



Woodstock Connect the Creeks

Stakeholder Meeting & Walking Tour Summary

April 24, 2023

Name	Organization	Email
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Ann Driver Jordan	Woodstock Elementary School	annjordan@cherookeek12.net
Wendy McDaniel	Woodstock High School	Wendy.mcdaniel@cherookeek12.net
Bob Liggett	SORBA – Woodstock	bp@sorbawoodstock.org



Meeting Summary

1:00 – 1:45 PM Introductory Presentation

1. Introductions
 - a. City Staff
 - b. Consultant Team
 - c. Stakeholders
2. Study Purpose and Overview
 - a. Background and History
 - b. Anticipated Outcomes
 - c. Key Tasks and Timeline
3. Preliminary Findings
 - a. Existing Conditions
 - b. Environmental Considerations

1:45 – 3:30 PM Walking Tour & Questions

1. Walk from City Chambers to intersection of Market Street and Elm Street (Noonday Creek Trail)
2. Continue to the intersection of Dupree Road and Main Street
3. Continue to the intersection of Main Street and South on Main Drive
4. Continue to the entrance of the Rubes Creek Trail on Woodglen Drive
5. Continue to the intersection of Arnold Mill Road and the Rubes Creek Trail
6. Continue along Arnold Mill Road until returning to City Chambers

3:30-4:00 PM Debrief Discussion

1. Roundtable Discussion of Observations and Key Take-Aways
 - a. Josh Phillipson asked if there was any proposed connection between Rubes Creek Trail and the adjoining neighborhoods.
 - i. The group discussed possible future connections
 - b. Mr. Lusher asked what the experience along SR 92 currently is, and should be in the future (if that route is used to connect Rubes Creek Trail and Noonday Creek Trail)
 - i. Most attendees agreed that the sense-of-place along SR 92 was transportation focused
 - ii. An example of a local resident in a mobility scooter that rides along SR 92 regularly – there's clearly a need for additional transportation options along the corridor
 - c. Rubes Creek Trail was discussed
 - i. Officials from local public schools discussed how walking with 3rd graders along Noonday Creek Trail is a fully different experience than walking along Rubes Creek Trail (less to do – the space may need to be activated)
2. Mr. Lusher dismissed the group and reminded the committee that they would meet again in late summer.



