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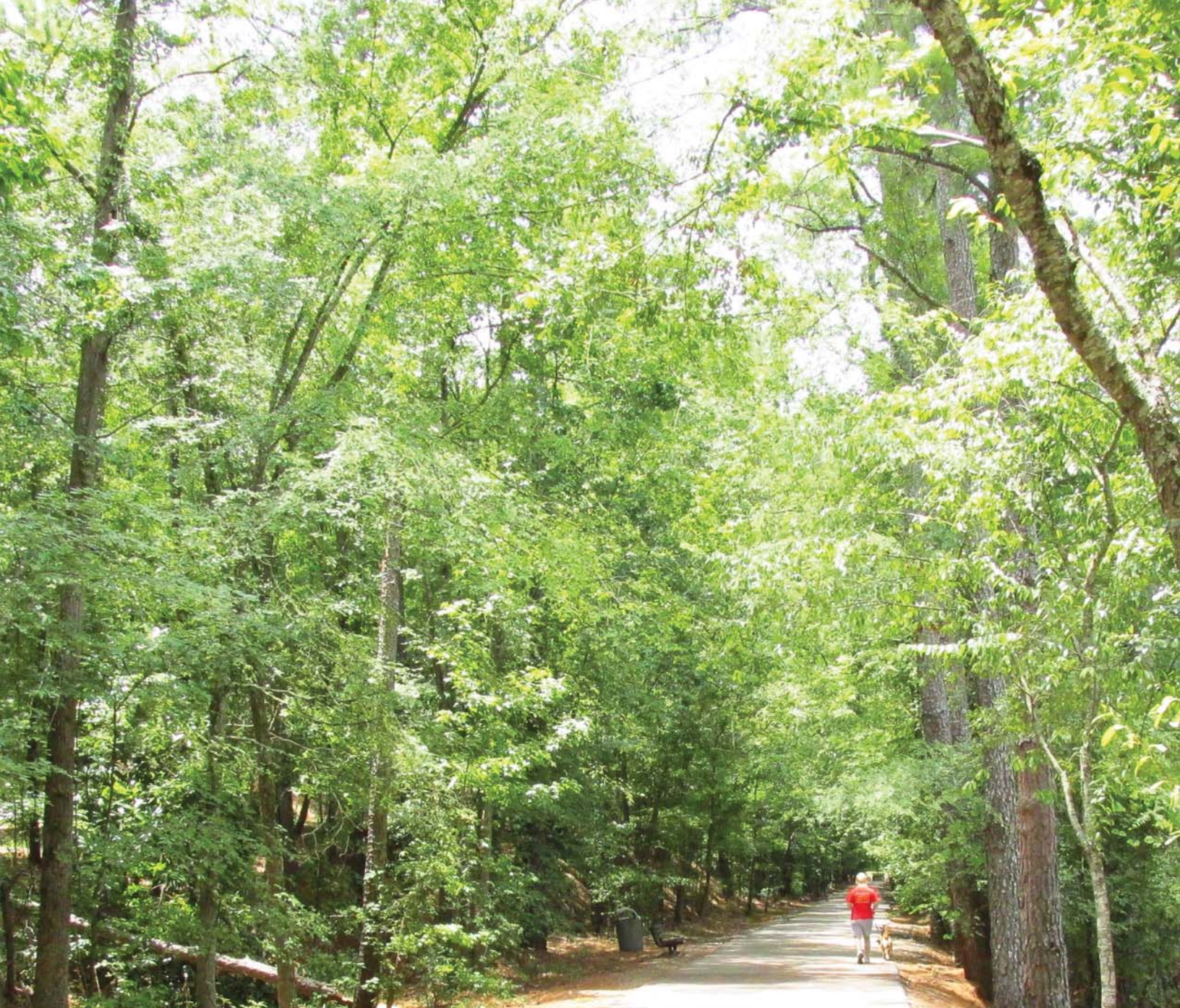
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# 9

## ROBUST PARKS, RECREATION & GREENWAY NETWORK





**The Greenway network is the necklace of the community and one of the most valued amenities in North Augusta.**



**WHAT?****robust green network**

- ▲ *a comprehensive parks network that ensures every citizen is within 1/2 mile from a public, green space.*

**WHY?****lifestyle & community**

- ▲ *to provide a healthy, walkable, and active lifestyle for citizens that builds community cohesion*

North Augusta has a very strong sense of community. The public parks, recreation areas and Greenway system nurture this and are a source of pride in our community. These public spaces are shared by everyone and, as such, are possibly the most diverse and unifying element in the city.

The Greenway network is the necklace of the community and one of the most valued amenities in North Augusta. The social fabric of the city is strengthened through these facilities and the programs they provide. They are critical to this sense of community in North Augusta.

As the city grows, we will strive to ensure that these amenities are expanded and maintained and that new facilities are implemented with new development. It is the recommendation of some parks advocates, like the Trust for Public Land, that every household be within a 1/2 mile from a park or the Greenway.

