

FY22

ADECA Recreational Trails Program
October 12, 2021

RTP

CITY OF FORT PAYNE, AL
Cross-Country Walking,
Running, and Bicycle Trail



APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please use this checklist to ensure all required application documents are included prior to submitting to ADECA. **Incomplete applications will not be processed.**

Letter on entity letterhead signed by the Chief Elected Official	X
Application Cover Sheet (Page 9)	X
Resolution adopted by the applicant authorizing the submission of the application and committing all matching funds required to complete the proposed project	X
A narrative description of the proposed project and responses to each of the application rating criterion (Pages 10-13)	X
Project Cost Estimate (Page 14)	X
Detailed project budget with descriptive narrative	X
Schedule of project activities necessary for project completion to include measurable milestones (18-month period beginning March 2022)	X
Preliminary site plan	X
Location/vicinity map	X
Property boundary area map	X
Verification of SAM.gov registration	X
Environmental Assessment:	
Concurrence from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	X
Concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	X
Concurrence from the Alabama Historical Commission	X
Approval to cross a public highway or a public utility right-of-way (if applicable)	
Water obstruction & encroachment permit (if applicable)	
Hazardous materials survey if real property is to be acquired with grant funds	
Environmental Assessment (if applicable)	
Copy of deed to property, plat, and/or legal description of the property proposed for purchase and/or development	X
NOTE: If real property is to be acquired with grant funds, the acquisition must comply with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (The Uniform Act). Implementation regulations for The Uniform Act are found in 49 CFR Part 24. You may not acquire property through donation or purchase until after the grant agreement has been executed and consultation with ADECA staff has occurred.	
Signed statement from landowner expressing support (This is applicable if the applicant and landowner are not the same. A recorded easement allowing trail construction will be required from the landowner before construction begins.)	
Environmental Screening Form and Environmental Checklist (Pages 15-19)	X
Letters of endorsement, support, and commitment; other documentation of citizen participation and public comment period	X

You must include a copy of this completed checklist with your application. Please see the following website for electronic versions of the forms:

<https://adeca.alabama.gov/trails/rtp-information-and-application-documents/>.



The City of Fort Payne

~FOUNDED 1838~

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FORT PAYNE, ALABAMA 35967
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E-MAIL: aparker@fortpayne.org

Mr. Kenneth Boswell, Director
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
P.O. Box 5690
Montgomery, AL 36103

RE: City of Fort Payne FY 2022 Recreational Trails Program Application

Dear Mr. Boswell,

On behalf of the City of Fort Payne, I am pleased to present to ADECA the Cross-Country Walking, Running, and Bicycle Trail Recreational Trails Program application to further enhance outdoor recreation opportunities within our city, and the Northeast Alabama region as a whole. The proposed project will construct a 3.1-mile multi-use trail located on the site of Fort Payne's new Sports Complex. The trail will be used for mountain biking, walking, and cross-country running.

The total estimated construction cost of the project is \$337,500.00. The City of Fort Payne is requesting \$270,000.00 in grant funding through the RTP program. The City of Fort Payne is committed to providing an in-kind match of \$67,500.00 to show its commitment to providing outdoor recreation opportunities for its citizens and tourists. The City of Fort Payne has a strong tradition of supporting and maintaining our Parks and Recreation facilities.

We very much appreciate your consideration of this request and any financial assistance that you may be able to provide. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Brian Baine
Mayor

Robert A. Parker
City Clerk

Lynn Brewer, Councilmember Pro-Tem
Phillip Smith, Council President

Brian Baine
Mayor

Walter Watson, Council President
W.N. "Rocky" Watson, City Attorney

Tricia Dunne
City Treasurer

Johnny Eberhart, Councilmember
John Smith, Councilmember

Application Cover Sheet

Applicant's Name (Organization): City of Fort Payne

Address: 100 Alabama Avenue NW

Fort Payne, Alabama

ZIP+4: 35967-2052

County: DeKalb

FEI Number: 63-6001265

DUNS Number: 081387912

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): _____

Project Title: Cross County Walking, Running and Bicycle Trail

Project Description: A 3.1 mile multi-use trail for cross county walking , running and mountain biking at the site of Fort Payne's new Sports Complex.

Park Name, if applicable: _____

Park (project location) Address: 6175 Martin Ave NE

Fort Payne, AL

ZIP+4: 35967-4058

Latitude and Longitude (deg/min/sec): (34.492690, -85.666110)

Congressional District (for project location): 4th

State Senate District (for project location): 8th

State House District (for project location): 24th

Applicant Contact Person and Title: Brian Braine, City of Fort Payne Mayor

Phone Number: 256-845-1524

Email Address: bbaine@fortpayne.org

Grant Administrator or Other Contact, Title, and Organization: Sara James, Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments

Phone Number: 256-326-6074

Email Address: Sara.james@tarcog.us

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF DeKALB
CITY OF FORT PAYNE



RESOLUTION No. 2021-34

A Resolution Authorizing and Approving the Application to the State of Alabama's Recreational Trails Program

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council (the "Council") of Fort Payne, Alabama (the "City") as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Payne proposes to make trail improvements within the City Limits; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Payne intends to apply to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) for grant assistance from the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) to improve the City's recreational needs; and

WHEREAS, said program is limited to funding a maximum of eighty percent (80%) of the total proposed project costs for multi-use trail systems, up to a limit of \$400,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the total estimated cost of the proposed multi-use trail improvements located near the Carden Sports Complex at 6175 Martin Avenue NE is \$337,500.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF FORT PAYNE:

1. That the City of Fort Payne shall submit an application to the State of Alabama Recreational Trails Program for \$270,000.00 in grant funding for said multi-use trail improvements near the Carden Sports Complex.
2. That should the project be approved the City of Fort Payne shall pledge \$67,500.00 in in-kind match funding to support the proposed project activities.
3. That in the event a grant is awarded, the City of Fort Payne understands that it will sign assurances and comply with all applicable Federal and State laws, rules, and regulations.
4. That the Mayor is duly authorized to sign said application for and act on behalf of the City of Fort Payne and is further authorized to execute all other documents required for application or disbursement of the State of Alabama Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant funds for the City of Fort Payne.

THE ABOVE AND FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS READ, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED on the 5th day of October 2021 by the City Council and the City of Fort Payne, Alabama.

THE CITY OF FORT PAYNE BY:

Brian Baine
Mayor

ATTEST:

Robert A. Parker
City Clerk



Project Descriptive Narrative

Provide a brief, yet informative, description of the proposed project and address each evaluation criterion on the following pages (provide additional information and documentation as may be needed to support your response to each evaluation criterion).

Project Information

Name of Project: Cross Country Walking, Running, and Bicycle Trail

Trail Length in Linear Feet (L.F.): 16,400 LF Trail Width: 6 ft

Trail Surface Type: Crushed aggregate (Gravel)

Application Type: Non-motorized for a Single Use Motorized
 Non-motorized for Diverse Use Educational

Type of Applicant: City/Town County
 State Other

Total Estimated Project Cost	\$ <u>337,500.00</u>
Grant Amount Requested	\$ <u>270,000.00</u>
Total Local Match	\$ <u>67,500.00</u>
Cash Match	\$ <u>0.00</u>
In-Kind Match	\$ <u>67,500.00</u>
Donation	\$ <u>0.00</u>

Brief Description of the Project:

A 3.1 mile multi-use trail designed for cross-country walking, running, and mountain biking located at the site of the City of Fort Payne’s new Sports Complex.

Please address all evaluation criteria (100 Total Available Points).

- 1. Describe the degree to which the project’s scope and feasibility meet the project area’s recreational needs. (Key Consideration: Does the project appear to be feasible and incorporate a good project design with consideration given to the natural and cultural environment in which the project is located and appropriate consideration given to identified needs and project benefits?) 10 Points Available**

The City of Fort Payne serves as the county seat of DeKalb County and has a population of 14,074 as of 2019 U.S Census ACS Estimates. Currently, the city is in the process of expanding its municipal Sports Complex to accommodate more diverse recreational activities for public use. This expansion will be done in phases for strategic growth. Phase 1 of this project included the creation of athletic fields, which has been completed and the city is now moving on to the next phase of the project. Phase 2 will expand the sports complex to develop a multi-use cross-country walking,

running, and bicycle trail. The proposed trail has a length of 5 kilometers, or 3.1 miles, and a multi-use recreational purpose. However, the trail will not accommodate motorized trail usage, only non-motorized uses such as hiking, mountain biking, and trail running. The trail will be open for all Fort Payne citizens, or visitors, to use.

Given the terrain at the Sports Complex, the addition of this trail would enhance the overall aesthetic of Fort Payne's park and recreation landscape. Not only benefiting the city's recreational development, the trail will also increase overall health and wellness for those who choose to utilize it. According to the 2013-2018 Alabama Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), Fort Payne is located within Region 12, an area where outdoor recreation is extremely valued. As documented in the SCORP, walking for pleasure is ranked #1, trail hiking #9, jogging #11, and mountain biking #13 in populations participating in outdoor recreation in the region. Given the circumstances in which the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the world and individual behaviors, it is important to understand that this investment into outdoor recreation will continue. enable Fort Payne's residents and visitors to recreate outdoors in a socially distanced, safe manner while also continuing to foster a mindset of healthy living.

Fort Payne is well-positioned as a "Gateway into Alabama" as a major tourist attraction for those traveling into the state. In addition to other nature sites to explore such as Lookout Mountain, DeSoto State Park, Little River Canyon National Preserve, and Forever Wild Land Trust properties, Fort Payne is uniquely positioned as an outdoor recreation tourism destination in Northeast Alabama. The vision for this trail is that it will be the gateway to additional outdoor recreation opportunities at the new Sports Complex. Ultimately, the trail will provide a new recreation destination, increase public health, tourism, and economic development within Fort Payne and DeKalb County.

The trail is located on a large tract of land which was acquired by the City of Fort Payne in 2018. This land includes terrain partially in the valley and partially on the side of Lookout Mountain, which will provide varying elevations for a unique outdoor recreational experience. There are numerous natural assets along the project property a spring, and timberland. To ensure the protection of the streams crossing through the trail, there will be two bridges that will be constructed to preserve the natural life while remaining functional for public use. The first bridge is proposed to be 6 ft-wide for pedestrians and bicyclists, and the second bridge will be 14 ft-wide to accommodate both pedestrians and maintenance vehicles.

The city has taken into consideration the need for increased recreational activities within Fort Payne, including walking, meditation/yoga, and mountain bicycling. Not only will the citizens within Fort Payne benefit, but those coming from outside the city limits will also have an exciting attraction. Another major benefit of this trail is the dual purpose it can serve for the Fort Payne Cross County and Mountain Biking teams to host events and practice on the trail. Using the trail for these purposes will not affect the public's ability to utilize the trail system and will, in fact, promote a sense of pride and community within Fort Payne as citizens can watch Fort Payne High School students compete. Ideally, creating this space will allow all to enjoy it, including elderly citizens, economically disadvantaged persons, community groups, and any others in the Fort Payne community.

- 2. Describe the ways in which the project provides for the greatest number of compatible recreational purposes. (Key Consideration: An important concern is that the project will enhance the quality and quantity of recreational trail opportunities available in the community or region. Points will be given to projects with connectivity to other trails and/or parks, environmental education and preservation, and economic development opportunities.) 10 Points Available**

The proposed trail will be open for public use for hiking, mountain biking, and running. The Fort Payne School System will also have the ability to utilize the trail for extracurricular activities or educational purposes. The 6-ft-wide trail will be able to accommodate walkers, hikers, joggers, and regular maintenance needs. No motorized vehicles will be allowed on the trail, other than in certain areas for trail maintenance.

The proposed trail is on the site of the City of Fort Payne's new Sports Complex, which features soccer, baseball, softball, and general use fields, a Miracle Field for baseball, nature trails, concession stands, restrooms, and an amphitheater. Although no direct plans for environmental education and preservation activities exist now, with the development of this area, opportunities to increase said activities would begin to come into fruition. The proximity of the site to Fort Payne's High Schools and other educational institutions could incentivize more educators to teach their students about nature while benefiting from the overall aesthetics and health benefits that the complex and proposed trail has to offer. In addition, building upon this proposed trail development, the City of Fort Payne has future plans to connect this trail up Lookout Mountain into DeSoto State Park. This project is an essential element in the planned park system's effort to bolster tourism, economic revitalization, and the creation of recreational opportunities to improve health and wellness outcomes. Please see the attached DeKalb County Regional Trails Network Strategic Plan to see how the proposed trail will benefit the comprehensive trail system planned within DeKalb County and Fort Payne.

- 3. Describe the ways in which the project provides a new, unique, or more effective means for making trail opportunities available to the public. (Key Consideration: This criterion includes projects of national, regional, and local demonstration value. The most important concern is whether the grant recipient is committed to trying an approach that is new at the local level. Additional points are awarded for nationwide applicability and statewide or regional value. The applicant must commit to documenting the results of the demonstration and identify the method to be used in documenting the results.) 10 Points Available**

The proposed trail at the site of Fort Payne's Sports Complex offers a new experience for the user to enjoy the natural aesthetics the project location has to offer alongside Lookout Mountain. Within DeKalb County, there hasn't been a diverse-use trail connected to additional outdoor recreation and educational institutions. Utilizing the connectivity of trails, increasing human mobility, and recreational activities will be a major economic booster for the city. The project will certainly provide a new, unique, and effective means for the public to access more trail opportunities with the ample parking, public facilities, and concession areas that will be located on the Sports Complex site once fully completed. The complex will be available to the public during

operational hours as well as spectators and attendees of events being held at the Sports Complex.

With the completion of this complex, it will in turn increase outdoor tourism locally and regionally, as it will appeal to outdoor recreation enthusiasts and tourists alike. Regionally, the trail will provide an additional access point to outdoor recreation activities. During the height of the pandemic when individuals were searching for a safe way to remain healthy while following guidelines set in place, outdoor recreation saw a significant increase in participation. Fort Payne is capitalizing on its natural landscape amid a global pandemic to better improve the quality of life for their citizens and tourists. This trail provides an opportunity for Fort Payne to generate additional tourism and increased revenue by hosting festivals, mountain bike races, and cross-county competitions, and other recreational activities for outdoor enthusiasts.

- 4. Describe the ways in which the project facilitates the access and use of trails by persons with disabilities, older adults, economically disadvantaged, and other special populations or groups. (Key Consideration: Whether the project will expand recreation opportunities for special populations with recreation deficiencies.) 10 Points Available**

The proposed trail will be designed to accommodate greater use by all members of the public including older citizens and the economically disadvantaged. The trail and Sports Complex will have ample parking and restrooms, both of which are ADA compliant and free of charge to accommodate the various people that will be using the trails. Though the trail system may not be completely ADA accessible due to the changes in elevation and terrain, the city of Fort Payne will create a space for people with disabilities to access the trailhead and enjoy the natural beauty of the surrounding landscape and Sports Complex. In addition, as designed, the Sports Complex will feature a Miracle Field, which is a custom-designed field with cushioned, rubberized turf to help prevent injuries, wheelchair-accessible dugouts, and a completely flat barrier-free surface to provide accessibility for visually impaired players and players in wheelchairs. With the incorporation of the Miracle Field, the sports complex is designed to be ADA accessible and offer outdoor recreation opportunities for all.

- 5. Describe the ways in which the project creates opportunities for new partnerships between trail users, private interest groups, and public agencies within the project area. (Key Consideration: The major concern is that the project is a component of an integrated effort to enhance economic revitalization and community conservation. Points will be given to applicants providing evidence of cooperative efforts with trail user groups and/or multiple public meetings.) 10 Points Available**

The City of Fort Payne is confident that the proposed trail will create numerous opportunities for new and developing local partnerships to grow. Collaborations between trail users, private interest groups, and public agencies will generate more attraction as the trail and Sports Complex are more frequently used. The multi-use trail will create a space for relationships among cross-country walkers, runners, and mountain bikers, as well as sports enthusiasts participating in events at the Complex to be developed. As the trail is designed to be competition length (5K) many local community groups are interested in utilizing the trail and associated facilities for charity

“fun” runs/hikes or for other race-related opportunities.

A public partnership between the City of Fort Payne and Fort Payne City Schools is also an important piece to this project. In an effort to encourage physical and mental well-being for Fort Payne’s youth, the trail will be available for Fort Payne City Schools to use the trail for field trips, educational activities, and potentially usage for mountain biking and cross country teams. Support from the Southern Off-Road Biking Association, their parent organization, International Mountain Biking Association, and local mountain bike enthusiasts is fostering new and energized community partnerships around mountain biking in Fort Payne. The goal of this is to increase outdoor recreation options within the city and bring attraction to the natural beauty this landscape has to offer.

All the amenities that will be built at the Sports Complex, hold a tremendous number of promising outcomes for the city, especially within tourism, arts, culture, sports, and outdoor programming. Ultimately, this will lead to significant economic revitalization and further community collaboration within Fort Payne and DeKalb County.

Please see the attached public input forms from over 30 Fort Payne citizens who are excited about this opportunity in their community. Public input is extremely important to the City of Fort Payne, and having support of those in the community is a critical factor in proceeding with this project.

- 6. Describe the ways in which the project uses the grant funds to leverage other public or private investments (in the form of services and materials as well as dollars). (Key Consideration: The major concern is whether actual leveraging is assured or the potential for leveraging is good, outside of any funds committed for the initial grant match. Points will be given for applicants committing double the minimum local match or higher. Supporting documentation must be included in the application.)**
10 Points Available

The City of Fort Payne is providing a \$67,500.00 match or 20 percent of the total project cost in the form of an in-kind match for equipment and labor. In addition, the City of Fort Payne purchased the land outright in 2018 and has completed the construction of Phase 1, the athletic fields, with their funds. The size of the total local commitment is demonstrative of the significance of this project to the City of Fort Payne and the DeKalb County region. While the City has invested heavily in the development of the new Sports Complex, the continuation of their outdoor recreation expansion cannot be accomplished without supplemental grant funding. Once completed, the City of Fort Payne plans to continue developing plans to connect additional trails up Lookout Mountain to DeSoto State Park.

Alabama Tourism Department released a 2020-2021 Annual Economic Impact report. Despite the pandemic's effect on tourism traffic, Alabama was able to generate \$13.7 billion in tourism revenue in 2020. However, when compared to 2019 revenue, the revenue generated decreased by \$3.3 billion. The further development of the Sports Complex through this proposed diverse use trail will create a stable revenue source for the city and the whole of DeKalb County.

Tourism and travel in DeKalb County is a growing industry and will continue to grow as trails such as the proposed project continue to be developed. The following table and travel-related data show the dollars to be leveraged in Fort Payne by tourists, and outdoor recreation enthusiasts alike. DeKalb County has seen a negative growth rate from the previous year due to the pandemic. The city is making plans to continue with the development of the Sports Complex and with the creation of this trail, the intent is for there to be more recreational options to entice more attraction to the city in the coming years.

Category	2018	2019	2020	2019-2020 Rate of Growth
Total Travel-Related Employment	692	802	730	-9%
Total Travel-Related Earnings	28,386,329	32,177,947	31,213,456	-3%
Travel-Related Expenditures	89,692,842	99,832,289	96,722,344	-3.1%
Annual Lodging Tax	458,363	510,179	494,287	-3.11%

Source: Alabama Tourism Industry 2020 Economic Impact Report

- 7. Describe the degree of commitment to continue operation and maintenance of the project. Include an operation and maintenance plan detailing the amount of money needed to operate and maintain the trail/facility after project completion and identify who will be responsible for these activities. (Key Consideration: Whether the grant recipient is willing to commit to continue the maintenance and operation of the facilities and whether the applicant provides a realistic operation and maintenance plan/budget. Additional points will be awarded to applicants demonstrating innovative funding measures for trail maintenance.) 10 Points Available**

Maintenance of the proposed trail will be provided by the City of Fort Payne Parks and Recreation Department. The Parks and Recreation Department is directed by Ms. Robin Brothers and managed by a professional staff of four individuals overseeing various portions of the City of Fort Payne Parks and Recreation System. Additionally, there are 14 other full-time staff members from maintenance to sports complex staff and others who will contribute to the maintenance of the trail and its surrounding areas. Equipment owned by the City for maintenance and repair services include four (4) deck mowers, two (2) reel mowers, three (3) blowers, an edger and an assortment of hand tools.

The Fort Payne Parks and Recreation Department operates within a \$1.4 million budget with \$65,000 dedicated to repair and maintenance of building and lands. Given the city's significant investment in the development of the entire new Sports Complex facility and its ability to promote further tourism, it is extremely important that all of the

Complex's recreational assets, including the proposed trail, are maintained sufficiently.

Please see the attached Parks Maintenance Operation Plan and Recreation/Sports Complex Expense FY2022 documents for a further breakdown of this information.

- 8. The degree to which community involvement is addressed: i.e., (A) Project idea originated with trail users or a community group that has substantial knowledge, and (B) The private sector (including individual citizens, community groups, and/or local business enterprises) has participated in the development of the proposed idea and has made commitments of labor, money, or materials to support project implementation. (Key Consideration: The objective is to determine if the project is responding to citizen-identified needs. The priority of the project to users is evidenced by citizen support for the idea. Points will be awarded to applicants demonstrating that the project concept was originally proposed at the grassroots level and, especially, for extensive citizen or private organization involvement in project development and support in project implementation as well as applicants demonstrating extensive involvement and participation from citizens and interest groups during all phases of application development and commitments beyond. Supporting documentation must be included in the application.) 10 Points Available**

The City of Fort Payne is dedicated to making themselves an outdoor recreation destination and satisfy the demand for these activities by their citizens. There is a strong community desire for increased number and quality of outdoor recreation opportunities within Fort Payne, due to the current Sports Complex being landlocked, and no sites for mountain biking currently existing within Fort Payne. There have also been several community survey responses from local citizens that are passionate about the development of this trail. Expressing their excitement that the city has plans to further expand its outdoor and recreational aspects. Several respondents to the public input form were of the elderly population. Voicing the fact that the trail would provide another place to walk for health benefits. Families of the community have also expressed the excitement for there to be a healthy activity for their children to enjoy nature. (See Public Input Documents)

This trail is a product of the DeKalb County Regional Trails Network Strategic Plan completed in 2019. Stakeholders and participating entities in this plan development include representatives from the National Park Service, Alabama State Parks, Jacksonville State University, DeKalb County Tourism, EDA, City of Fort Payne, Town of Mentone, Town of Valley Head, Alabama Department of Transportation, and Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments. This plan identified the need for increased outdoor recreation activities in DeKalb County and created a proposed regional network of trails. The proposed trail is a working development of Segments 7 & 8 of the proposed network. (See attached DeKalb County Regional Trail Plan.)

In 2014, the Lookout Mountain Gateway Community was provided seed funding by the Appalachian Regional Commission to develop ideas that would promote the growth of outdoor recreation as a method of boosting economic activity within rural economically challenged areas. This group consisted of local business owners, local elected officials, government representatives, local economic development agency officials, the Fort Payne Chamber of Commerce, DeKalb Tourism Board, and numerous others

that met monthly for 12 consecutive months. This local stakeholder consortium identified needs within the community, especially for multi-use trails for trail running, walking, and mountain biking-all to create a multi-use environment for the public to enjoy.

Fort Payne recently participated in Opportunity Alabama's Rural Recovery Accelerator program which is a community-oriented technical assistance program designed to help low-income and rural communities build economic resiliency strategies. They are working to build a Recovery Roadmap that will lead efforts for increased investment in Fort Payne's Opportunity Zones. An essential piece to recruit investors into the area is the attractive outdoor recreation opportunities. The proposed trail and Sports Complex will perfectly enhance Fort Payne's appeal to outside investors.

9. Describe in detail how the trail will be managed. Include discussion on season length, hours of operation, limitations on use, enforcement provisions, and scheduling. 10 Points Available

As part of the City of Fort Payne recreational facilities, the proposed trail will be managed by the Fort Payne Parks and Recreational Department. The Fort Payne Police Department will provide security for the facility. The FPPD provides frequent patrols through existing park facilities. The trail will be open for public use from sunrise to dusk, seven days a week, year-round; guidelines for use will be directed by the City of Fort Payne Rules and Regulations for Parks and Recreational Area Ordinance Number 2007-07 (please see attached). Maintenance will be provided on an as-needed basis provided via a weekly inspection by city parks and recreation staff. Scheduling use of the proposed trail for cross-country meets or other special running, hiking, or biking events, will be managed through the Parks and Recreation Department using the established process to rent of any other city park facility.

10. Identify and describe the service area of the project. Approximately how many people do you propose to serve with this project? Identify other trail resources in the service area by trail type (motorized, non-motorized, multi-use), distance, location in relation to the proposed trail, and ownership. (Key Consideration: The RTP was created to address trail needs in the urban and rural areas of the state. In order to assess the need for additional trails it is first necessary to identify the quantity and location of existing resources within the service area. It is also necessary to establish a service area – either population or resource based. For example, a population-based service area could be a neighborhood, school district, or political jurisdiction whereas, a resource-based service area might be defined along a linear greenway, water course, or unique natural/cultural area. However, in both instances, an estimate of the number of beneficiaries should be provided. Please identify how the project service area was determined.) 10 Points Available

The proposed project will serve all of DeKalb County which has a total population of 71,513 and the City of Fort Payne which has a total population of 14,074 according to the 2019 U.S. Census ACS Estimate. Other trail resources in the area include DeSoto State Park, Little River Canyon National Preserve trail system, and Forever Wild Land Trust property. DeSoto State Park is located 8 miles northeast of Fort Payne and offers multi-use non-motorized hiking and mountain biking trails. Little River Canyon

National Preserve is located 17 miles southeast of Fort Payne and offers multi-use non-motorized trails for hiking and biking. Forever Wild Land Trust Property is 17 miles east of Fort Payne and offers multi-use non-motorized trails for hiking and biking.

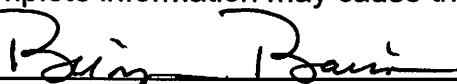
Despite the existing trail resources in the project's service area, this project presents a unique opportunity to construct a 3.1-mile cross-country walking, running, and bicycling trail with easy access to the City of Fort Payne's Sports Complex, school system, and downtown corridor. With the creation of this trail, the City of Fort Payne will have a recreational activity within reach and not necessarily have to travel outside the city limits. This is a feature that the other outdoor recreation elements in the area do not have and will be attractive for tourists and outdoor recreation enthusiasts, students, community groups, as well as those who frequent the sports complex for other recreational purposes.

NOTE: Property acquired with RTP funds must remain open to the public in perpetuity. Should the property cease to be open to the public for trail use, the applicant must repay the RTP 80% (or the federal percentage share) of the fair market value of the property at the time of the change in use. If the project is located on an easement or on leased land, the minimum timeframe for the easement or lease is 25 years. The project must remain open for public access for the use for which the RTP funds were intended during that time. For development projects on applicant owned property, the project must remain open for public access for the use for which the RTP funds were intended for a minimum of 25 years.

Total Project Cost: \$337,500.00 Funds Requested: \$270,000.00

Important Note: The maximum grant amount by trail type is **\$200,000.00** for non-motorized, single-use trails; **\$400,000.00** for non-motorized, diverse-use trails; **\$524,937.00** for motorized trails; or **\$87,489.00** for education projects.

The applicant certifies that the data contained in the application is true and correct; the application has been duly authorized; and, the applicant understands that incorrect or incomplete information may cause the application to be rejected.


(Chief Elected Official's Signature)

Mayor
(Title)

9/30/2021
(Date)

Project Cost Estimate

The Recreational Trails Program provides **80/20 matching** fund grants. That is, the RTP will fund up to 80 percent of the project cost and the grant recipient must provide at least 20 percent in the form of cash, in-kind, and/or donated contributions.

Eligible Costs

1. Design, engineering, construction oversight services (**may not exceed 10% of the total construction cost**)
2. Direct labor
3. Special tradesmen secured under a service purchase contract
4. Rental of equipment
5. Construction contracts
6. Project materials
7. Signage¹
8. Land acquisition
9. Professional project administration (grant consultant) (**may not exceed 5% of total project cost**)

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

BUDGET ITEM	TOTAL	RTP SHARE	MATCHING SHARE
Acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction Contracts	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$0
Equipment Rental	\$33,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$28,000.00
Labor	\$39,500.00	\$0	\$39,500.00
Signage	\$0	\$0	\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$229,930.00	\$229,930.00	\$0
Administration	\$16,070.00	\$16,070.00	\$0
Engineering	\$15,500.00	\$15,500.00	\$0
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$337,500.00	\$270,000.00	\$67,500.00

¹ Signs which function as traffic control devices must conform with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Part IX of the MUTCD, Traffic Controls for Bicycle Facilities, covers the bicycle related signs, pavement markings, and signals which may be used on highways or bikeways. Part IX is applicable to shared use paths (non-motorized multiple-use trails which may provide a transportation purpose). The publication Standard Highway Signs has the detailed drawings for the highway signs prescribed in the MUTCD. These documents are available for purchase from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

Signs which do not function as traffic control devices are not subject to the MUTCD. However, informational signs and kiosks must take into consideration the needs of various users, such as: people who are blind or who have low vision, people who use wheelchairs, and children.