Appendix A: Presentation

Connect the Creeks LCI

Stakeholder Meeting and Site Visit

April 24, 2023



Today's Agenda

Part 1: Presentation

1:00-2:00

- Introductions
- Study Purpose and Overview
- Preliminary Findings

Part 2: Field Visit

2:00-4:30

- Walking Tour of Downtown Woodstock
- Debriefing and Recap



Introductions

Connect the Creeks LCI Study | Stakeholder Meeting #1 | 4.24.23



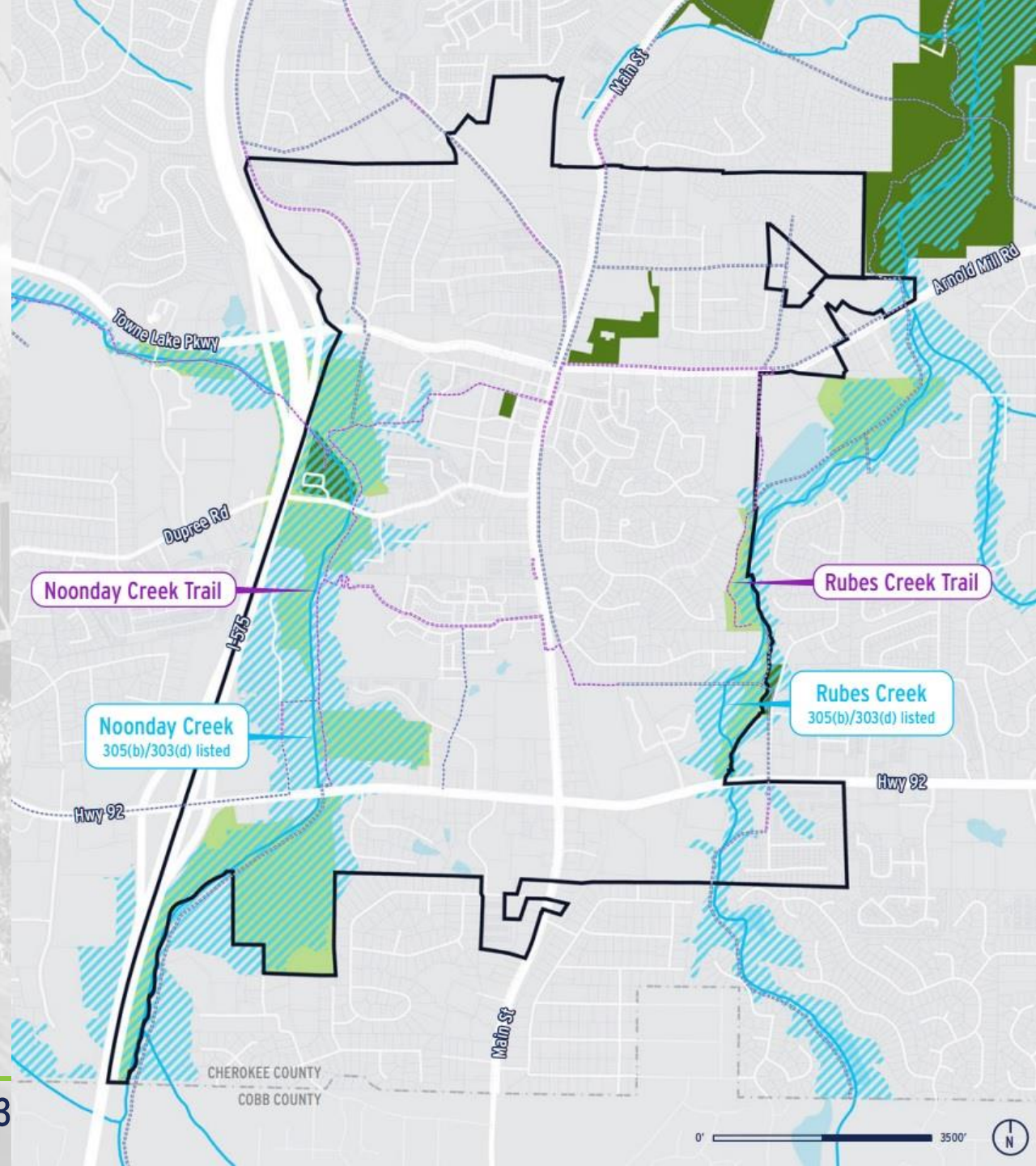
Study Purpose and Overview

Connect the Creeks LCI Study | Stakeholder Meeting #1 | 4.24.23



Background & History: LCI Update (2021)

- “Develop a greenway loop linking Noonday Creek, Rubes Creek, Downtown Woodstock & Hwy 92.”
- “Develop a complimentary network of east/west greenway connectors linking the Noonday Creek Trail and Rubes Creek Trail.”
- “Incorporate the proposed greenway loop & greenway connectors into the Greenprints Trail System.”
- “Transform the Noonday Creek & Rubes Creek corridors into signature linear parks that expand the trail network beyond recreational use to include play, education, leisure, art appreciation, social gathering, and green infrastructure.”



Big Idea #4

Connect the Creeks

Transform the Noonday and Rubes Creek Trails into a greenway loop that is both an essential part of the local transportation network and a signature linear park.



Background & History: LCI Update (2021)



Anticipated Outcomes of Planning Effort

- **Actionable, fundable, implementable** plan
 - Include early wins, easy to implement projects
 - Marathon vs. sprint
- Incorporate placemaking and public art strategies
- Encourage short local trips via new trail investments to reduce vehicle travel
- Promote investment in trails as part of broader multi-modal strategy and expansion of downtown

Key Tasks: Existing Conditions & Technical Analysis

- Data collection, mapping and analysis
- Field visits
- Traffic operations and safety
- Utilities and right-of-way



Key Tasks: Public Engagement

- Intercept surveys
- Pop-up booths at City events
- Online, interactive mapping and activities
- Stakeholder group meetings
- Coordination with Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), Cherokee County, and City of Woodstock



Key Tasks: Conceptual Plan and Analysis Report

- Identify and develop up to three potential east-west routes to connect Noonday and Rubes Creek
- Evaluate potential options based on a range of factors



