



The Great Rivers Greenway District

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Building The River Ring



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The St. Louis region is defined by North America's great rivers – the Mississippi and Missouri. The Mississippi River, together with the Meramec and Cuivre rivers, forms a three-quarter ring around The Great Rivers Greenway District. By linking these rivers with the Missouri River through a series of interconnected greenways, parks and trails, the circle is completed, providing access to The River Ring throughout the St. Louis region.

When complete, The River Ring will link three counties, join two states, and cover an area of 1,216 square miles.



The Great Rivers Greenway District

**For a clean, green, connected
St. Louis region**

www.greatrivers.info

The Great Rivers Greenway District



The Great Rivers Greenway District* was established in November 2000 by the successful passage of the Clean Water, Safe Parks and Community Trails Initiative ("Proposition

C") in St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County, Missouri. Great Rivers Greenway is funded by a 1/10th of 1 cent sales tax.

The Interconnected System of Greenways, Parks, and Trails

Great Rivers Greenway works for a clean, green connected St. Louis region. To deliver its mission, Great Rivers Greenway is spearheading the development of The River Ring, an interconnected system of greenways, parks and trails that will encircle the St. Louis region, enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors. Eventually, The River Ring will comprise a 600-mile web of more than 45 greenways that will crisscross the region and provide access to trail and greenway projects developed by the Metro East Park and Recreation District in Madison and St. Clair counties, Illinois. The concept of The River Ring was the outcome of a 10-month citizen planning process completed in September 2003.

Current Projects

Since 2002, Great Rivers Greenway has implemented many projects across the district, often in partnership with municipal, governmental and public agencies, as well as private and nonprofit organizations. Great Rivers Greenway also is emerging as an inspirational model for comparable green space initiatives nationwide.

For more information about Great Rivers Greenway and its current projects, visit www.greatrivers.info.

An Interconnected System for Community Benefit

Initiatives in metropolitan areas across the country demonstrate the benefits of an interconnected system of greenways, parks and trails. The benefits go far beyond recreational use: economic growth is stimulated; property values increase; tax bases improve; new businesses develop; citizens and neighborhoods interact; open space is preserved; and healthier lifestyles are encouraged.

For example, an interconnected system can...

Improve everyday living –

An interconnected system encourages neighborhood and community lifestyles that emphasize outdoor recreation and promote walking and bicycling to school, work and shopping. By linking the system to streets, sidewalks and other public spaces, it helps communities and neighborhoods to function in a more connected, healthy and enjoyable way.

Link a community's resources –

By providing physical connections and green "buffers," a system of greenways, parks and trails helps unite spaces within a community. Residential and commercial districts, educational campuses, civic and cultural amenities, and light industry all can be interwoven with a well-designed open space plan that incorporates and respects the natural environment.

Create a stronger tax base –

Neighborhoods and communities thrive when public investment is made in greenways, parks and trails, encouraging additional public and private investment in the area. The enhancement of "green infrastructure" is an important aspect of redevelopment contributing to increased property values and, thus, tax revenue. Neighborhoods and communities prosper, job opportunities increase and the region stabilizes financially. In established and growing communities, the additional open space provided by the interconnected system also increases the appeal to future residents and businesses.

*Formerly known as the Metropolitan Park and Recreation District



THE INTERCONNECTED SYSTEM OF GREENWAYS, PARKS AND TRAILS



Greenways

Greenways are open space connectors linking parks, residential areas, nature reserves, commercial areas, civic amenities, cultural institutions, and historic sites with each other.

Greenways are linear spaces established along natural corridors, such as streams and rivers; or along developed corridors, such as railroad right-of-ways converted for recreational use.

Greenways encourage recreation as well as interaction and provide social, economic and environmental benefits to residents and visitors alike.

Getting Involved

From its inception, Great Rivers Greenway has been inspired, nurtured and guided by the people of the St. Louis region. The district encourages citizen involvement in the continued development of The River Ring. To inquire about volunteer opportunities, please contact the district at info@greatrivers.info.

"The River Ring is one of the most exciting and durable legacies we can create for our region. It is a true celebration of our unique and wonderful rivers, our cultural heritage."

- David Fisher, Executive Director,
The Great Rivers Greenway District

