

# STATION #1: WELCOME



Allatoona Creek Greenway Scoping Study | Community Open House #2 | April 1, 2025

Thank you for attending tonight's Community Open House for the Allatoona Creek Greenway Scoping Study.

A scoping study is a feasibility study. The goal of the study is to determine if a greenway in this area is reasonable and feasible.

Tonight, you will have the opportunity to review high-level potential options for the greenway.

The layout of this evening's meeting follows a trail of five stations. A full description of each station is in the bubble to the bottom right. Along the way, you may notice **green bubbles** that contain facts about trails that help contextualize the planning effort or provide background information.

Upon reviewing the potential options, please provide any feedback you may have using the comment form provided.



## TRAIL FACT

All of the materials presented at this evening's community open house can be accessed online at:

[www.cobbcounty.org/acgstudy](http://www.cobbcounty.org/acgstudy)

You can also access the website directly by scanning the QR code here.



### Station #1: Welcome

- You are here.
- Please enjoy the welcome presentation

### Station #2: What We've Heard

- A review of engagement or outreach to-date
- Information on future engagement opportunities

### Station #3: Trail Typologies

- Examples of precedent trails and typical sections
- Potential screening and fencing options

### Station #4: Trail Safety

- Strategies for keeping trails safe.

### Station #5: Potential Options

- These can be found on the large maps on tables
- Two "detailed" areas are also on separate boards

# STATION #2A: WHAT WE'VE HEARD

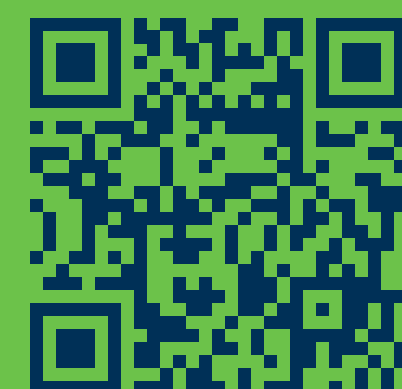
Allatoona Creek Greenway Scoping Study | Community Open House #2 | April 1, 2025



## A Five-Pronged Engagement Approach

### TRAIL FACT

In a 2012 study conducted for the U.S. Congress, the FHWA reported that communities with networks of multi-use trails can experience up to a 14% increase in walking trips and a 36% increase in bike trips.



Volpe National Transportation Systems Center.  
Report to the U.S. Congress on the Outcomes of the  
Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program. April  
2012.

#1

#### Pop-Ups

- Nightmare on Main 5k in Kenessaw
- Acworth Jam-BOO-ree

#2

#### Stakeholder Committee

- Held two, will hold two more
- Members include Cobb agencies and community leaders

#3

#### Project Website

- Maintained throughout the life of the project
- All open house materials available virtually

#4

#### Walking Tours

- Conducted several walking tours of the study area with community groups and civic associations

#5

#### Community Open House

- Have (and will) host community open houses during every project phase to receive in-person feedback

#### Crafting a Vision

Use the sticky notes and markers provided to write down one (1) word that comes to mind when you think about a possible Allatoona Creek Greenway. Add your word to the board.

Responses here will help the project team identify hopes and concerns, things to be aware of, and factors that will help inform the overall feasibility study and eventual alternatives and concepts.

When you think of the future of the Allatoona Creek Greenway, what one word comes to mind?

Leave it the way it already exists! Trails are great!  
Build it ASAP!  
Do Not!!!  
Stop Now!!!  
The greenway is first plan and will cause zero harm to any landowner. This will be a great addition to the community!  
NO!!!  
Finally, someone thinking about others!  
No - No public access to our back yards No!  
NO! Don't do it.  
Terrific plan to beautify and add healthy options for us that keep West Cobb space green!  
Yes please!!! Wonderful idea for Community, that trails already there! Do it ASAP!!  
FANTASTIC!  
I do not approve of this project. It will take 700' of my property. I am on my side. Do not want to give in my back yard.  
This is Great!  
Excitement!  
Biking!  
NO-Don't Steal my land!  
If built properly, the trail will reduce steady traffic.  
This will be a great addition.  
If this goes forward, I will file for an injunction in the Federal District Court (Northern District of GA) under private to the taking's clause of the 5th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution! Exciting! Connecting people & communities!  
TAX INCREASE TO FUND GRANTS! INCREASE CRIME STAY OUT OF MY BACKYARD!  
Build it!! Improve community, increase activity!  
Build a better transportation system for your kids & safer  
Yes! Trails already exist!  
A spiritual experience!  
The trails are there this

#### Key Take-Aways Heard So Far

1. Concerns over potential private property impacts
2. A desire for the trail to adhere as closely to the creek as possible
3. Concerns regarding hours of operation
4. A desire for impacts to existing viewsheds to be limited
5. Concerns over exacerbating potential flood events
6. Ensuring trail safety is prioritized at all times

#### Project Team Responses

1. Minimizing property impacts is always a County priority
2. A creekside option is presented on today's layouts
3. All Cobb County parks are open dawn-to-dusk
4. Participants can provide input on potential screening options at tonight's meeting
5. Greenways can improve stormwater management and mitigate flooding
6. See Station #4 for more details on safety

