



**Bluegrass Bike Hike Horseback Trails Alliance
Master Plan, Phase I (Connecting Scott and Fayette County)**

Vision: Showcase the Bluegrass Region of central Kentucky, by building a world-class network of multi-modal transportation, emphasizing bicycle, pedestrian, horseback and water trails.

Phase I Mission: To develop over 200 miles of hike, bicycle, horseback and water trails connecting Fayette & Scott Counties to the rest of the Bluegrass Region.

Update/Situation Assessment

The Rivers Trails Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) (2 yr.) Project

The National Park Service (NPS) manages some of our nation's most historic sites, scenic resources, and critical natural areas. NPS also provides assistance to locally-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects through the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program. RTCA staff works in urban, rural and suburban communities to help applicants conserve rivers, preserve natural areas, and develop trails and greenways. Staff assists on a variety of natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects including multi-use trails, single purpose trails, greenways, water trails (also called blueways), river corridor conservation, land protection, and park planning.

Bluegrass Tomorrow, an 18-county regional quality of life planning organization was awarded the assistance grant to work on creating multi-modal trail linkages between Fayette and Scott Counties in 2012 and 2013, working with RTCA staff help with partnership-building to achieve community-set goals, through organizational development, assessing resources, developing concept plans, public education and participation, and identifying potential sources of funding.

Goals:

- Extend the Legacy Trail through and around the Kentucky Horse Park to Georgetown and Sadieville in Scott County
- Brainstorm potential trail corridor options and considerations with the Kentucky Horse Park Board to recommend a safe route to link with the proposed regional trail system
- Prepare a Public Outreach and Education Process on the benefits of a regional trail system in the Bluegrass area
- Prepare a Bluegrass Bike Hike Horseback Trail Alliance Master Plan for the region based on a resource inventory and public input from stakeholders
- Support the partnership efforts for Sadieville to become a certified Trail Town by the Kentucky Office of Adventure Tourism

Progress to Date:

- Stakeholder Workshop June 22, 2012
- Monthly meetings conducted of the Bluegrass Bike Hike Horseback Trails Alliance (BBHHTA)
- Outreach meetings with key stakeholders and government officials
- Established Sub Groups to focus on specific sections of the study area
- Coordinated mapping of the study area the Bluegrass Area Development District
- Two Day BBHHTA Trails Charrette June 20 & 21, 2013
- The BBHHTA Conceptual Draft Master Plan was prepared from the input of Charrette
- Master Plan Roll Out at Bluegrass Tomorrow's Create Bluegrass Fall Conference Oct. 31, 2013
- Created official BBHHTA Logo Feb. 2014
- Conducted General Field Verification of the Proposed Greenway Corridors (windshield reviews) Feb. and March 2014
- Coordinated with the Georgetown/Scott County Planning staff (Flood plain maps and aerial maps)
- Public input presentation occurred during Georgetown Scott County Chamber of Commerce Luncheon (July 14, 2014)
- Unveiled Bluegrass Bike Hike Horseback Trails Alliance Conceptual Master Plan Maps, completed by Georgetown Scott County Planning, for public input and discussion (July 14, 2014)

Goals of Bluegrass Bike Hike Horseback Trails Alliance Master Plan

These goals were developed in a series of discussions at monthly BBHHTA meetings, by committee members, and comments from meetings throughout the process to which the public was invited, including the July 14, 2014 Chamber Luncheon meeting, the October 31, 2013 Master Plan rollout meeting, and 2013 public charrette meetings. The goal categories are as follows:

1. Continued Outreach & Public Relations
2. Trail Development
3. Address State and County Issues/Concerns
4. Regional Empowerment
5. Obtain and Administer Funding, Grants, Fundraising

1. Outreach

Outreach Goal Statement: To work in cooperation and educate all groups interested in, and associated with, the development and building of 200 miles of bike, hike, horseback and water trails in Fayette and Scott Counties endeavoring to achieve “collective impact”-- total community support-- of this project at all levels.

- A. Develop an outreach plan to educate and work collaboratively with elected officials (the Public Relations/Outreach Committee will be responsible for the following strategies and tasks).
- B. Presentations at Fiscal Court, City Council Meetings, providing continuous progress reports to:
 - Scott County Fiscal Court
 - Georgetown City Council
 - Sadieville City Commission
 - Stamping Grounds City Commission
 - Lexington Fayette Urban County Government
 - Bluegrass Caucus (General Assembly Representatives and Senators from the 18-county region).
 - Federal Congressional representatives and senators (this is also important from a Federal Grant standpoint).
- C. Presentations at Agency & Community Interest Group/Organization Meetings
 - Georgetown Scott County Chamber of Commerce
 - Scott County United
 - Georgetown Scott County Planning Commission
 - Georgetown Scott County Tourism Commission
 - Parks & Recreation Commissions in Scott and Fayette Counties
 - LFUCG Greenspace Commission and other LFUCG Agencies
 - Commerce Lexington
 - Rotary, Kiwanis and other Service Clubs in Fayette & Scott Counties
 - Engage Boy Scouts and other similar interested service groups.

