

Cherokee
County

1831

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Cherokee County
Greenways & Trails Master Plan

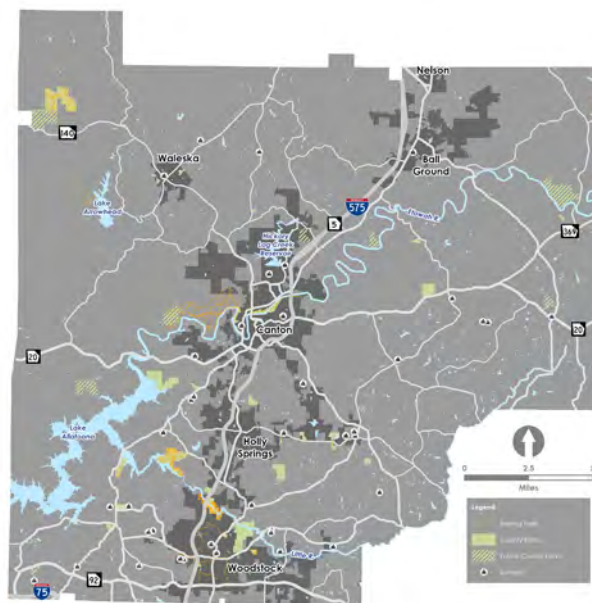
APPENDIX A: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MATERIALS

FEBRUARY 2025



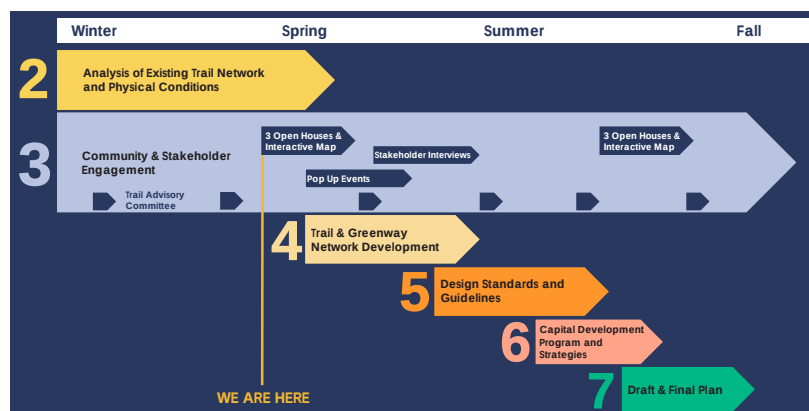
Cherokee County is developing the first-ever Countywide Greenways & Trails Master Plan. The goal of the plan is to establish an intentional and cohesive approach to identifying potential locations for future trails, prioritizing trail connections, and allocating funding for new projects with the cities and adjacent counties to develop the network. The master plan will provide a framework and strategy for connecting trail segments, for connecting to key places, and providing alternative transportation options.

Public participation is vital to the success of this process, and residents will have multiple opportunities throughout the plan development process to provide feedback to County staff and the project team. County goals and objectives are to create a trail and greenway system that promotes economic development, recreation, and transportation. The planning process is expected to conclude by the end of 2024.



Existing Trails & Greenspace

Schedule



To learn more, visit the project website via the QR code or <https://greshamsmithplanning.mysocialpinpoint.com/cherokeecountygtmp>

Additional questions can be directed to the Cherokee County Project Manager, Bryan Reynolds at bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov

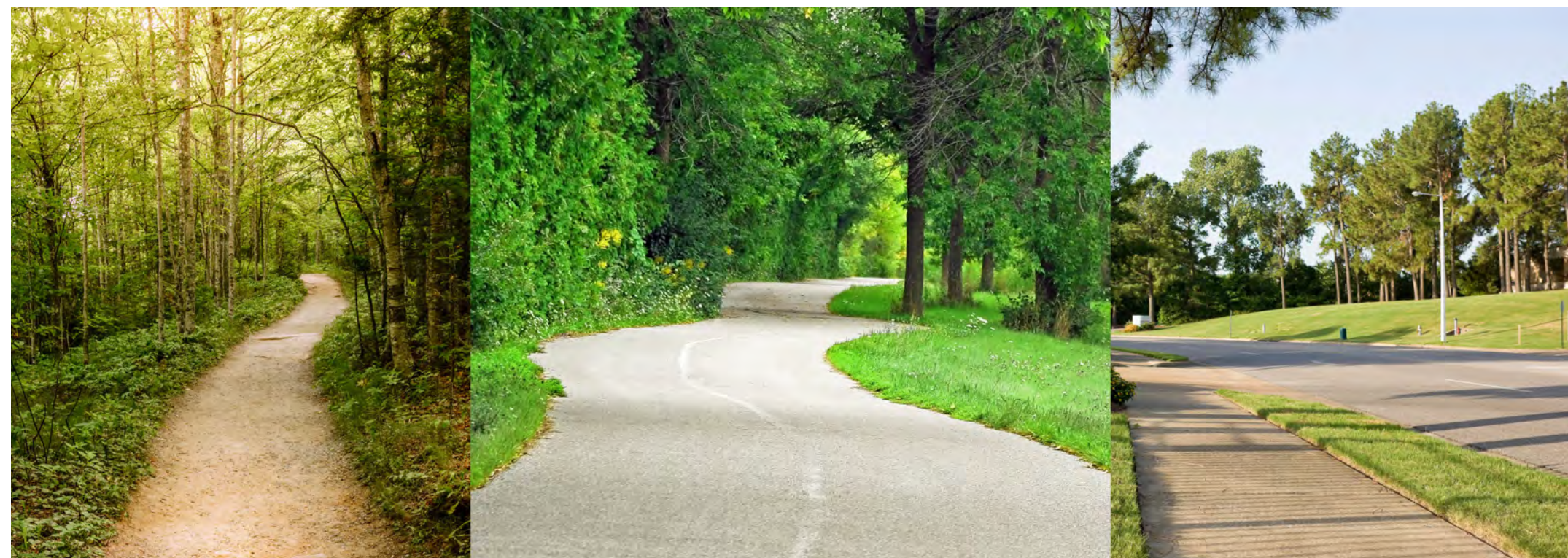
Plan Objectives

- A Vision and Goals to Guide Future Trails Development
- Document Existing State of Greenways & Trails
- Promote Decision-Making Grounded in Guiding Principles and Best Practices
- Recommend Design Criteria and Guidelines
- Recommend Future Connections and Extensions in Coordination with Municipalities, Neighboring Cities, and Counties
- Provide Guidance on Partnerships, Funding, Operations & Maintenance
- Identify Priority Corridors and Projects

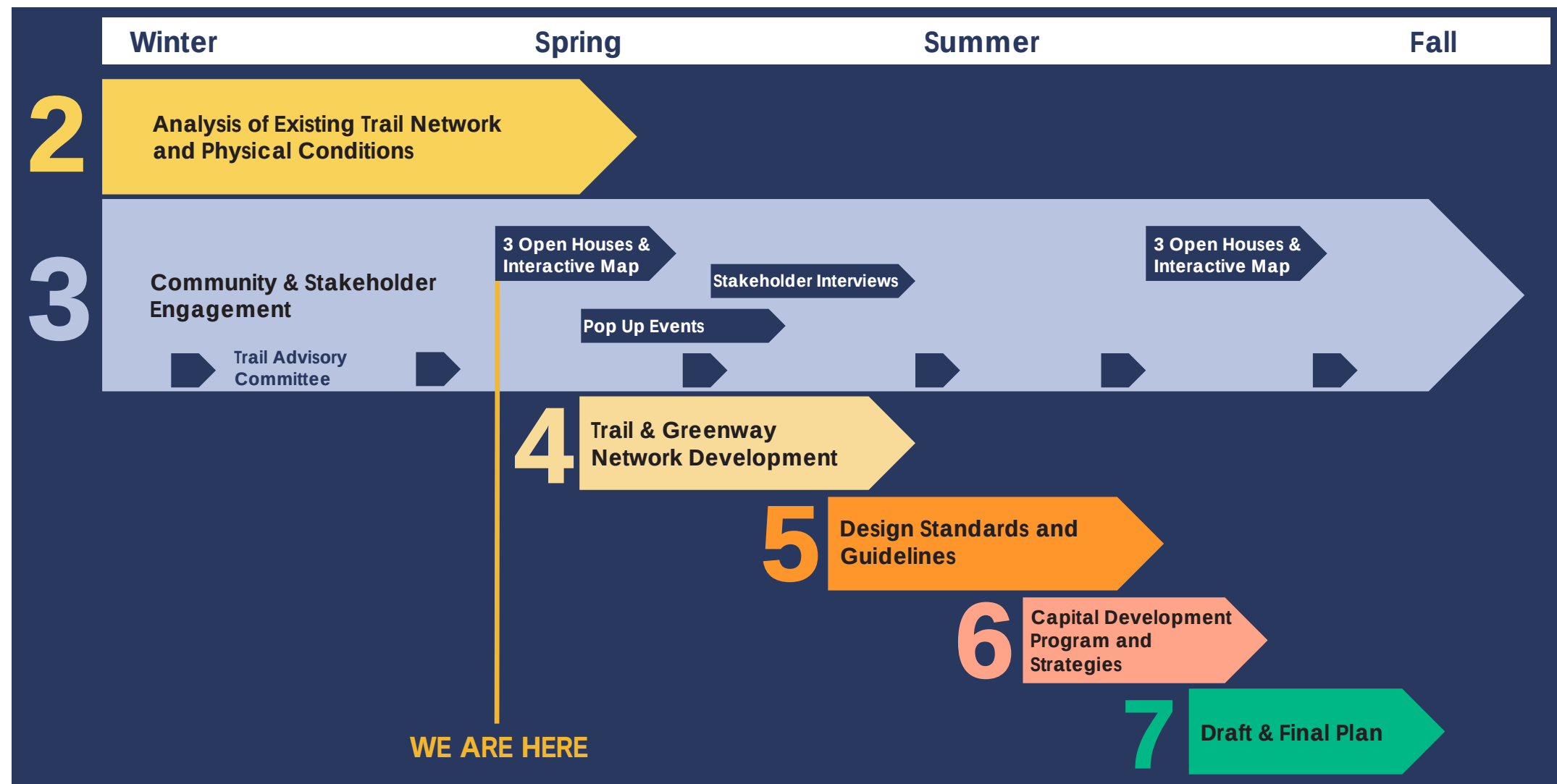
Station 1 - Greenways & Trails Master Plan Overview

Cherokee County is developing the first-ever Countywide Greenways & Trails Master Plan. The goal of the plan is to establish an intentional and cohesive approach to identifying potential locations for future trails, prioritizing trail connections and allocating funding for new projects with the cities and adjacent counties to develop the network. The master plan will provide a framework and strategy for connecting trail segments, for connecting to key places, and providing alternative transportation options.

Public participation is vital to the success of this process. County goals and objectives are to create a trail and greenway system that promotes economic development, recreation, and transportation. The community open house gathers input on community desires and priorities for future growth of the trail system. The planning process is expected to conclude by the end of 2024.

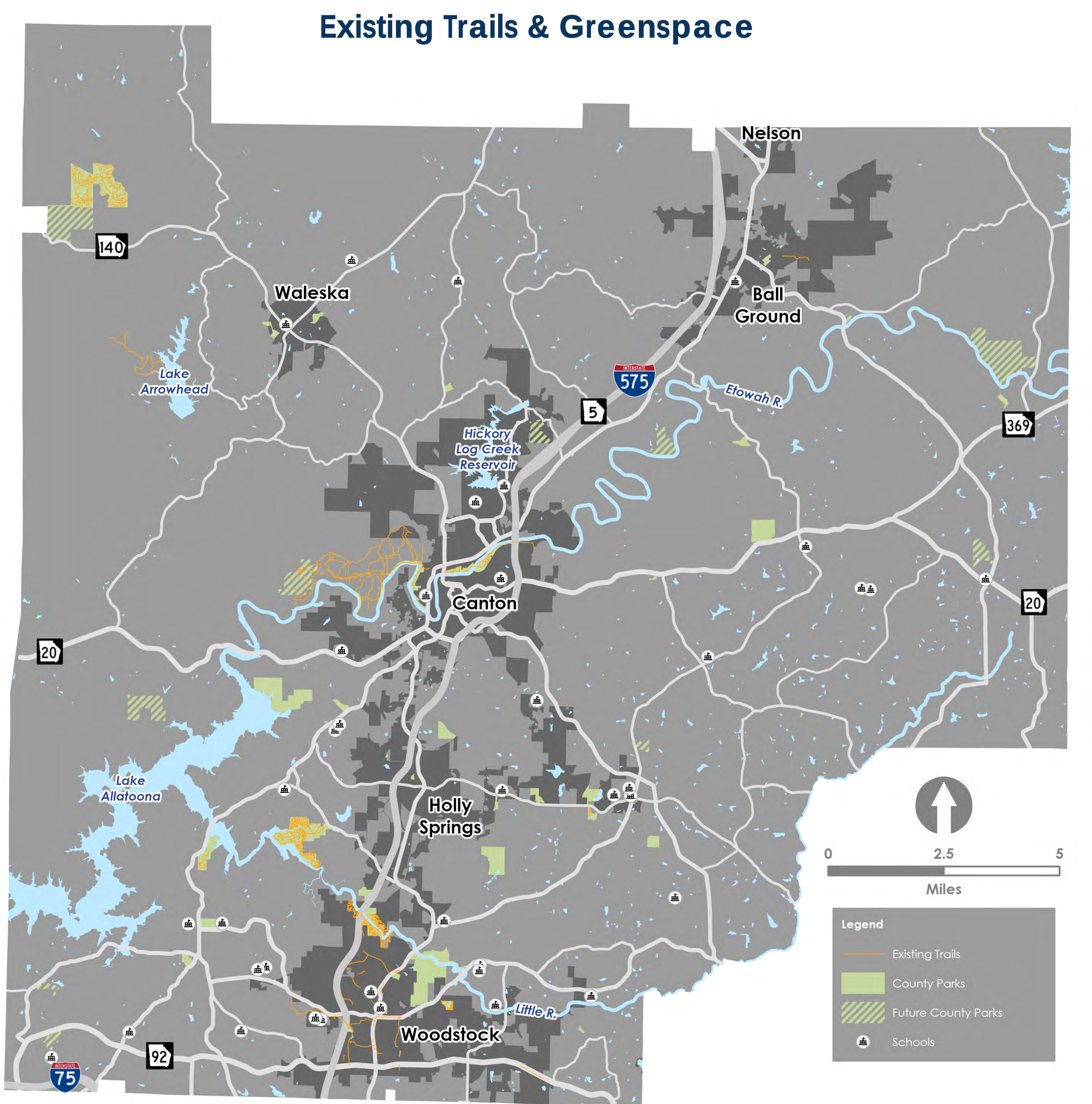


Schedule



Objectives

- A Vision and Goals to Guide Future Trails Development
- Document Existing State of Greenways & Trails
- Promote Decision-Making Grounded in Guiding Principles and Best Practices
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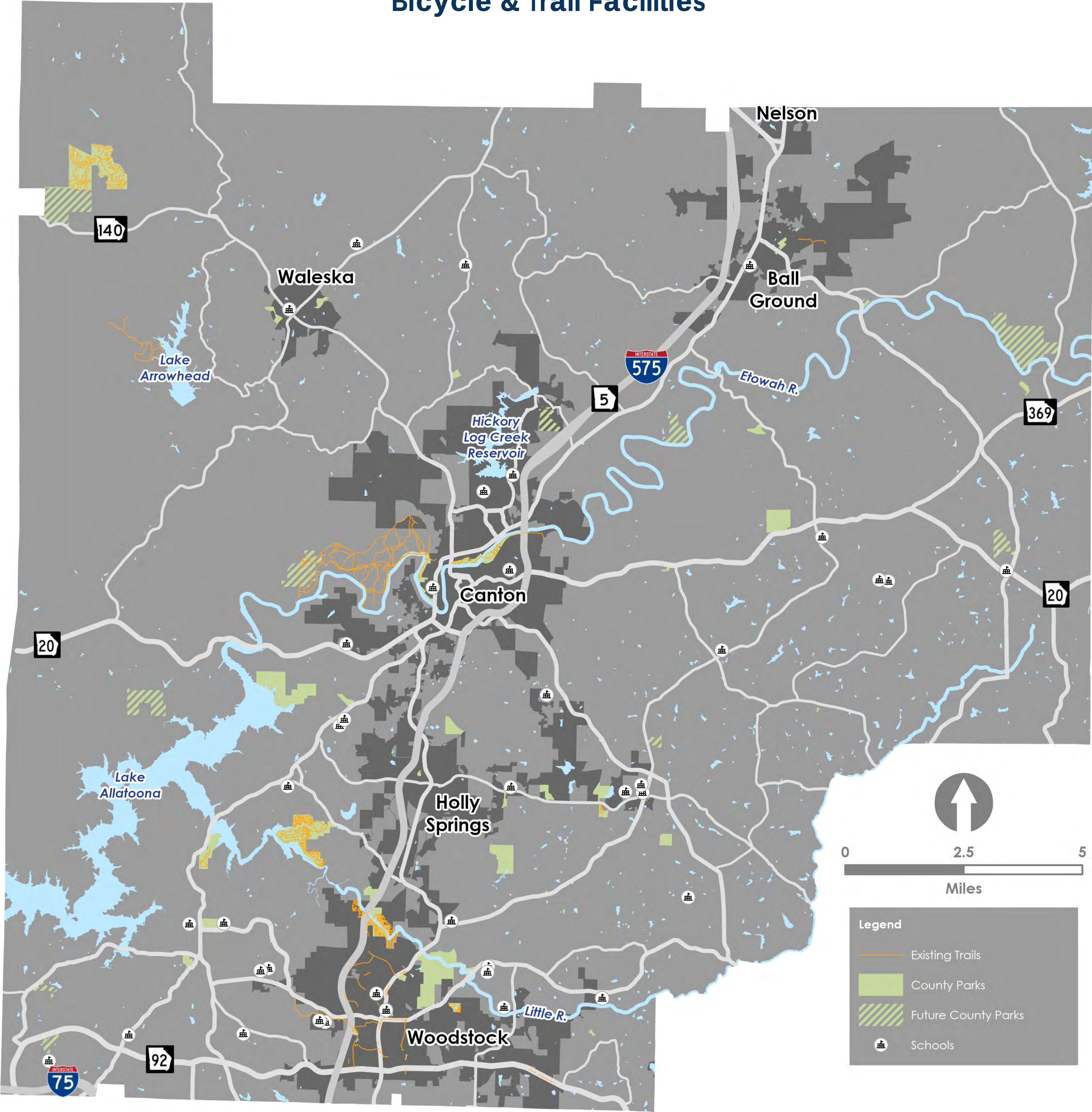


Plan Goals

- Create opportunities for physical and social activity, expand travel options, and foster economic development
- Provide a framework for connecting segments of trail, key places, and create a true Countywide network

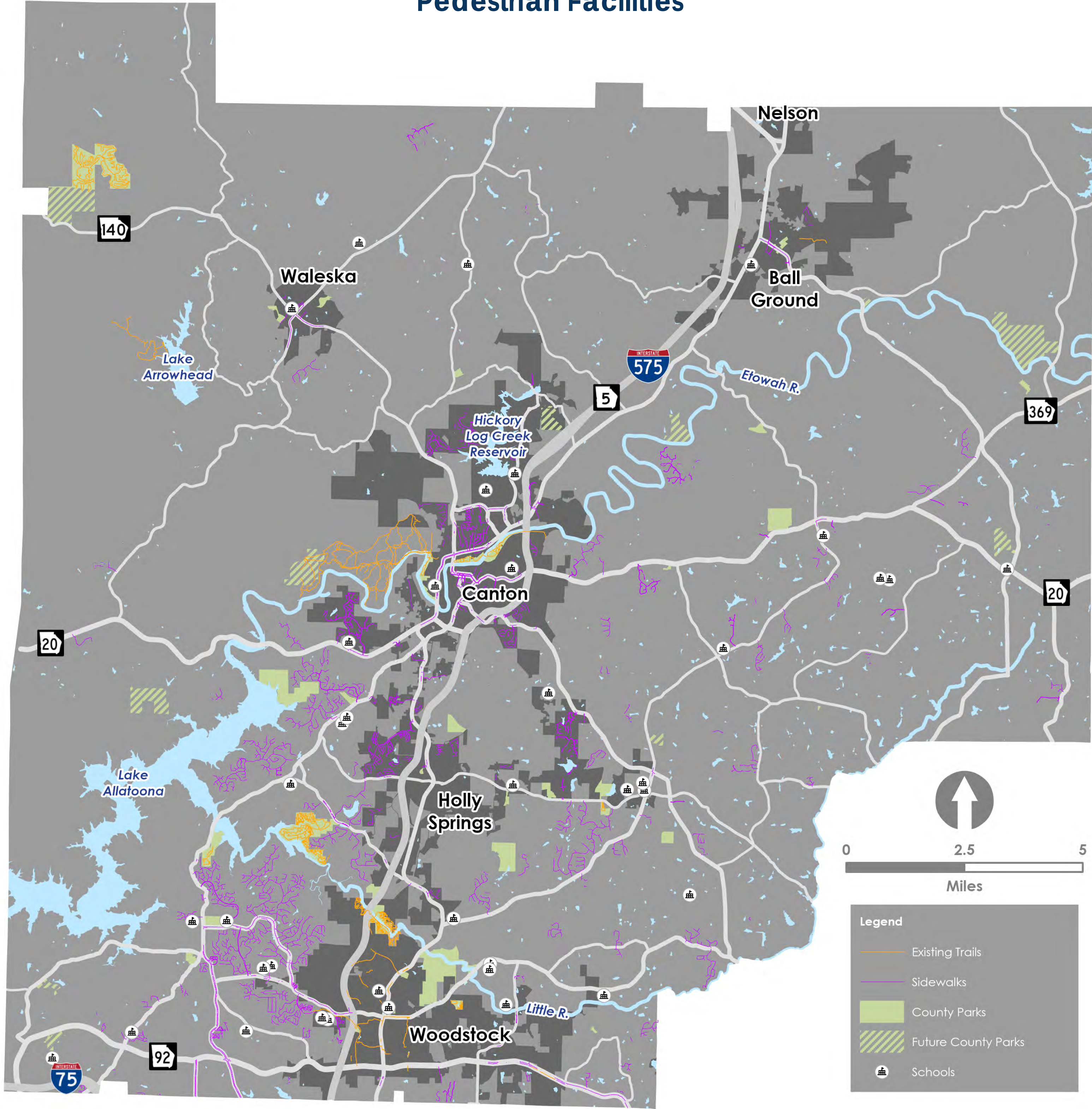
Station 2 - Existing Conditions - Multimodal Infrastructure

Bicycle & Trail Facilities



Most trail and bicycle facilities are within County-operated parks and greenspace as well as facilities within Canton and Woodstock. This includes both soft surface and paved trail facilities. There are also some trails within private property near Lake Allatoona, Lake Arrowhead, and the Sutalee Trace Greenspace.

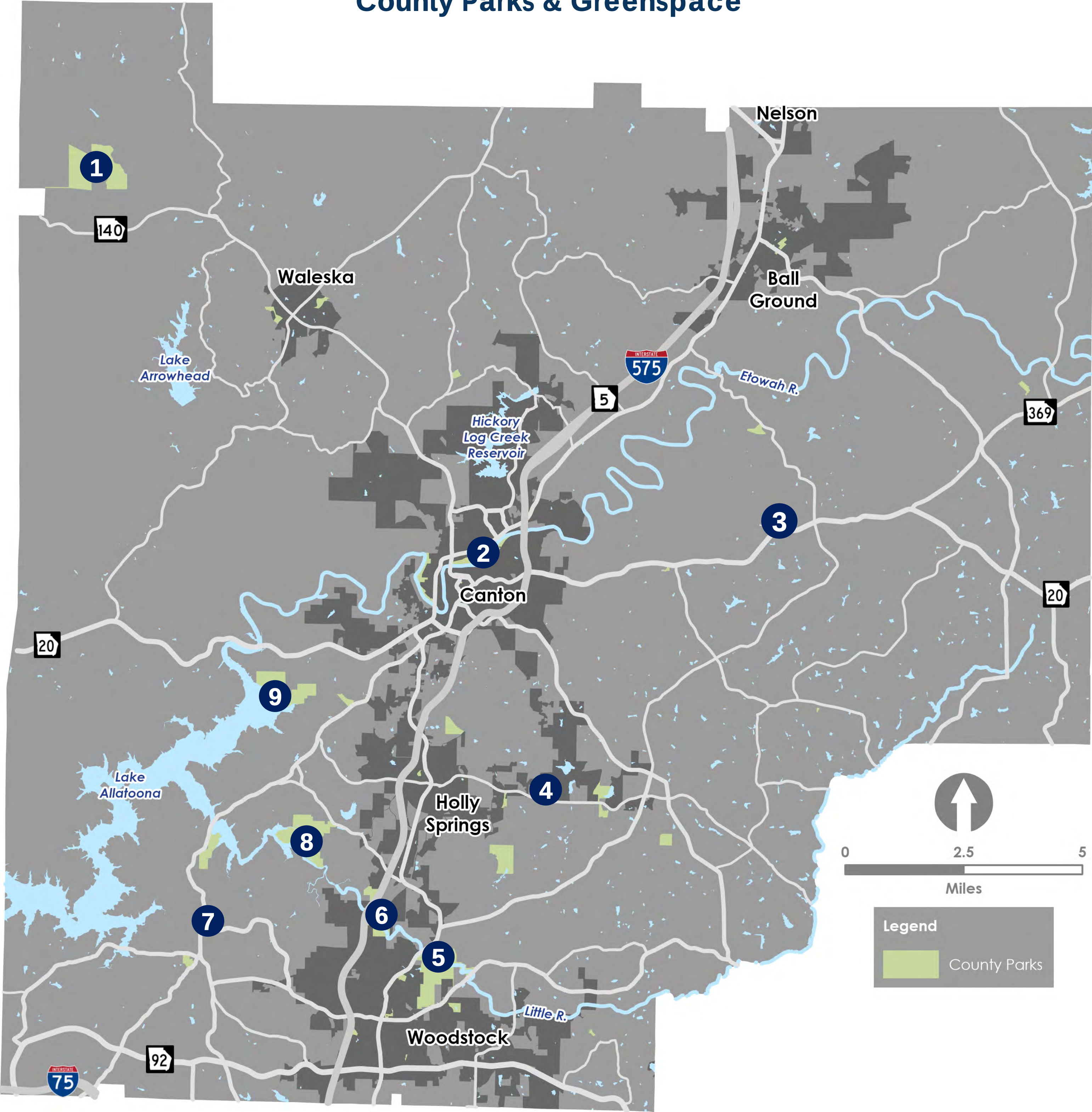
Pedestrian Facilities



The existing sidewalk network builds upon the trail network - especially within the southern and southwestern portions of Cherokee County. There are many gaps and isolated sidewalks in the more rural eastern and northern sections of the County.

Station 2 - Existing Conditions - Destinations

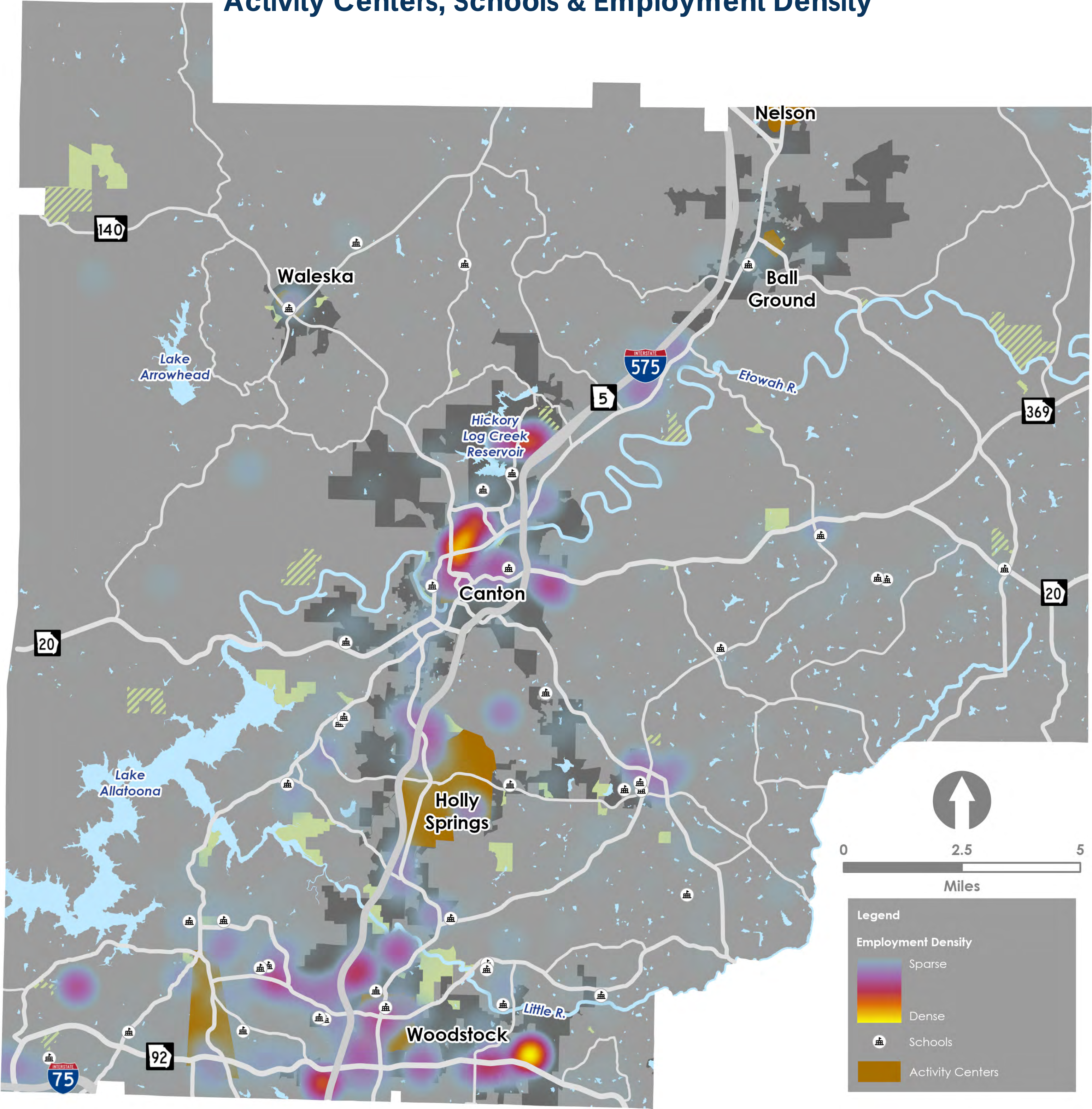
County Parks & Greenspace



The County contains numerous parks and greenspace, and notable facilities include:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------|
| 1) Garland Mountain | 4) JB Owens Park | 7) Hobgood Park |
| 2) Etowah River Park | 5) Twins Creek/Riverside Athletic Complex | 8) Blankets Creek |
| 3) Cherokee Veterans Park | 6) Olde Rope Mill | 9) Fields Landing Park |

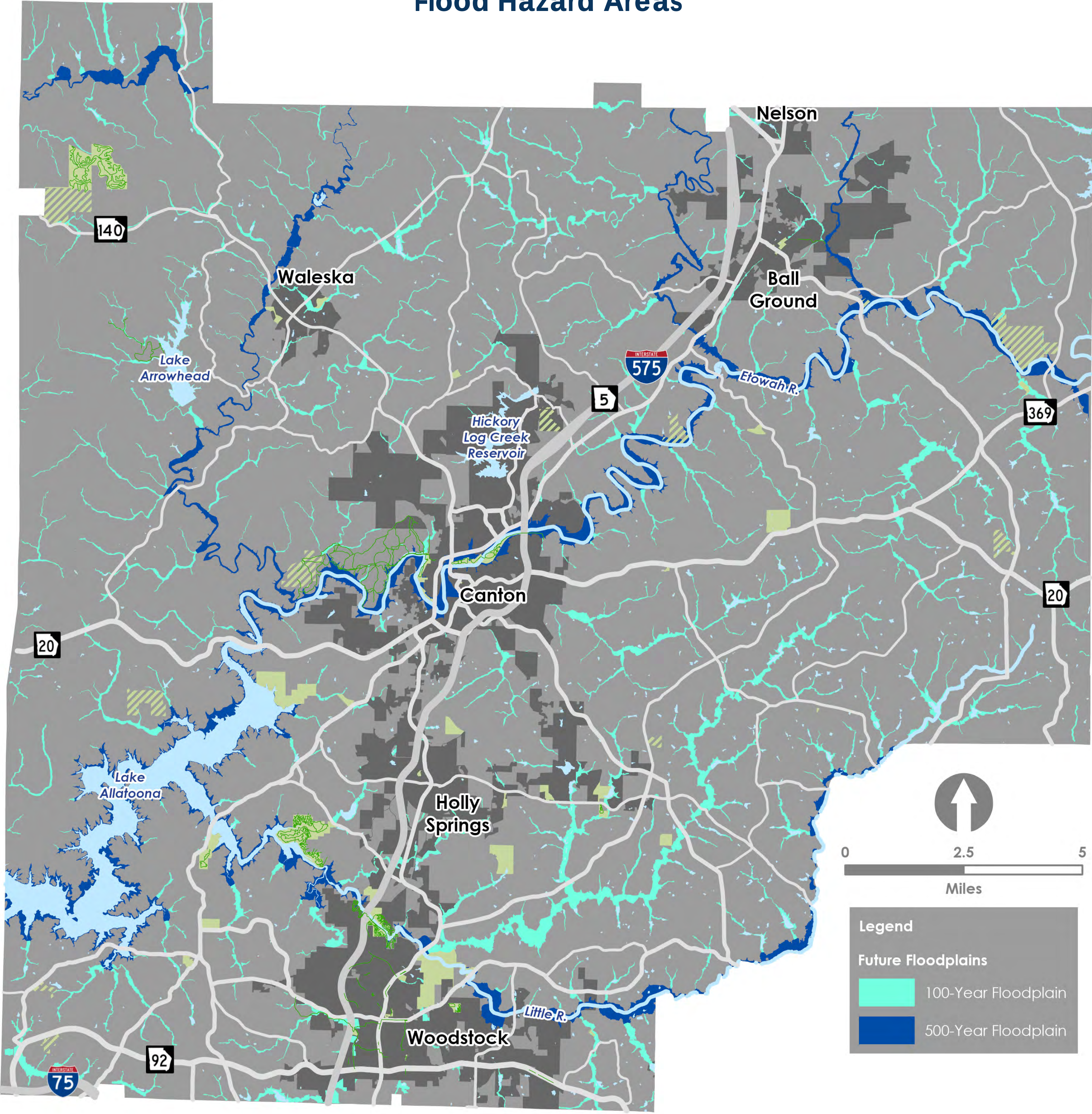
Activity Centers, Schools & Employment Density



Additional destinations that could be connected via trails and greenways include schools, activity centers such as downtown historic districts, commercial shopping centers, and major employment centers. Examples include the Riverstone Parkway corridor in Canton, SR 92 in Woodstock, and the Hickory Flat area.

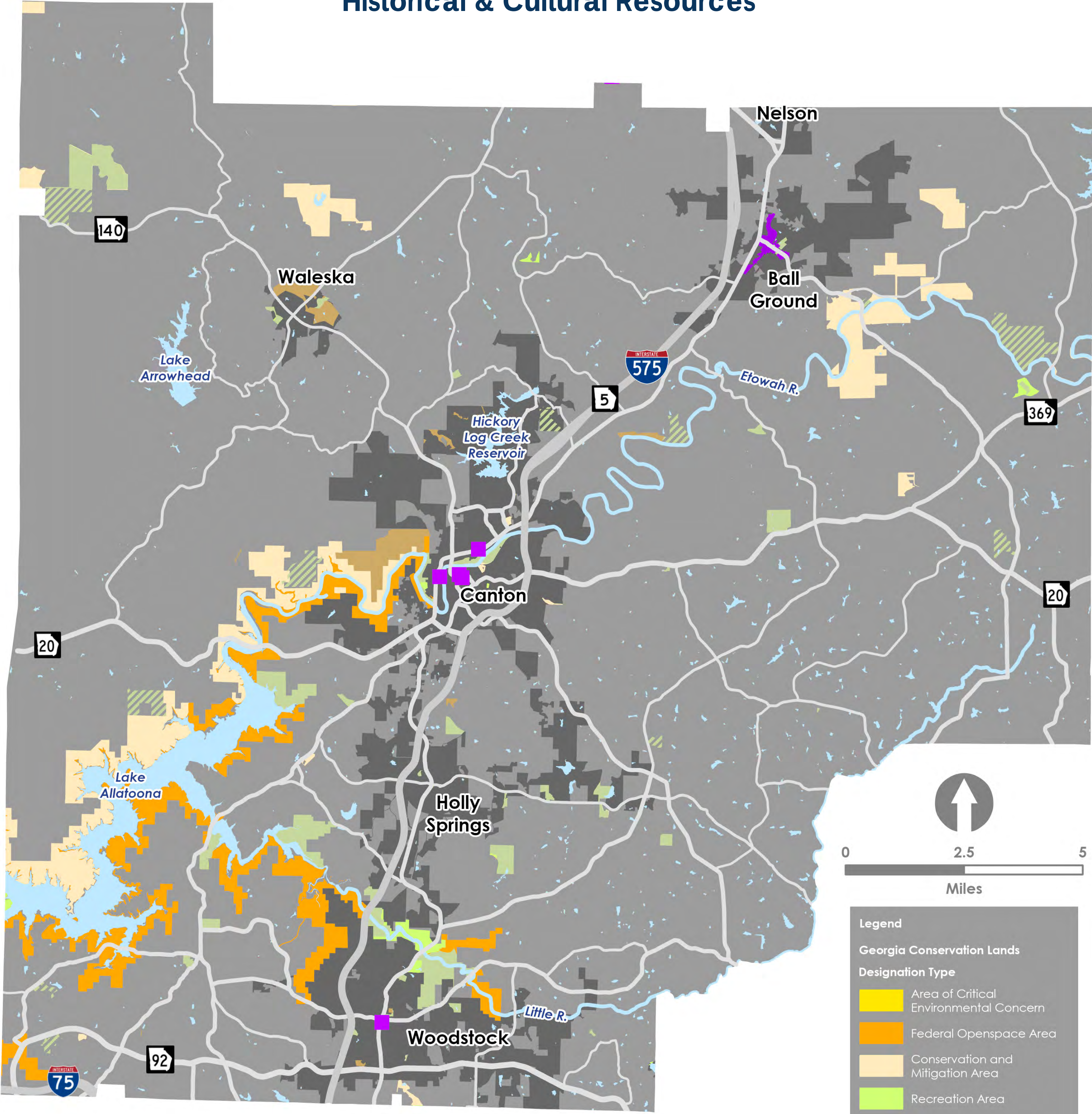
Station 2 - Existing Conditions - Natural Features

Flood Hazard Areas



Notable water bodies in Cherokee County include Lake Allatoona, Lake Arrowhead, Hickory Log Creek Reservoir, and the Etowah and Little Rivers. Additionally, there are numerous ponds, streams, and wetlands throughout the County as well as 100- and 500-year floodplains which are important to consider when developing a cohesive trail network.

Historical & Cultural Resources



This map shows conservation areas included in the Georgia Conservation Lands Database, such as property around Lake Allatoona owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This also shows areas and buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Station 3 - Proposed Trail Typologies

Overview

This board as well as the one next to it show some preliminary trail types that the project team is considering as it begins to identify potential new trail connections within Cherokee County. These trail typologies were delineated based on an existing conditions facility inventory of trails.

These trail types include both paved surface facilities as well as natural surface trails and features. Each type includes a description and local examples within the County.



Soft Surface Trails

The most prominent trail type within Cherokee County, soft surface trails are usually found within established parks and greenspace. However, not all park trails are soft surface.

Soft surface trails can have different tailored uses but most are utilized for either hiking or equestrian. Typical surfaces are dirt or gravel.

Nearby Examples of Soft Surface Trails

- Garland Mountain
- Sequoyah Park
- Hickory Trails Park
- Range from 5 to 15 feet in width



Mountain Bike Trails

Similar to soft surface trails, mountain bike trails are exclusively for off-road bicycle usage, which is a common recreational activity in Cherokee County and metro Atlanta.

