

SOUTH PEACHTREE CREEK TRAIL

The South Peachtree Creek Trail will connect Lenox Road to North DeKalb Mall, using the low-lying greenspace along South Peachtree Creek. This trail will provide access to Emory University from Atlanta neighborhoods as well as the nearby DeKalb neighborhoods of Laurel Hills, Mason Mill Park, North Druid Woods, and Leafmore Hills.



Existing stone bridge near intersection of Burnt Fork Creek and South Fork Peachtree Creek.

Emory students will utilize this trail and its proposed spurs to Toco Hills Shopping Center, Sage Hills Shopping Center, and Emory Village, along Lavine Creek.

Federal funding is in place for a portion of this project. Much of the planning and environmental work has been completed. A large segment of this trail between Mason Mill Park and North DeKalb Mall could be implemented rather quickly.

South Peachtree Creek Trail

Commission Districts 2, 3 & 4

Links: Atlanta at Lenox Road; North DeKalb Shopping Center; Farmer's Market Trail; and Zonolite Park.

Intermediate Destinations: Emory University; VA Hospital; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); Mason Mill Park; Medlock Park; Sagamore Trail; Sage Hill Shopping Center; W.D. Thompson Park; Toco Hills Shopping Center; Zonolite Park.

Approximate Length: 2.5 miles **Est. Cost (w/o R.O.W.):** \$1,656,250

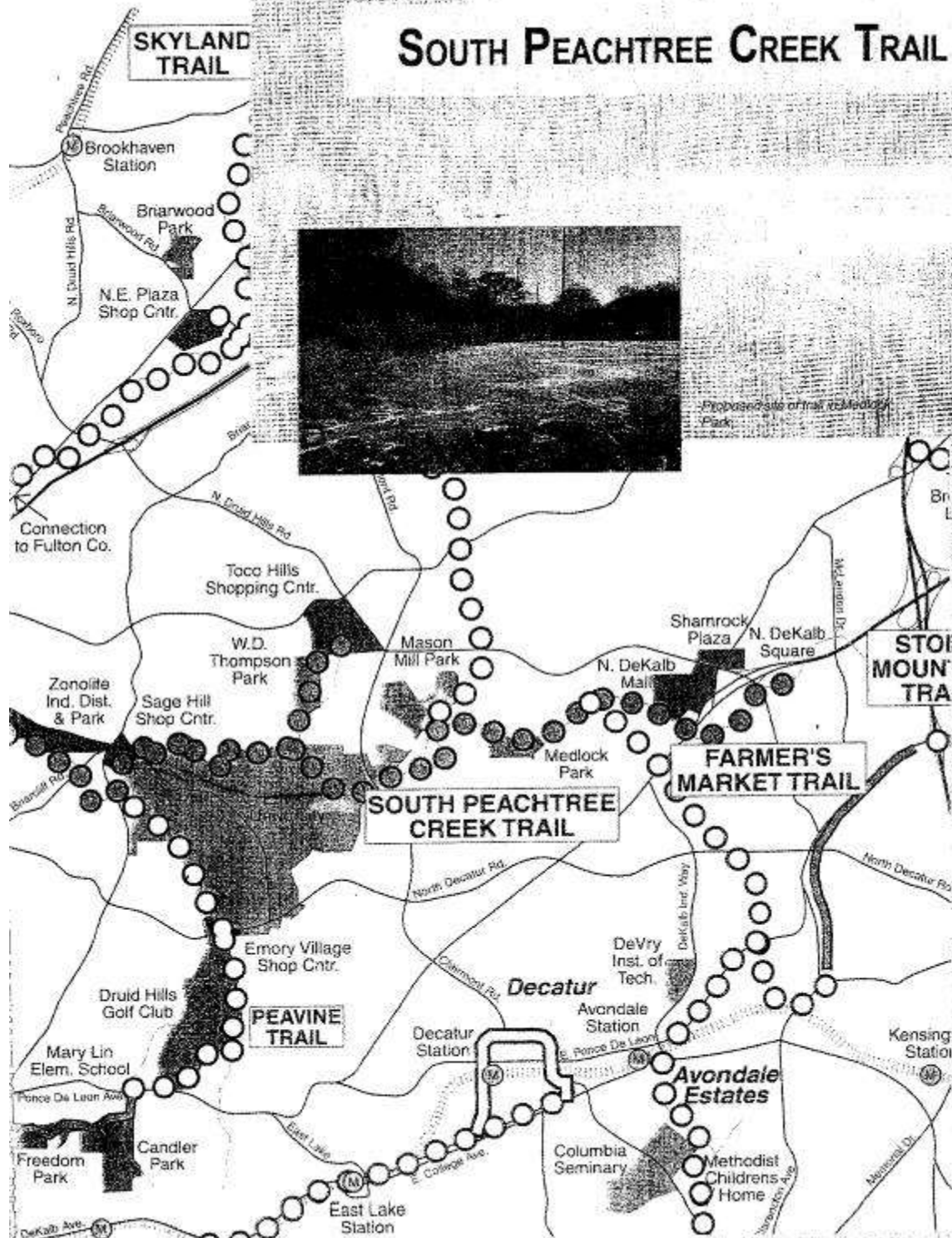
Recommended Priority for Implementation: 1st tier

Opportunities Utilized: Low areas along S. Peachtree Creek; land owned by County near old Decatur Water Works; overhead electrical easement; undeveloped land within Mason Mill Park.

