

The Greenbelt, a System of Parks and Open Spaces

Open spaces can be attractive and meaningful for a variety of reasons. They can offer many experiences, ranging from the aesthetic enjoyment of long views created by environmentally preserved lands and working farms, to physical use of trails and greenways for walking and biking, as well as passive and active parks with structured fields and courts.

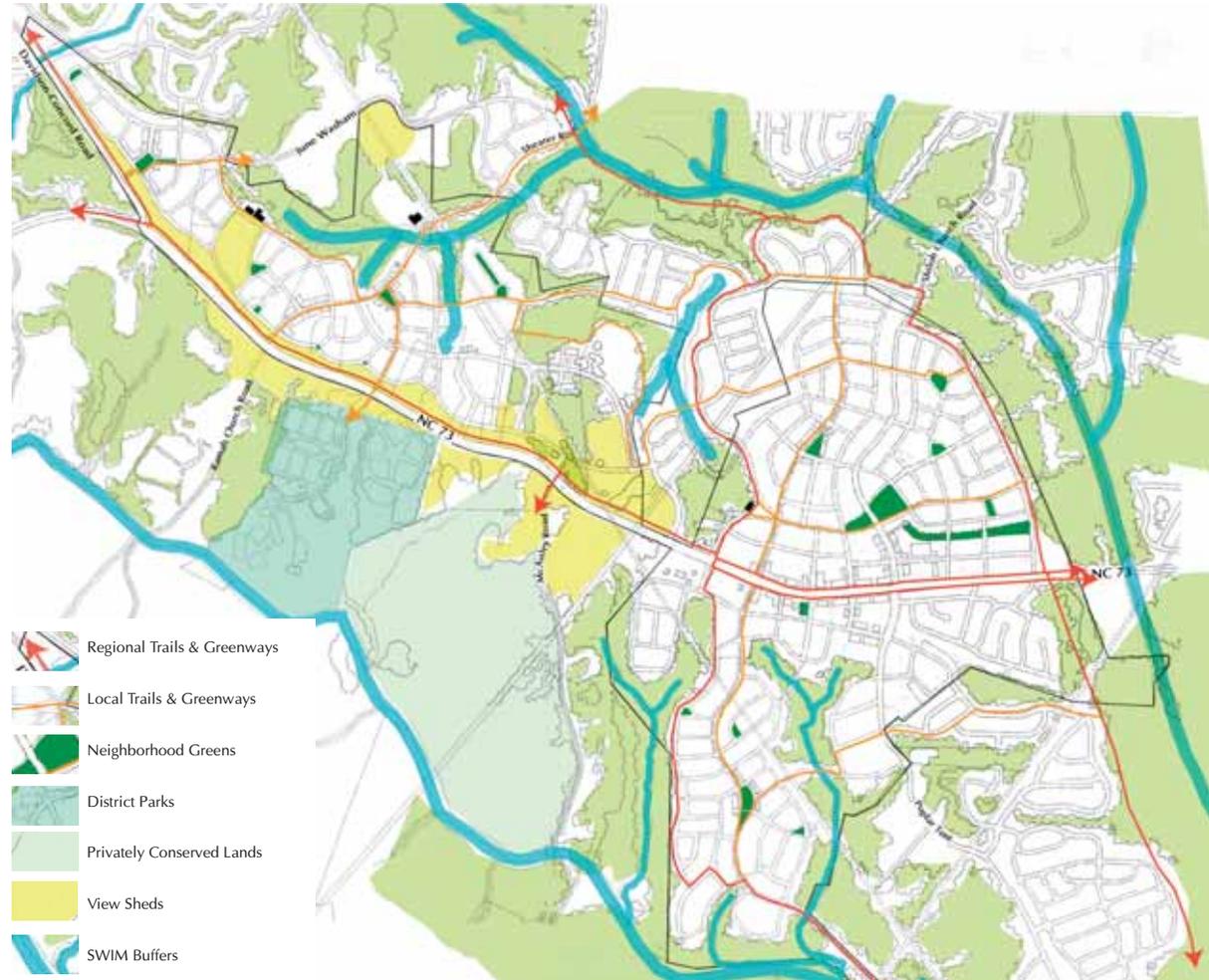
This Plan is conceived as a series of neighborhoods nestled within a greenbelt. Maintaining a connected series of green spaces, ranging from the natural, environmentally valuable lands to more structured parks, creates the greenbelt. The Plan seeks to create and maintain visual green borders between neighborhoods, Centers and Districts which provide a natural habitat for wildlife and an amenity.