Mountain bike trails are typically soft surface and found in areas that are heavily wooded and with steep terrain.

Regulations vary between trail systems and park locations, but usually, the direction of travel varies by the day of week or time of day.

Nearby Examples of Mountain Bike Trails

- Olde Rope Mill Park
- Blankets Creek
- Suttalee Trace Greenspace (private)
- Reinhardt University
- All are dirt and in good to fair condition



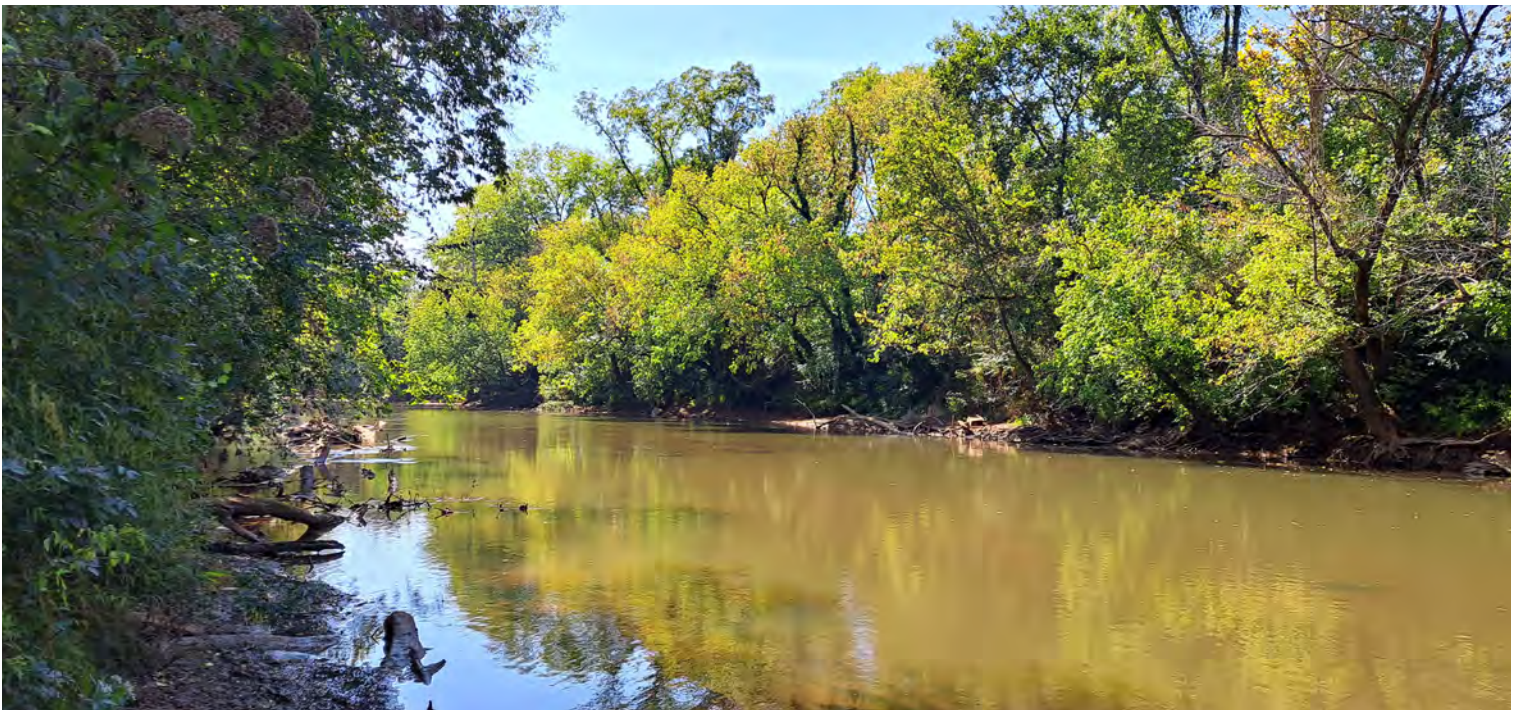
Blueways

Also known as water trails, blueways are navigable waterways, such as rivers, creeks, or streams, for recreational use. Blueways are often utilized for canoeing, tubing, or kayaking, among other activities.

These require kayak launches or access points as well as other amenities which can be connected via paved or soft surface trails.

Nearby Examples of Blueways

- Etowah River
- Little River
- Existing launch sites include Etowah River Park, Boling Park, Olde Rope Mill Park, Knox Bridge & Fields Landing Park



Station 3 - Proposed Trail Typologies

Greenway Trails

Greenway trails are wide paths (or trails) intended for shared use by people walking, running, biking, skating or using other non-motorized modes of transportation. Greenways are typically not along roadways and travel through parks or along a stream or creek.

These are paved trails (either concrete or asphalt) that have a minimum width of 10 feet. The typical width range is 10 to 14 feet, but they can be wider in areas with higher levels of activity. Centerline stripes may be applied, if desired.

Greenway trails may also include portions with boardwalks in flood prone areas. These facilities should also include lighting, wayfinding, and regulatory signage, where needed.

Nearby Examples of Greenway Trails

- Etowah River Trail in Canton
- Heritage Park in Canton
- Noonday Creek Trail in Woodstock
- Rubes Creek Trail in Woodstock
- Range from 6 to 10 feet in width
- Most in good to excellent condition



Sidepaths (Along Roads)

Sidepaths, like greenways, allow for different types of non-motorized transportation and walking, but are exclusively along public streets. These facilities should provide a buffer to separate vehicles from bicyclists and pedestrians.

While sidepaths can provide trail connections in urban and developing areas, there is the potential for conflicts at intersections and driveways.

Nearby Examples of Sidepaths

- Most are in the Woodstock area such as along Woodstock Parkway, Ridgewalk Parkway, and Town Lake Pass.
- Most have 10-foot widths
- All are concrete and in good to excellent condition



Station 4 - Greenways & Trails Visioning

What one or two words come to mind when you think of the future of greenways & trails in Cherokee County? Place a sticky note with your thoughts and ideas on this board!

Station 4 - Ranking Guiding Principles

Rank the guiding principles 1 through 8 that matter to you the most (1 being highest; 8 being lowest) when it comes to developing a cohesive greenways and trails network within Cherokee County.

Improve connectivity & accessibility	Support economic development	Foster sustainability & healthy behavior	Ensure comfort & safety
Maintain a state of good repair	Protect & enhance the natural environment	Increase awareness of trails & greenways	Promote arts & culture

Station 4 - Identifying Priorities

Place a sticker under the 2 or 3 things that matter to you most when it comes to expanding greenways and trails in Cherokee County.



Connecting to existing trails and sidewalks

Increase access to neighborhoods

Increase access to schools and parks

Increase access to activity centers, job sites, and commercial areas

Increase County & regional connectivity

Greenways & trails for exercise and recreation

Greenways & trails for transportation purposes

Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Master Plan

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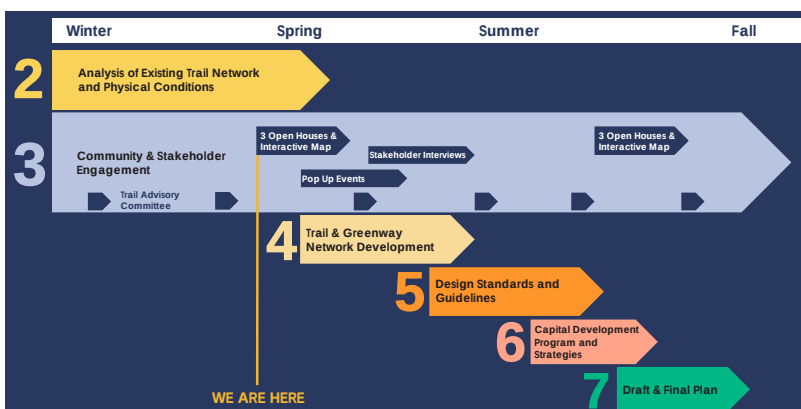
Public participation is vital to the success of this process. County goals and objectives are to create a trail and greenway system that promotes economic development, recreation, and transportation. The community open house gathers input on community desires and priorities for future growth of the trail system. The planning process is expected to conclude by the end of 2024.

Tonight's Community Open House

The project team seeks to acquire your feedback on what you believe is most important in developing a cohesive trails and greenways system across Cherokee County. There are five stations:

- **Station 1: Plan Overview**
- **Station 2: Existing Conditions** - Includes initial findings on activity centers, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, natural features, and cultural and historical resources
- **Station 3: Proposed Trail Typologies** - A series of boards detailing proposed trail types based on what exists in the County
- **Station 4: Greenways & Trails Visioning** - A series of questions to set the stage for the next stages of the planning process
- **Station 5: Mapping Exercise** - Place dots or draw on a map of Cherokee County what you would like to see connected via trails and greenways

Schedule



To learn more, visit the project website via the QR code or <https://greshamsmithplanning.mysocialpinpoint.com/cherokee-county-gt-mp>

Additional questions can be directed to the Cherokee County Project Manager, Bryan Reynolds at bdreynolds@cherokee-county.ga.gov

Plan Objectives

A Vision and Goals to Guide Future Trails Development

Document Existing State of Greenways & Trails

Promote Decision-Making Grounded in Guiding Principles and Best Practices

Recommend Design Criteria and Guidelines

Recommend Future Connections and Extensions in Coordination with Municipalities, Neighboring Cities, and Counties

Provide Guidance on Partnerships, Funding, Operations & Maintenance

Identify Priority Corridors and Projects

Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Master Plan

Virtual Community Open House

May 16, 2024

Today's Meeting Agenda

- Project Overview
- Overview of Existing Conditions
- Trail Typologies
- Developing a Vision
- Gaps & Opportunities
- Next Steps



Mentimeter Instructions

- www.menti.com
- Use code 9228 2021



Please share your name

Lisa

Brian Paley

Christine

Bryan

Margaret

1



5



Project Overview



Goals

- ➔ Create opportunities for physical and social activity, expand travel options, and foster economic development
- ➔ Provide a framework for connecting segments of trail, key places, and create a true countywide network



Objectives

Work across boundaries with local jurisdictions and community members to develop a prioritized list of projects that align with overall County goals and objectives to create a trail and greenway system that promotes economic development, recreation, and transportation.



A Vision and Goals to Guide Future Development

Document Existing State of Greenways & Trails

Promote Decision-Making Grounded in Guiding Principles and Best Practices

Recommend Design Criteria and Guidelines

Recommend Future Connections and Extensions in Coordination with Municipalities, Neighboring Cities, and Counties

Provide Guidance on Partnerships, Funding, Operations & Maintenance

Identify Priority Corridors and Projects



Winter

Spring

Summer

Fall

2

Analysis of Existing Trail Network
and Physical Conditions

3

Community & Stakeholder
Engagement

Trail Advisory
Committee

3 Open Houses &
Interactive Map

Stakeholder Interviews

Pop Up Events

3 Open Houses &
Interactive Map

4

Trail & Greenway
Network Development

5

Design Standards and
Guidelines

6

Capital Development
Program and
Strategies

7

Draft & Final Plan

WE ARE HERE

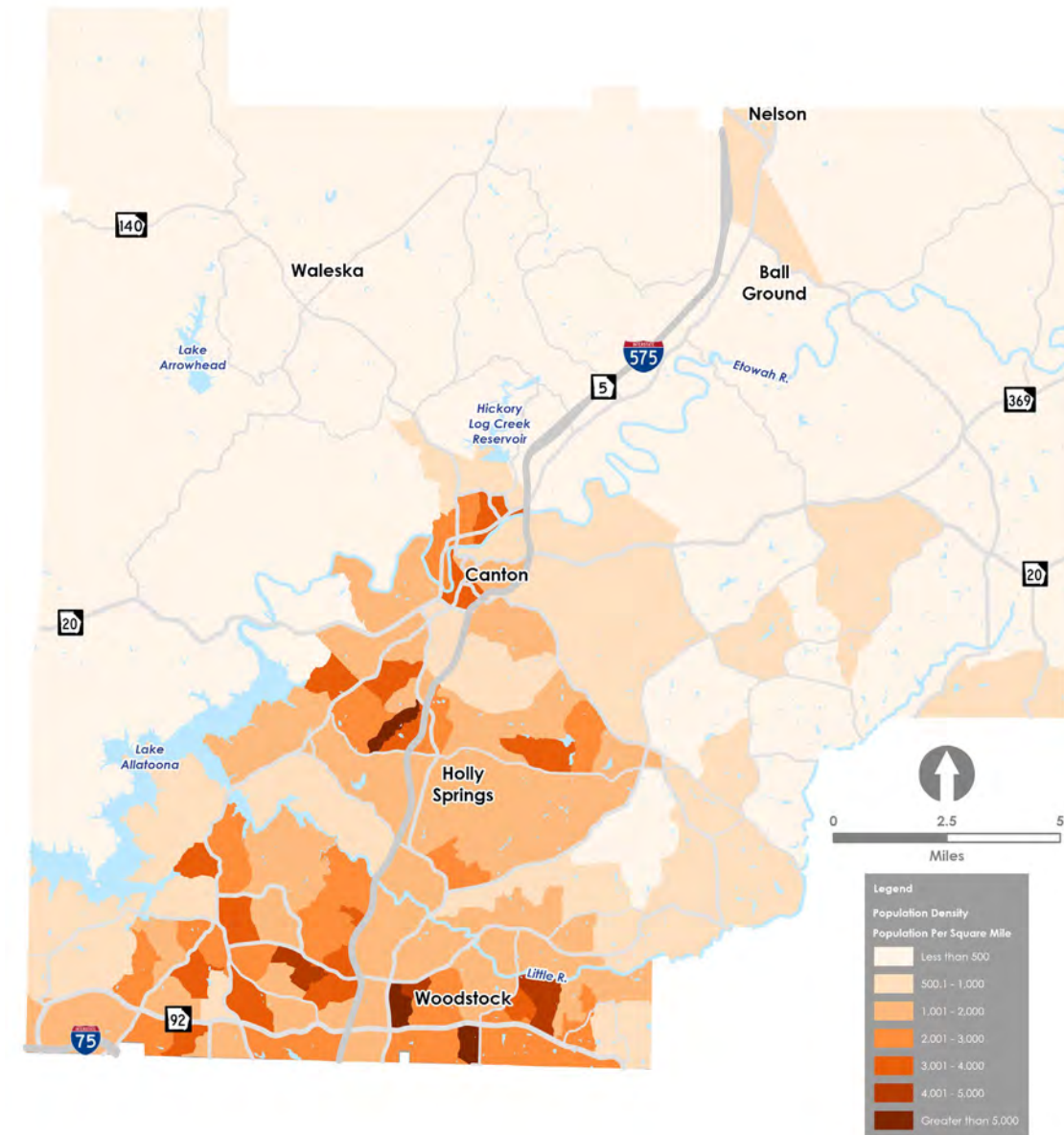


Overview of Existing Conditions



Population Density

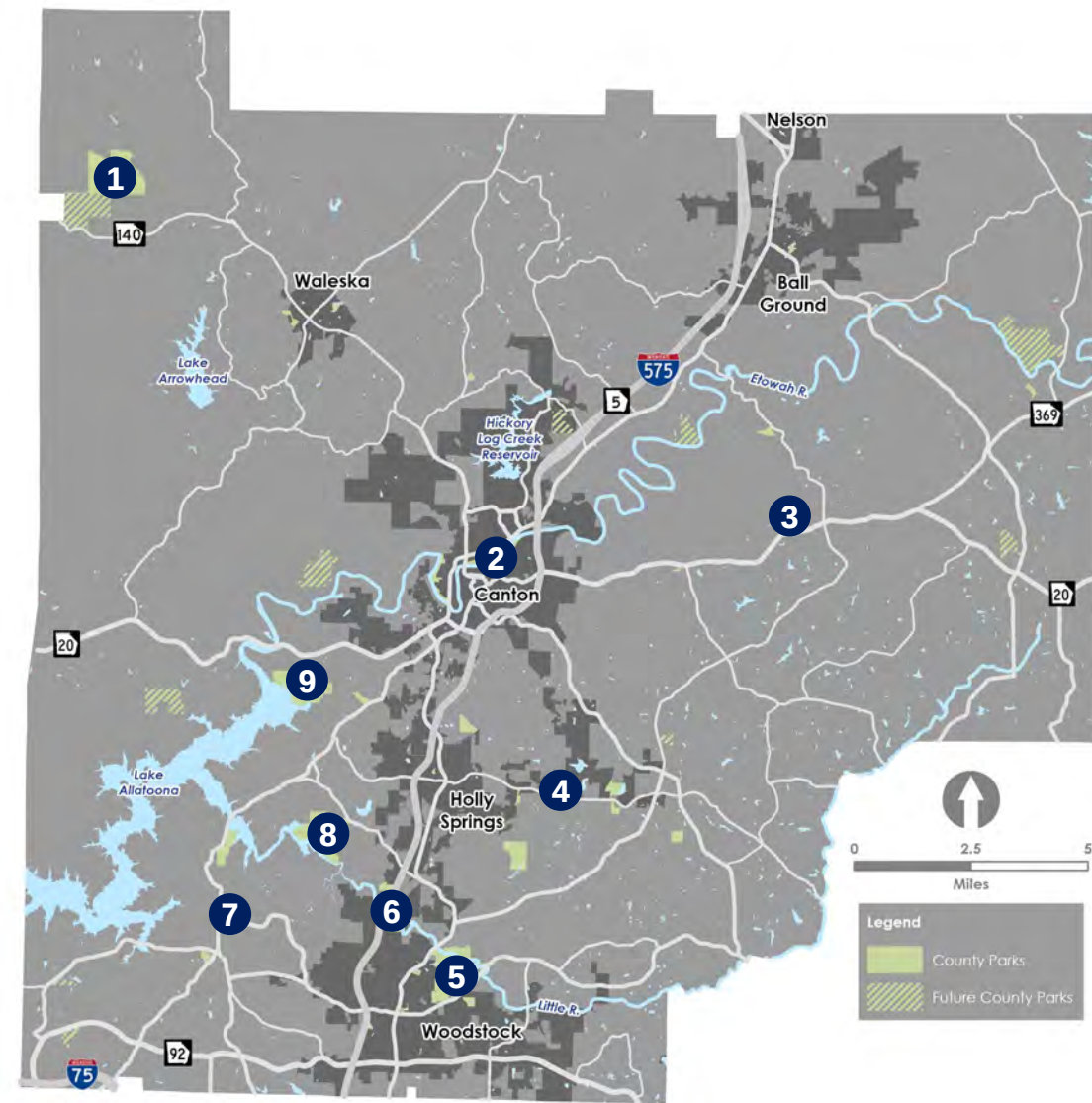
- Sparse population north of Canton
- Higher density near town centers
- Southwest Cherokee and along SR 92



Parks and Greenspace

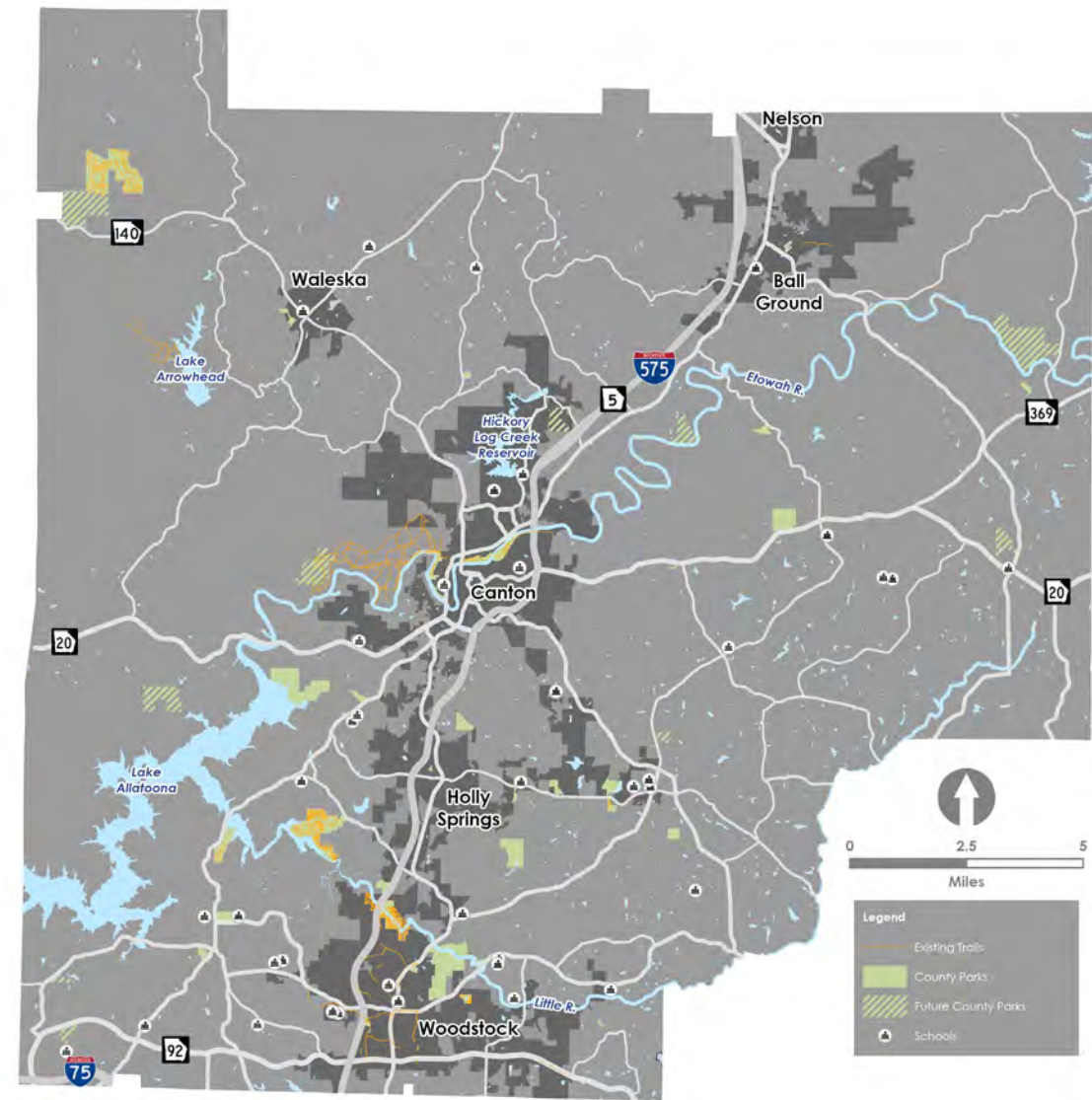
Existing parks and greenspace

- 1) Garland Mountain
- 2) Etowah River Park
- 3) Cherokee Veterans Park
- 4) JB Owens Park
- 5) Twin Creek/Riverside Athletic Complex
- 6) Olde Rope Mill Park
- 7) Hobgood Park
- 8) Blankets Creek
- 9) Fields Landing Park



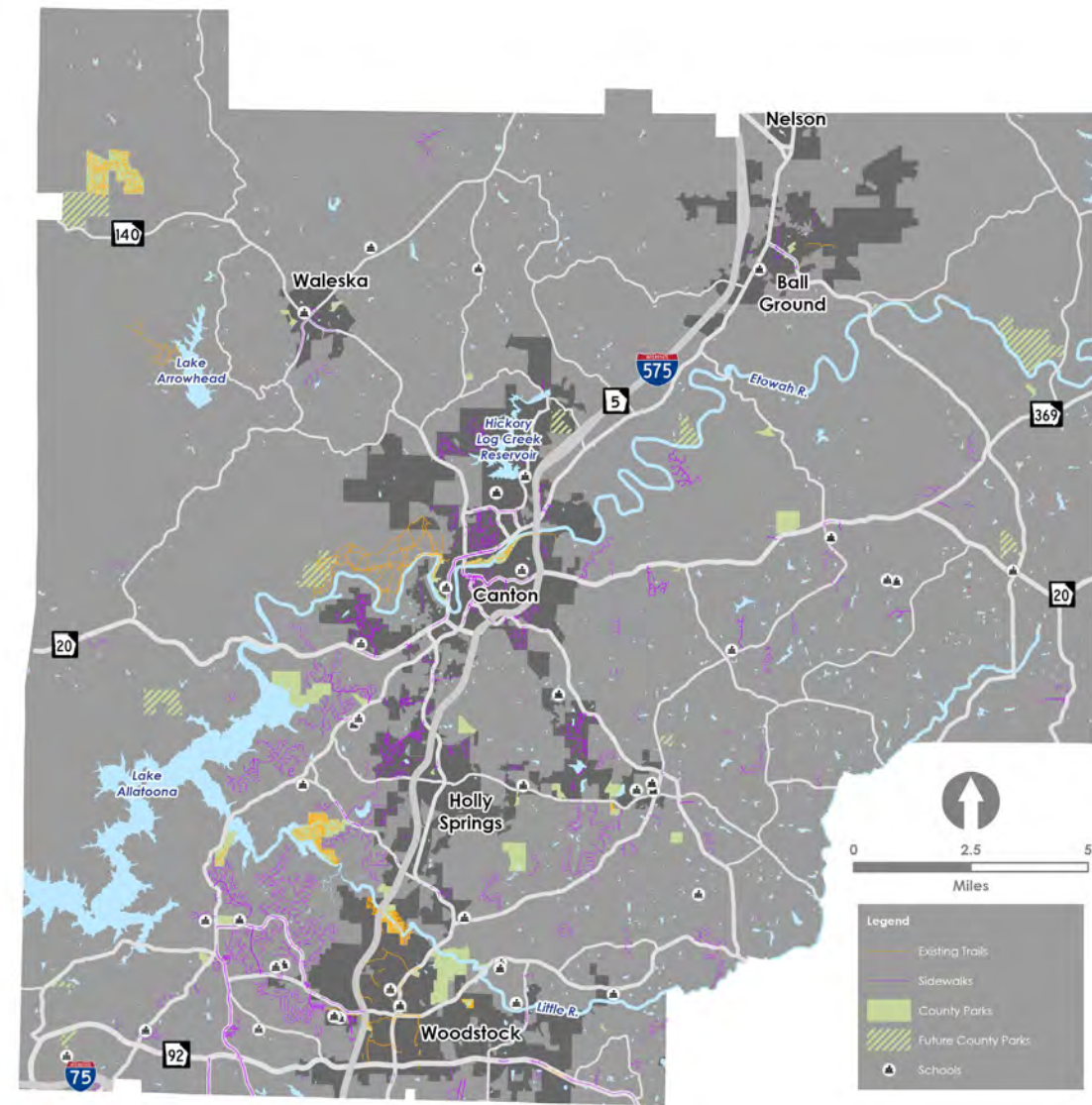
Bicycle & Trail Infrastructure

- Most trails are within parks and greenspace (i.e. Garland Mountain)
- Includes private property such as Lake Arrowhead or Etowah Trails



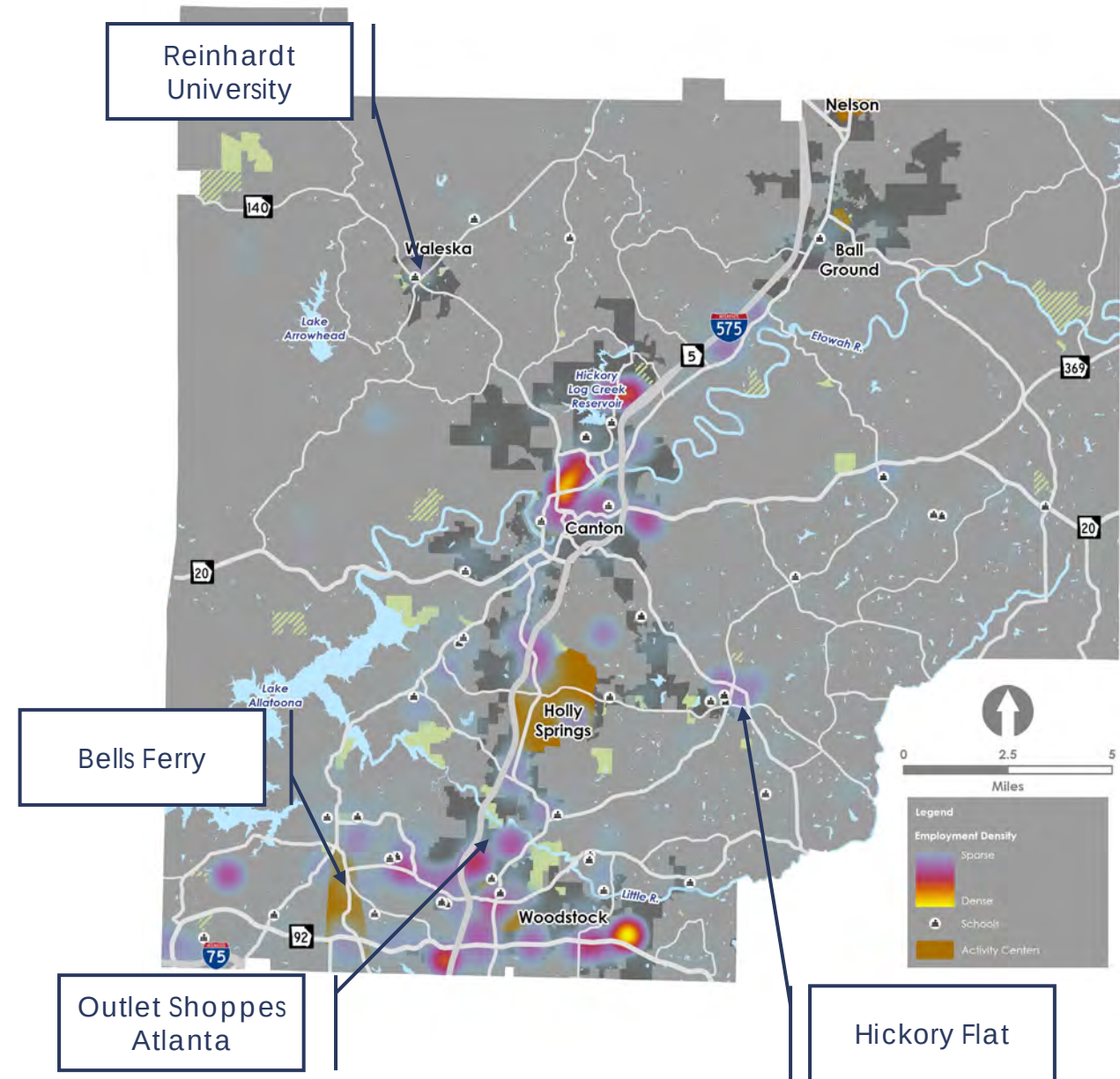
Pedestrian Infrastructure

- Sidewalk connectivity within cities but not between them
- Little to no sidewalk coverage north of Canton outside of subdivisions
- Gaps on county and state routes



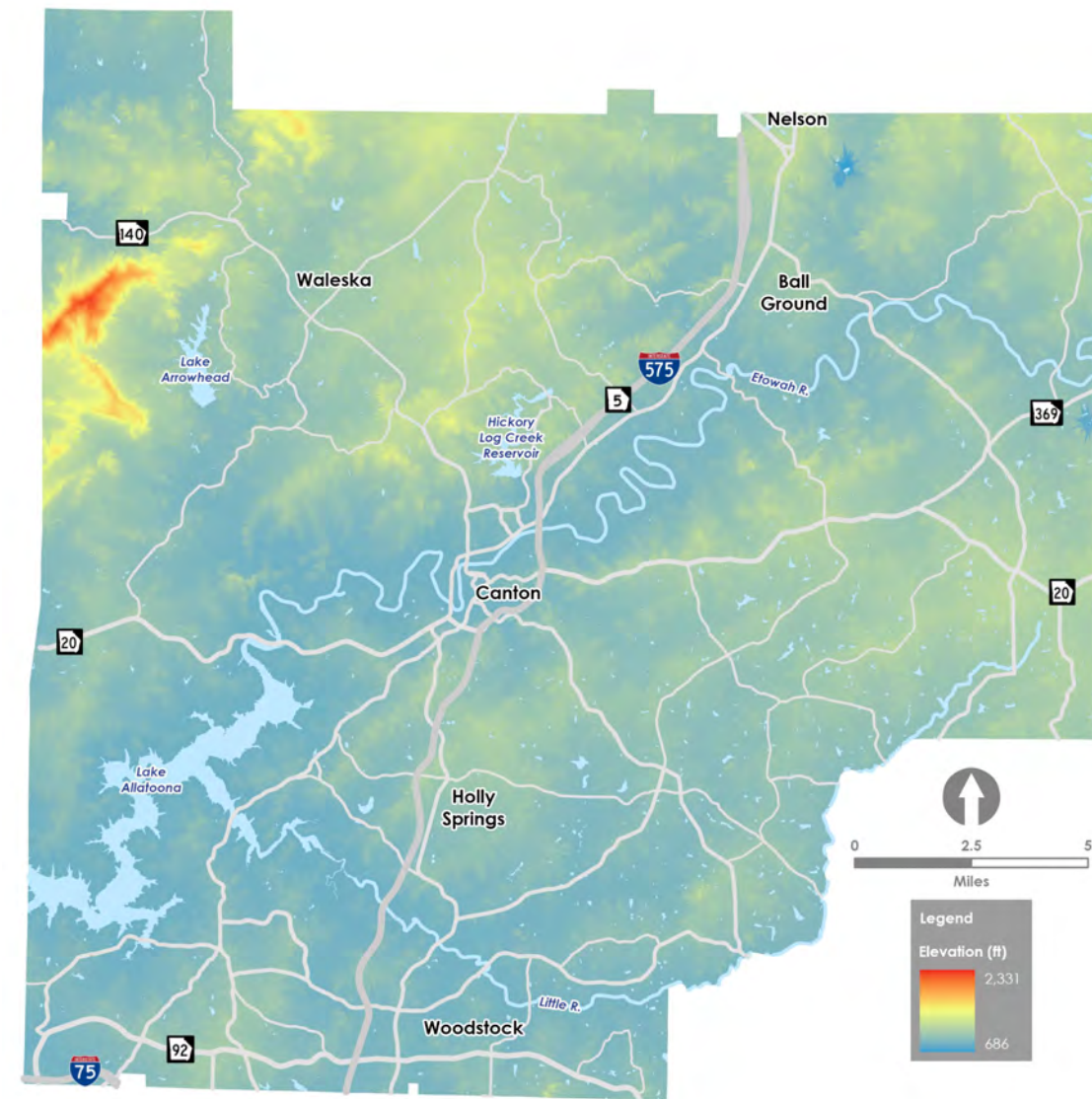
Activity Centers and Destinations

- East and north of Canton
- Holly Springs Pkwy @ I-575
- SR 92 @ I-575
- SR 92 @ Trickum Rd
- Woodstock Outlet Mall area
- Hickory Flat area
- Towne Lake Pkwy corridor



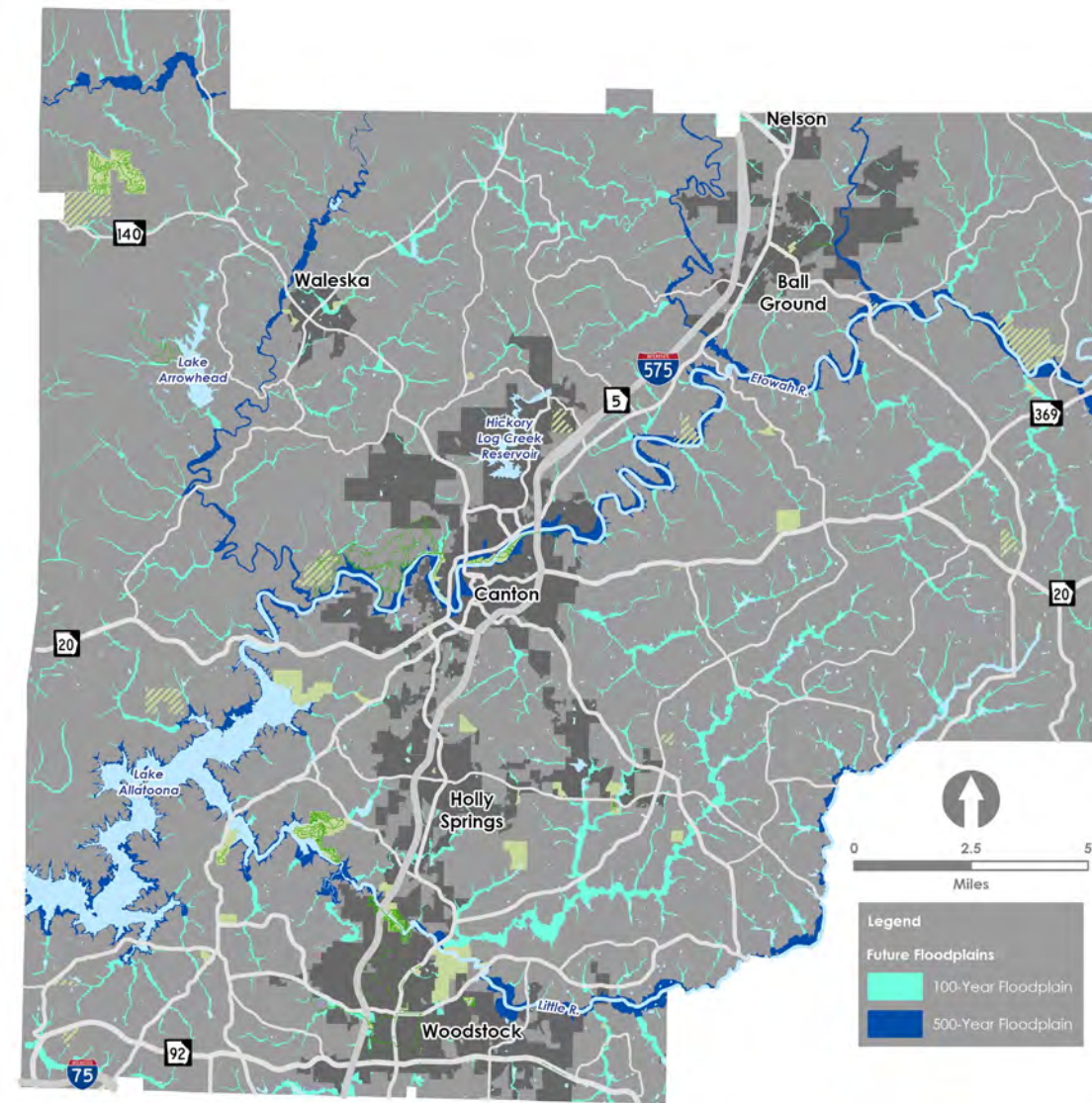
Elevation

- Ranges from 680 to 2,331 feet (above sea level)
- Lowest point: Lake Allatoona
- Highest point: Pine Log Mountain



