

For a clean, green, connected St. Louis region

## 2004 Annual Report



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## 2004 Annual Report

The Great Rivers Greenway District 1000 St. Louis Union Station Suite 102 St. Louis, Missouri 63103 www.greatrivers.info

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#### The Great Rivers Greenway District

#### - Board of Directors

Michael Murray, President – St. Louis City
David Rosenberg, Vice President – St. Louis County
Pauline Smith, Secretary – St. Louis City
Anne Zerr, Treasurer – St. Charles County
Richard Ash – St. Charles County
Timothy Bolt – St. Louis City
Jim Hall – St. Louis County
Judith Metzger – St. Louis County
Charles Nicastro – St. Louis County
The Honorable Phyllis Weber – St. Louis County

#### **Board of Directors Whose Terms Expired in 2004**

Damon Porter - St. Louis County Jeff Wagener - St. Louis County

#### The Great Rivers Greenway District - Staff

David Fisher – Executive Director
Todd Antoine
Glenna Brown
Jennifer Olmstead
Patrick Owens
Amina Terry
Nancy Ulman
Janet Wilding

#### **County Executives**

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

#### Citizen and Technical Advisory Committees

The Great Rivers Greenway 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 2004 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. Great Rivers Greenway appreciates the time and dedication from the committee members who assisted on the following projects in 2004:

- Centennial Greenway
- Shady Creek Greenway
- St. Vincent Greenway

### Regional Collaboration Gains Momentum

What once was only a plan on the drawing boards has begun to take shape. With groundbreakings and community forums occurring on a regular basis in 2004, The Great Rivers Greenway District's goal of building for the future by developing a region-wide system of interconnected greenways, parks and trails known as The River Ring is becoming a reality.

The District's vision for The River Ring is providing the impetus for a new era of regional collaboration. Communities are recognizing that the benefits of developing an interconnected system of greenways, parks and trails go far beyond recreational use. Benefits also include stimulating economic growth, increasing property values, improving tax bases, developing new businesses, increasing interactions among citizens and neighborhoods, preserving open spaces and encouraging healthier lifestyles.

St. Louis 2004, the public-private initiative that provided the original clarity of vision and groundbreaking work for revitalizing the region, deserves much of the credit for creating the opportunities that lie ahead. Although that organization has completed its mission to celebrate the region's accomplishments, the impact of its endeavors continue to shape our future.

### **Ribbon Cuttings and Ground Breakings**

During 2004, The Great Rivers Greenway District celebrated many accomplishments. In addition to finalizing the regional plan to guide the development of The River Ring, the District held a groundbreaking ceremony for the River Des Peres project, a four-mile connection with Carondelet Park for walkers and bikers that will feature 12-foot wide trails, two pedestrian bridges, signed crosswalks and land-scaping, and eventually extend into an 11-mile greenway, connecting Forest Park to the confluence of the River Des Peres and the Mississippi River.

The four-mile greenway is the pilot project of the 1998 River Des Peres Beautification Plan, a joint project by the City of St. Louis, St. Louis County, the Metropolitan Sewer District, the Army Corps of Engineers and the East-West Gateway Council of Governments.

As part of the collaboration with St. Louis County, Wildwood and Fenton on six different projects along the Meramec Greenway, the District also held ribbon cuttings for the Sherman Beach trailhead and the Greentree Park trailhead in Kirkwood, as well as a groundbreaking for the Hamilton-Carr trailhead in Wildwood.

#### **Collaborations and Initiatives**

Significant progress was made during 2004 on developing the Citywide Parks Plan and the Regional Bicycle Facilities Plan. Bike St. Louis, a partnership of the city of St. Louis and The Great Rivers Greenway District, established to make St. Louis streets more bicycle-friendly, continued making significant progress with vertical signage and on-street striping designating bicycling lanes along the first 20 miles of continuous routes.

And, for the second consecutive year, the District was pleased to co-sponsor with Trailnet the "Tuesday Night Bike Rides" series, as well as the "Fair St. Louis Fourth of July Riverfront Ride," with both events growing in popularity among families and bicycling enthusiasts.

