Regional Initiative

With increasing development pressures throughout Henry and Rural Rock Island Counties, the Henry and Rural Rock Island Greenway Plan is a comprehensive regional greenway network aimed at preserving the environment and linear connections with the metro area, particularly along corridors of major communities and along waterways. The Henry and Rural Rock Island Counties Greenway Plan identifies goals and provides concepts for the implementation of greenways. As efforts to develop and implement these corridors will vary, specific routes may vary but the overall corridor will be preserved.

Regional Goal Priorities

The following list of regional goals are listed in priority order and correspond to the associated number on the map.

1. Henrysee Canal (A) - The Henrysee Canal is a natural historic site. Occurring in the Canal corridor, the Canal Ad Hoc Task Force, formed by the transfer of products from many sites along the Mississippi River. Today, the corridor is an important regional active greenway through the region rather than a visceral and valuable one. The Henrysee Canal is identified as a regional priority active greenway.

2. Rock Island State Trail Corridor (A) - A high priority greenway is proposed from the current terminus of the Rock Island State Trail in Trout Island Park to the Mississippi Palisades State Park in West Salem County. This corridor will provide an important north-south connection along the eastern section of Henry County, connecting the Village of Kewanee, the Johnson Island State Park Trail System, the Greenway is an area that coincides with historic and natural American sites and trails. Developing this corridor in conjunction with the Rich Valley Trail will provide opportunities for interpretive and educational programming, scenic and trail-based recreation in the river valley. Existing roadways may serve as a regional Greenway along a major north-south corridor.

3. Illinois River Corridor (A) - Illinois River corridor is designated as a high priority regional greenway. The Illinois River Greenway connects the corridor from the Illinois River, the Village of Harrisburg to the Big Rock Conservation Area and higher regional greenways in White County.

4. Illinois River Trail (A) - Illinois River Trail is designated as the southern county line is designated as a high priority regional greenway. This proposed greenway connects the corridor from the Illinois River Trail to the Mississippi Palisades State Park. Following IL-17, the corridor proposed would connect to the Horseshoe Lake Trail and is designated as a high priority regional greenway. This proposed greenway connects the corridor from the Illinois River to the National Park, and to the Horseshoe Lake Trail. The Illinois River Trail is designated as a high priority regional greenway.

Rock Island Path (A) - The Rock Island Path is a trail along the Mississippi River that provides a multi-use recreational trail along the river. The Rock Island Path is designated as a high priority regional greenway.

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Greenways link communities and their visitors. They can showcase cultural attractions such as parks, gardens, museums, historic sites, and Native American cultural sites. Greenways encourage tourism and local economic development. They promote healthy lifestyle and outdoor recreation. They enhance the natural environment and provide opportunities for education and interpretation. Greenways also provide a valuable resource for community revitalization and urban design. With their diverse uses, greenways benefit people of all ages and abilities.

Greenways in this region include:

- Henrysee Canal
- Illinois River Trail
- Rock Island Path
- Illinois River Corridor
- Rock Island State Trail Corridor
- Illinois River Trail
- Rock Island Path

Greenway Priorities

The Coalition has identified approximately 50 miles of greenways for preservation and improvement. The highest priorities stress regional connection between counties, regions and the Nation. Other priorities are shown to be significant connections along county and regional corridors. These greenways need to be developed to the maximum extent possible. The Coalition is working with various organizations and communities to improve the environment within Henry and Rural Rock Island Counties.

Henry and Rural Rock Island Counties Greenway Coalition

Under a grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), the Henry and Rural Rock Island Counties Greenway Coalition was formed. It aims to develop and preserve greenways throughout the project area. The coalition works to develop and implement greenways that are accessible to all residents and visitors to the region. The coalition is working with various organizations and communities to improve the environment within Henry and Rural Rock Island Counties.

Greenway Definitions

A greenway is a corridor of open space connecting natural areas, urban and suburban landscapes, and transportation corridors. As our “Green Infrastructure” corridor to make our cities, towns and rural areas more livable and attractive. It is a critical component of the health and welfare of the public. These linear corridors can be located along waterways, streets, sidewalks, greenways, highways, rail lines, or any other linear space that can be used.

Establishing greenways in many parcels means preserving existing open spaces and planning for future development. This is particularly important in areas where open space is already scarce or under threat of development. Greenways provide valuable opportunities for outdoor recreation and education and can improve the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

Greenways are essential to the development of a healthy community. They provide a wide range of benefits to residents, businesses, and visitors of all ages. They can also help to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

Implementation

The implementation of greenway projects in this region is ongoing and requires collaboration with various organizations and communities. The development of greenway projects requires careful planning and coordination to ensure the success of these projects.

Sample Methods:

- Identifying potential greenways
- Surveying public opinion
- Developing greenway plans
- securing funding

Funding Opportunities

There are several funding opportunities available for the development of greenways. These include:

- Federal funding through USDA’s Rural Development Program
- State funding through the Illinois Greenway Program
- Local funding through community fundraising efforts

The benefits of greenways include improved connectivity and accessibility, increased recreational opportunities, and improved aesthetic and environmental qualities, among others.

The Henry and Rural Rock Island Counties Greenway Plan is a comprehensive plan that identifies the various greenway opportunities in this region and provides a roadmap for their development. The plan is a tool for communities and organizations to identify, prioritize, and implement greenway projects in their area.

Our future greenways will start with...!}

There are many resources for communities and organizations to develop greenway opportunities in Henry and Rural Rock Island Counties.

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