

Metropolitan
Park and
Recreation
District

2002 Annual Report

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Metropolitan Park and Recreation District
1000 St. Louis Union Station
Suite 102
St. Louis, Missouri 63103

*Working for
a cleaner,
greener,
safer and
more connected
St. Louis region.*

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Metropolitan Park and Recreation District - Board of Directors

Anne Zerr, *President - St. Charles County*
Michael Murray, *Vice President - St. Louis City*
David Rosenberg, *Secretary - St. Louis County*
Damon Porter, *Treasurer - St. Louis County*
Richard Ash - *St. Charles County*
Timothy Bolt - *St. Louis City*
Judith Metzger - *St. Louis County*
Pauline Smith - *St. Louis City*
Jeff Wagener - *St. Louis County*
The Honorable Phyllis Weber - *St. Louis County*

Metropolitan Park and Recreation District - Staff

David Fisher – *Executive Director*
Todd Antoine
Glenna Brown
Jennifer Olmstead
Janet Wilding

County Executives

Joseph Ortwerth
County Executive, *St. Charles County*
Francis Slay
Mayor, *St. Louis City*
The Late George R. "Buzz" Westfall
County Executive, *St. Louis County*

Citizen Advisory Committee

*Citizens from St. Louis City, St. Louis County
and St. Charles County*

Alicia Smith - *Chair*
Sabrina Baldwin
Hyatt Bangert
Nancy Bowser
John Colbert
David Danforth
Troy Darden
Clarence Dula
Claire Erker
Sandra Fernstrom
Kent Florence
Michael Green
John Guenther
Alfred Holtzer
Luke Kehoe
Danny Kluesner
Michael Knipp
Janet Matthews
Daniel McGuire
Jim O'Hanlon
Kathleen Puhr
Dave Reed
Chris Reinagel
Lynda Roepke
Leslie Robertson
Jamie Salvo
Jane Schaefer
Charles Schmidt
Lamar Smith
Maurice St. Pierre
Eric Strand
Carol Stroker
Robert Tate
Jason Valvero
John Walendy
Dorris Walker-McGahee

MPRD

A citizen initiative

For the people of the St. Louis region, 2004 has a special resonance. It marks two pivotal historical events—the bicentennial of the Lewis & Clark Expedition and the 100th anniversary of the St. Louis World’s Fair. In 1996, a broad-based public-private effort called St. Louis 2004 began a planning process to revitalize the St. Louis region as a way to commemorate and celebrate the benchmark year.

Among the ideas that emerged was the concept to create the nation’s first bi-state, multi-county park district devoted to developing a regional, interconnected system of greenways, parks and trails for hiking, biking and numerous other outdoor activities.

The idea caught people’s imagination. It was an exciting concept—more green space, a cleaner environment, and opportunities for recreation in a wide selection of natural settings. And to ensure that it would become a reality, a group of citizens under the leadership of the St. Louis 2004 organization initiated Proposition C, the Clean Water, Safe Parks and Community Trails Initiative, which called for a 1/10th cent sales tax to be dedicated to the creation of a multi-county park district. In November 2000, residents approved Proposition C in the City of St. Louis, St. Louis County and St. Charles County, Missouri; and in St. Clair County and Madison County, Illinois.

The sales tax measure ensures that more than \$20 million annually is devoted to developing the regional system of greenways, parks and trails. The proceeds are divided

evenly among member counties and the two new regional park districts that were formed: The Metropolitan Park and Recreation District (MPRD) in Missouri, and the Metro East Park and Recreation District in Illinois. To ensure maximum regional benefit, MPRD works closely with its Illinois counterpart.

In 2002, MPRD initiated projects throughout St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County. Many organizations, municipalities, counties, and public agencies have worked on greenway, park and trail projects and MPRD was able to provide funding and assistance to implement several projects. What was needed was a regional plan that coordinated existing projects and activities and identified future greenway, park and trail corridors throughout the MPRD area.

