

WALK AUDITS: A TOOL FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

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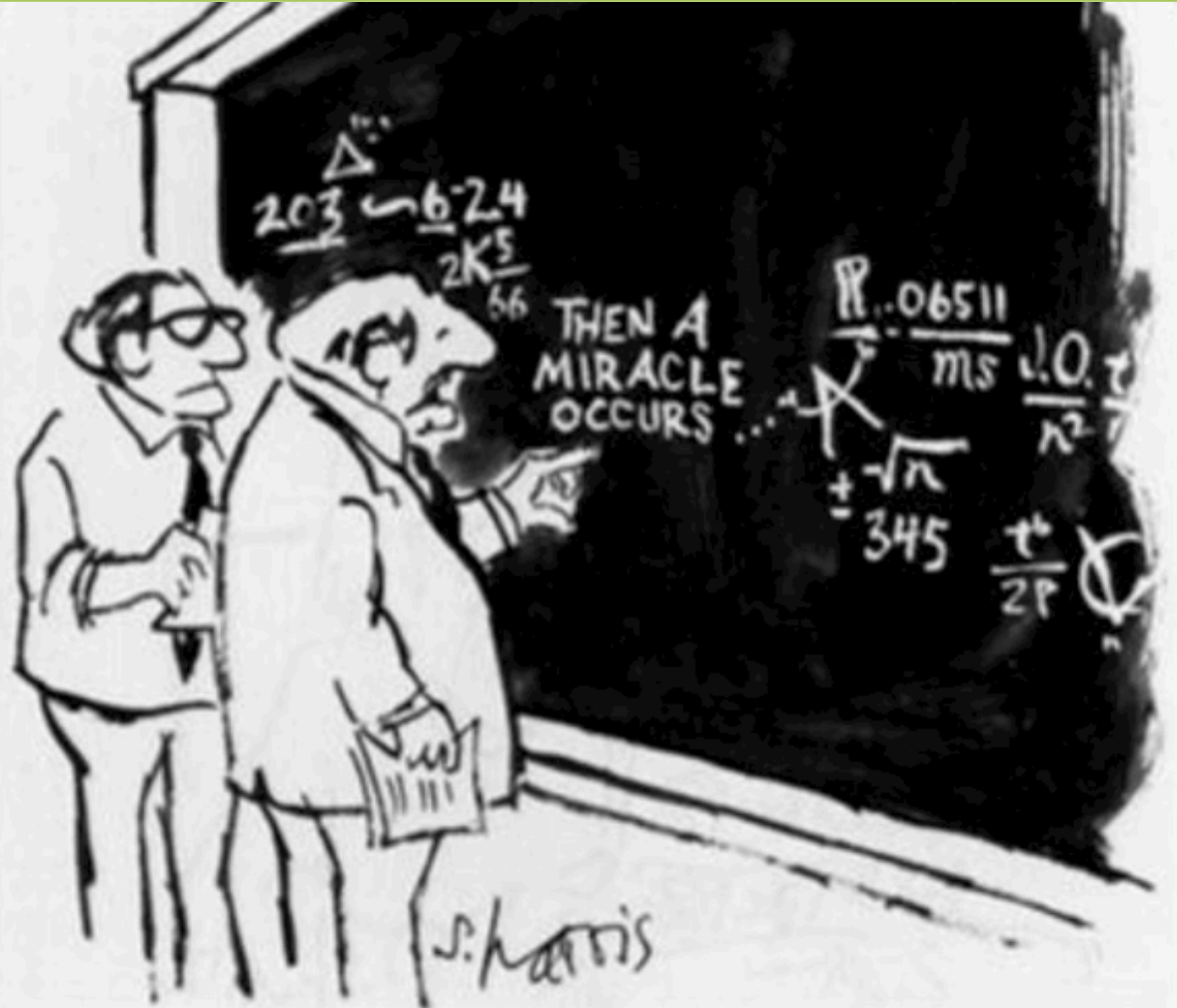
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"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."

