

SUMMARY

The following is a summary of the recommendations and implementation steps needed in the greenways and trails chapter.

Recommendations in the plan were developed based on the existing conditions and theme goals were set for the implementation of the plan. The icon(s) after each recommendation in the **Summary** section will denote which plan goal(s) that the recommendation addresses: Mobility, Safety, Health, Economy, or Environment (as noted in the **Introduction** section).



MOBILITY



SAFETY



HEALTH



ECONOMY












ENVIRONMENT

Infrastructure


TRAILS & GREENWAYS ACCOMMODATIONS

Greenways and Trails Recommended System and Construction



- This plan recommends using the Greenways and Trails Priority Map for determining future projects for construction. See **Map 4-8** and the top priorities list in the summary here. 
- This plan recommends that dedicated local funding sources should be identified to continue building out the network and ensure the long-term growth of the system.     
 - › For the City of Greensboro, the recommended source is the ongoing use of transportation bonds, as was done in 2000 and 2008, though with increased greenway funding recommended for future bonds.
 - › For Guilford County the recommended source is future parks & greenways bonds, or possibly simply greenway bonds. This would build off past efforts and enable the County to construct or support construction of greenway priorities such as the Piedmont Greenway and the A & Y Greenway through Summerfield and Stokesdale.
 - › For MPO area towns this plan recommends each interested town identify the way that best works for it to secure a dedicated greenway funding source. This could be a bond or it could be through appropriation of cash reserves or general fund revenues.

- City and MPO staff should proactively review the mid- and long-term priorities identified in the map to ensure their practical feasibility. This is an ongoing task but should start soon after the completion of this plan and should focus on the Tier Two projects identified on the priority map. 
- This plan recommends that City and MPO staff consider how to improve biking and walking connections along existing facilities and that provide links between facilities. This may include reviewing locations to develop new off-road paths along an existing facility or improving on-street connections between off-road facilities. This work will help provide a more consistent and comfortable experience for greenway and trail users.  

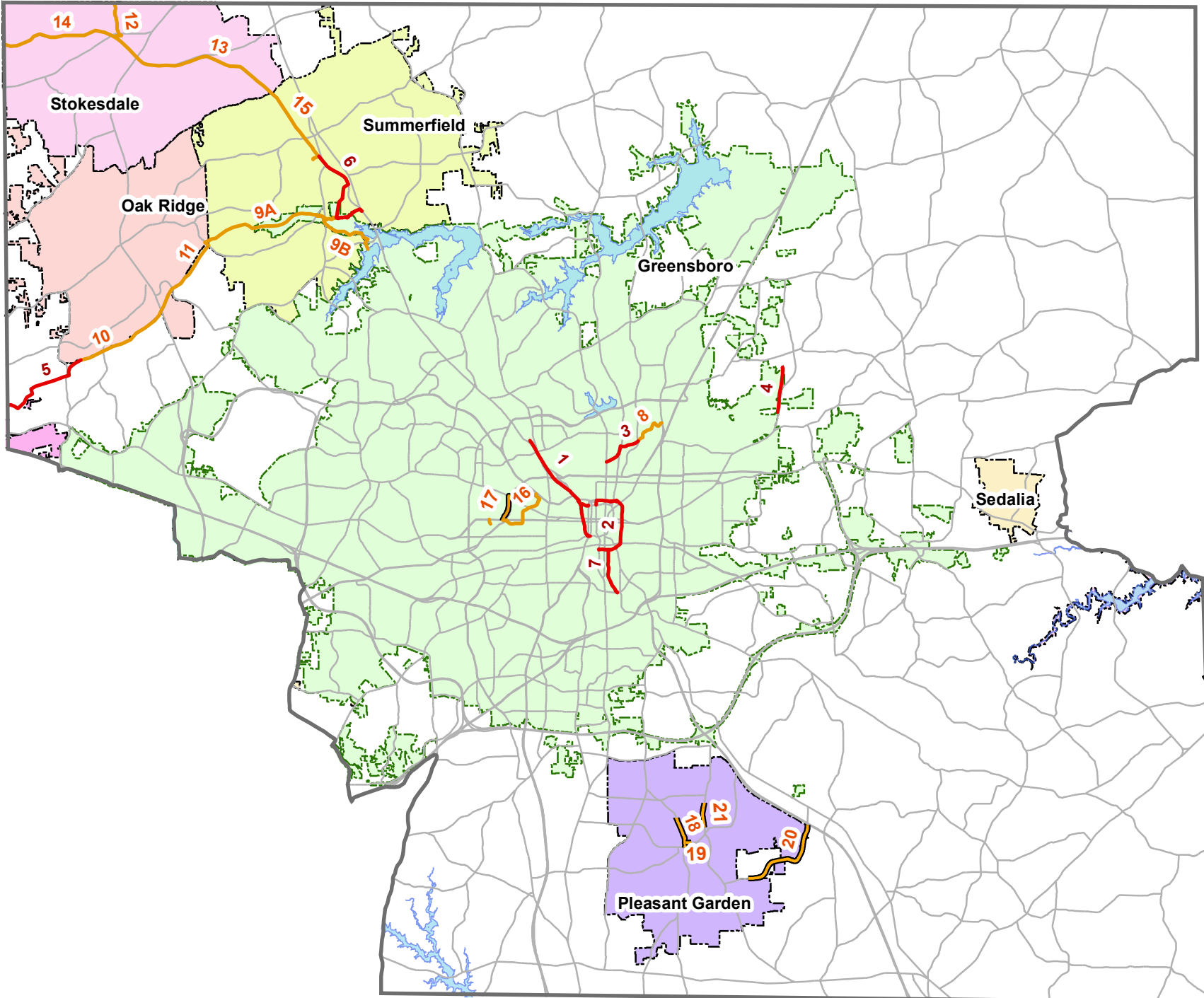
Consolidate Naming of Greenways and Trails