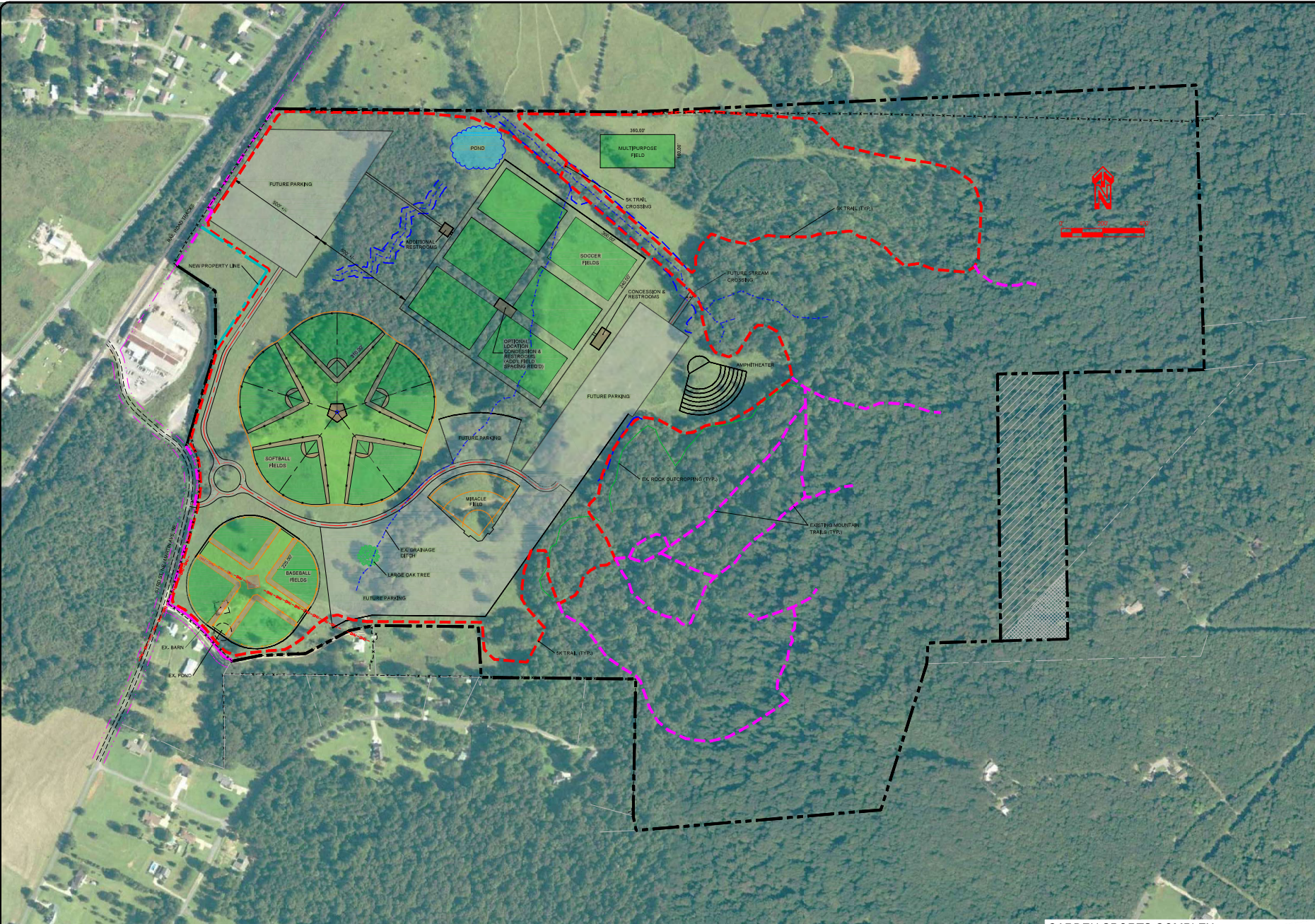
PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATE
FOR
CROSS COUNTRY AND BICYCLE TRAIL AT SPORTS COMPLEX
CITY OF FORT PAYNE
SEPTEMBER 2021

NO.	DESCRIPTION	QUAN	UNITS	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
MATERIALS					
1	Crusher Run Aggregate for Trail Surface	2,400	TON	\$ 9.50	\$ 22,800.00
2	Chert for Trail Construction	1	LS	8,400.00	8,400.00
3	Culvert for Trail Cross Drains	220	LF	9.50	2,090.00
4	Crusher Run Aggregate for Cross Drain Bedding	150	TON	9.50	1,425.00
5	Rebar and Form Materials for Bridge Construction	1	LS	8,000.00	8,000.00
6	Concrete for Bridge Construction	50	CY	105.00	5,250.00
7	Aggregate for Bridge Construction	100	TON	9.50	950.00
8	Pre-Fabricated Bridge - 6 ft Wide	1	LS	70,000.00	70,000.00
9	Pre-Fabricated Bridge - 14 ft Wide	1	LS	105,000.00	105,000.00
10	Erosion Control Materials	1	LS	6,015.00	6,015.00
EQUIPMENT - Rental					
11	Bridge Construction - Crane Rental	1	LS	5,000.00	5,000.00
LABOR - In-Kind Services					
12	Trail Construction - In-Kind Services	1	LS	35,000.00	35,000.00
13	Bridge Construction - Labor - In-Kind Services	1	LS	4,500.00	4,500.00
EQUIPMENT - In-Kind Services					
14	Trail Construction - Equipment - In-Kind Services	1	LS	25,000.00	25,000.00
15	Bridge Construction - Equipment - In-Kind Services	1	LS	3,000.00	3,000.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST:					\$ 302,430.00
Engineer Design:					15,500.00
Construction Observation (By Owner):					-
Construction Stormwater Permit Fees and Preparation:					3,500.00
Project Administration (TARCOG) (5%):					16,070.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST:					\$ 337,500.00

CASH (Materials, Rental and Professional Services):	\$ 270,000.00	80.0%
IN-KIND (Labor and Equipment):	67,500.00	20.0%
	337,500.00	

		Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
Design	Preliminary Design Analysis / Project Scope with City and RTP																		
	Field Surveys																		
	Design Period																		
	Environmental Permitting / Agency Concurrences																		
	City and RTP Review of Plans																		
	Response to Comments																		
	Bid Advertisement																		
	Bid Opening / Construction Award																		
Construction	Contract Execution / Notice to Proceed																		
	Project Construction																		
	Final Inspection & Closeout																		
		Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23

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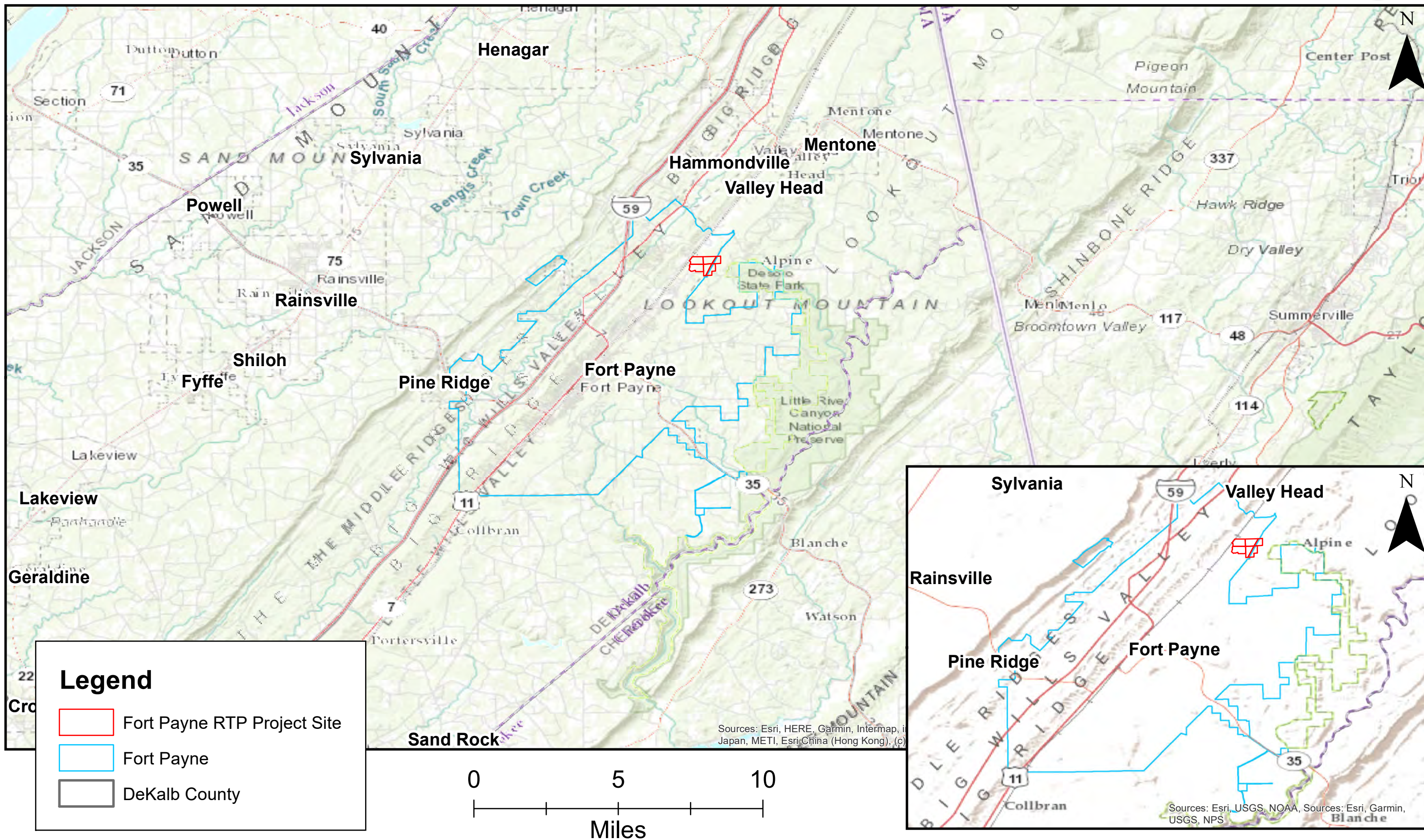


CARDEN SPORTS COMPLEX
PRELIMINARY LAYOUT
JULY 1, 2020

JOB NO.	4161	FILE	PRELIMINARY SPORTS COMPLEX LAYOUT		DATE	07/01/2020	BY	
	DRAWN BY		ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS, INC.	DATE				
SHEET	1 OF 1	CHECKED BY	THE CITY OF FORT PAYNE	ALABAMA	DATE		DATE	
SCALE	1" = 200'	DATE	LADD ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS, INC.	ALABAMA	DATE		DATE	
			P.O. BOX 680899 • FORT PAYNE, ALABAMA 35968					
			PHONE • (205) 854-5315 • FAX • (205) 854-6383					
			www.laddenv.com					
								NOTE: THIS DRAWING IS NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION. IT IS FOR PRELIMINARY USE ONLY.

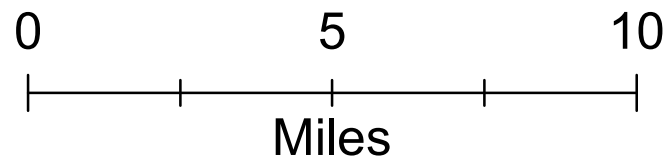


City of Fort Payne FY21 RTP Location Map



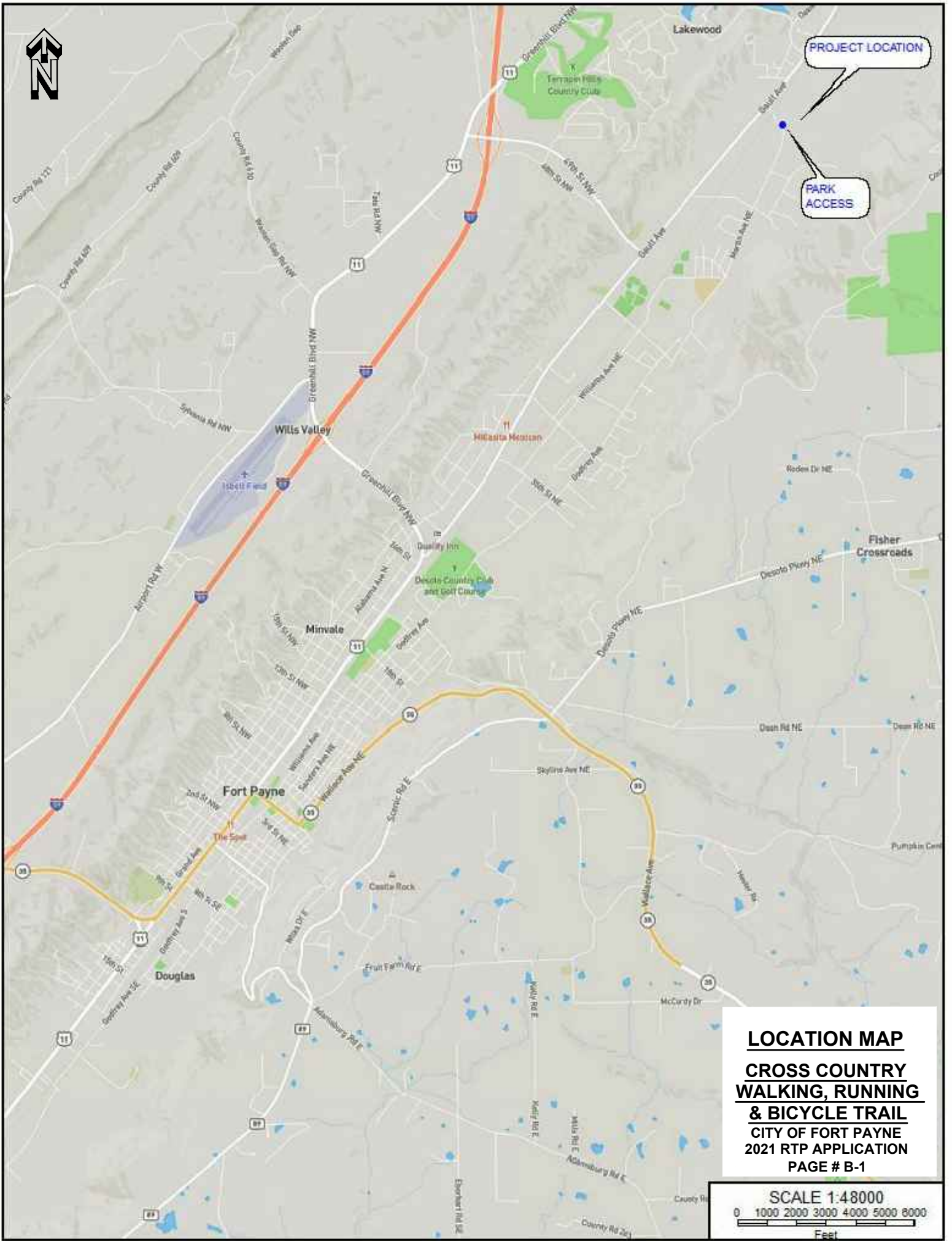
Legend

- Fort Payne RTP Project Site
- Fort Payne
- DeKalb County

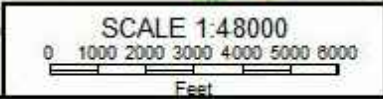


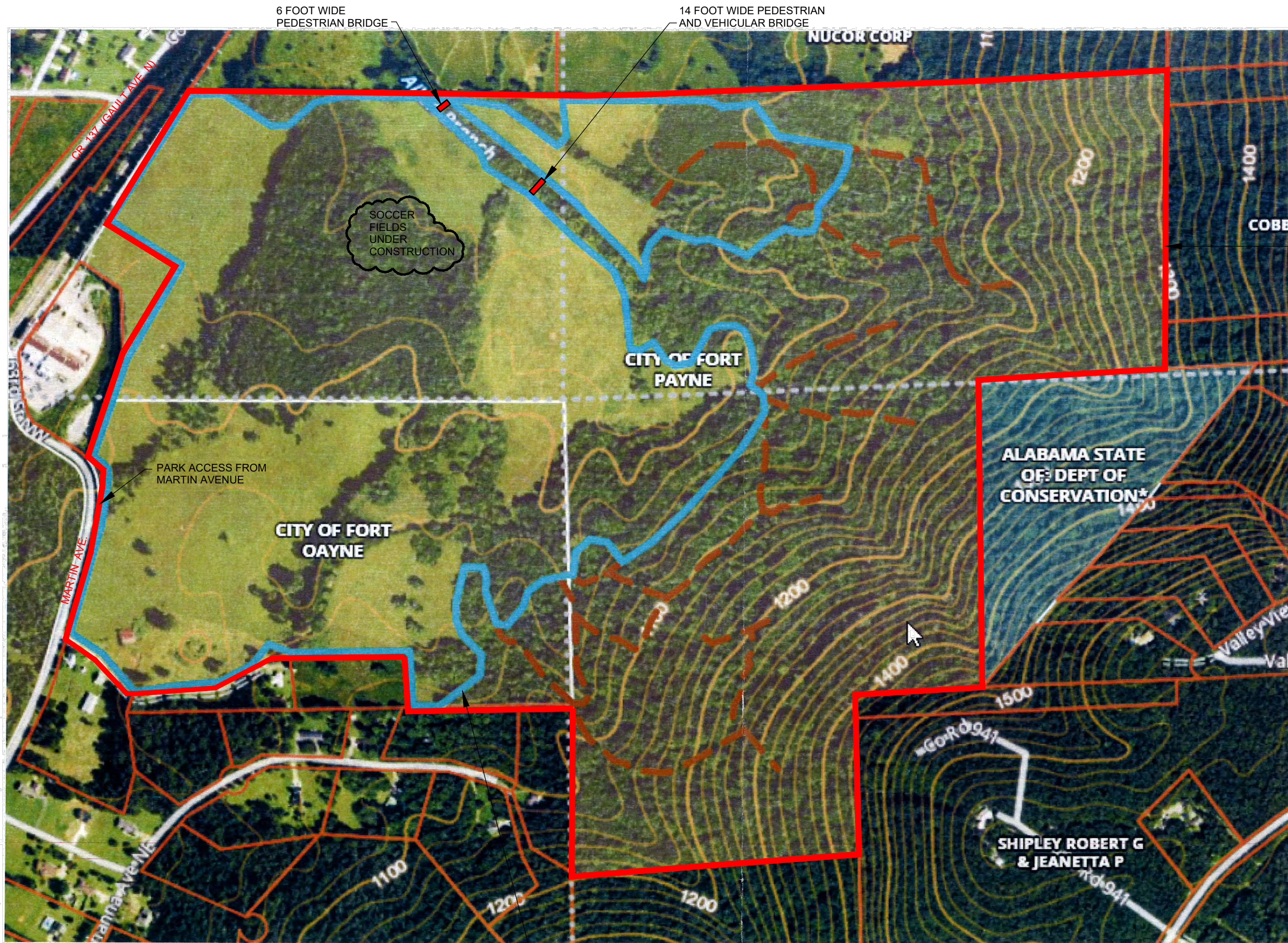
Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, i
Japan, METI, Esri/China (Hong Kong), (c)

Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA, Sources: Esri, Garmin,
USGS, NPS



LOCATION MAP
CROSS COUNTRY
WALKING, RUNNING
& BICYCLE TRAIL
CITY OF FORT PAYNE
2021 RTP APPLICATION
PAGE # B-1





KEY MAP
CROSS COUNTRY WALKING, RUNNING & BICYCLE TRAIL
 CITY OF FORT PAYNE
 2021 RTP APPLICATION
 SCALE: 1" = 400'±
 PAGE # B-2

SAM Search Results
List of records matching your search for :

Record Status: Active
DUNS Number: 081387912

ENTITY FORT PAYNE, CITY OF	Status: Active
DUNS: 081387912 +4: 0813	CAGE Code: 7B0J4 DoDAAC:
Expiration Date: 11/25/2021	Has Active Exclusion?: No Debt Subject to Offset?: No
Address: 100 ALABAMA AV NORTH WEST	
City: FORT PAYNE	State/Province: ALABAMA
ZIP Code: 35967-2052	Country: UNITED STATES

ENTITY FORT PAYNE, CITY OF	Status: Active
DUNS: 081387912 +4:	CAGE Code: 5DN76 DoDAAC:
Expiration Date: 11/25/2021	Has Active Exclusion?: No Debt Subject to Offset?: No
Address: 100 ALABAMA AV NORTH WEST	
City: FORT PAYNE	State/Province: ALABAMA
ZIP Code: 35967-2052	Country: UNITED STATES

Concurrences

Alabama Historical Preservation Office
Alabama Department of Environmental Management
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
Muscogee Creek Nation
Poarch Creek Indians
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians



ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
SECTION 106 PROJECT REVIEW CONSULTATION FORM

Federal laws exist to ensure that federal agencies or their designated applicants carefully consider historic preservation in federally funded, licensed, or permitted projects. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended directs this review. <http://www.achp.gov/106summary.html>. At a minimum, submission of this completed form and attachments constitutes a request for review by the Alabama Historical Commission, which is the Alabama State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). **The responsibility for preparing documentation, including the identification of archaeological and architectural properties and the assessment of potential effects resulting from the project, rests with the federal or state agency, or its designated applicant.** The role of the Alabama SHPO is to review, comment, and consult with federal/state agencies or their designees. The Alabama SHPO's ability to complete a timely project review largely depends on the quality of the material submitted. Some applicants may find it advantageous to hire a professional consultant with expertise in archaeology, history and/or architectural history.

PROJECT NAME

FEDERAL AGENCY PROVIDING FUNDS, LICENSE, OR PERMIT

FEDERAL PROJECT NUMBER

FEDERAL AGENCY CONTACT NAME AND E-MAIL/PHONE NUMBER

STATE AGENCY PROVIDING FUNDS, LICENSE, OR PERMIT (IF APPLICABLE)

STATE AGENCY CONTACT NAME AND E-MAIL ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, MAILING ADDRESS

AHC NUMBER (If project has been previously submitted)

APPLICANT NAME:

APPLICANT MAILING ADDRESS:

APPLICANT TELEPHONE:

APPLICANT EMAIL:

CONTACT NAME (if different than applicant):

CONTACT MAILING ADDRESS:

CONTACT TELEPHONE:

CONTACT EMAIL (Person to whom AHC should email response letter):

CONTRACTOR TYPE: ARCHAEOLOGIST; ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN; NONE; OTHER:

CONTRACTOR NAME:

CONTRACTOR MAILING ADDRESS:

CONTRACTOR TELEPHONE:

CONTRACTOR EMAIL:

PROJECT LOCATION

STREET ADDRESS		CITY
COUNTY	ZIP CODE	

LATITUDE / LONGITUDE: USE DECIMAL DEGREES EXAMPLE: 32.3722N, -86.3083W

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Describe the overall project in **DETAIL**. Be sure to note if the project involves new construction, if existing buildings will be altered (if so, provide the proposed work in detail), and / or if any buildings/structures will be demolished. Use additional pages if necessary.

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT (APE)

The APE varies with project types and can be direct or indirect (physical, visual, auditory, etc.). The APE is defined as “the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may cause changes in the character of use of historic properties, if any such properties exist.” Factors to consider when determining the APE include; topography, vegetation, existing development, orientation of an existing resource to the project, physical siting of a resource, and existing and planned future development. For example:

- 1) Rehabilitation, renovation, and/or demolition of a historic building or structure, or new construction: the APE might include the building itself and the adjacent setting.
- 2) Streetscapes: the APE might include the viewshed from the street.
- 3) Pedestrian/bicycle facilities: the APE might extend the length of the corridor and for some distance on both sides of the corridor.
- 4) Underground utilities: the APE would usually be limited to the area of ground disturbance.

Attach a map indicating the precise location of the project and the boundaries of the APE, preferably a clear color copy of a USGS topographic quadrangle map (7.5 minute). For projects in urban areas, also include a city map that shows more detail. USGS topographic maps can be printed from this website: <https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer/>. City maps can be printed using www.google.com/maps.

Provide current, high resolution color photographs that illustrate the project area and the entire APE as defined above.

ARCHAEOLOGY (Ground Disturbing Activities)

Has the ground in the project area been disturbed other than by agriculture (i.e. grading, grubbing, clear cutting, filling, etc.)?
Yes No Don't know N/A

If yes, describe in detail. Use additional pages as necessary. Photographs are helpful.

Describe the present use and condition of the property. Use additional pages as necessary.

To your knowledge, has a Cultural Resource Assessment (CRA) been conducted in the proposed project area?
Yes No Don't know N/A

If yes, attach a copy of the cultural resources assessment report.

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

Background research for previously identified historic properties within an APE may be undertaken at the AHC main office in Montgomery. These files include the National Register of Historic Places, Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage, Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, county architectural surveys, and other files. To request a research appointment, contact Nicole Johnson at 334.230.2673 or Nicole.Johnson@ahc.alabama.gov. Alabama SHPO staff cannot perform the file research for your project. GIS Maps of known historic properties may be accessed here: <https://ahc.alabama.gov/historicpreservationmap.aspx>. The AHC's maps should function as a research tool, not an up-to-the-minute inventory about every historic and/or architecturally significant property in the state. This tool allows researchers to investigate and review potentially significant properties according to the best data that is available in the Alabama Historical Commission's files. The absence of a property from this database does not imply that an unidentified property lacks historic or architectural importance. Some applicants may find it advantageous to hire a historic preservation professional with expertise in history and/or architectural history to complete the identification and evaluation of historic properties.

- 1) Is the project located within or adjacent to a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listed or eligible historic district?
 YES NO If yes, provide the name of the district: _____
- 2) Within the project APE, are there any above-ground properties that are 50 years old or older?
 YES NO If yes, provide numbered photographs of each that have been keyed to a site map.
- 3) Does the project involve the rehabilitation, renovation, demolition, or addition to any above-ground property that is 50 years old or older?
 YES NO If yes, provide rehabilitation plans and / or reasons for demolition.
- 4) Are any of the properties identified in questions #2 and #3 listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register?
 YES NO

If yes, identify the properties by name or photo number.

If no, provide an explanation as to why properties identified are not eligible for the National Register. A discussion of the National Register seven aspects of integrity and the applicable National Register criteria must be included. Refer to the National Park Service's website: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB-15_web508.pdf
Use additional pages as necessary.

A note about photographs: Digital photos must be current, high resolution, and adequately show the resource. If you checked "yes" for #2 and #3 above, include photographs of those properties. Take photographs of the overall property and the exterior of each building on the property, including outbuildings. Include views of the overall setting, views of the building in its immediate surrounding showing the relationship of the building to neighboring buildings, and views of significant landscape features (i.e. tree lined approaches, stone walls, formal gardens, etc.). Exterior views of the building should include full views of each side (if possible) and views of important architectural details. Key all photographs to a site map.

If the project involves rehabilitation, include photographs of the building(s) involved and especially the areas of the building slated for rehab work. Label each exterior view to a site map and label all interior views. If the project involves new construction, include photographs of the surrounding area looking out from the project site. Include photographs of any buildings (more than 50 years old or older) that are located on the project property or on adjoining property.

EFFECTS DETERMINATION

An effect occurs when an action alters the characteristics of a property that may qualify it for the National Register of Historic Places or alters the features of a property's location, setting, or use that contributes to its significance. How will this project affect any of the properties identified in the previous section? Use additional pages as necessary.

- 1) Will the project take away or change anything within the apparent or existing boundary of any of the identified historic properties?
 YES NO If yes, explain: _____

- 2) Will the project change the view from or the view of any of the identified historic properties?
 YES NO If yes, explain: _____

- 3) Will the project introduce any audible or atmospheric elements to the setting of any of the identified historic properties?
 YES NO If yes, explain: _____

- 4) Will the project result in the transfer, lease, or sale of any of the identified historic properties?
 YES NO If yes, explain: _____

CHECKLIST: Did you provide the following information?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Completed form. | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographs of current site conditions and all identified historic properties keyed to a site map. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maps with project area, APE, and any historic properties marked and identified. | <input type="checkbox"/> For new construction, rehabilitations, etc., attach work plans, drawings, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other supporting documents (if necessary to explain the project). | <input type="checkbox"/> Description of present use and condition of the project area. |

NOTE: Section 106 regulations provide for a 30-day response time by the Alabama SHPO from the date of receipt. Project activities may not begin until our office has reviewed this information and issued comments.