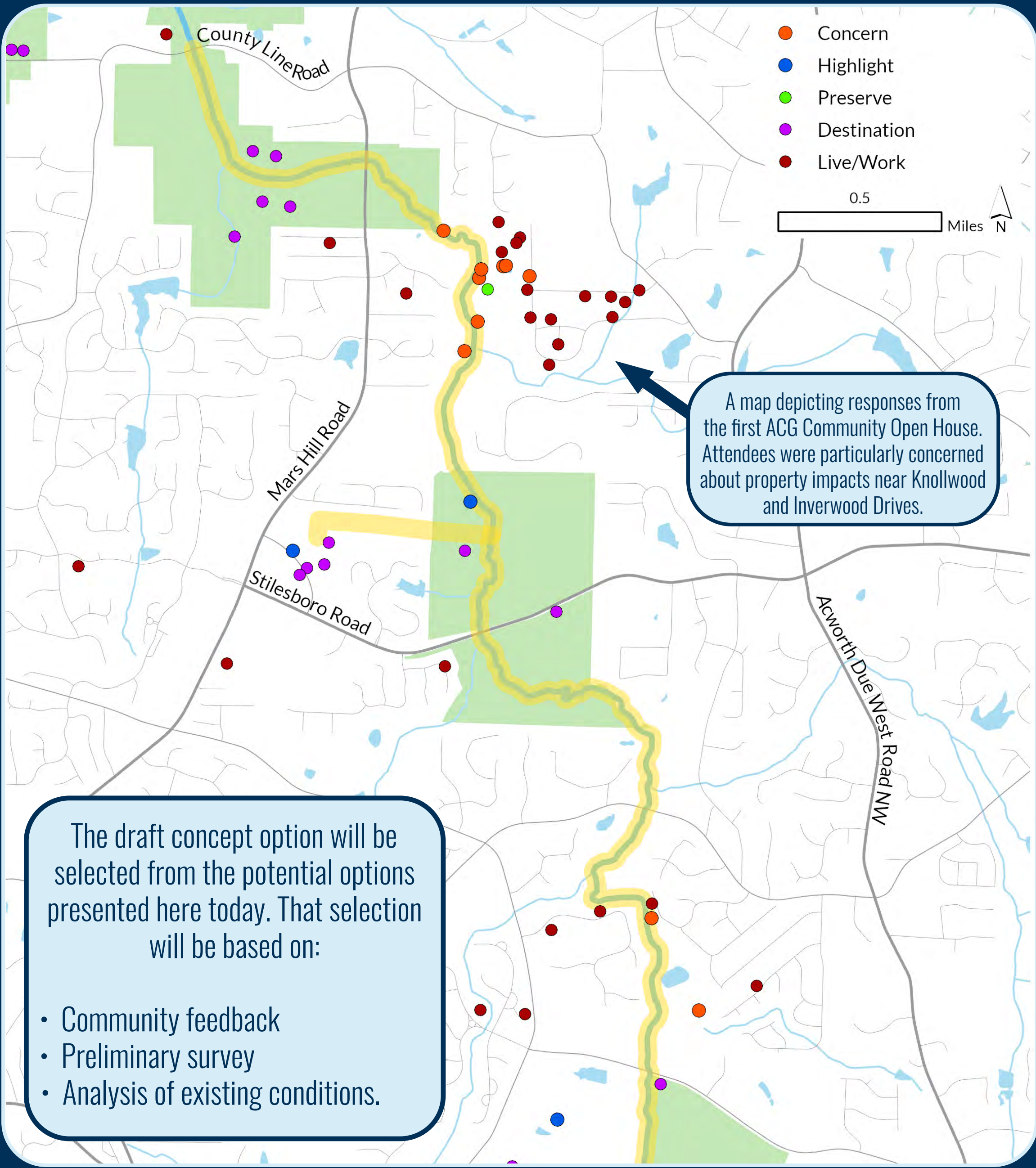
# STATION #2B: FUTURE ENGAGEMENT



Allatoona Creek Greenway Scoping Study | Community Open House #2 | April 1, 2025

Phase 3 of the engagement process is scheduled for Summer 2025. The project team will present a draft concept option for the proposed Allatoona Creek Greenway.

This upcoming phase will include pop-up events, a stakeholder committee meeting, project website updates, community walking tours, and a community open house.



- The draft concept option will be selected from the potential options presented here today. That selection will be based on:
- Community feedback
  - Preliminary survey
  - Analysis of existing conditions.

## Project Schedule

| Key Task                                      | Fall 2024 | Winter | Spring | Summer  | Fall    | Winter 2026 |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|--------|--------|---------|---------|-------------|
| Project Management                            | ● ● ●     | ● ● ●  | ● ● ●  | ● ● ●   | ● ● ●   | ● ● ●       |
| Stakeholder and Public Engagement             | S<br>OH   | S      | OH     | S<br>OH | S<br>OH | OH          |
| Existing Conditions and Technical Analysis    | -----     | ▲      |        |         |         |             |
| Alternatives Analysis and Concept Development |           | -----  |        |         | ▲       |             |
| Final Project Deliverables                    |           |        |        |         | -----   | ▲           |

