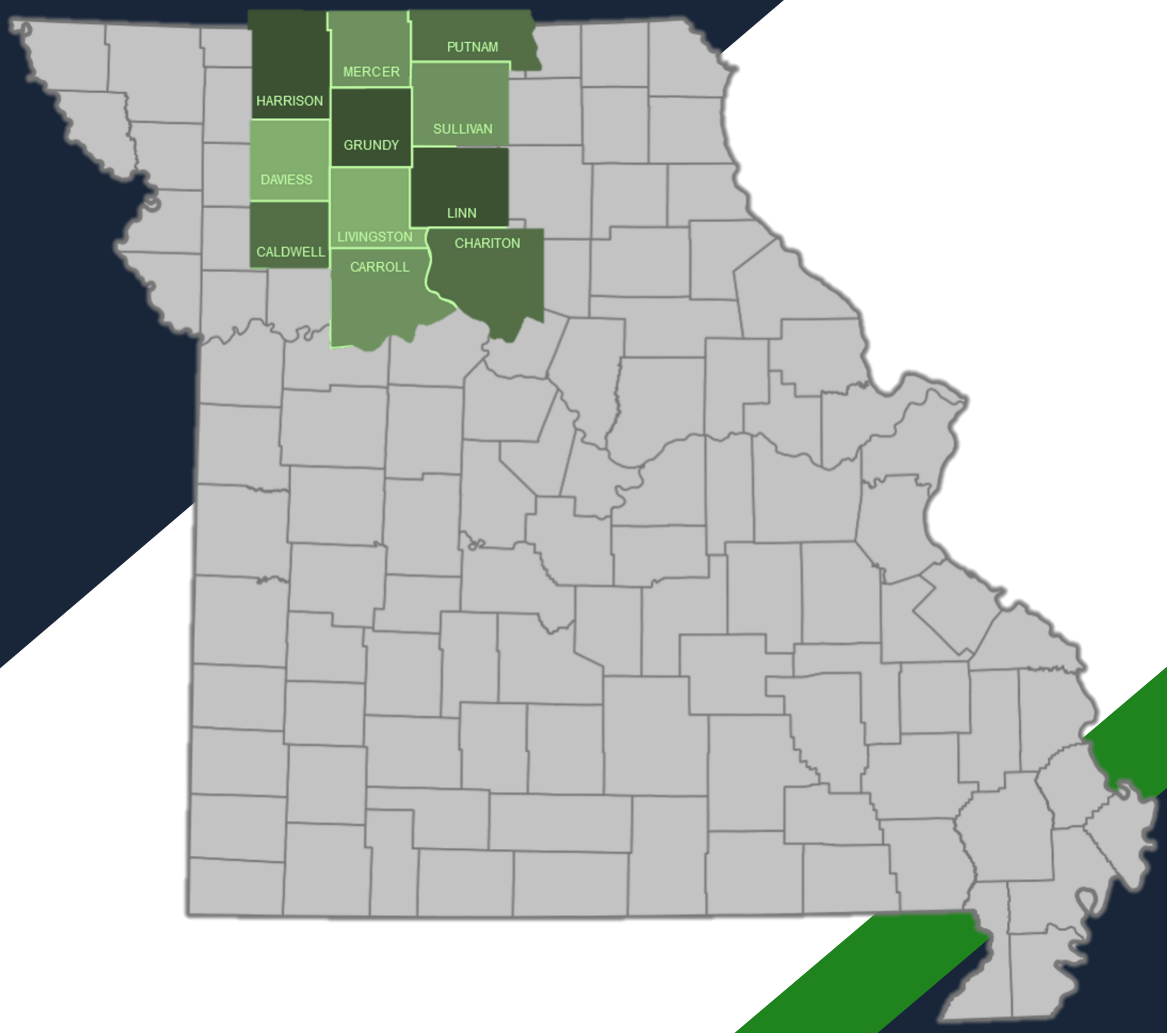
GREEN HILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



ANNUAL REPORT

2023/2024

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



LISA COLSON
Executive Director

GHRPC staff worked hard to implement programs and develop projects to assist the region with sustainability and growth in the fiscal year 2023-2024. We also provided information and education regarding issues that would impact our counties, cities and organizations.

As you will see in the Annual Report, staff members wear many hats and there is a lot of teamwork within our organization and with our partners outside of our organization. Our planning partners consist of state and federal agencies, architects and engineers, economic developers, elected officials and community members. Within these pages you will read about projects that began with staff engagement and resulted in successful projects due to communication and facilitation with our planning partners.