Walkability Workshop

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IMAGE BY ANDREW J. FAULKNER

BRING THE CITIZENS TOGETHER

- [Introduction Video](#)
- [Resident Interview \(Video\)](#)
- [Nancy Thompson Interview \(Video\)](#)

CONNECTING THE DOTS

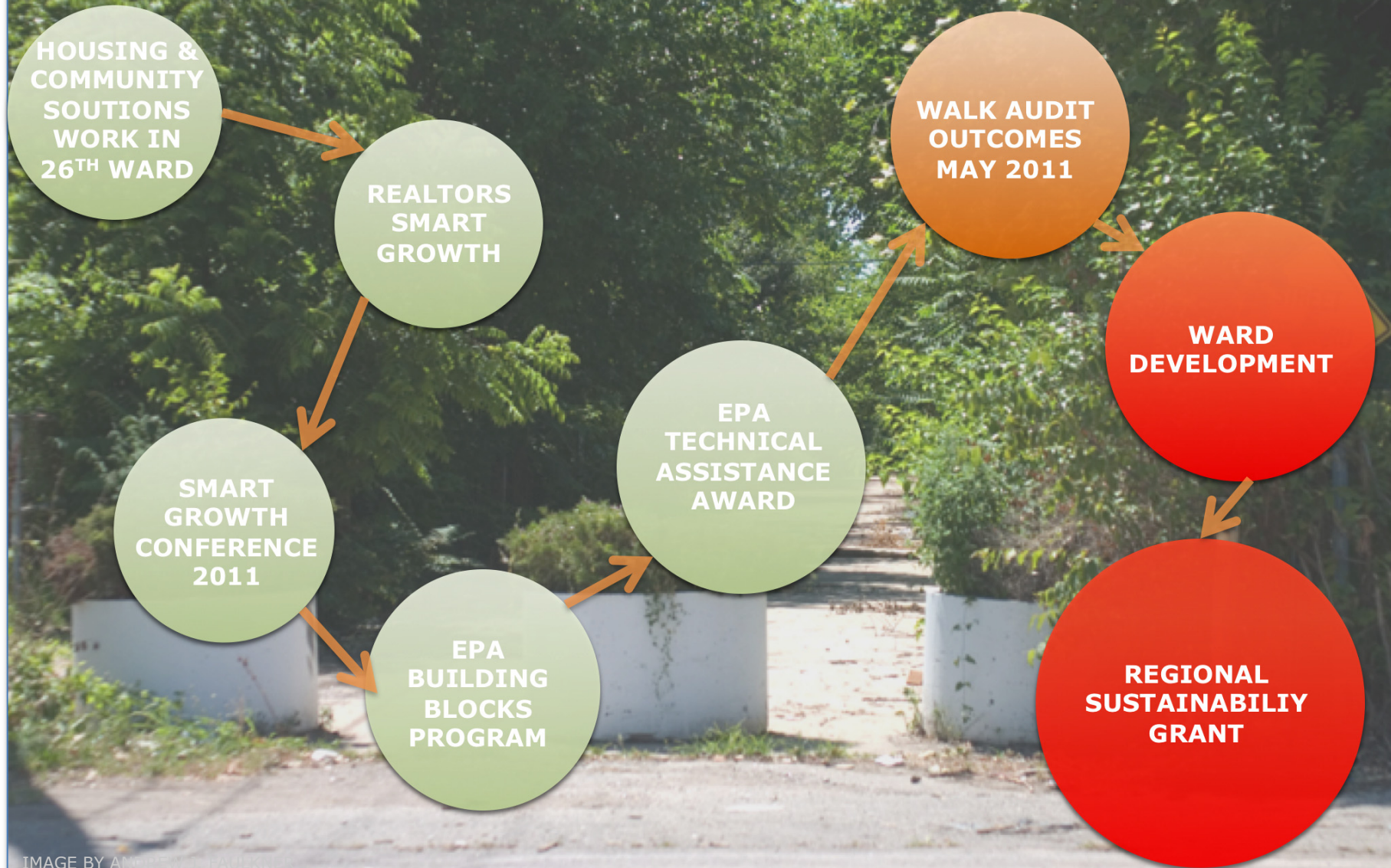


IMAGE BY AMBERLYN PAULSEN

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CREATING
CHANGE

BACKGROUND

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- Housing & Community Solutions discovered U.S. EPA's Building Blocks Technical Assistance Program at 2011 Partners for Smart Growth Conference.
- Housing and Community Solutions leveraged previous development work in St. Louis' 26th ward
 - Winston Churchill Work force/ Affordable Housing Rehab
 - Faith House project
- EPA Technical Assistance Award funded a Walking Audit program with Dan Burden
 - Program took place 6 weeks later on May 26th 2011.