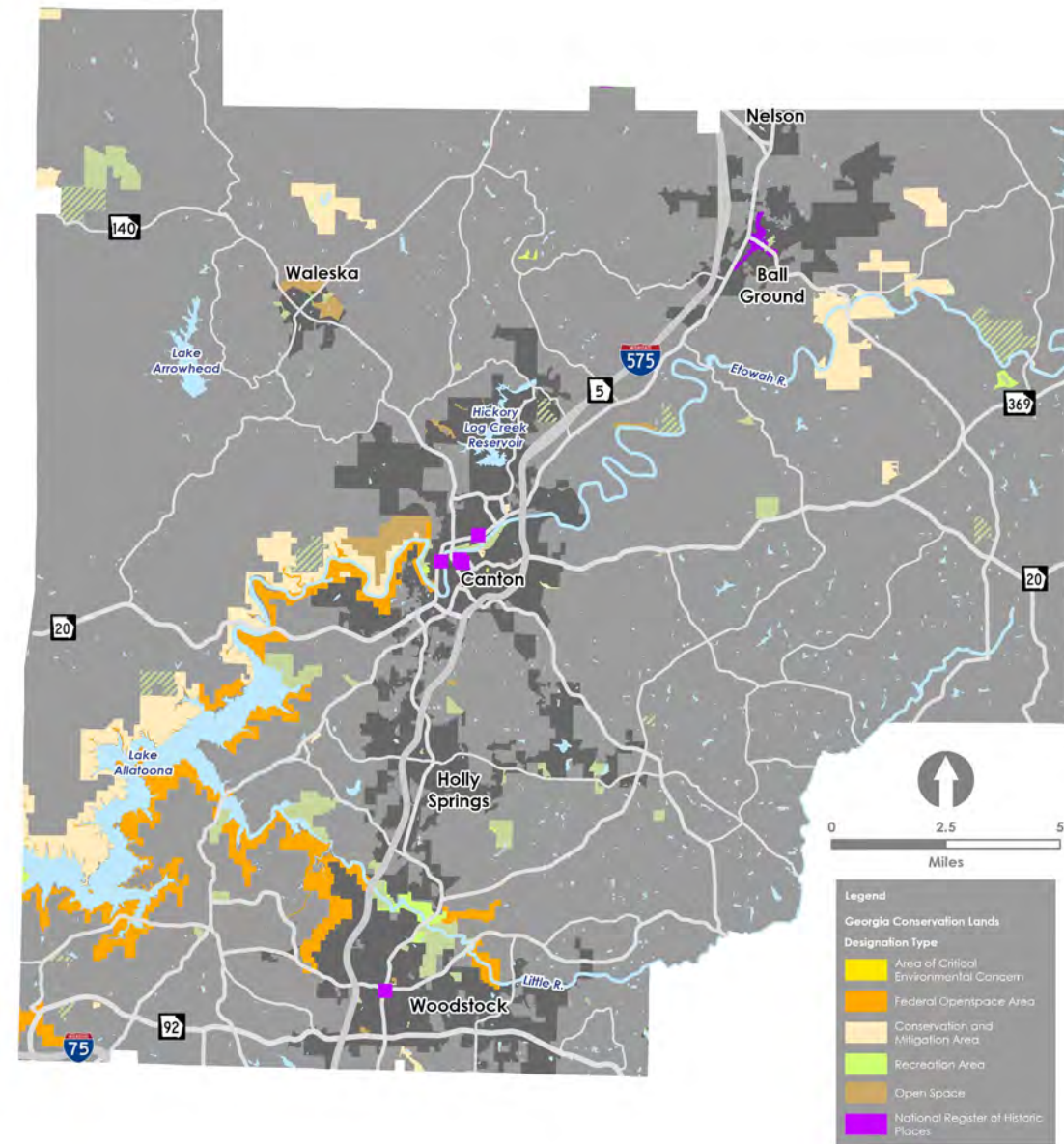
Waterways & Flood Prone Areas

- Notable water bodies
 - Lake Allatoona
 - Etowah River
 - Little River
 - Lake Arrowhead
 - Hickory Log Creek Reservoir
- Numerous ponds, streams, and wetlands across the County
- 100- and 500-year floodplains



Historical & Cultural Resources

- Georgia Conservation Lands
 - Largely corresponds to existing parks and greenspace
 - USACE property
 - Federal open space areas
- National Register of Historic Places
 - Downtown historic districts
 - Historic buildings (i.e. County Courthouse & Woodstock Depot)



Potential Trail Typologies



Greenway Trails

- Paved trails (either concrete or asphalt)
- Typically 10 to 14 feet in width
- May also include boardwalks
- Should include lighting and wayfinding and regulatory signage where needed



Examples in Cherokee County

- Etowah River Trail in Canton
- Heritage Park in Canton
- Noonday Creek Trail in Woodstock
- Rubes Creek Trail in Woodstock
- Range from 6 to 10 feet in width
- Most in good to excellent condition



Sidepaths (along roads)

- Shared-use paths along public streets
- Should provide a buffer to separate vehicles from bicyclists and pedestrians
- Potential for conflicts at intersections and driveways



Examples in Cherokee County

- Most are in the Woodstock area
 - Woodstock Parkway
 - Ridgewalk Parkway
 - Town Lake Pass
- Most have 10-foot widths
- All are concrete and in good to excellent condition



Blueways

- Navigable waterways for recreational use
 - Canoeing, tubing, or kayaking
- Require access points as well as other amenities
- Also known as water trails



Examples in Cherokee County

- Etowah River
- Little River
- Existing Launch Sites
 - Etowah River Park
 - Boling Park
 - Olde Rope Mill Park
 - Knox Bridge
 - Fields Landing Park



Soft Surface Trails

- Usually within established parks
 - However, not all park trails are soft surface
- Can have different tailored uses
 - Hiking trails
 - Equestrian trails
- Typical surfaces
 - Dirt
 - Gravel



Examples in Cherokee County

- Garland Mountain
- Sequoyah Park
- Hickory Trails Park
- Range from 5 to 15 feet in width



Mountain Bike Trails

- Trails for off-road bicycle usage
- Typically in steep terrain and wooded areas
- Direction of travel can vary by day of week or time of day

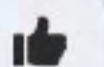
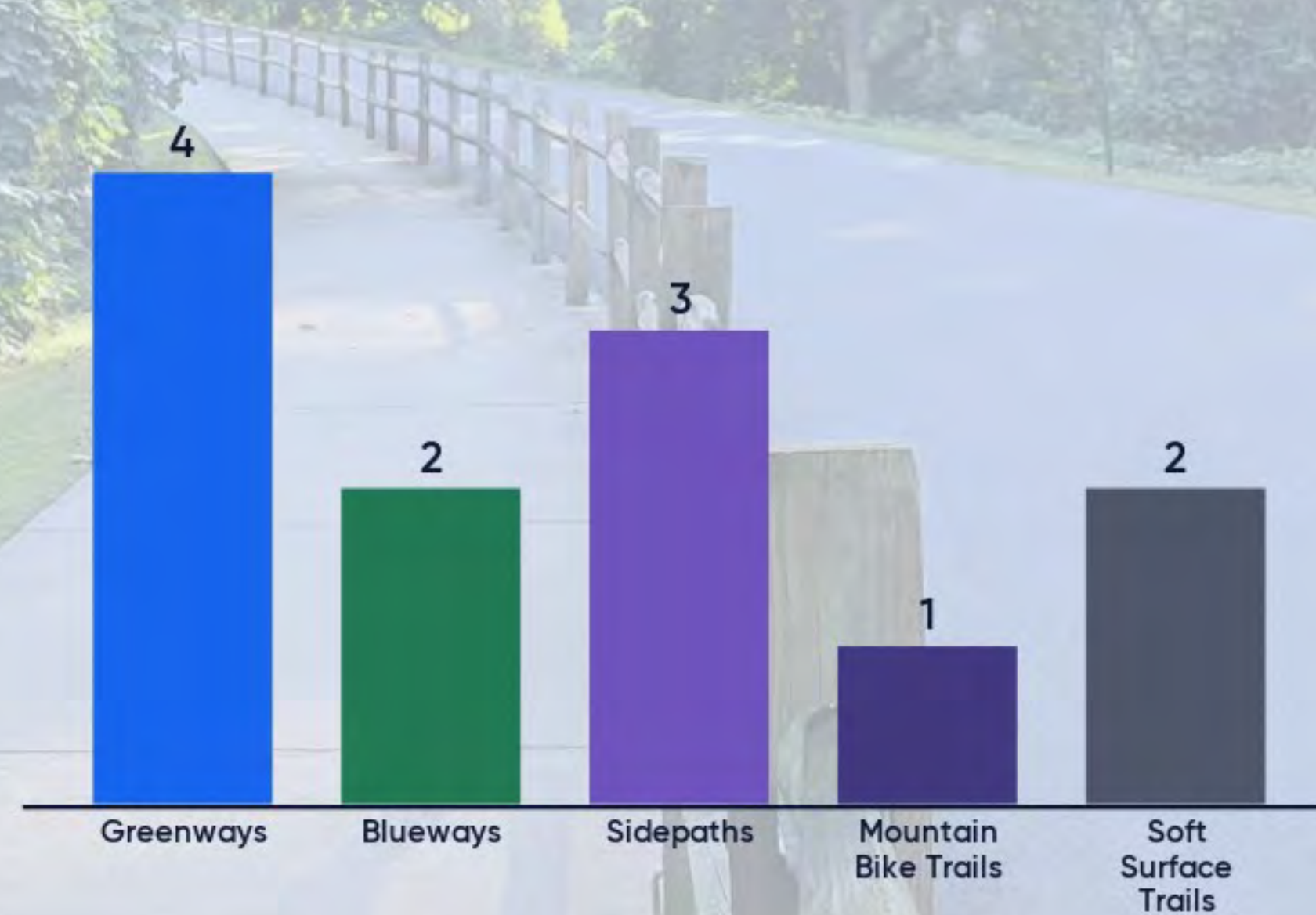


Examples in Cherokee County

- Olde Rope Mill Park
- Blankets Creek
- Sutalee Trace Greenspace (private)
- Dupree Park
- Reinhardt University
- All are dirt and in good to fair condition



What types of trails would like to see more of in Cherokee County? Choose up to 3 options.



4

Developing a Vision



**Connectivity to
destinations**

**Bridge diverse
demographic
groups**

**Means of
commuting &
transportation**

**Preservation of
natural space**

**Recreation &
exercise**

**Educational
amenities**

**Economic
development**

**Design & aesthetic
value**

**Sense of
community**

**Improve quality of
life**

**Promote
walkability**

**Property value
enhancement**

Role of Trail System in Cherokee County



Guiding Principles

- Improve connectivity and accessibility
- Ensure comfort and safety
- Support economic development
- Protect and enhance the natural environment
- Foster sustainability and healthy behavior
- Increase awareness of trails/greenways
- Maintain a state of good repair
- Promote arts and culture



Rank the guiding principles for the Greenways & Trails Master Plan.



Crafting a Vision

Vision statements should...

- Articulate long-term aspirations or dreams
- Reflect a diverse variety of perspectives
- Be understood and shared by community members
- Inspire everyone involved
- Guide planning and decision-making
- Help your community focus on what's important
- Serve as the basis for developing other aspects of your plan
- Be easy to communicate



Example Vision Statements

Bella Vista (AR):

“Bella Vista wants to create a trail network that will establish safe, continuous corridors throughout the community that promote outdoor recreation, facilitate non-motorized transportation and highlight the natural and cultural resources of the community. The trail network will compliment Bella Vista’s existing outdoor recreation facilities and serve to make Bella Vista an even greater place to live.” (2015)

Prince George’s County:

“Creating a trail system that provides all residents and visitors with access to nature, recreation, and daily destinations, enriching the economy, promoting sustainability, and increasing opportunities for health.” (2016)



Draft Vision for Cherokee County Trails

A sustainable, vibrant system of greenways and trails provides all residents and visitors with access to nature, recreation, history, and culture, Cherokee County's greenways and trails also support the local economy, promote sustainability, community health, and human connection.



What are 2 to 3 key words that come to mind when you think about the future of greenways and trails in Cherokee County?

27 responses

well maintained safe mountain biking waterways accessible
native plants adaptive friendly
exercise quiet
connection secured green peaceful access connectivity
healthy natural open
recreation
connections activity mountain bike relaxation
maintenance nature



8

Gaps & Opportunities



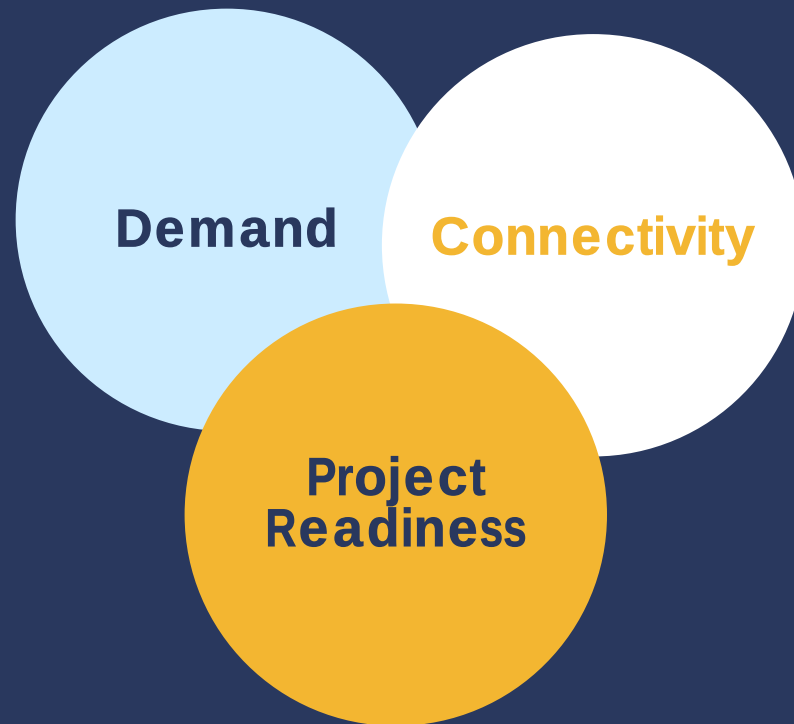
Opportunities for Connections

- Water and sewer easements
- SR 20 Widening
- I-575 corridor
- Etowah River as a blueway
- Ball Ground and McGraw Ford WMA
- Mini-trail system in Nelson
- Waleska and Reinhardt University
- Bells Ferry Road corridor
- Little River in Woodstock
- Noonday to Rubes Creek connection



Factors and Considerations: Example Frameworks

To assist with identifying suitable locations and prioritizing future projects



Potential Factors and Considerations

- Fills gaps in existing network
- Increases access to schools and parks
- Increases access to essential services
- Improves connectivity within the County
- Potential for regional connections (adjacent jurisdictions)
- Aligns with prior recommendations
- Community support
- Project complexity
- Sewer/water Easements
- Proximity to activity centers
- Equity
- Propensity for biking and walking
- Property ownership
- Opportunity to become destination
- Demographics



Choose 2 to 3 things that matter to you most when it comes to greenways and trails in Cherokee County.

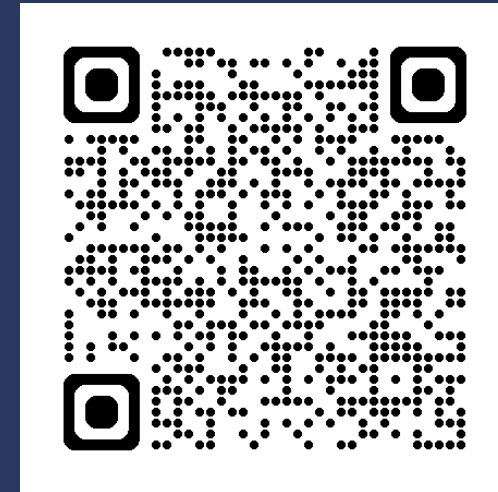


Mapping Activity



Project Website

- We invite you and your neighbors to visit our project website!
- Includes survey as well as interactive map
- We would love your input on destinations and places you would like to see connected via trails!



Use the QR code to access the project website or
<https://greshamsmithplanning.mysocialpinpoint.com/cherokeecountytgmp>



Next Steps & Discussion



Questions & Contact Information

Bryan Reynolds – Community Services Agency Director

bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov

770.345.6238

Eric Lusher, AICP – Consultant Team Project Manager

eric.lusher@greshamsmith.com

678.268.4285



Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Master Plan
Community Open House | May 2024

Name	Neighborhood/Organization	Email
Ashton Picas	Springfield	
Casey Walters	Tripp Rd	
Dillon Adams	DuArce	
Wayne Gatter	Marlowe	
Jim Morgan	Marlowe	
Thomas Hore	LWC	
Harry Johnston	BOC	
Jillian Willis	Lea Woodstock Apts / ARC	
Matt Porter	Lea Woodstock	

Date & Location: May 9, 2024 Woodstock



Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Master Plan
Community Open House | May 2024

Name	Neighborhood/Organization	Email
K. SCOTT GORDON	DEER RUN/ WOODSTOCK	
Ken Hardy	BRADSHAW FARM	
Melvin Brown	Breckenridge	
Nancy Foy	Friends Garland Mtn Trails	
Cindy Young	Friends of Garland Mountain Trails	
Carla Foyce	FRiends of Garland Mtn Trails	
Charline Cambreon	Friends of Garland Mtn. Trails	
Brantley Day	Cherokee Co.	
Annette Homiller	Ball Ground	
Clint Mueller	SW Cherokee (Acworth)	
Kristen Mueller	SW Cherokee (Acworth)	
Rob Clarke	SOLEB BELMONT IN CAMDEN	
Benny Carter	Sutcliffe	

Date & Location: Canton



Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Master Plan

Community Open House | May 2024

Name	Neighborhood/Organization	Email
Nick Schuster	Eagle Watch / Allotone Volunteer	
Dan Owen	Trace Trail Stewards - Evansboro Scout Trail	
Amy Cadavette	725 Tribal Trail Woodstock 30188	
Tiffanie Miller	Holly Springs / Georgia Bikes	

Date & Location: Canton



COMMENT CARD

Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan

Community Open House | May 2024

Cherokee County

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Please provide comments and feedback about the existing conditions and facility types presented at this community open house.

Name: Harry Johnston E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

City, Area, or Neighborhood: Cartersville

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member.

You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov) until Friday, May 31st, 2024.

Please provide comments about greenways and trails needs and opportunities within Cherokee County

Multi-Types Riverfront, Nature (hiking), Side paths,
Greenways. All connected. Connect major
neighborhoods to shopping, restaurants. Connect Parks
with each other (some along the river). Connect Cartersville
& Woodstock trails to each other and the full network.

Please provide comments about destinations you would like to see connected via trails and/or greenways in Cherokee County

Parks - to each other and everything else.
Neighborhoods to shopping, entertainment, jobs

Please provide any additional comments

COMMENT CARD

Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan

Community Open House | May 2024

Cherokee County

1831
GEORGIA

Please provide comments and feedback about the existing conditions and facility types presented at this community open house.

Name: Wayne J. Galler

E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

City, Area, or Neighborhood: Marlowe Subdivision in Woodstock off of Necse Rd

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member.

You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov) until Friday, May 31st, 2024.

Please provide comments about greenways and trails needs and opportunities within Cherokee County

I currently use Nanday Creek Trail off of Bells Ferry to ride my bike for 14 miles (RT)
Closer connection between Woodstock and this trail would be great. Also, installing
wide sidewalks along Necse Rd running to Depee Park will be helpful later
this year. It would be great to be able to take a trail to the Publix/Kroger
Supermarkets on Rte 92 w/o using automobile

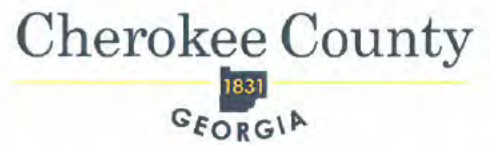
Please provide comments about destinations you would like to see connected via trails and/or greenways in Cherokee County

Parks, local shopping centers, restaurants, places of interest

Please provide any additional comments

Be sure to let the public know and be aware of communicating plans and updates
about changes in process for new/expanded trails

COMMENT CARD
Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan
Community Open House | May 2024



Please provide comments and feedback about the existing conditions and facility types presented at this community open house.

Name: Dillon Adams E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

City, Area, or Neighborhood: Station 92/Dupree

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member.

You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov) until **Friday, May 31st, 2024**.

Please provide comments about greenways and trails needs and opportunities within Cherokee County

Some Drainage issues along existing trails
Putting in Drains to an overflow area would help

Connecting all existing trails will open up
community accessibility greatly!

Please provide comments about destinations you would like to see connected via trails and/or greenways in Cherokee County

To all big shopping centers & parks.
Connecting cities.

Canton trails & Woodstock trails

Access across 92
& Down

Please provide any additional comments

You guys are awesome & this is something
I've been waiting for for years

Small electric vehicles should be allowed on
trails as they're no different than a bicycle.

COMMENT CARD

Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan

Community Open House | May 2024

Cherokee County



Please provide comments and feedback about the existing conditions and facility types presented at this community open house.

Name: Ashton Picas E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

City, Area, or Neighborhood: Woodstock, Springfield neighborhood

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member.

You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov) until **Friday, May 31st, 2024**.

Please provide comments about greenways and trails needs and opportunities within Cherokee County

we love the existing ones and current proposals and
walk, we need as many car alternatives to get
around as we can get with lack of public transport.
I would love to see E-bikes and Pevs officially allowed
as they are great for getting around

Please provide comments about destinations you would like to see connected via trails and/or greenways in Cherokee County

Arnold mill, Hwy 5, 92

Please provide any additional comments

More, bigger sidewalks everywhere, Speed limits and
small Pev's bikes allowed, Pedestrian protections,
keep up the great work!

COMMENT CARD
Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan
Community Open House | May 2024



Please provide comments and feedback about the existing conditions and facility types presented at this community open house.

Name: Casey Walters **E-mail Address:** [REDACTED]

City, Area, or Neighborhood: Woodstock & Tripp Rd

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member.
You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov) until **Friday, May 31st, 2024**.

Please provide comments about greenways and trails needs and opportunities within Cherokee County

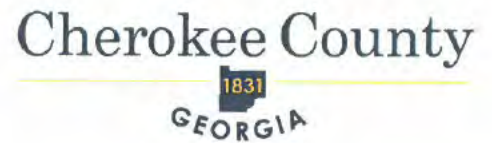
Connecting parks to other destinations

Please provide comments about destinations you would like to see connected via trails and/or greenways in Cherokee County

Arnold Mill Rd from Woodstock to ??
Hwy 5 to Woodstock 92 to Sixes/Canton/Holly Springs
Sidewalk on east Cherokee to 5

Please provide any additional comments

COMMENT CARD
Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan
Community Open House | May 2024



Please provide comments and feedback about the existing conditions and facility types presented at this community open house.

Name: Jim Morgan E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

City, Area, or Neighborhood: Norlane - in Woodstock

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member.
You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov) until **Friday, May 31st, 2024**.

Please provide comments about greenways and trails needs and opportunities within Cherokee County

10' wide walking paths - through County -

Please provide comments about destinations you would like to see connected via trails and/or greenways in Cherokee County

New Day Trail - a
Along Rivers & creeks -
To outdoor parks & recreation
to City Centers

Please provide any additional comments

COMMENT CARD
Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan
Community Open House | May 2024



Please provide comments and feedback about the existing conditions and facility types presented at this community open house.

Name: Nickolas Schuster E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

City, Area, or Neighborhood: WOODSTOCK - FAOLE WATCH

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member.
You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov) until **Friday, May 31st, 2024**.

Please provide comments about greenways and trails needs and opportunities within Cherokee County

We need more soft-surface trails that connect,
We need to network the trails to create outdoor
Experiences that tour the beauty of the County in
a safe & Accessible way,

Please provide comments about destinations you would like to see connected via trails and/or greenways in Cherokee County

WOODSTOCK AREA HAS THE MOST short-term
potential to create/complete a multi-Discipline
trail network,

Please provide any additional comments

THIS IS AN URGENT PRIORITY, Please focus on
progress instead of perfect concrete paths,

COMMENT CARD

Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan

Community Open House | May 2024

Cherokee County

1831
GEORGIA

Please provide comments and feedback about the existing conditions and facility types presented at this community open house.

Name: Arla Joyce E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

City, Area, or Neighborhood: White

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member.

You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov) until Friday, May 31st, 2024.

Please provide comments about greenways and trails needs and opportunities within Cherokee County

Existing trails need maintenance
& tree removal
help with expansion

Please provide comments about destinations you would like to see connected via trails and/or greenways in Cherokee County

Collaboration with Bartow County
to expand Horse & Hiking opportunities
By connecting these parks to include
existing property owned by Cherokee

Please provide any additional comments

Appreciate the opportunity to provide
input on this important issue

COMMENT CARD

Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan

Community Open House | May 2024

Cherokee County



Please provide comments and feedback about the existing conditions and facility types presented at this community open house.

Name: Charline Cambeon

E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

City, Area, or Neighborhood: Waleska

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member.

You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov) until **Friday, May 31st, 2024**.

Please provide comments about greenways and trails needs and opportunities within Cherokee County

We need to maintain the trails we have. we need to improve the trails we have - ~~Restroom~~ Restroom @ Garland Mt. w/ Running water. Machine work on trails we have - garland.

Please provide comments about destinations you would like to see connected via trails and/or greenways in Cherokee County

Connect Garland Mt to property that Cherokee County owns that is marked mitigation on one of your maps

why is this property marked mitigation ??? please contact me

Connect Garland to Pine log Barterw

Please provide any additional comments

Thanks for trying to improve our county

COMMENT CARD
Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan
Community Open House | May 2024



Please provide comments and feedback about the existing conditions and facility types presented at this community open house.

Name:

Cindy Young

E-mail Address:

[Redacted]

City, Area, or Neighborhood:

Waleska, Garland Mountain

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member.

You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokee-countyga.gov) until **Friday, May 31st, 2024**.

Please provide comments about greenways and trails needs and opportunities within Cherokee County

More soft surface trails.

Paved surface trail are also wonderful
Maintain existing trails for the ~~se~~ purpose of
safety for trail users

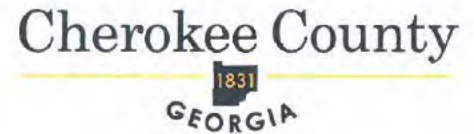
Please provide comments about destinations you would like to see connected via trails and/or greenways in Cherokee County

Collaboration between Bartow County Parks + Rec.
to connect the hiking trail systems of
Pine Log Creek Hiking trails and Garland Mountain
Hiking + riding trails

Please provide any additional comments

Thank you for letting us give input for the
parks in Cherokee. Parks and trails are much
needed to our health and well being

COMMENT CARD
Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan
Community Open House | May 2024



Please provide comments and feedback about the existing conditions and facility types presented at this community open house.

Name: Amy Cadanette **E-mail Address:** [REDACTED]
City, Area, or Neighborhood: _____

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member.
You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov) until **Friday, May 31st, 2024**.

Please provide comments about greenways and trails needs and opportunities within Cherokee County

Please provide comments about destinations you would like to see connected via trails and/or greenways in Cherokee County

Please provide any additional comments

* I don't think "Parks and Schools" should be categorized together regarding priorities.

Opposed to prioritizing schools (safety issues)
Pro hiking trails connectivity with parks.

COMMENT CARD

Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan

Community Open House | May 2024

Cherokee County

1831
GEORGIA

Please provide comments and feedback about the existing conditions and facility types presented at this community open house.

Name: Nancy Foy E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

City, Area, or Neighborhood: Garland Mountain Trail, Waleska

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member.

You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov) until **Friday, May 31st, 2024**.

Please provide comments about greenways and trails needs and opportunities within Cherokee County

- Ball Ground area west of 575 north of Waleska - connect walking trails to Waleska (city) parks
- maintain existing trails (erosion)
- Water Access at Garland
- 900+ Trails are developed at Garland

Please provide comments about destinations you would like to see connected via trails and/or greenways in Cherokee County

- (see above)
- Connect Garland Mtn trails to Pine Log (Bartow)

Please provide any additional comments

The map charts show the lower parcel of Garland Mtn Trls as undeveloped this is wrong. Was developed horse trails 2015. Upper Part developed 2007-2009.



CHEROKEE COUNTY GREENWAYS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN

PHASE I PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Activities

Community Open House (Woodstock) – May 9, 2024
Pop-up at Woodstock Farmers’ Market – May 11, 2024
Community Open House (Canton) – May 14, 2024
Virtual Public Meeting – May 16, 2024
Online Survey and Interactive Mapping – Open from May 9 through June 30, 2024

Summary

1. Overview of Activities

- a. Between May 1 and June 30, 2024, Cherokee County and the Greenways & Trails Master Plan project team conducted several meetings and engagement activities designed to gather input and feedback from a wide range of community members.
- b. Activities included three in-person events, one virtual meeting, an online survey, and an interactive mapping exercise. The in-person events included public meetings held at the Cherokee County Woodstock Recreation Center (WREC) on May 9, 2024 and at the County Administration Building on Bluffs Parkway in Canton on May 14, 2024. Additionally, the team attended the Woodstock Farmers’ Market on Saturday May 11, 2024 to spread the word about the upcoming meetings and encourage participation in the online survey and interactive mapping activity. A virtual meeting was held on Thursday May 16, 2024 via Zoom. Over 175 people participated in the in-person and virtual meetings. Respondents to the online survey and mapping exercise were 323 and 93, respectively.
- c. The agenda for engagement meetings typically included an overview of the Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Master Plan project, a high-level summary of existing conditions, and introduction to trail typologies, prioritization factors for the trail plan, guiding principles and themes for crafting a vision, gaps and opportunities, and next steps.
- d. Across all meetings and the survey, participants engaged in activities to capture their preferences and priorities for types of trails, guiding principles to shape the vision, and factors to consider when making recommendations for the trail network.

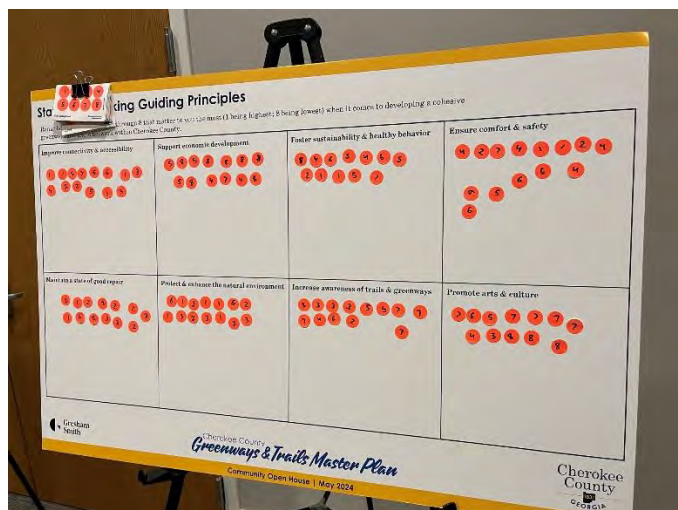
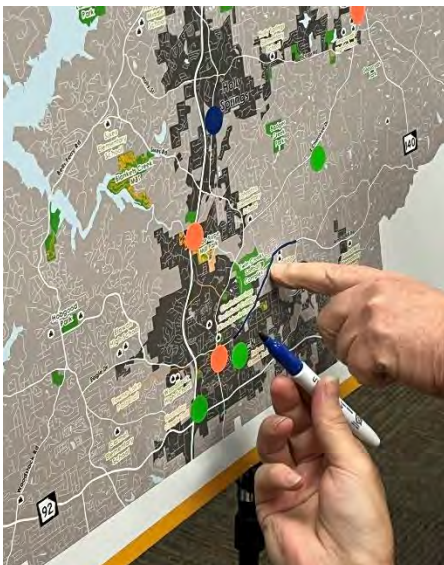
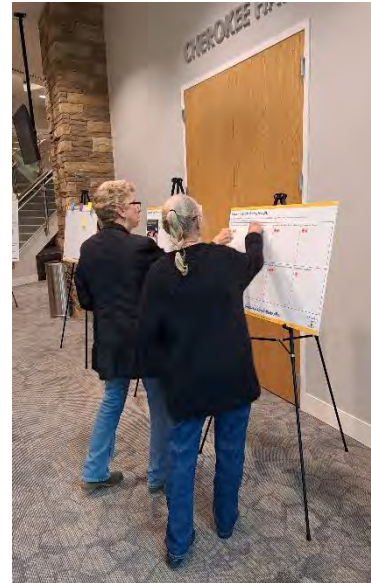
Genuine Ingenuity



The in-person meetings used interactive boards and a map activity while the virtual meeting used Mentimeter to gather responses and inputs from participants.

2. Key Takeaways and Common Themes

- In terms of preferred trail types, most Cherokee community members want more greenways. Soft surface trails and sidepaths are also desired.
- The highest priorities for county residents in greenway and trail planning are using trails for exercise and recreation and connecting to existing trails and sidewalks.
- When asked about potential guiding principles for the plan, which will be used to help with identification and prioritization of future projects, participants felt most strongly about improving connectivity and accessibility.
- Comments and suggestions by participants focused on the theme of connectivity. Recommendations included creating a countywide greenway that provides east-west connectivity, connecting schools to greenspaces, and extending existing trails in Cherokee and connecting to trails in neighboring counties.

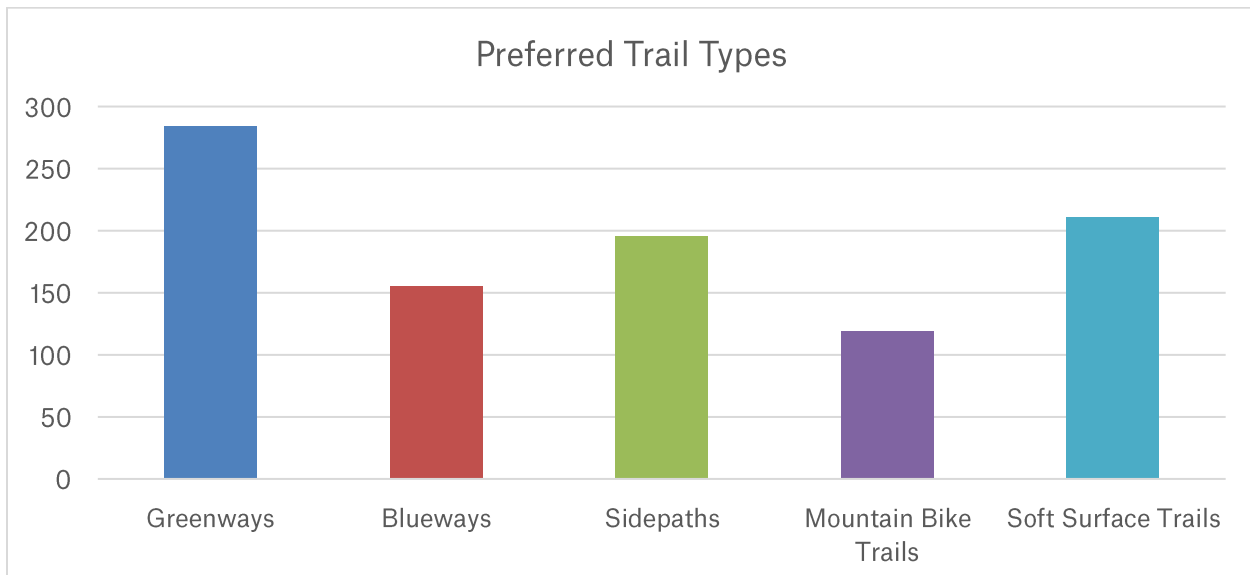




3. Potential Trail Typologies

- a. The engagement meetings and survey described and provided examples of different trail typologies, including greenways, sidepaths (along roads), blueways, soft surface trails, and mountain bike trails. Of all trail types, **greenways** were the **most preferred** among participants (Figure 1). Soft surface trails and sidepaths were the second and third most preferred, respectively. The trail type least preferred was mountain bike trails. Cherokee County is well served by mountain bike trails, especially in Woodstock.

Figure 1. Preferred trail types by participants

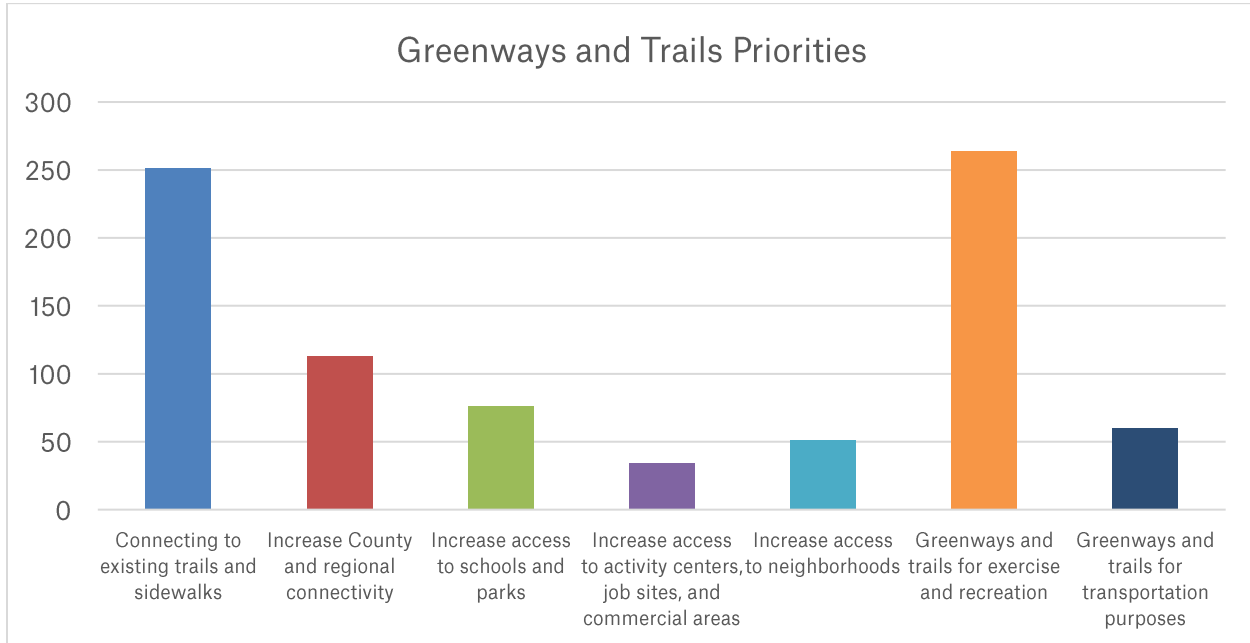


4. Priorities for Greenways and Trails

- a. Participants were asked to rank seven potential priorities for expanding the county's greenways and trails. The highest ranked priority was greenways and trails as **opportunities for exercise and recreation** (Figure 2). Following closely behind was to **connect to existing trails and sidewalks**. The third highest ranked priority was to increase county and regional connectivity. The lowest ranked priority was to increase access to activity centers, job sites, and commercial areas.



Figure 2. Priorities for Cherokee County's greenways and trails



5. Principles and Themes for Vision

- a. Participants were also asked to rank eight guiding principles that will be used to develop the plan's vision. **Improving connectivity and accessibility** was the highest ranked principle (Table 1). The second highest ranked principle was to **protect and enhance the natural environment**. Principles tied for third and fourth were ensuring comfort and safety and fostering sustainability and healthy behavior.

Table 1. Guiding principles for developing the master plan's vision

Guiding Principles, Ranked by Participants	
1	Improve connectivity and accessibility
2	Protect and enhance the natural environment
3	Ensure comfort and safety
4	Foster sustainability and healthy behavior
5	Increase awareness of trails and greenways
6	Maintain a state of good repair
7	Support economic development
8	Promote arts and culture



- b. Participants were asked to identify a few key words that came to mind when thinking about the future of greenways and trails in Cherokee County. Major themes to emerge from this visioning exercise fell along similar lines as the concepts in the guiding principles. Below is a list of themes, in no particular order. These words will be used to help inform the development of an overall vision for Cherokee County's greenways and trails network as part of the planning process.

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| • Accessibility | • Preservation | • Conservation |
| • Connectivity | • Recreation | • Network |
| • Health | • Safety | • Continuity |
| • Nature | • Walkability | |

6. Gaps & Opportunities

- a. In addition to the ranking and envisioning activities, some participants provided comments and suggestions to inform the plan's trail and greenway network recommendations. Participants said they are interested in flat biking trails, more soft surface trails, and replicating something like the Alpha Loop in Alpharetta. Comments highlighted a need for trails in the eastern part of the county. The comments also included requests for amenities at trailheads and addressing drainage issues along existing trails.



- b. Connectivity was a common theme across comments. Recommendations included creating a countywide greenway that provides east-west connectivity, connecting schools to greenspaces, extending existing trails in Cherokee and connecting to trails in neighboring counties, and improving access to downtowns. Several participants noted specific locations for developing or connecting trails to one another or other areas, such as a Bells Ferry shared-use path between SR 92 and Sixes Road and connecting Olde Rope Mill Path to Blankets Creek.
- c. While most trail ideas from participants were along public streets, one comment identified the boat ramp near Etowah Mill as an opportunity for a blueway that could connect to the Georgia National Cemetery and Fields Landing Park.

7. Next Steps & Action Items



- a. Using the input, feedback, and recommendations gathered throughout this first phase of the public engagement process, Gresham Smith and the project team will develop draft recommendations for the trail and greenway network and begin work to identify potential design guidelines for trail facilities, wayfinding, and amenities.
- b. Once the trail and greenway network recommendations and design guidelines are drafted, Gresham Smith will work with Cherokee County to organize a second round of public engagement activities for sharing and feedback.

Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Master Plan

Do you love hiking, biking, jogging, or nature walks?

Do you want more trails and greenways throughout Cherokee County?

Join us for upcoming public meetings and provide your input!

Cherokee County is hosting 3 public meetings on the Greenways & Trails Master Plan throughout October. The meetings are opportunities to review and provide input on the draft proposed network and potential recommendations for greenways, trails, and connections.

**Wed. October 23, 2024
6:00-7:30pm**

In-Person

**Bridgemill Fire Station
Community Room**

9550 Bells Ferry Rd
Canton, GA 30114

Drop-In Any Time!

