often they recycle. Residents earn rewards each week from national retailers through **RecycleBank.com** for groceries, restaurants, entertainment, pets, and kids. Rewards can be donated to local charities or through the **Recycle Bank Green Schools Program**, where money can be donated to local schools for green projects.
- 4. Pledge** Get a participation pledge from a number of block residents.
- 5. Monitor** Determine how to track each households recycling. You can partner with recyclebank.com, use social media, or use a self-recording/self-reporting system. Contact your **recycling company** to see if they track the weight of recycling. If they do, ask for current data for each block and track it throughout the competition. Recycling block captains can lead this task.
- 6. Schedule** Set the time limits for the competition. This could range from one month to six months depending on the interest of your participants.
- 7. Reward** Determine what the reward will be for the block that increases recycling the most. If you do not partner with recyclebank.com, you can create a similar reward system with local businesses or business districts to give discounts to the residents of the winning block.

OPPORTUNITIES

- 1. Partner** Partner with local schools, organizations, and institutions to promote educational programming to get students and seniors involved.
- 2. Reuse** Promote creative reuse of household items or found objects through education and DIY classes with **Perennial** or other local individuals or organizations.

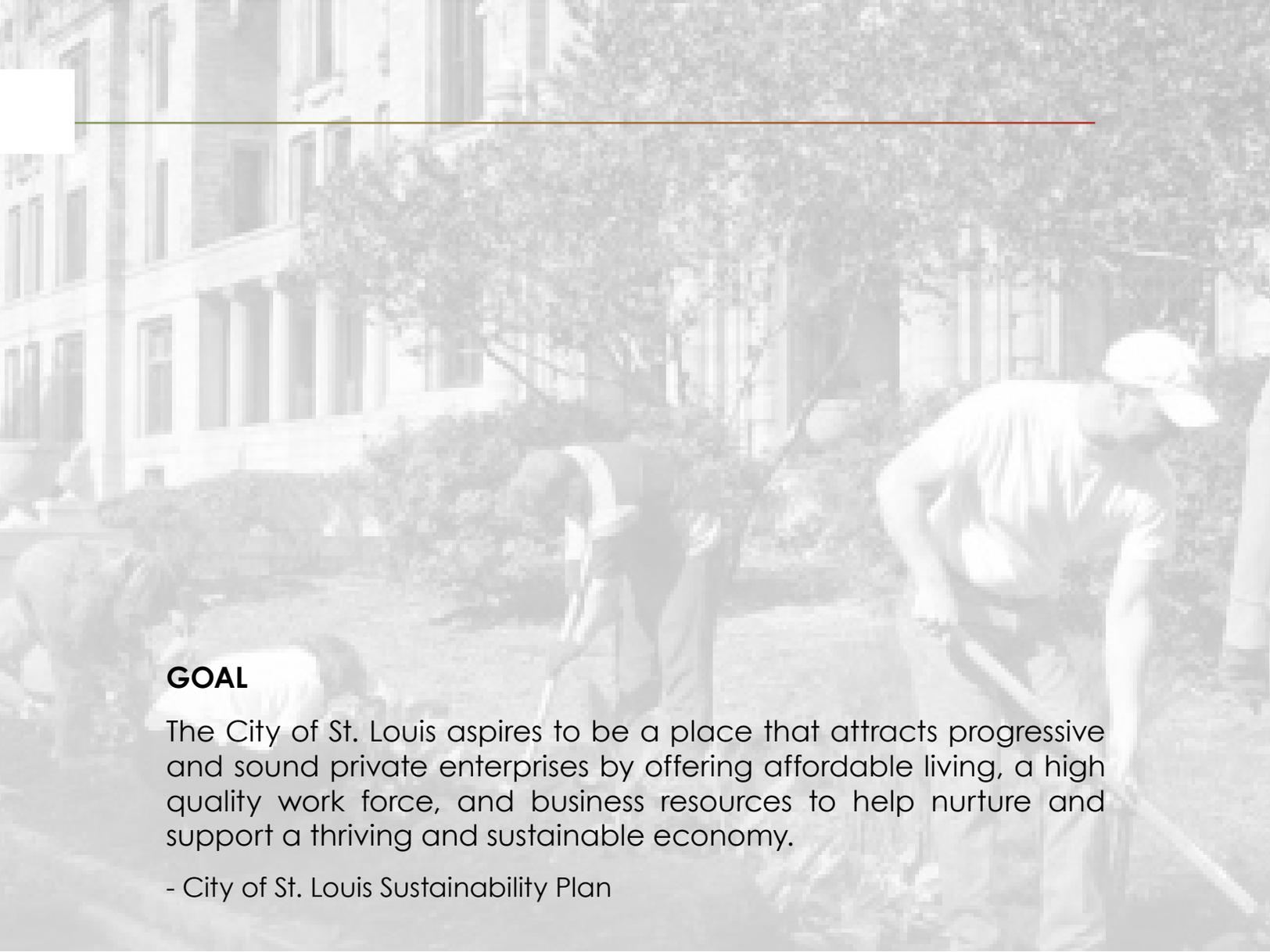


RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the following goals and strategies:

Infrastructure, Facilities & Transportation

Strategies: D1-Offer recycling in public spaces; D4-Collect and compost organics and yard debris; D5-Use waste diversion as a source of revenue; D6-Advance waste diversion education and outreach programs.



GOAL

The City of St. Louis aspires to be a place that attracts progressive and sound private enterprises by offering affordable living, a high quality work force, and business resources to help nurture and support a thriving and sustainable economy.

- City of St. Louis Sustainability Plan

Prosperity, Opportunity & Employment

START A SHOP LOCAL OR GREEN BUSINESS CAMPAIGN

City of St. Louis Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative



Local Farm to Family Program - Photo by Farm to Family

DESCRIPTION

A shop local campaign is an advertising campaign and/or fund-raising effort to highlight the benefits of shopping at locally owned and operated businesses and increase patronage at those businesses. A green business campaign gets more businesses to participate in sustainable business practices and get their customers to support them in those efforts. Supporting local and green businesses increases community economic health, social solidarity, and benefits the environment too. Buy local campaigns are often pioneered by a local business association and benefit businesses and residents.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

- Reduced impact from transportation costs
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions via walking and cycling campaigns
- Greener businesses support recycling, energy use reduction, greening, and water conservation

Social

- Local community investment, prosperity, and positive growth
- Improved relationships between local residents and business owners
- Supports fresh and healthy eating, improved public health and well being from buying local food

Economic

- Money kept within local revenue streams
- Local business prosperity
- Invested community members make a stronger and more stable community less susceptible to market fluctuations



STL Style House, located on Cherokee Street, creating St. Louis inspired clothing, accessories, and neighborhood art.



Local Loop Shopping Promotion

RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, buy local and green business campaigns can contribute to a greater and more holistic, sustainable neighborhood. Think about community cohesion, local economic prosperity, job and food security, and healthy vibrant communities. Try combining a shop local or green business campaign with:

- Foster Activity with Public Seating, Programs, and Furniture
- Establish a Community Garden or Local Food Installation

EXAMPLES

St. Louis Green Business Challenge, St. Louis, MO

The St. Louis Regional Chamber assists companies in adopting sustainable business practices.

Buy Local Santa Monica, Santa Monica, CA

Created by the Santa Monica business community to raise awareness.

Love Asheville Go Local/Asheville Grown Buy Local, Asheville, NC

Asheville Grown Business Alliance campaign.



South Grand Business District

GET STARTED

1. **Organize** Form a steering committee of 6 - 15 people, mostly local business owners, a few interested individuals, and any neighborhood leaders or leaders of relevant organizations.
2. **Kickoff** Set a date for a kick-off event such as a press conference to announce the campaign or an event to sell/give away campaign material. This gives immediate media visibility and helps with your initial recruitment drive. You can also hold a gathering for business owners, perhaps at a local restaurant or performance venue. You can also invite **AMIBA** or **BALLE** to visit your community and lead a workshop.
3. **Brand** Devise a name, slogan, and logo. Consider asking local designers to volunteer their services in exchange for free membership. Many examples of slogans and logos can be found online, but it is best to be creative and highlight the things that are unique about your community.
4. **Campaign** Develop a campaign kit. This is the packet of materials that businesses receive when they join. It might include a welcome letter, a window decal of the campaign logo for their storefront, tips for promoting the campaign, a "Top 10 Reasons to Support Locally Owned Businesses" flyer for distributing to customers, frequently asked questions about the campaign, a list of participating businesses, and a poster. You should also create a basic web site. (Again, consider asking local print shops and web developers to volunteer their services in exchange for free membership.) There are various types of campaigns including the traditional one defined above. Other creative ideas are:
 - Have residents pledge to spend \$10 a week on local food
 - Offer discounts or benefits for local residents
 - Offer discounts/benefits for people that walk or ride bikes
 - Create a business recycling challenge
 - Create a local product or shop guide
 - Neighborhood groups advertising local business with a mailer/map/flyer
 - Encourage bike delivery/courier service
 - Local food/farmers market/restaurant partnership program
 - Host a buy local day or week-long event
5. **Define Membership** Define membership and determine which businesses are eligible to participate in the campaign. Contact AMIBA for examples of how other buy local efforts define "locally owned" and "independent." Decide how much it will cost businesses to join. Some alliances start out with fairly substantial dues rates. Others opt for a modest initial membership fee (\$20-30)—just enough to cover the cost of producing start-up materials and organizing their first events—and raise it in subsequent years as the campaign expands and gains influence.
6. **Advertise** Hold your kick-off event in a significant place, such as a downtown square or in front of a landmark local business. Send out a media advisory a couple of days ahead and a press release the day before. A few committee members should speak briefly at the event about the importance of local businesses and the goals of the campaign. Another option is to host an informal breakfast or cocktail hour gathering to introduce the campaign to business owners. A cash-mob could be organized in which participants patronize a specific local business to highlight their important role in the community and give them a boost in sales for the day.
7. **Recruit** Begin recruiting members. You might start by sending out a letter, signed by one or more prominent members of your steering committee, inviting businesses to join the campaign. Check with your St. Louis Regional Council for local business contact information.
8. **Grow** Continue to grow your membership and campaign. Hold events to boost awareness and appreciate your members and patrons. Develop a more extensive presence and website and work toward taking on more complex projects within the district and the city.



