

The Economic Benefits of Great Rivers Greenway

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The Trust for Public Land's report *Connecting and Strengthening Communities: The Economic Benefits of Great Rivers Greenway* demonstrates the success of the network of greenways in generating social and economic benefits. This summary highlights three analyses that benchmark Great Rivers Greenway's accomplishments.

For the full report, visit www.tpl.org/econbenefits-greatriversgreenway

Great Rivers Greenway generates substantial social and economic benefits and will continue to do so into the future. For example, the network of greenways enhances the value of the residential properties that are located in close proximity to the network of greenways. These amenities also strengthen quality of life, attract employees and employers, and bolster economic opportunity. In addition, Great Rivers Greenway builds on and enhances the district's parks, providing important park and greenway access to residents.

Enhancing property values

The network of greenways increases the value of nearby residential properties because people like

living close to these amenities and are willing to pay for the opportunity.

- Greenways add a 5 percent premium to the market value of neighboring properties.
- The network of greenways enhances the value of nearby residential properties by \$62.8 million.

Strengthening quality of life and bolstering economic development

The network of greenways bolsters economic development and business activity. Greenways are scenic amenities that provide diverse leisure opportunities, enhance quality of life, and provide safe and enjoyable means of alternative transportation to work, school and other activities. This enhanced quality of life attracts talent, employers, and investment to the region.

- Tourists visit greenways, parks, and trails in St. Louis to participate in a wide variety of activities.
- Greenway activities generate economic activity and support businesses, including those that sell related equipment and provide food and drink near the greenway.
- Greenways enrich the quality of life in the region, attracting and retaining residents, drawing businesses interested in recruiting the best workers, and propelling innovation.
- Great Rivers Greenway directly impacts the local and regional economy through its work designing, engineering, and constructing greenways. The spending necessary to

complete these projects has implications in the local economy because supplies need to be purchased and people need to be hired to complete the tasks.

Providing greenway and park access

The network of greenways provide, and will continue to improve, essential access to parks and trails for enjoyment, recreation, physical activity, and transportation.

- Over 50 percent of the population is within a 10 minute walk of greenways and parks.
- Nearly 90 percent of the population is within an easy, one-and-a-half mile bicycle ride.
- The full report identifies underserved communities in need of walking and biking access to parks and greenways.

Great Rivers Greenway, a regional parks and trails district, was created in 2000 when the residents of St. Charles County, St. Louis City, and St. Louis County approved Proposition C. Great Rivers Greenway currently manages approximately 110 miles of trails across its 1,200 square mile district.

Source: The Trust for Public Land, *Connecting and Strengthening Communities: The Economic Value of Great Rivers Greenway* (2016). For the full report, visit www.tpl.org/econbenefits-greatriversgreenway

This Trust for Public Land report was completed in partnership with Great Rivers Greenway.

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creates parks and protects
land for people, ensuring
healthy, livable communities for
generations to come.

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