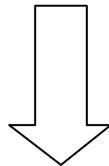


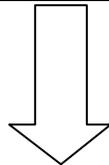
## Air Pollution Timeline

### Overheads

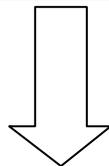
In the late 1800s St. Louis experienced rapid development. Growth of industry resulted in skies filled with sooty, coal smoke.



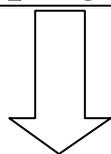
The soft coal used in St. Louis was identified as the cause of the air pollution problem. Soft coal was the least expensive type of coal, but produced the most pollution.



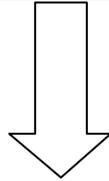
In 1901 the mayor declared the smoke in the city a public nuisance and created the Chief Smoke Inspector position. This did little to solve the problem.



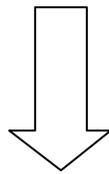
Industry continued to expand and air pollution worsened. A Citizen's Smoke Abatement League was formed in the 1920s hoping to help solve the problem.



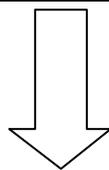
People complained of having to use their car headlights in order to see the roadway during the day because of the pollution. The Missouri Botanical Garden considered moving its whole collection of trees and plants.



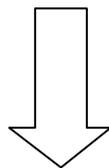
The worst smoke cloud in St. Louis history covered the city on November 28, 1939. This day was called “Black Tuesday.”



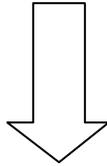
As a result of “Black Tuesday,” the city passed strict anti-pollution legislation. St. Louis became the first major U.S. city to control urban smoke pollution and to place limits on the use of soft coal.



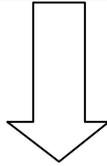
Air quality improved. It improved even more after 1941 when gas pipelines allowed people to use natural gas instead of coal to heat their homes.



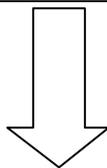
As people began to depend more and more on cars, air pollution became a problem again. It worsened when freeways allowed people to drive from the suburbs to the city. Auto emissions became a big problem.



In 1970, Congress passed the Clean Air Act, which set national air quality standards. In order to meet the standards, St. Louis established the first integrated air quality monitoring system.



In 1984 St. Louis began an auto emissions inspection program. This helped reduce auto emissions and air pollution.



Although St. Louis has made many efforts to solve air pollution problems, the struggle is not over. The city continues to work on the problem.

## **St. Louis Brownfields Programs**

### **Overhead**

#### **Project: Dr. Martin Luther King Business Park**

- This is a 26-acre site in St. Louis.
- Using state tax credits, the site's contamination was cleaned up and dangerous buildings were demolished.
- A medical instrument supplier now occupies one block.
- Six additional blocks are home to a huge new warehouse and light manufacturing space.
- This project is near completion.

#### **Project: Mississippi River Corridor Brownfields Initiative**

- A cooperative project between St. Louis and East St. Louis, Illinois.
- The project extends along both sides of the Mississippi River.
- The targeted area includes riverfront recreational areas, business districts, industrial areas, and residential neighborhoods.
- Included in the targeted area is a 4-mile long industrial corridor just north of downtown St. Louis, which has several brownfield sites.
- This is an on-going project.

**Citizen Survey Priorities:  
Citizens of St. Louis identified the following issues as  
important to the metropolitan region.**

- Improving major city streets.
- Having parks and recreation programs.
- Helping to build a new baseball stadium.
- More support for the schools.
- Additional job training or job placement programs.
- Adding more landscaping and beautification projects.
- Improving public transportation.
- Providing more assistance to neighborhood groups.
- Improving side streets and alleys.
- Increasing the pace of the demolition of vacant buildings.
- Assistance for businesses located in the city.
- Assistance to help low and moderate income people afford good housing.
- Adding more youth programs.

## Citizen Survey Data

<b>Citizens of St. Louis were asked to identify the most important items on the Citizens Survey.</b>	<b>Percent who saw this as a high priority</b>
More support for schools	87.2%
More youth programs	80.2%
Improving major city streets	80.2%
Additional job training or job placement programs	80.0%
More or faster demolition of vacant buildings	77.5%
Parks and recreation programs	77.1%
Improve public transit	75.5%
Assistance to help low and moderate income people afford good housing	72.3%
Improving side-streets and alleys	71.9%
More assistance to neighborhood groups	69.9%
Assistance for businesses located in the city	63.4%
More landscaping and beautification	63.0%
Helping to build a new baseball stadium	15.3%

Source: *St. Louis, Missouri 5-year Plan*. 2 July 2002 <http://stlouis.missouri.org/5yearstrategy/>.