Morganford Special Business District Branding - Photo by Marjée Kennedy

RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the following goals and strategies:

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies B7-Encourage communities to improve their own neighborhood; J5-Increase the effectiveness of major commercial corridors; J8-Incorporate sustainability in economic development programs

Health, Well-Being & Safety

Strategies: C5-Make farmers markets and other local food access systems readily available to everyone

Prosperity, Opportunity & Employment

Strategies: C3-Focus on small businesses as a key part of the City and global economy; H5-Help social programs to attract sustainable funding sources.

For the most current examples, updated tools, and information, visit the City's Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative website:

SUSTAINABLENEIGHBORHOOD.NET

LAUNCH A NEIGHBORHOOD TIMEBANK

City of St. Louis Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative



Neighborhood Time Bank project in Lathrup Village, MI

DESCRIPTION

A timebank is a currency, like money, that can be traded among neighbors. In this case, the currency is an hour of time. An hour of help earns one credit. Unlike money, there is no price placed on different kinds of service, an hour is an hour, regardless of the help given. Timebanking reweaves communities by valuing the contributions of everyone, and joins the unused resources with unmet needs of residents. Any individual can participate, as well as organizations, businesses, and government agencies.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

- More local exchange of goods and services that potentially help reduce waste and energy consumption associated with transportation and large-scale industrial processes

Social

- Leveraging of local skills and resources
- Empowerment of individuals to help each other and their community
- Improved sense of place and ownership in the community
- Forum for interaction between all ages, classes, and ethnicities

Economic

- Goods and services provided at no money cost
- Goods and services that may otherwise have no money value begin to have value in an alternative economy
- Creation of a local bartering system that is resilient during economic fluctuations



Cowry Collective BarterFest in St. Louis



Leaf raking day in Kirkwood, MO

RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, creating a neighborhood time bank can contribute to a more connected, generous, and locally integrated neighborhood. Think about community cohesion, local prosperity, and healthy vibrant communities. Try combining this tool with:

- **Establish a Community Garden or Local Food Installation**
- **Start a Shop Local or Green Business Campaign**
- **Establish a Community Tool Library**
- **Start or Enhance a Neighborhood Safety Program**

EXAMPLES

Grace Hill Settlement House MORE (Member Organized Resource Exchange), St. Louis, MO

Underpins community involvement in 11 neighborhood and 4 health centers.

Cowry Collective, St. Louis, MO

Time bank that aims to build community among people of African descent.

Echo Park Time Bank, Los Angeles, CA

Time bank with a focus on strengthening networks of sustainable knowledge.