This is a very lofty goal, but certainly one to strive for, as our community has shown that we value public open space. Our citizens continue to prioritize investment in parks, the Greenway, and community activities above most others.

# NORTH AUGUSTA PARKS

The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism maintains 17 parks, the Riverview Park Activities Center and the North Augusta Community Center. Parks have been developed over the years in North Augusta according to standards established by the National Recreation and Parks Association. The standards address the needs and population ratios for parks of various scales including mini, neighborhood, district and regional parks.

**Neighborhood Parks** are developed on parcels of less than 2-5 acres in size, within walking distance of one or more neighborhoods and are easily accessed by bicycles. Neighborhood parks provide a playground area with picnic tables, tennis courts or basketball courts, open green space for play, a water fountain, and a small shelter. Neighborhood parks in the city system include Calhoun, Creighton, Bunting and Colonel Leroy Hammond Parks.

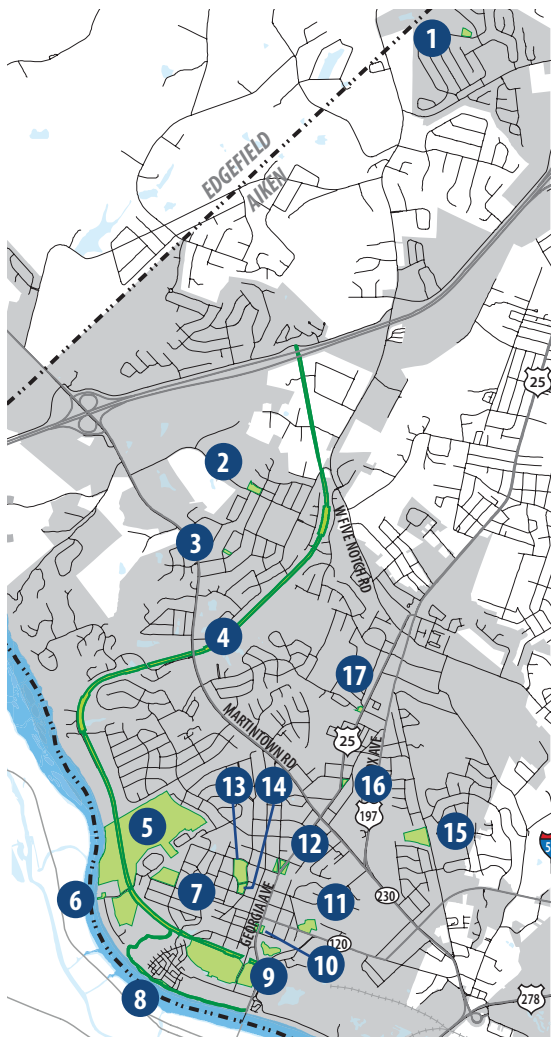
**Community Parks** are 5 to 15 acres in size and include a playground, tennis and/or basketball courts, picnic tables and shelter, and open green space. Parks in the city system categorized as community parks include Summerfield, Walnut Lane, and Maude Edenfield Parks.

**District Parks** are 15 to 70 acres in size and provide athletic fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, playground, water fountain, picnic shelter with seating for 50 people, a walking trail and paved parking. There are no district parks in the system at this time.

**Regional Parks** are 100 to 200 acres in size and include major amenities including three or more softball fields, four or more baseball fields, two or more soccer fields, four or more lighted tennis courts, a picnic shelter capable of seating 80 or more people, four or more horseshoe pits, two or more restrooms, two or more campsites, trails, and paved parking. The only regional park in the city currently is Riverview Park.

## Lions Memorial Field

Lions Memorial Field is one of North Augusta’s oldest recreational facilities. It was named for the North Augusta Lions Club who leased the property from the city for almost 30 years. Primarily used for football and community events, Lions Field was returned to the city and in 1999 received a \$1.4 million dollar renovation that included new grandstands, a new concessions pavilion, new restroom facilities, new playground equipment and new practice fields.



▲ North Augusta's parks

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Walnut Lane Neighborhood Park | 10 Wade Hampton Veterans Park |
| 2 Colonel Leroy Hammond Park    | 11 Maude Edenfield Park       |
| 3 Curtis Park                   | 12 John C. Calhoun Park       |
| 4 Greenway                      | 13 Living History Park        |
| 5 Riverview Park                | 14 Creighton Park             |
| 6 Boat Ramp & Fishing Piers     | 15 Summerfield Park           |
| 7 Lions Memorial Field          | 16 Davenport Park             |
| 8 Boeckh Park                   | 17 Bunting Park               |
| 9 Brickpond Park                |                               |

Not included within the North Augusta city limits, but a short distance away is Hamilton Branch State Park within the Francis Marion Natural Forest. It offers many recreation opportunities and facilities, including camping, fishing, boating, playgrounds, picnic shelters, bird watching, geocaching, biking, and trails.

### Wade Hampton Veterans Park

Named after Civil War General Wade Hampton, the park has monuments dedicated to the veterans of every war our country has participated in since the revolution.

