AUGUST 2023

SPARTANBURG COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

PLAN SPARTANBURG

MANY VOICES, ONE VISION

City of SPARTANBURG south carolina

PLAN SPARTANBURG Many Voices, One Vision

The City of Spartanburg would like to express our appreciation to all of the community members, business owners, students, families and friends who contributed to Plan Spartanburg. Whether you participated in Planpalooza, watched a Focus Meeting video, joined an On The Table discussion, submitted photos, or visited the website; your participation helped to inform the creation of this Comprehensive Plan. Thank you for playing an important role in forming the vision for the future of Spartanburg.

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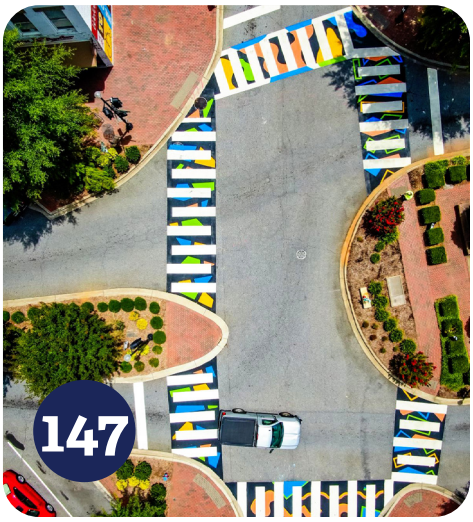

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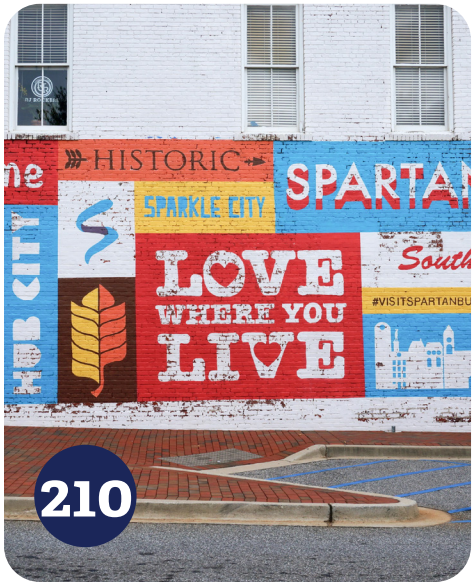

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INTRODUCTION

Plan Introduction

In 2019, the City of Spartanburg kicked off "Plan Spartanburg," a community-wide initiative to update the City's Comprehensive Plan (also referred to in this document as the "Comprehensive Plan" or the "Plan"). Building on past planning efforts and the 2004 Comprehensive Plan, this updated Plan seeks to implement a vision that preserves and enhances the character of Spartanburg while advancing its primary goal of a more equitable future for all who live there. The City has identified a twenty-five year planning horizon for this project, meaning its recommendations and guidance should carry the City into the 2040s.

This process was supported by extensive and robust public participation that included residents, business owners, local interest groups, and elected and appointed officials. The updated Comprehensive Plan is the result of thoughtful public conversations spanning more than a year and represents a path forward for the City of Spartanburg to achieve its vision.

Spartanburg's Comprehensive Plan is designed to be a guide for directing the future of the City by providing a vision and policy framework for the Zoning Ordinance and Annual Budget. It also helps manage municipal service areas and influences other planning documents. It should be used by the City Council, the Planning Commission, the Planning Department, and other relevant City departments to evaluate development applications, amend ordinances, and plan future expenditures. Together, the Comprehensive Plan and its implementation tools ensure future decision-making that is consistent with the community's vision and residents' expectations for a high quality of life.

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

The Comprehensive Plan is the official adopted statement for future development and conservation in the City of Spartanburg. It establishes guiding principles, analyzes existing conditions and emerging trends, describes and illustrates a plan for future development and supporting infrastructure, provides the City with strategies for equitable and sustainable growth, and outlines steps for implementation. The Plan will provide an ongoing framework for informed and directed public investment and private development. The long-term horizon for the Plan keeps the document somewhat general. However, the broad range of development issues and city services addressed makes it a reliable guide for smart, sustainable, and equitable growth that reflects the priorities, values, and requirements of Spartanburg's residents, safeguarding the City's history while addressing its short- and long-term needs and desires.

The Comprehensive Planning Enabling Act of 1994 establishes the Comprehensive Plan as the essential first step in the planning process for all municipalities in the State of South Carolina. Per S.C Code § 6-29-510(A), the Planning Commission must establish and maintain a planning process that will result in the systematic preparation and continual evaluation and updating of the elements of the Comprehensive Plan. That planning process must include an inventory of existing conditions; a statement of needs and goals; and implementation strategies with time frames State Code requires the following elements, at a minimum: population; economic development; natural resources; cultural resources; community facilities; housing; land use; transportation; and priority investment. The elements of the Comprehensive Plan should be developed through broad-based citizen participation, the extent of which is determined by community needs. In the case of Plan Spartanburg, the City Council endeavored to conduct a transparent and equitable planning effort, aiming to maximize public outreach and engagement.

Together, the Comprehensive Plan and its implementation tools ensure that future decision-making is consistent with the community's vision and residents' expectations related to equity, sustainability, and quality of life. Ultimately, the relevance of the Comprehensive Plan will be measured by its use during everyday decision-making. Monitoring the Plan's implementation should be an open and ongoing process, summarized each year in a community report card that examines performance, measures achievement, and reflects changes generated by the plan.

User's Guide

We heard you.

This plan is the culmination of Plan Spartanburg, an extensive and transparent community planning process that reflects many points of view. Hundreds of Spartanburg residents, businesses, visitors, and stakeholders participated in the process and contributed to the creation of this Plan. Spartanburg is a place of differing opinions, and while not everyone is going to agree with everything in it, we are confident that the voices of Spartanburg's community are represented in the Plan.

Understand the element of time.

At first glance, the plan may seem ambitious and daunting. It is important to understand that not everything in the plan will happen all at once, and some things may not happen at all. Included are some big ideas that, if implemented, would bring about transformative change, taking years or even decades to come to fruition. Other ideas are smaller and can happen right away. This planning process is about planting seeds and seeing what we can make grow under the right conditions with careful tending. As a 25-year plan, the Comprehensive Plan will require periodic re-evaluation of its recommendations to check their relevance. Many recommendations in this Plan use the verbiage "Consider," in recognition of these periodic check-ins.

Equity Comes First

The City of Spartanburg has made a commitment to put equity at the forefront of future planning efforts. Every decision the City makes should be a step towards reducing inequities among its residents and neighborhoods. The recommendations provided in this Plan represent a collective effort to create a more equitable future for the City, but each should be carefully considered during the implementation phase to weigh the impacts and ensure equitable results. If the City finds that a recommendation cannot be successfully implemented without compromising Spartanburg's equity goals, the strategy should be revised.

4

Be a Champion of the Plan

The Plan reflects the ideas of an entire community and includes many differing points of view, informed by the varied experiences of those community members — a bit of something for everyone. It is important to bear that in mind and to consider the big picture, whether the overall Plan takes Spartanburg in the right direction.

3

Support, Incentivize, and Prioritize Public and Private Investment

The role of this plan is to offer a vision for the future and set a course of action. Funding for the recommendations outlined in this Plan do not rest solely on the City. Much of what will be needed to bring the vision to life is private investment on individual properties, and public investment by other government agencies such as the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT). The City will have to ensure that the stage is set through supportive regulations and investments in infrastructure, but most of the cost and development responsibility will fall to individual private and non-profit property owners, often in partnership with public entities.

4

Be a Part of the Action & Implementation Team

Great ideas, like those presented in this plan, take time, money, and capacity. For the Comprehensive Plan to become a reality, residents, stakeholders, and City staff administration must care enough to stay involved and help execute the plan. Residents are encouraged to join a City board or commission, participate in a citizen task force, or turn out to support new projects that are in concert with the Plan as they come forward. For the Plan to be a success, it must be supported by active engagement and participation. Communities that work together, and work smartly, succeed.

A Commitment to Equity

In an effort to right some of the historical wrongs committed against indigenous, Black and other minority residents of Spartanburg, and in order to move towards a more equitable future, City officials have committed to the foundational principle of equity in this Comprehensive Plan. City decision makers and administration acknowledge the impact that racism and discrimination has had on Spartanburg's economy, neighborhoods, public spaces, culture, and the quality of life of its residents. The City also knows that inequities and discrimination are experienced not only by the Black community; but by the Hispanic community and other racial minorities dating back as early as the indigenous people of Spartanburg, the Cherokee, as well as people with disabilities or mental illnesses, the LGBTQ+ community, and people without housing and with low income.

The Undeniable Impact of Racism

Like every state in the United States, South Carolina has participated in discriminatory practices once codified in law and later institutionalized in practices.

Communities in Spartanburg continue to suffer the repercussions of redlining, racial deed covenants, discriminatory land use, urban renewal, dismantling of neighborhoods, and displacement of residents. These repercussions show up in socioeconomic status, neighborhood characteristics, educational attainment and overall quality of life. As Black people in Spartanburg were denied opportunities, the wealth gap widened, impacting families for generations. These structurally racist practices served as a gateway for other forms of discrimination towards new immigrants, people with disabilities, and people whose gender identification and sexual orientation don't fit traditional norms.

Prior Studies

The Spartanburg Community Indicators Project (SCIP) (strategicspartanburg.org) is a county-wide initiative to collect and present data and engage area leaders in conversations and strategies to improve quality of life in Spartanburg County. SCIP identifies seven Indicator Areas to help measure levels of equity (and inequity) in the community and to organize goals intended to promote equity. These include:

- Civic Health
- Cultural Vitality
- Economy
- Education
- Natural Environment
- Public Health
- Social Environment

These categories align with several of the Elements of the South Carolina requirements for Comprehensive Planning, and specific recommendations related to each category can be found throughout.

In 2018, the Metropolitan Studies Institute at the University of South Carolina Upstate was commissioned by the Spartanburg Community Indicators Project to create the Spartanburg Racial Equity Index. The study is an analysis of demographic

and wellbeing data related to racial equity in Spartanburg County. The purpose of the Index was to better understand the differences in the lived experience of different races, and to use that information to improve quality of life and living conditions for all residents of Spartanburg County.

The Racial Equity Index discusses how deeply embedded racism is in the fabric of North America from European colonization to the slave trade to post-emancipation. The emancipation of enslaved people did not bring equality and prosperity, but instead ushered in laws and practices that denied Black people voting rights, property ownership, and humanity.

"Race and place determine largely whether people have the opportunity to thrive. Rising income inequality and persistent gaps in health, wealth, income, employment, education, and opportunity prevent low-income people and people of color from realizing their full potential, and in places where inequities are ignored and perpetuated, quality of life is limited for all residents."
- Racial Equity Index

Unity Walk for Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Week Celebration

An Equitable Future

Unfortunately, while the laws of the Jim Crow South were repealed, racial equity and social justice did not follow. Achieving more equitable outcomes in the City of Spartanburg will mean reforming systems and introducing equity-based recommendations as the needed tools to address historical harms in transportation, housing, healthcare, land use, and more. Equity means ensuring all people have what they need to thrive and succeed, and the City of Spartanburg is committed to achieving racial equity – and becoming a community where race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes, where outcomes for all groups are improved and in alignment where all people are afforded the same rights, and where resources are distributed fairly throughout the community. This is a continual process—one that seeks to undo the impacts of centuries of oppression and discriminatory practices in the planning profession.

Our country has begun a long overdue process of racial reckoning, the first such widespread movement since the civil rights era of the mid-20th century. Those who have been systematically oppressed, and their allies are advocating for real change in every aspect of decision making. This Comprehensive Plan update is an opportunity to plan for the future of the City of Spartanburg by committing to resolve current inequities and tackle challenges from the past. This Comprehensive Plan presents a new vision, one that is focused on policies intended to reduce inequities and to redirect City resources to support strategies that improve equity, sustainability, and quality of life while preserving the heritage and character of the community. The City pledges with Council support not to discriminate in the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.

Equity Indicators

The first step in developing an equity-based comprehensive plan is the identification of Equity Indicators which can be used to measure levels of inequity in the community and track progress towards a more equitable future. Each of the Elements of this Comprehensive Plan identifies two or more Equity Indicators to be used in monitoring equity in the community. They are summarized below and expanded upon in the Plan Elements that follow.

By focusing on these Equity Indicators and utilizing census data and the Spartanburg Racial Equity Index, the City can identify "Equity Emphasis Areas" to prioritize the recommendations included in this plan and allocate funding to parts of the community that need it most.

Tracking the Equity Indicators over time will require a collaborative effort between many different City departments and partner organizations. Rather than issue a yearly report, the City should consider maintaining an interactive web portal that tracks this data through mapping and infographics, and update data as often as necessary to reflect real-time changes.

Equity Indicators

Population	
P1	Household composition
P2	Household primary language
P3	Race/Ethnicity
Economic Development	
E1	Income
E2	Education
E3	Poverty
E4	Employment
E5	Minority business ownership
Housing	
H1	Homelessness and housing instability
H2	Housing cost / cost burden
H3	Age and condition of housing
H4	Type of housing / housing choice
H4	Proximity of housing to environmental hazards
Transportation	
T1	Vehicle ownership
T2	Pedestrian network connectivity
T3	Transit network connectivity
T4	Pedestrian facility condition
Natural Resources	
N1	Proximity to parks and recreation facilities (housing)
N2	Quality of parks and recreation facilities
N3	Parks and recreation facility use
N4	Tree cover
Resiliency	
R1	Impervious surface cover
R2	Proximity of Housing to Natural and Manmade Hazards

This section should also reference the Tree Cover Indicator described in the Natural Resources Element and the Access to emergency services and response times in the Community Facilities Element.

Cultural Resources	
C1	Proximity and access to libraries, museums, and other cultural institutions
C2	Quality of libraries, museums, and other cultural institutions
C3	Attendance at cultural events
C4	Cultural inclusion and representation
Community Facilities	
F1	Access to internet
F2	Access to emergency services and response times
F3	Attendance in public meetings
F4	Representation on City boards and committees

Priority Investment

This section does not have its own Equity Indicators but should reference all other Equity Indicators when making decisions regarding the distribution of funding and resources.

Land Use & Community Character

This section does not have its own Equity Indicators but should reference the transportation connections Indicators described in the Transportation Element; and the proximity of housing to environmental hazards Indicator described in the Housing Element.

Health

Access to Healthy Foods – the percentage of the population that is low-income and does not live close to a grocery store.

Food Insecurity – the percentage of the population that did not have access to a reliable source of food during the past year (look at overall and child food insecurity).

Proximity to medical care facilities.

Spartanburg's History

1753

A treaty with the Cherokee Indian Nation opens the area to settlers.

1785

Spartanburg County was formed and named after a local militia called the Spartan Regiment in the Revolutionary War.

1787

Courthouse village was established at present day Morgan Square.

1831

Spartanburg was incorporated as a town.

1854

Wofford College founded with a $100,000 bequest from the Reverend Benjamin Wofford. The college is one of the few four-year institutions in the country founded before the Civil War that still operates on its original campus.

1859-1913

Six railroad lines converge in Spartanburg, earning it the nickname "Hub City."

1889

Converse College established and named after Dexter Edgar Converse, a pioneer in the cotton mill industry. The College opened on October 1, 1890.

1890-1920

The great boom period in the Southern Textile industry. Nearly 40 textile mills, such as the Beaumont Manufacturing Company, dominated Spartanburg's economy.

1911

Textile Industrial Institute founded by Dr. David English Camak as a work-study cooperative for young adults working in area textile mills. It will later become Spartanburg Methodist College.

1927

Spartanburg Downtown Airport opens as the first commercial airport in South Carolina.

1934

The National Housing Act of 1934 and establishment of the Federal Housing Administration began the specific practice of redlining – withholding mortgage capital to minority inner-city neighborhoods and exacerbating urban decay and racial isolation.

1949-1974

In the Urban Renewal era, the US federal government invested billions in urban redevelopment and road infrastructure. While large-scale investment was certainly needed in majority Black areas of Spartanburg that had suffered decades of neglect and marginalization, Urban Renewal's implementation was systematically racist, having the effect of destroying neighborhoods, reinforcing segregation, destroying historic structures, and building highways through downtown cores. The Federal Housing Acts of 1949 and 1954 and the Federal Highway Act of 1956 provided money and other incentives to cities for the purposes of demolishing "blighted" neighborhoods.

DEC. 1951

Opening Night at the Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium.

1962

Spartanburg Technical College opens to provide technical training in industrial and engineering programs. SCC would continue to grow from an initial enrollment of 150 students in 1963 to over 4,000 in 2018/2019 (U.S. News & World Report).

1967

University of South Carolina Spartanburg is founded (later to be renamed USC Upstate).

1970s

With federal funds provided as part of the Urban Renewal program, the City purchases 250 parcels of land in the Highland Community, razing blocks of mostly substandard single-family homes and a core of Black-owned businesses and constructing large multi-family public housing developments that created large areas of concentrated poverty.

1974

Spartanburg Junior College becomes Spartanburg Methodist College.

1993

James Talley elected as Spartanburg's first African American mayor.

2000

Southside Redevelopment begins with closure of landfill, housing development, and over $200 million in investment.

2015

Downtown Spartanburg designates a Cultural District of South Carolina by the South Carolina Arts Commission.

2018

Spartanburg Racial Equity Index Report is released, and Spartanburg City Council and Staff commit to the nation's first citywide comprehensive planning process with racial equity as a guiding principle. Prior Comprehensive Plans were inequitable and racially exclusive in practice and implementation. This plan's intent is to begin addressing these past practices for the equitable development of the city.

Many Voices, One Vision: The Public Process

The City of Spartanburg and a consultant team led by Town Planning and Urban Design Collaborative (TPUDC) conducted an open public engagement process unlike any other planning effort in the City. The process was branded "Plan Spartanburg," with a tagline that expressed the community's goal of "Many Voices, One Vision." Spartanburg is already unique and successful because of the amount of cooperation and collaboration that occurs between individuals and organizations within the City, and between the City and the surrounding region. It was important to build upon this spirit of collaboration by ensuring meaningful participation and engagement by all members of the community who would like a say in the future of Spartanburg.

The State of South Carolina requires "broad-based citizen participation for developing of comprehensive plan elements." To achieve the City's goals of equity in both the Plan and the process by which it was formed, the City committed to widespread public outreach and engagement in the creation of the Comprehensive Plan.

The Plan Spartanburg process saw an unexpected challenge as the process kicked off in mid-2020. The COVID-19 pandemic required a shift from in-person events to a robust virtual outreach and engagement process. A project website was developed early in the process and used to share information and solicit input from the community. The City offered an array of engagement opportunities, using creative techniques to reach a broad cross section of Spartanburg residents and stakeholders.

Policymaker Interviews

The project team conducted individual interviews with members of the Planning Commission and City Council, who play a crucial role in the adoption and implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.

Think Tank

The Plan Spartanburg Think Tank was a committee comprised of thirteen members, including representatives of local organizations and residents with expertise in business and economic development, housing, development, and education. A list of the Think Tank members appointed by City staff is included in the Acknowledgements section at the front of this document. Efforts were made to ensure that the members of the Think Tank were as diverse as the City itself and represented the community as a whole. The mission of the Think Tank was to act as a sounding board. The Think Tank was charged with identifying general issues and topics of concern; providing input during the development of the plan; supporting efforts to generate public interest; participating in scheduled events; ensuring widespread public participation; and assisting in identifying and involving stakeholders in the process.

