



From the Mayor's Desk

September 2022

Trails a strong city asset

People frequently ask me where the next section of the city's trail system will be constructed. In Peachtree Corners, the Corners Connector Trail System will one day consist of more than 11 miles of trails that crisscross the city, connecting people with jobs, neighborhoods, and recreational areas.

Not only do residents enjoy the city's trails, but these greenway paths bring job growth. Trails increase tourism, retail and restaurant opportunities, according to a National Park Service study. Major employers like them too. Right now, everyone is having a hard time finding employees so anything we can do to help companies attract employees is important.

The economic potential of these trail systems is no secret. We've seen it here in Peachtree Corners with ASHRAE, the Parkside Partners adaptive reuse project, and Anderby Brewery, among others. Businesses want to invest where investment is being made, and employees like to walk on breaks. Trails support and create jobs, increase property values, reduce commuter costs, increase commerce, and provide low-cost health benefits.

The National Association of Homebuilders points to three factors that home buyers want: walking/jogging trails, proximity to a park, and to reside typically in a suburban area. The demand for these amenities is growing. Many communities find that trails and greenways provide the tools to turn environmental resources into community destinations that become points of civic pride and attract new businesses and residents. Here is an update on where we are on the Corners Connector Trail System.

Over the last few years, a number of feasibility studies have been completed. Most recently, the city studied the feasibility of a location along Crooked Creek from Spalding Drive east to Peachtree Parkway. The Corners Connector Crooked Creek project is a long-range plan that will ultimately provide nearly three miles of trail at a cost of approximately \$13 million.

There is a new section of trail directly adjacent to the pedestrian bridge over Peachtree Parkway and the Lazy Dog Restaurant. This botanical garden walk connects the eastern most portions of the Town Center and Town Green, along with connections to Peachtree Corners Circle.

Stream connections and a boardwalk along the stream's banks will ultimately connect with a skywalk, providing a bird's eye view of the stream below. With its connection to Peachtree Corners Circle, the system will have a connection along Medlock Bridge Road and South Old Peachtree Road.

Corners Connector Engineering Trail is another segment under development. This portion of the system will connect Engineering Drive south to Woodhill Drive. The city is also in the engineering phase of a segment of the Corners Connector along East Jones Bridge Road. This segment will connect Jones Bridge Park east to the existing multi-use trail along Peachtree Parkway.

Our portion of the project along East Jones Bridge Road will be just over 9,200 feet long. We are excited to have a portion of such a large-scale project that will connect a number of jurisdictions to the remarkable Chattahoochee River amenity areas in the metro-Atlanta area. With time and some investment, the natural beauty of the city will be realized for generations to come.

Stay safe, Mike Mason, Mayor