S = Stakeholder Steering Committee; OH = Community Open House



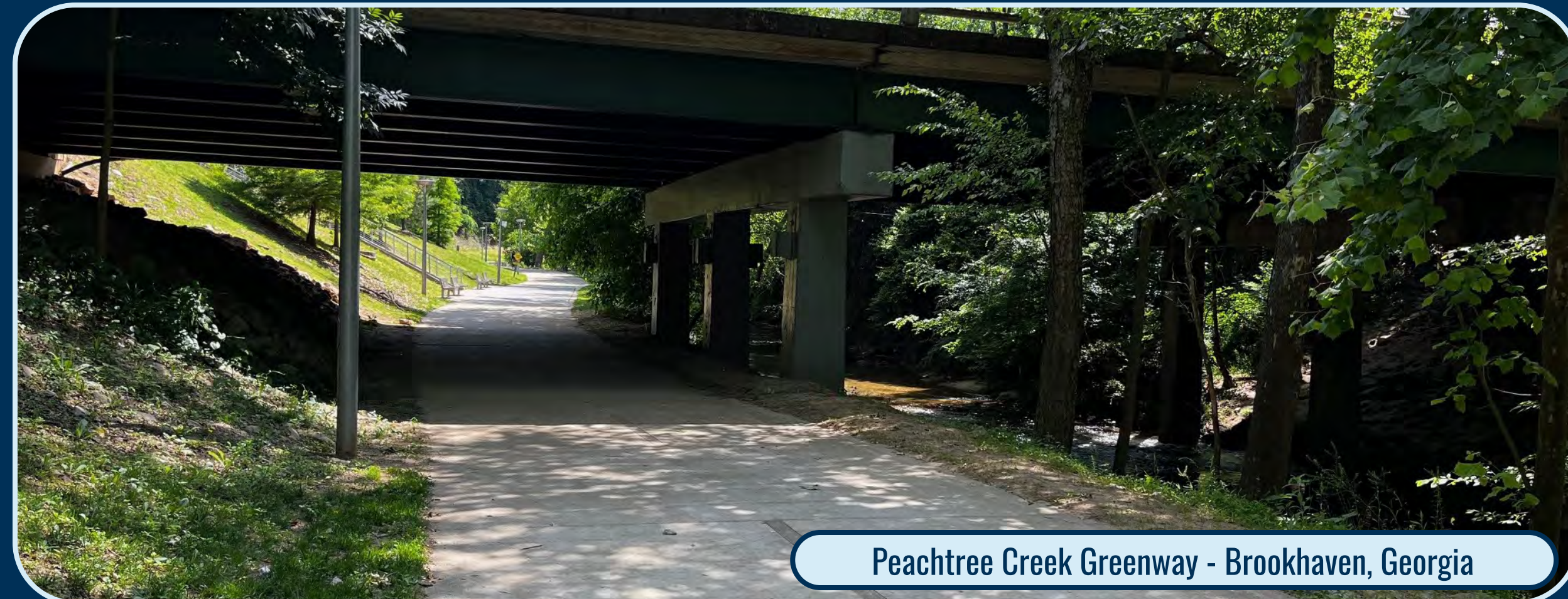
# STATION #3A: PRECEDENT TRAILS

Allatoona Creek Greenway Scoping Study | Community Open House #2 | April 1, 2025



Proctor Creek Greenway - Atlanta, Georgia

Photo credit: pathfoundation.org/proctor-creek-greenway



Peachtree Creek Greenway - Brookhaven, Georgia



Path400 - Atlanta, Georgia

Photo credit: path400greenway.org



Sugar Hill Greenway - Gwinnett County, Georgia



Suwanee Creek Greenway - Gwinnett County, Georgia

Photo credit: gwinnettcounty.com/departments/parksandrecreation

On this board, you will see examples of existing trails around the Atlanta region, and that may serve as precedent for constructing a trail within the Allatoona Creek area.

Our region provides many examples of how trails can be incorporated into the natural environment with similar constraints, challenges, and ecosystems. These greenways were tailored to serve various uses and users, and connect local communities with public spaces, while preserving as much of the natural space as possible. Amenities, design elements, and lessons learned from these other greenways can be used to inform the development of the Allatoona Creek Greenway.

## TRAIL FACT

The Atlanta region has a 100+ year history of greenways and trails:

**1908** - The first section of the Olmstead Linear Park system along Ponce de Leon Ave opens in Druid Hills.

**1935** - The first nature trails in Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park are opened to the public.

**1967** - The Stone Mountain Trail is opened in conjunction with Stone Mountain Park in Gwinnett County.

**1977** - The Cobb County Recreation Department commissions the Youth Conservation Corps to build nature trails in Lake Allatoona Park.

**1992** - Cobb Co Parks Director Ron Griffith requests a lease agreement from DOT for the abandoned CSX Silver Comet Rail line - for use as a multi-use trail.

