

The Great Rivers Greenway District

2006 ANNUAL REPORT



For a clean, green, connected St. Louis region

2006 Annual Report

The Great Rivers Greenway District
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The Great Rivers Greenway District

Board of Directors

David Rosenberg, St. Louis County –President
Anne Klein, St. Charles County –Vice President
Jim Hall, St. Louis County –Secretary
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Michael Murray –St. Louis City
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Board of Directors Whose Terms Expired in 2006

Charles Nicastro –St. Louis County
Pauline Smith –St. Louis City

The Great Rivers Greenway District – Staff

David Fisher – Executive Director
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Patrick Owens
Nancy Ulman
Janet Wilding

County Executives

The Honorable Charlie Dooley
County Executive, St. Louis County
The Honorable Joseph Ortwerth
County Executive, St. Charles County
The Honorable Francis Slay
Mayor, St. Louis City

Citizen and Technical Advisory Committees

The Great Rivers Greenway District collaborated with the region’s citizens to provide an opportunity to share their communities’ desires and concerns. Many interested participants served on Citizen Advisory Committees in 2006 and assisted with the development of greenway plans. In addition, a team of public, private and nonprofit organizations served on Technical Advisory Committees to provide a local level of expertise. The Great Rivers Greenway District appreciates the time and dedication from the committee members who assisted on projects in 2006.

Letter from the Executive Director and Board President

With ribbon cuttings, groundbreakings and community forums taking place on a regular basis throughout the St. Louis Metropolitan region, The Great Rivers Greenway District is continuing to build on its success.

As each new project is introduced, the public investment in greenways, parks and trails provides tangible proof that neighborhoods and communities thrive with the addition of green infrastructure.

With each project, community participation, neighborhood involvement and collaborative public and private partnerships have played a critical role. By focusing on our potential as a region, groups and organizations have risen above traditional political and neighborhood boundaries to promote healthy lifestyles, stimulate economic development and protect our region's vast natural resources.

The blueprint for The Great Rivers Greenway District is to develop a region-wide system of greenways, parks and trails that will encircle the region. Called, The River Ring, the 600-mile web of more than 45 greenways will span two states and an area of 1,216 square miles with 1.6 million residents.

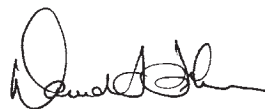
As projects are completed, not only is The Great Rivers Greenway District capturing the imagination and enthusiasm of local citizens, it is generating statewide and nationwide recognition

as a model for enhancing the quality of life in metropolitan regions. Following St. Louis' lead, communities such as Kansas City and Atlanta are exploring options to create similar regional park and greenway initiatives.

Our work is not always easy. Collaborations can at times be challenging, difficult and seemingly insurmountable, but progress is being made every day because of an unwavering commitment on everyone's part to the same goal – a vibrant, more connected region with miles of new trails, thriving green spaces, flourishing natural habitats and strong economic development.

Because of the steps being taken now, including careful planning, strong collaborations and a vision for what can be achieved, the River Ring, when completed, will be a showcase to the world for exceptional planning and design solutions that address environmental stewardship and economic development, as well as recreation, science, art and culture.

