



**CITY OF WILLARD**  
**BOARD OF ALDERS REGULAR MEETING**  
**January 07, 2026 at 5:30 PM**  
**Willard City Hall, 224 W. Jackson St., Willard, MO**  
**AGENDA**

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Update Posted on December 31, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.

The tentative agenda of this meeting includes:

**CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

- 1. ROLL CALL**
- 2. AGENDA AMENDMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 3. DISCUSSION ON BYLAWS/TERMS OF PARK BOARD**
  - A. Joint BOA and Parks Meeting Memo**
  - B. Parks Terms and Bylaws**
  - C. 2016 BYLAWS PARK BOARD**
  - D. 2022 BYLAWS PARK BOARD**
  - E. Willard Parks Plan**
- 4. ADJOURN MEETING**

If you have special needs which require accommodation, please notify personnel at the City Hall. Representatives of the news media may obtain copies of this notice by contacting the City Clerk at 417-742-5302.

Rebecca Hansen, City Clerk

# CITY OF WILLARD, MISSOURI

224 W. Jackson Street P.O. Box 187 Willard, MO 65781 417-742-3033 417-742-3080 Fax



**To:** Board of Aldermen; Park and Recreation Advisory Board

**Subject:** Clarifying the Role, Responsibilities, and Suggesting Guardrails for the Park and Recreation Advisory Board

**Date:** 12/31/2025

## Purpose of This Memo

The upcoming joint meeting of the Board of Aldermen and the Park and Recreation Advisory Board provides an important opportunity to realign expectations and practices with the Park Board's adopted bylaws. This memo is intended to:

1. Clearly restate what the Park and Recreation Advisory Board *is charged to do* under its bylaws;
2. Identify how current operating practices appear to have drifted from that framework;
3. Explain how fuller engagement by the Park Board strengthens governance, transparency, and financial sustainability; and
4. Propose practical guardrails to ensure the Park Board's involvement supports efforts toward budgetary balance and effective oversight without crossing into staff management.

This is not intended to be corrective in tone, simply directional in purpose: the City benefits most when each body fulfills its defined role.

## The Park Board's Role Under Its Bylaws

The Park and Recreation Advisory Board is not designed to function solely as a passive advisory group responding to staff updates as evidenced by bylaws that have been approved and renewed over time. These bylaws establish a more active governance and policy role, particularly in planning, budgeting, and long-term stewardship.

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Key responsibilities include:

## 1. Policy Guidance and Community Interpretation

The Park Board is tasked with evaluating programs and services in light of community needs and conveying those needs to the Board of Alders. This requires independent evaluation, not simply endorsement of staff proposals.

## 2. Budget Development and Financial Recommendations

The bylaws explicitly assign the Park Board responsibility to:

- Present an annual budget recommendation sufficient to finance recreation and park services within applicable financial constraints established by the finance department;
- Recommend capital improvements and long-term investments consistent with a master plan;
- Review, deliberate, and formally recommend proposed programs, expenditures, and initiatives with financial impact prior to their inclusion in the annual budget or submission to the Board of Aldermen for consideration.

This places the Park Board squarely in a *budget-shaping* role, not merely a budget-review role.

## 3. Program and Performance Evaluation

The Park Board is charged with periodically evaluating:

- Maintenance standards;
- Program operations, effectiveness and service delivery;
- Alignment of services with community needs.

This evaluative role is essential for informed budgeting and policy recommendations.

## 4. Strategic Planning and Capital Direction

The bylaws require preparation of a master plan for park acquisition, development, and improvement. This function ensures that annual budgets are connected to longer-term priorities rather than incremental or reactive decisions. While a master plan exists, it is likely needing some updates to ensure it remains current. The Parks Board should make applicable updates to ensure long term priorities are identified and worked toward.

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## Board Membership, Appointments, and Officer Elections

In addition to functional responsibilities, the bylaws and enabling ordinance establish clear expectations around board composition, appointments, and internal leadership that warrant attention.

### Member Appointments and Term Expiration

Park Board members serve defined three-year terms. City records indicate that one or more appointments may be expired or approaching expiration. As part of a broader governance cleanup and reset, it is appropriate for the Board of Alders to:

- Formally renew appointments where members remain willing to serve and continue to be desirable to the Board of Alders; and/or
- Solicit new applications to ensure the Park Board reflects current community interests, skills, and needs.

Regularly affirming appointments reinforces accountability, clarifies authority, and avoids ambiguity.

### Annual Election of Officers

The bylaws require the Park Board, each June, to elect or re-elect its President, Vice-President, and Secretary. It is not clear from existing records that this has been done routinely.

Annual officer elections are not merely procedural. They:

- Reinforce shared leadership and responsibility;
- Provide an opportunity to reset expectations;
- Ensure clarity in who is responsible for agenda setting, meeting conduct, and coordination.

As part of realignment with the bylaws, the Park Board should resume formal annual officer elections and ensure the results are clearly documented.

## Where Current Practice Has Drifted

At present, it appears that:

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- The Parks Director appears to often approach the Park Board seeking affirmation rather than guidance;
- The Park Board appears to primarily receive information rather than shaping direction;
- Budget discussions appear to focus on explaining deficits rather than actively guiding the department toward financial balance.

This dynamic unintentionally inverts the relationship envisioned by the bylaws. The Park Board becomes reactive, while the Director is left without the policy-level guidance the bylaws anticipate.

## Why Full Engagement Benefits the City

Re-centering the Park Board's role delivers tangible benefits:

- **Stronger Financial Stewardship:** Independent budget development and review improves credibility and reduces surprises at the Board of Alders level.
- **Clearer Accountability:** The Director operates with defined and documented direction rather than informal expectations.
- **Better Long-Term Planning:** Capital decisions align with adopted priorities rather than short-term pressures.
- **Improved Public Confidence:** A visibly engaged board reinforces transparency and shared responsibility.

In short, a properly functioning Park Board acts as a stabilizing force, not an additional obstacle.

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## Guardrails to Support Budgetary Balance and Good Governance

While not explicitly enumerated in the bylaws, the following guardrails are intended to guide how the Park Board carries out its bylaw responsibilities. To ensure the Park Board's involvement is constructive and aligned with City goals, the following guardrails are recommended:

### 1. Policy, Not Personnel

The Park Board provides direction on goals, priorities, and budgets; not day-to-day operations or staff supervision.

### 2. Early Budget Engagement

The Park Board should review revenues, expenditures, and assumptions *early* in the budget cycle, making adjustments and/or recommendations before deficits are baked in.

### 3. Net-Neutral Expectation

As a guiding principle, the Park Board should work toward programs and service levels that are net-neutral or clearly justified when subsidized.

### 4. Program-by-Program Review

New or expanded programs should include:

- Cost estimates;
- Revenue expectations;
- Clear public benefit rationale.
- Existing programs should review applicable input costs against collected revenues.

### 5. Capital Before Comfort

Routine operational enhancements should not crowd out maintenance, asset preservation, or long-term infrastructure needs.

### 6. Clear Recommendations to Aldermen

The Park Board should transmit written recommendations to the Board of Aldermen that reflect deliberation, alternatives considered, and financial implications.

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### Closing

The Park and Recreation Advisory Board's bylaws envision an engaged, informed, and forward-looking body that helps shape the City's recreation system; not one that merely receives updates. Re-aligning practice with those bylaws will strengthen both boards, improve efforts toward better financial outcomes, and provide clearer direction to staff.

The joint meeting is an opportunity to reset expectations and recommit to those roles; collectively and constructively.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of the name Wesley Young.

Wesley Young, MPA, CPM  
City Administrator  
City of Willard

**Board:** Park Board August 2023

**President:** Valorie Simpson

**Meeting Time:** Last Thursday of Every Month @ 6:00 pm

**Term:** 3 Years

**Member #1**

Valorie Simpson – 417-833-0454 – 710 Ross Rd, Springfield, MO 65803 – [heinsimp@aol.com](mailto:heinsimp@aol.com)

*Appointed: June 2007 / Appointment Up: June 2025*

**Member #2**

Fred Burk – 816-721-6807 – 7069 W. Farm Rd. 2, Willard, MO 65781 – [fred.burk@coxhealth.com](mailto:fred.burk@coxhealth.com)

*Appointed: April 2024 / Appointment Up: April 2027*

**Member #3**

Craig Baird – 417-988-8482 – 6268 N. Farm Road 91, Willard, MO 65781 - [cbaird@ridewellcorp.com](mailto:cbaird@ridewellcorp.com)

*Appointed: April 2019 / Appointment Up: April 2025*

**Member #4**

Troy Winingear – 417-771-7871 - -

[troy.winingear@gmail.com](mailto:troy.winingear@gmail.com)

*Appointed: October 2023/ Appointment Up: October 2026*

**Member #5**

Eric Wilkins – 916-934-9288 – 200 Sparrow Lane, Willard, MO 65781 -

*Appointed: August 2023 / Appointment Up: August 2026*

**Member #6**

Alicia Lloyd – 217-491-6226 – 833 Fox Creek Rd., Willard, MO 65781 -

*Appointed: August 2023 / Appointment Up: August 2024*

*Replaced Lisa Schabowski*

**Member #7**

Brooke Jarvis

*Appointed: April 2024 / Appointment Up: April 2027*

*Appointed: September 2023*

*Replaced Stephanie Polites*

**Ordinance #120213:** The Mayor, shall, with the approval of a majority of all members of the Board of Aldermen, appoint a Park and Recreational Advisory Board of seven (7) members, five (5) members to be chosen from the citizens of the City at large with reference to their qualifications for such position, up to two (2) members may be chosen from outside the city limits but within five (5) miles and not in any other city.

**Section 127.230: Terms of Members**

Each member shall serve a three (3) year term.

**Section 127.260: Meeting - Election of Officers**

The Park and Recreational Advisory Board members shall meet at least monthly on a set date and time as determined by the members. June of every year the members shall elect one of its members as President, and one of its other members as Vice-President, and one of its other members as Secretary.

# Bylaws for the

## Willard, Missouri Park and Recreation Advisory Board

### Article I. NAME OF THE BOARD

This Board shall be called the Willard, Missouri Park and Recreation Advisory Board, to serve as the Park Board for the City.

### Article II. PURPOSE OF THE BOARD

The purpose of the Willard, Missouri Park and Recreation Advisory Board is to provide recreation opportunities and facilities for all residents of Willard. They shall be vested with the power, duties, and obligations necessary to accomplish this purpose. They shall be charged with advisory ability to the City of Willard Board of Aldermen for the recreation programs and park facilities under their direction.

### Article III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 The membership of the Board shall be seven members appointed by the Mayor, with the approval of the Board of Aldermen. Board members shall hold office for three years or until their successor is appointed.

Section 2 Five (5) members to be chosen from the citizens of the city at large with reference to their fitness for such position, up to two (2) members may be chosen from outside the city limits but within five (5) miles and not in any other city.

Section 3 No member of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board shall be a member of the municipal government. Board members shall serve without salary or compensation, but shall be entitled to documented expenses for mileage, per diem and expenses.

Section 4 Vacancies occasioned by removal, resignation or otherwise, shall be reported to the Board of Aldermen, and shall be filled in like manner as original appointments, for the unexpired term of said member.

### Article IV. OFFICERS

Section 1 The officers of this Board shall be a President, Vice President and a Secretary. The officers shall be elected at the organization meeting in June to serve for one year or until a successor shall be elected.

Section 2 The Park and Recreation Advisory Board shall make and adopt Bylaws, rules and regulations for its own guidance, proceedings, as may be expedient not inconsistent with Ordinance No.: 120213 adopted by the City of Willard Board of Aldermen on February 13, 2012.

Article V. MEETINGS

Section 1 Regular meetings shall be held the last Thursday of each month during the year unless otherwise agreed upon by the Board.

Section 2 Special meetings may be called by the President or on the request of at least three (3) members.

Section 3 All regular meetings are to be held at the Willard City Hall.

Section 4 The meetings shall convene at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise agreed.

Section 5 The first regular meeting in June of each year shall be called the organizational meeting. The purpose of this meeting shall be the election and installation of officers, reviewing the inventory report, and other business that may need to come before such meetings.

Section 6 A simple majority of the current sitting members of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting.

Section 7 All meetings are open to the public pursuant to Missouri Law.

Section 8 Meetings shall be conducted by the President and in accordance with procedures prescribed in the Bylaws and decisions reached only after full consideration and debate on the issue in question. All procedures shall be in compliance with the State of Missouri Sunshine Law.

Section 9 The following shall be the order of business of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board, but the Rules of Order may be suspended and any matters considered or postponed by action of the Board.

Order of Business:

1. Call to order

2. Roll call
3. Agenda Amendments/Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of minutes of last regular meeting and of any special meetings held subsequently
5. Citizens Input
6. Approval of Financial Statements
7. Program Budgets
8. Directors Report
  - a. Sports Report
  - b. Aquatics Report
9. Reports of Standing Committees
  - a. Finance and Programs Committee
  - b. Buildings, Grounds, and Equipment Committee
10. Old Business
11. New Business
12. Adjourn Meeting

Article VI. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD

Section 1 General Duties and Responsibilities

- a. Be responsible for the improvement, supervision, care and custody of the following parks, including all facilities located within that park or any future park: Highline Soccer Park, Miller Farm Park, Jackson Street Park and Willard Sports and Recreation Complex.
- b. Interpret the recreation and park services of the department to the community and interpret the needs and desires of the community to the Board of Aldermen.
- c. Determine and establish the general policies to be followed in carrying out the purpose for which the Board was established.
- d. The Park and Recreation Advisory Board will solicit, evaluate, and interview potential employees for the position of Parks and Recreation Director, at the direction of the Board of Aldermen, and present the top three candidates to the Board of Aldermen for final selection.
- e. Periodically evaluate:

1. The progress of acquisition and development programs
2. The effectiveness of recreation programs
3. The level of maintenance of park areas
4. The work of employees responsible to the park service

- f. Aid in coordinating the recreation services and programs of other agencies, both public and private, providing recreation in the community.
- g. Recommend to the Board of Aldermen to either accept or reject, after due consideration, all private donations in any form in accordance with that which the Board believes is in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Willard.

## Section 2 Financial Duties and Responsibilities

- a. The Park and Recreation Advisory Board shall present to the Board of Aldermen an annual budget sufficient to finance the program of recreation and parks the Board deems necessary for the welfare of the residents of the City of Willard. The budget shall be submitted to the Board of Aldermen at the time designated by the Council to hear the requests.
- b. The Board shall annually recommend to the Board of Aldermen a budget for capital improvements (acquisition and development) in accordance with the Master Plan for Parks and Recreation for the City.
- c. The Board shall recommend for approval to the Board of Aldermen all bills and necessary expenditures. All purchase requests shall be first submitted to the Park Board for approval to submit to the Board of Aldermen. All moneys shall be deposited in a separate account to the credit of the Willard Park and Recreation for the City and shall be kept separate and apart from all other moneys and accounts of the City of Willard, Missouri.

## Section 3 Planning Duties and Responsibilities

- a. Prepare a master plan for the acquisition and development of an adequate system of parks, facilities and recreation programs for the residents of the City of Willard.

- b. Investigate and determine the needs and interests of the community for recreation facilities and programs. To develop a recreational program to meet those needs.

Article VII. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1 President:

- a. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board. The President shall appoint all committees, represent the Board at public affairs and shall maintain the dignity and efficiency of the Board in all possible ways. He/She shall perform the other duties ordinarily performed by that office.
- b. The President shall prepare or cause to be prepared a manual for each member of the Board including the following information:
  - 1. Copy of ordinance authorizing the Park and Recreation Board
  - 2. Bylaws of the Board
  - 3. List of fees and charges used by the department
  - 4. Copy of last year's expenses
  - 5. Copy of current annual budget
  - 6. Site plans of each park area owned and operated by the City and a list of their facilities and equipment
  - 7. Salary schedules for employees
  - 8. Agreements in writing for use of any area or facility not owned by the City
  - 9. Other reports that may be submitted to the Board
  - 10. Any other information helpful in acquainting new board members of the procedures and operation of the Board

Section 2 Vice President:

- a. The Vice-President shall preside over meetings upon the absence of the President.
- b. The Vice-President should assist the President with any and all duties he/she deems necessary.

Section 3 Secretary:

- a. The Secretary shall perform the usual duties pertaining to the office. The Secretary shall keep or cause to be kept a full and true permanent record of all meetings of the Board. This includes regular and special meetings plus reports of standing committees. The Secretary shall issue or cause to be issued notices of regular and special meetings. All records shall be submitted to the City Clerk as custodian of documents.

Article VIII      COMMITTEES

Section 1      Standing Committees; there shall be two standing committees.

- a. Finance and Programs Committee
- b. Buildings, Grounds, and Equipment Committee

Section 2      Appointment of Committees

- a. The Standing Committees shall be appointed by the President of the Board at the annual meeting or as soon thereafter as possible and serve until their successors are appointed and qualified.

Section 3      Personnel of Committees

- a. Each committee shall consist of no more than three members of the Board.
- b. Each committee shall elect one member to serve as Chairman of the committee.

Section 4      Committee Reports

- a. A record of the actions of each committee shall be kept by the Chairman of said committee and shall be reported in writing to the Board at its next meeting for action by the Board.

Section 5      Duties of the Finance and Programs Committee:

- a. This committee shall recommend fees and charges to be used, and shall be responsible for submitting information to be used in preparation of the budget.
- b. The Community Services Director shall be a member of this committee.

- c. This committee shall exercise supervision over all recreation programs within the park system. They shall also plan a program of recreation based on the expressed needs and interests of the community residents and recommend to the Park and Recreation Advisory Board those programs which they feel should be implemented within the available finances and facilities of the Board.

**Section 6      Duties of the Buildings, Grounds, and Equipment Committee:**

- a. This committee shall exercise supervision over care and control of all buildings, grounds, and equipment, within the park system.
- b. The Director of Development for the City of Willard shall be a member of this committee.
- c. The committee shall investigate and determine the need for new facilities, equipment, or renovation of existing buildings and equipment and for expansion and improvement.
- d. This committee shall prepare a master plan for acquisition and development of park areas, and make the best possible use of all land under the control of the Board.
- e. Landscaping and beautification shall also be charged to this committee. Parking lots, location of new facilities, etc. shall be finalized by this committee for approval by the Park and Recreation Advisory Board before presentation to the Board of Aldermen.

**Article IX      REMOVAL OF BOARD MEMBER**

**Section 1**      When a member has been absent or has not performed the duties of that office for three consecutive meetings, that member may forfeit their seat.

**Section 2**      The Mayor may, with the consent of a majority of all members of the Board of Aldermen, remove any Park and Recreation Advisory Board member for misconduct or neglect of duty. Any member may also be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members of the Board of Aldermen, independent of the Mayor's approval or recommendations.

**Article X.      AMENDMENTS**

Section 1 These Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board by a majority vote of the entire Board, provided previous notice of the nature of any proposed amendment shall have been given at least one regular meeting before the action thereon shall be taken. Bylaws and amendments to the Park and Recreation Advisory Board Bylaws shall be approved by the Board of Aldermen in order to be fully adopted.

These Bylaws were accepted and approved at  
 the 8/25/16 (Date) Willard Park Board meeting.

<u>Members of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
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Blaine Kennard   Blaine Kennard, President

Valorie Simpson   Valorie Simpson, Vice-President

Billie Middleton   Billie Middleton, Secretary

Laurie Pendergrass   Laurie Pendergrass

Samantha Mosier   Samantha Mosier

Vacant

Vacant

# Bylaws for the

## Willard, Missouri Park and Recreation Advisory Board

### Article 1.

#### NAME OF THE BOARD

This Board shall be called the Willard, Missouri Park and Recreation Advisory Board, to serve as the Park Board for the City.

### Article II.

#### PURPOSE OF THE BOARD

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### Article III.

#### MEMBERSHIP

##### Section 1

The membership of the Board shall be appointed by the Mayor, with approval of the Board of Aldermen. Board members shall hold office for three years or until their successor is appointed.

##### Section 2

The Park Board will consist of up to seven (7) members. The members shall be chosen from the citizens of the city at large with reference to their fitness for such position, however, up to two (2) members may be chosen from outside the city limits but within five (5) miles and not in any other city.

##### Section 3

No member of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board shall be a member of the municipal government. Board members shall serve without salary or compensation, but shall be entitled to documented expenses for mileage, per diem and expenses.

##### Section 4

Vacancies occasioned by removal, resignation, or otherwise shall be reported to the Board of Aldermen, and shall be filled in like manner as original appointments, for the unexpired term of said member.

### Article IV.

#### OFFICERS

Section 1	The officers of this Board shall be a President, Vice-President, and a Secretary. The officers shall be elected at the organizational meeting in June to serve for one year or until a successor shall be elected.
Section 2	The Park and Recreation Advisory Board shall make and adopt Bylaws, rules and regulations for its own guidance, and proceedings, as may be not inconsistent with Ordinance No.: 160808D adopted by the City of Willard Board of Aldermen on August 22, 2016.
<u>Article V</u>	<u>MEETINGS</u>
Section 1	Regular meetings shall be held the last Thursday of each month during the year unless otherwise agreed upon by the Board.
Section 2	Special meetings may be called by the President or at the request of at least three (3) members.
Section 3	All regular meetings are to be held at the Willard City Hall.
Section 4	The meetings shall convene at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise agreed.
Section 5	The first regular meeting in June of each year shall be called the organizational meeting. The purpose of this meeting shall be the election and installation of officers.
Section 6	A simple majority of the current sitting members of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting.
Section 7	All meetings are open to the public pursuant to Missouri Law.
Section 8	Meetings shall be conducted by the President and in accordance with procedures prescribed in the Bylaws and decisions reached only after full consideration and debate on the issue in question. All procedures shall be in compliance with the State of Missouri Sunshine Law.
Section 9	The following shall be the order of business of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board, but the Rules of Order may be suspended and any matters considered or postponed by action of the Board.

**Order of Business:**

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Agenda Amendments/Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Approval of minutes of last regular meeting and of any special meetings held subsequently.**
- 5. Citizens input**
- 6. Approval of Financial Statement**

- 7. Director's Report**
- 8. Program Budgets (as needed)**
- 9. Old Business**
- 10. New Business**
- 11. Adjourn Meeting**

## Article VI.

### Section 1

#### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD

##### General Duties and Responsibilities

- a. Be responsible for the improvement, supervision, care, and custody of the following parks, including all facilities located within that park or any future park: Frisco Highline Soccer Park, Miller Farm Park, Jackson Street Park, Willard Sports and Recreation Complex, and the Community Building.
- b. Interpret the recreation and park services of the department to the community and communicate the needs and desires of the community to the Board of Aldermen.
- c. Determine and establish the general policies to be followed in carrying out the purpose for which the Board was established.
- d. The Park and Recreation Advisory Board will solicit, evaluate, and interview potential employees for the position of Parks and Recreation Director, at the direction of the Board of Aldermen, and present the top three candidates to the Board of Aldermen for final selection.
- e. Periodically evaluate:
  - 1. The progress of acquisition and development programs.
  - 2. The effectiveness of recreation programs.
  - 3. The level of maintenance of park areas.
  - 4. The work of employees responsible to the park service.
- f. Aid in coordinating the recreation services and programs of other agencies, both public and private, providing recreation to the community.
- g. Recommend to the Board of Aldermen to either accept or reject, after due consideration, all private donations in any form in accordance with that which the Board believes is in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Willard.

### Section 2

##### Financial Duties and Responsibilities

- a. The Park Director shall present to the Board of Aldermen an annual budget sufficient to finance the program of recreation and parks that the Park Board sets and deems necessary for the welfare of the residents of the City of Willard. The budget shall be submitted to the

Board of Aldermen at the time designated by the Council to hear the requests.

- b. The Park Director shall annually recommend to the Board of Aldermen, after Park Board review, a budget for capital improvements (acquisition and development).
- c. The Board shall recommend for approval to the Board of Aldermen all bills and necessary expenditures. All purchase requests shall follow Willard City Code Section 130.040 Internal Procedures-Purchasing Policies. All moneys shall be deposited in a separate account to the credit of the Willard Park and Recreation for the City and shall be kept separate and apart from all other moneys and accounts of the City of Willard, Missouri.

### Section 3

#### Planning Duties and Responsibilities

- a. Investigate and determine the needs and interests of the community for recreation facilities and programs. Develop recreational programs to meet those needs.

### Article VII

#### DUTIES OF OFFICERS

##### Section 1

###### President:

- a. The president shall preside at all meetings of the Board. The President shall represent the Board at public affairs, and shall maintain the dignity and efficiency of the Board in all possible ways. He/She shall perform the other duties ordinarily performed by that office.
- b. The President shall prepare or cause to be prepared a manual for each member of the Board including the following information:
  - 1. Copy of ordinance authorizing the Park and Recreation Board.
  - 2. Bylaws of the Board
  - 3. List of fees and charges used by the department
  - 4. Copy of last year's expenses
  - 5. Copy of current annual budget
  - 6. Site plans of each park area owned and operated by the city and a list of their facilities and equipment
  - 7. Salary schedules for employees
  - 8. Agreements in writing for use of any area or facility not owned by the city
  - 9. Other reports that may be submitted to the Board
  - 10. Any other information helpful in acquainting new board members of the procedures and operation of the Board.

##### Section 2

###### Vice-President:

- a. The Vice-President shall preside over meetings upon the absence of the President.
- b. The Vice-President shall assist the President with any and all duties he/she deems necessary.

Section 3

Secretary:

- a. The Secretary shall perform the usual duties pertaining to the office. The Secretary shall keep or cause to be kept a full and true permanent record of all meetings of the Board. This includes regular and special meetings. All records shall be submitted to the City Clerk as custodian of documents.

Article VIII

REMOVAL OF BOARD MEMBERS

Section 1

When a member has been absent or has not performed the duties of their office for three consecutive meetings, that member may forfeit their seat.

Section 2

The Mayor may, with the consent of a majority of all members of the Board of Aldermen, remove any Park and Recreation Advisory Board member for misconduct or neglect of duty. Any member may also be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members of the Board of Aldermen, independent of the Mayor's approval or recommendations.

Article IX

AMENDMENTS

Section 1

These Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board by a majority vote of the entire Board, provided previous notice of the nature of any proposed amendment shall have been given at least one regular meeting before the action thereon shall be taken. Bylaws and amendments to the Park and Recreation Advisory Board Bylaws shall be approved by the Board of Aldermen in order to be fully adopted.

These Bylaws were accepted and approved at the 8/25/2022 Willard Park Board Meeting.

Members of the Park and Recreation Advisory BoardYesNo

VALORIE SIMPSON, PRESIDENT

FRED BURK, VICE-PRESIDENT

CRAIG BAIRD, SECRETARY

TROY WINGEAR

STEPHANIE POLITES

LISA SHABOWSKI



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December 2008  
Center for Community Studies  
Hammons School of Architecture  
Drury University

Item # E.

## willard | gateway to the great outdoors

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great outdoors

December 2008  
Center for Community Studies  
Hammons School of Architecture  
Drury University

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

table of contents

preface

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

## Client | Community Members

### Willard Park Board

Pat Lloyd, President

Lucille Murray, Vice President

Valorie Simpson, Secretary

Stacee Anderson

Patricia Hall

Jeanna Hood

Blaine Kennard

Katherine Miles

### Willard Parks and Recreation Director

Kevin McDonald

### City of Willard

Jamie Schoolcraft, Mayor

Kathy Blakemore, Willard City Clerk

Kate Gould, Deputy City Clerk

### City of Willard Council Members

Louie Amodeo

Joe Cosby

Dale Duvall

Paul Hood

Richard Simpson

Bryan Vincent

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

1



Fig. i Willard Seal



Fig. ii Willard Parks and Recreation logo

# acknowledgements

introduction

## Community Members

Hyrum Adamson	table of contents
Catherine Bloomfield	preface
Ronald Bryant	executive summary
Eric Hamilton	research & analysis
Jared Helbig	community meetings
Dana Kimmons	willard gateway overview
Morgan Lenz	proposals
Guy Morelock	appendix
Whitney Morelock	
Ronnie Rust	
Stephanie Sechler	
Sue Smith	
Charles Todd	
John Wirth	

## Willard Concerned Citizens Group

Melissa Smith

A special thanks to all community members who made this work possible.

willard | gateway to the great outdoors

2

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

---

introduction

## Resource People Utilized

table of contents

### **City of Springfield Planning and Development**

Ralph Rognstad, Director

executive summary

### **Conco Companies**

research & analysis

Rob Baird, President/CEO

willard gateway overview

Chris Upp, Director of Quarry Operations

proposals

appendix

### **Great River Engineering**

Jerany Jackson, ASLA

### **MODOT**

Frank O. Miller, AICP, District Planning Manager

### **Ozark Greenways Inc.**

Terry Whaley, Executive Director

### **Springfield-Greene County Library District**

Annie Busch, Executive Director

Jim Schmidt, Associate Director of Public Services

### **Watershed Committee of the Ozarks**

Loring Bullard, Executive Director

# acknowledgements

introduction

table of contents

preface

executive summary

research & analysis

community meetings

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

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Springfield-Greene County Library District  
P.O. Box 760 • Springfield, MO 65803  
417-883-5366 • [thelibrary.org](http://thelibrary.org)

Fig. iii Library logo



DRURY  
UNIVERSITY

Fig. iv Drury University logo

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

acknowledgements

preface

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

## **introduction**

1

acknowledgements

table of contents

preface

## **executive summary**

11

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation and open spaces

zoning and land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking and trails

## **research and analysis**

37

history

demographics

regional and local factors

livable cities

active living

smart growth

map

community meetings

## **willard gateway overview**

61

# table of contents

## proposals

**63**

introduction

frisco highline trail	acknowledgements
city center	
parks, recreation and open spaces	preface
zoning and land use	executive summary
flood plains	research & analysis
highway 160	community meetings
conservation area	willard gateway overview
conco quarry	proposals
infrastructure networking and trails	appendix
sustainability	

## appendix

**169**

resources	
presentation boards	

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

acknowledgements

table of contents

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

The Drury Center for Community Studies (CCS) was approached by the Willard Parks Board to assist them with the preparation of a 20-year vision for the community parks. In collaboration with the Willard Parks Board the 5-person CCS team:

- Prepared a community and regional Assets and Challenges analysis
- Toured and documented all Willard park and recreation facilities
- Researched and prepared precedent studies of similar community efforts related to parks and recreation initiatives and of national trends in "Active Living", Smart Growth, and Livable Cities
- Held four community meetings to discuss park needs and concepts
- Interviewed and engaged groups of middle and high school students in the process
- Interviewed the directors and/or staff of the:
  - Springfield-Greene County Library District
  - Springfield-Greene County Parks
  - Ozark Greenways
  - Watershed Committee of the Ozarks
  - Missouri Department of Transportation
  - Conco Quarry
- Prepared this visioning tool entitled Willard: Gateway to the Great Outdoors

It became obvious early in the parks visioning process that the consideration of the community's future growth needs and patterns was needed before any park and recreation recommendations could be formulated. The Willard community analysis identified several major issues:

- Willard is a "bedroom community" to Springfield
  - most people in Willard work and shop outside the community
  - this makes the local economy dependent upon the automobile and vulnerable to fluctuating energy costs
- The Highway 160 corridor bisects the community parks, schools and governmental services
- That the Frisco Highline Trail and the Rocky Barrens Conservation Area are important community assets that are underutilized and unappreciated by the community
- The community is not adequately protecting its floodplains and sinkhole areas



- Willard is not adequately following the Willard Comprehensive Plan and enforcing its zoning and building ordinances
- Willard has no cohesive intra-city sidewalk and trail network, which necessitates the excessive use of the automobile for community trips — *debatable*
- That Willard lacks a civic and social city center and identity

The analysis of the community's assets and challenges also identified several opportunities:

- The Willard school system is one of the best in the State of Missouri
- The Willard parks and recreation facilities and programs are very successful
- Willard has many natural features and amenities within and in close proximity to the community that can be used to promote the concept of **Willard: Gateway to the Great Outdoors**
- Willard's "small town rural" character has attracted many people to move to the community and needs to be preserved
- The Willard community is poised for significant growth over the next 20 years

Emerging from this study was the belief that the Willard Parks Board and the Willard parks and recreation activities could serve a major role in:

- Shaping and guiding the growth of the community — *contribute to*
- Providing the basis for a community ethos that embraces the concepts of "Active Living", smart growth and environmental stewardship
- Selling an economic strategy that promotes Willard as the "Gateway to the Great Outdoors"

This report provides the community with a discussion of these issues and concerns and suggests recommendations for the development of the city of Willard and the Willard parks, trails and open spaces in the years ahead. This report is a visioning tool, not a vision. It still remains for the community to come together to review this report and to formulate the community's vision for the Willard parks system.

This collaborative process has been a great educational experience for all involved and the Center for Community Studies looks forward to working with the community on this and other community initiative in the future.



# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

acknowledgements

table of contents

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

## TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE

The term "Triple Bottom Line" was first coined by John Elkington in reference to business accounting. In practical terms, triple bottom line accounting means expanding the traditional reporting framework to take into account ecological and social performance in addition to financial performance; this was first used by Shell as "People, Planet, Profit".

The concept originated from the 20th century urbanist Patrick Geddes's notion of 'Folk, Work and Place'. "People, Planet and Profit" is used to succinctly describe the triple bottom lines and the goal of sustainability.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triple\\_bottom\\_line](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triple_bottom_line)

In this report, we have applied the concept of the Triple Bottom Line to the Willard parks' visioning process by referring to **Community, Environment and Economy**. We believe that this concept of sustainability should inform all individual and communal actions and activities and be utilized in all of the City of Willard's and Willard Park Board's planning, design, implementation and management decision-making.

In the Figure v, the center of the diagram formed by the three overlapping areas of consideration is the City of Willard logo. In normal use the diagram's center represents sustainability. In our application of this concept we see the center of the diagram as representing **IDENTITY**. Our belief is that your identity is a reflection of your response to these considerations.