#### **In Summary**

The Great Rivers Greenway once again credits all of those citizens, organizations and agencies that have worked tirelessly to apply ideas and engage resources to ensure the success of our many projects and initiatives that span two states, covering an expanse of 1,216 square miles.

We also wish to thank the members of our board of directors for their constant guidance and commitment to The Great Rivers Greenway District and its mission. Special gratitude goes to members of the Citizen Advisory and Technical Advisory committees, whose generous participating and input has been so essential to our progress.

As we move forward in implementing the regional plan, we welcome the challenges and excitement of the next stages of development for The River Ring. And we anticipate with pleasure the continued collaboration with all of our partners – citizens, communities and government agencies – throughout the St. Louis Metropolitan Region.

Sincerely,

David Fisher Executive Director Mike Murray
President of the Board

## **Building** The River Ring: A Citizen Driven Regional Plan

### The River Ring

Because it is surrounded by waterways, the St. Louis region has been referred to as an island, nestled by its rivers and streams. This notion inspired the main concept for the development of what will become the regional, interconnected system: The River Ring.

Historically, the region has been defined by its great rivers the Missouri and Mississippi. Together with the Meramec and Cuivre rivers, the Mississippi River forms a three-quarter ring around the Great Rivers Greenway planning area. By joining these three rivers with the Missouri River through a series of interconnected greenways, parks and trails, the circle is completed, providing access to The River Ring throughout the St. Louis region.

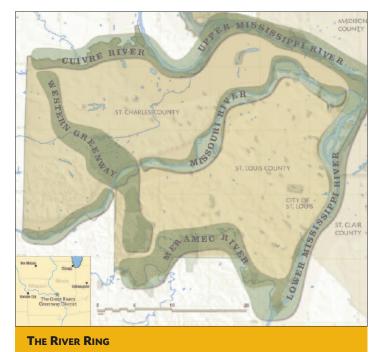
The River Ring itself consists of two key components:

- 1) Greenways of various scales (major, regional, local and neighborhood)
- 2) Confluences of various sizes

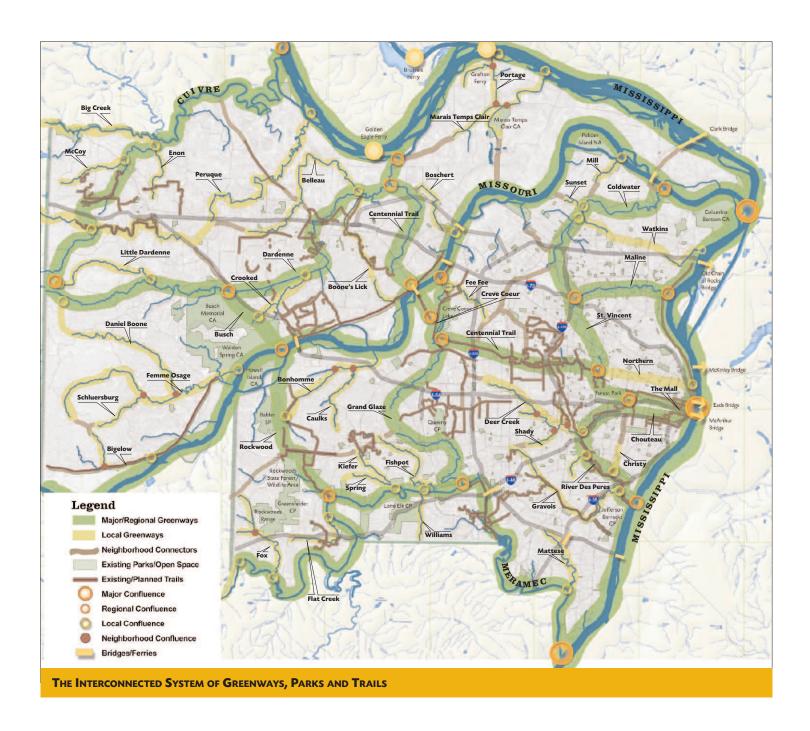
Greenways are linear open spaces that serve a variety of purposes. They are a way to link natural, cultural and community assets to each other.

