

2012 Annual Report

Making the St. Louis Region a Better Place to Live



Board of Directors

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Robert Epstein – President

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Monica Huddleston – Treasurer

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Carol Stroker – Member

St. Louis City:

Alberta Dillard – Member

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St. Charles County:

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Julie Mueller – Member

Patrick Sullivan – Member

Mayor & County Executives

The Honorable Charlie Dooley,
County Executive, St. Louis County

The Honorable Francis Slay,
Mayor, St. Louis City

The Honorable Steve Ehlmann,
County Executive, St. Charles County

The Great Rivers Greenway District

6174 A Delmar Blvd. St. Louis, Missouri 63112
314-436-7009 www.greatriversgreenway.org

*Metropolitan Park and Recreation District
d/b/a Great Rivers Greenway

Staff

Susan Trautman – Executive Director

Todd Antoine

Lonny Boring

Carey Bundy

Danni Eickenhorst

Glenna Nesbit

Patrick Owens

Nancy Thompson

Janet Wilding

About Us

Great Rivers Greenway's board has 12 members – three from St. Louis City; six from St. Louis County and three from St. Charles County.

All board members are appointed by the mayor or executive of the city or county they represent.

The board meets monthly at the District's offices. Visit the website at www.greatriversgreenway.org to see the schedule of upcoming meetings and to learn about the current greenway projects.

A Message from the Executive Director and Board President

A year like no other, 2012 was filled with momentous milestones and historic projects that will transform the District. We've included a list of milestones within this report that serves as evidence of a historic shift in the quality of life of the region. We invite you to review them, and to consider the long-term benefits the work of the District will provide to the region for generations yet to come, thanks to your support.

At Great Rivers Greenway, every member of our staff and board is focused on one singular goal: "Making the St. Louis region a better place to live." Every decision we make, from the projects we take on to the programming we support must achieve our mission by connecting communities, providing transportation alternatives, promoting good health, preserving nature or promoting economic vitality within the communities we serve.

This year, we opened 6.2 miles of new greenway trails to the public, including a new connection on the Boschert Greenway from New Town to the Katy Trail in St. Charles, the Al Foster Memorial Trail in Wildwood, our new Jefferson Barracks to Pinnacle Trail in South County and two popular additions to the St. Vincent Greenway – one on the University of Missouri – St. Louis Campus and the other through Ruth Porter Mall Park in the West End Neighborhood. In these 6.2 miles, we've connected communities and people, provided new ways for people to commute, created opportunities for connection to nature, and improved the health and economic vitality of the communities that we've worked within.


Our final ribbon cutting in 2012 was particularly special because it was on one of our most impactful projects – the St. Vincent Greenway trail through Ruth Porter Mall Park. Throughout


this project, we were privileged enough to partner with residents, businesses and local law enforcement and because of these partnerships, we were able to transform a dangerous and largely unused park into a source of pride for the communities it connects. Perhaps this story more than any other demonstrates the power of a greenway. (See page 5 for more.)

In 2012, we also moved forward as a project partner in the CityArchRiver 2015 project. The project will enhance the Gateway Arch grounds and downtown St. Louis. The District's work will be focused on connecting the Riverfront into the our River Ring through safe and separate bike lanes, while also providing universal access to the riverfront for people of all abilities, families with strollers and the elderly. One component of the project will involve raising Leonor K. Sullivan Boulevard to significantly reduce flooding, and increase the number of days the riverfront will be usable for business and recreation each year.

With our focus on these goals as a means to improve the quality of life for the entire region, one of our proudest milestones in 2012 is the \$187,675 we invested in community partners and non-profits through grants, sponsorships and safety programs. The programs that the District supports are working to preserve the environment, clean watersheds, connect people with one another, provide transportation options and to improve the public's health in innovative ways, and these programs are critical to carrying out our mission of making the region a better place to live.

It has been our honor to deliver on the promises we've made, and to focus on making the vision of the people we serve into a reality for the region. For this opportunity, we extend our gratitude and encourage you to become more deeply involved in our projects and greenways in 2013.


