

Planning a World-Class Greenway System for Greenville County, SC

Sponsored by Upstate Forever and the Riley Institute
November 29, 2006

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Presentation Summary

Greenways 101:

- 1) What is a Greenway?
Multi-objective linear corridors ranging from no development to on-road trails
- 2) Where are Greenways found?
Urban, suburban and rural landscapes.
- 3) Why are Greenways Important?
 - a. Conservation – preserving areas for future generations
 - b. Linkages – creating connections between diverse communities and landscapes
 - c. The New “Main Street” – serving as areas for community events and helping to break down social barriers

Framework for Greenway Systems:

- 1) Hubs and spokes model
- 2) Connections are the key

Key Elements of Planning a Greenway System

- 1) Public Involvement
- 2) GIS Mapping
- 3) Plan of Action
- 4) Source of Funding
- 5) Strategies to conserve land and water

Key Steps in the Planning Process

- 1) Consensus building – establish an advisory committee, hold public meetings, publish a newsletter
- 2) Data collection and synthesis – gather GIS data, identify existing greenspace, and review existing master plans
- 3) Needs identification – identify the public health, safety, and welfare needs of the community
- 4) Preparation of a draft greenways plan – define users, user needs, and funding sources for the system
- 5) Review of the draft plan – hold public workshops and presentations
- 6) Preparation of the final greenways plan – describe the greenway corridors, costs, design guidelines, etc.
- 7) Presentation of final plan – present to governing bodies, advisory groups, and the general public
- 8) Implementation of plan recommendations – create or establish mechanisms within existing rules and regulations to ensure implementation

Examples of where Greenway Systems have been planned and built

- 1) City of Greenville, SC currently under way with its greenway master plan
- 2) Charlotte-Mecklenburg Greenway System Plan (1999)
- 3) Charleston County, SC (Just adopted plan 2006 – recipient of SCAPA Award for Planning)
- 4) Gwinnett County, Hall County, Cherokee County, GA all have greenway plans.
- 5) Raleigh, Durham, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Asheville, NC all have greenway plans.
- 6) Chattanooga, Knoxville, Nashville, TN all have greenway plans.
- 7) 15-county Charlotte-Mecklenburg region (NC and SC) currently developing a regional greenway plan and strategy.