Neighborhood Ambassadors

City staff helped to identify a group of neighborhood ambassadors that included clergy and other group leaders respected by their followers and neighbors. These contacts helped share project information with their neighbors and other contacts to ensure widespread awareness of Plan Spartanburg.

Project Website & Social Media

TPUDC and City staff maintained a dedicated project website at www.planspartanburg.com. The City's Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts were used to help disseminate information about the project and upcoming events. The project website was used to post documents and gather public input through discussion boards, map-based exercises, surveys and more.

Community Kick-Off

In August 2020, the Plan Spartanburg team held a Community Kick-off event. Over 110 residents and interested stakeholders attended an online presentation to learn more about the project and the comprehensive planning process. After the presentation, participants asked questions and provided initial feedback on what is most important to them when it comes to the future of Spartanburg.

Virtual Community Kickoff Presentation

Some of the local organizations that hosted On The Table meetings included:
Chapman Cultural Center
Converse Heights Neighborhood residents
DEI Champions and Inclusion Council
Downtown Neighborhood residents
Duncan Park Neighborhood residents
Hampton Heights Neighborhood residents
Highland Neighborhood Association
Leadership Spartanburg Alumni
Omegas of Spartanburg
One Spartanburg
Park Hills Neighborhood residents
PASOs
Southside Neighborhood residents
Spartanburg Academic Movement
Spartanburg Chamber
Spartanburg Citizens Advisory Council
Spartanburg Food Coalition
United Way of the Piedmont
Spartanburg Initiative for Racial Equity Now (SIREN)

Some (but not all!) of the issues that were discussed during the On The Table meetings included:
Transportation safety and connectivity
Condition of sidewalks and bike lanes
Gaps in transit availability and accessibility
The future of Westgate Mall
Job availability and skills matching
Downtown economic development
Minority business ownership
Impacts of urban renewal and the destruction of Black neighborhoods
Access to fresh food and grocery stores
Housing choices and affordability
Avoiding displacement
Homelessness and services for the homeless
Garbage and recycling services
Municipal services and facilities
Playgrounds and recreational facilities
Additional sports fields and facilities
Trail safety and connectivity
Language barriers and accessibility
Accommodations for the disabled
The role of the arts in cultural heritage and the economy
The importance of Black history
Opportunities for public art
Events and entertainment
Cultural diversity
Building character and architecture

"On The Table" Meetings

In the early stages of the process, citizens and stakeholders were encouraged to host informal discussions with their friends, neighbors, coworkers, social clubs, and other small groups. Those interested in hosting were equipped with meeting materials to explain the project and solicit and record input from those assembled. Over 25 meetings were organized, and through these meetings, hundreds of people shared their thoughts, concerns, and ideas.

Visioning Workshops

In September 2020, the team created a Virtual Visioning Workshop. The Workshops consisted of a series of interactive online input tools to help identify aspirations and goals for Spartanburg's future. Three orientation sessions were held to demonstrate the tools, which were available for several months after the event.

Spartanburg Today & Tomorrow

Participants thought about the challenges and opportunities the City is facing now or expects to face in the future, and brainstormed ideas to address them.

Some of the current issues included housing affordability and availability; poverty and homelessness; accessibility and disability; transportation connectivity; access to health care and healthy food; availability of jobs and economic opportunities; and infrastructure deterioration.

Proposed solutions included improved communication and collaboration between organizations and departments; focusing on equity; and public and private investment.

Some anticipated future issues included climate change; automobile reliance; gentrification; displacement; and population growth. Participants saw opportunities to make Spartanburg a more inclusive, vibrant, engaged, resilient, walkable, equitable and sustainable City.

Connections

A brief survey collected information about the modes and methods of transportation that people use to get around Spartanburg. Through this exercise, the team learned that most residents rely on private vehicular transportation, which makes it relatively easy for them to get where they need to (work, school, shopping, etc.). Participants voiced a desire to have amenities and services like parks and grocery stores closer to where they live, so that they are easier to get to. Improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities could help increase transportation choices. There is also a need for expanded public transit options for those who are unable or do not wish to drive.

What's Missing?

The community identified things they thought might be "missing" in Spartanburg. Responses were wide-ranging and included everything from job opportunities to edible landscaping. Many people identified Duncan Park Lake as an opportunity for water-based recreation, and there was a desire to foster a "culture of health" that prioritizes access to green spaces and healthy food.

Someone Else's Shoes

Participants were challenged to put themselves in the shoes of someone different from themselves – a different age, gender, income or education level, race or ethnicity, or with different

physical abilities. Then they were asked to tell us how that person's quality of life and experience living in Spartanburg may be different from the participant's. The results revealed a need for improvements to accessibility for the elderly and those with disabilities; improved non-vehicular transportation options for those without their own cars; and places for homeless individuals to access services and facilities like storage lockers.

Equity

The term "equity" can mean different things to different people. For this exercise, the community was asked to define equity in their own terms, in order to better understand how to make Spartanburg a more equitable City for those who live there. Some of the ways the community described equity included:

- Transparency
- Right to information
- Accessibility
- Comfort
- Mitigating language barriers
- Safety
- Inclusiveness
- Combating discrimination
- Action
- Addressing homelessness

Big Ideas!

This was an open forum to share any other "Big Ideas" for the Comprehensive Plan. Some participants reiterated comments heard previously, such as the need for bicycle and pedestrian facility improvements and walkable mixed-use development. Other participants discussed racial and cultural discrimination against immigrants and people of color, and the importance of acknowledging and embracing the City's diversity and multi-culturalism.

Art Contest

To encourage input from residents of all ages, and to promote Plan Spartanburg, TPUDC and the City held an art contest, "Lend A Hand." 59 participants contributed entries. 10 Winners were selected and received prizes donated by local businesses.

Tactical Urbanism

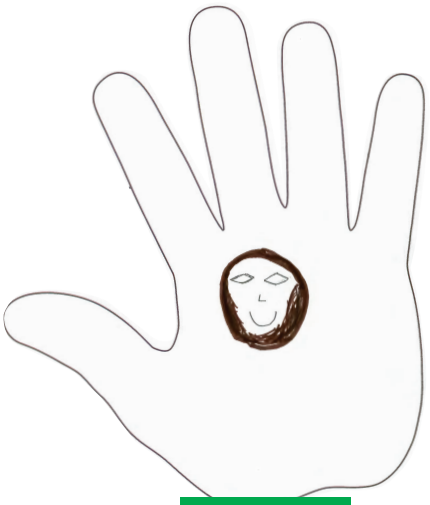
In an ongoing effort to spread awareness about the Plan Spartanburg effort, the City canvased the town with sidewalk chalk stencils on heavily-trafficked trails and paths to encourage viewers to check out the Plan Spartanburg website and get involved.

Sidewalk Stencil

Lend a Hand Art Contest Winners

Kemaurion Dowdy

Harmoni Armstrong



Emirreal

Janara Irby

Simorice Richards

Alaya Shaw

Jacob Ignra

Elijah

Mariah

Planapalooza

In October 2020, the City and TPUDC hosted Planapalooza™, an opportunity for residents of Spartanburg to work directly with friends, family, neighbors, City staff and officials, and a team of planners to build a stronger, more equitable future for the City of Spartanburg. The entire event was held online due to the pandemic, with the City providing opportunities for in-person (socially distanced) interaction at Dr. T.K. Gregg Community Center.

On the first evening of Planapalooza, the team held an interactive online Mapping Workshop to identify areas of opportunity within the City. About 50 people participated in this activity.

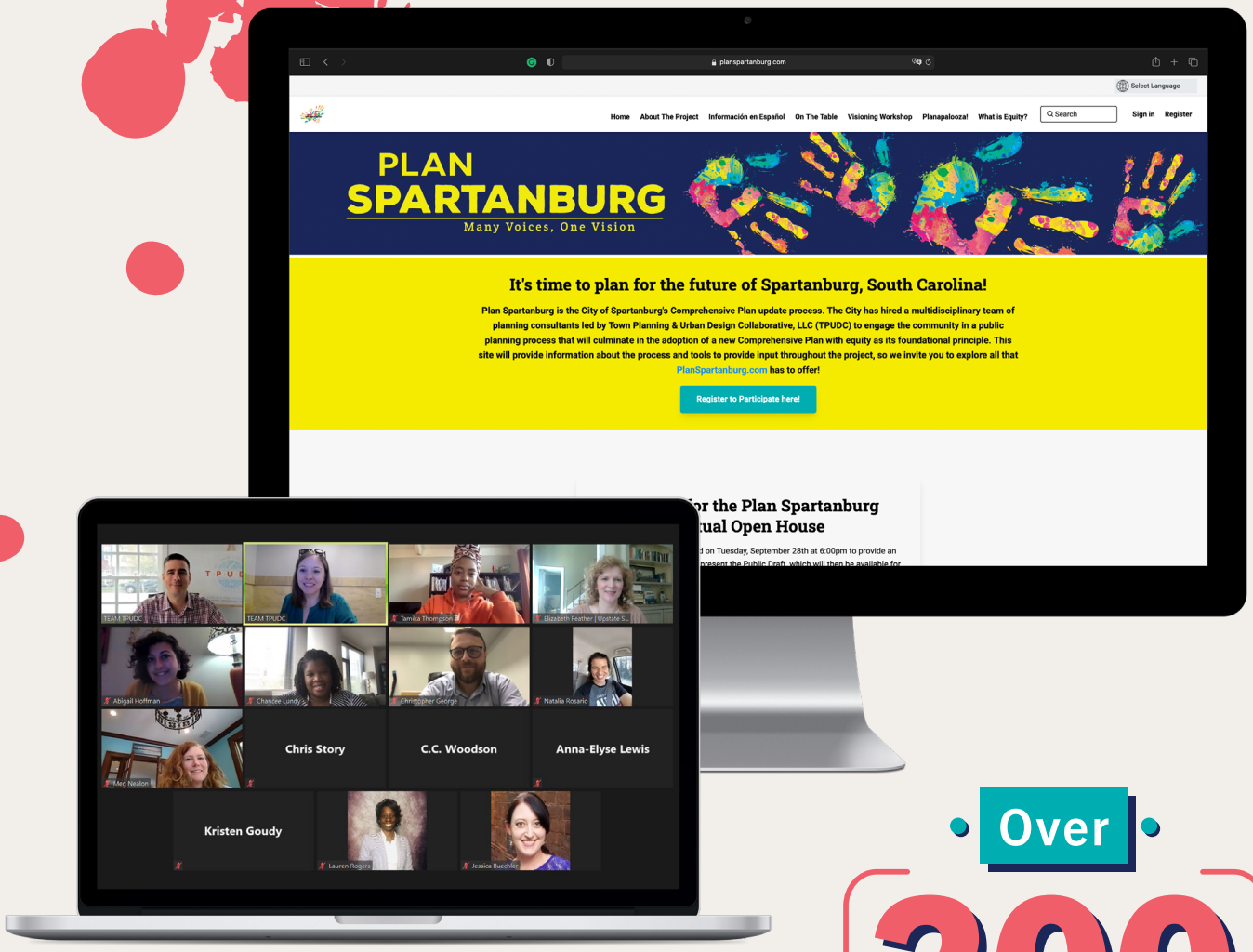
The first two days of Planapalooza™ featured six Focus Meetings, where residents shared their hopes and concerns related to transportation, economy, housing, parks and recreation, character, growth, development, conservation, culture, history, heritage, and most importantly, equity. Over 200 people attended these six meetings and were encouraged to share ideas, ask questions, and participate in brainstorming solutions to issues.

Throughout the four-day event, the consultant team explored future land use scenarios and sketched conceptual illustrations for critical areas of the City that aligned with input recorded in the Focus Meetings.

On the final evening of Planapalooza, the team presented their findings and began to discuss how community input had begun to shape the recommendations in the Comprehensive Plan.

The Work-In-Progress meeting had more than 50 people in attendance.

All the meetings that took place during Planapalooza™ were recorded and made available for residents and stakeholders to watch at their convenience.



Planapalooza Focus Meeting Zoom

50 People Participated In The Interactive Mapping Workshop

Over **200** PEOPLE ATTENDEND

6 Focus Meetings

More Than **50** People Attended The Work-In-Progress Meeting

Guiding Principles

Character & Authenticity

Protect and value Spartanburg's unique heritage and identity. Identify and preserve aspects of the natural, cultural, social, and built environment that make Spartanburg special, keeping equity at the forefront of all preservation and character-related decisions. Celebrate the diversity and cultural richness that make Spartanburg special.

When it comes to **Economic Development**, support existing businesses, especially those that are locally, independently, or minority-owned. Create an environment that fosters and promotes local entrepreneurs and business ownership. In an effort to protect local interests and investments, new development should engage the public and integrate their feedback into private development plans.

When it comes to **Housing**, preserve the character of existing homes and neighborhoods, and celebrate the unique identity of each of Spartanburg's neighborhoods.

When it comes to **Transportation**, enhance gateways to ensure that those who enter Spartanburg recognize its unique character.

When it comes to **Natural Resources**, protect Spartanburg's parks, trails, greenways, and other natural features.

When it comes to **Resilience**, strengthen social capital to empower and equip neighbors to help each other respond and recover from emergencies.

When it comes to **Cultural Resources**, protect, promote, and share Spartanburg's history, culture, and diversity through preservation, storytelling, documentation, artistic expression, and events and festivals.

When it comes to **Community Facilities**, expand and improve infrastructure and municipal facilities without compromising the character of the built environment.

When it comes to **Priority Investment**, consider the impact of funding decisions on the City's identity. Ensure that these decisions preserve Spartanburg's character and diversity.

When it comes to **Land Use**, conserve existing neighborhoods and historic resources while planning for strategic future growth; and mitigate the impact of growth on natural and cultural resources.

Enhanced Connections

Strengthen physical, economic, and social connections between places and people and ensure equitable access to the things people need to maintain and improve their quality of life. Maintain the City's strong relationship with local, regional, and national entities and organizations that partner with and support the City in achieving its goals. Understand and emphasize the importance of equity in decisions regarding the enhancement of all physical, economic, and social connections.

When it comes to **Economic Development**, strengthen connections between people, jobs, and resources needed to support entrepreneurs and business owners.

When it comes to **Housing**, connect people to housing that is affordable, equitable, and desirable; and ensure connections between housing, jobs, and necessary resources and services.

When it comes to **Transportation**, provide multi-modal transportation connections that are safe, accessible, interesting, and equitable. Connect people to jobs, housing, facilities, and services.

When it comes to **Natural Resources**, connect people to nature, through parks, open spaces, trails, and outdoor programming.

When it comes to **Resilience**, strengthen the connection between increasing development and local, State, and Federal requirements to protect wetlands and other natural landscapes that add valuable ecosystem services.

When it comes to **Cultural Resources**, connect people to the history and culture of Spartanburg by providing opportunities for learning and sharing. Connect people to one another through shared history and experiences; community involvement; and social interaction.

When it comes to **Community Facilities**, strengthen connections between municipal services, utility providers, and City departments.

When it comes to **Priority Investment**, pursue opportunities to enhance physical, economic, and social connections through local, state, and federal funding and programs.

When it comes to **Land Use**, connect neighborhoods and major corridors through transportation and development improvements. Weave access to public and open spaces through these connections.

Dignity & Belonging

Make sure everyone has a place in Spartanburg – a place to work, live, shop, play, gather, start a business, voice their concerns, etc. Make Spartanburg an equitable, diverse, and welcoming place for all, regardless of age, income level, family type, housing status, disability, gender, sexuality, religion, race, ethnicity, mental health or cultural background. Strive to make it so that everyone sees themselves reflected in public cultural resources and events. Ensure that people's needs are met without creating unnecessary barriers (physical, communication/language, etc.). Make certain that equity is prioritized in the decision-making process.

When it comes to **Economic Development**, ensure that everyone has access to the resources they need to pursue education, business ownership, and other economic opportunities.

When it comes to **Housing**, ensure that everyone has access to adequate, safe, affordable housing; that those that are most at risk of losing their housing have the resources and support necessary to stay in their homes; that those without housing have access to the resources necessary to meet their needs without the shame or stigma often associated with doing so.

When it comes to **Transportation**, ensure that everyone is able to get where they need to go safely, comfortably, efficiently, and independently.

When it comes to **Natural Resources**, ensure that everyone feels safe, comfortable, and welcome in Spartanburg's parks and other public spaces.

When it comes to **Resilience**, ensure emergency response and recovery is City-wide, emergency processes are transparent and known by all, and that vulnerable communities are not disproportionately burdened by the cost of hazard mitigation and recovery.

When it comes to **Cultural Resources**, ensure that everyone has the freedom to express and celebrate their diversity, culture and heritage; and provide cultural resources and events that are accessible and welcoming to all.

When it comes to **Community Facilities**, provide equitable infrastructure and utilities, and equitable access to community facilities. Ensure that all community members are encouraged and can easily express concerns, access information, share ideas, and participate in City decision-making without feeling silenced, ignored, overlooked or overrun.

When it comes to **Priority Investment**, emphasize equity at the forefront of funding decisions so that everyone's needs are met.

When it comes to **Land Use**, protect against displacement and rising costs of living; and ensure that residents can stay in their chosen neighborhoods through all stages of life. The City must maintain a careful balance between future investment and potential displacement.

WHAT WE HEARD

> "There's a difference between 'you're welcome to come here' and 'Please come here, we thought of you'."

Improved Health & Wellness

Protect and enhance the health of both people and the environment. Ensure access to fresh, healthy food; physical and mental health services; and opportunities for recreation and exercise. Protect the health of the natural environment to ensure future generations will be able to enjoy it.

When it comes to **Economic Development**, keep the Spartanburg economy healthy, sustainable and resilient while providing opportunities for a variety of new and innovative businesses and endeavors. Ensure that future development enhances community health and takes the existing environmental context into account.

When it comes to **Housing**, ensure that every neighborhood provides access to fresh and healthy food; healthcare resources; opportunities for physical exercise and social interaction; and that housing conditions do not contribute to health degeneration.

When it comes to **Transportation**, encourage bicycling and walking as a healthier, efficient, and viable alternative to vehicular transportation, both for people and the environment. Provide safe and accessible facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.

When it comes to **Natural Resources**, ensure that everyone and every neighborhood has access to clean, safe outdoor spaces for exercise and recreation. Protect the natural resources that contribute to the health of the environment and the community.