Cowry Collective leader
Chinyere Oteh



Cowry Collective BarterFest

GET STARTED

1. **Organize** Talk to other interested neighbors and form a group that is committed to creating a Time Bank in your neighborhood. Collaborate with your neighborhood organization to help find interested members and to see what community networks or methods of outreach already exist.
2. **Research** Research other **Time Banks** including the examples on the previous page. There are many resources available to help you get started, including Time Bank specific software for purchase. Some existing Time Bank organizations, like timebanks.org, offer training and planning courses for a small fee. Determine what works best for your anticipated group size and budget.
3. **Considerations** A few things to consider:
 - The system - Traditionally, one hour of labor is traded for someone else's hour, or "Time Dollar," regardless of what type of services are exchanged. Goods and/or services are posted on a forum specifying what a member seeks and what he or she can offer, and transactions are recorded and accumulate without interest. How this process works can vary per Time Bank.
 - Rules and cost of membership - Monthly or annual fees can be tools to finance a website or other means of operations, as well as a symbolic fee to ensure active participation from members. Sometimes this is accomplished alternatively or concurrently by requiring a minimum number of service hours per designated time period (The Cowry Collective, for example, requires 2 hours per month).
 - Consider requiring all new members to complete a Time Bank training course sponsored by fellow members of your Time Bank to communicate the goals and expectations of becoming a member. Since Time Banking is an alternative form of local economy, you want to ensure that the work between members of the community are valued equally and that no member is taken advantage of.
4. **Share Information and Skills** Create a database of what skills members are willing to offer along with member contact information and make the list available to the entire community. Consider posting this data to a website or an online spreadsheet so members can freely contact each other about what goods and services are being offered.
5. **Kickoff** Hold a kick-off event to raise awareness of your program and to celebrate the skills everyone in your community has to offer. Remember the founding principle of Time Banking is that no one person's time is more valuable than another's. Use this fact to make everyone feel like they are an essential and talented member of your neighborhood and have many skills to offer.



RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports the following goals and strategies:

Arts, Culture & Innovation

Strategies: G3-Harness community energy and interest in the arts through volunteer programs.

Empowerment, Diversity & Equity

Strategies: D3-Encourage inter-generational programs that bring seniors and youth together.

Prosperity, Opportunity & Employment

Strategies: D3-Encourage volunteerism to utilize skills and experience of those not directly in the labor force; H2-Fund more programs that teach individuals tangible job skills and generate usable products/benefits for the community.

For the most current examples, updated tools, and information, visit the City's Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative website:

SUSTAINABLENEIGHBORHOOD.NET

ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY TOOL LIBRARY

City of St. Louis Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative



DESCRIPTION

A community tool library is a volunteer and donation based cooperative that serves neighborhood residents. It operates much like a traditional library, where residents check out tools and return them about a week later. It is a resource for all members of the neighborhood so individuals avoid spending a lot of money on a tool they may only need to use once or twice, for people that are unsure of what tools they may need, and for residents that can't afford to purchase tools. Having access to tools empowers residents to take action on all kinds of projects and it simplifies maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation of homes and yards.

NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS

Environmental

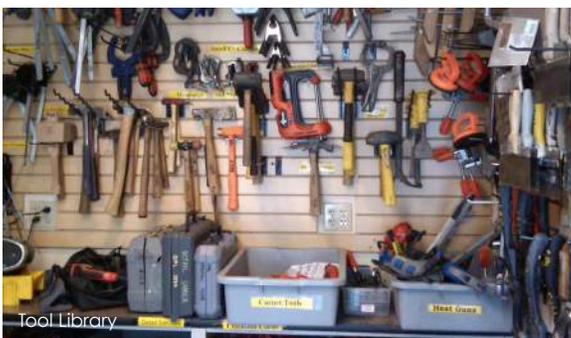
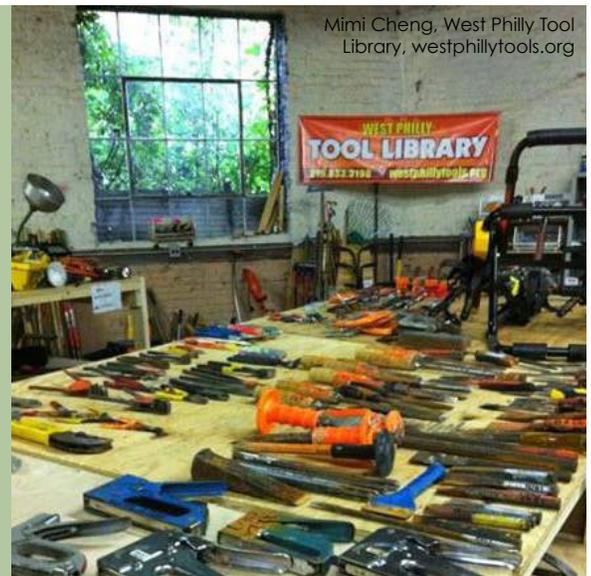
- Reduced travel for getting materials and tools for local projects
- Reduced need for individuals to own a complete tool set, easing environmental costs of purchasing and owning tools

