



Quad Cities, Illinois-Iowa Metropolitan Area Greenway Plan

Planning Initiative

This plan is a combined update of the Illinois and Iowa Quad Cities greenway plans completed in 1997 and 1998, respectively. It identifies potential greenway connections and highlights the Mississippi River as an important greenway asset for both Illinois and Iowa. With increasing development interests throughout the Illinois and Iowa Quad Cities Metropolitan Area, a continuing emphasis on a regional greenway network is important for preserving the environment and protecting linear connections within the region.

Under a grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (ILDNR), a Quad Cities Metropolitan Area Greenway Planning Group was formed in 2004 to help verify the various greenways throughout the project area. The Bi-State Regional Commission directed the project in cooperation with representatives of Quad Cities Area communities and the support of local, state and federal agencies.

This greenway plan is conceptual. It recommends corridors and suggests connections within the Illinois and Iowa Quad Cities to create a viable network of greenways, enhance the quality of life and improve the overall environment. Many of the corridors delineated within this plan directly impact the vitality of the entire Quad Cities watershed. Through planning, the Quad Cities is increasingly recognizing both the need for corridor preservation and the potential for utilitarian benefits within these corridors. A proactive, regional pursuit to preserve and utilize existing and future easements, rights-of-way, creeks, and other linear corridors will undoubtedly benefit the entire bi-state metropolitan area.

Illinois Quad Cities Passive Greenways

A passive greenway provides limited use and activities to the general public. The function and value of these linear open space corridors emphasizes land and water conservation, protection of the existing watershed and maintaining the natural environment. Most passive greenways focus on storm water and flood plain management, wetland preservation, erosion control, natural water filtration, wildlife migration and the preservation of vegetation. Examples of existing passive greenways are as follows: (Numbered greenways in the text correspond to numbers on the map identified in light green.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Barber Creek, Port Byron | 9. Sugar Creek, East Moline |
| 2. Quarry Creek, Port Byron | 10. Mill Creek, Milan |
| 3. Ryan Creek, Rapids City | 11. Case Creek, Milan |
| 4. Sean Creek, Rapids City | 12. Sand Creek, Milan |
| 5. Packy Creek, Rapids City | 13. Kyte Creek, Milan |
| 6. Green River, Colona | 14. Unnamed and/or undesignated Ravines, Creeks, Drainageways throughout Rock Island County and the Illinois Quad Cities Metro Area |
| 7. Coal Creek, Coal Valley | |
| 8. Shaffer Creek, Coal Valley | |

Illinois Quad Cities Active Greenways

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1. Mississippi River, Illinois Shore

The Mississippi River is one of the Quad Cities' most valuable assets as a commercial and recreational waterway, water supply and a migration route and habitat for numerous species of fish and wildlife. In addition, it provides the area with a very unique, valuable and important environmental and natural resource. The river is a panoramic tourist attraction containing portions of the national Mark Twain Fish and Wildlife Refuge. It also serves as a major north-south commercial transportation artery. Illinois' Great River Road, a nationally designated Scenic Byway, skirts the banks of the river. The Great River Trail (GRT) and Illinois' segment of the national Mississippi River Trail (MRT) along with



View of the Mississippi River from Ben Butterworth Parkway in Moline.

portions of the national coast-to-coast American Discovery Trail (ADT) and Grand Illinois Trail (GIT) parallel its shoreline. This active greenway is utilized for many recreational opportunities including walking/hiking, bicycling, inline skating, swimming, water skiing, hunting, fishing and recreational boating. The river is a wonderful greenway resource for the Bi-State region and the entire Quad Cities area.

2. Rock River, Rock Island and Henry Counties

The Rock River is a tributary to the Mississippi River and provides the Quad Cities area with additional greenway opportunities. Located along the shores of the Rock River as it passes through the Illinois Quad Cities are the Black Hawk State Historic Site and Nature Preserve, the Hennepin Canal State Parkway, Ben Williamson Parkway, Green Valley Park and the TPC at Deere Run Golf Course. The Rock River greenway corridor is actively utilized for recreational boating, water skiing, fishing, and canoeing, as well as bicycling and hiking on the Kiwanis Trail along its north shore. Many wetlands are located along this corridor, which serve as significant habitat for various wildlife and plant species.