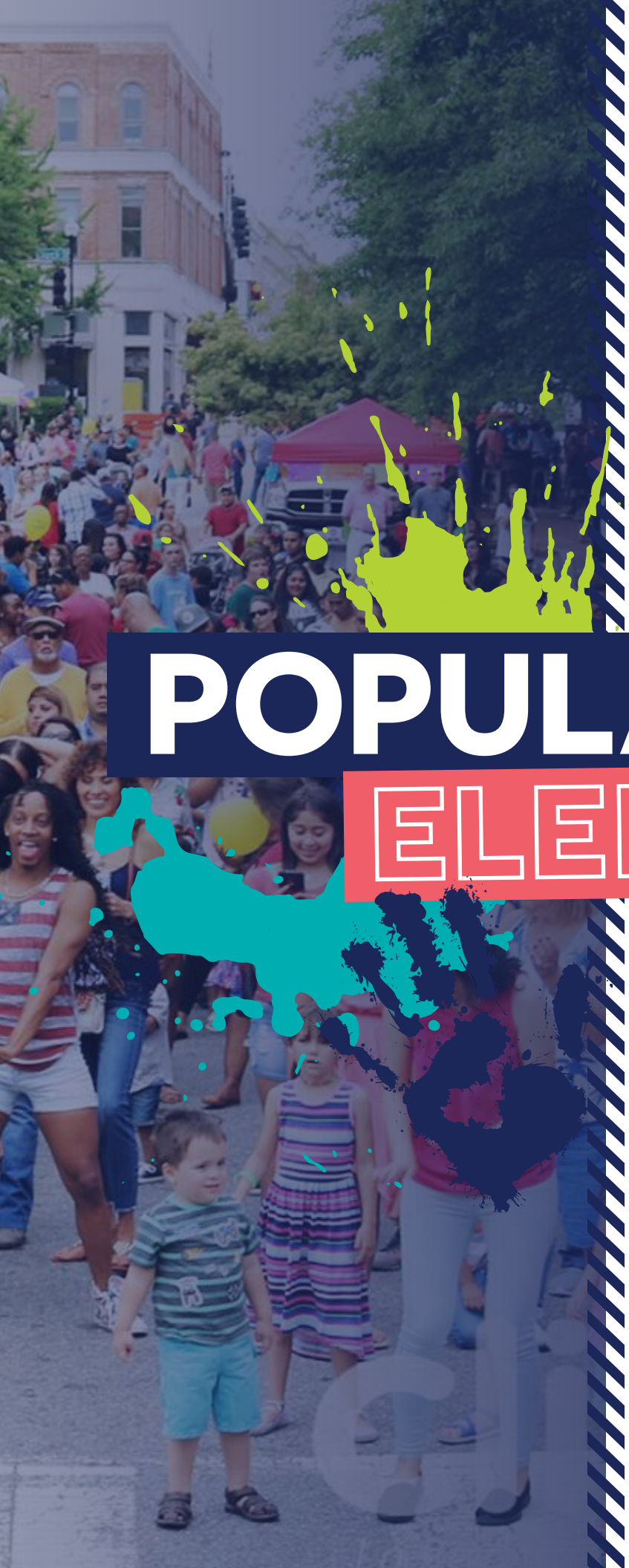
When it comes to **Resilience**, ensure people have access to basic needs during times of emergency and recovery.

When it comes to **Cultural Resources**, promote healthy expression through art, history, and culture; and foster social connections that contribute to the health of neighborhoods and communities.

When it comes to **Community Facilities**, provide safe and healthy water and sewer facilities, and equitable and efficient emergency services; and allocate municipal finances thoughtfully and responsibly, keeping equity at the forefront of all budgeting decisions.

When it comes to **Priority Investment**, make certain that publicly funded projects protect and improve the health of Spartanburg's residents and the environment.

When it comes to **Land Use**, consider the impacts of land use decisions on the health of people, neighborhoods, the environment, and the community as a whole.



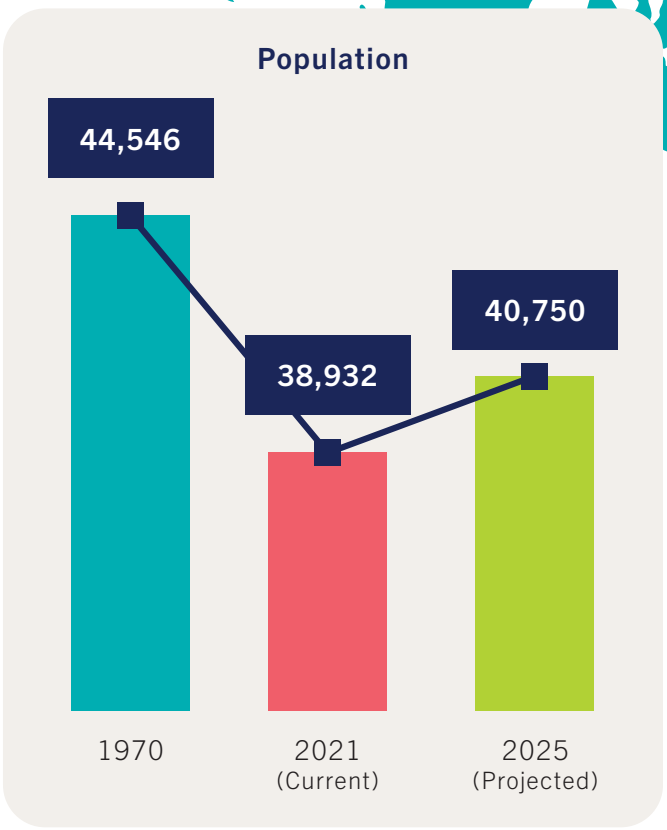
POPULATION ELEMENT

Introduction

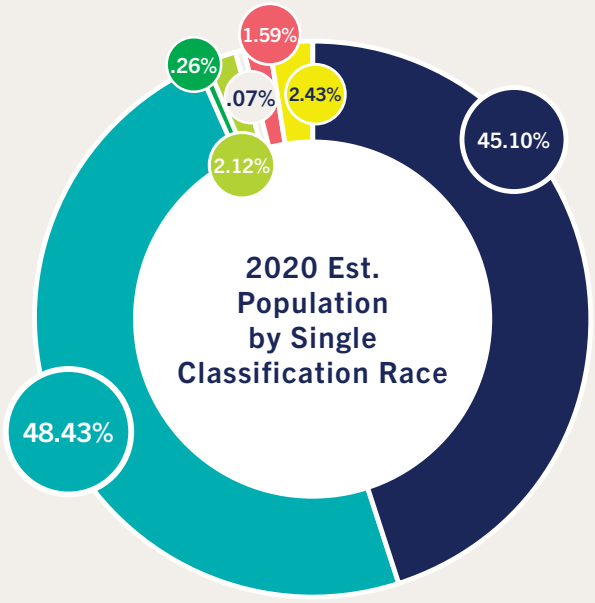
Much has changed since the adoption of the City of Spartanburg's previous Comprehensive Plan in 2004. Most notably, during the period between 2010 and 2020, Spartanburg grew for the first time since 1970, when it hit its historic population peak. This growth can be attributed to the region's economic expansion, with dozens of international companies, including BMW, coming to Spartanburg County.

By the time the 2004 Comprehensive Plan was written, the City had already shifted to a majority non-white population. Spartanburg is now the second largest city in South Carolina with a majority non-white residents (Sumter, SC is the largest). It has become an increasingly diverse community, with residents from over 75 countries speaking more than 98 languages However, with cultural diversity comes racial disparity, and the experience of living in Spartanburg varies depending on a number of demographic and socioeconomic factors, particularly race.

Spartanburg's population is expected to surpass 40,000 residents by 2025. At this rate of growth, Spartanburg will surpass its peak population of 45,000 persons by 2035.



As a Comprehensive Plan rooted in the foundational principle of equity, this Plan focuses on the demographic and socioeconomic data that sheds light on inequities in the community. Data related to economic development, such as income, employment, and education levels can be found in the Economic Development Element of the Plan. Data related to housing can be found in the Housing Element of the Plan.



Source: Claritas/US Census

Population Equity Indicators

The Equity Indicators as they relate to population include household composition, household primary language, and minority population statistics.

P1: Household Composition

The composition of a household often corresponds to other factors, which are examined in the Plan Elements that follow. Single-parent households, 65-and-older households, and households with children are more likely to be negatively impacted by other equity factors.

P2: Household Primary Language

Language is an important factor when it comes to accessing resources and services, finding employment, and feelings of inclusion and acceptance within the community. Understanding the inequities faced by non-English speaking residents of Spartanburg is as important as those related to race and other demographic factors.

P3: Race/Ethnicity

This is perhaps the most obvious of all the Equity Indicators included in this plan. Though equity is an issue for other minority groups including people with disabilities or mental illnesses; the LGBTQ+ community; seniors and people without housing; the most egregious inequities are experienced by the Black community. Improving racial equity will have a positive impact across all minority groups.

HUB DIGGITY
Hub Diggity

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT

Introduction

The City of Spartanburg is a critical economic development hub, not only in Spartanburg County but the South Carolina Upstate region and the entire State. Existing economic conditions in the City of Spartanburg provide an insight into the dynamics of this important role. This Economic Development Element addresses the labor market (employees), the existing industries (employers), and market segments including retail, office, institutional, manufacturing, and the service industries. This Element also addresses the unique partnerships that play a critical role in the successes of the City of Spartanburg along with the county, region, and state.

The City's economic role has changed through the decades as manufacturing and industry has shifted from the City itself to the County while education, healthcare, retail, government, and service have increased in economic importance. Any examination of these changes should be considered in the context of a dynamic partnership that has been forged over the past decade between the public and private sector for regional economic success. Importantly, the City of Spartanburg plays a critical role as a center of opportunity for an increasingly diverse population.

The community is rising to the occasion to address economic inequities not just at a municipal but at a regional level. Recommendations in the Economic Development Element reference important existing plans such as the 2016 Community and Economic Development Strategy commissioned by the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce (now known as One Spartanburg), regional efforts on the part of the Upstate Alliance, and local efforts to ensure that Downtown Spartanburg continues to revitalize as a dynamic center of activity for the entire region.

Cooperation & Collaboration

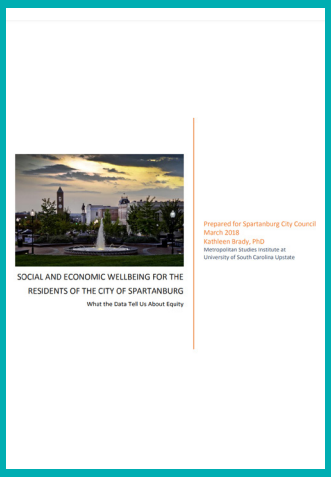
Spartanburg benefits from a remarkable partnership that has emerged as a true collaboration among many partners. OneSpartanburg Inc. represents a rare alignment of City, County, Chamber, Tourism, Economic Development, and Community Vision. Such a collaboration is rare and represents a model for collaboration on common goals. One of those goals – also exceptional for a community – is the major initiative of Diversity and Inclusion as a core focus of OneSpartanburg. That goal, stated as follows, is a challenge for every business in the community to embrace diversity:

> **Diversity provides the potential for greater innovation and creativity. Equity is critical, because Spartanburg will not move forward if any of her people are left behind. Inclusion is what enables organizations to realize the business benefits of this work.**
>
> **- OneSpartanburg**
> **(Onespartanburginc.com/inclusion)**

Related Studies

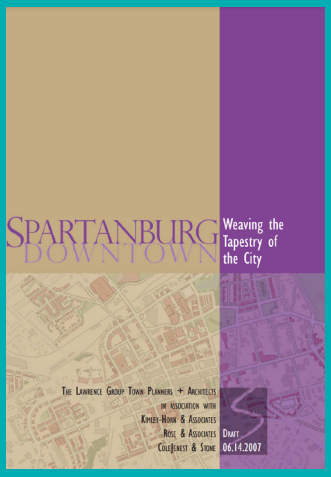
Several studies related to Economic Development have been completed since the City's previous Comprehensive Plan Update.

- The 2018 Social and Economic Wellbeing for the Residents of the City of Spartanburg report was prepared by the Metropolitan Studies Institute at the USC Upstate, and is currently being updated. The report examines the social and economic wellbeing of Spartanburg's residents and identifies the variables that inhibit wellbeing for the City's most vulnerable communities. The report is Census tract-based, and the recommendations in the report align with those included in this Comprehensive Plan.
- The 2016 Community and Economic Development Strategy is the overall vision for Economic Development in the City.
- The 2017 Downtown Market Study provided market analysis for Downtown Spartanburg.
- The 2007 Downtown Master Plan is a vision for the future of Downtown, including economic development, urban design, and infrastructure.
- The 2019 Comprehensive Plan for Spartanburg County included an Economic Development Element that addressed the needs of the entire county.



2018 Social and Economic Wellbeing Report

2016 Community and Economic Development Strategy



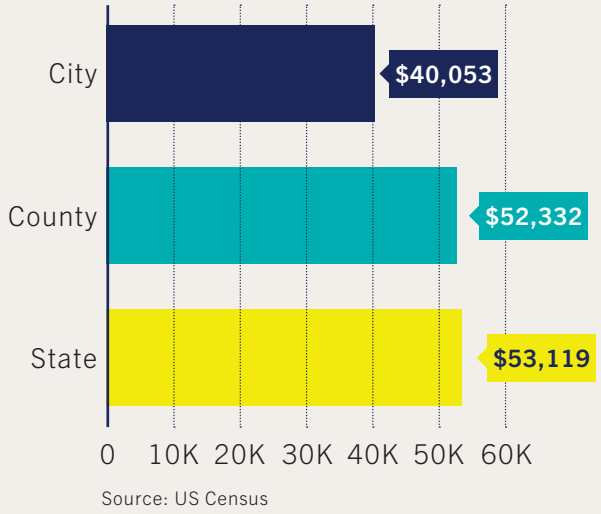
2007 Downtown Master Plan

2019 Comprehensive Plan

Base Data

Income

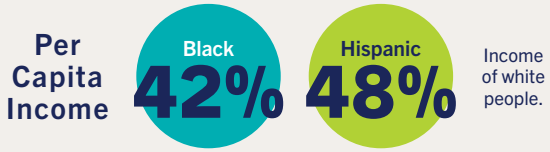
The City of Spartanburg lags the county and state in income levels (US Census).



Source: US Census

Per Capita Income

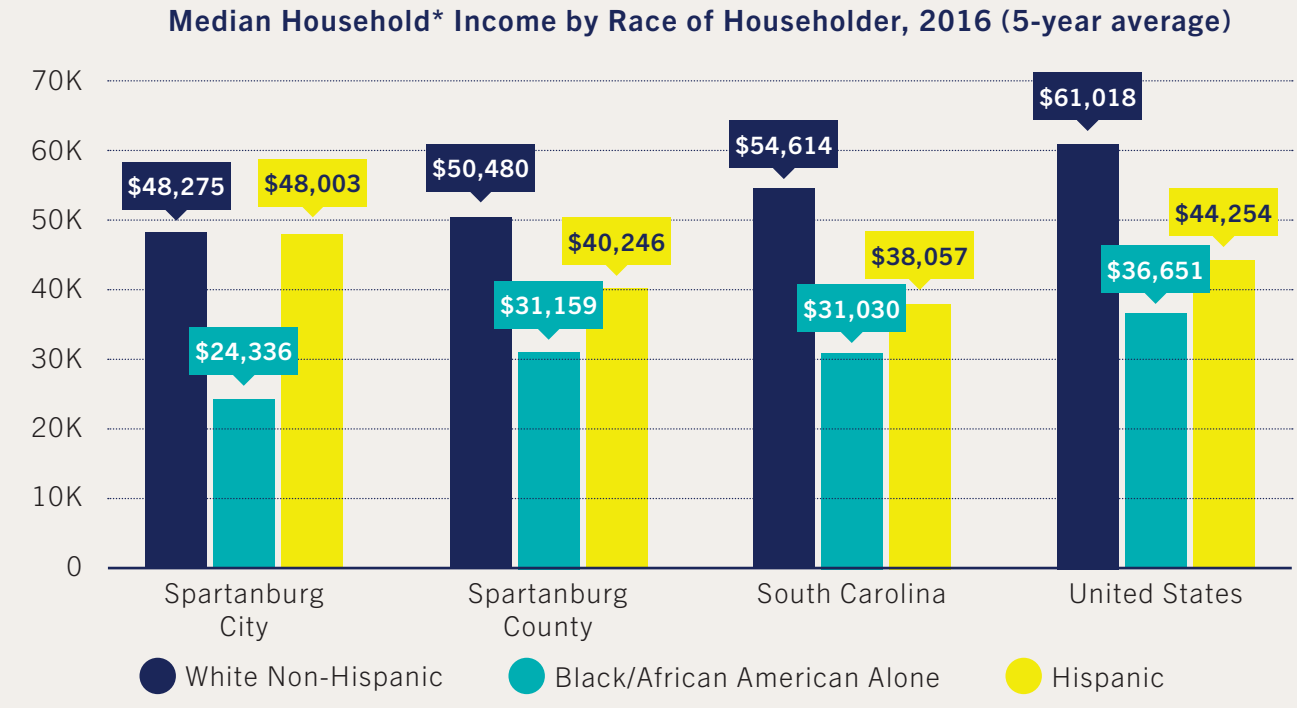
Black people have 42% the income of white people. Hispanic people fare slightly better at 48%.



Household income

Indicates overall economic wellbeing and can measure tax base and ability to support local businesses. Currently very inequitable

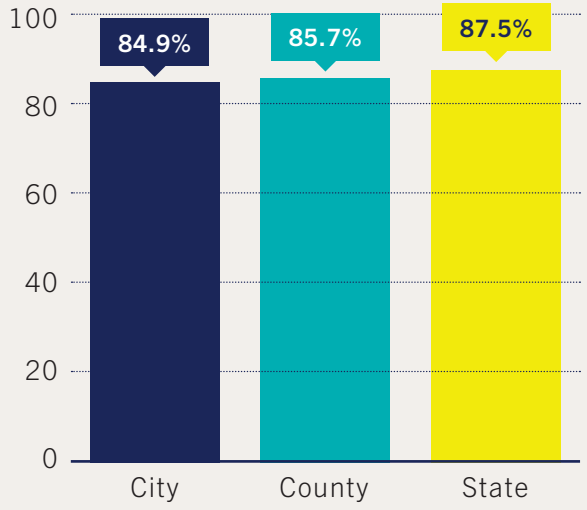
Source: REI

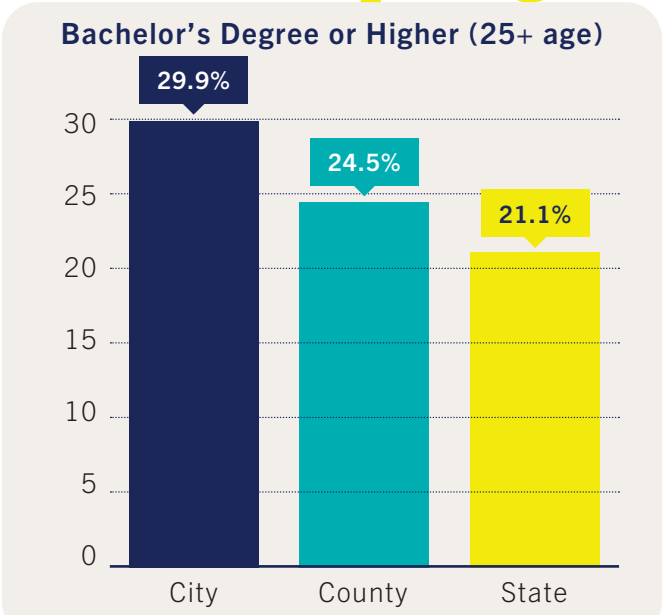


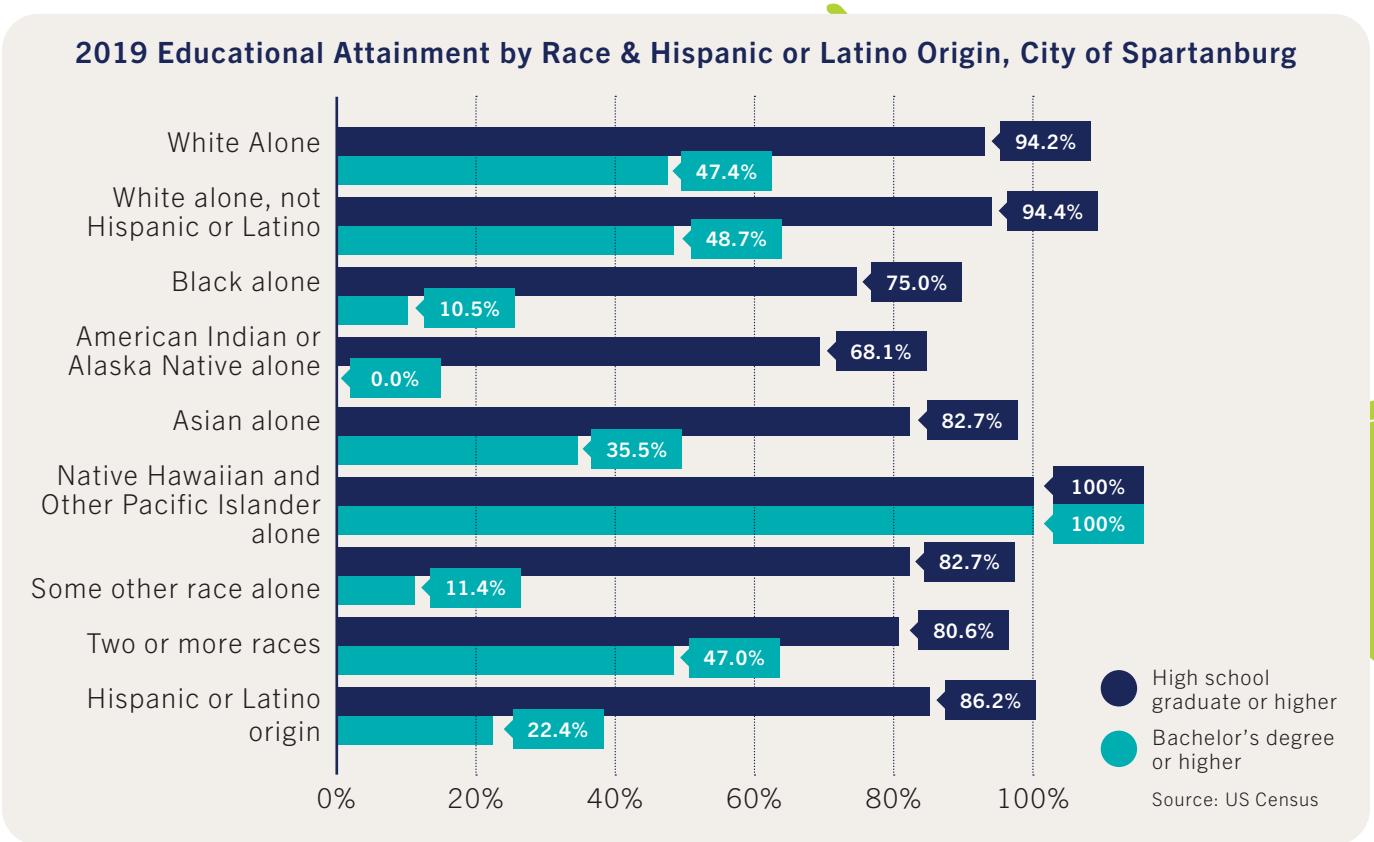
*Household income includes income of the householder and all other people 15 years and older in the household, whether or not they are related to the householder. Source: US Census

Education

The Education level of the City's residents is lower at high school level but higher at college level (US Census) .

