



Green Practices Commission

6801 Delmar Boulevard, University City, Missouri 63130, Phone: (314) 862-6767, Fax: (314) 863-9146

AGENDA

GREEN PRACTICES COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday July 8, 2021 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Heman Park Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania Avenue

1. Roll Call
2. Opening Round
3. Approval of Minutes: 05/13/2021
4. Special Presentations
 - a. Public Comments (Limited to 3 minutes for individual's comments and 5 minutes for representatives of groups or organizations)
5. New Business
 - a. None
6. Old Business
 - a. Sustainability Strategic Plan – WUSTL Sustainability Exchange Program draft report discussion.
7. Council Liaison Update
8. Closing Round
9. Adjournment



Green Practices Commission

6801 Delmar Boulevard, University City, Missouri 63130, Phone: (314) 862-6767, Fax: (314) 863-9146

Green Practices Commission

Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

May 13, 2021 **DRAFT**

Location: Zoom – Virtual Meeting

Attendees Present: John Solodar (Chairperson), Barbara Brain, Jonathan Stitelman, Adam Staudt, Liz Essman, Jenny Wendt (Staff Liaison), Stacy Clay (Council Liaison)

Attendees Absent: Timothy Dugan

1. Meeting called to order 5:33pm
2. Opening Round
 - a. Barbara Brain took part in the Mississippi River Plastic Pollution Initiative on Midland (Barbara's adopted street).
3. 04/08/2021minutes approved with minor corrections.
4. Special Presentations
 - a. Students with the WUSTL Sustainability Exchange Program presented the Sustainability Strategic Plan Final Draft presentation to the commission (see attached summary page).
 - b. Ameren MO presented on Electrify Missouri policies and incentives for infrastructure to support current and future electric vehicles in Missouri. Adam Staudt asked if the city could reach out to the Costco group to let them know about the EV charging station installation incentives. Councilmember Clay indicated he would ask the city manager.
 - c. No Public Comments.
5. New Business
 - a. None
6. Old Business
 - a. Commercial Solar Group Buy Program – The commission was receptive and positive about promoting the group buy program to businesses.
 - b. Sustainability Strategic Plan – WUSTL Sustainability Exchange Program updates discussion: See above.
7. Council Liaison Update:
 - a. Councilmember Clay will follow up with the City Manager about discussing EV stations and sustainable practices with the Costco area developer.
 - b. Army Corps of Engineers are working on a study on the River des Peres regarding flooding. The report is due for completion in 2023. The Temporary Plan Selection has been received showing areas of flood risk with some possible solutions. The commission is encouraged to review the study session that was held on this topic.



Green Practices Commission

6801 Delmar Boulevard, University City, Missouri 63130, Phone: (314) 862-6767, Fax: (314) 863-9146

8. Closing Round: Barbara received an email from Bee City USA about a “No-Mow May” campaign to help out early pollinators. A study showed an increase in pollinators on un-mowed lawns.
9. Adjournment: 6:38

DRAFT



City of University City

6801 Delmar Boulevard, 3rd Floor, University City, Missouri 63130, Phone: (314) 505-8560, Fax: (314) 862-0694

STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: July 8, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: WUSTL Sustainability Exchange Program: Sustainability Plan Draft Report

Students majoring or minoring in Environmental Studies at Washington University receive excellent instruction and training from some of the best professors in the nation. The Environmental Studies Program is proud of its range of expertise, from environmental policy, biology, and earth science to anthropology, engineering, and green building. While the professors may be experts in the classroom, it is recognized that community organizations like ours are experts in the field. These students are also in need of a more engaged learning experiences off-campus, and the program's administration knows that often community organizations have limited resources to achieve their goals. By partnering with community organizations to facilitate internships, the hope is to meet this student demand, deepen student learning, prepare students for careers, and meaningfully support the work of community organizations, like the City of University City.

In March 2020 University City applied for and was granted a partnership with the WUSTL Sustainability Exchange to update the Sustainability Strategic Plan that was created by the Green Practices Commission in 2010. The students and professor were provided sustainable program information, reports, ordinances, initiatives, and other items that would be beneficial in this update. Jenny Wendt has met weekly with the class providing direction for this plan. Fall semester students worked on the Energy and Water/Green Infrastructure sections. Spring semester students worked on Biodiversity, Food Access, Materials/Recycling, and Healthy Transport sections.

The WUSTL Sustainability Exchange students have completed a draft Sustainability Strategic Plan that will be discussed with the commission.

University City Sustainability Plan

City of
University
City



2021

Developed in collaboration with:



Table of Contents

<u>Why Create a Sustainability Plan.....</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Biodiversity.....</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Energy & Emissions.....</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Food Access.....</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Waste & Materials Management.....</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Healthy Transport.....</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>Water & Green Infrastructure.....</u>	<u>24</u>

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

DRAFT

Why Create A Sustainability Plan?

