

## Heather McMann

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**From:** Kate O'Brien [kobrien@groundworklawrence.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 5:09 PM  
**To:** Heather McMann  
**Subject:** News from Groundwork Lawrence



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## Green Team Comer



In October, the Groundwork Lawrence Green Team attended the Bioneers by the Bay Conference in New Bedford, MA. We attended such workshops as: "How to Green Your School," "How to Make Bio-Diesel and Other Renewable Energy," "Eco-Fashion," and "Grease 101". We were happy

## Groundwork Lawrence Winter 2009 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Though this cold and snowy winter shows no signs on stopping, here at Groundwork Lawrence we are readying for the warmer months with behind-the-scenes planning and preparation. With a successful fundraiser behind us, and a new President ushering in an era of inspiration and hope, we've set our sights on a year filled with tangible change on the ground, and a renewed sense of common purpose for making our community a better place to live, work, and play.

We look forward to partnering, volunteering, and working with you in 2009, and encourage you to check in with us often. See you in the spring!

Kate

## GWL's Annual Fundraiser a "Glowing" Success!

to meet other youth and come back to Lawrence to share what we learned.

In December, we were honored to be part of Groundwork Lawrence's Annual Glow Gala. Some of our members created "eco-art" that was auctioned off that night. Following the guidelines of the three R's (reduce, reuse, or recycle), these masterpieces were created from items salvaged from the dumpster. All eco-art pieces submitted were reviewed by a jury. Two of our members, Wanny and Jesenia, were very proud that their artistic pieces were chosen. We all participated that evening as volunteers and even spoke to the crowd about why people should donate to support us. It made us feel good to know that so many people were excited about the work that we do, and are willing to continue to support the Green Team program.

Currently, we are participating in a unique project called 'Union Crossing', a green non-profit-driven mill redevelopment project in downtown Lawrence. In hopes of capturing this history in the making, we are interviewing the architects, consultants, and others involved in bringing this special "healthy community" project to life. We are also working with the MIT@Lawrence partnership to edit our recorded interviews with a really cool program called Audacity. You can find out more about the Union Crossing project [online](#).

We are really excited about what's to come in 2009 -- from leading health and wellness workshops in the community, to taking a trip up north to cross-country ski, and our Environmental Expo in April,



Groundwork Lawrence's Glow Gala & Annual Fundraiser took place on December 11th and was an enormous success. Despite the driving rain-turned-ice storm, we enjoyed an amazing turnout of close to 300 people! Those who attended were not disappointed either: dazzling "eco-art" by local area artists was up for bid, winners were drawn for exciting raffle prizes, and attendees sampled delectable food by local caterer *Two Chefs are Better Than One* while *Los Sugar Kings* kept the evening lively with their unique blend of salsa, merengue, jazz and Cuban song.

Thanks to the generosity of our Glow attendees, artists, supporters, volunteers, and sponsors, Groundwork Lawrence was able to gross \$35,500 in new funding, far exceeding last year's Glow revenues. (Chet Sidell's appeal for our support of our Green Team youth program raised \$6,500 alone!) We would not have been able to carry out the event without the help of our devoted Glow planning committee, as well as the countless volunteers who gave us their time and talent. To our attendees, ever-creative artists, generous sponsors, and all those who made volunteer and in-kind donations to the event, we say thank you for your belief in our work and your continued support.

*It's not too early to save the date for next year's Glow Gala! Please mark you calendar now for Glow 2009, scheduled for Thursday, December 10th. Artists, please look for our Call for Eco-Art and guidelines this summer!*

we've got an action-packed season ahead of us!

Click her to learn more about [Green Team](#).

## Support GWL



Each year Groundwork Lawrence helps thousands of Lawrence residents, businesses and community organizations to "change places and change lives" with new and improved parks, gardening, wellness and youth programs, clean-ups, tree plantings and family festivals. Any amount you [donate](#) will help Groundwork Lawrence continue these much needed programs and projects.



## Groundwork Lawrence's 2009 Calendar of Events

Looking for ways to engage

## CSA Registration Opens



Even though there's still snow on the ground, it's already time to sign up for Groundwork Lawrence's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. The CSA makes it easy to enjoy locally grown, farm-fresh produce every week--hand-picked, packed and delivered to a central Lawrence location for your

convenience. Our CSA program provides a unique opportunity to enjoy your favorite veggies and discover new ones, improve your health, decrease your impact on the environment, and feel good about supporting a local farm and your local community! With the launch of our *Share-a-Share Program* with donations from our CSA members, we hope to provide more subsidized shares this year to local families in need. 2008 CSA members and people on our waitlist have first priority for registration until Friday, February 27. After that date, general registration will continue until the CSA is full, or until June 26.

*More information and registration materials are available [online](#).*

your civic group or colleagues in a volunteer project? We invite you to find ways to plug into our events by checking out our [online calendar](#).

Please join us by lending a hand in the community, shopping at the Lawrence Farmers Market, or helping us celebrate all the open space jewels Lawrence has to offer!

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# Manchester Street Park Update



We are one step closer to park construction! We are pleased to announce that the Manchester Street Park project was put out to bid by the City of Lawrence on February 4. We are expecting a competitive pool of bids for the site cleanup and park construction project, and bids will be opened and reviewed on February 20th. With luck, winter will let up enough for us to break ground within a month.

Last fall, Groundwork Lawrence led a community design process that invited residents to come up with ideas for the future Manchester Street Park design. Taking this feedback into consideration along with budgetary and site constraints, our design team worked to achieve a safe, cleaned-up site that included as many resident-desired amenities as possible. The final park development plan includes remediation (or clean-up of the site) by capping the contaminated soil in place, and then constructing a new playground, parking area, community garden, pavilion overlook, picnic area, a large grassy open space, and a portion of the Spicket River Greenway trail on top of that cap. Our Landscape Architect also selected trees and other native plantings to restore the ecological habitat that once existed on-site.

To support this park's construction, the City of Lawrence was awarded \$500,000 in state funding from the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services' PARC Program. \$150,000 in EPA Brownfields Cleanup grant funds are supporting the engineering and cleanup services associated with this brownfield-to-park project. The City matched both of these grant awards with CDBG dollars administered by the Federal government through the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

*Stay tuned for updates on construction of this important new destination [Spicket River Greenway](#) -- Lawrence's emerging emerald bracelet.*

## "GreenStreets" Initiative Takes Root in the Community



Groundwork Lawrence is pleased to announce that funding from the Home Depot Foundation and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation will enable us to continue our very successful 'GreenStreets' tree planting program. Working with Bread & Roses Housing, the City of Lawrence First-Time Homebuyer Program, Habitat for Humanity, and local CDC Lawrence CommunityWorks, Groundwork staff will identify eligible

Lawrence residents (including low-income, first-time homeowners with a front yard) who want to help increase the health and volume of Lawrence's tree canopy. Through the GreenStreets program, 60 eligible homeowners will receive a FREE tree planted by local volunteers from YouthBuild. Each homeowner will also receive technical assistance from Groundwork Lawrence to learn how to care for their new tree.

The GreenStreets program encourages new low-income, first-time homeowners to interact with their neighbors; learn and share information about tree planting, care, and maintenance; collectively improve their neighborhood; increase the beauty and value of their newly-purchased home and yard; and reduce their heating and cooling costs -- all while taking part in the wider global effort to offset carbon emissions.

*Stay tuned for more information about our GreenStreets program, and our Arbor Day tree-planting event happening on Friday, April 24th. Want more information? Visit [GWL online](#).*

**Sincerely,**

Kate O'Brien, Executive Director  
[Groundwork Lawrence](#)

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