

Connecting Citizens to Parks and Recreation

A healthy community provides access to nature. Residents should be connected with local parks through trails, sidewalks, and additional transportation options. Recreational opportunities should be available to and inclusive for all.

Measurable Goals:

- Increase trail length
- Increase parks acreage
- Increase City-owned property along Etowah River
- Sidewalk connectivity for all neighborhoods to a Citywide parks and trail network
- Increase recreation offerings
- Increase reservations of field spaces and facilities
- Increase participation in sports programs
- Increase enrollment in local gyms and recreation program providers
- Increase attendance at public events

Major Partners:

- Residents
- City Officials & Staff
- Northside Hospital-Cherokee
- YMCA
- Boys & Girls Club
- Cherokee Co. Senior Services
- Cherokee Co. Parks & Rec
- Private recreation groups
- Developers
- Media
- Utility Providers
- Cherokee Co. School District
- Private Property Owners
- Canton Main Street
- Homeowner Associations
- Private Event Organizers
- Upper Etowah River Alliance
- Army Corps of Engineers
- GDOT
- Cherokee County
- Scouts

How We Will Get There

- Purchase of property necessary to provide recreational opportunities for our growing community
- Development of a dog park
- Continuation of the Etowah Trail System along both sides of the river
- Increase opportunities for recreational access to Etowah River
- Increase opportunities for recreational access to Hickory Log Creek Reservoir, including boat uses
- Increase recreational opportunities connecting all neighborhoods
- Creation of a master sidewalk plan to connect all neighborhoods
- Increase multi-use pathways throughout the City
- Develop a free wellness program of classes for City residents
- Creation of community gardens and orchards for resident use
- Develop a biking program including facilities
- Develop outdoor fitness opportunities for residents
- Increase programming for all ages of Canton residents
- Mark all trails and pathways for easy navigation and emergency location
- Encourage recreation opportunities for all communities
- Utilize green development practices in all park projects
- Connect to neighboring trail systems
- Publish maps and create digital maps of various trail/walking paths throughout the City
- Explore pedestrian improvements and connectivity along State Route 140 with Cherokee County and Georgia Department of Transportation
- Increase playground equipment, including options for adults and all ability needs

Specific Projects Underway

- Marietta Highway ULI-TAP Project
- New Diversity & Inclusion Task Force
- Public Safety Citizens Advisory Board
- New City Website
- Etowah River Trail Eastward from ERP Oval under Interstate 575
- Etowah River Trail Westward connecting Heritage to Boling Park
- Harmon Park CDBG Upgrades
- Harmon Park Atlanta United Mini-Pitch Project
- National Fitness Center Outdoor Gym

Materials/Supporting Documents:

- Rivermill Livable Centers Initiative
- Canton 2040 Plan
- City of Canton Housing Study
- Hickory Log Creek Reservoir Management Plan
- Atkins Etowah River Trail Masterplan
- Etowah River Greenway Plan