

TOWN OF BOONE
SUSTAINABILITY, ECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2018
5:30 P.M.

Members Present: Chairperson Quint David, Vice-Chairperson Harvard Ayers John Prickett, Benjamin Scarboro, Nicholas Stover, Nancy LaPlaca and Marshall Ashcraft

Staff Members Present: Christy Turner - Senior Planner and Marlene Crosby - Board Secretary

Call to Order

Chairperson David called to order the meeting of the Boone Sustainability, Economics and Environment committee, held in the Planning and Inspections Department – Upstairs Conference Room located at 680 W. King Street at 5:36 p.m.

Chairperson David welcomed new Member Nancy LaPlaca to the meeting.

Adoption of Agenda

Member Scarboro made a motion, seconded by Member Prickett, to adopt the agenda as amended by adding the following agenda items: Sustainability Forum Event, Review of Council Liaisons and Appalcart Update.

Vote:

Aye – All
Nay – None

The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Member Stover made a motion, seconded by Member Prickett, to approve the May 10, 2018 meeting minutes as written.

Vote:

Aye – All
Nay – None

The motion passed.

Discussion of the Sustainability Forum Event

Ms. Christy Turner, Senior Planner informed the committee members that the Council approved this event for September 7, 2018 starting at 5 p.m. at the Jones House and they preferred for the event to be called Earth Day.

Ms. Turner talked about the Bee City, USA portion of the Earth Day event. She said that the Town of Boone Public Works Department would be there talking about recycling and water conservation.

Ms. Turner informed the SEEC that the first resolution has been sent to Council to be voted upon at their June 2018 meeting. She said once the resolution has been voted on by Council, it has to be sent to Bee City, USA in Asheville, North Carolina for their approval before the Council can adopt it. She also talked about handing out pollinator seeds at this event.

Discussion ensued on the refreshments and entertainment for the September 7, 2018 event. It was suggested to have a band with music that would interest the University students to attend the event and families. It was also suggested to have a bee-type craft for the kids to do and hand out bee stickers. Ms. Pilar Fotta, Director of Cultural Resources suggested providing cake and lemonade. She also suggested asking for a donation of honey from the food hub and serve honey-type snacks for the kids. It was noted that the budget for this event is \$1,200.00. Ms. Fotta said that she would put a list of options together for this event and email them to Ms. Turner for her review.

Ms. Turner explained that the Historic Preservation Commission talked about showing images of the properties that they have helped to preserve in Boone such as the Appalachian Theatre, Downtown Boone Post Office, Linney House and Linney Law Office.

Discussion ensued on involving the Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture, a Bee Club and the Honey Farms could have a bee display. Chairperson David said he could contact the Bee Club and ask someone to attend the event who can answer questions on bees. Ms. Turner said that Member Ball has a way to put a camera in a bee hive for the public to view.

Discussion ensued on creating a Party Planning Committee. Chairperson David, Member Stover and Member Scarboro volunteered to be on this committee. It was the consensus of the SEEC for this committee to be formed with the said members of the committee. Ms. Turner said that she would check with the Town Clerk to see if an action request is needed for Council approval for the forming of said committee. The SEEC decided to have the first meeting of the Party Planning Committee at the Jones House located at 604 W. King Street at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 27, 2018.

Discussion on Green Infrastructure Plan

Chairperson David reviewed the Nashville, Tennessee Green Infrastructure Plan. He said they call it *Nashville Naturally*, the first conservation plan that maps every inch of protected open space in Davidson County-and charts a clear vision for how to protect and connect this green infrastructure (see permanently attached). He said that he created some goals and some thoughts for an open space vision for Boone and he asked the SEEC to do the same thing. He said he would email the SEEC the Nashville Green Infrastructure Plan link for their review and discussion at the next meeting. He suggested turning the goals created by the SEEC into a to-do-list for things that might be done in Boone.

Chairperson David reviewed a Green Infrastructure Plan proposal that he created for the Town of Boone. He noted that the committee can discuss this information at the next meeting.