Key Tasks: Project Deliverables

- Final report
- Conceptual drawings
- Typical sections
- Implementation strategy, including 100-day action plan



Key Tasks: Project Deliverables

Subtask	Assumption	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February
Task 1 Existing Conditions & Technical Analysis													
Invoicing, PM Coordination, and Project Management Team													
Data Collection, Mapping, and Analysis													
Utilities & Right of Way	High level research												
Environmental Screening and Hydraulic Analysis	High level screening (no survey)												
Site Visit	Assume half-day												
Task 2: Public Engagement													
Stakeholder Committee	Assume 3												
Community Pop Ups and Engagement	Assume up to 5 tactical events												

Key Tasks: Project Deliverables

Subtask	Assumption	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February
Task 3: Conceptual Plan and Analysis Report Development													
Alignment Alternatives (up to 3)	Develop and analyze up to 3 potential alignment options												
Safety Analysis	High-level analysis of safety at roadway crossings, intersections - to inform alignments/conceptual design												
Parks and Recreation Concepts	Plan view sketches and conceptual diagrams												
Public Arts Incorporation	Identification of opportunities for public art (murals, signage, etc.)												
Alternative Selection Methodology and Application	Matrix of factors and considerations, written summary												
Conceptual renderings	High-level conceptual drawings of paths, connections, typical sections. Need to clarify/define number of expected submittals and review time.												
Task 4: Prepare Project Deliverables													
Report Documentation	Summary of planning process and outcomes												
Action Plan	A 100-day action plan with no-cost or low-cost actions and steps to jumpstart implementation; changes to City's ordinances (if applicable); phasing program for implementation steps												
Cost Estimation	Planning-level cost estimates for recommended alternative and associated actions/projects/strategies												

Initial Key Findings

Connect the Creeks LCI Study | Stakeholder Meeting #1 | 4.24.23



Existing Conditions

- **Future Development Patterns:**

- Urban Core
- Urban Village
 - Predominantly residential, it incorporates moderate density housing, and allows resident-serving retail

- **Existing Development/Zoning:**

- Main St. Corridor
- Heavily Residential
 - Extensive residential zoning exists to both the east and west of Main Street