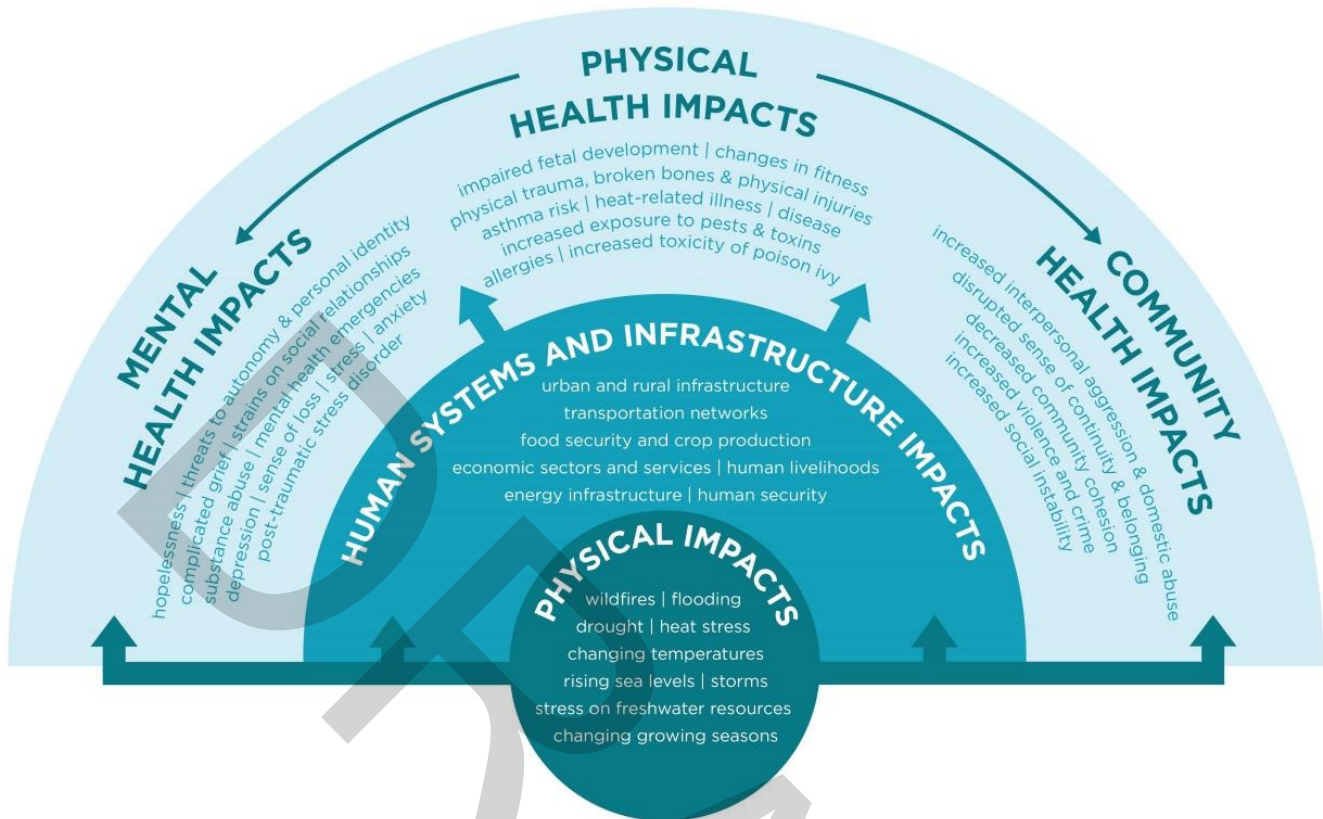
As members of the Green Practices Committee of University City, we believe that economic, environmental and social well-being (commonly known as the triple bottom line) are inextricably connected. In order to promote the quality of life of community members now, and for future generations, it is our duty to use available science, best practices, and partnerships to act as responsible stewards of the environment. In the age of globalization, we believe that local behavior and global welfare are linked: *this requires that we think globally, as we act locally.*

With these principles in mind, the Mission of the Green Practices Committee of University City is as follows:

“to encourage sustainable practices and programs that improve the health and quality of life of our community; restore and protect our natural resources; and strengthen our economy. It is widely recognized that there are local and global issues that threaten our ability to ‘meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’ (1987 Brundtland Commission). Therefore, it is imperative that we become sustainable, as individuals, as a community, and as a City”.

We are not simply acting out of principle. [Research](#) shows that, in the face of climate crisis, strategic sustainability efforts promote robust, equitable [economic development](#) and resilient [community health](#). A key [study](#) on the effects of climate change on mental, physical and community health show that public health and climate change effects are inseparable, and therefore must be dealt with simultaneously.

As climate change becomes more pressing each day, creating a plan is more vital now than ever. The [2017 EPA Midwest Climate Change](#) snapshot identifies the ways that climate change is already impacting the region, and how those impacts will amplify overtime. Overall, temperatures have already accelerated, leading to heavy rains alternating with very dry periods. This could lead to property damage, overflowing rivers and overwhelmed sewage systems, crop yield loss, and increased disease transmission. Additionally, increased temperatures pose risks to human health, from reduced air quality to increased allergens, to even more deaths from extreme heat waves.



