



Embankment Greenway

Since its inception in 2015, the Green House Venture has been envisioned as an extraordinary, multi-dimensional learning experience in bio-science and urban agriculture for elementary school students. One of the signature features of the Venture's programs is the Embankment Greenway, a 3.7-acre expanse along the south side of Interstate Highway 44 in the historic Shaw Neighborhood of St. Louis City.



The Greenway is the first phase in the development of the GHV Campus. When completed, the campus will also include a state-of-the-art Education Center where students will learn about an array of growing methods, such as hydroponics, aquaponics, vertical growing in courtyards and roof-top agriculture.

Responding to the call in the 2015 Federal Highway FAST Act, the Embankment Greenway is designed to involve students working with scientists to explore the potential for using interstate highway margins to revitalize declining pollinator populations, including butterflies and the native bees that are essential for large-scale agriculture.

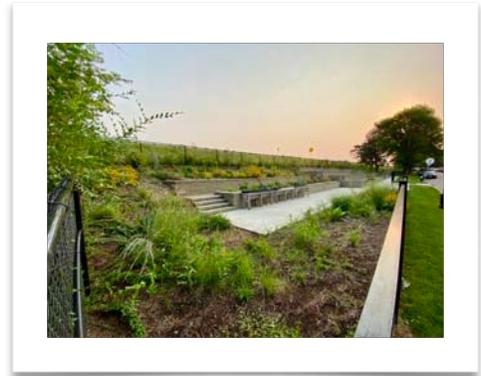
Spanning 1,700 feet along two city blocks, this creative, first-of-its-kind development in St. Louis is a major model for introducing more ecologically diverse and sustainable growing areas along urban highway corridors across the entire country.



The Greenway includes two main anchors. The *Terrace Garden* is designed to test safe crop production on unused land along roadways. The *Pollinator Recovery Habitat* is devoted mainly to research by scientists at Saint Louis University.

Both areas are designed to address a challenging reality facing the future of our nation's food production and distribution system. By the middle of this century, our growing population will be confronted with pitting the need to decrease fuel-consuming, long-distance food transportation against the need to increase food supplies to large urban centers like St. Louis.

An overriding consideration in the overall design of the Greenway has been our main goal to provide a distinctive learning opportunity for students from the four elementary schools that comprise the Urban Education Alliance affiliated with the Green House Venture: St. Margaret of Scotland, Tower Grove Christian Academy, Mullanphy Investigate Center and St. Louis Language Immersion School.



In the 8,500 square feet of the Terrace Garden that lies at the center of the embankment, students will be able to study a variety of food crops. As examples, the Saint Louis Zoo and its partner, Itshanapa Mabele, will introduce a terrace filled with crops favored by Native Americans. Harris-Stowe State University, a Historically Black institution, will devote a terrace to foods traditional among African Americans.

Terraces also will allow students to plant, cultivate, study, and harvest produce to cook with their families, using recipes and instruction provided by the Saint Louis University Department of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Other sections of the Terrace Garden will be devoted to little-known native plants such as rock grapes, scarlet runner-berries, and paw paws. Indigenous nut and berry bushes provide a wind-break around the terraces, which are ADA accessible for children of all abilities.



In the Pollinator Recovery Habitat, children will be able to learn about 28 species of native Missouri plants, grasses and wildflowers, as well as the many species of ground-nesting bees that thrive in the embankment's nurturing environment.



The entire Embankment Greenway—which is protected by a new guardrail and state-mandated safety protocols—will be tested regularly for soil nutrients and roadside contaminants, along with other important data. That information will allow research scientists and students to gauge the success of their efforts to expand the possibilities for feeding a growing planet.

Partners in the design, development and maintenance of the Embankment Greenway include the Missouri Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Commission, the landscape architectural firm DTLS, the seeding company Native Landscape Solutions, the Missouri Extension Service and Master Gardener Program, the St. Louis Board of Public Service, the Metropolitan Sewer District, Shaw Nature Preserve, Accurate Disbursing and Focal Pointe.



THE GREEN HOUSE VENTURE **GHV** CAMPUS

The Embankment Greenway project has been made possible through the generous donations from numerous individuals and institutions throughout the St. Louis area.



