

M I D - S O U T H R E G I O N A L  
**GREENPRINT**

**2016 Annual Report**

## OVERVIEW:

Over the last year, Greenprint partners have made great strides to implement the regional green space and sustainability plan. Of the proposed 700-mile bicycle-pedestrian network, the total completion rate has increased from 14% to 15%, due to the opening of several significant projects.

Big River Crossing, the longest public pedestrian bridge across the Mississippi River and longest rail/bike/pedestrian bridge in the country, opened on October 22, 2016. The converted wagonway on the 100-year-old Harahan Bridge provides sweeping views and a unique perspective of the delta landscape and Memphis skyline. An estimated 20,000 visitors traversed the Crossing in its first week of operation.

In April, the City of Germantown added several miles of new greenways to its local trail system. A section of the Germantown Greenway adjacent to the Wolf River was expanded. The pathway, which runs parallel to Wolf River Parkway, now extends from a new trailhead across from the Riverwoods State Natural Area to a new public access point and trailhead at Cameron Brown Park.

The popular Shelby Farms Greenline also celebrated a four-mile extension east from Shelby Farms Park. Shelby County funded the trail expansion through a Multimodal Access Grant, with a local match, and funded an innovative crossing at Germantown Parkway with a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant. The Shelby Farms Greenline is now a 10.65 mile urban trail that connects Midtown Memphis to Shelby Farms Park and out to Cordova, TN.

Another major milestone in 2016 was the unanimous regional adoption of the Mid-South Greenprint and Sustainability Plan. In August, the last of 22 local jurisdictions voted to adopt the plan and its concept to develop the regional green space network. Widespread adoption of the plan will improve coordination among local jurisdictions, and help accelerate the implementation of the network.

The development of a long-term funding and administrative strategy for the sustained implementation of the plan is also progressing. These efforts are building the foundation for (1) creating a regional coordination agency or organization; and (2) securing multi-year, private funding and 20-year dedicated public funding; two critically important near-term targets that will ultimately determine the long-term success of the plan. Adoption of the implementation strategy will depend on participation from both the public and private sectors, and will require the support of many partners for it to succeed.

## BACKGROUND:

In November 2011, Shelby County Government was awarded a \$2.6M grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to prepare the Mid-South Regional Greenprint and Sustainability Plan (“Greenprint”). Over the course of the next three years, a consortium of more than 80 local jurisdictions, organizations, businesses, agencies and individuals worked together to develop the plan, under the guidance of the Memphis-Shelby County Office of Sustainability. In February 2015, the final plan, *GREENPRINT 2015/2040*, was published and distributed to the public. Today, consortium partners are actively building out the proposed trail network and addressing many of the recommended targets for action. The Greenprint plan has received many commendations including:

- Winner of the 2015 Excellence in Sustainability Award for a Plan by the Sustainable Communities Division of American Planning Association
- Winner of the 2015 Outstanding Plan Award by the Tennessee Chapter of American Planning Association
- Winner of the 2015 Honor Award for Regional Planning by the Tennessee Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects

## GREENPRINT ADOPTION PROCESS:

Greenprint adoption by the plan's represented jurisdictions demonstrates the community's commitment to implementation and authorizes responsible agencies to execute their actions. **As of August 22, 2016, Greenprint 2015/2040 was formally adopted by 22 of 22 jurisdictions** including (in order of adoption):

<b>Shelby County, Tennessee</b>	City of Lakeland, Tennessee
City of West Memphis, Arkansas	City of Piperton, Tennessee
City of Memphis, Tennessee	City of Sunset, Arkansas
<b>Crittenden County, Arkansas</b>	City of Southaven, Mississippi
<b>DeSoto County, Mississippi</b>	City of Braden, Tennessee
Town of Arlington, Tennessee	Town of Collierville, Tennessee
City of Hernando, Mississippi	City of Horn Lake, Mississippi
City of Millington, Tennessee	City of Gallaway, Tennessee
City of Germantown, Tennessee	City of Bartlett, Tennessee
Town of Walls, Mississippi	<b>Fayette County, Tennessee</b>
City of Olive Branch, Mississippi	City of Marion, Arkansas

## GREENPRINT SUMMIT:

On November 30, 2016, the third biannual Greenprint Summit was held at the new FedEx Event Center at Shelby Farms Park. **Approximately 300 Mid-South residents attended the event to learn more about the plan and the progress of the many related projects and initiatives.** The Summit featured three presentations from guest presenters Charles Flink (Alta Planning + Design), Megan Higgins (Innovate Memphis), and Jason Hellendrung (Sasaki). A select group of partner organizations also set up booths to discuss their most recent accomplishments with attendees.

Twenty-six organizations participated in the partner exhibition, including Agricenter, Big River Strategic Initiative, Bike Walk Memphis, City of Germantown, City of Memphis Engineering, City of Memphis Office of Comprehensive Planning, City of West Memphis, Clean Memphis, Community Foundation of Greater Memphis, Explore Bike Share, Friendship Foundation, The Kitchen Community, Knowledge Quest, Livable Memphis, Memphis City Beautiful, Memphis Light Gas and Water, Memphis-Shelby County Office of Sustainability, Memphis Tilth, Mississippi River Corridor TN, Overton Park Conservancy, Shelby County Health Department, Shelby Farms Park Conservancy, Sierra Club, University of Memphis (CAESER), Wolf River Conservancy, U.S. Green Building Council.

The next Greenprint Summit is expected to take place June/July 2017. The date, time, and event location are yet to be determined.

## SHORT-TERM TARGETS

The Mid-South Greenprint identifies 31 recommended actions be completed in the first 5 years of Greenprint Implementation, 19 of which are targeted for completion by the end of 2016. **Of the targets set for 2015 and 2016, eleven targets have been achieved, four are nearing completion, and four are still in progress.**

Targets for 2015/2016 include:

- Develop and implement a Complete Streets design manual for Memphis by 2015. **[COMPLETE]**
- Create regional coordination agency or organization by 2015. **[NEARING COMPLETION]**

- Establish or designate an organization to coordinate the promotion of green space across all healthcare programs by 2015. **[IN PROGRESS]**
- Increase the mode share of work commute trips made by bicycling, walking or transit within the region to 5% by 2015. **[COMPLETE]**
- Create and implement educational programs for healthcare providers and school districts by 2016. **[IN PROGRESS]**
- Develop a regional food system assessment to address issues of access, economics, and food system sustainability by 2016. **[COMPLETE]**
- Double the number of gardens on public school campuses by 2016. **[NEARING COMPLETION – Anticipated Fall 2017]**
- Create a pilot program to address last mile connections by 2016. **[NEARING COMPLETION – Anticipated Fall 2017]**
- Build a coalition of partners to initiate a housing energy efficiency program by 2016. **[COMPLETE]**
- Identify greatest sidewalk needs within 0.5 miles of Greenprint corridors and prioritize for repair or installation by 2016. **[NEARING COMPLETION]**
- Establish a formal transportation management association (TMA) by 2016. **[IN PROGRESS]**
- Establish geotourism as a regional tourism subsector by 2016. **[COMPLETE]**
- Create three native landscaping demonstration projects by 2016. **[COMPLETE]**
- Expand regional geodatabase and establish data sharing platform by 2016. **[COMPLETE]**
- Perform inventory of parks, greenways, and waterways access to assure equity by 2016. **[IN PROGRESS]**
- Convene a regional outreach council by 2016. **[COMPLETE]**
- Grow regional consortium partnerships under identified or new coordinating agency or organization by 2016. **[COMPLETE – Ongoing]**
- Publish advocacy toolkit in various formats by 2016. **[COMPLETE]**
- Provide education on economic benefits and financing options for green infrastructure by 2016. **[COMPLETE]**

## GREENPRINT TRAIL NETWORK

During the drafting of the Greenprint Development proposal, a more accurate assessment of the Greenprint network development status was performed. Original estimates placing the recommended network at 499 miles of greenway trails and 198 miles of on-street connections has been adjusted slightly to 520 miles of greenway trails and 185 miles of on-street bicycle facilities. **As of December 31, 2016, more than 100 corridor miles have been completed, and nearly 80 additional miles have received some level of funding, meaning over 25% of the Greenprint network is either complete or in development:**

**Completed Connections:** These connections are complete and can be used today.

- Greenways: 60.5 miles / 519.6 miles = 11.6% of proposed greenways are complete.
- On-Street: 45.9 miles / 185.5 miles = 24.7% of proposed on-street connections are complete.
- TOTAL: 106.4 miles / 705.2 miles = 15.1% of all proposed corridors are complete.