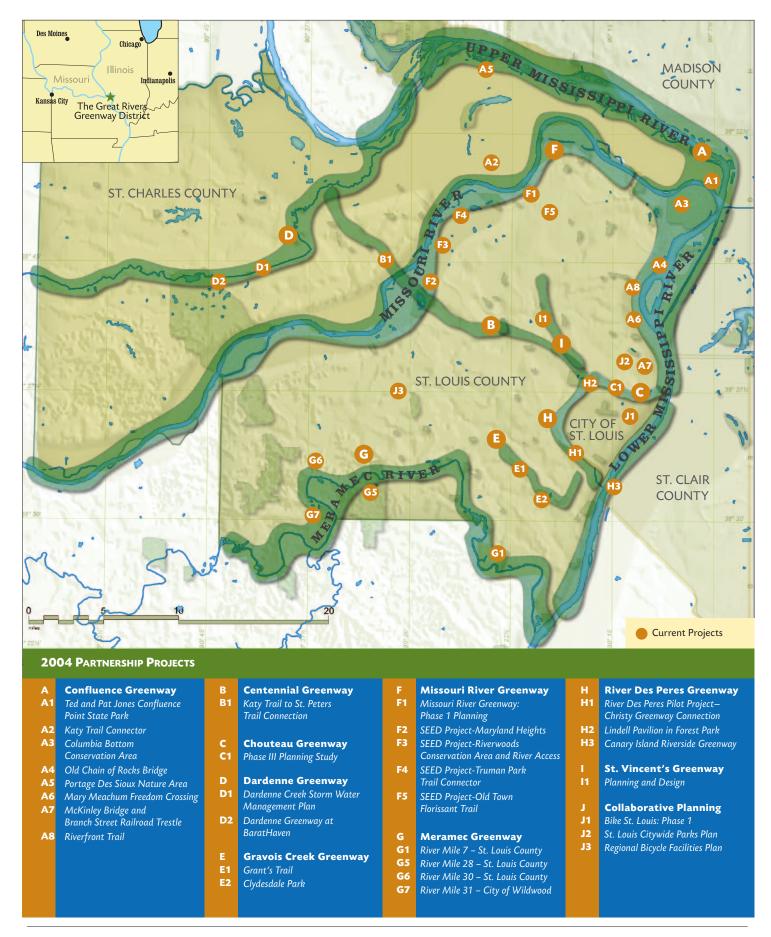
Confluences mark the location where two greenways meet. They provide opportunities for newly developed facilities, including:

- Bicycle and/or pedestrian bridges
- Boat rentals and docks
- Information kiosks
- Interpretative trails with explanatory signage
- Parking hubs
- Picnic facilities, shelters, restrooms, and
- Rental facilities for bicycles



Eventually, a web of more than 45 major, regional, local and neighborhood greenways will crisscross The River Ring. It will link three counties, join two states and cover an area of 1,216 square miles. The River Ring also is linked to the Metro East Park and Recreation District, giving citizens access to a bi-state, regional system.





## 2004 Partnership **Projects**

#### The Current Projects

#### A. Confluence Greenway

Planning for the greenway started in 1997 by a variety of public, private and nonprofit organizations. The Confluence Greenway links the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers to the Riverfront in downtown St. Louis. The planning area for the greenway includes St. Charles County, St. Louis County and the City of St. Louis, Missouri, as well as Madison and St. Clair counties, Illinois. The district conceptually endorsed the Confluence Greenway plan and currently is working on implementing a number of projects.



Ted and Pat Jones Confluence Point State Park

#### A1 Ted and Pat Jones Confluence Point State Park

Partner(s): Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks

Description: Acquisition of 515 acres, increasing the Missouri State Park's acreage to 1,118 acres - located in eastern St. Charles County. In 2003, the district provided funds for a public access road to the new state park. The park opened in summer 2004.