Health Impacts Due to Climate Change - Effects of Climate Change impact the three main factors of health shown in this figure. These impacts affect People of Color, people in poverty, people with disabilities, women and people in rural areas more so than others as they do not have as many resources to combat the negative health effects of climate change. Image Source: Clayton, Susan, Christie, Manning, and Caroline Hodge. "Beyond Storms and Droughts: The Psychological Impacts of Climate Change." American Psychological Association, June 2014.

Additionally, as detailed in a recent report titled, "[Environmental Racism in St. Louis](#)," black residents in St. Louis are far more likely to suffer from energy burdens, food deserts, lead poisoning, asthma, air pollution, trash dumping, and vacant lots, than white St. Louisans. By creating a Strategic Sustainability Plan, we hope to further our local efforts and regional efforts towards ameliorating this disparity and uplifting environmental justice initiatives. *By creating, and actively engaging with, the University City Strategic Sustainability Plan, University City can act as a model for relieving environmental injustices through ongoing efforts for equitable sustainable development.*

In order to be a part of the global solution, we are focusing on the issues of biodiversity, energy and emissions, food access, waste and materials management, healthy transport, and water and green infrastructure, in hopes to enable the City and all of its constituents to have access to the means to improve their own wellbeing, as well as the wellbeing of the people, planet and community we have all grown to share and love.

Biodiversity

Why It Matters?

Fostering biodiversity in University City benefits both human and environmental health. Connecting residents to nature can give a reprieve from daily stresses and [improve quality of life](#). Preserving and restoring green space not only makes the city beautiful but protects natural ecosystems, flora, and fauna.

Target 1: Connect residents to the various natural spaces and their neighborhoods in University City

Collaborate with groups and organizations to create educational content

- Establish [programs](#) that connect youth and families to the surrounding wildlife and green spaces in the City
 - Work with the Missouri Botanical Gardens and Missouri Department of Conservation to promote a healthy, biodiverse community
 - Provide resources such as [Grownative](#) about promoting native plant species through platforms such as NextDoor and the City website
- Partner with surrounding organizations to develop content promoting the economic and health benefits of [tree canopies](#)
 - Use the [Columbus](#) and [Kansas City](#) initiatives to articulate the benefits of tree canopies
 - Create material that highlight the benefits of vegetation prevents erosion and improves the quality of surface and ground water

Did you know?

The [Missouri Botanical Garden](#) hosts nearly 1,000,000 visitors a year

Engage residents with ways they can promote biodiversity in their community

- Promote conservation from home programs with the assistance of the [Audubon Society](#)
 - Assist residents in removing grass and planting native gardens while reducing herbicide and pesticide use
- Develop workforce training programs for residents to restore and protect natural resources that lead to resident employment while actively avoiding community displacement
 - Advertise paid opportunities such as the [Youth Conservation Corps](#) that allow people to get experience while working directly on projects
 - Establish [community projects](#) with partner organizations that provide educational aspects while helping residents restore their surrounding green spaces
 - Remove [invasive species](#) along waterway buffers, replant with native species, and increase resources for management and maintenance expanding on previous initiatives in the 2012 University Sustainability Plan



An image of the native Jacob's ladder

GrowNative

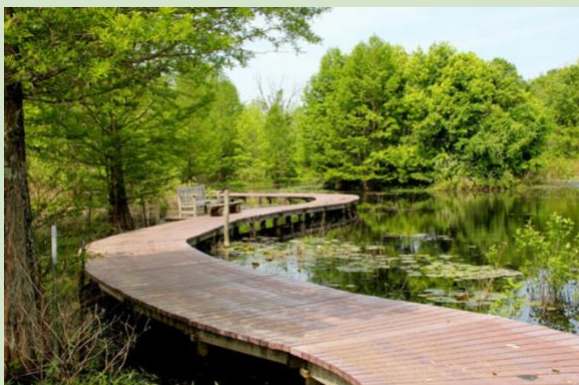
Target 2: Promote the planting and protection of species native to University City and the state of Missouri

Create “education gardens” full of native species in public green space

- Educate the public on the both the beauty and importance of native species
 - Work closely with [GrowNative](#) to plant appropriate native species that benefit local wildlife and pollinators
 - Refit eco-urban parks with native plant species
 - Use the education garden as a learning opportunity for schools, youth groups, and summer camps

Protect native species and critical habitat areas

- Encourage sustainable land management practices
 - Develop and implement organic land care policies to use safer and non-chemical alternatives
 - Work with businesses to reduce sale of invasive species
 - Monitor the presence of invasive and non-native species in green space
- Create a clear path for those seeking to participate in transforming city green space
 - Prioritize funding for projects lead by people of color
 - Develop programs for residents to restore and protect natural resources



A path in Shaw Nature Reserve

[Great Missouri Birding Trail](#)

Did you know?

