

2020 ST. CHARLES COUNTY GREENWAY MASTER PLAN PLAN OVERVIEW

Getting to Know The Future Greenways



Project Vision

- Greenways in St. Charles County are completed (not fragmented)
- Greenways are designed for partners (municipalities) to be able to maintain with lessons learned from previous completed greenways
- Greenway locations, destination and designs are responsive to what St. Charles County residents want.
- Greenways are readily accessible to the greatest number of people



Project Overview

The plan began with a vision to utilize community engagement and consensus building in the identification and prioritization of greenway expansion throughout St. Charles County.

This is part of Great Rivers Greenway's overall efforts to connect St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County with a network of greenways - outdoor spaces connecting people and places. The project began in the fall of 2019 and included five phases: **Data Collection, Analysis, Concept Development, Concept Refinement and the Master Plan**. The project's vision and goals were developed in a collaborative effort between Great Rivers Greenway, representatives from St. Charles County and its municipalities (the 'project partners'), and the master planning consultant team. The goals of the St. Charles County Greenway Master Plan are to update the development plan for the greenway network and identify prioritized projects for connecting destinations. The project aims to foster collaboration and coordination among St. Charles County and its municipalities in order to develop successful models for expanding an interconnected regional greenway network.

The Planning Phases

1

Data Collection

This was a multi-faceted approach to establishing an understanding of the existing conditions and community context. Information gathered included demographics, natural resources, cultural resources, transportation infrastructure, existing greenways and trails, previous studies, Geographical Information Services (GIS) data, land use, employment centers, populations of people of color and topography. This phase also included a community survey that allowed the public to suggest greenway connections and destinations.

2

Analysis

This phase included a map-based analysis of the hundreds of potential greenway destinations and connections suggested by the community in the public survey. It also involved the development of greenway evaluation factors, which could be utilized within an evaluation matrix to compare and prioritize greenway options.

3

Concept Development

In this phase, the information collected in the previous phases, predominantly from the public, was synthesized into potential greenway corridors.

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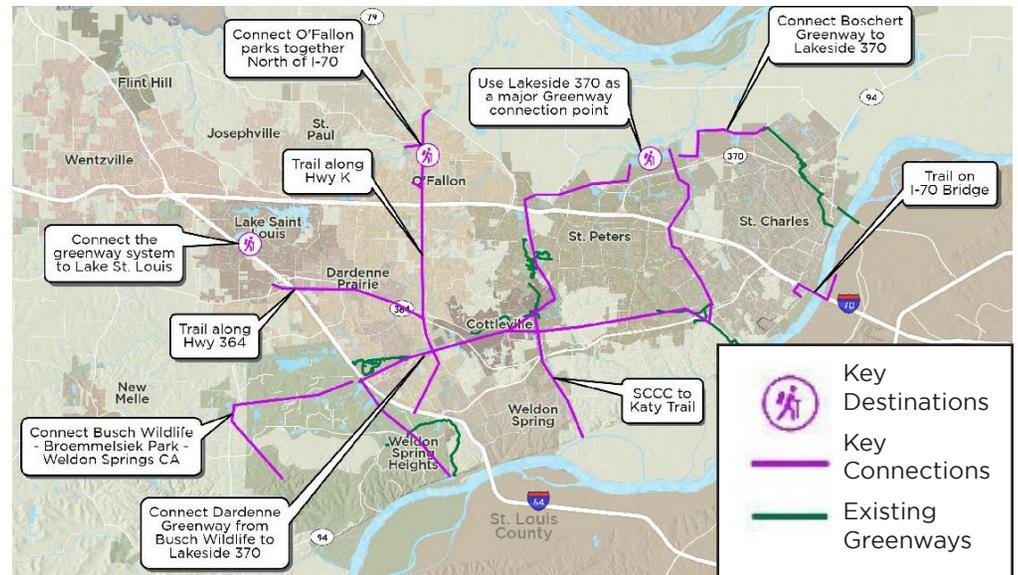
Concept Refinement

In this phase, each greenway corridor was rated using the evaluation matrix developed in the Analysis Phase, resulting in a quantitative ranking that could help establish development priorities. The corridors were also presented to the community for feedback in a second public survey.

5

The Master Plan

In the final phase of the planning process, all of the data collected in the previous phases was compiled into a “greenway profile” for each greenway corridor. The profile summarizes the current state of each corridor, the community feedback and evaluation matrix results, and next steps for moving forward with each concept.



Analysis map of the most suggested connections and destinations from the Data Collection community Survey.

Community Input

The planning process included two online and telephone-based community surveys.

The Data Collection Survey

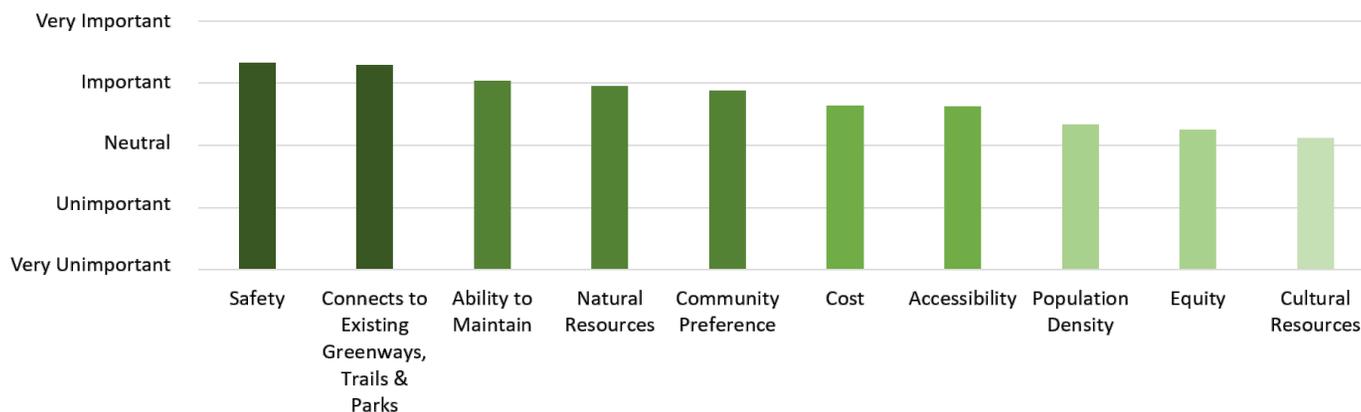
Asked respondents to identify which greenway features and experiences were most important to them, and allowed them to leave map-based comments suggesting potential greenway routes, connections and destinations.