#### **A2 Katy Trail Connector**

Partner(s): Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks

Description: Great Rivers Greenway is working to extend the Katy Trail from its current end in the City of St. Charles to the Machens area in eastern St. Charles County. The district provided funding to construct a by-pass of a scour hole along the Missouri River, which hindered construction of the trail. Work began in fall 2003.

#### **A3 Columbia Bottom Conservation Area**

future expansion.

Partner(s): Missouri Department of Conservation Description: Funding for a five-mile hiking and biking trail in the Columbia Bottom Conservation Area completed in spring 2003. Great Rivers Greenway also acquired 280 acres adjacent to the Columbia

Confluence Trail - Columbia Bottom Conservation Area Bottom Conservation Area for



Old Chain of Rocks Bridge

#### A4 Old Chain of Rocks Bridge

Partner(s): Trailnet, Inc.; and City of Madison, Illinois Description: Great Rivers Greenway provided funding to Trailnet, Inc. for year-round public access to the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge, an important bicycle and pedestrian linkage between Missouri and Illinois. The district also funded structural repairs to the bridge, which will be completed in 2005.

#### **A5 Portage Des Sioux Nature Area**

Partner(s): City of Portage Des Sioux Description: Great Rivers Greenway is working with the City of Portage Des Sioux to construct a 40-acre nature area in eastern St. Charles County. The nature area will allow for passive recreational activities and feature restored wildlife habitats. The nature area will open in early 2004.



Portage Des Sioux Nature Area

#### **A6 Mary Meachum** Freedom Crossing

Partner(s): Grace Hill Neighborhood Services; National Park Service; Whitaker Foundation; and Missouri Department of Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office



Mary Meachum Freedom Crossing

Description: Great Rivers Greenway supplemented federal and private funding for the planning, design and site development of the first nationally designated Underground Railroad site in Missouri. The site is located on the Mississippi River in the City of St. Louis. The site design is targeted to be complete in 2004.

#### A7 McKinley Bridge and Branch **Street Railroad Trestle**

Partner(s): Illinois Department of Transporta-tion; Missouri Department of Transportation; Metro East Park and Recreation District

Description: Funding to create bicycle and pedestrian access across the McKinley Bridge to connect existing and proposed bicycle and greenway projects in Missouri and Illinois. In 2003, Great Rivers Greenway commissioned a feasibility study to determine appropriate bicycle and pedestrian connections.



McKinley Bridge and Branch Street Railroad Trestle



Riverfront Trail

#### **A8 Riverfront Trail**

Partner(s): City of St. Louis; Confluence Greenway Description: Funding for planning and design to extend the trail to the Gateway Arch and to provide signage along the entire 11-mile trail.



Chouteau Greenway

#### D. Dardenne Greenway

Beginning at the Mississippi River, this greenway follows Dardenne Creek 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 Study**

Partner(s): U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; St. Charles County; and cities of Cottleville, Dardenne Prairie, O'Fallon, St. Charles, and St. Peters Description: Great Rivers Greenway provided funds for the Dardenne Creek storm water management plan in St. Charles County.



Dardenne Creek

### **B.** Centennial Greenway

This greenway runs from Forest Park to Creve Coeur County Park and across the Veterans Memorial Bridge to St. Charles County. The greenway continues to its confluence with Dardenne Greenway.

#### **B1** Katy Trail to St. Peters **Trail Connection**

Partner(s): St. Charles County; Cities of St. Charles and St. Peters Description: Great Rivers Greenway provided funds to plan and design a bicycle and pedestrian trail from the Katy Trail to existing bicycle facilities within the City of St. Peters. The new trail will link the bicycle facility on the Veterans Memorial Bridge and provide connections to Creve Coeur County Park in St. Louis County.



Creve Coeur County Park

### C. Chouteau Greenway

This greenway is to restore a link between downtown St. Louis Riverfront and Forest Park. An extension of the greenway will travel south to connect into Tower Grove Park.

#### C1 Phase III Planning Study

Partner(s): U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; McCormack Baron; and Downtown Now!

Description: Great Rivers Greenway provided funds for planning and predevelopment costs of Chouteau Greenway in the City of St. Louis.