[introduction](#)[acknowledgements](#)[table of contents](#)**COMMUNITY + ENVIRONMENT + ECONOMY = SUSTAINABILITY**

It is through this balanced and sustainable approach  
 to the evolution of the City of Willard  
 that we believe a new community culture and lifestyle  
 will evolve and help form  
 a new identity for Willard as the

[executive summary](#)[research & analysis](#)[community meetings](#)[willard gateway overview](#)[proposals](#)[appendix](#)**GATEWAY TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS**

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

10

Fig. v The Triple Bottom Line

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

parks, trails and open spaces

development of city center, civic

plaza and park

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

## INTRODUCTION

This summary is a collection of the main issues identified by the community and the Center for Community Studies project team during the Willard parks' visioning process. Following the "Triple Bottom Line" concept outlined on page 9, these issues are discussed with specific regard to their *Environmental, Economic and Community* considerations. The recommendations presented seek to delineate a strategy for achieving the goal of the Triple Bottom Line concept; *the balanced and sustainable relationship between the environment, economy and community*. It is through this balanced and sustainable approach to the evolution of the City of Willard that we believe a new community culture and lifestyle will evolve and help form a *new identity for Willard as the **Gateway to the Great Outdoors***.

## Implementation Strategies

With the preparation fo the report entitled Willard: Gateway to the Great Outdoors the first step in the community visioning process comes to an end. The community process used to develop this report was intended to identify the community's goals and objectives, to propose innovative and creative ideas for how those goals and objectives might be met and to educate the community about the challenges and opportunities that the Willard community will confront as it grows and changes. With the dissemination of this report, the second phase of the process begins; the creation of the community's vision for the future of Willard. The Willard: Gateway to the Great Outdoors report is not the "community vision" rather *it is a tool that the community may use to develop its own vision.*

**The Process** we recommend the community use to create its own community vision involves the public review and discussion of the Willard: Gateway to the Great Outdoors report. This will help to develop a broader community understanding, consensus and "ownership".

# executive summary

introduction

executive summary

parks, trails and open spaces

development of city center, civic

plaza and park

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

## • Review, Modify and Affirm

Upon receipt of the Willard: Gateway to the Great Outdoors report, the advisory committee and city officials should formulate a community process for the systematic review of the issues, concerns and recommendations presented herein. After the community review the advisory committee and city officials should modify or affirm the Willard: Gateway to the Great Outdoors report's long-term vision to fit the consensus of those involved.

## • City Council Resolution

The advisory committee should prepare a resolution outlining the Willard parks' vision and the principles that will guide its implementation. This resolution should be presented to the Willard City Council for ratification.

## • Respect the Visions' Principles and Guidelines

The Willard: Gateway to the Great Outdoors report outlines the principles and guidelines for the consideration of future city goals and objectives related to the evolution of the Willard park system. As long as the principles and guidelines that have been ratified are respected, then the incremental implementation of the vision will remain cohesive and allow for flexible response to future opportunities and circumstances.

## • Review, Modification and Reaffirmation Every Five Years

To keep the vision fresh and relevant, we recommend that as part of the resolution presented to the City Council it state that the city is charged with orchestrating a community review of the Willard parks vision's implementation at least every five years for the purpose of either modifying or reaffirming the Willard parks' vision principles and guidelines for the Willard park system.



12

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

introduction

development of city center, civic  
plaza and park

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

## PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACES

**This Willard parks' visioning process considered the Willard parks system from the broad perspective of parks, trails and open spaces and the principles of "Active Living".**

### Willard Park System:

The Willard park system is currently comprised of four parcels: the City Park adjacent to the City Hall, the Recreation Center, the Soccer fields and the undeveloped 20-acre parcel adjacent to the proposed school. Willard park staff provides recreational programming and facilities and cosponsor community education activities for the Willard community.

### Suggested Enhancements to the Park's Roles and Responsibilities

#### Promotion of the concept of Willard: Gateway to the Great Outdoors

- We recommend that the Willard Parks Board and staff accept the concept and marketing tag of Willard: Gateway to the Great Outdoors and seek to promote a community ethos that embraces "Active Living" and environmental stewardship. Willard: Gateway to the Great Outdoors must become more than just a title or marketing slogan; it must become a concept that informs and guides all community decisions and actions.

#### Promotion of an "Active Living" Lifestyle

- Research has shown that an "Active Living" lifestyle promotes better physical and mental health. This research has also shown a direct correlation between **the design of a community and the physical and mental health of the community residents.**
- The Willard Parks Board and staff should become advocates for the development of an "Active Living" lifestyle in Willard. This would require that the board and staff accept a broader definition of what constitutes community parks and recreation and assumes a more direct and active role in the planning and design of the Willard community.
- We recommend that the Willard Parks Board and staff begin the process of promoting this approach to "Active Living" by studying the literature and joining the Active Living Network.

## executive summary

<a href="http://www.activeliving.org/">http://www.activeliving.org/</a>	introduction
<a href="http://www.activelivingresources.org/partners.php">http://www.activelivingresources.org/partners.php</a>	executive summary
<a href="http://www.activelivingbydesign.org/events-resources/resources/north-carolina-rural-economic-development-center-inc">http://www.activelivingbydesign.org/events-resources/resources/north-carolina-rural-economic-development-center-inc</a>	introduction

### **Active and Passive Recreation**

- The Willard Parks Board and staff offer a good range of active and passive recreational programs and opportunities, but we would recommend that the range of active and passive activities be broadened. We specifically see opportunities to develop more passive activities, for example: nature walks and interpretive trails, greenway trails, bike trails, conservation areas, bird watching areas and programs, butterfly gardens, aroma and texture gardens for the visually impaired, demonstration gardens and gardening center and Xeriscapes.

development of city center, civic plaza and park
research & analysis
willard gateway overview
proposals
appendix

### **Educational Programs**

- We suggest that the Willard Parks Board and staff seek to offer an even greater range of educational programs. We specifically see opportunities for programs in passive recreational pursuits, for example: bird watching, flora and fauna recognition, star gazing, gardening, sustainable principles and practices, nature painting and photography.

### **Promotion of Partnerships**

- We suggest that the Willard Parks Board and staff seek even greater community partnerships for the purpose of promoting parks and recreation programs, community-wide "Active Living" lifestyles, community beautification efforts, land conservation and community marketing.

### **Community Beautification**

- We suggest that the Willard Parks Board assume an even greater role in the promotion and implementation of community beautification. The Tree City program is a great start. We encourage the board to explore opportunities for how the parks system can become a catalyst for community-wide beautification, not just within the parks but within the entire public realm: streets and streetscapes and public properties and facilities.

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

introduction

development of city center, civic

plaza and park

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

## Sustainable Principles and Practices

- We recommend that the Willard Park Board and staff embrace the principles and practices of sustainability. The advocacy of sustainable principles and practices must extend beyond the concerns of Willard Parks Board's parks and properties to the application of sustainable principles and practices throughout the community. For example, the preservation of floodplains and sinkholes would not only help to improve water quality, minimize flood damage and safe guard habitats it could provide the community with additional parks and open space for active and passive recreation and educational opportunities.

## Willard Parks, Recreation Facilities and Open Spaces:

### Parks

#### Environmental Concerns:

The city park adjacent to the City Hall serves the community well. The continued development of this park as a primary community gathering space is advised. However, its separation from the population center of the community diminishes its full effectiveness and necessitates the utilization of the automobile.

The undeveloped 20-acre parcel of land on the southern edge of the current residential district is in a prime location to be developed as a new city park and play field and is a good first step towards distributing park and recreation resources throughout the community.

#### Economic Concerns:

The Willard Parks Board, city officials, developers and citizens should work cooperatively to identify the proper location of future parks and playing fields and acquire and land bank those sites for future development.

#### Community Concerns:

The community needs additional parks, playing fields and recreational facilities located throughout the community.

## executive summary

### **Recommendation:**

We recommend that the Willard Parks Board in collaboration with city officials, developers and citizens develop a long range parks, recreation and open space vision that:

- Seeks to evenly distribute the parks, recreation and open space resources throughout the community
- Seeks to anticipate the future growth of the community and acquires and land banks property for future parks, recreation and open space use
  - Particular attention should be given to the acquisition of environmentally sensitive floodplains and sinkholes and important habitats and landscapes
- Sets as its goal the development of community parks, recreation and open spaces within a 15-minute walk or 5-minute bike ride of every residence in the community
- Seeks to establish a community-wide network of sidewalks and trails

### **Recreational Facilities**

#### **Environmental Concerns:**

The current recreation building is serving the community well, but due to the success of the Willard parks and recreation system's programming and the community's continued growth the facility needs to be expanded and additional facilities built within the community.

The location of the park facility away from and across the Highway 160 corridor from the residential district of town and the lack of a sidewalk and trails system necessitates the use of the automobile to use the recreation facility. Not only does this further promote the use of the car, the consumption of energy resources and the production of pollutants it contradicts the concept of "Active Living" that the community should be embracing.

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

introduction

development of city center, civic

plaza and park

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

## **Economic Concerns:**

The economy of having a centralized recreational facility is diminished when you factor in the cost of driving to the facility.

## **Community Concerns:**

Although there is constant pressure from the community to expand facilities and programming, the Willard Parks Board and staff are doing a commendable job with their current resources.

## **Recommendation:**

As part of the Willard parks long-range visioning we recommend that the Willard Parks Board and staff work closer with city officials and developers to anticipate the location of future park facilities well in advance of the future need. The inadequacies caused by the segregation of the recreational facilities from the population center needs to be addressed by the location of future facilities and the development of a city-wide sidewalk and trail network.

## **Playing Fields and Open Spaces**

### **Environmental Concerns:**

Just like the park building, the locations of the city's playing fields are segregated from the population center by distance and the Highway 160 corridor. The soccer complex is even more remote.

### **Community Concerns:**

The community desires more athletic fields and open space free play fields.

## **Recommendation:**

As part of the Willard parks long-range visioning we recommend that the Willard Parks Board and staff work closer with city officials and developers to anticipate the location of future athletic and open space free play fields well in advance of the future need. These areas should be land banked and reserved for future development.

## **Willard Trails**

### **Frisco Highline Trail**

The Frisco Highline Trail is a 35-mile long regional recreational spine that links Springfield, Willard, Walnut Grove, Wishart and Bolivar. Intersecting the Frisco Highline Trail at Walnut Grove is the Trans-America Trail.

## executive summary

introduction

executive summary

introduction

The Frisco Highline Trail is a community asset of great historic, economic and environmental significance that is currently underappreciated and underutilized by the community.

### **Environmental Concerns:**

The Frisco Highline Trail is a gravel recreational trail that follows the old Frisco Railroad line that runs parallel to Highway 160 and Jackson Street through the Willard community. Within the Willard "downtown" area there is a 3-mile section of the trail that has been paved with asphalt. Although the Frisco Highline Trail is the second longest recreational trail in the State of Missouri and intersects the important Trans-American Trail little has been done to develop this community asset as part of a community-wide trail network, a Safe Route to School trail, an integral part of the Willard parks and recreation program or a historic and environmental interpretive trail.

The Frisco Highline Trail should be the principle organizing component of Willard's parks and recreation program and community-wide "Active Living Initiative". The trail should become the spine of a regional and community-wide multimodal trail network for pedestrian, cyclist and park-n-ride commuters. Such a trail network could help to reduce the Willard community's dependence upon the automobile, promote an "Active Living" lifestyle and become a symbol of the community's environmental consciousness as "The Gateway to the Great Outdoors".

### **Economic Concerns:**

Although the trail runs through Willard's downtown, it is not being used to its fullest potential. The trail has the potential of becoming a positive economic catalyst for Willard's downtown renewal. The development of the Frisco Highline Trail's regional potential as a recreation resource and Willard's trailhead as a unique destination for the trail users should be a primary focus for the renewal of Willard's downtown.

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

introduction

development of city center, civic

plaza and park

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

## Community Concerns:

The Frisco Highline Trail is a positive community amenity that should be better integrated into the Willard community physically, socially and symbolically. Symbolically the trail is the spine that links the community and region together. A network of community and regional trails and linear parks should emanate from the Frisco Highline Trail and be intertwined throughout the Willard community. This network of trails and linear parks should be a part of the Willard parks system and be used to create a more sustainable and "Active Living" lifestyle.

## Recommendation:

The Willard community should seek opportunities to develop the Frisco Highline Trail as a community recreational and economic asset. Its location within the community is ideal for helping to renew the "downtown" district economically and symbolically. A key to this development and renewal is the marketing of Willard's Frisco Highline Trailhead as a unique destination for both the trail users and community alike. The development of the Frisco Highline Trail as a linear park and the Willard trailhead as a city center park with regularly scheduled community and park activities could help to promote the trail and Willard as an interesting and exciting destination for family outings. Possible activities and features that could be developed along the trail or at the city center trailhead are:

- Activities:

- Weekly trail walks and rides
- 3K, 5K and 10K races
- The Tour Missouri Bike Race
- Equestrian trail rides
- Willard festivals

- Features

- Informational kiosks that describe the natural features and historic points of interest along the trail
- A linear outdoor "environmental art museum" along the trail
- Rest areas at scenic locations
- Interpretive trails

Willard should promote adopt-a-trail activities to help maintain the trail and foster a sense of pride in and "ownership" of the Frisco Highline Trail within the community.

## executive summary

### Lack of Sidewalks and Community Trail Network

The inadequate, inconsistent to nonexistent sidewalks and bike trails within the city of Willard creates a serious safety hazard and a dependence upon the automobile. The development of an interconnected multimodal sidewalk and trail network should be a high priority for the community. Such a network of sidewalks and trails requires, at a minimum, the collaboration of the offices of city government, Willard Parks Board, Ozark Greenways, school district and developers.

#### **Environmental Concern:**

The lack of sidewalks and trails within the community inhibits the free movement of the residents, especially the young and the elderly, and increase the dependence upon the automobile for both short and intermediate community trips. This is most apparent with regard to taking children to school or activities; where the parents or the school system has to provide transportation.

The development of an interconnected sidewalk and trail system would have a positive effect upon the community and environment by diminishing the dependence upon the automobile within the community and fostering a more "Active Living" lifestyle.

#### **Economic Concern:**

The lack of convenient and independent movement of the residents and the dependence upon parents, guardians and automobile decreases the number of people trips within the community. The decrease in people trips correlates to a decrease in possible sale opportunities.

#### **Community Concern:**

The lack of sidewalks and trails within the community creates a safety hazard for school children. Efforts to create Safe Routes to School should become a high priority within the community.

The community should make sure that all sidewalks and trails comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

introduction

executive summary

introduction

development of city center, civic

plaza and park

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

introduction

development of city center, civic  
plaza and park

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

The current lack of sidewalks and trails and the physical and psychological barrier created by Highway 160 impedes the free movement of people within the community. The Highway 160 corridor segregates the predominately residential section of the community to the west from the recreation, school and public amenities and services to the east. When the sidewalk and trail network is established the crossing of the Highway 160 corridor will be a major, but crucially important, design challenge to resolve.

## Recommendations

The city of Willard should commit itself to the development of an interconnected multimodal sidewalk and trail network throughout the community and extending into the surrounding areas. This network should be more than a ribbon of concrete beside the street. This network should provide safe and pleasant paths through the community. This network of sidewalks and trails should incorporate all streets, public open spaces and easements and the Frisco Highline Trail.

The Frisco Highline Trail should be the spine of the network. All community sidewalks and trails should ultimately link up with the Frisco Highline Trail and create an interconnected system that allows free movement throughout the community and region. Trailheads and activity nodes should be developed at key intersection points within the system.

The goals of this sidewalk and trail network should be the:

- Development of a safe, convenient and attractive non-vehicular transportation system that connects the community's educational, recreational, cultural and economic centers.
- Development of a transportation system that provides all members of the community an accessible and independent means of using the community's resources.
- Development of a trailhead or activity node within a 15 minute walk or 5 minute bike ride from any home in the community; that is within one-mile.
- Development of a system that promotes and stimulates an "Active Living" lifestyle.

# executive summary

We believe that the Willard Parks Board and staff must become the principal advocates of the community's interconnected multimodal sidewalk and trail system. The Willard park system's commitment to the development of an "Active Living" lifestyle is directly intertwined with the development of the sidewalk and trail network.

We believe that it is in the interest of the business community to support the development of the sidewalk and trail network because it will stimulate the free movement of all people within the community and enhance the use and importance of the Frisco Highline Trail through Willard's "downtown".

We believe that it is necessary for the Willard community and city government to reaffirm and more stringently enforce the ideals expressed in the Willard Comprehensive Plan in general and the sidewalk and open space requirements specifically. Better enforcement of the community's building and development ordinances is needed to assure that developers adequately provide sidewalks, trails and open space within their developments that integrate seamlessly with the city-wide sidewalk and trail network.

## Highway 160 Corridor

The Highway 160 corridor is a major link between Springfield and Willard. Since most of the residents of Willard work in Springfield this Highway 160 corridor handles a great deal of commuter traffic daily. MoDOT's long-range plan calls for converting this corridor to a four-lane divided highway. Either as a two-lane or four-lane highway this corridor creates serious problems for the Willard citizen's intercity mobility. Highway 160 divides the community physically and psychologically into two separate zones:

- The newer and predominately residential zone to the west
- The older and predominately recreation, school and public amenities and services zone to the east

Currently three of the four Willard park properties and recreational facilities and the Frisco Highline Trail are located on the east side of Highway 160. Since the majority of the residents of Willard live on the west side of Highway 160 this means that anyone using the Willard park facilities must drive.

introduction

executive summary

introduction

development of city center, civic

plaza and park

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

introduction

development of city center, civic  
plaza and park

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

## **Environmental Concerns:**

The Highway 160 corridor presents a major and serious obstacle for intercity movement. Because of the lack of a safe and convenient non-vehicular intercity transportation network the youth of Willard must rely upon their parents and the school district to take them from the residential section to the recreation and school section of town. This creates a dependence upon the automobile and decreases free movement of pedestrians and bicyclist. This hinders the development of an "Active Living" lifestyle within the community.

## **Economic Concerns:**

As stated, the lack of convenient and independent movement of the residents and the dependence upon parents, guardians and automobile decreases the number of people trips within the community. The decrease in people trips correlates to a decrease in possible sale opportunities.

## **Community Concerns:**

The community needs to establish a safe and convenient sidewalk and trail network that is not impeded by the Highway 160 corridor. It is of great importance to the community to eliminate the segregation of the residential section from the service sector of the community.

## **Recommendation:**

The Highway 160 corridor must be crossed by the Willard sidewalk and trail network in a safe, convenient and attractive manner. This crossing is crucial to the success of the sidewalk and trail network because of the current locations of the public amenities and services to the east and the residential area to the west. As the community grows and the public amenities and services become more evenly distributed throughout the community this Highway 160 corridor issue will remain a major planning and design challenge.

The Willard sidewalk and trail network will need to cross the Highway 160 corridor at several locations. These crossings can be a combination of surface crossings at key intersections, below grade crossings at convenient topographic locations and above grade crossings:

- The least expensive and least safe way to cross the corridor is by developing highly controlled surface level crossing points at key intersections. These crossings must be well signed and striped and have pedestrian crossing signal lights.

## executive summary

• The below grade crossings would be safer and relatively inexpensive if proper topographic crossing points can be identified. The locations where such below grade crossings could occur without having to do significant excavation and tunneling is very limited due to the flat terrain. Consequently, the below grade crossing points will require excavation and tunneling and significant cost. Discussion of where and how these below grade crossing points might be constructed should begin immediately with MoDOT so that they can be considered in conjunction with the planned future Highway 160 improvements.

• The above grade crossings would be the safest and most expensive option. Again, discussion of where and how these above grade crossing points might be constructed should begin immediately with MoDOT so that they can be considered in conjunction with the planned future Highway 160 improvements. We recommend that these above grade crossings occur where the Highway 160 corridor and Jackson Street join.

We recommend that the community and MoDOT seek to develop the above grade crossings and to use those crossings as "gateway" into the Willard community. These above grade crossings should be artistically designed and have landscaped structures that accommodate:

- Pedestrian and bicycle paths only
- Pedestrian and bicycle paths within a broader greenway connector or linear park so as to blend the two-halves of the city together more aesthetically and seamlessly
- Pedestrian and bicycle paths and street crossing

We recommend that the section of the Highway 160 corridor that runs through the Willard city limits be carefully considered to minimize its intrusiveness. The development of a highway beautification plan is needed. This beautification plan should consider the use of native trees and shrubs, the aesthetic of the road structure and the design and placement of signs and billboards.

introduction

executive summary

introduction

development of city center, civic

plaza and park

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

introduction

development of city center, civic

plaza and park

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

## Willard Open Spaces

### Land Banking, Preservation and Conservation

***Land banking floodplains and conservation easements need to be established so that these naturally critical areas are not developed. The community needs to be “sensitive to the quality of the natural and built environments” (Willard Comprehensive Plan, p. 2.1).***

The city of Willard has become a “bedroom community to Springfield” primarily because of its rural setting and excellent school system. The community has seen significant growth in recent years, with more anticipated. Yet the natural, rural qualities that have drawn people to the community are being lost by the manner in which those people have chosen to construct their community. The “rural, small town” character is being consumed by the spread of strip commercial and suburban residential developments. The beauty of the natural environment has been converted to the sameness of housing sprawl. The community is covering up and converting the natural assets that drew the people to the community in the first place.

The city of Willard needs to reconsider its planning, zoning and building practices and convert its codes and practices to support a more environmentally responsible and sustainable community concept and lifestyle.

### Environmental Concerns:

The community’s developmental approach is seriously weakening the qualities that drew the people to the community in the first place – a “rural, natural and small town” setting. The spread of suburban residential developments is replacing the natural beauty of the area with nondescript sameness. The rural beauty of the open land keeps being pushed further and further to the periphery.

Willard needs to aggressively challenge the status quo and find ways to protect and preserve its rural character. Key to this is the preservation of the natural beauty of the open spaces and environmentally sensitive habitats; including the sensitive watershed areas, floodplains and sinkholes.

## executive summary

introduction

executive summary

introduction

### **Economic Concerns:**

Development has already occurred within the floodplains. This has direct economic impact upon those homes and establishments and upon the homes and establishments down stream; this practice lowers the property value, increases insurance cost.

### **Community Concerns:**

Willard must seek to avoid the weakening or destruction of those community qualities that drew people to settle here in the first place. People value the openness, natural beauty and charm of the "rural and small town". The "indiscriminant" development of the land that transforms the rural landscape into suburban sameness needs to be checked before it is too late.

### **Recommendation:**

We recommend that through the practices of land banking, preservation and conservation that the city of Willard protects the environmentally sensitive areas of the community: floodplains, sinkholes, important watersheds, areas of great beauty and open space. These areas should be withheld from development and preserved for the common good of the community. These areas should have easement controls set to restrict the types of land use permitted in close proximity to these preserves.

We recommend that the Willard Parks Board play an integral role in the identification, management and utilization of these preserved lands. These areas would be excellent for the development of educational and recreational activities: greenways, interpretive trails, recreational trails, outdoor classrooms, habitat protection, bird watching, picnicking, ball fields and parks.

### **Rocky Barrens Conservation Area**

Missouri bladderpod is presently found in the following Missouri counties: Dade, Greene, Christian, and Lawrence. Protected populations are being managed at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield (National Park Service), **Rocky Barrens Conservation Area (Missouri Department of Conservation)**, Greenfield Glade (The Nature Conservancy), and Bois d'Arc Conservation Area (Missouri Department of Conservation). Nearly all of the remaining sites are on privately owned land. <http://mdc.mo.gov/nathis/endangered/endanger/bladder/>

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

introduction

development of city center, civic

plaza and park

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

## **Environmental Concerns:**

The Rocky Barrens Conservation Area is one of four protected areas for the Missouri bladderpod - *Lesquerella filiformis*.

## **Economic Concerns:**

The Rocky Barrens Conservation Area is not well advertised and utilized. The city of Willard should utilize this natural resource more effectively and promote it as an environmental, educational and recreational destination.

## **Community Concerns:**

The Rocky Barrens Conservation Area could be better utilized by the community as an education and interpretive trail amenity.

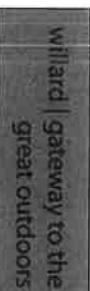
## **Recommendation:**

We recommend that the Missouri Department of Conservation and Willard Parks Board develop a partnership to explore strategies for preserving and expanding the area and utilization of the Rocky Barrens Conservation Area. It would be advantageous to determine if there are ways that the conservation area could be:

- Better marketed locally and regionally to attract more visitors to the community
- Better utilized by the Willard community as an education and recreation area
  - Would it be possible to develop linear parks or trails out to and through the Rocky Barrens site?

We recommend the placement of an informational kiosk on the Frisco Highline Trail explaining and directing people to the Rocky Barrens Conservation Area.

We recommend discussions between the Missouri Department of Conservation, Conco Quarry, Willard Parks Board and the city of Willard concerning strategies for expanding and combining conservation land with the Conco buffer area to establish a larger and contiguous land conservation and recreational area for the community and region.



## executive summary

### Conco Quarry Conservation, Reclamation and Partnership

The Conco Quarry is a major force in the Willard community due to the size of its operations and land holdings. The limestone quarried from this site is used throughout the region. Currently, Conco plans to continue quarrying at this site for another 80-100 years. Therefore, the city of Willard and Conco Quarry must find a way to work harmoniously for the betterment of both.

#### Environmental concerns:

The Conco Quarry has set aside a large natural buffer around most of the quarry site. This visual and safety buffer seeks to protect the surrounding community from the distractions caused by the quarry. Even with this buffer, the neighborhoods located near the quarry complain of the noise and dust created by the mining operations.

Located within the quarry is the habitat for the Painted Bunting bird; its sole remaining refuge in southwest Missouri. The owners of the quarry are seeking to do what it can to protect the bird's habitat.

Even though the quarry is anticipating another 80-100 years of operations at this site a reclamation plan has been developed and is evolving.

The Conco Quarry is located immediately adjacent to and is visible from the Frisco Highline Trail.

#### Economy Concerns:

The Conco Quarry is the largest industry in Willard and the surrounding area. The management of this quarry has a major economic influence upon the community.

#### Community Concerns:

The community would like to find ways to preserve and expand the buffer zone around the quarry as further protection from the noise, dust and view of the operation. In recent years the relationships between the community and the quarry owners have become strained; it is in everyone's best interest to repair the relationship. With renewed relations the possibility of utilizing parts of the buffer zone as a conservation and community recreation area should be explored.

introduction

executive summary

introduction

development of city center, civic

plaza and park

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

introduction

development of city center, civic

plaza and park

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

## **Recommendation:**

We recommend that the city of Willard open discussions with Conco Quarry pertaining to the improvement in relationships, the expansion and utilization of the buffer zone surrounding the quarry, the ongoing reclamation planning and the establishment of a community "partnership".

We encourage the quarry owners and Willard Parks Board to develop a partnership to explore strategies for preserving the habitat for the Painted Bunting.

We would encourage the quarry owners and Willard Parks Board to explore opportunities whereby the community could utilize portions of the quarry buffer for passive recreation and educational activities: outdoor classroom and interpretive trails, flora and fauna conservation, bird watching, strolling and jogging.

We would encourage the quarry owners and Willard Parks Board to explore strategies for expanding the Conco Quarry buffer and the Rocky Barrens Conservation area to create a larger and contiguous nature preserve. This large nature preserve would be an excellent location for educational activities related to land stewardship and could become an important destination for regional schools and universities and environmentalist.

We would encourage the quarry owners and Willard Parks Board to explore strategies for the improvement of the Frisco Highline Trail adjacent to the quarry. It is the recommendation of this report that the primary connector across the Highway 160 corridor for the city-wide sidewalk and trail network would connect to the Frisco Highline Trail at the Conco Quarry location.

## executive summary

introduction

executive summary

introduction

parks, trails and open spaces

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

### DEVELOPMENT OF CITY CENTER, CIVIC PLAZA AND PARK

The Willard community lacks an identifiable city center for economic, civic, social and recreational activities. The utilization of the Willard park system's parks, trails and open spaces to assist in the creation of a renewed city center is advised.

#### Current Downtown Lacks Distinction and Utilization

##### **Environmental Concerns:**

The linear layout of "downtown" along the west side of Jackson Street lacks cohesion and upkeep. Directly across Jackson Street are several scattered buildings and the Frisco Highline Trailhead. The vegetation in the area is predominately open green spaces with a few trees. This vegetation lacks coordination and upkeep.

The physical space between the storefronts along the west and the Frisco Highline Trail along the east of Jackson Street is very large and ill-defined and does not assist in denoting arrival into the downtown area.

##### **Economic Concerns:**

The economic vitality of the "downtown" area is limited and functions only as an 8am to 5pm business zone.

##### **Community Concerns:**

The perception of "downtown" is an area that is uninviting and a non-distinctive remnant of the past. The "downtown's" nondescript linear character does not create a "sense of place" or destination and no longer serves its original purpose as the physical, social, civic and cultural center of Willard.

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

introduction

parks, trails and open spaces

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

## **Recommendation:**

We recommend the creation of an overlay district for the downtown area that encourages the innovative development of mixed-use activities. This district should extend from Main Street to Perryman Street and from Robberson Street to Mill Street. This will allow the Frisco Highline Trailhead to become a more central organizing feature and economic catalyst for an expanded downtown overlay district. The area to the west of Jackson Street would remain primarily mixed-use commercial and residential and the area to the east of Jackson Street might have limited mixed-use development intertwined with a city center civic plaza and park. By placing the Frisco Highline Trailhead at the heart of the city center this optimizes the multimodal interconnectivity between the city center and the outlying community areas.

An integrated development of the mixed-use commercial and residential activities with the civic plaza and trailhead park would create a distinctive destination and recognizable city center in close proximity to the middle school and high school. We further recommend that the community consider the relocation of the City Hall and the Willard Public Library to the civic plaza. The synergy developed by the creation of a combined economic, civic, cultural and recreational activities zone could redefine Willard's downtown and make it a destination with a strong sense of place.

## **Parking**

### **Environmental Concerns:**

The "downtown" parking areas' lack of order creates an unattractive presence along Jackson Street.

### **Economic Concerns:**

The unattractive and inadequate parking does not assist in creating a memorable and welcoming "sense of place" or destination for the business and Frisco Highline Trailhead district.

### **Community Concerns:**

The "downtown" area does not promote a comfortable and recognizable community space due to the limited connectivity between the businesses, Frisco Highline Trail and parking.

## executive summary

introduction

executive summary

introduction

parks, trails and open spaces

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

**Recommendation:**

We recommend that the downtown parking be redesigned to create a visually pleasing and coordinated plan that responds to both the needs of the downtown businesses and the Frisco Highline Trailhead and park. The downtown parking should:

- Be located on both sides of Jackson Street
- Should have curbs and sidewalks that “bump out” to define the city center district and provide safe, well marked pedestrian crossing points
- The parking area should be landscaped with trees and lower plantings to beautify the city center and to help shade and cool the large expanse of parking
  - This landscaping should be an extension of the city center park and streetscape improvements
- The parking area should be paved with a pervious material to allow storm water runoff to percolate into the soil

### **City Center Civic Plaza and Park**

**Environmental Concern:**

The current “downtown” is dominated by undefined and free flowing open spaces with limited landscaping. The Frisco Highline Trailhead is located across from the remaining downtown establishments but fails to create a distinctive recreational node.

**Economic Concern:**

The lack of planned landscaping and upkeep of the open spaces has created an unattractive and uninviting downtown area. Additionally, the lack of development of the Frisco Highline Trailhead as a recognizable recreational node has contributed to a lack of economic vitality in downtown.

**Community Concern:**

The undeveloped open spaces in the downtown area do not attract people to congregate and linger or help to create an identifiable and memorable public space.

willard gateway to the great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

introduction

parks, trails and open spaces

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

## **Recommendation:**

We recommend that the community consider acquiring the property between the Frisco Highline Trailhead and Mill Street and from Main Street to the school and develop it into a city center civic plaza and park. To further strengthen the civic importance of this community space we recommend that the City Hall and the Willard Public Library be relocated to this area.

This city center civic plaza and park would have many benefits:

- It would take advantage of the Frisco Highline Trailhead and integrate it into the city center community space. The integration of the Frisco Highline Trail would be advantageous because of its linkage to a community-wide and regional trail network. This would help promote greater pedestrian and bicyclist access to the city center.
- The plaza and park should accommodate both passive and active recreation activities suitable for all members of the community.
- The plaza would be used to establish monuments and memorials and to host formal public ceremonies and community events.
- Between the plaza and the recreational side of the park would be a gently sloping area with an “amphitheater” focused upon the plaza space. This area could be used for outdoor community musical and theatrical performances, movies and community observances, such as the Fourth of July.
- Also within the civic plaza would be the relocated City Hall and Willard Public Library and a Frisco Highline Trailhead facility.
- The section of the park beyond the civic plaza area would be developed for seasonal passive and limited active recreation activities. This park could provide spaces for sitting and reflection, picnicking, Frisbee Golf, sledding and free play activities.
- The civic plaza and park would have both formal and informal landscaped areas.
- Such a city center civic plaza and park would create a strong “sense of place” and destination, reestablish the downtown area as the social and cultural center of the community, promote mixed-use economic renewal, attract people looking for a small town city center housing option and provide Willard with a recognizable and marketable community identity.

## executive summary

### Street Side Pocket Parks

#### **Environmental Concern:**

The introduction of street side pocket parks would help to visually unify the city center civic plaza and park with the mixed-use business and residential area and add to the distinctiveness of the downtown. The pocket park's landscaped lawns will provide needed pervious surfaces for water runoff filtration, help to cleanse the water and air and cool the surrounding area.

#### **Economic Concern:**

The development of street side pocket parks will help to beautify the city center by adding a variety of colors, textures, aromas and settings for the residents and visitors. This more pleasant, inviting and distinctive city center will help to draw people to the downtown.

#### **Community Concern:**

The street side pocket park(s) could provide a cool and quiet oasis in the city center for people to rest and socialize. These parks would help to soften the appearance of the city center, provide needed areas for socializing and encourage patrons of the downtown establishments to linger in the area. A renewed and beautified downtown would not only attract shopper, but also new residents to the Willard "village center".

#### **Recommendation:**

We recommend the introduction of street side pocket parks in the city center district to help create a more inviting and comfortable public space. These pocket parks should be conceived of as an extension of the proposed city center civic plaza and park between Jackson Street and Mill Street. The character of these landscaped areas should also be reflected in the sidewalk landscaping.

We believe that the incorporation of landscaped sidewalks and parks in the city center will make it a more inviting destination and desirable place to visit and live. The combination of the Frisco Highline Trailhead and proposed city center civic plaza and park and pocket parks could provide the foundation for creating a distinctive and memorable identity for the Willard's city center and community.

