

What is an Urban Trail?



- An urban trail is a multi-use public path which creates an active transportation corridor through a built environment.
- The purpose of an urban trail is to provide mobility for active transportation and create greenways through developed areas. They should interconnect through cities to allow people new, viable everyday travel choices.
- Urban trails are ideal from many uses including: bicycling, walking, running, in-line skating, stroller and wheelchair use.



Benefits of Urban Trails



Information from the
Rails to Trails
Conservancy Website:
*Making the Case for
Active Transportation:
Issue Briefs*

Transportation

- Provide more and better choices for getting around cities (i.e. active transportation for urban mobility).
- Short trips – nearly ½ of all of the trips taken in the U.S. are 3 miles or less.
- Road construction alone will not significantly mitigate congestion.

Public Health

- The obesity epidemic results in 300,000 annual deaths and \$117 billion in health-related expenses.
- Experts recommend 30 minutes of moderate physical activity five days a week.
- Integrating exercise into daily trips is an easy and fun way to ensure daily physical activity.

Benefits of Urban Trails

Energy and Climate

- Automobiles account for 20 percent of U.S. energy-related CO2 emissions.
- Automobile emissions are rising due to more people, more cars per person, and more miles driven per car. Since 2003, the total miles driven has increased at a rate faster than the U.S. population.
- Walking and biking currently yield greater CO2 reductions than other popular solutions like hybrid cars.

Economic

- Since car ownership is the second largest expenditure for the average American household, driving less can free up substantial resources for other needs.
- Trails consistently increase property values along their corridors.
- Trails are the top community amenity potential homebuyers seek in a new neighborhood.

Benefits of Urban Trails



Family and Community

- Build community by connecting residences, retail and commercial centers, educational facilities, recreation areas, and other assets via trails.
- Provide safe places free of traffic for children and others to learn bicycling skills.
- Improve equity by providing accessible transportation choices for children, the elderly, disabled populations and low-income groups.

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How to Get Urban Trails Started



- Form a Strong Public/Private Leadership
- Develop a Urban Mobility Master Plan
- Adopt the Master Plan and implement the plan into the zoning regulations for leverage of future development.
- Design and construct a model urban trail segment.
- Develop momentum and keep going!



Identify Trail Funding Opportunities



Statistic from *Active Transportation for American*:

81% of Americans support allocation of tax dollars toward the expansion and improvement of public transportation, sidewalks, and bike paths in their community.

Federal – Transportation Enhancement (TE), CMAQ, Recreational Trails

State – Special Projects, Piggy-back

Local – Bond Programs, SPLOST, Impact Fees, In-Kind Services

Private – Funding Sources

- Philanthropic Agencies
- Corporations
- Individuals
- Civic and Business Organizations
- Fundraising Events
- Donations of Land and Services
- Membership Dues / T-shirt Sales

Master Planning for Urban Trails



Identify Trail Corridors to Assemble/Acquire

- Over designed streets
- Utility Owned Right-of-Way
- Road Shoulders within the public right-of-way
- In-fill Development
- Abandoned Railroads
- Undeveloped Land
- River and Stream Corridors
- Parks and Other Public Land
- Edges of Golf Courses and Cemeteries

Master Planning for Urban Trails



Select Desired Trail Routes

- Access to Mass Transit
- Safe Routes to Schools
- Enjoyable Trips to Employment
- Combination of Recreation and Travel Opportunities (i.e. Active Transportation)

Connections within Cities



Visioning Process - If you can dream it ...it can happen.

Design Considerations - How to think creatively in a built environment.

Challenges and Obstacles - No obstacle is too big as long as you have the support and funding.

Case Study / Lessons Learned – Get advice from others that have the results.



Visioning Urban Trails within Cities

Typical Urban Street

Determined to be under utilized by the automobile through traffic studies. Active transportation opportunity for an urban trail.