Dardenne Greenway at BaratHaven

#### D2 Dardenne Greenway at **BaratHaven**

Partner(s): McEagle Development L.C.; Vantage Homes; WingHaven Residential, LLC; Cities of O'Fallon and Dardenne Prairie

Description: Great Rivers Greenway is developing a park and greenway along Dardenne Creek in St. Charles County. The project will provide public trail connections to residential, commercial and institutional areas within the proposed BaratHaven development and its

surroundings. The project includes the construction of trails, recreational fields, boat docks and other public amenities. The district has committed funds for planning and design of the park and greenway. Construction is targeted to start in 2005.

#### E. Gravois Greenway

Grant's Trail, a six-mile trail system forms the basis for this greenway. The greenway follows Gravois Creek from River Des Peres through portions of south St. Louis County.



#### E1 Grant's Trail

Partner(s): St. Louis County Parks Department; Trailnet, Inc. Description: Planning is underway to extend Grant's Trail to the River Des Peres Greenway. An additional trail extension to the cities of Kirkwood, Crestwood and Oakland is currently pending.

Grant's Trail

#### **E2** Clydesdale Park

Partner(s): St. Louis County Parks Department Description: Great Rivers Greenway provided funding for a comprehensive trail system within Clydesdale Park with a connection to Grant's Trail. The connection will make possible direct access to Grant's Trail from surrounding residential neighborhoods.

#### F. Missouri River Greenway

This greenway is a major component of The River Ring. It follows 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 I Planning**

Partner(s): Missouri Department of Conservation; various municipalities; St. Louis County; other public and private entities

Description: The Missouri River Greenway (Phase I) will parallel the Missouri River from the confluence with the Mississippi River at the Columbia Bottom Conservation Area



Creve Coeur County Park

to the Veterans Memorial Bridge in Maryland Heights. Several SEED projects have been selected for preliminary design in 2004, pending approval by the public sector land owners involved in each project. Construction of the projects will begin after approvals are received and the design is completed.



Veterans Memorial Bridge

#### F2 SEED Project-Maryland Heights

Partner(s): City of Maryland Heights; Howard Bend Levee District Description: Development of a 1.5mile trail along the Howard Bend levee. The trail will extend along the levee from Veterans Memorial Bridge to the north. Ultimately, the trail will parallel the Missouri River for 34 miles. This project will include a new picnic area near Creve Coeur Airport.



Missouri River Greenway

Partner(s): Missouri Department of Conservation; City of Bridgeton Description: Development of approximately 2-miles of trail through the Riverwoods Conservation Area, extending between the western terminus of St. Charles Rock Road and I-70. The district also will construct a picnic area and boat access.

F3 SEED Project—Riverwoods **Conservation Area and River** 

#### F4 SEED Project-Truman Park **Trail Connector**

Partner(s): City of Hazelwood; and Missouri Department of Conservation Description: Great Rivers Greenway is working with the City of Hazelwood to develop a trail through Truman Park that will connect the city of Hazelwood to St. Stanislaus Conservation Area. The project includes a bridge over Aubuchon Creek.



St. Stanislaus Conservation Area

Sunset Park at Missouri River

#### F5 SEED Project - Old Town **Florissant Trail**

*Partner(s):* City of Florissant Description: Construction of a trail from the City of Florissant's Sunset Park, situated on the Missouri River, to Old Town Florissant. An additional trail parallel to the Missouri River will be constructed in Sunset Park.

### G. Meramec Greenway

Great Rivers Greenway is working in partnership with St. Louis County; Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks; the Meramec River Recreation Association; and various municipalities to create and extend trails along the Meramec River. To date, the district has acquired more than 150 acres along the greenway.



Meramec Greenway

#### G1 River Mile 7 - St. Louis County

Partner(s): St. Louis County Parks Department Description: Great Rivers Greenway provided funding to develop a 1.5-mile trail link and a trailhead in Lower Meramec Park.