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

introduction

parks, trails and open spaces

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

## Streetscape

The streetscape is the public area between the opposing facades of the buildings lining a street. The design and upkeep of the streetscape determines the character of an area and forms the foundation for establishing an area's identity. Often this is referred to as the street's "livability". The stronger the "street livability", the stronger the area's social and economic vitality.

### Environmental Concern:

Numerous environmental factors need to be considered when designing the streetscape:

- The incorporation of natural vegetated features make the streets more pleasant and inviting
- Vegetation helps to cools and cleanses the air
- Sun shading should be provided along the sidewalk: trees, awnings and shelters
- Protection from inclement weather
- Control of storm water runoff

In addition to these functional environmental concerns, consideration needs to be given to the psychological (perceptual) and social environmental concerns: safety, sociability, inviting, relaxing and understandable.

### Economic Concern:

The current city center's streetscape has not been carefully considered and, consequently, presents an unorganized and unpleasant appearance and space for the user and passerby. The lack of a distinctive city center can partially be attributed to the lack of streetscape beautification; no one wishes to linger in the current city center area.

The development of an identifiable and distinctive city center would assist in encouraging people to visit the "downtown" area to shop, socialize and live. The Willard community is in need of such a distinctive public location. Willard's lack of "identity" can be attributed to this lack of public space. Willard requires an identity other than Springfield's "bedroom community" near the air port.

## executive summary

introduction

executive summary

introduction

parks, trails and open spaces

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

### Community Concern:

The establishment of a city center that has a vibrant "livable" streetscape would assist in attracting people to the historic downtown and foster civic pride. The community needs a distinctive and identifiable city center that the residents are proud of and want to visit. The combination of the city center civic plaza and park and the integrated streetscape improvements could be the public feature that provides the foundation upon which such a city center can be rebuilt.

### Recommendation:

We recommend that the community consider a phased development of a city center streetscape plan that is conceived and implemented in conjunction with the proposed city center civic plaza and park area. The creation of a city center that is distinctive, inviting and vibrant would help the community economically and perceptually.

The comprehensive city center plan should seek to unify the space along both sides of Jackson Street, promote a mixed-use civic and retail center that is unique and establishes a physical and perceptual experience that is memorable and "livable".

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

finances

demographics

regional & local factors

livable cities

active living

smart growth

community meetings

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

## HISTORY

In Louisiana Territory, the Osage Indians claimed all of the land west of the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains and south of the Missouri River to the Arkansas River. Prior to the Louisiana Purchase, eastern tribes were moving west of the Mississippi River. Groups of Delaware and Shawnee had received Spanish land grants in southeastern Missouri in 1793. By 1800, Osage territory in Missouri had been reduced to the southwest quadrant of the state. The Osage were having difficulties protecting their region from other tribes, particularly the Kickapoo, who had established small villages along the Osage River. The Kickapoo also lived in villages on the prairie that still bears their name.

Prior to 1820, early Euroamericans had moved into the watersheds in what is now Taney, Christian, and Greene counties. The first written description of Greene County is probably that of Henry Rowe Schoolcraft in 1818–1819 (5).

The community was named “Willard”, after William Willard of Lebanon, Missouri. According to his mother, “He was a surveyor working for the railroad determining where the rail beds should be. He was working in the area of what is now Willard, where the Frisco was wanting to put in a station. When the question of a name for the station and community came up and it was learned that the residents of the area wanted to name it Robberson for Dr. E.T. Robberson who had platted the town. But there was already a town named Robberson in the state and for want of anything else, Bill Willard gave the town his name” (Farmer, 1976).

In 1922, the Willard Consolidated School District was formed and the Willard High School

willard | gateway to the great outdoors

37



Fig. vi Cler-Mont, first chief, by George Catlin 1834

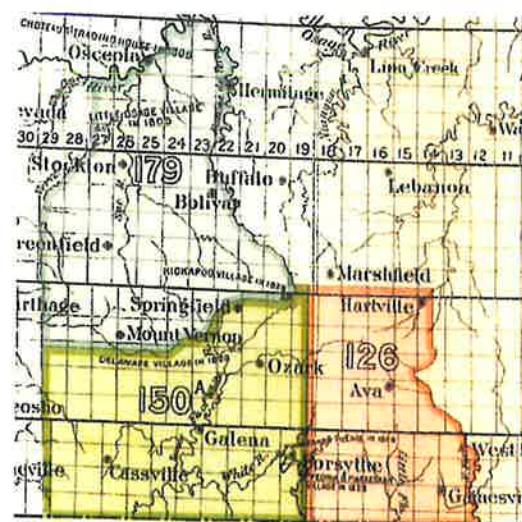


Fig. vii Osage Indian Treaty Boundary

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

demographics

regional &amp; local factors

livable cities

active living

smart growth

community meetings

willard gateway overview

community meetings

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

was built. Constructed of red brick, it was the first of its kind in the area besides Central High School in Springfield.

Willard has grown from a rural agricultural settlement in the mid-1800's into a community with over 3100 residents in the early 2000's. Although time and urbanization pressures have brought many changes to the community, Willard continues to retain the best qualities of small town life.

One indicator of the life and vitality of a community is the participation and involvement of its residents. The Willard Parks and Recreation Department had an enrollment of over 3000 youth between the ages of four and thirteen in one or more of the following activities: basketball, soccer, baseball, softball, volleyball, swimming, and dance. In addition, there are adult and senior programs. These programs have been expanded or enhanced by the opening of a new recreation center. This 18,000 square foot building includes two gyms, houses Cox Fitness Center-Willard, and has a community room, classroom and other amenities. This facility has been tremendously successful and is the home to all indoor park activities.

Popular annual events include the Easter Egg Hunt, and the day long 4th of July Celebration, the Frisco Highline Trail Run and SAFE Halloween. In 1998 and each year thereafter, Willard has been designated "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation.



Fig. viii Early 1900's Passenger Train



Fig. ix Harry Truman on the Frisco Highline, 1948

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

history

regional & local factors

livable cities

active living

smart growth

community meetings

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

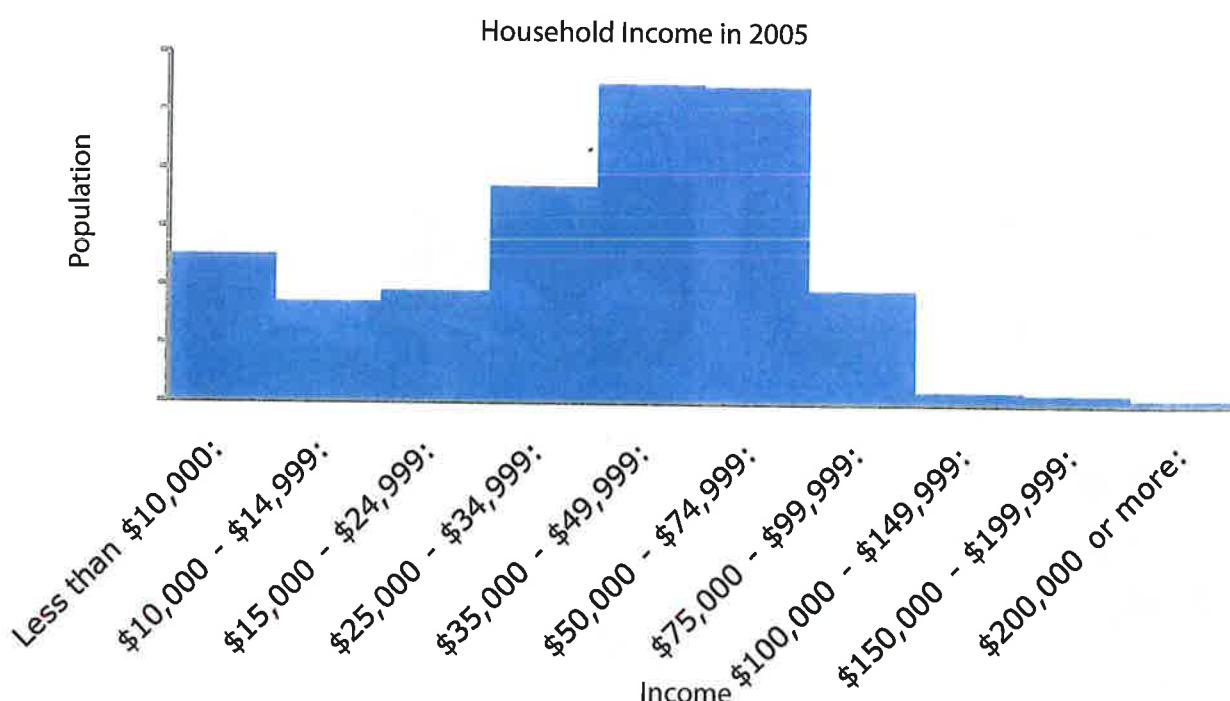
## DEMOGRAPHICS

Willard was laid out in 1884 by the late Dr. E. T. Robberson. It is located in Murray Township, 9 miles from Springfield, on the Bolivar line of the Frisco Railroad. It occupies a fine location upon Grand Prairie, on Sections 23 & 26, Township 30 N, Range 23 West. Many beautiful homes are in or near Willard, at the junction of Highways 160, O, & Z. (—Fairbanks & Tuck, Vol. 1, p. 210; Gen. Highway Map.)

As of the census of 2000, there were 3,193 people, 1,154 households, and 909 families residing in the city. The population density was 575.2 people per square mile (222.1/km<sup>2</sup>). There were 1,226 housing units at an average density of 220.9/sq mi (85.3/km<sup>2</sup>). The racial makeup of the city was

97.75% White, 0.16% African American, 0.66% Native American, 0.09% Asian, 0.22% from other races, and 1.13% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 0.53% of the population.

There were 1,154 households out of which 45.7% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 64.8% were married couples living together, 11.3% had a female householder with no husband present, and 21.2% were non-families. 18.7% of all households were made up of individuals and 9.8% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.76 and the average family size was 3.14.



## research & analysis

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

history

willard gateway overview

regional &amp; local factors

livable cities

active living

smart growth

community meetings

willard gateway overview

community meetings

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

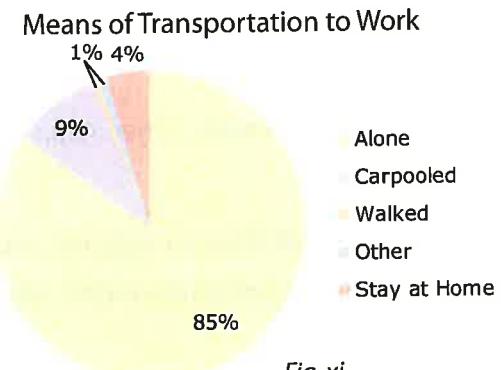


Fig. xi

### Population Breakdown by Gender

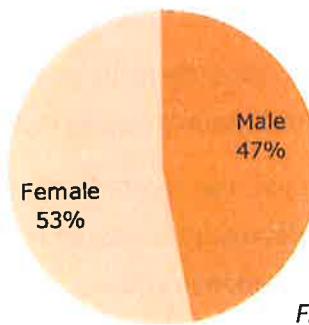


Fig. xii

In the city, the population was spread out with 32.5% under the age of 18, 7.5% from 18 to 24, 33.0% from 25 to 44, 17.0% from 45 to 64, and 10.1% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 32 years. For every 100 females there were 89.9 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 86.5 males. The median income for a household in the city was \$39,565, and median income for a family was \$43,646. Males had a median of \$29,420 versus \$20,370 for females. The per capita income for the city was \$15,253. 9.3% of families and 9.6% of the population were below the poverty line, including 10.6% of those under age 18 and 12.6% of those age 65 or over.

The school district has a student enrollment of about 3,852, is organized on four levels: K-4, grades 5 and 6, grades 7 and 8, and grades 9-12, and has an accredited rating given by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Willard South Elementary, houses 343 students in grades K-4, is located near the edge of the city limits of Springfield on Division

Street. Willard Central Elementary serves 377 students, K-4, and is located on Farm Road 101, north of EE Highway. Willard East Elementary, grades K-4 serves 390 students and is located on Kime Street in Willard. Willard North Elementary, grades K-4, serves 392 students and is located in Willard, Missouri, at the junction of Highway AB and 160. All four elementaries are participating in the Accelerated Schools program. The Intermediate School, grades 5 and 6, compromised of 548 students, is situated on the same campus as Willard North, but the students are separated from elementary students.

The Middle School houses 662 students in grades 7 and 8. In August of 2006, the new Willard High School, located on Jackson Street, opened its doors with an enrollment of 1,125 students in grades 9-12. The Alternative School has an enrollment of around 15 students. If quality is measured in personnel, then the Willard Schools rank high with 44% of the 286 certified staff members having Master's Degrees or higher.

willard | gateway to the great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

history

demographics

livable cities

active living

smart growth

community meetings

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

## **REGIONAL AND LOCAL FACTORS**

### **Transportation**

Highway 160 is the major point of access to Willard itself. However, other major roads are located around the area including I-44.

Airports are also located around the area, with Springfield-Branson regional airport accomodating the largest amount of travellers. The other airports in the region cater to general aviation needs.

### **Recreation and Historic Sites**

In close proximity to Willard, recreation facilities to be noted include the Willard Baseball Field, Ritter Spring Park, Fantastic Caverns, Clear Creek Park, and the Willard Recreation Center. However, some assets of the area which may be overlooked are the Bois d'Arc Wildlife Refuge and the Bladderpod Conservation area to the west and north of Willard respectively.

In a larger scope, the Historic State Sites and the State Parks provide for many of the recreational needs for the area. Activities occuring in these areas include fishing, boating, swimming, trails, picnic, and interpretation activities.

### **Community Center**

The major community centers in Willard include Willard Elementary, Middle and High Schools, the city parks and pools as well as the recreation center. The location of the Frisco Highline Trail takes advantage of the landscape and furthermore, provides a naturally surfaced trail to accommodate horse back riding as well as bicycling, jogging and walking. Areas of community use around the city of Willard include airports, hospitals, academic institutions, conservation areas and all state and city parks.

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

history

demographics

livable cities

active living

smart growth

community meetings

willard gateway overview

community meetings

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

## Economic Centers and Activity

Due to the nature of its size, Willard relies on the surrounding area to provide its economic foundation. Willard maintains its own Green Hills Country Club, a training center and shooting range. For larger scale fairs, shopping and general activity, Willard can turn to large metropolitan areas such as Springfield, which is within a 15 minute drive. Other economic centers in the region are Branson, Joplin, Lebanon and Osage Beach.

## Land Features

The City of Willard spans approximately 5.6 square miles. There are various and assorted springs and creeks within 5 miles of the city limits, including Clear Creek Spring, Brower Spring and McDaniel Lake. While the land is generally considered to be predominantly plains, there is a shallow valley to the east named Big Hollow.

The 100 mile radius around Willard is home to various lakes and streams, vast amounts of flat farmland and lake areas, including Lake of the Ozarks. There can also be found approximately 2,500 sinkholes throughout the Greene County area. Accompanying the large number of sinkholes is a landscaped defined by karsts, "Characterized by the presence of caves, springs, sinkholes and losing streams, created as groundwater dissolves soluble rock such as limestone or dolomite." (<http://dnr.missouri.gov>)

## Demographics

The demographics of the area inform the scale of the project and certain design decisions. The Willard area is conducive to the larger Ozark region and also the state of Missouri which facilitates the idea of the Triple Bottom Line and Willard's new identity as The Gateway to the Great Outdoors. The emphasis within Willard and the surrounding area on education and recreation is represented in the number and types of family groups that are found in this region. The common thread that connects all the residents of Willard then can become the Parks and Recreation Department. The trails and emerging national trends can also facilitate this relationship through environmentally friendly design, economically stimulating planning, and the continued social interaction of the community.

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction  
 executive summary  
 research & analysis  
 history  
 demographics  
 regional & local factors  
 active living  
 smart growth  
 community meetings  
 willard gateway overview  
 proposals  
 appendix

## LIVABLE CITIES

*The purpose of making Cities Livable is to enhance the well-being of inhabitants of cities and towns, strengthen community, improve social and physical health, and increase civic engagement by reshaping the built environment. (<http://www.livablecities.org>)*

### **Public Realm**

Contact among inhabitants, and the dialogue that ensues in the city's public places is the "ultimate expression of life in the city". A well-functioning public realm serves multiple important functions: It builds social capital by cementing social relations through repeated contact among inhabitants in multiple overlapping role relationships. The public realm at its best is an incomparable teacher of social skills and attitudes; children and youth learn to relate and behave with a diversity of others. In bringing inhabitants together the public realm encourages all to linger, share observations and perspectives, and thereby humanizes all who participate.

### **Squares and Marketplaces**

The marketplace is still the heart of most cities and towns, the center of economic, civic, social and cultural life, providing multiple reasons for people to talk to each other, to work together, to coordinate activities, to prepare for community festivals, and to celebrate together. The square is a public space, an inclusive space – no one can be kept out – so unlike shopping malls, the square is fundamentally a democratic space. The square that functions as a market place in the morning, a place for outdoor cafes and restaurants through the afternoon and evening, quiet and peaceful on some days, and on other days the setting for festivals, street musicians and theatrical performances, a ceremonial civic stage, and a playground for children --- this is a square that brings all the diverse members of the community together in one place.

### **Outdoor Cafes and Restaurants**

Outdoor cafes and restaurants encourage people to spend more time in public spaces, facilitating meetings and extended conversations in the public realm, even into the night. These also require traffic free public places where children can safely play.

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

history

demographics

regional &amp; local factors

active living

smart growth

community meetings

willard gateway overview

community meetings

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix



Fig. xiii Farmer's Market



Fig. xiv Community Festival

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

## Farmers Markets

The farmers market is important not simply because it brings fresh produce into the city and provides an incomparable aesthetic experience: in fact, the farmers' market is one of the most powerful generators of social and economic life and must be given a place on the main square. The farmers are well skilled in interaction and act like "hosts" in the public space; they know their regular customers and make people feel recognized and valued.

## Community Festivals

True community festivals instill in the individual a sense of joy and well-being. They promote a shared sense of identity and pride in community. Community festivals are both the expression of a sense of community and a mechanism for the development of community. They bring together the diverse population, people of different ages, social and economic groups, ethnic backgrounds, and enable them to work together to achieve a common goal – the celebration of the community as a whole.

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

history

demographics

regional & local factors

active living

smart growth

community meetings

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

## Mixed Use Shops/Houses

In a town or city structured on principles of Livable Communities the primary building block is the “shop/house”, with shop, workshop or restaurant at street level, and residential dwelling above. The close proximity of living, working, socializing, of the private and the public realms, are what makes the public realm so hospitable, and the private dwelling so convenient. This fine textured community fabric makes the traditional city not only socially healthy, but also ecologically sound, eliminating unnecessary travel.



Fig. xv Mixed Use building



Fig. xvi Pedestrian & Bike Path in MN

## City of Short Distances

To reduce distances traveled everyday to work, shops, school, etc. the city must have a cellular structure: the town center and each neighborhood district must contain diverse work opportunities, shopping, housing, and all necessary infrastructure – schools, medical services, etc within a short radius. Only then does it become possible for people to walk or bike to work, school or shops. This goal is called, the “City of Short Distances”. There are social and health benefits as well as ecological advantages to this: commuting by foot through one’s neighborhood permits people to begin to recognize strangers

as “familiars”, makes possible greetings, conversation among friends, and play among children under the eye of adults all micro-social events that help to build community. Commuting by automobile has the opposite effect, destroying the social fabric.

## Balanced Transportation Planning

The transportation planner sees more clearly that their job is not about movement of vehicles, but about people and accessibility. They consider all members of the population and the varied trips that they need to make and makes



Fig. xvii Safe Routes to school in NM



Fig. xviii New square in Copperopolis, CA

these trips as pleasant, economical, safe, comfortable, simple and autonomous as possible. The emphasis on the trips people make instead of movement of vehicles has led planners to practice "balanced transportation planning"; that means that, since in the past there has been an overemphasis on movement of vehicles, planning for the "softer" and more ecological modes of transportation must now receive priority – that is, trips made by foot, by bicycle and by public transportation. And the trips made by children must be considered as seriously as those made by working adults.

### Pedestrian Networks

Hundreds of cities have closed central areas around their main square to traffic, creating pedestrian zones, and these traffic free zones are gradually being extended by traffic-free or traffic tamed streets out into surrounding neighborhoods, creating a continuous network of pedestrian routes throughout the city. Where pedestrians and vehicles cross on these networks it is the pedestrian who is given priority – for example by raised table crossings at the height of the sidewalk. (Pedestrian bridges and underpasses that give priority to vehicular movement are unsatisfactory for pedestrians).

### Bicycle Networks

The bicycle is a more sociable – as well as ecological form of transportation and is encouraged in the town center. Some cities have already created a continuous city-wide network of dedicated bicycle lanes so that it is possible to bicycle from residential neighborhoods into the heart of the city, or out into the surrounding countryside without having to fight for space with motorized vehicles.

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

history

demographics

regional &amp; local factors

active living

smart growth

community meetings

willard gateway overview

community meetings

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

history

demographics

regional & local factors

active living

smart growth

community meetings

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

## Traffic Quieted Streets

Cities pioneered in techniques to reduce the volume and speed of vehicular traffic. Their methods include the ("living street"), where pedestrians, including children have equal rights to use of the full width of the street as do vehicles. Vehicles must proceed at walking speed, they cannot use the street for through traffic, or park there if they do not live there or deliver there. By now most large and small streets in ("living street") cities have been redesigned to "calm" traffic and reduce traffic volume. These techniques include "necking", jogging traffic lanes, "roundabouts" or "circles", repaving and raising crosswalks, reducing traffic lane widths, and number of traffic lanes, paving traffic lanes with cobble stones, planting islands, etc.



Fig. xix Stimulating sculpture in Canadian Park



Fig. xx City Center Park in MA



Fig. xxi Fountain creates focal point in IA

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

history

demographics

regional &amp; local factors

willard gateway overview

active living

smart growth

community meetings

willard gateway overview

community meetings

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

mixed use community fabric. The network of routes is very extensive, minimizing the walking distance to a stop; the frequency of service is every 7 – 10 minutes; buses and trains are designed to be light, comfortable and easy to step into; and the fact that the public transportation travels through the center of the city which is closed to cars means that access to destination points is better than by car. In addition, the funds that used to support infrastructure for cars have been redirected to improving and subsidizing public transportation. Of course a public transit system cannot work without an appropriately compact built community fabric. The wisest transportation planners now say that the best transportation system is the one that requires the least transportation.

### The DNA of the City

Many cities have developed their unique identity over hundreds of years, building on their best loved features. We have proposed the metaphor that for the city, as for every living thing, we can determine a genetic code, or DNA structure. The DNA is expressed in those architectural and spatial characteristics best loved by the city's inhabitants. These may consist of certain building materials

and colors, a typical arrangement of scale and architectural forms, building lot size, roof lines, scale of public and semi-public spaces. In order to fit into the context, new buildings have respected this "genetic code", reflecting at least some existing patterns, or interpreting them in a contemporary form. These early design guidelines specified, for example, that paving for the square, and the surrounding marketplace should be of brick; they defined the scale of buildings and size and proportions of windows; and they made the point that the façade of every building in the city should be considered as a "gift" to the city as a whole. When inhabitants themselves are able to recognize what fits and what does not fit, what violates the unique character of the city, and what is appropriate or not appropriate, there is general consensus that the British playwright Peter Shaffer called the "communal eye".

### Children and Young People

If we want to make our cities healthy and livable for all, then we must first make them livable for children. If our cities are unhealthy or lack livability, children are the first to suffer. Every aspect of the city's community design, built fabric, organization of streets, or

willard gateway to the  
great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

history

demographics

regional & local factors

RECOMMENDATIONS

active living

smart growth

community meetings

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

pattern of transportation impacts on children. Robbed of the natural exercise of walking or biking to school, afterschool activities, visiting friends, etc. by the sprawling auto-dependent character of suburban developments child obesity has become a national problem. Robbed of the impromptu social interaction in community life that can accompany autonomous walking and biking to school in a "city of short distances" children are failing to develop a sense that they are included in their community. For excitement some young people turn to the most pathogenic environment of all – the world of violent video games. An important emphasis of the IMCL "International Making Cities Livable" effort is to identify how the design of the physical environment can support inclusion of children in the public social realm, and how this can educate them to become valued community members and citizens. Good public spaces facilitate the social development of children: they learn how to talk to adults other than their parents and teachers. In good public spaces the conversations among varied adults present a model for children to emulate. Children grow up assuming that they are the kind of person that their physical environment tells them they are.

They see their environment as a portrait of themselves; an ugly, brutal environment has a deadening effect, seeming to justify brutal and violent reactions.

## The City as a Work of Art

For hundreds of years the city was considered a work of art. The pleasure that inhabitants and visitors experience in a city that is beautiful is translated in the body into "endorphins" that increase mental and physical well-being. A beautiful city is a city that is aesthetic as a whole, in the relationship of buildings to one another, and in the design of individual buildings and places. The image of the city as a whole becomes difficult to grasp as we permit our cities to sprawl into mega-cities. We need smaller, more cellular cities with clear green boundaries, centers and focal points. The view or the idea of the city as a whole – or the neighborhood as a whole – should provide a sense of pleasure. To create a beautiful composition of buildings that complement each other around a shared public place used to be a goal of city making. The interconnection of greenways and open spaces within the built environment often complement the natural setting in which the city lies.

(<http://www.livablecities.org/TrueUrbanism.htm>)

## ACTIVE LIVING

*Active living by design promotes environments that offer choices for integrating physical activity into daily life. Not only do active living communities provide a source of physical activity, but to rural towns in particular, active living contributes to revitalization by marketing historic, cultural and local attributes. (<http://www.activeliving.org>)*

### Preparation

Preparation is a critical first step in creating a physically active community. This includes developing and maintaining a community partnership. This strategy also entails collecting relevant data to inform program planning and pursuing financial and other resources.

### Promotion

Effective promotion or communications efforts are vital to the success of any active living program. Communications are the means by which the project connects with the public. Specific messages include the benefits of active living and the importance of community environments in promoting healthy living. As part of this process, presentations, news releases, fact sheets, and other forms of communication are evaluated to determine whether they truly connect with the intended audiences. Promotion strategies should also help to ensure that other policy, programmatic and infrastructure goals are successfully achieved.



Fig. xxii Family activities facilitate Active Living



Fig. xxiii Community events provide interaction

willard gateway to the great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

history

demographics

regional & local factors

livable cities

smart growth

community meetings

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

## Programs

Programs are organized on-going activities that engage individuals in physical activity either directly or indirectly. Active living programs provide direct access to physical activity opportunities. Other programmatic approaches reward individuals for adopting more active habits through incentives or other encouragements, such as benefits for employees or students who walk or bicycle to work or school.



Fig. xxiv After school activities promote health

## Physical Projects

Finally, physical projects are strategies to directly impact built environments, removing barriers to physical activity and enhance safety (e.g., trails, pedestrian improvements at intersections). While the built environment is heavily determined by public policies, active living partnerships should also look for opportunities to improve physical spaces that do not rely on a policy decision *per se*. Physical projects include a wide range of sizes from community trails to sidewalks to signage pointing out active living opportunities on taking the stairs.

Active Living developed as a response to growing numbers of people with common chronic diseases. This program, and others like it, have successfully addressed these issues and contributed to happier and healthier community development.



Fig. xxv Gardening is good for the environment

### The Effects of Parks, Trails and Greenways on Physical Activity

In a Missouri survey, 55.2 percent of people using trails reported an increase in walking since they began using the trails.

Women and people with a high school education or lower were more than twice as likely to have increased their amount of walking since they began using the trails.

People with access to neighborhood parks were nearly twice as likely to be physically active as those without access to parks.

Not only can active living positively impact physical health, it can also improve the overall well-being of a community mentally and physically.

Linking parks and trails to destinations of interest would allow more people to walk. As the community focus is mainly on the school age population, there are specific tools that can be used to involve kids.

### Parks and Playgrounds

Activities involving parks, playgrounds, gardens and sidewalk systems will foster the youth and keep them in the community.

While building—and maintaining—safe and accessible places for kids to play is no small task, pioneering efforts are underway. National organizations, such as the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and Trust for Public Land (TPL), as well as local ones, have launched massive efforts to create healthy places for children and families to have fun and be physically active. TPL, for example, has helped complete more than 420 park projects in some 190 cities across the country.

These and other coordinated efforts are establishing everyday recreational opportunities, promoting healthy behaviors in kids and revitalizing communities.

### Community Gardens

Community gardens have great potential to be health-promoting places for kids. Fruit and vegetable gardens can provide opportunities for routine physical activity, as well as access to healthy food.

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

history

demographics

regional & local factors

livable cities

smart growth

community meetings

willard gateway overview

community meetings

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

history

demographics

regional & local factors

livable cities

smart growth

community meetings

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

## Traffic Calming Measures

Walking and bicycling are basic means for kids to get essential physical activity while getting from place to place, either in their neighborhood or on the way to school. Yet unlike 20 years ago, walking and bicycling to school are more the exception than the norm in many places. Many neighborhoods lack sidewalks, bike lanes and safe paths, or have dangerously fast traffic.

Successful initiatives, such as Safe Routes to School programs and International Walk to School Day, are bringing national attention to how built environment changes can positively affect children's health and well-being.

## For the Rural Community

In respect to the entire community of Willard and other rural communities, active living principles respond to haphazard development, particularly in traditional town centers. Abandoned main streets and employment centers lead to dispersed development and even community disintegration. To reverse this, rural towns have begun to identify assets that draw growth back to town centers. By marketing historic, cultural, locational attributes, as well as the school

community, Willard can attract public support and financing for redevelopment and new development.

Examples of successful rural development, revitalization, and conservation illustrates two characteristics:

A critical mass of committed citizens determined to enhance their community's growth and quality of life.

The recognition and use of the area's assets — location, natural resources, natural attractions, and historic and cultural value.

(<http://www.activeliving.org>)



Fig. xxvi Family events can also be educational

## SMART GROWTH

*Proponents of smart growth advocate comprehensive planning to guide, design, develop, revitalize and build communities that: have a unique sense of community and place; preserve and enhance natural and cultural resources; equitably distribute the costs and benefits of development; expand the range of transportation, employment and housing choices; value long-range, regional considerations of sustainability over a short-term focus; and promote public health and healthy communities.*

*In communities across the nation, there is a growing concern that current development patterns -- dominated by what some call "sprawl" -- are no longer in the long-term interest of our cities, existing suburbs, small towns, rural communities, or wilderness areas. Though supportive of growth, communities are questioning the economic costs of abandoning infrastructure in the city, only to rebuild it further out.*

*The features that distinguish smart growth in a community vary from place to place. In general, smart growth invests time, attention, and resources in restoring community and vitality to center cities and older suburbs. New smart growth is more town-centered, is transit and pedestrian oriented, and has a greater mix of housing, commercial and retail uses. It also preserves open space and many other environmental amenities. (<http://www.smartgrowth.org>)*

### Principles

Create a range of housing opportunities and choices providing quality housing for people of all income levels is an integral component in any smart growth strategy.

Walkable neighborhoods and communities are desirable places to live, work, learn, worship and play, and therefore a key component of smart growth.

Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration. Growth can create great places to live, work and play -- if it responds to a community's own sense of how and where it wants to grow.

Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place. Smart growth encourages communities to craft a vision and set standards for development and construction which respond to community values of architectural beauty and

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

history

demographics

regional &amp; local factors

livable cities

active living

willard gateway overview

community meetings

willard gateway overview

community meetings

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

willard gateway to the  
great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

history

demographics

regional & local factors

livable cities

active living

transportation

community meetings

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

distinctiveness, as well as expanded choices in housing and transportation.

Make development decisions predictable, fair and cost effective. For a community to be successful in implementing smart growth, it must be embraced by the private sector.

Mix land uses - smart growth supports the integration of mixed land uses into communities as a critical component of achieving better places to live.

Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty and critical environmental areas. Open space preservation supports smart growth goals by bolstering local economies, preserving critical environmental areas, improving our communities quality of life, and guiding new growth into existing communities.

Provide a variety of transportation choices. Providing people with more choices in housing, shopping, communities, and transportation is a key aim of smart growth.

Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities. Smart growth directs development towards existing communities already served by infrastructure, seeking to utilize the resources that existing neighborhoods offer, and conserve open space and irreplaceable natural resources on the urban fringe.

Take advantage of compact building design. Smart growth provides a means for communities to incorporate more compact building design as an alternative to conventional, land consumptive development.

## Issues

Smart growth offers a framework to build community and create and preserve a sense of place. It does this through housing and transportation, urban green spaces, recreational and cultural attractions, and policies that promote mixed-use neighborhoods.

Smart growth creates communities that offer health, social, economic, and environmental benefits for all. It achieves this by promoting resource-efficient building and community designs, green building practices, low-impact development, and mixed-use and walkable neighborhoods.

Smart growth encourages community-based small business investment and development, adds to the variety of local employment opportunities, and helps attract new businesses and industries. More efficient government services are key to this, as are

public and private investments that focus on quality of life improvements.

Many of our current environmental challenges — air and water pollution, global warming, habitat fragmentation and conversion — are due in part to the way we have built our neighborhoods, communities, and metropolitan areas during the past half-century.

Smart growth reduces health threats from air and water pollution and indoor air contaminants through resource-efficient building design and offering transportation options such as mass transit, bike lanes, and pedestrian walkways. These engage residents and workers in a more active, healthy lifestyle.

Smart growth promotes housing options for diverse lifestyles and socio-economic levels. It does this through mixed-use, affordable housing and compact development that revitalizes neighborhoods and provides an alternative to automobile-dependent communities.