### John C. Calhoun Park

Located downtown between Georgia, Carolina and Forest Avenues, Calhoun Park contains a fountain and an obelisk erected in memory of Thomas McKie Meriweather. Originally, the park was rectangular, lying between Jackson and Forest Avenues. Calhoun Park is the site of the annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Carols in the Park. Also in the park is a statue of James U. Jackson, the founder and developer of North Augusta.

### Living History at Creighton Park

The north area of Creighton Park, known as the Living History at Creighton Park, serves as the primary location for a variety of cultural venues. The park is also the site of “A Day to Remember,” a colonial trades fair and militia muster held in the fall, and a spring Artisans Fair, both sponsored by the Olde Towne Preservation Association.

Source: North Augusta Today



▲ Optimist Club's Easter Egg Hunt held at Lion's Field



▲ Wade Hampton Veterans Park

Image Source: SCIMWAY



▲ Calhoun Park

Image Source: Living History Park



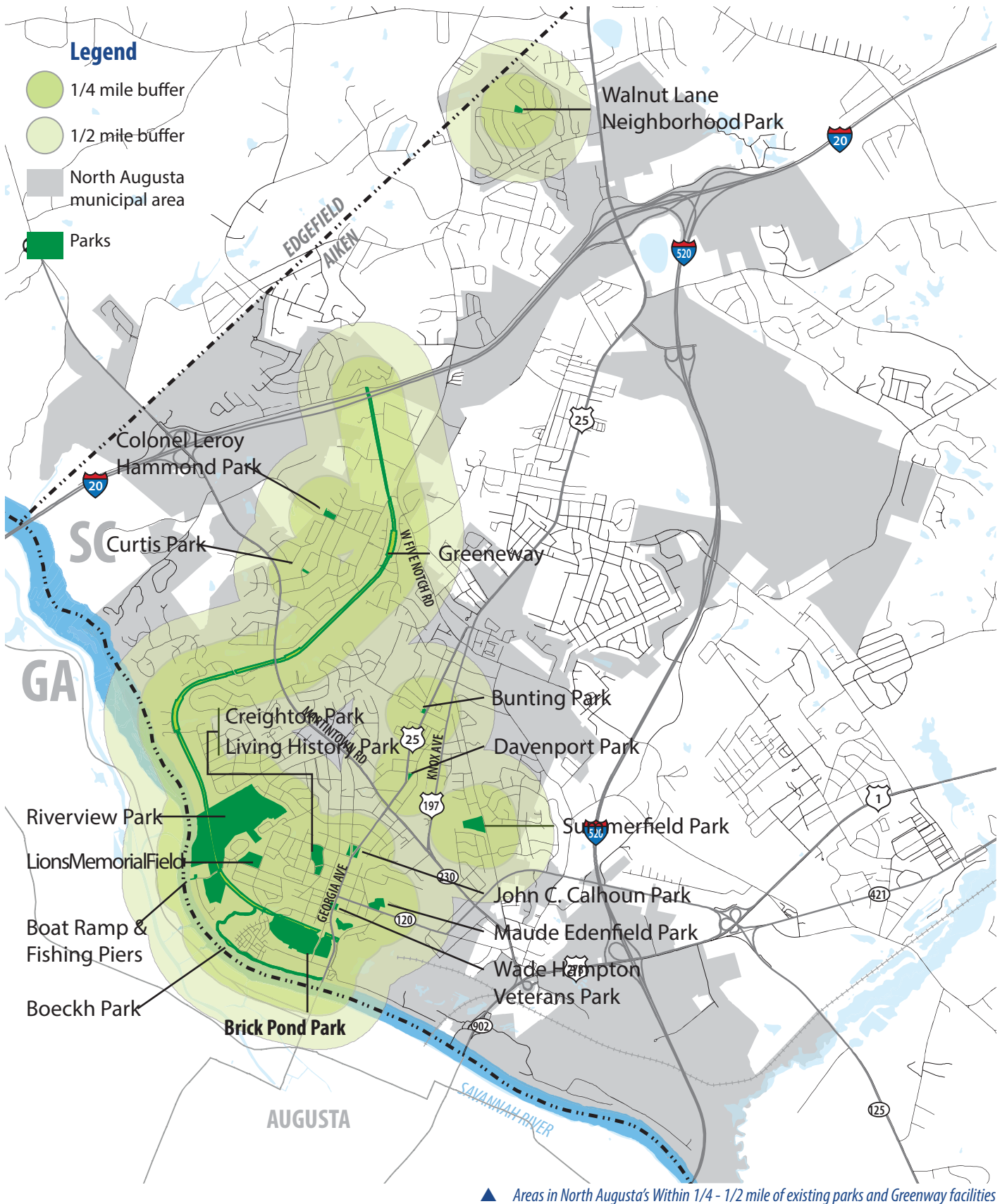
▲ Living History Park annual artisan's fair