Sincerely,



David Fisher

Executive Director



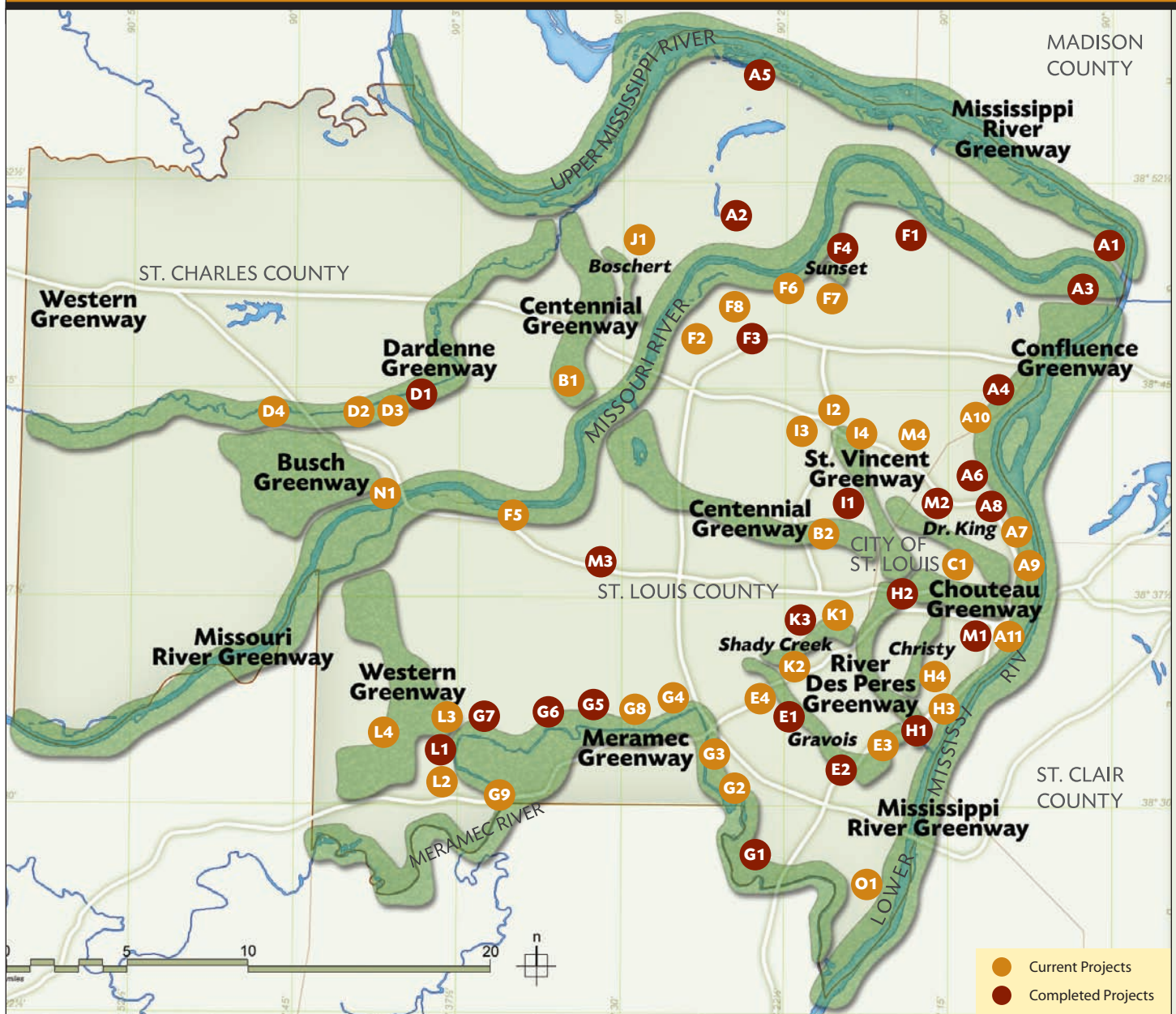
David Rosenberg

President, Board of Directors

2006 Project Highlights

During 2006, The Great Rivers Greenway District celebrated many significant accomplishments across St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County. Highlights included:

- Breaking ground for a new 85-acre greenway that will become the first city park in Dardenne Prairie in St. Charles County.
- Cutting the ribbon for a two-mile extension of Grant's Trail to create a continuous eight-mile trail through areas of unincorporated St. Louis County, as well as Crestwood, Oakland and Kirkwood.
- Extensively renovating the popular 11-mile Riverfront Trail along the Mississippi River in the City of St. Louis with an improved surface, new rest stops, water fountains, signage and more.
- Partnering with the City of Clayton to develop an on-street banner program designed to promote the health benefits of cycling while making drivers more aware of bicyclists with customized messages and colorful graphics.
- Developing the McKinley Bridge Bikeway, a new 3,000 ft. long bike path and pedestrian walkway over the Mississippi River scheduled for completion in 2007, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Metro East Park and Recreation District.
- Pursuing the development of a master plan for the St. Louis Riverfront between the Eads and Poplar Street bridges that will create a dynamic and innovative public space with a myriad of opportunities for residents, tourists and conventioners.





