Great Rivers Greenway connects the St. Louis region with greenways so people can explore their rivers, parks and communities, making it a vibrant place to live, work and play.

The residents of the St. Louis region voted for and invested in a clear, bold vision — a dynamic network of parks and open spaces linked together by greenways, connecting our communities so people can live life outside.

Since our inception in 2000, we’ve worked with partners and the community to build, promote and sustain our region’s network of greenways, a legacy for future generations.

2015—our 15th anniversary—was no different. Working in partnership with non-profit organizations, municipalities, state, and federal agencies and businesses, we made exciting progress.

With the City of St. Louis and others, we finished the North Riverfront Open Space and Redevelopment Plan, an effort to enhance the area by transforming vacant land along the Mississippi River into parks and public spaces, and encouraging private enterprise.

**Engineering work continued for three key connections:**
The extension of the River des Peres Greenway to the Mississippi Greenway leading to Jefferson Barracks Park; the 2-mile extension of Gravois Greenway (Grant’s Trail); and the bridges over highways 364 and 94 in St. Charles County. All three are much-anticipated connections that people will use and enjoy when they are finished!

We had a successful first season of a **Greenway Guide program,** a partnership with the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis’ Save Our Sons Program. This job development program employs participants as ambassadors on the Mississippi Greenway (Riverfront Trail). These guides operate the Visitor’s Center, offering snacks, restrooms, directions and bike maintenance to people walking, running or riding a bike along the greenway. They also help our team with projects to maintain the greenway and enhance habitat along the way.

Keep unfolding this report for statistics, our operating budget, our stewardship of Proposition P funds in the CityArchRiver project and our capital expenses displayed in a map of our district, serving St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County.

Thank you to all of our partners and supporters for bringing this vision for our region to life!

Susan Trautman
Executive Director

Dr. Bernard DuBray
2015 Board President

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1 of the 2 million users of our greenways in 2015
2015 by the Numbers

113 miles of greenways and counting are open 365 days a year for you to explore & enjoy

2 new greenways opened, 7.15 miles added

- **Busch Greenway**: 4 miles connecting the KATY Trail, Missouri Research Park, Weldon Spring Conservation Area, August A. Busch Conservation Area
- **Missouri Greenway**: 3.15 mile greenway loop through Bridgeton’s Riverwoods Park, extending another 1.65 miles along the Earth City Levee to Highway 370, creating almost 5 miles of greenway to explore and enjoy
- **Bike St. Louis Street Routes**: 40 miles of new routes and 60 miles of upgraded routes of the Bike St. Louis network, bringing the total to 150 miles that connect neighborhoods, businesses, parks, schools and attractions across St. Louis

3,601 volunteers gave 11,000 hours to benefit the greenways in 2015. This is the equivalent of 5 full-time employees

12,533 people enjoyed 66 programs, gaining a stronger connection to greenways

15,721 acres of green space linked together for you to explore and enjoy via new greenways completed in 2015 alone

$7.4 million in federal, state, and local grants to leverage the taxpayer’s investment in the region

5,300 honeysuckle plants and other invasive species removed from parks and greenways with help from partners and volunteers

8 tons of scrap metal, 1,435 tires, ¼ ton of plastic and aluminum removed from rivers and creeks across the region in 2015

120 Wellston Ambassadors helped plan Trojan Park along the St. Vincent Greenway. The vacant lot at the corner of Skinker and Etzel will be transformed into a vibrant community park in October 2016 as part of National Recreation and Parks Association’s Parks Build Community Initiative.
The CityArchRiver Project is a model for innovative collaborations.
IN MEMORIAM: Stephen Michael Murray

A founding member of the Great Rivers Greenway Board of Directors, Mike Murray served as a board member representing the City of St. Louis since our inception in 2000, including as board president.

Mike was a tireless champion of parks, open space and bicycling. His service to our region also included the Forest Park Forever Advisory Board, the East-West Gateway Council of Governments, Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee and the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee. He was a passionate advocate for all cyclists and pedestrians helping to create a higher quality of life for the people of St. Louis through his volunteer efforts.

He loved to celebrate ribbon cuttings as milestones to progress for our organization. We look forward to many more ribbon cuttings because of Mike’s vision and dedication.