Smart growth protects public health and environmental quality, conserves energy, and improves the quality of life in communities by promoting new transportation choices



Fig. xxvii LEED neighborhood design in Bozeman, MT

## introduction

## executive summary

## research & analysis

## history

## demographics

### regional & local factors

## livable cities

## active living

## community meetings

## willard gateway overview

## community meetings

## willard gateway overview

## proposals

## appendix

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

history

demographics

regional & local factors

livable cities

active living

smart growth

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

## COMMUNITY MEETINGS

The purpose of the community meetings were to gain input from the parks board members and determine what recreation needs the community had and what would be necessary to create a successful parks and recreation system in Willard. To begin with we were given the location of four parks that are currently owned and operated by the parks board and were asked to expand on these locations. A list of needs, wants and concerns was brought up by the community and parks board members that included several issues:

- A skate park
- Parks and schools joining together to promote more activities
- Enhance greenway trails and better connectivity within city
- Expand recreation center to include another gym
- Lighted fountain/water feature at entrance of city park
- Adult activities (horseshoes, pickle ball, senior citizens, indoor pool)
- More trees
- More community involvement
- Community education classes, computer classes
- Soccer complex to include conservation area or recycling area
- Sponsored golf tournament at the country club
- Two more baseball/softball fields – more room for adult activities
- Tennis courts
- What to do with 20 acres of bare land?
- Adult gym expansion
- Willard history follows rail line – incorporate
- Keep open spaces for frisbee, football, etc
- Frisco Highline Trail is the spine of the community
- Depot for public use and historical significance
- Parks|Schools|City connectivity through linkages of safe routes
- Festival – weekends in summer to create economic stimulation
- More bike paths with greenways|open space|parks

## research & analysis

- Create city center to emphasize focal point within the city
- 160 beautification as well as safe crossing – pedestrian bridges
- Natural resources in area – connect with trails and greenways
- Sculpture garden along 160
- Green|sustainable|renewable resources community
- Recreation and education emphasis
- Rework infrastructure
- Create better working relationship within city|schools|parks

introduction  
 executive summary  
 research & analysis  
 history  
 demographics  
 regional & local factors  
 livable cities  
 active living  
 smart growth

willard gateway overview  
 community meetings  
 willard gateway overview  
 proposals  
 appendix

After listening to the park board and community concerns it became apparent that the scope of the project would have to include looking at a larger context and creating a master plan that encompasses a wide variety of issues. This would require cooperation within Willard's community and city leaders to reevaluate what it would take to create a community that could be singled out as having a unique and impressive identity.

To assist with our understanding of the needs of a responsible parks and recreation plan we contacted several people with expertise in a range of different fields that could better inform our recommendations.

### **Loring Bullard: Springfield Watershed Executive Director**

The meeting with Loring Bullard supplied much valuable information on the impacts of residential and commercial development on the water resources and environment surrounding Willard. Because Willard gets its water from wells any new development will put additional strain on the aquifers that supply not only Willard but other communities in the surrounding area. Creating developments that use less water and incorporate methods to store and reclaim rainwater are important methods to lessen the town's reliance on well water. Another topic discussed was the impact of stream erosion due to runoff. Incorporating permeable surfaces in parking lots and sidewalks would greatly reduce the amount of excess water running into the streams and thus lessen erosion.

willard | gateway to the  
 great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

history

demographics

regional & local factors

livable cities

active living

smart growth

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

## **Jerany Jackson: Great River Engineering, ASLA**

Jerany Jackson discussed different organizations that could be contacted for parks planning, transportation and precedents of similar situations. The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is prepared periodically by New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) to provide statewide policy direction and to fulfill the agency's recreation and preservation mandate. "SPARK (sports, play and active recreation for kids) is a research-based organization dedicated to creating, implementing, and evaluating programs that promote lifelong wellness. SPARK strives to improve the health of children and adolescents by disseminating evidence-based physical activity and nutritional programs that provide curriculum, staff development, follow-up support, and equipment to teachers of Pre-K through 12th grade students. SPARK strives to achieve outstanding customer satisfaction through timely delivery and exceptional service." These are a couple of the programs discussed that could benefit Willard in terms of implementing programs that could promote healthy living and getting involved with the environment.

## **Terry Whaley: Ozark Greenways Executive Director**

The meeting with Terry Whaley focused mainly on the individual aspects of what makes a successful park and recreation system within a town. Budgeting, operating costs, and capital costs are at the bottom line of what a park board should consider. To allow a park board to stretch what they have landbanking is a successful method of accomplishing a long term goal. Purchasing land at a low cost as the city can acquire it and holding on to it is an effective way of purchasing large amounts of land at lower costs. Terry also discussed the simplicity of starting small with share the road signs for cycling routes on paved roads. This is for safety and also the future of possible safe route expansion within the city. Once the Willard Park Board adopts an identity that satisfies the values of the community, emphasis can be facilitated through planning and development, community events, and recreational amenities.

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

history

demographics

regional &amp; local factors

livable cities

active living

smart growth

willard gateway overview

community meetings

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

**Annie Busch: Springfield-Greene County Library Executive Director**

While talking with Annie Busch, she stated that for the future growth of Willard, a building of 12,000 to 15,000 square feet would be ideal. Annie Busch was enthusiastic toward the idea of placing the library at the proposed city center and thought that the Willard branch could have a theme based on nature and the environment. The building itself could be LEED certified to push the idea of sustainable building methods and could be an example for developers. Ideas were discussed for the support of the Frisco Highline Trail users including public facilities, a café, meeting rooms, bike storage and rental, and resting areas for people to relax and read. The library is no longer a quiet place to read, research, or study but a place for residents to come together and interact. Within this digital age, the world is becoming smaller and more isolated. Libraries can facilitate a learning atmosphere as well as a place of social interaction.

**Rob Baird: Conco Quarry President | CEO**

When current quarry operations started the trend of safety and environmental concerns began to take hold in the country and Conco has always worked with this in mind. They have won every award a quarry can win for safety and responsible management. Although the quarry administration has had several issues with the surrounding residents and city, they are very adamant about resolving those issues and trying to create an environment that will allow the quarry to continue operation smoothly and make the residents happy.

The quarry would like to have more involvement in the Willard community and with the schools. What they would like is partnerships to responsibly develop the buffer zones around the quarry so that future housing development do not have to deal with the negative aspects of quarry production. The Willard high school has a Vocational Agriculture program which the quarry would like to be involved with, as well as possibilities for re-establishing the 160 Parkway project.

willard gateway to the great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

## **WILLARD GATEWAY OVERVIEW**

executive summary

research & analysis

planning process

proposals

appendix

Willard is in close proximity to many natural amenities such as the Bois D'Arc Wildlife Area, the Little Sac Woods Wildlife Area, Ritter Spring Park, Rocky Barrens Conservation Area, Fantastic Caverns, and an abundance of unique natural landscape. In addition, Willard is also located near many historical sites, such as the Nathan Boone Homestead, as well as being near the TransAmerica Trail which sees a large amount of cyclists each year. Due to Willard's prime location between Springfield and these amenities, Willard becomes a hub that citizens of Springfield, as well as travelers in the area, must cross through in order to access these amenities. Willard has an opportunity to become The Gateway to the Great Outdoors. By doing so, Willard will begin to formulate an identity autonomous of Springfield to which its citizens can relate and take pride in. Willard will be able to showcase itself as an environmentally responsible community with a special appreciation of the natural world. This strategy will also have tremendous economic stimulus potential as many local businesses will be able to cater to the patrons passing through the Gateway, both on Highway 160 and on the Frisco Highline Trail.

Willard also has an opportunity to redefine the great outdoors by allowing the little things in nature to be realized and appreciated for their inherent qualities. The great outdoors will be everything from the large conservation areas and wildlife parks, to the smallest streams and vegetation native to the area. The region can become a place to explore, unwind, and escape the frenzied lifestyle of the city.

## willard gateway overview

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

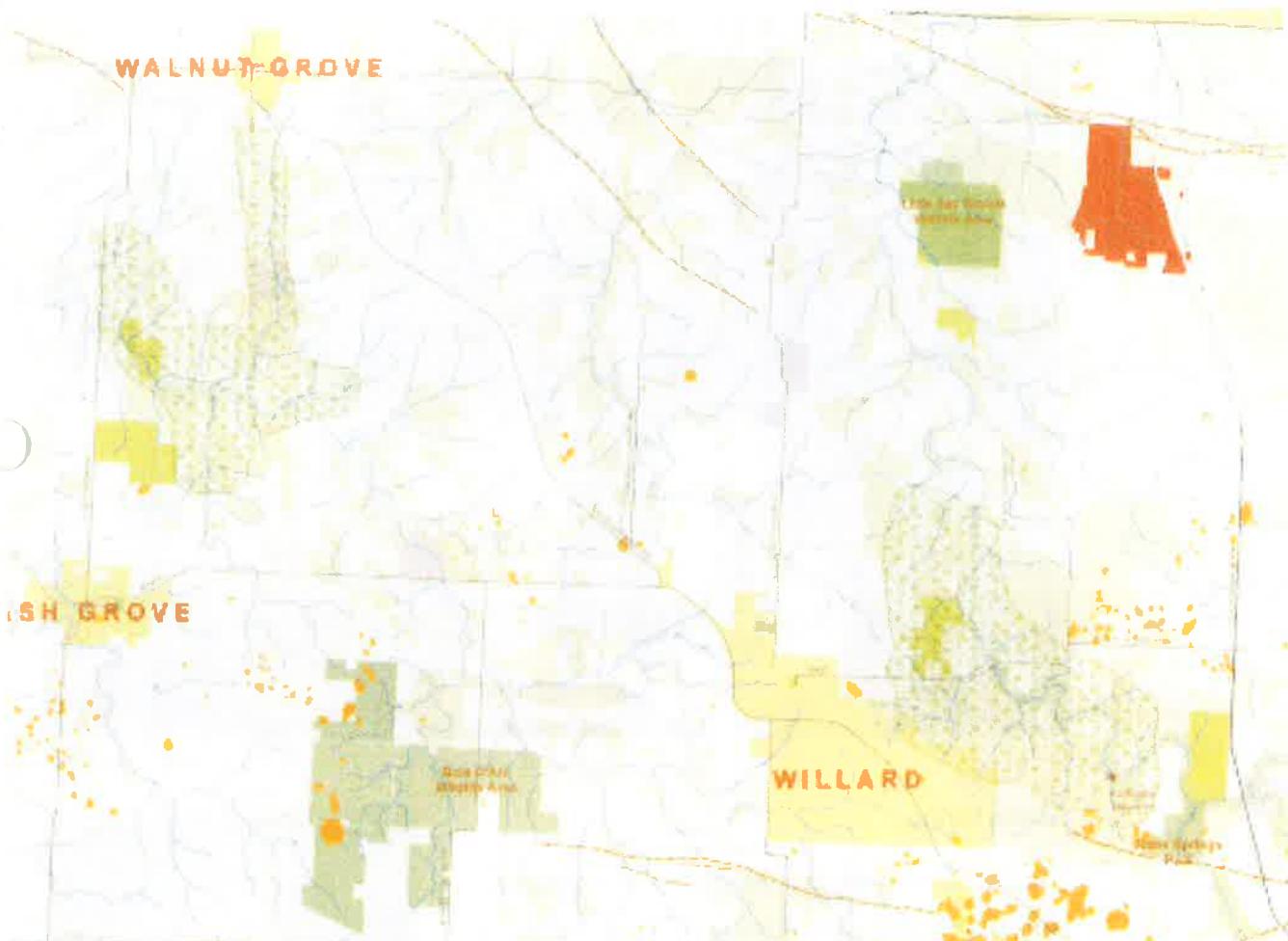


Fig. xxviii Willard Regional Map of Amenities

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

- introduction
- executive summary
- research & analysis
- willard gateway overview
- proposals
- frisco highline trail**
- city center
- parks, recreation & open spaces
- zoning & land use
- flood plains
- highway 160
- conservation area
- conco quarry
- infrastructure networking & trails
- sustainability
- appendix

## FRISCO HIGHLINE TRAIL

### *Underutilization*

*The Frisco Highline Trail can be considered the spine of the Willard community. The underutilization of the trail is the main concern for the realization of the Triple Bottom Line. The utilization of the trail would facilitate environmental consciousness, economical stimulation and community interaction.*



Fig. 1.1 Utilization of trails

### Active Living

The first step to better utilizing the Frisco Highline Trail is to promote the principals of active living and provide safe routes. Willard as a community needs to understand the nature of physical health and how it pertains to everyday activities. The nation as a whole is in need of becoming more active, and Willard has an opportunity in the heart of the community to facilitate this need. Families should become more active as a unit which will promote family values, social interaction, and physical health.



Fig. 1.2 Cyclists on a nature trail

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

city center

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix



Fig. 1.3 Potential view of the Frisco Highline Trail



Fig. 1.4 Potential view of the Frisco Highline Trail

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

## Maintenance

The city does all the maintenance of the trail presently, to economically facilitate the advancement of the trail and its future tributaries, a community organization should be created that volunteers can give time for basic maintenance. This organization can start to establish a community pride and identity that starts with the basic ownership of the trail and its resources. Parts of the trail could be set up for an adopt-a-trail program.

## Kiosks

Informational kiosks should be integrated into the nodes along the trail for the general education of the community. Major kiosks could be set up for the announcement of the trail head and other significant points along the trail. These act as smaller gateways that inform and announce the surrounding natural resources. Historically significant plaques and signs should be located at nodes and possible tributary trails.



Fig. 1.5 Hammock Trail Kiosk University of Flori



Fig. 1.6 Cumberland trailhead Nashville, TN



Fig. 1.7 Example of a trailhead sign

### Signage

*The department of transportation should be contacted for the completion of signs along the trail and other "share the road" paths. Any path, sidewalk, trail, or networking possibility that needs signage for the information and education of the public should be considered.*

### Share the Road

Signs need to be established for the safe passage of bicycle traffic within city limits and extending out into the immediate rural areas. The future establishment of separate bike paths are high on the list of active living, livable community, and smart growth priorities.

### Informational Signs

Establishing signs along the trail and the surrounding community will inform the residents and visitors as to the significant natural features of the area, the historical significance of certain individuals and places, and the location of prominent individuals within the community and their accomplishments. These signs add to the communities pride and helps to establish an identity to the area.

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction	
executive summary	
research & analysis	
willard gateway overview	<b>Frisco Highline Trail Gateway</b>
proposals	
city center	
parks, recreation & open spaces	
zoning & land use	
flood plains	
highway 160	
conservation area	
conco quarry	
infrastructure networking & trails	
sustainability	

## appendix



Fig. 1.8 Signs along a nature trail provide insight to visitors



Fig. 1.9 Nara Trail signs Houghton, M

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

city center

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix

**Great Trail event**

**Capreol Trails**

- Access Road
- Capreol Walking Trail
- History Hike
- P Parking

**Start (Registration)**

**Join us for a nature walk on the Capreol Walking Trail or a History Hike through town.**

**Sunday, June 8, 2008**  
**1 to 3:30 p.m.**  
**Capreol**

Registration for this FREE event starts at 12:45 p.m. at the Capreol Ski Chalet. Follow the access road (shown in green on the map) southwest from the intersection at Lakeshore St. and Young St.

Transit route #703 to Capreol operates on Sundays. Call 675-3333 for the bus schedule.

For more information, call 822-9200, ext. 437.

Thank you to Ontario Heritage Trust and Trails Open Ontario for their support of this event.

**ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST**

**Make it a Healthy Day! Santé dès aujourd'hui!**

**Heart Health**

Fig. 1.10 Example of an advertisement for trail events

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

willard gateway overview

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix



Fig. 1.11 Family reunion being held at a Trailhead

with seasonal changes in program. The trail can be used for walking, biking, hiking, rollerblading, horse riding, jogging, and many other activities. Fundraising opportunities can also be available for the Park Board to take advantage of as economic possibilities. Sponsors can be provided and events can start to become annual. As a part of festivals and other events, competitions should be created that use the Frisco Highline Trail.



Fig. 1.12 Potential Willard park scenario

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

city center

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix



Fig. 1.13 Natural buffers and benches facilitate pedestrians

## Pedestrian

The Frisco Highline Trail already is set up perfectly for walking, jogging, and hiking. The connectivity to the rest of the community is fairly poor and should be established more prominently. Sidewalk networking should be a first priority and from there a network of paths to and from the trail can be established for the safe passage of children and adults. With the networking comes the addition of safe crossings and proper signage to facilitate Willard as a more livable city.

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

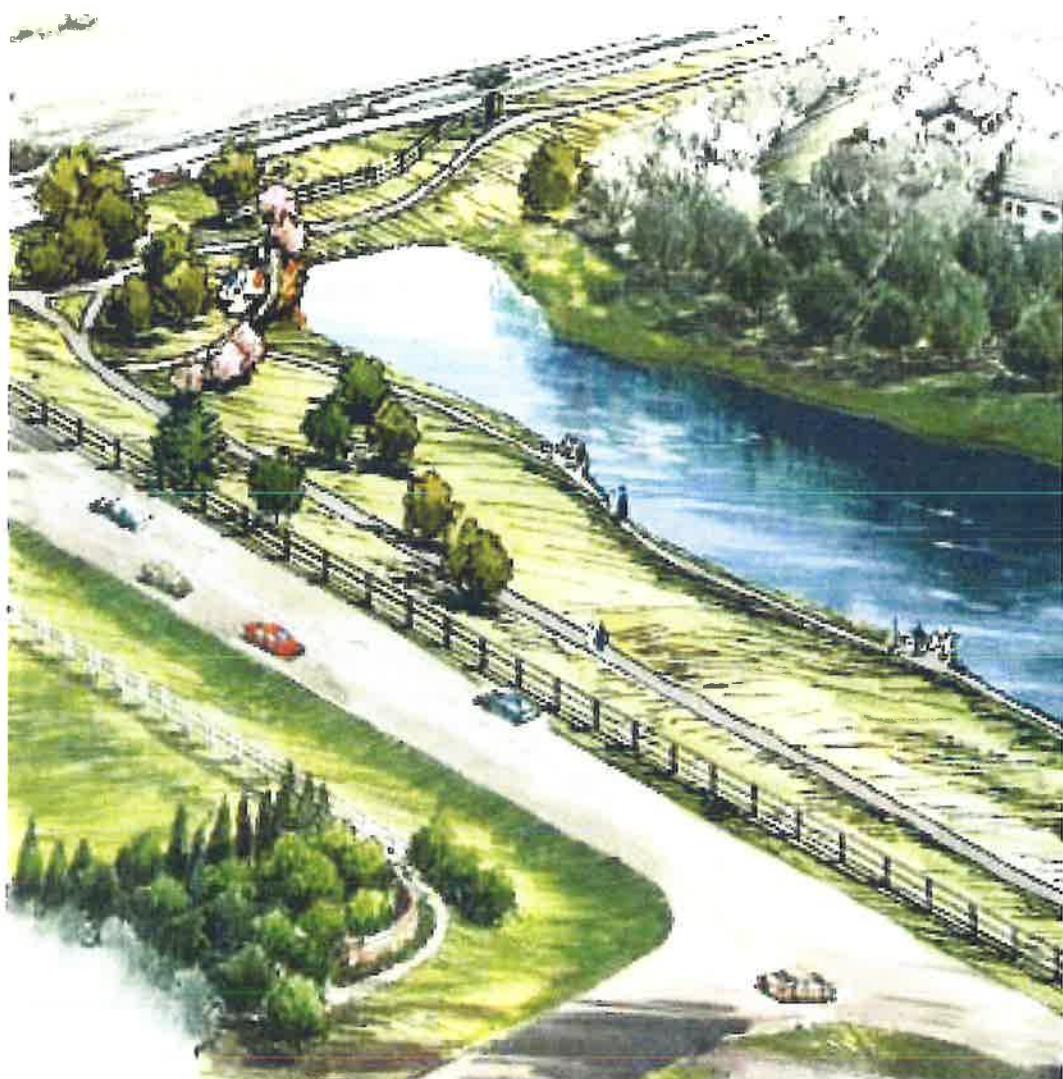


Fig. 1.14 Orange Township, OH network concept

## Bicycle

The bicycle is by far the best alternative transportation that can be utilized within the city limits and beyond. Willard should focus attention on the positive effects that bicycling has on the physical health of the individual, environmental health of the city, and physiological health of the community. Across the nation laws are being adopted that allow incentives through businesses to employees that are biking to work. Road laws are also being established with changes like: treating stop signs as yield signs, treating stop lights as stop signs, and allowing bikers the right of way on trails.

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

city center

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix



Fig. 1.15 Skull Creek Trail Fayetteville, AK

Fig. 1.16 Pedestrian network West FL

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

## Automobile

The automobile will remain one component of an expanding local | regional multi-modal transportation system. The combined network of roads, sidewalks, bike paths, and trails are essential to the smart growth or livability of any community. With these networks in place, Willard can lower the reliance on the automobile for some activities. As the automobile becomes less essential the environment will become healthier, as well as the community. The economy can be stimulated locally with the money saved from not buying as much fuel.

residential sidewalk

LRT



Fig. 1.17 Greenway section for Rail Transit



Fig. 1.18 Natural buffer in Phoenix, AZ

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

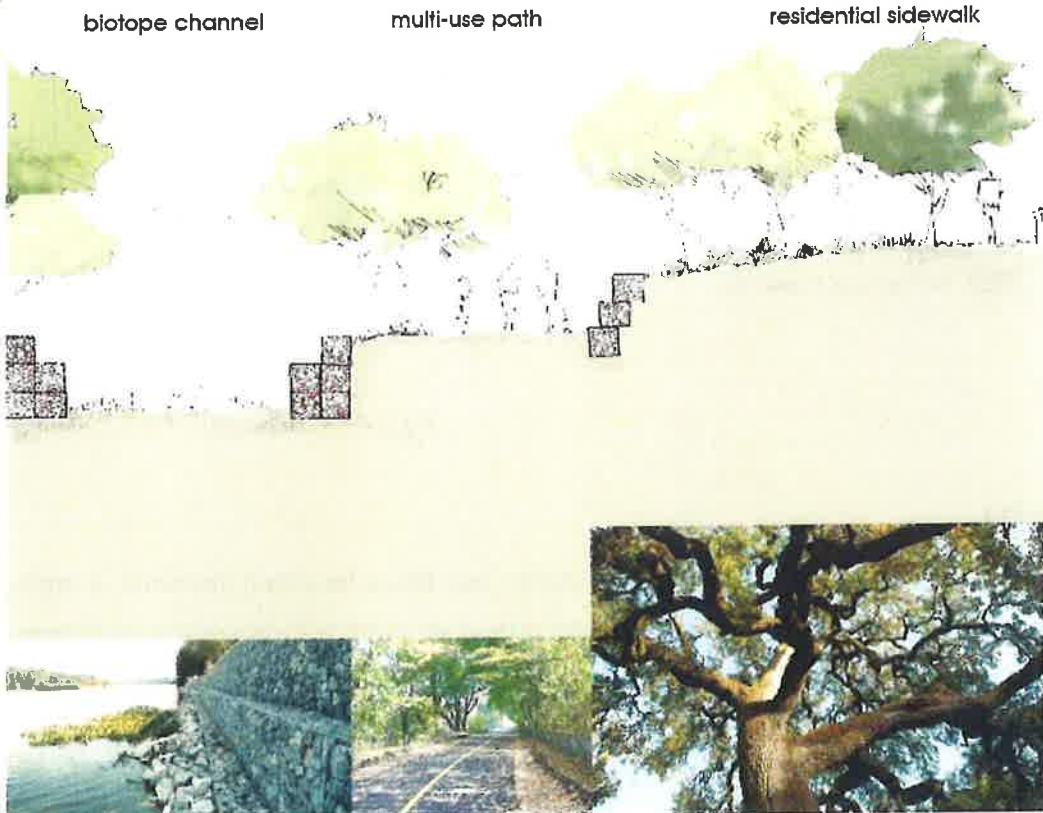
conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix



willard gateway to the  
great outdoors

74

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

 map

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

## CITY CENTER

### Overview

*The zoning and placement of built features within a city center or downtown area requires careful consideration of users and utilization. Creating a flexible center that incorporates both open green space and businesses allows for year round activity and economic stimulation.*

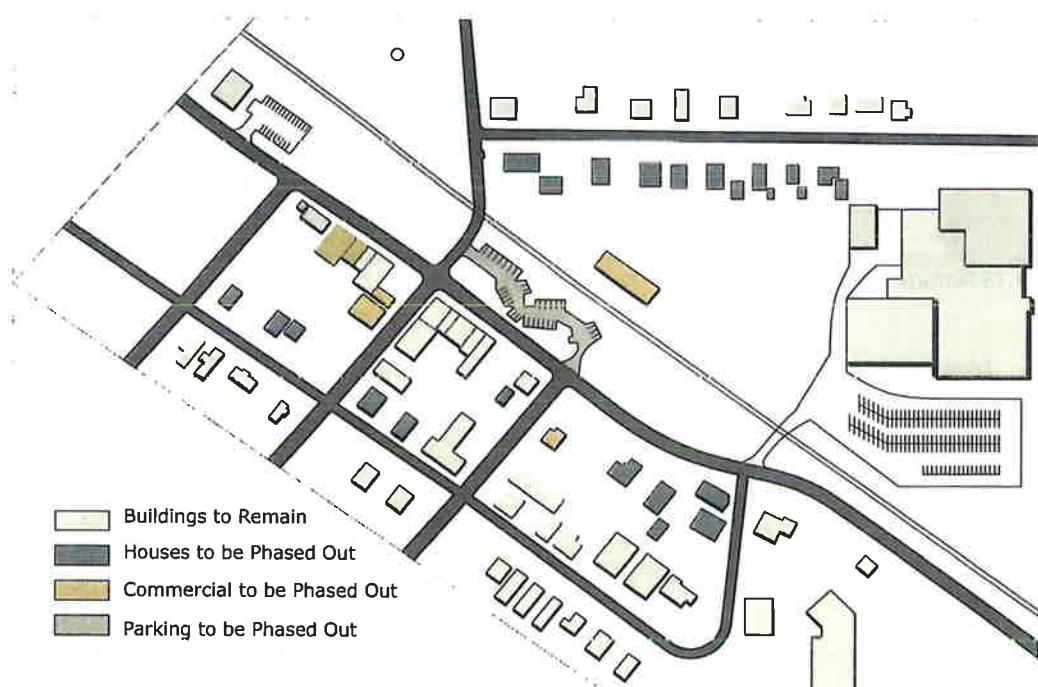


Fig. 2.1 Existing layout of the city center

### Zoning

Grouping commercial, residential, and public use zones together promotes a more cohesive city center. A mixed use overlay district coupled with economic incentives should be established in the historic downtown area that encourages creative development and renewal.

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix

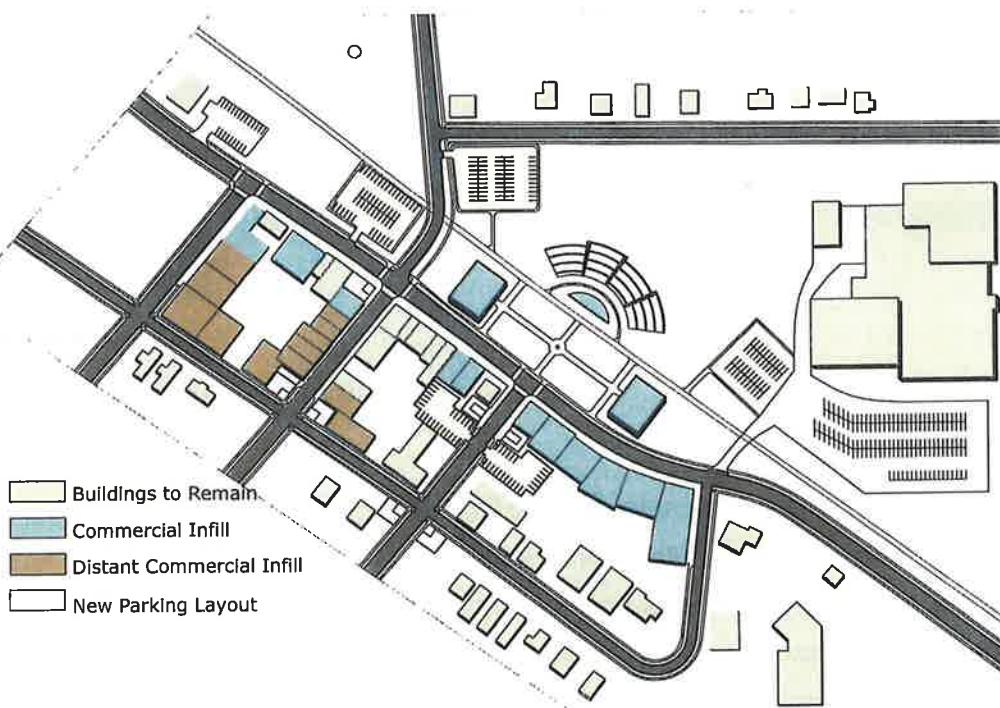


Fig. 2.2 Potential city center layout

## Open Space

Open space located within the city center allows for a more flexible mixed use area. The amount of green space should accommodate large scale events and festivals yet have areas of a quiet and restful nature. Splitting the available green space into two areas by the amphitheater creates a large open space for mixed use and a more formal and intimate space for relaxing, while creating several inviting landscaped views. This green space would serve as both the "City Square" and trailhead for the Frisco Highline Trail.

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

76

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix



Fig. 2.3 Potential Willard parking system for the city

## Parking Overview

**Parking is an essential element to a successful economic and social area. Residents should be able to reach their destination with as little trouble as possible. There needs to be an adequate amount of parking to service all of the businesses and public centers as applicable. By spreading out individual parking areas, the environmental impact is lessened along with the use of alternative solutions to the traditional parking surface of concrete or asphalt. Although parking is essential, the city center needs to interconnect with the multimodal network by upgrading sidewalks, bike paths and trails.**

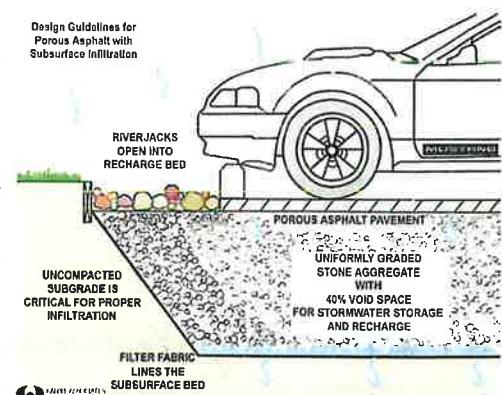


Fig. 2.4 Pervious asphalt section

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix

## Parking Connections

The layout of the individual parking areas provides residents with the ability to park close to their destination. By spreading out the individual lots on both sides of Jackson Street and on either side of the public use area residents are able to quickly and easily get to their destination. From there residents can then walk to any other location within the city center.



*Fig. 2.5 Pervious walking trail Glenwood, IA*

## Sustainable Parking Surfaces

An important consideration for parking areas is its permeability and the manner in which it deals with water runoff. Water is not able to drain through the paving material whether it is asphalt or concrete so water drains across the surface and then to a storm water collection system which then discharges into the nearest stream. This system of drainage can overflow a storm water system and cause flooding both in town and in



*Fig 2.6 Green parking solution*

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

- introduction
- executive summary
- research & analysis
- willard gateway overview
- proposals
- frisco highline trail
- LAND USE**
- parks, recreation & open spaces
- zoning & land use
- flood plains
- highway 160
- conservation area
- conco quarry
- Infrastructure networking & trails
- sustainability

## appendix

the rivers resulting in damages to buildings and erosion of the river system. This can be lessened by surfacing parking areas with permeable materials such as porous concrete and asphalt or reinforcing mats that allow grass to grow and not be hurt by the weight of a vehicle. By using these surfaces water is easily able to drain through allowing the water to discharge directly into the ground. Using permeable surfaces on parking areas can greatly reduce storm runoff and prevent flooding. Other methods of controlling water runoff is through the use of bioswales, small depressions filled with vegetation to capture water runoff or retention basins.



Fig. 2.7 Brick and gravel stabilizer system



Fig. 2.8 Open park space



Fig. 2.9 Open park space



Fig. 2.10 Opportunities for festivals



Fig. 2.11 Opportunities for festivals

### Open Space Overview

*Creating a large area of open space will allow for a mixed use center that can accommodate festivals, events, and neighborhood activities that can help to foster a sense of community. This becomes the heart of the community within the symbolic city center. A public commons such as this can facilitate Willard's values of environmental consciousness, promoting community interaction, and providing economic stimulation.*

### Vegetation

The placement of vegetation within the park area should be based on creating large open areas for events with dense areas of vegetation around the perimeters to create more private and shaded areas. Vegetation size should vary from large trees such as oaks and maples to small plants such as euonymus and yews that can be used as hedging.

### Maintenance

The most important aspect of creating a large open space with large amounts of vegetation is maintenance. Because of the large size of the area either a grounds keeping crew must be hired or volunteers must be found who will routinely provide

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction  
 executive summary  
 research & analysis  
 willard gateway overview  
 proposals  
 frisco highline trail  
 parks, recreation & open spaces  
 zoning & land use  
 flood plains  
 highway 160  
 conservation area  
 conco quarry  
 infrastructure networking & trails  
 sustainability  
 appendix

maintenance to ensure that the health and beauty of the landscaping is preserved. If the vegetation's health declines the attractiveness of the entire area will decline and residents will not be inclined to utilize the space.

## Hardscape

Throughout the open space there should be adequate walkways. The choice of materials should be based on financing. There is a range of paving materials that can be used. Concrete is the least expensive alternative, other materials include brick, concrete pavers, asphalt and as discussed in sustainable surfaces pervious materials. The same pervious materials used in parking areas could be used for walkways reducing the amount of water runoff.

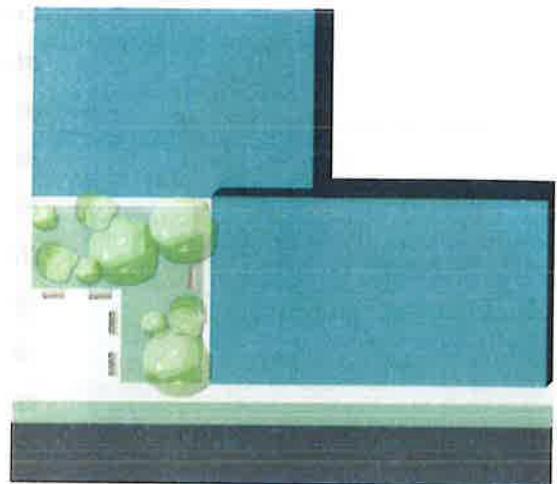


Fig. 2.12 Streetside park plan



Fig. 2.13 Streetside park Youngstown, O

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix



Fig. 2.14 Streetside park Mansfield, NJ

## Vegetation

The small space of the park limits the amount and size of plantings that can be incorporated. Only a couple of larger trees should be placed in the park while medium size trees would be better suited for the space. Smaller plantings can be used to soften the space along the ground and around seating areas.

## Seating

Seating within the park should incorporate several benches placed in different areas to allow individuals and small groups a place to sit and relax.

