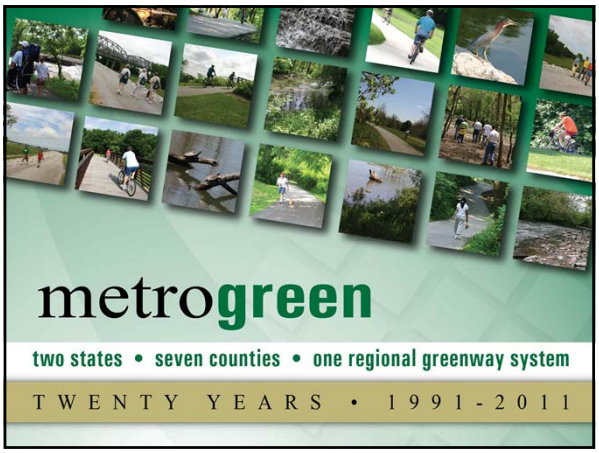
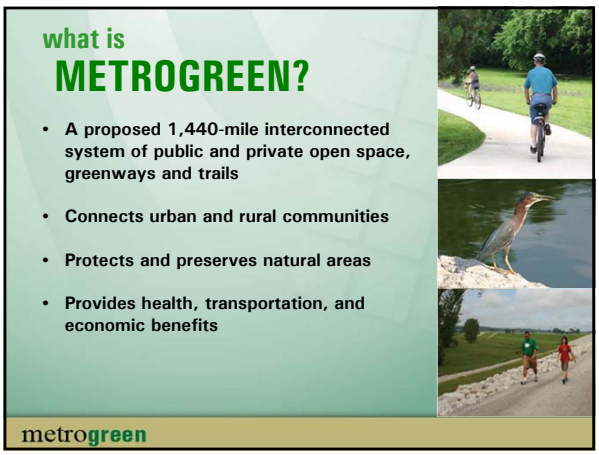

metrogreen
two states • seven counties • one regional greenway system
TWENTY YEARS • 1991-2011

ABOUT METROGREEN®
Marlene Nagel
Director of Community Development
Mid-America Regional Council
metrogreen


what is
METROGREEN?
• A proposed 1,440-mile interconnected system of public and private open space, greenways and trails
• Connects urban and rural communities
• Protects and preserves natural areas
• Provides health, transportation, and economic benefits
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A REGIONAL SYSTEM

Designed to link the seven counties in the Kansas City region

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METROGREEN VIDEO

www.youtube.com/MARCKCMetro

PLAN HISTORY: 1894

- George Kessler's vision of a system of parks and boulevards
- Studied with Fredrick Law Olmsted
- "City Beautiful" movement

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PLAN HISTORY: 1991

- ASLA Prairie Gateway Chapter enlarged Kessler's concepts
- Created MetroGreen, a system of trails, open space and parklands

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PLAN HISTORY: 2001

- MARC expanded the plan
- Environmental stewardship
- Urban growth management
- Future development strategy

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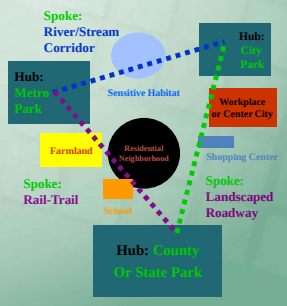
SIMPLE CONCEPT

- "Hubs and Spokes" system
- Hubs of community destination points
- Spokes of stream corridors, abandoned rails and landscaped parkways



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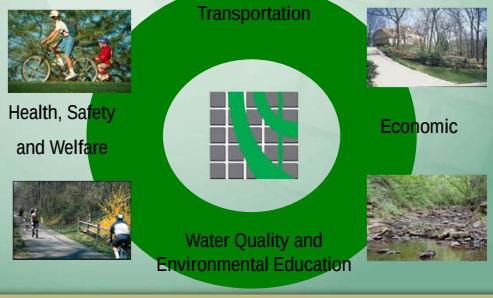
MANY BENEFITS



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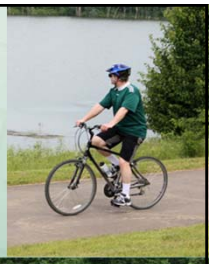
TRANSPORTATION

