Brownfields & Urban Waters Projects across the Groundwork Network 2013-14

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Contents

Cover photo is from Cincinnati, OH – GW Cincinnati-Mill Creek is cleaning up a site about half-a-linear mile in length and between 50-200-feet wide, located in the upland riparian corridor of Mill Creek, so that the Mill Creek Greenway Trail can be built to go through this site.

Introduction

Groundwork Trusts across the country are helping communities repurpose vacant lots and brownfields and restore neglected waterways and rivers. The last few years have been busy for the Groundwork network, with many new projects getting off the ground, some long-term projects coming to fruition, and on-going projects making great progress. Many smaller projects that are at various stages of development are not included here, but our Trusts continue to work on getting vacant lots and polluted waterways on to a more active slate of projects that can be moved forward, so that these community assets can be regained for active use.

Brownfields & Vacant Lot Projects across the Network

GROUNDWORK SOMERVILLE

Somerville, MA: South Street Farm (1st year of GW Involvement: 2001)

History: South Street, on the Cambridge border, is a formerly industrialized area, and the vacant lot shares a block with an auto-recycling yard. It currently has low foot traffic, but is in a TOD area that is slowly seeing new businesses arrive. The lot is paved, with border gardens that Groundwork originally planted in 2001 as the Trust's first project.

Reuse: Raised beds, compost, soil storage, rain water harvesting, a mural and iron-gate established this 4,000 square foot site as Somerville's first farm. An analogous neighboring 12,000 square foot site is planned for expansion to be constructed by June 30th, 2014 to include a 3,000 square foot growing field, demonstration beds, berry bushes, "insect hotels" to attract pollinators and a greenhouse. Groundwork has created a business plan with South Street Farm as the central piece of an Urban Agriculture Initiative, with much of the produce directed to the affordable Mobile Farmers Market.

Role of GW Somerville: Planning, construction, planting, maintenance, harvesting, fundraising, soil quality monitoring, food distribution, project advocacy, community outreach. The year 2013 was a big one for South Street Farm, with an official ribbon-cutting on July 30th, with Mayor Joseph Curtatone, Alderwoman Maryann Heuston, and many others in attendance. GW Somerville unveiled, and demonstrated, the brand new water catchment system, including bicycle powered and solar pumps, and was even able to complete installation of the wrought iron fence designed and built by the Somerville High School Metal Shop (see photo). In terms of long term goals, GW Somerville has signed an agreement with the Somerville Redevelopment Authority to ***expand into 138 South Street***, which will include a 3,000 square foot growing field bordered by granite to recreate the visual of a more traditional-looking farm,

with demonstration beds in the front and a fully functioning greenhouse.
Partners: City of Somerville, Green City Growers, Prospect Hill Academy, Nissenbaum's Auto Yard, Jamspot, Anne Vaterlaus from Mark K Morrison Landscape Architecture, Josh Briggs, Shape Up Somerville, Artisan's Asylum, Emily and Rahul Bharghava.
Funding: City of Somerville, Llewellyn Foundation, YouthWorks, Mass Department of Agriculture, Honeywell, Merck Family Fund.

GROUNDWORK RICHMOND

Located in Richmond, California (1st year of GW involvement: 2011)
History: A 3.5 mile green pedestrian and bike trail, The Richmond Greenway cuts through a swath of neighborhoods that are historically, the poorest and under-treed neighborhoods located in Richmond. In partnership with the City of Richmond, Groundwork Richmond has implemented an adopt-a-tree program and an adopt-a-site (along the greenway) program.

Role of GW Richmond, CA: In 2013 GWR has planted eighty-nine trees, cleaned-up and maintained their adopted spots along the greenway with the help of our Green Team. Our Green Team received an environmental science curriculum to learn about climate change, and members were also trained by a certified arborist in tree-planting and tree-care. GWR with our Green Team and partners have transformed several neighborhoods by planting trees and completely transformed two sites for use by the community. Lucas Park – thirty five new trees, play structures and benches and 42nd street site on the Greenway – mural, bike racks, benches and mulched (see photo).
Partners: City of Richmond, Straight Talk on Prison, Rosie the Riveter National Park Service, The Watershed Project, YouthWorks, NPS, and Groundwork USA.
Funding: City of Richmond, RORI, NPS, CalFire, ClifBar

