

Citizen involvement has been a key component in the development of the Northland Trail System Plan. The two counties are committed to designing and building a trail system that meets the needs of their constituents. The planning process was designed to solicit input and feedback from residents in the two-county area.

The two county commissions recognize the importance of broad public support in the implementation and long term maintenance of a trail system.

Citizen Involvement – Planning charrettes (workshops) were held on March 9, 15 and 16, 2000. Attendees at the three meetings offered input on desired trail routes, types of facilities, and important destinations to be served, including historic and cultural sites.

Possible trail corridors were mapped and reviewed with over 100 residents at three public meetings on June 20, 21 and 22, 2000. Residents had the opportunity to provide additional input and began to identify priority corridors for trail development.

Attendance at the six public meetings held in March and June was 234.

Newsletters were distributed prior to the meetings in March and June to inform residents about the trail plan and announce opportunities for involvement. Information about the plan was posted on the counties' websites.

A statistically valid citizen survey of almost 1,000 Clay and Platte County residents was completed during June and July 2000.

Interaction with Other Jurisdictions – A meeting with city officials from municipalities throughout the two counties was held at Gladstone City Hall on May 18, 2000. The meeting focused on identifying opportunities to connect the trails planned for the unincorporated areas with city facilities.



What you told us at the Planning Charrettes in March 2000

Destination points most often mentioned by residents:

- Weston Bend State Park
- Weston
- Watkins Mill State Park
- Jesse James Farm
- Smithville Lake
- Parkville

User Groups most often mentioned:

- Walkers
- Joggers
- Bikers
- Equestrian

Barriers most often mentioned:

- Highways and roadways
- Water areas
- Railroads
- Housing developments
- Roadways with no shoulders

Desired amenities most often mentioned:

- Restrooms
- Maps/Signage
- Phones
- Parking
- Benches
- Trash cans
- Water
- Lights

Areas most often mentioned for preservation:

- Missouri River
- Along Missouri River from Little Bean Marsh to Cooley Lake
- Smithville Lake area
- Platte River Corridor
- Old Interurban rail line
- Watkins Mill State Park to Kearney and Excelsior Springs
- Line Creek from Highway 152 to Riverside
- Happy Rock Park to Foxhill Park
- Weston Bend to Dearborn

Historic and Cultural Sites most often mentioned

- Interurban rail line up to Dearborn
- Weston Bend/Weston
- Watkins Mill
- Jesse James Farm
- Hall of Waters
- Chouteau Bridge
- Lewis and Clark Trail including Highway 9



- Downtown Liberty
- Platte City
- Old 210
- Maplewoods College
- Park College/Parkville
- Bonnie and Clyde shootout site

What You Told Us at the Draft Report Meetings in June

At the June public meetings, residents reviewed a draft corridor plan and identified areas that addressed their interests, needs and priorities. These positive aspects included:

- Separation of trail systems for different types of users
- Connections to cultural/historical, and natural features and colleges
- Coordination with city park and recreation departments
- Accessibility to outlying areas
- Consideration of trail loops
- Safety aspect of trails which get people off the highway
- Use existing trails
- Diversity and quality of destinations
- Incorporation of historical sites
- Awareness of the effort it takes to make the trail system a reality

Public meeting participants also identified areas that needed additional work, including:

- Adequate trail opportunities for various types of users.
- Additional facility recommendations for equestrians
- Loop routes for equestrian users
- Connection points with adjacent counties need to be shown
- County emphasis should be on road maintenance rather than trail development
- Communication of this process to let people know about it
- Historic sites should be included in the plan, including Battlefields in Platte County, Prehistoric Native American Sites, Union Mill, Edgerton, and Bonner Museum
- Inclusion of Missouri River routes and levee system opportunities
- Downtown airport opportunities
- Foot traffic across Missouri River
- Trail heads and parking
- Accommodations for ADA users
- More connections between 152 to 92 across country
- Consideration of kids crossing major roads
- Connections with State conservation areas

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Residents identified ways for the two counties to communicate about a trail system:

- Newspapers
- Neighborhood associations
- Churches
- Teachers association
- Schools
- State parks
- Division of tourism
- Scouts
- Long range calendar
- Information booths at festivals
- Magazines
- Map reduced to be used as a handout
- Flyers at City Halls, fitness centers, tackshops, athletic stores, grocery stores, bike shops
- Existing clubs
- Do a pilot project
- County Websites, newsletters
- Uniform signage on the trails and system logo
- Clay/Platte County 4-H and service clubs
- Chambers of commerce
- Direct mail
- Volunteer speakers bureau

