



**Oconee Rivers Greenway Trails
PROPOSAL TO TSPLOST 2023
PRESENTED BY OCONEE RIVERS GREENWAY
COMMISSION**

**DR. C. ROSS HINKLE, CHAIR
CHARLIE BARROW, VICE CHAIR**



Oconee Rivers Greenway Commission - Greenway Charge

**“...protection of the natural resources of
the North and Middle Oconee Rivers,
their major tributaries and their
floodplains**

**...for the benefit and enjoyment of the
citizens of Athens-Clarke County.”**

**1992 - ACC Ordinance
Title 1 sec 1-11-1 (c)**



Greenway Network Plan

- Updated Greenway Maps approved 2021
- updating Network Plan this year

Management goals to promote:

- 1. Resource Protection**
- 2. Education**
- 3. Health & Wellbeing**
- 4. Recreation**
- 5. Alternative Transportation**

Emphasis on **connectivity of resources and people**



Oconee Rivers Greenway Commission

- **Advisory board developing recommendations for the Mayor and Commission**
- **Responsible for a plan for a river-oriented greenway system & providing an implementation plan**
- **Recommends rules & regulations for protection and management**

Current Oconee Rivers Greenway Commissioners

Athens-Clarke County Appointees:

- ***Ross Hinkle - Chair**
- ***Charles Barrow - Vice Chair/Interim Treasurer**
- **Karen Porter - Sustainability Committee Chair**
- **Susie Haggard - Planning Committee Chair**
- **Alex Patterson**
- **Mack Duncan**
- **Jennifer Gay**
- ***Carly Evans**

University of Georgia Appointees:

- **Bryan Varin**
- **Shana Jones**
- **Lara Mathes**
- **Alison McCullick**
- **Robert Gordon**

Ex-Officio Members:

- **ACC Leisure Services - Alex Bond (Staff Liaison)**
- **ACC Sustainability Office - Mike Wharton**
- **ACC Planning Department – Robin Shultze**
- **ACC Transportation & Public Works – Daniel Sizemore**
- **ACC Public Utilities Department**
- **Bike Athens - Scott Long**
- **Upper Oconee Watershed Network - Diane Windham - Secretary**
- **Firefly Inc. – Tom Keene**
- **Northeast Georgia Regional Commission**
- **Oconee Rivers Audubon Society – Ed Maioriello**

*** New members beginning
January 2021**



Precedents for the TSPLOST 2023 Projects

- Greenway Network Plan
- Athens in Motion – Existing Infrastructure
- MACCORTS – Existing Infrastructure
- Envision Athens
- Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Plan, 2018
- ACC Unified Government Comprehensive Plan, 2018

 Greenway
Network Plan

Athens-Clarke County



Comprehensive Plan

2018



Unified Government
Of
Athens-Clarke County

envision
ATHENS our community • our future



Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan



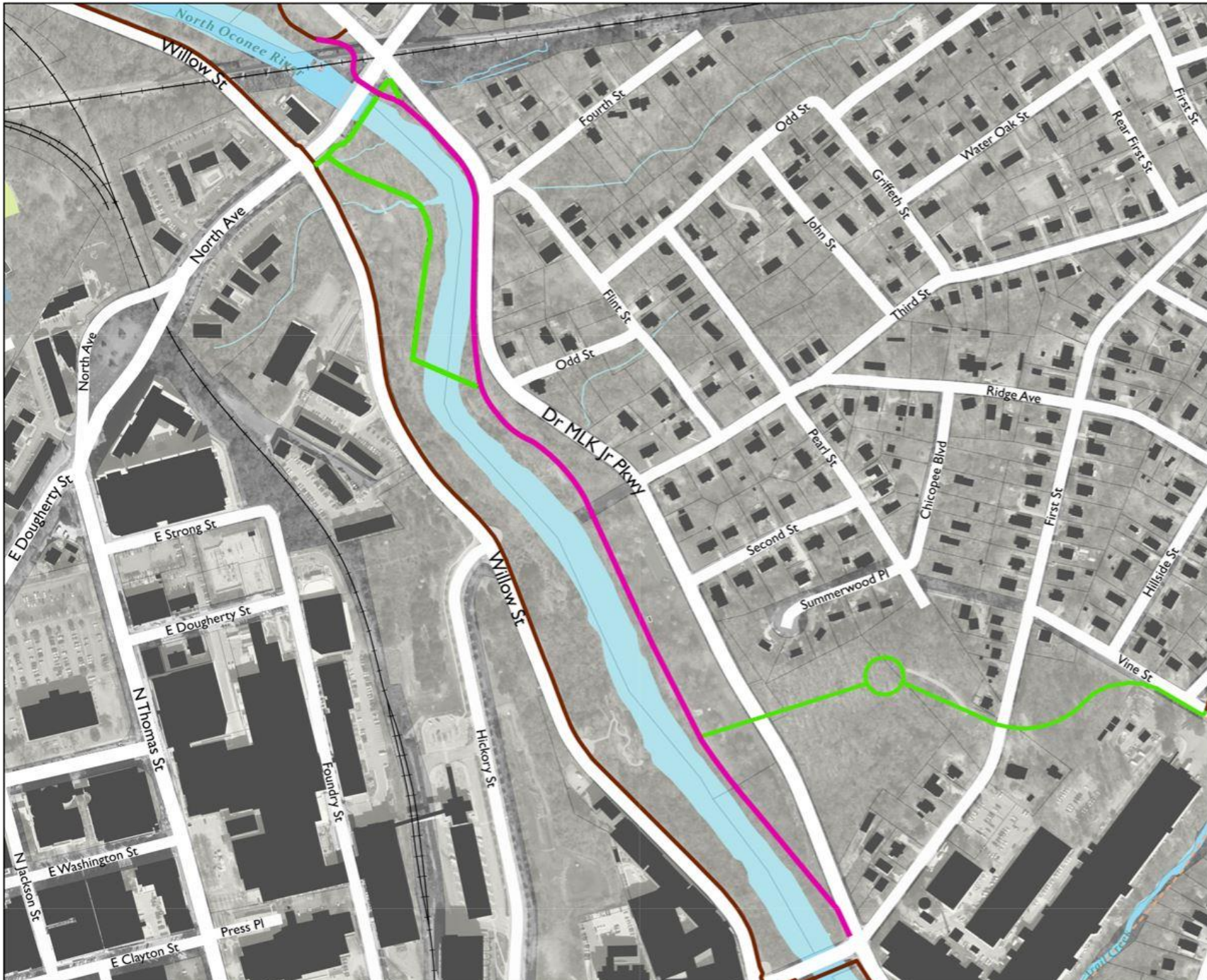
Northeast Georgia Regional Plan
Update 2018