- Environmentally friendly transportation choices
- Unique experiences not possible by automobile
- Alternative for commuting to the places we live work and play



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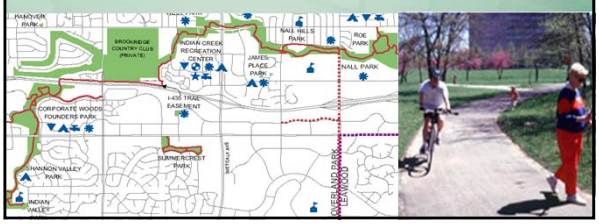
TRANSPORTATION

local example:

Indian Creek Greenway provides connectivity among neighborhoods, Corporate Woods Business Park, shopping centers and public parks



HEALTH

recreational opportunities

- Encourage physical activity
- Mental relaxation
- Connect people to nature

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SAFETY & WELFARE

- Safe off-street access to places
- Increase the visibility in an area (proven method to prevent crime and increase public security)

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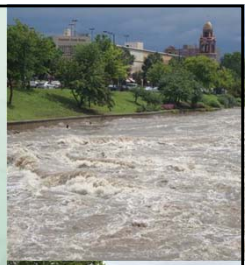
WATER QUALITY

prevent flood damage

- Prevent development in floodplains
- Maintain infiltration capacity of the soil
- Maintain overbank storage
- Maintain roughness



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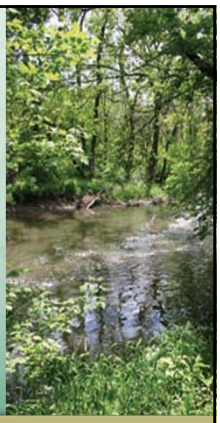
WATER QUALITY

maintain & improve water quality

- Remove pollutants in urban stormwater
- Reduce sediment entering the stream
- Maintain base flow in streams
- Provide tree canopy to shade streams and promote desirable aquatic organisms



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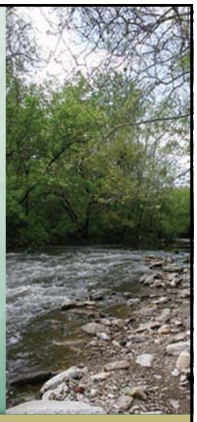
WATER QUALITY

provide stream bank stability

- Prevent erosion by maintaining vegetative cover and root systems
- Maintain natural hydrology
- Allow for natural channel migration
- Reduce municipal costs for maintenance and repairs



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WATER QUALITY

provide habitats

- Maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of water resources
- Contribute to organic matter that is a source of food and energy for the aquatic ecosystem
- Provide corridors for wildlife

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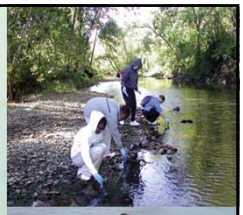
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- Outdoor classrooms
- Stream Teams
- Individual discovery



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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

"nature deficit disorder"

- Term coined by Richard Louv in his book "Last Child in the Woods"
- An unwanted side effect of the electronic age
- A lack of routine contact with nature may result in stunted academic and developmental growth, attention problems, obesity, anxiety and depression

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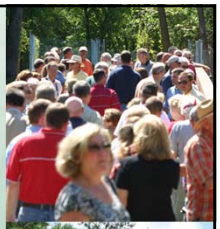
ECONOMIC BENEFITS

business development

- Attracting an innovative, highly educated workforce to our region
- Compete with other urban communities that have an extensive trail system used by residents and visitors



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ECONOMIC BENEFITS

lower stormwater management costs

- Combined public utility with public recreation and transportation amenity
- Increased awareness of the importance of our river levee system

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ECONOMIC BENEFITS

increased property value

- $10,000 or more in Virginia *(Tippett et al., 1999)*
- Values of homes increase as far as 3 blocks from the greenway *(Vince Graham, ION Development)*
- Property values are 32% higher for locations adjacent to a greenbelt buffer in Boulder, CO. *(Correll et al., 1978)*

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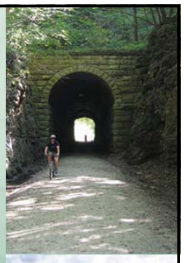
ECONOMIC BENEFITS

increased tourism

- Creating tourism attractions like the Katy Trail in Missouri
- $6 million to construct the 200-mile trail
- Generated over $6 million in travel and tourism expenditures during first full year of operation



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CURRENT SYSTEM

- 85 corridors
- over 200 trail miles completed
- 100,000 acres of protected stream corridors

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QUESTIONS?