The Concept Refinement Survey

Asked respondents for input on the greenway evaluation factors, the suggested greenway concepts and their priorities for greenway development.

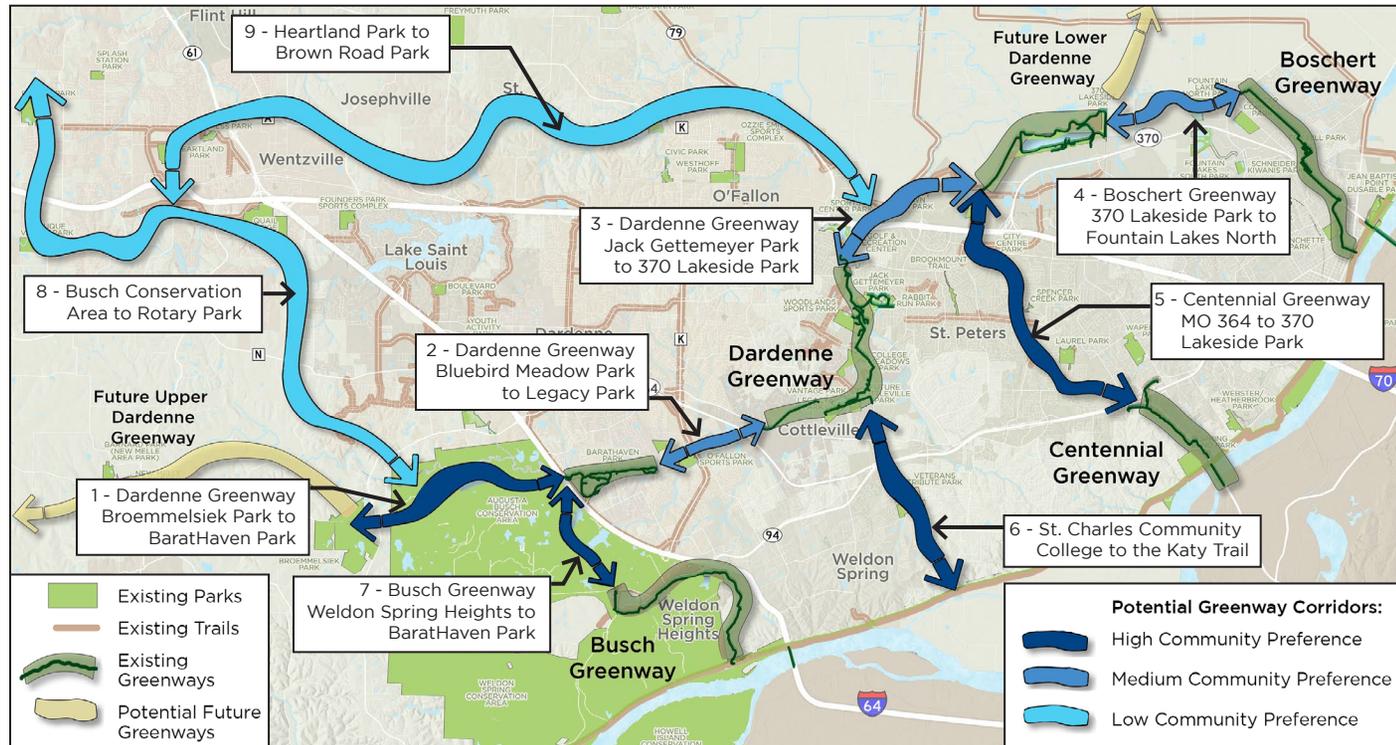
- 1,035** Responses were received to the Data Collection Survey
- 6,000** Project website visits while the Data Collection Survey was active
- 645** Map-based comments were received in the Data Collection Survey
- 1,172** Responses were received to the Concept Refinement Survey

The Greenway Evaluation Factors



The most important greenway evaluation factors to Concept Refinement Survey respondents were safety, connecting to existing greenways, trails and parks, and the project partner's ability to maintain.

The Greenway Corridor Concepts



Community Preference for Greenway Corridors

Concept Refinement Survey respondents provided a rating of their preference for each of the greenway corridor concepts. Community preferences from the Data Collection Survey and Concept Refinement Survey reveal a clear pattern for greenway development in St. Charles County:

1. Connections between the most populous areas of the county to Katy Trail State Park are the highest priority,

- 1 Dardenne / Busch Greenway - Broemmelsiek Park to Barathaven Park
- 2 Dardenne Greenway - Bluebird Meadow Park to Legacy Park
- 3 Dardenne Greenway - Jack Gettemeyer Park to 370 Lakeside Park
- 4 Boschert Greenway - 370 Lakeside Park to Fountain Lakes North Park
- 5 Centennial Greenway - MO 364 to 370 Lakeside Park