3. American Discovery Trail (ADT), Illinois and Iowa

The ADT is a multi-purpose recreation and transportation corridor extending from the country's west coast in California to its east coast in Delaware. The trail traverses through the State of Iowa and crosses the Mississippi River between Davenport and Rock Island. It enters Illinois via the recently completed bicycle/pedestrian bridge from the Rock Island levee to the western tip of Arsenal Island establishing the only connection over the Mississippi River on the north branch of the ADT. Continuing through the Illinois Quad Cities, it connects to Illinois' Great River Trail (GRT), Illinois' Mississippi River Trail (MRT) and the Grand Illinois Trail (GIT).

4. Hennepin Canal, Rock Island and Henry Counties

The Hennepin Canal is a national historic site. It was built to serve as a major transportation corridor for shipping and transferring products, goods and materials from many sites to the Mississippi River. Today, the canal is a State Parkway and an important natural resource. It is being utilized as an active greenway and a recreational asset. The State's Grand Illinois Trail (GIT) and the national American Discovery Trail (ADT) utilize the old canal towpath. The canal also serves fishing, canoeing, equestrian, hiking, walking, and bicycling interests throughout the State.



Hennepin Canal Parkway near Milan, Illinois.

5. Rock Island - Milan Parkway, Rock Island/Milan

Located along Illinois Route 92 and 92nd Avenue West, the Rock Island - Milan Parkway is a significant transportation route and an active greenway corridor. It includes multiple crossings of rivers, waterways and high traffic roads, establishes an important transportation loop and provides opportunities for multi-purpose trail development. It connects Rock Island's downtown and west end to Milan and then crosses the Rock River linking up with John Deere Road in Moline. The new west Rock River Bridge (Veterans Memorial Bridge at Carr's Crossing, opening in the fall of 2006) includes a separated bicycle/pedestrian path providing an opportunity for the Cities of Rock Island and Moline to connect to the existing trail along the Hennepin Canal in Milan.

6. 17th Street Corridor, Rock Island

This active greenway along a major arterial road provides a north/south connection between the Mississippi River and the Rock River. On-street, marked bicycle lanes have recently been completed along 17th Street from 46th to 31st Avenue. The City is planning to extend the 17th Street greenway bike lanes and is considering adding more bike lanes along its roadways providing connectivity to other greenways and many parks, neighborhoods, educational and public facilities.



17th Street Corridor in Rock Island with bicycle lanes.

7. 19th Street/27th Street Corridor, Moline

Similar to 17th Street in Rock Island, this active greenway is a central Quad Cities north/south connection between the Mississippi River and the Rock River. The City is conducting a study along this corridor to determine placement of a multi-use trail, designated bicycle lanes or other active greenway uses and options.

8. 78th Avenue/Indian Bluff Road Corridor, Milan/Coal Valley

This active greenway is located between the Rock Island - Milan Parkway and U.S. Hwy. 150. This corridor provides access to the Indian Bluff Forest Preserve and is an east-west connection between Milan and Coal Valley. Future plans to widen this corridor may provide an opportunity to include a multi-use trail or designated bicycle lanes.

tivity to local areas of interest and other greenways or trails within and beyond the Illinois Quad Cities metropolitan area.

10. Ben Butterworth Parkway, Moline

The Ben Butterworth Parkway, located on the south bank of the Mississippi River contains many park amenities and one of the first multi-use trails to be developed in Quad Cities Area. The existence of this active greenway and the Ralph B. Birks trail played a significant role in the establishment of the Great River Trail and subsequent riverfront trails in the Quad Cities metropolitan area. This active greenway uses urban design techniques, such as landscaping, outdoor furnishings, public picnic shelters and facilities, interpretive educational kiosks and signage along the scenic Mississippi riverfront. Popular activities include walking, jogging, rollerblading, bicycling, picnicking, shore fishing, etc.