**Funded Connections:** These connections have received some level of funding and are in the development process, but have not yet been completed.

- Greenways: 45.7 miles / 519.6 miles = 8.8% of proposed greenways have received funding.
- On-Street: 26.9 miles / 185.5 miles = 14.5% of proposed on-street connections have received funding.
- TOTAL: 72.6 miles / 705.2 miles = 10.3% of all proposed corridors have received funding.

**Recommended Connections:** These connections are recommended as part of the Greenprint plan, but have not yet received funding.

- Greenways: 413.3 miles / 519.6 miles = 79.5% of proposed greenways are still recommended.
- On-Street: 112.7 miles / 185.5 miles = 60.8% of proposed on-street connections are still recommended.
- TOTAL: 526.0 miles / 705.2 miles = 74.6% of all proposed corridors are still recommended.

## ONLINE INTERACTIVE MAP:

**Mid-South Greenprint Network** Embed this Map

V&E Greenline

**V & E Greenline**

**Description:** This two-mile, partially-completed greenway is a rail-trail that is owned and operated by the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association. The Greenprint plan recommends it be extended through Crosstown Concourse to link up with on-street facilities along Hollywood Street and subsequently, to the Chelsea Avenue Greenline.

**Completed Mileage:** 1.7/2.2 mi.

**Funded Mileage:** 0.0/2.2 mi.

[V & E Greenline Website](#)

[View on Google Maps](#)

Submit updated corridor information to [info@midouthgreenprint.org](mailto:info@midouthgreenprint.org)

Thanks to the University of Memphis, CAESER, we have developed a new online interactive map so that you can track the implementation progress of the Mid-South Greenprint Network overtime. Log on to [map.midsouthgreenprint.org](http://map.midsouthgreenprint.org) to test it out today.

## RECENT IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITY

The following projects, programs and initiatives are the efforts of Greenprint partner organizations and agencies. It is recommended that these entities submit these projects for Greenprint Certification at [www.MidSouthGreenprint.org/certification](http://www.MidSouthGreenprint.org/certification).

### *Agricenter International*

- **Agricenter Trail Enhancement Project:** The Agricenter Trail Enhancement Project will connect Shelby Farms to the Agricenter, which showcases the agricultural character of the region. The trail will ultimately lead to the Farmer's Market which is a cultural resource and historic site as it is the original 1930s dairy barn from the penal farm. The paving of the trail will use regionally-accepted criteria for linking the network of greenspaces. In August, 2016, Agricenter International received a \$100,000 Shelby County Commission Community Enhancement Grant to further the completion of the Agricenter Trail. Commissioner Heidi Shafer dedicated her full \$100,000 allotment of the non-profit grant to this project. Work will soon start on the improvements.



### *Arlington, Town of:*

- **Loosahatchie Greenway:** Developed as a sub-planning project of the Mid-South Greenprint, the Town of Arlington identified two phases of trail along the Loosahatchie River. The first phase includes approximately one mile of trail, 3,000 feet of boardwalk, and a trailhead and is estimated to cost \$1.2 million. The second phase includes a path south to Highway 70 and north to the river along Collierville Arlington Road of less than one mile and a trailhead and is estimated to cost \$500,000. In 2016, the Town of Arlington purchased a 48 acre parcel of property on the corner of Hwy 385 and Hwy 70, which includes a lake and possible location of trail head. This property is adjacent to Town owned property that connects back to the Loosahatchie River. Improvements will need to be made to address safety and logistics to open to the public. Also, a portion of the Loosahatchie Greenway Trail is being completed with the development of Kroger on the corner of Milton Wilson and Airline Road. The total trail length includes a shared use trail with a distance of 1,320 linear feet.
- **Depot Square Community Garden:** The Town has constructed a community garden in our Historic Depot Square on a 1.2-acre parcel. The gardens include raised beds where residents can plant vegetables. The Arlington Parks Department has worked with area Master Gardeners on the plans, and will be working with area schools for educational opportunities for students on the benefits of gardening. The town had 32 beds leased for the 2016 growing season, and has expanded to 72 beds for the anticipated demand in 2017. Continual development of this property is ongoing.
- **Memphis-Arlington Bike-Ped Trail:** The Memphis-Arlington Bike-Ped Trail is a 0.59 mile extension of an existing trail, which currently ends at the Arlington Sports Complex. The most recent construction has extended the trail from the Sports Complex eastward, providing a connection between the Arlington Elementary School, and Arlington Middle School. In May 2015, The Board of Mayor and Aldermen awarded a contract for the construction of a portion of the shared use path along Memphis-Arlington. A grant from TDOT was also received for construction of this project, along with matching funds from the Town of Arlington. This project has now been completed.



## ***Bartlett, City of***

- **Fletcher Creek Greenway:** The Fletcher Creek Greenway runs alongside Fletcher Creek, connecting Memphis and Bartlett. The total project will have a multi-use trail running from Highway 64 on the south to Brunswick Road on the north following Fletcher Creek, approximately 4.4 miles. City of Bartlett is seeking to fund 80% with Federal Dollars and 20% local dollars. The total project cost is estimated to be \$6 million, so the local match is \$1.2 million. Phase 1 consists of construction of 2 trailheads and construction of the trail from US 64 to Yale road. Fletcher Creek Greenway phase 1 is under construction. The bridges are being set and completion is scheduled for February/March of 2017.

## ***Big River Strategic Initiative (BRSI):***

- **Big River Crossing (Harahan Bridge Project):** Big River Crossing, the longest public pedestrian bridge across the Mississippi River and longest rail/bike/ped bridge in the country, opened on October 22, 2016 at an event attended by local, regional, and federal dignitaries. The converted wagonway on the 100-year-old Harahan Bridge provides sweeping views and a unique perspective of the delta landscape and Memphis skyline. A \$5MM customizable LED installation by Philips Lighting illuminates and enlivens Big River Crossing after dark. BRX welcomed 20,000 visitors to its nearly mile-long expanse in its first week of operation. On the West Memphis, AR side of the bridge, Big River Crossing connects to the 70-mile Big River Trail, a graded bike and pedestrian passage atop the river levees from Memphis to Marianna, AR. Both the bridge and trail are part of the Big River Strategic Initiative, a collection of projects to activate and celebrate the Mississippi River and its surrounding landscape.
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- **Big River Trail:** Big River Strategic Initiative (BRSI) has a memorandum of understanding with the St. Francis Levee District to develop a soft surface trail system, 73 miles from Marion to Marianna Arkansas. BRSI received \$100K Economic Development Grant from the State of Arkansas to build 48 pass-through gates on the levee for bike-pedestrian traffic and a commitment from the USACE for materials to resurface the levee road with fine gravel. The St. Francis Levee District has committed resources to install the fine gravel on the existing levee roads. 50 custom bike gates have been installed to ease bicycle-pedestrian access. The ultimate goal is a levee top trail that runs from St. Louis to New Orleans. A soft opening occurred in October, with the grand opening expected in spring of 2017.
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- **National Geographic Geotourism:** BRSI has established a Geotourism zone along the entire Mississippi River Valley. This project establishes a geotourism map and website for the region. Any small or medium size business can submit their info to be posted on the National Geographic Website. Partners include National Geographic, National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Mississippi River Parkway Commission, MS River Cities and Towns Initiative.