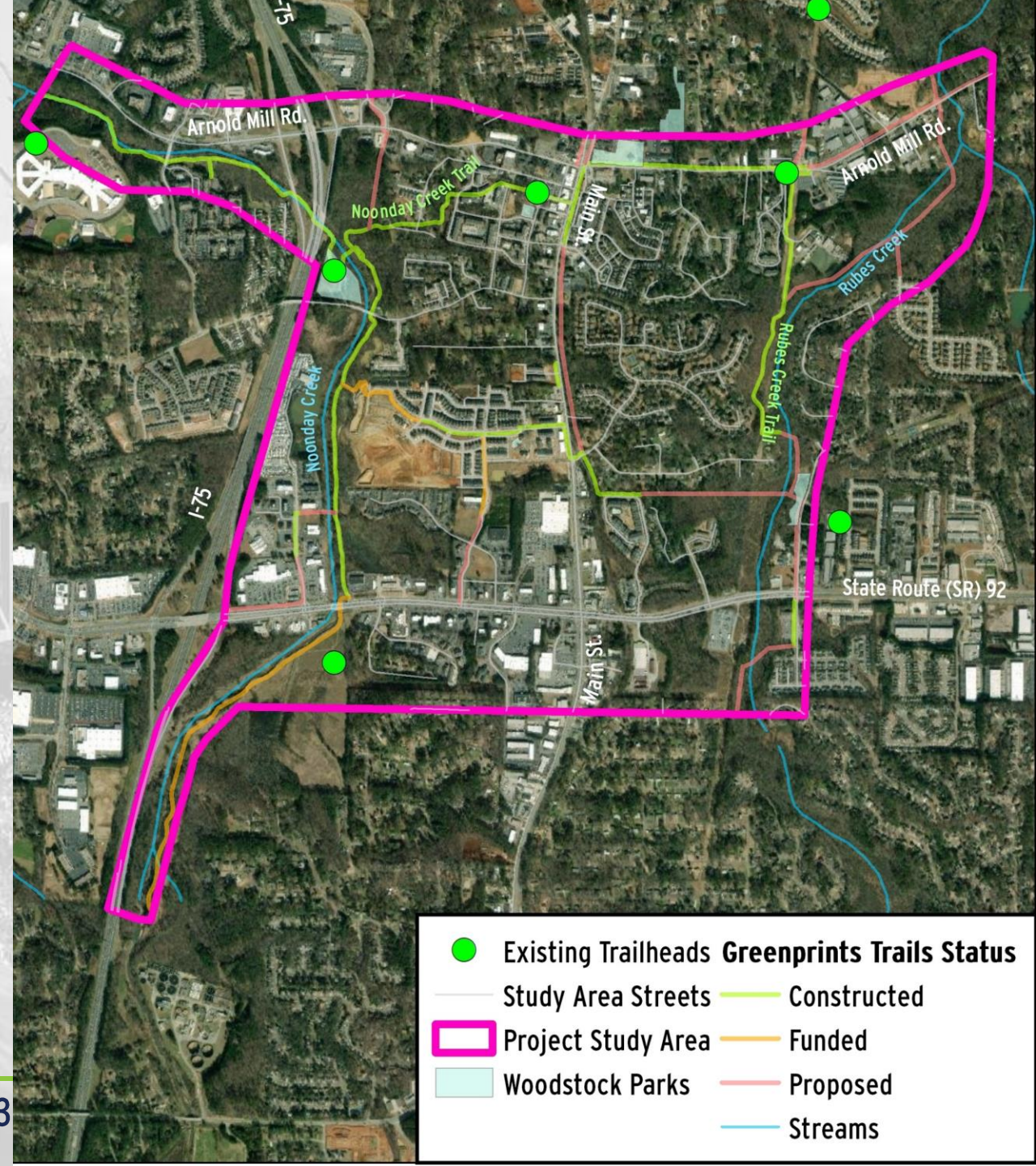
Greenways & Trails

- Two “stream-side” trail segments are currently accessible within Downtown Woodstock
 - Noonday Creek Trail
 - Rubes Creek Greenway
- Study will examine how to connect and provide access to existing network



Downtown Development

- Downtown Development Characteristics
 - Traditional Retail/Commercial
 - Mixed-Use
 - Residential
- The most densely portion of downtown is bordered by Arnold Mill Road to the north and Dupree Road to the South



Environmental Conditions

- Ecological Resources

- Waters of the U.S.

- Noonday Creek
 - Rubes Creek
 - Wetlands & Streams

- Threatened & Endangered Species

- Gray Bat (*myotis grisescens*)
 - Whooping Crane (*grus americana*)
 - Cherokee Darter (*etheostoma scotti*)
 - Monarch Butterfly (*danaus plexippus*)



