



Wichita Initiative to Renew the Environment (WIRE)

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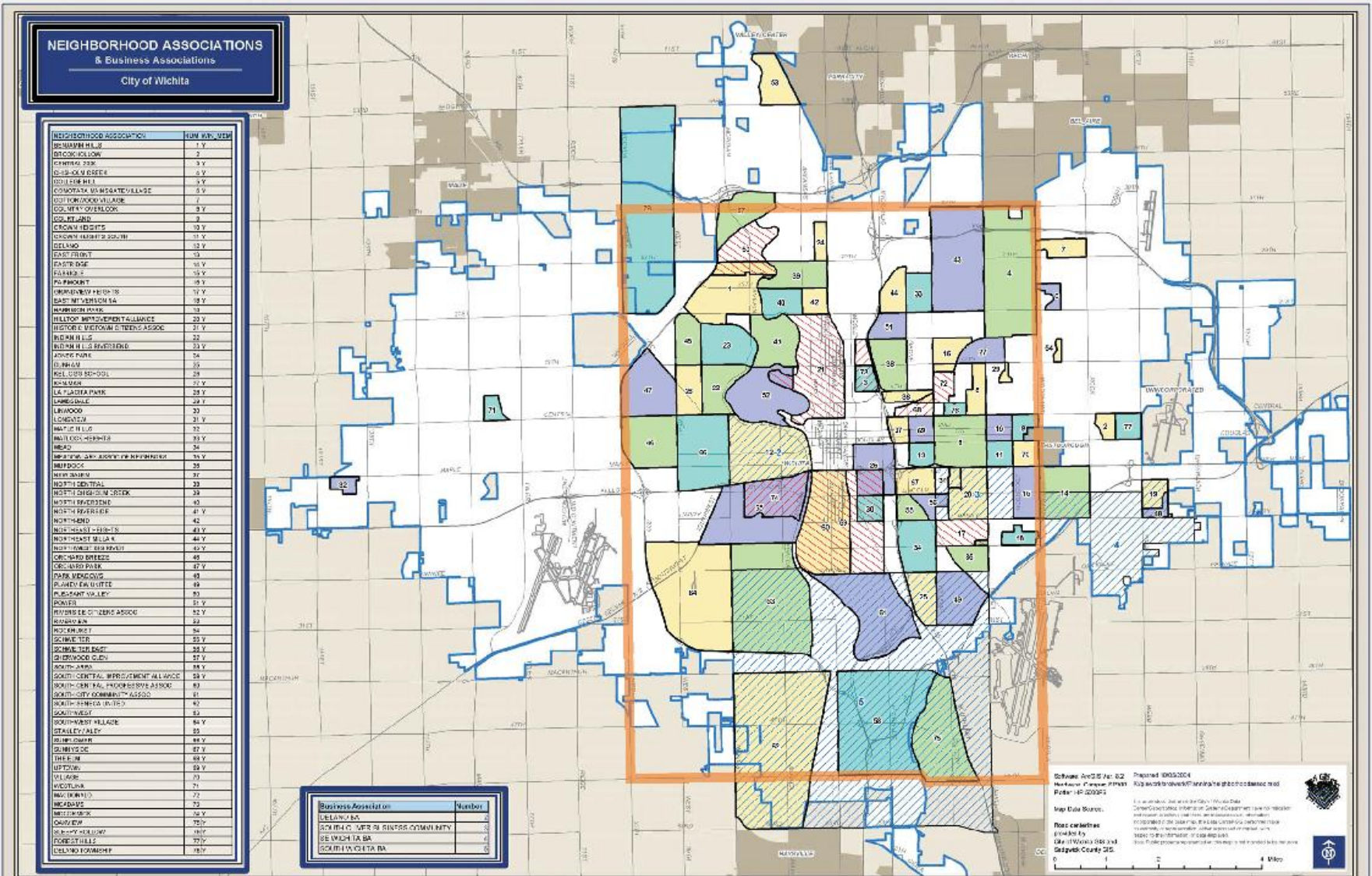
Wichita Initiative to Renew the Environment (WIRE)

- WIRE is a Two year (Oct 2008-Oct 2010 Level 1 \$100,000 Environmental Protection Agency grant through an EPA program known as CARE (Community Action to Renew the Environment)).