The 7th Street Spur in East Moline connects the city's downtown with the Mississippi River.

12. 53rd Street, Moline, Mississippi River to Rock River

A north-south active greenway connection between the Mississippi and Rock River is identified along this corridor. The potential to utilize this linear greenway for development of a viable multi-use trail also exists. A route is proposed from Green Valley Park, north along 60th Street, to 34th Avenue. At this juncture the main route would head west on 34th Avenue to 53rd Street with an eastern spur along 34th Avenue to Black Hawk College, Millennium Park, and various residential areas. At the western confluence of 34th Avenue with 53rd Street the route would head north along 53rd Street, cross Avenue of the Cities and veer northwest on 48th Street to 12th Avenue. From this point the greenway trail continues north to 5th Avenue where it turns east to 55th Street and north again until reaching Ben Butterworth Parkway and the Mississippi River greenway and trail system.

Strategic Steps for Greenway Development

The success of the Quad Cities Metropolitan Area Greenway Plan will depend on public and private partnerships to initiate implementation of these conceptual corridors. The initial support of this plan by City Councils, Village Boards and County Boards will ensure the plan's legitimacy. The Plan provides the framework in order to pursue funding opportunities through grant and conservation programs, community service projects, and other public/private efforts. The plan offers a clear, concise outline of important greenways, which may be implemented in the short term or may take many years of coordination and implementation to carry out.

Because many of the greenways may include public and private property, cooperation and understanding of the greenway concept are essential. To ensure preservation and implementation of these linear corridors, local governments are asked to include the greenways in their comprehensive plans, park and recreation plans, land use plans, etc. By taking this step, communities will further define and affirm their importance. Utilities and private property owners are asked to incorporate greenways into their developments and future plans. This greenway plan's focus on the Quad Cities—a multi-jurisdictional, bi-state metropolitan area—highlights the importance of considering greenway connections beyond political and state boundaries.



Implementation

Implementation will require decisions on preservation, acquisition, ownership, management and funding, similar to other types of infrastructure. Securing greenways can take many forms.

Sample Methods: Some techniques to preserve or acquire greenways include: zoned conservation or overlay districts, park land dedications or greenway ordinances, conservation subdivisions, conservation easements with tax incentives, transportation or utility easements, agricultural set-asides or wetland reserves, linear park development, subdivision covenants, open space tax incentives and land trusts, etc.

