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# Paths sought through southwest neighborhoods to connect to Louisville Loop

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## Louisville Metro Parks Southwest Greenways Master Plan



October 2011 Greenway Route Plan

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Tricia Smallwood

Written by **Charlie White**  
The Courier-Journal

How could neighborhood walkers and bicyclists get from Iroquois Park to the Ohio River Levee Trail along the developing **Louisville Loop**?

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That's one of the major questions Metro Parks wrestled with during the past year while spending \$385,000 to develop its new Southwest Greenways Master Plan.

The plan covers 98 square miles or roughly a quarter of the city, from Interstate 65 to the Ohio River, and Bullitt County to the Watterson Expressway.

The answer for the Iroquois Park question, Metro Parks planners

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Metro Parks environmental planner Carolyn Cromer shows the existing soft walking trail along Southern Ditch, which crosses under Outer Loop near Walmart. / Kylene Lloyd/ The Courier-Journal

say, is that it will create formal paths along existing creek and ditch lines that pass through many southern and southwestern Louisville neighborhoods.

Residents already use some ditch lines mowed by MSD as makeshift trails. Metro Parks wants to create formal trails and connect them to nearby streets.

“We’re proposing the type of transportation network that, along with the Louisville Loop, would allow us to compete on a global level with cities around the world,” said Carolyn

Cromer, Metro Parks’ environmental planner who has spearheaded the project.

Improved pathways are proposed along Southern Ditch, Northern Ditch, Mill Creek, Valley Creek, Ponder Creek, Stephen Ditch, Black Pond Creek, Big Run Creek, Slate Run Creek and other streams.

Metro Parks officials also hope to build a new path along the [Paducah & Louisville Railway](#), which runs parallel to Dixie Highway. They’ve talked to railroad officials but have not yet received an answer, Cromer said.

During the past year, Metro Parks has met several times with South End residents and community leaders to collect information for the proposed “greenways” system.

Money for the plan came from a federal grant the city received in late 2010 from the [Centers for Disease Control](#), which has identified the area as having residents with higher than average levels of diabetes, heart disease and other conditions related to inactivity.

Reporter Charlie White can be reached at (502) 582-4653.

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