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix



Fig. 2.15 Brown-Forman Amphitheater Louisville, KY

## Public Built Spaces Overview

*The public built spaces within the proposed city center incorporates an amphitheater, library and city hall. These public spaces can be located on the north side of Jackson Street and provide an activity anchor that could draw people to the city center at all times of year. These proposals provide public facilities for users of the Frisco Highline Trail and provide for community interaction and promote identity.*

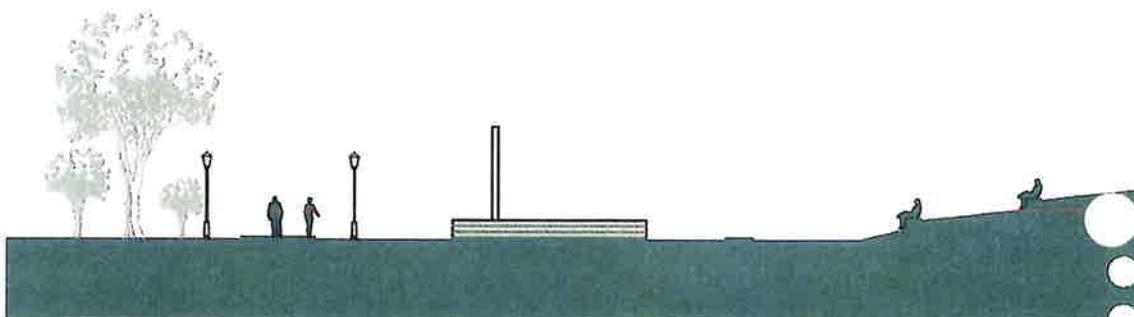


Fig. 2.16 Amphitheater section

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix



Fig. 2.17 Brown-Forman Amphitheater



Fig 2.18 Sledding at Hospital Hill Beloit, WI

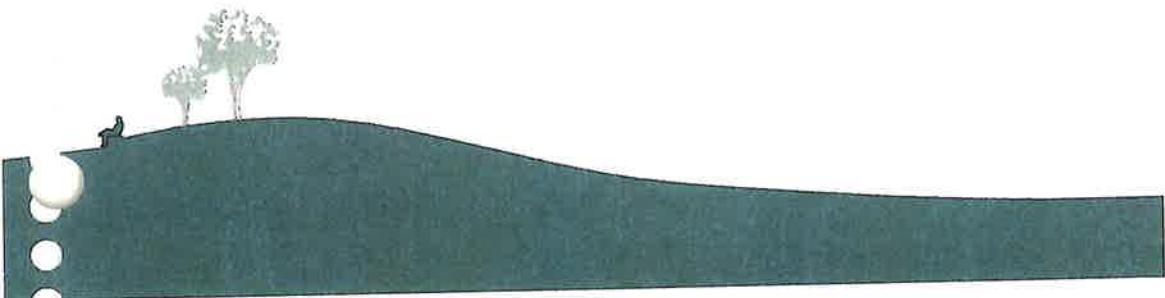
### Amphitheater

The amphitheater could be a green space with rows of concrete seating and a concrete stage, minimally incorporated for the promotion of the environment. The design would require minimum maintenance and could be used for a wide variety of activities from movie in the park to outdoor theater performances. On the back side of the seating the ground could be sloped to provide an elevated setting where people can relax in the summer or use it as a sledding hill in the winter.

### Library

Bringing the Willard library to the city center and linking it to the nearby schools and businesses would greatly enhance the public activity within the space. Modern public libraries do not just provide a place to read books; they provide group meeting rooms, technology centers, reading rooms and cafés. The library could become the main activity center that draws people to the city center.

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors



# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

## City Hall

Moving City Hall back to the city center provides a focal point for the civic importance of the community. Having the city hall in the middle of a high use recreation and business center could provide the opportunity for more people to attend public meetings and become more involved in the community. Creating a civic center tied to the businesses and open greenspace creates a richer and more useful city center.

## Open Green Space

In addition to the public built structures in the city center there is also the built landscape. Providing an interesting and appealing park for public use is essential to the success of the public buildings.



Fig 2.19 Current city center streetscape

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix



Fig. 2.20 Streetscape planters



Fig. 2.21 Streetscape project Chassell, MI



Fig. 2.22 Pedestrian zone Roanoke, VA

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

## Streetscape Overview

**The streetscape encompasses the area between the street and the building fronts. The development of a streetscape creates a functional zone that people can use to socialize, rest and dine and still be within the business district. A streetscape uses plantings, seating and materials to create a pedestrian zone that is an interesting feature for any business area.**

## Vegetation

Vegetation should be made up of medium size trees placed at regular intervals either in planters or in street level soil that would provide shade in the summer making the space more pleasant, and smaller plantings and hanging plants that would soften the building facades at eye level.

## Pedestrian Zone

The pedestrian zone encompasses the clear walkable space between the trees planted near the street and the building fronts. Creating a wide walkway that can accommodate many people allows a less restrictive and more attractive space for people to move about the businesses.

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix



Fig. 2.23 Concrete sidewalk Tampa Bay, FL



Fig. 2.24 Brick sidewalk example

## Signage

Sign ordinances should be established to promote size and aesthetic compatibility of local business advertising. Providing attractive, yet scale appropriate, signage helps businesses to improve the streetscape while improving their own image.

## Infill

Infill sites can be usable possibilities for street-side parks or open space. These lots can also provide for future development that may provide unique opportunities for economic stimulation. The maintenance of these lots is important for the overall aesthetic of the city center.

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix

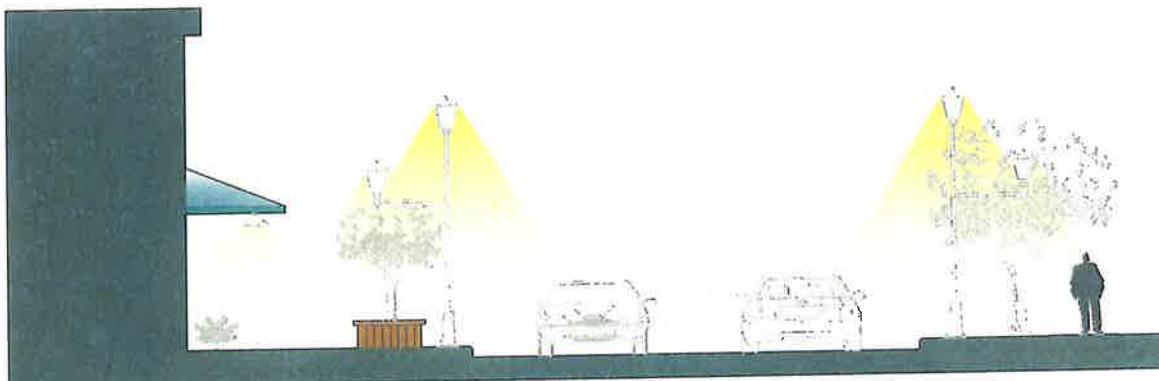


Fig. 2.25 Streetscape lighting

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

## Façade Study

The façade study looks at the possibilities of infill sites and renovated buildings between South and Jefferson Streets along Jackson Street.



Fig. 2.26 Existing facade 1



Fig. 2.27 Proposed facade 1



Fig. 2.28 Existing facade 2



Fig. 2.29 Proposed facade 2

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix



willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

90

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

frisco highline trail

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

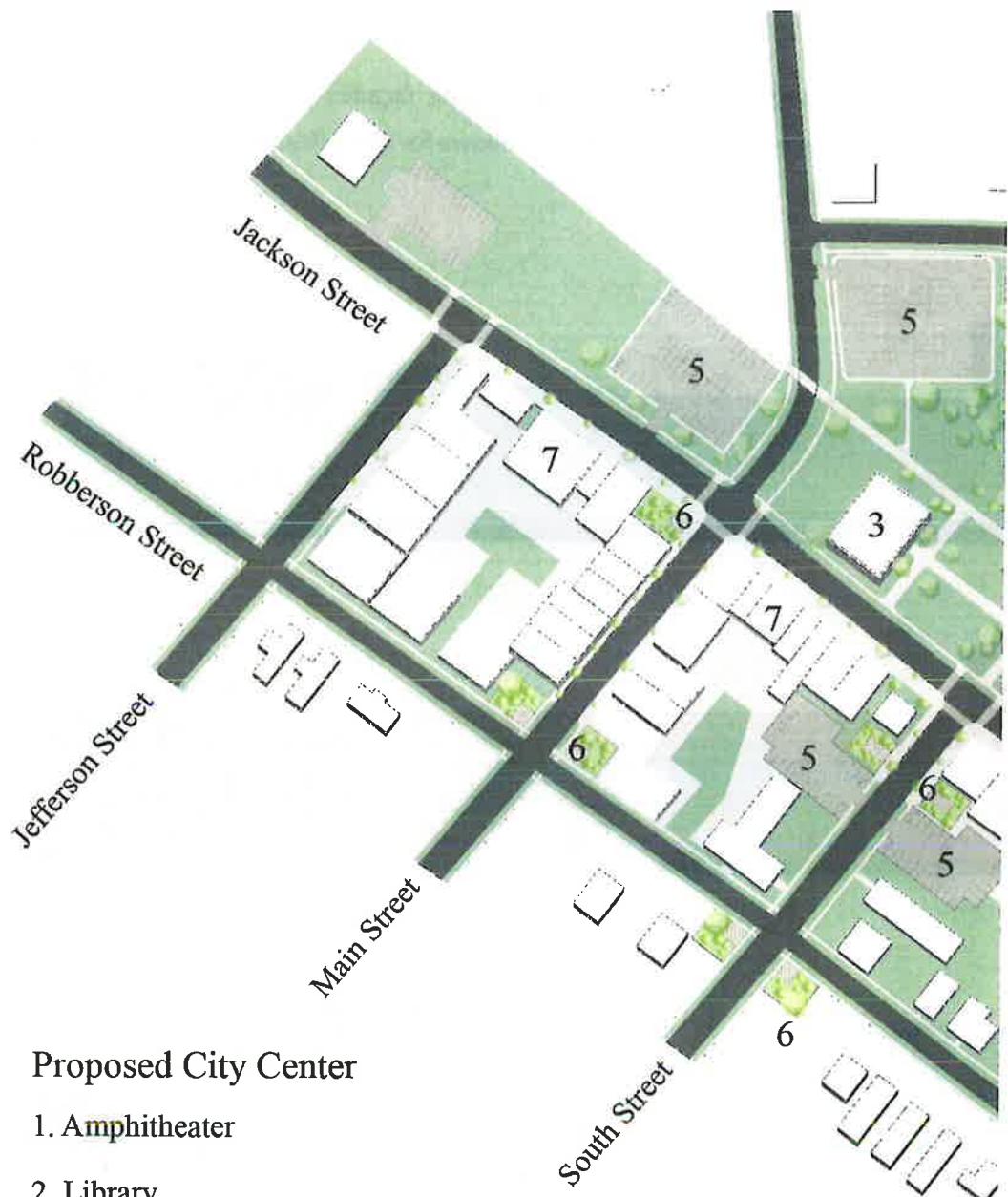
conco quarry

infrastructure networking &

trails

sustainability

appendix



## Proposed City Center

1. Amphitheater
2. Library
3. City Hall
4. Open Space
5. New Parking
6. Street Side Park
7. New Development
8. Existing Middle School

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

DEVELOPMENT

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

highway 160

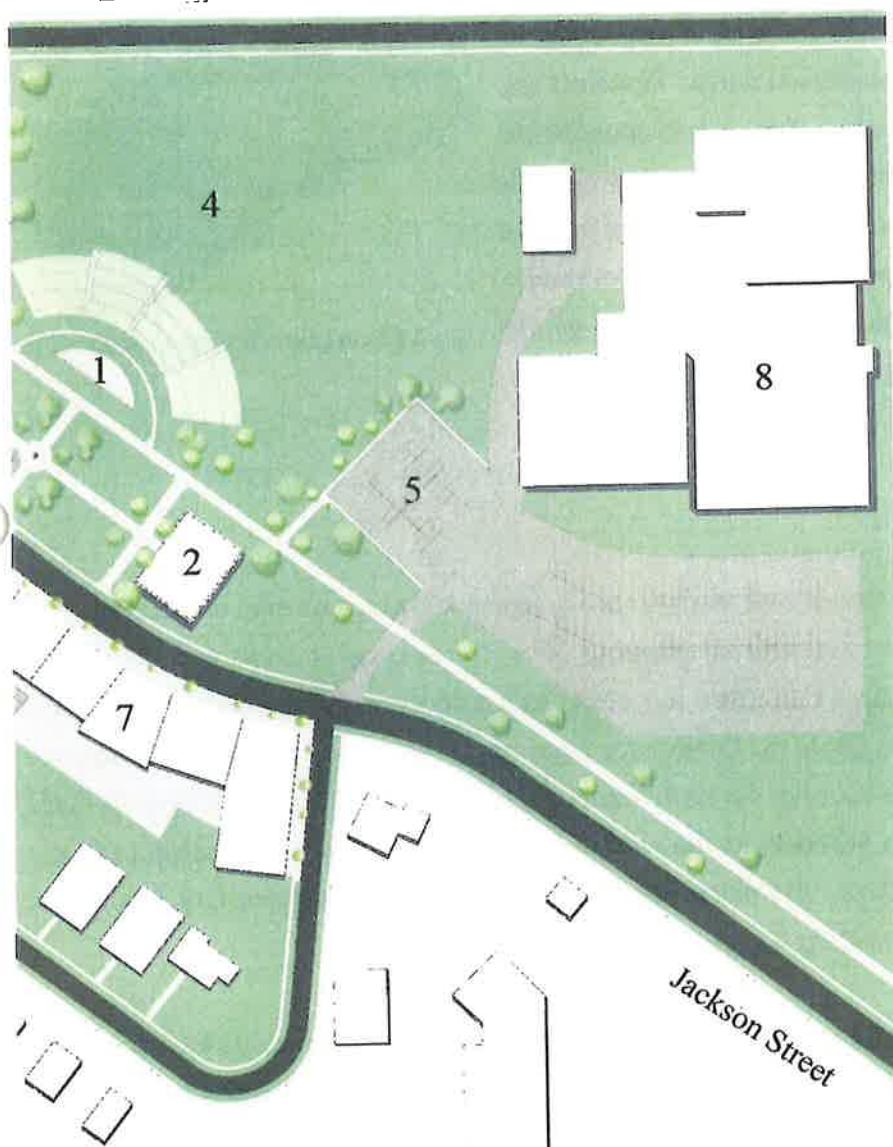
conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix



willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

92

Fig. 2.30 Proposed City Center Plan

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

## PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES

### *Additional Parks*

*The public has indicated that they would like more parks. Voters have repeatedly shown their willingness to raise their own taxes to pay for new or improved parks. Residents see that parks provide a diverse and quantifiable range of benefits that improve their quality of life. Willard can vastly improve the present conditions of the Park and Recreation system by effectively planning for the future of the community as a cohesive unit.*



Fig. 3.1 Twin Lakes Park Westmoreland, PA

In Missouri and Illinois, civic leaders have used the 2004 bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition to launch an ambitious effort to revitalize St. Louis and the nearby region, in a program called St. Louis 2004. As a cornerstone of the plan, Missouri and Illinois worked to create the Confluence Greenway. The Greenway covers a 200-square-mile area in five counties on both sides of the Mississippi River, stretching 40 miles from downtown St. Louis to the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers near Grafton, Illinois. (For more information on St. Louis's revitalization visit [http://www.lewisandclarkexhibit.org/4\\_0\\_01](http://www.lewisandclarkexhibit.org/4_0_01)).

At a regional level, a great park system can be identified as a community focal point and a symbol of its vitality and character. The city's overall health and well-being can also be affected by a great park system. Willard can achieve this quality of life by the efficient planning, development and connectivity of future parks.

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix

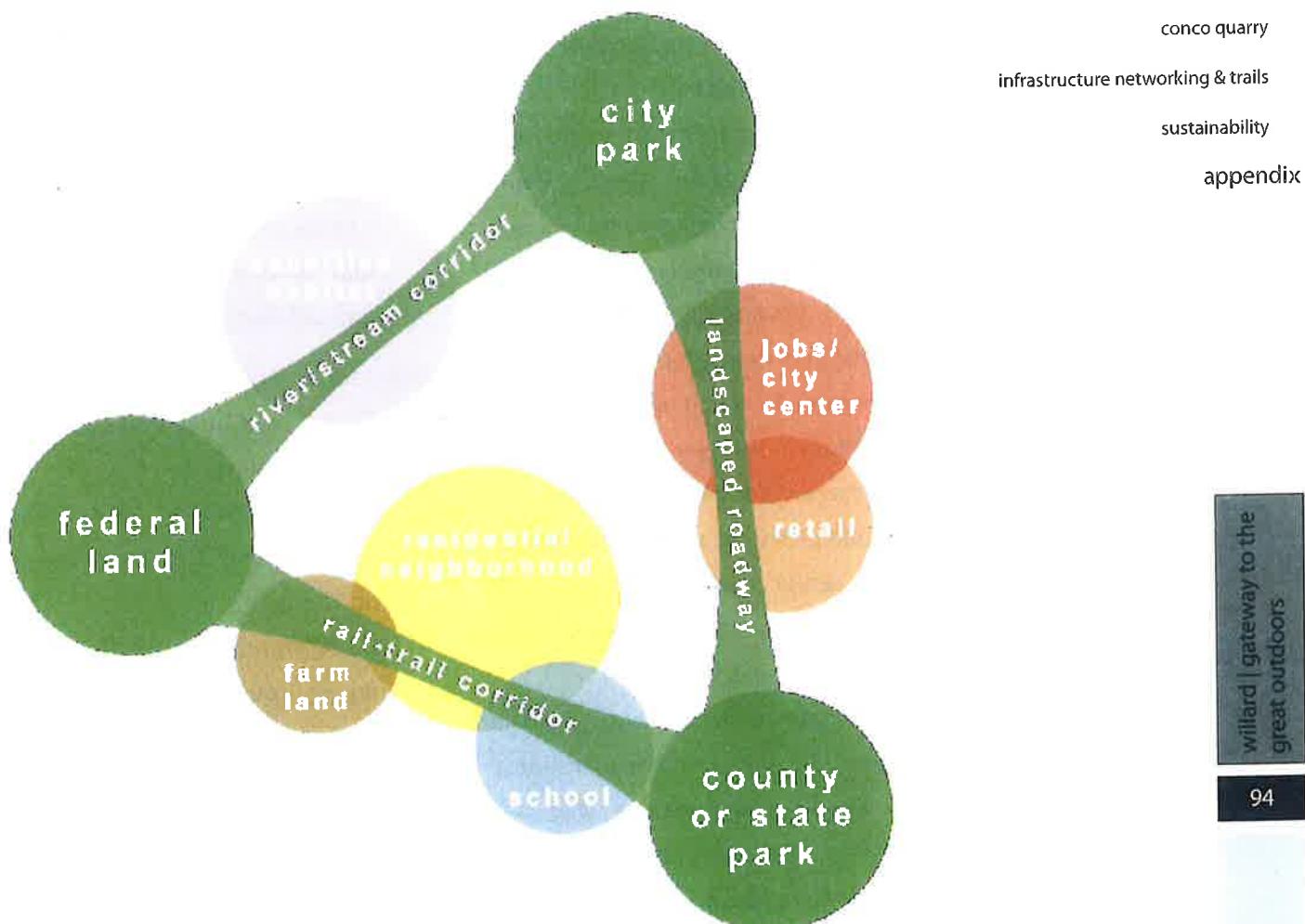


Fig. 3.2 Park Diagram Durham, NC

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix



Fig. 3.3 Benches in New Orleans, LA park



Fig. 3.4 Gilbert Park Yorkville, IL

Pocket, neighborhood and community parks should be developed throughout Willard and the surrounding area. The following guidelines can be used when developing future parks:

- Include spaces for social and cultural exchange where people can sit, talk or walk on a daily basis.
- Create memorable public spaces with flowering gardens, well designed spaces for entertainment and people-watching.
- Protect unique open spaces, archeological and historic sites.
- Create inviting and fulfilling spaces for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and teenagers with their unique needs.
- Include walk-able and jog-able places in and around new facilities.
- Develop partnerships that will bring evolving adventure sport facilities to Willard.
- Develop facilities and programming for teens, particularly in areas of high youth populations and schools.

- Development of future facilities should be communicated intensively, and in a timely manner with the residents in the immediate service area through a City-staffed interdepartmental site planning team.
- Develop an open space system that is environmentally sensitive and self-sustaining.

These are a few guidelines to keep in mind for the sizes of land to consider for specific populations:

- Neighborhood parks should equal around 1.75 acres per 1000 residents.
- Community parks should equal around 1.5 acres per 1000 residents.
- Regional parks should equal around 3 acres per 1000 residents.
- The amount of open space in the community should equal around 10 acres per 1000 residents.

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix



Fig. 3.5 Pocket Park concept in Arizona

### Size and Location

Parks less than 5 acres are technically considered a pocket park. Walking distance from residential areas to surrounding parks should be minimal. These parks should be accessible via trails, sidewalks and low-volume residential streets.

willard gateway to the great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

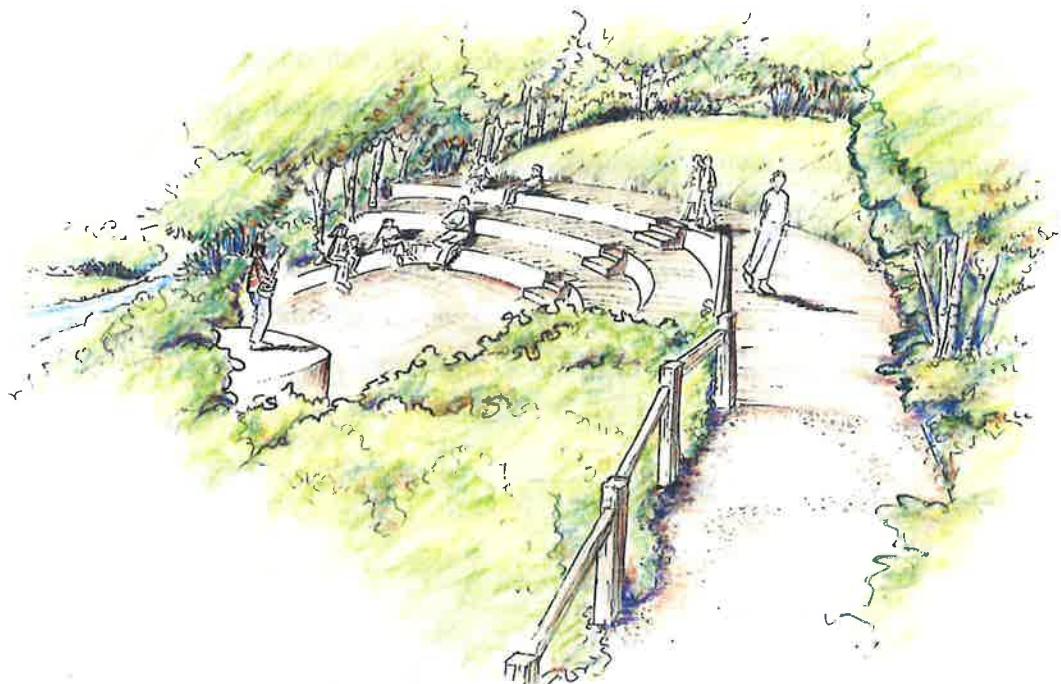


Fig. 3.6 Landscape concept in Arizona

## Site Criteria

Ideally, pocket parks are designed to serve a population between 1,000 and 1,500 and have a service area radius of  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile. The park site should exhibit the physical characteristics appropriate for active play and passive recreational uses. Since one of the primary reasons people go to a park is to experience a pleasant outdoor environment, the site should exhibit some innate aesthetic quality as well. The desirable amount of topographical change and vegetation is dependent upon intended uses. Usually, these sites are fairly level. Vegetation (natural or planted) should be used to enhance the aesthetic qualities rather than impede areas of play and recreation. Ideally, pocket parks should have adjacency to other park system components, most notably the trail system.

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

willard gateway overview

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix



Fig.3.7 Movie in the Park

### Size and Location

The minimum area usually considered for neighborhood parks is five acres. Accessibility in terms of walking distance is critical in locating a neighborhood park. Typically a central location within a specific neighborhood is preferred. These parks should be easily accessed throughout its service area via trails, sidewalks and low-volume residential streets. Additionally, neighborhood parks may be located in conjunction with a proposed or existing school site.

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

willard gateway gateway to the great outdoors

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

## Site Criteria

Typically, neighborhood parks are designed to service an approximate population of 5,000 with a recommended service area of  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile; thus keeping it within walking distance of the surrounding residences. In neighborhoods of lower densities or hilly areas in Willard, special accommodations may be recognized to adjust the service radius while still maintaining the serviceable population.

As a neighborhood destination, off-street paths and trails should be provided to connect the park to the neighborhood and city trail system. The park site should exhibit the physical characteristics appropriate for active play and passive recreational uses. Since one of the primary reasons people go to a park is to experience a pleasant outdoor environment, the site should exhibit some innate aesthetic qualities as well. "Left-over" parcels of land that are undesirable for development are generally undesirable for parks and should be avoided. Considering the importance of location and function, neighborhood parks should be selected before a subdivision is platted and acquired as part of the development process.



Fig. 3.8 Gardening as Recreation



Fig. 3.9 Community Garden in Tacoma, WA



Fig. 3.10 Neighborhood Park Concept



Fig. 3.11 Community event in Darien, IL



Fig. 3.12 Overall Park Concept Dallas, TX



Fig. 3.13 Recreation in Channahon, IL



Fig. 3.14 Park in Roseville, CA



Fig. 3.15 Camp Tanako Hot Springs, AR

Neighborhood parks can be public or private. The City of Willard should work with developers to determine which parks will become public and which can remain private. Developers shall be expected to develop and maintain any neighborhood parks to city standards and specifications.

Neighborhood parks give opportunities to children to develop physical, mentally, and socially. It is evident in observing Willard that Willard is very proud of their school system. Developing neighborhood parks is not just an investment in the community, it is also an investment in the youth that make up Willard's great school system.

More than just the youth benefit from neighborhood parks. Green spaces build community as a whole. Residents of neighborhoods with green belts or neighborhood parks are more likely to enjoy stronger social ties than those that live without. (For more information on park types and requirements see Appendix: Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces: Parks).

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

willard gateway to the great outdoors

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix



Fig. 3.16 Pavilion concept in Missoula, MT

## Case study

A 2003 study conducted by the University of Missouri-St. Louis for the community development organization Gateway Greening found that St. Louis neighborhoods with community gardens were more stable than other neighborhoods. In a city that lost nearly 50,000 residents between 1990 and 2000, neighborhoods with gardens did relatively better, losing 6 percent of their population over the decade compared with 13 percent for the city as a whole. The study also found that between 1990 and 2000, monthly rents for apartments immediately around the gardens rose a median of \$91, compared with no change in the larger U.S. Census areas surrounding the gardens and a \$4 drop for St. Louis as a whole.



Fig. 3.17 Volunteering in Southern CA

Neighborhood parks increase residents' sense of community, ownership and stewardship, provide a focus for neighborhood activities, expose youth to nature, connect residents, reduce crime by cleaning up vacant lots, and build community leaders. (For more information on gateway greening see <http://actrees.org/files/Research/>.



Fig. 3.18 Park concept in Missoula, MT

## Community Park

Community parks are larger in size and serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks. Their focus is on meeting the recreation needs of several neighborhoods or larger sections of the community, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. These parks accommodate group activities and offer recreational opportunities that are not feasible at the neighborhood level.

Typical amenities located in a community park include: multi-use fields, open turf play areas, athletic fields that can include three to six youth baseball or softball fields (lighted and fenced with covered dugouts and spectator seating) as well as three to six youth sized soccer and football fields. Community parks can

also include two to four volleyball courts, four to eight basketball courts, two to four tennis courts, picnic areas, children's play areas, a skateboard or BMX park, off-leash dog park, community center or recreation center (w/ gymnasium, handball or racquetball courts, and fitness area), restroom and concession facilities, off-street parking, jogging and walking trail around the perimeter of the park, and paths or trails that connect to the neighborhood trail system.

introduction  
executive summary  
research & analysis  
willard gateway overview  
proposals  
frisco highline trail  
city center  
zoning & land use  
flood plains  
highway 160  
conservation area  
conco quarry  
infrastructure networking & trails  
sustainability  
appendix

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

## Size and Location

Community parks typically require a 25 acre minimum site. Community parks should be accessible to many neighborhoods and their service area to provide parking, safe bike and pedestrian access and intensive recreation opportunities. The sites should be easily accessible from major arterial roads in the community and buffered from residential areas. These parks usually include all of the uses contained in neighborhood parks but have additional acreage for athletic fields, courts, and special use facilities such as urban lakes and fishing ponds, skate parks, large group picnic facilities, recreation centers, etc. Community parks typically serve a larger area and population. A central trail system should link the community park to other community facilities.



Fig. 3.19 Riverfront Park in Memphis, TN



Fig. 3.20 Passive & Active Recreation

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix



Fig. 3.21 The Active Oval in Atlanta, GA

The site should exhibit physical characteristics appropriate for both active and passive recreation use. It should have suitable soils, positive drainage, varying topography and a variety of vegetation. Depending upon their individual character and use, lakes, ponds and rivers may be associated with community parks. *(For additional information on community parks see Appendix: Parks, Recreation and Open Space: Park Specifications).*

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

## Active Recreation

The overall success of a park system depends on the diversity of recreational amenities that are provided. This overall concept can allow for all ages to participate in some type of activity. Active recreation is more popular within the middle range of ages including playgrounds for elementary aged children, courts and fields for organized sports to facilitate the widest range of ages, and trails for the older generations to actively participate.

Some types of activities that make up active recreation include:

- Baseball or Softball
- Soccer
- Frisbee or Disc Golf
- Football or Flag Football
- Running or Jogging
- Walking
- Basketball
- Tennis or Pickleball
- Skateboarding and Rollerblading
- Raquetball or Handball
- Bowling or Bocce ball
- Playing on the Playground or Tag
- Capture the Flag
- Hiking
- Walking the Dog
- Bicycling



Fig. 3.22 Coed Sports, great for entire family



Fig. 3.23 Children & active recreation



Fig. 3.24 Open Space with shade &amp; benches



Fig. 3.25 Open Space &amp; Active Recreation

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix

### Open-space

**Open space can increase property value as well as provide opportunities for all types of active and passive activities. Open space can provide environmental sanctuary within city limits which produces more efficient watershed and pollutant control. These same spaces can also provide the community with opportunities to hold events and festivals to stimulate the local economy.**

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

106

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

## Effects on Commercial Property Values

Economically, parks benefit the individual, home owner, and the commercial realm of the community. For example, New York's Bryant Park underwent a 12-year renovation from 1980 – 1992. The park reopened in 1992, becoming the site of major fashion shows, a jazz festival, outdoor movies, and an outdoor café, and attracting thousands of visitors each day. Within two years of the reopening, leasing activity on neighboring Sixth Avenue had increased 60 percent over the previous year, with brokers referring to the park as the "deal-clincher."



Fig. 3.26 Nature Trail in Ontario, Canada

## Case Study

Between 1990 and 2000, rents for commercial office space near Bryant Park increased between 115 percent and 225 percent, compared with increases of between 41 percent and 73 percent in the surrounding submarkets, according to a study conducted by Ernst & Young. The same report, which analyzed 36 neighborhood parks in all five boroughs of New York City, concluded that "commercial asking rents, residential sale prices, and assessed values for properties near a well improved park generally exceeded rents in surrounding submarkets."



Fig. 3.27 Conserved Open Space in Texas

- introduction
- executive summary
- research & analysis
- willard gateway overview
- proposals
- frisco highline trail
- city center
- zoning & land use
- flood plains
- highway 160
- conservation area
- conco quarry
- infrastructure networking & trails
- sustainability
- appendix

## Economic Revitalization

The green space surrounding Portland, Oregon, helped build its reputation as one of the country's most livable cities. Companies like Hewlett-Packard, Intel, and Hyundai have been drawn to the region by the forests, orchards, and creeks on the outskirts of Portland's urban area.

Quality of life is a determining factor in real estate values and economic vitality. A 1998 real estate industry report calls livability "a litmus test for determining the strength of the real estate investment market.... If people want to live in a place, companies, stores, hotels, and apartments will follow." (For additional information on economic revitalization see [http://www.tpl.org/content\\_documents/tx\\_H-GBenefits.pdf](http://www.tpl.org/content_documents/tx_H-GBenefits.pdf)).

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

## Environmental protection

We recommend that environmentally sensitive land be preserved for natural habitats and open spaces for future generation. The creation of such open spaces in Willard should include recreational and interpretive multi-use trails and paths; trailheads with amenities, signage, and parking; as well as acquiring sufficient, useable land areas for future recreational development.

The following criteria establishes the threshold for lands that should be preserved as open space:

- Lands that have slopes above 24% are generally restricted from development. Slopes between the range of 16-24% are restricted for most developments and sustainable site planning practices should be adopted for such sites.
- 100 year flood plains should always be restricted.
- Master planned communities are to dedicate percentage of land for usable open space.
- Known cultural resources sites and power line corridors should also be restricted.



Fig. 3.28 Wildflower Preservation

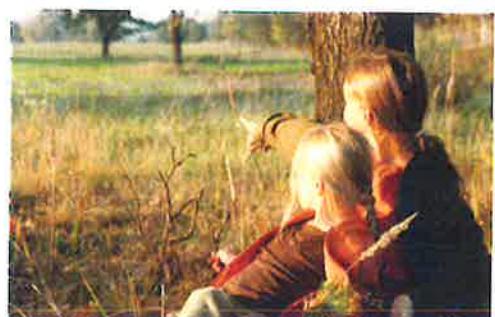


Fig. 3.29 Conservation Subdivision



Fig. 3.30 Wildlife Preservation



Fig. 3.31 Agricultural Zoning

The tools for acquisition of open space lands include:

- land banking
- easements
- direct purchase of lands from private ownership or Missouri State Lands Department
- lease agreement through a recreation and Public Purposes Permit/Lease (RP&P).

The Willard Park Board should take steps to acquire lands that represent the best remaining examples of Willard's natural heritage by purchase, gift or bequest. The board can either acquire the land outright or in some instances, may acquire a perpetual conservation easement covering the property instead. A conservation easement is a legal agreement between the landowner and the board that permanently restricts the use of the property in such a way as to preclude development or other activities that would harm or impair its natural condition. Actual ownership of the property, however, remains with the landowner.