As we celebrate another successful year for GHRPC, we would also like to show appreciation to the partners that support the Green Hills region.

Looking forward to another year of teamwork!

Lisa Colson
Executive Director



GHRPC SPONSORS











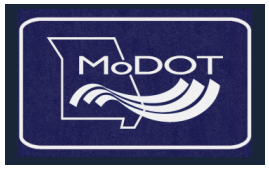




GHRPC PLANNING PARTNERS









Annual Report 2023-2024

GREEN HILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

> **Our Mission: Partner with rural communities to implement plans that promote a strong workforce and economic development by providing more housing, transportation, and infrastructure choices, and protect natural resources for our region**

The Green Hills Regional Planning Commission, located in Trenton, MO, is one of nineteen organizations operating as a sub-state planning and development agency serving the State of Missouri. GHRPC is organized as a voluntary association of local governments. GHRPC retains a staff of professionals who work on projects intended to foster improved quality of life throughout the 11-county region. These counties include the following: Caldwell, Carroll, Chariton, Daviess, Grundy, Harrison, Linn, Livingston, Mercer, Putnam, and Sullivan counties.

The Green Hills Regional Planning Commission was formed in 1967 by Executive Order of Governor Warren E Hearnes. This followed the passage by the Missouri General Assembly of the “State/Community Regional Development Act of 1966”. Governor Hearnes signed the Executive Order creating the Green Hills Regional Planning Commission in Trenton, MO. The Green Hills RPC was a nine-county organization from 1967 until 1992 when, by Executive Order, it was expanded to include Chariton and Carroll Counties.

The Green Hills RPC is formed pursuant to Revised Statutes of Missouri Chapter 251. It is a special purpose political subdivision and has limited powers to engage in planning and comprehensive economic development for the region.

Economic Development Administration

The Green Hills Regional Planning Commission is recognized by the Economic Development Administration as an Economic Development District (EDD) and received planning grant funds on an annual basis. This partnership and funding allows the Planning Commission to dedicate staff to serve the economic development needs and interests of the region.

Each year, the District is required to provide EDA with an Annual Scope of Work which encompasses all of the activities that staff will address. Activities include:

- Coordinate economic development projects to create jobs and increase the economic development base of the region.
- Address social and community needs necessary to residents of the region - specifically housing.
- Gather, analyze, and distribute census data and population projections to the constituents of the region.
- Preparation of grant applications to fund community improvements and economic vitality.
- Distribute information to the region announcing funding, training opportunities, policy changes, and development.
- Attend national, state-wide, regional, and local meetings to assist communities and organizations and develop professional capacity of the organization.
- Work as a member of MACOG to support regional economic development efforts and legislation that will enhance the business community and employment base.
- Review and update CEDS.

Each EDD must complete a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS analyzes the regional economy and serves as a guide for establishing regional goals and objectives, developing and implementing a regional plan of action, and identifying investment priorities and funding sources. This strategy is updated every five years.

GHRPC submitted the CEDS in 2022 and is currently working on an updated CEDS to include economic strategies for additional categories which are: Economic Resilience, Climate Resilience, and Equity.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

GHRPC continues to serve as the leading voice for regional transportation planning in North Missouri. GHRPC has been a dedicated supporter and facilitator of communication between MoDOT and the 11-counties that make up the Green Hills Region.

In support of regional transportation planning, Green Hills Regional Planning Commission and MoDOT work in partnership each year to develop and execute a work plan designed to allow local input into the statewide transportation planning.

The Transportation Advisory Committee serves as an integral part of these local planning efforts. The members who serve on the TAC help identify regional needs in infrastructure, public education, & safety. The County Commission from each of the eleven counties is responsible for selecting the members who serve on the committee. There is a County Representative, usually the Presiding Commissioner, a City Representative, and a citizen at large. Each of these three members has a vote.

GHRPC TRANSPORTATION



GHRPC updated the **Green Hills Region Missouri Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan**. The purpose of this plan is to provide a tool to improve communication and collaboration across human service organizations and transportation providers. The Federal Transit Administration requires that projects that receive funding under the Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) participate in the development of this plan.

The development of this plan involved several public meetings, significant outreach, and research into the region and the transportation needs of the underserved population. The focus of the plan was to identify the needs of the elderly, disabled, and low-income populations that depend on public transportation. This plan did illustrate the needs of the region and named **maintaining the current system** and **expanding the current system** as the highest priorities.