GROUNDWORK PORTLAND

East Portland, OR: Brownfield Neighborhood Planning (1st year of GW involvement: 2012)
History: East Portland is a poverty-dense area of the City, with greatest diversity of newcomers from other countries and long-term displaced residents from African American and Native American communities. The area has a concentration of affordable housing, but extremely limited infrastructure and jobs to support those who live there.
Goal: To complement the Emerson Street Garden project completed last year, pursue additional brownfield sites for community-based redevelopment through education and engagement of a diverse group of East Portland students and surrounding community members to do brownfields planning and community outreach; also help establish Groundwork Portland as a resource for community-oriented brownfield redevelopment in East Portland and across the metro area.
Role of GW Portland: Project planning, implementation, formation of a working group.
Partners: David Douglas High School Students, East Portland residents

Funding: East Portland Action Plan—City of Portland, Jim Waddell (Community of Visions Workshop facilitator).

Status update: The East Portland Action Plan Brownfields Subcommittee completed a preliminary design for this site that reflects the expressed needs of dozens of East Portlanders, as described below.

GROUNDWORK LAWRENCE

Lawrence, MA: Ferrous Site (1st year of GW involvement: 2011)

History: Site is located at the end of a man-made island at the confluence of the North Canal, the Merrimack River and the Spicket River. Built portion of the parcel contains single story industrial buildings totaling 90,000 square feet and minimal parking, while remainder is an urban wild colonized by pioneer plant species and frequented by eagles, herons, American Kestrel, muskrat, and deer.

Reuse: 8-acre site will be redeveloped as a mixed-use development with retail and residential units. Given the site's relative isolation and scenic character, approximately a quarter of the parcel will be protected open space. Long-term goal is to establish a natural area to support urban environmental education.

Role of GW Lawrence: GW Lawrence is a trusted intermediary between current property owner and several development groups. GWL has facilitated appraisal of the property to establish fair market value, helped to negotiate a reasonable purchase price, and contracted with an architect to develop a mixed-use plan with community support for site redevelopment. GWL 's work led to a great victory recently: In April 2014, Governor Deval Patrick of Massachusetts announced a $2.75 million investment to help create a public park at the Ferrous Site in Lawrence (see photo above from press event with GWL Executive Director, Heather McMann). The funding will help the City of Lawrence and Groundwork Lawrence acquire the site and create a park that will provide a quiet, natural respite within Lawrence's North Canal District and allow residents to access the Lower Locks waterfall and the riverfront.

Partners: City of Lawrence, MassDevelopment, local developers.

Funding: Private and public sources.

GROUNDWORK HUDSON VALLEY

Yonkers, NY: Saw Mill River Daylighting Project (1st year of GW Involvement: 2001)

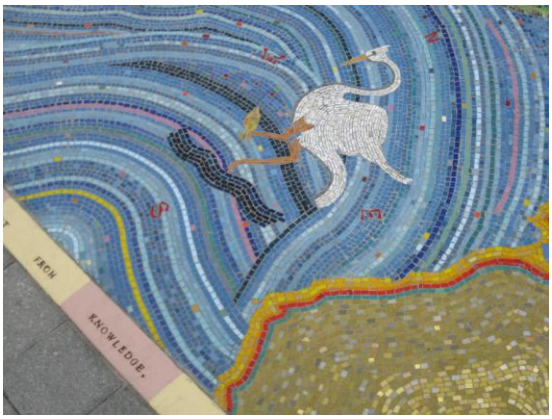
History: The Sawmill River in downtown Yonkers, approximately 1 mile in length, had been covered over, culverted and forgotten for more than a century. The site was a parking lot, beneath which was contaminated soil from the many industries that surrounded the site in the early 20th Century. In summer 2012, cleanup of the former capped brownfield now known as Van der Donck Park was completed and opened to the public. The $17.5 million dollar project transformed what was a parking lot into a 2-acre riverfront park in the heart of downtown Yonkers. The restored river now boasts a fish ladder, native plantings, an American Eel Outdoor Classroom, and space for a new farmers' market run by GWHV and its Green Team youth. GWHV continues to develop small pocket parks along the river a half-mile upstream from Van der Donck Park with its Green Landscaping Corps job training program.

Reuse: With the capstone daylighting project (known as Van der Donck Park) at the mouth of the Saw Mill River now complete, upstream sections of the river will be daylighted to form a new linear park featuring an historic interpretive trail, restored estuarine habitat, and major retail and residential developments.

