

The People & Places of The Confluence

...Sustaining The Vision:



Tackling the problem of invasive bush honeysuckle along the Mississippi River on the Riverfront Trail in November 2009.



Eco-artist Jackie Brookner leading participants in Public Art & Ecology workshop at North Riverfront Park in St. Louis in September 2009.



Mabel Purkerson enjoying the Cruise the Confluence in October 2009. Mabel has traveled extensively around the world and brings these interests extend to her own backyard, providing major support for the Cell Phone Audio Tour through the Mabel Dorn Reeder Foundation.

2009 Highlights

Our goal is to ensure that The Confluence is utilized as a natural resource, as a cultural center, and as a key part of our civic infrastructure. A growing number of organizations, government agencies, and committed citizens share this common vision — to reconnect people to our region's Great Rivers. In 2009, Confluence technical and financial resources were critical to the success many projects and programs.

Caring for Land & Waters in The Confluence

Community Volunteers Restore Native Habitat

Volunteers removed tons of bush honeysuckle from the banks of the Mississippi River in November. By removing this invasive species, native plants will repopulate this riparian corridor, enhancing the Riverfront Trail and creating better habitat for wildlife. Led by **Grace Hill Settlement House**, Missouri River Community AmeriCorps and **Greenway Network**, these habitat restoration projects are putting school, corporate, service and civic groups to work greening our Great River corridor.

Wetlands Protected in Missouri & Illinois

An 83-acre remnant meander in Pontoon Beach was acquired by The Land Conservancy, part of **Southwestern Illinois RC&D**. The **Arlington Wetland** is now protected by conservation easements and will serve as a sanctuary for a variety of species in the American Bottoms. The acquisition was a cooperative effort by many public and private stakeholders. In St. Charles County, **The Trust for Public Land** worked for many years to bring 1400 acres on **Cora Island** into public ownership. When the acquisition was announced in 2009, Cynthia Whiteford, Senior VP of TPL said, "It has been a long, complicated road, but it's been worth it. People who live in the St. Louis area will be able to enjoy this special place, for years to come. It's also worth noting that preserving this island will help with flood management - certainly that's something everyone here can understand."

Arts Build Environmental Awareness

Art engaged audiences in appreciating and conserving the Confluence's resources. Logos School students designed and painted a beautiful new mural in River View Park at the Laclede Power Building. New York artist Jackie Brookner worked with Washington University and St. Louis Artworks students and community residents in Public Art & Ecology, a large-scale, landscape project in North Riverfront Park.

Reconnecting People to America's Great Rivers

Cell Phone Tour Launched

The Confluence Cell Phone Audio Tour provides information about 27 river sites that can be accessed from phones anywhere in the Confluence – or the world. Narrated by Dr. Robert Archibald, President of the Missouri History Museum and former television news anchors Karen Foss and Donn Johnson, the Cell Phone Audio Tour expands interpretation opportunities for Confluence visitors.

2009 Confluence Advisory Board

The Confluence Advisory Board provides leadership to raise awareness and support for the bi-state river corridor. Members are leaders of Confluence partnering organizations, civic and business groups.

John Bachmann - Chair			
Hon. John Baricevic	Steve Gonzalez	Richard McClure	Dr. Donald Suggs
Mark Burkhart	Keith Hazelwood	Jim Pennekamp	Ann Sullins
Jim Burns	E. Desmond Lee (deceased)	Thomas Schlafly	Dr. Blanche Touhill

2009 Friends of The Confluence

Friends of The Confluence provide critical leadership support by making an annual contribution of \$1,000 or more to The Confluence. Their commitment guarantees the growth and success of this legacy initiative for our community.