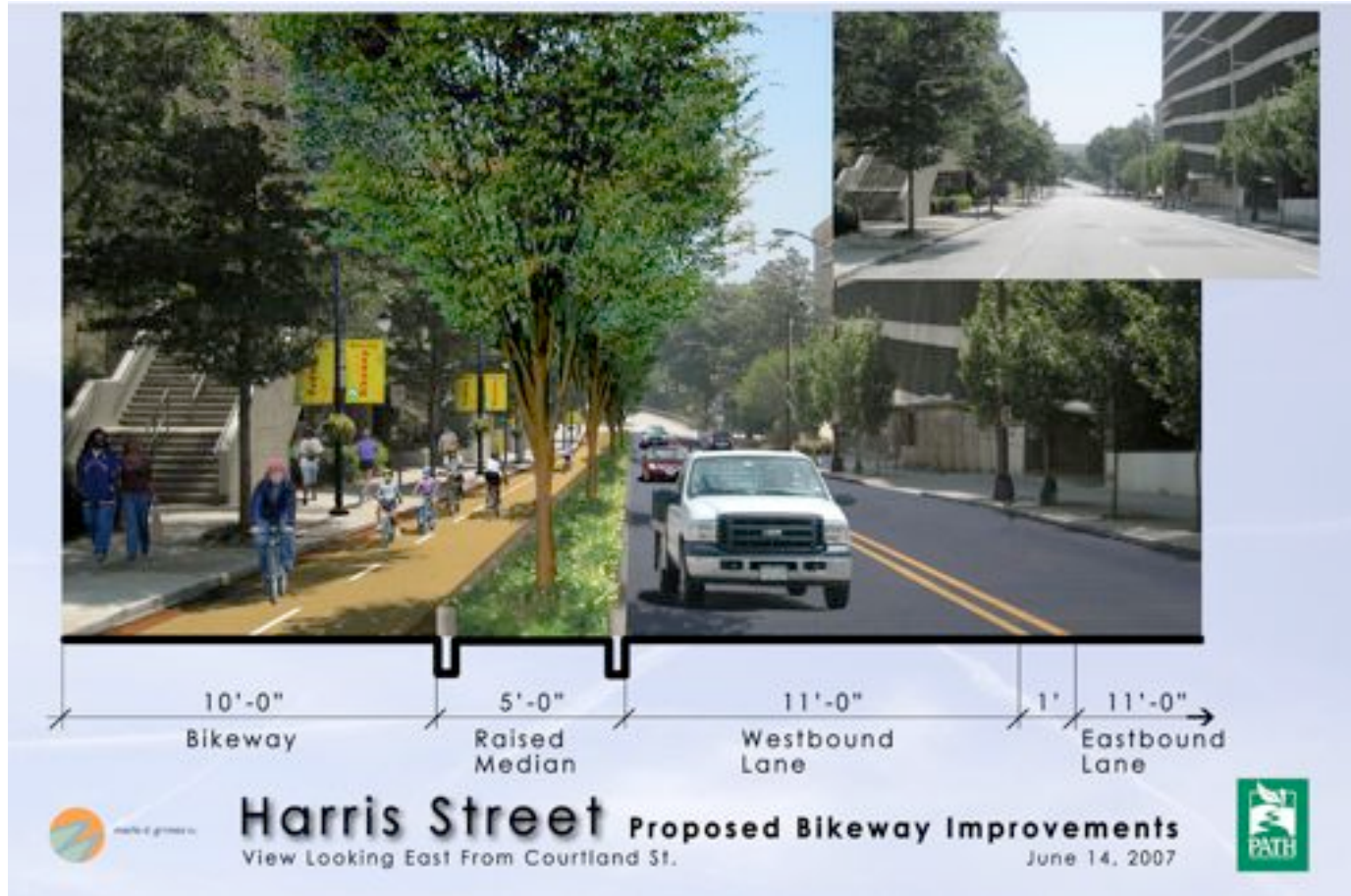


Existing View of Harris Street, Atlanta, Georgia.

Visioning Urban Trails within Cities

Urban Trail Vision

Redesigned from a four lane, one-way street to a two lane, two-way street. The urban trail proposed utilizes a “pedway” and a “bikeway”.



Vision for Harris Street with Pedestrian Way and Bike Way, Atlanta, Georgia.