Role of GW Hudson Valley: Project advocacy, community outreach, facilitation of charrettes, fundraising, conceptual planning, brownfield assessment, water quality monitoring.

Partners: City of Yonkers, Manhattan College, New York State DEC, EPA Office of Water, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, Downtown Yonkers BID, Scenic Hudson, PS&S Engineering, Project for Public Spaces.

Funding: New York State DEC, City of Yonkers.
Status: Groundwork Hudson Valley continues to be an active City partner on additional phases of daylighting for the river (Mill Street and Chicken Island) including drawing in community organizations to develop interpretive signage; information about history, health, and art in the area; programming activities in the park (see photos below of girl checking out the interpretive signage, and mosaic in the park that GWHV was responsible for); and training high school students to do water quality sampling for which the City provides the testing.



GROUNDWORK HUDSON VALLEY

Bronx to Yonkers, NY: Putnam Spur Rail-to-Trail Brownfield Project (1st year of GW Involvement: 2012)
History: This five mile former rail line, a 19th Century commuter corridor and one of the nation's first transit-oriented developments, was abandoned in the 1950s but still connects downtown Yonkers to New York City. Today the right-of-way remains a series of empty parcels traversing one of Yonkers' most disadvantaged communities and attracts trash, weeds, and illicit activity. Envisioned as a modern bike and pedestrian greenway, the corridor would connect Yonkers residents to New York City and its park system, along with direct and safe bike access to the New York City subway system. In turn, New York City residents could take the trailway all the way to downtown Yonkers, Van der Donck Park, government center, and the Science Barge.
Reuse: Rail-to-trail bike and pedestrian greenway.
Role of GW Hudson Valley: Project facilitator, fundraising; manage Phase I and II Brownfields Assessment, neighborhood outreach, conceptual planning, programming, and stewardship.
Partners: City of Yonkers, New York City Parks and Planning, EPA Brownfields, Westchester Community Foundation, Tri-State Transportation Campaign, South Broadway Business Improvement District, Municipal Housing

Authority for the City of Yonkers, New York State Parks.

Funding: Received EPA Brownfields Area-Wide Planning grant for work with Lawrence Neighborhood.

Status Update for 2013/14:

Lawrence Neighborhood Area-Wide Brownfields planning project began in the fall of 2013 with the establishment of the Steering Committee represented by a cross-section of local residents, faith-based organizations, the South Broadway Business Improvement District, the Commissioner of Parks and the Commissioner of Planning, among others. The launch included a press conference with the Mayor and City Council leaders on the vacant properties that are serving as the catalyst sites for the community renewal initiative. The following key activities have occurred to date:

- Monthly steering committee meetings
- Field trips to other brownfields and rail to trail projects in the New York area
- Two large community meetings to get input on neighborhood needs, focusing on a vision for the future of the neighborhood
- An RFP process in which we selected Alta consulting for technical services related to developing the area-wide brownfield plan
- A street-level community survey in Spanish and English, and the development of a potential partnership with Place Matters for additional technical support around community engagement
- A site tour led by Groundwork with the federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities working group for Region 2 involving EPA, DOT, and HUD staff
- A GIS map being used to identify neighborhood assets and key stakeholders
- Relationship building meeting between the Mayor of Yonkers and the Director of NYC's Van Cortlandt Park

GROUNDWORK ELIZABETH

Elizabeth, NJ: City of Elizabeth Brownfields Inventory (1st year of GW involvement: 2012)

History: Groundwork Elizabeth and other local entities organized a Brownfield Task Force for the purpose of examining the "Top 100" Brownfield properties in Elizabeth. The overarching goal is to be able to strategically direct redevelopment and remediation resources to these sites.

Role of GW Elizabeth: Kelsey Brooks, Graduate Student from Rutgers Bloustein School for Public Policy, and Scott Warner, Political Science at Fairleigh Dickinson, Groundwork Elizabeth interns supported by Executive Director Jonathan Phillips, are helped to lead the efforts to inventory the brownfield properties.

Partners: City of Elizabeth Department of Planning and Community Development, Councilwoman Pat Perkins Auguste, the State of NJ DEP, Region 2 EPA, the Elizabeth Development Company, Union County's Department of Parks and Community Development, City of Elizabeth Engineering Consultant, and others.