- User Advocacy Groups including Back Country Horsemen, KY Horse Council, Bluegrass Cycling Club, KY Mountain Bike Assoc., Kentucky River Water Trail Alliance, Health Organizations.
- D. Provide continuous updates and collaborate with Regional, State and Federal Agencies & Organizations that may have impact on this project.
- Georgetown College (with new President and administration, we must recultivate this relationship).
 - KY Transportation Cabinet
 - KY Tourism Arts and Heritage Cabinet
 - KY Department of Parks
 - KY Fish & Wildlife, especially as it relates to Veterans WMA
 - KY Horse Park, creating the plan for western access and northern trail head.
 - Bluegrass Area Development District
- E. Public Relations. Design effective public relations action plan and strategies to reach and educate the public on the wide ranging benefits of a premier trail system to energize community support and achieve “collective impact” total community support of this project at all levels.
- Logo dissemination strategies & tactics to be determined by regional planning committee.
 - Media/News Releases, story development to be created and disseminated by Outreach, Public Relations Committee.
 - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snap Chat & other social media outlets utilized to educate and communicate progress to the community.
 -
- F. Work with Georgetown Scott County Planning Commission to work on the inclusion of the BBHHTA Master Plan in the Scott County Comprehensive Plan update.

2. Trail Development

Trail Development Goal Statement: Contact landowners and stakeholders to prioritize, phase, develop easement agreements and access to private and public land for trail development. Identify and respond to issues/concerns arising from placement/location and other potential features and options for each trail.

A. Initial Priority Rankings:

1. Plan, develop & build Legacy Trail extension for shared use developing a connection from Fayette to Scott County.
 - Build Section 1, Phase 1 for Legacy Trail Extension from Lisle Road Soccer Complex to the intersection of Schoolhouse Road and Pleasant View Dr.
 - Determine phasing and next steps (Legacy Trail Steering Committee)

2. Plan, develop and build initial horseback riding trails emanating from Sadieville trail head to Veterans Wildlife management Area (WMA) and to the Scott County reservoir area.

Trail Corridor Mapping..... complete maps available on-line through Georgetown Scott County Planning Commission.

3. Work collaboratively with Kentucky Fish & Wildlife on creating access/easements on the west side of the WMA for bikes and horses, and developing other opportunities for hiking and nature for visitors to the WMA.
4. Work in collaboration with the Kentucky Horse Park to develop plans to extend the Legacy Trail around the Kentucky Horse Park on the western-most edge of the park to the tunnel that goes under I-75.
 - a. The suggested route is to take bikes (only) around the western most perimeter of the Horse Park, separated by fencing, with gates that can be locked/unlocked.
 - b. A recommended trail head at the North End of the Horse Park in Scott County to be thoroughly explored, for both bikes and horses. Horses to be totally quarantined from any other sport horses at the park. Coggins papers and other equine disease safeguards will be thoroughly explored and implemented.
 - c. Explore the opportunity for a Horse Camp Grounds at the North end of the Park, a major economic development opportunity.
 - A study of Brown County, Indiana and developing a business plan based on this very successful economic development model is recommended. Horse Camping is a major revenue source for the state of Indiana because of Brown County Horse Camping.
5. Work in collaboration with Georgetown College and Toyota Motor Manufacturing USA, regarding trail extensions and linkages on or around these campuses. (The Georgetown/Georgetown College Committee will be responsible for these strategies)
 - a. Georgetown College.

Work collaboratively with President Dwaine Greene and other members of the administration on linkages and safe passages through or around the Georgetown College Campus.
 - b. Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky
Work collaboratively with Toyota on linkages, safe passages, and Toyota loop for hikers, walkers, bikers. Advance this process by first contacting

and meeting with the Toyota Young Professionals Group, who have shown interest in this project.

6. Connect the dots, encourage connectivity between all trails, horse trails beginning in the North and Bicycle multi-modal trails in the South, as well as intermodal facilities to accommodate changes between modes of transportation.
7. **Land Owner Cultivation.**

Regional Committees will work with land owners to gain easements, donation of lands, and other means of land access to build a comprehensive trail network.

 - a. The planning committees (others may be added)
 1. Southern Scott County: Christie Robinson, Megan Chan, Matt Summers.
 2. Northern Scott County/Sadieville: Roy Cornett, Mayor Claude Christensen, Detta Wilson
 3. City of Georgetown/Georgetown College: Megan Chan, Matt Summers, Cindy King, Christie Robinson (task: Georgetown College representative to be named to this committee), and business COC representative.
 - b. Identify the landowners whose property the trail may need to traverse and determine general boundaries of the right-of-way area needed for the trail. Plan on an average trail corridor width of 25-75 feet minimum (the more the better for conservation and scenic purposes), and anticipate wider areas to get to the narrowest points of creeks, drainage areas and waterways for cost savings on bridge crossings. Determine the best location for any bridges or other infrastructure needed.
 - c. Discreetly communicate with the individual landowners and any groups that will be affected by the project. Their engagement is critically important. Having an influential community leader and friend approach them in the beginning stages is a good strategy and will help build the support needed to accomplish the project.
 - d. Landowner concerns that typically need to be addressed involve liability, privacy, security and maintenance.
 - Resolve, before talking to the landowner, who and how often the trail will be monitored, create a volunteer trail watch program.
 - Resolve who will be responsible for maintaining the trail as well as how often it will be maintained (frequency of mowing the trail shoulders, leaf removal, trailhead refuse containers, etc.
 - Create an adopt a mile volunteer maintenance program.

