

the GA400 Trail

Newsletter No. 1 | *GA 400 Trail Fact Sheet* | *Frequently Asked Questions* | *Project Status and Schedule*

The GA 400 Trail is the backbone of the Buckhead Collection, the Greenspace Action Plan for Council District 7 in Buckhead initiated by Councilman Howard Shook in 2010. Envisioned as a paved, 8' – 14' wide multi-use path for bicyclists, skaters, walkers and runners, it will be the primary spine of the Buckhead Collection's Trails and Greenways System connecting Buckhead neighborhoods to parks, trails, schools,

the Buckhead Business District, and ultimately to the Atlanta BeltLine. The Trail is approximately 5 miles long – extending from the historic cemetery site and proposed trailhead off Loridans Drive NE south to the Atlanta Beltline's Peachtree Creek spur trail – and passes by North Buckhead, Wieuca Trace, and Peachtree Park Neighborhoods, as well as Tower Place and the Lindbergh/Sidney Marcus commercial area.

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2012



PROPOSED ALIGNMENT



PROJECT STATUS AND SCHEDULE

A feasibility study was completed for the project in 2011 and understandings were reached with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), the City of Atlanta, and other public agencies to use public rights-of-ways and land for the trail.

The project is nearing the required GDOT trail alignment study phase, also known as the GDOT Conceptual Development phase. The current steps and timelines for the project are presented to the right and the public engagement process on the back.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is involved in this project and what roles do they play?

The GA400 Trail is being managed by Livable Buckhead Inc., (LBI) a 501c3 organization in partnership with the Buckhead Community Improvement District (BCID) and the PATH Foundation. In addition, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) will provide conditional easements for this worthwhile project. Additionally, the trail is supported by the following state and local organizations: Buckhead Area Transportation Management Association (BATMA), Buckhead Business Association Foundation (BBA), City of Atlanta, and Neighborhood Planning Unit B.

How much will the Trail cost, and how is it being funded?

The GA400 Trail is estimated to cost \$10 million in construction. With an initial \$3.1 million contribution from the PATH Foundation and additional funds from the BCID, the City of Atlanta and the Buckhead Business Association Foundation, LBI has commitments for approximately 35 percent of the funds needed. The partner organizations have requested an additional \$2.5 million from the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank, administered by Georgia's State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA), and anticipate additional funding to be raised by LBI in the future.

Who will build the Trail?

The Trail will be constructed by the PATH Foundation, the same Atlanta non-profit organization that built the Silver Comet Trail, Tanyard Memorial Trail, and Stone Mountain Trail.

Will any private property need to be used or acquired to build the Trail?

Yes, a small segment of the Trail near Miami Circle will require an easement or acquisition. The rest of the Trail is located in public right of way.

What materials will be used for the Trail surface?

Depending on where the Trail is located, it will be constructed of concrete, porous concrete, asphalt, and pavers to provide access to as many different types of users as possible, including walkers, runners, bicyclists, in-line skaters and wheelchairs, while minimizing impact to the environment.

Will any trees have to be removed to construct the Trail?

Yes, a 12' – 18' wide path will need to be cleared to build the trail. However, survey crews are currently identifying the locations of existing trees along the corridor, and project designers will route the Trail to avoid as many trees as possible, particularly large specimen trees. Additionally, LBI will replace removed trees as required by the City of Atlanta Tree Ordinance.

What is the environmental impact of the trail and how will the plans address habitat loss?

LBI is committed to reducing environmental impacts of construction to ensure the Trail's carbon footprint is minimal and the natural habitat is preserved in a responsible and sustainable manner. As the trail will only require a 12'-18' wide path and will be located in highly ecologically fragmented and disturbed areas, minimal habitat loss is expected. LBI has included a PhD Wildlife Ecologist on the project to assist in its efforts to minimize and mitigate any potential habitat loss. Studies are currently being conducted to identify areas of concern.

Step 1 **GDOT Trail Alignment Study**
SEPTEMBER 2011 – FEBRUARY 2012
- General location of Trail corridor

Step 2 **Base Data + Survey Preparation**
JANUARY 2012 – MARCH 2012
- Locating of trees, topography, drainage patterns, natural areas, etc.

Step 3 **Conceptual + Preliminary Design**
FEBRUARY 2012 – SEPTEMBER 2012
- Approximate Trail alignment, width, buffers, edge treatments, materials, etc.

