

Coastal Georgia Greenway
Chatham County Meeting
Bamboo Farm & Coastal Gardens
Tuesday, June 21, 2007 1-3pm

Meeting summary

19 were in attendance in addition to Drew Wade, Herb Hiller and Jo Hickson.

Status of Coastal Georgia Greenway Trails in Camden County

- Bill Hersch provided an overview of the trail along the S-O Canal from the Louisville Road / I-16 offramp to Lynes Parkway. The Coastal Heritage Society is managing a \$200,000 GDOT Transportation Enhancement Project called the Heritage Trail. The Trail will connect the Roundhouse, Battlefield Park and Visitor Center Complex with the proposed First Century Park. He gave a brief powerpoint presentation of the sites, the preferred and alternate trail routes and schedule for completion. The project should be under construction by April, 2008
- Jo Hickson presented slides of the Coastal Georgia Greenway including images of the trail in JF Gregory Park in Bryan County, and the trail route in Chatham County. She reviewed the Back River Bridge Project (that has recently lost funding and will move to a long-range project, vs. one to be completed by 2012). She described public input recently completed for the Downtown Master Plan and mentioned coordination of the CGG with this planning effort. Design is complete for trail in Triplett Park, in Pooler. It will link to the existing lake trail then bridge the canal westerly to Lock 3, and in the other direction to Dean Forest Road. Also \$1 million to Truman Linear Park Trail.
- Drew presented on connecting the trail along old rail beds (McQueens Trail) to Tybee. Will take 2, 3 years to built up to Lazaretto Creek Bridge. NPS has comment period on [Fort Pulaski Plan](#) (or try [this link](#) if that one doesn't work). NPS will fund half if we make enough noise to get the existing trail to the park entrance all the way east beyond Lazaretto Creek Bridge.
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?parkID=379&projectID=11163&documentId=19030>
- Drew also said we need help to identify more people to get involved about what we're trying to do. Want a presence at Historic Savannah Bike Fest (Dave Sanderson with Bicycle Savannah). Getting trail on the ground "the most effective way of presenting this."
- Jo shows how it all fits together with South Carolina and down the coast. She tells about the [St. Marys water taxi](#) and says that people in this room can make things happen. A private business is making that connection; not just government building that trail. Groundswell of interest in changing how we live.
- Jo began with Coastal Georgia Land Trust. All six counties were ready to go. Two in Chatham County cited, both now funded for construction.
- About \$40 million to build it all. Study: will bring \$15 million a year to the coast (see the report).
- Jo talks of Highway 17 as corridor for heritage and eco-tourism.

Jo Hickson and Drew Wade then led a facilitated discussion including small group sessions.

- Top reasons for attending the meeting:
 1. SCAD new Dept. of Recreation to begin Programming: interested in trail as outdoor recreation and alternative transportation
 2. Savannah – Ogeechee Canal Society – want to keep up with the trail effort
 3. City and GA DCA to coordinate with planning efforts
 4. Land owner, adjacent to S-O Canal

Jo reviewed our existing To Do list:

- Back River Bridge

- Route on Hutchinson Island
- Downtown, East Savannah and West Chatham Master Plans
- Tybee Trail
- First Century Campus, heritage trail
- S-O Canal / Tom Triplett Park Trails
- Basin Road, Litchfield Tract, Bamboo Farm Coordination
- Savannah-Ogeechee Canal Society Coordination
- Wayfinding

Other Projects / Tasks

- SCAD Recreation Dept.
- Westside Savannah Master Plan
- Civic Center/SCAD property – coordinate with Sav. Ec. Dev. Morand Lotson
- Trail to connect Bamboo Farm to School on US 17 – Safe Routes to School
- Robert Wood Johnson Grant (cooperation)

Achievable goals for the next 2 years

- S-O Canal: 204 to river and @ Triplett Park
- Coastal Heritage Society First Century and Battlefield Parks
- Grow a connection with SCAD

S-O Canal Challenges

- Roads in local area (+/-) especially Bush Road
- Bridge needed at Half Moon Lake
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S-O What opportunities to collaborate

- [Safe Routes to School](#)
- Bridge needed at Half Moon Lake (contact Braniger, Savannah Quarters, Berwick, New Hampstead)
- Cgmmcat Period 204 (?)

CHS Challenges

- Getting Grants GSFIC
- Environmental remediation
- Property acquisition (Norfolk Southern)
- Local involvement
- Education
- Crime / Security

CHS What opportunities to collaborate

- SCAD – Rec. Dept. (Delta Plantation)
- Safe Routes to School with County & City
- Education Materials, signage, print (CHS/SOCS)
- SCAD security

Herb Hiller provided an overview of the trails movement including the development of the rails to trails movement and the subsequent development of the East Coast Greenway Alliance, organized with the goal of connecting over 3000 miles of off road paved trails from Calais, Maine to Key West, Florida, now almost 25% complete.

Next meeting date was discussed, and we agreed to meet sometime in October. We will provide full details when plans have been set.

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