



Great Rivers Greenway GRG #247B

Meramec Greenway

Open House

May 26th, 2026



AGENDA & FORMAT

- Project Team
- Who is Great Rivers Greenway?
- What is the Meramec Greenway?
- Previous Analysis
- Current Feasibility Study Process
- Partnerships & Outreach
- Long-Term Maintenance
- Next Steps

This presentation is intended to provide context – members of the GRG Staff and Project Team are around the room to answer any questions!





Project Team

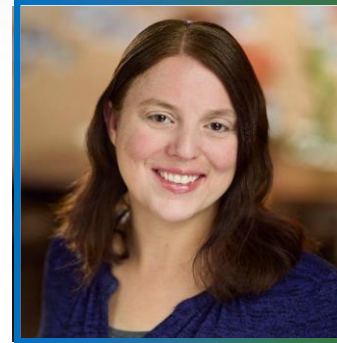
INTRODUCTIONS



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***Great Rivers
Greenway***

Great Rivers Greenway

Who Are they? What do they do?

Great Rivers Greenway is **YOUR** public agency dedicated to building a network of greenways connecting the region.

Greenways are outdoor spaces connecting people & places. Each greenway is unique, reflecting the character of the communities it connects.

- Great Rivers Greenway was established by a voter-approved sales tax in 2000 across St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and St. Charles County to fund parks and greenways.
- GRG manages 140 miles of greenways while maintaining healthy habitats and watersheds.
- GRG works alongside 265+ partners and over 100 municipalities.



Trails



Amenities



Conservation Projects



Connections



The logo is a diamond shape composed of two overlapping diamonds. The outer diamond is a dark green color, and the inner diamond is a bright blue color. The text is centered within the blue diamond.

