

Zone receives \$26 million grant for transportation improvements

On Feb. 17, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood visited the Green Impact Zone to announce \$1.5 billion in federal TIGER grants (Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery), including \$50 million for the Kansas City area.

The grant application included \$26 million for projects in the Green Impact Zone, including improvements to sidewalks, curbs and public transit shelters; enhanced bus service on Troost; upgrades to traffic signals; and a complete makeover of the Troost bridge.

These improvements, planned in partnership with the city of Kansas City, Mo., the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority and others, will help Green Impact Zone residents, neighborhoods and the city.

Other parts of the grant will be used on transit improvements that will

reach far beyond the Green Impact Zone, connecting the zone to our regional neighbors in Kansas, eastern Jackson County, and north of the Missouri River.

The Mid-America Regional Council coordinated the regional grant application for TIGER funds. The U.S. Department of Transportation received more than 1,400 applications, and only 51 were selected to receive funding.

"You ought to be mighty proud here today," Secretary LaHood told a gathering of about 200 people at the Green Impact Zone office. "With so much competition and so many good applications, only a few of the very best projects could be selected. One of the very best is here in Kansas City."

LaHood called the zone a great model for environmentally friendly urban-growth projects in other parts of the country.



U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood visited the Green Impact Zone office to announce a grant that will fund transportation and infrastructure improvements in the zone.

Pictured, from left, Kansas City Mayor Mark Funkhouser; U.S. Representative Emanuel Cleaver II, Missouri — Fifth District; U.S. Representative Dennis Moore, Kansas — Third District; Secretary LaHood; and MARC Executive Director David Warm.

It's time to be counted: Fill out and return your 2010 census form

In March, the U.S. Census Bureau mailed 2010 census forms to every resident in the nation. The census takes place every 10 years, as required by the constitution.

The federal government uses census data to determine the boundaries for congressional and legislative districts and to decide how federal funds and other resources should be distributed.

Census data is also used by local communities and businesses to determine where to build schools, hospitals, retail stores and other community facilities.

United States®
**Census
2010**
IT'S IN OUR HANDS

You can help your neighborhood, the Green Impact Zone and the community by filling out and returning

the census form when it arrives — and encouraging your neighbors to do the same.

The census form asks 10 basic questions, including how many people stay at your residence and the age, gender and race of each person.

The Census Bureau is currently hiring temporary workers in the Kansas City area. To learn more about census jobs, visit the Green Impact Zone Web site, www.greenimpactzone.org, or call the local census office at 816-977-2140.



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with
the zone**

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Become a fan on Facebook (search "Green Impact Zone of Missouri")

Read our blog at greenimpactzone.wordpress.com



The Lee A. Tolbert Community Academy Drum Line performed on stage in the main auditorium at Paseo Academy during the Green Impact Zone's community event last December. Thanks to a generous donation from KCP&L, electrical repairs will improve the auditorium's lighting for future school and community events.

Partnership with KCP&L lights the way for students and community

When the Green Impact Zone held its first community event at Paseo Academy on Dec. 5, 2009, staff members discovered that a number of electrical repairs were needed in the main auditorium.

"Our guests thought we dimmed the lights for program purposes," said Twana Scott, assistant director and outreach manager for the Green Impact Zone. "But in fact, the auditorium lights could not be activated. Paseo is a major community asset and the only high school in the Green Impact Zone, so we wanted to help them address this problem."

The Green Impact Zone asked KCP&L to donate some of the money earmarked for promoting remaining zone-wide events to the high school to complete the necessary electrical repairs, and KCP&L agreed.

Services to Educational and Community Theaters (SECT) carried out the work and also trained two Paseo students on how to make the repairs. Other students videotaped the repair process.

"This is an excellent example of teaching someone to fish instead of giving them a fish," said Steve Butler, president and owner of SECT.

"It was a valuable experience for the students involved. This partnership between KCP&L, SECT and the Green Impact Zone has literally and figuratively made the high school brighter."