Planning & Government Services Division
Northeast Georgia Regional Commission

A Project With Significant Benefits Across the County!

This project has 4 locations that serve to finish the Greenway Network Connectivity from Downtown Athens to Sandy Creek Park:

- **Subproject 1 – Dr. Martin Luther King Parkway continuation of trail from North Avenue to Dudley Park**
- **Subproject 2 – Cook’s Trail improvements within the Cook’s trail corridor from Sandy Creek Nature Center to Sandy Creek Park**
- **Subproject 3 - Middle Oconee trail from Ben Burton Park to Beech Haven**
- **Subproject 4 - Normaltown Connector Trail from the existing greenway trail to Normaltown**



Location Map



Legend

Proposed TSPLOST Improvements

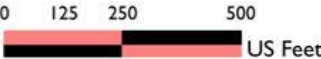
Greenway Extension - North Avenue to Dudley Park

Infrastructure

- Existing Greenway
- Proposed Greenway
- Proposed - Alternate
- Railroad
- Buildings
- Parcels
- ACCUG Property

Hydrology

- Surface Water
- Stream



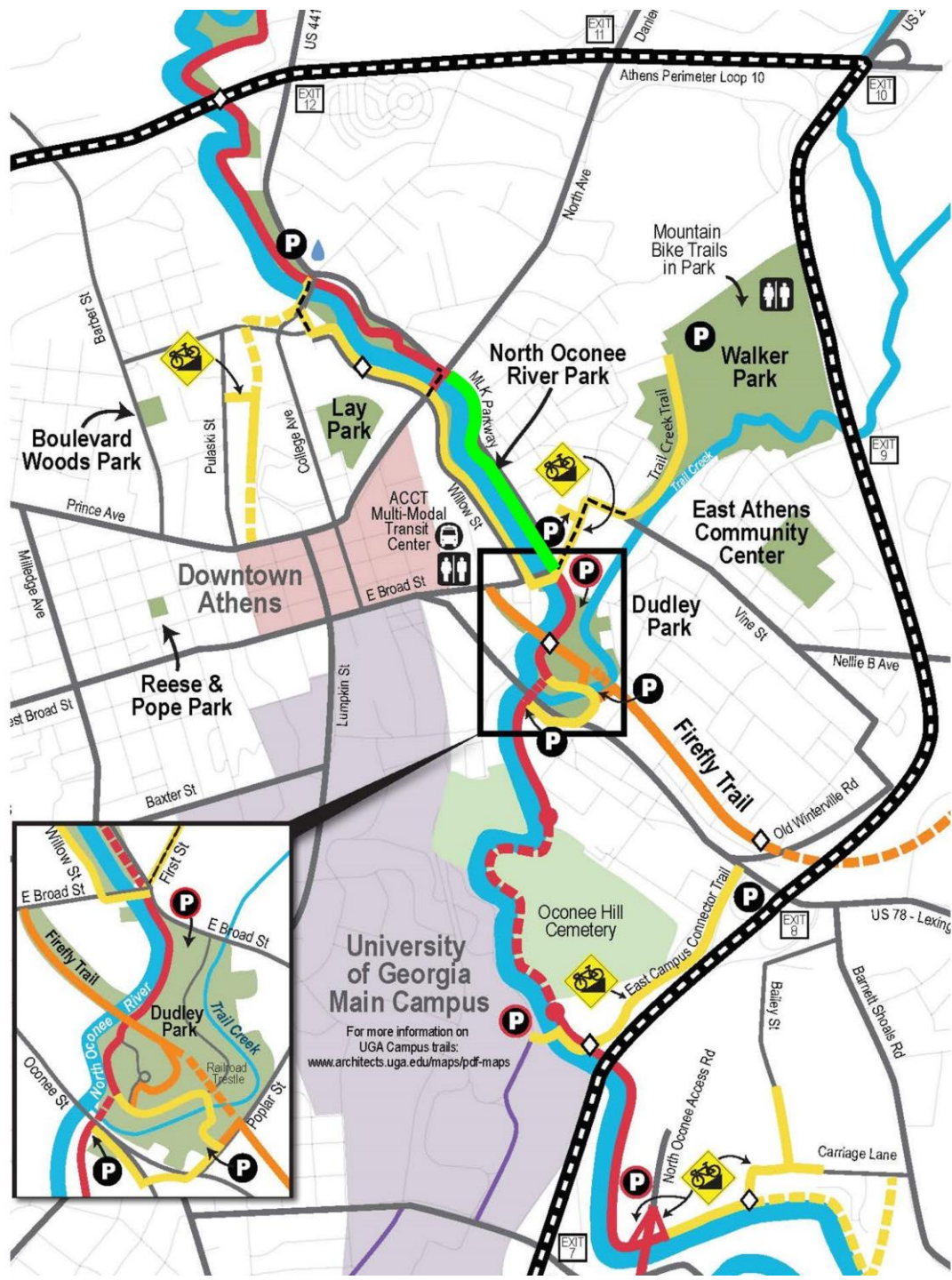
Greenway Extension
North Avenue to Dudley Park

