

SDEV 2020 IN REVIEW

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MISSION - Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision (SDEV) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the environment and strengthen the economy of Southwest Detroit through the partnership with residents, community organizations, government agencies, schools, businesses, and industry to engage residents, increase the quality of life, connect their critical resources, distribute plants and vegetables to residents, combat environmental issues, including air quality, blight (illegal dumping, graffiti, abandoned homes), and incompatible land use.

LAND AND WATER - In 2020, the Land and Water team at Cadillac Urban Gardens SDEV implemented socially distanced produce distribution by appointment only that has safely distributed nearly 3,800 pounds (1.9 tons) of produce to 772 families, during GM Cares Week, worked on rain garden installations, neighborhood trash and whippet sweeps, garden and park cleanups, graffiti paint-outs, alley cleanups, and numerous other projects. Project metrics include: 62 GM Volunteers; 330 volunteer hours; 21 Project & Team Leads from 9 different Community partners: SDEV, Ideal Group, Brilliant Detroit, Holy Redeemer Elementary School, Detroit Cristo Rey High School, SDBA, Bridging Communities, Inc., Bodega Cat, and SW Detroit residents, Prepared 70 bags of fresh fruits & vegetables from Cadillac Urban Gardens for Brilliant Detroit's Thursday Food Distribution Day.

Ideal Group and SDEV led the formation of the Whippet Wipe Out Coalition, with numerous other partners, focusing on policy level planning work, community education & outreach, and on the ground cleanups - with approximately 24,000 Whippets being removed from the streets of SW Detroit since the project began on August 17, 2020, and engaged 345 volunteers totaling 1,202 volunteer hours to participate in community cleanup and gardening activities in 2020 using social distancing and strict safety protocol, amidst the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

HEALTHY AIR - In 2020, SDEV's Healthy Air Program accomplished a suite of activities to inform and engage members of the public and private businesses in reducing pollution and educating decision-makers to implement solutions to the climate crisis. Collaborations included projects involving university researchers, local, state, and federal agencies, private foundations, as well as the general public. We worked with companies and public agencies to eliminate over 2,000 tons of diesel pollution in 2020 by replacing pre-emissions standard diesel vehicles with vehicles meeting or exceeding current U.S. EPA emissions standards for diesel engines. Members of the Healthy Air team completed the Global Climate Leadership Corps training with the Climate Reality Project, gaining increased knowledge of the climate crisis and solutions and creating opportunities to present this knowledge with key stakeholder groups.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT - SDEV is engaging neighbors in the service footprint to listen to their concerns, to provide information on COVID-19 resources, and on city ordinances and industry permits that directly impact their health and the environment. Our goal is to create easy mechanisms that encourage neighbor participation in neighbor to neighbor resource sharing and the development of ordinances that support healthy neighborhoods. In 2020, the Community Education and Community Outreach Team knocked on over 5,000 doors for the City of Detroit Census 2020 outreach program, supported an energy efficiency and bill payment COVID-19 program with over 500 residents engaged, conducted training and support for online voter registration and early voting in three languages to over 1,000 SDEV contacts.