- Greenway names throughout system should be considered for consolidation as construction projects overlap with three or more existing greenways. This is an ongoing task, but future greenways to be considered for consolidation include those on the route of the N. Buffalo Creek Greenway (Arboretum, Lake Daniel Greenway, Latham Park Greenway) and on route of the S Buffalo Creek Greenway (Southeast Greenway, Bluford Park Trail, Hillsdale Park Greenway). 

Greenways and Trails Staffing Recommendation

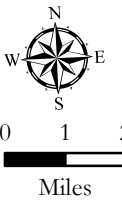
- This plan recommends that all current trails and greenways staff be retained, and at least one more staff person be added to the City of Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department in order to separate out responsibilities for planning and development from marketing and promotion. A service enhancement should be requested in future budget processes in order to fill this need. 
- It is recommended that MPO Towns and the County review staffing needs as they pertain to trails and greenways, and provide adequate staffing resources to manage planning, development, marketing, and programming. This will also require a review of budgets and will require greater funding resources to accomplish. 

Map 4-8
**GREENWAY
& TRAIL
TOP
PRIORITIES**



- Legend**
- Greenway**
 - Tier 1 (Red line)
 - Tier 2 (Orange line)
 - Other (*)**
 - Tier 2 (Brown line)

Other (): Connector
& Sidepath*



Map ID	GREENWAY/TRAIL NAME	FROM	TO	JURISDICTION	PRIORITY	TYPE	LENGTH (MILES)
1	Atlantic & Yadkin Greenway	Markland Dr	Downtown Greenway/W Smith St	Greensboro	1	Greenway	1.96
2	Downtown Greenway	W Smith St	Spring Garden St; S Eugene St	Greensboro	1	Greenway	3.23
3	N. Buffalo Creek Greenway	N Elm St	Yanceyville St	Greensboro	1	Greenway	0.98
4	NE Community Greenway Extension/Keeley Park Connector	NE Community Greenway	Keeley Park	Greensboro	1	Greenway	1.06
5	Piedmont Greenway	Forsyth County Line	Oak Ridge Town Limits/ Beeson Rd	County	1	Greenway	2.38
6	Atlantic & Yadkin Greenway/ Summerfield South	Centerfield Rd	US 220 N	Summerfield	1	Greenway	2.59
7	Vance Arlington Greenway	Downtown Greenway/Bragg St	E Florida St	Greensboro	1	Greenway	1.08
8	N. Buffalo Creek Greenway	Yanceyville St	Summit Ave	Greensboro	2	Greenway	0.96
9A	Piedmont Greenway	Bunch Rd	A&Y Greenway/ Summerfield South	Summerfield	2	Greenway	3.37
9B	Piedmont Greenway	Pleasant Ridge Road	Hamburg Mill Road	Summerfield	2	Greenway	1.59
10	Piedmont Greenway	Oak Ridge Town Limits/Beeson Rd	NC 68	Oak Ridge	2	Greenway	2.26
11	Piedmont Greenway	NC 68	Bunch Rd	Oak Ridge	2	Greenway	2.16
12	Stokesdale Greenway	Rockingham County Line	Belews Creek Rd	Stokesdale	2	Greenway	1.26
13	Atlantic & Yadkin Greenway/ Stokesdale Rail Trail	Haw River	US 158 & Belews Creek Rd	Stokesdale	2	Greenway	4.18
14	Atlantic & Yadkin Greenway/ Stokesdale Rail Trail	Forsyth County Line	US 158	Stokesdale	2	Greenway	2.80
15	Atlantic & Yadkin Greenway/ Summerfield North	Centerfield Rd	Haw River	Summerfield	2	Greenway	2.07
16	Sunset Greenway	N. Buffalo Creek Greenway Connector	Benjamin Pkwy/ Lake Daniel Greenway	Greensboro	2	Greenway	1.48
17	N. Buffalo Creek Greenway Connector	W Market St	W Wendover Ave	Greensboro	2	Connector	0.69
18	Pleasant Garden Sidepath	Ryegate Dr	E Sheraton Park Rd	Pleasant Garden	2	Sidepath	0.74
19	Pleasant Garden Sidepath	Appomattox Rd	Approx. 717' West of Appomattox Rd	Pleasant Garden	2	Sidepath	0.13
20	Pleasant Garden Sidepath	Minden Rd	Cedar Rd	Pleasant Garden	2	Sidepath	2.23
21	Pleasant Garden Sidepath	Approx. 605' North Of Pleasant Garden Greenway	Approx. 1320' South of Ryegate Dr	Pleasant Garden	2	Sidepath	0.57