Platinum: Nancy & Ken Kranzberg **Gold:** Laura Cohen **Silver:** Mary Ann & Des Lee; Emily Rauh Pulitzer; Linda & Peter Werner

Bronze:		
Kay & John Bachmann	Frank J. Guyol III Charitable Fund of the	Ms. Stella Pettus
Mary Randolph & Walter Ballinger	Greater Saint Louis Community Foundation	Susie & Gordon Philpott
James & Cathie Berges	Carolyn & Rusty Hager/Hager Companies	Mabel Purckerson
Joanne & Scot Boulton	MaryLee & Robert Hermann/	Gary & Margy Reim
Kimmy & Steve Brauer/ Stephen F. Brauer	The Hermann Foundation	Ulrike & Tom Schlafly
& Camilla T. Brauer Charitable Trust	John Hoal/H3 Studio, Inc	Ann & Bill Sullins
Mark Burkhart	Lotsie & Rick Holton/Lilly Christy	John Sweet & John Forti/John H.K.
Ken Capps	Busch Charitable Foundation	Sweet Charitable Fund of the Greater
Sally & Thomas Cohn	Ann Key	Saint Louis Community Foundation
William H. Danforth	Dr. Robert Kleiger	Jessie Ternberg
Kay & Leo Drey	Cliff Leonard/Accipiter Exploration	Polly O'Brien & Barrett Toan
Marjorie Eddy	Doris & David B. Lichtenstein, Jr.	Fiona & Randy Woods/Heart
Marilyn & Sam Fox/ Fox Family Foundation	Maureen & John Niemeyer	of Oak Foundation
Jane & Wayne Goode	Cynthia & Sandy Peters	

2009 Friends of The Confluence Committee

Lotsie Holton, Co-Chair	Morton Bearman	August Hager III
Jan Mackey, Co-Chair	Frederick Douglas	Tom Schlafly

2009 Corporation, Foundation & Government Support

We appreciate the generous investment of technical and financial resources in The Confluence by these foundations, corporations and public agencies:

American Water	The McKnight Foundation	Mabel Dorn Reeder Foundation
Anheuser-Busch Companies	Jefferson National Expansion Memorial	Pettus Foundation
Civic Progress	Kohl's Department Stores	Regional Arts Commission
Clifford Willard Gaylord Foundation	Metro	St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District
Edward Jones	Metro East Park & Recreation District	The Trio Foundation of Saint Louis
Great Rivers Greenway District	Missouri Arts Council	U.S. Bancorp Foundation
Greater Saint Louis Community Federation	Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation	Washington University Sam Fox School
Grossman Iron & Steel	Missouri Department of Conservation	of Design & Visual Arts
Illinois Conservation Foundation	Monsanto Fund	Waste Management
Illinois Department of Natural Resources	Norman J. Stupp Foundation-	
	Commerce Bank Trustee	

... and the many additional supporters who provided assistance to the partnering organizations in 2009

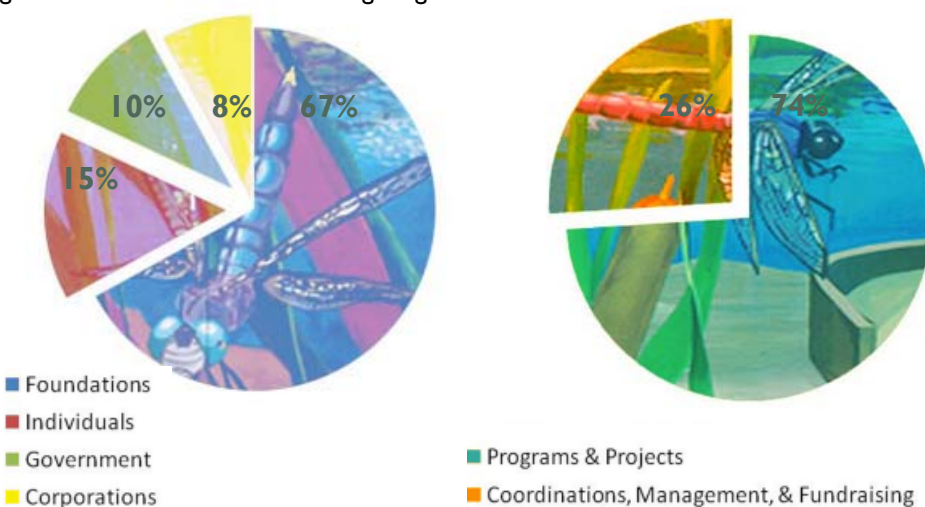
2009 Confluence Members

Membership gifts to The Confluence help protect land and waters, provide cultural programs and events and make our Great Rivers corridor a community destination.