The GHRPC Transportation Advisory Committee was on the agenda on August 2, 2023, to speak to the MoDOT Commissioners at the public meeting held in Chillicothe, MO at the Litton Agri-Science Learning Center. The TAC members that attended addressed the MoDOT Commission to highlight needs of the region and address recent improvements, and outline concerns specific to the GHRPC region.

Beginning in 2022, GHRPC partnered with AGRI-Services of Brunswick to facilitate the management of a Port Infrastructure Development Program Grant. This grant was awarded to increase the barge handling and expand the capacity of the ASB facility located in Brunswick. Once complete, the port will be a sustainable multimodal facility and provide resiliency in the region for both people and goods.

The project includes the placement of a new heavy-left sheet pile dock, replacement of four 40-year-old captive dock barges to improve boat crew and employee safety, replacement of the 40-year-old storage facility to increase capacity and availability, and a new rail spur to increase supply chain resiliency during low water or flooding events at the port. This project will require a total of $11 Million in funding and will be completed as funding permits.

Regional Impacts of Transportation Planning

669.94 Miles of Lane Resurfaced, 515.9 Low Volume, 51.24 Major, & 102.8 Minor

2 TAP Grants awarded for a total of $580,050.53 in MoDOT TAP call to fund sidewalk upgrades.

31 Bridges rehabbed or replaced through Design Build Project for a total of 84,134 square feet

0 Zero Fatalities in Putnam and Daviess County in 2023, and 0 Fatalities in Carroll and Putnam County in 2024.

84.7 Miles of Preventative Maintenance Treatment; 57.4 miles of Interstate & 27.3 Major Roads in the region.

In July of 2024 the MoDOT Commission approved the 2024-29 State Transportation Improvement Plan, making nearly $14 billion available over the next 5 years. Specific figures for our region follow.

Tier 1	Tier II	Tier III	Unfunded Multimodal Needs
3 Projects	9 Projects	4 Projects	3 Projects
$8,983,000	$18,134,000	$51,592,000	$4,604,000

Roadway Safety

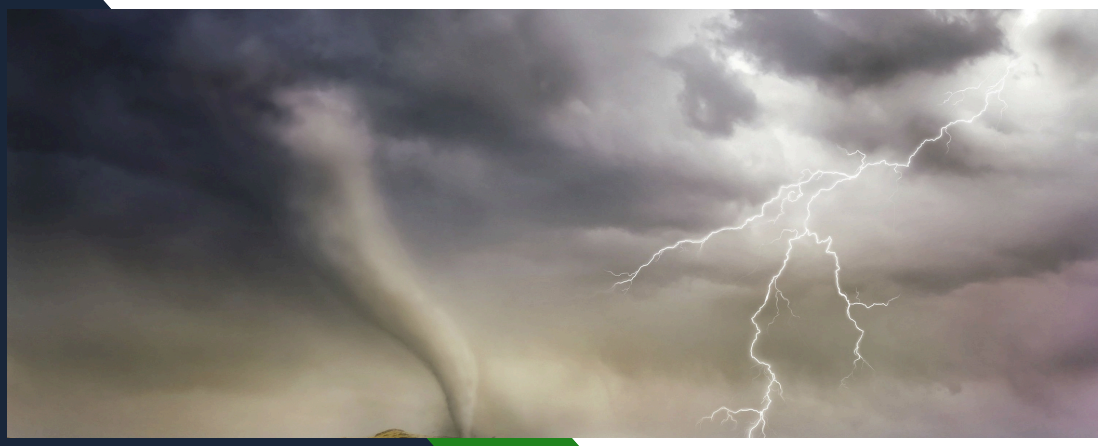
As a member of the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety, GHRPC takes an active role in the partnership of safety advocates throughout the state who have come together with the goal to end traffic fatalities and serious injuries on public roadways. As a partner of the Northwest District for Roadway Safety, GHRPC participates in a variety of safety activities throughout the year.

These types of activities include promoting roadway safety at various events throughout the region, posting awareness messaging on GHRPC's social media, attending the annual Highway Safety Conference in Columbia, MO, and other outreach activities that promote the message of roadway safety.

The Transportation Department at GHRPC utilizes the messaging of Show-Me Zero, Missouri's Strategic Highway Safety Plan and the four areas of emphasis: Occupant Protection, Distracted Driving, Speed and Aggressive Driving, and Impaired Driving. A safer Missouri is a better Missouri, which is at the heart of the plan for eliminating fatalities and serious injuries on Missouri roadways. GHRPC is a partner in the collaborative effort of diverse stakeholders who are dedicated to achieving safer roads through education, public policy, enforcement, engineering, and emergency response.

