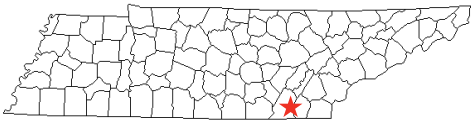
TN Department of Health

CASE STUDY



Chattanooga, Tennessee

Mountain Creek Greenway Master Plan

Chattanooga Tennessee, with a population just over 176,000, rests on the winding Tennessee River along the Georgia border. With several Interstates and highways crossing through its borders, Chattanooga hosts a vibrant downtown and economy. It's natural geography between the Appalachian Mountains and Cumberland Plateau, plays host to an abundance of natural beauty that has spurred a recent attention towards outdoor recreation, and multi-modal transportation, as evidenced by Walnut Street Pedestrian Bridge that traverses the river from downtown.

Downtown Chattanooga (caatn.org)

Bikers on Mountain Creek Greenway (Mountain Creek Master Plan)

While Chattanooga already had a Greenway Master Plan in existence, it did not include Mountain Creek. The conservation group Friends of Mountain Creek, along with the Tennessee Valley Authority and the National Parks Service, created a conceptual community greenway plan for Mountain Creek which was successfully incorporated into the Chattanooga Master Plan in 2002.

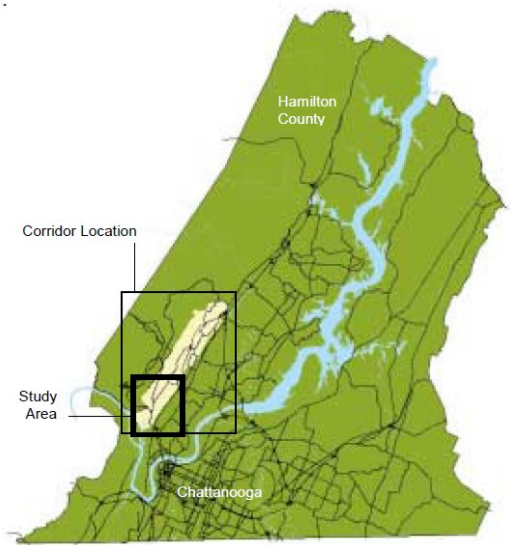
Congruent with incorporation into the Master Plan, Chattanooga's City Council called for public input sessions and a full assessment of the proposed greenway corridor. These assessments looked at the potential impact the greenway could have on the existing natural and built environments. It also afforded the team and city the ability to identify opportunities for greater connectors between city amenities, and improved environmental management.

Greenway Benefits

Greenways offer viable transit alternatives with several supplementary benefits. These benefits include: additional and creative recreation and park space; safe and convenient places for resident and tourist exercise; opportunities for floodplain management; environmental and wildlife protection; and boosts to nearby property values.

Greenway Assessments

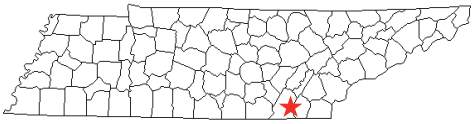
Environment	Built Environment
Soil Composition	Residential
Impervious Coverage	Institutional
Water Quality	Parks
Biodiversity	Commercial
	Transportation



Mountain Creek Greenway Plan Area (Mountain Creek Greenway Master Plan)

TN Department of Health

CASE STUDY



Chattanooga, Tennessee

Mountain Creek Greenway Master Plan

From the public input and assessments, a three phased implementation was recommended. The plan primarily highlighted the extension of greenway paths to connect local amenities, and the incorporation of new public access points. Special consideration was given to access points being located near community and public spaces which already experienced high use. Additional recommendations were made regarding trail signage, design, waterway protection, and construction costs. Unique to the plan was the role of the Trust for Public Land (TPL) as manager of relevant land agreements with property owners along the proposed greenway. The Mountain Creek plan was explicit in rejecting the use of imminent domain to acquire land, and therefore consulted with TPL to assist in land management. Suggested funding sources included the Trust for Public Land, TDEC's Recreation Trails Program, and the Transportation Enhancement Fund. The full Master Plan, including funding descriptions, can be read here.