**2011** - The first trails in Allatoona Creek Park open to the public.

# STATION #3B: FENCING OPTIONS

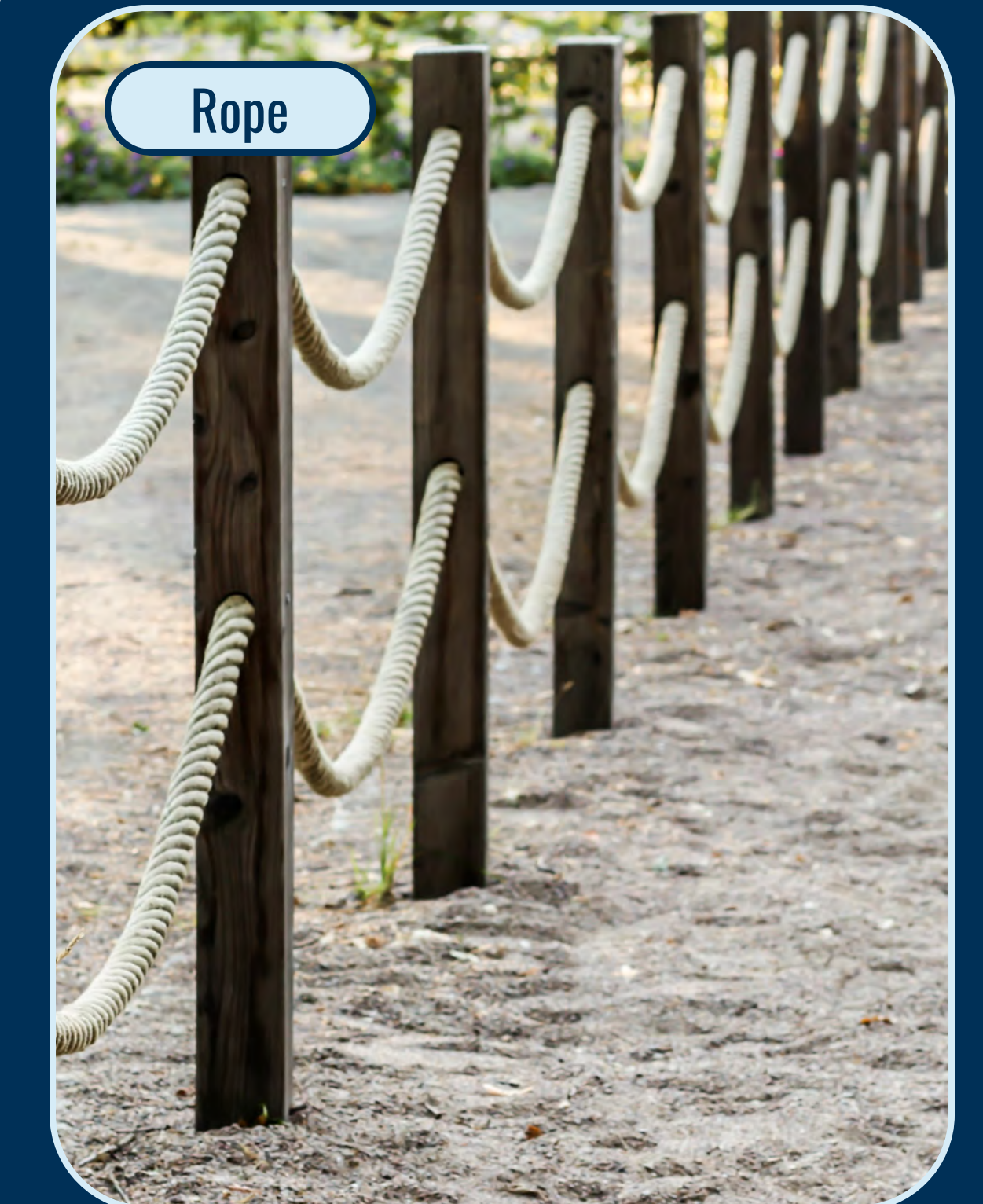
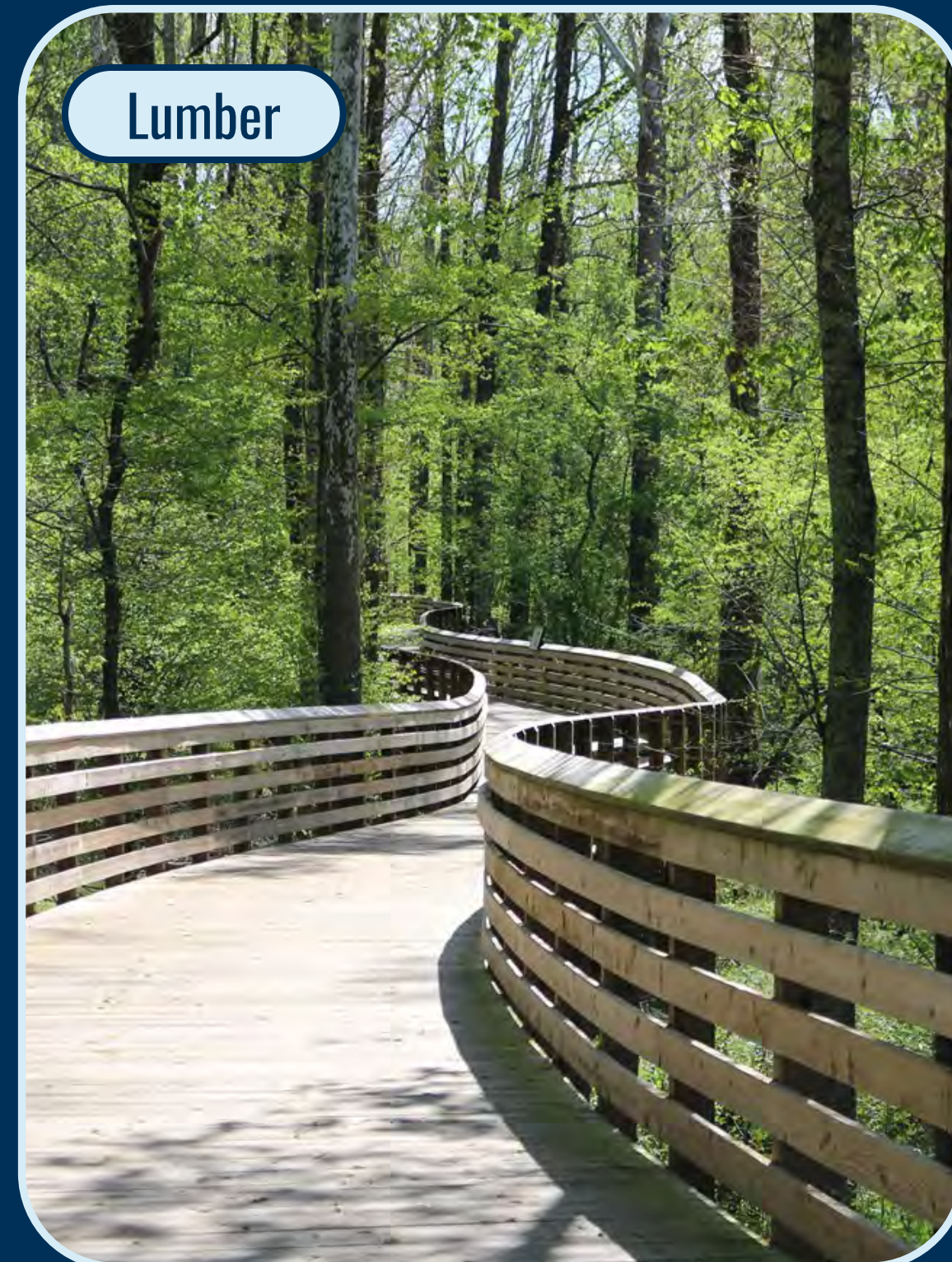


Allatoona Creek Greenway Scoping Study | Community Open House #2 | April 1, 2025

Please review the examples of the types of fencing methods that can be used to provide continued **safety and security** along any proposed trail. Fencing can also provide visual screening for nearby residents.

