

Public Involvement

A rigorous public involvement effort was undertaken with guidance from a steering committee representing non-profits, EMS, local municipal and county governments, citizens, faith-based organizations and local institutions. Several public meetings, events and focus groups were held to discuss priority trail locations, opportunities and needs with stakeholders.

Program and Policy Recommendations

Several program and policy recommendations are included in the full plan report to support trail use, maximize investment and ensure new projects are well utilized. These include trail dedication options, ordinance revisions, events planning, staff and governing structure, adopt a trail, bridge access policies and maintenance planning.

Pilot Trail Segments

Rockingham County Pathways identifies several miles of new land trails and potential river access points. Pilot trail projects that could be easily implemented were identified and prioritized by stakeholders, with detailed maps included in the full plan, **not in any particular order**:

1. Belwys Lake Area and Knight Brown Preserve
2. Smith River Greenway to Railroad Trestle (Eden)
3. Madison Schools to Idol Park/Dan River
4. Mayo River State Park to Farris Memorial Park and Memorial Park Mountain Bike Trail (Mayodan)
5. Stoneville Town Park to Mayo River (Stoneville)
6. Jaycee Park Trail to Reidsville Lake (Reidsville)
7. Wentworth to Chinqua Penn Trail (Wentworth)
8. Rockingham Community College, Governmental Center, Animal Shelter and UMAR at the Roc (Wentworth)

Implementation

During the planning process, several miles of trail were completed in Wentworth around the Rockingham Community College Campus and near the Rockingham County Animal Shelter. Private grants from the Reidsville Area Foundation and REI Inc.,

along with volunteer support were used to complete the trail segments. The full plan document includes a resource appendix with information on other grant opportunities.

Action Plan

Completing and adopting the plan is just the beginning— a mixture of public, private and in-kind resources will be needed to ensure successful and on-going trail development. There are several key actions needed in order for *Rockingham County Pathways* to be fully implemented. The following action steps are detailed in the plan:

1. **Establish an implementation committee.**
This could be comprised of key members of the steering committee and interested individuals who participated in the planning process.
2. **Establish a formal partnership between Rockingham County and its municipalities to provide staff support for a County Trail system.**
 - a) Form an advisory board and governing structure
 - b) Calculate an annual cost plan
 - c) Identify seed funding sources for staff position
3. **Apply for grant funding from public and private resources to support priority trail projects in the plan.**
4. **Draft trail easement dedication requirements for subdivisions in the County ordinance where proposed trails exist on adopted plans.**
5. **Hold events to support trail funding (e.g. walks, runs, rides, silent auction).**
6. **Complete an ATV trails master plan.**
7. **Execute a maintenance plan and agreement for existing, planned and future trails.**

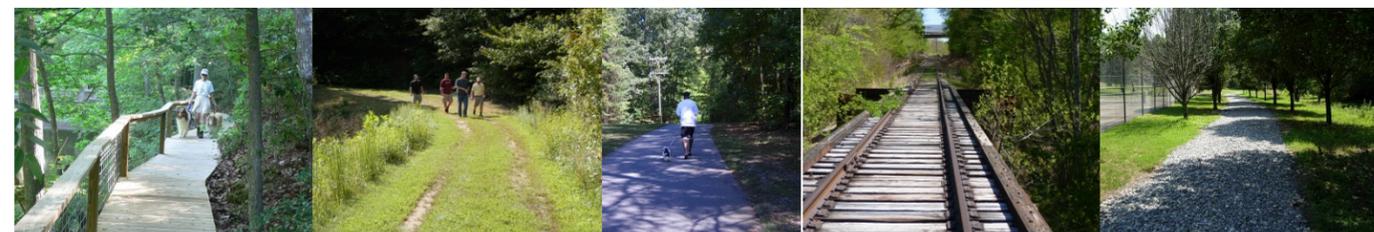
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ROCKINGHAM COUNTY PATHWAYS



Vision and Goals

Rockingham County Pathways is a long range plan that strives to work with municipalities, citizens, business owners, and landowners to identify and prioritize opportunities to create recreational trails throughout the County.

The following goals can be achieved by completing the trail projects found in this plan:

- **Link safe places to improve health** by increasing the variety of opportunities residents have and providing more off-road venues for physical activity.
- **Expand recreation opportunities** and improve access, providing outdoor activities for all age groups.
- **Protect open space, streams and rivers** by allowing people to experience and appreciate open space on designated routes and ensuring that sensitive environmental areas are left open instead of being developed for other more intense uses.
- **Support economic development** by offering local destinations, attracting people to area recreational opportunities and luring industry with high quality of life for their employees.

Plan Contents

- CHAPTER 1: Introduction – Purpose, Background and Vision
- CHAPTER 2: Existing Conditions – Existing Trails, Demographics and Plans
- CHAPTER 3: Trail Network Plan – Community Involvement, Proposed Trail and Pilot Trail Project Maps
- CHAPTER 4: Implementation – Action Plan
- APPENDIX A: Frequently Asked Questions
- APPENDIX B: Trail Survey Summary
- APPENDIX C: Stakeholder Meeting Notes
- APPENDIX D: Resources and Funding Sources
- APPENDIX E: Right of Way Encroachment Form
- APPENDIX F: Sample NCDOT Forms

Overview

Increasingly people are utilizing trails, greenways and open space for recreation and transportation. *Rockingham County Pathways* identifies existing trail and greenway assets, while cataloguing both opportunities and strategies for connecting people along trails to destinations throughout the County.

