

Rivers Streams Roads and Trails



Prepared for

Community Choices Highway 166

Corridor Study

Prepared by

Randy Hulsey

Director



What do you see in your mind?

- A lazy river and perhaps someone paddling a canoe?
- Scenic vistas from a 2 lane road with rolling hills and farmland properties?
- Winding streams that shimmer off rocks as they flow through forested areas?
- Trails that have people strolling through wooded areas and enjoying the natural environment.



OR

Maybe it makes you feel like
you are somewhere in the north
Georgia mountains!!!!



Reality

You are not in the mountains!



Reality

These natural elements exist right here where you are right now along the Highway 166 corridor.



Reality

Metropolitan Atlanta – 9th largest in USA

Population nearing 6 million people in 2015

Forecast to be nearing 8 million people by 2040

Fifteen minutes from busiest airport in the world

Douglas County population just under 140,000

Forecast to be over 256,000 by 2040

Carroll County population around 118,000

Forecast to be over 192,000 by 2040



Special Plans

- To maintain and enhance these resources in the built environment
- There are challenges that must be considered in developing these plans



Challenges

There are challenges that must be considered in developing these plans

Metropolitan Atlanta

Internal Growth

External Growth



We cannot turn our heads away!

- Land Use Polices and infrastructure plans that support guided growth to protect and enhance natural resources
- Education and citizen support for plans that foster community vesting in the preservation of natural resources.



Transportation and Mobility

Operational projects
Bridge upgrades
River Barrier Capacity
Scenic Highway Designation
Walkable Areas



Douglas County Transportation Plan

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goal - Enhance safety and mobility for all travelers
Objectives
1. Promote multi-modal facilities
2. Provide safe and efficient transportation facilities
3. Prioritize and balance transportation projects with political and public support
Goal - Preserve and protect neighborhood integrity
Objectives
1. Preserve existing neighborhood characteristics and aesthetics
2. Maintain consistency with comprehensive land use plans
Goal - Preserve the Environment
Objectives
1. Connect to greenways and multiuse trails
2. Identify priority environmental resources
3. Sustain water quality
4. Support alternative modes that reduce negative air quality impacts
Goal - Promote economic development
Objectives
1. Focus new developments in economically depressed areas
2. Locate transportation facilities near economic development activities
Goal - Involve the public
Objectives
1. Provide regular updates
2. Make information accessible
3. Provide multiple opportunities for involvement





**THE CHATTAHOOCHEE HILL
COUNTRY REGIONAL GREENWAY
TRAIL**

**A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT OF
MULTIPLE JURISDICTIONS**

*Memorandum of Agreement
For
Transportation Improvements to Chattahoochee Hill Country
Regional Greenway Trail Master Plan
By and Between
Carroll, Coweta, Douglas, and Fulton Counties
(Hereinafter the Counties)
WITNESSETH:*

WHEREAS, The Chattahoochee Hill Country Alliance, a 501 (c) (4) organization together with the PATH Foundation and with material support from the Counties prepared The Chattahoochee Hill Country Regional Greenway Trail Master Plan (hereinafter The Master Plan) for the development of a multiuse trail system within the Chattahoochee River Corridor (hereinafter the Corridor) encompassing certain portions of the Counties; and

WHEREAS, The Master Plan provides for the creation of a network of preserved green space and connecting trails that will link existing and proposed villages, parks, historic sites and scenic river vistas within the Corridor; and

WHEREAS, The proposed network of preserved green space and connecting trails is vital to creating alternative means of transportation, protecting natural resources and preserving unique and traditional cultural landscapes of striking beauty, and for enhancing property values and ensuring economic growth within the Corridor; and

WHEREAS, The Counties have embraced the proposals contained in the Master Plan by adopting and incorporating them into their respective county comprehensive plans; and

WHEREAS, The Congress has authorized in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) the sum of \$2,000,000 over the Fiscal Years 2005-2009 for capital improvements for a High Priority Project (HPP # 3966) entitled Transportation Improvements to Chattahoochee Hill Country Regional Greenway Trail Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, The Counties recognize an extraordinary opportunity to achieve significant progress in developing the Corridor and desire to cooperate and offer mutual assistance in securing those federal funds and efficiently managing the development of the proposed multiuse trail system (hereinafter the Project) within the Corridor.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants contained herein, the Counties do hereby covenant and agree as follows:

RESOLUTION

Douglas County Board of Commissioners

WHEREAS, many Douglas County citizens have come together in common cause to form the Douglas County Greenway Trail Alliance (DCGTA) in order to establish a countywide system of trails to link parks, historic and cultural sites and population centers, with the Chattahoochee River Corridor; and

WHEREAS, the focus of this effort will be in implementing the Douglas County portion of the Greenway Trail Master Plan as prepared for the Chattahoochee Hill Country Alliance by the PATH Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Douglas County, along with Carroll, Coweta and Fulton counties have contributed to and supported the development of this Master Plan; and

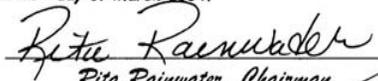
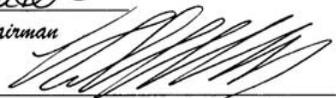
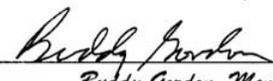
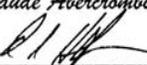
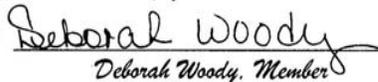
WHEREAS, it will be a primary objective of this trail system to respect and preserve the natural beauty and character of the county while improving access to these areas for Douglas County and area citizens; and

WHEREAS, the planned Greenway Trail System will enhance the county's Quality of Life by providing low impact recreational access to areas of natural beauty and historic significance.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the DCGTA is recognized as the duly appointed body for the purpose of implementing the Douglas County trail system as part of the Regional Greenway Trail Master Plan and that the DCGTA has the fullest support and encouragement from the Douglas County Board of Commissioners in this endeavor.

THEREFORE, the DCGTA is empowered on behalf of Douglas County and its citizens to interact with local and adjoining government entities and non-governmental organizations for the purposes of coordinating the regional plan and that it is sanctioned to raise funds within and outside the county for the purpose of implementing the Regional Greenway Trail Master Plan.

Be it therefore resolved this 16th day of March 2004.

 Rita Rainwater, Chairman	 Claude Abercrombie, Member
 Buddy Gordon, Member	 David Latham, Member
 Deborah Woody, Member	

Chattahoochee Hill Country Trail System Summary

At the edge of Atlanta's sprawl, 60,000 acres of rolling hills, trickling streams, and stately farm houses appear destined for harvest by developers of treeless subdivisions, fast-food restaurants and big-box shopping malls; a harvest that would likely create a dearth of greenspace and transportation options other than the car.

This sparsely populated region of South Fulton County known as the Chattahoochee Hill Country will likely escape the dozer's wrath thanks to the efforts of the *Chattahoochee Hill Country Alliance*, a non-profit group who has carefully planned a different development course for the area which will preserve its rural character. An integral part of their development master plan is to preserve a network of green corridors prior to any further development. This document represents the plan for this labyrinth of greenspace and connecting trails.

The Hill Country stakeholders helped compile a list of important places to be connected within the Hill Country. Many of the desired destinations were outside the 40,000 acres designated as the Hill Country, so the planning endeavor was expanded to include portions of Carroll, Coweta, and Douglas Counties.

Connecting the desired destinations while preserving and even enhancing the natural environment became the fundamental goal of the plan. As a result, the proposed 98-mile trail system is dominated by narrow, gravel surfaced, 'farm road' trails that minimize impact to the landscape and maximize the rural experience.

The Chattahoochee River corridor will serve as the spine of the proposed trail system, which will criss-cross the River on four new bridges, two pedestrian-scale ferries, and two existing highway bridges. The River Trail will be intersected with 'spoke' trails to existing parks, historic places, and population centers.

The Hill Country trail system will cost an estimated \$26 million to build, an average of \$50 per foot. Much of the cost can be attributed to the scores of bridges that will be needed to cross the Chattahoochee River and the tributaries that feed into the river.

For More Information, Contact

FRIENDS OF THE CHATTAHOOCHEE
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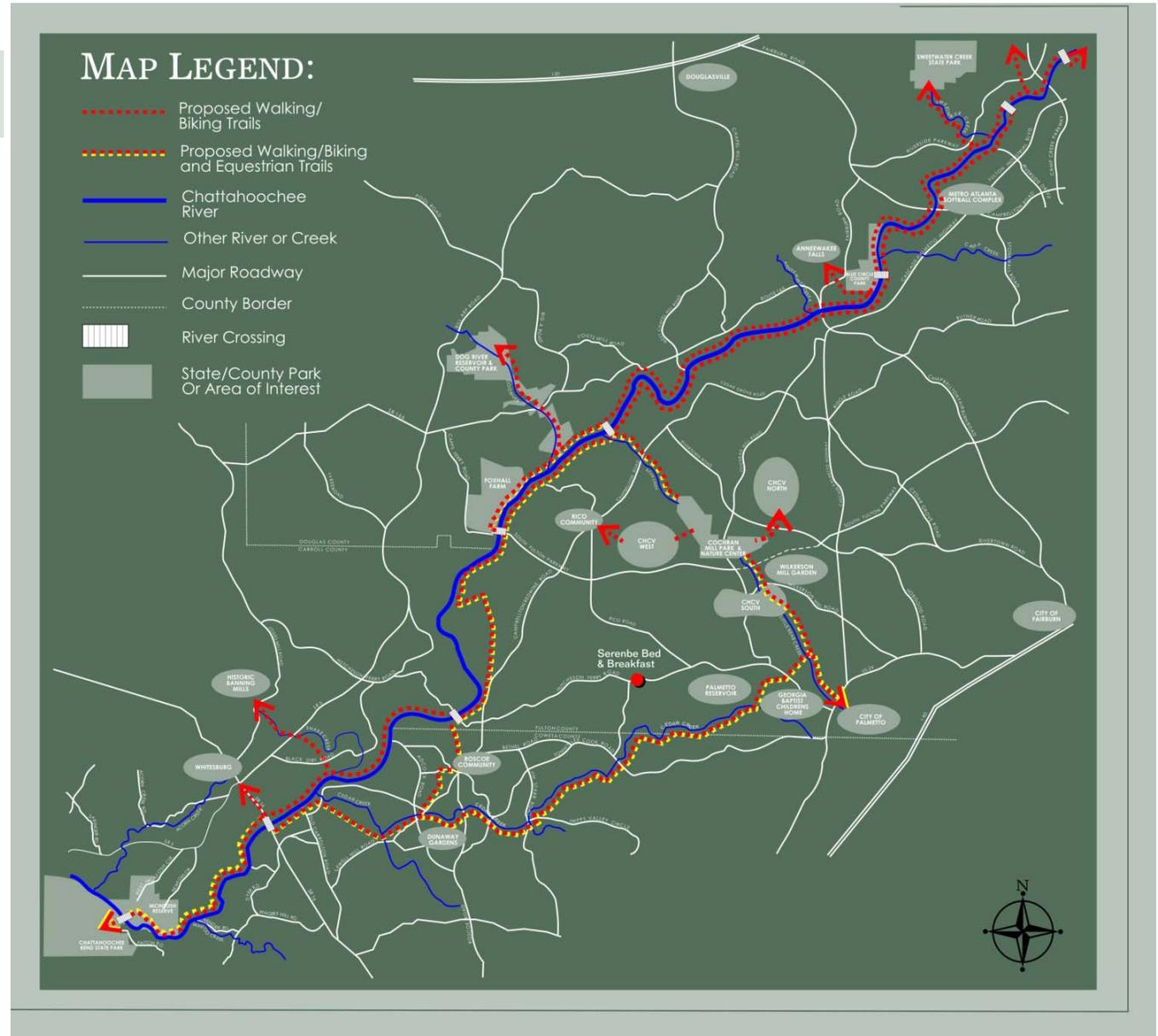


CHATTAHOOCHEE HILL COUNTRY
REGIONAL GREENWAY TRAIL MASTER PLAN



THE CHC REGIONAL GREENWAY TRAIL – 98 MILE SYSTEM MAP

HILL COUNTRY TRAIL MAP



THE CHC REGIONAL GREENWAY TRAIL – PILOT SEGMENTS

- Carroll County
 - Located in the Moore's Bridge Park along the bank of the Chattahoochee River near Whitesburg, Ga
 - Currently working on Project Framework Agreement
- City of Chattahoochee Hills
 - Creating a aggregate surface trail to connect Rico Park, Cochran Mill Park and Cochran Mill Nature Center
 - When completed trail will be approximately 4 miles in length
 - Applied for additional grants to fund this project
 - Anticipated to start construction in September 2015
- Coweta County
 - Located in Chattahoochee Bend State Park
 - Approximately 1.75 miles
 - Currently working on the Project Framework Agreement with GDOT and Memorandum of Understanding with GDOT, GA Department of Natural Resources and Coweta County

PROJECT FACT SHEET



CHATTAHOOCHEE HILL COUNTRY REGIONAL GREENWAY TRAIL – DOUGLAS COUNTY PILOT SEGMENT

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2012

MASTER PLAN OVERVIEW

The Chattahoochee Hill Country (CHC) Regional Greenway Trail is a proposed 98 mile regional greenway corridor that will travel along or near the Chattahoochee River in Douglas County, Carroll County, Coweta County, Fulton County, and the City of Chattahoochee Hills. The proposed multi-county regional trail system will enhance mobility and quality of life, will help to spur economic development within the region, and will provide an additional health benefit through recreation. The Douglas County pilot segment proposes to construct an initial demonstration segment of the future regional multi-use trail. The initial segment is approximately 0.75 miles in length and located inside Boundary Waters Park. The trail will be a hard surface trail, twelve (12) feet in width, and will initially connect the existing Aquatic Center with the Athletics Hub.



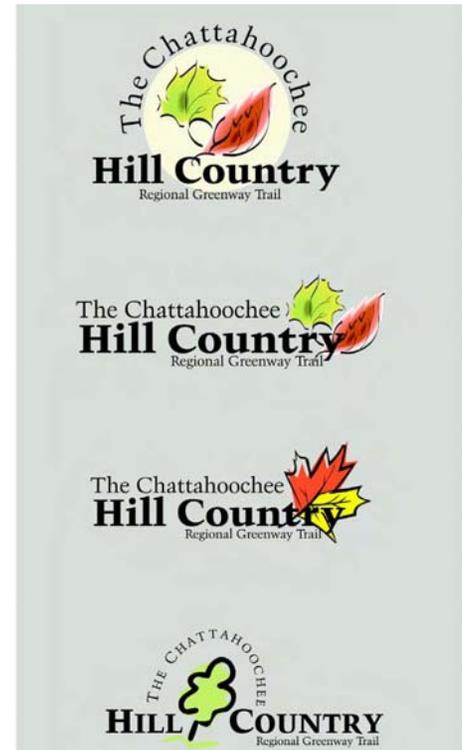
PILOT SEGMENT QUICK FACTS

- **Who will be able to use the trail?**
All bicycles and pedestrians will be able to use the trail, including wheelchairs.
- **When will I be able to use it?**
The trail is anticipated to open in Spring 2013.
- **What is the project's cost?**
Engineering and Design = \$100,886.31
Construction Bid = \$488,136.25
- **What are the proposed project limits?**
The trail will be about ¾-mile long and 12 feet wide, beginning near the Aquatic Center and extending toward the new Athletics Hub.

DOUGLAS COUNTY PILOT SEGMENT

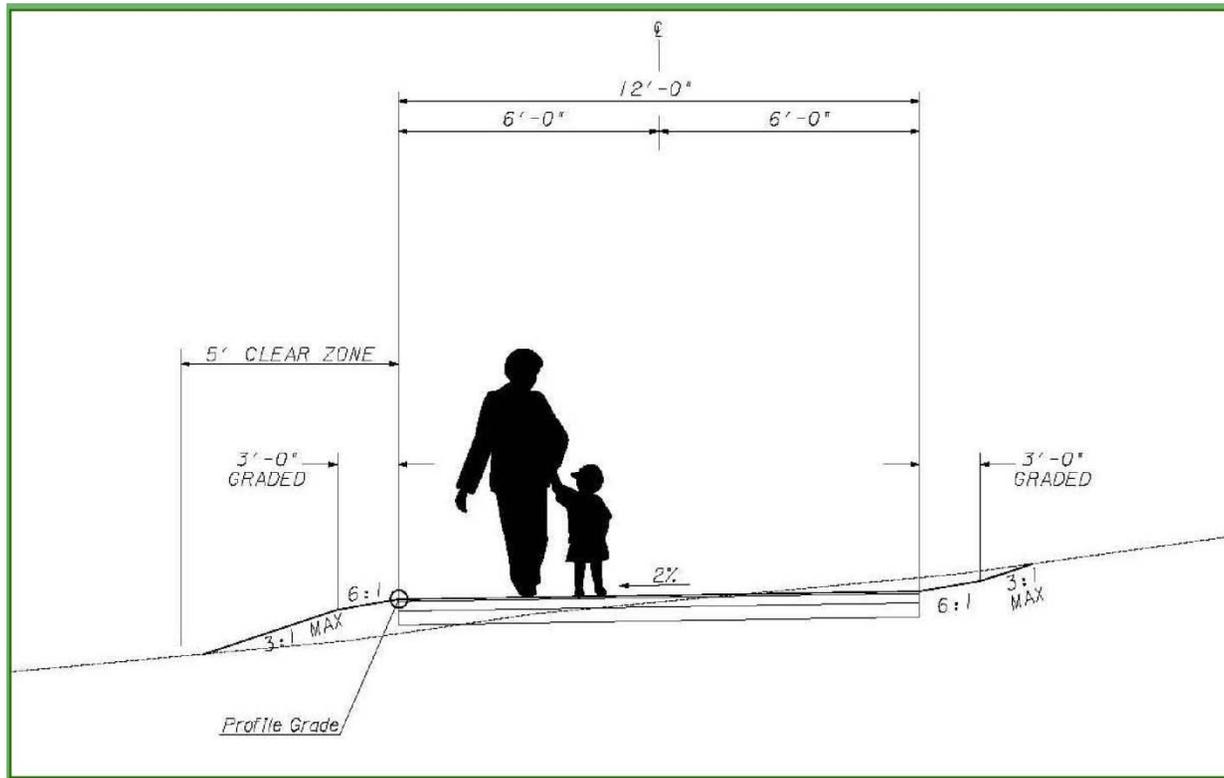
Douglas County has received federal funding through a Congressional Earmark of \$500,000 to design and construct the pilot segment. The purpose of the segment is to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors while promoting interest in future implementations of the CHC Greenway Regional Trail System. The trail system will be a valuable asset to the region by showcasing both environmental and cultural features. The inclusion of amenities such as signage, benches, and a gazebo area will help to create a unique experience for the trail user that will carry over to future segments of the proposed CHC Regional Greenway Trail system.

BRANDING OF THE CHC TRAIL SYSTEM



The Chattahoochee Hill Country Regional Greenway Trail

Sample Typical Section





PROJECT FACT SHEET

GDOT PROJECT NO. 0012877



CHATTAHOOCHEE HILL COUNTRY REGIONAL GREENWAY TRAIL – DOUGLAS CO. NE EXTENSION FROM BOUNDARY WATERS PARK TO SWEETWATER CREEK STATE PARK

MASTER PLAN OVERVIEW

The Chattahoochee Hill Country (CHC) Regional Greenway Trail is a proposed 98 mile regional greenway corridor that will travel along or near the Chattahoochee River in Douglas County, Carroll County, Coweta County, Fulton County, and the City of Chattahoochee Hills. The proposed multi-county regional trail system will enhance mobility and quality of life, will help to spur economic development within the region, and will provide an additional health benefit through recreation.



DOUGLAS COUNTY NE EXTENSION

This is an 11 mile trail project to establish a substantial link in the Chattahoochee Hill Country Regional Greenway Trail System as proposed by the Path Foundation. This segment will address trip pattern needs by implementing a hard surface multi-use trail providing pedestrian and bicyclist access between two major park destinations (Sweetwater Creek State Park and Boundary Waters Park in Douglas County), that will generally follow the Chattahoochee River Alignment between the two parks. Sweetwater Creek State Park is one of the most visited parks in Georgia with approximately 650,000 people visiting in 2012. Douglas County Boundary Waters Park is a new mega park with approximately 9 miles of unimproved trails, two soccer fields, eight baseball fields, a children's playground, stocked pond, indoor aquatic facilities, and the initial CHC Regional Greenway Trail - Douglas County Pilot Segment. This phase of the overall regional project will directly impact mobility and trip patterns in the jurisdictions of Douglas County, City of Douglasville and the Sweetwater Creek State Park (DNR). Ultimately, the CHC Regional Greenway Trail System will cross numerous political boundaries and will be managed and maintained by each jurisdiction having ownership within its boundaries.



QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION TOPICS?