In late 2002, MPRD began developing a citizen-driven regional plan. The plan calls for MPRD to develop an interconnected system of greenways, parks and trails throughout 1,216 square miles, an area roughly the size of Rhode Island. It is one of the most comprehensive projects of its kind and will lay the groundwork for developing the regional, interconnected system.

It is with a sense of profound responsibility that the MPRD board of directors and staff have undertaken the work of making this initiative a reality.

The benefits of an interconnected system—environmental, social and economic

The establishment of a well-planned system of greenways, parks and trails ensures numerous benefits that result from the creation of a regional system.

Green space is increased and maintained. Water quality is improved through linear greenways and parks. Habitats of

native species are protected. And with an interconnected system of greenways, parks and trails woven through communities, people can work, play and live in a quality environment that nurtures them as human beings.

People are nurtured socially as well. Research shows that greenways, parks and trails are important factors in attracting and retaining residents. In surveys conducted across the country, citizens rank parks and park systems as key elements in choosing a place to live. This is confirmed by a 1998 study by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, which found that people in urban areas who live near green space enjoy a fuller social life and stronger sense of belonging than those who do not. A welcoming network of greenways, parks and trails unites communities, providing shared space and recreational opportunities. These in turn offer the added bonus of fostering physical fitness and healthy life styles.

In addition to the environmental and social outcomes, greenways, parks and trails also are engines of economic development. Similar programs in other regions such as Denver, Minneapolis, Portland and Seattle, show that as linear greenways and parks are established, the adjacent areas experience new development and redevelopment. Property values are increased, neighborhoods are enhanced, and the tax base is stabilized. In addition, tourism is often stimulated, bringing in added revenue to the region.

In summary

We are pleased to present this first annual report to the community, which provides an overview of the projects undertaken thus far by MPRD. Nearly all of these projects are the result of collaboration with and generous cooperation

from other organizations, including state agencies, county and city governments and private groups. We are deeply grateful to all of our partners, who are central to the progress of the past year and to the success of the future. We are eager to continue our work with them as well as to form new partnerships with others in the region.

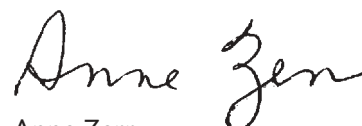
Special gratitude goes to the members of our board of directors, who have given countless hours and thoughtful counsel in guiding MPRD during its inception and early development. Their generous gifts of time and talent are truly priceless. We also are deeply grateful to those citizens who agreed to serve on the Citizen Advisory Committee. Their willingness to act as both representatives and information resources for their neighbors helps MPRD fulfill its commitment to the citizens who created and continue to support this unique initiative.

We look forward to growing progress during 2003 and into the future to ensure that the people of the St. Louis region will indeed benefit from and enjoy a greener, cleaner, safer and more connected region.

Sincerely,



David Fisher
Executive Director



Anne Zerr
President of the Board

2002-Laying the Groundwork

In 2002, MPRD initiated its first citizen-driven regional plan to develop a regional interconnected greenway, park, and trail system. With the guidance and approval of the board of directors, MPRD established a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) to ensure community input. Up to 40 members represent the City of St. Louis, St. Louis County and St. Charles County. CAC members are charged with gathering their constituents' opinions and recommendations for the final plan. Most of the work is scheduled to take place during 2003.

MPRD continued its efforts to purchase the necessary land that will ensure the completion of the interconnected greenway, park and trail system. In 2002, MPRD purchased a total of 634 acres, with acquisitions in the City of St. Louis and St. Louis and St. Charles counties. The District also continues to negotiate with property owners regarding additional acreage that will advance the progress of various greenway, park and trail projects.

2002-Partnership Projects

As an integral part of fulfilling its mission, MPRD is committed to collaborating with public and private entities throughout the region. Several partnerships were formed with state and local agencies, municipal governments and citizen organizations throughout the region.

Bike St. Louis

Bike St. Louis is a recently formed organization made up of elected representatives and staff from the City of St. Louis, MPRD staff, neighborhood leaders and bicycle and pedestrian advocates. The goal of Bike St. Louis is to create commuter bicycle routes within the City of St. Louis. Currently, the group is developing Phase I of the project, which features 20 miles of on-street bicycle routes linking various business, cultural and recreational districts within the city. Bike St. Louis has been reviewing best practices

from around the country to identify appropriate signage as well as locations for bicycle racks and other amenities. In November 2002, MPRD's board voted to submit a Missouri Transportation Enhancement Fund application for construction of Phase I.

