GREEN PRACTICES COMMISSION
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Thursday, October 14, 2021
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING
PUBLIC ACCESS & PARTICIPATION

On March 20, 2020, City Manager Gregory Rose declared a State of Emergency for the City of University City due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Due to the ongoing efforts to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the October 14, 2021 meeting will be conducted via videoconference.

Observe and/or Listen to the Meeting (your options to join the meeting are below):

Webinar via the link below:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87942185364?pwd=bUszRzgrMUVLOWVWSGxGbGJxaHQ4UT09

Passcode: 902546

Audio Only Call

iPhone one-tap :
US: +13017158592,,87942185364# or +13126266799,,87942185364#

Or Telephone:
US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833 or 877 853 5247 (Toll Free) or 888 788 0099 (Toll Free)
Webinar ID: 879 4218 5364

Citizen Participation and Public Hearing Comments:
Those who wish to provide a comment during the "Citizen Participation" portion as indicated on the agenda; may provide written comments to Sinan Alpaslan ahead of the meeting.

ALL written comments must be received **no later than 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting.** Comments may be sent via email to: salpaslan@ucitymo.org, or mailed to the City Hall – 6801 Delmar Blvd. – Attention: Sinan Alpaslan. Such comments will be provided to Board/Commission member prior to the meeting. Comments will be made a part of the official record and made accessible to the public online following the meeting.

Please note, when submitting your comments, a **name and address must be provided.** Please also note if your comment is on an agenda or non-agenda item. If a name and address are not provided, the provided comment will not be recorded in the official record.

The City apologizes for any inconvenience the meeting format change may pose to individuals, but it is extremely important that extra measures be taken to protect employees, residents, and elected officials during these challenging times.

A G E N D A
GREEN PRACTICES COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

2. **ROLL CALL**

3. **OPENING ROUND**

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** 05/13/2021

5. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION –** none scheduled

6. **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Procedures for submitting comments for Citizen Participation and Public Hearings:
ALL written comments must be received **no later than 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting**. Comments may be sent via email to: salpaslan@ucitymo.org, or mailed to the City Hall – 6801 Delmar Blvd. – Attention: Sinan Alpaslan. Such comments will be provided to the Commission on Storm Water Issues members prior to the meeting. Comments will be made a part of the official record and made accessible to the public online following the meeting *Please note, when submitting your comments, a **name and address must be provided**. Please also not if your comment is on an agenda or non-agenda item. If a name and address are not provided, the provided comment will not be recorded in the official record.*

7. **NEW BUSINESS**
    a. Geo exchange facility heating and cooling – Discussion
    b. Emergency Climate Change Resolution – Discussion
    c. Sustainability Strategic Plan in Draft Form – Discussion (See Attachment)

8. **OLD BUSINESS**
    a. Mosquito Control (spraying and larvicide application) – Discussion and Direction
    b. Markets on Olive – Update and Discussion

9. **COUNCIL LIAISON UPDATE**

10. **CLOSING ROUND**

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Please call (314) 505-8572 or email salpaslan@ucitymo.org to confirm your attendance.

University City Sustainability Plan

2021

6801 Delmar Blvd

St. Louis, MO

63130

Phone: (314) 862 6767

SUSTAINABILITY EXCHANGE

City of University City

Washington University in St. Louis

Table of Contents

Executive Summary

The project focused on the creation of a new sustainability plan for University City. Through research and consultation with local experts, this plan was created to reflect the updated agenda of the citizens of University City and improve upon the previous targets of the 2012 Sustainability Plan. Jenny Wendt, the liaison for the University City Green Practices Commission and senior project manager, served as an advisor, along with Washington University in St. Louis Senior Lecturer Raymond Ehrhard to the two teams of Sustainability Exchange students.