IMAGE BY ANDREW J. KENNEDY

26TH WARD: WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD



IMAGE BY ANDREW J. FAULKNER

GETTING TO KNOW THE WEST END

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- [St. Louis Missouri \(Map\)](#)
- [West End Neighborhood \(Map\)](#)
- [Delmar and DeBaliviere \(Map\)](#)
- [Streetview: Delmar @ DeBaliviere](#)

THE WEST END?

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ST. LOUIS CITY

- 319,294 Residents*
 - 8% decrease in Population 2000-2010
- 20% avg. Residential Vacancy Rate*
- Median Resident Age: 33.7*
- Median Household Income: \$34,801^a
- Median House Value: \$121,300^a
- Median Rent: \$655^a
- Race
 - 44.1% Black, 50.5% White, 2.5% Asian*

WEST END

- 6,574 Residents (2%)*
 - 3% increase in Population 2000-2010
- 30% Residential Vacancy Rate*
- Median Resident Age: 25.7*
- Median Household Income \$23,085^a
- Median House Value \$79,700^a
- Median Rent: \$324^a
- Race
 - 80.9% Black, 10.8% White, 3.2% Asian*

*Data from 2010 United States Census

^a Data from Realist, 0.5 mile radius around 5806 Bartmer Ave

26TH WARD: LOCATION

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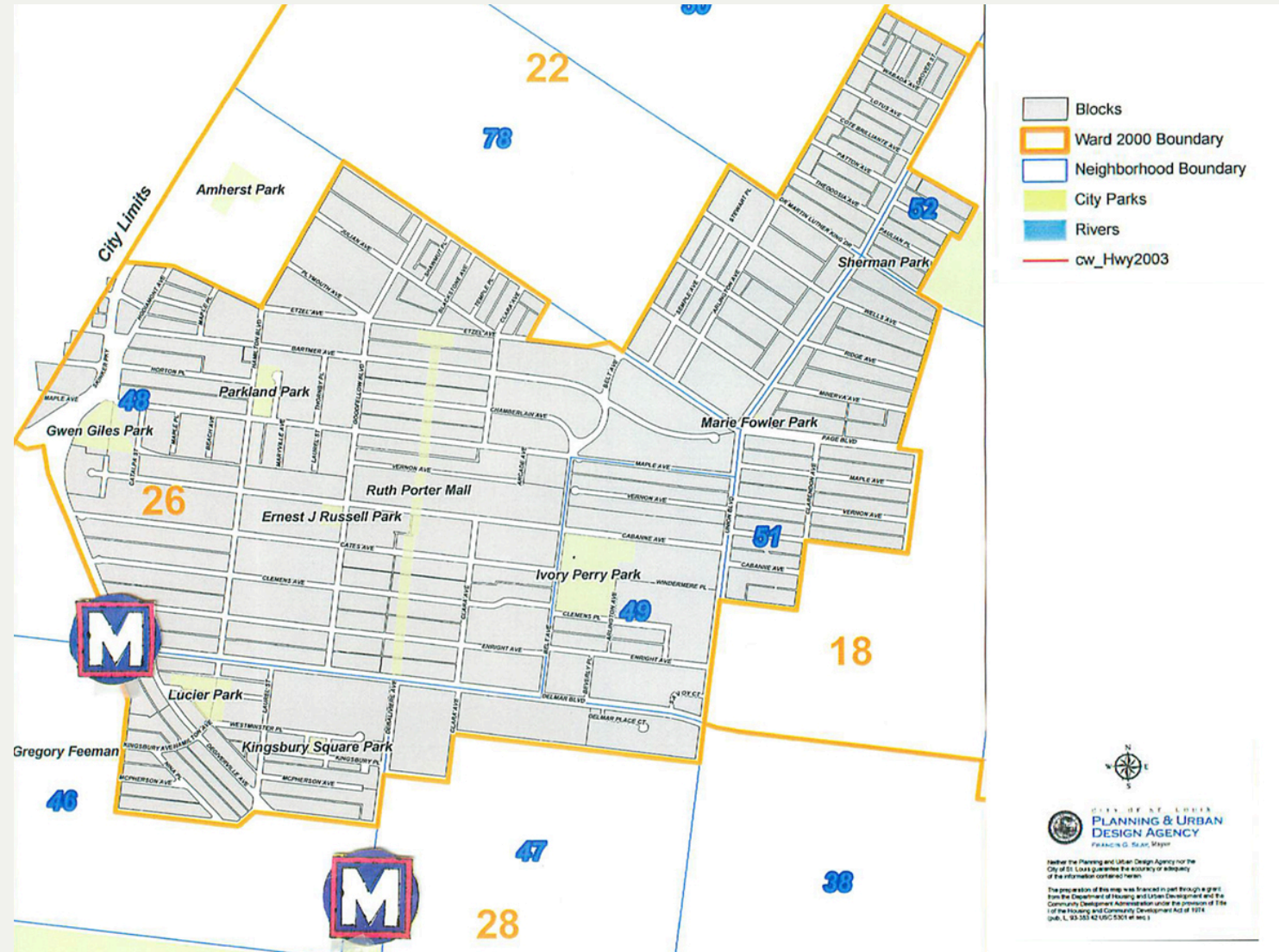
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Neither the Planning and Urban Design Agency nor the City of St. Louis guarantees the accuracy or adequacy of the information contained herein.
The preparation of this map was financed in part through a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Community Development Administration under the provision of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. (pub. L. 93-503 42 USC 5301 et seq.)