- 6 St. Charles Community College to the Katy Trail
- 7 Busch Greenway - Weldon Spring Heights to Barathaven Park
- 8 New Greenway - Busch Conservation Area to Rotary Park
- 9 New Greenway - Heartland Park to Brown Road Park

2. Expanding the Dardenne Greenway through the most populous areas of the county is the second tier priority, and

3. Planning new greenway connections west into future growth areas of the county is the third tier priority.

Corridor 1

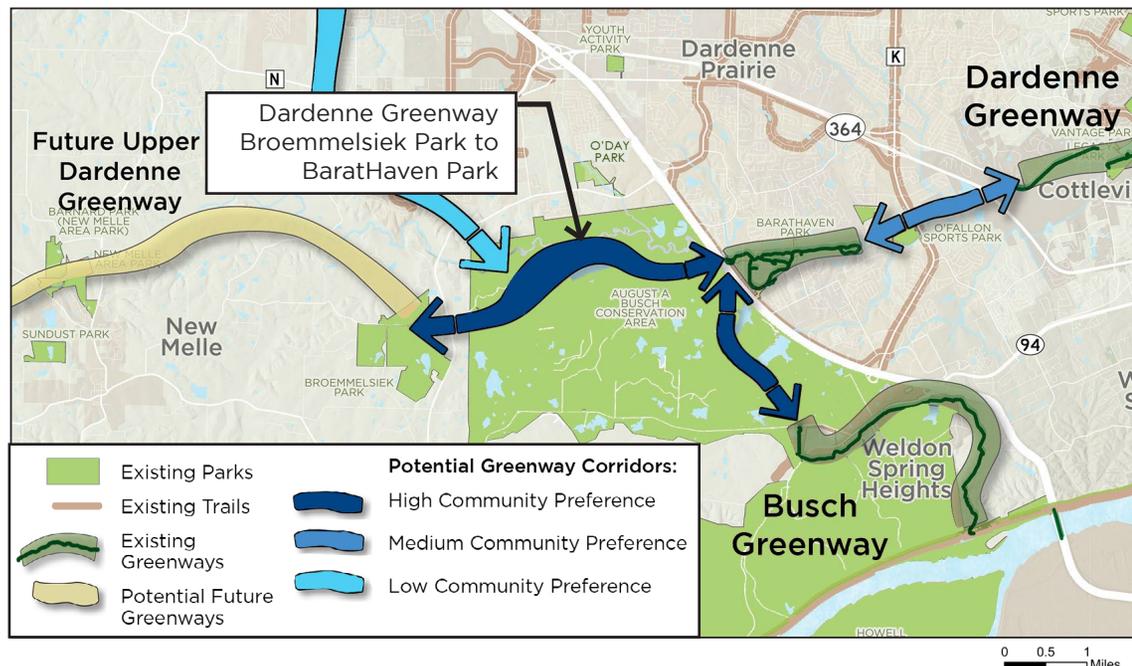
Dardenne Greenway - Broemmelsiek to Barathaven

The corridor runs from Broemmelsiek Park in unincorporated St. Charles County to an existing portion of the Dardenne Greenway within Barathaven Park in Dardenne Prairie. The majority of this corridor lies within the Busch Memorial Conservation Area, providing a scenic natural setting and simple land acquisition. Along with Corridor 7, it could connect to the Katy Trail. The route would require a pedestrian and bicycle crossing of Interstate 64, which would be shared with Corridor 7. This crossing would create a vital pedestrian link between the core of St. Charles County and the regional-sized Busch Memorial Conservation Area.

Implementation Partners: Great Rivers Greenway, St. Charles County, O'Fallon, Missouri Department of Conservation

Next Steps:

- Update the 2008 Dardenne Greenway Master Plan based on new information
- Perform an alignment study to determine the exact route for this greenway
- Create phasing strategies for design and construction in a feasible manner



MATRIX RANKING*: 4th (tie)

COMMUNITY RANKING: 4th

UNIQUE FEATURES:
 Scenic natural setting
 Potential connection to Busch Greenway and Katy Trail State Park

KEY DESTINATIONS:
 Busch Memorial CA
 Barathaven Park
 Broemmelsiek Park
 O'Day Park

*The matrix rating refers to the results of the greenway evaluation matrix that was developed in the analysis phase. The matrix allows each corridor to be rated on a scale of 1-3 for a number of evaluation factors (divided into evaluation categories) that were determined by the planning team with input from the project partners. The score for each of the evaluation categories was averaged into a total score that determined the ranking for each corridor.

Corridor 2

Dardenne Greenway - Bluebird Meadow Park to Legacy Park

This corridor is a key connection between existing sections of the Dardenne Greenway. It runs from Bluebird Meadow Park in Dardenne Prairie in the west to Legacy Park in Cottleville in the east. The corridor would require several creek and highway crossings. Various portions have been implemented since it was originally identified in the Dardenne Greenway Master Plan in 2006. Cottleville has been making incremental additions along Highway N. An exact route for the corridor is uncertain. Currently, the property is unavailable, the route is difficult to traverse topographically, and the area is prone to flooding.