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

Infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

For example, the owner of a natural area may donate their property or a conservation easement covering the property to the board. Such contributions can serve as permanent memorials, and donors can be assured that the land's natural values will be permanently preserved and protected. Donations of either land or a conservation easement to Willard qualify as a charitable gift for federal income tax purposes.



## Passive Recreation

Passive recreation is more popular with the older age groups, although is great for the entire family and can facilitate an educational, historical, or natural experience. Through observation and careful consideration residents can passively recreate within the natural environment and even watch others as they actively recreate. Psychology tells us that our highest rate of learning comes through basic observation and imitation. The environment around us holds an immense diversity of natural processes that can be observed at all times of day and through all seasons of the year.



Fig. 3.34 Pavilion in Perry County, AL



Fig. 3.35 Farm Fest in Albuquerque, NM

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix



Fig. 3.33 Pavilion in Perry County, AL

Some common activities that are considered passive recreation include:

- Nature hiking through the woods
- Observing plants and animals in their natural habitats
- Walking
- Bird watching
- Identifying specific trees and flowers in the wild
- Picnics
- Family get-togethers and barbecues
- Field Trips
- Historic hikes
- Hunting for mushrooms, berries, or rocks
- Photography
- Painting, drawing, or sketching

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction  
 executive summary  
 research & analysis  
 willard gateway overview  
 proposals  
 frisco highline trail  
 city center  
 parks, recreation & open spaces  
 flood plains  
 highway 160  
 conservation area  
 conco quarry  
 infrastructure networking & trails  
 sustainability  
 appendix

## ZONING AND LAND USE

### Conventional Overview

*Conventional zoning follows rigid standards for lot size, road frontage, and other requirements. This strategy tends to create a uniform, grid-like development that consumes most of the available open space. Zoning this way tends to ignore important Smart Growth planning principles and promotes suburban sprawl; this limits the amount of open space being preserved, destroys natural habitats, impedes the establishment of community parks, and increases the amount of impermeable surface and stresses the natural watershed and runoff processes.*

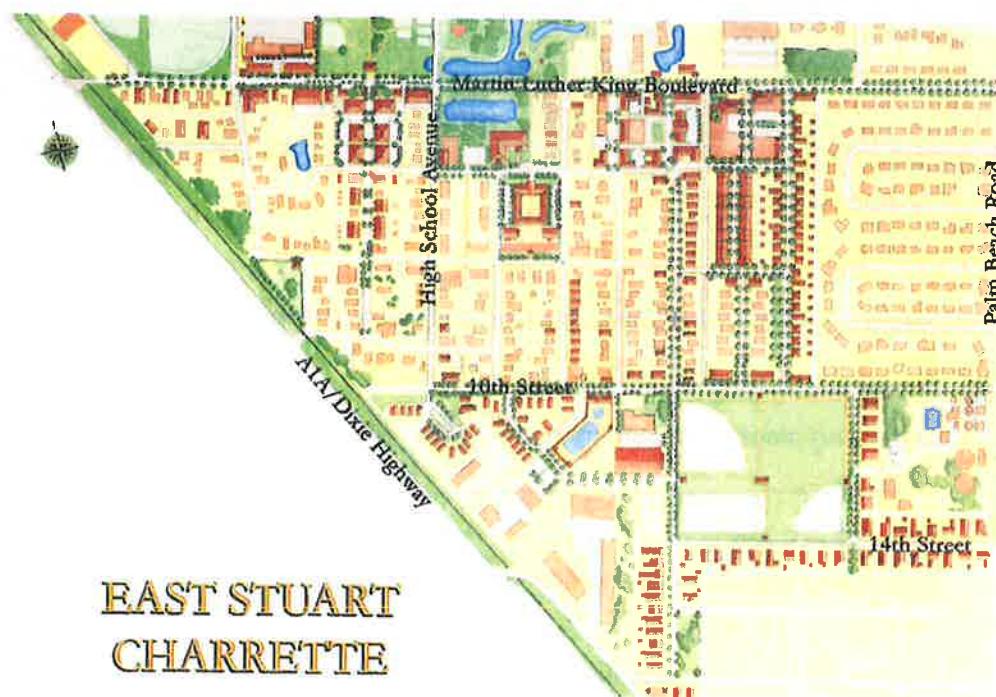


Fig. 4.1 Conservation Redevelopment in Florida



Fig. 4.2 Rhode Island Rural Sprawl

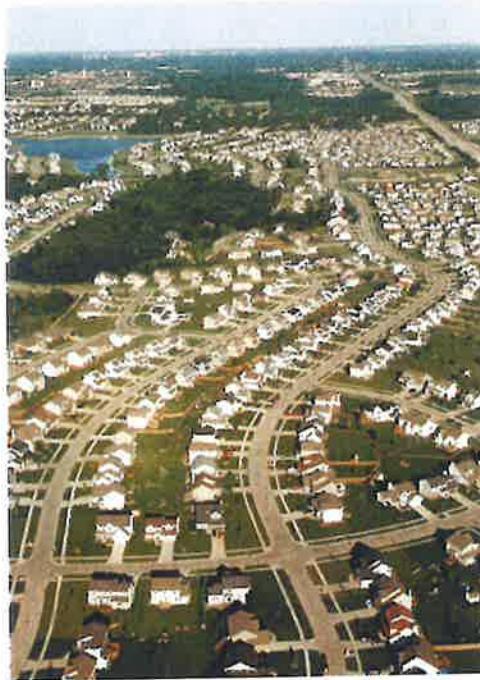


Fig. 4.3 Suburban Sprawl in California



Fig. 4.4 Extremely bad sprawl in Ontario

## Conventional Redevelopment

The East Stuart community is a 100-acre neighborhood adjacent to the Orlando, FL downtown area. The neighborhood master redevelopment plan was created during a 2004 seven day public design charrette (an intense period of design activity). The objective of the charrette was to create a master framework plan to facilitate development and investment in private land and public infrastructure, preserve the community's heritage, and enhance its livability and sense of unity. The intent of the plan was to enhance the neighborhood's small town attributes and good physical structure by rectifying problems related to the damaging effects of speeding traffic, social problems, neglected buildings, and lack of a neighborhood retail main street center. (For more information on the East Stuart charrette and Redevelopment Plan, go to [www.tcrpc.org/](http://www.tcrpc.org/)) (Florida Planning Toolbox, Public Involvement and Education Tools: Charrettes) Willard can utilize this case study and others like it to understand the problems of conventional zoning. Many communities in the nation are experiencing similar bedroom community situations and problems that need to be dealt with in a manner conducive of their values and inclusive of future growth patterns.

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

114

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

willard gateway overview

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

## Suburban Sprawl

Suburban sprawl is an epidemic that is happening all over the country. A family of four can be expected to drive 40 more miles per day in a bedroom community or high sprawl area than a family in a low sprawl or mixed use area. This is dangerous for the environment and stressful on the economy. Where sprawl is inevitable residents drive more, breathe more polluted air, face a greater risk of car fatalities, and have to own more cars, and walk and use transit less. The average person in these types of suburbs tends to weigh eight pounds more than someone who lives within mixed use development.

Suburban sprawl has created cookie cutter communities with an emphasis on the garage as a symbol of status instead of emphasis on the front yard and the social interaction between neighbors. Whole communities have become places for individuals to commute to and from just as businesses are. In the future alternative energy sources will be unable to facilitate these areas because of lack of infrastructure and whole communities may become abandoned. Through better established planning and developing Willard can combat this sprawl that is indicative of conventional zoning with



Fig. 4.5 Traditional Sprawl in Florida

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix

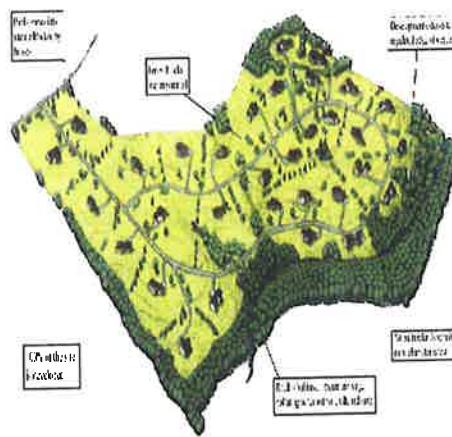


Fig. 4.6 Conventional Zoning Plan



Fig. 4.7 Cluster Zoning Plan

willard gateway to the  
great outdoors

116

conservation techniques that utilize open space, parks, and trails.

Cluster projects like the one in Figure 4.7 were successful in creating permanent open space, but the usefulness of those areas were diluted by several factors, including a required buffer strip around the perimeter of the project, lack of coordination with neighboring properties, and a fragmentation of both natural habitat and potential recreation areas into many small unusable pieces. Conventional zoning (also known as Euclidean zoning), Planned Unit Development, suburban sprawl, and lack of holistic community planning all contribute to cluster. The only way to destroy the old conventional way of planning and developing is to adopt a new conservational view while facilitating the principles of livable communities, active living, and smart growth. These principles encompass an idea of planning for the future with adequate facilities to allow communities to become self-sustaining. Sustainable communities are environmentally friendly, economically productive and have socially interactive residents. With a community focused on education, Willard should be in an appropriate position to combat this conventional way of development.

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

infrastructure networking

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

## Conservation Overview

*Willard zoning ordinances should be reexamined with an emphasis on conservation and preservation standards for natural resources, open spaces, and livable community principles. The goal of any zone ordinance project should be to develop standards for housing development and preservation, growth management, environmental protection and agricultural uses. The principle goals should focus on: residential development based on regulations, building envelope standards, architectural standards, agricultural practices including water resource standards, individual septic systems, floodplains, woodlands, residential development and associated development standards.*

An example of Conservation zoning: The Babcock Ranch in Florida is one of the largest remaining undeveloped tracts of privately owned land at 91,000 acres. Because of responsible land management and environmental stewardship, the ranch contains a diverse stretch of habitat-friendly cypress domes, swamps, mesic flatwoods, and open pastures. When the Babcock family decided to develop part of the land, they took the necessary steps to ensure that important environmental resources were protected. In 2006,



Fig. 4.8 Mixed Use Concept in Clark County, WA

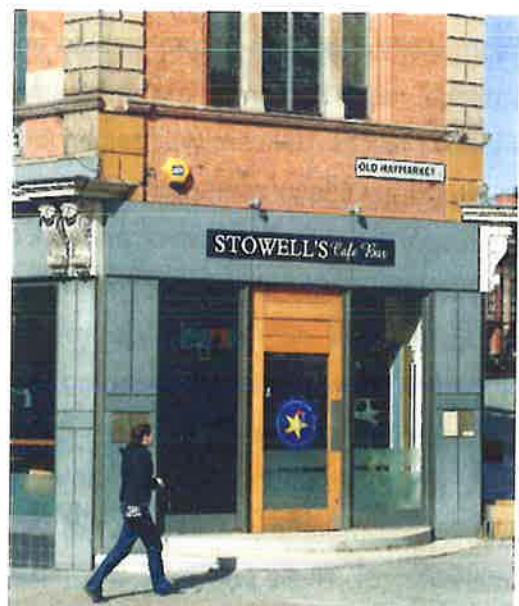


Fig. 4.9 Mixed Use Building in Liverpool, UK

the family sold the land to Kitson and Partners because of their commitment to sustainable land stewardship. 80 percent of the land was in turn sold to the state of Florida and will be conserved as publicly-owned lands. Ten percent of the land will be placed in conservation use (trails, greenways, and restored wetlands), which means that the last ten percent will be all that is developed. The habitat design

- introduction
- executive summary
- research & analysis
- willard gateway overview
- proposals
- frisco highline trail
- city center
- parks, recreation & open spaces
- conservation area
- flood plains
- highway 160
- conco quarry
- infrastructure networking & trails
- sustainability
- appendix



Fig. 4.10 Zoning Standards for Winona, MN

approach to the development means that wildlife habitat is actively conserved and integrated within and around the human settlements, and that residents are involved in the management and maintenance of the conserved lands and in learning how to be good neighbors to plants and wildlife. Residents will be able to walk or bike to jobs, recreation, and nature. Another feature is the use of green building techniques. (Additional information on the Babcock Ranch is available from [www.babcockranchflorida.com](http://www.babcockranchflorida.com). Information on functional habitat design is available from [cals.arizona.edu/pubs](http://cals.arizona.edu/pubs) or [www.myflorida.com](http://www.myflorida.com).)

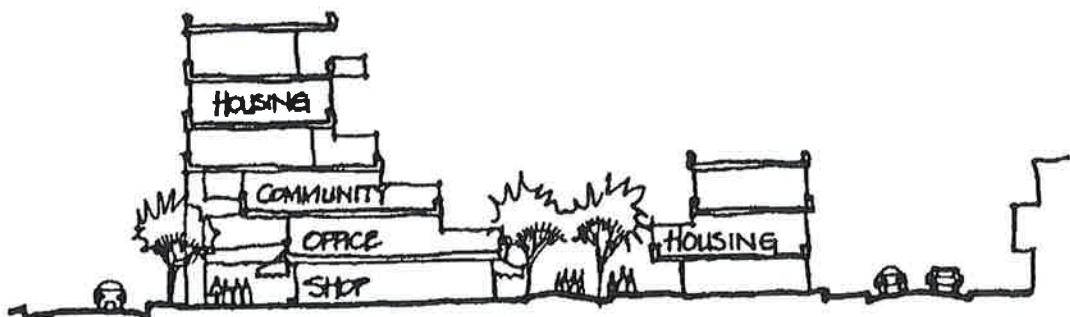


Fig. 4.11 Mixed Use Section Concept

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

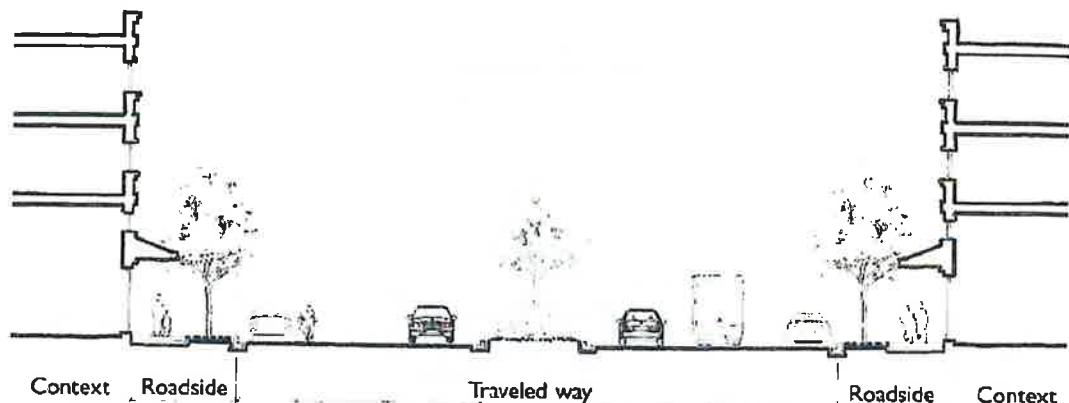


Fig. 4.12 Mixed Use Public Realm Section

## Livable Roadways

A joint Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization and Planning Commission project, the Livable Roadways Guidelines promote the cohesive redevelopment of the community's roads which are characterized by strip commercial development that has eroded community character and, in older areas, has created a condition of blight and deterioration. To promote cohesive development, the guidelines provide for context-supportive site and building design. They also recognize the importance of connecting adjacent land uses and balancing the road right-of-way to equitably accommodate uses. (For more information, go to [www.hillsboroughmpo.org](http://www.hillsboroughmpo.org).)

The Livable Roadways principle uses natural buffers to segregate urban



Fig. 4.13 Natural Buffer in Franklin, TN

design and the negative aspects of transportation: the car, asphalt, concrete, and other materials that make up roads, streets, and highways. Together these two aspects of transportation facilitate water runoff problems, impermeable surfaces, production of pollutants, and physical inactivity. Conservation principles, parks and open spaces are the solution to making roadways and communities more livable. The simple ratio of pervious to impervious surfaces is higher to better facilitate the water runoff and filtration processes that are natural and successful.



Fig. 4.14 Conservational Zoning in Florida

### Town, Village, and Countryside Plan

The TVC plan for the 28-square mile North St. Lucie County area will replace the current planning instructions with a new model that shapes future growth into sustainable towns and villages and uses the market forces of growth as a tool. This will:

- retain large areas of the countryside
- comprehensively plan for water management
- address traffic and infrastructure needs
- maintain the urban service boundary in its current location
- accommodate the next 50 years of growth in a predictable manner that ensures the preservation of the residents' quality of life

(For more information on the TVC plan, go to [www.tcrpc.org](http://www.tcrpc.org).)



Fig. 4.15 Conservation Trail in St. Johns, MI



Fig. 4.16 Zoned open space in Orlando, FL

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

willard gateway to the great outdoors

120

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

## FLOOD PLAINS

### *What is a floodplain?*

*A river, stream, lake, or drain may on occasion overflow onto the surrounding banks and inundate adjacent land areas with flood water. The land that is inundated by water is defined as a floodplain. Nationally, the term floodplain has come to mean the land area that will be inundated by the overflow of water resulting from a 100-year flood - a flood which has a 1% chance of occurring any given year.*

*(<http://www.deq.state.mi.us/>)*



Fig. 5.1 Flood Plain in the Distance



Fig. 5.2 100 year floodplain



Fig. 5.3 Flood plain wetland Rocheport, MO

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

zoning &amp; land use

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix

## Preserving Flood plains

Land within the 100 year flood plain boundary should be preserved to facilitate the natural processes of the environment such as watershed, runoff and collection of storm water. The city of Willard should land bank and set easements to control the use of ecological sensitive floodplains. Land banking is the easiest and most cost effective way of developing a natural reserve in these sensitive areas. If the floodplain areas are not land banked, Willard will have to go back at a later date, as Springfield has, and reclaim the land that has already been divided, plotted, or developed. Failure to properly protect the floodplain is much more expensive and damaging to both the environment and community in the long term. Floodplain areas should be preserved and used for natural habitat preservation and passive recreation. The Willard Park Board in collaboration with the Missouri Department of Conservation should establish restrictions and guidelines for each identified floodplain area. A buffer of low density housing should surround each protected area to reduce the impact on the watershed.



Fig. 5.4 Wildlife preservation at floodplains

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

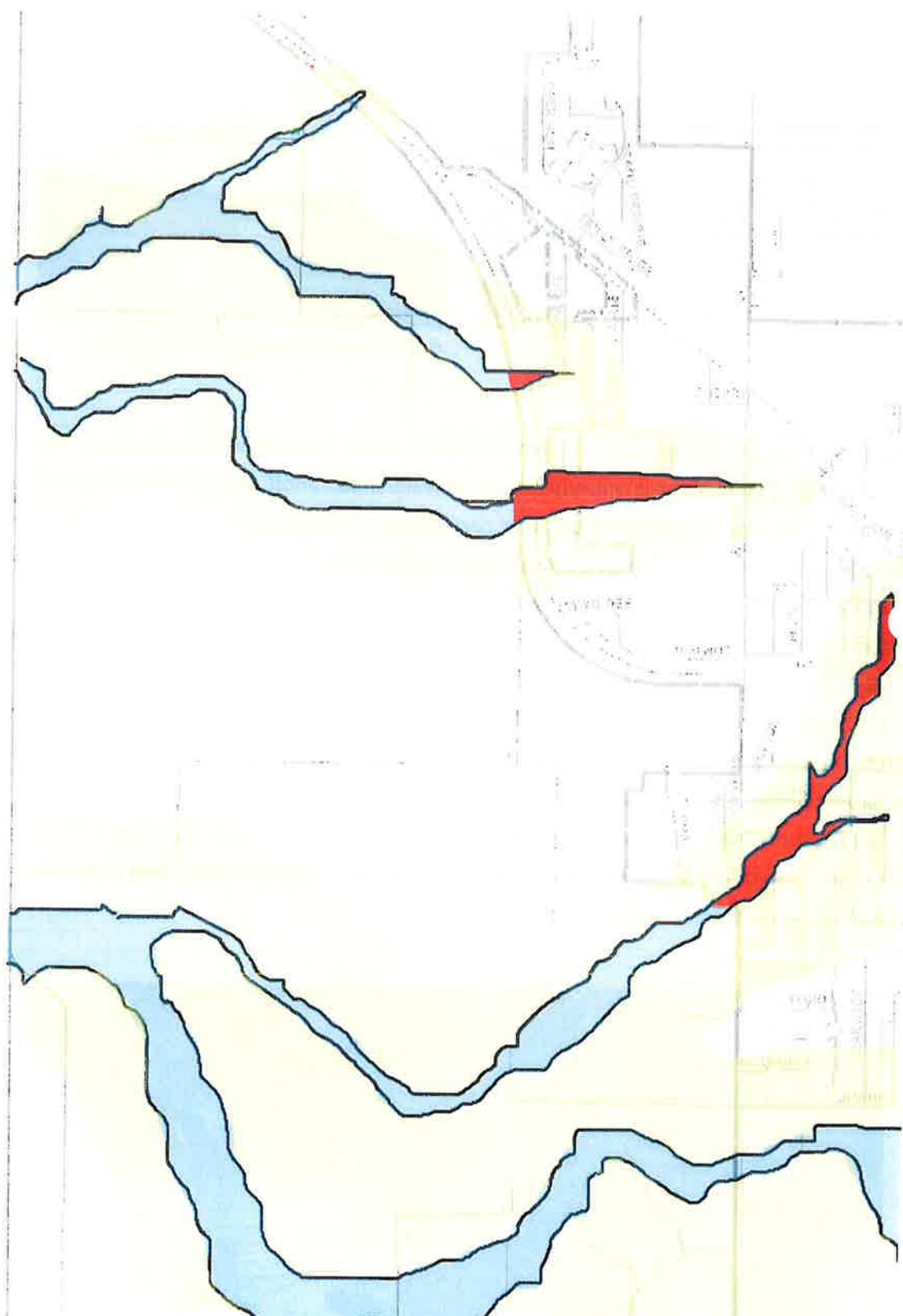


Fig. 5.5 100 year floodplain in Willard, MO

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

zoning &amp; land use

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix



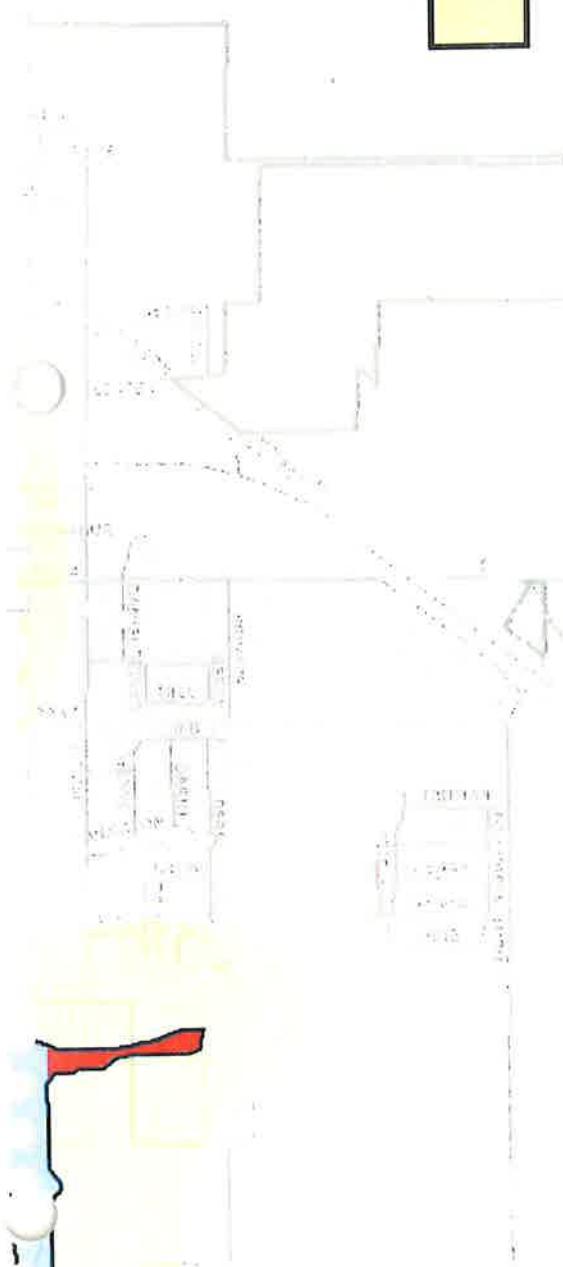
Flood plain areas that should be preserved



Flood plain areas that have already been developed



Zones surrounding floodplains that have a direct effect on water quality and should be developed responsibly



willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

124

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

## Water and Life

Water is vital, in its quality, quantity, flow and location, to meet the needs of ecosystems. These ecosystems include us--humans. People cannot be divorced from the water environment. Human activities, on land and water, can affect water flow, quality, water levels and its ability to support life. This life includes tremendous biodiversity. Water and wetlands provide some of the most important habitats on earth. Equally, water and water related ecosystems such as wetlands, provide us with essential services from potable water, water for agriculture, energy, flood management, recreation opportunities, filtering and waste services, fisheries and tourism. (<http://www.floodplains.org/>)



Fig. 5.6 Flood in Wilmington, NC



Fig. 5.7 Flood in Goodview, MN

# proposals

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix



Fig. 5.8 Signage in Southern Maine



Fig. 5.9 Nature trail & signage in Wisconsin

## Trails

Trails in these areas could cross lands which are environmentally sensitive in many ways. By leading users along well-worn paths, trails keep users away from more sensitive features that might not be able to withstand traffic. A well-developed trail can provide environmental buffers that protect delicate wetlands while allowing users to experience varied plant and animal wildlife. In order to keep the wetlands in their natural state, the trail should only be open to foot traffic and visitors must stay on the trail at all times. Motorized vehicles, horseback riding, bike riding, artifact gathering, plant gathering, hunting, climbing, camping, picnicking, building fires, audio equipment and pets should not be permitted on the trail.

willard gateway to the  
great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

## Signage

To any casual nature enthusiast, the wide array of plant combinations in certain areas can be confusing. Proper signage that locates and identifies specific plants can be useful and very educational for residents and visitors.

## Observation Tower

An observation tower can be constructed in the floodplain areas for the public to view the natural habitat. This observation tower could serve as an educational center. The tower can also provide opportunities for photography, bird and animal watching and nature study.



Fig. 5.10 Obervation Tower in Latvia

**Greenways**

**Develop Greenways in semi-sensitive floodplain areas for the establishment of future nature trails. Conserving the floodplain with this type of low impact development, can achieve the preservation of the rural landscape and the small town feel that Willard is striving to accomplish.**

**Greenway Guidelines**

When designing a greenway, it is important to consider what impact it will have on natural processes. Greenways, like natural environmental corridors can operate in six basic ways:

- Habitat for plant and animal communities
- A conduit for plants, animals, water, sediment, and chemicals
- A barrier preventing movement
- A filter allowing some things to pass while inhibiting others
- A source for animals or seeds which move to other parts of the landscape
- A sink for trapping sediment, toxins, or nutrients



Fig. 5.11 Aldridge Creek Greenway in AL

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

zoning &amp; land use

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

128

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

There are several ways to improve water quality protection of greenways:

- Make greenways continuous along the river or stream.
- Locate greenways on both sides of the river or stream.
- Include the river's flood plain, forest, associated wetlands, intermittent tributaries, gullies, and swales in the greenway.
- Undertake a study of the sites sediment and nutrient flow to establish how much is entering the floodplain and how much it will need to filter.
- Make greenway widths site-specific as opposed to jurisdiction-specific.
- Greenways which neighbor intensive land uses such as clear cutting, dense residential development, or shopping malls will need to be wide enough to absorb excess nutrients and toxins.
- Maintain a band of natural vegetation along the stream bank to protect against temperature increases.
- Minimize or avoid mowing streamside vegetation because it may decrease filtering effectiveness.

*(For additional information on flood plains see Appendix: Flood Plains: Flood Plains).*



Fig. 5.12 Delta shelter in floodplain in

# proposals

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

## Funding

Many floodplain restoration proposals are not funded because current funding avenues are inflexible and cannot be easily combined. It is not always the case that there is a shortage of money, although some important sectors such as biodiversity tend to be under resourced. Inefficiencies in systems also contribute to poor water quality, loss of biodiversity, deterioration in landscape quality and lost opportunities for rural regeneration. Traditional cost benefit analysis used for allocating water management monies largely fails to account for wider social and environmental benefits. The solution lies in flexible, accessible, complementary funding streams that support delivery of catchment strategies. To assess the funding needs, catchment forums must:

- Determine a vision, objectives and strategies.
- Devise a current cost.
- Determine new mechanisms to achieve the objectives, identify and agree with existing and new funding sources.

The Department of Natural Resources is the official state agency for all matters pertaining to floodplain management. The Floodplain Management Section is responsible for coordinating an overall program aimed at addressing the wise use of land subject to flooding. This is accomplished by providing:

- Technical assistance on floodplain management to communities, state agencies, federal agencies, and the public; identifying and delineating floodplains
- State coordination for the National Flood Insurance Program
- Technical assistance and funding to the communities for the development of local flood hazard mitigation plans

*(For additional information on funding see Appendix: Flood Plains: Funding).*

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

## HIGHWAY 160

### *Beautification Overview*

*The Highway 160 corridor that runs through Willard and connects the community to the regional amenities lacks a coordinated highway beautification plan. Consideration should be given to the establishment of beautification guidelines and programs for the highway with particular emphasis placed upon the section located within the Willard city limits and urban growth boundary.*



Fig. 6.1 Bur Oak

### **Native Vegetation**

The region has a wide variety of beautiful native trees, shrubs, grass, and bushes which are already acclimated to the climate and soil of the area. In addition to the inherent aesthetic quality of the native vegetation, these plants require significantly less maintenance, and irrigation. Native vegetation is also better for attracting and nurturing wildlife of the region.

With the reduction of fertilizer and pesticides, water supplies are protected from contamination and the decrease in irrigation conserves the natural water sources of the region, helping to protect future water supply.



Fig. 6.2 Hackberry



Fig. 6.3 Big Bluestem



Fig. 6.4 Sugar Maple



Fig. 6.5 American Snowbell



Fig. 6.6 Black Gum



Fig. 6.7 Spice Bush

willard gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix

The placement of vegetation along Highway 160 will also help to naturally treat the stormwater from the highway, and help direct the treated water towards natural water sources helping to recharge natural aquifers.

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix



Fig. 6.8 Stone River - Goldsworthy

## Environmental Art

Environmental art along Highway 160, the Frisco Highline Trail and throughout the community can further enhance the community and promote tourism. This art should reflect the importance of the natural environment of the region and celebrate the environment as art. By creating environmental art installations along the Highway 160 corridor and the Frisco Highline Trail the community can strengthen its commitment to and appreciation of the regional ecosystem that nurtures all life physically and spiritually. The establishment of environmental art installations that celebrate the beauty of nature and highlights the importance and beauty of our regional landscape would be a proper civic investment that helps promote the community ethos of environmental consciousness and conservation.



Fig. 6.9 Storm King Wall - Goldsworthy



Fig. 6.10 Arch at Goodwood - Goldsworthy



Fig. 6.11 Neuberger Museum - Goldwort

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix



Fig. 6.12 Business signs

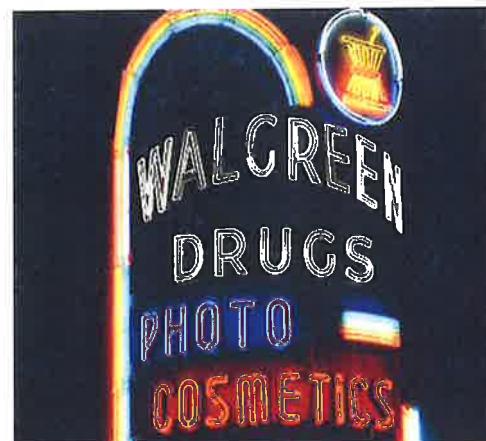


Fig. 6.13 Neon sign



Fig. 6.14 Missouri billboards

 willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

## Lighting

Throughout the community along the highway and trail corridors care should be taken to provide adequate lighting appropriate for the activities anticipated and context. Safety is of the utmost importance along these transportation corridors.

Particular attention must be given to maintaining a proper balance between the illumination of these areas for safety concerns and the production of unwanted light pollution that is distractible and intrusive.

The incorporation of solar powered light fixtures is encouraged to conserve energy and to support the community's environmental consciousness.



Fig. 6.15a Solar lights



Fig. 6.15b Solar lights



Fig. 6.15c Solar lig



Fig. 6.16 Divided highway

introduction  
 executive summary  
 research & analysis  
 willard gateway overview  
 proposals  
 frisco highline trail  
 city center  
 parks, recreation & open spaces  
 zoning & land use  
 flood plains  
 conservation area  
 conco quarry  
 infrastructure networking & trails  
 sustainability  
 appendix

### Crossing Overview

**Highway 160 is a physical boundary between residential neighborhoods and needs to be modified to facilitate a safer and more convenient way of crossing for pedestrians and cyclists. Safe routes should be established at all Highway 160 intersection crossings within Willard.**

### At Grade

To facilitate safe grade level crossings of Highway 160, clearly marked and lit pedestrian crosswalks should be installed complete with fixtures informing pedestrians of the amount of time they have to cross. Strict red light enforcement cameras should also be implemented. However, even with all these precautions in place, safety will still be a critical issue.

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

136

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

## Below Grade

Creating a below grade crossing of the Highway 160 corridor requires extensive planning with MODOT to accommodate for the highway's expansion. The tunnel must be adequately lit for safety concerns and should be maintained regularly to ensure stability and ease of access. This method is much safer than a grade level crossing and allows for a free flow of pedestrian and alternative transportation crossing of Highway 160.



Fig. 6.17 Below grade crossing



Fig. 6.18 Below grade crossing

## Above Grade

An above grade crossing could provide a convenient and safe crossing of the Highway 160 corridor and serve as a symbolic gateway into Willard. This method has the potential to allow the parks system to flow over Highway 160 and create a strong physical and visual connection within Willard through the parks system. This is a safe and attractive way to facilitate a free flow of pedestrian and alternative transportation crossing of Highway 160.



Fig. 6.19 Wildlife crossing

## Materiality of Structures

In the context of below grade and above grade crossings, the materials should reflect the character of the region. Masonry elements could utilize rock quarried in the region to help minimize transportation costs and feature natural elements found in the area.

