PROJECT COMPONENTS

01 ALTON PARK CONNECTOR
PHASE 3
A 0.8-mile segment on a former industrial railway corridor that will be transformed into a linear park, running from Southside Community Park to Alton Park Blvd., where it will connect to a 0.6 mile segment already funded. The already funded segment will link directly to the City’s flagship Riverwalk Greenway, representing the first major residential neighborhood connection to the Riverwalk.

02 CRABTREE FARMS EXTENSION
A 0.6-mile trail extension, running alongside a buried landfill and across the Chattanooga Creek to connect to Clifton Hills.

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

LOCATION
City of Chattanooga
Hamilton County, Tennessee

TOTAL MILEAGE
1.4 miles
Shared use path extension along an acquired, abandoned rail line, and across Chattanooga Creek

ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
Q3 2028

100% AREA OF PERSISTENT POVERTY/HISTORICALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY
The CHATT alignment is entirely within Census Tracts 19 and 23.

Current Design Status of the Project:
Component 1: 30% design documents
Component 2: 0% design documents

Background Materials
https://chattanooga.gov/images/citymedia/Purchasing_Images/Parkandoutdoors/Chattanooga_RAISE__CHATT_Linking_South_Chattanooga.pdf

PROJECT COST:

| Project Cost: | $14,662,365 |
| Local Match: | $2,982,473 | 20.3% |
| RAISE Funding Request: | $11,679,892 | 79.7% |

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Local Match: 20.3%$2,982,473

RAISE Funding Request: 79.7%$11,679,892
The CHATT (Clifton Hills Alton Park Thread Trail)
- Alton Park Connector Phase 3 (RAISE project)
- Crabtree Farms Extension (RAISE project)
- Alton Park Connector Phases 1 & 2 (funding already secured)

Other Proposed Greenway Segments
- East Lake Connector

Existing Shared Use Facilities
- Greenway/Shared Use Path
- Safewalk Shared Use Path/Sidewalk

Features & Boundaries
- Railroad
- Building Footprint
- Major Waterway
- Floodway
- Parks
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Clifton Hills Alton Park Thread Trail (CHATT) project will link and revitalize a diverse collection of South Chattanooga lower-income communities of color, which have been cut off from opportunity and the renaissance of Chattanooga. When all components are completed, The CHATT will be a 10-foot to 12-foot-wide shared use path extending 2.1 miles from the vibrant Tennessee Riverwalk greenway to Crabtree Farms, a local nonprofit urban farm and a source of healthy food.

The CHATT trail project is divided into two components: the Alton Park Connector and the Crabtree Farms Extension (see Project Overview map on page 3).

A portion (0.6 mile) of the Alton Park Connector, Phase 1 and Phase 2, already has dedicated funding, from the City of Chattanooga and a private developer, respectively. Construction has started on Phase 2.

A significant funding gap remains to complete the remaining portion of the Alton Park Connector (Phase 3) and the Crabtree Farms Extension to complete the remaining 1.4 miles of CHATT trail. These 1.4 miles are the focus of this RAISE grant application.

A majority of the 1.4-mile proposed urban trail consists of a former rail corridor, which was purchased by Trust for Public Land (TPL) foundation dollars and donated to the City in 2018 for the purpose of a future greenway. The trail will traverse through one of Chattanooga’s most storied black communities, Alton Park, and a neighboring, but separated, diverse community with a sizable Latino population, Clifton Hills. This urban trail will connect these tight-knit but isolated communities to each other, as well as to the thriving Riverwalk. Long challenged by industrial contamination and subsequent neglect, these South Chattanooga neighborhoods are also cut off from nearby areas with recent significant investment, facing dramatic income, economic mobility, and health outcome disparities.

This project will embody these communities’ stated goals of inclusivity, equity, mobility, opportunity, and safety, and begin to mitigate the wrongs of pollution, segregation, and disinvestment that still sequester lower-income urban communities of color today. These goals speak to why the trail project has widespread community support. It will unlock brimming latent demand for multimodal transportation, serving as a key east-west transportation corridor in a city divided by many industrial and geographic barriers, such as the railroads, rivers, and rolling ridges of the Cumberland Plateau. More than 35% of households/occupied housing units in Alton Park and almost 16% of those in Clifton Hills are without car access, in comparison to 9% of Chattanooga as a whole. The trail will provide gravelly needed equitable active transportation options, contributing to a flourishing community where walking and biking are safe and abundant.