TSPLOST 2023 Application

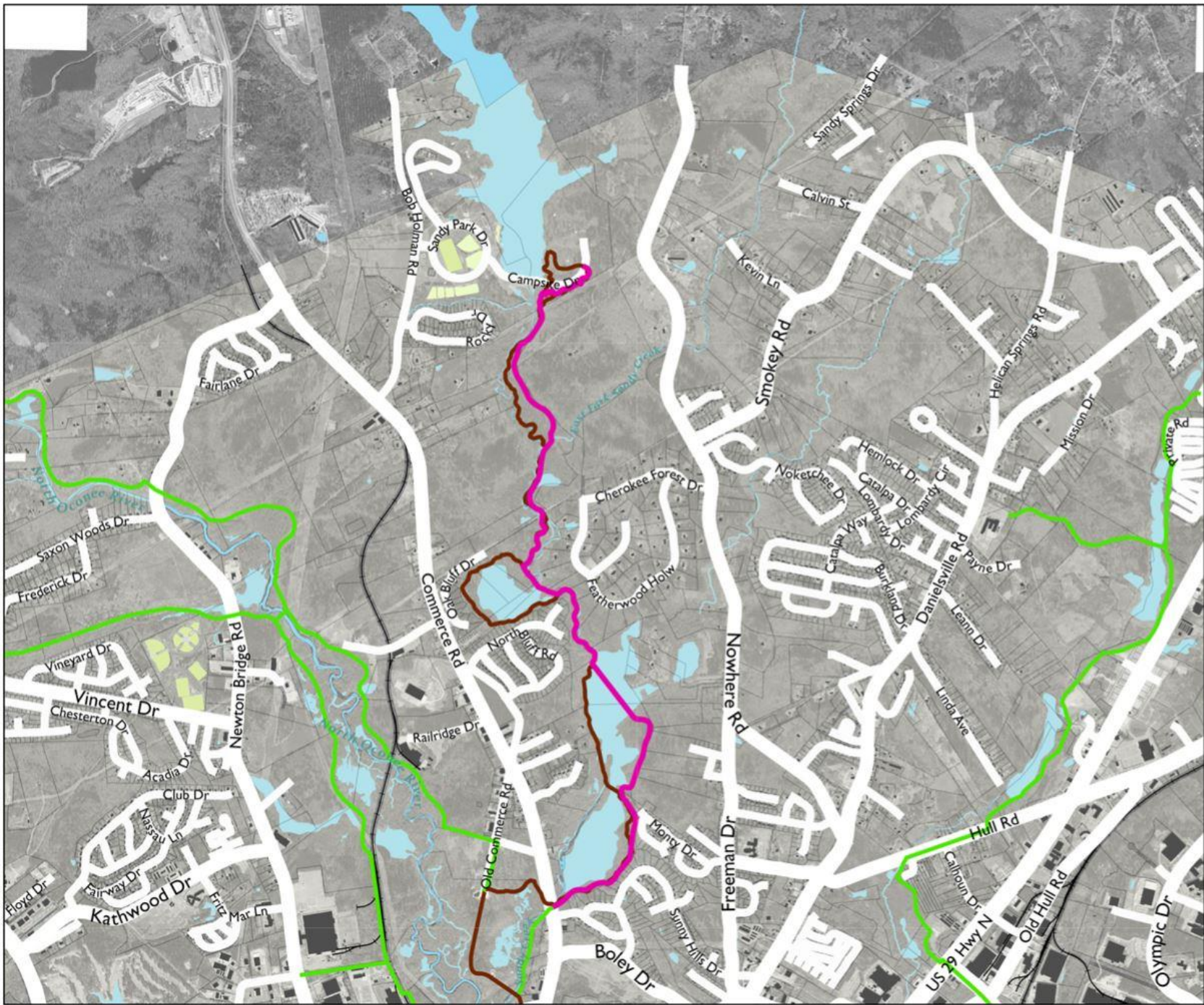
Athens, Georgia

August 13, 2021

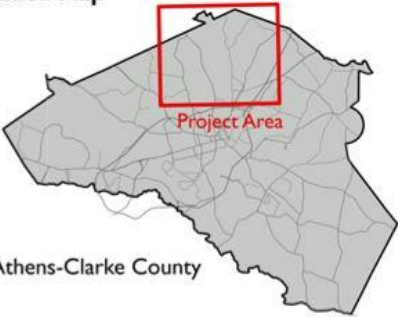
Sheet 1 of 1



- Fills trail gap of riverside trail from North Avenue to East Broad Street and Dudley Park through North Oconee Park
- Segment of trail has been submitted and approved as a priority trail within SPLOST/TSPLOST proposals and the Greenway Network Plan
- Segment is currently unfunded and needs support from the TSPLOST 2023 funds
- Adds 0.63 miles of trail
- Cost estimate is @ \$1.5M for construction and @ \$2.2M total