Missouri Botanical Garden’s plant finder is a great resource to find Missouri native plants that meet your needs

Target 3: Ensure green space most effectively serves the needs of residents in the City

Conduct an open space assessment to categorize green space in the City

- Identify and designate the [purposes](#) for all potential corridors and green spaces
- Identify the [stressors](#), potential threats and protect natural resource and critical habitat areas
 - Create remediation strategies to mitigate stressors and maximize the natural life in the City
- Develop mandatory buffers for areas that can impact a surface watercourse
- Consult with [experts](#) to determine needs of each green space

Create ordinances to preserve the trees on private property

- Promote planting of trees and establish tree [protection](#) standards
 - Partner with organizations in the area to establish [adopt-a-tree](#) programs
- Fines for violating tree-property [requirements](#) such as chopping, damaging, and otherwise harming trees in the City
 - Require [replacements](#) when trees are damaged or removed

Establish a baseline of the current status of open green spaces in the City that is to be improved upon in the upcoming Sustainability Plan

- Create tangible ways to [measure](#) progress towards goals and establish milestones in sustainability plan
 - Establish short-term and long-term [greening](#) efforts that transform the City
 - Prioritize funding for projects led by [neighborhoods](#) that focus on the individualized needs of the community members
- Ensure all decisions and baselines are grounded in an [equity lens](#) that calls for connections and interactions between people and nature to be made with the intentional integration of sustainability and social justice

Energy and Emissions

Why It Matters?

As a precursor in the transition to renewable energy, improving energy efficiency is an imperative, affordable first step. By reducing GHG emissions, ameliorating the energy burden, and saving money overall, energy efficiency can engender a climate-resilient University City.

Target 1: Improve Community Energy Education

Provide relevant energy resources to University City residents and businesses to generate savings, ameliorate the energy burden, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pollution

- Solar and Renewables Resources: [Grow Solar STL](#), Rooftop Wind Turbines via [Midwest Green Energy](#), [Arcadia](#), DOE Property Assessed Clean Energy Programs ([PACE](#)) in accordance with [Ordinance No. 6998](#), [Ameren Community Solar Program](#) & [Neighborhood Solar Program](#)
- Energy Efficiency: Federal Tax Credit for Solar PV ([DOE](#)), Ameren Energy Efficiency rebates for residential and [commercial buildings](#), [Spire gas rebates](#), MO DOE Energy Loan [Program](#)
- Energy Burden: Missouri DNR Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program ([LIWAP](#)), [CAASTLC](#) utility restoration services

Did You Know?

The University City Hall renovation received LEED certification in 2008.



University City Hall post-renovation

[Architect Magazine](#)

Target 2: Update Municipal Energy & Energy Efficiency Policies

Find a baseline of energy usage and efficiency

- Employ online energy auditing and reporting software, such as [Dude Solutions Energy Manager](#), an updated Energy Star Portfolio, or [ClearPath](#) to facilitate energy benchmarking

Create a greenhouse gas reductions target

- Set benchmarking goals based on reasonable targets (See [EPA GHG reduction implementation program](#))
- Enforce a benchmarking deadline on all municipal buildings
- Utilize the US Green Building Council Missouri Gateway Chapter: [Resources for Local Governments](#)
- Explore financing options for example, Guaranteed Energy Savings Contracts ([MO Statute 8.231](#))

Update International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)

- Adopt 2018 or newer IECC code
- Utilize [DOE resource](#) to facilitate code update

Implement University City's integrated policy for energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reductions

- See 2014 University City [Ordinance N. 6956](#)

Did You Know?

The University City fire stations #1 and #2 have both had all of their lightbulbs switched to LEDs in 2018.



University City Fire House 1

[ArchImages STL](#)

Target 3: Become a Solar and EV-Ready City

Complete application for [SolSmart](#) certification to remove barriers to solar implementation in University City

- Create a website outlining solar certification process for University City

Create and adopt a Solar-Ready Ordinance

- Adopt a solar-ready ordinance similar to the recent St. Louis City Solar-Ready Ordinance (N.71063)

Make University City Electric Vehicle Ready

- Install public use car charging stations in strategic areas using [economic development retail sales tax funds](#) in conjunction with [Ameren rebates](#)
- Promote Ameren rebates to businesses to install electric car chargers

Did You Know?

University City was the first city to have an all-electric fleet of city vehicles!



Solar Array found at Washington University in St. Louis

WashU Sustainability

Food Access

Why It Matters?

Food insecurity decreases cities' ability to develop their economies and agricultural markets. Unhealthy and insufficient meals can contribute to poor behavior and performance at work and in school. Thus, access to healthy, nutritious, quality food is crucial to the efficient functioning of a society with impacts ranging from economic growth to job creation.

Target 1: Educating residents and specifically youth on nutrition, cooking, gardening and food waste

Begin healthy food choice education at the elementary level

- Integrate school gardens into pre-K-12 curriculum and use as a learning platform to educate students on growing locally and nutrition
- Educate parents on food choices and long term healthy
- Offer local, healthy food options in school cafeterias
- Establish community gardens next to schools and use them to educate children

Did You Know?