Susan Trautman
Executive Director


Robert Epstein
President, Board of Directors



Statement of Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2012

Assets

All financial statements are unaudited and as of December 31, 2012

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,759,181
Restricted Cash	3,057,921
Investments	4,000,586
Sales Tax Receivable	1,587,603
Interest Receivable	9,234
Grant Receivables	2,889,252
Other Receivables	251,498
Prepaid Expenses	54,609
Land	24,940,419
Land Improvements	61,692,209
Construction in Progress	17,610,712
Furniture and Fixtures	175,979
Leasehold Improvements	9,519
Computer Hardware	66,383
Computer Software	47,822
Accumulated Depreciation	(14,179,611)
Bond Issuance Costs, Net of Amortization	290,665
Total Assets	\$104,263,980

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$1,772,911
Accrued Liabilities	47,438
Accrued Interest	93,350
Bonds Payable	24,640,000
Unearned Revenue - Bond OIP, Net	161,755
Total Liabilities	\$26,715,454

Net Assets

Unrestricted	9,022,279
Restricted	2,964,571
Investment in Property & Equipment	65,561,676
Total Net Assets	\$ 77,548,526
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$104,263,980



The Power of a Greenway:
St. Vincent Greenway at Ruth Porter Mall Park

Perhaps the most compelling example of a greenway that is helping to create a safer environment for residents is the segment of the St. Vincent Greenway which extends through the West End Neighborhood and Ruth Porter Mall Park, from Delmar and DeBaliviere north to Wellston, which we opened in October 2012. The 9-block park in the West End neighborhood in the City of St. Louis had fallen victim to crime and deterioration since it was first built in 1968. Knowing that access to well-maintained public parks significantly reduces crime, we worked closely with residents, the City of St. Louis Parks Division staff and local law enforcement to identify specific improvements which would increase the usability and safety of the park. More than 25 small hills were removed throughout the park

to improve visibility for both trail users and local law enforcement, and new ornamental light fixtures were installed along the trail. Curbs at streets and alleyways were designed to ensure that people of all abilities could use the trail for fitness, recreation, or for commuting to nearby schools, stores and Forest Park.

“The biggest positive about the greenway is the new lighting,” said St. Louis Comptroller, Darlene Green, who has lived near the greenway since 2009. “The trail is now a well-lit, paved area that allows people who are walking around after the sun goes down to feel safe along the path.”

After several years of planning, the new park and trail opened in 2012, giving the neighborhood a bright future and creating a safe green space for children and neighbors to enjoy. With additions such as public art, a peace pole, a splash pad and pedestrian lighting, the revitalized park has become a welcoming space for neighborhood activity, and a safe place for everyone to enjoy.

*“The trail...
allows people
who are walking
around after the
sun goes down
to feel safe along
the path.”*

*–Darlene Green
Comptroller,
City of St. Louis*



Community Collaboration: Residents Play a Vital Role in District Projects

This is a great plan and an asset for the community,” said one resident after reviewing plans to extend Grant’s Trail to River des Peres Greenway which were revealed at our public open house in November.

Residents had the opportunity to weigh in on proposed plans, both in person and live online, with feedback streaming in to planners live on Twitter.

Residents and business owners from the South County region gathered at Grant’s Shelter in Jefferson Barracks Park to view and comment on plans to extend one of the region’s most popular trails. The plans detailed a new two-mile segment, which would extend our most popular trail to more than 10 miles in length, and ultimately connect residents of Kirkwood all the way to Lemay.

The open house was one of many we hold each year to gather resident feedback on all stages of our projects – from planning to construction – but it marked a milestone for our District, as the first open house where residents had the opportunity to weigh in on proposed plans both in person and online, with feedback and questions streaming in to designers live from Twitter.

Our District was created to carry out the vision of St. Louis area residents, and we feel that involving them in planning and design is critical to every project. Technology has offered us another way to reach a wider audience. We feel it is incumbent upon us that we take advantage of this opportunity to reach those who may not know how our work is affecting them, and to take their thoughts into consideration as we work to improve their community.

