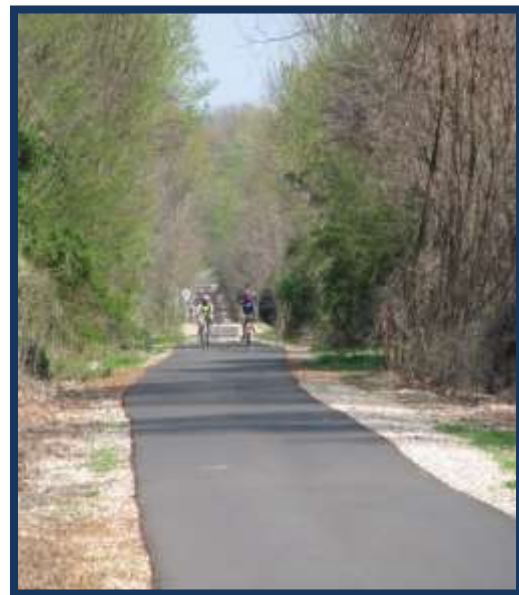


Portion of the Shelby Farms Greenline, Memphis, Tennessee

A portion of the Shelby County Greenline project involved a 13.3 mile stretch of abandoned railway that ran from an old railroad station in Cordova, Tennessee to inner city Memphis. The first seven miles of this 100-foot wide corridor was assessed under a \$347,080 EPA 104(k) Brownfields Hazardous Substances Assessment grant, awarded in 2008. These funds helped convert the old rail line into a trail converging at Shelby Farms Park, resulting in quality of life benefits to residents and adding potential eco-tourism dollars as a boost to economic development. The EPA funds also helped lay the groundwork for the extension of the greenline to the east. Residential development is dense along the edges of portions of the corridor, which had become a dumping ground for household and industrial debris. Through the environmental assessments completed under the grant, various metals and poly-aromatic hydrocarbons were found in the soil. This information was taken into consideration when designing the trail and contamination was addressed. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Remediation staff provided technical oversight for Shelby County's EPA Brownfields grant.

This railroad corridor is surrounded by a canopy of large oaks and other shade trees, providing a source of shade and natural cover for trail users in the summer months. The access to this portion of the greenline have a lot of options, as parts of the route open up to residential neighborhoods and links communities to parks and other recreational amenities. This phase of a greater greenline project opened in 2010 and helped inspire a new culture of biking and walking in Memphis. It is estimated that upwards of 200,000 people use the greenline each year.



Before, during construction and after the Shelby Farms Greenline is finished and in use.