

THE LOOP + THE STITCH . A GREENWAY FOR ALL

The Chouteau Greenway begins as an east west proposition: connecting green space to green space, Arch to Park, people to people, and to the many assets and resources that make St. Louis unique. But is this one line enough? There are neighborhoods both north and south, and stories of the city, that deserve attention and unearthing, that are crying out for equitable consideration and meaningful engagement.

Our vision begins with a recognition of the multiple narratives of St. Louis that shape its identity. An iconic landmark, a beloved park, nationally recognized universities, biotech, and innovation—these identities are present and strong. But there are others—hidden stories, a neighborhood erasure, histories of racial tensions. This proposal acknowledges these icons and lost histories, gives voice to the myriad of amazing storylines and places that make St. Louis what it is, and assembles and reconciles them into the Chouteau Greenway.

The Loop + The Stitch embodies our intention to promote connection, prosperity, inclusion, reconciliation, innovation, and joy. The Loop links the civic and spectacular icons and histories of the central city, connecting Washington University and Forest Park to downtown St. Louis and the Gateway Arch. The Stitch links neighbors to neighbors and the visitor to the everyday authenticity of St. Louis; it connects Fairground Park and North St. Louis through Grand Center and the Saint Louis University campuses to Tower Grove Park and South St. Louis. Together, the greenway routes build on a set of “social common denominators” (food, water, public space, stories, currency, etc.) that are shared by all despite our socio-cultural and socio-economic differences. In all these ways the Chouteau Greenway inscribes itself into the whole of the city, connecting assets, opportunities, neighborhoods, and people across its rich and diverse fabric.

The Loop + The Stitch are as much about mobility, access, and opportunity as they are about identity and prosperity. Through connecting a vast array of physical resources, this robust green network encourages local growth and translates it into regional activity and development.

The Loop + The Stitch routes are born out of St Louis’ existing assets. Where the **Loop** connects civic icons and current investments, the **Stitch** reaches into the north and south communities to reinforce inclusion and equity. They nest into the existing and proposed Great Rivers Greenway network, extends into these routes and solidifying a greater regional connection for this plan.

The Loop + The Stitch creates fantastic new experiences of the city: watching the sunset over Forest Park from the land bridge over Kingshighway; commuting home from BJC along the techno-prairie at Cortex with lighting that reacts to passing Metro trains; after meeting buddies at the Boys & Girls Club, biking down North Grand, lined by orchards, through Grand Center, SLU, and south of Union Station to the pump track and sports park at Chouteau Landing; riding from a morning market on Cherokee Street north through Grand Junction, to the revitalized Foundry for lunch, a quick stopover at UnderTrestle Park, and a leisurely ride back home down Vandeventer and through Tower Grove Park.

The Chouteau Greenway builds on all of what makes St. Louis great, and re-imagine it as a place connected by opportunity, access, and a diversity of shared experiences. Whether you are a commuter, a bicycle enthusiast, a stay-at-home mom, a teenager or university student, a black kid from The Ville, or a tourist, the greenway opens up chances for discovery, enchantment, and appreciation through the lens of movement.