Visioning Urban Trails within Cities

Public Right-of-Way

Redesigned public right-of-way (shoulder of road, utility easements, road bridges) to accommodate active transportation.



Proposed



Existing

Existing and Proposed view of driveway looking southwest toward Adams Drive



Proposed



Existing

Existing and Proposed view of woodland area from Adams Drive looking north toward Bolton Road



Proposed

Existing and Proposed view of Marietta Boulevard from Cobb County looking south toward the City of Atlanta

Existing



River Trail Connector

Master Plan- Atlanta and Cobb County, Georgia - February 2004

ECOS ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS



Vision of the Atlanta and Cobb County River Trail Connector.

Visioning Urban Trails within Cities

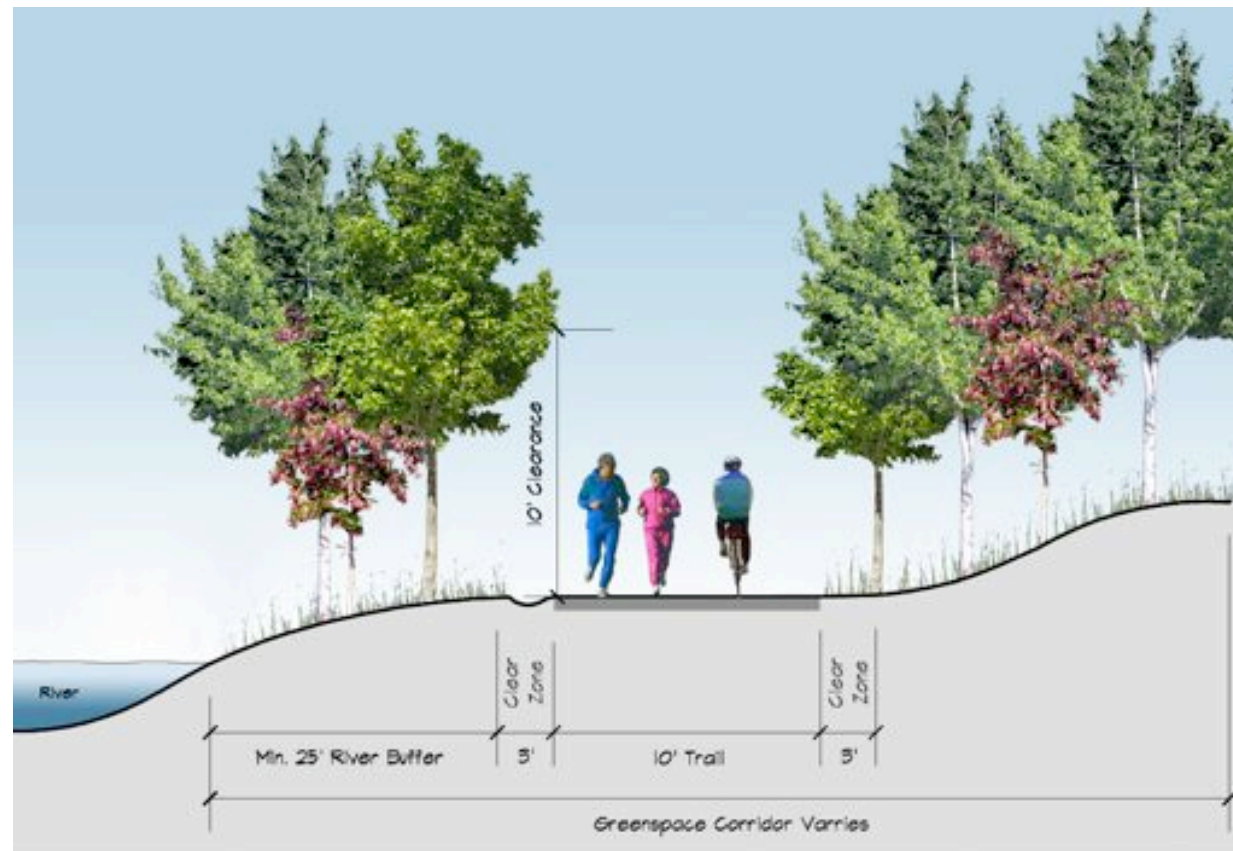
River Corridors

Utilizing land not suited for development along rivers and stream.