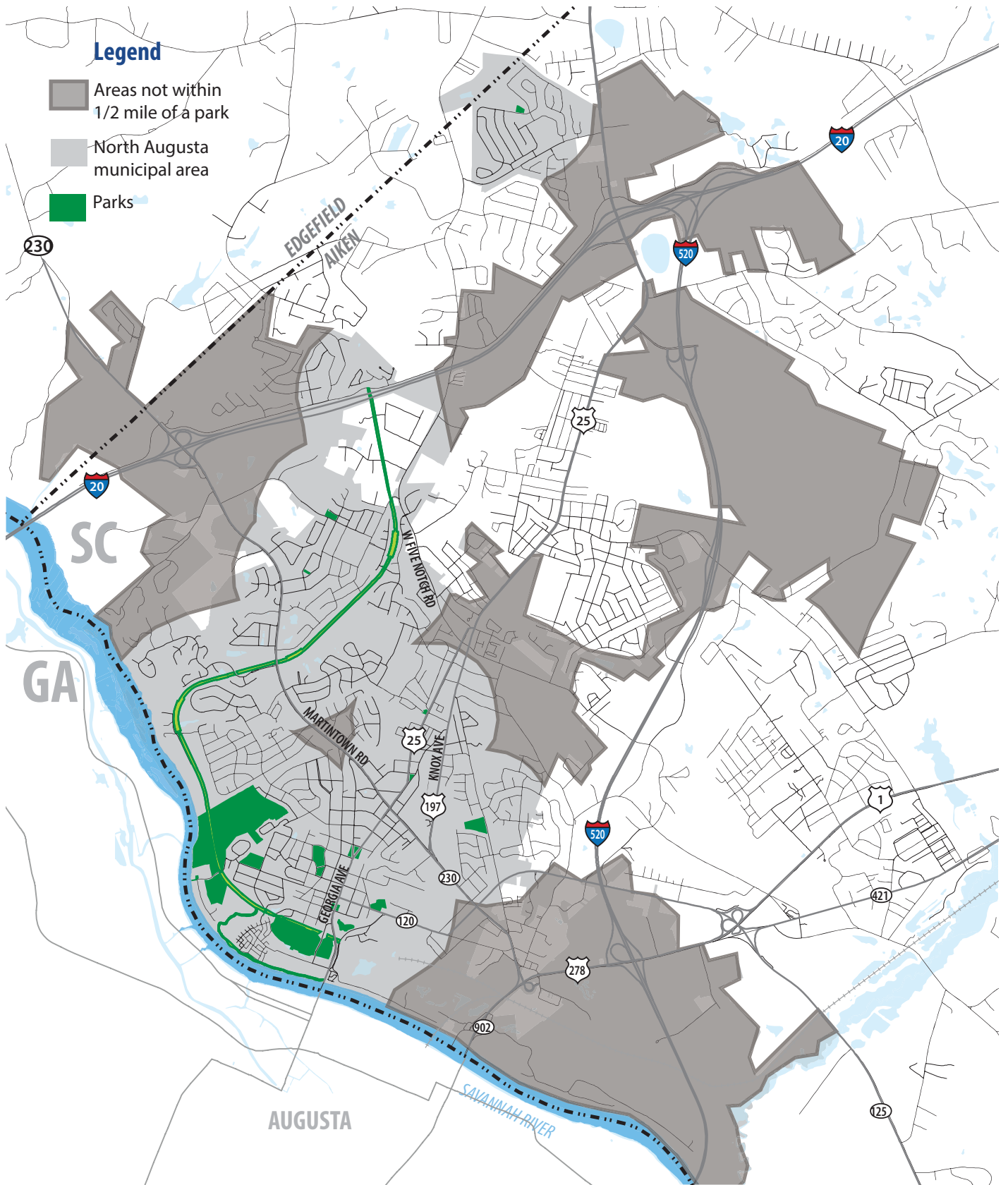
**17**  
Parks in North Augusta

**13.8**  
Miles of Greenway in North Augusta

**7**  
Organized sports in North Augusta

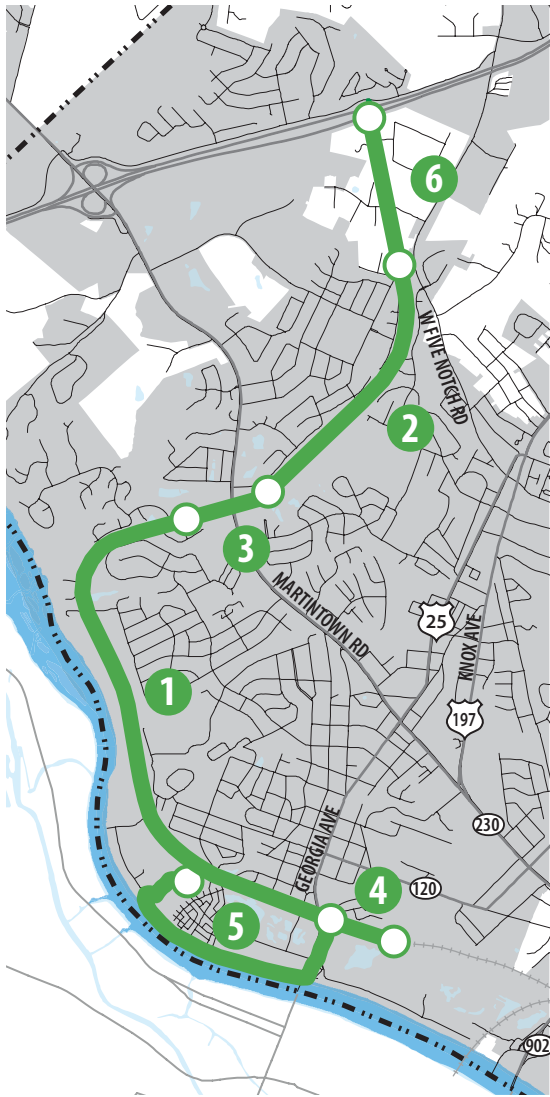






▲ Areas in North Augusta not within 1/2 mile of existing parks

# THE GREENWAY SYSTEM



▲ *Phases of the Greenway*

- 1 Georgia Avenue to Martintown Road
- 2 Martintown Road to Pisgah Road
- 3 Pedestrian bridge across Martintown Road
- 4 Georgia Avenue to River Club Golf Course
- 5 Brick Pond Park to Hammond's Ferry along the Savannah River
- 6 Pisgah Road to I-20

The North Augusta Greenway is a public access multi-purpose trail, currently over 13.8 miles in length and initially developed as a “Rails-to-Trails” project on an unused Norfolk Southern railroad right of way. Its unique name stems from Mayor Thomas Greene, who served the City of North Augusta from 1985 to 1997 and was instrumental in the trail’s creation. The current Greenway network runs south from Bergen Road past Riverview Park and Brick Pond Park and ends at Buena Vista Avenue. It includes a number of extensions and connections to public facilities and neighborhoods. It also includes a five mile section parallel to the recently completed Palmetto Parkway (I-520).

The Greenway is used by the residents of North Augusta for many different purposes: recreation, transportation, and fitness. For many residents who live along the Greenway it provides a safe, shady area to walk the dog, go for a run, or take children for a bike ride. The Greenway connects many neighborhoods and subdivisions to each other, downtown North Augusta, and the 13th Street bridge which connects directly to downtown Augusta. This makes the Greenway a perfect route for many cyclists biking to work, or heading to the Augusta Canal for a ride.

Development of the Greenway continues. The first phase, a 3.3 mile section from Georgia Avenue to Martintown Road, was completed in 1995. Phase 2, 1.5 miles from Martintown Road to Pisgah Road, was completed in early 1999. Later that year, the Greenway Bridge, Phase 3, a 180-foot arch-truss pedestrian bridge across Martintown Road, closed the gap between the two sections. Phase IV of the Greenway, another half mile, extended the Greenway east from the Georgia Avenue Bridge to the clubhouse at the River Club Golf Course in 2000. Next, a 1.5 mile extension of the Greenway along the Savannah River was completed in conjunction with the Hammond’s Ferry development. This public-private partnership development includes 55 acres of public park lands, consisting of a riverfront park and promenade connecting with the Greenway and a 20+ acre lake.

