Greenways are corridors of protected open space managed for conservation and recreation purposes. They follow natural land or water features, and link nature reserves, parks, cultural features and historic sites with each other and with populated areas.

WAKE FOREST GREENWAYS

Existing Greenways:

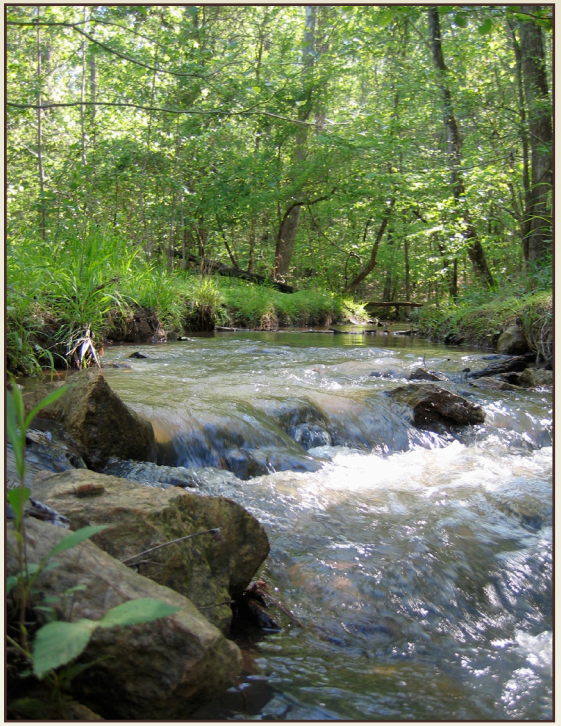
Sanford Creek at Heritage South
Smith Creek at Smith Creek Soccer Center
Smith Creek at Burlington Mills Road
Miller Park Greenway
Flaherty Park section
Tyler Run Park section
Kiwanis Park section
Olde Mill Stream/Richland Creek Greenway

Future Greenway Corridors:

Smith Creek Corridor North
Smith Creek Corridor South
Dunn Creek Corridor
Sanford Creek Corridor
Richland Creek Corridor North
Richland Creek Corridor South
and the
Wake Forest Greenway Loop
(which will connect the above greenways to Raleigh's Neuse River Trail)

For more information on greenways in the Town of Wake Forest, Visit:
http://wakeforestnc.gov/parksrecreation.aspx

The BENEFITS *of* OPEN SPACE *and* GREENWAYS



Town of
Wake Forest
North Carolina

7 BENEFITS *of* OPEN SPACE *and* GREENWAYS

Creating Value + Generating Economic Activity

There are many examples that affirm the positive connection between greenspace and property values. Residential properties will realize a greater gain in value the closer they are located to trails and greenspace. According to a 2002 survey of recent home-buyers by the *National Association of Home Realtors* and the *National Association of Home Builders*, trails ranked as the second most important community amenity out of a list of 18 choices. Additionally, the study found that 'trail availability' outranked 16 other options including security, ball fields, golf courses, parks, and access to shopping or business centers.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation

The sprawling nature of many land development patterns often leaves residents and visitors with no choice but to drive, even for short trips. In fact, two-thirds of all trips we make are for a distance of five miles or less. Surveys by the *Federal Highway Administration* show that Americans are willing to walk as far as two miles to a destination and bicycle as far as five miles. A complete trail network, as part of the local transportation system, will offer effective transportation alternatives by connecting homes, workplaces, schools, parks, downtown, and cultural attractions.

Improving Health through Active Living

The design of our communities—including towns, subdivisions, transportation systems, parks, trails and other public recreational facilities—affects people's ability to reach the recommended 30 minutes each day of moderately intense physical activity (60 minutes for youth). According to the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, "Physical inactivity causes numerous physical and mental health problems, is responsible for an estimated 200,000 deaths per year, and contributes to the obesity epidemic". In short, the trail networks will create better opportunities for active lifestyles.

Clear Skies, Clean Rivers + Protected Wildlife

There are a multitude of environmental benefits from trails, greenways, and open spaces that help to protect the essential functions performed by natural ecosystems. Greenways protect and link fragmented habitat and provide opportunities for protecting plant and animal species. Trails and greenways reduce air pollution by protecting large areas of plants that create oxygen and filter air pollutants such as ozone, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and airborne particles of heavy metal. Greenways improve water quality by creating a natural buffer zone that protects streams, rivers and lakes, preventing soil erosion and filtering pollution caused by agricultural and road runoff.

Protecting People and Property from Flooding

Open space associated with trail and greenway development often also protects natural floodplains along rivers and streams. According to the *Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)*, the implementation of floodplain ordinances is estimated to prevent $1.1 billion in flood damages annually. By restoring developed floodplains to their natural state and protecting them as greenways, many riverside communities are preventing potential flood damages and related costs.

Enhancing Cultural and Community Identity

Greenways can serve as connections to our heritage by preserving historic places and by providing access to them. They provide a sense of place and an understanding of past events by drawing the public to historic and cultural sites. Trails often provide access to historic features such as battlegrounds, bridges, buildings, and canals that otherwise would be difficult to access or interpret.

Sources:

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