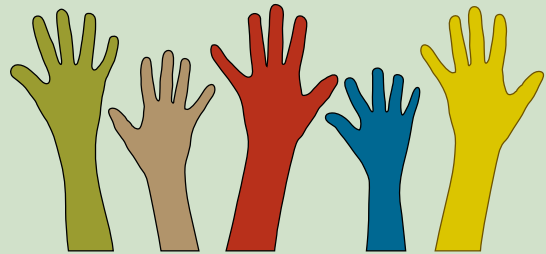
A ceremonial ribbon cutting and lighting will be held at noon on Saturday, March 27, in the Paseo Academy auditorium as part of the Green Impact Zone's second community-wide event.

Community Crews can help with small concrete repairs

Many of the older homes in the Green Impact Zone have problems with stormwater getting into basements because of dilapidated sidewalks and foundations that need repair. The Green Impact Zone and the Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council have trained two Community Crews, made up of young people ages 16–24, to repair or replace damaged walkways around homes, sloping the concrete away from foundations to redirect stormwater.



Homeowners in the Green Impact Zone may apply to have work done by the Community Crews. Green Impact Zone community ombudsmen are available to help homeowners complete the application form. Requests are submitted to the work-crew supervisor, who will evaluate the requested concrete-repair work and notify the homeowner if it is approved. Home ownership must be verified through tax or deed records. For more information, contact the Green Impact Zone office at 816-936-8803.



Community Leadership Program launches Problem-Solving Series

Want to become a leader in your neighborhood? Green Impact Zone residents are eligible to participate in MARC's Community Leadership training program at no cost.

The program offers certificates in five areas — Personal Strengths, Facilitation Skills, Problem Solving, Relationship Building and Community Building. Each series is made up of five, two-hour sessions.

The Problem-Solving series, instructed by Ronelle Neperud and Jennifer Stone, introduces the D-E-A-L model — Define, Explore, Act and Learn — using real-life scenarios to help neighborhood leaders and other stakeholders learn how to solve problems in their communities.

Classes will be held on Mondays, 6–8 p.m., March 28–April 26, at the Green Impact Zone office; or Tuesdays, 6–8 p.m., April 27–May 25, at UMKC, 4747 Troost.

For more information or to register for the program, call 816-701-8216 or visit www.marc.org/clp.

Become a “Sower of Sustainability” in your neighborhood

The Green Impact Zone is looking for people — ideally, two teams of three in each neighborhood in the zone — to become “Sowers of Sustainability.”

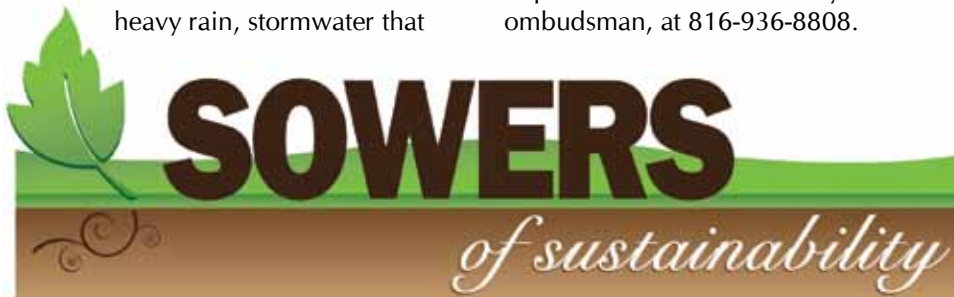
Team members will attend free community gardening workshops and help select locations to build rain gardens in their neighborhoods. The program includes four classroom sessions and two demonstration projects in the community.

Rain gardens not only beautify the neighborhood; they also help absorb stormwater runoff. After a heavy rain, stormwater that

isn't absorbed into the ground can damage foundations and sidewalks. And as stormwater rushes down streets, it picks up oil, pesticides and other contaminants that end up in rivers and streams.

Teams will also learn about community vegetable gardens — a great way to involve neighbors in a project that provides healthy, nutritious food for residents and others in need.

To sign up or for more information, contact Arletha Manlove, Green Impact Zone lead community ombudsman, at 816-936-8808.