Location Map



Athens-Clarke County

Legend

Proposed TSPLOST Improvements

Cook's Trail

Infrastructure

Existing Greenway

Proposed Greenway

Railroad

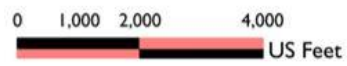
Buildings

Parcels

Hydrology

Surface Water

Stream



Cook's Trail

TSPLOST 2023 Application

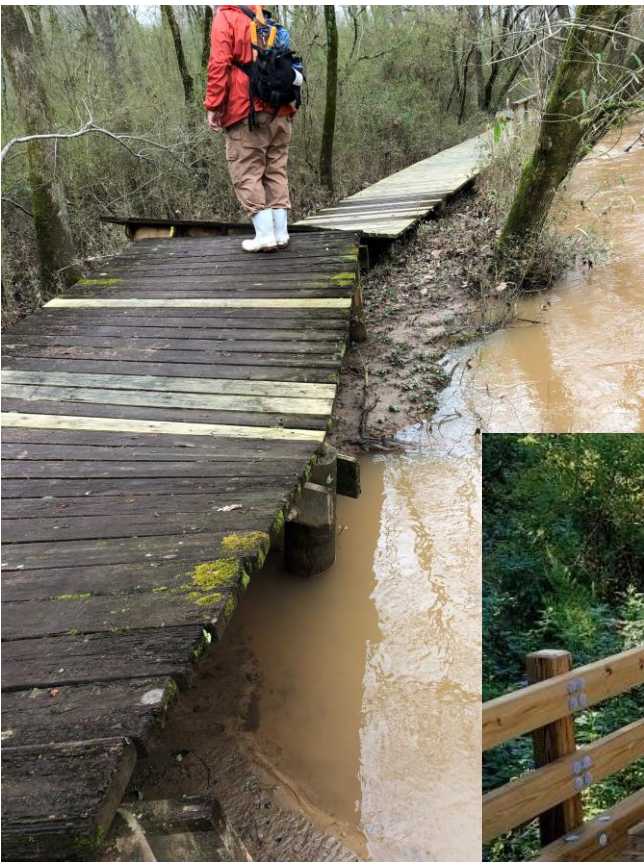
Athens, Georgia

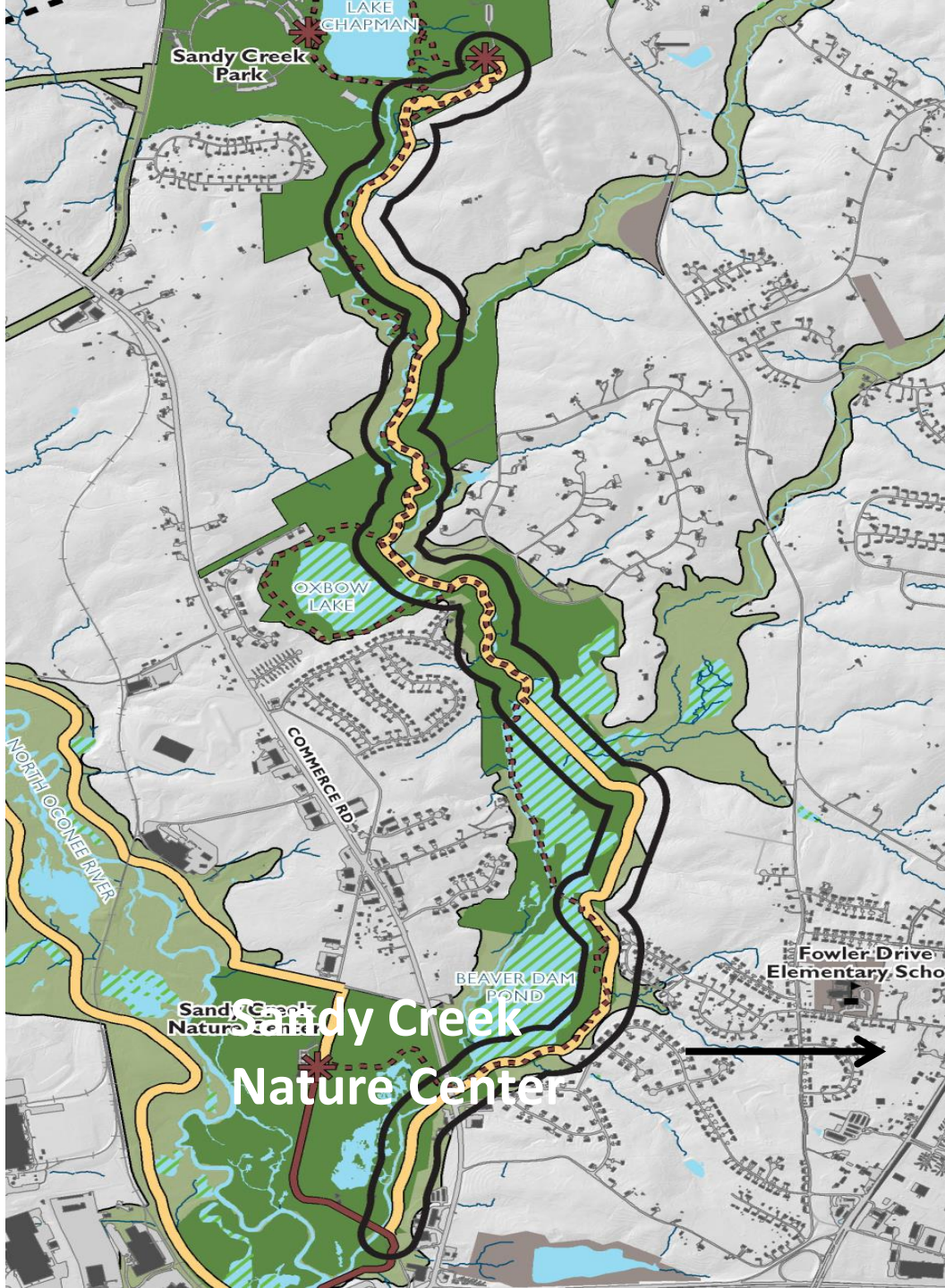
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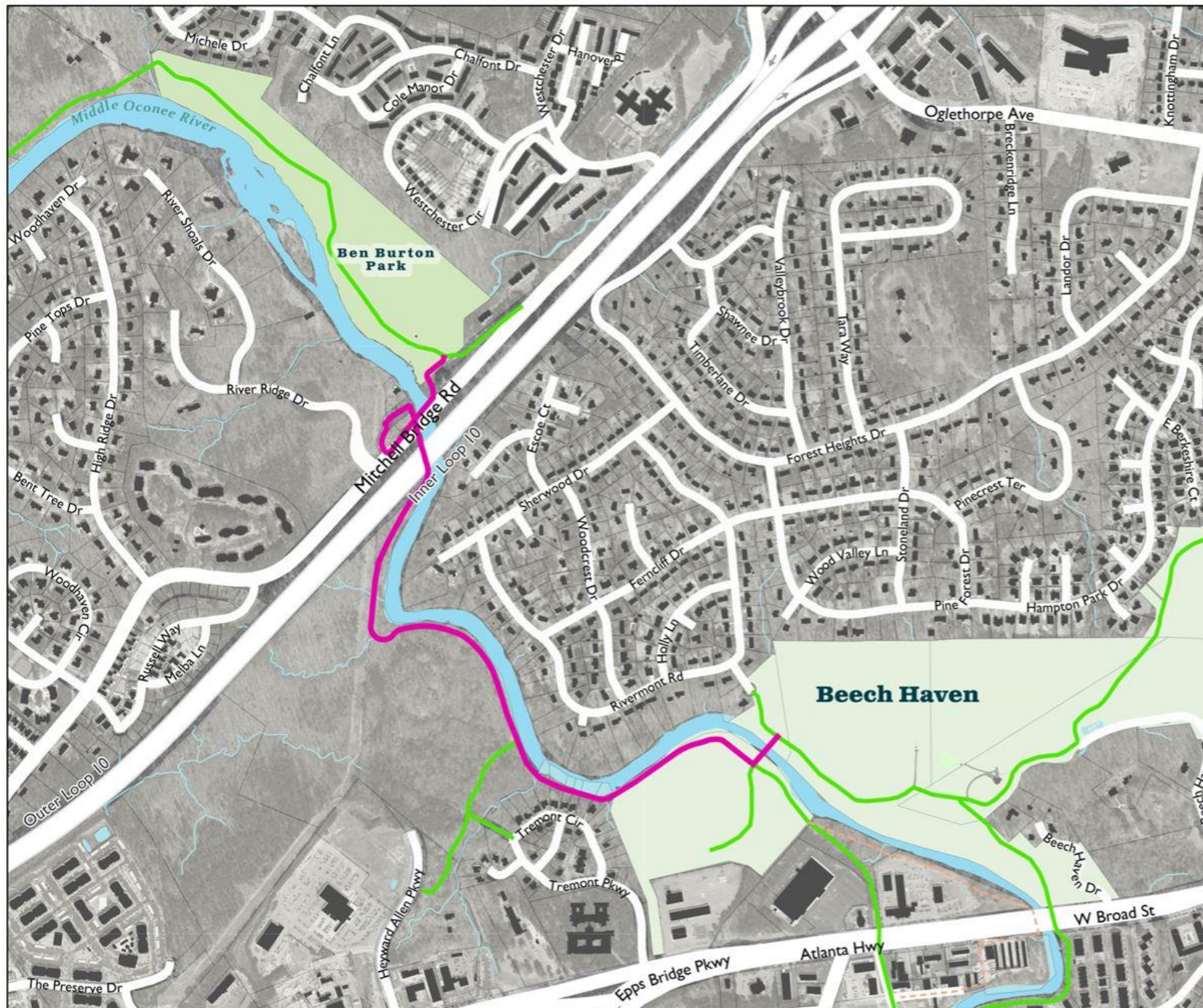
Cook's Trail

