



Great Rivers Greenway

# CHOUTEAU GREENWAY FINAL COMPETITION REPORT

Executive Summary  
November 2018

# INTRODUCTION

The Chouteau Greenway Final Competition Report summarizes several months' work to refine the design concept for Chouteau Greenway from the team that was selected through the recent design competition. It presents the refined design concept for the greenway, coupled with the mission and intended outcomes to complete the vision for Chouteau Greenway. The refined concept outlines a series of potential greenway corridor alignments and signature projects along the routes, which will be tested and evaluated in a wide range of upcoming civic engagement efforts. The report also contains a work plan, research on economic growth and equity case studies, and ecology and sustainability strategies to be pursued as the greenway is designed and implemented.

## Chouteau Greenway

Chouteau Greenway is a major public-private partnership to connect Washington University and Forest Park through our city to downtown and the Gateway Arch National Park, with spurs north and south to connect our city's vibrant neighborhoods, parks, business and arts districts, employment centers, transit hubs, and dozens of cultural and educational institutions. The project is part of the overall network of greenways being built by Great Rivers Greenway and partners.

## Design Competition

Great Rivers Greenway and its project partners sponsored a 10-month design competition that invited designers to think beyond the trail itself to create active, vibrant spaces and destinations along the way. The goal of the competition process was to create a conceptual design that would help the partners determine an overall vision, plan, and schedule for designing, engineering, and building each additional portion of the greenway. The competition jury selected the Stoss Landscape Urbanism team, thus, their conceptual design as the starting point for this vision and plan.

The project partners served as the Design Oversight Committee, which was the sponsoring, coordinating, and adjudicating authority for the competition and included Arch to Park LLC, Forest Park Forever, Grand Center Inc., Great Rivers Greenway, Great Rivers Greenway Foundation, Green Street St. Louis, Lawrence Group, Saint Louis University, Washington University in St. Louis and Washington University Medical Center Redevelopment Corporation, with the City of St. Louis as a major partner.

# PROJECT TEAM

The team is a diverse group of local and national experts who are passionate about what they do and well positioned to move the project forward in collaboration with Great Rivers Greenway and its partners. Composed of designers, artists, engineers, planners, economists, and social activists, over half the team is local to St. Louis and over half are represented by minorities and/or women in positions of leadership.

## Team Members

Great Rivers Greenway  
Stoss Landscape Urbanism  
Stastny : architect llc  
Vector Communications  
Urban Planning for the American City  
David Mason and Associates  
De Nichols, Civic Creatives  
Diversity Awareness Partnership  
Marlon Blackwell Architects  
HR&A Advisors  
Alta Planning + Design  
Damon Davis, Artist  
Mallory Nezam, Artist  
BatesForum  
Lochmueller Group



## REFINING THE VISION

Since the conclusion of the design competition, the Stoss Landscape Urbanism team has worked in partnership with Great Rivers Greenway and a number of stakeholders and partners to refine the vision for Chouteau Greenway. The team met with a number of stakeholder focus groups and participated in three workshops with the Design Oversight Committee, planning discussions on civic engagement, and a meeting of the Artists of Color Council, who are an assemblage of local artists to guide the greenway's art program.

In these meetings, the group has begun conversations about the vital role that equity and economic growth will play in Chouteau Greenway. Additionally, several current projects in the City of St. Louis were identified as opportunities to integrate into the planning work ahead.

The next several months will begin with developing a Planning Framework, including greenway design and identity, alignment, equity, and economic growth studies. This will feed into activation and implementation projects in the near term, and more detailed studies that will test ideas and plan for long-term development, all of which will lead to a Refined Framework Plan for implementation of the greenway.

## MOVING FORWARD

As part of the design competition, the partners and community members created a set of 12 Design Goals and 12 corresponding Community Goals to define the qualities that the greenway must embrace in its conception and execution. These goals guided the design teams and provided the criteria for the jury to evaluate the design concepts submitted by the teams.

The recent refinement work focused these goals into a clear mission statement, guiding principles,

# Planning & Design Foundation

## Great Rivers Greenways & Partners International Design Competition Concept & Vision Refinement

and intended outcomes for the project moving forward. The mission provides a succinct statement of the greenway's purpose and the intended outcomes describe the qualities of Chouteau Greenway once it's successfully implemented. Key principles are the values that will guide the project team's decisions throughout the planning and implementation of the greenway.

## KEY PRINCIPLES

### Engagement

Value the participation of team, advisory, and many constituencies in collaborative decision-making.

