MEETING AGENDA

- Great Rivers Greenway & St. Louis County Parks Overview
- Mississippi Greenway project
- Q&A
MEET US:
GREAT RIVERS GREENWAY

Regional parks & trails district

Steward of the taxpayers’ legacy & investment

Partner in the CityArchRiver transformation

St. Louis City
St. Louis County
St. Charles County

Great Rivers Greenway
VISION FOR THE ST. LOUIS REGION:

a dynamic network of greenways connecting our communities strengthening the social, economic and environmental well-being of our region.
GREENWAYS CONNECT OUR REGION

LIVE LIFE OUTSIDE
providing active transportation
5% premium to the market value of homes neighboring greenways


enhancing our economy

Great Rivers Greenway
1,200 square miles
16 greenways 54 projects
167 collaborative partners
113 miles of greenway
2 million visits/year
38,000 acres of public lands
ST. LOUIS COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

- St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department’s mission is to provide high quality parks, facilities, and recreation services that enhance residents’ lives through responsible and effective management of resources.
- 71 park properties, 12,722 acres, 145 trail miles, 12 million visitors each year.
- St. Louis County is proud to carry on the tradition of stewardship that began when it acquired its first property in 1950.
ST. LOUIS COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

• Dual function:
  » Regional parks important for their scenic resources, their recreational facilities, and their cultural institutions.
  » Neighborhood parks in unincorporated areas, where park services should equal services offered by nearby municipalities.

• Parks and Recreation Department also cooperates with partners, including Great Rivers Greenway, to establish trail connectors to neighborhoods and link to other trail systems.
ST. LOUIS COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

Bishop Long Log Cabin

North County Recreation Complex

McDonnell Park

Tilles Park

Suson Park

Creve Coeur Park
CLIFF CAVE COUNTY PARK

• Cliff Cave also known as “Indian Cave” is developed in Mississippian St. Louis limestone.
• With 4723 ft (1514 m) of cave passage surveyed, it is the second longest cave in St. Louis County.
• Cliff Cave is a historic and archaeological site.
• In October of 2009 the cave was gated to protect a population of Indiana Bats which live in the cave. These bats are on the endangered species list.
MEET THE PROJECT:

MISSISSIPPI GREENWAY
PROJECT MAP AND GOALS

- Climb over 160’
- Improved safety at overlook
- Upper trailhead with restroom and parking
- Exercise, socialize, and experience history, culture and nature
- ADA accessible
- “Eyes” along the route
- Native landscape to create habitat
- Neighborhood connection across Telegraph Rd.
- Neighbor privacy
WHAT WE’VE HEARD

• “Love the plan! Can you start tomorrow?”
• “I don’t want the new parking lot and restroom.”
• “Increased traffic will cause more accidents and crime.”
• “I’m super excited about this. I know many people can’t wait to see this happen.”
• “I worry about people exiting the trail at Telegraph and being hit by a car. That is a very dangerous intersection.”
• “The Telegraph and Erb entrance is a fantastic idea. Will make the park much more accessible to people who use the Telegraph trail and all who live close!”
WHAT WE’VE HEARD

• I live near the project and want to keep my privacy and on-street parking
  ➢ Trail has been realigned to be as far away as possible from Parc Place neighborhood
  ➢ Grading plans have been updated to increase privacy for Sisters of St. Clare Monastery, as well as additional trees for screening.
  ➢ Neighbors and businesses can request signs or other parking restrictions, in compliance with local rules.
  ➢ New wayfinding signs will be installed on Telegraph Road, directing park visitors to use Cliff Cave Road to access both upper and lower trailheads with parking lots.
  ➢ Park and Greenway visitor parking will be monitored after construction
WHAT WE’VE HEARD

• Why is there no designated parking at the Telegraph and Erb neighborhood connection?
  ➢ Entrance has been made smaller and pushed back into the park
  ➢ Wayfinding signs will be added on Telegraph to direct traffic onto Cliff Cave Road
  ➢ Parking violations will be monitored after construction and solutions added as needed

• There is already too much traffic on Cliff Cave Road
  ➢ St. Louis County Transportation Department conducted a traffic count in August and September on Cliff Cave Road within the park
  ➢ Traffic counts are between 100 and 700 trips per day, which is below the minimum volume needed for a new stop sign. (Avg. 350)
  ➢ County Transportation Department is committed to reassessing the traffic volume after the new trailhead opens.
WHAT WE’VE HEARD

• There is undesirable activity in the park now...this is only going to make it worse
  ➢ Two new gates will be added at the Neighborhood Connection at Telegraph and the new upper parking lot.
  ➢ Park rangers will continue to patrol the park, including opening and closing all three gates.
  ➢ Increased access and visitorship to the park will deter undesirable activity
  ➢ “See something...say something”
PROJECT TIMELINE

- Fall 2016:
  - Open House & Community Feedback
  - Partner Collaboration
- Winter 2016:
  - Bidding
  - Tree Clearing to Protect Bat Habitat
- Spring 2017:
  - Break Ground
- Winter 2017:
  - Project is complete
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