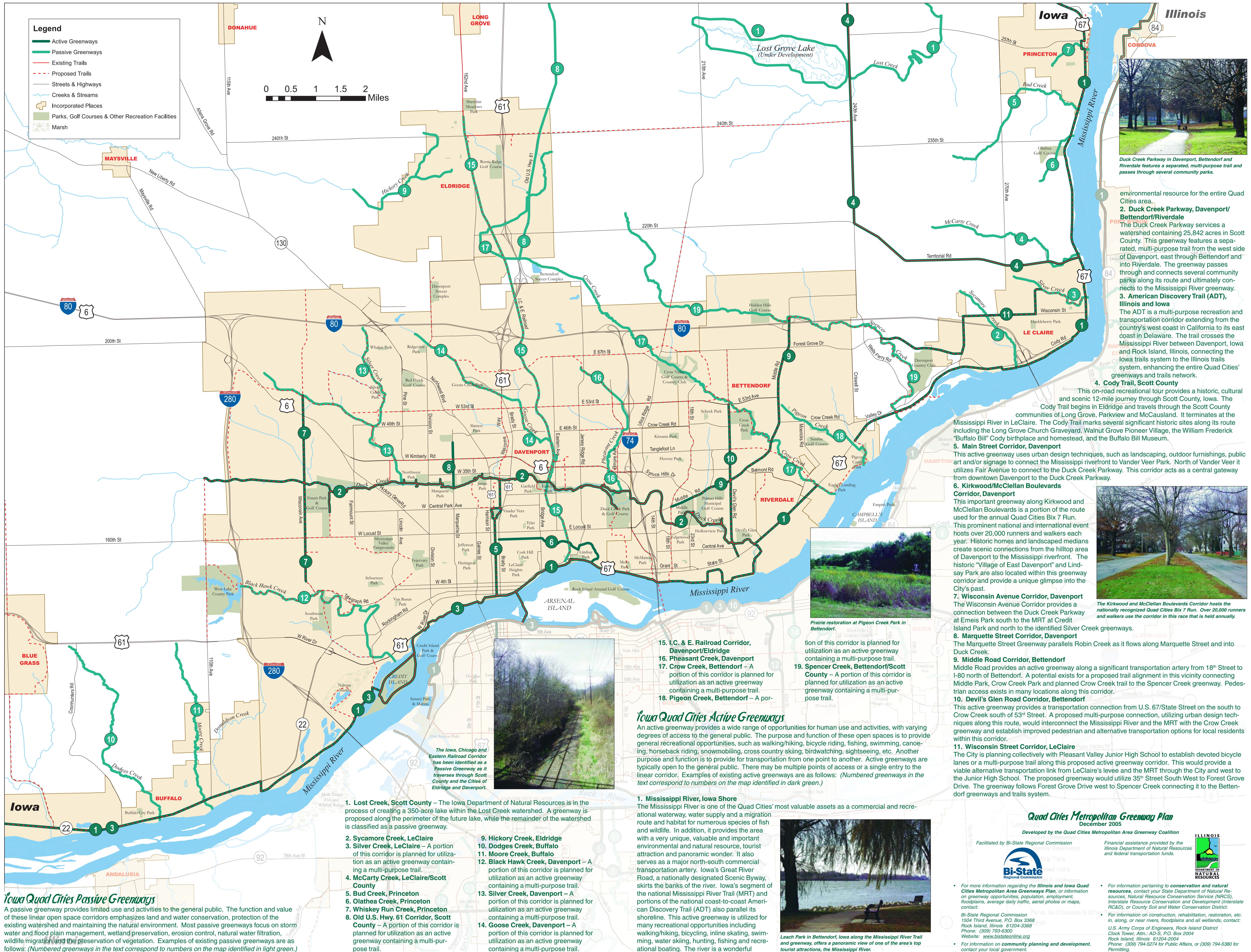
Management Options: Ownership, management or operational options may include: private or public properties with donated or purchased easements, government owned and operated parks, riparian buffers or filter strips for cropland or marginal pastures set aside and maintained by farmers, and private property sold to a land trust with assigned property rights for conservation.

This greenway plan's success will require further community education and involvement, planning, coordination and commitment to creating a regional green infrastructure. The benefits will include enhanced recreational and tourism opportunities, preserved scenic vistas and wildlife corridors, improved watersheds, water quality and wetlands, increased awareness of historic and important landmarks, a greener and more enticing urban environment, improved connectivity and an enhanced quality of life throughout the Quad Cities metropolitan area.

For Iowa Quad Cities Greenway information, please see reverse side.

- Legend**
- Active Greenways
 - Passive Greenways
 - Existing Trails
 - Proposed Trails
 - Streets & Highways
 - Creeks & Streams
 - Incorporated Places
 - Parks, Golf Courses & Other Recreation Facilities
 - Marsh

Cover Photo: A fisherman enjoys the natural setting along the Rock River near Steel Dam in Milan, Illinois. Setting aside greenway corridors like this will help preserve the environment and enhance recreational opportunities within the urban area.



Duck Creek Parkway in Davenport, Bettendorf and Riverdale features a separated, multi-purpose trail and passes through several community parks.

environmental resource for the entire Quad Cities area.

2. Duck Creek Parkway, Davenport/Bettendorf/Riverdale
The Duck Creek Parkway services a watershed containing 25,842 acres in Scott County. This greenway features a separated, multi-purpose trail from the west side of Davenport, east through Bettendorf and into Riverdale. The greenway passes through and connects several community parks along its route and ultimately connects to the Mississippi River greenway.

