

Submitted By: ACC Leisure Services
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Project Type: Greenway, Parks, Rails-to-Trails related projects - Leisure Services Department

Previously submitted but not selected: No

Continuation Project: Yes - TSPLOST 2018; 05-Oconee Rivers Greenway Project

Executive Summary: Completion of the planned parking lot (park & ride facility) for the Greenway Network trail head at Carriage Lane and Barnett Shoals Drive. Improvements will allow improved access, restrooms, and other improvements.

Project Total Cost: \$ 2,386,000

Total Operating Cost: \$ 75,000

Does this Project require the acquisition of any land? No

Project/Program Description: This project includes completion of the trailhead at Carriage Lane, Barnett Shoals, and Carr's Creek Greenway Trail. The land has been graded already to prepare for improvements, but funding in the trail construction project were not enough to make the construction of this area possible. This trailhead is the furthest east location of funded or constructed trail and putting in parking here with a restroom will allow people to use the trail to commute into town, onto campus, and enjoy the trail system by saving miles on the road with a car. Based on limitations with the property size for the Eastside Library, this parking lot can also serve as connected overflow parking for the library. A portion of the restroom building can also house a small utility cart allowing trail staff to have an east-side set of resources saving wear and tear on vehicles, allow for faster responses to emergencies, and help when storms happen by spreading service since all service is based from Sandy Creek Nature Center.

Staff Comments: To promote clean energy/sustainability goals, consider adding: All lighting to be dark sky compliant and, when in association with trails/woods/residences, wildlife "friendly" (2700 K or less); If installed, bike racks to include solar/storage charging options; if installed, bench and rest areas to include solar/storage charging rest areas; Solar/storage/canopy may be included to power needed lights and provide shade/heat mitigation in open concrete areas (ex: rest areas/open areas along path). Where plantings are needed, utilize native species, which are better adapted to the Piedmont region.

How is this Project recommended/included in any approved ACCGOV Land Use Plan, Master Plan, Corridor Study, or Service Delivery Plan? Included in Greenway Network Plan, Planned design of existing trail, and desired by ORGC and new library

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

How will the Project meet the stated Program Goals in the Mayor & Commission Strategic Plan to provide long-term, ongoing contributions to the Sustainable Transportation needs of the Athens-Clarke County?

Goal Area 1; Section D: Drive community transformation with a focus on creating spaces that are respectful and welcoming: Trailheads are the first impression most people get of the trail system and parks in Athens. By providing restrooms, pet waste stations, water filling options, parking, and connection to the library, this project would provide a welcoming space to all. This trail access point is one of 4 in the east of Athens with none having any types of restroom or parking ability.

Goal Area 1; Section E: Support & promote healthy lifestyle: moving, eating, forming healthy relationships, physical and psychological care: By allowing a space to park and recreate on the trail system that is already there, this project supports moving, physical, and psychological wellbeing. Restroom access is also needed for people of varied abilities to recreate because of age, ability, medical reason, etc.

Goal Area 5; Section A: Improve, expand, and maintain sidewalks, shared-use paths, and bike facilities to provide greater opportunities for residents to use active transportation safely: This project expands access to the bike-ped system that is the Firefly and Greenway Trail network. The improvements made by this project would provide greater opportunities for active transportation safety.

Goal Area 5; Section C: Expand multi-modal Transit access to reduce auto dependency and provide greater mobility for Athens residents: By providing parking at Carriage Lane for the trail system, there is the ability for people to choose their own access to non-auto based transit options. Many users of the trail system choose to use them because they feel unsafe on roads with bikes or walking. Allowing people a place to commute to then to transfer to bike or feet is needed. The amenities at a trailhead location would also allow other pedestrians to have access to restrooms and water allowing them to travel further.

Goal Area 5; Section D: Create more usable and aesthetically pleasing corridor connections between residential and commercial areas: This trailhead is where a commercial node starts on Gaines School Road/Barnett Shoals Road meets dense residential neighborhoods. Allowing a gateway trailhead to be at this transition gives a welcoming transition to trail users and the community as a whole. The trailhead is planned to be very visible from Barnett Shoals and Carriage Lane increasing the curb appeal of the trail system.

Goal Area 5; Section E: Enhance safety for all modes of transportation: This trailhead design is a safe transition point from the trail system to Right-of-Way based transportation or even into a car. The trailhead restroom provides refuge for trail users should weather develop. This trailhead provides a

safe place for anyone to enter in any form of transportation and for them to exit even if they choose to change transit types (bike, foot, bus, auto).