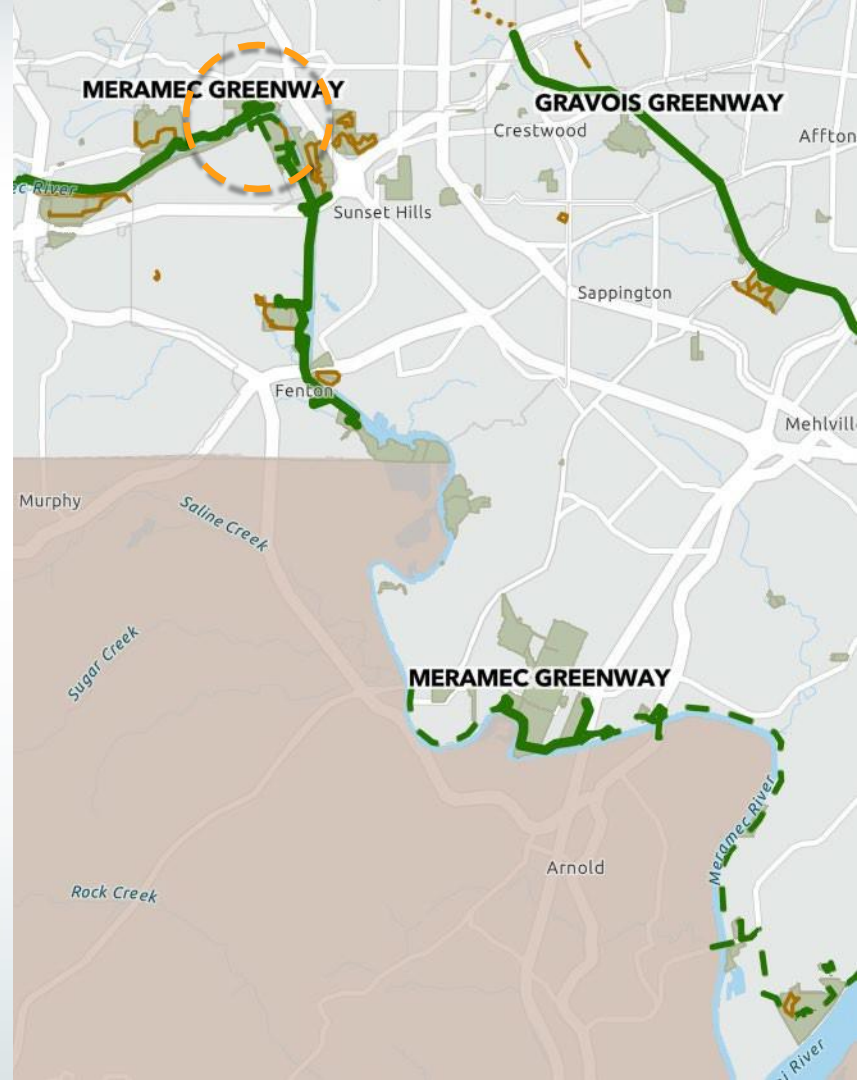
***Meramec
Greenway***

Meramec Greenway

History

Work towards the Meramec Greenway plan began more than 30 years ago with a collective goal of preserving open space and building trails so people could explore and enjoy this beautiful river corridor.

- Plan calls for a greenway stretching 50+ miles from Meramec's confluence to City of Pacific
- GRG has acquired more than 288 acres of land within this corridor



Making Connections

Regionally and Locally

Great Rivers Greenway focuses on making connections:


- Connecting people to places
- Connecting communities to one another
- Connecting the St. Louis region to a vibrant future

The greenways are designed to be an interconnected system that strengthens communities and the region as a whole.

The vision of this segment of the Meramec Greenway is to:

- Connecting regional trails
- Connect two communities (Fenton and Kirkwood)
- Connect two parks (Unger Park and Greentree Park)





***Previous
Analysis***

Timeline

2002 – Now
Meramec
Greenway

- In 2002, Great Rivers Greenway District's board of directors approved the Meramec Greenway Concept Plan
- Since 2002, there has been continued development of the Meramec Greenway along the alignment

2022 – Now
Unger Park
Realignment
Project

- November 2022 – September 2023 - Stakeholder Advisory Group, Public Survey, Community Events & Pop-ups, including to MRRRA in March 2023.
- In 2024 a report was completed, with feasibility study of potential bridge options between I-44 and Highway 141.
- In 2025, a Public Open House was held.

2025 – Now
Connecting Unger
Park to Greentree
Park

- In December 2025, engagement with the Kirkwood City Council and Fenton Board of Aldermen began.



NORTH

Unger Park Realignment Project

2026/2027 Construction



Meramec Greenway: Unger County Park Trail Realignment Plan



SAINT LOUIS COUNTY
Parks and Recreation



REITZ & JENS INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Past Engagement Efforts

Unger Park Realignment Project

Community engagement is central to the process, ensuring that the greenway system reflects the needs of the people it serves.

Public Survey comments:

- “A bridge to access Greentree park and those trails on the other side of the river”
- We “really need another bridge over the river to connect Unger park to Marshall road to the north. Please??”

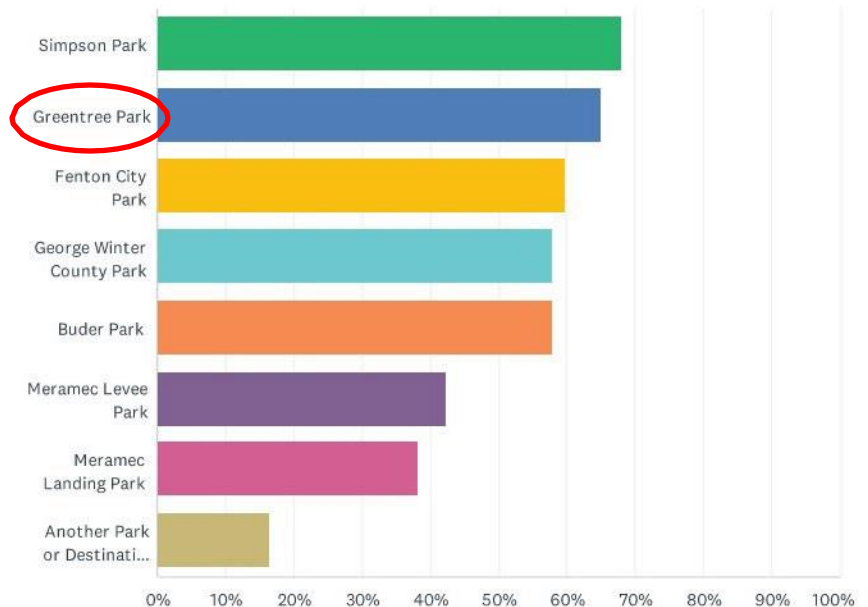
90% Plan Public Comments:


- “I was hoping you would find a way to link the North side of the river trails to the Unger Park/Fenton trails.”
- “I had heard of the possibility of a bridge over the Meramec to Greentree Park. My family would love to see that become a reality.”