Implementation Partners: Great Rivers Greenway, St. Charles County, O'Fallon, Cottleville

Next Steps:

- Identify interim connections that can create a connected greenway until conditions allow the preferred alignment to be implemented
- Create phasing strategies for design and construction in a feasible manner
- Begin making opportunistic land acquisitions as parcels become available

MATRIX RANKING: 4th (tie)

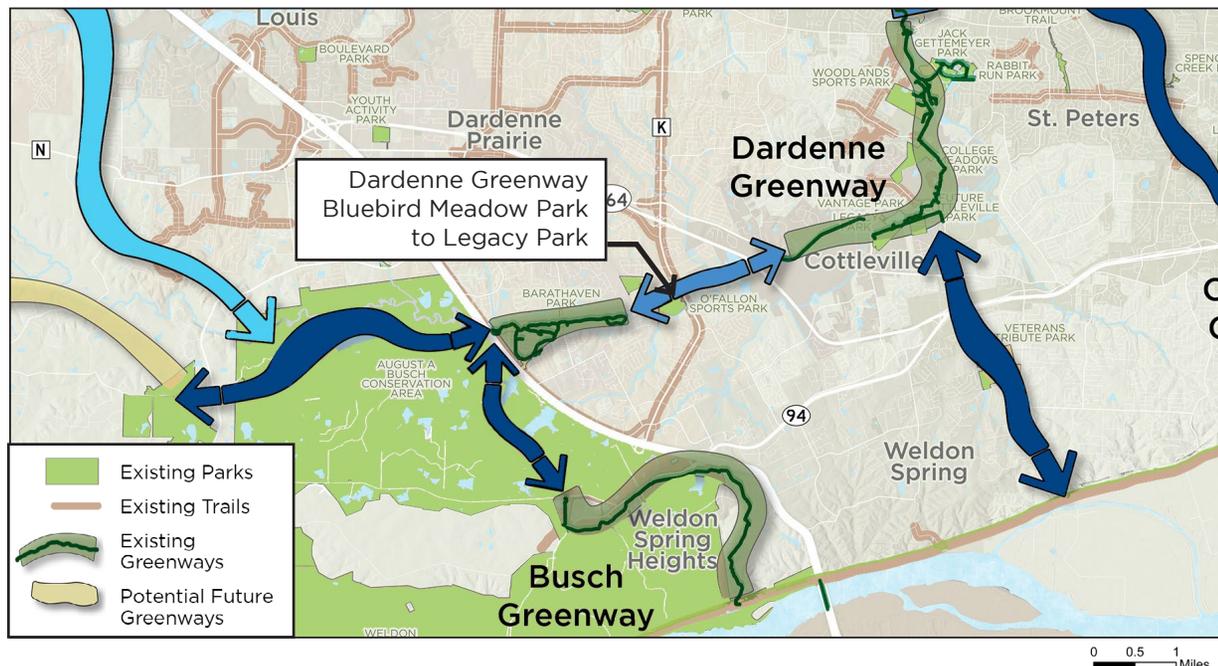
COMMUNITY RANKING: 5th

UNIQUE FEATURES:

Key connection between existing portions of the Dardenne Greenway

KEY DESTINATIONS:

St. Charles Community College
O'Fallon Sports Park
Woodland Sports Park
Dardenne Park
Jack Gettemeyer Park
Vantage Park
Bluebird Meadow Park
Legacy Park



Corridor 3

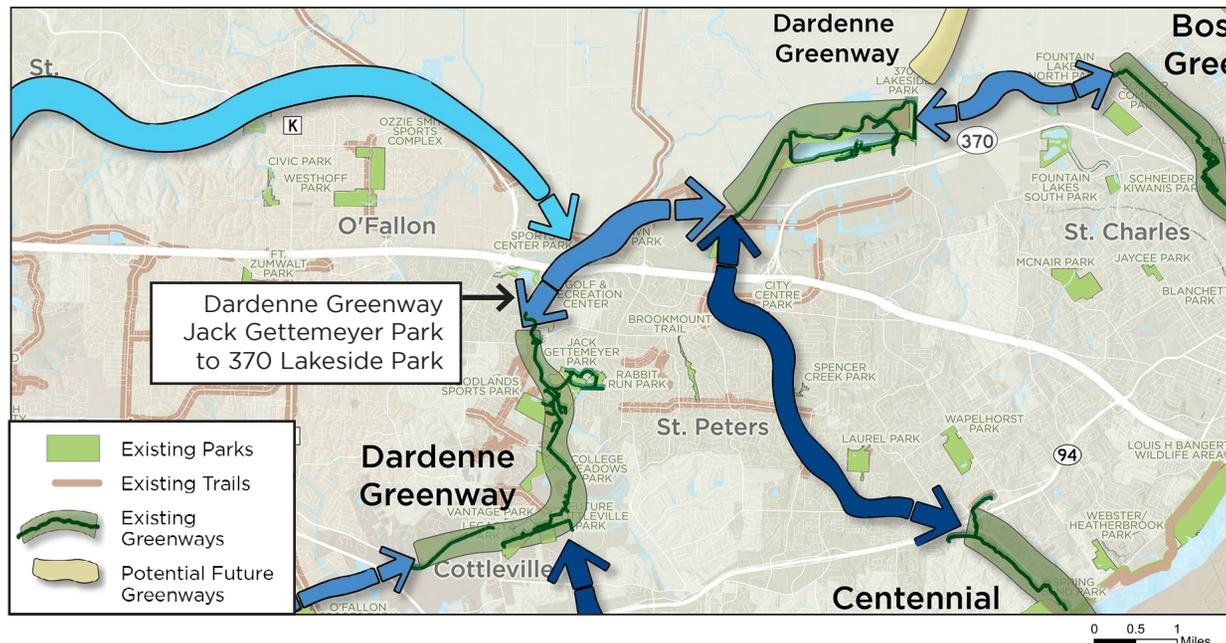
Dardenne Greenway - Jack Gettemeyer Park to 370 Lakeside

The corridor begins at an existing segment of the Dardenne Greenway at Jack Gettemeyer Park (Rabbit Run Park) in St. Peters, then runs northeast, connecting to 370 Lakeside Park. It is a step toward creating a connecting hub for the Dardenne, Centennial and Boschert Greenways. The route may be able to use an existing underpass to cross Interstate 70. Approximately half of the corridor may be able to utilize existing easements through St. Peters parks and the St. Peters Golf Club, and easements along Salt River Road. Conceptual design has been completed for several segments of this alignment. Some construction has occurred that can help facilitate the completion of this connection.