Statement of Revenues & Expenses For the Year Ended December 31, 2012

Revenues

Sales Tax Revenue	\$10,283,914
Interest Income	53,243
Unrealized/Realized Gains	(1,533)
Accretion Income - Bond OIP	11,092
Cost Sharing Revenues	43,633
Rental Income	461,580
Federal Government Grants	2,239,288
Miscellaneous Income	2,522
	\$13,093,739

Expenses

Professional Fees	\$242,388
Salaries	265,619
Office & Support	148,529
Space & Occupancy	74,975
Benefits	54,400
Depreciation Expense	30,226
Capital Expenditures-Operating	19,459
	\$835,596

Schedule of Project Expenses

For the Year Ended December 31, 2012

River Ring

Greenway Description	Project Description	
Confluence Greenway	Iron Horse Trestle	\$25,841
	Iron Horse Trestle Bridge Painting	1,170,702
	Branch Street Construction	9,610
	COR Bridge Development	52,832
	Trestle to Downtown	104,299
	Trail & Trailhead Amenities	2,882
	Riverfront Trail	4,561
	Americorp Trail Ranger Program	101,620
	Archgrounds Design	667,010
		\$2,139,357
Dardenne Greenway	Dardenne Greenway - Rabbit Run	\$5,672
	Dardenne Greenway at Faron	14,820
	Dardenne Seed Projects	2,672
	Cottleville Trails to Faron	2,745
	Dardenne Greenway at Barathaven	6,190
	Rabbit Run to Old Town St. Peters	96,639
	Rabbit Run to Cottleville	236,090
	Lakeside 370 to Old Town St. Peters	54,353
	Trail Amenities	35,475
		\$454,656
Rivers Des Peres Greenway	River Des Peres Extension	\$14,384
	Carondelet Connector	104,945
	Alabama Bridge to Pinnacle	57,974
	Lansdowne to Gravois	390,550
	Wabash Ave to Willmore Park	21,909
	Willmore Park to Francis Slay Park	15,220
	Trail & Trailhead Amenities	5,034
	I-55 to Jefferson Barracks Park	1,691,319
		\$2,301,335



\$ Promoting Economic Vitality

Because of the support that we have enjoyed from the region since our inception, we have been able to carry forward on plans that will benefit the St. Louis region for generations. Thanks to the enthusiasm, input and action we have received from the public on each of our projects, we have built valuable community assets that are truly making the St. Louis region a better place to live one mile at a time. A recent study on our work in the region yielded powerful data that shows

These are truly numbers to be proud of. We thank you for your support, which makes our work possible.

the impact of your support of this work. Please take a moment to consider the impact your support has made.

\$20.0 million in overall economic activity in St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County was supported by the work of the District from 2001 to 2011.

\$4.4 million in household earnings were contributed by the work of the District from 2001 to 2011.

88 new jobs were supported by the work of the District from 2001 to 2011.

\$48.4 million is the estimated economic impact of the District's spending in St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County from 2013 to 2015.

\$11.0 million in household earnings are estimated to be contributed by the work of the District from 2013 to 2015.

These are truly numbers to be proud of. We thank you for your support, which makes our work possible.

For more detail on this study, visit our website at www.GreatRiversGreenway.org, click on "About Us," then "Promoting Economic Vitality."

River Ring *continued*

Greenway Description	Project Description	
Mississippi River Greenway	MSD Lagoons to JB County Park	\$2,341,656
	Canary Island Riverside	7,558
	Trail & Trailhead Amenities	4,082
	Sugar Loaf Mounds	15,620
	Sr. Marie Charles Park	26,513
	Pinnacle to Carondelet	8,212
	Downtown to River Des Peres	47,610
		\$2,451,251
Centennial Greenway	170-Olive	\$1,538
	Shaw Park-Greensfelder Park	
	METRO Corridor	1,748,886
	I-270 to Creve Coeur Park	17,792
	Washington University to Delmar Trail	(43,904)
	Heritage to Wapelhorst	26,430
	Kingsbury to Forest Park Parkway	4,193
	Trail & Trailhead Amenities	2,606
		\$1,757,541
Missouri River Greenway	Chesterfield Levee Trail SEED Project	\$50,203
	Fort Belle Fontaine Park Trail	19
	Ameren UE Railroad Trail	19
	Earth City Levee Trail	43,264
	St. Charles Riverfront	2,185
	Trail & Trailhead Amenities	4,905
	Aquaport to Creve Coeur	127,056
	McKelvey Woods Phase II	130,266
		\$357,917