TABLE 4.2
Trail and Greenway Top Priorities

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USAGE AND VOLUME

Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department Counting Program

- This plan recommends that the trail counter system be upgraded so that the data can be accessed remotely. Although it is a costly system, it could save staff from dedicating time to go check the counters manually and allow staff to focus on other important tasks such as analyzing data and planning programs. In addition, it can increase the efficiency and accuracy of the counters by allowing the checking of data remotely. If an error in the equipment occurs, the problem can be found out and fixed more quickly than if it is found at the routine check.



- More counters should be purchased and installed to determine total system usage.
- New counters must differentiate between bicyclists and pedestrians as well as the direction of the traffic.
- Permanent bicycle and pedestrian counters should be installed with all new greenway or trail development.

GDOT Counting Program

- Continue to cooperate with Parks & Recreation to obtain trails and greenways counting data efficiently.
- Procure funding to expand Bicycle and Pedestrian Counting Systems on greenways and trails by 2018.

NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Counting Program

- Continue to participate in the Permanent Counting Program with NCDOT for data collection and to develop factors.

MAINTENANCE

Greenways and Trails Conditions Index

- A new trail maintenance GIS layer should be created to tabulate trail and greenway conditions, including documenting

pavement conditions for creating a repaving prioritization process. Other greenway conditions that could be included in the conditions index are bridge replacement/repair, greenway or trail crossing needs (such as additional signage, markings, or refuge areas), lighting, and locations of public art and other amenities. This information should be gathered and placed in a GIS layer by September 2016.



Trail Maintenance Handbook

- It is recommended that the Parks and Recreation Department develop a Trail Maintenance Handbook to document the procedures and protocols for future staff. New landscaped areas and public art pieces along trails and greenways require more detailed guidance on maintenance needs. This handbook should be developed in 2016.



Greenways and Trails Maintenance Staff

- To adequately serve and maintain a safe and enjoyable future trail system in Greensboro, this plan recommends the addition of one full time or two part time trail maintenance positions for every 20 miles of additional trail/greenway that is built. This recommendation must be considered in light of what kinds of demands the new greenway/trail would put on staff in regard to time and expertise required to maintain it. Greensboro Parks and Recreation should request a service enhancement for the Trails Budget in future city budgets for growing needs related to increasing miles of trail and greenways, number of assets, capital improvements and growing staffing needs.





- It is recommended due to savings in expenses of equipment and employees that the City of Greensboro contracts out maintenance of the Downtown Greenway as more segments are completed. The Parks and Recreation Department should provide ongoing review of this contract when adding new Downtown Greenway segments.



- Guilford County and the MPO Towns will need to add maintenance staff as the greenway and trails system is built out.



They should plan ahead of time for the construction of facilities such as the Piedmont Greenway and facilities within the towns.  




Designate Specific Greenways as Transportation Corridors

- Pavement repairs and resurfacing within the City of Greensboro for greenways designated as transportation corridors should become an ongoing consideration handled in a manner similar to roadways. In other words, an inventory of greenway pavement conditions needs to be established and updated on an ongoing basis. These data should be used to schedule needed greenway repair and replacement. These needs should then be budgeted for on an annual basis. Additionally, it's recommended that the next Transportation Bond include a substantial component for ongoing greenway resurfacing needs as well as the replacement of substandard elements such as non ADA-compliant bridges or greenway sections less than ten feet in width.