Implementation Partners: Great Rivers Greenway, St. Charles County, St. Peters, University of Missouri Extension, Missouri Department of Transportation

Next Steps:

- Finish design of this corridor between Mexico Road to St. Peters Golf Club
- Identify existing trail routes that could be utilized in creating the connection
- Begin to obtain rights to land and easements that can be utilized for the corridor
- Create phasing strategies for design and construction in a feasible manner



MATRIX RANKING: 9th

COMMUNITY RANKING: 6th

UNIQUE FEATURES:
A step towards connecting the Dardenne, Centennial and Boschert Greenways

KEY DESTINATIONS:
370 Lakeside Park
Jack Gettemeyer Park
St. Peters Golf Club
Brown Road Park
Sports Center Park
Old Town St. Peters

Corridor 4

Boschert Greenway - 370 Lakeside Park to Fountain Lakes North

This corridor begins at 370 Lakeside Park and runs east towards Fountain Lakes North Park to make a connection with the existing Boschert Greenway in the City of St. Charles, which connects to the Katy Trail. It connects to 370 Lakeside Park, which is the only regional-sized park close to St. Peters and the City of St. Charles, and was one of the destinations most requested by the public. The majority of the route would run along the top of the levee to the east of 370 Lakeside Park. The corridor would require crossings of Hayford Road and Hustler Road. It would require several roadway and creek crossings. A preliminary route for this corridor has been studied by the Cities of St. Charles and St. Peters.

Implementation Partners: Great Rivers Greenway, St. Charles County, St. Charles City, St. Peters, Missouri Department of Transportation

Next Steps:

- Review plans by the Cities of St. Charles and St. Peters to create this connection
- Confirm the route this alignment would take and the feasibility of implementation
- Begin making opportunistic land acquisitions as parcels become available

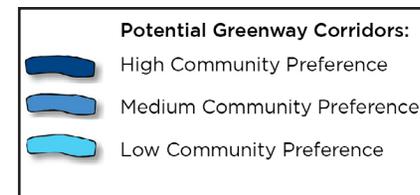
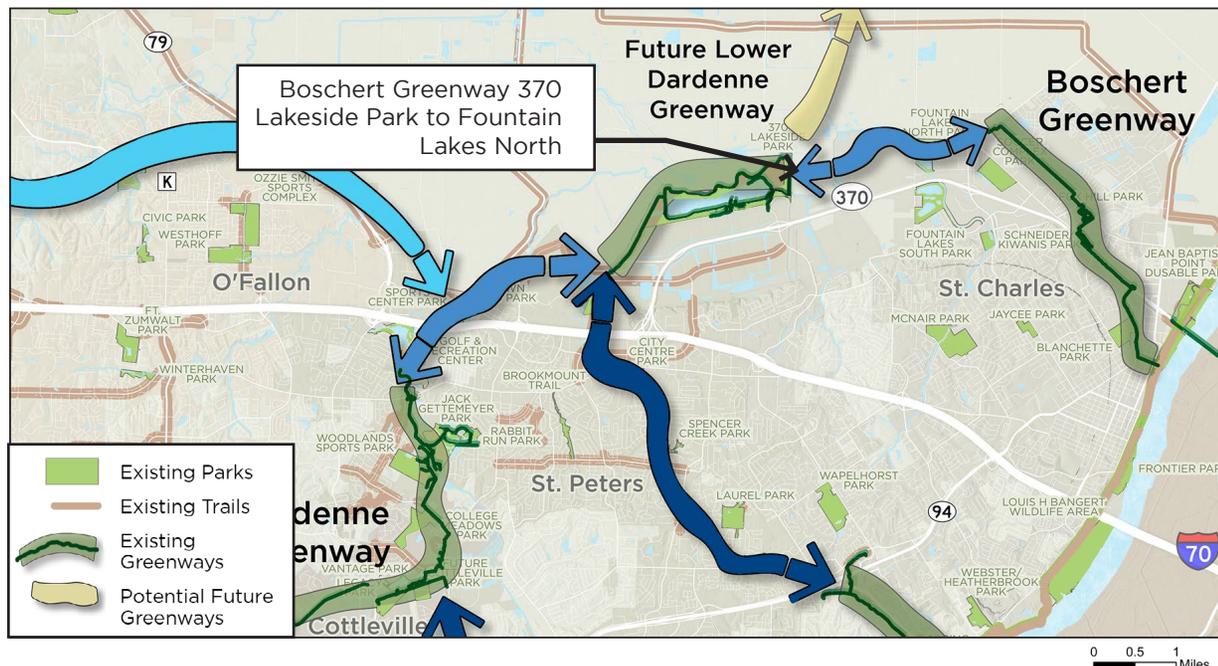
MATRIX RANKING: 2nd (tie)

COMMUNITY RANKING: 7th

UNIQUE FEATURES:
Runs along the top of a levee

Connection is highly requested by the public

KEY DESTINATIONS:
370 Lakeside Park
New Town Community
Fountain Lakes Parks



Corridor 5

Centennial Greenway - MO 364 to 370 Lakeside Park

This corridor begins at an existing portion of the Centennial Greenway in St. Peters and connects to 370 Lakeside Park. Much of this corridor follows the path of the existing Spencer Creek Trail. Upgrading this trail to meet Great Rivers Greenway standards and branding would greatly reduce construction cost and effort. Great Rivers Greenway and the St. Peters are currently designing the connection between the Centennial Greenway and the Spencer Creek Trail. There is a gap in the existing trails north of Mexico Road that is needed to complete the connection.

