

Plan Development

Plan Purpose

The purpose of this planning study is to provide a framework for development of a greenway within the City of Harrisonburg. The plan outlines specific recommendations for routing trails and locating amenities, and gives justification for their locations. The plan is designed to guide the future design and implementation of greenway corridors and has been devised to include input from the public.

Coordination

This plan is the result of public and private partnership and is funded with a planning grant from the Virginia Department of Forestry.

The completion of this plan has been a cooperative effort between The City of Harrisonburg and The Citizens for Downtown, The Blacks Run Greenway Partnership, planning consultants, and the general public.

The City of Harrisonburg has provided labor, materials and other services to match grant funds. The City's Planning, Engineering and Parks and Recreation staff has provided enthusiastic and much appreciated support through this process. The Citizens for Downtown and the Blacks Run Greenway Partnership have provided the vision, drive and commitment. The general public has provided support and enthusiasm for the plan and the ideas contained within.

The plan has truly been a grassroots community project and has involved countless hours of volunteer labor from the citizens of Harrisonburg and others. This has resulted in a rewarding process, where a sense of ownership and pride has been developed.

Plan Development Process

The planning process for this master plan was developed to allow input and involvement from the City of Harrisonburg, private organizations and the public. The process involved three phases of Analysis, Programming and Design.

A core group of individuals was organized that served as the representation for the community at large. This group also provided in-kind labor and material required to complete this document and was called the Working Committee. The committee consisted of members of the City of Harrisonburg's Planning, Engineering and Parks staff as well as members of the Blacks Run Greenway Partnership. A series of meetings was held to gather input from this group.

Three public meetings were also held in order to involve the public in the planning process and to collect comments and concerns. The first was held to introduce the project and the concept of a greenway. The second was held to discuss the results of the analysis and alignment studies and to gather input, comments and suggestions. The third will be a City Council meeting open to the public. This meeting will be designed to make the public and council aware of the planning process and the results of the plan.