The 2012 University City Sustainability Plan didn't have a food access section!



Fresh thyme, a natural food marketplace that feeds your body without feasting on your wallet.

freshthyme.com

Target 2: Addressing and reducing the cost of healthy foods and incentivizing their purchase

Make farmers markets and other local food access systems readily available to everyone

- Partner with the Midwest Associations of Farmers Markets and local Farmers Markets in University City
- Facilitate and expand the use of WIC/EBT payment to all farmers markets
- Encourage more local farmers as vendors and facilitate cultural events around local food and recipes
- Organize food festivals and events that cater locally grown food to connect the community to farmers

Make healthy food options more convenient and affordable than unhealthy food options

- Limit the number of unhealthy food establishments per capita while increasing the number of healthy food establishments
- Encourage healthy food options over unhealthy food options by developing fresh produce vouchers to incentivize their purchase
- Develop full-service grocery stores and co-ops near places of work and residence that offer local food

Did You Know?

The University City District Farmers Market has been accepting EBT since 2008!



University District Farmers Market accepts EBT.

line.17qq.com

Target 3: Promoting and growing spaces that connect communities with healthy foods

Connect food growers with direct consumers

- Encourage community supported agriculture (CSA) programs where community members can purchase shares of healthy foods directly from local farmers
- Organize food festivals and events that cater locally grown food to connect the community to farmers

Connect the whole community to healthy foods

- Establish community gardens next to senior living facilities and partner with them to educate them and use their help
- Collaborate with religious establishments, groups and community centers to distribute foods from urban farms

Did You Know?

University City currently does not have any community gardens, but the greater St. Louis area has over 200!



One of the two thriving community gardens that Skinker DeBaliviere is home to.

skinkerdebaliviere.com

Waste & Materials Management

Why It Matters?

Every person in University City creates material waste and relies on the city's management of their trash and recycling. Promoting responsible recycling and waste management practices will benefit the environmental health of the city and its people and can even bring financial benefits to the city and consumers.

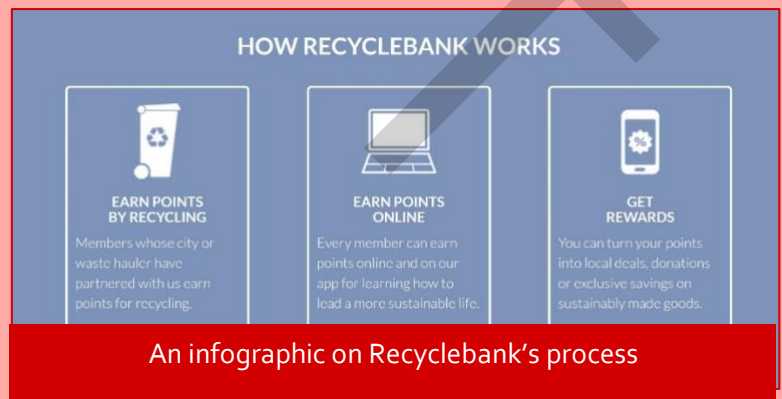
Target 1: Provide material incentives for residents who reduce waste and recycle

Partner with a recycling incentive program, such as Recyclebank

- Incentive programs effectively promote responsible waste management without imposing higher costs and penalties for improper behavior
- Recyclebank verifies reported green activities by residents and partners with businesses to provide gift cards and discounts
- [How to join FAQs](#)
- [How it works and why it helps](#)
- Recyclebank can help save the city money: within one year, Hollywood Fl. (pop. 150,000) saved over \$500,000 on waste disposal fees and increased recycling tonnage by over 130%

Did You Know?

University City began offering curbside recycling in 1974, making it one of the first municipalities in the country to do so!



Recyclebank.com

Target 2: Promote Recycling from construction/commercial sources

Implement a system for corporate recycling based on volume

- Follow the blueprint from California's Mandatory Commercial Recycling measure
- This requires businesses with 4+ cubic yards of solid waste per week or a multifamily residential dwelling of 5+ units to set up recycling services
- Four provisions are offered to manage the recycling and divert solid waste from recyclable products: self-haul, subscribe to a hauler, arrange for recycling pickup, or subscribe to a recycling service

Require any event that uses a city permit to provide recycling

- Require special events that use a city permit to provide recycling services for attendees

Reduce landfilling of construction and demolition waste

- Develop collaborative programs for awareness and proper disposal of hazardous or otherwise valuable materials
- Include materials such as asbestos, asphalt pavement, brick, concrete, metal, wood, and gypsum wallboard (drywall)

These strategies could be modified into incentive programs that reward citizens for avoiding these undesirable behaviors

Did You Know?

Located at the Heman Park Community Center, University City operates a 24-hour recycling drop off center that even accepts items like textiles!



