

About Greenways...

Featuring Chuck Flink with Greenways Incorporated

Thursday, Sept. 27
3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Henricus Historical Park
Education Center
Free to the Public



Adapted by Janit Potter from Greenways Incorporated web site at www.greenways.com

Chuck Flink with Greenways Incorporated will make presentations about greenways at the Henricus Historical Park Education Center on Thursday, Sept. 27. The program is free of charge and made possible through a grant from the Virginia Department of Forestry's Urban Community Forestry Program.

Chuck Flink is founder and owner of Greenways Incorporated, and is recognized as a leading national authority for the planning, design and implementation of greenway and trail systems and facilities. He has worked on greenway projects in 100 communities and 27 states. He has also worked on greenway projects in Japan and Canada. Chuck has shared his extensive knowledge on greenway design development as a featured and keynote speaker at more than 50 national and international conferences.

Chuck is co-author of *Greenways: A Guide to Planning, Design and Development*, a nationally acclaimed "how-to" book on greenway creation, published by Island Press in 1993. The publication received a 1994 Merit Award in Communications from the American Society of Landscape Architects. He is also a contributing author to the Rails-to-Trails

Sponsored by the Friends of Chesterfield's Riverfront through a grant from the Virginia Department of Forestry's Urban Community Forestry Program.

Conservancy for *Trails for the Twenty-First Century*. Chuck has been involved in planning for more than 1000 miles of multi-use greenway corridors throughout the United States.

Greenways Incorporated is dedicated to the stewardship of the earth's natural resources. Greenways Incorporated believes that greenways are more than a network of recreational trails. As a "green infrastructure" component of communities, greenways conserve open space close to where people live and work, soften the patterns of urban growth, mitigate water and air pollution, protect wildlife habitat, promote economic growth and improve the quality of everyday life.

Traditionally, greenways have been associated with trails, and the benefits derived from these recreation and transportation facilities. Greenways Incorporated works with communities across the country to expand this definition of greenways to include tools for open space conservation, water quality improvement and flood damage reduction, economic benefits, health and recreation, alternative transportation, educational opportunities and improved community quality of life.

Frequently Asked Questions about Greenways

From *Greenways Incorporated* web site: www.greenways.com

1. What is a Greenway?

Greenways are corridors of land recognized for their ability to connect people and places together. These ribbons of open space are located within linear corridors that are either natural, such as rivers and streams, or manmade, such as abandoned railroad beds and utility corridors. Greenways as vegetated buffers protect natural habitats, improve water quality and reduce the impacts of flooding in floodplain areas. Most greenways contain trails, which enhance existing recreational opportunities, provide routes for alternative transportation, and improve the overall quality of life in an area.

2. Who uses a greenway?

Greenway trails can be paved or unpaved, and can be designed to accommodate a variety of trail users, including bicyclists, walkers, hikers, joggers, skaters, horseback riders, and those confined to wheelchairs.

3. What are the benefits of greenways?

Recreation. The growing popularity of outdoor recreation activities, such as rollerblading and mountain biking, combined with the rapid loss of community open spaces has increased the need for quality recreational facilities such as greenways. Greenways can not only serve as stand-alone facilities, complete with parking areas and amenities such as benches and informational signage, they can also enhance the existing recreational resources in an area by linking parks, schools and recreational centers.

Transportation. Two-thirds of all the trips we make are for a distance of five miles or less. Greenway trails, as part of a local or regional system, offer transportation alternatives by connecting homes, workplaces, schools, parks, shopping centers and cultural

attractions. Using trails to bicycle or walk for short-distance trips reduces air pollution and increases the mobility of those who cannot drive.

Health. According to the Surgeon General, moderate exercise, such as walking and bicycling, performed on a regular basis can yield substantial health benefits for individuals. Greenway trails provide safe and convenient places for these activities, which have been proven to reduce stress, burn excess fat, and reduce a person's risk of developing cardiovascular problems, diabetes, cancer, and arthritis.

Economic. Greenways have been proven to attract and retain tourists and expand tourism revenues in many communities. Trail users spend money in places such as hotels, restaurants, retail stores, campgrounds, bicycle shops, bed and breakfasts, gas stations, and ice cream stands. A case in point is the Tallahassee-St. Marks Trail in Florida where approximately 170,000 people visit every year, and the average user spends more than \$1.1 a day (1992 National Park Service Study). Another example is the Northern Central Rail Trail in rural Maryland which supports 264 jobs statewide and produces in excess of \$3.38 million in annual revenues. Greenways are also economic assets that increase the real estate value of adjacent properties. A recent study from the real estate industry revealed that "walking and biking paths" ranked 3rd among 39 features identified by homebuyers as crucial factors in their home-purchasing decisions (1994 American Lives Study). Additionally, according to a study of an urban trail in the Denver metro area, 57% of residents surveyed felt that the trail would make their home easier to sell (*The Effect of Greenways on Property Values and Public Safety*).

Education. The interpretation of natural, historic and cultural resources along a greenway serves to educate young and old alike. Examples of communities that have incorporated educational themes in the development of greenways include: the Swift

Creek Recycled Greenway in Cary, NC, where the use of recycled waste by-products is the featured element of the trail; the Stones River Greenway in Murfreesboro, TN, which emphasizes Civil War history; and the Boulder Greenway System in Boulder, CO, where "outdoor classrooms" help children learn about surrounding natural systems.

Environmental. Greenways are important ecological tools for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment. They improve water quality by establishing buffers along creeks and streams and providing habitat for a diversity of plant and animal species. These buffers serve as natural filters, trapping pollutants from urban runoff, eroding areas and agricultural lands. Additionally, greenways improve air quality by encouraging non-polluting forms of transportation.

Floodplain Management. In the 1990s, flooding has caused more damage to communities across the nation than all other types of natural disasters combined. Flooding costs Americans billions of dollars in property losses every year. One reason for these losses is the fact that many floodprone areas have been heavily developed. Today, communities are beginning to realize the benefit in protecting floodprone areas through greenway development strategies, which reduces the impacts of flooding.

Quality of Life. Communities are always looking for ways to improve quality of life, which not only includes a strong economy and low taxes, but also a clean environment, good education system, access to outdoor resources and neighborhoods that are friendly and free of crime. Greenways are an inexpensive way for cities and towns to improve their quality of life by providing all of these benefits. An improved quality of life attracts individuals and corporations wishing to relocate and

invest in the community, thereby improving the local economy as well.

4. How are greenways funded?

There are many different sources of funds for the acquisition, development and management of greenway facilities. To maximize the amount of financial support for any greenway project, local public sector funds should be combined with funds from state, federal and private sector sources. Many communities involved with greenway implementation are choosing to leverage local money as a match for outside funding sources, in essence multiplying their resources.

The Transportation Efficiency Act of the 21st Century (TEA21), and its predecessor, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), is the single largest source of federal funding for greenway and other bicycle and pedestrian projects in the United States. It is administered through the United States Department of Transportation and provides up to 80% of the cost of developing and constructing facilities such as greenways, rail-trails, sidewalks and bike lanes. Contact the organizations listed below for more information on TEA21 and other funding sources.