Marlene Nagel
Director of Community Development
Mid-America Regional Council

www.marc.org/metrogreen

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PLATTE COUNTY UPDATE

Brian Nowotny
Director of Parks and Recreation
Platte County, Missouri

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NEW PARK PLAN FOUNDATIONS

- Protect our natural resources
- Improve community health and wellness
- Provide safe places for kids to grow and develop

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PLATTE COUNTY: A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute

America's Promise Alliance Winning Community 100 Best Communities for Young People ING 2010

The Trust for Public Land — County Leadership in Conservation Awards

kids count missouri

County Health Rankings Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health

MERIC Trendsights Missouri Economic Research & Information Center

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NEW TRAILS & GREENWAYS

Prairie Creek

Missouri Riverfront

Weston Bluffs

Southern Platte Pass

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USAGE OF PARKS, TRAILS, COMMUNITY CENTERS

PARK / FACILITY	2010 USAGE/PARTICIPATION
Parks & Sports Complexes	**Baseball/Softball/Football/Soccer** Youth League Participants: 7,200 Youth Tournaments: 29 Adult Tournaments: 11
Trails & Greenways	**Visitors by Trail** • Prairie Creek Greenway 110,613 • Missouri Riverfront 101,592 • Southern Platte Pass 100,733 • Weston Bluffs 57,275

Platte County Parks & Recreation

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USAGE OF PARKS, TRAILS, COMMUNITY CENTERS

PARK / FACILITY	2010 USAGE/PARTICIPATION
Community Centers	• North: 4,100 members • South: 11,300 members • Avg. Daily Accesses: over 1,500
Aquatics (The Springs)	67,000 visitors
Shiloh Springs Golf Course	18,261 rounds; 78 events

Platte County Parks & Recreation

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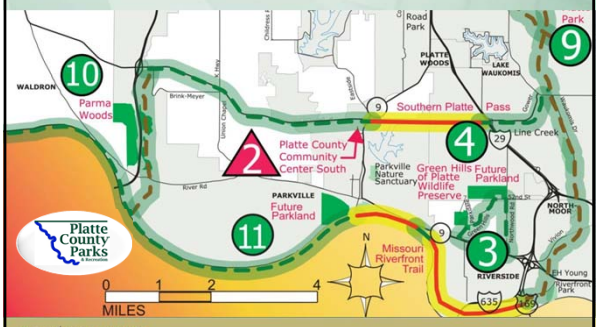
on the drawing board: SOUTH PLATTE COUNTY LOOP TRAIL



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on the drawing board:
TRAILS IN PLATTE LANDING PARK

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on the drawing board:
PRAIRIE CREEK GREENWAY TRAILS

Platte County Parks

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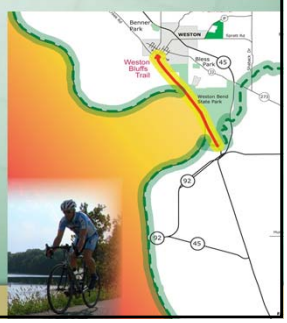
on the drawing board:
WESTON BLUFFS TRAIL EXTENSION TO LEAVENWORTH, KAN.

Platte County Parks



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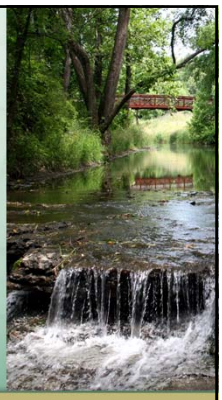
Platte County Parks & Recreation



QUESTIONS?

Brian Nowotny
Director of Parks and Recreation
Platte County, Missouri

www.platteparks.com

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TRAILS KC

KANSAS CITY, MO.