Using the two thumb pins provided, please place them underneath the options that you would like to see included as part of a future Allatoona Creek Greenway project.

The project team will use this feedback, as well as an in-depth examination of the existing conditions within the study area, to put together proposed screening and fencing options for the proposed Allatoona Creek Greenway (should it move forward).



Empty rounded rectangular box for feedback.

Empty rounded rectangular box for feedback.

Empty rounded rectangular box for feedback.

Empty rounded rectangular box for feedback.

# STATION #3C: SCREENING OPTIONS

Allatoona Creek Greenway Scoping Study | Community Open House #2 | April 1, 2025



Vegetation can be used to create boundaries between trails and adjoining parcels. Please see the types of vegetative screening methods that could be used to maintain continued privacy for residents living next door to the proposed Allatoona Creek Greenway.

Using the two thumb pins provided by the project team, please place them underneath the option that you would like to see included as part of any future Allatoona Creek Greenway project.

Grasses/Shrubs



Trees/Bushes



Native Replanting



Preserve Existing



# STATION #3D: TYPICAL SECTIONS

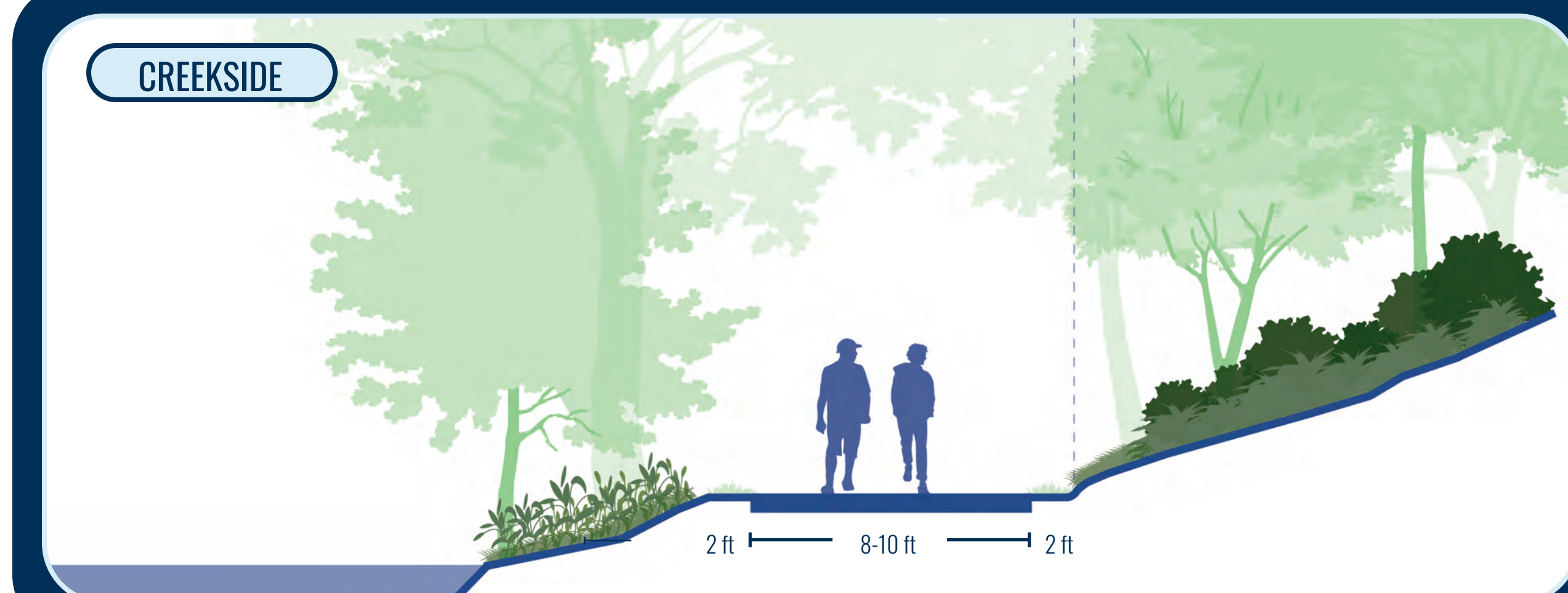
Allatoona Creek Greenway Scoping Study | Community Open House #2 | April 1, 2025



