



connections

FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Parks/Trails/Open Space Focus Team

Officer Courtney Palmer,
Crime Prevention Specialist

“Coming together is a beginning;
keeping together is progress;
working together is success.”

--Henry Ford

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- ▶ **Improve quality of life**
- ▶ **Improved access for parks/trails/open space**
- ▶ **Integrate as part of multimodal transportation system**

KEY IDEAS

- ▶ **Promote safe connections via CPTED**
(Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design)
- ▶ **Encourage opportunities for healthy/ active living**
- ▶ **Educate the public on the environmental benefits**
- ▶ **Include Art in the parks and community**
- ▶ **Connect to neighborhood facilities**
- ▶ **Teen/ Senior friendly**

CASE STUDIES

- ▶ **Teen Parks**
- ▶ **Connectivity**
- ▶ **Development along greenway**
- ▶ **Neighborhood ownership**
- ▶ **Public Art**
- ▶ **Bathroom Design**
- ▶ **Health Impact Assessment**

TEENS AT THE PARK

- ▶ Very few parks explicitly designed only for teenagers
- ▶ There are numerous programs for teenage demographic



WEST LONDON

- Almost a “high school playground”
- Creates informal spaces for teens to socialize
- Feel like it’s their own space, also in the open (can be monitored)



MOST POPULAR YOUTH SPORTS

- ▶ Football
- ▶ Basketball (1st for Girls)
- ▶ Baseball / Softball
- ▶ Track & Field
- ▶ Soccer
- ▶ Volleyball

Open fields can support
football, baseball, soccer

Basketball and volleyball
need their own space

*Informal pick-up games or
Structured Programs???*



Raleigh, NC

- ▶ Team building
 - ▶ Schools
 - ▶ church groups
 - ▶ student councils
 - ▶ drop-out prevention

- ▶ Teen Outreach Program
 - ▶ Free "drop in" program, designed to keep teens off the street
 - Games (pool and foosball)
 - Arts & Crafts
 - Basketball
 - Community Service



raleighnc.gov/arts/content/PRecRecreation/Articles/TeenOutreachProgram.html

CONNECTIVITY - BARRIERS



The Railroad presents a daunting physical barrier as well as an unwelcoming pedestrian environment

Under-pass at Willard St.
and Washington St.



IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE ACCESS TO THE TRAIL



Despite a lack of sidewalks, this route is clearly used by pedestrians.

NEARBY KROC CENTER OFFERS EXISTING OPPORTUNITIES



State-of-the-art Tennis Center. Perceived as exclusive by residents, even if there is a reduced fee for those living in the neighborhood.

Kroc Center's soccer field supports organized games, but is available to the community when not in use.



NEARBY NEWTOWN PARK BASKETBALL, PLAYGROUND, PICNIC SHELTER



Should existing parks be enhanced and tied into the greater park system?

USAGE FIGURES

- ▶ 359,000 used the trail its first year of study;
 - ▶ now more than 400,000 (year 2 study)
- ▶ Peak time from noon to 1:30 on Saturdays
- ▶ 90% exercise or recreation; 6% transportation
- ▶ Bicycling most frequent activity
- ▶ Most live within 15 minutes, drove to access it
- ▶ Time between 1 and 2 hours

Dr. Julian Reed, Furman University

CONNECTIVITY OF PARKS AND TRAILS SYSTEM

- ▶ Knoxville, TN has an integrated bicycle and greenway network
 - ▶ Bicycle lanes and shared roads help tremendously to connect the system.
- ▶ Their bus system stops at every park that has trails or greenways
- ▶ Greenville could use better networks to the Swamp Rabbit Trail, including trails, bikeways, and bus connections



DEVELOPMENT ALONG GREENWAY

- ▶ Minneapolis, MN
- ▶ five projects, 900 apartments alongside former railroad line turned bicycle trail



<http://www.swjournal.com/index.php?&story=18744&page=152&category=63>

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESSES ALONG SRT

The 2nd year study of the SRT usage found that businesses that relocated near the Swamp Rabbit Trail reported a 30% to 50% increase in sales in year two.



The SRT Café & Grocery is a thriving business with many customers from the SRT. In Westside, businesses could use the trail to attract customers and employers could use the trail for commuting to work

NEIGHBORHOOD TAKES OWNERSHIP

SEATTLE NEIGHBORHOOD GREENWAYS

- ▶ **Volunteer coalition** to plan and advocate for safe and comfortable connections between Greenway network every neighborhood in the city.
- ▶ Provides a network of residential streets, with safe crossings
- ▶ Provides comfortable, safe access on foot and by bike to retail areas, parks, playgrounds, schools, gardens, and homes
- ▶ 30 core group neighborhood representatives
 - ▶ A steering group of 7 of these members advocate for city-wide connectivity and action.

<http://seattlegreenways.org/>

NEIGHBORHOOD TAKES OWNERSHIP

Each neighborhood center could include one or all of the following:

- ▶ Bathroom / water fountain
- ▶ Community art
- ▶ Gazebo / Picnic shelter / Informal gathering places

Proximity to:

- ▶ Trail (but not in floodplain)
- ▶ Access points
- ▶ Neighborhoods
- ▶ Water & Sewer (efficiency on infrastructure)

PICNIC SHELTER / GATHERING SPACE



FURMAN UNIVERSITY TRAILHEAD

Simple, but very well designed. Offers a kiosk, seating, and old rail car as a point of interest.

Neighborhoods in the Westside would connect to the trail in a similar fashion, only with focus **bicycle/pedestrian connectivity** rather than parking lots.



PUBLIC ART IN PARKS

- ▶ Each neighborhood develops a unique character
- ▶ Developed by each neighborhood to suit their needs



Louisville, KY



3-D DRAWINGS

Create a destination on the trail
-- A chance to showcase your
neighborhood



ART FOR YOUTH

Allows families to spend time at their own 'neighborhood center'



VICTORIA, BRITISH COLOMBIA



A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of Park, Trail, and Green Space Planning in the West Side of Greenville, South Carolina



Identified Health Impacts

- Physical Activity (Priority A)
- Social Cohesion (Priority A)
- Economic Stability (Priority A)
- Access to Healthy Food (Priority A)

- Individual and Community Safety (Priority B)
- Air and Water Quality (Priority B)



Overarching Recommendation

The HIA Advisory Committee feels that the components and design of the potential park, trails, and green space in Greenville's west side should be **informed by the community's residents** through the public input process the City of Greenville has planned. The decisions about what to include in the park and how the park should be designed will be determined by this process.

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