Vice-Chairperson Ayers said he was asked by Council Member Lynne Mason to look into ways to improve walking and biking in the Town of Boone. Chairperson David talked about the information contained in the updated 2013 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. He said this plan has a map that shows the walking and biking improvements.

Chairperson David said the Appalcart routes are changing. He talked about High Ridership Stops. He said the Appalcart has 13,000 riders per day now. He said about ten years ago there were about 500,000 riders per day. He said most of the Appalcart complaints are that the buses are full, when they need to ride them.

Chairperson David talked about transportation deserts in the Town and the need for good cross walks. He explained that the Town has a Transportation Committee that works on these types of things. Ms. Christy Turner, Senior Planner said she could invite Mr. Marty Little, Planner to attend the next Sustainability, Economics and Environment Committee meeting to give an update on the work of the Transportation Committee on the Boone Greenway.

Vice-Chairperson Ayers asked Chairperson David if Appalcart had any electric buses. Chairperson David said that there is no money in their budget to purchase electric buses but they are open to someone donating the money for Appalcart to purchase one. Chairperson David said that Appalcart did add two new non-electric buses to their fleet. Chairperson David said that Appalcart is purchasing their buses from Craig List and the cost of the buses is \$450,000.00 each. It was noted that an electric bus usually costs twice this amount.

Chairperson David asked the committee members to think of some Green Infrastructure Plan goals to be discussed at the next meeting. He suggested ideas like: path to Howards Knob, connecting the greenway from Boone to Blowing Rock and establishing the Historic Boone Trail.

Chairperson David suggested having a SEEC meeting at one of the Town parks, he said he would arrange it in the next few months.

Review of NC Climate Solutions Coalition Energy Action Plan

Vice-Chairperson Ayers said if the \$100,000.00 for the energy action plan is approved by Council after July 1, 2018 the location of the solar collectors will need to be identified for solar power.

Vice-Chairperson Ayers said more funding is needed through federal funds, grants or individuals for the amount of approximately \$8 to \$10 Million dollars for the energy action plan.

Vice-Chairperson Ayers said that he resigned from the Solutions Coalition about four weeks ago. He said that he might be joining the Climate Voices, USA.

Discussion of the Energy Action Plan

Chairperson David said the SEEC would discuss this agenda item at the next meeting.

Discussion on Campus Resiliency Plan

This agenda item was not discussed because Member Ball was not at this meeting. It was suggested to discuss this agenda item at the next meeting.

Discussion on Moving the SEEC Meeting Location to Council Chambers

The SEEC showed an interest in moving the future meetings to the fourth Thursday of each month. It was noted that the Council Chambers are available on the fourth Thursdays. Several of the SEEC did not want to move the meetings to the Council Chambers, they preferred keeping the meetings in the Downtown area. There was a concern voiced about the traffic issue in trying to get to the Council Chambers by 5:30 p.m. from the Downtown area. It was the consensus of the SEEC that they did need a larger meeting space. Ms. Turner said that the Planning Staff could conduct a doodle poll to help determine the time and location of the SEEC meetings. Chairperson David said the SEEC would further discuss this topic at the next meeting.

Other Matters by Committee Members or Staff

Chairperson David said that Appalcart is adding and deleting routes and you can see these changes on their website at www.Appalcart.com. He said that the Appalcart public hearing date is on June 25, 2018 to vote on the route changes.

Ms. Turner asked Member Ashcraft what the Council may have decided on hiring a position for Sustainability. Member Ashcraft said the Council's tentative plan is to use internships for now for the Sustainability position.

It was noted that the Energy Action Plan public hearing is on the Council's agenda for possibly Tuesday, June 19, 2018 or Thursday, June 21, 2018 at 6 p.m. He said they will discuss the different potential projects to be done over the next year. He encouraged some of the SEEC to attend this public hearing and talk in favor of the potential projects.

Member Ashcraft left the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Review of Council Liaisons

Ms. Turner asked the SEEC to answer the following questions requested by Council at their May 2018 meeting.

10. What are the committee's major accomplishments in the last year? The 2017 goals were approved and some progress has been made on them but budget dollars are needed to make more progress.