## ***Bike Walk Tennessee (BWTN)***

- **Bike Walk Memphis Launch:** BWTN launched a local Bike Walk Memphis (BWMem) program this year to serve as a local chapter of the statewide advocacy organization, committed to neighborhood engagement. In its first year, the organization has connected with over 706 Memphis households with individuals eager to make Memphis a better place for people who walk and bike.
- **Event Bike Parking:** To support and encourage the use of bicycles as transportation to events, BWMem and City of Memphis Engineering launched an Event Bike Parking program. BWMem manages rental of the racks, including delivery, installation, bike valet staffing, break-down, and pick-up, entirely free of charge to event organizers. City Engineering recommends bike parking capacity equal to a minimum of 2% of the total expected crowd attendance at events.

- **Bicycle Friendly America Program:** Using an asset-based approach to advance the "5 E's"--education, engineering, enforcement, evaluation, and encouragement--BWMEM launched a program to support local businesses and universities in their application for "Bicycle-Friendly" status with the League of American Bicyclists. In the most recent round, BWMem supported four local businesses and non-profits in their applications, including St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, which achieved "Silver" bicycle-friendly award status.
- **Annual Tennessee Bike Summit 2017:** In May of 2017, bicycle advocates from across the state and the region will convene in Memphis to learn from each other's work; to discuss how best to advance the interests of people who use active transportation; and to spotlight the concerted efforts of bicycle advocates in Memphis.

### ***Binghamton Development Corporation (BDC)***

- **Hampline:** The Hampline provides safe access for people bicycling and walking in Binghamton and directly connects the Shelby Farms Greenline to Overton Park. TDOT's review of the Hampline plans is complete and the City of Memphis expects the project to be bid out for construction before the end of February. Contractors will bid on the western stretch of Broad Ave and the Tillman Street section, which will connect the already finished segment on Broad and the trail into Overton Park across East Parkway. Construction on these segments, funded through the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant program, is expected to commence in the spring and the project should be open for use in the fall.
  - Art of Giving Contest Award: In December, local artist Pete Beeman was the grand prize winner of the KRIS Wine "Art of Giving" contest for his public art installation, the "Hampline Exploration Stations", along the Hampline.



### ***Clean Memphis***

- **High Profile Clean-Up Projects:** Clean Memphis utilizes community service workers to perform monthly cleanup 'sweeps' in high-profile areas of the city like the Civil Rights Museum, Sun studios, Stax, the Medical Center, the Aerotropolis, and several parks and green spaces. Clean Memphis organizes cleanups along the Shelby Farms Greenline, future Greenline areas, and the Wolf River and its tributaries. Clean Memphis has grown this program to four crews that also include cleanup of major streets, intersections, exit ramps and key economic corridors for the city. The goal is not only to improve the overall look of these areas but to also prevent litter from entering our storm water system and pollution our watersheds.
- **Sustainable Schools Challenge:** Clean Memphis launched a local sustainability certification for schools called the Sustainable Schools Challenge. This comprehensive certification process allows schools to be recognized for reducing their environmental impacts related to energy, water and solid waste. The certification also focuses on health and nutrition, gardens, the importance of parks and recreation and improved environmental literacy. Clean Memphis also focuses on watershed health and creates service opportunities around stream restoration projects. In May 2016, Clean Memphis certified the first eight schools at the Bronze Level: Campus Elementary, Cordova Middle School, Grizzlies Prep Academy, Idlewild Elementary, Memphis Business Academy, New Hope Christian Academy, St. George's Independent School, and Whitehaven STEM Academy. During the 2016-2017 school year, the returning schools are working toward Silver and Gold certifications as six new schools look to achieve their Bronze level certification!
- **Support existing community partnerships and zone collaboratives:** Clean Memphis utilizes a "Zones" concept to organize neighborhoods to focus on cleanup, blight, beautification, improved curbside recycling





and energy efficiency. They are the lead community partner in the Memphis Clean by 2019 Moon Mission to make Memphis one of the cleanest cities by 2019. Their goal is to expand the community volunteer base to include area schools, churches, and businesses, and assist neighborhood leaders in identifying code enforcement issues and working with other agencies for resolutions. Clean Memphis also provides or secures additional resources to assist community groups in cleanup and reduction of blight.

- **Project Green Fork:** Now under the Clean Memphis umbrella, PGF contributes to a sustainable Mid-South by helping reduce environmental impacts, with a focus on strengthening homegrown restaurants. PGF certifies restaurants as practicing sustainability based on six steps and has grown to include 57 establishments in the Memphis area. To date, PGF members have recycled more than 4 million pounds of plastic, glass, aluminum, cardboard and paper and prevented more than 200,000 gallons of food waste from entering a landfill.

### ***Community Development Council of Greater Memphis & Livable Memphis***

- **Complete Streets Manual:** The Memphis Complete Streets Project Delivery Manual, completed in 2015, was adopted into the Memphis and Shelby County Unified Development Code in the first half of this year. The final component of the Manual, a Roadway Regulatory Plan that considers street and land use characteristics in assigning "typologies" to all streets in Memphis was completed this fall. The Regulatory Plan will help public officials and the private sector easily link the location of infrastructure and development projects to their appropriate context in the Manual for design guidance on accommodating all users of the public right of way.
- **Addressing Blight:** Community Development Council of Greater Memphis, through their standing Policy Committee and partner organizations including Binghampton Development Corporation continues to work on public policies to address blight. This ongoing policy and advocacy work relates specifically to the Greenprint's short-term target of promoting state and local legislation, incentives, and policies to increase infill development by 2018.
- **A Citizen's Guide to Improving Your Park:** In the first half of 2016, Livable Memphis, in partnership with the City of Memphis Division of Parks and Neighborhoods, published "A Citizen's Guide to Improving Your Park." The guide builds on experiences of park advocates and planning efforts, sharing ideas and practical information for park improvement projects and advocacy. The guide has been adopted by partners like the Memphis City Beautiful Adopt-a-Park program and the newly formed Memphis Parks Advocacy Group.





### ***The Community Foundation of Greater Memphis***


- **WHEREweLIVEmidsouth.org and WHEREtoGIVEmidsouth.org:** WHEREweLIVEmidsouth.org and WHEREtoGIVEmidsouth.org are a pair of websites that help citizens understand Memphis better and invest in nonprofits that are improving their community. Launched in 2015, the sites continue to become more robust as new data sets and information are added. WHEREweLIVEmidsouth.org visitors can access data in a variety of categories, including newly added indicators in Demographics, Community Development, Environment, Housing, Health, and Transportation. Those updates include detailed statistics on the region from the U.S. Census Bureau, Shelby County government, the City of Memphis, the Shelby County Health Department, and others. WHEREtoGIVEmidsouth.org is making great strides to becoming the comprehensive nonprofit database for this community. Staff has engaged with nearly 2,000 organizations; currently, the site features completed profiles from 200 Mid-South nonprofits with information on their mission, staff, major programs, and finances. Nineteen foundation and corporate funding partners actively use the nonprofit profiles to inform their philanthropy.