Whetstone Creek Trail Vision, Atlanta, Georgia.

Typical Urban Trail along a Waterway



TYPICAL OFF ROAD TRAIL ALONG RIVER

Scale: N.T.S.

Visioning Urban Trails along Waterways



Before / After of Proposed BeltLine Trail under Collier Road, Atlanta, Georgia.

Visioning Urban Trails along Waterways



Proposed BeltLine Trail under Collier Road, Atlanta, Georgia.

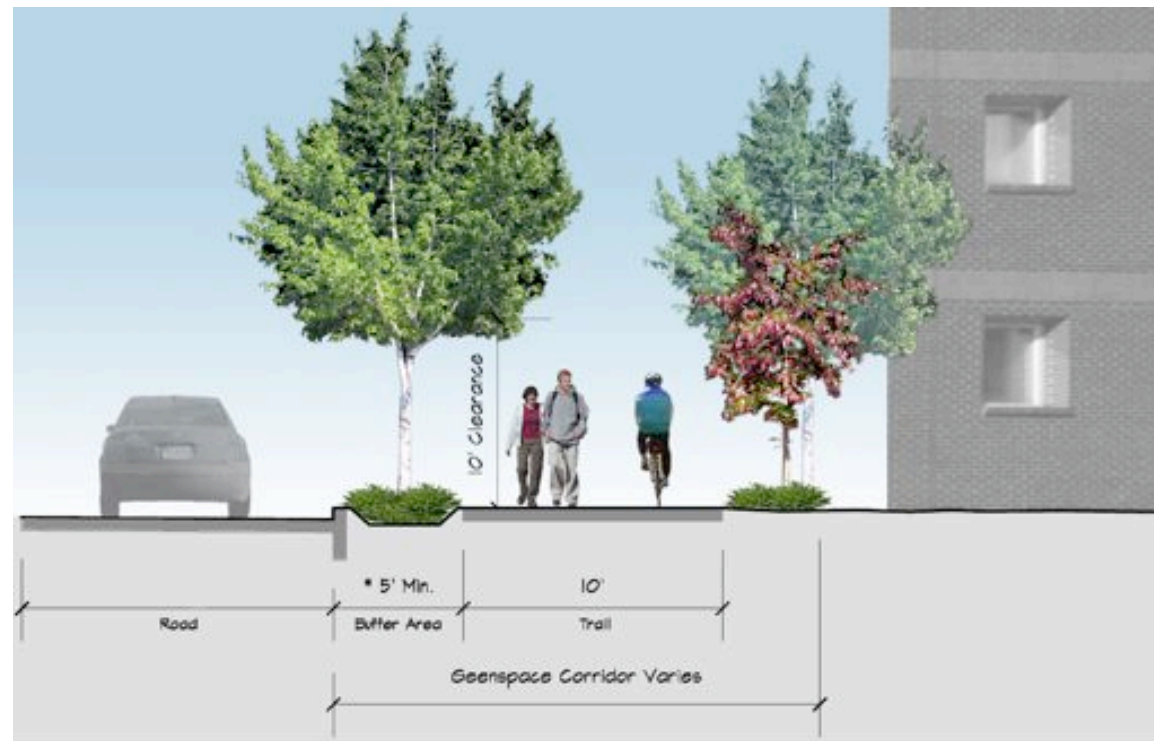


Building Urban Trails along Waterways



Silver Comet Trail along the River in Downtown Rockmart, Georgia.

Typical Urban Trail along a Roadway



TYPICAL OFF ROAD TRAIL ALONG ROADWAY

Scale: N.T.S.

- * When buffer area is not possible, design alternatives should be considered (i.e. colored concrete, low barrier)

Visioning Urban Trails along a Roadway



Vision Graphic of a Multi Use Trail along Northside Drive in Atlanta, Georgia.

Building Urban Trails along a Roadway



Multi Use Trail with Rest Area adjacent to Roadway, Atlanta, Georgia.