Greenway Description	Project Description	
Maline Creek Greenway	Planning	\$19,056
	Plaza at 501 to Forestwood Park	105,848
	Bellefontain to North Riverfront Trail	13,754
		\$138,658
Meramec Greenway	Trailhead Development	\$43,569
	Al Foster Trail Phase III	101,888
	River Mile 14 to 15 Sunset Hills	5,633
	12 Mile Initiative Castlewood	47,461
	George Winter Park Bridge	3,415
	Fenton Trailhead Connection	16,698
	Eureka Connector Trail	100,000
	Rock Alva Association	20
	River Mile 32 - Al Foster Phase VI	15,315
	Old Towne Fenton to Meramec	12,431
		\$346,430
St. Vincent Greenway	Hanley Metrolink to Northpark Trail	\$200
	Delmar Promenade & Lucier Park Trailhead	2,852
	DeBaliviere Project	2,923,685
	Trail Ranger Program	46,227
	Plymouth - Etzel Trail Remediation, Riparian	52,283
	Rock Road Trail, Riparian	81,257
	Plymouth to Rock Road	35,544
	Trail & Trailhead Amenities	21,526
	UMSL Trail to Jones Trail	1,362,304
		\$4,525,878



Sharing our Vision

We want to ensure that the people we serve are informed about our work and that they continue to be involved in our projects long after the ribbon has been cut. In order to support this goal and to supply information in real time, we launched our first social media efforts in 2012 with Twitter, Facebook and Pinterest. Almost immediately, it was apparent that the region had been waiting for us to share this information and to get them involved. Within a few short months, the District had thousands of followers engaged in its work to improve quality of life for the region.

ConnectingSTL will serve as a source for information, news and volunteer opportunities.

As part of our strategy to improve the quality of life for the region, and to engage both our partners and the public in this effort, the District will begin a community-building blog called ConnectingSTL in 2013, and begin website improvements that will better engage the public with both information and opportunities to become more engaged in our work to make the St. Louis region a better place to live.

For more information or to connect with us, visit www.GreatRiversGreenway.org/connect and www.ConnectingSTL.org.

Metropolitan Park and Recreation District

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River Ring *continued*

Sunset Greenway	Sunset Riverfront Trail	\$1,000
	Sunset Greenway/Sunset Park Trail Extension	514
		\$1,514
Shady Creek Greenway	Deer Creek Park & Center Trail	\$29,448
	Deer Creek Center to RDP Confluence Trail	41,019
	Lorraine Davis Park to Deer Creek Park	105,854
		\$176,321
Gravois Greenway	Grant's Trail - Phase IV	\$92,875
	Grant's Trail - Phase V	92,781
	Clydesdale Park Connector	45
		\$185,701
Busch Greenway	Barathaven to MO Research Park	\$41,876
	Busch to Barathaven	53,974
		\$95,850
Boschert Greenway	Trail & Trailhead Amenities	\$1,795
	Fox Hill Park to Katy Trail	850,798
		\$852,593
Western Greenway	Trail & Trailhead Amenities	\$34,843
	Rockwoods to Babler	80,103
		\$114,946

Collaboratives, Initiatives and Other

Collaborative Planning	Land Acquisition	\$410,323
	Bike St. Louis - Phase III	300
	Bicycle Programming	92,366
	Programming	6,699
	Bicycle Master Plan	231,074
	Bicycle & Pedestrian Banners	7
	HUD Sustainability Grant	63,718
	Statewide Trail Mapping	25,000
	Greenway Metrics	10,338
	Environmental Graphics	104,803
		\$944,628

2012 Great Rivers Greenway Project Highlights

Great Rivers Greenway opened 6.2 miles of new greenway trails to the public, bridging critical connections within the River Ring. These projects included the Boschert Greenway Phase II project in St. Charles, which connected New Town to the Katy Trail; the Al Foster Memorial Trail in Wildwood; the Mississippi River Greenway trail segment that runs from Jefferson Barracks to River City Casino; the Wayne Goode Trail Extension, which is a portion of the St. Vincent Greenway that runs across the University of Missouri – St. Louis campus and connects students and residents with Ferguson; and the St. Vincent Greenway segment that runs through Ruth Porter Mall Park in St. Louis City's West End neighborhood.

The organization broke ground on 5.25 miles of new trail projects that are currently under construction, including trails on the Centennial, River des Peres and St. Vincent Greenways.

The Safe and Accessible Arch and Public Parks Initiative was presented in December to officials in St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County for consideration in the upcoming April 2013 election. The legislation would support maintenance and upgrades to local parks and greenways and partially fund the CityArchRiver 2015 project, if passed. In conjunction with CityArchRiver, Great Rivers Greenway also launched a series of public events to get resident feedback on the CityArchRiver 2015 project.