## Community LIFT

- **Frayser Town Center Plan:** The Downtown Frayser plan addresses a priority for the community to create a central gathering space. Through the sub-planning grant from Mid-South Regional Greenprint, consultant Ray Brown Urban Design and Universal Commercial Real Estate LLC were hired to develop this concept in conjunction with Frayser stakeholders. Several engagement sessions were held, in addition to planning, urban design, and real estate development services that helped determine the optimal location, size and land uses for a business improvement district for the Frayser neighborhood, to be known as The New Downtown Frayser. This plan was presented to the City Council around the same time the Raleigh Springs mall redevelopment was presented. They were advised to wait until the next budget cycle to make requests for City investments to carry out the Downtown Frayser plan.
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- **Slim's Backyard Buildout:** The Memphis Slim Collaboratory (Collaborative + Laboratory) is the first physical development of Community LIFT's Memphis Music Magnet @ Soulsville USA plan, an economic and community development strategy for Soulsville. As one of the physical amenities included in the Memphis Music Magnet plan, the former home of the late Memphis Slim, an internationally renowned bluesman and pianist, has been transformed into a gathering place for musicians and music industry professionals to collaborate and create music. As an extension of the Slim House, Community LIFT and partners transformed the blighted backyard into a pocket park that doubles as outdoor performance and community gathering space. The newly completed outdoor space will host music related programming and other events for the historic Soulsville USA neighborhood and the larger Memphis community. Since last years' buildout at the Memphis Slim Collaboratory, Slim's Backyard has hosted countless outdoor events for Soulsville residents and community stakeholders. And we just wrapped up a busy summer of free events and programming that took place in the backyard: concerts, an opera performance; poetry readings; two music festivals and more. With support from the neighborhood, we also hosted a backyard clean-up in preparation for all the summer fun. In partnership with the Urban Art Commission, local artist Darlene Newman and with contributions made by local songwriters, we boarded up a blighted vacant building adjacent to Slim's Backyard. Rather than simply boarding up windows and doors, we collaborated with our partners to paint the boards with inspiring images and lyrics borrowed from the "write a song for Soulsville" campaign led by the Memphis Slim House and Soulsville Building Neighborhood Capacity Program (BNCP) team.
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## Crosstown, LLC

- **Crosstown Greenline Connector:** This connector is an urban pedestrian and bike trail in Memphis designed to extend the existing Vollintine & Evergreen Greenline, once the L & N Railroad that served the historic Sears Distribution Center, southwest from its current termination point north of North Parkway, across the railway bridge and North Watkins, through the Crosstown Development Project site. The Crosstown Greenline Connector will provide a better, safer connection from surrounding neighborhoods to the resources available in the newly renovated Sears building, including an art gallery, a public high school, and a wellness center that provides healthcare for the working uninsured. The design includes rail bridge acquisition, abatement, lighting for aesthetics and safety, bike lanes, walking paths, exercise equipment, and seating. The cost to implement the design is estimated between \$150,000 and \$200,000.
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## DeSoto County

- **Native Landscaping:** Native plantings have been completed along wildlife openings at ARK trails.

- **Arkabutla Lake & Olive Branch Trails:** In partnership with the North MS Trails Association, 10 miles of trail have been installed at Arkabutla Lake and Olive Branch.
- **Horn Lake Creek Greenway:** Developed as a sub-planning project of the Mid-South Greenprint, DeSoto County Greenways has identified the Horn Lake Creek Greenway as a priority for greenways development in DeSoto County. The project is organized into two phases: Southaven to Highway 51 (1 mile) and Horn Lake Road to Highway 51 (2 miles).
- **E-911 locator signs** - E-911 signs have been installed in all County parks, North Outlet Nature Trail and at the ARK trails.
- **Geotourism:** DeSoto County Greenways is working with DeSoto County Tourism to establish geotourism as part of regional tourism by actively promoting our County's scenic byways, cultural, historical, greenways, parks and recreational venues.
- **ARK Trails-** Construction started in May for the new education center at the ARK trails. Interpretive signage has been installed along the 2 mile trail that tells the history of the land and identifies the wildlife and environment setting that will add to the experience of hikers. Stretch Stations with QR Codes have been installed. Future plans include an ADA Handicapped Accessible Trail.
- **First Contact Historical Trail** - This project consists of the design, layout and installation of interpretive signage, kiosks, educational materials and outreach efforts for the First Contact Historical Trail that traces Europeans' first encounter with Native Americans as Hernando DeSoto's party crossed DeSoto County across the Hills through the Delta and Mississippi River and how the land has changed over time. The project will accomplish this by encouraging preservation, providing interpretation, fostering education, and promoting economic development along DeSoto County roadways.



### *Explore Bike Share*

- **Explore Bike Share:** Explore Bike Share is a community driven effort committed to providing a world class transportation option to Memphians and visitors alike. Bike share will advance the city on multiple fronts, from sharing culture to improving health. The system will have approximately 600 bikes and 60 stations "inside the loop" in Memphis. Stations will be located throughout Memphis, making trips to a park, greenline, school, or grocery store shorter than walking or taking public transit. Efforts to bring bike share to Memphis are continuing to move forward. Explore Bike Share has already raised half of the \$4 million required to launch and is on pace to meet its funding goals for a 2017 introduction. By providing a network of bicycles that can be rented on-demand from stations located around the city, it changes everything about urban transportation. It's not only a fun, healthy way to experience Memphis, but also a means to improve Memphis' overall physical, environmental, social, and financial health.



### *Friendship Foundation:*

- **Friendship Park of Memphis:** The foundation intends to build Friendship Park of Memphis as the venue to demonstrate friendship between people of all faiths. The park will be on eight acres near Heartsong Church and the Memphis Islamic Center. Friendship Park of Memphis will provide opportunities for play, wellness activities, family gatherings, respecting differences and developing friendships based on commonalities. The eight-acre space will be a friendly, safe and engaging environment in which to learn about diversity and celebrate similarities locally, nationally and around the world. The majority of the land for the park has already been acquired, and the scope and general design of the park have been developed. MFF intends to raise over \$10 million to cover the cost of construction, setup a contingency fund, purchase surrounding

property and cover the first year's park operation. The construction of Phase 1 of Park will begin when \$4 million has been raised. These funds will be raised locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

### *Friends of the Fairgrounds*

- **Community Planning:** Friends of the Fairgrounds (FOTF) is an inclusive group of community stakeholders who are building a new vision for the Fairgrounds. They are developing a sustainable plan to lift up Memphis by reimagining this vital public land as a fair & equitable space for all Memphians to learn, connect, grow, explore, and play.
- **Vision Document:** Over the past year, FOTF has convened and facilitated a series of eight community meetings, each around a single theme (e.g. economic opportunity, connectivity). During that time, FOTF recorded all stakeholder input; now they are using that information to build a vision document, "The Case for the Fairgrounds." Tentatively scheduled to be released in March, this document will outline the once-in-a-generation opportunity that Memphis currently has in the Fairgrounds. There will also be an online survey and a series of public forums in which all Mid-Southerners are invited to participate.