Revitalize the Meramec Greenway in Unger Park

Q3 I wish the greenway would connect to: (Check all that apply.)

Answered: 97 Skipped: 3



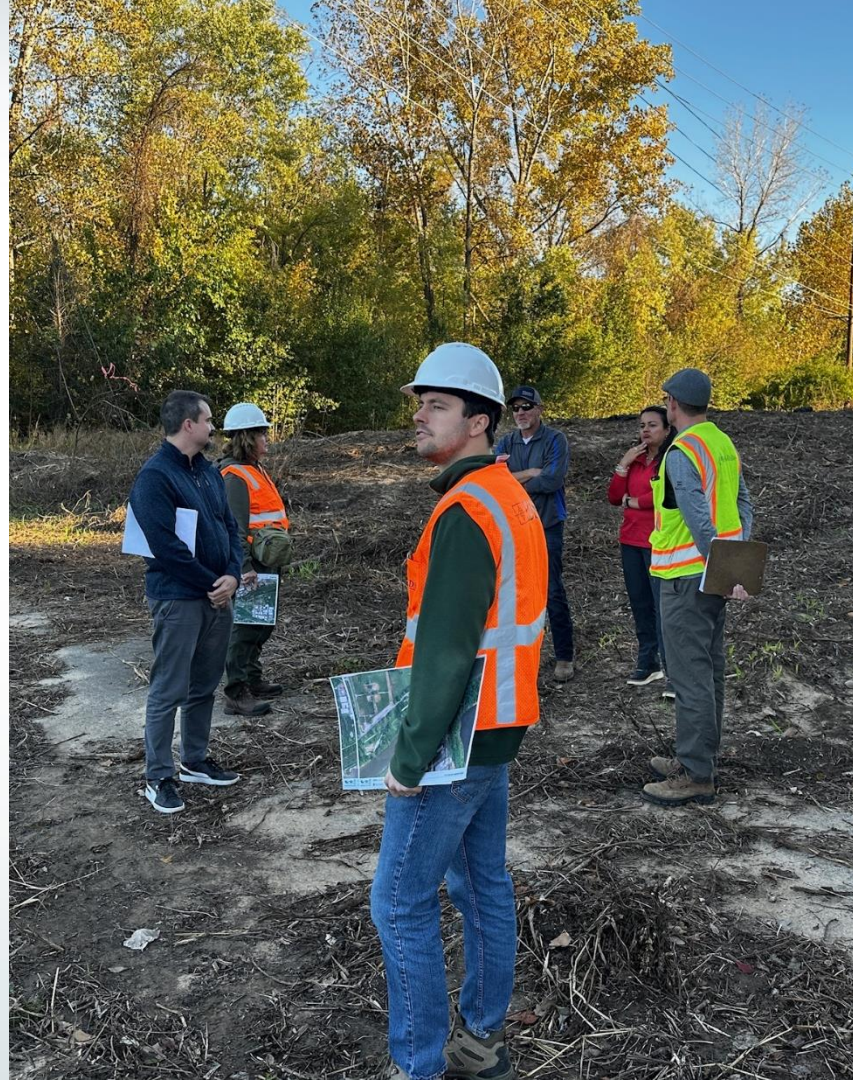


*Current
Feasibility
Study*

What is a Feasibility Study?

A comprehensive assessment of a project to determine if that project is practical, viable, and has the potential for success based on technical, financial, and environmental viability.

It answers questions about if a project can be constructed within physical and budgetary constraints while meeting specific goals.



What is this study investigating?