Plans were unveiled to extend Grant's Trail in November to the River des Peres Greenway. The plan ultimately provides more than 15 miles of connectivity between the two greenways. Great Rivers Greenway partnered with a variety of organizations on projects that stand to promote economic vitality within

the region including participation in the final design of the St. Vincent Greenway alongside the Loop Trolley project on DeBaliviere Avenue in the City of St. Louis, and the development of greenway connections within the campus of life science incubator Cortex.

The District was awarded a total of \$5.4 million dollars in Federal Transportation grants, including \$1.4 million for expansion of the on-street Bike St. Louis network and \$4 million for the reconstruction of the Lenore K. Sullivan Blvd. in front of the Gateway Arch.

The Trestle project was formally launched with a public event in June 2012 with more than 450 in attendance. This marked the beginning of the organization's work to rehabilitate the abandoned Iron Horse rail trestle in North St. Louis. The I-70 overpass was repaired and painted to bring new awareness of Great Rivers Greenway and the Trestle. In December, Great Rivers Greenway was recognized for its Trestle project by Next City's "2012 Disruption Index" as an organization doing work to change an American city for the better.

The District promoted healthy living and public parks through an initiative launched in cooperation with the National Parks Service and BJC Health Systems, with health- and nature-focused artwork on buses and bus shelters throughout the region.

The District invested more than \$187,675 in community programs to promote clean water, good health, transportation options and safe trails, through grants and sponsorships, including regional ranger programs, Operation Clean Stream, Trailnet's Bike to Work Day, Livewell Ferguson's resident rides and more.

1,000,000 users on
Great Rivers Greenway trails
each year. \$4.4 million



Making the St. Louis
Region a Better Place
to Live

contributed to household
earnings by the District from



Connecting
Communities and
Neighborhoods

2001 to 2011. 88 jobs



Preserving and
Connecting
People to Nature

contributed each year by

District projects from 2001



Improving Economic
Vitality

to 2011. 104 miles of

greenway trails. 84 miles



Providing
Transportation Choices

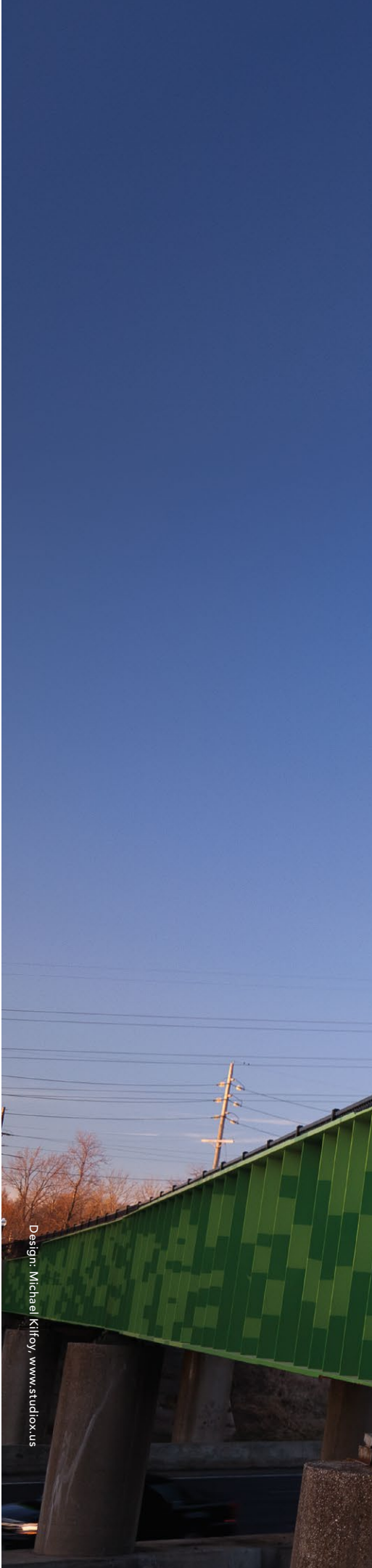
of on-street bicycle routes.

496 miles of greenway



Promoting
Good Health

trails to be built.



Design: Michael Kilfoy, www.studiox.us



The Great Rivers Greenway District

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