



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION CALL

August 3, 2011

Ald. Terry L. Witkowski
(414) 731-0472

Green Corridor Project's First Meeting to Include Growing Power

Common Council approved designation on July 6; new panel meets tomorrow to begin discussing plans to transform stretch of S. 6th St.

The committee charged with developing plans for Milwaukee's **Green Corridor** will hold its first full meeting tomorrow, and the agenda includes a presentation by **Growing Power**, the high-profile Milwaukee-based sustainable urban agriculture organization founded and led by Will Allen.

The Green Corridor Project Committee will meet at 3:30 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday, August 4) at the Energy Exchange, 4121 S. 6th St. **Media coverage is invited.**

Alderman Terry L. Witkowski, who authored the successful Common Council legislation to designate the three-mile stretch of S. 6th St. from W. Howard Ave. south to W. College Ave. for the corridor, said the 30-person panel, which includes business owners, neighborhood group representatives, and Matt Howard, the director of the city's Office of Environmental Sustainability, will be actively applying for grants and other funding that can be used for corridor projects.

"This is a trailblazing effort to develop something that I believe is going to be important to future economic development efforts in the city, and I think this group is well-suited to the task and eager to get some proposals on the board," Alderman Witkowski said.

-More-

Green Corridor Panel/ADD ONE

“We have a unique opportunity to make the Green Corridor a showcase for sustainability, innovation, and beautification,” Alderman Witkowski said.

One of the first projects for the corridor already approved by the Common Council is a bio-swale that will be constructed from W. Howard Ave. to W. Grange Ave. – beautifying that stretch of S. 6th St. while reducing storm water runoff, the alderman said.

Also, the Forestry Services Division of the Department of Public Works has applied for a tree filtering grant for the corridor area, Alderman Witkowski said. “This (tree filtering) is also an important process to reduce storm water runoff,” he said.

The committee’s chair, **Bryan Simon** of Simon Landscaping Co. Inc., said reducing the volume of rainwater that flows into the city’s sewer system is no small thing. “The storm water runoff reduction that will be created along the corridor will help reduce flooding along Wilson Creek,” he said. “And just imagine how much storm water runoff can be diverted, and flooding reduced, in the future along similar corridors throughout the city.”

The Garden District Neighborhood Association, the Gateway to Milwaukee, the Energy Exchange, several colleges and American Rivers, a national environmental organization partnering with Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, have joined in active support of the Green Corridor.

The Green Corridor also includes Business Improvement District #40, a BID that has actively worked to recruit and foster green business initiatives and development and is working to highlight Milwaukee’s sustainability efforts as they promote Aerotropolis Milwaukee.