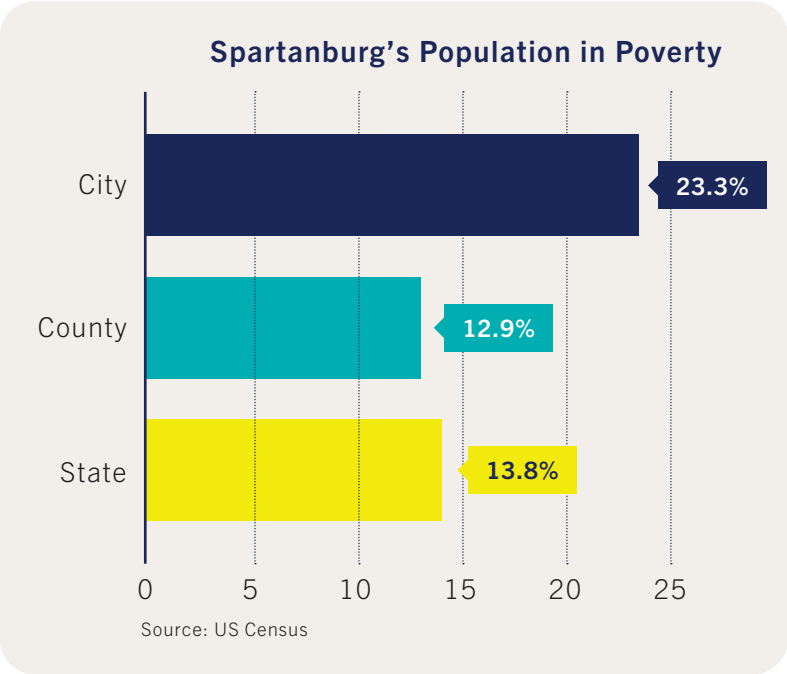






Poverty

The percent of the population in poverty is higher than the county and state (US Census).



The Charles Apartments, developed with economic development incentives

Fitzgerald
APARTMENT HOMES

Economic Development Equity Indicators

The Equity Indicators as they relate to Economic Development include income, education, poverty, employment, and minority-owned businesses. Each of the metrics described in this section should be monitored by census tract to identify target areas for equity efforts.

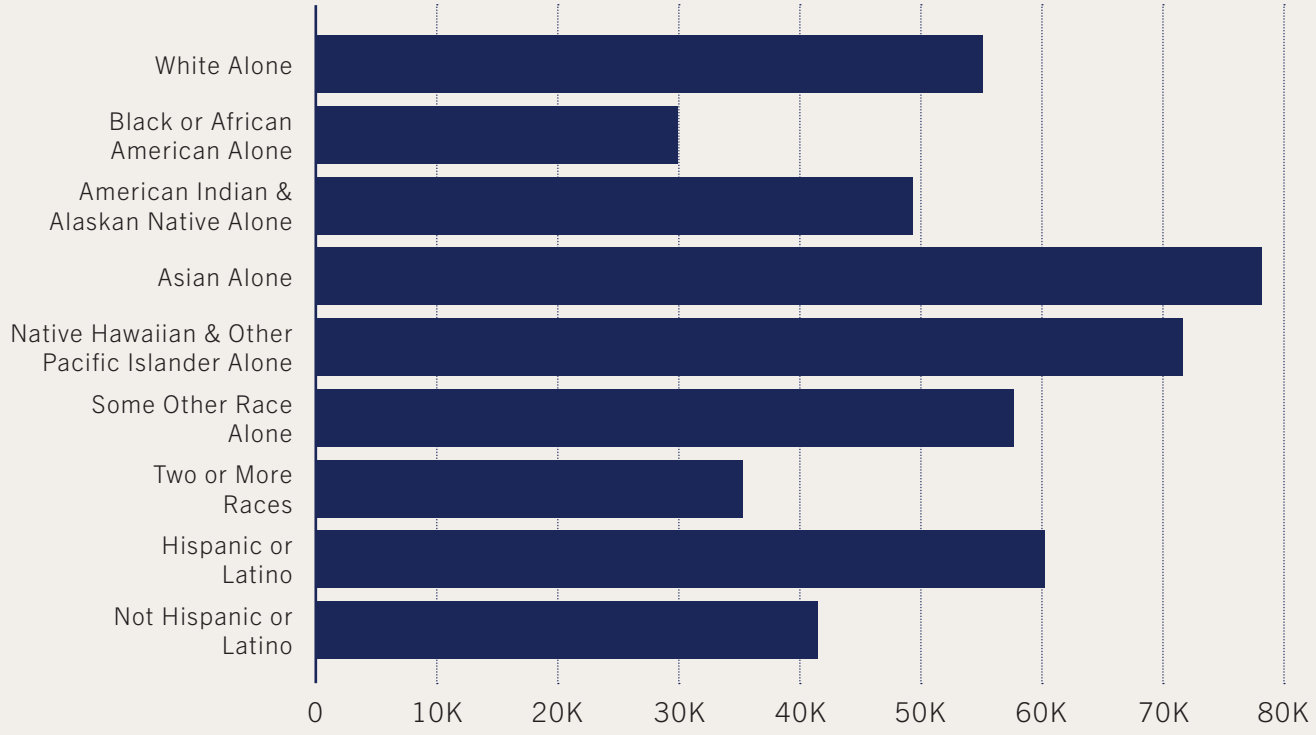
Data from "The Social and Economic Wellbeing For The Residents of The City of Spartanburg" report should serve as a baseline for data and is a guiding document for equity issues as they relate to Economic Development. This report provides an excellent baseline for tracking social, economic, housing, and health metrics in traditionally under-represented communities.

E1: Income

Income and income inequality is one of the most revealing indicators of inequity in the City. The City suffers from an income disparity issue. People of color, particularly Black/African American Households, earn significantly less than households that are White Alone. Income inequality is not just a racial issue, it is a gender issue as well. Women earn approximately 83% of their male counterparts. As indicated in the Racial Equity Index, income inequality prevents those who earn less from realizing their full potential and limits their quality of life.

The City of Spartanburg's median house-hold income by single-classification race or ethnicity in 2020 indicates the national and state trend of income inequality.

2020 Median House-Hold Income by Single-Classification Race or Ethinicity



Source: Claritas 2020 estimates

E2: Education

Educational attainment levels in the City are directly and causally related to all the other Equity Indicators discussed in this section, especially income and employment. The Racial Equity Index discusses the adverse effects that segregation and discrimination have had on the educational attainment levels of the Black community. Improving both educational readiness and educational attainment in the City can help foster an economic and socially mobile community. Education data should be tracked with the help of Spartanburg Academic Movement (SAM).

SPARTANBURG ACADEMIC MOVEMENT

E3: Poverty

The most general definition of poverty is the state of lacking the financial and material possessions necessary to fulfill basic needs. We know that the City of Spartanburg has a relatively high rate of income poverty compared to the state and the country. The Spartanburg County Racial Equity Index discusses "asset poverty" which it defines as "the economic and social condition that is more persistent and prevalent than income poverty." Asset poverty is "the inability to access and build wealth resources such as homeownership, savings, investments, and business assets."

In the City of Spartanburg, the percentage of individuals below the Federal Poverty Level is highest among Black residents (38.7%), compared to Hispanic residents (27.1%) and white residents (11.9%).

Individuals Below Federal Poverty Level, City of Spartanburg, 2016 (5-year average)

	Total Number	Number Below FPL	Percent Below FPL
Total*	35,293	9,377	26.6%
White, Non-Hispanic	15,119	1,804	11.9%
Black, Single Race	17,735	6,868	38.7%
Hispanic, Any Race	1,345	365	27.1%
Two or More Races	515	312	60.6%

*For whom poverty status is determined
Source: US Census

E4: Employment

There are several ways to measure employment data in the City, including labor force participation, labor force unemployment rate, employment rate, job density and job skills match. The City can also consider commuter patterns, where people live in relation to where they work, and job skills match.

E5: Minority Business Ownership

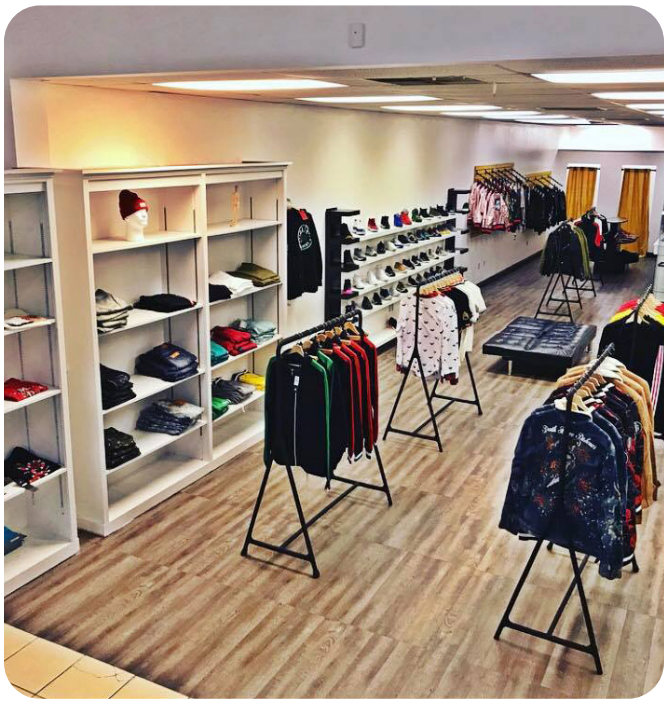
Nationwide, minority-owned businesses are growing significantly faster than nonminority owned businesses (Racial Equity Index). This is an encouraging trend since minority-owned businesses tend to hire minority employees. In 2012, 16.6% of businesses in Spartanburg County were minority owned. The City should track the location of minority-owned businesses within the City, and the demographics of those employed at those businesses, as well as investigate the true availability of spatial opportunity to minority owned businesses.

James & James Collection

Facez Brows & Lashes

Smallcakes

Blues Blvd.



Ritzy Stylez

Pretty Nailz Rock at Stephen's Salon

Minority Business Development Downtown Spartanburg NOW

2020 Downtown Business

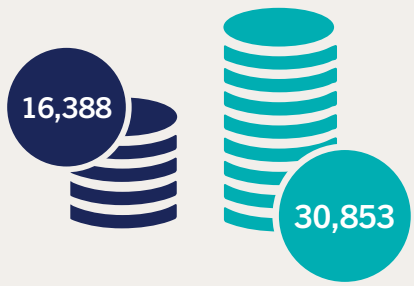
- Smallcakes Cupcake & Creamery
- At Stephen's Salon
- Facez Brow and Lashes
- James & James
- Blues Blvd.
- Pretty Nailz Rock at Stephen's Salon
- Ritzy Stylez

Employment

Labor Force and Jobs

Spartanburg plays an outsized role as an employment center compared to the labor force in the City. The 2018 labor force residing in the City of Spartanburg is 16,388 compared with 30,853 jobs within the City.

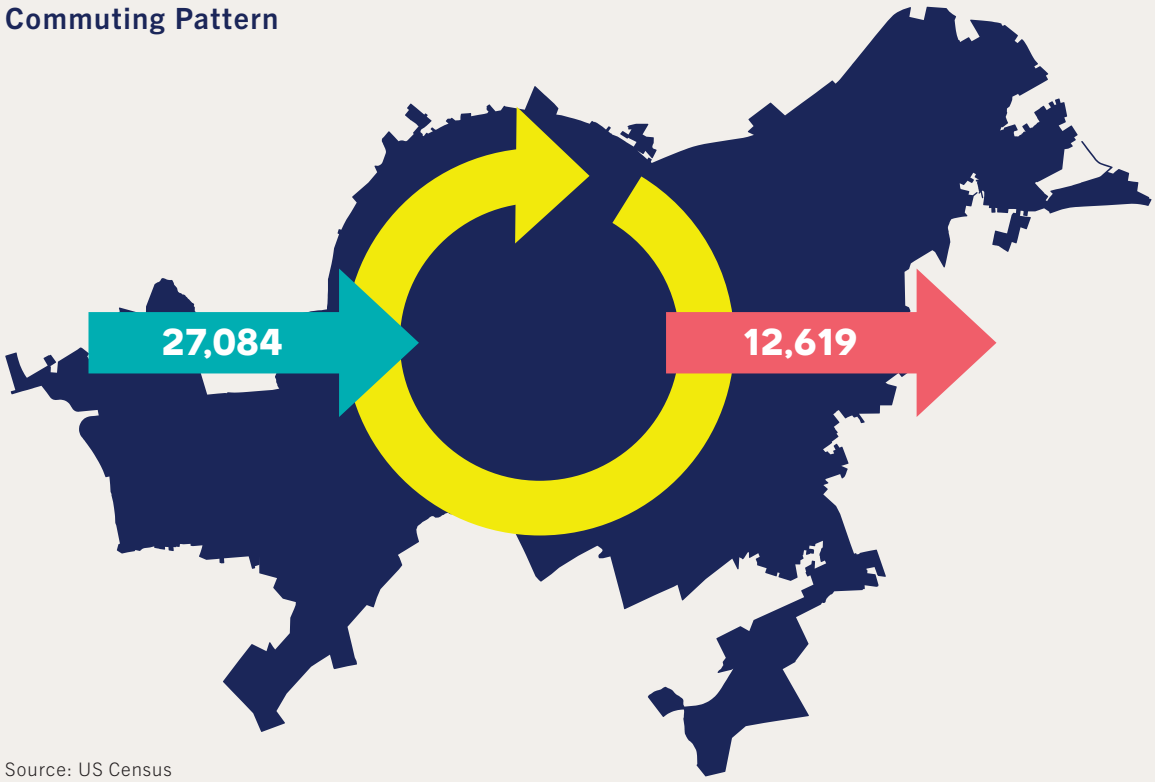
2018 Labor Force



Each day 27,084 people commute into the City of Spartanburg to work while 12,619 residents of the City commute outside of the City to work. These migration patterns have been relatively stable through the years, and are a function of several factors:

- The limited ability of South Carolina cities to annex land resulting in a small city geography compared with the urbanized area of Spartanburg County.
- The relative ease of commuting both into and out of the City.
- The difference in job types within the City vis-à-vis those available in the County and other regional locations.

Commuting Pattern



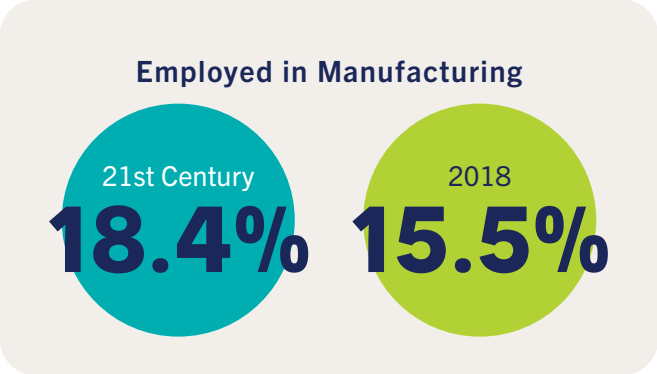
Source: US Census

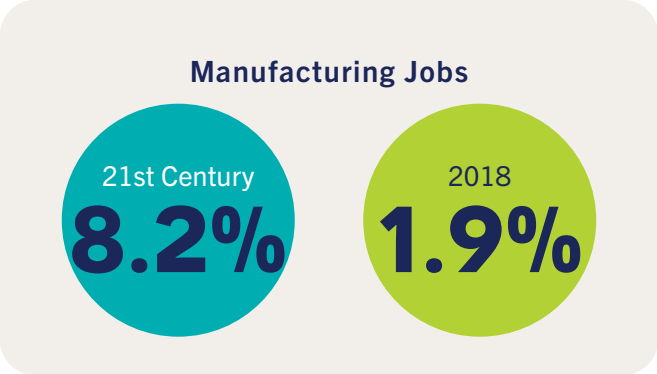
Great Harvest Bread Co.

Labor Force and Job Characteristics

The labor force in the City of Spartanburg has mirrored the population changes in many respects. In 2002 the labor force stood at 17,920 and dropped to a low of just over 14,000 in 2010. Since 2010, the labor force has continued to increase both as the economy improved after the Great Recession and as the City began to stabilize its long trend of population loss.