In the Fall of 2020, a team of students created the foundation and background for the proposed University City Sustainability Plan. They divided the sustainability plan into six sections: Biodiversity, Energy & Emissions, Food Access, Waste & Materials Management, Healthy Transport, and Water & Green Infrastructure. Over the course of the Fall 2020 semester, they completed the Energy & Emissions and Water & Green Infrastructure sections. Additionally, they created transition materials to assist the Spring 2021 team in completing the remaining four sections of the sustainability plan.

During the Spring 2021 semester, the four remaining sections were completed, and all findings are summarized in this final report. Each section of the sustainability plan includes two to three main targets, along with a brief explanation of how they will be met. Relevant hyperlinks to additional information and resources are included throughout.

The finalized plan will be delivered to the University City Green Practices Commission and will be reviewed before implementation.

— Sustainability Exchange Teams
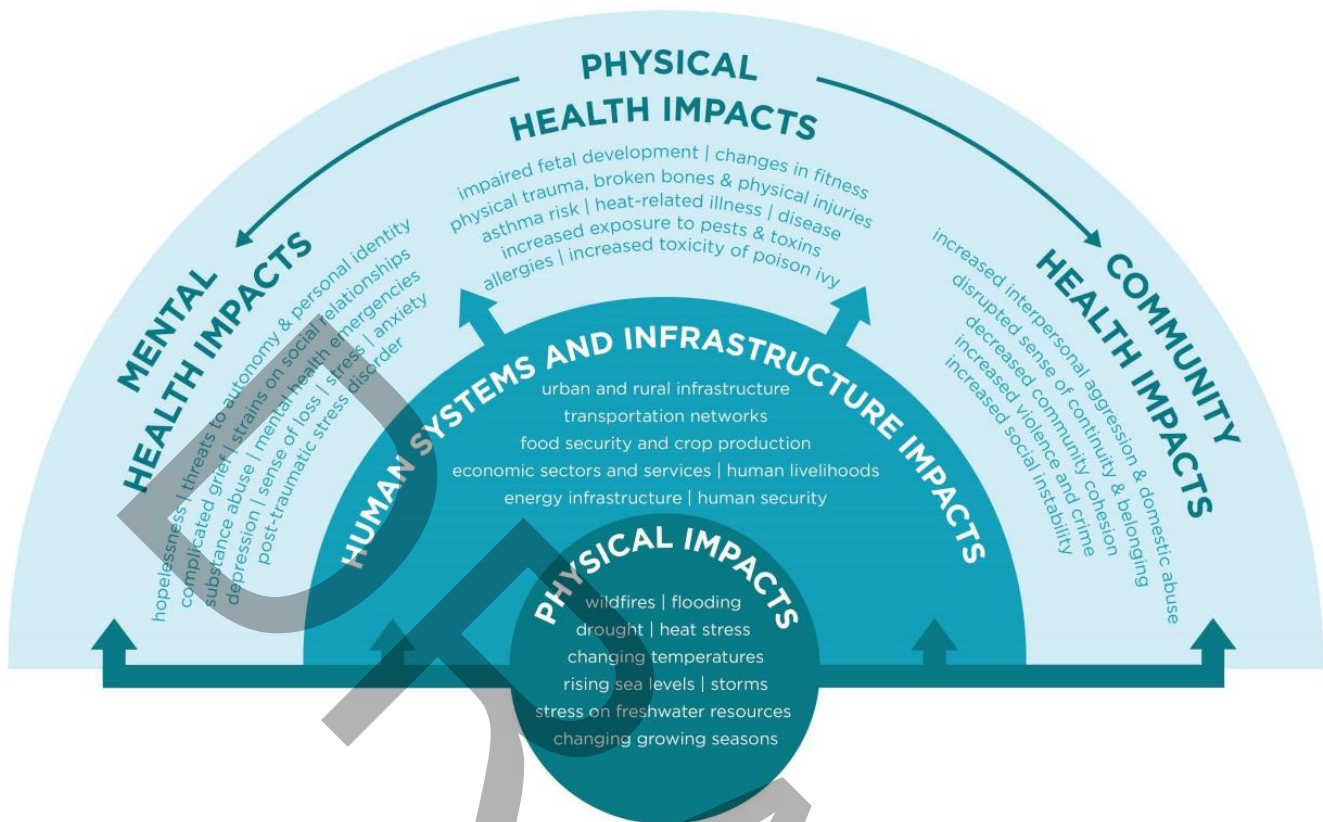
Why Create A Sustainability Plan?