11. What are the projects this committee is currently working on? The 2017 goals

12. Are there activities of the committee which could be handled by Town Staff alone? The Town Staff is more available in winter than summer due to department work load. Chairperson David said the SEEC has reached a point where they can only do so much in a one-hour meeting. He said an intern or Town position is needed and if they do not get one, he feels that none of the approved goals will be able to happen. He said the SEEC created the Town goals and put that

amount of dollars for the goals into the budget request. He said the SEEC is following up on how to integrate the goals into the Town budget.

13. What role do Town Council members on this committee serve? The Council members help relay information to the other Council members from the SEEC meetings. The Council members add additional input based off their knowledge of a certain topic. The Council members have helped make a quorum.

14. Do Town Council members of this committee receive special deference because they are on the Town Council? It was said that not having the Council Members at the meetings would be detrimental because the Council needs as much input as they can get.

Adjournment

Member Scarboro made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m., seconded by Member Prickett.

Vote:

Aye – All

Nay – None

The motion passed.

Quint David, Chairperson

Marlene Crosby, Committee Secretary

Green Infrastructure Plan



NASHVILLE: NATURALLY 2

Like many fast-growing American cities, Nashville faced a dilemma as its population grew 10 percent from 2000-2010. Only three percent of Davidson County was devoted to parkland.

There were too few places for people to easily access the outdoors, and obesity-related conditions cost area residents an estimated \$255 million annually. On top of that, a devastating 2010 flood—killing 10 and costing roughly \$2 billion—underscored the need to better protect floodplains and buffer waterways that feed the mighty Cumberland River.

Our Role

In 2010, Nashville Mayor Karl Dean and the Land Trust for Tennessee asked the Fund to use our national expertise in green infrastructure planning—which involves identifying and protecting valuable natural areas—to lead the development of an open space plan for Davidson County. Our goal was to develop the most progressive open space protection strategy in the Southeast U.S. The result is **Nashville: Naturally**, the first conservation plan that maps every inch of protected open space in Davidson County—and charts a clear vision for how to protect and connect this green infrastructure. Along with ACP Visioning+Planning, Hawkins Partners, Inc. and Clarion Associates, we inventoried and evaluated the region's natural areas and engaged the public to develop a vision that includes:

- Improving the Cumberland River system, the source of the county's drinking water
- Building up the sustainable local food supply through urban and rural farming
- Improving public health by making it easier for people to bike, walk and play
- Protecting scenic and historic places from disappearing to development.



Strategic Conservation Planning

Green Infrastructure



Conservation Acquisition

Land, Water and Wildlife

50%

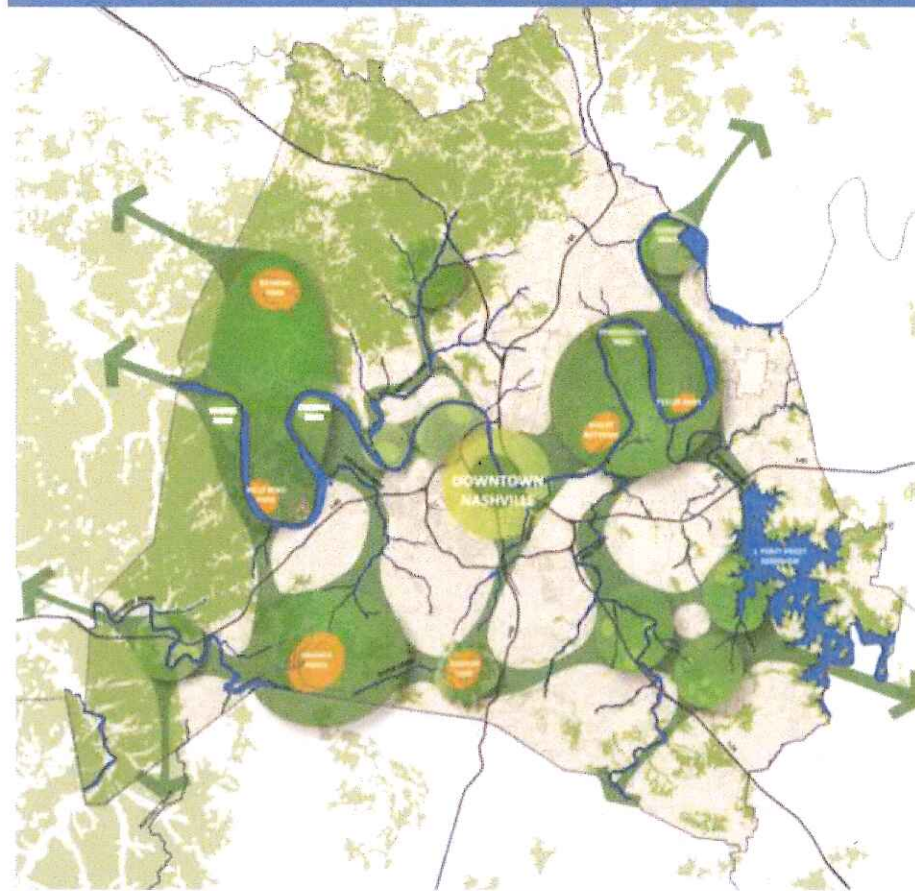
increase of the amount of greenway trails built in Nashville since 2011, surpassing the 25-mile goal in five years.

