



# Wichita Initiative to Renew the Environment (WIRE)

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- 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).

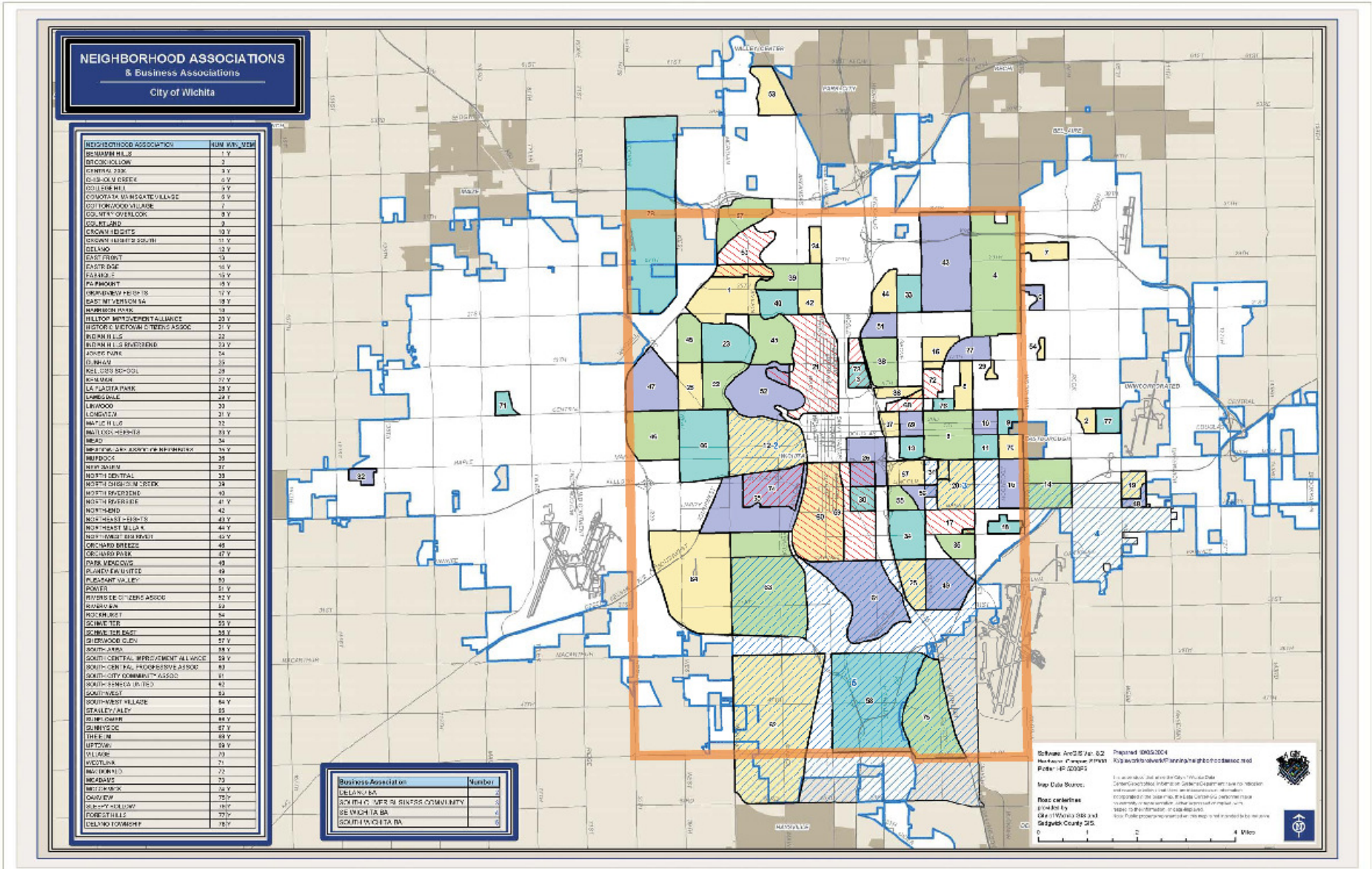


# WIRE

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

# WIRE Project Focus Area





# WIRE project Organization

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- 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

