

Reedy Creek Greenway FAQ

March 2024

Why build a greenway through Reedy Creek Park and Nature Preserve?

When the Mecklenburg County Greenway Master Plan, completed in 1999, included the future development of the Reedy Creek Greenway, the Greenway Master Plan aims to connect communities across the Charlotte area to bring access to nature and alternative forms of transportation to Mecklenburg County residents. The Reedy Creek Greenway will connect multiple resources such as CPCC, CMS schools and Reedy Creek Park, Nature Center and Preserve to neighboring communities. In the future this greenway will be connected to a larger greenway network across the county that will allow people to travel to destinations without the need of a car.

Why are they cutting down trees?

The construction of a greenway trail involves the clearing along the corridor where the greenway will be built. Contractors, and natural resources staff had to create a route that connected natural and community resources to our neighbors. After a thorough planning and design process the current path attempts to minimize environmental impact and keep a route that connects amenities in the park and the community.

What is being done to minimize environmental impact?

Building on the Preserve's mission to connect our community with our local ecology, we assembled a stakeholder working group including County Nature Preserve staff, and our consulting design engineering team, Benesch and Wildlands– with a vision to craft a nature preserve/greenway hybrid condition, that would provide accessible trails while bringing the public closer to native ecology. After our initial conversations with the working group, our thinking evolved – as stewards of Reedy Creek Nature Preserve advocated to move the alignment to the outermost edge of the Preserve. To make this happen, the County acquired a large parcel of land (the former Cox Media Property) so that we could connect to the north side of the park without disturbing high quality habitat areas.

-Tree clearing occurs during a narrow time window, outside of the bird nesting period (January 1- March 31).

-We had multiple design walks to optimize our greenway alignment to minimize impact to significant trees and wildlife habitat. After the contractor flagged the clearing limits based on our design drawings, we walked the corridor again and adjusted as needed to preserve trees.

-We're maintaining a narrow 30' construction corridor (typically for a greenway the construction corridor is 50').

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When will construction be done?

Construction started in Feb 2024, and we are expecting construction to last 18 months. The greenway should be completed sometime in the summer of 2025.

Big Oak trail is being re-routed and will have a new layout throughout the preserve. This trail will reopen around the same time the greenway construction is done.

What other greenways or parks will the Reedy Creek greenway connect to?

The greenway master plan calls for connectors between Reedy Creek Greenway and future Back Creek Greenway to the north and Cabarrus County to the east. There are also plans to connect to Toby Creek Greenway via urban trails along Rocky River Road. Toby Creek Greenway is part the Cross Charlotte Trail, a future 31-mile-long regional trail connecting from Cabarrus County to South Carolina state line.

What happened to the trees that are cut down?

If trees must be cleared the contractor is responsible for disposing of the material. Sometimes logs can be taken to a sawmill to be cut and used to produce lumber. Other times trees are shredded and turn into mulch that is used along the greenway project to stabilize the soil based on the project's and the contractor's chosen means and methods for construction.

For more information and periodic project updates:

<https://publicinput.com/ReedyCreekGreenway>