Environmental Conditions

- Potential Cultural Resources

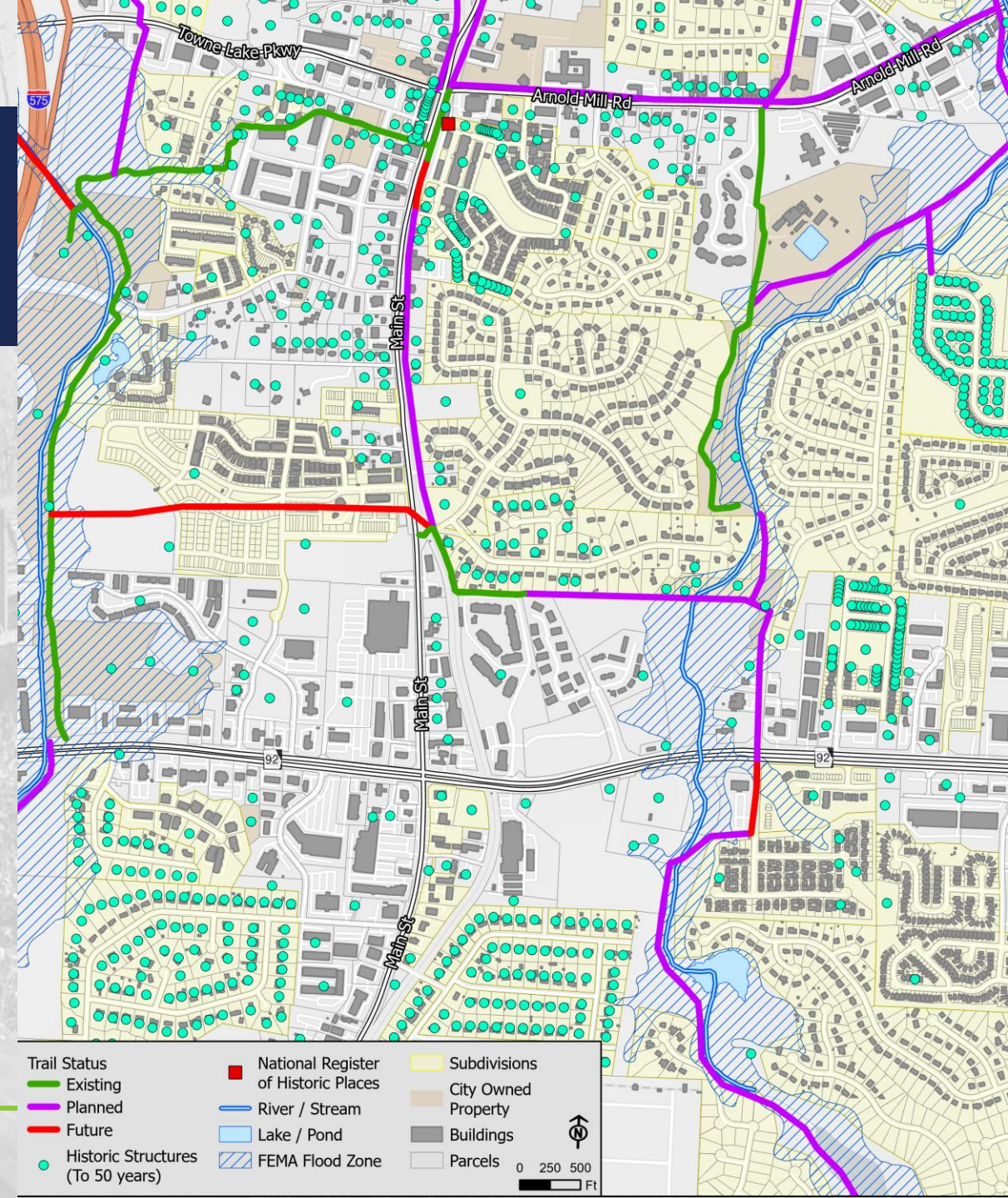
- J.H. Johnston House (111 N Main St., ca 1913)
- Woodstock Baptist Church (Main St., ca 1913)
- 732 Reeves St. (ca 1920)
- Smith L. Johnston House (214 Main St., ca 1917)
- W.D. Powder House (401 Main St., ca 1912)
- 108 Arnold Mill Rd. (ca 1905)
- Many, many more...



Environmental Conditions

- Potential Cultural Resources

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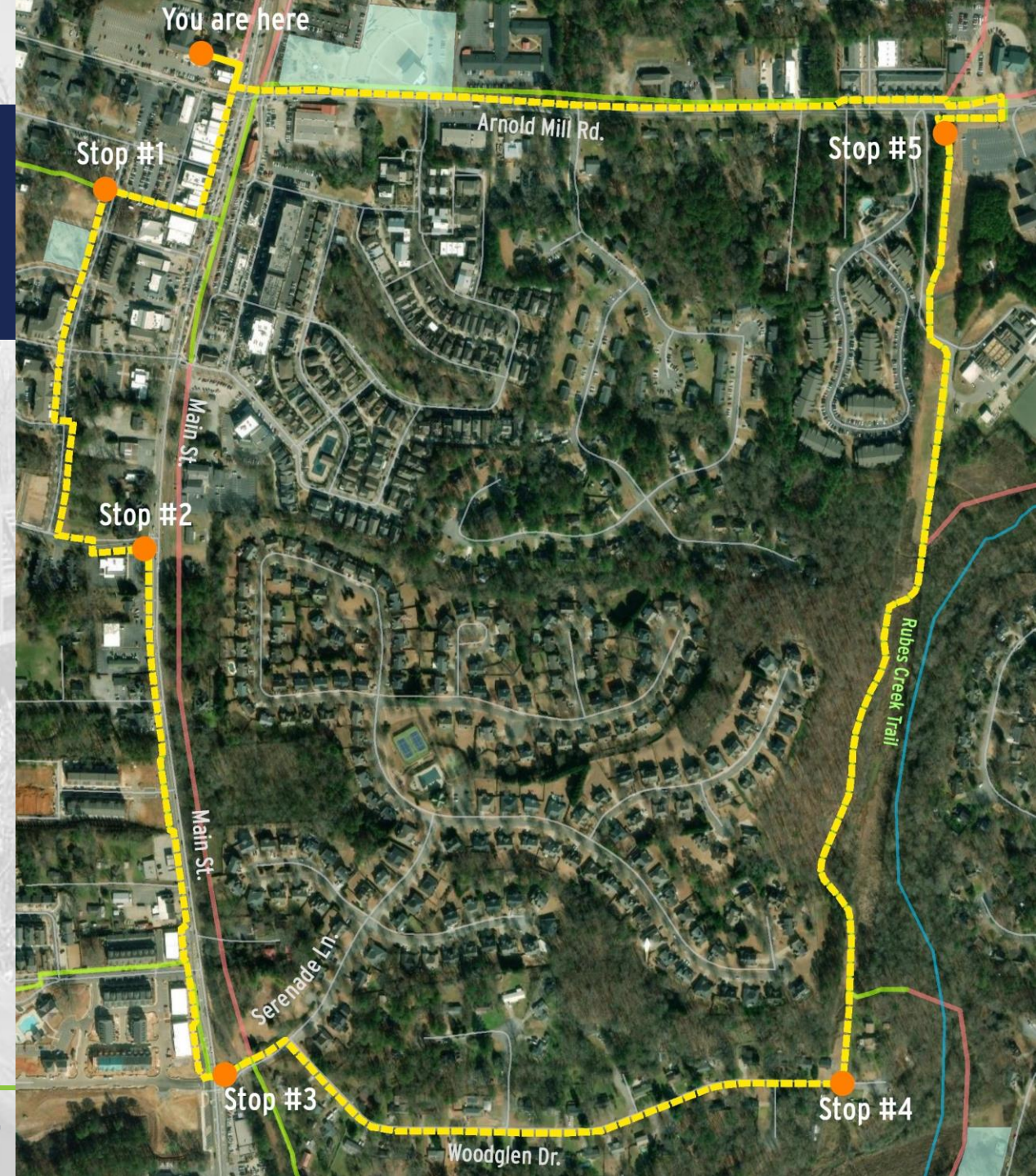
Next Steps

- Plan Development
 - Existing Conditions & Technical Analyses
 - Conceptual Plan & Analysis Report
- Public Engagement
 - Pop-up events
 - Public involvement meeting
- Go to www.menti.com and use the code 9212 3010



Proposed Walking Route

- Five Stops
 - We have bottles of water available
 - If you become separated from the group:
 - Zach A: (404) 985-9660
- Go to www.menti.com and use the code 9212 3010



Walking Tour Debrief



Connect the Creeks LCI Study | Stakeholder Meeting #1 | 4.24.23



Walking Tour Debrief



Connect the Creeks LCI Study | Stakeholder Meeting #1 | 4.24.23



Eric Lusher, AICP
Consultant Project Manager
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Niwana Ray, AICP
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Thank you for your time!

Contact us with any questions.





Appendix B: Mentimeter Results



Stop #1: Was this entrance to the Noonday Creek Trail easy to find?



I'm still lost...



Somewhat



Very much so :)

Stop #1: What about the trailhead makes you more likely to utilize the Noonday Creek Trail?

18

Answers

**Proximity to parking and
downtown shops**

More inviting signage.

Convenience to Main Street.

More wayfinding

Reformation trailhead

Easy parking

**It looks inviting and has
informational signage so you
know how far the trail goes.**

Central to downtown

Wayfinding, crosswalk, visibility

Stop #1: What about the trailhead makes you more likely to utilize the Noonday Creek Trail?

18

Answers

Easy access to walk to other parts of town.

Great access to downtown! Great trail over to 92 and Woodstock HS.

Easy access, parking nearby,

Piece of public art visible down the trail.