Estimated Project Costs

Phase 1: **$240,890**

Phase 2: **$181,620**

Phase 3: **$188,620**

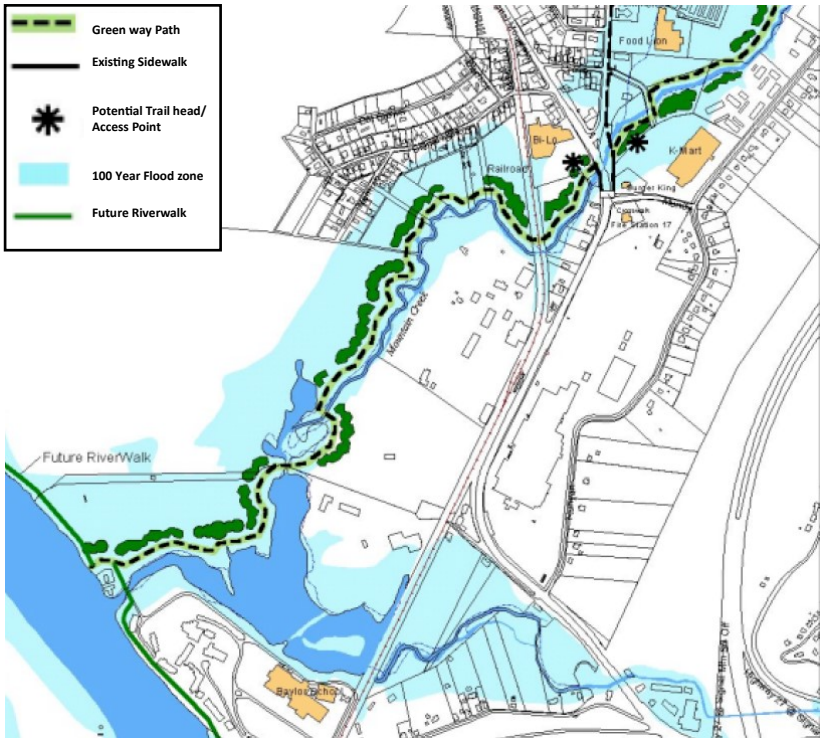
Total Project Costs: **$611,130**

Project Phases

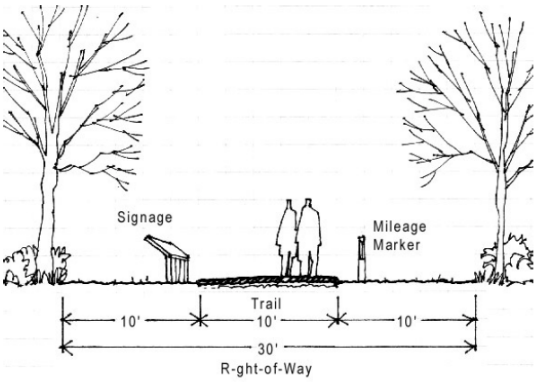
Phase 1: 1 mile of new trail connecting major roads to local schools, two new access point.

Phase 2: 1.2 miles of new trail connecting to a local school, road integration, two new access points.

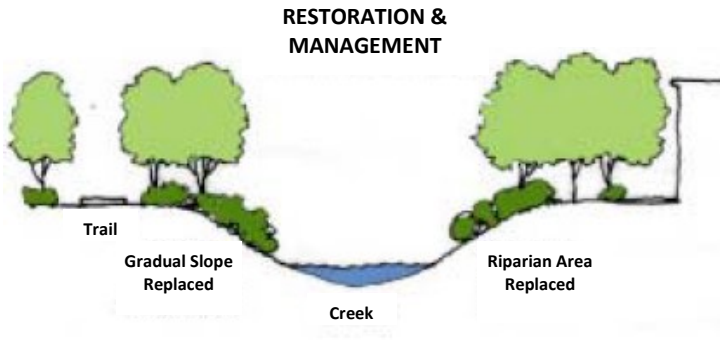
Phase 3: 2.5 miles of new trail, river walk integration, one new access point.



Phase Three Recommendations (Mountain Creek Greenway Master Plan)



Trail Design Recommendations (Mountain Creek Greenway Master Plan)



Environmental Restoration Recommendation (Mountain Creek Greenway Master Plan)