STRENGTHS OF THE 26th WARD/WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD

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- Location, Location, Location
 - Central to region's job centers (Downtown, Clayton, Washington University, Barnes-Jewish Hospital/WUSTL Medical Center, Central West End, on GRG Trail to Express Scripts/NorthPark, and University of Missouri St. Louis)
- Immediate proximity to transit
 - Metrolink (light rail) stations
 - Access to 7 Bus Routes
 - Planned Trolley Route on Delmar



STRENGTHS OF THE 26th WARD/WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD

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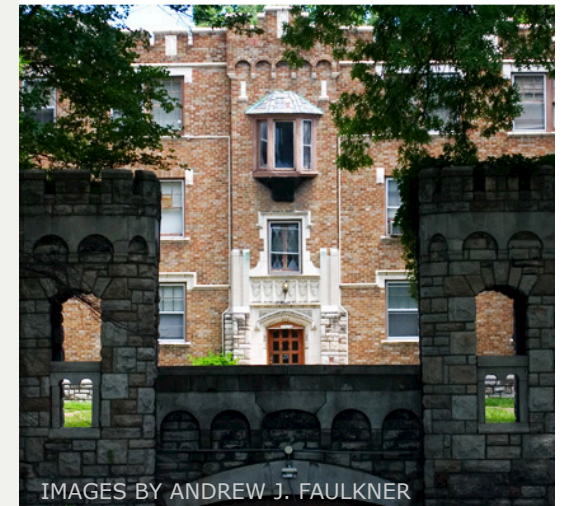


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- Livable
 - Delmar Boulevard was named one of America's 10 Great Streets (American Planning Association)
 - Proximity to 1,293 Acre Forest Park
 - 8 mile Trail and connections to planned 600 mile greenway network
- Desirable
 - Affordability
 - Distinguished building stock



