

# Green Thumbs Up!

Environmental activism grows up — and is spreading like kudzu over Shelby County.

by [FLYER STAFF](#)



## **A Green Kroc**

The Salvation Army's Kroc Center of Memphis is under construction on 15 acres at the Mid-South Fairgrounds. The 100,000-square-foot, \$25 million facility aims to be a hub for arts, education, recreation, and worship in Memphis. If everything goes as planned, the multipurpose facility, which includes a gym, fitness center, splash park, and multiple athletic fields, will also be a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified model of architectural sustainability.

Chief Operating Officer Stephen Carpenter dispels the myth that green construction is more expensive than traditional methods. "A lot of times it's actually cheaper," Carpenter says, explaining how much energy was saved in the design process by moving his facility's pool to a position where Southern exposure will maximize the use of natural light. "A lot of times, people get ideas about the way things work," Carpenter says. "But when you sit down with the experts, they'll tell you it's just not true. For example, our HVAC may cost more on the front end, but it uses less energy and should last longer."

Building materials for the Kroc Center are being purchased regionally when possible to minimize the amount of energy used in transportation. Concrete from two municipal pools has been pulverized to make new concrete. Special paint has been chosen to eliminate the slow release of toxic fumes, motion sensors will ensure that the lights are turned off when the last person leaves a room, and a series of cisterns will collect rainwater for irrigating the Kroc Center's two athletic fields and courtyard.

— *Chris Davis*