Confluence Greenway

The Confluence Greenway is a conceptual, 200-square mile system of linear greenways, parks, conservation and recreation areas along 40 miles of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. The greenway stretches from Downtown St. Louis north to Alton and to the confluence of the Illinois and Mississippi rivers. It then crosses to St. Charles on the Missouri River. Several years ago, a group of public and private entities formed the Confluence Greenway Partnership to develop a comprehensive plan that identified projects within the greenway. MPRD's board has conceptually endorsed the Confluence Greenway Plan and is focusing on land acquisition and project development in several areas.

In 2002, MPRD purchased 119 acres in the Columbia Bottom Conservation Area bordering the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County. The 515 acres for the expansion of the State Park at the Confluence in St. Charles County also was identified as a priority acquisition within the Confluence Greenway. MPRD has begun negotiations on additional property, which it hopes to complete in 2003. Projects that were ready for implementation are now underway, including the Portage des Sioux Nature Area and public access to the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge. Other projects, such as the Missouri River Greenway, McKinley Bridge and Branch Street Railroad Trestle are in the initial planning stages. MPRD coordinates work on this project with the Confluence Greenway Partnership, which has been working on other elements of the Confluence Greenway.

Dardenne Creek Greenway

In 2001, the Dardenne Creek Conceptual Plan was developed through a partnership between the communities within the Dardenne Creek watershed in St. Charles County. A stormwater management plan was recommended prior to moving forward with a greenway, park and trail implementation strategy. In May 2002, MPRD's board approved the Dardenne Creek Conceptual Plan and agreed to begin working with various municipalities, and public entities on the storm water management plan.

The plan is being funded through a cooperating agreement between the Army Corps of Engineers-St. Louis District Office, St. Charles County, MPRD and the Cities of Cottleville, Dardenne Prairie, O'Fallon, St. Charles and St. Peters. The study will commence in 2003, serving as the first phase of a comprehensive study of the Dardenne Creek Greenway.

McKinley Bridge & Branch Street Railroad Trestle

MPRD has been working with officials from the Missouri Department of Transportation, Illinois Department of Transportation, Metro East Park and Recreation District and other organizations to create bicycle and pedestrian linkages across the McKinley Bridge. This important crossing will link several bicycle trails and communities in Illinois and Missouri and will provide communities with alternative transportation and recreation opportunities. MPRD also is working on the Branch Street Railroad Trestle, which connects the McKinley Bridge to Branch Street in the City of St. Louis. The District is exploring the option of converting the abandoned trestle into a bicycle and pedestrian facility to serve as a community connector to the Riverfront Trail and the adjacent neighborhoods north of Downtown St. Louis.

Meramec Greenway

This project is a partnership with the St. Louis County Parks Department and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks. The Meramec Greenway is a 108-mile long corridor that parallels the Meramec River, extending south from the confluence of the Meramec and Mississippi rivers to Meramec State Park and Forest in Sullivan, Missouri. The Meramec Greenway and the Meramec River Recreation Association was established in 1975 to reverse the decline of the lower 108 miles of the river and restore it to the beautiful natural resource it once was. The project has focused on issues such as water quality, additional public lands and trails, removal of flood-prone structures, scenic quality, and recreational and educational opportunities. MPRD is working with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the St. Louis County Parks Department to develop the greenway within St. Louis County. This also includes developing a trail network along the greenway as well as feeder trails linked to adjacent communities and

neighborhoods. MPRD is working with the City of Fenton to build a trail along the Meramec River connecting Fenton City Park to St. Louis County's Unger Park. In 2002, MPRD began negotiations on key land acquisitions within the Meramec Greenway in St. Louis County to advance the greenway and future trail development.