WIRE

- The purpose of the grant is to determine local environmental priorities through community involvement.

WIRE Project Focus Area





WIRE project Organization

- KU faculty and staff support
- Design Team (15 community members who assisted in developing the project and creating an Environmental Leadership Council)
- Environmental Leadership Council consisting of 25 community members.

DT Meetings



Wichita Initiative to Renew the Environment Design Team

Local
Government



Dave Barber
Design Team



Terry Behrendt
Design Team



Kathy Dittmer
Design Team

Former State
Government

Non-Profits



Kay Johnson
Design Team



Tom Kneil
Design Team



Rebecca Lewis
Design Team

Environmental
Health

Environmental
Experts

Community
Leaders

Business



Dan Rogers
Design Team

Not Pictured

Antoine Sherfield
Design Team



Don Sneath
Design Team



Environmental Leadership Council (ELC)

- Nominated as leaders within neighborhoods and the community
- Diverse and representative of the community
- Allows for program sustainability

Wichita Initiative to Renew the Environment Environmental Leadership Council



Angie Allen
Intoxicating Designs



~~Marcel Alvarez~~
Community Member



Kimberly Austin
~~Terracon~~
Consultants Inc.



Tonya Bronleewe
K-State Research
and Extension



Barry Carroll
Riverside
Neighborhood



Allen Clouse
The Image
Resources Group



~~Alan D'Souza~~
Wichita State
University



Paul Davis
Kansas Automotive
Recyclers Association



~~Sharon Eddy~~
Community
Member



Roderick Harris
SCHD



Jay Hatfield
Earth Sprit
Kansas



~~Dave Hoffminger~~
Community
Member



Hoyt Hillman
Access to Health



Allison Lemons
League of Women
Voters



Roger Lyon
Miller Recycling
Center



Kristin Marlett
Community Member



Brian Meier
Burns &
McDonnell



Brian Miller
Community
Member



Joseph Mitchell
KDHE



~~Ray Jacobs~~
Uptown
Neighborhood
Association



Benjamin Stiff
Community
Member



~~Patty Stueger~~
USD 259



Jeff Waller
~~Hawker Beachcraft~~



WIRE community involvement

Provide information to and engage:

- Neighborhood Associations
- Community organizations
- Local government
- Local business community



Community input process

- Conducted 52 discussion group sessions the majority of which were held at Neighborhood Association meetings.
- Conducted 10 information sessions to inform various local organizations about WIRE including Wichita Visioneering.
- These sessions involved approximately 1500 participants.

~1500 Participants





Environmental Issues

- 93 pages of community responses from the discussion groups were categorized into air, water, waste and other.
- ELC developed a list of 19 local environmental issues from these categories using 5 risk criteria (environmental, economic, health, urgency, community concern)
- Fact sheets were developed for each issue.