Goal Area 6; Section A: Develop well-planned new infrastructure according to future land use values and framework: This enhancement makes access to the trail systems better for this area that is marked as a node for walkability and bike-ability with many grocery stores and dense housing immediately in this area. Adding this trailhead to compliment the trail, the library, the residential users, the tourists, the kids, and even the commuters allows anyone access to the the network at this planned node.

Goal Area 6; Section B: Ensure equitable access to infrastructure to enhance safety and identity: This trailhead will include a free parking lot provides access to any user from any part of the community and from any background. Open parking lots and easily accessible restrooms are barrier free for anybody to use. The trail system is monitored by the Leisure Services staff and the Police department to keep people safe and secure while they use trails to recreate or commute.

Goal Area 6; Section C: Provide adequate funding for maintenance of existing and newly constructed infrastructure: Building this trailhead will increase operational costs for the Leisure Services Department, but meeting the needs of the community are the goal of this department. The initial findings of the ACC LS Department Master Plan have new and improved access to trails as a high priority. Providing restrooms and water are also a highly requested item by the public.

Goal Area 6; Section D: Follow through on commitment to 100% Clean and Renewable Energy resolution: The trailhead design can meet goals by using solar options for lighting the parking area and restroom facility. Leisure Services is happy to implement any strategy in construction that is affordable and works to meet the 100% goal.

Goal Area 6; Section E: Address ecosystem health, infrastructure sustainability, and resilience: The Greenway System is a corridor along the water ways for wildlife to move, for water to flow, and for floods to surge and not damage private property. The trail within that corridor is what gets people into nature and fuels advocacy. The trailhead design itself will include sustainable construction and stormwater management. The support the trailhead provides to users of the trail system allows for education on ecosystem health and support the Greenway corridor mission of resilience & sust.

Project Costs

Detailed project capital budget costs (to be funded from TSPLOST 2026 only):

Project Costs (round to thousand)		Amount
1. Land Acquisition / ROW / Easement:	\$	
2. Design Fees: (Min.12% of New Const.; 14% of reno,; 16% for LEED proj.)	\$	125,000
3. Miscellaneous Fees: (Min. Minimum of 3% of Construction Costs – used for permitting, etc. Utilize minimum of 10% if land acquisition if necessary.	\$	25,000
4. Construction:	\$	1,650,000
5. Construction Contingency: (10% of the Construction line item)	\$	165,000
6. Acquisition of Capital Equipment:	\$	30,000
7. Testing:	\$	35,000
8. Project Management: (4% of the total budget line items above)	\$	81,000
9. Project Contingency: (10% of the total budget line items above)	\$	211,000
10. Public Art: Calculated at 1% of the Construction line item.	\$	17,000
11. Other 1:	\$	
12. Other 2:	\$	
Project Subtotal:	\$	2,339,000
14. Program Management (2% of Project Subtotal):	\$	47,000
TSPLOST 2026 Project Total:	\$	2,386,000

Project Financing

Is the proposed Project to receive funding from source(s) other than TSPLOST 2026? No

Operating Cost

Total Annual Net Operating Costs when Project is complete:

Only identify additional or net operating costs to be paid by ACCGov as a result of this Project. Identify the additional or net costs needed, above ACCGov's current operating budget, to operate the requested project; as well as any additional Project related revenues that would be generated. Provide budget costs for each identified category below.

Operating Costs (round to thousand)	Estimated Impact for Annual Operating Expenditures
TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUES FROM PROJECT	
PROJECTED EXPENDITURES	
1. Personnel Costs: from Appendix A	27,000
2. Annual Utilities:	
• Natural Gas:	
• Electrical:	10,000
• Water:	10,000
• Sewer:	5,000
• Phone:	
• Solid Waste Collection:	5,000
• Other:	
3. Operating Supplies:	10,000
4. Equipment Maintenance:	
5. Facility Maintenance:	2,000
6. Other: Life Cycle Replacement	5,000
7. Other: Public Art Maintenance (minimum)	1,000
8. Other:	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	
NET OPERATING COSTS OF PROJECT:	\$ 75,000

New Staffing

Position	Title	Hourly Rate	# of Hours /wk	# of Positions	Total Annual Expense
Part Time	Park Assistant	17	15	2	26,520

Park Assistant – Park Assistants inspect trails, perform work orders, remove trash, and clean restrooms.