Implementation Partners: Great Rivers Greenway, St. Charles County, St. Peters, Missouri Department of Transportation

Next Steps:

- Complete implementation of the southern connections of this corridor
- Investigate potential use of existing interstate crossing at Spencer Creek Bridge
- Conduct a betterment study to determine the needs to upgrade the existing trails to Great Rivers Greenway design standards and branding
- Create phasing strategies for design and construction in a feasible manner

MATRIX RANKING: 1st

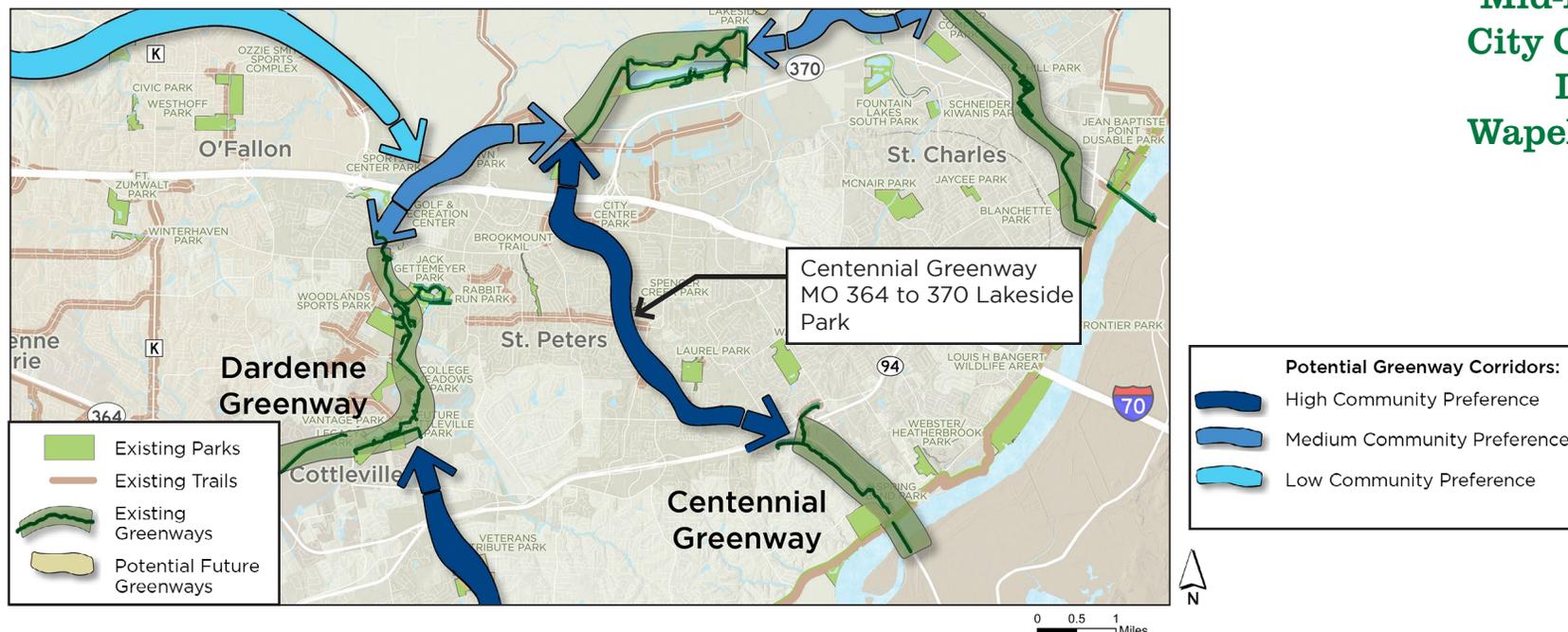
COMMUNITY RANKING: 2nd

UNIQUE FEATURES:

Much of this corridor can utilize the existing Spencer Creek Trail Infrastructure

KEY DESTINATIONS:

370 Lakeside Park
Mid-Rivers Mall
City Centre Park
Laurel Park
Wapelhorst Park



Corridor 6

St. Charles Community College to the Katy Trail

There is strong community support for this connection between the Dardenne Greenway at Vantage Park/St. Charles Community College and the Katy Trail. This corridor follows roadways and would be separated from vehicle traffic. It may require a roadway crossing and bridge over a creek. Some local trails are complete and an existing Interstate 70 crossing can be utilized. The County Highway Department has funding in place to create a mixed-use path from MO 364 to Veteran’s Tribute Park.

Implementation Partners: Great Rivers Greenway, St. Charles County, Weldon Spring, Cottleville, St. Peters, County Highway Dept., Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources

Next Steps:

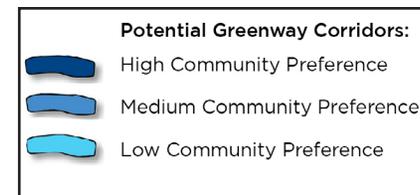
- Create a Greenway Master Plan and engage the public in naming the greenway
- Conduct a feasibility study for implementation of the greenway
- Conduct a betterment study to determine the needs to upgrade the existing trails to Great Rivers Greenway design standards and branding
- Begin making opportunistic land acquisitions as parcels become available
- Create phasing strategies for design and construction in a feasible manner

MATRIX RANKING: 2nd (tie)

COMMUNITY RANKING: 1st

UNIQUE FEATURES:
Connects existing greenways to the 240-mile Katy Trail State Park

KEY DESTINATIONS:
St. Charles Community College
Vantage Park
Veteran’s Tribute Park
Katy Trail State Park



Corridor 7

Busch Greenway - Weldon Spring Heights to Barathaven Park

This corridor would link the Dardenne and Busch Greenways. It runs from Weldon Spring Heights north through the Busch Conservation Area, then turns east to join with an existing portion of the Dardenne Greenway within Barathaven Park. The majority of this corridor lies within the Busch Conservation Area, which provides a scenic natural setting and may simplify land acquisition. The route requires a crossing of Interstate 64, which would be shared with Corridor 1 and would create a vital link between the core of St. Charles County and the regional-sized conservation area, the Busch Greenway and the 240-mile long Katy Trail State Park. Preliminary corridors have been suggested by the Missouri Department of Conservation and O'Fallon. O'Fallon has plans to develop a trailhead near Barathaven Park.