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

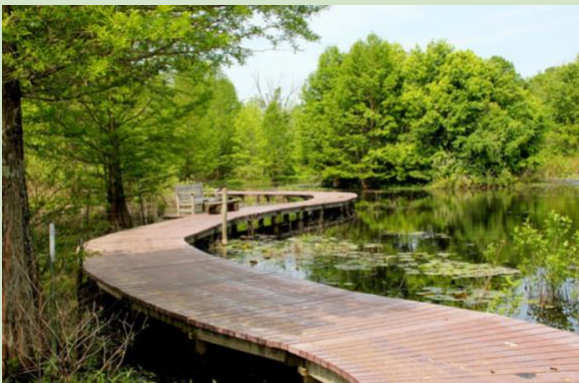An image of the native Jacob's ladder

GrowNative

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 it 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

Consider creating an integrated policy for energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reductions

- See 2007 St. Louis City Ordinance N. 67803

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

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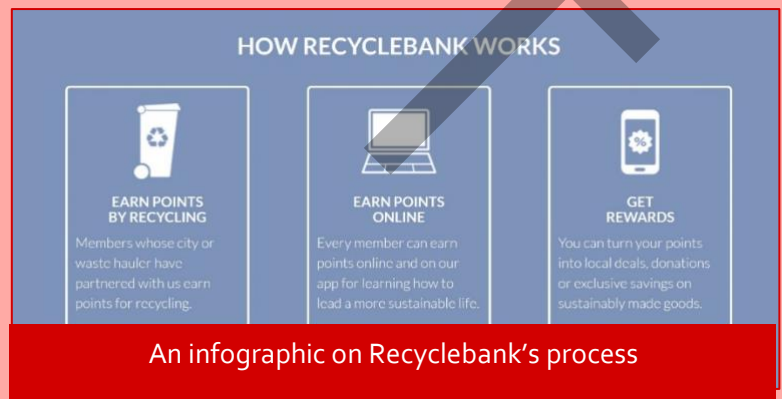
Target 1: Provide material incentives for residents who reduce waste and recycle

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!

HOW RECYCLEBANK WORKS

EARN POINTS BY RECYCLING
Members whose city or waste hauler have partnered with us earn points for recycling.

EARN POINTS ONLINE
Every member can earn points online and on our app for learning how to lead a more sustainable life.

GET REWARDS
You can turn your points into local deals, donations or exclusive savings on sustainably made goods.

An infographic on Recyclebank's process

Recyclebank.com

Target 2: Promote Recycling from construction/commercial sources

Implement a requirement 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

Enforce a ban on construction and demolition waste

- Remove the disposal of hazardous or otherwise valuable materials from landfills
- Include materials such as asbestos, asphalt pavement, brick, concrete, metal, wood, and gypsum wallboard (drywall)

N.B. These bans or requirements 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

- Follow the blueprint from California's Mandatory Commercial Recycling measure
- 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

