



REGIONAL REVIEW NOTIFICATION

Atlanta Regional Commission • 40 Courtland Street NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30303 • ph: 404.463.3100 • fax: 404.463.3105 • www.atlantaregional.com

DATE: Apr 20 2007

ARC REVIEW CODE: L704202

ATTN TO: Barbara Jackson, Administrator

FROM: Charles Krautler, Director

NOTE: This is digital
signature. Original on file.

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) has received the following proposal and is initiating a regional review to seek comments from potentially impacted jurisdictions and agencies. The ARC requests your comments related to the proposal not addressed by the Commission's regional plans and policies.

Name of Proposal: National Recreational Trails Program: Gwinnett County- Ivy Creek Greenway Section 3
Review Type: Parks and Recreation

Description: Construction of a portion of Section 3 of the Ivy Creek Greenway beginning at the Environmental and Heritage Center and heading west towards I-985. A bridge of approximately 150 linear feet will be included. The bridge will be of timber and/or steel construction and will cross Ivy Creek. The trail will be 12' wide and paved.

Submitting Local Government: Gwinnett County

Action Under Consideration: Approval

Date Opened: Apr 20 2007

Deadline for Comments: May 1 2007

Earliest the Regional Review can be Completed: May 1 2007

THE FOLLOWING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES ARE RECEIVING NOTICE OF THIS REVIEW:

ARC LAND USE PLANNING
ARC DATA RESEARCH

ARC TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
ARC AGING DIVISION

ARC ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Attached is information concerning this review.

If you have any questions regarding this review, Please call Haley Fleming, Review Coordinator, at (404) 463-3311. If the ARC staff does not receive comments from you by May 1 2007, we will assume that your agency has no additional comments and we will close the review. Comments by email are strongly encouraged.

The ARC review website is located at: <http://www.atlantaregional.com/landuse> .

**GEORGIA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE MEMORANDUM
EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 REVIEW PROCESS**

TO: MS. HALEY FLEMING
ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION
40 COURTLAND STREET, NE
ATLANTA, GA 30303

FROM: Barbara Jackson
Georgia State Clearinghouse

DATE: 4/10/2007

SUBJECT: Executive Order 12372 Review

APPLICANT: Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

PROJECT: National Recreational Trails Program: Gwinnett County, GA - Ivy Creek
Greenway Section 3

CFDA NO.: 20.219

STATE ID: GA070410018

IMPORTANT! REVIEW COMMENTS DUE BY OR BEFORE: 5/1/2007

A copy of the Standard Federal Application package, Environmental Information, or Direct Federal Development project is enclosed for your review and comment. Your review should focus on the projects compatibility with those state or regional goals, policies, plans, fiscal resources, criteria for Developments of Regional Impact (DRI), environmental impacts, or inconsistencies with federal executive orders, acts and/or rules and regulations with which your agency is concerned. Negative environmental impacts or provision for protection of the environment and possible duplication of the proposed project with programs presently in place should be pointed out.

Any major points of conflict identified by you during the review process immediately should be brought to the attention of the Administrator, Georgia State Clearinghouse. The Administrator will attempt to mediate these concerns prior to completing the review of the project. The Clearinghouse telephone number is (404) 656-3855.

Please have your comments typed (or hand-printed) and dated on the enclosed Form SC-3. An additional sheet may be used if additional space is needed. Your comments will be summarized in a single state position or a composite that reflects both the state and regional recommendations and be returned to the applicant/sponr. They in turn will forward a copy to the federal agency if necessary.

Form SC-2
May 2004

Section I – Applicant/Project Information

1. Applicant: Gwinnett County, Department of Community Services
Address: 75 Langley Dr.
City, State, Zip: Lawrenceville, GA 30045
2. Classification of Applicant (Check one):
Federal _____ State _____ County X City _____ Authority/Commission _____
3. Project Applicant Federal Employer ID # (FEI): 58 6000 835
4. Contact information
Project Contact Person: Amy Musser
Project Contact Title: Planner III
Phone Number: (770) 822-8861
Fax Number: 770) 822-8835
Email: amy.musser@gwinnettcountry.com
5. Name of Trail or Project: Ivy Creek Greenway, Section 3
6. Classification of land ownership at time of application:
Public Land X Private Land* _____ Combination Public/Private* _____
* If trail project involves private land, easements for twenty years or more must be in place or obtained prior to final grant approval unless the grant funds are to be used for acquisition.
7. Location of Project (if located in more than one county, district, etc., please list all):
Nearest City: Buford
County: Gwinnett
Nearest Street/State Route/Interstate: I-985 & I-85
State Senate District: 45
State House District: 7
Federal Congressional District: 98
8. Project Category (Check one):
Non-motorized single use
X Combination of non-motorized uses
____ Motorized single use
____ Combination of motorized uses
____ Combination of motorized and non-motorized uses