The feasibility of a walking and biking trail over the Meramec River linking Unger County Park and Greentree Park, including such components as:

- Appropriate location
- Flooding impacts
- Tree removal impacts
- Connectivity
- Surrounding land use impacts
- Park and greenway usage
- Aesthetics



Feasibility Study Process

Project Kick Off

Initial meeting, visit the bridge site, and review earlier studies and community input

Community Involvement

Meetings with city leaders and a decision on whether to move forward, Public meetings and work sessions with Kirkwood and Fenton communities

Research & Site Analysis

Review existing information, create technical site maps, and study ground conditions

Developing the Design

Create initial and refined design options with reviews at each stage

Final Report & Recommendations

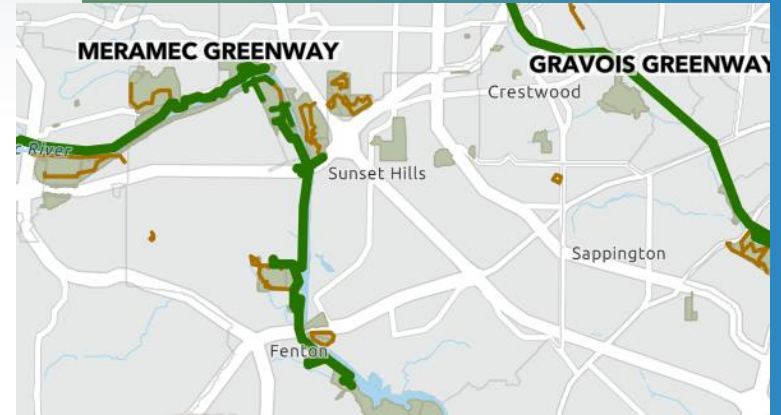
Compile findings, host a final review, and provide recommendations



What else is being studied?

As the planning process continues, we are continuing to investigate impacts on/of:

- Flow of the River
- Erosion & Sedimentation
- Flood Plain Regulations
- Flood Conveyance Bench
- Viewshed
- Existing trees & vegetation on both sides of the river
- Assets in Unger Park & Greentree Park
- Cost Estimate





***Partnerships
& Outreach***

Meramec Greenway

Partnerships and Outreach

Great Rivers Greenway has reached out to or is partnering with a number of entities to develop, connect, and extend the Meramec Greenway for public enjoyment.

Partners include:

- Cities of Kirkwood and Fenton
- St. Louis County Departments of Parks and Recreation, Transportation, and Public Works
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- National Park Service (Land and Water Conservation Grant used for both Unger and Greentree Parks)
- Burlington Junction Railway
- Missouri Department of Transportation
- Nearby residents, businesses, and property owners
- Civic and Cultural Organizations
 - Meramec River Recreation Association
 - Open Space Council
 - Scott Gallagher Soccer Park
 - St. Louis Disc Golf Club
- Existing Greenway Users

Who else should we be connecting with?





***Longterm
Maintenance***

Who handles the maintenance?

GRG works with our municipal partners to develop long-term operations and maintenance agreements





Next Steps

We want to hear from you!

What excites you about this project?

What is important to you about this potential connection?

Who should we be talking to?

The GRG team and Design & Engineering teams are here tonight – let us know your thoughts!

PRIORITIES
What is most important to you?

When considering the location and design of a potential bridge in this area, various priorities and trade-offs are taken into consideration. What is most important to you?

Please dot on each one to display where you fall on each of the priority spectrums below.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT <small>How much do you care about the potential environmental impacts of a bridge?</small>	EASE OR CONFERENCE OF CONNECTION <small>How important is it to you that a bridge be easy to use and/or provide a good connection to the area?</small>
VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE <small>How important is it to you that a bridge provide a good view of the area?</small>	VIEW FROM THE PARKS OR EITHER SIDE <small>How important is it to you that a bridge provide a good view of the parks or either side?</small>
BRIDGE AS A CONNECTION <small>How important is it to you that a bridge provide a good connection to the area?</small>	BRIDGE AS A DESTINATION <small>How important is it to you that a bridge be a destination in itself?</small>

What types of amenities do you think are most important to include in a bridge? (Check all that apply.)

PLACES TO GATHER	PLA
PLACES FOR ART	PLA

Share your thoughts!

USE THIS SPACE TO POST YOUR THOUGHTS, OPINIONS, AND CONCERNS ABOUT THE PROJECT! WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!