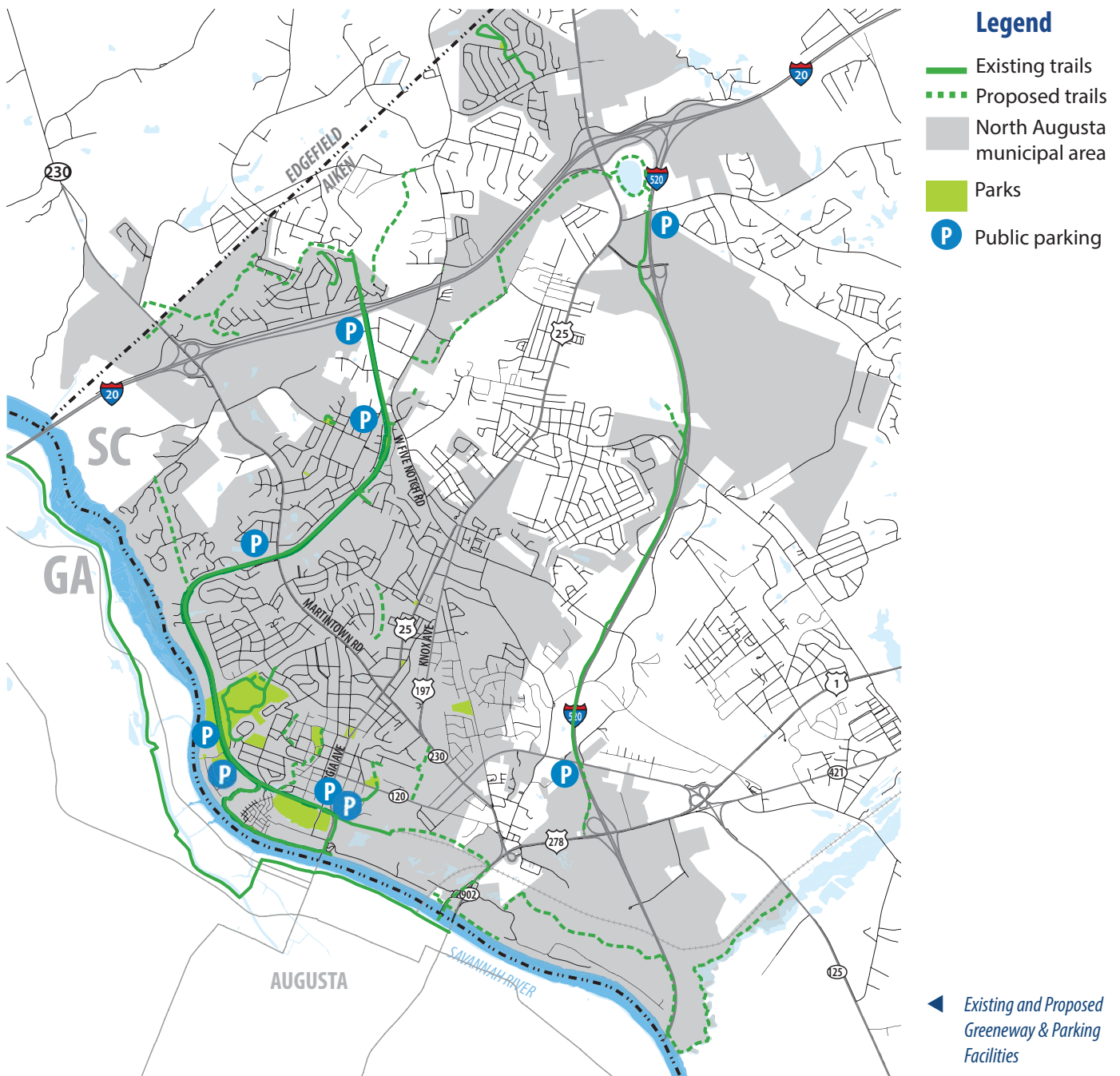
In 2011, an extension was built from Pisgah Road approximately 1 mile to the north under I-20. A master plan for the future development of the Greenway has been developed and is included in the Augusta Regional Transportation Study Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities long range plan. It includes additional connections with neighborhoods, parks and schools throughout the community and another 2.7 mile extension to the southeast to Horse Creek. It also anticipates Savannah River crossings at up to five locations to provide connections between the Greenway



and the Richmond County, Columbia County, and Augusta Canal National Heritage Area systems.

Public parking and access to the Greenway is provided at nine locations along the trail:

- I-20 and Bergen Road
- Pisgah Road near Five Notch Road
- Martintown Road near the Greenway Bridge
- Activities Center in Riverview Park
- Hammond’s Ferry Road
- Municipal Center
- Riverside Boulevard adjacent to Georgia Avenue
- Carolina Springs Spur and Atomic Road
- Ascauga Lake Road near I-520



Access to the Greenway is also provided through a number of connections to adjacent neighborhoods, streets and parks. The Greenway is open to the public year-round from dawn until dusk and is ADA accessible.

Construction of the Greenway has been funded by grants from the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, South Carolina Department of Transportation and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. Other funding sources include the Aiken County Capital Projects Sales Tax and North Augusta Capital Projects funds.



▲ *The Greenway with public pavilion near Hammond's Ferry*



▲ *The Greenway bridge over Martintown Road*



▲ *The Greenway crossing Center Street near Brick Pond Park*



▲ *A patron on the Greenway near Martintown Road*



# RECREATION PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Each year several thousand area youth and adults participate in North Augusta's Recreation program offerings in athletics including youth football and cheerleading, youth baseball, youth and adult softball, youth basketball, youth soccer, and youth and adult volleyball. Sporting tournaments are held at the city's Riverview Park Activities Center and include the Nike PeachJam Tournament which showcases the best high school basketball players from around the country and Canada. Several regional and state level basketball tournaments are also coordinated by the department.

The recreation department sponsors, co-sponsors or provides support for a number of community events and activities. Annual city-sponsored events include The Jack-O-Lantern Jubilee in October and an annual Tree Lighting and Caroling event to celebrate the holiday season. Co-sponsorship and support is also provided for other community events including the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Mayor's Prayer Luncheon, Kids Earth Day, Christmas Parade and others.

## Riverview Park Activities Center

The 94,000 square foot Riverview Park Activities Center opened in 1995. The center serves as headquarters for the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. It includes four basketball courts, a 1/6 mile walking/jogging track, game and arts and crafts rooms, locker rooms, meeting rooms, a concession area, two racquetball courts and a weight room. It operates at various times during the week and is generally open 15 hours per day. Memberships are offered at varying rates to city residents, out of city and out of state members, both for individuals and families.

## North Augusta Community Center

The 14,000 square foot North Augusta Community Center is located on Brookside Drive and was opened in 1985. The meeting, reception and banquet facility includes 3 meeting rooms, 2 banquet rooms and a commercial kitchen. The capacity of the largest room is 500. Rentals at the Community Center vary from a one hour meeting of several participants to all day sessions including meals for up to 500 people.