9. Trail Use (Check all that will apply*):

Motorized Uses:

- ☐ ATV (quads, motorcycles)
☐ OHV (jeeps, Broncos and similar vehicles)

Non-motorized Uses:

- ☒ Bicycling (paved trails)
☐ Mountain biking (non-paved trails)
☐ Equestrian
☐ Canoeing/Kayaking/Paddling sports
☒ Day hiking (short trails)
☐ Backpacking (extended, overnight trips)
☒ Jogging/Fitness
☒ Interpretive/Environmental Education
☒ ADA accessible (must meet ADA guidelines)
☐ Other (explain) _____

*Checking a specific trail use in this application requires the applicant to allow that type of trail use on the trail, if awarded a grant.

10. Trail Information (Indicate the amount and type of trail activities this project will include):

- _____ Miles of trail maintenance/grooming
_____ Amount of environmental restoration of areas damaged by usage
.7 Miles of new trail construction
_____ Number and size/type of trailhead and trailside facilities
_____ Size of land acquisition for trail construction (easements or fee simple)

11. Type of Trail Surface (Check all that apply):

- Hard: ☒ Concrete ☒ Asphalt ☐ Native Rock ☒ Other (explain) Boardwalks
Soft: ☐ Mulch ☐ Gravel ☐ Native Soil ☐ Other (explain) _____

12. Description of Project (Describe exactly what the grant funds will pay for and what work will be completed as part of this project, limited to space provided):

Construction of a 150' long bridge over Ivy Creek and paving of a portion of the Ivy Creek Greenway. Grant funds will go towards construction of the bridge.

13. Does this project link to or is it an integral part of any other trail(s)? (Check one)

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain: The project is part of section 3 of the Ivy Creek Greenway. On the West end, it links to section 2, George Pierce Park & the Suwanee Creek Greenway. On the East end, it links to section 4, the Environmental & Heritage Center and the Mall of Georgia.

14. Time Schedule:

Estimate number of months to accomplish all work: 24
Estimate start date: Spring, 2008

Section III – Environmental Survey

This survey is a requirement for Federally funded programs. For projects selected for funding and submitted to FHWA, DNR may verify compliance with these items. Any response in a [bracket] signifies the potential for an adverse impact and will require additional information. On additional pages, please provide information as needed to assess the potential impacts. **If, during a review of the project at any time, inconsistencies are identified between the survey and actual project implementation it will be grounds for immediate cancellation of the grant funds.**

1. Project Name: Ivy Creek Greenway, Section 3

2. Land Use:

Briefly describe the land use in the project area and any potential changes that would result from this project. Address whether the project is consistent with any applicable comprehensive land use and/or development plans. Attach additional pages and a land use map, if needed.

The land is owned by Gwinnett County Water & Sewer Authority. The greenway is located in an existing utility corridor which is adjacent to and between areas which have a restrictive covenant on development. We referred to the 1994 Phase I Cultural Resource Survey completed by Garrow & Associates for this site when routing our trail, so that it would not impact any archeological sites identified in the survey.

3. Natural Resources:

Will the proposed project negatively impact any of the following?

a. Soil Erosion or Sedimentation	Yes []	No <u>X</u>
b. Vegetation	Yes <u>[X]</u> (some)	No <u> </u>
c. Streams, Rivers, or Lakes	Yes []	No <u>X</u>
d. Wetlands	Yes []	No <u>X</u>
e. Floodplains	Yes []	No <u>X</u>
f. Coastal Zones	Yes []	No <u>X</u>
g. Wild and Scenic Rivers	Yes []	No <u>X</u>
h. Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	Yes []	No <u>X</u>
i. Farmlands	Yes []	No <u>X</u>
j. National Landmarks	Yes []	No <u>X</u>
k. Endangered Plants and Animals	Yes []	No <u>X</u>

4. Historic and Archaeological Resources:

- a. Has the project been reviewed by the Georgia Historic Preservation Division?
Yes No X
- b. Will the project have an effect on historic or archaeological resources?
Yes [] No X
- c. If the project has an effect on historic or archaeological resources, has the project been coordinated with the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation?
Yes No [] n/a

5. Hazardous Wastes:

Is there any potential for involvement with hazardous wastes or underground storage tanks?

Yes [] No X

6. Noise:

Is there potential for the project to have a noise impact on the surrounding land uses?

Yes ☐ No ☒

7. Air Quality:

Will the project have an adverse impact on air quality?