Funding: Seed funding from NPS-RTCA and other sources.

GROUNDWORK DENVER

Denver, CO: Platte Farm Open Space (1st year of GW Involvement: 2007)

History: Almost 6 acres of vacant, dilapidated land attract illegal dumping, off-road driving and other unwanted activities to the heart of the Globeville neighborhood in Denver. Almost six years ago, the local Councilwoman asked Groundwork Denver to help a group of residents develop a vision for the site. The vision was created with broad community input, followed by design development, costs estimates and a maintenance plan. A Phase I environmental assessment, title work and a land survey were conducted in 2012. The City of Denver is in negotiations with Xcel Energy to purchase their portion of the land so the entire area can become a City Natural Area. Simultaneously, GW Denver is negotiating with the City of Denver regarding GW Denver's role in fundraising, restoration and construction, and ongoing maintenance.

Reuse: The community envisions a natural area with wheelchair-accessible trails, native grasses and a natural play area. The City wants the site to include stormwater detention facilities.

Role of GW Denver: Community engagement; resident steering committee support; fundraising; managing contracts with landscape architects, environmental consultants, surveyor and title companies; site construction management; and post-redevelopment site maintenance.

Partners: City of Denver, Xcel Energy

Funding: NPS, City of Denver, ERO Resources (pro bono environmental), Hogan Lovells (pro bono legal), EPA Environmental Justice grant.

GROUNDWORK CINCINNATI-MILL CREEK

Cincinnati, OH: Large Edible Forest Garden (1st year of GWC/Mill Creek Restoration Project Involvement: 2004)

History: This two-acre site in the upland terrace of Mill Creek was formerly an abandoned, derelict property where the Army Corps of Engineers parked a fieldwork trailer for several decades. The Corps removed the trailer about fifteen years ago when it walked away from the flood control project, but left the degraded parking lot and a large amount of concrete blocks on the site. The Corps local sponsor, the Mill Creek Valley Conservancy District, had erected ten-foot-high chain link fencing with rows of barbed wire around the entire perimeter of the property to keep the public off the property and away from the river.

Role of GW Cincinnati-Mill Creek: In 2004, the first phase of this brownfield reclamation project entailed taking down the barbed wire and fencing, performing a Phase II Environmental Assessment based on Phase I Environmental Assessment information, and planting one hundred Freedom Trees. GWC found no contaminants of concern in the Phase II analysis, but did find heavily compacted clay soils and buried construction debris. Therefore GWC completed extensive site preparation on the northern portion of the property prior to collaborating with the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center to plant the Freedom Trees (Mill Creek was

a heavily used transportation route in the Underground Railroad; thousands of slaves from the south who crossed the Ohio River followed the creek to the north, to freedom). The Freedom Trees are planted in honor of them. GWC tells its Green Team youth that they in turn are creating their own legacy for future generations as they plant Freedom Trees and bring Mill Creek back to health.

The second phase of this brownfield project included removal of the broken asphalt and concrete in the parking lot area, within the middle and southern ends of the site. GWC found a paving company that picked up all of the concrete blocks, ground them, and reused the material for paving products. In addition, GWC constructed the Mill Creek Greenway Trail through the entire length of the property and seeded the site.

Step 1: Removal of fencing/barbed wire, degraded parking lot, and concrete debris, and planting of first Freedom Tree grove and trail construction.

Step 2: Building soils – Two applications each of leaf mold, organic compost, and topsoil with hundreds of youth, other community volunteers, and major partners.

Step 3: Planting edible forest garden.

Step 4: Harvesting, public art installation, and community celebration.

Reuse: During spring 2013, GWC worked on the site with over 300 Green Team youth, and partners to improve the soils, including tilling heavily compacted clay soils and applying a total of eight layers of leaf mold, compost and topsoil on the entire site before any planting occurred

(in July, the Washington Post ran a story about the edible forest garden component of GWC's multi-objective Healthy People Healthy River Strategy).

GWC and its volunteers planted corn, beans and squash, and the summer Green Team helped to water and weed the garden throughout the summer months. The vegetables were harvested in the summer and fall and eaten by trail users and visitors. GWC made the decision to allow anyone to take the food as part of encouraging healthy eating under its Mill Creek Healthy People/Healthy River Strategy.

GWC worked with other community partners to maintain the Freedom Tree portion of the property, and installed four sculptures in and around the large edible forest garden.