### *Germantown, City of*

- **Germantown Greenway System Phase VI:** This project constructed a 10' wide section of greenway trail adjacent to the Wolf River and running parallel to Wolf River Parkway from a new trailhead and comfort station across from the Riverwoods State Natural Area to a new public access point and trailhead at Cameron Brown Park located adjacent to the traffic light at Wolf River Blvd and Farmington. Greenway users now enjoy over 4 miles of scenic paved trails along the Wolf River in Germantown with restroom amenities, rest stops and trailhead parking. A journey from Cameron Brown Park in Germantown to mid-town Memphis can be taken without using accessing public roads and automobile traffic. The project was started in February, 2015 and completed in April, 2016.
- **Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan:** Funding was allocated in this year's budget to secure qualified design team to implement this important planning initiative.
- **Greenway Expansion Grant Approval:** Two trail connector projects will add another 2+ miles and an additional trail head at the Farmington/Wolf River Boulevard Intersection. Neshoba Park to new trail head on Wolf River Boulevard. Cameron Brown Park to Farminton/Wolf River Intersection.
- **Greenway 911 Signage (Phase II):** Signage has been installed from the western city limits to Cameron Brown Park – the most traveled section of the Germantown Greenway System.
- **"Edible Garden" on the Greenway:** A variety of native berries and nut tries installed along the new section of Greenway with assistance from the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association and Christian Brothers High School students.
- **Summer Farmer's Market:** Germantown hosted a summer farmer's market at the Farm Park where 18 local vendors sold fresh produce and other items.
- **Community Garden Program:** Approximately 60 families were involved in Germantown's sustainable agriculture model at the Farm Park.
- **TVA Sustainable Communities Award:** For the second time, Germantown received the platinum designation of the Sustainable Communities award from the Tennessee Valley Authority.
- **Oaklawn Garden Arboretum:** Germantown's second arboretum project is being developed in partnership with the Nature Conservancy.



- **Environmental Education Programs:** Germantown rangers and recreation staff have led environmental education programs for children and families such as a family camp out, owl watch, nocturnal nature scavenger hunt on the Greenway.
- **Youth Education Pond:** The region’s first “youth only” fishing pond with dock and pier will be developed through a partnership with the Germantown Rotary Club.

### *Innovate Memphis*

- **Commute Options Initiative:** Innovate Memphis launched a Commute Options Travel Demand Management Initiative in 2016. Commute Options works with select Memphis-area employers to help employees and students take transit, bicycle, walk, and rideshare to work and school and reduce demand for parking. The team customizes strategies to each workplace and provides outreach and incentives together with employer support. The project is funded with a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) federal grant and a local match.
- **The Memphis Parks Advocacy Group (MPAG):** With funding from the Hyde Family Foundations, Innovate Memphis has been partnering with the neighborhood park advocates and with the Division of Parks & Neighborhoods to design a business plan for a city-wide parks advocacy organization. In summer of 2016 a pilot program was launched to test drive the business plan which focuses on helping communities build and sustain park friends groups, and brokering financial partnership in support of park maintenance and improvements. It is expected that a formal park advocacy organization will launch in 2017.
- **Reimagining the Civic Commons: The Fourth Bluff Project-** Memphis has been awarded \$10M to develop four contiguous public assets along the downtown Riverfront: Memphis and Mississippi River parks, the Law School promenade, and Cossitt Library. Innovate Memphis is providing project management for this initiative. It is expected that through exceptional design and innovative programming the Fourth Bluff will be the go-to place for all Memphians, and as such, will break down social barriers built by economic segregation.

### *Kitchen Community*

- **Learning Gardens:** The Kitchen Community (TKC) has a mission to strengthen communities by joining them to accelerate real food culture at scale. TKC’s regional Memphis team helps schools grow thriving and productive Learning Gardens. Through the Edible Garden and the Garden-Based Education Initiatives, TKC works towards three primary outcomes: 1) Increasing students’ academic engagement and achievement; 2) Increasing knowledge and likability of fruits and vegetables; and 3) Strengthening the relationships between school and community. Our research has found that 98% of teachers agree that a Learning Garden has increased their students’ awareness of healthy foods. By the end of spring 2017, there will be Learning Gardens at 85 schools in Memphis!
- **Edible Garden Initiative:** TKC helps schools ensure that their Learning Gardens are full of fresh fruits and vegetables, and that they get productive harvests at least twice a year. Schools are provided with gardening materials, tools, and instructions, including seeds and seedlings, a personalized growing plan, and a comprehensive Learning Garden Manual. Teachers are invited to attend TKC-hosted trainings and demonstrations to learn how to maintain a thriving garden. TKC also provides direct support to each school through participating in Garden Team meetings, helping with maintenance, and being readily available to discuss questions and big ideas with schools!



- **Garden-Based Education Initiative:** TKC equips schools to use their Learning Garden as a teaching tool to engage students in hands-on learning. TKC is offering curriculum in food literacy and Nutrition & Health in Memphis in spring of 2017. TKC has also launched a new website that contains a library of resources for teaching in the Learning Garden, including lessons, activities, and guidance on standards alignment. A study of our Learning Gardens showed that 93% of teachers see an increased level of student participation when working in Learning Gardens, and 86% agree that some subjects are more easily taught in the Learning Garden.

### *Knowledge Quest*

- **Green Leaf Learning Farm Expansion:** Knowledge Quest has expanded their growing capacity through the installation of 34 permanent raised beds. Their six-year-old operation has been a USDA Certified Organic micro-farm for four of those years. They recently expanded their organic certification to include 10 of the 34 raised beds, flower beds, and their propagation hoop house which were formerly not certified organic. 100% of the operation is now USDA Certified Organic. They received infrastructure support from the Memphis Grizzlies Foundation and they have completed Phase I of their three phase build out. The expansion includes an outdoor pavilion for classrooms and gathering event space; expanded propagation area; a 15-station irrigation system; accessible pathways and an expanded flower garden. Green Leaf recently planted their orchard lot which is located directly across from the Residences of GL. The orchard includes, berries, fig and apple trees; the orchard will also expand with a bee apiary and many other fruit varieties.
- **Residences of Green Leaf:** Knowledge Quest has begun the renovation of the Residences of Green Leaf through the Memphis Green Communities Grant. The 10-one bedroom apartment complex is nearly sealed with a new roof, windows and doors and has been fully gutted. The renovation is a ‘sustainable-build’ project and will be Enterprise Green certified.
- **Green Leaf Packhouse:** Community Foundation’s Give365, Valero Refinery, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee and Shelby County Commissioner Steve Basar contributed toward the renovation and re-purposing of the former ‘shotgun-style’ house into the Green Leaf Packhouse. The packhouse includes a 3-compartment sink, residential stove, prep table and area for community health and nutrition workshops and agriculture focused meetings. The packhouse will also include a walk in cooler for produce storage. The Grand Opening is scheduled for first week of November.
- **Green Leaf Playground:** Knowledge Quest partnered with national playground KaBOOM!, 100 employees of Blue Cross/Blue Shield and 150 community residents to build a magnificent playground and associated play spaces including a play stage, music wall, a Little Free Library, bike rack, storage bins, garden box seating trellis, and recycle/garbage bins. The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee sponsored playground contributes to Knowledge Quest’s goal of expanding neighborhood greenspace for families to gather and play while promoting the fitness goals of Green Leaf Learning Farm.
- **Gardening Programs:** Knowledge Quest has partnered with the education division of Agricenter and University of Tennessee’s 4-H program (Food Smart Families) to support the education pipeline of Knowledge Quest’s PreK-12 student participants toward careers in agriculture, sustainability, and other STEM fields.
- **Jay Uiberall Culinary Academy:** The culinary academy, a signature program of Green Leaf, recently had nine of its students to enter the Regional ProStart Competition for their first time. The Business Team placed 3rd and the Culinary Team placed 4th! There are 30 ProStart Kitchens in the State of Tennessee. The Culinary team featured a “Walking In Memphis” menu and the Business Team an Afro-fusion themed restaurant and associated business plan including restaurant renderings.