Potential Obstacles to Implementation: Access from Mason Mill Park to Clairmont Road, crossing active CSX track.

Comments: TEA funding of \$750,000 available; supported by Emory, North DeKalb Mall, and neighborhood groups.

SOUTH PEACHTREE CREEK TRAIL



SOUTH FORK PEACHTREE CREEK TRAIL

HISTORY

1988

The Master Plans for Mason Mill and Medlock Parks developed by citizen Steering Committees and adopted by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners included the concept of a trail which would link the parks.

1994

The South Fork Peachtree Creek Nature Preserve asked DeKalb County to sponsor their application for Federal ISTEA Funds to develop a trail from North DeKalb Mall to Emory University.

1995

The Georgia DOT approved 75% of the funding requested. The termination of the trail was moved to Mason Mill Park.

1995-6

The South Fork Peachtree Creek Nature Preserve requested the PATH Foundation assist them in the development of the trail. PATH indicated that they would not be able to work on the project until after the Olympics.

1997

PATH began to develop concepts for the trail and presented them at a Public Meeting in November. Concerns regarding the route were expressed at the public meeting and a steering committee was formed. The committee identified alternate routes through several segments of the trail but did not reach a consensus on a recommendation.

1998

Alternate routes presented on February 24, 1998 for public comment.



SEGMENT # 1 MASON MILL PARK

Basic trail will follow old roadbed and would not preclude access to mountain bike or nature trails.

Alternate 1A:

Description- The trail begins between the Life Enrichment Center and library. It connects through Mason Mill Park by following an old roadbed below the tennis courts, crossing the creek and following the creek under the railroad bridge. It then connects to the old roadbed on the ridge.

Opportunities-

1. Trail users are separated from the railroad.
2. Trail is separated from other park activities.
3. Provides access to library, tennis center and natural areas.

Constraints-

1. Additional parking construction at McConnell Dr.
2. Additional impact of construction in steep terrain.
3. Additional costs of longer trail.
4. Steep slopes as trail comes around tennis center.

Alternate 1B:

Description- Trail begins at the tennis court parking, and slants along the slope well below McConnell Dr. until it connects with the old road as it crosses the railroad at grade (there would be a gate and signal installed). It then follows the old road along the ridge.

Opportunities-

1. Most of route follows an old roadbed, less impact on site.
3. Provides access to historic sites.
4. Uses existing parking.
5. Redevelopment of entrance to tennis center parking.

Constraints-

1. At grade railroad crossing.



**SEGMENT # 2 SOUTH FORK PEACHTREE CREEK/
WILLIVEE PLACE**

Connection between Mason Mill and Medlock Parks.

In addition to the routes presented, the Georgia Power easement that runs north of Willivee Place was evaluated. This portion of the easement contains very steep slopes and in the middle there is a major gas line. Therefore, it is not considered a viable alternative.

Alternate 2A: Willivee Place

Description- Follows an old roadbed in Mason Mill Park through the road easement connecting Mason Mill Park to Willivee Place where the trail goes on-street to Willivee Dr. and then connects with the basic trail at Medlock Park.

Opportunities-

1. Uses existing streets with directional signs.
2. No additional grading or paving required.
3. Minimal cost.

Constraints-

1. Steepness of Willivee Dr.
2. Mixes bicycles and pedestrians with vehicle traffic.

Alternate 2B: Route along creek

Description- Follows the slope from old roadbed to the creek as the creek flows into Medlock Park.

Opportunities-

1. Very attractive setting.
2. Flat land, little grade.

Constraints-

1. Periodic flooding.
2. Requires easements across all affected private property. (Note this is at the owners' discretion.)



SEGMENT # 3 NATURE PRESERVE TO NORTH DEKALB MALL

Connection into North DeKalb Mall.

Alternate 3A: Through Nature Preserve

Description- This alternative uses Wood Trail Lane to reach the entrance of the Nature Preserve and then follows the contours on the high ground as the trail bypasses the wetlands and skirts the Saturn Dealership. The trail then crosses the creek and connects to the mall entrance road.

Opportunities-

1. People can enjoy and appreciate the protected wetlands.
2. More interesting and attractive route.
3. Fewer steep grades.
4. More direct route.
5. Protects more of the nature preserve from potential reversion to owners when lease expires.
6. Alternative parking at the mall to access the Nature Preserve.

Constraints-

1. Expense of off-street construction.
2. Engineering required to protect wetlands.

Alternate 3B: Maximum On-Street Route

Description- Follows Harrington Dr. on-street to access point just above the Saturn Dealership, skirts the high ground to bridge crossing the creek and then connects to the mall entrance road.

Opportunities-

1. Reduced cost of on-street trail.
2. Ease of trail establishment.

Constraints-

1. Reduced public access to Nature Preserve.
2. Mixes bicycles and pedestrians with vehicle traffic for a longer segment.
3. Steep slope as the off-street segment connects to Harrington Dr.

