

Great Rivers Greenway planning new trail through North County

Project will link Berkeley to St. Louis on Mississippi River

[By Scott Bandle](#) STLtoday.com | Posted: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 6:00 am |



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SUBMITTED MAP Maline Greenway will connect the St. Vincent Greenway with the Confluence Greenway. This map shows greenways that are built or are under construction.

Shelly Finn enjoys riding her bicycle on various trails built by the Great Rivers Greenway District in St. Louis County.

Now, she is looking forward to the day when she can ride on the Maline Greenway, a new hiking and biking trail planned by the district.

"That trail is going to be a reasonable distance for a weekend ride," said Finn, 48, of North St. Louis. "I'm excited about it."

Great Rivers Greenway is a public organization that is building a system of connecting

trails and greenways in the St. Louis region.

The Maline Greenway is its latest project. The 7.5 mile trail will start in Berkeley near the MetroLink station on Hanley Road. It will run through Berkeley, Kinloch, Cool Valley, Ferguson, Jennings, Moline Acres, Bellefontaine Neighbors, Riverview and into St. Louis. When finished, it will connect with the North Riverfront Trail in the Mississippi Greenway on the east and with the St. Vincent Greenway on the west.

"The (Maline) trail will be for hiking, biking, roller blading and strollers," Project Manager Lonny Boring said. "It's part of the overall project for the entire area."

Boring and other district officials hosted an open house Thursday, March 24 at the Bellefontaine Neighbors Recreation Center. It was one of two public meetings on the Maline Greenway.

Cooperation with the municipalities is vital, Boring said.

"So far, we've had great cooperation with the cities," Boring said. "These trails become a fabric of the community. We also depend on the cities to maintain these trails."

The district has no set timetable or budget for the Maline Greenway to be built. A lot of research and planning must be finished. The work will start with "early action" projects along the route, Boring said.

"We'll work on various parts of the greenway, eventually connecting it all together," he said. "It's a long time effort. We want to start in 2012."

It could take two to five years to finish, he said.

The trail will not be hard to build. Its geography is pretty flat, said Scott Emmelkamp, a consultant with Woolpert. The firm works on designs, engineering and spatial forms.

"The toughest part is some of the trail will cross some streets," Emmelkamp said. "Some of the area will be on the roads, so it makes it more dangerous. We'll have to figure out how people can use the trail and not interfere with traffic."

That won't bother Finn.

"I enjoy riding my bicycle," she said. "The great thing about this trail is that it will tie in a lot of different neighborhoods."

Great Rivers Greenway

Great Rivers Greenway is developing a 600-mile interconnected system of trails and greenways established in November 2000 by the passage of the Clean Water, Safe Parks and Community Trails Initiative or Proposition C in St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County. The GRG is funded by a 1/10 of 1 percent sales tax.