Existing Trails

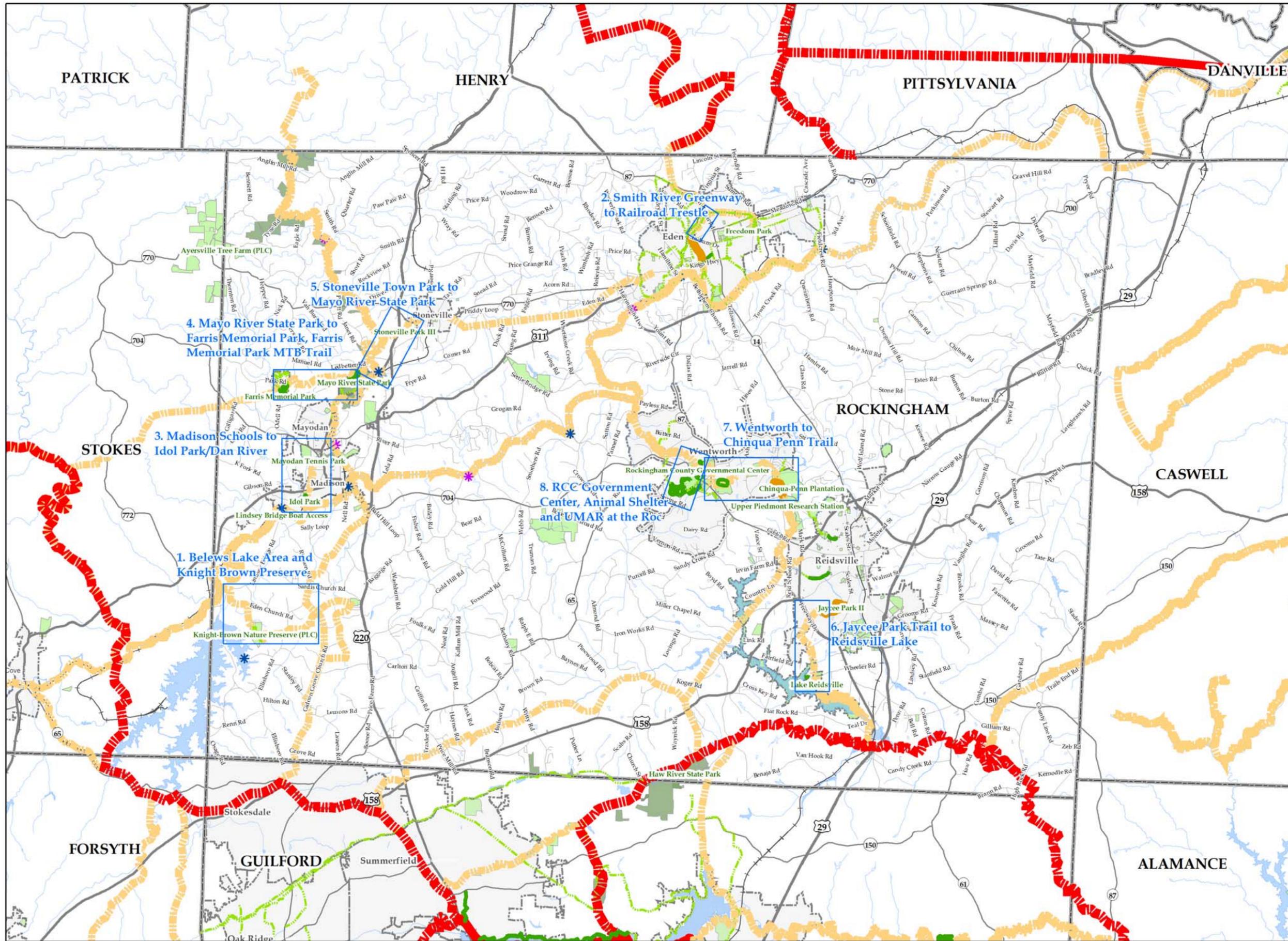
There are already several miles of existing trails in Rockingham County. A full listing of multi-use, nature trails and walking tracks is available in the full report.

The following list includes walking or multi-use trails of a 1/2 mile or more:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Chinqua-Penn Walking Trail</i> | <i>Mayo River State Park</i> |
| • 1.7 mile loop trail | • Long Trail 1.8 mile loop |
| | • Short trail 1/2 mile loop |
| <i>Farris Memorial Park</i> | <i>Rockingham Community College</i> |
| • 1 mile loop trail | • 5 mile Nature Trail |
| <i>Freedom Park</i> | <i>Smith River Greenway</i> |
| • 1 mile track | • 1.7 mile multi-use trail |
| <i>Haw River State Park</i> | |
| • 6 miles - multiple trails | |
| <i>Idol Park</i> | |
| • 1/2 mile paved trail | |
| <i>Jaycee Park Trail (Reidsville Greenway)</i> | |
| • 1.3 mile trail connecting Jaycee Park with Jaycee Ball Park | |



Chinqua-Penn Trail Photo: T. Butler



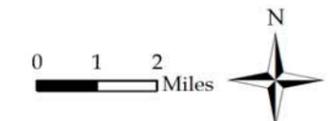
Rockingham County Pathways

Proposed Trails

- Trails:**
- State - Existing
 - State - Proposed
 - Regional - Existing
 - Regional - Proposed
 - Local - Existing
 - Local - Proposed
- River Access:**
- Existing Water Access
 - Proposed Water Access

- Transportation:**
- Major Highways
 - Roads
 - Railroads

- Other:**
- Hydrology
 - Open Space
 - State Parks
 - Municipal Boundary
 - County Boundary



Mapping provided by:



Date: March 6, 2013

Pilot Project not in any particular