

Introduction

Background

The Great Smoky Mountains Regional Greenway Council and the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) hired Equinox to conduct a greenway master plan that would connect the western edge of the City of Knoxville, western Knox County, and the City of Oak Ridge in Anderson County. This plan is a collaborative regional effort and is a more detailed study of goals and projects identified in both the Knoxville-Knox County Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan and Northwest County Sector Plan. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) oversaw the development of the Knox to Oak Ridge plan and provided input at key stages. This project was chosen by the Regional Greenway Council and TPO because it is regional in nature. The individual jurisdictions involved — Knoxville, Knox County and Oak Ridge — are working to link up and extend their greenway networks. The Council and the TPO seek to complement those local efforts by generating plans for regional greenway linkages.



Figure 1—The Project Area

The Project Area

The project area (see Figure 1) begins at Ten Mile Creek in the City of Knoxville in an area fairly developed with office parks, apartments and single-family homes, and commercial use. A wide swath was included in the project area, but based on the goals developed by the TAC, site visits, and map analysis; it was determined that the areas surrounding I-40/75 and the Pellissippi Parkway were the most likely locations to meet the plan’s goals and find probable right-of-way. The project area ends just north of the Solway Bridge on Melton Hill Lake/Clinch River in Anderson County. A future greenway connection is expected to tie in at the northern terminus as an extension of the Melton Lake Greenway.

Goals of This Plan

The TAC developed a preliminary list of goals in a kick-off meeting. Public input further refined the following goals:

- **Connect to other parks and greenways.**
- **Treat the greenway as a transportation system** that will be used as a major route for pedestrians and bicyclists to commute for work, school, and play.
- **Serve the densest areas of residential and employment centers.**
- **Design the greenway as a linear park for recreation**, allowing it to become a transportation route as more places and people are connected.
- **Take advantage of views, natural areas, and rural places.**
- **Coordinate with the Northwest Sector County Plan revision** that will be concurrent with the development of this Master Plan Study.
- **Develop a plan utilized in many ways:** This plan will be shared with developers, land owners, engineering departments, used in coordination with other government agencies, and will be a marketing tool to the public and businesses interested in locating along the greenway. The plan should be technical but easily understood.