



POLICY BARRIERS AND INCENTIVES TO REUSING BROWNFIELDS FOR COMMUNITY GARDENS AND URBAN AGRICULTURE

Brownfields and Urban Agriculture
in Kansas City, Missouri

October 7, 2010

Kansas City Approach

- Long history of urban gardens; little formal regulation
- Brownfields Program since 1997, based in neighborhoods
- Brownfield testing assistance offered upon request; not required
- Zoning: 2010 Kansas City Urban Agriculture Code
- Missouri RBCA process

Background

- Kansas City Brownfields Initiative
 - ▣ Increasing demand for brownfields & urban ag
2008 assistance first requested
 - ▣ Partnership with K-State since 1998
- Green Impact Zone – federal stimulus targeted
 - ▣ Vacant land & foreclosures
- Over 150 community gardens in metro area
- Little City-Owned property; Some Land Trust

Project Examples

DeLaSalle Education Center

- Student garden on former carwash & transformer site.
- Phase II testing confirmed safety of soils for campus expansion project



Washington Wheatley Neighborhood Garden

- ❑ Vacant Residential lots
- ❑ Crispus Attucks Elementary School
- ❑ Kansas State University tested uptake of metals in produce
- ❑ Data helped confirm safe levels



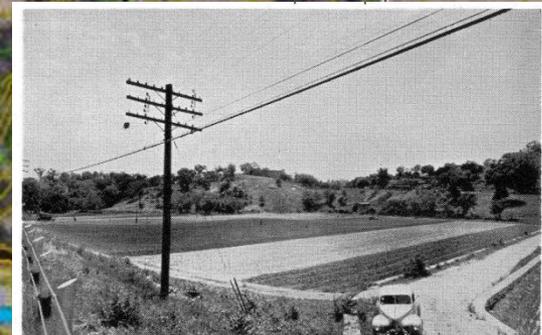
Switzer Neighborhood Farm Westside Community Gardens

- ❑ Former EDCORE building - medical kit assembly
- ❑ Abatement and removal 2005
- ❑ Raised bed gardens
- ❑ Testing planned to confirm safety for row crops



Municipal Farm

- 15 acre part of +300 acre
- Actual farm 1920s – 1940s
- Recently site of former jail
- Adjacent former TB hospital, animal control, haz waste



Ozark

Municipal Farm

- ❑ 1 acre community garden planned 2011
- ❑ K-State testing for metals completed
- ❑ Additional Phase I & II testing planned
- ❑ Row crops and raised beds with ADA accessibility for senior residents
- ❑ Sustainable Reuse Master Plan

Data Snapshot



- Lead, arsenic, PAHs, petroleum, asbestos most common risks with vacant (residential) lots
- Mostly confined to surface soils
- Trafficway proximity, paint surfaces, past demolition
- Background levels for comparison (Pb, As, PAHs, etc.)
- K-State studies suggest uptake is limited
- Dermal, ingestion and inhalation most likely pathway

Successful Strategies in Kansas City

- Long-term community involvement and relationships; sustained outreach.
- Community energy drives success on many levels.



Successful Strategies in Kansas City

Horace Mann School

- Inviting stakeholders to share needs for garden testing
- Getting garden non-profits involved in brownfields.
- Suggesting sustainable design, green space and gardens in other brownfield projects



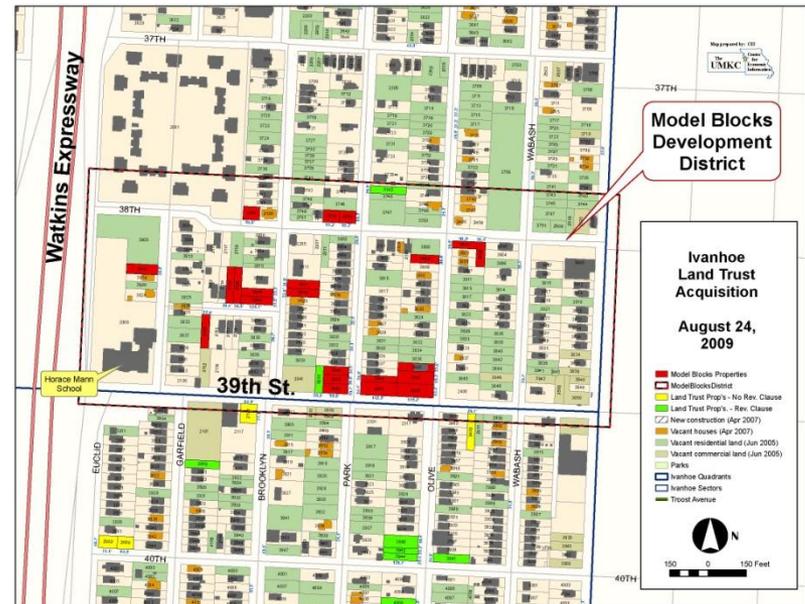
PHSC, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri

Successful Strategies in Kansas City

Ivanhoe Neighborhood – Green Impact Zone

Accumulate data through area-wide approaches

- Phase I due diligence to learn site use and history
- Phase II testing to learn average impacts on vacant lots.
- Background USACE study and USGS studies.



Successful Strategies in Kansas City

Partner with Universities, Third-party experts

- Urban agriculture risks and analysis technical assistance
- Technical Assistance for Brownfields (TAB) as neutral third-party for community information and explanation.



Successful Strategies in Kansas City

Resolve Urban Ag
Land Use Questions
through Zoning Code
updates

- Kansas City Urban
Agriculture Zoning
Code, adopted June
10, 2010.

Successful Strategies in Kansas City

Assemble and target
resources for Urban
Agriculture

- Brownfields Coalition
Assessment Grant 2010
 - City, County and CDO
(Kansas City, Jackson County,
LCRA)
 - \$871,500 Haz Sub
\$128,500 Petroleum
 - Urban Agriculture
 - Green Impact Zone
 - Urban Renewal Areas
 - Kickoff November 2010

- Brownfields Revolving Loan
Fund - \$2 M capital

Approach Forward

- ▣ Enhance Outreach on Brownfield Assistance for Urban Ag
- ▣ Develop methodology for garden assessment with K-State
- ▣ Work with Missouri DNR on MRBCA application to urban gardens





For more information

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