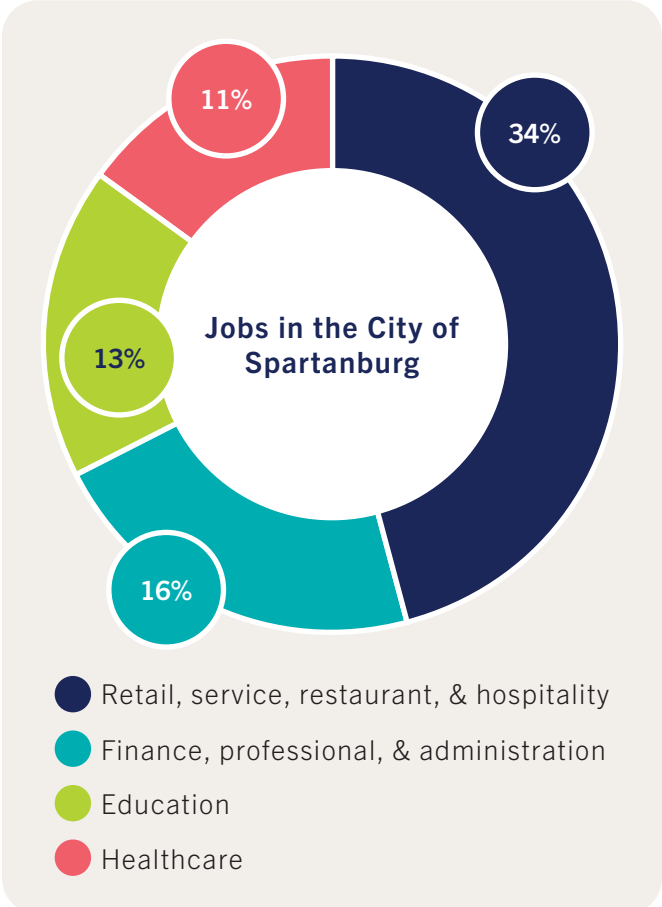
While those employed in manufacturing has decreased slightly from 18.4% at the turn of the 21st century to 15.5% in 2018, the percentage of manufacturing jobs within the City of Spartanburg has decreased from 8.2% to 1.9% during the same time period as industry has migrated to the County.





Conversely, jobs in education, professional services, and finance have increased within the City bringing higher wage earners into the City each day. Service jobs have also increased in retail, restaurant, and accommodations.

Of the jobs in the City of Spartanburg, the following represent the top employment categories:



A key takeaway is that the shift in available jobs within the City does not yet match the available labor force, which has increasingly had to commute outside the City for work. This poses an issue for City residents without reliable transportation, and those who rely on the existing SPARTA transit system which does not currently contain routes to

employment nodes in the County. There is a dual opportunity to increase housing diversity within the City to attract residents to live and work in the City, while at the same time providing training for existing residents to be hired in growing jobs sectors in the City.

Recommendations (Labor Force and Job Characteristics)

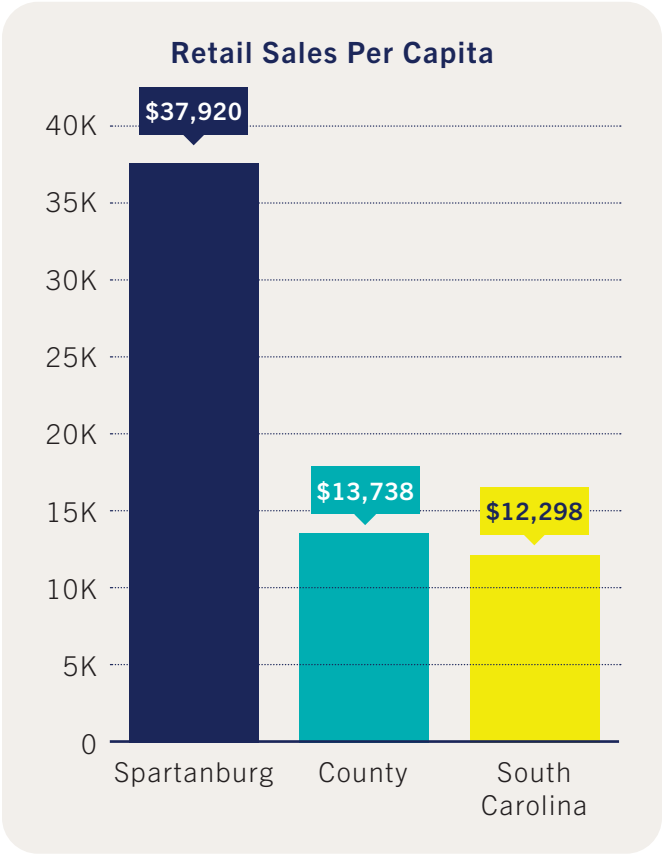
01	Increase housing diversity. Refer to the Housing Element of the Comprehensive Plan for more specific recommendations.
02	Increase job training opportunities for existing residents. This recommendation dovetails with the overall recommendations of the 2016 One Spartanburg Economic Development Strategy that points out talent development from “cradle to careers” within the overall community.
03	Increase access to transit that connects individuals or families to jobs that pay a livable wage.
04	Increase Educational Attainment at all levels to increase workforce readiness and promote equity.

Assembly at BMW plant in Spartanburg County

Retail/Restaurant Trade

The City of Spartanburg is a retail powerhouse with retail and restaurant industries accounting for $1.4 billion in sales in 2020.

Retail sales per capita in Spartanburg stand at $37,920 compared with $13,738 for Spartanburg County and $12,298 in South Carolina. As a regional retail center, the City of Spartanburg enjoys a supply that exceeds local demand by $786 million.



Retail hubs in Spartanburg include the following:

Aerial of Mall

Westgate Mall, a super-regional enclosed mall. The mall is the center of a retail zone that anchors the west side of the city and extends along W.O. Ezell Boulevard, Blackstock Road, and John B. White Sr. Boulevard. Regional malls

such as Westgate are experiencing a decline as major anchor stores are closing nationally. In Spartanburg, Sears closed in 2018 leaving a large vacant anchor store. Over time, the relevance of enclosed shopping malls will continue to present a challenge to communities.

Aerial of Hillcrest Marketplace

Hillcrest Marketplace is a big box center that anchors the east side of the city along with other major retail centers along East Main Street.

Aerial of North Pine Street

North Pine Street is a retail corridor with major shopping at the intersection of McCravy Drive.

Most of the shopping districts in Spartanburg cluster on major vehicular routes that, while served by buses, cater to car owners. Few of these centers have easy pedestrian and bicycle access. Spartanburg has a number of aging and abandoned retail spaces throughout the City and particularly in and adjacent to economically disadvantaged communities.

Aerial of Downtown Spartanburg

Downtown Spartanburg is the former retail center of the County and is re-emerging as a retail center for independently owned restaurants and shops. (Downtown as a whole is discussed in the following section).

Harvest Park

Harvest Park represents a community-based effort to combine a farmers' market, restaurant, and food services that both employ and serve the adjacent neighborhood. This is an approach that could work in other parts of the community, since Spartanburg's small neighborhood-based retail stores tend to be convenience stores with higher

prices, limited selections, and few healthy options for food. Harvest Park is a prime example of such a food hub that has equity as a core mission in a location that is a food desert. This example is prime for reinterpretation and reinvention in other parts of the city.

Recommendations (Retail/Restaurant Trade)

Consider branches of food hubs like Harvest Park in other neighborhoods, and partnering with local farmers to bring affordable, fresh food options to these areas. An example of such a center is illustrated along South Church Street at its intersection with Crescent Avenue and Bomar Street (refer to the Focus Area Plans for more information). This would provide healthy food options to the many residents who live in the neighborhood while accenting long standing community institutions.

01 Explore the long-term future of the Westgate mall site. Spartanburg should work with private sector partners to explore a long-term strategy to create a mixed-use development that will re-imagine Westgate Mall. This addresses several issues including providing residential uses close to major retail, capitalizing on a site of regional importance for retail, jobs, hotels, entertainment, and dining. A local group has started working on a West Gate revitalization strategy recently. Partnerships should be explored where initiatives have begun.

02 Repurpose abandoned retail to meet community needs. The City, in conjunction with OneSpartanburg, should partner to create a portfolio of these spaces, provide incentives for development, create local input mechanisms, and consider public/private financing models to repurpose these spaces to serve the communities in which they are located.

03 Create a bolstered culinary training program for under-represented residents. This could be modeled after the Climb CDC in Gulfport, MS (see callout box).

CASE STUDY
CLIMB CDC IN GULFPORT, MS

A Culinary & Hospitality program whereby participants are given the opportunity to earn nationally recognized certifications in the Culinary and Hospitality career field. Certifications include ServSafe, Manage First, Customer Service Excellence Training (CSET), Starbucks Barista Certification, and Skills, Task and Results Training (START), from the American Hotel & Lodging Institute.

The Gulfport Program allows local residents unique access to the following:

- **Interact** with local Chefs and Industry leaders.
- **Placement** in externships with local restaurants, casinos, coffee shops, and cafes.
- **Participate** in community service projects, at local food pantries, youth organizations and schools.
- **Showcase** skills through on-the-job training.
- **Gain** Employability skills in all aspects of the Hospitality Industry.

One of the most unique features of the program is Café Climb, a restaurant in the heart of downtown Gulfport run by community residents who are economically disadvantaged, have had minor criminal backgrounds, and young people who have not had access to training programs in more traditional models. Catalyst Kitchens is a national organization that helps communities explore these options: https://www.catalystkitchens.org

Graduation

Restore Council at De Soto with Gulf Corps

Cafe Climb

Photo Source: ClimbCDC; Catalyst Kitchens

Downtown Spartanburg

Downtown Spartanburg continues to succeed as a remarkable example of redevelopment. Investment over the last twenty years in new office, retail, hotel, residential, and dining has reversed a decades long trend of decline in the district. Moreover, the City of Spartanburg has worked deliberately with partners to ensure that institutional and cultural uses have remained downtown including the Library, the Chapman Cultural Center, and The George Dean Johnson Jr. School of Business, the Spartanburg Community College Downtown Campus, Barnet Park, and others.

A 2018 study of the market in downtown Spartanburg gave a snapshot of market conditions in the district. During a one-week period downtown businesses saw 149 unique American zip codes from 24 states pass through downtown. The study also indicated the power of local university students who represented 7% of the customer base and reinforced that downtown truly does serve as a center for specialty shopping for the entire county.

Most recently, and indicative of the strong partnership between the City of Spartanburg, Spartanburg County, and One Spartanburg, voters approved a bond issue to create a new city/county facility to replace aging facilities for both entities. This affirmation from local citizens affirms the belief that downtown Spartanburg remains the hub of not just the City but the entire county.

Importantly, downtown Spartanburg remains physically accessible to adjacent neighborhoods through existing and proposed trail networks.

Some of the key observations are that downtown Spartanburg is a dynamic hub of activity in the City, but there are opportunities to increase its draw for college students and younger residents. Public and private investments represent sustained efforts to continue to maintain downtown Spartanburg's important regional role. Downtown presents opportunities for independent businesses to thrive and there are ongoing opportunities to focus on investments from under-represented communities in the City.

Downtown Spartanburg

Recommendations (Downtown Spartanburg)

01	Consider a micro retail space for start-up retail and dining. The Grain District presents an opportunity for expanding independent retail and restaurant uses, artist galleries, and services that connect historic neighborhoods and foster entrepreneurship for diverse and often under-represented residents of the community.
02	Continue to invest in connections to neighborhoods. Downtown should continue to be the center of social interaction for Spartanburg residents. Trails and connections to downtown will reinforce adjacent neighborhoods and connect residents to the many independent businesses, job opportunities, and cultural amenities in downtown.
03	Ensure Downtown Spartanburg is welcoming and inclusive for all residents. This could include a range of tools from historic interpretation of the history of Spartanburg from different perspectives, creating amenities and programs that facilitate bringing communities together, and a focus on businesses that are owned by traditionally under-represented populations. Survey BIPOC residents to determine what would make downtown feel more welcoming. Include other languages in wayfinding signs and information kiosks.
04	Support initiatives that encourage teens, young adults and college students to spend more time in Downtown Spartanburg.
05	Communicate with property owners and leasing agents to understand desired tenants/ business types, price per square foot costs, and encourage collaboration between them and minority business owners in an effort to combat discriminatory leasing practices.
06	Create and implement stabilization programs for long term/ minority owned businesses to minimize displacement if taxes rise.
07	Consider a night market to celebrate local businesses, highlight regional creative talent, and bring the community together.
08	Encourage Multi-ethnic/racial celebration to be included in the downtown areas where feasible. City messaging should celebrate and encourage diverse cultures, with publicly funded events featuring a variety of vendors, artists, acts, and entertainment.
09	Design recommendations for downtown should go beyond what works generally, and seek to understand how public spaces function well within different cultures and attempt to integrate these findings into the public realm and physical design.
10	Ensure cultural awareness and a spirit of inclusiveness are values reflected in the policing of downtown.
11	Explore opportunities for developing artist live/work space that includes affordable units and shared amenities such as performing space and studio equipment. See the Albany Barn example.

CASE STUDY
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Montgomery, Alabama has come long way in creating interpretive art and markers that reflect the complex history of race in the City. Among them are a statue of Rosa Parks looking at the fountain that once served as a slave market, a marker identifying the beginning of MLK's march, and an identical marker across the street that reflects on the confederacy. While these are art interpretations, they are significant in enhancing a welcoming environment for ALL to spend time and money in downtown.

Statue of Rosa Parks

Photo Source: AL.com

CASE STUDY
VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

The night market concept is taken from Vancouver, Washington where the community recognized that many residents commuted out of the City for jobs and returned in the evenings. Launched by a visionary entrepreneur the market has grown to be a monthly gathering that now features over 80 local vendors -- more than tripling the numbers of the initial pop-up shop that it began as. The market blends maker's products, local entertainment, local artist vendors, and a vibrant family-friendly and welcoming environment for local citizens. Spartanburg could consider launching such a program in downtown and eventually expanding it to a permanent space.

Vancouver Night Market

Photo Source: Nightmarketvancouver.com

CASE STUDY
ALBANY, NEW YORK

Albany Barn (www.albanybarn.com) is a partnership between the City of Albany, New York and the Albany Housing Authority to develop 22 low-cost live/work residences alongside a multi-tenant creative arts incubator.

Albany Barn

Photo Source: Albanybarn.org

CASE STUDY
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Another example is AS220 (www.as220.org), a community arts organization in Providence, Rhode Island that provides gallery and arts facilities along with 47 affordable live/work studios for artists.

Mural

Photo Source: AS220.org

Minority Business Development

The City of Spartanburg and OneSpartanburg have forged a unique partnership not only for economic development as a whole but also to develop economic opportunity for minority businesses. The City of Spartanburg has a designated office for Equity and Inclusion and OneSpartanburg has designated staff for the same. Many of these recommendations expand on and accent the visionary efforts of the community to prioritize equity and inclusion.

Currently OneSpartanburg, Inc. has three programs that are critical in providing support for minority businesses:

The **Inclusion Council**, whose mission is to help diverse and underrepresented business populations grow and develop, and encourage their participation in all OneSpartanburg, Inc. activities.

The **Pipeline Project** is a partnership with the Duke Energy Foundation to promote broader and more diverse membership on area boards in order to create new champions for Spartanburg County that reflect its diversity. The project identifies rising stars, channels them through Spartanburg's leadership development programs, and presents a searchable database of trained community leaders.

The **Economic Empowerment Fund** is an emerging program through OneSpartanburg, Inc. to provide access to resources, relationships and ideas that help you succeed. The Economic Empowerment Fund ensures more businesses are able to take advantage of these opportunities by helping to defray the cost of membership in One Spartanburg. This fund is supported by members' 110 percent contributions.

Spartanburg's Amplify is a City program designed to identify, prepare, empower and sustain African American entrepreneurs who wish to start a business in Spartanburg, or for others looking to start businesses in predominantly African American areas of the City. It is a ten-week program that offers training, classes, and real world for support for entrepreneurs.

One of the most significant features of the Amplify program is the loan program whereby the City of Spartanburg partners with the Carolina Foothills Federal Credit Union on a secondary position in a loan pool of $250,000 dedicated to minority owned businesses. There is an opportunity for this program to continue to grow.

Another program that saw success in Spartanburg was the Main Street Challenge in 2013 and 2014. The Challenge brought entrepreneurial businesses to downtown. Participants in Plan Spartanburg expressed an interest in a similar program.

Sweets on the Run

Recommendations (Minority Business Development)

01	Continue to support minority economic development programs like Amplify and StartMe and where possible expand the minority economic development loan and grant programs for business development.
02	Launch a grant program for minority businesses in Spartanburg. The City should partner with OneSpartanburg to launch a "Corridor Challenge" program that would provide incentives to both entrepreneurs and owners of aging/vacant shopping centers along the City's corridors to spur redevelopment and new businesses in underutilized centers.
03	Institute policies for City-funded projects or businesses that receive fee and tax breaks to perform local and targeted hiring. This could include hiring from areas of high poverty, minority populations, un/underemployed populations. This could also include partnerships with construction firms and utility companies to offer pathways to employment via the trades with priority given to residents of economically depressed areas, youth leaving foster care, and single mothers.
04	Continue supporting efforts of OneSpartanburg inc. to increase diversity and inclusion in the Spartanburg business community.
05	Establish a program that gives preference to local owned businesses for city contracts/subcontractors and develop a system for tracking and follow-up.
06	Remove barriers to employment for those who were formerly incarcerated.
07	Continue to monitor compliance with the City's living wage policy for city employees
08	Find ways to encourage city contractors and business partners to adopt living wage policies
09	Develop a summer youth employment program to provide high school students with internships with local industry.
10	Develop an undergraduate internship program to connect students at local colleges with opportunities in public administration, and work with other employers within the City to create an "equitable internship pipeline" to help match minority and disadvantaged students with livable-wage paying internships.
11	Explore opportunities for developing artist live/work space that includes affordable units and shared amenities such as performing space and studio equipment. See the Albany Barn example.

In 2015, the City of San Francisco, California created a new program aimed to provide assistance to businesses that have been "long standing pillars of [the] community." The Legacy Business Program is the first-of-its-kind and is based on the understanding that small business preservation is key to maintaining the cultural and economic identity of a community. The Legacy Business Registry certifies community-serving businesses that have operated for 30 years or more and that have contributed to the history and identity of the city. They include retailers, restaurants, artists, manufacturers, and services.

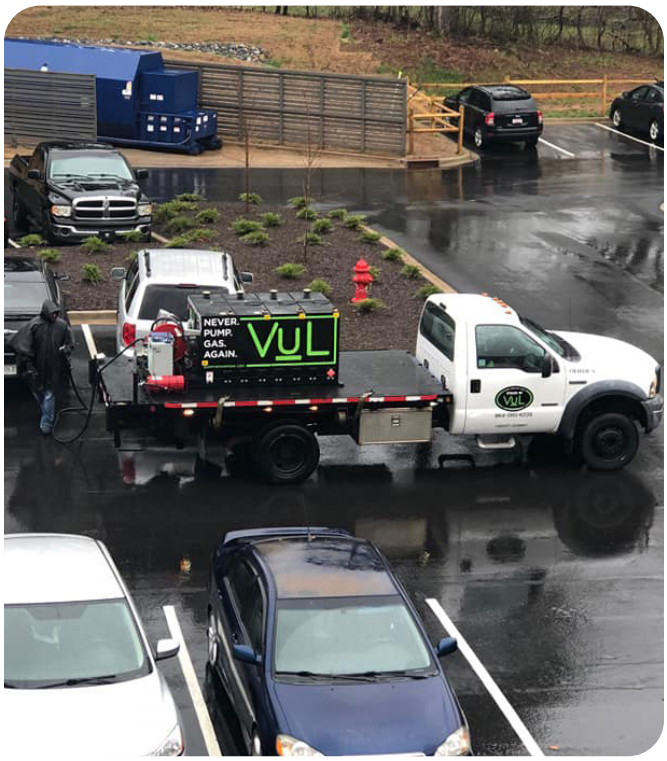
Registered Legacy Businesses benefit from educational and promotional assistance to help keep them viable and successful in the future. Businesses have opportunities to apply for grants or receive other benefits from the City. Registration requires a nomination, an application, and a recommendation from the Historic Preservation Commission. Final approval is made by the city's Small Business Commission.

