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## Reviving Troost: Reactivating Vacant Lots Through Urban Acupuncture

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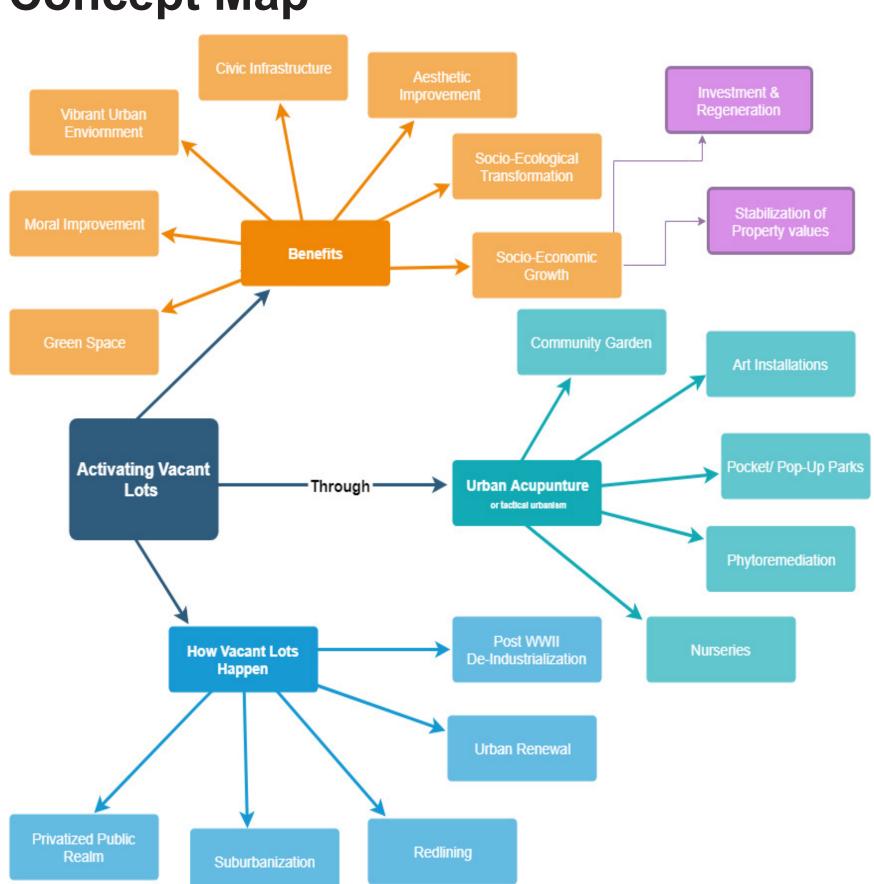
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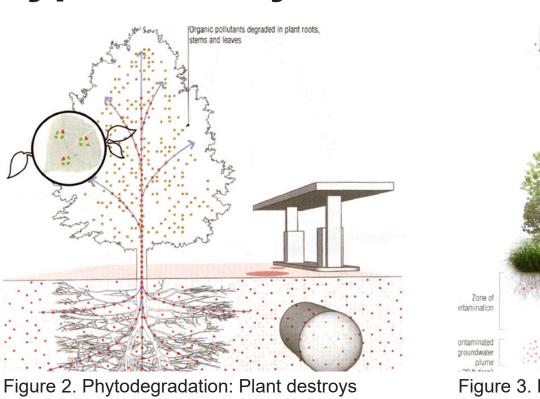
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# Reactivating Vacant Lots Through Urban Acupuncture

# Concept Map



# Types of Phytotechnology



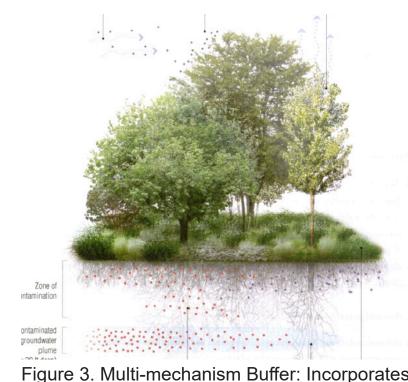


Figure 4. Phytohydraulics: Plants take up water Figure 5. Rhizodegradation: Soil microbes destroy contaminants.