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:
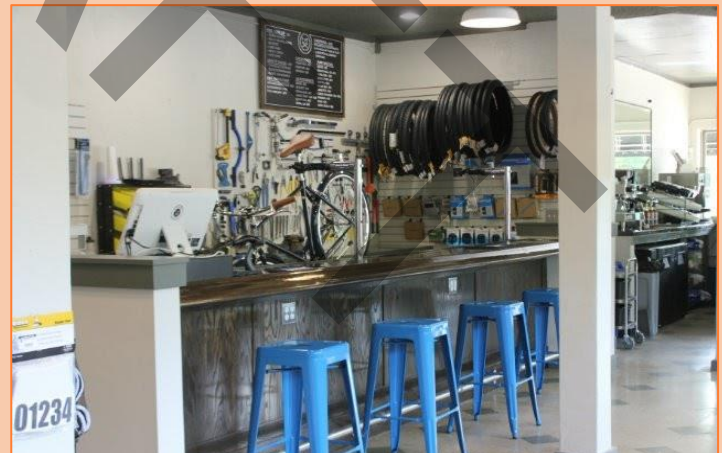 - Disseminate information through NextDoor and other social media platforms

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

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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:
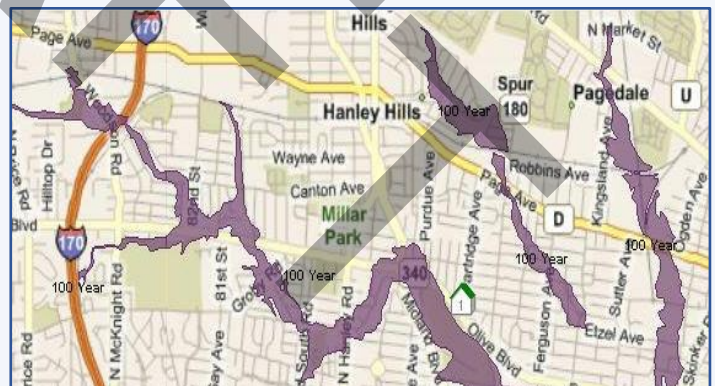
- Location of individual sewage disposal systems to aid with illicit discharge investigations
- Residential locations participating in sewer lateral repair program
- BMPs implemented by University City or construction contractors
- Salt application rates in winter to inform use of alternate deicing approaches 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

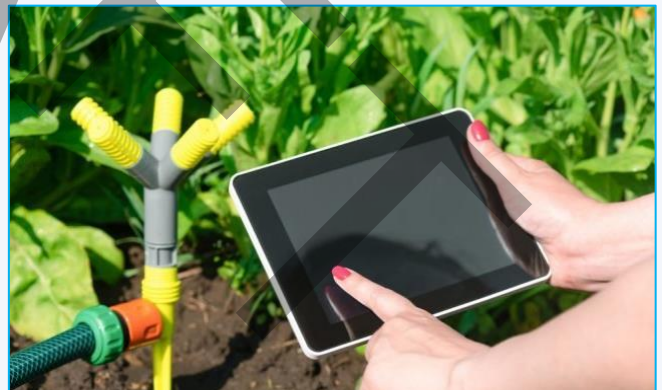Flood zones of River des Peres

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

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

Bobvila.com

- Install weather-based controllers on irrigation systems and water-efficient landscaping in parks and on municipal building properties

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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

			Comments
Overall Report Comments:			Refer to the OneSTL Sustainability plan and the framework in which this plan was created.
			Remove links and references to other cities frameworks used as examples, remove links to pertinent info and/or reference specific programs in a footnote or other reference type
			Add avenues for outreach, including digital message boards

			Comments
Biodiversity			Need signage for education on natives and raingardens (and BMPs)
	Target/Strategy		Comments
1	Connect residents to various natural spaces and their neighborhoods in University City		BB: Overall this section needs an increased focus on education on why biodiversity matters.
		Collaborate with groups and organizations to create educational content	
		Engage residents with ways they can promote biodiversity in their community	More focus on the Bring Conservation Home program
2	Promote the planting and protection of species native to University City and the state of Missouri		Remove "University City" - keep …native to the State of Missouri…
		Create "education gardens" full of native species in public green space	
		Protect native species and critical habitat areas	Currently no gardening sales in University City, so the section regarding sale of invasive species, should this be kept for future reference or removed?
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	
		Create ordinances to preserve the trees on private property	Replace with: Encourage/promote preservation of trees.
			"Partner with organizations in the area to establish adopt-a-tree programs" needs to be in a different location within the document or removed. Need reference to forestry permit and policy
			Remove "Fines for violating tree-property requirements…" or adapt it accordingly (fines for removing city trees? Look into forestry code)
		Establish a baseline of the current status of open green spaces in the City that is to be improved upon	
			Add something about tree-topping and how it's detrimental to trees
			Add a section about % tree cover and it's overlapping importance