Missouri River Greenway

The Missouri River Greenway will connect the Katy Trail in St. Charles County to the Riverfront Trail in the City of St. Louis. Preliminary plans outline the development of a 34-mile greenway and park system in north St. Louis County through the municipalities of Bridgeton, Florissant, Hazelwood, Maryland Heights, and unincorporated St. Louis County. The greenway will begin at the Page Avenue extension, travel along the Missouri River and connect existing park facilities and conservation areas en route to the Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. The greenway then will head south to connect to the Riverfront Trail and additional trails in Illinois. MPRD's board has approved the Missouri River Greenway conceptually and staff is working with various municipalities and public entities to further define the scope of work.

River Des Peres Beautification

In 1998, a group of entities, including the City of St. Louis, St. Louis County, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District convened to discuss the improvement of River Des Peres' water quality and aesthetics between Forest Park and the confluence with the Mississippi River in Lemay. A conceptual plan (phase I) was funded to study the feasibility of a greenway that extends from Forest Park to the confluence in Lemay. In 2001, the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council assisted with a second plan (phase II) for a continuous bike and pedestrian path as well as for improvements to the interior surface of the river. MPRD's board has endorsed the plan and staff is working with various partner organizations on a pilot project for 2003.

River South Restoration

MPRD is working with the St. Louis County Economic Council on development plans for the River South Restoration project, located at the confluence of River Des Peres and the Mississippi River in Lemay. The District is

developing a conceptual plan for a park and greenway corridor, bordering the River Des Peres and the Mississippi River. A greenway connection will be constructed to link Jefferson Barracks County Park and the Rivers South Restoration project. The plan is expected to be complete in late 2003 and construction to start in 2004.

Lindell Pavilion in Forest Park

MPRD is working with the City of St. Louis Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry and Forest Park Forever to renovate the Lindell Pavilion and Visitor and Education Center. The center will serve as the trailhead for park users as well as provide educational and natural resource information for people of all ages. MPRD provided funding for the restoration of the Lindell Pavilion, which is expected to open in late 2003.

2003-And Beyond

The Citizen-Driven Regional Plan

The long-term goal of MPRD is to develop a regional, interconnected system of greenways, parks and trails that will contribute to environmental improvement, quality of life and economic development for the citizens of the St. Louis region.

During 2003, MPRD is focusing on the primary step toward accomplishing this goal: the creation of a regional collaborative plan that will come together through broad community participation. The plan will guide the long-term work of the District in developing the regional system of greenways, parks and trails.

In December 2002, MPRD launched the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), and is implementing a public engagement process to ensure community and citizen collaboration. The CAC is comprised of up to 40 representatives from St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County. The work of the CAC is expected to continue through late 2003.

To support the CAC's public engagement work, MPRD's board of directors approved contracts with a number of experts in the planning and communications fields.

Metropolitan Park and Recreation District

2002 Financial Report

**Metropolitan Park and Recreation District
d/b/a Great Rivers Greenway
Balance Sheet
For the year ended December 31, 2002**

	<u>General</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
<u>Assets</u>		
Cash and investments	\$ 12,680,499	\$ 12,680,499
Sales tax receivable	838,912	838,912
Interest receivable	108,855	108,855
Prepaid deposits	6,985	6,985
Total assets	13,635,251	13,635,251
<u>Liabilities and Fund Balance</u>		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	89,361	89,361
Accrued wages and payroll taxes	2,300	2,300
Total liabilities	91,661	91,661
Fund balances		
Investment in general fixed assets	-	-
Contributed capital	-	-
Retained earnings	-	-
Fund balances		
Unreserved	13,543,590	13,543,590
Reserved	-	-
Designated	-	-
Undesignated	-	-
Total fund balances	13,543,590	13,543,590
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ 13,635,251	-

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets are different because:

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.

