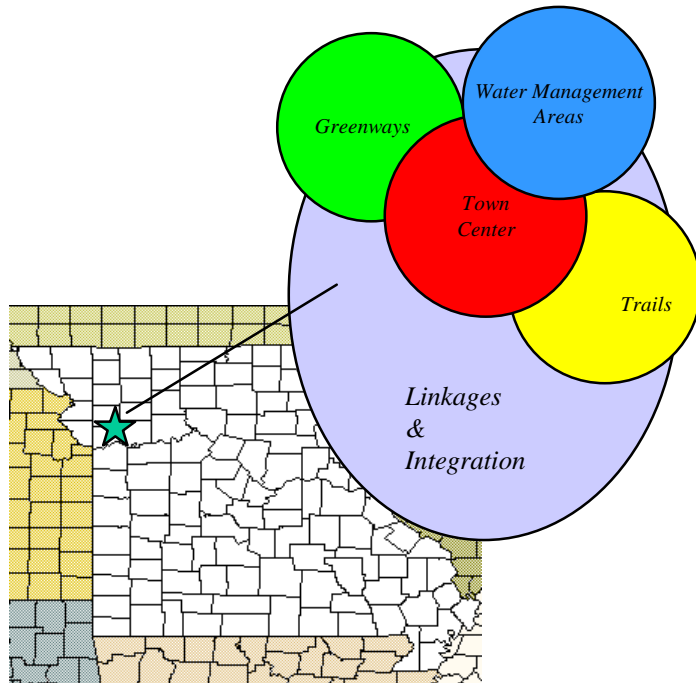


Master Plan Development

Liberty, Missouri



The integral relationship between town center, greenways, trails, and water management areas in Liberty, Missouri, a suburb of Kansas City.

The City of Liberty, Missouri retained the team of Applied Ecological Services, Inc. (AES) and Land Planning Services, Inc. (LPS) to update its Master Plan. A master planning goal was integrating traditional neighborhood development plans with the protection of high quality ecological and cultural resources (including historic homes, buildings, and structures).

Key ecological resources and sensitive areas were mapped across a 50 square mile survey area. The team documented environmental problems such as flooding, stream bank and other critical erosion locations, and water quality deterioration associated with the rapid rate of urban sprawl occurring in and around the suburbs of Kansas City.

Documentation, including photography, was used in focus group visual preference surveys and in community education forums. Our collaborative planning process built a consensus product through engaging residents and community leaders in ten separate educational meetings and a multi-day design *charette*. AES/LPS provided the framework and technical guidance to assist the community through this interactive participatory planning process. The consensus product, further refined by the consulting team, was presented to the community during follow-up sessions as the final updated master plan.

The AES/LPS planning process resulted in a community built master plan that kept ever at the fore the goal of integrating economic development, ecological resources (including water quality), and the culture of the community. Integrated planning saves the community as whole and developers in particular, financial resources. The process helps to resolve conflicts between places, people, and the environment.

AES/LPS produced, in addition to the Master Plan document, a geographic information system (GIS) spatial data base to help Liberty with the implementation of their updated Master Plan. The digital data base included not only the resource maps that identified susceptible areas and high priority restoration and management areas, but also a framework for linking natural stormwater treatment systems with recreational greenways and trail systems throughout the city.