(*Sullivan County Fair Outreach Activities, Staff Celebrating Buckle Up, Phone Down Day), and Putnam County Fair and Bicycle Rodeo, promoting safety throughout the region.*





HAZARD MITIGATION

Green Hills Regional Planning Commission is responsible for updating the Hazard Mitigation Plans for all eleven counties in the region. These plan updates are designed to identify the risks specific to the jurisdictions within the planning area and develop actions that would reduce the impact of these events. Having a SEMA/FEMA approved local hazard mitigation plan is a requirement for local governments and school districts in order to be eligible for FEMA hazard mitigation grant funding.

The local hazard mitigation plans must be updated every 5 years. This process involves a collaboration among a variety of stakeholders including local government agencies, emergency services, school districts, the general public, businesses, and non-profit agencies within the planning area. The plans also assess the vulnerabilities and risks due to natural hazards.

Mitigation planning is an investment in a community's future safety and sustainability. Mitigation planning helps a community take action before a disaster and aims to **reduce losses when a disaster does occur.** The planning process is designed to help communities plan ahead for risk reduction. GHRPC staff are dedicated to assisting communities develop plans and actions designed to address their specific risks and vulnerabilities.

MERCER COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

The Green Hills RPC began the planning process with Mercer County in August of 2023. After several meetings with members of the Mercer County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee, the plan was completed and submitted to SEMA in February of 2024.

CHARITON COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

The Green Hills RPC began the planning process with Chariton County in May of 2024. This process had just begun during FY 2023-2024. The plan will be complete and submitted to SEMA in 2025.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT



North Missouri Solid Waste Management District - Region B was formed in 1992 in conjunction with Senate Bill 530, which created 20 Solid Waste Districts in Missouri. Region B is the largest District consisting of 11 counties in north central Missouri including Caldwell, Carroll, Chariton, Daviess, Grundy, Harrison, Linn, Livingston, Mercer, Putnam, and Sullivan. There are 75 communities in our 11-county district.

DISTRICT GRANT PROGRAM

The Purpose of the District Grant Program is to provide financial assistance to cities, counties, non-profits and other organizations that will develop new or improved programs that will reduce the generation of solid waste or will create new markets or improve markets for recovered material or will improve the handling of items banned from landfills by Missouri law. It is the intent that these funds are awarded to subgrantees for projects that will be sustainable and will lead to long term diversion. The purpose of the solid waste management districts is to fund projects with maximum impact on waste minimization and to create and sustain jobs directly related to the project.

Applications are available on the Green Hills Regional Planning Commission's website, **www.ghrpc.org**, Ann Hamilton, NMSWMD Program Manager and District Planner for Region B, works with subgrantees on their application, tasks, timelines, and goals. If you need assistance on grant applications, please contact Ann at **ann@ghrpc.org** or call **660-359-5636 ext.20.**

MISSOURI PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Region B has been very active in the Missouri Product Stewardship Council since its formation in 2018. We serve on the Missouri Product Stewardship Council, the pharmaceutical workgroup, the battery workgroup, and the tire workgroup.

PHARMACEUTICAL DISPOSAL INFORMATION

In Missouri households, medications make up the top 3 poison substances in children aged 5 years and younger with a record of 77,908 medication poisonings between 2015-2020, according to the Missouri Poison Center. View a map of take-back locations at this link:
https://marc-gis.maps.arcgis.com/.../intera.../index.html...
For more information:
http://www.tinyurl.com/missouri-meds#MOSaferDisposal

SPECIAL EVENTS & BATTERY RECYCLING PROGRAMS

The District will be offering Recycling Containers to use at County Fairs, Events, School functions, etc. The District will be offering Battery Recycling Containers for Cities, Counties, and Schools. Please contact Ann if interested in either program for 2024.

GREEN HILLS RURAL DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Green Hills Rural Development, Inc. (GHRDI) is a 501(c)(3) development subsidiary of the Green Hills Regional Planning Commission. GHRDI offers its status to organizations and initiatives through the region that require a 501(c)(3) conduit for IRS deduction purposes. This service enables the participating organization to save on the expenses involved in obtaining an individual 501(c)(3) and assists in record keeping and fund management. GHRDI is governed by an eleven-member Board of Directors, which is comprised of individuals from the business and local government sectors.