The vegetable garden was very labor intensive. GWC has asked the Northside neighborhood where the large edible garden is located what it wants to see happen on the site in 2014, and whether neighborhood volunteers are willing to help with the maintenance. The consensus is 1) for GWC to assist the neighborhood with smaller edible gardens in other parts of the neighborhood, and 2) to plant a fruit and nut tree orchard on the edible forest garden site that will support the Healthy People/Healthy River Strategy, but require less maintenance. PAR Projects has agreed to rotate sculptures on the site every year.

Even though the 2004 subsurface investigation did not reveal any contamination, GWC will conduct another Phase 2 subsurface investigation to obtain deeper core samples for analysis before planting because orchard tree roots work will work their way far deeper underground.
Partners: City of Cincinnati, Mill Creek neighborhood stakeholders, Groundwork USA, National Park Service, US EPA neighborhood volunteers, Scotts Miracle-Gro, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Gardening Association, the local Professional Artistic Research Projects (PAR Projects) nonprofit, and volunteers from the Garden Club of Cincinnati, and Pleasant Ridge Montessori and other schools.
Funding: Clean Ohio Trail Fund, Greater Cincinnati Foundation, LISC, local family foundations, and individual and business donors.

GROUNDWORK CINCINNATI-MILL CREEK

Cincinnati, OH: Bridge-to-Bridge Site (GW involvement: 2011)

History: This brownfield site is about half-a-linear mile in length and between 50-200-feet wide. It is located in the upland riparian corridor of Mill Creek. Although the property belongs to the Mill Creek Valley Conservancy District, the City used the site for decades for dumping construction debris including ground up asphalt. About 18 years ago, GWC (the Mill Creek Restoration Project (MCRP), at that time) conducted a limited Phase II Environmental Assessment with no significant findings, and MCRP and its students planted hundreds of Ohio native trees on the extensive stream banks between the creek and upland corridor.

In Phase 2 of the project, in 2011-2012, GWC consolidated and moved all of the high quality construction materials to the south end of the site for the City where there is ample room to store them. GWC's contractor dug into and leveled large mounds of soil and sand and capped much of the site with these materials. This allowed construction of the Mill Creek Greenway Trail through the site.

Reuse & Role of GW Cincinnati: During the second and third quarters, work continued to clear additional debris and pick up trash; remove invasive honeysuckle from the streambanks; and plant additional trees, shrubs, plants, and grasses on this large brownfield site. The 2013 summer Green Team also did some "surface mining" at the site, extricating bricks and cobble stones that GWC is incorporating along the Mill Creek Greenway Trail.

For safety reasons, neighborhood residents have asked that additional invasive shrubs and trees be removed along the stream banks to open up view corridors to the river. Residents have also asked for view sheds along the street-side of the corridor so that trail users can be seen by passing motorists. This half-linear-mile corridor could be another location for an edible forest garden and fruit and nut tree orchard, IF GWC significantly improves the soils and IF a second Phase II subsurface investigation reveals no contaminants of concern. Future uses will be determined in 2014/15.

Partners: Engineers Without Borders, Duke Energy, and volunteers included 115 Green team youth and teachers from Pleasant Ridge Montessori, Withrow High School, and Walnut Hills High School; 25 Lowe's volunteers and Keep Cincinnati Beautiful staff.

Funding: NPS, Groundwork USA, corporate.

See photos below of work progressing and final restored site!

Urban Waters Projects across the Network

GROUNDWORK MILWAUKEE

Milwaukee, WI: KK River and the Milwaukee River Watershed (1st year of GW involvement: 2008);
GILS Project (1st year of GW involvement: 2010)
Lincoln Creek (1st year of GW involvement: 2013)
History: The name Milwaukee means "gathering by the waters". Three rivers – the Milwaukee, Menomonee and the Kinnickinnic, intersect the City**. (**Technically the KK and Menomonee Rivers are sub-watersheds of the Milwaukee River.) Groundwork Milwaukee has focused its work in those areas that are most neglected, abandoned and in need of restoration.
The Kinnickinnic River is considered Milwaukee's forgotten river, and was designated as one of America's ten most endangered rivers in 2008 by America's Rivers. The watershed is 90% built out, negatively impacting water quality with runoff and trash. The majority of the Kinnickinnic River is concrete lined. In the short stretch of the naturalized portion of the river, the shoreline habitat is impacted by invasive species.