Community Ranking

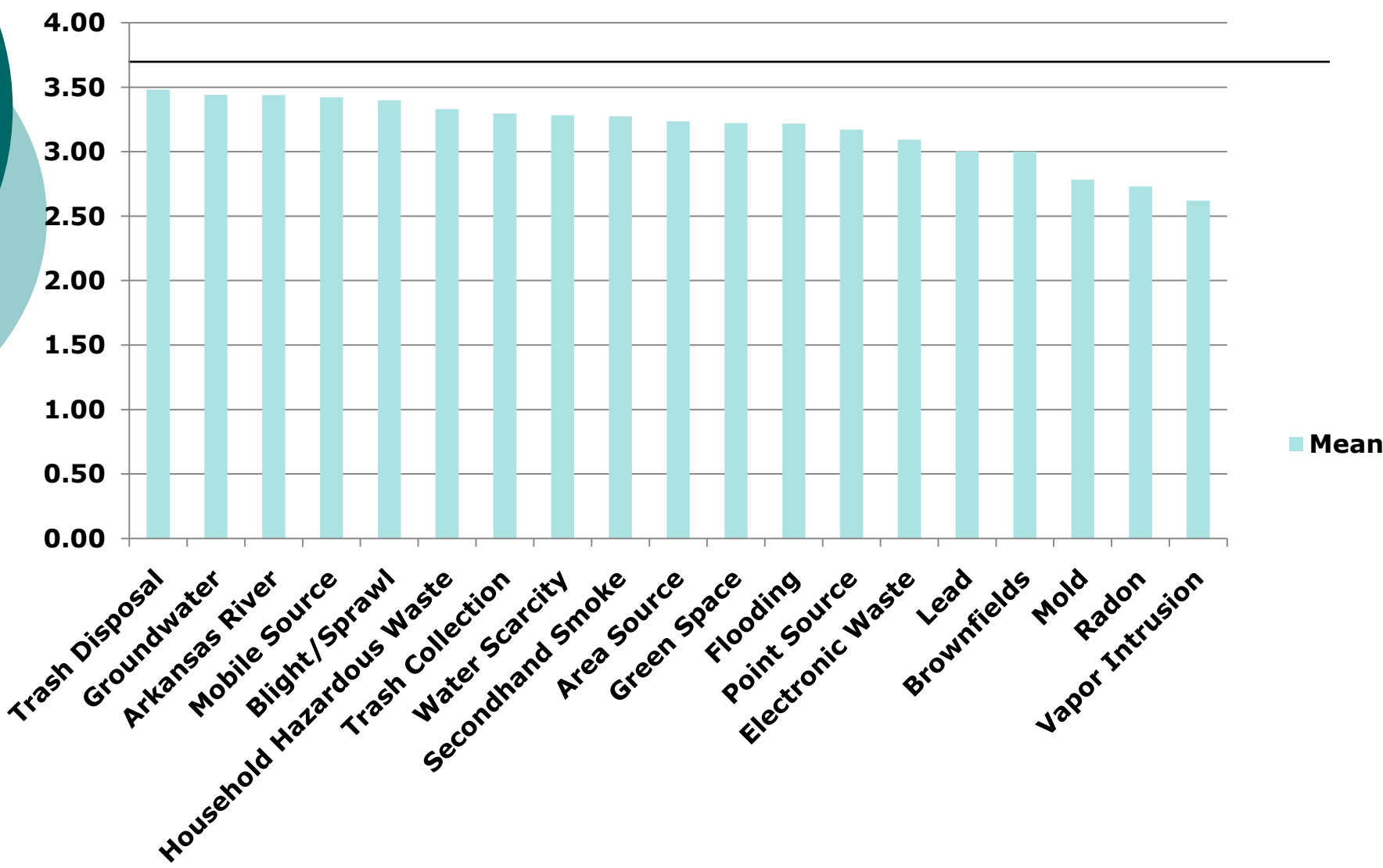
- All 19 issues were taken back out to the community for ranking through Neighborhood Association and other community meetings. 774 citizens participated (from 43 groups) in the education and prioritization process.
- Ranking of issues were also available through the WIRE website.