Yes ☐ No ☒

8. Section 4(f)

- a. Is the project located on a publicly owned park, recreation area, historic site or wildlife and waterfowl refuge? Yes ☒ No ☐

b. If yes, please mark the appropriate box and name the facility.

[] Park*

☒ Recreation Area* Water Treatment Plant Property – Greenway Corridor

☐ Historic Site

☐ Wildlife/Waterfowl Refuge

*If the applicant is not the official having jurisdiction over the park or recreation area, a letter must be attached from that official stating his/her approval that the project is acceptable and consistent with the designated use of the property and that he/she is satisfied that the applicant has committed to include all possible measures to minimize harm.

9. Permits Required:

U.S. Coast Guard No (Yes/No)

Forest Service/Corps Land No (Yes/No)

Section 404 Yes (Yes/No)

Environmental Survey Prepared by: REX LEE SCHUDER

Original Signature and Date: John Lee Johnson 11-13-06

Signature _____

Date _____

FOR DNR USE ONLY

DNR has reviewed the above referenced information and concurs with the information provided by the Applicant. It is DNR's opinion that the proposed project will have no significant impacts on the environment.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Ivy Creek Trail, Section 3 Project Narrative

History/Background

The Gwinnett County Department of Community Services, along with the Gwinnett County Department of Transportation has been planning bike and pedestrian facilities for the County since 1992. In 2002, we completed our Open Space and Greenway Master Plan. The resulting map of our proposed priority greenways was included in the County's 2020 Comprehensive Plan (revised version, 2002). The planning document also stated that the County resolved to "Develop a Greenway Plan...to link residential areas" and "Encourage the participation of neighborhoods, landowners, and other city or county governmental agencies in the planning process." All of our planning documents include citizen participation through a citizen steering committee.

The Ivy Creek Greenway was identified as the first priority in the greenway system because of the numerous and varied land use connections that would be made by completing it. For planning and budgeting purposes, the 7.5 miles of the total greenway length was divided into seven sections. Section 1 of the Ivy Creek Greenway is the portion that connects the Suwanee Creek Greenway and Ivy Creek Greenway within George Pierce Park. It starts at the boardwalk connection we constructed in 1997 where the City of Suwanee's Richard Trice Trail terminates and will extend to Ivy Creek at the other end of the park. This is the portion of the trail that we applied for a Recreational Trails Grant in 2005. In the meantime, the Gwinnett Department of Transportation began working with a design consultant for the section of the Ivy Creek Greenway that runs from George Pierce Park to the F. Wayne Hill Water Resources Center at I-985 in Buford (Section 2).

We are now planning to begin work on Section 3 of the Ivy Creek Greenway. This section runs from I-985 through the F. Wayne Hill Water Resources property to the Environmental and Heritage Center and is approximately 2.3 miles long. For planning/funding purposes, we have divided Section 3 into 4 sub-sections of around 3,500' each. Each of these will require at least one bridge or boardwalk, so they will not be inexpensive to construct. We plan to fund at least one sub-section per year until we have completed the connection to Section 2 at I-985.

Section 4 includes the Environmental & Heritage Center property and extends to Buford Drive. This section is currently under construction, along with two underpasses along Section 5. Section 6 runs through the Mall of Georgia property and the Mill Creek Preserve as a soft surface trail. We plan to pave this section in the future.

Project Description

We will construct a portion of Section 3 of the Ivy Creek Greenway, beginning at the Environmental and Heritage Center and heading west towards I-985. A bridge of approximately 150 linear feet will be included, and we plan to utilize the Recreational Trails Grant for this bridge. The bridge will be of timber and/or steel construction and will cross Ivy Creek. The trail will be 12' wide and paved. We will make this trail as accessible as possible, with consideration for the topography and existing vegetation in the area.

Project Justification

This project is a very important part of our greenway plan because of its connection to the Environmental and Heritage Center. The Environmental and Heritage Center is a cooperative effort between Gwinnett County, the University of Georgia and the EHC Foundation. The focus of the EHC is education on environmental issues with a focus on water. They will undoubtedly benefit from their proximity to Ivy Creek and the Ivy Creek Greenway.

The use of this greenway for educational purposes will provide excellent publicity for our greenway system. We hope that seeing this greenway will make our citizens more supportive of and interested in our plans for the remaining greenways. When completed, the Ivy Creek Trail will be 7.5 miles long. Its connection to George Pierce Park and the Suwanee Creek Trail increases the total distance to 12 miles. There are many cultural, educational and recreational resources that can be accessed from the greenway, such as parks, shopping, schools, and residential neighborhoods.