The current City of Chattanooga comprehensive parks plan, known as the Parks and Outdoors Plan (expected adoption spring 2023), developed a robust methodology factoring equity, access, and other factors to rank and prioritize projects. This project scored the highest among all other greenways considered in the plan and is firmly in the list of phase 1 recommendations. This project is also supported by the Chattanooga-Hamilton...
County/North Georgia Transportation Planning Organization’s (TPO) long-range regional transportation planning goals outlined in the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan, which is scheduled for adoption in early 2024. That plan identifies the creation of “an equitable transportation system built on a foundation of safe, walkable communities while also providing biking and public transit connections” as a central goal for the region.

The CHATT is planned to eventually extend further east, connecting to the East Lake Connector, creating much-needed multimodal infrastructure along a route with multiple public schools to East Lake Park.

**PROJECT OUTCOMES**

- **Formerly isolated communities are integrated** into the opportunity streams of the broader, prospering City of Chattanooga by removing barriers and creating the first major community connection to the renowned Riverwalk.

- **Safer transportation** by protected and comfortable guideways for walking and cycling. Since 2017, nine pedestrian collisions and thirteen bicycle collisions occurred within 0.75 miles of the proposed trail alignment.

- **A more livable environment with new access to the Tennessee River.** and 3,000 acres of world-class green space and recreation amenities.

- **Greatly improved access** to food and health services, with new access to agriculture-based nonprofits.

- **Economic revitalization of a historically black middle-class neighborhood,** with a current black majority of 79%, and a community with a rapidly increasing Latino population, currently at 32%, by facilitating tourism, attracting investment, and removing transportation barriers to vital commercial services.
COMPONENT 1:
ALTON PARK CONNECTOR PHASE 3

The path will be 12 ft. wide concrete and constructed along a former rail line with an average right-of-way width of 50 feet along the project corridor. This project will include an at-grade railroad crossing approximately 260 ft. east of Alton Park Blvd and a projected below-grade railroad crossing approximately 315 ft. east of the at-grade crossing. The project also includes pedestrian improvements such as improved access where the trail crosses the driveway at W 33rd and Chandler Pk, a new sidewalk connection to the existing sidewalks about 50 ft. south of W 33rd St. on Chandler Place, and bicycle and pedestrian trail connections to existing vehicle parking and pedestrian and bicycle trails of Southside Community Park.

Throughout the project corridor, the elevation of the path varies. There will be connections from the path to the surrounding street and sidewalk networks along W 33rd St and Hughes Ave., including at the community center at Hughes Ave. and Water St. Component 1 includes environmental mitigation or capping of the project site, increased visibility at street crossings, furnishings, lighting, signage, and wayfinding.

COMPONENT 2:
CRABTREE FARMS EXTENSION

The second major component of the CHATT connects Southside Community Park to Crabtree Farms in Clifton Hills. Beginning at Southside Community Park, the trail will be 10 ft. wide asphalt and run on the east side of W 36th St. There are 11 vacant parcels in the immediate vicinity, offering the potential for mixed-income, mixed-use infill development.

For several hundred feet, the trail will then follow around the south edge of a capped, fenced-off landfill to remain above major flood stage levels. Because the existing fence line is on or near the City property line, a small acquisition will be required for this alignment.

The raised area of the landfill slopes down to the existing floodplain around the Chattanooga Creek, at the preferred crossing point. The floodplain and wetland surrounding Chattanooga Creek is one of the largest forested areas near downtown Chattanooga. At that point, the trail will leave the top of the landfill cap and transition to an elevated boardwalk.

This approach will reduce environmental impact by eliminating grading and soil disturbance. This has the added benefit of allowing the trail to stay relatively flat from the landfill site to Crabtree Farms. The crossing at this point should not interfere with the artificial creek lining to the north, where contamination caused the creek to be designated a Superfund site; the level of contaminated sediment at this point is relatively low. The trail will then terminate at Crabtree Farms, in the Clifton Hills neighborhood. Future plans call for further trail extension to East Lake, funding permitting, creating a vital east-west connection.