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# Wichita Initiative to Renew the Environment Design Team

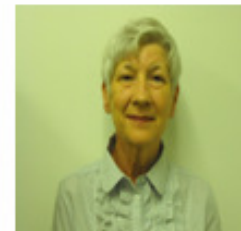
Local  
Government



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)

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- 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 Eargy~~  
Community  
Member



Roderick Harris  
SCHD



Jay Hatfield  
Earth Sprit  
Kansas



~~Dave Haffelfinger~~  
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 Stuger~~  
USD 259



Jeff Waller  
~~Hawker Beachcraft~~



# WIRE community involvement

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Provide information to and engage:

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



## Community input process

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- 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.

# 52 Discussion Groups



~1500 Participants





# Environmental Issues

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- 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

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- 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.

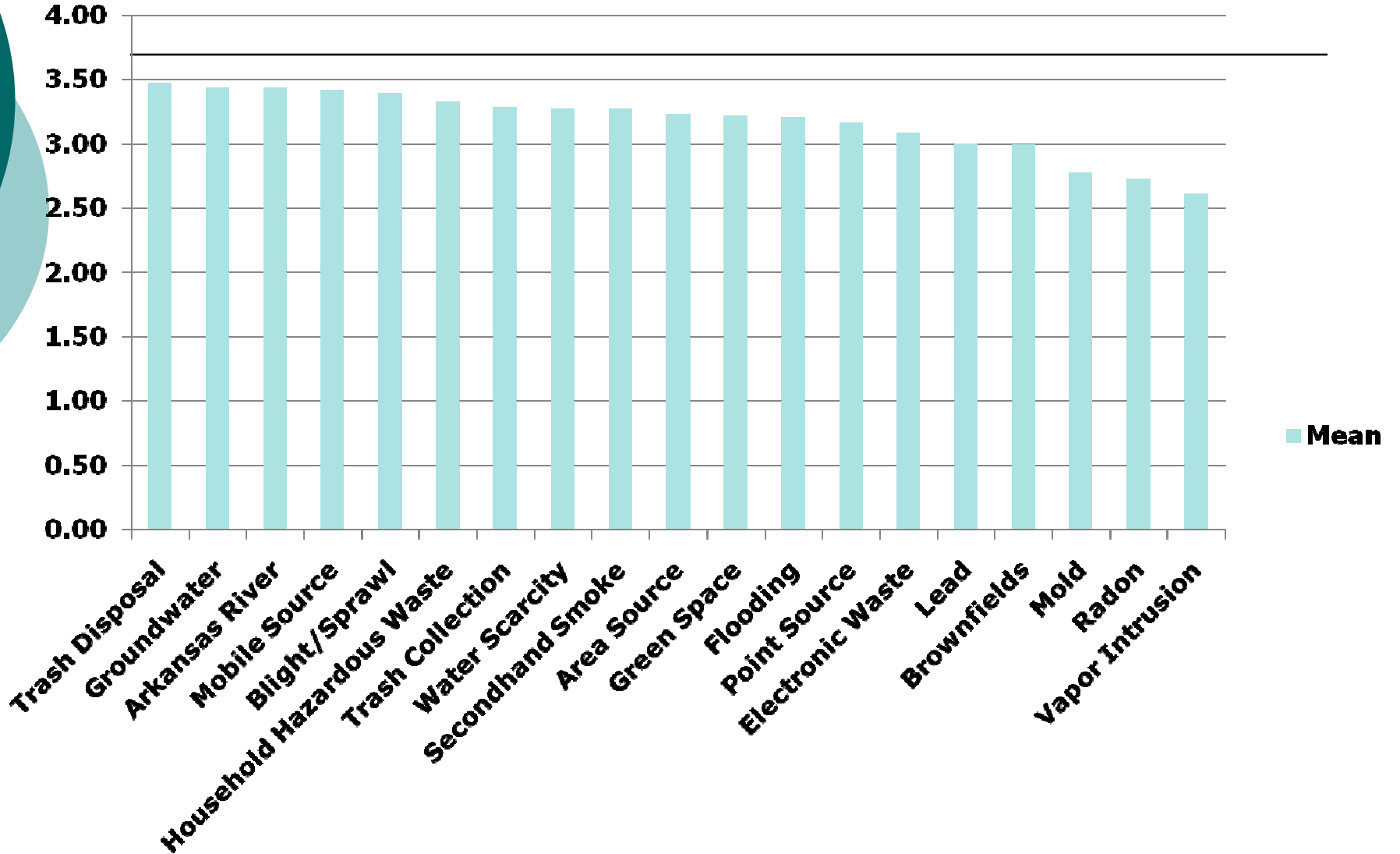
<http://wichita.kumc.edu/care/>



# Summary of Findings

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# Total Score Averages





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



## Top 3 Environmental Issues for Wichita from the WIRE community process

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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

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- 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

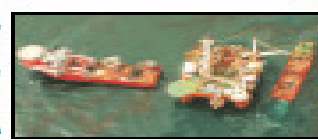
**BY BOB WELLS**  
McClintock Newspapers

Wichita, Kan. — An emergency deepening of a well to seal a leaky well could cost BP an estimated \$200 million, but the company says it is willing to pay the cost to avoid the risk of another spill.

**INSIDE:**  
BP could yet make money on leaking well

BP could yet make money on leaking well

BP could yet make money on leaking well



The company could be liable for cleanup costs of \$200 million or more, but it is willing to pay the cost to avoid the risk of another spill.

## 2011 OPENING PLANNED


### Via Christi institute dedicated to cancer

**BY BOB WELLS**  
McClintock Newspapers