### Equity

Include diversity, equity, and inclusion impacts and opportunities.

### Collaboration

Stakeholders are committed to the mission and working together to achieve the intended outcomes.

### Opportunity

Seek and promote equitable, value-added opportunities.

### Sustainability

Ensure long-term success through policy, partnership, funding, governance, operations, and maintenance.

## *MISSION STATEMENT*

**Chouteau Greenway will transform St. Louis by connecting people and our City's most treasured places, creating inspiring experiences and equitable opportunities for growth.**

## *INTENDED OUTCOMES*

### **Exceptional Experience**

Chouteau Greenway is a series of dynamic spaces where vibrant activities are happening throughout the year. Chouteau Greenway is a regional gathering place where people linger, learn, and engage in memorable experiences that connect them to St. Louis and to each other.

### **Civic Well-Being**

Chouteau Greenway is a transparent, accountable, and inclusive project that boosts civic pride, care, and consideration, leaving a legacy for future generations. Chouteau Greenway is a common ground that unites communities and strengthens relationships.

### **Connectivity**

Chouteau Greenway connects St. Louis' iconic neighborhoods, institutions, transit, employment centers, business and arts districts, innovation hubs, and public spaces.

### **Economic Growth**

Chouteau Greenway creates equitable opportunities for growth and inspires continued catalytic public and private investments by building places for people to come together to live, work, play, and visit.

### **Environmental Leadership**

Chouteau Greenway is a model for excellence in ecology with engaged communities who are stewards of our natural resources.

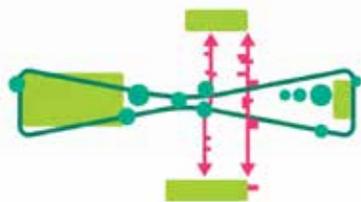
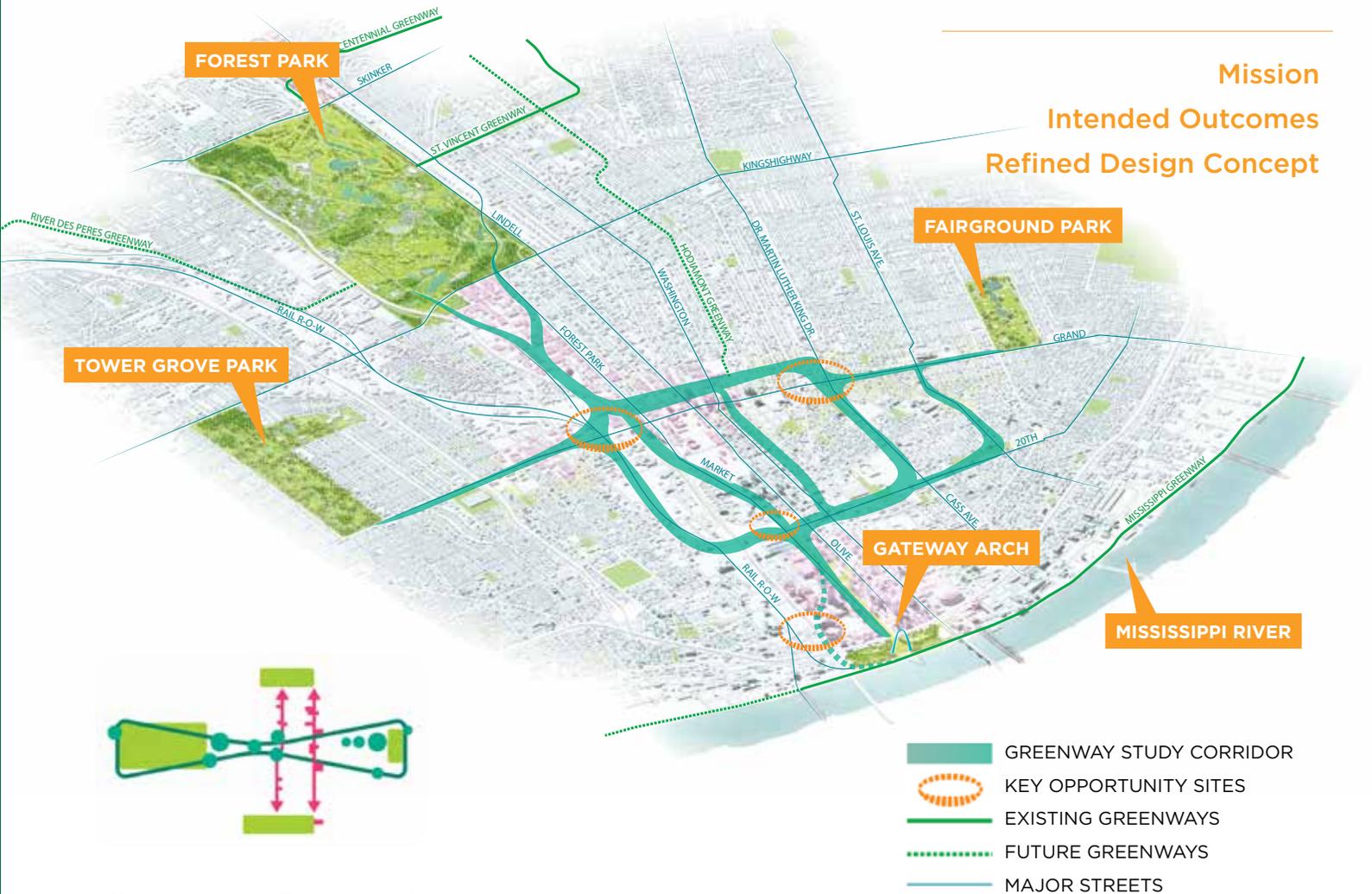
### **Healthy Lifestyles**