This type of program could be very successful in Spartanburg and help provide support to its small, locally-owned businesses. It would also help draw attention to Black-owned and other minority-owned businesses that Spartanburg residents may not be aware of.

The City should also explore ways to recognize some of the businesses that were displaced or, in many cases, permanently closed during Urban Renewal efforts. There may be ways to revive businesses that are no longer in operation, through grants and other programs.

Amplify Cohort

Small Cakes, one of over 75 black-owned businesses in Spartanburg,SC. Source - Spartanburg Herald-Journal



VuL Inc.

Beyond This February

HOUSING ELEMENT

Introduction

Spartanburg's recent growth, and changes in preference when it comes to where and how people live, has resulted in the need for a variety of housing types beyond the traditional single-family detached. In order to remain an economically viable, desirable, and sustainable place to live, the City will need to ensure housing options for people of all ages, abilities, and income levels. This Element addresses the need for housing, the City's current housing stock, strategies to provide affordable housing, and recommendations to address the rising issue of homelessness in the community.

Related Studies

Three important studies serve as the precursor to the Housing element in this Comprehensive Plan. Spartanburg County receives funding through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership Programs. In order to receive these funds, the County must submit several planning reports to HUD. One of these requirements is a Five-Year Consolidated Plan. The Consolidated Plan is designed to help communities assess their affordable housing and community development needs and to make future investment decisions based on data.

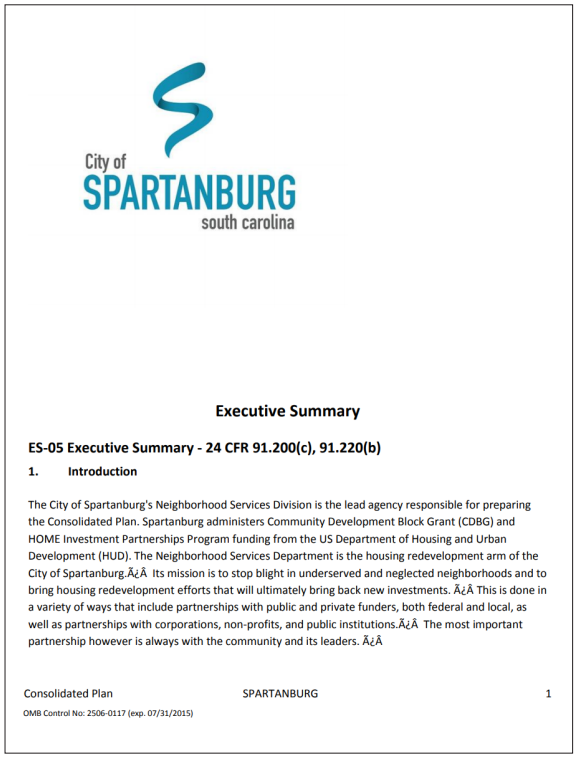
The City of Spartanburg's 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan includes a needs assessment which identified three priorities: affordable housing opportunities, non-housing community development, and community revitalization. In order to meet the County's needs related to affordable housing, the County set forth four goals, which are described in the "Affordable Housing Strategy" section that follows on page 76.

The Consolidated Plan was informed by a Housing Market Study prepared for the City of Spartanburg by Civitas, LLC in 2019. This study, which serves as complement to the Consolidated Plan, includes an analysis of current demographics and five-year projections; information about economic conditions including unemployment, household income, cost burden and poverty; and information about current housing stock, vacancy, tenure and affordability. The study provides conclusions and recommendations that are intended to help the City create housing programs for the next five years. Key insights from the Housing Market Study are included in the sections that follow.

The third study is the *Joint Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice* completed by a partnership among the City of Spartanburg, Spartanburg County, and the Spartanburg Housing Authority. This report is also submitted to HUD and addresses the following:

- Disparities in housing need,
- Replacement of segregated living patterns with integrated and balanced living patterns,
- Transforming racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty into areas of opportunity, and
- Fostering and maintaining compliance with civil rights and fair housing laws.

An additional study, The Housing Action Plan, is underway. Launched in September 2020 this plan aims to "guide the development of funding, policies, and programs to foster economic growth, ensure sustainable neighborhoods, increase clean and safe affordable housing options, and build equity in the policies, procedures, and actions of all the partners involved" as described on the Mary Black Foundation's website who awarded the grant to support this study through the Opportunity Housing Collaborative (OHC). The OHC is a partnership that works to increase opportunities for and access to quality housing for lower-income households.


City of SPARTANBURG south carolina

Executive Summary

ES-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)

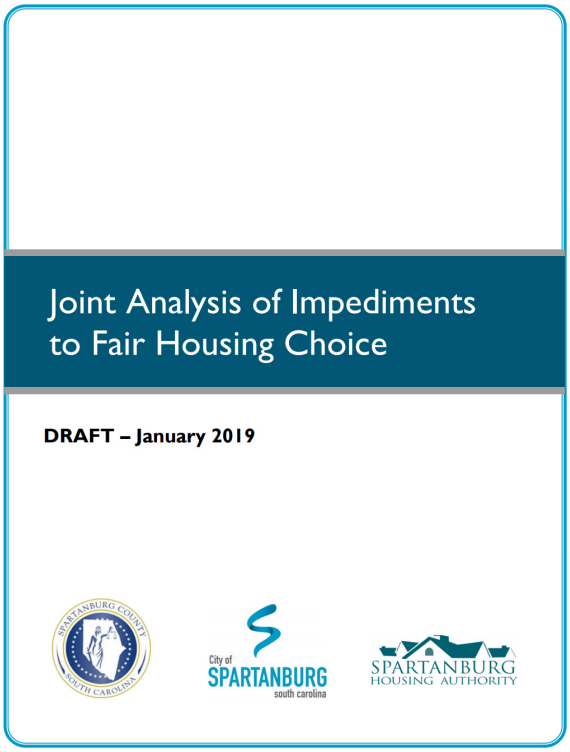
1. Introduction

The City of Spartanburg's Neighborhood Services Division is the lead agency responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan. Spartanburg administers Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Neighborhood Services Department is the housing redevelopment arm of the City of Spartanburg.Ã¿Â Its mission is to stop blight in underserved and neglected neighborhoods and to bring housing redevelopment efforts that will ultimately bring back new investments. Ã¿Â This is done in a variety of ways that include partnerships with public and private funders, both federal and local, as well as partnerships with corporations, non-profits, and public institutions.Ã¿Â The most important partnership however is always with the community and its leaders. Ã¿Â

Consolidated Plan SPARTANBURG 1

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 07/31/2015)

Spartanburg 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan


Joint Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice

DRAFT – January 2019

SPARTANBURG COUNTY SOUTH CAROLINA · City of SPARTANBURG south carolina · SPARTANBURG HOUSING AUTHORITY

Joint Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Draft

DRAFT

2019

City of SPARTANBURG south carolina

Housing Market Study

Prepared for the City of Spartanburg, SC
by
Civitas LLC

The City of Spartanburg
City Hall 145 W. Broad St.
Spartanburg, SC 29306

2019 Housing Market Study Draft

Housing Equity Indicators

The Equity Indicators as they relate to housing include homelessness; housing cost/housing burden; age and condition of housing; types of housing/housing choice; and proximity of housing to environmental hazards.

"The Social and Economic Wellbeing For The Residents of The City of Spartanburg" report includes data on housing and should serve as a baseline for equity-related housing data.

H1: Homelessness and Housing Instability

According to the Racial Equity Index, the City does not currently have race-based data on homelessness, but homelessness nationwide is a racial issue. Homelessness is directly tied to economic issues such as poverty and lack of educational attainment. The City should track homelessness and housing instability in Spartanburg with the Point in Time (PIT) Count and other economic factors that lead to homelessness and the risk of losing housing.

H2: Housing Cost/Cost Burden

Housing affordability is a major issue that disproportionately affects Black and Hispanic households. The City should use housing data to track households that are paying too much for housing (more than 30% of gross income, according to HUD). Studies show that Black households are more likely to be cost burdened (paying more than they can afford for housing). The Housing Affordability section that follows provides recommendations on how to increase Spartanburg's affordable housing stock throughout the City, not just in predominantly low-income neighborhoods.

H3: Age and Condition of Housing

Maintaining data on the age and condition of housing can help shed light on issues of housing affordability, community health, mobility, landlord redress, and cost burden. Much of Spartanburg's low-income housing is older and in need of some level of repair. Necessary repairs can contribute to cost burden. This section provides recommendations to assist low-income households with home repairs.

H4: Type of Housing/Housing Choice

In addition to the age and condition of Spartanburg's housing stock, the type of housing available had an impact on affordability and equity. Providing a broad variety of housing sizes, types, and price points helps ensure that people are matched with the housing that best suits them, and prevents households from being cost burdened due to lack of choice.

H5: Proximity of Housing to Environmental Hazards

Historically, low-income housing has been located closest to areas of environmental hazard, including landfills, industrial areas, brownfields, and other sources of pollution. Tracking the location of low-income housing in relation to environmental hazards reveals inequities that can be remedied through environmental cleanup efforts, and policies that prohibit locating new housing in hazardous areas.

409

A City of Neighborhoods

Neighborhoods are the backbone of society. In Spartanburg especially, residents greatly value their neighborhoods; some for the character and architectural history, and for others, the social aspects of gathering with neighbors and looking out for one another. The City's residents have different lifestyles and housing preferences, but most would agree that they would like to preserve their neighborhoods. This is especially important given Spartanburg's history of urban renewal and the destruction of some of the City's oldest Black neighborhoods. While it is impossible to recreate what has been lost, it is absolutely essential to protect what residents value now, and honor the legacy of portions of the community that were destroyed.

In addition to being places to live, neighborhoods should provide the essential components for complete living, including places to socialize, stores to purchase necessities, places to recreate and relax, and nearby schools and employment centers. Traditionally, neighborhoods are organized around an interconnected network of streets, which allow easy movement for both vehicles and pedestrians. Spartanburg's development patterns have resulted in a variety of different types of neighborhoods, each with varying levels of completeness.

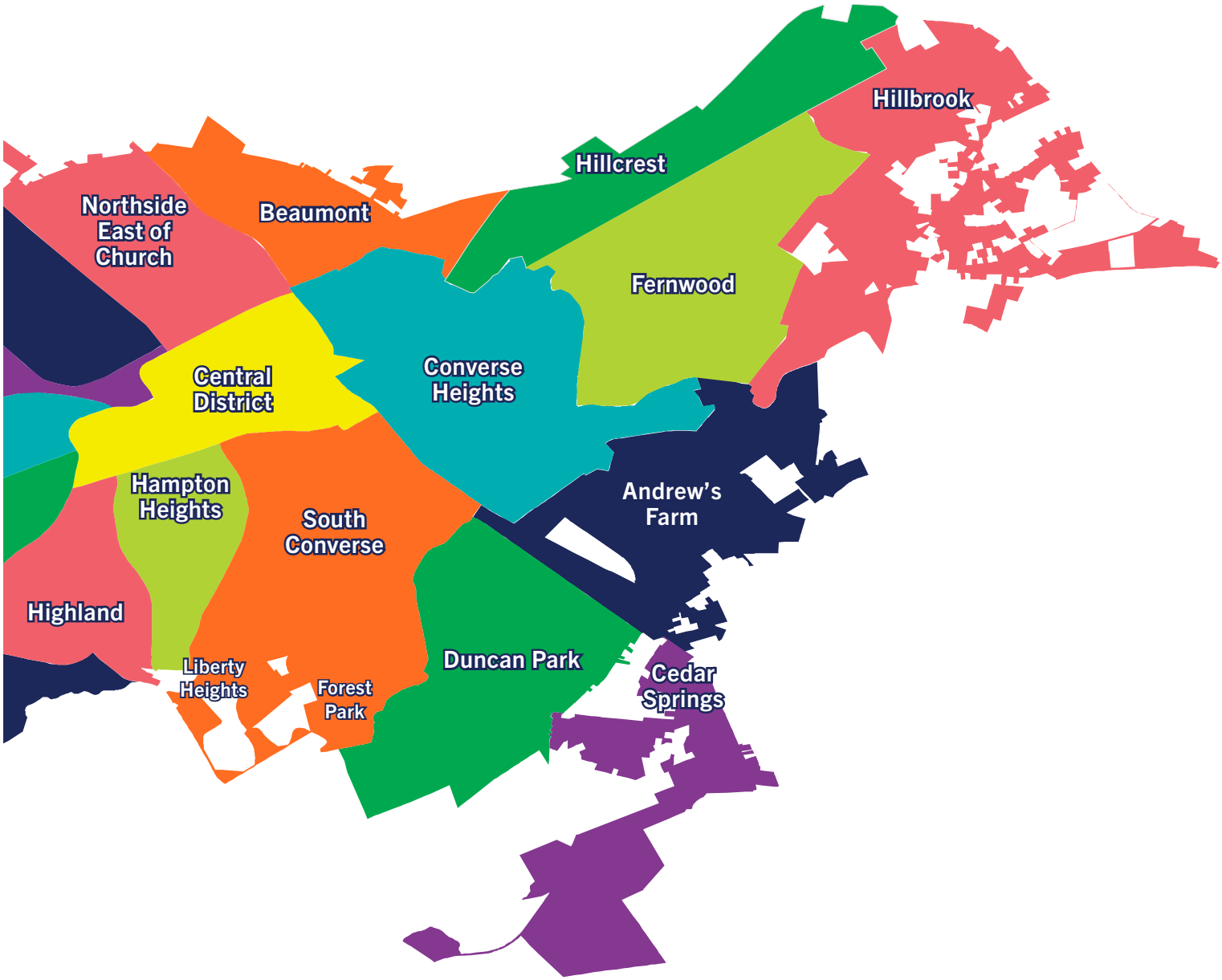
While each of Spartanburg's neighborhoods have a strong individual identity, opportunities lie in the spaces between them. Participants in Plan Spartanburg identified potential locations for nodes of activity between neighborhoods that could serve as connections between adjacent neighborhoods.

While this section covers housing specifically, additional recommendations for overall neighborhood design can be found in the Land Use & Community Character section of the Plan.

Spartanburg Neighborhood Map

South Converse Street Neighborhood

Hillcrest Neighborhood



Housing Market

The 2019 Housing Market Study observed a decrease in unemployment and an increase in Median Household Income throughout the City. The greatest income increases were seen among young and/or Black residents and was likely attributed to improved educational attainment and growth in the education, health care, and social assistance job sectors.

The Housing Market Study identified a significant connection between the neighborhood someone lives in and their economic indicators. In Spartanburg, the east side of the City is primarily White. In neighborhoods like Converse Heights and Fernwood, unemployment is generally low, median household income is high, and poverty is rare. On the west side, however, the City is primarily Black, with Hispanic and Asian residents increasing. These areas have higher unemployment, lower median household income, and some areas with a poverty rate of more than 40%. The difference between life expectancy in these areas is stark -- in more affluent areas of the City, a child born today will live 17 years more than a child born in a less affluent neighborhood (Spartanburg Racial Equity Index, 2017).

According to the 2019 study, the City's population is expected to increase by an estimated 700 households by 2023. These numbers are consistent with assessments done during the Comprehensive Plan update where 170 units per year are projected through 2030. It assumes that the City will need to add at least 500 new housing units to accommodate this growth, and that there is a greater demand for single-family, townhome and apartment rental units than for single-family homeownership. It is essential that many of these units fall under the category of affordable housing.

The 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan corroborates this finding. It finds that the cost burden for both home ownership and renters has increased despite an increase in median household income. As the plan states: "Between 2000 and 2017, the median household income (MHI) increased 30% from $28,735 to $37,369, but that growth was not enough to reduce the rate of cost-burdened households. The percentage of homeowners who are cost-burdened increased from 22.3% to 37.8% in Spartanburg from 2000 to 2017. For renters the trends are similar. The number of cost burdened renters grew from 2,996 in 2000 to 3,814 in 2017, or from 37.5% of the total renter households to 48.2%."

The Joint Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice notes that five of the six racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty (RECAPs) are located within the City of Spartanburg. These areas are established by HUD through a methodology that combines demographic and economic indicators. HUD defines a RECAP as a census tract that has a family poverty rate of 40% or more (or a family poverty rate that is at least 3 times that of the tract average for the metropolitan area, whichever is lower) and a non-white population of 50% or more.

These RECAP tracts align with input received from community stakeholders, which indicated that large shares of Spartanburg's African American population lives on the west side of the City.

KEY OBSERVATIONS

- Neighborhood inequity has been a longstanding pattern in Spartanburg. This is not an issue unique to the City but one that is the product of decades of policies and programs at the national and local level in many communities.
- After years of population decline, the housing market is creating upward pressure on those with lesser means pushing them out of options not only in the City, but within their own neighborhoods.
- The City of Spartanburg is actively and aggressively pursuing solutions to this issue as evidenced by investment not only in affordable housing units but human capital that recognizes the dignity and power of neighborhood residents.
- Housing types in the City of Spartanburg are indeed shifting to include a greater variety of housing types including townhomes, apartments, and mixed-use developments instead of the traditional single-family development that has dominated the market for much of the history of the City.

Current Housing Stock

Housing in Spartanburg is largely single-family detached houses in conventional suburban residential patterns, with a few multi-family developments, and more on the way. Spartanburg's oldest neighborhoods, those closest to Downtown, date back to the mid to late 1800s. Newer neighborhoods were constructed in the 1970s and 1980s, as development moved away from Downtown.

National trends, as well as comments received during the planning process, indicate that residents are seeking housing types beyond the traditional single-family ownership model. There are opportunities to create a more diverse set of housing options to satisfy all potential residents, but the City must do so carefully, equitably, and strategically. During the planning process, some residents expressed concern about new multi-family development in the City, and these concerns often boil down to the size and scale of development. Identifying the appropriate form and type of new housing in Spartanburg is critical to protecting the existing neighborhood character that people value.