Wayfinding, crosswalk, visibility

Parking, trees, picnic tables

Ample parking, brewery, seating, public art, seating

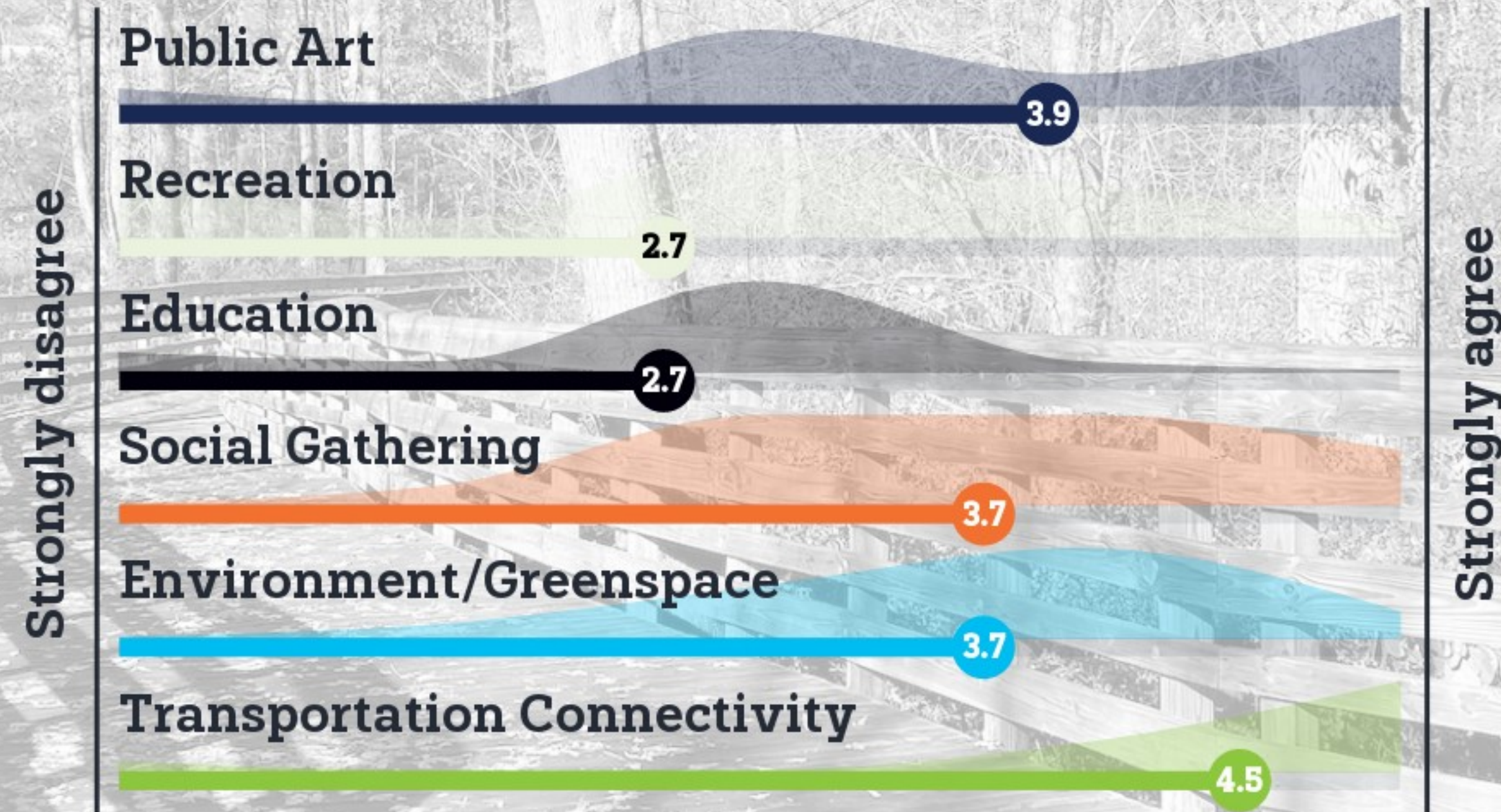
The connectivity to other parks.

Is there decorative, inviting lighting?