In addition, the US EPA designated the Milwaukee River estuary as an "Area of Concern." Its shipping channels have been hardened (with corrugated steel) and dredged so that the river is a "sterile" environment for fish. The river flows into Lake Michigan, and many species of fish spawn in the Milwaukee River watershed returning to the lake for their life cycle. The Gateway to Improved Long-term Spawning (GILS) project seeks to create habitat along the hardened shoreline to improve the outcomes of spawning and long-term, increase native fish species.
Goal: Restoration of the naturalized section of the Kinnickinnic River through the removal of invasive species and replanting with native vegetation and the installation of multiple large scale rain gardens capturing run-off from athletic fields; install green infrastructure on residential properties within the KK River watershed; deliver the seven-week educational Watershed 101 course developed by staff and Green Team members to high school students; install 250 test "HUBS" or Habitat Underwater Baskets.

Role of GW Milwaukee: Project planning; site cleanup, invasive removal, fundraising, and youth engagement.
In 2013/14, for the *KK River Green Infrastructure project*: GWM partnered with 53 residents to install a total of 6,778 sq feet of rain gardens and 50 rain barrels that capture of total of 33,000 gallons of stormwater (and 173 pounds of total suspended solids (which gets pretty techie). 2013 work focused on continuing the partnership, training residents how to maintain their gardens and working to problem solve any issues.

On the *GILS project*, GWM installed two sets of floating islands. Each modular floating island is 72 feet long. Fish have been observed near the floating islands and a family of ducks and frogs made their home on the island.

On *Lincoln Creek*, GWM began partnering with community groups in the Lincoln Creek (a sub-watershed of the Milwaukee River) - in a neighborhood known as the 30th St. Industrial Corridor to introduce green infrastructure. Lincoln Creek has flooded recently, causing 27 companies to go out of business and over $32 million in damages in a small area of commercial and industrial properties. We will be part of a coalition conducting outreach to businesses and residents in advance of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD)purchasing land to create a "Green Corridor."
Partners: Sixteenth Street Community Health Center, Milwaukee Riverkeeper; homeowners; New School for Community Service; City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County and commercial riparian property owners; WI DNR, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, City of Milwaukee.
Funding: Fund for Lake Michigan, Groundwork USA, US EPA through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

GROUNDWORK LAWRENCE

Lawrence, MA: Spicket River Greenway (1st year of GW Involvement: 2001)
History: The vision for the Spicket River Greenway was first established in GWL's NPS supported feasibility study in 1998. Envisioned as a three-mile long "emerald bracelet" of green spaces and walking paths connecting parks and open space through multiple neighborhoods, the greenway meets multiple bottom lines by helping the community achieve the dual goals of riverfront and streambed restoration and neighborhood revitalization. The Greenway vision was derived from a multi-year collaborative effort that included the City of Lawrence, Groundwork Lawrence, numerous other community organizations, and a diverse group of residents and stakeholders that over the years have: participated in the 2002 Urban RiverVisions planning and charrette sessions; advocated for enforcement efforts against illegal dumping with the Spicket River Task Force and the Clean Spicket Campaign; and championed reclamation of the river with direct action, including the thousands of residents who have cleared over 115 tons of debris and thousands of tires from the Spicket River's banks over the course of eleven Cleanups held annually since 2002. Five anchor sites along the Greenway have recently been rehabilitated or built: Dr. Nina Scarito Park, Misserville Skate Park, William Kennedy Community Park, Manchester Street Park, and the Oxford Paper site (to be completed June 2013). Within a 10 minute walk radius to the Greenway there are 7 schools, 2,590 students, 9,105 households with an estimated 27,517 residents. The ribbon-cutting for the Spicket River Greenway took place in the summer of 2013.
Next Steps: Stream bed restoration, water quality testing, a new pocket park with river access
Funding: Commonwealth of MA, EPA, City of Lawrence: CDBG funding, Bank of America, NPS
Partners: City of Lawrence, Lawrence CommunityWorks, ACT, Commonwealth of MA, Merrimack River Watershed Council, numerous local schools, businesses, and residents

Role of GWL: Catalyst, project planning, design, construction, stewardship, volunteer maintenance, fundraising.