Building Urban Trails along a Roadway



Trail Construction within existing Road Right-of Way.

Building Urban Trails Under Roadways



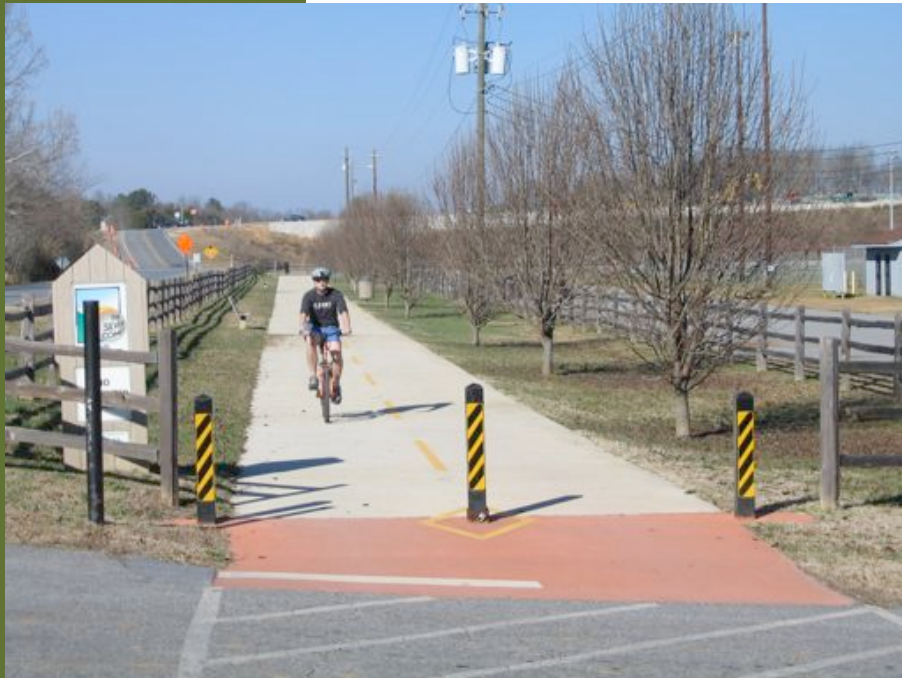
Box Culvert designed under Roadway for Separation of Multi Use Trail.

Building Urban Trails along a Roadway



Perimeter Trail adjacent to Major and Minor Roadways in DeKalb County, Georgia.

Examples: Urban Trails along Roadways



Visioning Urban Trails across Road Bridges



Vision of Multi Use Trail across an existing Road Bridge.

Visioning Urban Trails along Utility Corridors



Proposed Sagamore Hills Trail in DeKalb County.

Urban Trails adjacent to Private Property



Design Challenges and Solutions with Trails adjacent to Private Property.



Using Existing Roads for Urban Trails



Construction of Multi Use Trail between Railroad and Road.

Atlanta's BeltLine Trail



Before – White Street (four lanes).



After – White Street (two lanes, turn lane and trail).

Using Existing Roads for Urban Trails



Road Milling during Trail Construction.

Using Existing Roads for Urban Trails



Construction of the White Street BeltLine Trail in Atlanta, Georgia.

Using Existing Roads for Urban Trails



Challenges with Utility Relocation within Trail Corridor.

Challenges:



Design Challenges with Multiple Driveway Crossings.

Challenges:



Possible Drainage Issues Associated with Trail Construction.

Urban Trails along Railroads



Silver Comet Trail connection through Downtown Cedartown along the Railroad Corridor.

Urban Trail Connections to Downtowns



Multi Use Trail connection to the Stone Mountain Village.

Urban Trails Connections to Downtowns



Silver Comet Trail through Downtown Rockmart, Georgia.

Urban Trail Connections to Downtowns



Proposed Multi Use Trail and Trailhead in Hampton, Georgia.

Urban Trail Connections to Downtowns



Connector Trail to the Paulding County Chamber of Commerce.

Opportunities for Trailhead Amenities



Downtown Rockmart Trailhead



Silver Comet Trailhead

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