Mark McHenry
Director of Parks and Recreation
Kansas City, Missouri

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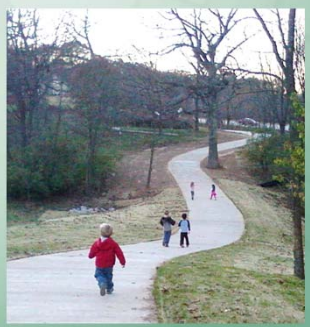
LINE CREEK

- **1.08 miles**
- **N.68th to NW Platte Brooke Drive**



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LINE CREEK TRAIL

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EARTH RIDERS TRAIL ASSOCIATION (ERTA) TRAIL – SWOPE PARK

- +/- **16 miles of planned singletrack**
- **10-year period**
- **Northern end of the Blue-Swope Connector Trail System**
- **old rock quarry grounds**
- **Very sustainable and fast-drying trails**

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EARTH RIDERS TRAIL ASSOCIATION (ERTA) TRAIL – SWOPE PARK

- **Wudchuk Run:** 1.5 miles
- **8-pin alley:** 1.8 miles)
- **Phase Three:** 2-mile beginner loop, .75-mile alternate technical line

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EARTH RIDERS TRAIL ASSOCIATION (ERTA) TRAIL – SWOPE PARK

Example of cities/counties partnering with community organizations

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EARTH RIDERS TRAIL ASSOCIATION (ERTA) TRAIL – SWOPE PARK

HIKING

BIKING

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HILLCREST

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INDIAN CREEK

- 3.77 miles
- State Line Road to 103rd St.
- Locust to the Blue River

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BRIARCLIFF GREENWAY

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BRIARCLIFF GREENWAY

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JERRY SMITH TRAIL

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BRUSH CREEK

- 2.42 miles
- Roanoke to Troost
- Olive to Agnes

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BRUSH CREEK

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RIVERFRONT HERITAGE TRAIL

- 1 mile

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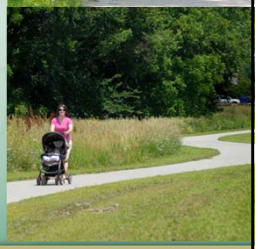
LITTLE BLUE TRACE

- Being extended to entire length of Little Blue Trace Park
- South & west to Lee's Summit Road
- Adds 4 miles for total of 14 miles one way
- Crushed-gravel, mainly flat



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LITTLE BLUE TRACE

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BLUE RIVER

- 4 miles
- Alex George Lake to I-435
- I-435 to Bannister (Design)
- 63rd St to Swope Park Swimming Pool

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BLUE RIVER

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SHOAL CREEK

- 1.5 miles
- Hodge Park Trail
- 96th St. to NE Barry Road

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FORMER ROCK ISLAND R.R. CORRIDOR

Katy Trail Connector to KC

- Funding to complete final design, acquire land and secure the railroad corridor through rail-banking for public control
- Construct 30 miles of multi-use trail necessary to connect Pleasant Hill, Mo., to Kansas City, Mo.
- Construction of trailheads to allow residents to gain access to and use the trail corridor

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FORMER ROCK ISLAND R.R. CORRIDOR

Katy Trail Connector to KC

- Critical link in the MetroGreen regional greenway trails plan
- Links Kansas City to the Missouri KATY Trail
- Important transportation corridor for potential public transit use

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FORMER ROCK ISLAND R.R. CORRIDOR

Katy Trail Connector to KC

- Challenges with road and other public improvements due to ownership of the corridor by Union Pacific Railroad
- Residents along this corridor and visitors to the region will benefit from this project

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TRAILS KC

QUESTIONS?

Mark McHenry
Director of Parks and Recreation
Kansas City, Missouri

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Streamway Parks

STREAMWAY PARKS SYSTEM JOHNSON COUNTY, KAN.

Bill Maasen
Johnson County Park & Recreation District
Superintendent of Parks and Golf Courses

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Streamway Parks

JOHNSON COUNTY PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

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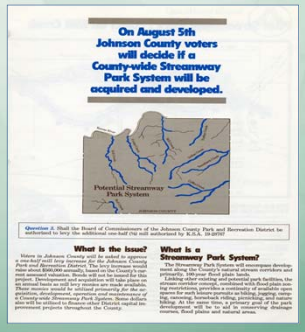
PUBLIC VOTE



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55.7% VOTER APPROVAL

- All municipalities approved the issue
- Only unincorporated areas rejected the question

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STREAMWAY PARKS SYSTEM

Eight major streams:

- Mill Creek
- Indian Creek
- Tomahawk Creek
- Turkey Creek
- Bull Creek
- Cedar Creek
- Kill Creek
- Blue River

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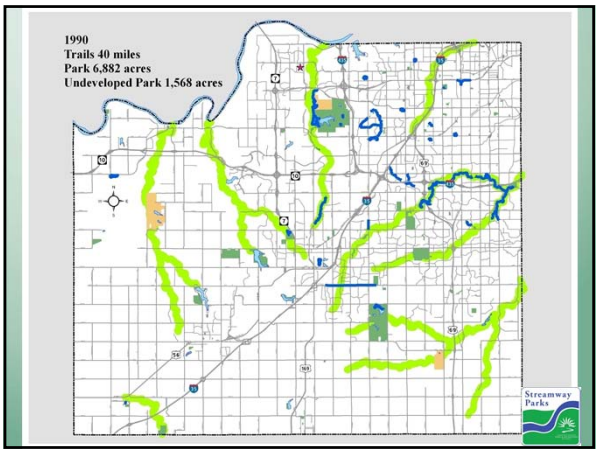
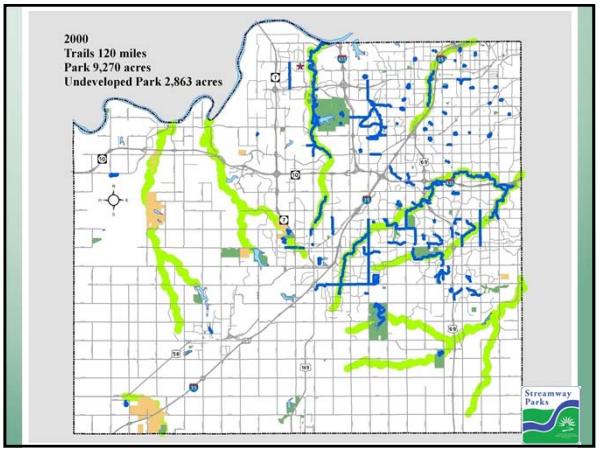
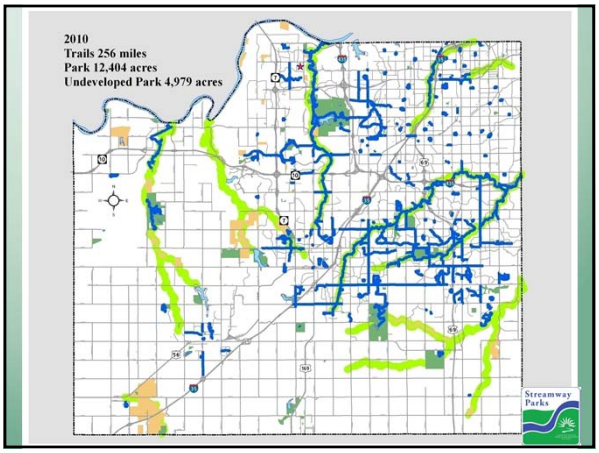

1990
Trails 40 miles
Park 6,882 acres
Undeveloped Park 1,568 acres
Streamway Parks


2000
Trails 120 miles
Park 9,270 acres
Undeveloped Park 2,863 acres
Streamway Parks


2010
Trails 256 miles
Park 12,404 acres
Undeveloped Park 4,979 acres
Streamway Parks

HISTORY

1990 Approximately 40 miles of trails, constructed by Overland Park, Leawood and JCPRD

2000 Approximately 120 miles of multi-use trails

2010 Over 256 miles of paved trails, equestrian trails, single track trails and bike lanes

2011 Trails are being constructed and maintained by JCPRD, Leawood, Lenexa, Overland Park, Olathe, Merriam, Gardner, Shawnee and Mission

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COLLABORATION

- The Streamway Parks funds have been shared with Overland Park, Leawood, Lenexa, Gardner, Merriam, Shawnee, Olathe, and Mission with the addition of Rock Creek
- JCPRD Streamway Funds have been leveraged with local budgets to share expenses on Federal projects constructing Enhancement Projects in many of these cities

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HOME BUYERS SURVEY

Trails ranked second behind highway access when recent home buyers were asked about the importance of community amenities.

