PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
This historic farmstead was purchased by the city of Gladstone in 2004 and is an example of historical preservation and modern energy-efficiency practices. The 20-acre farmstead is protected from future development, includes a geothermal heating a cooling system for the home and uses an existing cistern for a museum exhibit. Also, a sewer-drip irrigation system was added to the property and existing historic wood was used for the exterior renovation of the home.

The project was completed in two phases. The first phase included the exterior stabilization and preservation of the home. BNIM Architects and the city installed energy efficient insulation in exterior cavities or the home and a geothermal system. The interior of the home was recently renovated and is now open to the public. The second phase included a new garden supported by the Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City. Volunteers maintain the five raised beds and garden using heirloom seeds and traditional growing techniques. The garden is sponsored by Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Company and Gladstone HyVee. Produce is donated to Metro Lutheran Ministry, given to museum visitors or sold at the local HyVee for fundraising.

PROJECT GOALS:

• Use the home and open space for educational purposes.
• Preserve the historical significance of the home and surrounding land.
• Incorporate modern sustainable practices on the site.
• Connect the existing site to area residents and provide a trail system throughout the site.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND LESSONS LEARNED:
This is one of the last remaining open areas in the city and it is now protected from future development. Community members can learn about farm life in Missouri and there is potential for future trail connections. The city of Gladstone is working with the North Kansas City School District to provide educational opportunities to area children. This site provides an opportunity for the community to learn about both historical farm life and modern sustainability practices.

FUNDING SOURCES AND PARTNERSHIPS:
Funding included a tax credit program and financial support from the city of Gladstone. The project was a successful partnership between the following local stakeholder:

• Friends of Atkins-Johnson Farm
• Missouri Historic Tax Credit Program
• Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City
• Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Company

CONTACT:
Chris Helmer, Planning Specialist
Gladstone, Mo.
816-423-4109 | chrish@gladstone.mo.us