Estimated Housing Demand By 2030
(AMA based on permits, Census, and Claritas)

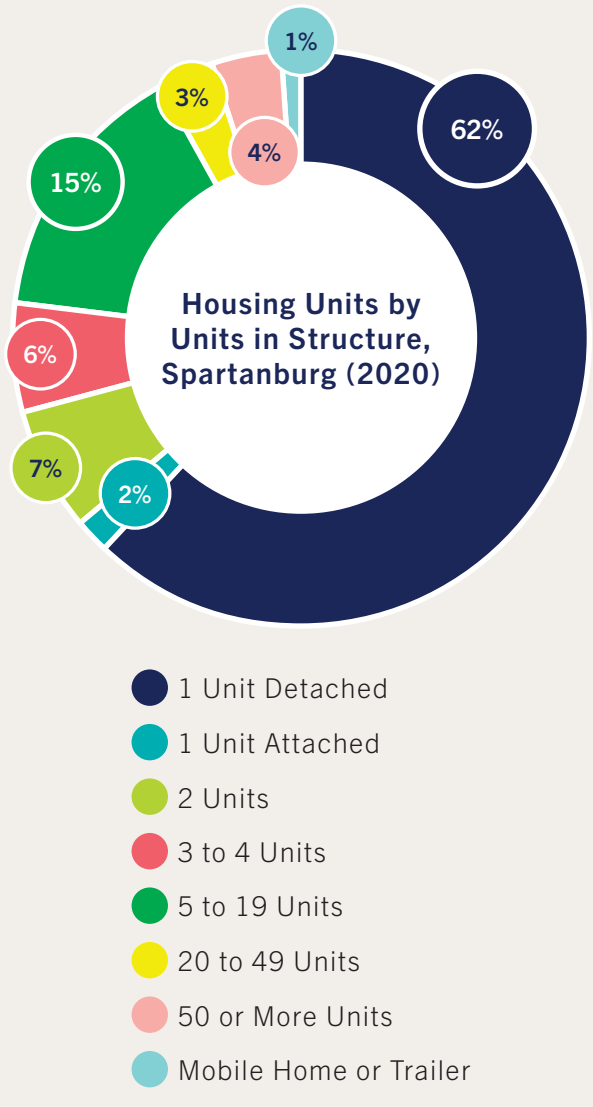
170 units per year for the next decade

1,700 total units

a	60% likely to be multi-family*
b	10% townhouse
c	30% single family**

*Currently permitted over 400 multifamily units, the share of multifamily had radically shifted.
**Based on trendline annual single-family construction

According to City officials, OneSpartanburg, and AMA, there are currently 2000 multi-family units in the pipeline serving all income levels and absorbing much of the projected demand ("in the pipeline" does not mean permitted). This is a major shift in housing type, and an opportunity to offer affordable alternatives and reduce traffic congestion. It should be noted that multi-family does not necessarily mean rental units.

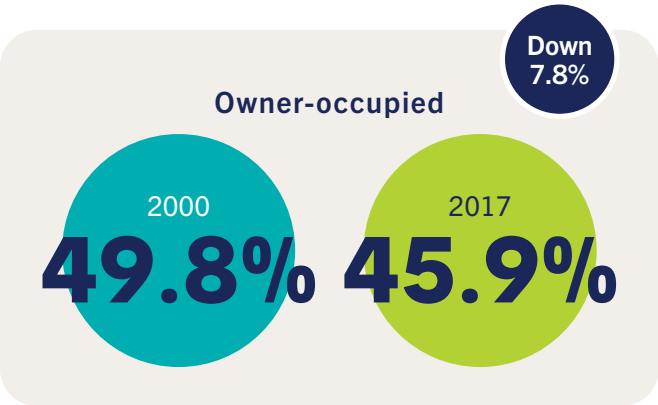


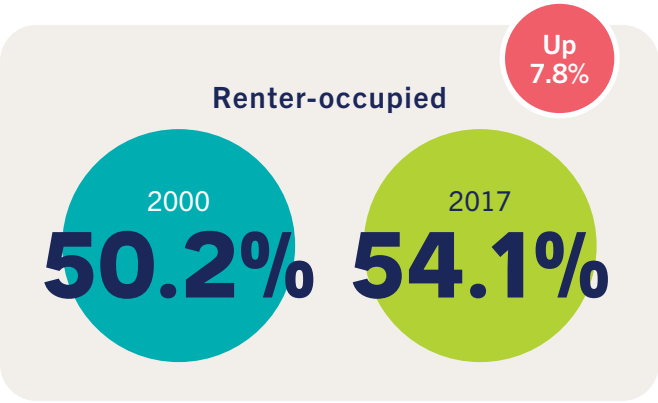
Changing Preferences

Renting vs. Ownership

Renting rather than purchasing a home is on the rise, with one in eight millennials reporting they do not plan to purchase a home in their lifetimes. Most attribute this to a lack of affordable home-buying opportunities rather than a preference for renting. At the same time, rental rates have been increasing and high-end apartment construction is booming in many cities.

Renter occupied housing tenure has been increasing while owner occupied tenure continues to decrease.





The City has a greater percentage rental unit share (note that 7.6% of the total population lives in group quarters/dorms which elevates rental units) compared to Spartanburg County as a whole (70.6% owner-occupied) and South Carolina (69.4% owner-occupied)

In the meantime, boomers are working longer, delaying home downsizing, and choosing to age in place in the homes they have owned since their early careers. Older folks who are moving strongly prefer more walkable neighborhoods where they can access goods and services without driving. In this way, their preferences mirror millennials' desire for cohesive, mixed-use neighborhoods. According to a study conducted by the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, renting provides some seniors with opportunities to test new locations before committing to a purchase. Some choose to remain as renters because they prefer the more budget-friendly, low-maintenance housing. This trend of shifting from owning to renting is expected to continue as aging baby boomers discover the benefits of renting.

Missing Middle Housing

Cities tend to focus on providing affordable housing to those with the greatest needs. Additionally, while it is true that developers focus on making the maximum return on their investment, zoning regulations and entitlement processes in many cities cause development costs and housing prices to increase. When this happens, a gap is created in the middle of the home price spectrum, leaving those who are not struggling with poverty, but who are also not wealthy, without the ability to find the housing they need. Those in the middle-income bracket will then often buy below their means and occupy affordable housing that is desperately needed by so many, causing an affordable housing shortage.

All new development in Spartanburg should be encouraged, or required, to include housing in a broad range of building types and price points, especially those in the "Missing Middle". To facilitate this, zoning ordinances should be updated to allow for a wide range of building types and the approval process should be simplified, and shortened as much as possible, to reduce development costs. This savings should be passed on to the buyers and renters.

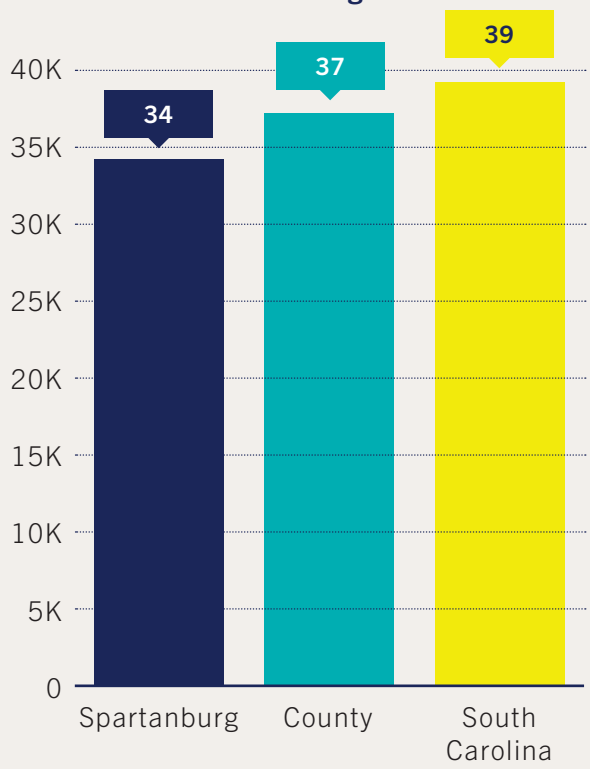
In Spartanburg, the median age is 34, as compared with 37 for the County and 39 for the state of South Carolina. This tells us that the most in-demand housing in the City is that which appeals to young people starting families. Young people are also more likely to rent rather than own, and to live closer to downtowns and walkable neighborhood centers. This is true across racial lines.

While the homebuying demographic trends younger, the City should not neglect options for those who wish to age in place. Providing housing of different sizes, types, and price points within the same neighborhood gives people the ability to stay in their chosen area even if their household circumstances of lifestyle choices change.

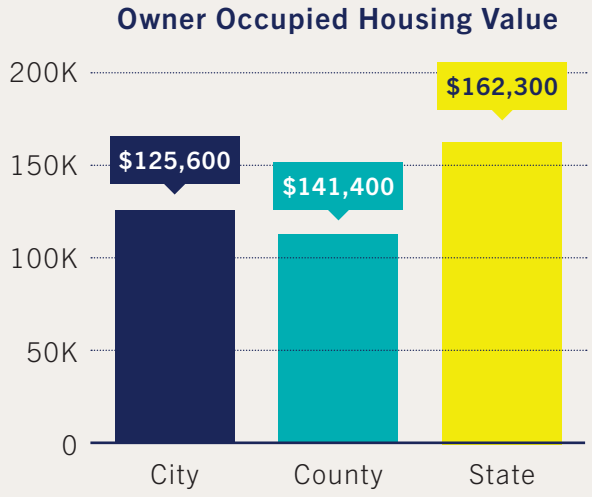
Recommendations

01 Update zoning to include a variety of housing types in most districts, including Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), multiplexes, cottage or bungalow courts, townhouses, and live/work units.

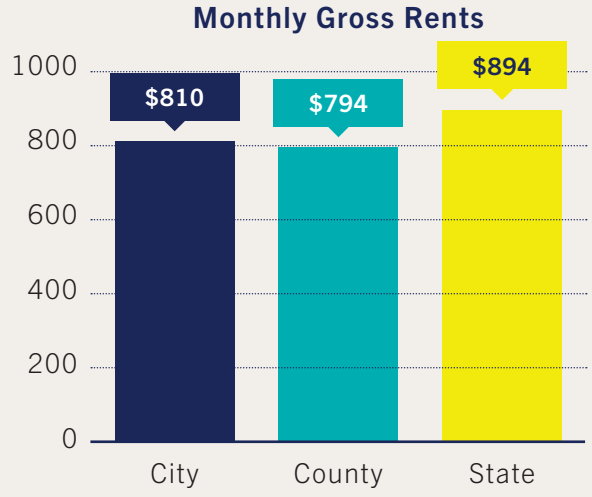
02 Ensure an adequate supply of both rental and for-sale housing to keep up with projected demand.



Housing Affordability



Housing values in the City lag the County & SC.



Gross rents are on par with the county and slightly less than SC.

Cost Burden

According to the 2019 Housing Market Study, a household is considered "cost burdened" when it pays 30% or more of its income to housing expenses. In Spartanburg, the house burden has been decreasing for all housing, including renters, and existing homeowners with and without a mortgage. This is good news for Spartanburg, but the City must remain proactive to keep the trend downward.

Cost Burdened Renters	
2010	51.6%
2017	50.10%
Percent Change	-2.9%

Source: 2006-2010 (DP04), 2013-2017 ACS (DP04)

Cost Burdened Homeowners w/ Mortgage	
2010	29.1%
2017	28.60%
Percent Change	-1.7%

Source: 2006-2010 ACS - 2013 - 2017 ACS (DP04)

Cost Burdened Homeowners w/o Mortgage	
2010	13.7%
2017	9.20%
Percent Change	-32.9%

Source: 2006-2010 (DP04), 2013-2017 ACS (DP04)

Cost Burden

Several organizations at the federal, state, regional, and local level work together to address affordable housing issues.

The **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development** (HUD) (www.hud.gov) is the federal agency responsible for national policy and programs that address America's housing needs. HUD administers programs related to homebuying, home improvement, homelessness, and housing discrimination.

The **Affordable Housing Coalition of South Carolina** (www.affordablehousingsc.org) is a "policy and advocacy group dedicated to the creation, preservation, and improvement of affordable/workforce housing for all South Carolinians.

The **South Carolina Housing Trust Fund** (SC HTF) is a program of the South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority (SC Housing) (schousing.com) that works with a network of Sponsors, including non-profit and government entities, to provide affordable housing to eligible households.

The Spartanburg County Community Development Department (SCCDD) (www.spartanburgcounty.org/176/Community-Development) is responsible for administering state and federal grant funds received for the County's housing and community needs.

The City of Spartanburg is capitalizing its own housing trust fund, which will provide a funding source for private developers and non-profits to build additional low-income units in the City. This initiative is in partnership with **CommunityWorks Carolina**, a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) that provides resources that support affordable housing and homeownership.

Spartanburg Housing (shasc.org) provides affordable housing options and assistance, including information about public housing, housing choice vouchers, low-income housing tax credits and first-time homeownership.

ReGenesis Community Development Corporation (CDC) is a certified South Carolina Community Development Corporation (CDC) in Spartanburg.

Affordable Housing Strategy

The City of Spartanburg 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan identifies four opportunities related to affordable housing, which coincide with the four basic requirements of a successful affordable housing strategy.

1. **Preservation of Existing Affordable Housing.**
   A successful affordable housing strategy first protects and enhances existing affordable housing stock through rehabilitation, renovation and revitalization. The National Housing Trust estimates that for every affordable housing until that is built, two more are lost to deterioration, abandonment, or conversion to more expensive housing. Protecting existing affordable housing helps avoid displacement and keep people in their neighborhoods, maintaining social ties and access to resources and services. The cost of housing repairs is often a barrier to low- and middle-income home buyers. Providing resources to restore older homes in Spartanburg's existing neighborhoods is an important step towards equity and preservation.

2. **Development of New Affordable Housing.**
   Since the existing affordable housing stock likely does not meet the affordable housing requirements of the City based on forecasted growth and need, new affordable housing will need to be built in Spartanburg, New housing should be located in all neighborhoods, including areas of existing low- and moderate income, but also in higher income areas. The City should avoid locating affordable housing in vulnerable or isolated areas, or areas not served by public transportation. New housing should include a variety of types and sizes, including both rental and for-sale.

3. **Increase Homeownership Opportunities.**
   In addition to adding new homes to existing housing stock, a successful affordable housing strategy also provides financial assistance and educational resources to low-income homebuyers.

4. **Provide for Rental Assistance**
   The Consolidated Plan found that renters are much more affected by affordability than homeowners. Rental assistance can come in the form of Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), a rental subsidy that can help individual households afford housing costs.

An additional component of a successful affordable housing strategy not discussed in the Consolidated Plan is the consideration of environmental sustainability. By reusing materials, utilizing green building techniques, and exploring opportunities for natural landscaping and stormwater solutions, affordable housing can lessen its impact on the environment. The "Natural Resources" section of this Comprehensive Plan provides more specific recommendations for environmental sustainability.

Neighborhood First

Affordability is not merely a factor of the rent or mortgage cost. “Affordable” housing that is located at the edges of a community without convenient access to jobs, goods and services can result in increased transportation costs. “Affordable” housing that is in poor condition can cost more to repair, or to heat or cool. These increases in other areas offset the cost of the “affordable” housing, making it no longer affordable.

Housing that is not in the context of a true neighborhood meets the housing needs but does not meet the full social or emotional needs of an individual. Housing units should be distributed throughout mixed-income, walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods. If the housing is more than a single building but cannot be a part of a larger mixed-income neighborhood, it should be designed as a pocket neighborhood. In a pocket neighborhood the units are laid out to relate to one another around a common gathering space, often with shared facilities.

The City will consider every effort to implement and support at the local and state level inclusionary zoning practices and laws that will foster affordable housing and advocate for developments that include a mix of incomes.

While crime rates have generally decreased in Spartanburg, to create safe, walkable neighborhoods, the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) should be followed. The four main principles of CPTED are natural surveillance, access control, territorial reinforcement, and space management. The idea of CPTED is that careful design of buildings and public spaces can reduce fear and incidence of crime, and thereby create safer environments for people to share.

2021 Neighborhood Associations and Citizen Advisory Council Members					
Neighborhood	**Meeting Date**	**Time**	**Location**	**Contact**	**Contact Info**
Beaumont Village	1st Thurs	6:30 PM	Beaumont UMC	Michael Floyd, President	mykecxv@gmail.com
Brookfield Neighborhood	Tuesday/ Annually	7:00 PM	St. Francis Angelican Church	Mary Ashby	mecashby@gmail.com
Cleveland Park/ Northside	2nd Thurs	6:00 PM	Cleveland Academy	Linda Askari, President	linda.nsvoyager@gmail.com
Converse Heights	2nd Mon (seven times per year- full board)	6:00 PM	Trinity UMC	Francie Little	flittle@cbcaine.com
Forest Hill	Sun/quarterly	TBA	TBA	Bridget Jones	mackeybibi@gmail.com
Forest Park	3rd Mon	6:30 PM	CC Woodson	Willa Reeder, President	copewc@charter.net
Hampton Heights	3rd Tues	6:30 PM	Varies	Sylvelie Franke	sylvelie.franke@gmail.com
Highland	3rd Thurs	6:00 PM	Bethlehem Center	Leroy Jeter, President	1st2rise@gmail.com
Kensington Drive	2nd Tues Quarterly	7:00 PM	rotate homes	Mary Hayman, President	hnmhayman@charter.net
Liberty Heights	2nd Thurs Quarterly	5:30 PM	CC Woodson	Evelyn Blakely	evelynblakley2017@gmail.com
Park Hills	3rd Thurs	6:30 PM	Second Presbyterian Church	Melvin Norwood, President	chipper49@bellsouth.net
Pineview Hills	1st Mon	6:30 PM	Neighborhood Center	Marshall Irby, President	irbyhvac214@aol.com
South Converse	1st Mon	5:30 PM	CC Woodson	Toni Sutton	toni.sutton@me.com
Woodland Heights	3rd Mon Quarterly	6:00 PM	St. James UMC	Sandra Bishop, President	bishop210@charter.net

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BEAUMONT MILLS
City of Spartanburg
Est. 1890
Welcome to
BEAUMONT
VILLAGE
A Community with a proud past,
looking forward to the future

Recommendations (Recommended Zoning Updates)

01	Consider amending City zoning to include bonuses for multi-family developments that include affordable housing on a case-by-case basis.*
02	Consider inclusionary zoning, which requires a certain percentage of new housing to be affordable on a case-by case basis*
03	Update zoning to include a variety of housing types that may be more affordable than conventional single-family detached homes, such as tiny houses, micro apartments, and/or accessory dwelling units (ADUs).
04	Update zoning to better accommodate affordable housing by reducing lot size requirements, reducing setbacks, and reducing and/or eliminating parking requirements.
05	Reduce single-family only zoning districts and replace them with mixed-housing zoning districts that allow additional housing types.
06	Ensure that low-income and affordable housing is interspersed with market-rate housing to create mixed income communities that include options for disabled persons, elderly persons, and those experiencing homelessness.
07	Ensure that any new housing development, including low-income and affordable housing, is served by public transportation.
08	Provide assistance to homeowners looking to make repairs or rehabilitate existing low-income housing, especially those that may be in violation of codes.
09	Allow tenants the opportunity to purchase rental units through a first right of refusal program.
10	Provide funding mechanisms and programs to provide pathways to homeownership for low- and middle-income residents.
11	Address dilapidated structures and building code violations through code enforcement.
12	Consider a “Displacement Free Zone” program similar to the one implemented in the City of Atlanta. Through such an initiative, the City would pay any property tax increases for qualifying homeowners in low-income, disadvantaged parts of the community to prevent current homeowners from being displaced due to rising property values as public and private investments are made in these designated neighborhoods.
13	Consider impact fees for developments as a long term solution to infrastructure improvements as developments occur in Spartanburg.

Recommendations (Recommended Zoning Updates)

14	Consider forming a Community Land Trust (CLT). CLTs are a unique process whereby community leaders, residents and the City have a stake in 99-year leased property to protect housing affordability, stabilize neighborhoods, and enhance housing options. CLTs are used widely across the United States. The Grounded Solutions Network (www.groundedsolutions.org) is the nation's clearinghouse for innovative community land trust programs.
15	Consider Enterprise Green Communities (www.enterprisecommunity.org) Criteria when constructing new affordable housing. This green building program is designed specifically for affordable housing construction.
16	Consider a land banking program. As a largely built-out city, Spartanburg's best opportunities to enhance its existing housing stock is on vacant lots and underutilized properties. Pursue properties with tax liens to be banked as potential sites for redevelopment or renovation. This could be pursued through either the Land Trust Model or the existing Housing Trust Fund.
17	Consider multi-family housing on aging commercial properties. Spartanburg will continue to undergo transformation as aging commercial corridors with strip style centers become vacant. Sites such as these on key corridors present opportunities for large mixed-use or multi-family infill development. [Note: will include reference to Focus Area Plans for specifics].
18	Identify underutilized funding sources to include local, state, and federal opportunities. Explore non-traditional funding sources such as the donation of buildings and land to utilize for affordable housing units.
19	To protect local interests and investments, new development should engage the public and integrate their feedback into private development plans.

