

# A COMMUNITY IN ACTION



The College Hill neighborhood originated from a 300-acre Saint Louis University farmstead, which was purchased in 1836. Today, the neighborhood is home to approximately 1,800 residents and several businesses, places of worship, and schools. The location of College Hill affords many of its residents a view of the Mississippi River, as well as two historic landmark water towers.

College Hill's unique terrain of caves and caverns has presented stormwater management and flooding issues, which have contributed to the neighborhood's vacancy challenges. In order to better manage stormwater run-off and revitalize the neighborhood, residents and community partners are working to reverse engineer a variety of landscapes into vibrant green spaces, including Peace Park and Prairie Square.

## This update brought to you by

Grace Hill Settlement House

Green City Coalition  
City of St. Louis & SLDC-LRA  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District

Health Equity Works

McCarthy Building Group

The Nature Conservancy

Washington University in St. Louis



"One word to describe College Hill..."

Vacancy to Vibrancy Workshop, Nov 2019

## Alderpersons:

Brandon Bosley (Ward 3)  
Lisa Middelbrook (Ward 2)  
John Collins-Muhammad (Ward 21)

Oct 2018

The City's Streets and Forestry Departments cleared the area of overgrowth, a collapsed vacant building, and illegal dumping, and regraded the area to prepare for future site improvements.



More than twenty residents and friends of the College Hill neighborhood gathered with Green City Coalition partners to identify assets, challenges, and opportunities related to neighborhood vacancy, and create a new vision for this seven-acre site. Prairie Square sits on a hollow hill embedded with caves and by the late 2010s most of the area was vacant. Due to these factors, residents selected this area to reimagine and transform into a community asset, while respecting its unique geology and history.

Oct-Nov 2019



# Prairie Square



# Peace Park



May 2017

Resident researchers partner with Health Equity Works and Grace Hill to research neighborhood conditions and explore solutions to health disparities, ultimately focusing on the revitalization of Peace Park.

Mar 2018

Peace Park project officially launches and adds McCarthy and The Nature Conservancy to the team

Sep 2018

Participatory design workshops held, with Harvard School of Design



July 2019

Fundraising campaign launches

Jan 2020

Green City Coalition joins the project management team

### What's Next?

Expect to see City workers and contractors continuing to clean up project areas  
Ongoing fundraising and design development

**APRIL: Peace Park Event** – *more details to come*

### To learn more or get involved, contact:

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