Marilyn Ackerman	Sean Devoy	Nancy Kidwell	Florence Ragani
Dianna & Joe Adorian	Carol McCarthy Duhme	Ted Kinsella	Dan Ray
Anonymous	Marypat Ehlmann	Linda & Jerry Koenig	Peter Rein
Peder & Emily Arneson	Mr. & Mrs. James Elsesser	Mary Ann Kroeck	Clarence E. Roth
John Barker	Ted Feller	J.E. Leonard	Mr. Larry Ruff
Thomas Bassett	John Ford	Bonita Lockhart	Joyce & Dennis Saffa
Karen & Scott Baxter	Gretta Forrester	Irv Logan	David Sanders
Catherine Beal	Mary & Garth Fort	Jeanne & William Maritz	Marie & Walter Schmitz
William Bollwerk	Harvey French	Barry Marquart	Ben H. Senturia
Gary & Lynn Brand	Robert & Elaine Frost	John & Anne McDonnell	Joyce & Ray Smith
Don Brasher	Charles & Margaret	Constance & John McPheeters	Claudia Spener
Marlene & Charles Buescher	Clermont Garvin	Mary & Len Meier	Nora & Walter Stern
Constance Campbell	Dora & John Gianoulakis	Cynthia & Walter Metcalfe	Kathleen Stomps & Mark Kellam
Francine & Harvey Cantor	Janice & Stanley Gitt	Lucia Miller	Perry & Don Streett
Patrick Cavanaugh	Mary Lou Green	John & Jacqueline Mitchell	Paivi & Brent Tetri
Carole Christie	Kathy Greminger	Amy & Paul Mittelstadt	Edward Tod
Kathryn Clark	Scott Harding	Christy & Randall Moore	Susan Trautman
Tom & Maureen Conroy	John & Anne Heisler	J. Owen Moore	Sarah Trulasko
Martha & Jim Conzelman	Susan & Jonathan Heitner	Thomas & Janet Mug	Susan & Ben Uchitelle
Michael Counte	Mr. & Mrs. Shep Hermann	John Nash	Paul Watson
Ted Curtis & Barbara Bauer	Ronald & Mary Ann Hill/rd>	Judie & James Neville	Kathi & Ed Weilbacher
Dolly & Carl Darigo	Nellie Hohnsen	Gen Obata & Rebecca Stith	Liz & Dave Wesloh
Suanne Davendonis	James Howe	Joseph & Marianne Ojile	Karla & David Wilson
Lynn deLearie & Kevin Pumm	Kathryn Hurley	Kim & Bruce Olson	Ted Wojcicki
George & Mary Desloge Family	Scott Intagliata	David Pickerill	Lois & Jim Wyman
Fund of the Greater Saint	Elizabeth Jackson	Fiona Marshall & Thomas Pilgram	Leslie Zacks
Louis Community Foundation	D. Scott Johnson	Greg Poleski	Paulette Zimmerman
Joseph & Martha Desloge	Claudia & John Joyce	Lee Quackenbush	

2009 Operating Budget

The Confluence annual operating budget supports programming, project development and coordination of stakeholders. These funds leverage additional public and private investments in major capital projects and special programs. Since 1997, over \$150 million has been invested by non-profit partnering organizations and cooperating agencies in conservation, heritage and recreation efforts in The Confluence. In 2009 sources and uses of the \$511,528 operating budget for The Confluence Partnering Organization were as follows:



Tom Schlafly assumes leadership of Friends of The Confluence from Lotsie Holton at the Leadership Reception in January 2010. Under Lotsie and founding co-chair Jan Mackey, Friends of The Confluence has raised over \$500,000. Tom and co-chair Sally Cohn will lead the Friends Committee as the new 2020Action Plan is implemented.



Bruce Litzinger, MSD, and Steve Nagle, East-West Gateway Council of Governments helping at 2009 Confluence Trash Bash.