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ST. VINCENT GREENWAY

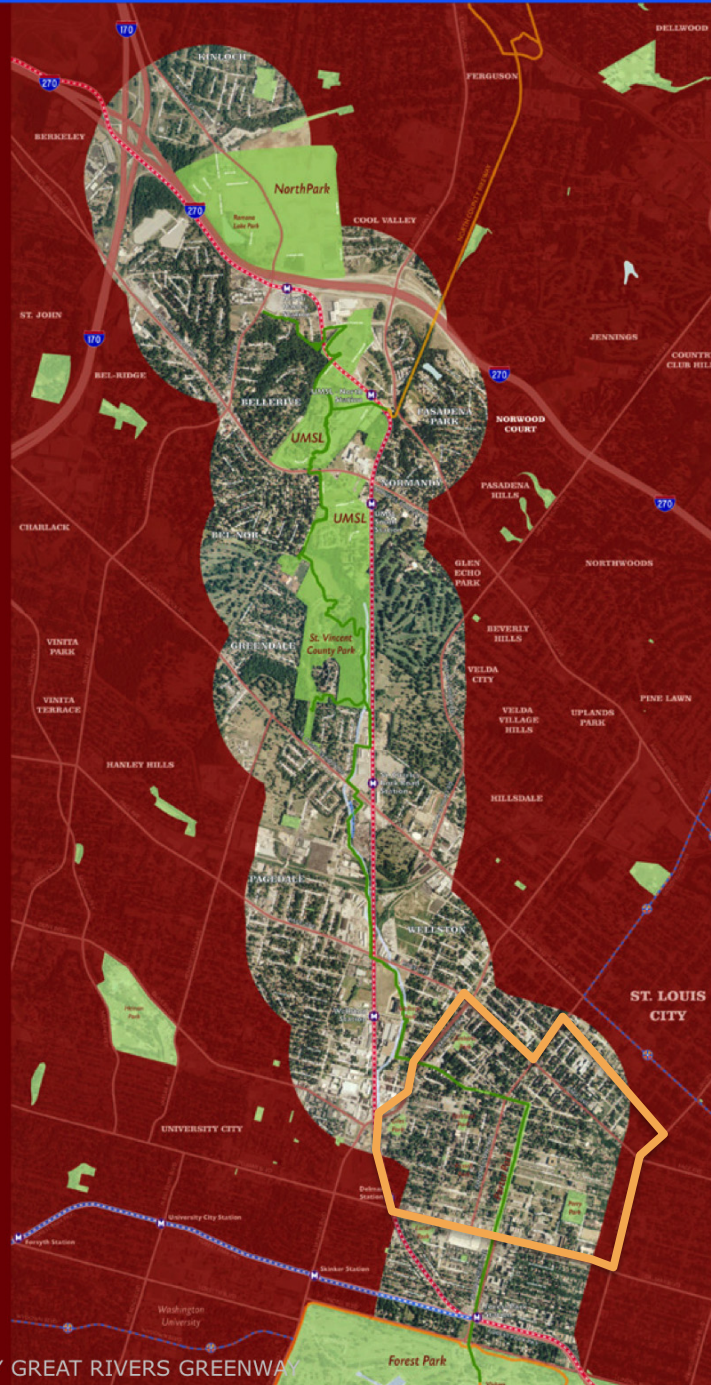
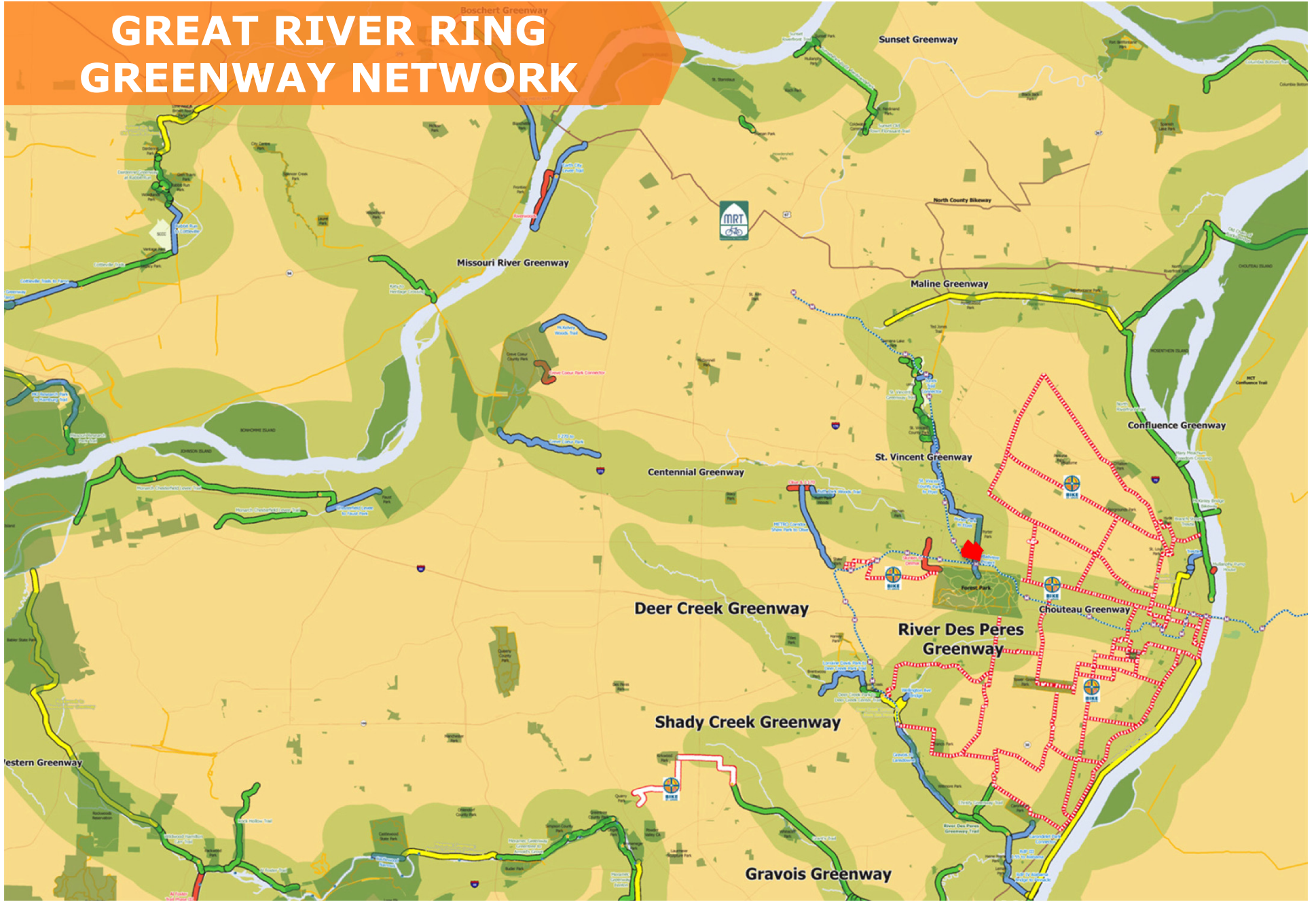