**Tues. October 29, 2024
6:00-7:30pm**

In-Person

**LB Buzz Ahrens Jr Rec Center
Victory Hall**

7345 Cumming Hwy
Canton, GA 30115

Drop-In Any Time!

**Wed. October 30, 2024
6:30-7:30pm**

Virtual

Register by scanning the QR code
below or
visiting the project website!



The goal of the plan is to identify potential locations for future trails, prioritize trail connections, and allocate funding for new projects throughout the county to develop the network. The master plan will provide a framework and strategy for connecting trail segments, for connecting to key places, and providing alternative transportation options. It is being developed with input from key stakeholders and you are an important part of the process. Please join us!

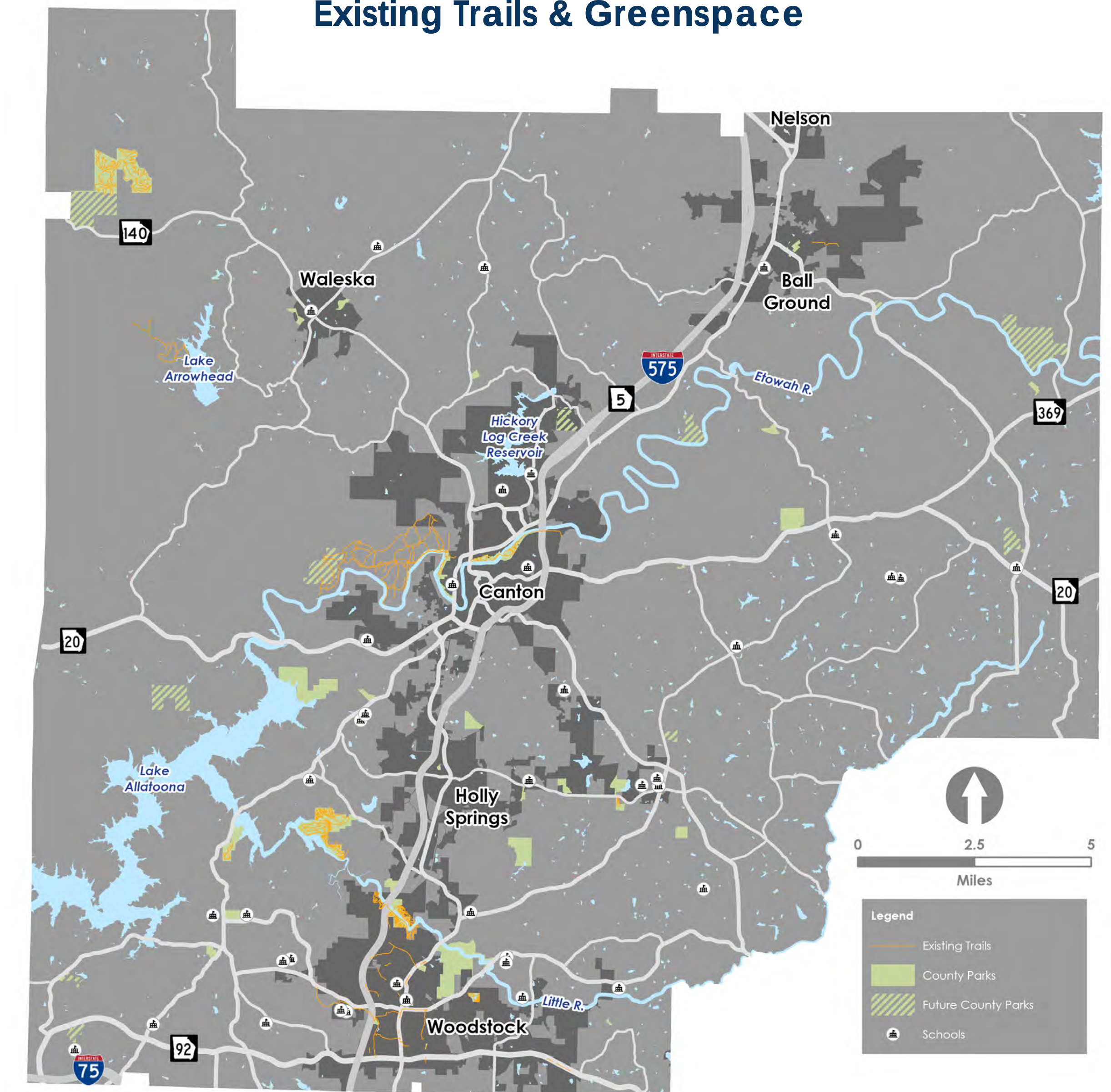
GOAL

**Create opportunities for physical
and social activity, expand travel
options, and foster economic
development**

GOAL

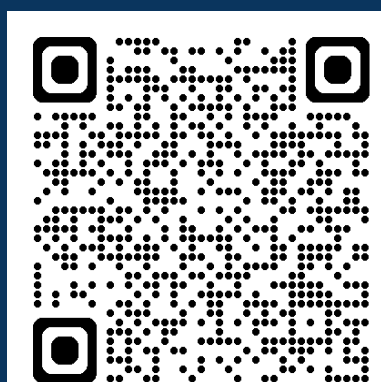
**Provide a framework for
connecting segments of trail,
key places, and create a true
Countywide network**

Existing Trails & Greenspace



Plan Objectives

- Establish a vision and goals to guide future trail development
- Document the existing state of greenways and trails
- Promote decision-making grounded in guiding principles and best practices
- Recommend design criteria and guidelines
- Recommend future connections and extensions in coordination with partners and neighboring jurisdictions
- Provide guidance on partnerships, funding, operations, and maintenance
- Identify priority corridors and projects



Can't join us for the meetings? Participate online!
Scan the QR code at left or <https://greshamsmithplanning.mysocialpinpoint.com/cherokeecountygtmp>

Questions?

Contact Bryan Reynolds at
bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov



ROUND 2 PUBLIC MEETINGS

Wed. October 23, 2024
6:00-7:30pm

In-Person

Bridgemill Fire Station
Community Room

9550 Bells Ferry Rd
Canton, GA 30114

Drop-In Any Time!

Tues. October 29, 2024
6:00-7:30pm

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code below or visiting the
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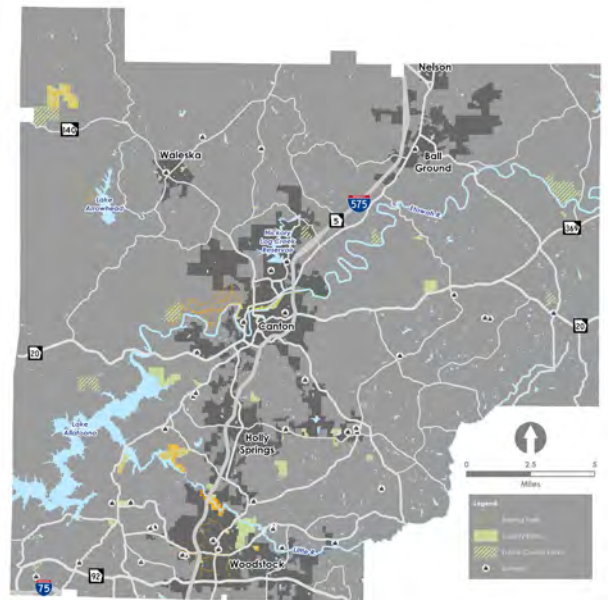


Cherokee County is hosting three public meetings on the Greenways & Trails Master Plan throughout October. The meetings will be opportunities to review and provide input on the draft proposed network and potential recommendations for greenways, trails, and connections.

The two in-person meetings are open-house style – community members are invited to stop by anytime!

Can't join us in-person? Register for the virtual meeting by scanning the QR code above or visiting the project website using the link or QR code below!

The goal of the plan is to establish potential locations for future trails, prioritize trail connections, and allocate funding for new projects throughout the county. The plan will provide a framework and strategy for connecting trail segments, connecting places, and providing alternative transportation options.



Existing Trails & Greenspace

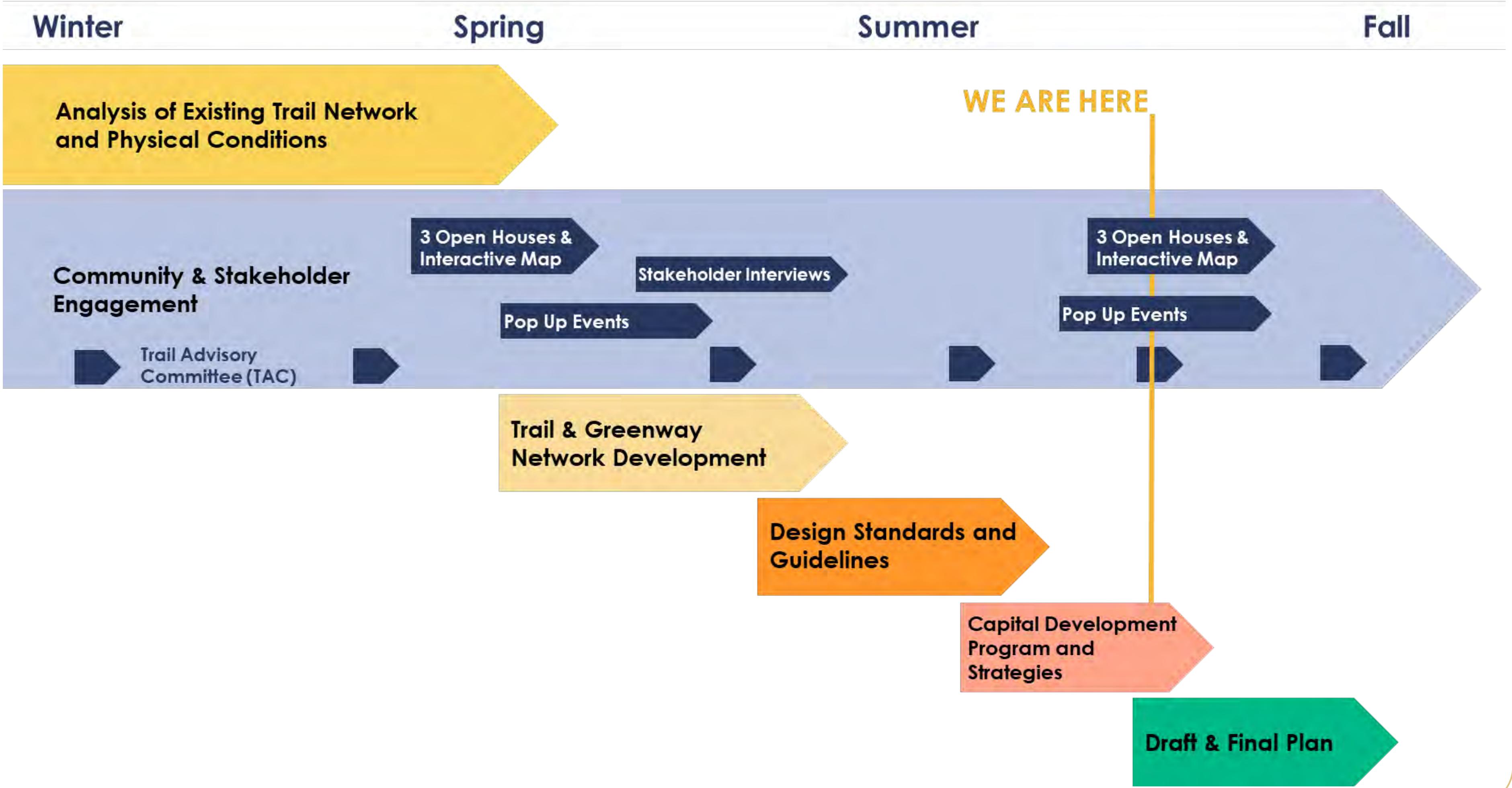


Can't join us for the meetings? Participate online!

Visit the project website via the QR code at left or
<https://greshamsmithplanning.mysocialpinpoint.com/cherokeecountygtmp>

Questions? Contact Bryan Reynolds at bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov

Schedule & Process



Background

Earlier in 2024, Cherokee County began the process of developing the County’s first-ever Countywide Greenways & Trails Master Plan. The goal of the plan is to establish a cohesive approach to identifying **potential locations for future trails, prioritizing trail connections** and **allocating funding** for new projects with the cities and adjacent counties to develop the network. The master plan will provide a **framework and strategy** for connecting trail segments, connecting to key places, and providing alternative transportation options.

Community feedback is instrumental to the success of this process, and the project team is working across the County, including with local jurisdictions and community members to develop a prioritized list of projects that align with overall County goals and objectives to create a trail and greenway system that promotes economic development, recreation, and transportation. The **draft trail recommendations** constitute a **proposed network of projects** that will be further studied and refined by Cherokee County during future phases, as resources and priorities allow.

This community open house summarizes the planning process and seeks to gather input on a **draft universe of potential projects**. Using that feedback, our team will prioritize the identified trail projects and finalize the planning process prior to the end of the calendar year.

Plan Goals

Create opportunities for physical and social activity, expand travel options, and foster economic development

Provide a framework for connecting segments of trail, key places, and create a true Countywide network

Plan Objectives

- A Vision and Goals to Guide Future Development
- Document Existing State of Greenways & Trails
- Promote Decision-Making Grounded in Guiding Principles and Best Practices
- Recommend Design Criteria and Guidelines
- Recommend Future Connections and Extensions in Coordination with Municipalities, Neighboring Cities, and Counties
- Provide Guidance on Partnerships, Funding, Operations & Maintenance
- Identify Priority Corridors and Projects

Existing Conditions

The Existing Conditions and Inventory Analyses consisted of reviewing and documenting conditions throughout the County. More than simply identifying where trails exist today, this effort focused on determining the overall context throughout the County to understand where and how the creation of a trail network will be successful. As such, this effort focused on three overall areas.

Points of Interest

This analysis identified the locations of various applicable places in the County that are likely to encourage the use of trails. Other features not displayed here included identifying school locations, reviewing population density throughout the County, and investigating socio-demographic conditions that may influence trail use.

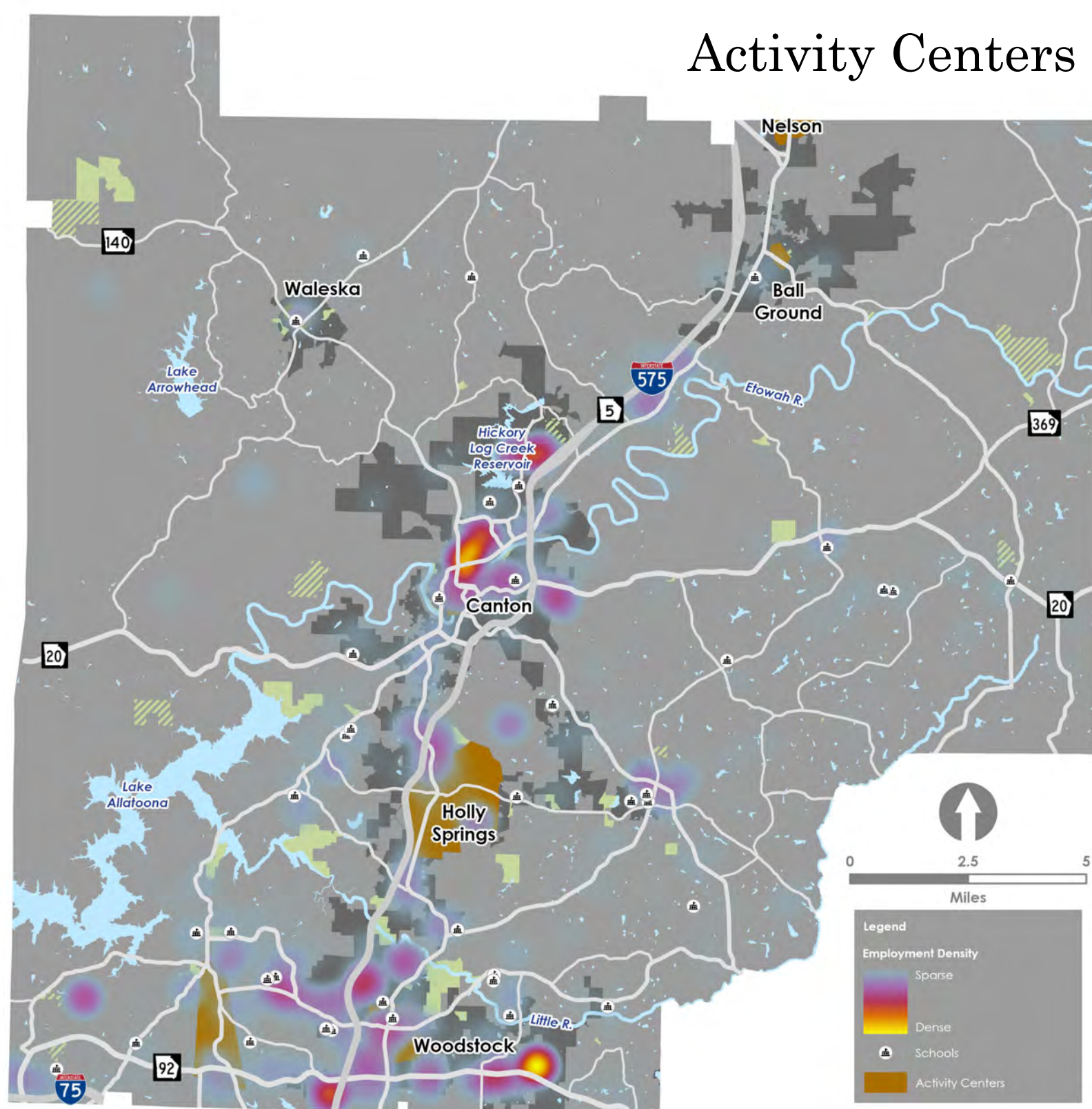
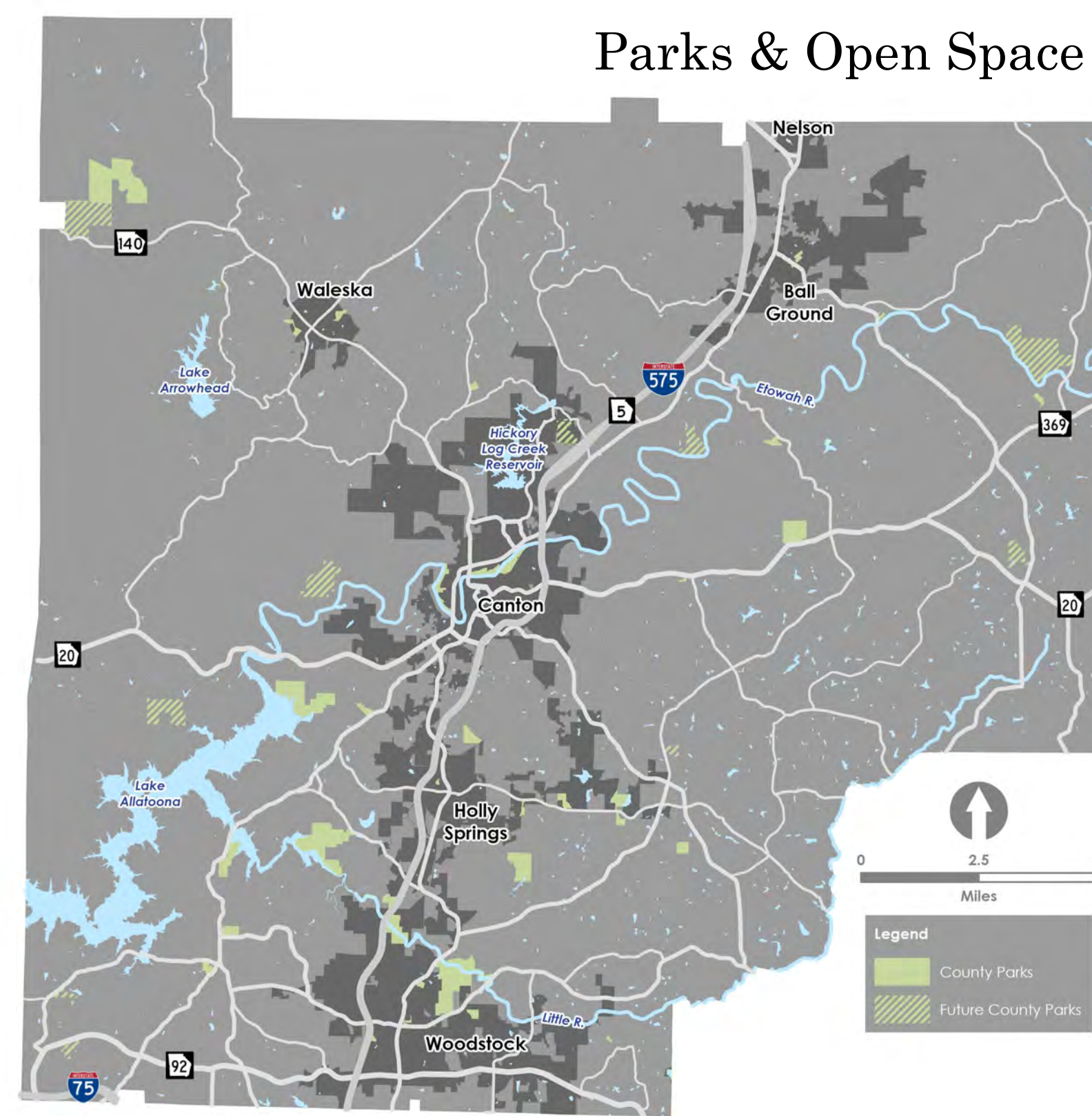
Natural Features

This analysis focused on environmental factors that may influence where trails can be constructed.

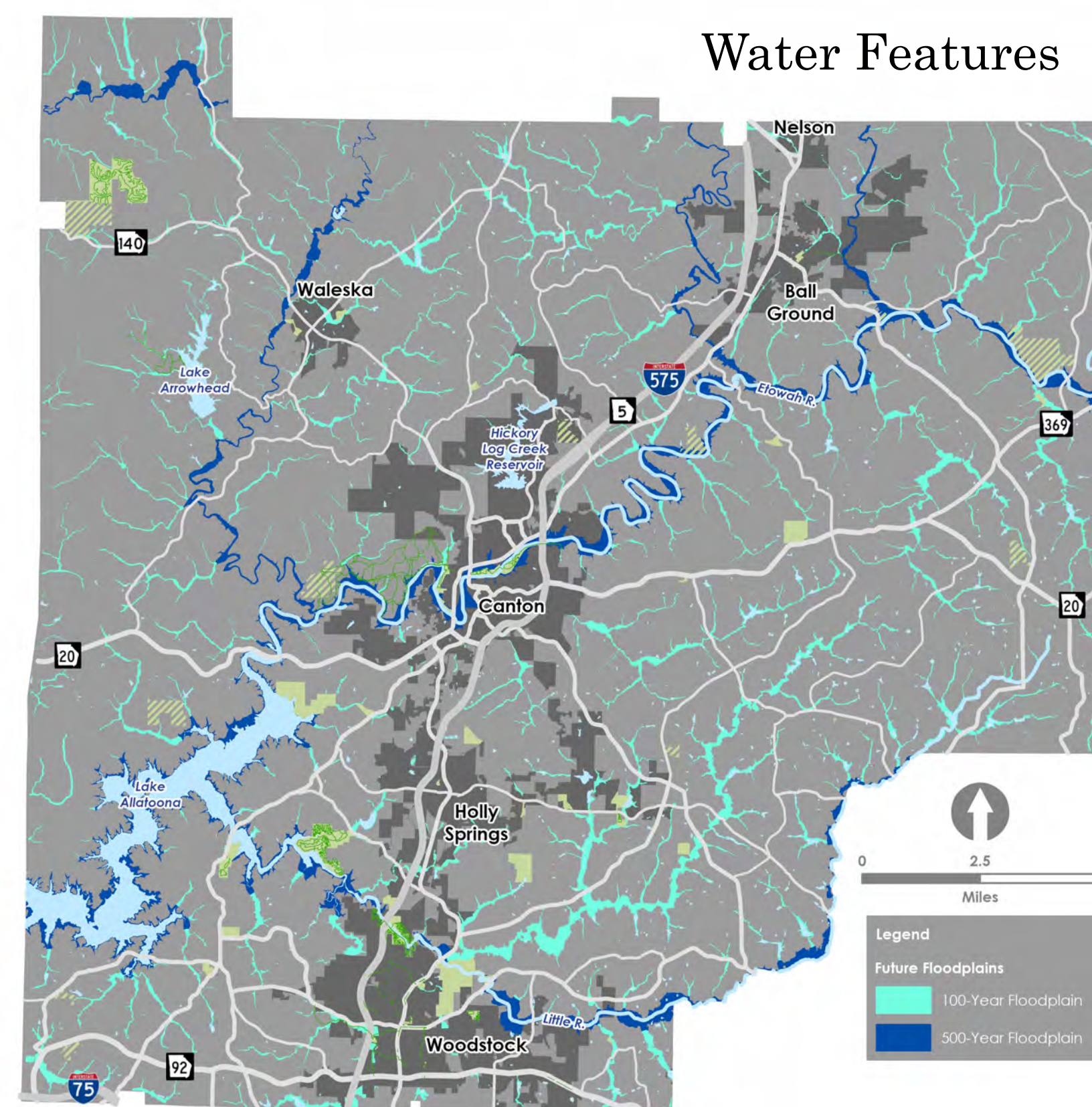
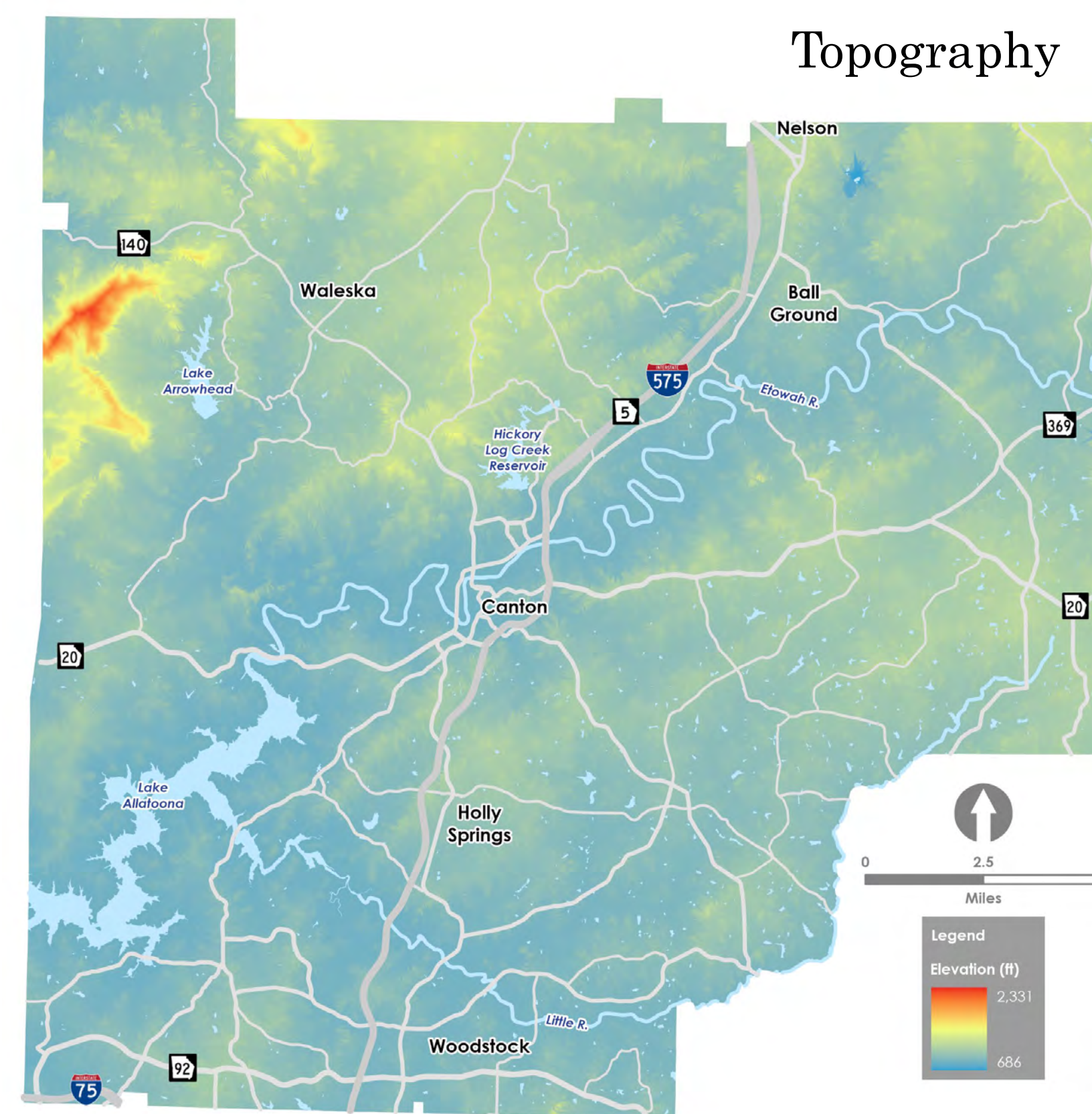
Existing Infrastructure

This analysis focused on identifying existing facilities – especially those involving walking or biking – to determine how they may interface with a trail network.

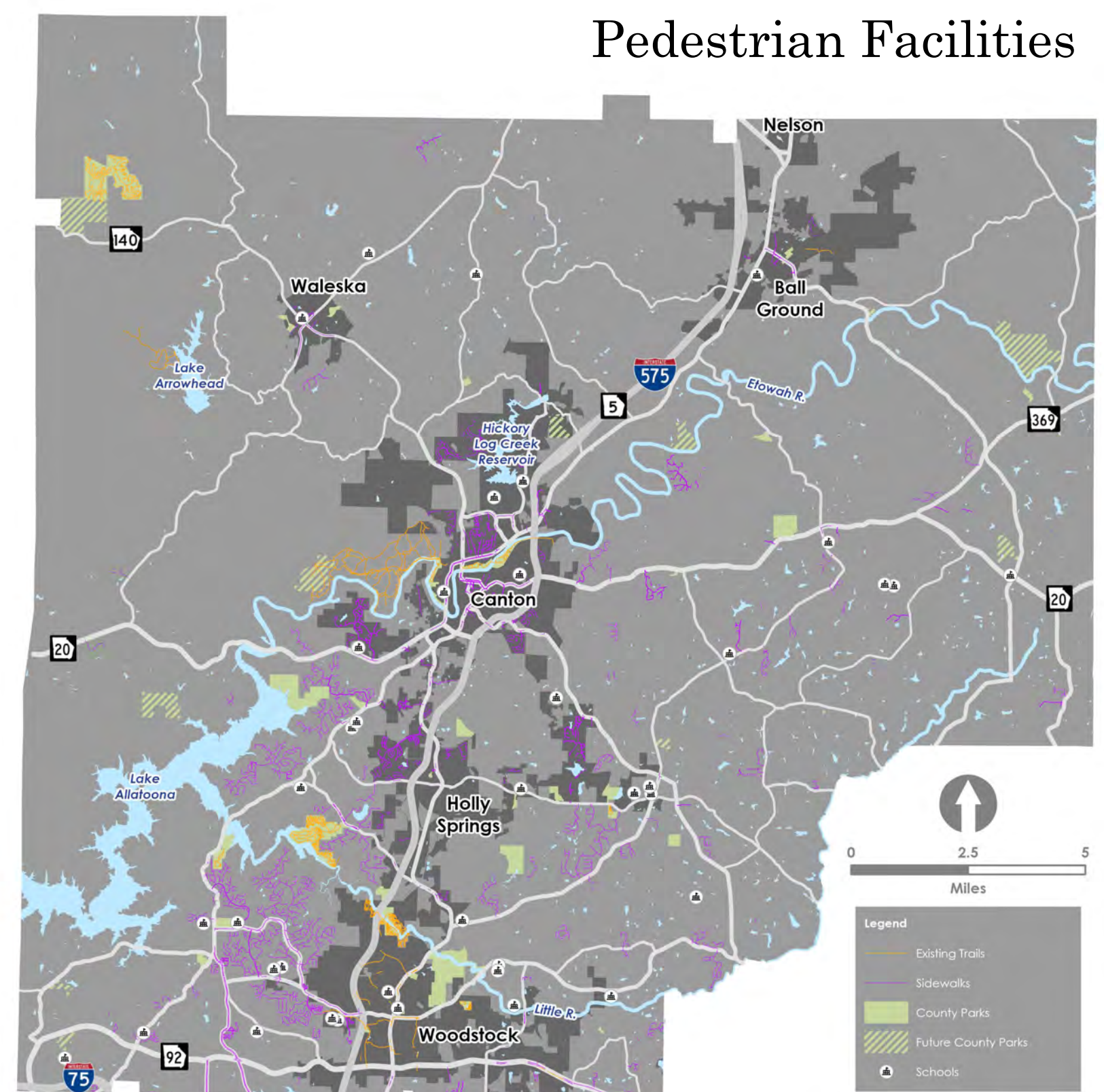
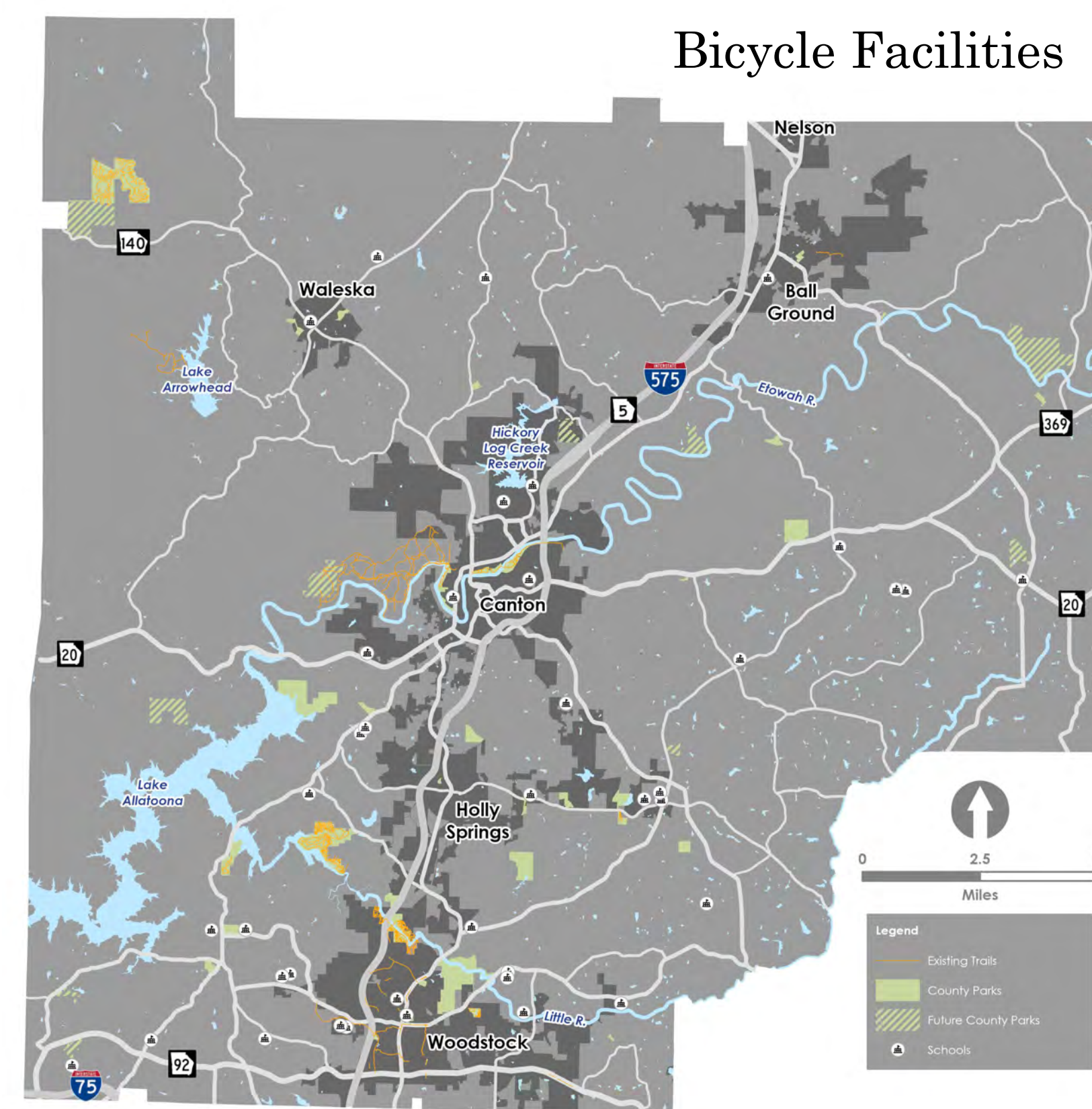
Points of Interest



Natural Features



Existing Infrastructure



How We Gathered Input

Public Meetings & Events

over 175 attendees

May 9, 2024 - Woodstock

May 14, 2024 - Canton

May 16, 2024 - Virtual

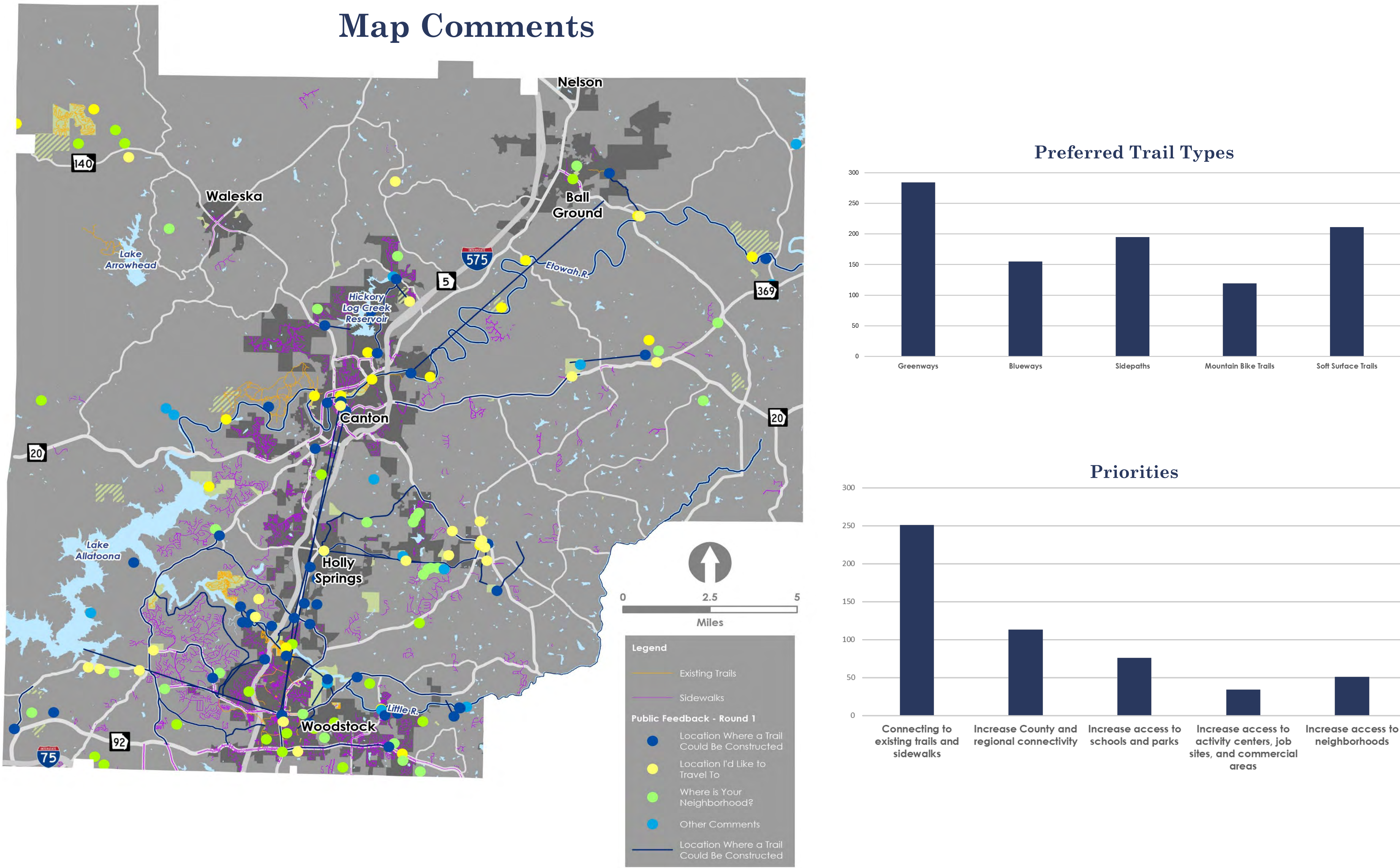
- Project Overview
- Overview of Existing Conditions
- Trail Typologies
- Developing a Vision
- Gaps & Opportunities
- Next Steps

May 11, 2024 - Woodstock Farmers Market

Online Engagement | Interactive Map

- 323 surveys
- 93 “pins”
- ~400 up/down votes

Key Feedback Received



Themes From Visioning

- Connectivity
- Health
- Nature
- Preservation

- Recreation
- Safety
- Walkability
- Conservation

- Network
- Continuity

4 Trail Types & Design Guidance

Greenways



Use Cases

- Primarily recreation with some commuters, utilitarian trips
- All modes: pedestrians, bicyclists, dog walkers, strollers, skaters, wheelchairs, etc.