Natural Lands as an Organizing Element

Lands that are deemed un-developable due to streams, ravines and topography, form green fingers, which surround and define neighborhoods. These natural lands have tremendous ecological value and should be thought of as an asset. Parcels that are kept, as natural lands should be connected so a contiguous native habitat is maintained.

Natural Edges Designed for Enjoyment

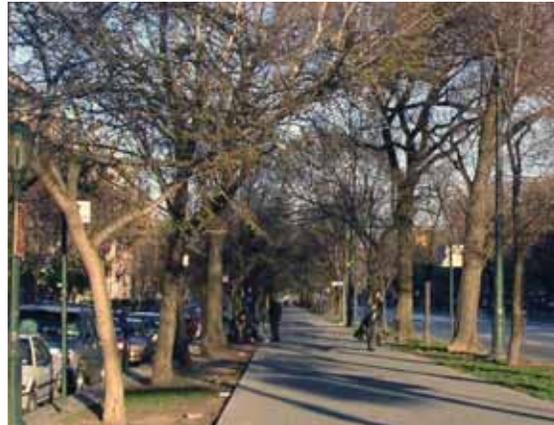
These green fingers define the edges of neighborhoods and provide a unique amenity. Residents of each neighborhood can have access to natural environments within walking distance of their homes. The edges between neighborhoods and green spaces are defined by single loaded roads (drives). These natural borders provide an opportunity for passive recreation. As the neighborhoods develop, these edges can be designed to include picnic tables and grills.





The Trails System

Along these natural edges a system of trails can be established. Trails can have signage and be informally marked. Trail heads and way-finding signage can provide direction to other destinations such as Neighborhood Centers, or the NC 73 Greenway.



The median on this Boulevard creates a linear park.

Greenways

Greenways are linear parks, often serving as alternative transportation routes for pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as conservation areas that provide passive recreational opportunities.

Several Greenways are proposed along NC 73 and along Rocky River. Along NC 73 at Poplar Center the medians are proposed as linear parks, defined by an alley of trees with benches. On the remaining portions of NC 73, the greenway would continue as a walking and bike path removed from the road, buffered by intermittent stands of trees. Rocky River is proposed as a greenway, dominated by a natural edge and fronted by homes on a residential drive and a natural edge to the River.

Typically, the more interconnected and extensive Greenways and Trail systems are the more successful, as they are enjoyed by more people and used as a viable means of transport. An effort should be made to link existing bike paths, trails and greenways to new ones, to create an alternative transportation route system for pedestrians and bicyclists.



Savannah's squares are all distinct. Their uniqueness is created by the surrounding buildings, civic art and landscape.

District Parks

District parks are larger parks that provide active recreation with fields and courts for structured games and tournaments. Bradford District Park will be located on the south side of NC 73.

Neighborhood Parks & Greens

Neighborhood parks and greens are located throughout the study area. Each Neighborhood Center is defined by a green. This open space provides an opportunity for the Neighborhood Centers to create their own distinct identity through memorable architecture and civic art such as sculpture and water features. The Neighborhood greens can become places of ceremony for special event as well as day-to-day enjoyment for informal play and relaxation.

Additional greens are located throughout the neighborhoods. As these neighborhoods develop, the community can assess how they would like each to be utilized. For example they may be left open for informal games or be designed for more specific uses such as tot lots.

View Sheds

Preserved lands and working farms can provide long views. These types of open spaces are typically private, but are valued by the community, as they are visible. View sheds are maintained along the environmentally preserved lands and Bradford District Park on the south side of NC 73. Long views are also preserved as part of the Campus District.

The diagram depicts the range of greenspaces that can occur, and how these spaces can be connected through trails or streets.