Implementation Partners: Great Rivers Greenway, St. Charles County, O'Fallon, Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Department of Transportation

Next Steps:

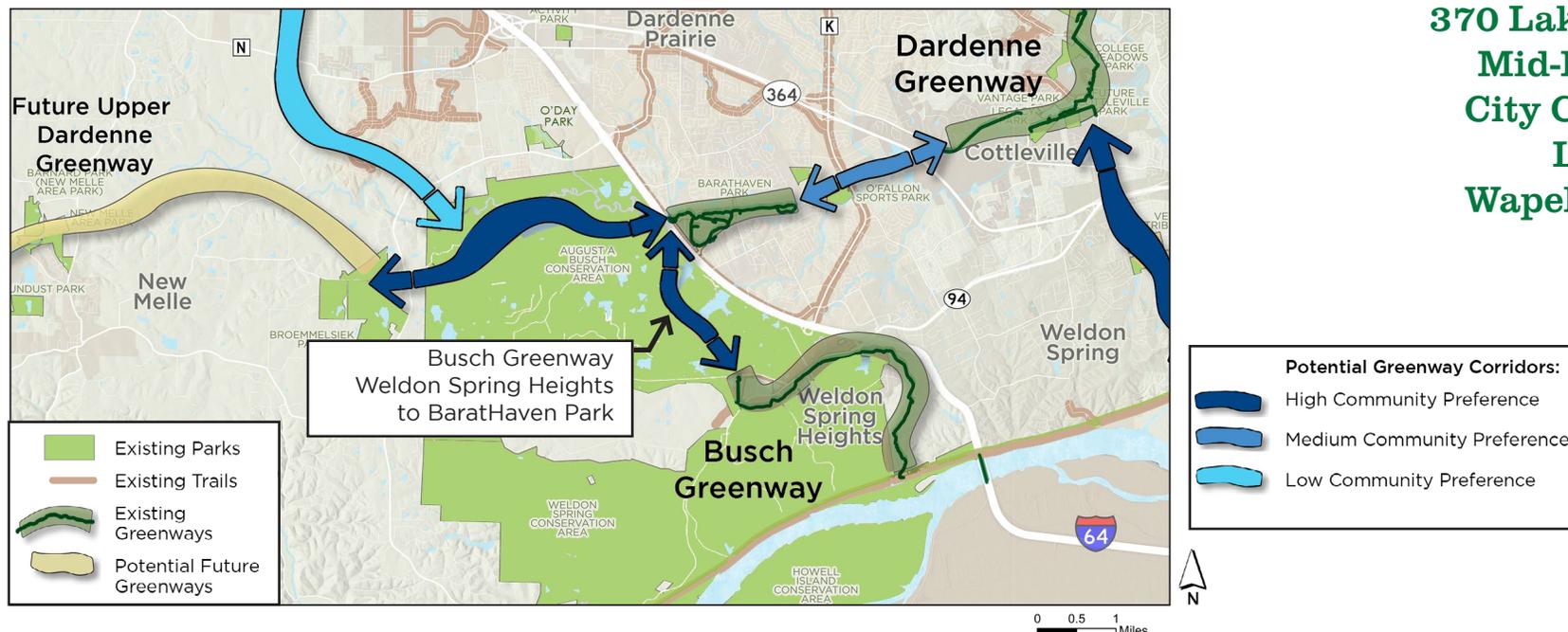
- Conduct an corridor study for this connection
- Create phasing strategies for design and construction in a feasible manner

MATRIX RANKING: 7th (tie)

COMMUNITY RANKING: 3rd

UNIQUE FEATURES:
Scenic natural setting of the Busch Conservation Area
Connects to 240-mile Katy Trail State Park

KEY DESTINATIONS:
370 Lakeside Park
Mid-Rivers Mall
City Centre Park
Laurel Park
Wapelhorst Park



Corridor 8

Busch Conservation Area to Rotary Park

This corridor runs from the Busch Conservation Area, potentially connecting to Corridors 1 and 7, to Rotary Park in Wentzville. This long corridor would add a large amount of trail to the greenway network, but may likely be expensive to construct and maintain. This area of the county is projected to have high levels of population growth; setting aside land now will be easier than when the area is fully developed.

Implementation Partners: Great Rivers Greenway, St. Charles County, Lake Saint Louis, Wentzville, O’Fallon, Missouri Department of Conservation

Next Steps:

- Create a Greenway Master Plan and engage the public in naming the greenway
- Conduct a betterment study to determine whether existing trails could be utilized and identify betterment project needed
- Work with local municipalities to start opportunistic land acquisitions; investigate how local ordinances/Home Builder Agreements can be leveraged
- Create phasing strategies for design and construction in a feasible manner
- Complete the connection between Rotary and Quail Ridge Park

MATRIX RANKING: 7th (tie)

COMMUNITY RANKING: 8th

UNIQUE FEATURES:
This less-developed area is projected for high levels of population growth

KEY DESTINATIONS:
Busch Conservation Area
Rotary Park
Quail Ridge Park
Heartland Park



Corridor 9

Heartland Park to Brown Road Park

This new greenway begins at Heartland Park in Wentzville and runs east to Brown Road Park in St. Peters, creating a connection to between Corridors 8 and 3. This long corridor would add a large amount of trail to the greenway network, but be expensive to construct and maintain. It would require a crossing of Peruque Creek. This area of the county is projected to have high levels of population growth; setting aside land now will be easier than when the area is fully developed. The corridor could utilize some existing trails.