The current trail has been closed off and on for over 5 years due to catastrophic flooding. The new trail alignment would be on higher ground and be made of boardwalks and aggregate that would be more accessible to everyone.

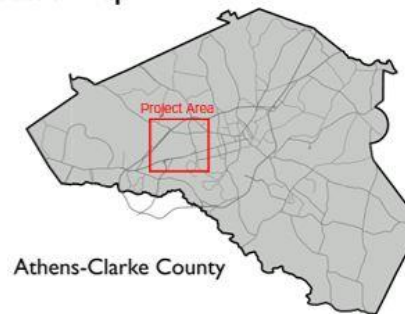




- Connecting Sandy Creek Park and Sandy Creek Nature Center as a multi-use trail in a new alignment that is less impacted by flooding. With this trail rebuilt, anyone could access Sandy Creek Park from downtown Athens without a car.
- This project request would be supplemented by pursuing grants as TSPLOST funding is an effective leverage for securing state and federal grants.
- Length 4.2 miles
- Cost @ \$8.6 M for construction and @ \$13.6 total (bridge & boardwalk, used as matching funds)



Location Map



Legend

Proposed TSPLOST Improvements

Middle Oconee River
Greenway - Ben Burton Park
to Beech Haven

Infrastructure

Proposed Greenway
Proposed - Alternate

Railroad

Buildings

Parcels

ACCUG Facilities

ACCUG Parks

Hydrology

Surface Water

Stream



0 350 700 1,400
US Feet

Middle Oconee River Trail Ben Burton Park to Beech Haven

TSPLOST 2023 Application

Athens, Georgia

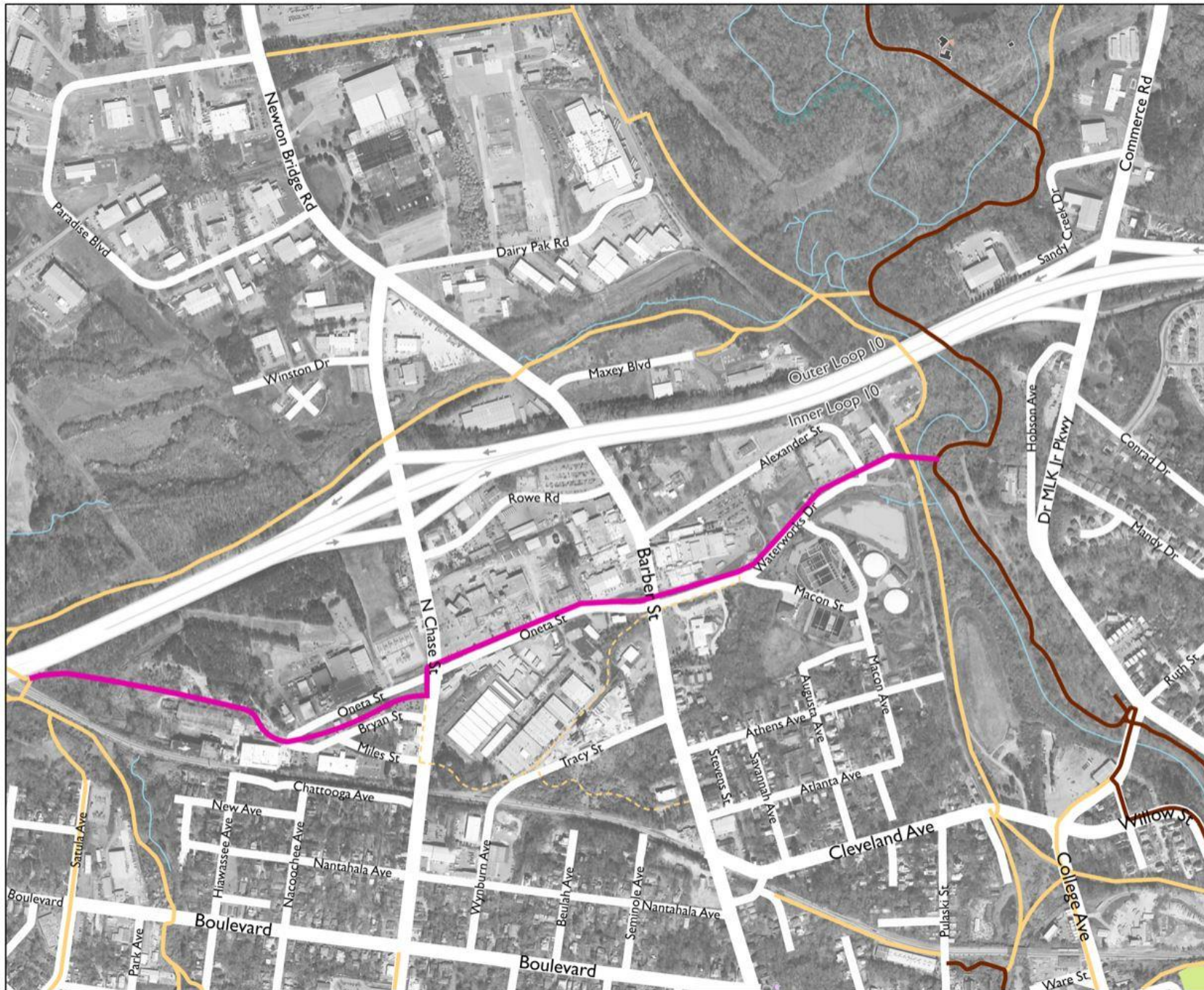
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Middle Oconee – Ben Burton to Beech Haven



- The first segment of trail along the Middle Oconee River would connect Ben Burton Park to Atlanta Highway near the future Beech Haven Park
- This connector would open up access to countless neighborhoods for people to access Atlanta Highway from Mitchell Bridge Road and eventually down Tallassee Road with the planned path in SPLPOST 2020