The Great Rivers Greenway District is developing the River Ring, an interconnected system of greenways, parks and trails that will encircle the St. Louis region. The River Ring creates a web of 45 greenways throughout the region and will span two states and an area of 1,216 square miles.

2006 Partnership Projects:

A Confluence Greenway: links the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers to the riverfront in downtown St. Louis.

- A1** Ted and Pat Jones Confluence Point State Park
- A2** Katy Trail Connector
- A3** Columbia Bottom Conservation Area
- A4** Old Chain of Rocks Bridge
- A5** Portage des Sioux Nature Area
- A6** Mary Meachum Freedom Crossing
- A7** McKinley Bridge and Branch Street Railroad Trestle
- A8** Riverfront Trail
- A9** St. Louis Riverfront Master Plan
- A10** Audobon Education Center
- A11** Riverfront Trail Extension South Souldard

B Centennial Greenway: this 20-mile trail, will run from Forest Park to Creve Coeur County Park in St. Louis County and across the Veterans Memorial Bridge to St. Charles County. The greenway will then continue to connect to the Dardenne Greenway.

- B1** Centennial St. Charles
- B2** Olive Blvd & I-170

C Chouteau Greenway: will link the Mississippi riverfront in downtown St. Louis and Forest Park. An extension of the greenway will branch off to the south to connect to the Missouri Botanical Garden and Tower Grove Park.

- C1** Phase III Planning Study

D Dardenne Greenway: begins at the Mississippi River and follows Dardenne Creek through St. Charles County to the Busch Memorial Conservation Area. There, it continues west and joins the Cuivre Greenway in western St. Charles County.

- D1** Dardenne Creek Storm Water Management Plan
- D2** Dardenne Greenway at BaratHaven

- D3** Dardenne Prairie SEED Project
- D4** Dardenne Grenwway Concept Plan

E Gravois Creek Greenway: an 8-mile trail system, forms the basis for Gravois Creek Greenway. The greenway follows Gravois Creek from River Des Peres through portions of south St. Louis County.

- E1** Grant's Trail
- E2** Clydesdale Park
- E3** Grant's Trail Phase IV
- E4** Grant's Trail Phase V

F Missouri River Greenway: the greenway is a major component of The River Ring. Ultimately, it will parallel the Missouri River in St. Louis and St. Charles counties. Existing features are the Katy Trail and the bicycle facilities on the Veterans Memorial Bridge.

- F1** Missouri River Greenway: Phase 1 Planning
- F2** SEED Project – Riverwoods
- F3** SEED Project – Truman Park Trail Connector
- F4** SEED Project-Old Town Florissant Trail
- F5** Chesterfield Levee Trail Pilot Project
- F6** Sunset Park Riverfront Trail
- F7** Sunset Phase II Trail
- F8** Truman Park Trail Connector

G Meramec Greenway: work on the Meramec Greenway began more than 30 years ago to create and extend trails along the Meramec River in St. Louis County.

- G1** River Mile 7 – St. Louis County
- G2** 12-Mile Initiative
- G3** River Mile 16 – St. Louis County
- G4** River Mile 18 – City of Fenton
- G5** River Mile 25 – St. Louis County
- G6** River Mile 28 – St. Louis County
- G7** River Mile 30 – St. Louis County
- G8** Meramec Signage
- G9** River Mile 35 – City of Eureka

H River des Peres Greenway:

a plan for a linear park along the River des Peres between the Mississippi River and Forest Park.

- H1** River des Peres Pilot Project–Christy Greenway Connection
- H2** Lindell Pavilion in Forest Park
- H3** Carondelet Park Connector
- H4** River desPeres Extension to I-55

I St. Vincent Greenway: joins the Centennial, Chouteau and River des Peres greenways in Forest Park. It then continues north through the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus to NorthPark. In the future, St. Vincent Greenway will connect with Coldwater and Maline Greenways in north St. Louis County.