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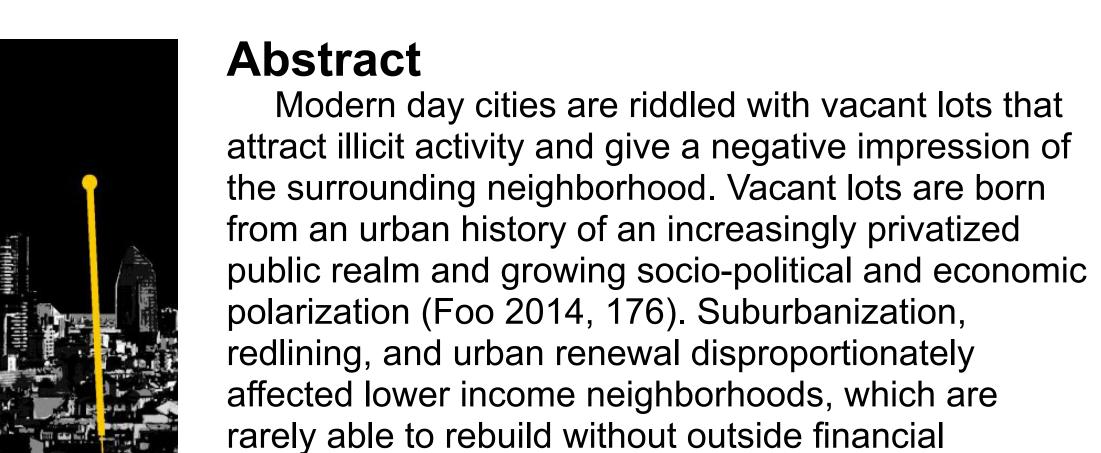
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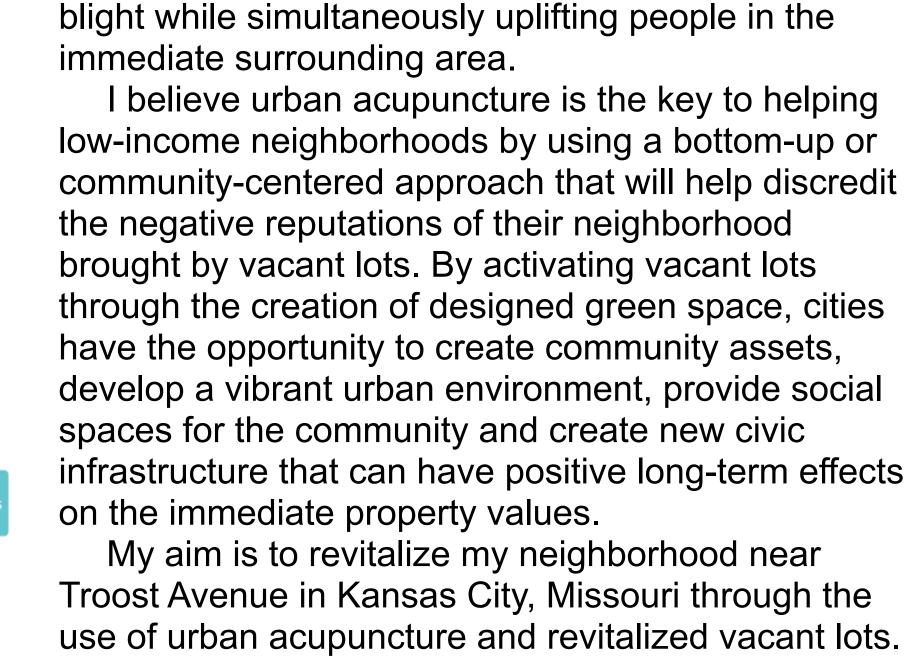
# Ayana Belk

Mentor: Dr. Anne Beamish KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY College of Architecture, Planning and Design









assistance. "Urban acupuncture" is a theory that

views cities as living, breathing organisms and

a variety of projects can serve as "needles" that

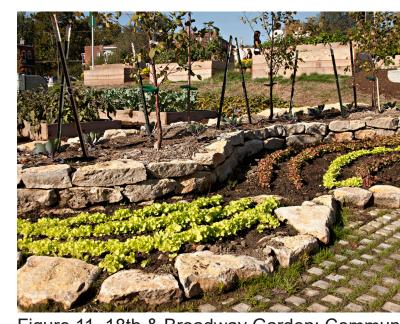
revitalize the community by healing the parts. When

applied correctly this theory can help repair urban

Troost Avenue in Kansas City, Missouri through the use of urban acupuncture and revitalized vacant lots. My driving question for this investigation is: How can we turn empty lots in low-income neighborhoods into community assets? By conducting extensive research into "urban acupuncture" and several precedent analyses of activated vacant lots, I hope to build a toolbox of knowledge that I can later use to make the demonstration plot I created in the first part of this project a reality.



garden was previously a garage for the United States Postal Service.



garden plantings.