Upon receipt, applications and attachments become the property of the State of Alabama.

For questions regarding this form or the Section 106 Review Process, contact Amanda McBride, Section 106 Coordinator, at 334.230.2692 or Amanda.McBride@ahc.alabama.gov.

All projects must be submitted digitally

E-mail this form and supporting documents to Section.106@ahc.alabama.gov This is the only approved e-mail address for project submission. Projects sent to any other e-mail address will not be accepted. The attachment size cannot exceed 19 MB. Alternatively, you may submit projects with larger attachments through an online system to be determined by the AHC.

Please limit your submission to cultural resources information only.

Contact Amanda McBride for any questions on digital submissions

From: [106_Section](#)
To: [Hannah Arendsen](#)
Cc: [Sara James](#)
Subject: RE: Fort Payne Section 106 Project Review Consultation Form
Date: Thursday, March 4, 2021 8:15:58 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thank you for your e-mail. Your project has been logged into our database.

Your project number is **AHC 2021-0426.**

Please reference this number in all correspondence regarding this project.

Best regards,

Alabama Historical Commission
Section 106/Regulatory Review Division

From: Hannah Arendsen <Hannah.Arendsen@tarcog.us>
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 2:53 PM
To: 106, Section <Section.106@ahc.alabama.gov>
Cc: Sara James <Sara.James@tarcog.us>
Subject: Fort Payne Section 106 Project Review Consultation Form

Hello,

Please find attached the Section 106 Project Review Consultation Form for a new Cross Country Walking, Running, and Bicycle Trail in Fort Payne. Also find attached the preliminary engineering report and additional maps/site plans. Please let me know if you need any additional information or have any questions.

Thank you,

Hannah Arendsen
Economic Development Specialist
Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments
5075 Research Drive NW, Huntsville, Alabama 35805
(256) 326-6184 hannah.arendsen@tarcog.us



February 24, 2021

Alabama Department of Environmental Management
Attn: Permits and Service Division
P.O. Box 301463
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463

Re: City of Fort Payne FY 2021 ADECA Recreational Trails Program Application

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Fort Payne plans to submit a Recreational Trails Program Fund (RTP) application to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. The proposed project will consist of the construction of a multiple use trail in the incorporated limits of the City of Fort Payne. As required by ADECA, I am here by requesting that your office provide written preliminary concurrence for this project.

No areas of environmental significance are anticipated to be disturbed by this trail development and no structures older than 50 years in age are on or adjacent to the site. Please see the attached cost estimate, aerial pictures, and map.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 256-326-6074 or by email at sara.james@tarcog.us.

Sincerely,

Sara James
Economic Development & Planning Director



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT
600 VESTAVIA PARKWAY, SUITE 203
THE SHELBY BUILDING
VESTAVIA HILLS, AL 35216

September 16, 2021

North Branch
Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Department of the Army Pre-Application Consultation, File Number SAM-2021-00316-JDC, City of Fort Payne - cross country and bike trail, Allen Branch

City of Fort Payne
% Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments
Attention: Ms. Erin Tidwell
4220 Godfrey Avenue
Fort Payne, Alabama 35967

Transmitted electronically to Erin.Tidwell@tarcog.us

Dear Ms. Tidwell:

This is in response to the February 24, 2021 letter, submitted on behalf of the City of Fort Payne, requesting Department of the Army (DA) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) review of the proposed construction of a new cross country and bike trail along Allen Branch. The work would occur on a 286-acre tract of undeveloped land east of Gault Avenue North, Fort Payne, DeKalb County, Alabama, near center coordinates Latitude N 34.5080, Longitude W 85.6562. This project has been assigned file number SAM-2021-00316-JDC, which should be referred to in all future correspondence with this office regarding the property.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires that a Department of the Army (DA) permit be obtained prior to the placement or discharge of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States (U.S.), including wetlands (33 U.S.C. 1344). Based on our review of the information submitted regarding the proposed project site and desktop mapping resources available to us, **it appears there may be waters of the U.S. within the project area**. It is unclear from the information in your submittal if the project will require a discharge into jurisdictional waters of the U.S. because neither a delineation of the potential jurisdictional waters and wetlands within the project area nor specifics of the installation methods have been provided.

You are cautioned that the subject property may contain waters of the United States considered to be within DA jurisdiction pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). The placement of dredged or fill material into any waterways and/or their adjacent wetlands including material re-deposited during mechanized land clearing or excavation of those wetlands would require DA authorization prior to implementation of the work. Work performed below the ordinary high water line in waters of the United States, or the discharge of dredged or fill material into adjacent wetlands, without a DA permit could subject you to enforcement action.

You may contact me at (205) 381-0741 or at jevon.d.coleman@usace.army.mil, if you have questions concerning this matter. We appreciate your cooperation with the USACE Regulatory Program. For additional information about our Regulatory Program, visit our website at www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx. Also, while you are there please take a moment to complete our customer service survey located on the right side of the webpage. Your responses are appreciated and will help us improve our services.

Sincerely,

Jevon Coleman
Project Manager
North Branch

Enclosures



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
1208-B Main Street
Daphne, Alabama 36526

MAR 18 2021

IN REPLY REFER TO:
2021-TA-0585

Ms. Sara James
Economic Development & Planning Director
Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments
5075 Research Drive, N.W.
Huntsville, AL 35805

Dear Ms. James:

Thank you for your February 24, 2021, letter, regarding the construction of a multiple use trail in the incorporated limits of the City of Fort Payne in DeKalb County, Alabama. The project is located in the eastern portion of DeKalb County (approximately at 34°30'30"N, -85°39'21"W). We have reviewed the information and are providing the following comments in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Endangered and Threatened Species

The following species may occur within or near the project area:

Bats:

- Gray bat, *Myotis grisescens* - Endangered
- Indiana bat, *Myotis sodalis* – Endangered
- Northern long-eared bat, *Myotis septentrionalis* – Threatened

Mussels:

- Fine-lined pocketbook, *Lampsilis altilis* – Threatened
- Southern clubshell, *Pleurobema decisum* – Endangered

Plants:

- Green pitcher plant, *Sarracenia oreophila* - Endangered

Recommended Surveys

If the proposed trail system will impact any streams, either directly or indirectly, we recommend that a habitat assessment, followed by surveys as appropriate, be conducted by a qualified biologist with a current collecting permit(s) from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to determine whether the fine-lined pocketbook or southern clubshell may be present in the project area. Prior experience with each of these species is strongly recommended for the consultant(s) undertaking the survey. Please provide the name of the surveyor(s), his/her credentials, and a thorough description of survey methods to our office prior to undertaking the actual surveys so that we may work with the surveyor(s) to ensure that the appropriate area is surveyed.

Multiple populations of green pitcher plant occur around Fort Payne and throughout Dekalb County, some within 2-5 miles of this project. The green pitcher-plant is a perennial herb which predominantly lives on decaying insects that have fallen into the pitcher-like leaves growing 8-30 inches tall. Leaves are green to yellow-green, externally glabrous, often with red venation, with flowering mid-April to early June (flowers are yellow, nodding, appear singly on a scape with leaves), fruiting June-September, and that usually wither by late summer. They generally occur in three distinct nutrient-poor habitat types: oak-pine woodlands, sandstone streambanks, and seepage bogs. Soils range from high inorganic material to pure sand and are derived from sandstone or shale. Green pitcher plant is more shade tolerant than other pitcher plants. The habitat varies from moist upland areas to boggy, sandy stream edges.

We recommend that surveys for green pitcher plant be conducted by a qualified botanist if appropriate habitats exist in the project area. Prior experience with this particular species is strongly recommended for the botanist conducting the survey. A visit to a known population of this species immediately prior to any surveys is recommended to become familiar with the species, habitat, and condition of plants at that time of year. Surveys cannot be accepted if the plants have no above-ground vegetation at the time of the surveys. Please provide the name of the surveyor, his/her credentials, and a thorough description of survey methods and habitats present, including shrub and forb species observed. If it can be demonstrated that no suitable habitat exists for these species within the impacted areas through a detailed description of the plant community (including grasses, forbs, and shrubs) and/or site photographs showing unsuitable habitat throughout the **entire** project area, a species survey is unnecessary (although we would appreciate notification of habitat suitability survey results).

All three species of bats listed above are known to occur in this area. Our records indicate that a known Indiana bat hibernacula occurs within half a mile of this project. We recommend a thorough site investigation for any karst features within the project area (i.e., sinkholes, sinking streams, caves). If such topographic features are located on or near the project area, we request that you inform our agency of their location so that we may determine if further consultation is necessary.

It is unclear if tree removal is intended for the proposed project. Suitable Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat habitat includes forests and woodlots containing potential roost trees, including live trees and/or snags ≥ 5 inches (12.7 centimeters) and ≥ 3 inches dbh (7.6 centimeters),

respectively, that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices or hollows. Some adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, old fields and pastures, as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors may also be considered suitable habitat. These wooded areas may be dense or loose aggregates of trees with variable amounts of canopy closure. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet (305 meters) of other forested/wooded habitat. If the site contains possible Indiana bat and/or northern long-eared bat summer habitat, we recommend tree clearing should occur from October 15 to March 31.

If there are no karst features and no suitable habitat on site for the Indiana bat or northern long-eared bat, or if there is suitable habitat and all tree removal for this project is carried out between October 15 and March 31, no further consultation will be necessary for the gray bat, Indiana bat, or northern long-eared bat. If this timing is not achievable and no other measures to avoid adverse effects are possible, then we recommend that you proceed to acoustic and/or mist-netting surveys to determine presence or probable absence of northern long eared bats at the project site in accordance with the 2020 Range-wide Indiana Bat Summer Survey Guidelines:

<https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/inba/inbasummersurveyguidance.html>

Best Management Practices

The aquatic species listed above require good water quality, therefore it is essential that adequate best management practices (BMPs) be implemented to prevent sedimentation and turbidity in nearby streams. Activities that would result in degraded water quality, including increased turbidity, water temperature changes, channel realignments, substrate impacts, or stream bank alterations, should be avoided. Activity in the water should also be avoided. We recommend incorporating the following measures into the project design to protect water quality in the stream:

- Implement BMPs to minimize erosion and prevent sedimentation of drainages in the project area, both during and after construction.
- Install erosion and stormwater control devices prior to construction activities to protect water quality.
- Develop an erosion control plan tailored to the site. All erosion controls should be inspected routinely, especially during and immediately following significant rain events, to ensure no impacts occur to nearby surface waters and aquatic habitat. Immediate corrective action should be taken if erosion or sedimentation is observed.
- Maintain a naturally vegetated buffer (preferably 100 feet or greater) adjacent to any ditches or drainages to reduce erosion and protect water quality.
- Immediately revegetate any disturbed areas with a native species or an annual grass.

- To the extent feasible, complete any work that results in exposed earth during periods of low water and when significant rainfall is not predicted.

For specific techniques, see “The Alabama Handbook for Erosion Control, Sediment Control and Stormwater Management on Construction Sites and Urban Areas” (2018), available from the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee or on-line at:
<https://alconservationdistricts.gov/resources/erosion-and-sediment-control/>

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species and look forward to reviewing the recommended habitat suitability analyses and/or species survey reports. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Erin Lentz of my staff at erin_lentz@fws.gov. Please refer to the reference number located at the top of this letter in future phone calls or written correspondence.

Sincerely,



William J. Pearson
Field Supervisor
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office

February 24, 2021

Muscogee Creek Nation
Historic & Cultural Preservation
Attn: RaeLynn Butler, Manager
Human Development Building
Hwy 75 & Loop 56
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Re: City of Fort Payne FY 2021 ADECA Recreational Trails Program Application

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Fort Payne plans to submit a Recreational Trails Program Fund (RTP) application to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. The proposed project will consist of the construction of a multiple use trail in the incorporated limits of the City of Fort Payne. As required by ADECA, I am here by requesting that your office provide written preliminary concurrence for this project.

No areas of environmental significance are anticipated to be disturbed by this trail development and no structures older than 50 years in age are on or adjacent to the site. Please see the attached cost estimate, aerial pictures, and map.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 256-326-6074 or by email at sara.james@tarcog.us.

Sincerely,

Sara James
Economic Development & Planning Director



POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS

5811 Jack Springs Road • Atmore, Alabama 36502
Tribal Offices: (251) 368-9136 • Administrative Fax: (251) 368-4502
www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov

March 11, 2021

Sara James
Economic Development & Planning Director
Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments
5075 Research Drive NW
Huntsville, AL 35805

Re: THPO: 2021-03-002: City of Fort Payne FY 2021 ADECA Recreational Trails Program Application

Dear Ms. James,

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Tribal Historic Preservation Office has received and reviewed the documentation submitted for the referenced project in the City of Fort Payne, Alabama. Based upon the information submitted we concur with the determination of no effect.

Should implementation of the project result in an inadvertent discovery of any material remains of past human life or activities of archaeological interest, such as chipped stone tools, pottery, bone, historic crockery, glass, metal items or building materials, the project should be halted until evaluation and consultation is complete.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. We look forward to working with you in the future. Should further correspondence pertaining to the project be necessary, please reference the above file number when responding. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call 251-368-9136 extension 2072.

Sincerely,

Larry D. Haikey
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

February 24, 2021

Mr. Bryant Celestine, THPO
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
571 State Park Road 56
Livingston, TX 77351

Re: City of Fort Payne FY 2021 ADECA Recreational Trails Program Application

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Fort Payne plans to submit a Recreational Trails Program Fund (RTP) application to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. The proposed project will consist of the construction of a multiple use trail in the incorporated limits of the City of Fort Payne. As required by ADECA, I am here by requesting that your office provide written preliminary concurrence for this project.

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 256-326-6074 or by email at sara.james@tarcog.us.

Sincerely,

Sara James
Economic Development & Planning Director

February 24, 2021

Ms. Samantha Robison, THPO
Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
P.O. Box 187
Wetumka, OK 74883

Re: City of Fort Payne FY 2021 ADECA Recreational Trails Program Application

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Fort Payne plans to submit a Recreational Trails Program Fund (RTP) application to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. The proposed project will consist of the construction of a multiple use trail in the incorporated limits of the City of Fort Payne. As required by ADECA, I am here by requesting that your office provide written preliminary concurrence for this project.

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 256-326-6074 or by email at sara.james@tarcog.us.

Sincerely,

Sara James
Economic Development & Planning Director

From: [Sara James](#)
To: [Hannah Arendsen](#)
Subject: Fwd: City of Fort Payne FY 2021 ADECA Recreational Trails Program Applicaton
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 11:40:53 AM

FYI...

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Marianna Luquette <MLuquette@coushatta.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 11:40 AM
To: Sara James
Subject: City of Fort Payne FY 2021 ADECA Recreational Trails Program Applicaton

Dear Ms. James,

Thank you for requesting our 106/EA determination. Based on the information provided, I do not believe that this project will have a negative impact on any archaeological, historic or cultural resources of the Coushatta people. Accordingly, we do not wish to consult further on this project. If any inadvertent discoveries are made in the course of this project, we expect to be contacted immediately and reserve the right to consult with you at that time.

Aliilamo (thank you),

Marianna Luquette, M.A.
Tribal Archivist
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
(337) 584-1585

February 24, 2021

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Attn: Department of Agricultural & Natural Resources
P.O. Box 455
Cherokee, NC 28719

Re: City of Fort Payne FY 2021 ADECA Recreational Trails Program Application

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Fort Payne plans to submit a Recreational Trails Program Fund (RTP) application to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. The proposed project will consist of the construction of a multiple use trail in the incorporated limits of the City of Fort Payne. As required by ADECA, I am here by requesting that your office provide written preliminary concurrence for this project.

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 256-326-6074 or by email at sara.james@tarcog.us.

Sincerely,

Sara James
Economic Development & Planning Director

Transaction: 36596

DEED

Book: 898, Document: 5438

Recording Fee:	\$15.00
RECORDING CO WATER:	\$12.50
INDEX FEE:	\$3.00
FILING FEE CO WATER:	\$1.00
SPECIAL INDEX FEE:	\$4.00

Sub Total:	\$35.50
-------------------	----------------

Grand Total:	\$35.50
---------------------	----------------

Payments Tendered

Check 1820 WATSON & NEELEY	\$35.50
----------------------------	---------

Cashiered By JROBERTS in Drawer # 2018-10-24-006

PREPARED BY: WATSON & NEELEY, LLC, P. O. BOX 680598, FORT PAYNE, ALABAMA 35968

WARRANTY DEED

THIS INDENTURE, made this 24 day of October, 2018, between Donna Carden Leach, Beth Carden Smith, and Rita Gail Carden, of the First Part, and City of Fort Payne of the Second Part:

WITNESSETH, that the party of the First Part, in consideration of the sum of Ten and no/100 dollars (\$10.00) and other good and valuable consideration, to them paid by the party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, doth hereby grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said party/parties of the second part, the following described real estate, to-wit:

SEE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"

That no part of the above described property is the homestead of the parties.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD to the said City of Fort Payne, its heirs, and assigns forever. And the party of the First part will forever warrant and defend the title to the same to the said party of the second part and to her representatives and assigns from every lawful claim whatever.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, The party of the First part has/have signed and sealed this deed on the date above written.

 (L.S.)
DONNA CARDEN LEACH

 (L.S.)
BETH CARDEN SMITH

 (L.S.)
RITA GAIL CARDEN

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF DEKALB

I, the undersigned, a Notary Public, in and for said County and State, hereby certify that Donna Carden Leach, whose name is signed to the foregoing conveyance, and who is known to me, acknowledged before me on this day that, being informed of the contents of the conveyance she executed the same voluntarily on the day the same bears date.

Given under my hand, this the 24 day of Oct, 2018.


NOTARY PUBLIC

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF DEKALB

I, the undersigned, a Notary Public, in and for said County and State, hereby certify that Beth Carden Smith, whose name is signed to the foregoing conveyance, and who is known to me, acknowledged

before me on this day that, being informed of the contents of the conveyance she executed the same voluntarily on the day the same bears date.

Given under my hand, this the 24 day of Oct, 2018.



NOTARY PUBLIC

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF DEKALB

I, the undersigned, a Notary Public, in and for said County and State, hereby certify that Rita Gail Carden, whose name is signed to the foregoing conveyance, and who is known to me, acknowledged before me on this day that, being informed of the contents of the conveyance she executed the same voluntarily on the day the same bears date.

Given under my hand, this the 24 day of Oct, 2018.



NOTARY PUBLIC

Send Tax Notice To:

EXHIBIT "A"

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION
OF THE
CARDEN PROPERTY
FOR
THE CITY OF FORT PAYNE

Beginning of a concrete monument marking the NW corner of the SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 24, Township 6 South, Range 9 East of the Huntsville Meridian. Run S 01°00'39" W for a distance of 422.74 ft. to an existing 1/4 inch iron pin found in an old fence line; thence S 01°06'51" W along the said old fence line 237.24 ft. to an existing flagged "T" post; thence S 11°28'06" E for a distance of 71.12 ft. to an existing 1/2 inch pipe marking the north line of the Donna L. Brzezinski property; thence N 85°13'22" E with the north line of the said Brzezinski property for a distance of 1184.06 ft. to an existing 5/8 inch iron pin in a rock pile; thence N 17°28'03" E for a distance of 739.44 ft. to an existing iron pin with cap (Croft) marking the SW corner of the Summershell property; thence N 03°02'06"E with the west line of the said Summershell property 99.73 ft. to an existing iron pin with cap (Croft); thence N 88°24'24" E with the north line of the said Summershell property 351.15 ft. to a 1/2 inch iron pin with cap set (LECI CA-119-LS); (said iron pin being S 88°24'24" W a distance of 997.87 ft. from an existing iron pin marking the SE corner of the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 24); thence continue N 88°24'24" E with the north line of the said Summershell property for a distance of 323.36 ft. to a point marking SE corner of the west 1/2 of the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of said Section 24; thence leaving the said Summershell property run N 00°42'59" W with the east line of the said west 1/2 of the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 for a distance of 1284.79 ft. to a point, (said point being N 88°45'56" E a distance of 323.33 ft. from a 1/2 inch iron pin set (LECI CA-119-LS)); thence N 88°45'56" E for a distance of 674.46 ft. to an existing iron pin with cap (Benchmark) marking the SW corner of David and Gail west property; thence N 01°37'31" W with the west line of the said David and Gail west property 209.88 ft. to an existing iron pin with cap (Benchmark); thence N 01°36'29" W with the west line of the property of William H. Cobble III for a distance of 1162.81 ft. to an existing 3/4 inch pipe found marking the SE corner of the Nucor Corporation property; thence S 87°15'32" W with the south line of the said Nucor Corporation property 2716.37 ft. to an existing iron pin with cap (21 Century) in a fence line; thence N 89°28'02" W along a meandering fence line with the south line of the said Nucor Corporation property 1714.57 ft. to a reference iron pin with cap set (LECI CA-119-LS); thence continue N 89°28'02" W with the said property line and fence line 20.00 ft. to an existing fence corner on the easterly right-of-way line of the Norfolk Southern Railroad right-of-way (R.O.W. Varies); thence S 33°33'22" W with the said railroad right-of-way line and fence line 575.52 ft. to an angle iron found in the said fence line; thence

S 56°28'22" E with the said railroad right-of-way line 25.29 ft.; thence S 33°35'22" W with the said railroad right-of-way line 313.15 ft. to an existing iron pin with cap in a fence line marking the NW corner of the Forty Street, LLC property; thence with the Forty Street, LLC property line and fence line as follows: S 56°30'21" E 225.09 ft. to an existing 5/8 inch iron pin with angle iron at fence corner; S 00°30'23" E 275.01 ft. to an existing 1/2 inch iron pin at a fence corner; S 16°43'57" W 495.03 ft. to a point on the easterly right-of-way line of 63rd Street N.E./Martin Avenue (60 ft. R.O.W.) Note: Deed for Forty Street LLC property the Street is called 57th Street with 30 ft. R.O.W., said point on the easterly right-of-way line of 63rd Street being N 16°43'57" E 13.32 ft. of an existing iron pin with cap (CA-912) which is located 19.84 ft. from the centerline of 63rd Street; thence leaving the said point on the easterly right-of-way line of 63rd Street/Martin Avenue and running with the said right-of-way line along chords which are as follows: S 09°39'15" E 266.80 ft., S 12°54'20" W 176.03 ft., S 15°39'57" W 340.82 ft. to a 1/2 inch iron pin with cap set (LECI CA-119-LS) located on the northerly boundary of a (40 ft.) joint drive; thence with a chord along the north boundary of the said (40 ft.) joint drive S 49°08'00" E for a distance of 406.83 ft. to a 1/2 inch iron pin with cap set (LECI CA-119-LS); thence S 30°21'19" W with the end of the said (40 ft.) joint drive 9.08 ft. to a 1/2 inch iron pin set (LECI CA-119-LS) marking the NW corner of Beth Carden Smith and Larry Wayne Smith property; thence with the said Smith property line as follows: N 78°58'39" E 145.70 ft., N 87°33'39" E 216.10 ft., N 62°21'39" E 239.00 ft., N 78°01'24" E 117.77 ft. to an existing iron pin with cap (Ladd), S 89°19'40" E 506.11 ft. to an existing iron pin with cap (Ladd), S 03°13'16" E 244.41 ft. to a 1/2 inch iron pin set with cap (LECI CA-119-LS) located on the north line of Rebecca Ann Benefield (Life Estate) property; thence S 89°23'34" E with the north line of the said Benefield property 504.57 ft. to an existing 1/4 inch iron pin marking the NW corner of Jose A. Rosales property; thence S 89°19'10" E with the said Rosales property 240.62 ft. to the point of beginning.

Said property lying in the S 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of Section 13, and in the S 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of Section 14 and in the N 1/2 of the NE 1/4 of Section 23, and in the NW 1/4 of Section 24 all being in Township 6 South, Range 9 East of the Huntsville Meridian in the City of Fort Payne, DeKalb County, Alabama and containing 295.32 acres more or less.

No warranty is made as to the 9.54 acre tract overlap of the property of the State of Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – State Parks Division described in deed book 494, pages 255, 256 as being the east 997.87 ft. of the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 24, Township 6 South, Range 9 East. As shown on the Rocky Top Subdivision Plat plat book 5 page 200 as being the east boundary of the west 1/3 of the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of the said Section 24. and also the Beth Carden Smith, Donna Carden Leach and Rita Gail Carden property described in deed book 441, pages 120, 122 as being the west 1/2 of the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of the said Section 24.

Said property being subject to an overhead utility line easement in the SW corner as shown on the Survey Plat and any underground utility lines not shown.

Said property may be subject to flooding on the North side of the property designated as Zone "X" 0.2% annual chance flood hazard area as per FEMA Firm Map No. 01049C0194E as shown on the Survey Plat.

STATE OF ALABAMA

COUNTY OF DEKALB

REAL ESTATE PURCHASE AGREEMENT

This agreement, entered into between Donna Carden Leach, Beth Carden Smith and Rita Gail Carden, hereinafter Sellers and the City of Fort Payne, a municipal corporation in the State of Alabama and hereinafter Buyer.

It is agreed between the parties as follows:

1. Sellers shall sell to Buyer and Buyer shall purchase from Sellers that real estate described as follows, to-wit: See attached Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference, together with the all improvements thereto. That the parties understand and agree that this description is subject to modification to reflect the survey and to assure that no parcels of property previously conveyed to the Sellers' other than by that deed from N. T. Carden, a widower to the Sellers dated the 13th day of August, 1996 are included therein.

Sellers represents that there are no encumbrances except ad valorem taxes nor any defects in the title subject property. Sellers agrees to provide Buyer with a full warranty deed at closing which will be conveying title free of all encumbrances except current ad valorem taxes.

2. The purchase price of said real estate is \$ 750,000.00. Buyer's obligations herein are also contingent on the title to the subject real estate being examined by Buyer's attorney and the title found to be marketable. Sellers shall have a reasonable length of time to cure any defects found in the title examination and shall do so at Sellers' sole expense.

3. Buyer has paid Sellers the sum of \$1,000.00 as earnest money on this date and Sellers acknowledges receipt of the same. This sum will be applied to the sale price at closing or, if closing is not possible due to a defect in the title which cannot be corrected or if Buyer is unable to obtain the loan referred to in the above paragraph, then it will be refunded to Buyer.

5. The closing of this transaction will take place within 10 days after completion of the survey by the Buyer. Sellers will deliver possession immediately upon closing subject, however, to the right of the Sellers to have sixty (60) days to remove all of their personal properties from the premises.

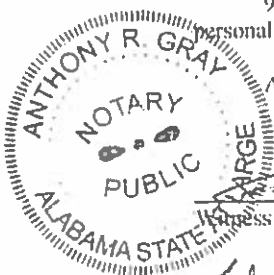
6. Buyer will pay all closing costs, except the taxes for the current year shall be prorated at closing.

7. Sellers represent that there is no realtor involved in this transaction.

8. That the terms of this real estate purchase agreement shall survive the closing.

9. This agreement shall be binding upon the parties hereto together with their heirs, personal representatives and assigns.

Agreed this ___ day of _____, 2018.