3. American Discovery Trail (ADT), Illinois and Iowa
The ADT is a multi-purpose recreation and transportation corridor extending from the country's west coast in California to its east coast in Delaware. The trail crosses the Mississippi River between Davenport, Iowa and Rock Island, Illinois, connecting the Iowa trails system to the Illinois trails system, enhancing the entire Quad Cities' greenways and trails network.

4. Cody Trail, Scott County
This on-road recreational tour provides a historic, cultural and scenic 12-mile journey through Scott County, Iowa. The Cody Trail begins in Eldridge and travels through the Scott County communities of Long Grove, Parkview and McCausland. It terminates at the Mississippi River in LeClaire. The Cody Trail marks several significant historic sites along its route including the Long Grove Church Graveyard, Walnut Grove Pioneer Village, the William Frederick "Buffalo Bill" Cody birthplace and homestead, and the Buffalo Bill Museum.

5. Main Street Corridor, Davenport
This active greenway uses urban design techniques, such as landscaping, outdoor furnishings, public art and/or signage to connect the Mississippi riverfront to Vander Veer Park. North of Vander Veer it utilizes Fair Avenue to connect to the Duck Creek Parkway. This corridor acts as a central gateway from downtown Davenport to the Duck Creek Parkway.

6. Kirkwood/McClellan Boulevards Corridor, Davenport
This important greenway along Kirkwood and McClellan Boulevards is a portion of the route used for the annual Quad Cities Bix 7 Run. This prominent national and international event hosts over 20,000 runners and walkers each year. Historic homes and landscaped medians create scenic connections from the hilltop area of Davenport to the Mississippi riverfront. The historic "Village of East Davenport" and Lindsay Park are also located within this greenway corridor and provide a unique glimpse into the City's past.

7. Wisconsin Avenue Corridor, Davenport
The Wisconsin Avenue Corridor provides a connection between the Duck Creek Parkway at Emeis Park south to the MRT at Credit Island Park and north to the identified Silver Creek greenways.

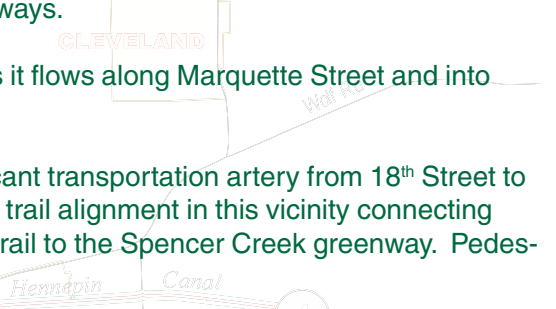
8. Marquette Street Corridor, Davenport
The Marquette Street Greenway parallels Robin Creek as it flows along Marquette Street and into Duck Creek.

9. Middle Road Corridor, Bettendorf
Middle Road provides an active greenway along a significant transportation artery from 18th Street to I-80 north of Bettendorf. A potential exists for a proposed trail alignment in this vicinity connecting Middle Park, Crow Creek Park and planned Crow Creek trail to the Spencer Creek greenway. Pedestrian access exists in many locations along this corridor.

10. Devil's Glen Road Corridor, Bettendorf
This active greenway provides a transportation connection from U.S. 67/State Street on the south to Crow Creek south of 53rd Street. A proposed multi-purpose connection, utilizing urban design techniques along this route, would interconnect the Mississippi River and the MRT with the Crow Creek greenway and establish improved pedestrian and alternative transportation options for local residents within this corridor.

11. Wisconsin Street Corridor, LeClaire
The City is planning collectively with Pleasant Valley Junior High School to establish devoted bicycle lanes or a multi-purpose trail along this proposed active greenway corridor. This would provide a viable alternative transportation link from LeClaire's levee and the MRT through the City and west to the Junior High School. The proposed greenway would utilize 35th Street South West to Forest Grove Drive. The greenway follows Forest Grove Drive west to Spencer Creek connecting it to the Bettendorf greenways and trails system.

The Kirkwood and McClellan Boulevards Corridor hosts the nationally recognized Quad Cities Bix 7 Run. Over 20,000 runners and walkers use the corridor in this race that is held annually.