3,555,438

Net assets of governmental activities

\$ 17,190,689

**Metropolitan Park and Recreation District
d/b/a Great Rivers Greenway
Operating Expenditure Report
For the year ended December 31, 2002**

<u>Category</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$ 249,260
Contract Services	223,059
Space and Occupancy	21,382
General and Administration	39,930
Conference and Training Costs	8,853
Travel	10,774
<u>Furniture and Equipment</u>	<u>34,942</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 588,200</u>

**Metropolitan Park and Recreation District
d/b/a Great Rivers Greenway
Capital Expenditure Report
For the year ended
December 31, 2002**

<u>Capital Project</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
Bike St. Louis	\$15,213.00
State Park at the Confluence	\$1,425,963.00
Confluence Greenway	\$2,494,223.00
Dardenne Creek Greenway	\$4,009.00
Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources	\$6,752.00
Lindell Pavilion and Visitor's Center	\$588.00
Grant's Trail Phase III	\$825.00
Citizen Driven Regional Plan	\$17,262.00
Branch Street Railroad Trestle	\$200.00
Meramec Greenway	\$19,626.00
Missouri River Greenway	\$4,090.00
Rivers South Restoration	\$4,190.00
Portage Des Sioux Nature Center	\$5,102.00
Total	<u><u>\$3,998,043.00</u></u>

**Metropolitan Park and Recreation District
d/b/a Great Rivers Greenway
Revenue Report
For the year ended December 31, 2002**

Revenues	YTD <u>Actual</u>
Sales Tax	\$ 10,215,848
Federal Financial Assistance	1,000,000
Investment Income	394,382
Miscellaneous Income	864
Total Revenues	<u><u>\$ 11,611,094</u></u>

Detail of Sales Tax Receipts by Jurisdiction
Metropolitan Park & Recreation District
d/b/a Great Rivers Greenway
For the year ending December 31, 2002

Month	St. Louis County	St. Louis City	St. Charles Co.	Total
Beginning Balance				
January, 2002	\$ 652,073.80	\$ 139,937.81	\$ 163,927.66	\$ 955,939.27
February	428,157.63	80,340.41	95,737.99	604,236.03
March	812,696.49	177,214.83	188,973.71	1,178,885.03
April	584,217.91	156,292.77	134,978.69	875,489.37
May	321,518.54	77,476.92	69,659.22	468,654.68
June	777,599.08	195,417.83	194,121.58	1,167,138.49
July	589,325.91	140,695.83	140,139.53	870,161.27
August	364,084.97	85,682.69	86,399.09	536,166.75
September	805,762.86	188,460.63	203,226.29	1,197,449.78
October	564,893.39	132,794.11	144,186.04	841,873.54
November	378,753.72	80,054.31	90,545.23	549,353.26
December	719,130.15	176,155.44	179,207.94	1,074,493.53
Totals	\$ 6,998,214.45	\$ 1,630,523.58	\$ 1,691,102.97	\$ 10,319,841.00

**Recap of Receipts/Interest/Disbursements
Metropolitan Park & Recreation District
For the year ending December 31, 2002**

Description/Month	Sales Tax Receipts	State Reimbursement	Interest Distributions	Transfer of Funds (Draws)	Balance
Beginning Balance					\$ 5,484,324.34
January, 2002	955,939.27		-		6,440,263.61
February	612,155.27		2,605.47	(100,000.00)	6,955,024.35
March	1,178,885.03		24,690.16	(2,100,000.00)	6,058,599.54
April	875,489.37		31,124.38	(100,000.00)	6,865,213.29
May	468,654.68		13,413.46	(200,000.00)	7,147,281.43
June	1,167,138.49		41,953.62	-	8,356,373.54
July	870,161.27		20,233.72	(200,000.00)	9,046,768.53
August	541,280.92		14,776.13	-	9,602,825.58
September	1,197,449.78	1,000,000.00	35,575.37	(200,000.00)	11,635,850.73
October	841,873.54		41,228.66	-	12,518,952.93
November	549,353.26		31,147.94		13,099,454.13
December	1,074,493.53		74,578.91	(1,650,000.00)	12,598,526.57
January, 2003	838,912.00				13,437,438.57
Totals	\$ 11,171,786.41	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 331,327.82	\$ (4,550,000.00)	\$ 13,437,438.57
Interest Receivable Balance @12/30/02			108,855.00		
Investment Yield 2002			4.349%		