IMAGE BY GREAT RIVERS GREENWAY

UTILIZE NEW CONNECTIONS

- West End Neighborhood will be the site of an important 8 mile trail connector between Forest Park, UMSL, and Express Scripts and NorthPark Job Center

GREAT RIVER RING GREENWAY NETWORK



OUTCOMES

Using
Walkability as
a tool to
Organize
Community

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IMAGE BY ANDREW J. FAULKNER

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IMAGE BY ANDREW J. FAULKNER

OUTCOMES

“It is amazing what simple changes can make our community more safe and vibrant”

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**BUILDING
STRONG
COMMUNITY**

“Just by designing our community right, you could encourage business to come (and people) to our community”

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BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITY

- Bring residents together for a high visibility project with a high possibility of success
- Use the walk audit to energize participants to work for and with the community on future projects
- Build the foundation for a strong and trusting collaboration

NEXT STEPS

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- Train the trainer (at Great Rivers Greenway behest)
 - National Association of Realtors Smart Growth Grant
 - Scale to Regional program
- H.U.D. Sustainability Grant
- Development opportunities around St. Vincent Greenway
 - Existing Commercial Building
 - Competition for energy efficient and universally designed cottages along greenway
 - Support additional development by facilitating residents to acquire landbanked lots
 - Retail Study of Delmar commercial corridor and potential C.I.D.
 - Transit Oriented Development
- St. Louis Neighborhood Market Drilldown
 - Social Compact is exposing additional buying power
 - Opportunities to alleviate Food Deserts and Underbanked areas.