Considerations

- Range of users and potential for speed differential (e.g., walking vs. biking)
- Potential for higher volumes
- Environmental constraints
- Routing/alignment, since they don't usually follow roads
- Connectivity to other trails, paths, greenways
- Access for people on foot, bike, and in cars
- Safety and security

Additional Amenities and Guidance

- High visibility crosswalks at roads
- Centerline striping as needed
- Lighting and wayfinding and regulatory signage where needed
- Cameras, call boxes, mile markers can aid in emergencies
- Amenities: water fountain, trash cans, seating, shade, pull-offs, bike parking, and vehicle parking where appropriate

Examples in Cherokee County

- Etowah River Trail in Canton
- Heritage Park in Canton
- Noonday Creek Trail in Woodstock
- Rubes Creek Trail in Woodstock

Sidepaths



Use Cases

- Primarily utilitarian with some recreation trips
- All modes: pedestrians, bicyclists, dog walkers, strollers, skaters, wheelchairs, etc.

Considerations

- Range of users and potential for speed differential (e.g., walking vs. biking)
- Connections between residential, commercial, and other areas of interest
- Potential conflict points, driveways, and intersection treatments
- Safety and separation from travel lanes
- Wayfinding and access points
- Road design standards may conflict with best practices for user comfort

Additional Amenities and Guidance

- Design intersection treatments based on traffic and trail volume, speed (separation distance, signalization, pavement markings, etc.)
- Lighting, wayfinding, and regulatory signage where needed
- Optional furniture zone against commercial buildings where appropriate
- Cameras, call boxes, mile markers can aid in emergencies
- Amenities: water fountains, trash cans, seating, shade, public art

Examples in Cherokee County

- Woodstock Parkway
- Ridgewalk Parkway
- Towne Lake Pass

Soft Surface Trails



Use Cases

- Primarily recreational – hiking, exercise, experiencing nature
- Modes: hikers, dog walkers, trail runners – in some cases can be shared by mountain bikers or equestrians

Considerations

- Biker/hiker conflicts
- Environmental or natural resource impacts
- Accessibility for safety and security
- Erosion and drainage issues
- Private property constraints
- Single track vs. bi-directional use

Additional Amenities and Guidance

- Avoid fall lines (shortest route down a hill – where water flows) and avoid flat areas (where water pools)
- 8 ft min vertical clearance (higher for equestrian trails)
- Directional signage and mile markers can aid with routing and wayfinding, include rules and regulations to discourage use in wet conditions
- Consider a directional by-day policy to limit conflicts and reduce tread wear patterns

Examples in Cherokee County

- Garland Mountain
- Sequoyah Park
- Hickory Trails Park

Mountain Bike Trails



Use Cases

- Exclusively recreational
- Modes: mountain bikers, some hikers depending on location

Considerations

- Biker/hiker conflicts
- Environmental or natural resource impacts
- Accessibility for safety and security
- Erosion and drainage issues
- Day-of-use policies

Additional Amenities and Guidance

- Provide varied terrain to maintain cyclist interest (inclines, declines, rocks, ruts, gravel, etc.)
- Maintenance due to wear and tear
- Environmental considerations - erosion
- Cost of maintenance varies greatly
- Parking for vehicles

Examples in Cherokee County

- Olde Rope Mill Park
- Blankets Creek
- Sutallee Trace Greenspace (private)
- Dupree Park
- Reinhardt University

Blueways



Use Cases

- Exclusively recreational
- Modes: kayaks, canoes, rafts, tubes

Considerations

- Water flow and volume
- Access points
- Emergency / first responder access
- Distance and time between put-in/pull-out locations

Additional Amenities and Guidance

- Short distance from parking to launch or unloading area if parking further
- Information kiosks at access points, also print and online materials
- Maps, mileage, difficulty, water level
- Safety markers along route
- Range of signage, tailored for location and purpose
- ADA standards for accessible design

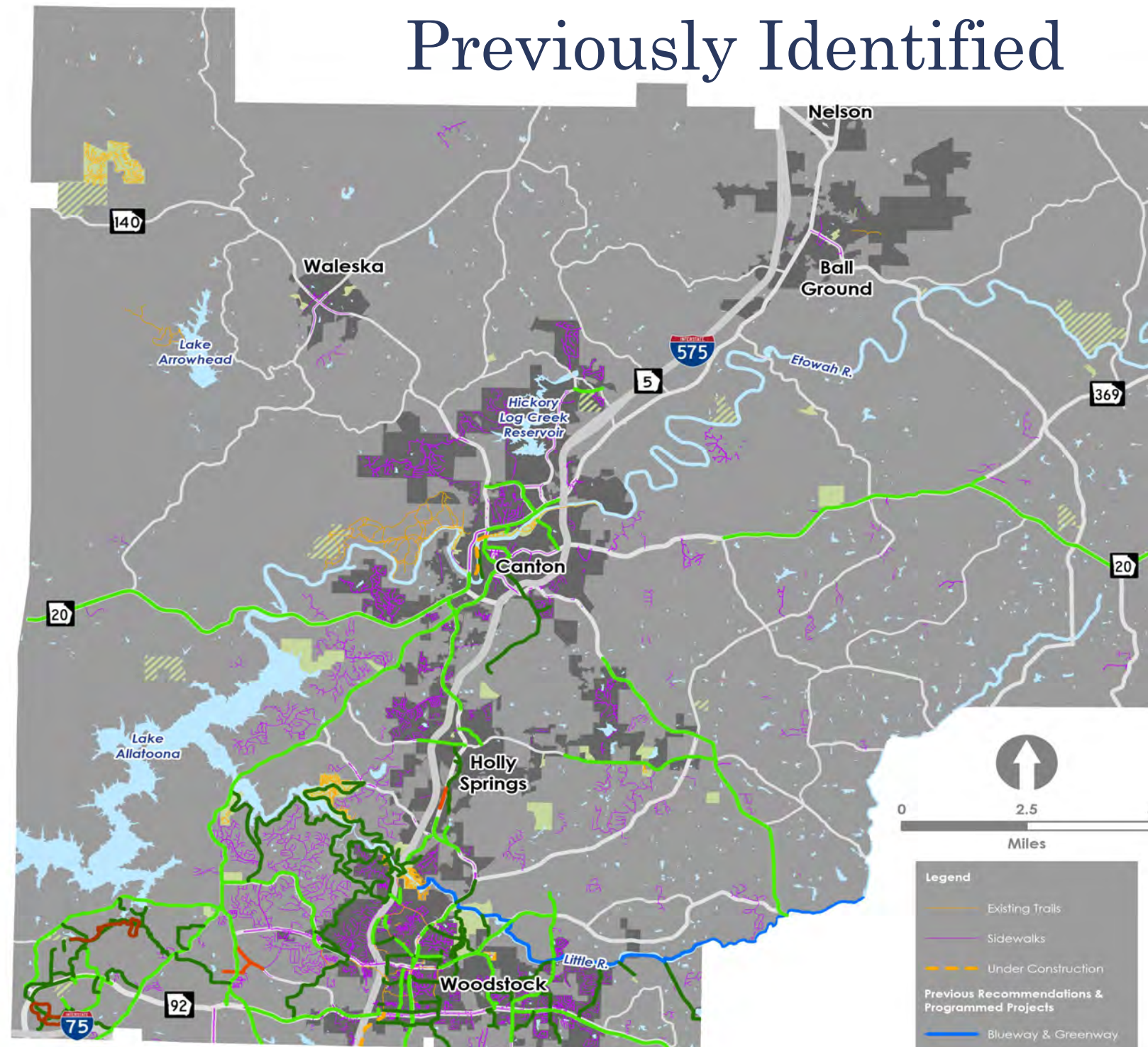
Examples in Cherokee County

- Etowah River
- Little River
- Existing Launch Sites
 - Etowah River Park
 - Boling Park
 - Olde Rope Mill Park
 - Knox Bridge
 - Fields Landing Park

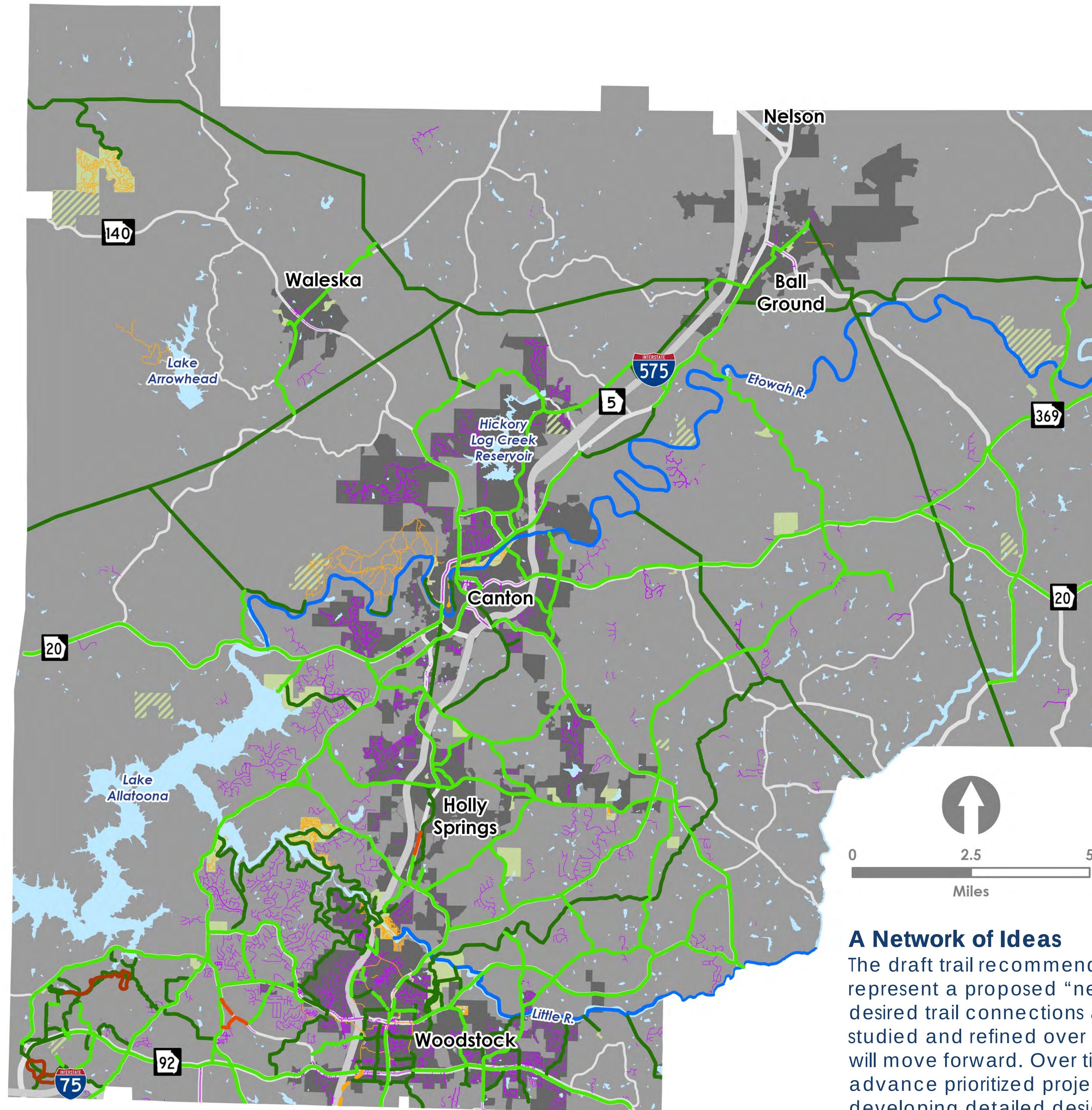


Draft Trail Recommendations

Previously Identified



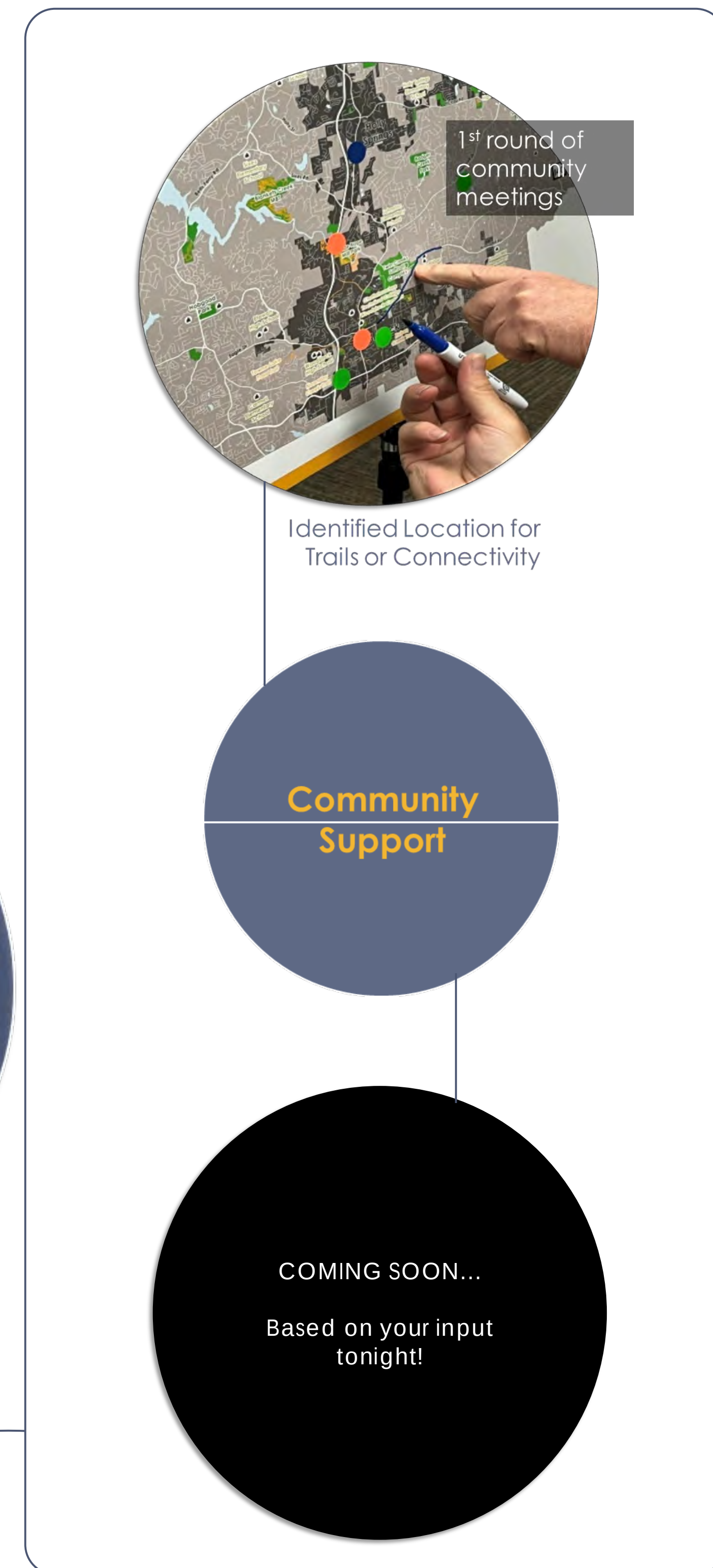
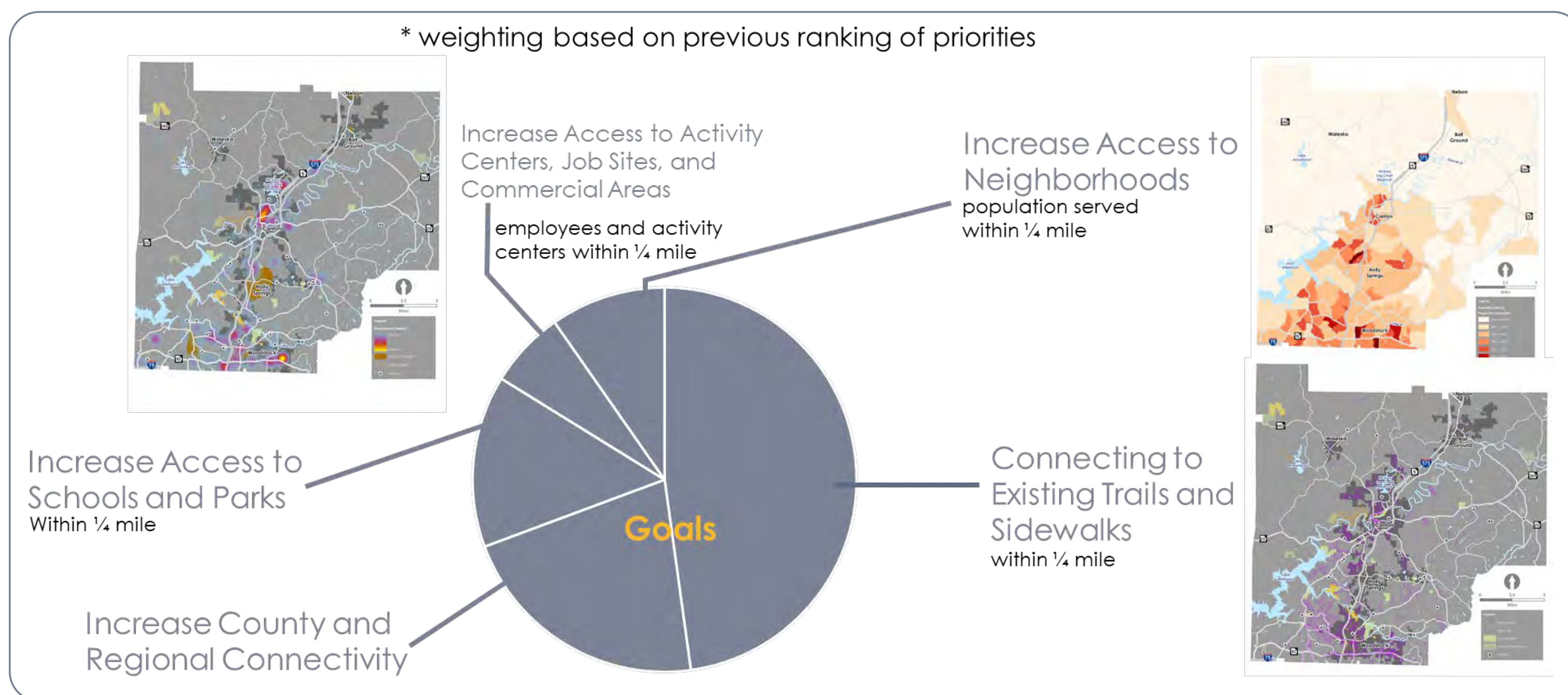
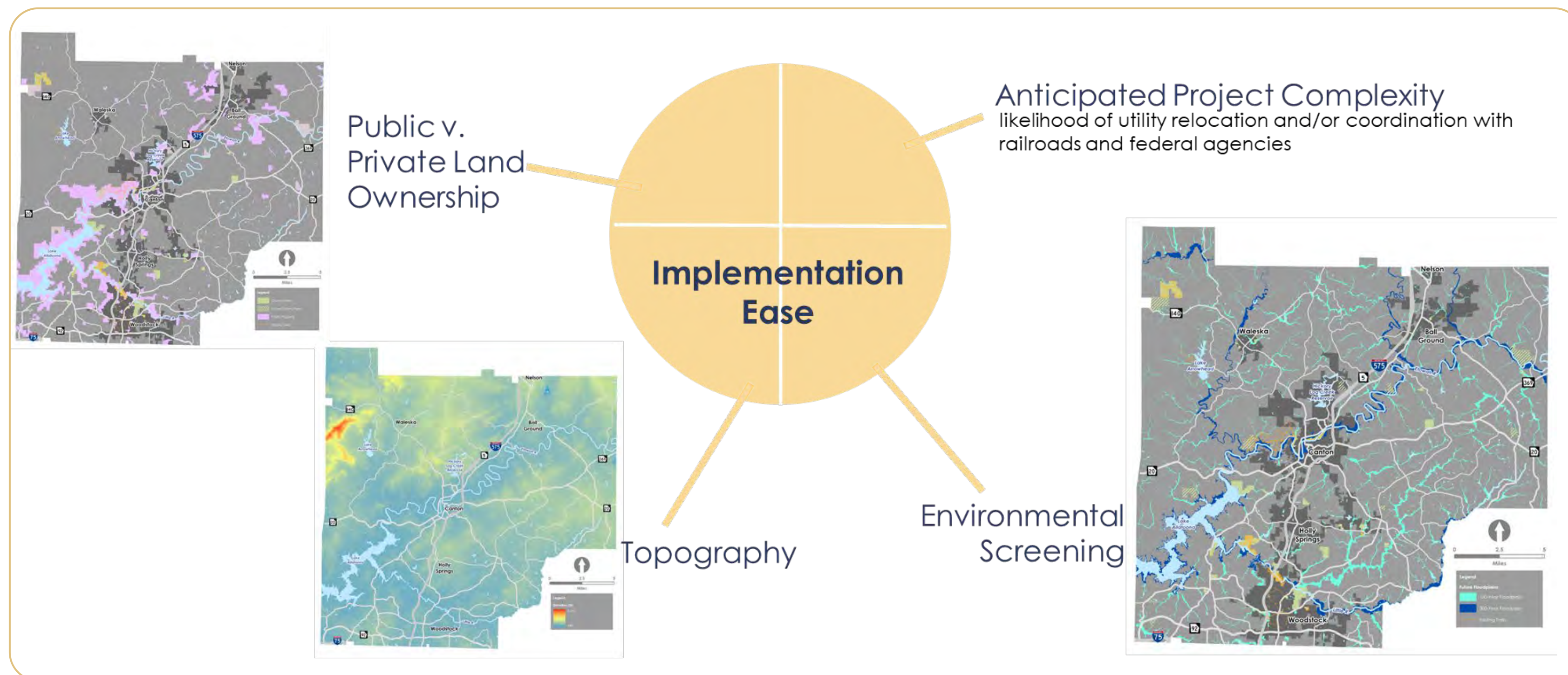
New Ideas

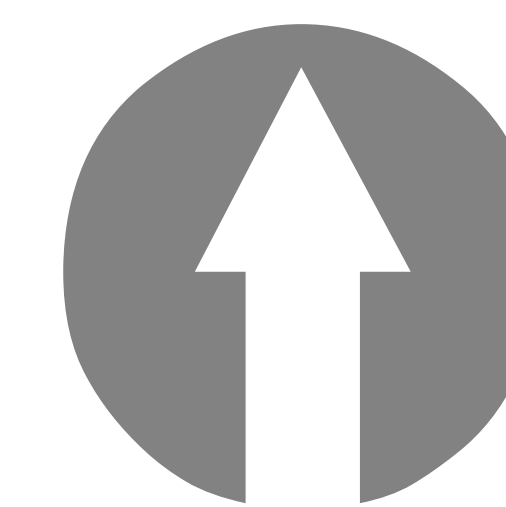
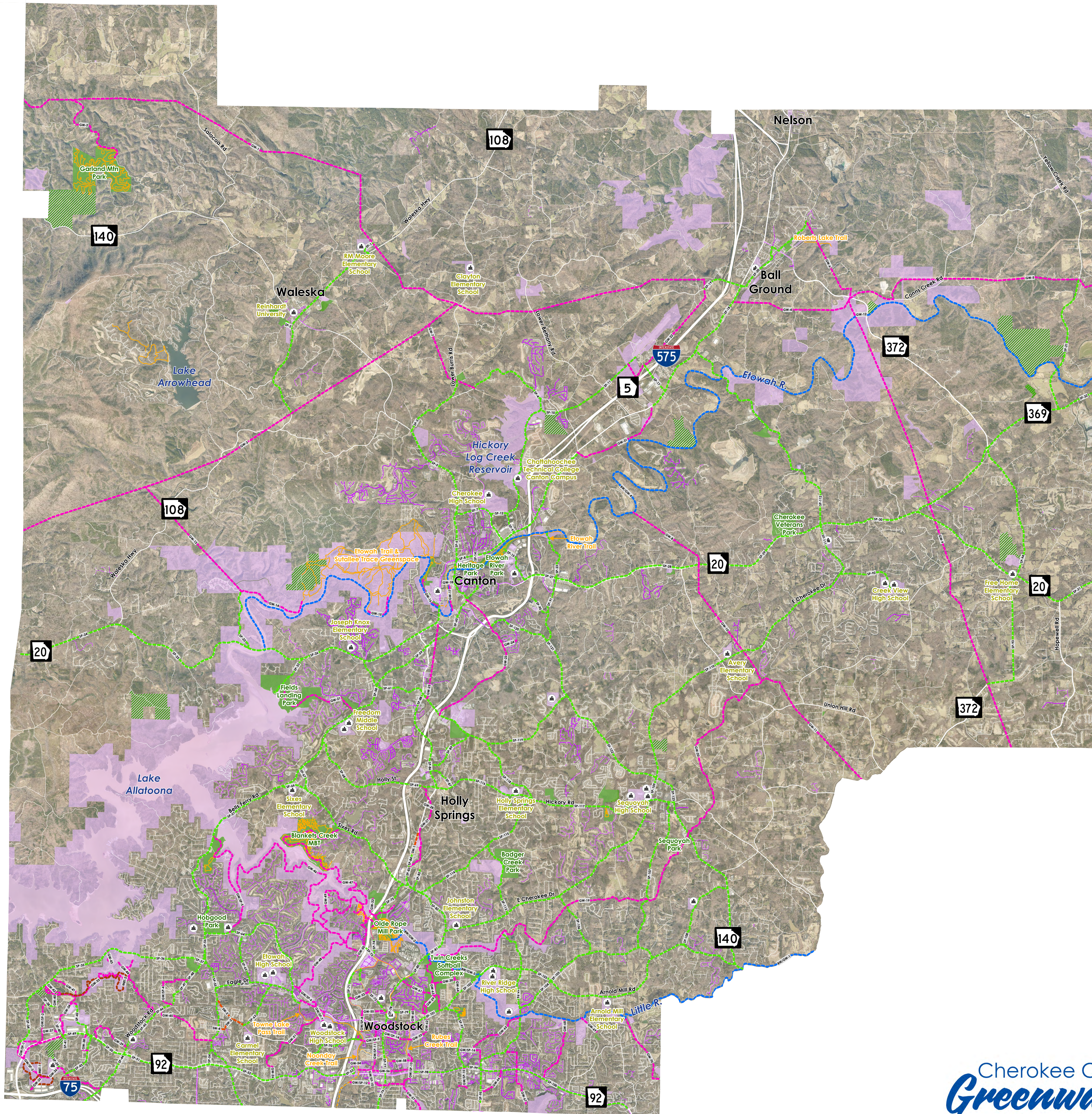


A Network of Ideas

The draft trail recommendations shown here today represent a proposed “network of ideas.” They represent desired trail connections and extensions to be further studied and refined over time. Not all of these projects will move forward. Over time, Cherokee County will advance prioritized projects, refining alignments and developing detailed designs, based on available funding, resources, and community feedback.

Process to Prioritize Trail Initiatives





0 2.5 5
Miles

Cherokee County

1831
GEORGIA

Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Master Plan

October 2024 Community Open Houses

DRAFT Recommended Trail Network

- Legend**
- Existing Trails
 - County Parks
 - Future County Parks
 - Schools
 - Public Property
 - Under Construction
- Draft Trail Network**
- Blueway & Greenway
 - Greenways
 - Mountain Biking Trail
 - Sidewalk
 - Sidewalks

Cherokee County
Greenways & Trails Master Plan



Draft Trail Recommendations

Southwest Cherokee

Throughout Cherokee County, a variety of potential trail connections and new trails or greenways are being explored. Review the list and map and tell us your thoughts. Which ones do you support? In your opinion, what is missing?

A) Kellogg Creek Greenway & Mountain Bike Trails (GW-33)

Previously recommended projects from the SW Parks & Trails Plan

B) Clark Creek Greenway & Mountain Bike Trails (GW-36/MBT-1)

Previously recommended projects from the SW Parks & Trails Plan

C) Woodstock Road/Victory Drive Sidepath (SP-44/45/46/47/48)

New proposed multi-use trail segments along roads from county line to Bells Ferry Rd

D) SR 92 Sidepath (SP-49/50/51/52/53)

Multi-use trail building on prior recommendations in SW Parks & Trails Plan and CTP

E) Bells Ferry Road Sidepath (SP-55/56/57)

Multi-use trail along Bells Ferry Rd building on prior recommendations from CTP

F) Lake Allatoona Loop (GW-46)

Greenway trail proposed in Woodstock Greenprints

G) Noonday Creek Trail Northern Extension (GW-48)

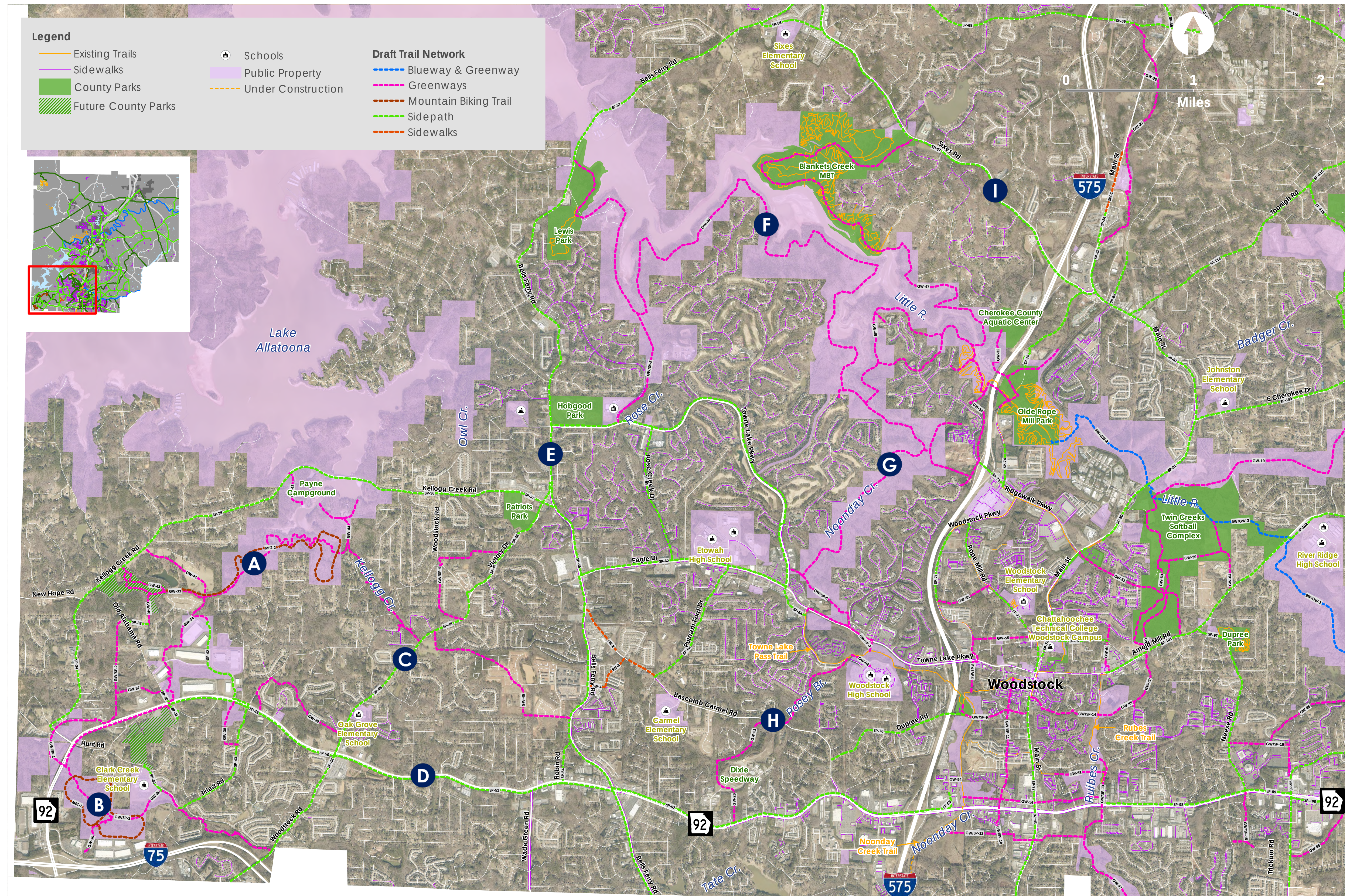
Greenway trail proposed in Woodstock Greenprints

H) Posey Branch Trail & Greenway (GW-26/51)

Proposed connection to Woodstock from Greenprints and CTP

I) Sixes Road Sidepath (SP-67)

Trail along Sixes Rd from Bells Ferry Rd to Holly Springs Pkwy





Draft Trail Recommendations

Southeast Cherokee

Throughout Cherokee County, a variety of potential trail connections and new trails or greenways are being explored. Review the list and map and tell us your thoughts. Which ones do you support? In your opinion, what is missing?

A) Rubes Creek Trail (GW-57)

Small system to extend/expand existing trail building upon multiple prior plans

B) Arnold Mill Road Sidepath (SP-101/102/103)

Proposed extension of multi-use path along road building on CTP recommendations

C) Little River Blueway/Greenway (BW/GW-1/3)

Water trail and access points recommended in CTP and Woodstock's Greenprints

D) Bridget Hammond Trail (GW-61/63)

Greenway segments recommended in Woodstock's Greenprints

E) Mill Creek Greenway (GW-19/20)

Newly proposed segments from the Little River to SR 140

F) SR 140 Sidepath (SP-123)

Newly proposed multi-use trail along segments of Hickory Flat Hwy (SR 140)

G) East Cherokee Drive Sidepath (SP-109)

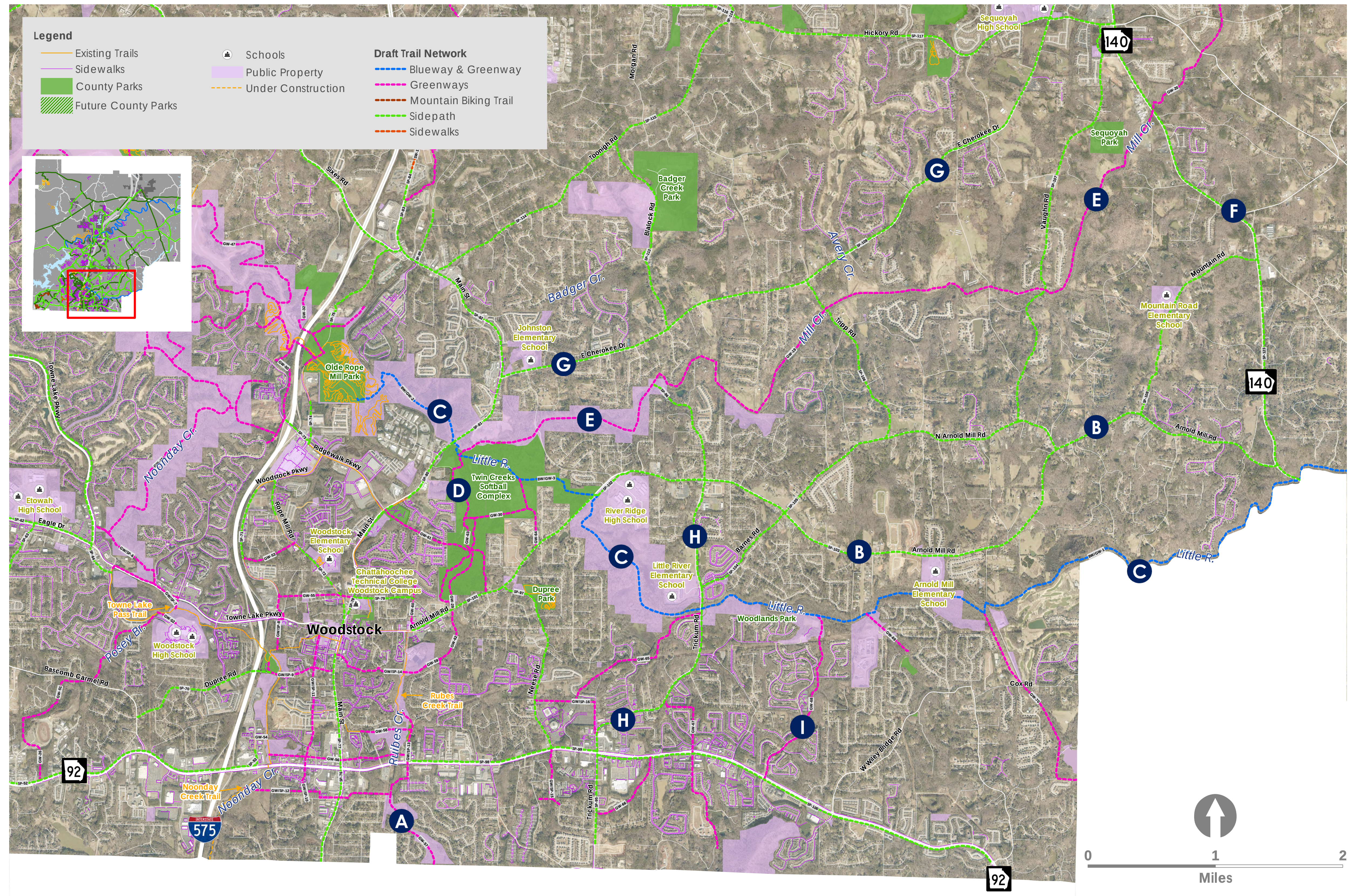
Newly proposed multi-use trail from Main St/ Holly Springs Pkwy to Ball Ground Hwy

H) Trickum Road Sidepath (SP-95/96)

Newly proposed multi-use trail from Cobb County line to Little River

I) The Woodlands Trail (GW-68)

Previously recommended greenway from Woodstock's Greenprints





Draft Trail Recommendations

Central Cherokee

Throughout Cherokee County, a variety of potential trail connections and new trails or greenways are being explored. Review the list and map and tell us your thoughts. Which ones do you support? In your opinion, what is missing?