12. Black Hawk Creek, Davenport – A portion of this corridor is planned for utilization as an active greenway containing a multi-purpose trail.

13. Silver Creek, Davenport – A portion of this corridor is planned for utilization as an active greenway containing a multi-purpose trail.

14. Goose Creek, Bettendorf – A portion of this corridor is planned for utilization as an active greenway containing a multi-purpose trail.

15. I.C. & E. Railroad Corridor, Davenport/Eldridge

16. Pheasant Creek, Davenport

17. Crow Creek, Bettendorf – A portion of this corridor is planned for utilization as an active greenway containing a multi-purpose trail.

18. Pigeon Creek, Bettendorf – A portion of this corridor is planned for utilization as an active greenway containing a multi-purpose trail.

19. Spencer Creek, Bettendorf/Scott County – A portion of this corridor is planned for utilization as an active greenway containing a multi-purpose trail.

Iowa Quad Cities Passive Greenways

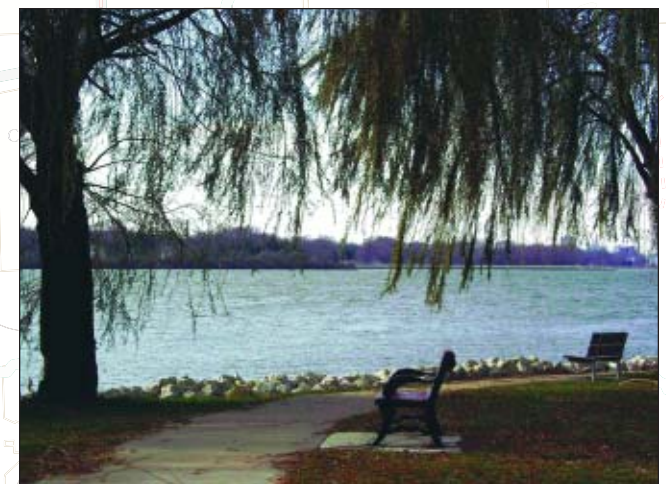
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- 1. Lost Creek, Scott County** – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is in the process of creating a 350-acre lake within the Lost Creek watershed. A greenway is proposed along the perimeter of the future lake, while the remainder of the watershed is classified as a passive greenway.
- 2. Sycamore Creek, LeClaire**
- 3. Silver Creek, LeClaire** – A portion of this corridor is planned for utilization as an active greenway containing a multi-purpose trail.
- 4. McCarty Creek, LeClaire/Scott County**
- 5. Bud Creek, Princeton**
- 6. Olathea Creek, Princeton**
- 7. Whiskey Run Creek, Princeton**
- 8. Old U.S. Hwy. 61 Corridor, Scott County** – A portion of this corridor is planned for utilization as an active greenway containing a multi-purpose trail.
- 9. Hickory Creek, Eldridge**
- 10. Dodes Creek, Buffalo**
- 11. Moore Creek, Buffalo**
- 12. Black Hawk Creek, Davenport** – A portion of this corridor is planned for utilization as an active greenway containing a multi-purpose trail.
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- 1. Mississippi River, Iowa Shore**
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Leach Park in Bettendorf, Iowa along the Mississippi River Trail and greenway, offers a panoramic view of one of the area's top tourist attractions, the Mississippi River.

Quad Cities Metropolitan Greenway Plan
December 2005

Developed by the Quad Cities Metropolitan Area Greenway Coalition

Facilitated by Bi-State Regional Commission

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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

For more information regarding the Illinois and Iowa Quad Cities Metropolitan Area Greenways Plan, or information on greenway opportunities, population, employment, floodplains, average daily traffic, aerial photos or maps, contact:

For information pertaining to conservation and natural resources, contact your State Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Interstate Resource Conservation and Development (Interstate RC&D), or County Soil and Water Conservation District.

For information on construction, rehabilitation, restoration, etc. in, along, or near rivers, floodplains and all wetlands, contact: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, Clock Tower, Attn: AD-5, P.O. Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004
Phone: (309) 794-5274 for Public Affairs, or (309) 794-5380 for Permitting.

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