- I1** Planning and Design
- I2** University of Missouri – St. Louis and St. Vincent Park Trail
- I3** University of Missouri – St. Louis North Hanley Trail
- I4** St. Vincent Sustainable Development Study

J Boschert Greenway: begins in the City of St. Charles, where it connects to the Missouri River Greenway and the Katy Trail. It then continues west along Boschert Creek to link to the Dardenne Greenway in eastern St. Charles County.

- J1** Boschertown Road to New Town Boulevard Trail

K Shady Creek and Deer Creek

Greenways: from Larson Park in Webster Groves to its confluence with Deer Creek near Brentwood Boulevard. The greenway will continue eastward, following Deer Creek to River des Peres Greenway in the City of St. Louis.

- K1** SEED Project- Shady Creek and Deer Creek
- K2** Deer Creek Center Trail

- K3** Larson Park Streambank Stabilization

L Western Greenway: links the Meramec and Missouri rivers in western St. Louis County, as well as various parks and conservation areas.

- L1** Hamilton-Carr Trail Phase 1
- L2** River Mile 31 – City of Wildwood
- L3** Hamilton-Carr Trail Phase II
- L4** Eagle Valley Trail in Greensfelder Park

M Collaborative Planning: working with public agencies on projects that advance the development of The River Ring. Bike St. Louis, the on-street network of bicycle routes is one example of the type of projects that is critical for the expansion of The River Ring throughout the St. Louis region.

- M1** Bike St. Louis: Phase 1
- M2** St. Louis Citywide Parks Plan
- M3** Regional Bicycle Facilities Plan
- M4** Bike St. Louis: Phase 2

N Busch Greenway: a 1-mile connector between the Missouri Research Park in St. Charles County and the Katy Trail.

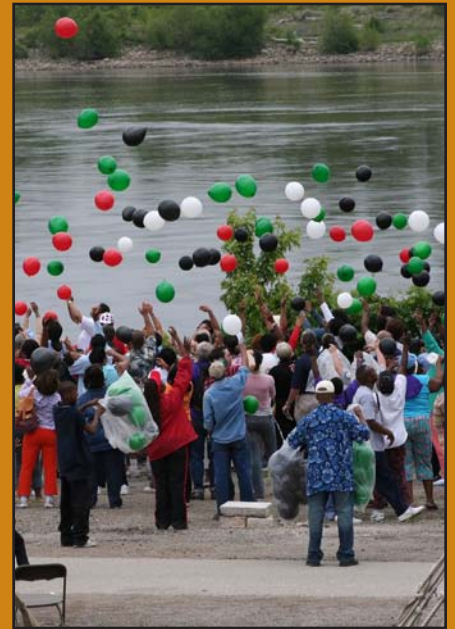
- N1** Missouri Research Park Trail Connector

O Mississippi River Greenway: partnering with the St. Louis County Parks Department to build six miles of trail along the Mississippi River in Cliff Cave Park. The development will include new trails, a pavilion, river overlook, restroom and a new parking lot.

- O1** Cliff Cave Park Trail

- Current Projects
- Completed Projects

Project Highlights



...an unwavering commitment
on everyone's part to the same goal –
a vibrant, more connected region...

St. Louis City



In 2006, The Great Rivers Greenway District in cooperation with the City of St. Louis renovated the popular 11-mile Riverfront Trail along the Mississippi River. Offering great views of the river, historic neighborhoods and the working riverfront, the trail extends from Laclede's Landing to the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge, one of the longest bicycle/pedestrian bridges in the United States. In addition to improving the trail's alignment, new rest stops, water fountains and signage were added to enhance the trail's appearance and make it more user friendly. Next year, a connection from the Riverfront Trail to the McKinley Bridge Bikeway will be completed.

Another significant project in 2006 involved planning and design work to extend the River des Peres Greenway from Morganford Ave. to I-55 along the Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT) right-of-way to Carondelet Park in South St. Louis. Eventually, the River des Peres Greenway will continue southward to the Mississippi River.