A) Downing Creek Greenway (GW-21)

Newly proposed connector between Fields Landing Park and Barnett Park (Bells Ferry Rd)

B) Etowah River Blueway/Greenway (BW/GW-4)

Water trail and access points along the river connecting Forsyth County and SR 20

C) Canton Rail Trail (GW-23)

Multi-use trail between Univeter Rd and Marietta Rd recommended in Canton TMP

D) Bells Ferry Road Sidepath (SP-57/58/59)

Multi-use trail along Bells Ferry Rd building on prior recommendations from CTP

E) Canton Utility Easement Trail (GW-25)

Newly proposed greenway between Univeter Rd and SR 140 from Canton TMP

F) Univeter Road Sidepath (SP-119)

Newly proposed multi-use trail from Marietta Hwy to SR 140

G) Hickory Flat Highway (SR 140) Sidepath (SP-120/121/122/123)

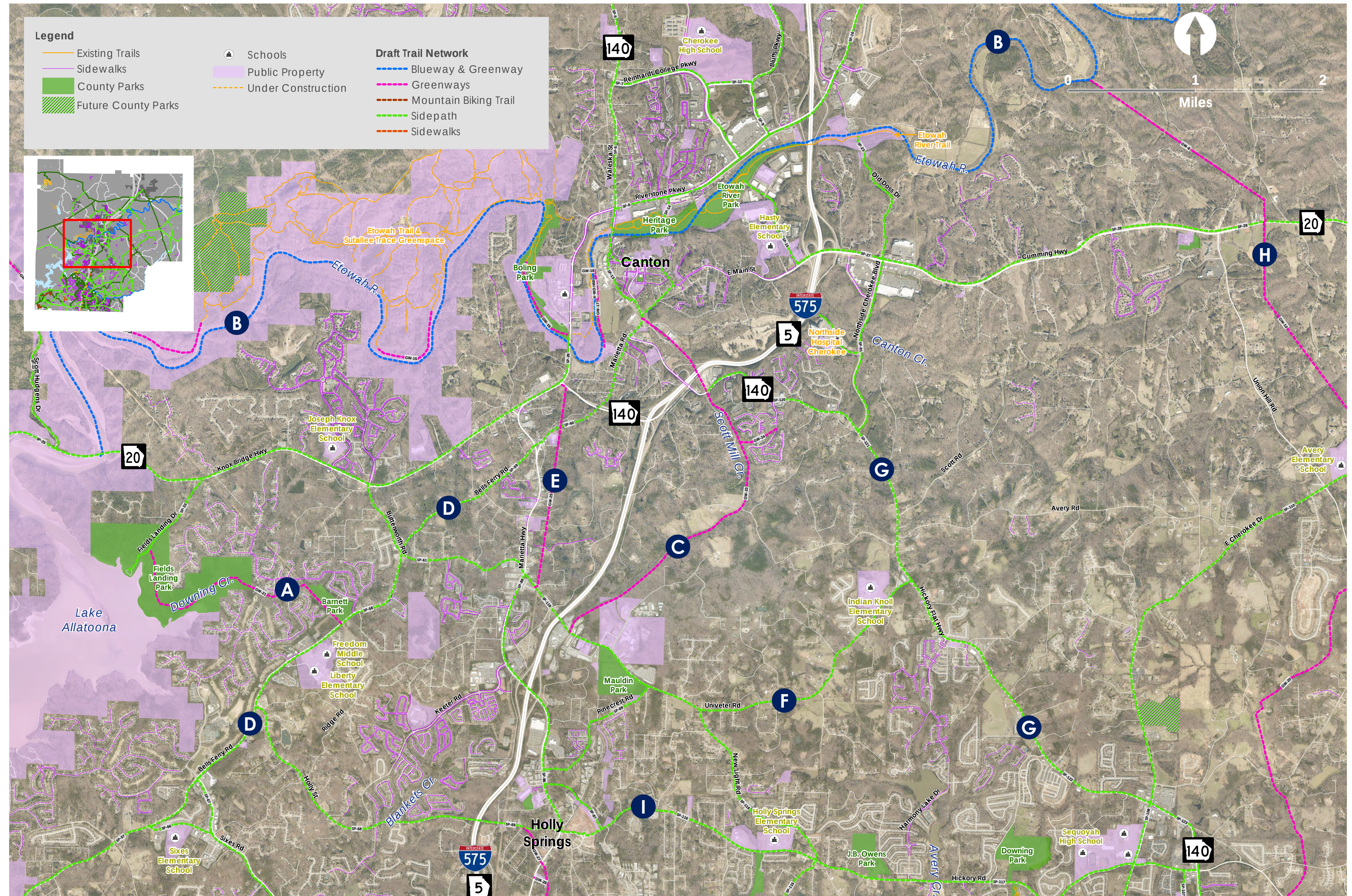
Newly proposed multi-use trail along segments of Hickory Flat Hwy (SR 140)

H) Southeast Cherokee Greenway (GW-10)

Newly proposed segments from the Fulton County Line to SR 20

I) Hickory Road Sidepath (SP-116/117)

Newly proposed segments from Holly Springs Pkwy to SR 140



Northeast Cherokee

Throughout Cherokee County, a variety of potential trail connections and new trails or greenways are being explored. Review the list and map and tell us your thoughts. Which ones do you support? In your opinion, what is missing?

A) PATH 575 Greenway - Cherokee County Airport to Ball Ground (GW-22)

Newly proposed greenway to connect Cherokee County airport to near Ball Ground

B) Etowah River Blueway/Greenway (BW/GW-4)

Water trail and access points along the river connecting Forsyth County and SR 20

C) East Cherokee Drive Sidepath (SP-112)

Newly proposed multi-use trail from Main St/Holly Springs Pkwy to Ball Ground Hwy

D) South Ball Ground Greenway (GW-4)

Multi-use trail which could be built in conjunction with a future truck bypass around Ball Ground

E) Roberts Lake Connector Greenway (GW-6)

Newly proposed greenway between Old Dawsonville Rd and McGraw Ford WMA

F) Eagle's Beak Park Connector Greenway (GW-5)

Newly proposed multi-use trail from SR 372 to connect to Eagle's Beak Park in Forsyth County

G) Milton to Etowah River Greenway (GW-9)

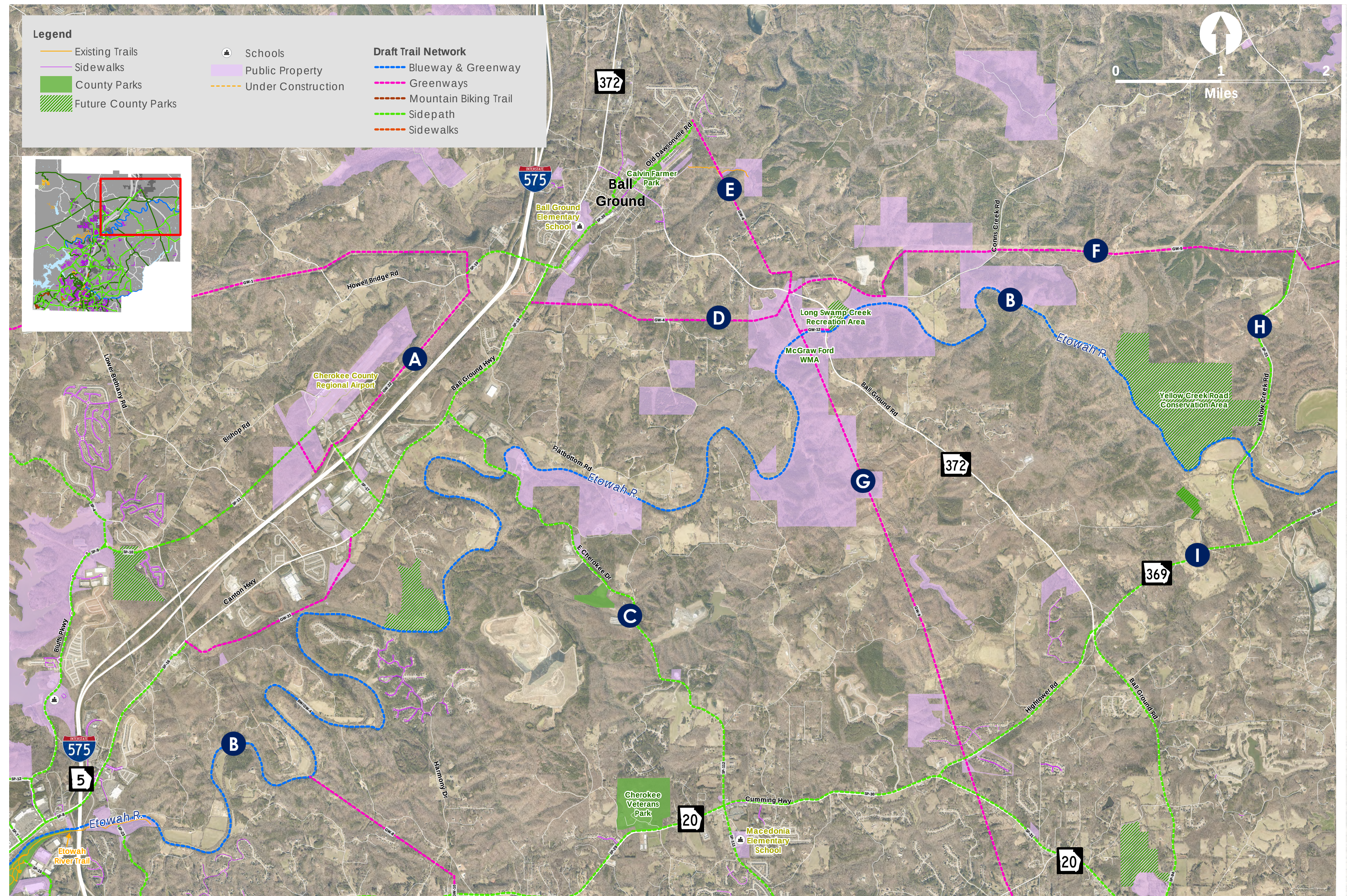
Newly proposed multi-use trail along power line easement between Milton and the Etowah River

H) Yellow Creek Road Sidepath (SP-21)

Newly proposed sidepath to connect to Yellow Creek Road Conservation Area

I) SR 369 Sidepath (SP-32)

Newly proposed sidepath to connect between SR 20 and Forsyth County



Northwest Cherokee

Throughout Cherokee County, a variety of potential trail connections and new trails or greenways are being explored. Review the list and map and tell us your thoughts. Which ones do you support? In your opinion, what is missing?

A) Garland Mountain Spur (GW-2)

Newly proposed connector between Garland Mountain Park and Northern Cherokee Greenway

B) Northern Cherokee Greenway (GW-1)

Newly proposed greenway connecting Bartow County to Ball Ground via Garland Mountain

C) Waleska Loop (SP-1)

Loop from Cartersville to Ball Ground Greenway to connect to Waleska and Reinhardt University

D) Cartersville to Ball Ground Greenway (GW-3)

Multi-use trail connecting Cartersville and Bartow County to Ball Ground

E) Weatherby Park Connector (GW-7)

Spur from Cartersville to Ball Ground Greenway to connect to Weatherby Park

F) Lower Burris Road Sidepath (SP-3)

Newly proposed multi-use trail from SR 140 to Weatherby Park

G) Fate Connection Road Sidepath (SP-4)

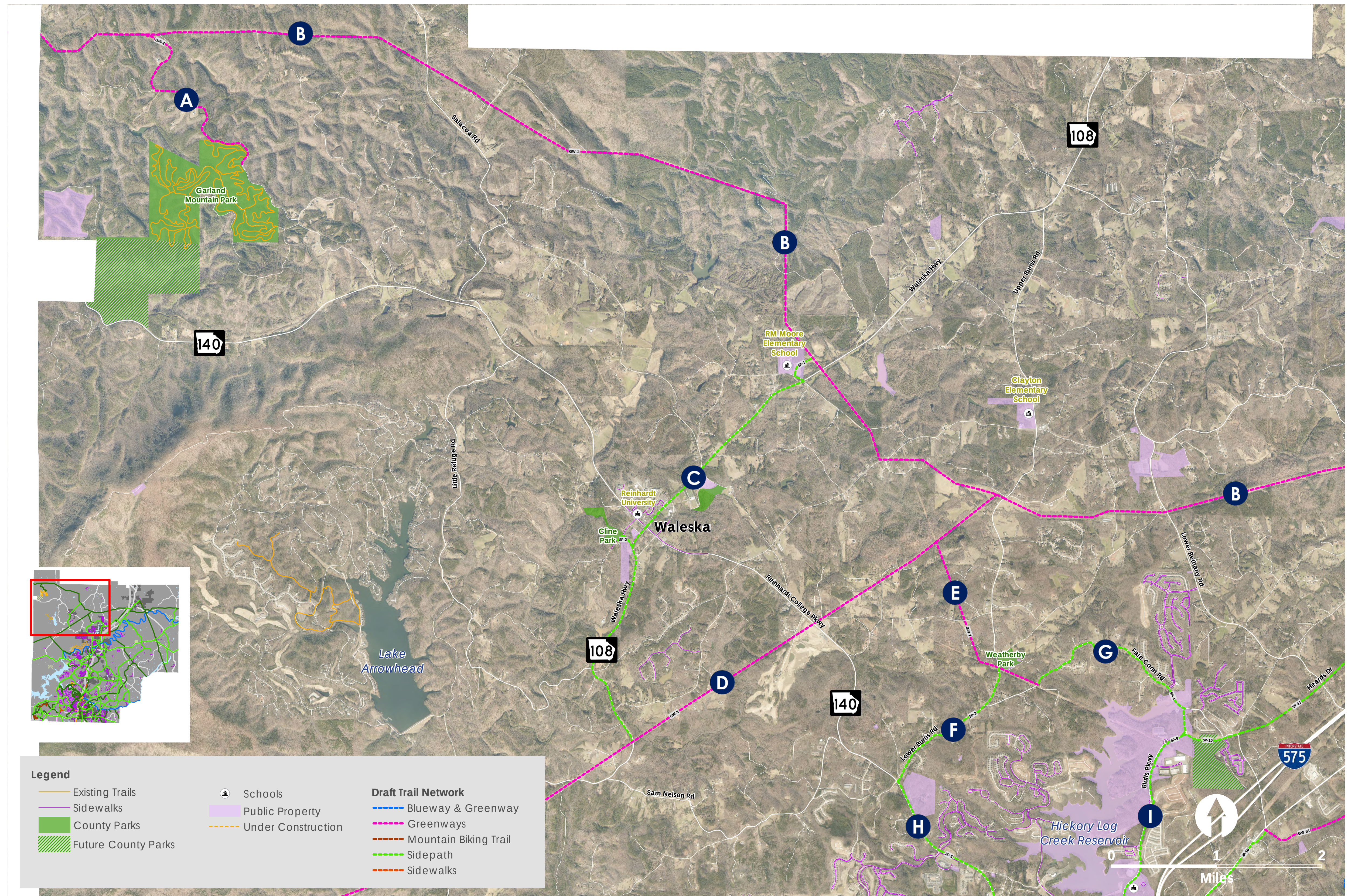
Newly proposed multi-use trail along Fate Conn Rd north of Hickory Log Creek Reservoir

H) Reinhardt College Parkway (SR 140) Sidepath

Newly proposed multi-use trail to connect Canton to Laurel Canyon and Lower Burris Rd

I) PATH 575/Bluffs Parkway Sidepath - Riverstone Parkway to Fate Connector Road (SP-9)

Newly proposed trail and sidepath to connect Riverstone to Hickory Log Creek boat ramp

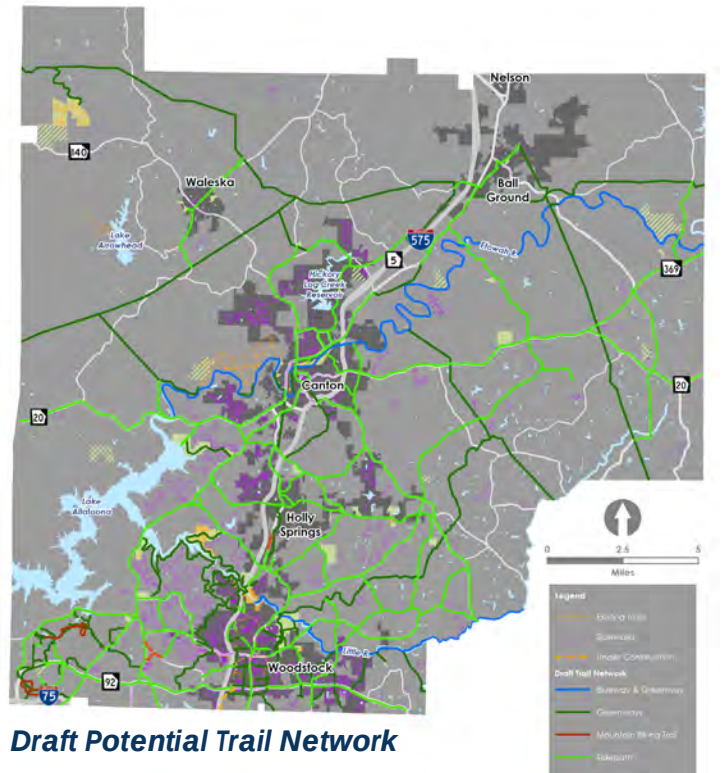




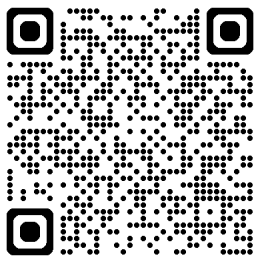
ROUND 2 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Cherokee County is hosting three public meetings on the Greenways & Trails Master Plan throughout October. The meetings will be opportunities to review and provide input on the draft proposed network and potential recommendations for greenways, trails, and connections.

The goal of the plan is to establish potential locations for future trails, prioritize trail connections, and allocate funding for new projects throughout the county. The plan will provide a framework and strategy for connecting trail segments, connecting places, and providing alternative transportation options.



Draft Potential Trail Network



We want to hear from you!

Scan the QR code at left or visit the project website:
greshamsmithplanning.mysocialpinpoint.com/cherokee-county-gt-mp

Provide your feedback by October 31, 2024!

Questions?

Contact Bryan Reynolds at bdreynolds@cherokee-countyga.gov

Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Master Plan
Community Open House | October 2024

Name	Neighborhood/Organization	Email
Jim & Leslie Travis	The Falls of Cherokee	
Bud & Lynn Meighan	Coleman's Landing / Riverchase	
Stephanie Bernhardt	Cherokee Association of Realtors	
Lynn Holland	Valley Brook	
Scott Schwitters	Kellogg Creek Park	
Will Metzger		
Alanna Blake-Landor	Eagle watch / Ursula & Associates Realtors	
Kevin Lawler	Eagle watch	
Tiffanie Miller	Holly Springs	
Debra Bloomfield	Copper Creek	
Mary Ann Kavouras	Owenby	
Steve Horne	Holly Springs	

Date & Location: 10/23/2027 Bridgemoor



Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Master Plan

Community Open House | October 2024

Name	Neighborhood/Organization	Email
Jacob and Caroline Cochran	Diamond Ridge	
Caitlin & Ben Crowe	Towne Harbor	
Linda Calhoun	Falls of Cherokee	
Ann Carey	Bridgeville	

Date & Location: 10/23/2024 Bridgeville



Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Master Plan
Community Open House | October 2024

Name	Neighborhood/Organization	Email
Nancy Foy	Friends of Garland Mtn	
Cindy Young	Friends of Garland Mtn Trails	
Charline Cambon	Friends of Garland Mtn Trails	
Trent Cantrell	Hickory Flat	
Audrey MAGness	Hickory Flat	
Joanne Benson	Woodmont CC	
Michael + Elizabeth Patrick	Holly Springs	

Date & Location: CC Buzz 10/29/24

COMMENT CARD
Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan
Community Open House | October 2024



Please provide comments and feedback about the proposed draft network of new trails, greenways, and connections presented at this community open house.

Name: Bud & Lynn Meighan E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

City, Area, or Neighborhood: Riverchase / Coleman's Landing

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member. You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov) until **Thursday, October 31st, 2024**.

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you support or would like to see move forward

1) Develop a Greenway that runs along the Little River, connecting neighborhoods to downtown Woodstock.

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you do not support or that you have concerns about

None

Are there any destinations you would like to access via greenways, trails, or blueways that you do not see connected on the proposed draft network?

Please provide any additional comments

COMMENT CARD
Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan
Community Open House | October 2024



Please provide comments and feedback about the proposed draft network of new trails, greenways, and connections presented at this community open house.

Name: Stephanie Bernhardt E-mail Address: [REDACTED]
City, Area, or Neighborhood: Canton (University Rd)

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member. You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov) until **Thursday, October 31st, 2024**.

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you support or would like to see move forward

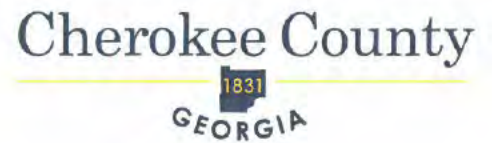
I appreciate all of the proposed greenway and trail projects. I think it will help the quality of life in our community

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you do not support or that you have concerns about

Are there any destinations you would like to access via greenways, trails, or blueways that you do not see connected on the proposed draft network?

Please provide any additional comments

COMMENT CARD
Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan
Community Open House | October 2024



Please provide comments and feedback about the proposed draft network of new trails, greenways, and connections presented at this community open house.

Name: JIM Travis E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

City, Area, or Neighborhood: Falls of Cherokee

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member. You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov) until **Thursday, October 31st, 2024**.

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you support or would like to see move forward

Side Paths down "6" sides Rd. winding to Holly Springs
and onto Woodstock!

Connectivity of corridors will help stim small biz
Along its walking + riding routes.

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you do not support or that you have concerns about

Supportive of all.

Are there any destinations you would like to access via greenways, trails, or blueways that you do not see connected on the proposed draft network?

No.

Please provide any additional comments

How CAN the community help?

COMMENT CARD

Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan

Community Open House | October 2024

Cherokee County



Please provide comments and feedback about the proposed draft network of new trails, greenways, and connections presented at this community open house.

Name: Caroline Courran

E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

City, Area, or Neighborhood: Diamond Ridge - off Marietta Hwy

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member. You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov) until **Thursday, October 31st, 2024**.

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you support or would like to see move forward

Really love the addition of sidepaths along Marietta Hwy that would connect to greenways leading to downtown Canton/Etowah/Heritage Park + then up toward Woodstock by the Holly Springs Walmart. I see people walking along this all the time + it seems unsafe. I also LOVE the expansion of Etowah Park - we need longer paths to walk/run/bike that resemble the greenway in Alpharetta + Roswell.

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you do not support or that you have concerns about

Really none - we need to expand our Cherokee County greenways + paths!

Are there any destinations you would like to access via greenways, trails, or blueways that you do not see connected on the proposed draft network?

Marietta Hwy + Boling Park, connections to veteran's Park

Pedestrian bridge connecting Etowah Park + the Mill @ Canton (I think this is in the works, but I would love this)

Please provide any additional comments

More community voting for where to prioritize projects. Surveys should be more accessible to social media/Instagram accounts or flyers w/ QR code sent to resident mailboxes. I think this would help w/ community input.

COMMENT CARD

Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan

Community Open House | October 2024

Cherokee County



Please provide comments and feedback about the proposed draft network of new trails, greenways, and connections presented at this community open house.

Name: Jacob Cochran E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

City, Area, or Neighborhood: Diamond Ridge

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member. You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokee-countyga.gov) until **Thursday, October 31st, 2024**.

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you support or would like to see move forward

- 1.) I like the concept of a sidewalk along Marietta Hwy connecting Ridge Road to ~~the~~ Prominence Point. This is a heavily trafficked road without a sidewalk.
- 2.) An expanded greenway along the Etowah River in Canton north of the current greenway would be great.

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you do not support or that you have concerns about

I don't think so. More greenways would be great!

Are there any destinations you would like to access via greenways, trails, or blueways that you do not see connected on the proposed draft network?

More connections/access to Veteran's Park.

Connect the Mill at Etowah to the greenway across the river.

Please provide any additional comments

COMMENT CARD

Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan

Community Open House | October 2024

Cherokee County



Please provide comments and feedback about the proposed draft network of new trails, greenways, and connections presented at this community open house.

Name: Alanna Blake-Lawlor E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

City, Area, or Neighborhood: TowneLake/Woodstock

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member. You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov) until **Thursday, October 31st, 2024**.

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you support or would like to see move forward

As roads are being widened, trails & greenways need to be added. Bellferry widening currently @ to begin should include a green trail. We need trails along Allatoona Shoreline Trail F, for example of Southwest. Complete high traffic areas as a priority. Prioritize trails that already exist such as in Army Corps of Engineers property.

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you do not support or that you have concerns about

Are there any destinations you would like to access via greenways, trails, or blueways that you do not see connected on the proposed draft network?

Lake Allatoona. Use existing trails in Corps property.

Please provide any additional comments

We need a 5K path/greenway that is a loop and does not cross Roads/Highways or busy sports grounds.

COMMENT CARD
Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan
Community Open House | October 2024



Please provide comments and feedback about the proposed draft network of new trails, greenways, and connections presented at this community open house.

Name: Caitlin Crowe E-mail Address: [REDACTED]
City, Area, or Neighborhood: Towne Harbor

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member. You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokee-countyga.gov) until **Thursday, October 31st, 2024**.

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you support or would like to see move forward

Bells Ferry currently has significant pedestrian traffic from the Goodwill
towards Towne Lake. Having a multi-use trail ~~to~~ along this road ~~is~~ would be a
fantastic addition; is there a thought to add a separation between the trail
& roadway via a curb or beauty / landscape strip?

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you do not support or that you have concerns about

There can be no negative to added trail systems!

Are there any destinations you would like to access via greenways, trails, or blueways that you do not see connected on the proposed draft network?

Bells Ferry is Key for me - all others look good!

Please provide any additional comments

Thank you for all you do!

COMMENT CARD
Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan
Community Open House | October 2024



Please provide comments and feedback about the proposed draft network of new trails, greenways, and connections presented at this community open house.

Name: Debra Bloomfield E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

City, Area, or Neighborhood: Copper Creek

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member. You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov) until **Thursday, October 31st, 2024**.

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you support or would like to see move forward

Excited would love to know more about how areas
get prioritized + how you choose what to do first.

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you do not support or that you have concerns about

Side walks linking neighborhood to Woodstock,
Holly Spring + Canton

Are there any destinations you would like to access via greenways, trails, or blueways that you do not see connected on the proposed draft network?

No

Please provide any additional comments

COMMENT CARD

Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan

Community Open House | October 2024

Cherokee County



Please provide comments and feedback about the proposed draft network of new trails, greenways, and connections presented at this community open house.

Name: Mary Ann Kavouros E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

City, Area, or Neighborhood: Owenby, Woodstock (unincorporated)

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member. You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov) until **Thursday, October 31st, 2024**.

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you support or would like to see move forward

I strongly support priority being given to sidepaths on all main roads w/in 5 miles of Downtown Woodstock. There's so much undeveloped land along Arnold Mill Rd. that will add many vehicles and many people who want to get out to walk and bike to Downtown.

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you do not support or that you have concerns about

I strongly feel the projects that are closest to, and would connect to, existing trails and retail/restaurants etc. should be prioritized.

Are there any destinations you would like to access via greenways, trails, or blueways that you do not see connected on the proposed draft network?

No. My area of interest is walkability and bikeability to Downtown Woodstock to cut down on vehicle traffic.

Please provide any additional comments

I'll be happy to be contacted along the planning process.

M. Kavouros 10/23/24

COMMENT CARD
Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan
Community Open House | October 2024



Please provide comments and feedback about the proposed draft network of new trails, greenways, and connections presented at this community open house.

Name: Trent Contrell E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

City, Area, or Neighborhood: Hickory Flat

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member. You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokee-countyga.gov) until **Thursday, October 31st, 2024**.

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you support or would like to see move forward

Money spent on some of the back trails might be better spent expanding bicycle lanes or paths. East Cherokee, Union Hill, Lower Union Hill need them for just for safety.

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you do not support or that you have concerns about

GW 20 will take foot traffic behind private farms and properties out of sight of the owners. There is too great a chance for ~~some~~ trouble with unsupervised visitors, animals, fences, and equipment

GW 10 and 8 run through similar properties.

Are there any destinations you would like to access via greenways, trails, or blueways that you do not see connected on the proposed draft network?

Please provide any additional comments

The initiative is good but it would be best used to make roadsides safer for bikes and pedestrians.

COMMENT CARD

Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan Community Open House | October 2024

Cherokee County



Please provide comments and feedback about the proposed draft network of new trails, greenways, and connections presented at this community open house.

Name: Audrey MAGNESS E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

City, Area, or Neighborhood: _____

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member. You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov) until **Thursday, October 31st, 2024**.

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you support or would like to see move forward

I think it is a horrible idea to have these walking paths at this time in our history. I fear great problems with migrants & homeless people going thru the Cherokee Area. The County has encourage too many million dollar homes.

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you do not support or that you have concerns about

Hwy 20 down to Hickory Flat has no suitable area for this. There will be massive problems in unmonitored areas. Everyone I have told about this is very opposed.

Are there any destinations you would like to access via greenways, trails, or blueways that you do not see connected on the proposed draft network?

forget the trails - creat trails on existing Parks

Please provide any additional comments

I think you need to be very honest & publicize the trails in the eastern part of the County - I am sure everyone in our area will oppose it when they find out.

COMMENT CARD

Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan

Community Open House | October 2024

Cherokee County



Please provide comments and feedback about the proposed draft network of new trails, greenways, and connections presented at this community open house.

Name: Nancy Foy E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

City, Area, or Neighborhood: Garland Mountain/Waleska

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member. You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov) until **Thursday, October 31st, 2024**.

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you support or would like to see move forward

Garland Mountain Both Sections - one is listed as future county park (extends to hwy 140) has been developed for several years. FGMT Submitted maps and possible extension trail to Pine Log Creek (Bartow) several months ago to Steve Shroat & Jay Worley Bartow Commissioner (Steve Taylor) is in favor of connection.

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you do not support or that you have concerns about

Concern: all maps do Not reflect current state for Garland Mountain

Need Water & Bathrooms at Garland Mountain

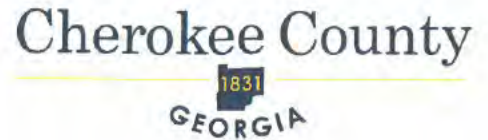
Are there any destinations you would like to access via greenways, trails, or blueways that you do not see connected on the proposed draft network?

Need new connector Garland Mtn to Public Lands to Pine Log Creek Trails

Please provide any additional comments

Overall very comprehensive plan to connect all parks - like it very much

COMMENT CARD
Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan
Community Open House | October 2024



Please provide comments and feedback about the proposed draft network of new trails, greenways, and connections presented at this community open house.

Name: Cindy Young E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

City, Area, or Neighborhood: Waleska, GA. Garland Mountain Trails

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member. You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov) until **Thursday, October 31st, 2024**.

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you support or would like to see move forward

I support Garland Mountain Horse + Hike Trails
Would like to show what say future development -
developed trail. There are trails already in usage
Public Land owned by Cherokee would like to see that
development and connected to the existing trails at Garland

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you do not support or that you have concerns about

Are there any destinations you would like to access via greenways, trails, or blueways that you do not see connected on the proposed draft network?

to connect Garland Mountain trails to Barton
Creek Park - Pine log Creek Hiking trail - using Cherokee
Public Property

Please provide any additional comments

Connecting these two parks - with growing population
growth would be a feather in Cherokee + Barton
counties hat

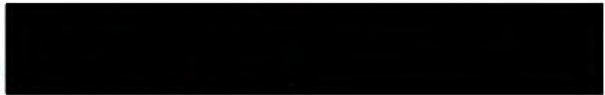
COMMENT CARD

Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Plan

Community Open House | October 2024



Please provide comments and feedback about the proposed draft network of new trails, greenways, and connections presented at this community open house.

Name: Charline Cambor E-mail Address: 

City, Area, or Neighborhood: 140 & Addington / Garland Mt.

Please return this comment card to the registration table or hand it to any project team member. You may also submit comments via email (bdreynolds@cherokee-countyga.gov) until **Thursday, October 31st, 2024**.

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you support or would like to see move forward

would like to see the Garland Mt. Spur & Cherokee greenway done. Public Property in light purple - trails from Bartow to Garland Mt so All can use. Use Public Property as part of Garland trail system

Please list or provide comments about proposed draft greenway and trail projects that you do not support or that you have concerns about

map is not correct - Public Property in light purple why are
↓ Garland is in use hatched line area is we not using
being used.

Are there any destinations you would like to access via greenways, trails, or blueways that you do not see connected on the proposed draft network?

Tine log creek hiking trails in Bartow connect to Garland Mt horse & hiking trails

Please provide any additional comments

Garland Mt horse & hiking trails need water. Water is now @ street so why do we not have water ???

From: [Bryan Reynolds](#)
To: [Erin Thoresen](#); [Eric Lusher](#); [Andrew Smith](#)
Cc: [Margaret Stallings](#); [Catherine S. Long](#); [Stephen T. Shrout](#)
Subject: FW: Terminology clarification around Master Plans
Date: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 12:22:16 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-3z5gd4om.png](#)
[Outlook-1taf2lh1.png](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Good afternoon,

See below for comments related to side path on Trickum Road. I replied to Mr. Culturebridge and directed him to the social pinpoint site to make comments there.

Thanks.

Bryan D. Reynolds
Community Services Agency Director
Cherokee County
884 Univeter Road | Canton, GA 30114
770-345-6238
www.cherokeecountyga.gov

From: todd culturebridge.us <todd@culturebridge.us>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 11:51 AM
To: Bryan Reynolds <bdreynolds@cherokeecountyga.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Terminology clarification around Master Plans

Hello Bryan,

My name is Michael Todd Shinholster and I live at 315 Don Pierre Way, Woodstock, GA 30188. My question revolves around terminology being used for the Little River Park and the trail system. Will there be a paved path from the new Little River Park to Downtown Woodstock? Are there plans for a continuous path/sidewalk along the length of Trickum Road? Having additional ways to navigate Trickum Road would be great since it is extremely dangerous to walk or run along Trickum...I have had numerous vehicles intentionally steer in my direction while running. Thanks in advance for your clarifications.

All the best,

Todd

Michael Todd Shinholster

Principal Consultant



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Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Master Plan

Trail Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting #1
March 4, 2024

Today's Meeting Agenda

- Introductions
- Project Overview
- Role of the Trail Advisory Committee (TAC)
- Existing Trails & Greenspace
- Group Discussion/Breakout Session
- Action Items and Next Steps



Introductions

- Client Team
- Consultant Team



County Team



Bryan Reynolds

Community Services
Agency Director



Margaret Stallings

Planning and Zoning
Director



Jillian Willis

Planning and Zoning



Brantley Day

Community Development
Agency Director



Steve Shrout

Parks Division Director



Consultant Team



Eric Lusher, AICP
Gresham Smith
Project Manager



Erin Thoresen, AICP
Gresham Smith
Deputy Project Manager



Andrew Smith, AICP
Gresham Smith
Plan Support



**Lauren Patterson,
PLA, ASLA**
VHB
Plan Support



Allison Bell, AICP
VHB
Plan Support



Project Background

- Goals and Objectives
- Relationship to Other Plans & Studies
- Keys to Success
- Schedule Overview



Goals and Objectives

- “Greenways and trails are investments in community, in transportation, in economic development, and in health and recreation.”
 - Create opportunities for physical and social activity, expand travel options, and foster economic development
 - Provide a framework for connecting segments of trail, key places, and create a true countywide network

A Vision and Goals to Guide Future Development

Document Existing State of Greenways & Trails

Promote Decision-Making Grounded in Guiding Principles and Best Practices

Recommend Design Criteria and Guidelines

Recommend Future Connections and Extensions in Coordination with Municipalities, Neighboring Cities, and Counties

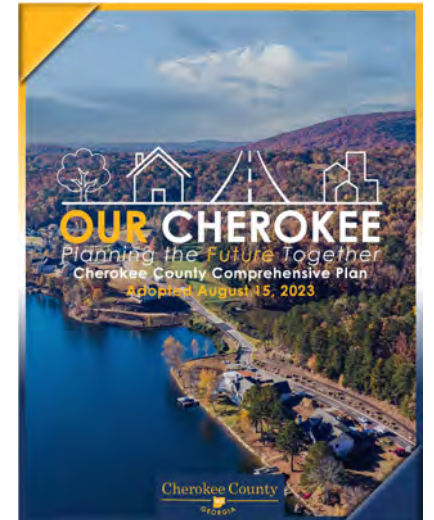
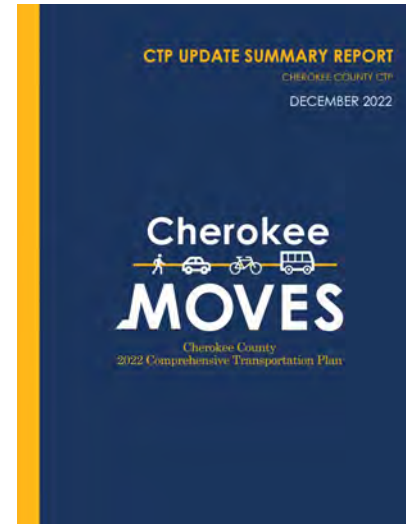
Guidance on Partnerships, Funding, Operations & Maintenance

Identify Priority Corridors and Projects



Relationship to Other Plans & Studies

- Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- Transportation Plans and Studies
- Comprehensive Plans
- LCI Plans & Studies
- Parks and Recreation Master Plans

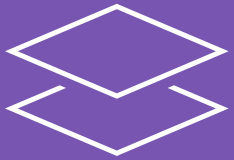


Keys to Success

- Build on CTP and past planning work
- Work across boundaries, with local jurisdictions
- Broad-reaching and inclusive community engagement
- Prioritized projects that align with overall County goals and objectives
- Focus on economic development, recreation – not just transportation



Key Tasks



**Analysis of
Existing Trail
Network &
Physical
Conditions**



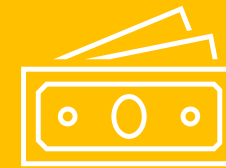
**Community &
Stakeholder
Engagement**



**Trail &
Greenway
Network
Development**



**Trail Design
Standards &
Guidelines**



**Capital
Development
Program &
Strategies**



**Draft & Final
Countywide
Trails Master
Plan**



Winter

Spring

Summer

Fall

2

Analysis of Existing Trail Network
and Physical Conditions

3

Community & Stakeholder
Engagement

3 Open Houses &
Interactive Map

Stakeholder Interviews

Pop Up Events

Trail Advisory
Committee

3 Open Houses &
Interactive Map

4

Trail & Greenway
Network Development

5

Design Standards and
Guidelines

6

Capital Development
Program and
Strategies

7

Draft & Final Plan

WE ARE HERE

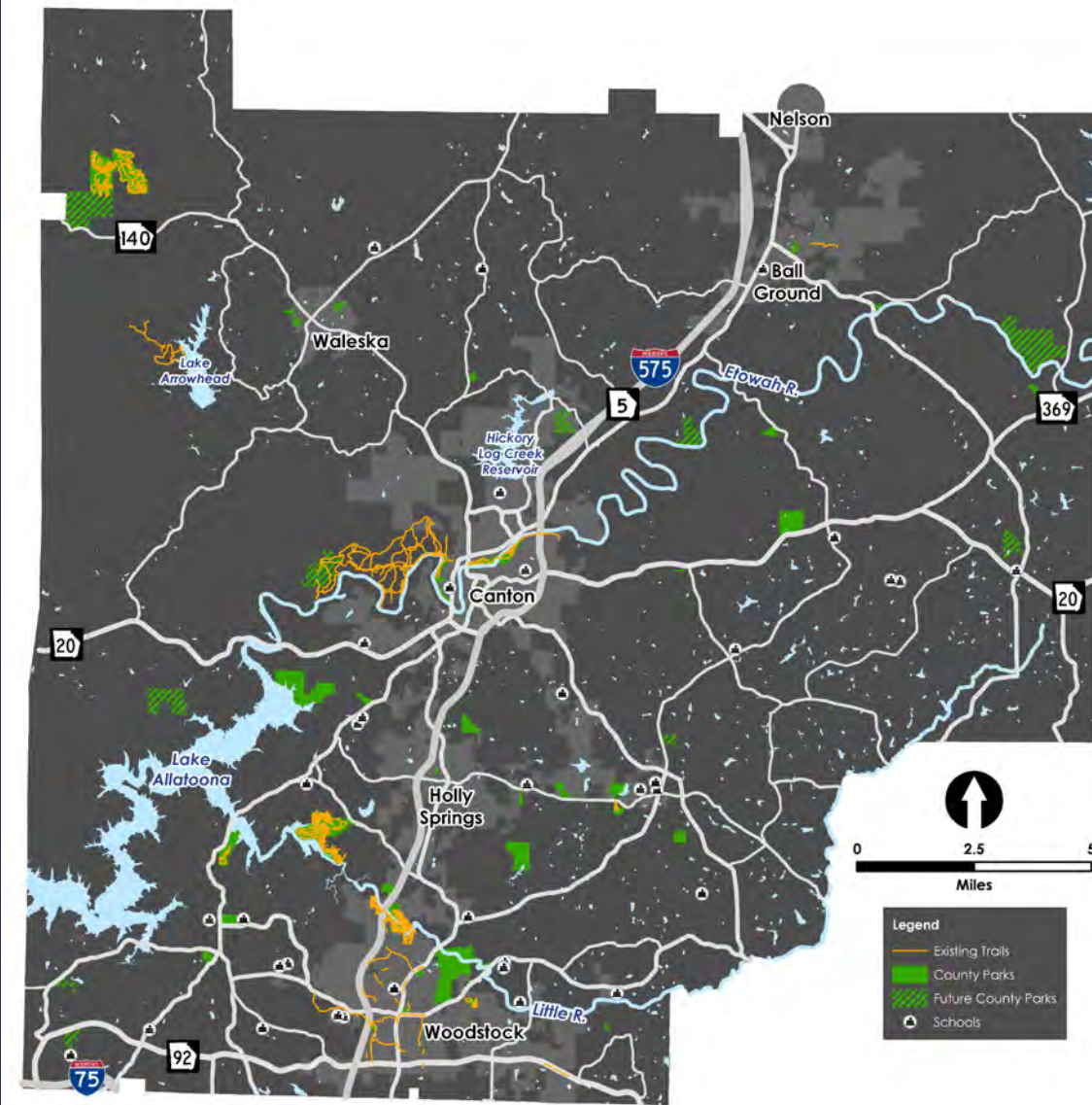


Task 2 – Analysis of Existing Conditions

- Site Inventory and Analysis
- Assess Interjurisdictional Connections
- Assess Physical Trail & Greenway Connections
- Analysis of Gaps and Barriers

