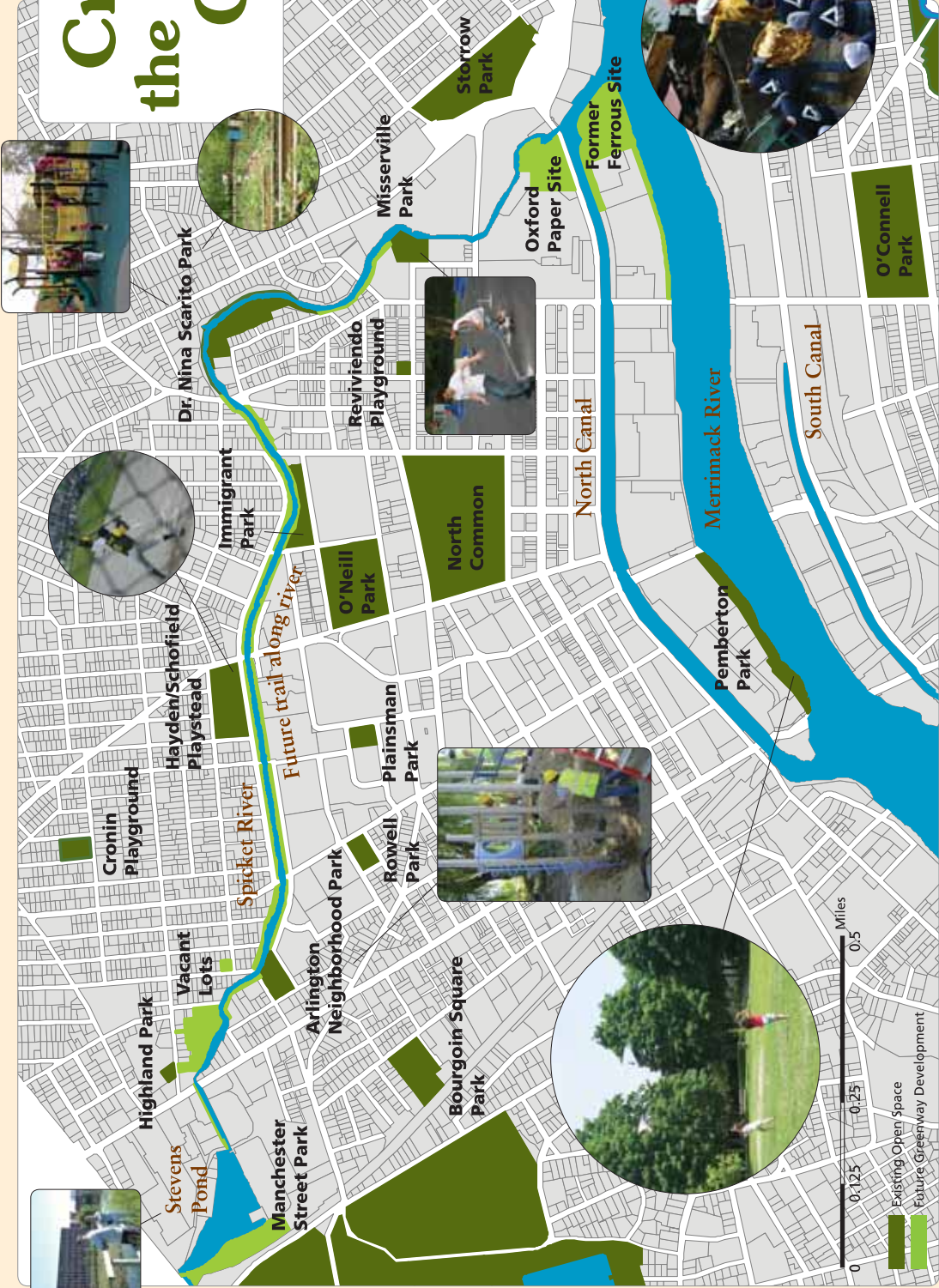


Creating the Spicket River Greenway



The developing Spicket River Greenway, envisioned by our community as a three-mile long "emerald brocade" of green spaces and walking paths connecting parks and neighborhoods, is comprised of a series of infrastructure, program, and stewardship investments made by Groundwork Lawrence and the City of Lawrence that are helping to meet the many challenges facing our community. Derived from a multi-year collaborative planning effort led by Groundwork Lawrence, the Greenway vision was identified first in 2001 and continues to serve as a guiding strategy for achieving multiple goals associated with creating a more healthy community, including: river restoration, neighborhood revitalization, civic engagement, improved public health, enhanced transit and walkability, better air quality, and increased recreational opportunity. Since 2002, Groundwork Lawrence has engaged over 3,500 people in cleaning 77 tons of debris and over 1,000 tires from the banks of the Spicket River. At the same time, Groundwork Lawrence has served as project manager with the City of Lawrence Community Development Department to fundraise and leverage public dollars dedicated to the design and construction of new parks along the Spicket River Greenway. Scanto Park—the City's first brownfield-to-open space project completed in 2006, and Misserville Park and Kennedy Playground, both constructed in 2007, Manchester Street Park is the newest jewel on the brocade—the former brownfield site at Stevens Pond comes online in 2009. Additionally, this partnership has yielded greenway design guidelines, survey work, and preliminary design plans for the trails that will ultimately connect these new important green spaces. In sum, the Spicket River Greenway has included from vision toward reality projects to over \$5.5 million in State and local funds invested on Spicket River park projects, with an additional \$2 million of planned roadside park and trail improvements in the pipeline.

Groundwork Lawrence, Inc. is a locally-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working to create sustainable environmental change through community-based partnerships. Groundwork's mission and operations are premised on the understanding that environmental conditions are inextricably linked to the economic and social health of a neighborhood. As a consequence, Groundwork is committed to "changing places and changing lives" through on-the-ground projects that help to transform local communities. To accomplish this, Groundwork leads and supports a variety of partnership-driven efforts that bring together the public, private and non-profit sectors to solve complex environmental problems and sustain a long-term vision for neighborhood change and renewal.



- 2001**
A concept plan for the Spicket River Greenway is developed by a Landscape Architecture firm in partnership with Groundwork Lawrence. The plan is shared with members of the local community and met with great enthusiasm and interest.