Complementing the Great Rivers Greenway District's development of dedicated trails and greenways is Bike St. Louis' expanding web of on-street bicycle routes, which are a critical component of the River Ring plan. Bike St. Louis is a partnership between the Great Rivers Greenway District, the City of St. Louis and bicycle advocacy groups. In 2006, engineering was completed for 57 miles of designated routes through the cities of St. Louis, Maplewood and Clayton. With construction targeted for 2007, the new routes will connect to the first 20 miles of Bike St. Louis routes that were completed in 2005, creating a continuous 77 mile route linking neighborhoods, parks, regional trails and transit.

St. Louis County



In November 2006, a ribbon cutting ceremony marked the completion of a 2-mile extension of Grant's Trail, creating a continuous 8-mile paved trail through areas of unincorporated St. Louis County, as well as Crestwood, Oakland and Kirkwood. This new section is important because it ties together so many communities, while providing easy access to the trail system from numerous residential neighborhoods. The trail has been extremely popular with residents and provides an easy connection from Kirkwood to South County.

The Meramec Greenway also is a major focus area. It encompasses the lower 50 miles of the Meramec River, as well as 28,000 acres of state, county and municipal parks and conservation areas, spanning the confluence of the Meramec and Mississippi Rivers. The Meramec Greenway includes 13 miles of trails along the lower Meramec River.

To create the longest dedicated multipurpose trail in St. Louis County, the Great Rivers Greenway District is working with St. Louis County, the cities of Valley Park, Kirkwood and Wildwood, as well as the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to complete a continuous 12-mile section of trail along the Meramec Greenway, from Kirkwood to Wildwood.

This new section is important because it ties together so many communities while providing easy access to the trail system...



At Cliff Cave Park, located on the Mississippi in south St. Louis County, the Great Rivers Greenway District also will be resurfacing a 5-mile trail.

The Great Rivers Greenway District has developed plans for greenway and trail projects along the Missouri, Centennial, Sunset, Western and Shady Creek greenways in partnership with municipal, county and State agencies. Designed to extend the River Ring throughout St. Louis County, many of these projects will be under construction in 2007.