Valuable materials and metals can be recovered from construction wastes

soa-inc.com

Target 3: Educate residents on the value of reducing, reusing, and recycling

Implement a requirement for corporate recycling based on volume

- Work with local schools to educate students and encourage them to share their knowledge with their families
- Distribute [learning materials from the EPA](#), including project ideas, curriculums, and more
- Utilize resources from the Missouri Recycling Association targeted to [Elementary](#), [Middle School](#), and [High School](#)
- Advertise opportunities for advanced waste management like composting and electronics recycling
- If an incentive program from Target 2 is implemented, create educational materials and distribute to residents
- Educate residents and businesses on any policies from Target 3 that are enacted

Bonus Target: Explore a return to dual stream recycling

- Like many places across the country, University City started as a dual stream recycling program and consolidated to single stream
- However, dual stream offers many potential benefits, including the following
 - Overall higher recycling rates, especially of valuable aluminum and steel
 - Higher price per ton of material sold
 - Comparable cost to single stream despite dual stream programs often located in less populous areas
 - Less glass breakage
 - Lower processing costs
- These potential benefits offer enough incentive to explore moving on from the simplicity of single stream recycling

JW
Based on the MRF Feasibility Study, this can be removed

Healthy Transport

Why It Matters?

Transportation decisions are an integral part of the daily lives of all University City residents. Thus, promoting mixed-use development along with active & shared transport options can help create a healthier, livelier, and more equitable University City. Our approach to transportation planning extends beyond the built infrastructure to engaging the community to reflect on and transform their own travel habits, as well as their perception of public spaces.

Target 1: Implement Transit-Oriented Development and Expand Supporting Infrastructure

Maintain and supplement transport initiatives outlined in the [Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan](#)

- Promote high-density, mixed-use development around commercial districts (i.e., Olive Boulevard), regional transit stations (i.e., University City-Big Bend Metrolink), and other revitalization projects
- Enhance transportation equity for all residents by improving the conditions and [accessibility](#) of sidewalks
- Improve pedestrians' and cyclists' safety and comfort on major arterial roads by:
 - Increasing the frequency of [signal-controlled crosswalks](#) and pedestrian islands
 - Increasing the visibility and clarity of traffic signs and road surface markings (i.e., [switching from "Share the road" to "Cyclists may use full lane"](#))
- Promote multimodal usership by:
 - Implementing [NACTO design guidelines](#) for complete streets, traffic calming measures, pedestrian & cyclist facilities, and other streetscape enhancements
 - [Sheltering bus stops](#) and enhancing transit security
 - Investing in [end-of-trip facilities](#) in areas with high potential demand (i.e., large supermarkets)

Adopt and enforce a form-based code in lieu of traditional zoning to reduce inefficient separation of land uses and preserve community character and assets

Inform community members about urban mobility and engage them in long-term transportation planning

- Report regularly on the implementation progress of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan, including active and planned projects:
 - Create and maintain a [real-time map](#) of the developed pedestrian and cycling infrastructure or a [travel planner](#) on the City's website
 - Inform community members about completed projects through NextDoor as public outreach
- Conduct a [community needs and mobility equity assessment](#) through:
 - Informal surveys/polling distributed on NextDoor or the City's website
 - or the ETC Institute methodology applied in the City's [2019 community-wide survey](#)

Did You Know?

University City adopted its [Complete Streets Ordinance](#) on June 5th, 2012.



NACTO Complete Streets

NACTO

Target 2: Promote Active Living & Change Individuals' Travel Habits

Increase incentives for public and non-motorized transportation usage

- Subsidize [bus](#) and [metro](#) passes to encourage and increase the use of public transportation
 - Billing platforms such as Ventra may allow employees to use [pre-tax](#) dollars to pay for transportation costs
 - Provide specialized discount rates based on need or status (i.e., veterans, the elderly, below certain income threshold)
- Engage local businesses to [reward](#) customers who arrive on public transportation, foot, or bikes:
 - Businesses can post local deals associated with alternative transport use on NextDoor Businesses
 - Businesses can offer reward programs or small redeemable gifts for alternative transport use
- Reduce and replace individual parking spots in commercial areas with [rideshare](#) (i.e., Uber, Lyft) spots

Target enforcement of motor vehicle regulations to legitimize multimodal usership

- Enforce speed limits around areas designed for high pedestrian and cyclist activity
- Switch police car patrols to bike patrols to increase visibility and set a role model
- Increase usage of no-idling signs and encourage limiting [idling](#) in cars
 - Potential campaigns like the [MORPC](#) Air Quality Program

Increase programming that promotes daily exercise, the outdoors, and active transport (i.e., biking, walking) in health and education centers

- Conduct [share the road](#) campaigns and increase public outreach programs that teach [hand signals](#), safety precautions, traffic laws, and road signage
- Create educational material that informs residents of the [health](#) and [economic](#) benefits associated with using active and public transportation:
 - Disseminate information through NextDoor and other social media platforms