- 2002**
Groundwork Lawrence organizes the 1st Spicket River Cleanup. Groundwork Lawrence Green Team conducts Ecological Rapid Assessments at 10 sites along the Spicket River. Hundreds of plants and animal species talking the Spicket River Greenway on habitat are documented. Community Corps to document pollinators and debris in and along the river.
- 2003**
370 volunteers remove 11 tons of debris at Groundwork Lawrence's 2nd Annual Spicket River Cleanup. A walk and fence of some species habitats in Spicket River is conducted by local middle school students.
- 2004**
250 volunteers remove 8 tons of debris at Groundwork Lawrence's 3rd Annual Spicket River Cleanup. Groundwork Lawrence Green Team conducts Ecological Rapid Assessments at 10 sites along the Spicket River. Hundreds of plants and animal species talking the Spicket River Greenway on habitat are documented.
- 2005**
300 volunteers remove 9 tons of debris at Groundwork Lawrence's 4th Annual Spicket River Cleanup. Groundwork Lawrence Green Team conducts Ecological Rapid Assessments at 10 sites along the Spicket River. "Keep It Green" and "artificial" signs are placed at 10 locations along the river. Groundwork Lawrence works with the Lawrence Conservation Commission to research, write, and promote the River and Wetlands Bylaw, designed to limit development within 200 feet of the river's edge. The Bylaw passes with full City Council support.
- 2006**
300 volunteers remove 15 tons of debris at Groundwork Lawrence's 5th Annual Spicket River Cleanup. Groundwork Lawrence Green Team conducts Ecological Rapid Assessments at 10 sites along the Spicket River. "Keep It Green" and "artificial" signs are placed at 10 locations along the river. Groundwork Lawrence works with the Lawrence Conservation Commission to research, write, and promote the River and Wetlands Bylaw, designed to limit development within 200 feet of the river's edge. The Bylaw passes with full City Council support.
- 2007**
500 volunteers, unfettered by gray clouds and on/off from showers, remove 17 tons of debris at Groundwork Lawrence's 6th Annual Spicket River Cleanup. Groundwork Lawrence Green Team conducts Ecological Rapid Assessments at 10 sites along the Spicket River. "Keep It Green" and "artificial" signs are placed at 10 locations along the river. Manchester Park is constructed and is celebrated with a ribbon cutting in October.
- 2008**
In preparation for design and construction of a new park along the developing Spicket River Greenway, Groundwork Lawrence and the City of Lawrence are located at 85 Manchester Street and adjacent to Stevens Pond near Madras Mills. The final cleanup and park design proceeds for the future park at 85 Manchester Street former Crown-Shill Agency, park site planned for opening in fall 2009.

Creating the Spicket River Greenway: Utilizing Persistence and "People Power" to Clean Up and Reclaim the Spicket River