

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Chief Resilience Officer, Mid-America Regional Council, Kansas City, Missouri. December 2001 – present. (Promoted from Program Manager in Jan. 2005; promoted from Program Director in March 2023.)

Manage collaborative regional policy, planning and education initiatives agency on climate resilience, air and water quality, green infrastructure, energy, and solid waste. Supervise staff of ten, multiple committees and consultant teams. Oversee approximately \$5 million annual program budget and \$20 million in regional grant programs.

- Led development of nationally recognized Kansas City Regional Climate Action Plan, adopted in March 2021, and Priority Climate Action Plan, adopted in February 2024.
- Established a nationally recognized water resources/green infrastructure policy, planning and education program. Wrote and received 30+ grants totaling more than \$15 million.
- Built consensus among professional engineering association members and most area local governments to adopt new ecologically sensitive engineering standards and planning guidelines for green stormwater infrastructure in 2003 and again in 2024.
- Created nationally recognized, GIS-based inventory cataloguing the quality, distribution, and extent of area natural resources. The inventory catalyzed conservation of more than 90,000 riparian acres through local stream protection ordinances.
- Created Academy for Sustainable Communities, a professional and leadership development program for area planners, designers and decision-makers. Since 2008, the ASC trained over 20,000 professionals through over 500 professional training programs.
- Oversaw development of nationally recognized Clean Air Action Plan in 2004, and updates in 2011 and 2017. Plan creates a voluntary, flexible, sustainability-oriented, multi-pollutant, multi-sector air quality protection strategy.

Watershed Manager, City of Lenexa, Kansas, August 2000 – April 2002.

Established award-winning watershed management program. Facilitated community efforts leading to formal adoption of new city regulations, programs, & practices. Managed strategic planning for and initial implementation of \$87 million capital improvement program.

- Led process with elected officials, city staff and development community leading to the adoption of the first stream protection and erosion control ordinances in the metro area.
- Wrote and facilitated adoption of watershed management master plan.
- Oversaw initial scoping processes for three multi-purpose regional detention facilities.

Environmental Planner, Mid-America Regional Council, Kansas City, MO. 1996 – August 2000

- Oversaw awards of more than \$2 million for recycling and environmental education
- Led multi-agency effort to create Habitat for Humanity ReStore, creating 91 new jobs with \$6.4 million in unconditional annual revenue.

United States Peace Corps Volunteer in Ecuador (1989 – 1991) and Chile (1991 – 1992)

- Coordinated buffer zone management program (Podocarpus Nat'l Park, Zamora, Ecuador). Taught Agroforestry & Community Development (Univ. of Chile School of Forestry).

## EDUCATION

Cornell University, M.S., *Development Sociology*. Ithaca, NY, 1996 (*with honors*)  
 Duke University, M.E.M., *Environmental Management*. Durham, NC, 1988 (*with honors*)  
 Duke University, B.A., *Comparative Area Studies*. Durham, NC, 1986 (*with honors*)

## SKILLS

- Experienced team leader, mediator, facilitator, strategic planner
- Strong program designer and project manager
- Excellent grant writer and public speaker
- Experienced practitioner of sustainability-focused planning and natural resource management
- Seasoned public educator and environmental advisor to print and broadcast media

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Bridging the Gap, Board of Directors, 1998 - present
- Forest ReLeaf Missouri, Board of Directors, 2021 - 2023
- Deep Roots, Board of Directors, 2017 – present
- Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board, Board of Directors, 2014 – 2020
- Blue River Watershed Association, Board of Directors, Kansas City, MO, 2001-2007
- MARC Regional Water Resource Management Committee, Chairman, 2001 – 2002
- APWA – Kansas City Chapter Water Resources Committee, Chairman, 2002 – 2003
- KCMO Climate Protection Plan, Policy & Transp. Task Forces, Chairman, 2007 - 2008
- KCMO Mayoral Wet Weather Community Panel, 2004-2008
- ASCE, Environment and Water Resources Institute, Sustainability Committee, 2009 - 2011
- National Association of Regional Councils Green Infrastructure Committee. 2009 - 2011