Source: youtube.com



Source: The Augusta Chronicle



Source: North Augusta Today

▲ From top to bottom: Nike Peach Jam; Calhoun Park Christmas Tree Lighting; Jack-O-Lantern Jubilee

# GOALS & STRATEGIES

## 9.1

### ENHANCE EXISTING OPPORTUNITIES AND CREATE ADDITIONAL OPEN SPACES AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES:

Ensure that every citizen is within walking and cycling distance of natural, passive, and active open spaces

#### 9.1.1 Update the park master plan that determines the location of future open spaces based on the planned future growth of North Augusta.

The parks in North Augusta are owned and operated by North Augusta Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. Many open space offerings are available for the citizens of North Augusta including the Greenway along the Savannah River, sports at the Riverview Park Activities Center, or walks in Wade Hampton Veterans Park downtown. An updated park master plan will determine the existing conditions and activities within these parks, identify areas for improvement in existing facilities, plan new park locations taking into account their location in relationship to future growth, and consider their maintenance needs over time. A major goal for North Augusta should be that every citizen can eventually walk and/or cycle to an open space at the heart of their community. This means that every household is within a 1/2 mile from a park or the Greenway.

#### 9.1.2 Provide indoor facilities for social programs and activities, recreation, and special events.

The Riverview Park Activities Center is the hub of North Augusta's parks and recreation facilities. Built in 1992, the 94,000 square foot center anchors the city's 149-acre Riverview Park. We will continue to maintain and enhance this facility as well as continue to connect this facility to surrounding neighborhoods through wider sidewalks and trails. As the Riverview Center is located near downtown, we will also consider providing new indoor facilities to serve different parts of the city as North Augusta continues to grow and develop.

#### 9.1.3 Plan, develop, and operate diverse recreation activities for citizens of all ages that are geographically distributed throughout North Augusta.

The City of North Augusta will continue to plan, develop, and operate a diverse recreation program for its citizens, young and old. Care should be taken to provide facilities that can be flexible to changing trends in youth sports and activity programming for the changing population. Connecting these geographically distributed activities by trails and the Greenway, can make the facilities more accessible to a broader segment of citizens and encourage a more active community.



#### 9.1.4 Support community gardens, whenever possible.

Community gardens provide many benefits for North Augusta and its citizens. They can increase community cohesion, encourage more active and healthy lifestyles, provide fresh and affordable foods within easy reach, reduce crime, and provide educational opportunities for youth. We will work with neighborhood leaders and organizations to establish programs that create and maintain community gardens throughout the city.

#### 9.1.5 Work with Aiken County public schools to share playground and recreation space when not being used by the school system.

There are a number of public schools in North Augusta that have recreational facilities. There is an opportunity to create a partnership that would allow citizens to use those recreation facilities when they are not being used by the school system. This strategy could provide more public access to recreation facilities without the need for capital funds to construct them. A long range plan to fund and construct new recreation facilities throughout the city is still necessary. This strategy could increase access for citizens in the meantime and could be a critical piece of the long-term parks and recreation master plan.

#### 9.1.6 Develop regulations requiring the provision of public open space in all new development.

For every development over 10 acres, require that 5-10% of the site be set aside for open space that is accessible to the public. The developer should work with the Director of Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Services to determine the most appropriate use of the open space, whether it's active or passive. The developer should program and pay for the design and construction of the open space, which will be accessible to the public by project completion for the entire development.

#### 9.1.7 Increase public access to the Savannah River.

The Savannah River has emotional, environmental, and economic significance for the citizens of North Augusta. The "South Carolina Riverfront" is one of, if not the most important natural element to be celebrated and enhanced in North Augusta. New iconic development have been attracted to its banks with Project Jackson. This is a massive placemaking opportunity that will put North Augusta in the regional spotlight and attract new residents and businesses. Additionally, the Greenway adjacent to the River has been loved by residents and visitors; connecting future points of access and development by trails and sidewalks is essential. While riverfront access points and new development could be a "game-changer" for North Augusta, it is equally critical to protect and enhance the environment, natural and cultural resources while encouraging access to the river.



Source: [www.friendsofthe-greenway.org/abo](http://www.friendsofthe-greenway.org/abo)

◀ A wild snapping turtle at Brick Pond Park.

# 9.2

## EXPAND THE GREENEWAY SYSTEM:

Expand and connect the Greenway so that it can become the necklace around the community

### 9.2.1 Expand the Greenway system as identified in the City of North Augusta Greenway, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Master Plan.

Prioritize funding and implementation of the Greenway as identified in the City of North Augusta Greenway, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Master Plan. Future development projects should plan for and incorporate sidewalk and trail connections to the Greenway where appropriate.

### 9.2.2 Connect the Greenway from the Savannah River to downtown.

The Greenway is one of the most prominent assets in North Augusta that attracts residents and visitors regionally. Physically connecting the existing Greenway facilities along the Savannah River to Georgia Avenue downtown can have not only social and economic benefits, but can attract development and redevelopment opportunities as well. Potential residents and visitors of downtown would have the ability to easily and comfortably patronize retail shops and restaurants, which could be critical to the revitalization of downtown.