The primary function of GHRDI is the administration of Revolving Loan Funds. Currently, the GHRDI oversees loan pools seeded by the USDA Rural Development, and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) which is a HUD Program. Each loan pool has a specific purpose and is intended to serve as gap financing to assist with the financing needs of new business start-ups or expansions.

Prospective borrowers are required to present their loan requests to the Board. The Board Members evaluate the loan on its merits, and approval is granted based on the information provided to the Board by the prospective borrower.

RDBG Business Transitioning is a new grant that was awarded to GHRDI for the purpose of helping entrepreneurs who are either retiring or closing their business. This service is geared to help them find new people to take over the business. GHRPC staff is assisting with the administration of the grant and GHRDI has contracted with Cup Half Full, run by Jackie Soptic, to host workshops and gather information to assist business owners with the transition.

RISE

RURAL INNOVATIVE STRONGER ECONOMY

In its second year, the Show Me Jobs project, part of the USDA's RISE initiative, has continued its mission to support small businesses and agribusiness ventures in 5 GHRPC counties; Grundy, Harrison, Mercer, Putnam and Sullivan. The University of Missouri – Kansas City Innovation Center is the lead applicant for this project and a partnership agreement was formalized with Green Hills Regional Planning Commission. The project aims to create high-wage jobs and increase business resources for rural entrepreneurs. Through personalized support, the project developed action plans for entrepreneurs, offering guidance on financing and market connections, and hosted a series of educational workshops.

In addition to technical assistance, Show Me Jobs has focused on fostering industry connections and visibility. Events like the Path to Prosperity, which included panels on value-added agriculture and supply chain enhancement, provided businesses with networking opportunities and insights into sustainable practices. The project also participated in the Hy-Vee OpportUNITY Summit, which promoted local businesses to corporate buyers, further expanding their market reach. To increase visibility, the project expanded the Agribusiness Resource Rail—a comprehensive map of business resources—and launched a targeted marketing campaign, connecting agribusinesses across the five targeted counties.

- September 9, 2023: Value-Added Agriculture 101 Workshop
- October 10, 2023: Credit Building Workshop
- October 16-18, 2023: Workforce 2030 Conference
- November 14, 2023: ESO Day
- January 17, 2024: Trenton Economic Development Luncheon
- February 9, 2024: FBLA District Competition
- March 19, 2024: Resource Partner Meeting
- March 26, 2024: Food & Agriculture Export Seminar
- April 24, 2024: Path to Prosperity

Looking ahead, the project has outlined key activities for year 3. Plans include hosting an executive leadership forum, hosting workshops targets towards the agriculture, technology, and food processing cluster, as well as continuing its marketing efforts to reach and engage more local businesses. Show Me Jobs remains dedicated to fostering an environment where local businesses can access the resources they need to grow, innovate, and make a lasting impact on the regional economy.



GHRPC
Workforce Development

The Workforce Innovations and Opportunities Act (WIOA) is landmark legislation that is designed to strengthen and improve our nation's public workforce system and help get Americans, including youth and those with significant barriers to employment, into high-quality jobs and careers and assist employers hire and retain skilled workers.

GHRPC Workforce Development staff have partnered with Job Center staff, Adult Education and Literacy (AEL), and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), as well as other public assistance organizations and agencies to help provide additional services offered to job seekers in the region. These strengthened partnership efforts provide valuable services for our customers.

The goal of the workforce is to provide assistance to both job seekers and employers. This program was administered by GHRPC until the end of FY 2023-24.

Current Location:
601 West Mohawk Rd.
Chillicothe, MO 64601
(660) 646-0671
Chillicothe@dhewd.mo.gov