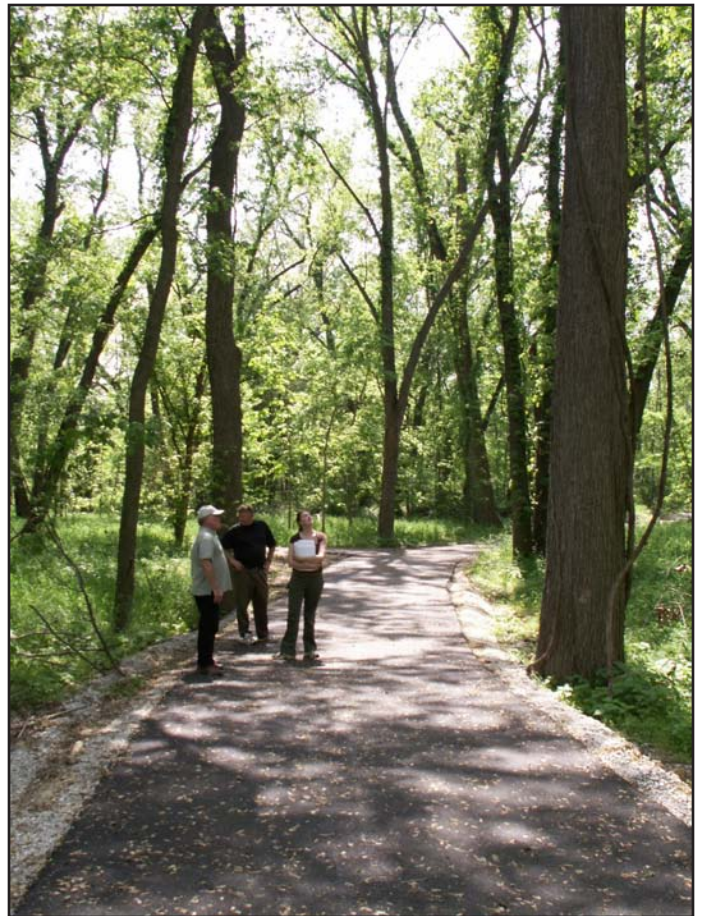
St. Charles County

The Dardenne Greenway is an integral part of the River Ring and ultimately will provide connections to the Katy Trail, Missouri River Greenway and Mississippi Greenway. In 2006, the Great Rivers Greenway District initiated the development of a greenway plan for Dardenne Creek in partnership with local municipalities, St. Charles County and numerous state agencies. The concept plan for a 36-mile expanse along Dardenne Creek from the Mississippi River to the western boundary of St. Charles County will be completed in 2007. In addition to identifying greenway connections between existing and future parks, it will consider various community and cultural amenities.

The Dardenne Greenway, which parallels Dardenne Creek from western St. Charles County to its confluence on the Mississippi River, is being designed as a linear park, connecting existing parks and natural areas, recreational centers, schools and civic and cultural amenities. It will also link to several communities with existing trail systems that provide residents with recreation, transportation and fitness opportunities.

An initial project in the greenway is the Dardenne Greenway at BaratHaven. In June 2006, the District broke ground for a new 85-acre recreational area that will become the first city park in Dardenne Prairie in St. Charles County. Today, three miles of public trail have been completed, including the portion of the Dardenne Greenway that encircles a 15-acre lake at BaratHaven.

The Dardenne Greenway at BaratHaven is the result of a public-private partnership between the Great Rivers Greenway District, McEagle Properties LLC, Vantage Homes and the communities of Dardenne Prairie and O'Fallon.



To add momentum to the Dardenne Greenway system, the District purchased 90 acres along the creek adjacent to BaratHaven and initiated plans in 2006 to develop trails and passive recreation areas on the property.

The District also began engineering projects for the Boschert, Busch and Centennial-St. Charles Greenways. In 2006, planning and design were completed for a 1.5-mile trail along Boschert Creek in the City of St. Charles. It will extend from Boschertown Road to New Town Boulevard Trail, where it will connect to Fox Hill Park. Long-range plans include a connection to the Katy Trail.

In addition, engineering was completed for the Busch Greenway, a 1-mile asphalt trail from the south end of Missouri Research Park to the Katy Trail. Due to its proximity to a new highway interchange, the trail will dramatically improve access to the Katy Trail for those who live near I-64/Highway 40.



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

Balance Sheet

December 31, 2006

Assets

Cash and investments	\$ 8,361,250
Sales taxes receivable	857,435
Interest receivable	75,124
Other receivables	11,971
Prepaid expenses	11,653
	<u>9,317,432</u>
Land and land improvements	30,996,764
Construction in process	7,978,001
Furniture and fixtures	132,928
Accumulated depreciation	(460,467)
Total property and equipment, net	<u>38,647,226</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 47,964,658</u>

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities	
Accounts payable	\$ 1,405,037
Note payable – current	4,676,041
Accrued wages and payroll taxes	40,450
Total liabilities	<u>6,121,528</u>
Net Assets	
Invested in capital assets	33,971,185
Unrestricted net assets	7,871,945
Total net assets	<u>41,843,130</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 47,964,658</u>

Metropolitan Park & Recreation District
d/b/a The Great Rivers Greenway District
Schedule of Revenues
For the Year Ending December 31, 2006

Category Description

Sales tax revenues	\$ 10,652,541
Government grants	1,226,081
Rental income	507,226
Investment income	448,651
Miscellaneous income	<u>5,945</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 12,840,444</u>

Schedule of Operating Expenses
For the Year Ending December 31, 2006

Category Description

Salary and fringe benefits	\$ 266,336
Contractual and professional services	240,441
Office and support	138,999
Space and occupancy	65,950
Depreciation expense	33,609
Capital expenditures	<u>14,327</u>
Total Operating Expenditures	<u>\$ 759,662</u>