NEXT STEPS

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- Join our Google Group for additional resources, this Powerpoint, our EPA Technical Assistance Award submission, and to continue the conversation
- <http://groups.google.com/group/walk-bike-live-smart-growth-2012>
- Let us know if we can help to bring expertise in building and organizing to other communities
- <http://www.housingandcommunitysolutions.org/home>
- erics@HousingandCommunitySolutions.org
- Please make the subject Smart Growth Conference 2012

CORE COLLABORATORS

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- St. Louis Association of Realtors
- Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
- Great Rivers Greenway
- Trailnet
- East West Gateway Council of Governments

SPECIAL THANKS TO

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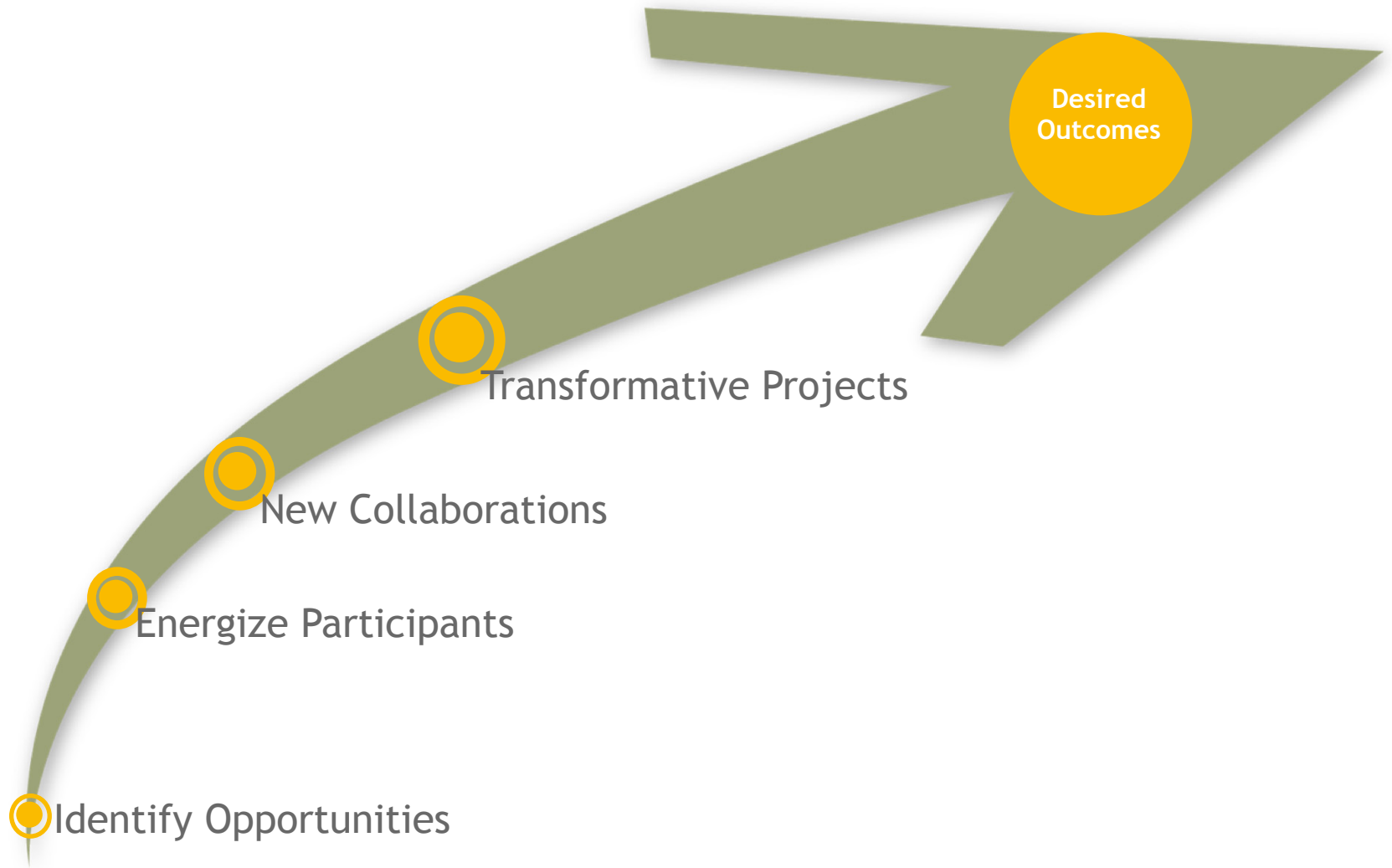
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- National Association of Realtors Smart Growth Department
 - Joe Molinea
 - Hugh Morris
 - Darren Smith
- Environmental Protection Agency
 - Kevin Nelson, Clark Wilson and Tim Torma, and David Hutch (Washington DC)
 - David Doyle (Participant in the Walk Audit)
- City of St. Louis
 - Mayor Francis Slay
 - Interim Director of Planning Don Roe
 - Sustainability Director Catherine Werner
- Housing & Community Solutions
 - Caroline Bann
 - Board of Directors
- Trailnet/Livable St. Louis Network
- Great Rivers Greenway
- Andrew J. Faulkner Design & Urbanism