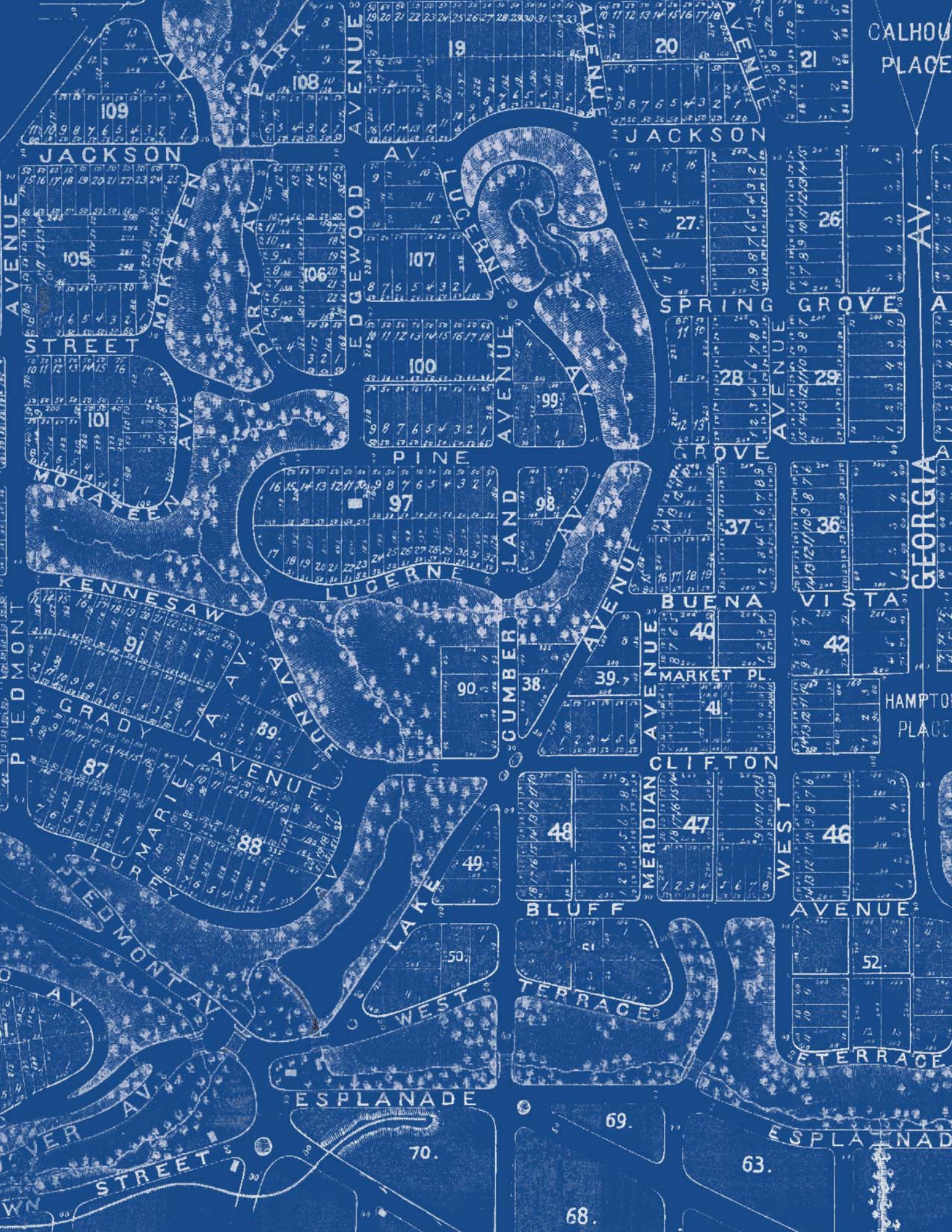


▲ A bridge over Martintown Road that connects two segments of the Greenway.



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CALHOUN PLACE

JACKSON AVENUE

STREET

KENNESAW AVENUE

GRADY AVENUE

LUREY AVENUE

LAKESIDE AVENUE

WEST AVENUE

BLUFF TERRACE

ESPLANADE

COLUMBIAN AVENUE

EDGEWOOD AVENUE

PINE AVENUE

LUCERNE AVENUE

LAND AVENUE

CHERRY AVENUE

WEST AVENUE

ESPLANADE

ESPLANADE

COLUMBIAN AVENUE

EDGEWOOD AVENUE

PINE AVENUE

LUCERNE AVENUE

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HAMPTON PLACE

109

108

19

JACKSON AVENUE

105

106

107

20

SPRING GROVE AVENUE

26

101

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99

28

29

MOKATEE AVENUE

PINE AVENUE

97

98

GROVE AVENUE

37

36

KENNESAW AVENUE

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BUENA VISTA AVENUE

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GRADY AVENUE

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LAKESIDE AVENUE

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BLUFF TERRACE

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