- This connection works in collaboration with other TSPLOST 2023 proposals.
- Length 2.0 miles
- Cost @ \$8.6M for construction and @\$14.0M total (bridge over river equals @\$5 M of construction)



Location Map



Legend

Proposed TSPLOST Improvements

Normaltown Connector

Infrastructure

Proposed Greenway
Existing Greenway
Proposed Greenway - Alternate Route
Railroad

Buildings
Parcels
ACCUG Facilities
ACCUG Parks

Hydrology

Surface Water
Stream



0 325 650 1,300
US Feet

Normaltown Connector

TSPLOST 2023 Application

Athens, Georgia

August 13, 2021

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Normaltown Connector

- The Normaltown Connector would connect the existing North Oconee River Greenway Trail to Normaltown through many neighborhoods.
- Adds 2.1 miles
- Cost @\$8.5M for construction and @\$13.8 total (bridge over river, equals @ \$5M of construction)

Meets the Project Selection Criteria

- ✓ Promotes the Goal of Improving Equitability of Capital Improvements throughout the Community
- ✓ Protects the community's Existing Transportation Infrastructure Investments
- ✓ Reduces Pavement Maintenance deficit
- ✓ Promotes the Upgrade and Continued Use of Alternative Transportation Facilities
- ✓ Promotes Increased Access to existing public facilities
- ✓ Promotes Increased Usage of the Transit System, including improving Pedestrian access to Transit Facilities
- ✓ Increases Capital for Transit services or expands the Transit System
- ✓ Maintains or Improves Air Quality
- ✓ Reduces Vehicle Miles Traveled and Traffic Congestion
- ✓ Reduces time spent Traveling in Vehicle

Meets the Project Selection Criteria (cont.)