- **Green Leaf Collaboration:** On behalf of Green Leaf Learning Farm, Knowledge Quest has joined the Parks Advocacy Steering Committee, the Ag Education Roundtable and the Post-Secondary Ag & Food Roundtable. Knowledge Quest Executive Director, Marlon Foster, is a member of the Agricenter Board of Directors.

### *Memphis, City of*

- **Chelsea Greenline:** The Chelsea Greenline is a project that will convert an abandoned rail corridor approximately 2.6 miles long into a greenway through north mid-town, connecting residential, commercial, and employment areas. The trail would begin one block from Buckman Laboratories on the east and Washington Park in the Uptown area. Acquisition/easement consultant selection is underway by the City of Memphis. Approximately \$1.5 million is currently included in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with approximately \$2 million needed in construction funds. Local groups 'Greater Memphis Greenline' and 'Our Grass Our Roots' are both working to create several public engagement opportunities as the implementation process moves forward in the coming years. This project is currently in the design phase and is expected to enter the right-of-way acquisition phase in late 2017.
- **Memphis Heritage Trail Green Infrastructure Retrofit:** The Memphis Heritage Trail Green Streets Retrofit Initiative will supplement the trail's cultural components with environmental solutions to help improve the quality of life in the metropolitan downtown Memphis area. Environmental solutions recommended in the street retrofit are stormwater management, construction of a pedestrian-friendly streetscape, traffic calming solutions, and locations for public spaces and green infrastructure. There are three segments to the street retrofit, along Martin Luther King Boulevard (formerly Linden Avenue) from Main Street to Danny Thomas Boulevard. The estimated cost of the retrofit is \$6.2 million.
- **Shelby Farms Greenline Western Extension:** A scenario analysis is underway to determine the appropriateness of various structural designs to the bridge component. This project should complete the NEPA phase this year.



### *Memphis, City of – Office of Comprehensive Planning*

- **Memphis 3.0 – Guiding Memphis into our 3rd century:** Memphis 3.0 is the first comprehensive plan for the City Of Memphis in nearly 40 years. Over the next two years, planners from the newly created Office of Comprehensive Planning will work with citizens and a variety of experts to develop a master plan for the city. Specific outcomes include a preferred growth scenario for the city, a future land use plan, small district plans that recommend new investments, and a strategic framework for addressing the connectivity, sustainability, opportunity, and livability of our city. The plan is slated for completion and adoption by City Council in December 2018. Please visit [www.memphis3point0.com](http://www.memphis3point0.com) for more information or to stay updated.

### *Memphis-Shelby County Office of Sustainability*

- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory:** As part of the City of Memphis's commitment to the Global Covenant of Mayors, the Office of Sustainability recently completed a comprehensive inventory of citywide greenhouse gas emissions. This analysis includes gathering data on emissions from three major categories: transportation sources (on-road and off-road vehicles, water and air vehicles), stationary sources (electricity and natural gas used in residential, commercial, and industrial buildings), and solid waste/water and wastewater. The two largest sectors of emissions are stationary sources (53.9% of total CO2 emissions) and transportation/mobile sources (31.5% of total CO2 emissions). The office will prepare a report summarizing the findings of this inventory over the next several months. The next step in the process will be to formulate short-, medium- and

long-term reduction targets for greenhouse gas emissions. Within the next two years, the city will complete a climate action plan which will lay out the policies and actions needed to reach these targets.

- **Clean Tennessee Energy Grant for Lichterman Nature Center LED Lighting Retrofit:** In cooperation with the City of Memphis General Services Department and the Department of Parks and Neighborhoods, the Office of Sustainability is working to implement an LED lighting retrofit project that received \$80,000 in grant funds from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation in 2015. The project, which also received \$80,000 in matching funds from the city, will update over 175 lighting fixtures in the Visitor Center building on Lichterman Nature Center's campus. The project, which is expected to be complete by December of 2017, will reduce energy use and costs for the city as well as reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

### ***Memphis Light Gas and Water***

- **Alternative Energy Projects:** MLGW is spearheading several projects involving compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied natural gas (LNG) and landfill gas to offset the use of more polluting gasoline and diesel. On average, CNG is 33 to 50 percent cheaper per gasoline gallon equivalent (gge) than regular gasoline. Pioneering the opening of a CNG station demonstrates MLGW's leadership in providing customers alternative fuels options. MLGW has an LNG storage facility which allows for the storage of gas during the summer periods of low usage and then as a reserve during winter peak periods. The facility stores 300,000 bbls. (Equivalent to one billion cubic feet) in above-ground storage tanks. Lastly, the new North Shelby landfill program provides methods to clean, enhance, and compress landfill gas in order to provide pipeline quality gas to the MLGW system.
- **Native Grass Planting at Kennedy Park:** Memphis Light Gas and Water (MLGW) has planted 13 acres of Electric Transmission ROW in Kennedy Park with species of native warm season grasses (NWSG) and native wildflower species. This effort began with herbicide application in October, 2015, and additional herbicide application and planting of seeds and plants in the spring 2016. This replanted area creates an area more beneficial to local wildlife and pollinators, and it will result in lower ROW maintenance expense for MLGW. It should also serve as a pilot for other similar efforts. On Thursday, June 30, a group of 20 students and volunteers from Memphis Business Academy, Clean Memphis and Memphis Light, Gas and Water (MLGW) spent the morning replanting a utility right of way with wildflowers and native grasses. The high school students set out 200 seedlings of several wildflower species in the more visible area of MLGW's linear meadow in John F. Kennedy Park; 4577 Raleigh-LaGrange Rd. The week prior, workers using a seed drill planted the area with wildflower and native grass seeds.



### ***Memphis Metropolitan Planning Organization***

- **The Memphis MPO/MATA Bus Stop Study:** The Memphis MPO, in partnership with the Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA), has embarked on a project that will ultimately lead to improvements in the quality of bus stops in the Greater Memphis Region. A common issue raised by the existing bus riders and heard by the Memphis MPO and MATA has been the current standards of MATA bus stops. Creation of the Guidelines is the first step in the process to ensure that MATA bus stops offer the highest comfort and accessibility for citizens who ride the bus.
  - This project will: (a) Study existing bus stops on MATA routes and identify needed improvements to better accommodate needs of citizens. (b) Develop a manual regarding improvements to existing bus stops. (c) Develop basic engineering design for different types of bus stops, based on location and usage. (d) Recommend better placement of bus stops along MATA routes. (e) Recommend an implementation plan and schedule.



- As part of the continuing existing conditions analysis, consultants will conduct field surveys of different types of bus stops currently on the MATA system. This will help illustrate existing conditions and potential improvements that can be made for different types of bus stops.
- **Regional Freight Plan:** The Memphis MPO's Regional Freight Plan seeks to identify balance across modes to move freight effectively, in, out and through the region in a manner to meet the near and longer term needs of the region's industries and stakeholders. The Plan will take a close look at the industrial areas within the Greater Memphis region, rural as well as urban areas, to identify the means for freight to move effectively with the region's transportation network. The future growth and repurposing of former industrial sites will be key components of the evaluation. Taken together, the Plan will identify the means to take advantage of the region's unique transportation attributes as a regional distribution center with its highway, inland waterway, rail, air freight and pipeline connections across North America, as well as down the street. Finally, the Plan will demonstrate the economic attractiveness of this region, the strength of its workforce and its ability to host industry's supply chains in a cost effective manner.