The amenities the homebuyers ranked next in importance were:

1. Sidewalks
2. Parks
3. Playgrounds

National Association of Home Builders and National Association of Realtors Survey (2002)

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RESIDENTS WANT GREEN SPACE

" Green space is the hot product today. Now, you open up the new home guides (in Kansas City) and everyone is talking about green space. There is a sizable portion of the housing market to whom trees and land are important, and they're willing to pay for it."

David Gale, Gale Communities

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"We are charged with the duty of developing a plan that shall not only meet present, but future wants. To undertake important work in a half-hearted manner is the poorest economy, it is far better to plan comprehensively and broadly and proceed with actual construction leisurely than to attempt economy in original plans."

- George Kessler, circa 1892

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Streamway Parks

QUESTIONS?

Bill Maasen
Johnson County Park & Recreation District
Superintendent of Parks and Golf Courses

www.jcprd.com

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METROGREEN®: A USER'S PERSPECTIVE

Richard Ballentine and Dr. William Eddy
co-authors,
Hiking Kansas City: The Complete Guide to More Than 125 Hiking and Walking Trails in the Kansas City Area

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HOW "HIKING KANSAS CITY" CAME INTO BEING

- In 1987 Bill Eddy and I set out to find all the hiking and walking trails within a 50-mile radius of downtown Kansas City.
- There was no single source of information available.
- After a year with help from trail sponsors and others we declared victory.
- We discovered 45 hiking and walking trails!
- In 1989 we published a guide to the trails that became a bestseller.
- There have been 5 editions—each describing more trails.

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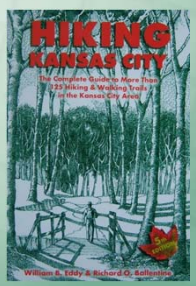
"HIKING KANSAS CITY"

Trail numbers grew in each edition

- 1989 – 45
- 1991—70
- 1995—100
- 2001—100+
- 2007—125+



Fifth edition

metrogreen

THE KANSAS CITY AREA

a great place to...

HIKE **WALK** **and BIKE**

metrogreen

WHAT MAKES IT GREAT?

- Variety of:
  - *Terrains*
  - *Surfaces*
  - *Seasons*
  - *Wildlife, flora, rural and urban sights*
- Exercise outdoors with friends and family
- Safe bicycle pathways for transportation
- Opportunities to explore and experience the metro area

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VARIETY OF TERRAINS

HILLY **FLAT** **ROCKY**

Larry Mattonen Memorial Trail, Jackson County, Mo.

English Landing Park Trail, Parkville, Missouri

Glades Trail, Swope Park

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VARIETY OF TRAIL SURFACES

NATURAL

Eddy-Ballentine Trail, Swope Park

CRUSHED ROCK

Little Blue Trace, Jackson County, Mo.

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VARIETY OF TRAIL SURFACES

RAILS-TO-TRAILS

Prairie Spirit Rail Trail, Kansas

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VARIETY OF TRAIL SURFACES

PAVED

Haller Trail, Johnson County, Kan.

Westboro /Canterbury Greenway, Liberty, Mo.

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VARIETY OF SEASONS

SPRING

Blue River North Trail, Jackson County, Mo.

SUMMER

Little Blue Trace, Jackson County, Mo.

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VARIETY OF SEASONS

FALL

Shawnee Mission Park, Kan.

WINTER

Hollis Renewal Center, Wyandotte County, Kan.

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VARIETY OF WILDLIFE

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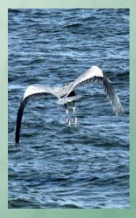
VARIETY OF WILDLIFE



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VARIETY OF WILDLIFE

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VARIETY OF FLORA

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VARIETY OF RURAL AND URBAN EXPERIENCES

Blue River Trace, Jackson County, Mo.

Kaw Point Kansas City, Kan.

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VARIETY OF RURAL AND URBAN EXPERIENCES

Kill Creek Park Trail, Johnson County, Kan.

Triangle Trails path, Kansas City, Mo.

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VARIETY OF RURAL AND URBAN EXPERIENCES

Prairie Spirit Rail Trail, Kan.

Berkeley Riverfront Park, Kansas City, Mo.

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VARIETY OF RURAL AND URBAN EXPERIENCES

Haller Trail, Johnson County, Kan.