- ✓ **Continues TSPLOST 2018 Corridor Improvements or transportation related safety improvements**
- ✓ **Promotes Health and Safety**
- ✓ **Continues Sidewalk & Multi-Use Trail Construction**
- ✓ **Implements components of an updated Greenway Network Plan (2021 five year update)**

“Triple Bottom Line”

✓ **Economic Prosperity**

Greenways are economic engines....

- **Property values increase / property tax income increases**
- **Sales of related gear and services increase**
- **Food and lodging sales increase**
- **Quality of life that appeals to corporate interest, retirees, and others**

“Triple Bottom Line”

✓ Social Well-Being

Greenways are linear parks connecting people welcoming to everyone....

- Connects major roadways and parts of Athens without sidewalks on the main roads
- Promotes healthier lives through use of outdoor spaces
- Provides access to a number of communities that have not received SPLOST or TSPLOST capital investments
- Provides a connection to Athens for resident citizens, gameday visitors, students, businesses and their employees



“Triple Bottom Line”

✓ Environment

- Greenways are more than trails, they are conservation areas along our rivers**
- Provides for education and recreation in greenspaces due to trail access**
- Preserves natural vegetation and wildlife corridors**
- Protects riparian areas from further development**
- Contributes to runoff control and water quality**
- Reduces flooding potential from major storms**

Budget Estimate

Project Cost round to thousand)

ORGC Greenway Improvements

Rounded #

1. Land Acquisition / ROW / Easement: Estimated value of property.	\$987,000
2. Design Fees Minimum of 12% of Construction costs for New Construction	\$3,307,000
3. Miscellaneous Fees: Minimum of 3% of Construction Costs – used for permitting, etc. Utilize minimum of 10% if land acquisition if necessary.	\$827,000
4. Construction: Provide a detailed cost estimate of this component.	\$27,555,000
5. Construction Contingency: Calculated at 10% of the Construction line item. If additional Construction Contingency is needed, use one of the "Other" fields below.	\$2,756,000
6. Acquisition of Capital Equipment	\$0
7. Testing Minimum of 3% of construction costs for projects whose construction component is over \$1 million and 5% for those whose construction component between \$1 million and \$500,000 and 10% of construction costs for projects less than \$500,000.	\$827,000
8. Project Management Calculated at 4% of the total budget line items above.	\$1,451,000
9. Project Contingency Calculated at 10% of the total budget line items above. If additional Project Contingency is needed, use one of the "Other" fields below.	\$3,771,000
10. Public Art: Calculated at 1% of the Construction line item.	\$276,000
11. Other	\$0
12. Other	\$0
Project Subtotal:	\$41,757,000
13. Program Management (2% of Project Subtotal):	\$836,000
TSPLOST 2023 Project Total:	\$42,593,000



Oconee Rivers Greenway Improvements

Conceptual Cost Estimate

8/12/2021

MULTI-USE TRAIL - North Oconee River Trail - North Avenue to Dudley Park

Erosion Control	\$90,520.00
Trail Construction	\$1,123,805.00
Signage and Site Furniture	\$22,051.00
Sub-Total	\$1,236,376.00

MULTI-USE TRAIL - North Oconee River Trail - Cooks Trail

Erosion Control	\$519,177.00
Trail Construction	\$7,133,250.00
Signage and Site Furniture	\$34,688.00
Sub-Total	\$7,687,115.00

MULTI-USE TRAIL - Middle Oconee River Trail - Ben Burton Park to Beech Haven

Erosion Control	\$176,272.80
Trail and Bridge Construction	\$7,142,851.20
Signage and Site Furniture	\$27,168.40
Sub-Total	\$7,346,292.40

MULTI-USE TRAIL - North Oconee River Trail - Normaltown Connector

Erosion Control	\$127,247.00
Trail and Bridge Construction	\$7,111,234.00
Signage and Site Furniture	\$42,959.25
Sub-Total	\$7,281,440.25

Grand Total **\$23,551,223.65**

Construction General Conditions (7%) **\$1,648,585.66**

Construction Overhead and Profit (10%) **\$2,355,122.37**

TOTAL **\$27,554,931.67**

Thanks – Questions??