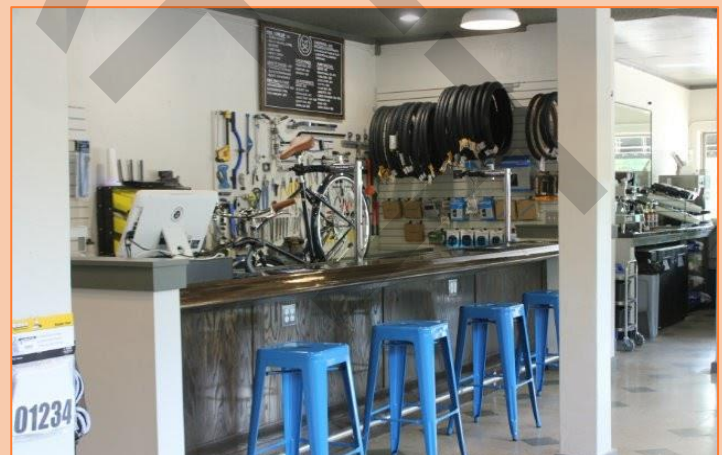
Target 3: Activate and Reclaim Public Spaces

Engage the public in placemaking to bring vibrancy, a unique identity, and a sense of community to shared spaces

- Use [charrettes](#), [visual preference surveys](#), [design contests](#), and chalkboard walls to allow community members to redesign urban spaces
- Inform community members regularly about event programming within the City through NextDoor and conduct informal polling to collect public suggestions
- Organize and co-facilitate [pop-up demonstration projects](#) to raise awareness and engage community members in temporarily transforming public spaces to activity-oriented destinations such as:
 - Transforming a street into a pedestrian mall with a farmer's or flea market and engage local businesses to participate
 - Allowing residents to draw their own on-street bike facilities on low-volume and low-speed residential streets
- Study and implement other best practices described by the [MSU Land Policy Institute](#), [Project for Public Spaces](#), [NYC Criminal Justice](#), and the [Future Place Leadership](#).

Did You Know?

University City is staying active with weekly runs organized by [Big River Running Company](#)



Cursed Bike & Coffee Shop in University City

Cursed Bike & Coffee STL

Beautify the streetscape and encourage neighborly interactions through design

- Convert vacant, publicly-owned parcels into [parklets](#), [temporary art installations/murals](#), [community gardens](#), [event venues](#), or [parking spots for pop-up stores and food trucks](#)
- Increase outdoor seating area along commercial corridors (i.e., Olive Boulevard) and provide [movable, stowaway seating](#) in public plazas
- Install interactive games or art, culture, and educational installations in public spaces and along streets with high foot traffic

Did You Know?

Parking spaces on the Loop were [temporarily transformed into parklets](#) on September 20th, 2019.



University City Loop Ice Carnival

The University News

Water & Green Infrastructure

Why It Matters?

Ensuring the health of our natural water basins is important for maintaining the quality of our lakes, rivers, and streams and providing benefits to our health, local economy, and wildlife. Even though University City is not high susceptibility for droughts currently, a changing climate will require everyone to make responsible use of their water supply. Furthermore, water use reduction strategies work to reduce monthly water and energy bills for residents and businesses.

Target 1: Improve Stormwater Management in University City and Water Quality of River des Peres

Maintain a list of active land disturbance projects. Develop procedures to control stormwater runoff as informed by the [St. Louis County Phase II Stormwater Management Plan MCM 4, MCM 5, and MCM 6](#), including:

- Erosion control and stormwater solution Best Management Practices (BMPs) (e.g., rain gardens, permeable pavement, detention ponds) outlined in the University City Sustainable Development Guidelines, [MSD Landscape Guide for Stormwater Best Management Practices](#), and [MSD Site Design Guidance](#)
- Site inspections before, during, and after project as specified in land disturbance program
- Mechanisms to receive, respond to, and track public inquiries and complaints using Google Forms or another commonly available software
- Enforcement actions for developers

Did You Know?

You can see BMPs in practice in University City by checking out the rain gardens at Lewis Park and bioretention basins at Millar Park and Fogerty Park.



Rain gardens near sewers are one example of a BMP used to minimize strain on stormwater systems

[MSD Site Design Guidance](#)

Raise community awareness of stormwater pollution and water quality

issues:

- Conduct outreach to trade associations, schools, and watershed groups
- Organize at least one annual cleanup event
- Post pet waste signs in parks along with garbage cans
- Label all storm drains and BMPs
- Encourage citizens and businesses to limit flow to sanitary sewers during storms and empty downspouts onto property, not into sewers
- Delineate "Flood Plain Zone" and outlaw storage of materials and debris that could wash into the river
- Implement Early Warning System to give residents notice before a flooding event with use of rain gauges that provide real-time weather data accessible by cell phone application
- Apply GIS data to provide fair warning and education materials to renters/homeowners that lease or purchase a home in the flood plain of River des Peres
- Advertise opportunities for businesses, organizations, and residents to receive [funding and support](#) from Missouri Botanical Gardens and MSD Project Clear for rain-scaping projects

Did You Know?

Lions Against Litter is a University City group that meets once per month to clean up debris in our riverbanks, parks, and other public areas. To get involved, check out their [Facebook page](#).