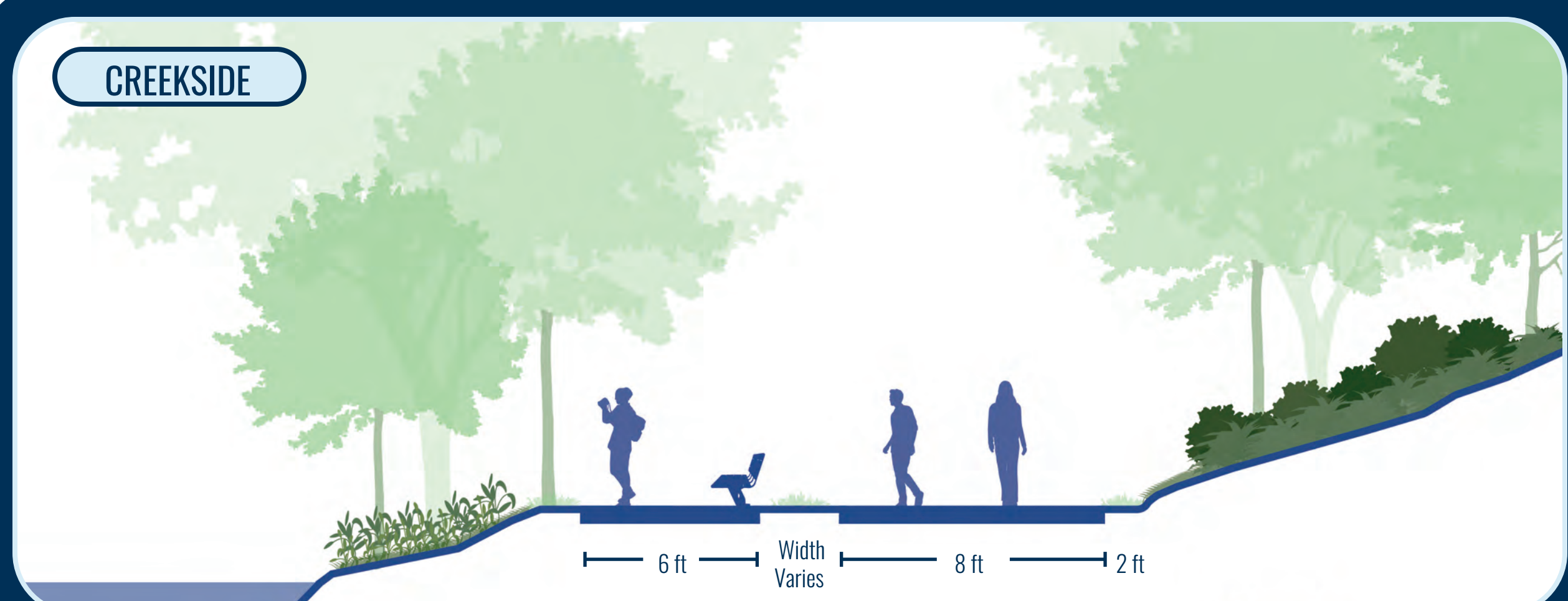
ROADSIDE



CREEKSIDE



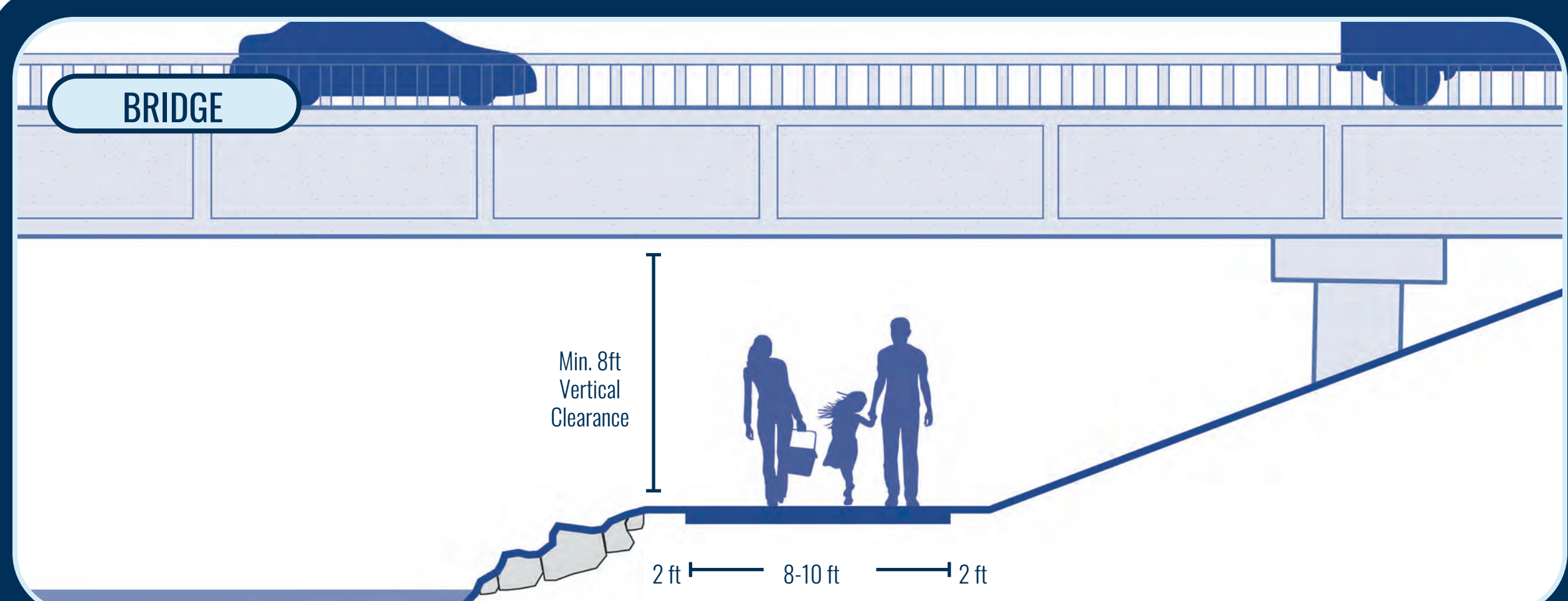
CREEKSIDE



BOARDWALK



BRIDGE

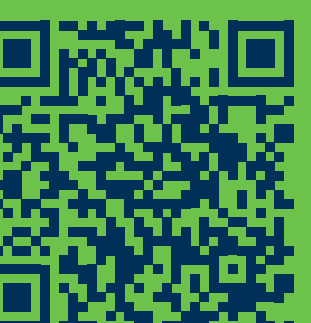


To the left are typical examples of cross sections used for trail and roadway design in different scenarios. Cross section diagrams can be helpful in envisioning how trails fit into various infrastructure, environmental, and elevation constraints. Information gathered from this study will be used to help develop the trail cross sections as part of the trail alignment development process. With this board, we are just providing a different way for you to think about or visualize the greenway. we are not asking that you provide feedback on any of the typical sections, as these are not sections proposed for Allatoona Creek.