8. Reservoir Management Plan.
Work with the Scott County Fiscal Court on Reservoir—Public Management Plan—to be able to allow access to public riders from around Kentucky, the region, nation, and the world.

3. State and County Issues

State and County Issues Goal Statement: Cooperate with all agencies and stakeholders to anticipate and resolve issues, concerns, constraints relating to the proposed trails system. Listen to and respect all points of view to build consensus and resolution of any obstacles that may arise.

A. Tunnel.

Work in collaboration with the Scott County Fiscal Court on the tunnel issue at the northern end of the Horse Park (public right of way) at the edge of the Barton Farm that runs under I-75.

- A thorough study on usage, safety scenarios, other similar tunnels, bridges utilized for trails that may be used as a model, and signage scenarios to be explored.
- Work closely with District 7 Department of Transportation officials on access and utilization of tunnel as the tunnel is Federal Right of Way and is owned by the Federal Highway Administration.

B. Bio Security Concerns.

- Work with the State Veterinarians office to develop a system and process for checking all Coggins Papers and any other equine documentation that may be needed for trail riders.
- Develop control techniques for managing introduction of non-native (invasive) animal and plant species from various sources such as horses and boats.

C. Liability, Safety and Security Legislation/Ordinances, Easement Incentives.

Working with the Kentucky Horse Council and other groups, thoroughly explore any opportunities to create legislation that may be incentives to land-owners, either security and liability laws and regulations, or land easement incentives.

- Explore other models throughout the country that may be working.
Responsibility: Kentucky Horse Council representatives serving with the BBHHTA.
- Explore legislation where landowners who grant trail conservation easements are afforded stronger liability protection if the easement is in

perpetuity and its provisions follow the language outlined in state law (see Tennessee Conservation Act).

- Address Safety and liability ordinances, laws and legislation (local, state and federal) relating to signs and other requirements. Review FHWA safety requirements.

4. Regional

Regional Goal Statement: To continue to expand the scope of the BBHHTA in the region, by first exploring safe passages and linkages from proposed trails in Scott and Fayette County (Phase 1).

- A. Woodford and Franklin Counties to submit an application for RTCA assistance (due August 1, 2015)
- B. Plan Outreach meeting with adjoining counties
 - Coordinate potential trail connection locations and explore existing trails and potential planned trails connecting Scott and Fayette County to the rest of the region which includes ideas presented in *Beyond The Legacy Study* by the University of Kentucky, and the Lewis & Clark trail initiative through Kentucky.
- C. Outreach with other key regional and state organizations:
 - KY Thoroughbred Association
 - Fayette Alliance
 - Bluegrass Greensource
 - Fayette Co. Rural Land Management Board
 - LFUCG Greenspace Commission
 - National Park Service, Rivers Trails Conservation Assistance Program

5. Funding: Grants and Fundraising

Goal Statement: To raise adequate funds for planning and building bicycle, pedestrian, horseback and water (blueway) trails, including grants, matching funds, public funds, volunteerism, and private fundraising.

A. Identify Strategic Actions & Funding Considerations

- Establish active Friends of Trails Advocacy Committee 501(c)(3), to begin private fundraising. This committee would also be responsible for identifying and pursuing federal and state grant opportunities.

- Follow strategic master plan toward “shovel ready status” which includes grant writing to facilitate future implementation of the greenways trail systems.
- Short term and long range development strategies to make the project fundable, including partnering with transportation and public utility efforts, creating opportunities for private sector involvement to attract private funding, involving local health and wellness programs, involving local school systems, as well as Georgetown College and the University of Kentucky.
- Consider local funding opportunities including city and county general funds/appropriations, parks, recreation and tourism appropriations and collaboration through public and private funding sources, including in-kind services performed in building infrastructure and trails. Many trails around the country are built using local government General Obligation bond funds and may be combined with federal transportation grants through the Kentucky Department of Transportation and other state agencies.
- Consider using the local government public works department crew to surface the trail as a potential cost savings measure and match to federal grants.
- Consider that completion of a greenway trail takes 4-5 years, depending on the length of the project, securing of funding, environmental review process, right-of-way acquisition and construction.
- Consider Greenway features costs: Trail per linear foot, 12 foot wide asphalt-\$80-\$100. Parking lots (average size 12 cars) \$30,000- \$50,000. Primary trailhead signs, structure and graphics \$6,000-\$10,000), Lighting per fixture \$3,000.
- Research and Identify potential future key funding opportunities:
 1. Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds are administered by the Federal Highway Administration from Federal fuel tax. Each state receives an apportionment each year and provides grants for recreational trail projects.
 2. “Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act” (Map 21) the current law for Federal Transportation Funds.

Resources & Library: