

Benefits of Greenways for Briar Chapel

(*Trails for the 21st Century* published by Chuck A. Flink, Robert M. Searns, **Kristine** Okla, 2001)

1. **Economic** – Greenways (i.e. linear parks) increase the real estate value of adjacent properties. A 1994 real estate industry study ranked “walking and biking paths” 3rd among a list of 39 features identified as factors in home-purchasing decisions (*American Lives Study*). Additionally, according to a Denver urban trail study, 57% of residents felt that proximity to a greenway trail would make their home easier to sell.
2. **Transportation** – Two-thirds of the trips that we make on a daily basis are within 5 miles of our homes. A trail system offers alternative transportation options by connecting homes, workplaces, schools, parks and commercial centers.
3. **Recreation and Health** – The growing popularity of outdoor recreation activities such as roller-blading, jogging and walking has increased the need for recreational facilities and greenways. Trail systems provide safe and convenient places for these activities and can improve health by providing residents with opportunities for active physical recreation that can contribute to reducing stress, burning excess fat, and reducing the risk of cardiovascular problems, diabetes, cancer and arthritis. Greenways can also link other recreational resources, such as athletic fields and community/municipal parks.
4. **Environmental** – Greenways are important tools for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment. They improve water quality by establishing buffers along creeks and streams and providing habitats for plant and animal species. Greenway buffers also filter pollutants from urban non-point source pollution. Greenways can also reduce air pollution by providing alternate, non-polluting transportation options.
5. **Quality of Life** – Greenways provide economic benefits, alternative transportation, recreational resources, a healthy lifestyle, and protected environmental surroundings. All of these contribute to an improved quality of life. In turn, quality of life will attract future residents to Briar Chapel.