

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY for the SPARTANBURG TRAILS & GREENWAYS PLAN

April 2013 **alta**
PLANNING + DESIGN

Partner Agencies: City of Spartanburg - SPATS - Spartanburg County Parks Department - Partners for Active Living - Healthy South Carolina Initiative



OVERVIEW

The Spartanburg Trails & Greenways Plan provides a framework for development of a connected network of off-street trails, integrated seamlessly with the on-street network to facilitate walking and biking as viable transportation choices and recreation opportunities throughout the metropolitan area of Spartanburg. The study area boundaries extend roughly from Boiling Springs to Old Canaan Road, and from Interstate 26 to the Pacolet River. In addition to the partner agencies (listed above) that led the Plan's development, more than 15 groups participated in guiding the process.

VISION STATEMENT

A comprehensive network of safe and inviting trails for recreation, transportation, and healthy living that connect Spartanburg's neighborhoods, destinations, and the bikeway, walkway, and transit system.

ESTIMATED ANNUAL BENEFITS OF WALKING AND BICYCLING TRANSPORTATION

Current levels of walking and bicycling in Spartanburg are similar to national averages, and return significant benefits to the region and local residents in the form of improved air quality, reduced transportation costs, and improved health. The results of the bicycling and walking demand benefits analysis conducted for the Plan indicate that **existing rates of bicycling and walking transportation in Spartanburg are estimated to generate over \$3 million in annual benefits to the region.** If Spartanburg were to reach the walking and bicycling rates of 5% and 2.8% respectively, **the community could enjoy health and economic benefits valued at approximately \$13 million per year, or over than four times current levels.** The new bicycling and walking facilities proposed in this plan will become valuable assets that will increase bicycle and walk mode share and thus improve the health, affordability and livability of the Spartanburg region.

EXISTING CONDITIONS & NEEDS ANALYSIS

The existing bikeway, trail and greenway network within Spartanburg County is comprised of multi-use trails, on-street bikeways (bike lanes, sharrows and wide shoulders), mountain biking trails, blueways and natural surface trails. Though there is a concerted effort to link on-street bikeways to one another and to extend existing trails, Spartanburg County's trails have very little connections to one another.

The key opportunities and constraints for trail development within the study area are :

Rail corridors +



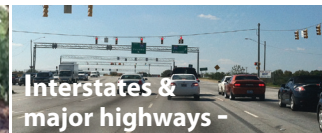
Low volume roads +



Utility easement corridors +



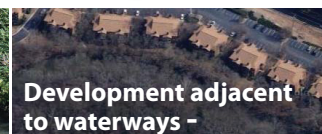
Interstates & major highways -



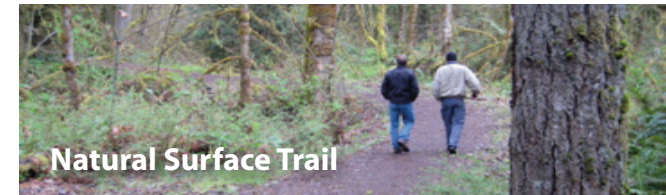
Waterways +



Development adjacent to waterways -



Multi-use Trail



Natural Surface Trail



Neighborhood Greenway

WAYFINDING SIGNAGE

The connectivity of a trail network is contingent upon physically linking bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, as well as communicating to trail users the connections available. Wayfinding signage adds an extra link to a connected network of trails and bikeways. Spartanburg County Parks Department, Partners for Active Living, and the Spartanburg Area Conservancy (SPACE) each recently invested in new signage designs and materials. The Plan recommends design variations which adjust for the differences in urban versus natural trail settings, to complement these existing signs.



Existing wayfinding signage along the Mary Black Foundation Rail Trail

RECOMMENDED BIKEWAY NETWORK

The recommended trail network of this Plan considers previously proposed trail segments, as well as other factors, such as available funding, political support, and connectivity to other trail segments and key destinations. The proposed network is made up of the following trail types:

- Multi-use Trail
- Natural Surface Trail
- Neighborhood Greenway

The total recommended network includes approximately 123 miles of multi-use and natural-surface trails (off-street) and 14 miles of neighborhood greenways (on-street)

COST ESTIMATES

Cost estimates for the Trails Plan are presented in 4 categories:

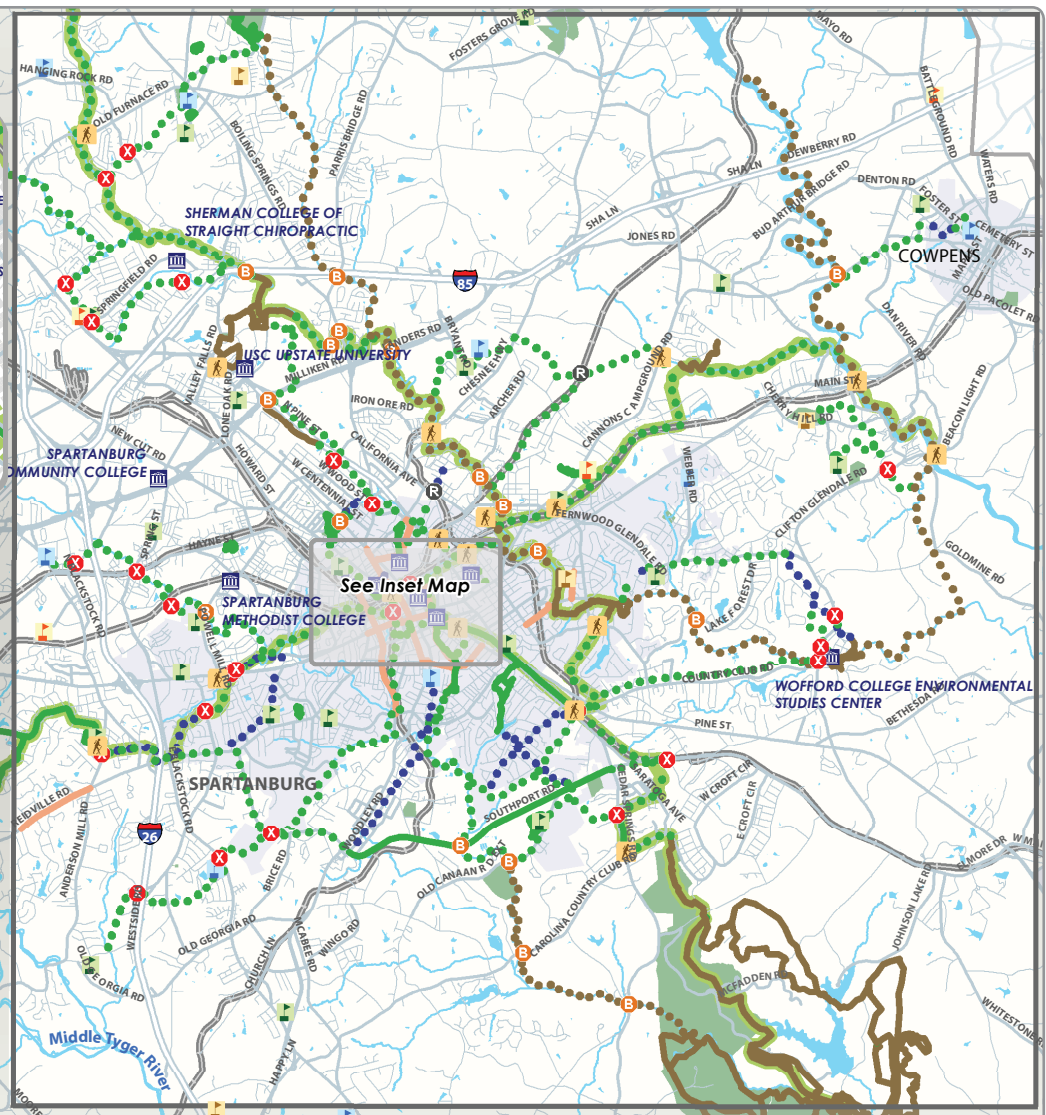
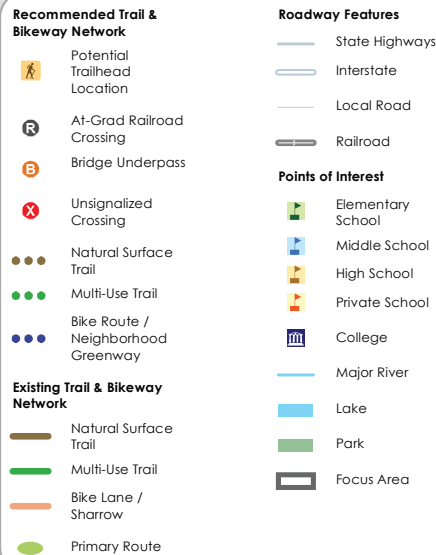
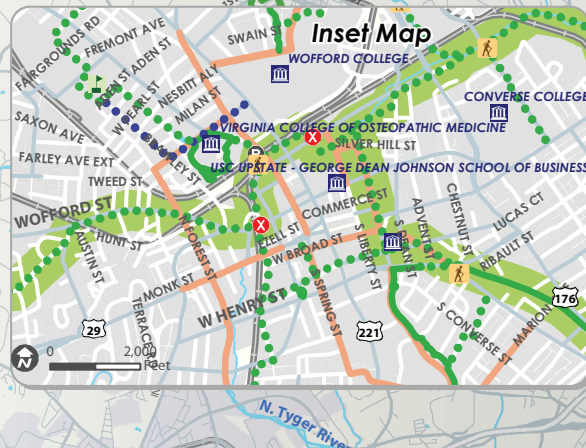
Multi-Use Trails cost estimates per mile is **\$1,089,217.20**

Natural Surface Trails cost estimate per mile is **\$276,430.20**

Neighborhood Greenway (without sidewalks) cost estimates per mile is **\$40,000 to \$114,000**

Neighborhood Greenway (with new sidewalks, both sides) cost estimates per mile is **\$975,681.00**

Spartanburg Trails and Greenways Plan Existing and Recommended Trail



PROJECT CUT SHEETS

The Plan identifies thirteen priority trail and greenway projects. The proposed recommendations are illustrated with photo renderings. The photo visualization below provides a conceptual example for a rail with trail strategy along the Norfolk Southern Line, which will provide a critical connection between Renaissance Park and the Farmers Market site.

EXAMPLE PROJECT: RENAISSANCE PARK TO FARMERS MARKET TRAIL

Type: Multi-use Trail

Length: 0.51 mi | 2686 ft

Cost Estimate: \$600,000

Implementation Strategy:
Rail with Trail



CSX and Norfolk Southern Railroads at Church Street



Proposed Rail with Trail