Deliverables

- Existing Conditions Report (draft and final)



Task 3 – Community & Stakeholder Engagement

- Community Open Houses
 - 2 rounds x 3 open houses each
- Stakeholder Interviews
 - Up to 20, virtual
- Trail Advisory Committee
 - 6 meetings
 - Listening/visioning
 - Review of inventory, gaps and barriers
 - Drafting trail network
 - Design guidelines
 - Prioritization, Capital Development Program
 - Review draft plan
- Interactive Map and Website
- Pop-Up Events
 - 3 events



Deliverables

- Meeting/Activity Materials & Summaries
- Website & Interactive Map

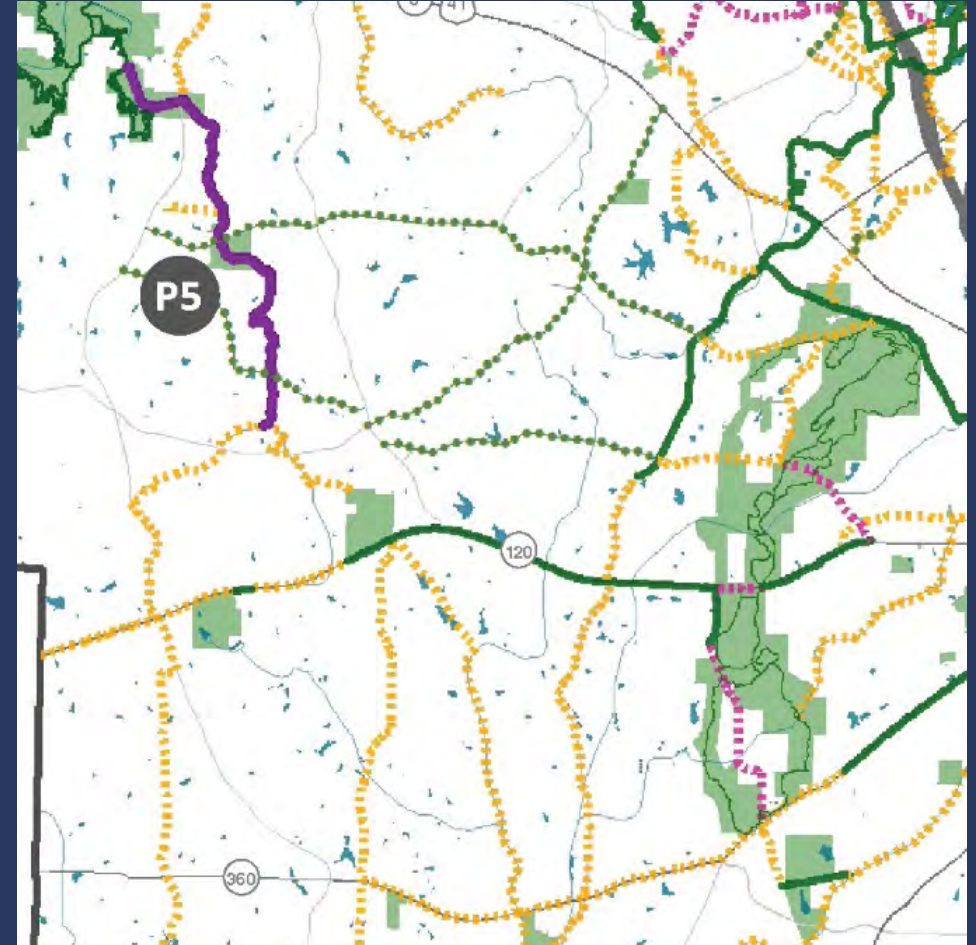


Task 4 – Trail and Greenway Network Development

- Suitability analysis and network screening using planning indicators, guiding principles
- Identify locations for proposed trails, trailheads, and supporting facilities

Deliverables

- Draft Greenway & Trail Network Map
- GIS Database of Trail/Greenway Facilities by Type



Task 5 – Trail Standards & Guidelines

- Schematic design guidance by facility type
- Guidelines for amenities and wayfinding
- Case studies and precedent imagery, highlighting best practices
 - Placemaking
 - Sustainability
 - Climate resiliency/emergency management and preparedness

Deliverables

- Technical Memo(s) Summarizing Design Guidance and Case Studies



Greenway Trail



Sidepath Trail



Neighborhood Connector



Greenway Connector



Unpaved Recreational Trail



Task 6 – Capital Development Program & Strategies

- Evaluate potential new greenway/trail facilities using matrix of factors and considerations
- Allocate projects into short-, mid-, and long-term implementation tiers
- Planning-level cost estimates by project
- Funding strategy to explore possible partnerships, funding sources

Deliverables

- Prioritized Proposed Trail/Greenway Projects
- Implementation Tiers
- Planning-Level Cost Estimates
- Financing & Funding Strategies



Task 7 – Draft and Final Countywide Master Plan

- Countywide Master Plan (draft and final)
- Focus on graphics, aesthetics, and telling the story of the plan and recommendations



Deliverables

- Draft and Final Greenways & Trails Master Plan



Role of the Trail Advisory Committee



The “TAC”

- Key stakeholders including representatives primarily from state and local agencies
- Advisory capacity
- Serve as a sounding board of ideas and help promote the project
- Supplement feedback from other stakeholders and general public



Breakout Sessions & Group Discussion



What are some things that you hope to see out of this planning process?



What is the role of a trail system in Cherokee County?



What should the guiding principles of the trail system be in Cherokee County?

- Examples could include:
 - Improve connectivity
 - Ensure comfort and safety
 - Improve mobility and accessibility
 - Support economic development
 - Protect and enhance the natural environment
 - Foster healthy behavior
 - Increase awareness of trails/greenways
 - Maintain a state of good repair



Breakout Session



Action Items and Next Steps

- Upcoming Milestones
- Next TAC Meeting
- Questions & Contact Information



Upcoming Milestones

- Draft Existing Conditions Report
- 1st Round of Public Open Houses
- Pop-Up Events
- Stakeholder Interviews



Next TAC Meeting

- Date TBD – either week of April 8th or 15th
- Virtual (Microsoft Teams) – Invite forthcoming
- Present and discuss Existing Conditions findings



TAC Meeting Proposed Timeline

- 1. Listening/visioning – (in-person March 4)
- 2. Review of inventory, gaps and barriers (virtual week of April 8th or 15th)
- 3. Drafting trail network (in-person July)
- 4. Design guidelines (virtual August)
- 5. Prioritization, Capital Development Program (in person mid to late October)
- 6. Review draft plan (virtual early December)



Questions & Contact Information

- **Bryan Reynolds** – Community Services Agency Director
 - bdreynolds@cherokeega.com
 - 770.345.6238
- **Eric Lusher, AICP** – Consultant Team Project Manager
 - eric.lusher@greshamsmith.com
 - 678.268.4285





CHEROKEE COUNTY GREENWAYS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN

TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

Meeting Date: March 4, 2024 | 1:00-2:30pm

Location: Cherokee County Conference & Administrative Offices
1130 Bluffs Pkwy, Canton, GA 30114

Topic: Trail Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting #1 Summary

Attendees

Eric Lusher – Gresham Smith, Consultant Project Manager
Andrew Smith, Gresham Smith
Bryan Reynolds – Cherokee County Community Services/County Project Manager
Dana Spayde – Cherokee County Planning & Zoning
Jillian Willis – Cherokee County Planning & Zoning
Heath Tippens – Cherokee County Office of Economic Development
Steve Shrout – Cherokee County Recreation & Parks
Steve Pressley – Cherokee County Recreation & Parks
Adam Fussell – Cherokee County Recreation & Parks
Jay Worley – Cherokee County Recreation & Parks
Alison Payne – Cherokee County Water & Sewer Authority
Jeff Hooper – Cherokee County Water & Sewer Authority
Pam Carnes – Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce
Rob Logan – City of Holly Springs
Brian Borden – City of Woodstock
Bethany Watson – City of Canton
Eric Meyer – Atlanta Regional Commission

Genuine Ingenuity



Summary

1. Introductions

- a. Bryan Reynolds kicked off the meeting and gave an overview of the Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Master Plan (CCGTP) planning effort and how it is expected to build off of the County's Comprehensive Transportation Plan.
- b. All attendees and the consultant team introduced themselves before the floor was turned over to Eric Lusher, the consultant project manager from Gresham Smith.

2. Presentation

- a. Eric gave a presentation which provided an overview of the planning process for the CCGTMP including details and deliverables expected for each of the seven tasks associated with the plan development. The presentation also included expectations and a discussion on the role of the Trail Advisory Committee (TAC).

3. Group Discussion

- a. Eric led a group discussion on goals and principles with focus on the following three questions. Andrew took notes and made observations from the group discussion:
 - i. What are some things that you hope to see out of this planning process?
 - Coordination
 - Collaboration between the County and Cities (Canton, Woodstock, Ball Ground, Holly Springs & Waleska)
 - Defining what partnerships look like
 - Identifying opportunities
 - Connectivity between residential and commercial areas
 - Public support and input
 - a. The consultant team and County staff should listen to and value input from both stakeholders and the general public



ii. What is the role of a trail system in Cherokee County?

- Connectivity, especially to destinations such as parks, homes, jobs, schools, and businesses
- Recreation & exercise
- Economic development
 - a. Bring visitors and people to live/work in Cherokee County
- Sense of community
- Bridge diverse demographic groups
- Improve quality of life
- Transportation – means of commuting
- Preservation of natural space
- Educational amenities
- Social connection
- Promote walkability
- Bring attractive quality (i.e. design & aesthetics)
- Property value enhancement

iii. What should the guiding principles of the trail system be in Cherokee County?

- The group liked the examples included on the slide:
 - a. Improve connectivity
 - b. Ensure comfort and safety
 - c. Improve mobility and accessibility
 - d. Support economic development



- e. Protect and enhance the natural environment
- f. Foster healthy behavior
- g. Increase awareness of trails/greenways
- h. Maintain a state of good repair
- Other suggestions include the following:
 - a. Safety & enforcement
 - b. Accessibility
 - c. Sustainability
 - d. Promote arts & culture
 - e. Collaboration across the County and Atlanta region
 - f. Public & private partnerships
 - i. Toolbox and interface for trails

4. Breakout Groups

- a. Following the group discussion, the group divided themselves across two tables for a map exercise to establish common understanding of existing conditions and future vision. Eric and Andrew led the activity at their tables and focused on the following discussion topics:
 - Establish Existing Conditions
 - What are the major transportation corridors now?
 - What are the key destinations that need to be connected?
Remind individuals to consider locations and connections outside of the County
 - Establish an Overall Vision for Trails
 - What are the major connections the trail system should make?
 - What other connections should be made?
 - What connections can be implemented with relative ease?
 - What connections will have challenges to implementation?



- b. Key themes emerging from both tables include the following:
 - i. Need to make sure the County and consultant team engage with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE); there is property surrounding Lake Allatoona – some of which has soft trails; several meeting attendees were not sure how willing they would be to let the County connect to trails on USACE property
 - ii. Consider incorporating multi-use path in widening project along SR 20 between Cartersville and Canton
 - iii. The Etowah River is seen by many County staff as the best opportunity for a County greenway (“Gold Rush Trails”); this would include trailheads across several parcels already owned by the County that could provide both trail and blueway access
 - iv. Rails-to-trails projects seen as a little more challenging to implement
 - v. There are discussions for a trail connection between downtown Ball Ground and McGraw Ford WMA east of town
 - vi. There is discussion for a mini-trail system parallel to Old SR 5 in Nelson
 - vii. Some trails on and adjacent to the Reinhardt University campus are not shown on the map
 - viii. A connection between Waleska and Garland Mountain and Pine Log in Bartow County is desired but extremely challenging due to topography and available right-of-way
 - ix. Northside Hospital Cherokee should be considered a destination and shown on future maps
 - x. Hickory Road between Holly Springs and Hickory Flat is the site of a sidewalk project; probably not suitable for a recommended sidepath in this effort
 - xi. Be mindful of the update to the Bells Ferry Road LCI that is in discussion amongst County leadership and officials
 - xii. The Little River in Woodstock is a site of a developing kayak trail – there may be potential for a trail opportunity to connect Olde Rope Mill to properties east of the softball complex
 - xiii. Trails planning should also account for e-bikes and bikeshare
 - xiv. A connection to the Milton and Alpharetta areas should be considered and/or recommended as part of this effort
 - xv. Water and sewer easements are viewed as an opportunity by CCWSA staff in attendance; the County can work with the consultant team to get GIS data showing location
 - xvi. Portions of I-575 may have potential for a multi-use trail adjacent to the highway similar to PATH 400 in Buckhead that is currently being extended north towards I-285 in Sandy Springs



- xvii. It may be useful to show programmed or under construction trails across the County (i.e. Noonday Creek Trail between the Cobb County line and SR 92)
- xviii. There are several corridors in the County (i.e. Main Street in Woodstock and Holly Springs) with intermittent sidewalk that is being filled in as development occurs

5. Presentation Part 2 (10 min)

- a. Eric closed the presentation by discussing the project's upcoming milestones and by providing contact information for himself and Bryan

6. Action Items

- a. Gresham Smith to coordinate with the County and schedule the next TAC meeting for mid-April as well as location and time for the first round of public open houses (3 meetings) and a pop-up event
- b. Gresham Smith to continue working on the Existing Conditions & Needs Assessment

Attachments

- Final TAC #1 Meeting Presentation

Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Master Plan

Trail Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting #2
April 19, 2024

Today's Meeting Agenda

- Project Refresher
- Overview of Existing Conditions
- Trail Typologies
- Developing a Vision
- Gaps & Opportunities
- Next Steps



Please share your name and organization

Chris Luly, city of ball
ground

Brantley Day, Cherokee
County

Misti Martin, Cherokee
Office of Economic
Development

Catherine Long
Cherokee County

Rob Logan City of Holly
Springs

Brian Borden
Woodstock Parks &
Recreation

Steve Shrout, Cherokee
Recreation & Parks

Samantha Henry
(added by team)

Please share your name and organization

Pam Carnes, Cherokee
County Chamber of
Commerce

Samantha Henry _ D6
GDOT

2



10



Project Refresher



Goals

- ➔ Create opportunities for physical and social activity, expand travel options, and foster economic development
- ➔ Provide a framework for connecting segments of trail, key places, and create a true countywide network



Objectives

Work across boundaries with local jurisdictions and community members to develop a prioritized list of projects that align with overall County goals and objectives to create a trail and greenway system that promotes economic development, recreation, and transportation.



A Vision and Goals to Guide Future Development

Document Existing State of Greenways & Trails

Promote Decision-Making Grounded in Guiding Principles and Best Practices

Recommend Design Criteria and Guidelines

Recommend Future Connections and Extensions in Coordination with Municipalities, Neighboring Cities, and Counties

Provide Guidance on Partnerships, Funding, Operations & Maintenance

Identify Priority Corridors and Projects



Winter

Spring

Summer

Fall

2

Analysis of Existing Trail Network
and Physical Conditions

3

Community & Stakeholder
Engagement

3 Open Houses &
Interactive Map

Stakeholder Interviews

Pop Up Events

3 Open Houses &
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Trail Advisory
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Trail & Greenway
Network Development

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Design Standards and
Guidelines

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Capital Development
Program and
Strategies

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Draft & Final Plan

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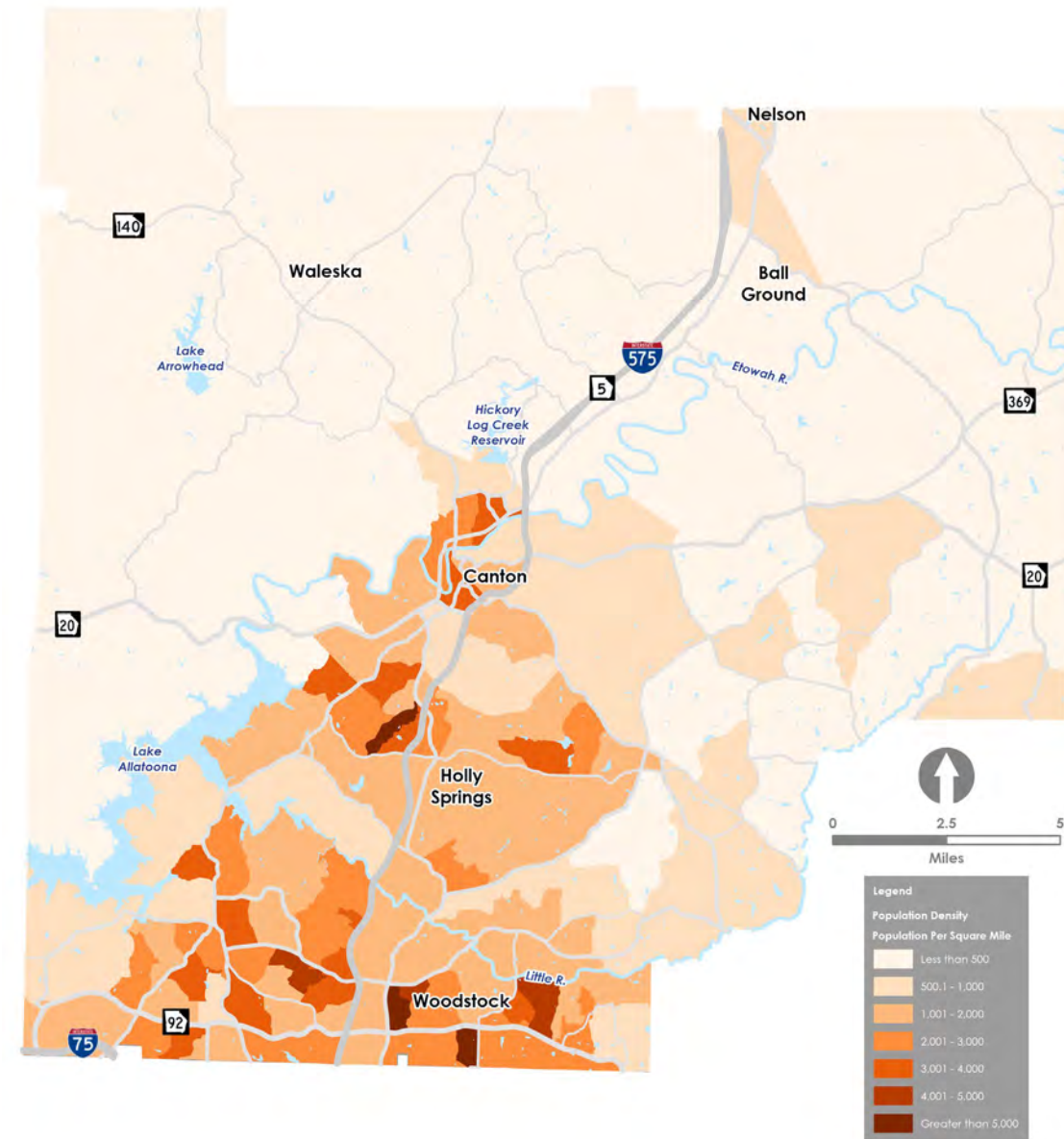


Overview of Existing Conditions



Population Density

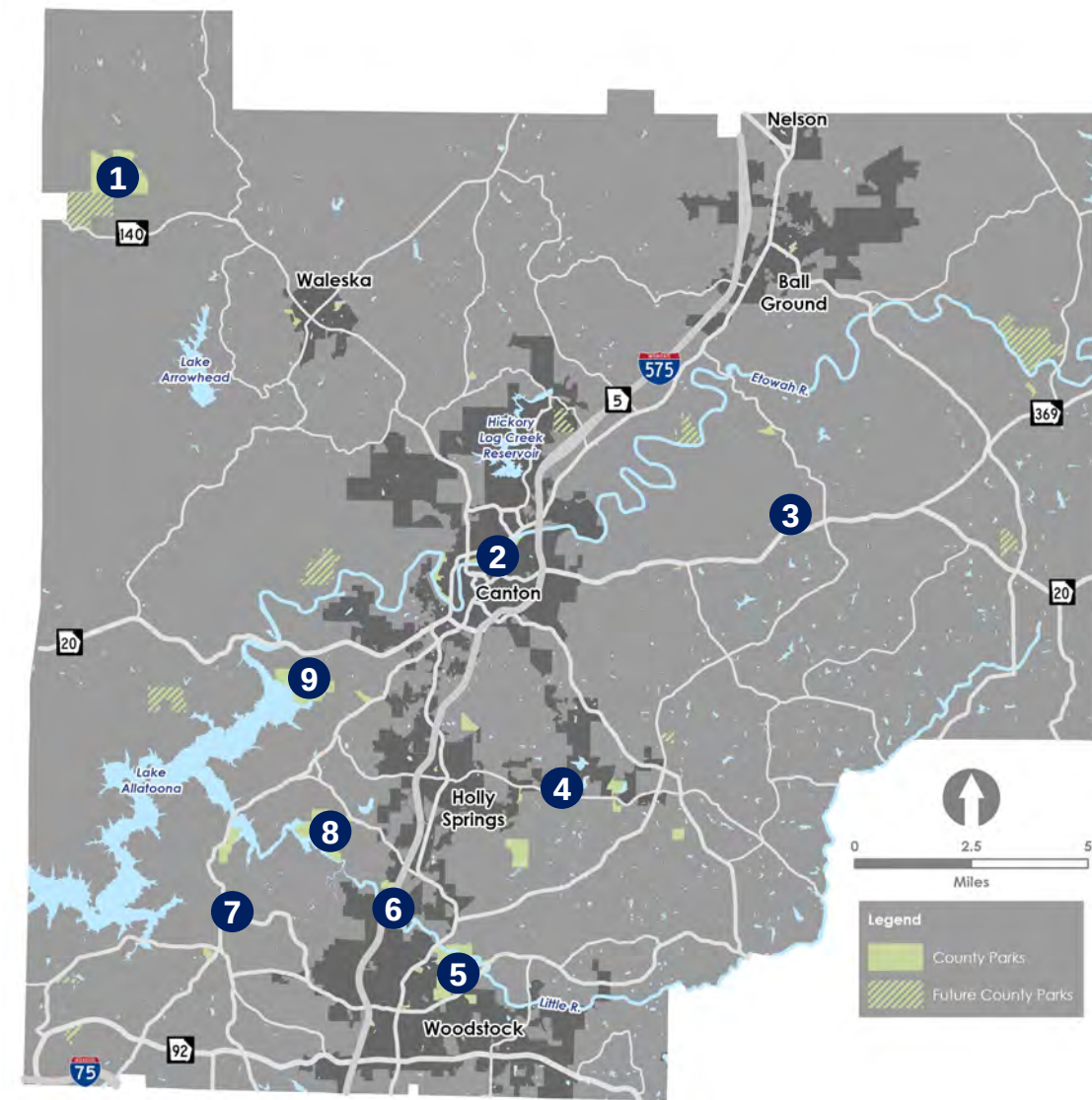
- Sparse population north of Canton
- Higher density near town centers
- Southwest Cherokee and along SR 92



Parks and Greenspace

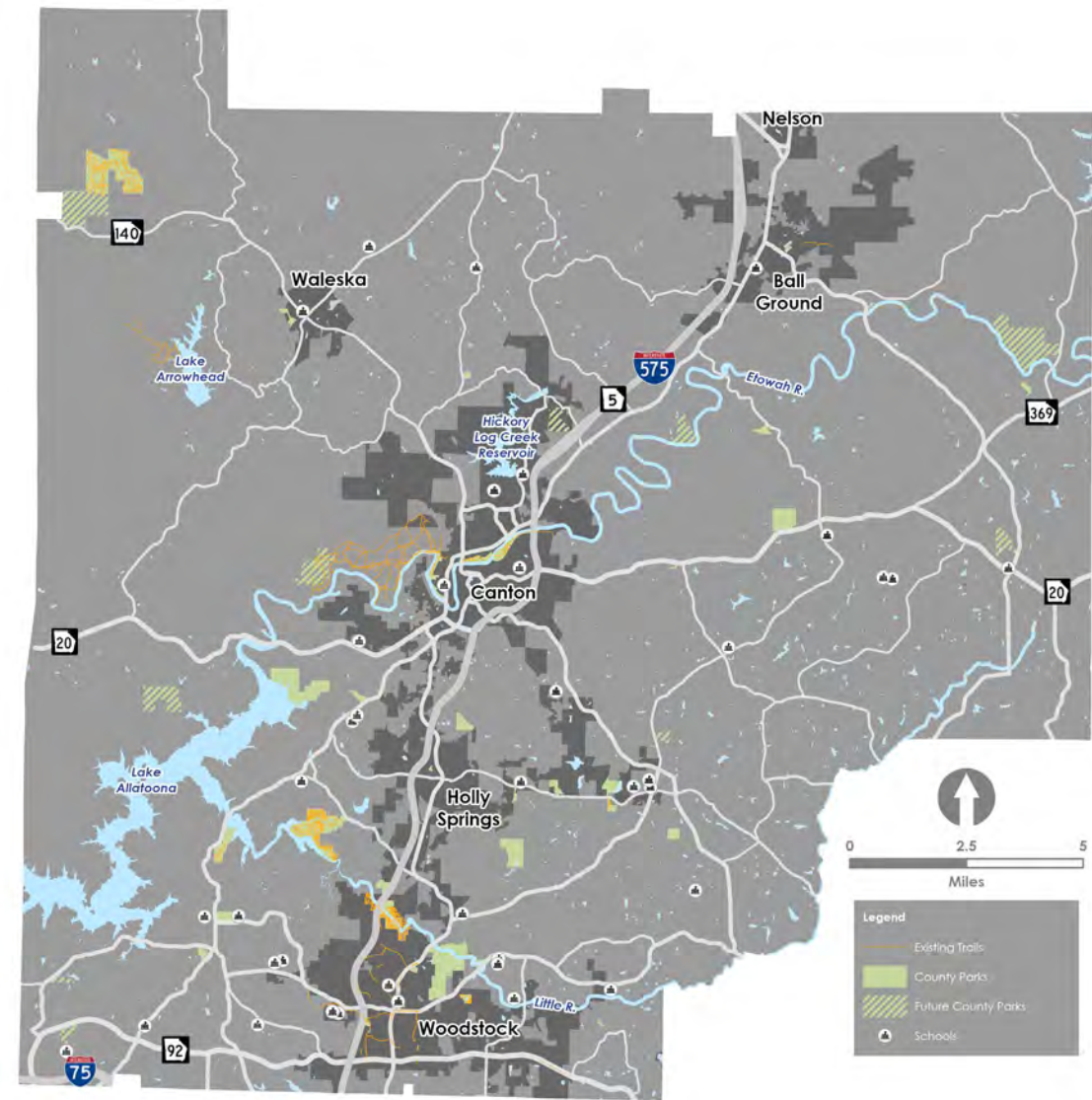
Existing parks and greenspace

- 1) Garland Mountain
- 2) Etowah River Park
- 3) Cherokee Veterans Park
- 4) JB Owens Park
- 5) Twin Creek/Riverside Athletic Complex
- 6) Olde Rope Mill Park
- 7) Hobgood Park
- 8) Blankets Creek
- 9) Fields Landing Park



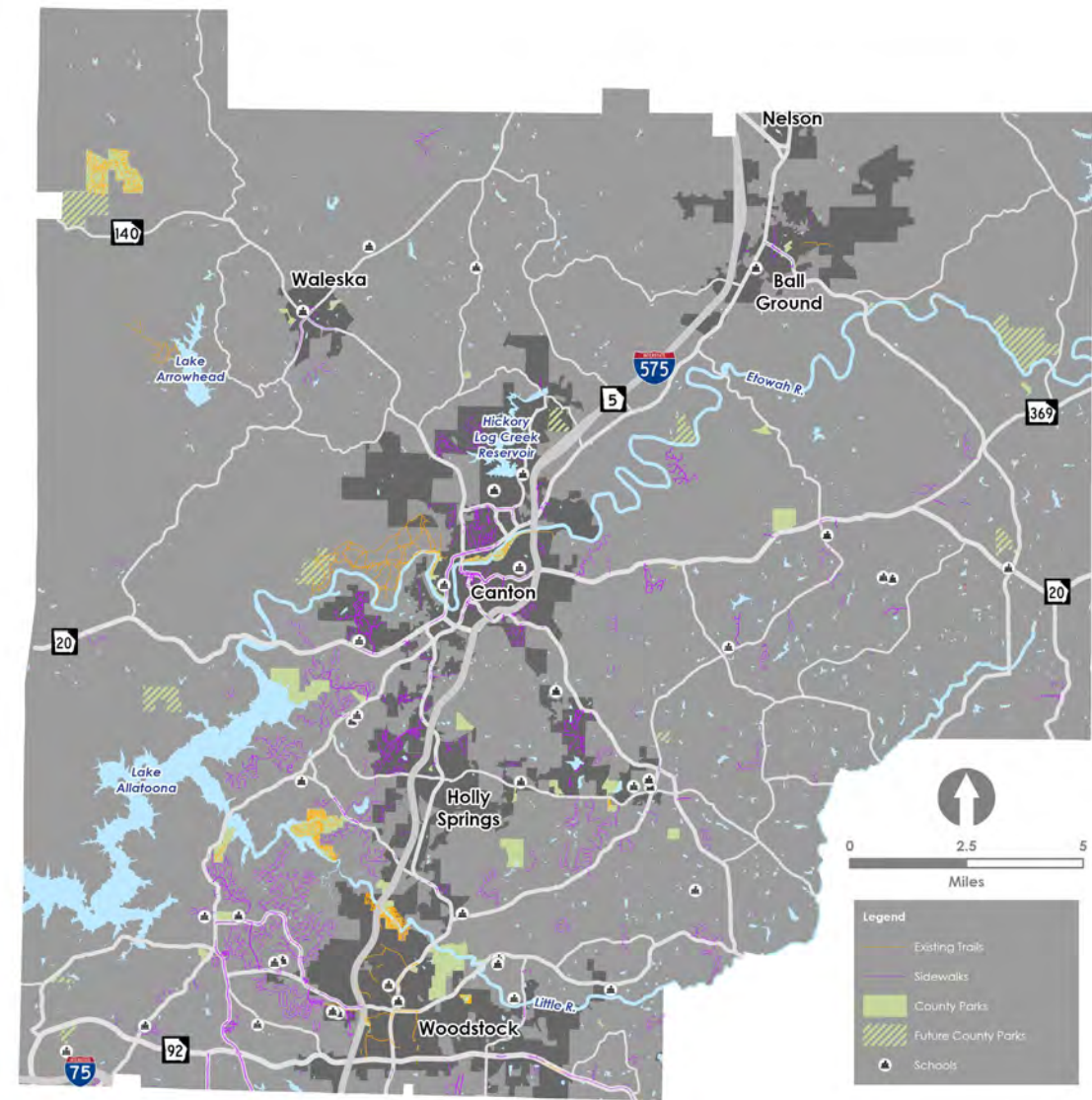
Bicycle & Trail Infrastructure

- Most trails are within parks and greenspace (i.e. Garland Mountain)
- Includes private property such as Lake Arrowhead or Etowah Trails



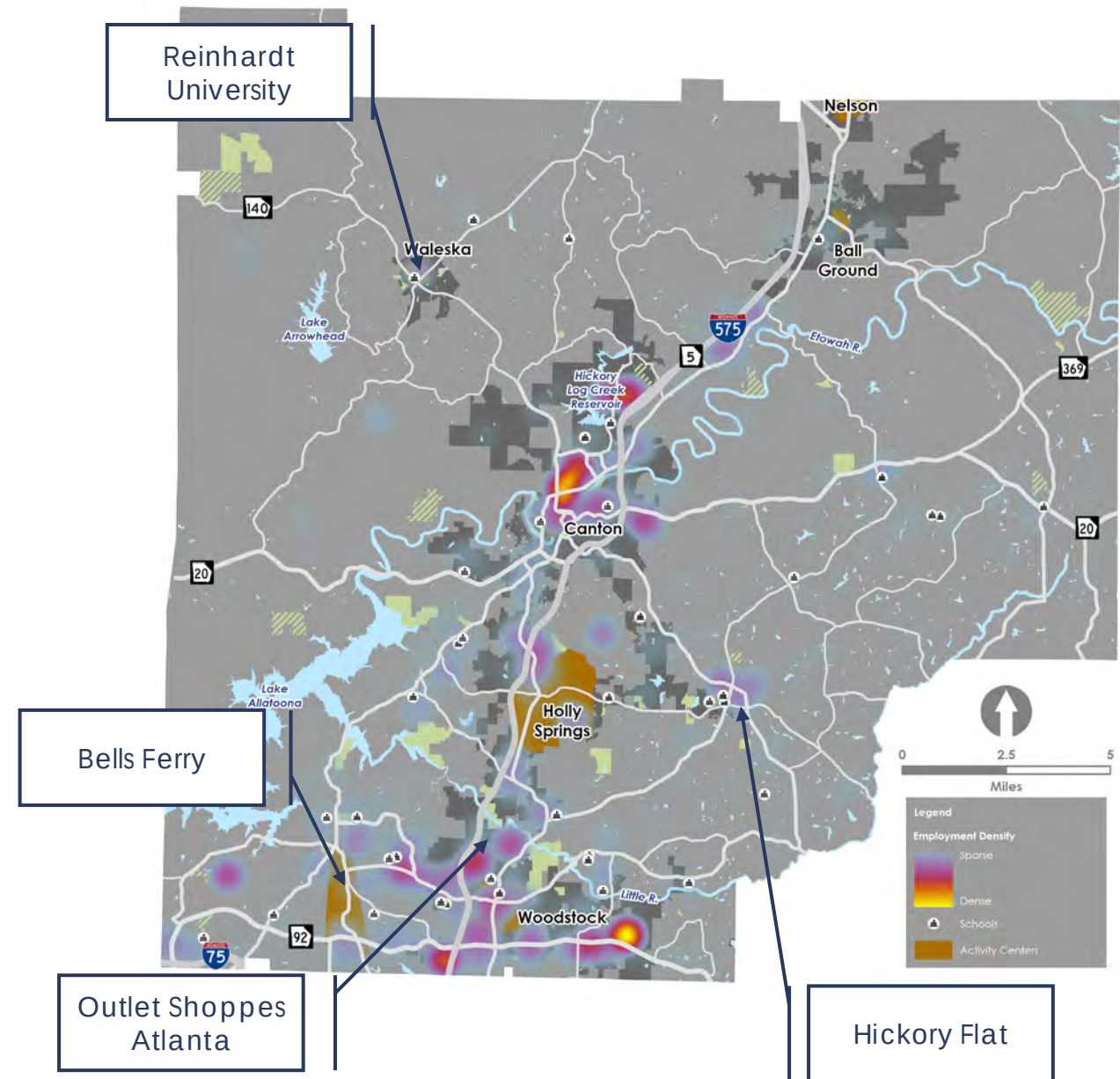
Pedestrian Infrastructure

- Sidewalk connectivity within cities but not between them
- Little to no sidewalk coverage north of Canton outside of subdivisions
- Gaps on county and state routes



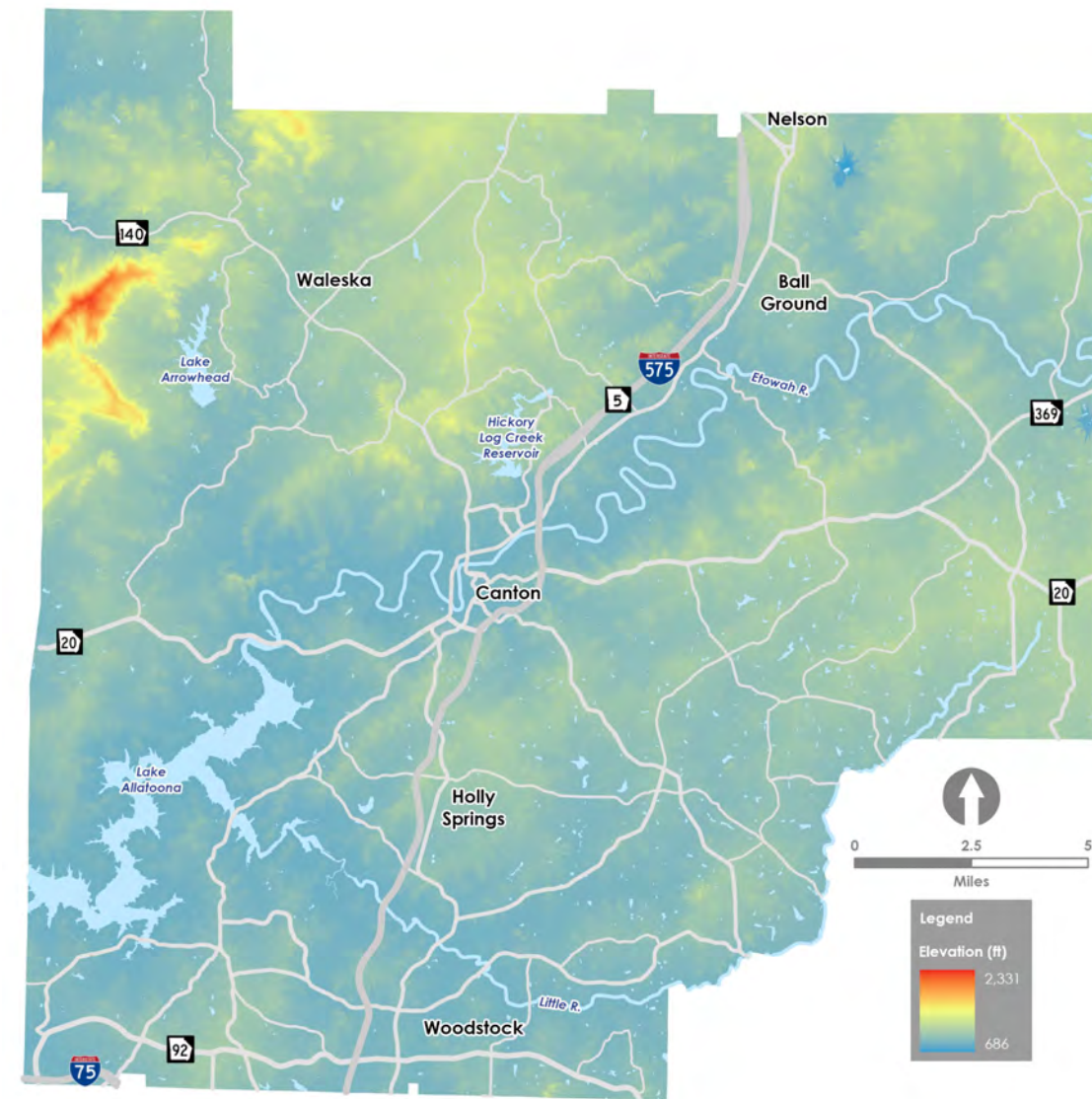
Activity Centers and Destinations

- East and north of Canton
- Holly Springs Pkwy @ I-575
- SR 92 @ I-575
- SR 92 @ Trickum Rd
- Woodstock Outlet Mall area
- Hickory Flat area
- Towne Lake Pkwy corridor



