SIUE students visit Joplin one year later

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Students and others visiting a rebuilt city park across the street of St. John's Medical Center in Joplin, Mo., a year after the tornado that devastated that city. Among them are Dr. Mark Hildebrandt, second from left, and a survivor.

In the afternoon of May 22, 2011, a dev- astating, multiple-vortex tornado struck Joplin, Mo. With a wind of more than 200 miles per hour, it left a path of destruction 1.5 miles wide and 16 miles long, killing 161 people and injuring more than 1,000 others. It was the worst tornado to hit the city in a century. The storm was part of a larger system that produced severe storms across the central and southern United States on May 21 and 22, 2011.

The storm reached the highest level on the scale that is used to measure tornadoes, with winds of more than 200 mph. It was the most powerful tornado ever recorded in the United States.

The storm was so powerful that it caused buildings to collapse and cars to be tossed into the air. It destroyed many homes and businesses, leaving a trail of rubble and destruction.

In the days following the tornado, the city was filled with the sounds of sobbing, yelling, and screaming. People were walking around, looking for survivors. It was like in the movies.

The storm left a path of destruction that was unlike anything seen in the city before. It was a disaster that would change the city forever.

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