Implementation Partners: Great Rivers Greenway, St. Charles County, St. Peters, Wentzville, O'Fallon

Next Steps:

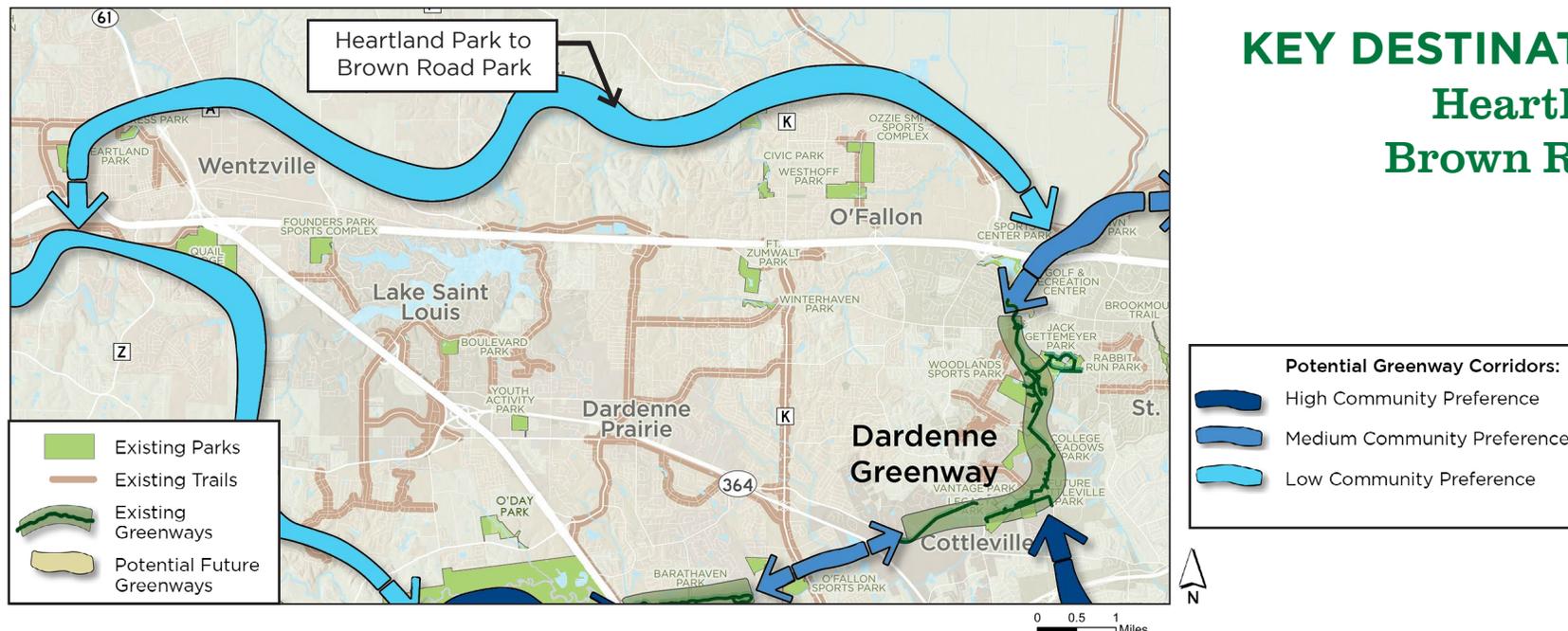
- Create a Greenway Master Plan and engage the public in naming the greenway
- Conduct a betterment study on existing portions of trail that could be utilized
- Work with local municipalities to start opportunistic land acquisitions; investigate how local ordinances/Home Builder Agreements can be leveraged
- Create phasing strategies for design and construction in a feasible manner

MATRIX RANKING: 4th (tie)

COMMUNITY RANKING: 9th

UNIQUE FEATURES:
Presents an opportunity to set aside land for conservation before projected population growth

KEY DESTINATIONS:
Heartland Park
Brown Road Park





Greenway Next Steps

The next step is for Great Rivers Greenway, St. Charles County and the project municipal partners to consider the Greenway Master Plan for formal adoption. This will help to validate the plan and anchor the next steps for greenway development for inclusion in future capital investment budgets.

The implementation partners for each corridor can continue taking steps to move forward with the planning and design of each corridor. Steps can be taken to move forward with all corridors simultaneously. The corridors are currently in differing states of development, and each will continue to develop at differing rates. Moving forward incrementally with all corridors will ensure a continued progression towards accomplishing full implementation of the plan.

Some of the corridors will require further studies to be completed to determine feasibility of completion. Others require a conceptual master plan that can begin to generate community support and gather feedback to help determine a specific corridor route. Incremental land acquisition can begin for many of the corridors, setting aside land now that can be developed into a greenway in the future when property values may be higher due to increased development.

The implementation partners can begin to secure funding through grants, capital investment funds, donations and other means. They can continue to build community support and enthusiasm for the master plan and the completed greenway network. Phasing the plan into smaller projects that can be implemented and opened to the public will build momentum and community support for the plan. This is a long term master plan, but incremental steps will ensure steady progress towards realization of the plan.



Great Rivers Greenway

In collaboration with
Planning Design Studio
The Vandiver Group
CBB Transportation
SCI Engineering