



The River Ring

In 2002, the Great Rivers Greenway District incorporated the Meramec Greenway into the region-wide system of interconnected greenways, parks, and trails known as the River Ring.

About The Great Rivers Greenway District:

The Great Rivers Greenway District, formerly known as the Metropolitan Park and Recreation District, is one of the largest districts of its kind in the nation. Through its efforts, the Greenway District is developing a well-planned, interconnected system of greenways, parks, and trails that will join Missouri and Illinois and cover an area of 1,216 square miles. The 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. For more information about the Great Rivers Greenway District and the Meramec Greenway, visit www.greatrivers.info.



**The Meramec Greenway:
Celebrating
30 Years
of Progress**

For a Clean-Green-Connected St. Louis Region

Bringing the Meramec River Back to Life



Meramec Greenway

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The Great Rivers Greenway District





What's a Greenway?

A Greenway is system of corridors — such as riverfronts, stream valleys, ridge lines, railroads converted for recreational use, canals, and scenic roads — linked together in a network. They connect parks, nature reserves, cultural institutions, historic sites, as well as recreational and commercial areas.

History of the Meramec River

Flowing out of the scenic Ozarks, the Meramec River meanders through the St. Louis Metro Region on its way to the Mississippi River. More than 100 years ago, people came to the shores of the Meramec River to escape the heat and congestion of St. Louis. They enjoyed the beauty and recreational offerings of the area. Resort towns and cottages lined the riverbank for miles. The area became a favorite summer refuge for thousands seeking fun and adventure. »

» But by the mid-1900's, the landscape had changed. Like many other urban rivers, the water fouled, unprotected riverbanks failed and areas of floodplain developed, with the lower Meramec becoming an embarrassing eyesore.

In 1975, an Act of Congress called for a study to reverse the river's decline. The Meramec Greenway was established. Made up of governments and citizens, the Greenway was formed to plan and guide the restoration of the Meramec River, including the development of wastewater treatment plants, public acquisition of riverfront lands, restoration of forests, and development of public parks and conservation areas.

In celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Meramec Greenway, The Great Rivers Greenway District and its partners salute our accomplishments and share our excitement for bringing the Meramec Greenway back to life as an integral part of a clean, green, connected region.

The Meramec Greenway Today: Becoming Part of the River Ring

In 2002, the Great Rivers Greenway District incorporated the Meramec Greenway into the region-wide system of interconnected greenways, parks, and trails known as the River Ring. Since then, the Great Rivers Greenway District has acquired nearly 200 acres of land in the Meramec Greenway, and negotiations are underway for more. These include riverfront properties that will be restored and protected, helping to improve water quality and enhance the river's visual setting. Ten miles of new trails are also being developed. Thus far, over \$6 million dollars has been committed to the Greenway.

Diverse Features of The Meramec Greenway 2005

We invite you to explore the beautiful waters and scenic vistas of the Meramec Greenway. Spend the day hiking one of the many trails, taking a leisurely float down the river, or studying nature.



Discover what the Meramec Greenway has to offer:

- » More than 28,000 acres of parks and conservation areas
- » Over 80 miles of hiking and biking trails
- » Picnic grounds with pavilions, playgrounds, and sports fields
- » Modern and group campgrounds
- » Access points for boats, canoes, and kayaks
- » River access to beaches and shorelines
- » Natural forests, prairies, and wetlands
- » Nature centers and various related programs

Meramec Greenway Partners:

The development of the Meramec Greenway reflects the shared vision of The Great Rivers Greenway District and its partners, including:

- » State of Missouri Departments of Conservation and Natural Resources
- » Franklin, Jefferson, and St. Louis Counties
- » Cities of Arnold, Fenton, Sunset Hills, Kirkwood, Valley Park, Wildwood, Eureka, and Pacific
- » Shaw Nature Preserve and Washington University