ST. LOUIS

INFLUENCING COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS

Ted Spaid, Partner SWT Design
THE INNOVATION COMMUNITY

University
Basic Research

Commercial
Applied Research

Innovation
Community

Ideas

Practice

Integration
CORTEX HISTORY

Founded in 2002 as an urban innovation district to commercialize regional university and corporate research

Sponsored by:

– Washington University (WU)
– Saint Louis University (SLU)
– University of Missouri – St. Louis (UMSL)
– BJC Healthcare (BJC)
– Missouri Botanical Garden (MOBOT)

$29M initial investment
NEED FOR CONNECTING THREAD
OUR GOAL

» Creating a Place for Innovation and Creation, a Place to Collaborate and be Inspired
DESIGN
INSPIRED BY NATURE
INSPIRED BY NATURE

Cortex | Innovation Inspired by Nature
CORTEX COMMONS VISION
CORTEX COMMONS VISION
A PLACE FOR COLLABORATION
A PLACE TO LIVE AND PLAY
STORMWATER
TRADITIONAL STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
HOW NATURE DOES IT
VISION

The Green Infrastructure Toolkit
The Commons at CORTEX Innovation Community

A. rooftops disconnect to large-scale rain gardens.

B. Green infrastructure is celebrated as an amenity by encouraging the enjoyment of rain gardens and other stormwater best management practices.

C. Curb-side bioretention areas collect runoff from the roadways.

D. Stormwater infiltrates to recharge groundwater, and provides irrigation to street trees.

E. Stormwater overflow is conveyed through a new separated storm sewer.
PROJECT GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Curbside Bioswales

Silva Cells

Permeable Pavements

Rain Gardens
BIORETENTION INSTALL
COMPLETED
COMPLETED
SILVA CELL INSTALL
COMPLETED
PERMEABLE PAVEMENT INSTALL
CURBSIDE BIORETENTION INSTALL
SIGNAGE

RAIN GARDENS

Rain gardens use vegetation to remove stormwater, improve pollution, and add aesthetic value. Vegetation includes sedums, perennials, shrubs, and trees.

Benefits:
- Improve water quality
- Provide habitat for wildlife
- Increase property value
- Reduce stormwater runoff
- Add aesthetic value

Features:
- Sedums
- Perennials
- Shrubs
- Trees

Rain gardens are designed to capture stormwater and allow it to infiltrate the soil, reducing the amount of runoff entering nearby waterways.
FINISHED SITE
CORTEX  |  INNOVATION INSPIRED BY NATURE