## TRAIL FACT

Researchers at the National Institute of Health (NIH) have shown that spending at least 120 minutes a week in nature is associated with increased physical health and mental well-being - with even greater time in natural settings associated with even greater rates of health and well-being.

NIH "Spending at least 120 minutes a week in nature is associated with good health." Scientific reports vol. 9,17730



# STATION #3E: WHAT TO PRIORITIZE

Allatoona Creek Greenway Scoping Study | Community Open House #2 | April 1, 2025



Using the two thumb pins provided by the project team, please place them underneath the two factors that you believe should be weighted most heavily when determining a proposed greenway option.

**Private Property  
Impacts**

**Ensuring an  
Immersive Natural  
Experience**

**Access  
Management**  
(Parking, gates,  
trailheads, etc.)

**Number of  
Structures Needed**  
(Bridges, culverts, etc.)

**Minimizing Cost**  
(Construction,  
maintenance, etc.)

# STATION #4: TRAIL SAFETY

Allatoona Creek Greenway Scoping Study | Community Open House #2 | April 1, 2025



## Emergency Locator Markers

In late 2018, Cobb became the first Georgia County to establish an Emergency Locator Marker (ELM) Program. The mission of the ELM project is to provide trail markers at every quarter mile on Cobb County's Trail System. These trail markers are important for emergency responders, providing U.S. National Grid (USNG) alphanumeric coordinates. When provided in 9-1-1 calls, USNG coordinates quickly direct emergency responders to a location on a trail where a physical address might not exist.

For more information on the County's Emergency Locator Marker program (and how it is already resulting in faster response times), watch a CobbTV news story on the program by scanning the QR code below:



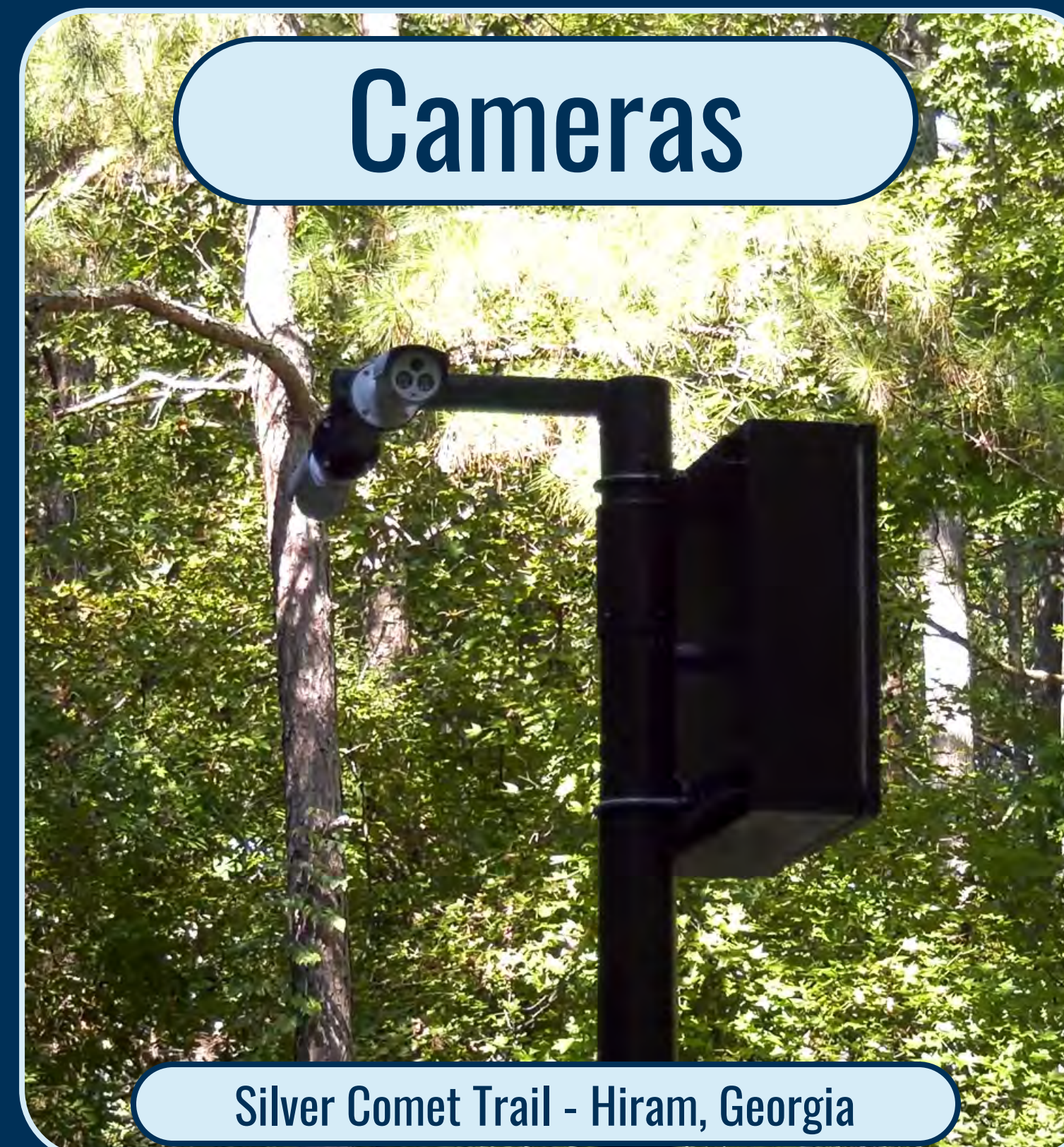
**TRAIL USER:** Easy-to-use method to give 911 their exact location when they need help

