

BRADD Regional Greenways Feasibility Study

Purpose and Need

Background

In the past several decades, interest in outdoor recreation and active transportation in South Central Kentucky has grown. Walking, running, and cycling have become increasingly important for both quality of life and regional economic development. However, across much of the Barren River Area Development District (BRADD) region, there is limited bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and few established long-distance trail systems. This creates gaps in accessibility, safety, and connectivity between communities and destinations.

Recognizing this need, BRADD seeks to expand upon previous trail planning efforts, including the Bowling Green to Mammoth Cave National Park Feasibility Study, by pursuing a comprehensive, regionwide greenways initiative. Building on federal support through a U.S. Department of Transportation RAISE grant, and with support from local leaders, the Regional Greenways Feasibility Study will explore opportunities to add trails in all ten BRADD counties: Allen, Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Logan, Metcalfe, Monroe, Simpson, and Warren. The study will provide a roadmap to improve recreation, mobility, and economic vitality through a connected regional trail network.

Study Purpose

The purpose of the BRADD Regional Greenways Feasibility Study is to develop a plan for an interconnected trail system that links communities across the ten-county region, enhances bicyclist and pedestrian safety, and identifies opportunities for recreation, tourism, and alternative transportation. The study will evaluate potential greenway alignments, assess environmental considerations, and propose branding, wayfinding, and maintenance strategies needed to support long-term implementation.

Draft Project Purpose and Need Statement

The purpose of this project is to create a safe and connected regional trail network that links communities across the BRADD region. Today, gaps in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure make it difficult for residents and visitors to travel between towns, access recreational opportunities, or experience the natural and cultural assets of South Central Kentucky. By developing a unified greenway system, this project will expand active transportation choices, promote healthier lifestyles, attract tourism, and strengthen economic vitality while laying the foundation for future design and construction.

Project Goals

The supporting goals for this proposed shared-use network include:

- Explore the **feasibility of an interconnected greenway system** for the region that can provide recreational opportunities and alternatives to motor vehicle travel.
- Improve **safety, comfort, and accessibility** for bicyclists and pedestrians traveling between communities in the BRADD region.
- Strengthen regional connectivity by **linking county seats, key destinations, and existing local trails** into a cohesive network.
- **Support economic development and tourism** by creating a recreational asset that highlights the natural and cultural character of South Central Kentucky.
- Identify **environmentally-friendly trail alignments and outline maintenance strategies** to enhance long-term viability.
- **Engage stakeholders and the public to build consensus**, promote community ownership, and guide future implementation and funding opportunities.