[Signature]
Witness

Sharon B. Hall
Witness

Sharon B. Hall
Witness

Donna Carden Leach 09-06-2018
Donna Carden Leach

Beth Carden Smith 09-05-2018
Beth Carden Smith

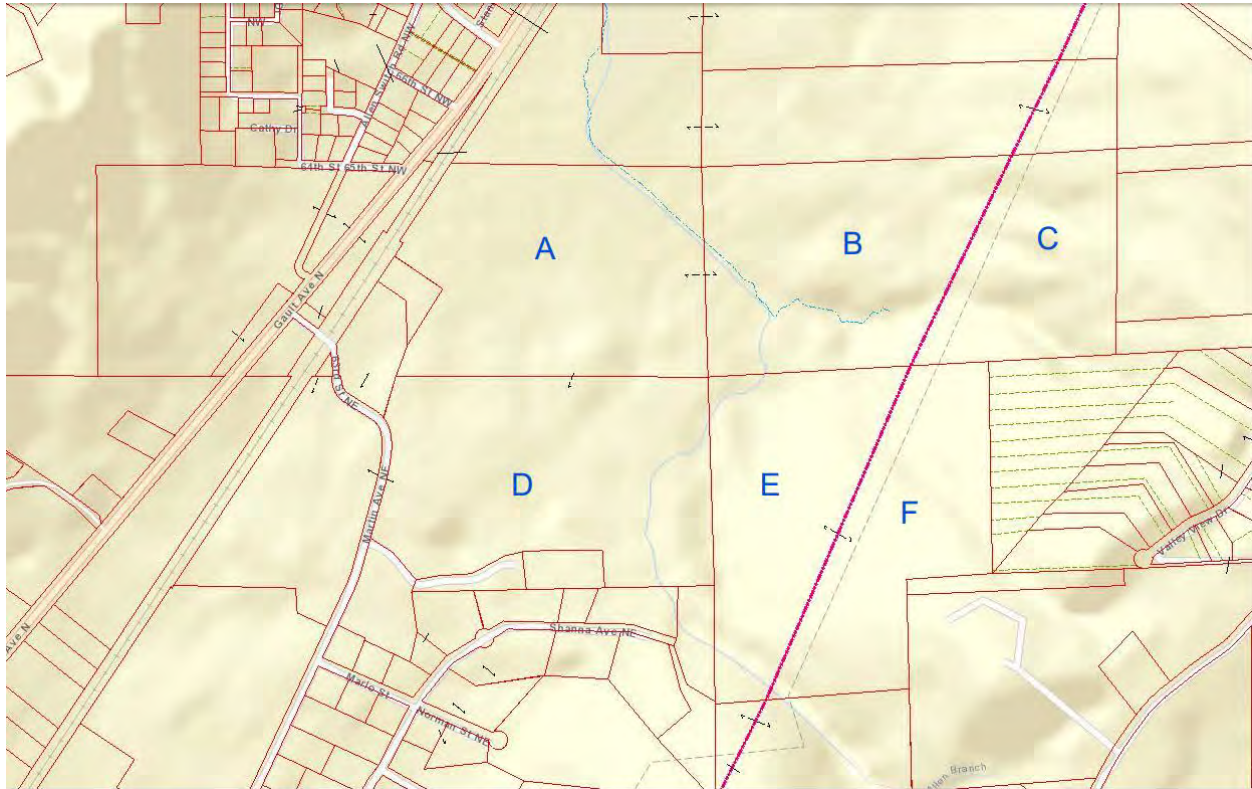
Rita Gail Carden 09-05-2018
Rita Gail Carden

Robert A. Parkey
Witness

Larry Chesser
City of Fort Payne
By its: M. J. ...

Legal Description & Parcel Map

This property was acquired by the City of Fort Payne in 2018.



Legend		
Key	Parcel	Legal Description
A	14-06-14-0-001-059.000	57 AC SE S14 T6 R9 FT PAYNE
B	14-06-13-0-000-009.000	52 AC S13 T6 R9 FT PAYNE A PAR BEING THE SW 1/4 SW1/4 & THAT PART OF THE SE1/4 SW1/4 LYING WEST OF THE CITY LIMITS
C	14-06-13-0-000-010.000	30 AC S13 T6 R9 A PAR BEING ALL THAT PART OF THE SE1/4 SW1/4 LYING E OF CITY LIMITS LINE
D	14-06-23-0-001-001.000	85 AC(C) S23 T6S R9E FT PAYNE PT OF N1/2 OF SEC DESC AS; BEG NE COR OF SEC TH S 1320' W 705' N 244' W 506.10 SW'LY 718.6' NW'LY 369' SW 600' NW 220' N 160' W 800' NE 1570' E 220' SE 350' NE 230' E 1950' TO POB LESS ROW * CARDEN, RITA GAIL
E	14-06-24-0-000-007.000	40 AC FT PAYNE A PAR BEING TAHT PART OF NW 1/4 NW1/4 N1/2 SW1/4 NW1/4 & W1/2 NE1/4 NW1/4 LYING WITH W OF CITY LIMITS
F	14-06-24-0-000-006.000	CONT 42 AC S24 T6 R9 A PAR BEING THAT PART OF N W1/4 NW1/4 N1/2 SW1/4 NW1/4 & W1/2 NE1/4 NW1/4 LYING OUTSIDE E OF CITY LIMITS

Indicate potential for **adverse** impacts.

A. ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES	No Impacts or Not Applicable	Negligible Impacts	Minor Impacts	Impacts Exceed Minor EA/EIS required	More Data Needed to Determine EA/EIS required
1. Geological resources: soils, bedrock, slopes, streambeds, landforms, etc.	X				
2. Air quality	X				
3. Sound (noise impacts)	X				
4. Water quality/quantity	X				
5. Stream flow characteristics		X			
6. Marine/estuarine	X				
7. Floodplains/wetlands		X			
8. Land use/ownership patterns; property values; community livability	X				
9. Circulation, transportation	X				
10. Plant/animal/fish species of special concern and habitat; state/federal listed or proposed for listing					X
11. Unique ecosystems, such as biosphere reserves, World Heritage sites, old growth forests, etc.	X				
12. Unique or important wildlife/wildlife habitat					X
13. Unique or important fish/habitat	X				
14. Introduce or promote invasive species (plant or animal)	X				
15. Recreation resources, including parks, open space, conservation areas, rec. trails, facilities, services, opportunities, public access, etc.)	X				
16. Accessibility for populations with disabilities	X				
17. Overall aesthetics, special characteristics/features	X				
18. Historical/cultural resources, including landscapes, ethnographic, archeological, structures, etc.	X				
19. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	X				
20. Minority and low-income populations	X				
21. Energy resources (geothermal, fossil fuels, etc.)	X				
22. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	X				
23. Land/structures with history of contamination/hazardous materials even if remediated	X				
24. Other important environmental resources that should be addressed	X				

B. MANDATORY CRITERIA If your proposal is approved, would it...	Yes	No	To be determined
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?		X	
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands, wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (E.O. 11990); floodplains (E.O 11988); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		X	
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)]?		X	
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		X	
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		X	
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		X	
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?(Attach SHPO/THPO Comments)		X	
8. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		X	
9. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		X	
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		X	
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		X	
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area, or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?		X	
C. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CRITERIA			
13. Is the area previously disturbed and unlikely to result in any excavation beyond surface disturbance possibly impacting archaeology?		X	
14. Is the area regularly mowed and therefore unlikely to contain endangered species?		X	
15. Is there any surface water within direct proximity to the project which would require protection from construction impacts?		X	

Environmental Reviewers

The following individual(s) provided input in the completion of the environmental screening form. **List all reviewers including name, title, agency, field of expertise.** Keep all environmental review records and data on this proposal in state compliance file for any future program review and/or audit. **There must be at least one person listed here.**

1. Sara James, Director of Economic Development and Planning, TARCOG

2. _____

3. _____


The following individuals conducted a site inspection to verify field conditions. **List name of inspector(s), title, agency, and date(s) of inspection.** There must be at least one person listed here.

1. James Payton, P.E., Ladd Environmental Consultants

2. _____

3. _____

Signature of Chief Elected Official here:


Signature

9/30/2021
Date

Environmental Checklist For Recreational Trails Program Project

County: DeKalb

Project Location: 6175 Martin Ave NE, Fort Payne, AL 35967

Project Sponsor/Applicant: City of Fort Payne

Project Description: Cross Country Walking, Running, and Bicycle Trail

Concurrence from Alabama Historical Commission attached?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Concurrence from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services attached?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Concurrence from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers attached?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Tribal Consultation attached?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Was the property acquired before January 1971?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If "No" explain property acquisition process (Use additional sheets if necessary):		
Concurrence letters were sent out February 2021. Concurrence was received from many agencies and are attached.		
The property was purchased by the City of Fort Payne on October 24, 2018 via Real Estate Purchase Agreement. All purchase records are attached.		

Note: If you have not received the concurrence letters by the application deadline, submit copies of the request letters. Concurrences over three (3) years old cannot be used and new concurrences must be obtained.

Required Letters of Concurrence and Release of Conditions

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Mobile District Corps of Engineers	Nashville District Corps of Engineers
Chief, Regulatory Division	Western Regulatory Field Office
Post Office Box 2288	2424 Danville Road, SW, STE N
Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001	Decatur, Alabama 35603-4219
Phone: 251-690-2658	Phone Number: 256-350-5620

Alabama Historical Commission: Amanda McBride, Environmental Review Coordinator, Alabama Historical Commission, Post Office Box 300900, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900, Phone: 334-230-2692, Email: amanda.mcbride@ahc.alabama.gov

U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service: Mr. Bill Pearson, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1208-B Main Street, Daphne, Alabama 36526-4419, Phone: 251-441-5181, Email: bill_pearson@fws.gov.

Environmental Screening Form (ESF)

RE: Cross Country Walking, Running, and Bicycle Trail Project

ADECA RTP Funding Application

City of Fort Payne

A. ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

5. Stream flow characteristics – A stream on the site has been identified, and construction will be performed to protect the area. The proposed trail will follow along the stream and cross the stream in two locations via bridges.

7. Floodplains/wetlands – A wetlands delineation was performed on the site and all wetlands have been identified. All construction will be performed to protect these areas.

10. Plant/animal/fish species of special concern and habitat; state/federal listed or proposed for listing – If The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) indicates that certain protected species may be present, a survey will be conducted and a written report will be submitted to FWS for comment.

12. Unique or important wildlife/wildlife habitat – If The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) indicates that certain protected habitats may be present, a survey will be conducted and a written report will be submitted to FWS for comment.

Letters of Support

Member of U.S. House of Representatives

Member of Alabama House of Representatives

Member of Alabama Senate

Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association Executive Director

DeKalb County Tourism President

Mountain Lakes Tourist Association President

Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments Executive Director

Fort Payne Citizens

ROBERT B. ADERHOLT
4TH DISTRICT, ALABAMA

1203 LONGWORTH HOB
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-4876

WEB PAGE: www.house.gov/aderholt



COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

RANKING MEMBER,
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE
AGRICULTURE
DEFENSE

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

March 1, 2021

Director Kenneth Boswell
ADECA
401 Adams Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36103-5690

Dear Director Boswell:

As a member of Congress from Alabama, I am writing to show my support for the City of Fort Payne's Recreational Trail Program grant application. If awarded this grant, the City of Fort Payne will use the funds to address the need for more diverse outdoor recreation opportunities through a multi-use cross country walking, running, and bicycle trail.

As I am sure you are aware, having access to active recreation opportunities for all sectors of the population is important. This truth has become more evident as we look back at the past year. The City of Fort Payne intends to improve the quantity and quality of the recreational opportunities available to its residents while strategically investing in projects that increase the quality of life for all residents.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration to the City of Fort Payne's request. I would like to be notified when a decision is made on this application.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert B. Aderholt".

Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress

RA: jm

1710 ALABAMA AVENUE
247 CARL ELLIOTT BUILDING
JASPER, AL 35501
TELEPHONE: (205) 221-2310

205 FOURTH AVENUE NE
SUITE 104
CULLMAN, AL 35055
TELEPHONE: (256) 734-6043

600 BROAD STREET
SUITE 107
GADSDEN, AL 35901
TELEPHONE: (256) 546-0201

1011 GEORGE WALLACE BOULEVARD
SUITE 146
TUSCUMBIA, AL 35674
TELEPHONE: (256) 381-3450



ALABAMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

11 S. UNION STREET, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

REP. NATHANIEL LEDBETTER
MAJORITY LEADER

STATE HOUSE: 334-242-7492

March 1, 2021

Mr. Kenneth Boswell
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
P.O. Box 5690
Montgomery, AL 36103

Dear Director Boswell,

It is my pleasure to lend my full support for the City of Fort Payne's Recreational Trail Program grant application. This project will construct a multi-use cross country walking, running, and bicycle trail that will allow multiple generations of Fort Payne's residents to experience the outdoors while promoting a healthy lifestyle.

While the City of Fort Payne's Parks and Recreation Department currently offers several recreational opportunities, the inability for expansion of the current Sports Complex is a barrier to outdoor recreation identified by multiple generations of Fort Payne residents. This project, the second phase of a new Sports Complex, intends to address this need.

The City of Fort Payne is working to increase the quality of life for their residents and has my full support in their efforts. The magnitude of the proposed trail and new Sports Complex will be sure to bolster tourism and economic development in Fort Payne and surrounding DeKalb County. I encourage you to give favorable consideration to their grant application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any way that I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Ledbetter", written over a horizontal line.

Nathaniel Ledbetter
Majority Leader
Alabama House of Representatives
District 24



ALABAMA STATE SENATE

ALABAMA STATE HOUSE
SOUTH UNION STREET, 7TH FLOOR
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-4600
334.261.0858

STEVE LIVINGSTON
STATE SENATOR - DISTRICT 8
DISTRICT OFFICE:
POST OFFICE BOX 623
SCOTTSBORO, ALABAMA 35768

COMMITTEES:

CHAIRMAN, FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
RULES
FINANCE AND TAXATION GENERAL FUND
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY
BANKING AND INSURANCE
TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY

March 1, 2021

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
Mr. Kenneth Boswell, Director
P.O. Box 5690
Montgomery, AL 36103

Director Boswell,

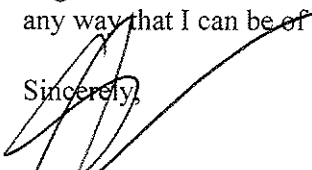
It is my pleasure to write a letter of support for the City of Fort Payne's Recreational Trail Program grant application. This project will construct a multi-use cross country walking, running, and mountain biking trail. It is my understanding that this trail is part of a planned Sports Complex consisting of various sports and general use fields and an amphitheater with the intent to increase economic development, recreational opportunities, and quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

This proposal will provide an excellent mechanism to bolster tourism to the region, generate revenue for the city, and promote healthy living amongst local residents by providing additional outdoor exercise options which have become especially valuable during this period of COVID-19 and social-distancing.

I understand the benefits that the rapidly growing outdoor recreation market brings to DeKalb County. This project would further enhance the variety and quality of outdoor recreation opportunities available within the City of Fort Payne and the County of DeKalb as a whole.

The City of Fort Payne has my full support in their efforts to bring this project to fruition. I encourage you to give favorable consideration to their grant application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any way that I can be of assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


Steve Livingston
Alabama State Senate
District 8



Mr. Kenneth Boswell
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
P.O. Box 5690
Montgomery, AL 36103

Dear Director Boswell,

I am writing in support of the RTP grant being submitted by City of Fort Payne for the creation of the Cross-Country Walking, Running, and Bicycle Trail at the proposed new Sports Complex in Fort Payne.

This trail will serve as a great new option for bicyclists in Fort Payne to access a trail in close proximity. This new trail as part of the Sports Complex would be a tourist attraction and would certainly be a boost to the local economy by attracting new trail users to the area. This trail would also support a local Alabama Interscholastic Youth Cycling team by having a trail close to where kids can easily access to practice.

The Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association (SOBRA) fully supports this worthwhile project and will stand by to assist the local partners with trail building expertise if needed.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the Cross Country Walking, Running, and Bicycle Trail project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'T Palmeri'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'T' and 'P'.

Terry Palmeri
Executive Director



DeKalb Tourism-P.O. Box 681165, Fort Payne AL. 35968

Mr. Kenneth Boswell
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
P.O. Box 5690
Montgomery, AL 36103

Dear Director Boswell,

As President/CEO of DeKalb Tourism I am writing you as a request to support to the City of Fort Payne in their efforts to acquire a grant to help fund the construction of the new Cross Country Walking, Running, and Bicycle Trail through the Recreational Trails Program. The proposed multi-use hiking/mountain biking trail will be located at the site of the new Sports Complex which will allow locals and visitors to experience the natural resources found in Fort Payne and Lookout Mountain.

DeKalb Tourism founded in 1953 is the official Destination Marketing Organization for Fort Payne and DeKalb County. Tourism is our largest industry, bringing in nearly 100 million dollars in expenditures by visitors in 2019. Sand Mountain, Lookout Mountain and Wills Valley provide a beautiful backdrop for our visitors to enjoy our many attractions, including; Little River Canyon National Preserve, DeSoto and Buck's Pocket State Parks, the group Alabama Fan Club and Museum, historic downtown Fort Payne. We have rental cabins, campgrounds, hotels and wonderful restaurants, a 120 acre fishing lake, and seven magnificent waterfalls and more than 30,000 acres of public lands for visitors and resident to enjoy.

Our local area has endured, through the loss of our once thriving hosiery industry that dominated the economy of our area. Tourism has been critical to the revenue income needed to support our communities and to provide jobs.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope that the highest consideration will be given to the City of Fort Payne for this grant. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at 256-516-3957

Sincerely,

John Dersham

John Dersham

President/CEO

NORTH
ALABAMA™

**ALABAMA MOUNTAIN LAKES
TOURIST ASSOCIATION**

www.northalabama.org

Mr. Kenneth Boswell
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
P.O. Box 5690
Montgomery, AL 36103

Dear Director Boswell,

I am writing this letter to express my support to the City of Fort Payne in their efforts to acquire a grant to help fund the construction of the new Cross Country Walking, Running, and Bicycle Trail through the Recreational Trails Program. The proposed multi-use hiking/mountain biking trail will be located at the site of the new Sports Complex which will allow locals and visitors to experience the natural resources found in Fort Payne and Lookout Mountain.

What was once known as the "Sock Capital of the World," DeKalb County today has very limited industries, and with the departure of sock manufacturers, tourism is vital to the economy in northeastern Alabama. This area of DeKalb County is world renown for its natural beauty year round and the proposed trail will showcase the Appalachian Region and its recreational capabilities, bringing in tourists throughout the year. In addition to serving as a mechanism to bolster tourism to the region and generating revenue for the City of Fort Payne, the trail will offer an additional outdoor exercise regime for local residents who are in search of a more healthy lifestyle.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope that the highest consideration will be given to the City of Fort Payne for this grant. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at 256.350.3500.

Sincerely,



Tami Reist
President & CEO



TOP OF ALABAMA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Area Agency on Aging • Economic Development District • Regional Planning Agency

Nancy Griggs
President

Mike Ashburn
Vice President

Larry Chesser
Secretary

Frank Travis
Treasurer

Thornton Stanley, Jr.
Ex Officio

Michelle G. Jordan, FAICP – Executive Director

March 2, 2021

To: Mr. Kenneth Boswell
Director, ADECA
401 Adams Avenue
P.O. Box 5690
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Cc: Mr. Ricky Harcrow
President, DeKalb County Commission
111 Grand Avenue SW, Suite 200
Fort Payne, Alabama 35967

Re: FY 2021 ADECA Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Application
DeKalb County Commission High Falls Park Upgrades

Director Boswell:

This letter serves as concurrence and support from the Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments (TARCOG) for the proposed trail improvements and kayak launch upgrades as described in the FY 2021 DeKalb County Commission Recreational Trails Program (RTP) application. The proposed project is aligned with existing regional economic development objectives as identified in TARCOG's 2018–2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and was developed out of local planning efforts including the TARCOG Rural Planning Organization's (RPO) 2018 Connecting Communities: A DeKalb County Regional Trails Network Plan.

TARCOG has a longstanding and effective history of working with our partners throughout Northeast Alabama in identifying and expanding outdoor recreation opportunities. Region 12 is home to some of the most unique natural features in the State (as identified in the Alabama Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) yet much of the economic potential for outdoor recreation-based tourism remains unrealized. Projects such as the proposed High Falls Park trail improvements will enable our member governments to effectively leverage the economic development potential and quality of life benefits their unrivaled natural assets present.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this application. Should DeKalb County be awarded, TARCOG grant administration staff stands ready to support the County in ensuring the project is successfully implemented.

Sincerely,

Michelle G. Jordan, FAICP
Executive Director



TOP OF ALABAMA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Area Agency on Aging • Economic Development District • Regional Planning Agency

Nancy Griggs
President

Mike Ashburn
Vice President

Larry Chesser
Secretary

Frank Travis
Treasurer

Thornton Stanley, Jr.
Ex Officio

Michelle G. Jordan, FAICP – Executive Director

March 2, 2021

To: Mr. Kenneth Boswell
Director, ADECA
401 Adams Avenue
P.O. Box 5690
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Cc: Mr. Terry McClendon
Mayor, Town of Sylvania
P.O. Box 150
Sylvania, AL 35988

Re: FY 2021 ADECA Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Application
Sylvania Town Park Walking-Path

Director Boswell:

This letter serves as concurrence and support from the Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments (TARCOG) for the construction of a walking path within the existing Sylvania Town Park as described in the FY 2021 Town of Sylvania Recreational Trails Program (RTP) application. The proposed project is aligned with existing regional economic development objectives as identified in TARCOG's 2018-2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and was developed out of local planning efforts including the TARCOG Rural Planning Organization's (RPO) 2018 Connecting Communities: A DeKalb County Regional Trails Network Plan.

TARCOG has a longstanding and effective history of working with our partners throughout Northeast Alabama in identifying and expanding outdoor recreation opportunities. As the Area Agency on Aging within Region 12, we understand the unique challenges faced by our senior populations over the past year. With the extended closure of local senior centers due to COVID-19, a vast majority of our senior populations in small towns have been left with few spaces in which they can safely gather and recreate. Reconsidering recreational spaces from merely places to recreate into community gathering spaces allows for fostering community connectivity, continuity, and the promotion of healthy lifestyle by *all* age groups.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this application. Should the Town of Sylvania be awarded, TARCOG grant administration staff stands ready to support the Town in ensuring the project is successfully implemented.

Sincerely,


Michelle G. Jordan, FAICP
Executive Director



TOP OF ALABAMA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Area Agency on Aging • Economic Development District • Regional Planning Agency

Nancy Griggs
President

Mike Ashburn
Vice President

Larry Chesser
Secretary

Frank Travis
Treasurer

Thornton Stanley, Jr.
Ex Officio

Michelle G. Jordan, FAICP – Executive Director

March 2, 2021

To: Mr. Kenneth Boswell
Director, ADECA
401 Adams Avenue
P.O. Box 5690
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Cc: Mr. Brian Baine
Mayor, City of Fort Payne
100 Alabama Avenue NW
Fort Payne, Alabama 35967

Re: FY 2021 ADECA Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Application
City of Fort Payne Cross-Country Walking, Running, and Bicycle Trail

Director Boswell:

This letter serves as concurrence and support from the Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments (TARCOG) for the proposed cross-country walking, running, and bicycle trail as described in the FY 2021 City of Fort Payne Recreational Trails Program (RTP) application. The proposed project is aligned with existing regional economic development objectives as identified in TARCOG's 2018–2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and was developed out of local planning efforts including the TARCOG Rural Planning Organization's (RPO) 2018 Connecting Communities: A DeKalb County Regional Trails Network Plan.

TARCOG has a longstanding and effective history of working with our partners throughout Northeast Alabama in identifying and expanding outdoor recreation opportunities. Region 12 is home to some of the most unique natural features in the State (as identified in the Alabama Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) yet much of the economic potential for outdoor recreation-based tourism remains unrealized. Projects such as the proposed Cross-Country Walking, Running, and Bicycle Trail will enhance opportunities to attract economic development and revitalization as it relates to tourism and outdoor recreation, but also as an important quality of life feature for interested investors in the Fort Payne and DeKalb County region.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this application. Should the City of Fort Payne be awarded, TARCOG grant administration staff stands ready to support the City in ensuring the project is successfully implemented.

Sincerely,

Michelle G. Jordan, FAICP
Executive Director



TOP OF ALABAMA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Area Agency on Aging • Economic Development District • Regional Planning Agency

Nancy Griggs
President

Mike Ashburn
Vice President

Larry Chesser
Secretary

Frank Travis
Treasurer

Thornton Stanley, Jr.
Ex Officio

Michelle G. Jordan, FAICP – Executive Director

March 2, 2021

INVOICE

AARC
5900 Carmichael Place
Montgomery, AL 36117
Attn: Sharon Darrington, AARC Administrator

Billing for the completion of the Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments (TARCOG)
2020 – 2023 Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan (HSCTP).

AMOUNT DUE \$12,500.00

Please remit to: TARCOG
Attn: Accounting Department
5075 Research Dr. N.W.
Huntsville, AL 35805


Michelle Jordan, Executive Director

Public Input Form

The City of Fort Payne is applying to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) to continue the development of recreational trail opportunities in Fort Payne. The proposed project is at the site of the new Fort Payne Sports Complex and will be a multi-functional 3.1-mile trail open to the public to be used for hiking, cross-country running, and mountain biking.

The City is seeking public input and support from key stakeholders and community members for the proposed project. Community support is critical to developing outdoor recreation opportunities that effectively meet the need of Fort Payne's citizens.

Name Steve Black

Title/Position Teacher Company/Organization Fort Payne City Schools

Would you use the 3.1-mile multi-use trail at the new Sports Complex? Yes No

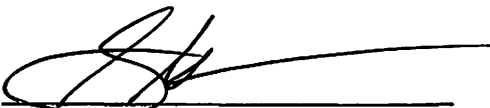
If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking? (check all) Hiking Running Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

As an avid cyclist and adventure racer I train a lot. A trail this close to home would allow me to ride/run more. It would also be a great outlet to relieve the stress associated with daily life.

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

There are multiple MTB clubs in the surrounding areas looking for more riding opportunities. Most clubs would have no problem with the short commute to Fort Payne. In a world filled with technology this would be a great way to introduce our youth to outdoor activities.

Signature 

Date 9/30/21

Shane Byrd
1525 Fischer Road, Northeast
Fort Payne, Alabama 35967

September 16, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

The Fort Payne area is a beautifully scenic area that would be a perfect backdrop for an extensive system of hiking and biking trails. The idea of connecting the new Fort Payne Sports Complex to Lookout Mountain by trail is certainly an innovative way of promoting and connecting our area's tourist attractions. In addition to that, our mountain side is laced with old trails and paths that would create a mesmerizing journey to the existing system of trails at Desoto State Park and Little River Canyon National Preserve. I look forward to the possibility of exploring the mountain side that I admire daily. All in all, there is no downside to the project as long as it is well planned, supported, and finished. Thanks in advance for your consideration of this very worthy project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Byrd', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shane Byrd

Nicole Cedillo
201 45th Street NE
Fort Payne, AL 35967
256-845-0535

September 13, 2021

Walter Watson
Council President
100 Alabama Avenue NW
Fort Payne, AL 35967

Dear Mr. Watson,

I am writing in regards to the upcoming addition of a new sports complex in Fort Payne. In concurrence with this new build, I believe efforts should be made to represent sports that aren't suited for complexes.

Fort Payne is a city that is already bustling with tourists, but a mountain biking trail would create even more traction for this growing city in the valley. As an adolescent who has grown up in the neighboring mountains of Fort Payne, I feel that the construction of a mountain biking trail would do wonders for connecting those on the outskirts of the city.

Mountain biking trails would open a new range of junctions for other outdoor activities, for instance:

- Wilderness appreciation walks for people who want to reconnect with nature.
- Environmental and physical practices (jogging, hiking, and sightseeing, to name a few.)
- Foraging and identifying organisms like plants and leaves

And of course: **mountain biking**

Fort Payne could benefit from both the sports complex *and* the mountain bike trail. Not only could tourists gain a new place to visit, but residents of the town could enjoy exploring a new path on the Appalachian Mountains.

Best Regards,



September 17, 2021

Dear Fort Payne City Council members:

My name is Daniella Castillo. I've attended Fort Payne City Schools since kindergarten, and I'm currently a junior. I'm writing to you because I think our city should have a mountain bike trail. The reason behind this is because Fort Payne is growing in population, and people are searching for various things to do in our community.

As you know, people from counties outside of DeKalb would take advantage of the trail and would possibly use it to host fundraisers and fun community activities. I workout in my free time after school—as do other teenagers. We use exercise as a coping mechanism to clear our minds and to relieve anxiety and stress. Please take our voices into consideration and trust that many will benefit from a new trail.

Sincerely,

Daniella Castillo



Public Input Form

The City of Fort Payne is applying to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) to continue the development of recreational trail opportunities in Fort Payne. The proposed project is at the site of the new Fort Payne Sports Complex and will be a multi-functional 3.1-mile trail open to the public to be used for hiking, cross-country running, and mountain biking.

The City is seeking public input and support from key stakeholders and community members for the proposed project. Community support is critical to developing outdoor recreation opportunities that effectively meet the need of Fort Payne's citizens.

Name JenniferMcCurdy

Title/Position Executive Director Company/Organization Fort Payne Chamber of Commerce

Would you use the 3.1-mile multi-use trail at the new Sports Complex? Yes No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking? (check all) Hiking Running Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

My daughter runs cross country for the Fort Payne High School varsity team and this trail could mean everything for the FP teams. Currently we have no trail to practice on and we cannot host meets. We would love to hike and bike as a family as well and our out of town guests also enjoy hiking and biking.

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

Cross Country meets can bring in thousands of tourist spending money in our community. Additionally, when there are family friendly activities in communities, businesses are more likely to move to those areas.

Signature  Date: 10/6/2021

Public Input Form

The City of Fort Payne is applying to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) to continue the development of recreational trail opportunities in Fort Payne. The proposed project is at the site of the new Fort Payne Sports Complex and will be a multi-functional 3.1-mile trail open to the public to be used for hiking, cross-country running, and mountain biking.

The City is seeking public input and support from key stakeholders and community members for the proposed project. Community support is critical to developing outdoor recreation opportunities that effectively meet the need of Fort Payne's citizens.