Meramec Greenway Trail

#### G5 River Mile 28 - St. Louis County

Partner(s): St. Louis County Parks Department

Description: Great Rivers Greenway provided funding to extend the Meramec Greenway Trail one-mile and to construct a trailhead at Sherman Beach County Park.

Description: Planning, design and site development for a greenway along the River Des Peres and the Mississippi River in Lemay, with a connection to Jefferson Barracks County Park.

Greenway

Council



Canary Island Riverside Greenway

### **G6** River Mile 30 - St. Louis County

Partner(s): St. Louis County Parks Department Description: Great Rivers Greenway provided funding to construct a feeder trail from the Meramec Greenway trail to Packwood Park.

#### G7 River Mile 31 - City of Wildwood

Partner(s): City of Wildwood

Description: Great River's Greenway provided funding to develop a trailhead and feeder trail to Meramec Greenway.

#### H. River Des Peres Greenway

This greenway extends from Forest Park along the River Des Peres to its confluence with the Mississippi River. In 1998, representatives from the City of St. Louis; St. Louis County; Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and East-West Gateway Coordinating Council developed a plan for a linear park along the River Des Peres from the Mississippi River to Forest Park. The district conceptually endorsed the plan and selected a pilot project for River Des Peres Greenway.

#### **H1** River Des Peres Pilot Project-Christy Greenway Connection

Partner(s): City of St. Louis Description: Great Rivers Greenway provided funding to plan, design and construct approximately 4 miles of greenway and trails within the Christy Greenway. The greenway will connect the River Des Peres Greenway to existing bicycle paths in south St. Louis City.



River Des Peres

Lindell Pavillion in Forest Park

#### **H2** Lindell Pavilion in Forest Park

Partner(s): Forest Park Forever Description: Great Rivers Greenway provided funding to refurbish the Lindell Pavilion Visitor and Education Center in Forest Park. The Center, renamed the Dennis and Judith Jones Visitor Center, opened in fall 2003 and serves as a major trailhead for recreational users and park visitors.

#### I. St. Vincent's Greenway

**H3** Canary Island Riverside

Partner(s): St. Louis County Economic

This greenway joins the Centennial and River Des Peres greenways in Forest Park. It then continues north to the confluence of the Maline and Coldwater greenways in north St. Louis County.

#### **I1** Planning and Design

Partner(s): St. Louis County Economic Council; various municipalities Description: Funding for planning a greenway from Forest Park to Ramona Lake Park, by way of the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus. Planning to identify greenway corridors and neighborhood connections began in 2004.

#### J. Collaborative Planning

#### J1 Bike St. Louis: Phase I

Partner(s): City of St. Louis; Bike St. Louis Partnership

Description: Supporting the development of on-street bicycle routes linking various business, cultural and recreational districts in the City of St. Louis and initiating local connections to the regional greenway network.

#### J2 St. Louis Citywide Parks Plan

Partner(s): City of St. Louis Description: Use and facilities plan for the City's parks including concepts for linking parks together through greenways, trails and pedestrian routes.



Forest Park

#### J3 Regional Bicycle Facilities Plan

Partner(s): East-West Gateway Coordinating Council

Description: Supporting the development of a regional bicycle plan that will identify routes for bicycle transportation that can tie into a regional greenway system.

## 2004 Financial Report

#### Metropolitan Park and Recreation District d/b/a The Great Rivers Greenway District Balance Sheet December 31, 2004

Assets	
Cash and investments	\$ 18,299,241
Sales taxes receivable	856,932
Interest receivable	105,042
Other receivables	21,776
Prepaid expenses	3,990
Total current assets	19,286,981
Land	14,411,868
Construction in process	1,032,065
Furniture and fixtures	63,981
Accumulated depreciation	(22,882)
Total property and equipment, net	15,485,032
Total assets	\$ 34,772,013
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Liabilities	
Accounts payable	\$ 415,312
Accrued wages and other liabilities	33,438
Current maturities of long-term debt	156,743
Total current liabilities	605,493
Long-term debt, net of current maturities	4,843,257
Total liabilities	5,448,750
Net Assets	
Invested in capital assets	15,485,032
Unrestricted net assets	13,838,231
Total net assets	29,323,263
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 34,772,013