Green Infrastructure Plan

Boone Naturally!

- Improve the New River watershed, the source of Boone's drinking water.
- Build up the sustainable local food supply from urban and rural farmers.
- Improve public health by making it easier for people to bike, walk, and play.
- Protect scenic and historic places from disappearing to development.

OPEN SPACE VISION

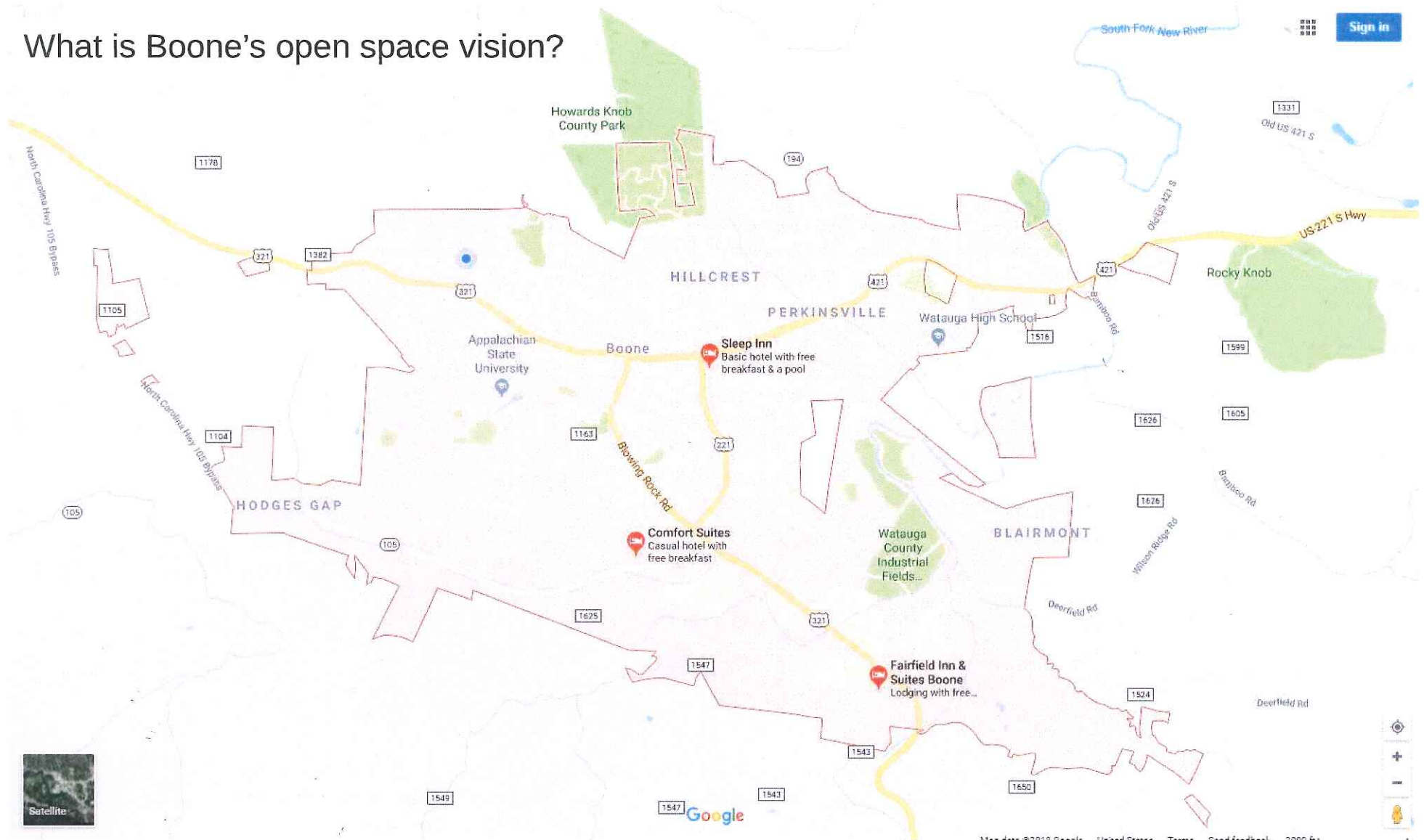


LEGEND

- Green Infrastructure Network
- Open Water
- Existing Open Space Anchor
- Potential Open Space Anchor
- Open Space Network Vision
- Interstate

The conceptual map above illustrates Nashville's open space vision. It represents public priorities expressed during public forums, and is based on the latest peer-reviewed science, GIS research and analysis.

What is Boone's open space vision?



High Ridership Stops

More

Same

Less

Stop * multiple stops	Current				Proposed Headway			
	Route	Riders	Headway		Route	7 AM to 3 PM	3 PM to 6 PM	6 PM to 10 PM
			7 to 6	6 PM +				
University Highlands	Pop 105	625	10	30	Pop 105	10	10	30
Cottages of Boone	Teal	468	20	20	Green	20	30	40
West King*	Green West	453	30	30	Red	15	30	30
Mountaineer Village	Orange	439	15	No service	Orange / Green	12	24	30
Greenway and Wilson Creek Roads*	Purple Red Express	387	15 - 30	30	Red Purple	15	15	30
App Hts and Mtn Hall	Blue / Gold	348	20	30	Blue / Gold	20	30	30
Meadowview	Purple	272	15	30	Purple / Express	10	15	30
Walmart	Multiple	259	30	30	Multiple	15	15	30
Turtle Creek	Green East	257	30	30	Green	20	30	40
APH	Multiple	252	30	30	Multiple	15	30	30