<http://wichita.kumc.edu/care/>



Summary of Findings

Total Score Averages





Total	
Issue	Mean
Trash Disposal	3.48
Arkansas River	3.44
Groundwater	3.44
Mobile Source	3.42
Blight/Sprawl	3.40
Household Hazardous Waste	3.33
Trash Collection	3.30
Water Scarcity	3.28
Secondhand Smoke	3.27
Area Source	3.24
Green Space	3.22
Flooding	3.22
Point Source	3.17
Electronic Waste	3.09
Lead	3.00
Brownfields	3.00
Mold	2.78
Radon	2.73
Vapor Intrusion	2.62
Total	3.18



Top 3 Environmental Issues for Wichita from the WIRE community process

1. Air quality and impact from mobile air emissions (cars, trucks, trains, planes, vehicles and other mobile sources). This item also includes the issue of non-attainment for ground level Ozone.
2. Arkansas River water quality from storm water run-off.
3. Solid waste management and recycling



Comment on Recycling

- NOTE: Lack of a mandatory recycling program in Wichita was one of the major comments heard in the discussion forums which generally were part of a larger discussion about the lack of a more comprehensive waste management system for the city. This discussion often included franchising of trash collection. For the purpose of the CARE grant recycling loses some strength as a priority since its impact on health is not as significant as water and air quality.

PLAN YOUR WEEK WITH **GO!** THE CIRCUS COMES TO TOWN BEST FRIED CHICKEN RESTAURANTS




Wichita Eagle

Kansas Edition

BP could yet make money on leaking well

BY BOB BILKIN
McClary Newspapers

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Energy could still make a money-maker for the company, even as it tries to stem the flow of crude oil from a leaking well off the coast of Mexico, said BP and the company's critics on Tuesday.

The U.S. Dept. of Energy said it would not be a money-maker for the company, even as it tries to stem the flow of crude oil from a leaking well off the coast of Mexico, said BP and the company's critics on Tuesday.

BP'S:
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The Treasury could be a money-maker for the company, even as it tries to stem the flow of crude oil from a leaking well off the coast of Mexico, said BP and the company's critics on Tuesday.

Via Christi institute dedicated to cancer

BY BOB BILKIN
McClary Newspapers

The Via Christi Hospital in Wichita is opening a new cancer institute, which will be dedicated to cancer research and care for the state's cancer patients.

The institute will be a \$100 million project, which will be a major step in the hospital's effort to become a national leader in cancer care.

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OUR TOP ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

GROUP SEEKS FIXES

TRASH DISPOSAL STUDY ASKED RESIDENTS TO RANK CONCERNS URBAN BLIGHT



ARKANSAS RIVER



CAR, TRUCK EMISSIONS



BY BOB BILKIN
McClary Newspapers

A study of environmental concerns in Wichita asked residents to rank their top priorities. The study found that trash disposal, urban blight, and secondhand smoke were among the top concerns.



SECONDHAND SMOKE



TOP ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

- 1. TRASH DISPOSAL
- 2. URBAN BLIGHT
- 3. SECONDHAND SMOKE
- 4. CAR, TRUCK EMISSIONS
- 5. AIR POLLUTION
- 6. WATER POLLUTION
- 7. CLIMATE CHANGE
- 8. NOISE POLLUTION
- 9. TOXIC WASTE
- 10. RADIATION

Scaling back water project won't lower bills much

BY BOB BILKIN
McClary Newspapers

The city of Wichita is scaling back a \$1.2 billion water project, which will not lower water bills as much as hoped.

The city's water utility said it will be cutting back on the project, which was supposed to be a major step in the city's effort to improve its water supply.

Project's goal: National school standards

BY BOB BILKIN
McClary Newspapers

The state of Kansas is launching a project to align its school standards with national standards.

The project is a major step in the state's effort to improve its education system and ensure that its students are prepared for the workforce.

CARE Level 2 Funding

- WIRE has received notification from the EPA that they wish to initiate discussions on CARE Level 2 funding of WIRE. This funding would extend the project for an additional 2 years from October 2010 to October 2012 and provide resources to initiate projects relating to the top three community environmental issues.

CARE Level 2 Next Steps

Priorities moving forward for WIRE are community projects involving-

1. Trash Disposal and recycling
2. Arkansas River environmental projects to reduce impact of runoff
3. Vehicular Air Emissions through idle reduction projects