Step 4 **Final Design**
SEPTEMBER 2012 – MARCH 2013
- Exact Trail alignment, dimensions, buffers, edge treatments, materials, etc.

Step 5 **Permitting**
APRIL 2013 – AUGUST 2013
- Agency construction permits

Step 6 **Construction**
SEPTEMBER 2013 – JULY 2014
- Trail construction

How do the plans address water runoff issues for Little Nancy Creek and Peachtree Creek?

Rain Gardens and Bio-Swales will be strategically located and designed to address water quality and water quantity in accordance with the City of Atlanta and EPA water quality criteria. The project is being designed to not adversely affect water quality in Little Nancy Creek, Peachtree Creek or any of their connecting streams or brooks.

How will adjacent residents be buffered from the Trail?

Designers are committed to preserving as much of the existing natural vegetation as possible between the trail and adjacent properties to serve as a vegetative buffer. Designers will meet with property owners to determine what additional buffers, if any, should be constructed along various sections of the trail corridor. Residents adjacent to comparable trails have often requested direct access to the Trail.

Will the Trail be open and lighted at night?

No, the Trail will be open from dawn to dusk, the same as other area parks. Security lighting will be provided only where necessary.

How do the plans address public safety for trail users, for GA 400 motorists, and for surrounding neighborhoods?

Public safety is paramount for LBI and all the partnering organizations. As demonstrated by comparable trail and linear park projects in the Atlanta region, including the Tanyard Memorial Trail, Freedom Parkway Trail, Silver Comet Trail, Stone Mountain Trail, and the Atlanta BeltLine, as well as comparable trails around the nation, trails do not lead to increased crime in communities. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles will be

used during the design of the trail and appropriate physical barriers will be implemented where necessary to ensure trail user, neighborhood, and motorist safety and security. Additionally, the Trail will be monitored by the Atlanta Police Department and MARTA Police.

What will the Trail connect to?

The Trail will connect residents to the Sarah Smith Primary and Intermediate Schools, the Buckhead Business District, the Buckhead and Lenox MARTA Stations, Miami Circle, Sidney Marcus commercial area, and the proposed Historic Loricans Cemetery Park, Mountain Way Park, and Atlanta BeltLine.

When will more detailed plans be available for public review and comment?

Once the GDOT Concept Report is reviewed by all the required agencies, it will be uploaded to the LBI project website for viewing. This is expected to take place in late February/early March. As detailed plans become available during the next several months, they will be uploaded to the LBI project website for review and comment.

Where, exactly, will the proposed “major trail head” parking lots and buildings be placed on Loricans and on Mountain Way?

At the moment, no designs or site plans have been developed for these trailheads. During the coming months, the design team will work with adjacent residents to ensure that any parking and buildings in these locations are sited to address neighborhood concerns.

Who will maintain the Trail?

The Trail will be maintained through a joint effort led by LBI in partnership with the BCID and the Path Foundation.

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COMPARABLE PROJECTS



Nancy Creek Trail | DeKalb County, GA



Silver Comet Trail | Cobb, Paulding, Polk Counties, GA



Example of Vegetated Bio-Swale

OPPORTUNITIES FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT

An extensive Public Involvement Process has been established to: 1) keep residents, property owners and other stakeholders up to date on the status and progress of the Trail; and 2) provide opportunities for input during the design process.

Communication techniques will include:

- Press release(s)
- Livable Buckhead (LBI) Facebook page
- LBI Newsletter and website
- Buckhead CID Newsletter, website, and Twitter postings
- GA 400 Fact Sheet

Public forums will include (dates TBD):

- Meetings with Homeowner Association representatives
- Meetings with individual residents and neighborhood groups including the North Buckhead Civic Association, Wieuca Trace, Peachtree Park, Tower Place and Sidney Marcus area residents.
- Presentations to NPU-B and Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods
- Meetings with individual homeowners adjacent to the Trail (by appointment)
- Public Information Open House(s) as part of the Georgia Department of Transportation Plan Development process
- Follow up meeting(s) and open house(s) as required

Please check the GA 400 Trail website and LBI newsletter for dates of upcoming meetings

HOW CAN I STAY INFORMED?



For additional information, please contact:

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COMPARABLE PROJECTS



Tanyard Memorial Trail | Atlanta, GA



Arabia Mountain Trail | DeKalb County, GA



Cultural Trail | Indianapolis, Indiana