Name JenniferMcCurdy

Title/Position Executive Director Company/Organization Fort Payne Chamber of Commerce

Would you use the 3.1-mile multi-use trail at the new Sports Complex? Yes No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking? (check all) Hiking Running Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

My daughter runs cross country for the Fort Payne High School varsity team and this trail could mean everything for the FP teams. Currently we have no trail to practice

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

Cross Country meets can bring in thousands of tourist spending money in our community. Additionally, when there are family friendly activities in communities, businesses are more likely to move to those areas.

Signature  Date: 10/6/2021

Public Input Form

The City of Fort Payne is applying to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) to continue the development of recreational trail opportunities in Fort Payne. The proposed project is at the site of the new Fort Payne Sports Complex and will be a multi-functional 3.1-mile trail open to the public to be used for hiking, cross-country running, and mountain biking.

The City is seeking public input and support from key stakeholders and community members for the proposed project. Community support is critical to developing outdoor recreation opportunities that effectively meet the need of Fort Payne's citizens.

Name Marcie Davis

Title/Position Local Runner / Art Teacher - 3-6th grade Company/Organization Ft Payne City School

Would you use the 3.1-mile multi-use trail at the new Sports Complex? Yes No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking? (check all) Hiking Running Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

A running walking + hiking trail would be a great opportunity for families and visitors in the area to get outside and enjoy our beautiful area. Being active helps increase blood flow, increase endorphins to improve your mental health, and burns calories! As a local runner I would love for our local running groups to meet and run in a safe, fun, and competitive area!

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

A fitness trail would increase local and visitors into our beautiful community. It would open up opportunities for enjoyment, fundraising, and great family memories!

Signature Marcie Davis

Date 9/30/21

Public Input Form

The City of Fort Payne is applying to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) to continue the development of recreational trail opportunities in Fort Payne. The proposed project is at the site of the new Fort Payne Sports Complex and will be a multi-functional 3.1-mile trail open to the public to be used for hiking, cross-country running, and mountain biking.

The City is seeking public input and support from key stakeholders and community members for the proposed project. Community support is critical to developing outdoor recreation opportunities that effectively meet the need of Fort Payne's citizens.

Name Brandi Lyles

Title/Position Exec. VP of Marketing Company/Organization FTC

Would you use the 3.1-mile multi-use trail at the new Sports Complex? Yes No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking? (check all) Hiking Running Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

These trails would provide a safe space for walking, running and biking. I love to walk and I currently walk on the highway but it is risky with the traffic. I would like a safe bike trail to ride on. I do not bike now because it isn't safe to bike on the highway. I would utilize these trails to help maintain a healthy lifestyle.
My son is a cross country runner. Our city is unable to host XC meets due to the lack of facilities to do so.

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

It is imperative to have safe spaces for walking, running and biking for economic development purposes. Safe trails improve the quality of life and promotes wellness in our communities. This trail would also help provide facilities that would allow Fort Payne to host cross country meets and bike races that would bring out-of-town guests to our city. Our community needs more facilities that will support a positive lifestyle to help in recruiting employees to relocate to our city.

Signature Brandi Lyles

Date September 23, 2021

Public Input Form

The City of Fort Payne is applying to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) to continue the development of recreational trail opportunities in Fort Payne. The proposed project is at the site of the new Fort Payne Sports Complex and will be a multi-functional 3.1-mile trail open to the public to be used for hiking, cross-country running, and mountain biking.

The City is seeking public input and support from key stakeholders and community members for the proposed project. Community support is critical to developing outdoor recreation opportunities that effectively meet the need of Fort Payne's citizens.

Email *

jshanewallace@gmail.com

Name *

Shane Wallace

Title/Position

Vice President

Company/Organization

Jimmy Wallace Construction Co., Inc.

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

It would be a great place to unwind and get into shape and teach the younger generation how to mountain bike.

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

This trail could generate some significant tourism dollars. My three daughters participated in Alabama NICA high school mountain biking. This org grows every year. Gadsden, Anniston and Huntsville are the closest places currently on their schedule.

Signature/Date

Shane Wallace 10/2/21

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms

Public Input Form

The City of Fort Payne is applying to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) to continue the development of recreational trail opportunities in Fort Payne. The proposed project is at the site of the new Fort Payne Sports Complex and will be a multi-functional 3.1-mile trail open to the public to be used for hiking, cross-country running, and mountain biking.

The City is seeking public input and support from key stakeholders and community members for the proposed project. Community support is critical to developing outdoor recreation opportunities that effectively meet the need of Fort Payne's citizens.

Email *

wlau1995@gmail.com

Name *

Wayne Lyles

Title/Position

Superintendent

Company/Organization

DeKalb Co. Schools

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

This trail has been needed for a long time. This trail will encourage members of the community to enjoy outdoor activities that is much needed during a pandemic. This will definitely benefit those that would use it mentally and physically.

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

This would allow the community to host cross country meets and mountain bike races.

Signature/Date

Wayne Lyles

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Email *

saphillips0530@gmail.com

Name *

Sara Phillips

Title/Position

Accounting

Company/Organization

DeSoto Printing

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

It would provide a close trail to walk with my family or an outside workout since most of the north end of town is not equipped with any sort of sidewalk system.

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

The trail would provide access points for tourism-boosters such as cross country events, mountain biking hobbyists, etc. that do not currently exist in the area.

Signature/Date

Sara Phillips - 10/2/21

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Google Forms

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Email *

jwarrenwatson@hotmail.com

Name *

Warren Watson

Title/Position

Company/Organization

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

My children ran cross country when they went to school at Fort Payne and I know it would be very valuable if the cross country team had their own course to practice on and to host their own meet. All of us still run, mountain bike, and hike and so do my grandkids, so we would use it often when they are in town and I would use it personally 3-4 times a week since I live close by.

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

Hosting a cross country meet would bring revenue into the city and having hiking & mountain biking trails will also bring in tourism. I would love to see the trails connect to the top of the Lookout Mountain and Desoto Park.

Signature/Date

Warren Watson

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Email *

douglaswalker30@gmail.com

Name *

Douglas M Walker

Title/Position

Company/Organization

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

At 78 years old I would only use it for walking if I used it.

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

I am sure that the younger population of the city would get a lot of use out of this trail. Also I feel that it would be great for school sport events.

Signature/Date

Douglas Walker 10/3/2021

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Email *

powderhound1@gmail.com

Name *

Justin Christman

Title/Position

Owner

Company/Organization

Roadside Que

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

This trail hopefully will be just the start of Fort Payne trail system. My family love riding our bikes and enjoy being outside together.

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

Fort Payne needs to become more biker friendly and this is a great start

Signature/Date

Justin Christman 10/2/21

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Email *

jillboj1993@gmail.com

Name *

Jill Johnston

Title/Position

Pharmacist

Company/Organization

America's Best Care Pharmacy

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

I would love to hike it and hike it with friends and family. It's much needed and the perfect use for that land.

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

It would be another trail to offer the many people that come to our area to hike, bike or just visit. Maintaining it would be a great community project.

Signature/Date

Jill C Johnston 10/3/2021

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Email *

aunticole13@hotmail.com

Name *

Nicole Stott

Title/Position

Company/Organization

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

Would give me another place to walk

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

Signature/Date

Nicole stott

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Email *

thethompsonfolk@gmail.com

Name *

Kelsey

Title/Position

Company/Organization

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

All the above

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

All the above (I want to propose adding a disc golf course along it as well which would definitely make money via community events!)

Signature/Date

Kelsey Thompson 10/3/21

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Email *

janemcclendon@outlook.com

Name *

Jane McClendon

Title/Position

Revenue Examiner

Company/Organization

State of Alabama

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

This would be an awesome asset to FP. It would take advantage of the natural beauty of the area at the foot of Lookout Mtn

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

With Little River Canyon and Desoto State Park this would be a place closer to town that provides a similar outdoor experience. I believe it would also promote tourism.

Signature/Date

Jane McClendon 10/3/21

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Email *

brckie1970@gmail.com

Name *

Beckie

Title/Position

Company/Organization

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

Love hiking, closer to home so would use it frequently, and easier to get friends and family to join you when closer to home

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

Signature/Date

Beckie LEATH 10/3/21

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Email *

P.jaypar@gmail.com

Name *

Jayden Parris

Title/Position

Student

Company/Organization

N/A

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

This trail would be a great addition to the local athletic community. It would help introduce more people to mountain biking and cross country, two of the best sports at Fort Payne School Systems, and it would allow people from around the community to get out and enjoy nature a little more after being stuck in their homes for a year and a half.

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

This trail would be a great addition to the local athletic community. It would help introduce more people to mountain biking and cross country, two of the best sports at Fort Payne School Systems, and it would allow people from around the community to get out and enjoy nature a little more after being stuck in their homes for a year and a half.

Signature/Date

Jayden Parris

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Email *

evelinnohemi96@gmail.com

Name *

Evelin

Title/Position

Company/Organization

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

As I did cross country back in high school, I always thought how good and beneficial to have our own running trail. We could have our own xc meets and encourage more athletes to join.

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

Signature/Date

Evelin Murphy

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Name Jaqueline Sandoval

Title/Position _____ Company/Organization _____

Would you use the 3.1-mile multi-use trail at the new Sports Complex? Yes No

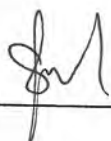
If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking? (check all) Hiking Running Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

It would benefit my health to have a safe place to exercise

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

Benefit the city alot by promoting healthy habits.

Signature 

Date 9/30/21

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Email *

renetammyjohnson@gmail.com

Name *

Tammy Johnson

Title/Position

Fort Payne resident

Company/Organization

Self

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

Be great for the city to have more things to do

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

More thing to do here !

Signature/Date

October 5

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Email *

oliviamdodd@gmail.com

Name *

Olivia Dodd

Title/Position

Administrative Assistant

Company/Organization

Northeast Alabama Community College

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

A multi-use trail would give me and my family another opportunity to experience outdoor recreation in a safe environment. Outdoor activities are crucial for mental and physical wellness, and I try to engage in those opportunities often.

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

This is an excellent way to improve the recreational amenities in Fort Payne. I believe tourism would be positively impacted.

Signature/Date

Olivia Dodd, 10/5/2021

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Email *

chrismeacham88@gmail.com

Name *

Chris Meacham

Title/Position

Company/Organization

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

Would be a great place to have an outdoor space for the community that would give us a place to exercise and enjoy nature. Our community could use encouragement in health and fitness

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

It would be a uplifting place to gather for fitness and exercise for all ages. The track would be a go to site for multiple 5k races that are used fundraising great causes. It would be a shame to not have this feature at the complex

Signature/Date

Chris Meacham/10-5-21

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Email *

dogdude095@gmail.com

Name *

Brian McGinnis

Title/Position

Company/Organization

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

This would mean more time I can spend with my lovely girlfriend, getting exercise which helps both of our mental health's. It would be a great and welcome addition to the town, and would be great to have somewhere to bike safely!

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

I think this would be a great addition to Fort Payne. It seems all of Dekalb county lacks a proper bike trail. Leaving Cyclists no where else to ride but the street, which is not safe for the cyclist, and quite annoying to drivers. There could be county wide bike events based around this!

Signature/Date

Brian McGinnis 10/05/2021

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Email *

joannamariocab@gmail.com

Name *

Joanna

Title/Position

Accountant

Company/Organization

Private

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

My family loves spending time outdoors and we love to stay in town, this would be a perfect addition to the town.

Signature/Date

Joanna 10/5

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Email *

seth.norman11@gmail.com

Name *

Robert Seth Norman

Title/Position

Sales

Company/Organization

Atlantic Packaging

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

Fitness and family time. My son also run XC and it would be nice to have races in Fort Payne.

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

This would bring outside revenue into Fort Payne. It's a win win.

Signature/Date

Robert Seth Norman / 10-05-2021

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Email *

griffin.norman04@gmail.com

Name *

Griffin Norman

Title/Position

Student

Company/Organization

NACC

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

Fitness and family time

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

events and more revenue

Signature/Date

Griffin Norman

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Email *

ssmith3002@gmail.com

Name *

S Smith

Title/Position

Company/Organization

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

Access to safe space for outdoor activities for our family.

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

It could provide multiple opportunities for tourism, clubs, and outdoor events.

Signature/Date

S Smith/October 5, 2021

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Google Forms

Public Input Form

The City of Fort Payne is applying to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) to continue the development of recreational trail opportunities in Fort Payne. The proposed project is at the site of the new Fort Payne Sports Complex and will be a multi-functional 3.1-mile trail open to the public to be used for hiking, cross-country running, and mountain biking.

The City is seeking public input and support from key stakeholders and community members for the proposed project. Community support is critical to developing outdoor recreation opportunities that effectively meet the need of Fort Payne's citizens.

Email *

smithhalle2002@gmail.com

Name *

Halle Smith

Title/Position

Company/Organization

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

Signature/Date

Halle Smith 10/05

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Email *

averysmith.1500@gmail.com

Name *

Avery Smith

Title/Position

community member

Company/Organization

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

This trail would provide the perfect way for me to exercise and spend time in nature with my grandmother!

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

This trail would be an amazing way to build community and encourage healthy habits in Fort Payne!!

Signature/Date

Avery Smith 10/5/21

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Email *

ttpratt@gmail.com

Name *

Tim Pratt

Title/Position

Sr. Quality Engineer

Company/Organization

Siemens Energy

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

Not everyone has ready access to a safe area to walk. For me it would provide a safe area away from traffic where I could exercise and meet up with other like minded individuals.

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

It would offer a safe space where pedestrians, runners and bikers could exercise without concern for traffic hazards.

Signature/Date

Timothy T Pratt

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Email *

inorman0408@gmail.com

Name *

Ian Norman

Title/Position

Student

Company/Organization

Fort Payne High School

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

It would be great for our cross country team, not only for practices and meets but to have something all students or peoples could use.

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

It would be great for exercise or even just for the scenery

Signature/Date

Ian Norman 10/5/21

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Email *

kallysue11@hotmail.com

Name *

Karan

Title/Position

Company/Organization

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

Fitness

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

Great for the community

Signature/Date

Karan 10/06/2021

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Google Forms

Public Input Form

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Email *

tashanklin3@yahoo.com

Name *

August Shanklin

Title/Position

Company/Organization

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

Hiking and trail running are some of my favorite things to do. Having a good trail, as conveniently located as this one, would be wonderful.

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

This would give people the opportunity to get outside and enjoy nature without having to drive up the mountain. Boosts overall health and satisfaction within the community

Signature/Date

August Shanklin 10/6/21

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Email *

maryzee@yahoo.com

Name *

mary zeedick

Title/Position

retired

Company/Organization

na

Would you use the 3.1 mile multi use trail at the new Sports Complex

Yes

No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking?

Hiking

Running

Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

good exercise

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

something more to do in fort payne

Signature/Date

mary zeedick oct 6,2021

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Name LARRY SANDERS

Title/Position RETIRED Company/Organization _____

Would you use the 3.1-mile multi-use trail at the new Sports Complex? Yes No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking? (check all) Hiking Running Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

SAFE PLACE TO WALK RUN WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

PROBABLY WOULD HELP WITH TOURISM, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS. NEED A PLACE TO EXERCISE PETS, MAYBE AT OLD HOSPITAL SITE.

Signature Larry Sanders

Date 10/6/2021

Public Input Form

The City of Fort Payne is applying to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) to continue the development of recreational trail opportunities in Fort Payne. The proposed project is at the site of the new Fort Payne Sports Complex and will be a multi-functional 3.1-mile trail open to the public to be used for hiking, cross-country running, and mountain biking.

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Name Barbara Sanders

Title/Position Retired Company/Organization _____

Would you use the 3.1-mile multi-use trail at the new Sports Complex? Yes No

If yes, would you use it for hiking, running, or biking? (check all) Hiking Running Biking

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to you (time spent with family/friends, fitness, mental health, etc.):

We need a good place to ride bikes, walk, run. That is safe and away from traffic.

Please provide a brief statement of what this trail would mean to the Fort Payne community (tourism, community events, hiking, running, biking clubs, etc.):

I feel it would greatly improve tourism. People who come to the area love the outdoors. We have had many trips to places just because they had bike trails.

Signature BSander

Date 10-6-2021

Additional Attachments

Parks Maintenance Operation Plan

Recreation/Sports Complex Expense FY2022

Preliminary Engineering Report

DeKalb County Regional Trails Network

Fort Payne Parks & Recreation

Parks Maintenance Operation Plan

Fort Payne Parks and Recreation is committed to maintaining parks, athletic fields, common green space and trails to the highest achievable standards. The parks maintenance division works out of a central shop currently located at the Sports Complex. They are responsible for maintaining approximately 68 acres of parks, athletic fields and common green spaces.

Staff

Reports directly to assistant director.

Staff consists of 4 FTE and PTE as needed/available.

Equipment

Equipment includes: four (4) deck mowers, two (2) reel mowers, three (3) blowers, an edger and an assortment of hand tools. Equipment is kept cleaned, greased, and in optimum working conditions. All equipment is maintained and repaired in house when ever possible.

Budget

Fort Payne Parks and Recreation operates within a \$1.4 million budget with \$65,000 dedicated to repair and maintenance of building and lands.

General Maintenance Duties

- Site Inspection
- Mowing/Weeding/Edging Walkways
- Small tree pruning/care
- Mulching
- Litter Removal
- Empty Trash Receptacles
- Vandalism Repair
- Walking Cleaning
- Picnic Table and Bench Maintenance
- Structure Maintenance
- Equipment Maintenance



Recreation/Sports Complex Expense FY2022

Account #	Description	Type	Amount
01-41-5101	Salaries - Recreation Regular	Expense	\$860,000.00
01-41-5102	Overtime	Expense	\$10,000.00
01-41-5103	Fitness Trainers	Expense	\$14,200.00
01-41-5104	FICA Match	Expense	\$65,000.00
01-41-5105	Retirement Match	Expense	\$105,000.00
01-41-5106	Health Insurance Paid by City	Expense	\$160,500.00
01-41-5107	Life Insurance	Expense	\$1,500.00
01-41-5108	State Unemployment Insurance	Expense	\$2,500.00
01-41-5109	Uniforms	Expense	\$3,500.00
01-41-5115	Training and Official Meetings	Expense	\$10,000.00
01-41-5118	Umpires and Statisticians	Expense	\$31,000.00
01-41-5120	Safety Equipment	Expense	\$1,000.00
01-41-5127	Legal Services	Expense	\$250.00
01-41-5132	Other Contractual Services	Expense	\$4,000.00
01-41-5152	Equipment Rental	Expense	\$2,750.00
01-41-5202	Office Supplies	Expense	\$5,000.00
01-41-5203	Janitorial Supplies	Expense	\$17,000.00
01-41-5204	Food and Medical Supplies	Expense	\$6,000.00
01-41-5205	Small Tools and Supplies	Expense	\$2,500.00
01-41-5207	Postage and Freight	Expense	\$350.00
01-41-5212	Dues, Subs & Publications	Expense	\$3,000.00
01-41-5251	Fuels and Lubricants	Expense	\$12,500.00
01-41-5252	Tires and Tubes	Expense	\$2,000.00
01-41-5258	R & M - Buildings and Land	Expense	\$30,000.00
01-41-5259	R&M Software	Expense	\$500.00
01-41-5260	R & M - Equipment	Expense	\$8,000.00
01-41-5261	R & M - Vehicles	Expense	\$4,000.00
01-41-5265	R & M - Fields	Expense	\$10,000.00
01-41-5266	Swimming Pool Expense	Expense	\$17,000.00
01-41-5267	Splash Pad Expenses	Expense	\$5,000.00
01-41-5301	Utilities	Expense	\$135,000.00
01-41-5302	Sanitation	Expense	\$12,000.00
01-41-5303	Telephone	Expense	\$8,500.00
01-41-5304	Pool Utilities	Expense	\$6,000.00

01-41-5306	Internet & Website	Expense	\$7,000.00
01-41-5402	Insurance - Vehicles	Expense	\$5,500.00
01-41-5403	Insurance - Real & Other Prop	Expense	\$30,000.00
01-41-5405	Insurance - Surety Bonds	Expense	\$200.00
01-41-5406	Insurance - Workers Comp	Expense	\$25,000.00
01-41-5434	Christmas Expenses	Expense	\$2,000.00
01-41-5436	Senior Citizen Expenses	Expense	\$5,000.00
01-41-5476	Tournament Expense	Expense	\$900.00
01-41-5479	Baseball Supplies	Expense	\$11,500.00
01-41-5480	Basketball Supplies	Expense	\$8,000.00
01-41-5481	Softball Supplies	Expense	\$10,000.00
01-41-5482	Flag Football Supplies	Expense	\$2,000.00
01-41-5483	Swim Team Expenses	Expense	\$1,500.00
01-41-5485	Recreational Equipment	Expense	\$2,000.00
01-41-5487	Camps and Clinics	Expense	\$9,000.00
01-41-5489	Special Community Events	Expense	\$300.00
01-41-5492	Recreational Programs	Expense	\$3,000.00
01-41-5558	Software Service Charges	Expense	\$6,800.00
01-41-5627	Capital Outlay	Expense	\$8,600.00
01-41-5630	New sports Complex	Expense	\$5,000.00
01-41-5802	Miscellaneous	Expense	\$250.00
01-41-5803	Concession Supplies	Expense	\$30,000.00
01-41-5804	Advertising and Promotion	Expense	\$3,000.00
01-41-5805	Alcohol Liability Ins & License	Expense	\$900.00
01-41-5808	Claims and Damages	Expense	\$1,000.00
01-41-5809	Refunds	Expense	\$1,000.00
Recreation/Sports Complex Expenses FY2022			\$1,735,000.00

Recreation/Sports Complex Revenue FY2022

Account #	Description	Type	Amount
01-00-4405	Flag Football Revenue	Revenue	(\$1,500.00)
01-00-4406	General Athletics Revenue	Revenue	(\$1,500.00)
01-00-4408	Basketball Gate	Revenue	(\$6,000.00)
01-00-4409	Swim Team	Revenue	(\$2,100.00)
01-00-4410	Membership Fees	Revenue	(\$120,000.00)
01-00-4411	Basketball Fees	Revenue	(\$15,000.00)
01-00-4412	Baseball Fees	Revenue	(\$22,000.00)
01-00-4413	Camps and Clinics	Revenue	(\$10,000.00)
01-00-4415	Pool Memberships	Revenue	(\$1,500.00)
01-00-4416	Pool Gate and Lessons	Revenue	(\$10,000.00)
01-00-4418	Tournament Entry Fees	Revenue	(\$1,300.00)
01-00-4419	Tivity Health-Silver Sneakers	Revenue	(\$2,500.00)
01-00-4420	Gate Fees - YSC	Revenue	(\$15,000.00)
01-00-4423	Softball League Fees	Revenue	(\$10,000.00)
01-00-4424	Girl's Softball League Fees	Revenue	(\$5,500.00)
01-00-4425	Team Sponsorships	Revenue	(\$500.00)
01-00-4426	Program Ads and Sales	Revenue	(\$500.00)
01-00-4427	Recreation Vending	Revenue	(\$1,200.00)
01-00-4428	Concession Sales	Revenue	(\$55,000.00)
01-00-4429	Pavilion Sales	Revenue	(\$2,000.00)
01-00-4430	Field Rental	Revenue	(\$15,000.00)
01-00-4432	Sale of Softballs, Baseballs,	Revenue	(\$2,000.00)
01-00-4437	Rec Facility Rental	Revenue	(\$1,500.00)
01-00-4438	Rec Program Revenue	Revenue	(\$1,200.00)
Recreation/ Sports Complex Revenue FY2022			(\$302,800.00)

**ENGINEERING NARRATIVE
FOR
2021 RTP APPLICATION
CROSS COUNTRY WALKING, RUNNING AND BICYCLE TRAIL
CITY OF FORT PAYNE
DEKALB COUNTY, ALABAMA**

Prepared for:

**CITY OF FORT PAYNE
100 Alabama Avenue, NW
Fort Payne, AL 35967**

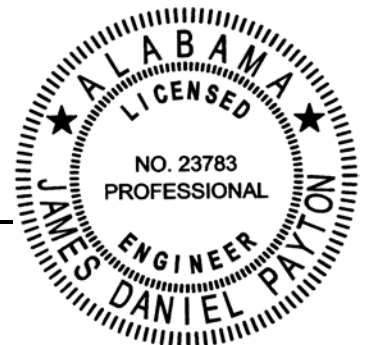
Prepared by:

**LADD ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS, INC.
P. O. Box 680869
Fort Payne, AL 35968-1609
Telephone No. (256) 845-5315**

James D. Payton

09-23-2021

James Payton, P.E.



SEPTEMBER 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NUMBER	TITLE	PAGE NUMBERS
PART I	Purpose	1
PART II	General Area Information	1
PART III	Need for Project	2 – 3
PART IV	Proposed Project	3 – 5
PART V	Conclusion and Recommendations	6

EXHIBITS

NUMBER	TITLE	PAGE NUMBERS
"A"	Preliminary Cost Estimate	A-1
"B"	Maps	
	Location Map	B-1
	Key Map	B-2



I. PURPOSE

A. The Purpose of this Engineering Narrative is to present technical information to document the need for the addition of a Cross Country Walking, Running and Bicycle Trail for the City of Fort Payne in order to obtain funding assistance through the 2021 Recreational Trails Program (RTP).

II. GENERAL AREA INFORMATION

A. The City of Fort Payne is located in central DeKalb County and serves as the County seat.

B. The project area is on land in the northern part of Fort Payne recently purchased by the City and dedicated to recreational use. It is referred to by the City as the Carden property and is located at 6175 Martin Ave NE.

C. A master plan has been created by the City for the property and plans are to have recreational opportunities including soccer, baseball, softball and general use fields, a Miracle Field for baseball, walking, running and bicycle trails, an amphitheater and a nature trail.

D. Project Key Maps are included in Exhibit "B" depicting the project area.

III. NEED FOR PROJECT

- A. The City has recognized that the recreational opportunities in Fort Payne were limited by available land in existing parks. There was a desire to increase the number and quality of fields available for team sports, particularly soccer, baseball and softball. The City's existing Sports Complex is land locked and cannot expand.
- B. A large tract of land (\pm 286 acres) became available and was purchased by the City in 2018 and it has been dedicated to recreational use. The property is located partially in the valley and partially on the side of Lookout Mountain. The variety in the terrain will provide many opportunities for different types of recreational opportunities.
- C. The first phase of the development is soccer fields, and construction is underway on the fields. The City has performed all construction work thus far with its own crews and equipment.
- D. The planned second phase of the park is a trail system that can be used for walking, running and bicycling. The trail will utilize both the lower elevations in the valley and higher elevations on the lower part mountain side to provide a cross country type of experience. The preliminary trail layout has elevation ranging from 940 ft to 1,040 ft above sea level.
- E. The trail length has been set at 5 km (3.1 miles) to correspond to cross country competition length. The nearby Fort Payne

High School has a cross country team that intends to utilize this trail for competitions.

- F. There is a very active mountain bike community in Fort Payne, and its members have expressed interest in a course for use with mountain bikes for both events and recreation.
- G. The trail will be available for use by the general public for recreational use. It will be located on the same site as the ball fields under construction and will be available for use by spectators during these games as well.
- H. A wetlands delineation was performed on the site and all wetlands and streams have been identified. All construction will be performed to protect these areas.
- I. The natural resources on the property that include wetlands, a spring and timberland that will provide a habitat for the enjoyment of users of the trail.

IV. PROPOSED PROJECT

- A. The proposed project will consist of a trail that generally follows the edge of the property along lower elevations and the lower part of the mountainside.
- B. A portion of the trail will follow along a stream that runs through the property and cross the stream in two locations.

- C. The trail will be constructed of crushed aggregate (gravel). This is the preferred surface type for cross country participants and off-road bicyclists.
- D. At each of the stream crossings, a bridge will be required to span the stream. The City proposes to install a 6-ft wide pedestrian and bicycle bridge near the northern property line on the trail. A 14-ft wide bridge is proposed at another location on the stream to serve pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles.
- E. The vehicular bridge is needed to provide access to the property on the northern side of the stream for trail maintenance and general access to the property. Currently, the only access is by driving through the stream. This crossing must be eliminated before the property can be opened for public use.
- F. Along the gravel portion of the trail, cross drains will be required to channel stormwater. Culverts will be installed as necessary during the trail construction.
- E. The total length of the trail be 5 km (3.1 miles), or approximately 16,400 LF. This length will support cross country competitions. The trail will be 6 feet wide.
- G. The soccer fields currently under construction will include restrooms and parking, and these services will also support the use of the trail.

