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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Green Tech Station, Milwaukee's Newest Environmental Education Destination, Sets Grand Opening for September 28th**

Northwest Side Community Development Corporation (NWSCDC) and our partners are eager to announce an official Grand Opening event at [Green Tech Station](#) on Thursday, September 28 from 10am - 11:30am. The event will be held outside under the pavilion at Green Tech Station (4101 N. 31st St, Milwaukee, WI 53216).

Green Tech Station is a catalytic brownfield redevelopment project featuring all different types of green infrastructure in one place, transforming a formerly vacant 3-acre lot into an environmental education destination for school groups and the broader community to learn about stormwater management and sustainable technologies. Planning and fundraising to bring this vision to life began in 2016, and to date, more than \$1 million has been invested into this dynamic project. The key project team includes NWSCDC, the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee (RACM), Reflo, and Ramboll.

The green infrastructure elements on display at Green Tech Station include 4 bioswales, 465 trees, a 20,000 gallon underground cistern, native prairie, constructed wetland, rain garden, rain barrel, StormGUARDen, and 30 test cells to demonstrate and pilot different green technologies, including permeable pavement and green roofs. Other site features include an open air pavilion serving as an outdoor classroom, 24 solar panels, an outdoor discovery cart, walking paths, and public art.

"Green Tech Station sits at the intersection of urban redevelopment, climate resilience, and environmental education, and we're eager to show off how several years of effort has completely reinvented this parcel. These are the kinds of investments we need to be making in Milwaukee's 30th Street Corridor as a means of looking at economic and community development in a creative way," says Willie Smith, Executive Director of NWSCDC.

While Green Tech Station had a soft opening for educators and organizations in July 2021 and has been hosting visitors ever since, the project team is now ready to showcase the site being complete and highlight the 30th Street Industrial Corridor's first [WaterMarker](#), which was installed this summer.

The Grand Opening is an opportunity to celebrate completion of the project, thank funders and supporters, highlight all the new artwork installations, and emphasize that the site is open and available for field trips and tours, free of charge.

“I am proud of the City’s role in the conversion of this former brownfield site into an outdoor educational destination for students and all of our community members. I am grateful to Northwest Side Community Development Corporation for their leadership and management of Green Tech Station and I look forward to celebrating with them and other partners and supporters at the Grand Opening,” said Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson.

A speaking program will start at 10:30am featuring a few key supporters, partners, and Mayor Johnson. The event will also include a ribbon cutting, mayoral proclamation, a site tour, coffee & pastries, and information on Green Tech Station’s features.

The event is free and open to the public. Registration isn’t required, but you can RSVP on Eventbrite [here!](#)

#### ADDENDUM:

More information on Green Tech Station:

Green Tech Station used to be a railroad sidyard which included above-ground bulk oil storage tanks, serving the 30th Street Corridor and heavy industry nearby. The City of Milwaukee acquired the property via tax foreclosure in 2007 and received a U.S. EPA Brownfield Cleanup Grant in 2015.

Green Tech Station uniquely showcases solutions to several problems, including cleaning up an abandoned 3-acre brownfield site, adding over 115,000 gallons of stormwater capacity in a part of the City that is prone to flooding, creating a unique outdoor classroom space for field trips and tours, and generating solar power with an 8.88 kilowatt photovoltaic array on the roof of the pavilion.

Furthermore, Green Tech Station was intentionally designed to accommodate researchers interested in water technologies by incorporating a test cell plaza that offers opportunities to conduct side-by-side experiments of different products, maintenance strategies, and other variables. Currently, the U.S. Geological Survey and Marquette University are both running water quality experiments at Green Tech Station, which ultimately helps grow the body of knowledge around the continuously evolving field of green infrastructure.

Major funders to date have included:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Fund, Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee (RACM), U.S. Forest Service - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Fund for Lake Michigan, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) - Equitable Recovery Program, City of Milwaukee DPW Green Solutions Program, Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Kohl’s Hometown Giving Program, Brico Fund, RENEW WI - Solar for Good, Hammond Climate Solutions, and WE Energies Foundation.