More than 3500 people enjoyed a day of classic cars, great music and road food at the 2nd St. Louis Route 66 Festival on October 3, 2009 at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge.



The first "Yoga at The Confluence" event held on October 4, 2009 drew new visitors to Columbia Bottom Conservation Area to celebrate the meeting of the rivers.



The Confluence Partnership, Trailnet, KWMU, and the Saint Louis Brewery jointly sponsored the Bridge Birthday Bash and Bicycle Ride at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge on June 28, 2009.



Volunteers from Monsanto and the Grace Hill AmeriCorps Trail Rangers beautify the Riverfront Trail by planting native switch grass on September 30, 2009.

Transforming Our Great Rivers Together

The Confluence is a unique combination of great natural resources, rich history and a wide variety of educational and recreational opportunities in the heart of a major metropolitan area. At the center of the world's third largest river system, The Confluence is of national and international importance. The Great Rivers of The Confluence provide a bountiful habitat to support life. We rely on the water from The Confluence for drinking water, crop irrigation, livestock production, manufacturing, transportation, and for recreation. These waters also provide critical habitat for 60% of North American birds and many species of fish. The Confluence is a distinctive part of the heritage of the United States. Spanning more than 1,000 years, it has been a dynamic intersection of cultures and traditions from prehistoric Mississippian to Spanish, French, English and many others.

The Confluence Partnering Organization was formed in 1998 to raise awareness of the importance of The Confluence to the quality of life and economic competitiveness of the St. Louis region. Grace Hill Settlement House, Greenway Network, Southwestern Illinois Resource, Conservation & Development, Trailnet and The Trust for Public Land are the core of a broad, bi-state partnership of non-profit organizations, local, state and federal agencies, civic and educational institutions working together to create a system of parks, trails and historic sites to reconnect people to our Great Rivers.

Today, the transformation of this river corridor is well underway:

Over **13,000 acres of new public open space** now surrounds the Confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers.

More than **93,000 volunteers** from civic, religious and service groups, corporations and interested individuals have participated in river activities.

Diverse year-round programming and special events such as Eagle Days and the Mary Meachum Freedom Crossing Celebration draw thousands of people to the Great Rivers.

Three new interpretive centers showcase our region's river heritage and provide orientation for visitors to the river corridor.

Public art projects have engaged the community in telling river stories.

Over 100 miles of trails now connect people to the power of the Great Rivers connecting the Gateway Arch to Pere Marquette State Park and adjacent communities.

The Confluence **Partnership has expanded** to include more than 200 not-for-profit organizations and local, state and federal government agencies.

Friends of The Confluence and The Confluence Advisory Board provide **civic and corporate leadership** for The Confluence Partnership.

We celebrate this success with you – our friends and partners in The Confluence.

For more information www.confluencegreenway.org



Dedication of the new mural designed and painted by Logos School students in the summer 2009 at the Laclede Power Building on the St. Louis riverfront.



John Bachmann (right), Chair of the Confluence Advisory Board, congratulating Chief Jim Gray on the Osage Nation's acquisition of Sugar Loaf Mound at The Confluence Leadership reception in January 2010.



Workshop #1 for The Confluence 2020 Action Plan. The Confluence Partnership reviewed accomplishments for the past ten years and contributed to the vision for the next ten years.



Eagle Days on the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge is one of the region's largest conservation education events. It provides a great opportunity to view wintering Bald Eagles along the Mississippi River.



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Confluence Partnering Organization

Our mission is to convene, strengthen and leverage the collaborative regional efforts of these diverse stakeholders to sustain a shared regional vision for The Confluence that reconnects people to America's great rivers through conservation, heritage and recreation.

- Grace Hill Settlement House
- Greenway Network
- Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development
- Trailnet
- The Trust for Public Land

Principal Cooperating Agencies & Organizations

A diverse group of private organizations and public agencies have collaborated on The Confluence since 1997. These include a core group of non-profit organizations as well as key federal, state and local government agencies and civic leadership.