GROUNDWORK HUDSON VALLEY

Yonkers, NY: Eyes on the River Project (1st year of GW Involvement: 2012)

History: This initiative was launched to restore parts of the Saw Mill River that were immediately outside of downtown Yonkers and upstream from the much heralded Daylighting project. Before the river flows into downtown Yonkers, it traverses a series of public housing developments that to date had been cut off from the river by fences, trees, vines, and trash. Through an approach that trains public housing residents to become river stewards and keep an eye on the river, the project will reconnect the participants and their families to the river and provide skills for further neighborhood improvements. Project includes creation of a new riverside park for elderly public housing residents, water quality testing, watershed education, and training on the Riverkeeper boat on the Hudson River.

Reuse: Half-mile section of river cleaned and restored for public use and enjoyment. The project will link residents to other trails and parks.

Role of GW Hudson Valley: Project development, programming, training, and site restoration involving public housing residents and the Groundwork youth Green Team.

Partners: Municipal Housing of the City of Yonkers, Yonkers Department of Parks and Public Works, EPA Urban Waters, Manhattan College.

Funding: EPA Urban Waters program, Westchester County Youth Bureau, Elias Foundation, New England Interstate Pollution Control Commission.

Status: Project underway with meetings held with 50+ residents at several municipal housing sites. Ten residents have been selected to be River Guardians. River Assessment package completed for use by Guardians. Great Saw Mill River Cleanup planned to include Eyes on the River project sites. Water quality sampling scheduled in partnership with the City of Yonkers.

GROUNDWORK DENVER

Denver, CO: Key Connections Globeville and Valverde (1st year of GW involvement: 2011)

History: Several of Denver's lowest income neighborhoods boarder the South Platte River and its 30-mile long multi-use trail. However, residents of these neighborhoods are separated from the river by busy roads, industrial sites, junk yards and railroad tracks, inhibiting their recreational use of the trail and river, and limiting the economic impacts of the river on the neighborhoods. Groundwork Denver has been working to engage residents of these communities in visioning and planning to improve these connections, and implement low-cost improvement project to reduce physical barriers to accessing the South Platte River. In Globeville and Valverde neighborhoods, for example, after community input we were able to get bike lanes, cross walks, and various forms of signage installed to improve safety in the built environment, and provide the City Planners with a greater vision for these connections. In 2013, we started working on two additional neighborhoods – Five Points and Athmar Park – with the same goal. In partnership with NPS RTCA and Denver Parks and Recreation, we are obtaining community input on how to improve access to new parks and other investments in these neighborhoods.

Goal: Engage residents of Globeville and Valverde neighborhoods in visioning to improve the connections to the South Platte River, and implement low-cost improvement project to reduce physical barriers to accessing the South Platte River.

Role of GW Denver: Community engagement, project planning and implementation. In 2010 and 2011, GWD held five river events to introduce residents to the river and elicit feedback on improving connections; hosted a weekly walking group through which monolingual Spanish-speakers documented their experience in the built environment; planted 9 street trees; worked with Public Works to install a crosswalk, bikelane, bike route signage and pedestrian crossing signage; and turned the community input into vision documents for improved connections to the river in both neighborhoods.

Partners: Denver Public Works, residents, Denver Parks and Recreation, NPS RTCA
Funding: Colorado Health Foundation

GROUNDWORK DENVER

Denver, CO: Bear Creek Watershed Planning (1st year of GW involvement: 2012)
History: Bear Creek (a tributary of the South Platte River) and its natural areas provide a unique natural environment for some of Denver's lowest income neighborhoods. However, Bear Creek

is impaired for recreational use due to E. coli. Groundwork Denver saw the opportunity to bring stakeholders together to complete a watershed plan in tandem with broad community engagement as the first step to cleaning up the water in Bear Creek. A Steering Committee of key stakeholders worked throughout 2013 to develop the Watershed Plan, which is scheduled to be finished in late 2014. With the assistance of the Region 8 EPA laboratory, we have implemented a water quality testing plan that is helping the Steering Committee better understand the E. coli problem in the creek.

Role of GW Denver: Stakeholder engagement; watershed plan coordination; community outreach; volunteer coordination for riparian area improvements.

Partners: City of Denver, City of Sheridan, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Urban Drainage and Flood Control, NPS RTCA, US EPA, USGS, University of Colorado at Boulder, Metro State University.

Funding: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (EPA originating); Xcel Energy Foundation; New Belgium Brewing; NPS RTCA (in kind), National Fish and Wildlife Federation/Wells Fargo.