Fig. 6.20 Concrete



Fig. 6.21 Mamposteria



Fig. 6.22 Flagstone



Fig. 6.23 MO limestone



# proposals

## Highway 160 Expansion Overview

**With the planned expansion of Highway 160, it is important for Willard to be an integral member in the development of the planned expansion to create a holistic solution that addresses the issues of beautification and crossing.**

## Median Strip

The placement of native vegetation in the median strip will help to improve the aesthetic quality of the highway and reduce roadside maintenance cost.



Fig. 6.24a Median strip in Orlando, FL

138

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix



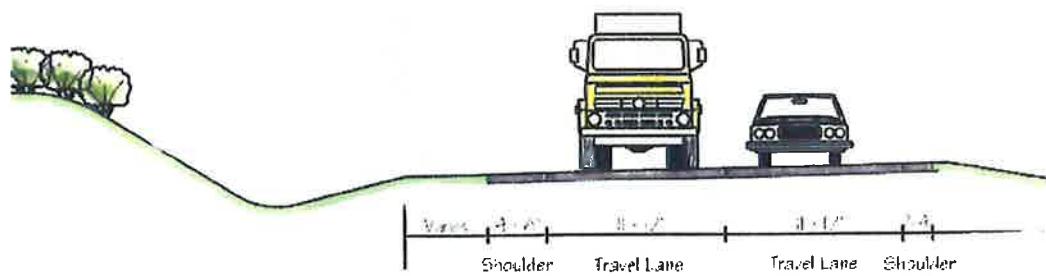
Fig. 6.24b Proposed overpass from above

## Crossing Locations

By coordinating the expansion of Highway 160 with MODOT, the structural and easement considerations for both the above grade and below grade crossings can be more efficiently considered.

## Green Highway Partnerships

By working with MODOT early, the interconnectivity of this initiative's multi-modal concept can be implemented in a more environmentally sensitive highway solution.



Four Lane

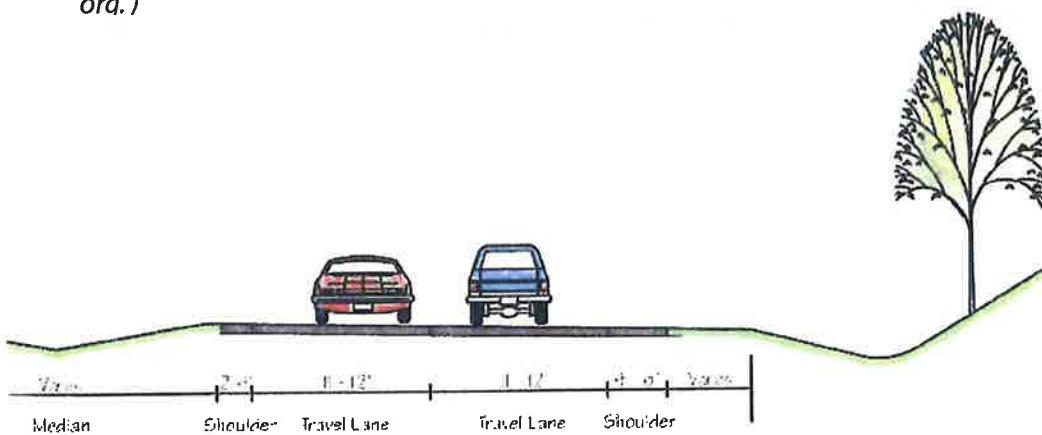


Fig. 6.24c Proposed overpass from below

This partnership should consider:

- Bio-retention
- Environmentally friendly materials and practices
- Vegetative bufferings
- Stormwater
- Wildlife crossings
- Multi-modal transportation and interconnectivity
- Signage and lighting

(For more information on Green Highway Partnerships, visit [www.greenhighways.org](http://www.greenhighways.org).)



## Divided Roadway

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

frisco highline trail

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

## CONSERVATION AREA

### *Creating Partnerships*

***Creating partnerships among the Willard community constituencies has the potential to benefit all entities involved.***



Fig. 7.1 Missouri Bladderpod

### Successful Activities

The conservation area is currently home to the activities of bird watching, hiking, hunting, and trapping. Other activities that could be incorporated into the conservation area following the implementation of partnerships and further community involvement include, but are not limited to:

- A nature center including interactive activities
- Well planned nature trails that are ADA accessible
- Signage describing the historical, cultural and natural features such as Rocky Barrens commitment since 1835 to protecting the rare bladder pod which is only located in three other areas of Southern Missouri.

Other aspects to take into account while developing the conservation area are:

- Benches and resting areas
- A possible homestead farm
- Historic schoolhouse
- Ecosystem gallery
- Nature store
- Arboretum

All of these attractions could provide opportunities for day camps and field trips to easily accessible wetlands, prairies, demonstration gardens and community gardens. These suggestions illustrate how the Rocky Barrens conservation area could be integrated into the Willard Parks System Plan and activities to further enhance the community's outdoor resources and environmental education potential.



*Fig. 7.2 Historic Homestead*



*Fig. 7.3 Historic Schoolhouse*



*Fig. 7.4 Midwest Tallgrass Prairie*

introduction  
executive summary  
research & analysis  
willard gateway overview  
proposals  
frisco highline trail  
city center  
parks, recreation & open spaces  
zoning & land use  
flood plains  
highway 160

conco quarry  
infrastructure networking & trails  
sustainability  
appendix

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals . . .

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

***The following are examples of successful conservation areas relative in size to Rocky Barrens. The first and third, Matsell Bridge Natural area in eastern Iowa and Queen Elizabeth Park in Vancouver, are similar to Willard's conservation area in that they too, contain reclaimed quarries. The second precedent, while it does not contain a reclaimed quarry, is home to some of the same ammenities that could prove successful for the city of Willard.***

## Matsell Bridge Natural Area



Fig 7.5 Camping in St. Marys, Ontario



Fig 7.6 Native Prairie in Shelby County, IA

Mount Hope, once used for limestone excavation, has been incorporated into Matsell Bridge Natural Area. Once a quarry very similar to Conco with very deep working areas left over. After incorporation into a larger park, Mount Hope now features a camping area, wetlands which are well suited to quarries of this type, conifer plantings, grasslands, native prairie and agricultural fields. The quarry was simply reinstated into the surrounding landscape. In a similar way, Conco could be incorporated into the lands of the proposed demonstration farm, conservation area and trail system. (<http://www.linncountyparks.com>)

## Queen Elizabeth Park

# proposals

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix



Fig. 7.7 Queen Elizabeth Park in Vancouver

willard gateway to the  
great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

The Francis Beidler Forest is an Audubon wildlife sanctuary in Four Holes Swamp, a blackwater creek system in South Carolina. It consists of over 15,000 acres (61 km<sup>2</sup>) of mainly bald cypress/tupelo gum swamp with approximately 1,800 acres (7 km<sup>2</sup>) of virgin, old-growth forest. It has an environmental education center and a 1.75-mile (2.82 km) boardwalk trail through the virgin, old-growth portion of the swamp. It is a favorite haunt of birdwatchers and is used for biological research projects by area schools. The Audubon Society which maintains the preserve along with the Nature Conservancy, has recently obtained funding with which to purchase additional adjacent land to expand the preserve. It is home to the largest virgin stand of cypress and tupelo forest, with some trees over 1,000 years old. At high water there is guided canoeing in the swamp, which offers a different perspective as one paddles through the shallow channel and cypress knees. (<http://www.travelstuck.com>)



Fig 7.8 Francis Beidler National P

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

highway 160

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix

### ***Utilizing Audubon and the National Nature Conservancy***

***Considering the the current endangerment of the Painted Bunting Bird, Conco Quarry and the City of Willard could benefit from the utilization of information and support from the National Audubon Society and Nature Conservancy.***

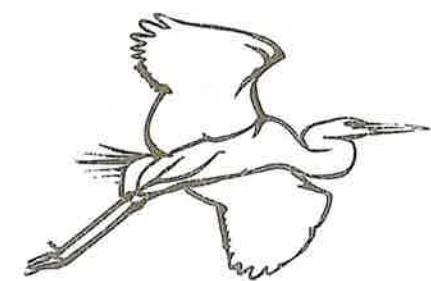
#### **Audubon**

Audubon's mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity. The national network of community-based nature centers and chapters, scientific and educational programs, and advocacy on behalf of areas sustaining important bird populations, engage millions of people of all ages and backgrounds in positive conservation experiences.

#### **Nature Conservancy**

The Nature Conservancy is a US charitable environmental organization working to preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

Founded in 1951, The Nature Conservancy works in more than 30 countries, including all 50 States, with an increasingly global reach. The Conservancy has over one million members, has protected more than 69,000 square kilometers (17 million acres) in the United States and more than 473,000 square kilometers (117 million acres[3]) internationally. The organization's total support and revenue was \$1.28 billion in fiscal year 2007 with assets totaling \$5.42 billion. The Nature Conservancy is rated as one of the most trusted national organizations in Harris Interactive polls.



**Audubon**

Fig. 7.9 Audubon logo



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

Fig. 7.10 The Nature Conservancy logo

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

146

171

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

## CONCO QUARRY

### *Quarry Reclamation Overview*

*There are many uses for an exhausted quarry. Sloping the banks of an exhausted quarry and revegetating the area is a common reclamation practice. It is, after all, the least expensive way to satisfy government regulations. But more costly reclamation projects can turn a profit in the long run. Rock quarries are usually much deeper and a longer term operation than their sand and gravel counterparts and thus offer very different restoration challenges. Deeper working of the same area means opportunities for progressive restoration are often more limited. Modern quarry design ensures that substantial landscape screening is carried out around the periphery of sites. The upper 'benches' can also be treated and planted at an early stage as they become available, thus reducing the visual impact.*



Fig. 8.1 Stanley Park in Vancouver

# proposals

## Habitable Parkland

There are many potential end uses for an exhausted pit or quarry. These include land preparation for commercial or residential building, construction of recreational facilities, with the water-filled pit accommodating swimmers and boaters, or land conditioning to provide a home and breeding ground for wildlife.

In a rural area, for example, an exhausted site might be restored to agricultural land or a wildlife refuge. In urban or suburban areas, buildings or parks may be the appropriate end use. Nothing serves to strengthen community relations more than to return mined-out sites to the public for recreation. A public that plays

on reclaimed land is a public less likely to complain about active operations. While larger profits result from developing mined-out sites for commercial and residential building, reclaiming for wildlife demands a much smaller initial investment. Such reclamation may involve little more than sloping the banks of the deposit and reseeding the area.

The following are descriptions of mined-out sites that have been converted to public use areas. Gone are the loaders and haul trucks; they have been replaced with fishing poles and golf carts.

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

natural identity

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix



willard gateway to the  
great outdoors

148

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

infrastructure

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix

## Watermark

Not all reclamation projects are completed just after reserves have been exhausted. American Aggregates Corp.'s Watermark site in Columbus, Ohio, is an example of an ongoing reclamation project.

An American Aggregates' sand and gravel operation began at the site in 1927. From 1961 to 1976, American Aggregates shipped material to or from the site by rail. Finally, in 1976, the operation closed. Reclamation of the water-filled pit has taken place over the past 30 years, even while the plant processed material on the property from other sites.

"In the early 1960s, alternatives were proposed for reclaiming the site," said Scott Epling, manager of parkland development for American Aggregates. By the late 1970s, the company decided to build an island in the water-filled pit and create usable land, according to Epling. That development strategy was expanded to include selling the property. (<http://www.pitandquarry.com>)

Watermark is now a multi-use park accomodating residential areas, park land, and other marketable areas including a lake. While Conco Quarry is much smaller in scale than Watermark, it too has the ability to fill with water.



Fig. 8.2 Conco Quarry as of September 2008



Fig. 8.3 Centennial Lakes



Fig. 8.4 Centennial Lakes



Fig. 8.5 Centennial Lakes



Fig. 8.6 Centennial Lakes

### Centennial Lakes

Centennial Lakes is a \$300-million reclamation project underway in Edina, Minn., near Minneapolis/St. Paul. This former Hedberg & Sons Co. gravel pit will be converted to housing, office, entertainment and retail space.

The 87-acre site will be developed over a 10-year period. It will include office space, low-rise condominiums, mid- and high-rise apartment units, an 8-screen movie theatre, retail space and a hotel.

A 25-acre park surrounds a lake that runs the length of the reclamation site. Though no part of the site is below the water table, the area needs a pond for stormwater.

The lake will serve as a storage/control basin and an aesthetically pleasing lake. The lake will have a plastic bottom. Water will not be aerated so it can freeze in winter to allow skating. The shoreline will have rip rap on one side, while another side will have a hard wall of concrete brick and stone.

The Edina site sits on valuable real estate. According to Linda Schutz, public affairs director, J.L. Shiely Co., it is a few blocks from a premier shopping area in one of the state's most affluent communities. (<http://www.centenniallakespark.com>)

introduction  
executive summary  
research & analysis  
willard gateway overview  
proposals  
frisco highline trail  
city center  
parks, recreation & open spaces  
zoning & land use  
flood plains  
highway 160  
conservation area  
infrastructure networking & trails  
sustainability  
appendix

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

150

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix



**Madison Lakes Park**

*Fig. 8.7 Madison Lakes Park*

The setting was once an active limestone quarry. Madison Lakes Park is a 177-acre site, part of which American Aggregates Corp. still mines. A dike separates a reclaimed area from the active mining.

Two bodies of water mark the reclaimed site. A six-acre lake and a 10-acre lake each provide fishing spots to local residents. The face of the original quarry rises from the 10-acre lake. Above the face, an interpretive center overlooks the water. This building was established for visitors and includes meeting rooms and kitchen facilities. Near the interpretive center, a fishing pier juts into the lake. Picnic tables dot the park, and two childrens' play areas feature swings, sliding boards and monkey bars.



*Fig. 8.8 Madison Lakes Park*

To aid in development of the park, the Montgomery County Recreation and Parks Department was awarded a \$250,000 grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The park took about three years to develop, according to Greg Klosterman, chief geologist at American Aggregates. A bathhouse will be built and swimming areas developed. Plans also call for construction of an outdoor amphitheater, trails and additional picnic areas. (<http://www.zmetro.com>)

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

sustainability

appendix



Fig. 8.9 The Pit Golf Links



Fig 8.10 The Pit Golf Links

### **The Pit Golf Links in Pinehurst**

The site was once an active sand and gravel pit. The Norfolk Corp. began commercial sand operations near Pinehurst in the early 1920s.

The sand and gravel operation was continued until 1975. For the next nine years, the land sat abandoned. Cox said during that time nearby residents rode dirt bikes and other recreational vehicles on the site. A golf pro in the area showed the land to third generation golf course architect Dan Maples.

Maples has designed several courses worldwide. His grandfather, Frank Maples, worked with renowned golf course architect Donald Roth. In the 1980s, work began to transfer the 230-acre site into a golf course. In a little more than a year, The Pit Golf Links opened to the public. Cost figures of the project are not available.

Since opening, the course has been well received. Golf Week magazine rated The Pit Golf Links one of the top ten in North Carolina. (<http://www.danmaples.com>)

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

infrastructure networking & trails

sustainability

appendix



Fig. 8.11 Dividing Creek

## Dividing Creek

Because of strict regulations in New Jersey, site reclamation is mostly ongoing. Unimin Corp. operates a silica sand plant in Dividing Creek, N.J., a few miles north of the Delaware Bay. Since the 1980s, the company has been mining and excavating ponds at the site.

Unimin Corp. leases the 3,000-acre property, so no extravagant reclamation projects were seriously considered, according to plant manager Scott Phillips. Even though reclaiming a site for wildlife is the least costly form of reclamation, Phillips said the costs can still be high. Money for landshaping and seeding can be about \$5,000 per acre-and none of those costs are recouped.

The company also stocked the lake with animal life and planted trees in the area. Much of the foliage was planted by Mark Hedden, a company employee in the geology and environmental department. Hedden said the trees and plants used are indigenous to the area and promote the migration of wildlife. According to John Patitucci, purchasing supervisor, plans call for building boat docks and picnic areas at the pond. Until mining is completed in the immediate area, the public must be kept out. But Phillips said the lake may be open to the public by next summer.

(<http://www.dkimages.com>)

# proposals

## Conclusion

Restoring a mined-out quarry to a beneficial piece of land has become a significant aspect of pit and quarry operations. Not only does reclaiming the quarry provide potential benefits to the surrounding community, it serves to bolster the image of the industry as a whole. Reclamation plans are most effective if operators and planners develop a strategy that satisfies the land use needs of the community and at the same time provides an economic incentive for the producer.

Popular uses for reclaimed sites include industrial and commercial properties, office parks, golf courses, and parks and recreation areas. Reclaiming for commercial and residential building may require a large initial investment, but may eventually turn a profit. Willard and Conco could both benefit greatly by creating recreational areas that provide the public a place to play while building positive community relations.

We believe that a collaboration between the city of Willard, Conco Quarry, Ozark Greenways, Willard School District, and the Rocky Barrens Conservation Area would provide all parties with many beneficial opportunities and outcomes.

Even though the Conco Quarry has a 100 plus year plan for the excavation of this site, it is important for all interested parties to come together soon to begin the planning for the eventual reclamation of this site. Many opportunities are available at the present time:

- Collaborative planning and development of the quarry's buffer area
- Plans for the reclamation of phased out portions of the quarry as they are removed from operation
- The coordinated development of the Conco buffer zone with the surrounding Bladderpod and Rocky Barrens Conservation District.

introduction  
 executive summary  
 research & analysis  
 willard gateway overview  
 proposals  
 frisco highline trail  
 city center  
 parks, recreation & open spaces  
 zoning & land use  
 flood plains  
 highway 160  
 conservation area  
 infrastructure networking & trails  
 sustainability  
 appendix

willard | gateway to the  
 great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

willard gateway to the great outdoors

sustainability

appendix

## INFRASTRUCTURE, NETWORKING AND TRAILS

### ***Lack of Pedestrian Infrastructure Overview***

***One of the main problems facing Willard is the lack of pedestrian routes through the town. A resident cannot safely walk from a neighborhood on the west side of Highway 160 to the Frisco Highline Trail head, the High School and historic downtown area. The lack of an adequate sidewalk system in Willard creates a major safety issue for its residents, especially its younger population. Children traveling from one neighborhood to another are forced, in most places, to either walk through yards or in the streets. The development of pedestrian routes throughout the community would help to create stronger social connections and safer environments for the residents.***

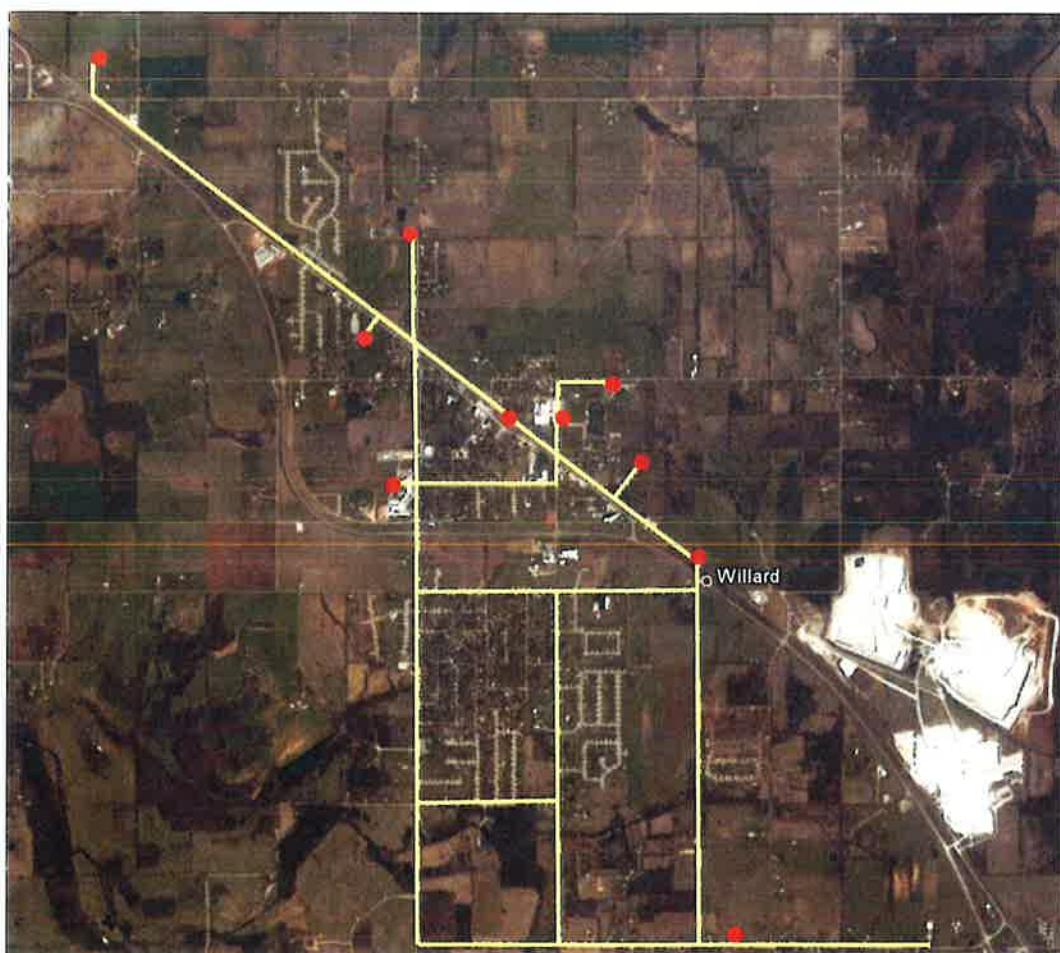


Fig. 9.1 Safe routes map

# proposals

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

sustainability

appendix

## Sidewalks

To provide a safe and functional sidewalk network there needs to be a sidewalk guide. The width and materials of sidewalks needs to be uniform.

## Vegetation

Providing plantings and landscaping along sidewalks creates a more pleasant experience.

## Signage

There needs to be clear and easily visible crossing signs at highways and streets to warn both pedestrians and drivers of the pedestrian crossing point.



Fig. 9.2 Enclosed shuttle stop

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure

sustainability

appendix

## Pedestrian Network

A well planned and maintained pedestrian network throughout Willard would provide residents with a greater choice of community travel and lessen reliance on the automobile.



Fig. 9.3 Simple shuttle stop

## Future Light Rail Line

Since many of the residents of Willard work outside the community, it is crucial that safe, convenient and inexpensive means of transportation be developed to maintain Willard's economic vitality. A multimodal transportation network that utilizes the parks, trails and open spaces as routes to local commuter pick up points should be developed. At some future time when the economy forces the consideration of lifestyle changes, the community should consider its park system as a key to responding economically and environmentally to this challenge.



Fig. 9.4 Light rail line



Fig 9.5 Shuttle bus

The parks, trails and open spaces should be developed in such a way to serve as a multimodal transportation collector and distribution network for:

- Carpooling
- Public bus service
- Lightrail train service using the Frisco Highline Trail

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

sustainability

appendix



Fig. 9.6 Crossing signage

## Education

The National Center for Safe Routes to School program maintains a website: [www.saferoutesinfo.org](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org) that gives in depth information needed for a town to start its own safe routes program.

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

sustainability

appendix



Fig. 9.7 Safe routes group



Fig. 9.8 Safe routes crossing



Fig. 9.9 Highway crossing gate



Fig. 9.10 Biking and walking lane

The following steps are recommended based on practices that have been successful in other towns:

- Identify people who want to make walking and bicycling to school safe and appealing for children
- Sharing concerns, interests and knowledge among a variety of community members with diverse expertise can enable groups to tackle many issues
- A goal of the first meeting is to create a vision and generate next steps for the group members.
- Collecting information can help to identify needed program elements and provide a means to measure the impact of the program later.
- Solutions to identified issues will include a combination of education, encouragement, engineering and enforcement strategies
- Safety is the first consideration
- It doesn't need to be lengthy
- Include encouragement, enforcement, education and engineering strategies.

# proposals

- Create a time schedule for the plan.
- Hold a kick off event starting with a fun activity
- Participate in International Walk to School Day or celebrate a Walking Wednesday.
- To sustain the program, consider building additional program champions and letting people know about successes.

*(National Center for Safe Routes to School)*

## Sidewalks

Without an established system of sidewalks throughout town a safe routes program is ineffectual.

## Signage

To create a truly safe route system appropriate and easily visible signage must be placed at all road crossings.



willard gateway to the  
great outdoors

160

Fig. 9.11 Safe routes group

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

sustainability

appendix

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

floor plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

sustainability

appendix



Fig. 9.12 Aromatic trail



Fig. 9.13 Seasonal activities

# proposals

introduction  
 executive summary  
 research & analysis  
 willard gateway overview  
 proposals  
 frisco highline trail  
 city center  
 parks, recreation & open spaces  
 zoning & land use  
 flood plains  
 highway 160  
 conservation area  
 conco quarry

sustainability  
 appendix

## Vegetation

Consider the color, tactile, aromatic, and seasonal changes of the vegetation to enhance the experiences for all users irregardless of physical and mental capabilities. Vegetation should also be considered that may attract birds and butterflies. An engaging experience with nature and its processes can be condusive to Willard's slogan and newly adopted identity.

## Safety

The sidewalk network shall comply with all safety regulations specified by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).



Fig. 9.14 Aromatic trail

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

sustainability

appendix

ADA running trail and paths are designed to do the following:

- Prevent washboarding
- Be water-proof yet promote adequate drainage
- Be able to withstand numerous freeze thaw cycles
- Provide very low cost maintenance
- Most of all, be very economical to construct with locally available machinery and labor



Fig. 9.15 Tactile trail experience



Fig. 9.16 Tactile and aromatic trail



Fig. 9.17 Plant tour

## Active living Overview

*While a complex range of factors contributes to the inactivity of communities, increasing attention is turning to how the places we live, work and play affect public health and our ability to be physically active.*

*The Active Living Network is dedicated to halting this troubling trend by finding creative ways to reintegrate physical activity into daily life. Rather than solely addressing the individual, the Network focuses on how the built environment, neighborhoods,*

*transportation systems, buildings, parks and open spaces can promote more active lives. (Active Living Network)*

## Education

The Active Living Network maintains an in-depth website regarding precedent studies in towns that have successfully applied active living programs into their own towns. By following the same steps as these precedent studies outlined, Willard can promote a healthy lifestyle and population. These steps include:



Fig. 9.18 Active living by design



Fig. 9.19 Active living with mind and body excersice

- a model for environmental change and physical activity promotion
- a community organizing model for achieving lasting neighborhood and behavior change
- a model collaboration between foundations for health-oriented neighborhood improvement
- a multi-faceted model for outdoor urban recreation (<http://www.activeliving.org>)

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

sustainability

appendix

willard gateway to the great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

green buildings

appendix

## SUSTAINABILITY

### Energy Overview

*We strongly advocate the establishment of future goals that consider the possibilities for providing sustainable practices and energy conservation. The principles of solar, wind, and geothermal alternative sources of energy as well as common conservation principles can be taught in schools and established as a community ethos. The city and Park Board should work together to protect aquifers, watersheds, floodplains, and sink holes. Selecting indigenous vegetation, xeriscaping, and establishing proper gardening techniques can help promote this environmental consciousness. Willard should promote walking, cycling, and the interconnectivity of the trails and open space network throughout the community. Environmental standards already in place should be enforced more fully by the city and demonstration and interpretive activities can be created. Possible sustainable farms, educational trails and centers, and conservation districts can all enhance the full extent of the meaning behind the slogan for Willard: Gateway to the Great Outdoors.*



Fig. 10.1 Wind Turbine in Nunda, NY



Fig. 10.2 Solar Panels in Depew, NY

**Solar**

Park facilities and trails should incorporate active and passive solar technologies to reduce the use of electricity from the coal fired power plant.

**Wind**

Park facilities should consider the use of wind power as an energy source whenever appropriate and possible.

**Ground Source Heating and Cooling**

The Park Board should consider the use of ground source systems to heat and cool its facilities.

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

appendix

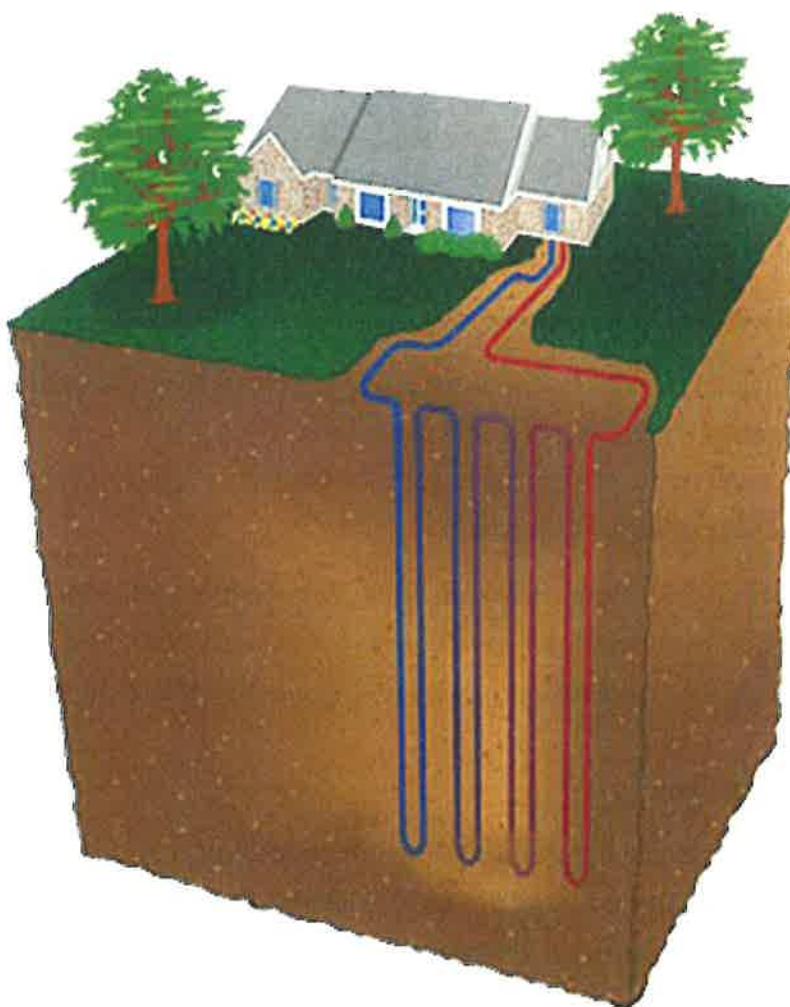


Image courtesy of ClimateMaster

Fig. 10.3 Ground source heat pump system

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation & open spaces

zoning & land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking & trails

appendix

## Water Overview

*Water conservation is an extremely important issue due to the Kaist geology of Southwest Missouri. The protection of the aquifers through a comprehensive program of watershed protection, the utilization of native plants, capturing and using stormwater runoff and household gray water, reduction in per capita usage and community education is recommended.*



Fig. 10.4 Xeriscape landscape



Fig. 10.5 Water retention

## Native Vegetation and Xeriscape

Xeriscape landscapes, or dry landscapes, reduces the need for irrigation, and subsequent irrigation, maintenance, and pesticides.

## Roof-water or Groundwater Collection

By installing roof-water or groundwater collection systems, rainwater can be harvested to satisfy irrigation or be used in non-potable applications. This water can be stored in cisterns and utilize gravity as a means to collect the rainwater.

## Drip Irrigation Systems

Drip irrigation systems are much more efficient than typical sprinkler systems. The technology limits the amount of water entering the soil at a certain time instead of saturating the ground, giving the water more time to reach the roots.

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

frisco highline trail

city center

parks, recreation &amp; open spaces

zoning &amp; land use

flood plains

highway 160

conservation area

conco quarry

infrastructure networking &amp; trails

appendix

## Retention Ponds and Constructed Wetlands

In addition to the aesthetic quality of retention ponds and constructed wetlands, they are also good at removing contaminants from the water.

## Future Development Overview

*The future development practices of Willard should aim to limit sprawl. This strategy would help to reduce infrastructure costs associated with sprawl and protect and preserve the natural environment and character of the community which is one of the key factors residents chose to live in Willard.*

## City Center

The city center, as the historic downtown of Willard, should be established as a historic district and seek funding through the Missouri downtown revitalization program, DREAM. This can help to save some of the historically significant buildings in Willard such as the Willard Hotel, the Willard Bank, and the Kime and Sloan Houses.

## Infill Sites

Lots that are currently empty within the city of Willard hold the opportunity to become open spaces, parks, or future development. Through efficient planning and consistent development, Willard can establish a focus on these areas as community amenities and a source of pride.