Social

- Reduced financial burden for residents that cannot afford tools
- Empowerment of residents to complete individual and community projects
- Increased interaction with neighbors
- Teaching, learning, and training opportunities for residents, youth, and craftsmen

Economic

- Reduced personal cost for home repair and maintenance
- Opportunity to employ residents, offer training, and promote volunteering
- Individual property improvement, yard maintenance, and beautification that promotes neighborhood image, resilience, and growth



RELATED TOOLS

When paired with other tools, creating a community tool library can contribute to a more empowered and more sustainable neighborhood. Think about volunteering, community improvement, and building and land maintenance. Try combining this strategy with:

- **Create a Cool or White Roofs Program**
- **Create Public Art Installations or Exhibits**
- **Develop Creative New Uses for Vacant Land**
- **Secure Vacant Buildings**
- **Preserve Existing Buildings**

EXAMPLES

University City Tool Library, University City, MO

Not yet in effect, the organizers are working with University City to secure a space for their tool library.

NorthSide Tool Library Proposal, St. Louis, MO

A promising proposal in the Sustainable Land Lab Competition.

West Philly Tool Library, Philadelphia, PA

Run by a volunteer steering committee and 3 part-time employees.



GET STARTED

1. Community tool libraries have been successful in many other cities in the US and are a great opportunity for St. Louisans to gain the resources, knowledge, and capacity to improve their own neighborhoods, homes, gardens, and public spaces.
2. **Find Examples** There are many tool library success stories to learn from. Examples can be mapped and listed on this website: http://localtools.org/find/#map_top. Some standout examples are:
 - **West Seattle Tool Library**
 - **Green Lents Community Tool Library**
3. **Plan** There are a few very detailed and helpful online guides to starting a tool library that cover the most important considerations, give how to steps, and give example documents about the following:
 - Structure of the Tool Library
 - Funding
 - Staffing, Steering Committee, and Volunteers
 - Insurance
 - Inventory Management
 - The sharing economy
 - Mentorship and Networking
 Links to those guides are:
 - <http://sharestarter.org/tools/>
 - <http://sharestarter.org/files/2012/01/How-To-Start-a-Lending-Library.-Full-Packet.pdf>
4. **Find a Location** When choosing a location for the tool library, consider reusing a vacant building or a vacant lot in your neighborhood. Often, these properties are owned by the **City of St. Louis LRA**. Visit this [website](#) for a helpful how-to guide on getting the process started for leasing or buying the land or building.
5. **Plan Long Term** Based on the story of existing tool libraries, starting a library is not a short term process. Some of the steps can be more involved and take a longer time to coordinate, so starting early and committing to the project is important. Sharing your story, your goals, and your progress with the community will be important to build support and keep the project moving forward. Have a presence at community events, farmers markets, public meetings, and through regular updates on a website, Facebook page, or blog. Some things that may take a longer time are:
 - Creating a 501c3 or finding a host organization
 - Securing a building or property
 - Raising money for initial construction and establishment costs

OPPORTUNITIES

1. **Program** Perhaps the most important part of the Tool Library is the programming that should accompany the actual tool rental. The tool library should offer books and how-to guides for common home maintenance and construction. Also, programming can be created to give demonstration workshops to teach members about basic home maintenance, new projects, techniques, and basic tool use and safety. Some possible projects include winterization, historic restoration, tree planting, and community improvement projects like seasonal clean-up days. Special consideration should be given to including youth training and mentoring programs partnered with the more experienced volunteers running the Tool Library.



RELATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CATEGORIES

This tool supports prosperity, preservation, and empowers residents.

Urban Character, Vitality & Ecology

Strategies B7-Encourage communities to improve their own neighborhood; C1-Design public spaces and neighborhood streets as gathering places for people; F5-Promote the redevelopment of historic homes and commercial properties; H8-Enhance community cleaning and beautification efforts.

Arts, Culture & Innovation

Strategies: G2-Foster collaboration between arts and cultural organizations to share and build capacity.

Empowerment, Diversity & Equity

Strategies: C6-Create opportunities for youth as they enter young adulthood and the workforce; D3-Encourage inter-generational programs that bring together seniors and youth.

Infrastructure, Facilities & Transportation

Strategies: G5-Encourage reuse of materials and divert from landfills.

Prosperity, Opportunity & Employment

Strategies: A2-Offer job training programs at accessible community-based locations; G4-Market City assets to draw visitors to City neighborhoods.

For the most current examples, updated tools, and information, visit the City's Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative website:

SUSTAINABLENEIGHBORHOOD.NET

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

City of St. Louis Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative

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