Safety



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN CRASHES

- Improve the safety of crossings for bicyclists and pedestrians by taking actions such as installing RRFBs, signs, and high visibility crosswalks as well as reviewing existing crossings for safety measures. The reviewing should be completed in the short term, 2016-2017, so that improvements can be coordinated in a timely manner. 
- This plan recommends monitoring reports of bicycle-on-bicycle and bicycle-on-pedestrian crashes as they arise to determine safety countermeasures as needed. 
- It is recommended that GDOT, Greensboro Parks and Recreation, GPD, and emergency responders coordinate with one another to review the causes of crashes along trails and greenways if and when they occur. 

LIGHTING

- Future greenways designated as transportation corridors should generally receive lighting. The preferred type would be solar powered foot lights for easily accessible maintenance and lower light pollution levels in areas where it is feasible.    
- The plan recommends developing a lighting plan for greenways that are designated as transportation corridors to be completed by the end of 2016. 

EMERGENCY MARKERS

- This plan recommends expanding the Rescue Marker project to new trails around city lakes and greenways. Expansion should be limited to remote areas that are more difficult for first responders to access via the street network. 
- A committee with representatives from Parks and Recreation, Fire, EMS911 and Police to maintain oversight and growth of Rescue Marker project should be established by the end of 2016. 

PREVENTING CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

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- This plan recommends partnering with Greensboro Police to include regular police patrol of urban and rural greenways as part of general patrolling routes by 2018. 
- It is recommended that Police are involved when new trails and greenways are added to the system to help with overall awareness of potential problem areas. 
- Principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) should be reviewed and applied by local governments in the design and construction of future greenway facilities.






Policies and Programs




POLICIES FOR DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENTS ADJACENT TO GREENWAYS

- This plan recommends that the City of Greensboro and other MPO jurisdictions develop design guidelines for developments adjacent to greenways to ensure that pedestrian-supportive design is included in the development. GDOT and MPO staff should work with the Greensboro Planning Department and other jurisdictions after this plan has been completed to review how other ordinances and design guidelines could be created to support appropriate development near greenways.  










PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS TO ASSIST WITH MAINTENANCE OF TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

- This plan recommends Greensboro Parks and Recreation continue the Adopt-A-Trail program and expand it as possible to reduce the burden on current maintenance staff. This should be reviewed in conjunction with discussions on maintenance staff needs. 
- It is recommended that Guilford County and the MPO Towns consider using the Adopt-A-Trail model as a way to supplement existing and future maintenance programs. However it should not be relied upon as the main component of a maintenance program. This should be developed as new trails and greenways in the county and towns are built. 
- It is recommended that the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department develop a Memorandum of Understanding between itself and the Greensboro Fat Tire Society. This should be completed as soon as possible, and along with the Trail Maintenance Handbook. 











PROMOTIONAL AND ENCOURAGEMENT PROGRAMS

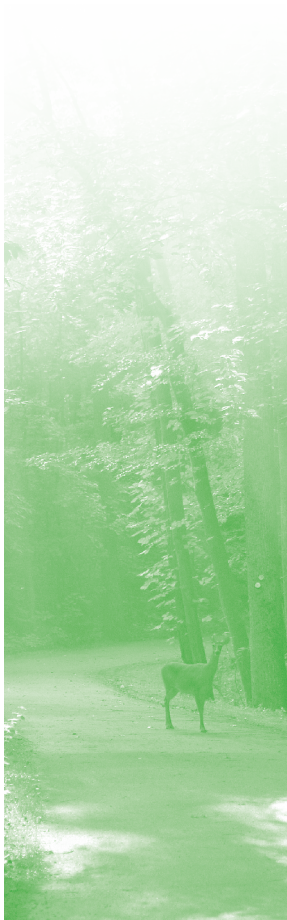
- National Trails Day should continue to be celebrated by the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department in the future. This is an annual event.   



- It is recommended that Bike Month continue to include events related to greenways and trails since they are important pieces of the bicycle network. This is an annual program.   
- It is recommended that the Parks and Recreation Department continue to support Parks and Recreation Month and tie-in existing programmatic elements with it. Trails and greenways should continue to play a part of this event.   
- The Guilford County Parks Department should involve themselves with Parks and Recreation Month as possible, and coordinate with Greensboro Parks and Recreation to develop an MPO-wide program. Conversations and planning about this partnership should begin in 2016 or 2017.   

MAPPING AND WAYFINDING PROGRAMS

- This plan recommends that an online mapping application and eventually a mobile application be developed for the trails and greenways system within the MPO. The online interactive web mapping application could be released by the end of 2015 and a mobile phone application could be released by 2017 depending on funding being secured.   
- It is recommended that print maps still be made available, although in a more limited amount. A print version should be developed in conjunction with the online mapping tool and mobile application.   
- Design standards for signage are recommended to create wayfinding that is consistent and clear. These standards should be determined and implemented in 2016.  
- It is recommended that wayfinding guidelines be created and implemented in 2016.  



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