### **Memphis Tilth**

- **GrowMemphis:** GrowMemphis helps communities build gardens to improve access to locally grown food in their neighborhoods. GrowMemphis currently has 53 community gardens in 15 zip codes. In 2016, GrowMemphis has partnered with the Memphis Public Library to form the GrowMemphis Seed Library which is the first in West Tennessee and located on the 3rd floor of the Benjamin Hooks Central Library.
- **Bring It Food Hub:** The Bring It Food Hub is an aggregate distributor of local fruits and vegetables housed under the Memphis Tilth umbrella. We work to ensure that local specialty growers have a fair share of the market by finding avenues for distribution of their products. This is done through a variety of channels such as a highly successful year-round direct-to-consumer subscription service with over 30 drop sites throughout the city, wholesale work with local restaurants, stores, catering operations and large-scale institutions, and a food recovery operation for gleaning unused or sub-prime products to those in need.
- **Memphis Tilth Food Policy Program:** The Food Policy Program's Food Advisory Council for Memphis and Shelby County (FAC) completed its Food Landscape project, which is an interactive tool where the public can add land bank vacant properties, markets, gardens and urban farms, school gardens, and more! The FAC also printed the Farmers Market Guide and the Local Food Guide which is an educational tool about local food. Since then, the FAC has dissolved its membership and executive committee model. The Food Policy Program for Memphis Tilth is looking for new ways to connect the community to food policy!

### **Millington, City of**

- **Millington Greenway Plan Phase I:** The City of Millington continues to request grant funding for phase 1 of the Millington Greenways Plan, a long-range plan for connecting 20 miles of greenway throughout the City of Millington. Phase I will connect multiple, single family residential neighborhoods, low income subsidized apartments and a senior living community to area grocery, retail, childcare centers, schools and public spaces including USA Stadium Complex, Lions Park, Baker Community Center and Millington Farmers' Market with connections to Veterans Parkway. Phase I implementation includes 3 uniformed trailheads with a bike rack, 2 benches, 1 trash receptacle, a map of the Millington Greenprint and its connection to the Mid-South Regional Greenprint, 1 bottle filler / water fountain / pet bowl combination, solar powered lighting and phone charging station. Trailheads will be located at USA Stadium, Lions Park and Millington Farmers' Market. Trail will be six (6) feet wide, concrete or asphalt and create a safe, ADA accessible access throughout and provide ease of access to multi-generational populations to area events, activity centers, shopping,



schools, childcare and jobs. It is important to note that NSA Mid-South, one of the largest employers in Shelby County is already connected through trails to Veterans Parkway.

- **Discovery Nature Park:** The City of Millington has been awarded the maximum LPRF award of \$500,000.00 which will be matched by a \$500,000.00 local match to develop Discovery Nature Park. This project will be a multi-generational, fully accessible, interactive community park with an extensive system of trails including woodland nature trails and fully accessible bike / ped paths. The project is in the NEPA phase of construction now. The full project is expected to be completed in 1-2 years. Phase I of the Millington Greenprint Plan would directly connect to Discover Nature Park.
- **Greenprint for Resiliency:** Shelby County was awarded a federal grant for disaster resiliency in the amount of \$60,455,000. \$29 million of that grant will be spent on the Big Creek Project in Millington. The project is designed for flood mitigation, but also includes \$7.5 million for increased amenities, green spaces, trails and other recreation. The project is currently in the NEPA phase of construction and is expected to be completed within 4 years.
- **Navy Road Streetscape Phase II:** The Navy Road Streetscape project includes sidewalk repairs, handicapped ramps, upgrade of pedestrian signal equipment at all intersections and shared bike lanes on both sides, with ADA compliance throughout the entire project. Project construction is underway.
- **Raleigh Millington Bridge Replacement Project:** This project includes 8 foot raised Bike / Ped Path on both sides of bridge. Construction will begin in spring 2017, currently in NEPA stage of construction.

### ***Mississippi River Corridor TN***

- **CCC Mississippi River Camp, Restoration Plan at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park:** The MRCT was awarded a Contract in 2015 by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to create a Restoration Plan for the historic camp. Built in 1933, the camp has been closed for the past fourteen years. In partnership with the University of Memphis, Assistant Professor Antonio Raciti, and graduate students from the Department of City & Regional Planning, the recently released Restoration Plan (May 2016) recommends and details a complete refurbishment of the site, including an Assembly Hall & kitchen, Swimming Pool, out buildings and approximately 23 cabins. Implementation of the Plan would allow the public to enjoy this wonderful group camp asset once again. MRCT is planning to launch a capital campaign in 2017 to raise the funds needed to restore this historic landmark in Shelby County, only 20 minutes north of downtown Memphis. <https://umdrive.memphis.edu/araciti/public/Final%20Draft.pdf>

### ***Our Grass, Our Roots***

- **Friends of Chelsea Greenline:** Our Grass Our Roots is a grassroots, non-profit movement to assist in transforming the North Memphis neighborhood into an economically sustainable, community focused, cultural capital that will be the grounds for fighting gentrification and citizen displacement, involving the community, structures and businesses already present, and nurturing the individuals within the community to help make Memphis a better place. OGOR has formed a new group called Friends of Chelsea Greenline to give North Memphis residents a strong, projected voice in the use, sustenance, and community connections involved with the future 2.5 mile Chelsea Greenline. Stretching from Chelsea and Evergreen all the way to Washington Park, the Chelsea Greenline will prove influential on the residents of North Memphis. FCG will ensure that all coming influences will be as productive and inclusive as possible for North Memphis residents. FCG will also work to address the needs of future facilities, greenline usage, greenline security, trash removal, community events, education, fundraising, community connections, and publicity. Friends of Chelsea Greenline have started performing monthly 'clean-ups' of the Greenline.

## **Overton Park Conservancy**

- **Poplar/Cooper Entrance:** A new bike/pedestrian connector trail will connect the intersection of Poplar at Cooper with the park entrance at Veterans Plaza Drive, and will extend west to the park entrance at Veteran's Plaza Drive, providing better access from the MATA stop at Poplar Avenue and Cooper Street. A second crosswalk and pedestrian-activated light will be added on the west side of the Poplar/Cooper intersection. The Conservancy has secured the required 20% matching funds for this project, and the City of Memphis is moving forward with the plans for this project.
- **North Parkway Sidewalk:** The sidewalk adjacent to the Zoo on North Parkway has been repaired. The City has also installed on-street parking, adding about 100 on-street parking spaces that can be used by Zoo visitors, as well as a bike lane along that section connecting cyclists to and through Overton Park.
- **Parking and Traffic Planning:** Overton Park Conservancy (OPC) issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) on November 5, 2015 for professional assistance in developing a Parking & Traffic Plan for Overton Park and each of the institutions housed within the park. A team of consultants was selected and following a robust public input period, the plan was completed in early 2016. The plan identifies opportunities to improve multi-modal mobility and access into and within Overton Park. Several of the recommendations from this plan are being implemented or planned for the near future. OPC sees this effort as the first step in a park-wide master planning process, which will advance in 2017.



## **Roots Memphis**

- **Roots Memphis Urban Farm:** Roots is a growing cooperative of young and beginning farmers producing clean and ethical food. Roots produces an assorted variety of vegetables and flowers and currently supports a growing CSA, with pick-up and delivery locations throughout town.
- **Roots Memphis Farm Academy:** A farmer incubator program that trains and launches new, sustainable farmers in the Memphis region by combining sustainable farm skills training and small farm business management classes with an incubation process that connects graduates to land, financing, markets, and ongoing technical assistance and consultation.