Theis Park, Kansas City, Mo.

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VARIETY OF RURAL AND URBAN EXPERIENCES

Overland Park Arboretum, Johnson County, Kan.

Brush Creek, Kansas City, Mo.

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BENEFITS

EXERCISE & FITNESS

TIME WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS

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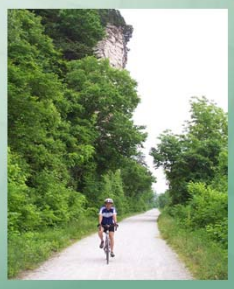
OFF-ROAD BICYCLE PATHS

TRANSPORTATION & RECREATION



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OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE THE REGION

FROM THE NORTHEAST…

Smithville Lake

Little Blue Trace

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OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE THE REGION

…TO THE SOUTHEAST…

Indian Creek

Blue River

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OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE THE REGION

...TO THE SOUTHWEST...

Haller Trail, Johnson County, Kan.

...AND THE NORTHWEST

Prairie Creek Greenway, Platte County, Mo.

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OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE THE REGION

ALONG A RIVER...

English Landing Park, Parkville, Mo.

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OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE THE REGION

...ON AN URBAN ROUTE...

Trolley Track Trail, Kansas City, Mo.

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OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE THE REGION

...AND BEYOND...

Flint Hills annual spring burning

Miola Lake, Paola, Kan.

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NUMEROUS TRAIL SPONSORS

- Cities
- Counties
- State of Missouri
- State of Kansas
- Federal:
  - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, National Park Service
- Private organizations:
  - Powell Gardens, Unity Village, Nature Conservancy, others

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"HIKING KANSAS CITY"

Goal of the book was to provide essential information

- Where the trails are
- How to find trailheads
- Trail length
- Level of difficulty
- Trail surface
- Time it takes to hike the trail
- Water availability
- Handicapped accessibility
- Maps
- Describe the hike

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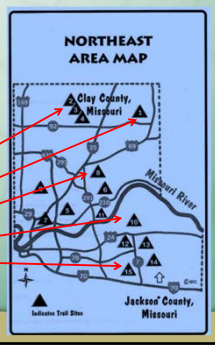
"HIKING KANSAS CITY"

Goal of the book was to provide essential information

- Where the trails are
- How to find trailheads

Quadrant maps show location of TRAIL SITES



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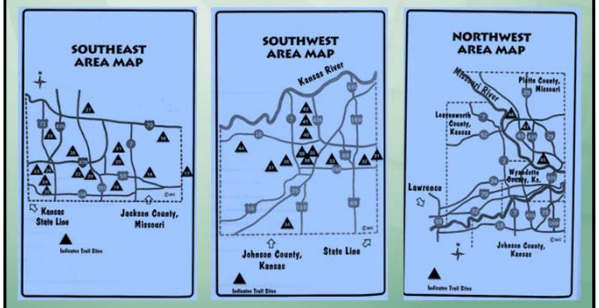
"HIKING KANSAS CITY"



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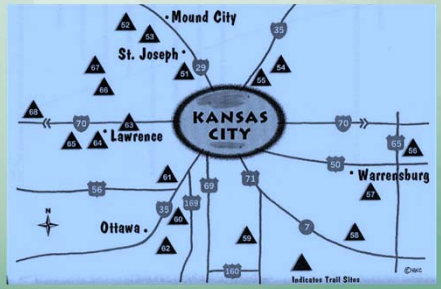
"HIKING KANSAS CITY"

Trails beyond the metro area



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Wherever you live in the metro area or wherever you'd like to explore, there are great trails for hiking, walking and bicycling in Kansas City… and thanks to MetroGreen, more are on the way!

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METROGREEN®: A USER'S PERSPECTIVE

Bill and Linda Eddy (and Chief)

Emily and Dick Ballentine

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METROGREEN®: A USER'S PERSPECTIVE

QUESTIONS?

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two states • seven counties • one regional greenway system
WWW.MARC.ORG/METROGREEN

GREATER KANSAS CITY
NATIONAL TRAILS DAY
SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2011
Complete list of participating communities, events and an interactive map available at
WWW.MARC.ORG/METROGREEN
NATIONAL TRAILS DAY
JUNE 4 2011
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