

Introduction

James Vandiver, Planner with the City of Huntsville, opened the meeting noting that the goal of the session would be to prioritize a list of greenway projects which had been compiled based on input from the greenways focus group and from other citizens. This list is included as Attachment A to this meeting summary. Each attendee was asked to share his/her highest priority projects from this list. The results were tallied and are included as Attachment B. The two top projects were: Aldridge Creek Greenway and the Downtown/Lowe Mill Connection.

Discussion of Priority Projects

The following issues and comments were noted during the discussion of these two projects:

A. Aldridge Creek

1. The connection between the north and south segments in the vicinity of Weatherly Road is problematic due to complex engineering issues and the resulting high construction costs
2. As a result, the city has pursued the option of connecting these segments by improving nearby sidewalks rather than following the creek
3. However, this sidewalk route is hampered by safety concerns due to multiple curb cuts and challenging intersection design issues at Weatherly and Bailey Cove Roads
4. The connection at Valley Hill Country club continues to be an obstacle to the ultimate completion of the greenway
5. Various alternatives to crossing the country club property were discussed including alternative routes extending east and west through the adjacent neighborhoods
6. It was noted that an eastern route would provide more opportunities to develop linkages to nearby commercial areas and to the proposed redevelopment at the Grissom High site
7. In an effort to move the project forward, Dennis Madsen, representing the City, and Marie Bostick, representing the Land Trust, will jointly approach Valley Hill Country Club representatives to initiate new discussions and explore possible options.

B. Downtown/Lowe Mill Connection

1. One of the key issues with this project is the potential cost and complexity of addressing the connection along the creek at Governors Drive and Memorial Parkway
2. It was noted that less costly alternatives along neighborhood streets could be explored. Specifically, a route linking John Hunt Park, Brahan Spring Park, Lowe Mill

- and Downtown via various neighborhood streets was suggested as a viable option. The streets envisioned as a part of this route could include First Avenue, Seminole Drive and Clinton Avenue.
3. However, it was also noted that the Downtown/Lowe Mill area connection was a critical segment in the greenway system due to its strategic linkages to key activity areas and its location in the heart of the city. Therefore, it was suggested that the extra expense to develop a direct link along the creek might be justified in this case.

Other Discussion

The following suggestions and comments were noted during a general discussion of greenway expansion:

- A. Encourage Private Funding- Private donations should be sought to help leverage city expenditures
- B. Partnership with the Land Trust- An enhanced partnership with the Land Trust should be pursued to facilitate fundraising and more rapid expansion of the greenway system
- C. Unpaved Paths- Less costly, unpaved paths should be constructed along key routes as a first step in developing these greenways
- D. Greenway Champion- The community needs a recognized “champion” to facilitate and advocate for implementation of the greenways system

Conclusion

Dennis Madsen closed the meeting noting that the City will hold a BIG Picture event on May 7. At this meeting, City representatives will update the community on the status of our comprehensive planning effort and outline the next steps in the process.

Attachments:

- A. *Potential Greenway Project List*
- B. *Greenway Priority List*

ATTACHMENT A

POTENTIAL GREENWAY PROJECT LIST

- Aldridge Creek—from north of Weatherly Road to Atwood Drive, via (or bypassing) Valley Hill Country Club
- Smithers Mountain between Downtown and Alabama A&M (specifically Lakewood Dr. area)
- Bankhead Parkway/Monte Sano crossing, including Big Cove Greenway connection
- Holmes Ave. Multi-Use Corridor
- Crossing the Parkway
- Indian Creek—connecting the two segments in Providence and Research Park
- Connect Brahan Spring and John Hunt Parks
- Downtown-Lowe Mill (via Pinhook Creek)
- NE Madison County—old railroad right-of-way paralleling Winchester Rd.
- Redstone Gateway/Research Park Connection
- Spacewalk- Monte Sano to Ditto Landing

ATTACHMENT B

GREENWAY PRIORITY LIST

Greenway	Tally
Aldridge Creek (Connecting thru Country Club)	9
Downtown-Lowe Mill Connection (Pinhook Creek)	9
Monte Sano Connection	6
Holmes Ave. Multi-Use Corridor	6
Smithers Mountain	5
Brahan Spring/John Hunt Park Connector	5
Spacewalk- Monte Sano to Ditto Landing	5
Crossing the Parkway	3
Indian Creek-Providence Connection	1
NE Madison County Rail Line	1
Redstone Gateway/CRP/Indian Creek Connector	0