## **Shelby County**

- **Resilient Shelby:** A series of three storm systems in April 2011 caused significant damage in Shelby County. Due to the severity of the damages, Shelby County was identified by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as Tennessee's most impacted area. These three events resulted in Presidentially Disaster Declarations and serve as the basis for the County's eligibility to participate in the National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) – a national competition for \$1 billion for activities that advance resilience efforts in states, territories, and local jurisdictions. Building upon the significant efforts that have taken place since the disaster – most notably the Mid-South Regional Greenprint and Sustainability Plan – Shelby County developed a plan for how to address remaining unmet needs and account for evolving risks while creating a more resilient county, better prepared to respond to and recover from future disasters. In 2016, Shelby County Government was notified that it will receive a \$60.4 million grant from the NDRC to address three areas hardest hit in 2011: (1) flood protection, recreational amenities, and urban agriculture along Big Creek in Millington, benefitting low to moderate income residents and the U.S. Naval Support Activity Command Center; (2) flood protection, recreational amenities, and connectivity through greenways and complete streets to increase access to economic opportunity in Wolf River communities of Memphis; and (3) flood protection, vacant lot remediation, food production, and community programs to increase economic and social capital in South Cypress Creek in Southwest Memphis. Each of these projects involves connecting



greenway infrastructure identified on the Greenprint network in a manner than provides long-term resilience.

### ***Shelby Farms Park Conservancy***

- **Heart of the Park:** Heart of the Park is a visionary reimagining of Patriot Lake - a well-loved but ecologically dysfunctional lake in the center of the Park, which was created when dirt was needed to cap a nearby landfill- and the area surrounding the lake's edge. The Heart of the Park opened in September 2016 and has become a vibrant and diverse community hub, an environmental teaching tool, an important part of the business plan to sustain the Park, and a gathering place for health and recreation, relaxation and big water adventure. Renovations included 1000 new trees, a new visitor center, a restaurant, the second geothermal system in the city, an event center, boat rental kiosk, water play, and much more. Shelby Farms Park Conservancy started fundraising in 2008, completed its \$70M capital campaign in 2015, and hosted a groundbreaking event at the end of April 2015. Now the gates are open to the largest renovation project Shelby Farms Park has ever seen at one time.
- **Shelby Farms Greenline:** In 2016, the Shelby Farms Greenline was extended 4 miles east of Shelby Farms Park. Shelby County funded the trail expansion through a Multimodal Access Grant grant, with a local match, and funded an innovative crossing at Germantown Parkway with a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant . The Greenline extension opened in June 2016 and is now a 10.65 mile urban trail connecting Midtown Memphis to Shelby Farms Park and beyond in to Cordova, TN. Managed and operated by the nonprofit Shelby Farms Park Conservancy, the trail is an incredible community asset that provides new opportunities for recreation, exercise, togetherness, healthy activity, commuting and more.
- **The ACCESS Project on Shelby Farms Greenline:** In 2016, Shelby Farms Park Conservancy (SFPC) worked with neighbors to bring the ACCESS project closer to being a physical reality. SFPC's ACCESS Project targets three gaps in connectivity along the Greenline- at Perkins Rd, Appling Rd. and Gameday Baseball- and was awarded Greenprint Certification in 2016 for furthering the green network in the region. Two of the three ACCESS Projects were completely funded in 2016: The Perkins + Appling Access Projects. Funds were raised with the help of the community through IOBY (In Our BackYard) campaigns, private donations and grants from both local foundations and Shelby County. SFPC expects to complete construction on both of these projects by the end of 2017.



### ***Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation***

- **Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park:** Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park is a 13,476-acre hardwood bottomland area bordering the mighty Mississippi River 13 miles north of Memphis featuring mature Bald Cypress and Tupelo swamp. Most of the facilities are on top of the majestic Chickasaw Bluffs that rise from the bottomlands and are covered with large oaks, American beech, hickory and sweet gum. The park offers activities focused on the nature and beauty of the park. Meeman-Shelby Forest offers more than 20 miles of hiking trails that wind throughout the park.

### ***Vollintine Evergreen Community Association***

- **V&E Greenline Entrances and Street Crossings:** Consultants Ritchie Smith Associates and SRC completed the construction drawings and these have been approved by the City of Memphis, Division of Engineering. The proposed public improvements include concrete wheelchair ramps at eight street crossings. Adjacent to the ramps, the concrete curb and sidewalk will be rebuilt. Drainage improvements will be made as needed. For the actual



street crossings, zebra striping will be added to create a highly visible crosswalk. Traffic signs will be placed in advance of and at each crosswalk to alert motorists that they are approaching a V&E Greenline crosswalk. The Memphis City Council has allocated funding in its Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for construction of these public improvements and the Division of Engineering is preparing bid documents, with construction expected in spring 2017.

### ***West Memphis, City of***

- **West Memphis Delta Regional River Park:** The City of West Memphis is working with Big River Strategic Initiative and Crittenden County, Arkansas, to develop the Delta Regional River Park (formerly Eco-Park) on the Arkansas bank of the Mississippi River, directly across from Downtown Memphis. The size of the park will total approximately 1,800 acres bordered by I-40 & I-55, the river and the Levee. In the planning phase of the Greenprint, the City of West Memphis received a \$50K sub-planning grant, which it used to contract the University of Memphis planning department for preliminary study of the area. BRSI also funded a survey of site. On May 12, 2015, the West Memphis MPO allocated \$1.25M in CMAQ funds for trails in the proposed park, connecting The Harahan Bridge and West Memphis to this unique destination. Construction on five miles of new trails began in early November. Construction of the Park is expected to reach completion in early spring.



### ***Wolf River Conservancy and the City of Memphis***

- **Wolf River Conservancy and the City of Memphis:** The Wolf River Conservancy and the City of Memphis have partnered to develop the 21 miles of the Wolf River Greenway within the Memphis city limits. Approximately 3 miles along Humphrey's Blvd. are open to the public. Construction of 3 privately funded segments is currently underway with a construction budget of \$4.5 million for 3.7 trail miles. The remaining phases are targeted for completion by 2019.

### ***Wolf River Conservancy and the City of Piperton, TN***

- **Boat Launch Study:** TVA in partnership with TN Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA) and the Wolf River Conservancy dedicated a new boat launch in Piperton, TN on October 26, 2016. This new river access point was identified in the Wolf River Boat Launch Access Study conducted by the Wolf River Conservancy under a subgrant. The Bateman Road boat launch in Fayette County was recently improved with funding from TN Department of Environmental Conservation, TVA and the Wolf River Conservancy.

### ***The Works***

- **South Memphis Greenline:** The South Memphis Greenline proposes to convert an abandoned rail corridor approximately 2 miles long into a greenway through the heart of South Memphis, connecting residential, commercial, and employment areas. The project has received Federal Transportation Improvement Program funding for its design and engineering phase. Execution of a contract with a consultant is underway to initiate preliminary engineering and design work associated with the South Memphis Greenline project. Once the contract is fully executed (likely in January 2017), the work on this project will commence.
- **South Parkway median restoration:** This project is focused on addressing pedestrian safety and connectivity issues seen on a segment of South Parkway between I-240 and Lauderdale Street. This section of South Parkway no longer has a landscaped median as can be found on the majority of the Parkway system (North, South, and East Parkways) in



residential areas. The removal of this section's landscaped median has resulted in a 75-foot wide thoroughfare that encourages high-speed traffic and has only two marked pedestrian crossings in its one-mile length. This segment of South Parkway is home to five churches, two elementary schools, and the only public park in the neighborhood, and consequently sees heavy pedestrian use. This project was recently awarded construction funding. It will go to bid in Spring 2017, with expected completion by Summer 2017.