**911 CENTER:** Dispatchers can immediately pinpoint location of callers to send help

**FIRST RESPONDERS:** Ability to see exactly where to go and get route suggestions to quickly get to the person(s) needing help

Photo credits: CobbTV

## Cameras



Silver Comet Trail - Hiram, Georgia

## Lighting\*



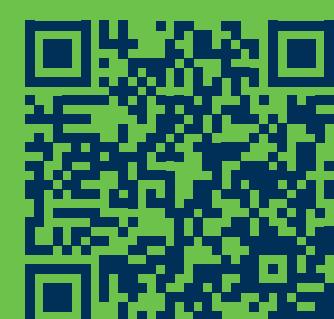
\*All Cobb Parks are dawn-to-dusk facilities, but segments along roadways could have lighting

Linear Park Trail - City of Fairfield

Photo credits: CBS News

## TRAIL FACT

Researchers at Clemson University published a study in 2022 showing that proximity to trails and urban greenspace was associated with lower crime risks across 301 major U.S. cities. Proximity to such facilities was associated with lower risks for both property crimes and violent crimes.

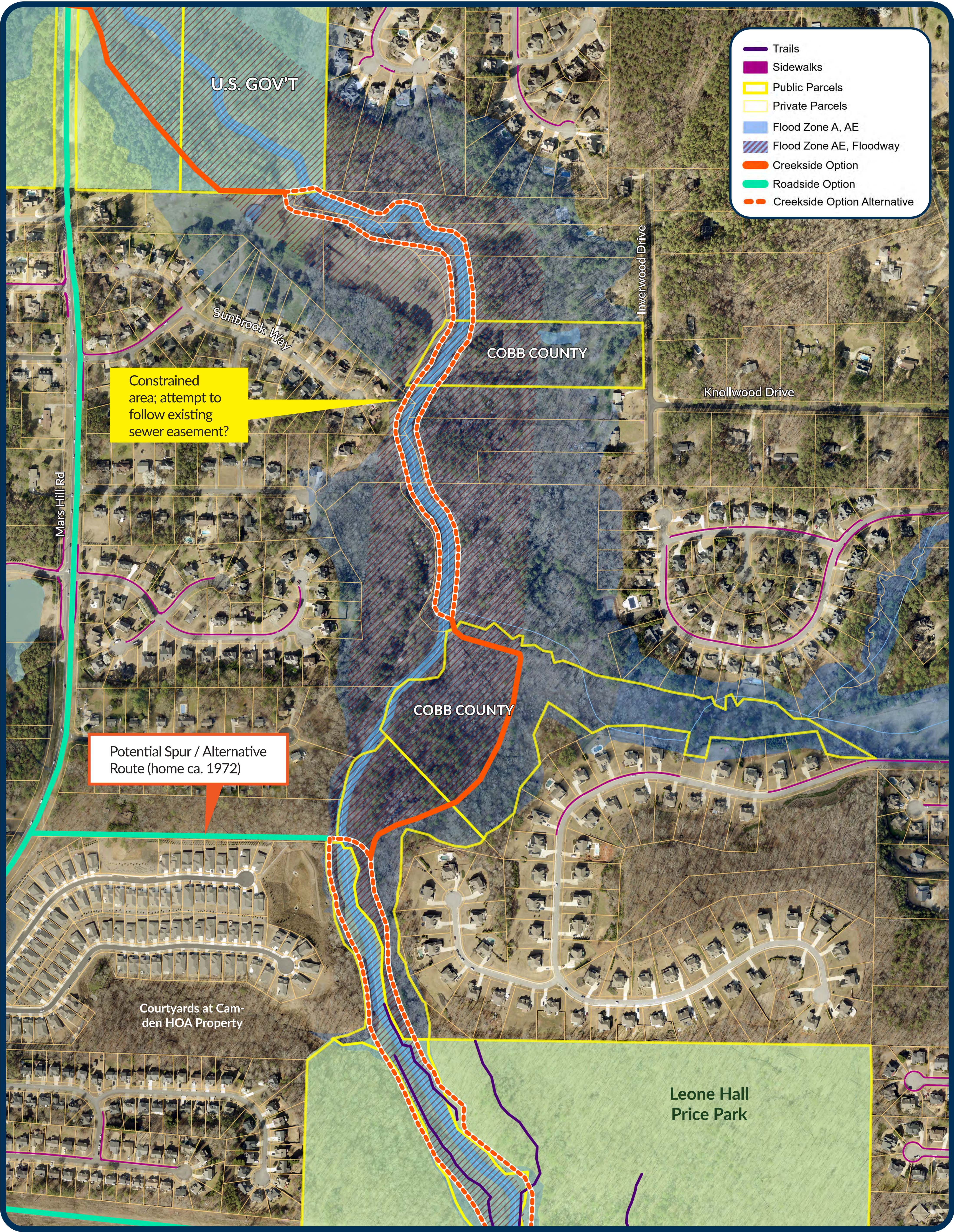


Ogletree, Larson, Powell, et al. "Urban greenspace linked to lower crime risk across 301 major U.S. cities". *Cities*. Volume 131, 2022.

# STATION #5A: DETAILED AREA #1



Allatoona Creek Greenway Scoping Study | Community Open House #2 | April 1, 2025



# STATION #5B: DETAILED AREA #2



Allatoona Creek Greenway Scoping Study | Community Open House #2 | April 1, 2025