The Green Impact Zone is a cooperative effort to focus federal stimulus funds on projects in a targeted area of Kansas City, Mo. that has experienced abandonment and economic decline.

The Green Impact Zone is bounded by 39th Street on the north, 51st Street on the south, Troost Avenue on the west, and Prospect to 47th to Swope Parkway on the east.

The initiative, proposed by U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II and administered by the Mid-America Regional Council, seeks to put people and dollars to work to strengthen neighborhoods, create jobs and improve energy efficiency.

The initiative includes housing rehab and weatherization programs, community policing and services, job training and placement, and health and wellness programs.

The mission of the Green Impact Zone is to develop a sustainable community that is environmentally, economically and socially stronger tomorrow than it is today.

Classroom Training:

Tuesdays, 5:30–8:30 p.m.
March 30, April 6, 13 & 20
Green Impact Zone Offices
4600 Paseo
Kansas City, MO 64110

Demonstration Workshops:

April 17 and May 1
Locations to be determined

What you'll learn:

- How Watersheds Work
- How to Build Sustainable Resources
- Gardening Basics and Stormwater
- Vegetable and Community Gardening
- Rain / Vegetable Garden Maintenance
- Garden Implementation / Design

COMING SOON TO THE GREEN IMPACT ZONE



Urban Homes Tour • April 24

Are you considering buying a home, or do you want to know the steps you can take toward owning one? Join us Saturday, April 24, for home-ownership workshops and a bus tour of available homes in the Green Impact Zone. Workshops will also be held Thursday, April 29. Call Cokethea Hill at 816-936-8807 for details.



Kansas City Convoy of Hope • June 12

The Green Impact Zone has partnered with Convoy of Hope, Inc., a national nonprofit organization based in Springfield, Mo., to present a community-wide event at Swope Park on Saturday, June 12. Working with local faith-based organizations, the Kansas City Convoy of Hope plans to provide an estimated 5,000 people with a message of hope, free groceries, health screenings, job fairs (including help with résumés), haircuts, games, activities for children and much more. All goods and services are provided to guests free of charge. For more information, visit www.kansascityconvoy.org.



NEXUS of Excellence Youth Program

To truly transform the Green Impact Zone, we must involve the youth in our communities. Plans are underway now to help the next generation become a NEXUS of Excellence in the zone. Watch for more information in our next newsletter, or call Jermaine Reed at 816-936-8805.



Mid-America Regional Council

Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, MO 64105



Green Impact Zone

4600 Paseo
Kansas City, MO 64110

Office Hours
Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Evenings by appointment

Phone: 816-936-8803
Fax: 816-421-7758

Web: www.greenimpactzone.org
E-mail: greenimpactzone@marc.org

SAVE THE DATE!



June 12, 2010

**Kansas City
Convoy of Hope
Swope Park**

keep it green keep it clean

WEATHERIZATION

Heating bills too high? Weatherizing your home may help. Call 816-513-3025 for information and an application.

PAINT PROGRAM

Exterior of your house need painting? Call 816-513-3252 to see if you qualify for free paint and supplies.

WEEKLY TRASH PICKUP

The city will pick up two bags per household for free each week. Additional bags must have a special tag. You can buy tags for \$1 each at Westlake Ace Hardware or Price Chopper stores.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Things like paint, batteries, pesticide, oil and other hazardous products shouldn't go in the regular trash. You can drop these items off at the city's HHW facility at 4707 Deramus, but you must call 816-513-8400 for an appointment.

CURBSIDE RECYCLING

Put plastic bottles, aluminum cans and other recyclables in your blue bin on the curb on trash day. Don't have a blue bin? You can buy one for \$9 at Westlake Ace Hardware or Price Chopper stores.

OTHER RECYCLING

Have questions about what you can recycle and where to take it? Call 816-474-TEAM or go online to www.recyclespot.org.

NEW! GLASS RECYCLING

Ripple Glass has placed convenient recycling bins for glass drop off around the Kansas City area. For more information, call 816-221-GLASS or go online to rippleglasskc.com.

BULKY ITEM PICKUP

Have old furniture or appliances you need to get rid of? Call 311 to make an appointment for a bulky item pickup.