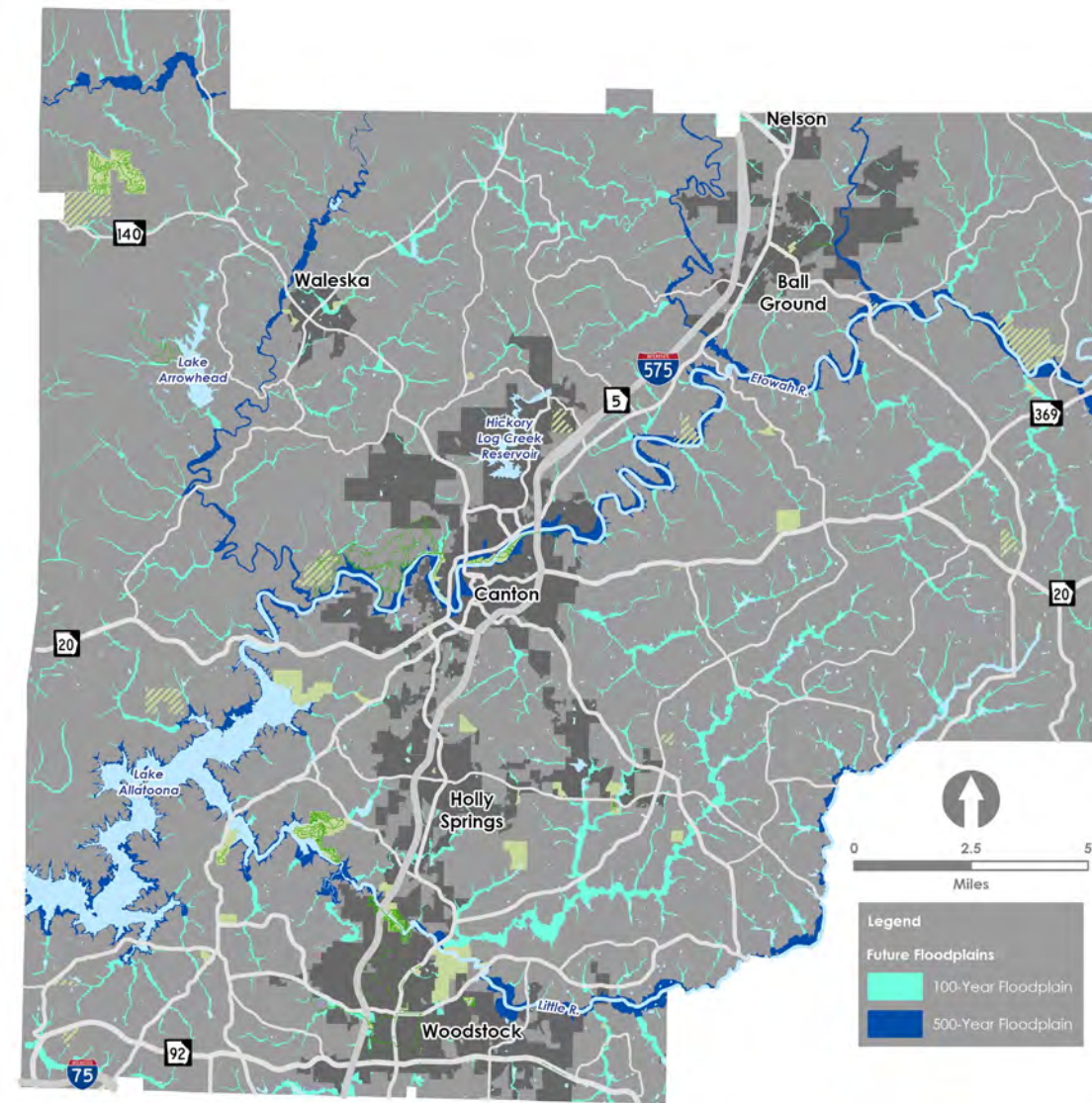
Elevation

- Ranges from 680 to 2,331 feet (above sea level)
- Lowest point: Lake Allatoona
- Highest point: Pine Log Mountain



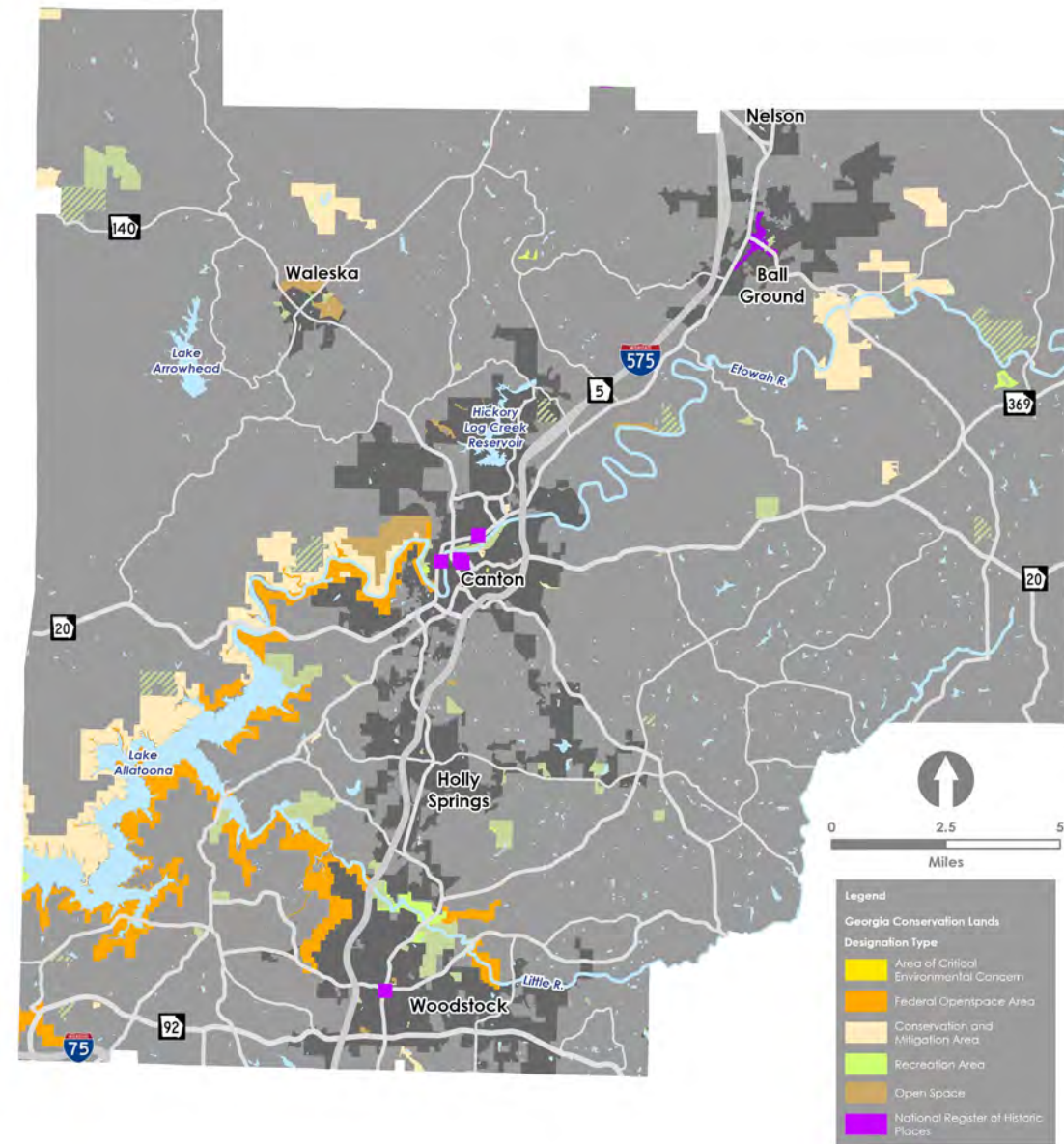
Waterways & Flood Prone Areas

- Notable water bodies
 - Lake Allatoona
 - Etowah River
 - Little River
 - Lake Arrowhead
 - Hickory Log Creek Reservoir
- Numerous ponds, streams, and wetlands across the County
- 100- and 500-year floodplains



Historical & Cultural Resources

- Georgia Conservation Lands
 - Largely corresponds to existing parks and greenspace
 - USACE property
 - Federal open space areas
- National Register of Historic Places
 - Downtown historic districts
 - Historic buildings (i.e. County Courthouse & Woodstock Depot)



Potential Trail Typologies



Greenway Trails

- Paved trails (either concrete or asphalt)
- Typically 10 to 14 feet in width
- May also include boardwalks
- Should include lighting and wayfinding and regulatory signage where needed



Examples in Cherokee County

- Etowah River Trail in Canton
- Heritage Park in Canton
- Noonday Creek Trail in Woodstock
- Rubes Creek Trail in Woodstock
- Range from 6 to 10 feet in width
- Most in good to excellent condition



Sidepaths (along roads)

- Shared-use paths along public streets
- Should provide a buffer to separate vehicles from bicyclists and pedestrians
- Potential for conflicts at intersections and driveways



Examples in Cherokee County

- Most are in the Woodstock area
 - Woodstock Parkway
 - Ridgewalk Parkway
 - Towne Lake Pass
- Most have 10-foot widths
- All are concrete and in good to excellent condition



Blueways

- Navigable waterways for recreational use
 - Canoeing, tubing, or kayaking
- Require access points as well as other amenities
- Also known as water trails



Examples in Cherokee County

- Etowah River
- Little River
- Existing Launch Sites
 - Etowah River Park
 - Boling Park
 - Olde Rope Mill Park
 - Knox Bridge
 - Fields Landing Park



Soft Surface Trails

- Usually within established parks
 - However, not all park trails are soft surface
- Can have different tailored uses
 - Hiking trails
 - Equestrian trails
- Typical surfaces
 - Dirt
 - Gravel



Examples in Cherokee County

- Garland Mountain
- Sequoyah Park
- Hickory Trails Park
- Range from 5 to 15 feet in width



Mountain Bike Trails

- Trails for off-road bicycle usage
- Typically in steep terrain and wooded areas
- Direction of travel can vary by day of week or time of day

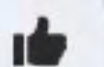
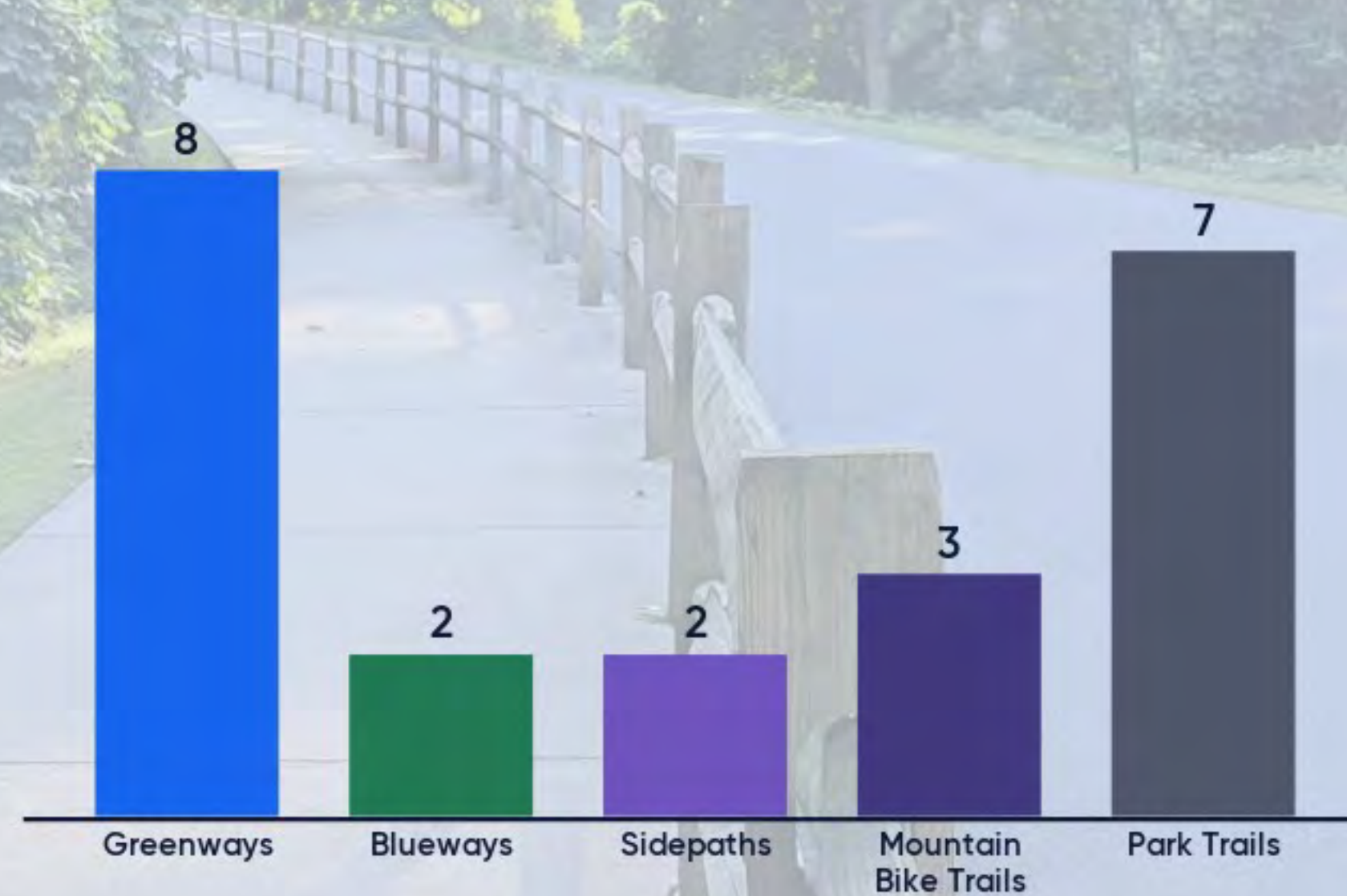


Examples in Cherokee County

- Olde Rope Mill Park
- Blankets Creek
- Suttalee Trace Greenspace (private)
- Dupree Park
- Reinhardt University
- All are dirt and in good to fair condition



What types of trails would like to see more of in Cherokee County? Choose up to 3 options.



8

Developing a Vision



**Connectivity to
destinations**

**Bridge diverse
demographic
groups**

**Means of
commuting &
transportation**

**Preservation of
natural space**

**Recreation &
exercise**

**Educational
amenities**

**Economic
development**

**Design & aesthetic
value**

**Sense of
community**

**Improve quality of
life**

**Promote
walkability**

**Property value
enhancement**

Role of Trail System in Cherokee County



Guiding Principles

- Improve connectivity and accessibility
- Ensure comfort and safety
- Support economic development
- Protect and enhance the natural environment
- Foster sustainability and healthy behavior
- Increase awareness of trails/greenways
- Maintain a state of good repair
- Promote arts and culture

**Based on input
from TAC #1
meeting**



Rank the guiding principles for the Greenways & Trails Master Plan.



Crafting a Vision

Vision statements should...

- Articulate long-term aspirations or dreams
- Reflect a diverse variety of perspectives
- Be understood and shared by community members
- Inspire everyone involved
- Guide planning and decision-making
- Help your community focus on what's important
- Serve as the basis for developing other aspects of your plan
- Be easy to communicate



Example Vision Statements

Bella Vista (AR):

“Bella Vista wants to create a trail network that will establish safe, continuous corridors throughout the community that promote outdoor recreation, facilitate non-motorized transportation and highlight the natural and cultural resources of the community. The trail network will compliment Bella Vista’s existing outdoor recreation facilities and serve to make Bella Vista an even greater place to live.” (2015)

Prince George’s County:

“Creating a trail system that provides all residents and visitors with access to nature, recreation, and daily destinations, enriching the economy, promoting sustainability, and increasing opportunities for health.” (2016)



Draft Vision for Cherokee County Trails

A sustainable, vibrant system of greenways and trails provides all residents and visitors with access to nature, recreation, history, and culture, Cherokee County's greenways and trails also support the local economy, promote sustainability, community health, and human connection.



What are 2 to 3 key words that come to mind when you think about the future of greenways and trails in Cherokee County?

36 responses

connecting communities
useful
well maintained
connected
enjoyment
county and regional conn
increase school and park
nature
active and connected
visitors
peaceful
engaging
publicized
accessible
safe
natural
practical
growth
options
wild life
accessibility
equitable
fill existing gaps
extensive
recreational
convenient
connectivity

1



9



Gaps & Opportunities



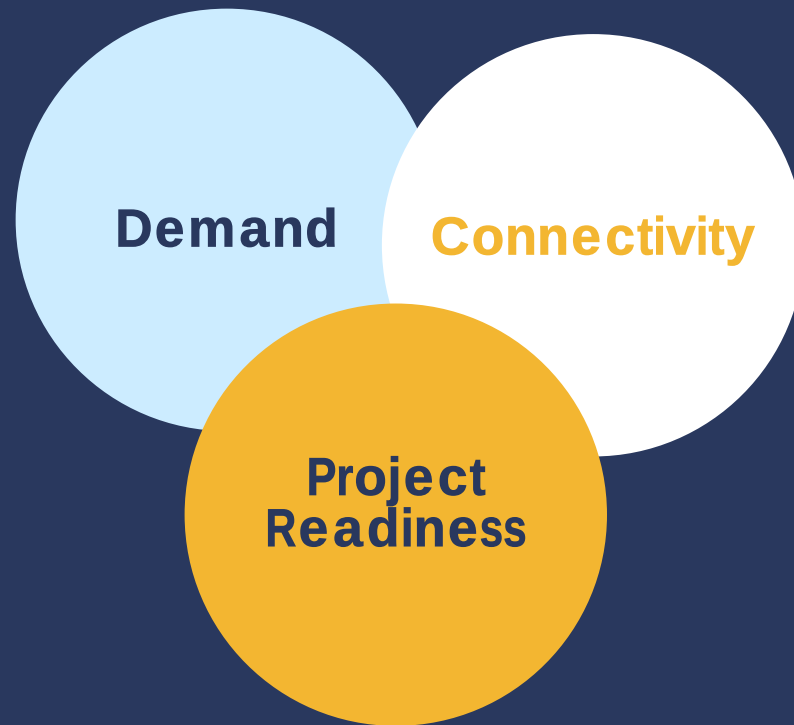
Opportunities for Connections

- Water and sewer easements
- SR 20 Widening
- I-575 corridor
- Etowah River as a blueway
- Ball Ground and McGraw Ford WMA
- Mini-trail system in Nelson
- Waleska and Reinhardt University
- Bells Ferry Road corridor
- Little River in Woodstock
- Noonday to Rubes Creek connection



Factors and Considerations: Example Frameworks

To assist with identifying suitable locations and prioritizing future projects

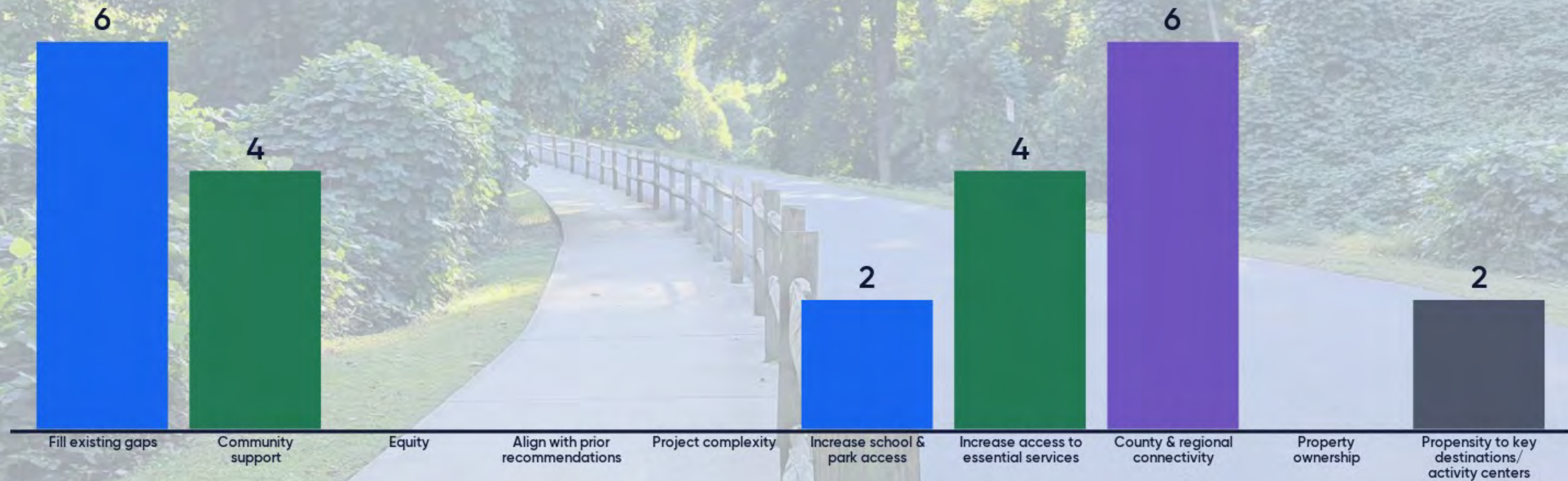


Potential Factors and Considerations

- Fills gaps in existing network
- Increases access to schools and parks
- Increases access to essential services
- Improves connectivity within the County
- Potential for regional connections (adjacent jurisdictions)
- Aligns with prior recommendations
- Community support
- Project complexity
- Sewer/water Easements
- Proximity to activity centers
- Equity
- Propensity for biking and walking
- Property ownership
- Opportunity to become destination
- Demographics



Choose 2 to 3 prioritization factors based on your perceived importance to greenways and trails in Cherokee County.



Next Steps



Upcoming Milestones

- 1st Round of Public Open Houses
 - May 9, 2024 – Woodstock Recreation Center 6:30-8:30pm
 - May 14, 2024 – County Administration Building 6:30-8:30pm
 - May 16, 2024 – Virtual Option 6:30-7:30pm
- Pop-Up Events
- Stakeholder Interviews



TAC Meeting Proposed Timeline

1. Listening/visioning – (in-person March 4)
2. Review of inventory, gaps and barriers (virtual mid-April)
3. Drafting trail network (in-person July)
4. Design guidelines (virtual August)
5. Prioritization, Capital Development Program (in-person mid- to late-October)
6. Review draft plan (virtual early December)



Next TAC Meeting

- July - Date TBD – either week of July 22nd or 29th
- In-person
- Topic: *Drafting trail network*



Questions & Contact Information

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CHEROKEE COUNTY GREENWAYS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN

TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

Meeting Date: April 19, 2024 | 9:30-11:00am

Location: Virtual (Microsoft Teams)

Topic: Trail Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting #2 Summary

Attendees

Eric Lusher – Gresham Smith, Consultant Project Manager
Erin Thoresen, Gresham Smith
Andrew Smith, Gresham Smith
Lauren Patterson, VHB
Samantha Henry, GDOT District 6
Brantley Day – Cherokee County Community Development
Catherine Long – Cherokee County Planning
Steve Shrout – Cherokee County Recreation & Parks
Jeff Hooper – Cherokee County Water & Sewer Authority
Pam Carnes – Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce
Misti Martin – Cherokee County Office of Economic Development
Rob Logan – City of Holly Springs
Chris Luly – City of Ball Ground
Brian Borden – City of Woodstock

Summary

1. Meeting Overview & Project Refresher

- a. Eric Lusher with Gresham Smith began the presentation by providing an overview of the meeting agenda for this TAC meeting and went over some housekeeping items related to signing into Mentimeter. A test question was provided for attendees to sign in with their name and organization.
- b. Eric gave a refresher on the goals, objectives, and schedule for the Cherokee County Greenways & Trails Master Plan (CCGTMP) including details and deliverables expected for each of the seven tasks associated with the plan development.

Genuine Ingenuity

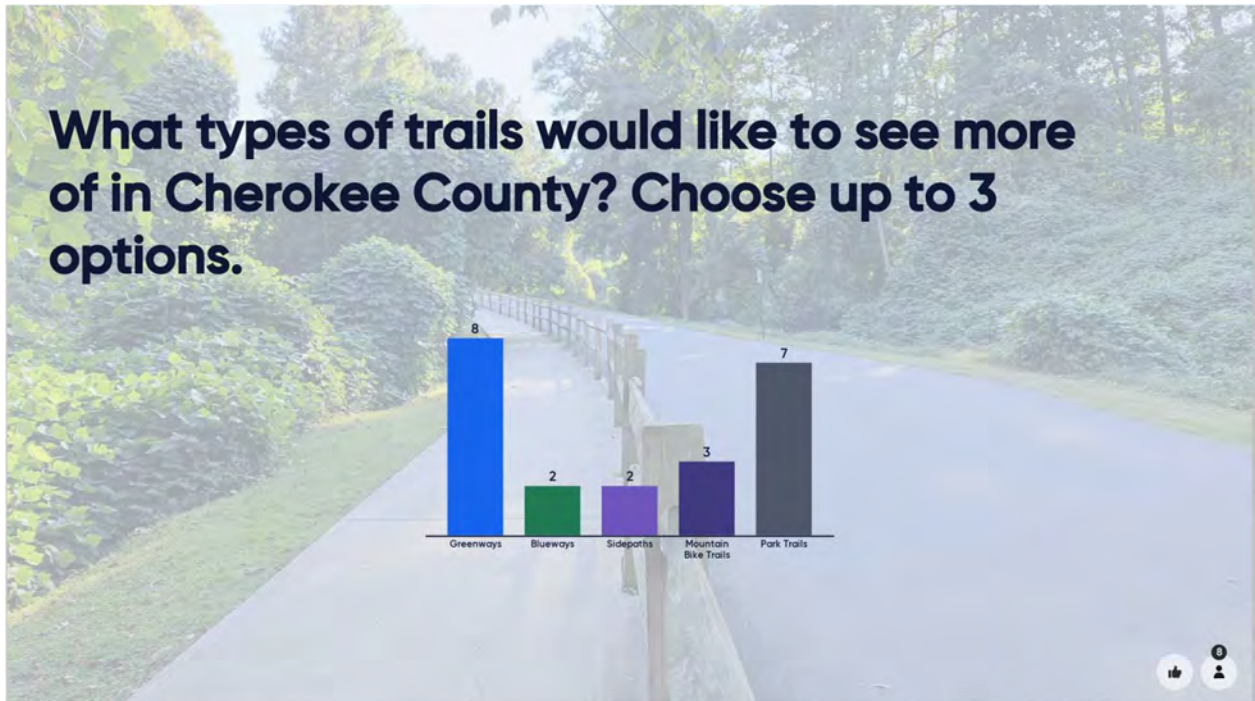


2. Overview of Existing Conditions

- a. Andrew Smith with Gresham Smith provided an overview of some of the existing conditions findings from the project team. Andrew's presentation included population density, county parks and greenspace, bicycle and trail facilities, pedestrian facilities (sidewalks), activity centers and destinations (including employment destinations and activity centers identified through ARC's Livable Centers Initiative program), elevation, flood hazard areas, and historical and cultural resources.
- b. Andrew opened the floor for questions on existing conditions and there were none from TAC members.

3. Potential Trail Typologies

- a. Lauren Patterson with VHB gave an overview of the proposed trail typologies stemming from the existing trail inventory which the project team compiled. Trail typologies discussed included greenway trails, sidepaths (along roads), blueways, soft surface trails, and mountain bike trails. This discussion served as a baseline for what is to come next in the planning process.
- b. Lauren provided typical characteristics and examples in Cherokee County for each of the five proposed typologies.
- c. Lauren conducted an interactive polling question to gain an understanding of which trail typologies TAC members would like to see more of in Cherokee County. Greenways and soft surface trails finished first and second, respectively.

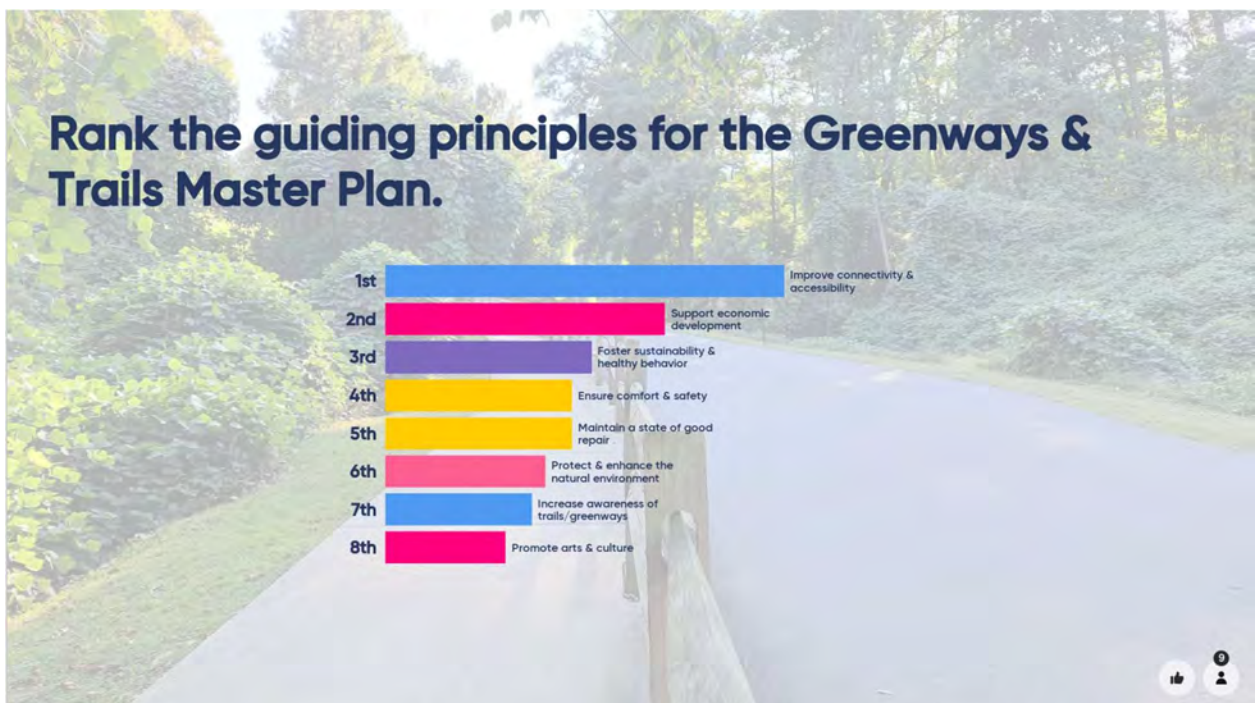


4. Developing a Vision

- a. Erin Thoresen with Gresham Smith presented on the elements for a trail vision with Cherokee County. She began with a recap of the trail system role elements identified during the first TAC meeting in early March, such as connectivity to destinations, preservation of natural space, and promoting walkability, among other items.
- b. Erin went over the eight guiding principles the project team developed based on input from the first TAC meeting. These include the following:
 - i. Improve connectivity and accessibility
 - ii. Ensure comfort and safety
 - iii. Support economic development
 - iv. Protect and enhance the natural environment
 - v. Foster sustainability and healthy behavior
 - vi. Increase awareness of trails/greenways



- vii. Maintain a state of good repair
- viii. Promote arts and culture
- c. TAC members were asked to rank each of the eight guiding principles in Mentimeter. The most important guiding principle was improving connectivity and accessibility followed by supporting economic development and fostering sustainability and healthy behavior.



- d. Misti Martin mentioned that trails and connectivity can be a way to show residents that they can live cohesively next to businesses, and particularly like the corporate park at Cherokee 75. Misti also thought the Etowah River Park is another good example with it being next to the Canton Cherokee Park, but so many times if there is a residential neighborhood when there are rezonings, they want to ensure there is not an industrial type of use next to them. Lastly, Misti talked about the return on investment and trails being a potential amenity for helping recruit companies and organizations to place operations within Cherokee County.
- e. Erin said these are all excellent points and cited Vandelande in the Town Center area of Cobb County as a nearby example. They chose to locate there partly due to the nearby Noonday Creek Trail.

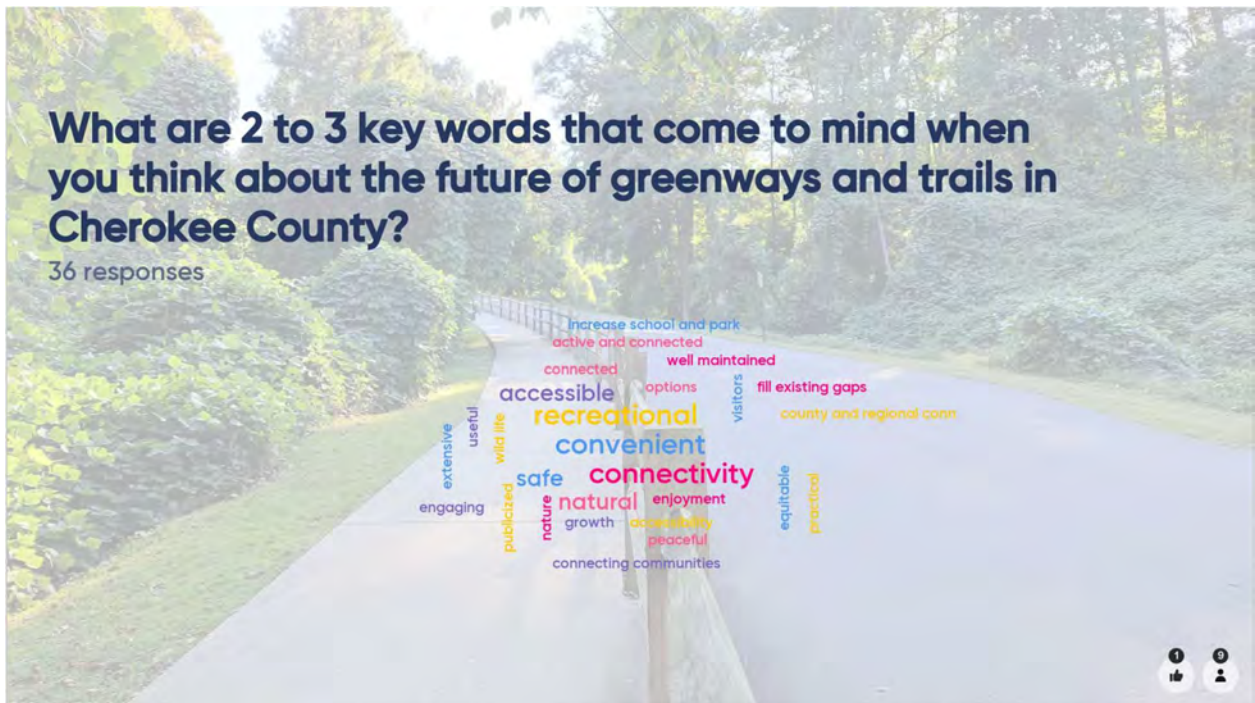


- f. Erin continued by guiding a discussion for crafting a vision statement including articulating long-term aspirations, inspiring others, and guiding planning and decision making. Erin included example vision statements from Bella Vista, AR and Prince George's County, VA to help foster input from TAC members.

- g. Erin presented a draft vision statement for Cherokee County Trails as follows:

"A sustainable, vibrant system of greenways and trails provides all residents and visitors with access to nature, recreation, history, and culture, Cherokee County's greenways and trails also support the local economy, promote sustainability, community health, and human connection."

- i. Most TAC members responded positively to this vision statement, but there was discussion of whether it should be peaceful or vibrant as based on a comment from Chris Luly. Misti Martin thought the statement should use the word "sustainable" only once (the vision also uses sustainability). Catherine liked the word "vibrant" and thought it reflected a desire for better placemaking
 - ii. Erin said this was all valuable feedback and that the project team will reexamine based on these comments and others anticipated during the first round of public open houses.
- h. Erin concluded by conducting an interactive polling question asking TAC members to identify two to three words that help them envision the future of trails and greenways in Cherokee County. Notable words TAC members responded with include "recreational," "connectivity," "convenient," and "accessible."



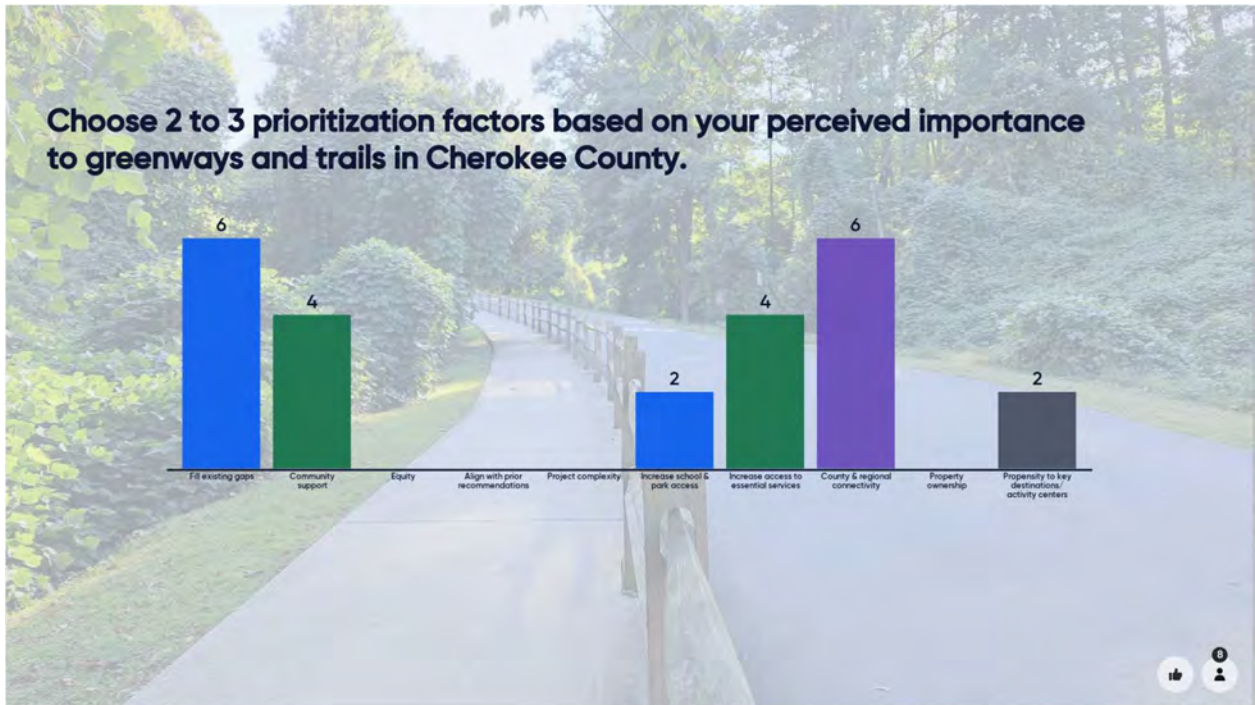
- i. Brantley Day asked the TAC not to overlook the transportation alternatives aspect of the trails and greenways effort. This could potentially be a way for people to reach jobs and other destinations.
- j. Brian Borden likened the Greenprints Trails system in Woodstock to being something with a weaving fabric – like a Spaghetti Junction for trails, especially near the downtown area.

5. Gaps & Opportunities

- a. Eric began the next portion of the meeting by providing a recap of the mapping exercise from the first TAC meeting and the opportunities identified for establishing trail and greenway connections across Cherokee County.
- b. Eric then went through several example prioritization framework for identifying suitable locations and prioritizing future projects and listed potential factors and considerations for the CCGTMP prioritization process.
- c. TAC members were asked to choose two to three prioritization factors in Mentimeter that they perceived were most important to developing a greenway and trail network in Cherokee County. The two most important prioritization factors



which emerged from this exercise were filling existing gaps and county and regional connectivity. These were followed by community support and increasing access to essential services.



- d. Samantha Henry and Pam Carnes asked the project team to send access to Mentimeter after the meeting since they were in transit during the call. The screenshots in this summary include their feedback.

6. Next Steps & Action Items

- a. Gresham Smith to continue finalizing analyses related to the Existing Conditions & Needs Assessment task.
- b. Gresham Smith to conduct the first round of public open houses in mid-May:
 - i. May 9, 2024 – Woodstock Recreation Center 6:30-8:30pm
 - ii. May 14, 2024 – County Administration Building 6:30-8:30pm
 - iii. May 16, 2024 – Virtual Option 6:30-7:30pm



- c. Gresham Smith to coordinate with the Woodstock Farmers' Market to conduct a pop-up event at the May 11th Farmers' Market. Gresham Smith to also reach out to the City of Canton to identify a pop-up event opportunity for that portion of the County.
- d. Gresham Smith will be reaching out to TAC members and other stakeholders to conduct stakeholder interviews after the first round of public open houses concludes.
- e. Gresham Smith to coordinate with the County and schedule the next TAC meeting for the week of July 22nd based on feedback from multiple TAC members and not to conclude with the beginning of school for Cherokee County Schools on August 1st. The meeting will be in-person and serve as a discussion for drafting the trail network. Gresham Smith will communicate final plans with TAC members as details are finalized.

Attachments

- Final TAC #2 Meeting Presentation & Mentimeter Polling Results