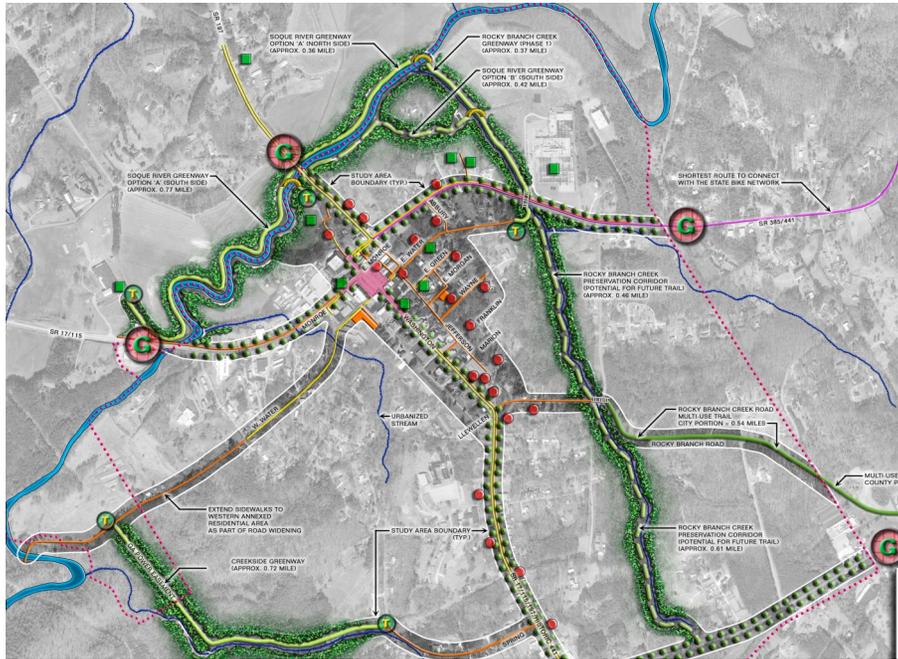


The Greenways Master Plan



Clarkesville Greenways!



The Greenway you see today is just Phase I of a trail system that we hope will allow pedestrian travel along all of the city's major watercourses connecting civic, residential and commercial areas. The map above is the original Clarkesville Master Plan map developed in 2004 and depicts many of the priority areas for conservation.

For more information or to get involved in future Greenway plans and projects call the Soque River Watershed Association office at (706) 754-9382, e-mail at soque@windstream.net, or visit www.soque.org. Become a member of the SRWA. Your membership is what allows us to continue this work!

It's been over six years in the making but Clarkesville is proud to officially open Phase I of the very first Greenway to be constructed in Habersham County! Greenways are defined as "corridors of natural land designed for recreational use," and are one of the most popular forms of land conservation due to the benefits they provide to communities.

Phase I of the Clarkesville Greenway sits on 19 acres with nearly one mile of trail (4,332 feet). The loop trail is exactly 2,580 feet or approximately one half mile. Other features of phase I of the Clarkesville Greenway include the Soque River, a constructed wetland and stormwater retrofit project, a streambank restoration project, a bridge connecting the Greenway to picnic pavilions at Mary Street Park, and a connector trail to downtown Clarkesville via East Water Street.

Future Greenway projects include: big plans for expansion of the Greenway, an organic community garden and a native plants garden, volunteer workdays, and bicycle trips to see future Greenway sites. We hope you enjoy!

The Clarkesville Greenway is a cooperative project supported by:



As well as the citizens and residents of Clarkesville and Habersham County!

Welcome to Phase I of the Clarkesville Greenways!



Let us now introduce you to the first phase of the Greenway.....

1) The Bridge linking Mary Street Park with the Greenway

One of the primary goals of the Greenway is to link existing park space into the Greenway. This bridge over Rocky Branch successfully connects the Greenway to a picnic pavilion at Mary Street Park and to the swimming pool and soccer field.



2) Boardwalk and Constructed Wetland

The Greenways Boardwalk is built directly on top of a low head weir or dam. The weir was built in 2004 for \$10,000 by Danny Otter of Old Clarkesville Mill and designed by local engineer Andy Waldrop.



This photo is from 2004 before the boardwalk was constructed across the weir.

The purpose of the weir is to reroute stormwater from the 280,000 square foot roof of the Mill. This water formerly flowed directly into Rocky Branch. Rerouting this stormwater back onto the floodplain allows the water to percolate into the water table more closely resembling the natural hydrology of the area before the mill was built and reducing scouring storm flows, one of the leading causes of streambank erosion. The unanticipated end result of this project was the creation of a wetland and the emergence of numerous wetland plant and animal species. We now lovingly refer to this area as the “wetland that built itself!” and serves as excellent bird habitat for migrating birds.

3) Streambank Restoration Site

In 2005 Danny Otter was able to have 150 feet of Rocky Branch (that had formerly been straightened) restored using a federal wetland mitigation program that restores riparian habitat. The project cost \$40,000 and redesigned the natural meanders, pools and local vegetation necessary to keep the streambank stable.



4) Rocky Branch

Rocky Branch is the primary tributary draining the eastern side of Clarkesville (east of Washington Street). The headwaters of Rocky Branch begin behind the Post Office and flow under Hwy 17 (next to Ingles) before making their way to the lower floodplains bordering the western edge of the Greenway.

5) East Water Street Connector

The Greenway trail is accessible from downtown Clarkesville via the East Water Street Connector. This trail actually follows the original road bed of the Tallulah Falls highway for its first few hundred feet from the East Water Street trailhead. This connector is also proposed to extend up Rocky Branch towards Rocky Branch Road for future phases.

S) The Soque River

The Soque River is the primary geographic feature in the City of Clarkesville and borders the north end of the Greenway. Current and future mitigation projects on the opposite bank of the Soque River may allow for a full span bridge crossing the river with future greenway extensions proposed to extend all the way to North Habersham Middle School.