- H. It is proposed that City personnel will perform all construction work on the trail. The City is currently on-site constructing the soccer fields and have the capability to construct the trail and bridge supports.
- I. The bridges are proposed to be pre-fabricated bridges engineered and constructed by companies specializing in this type of work. An engineered design will be prepared for the bridge abutments and City personnel will install these concrete supports. A crane will be rented to set the bridges.
- J. The bridges will be competitively bid to qualified companies. The City currently has standing bids for aggregate, concrete and culverts and will solicit bids for all other materials required on the trail.
- K. It is anticipated that the City's in-kind labor and equipment will be sufficient for the required 20% match. The grant will be used to pay for the bridges, other material and professional services.
- L. The Project Key Maps included in Exhibit "B" show the proposed trail layout.
- M. The Preliminary Cost Estimate for the proposed project is enclosed as Exhibit "A". The total RTP eligible project cost is \$337,500.00, consisting of a request for \$270,000.00 (80%) in RTP funds and \$67,500.00 (20%) in local match by the City of Fort Payne.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. The City has begun the process of developing the Carden property for a wide variety of recreational uses. Construction is already underway for the first phase of soccer fields.
- B. The planned second phase will be the proposed cross country trail to provide opportunities for competitive cross country runners and bicyclists as well as use by the general public for walking, running and bicycling.
- C. The location on the site with planned ball fields will allow shared use of parking, access and restrooms. It will also allow for recreational options by spectators at other sporting events.
- D. Recommendation. It is recommended that the City of Fort Payne complete a RTP application for funds to assist with the construction of the proposed trail.

EXHIBIT "A"

PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATE

PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATE
FOR
CROSS COUNTRY AND BICYCLE TRAIL AT SPORTS COMPLEX
CITY OF FORT PAYNE
SEPTEMBER 2021

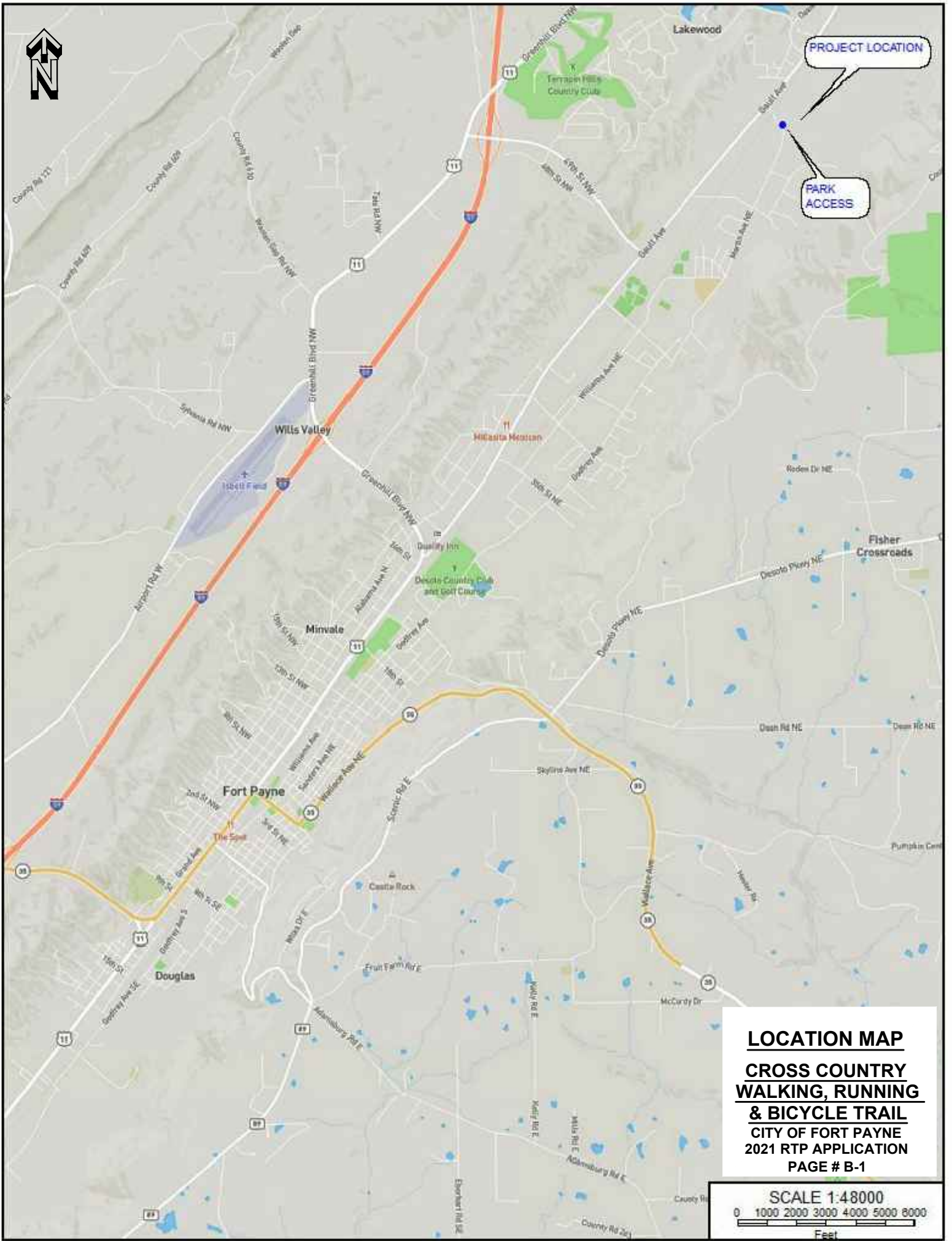
NO.	DESCRIPTION	QUAN	UNITS	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
MATERIALS					
1	Crusher Run Aggregate for Trail Surface	2,400	TON	\$ 9.50	\$ 22,800.00
2	Chert for Trail Construction	1	LS	8,400.00	8,400.00
3	Culvert for Trail Cross Drains	220	LF	9.50	2,090.00
4	Crusher Run Aggregate for Cross Drain Bedding	150	TON	9.50	1,425.00
5	Rebar and Form Materials for Bridge Construction	1	LS	8,000.00	8,000.00
6	Concrete for Bridge Construction	50	CY	105.00	5,250.00
7	Aggregate for Bridge Construction	100	TON	9.50	950.00
8	Pre-Fabricated Bridge - 6 ft Wide	1	LS	70,000.00	70,000.00
9	Pre-Fabricated Bridge - 14 ft Wide	1	LS	105,000.00	105,000.00
10	Erosion Control Materials	1	LS	6,015.00	6,015.00
EQUIPMENT - Rental					
11	Bridge Construction - Crane Rental	1	LS	5,000.00	5,000.00
LABOR - In-Kind Services					
12	Trail Construction - In-Kind Services	1	LS	35,000.00	35,000.00
13	Bridge Construction - Labor - In-Kind Services	1	LS	4,500.00	4,500.00
EQUIPMENT - In-Kind Services					
14	Trail Construction - Equipment - In-Kind Services	1	LS	25,000.00	25,000.00
15	Bridge Construction - Equipment - In-Kind Services	1	LS	3,000.00	3,000.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST:					\$ 302,430.00
Engineer Design:					15,500.00
Construction Observation (By Owner):					-
Construction Stormwater Permit Fees and Preparation:					3,500.00
Project Administration (TARCOG) (5%):					16,070.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST:					\$ 337,500.00

CASH (Materials, Rental and Professional Services):	\$ 270,000.00	80.0%
IN-KIND (Labor and Equipment):	67,500.00	20.0%
	337,500.00	

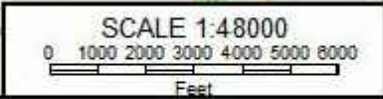
EXHIBIT “B”

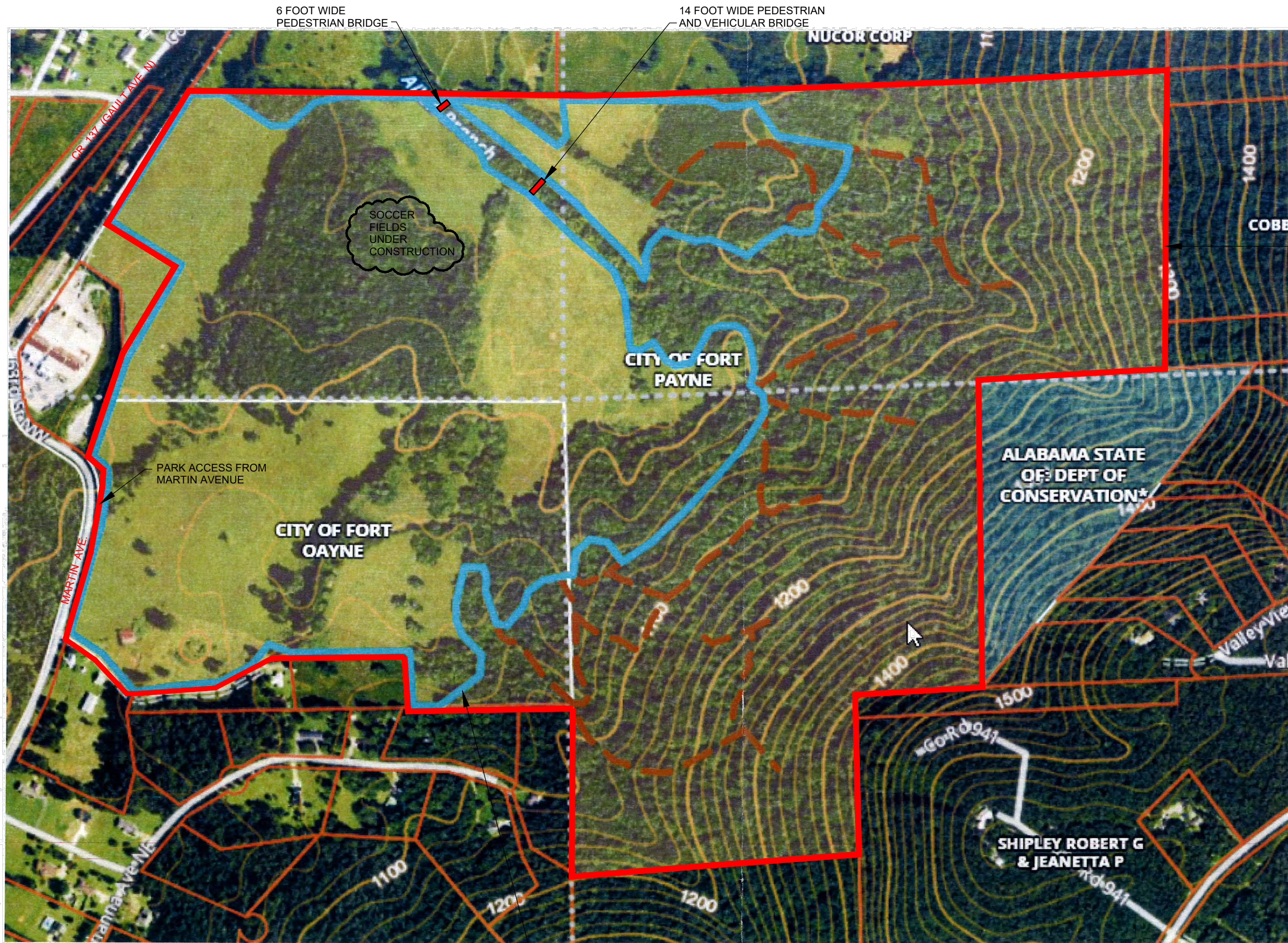
LOCATION MAP

KEY MAP



LOCATION MAP
CROSS COUNTRY
WALKING, RUNNING
& BICYCLE TRAIL
CITY OF FORT PAYNE
2021 RTP APPLICATION
PAGE # B-1





KEY MAP
CROSS COUNTRY WALKING, RUNNING & BICYCLE TRAIL
 CITY OF FORT PAYNE
 2021 RTP APPLICATION
 SCALE: 1" = 400'±
 PAGE # B-2

A PROJECT OF THE RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES A DEKALB COUNTY REGIONAL TRAILS NETWORK

A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR AN INTERCONNECTED TRAIL NETWORK
IN THE SAND MOUNTAIN AND LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN REGION



STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTICIPATING ENTITIES

This envisioned network is the product of regional and local collaboration and partnership. We thank the following individuals and organizations for their input in the creation of this document:

US Department of Interior, National Park Service

Wade Lewis, *Little River Canyon National Preserve Facility Manager*

Valerie Saferite, *Little River Canyon National Preserve Chief Ranger*

Alabama State Parks

Ken Thomas, *Alabama State Parks Trails Coordinator*

John Hughes, *DeSoto State Park Superintendent*

Jacksonville State University

Pete Conroy, *Little River Canyon Center Director*

DeKalb County

John Dersham, *DeKalb Tourism*

Jimmy Durham, *DeKalb County EDA*

City of Fort Payne

Larry Chesser, *Mayor*

Brian Baine, *City Council*

Wade Hill, *City Council*

Lynn Brewer, *City Council*

Jennifer McCurdy, *Chamber of Commerce*

Olivia Dodd, *Chamber of Commerce Rising Leaders*

Town of Mentone

Rob Hammond, *Mayor*

Randy Grider, *Mentone Arts and Cultural Center*

Town of Valley Head

Lamar Bray, *Mayor*

Debra Rhodes, *Town Clerk*

Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments

Anne Welch, *Principal Planner*

Falguni Patel, *Principal Planner*

In addition, the Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments acknowledges the efforts of many people who made contributions to this report and thanks them for their participation. TARCOG would also like to extend its appreciation to those who gave their time and commitment to meet with the staff and provide their expertise. And finally, TARCOG would like to thank the **Alabama Department of Transportation** for their support.

For more information on existing tourism opportunities and projects:

City of Fort Payne

www.fortpayne.org

Town of Mentone

www.mentonealabama.gov

Town of Valley Head

www.valleyheadalabama.com

DeKalb County

www.dekalbcountyal.us

DeKalb County Tourism

www.visitlookoutmountain.com

DeSoto State Park

www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park

Little River Canyon National Preserve

www.nps.gov/liri

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SECTION 1.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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Vision and Objectives

The ultimate vision for this proposed trail network is to provide a safe, connected network of on and off road bicycle and pedestrian trails and infrastructure for the area. It will connect the downtown business districts of Mentone, Valley Head, and Fort Payne with each other as well as DeSoto State Park and the Little River Canyon National Preserve.

TARCOG planners met with local stakeholders and officials over the summer of 2018 to discuss the project's goals and objectives, as well as gather input on important origins, destinations, and potential network routes that were taken into consideration in the design of the proposed network. The following five goals were created from these discussions and input gathered at a work session held at the DeKalb Tourism Center. These goals support the vision of a regionally connected trail network, and fully encompass the region's priorities:

1. Increase tourism to the region.
2. Attract new businesses and promote local economic development.
3. Create a connected regional bicycling and walking trail network.
4. Increase quality of life for community members.
5. Provide more opportunities for outdoor recreation and the enjoyment of local natural resources.

2017 DeKalb County Tourism Snapshot

According to the State of Alabama Tourism Department 2017 Annual Report, DeKalb County tourist expenditures in the last ten years have more than doubled, although most of the years were recession years.

**Tourism is the largest
nonagricultural business in
DeKalb County.**

<i>Total Tourist Expenditures</i>	\$85,786,441
<i>Total Tourism Earnings</i>	\$27,239,473
<i>Annual State Lodging Taxes Collected</i>	\$438,400
<i>Total Economic Impact from 2010-2014</i>	\$14,253,696
<i>Total Tourism Jobs (Direct & Indirect)</i>	1,073

TRAIL NETWORK USERS

A well designed bicycle network should provide opportunities for safe and comfortable trips for people of all ages and abilities.



Interested but Concerned Bicyclists represent the majority of potential network users. These are people who are curious about bicycling, but are nervous to ride in roadways with traffic. They don't regularly ride, but might have fond memories of riding bikes as a child. **However, given safe, comfortable, and connected networks, they would be willing to make more trips by bicycle.**

Needs of Various Network Users

		Climbing Bike Lane	Bicycle Stairway Runnel	Bike Lane	Paved Shoulder	Sidewalk (Multi-use Path, Greenway)	Advisory Bike Lane	Bicycle Boulevard	Hiking Trail	Mountain Bike Trail	Backcountry Unpaved Road	Parking	Wayfinding
Bicyclists	<i>Strong and Confident Riders</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X
	<i>Interested but Concerned Riders</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X	X
	<i>Mountain Bikers</i>		X							X	X	X	X
Pedestrians	<i>Bike Tourists</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X				X		X
	<i>Runners</i>	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	<i>Hikers</i>	X	X				X		X	X	X	X	X
	<i>Walkers / Pedestrians</i>	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
	<i>Equestrians</i>					X	X			X	X	X	X

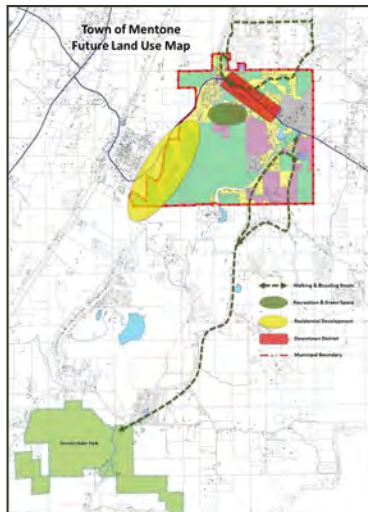
Alabama Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

DeKalb County is located within District 12 of the *Alabama Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2013-18*.

Of the recreational activities studied in SCORP, the activities that most closely align with the goals of this project are the following: walking for pleasure, trail hiking, jogging, bicycling on roads, camping at developed sites, camping at primitive sites, mountain bike trail, bird watching, nature photography, and visit historical sites. Of these ten activities, three (walking for pleasure, visiting historical sites, and trail hiking) all rank within the top 10 activities studied; and five (walking for pleasure, trail hiking, jogging, bird watching, and nature photography) all had very high rates of frequency of participation, all averaging higher than weekly.

PLANS & FRAMEWORKS

Town of Mentone Comprehensive Plan, 2017



The Town of Mentone's Comprehensive Plan's Future Land Use Guide calls for the development of two multi-use trails originating from the Town's Downtown Business District. One trail would extend in a loop to the north side of town, connecting to the overlook at Brow Park before continuing back to town. The second planned trail would extend from the southeast side of Downtown, and would provide connections to DeSoto State Park. Downtown Mentone currently has sidewalks along one section of their downtown, and has applied for grant funding to extend an ADA accessible multi-use path from Town Hall to the Moon Lake Library and Community Center.

Alignment with Goals and Objectives

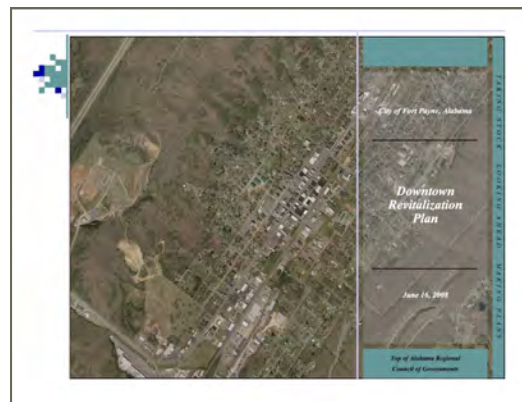
- ✓ Objective 2.02. Pedestrian and Bicycle Circulation
- ✓ Objective 2.03. Safe Roadway Network
- ✓ Objective 5.04. Parks and Recreation Access
- ✓ Objective 6.01. Leadership and Intergovernmental Coordination
- ✓ Objective 6.03. Promoting Tourism

City of Fort Payne Downtown Revitalization Plan, 2008

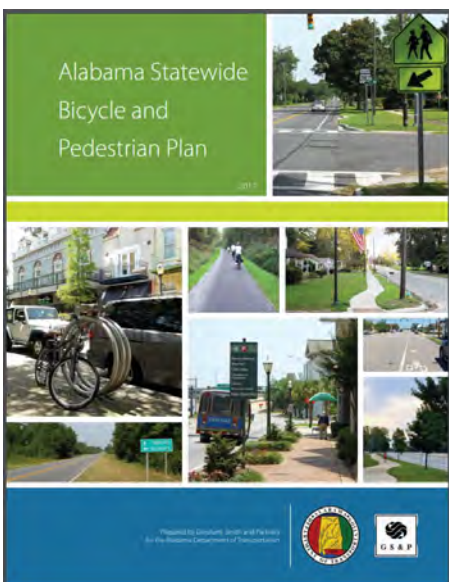
Alignment with Goals and Objectives

- ✓ Goal 2. Expand the economy of downtown
- ✓ Goal 3. Promote downtown through effective marketing
- ✓ Objective 2A. Outdoor-based Tourism
- ✓ Objective 2B. Business Recruitment
- ✓ Objective 3D. Way Finding System

The Downtown Revitalization Plan focuses on Fort Payne's business district, however it identifies several strategic issues for the City to work on that align with this plan including expanding tourism based on outdoor recreation, inviting public spaces, and commercial vitality and variety.



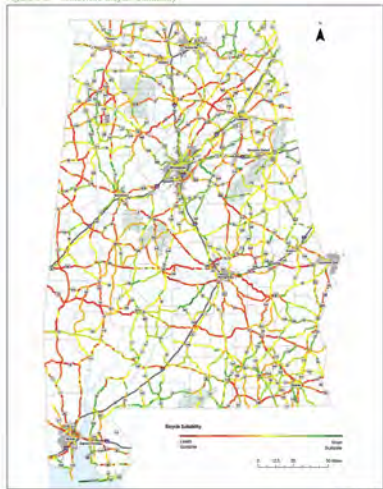
Alabama Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, 2017



The implementation of the DeKalb County Regional Trails Network would help accomplish several of the goals of the Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and aligns with many of the plans strategies.

- ✓ **Goal B. Develop complete and connected bicycle and pedestrian systems**
 - Strategy B1.** Expand and improve bicycle and pedestrian networks along state highway corridors
 - Strategy B3.** Coordinate state improvements with local and regional goals and objectives
- ✓ **Goal C. Support state, regional, and local economic development**
 - Strategy C1.** Link bicycle and pedestrian systems with other modes of transportation
 - Strategy C2.** Promote bicycle and pedestrian connectivity in major employment and activity centers
- ✓ **Goal D. Increase travel options for all transportation system users and protect the natural environment.**
 - Strategy D1.** Expand and improve bicycle and pedestrian access to basic goods and services such as food, education, healthcare, parks, and transit
 - Strategy D2.** Preserve and protect the natural environment

Figure 3-6: Statewide Bicycle Suitability



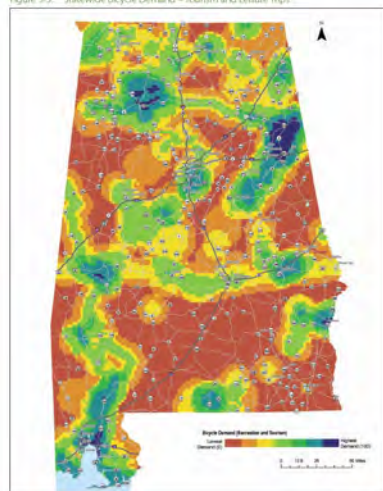
8-24 Section 8: Existing Conditions and Trends

SUITABILITY ANALYSIS

State and US routes were assessed for existing bicycle suitability, taking into consideration traffic counts, the percentage of total traffic comprised of freight and heavy trucks, and the number of lanes on the roadway. This analysis shows that within our study area, the majority of roadways are Neutral to Most Suitable for bicycling in their current forms. While Hwy 75 is shown to be least suitable, parallel Hwy 11, which runs through downtown Valley Head and Fort Payne is shown to be much more suitable as a bike route.



Figure 3-5: Statewide Bicycle Demand - Tourism and Leisure Trips



8-22 Section 8: Existing Conditions and Trends

DEMAND ANALYSIS

Tourism and leisure bicycle trips are important to local, regional, and statewide economies. This Demand Analysis, which took into account proximity to destinations that would generate tourism and leisure trips such as recreational trails, scenic byways, state and national parks, wildlife management areas, and state historic sites. The demand analysis shows that there is very high demand for bicycle facilities to meet the needs of those bicycling for tourism and leisure in DeKalb County.

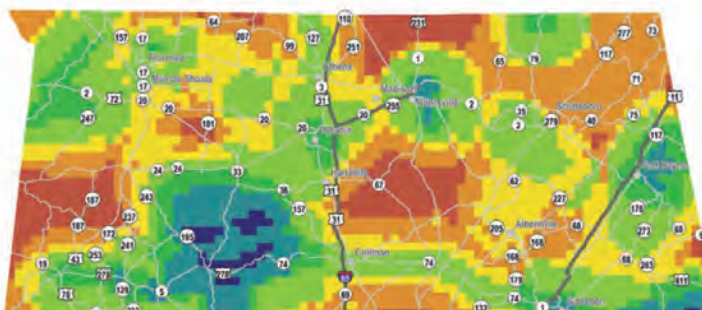


Figure 3-4: Bicycle Corridor Plan



13-8 Executive Summary

STATE BICYCLE CORRIDORS

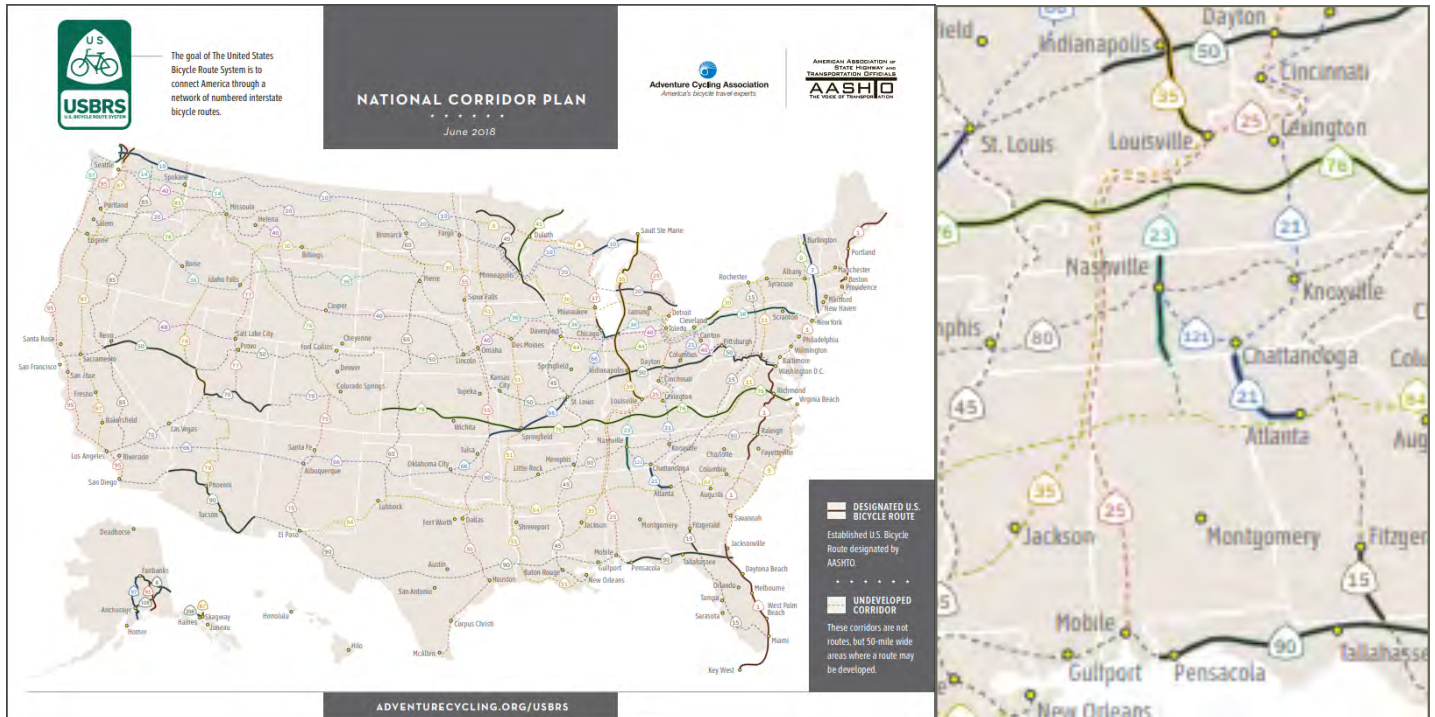
The study area of this Network Plan aligns with one of Alabama's northern Vision Corridors. These corridors, identified by ALDOT, link areas with high demand for bicycle transportation to one another as well as linking to major destinations such as state parks, scenic areas, and adjacent state routes.



PLANS & FRAMEWORKS

United States Bicycle Route System (USBRS)

The USBRS was established in 1978 by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) to identify possible route connections between states. The National Corridor Plan was created in 2009 which identifies 50-mile corridors where routes could be located.



