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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kiener Plaza in Downtown St. Louis to Begin Park Improvements Starting February 9

The city park will undergo improvements with construction projected to be completed in October 2026

ST. LOUIS (Feb. 5, 2026) – Building on nearly a decade of reinvestment in downtown public spaces, the City of St. Louis, Gateway Arch Park Foundation and Great Rivers Greenway will begin a new phase of improvements at Kiener Plaza on February 9. The updates are designed to strengthen the park’s infrastructure, improve daily usability, and better support the growing number of community gatherings and public events held at the vibrant outdoor venue.

“Kiener Plaza is one of downtown’s most active gathering places and the site of a host of events both large and small – from holiday festivals, sports rallies and concerts to lunch breaks for downtown workers. It’s important that this public space continues to evolve and accommodate our city residents and visitors,” said Greg Hayes, Director, City of St. Louis Parks, Recreation, and Forestry. “The planned improvements reflect our shared commitment to maintaining a welcoming space that supports community life, economic activity, and an enjoyable downtown experience.”

The three project partners continued their longstanding collaboration with each other and community stakeholders to design, fund and manage these improvements. SWT is the landscape architecture firm on the project and Ideal Landscape Group is the contractor.

“Great Rivers Greenway continues to honor the community’s investment in the CityArchRiver project area, working alongside our partners to ensure Kiener Plaza is an outstanding experience for residents, workers, and visitors alike,” said Mark Perkins, Chief Executive Officer of Great Rivers Greenway.

Improvements to Kiener Plaza will include:

- Replacing loose decomposed granite near the visitor services building and bike racks with new pavers and an underground water collection system to correct storm water erosion issues

- New shade structures with new shade trees in the outdoor table and seating area outside the visitor services building, creating a more comfortable area for people to relax while they enjoy the fresh air or a meal
- Regrading and leveling the oval lawn opposite the Old Courthouse, along with upgraded irrigation and drainage systems, which will optimize usability for public recreation, better accommodate large-scale events, and improve soil health and drainage for turf and new cherry trees
- Additional electrical panels and light poles, expanding electrical capacity for public events and community programming, and contributing to public safety through lighting

Kiener Plaza was last renovated in 2017, through a partnership between the City of St. Louis, Gateway Arch Park Foundation, and Great Rivers Greenway, as part of the transformative CityArchRiver Project.

“Over the last nine years, Kiener Plaza has become a true gathering place that’s used every day by city residents, visitors, and those attending community events,” said Ryan McClure, Executive Director of Gateway Arch Park Foundation. “We, alongside our long-time partners at Great Rivers Greenway and the City of St. Louis, continually assess how our parks are being used and how they can best serve the community. These improvements reflect our long-term commitment to thoughtful reinvestment, ensuring downtown spaces continue to meet evolving needs and remain vibrant places where people connect, celebrate and create lasting memories.”

Kiener Plaza will remain open throughout construction, though specific areas will be closed as work progresses. The improvements are expected to be completed by October 2026.

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About Gateway Arch Park Foundation

Gateway Arch Park Foundation is the official philanthropic partner and nonprofit conservancy for Gateway Arch National Park. Its mission is to ensure the Gateway Arch, its grounds, neighboring public spaces, and attractions are a vital, welcoming, well-supported resource to the community and nation for generations to come. It seeks to fulfill its mission by providing for ongoing conservation, preservation and education at the park, in addition to hosting, facilitating and promoting community programs that bring the park and its surrounding areas in Downtown St. Louis to life. The Foundation is part of an alliance that helps meet this mission, which includes the National Park Service, Bi-State Development, Great Rivers Greenway, Jefferson National Parks Association, and the City of St. Louis. For more information, visit archpark.org.

About Great Rivers Greenway

Great Rivers Greenway makes the St. Louis region a more vibrant place to live, work and play by developing a network of greenway paths with partners and communities. We are a public agency, created by a vote of the people in 2000 to connect St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County with greenways, enhancing healthy habitats and watersheds along the way.

Whether you walk, run, ride a bike, roll a wheelchair or push a stroller, there are 140 miles of greenways and counting for you to explore and enjoy! GreatRiversGreenway.org

About the City of St. Louis

More information about the City of St. Louis can be found on its website: stlouis-mo.gov.