Chouteau Greenway is a network of accessible and inviting places and paths that encourage exploration, exercise, active transportation, and daily use that enhances physical and mental well-being for people of all ages and all abilities.

# REFINED DESIGN CONCEPT

# Chouteau Greenway Vision

Mission  
Intended Outcomes  
Refined Design Concept



## Greenway Connections

The Stoss competition proposal created a greenway system made of an east-west greenway “loop” and north-south “stitches” to extend the greenway into neighborhoods. These routes were anchored by four iconic parks and connected numerous institutions.

This basic concept of the original scheme remains the same, but the concept has evolved to leverage recent investments and ongoing projects, including the Project Connect Action Plan, which ensures coordination and collaboration between public and private

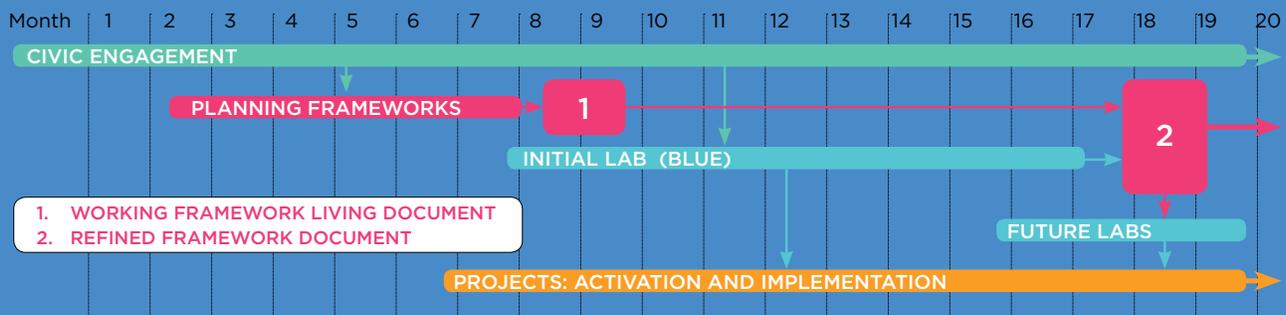
sector efforts supporting the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency; St. Louis University campus plan; the remake of the I-64/Jefferson Interchange; private investments such as the Armory and Foundry; and ongoing developments at Cortex and Grand Center.

The refined concept will continue to evolve throughout the next phases of the project to test the feasibility of greenway alignments. However, it will also continue to be based in the existing network of greenways and cultural destinations in the city.

# PROCESS

The work plan below outlines the project's next steps. The heart of the process is the civic engagement strategy that will inform planning frameworks, labs, and activation and implementation projects, all of which are defined below. These efforts will be compiled into a *refined framework document* that will guide the implementation of Chouteau Greenway.

Additionally, the formation of a Steering Committee and Working Groups in addition to the Artists of Color Council will create a panel of advisors to provide input across a range of topics relevant to St. Louis and to the greenway planning. The working groups will focus on economic growth; equity, diversity and inclusion; governance and funding; design and construction; and civic engagement.



## Civic Engagement

The civic engagement strategy will be developed by the project team and the civic engagement working group. It will involve meetings, activities, and activations connecting community groups, constituents, government officials, and the general public in an ongoing dialogue about the future of the greenway.