- Audubon Missouri
- Civic Progress
- East-West Gateway Council of Governments
- Great Rivers Greenway District
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Illinois Department of Transportation
- Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
- Metro
- Metro-East Park & Recreation District
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- Missouri Department of Transportation
- Missouri River Relief
- National Park Service
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Open Space Council
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- University of Missouri - St. Louis

Major 2010-11 Events in The Confluence

For a complete listing and more information visit www.confluencegreenway.org

- July 15** - Past to Present Pedal Ride in Old North St. Louis
- August 19** - Past to Present Pedal Ride to Malcolm Martin Memorial Park
- September 4 & 5** - Race for the Rivers – St. Charles
- September 11** - St. Charles Missouri River Clean-up
- September 25** - Mounds Trail Hike
- October 10** - Ride the Rivers Century Ride
- November 13** - Bush Honeysuckle Removal Day
- January 15-16, 2011** - Eagle Days @ Old Chain of Rocks Bridge
- March 26, 2011** - Confluence Trash Bash
- May 21, 2011** - Mary Meachum Freedom Crossing Celebration & Freedom Ride

New Park Showcases East St. Louis Riverfront

The Metro-East Park & Recreation District opened **Malcolm Martin Memorial Park** on the East St. Louis riverfront in June. This Park is a beautiful new venue to enjoy the river and spectacular views of St. Louis. It also presents new opportunities to integrate the Arch and its grounds with the Mississippi River and Illinois.

Osage Nation Partner on Mounds Heritage Trail

Cahokia Mounds was the center of the largest civilization north of Mexico 1000 years ago. In 2009, Sugar Loaf Mound in South St. Louis was for sale. With the encouragement and support of Congressman Russ Carnahan, Chief Jim Gray, Principal Chief of the **Osage Nation**, spearheaded the effort to purchase property. By reclaiming this ancestral mound the Osage Nation re-establishes the geographic ties between the Tribe and Missouri. Sugar Loaf Mound will be an integral part of the Mounds Heritage Trail – and The Confluence. This multi-modal trail will link Cahokia to outlying mounds known to have existed in St. Louis and East St. Louis.

Programs attract new, bigger and more diverse audiences

New events like the **Yoga at the Confluence** attracted different audiences to the Rivers for fun, exercise and education. Three major events- **Eagle Days on the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge** (January), the **Confluence Trash Bash** (March) and the **St. Louis Route 66 Festival** (October) drew over 10,000 people. In addition, attendance at the series of bicycle rides and walking events in The Confluence organized by **Trailnet** increased 40% in 2009.

Sustaining the Vision for The Confluence

2020 Action Plan

After 10 years of collaborative efforts, in 2009 the Confluence Partnering Organization updated the 2001 Master Plan and assessed the effectiveness of its work. This two-pronged process resulted in a new organizational strategic plan for the Confluence Partnering Organization and a **2020 Action Plan** for the bi-state, public and private partnership.

The strategic plan highlighted the strengths as well as the challenges that are before us. It reaffirmed the need for a group that:

- maintains a singular focus on a The Confluence region,
- advocates for this shared vision of the river corridor; and
- serves as catalyst for new programs and projects when necessary.

The Confluence 2020 Action Plan outlines the vision, goals and priority Conservation, Heritage and Recreation Initiatives that will be pursued by a broad coalition of diverse regional stakeholders. Copies of the plan are available at www.confluencegreenway.org or from our office.

2010: Building for the Future of The Confluence

2010 brings many opportunities – and some significant challenges. We will continue to explore ways to increase our effectiveness. We will also work to maintain the integrity of natural areas like Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. We will continue to seek national recognition to raise the visibility of our Great Rivers' resources and look for ways to ensure the long-term sustainability of this shared vision for The Confluence region. In addition, we look forward to:

- new trails on Chouteau Island, connecting to McKinley Bridge and the KATY Trail extension to Machens
- more land conservation in Missouri and Illinois
- many river clean-ups and habitat restoration projects throughout the bi-state area
- a full schedule of special events that celebrate our Great Rivers' heritage and recreational value