## COMMUNITY AWARDS/RECOGNITION

- 2022 Winner of Award for Excellence in Sustainability, APA Sustainable Communities
- American Planning Association, Missouri Chapter. Most Outstanding Plan of 2021
- Jennings Randolph Fellow, Eisenhower Institute/American Public Works Association, 2015
- White House/Department of Energy, Climate Action Champion, December 2014
- Missouri Department of Natural Resources Award of Excellence, November 2014
- Kansas City Board of Public Utilities Energy Smart 2010 Build Green Energy Efficiency Award, April 2010
- EPA Clean Air Excellence Award, for MARC Clean Air Action Plan, March 2006
- National Arbor Day Award, for Right Tree Right Place Coalition, May 2004
- EPA National Clean Water Partner Award, for MARC watershed programs, 2002
- Missouri Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention/Environmental Excellence, for MARC Creating Quality Places initiative, September 2002
- Kansas City Industrial Council Brick-By-Brick Award, for Riverfront Heritage Trail, 2000
- NSF Fellowship, Social and Environmental Challenges in Conservation, 1994 –1995
- Gamma Sigma Delta, Alpha Kappa Delta and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Societies, 1995
- Scholarship for ecology studies in Costa Rica, Organization of Tropical Studies, 1986

## PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Published fourteen peer-reviewed articles on environmental policy/planning issues
- Presented at seven universities, over four dozen international, national and regional conferences, and to many local governments, professional and civic organizations
- Provide occasional peer reviews for professional, agency and academic journals

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer Reviewed Articles.

Zhang, Yuqiang, Tom Jacobs, et. al. 2020. “Unexpected air quality impacts from implementation of green infrastructure in urban environments: A Kansas City case study.” *Science of The Total Environment*, Volume 744. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.140960> .

Gilbert, H., Jacobs, T., Jeong, S., Pomerantz, M., Millstein, D., Norsby, D., Repinsky, A., Levinson, R. 2019. Heat Island Mitigation Assessment and Policy Development for the Kansas City Region. DOI:10.20357/B7Q59M

Struck, Scott, Bob Pitt, Deb O'Bannon, Michael Ports, Ginny Moore, Tom Jacobs, Kerry Herndon, and Mandy Whitsitt. August 2011. National Demonstration of the Integration of Green and Gray Infrastructure in Kansas City, Missouri. Submitted to National Risk Management Research Laboratory, Office of Research and Development, U.S. EPA. Cincinnati, OH.

Jacobs, Tom. July – August 2011. “Using Regional Planning to Achieve Water Quality and Wetland Protection Benefits.” *Environmental Law Institute National Wetlands Newsletter* 33(4): 16-19.

Jacobs, Tom. 2008. “Urban Forestry and Green Infrastructure Planning in Metro Kansas City.” American Planning Association PAS Report on Urban and Community Forestry. Chicago, IL.

Jacobs, Tom. 2007. “Green Infrastructure, Environmental Mitigation and Transportation Planning in Kansas City”. In *Proceedings of the 2007 International Conference on Ecology and Transportation*, edited by C. Leroy Irwin, Debra Nelson, and K.P. McDermott. Raleigh, NC: Center for Transportation and the Environment, North Carolina State University, 2007. pp.359.

Hoesel Stephen, T. Jacobs, et. al. 2006. “Emerging Landcare Examples in the United States.” In *Conference Proceedings, 2006 International Landcare Conference: Environmental Challenges for Sustainable Land Use*. Melbourne, Australia.

Jacobs, Tom and S. Apfelbaum. Nov – Dec. 2004. “Before the Flood.” *Environmental Law Institute National Wetlands Newsletter* 26(6): 5-8.

Jacobs, Tom. April 2002. “Smart Growth: Creating Quality Places.” *Urban Land*. 61(4):24-25.

Jacobs, Thomas. 1996. “From Forest Clearing to Forest Replacement: The Political Ecology of Conservation in the Dominican Republic.” *Culture and Agriculture* 18(2): 58-67.

Jacobs, Thomas. 1996. “The Political Ecology of Deforestation: A Case Study from Los Haitises National Park, Dominican Republic.” Cornell University Master’s Thesis.

Jacobs, Thomas. "Proposal for Agroforestry Research and Extension for Small and Medium Landholders." In, CIPMA. *4to Encuentro Científico Sobre El Medio Ambiente. Gestión Ambiental: Desarrollo Hoy Sin Arriesgar El Mañana*. Valdivia, Chile, May 6-8, 1992.