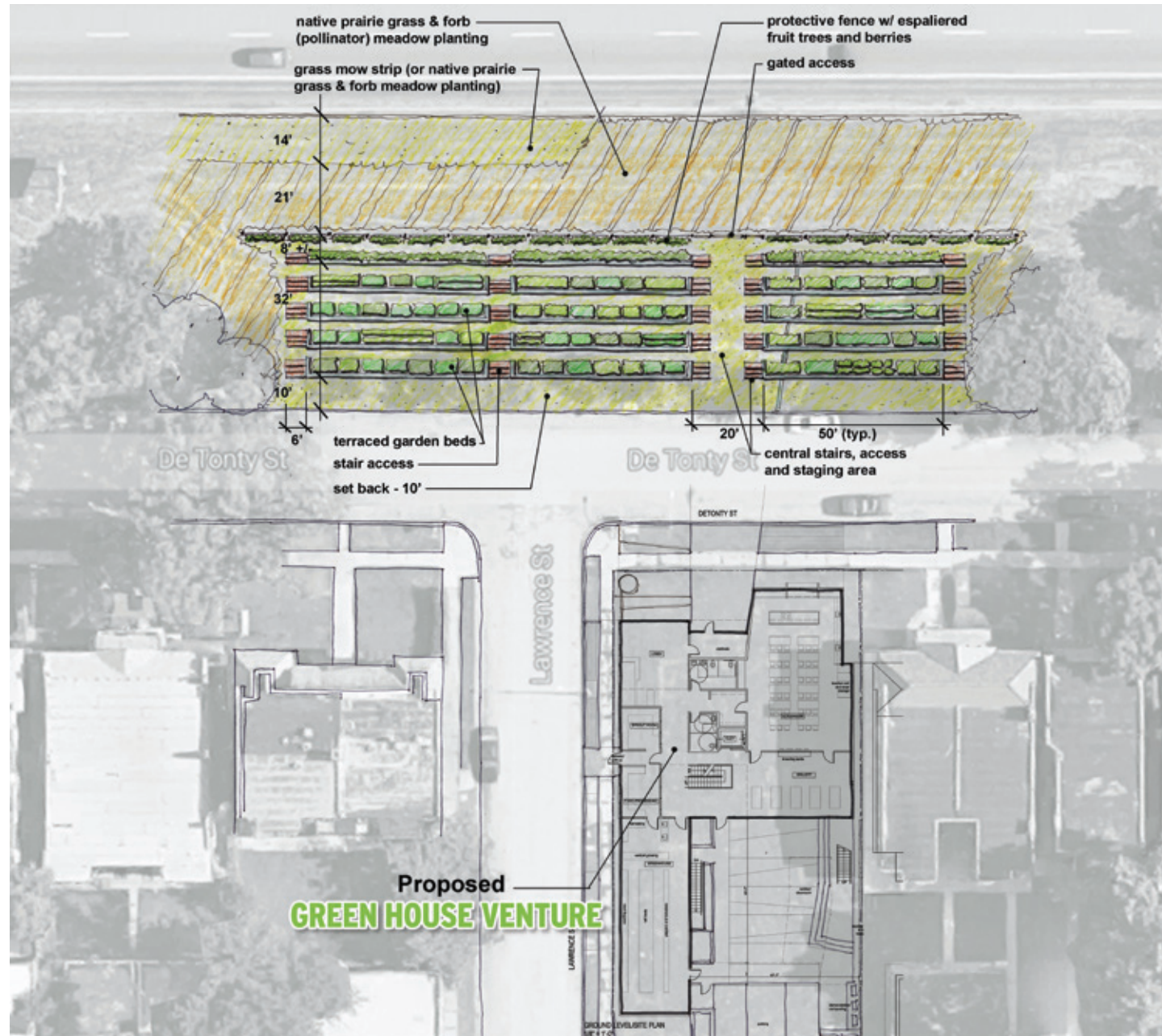


FIVE WAYS TO GROW IN A CITY



THE GREEN HOUSE VENTURE site will contain five growing areas, each laid out to show children ways to fill the city around them with green, edible crops. The areas are designed to:

- 1** Demonstrate the potential to remediate urban land: children will grow in raised beds in the already completed Dragon's Garden.
- 2** Drive home the advantages of growing in small ecosystems: the main greenhouse and the children's growing gallery will be aquaponic, with fish supplying nutrients for the plants, and worms, micro-organisms, and plants cleaning the water for the fish.
- 3** Show that roof-tops can be planted without undue weight: the area above the classroom will feature light hydroponic arrays easily adapted for home use.
- 4** Demonstrate that even courtyards can support crops: the fences and walls surrounding the outdoor classroom will be lined with trellised fruit trees and growing towers.
- 5** Explore the agricultural value of unused land along highways; the largest growing area will include terraces, esplanades, and a native plant sanctuary along I-44.



GETTING AN EARLY START WITH NATIVE MISSOURI SPECIES

To introduce children and visitors to the vital role that native insects and plants play in the local environment, the Venture is already working with the Missouri Department of Transportation to transform a two-block embankment along I-44 into a bio-haven.

Even before the greenhouse is built, children will be able to plant, tend, and harvest food crops native to this region, learning about plants that have evolved here and are ideally adapted to the climate and ecosystem. Terraces, esplanades, and trellises near the greenhouse will feature such species as pecans, persimmons, paw-paws, scarlet runner beans and rock grapes. Also ideal for this space are such conventional crops as raspberries, squashes, and tomatoes.



EXPANDING THE SITE FOR POLLINATORS & BUTTERFLIES

THE GREEN HOUSE VENTURE is also well along with plans to develop other areas of the embankment for native plants. Working with scientists at Saint Louis University who are at the forefront of research on the collapse of bee populations across the Midwest, the Venture is focusing on:

- Native Missouri species of plants and pollinators that are no longer abundant because of lost habitat and the widespread use of herbicides
- Plantings designed to produce waves of nectar-rich blossoms throughout the growing season in sequences that bees rely on to thrive and reproduce.
- Strategic clustering of plants in patterns that mimic natural populations and maximize visits by pollinators.



The space will support vital research on rare or declining Midwestern bees, some that thrive in urban areas and others that show promise of recovery if cultivated in properly planted margins along interstate freeways, state highways, and county roads.

The site will also be designed as a haven for Monarchs and other butterflies that are in decline.