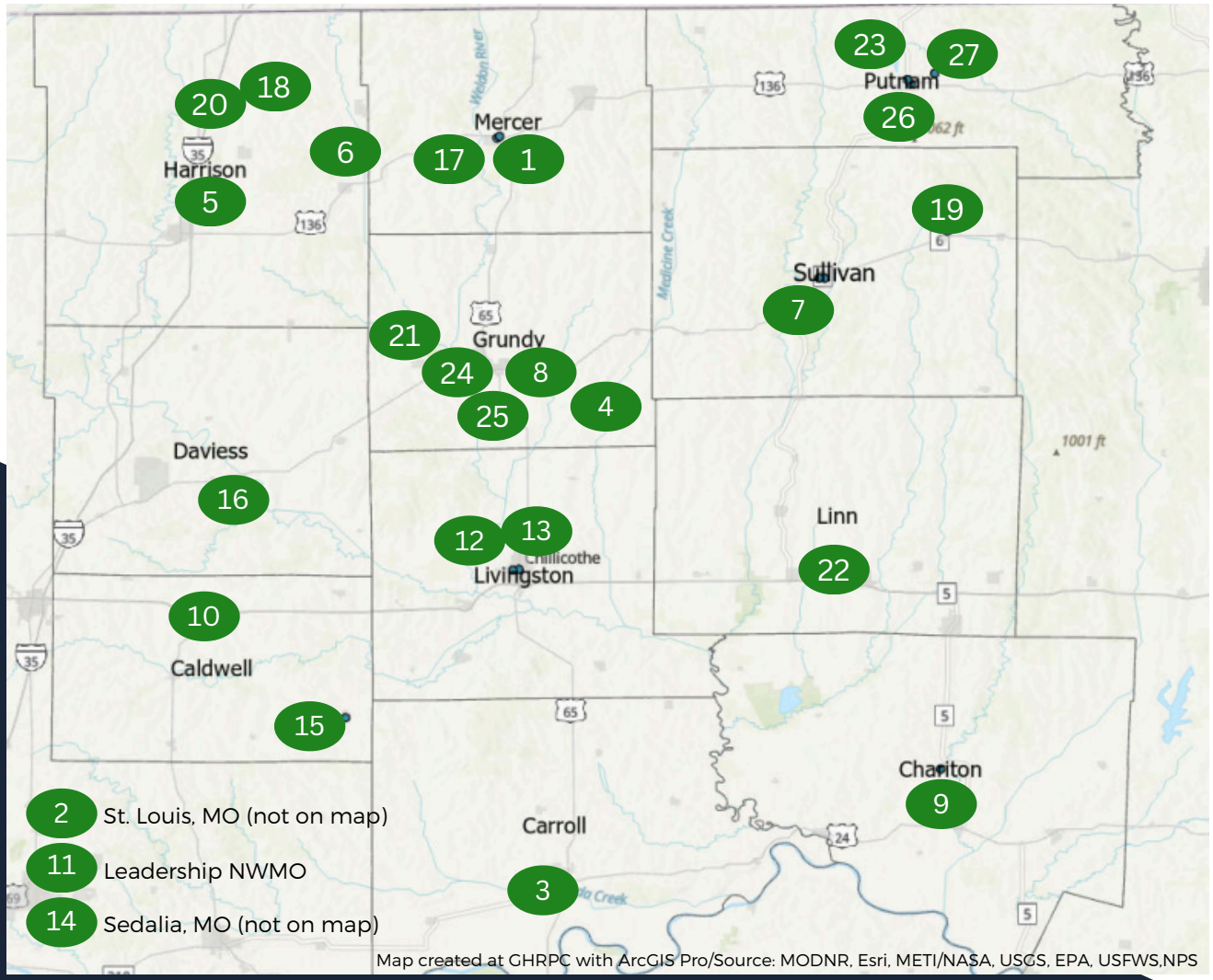
GHRPC
Code Enforcement Program

GHRPC's Code Enforcement Program continued to grow in fiscal year 2023-2024. Seventeen municipalities have entered into an agreement with the planning commission to receive code enforcement services.

Approximately 300 nuisances have been abated. With the exception of struggles with staff turn-over, the program has been well received by the communities.

Code enforcement will also be available to assist communities interested in Demolition Grants by identifying dangerous buildings and providing the data needed to support local efforts.

PROJECTS IMPROVING THE REGION TOTAL MORE THAN $19 MILLION



1



Mercer County Hazard Mitigation Plan
Green Hills Regional Planning Commission has been working to complete the five-year update to the Mercer County's FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan. HMPs identify actions to reduce or eliminate risk to life and property from natural hazards. The plans are required in order for jurisdictions to qualify for FEMA hazard mitigation grants.

2



Missouri Recycling Association (MORA)
During the conference Ann was able to network with other districts and exhibitors, tour the City Park Soccer Stadium and learn how they recycle. They Keynote speaker was Louis Rossmann talking about the Fight to Repair. Sessions included Recycling Challenges in our Communities, Connecting with Resources, Opportunities for Organics Recovery, Lithium-Ion Battery Dangers, Single Use Plastics, and many more.

3



Carroll County Area YMCA - Ongoing
GHRPC has been working with Carrollton in Carroll County by providing Administration Services on the project to rehabilitate a vacant elementary school to house YMCA services in Carroll County. This project is funded by ARPA & NAP in the amount of $4.5 million.