# Metropolitan Park & Recreation District d/b/a The Great Rivers Greenway District Schedule of Revenues For the Year Ending December 31, 2004

#### **Category Description**

Total Revenues	\$ 10,982,706
Miscellaneous Income	9,041
Rental Income	55,104
Government Grants	228,125
Investment Income	469,267
Sales Tax Revenues	\$ 10,221,169

#### Metropolitan Park & Recreation District d/b/a The Great Rivers Greenway District Schedule of Operating Expenses For the Year Ending December 31, 2004

#### **Category Description**

\$ 482,339
433,352
88,230
38,219
10,810
7,542
\$ 1,060,492

## **Metropolitan Park and Recreation District** d/b/a The Great Rivers Greenway District Schedule of Project Expenditures For the Year Ended December 31, 2004

Greenway Description	Project Description	
	River Ring	
Confluence Greenway	Old Chain of Rocks Bridge - Structural Repairs	\$ 555,723
	Old Chain of Rocks Bridge - Public Access/Restrooms	75,104
	Mary Meachum Freedom Crossing	111,591
	McKinley Bridge & Branch Street Railroad Trestle	89,015
	Americorp Trail Ranger Program	83,369
	Riverfront Trail	394,038
	Portage des Sioux Nature Area	23,144
	Ecosystem Study	7,500
	Katy Trail Connector	827
		1,340,311
Meramec Greenway	Planning and Design	291,075
Mississippi River Greenway	Canary Island Riverside Greenway	151,811
Missouri River Greenway	Missouri River Greenway SEED Projects	182,178
	Regional Greenways	
Dardenne Greenway	Dardenne Creek Storm Water Study	177,672
	Dardenne Greenway at Barathaven	154,774
	Planning and Design	6,793
		339,239
River Des Peres Greenway	River Des Peres Pilot Project - Christy	685,877
Centennial Greenway	Planning Study and SEED Projects	41,570
	Engineering Study - Katy Trail to St. Peters	8,545
		50,115
Chouteau Greenway	Phase III Planning Study	29,278
	Land Acquisition	7,546,152
		7,575,430
St. Vincent Greenway	Planning Study and SEED Project	98
	Local Greenways	
Sunset Greenway	Sunset Greenway/Sunset Park Trail Extension	186,376
Shady Creek Greenway	Planning Study and SEED Project	378,703
Gravois Creek Greenway	Clydesdale Park Connector	628,208
	Grant's Trail - Phase IV	26,497
	Grant's Trail - Phase III	11,114
		665,819
	Collaboratives, Initiatives and Other	
Collaborative Planning	St. Louis City Wide Parks Plan	75,000
	Bike St. Louis - Phase I	133,083
	Great Rivers Greenway Signage	43,771
	Programming and Events	29,375
	Website	24,836
	Regional Bicycle Facilities Plan	12,500
	Citizens Driven Master Plan	671
		319,236
	Total Project Expenditures	\$ 12,166,268

#### Metropolitan Park & Recreation District d/b/a The Great Rivers Greenway District Detail of Sales Tax Revenues by Jurisdiction For the Year Ending December 31, 2004

Month	St. Louis County	St. Louis City	St. Charles County	Total
	<b>.</b>	<b>.</b>	h a= 10=	<b>.</b>
January	\$ 443,377	\$ 90,418	\$ 97,197	\$ 630,992
February	739,405	151,984	189,248	1,080,637
March	543,426	142,066	130,957	816,449
April	406,093	89,933	96,426	592,452
May	770,772	178,249	203,704	1,152,725
June	557,654	135,278	139,667	832,599
July	403,517	89,087	100,760	593,364
August	812,547	181,636	214,878	1,209,061
September	556,592	124,721	143,144	824,457
October	374,213	78,211	91,788	544,212
November	713,428	181,849	192,012	1,087,289
December	588,464	125,957	142,511	856,932
Total Sales Tax Revenues	\$ 6,909,488	\$ 1,569,389	\$ 1,742,292	\$ 10,221,169