## Environmentally Sensitive Sites

Future developments should be prohibited in flood plain areas, parklands, wetlands, or other sources of habitat for endangered plant and animal species.

willard gateway to the  
great outdoors

168

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

presentation boards

## RESOURCES

### Introduction

Figure i	City of Willard
Figure ii	Willard Parks and Recreation Department
Figure iii	The Springfield-Greene County Library District
Figure iv	Drury University
Figure v	The Triple Bottom Line by Rohit Handa
Figure vi	The Smithsonian American Art Museum
Figure vii	<a href="http://www.archive.org/">http://www.archive.org/</a>
Figure viii	<a href="http://springfieldhistorymuseum.org/archives/">http://springfieldhistorymuseum.org/archives/</a>
Figure ix	<a href="http://springfieldhistorymuseum.org/archives/">http://springfieldhistorymuseum.org/archives/</a>
Figure x	<a href="http://www.city-data.com/city/Willard-Missouri.html">http://www.city-data.com/city/Willard-Missouri.html</a>
Figure xi	<a href="http://www.city-data.com/city/Willard-Missouri.html">http://www.city-data.com/city/Willard-Missouri.html</a>
Figure xii	<a href="http://www.city-data.com/city/Willard-Missouri.html">http://www.city-data.com/city/Willard-Missouri.html</a>
Figure xiii	<a href="http://mislove.com/">http://mislove.com/</a>
Figure xiv	<a href="http://www.muskego.org/Festival.asp">http://www.muskego.org/Festival.asp</a>
Figure xv	<a href="http://flickr.com/photos/bobkh/2629230079">http://flickr.com/photos/bobkh/2629230079</a>
Figure xvi	<a href="http://www.phototour.minneapolis.mn.us/pics/599.jpg">http://www.phototour.minneapolis.mn.us/pics/599.jpg</a>
Figure xvii	<a href="http://www.health.state.nm.us/">http://www.health.state.nm.us/</a>
Figure xviii	<a href="http://www.copperonline.com/townsquarenews.htm">http://www.copperonline.com/townsquarenews.htm</a>
Figure xix	<a href="http://covenantzone.blogspot.com">http://covenantzone.blogspot.com</a>
Figure xx	<a href="http://citysquarepark.blogspot.com/">http://citysquarepark.blogspot.com/</a>
Figure xxi	<a href="http://www.marengoiowa.com/park%20fountain.jpg">http://www.marengoiowa.com/park%20fountain.jpg</a>
Figure xxii	<a href="http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/">http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/</a>
Figure xxiii	<a href="http://www.whi.org.uk">http://www.whi.org.uk</a>
Figure xxiv	<a href="http://activelivingprojects.com/page13.htm">http://activelivingprojects.com/page13.htm</a>
Figure xxv	<a href="http://garden-tool.info/gardening.html">http://garden-tool.info/gardening.html</a>
Figure xxvi	<a href="http://www.sports-council-wales.org.uk/10356">http://www.sports-council-wales.org.uk/10356</a>
Figure xxvii	<a href="http://storymillcenter.com/intelligent-growth/">http://storymillcenter.com/intelligent-growth/</a>
Figure xxviii	Watershed Committee of the Ozarks

# appendix

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

## Frisco Highline Trail

Figure 1.1	<a href="http://www.rollacity.org/pubworks/current.shtml">http://www.rollacity.org/pubworks/current.shtml</a>	willard gateway overview
Figure 1.2	<a href="http://www.islandtrails.ca">http://www.islandtrails.ca</a>	proposals
Figure 1.3	Rendering done by Rohit Handa	appendix
Figure 1.4	Rendering done by Rohit Handa	
Figure 1.5	<a href="http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/SGNTpage.htm">http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/SGNTpage.htm</a>	
Figure 1.6	<a href="http://www.panoramio.com/photo/166945">http://www.panoramio.com/photo/166945</a>	
Figure 1.7	<a href="http://www.bernheim.org/trails.htm">http://www.bernheim.org/trails.htm</a>	
Figure 1.8	<a href="http://ucmmuseum.com/ecotourism.htm">http://ucmmuseum.com/ecotourism.htm</a>	
Figure 1.9	<a href="http://www.doe.mtu.edu/">http://www.doe.mtu.edu/</a>	
Figure 1.10	<a href="http://www.rainbowroutes.com">http://www.rainbowroutes.com</a>	
Figure 1.11	<a href="http://www.rainbowroutes.com">http://www.rainbowroutes.com</a>	
Figure 1.12	Rendering done by Rohit Handa	
Figure 1.13	<a href="http://www.lorisandassociates.com/pages/aawar.htm">http://www.lorisandassociates.com/pages/aawar.htm</a>	
Figure 1.14	<a href="http://www.orangetwpparks-recupdate.org/">http://www.orangetwpparks-recupdate.org/</a>	
Figure 1.15	<a href="http://www.accessfayetteville.org/">http://www.accessfayetteville.org/</a>	
Figure 1.16	<a href="http://iesnawestflorida.com/_wsn/page16.html">http://iesnawestflorida.com/_wsn/page16.html</a>	
Figure 1.17	<a href="http://www.expogreenway.org/Conservation.htm">http://www.expogreenway.org/Conservation.htm</a>	
Figure 1.18	<a href="http://www.tfhrc.gov/pubrds/08may/04.htm">http://www.tfhrc.gov/pubrds/08may/04.htm</a>	

## City Center

Figure 2.1	Plan drawing done by Patrick Thompson	
Figure 2.2	Plan drawing done by Patrick Thompson	
Figure 2.3	Plan drawing done by Patrick Thompson	
Figure 2.4	<a href="http://www.mapc.org">http://www.mapc.org</a>	
Figure 2.5	<a href="http://www.ia.nrccs.usda.gov/">http://www.ia.nrccs.usda.gov/</a>	
Figure 2.6	<a href="http://www.inhabitat.com/2006/06/24/salvaverde/">http://www.inhabitat.com/2006/06/24/salvaverde/</a>	
Figure 2.7	<a href="http://www.celltekdirect.com/solutions.asp">http://www.celltekdirect.com/solutions.asp</a>	
Figure 2.8	<a href="http://www.mo.gov/mo/moparks5.htm">http://www.mo.gov/mo/moparks5.htm</a>	
Figure 2.9	<a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/disgruntled/277392536">http://www.flickr.com/photos/disgruntled/277392536</a>	
Figure 2.10	<a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/tzoe/532463426">http://www.flickr.com/photos/tzoe/532463426</a>	
Figure 2.11	<a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/tzoe/532460822">http://www.flickr.com/photos/tzoe/532460822</a>	

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

Figure 2.12

Plan drawing done by Patrick Thompson

willard gateway overview

Figure 2.13

<http://www.city-data.com/>

proposals

Figure 2.14

<http://www.mansfieldtwp.com/>

appendix

Figure 2.15

<http://www.louisvillewaterfront.com/>

presentation boards

Figure 2.16

Section drawing done by Patrick Thompson

Figure 2.17

<http://www.louisvillewaterfront.com/>

Figure 2.18

<http://www.flickr.com>

Figure 2.19

Photograph taken by City of Willard

Figure 2.20

<http://www.cityofsalem.net>

Figure 2.21

<http://lakesuperiortreefarms.com>

Figure 2.22

<http://www.ci.roanoke.va.us>

Figure 2.23

<http://tampa.about.com>

Figure 2.24

<http://ilovesidewalks.blogspot.com>

Figure 2.25

Section drawing done by Patrick Thompson

Figure 2.26

Photoshop image done by Patrick Thompson

Figure 2.27

Elevation drawing done by Patrick Thompson

Figure 2.28

Photoshop image done by Patrick Thompson

Figure 2.29

Elevation drawing done by Patrick Thompson

Figure 2.30

Plan drawing done by Patrick Thompson

## Parks, Recreation & Open Space

Figure 3.1

<http://www.co.westmoreland.pa.us>

Figure 3.2

<http://www.greenways.com/hubandspokesmodel.html>

Figure 3.3

<http://www.usm.edu>

Figure 3.4

<http://www.yorkville.il.us>

Figure 3.5

<http://calab.arizona.edu/>

Figure 3.6

<http://calab.arizona.edu/>

Figure 3.7

<http://www.kecparty.com>

Figure 3.8

<http://www.plu.edu>

Figure 3.9

<http://www.plu.edu>

Figure 3.10

Perspective drawing by Paul Peck

Figure 3.11

<http://www.darienparks.com>

## appendix

		introduction
		executive summary
		research & analysis
		willard gateway overview
		proposals
		appendix
Figure 3.12	<a href="http://www.cottonwoodtrail.org">http://www.cottonwoodtrail.org</a>	
Figure 3.13	<a href="http://www.channahonpark.org">http://www.channahonpark.org</a>	
Figure 3.14	<a href="http://www.roseville.ca.us">http://www.roseville.ca.us</a>	
Figure 3.15	<a href="http://www.tanako.org">http://www.tanako.org</a>	
Precedents	<a href="http://www.penmetfoundation.org">http://www.penmetfoundation.org</a>	
	<a href="http://www.pps.org/parks_plazas_squares/">http://www.pps.org/parks_plazas_squares/</a>	
	<a href="http://www.ci.sultan.wa.us">http://www.ci.sultan.wa.us</a>	presentation boards
Figure 3.16	<a href="http://www.missoulaparks.org">http://www.missoulaparks.org</a>	
Figure 3.17	<a href="http://www.usc.edu">http://www.usc.edu</a>	
Figure 3.18	<a href="http://www.missoulaparks.org">http://www.missoulaparks.org</a>	
Figure 3.19	<a href="http://www.friendsforourriverfront.org">http://www.friendsforourriverfront.org</a>	
Figure 3.20	<a href="http://gallery.teamradpan.com">http://gallery.teamradpan.com</a>	
Figure 3.21	<a href="http://www.tunspan.com/projects_piedmontpark.htm">http://www.tunspan.com/projects_piedmontpark.htm</a>	
Specifications	<a href="http://www.cityoffrederick.com">http://www.cityoffrederick.com</a>	
	<a href="http://www.elibrary.state.pa.us/">http://www.elibrary.state.pa.us/</a>	
Figure 3.22	<a href="http://www.portlandsoftball.com">http://www.portlandsoftball.com</a>	
Figure 3.23	<a href="http://www.opkansas.org">http://www.opkansas.org</a>	
Figure 3.24	<a href="http://www.flickr.com">http://www.flickr.com</a>	
Figure 3.25	<a href="http://www.flipnflyer2000.com/kids.park6">http://www.flipnflyer2000.com/kids.park6</a>	
Figure 3.26	<a href="http://www.heritagefdn.on.ca">http://www.heritagefdn.on.ca</a>	
Figure 3.27	<a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/crowt59/2198603350">http://www.flickr.com/photos/crowt59/2198603350</a>	
Figure 3.28	<a href="http://www.naturepreserves.ky.gov">http://www.naturepreserves.ky.gov</a>	
Figure 3.29	<a href="http://www.landchoices.org">http://www.landchoices.org</a>	
Figure 3.30	<a href="http://www.flickr.com">http://www.flickr.com</a>	
Figure 3.31	<a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/vangral/2797791188">http://www.flickr.com/photos/vangral/2797791188</a>	
Figure 3.32	<a href="http://www.architecturalreviewawards.com">http://www.architecturalreviewawards.com</a>	
Figure 3.33	<a href="http://www.cabq.gov">http://www.cabq.gov</a>	
Figure 3.34	<a href="http://www.architecturalreviewawards.com">http://www.architecturalreviewawards.com</a>	

willard | gateway to the  
great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

presentation boards

## Zoning & Land Use

willard gateway overview	Figure 4.1	<a href="http://www.cuesfau.org/toolbox">http://www.cuesfau.org/toolbox</a>
proposals	Figure 4.2	<a href="http://www.dem.ri.gov">http://www.dem.ri.gov</a>
appendix	Figure 4.3	<a href="http://blog.kir.com">http://blog.kir.com</a>
	Figure 4.4	<a href="http://www.perfectduluthday.com">http://www.perfectduluthday.com</a>
	Figure 4.5	<a href="http://current.com">http://current.com</a>
	Figure 4.6	<a href="http://www.dem.ri.gov">http://www.dem.ri.gov</a>
	Figure 4.7	<a href="http://www.dem.ri.gov">http://www.dem.ri.gov</a>
	Figure 4.8	<a href="http://www.co.clark.wa.us">http://www.co.clark.wa.us</a>
	Figure 4.9	<a href="http://www.cabe.org.uk">http://www.cabe.org.uk</a>
	Figure 4.10	<a href="http://www.sehinc.com/online/winona-co/index.html">http://www.sehinc.com/online/winona-co/index.html</a>
	Figure 4.11	<a href="http://ntl.bts.gov">http://ntl.bts.gov</a>
	Figure 4.12	<a href="http://www.ctchouston.org/whatnot/index.php">http://www.ctchouston.org/whatnot/index.php</a>
	Figure 4.13	<a href="http://www.civilconstructors.com">http://www.civilconstructors.com</a>
	Figure 4.14	<a href="http://www.cuesfau.org/toolbox">http://www.cuesfau.org/toolbox</a>
	Figure 4.15	<a href="http://www.clinton-county.org">http://www.clinton-county.org</a>
	Figure 4.16	<a href="http://www.cuesfau.org/toolbox">http://www.cuesfau.org/toolbox</a>

## Flood Plains

Figure 5.1	<a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/mbradbury/69589931">http://www.flickr.com/photos/mbradbury/69589931</a>
Figure 5.2	<a href="http://pioneerplus.ejournalism.ca">http://pioneerplus.ejournalism.ca</a>
Figure 5.3	<a href="http://mo.water.usgs.gov">http://mo.water.usgs.gov</a>
Figure 5.4	<a href="http://www.wildwings.com.au">http://www.wildwings.com.au</a>
Figure 5.5	Plan drawing interpretation done by Paul Peck
Figure 5.6	<a href="http://www.saw.usace.army.mil">http://www.saw.usace.army.mil</a>
Figure 5.7	<a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/ssoross/1185387635">http://www.flickr.com/photos/ssoross/1185387635</a>
Figure 5.8	<a href="http://jamesdochtermann.com/fieldwork.htm">http://jamesdochtermann.com/fieldwork.htm</a>
Figure 5.9	<a href="http://www.dnr.state.wi.us">http://www.dnr.state.wi.us</a>

# appendix

		introduction
Figure 5.10	<a href="http://www.t3m.info">http://www.t3m.info</a>	executive summary
Figure 5.11	<a href="http://www.hsvcity.com/gis/greenways/aldridge.htm">http://www.hsvcity.com/gis/greenways/aldridge.htm</a>	research & analysis
Precedents	<a href="http://www.vbco.org">http://www.vbco.org</a>	willard gateway overview
	<a href="http://www.hrcw.org/text/floodplains.htm">http://www.hrcw.org/text/floodplains.htm</a>	proposals
Figure 5.12	<a href="http://chicagonorthshorehome.com">http://chicagonorthshorehome.com</a>	appendix
Funding	<a href="http://www.fema.gov/plan/index.shtm">http://www.fema.gov/plan/index.shtm</a>	
	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov">http://www.nrcs.usda.gov</a>	presentation boards
	<a href="http://www.uga.edu">http://www.uga.edu</a>	
	<a href="http://www.twca.org">http://www.twca.org</a>	

## Highway 160

Figure 6.1	<a href="http://www.grownative.org">http://www.grownative.org</a>
Figure 6.2	<a href="http://www.grownative.org">http://www.grownative.org</a>
Figure 6.3	<a href="http://www.grownative.org">http://www.grownative.org</a>
Figure 6.4	<a href="http://www.grownative.org">http://www.grownative.org</a>
Figure 6.5	<a href="http://www.grownative.org">http://www.grownative.org</a>
Figure 6.6	<a href="http://www.grownative.org">http://www.grownative.org</a>
Figure 6.7	<a href="http://www.grownative.org">http://www.grownative.org</a>
Figure 6.8	<a href="http://news-service.stanford.edu">http://news-service.stanford.edu</a>
Figure 6.9	<a href="http://www.flickr.com">http://www.flickr.com</a>
Figure 6.10	<a href="http://www.sculpture.org.uk/work/000000100328">http://www.sculpture.org.uk/work/000000100328</a>
Figure 6.11	<a href="http://www.neuberger.org">http://www.neuberger.org</a>
Figure 6.12	<a href="http://www.flickr.com">http://www.flickr.com</a>
Figure 6.13	<a href="http://www.flickr.com">http://www.flickr.com</a>
Figure 6.14	<a href="http://www.flickr.com">http://www.flickr.com</a>
Figure 6.15a	<a href="http://sigmaconsultingeng.com/services.html">http://sigmaconsultingeng.com/services.html</a>
Figure 6.15b	<a href="http://modok.us">http://modok.us</a>
Figure 6.15c	<a href="http://www.aimsolar.com/solar_street_lights.htm">http://www.aimsolar.com/solar_street_lights.htm</a>
Figure 6.16	<a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/pjchmiel/260766348">http://www.flickr.com/photos/pjchmiel/260766348</a>
Figure 6.17	<a href="http://flickr.com/photos/stephen_rees/2493087261">http://flickr.com/photos/stephen_rees/2493087261</a>
Figure 6.18	<a href="http://www.ci.concord.nh.us">http://www.ci.concord.nh.us</a>
Figure 6.19	<a href="http://www.greenhighways.org">http://www.greenhighways.org</a>

willard gateway to the  
great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

Figure 6.20

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/wheatfields/373211189>

willard gateway overview

Figure 6.21

[http://www.flickr.com/photos/carles\\_foto/2438636561](http://www.flickr.com/photos/carles_foto/2438636561)

proposals

Figure 6.22

<http://www.flickr.com>

appendix

Figure 6.23

<http://www.flickr.com>

appendix

Figure 6.24a

<http://www.wbq.com>

presentation boards

Figure 6.24b

Rendering done by Rohit Handa

Figure 6.24c

Rendering done by Rohit Handa

Figure 6.25

<http://circeis.org>

## Conservation Area

Figure 7.1

<http://www.ci.twentynine-palms.ca.us>

Figure 7.2

<http://static.panoramio.com>

Figure 7.3

<http://farm1.static.flickr.com>

Figure 7.4

<http://blog.lib.umn.edu>

Figure 7.5

<http://www.townofstmarys.com>

Figure 7.6

<http://conservation.shco.org/dinesen4.htm>

Figure 7.7

<http://afxafx.typepad.com>

Figure 7.8

<http://beidlerforest.blogspot.com>

Figure 7.9

<http://fw.ky.gov>

Figure 7.10

<http://www.partnersinflight.org>

Funding and Support

<http://www.nature.org>

<http://www.audubon.org>

## Conco Quarry

Figure 8.1

<http://commons.wikimedia.org>

Figure 8.2

Photograph taken by Patrick Thompson

Figure 8.3

<http://www.reneeslimousines.com>

Figure 8.4

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/croixboy/2800072425>

Figure 8.5

<http://www.centenniallakespark.com>

Figure 8.6

<http://www.centenniallakespark.com>

Figure 8.7

<http://www.dairylandwalkers.com>

Figure 8.8

<http://www.zmetro.com/archives/007410.php>

# appendix

		introduction
Figure 8.9	<a href="http://www.danmaples.com/">http://www.danmaples.com/</a>	executive summary
Figure 8.10	<a href="http://www.golfpactravel.com/golfpac/index.cfm">http://www.golfpactravel.com/golfpac/index.cfm</a>	research & analysis
Figure 8.11	<a href="http://www.dkimages.com">http://www.dkimages.com</a>	willard gateway overview
		proposals
		appendix

## Infrastructure, Networking & Trails

Figure 9.1	Aerial Photograph done by Patrick Thompson	
Figure 9.2	<a href="http://gothamist.com">http://gothamist.com</a>	presentation boards
Figure 9.3	<a href="http://www.dcaptions.com">http://www.dcaptions.com</a>	
Figure 9.4	<a href="http://www.kkcsworld.com/R.html">http://www.kkcsworld.com/R.html</a>	
Figure 9.5	<a href="http://www.ci.long-beach.ca.us">http://www.ci.long-beach.ca.us</a>	
Figure 9.6	<a href="http://www.ponticelloinc.com/me.html">http://www.ponticelloinc.com/me.html</a>	
Figure 9.7	<a href="http://www.saferoutesmichigan.org/">http://www.saferoutesmichigan.org/</a>	
Figure 9.8	<a href="http://www.bikesbelong.org/node/4080">http://www.bikesbelong.org/node/4080</a>	
Figure 9.9	<a href="http://picasaweb.google.com">http://picasaweb.google.com</a>	
Figure 9.10	<a href="http://www.swarpa.net/~danforth/photos/colorado03">http://www.swarpa.net/~danforth/photos/colorado03</a>	
Figure 9.11	<a href="http://www.saferoutesmichigan.org/">http://www.saferoutesmichigan.org/</a>	
Figure 9.12	<a href="http://www.wildgingerfarm.com/DrylandGarden.htm">http://www.wildgingerfarm.com/DrylandGarden.htm</a>	
Figure 9.13	<a href="http://www.alcoamb.org/pages.php?cid=14&amp;pid=8">http://www.alcoamb.org/pages.php?cid=14&amp;pid=8</a>	
Figure 9.14	<a href="http://www.wildgingerfarm.com/DrylandGarden.htm">http://www.wildgingerfarm.com/DrylandGarden.htm</a>	
Figure 9.15	<a href="http://www.wildgingerfarm.com/DrylandGarden.htm">http://www.wildgingerfarm.com/DrylandGarden.htm</a>	
Figure 9.16	<a href="http://www.stecmatours.com">http://www.stecmatours.com</a>	
Figure 9.17	<a href="http://www.ojaigarden.com/2008/05/">http://www.ojaigarden.com/2008/05/</a>	
Figure 9.18	<a href="http://www.activelivingbydesign.org">http://www.activelivingbydesign.org</a>	
Figure 9.19	<a href="http://www.yogalisa.co.uk/kids.htm">http://www.yogalisa.co.uk/kids.htm</a>	

## Sustainability

Figure 10.1	<a href="http://www.solarrochester.com/gallery.asp">http://www.solarrochester.com/gallery.asp</a>	
Figure 10.2	<a href="http://www.solarrochester.com/gallery.asp">http://www.solarrochester.com/gallery.asp</a>	
Figure 10.3	<a href="http://www.hvce.com/geothermal.htm">http://www.hvce.com/geothermal.htm</a>	
Figure 10.4	<a href="http://www.dallasnews.com">http://www.dallasnews.com</a>	
Figure 10.5	<a href="http://www.flickr.com">http://www.flickr.com</a>	

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

## **PRESENTATION BOARDS**

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

resources

## Willard: Gateway to the Great Outdoors Parks | Greenways | Open Spaces



177



introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

resources

## FRISCO HIGHLINE TRAIL

### Signage

Willard should start by implementing share the road signs to denote bike routes, trail nodes with kiosks, maps and informational signs for the education of the community and crossing signage to establish safe routes on and around the trail.

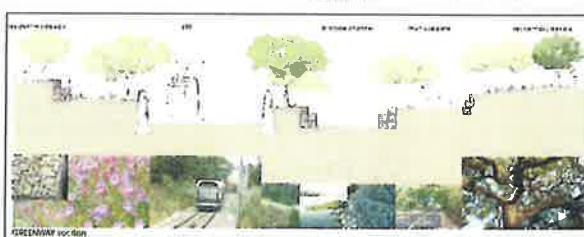
### Networking

Willard has planned for the expansion of trails and certain greenways. Now is the time to set aside these pieces of land for the future networking of Willard. Developers should not be allowed to pass over ordinances that require sidewalks or usable open space. The success of any community starts with its members and the implementation of its Comprehensive Plan. The Frisco Highline Trail should be the organizing feature that all other trail expansion can radiate.

### Underutilization

Trail events are the most significant catalyst for the successful utilization of the trail. The community will feel more comfortable with the trail and its significance when it becomes better integrated into the overall identity of Willard. The Frisco Highline Trail acts as the spine to the community and with the establishment of certain events can become that identity.

- 5K walks and runs
- Weekly bicycle rides
- Monthly equine rides
- Fundraising walks
- Nature hikes
- Monthly clean-up days
- History hikes and tours



willard gateway to the  
great outdoors

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

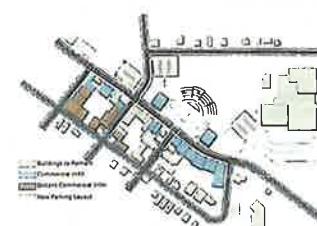
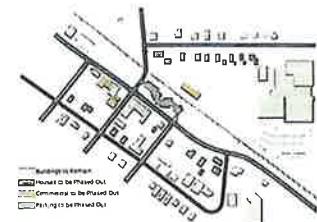
willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

resources

## CITY CENTER PARK



### CONCEPT

The City Center Park proposal creates a social and civic center that will provide adequate space for community events and festivals. Creating an amphitheater with a large amount of open space can promote social interaction. Possible relocation of the library and city hall can provide a civic anchor for the community.

Rebuilding Jackson, Main and South streets to provide a pedestrian friendly environment can help draw people to the proposed city center. By creating a buffer between the street and the buildings, plantings, seating and adequate lighting a safer and more inviting pedestrian zone can be created.





# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

resources

## ZONING | LAND USE

### Conventional

Willard has stated in the Comprehensive Plan that Planned Unit Development should be used for all new development with a certain amount of open space set aside for each section of development. This is a conventional method of zoning and is creating sections of suburban sprawl which is in many ways counterproductive to the goals and values stated in the Comprehensive Plan.

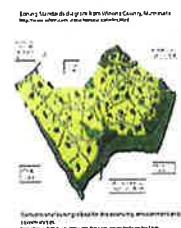
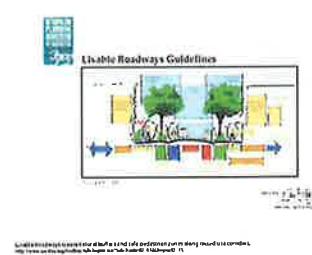
### Mixed Use

Zoning, especially in the historic downtown, should be reconfigured to allow for mixed use development. Willard can achieve a more economically stimulated center and provide for more social interaction with the adoption of this principle.

### Conservation

The implementation of open space ordinances is the major catalyst for conservation zoning to be successful. Along with mixed use development, conservational zoning is the main principle for smart growth and making communities more livable. Active living is also encouraged and enhanced within these areas. This emerging trend is environmentally friendly, economically stimulating, and develops an identity within the community that every resident can have pride in. For more information on areas in the country that are adopting these principles:

- Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute
- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
- Florida Planning Toolbox
- Oregon Urban Development



# appendix

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

resources

## FLOOD PLAINS

To assess funding to protect flood plains Willard must:

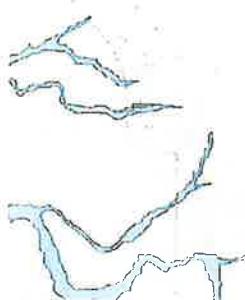
- Determine objectives, a vision and strategy.
- Devise new mechanisms to achieve the objectives.
- Identify existing and new funding sources.

### Preserving Flood plains

Land between the boundaries of the 100 year flood plain should be preserved. The city of Willard can land bank and set easements to control the use of ecological sensitive flood plains.

Land banking is the easiest and most cost effective way of developing natural reserve in these sensitive areas. If this area is not land banked then the land will be held by the city as Springfield has, and reclaim land that has already been divided, platted, or even fully developed. Delayed action is much more expensive and damaging to both the environment and community.

Floodplain areas can be used for natural habitat preservation and passive recreation. The park board with the Missouri Department of Conservation can set restrictions and guidelines for identified floodplain areas specific to each region. An example would be a buffer of low density housing could surround each protected area to reduce the impact on the watershed.



### Economic Benefits of Protecting Floodplains and Forested Stream Buffers



- Floodplains provide flood control at minimal cost by storing storm water, helping to protect downstream landowners and from flood damage.
- Forested floodplains slow down and lower storm water levels, providing a place for sediment and debris without causing damage to property.
- Protection provided by floodplains decrease property insurance costs and increase property values.
- Buildings built in flood plains are prone to flood damage
- It is costly to buy back land in floodplains



### Trail

Walking trails that do not impact the environment can be permitted in the restricted floodplain areas. A passive trail that finds its way through Willard's floodplains and waterways lead people to diverse plant and animal habitats. Trail guides and interpretive signage can identify the special features along a trail and enhance our appreciation of our natural features and cultural heritage.

### Signage

To any casual nature enthusiast, the wide array of plant combinations in certain areas can be confusing. Proper signage that locates and identifies specific plants can be useful and very educational for all residents and visitors.

### Observation Tower

An observation tower can be permitted in the floodplain area for the public to view the natural habitat. This observation tower can serve as an educational tool. The observation tower can provide opportunities for photography, bird and animal watching and nature study.



Flood plain quality in lower areas.

Flood damages to home owners from buildings in a flood plain.

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# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

resources

## Potential Crossing Solutions



### Highway 160 is underutilized as a regional arterial highway.

Willard should increase a beautification program along Highway 160 within city limits and in the region. Partnerships should be pursued with Contra Quinnes, MODOT, and neighboring communities along Highway 160. The beautification program should include:

- Native Vegetation
- Lighting Considerations
- Environmental Art
- Bollards and Signage Ordinances

### Highway 160 creates a physical separation between the north part of the community and the south.

Willard must resolve the separation caused by Highway 160 in addition to reconnecting the community. Of the strategies analyzed, the solutions which prove to be the most beneficial to the community are above grade and below grade crossings. Native stone in the construction of these crossings should be explored to include local material to help offset costs and to reflect the character of the region. Partnerships should be pursued with Contra Quinnes and MODOT.

## HIGHWAY 160

## Regionally Available Materials



### MODOT plans to widen Highway 160 to a four-lane divided highway.

Willard must begin coordination with MODOT and be highly involved in the design/making process with respect to the new highway. If, by doing so, Willard may be able to have a say in what is associated with the beautification program and the areas of crossing. A partnership should also be pursued during this process with "Green Highway Partnership". Early Willard involvement will:

- Highlight the unique nature of a four-lane divided highway
- Coordinate highway crossing locations
- Reduce environmental impacts associated with highway development



## appendix

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

resources

## CONSERVATION AREA

**Issue:** The current state of the bladderpod conservation area on the northeast side of Willard does not appeal to the community or visitors. The city of Willard and the surrounding area could greatly benefit from a revitalized conservation area as a draw along the Frisco Highline Trail.



Endangered Bladderpod  
[http://www.ct.twentynine-palms.ca.us/fileadmin/user\\_upload/images/](http://www.ct.twentynine-palms.ca.us/fileadmin/user_upload/images/)

**Recommendation:**

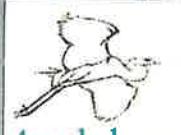
Marketing strategies, well implemented outdoor activities and partnerships with local entities, can help the conservation area become a large environmental and community builder. While there is little connection between the conservation area and the city of Springfield, an identity could be established in the future focusing on education and the environment. The community of Willard should greatly benefit from a well developed future conservation center with an emphasis on the community, the environment, and possible economic stimulation.



**Precedents include:**

**Matsell Bridge Natural  
Queen Elizabeth Park  
Francis Beidler Forest**

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great outdoors



<http://www.audubon.org/>



<http://www.nature.org/>

184

209

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

resources

## CONCO QUARRY

**Issue:** Conco Quarry inhabits a large portion of the city limits of Willard. As the quarry begins to prepare for the closing in approximately 150 years, the community should begin to address solutions.



**Recommendation:**

The community of Willard and Conco Companies should seek to apply all of these options in order to create continuity between the community, the environment and the economy of the city. As a part of the Gateway to the Great Outdoors, Conco Quarry has the potential to serve as another point of interest along the Frisco Highline Trail, not only as a community and environmental draw, but an economic center for activities (camping, hiking, etc.). The area could become a tool for proper watershed treatment, farming education, and land stewardship as a result of proper quarry reclamation.



**Precedents include:**

Watermark  
Centennial Lake  
Madison Lake  
The Pit Golf Courses  
Dividing Creek



## appendix

introduction

executive summary

research &amp; analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

resources

## INFRASTRUCTURE | TRAILS



Local Shuttle Route, Long Beach CA.



Enclosed Shuttle Stop, New York NY.



Proposed Primary Pedestrian Routes



Simple Open Shuttle Stop, Texas A&amp;M



Proper Signage For a Safe Pedestrian Crossing Woodland CA



Safe Routes Facilitate Active Living



Light Rail Line, Dallas TX.

### CONCEPT

Willard's pedestrian, cycling and possible alternative transportation network requires a cohesive vision. Establishing safe routes and adequate sidewalks for pedestrians can promote active living and social interaction throughout all communities. Developing tributary trails that radiate from the Frisco Highline Trail can allow for an extensive network for cyclists and pedestrians alike while creating interconnectedness between important community assets such as schools, the library and the proposed city center park. Park and ride options can be expanded between Springfield and Willard for the people who commute during the week.



Shared Pedestrian and Bicycle Lanes, Boulder CO.



Safe Routes to School Group

Bicycling to School

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186

# willard | gateway to the great outdoors

introduction

executive summary

research & analysis

willard gateway overview

proposals

appendix

resources

## SUSTAINABILITY

### Water Technologies



Completed Rainwater Pond  
http://www.brown.org/mcdowell/brownwater/2004\_America.aspx



Landscape Landscape  
http://www.brown.org/mcdowell/brownwater/2004\_America.aspx

### Energy Technologies



Renewable Energy  
http://www.brown.org/mcdowell/brownwater/2004\_America.aspx



Wind Turbines  
http://www.brown.org/mcdowell/brownwater/2004\_America.aspx

### Land Use Strategies



One Block Sides on Prince City Center Lane  
Photo by Alan J. Thompson



Environmentally Sensitive Site  
Photo by Alan J. Thompson



Build Site in Duane vs Willard  
Photo by Alan J. Thompson

### Energy

Reducing a portion of the energy needed in the community on site through solar, wind, and geothermal technologies decrease the stress and dependence on the local distribution grid.<sup>4</sup> In addition, power generated on site has virtually no transportation cost and is much easier to produce than conventional means.

#### Water

Water conservation is an increasingly pressing issue in society today and is easily addressed.<sup>5</sup> The conservation of water has a tremendous impact on the local aquifers in the region which provide habitat and sustenance for plants and wildlife. Protecting the current water supplies and finding ways to ensure adequate water sources for future generations are ways that can be employed include:

- Installation of rainwater harvesting and cisterns
- Rain-water and groundwater collection
- Retention ponds and constructed wetlands
- Drip irrigation technologies

### Future Development

The future development practices of Willard should aim to limit suburban sprawl which will help to promote healthy living, protect the surrounding environment, increase alternative transportation options, and increase a sense of community. These strategies also help to reduce infrastructure costs associated with sprawl and protect the natural open spaces within the city. Strategies that can be employed include:

- Development near city centers
- Development of infill sites
- Prohibition of development on environmentally sensitive sites



Apartment Complex  
http://www.brown.org/mcdowell/brownwater/2004\_America.aspx



Geothermal System  
http://www.brown.org/mcdowell/brownwater/2004\_America.aspx



Infill Apartments  
Photo by Alan J. Thompson



Naturally Glowing Irrigation  
http://www.brown.org/mcdowell/brownwater/2004\_America.aspx



Street Lights Equipped With PV Panels  
http://www.brown.org/mcdowell/brownwater/2004\_America.aspx



Drip Irrigation Technology  
http://www.brown.org/mcdowell/brownwater/2004\_America.aspx



thank you for visiting willard

December 2008  
Center for Community Studies  
Hammons School of Architecture  
Drury University

## **CD APPENDICES INDEX**

Active Living

Case Studies

Conco Quarry Reclamation

Conservation Area

Florida Planning Toolbox

Livable Cities

Low Impact Development

Master Plan Document

MODOT Highway 160 plans

Presentation Boards

Presentation 1

Presentation 2

Presentation 3

Presentation 4

Rail Transit

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

South County Design Manual

Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute

Smart Growth

Willard

Willard boundary agreement with Springfield

Willard Video