

## GREAT RIVERS GREENWAY CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF CONNECTING ST. LOUIS, ONE MILE AT A TIME

BY ABBY WOJCIK

Great Rivers Greenway acknowledged its 25th anniversary in 2025, marking a quarter century of building greenways that connect neighborhoods, improve traffic safety and enhance natural habitats across St. Louis.

More than 140 miles of greenways now cross the greater St. Louis region, with several projects currently under construction or in the late-planning stages.

The largest Greenway initiative underway is the Brickline Greenway, a vision to connect the city's most treasured places and up to 17 neighborhoods with a network of up to 20 miles of greenways, ultimately linking Forest Park to the Gateway Arch, Fairground Park, Tower Grove Park and hundreds of destinations in between.

"What I love about Great Rivers Greenway is that we do what we say we're going to do. We get things done," said Anne Milford, communications director at Great Rivers Greenway.

At Harris-Stowe State University, the 0.85-mile segment along Market Street from Compton Avenue to 22nd Street at Energizer Park (the home of St. Louis CITY SC), is almost complete. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for April 13.

This greenway includes two art exhibits: an extension of the Pillars of the Valley installations from Damon Davis and a mural honoring the St. Louis Stars world champion baseball team. The mural was done by local artists from St. Louis Art-Works with teen apprentices.

Davis' Pillars of the Valley also are



This mural on Market Street honors the St. Louis Stars world champion baseball team and the community members who supported them.

seen outside Energizer Park. These permanent installations commemorate the Mill Creek Valley neighborhood, which was destroyed, displacing 20,000 Black residents in the name of "urban renewal." Each pillar includes a quote from someone who lived in the neighborhood. An exhibit at the St. Louis History Museum explores all facets of the historic Mill Creek community. It is open through July 12.

Another 1.8-mile greenway section is under construction on Vandeventer Avenue, led by the City of St. Louis in partnership with Great Rivers Greenway. This protected cyclist and pedestrian walkway will link Tower Grove Park with the Cortex District, while easily bridging the neighborhoods of Forest Park Southeast, Botanical Heights and Shaw.

Furthermore, the Deer Creek Greenway from Brentwood to Tilles Park will break ground in Maple-

wood this month. The project will extend the greenway from Lorraine Davis Park in Webster Groves and Brentwood Park through Rock Hill to St. Louis County's Tilles Park in Ladue. It will all connect to Ladue's new shared-use path near Interstate 64 and Clayton Road, with an ultimate connection to Horton Watkins High School.

"We're really linking together all these arts and educational and cultural districts and neighborhoods with this Brickline Greenway," Milford said.

A future route near the CWE neighborhood is in the planning and development stage. Known as the Hodiament Greenway, the 3.5-mile stretch will be built in Gwen Giles Park at the intersection of the Hodiament Tracks and Hodiament Avenue near North Skinker. Residents can look forward to an

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Mural on Market Street honoring the St. Louis Stars world champion baseball team and the community members who supported them.




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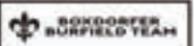
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 Commission meetings are held regularly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month at 7:30 a.m.  
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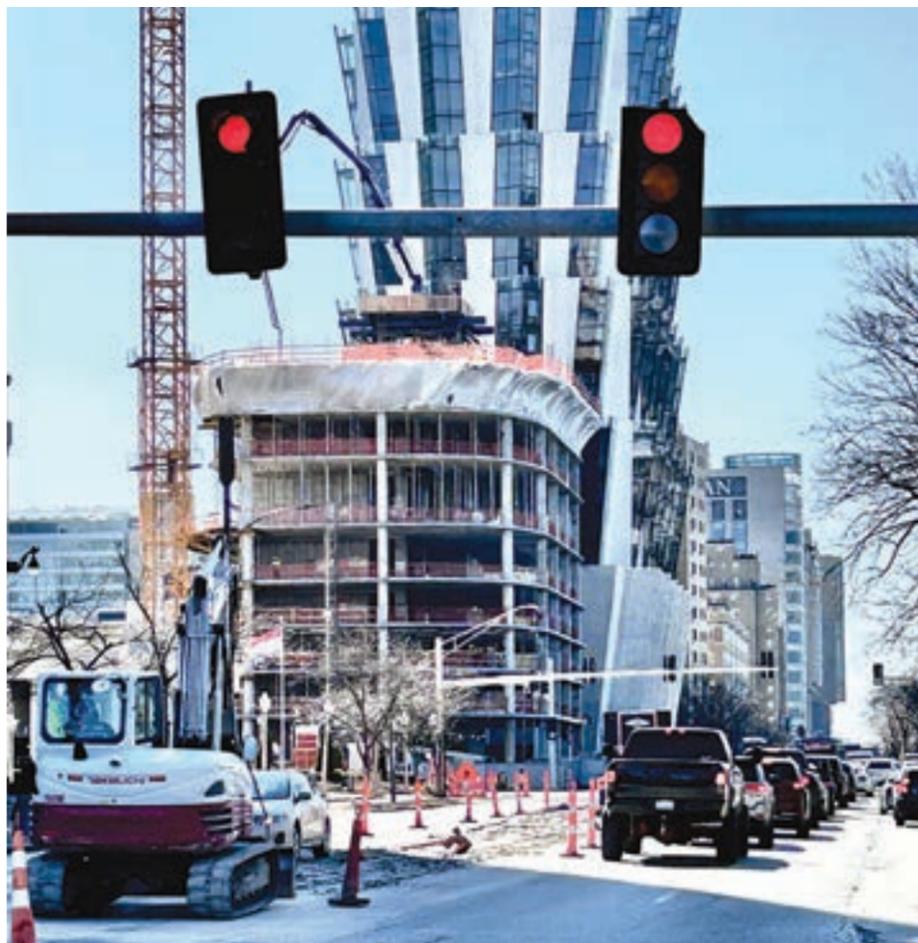





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### KEEP CALM

In this photo from mid-February, Kingshighway Boulevard in the CWE is undergoing traffic calming efforts being funded by the American Rescue Plan Act. The work, according to 9th Ward Alderman Michael Browning, includes new bump outs, medians, repaving and major intersection upgrades.

**GREENWAY** *From Page 6*  
 expanded paved loop path around the park, as well as a trailhead and other potential amenities, expected in spring 2027.

The Great Rivers Greenway website includes a page tracking each segment's progress, from planning and community feedback to design and construction. The organization looks to build in strategic chunks when construction makes the most sense for that area. Everything they do is informed by community feedback, Milford said.

"One of the challenges of our work is trying to concisely explain what it is we do. A lot of people think that building a greenway is just like laying down some asphalt and they don't understand not only trying to get community feedback, but the different challenges that can occur along the way," Milford said.

To illustrate these trials, residents can play the new Greenway Challenge game. In this online simulation, users are tasked with building a greenway for \$15 million

in 3.5 years. The game takes players through steps where they're faced with budget restrictions, timing constraints and other unexpected factors. For example, the project may run into a paper street that halts all construction, or a new elected official who has concerns takes office.

The entirety of the Brickline Greenway is anticipated for completion in 2030, representing one of the most ambitious and far-reaching public infrastructure projects in the country. Great Rivers Greenway is collaborating with hundreds of partners to bring this vision to life, thoughtfully linking parks, cultural institutions, historic neighborhoods and everyday destinations across St. Louis.

Great Rivers' online calendar includes many free or low-cost events to take advantage of, from bird watching to hiking with dogs from an adoption center. As more greenways open and expand, residents are invited to experience them not just as new transportation routes, but as part of daily life.

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