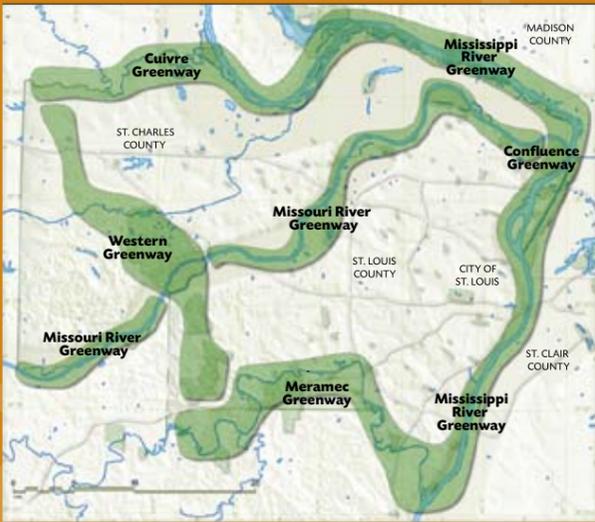
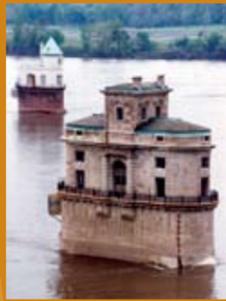


The Riverfront Experience



The River Ring

The Great Rivers Greenway District is the public organization leading the development of a region-wide system of inter-connected greenways, parks and trails, known as The River Ring. The River Ring will join two states and cover an area of 1,216 square miles. The Greenway District, formerly known as the Metropolitan Parks and Recreation 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, visit www.greatrivers.info.



Free Map & Trail Information



Riverfront Trail

History

It is this North City stretch of the River where most steamboat accidents occurred because of the rocky bottom. When the River is low, the water may flow 3 times its normal rate due to a steeper slope. The resulting currents create a peaceful effect on the mind of the casual river gazer.

Looking across the River you see the banks of Mosen-thein Island. Named after a family that lived there, the island has attracted the curious for decades and was even slated for development at one time.

Just south on the Trail from Humboldt Street, you can view the wide sandy beaches on the Illinois side. In the 1940's a ferry brought sunbathers there from the St. Louis side for a quarter.

The levee was once part of the River. Averaging 20 feet high, workers hydraulically pumped sand clay and rocks form the Mississippi to form an earthen wall in the 1960's.

The tracks along the Trail belong to the Burlington Northern Railroad. These are the same tracks that carried Harry Truman's campaign train in 1948.

At the Prairie Street access, you stand at the foot of Merchants' Bridge. The structure belies the fact that it was built in 1889 as an alternative to the Ead's Bridge.

Native Wildlife

The Bald Eagles can be easily spotted either fishing or sitting on branches with their adolescent, brown-headed offspring between December and March.

The rare Eurasian Tree Sparrow has been seen here – found only in the St. Louis area and parts of Europe. Other animals along the Trail include gray fox, beaver, wild turkeys, hawks, falcons, deer, owls and even the wily old coyote.

Native grasses and wildflowers that proliferate in the area have been enhanced by the efforts of the Grace Hill AmeriCorps Members. Common plants include switch grass (used especially on the levees and superior to the European fescue during times of flood to hold the earth), wild sweet William, ox-eye daisies, black-eyed susan, purple cone flower, and aster. Plans include a seasonal "burn" to suppress foreign promote indigenous growth.

Trees can be seen just along the banks of the River and include cotton wood, lofty sycamore, five varieties of oak, butternut and water hickory, and pecan thought to be cultivated and spread by Native Americans.

Neighborhoods

The neighborhood communities are an important part of St. Louis' past, present and future....

BADEN. This town began as a crossroads of two major through-fares in the early 1800's. Some of St. Louis' most famous citizens resided in Baden including the Switzer family, famous for their licorice, and William Carr Lane, the first mayor of St. Louis. Housing in Baden consists mainly of medium-sized single-family brick homes built in nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

COLLEGE HILL. The College Hill neighborhood, bounded by I-70, Grand, Carter and Fair, takes its name from the St. Louis University College Farm that was located in the area during the 1800's. The neighborhood has large turn-of-the-century homes surrounding O'Fallon Park and many family flats.

HYDE PARK. Located just two miles north of downtown. Hyde Park was incorporated in 1850 as the German town of Bremen. Today, two active neighborhood organizations, Friedens Haus and Hyde Park Neighbors offer stability for the area. The Bissell Mansion Restaurant is the City's oldest house. Many other architecturally significant homes abound.

OLD NORTH ST. LOUIS. Bounded by Cass, Branch, I-70, and North Florissant, Old North St. Louis has many old row and town-houses. Grace Hill Settlement House provides a neighbors helping neighbors philosophy. The jewel of the area's businesses is Crown Candy Company, an old-fashioned soda shop and candy store.

Thank You to the Following Individuals and Organizations for Their Support of the Riverfront Trail:

- City of St. Louis Streets Department
- City of St. Louis Parks Department
- Community Development Agency of St. Louis
- Confluence Greenway
- Grace Hill Neighborhood Services
- Gateway Foundation
- Great Rivers Greenway
- McKnight Foundation
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- Trainet, Inc.
- Whitaker Foundation
- Nancy Weber, Former 2nd Ward Alderman

To Volunteer or for Tour Information, Contact: (Persons with Special Needs Encouraged to Call)

Grace Hill AmeriCorps Trail Ranger Project
2600 Hadley
St. Louis, MO 63106
(314) 584-6703

Trainet, Inc.
3900 Reavis Barracks Road
St. Louis, MO 63125
(314) 416-9930

The Riverfront Trail is a developing 12 mile recreational greenway perfect for walking, biking and enjoyment of nature. Poised along the mighty Mississippi, the swirling River currents mesmerize the eye. The Trail offers an experience with diverse wildlife and native plants without the distraction of street traffic. The Trail travels through a part of history and along the edges of old St. Louis neighborhoods.



-  TRAILHEAD/ACCESS
-  TRAIL
-  FUTURE TRAIL
-  BIKE ST. LOUIS TRAIL
-  MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRAIL
-  POINT OF INTEREST
-  RESTROOMS
-  REST AREA
-  NATIVE PLANT RESTORATION AREA
-  EAGLE VIEWING (DEC.-FEB.)
-  FISHING AREA
-  DRINKING FOUNTAIN
-  UNDERGROUND RAILROAD SITE

