

DOI VISTA: US Geological Survey

Quarter 4: July 1–September 30, 2017



USGS DOI VISTA AYANA CURREN-HOWES ASSIST THE COMMUNITY GARDEN LEADER IN EDUCATING THE GREEN GUARD CLASS ABOUT MULCHING.

2 DOI VISTAS

15 Individuals Trained in Job or Employment Skills

41 Miles of River Cleaned or Improved

\$20,810 Grand Funding Developed

The United States Department of the Interior Volunteers in Service to America (DOI/VISTA) initiative supports underserved communities in using public lands for employment opportunities, health, and education.

Joy Heaviland - Heartland Conservation Alliance - Kansas City, MO



This quarter, USGS DOI VISTA Joy Heaviland's major successes included her efforts towards strengthening the relationship between Heartland Conservation Alliance and the Marlborough Community Coalition leaders. She accomplished this by attending their neighborhood work days to clean up trash, remove invasive species, plant native plants, and attending their community gatherings and meetings.

Perhaps her most impressive success is that she received two grant awards (totaling \$20,810) and recruited more than twenty youth for the Green Guard Stewardship training program. Joy has been such a great asset to the program that the Board of Directors unanimously voted to extend a full time contract to Joy to serve as Program Coordinator following her service term.

USGS DOI VISTA Joy Heaviland at an outreach event in Kansas City, MO—she connected with community members about opportunities to recreate, volunteer, and get involved with local organizations protecting natural places in Kansas City.

Ayana Curren-Howes - Heartland Conservation Alliance - Kansas City, MO

During her first quarter of service, USGS DOI VISTA Ayana' Curren-Howes' major successes were organizing, planning, and coordinating a weekly Green Guard Stewardship class in the Marlborough community. Additionally, Ayana was able to connect with new partners for Heartland Conservation Alliance as she begins preparing for the Green Guard class in the Blue Valley neighborhood. She is currently researching grants to support the Blue Valley Green Guard Class in the spring.

Ayana was also able to initiate and manage a new group of motivated high-schoolers who will be part of HCA's Youth Council. She credits attending partner led meetings and promoting events on social media for her success. Finally, Ayana is working towards promoting HCA on social media.



USGS DOI VISTA Ayana Curren-Howes with the Green Guard Class. This specific class covered project design and the need for diversity in conservation work.

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