OVERVIEW
The Mid-South Regional Greenprint and Sustainability Plan ("Greenprint") is a comprehensive, long-term planning document that recommends the establishment of a network of trails and green space to enhance the livability, sustainability and interconnectedness of the Mid-South.

Additionally, the Greenprint identifies more than 150 meaningful actions that address regional issues related to such topics as: long-term housing and land use, resource conservation, environmental protection, accessibility, community health and wellness, transportation alternatives, economic development, neighborhood engagement and social equity.

500 miles of greenway trails & 200 miles of bike paths by the year 2040

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE
The Greenprint is defined geographically by the boundaries of the Memphis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and West Memphis MPO, which includes jurisdictions in Shelby County, Tennessee, and in portions of Fayette County, Tennessee; DeSoto County, Mississippi; and Crittenden County, Arkansas.
IMPACT
Implementing the Greenprint will result in a region of connected communities that are united in creating a high quality of life; a region where the physical and social environments are sustainable for future generations; and where all people can access abundant economic, social and natural opportunities.

By 2040, successful implementation of the Greenprint will benefit the Mid-South by:

- Improving access to greenways, bikeways, transit and other modes of alternative transportation throughout the region;
- Reducing social and economic disparities in disadvantaged populations, including reduction in poverty and a measurable increase in essential goods and services in low-income neighborhoods;
- Improving access to healthcare and quality fresh foods, especially those with fewer means;
- Reducing overall combined housing and transportation costs per household;
- Creating safe and walkable neighborhoods;
- Attracting and retaining businesses, residents and visitors who come for improved quality of life;
- Improving health of the region’s environmental systems, such as cleaner water and air, reduced flooding and pollution, sustained and sustainable working lands and better quality and quantity of natural habitats.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Jurisdictional Adoption - Greenprint adoption by the represented jurisdictions (18 municipalities, 4 counties, 2 MPOs) demonstrates the community’s commitment to implementing the plan and authorizes responsible agencies to execute their actions.

Regional Consortium & Community Partners - Successful implementation of the Greenprint relies on broad community support and the concerted efforts of local organizations, businesses, nonprofits, government agencies and individuals who are working to establish the larger trail network and apply the Greenprint’s recommended actions.

Greenprint Independent Entity - A permanent central entity will coordinate and support Greenprint activity over its projected 25-year implementation period.

BACKGROUND

In November 2011, Shelby County Government was awarded the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant in the amount of $2,619,999 to develop the Greenprint.

The 3-year planning process for the Greenprint was managed by the Memphis-Shelby County Office of Sustainability and guided by the Mid-South Regional Greenprint Consortium ("Consortium"), which included 300+ individuals representing more than 80 organizations, agencies and community groups.

In 2015, the Greenprint was completed and distributed. Shortly after its publication, the plan won an international award from the American Planning Association’s Sustainable Communities Division for Excellence in Sustainability Planning.

For more information please go to www.midsouthgreenprint.org.