



Land Stewards of Indianapolis

2021 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

I want to thank each of you for your support as we continuously strive to make an impact in our community and care for our neighbors as we enter into a new year.

Although our world may seem different now, the vision and mission of the organization is not:

Land Stewards of Indianapolis, Inc. (LSIndy) is a nonprofit business that is committed to the flourishing of the City of Indianapolis and surrounding communities through the development, redevelopment, and ongoing management of sustainable residential neighborhoods. LSIndy and its functions are rooted in one foundational belief and commitment:

“The health and flourishing of mankind and the natural environment are the responsibility of every person.”

Within the specific mission of LSIndy, we find that it leads us to promote the health and flourishing of our neighborhoods, the land, and the ecosystem services that they utilize. We commit to loving and respecting our neighbors, and work towards a *shared wellbeing*. We commit to being good stewards of our natural resources for the *health of our people and our planet*.

As we close one chapter and open a new one, I will share a brief update on the accomplishments and projects of Land Stewards of Indianapolis, Inc. from this past year.



2020 Highlights

New Board Leadership

Greg Enas (Board Member), Carrie Schroeder (Board Chair)

Eco-Neighborhood Planning

Throughout the year, Land Stewards served Braun Property Development in Whitestown through Education, Planning, and Professional Design Services for over 150 acres of land that will be transformed into sustainable neighborhoods, parks, and amenities in the years to come. The development includes a large nature park, comprehensive bike and walking access, pocket parks and gardens, a community center, and onsite solar!

Neighborhood Site Design

Renewing Management is a local residential real estate management company, who owns and operates thousands of units across the state. As a way of investing in their residents, they are adding clubhouses and various amenities where residents can enjoy meaningful time together through planned events and outdoor recreation. Land Stewards has been serving their team through the thoughtful integration of these spaces and their design. Many of these sites will eventually have garden programs for us to help manage and activate!

30th & Post Road Community Center

Since the fall of 2020, David and Tamise have been serving on this project with Renewing Properties in project management and community development roles. This 40,000 sqft office space is planned to open on July 1st of 2021, providing an affordable community hub for young and established businesses to collaborate in a beautiful new facility, surrounded by organizations that will support and nurture them. Land Stewards will have a plant room full of tower gardens in this space that will provide a number of opportunities for youth development, fresh produce for the onsite kitchen, and other education opportunities.



2021 Highlights and Future Planning

New Board Leadership

Van Zee (Board Member) [see lsindy.com for full, current list]

In-house Design Firm

As we continue to move forward in 2021, we have some exciting news to share with our friends and community; we are expanding into a for-profit arm, Land Stewards Design Group (LSDG). LSDG will offload design liability and non-exempt services from Land Stewards of Indianapolis. This provides a legal barrier for the nonprofit with the professional services we provide, creates an opportunity for additional growth as a design firm, and greatly simplifies maintenance of our (pending) 501c3 status.

LSDG offers comprehensive site planning and design services throughout the state on Indiana, with a strong focus on creating sustainable neighborhoods and community spaces. Currently, this entity has four employees with a wide range of experience across the fields of landscape design, urban planning, civil engineering, naturalization, and construction.

With the launch of LSDG, we have opened a shared office for both entities to work together at 5022 Rockville Road! This building not only provides a space for our design team to collaborate effectively, but also has plenty of room for gardening and future growth. The property is currently being leased, with the intent of future purchase and expansion northward in the adjoining 3.0 acres of greenspace.





Jumping back to the nonprofit side, we'd like to summarize the focus and strategic plans we have for 2021:

We have three strategic priorities this year – (1) Food Production and Garden Management, (2) Common Space Management and Programming, and (3) Homeowner Resources and Visibility.

Food Production and Garden Management Focus:

- Managing Gardens
- Training Volunteers
- Programming Garden Activities
- Implementing a Greenhouse Project in a Food Desert Area

Common Space Management and Programming Focus:

- Facilities Management Visioning
- Sustainable Maintenance Programs
- Community Event Planning

Homeowner Resources and Visibility Focus:

- Publish Resources via blog and social media specifically directed towards Marion County Residents
- Share our vision and mission with the broad Indianapolis Area for greater visibility.

Currently, LSIndy is pursuing several garden management projects throughout Indianapolis, one of which will be starting shortly and includes 28 raised beds! We will be working directly with the property management company to provide onsite leadership, training, planning, labor, and education for residents who we will engage with. This is an amazing opportunity for us to kick-off our gardening programs and connect people with nature, their food sources, and each other. Follow us on Facebook to see our progress and learn about opportunities to get involved. For more information on this specific effort, contact Tamise (see below).

In addition, Land Stewards of Indianapolis is spearheading a Commercial Greenhouse project on the Eastside of Indianapolis at the 30th and Post Road Community Center previously described. This location in the city is food-insecure and provides several strategic advantages for the sale and distribution of fresh local produce. With the added benefit of being a nonprofit organization, we believe that the time is now for urban produce to become more mainstream – and we want to help lead the way!



Presentations will be held with various institutions and missional investors in the months to come as we detail a strategic plan for this project and form a leadership team. For more information on this specific effort, contact David (see below).

If any of our community and friends want to participate in rewarding volunteer work, please feel free to reach out to us. We will also actively be sharing volunteer opportunities with the public, primarily through social media. With the start of several new projects in 2021, we will have some wonderful new opportunities to get involved!

Please do follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn! We look forward to connecting and sharing all of our hard work and accomplishments with you all in this new chapter of 2021!

With gratitude for your support and partnership,

David & The LSIndy Board of Directors

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