Metropolitan Park and Recreation District
d/b/a The Great Rivers Greenway District
Schedule of Project Expenditures
For the Year Ended December 31, 2006

Greenway	Project	
	River Ring	
Confluence Greenway	McKinley Bridge Bikeway	\$ 1,785,919
	Riverfront Trail	1,509,499
	Branch Street Trestle	1,397,982
	Downtown Riverfront Planning	917,649
	Americorp Trail Ranger Program	137,635
	Old Chain of Rocks Bridge-Public Access/Restrooms	57,988
	Ecosystem Study	30,000
	Crop Share Agreement	330
	Audubon Ark	235
	Mary Meachum Freedom Crossing	130,424
		5,967,661
Missouri River Greenway	Riverwoods	757,950
	Chesterfield Levee Trail SEED Project	296,393
	Levee Trails	15,025
	Truman Park Trail Connector	14,217
	Planning and Design	11,308
	St. Charles Riverfront	3,238
	Maryland Heights SEED Project	795
		1,098,926
Meramec Greenway	12 Mile Initiative	79,356
	River Mile 7 – St. Louis County	72,484
	Minnie Ha Ha Park	30,000
	St. Louis County Partnerships	513
	Eagle Valley Trail	128
	River Mile 25 – St. Louis County	128
	River Mile 30 – St. Louis County	128
	River Mile 35 – Eureka	23
	Trailhead Development	11,996
		194,756
Mississippi River Greenway	Canary Island Riverside Greenway	(487,971)
	Cliff Cave Trail	564,443
		76,472

Metropolitan Park and Recreation District
d/b/a The Great Rivers Greenway District
Schedule of Project Expenditures
For the Year Ended December 31, 2006

Greenway	Project	
Dardenne Greenway	Dardenne Greenway at Barathaven	\$ 1,147,402
	Planning and Design	124,697
	Faron	75,678
	Rabbit Run Park Extension	7,998
	Dardenne Creek Storm Water Study	1,603
		1,357,378
Centennial Greenway	Planning Study and SEED Projects	753,279
	St. Charles	80,673
	170-Olive Interchange Engineering	68,693
		902,645
River Des Peres Greenway	River Des Peres Pilot Project - Christy	318,430
	River Des Peres Extension	237,676
		556,106
St. Vincent Greenway	UMSL Thru St. Vincent Park	190,096
	SEED Projects	11,197
	Hanley-UMSL Trail	6,001
	Etzel through Porter Park Project	375
		207,669
Gravois Creek Greenway	Grant's Trail - Phase III	2,034,881
	Clydesdale Park Connector	127,993
	Planning & Design Kirkwood to Meramec	21,208
	Grant's Trail - Phase IV	19,054
		2,203,136
Sunset Greenway	Sunset Greenway/Sunset Park Trail Exten.	701,849
Chouteau Greenway	Debt Service - Interest	295,426
	EDI Grant	139,284
	Planning and Design	4,839
		439,549
Shady Creek Greenway	Planning Study and SEED Project	147,176
	Deer Creek Park & Center Trail	20,005
		167,181
Busch Greenway	Missouri Research Park Trail Connector	75,808
Boschert Greenway	Boschertown Road to New Town Boulevard Trail	22,804

Metropolitan Park and Recreation District
d/b/a The Great Rivers Greenway District
Schedule of Project Expenditures
For the Year Ended December 31, 2006

Greenway	Project	
	Collaboratives, Initiatives and Other	
Collaborative Planning	Depreciation Expense - Projects	319,420
	Land Acquisitions	221,000
	Bicycle Programming	151,549
	Bike St. Louis - Phase II	69,415
	Great Rivers Greenway Signage	28,356
	Programming and Events	18,709
	Website	2,919
		<u>811,368</u>
	Total Project Expenditures	<u>\$ 14,783,308</u>

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will be a showcase to the world for
exceptional planning and design solutions
that address environmental stewardship
and economic development, as well as
recreation, science, art and culture.





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