THE POWER OF COLLECTIVE IMPACT



Nate K. Johnson

ABR, CRS, GRI
Broker / Owner

314-575-7352
nate@livingstl.com
www.LivingSTL.com



Premier Building
9378 Olive Blvd. Suite 205
St. Louis, MO 63132
314-514-9600 ext 102
314-558-6025 Fax



@natekjohnson



natejohnson-realestatesolutions



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stltoday.com Homes
 the #1 St. Louis website

LOCAL REAL ESTATE

FEET FIRST: Civic leader speaks about "walkability"

A FEW DAYS AGO, I had the opportunity to attend a presentation by Dan Burden, a guy who has been named one of the six most important civic leaders in the world by Time magazine. Dan is renowned for his work on walkability.

As the name might suggest, walkability is a measure of how friendly an area is to walking. This is becoming more important from a real estate perspective, as many people are now looking at this factor as they make decisions about what neighborhoods and communities they are interested in living.

Dan has been helping communities become more pedestrian- and bike-friendly for nearly 40 years. He has been putting our cities on what he calls a "road diet" by reducing sprawling thoroughfares by adding sidewalks and bike paths.

He has shown that creating walkable neighborhoods offer tremendous benefits to the environment, our health, and our finances. For example, the more we walk and bike, the less



NATE K. JOHNSON

President, St. Louis
 Association of Realtors

we are driving our pollution-emitting cars.

Studies show that cities and towns that are walkable have lower levels of obesity. In fact, the average resident of a walkable neighborhood weighs 7 pounds less than someone who lives in a sprawling neighborhood.

From an economic perspective, can I just ask if you've seen the price of gas lately? Let me say that as an active Realtor, I spend more time in my car than I do at the office. So, I understand the need of cars and effective road systems. However, what Dan has proven is that reducing traffic lanes can have a positive impact on traffic issues. I certainly don't have the space here to explain how that happens; but, I would encourage you to look into his work at www.walkable.org.

I believe that the most positive impact of creating walkable cities is recreating a sense of community that has vanished from many of our neighborhoods. Studies show that for every 10 minutes a person spends

in a daily car commute, time spent in community activities falls by 10 percent. Dan suggests that we replace the word "loitering" with "lingering" and encourage it in many cases as opposed to frowning on it.

It was great to hear Dan referencing the internationally acclaimed architect Oscar Newman and his work on "Creating Defensible Space". In a nutshell, Newman's designs call for an environment where the front facing buildings "watch over the common ground" and create safe spaces that are visible by the residents of the buildings.

Let's imagine a region where we can safely and efficiently get to wherever we need to go using one of the most efficient vehicles that we have, our feet. St. Louis has done some great work in achieving this goal, but there is a lot more work to do and it is up to us to continue to encourage pedestrian and bike friendly development, as we strive to improve our great region.

To help you find a walkable community in our area, contact your local Realtor. To find a Realtor, visit www.stlrealtors.com.