Stop #2: What are some words that come to mind after walking from Stop #1 to Stop #2?

need additional sidewalk
unsafe on grass
need connection
wide sidewalks
unconnected
slow speeds
unpleasant
signage
crosswalk
sidewalk
pleasant
shady
beautiful
challenging
unkept
vulnerable
safe
opportunity
safety
dicey
pedestrian unfriendly
sidewalks
scary
space
more crosswalks
hostile
centralized
busy intersection

Stop #3: What aspects of the urban form should trails along the previous portion of Main St. emphasize?



Stop #3: How would you describe your experience crossing the street and railroad?

18

Answers

Easy. Light traffic

It feels nice for the size road that is there.

Surprisingly easy!

Stressful

A little steep and traffic

It was decent crossing the street although the signal was kind of short. The railroad track snuck up on me and there wasn't much warning

Felt safe

Safe. Sidewalks are wide.

Not many obstructions at intersection so it was easy to see and cross safely

Stop #3: How would you describe your experience crossing the street and railroad?

18

Answers

Clear sight lines, plenty of time to cross, additional landscaping would add a lot and possible street trees.

There was not any real issues with crossing Main St across the railroad tracks onto Serenade.

Easy

The street and railroad crossing was straight forward.

More mindful of surroundings Signage to continue downtown feel

Little busy

But it was nice seeing the rail while walking parallel to it

Not connected...

Skipping!

Stop #4: How does the way the Rubes Creek Trail interfaces with neighboring residences emphasize recreation? Transportation connectivity?

11 Answers

Needs sidewalk

The connectivity to the trail is lacking. It looks most like a recreational trail

Seeing the trailhead invites needed connectivity.

Natural connection and possibilities to expand

Once the trail is complete and connects to The neighborhood, the trail will be a great transportation route between the neighborhood and Arnold Mill Road.

It doesn't, no way finding

It needs some improvement

at this stop, unclear that there is a trail connection here

It really doesn't now. If the neighborhood had connectivity to the trail I think it would greatly improve property values and access to downtown without using a car.

Stop #4: How does the way the Rubes Creek Trail interfaces with neighboring residences emphasize recreation? Transportation connectivity?

11 Answers

CITY OF
WOODSTOCK
GEORGIA

Bike trail, neighborhood have a safe lighted space, possible access to main road.

Skipping to catch up

Stop #5: What aspects of the walk along Rubes Creek emphasize its sense-of-place?

18

Answers

Naturally

nature trail to nowhere

Needs more sense of place

Community and obvious way to connect. WouldLove to cater to bikes at this stop.

Wetlands

Feels open, but it doesn't feel like there is a beginning or end. Not very scenic.

It was a pleasant and beautiful walk along the trail with caring views of the nature trail.

The wooded fencing, the way finding, the utility poles

Nice shade. But seems too short to get anywhere. Low use I would assume.

Stop #5: What aspects of the walk along Rubes Creek emphasize its sense-of-place?

18

Answers

Nature/Bike trail until closer to end, then residential comes up,

Nature

Loved the shaded trail portion, very picturesque. The north end was not as pleasant.

Better connectivity at end

Nature, utility corridors are an opportunity

Opportunity for education of wetlands

Very much like the Silver Comet. Opportunity for nature education at the wetlands.

Quiet,

Very much like the Silver Comet. Opportunity for wetlands education.

Stop #5: What changes could be made to emphasize transportation connectivity along the corridor?

13 Answers

Parking and access

Connect the trail

Emphasize the connectivity of the trail provides from Hwy. 92 to Arnold Mill Road.

Connect it to a loop system.

Signage, wayfinding

Maps along the way to show where you can go on trails

Needs to go somewhere

More neighborhood connections, bike repair facilities

Clear deliniation of publoc/private

Stop #5: What changes could be made to emphasize transportation connectivity along the corridor?

13 Answers

Access from neighborhoods would allow families a place to spend time together without traffic

Neighborhood connections/spurs, landscaping along transmission corridor, way finding

Connection/crosswalk at Arnold Mill

It needs to close the loop to the neighborhood on the south, otherwise it's a recreation trail.



Appendix C: Sign-In Sheet

Connect the Creeks LCI

Stakeholder Meeting & Walking Tour, Monday, April 24, 2023

Name	Organization	Email
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Coty Thigpen	City of Woodstock	cthigpen@woodstockga.gov
Spencer Nix	Reformation Brewery	spencer@reformationbrewery.com
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