4



City of Laredo - Ongoing
(Grundy County)
GHRPC is assisting the City of Laredo with Grant Writing and Administration in a Wastewater Storage and Treatment Improvement Project funded by USDA & CDBG in the amount of $962,055.

5



Regional Pod Grants for Special & Banned Item Collection
District B uses grant funds from the Missouri DNR each year to collect banned/special items in our region. The district holds banned & special collections throughout the region. Harrison County received a grant for $20,000 to purchase pods, supplies, and cover disposal costs.

6



Thompson Riverbank Stabilization Project - Ongoing
(Grundy County) GHRPC is working with Grundy County to provide Environmental and Administration Services on the Thompson Riverbank Stabilization Project. This project is funded for $500,000.00 through HUD and appropriations from Congressman Graves.

7



City of Milan - Completed
(Sullivan County)
GHRPC provided services to the City of Milan to assist with the Water Distribution Improvement and Emergency Drought Grants by providing Environmental, Grant Writing, and Administration Services. This project is funded through DNR and CDBG in the amount of $612,278.

8



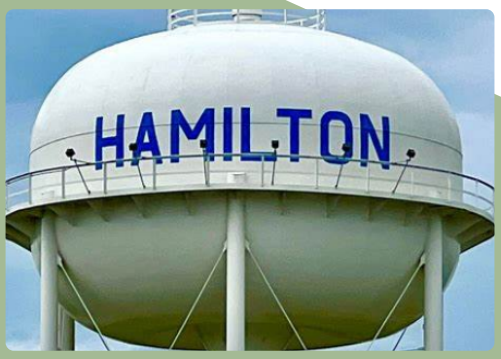
Missouri Days Festival
NMSWMD Region B had a booth at the 2023 Missouri Days Festival that was held in October. Information was available and questions were answered on how to recycle correctly, where they could recycle items, how to dispose of banned items. Patrons took the recycling pledge.

9



Chariton County Hazard Mitigation Plan
Green Hills Regional Planning Commission began working on the five-year update to the Chariton County Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan will identify actions to reduce or eliminate risk to life and property from natural hazards. The plans are required in order for jurisdictions to qualify for FEMA hazard mitigation grants.

10



City of Hamilton - Ongoing
(Caldwell County)
GHRPC is assisting the City of Hamilton with Water Distribution and Emergency Drought Improvements by providing Environmental, Grant Writing, and Administration services. This project is funded by DNR & CDBG for $612,278.

11



Leadership NWMO
Rebecca TenHulzen was in Leadership Northwest Missouri's graduating class of 2024! This is a leadership development opportunity that brought together participants from throughout a 19-county region to hone their leadership skills, explore regional issues, and develop a network of contacts.

12



Glass Recycling in Chillicothe, MO
Region B started a partnership with Clinco Sheltered Workshop in Cameron, Ripple Glass, the Chillicothe Rotary, Green Hills RPC, Michael & Yvette Ball, and Adam & Amber Boyer. This is a pilot project started in September 2023. So far, the project is going well and has not had problems with items other than glass being placed in the trailer.

13



FBLA District 19 competition - Chillicothe, MO

Rebecca TenHulzen participated as a judge, evaluating students' presentations in Business Ethics and Hospitality & Event Management. This involvement provided an opportunity to support young professionals in their development and encourage ethical practices and strategic thinking in future business leaders.

14



Recycling at the State Fair & the State Fair Campground

Partnership with the MO State Fair, MO State Recycling Program, MORA. Approximately 300 recycling containers were placed throughout the fairgrounds and the campgrounds. This gave Region B the opportunity to promote the benefits of recycling.

15



City of Braymer - Ongoing

(Caldwell County)

GHRPC is facilitating the Wastewater Treatment Improvements in the City of Braymer by providing ERG Assistance, Environmental Study, Grant Writing, and Administrative Services. This project is funded by DNR & CDBG for $3,012,490.

16



City of Gallatin Street Project - Completed

(Daviess County)

GHRPC Facilitated the Street Improvement Project in the City of Gallatin by providing Environmental and Administrative Services. This project was funded by the City of Gallatin and CDBG for $988,930.

17



City of Princeton - Ongoing

(Mercer County)

GHRPC has been working with the City of Princeton to Improve Water Treatment and make Storage and Distribution Improvements. This project is being funded by DNR & CDBG in the amount of $3,891,930.

18



Village of Blythedale - Ongoing
(Harrison County)
GHRPC is working with the Village of Blythedale on Procurement and ERG assistance on an Engineering Report Grant for Wastewater which is DNR funded for $60,000.