Energy and Emission

	Target/Strategy		Comments
1	Improve Community Energy Education		
		I.e. 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, Ameren and Spire rebates, DOE Energy Loan Program	
2	Update Municipal Energy & Energy Efficiency Policies		
		Find a baseline of energy usage and efficiency	
		Create a greenhouse gas reduction target	
		Update International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)	
		Implement University City's integrated policy for energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reductions	Include details of this ordinance within the plan for clarity - as in specifically writing the details of the ordinanance into the plan. (plus link is not working)
3	Become a Solar and EV-Ready City		
		Complete application for SolSmart certification to remove barriers to solar implementation in University City	

		Create and adopt a Solar-Ready Ordinance	
		Make University City Electric Vehicle Ready	
			Add a section about emissions and air quality and how asthma is prevalent (particularly in regards to disproportionately effect low income communities)

			Comments
Food Access			Remove "Did You Know" section about community gardens. This is incorrect - University City has at least 3, maybe more, through Gateway Greening.
		Target/Strategy	
1		Educate residents and specifically youth on nutrition, cooking, gardening, and food waste	
		Begin healthy food choice education at the elementary level	
2		Address and reduce the cost of healthy foods and incentivizing their purchase	
		Make farmers markets and other local food access systems readily available to everyone	
		Make healthy food options more convenient and affordable than unhealthy food options	
3		Promote and grow spaces that connect communities with healthy food	
		Connect food growers with direct consumers	
		Connect the whole community to healthy foods	

			Comments
Waste and Materials Management			Add a section about the Green Dining Alliance and promoting it to other restaurants (including no styrofoam)
		Target/Strategy	
1		Provide material incentives for residents who reduce waste and recycle	
		Partner with a recycling incentive program, such as RecycleBank	
2		Promote Recycling from construction/commercial sources	
		Implement a system for corporate recycling based on volume	
		Require any event that uses a city permit to provide recycling	
		Reduce landfilling of construction and demolition waste	
3		Educate residents on the value of reducing, reusing, and recycling	Include the importance of quality of materials and the economic impact of contamination, add the contamination % goal

			Comments
Healthy Transport			
		Target/Strategy	
1		Implement Transit-Oriented Development and Expand Supporting Infrastructure	
		Maintain and supplement transport initiatives outlined in the Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan	Add information about bus routes, remove reference to U City Big Bend Metrolink as it is not a good example of transit oriented development, focus on transit oriented development around bus routes
		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	

2	Increase incentives for public and non-motorized transportation usage		
		Target enforcement of motor vehicle regulations to legitimize multimodal usership	
		Increase programming that promotes daily exercise, the outdoors, and active transport (i.e., biking, walking) in health and education centers	
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	
		Beautify the streetscape and encourage neighborly interactions through design	

Water & Green Infrastructure			Comments
Target/Strategy			
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	Elaborate on the MCMs and the MS4 program
		Raise community awareness of stormwater pollution and water quality issues	
		Maintain data to track information relevant to stormwater pollution and water quality	
		Maintain written programs and guidelines for municipal duties	
Decrease Potable Water Use 20% by 2025			How was this number determined? From Missouri American Water? Need to determine this % based on data.
		Educate citizens and encourage community involvement	
		Implement water reduction strategies on municipal properties where applicable, and encourage similar measures by University City organizations and citizens	
		Adjust municipal protocols to decrease water usage and ensure safe drinking water quality in University City	