## Planning Frameworks

The four planning frameworks are greenway design and identity, greenway alignment, the equity plan, and the economic growth plan. The identity framework will develop the overall character of the greenway and will include a more detailed strategy for path components, materials, ecology, and art. The alignment framework will focus on the feasibility of various alignments in road and rail rights-of-way. Both the equity and the economic growth plans will define more specific desired outcomes related to these topics to inform the project process, planning, and eventual detailed design of Chouteau Greenway. All the framework plans will be compiled into a *Final Framework Package* to guide the labs.

## Labs

A lab is a study of a specific geography to test the intended outcomes. Studies will focus on such aspects as land ownership, open space, ecology, regulations, economic, urban design, art, activation, transportation, and traffic. Evaluation of the labs will provide guidance to future labs (geographies) and/or inform refinements needed prior to advancing to other geographies or more detailed design. One lab will begin early in the process, with future labs following at later dates to expand the greenway geography. At the end of each lab, preliminary cost estimates will be prepared for the studied geography.

## Activation & Implementation Projects

Activation projects are temporary installations or events along the greenway to generate interest and use.

Implementation projects are site-specific projects that are ready to move into detailed design and construction.

## PROJECT TEAM

The Chouteau Greenway project team includes Great Rivers Greenway, the Stoss Landscape Urbanism team (national and local designers, planners, engineers, economic advisors, public artists, transportation professionals, and social activists—listed on page 2), Stastny : architect, and Vector Communications.

In addition, a Steering Committee and a series of Working Groups will be formed to guide the ongoing work. Furthermore, direct engagement with the people that represent the region, the neighborhoods, and the future users of the greenway is essential and will continue as the project moves forward.

## FURTHER STUDY

### Ecology & Sustainability

Chouteau Greenway provides a wonderful opportunity to embed natural systems and improved ecological function within the greenway network. Sustainable practices are inherent to the vision of Chouteau Greenway and have the potential to improve ecological function on a regional scale, enhancing the many spaces that the greenway travels through, while also acknowledging the history of Chouteau Lake and Mill Creek. Strategies will build on the St. Louis region's environmental history and implement innovative sustainability techniques.

### Equity & Economics

During this refinement work, the project team focused on how to frame aspirations for equitable growth and development within this project. These conversations identified values that are worth discussing as this project moves forward and are represented by the following words: **access, representation, inclusion, well-being, joy, prosperity, sharing, and ownership.**

# Planning & Implementation Process

Civic Engagement  
Planning Framework & Labs  
Activation & Implementation Projects



The Stoss team presented ten case studies that reflect these values and show how equity has manifested in other places. They show what kinds of techniques are available, worth study, and useful to inform the work as the project moves forward.

These case studies provided a basis for discussion during the refinement period and a starting point for further study. The intention is to build upon successful strategies that are already at work in St. Louis and add new and innovative ideas that advance equity, inclusion, and prosperity for the broadest range of constituencies.

The Steering Committee and the Working Group for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion will collaborate with the Stoss team to craft an equity plan that is representative of St. Louis and the opportunities inherent in this project. As Chouteau Greenway is planned and implemented a set of principles and desired outcomes developed within, and specific to, the equity plan will guide the work.

# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Your support and involvement means a commitment to elevate St. Louis to a better place and for a higher purpose. Chouteau Greenway is for the people who want better places to live and work; for the people our businesses need to attract and retain; and for future generations who should grow up learning about their city's once-divided history and how people moved forward together.

The Chouteau Greenway will chart a transformational course for the St. Louis central corridor with spurs north and south. We can accomplish this vision with collaboration and a belief in our shared vision. You may be a public or private funder interested in investing in our future, a resident willing to share information with your neighbors about an upcoming Chouteau Greenway event, or a business owner who simply wants to sign up for a newsletter to learn more—all are invited to partner with us.

[www.ChouteauGreenway.org](http://www.ChouteauGreenway.org)



Great Rivers Greenway is the public agency connecting the St. Louis region with greenways. In 2000, a vote of the people created a sales tax to leave a legacy for future generations by investing in and connecting together some of our region's best assets – rivers & parks. Those funds allow us to collaborate with partners and communities to build, care for and bring to life your network of greenways, creating healthy habitats and watersheds along the way.

We serve the two million people throughout our 1,200 square mile district of St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County. We collaborate with municipalities, public agencies, businesses and nonprofit organizations across the region to deliver on the community's vision for a vibrant, connected region.