19



City of Green City - Ongoing
(Sullivan County)
GHRPC is working with the City of Green City on Procurement and ERG assistance on an Engineering Report Grant for Wastewater which is funded by the City and DNR for $62,500.

20



Harrison County PWSD #1 - Ongoing
(Harrison & Daviess County)
GHRPC is working with Harrison County PWSD #1 on an Environmental Review for water wells and transmission lines. This project is funded by USDA and Congressional Appropriation for $3 Million.

21



Thompson River Watershed Plan - Ongoing
GHRPC is providing Grant Writing and Administration services on the creation of a Watershed Plan which is DNR funded in the amount of $43,521.

22



City of Brookfield - Ongoing
(Linn County)
GHRPC has been working with the City of Brookfield by providing proposal writing and procurement services for Water and Wastewater Improvements funded through EPA and Congressional Appropriation in the amount of $1.2 Million.

23



Blueprint Grant Award
The Putnam County Health Department was awarded two Blueprint Grant Awards by the Northwest Missouri Coalition of Roadway Safety (NWMCRS), a GHRPC partner, for a total of $6500. The grant money funded roadway safety messaging at the Putnam County Fair and their annual Bicycle Rodeo.

24



Blueprint Grant Award
The Trenton Police Department was awarded $2995 in Blueprint Grant Awards by the MWMCRS for a new mounted radar unit. The purchase of this equipment will allow the City of Trenton to monitor and enforce traffic speeds for improved public safety on roadways, school zones, and other needed areas.

25



Blueprint Grant Award
The Grundy County Sheriff's Office was awarded $2500 to partially fund equipment upgrades by the NWMCRS. These funds will be used to improve existing radar units and add brackets that will hold emergency lighting to make the officers more visible during traffic stops. This funding was used to address speed and aggressive driving in the GHRPC region.

26



Blueprint Grant Award
The Unionville Volunteer Fire Department was awarded a Blueprint Grant of $1900 by the NWMCRS, a partner of GHRPC. The grant was used to fund safety equipment and traffic signs to increase the safety of the volunteers when responding to a car accident.

27



Blueprint Grant Award
The Unionville City Park was awarded $856 by the NWMCRS. This grant was used primarily for "Slow Down" signs and traffic cones for the Unionville City Park, to protect pedestrians. The City Park of Unionville hosts many events during the year, and pedestrian safety is paramount.

GHRPC
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Linn County
Josh Muck

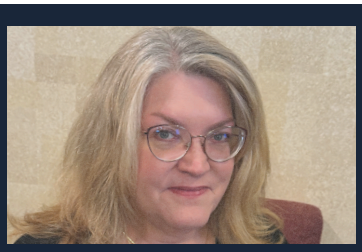
Livingston County
Ed Douglas

Mercer County
Gene Anderson

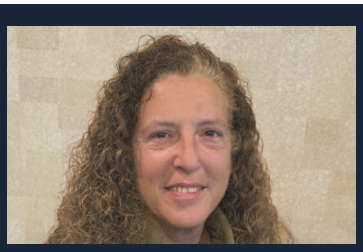
Putnam County
Jack Tucker

Sullivan County
Danah Fowler

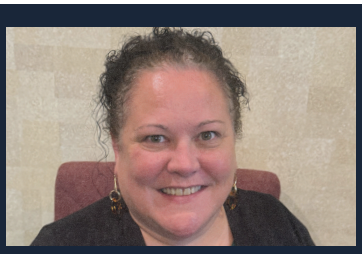
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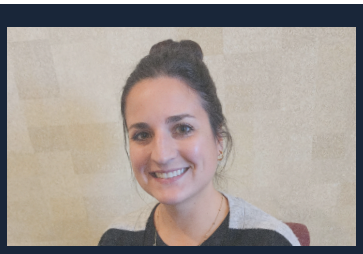
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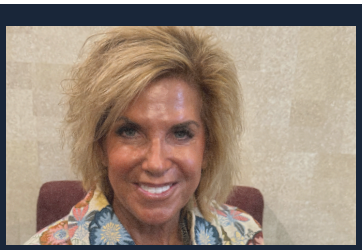
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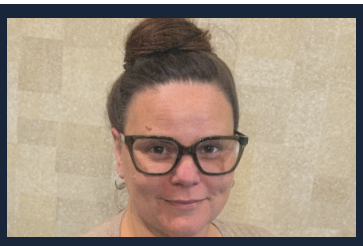
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