USBRS 84

US Bicycle Route 84 begins near Charleston, South Carolina, and passes across the northern portions of Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, the southern portions of Arkansas, and continues on across Texas, ending in El Paso.

USBRS 23

US Bicycle Route 23 connects to USBR 84 near the Huntsville/Decatur/Cullman area and travels north to Ardmore, where it crosses into Tennessee and connects with the established USBR 23.

USBRS 21

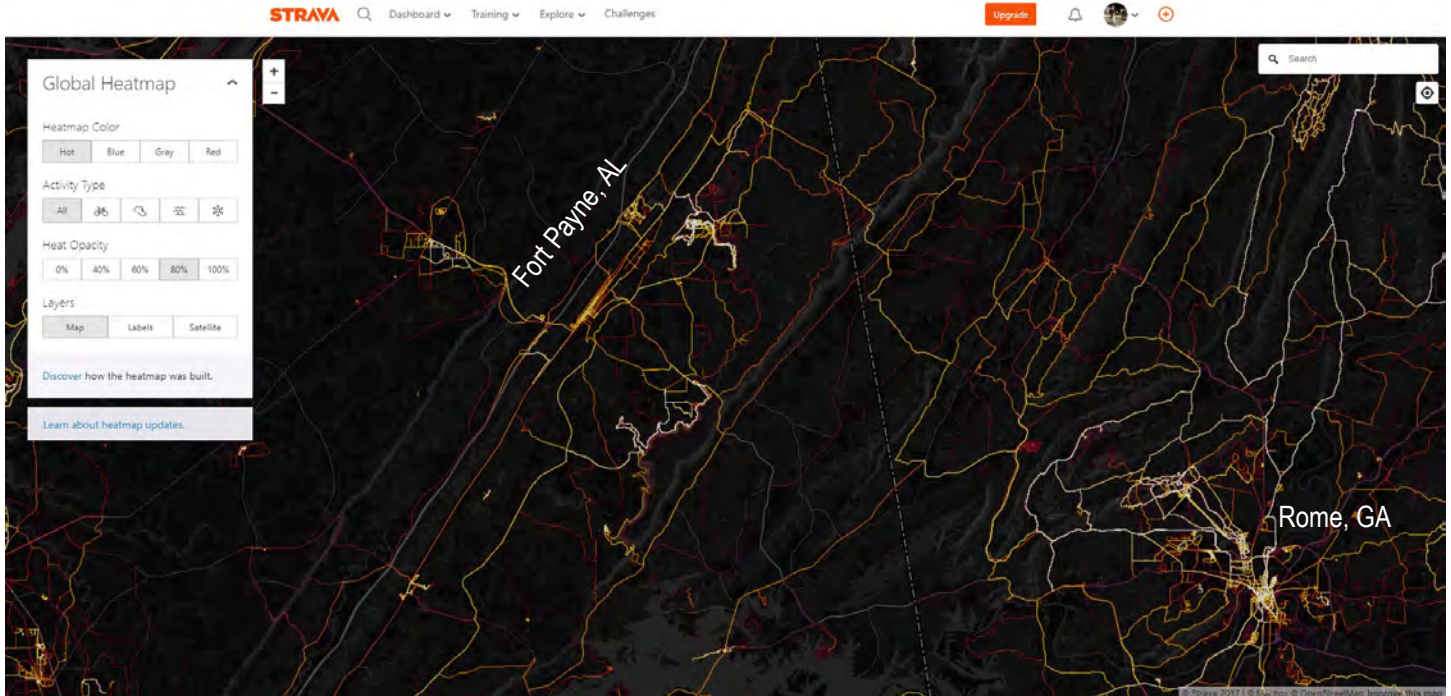
US Bicycle Route 21 connects Atlanta, Georgia to Chattanooga, Tennessee before continuing north to Cleveland, Ohio. Although this route does not go through Alabama, the study area of this project is close enough to provide connections to this route.

State Route 117, which passes through both Valley Head and Mentone, is identified as a potential connection in the *Alabama Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan* between Alabama's bicycle network and Georgia's Chattahoochee Trace and USBR 21.

NETWORK ANALYSIS

STRAVA HEAT MAP

Strava is an app used by recreational bicyclists, runners, and swimmers to track their activities using GPS data. The company publishes a global heat map of user routes (only those marked public) from the past two years showing popular routes to allow other athletes to discover new places to ride or run. While this data is not representative of all network users, as it excludes those who ride for transportation or those without smartphones or data; it can serve as a useful tool to identify popular recreational bicycling routes that are already being heavily used. This allows cities to identify and prioritize corridors and routes where infrastructure improvements would have the most impact.



As you can see in the above map, many of the routes identified in the proposed DeKalb County Regional Trails Network are already heavily utilized by recreational bicyclists.

Other Data Reviewed

Speed Limit Data
State and Local Traffic Counts provided by ALDOT
Windshield Surveys & Field Observations
Interviews with Local Stakeholders & Community Members

CASE STUDIES OF TWO SOUTHERN TRAILS

Swamp Rabbit Trail, South Carolina

Funded by Greenville Hospital System, the Swamp Rabbit Trail was designed to promote active living and alternate mode of transportation. It is a 22 mile multi-use Greenway system running along a scenic river, connecting downtown Greenville with downtown Travelers Rest via a historic rail bed. Following are some of the user statistics and Economic Impact Data from the Greenville Health Systems Swamp Rabbit Trail 4 Year Findings report, by the Furman University and Clemson International Institute of Tourism and Research & Development.

**TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT
BETWEEN 2010 –2014**

\$14,253,696

Frequency & Percentage of Users for each Activity Interest (Year 1-Year 4) on Observation Days

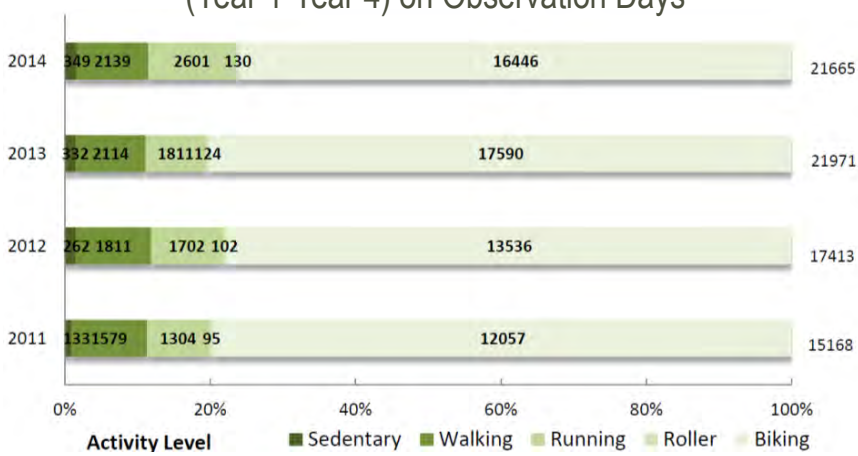


Photo Credit: <https://www.visitgreenville.com/fishing/swamp-rabbit-trail/6750/>



Photo Credit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ES5i8XAnD7U> (trail/6750)

Average Number of Users Per Year	455,771
Average Number of Users from Outside of Greenville County per year	64,074
Average Percentage of Users from Outside of Greenville County Per Year	14%
Average Percentage of Total Users from Outside a 50 mile radius	3%

CASE STUDIES OF TWO SOUTHERN TRAILS

Silver Comet Trail, Georgia

Silver Comet Trail is a 61 miles long paved rail trail in North West Georgia starting at the Alabama Stateline and ending 13 miles northwest of Atlanta. Silver Comet Trail is located within three counties connecting seven cities along its route. This trail connects to the 33 miles long Chief Ladiga Trail in Alabama. Planned extensions to both these multi-use trails are currently underway at both ends of the combined trail system, which will ultimately connect Anniston, Alabama to Atlanta, Georgia.



Pedestrian volumes are highest in more densely populated areas, and in rural and more remote locations cyclist volumes are the highest.

Silver Comet Trail generates about \$100 million in total expenditures throughout the Region each year, supporting about 750 jobs.

The majority of trail users are between the ages of 35 and 64, with the median trip distance between all user groups being 12 miles. At the time of the study, 63% were just visiting for the day, while 14% of visitors stayed overnight, and 23% stayed multiple days. This data was compiled from the *Silver Comet Trail Economic Impact Analysis and Planning Study* conducted by the Northwest Georgia Regional Planning Commission in July 2013.

Total Estimated Current Users Per Year	1,888,000
Percentage of Bicyclist Users	71%
Percentage of Pedestrian Users	28%
Percentage of Other Users	1%

Photo Credit: <https://www.albaniamagazine.com/revel/bike-way-bama-just-mile-silver-comet-trail/>

Photo Credit: <https://www.accessallia.com/events/outdoors-recreation/ways-run-bike-state-the-silver-comet-trail/>



SECTION 2.

PROPOSED NETWORK

2.1 Proposed Regional Network

2.2 Proposed Local Networks

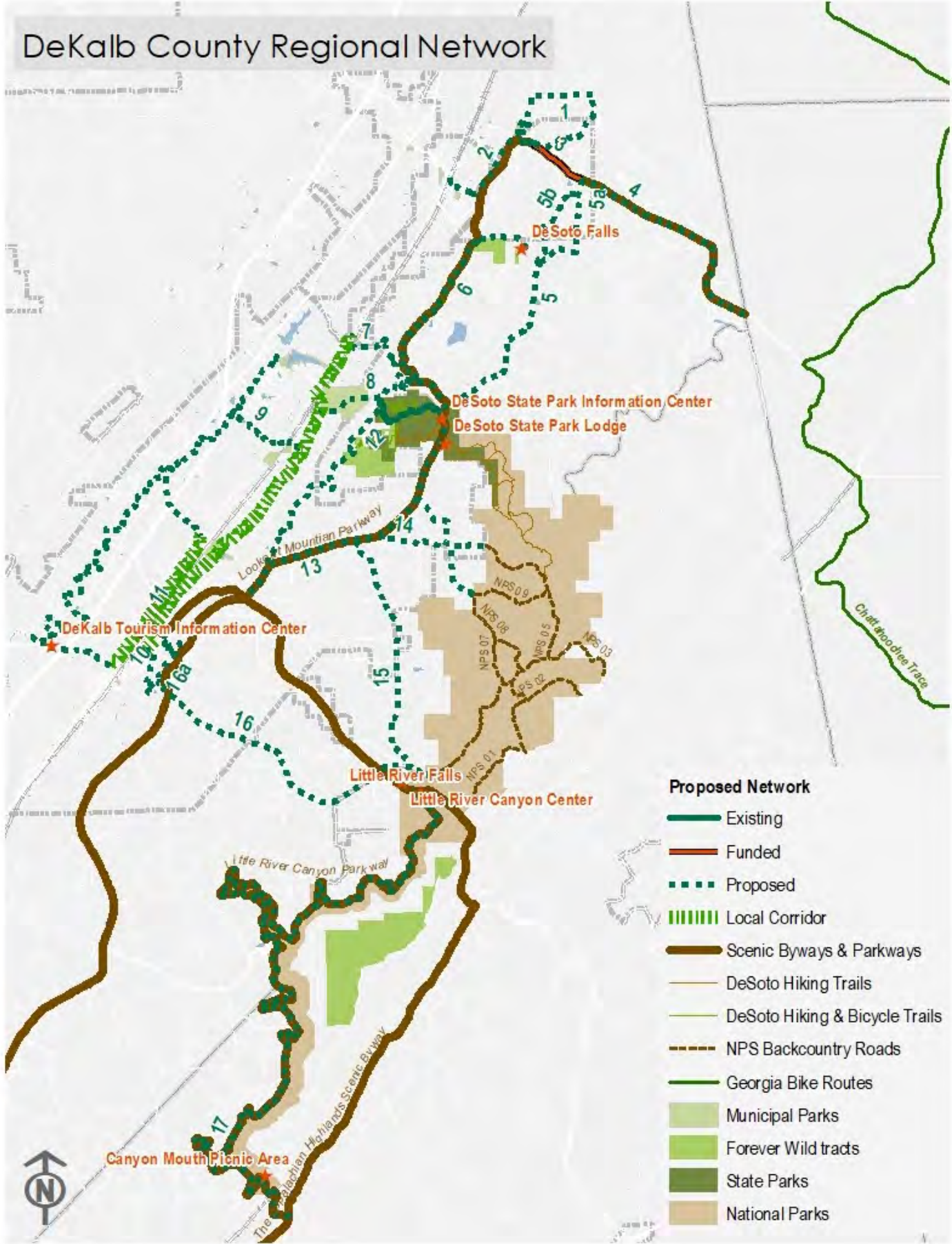
2.2.1 City of Fort Payne

2.2.2 Town of Mentone

2.2.3 Town of Valley Head

2.2.4 DeSoto State Park & Little River Canyon National Preserve

PROPOSED REGIONAL NETWORK



PROPOSED REGIONAL NETWORK

The following are simply recommendations for routes and facility types, further studies should be done at the time of implementation to provide the safest and most feasible facility.

Segment 1 - North Mentone Loop

This loop, beginning and ending at Edward Mason Park / Town Hall in downtown Mentone, provides a walking and bicycling connection to Brow Park and connects tourists staying in the many rental cabins in this area with downtown. This trail is called for in Mentone's Comprehensive Plan.

Recommended Infrastructure: Side Path (ideal); Paved Shoulder

Segment 2 - Caperton Trail

A historic Civil War roadbed, the Caperton Trail would connect downtown Valley Head to Brow Park in Mentone.

Recommended Infrastructure: Paved Multi-Use Trail (ideal); Unpaved Multi-Use Trail; Hiking Trail; Mountain Bike Trail

Section 3 - Downtown Mentone Multi-Use Path / Sidewalks / Sidepath

This section will be an ADA compliant multi-use path paralleling Hwy 117. Phase 1 extends from Edward Mason Park to W River Road; Phase II will extend to E River Road, and will utilize the old bridge to connect to Moon Lake School and Community Library. *TAP funding from ALDOT has been granted for Phase 1 of this project.*

Section 4 - Connection to USBR 21 and other Georgia Trails

This section would connect the DeKalb County Regional Trail Network to the USBR system and the Georgia Bike Route Network. Closing this gap would encourage tourists from Georgia to easily visit Alabama. It is only 5 miles from the end of Section 3 to the state line, and from there only 6 more miles to connect to the Chattahoochee Trace.

Recommended Infrastructure: Side Path (ideal); Paved Shoulder

Section 5 - Mentone to DeSoto State Park

This section of the network will connect downtown Mentone to the DeSoto State Park. This route provides two options for connections, both of which are called for in Mentone's Comprehensive Plan. The Eastern Route utilizes Co. Road 115, while the Western Route follows East River Road. There is potential to connect the Western Route to DeSoto Falls and Route 6, however this will require obtaining easements from local land owners.

Recommended Infrastructure: Side Path (ideal); Paved Shoulder; Shared Roadway

Segment 6 - DeSoto State Park to DeSoto Falls

This section of network provides connections between DeSoto State Park and DeSoto Falls. Although, no easements that would allow connections to Segment 5 are currently available, we recommend that this is further explored, as the section of roadway between downtown Mentone and DeSoto Falls along the DeSoto Parkway is too narrow to provide sufficient right-of-way for a separated facility and has a high traffic volume that makes shared facilities unappealing to most bicyclists and pedestrians.

Recommended Infrastructure: Side Path (ideal); Paved Shoulder

Segment 7 - Fort Payne to DeSoto State Park, northern route

This section of the network utilizes Co. Rd. 604 to connect Hwy 11 and Fort Payne to DeSoto State Park. Although this roadway is narrow, the traffic volume is low enough to make it an excellent connection for bicyclists.

Recommended Infrastructure: Climbing Bike Lane

Segment 8 - Fort Payne to DeSoto State Park, Athletic Center Route

This segment will connect the planned Fort Payne Sportsplex to DeSoto State Park utilizing city owned property and private easements to complete the connection. The planned Athletic Center will contain both ball fields as well as RV pads.

Recommended Infrastructure: Multi-Use Path (ideal); Unpaved Trail; Stairwell Runnels

Segment 9 - Big Wills Creek Greenway

The Big Wills Greenway would follow the Big Wills Creek right of way, and is planned in conjunction with a blueway to provide a separated multi-use trail that would eventually connect the Athletic Center and Northern Fort Payne with the business district (and Walmart) located at the intersection of US 59 and Co. Road 35. A northern spur of the greenway could provide connections to the Fort Payne City Lake and Park, with eventual extension of the trail to Hammondville and Valley Head.

Recommended Infrastructure: Multi-Use Path

PROPOSED REGIONAL NETWORK

Segment 10 - Grand Avenue Local Corridor

The Grand Avenue Corridor has been added as a suggested bicycle corridor for the Fort Payne Local Network. This corridor, with bicycle and pedestrian improvements would provide a safer parallel to Hwy 11, and would connect residential areas, civic centers, and community centers with the downtown business district. The City should explore routes and connections along this corridor as they develop a Local Bicycle and Pedestrian Network.

Recommended Infrastructure: Bicycle Boulevard

Segment 11 - Godfrey Ave / Williams Ave Local Corridor

The Godfrey Avenue / Williams Avenue Corridor has been added as a suggested bicycle corridor within the Fort Payne Local Network. This corridor, with bicycle and pedestrian improvements would provide a safer parallel to Hwy 11, and would connect residential areas, schools, community centers, and parks with the downtown business district. There is existing sidewalk along most of this routes that could be expanded to a multi-use sidepath for bicycles and pedestrians. The City should explore routes and connections along this corridor as they develop a Local Bicycle and Pedestrian Network.

Recommended Infrastructure: Sidepath (ideal); Bicycle Boulevard

Section 12 - County Rd 116

This segment of the network parallels the DeSoto Parkway, and provides a scenic alternative to the DeSoto Parkway, with beautiful views from the brow of the mountain. This section of roadway has lower traffic volumes than it's northern sections, due to the lower density of housing in this area.

Recommended Infrastructure: Bicycle Boulevard, Paved Shoulder

Section 13 - DeSoto Parkway

The DeSoto Parkway is part of the larger Lookout Mountain Scenic Parkway. This route serves as a major spine of the network, providing connections between DeSoto State Park and the Little River Canyon National Preserve. This roadway has ample right of way for the construction of a side path.. It would provide the much needed bicycle connections between the DeSoto State Park and NPS Backcountry Roads 05, 09, and 08. Current connections (such as the Scout Trail) are closed to bicycles and are often closed to pedestrians during ecologically sensitive seasons.

Recommended Infrastructure: Side Path (ideal); Paved Shoulder

Section 14 - Parkway to Little River Canyon National Preserve

This route utilizes Howell Road, Dunn Road, and County Road 476. These are currently low traffic, low speed residential roadways.

Recommended Infrastructure: Side Path (ideal); Advisory Lanes

Section 15 - Parkway to Little River Canyon Center and National Preserve

This route follows the length of County Road 153., and connects the DeSoto Parkway with NPS Backcountry Road 05 and the Little River Canyon Center and Falls. This route would also connect many rural residents with a local corner store and the Fisher School.

Recommended Infrastructure: Side Path (ideal); Paved Shoulder, Advisory Lanes

Segment 16 - Little River Canyon Center and National Preserve to Fort Payne

This route follows the length of County Rd 78, and provides an low traffic connection between the Little River Canyon National Preserve and Downtown Fort Payne. Although the State Route 35 is classified as a Scenic Byway, the current amount of freight traffic makes this a less than ideal route for bicyclists and pedestrians. Segment 16 provides two alternatives for connecting down the mountain. 16A would utilize existing utility easements; while 16B utilizes the ample right of way along County Rd 78 and would be best suited as a side path or paved shoulder.

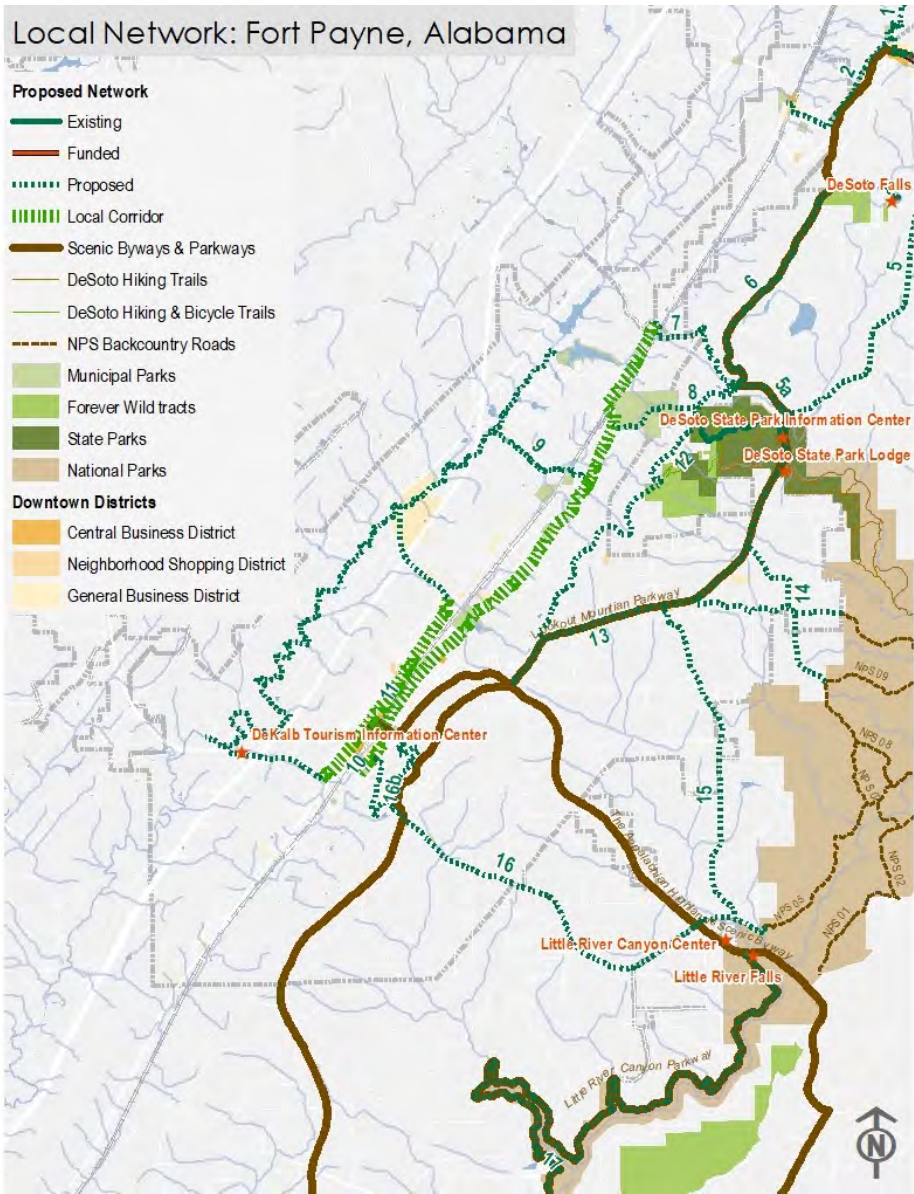
Recommended Infrastructure: Side Path (ideal), Paved Shoulder

Segment 17 - Little River Canyon Parkway

The Little River Canyon Parkway is a narrow winding road, currently classified as a Scenic Parkway. It follows the Litter River Canyon to south, and has many overlooks, hiking trails, and picnic areas along it's length. There is little right of way to support separated bicycle infrastructure; however speed limits are posted as 35mph. This route is already utilized regularly by recreational cyclists. The southernmost end of this Parkway connects with the Appalachian Highlands Scenic Byway, and could be extended to connect with Cherokee Rock Village in Leesburg (as mentioned in the Alabama Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan) and on to the Chief Ladiga and Silver Comet Trails; ultimately connecting the DeSoto State Park and LRCNP with the Talladega National Forest.

Recommended Infrastructure: Bicycle Boulevard

PROPOSED LOCAL NETWORK - City of Fort Payne



EXISTING AND PLANNED PROJECTS

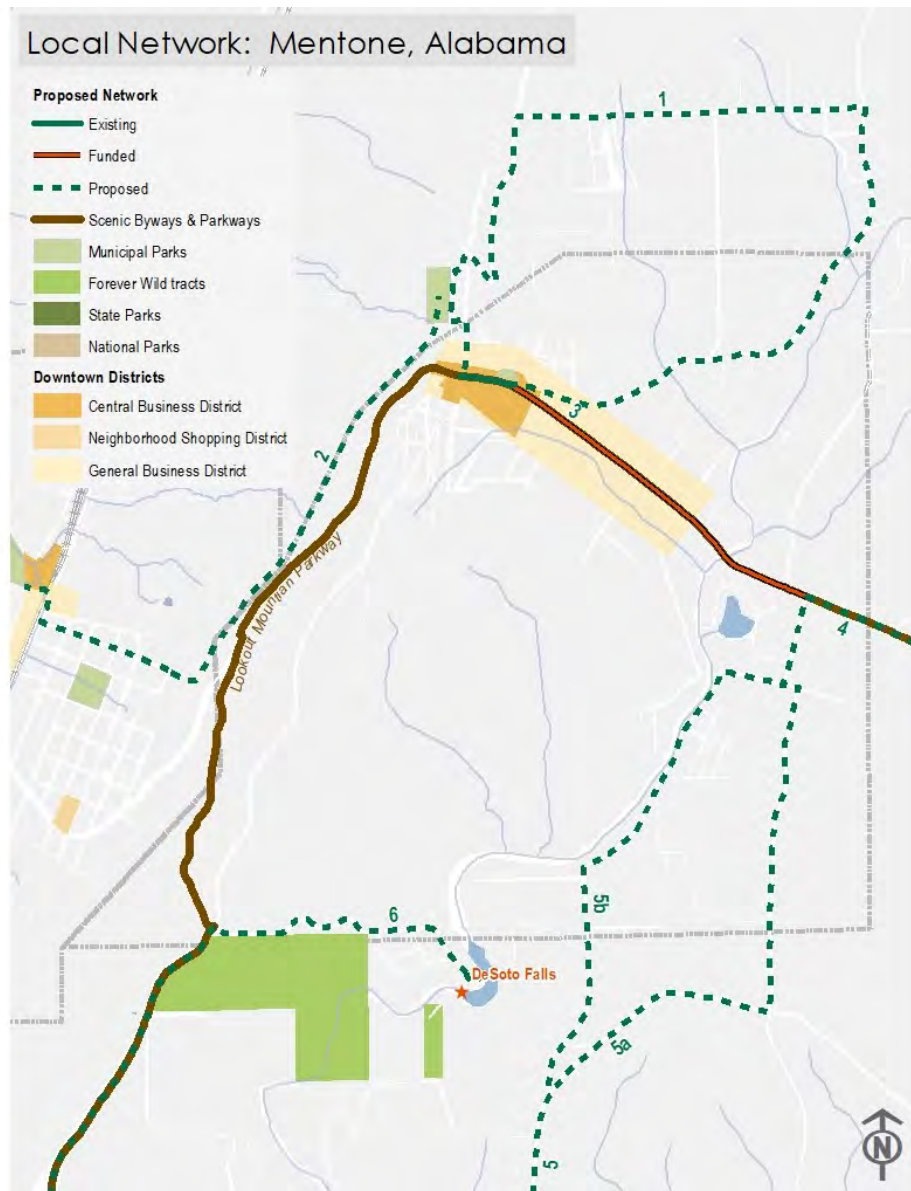
- Big Wills Greenway
- Fort Payne Sportsplex and Trails
- Downtown Sidewalk Improvements

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strive to make ADA accessibility improvements to sidewalks within the City of Fort Payne.
- Inventory and connect places of interest in and surrounding downtown such as schools, civic facilities, parks, arts and entertainment venues, and other places of interests.
- Prioritize and create connections between the DeKalb County Regional Network and the City's local bicycle and pedestrian network.
- Install bicycle racks; repair stations; water fountains; as well as maps and wayfinding signage at local parks, schools, and civic centers.
- Encourage local businesses to install bicycle racks.



