PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The Green Corridor plan focuses on a half-mile-wide, 3.9-mile-long corridor along Southwest Boulevard and Merriam Lane in Wyandotte County. It will foster a healthy, sustainable community through physical improvements, social and economic development, and green business.

This community driven plan outlines potential opportunities for new investment in the corridor; promotes complete streets and mixed-income housing choices; promotes healthy lifestyles through environmental design; and builds off the unique history of the area. This project also dovetails with a massive project directed by the Army Corps of Engineers to mitigate flooding along the Turkey Creek corridor.

PROJECT GOALS:
The overall goal of this project is to create an area in Wyandotte and Johnson counties that will promote healthy living and provide residents with the infrastructure and social programming needed to live healthy lives.

The plan establishes long-range goals for future development and stabilization of the corridor. Discussions with stakeholders identified four key categories for goals to address, including health and environment, land use, corridor image and identity, and mobility and transportation.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND LESSONS LEARNED:
The implementation of the Green Corridor plan has led to four notable successes:

- The stormwater mitigation project on Southwest Boulevard and Merriam Lane, which includes sidewalks and bike lanes.
- Funding approval for a new bus line on Southwest Boulevard and Merriam Lane, connecting residents to grocery stores, recreation centers, employment opportunities and health care.
- A share-the-road public education campaign.
- Construction of recreational trails around the corridor.

FUNDING SOURCES AND PARTNERSHIPS:
Funding for this study was provided through a grant from the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City and completed in cooperation with the Unified Government’s Urban and Land Use Planning Department and the Rosedale Development Association (RDA). Partners involved include the University of Kansas Medical Center Department of Internal Medicine; the KU School of Architecture, Design and Planning; the Rosedale Healthy Kids Initiative; KC Healthy Kids; and the Mid-America Regional Council. Funding for the public awareness and branding campaign is provided by a grant from Healthy Communities Wyandotte.

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