Figure 20. PlantWorks: All plants on site can be

propagated by the public for other projects.

Dev., and Wichita Parks

& Recreation



filtration planters are part of the sidewalk.

Figure 21. PlantWorks: Phytoremediation

plantings work to passively remediate



City, Missouri on what used to be five residential housing units.

trays floating over tilapia filled water.

Figure 22. ICT Pop-Up Park has a variety of

beautification

and local artwork.

games suited for people of all ages.



members engaging with goats on site.



on the footprint of the popular 1930's Stork Club.



**Proposal for Troost** 



seating under honey locusts.



site that used to be a gas station.





Figure 23. Food trucks make the ICT Pop-Up Park a very popular place during the lunch hour.

parking space approximately since 1970. This space can be activated by converting it into a pocket park Figure 24. The plants on site will slowly remove Figure 25. This proposed pocket park, would offer otherwise unavailable green public space contaminants from the soil while serving as softscape on Troost Avenue. along the Troost corridor.

# **Examples of Urban Acupuncture Projects**

Figure 7. Fire pit and movable seating inside

Figure 6. Cicada: Art installation on

reactivated vacant lot in Taipei, Taiwan.

Name	Location	Date	Size	Actors	Previous Use	Funding	Caretakers	Goal	Amenities	Benefit to the immediate area	Awards
18Broadway Garden	18th & Broadway Kansas City, MO	2010	1.4 Acres	Vireo, Municipality of Kansas City, DTS (Busi- ness/Owner), 360 Architecture Firm	Old garage for the U.S. Postal Service	CEO of DTS and Municipality of Kansas City	Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City and other volunteers	A part of Kansas City's 10,000 rain gardens initiative	Storm water Collection, Community Garden, and alternative energy applications	All food grown is donated to Harvesters' Community Food Network of Kansas City & Netzero site	ASLA Central States - Honor Award Mid-America Regional Council Sustainable Success Story Urban Land Institute - Development of Distinction Award Winner
Nile Valley Aquaponics	2905 Wabash Kansas City, MO	2015	.7 Acre	Dre Taylor (Owner), Land Bank of Kansas City, HOK	5 Residential Housing Units	Non-federal grants & Foundational grants	Dre Taylor & volunteers	End east Kansas City's status as a food dessert	Closed circuit community garden with goats on property	100,000 Pounds of free local fresh fish and vegetables	AIA Central States Design Awards - Excellence in Unbuilt Architecture Honor Growing Power Inc - "Growing Your Community Food System" Certification
Paley Park	3 E 53rd St New York, NY	1967	.1 Acre	Zion & Breen Associates, William Paley (Owner)	Stork Night Club	Private	Paid caretakers	Provide intimate park experience for city dwellers	Seating, food, water works & greenery	Quiet space to get away from city life	
PlantWorks	725 Main Street, Hyannis, MA	2009	1 Acre	Municipality of Hyannis (Owner), Offshoots, and Harvard graduate students	Gas Station	Municipality of Hyannis	Community members propagating plants for other public projects	Beautification	Phytotechnology, Public nursery, and storm water filtration	Community park, free source of plant material, and demonstration garden	Boston Society of Landscape Architects Design Merit Award
ICT Pop-Up Park	121 E. Douglas Avenue, Wichita,	2015		Bokeh Development, Wichita Downtown	Unfinished Development Site	Foundational Grants		Fill in hole left from redevelopment	Public Space, play- ground, food trucks	Food source, civic engagement, and	

## Conclusion

After comparing precedents of reactivated vacant lots, I have concluded that for my proposed pocket park to come to fruition, it will need multiple contributors. Many of the urban acupuncture projects received assistance from several sources, such as participation from their municipality, a landscape architecture firm leading the renovation, and maintenance by community members. In order to fund a pocket park on Troost, I will most likely need to pursue foundation and city grants. I found that sites with stormwater filtration systems and other environment-friendly alternative applications were more likely to receive municipal funding and support. The original vacant lots of the five sites studied previously served no purpose. Today they have been reactivated with multiple functions and benefits for the surrounding area. After completing this precedent analysis, I realize that my proposed neighborhood park could serve as a green space, a phytoremediation site, and a hub for face-to-face interaction.