

## ABOUT THIS TRAIL

The River des Peres Greenway takes you along the River des Peres where you can learn about the history of this river and look for all kinds of birds and other wildlife.

**LENGTH:** 3.2 miles from Fultz Field to the Gravois Greenway Bridge and back. You can always enjoy a shorter or longer adventure by exploring a smaller or larger part of this greenway.

**PARKING:** There is a parking lot on River des Peres Blvd. near Fultz Field.

**RESTROOMS:** Located at Fultz Field at the beginning of this route.

## GREENWAYS

Greenways are outdoor spaces that connect people and places. Each greenway is unique and reflects its surrounding community. All greenways have:

- Trails where you can walk, run, ride a bike, push a stroller, use a wheelchair, and walk a dog (on a leash!)
- Conservation projects that restore habitats like prairies, forests, and wetlands and use nature to manage stormwater
- Amenities such as playgrounds, public art, benches, and restrooms
- Connections to parks, neighborhoods, waterways, businesses, and other destinations

To learn more about the 135+ miles of greenways throughout St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and St. Charles County, visit:

[www.GreatRiversGreenway.org](http://www.GreatRiversGreenway.org)

Designed and illustrated by Mike Murawski & Bryna Campbell with Super Nature Adventures.



## RIVER OF CHANGE

### 10,000 YEARS AGO...



During the Ice Age, a wall of rock and ice blocked the Mississippi River and forced the water to carve out a new path. This path formed the river we now call the River des Peres.

What do you think the river looked like when it formed?



### 450 YEARS AGO...

The river was a curving stream weaving through prairies. The wetlands along the river filtered and purified the water. The Kaskaskia and Tamaroa people lived along the river that provided plenty of food and clean water.

What do you think the river looked like then?

### 100 YEARS AGO...



St Louis residents voted to reroute, straighten, deepen, and line the river with concrete and limestone in an effort to prevent dangerous flooding.

The river was also redirected underground in large sewage pipes further upstream. That's how the river has remained for nearly a century.

What do you think the river looked like then?



### IN THE FUTURE ...

Efforts are currently underway to improve this river's water quality by separating the historical sewer and stormwater pipes in the region. Better water quality helps create healthier habitats for plants, wildlife, and humans.

What do you think the river will look like in the future?

## NATURE SOUNDS

1 Find a spot to sit, like on a bench, or in the grass.



2 Close your eyes. Take some time & listen to the sounds around you.

3 How does it feel to stop & listen? Did you experience this place in a new or different way?

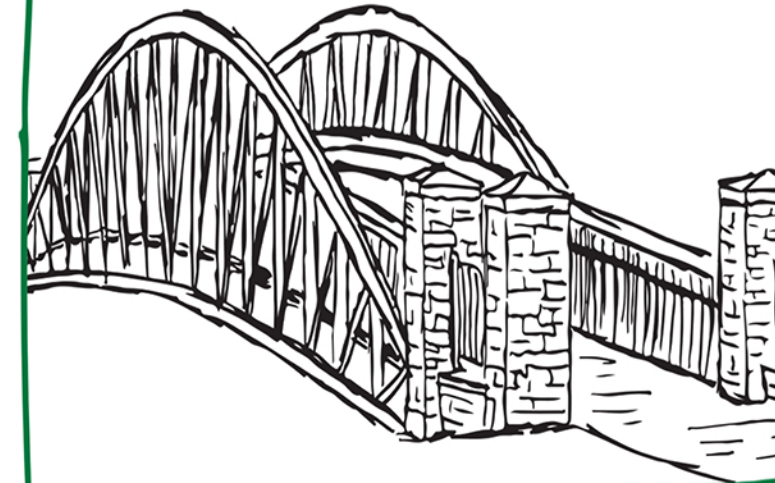
**DRAW** what you think the river might look like 100 years from now.



## GREENWAY ADVENTURE MAP

### River des Peres Greenway

AT FULTZ FIELD



Great Rivers Greenway

For more information and to plan your greenway visit, go to:

[www.GreatRiversGreenway.org](http://www.GreatRiversGreenway.org)

LIVE LIFE OUTSIDE



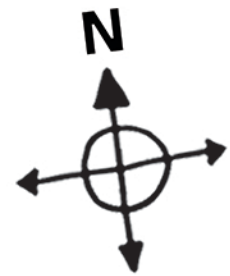
# LOOKING FOR BIRDS

Many birds make their homes along the River des Peres Greenway. Their nests may be on the ground, in a tree or bush, or beneath a structure like a bridge or roof.



WHERE do you see birds along the greenway?

What other insects or wildlife can you see or hear?



## MAP KEY

- River des Peres Greenway out-and-back route (3.2 miles)
- greenway route continues
- parking
- restroom
- bridge

The River des Peres watershed is located on the ancestral lands of the Kaskaskia, Tamaroa, Osage people, and many other tribes who are an important part of the St. Louis community today.

Christy Greenway continues to Holly Hills Blvd.

The River des Peres is French for the "river of the fathers" and is named after French priests who briefly built a mission at the mouth of the river where the Kaskaskia and Tamaroa people lived in the 1600s.

**START HERE**

River des Peres Greenway continues towards Shrewsbury Metro Station and eventually Forest Park

**TURN AROUND HERE**

River des Peres Greenway continues towards Lemay Park and the Mississippi River

Gravois Greenway continues towards Kirkwood

## NOTICING THE RIVER

Take a moment on this first bridge to notice the limestone along the edges of the river channel.

Limestone is a type of sedimentary rock that often has tiny fossils in it.

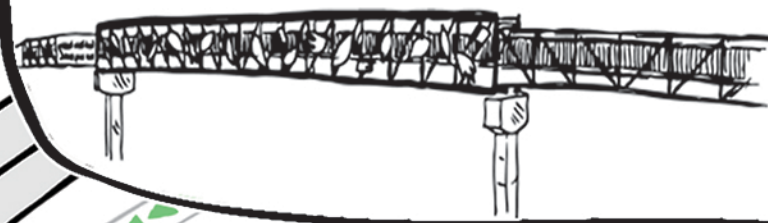
Can you find any other limestone along this greenway?



## WATERWAYS CONNECT US ALL

Our actions impact the water quality in our community and downstream. All of the rain that falls in the 114 square mile River des Peres Watershed flows into the Mississippi River and out to the Gulf of Mexico.

Take a moment at this second bridge to think about the ways you can be a part of the solution for a cleaner watershed.



### Some ways you can help include:

If you see litter on the ground, pick it up.



Plant a tree or rain garden. These help remove pollution from our waterways.



Reduce pollution from vehicles by carpooling, walking, and bicycling more. Encourage your friends to do the same.