PROPOSED LOCAL NETWORK - Town of Mentone



EXISTING AND PLANNED PROJECTS

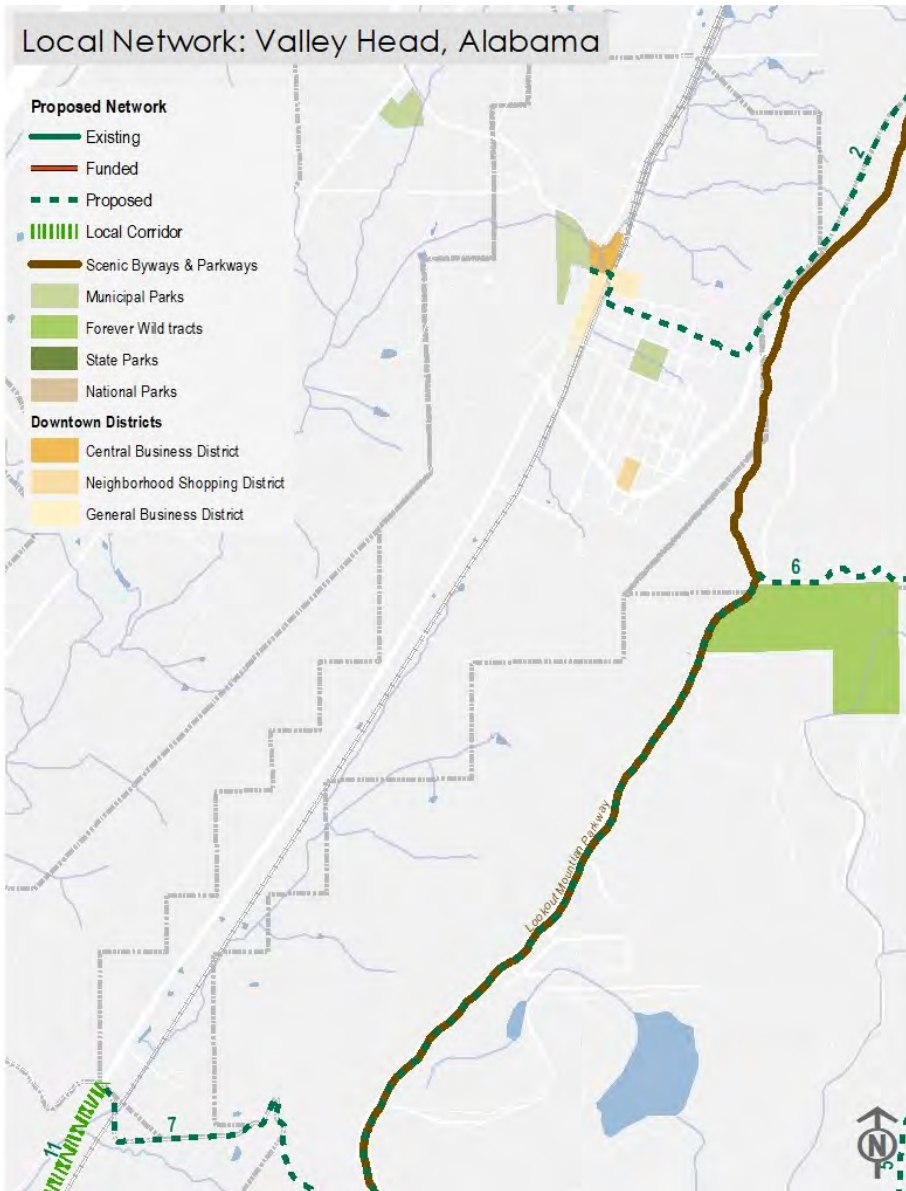
- TAP FY18 application to build Phase 1 of the Town's two phase plan to extend a sidepath from Town Hall / Edward Mason Park east along Hwy 117 to Moon Lake Library and School has been granted funding.
- The Town of Mentone, the Alabama Historical Commission, and ALDOT have a Memorandum of Understanding to utilize the old bridge over the Little River as a pedestrian and bicycle bridge.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Work with the Town of Valley Head to construct the Caperton Trail.
- Install Bike Route signage along the Northern Mentone Loop and the Sothern DeSoto Connection.
- Install bicycle racks; repair stations; water fountains; as well as maps and wayfinding signage at local parks, schools, and civic centers.
- Encourage local businesses to install bicycle racks.



PROPOSED LOCAL NETWORK - Town of Valley Head



EXISTING AND PLANNED PROJECTS

- Downtown drainage improvements to prevent flooding along Big Will Creek.
- Work with the Town of Mentone to construct the Caperton Trail.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strive to make ADA accessibility improvements to sidewalks within the Town of Valley Head.
- Install bicycle racks; repair stations; water fountains; as well as maps and wayfinding signage at local parks, schools, and civic centers.
- Encourage local businesses to install bicycle racks.
- Improve the pedestrian crossing of Hwy 117 from the downtown business district; consider a HAWK light (High-Intensity Activated crossWalk beacon) for improved safety and access.

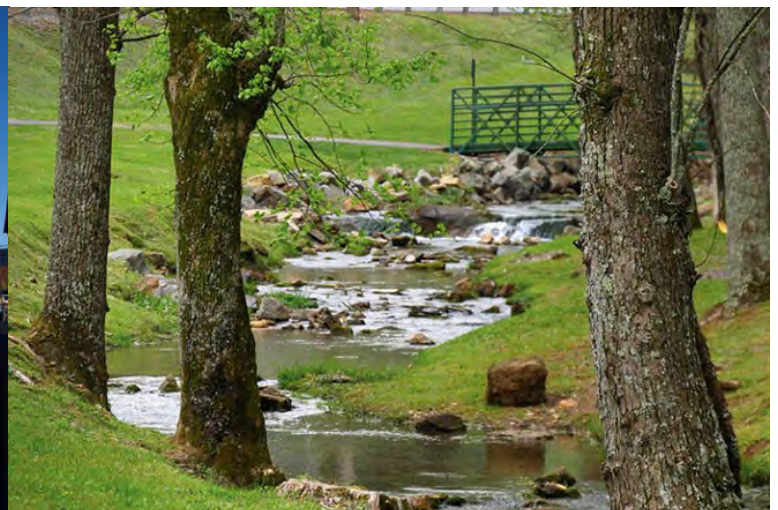
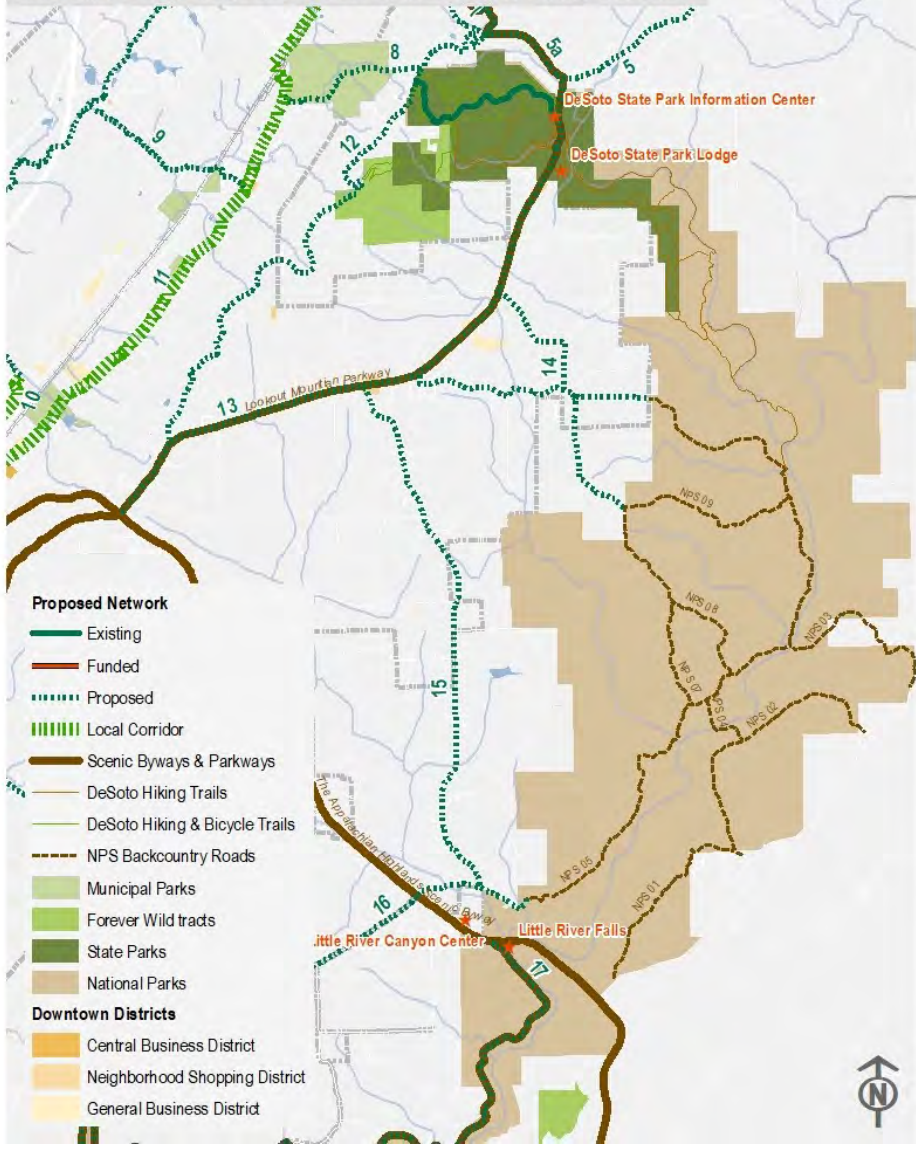


Photo Credit: By Chris Prull [CC BY-SA 4.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0)] from Wikimedia Commons

Photo Credit: https://istock.com/mentone

PROPOSED LOCAL NETWORK - DeSoto State Park & LRCNP

Local Network: DeSoto State Park and LRCNP



DeSoto State Park Policies

- Trail users should check with DeSoto State Park for closures or other warnings prior to utilizing these trail systems.

Little River Canyon National Preserve Policies

- Backcountry roads are open to equestrians, bicyclists, and hikers.
- River crossings must be only done in designated areas due to the presence of ecologically sensitive habitats.
- Trail users should check with the NPS for closures or warnings (such as during hunting seasons) prior to utilizing these trails.





SECTION 3.

DESIGN GUIDES

- 3.1 Roadway and Trail Design Guides
 - 3.1.1 Dealing with Topography
 - 3.1.2 Visually Separated Facilities
 - 3.1.3 Mixed Traffic Facilities
 - 3.1.4 Unpaved Facilities
- 3.2 Wayfinding

CLIMBING BICYCLE LANE

Climbing lanes provide protection for bicyclists on uphill by separating slower bicyclists from vehicular traffic with a bike lane; the downhill side of the road is marked with a sharrow (shared lane marking), as bicyclists are able to more easily keep up with the flow of traffic while descending.

This type of infrastructure should be used for roadways with steep and hilly roadways and where existing right-of-way only supports the addition of only one bike lane.



Photo Credit: www.coablog.ashevillenc.gov

A climbing lane in hilly downtown of Asheville, North Carolina.

BICYCLE STAIRWAY RUNNEL

A bicycle stairway is a pedestrian stairway that has one or two channels along the side or center to facilitate the walking of a bicycle or stroller up or down the stairway. This type of infrastructure can provide vital connections for bicyclists in areas where topography and steepness limits the construction of trails.



Photo Credit: Anne Welch

A stairwell built to accommodate both bicycles and strollers on the campus of NTNU in Trondheim, Norway



Photo Credit: Anne Welch

Creatively designed stairwells can allow for utilization by both bicycles and pedestrians.

ROADWAY DESIGN GUIDE - Visually Separated Facilities

BIKE LANE

Bike lanes provide designated space on roadways for bicyclists utilizing pavement markings and signage. They are located adjacent to travel lanes, but can be further separated through physical or visual buffers. They are most appropriate on streets with moderate traffic volumes and speeds, and are ideal for connecting networks through built-up areas.

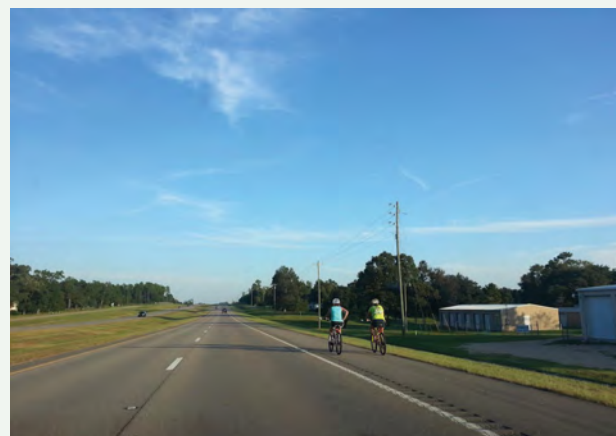
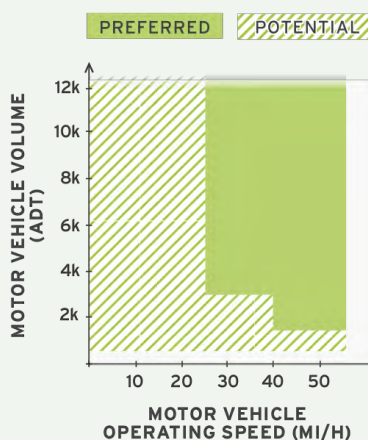


Separated bike lanes provide a safer and more pleasant user experience and are preferred by "Curious but Cautious" users.

Photo Credit: www.ruraldesignguide.com

PAVED SHOULDER

Paved shoulders along the edges of highways and rural roadways can serve as a useable space for bicyclists and pedestrians, for areas that separated infrastructure is not feasible. They are most appropriate on roads with moderate to high volumes and speeds, but do not provide a low stress environment for users. Rumble strips should be utilized to separate users from vehicular travel lanes.



Two bicyclists riding along a paved shoulder with rumble strips in D'Iberville, Mississippi.

Photo Credit: www.ruraldesignguide.com

SIDEPATH (Multi-Use Path, Greenway)

Sidepaths are bidirectional shared use paths located parallel to a roadway. They are ideal for roadways with high traffic volumes or high speed limits, and their separation from vehicular traffic provides a safe experience for bicyclists and pedestrians of all ages and abilities.

These paths are also ideal for maintaining the rural character of roads, especially when combined with landscaping or native roadside wildflowers.



Photo Credit: Anne Welch

ROADWAY DESIGN GUIDE - Mixed Traffic Facilities

ADVISORY BIKE LANES or SHOULDER

Advisory Bike Lanes or Shoulders create useable shoulders for pedestrians and bicyclists on roadways typically considered too narrow to accommodate bicycle infrastructure. The shoulders are marked with broken lines and optional pavement coloring (such as green or red). These roadways are bi-directional for both motorists and bicyclists. Motorists may only enter the marked shoulders when no bicyclists or pedestrians are present, and must use caution when overtaking these vulnerable users.

These are most appropriate on streets with low to moderate traffic volumes and speeds.



Photo Credit (Left): www.ruridesignguide.com
Photo Credit (Center): Advisory Bike Lane Design Guide

Photo Credit (Left): www.ruridesignguide.com

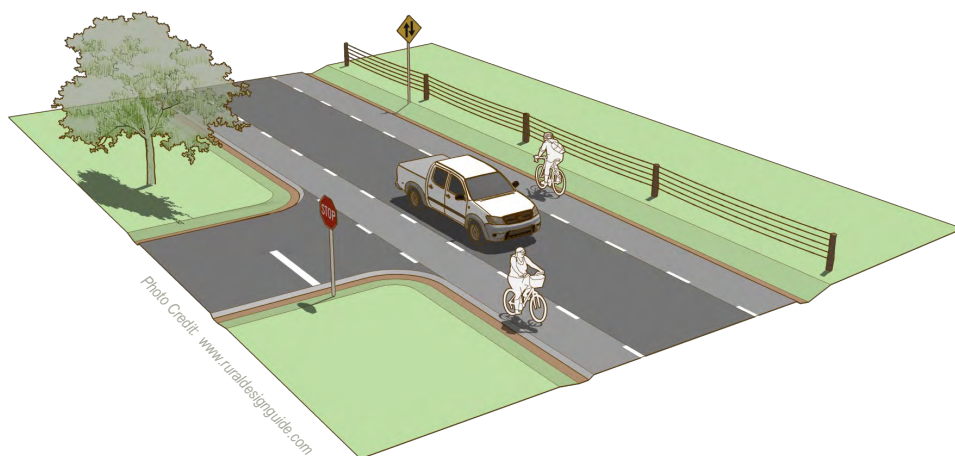


Photo Credit: www.ruridesignguide.com

NOTE: Advisory shoulders are a new infrastructure type in the United States. In order to install advisory shoulders, an approved Request to Experiment is required, detailed in Section 1A.10 of the MUTCD. FHWA is also accepting requests for experimentation with a similar treatment, the “dashed bicycle lane”.

BICYCLE BOULEVARD

Bicycle boulevards are low-stress shared roadways that give priority to bicyclists. They are typically located parallel to major roadways, on slow volume, low speed local streets. The ASSHTO Bike Guide describes bike boulevards as “streets that have been modified to accommodate through bicycle traffic and minimize motor traffic” (2012, p. 1-2). They are typically marked with large shared lane markings placed in the center of the travel lane. This minimizes wear on the markings from vehicular traffic and encourages bicyclists to ride a safe distance away from parked cars and the edge of the roadway.

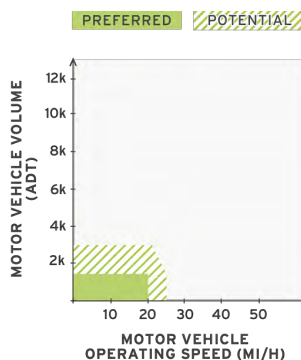


Photo Credit: Anne Welch

TRAIL DESIGN GUIDE - Unpaved Facilities

Hiking Trails



Photo Credit: Anne Welch



Photo Credit: <http://www.volcanostrike.com/essays/scout-hike-1st/>

Mountain Biking Trails



Photo Credit: <http://www.rndatabase.org/>



Photo Credit: Anne Welch



Photo Credit: www.ruralesignguide.com

Backcountry Unpaved Roads



WAYFINDING

Network / Route Signage



Photo Credit: Anne Welch

Photo Credit: Anne Welch

Photo Credit: Anne Welch

Educational Signage



Photo Credit: Anne Welch

Photo Credit: Anne Welch

Wayfinding Signage



Photo Credit: Anne Welch

Photo Credit: <https://www.littleton.gov/business-resources/downtown-wayfinding-signage>



SECTION 4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 Potential Funding Sources
- 4.2 Moving Forward

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

The following tables show potential funding opportunities as of May 2018 for bicycle and pedestrian projects under the US Department of Transportation surface transportation funding programs.

Activity or Project Type	BUILD	INFRA	TIFIA	HSIP	NHPP	STBG	TA	RTP	PLAN	FLTP
Bicycle or Pedestrian Plans						\$	\$		\$	\$
Bicycle Helmets: <i>Project or training related</i>						\$	\$SRTS			
Bicycle Helmets: <i>Safety Promotion</i>						\$	\$SRTS			
Bicycle lanes on road	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$			\$
Bicycle Parking	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$	\$		\$
Bicycle repair station <i>Air pump, simple tools</i>	\$	\$	\$			\$	\$			\$
Bicycle Share <i>Capital and equipment only; no operations</i>	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$			\$
Bicycle Storage or Service Centers <i>Example: at transit hubs</i>	\$	\$	\$			\$	\$			\$
Bridges / overcrossings for pedestrians and/or bicyclists	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$
Coordinator Positions (State or Local)						\$	\$SRTS			
Crosswalks - <i>New or Retrofit</i>	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$
Curb Cuts and Ramps	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$
Counting Equipment				\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$
Data collection and monitoring for pedestrian and/or bicyclists				\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$
Historic Preservation <i>Pedestrian and bicycle and transit facilities</i>	\$	\$	\$			\$	\$			\$
Landscaping, Streetscaping (<i>pedestrian and/or bicyclist route; transit access</i>); related amenities (<i>benches, water fountains</i>); Generally as part of a larger project	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$			\$
Lighting <i>(Pedestrian and bicyclist scale associated with pedestrian/bicyclist project)</i>	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$
Maps (<i>for pedestrians and/or bicyclists</i>)						\$	\$			
Paved shoulders for pedestrian and/or bicycle use	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$			\$

KEY

\$ = Funds may be used for this activity

\$ = Eligible activity, but not competitive unless part of a larger project

Source: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/funding/funding_opportunities.cfm

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

Continued from previous page.

Activity or Project Type	BUILD	INFRA	TIFIA	HSIP	NHPP	STBG	TA	RTP	FLTP
Recreational Trails	\$	\$	\$			\$	\$	\$	\$
Road Diets (<i>pedestrian and bicycle portions</i>)	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$
Road Safety Assessment for pedestrians and bicyclists				\$		\$	\$		\$
Safety Education and Awareness Activities and programs to inform pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists on ped/bicycle safety						\$SRTS	\$SRTS		
Safety Education Positions						\$SRTS	\$SRTS		
Safety Enforcement (<i>including police patrols</i>)						\$SRTS	\$SRTS		
Safety Program Technical Assessment (for peds/bikes)						\$SRTS	\$SRTS		
Separated Bicycle Lanes	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$
Shared Use Paths / Transportation Trails	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Sidewalks - <i>New or Retrofit</i>	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Signs / Signals / Signal Improvements	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$
Signed Pedestrian or Bicycle Routes	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$		\$
Spot Improvement Programs	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Stormwater Impacts relating to Pedestrian and Bicycle Projects	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Traffic Calming	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$
Trail Bridges	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Trail Construction and Maintenance Equipment								\$	
Trail / Highway Intersections	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Trailside and Trailhead Facilities <i>Includes restrooms and water, but not general park amenities; see program guidance</i>	\$	\$	\$			\$RTP	\$RTP		\$
Training				\$		\$	\$	\$	
Training for Law Enforcement on Ped/Bicycle Safety Laws						\$SRTS	\$SRTS		
Tunnels / Undercrossings for Pedestrian and/or Bicyclists	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

KEY

\$ = Funds may be used for this activity

\$ = Eligible activity, but not competitive unless part of a larger project

Source: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/funding/funding_opportunities.cfm

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

PROGRAM SPECIFIC NOTES:

- BUILD** Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development Transportation Discretionary Grants
Subject to annual appropriations
- INFRA** Infrastructure for Rebuilding America's Discretionary Grant Program
Focuses on projects that generate national or regional economic, mobility, and safety benefits
- TIFIA** Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (loans)
Program offers assistance only in the form of secured loans, loan guarantees, or standby lines of credit, but can be combined with other grant sources, subject to total Federal assistance limitations
- HSIP** Highway Safety Improvement Program
Projects must be consistent with a State's Strategic Highway Safety Plan and (1) correct or improve a hazardous road location or feature, or (2) address a highway safety problem
- NHPP** National Highway Performance Program
Projects must benefit National Highway System Corridors
- STBG** Surface Transportation Block Grant Program
TA Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (formerly Transportation Alternative Program)
Activities marked \$SRTS means eligible only as a SRTS (Safe Routes to School) project benefiting schools for K-8th grade. Bicycle transportation non-construction projects related to safe bicycle use are eligible under STBG, but not under TA.
- RTP** Recreational Trails Program
Projects must benefit recreational trails, but can be for any recreational trail use.
- PLAN** Statewide Planning and Research (SPR) or Metropolitan Planning funds
May be used for planning purposed for example: Maps, safety and education awareness, safety program technical assessment, and training.
- FLTTP** Federal Lands and Tribal Transportation Program (Federal Lands Access Program, Federal Lands Transportation Program, Tribal Transportation Program, Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects)
Projects must provide access to or within Federal or Tribal lands. FLAP is open to state and local entities for projects that provide access to or within Federal or Tribal lands; FLTTP is for federal agencies for projects that provide access within Federal lands; TTP is for federally -recognized tribal governments for projects within tribal boundaries and public roads that access tribal lands.

OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

- Arts and Cultural Organizations
- Anchor Industries and Institutions
- Foundations

AARP

The AARP is a supporter of complete streets projects, and offers opportunities for funding partnerships.

SMART GROWTH AMERICA

Smart Growth America offers a variety of programs that could be utilized by local entities for planning, technical assistance, educational assistance, or funding such as:

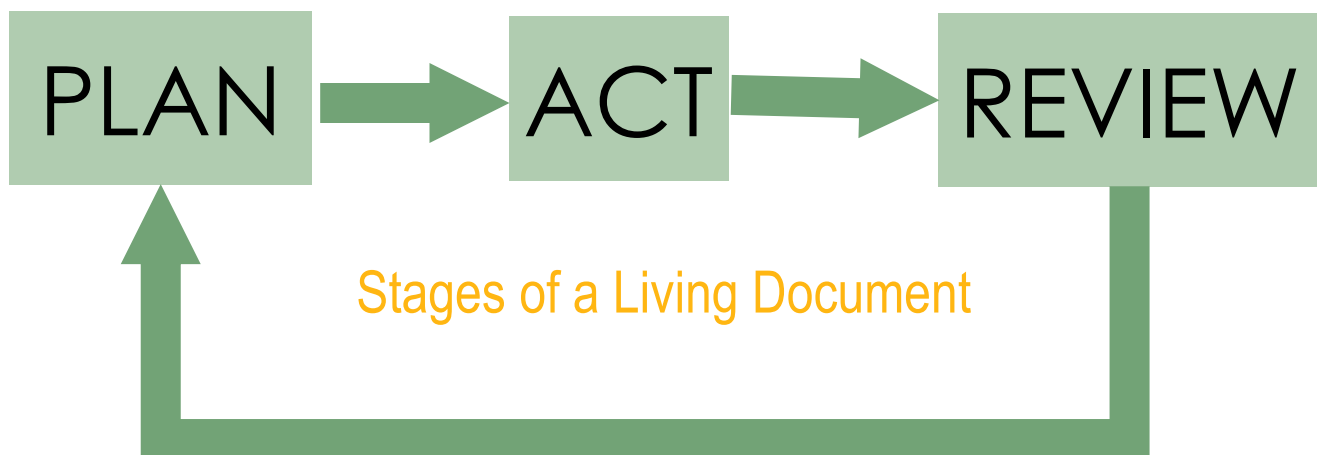
- Technical Assistance
- Rural Development
- National Complete Streets Coalition

MOVING FORWARD

The DeKalb County Trail Network study is a strategic planning document and a living management tool that provides long-term direction, builds a shared vision, and improves use of resources by identifying various funding sources. This document identifies existing trail facilities, gaps in the trail network, and strategic recommendations to improve efficiency and effectiveness of trail network throughout the County. This study creates a platform for a wide range of beginnings for the region and should be utilized as a guide for each local implementation plan. It will come to life by being shared, debated, and implemented in the context of organizational realities.

The final step in the strategic planning process is to develop organizational and community commitment to the plan. Public involvement is important to the development of any plan. But, it is just as important to the implementation efforts that follow. Continuing public and stakeholder involvement in the implementation of the trail network will help in assuring the reasonableness and public acceptance of the County's efforts.

The leadership of DeKalb County should establish a Steering Committee – including but not limited to, DeKalb County Commission and municipal leaderships, DeKalb County Tourism, DeKalb County EDA, all municipal and county chambers of commerce, DeSoto State Park, Little River Canyon National Preserve, and other tourism and economic development leaders – to meet periodically to review progress toward the network goals and adjust facility types, local and regional priorities, and specific targets as needs and the environment change. This document is intended to be dynamic and should be reviewed and revised periodically. Although revisions can be made at any time, it should be emphasized that the plan be reviewed and updated at least annually.



APPENDIX - Referenced Plans, Reports, and Resources

Advisory Bicycle Lane Design Guide, July 12, 2018, Michael Williams
<https://www.advisorybikelanes.com/design-guidance.html>

Alabama Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2013-2018
Referred to as: SCORP
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
<http://www.adeca.alabama.gov/Divisions/ced/Recreation/Trail%20Plan/SCORP%202013-2018.pdf>

City of Fort Payne Downtown Revitalization Plan, 2008

Funding Opportunities: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/funding/funding_opportunities.cfm

Greenville Health System Swamp Rabbit Trail Year 4 Findings, by Furman University; Clemson International Institute for Tourism Research & Development.

State of Alabama Tourism Department 2017 Annual Report

“*Silver Comet Trail Economic Impact Analysis and Planning Study*”, Northwest Georgia Regional Planning Commission, July 2013

Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks, December 2016,
US. Dept of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration

Strava Global Heatmap, accessed September 2018
<https://www.strava.com/heatmap#7.00/-120.90000/38.36000/hot/all>

Town of Mentone Comprehensive Plan, 2017

USBRS National Corridor Plan, June 2018
<https://www.adventurecycling.org/routes-and-maps/us-bicycle-route-system/>

Established by a local initiative in 1968, the Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments (TARCOG) aims to identify and address common regional issues, opportunities, and challenges of Northeast Alabama's municipalities and counties. TARCOG serves as Sub-state Planning District Twelve and the Area Agency on Aging. The governments of five northeast Alabama counties, DeKalb, Jackson, Limestone, Madison, and Marshall, and the municipalities located in these counties make up TARCOG. TARCOG helps local governments by obtaining funding for local government assistance, coordinating local governments' responses to regional issues, and providing a wide range of services to the region's governments and residents. This document was prepared and designed by the TARCOG Department of Planning and Economic Development.



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