The Via Christi Hospital in Wichita is planning to open a new cancer institute in 2011, dedicated to providing comprehensive cancer care for the community.

The project is being funded by a \$10 million grant from the National Cancer Institute. The institute will focus on providing comprehensive cancer care, including diagnosis, treatment, and support services.

**PHOTOGRAPH BY BOB WELLS**



## 650 MILLION AWARD REWARD

### Scaling back water project won't lower bills much

**BY BOB WELLS**  
McClintock Newspapers

A new water supply project in the Wichita area could cost \$650 million, but officials say scaling back the project won't significantly lower water bills.

The project is being funded by a \$650 million grant from the National Water Research Institute. The project will focus on providing comprehensive water supply for the community.

## OUR TOP ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

# GROUP SEEKS FIXES

<h3>TRASH DISPOSAL</h3> 	<h3>STUDY ASKED RESIDENTS TO RANK CONCERNS</h3> <p><b>BY BOB WELLS</b> The Wichita Eagle</p> <p>A study of environmental concerns in the Wichita area asked residents to rank their top concerns. The study found that trash disposal, urban blight, and secondhand smoke were among the top concerns.</p>	<h3>URBAN BLIGHT</h3> 
<h3>ARKANSAS RIVER</h3> 	<h3>TOP ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN</h3> <p>Trash disposal and the need for a better water management system topped the list of environmental concerns in the Wichita area.</p>	<h3>SECONDHAND SMOKE</h3> 
<h3>CAR, TRUCK EMISSIONS</h3> 	<h3>HOUSEHOLD WASTE</h3> 	<h3>HOUSEHOLD WASTE</h3> 

## STATES CAN MAKE BENCHMARKS TOUGHER THAN COMMON CORE

### Project's goal: National school standards

**BY BOB WELLS**  
McClintock Newspapers

The project's goal is to establish national school standards that are more rigorous than the Common Core standards. The project will focus on providing comprehensive school standards for the community.



# CARE Level 2 Funding

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- 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

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Priorities moving forward for WIRE are community projects involving-

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