GROUNDWORK CINCINNATI-MILL CREEK

Cincinnati, OH: Mill Creek Greenway (1st year of GW involvement: 2011)

History: Phase 4 Mill Creek Greenway Trail

Goal: In 2013, GWC had to develop a new route for the Phase 4 Trail to locate it outside the zone of impact from the City's expanded bomb detonation training facility. The trail termini will remain the same, the Mill Creek Road Bridge to the intersection of Beekman and Fricke Road where the Ethel Taylor Elementary School is located. This fourth trail phase will connect the Mill Creek trail to two very low income neighborhoods, South Cumminsville and Millvale. GWC is developing a proposal to use a portion of the City sanitation garage property frontage and public right-of-way along Mill Creek Road and Fricke. This will require approval by the City Public Services Department and the City Department of Transportation Engineering (CDOTE).

Role of GW Cincinnati: GWC met with the Public Services director and his staff and conducted a site visit with them to determine options for using street frontage at the City sanitation garage for the Phase 4 trail, and the director indicated he is open to this plan. Once GWC has a property boundary survey and preliminary engineering plans, it will submit them to Public Services for approval. GWC also met with the City Department of Transportation Engineering (CDOTE) to discuss a number of traffic safety issues. GWC followed up with a written request for CDOTE input and approval for a number of changes GWC thinks are needed to ensure trail user safety. Their yardstick for safety continues to be for children using the trail. Traffic calming is going to be critical in Phase 4, particularly at Beekman and at the Mill Creek Road bridge. GWC has secured the Cincinnati Public Schools Safe Routes to School Program's agreement to pay for the necessary safety features in summer 2014, if the City has not acted by then. GWC also met twice with C.W. Wood, a local business, and secured a commitment from the business to donate a blighted 20-foot-wide strip of ground to allow the Phase 4 trail to be built off-road for the last block before Beekman Avenue where the Ethel Taylor Elementary School is located. Because of

the industrial uses in this area, GWC has agreed to conduct a Phase II Environmental Assessment of the property before the City will agree to take ownership. The City Department of Transportation Engineering (CDOTE) has agreed to accept this expanded right-of-way.

Partners: National Park Service RTCA Program; U.S. EPA; Groundwork USA; City of Cincinnati; City Public Services and DOTE; Cincinnati Public Schools and C. W. Wood.
Funding: Clean Ohio Trail Fund, City of Cincinnati, Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Audubon/ Toyota TogetherGreen Innovation Grant, Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati, LISC, local family foundations, and individual and business donors.

GROUNDWORK NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans, LA: Green Slice (1st year of GW involvement: 2012)
History: The Lower Ninth Ward was, prior to Hurricane Katrina, the largest neighborhood of primarily African American homeowners in the country. Partially destroyed by catastrophic flooding during Katrina, the Lower Ninth Ward has become a hotbed for green housing and revitalization efforts. The neighborhood is surrounded by disconnected and compromised waterways.

Goal: Assess existing water management and drainage infrastructure and identify possible improvements; work with youth and neighborhood to develop and implement plans for reintegration of habitat into a watershed corridor, combined with recreational and educational use, and water management services.

Role of GW New Orleans: Project planning, site clean-up, interdisciplinary research, networking with city and federal partners, youth engagement. In 2013, GW NOLA was busy, undertaking and completing a range of projects around stormwater management and green infrastructure building:

-Water quality testing in Bayou Bienvenue
-Hosted Community engagement and planning workshops around Green Infrastructure site
-Developed a vacant lot into a Green Infrastructure Site
-Mapped hazards along the Green Slice corridor
-Documented flood prone areas

Plans for 2015 include:
- Launching a Don't Dump Dat Campaign to educate and engage the community
-Tree and Flower planting for community revitalization
-Stormwater management education classes
-Continued water testing with an emphasis on salinity levels in Bayou Bienvenue to monitor watershed health (it was a Cypress swamp that was destroyed due to salt water intrusion.)
-Community coalition-building among stakeholders

-Working with New Orleans Redevelopment Authority to identify other vacant sites for Green development.
-Expansion of GI site into the Lower 9th Ward Earth Lab outdoor classroom

Partners: Local businesses, local youth, City of New Orleans, EPA, Common Ground Relief.
Funding: EPA Urban Waters, NPS.

THE END