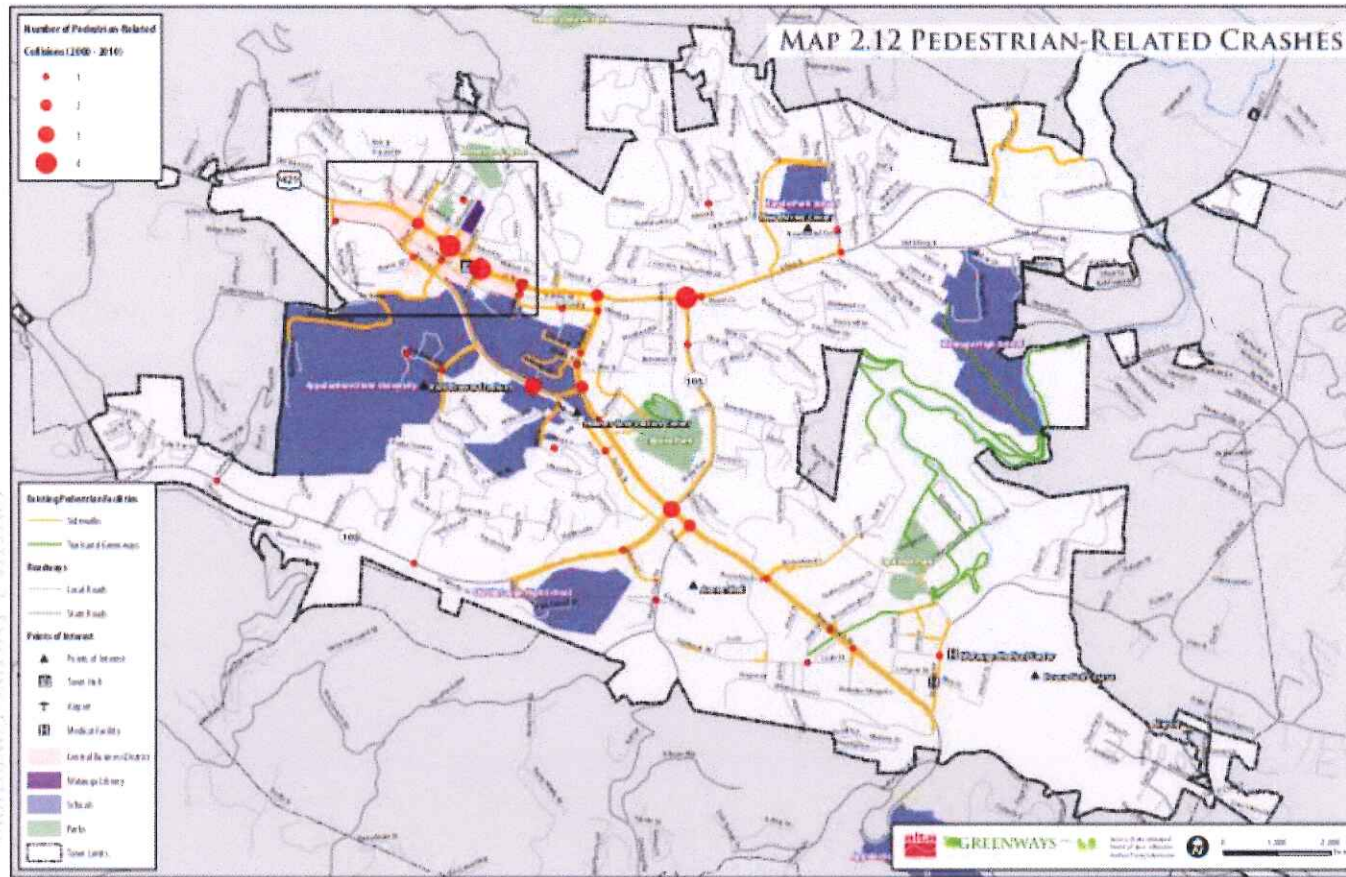
High Ridership Stops

More Same Less

		Current			Proposed Headway			
Stop	Route	Riders	Headway		Route	7 AM to 3 PM	3 PM to 6 PM	6 PM to 10 PM
			7 to 6	6 PM +				
South Lot and Bodenheimer	Blue Gold	215	20	30	Blue Gold	20	20	30
State Farm Lot	State Farm	191	30	30	State Farm	30	30	10*
Kensington Meadows	Green West	145	30	30	Red	15	30	30
Hospitality House	Green East	126	30	30	Green	20	30	40
Brown Brothers	Orange / State Farm	124	30	30	Red State Farm	15	30	30
Hoey Hall	Red / Gold State Farm	110	30	30	Red / Gold State Farm	15**	30	30
Eggers Hall	Gold State Farm	106	30	30	Walk to Rivers St			
Justice Hall	Gold State Farm	86	30	30	Walk to Rivers St			
Watauga Medical Ctr	Red	41	30	30	Red Express	15	15	30

* After 6 PM State Farm Lot is served by Medical Center Shuttle with connections to Red and Express routes

** From 7 AM to 3 PM Hoey Hall residents would use the Red Route stop at King St and Daniel Boone Inn



Green Infrastructure Plan

Proposal:

- Step 1.
 - Our committee will make a list of parks, future parks or greenspace to be preserved, and locations that we want to ensure are connected with green infrastructure that is safe to walk and bike between. This list will then be used to create an open space map similar to the Nashville one.
 - This list and map will be used to coordinate pedestrian and bike improvements, and tree planting, as an addendum to the current bike/ped and forestry plans.
- Step 2
 - This map can also serve as an overlay district to require developers in certain critical areas to have additional open space requirements, day-lighting rivers or stormwater, wider sidewalks than usual, more trees etc etc.
- Step 3
 - Our committee will discuss and confirm a set of goals.

OPEN SPACE GOALS

The following near- and mid-term goals represent ambitious but achievable targets identified by the planning design team as consistent with this plan's vision and the goal of making Nashville the greenest city in the Southeast. Just as the creation of this plan was the result of a public/private partnership and community input, achieving these targets will require a similar balance of public and private commitment and investment.

- Add 3,000 acres of parkland in the next 10 years. This will increase the Metro Parks system by approximately 30%. Add another 3,000 acres of parkland by 2035.
- Privately conserve a minimum of 3,000 acres of Nashville's green infrastructure network in the next 10 years, and an additional 3,000 acres by 2035.
- Protect an additional 10,000 acres of floodplain and other sensitive natural areas via low impact development, land swaps and regulatory innovations in the next 10 years.
- Of the above 22,000 acres, protect at least 1,500 acres for sustainable agricultural uses.
- Establish an anchor park, or series of parks, in Southeast Nashville in the next five years.
- Establish large-scale preserves or other protected land in every bend of the Cumberland River in the next 10 years.
- Improve key park and greenway linkages by adding 25 miles of new greenways in the next 5 years. Prioritize linkages in the Mill Creek watershed, the Gulch and connections from the riverfront to the convention center.

- Create a series of new small parks and landscaped gateways in the next 10 years in the downtown area.
- Double the downtown tree canopy in the next 10 years (85 acres).
- Transition 110 acres (20%) of the suitable impervious surfaces in downtown to pervious surfaces or natural plantings in the next 10 years.
- Establish a heritage tourism trail in the next five years that highlights Nashville's historic and prehistoric landscapes and sites.
- Double the amount of local food produced in Davidson County and triple the number of Davidson County farms selling direct to consumers in the next five years.

The remainder of this plan describes Nashville's natural resources, the planning process that generated this open space vision, and policy recommendations for bringing it to fruition.

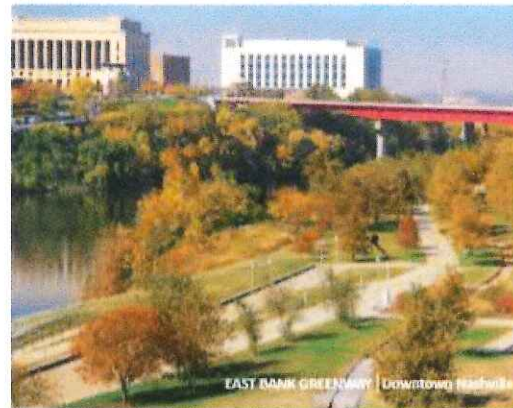


Photo Credit: Gary Layton

Green Infrastructure Plan

- Add 100 acres of parkland in the next 10 years
- Protect 200 acres of floodplain via low impact development, land swamps, stormwater etc.
- Protect 500 acres for sustainable agriculture use.
- Establish anchor parks in the west 321, west 105, and south 321 corridors.
- Improve key park and greenway linkages by adding 5 miles of greenway in the next 10 years.
- Create a series of small parks and landscaped gateways in the downtown area in the next 5 years.
- Double the downtown tree canopy in the next 20 years.
- Transition 20% of impervious surfaces to pervious surface or natural planting in the next 10 years.
- Establish a historic Boone Trail that highlights historic and pre-historic landscape and sites around Boone.
- Double the amount of local food produced in watauga county and triple the number of farms selling direct to consumers in the next 5 years.