The University City Trash Bash is an annual event to foster community involvement in water quality issues

Greatriversgreenway.org

Maintain data to track information relevant to stormwater pollution and water quality, including:

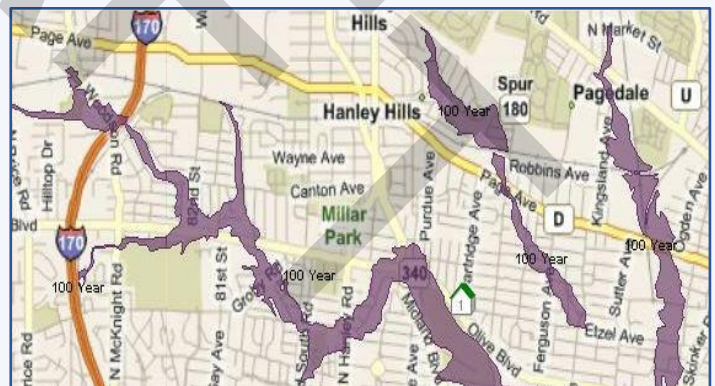
- Location of individual sewage disposal systems to aid with illicit discharge investigations
- Residential locations participating in sewer lateral repair program
- BMPs implemented by University City or construction contractors
- Salt application rates in winter to inform use of alternate deicing approaches where feasible
- Action item recommendations for Flood Risk Management Study conducted by the US Army Corps of Engineers
- An inventory of past maintenance actions conducted on River des Peres (e.g., dredging, buyout structural changes, detention area construction)

Did You Know?

The River Des Peres Watershed Coalition, formed in 2002, was the very first watershed-based organization in St. Louis County.

Maintain written programs and guidelines for the following municipal duties:

- Proper disposal of waste from Small MS4s
- Assessing water quality impacts for new flood management projects
- Spill prevention, control, and management of paints, solvents, petroleum products, and petroleum waste products (except fuels)
- Annual training on stormwater pollution/good housekeeping protocols for municipal staff
- A comprehensive University City Stormwater Master Plan



Flood zones of River des Peres

Archcityhomes.com

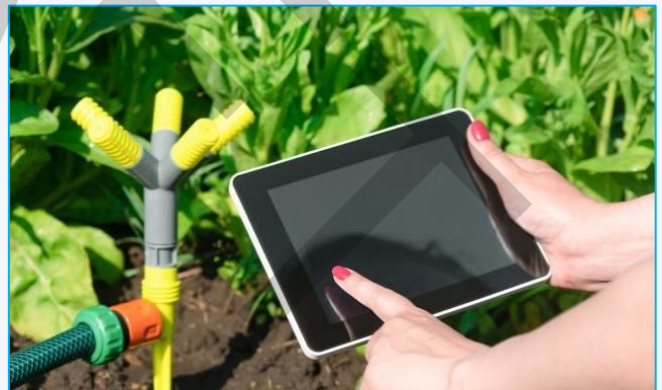
Target 2: Decrease Potable Water Use 20% by 2025

Educate citizens and encourage community involvement:

- Develop outreach campaigns aimed at encouraging responsible water use
- Educate businesses about [MSD Non-Sewered Water Credit](#), which rewards businesses that divert some of their water from the sewer system
- Provide education materials to ensure that residents understand how to read their water bill, as well as steps they can take to lower their cost
- Support competitions with incentives for neighborhoods, businesses, or other institutions that accomplish the most to decrease water use

Implement water reduction strategies on municipal properties where applicable, and encourage similar measures by University City organizations and citizens:

- Install rainwater collection systems such as rain barrels, rainwater tanks, and cisterns to store for future use or donation to community gardens
- Plant native species that are tolerant of local soil and precipitation levels
- Improve indoor water efficiency by installing [EPA WaterSense](#) efficient plumbing fixtures including low-flow toilets and urinals, sinks, showerheads, dishwashers, and washing machines while considering rebate programs for citizens and businesses
- Install [weather-based controllers](#) on irrigation systems and water-efficient landscaping in parks and on municipal building properties



Weather-based irrigation systems use current forecasts to determine when to activate, saving water

Bobvila.com

Did You Know?

For more than 30 years, University City has been honored as a Tree City USA, which means it has met urban forestry goals set by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters.

Adjust municipal protocols to decrease water usage and ensure safe drinking water quality in University City:

- Ensure accurate water metering at all service connections, including public use water
- Implement program to identify water leaks using metering data, and educate residents on seeking water leaks and reporting them to University City
- Investigate feasibility of gray water recycling systems in University City, as described in the International Plumbing Code, 2012 edition
- Ensure quality and prevalence of drinking fountains and discourage the use of bottled water
- Implement program testing for lead and other water quality degradation that could be occurring in older homes and schools due to premise piping

Did You Know?

University City fully considers the harmful effects of road salt application on our waterways. For the past five years, there has been a consistent downward trend in salt usage in the River des Peres watershed region.



Buildings with aging water infrastructure may experience lead piping corrosion, so regular testing is important

Source: wustl.edu

DRAFT