** The City, County, and One Spartanburg have collaborated on an informal policy to achieve an affordability component within new multifamily developments in the city. This informal policy incorporates a percentage of income and rent restricted units within apartment developments receiving tax incentives. However, City and One Spartanburg staff indicate that publishing a "formalization" of this negotiated effort would compromise its most effective feature which is case-by-case flexibility to attain affordability goals within the City. In an effort to support these goals without compromising them, the recommendation retains the case-by-case nature but calls for these changes to be included in the zoning ordinance.*

Homelessness

According to the City of Spartanburg's 2019-2023 Consolidated plan there are 849 sheltered and 336 unsheltered homeless individuals in the City of Spartanburg on any given night. As is frequently the case, this number is thought to be underestimated because homeless counts are difficult to pinpoint.

Plan Spartanburg participants expressed the need for more resources for homeless individuals in Spartanburg, including, but not limited to, children, members of the LGBTQ+ community, veterans, and senior citizens; as well as victims of violence, drug and alcohol abuse, physical or mental illness, and/or those dealing with legal issues. In addition to housing, homeless individuals were most likely to need better access to food; healthcare; and legal assistance.

The City of Spartanburg coordinates with a number of local, regional, state and federal agencies to provide housing and services to homeless individuals and families in the City. These include:

- South Carolina Department of Social Services – Assists with enrolling individuals in services to prevent or address homelessness.
- Butterfly Foundation – Runs a housing program for chronically homeless or persons with disabilities.
- Benefit Bank – Provides screening and assistance in accessing resources to meet basic needs like medical assistance and food.
- Spartanburg Mental Health Center SOAR Program – Helps increase access to SSI/SSDI for adults experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness and have a mental illness, medical impairment, and/or substance use disorder.
- Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Program – Employees partner with the Spartanburg Mental Health Center to conduct street outreach and provide crisis services, medication services, counseling sessions, and other services.
- New Horizon Family Health Services Mobile Unit – Conducts outreach and provides medical, dental, behavioral health, and other services to residents where they are.
- ReGenesis CDC – Develops and implements programs focused on improving quality of life and creating economic opportunity in low-income communities.
- ReGenesis Health Care - A federally qualified community health center serving Spartanburg and Cherokee counties.
- St. Luke's Free Clinic – Provides health care to uninsured residents in Spartanburg county to meet their need for primary medical care, medications, and patient education.
- South Carolina Works – Provides employment assistance through work search and training programs.
- South Carolina Legal Services – Helps with the prevention of homelessness through legal assistance in the case of evictions or foreclosure.

- Homes for Life – Houses unaccompanied boys and provides them with skill training and services.

The Spartanburg Opportunity Center (SOC) (spopcenter.org) is an effort to provide a centralized location for the homeless community, providing food and essential hygienic needs such as food, clothing, showers and laundry. The SOC aims to be part of a "Multi Resource Opportunity Center" that will link homeless people to case management, services and resources.

Housing First is a homeless assistance approach that "prioritizes providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness, thus ending their homelessness and serving as a platform from which they can pursue personal goals and improve their quality of life" (https://endhomelessness.org/resource/housing-first/). This approach is seeing success in other communities in South Carolina, including Charleston and Greenville Counties. Some Housing First initiatives utilize HUD grants to transition shelter residents into permanent housing. The next step is coordinating with other organizations and services, including counseling, rehabilitation services and job training. The disadvantage to some Housing First programs is that many essential services are provided through homeless shelters, so removing an individual from the shelter can inadvertently sever critical support. These negative impacts can be mitigated but require careful coordination and communication between agencies.

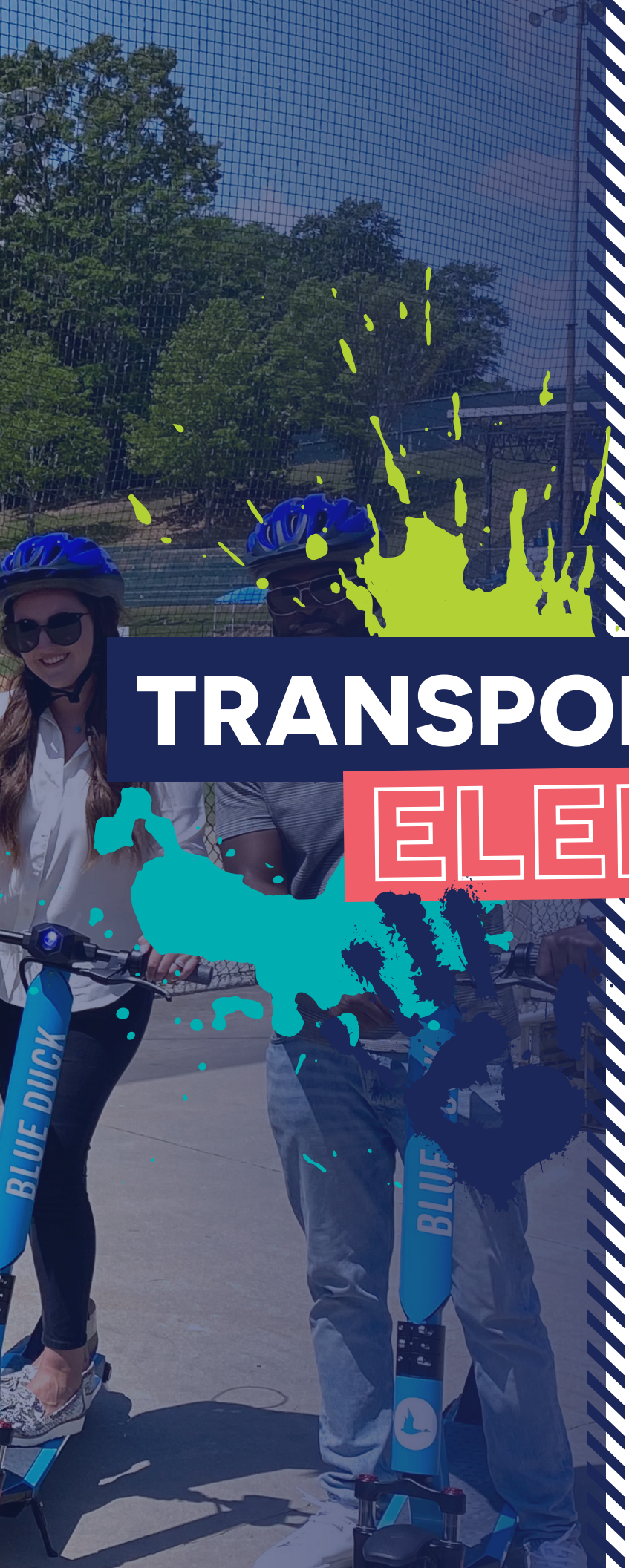
Recommendations (Homelessness)

01	Reduce housing cost burden and expand affordable housing opportunities (refer to recommendations in the Housing Affordability section).
02	Create a stigma-reducing campaign to provide a consistent definition of the term "homeless." This definition would then be used across all departments and city-wide correspondence. A public service component would include reasons why individuals become homeless, early warning sign indicators and available community resources.
03	Continue to develop, expand, and improve upon existing agencies and programs to further provide shelter, temporary housing, or transition housing for all segments of the homeless population including men, women, youth, elderly, disabled, veterans, and those with mental illnesses and/or addictions.
04	Locate shelters and housing for people experiencing homelessness close to public transportation.
05	Increase and coordinate outreach efforts to the City's homeless population. Consider the creation of a coordinator position to lead outreach efforts and serve as a liaison between City departments, nonprofit agencies, and the community at large.
06	Provide legal assistance to families to prevent evictions. Also provide legal assistance to address immigrant issues.
07	Implement Just Cause policies that landlords have to establish a reason to evict tenants, such as failure to pay rent.
08	Expand employment opportunities to build a more robust employment stability program. This program would work with employees to address barriers to success (i.e. childcare, transportation). The program also would work with employers to help address challenges around gaining and maintaining employment.
09	Continue to support enhancements to the Opportunity Center which provides lockers, laundry, showers, mailing addresses, and case management support to our homeless population.

Recommendations (Homelessness)

10	Create Community Jobs for the Homeless: The City of Albuquerque, NM created the "There's a Better Way" Program. In this program the City partnered with a local church to create an extremely successful jobs program. The city provided the jobs such as road cleanup, landscaping etc., and the church managed the program and provided services and meals to the participants. Since it started in September of 2015, the program has provided 6,666 jobs. Participants are paid one dollar more than the minimum wage for their work and are picked up in the City's shuttle. This type of innovative partnership could work well in Spartanburg and should be studied for applicability.
11	Create a comprehensive, real-time, by-name data collection tool that would accurately define the extent of homelessness in the City, allow for more tailored solutions for individuals and provide a data-driven strategy for housing investment. The tool would also be utilized to track services and individuals to prove a consistent measurement device to monitor the health of the community. Early identification and early intervention could be implemented by utilizing this data.
12	Consider becoming a "Built For Zero" Community (https://www.joinbuiltforzero.org).
12	Continue to cooperate with local Continuum of Care agencies to bolster prevention efforts. Community health workers and social workers should be located in easily accessible sites such as schools, neighborhood centers, faith institutions, workplaces and emergency rooms, where people are seeking assistance for basic problem-solving needs. The emphasis would be on addressing the social determinants of health before crisis or homelessness occurs.
13	Consider an initiative like the "Community First!" Village in Austin, Texas. This planned community provides affordable, permanent, and semi-permanent housing and a supportive residential program for those transitioning out of chronic homelessness. It includes gathering places, community gardens, a car care center, outdoor kitchens, personal care services, and micro-enterprise opportunities.

BLUE DUCK
BLUE DUCK
BLUE DUCK



TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT

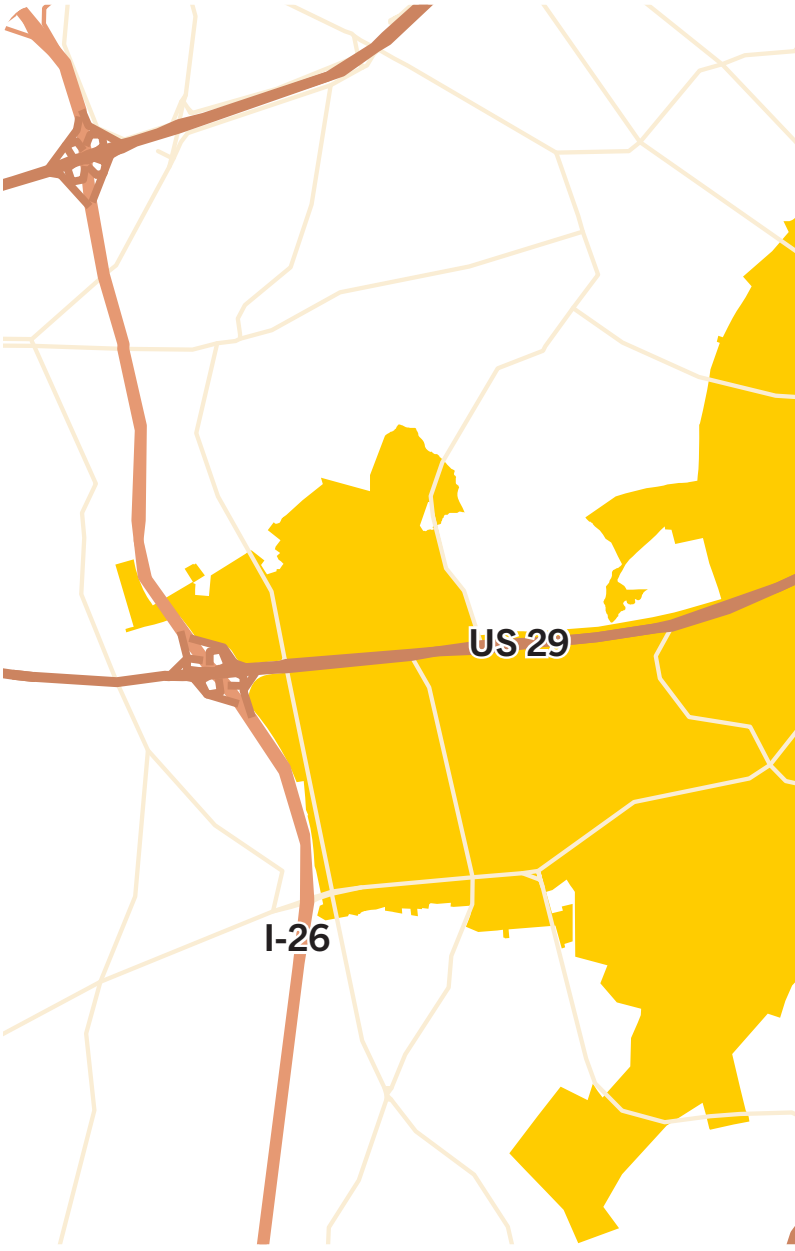
Introduction

The City of Spartanburg is located in the Upstate region of South Carolina, its metropolitan area conveniently located near the intersections of several major highways. Interstate 85 runs northeast-southwest just north of the Spartanburg City limits and connects Atlanta, GA to Charlotte, NC. Interstate 26 runs north-south along the western edge of the City, connecting Asheville, NC to Columbia, SC, and continuing all the way to Charleston. U.S. Route 29 is the primary southeast-northwest thoroughfare through the City, while U.S. 221 and U.S. 176 provide northwest-southeast connections. Spartanburg is a heavily auto-dependent community, with the majority (95%) of residents owning a vehicle. Public transit service for the metropolitan area is provided by the Spartanburg Area Regional Transit Authority (SPARTA).

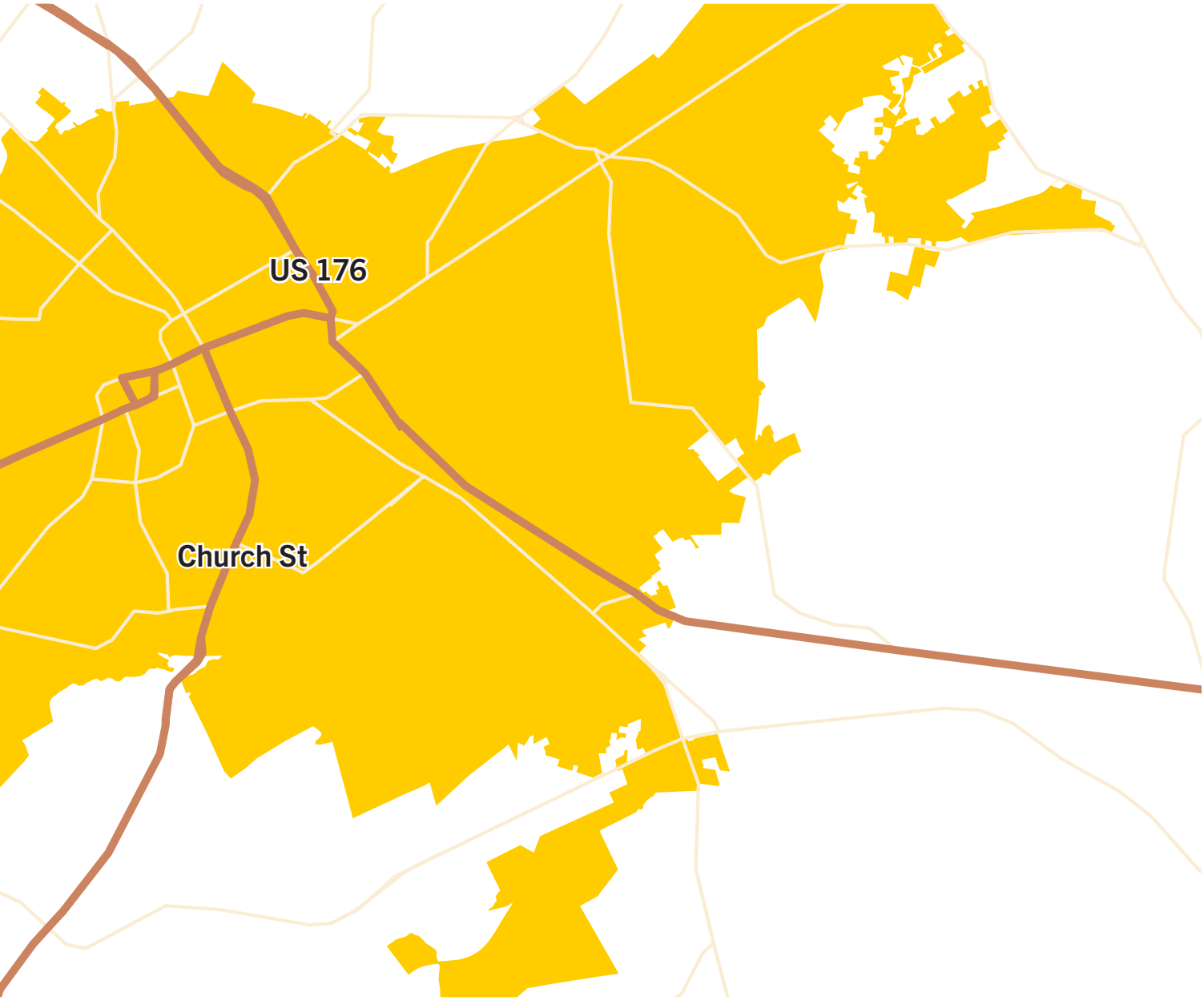
This Transportation Element provides insight into Spartanburg's overall transportation network and facilities including major road improvements, new road construction, transit projects, pedestrian and bicycle projects. Recommendations are provided to address the need for improved connectivity and access to safe and efficient multi-modal transportation options.

Transportation needs and preferences are ever evolving, and there is a nationwide shift towards the development of multi-modal facilities for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists alike. Providing safe and efficient non-vehicular transportation networks is a key step towards a more equitable transportation system. Many participants in Plan Spartanburg voiced concerns about bicycle and pedestrian safety in the City and emphasized the importance of routes between where people live and work.

This Element, like the rest of the Comprehensive Plan, aims to address inequities in the City's transportation network and prioritize improvements and funding for the neighborhoods and facilities that need it most. Specific recommendations related to equity are included in the sections that follow.



Major Roadways and City Limits Diagram


US 176
Church St

Transportation Equity Indicators

The Equity Indicators as they relate to Transportation include vehicle ownership, pedestrian and transit network connectivity; and pedestrian facility (sidewalk) condition. These factors should be monitored City-wide, and on a neighborhood level to identify specific areas of inequity.

T1: Vehicle Ownership

As an auto-centric City, most residents rely on personal vehicles to get to work, school, and other destinations. For households without a vehicle, meeting daily needs can be difficult, and the cost of alternate transportation methods may inflict undue burden. Areas of the City with low levels of vehicle ownership are often the same areas with high levels of poverty. Ensuring that the residents of these neighborhoods have access to safe and well-maintained pedestrian networks is key, as well as providing access to an affordable and efficient transit network.

T2: Pedestrian Network Connectivity

Providing a well-connected system of sidewalks, paths, and trails ensures that nearly everyone can get around the City on foot (or with a mobility device). Areas of low connectivity typically correspond to areas of low income and minority populations; who are, unsurprisingly, the most frequent users of the pedestrian network.

T3: Transit Network Connectivity

A complete transit network makes it easier for people to move around the City, access jobs and services, and have more choices when it comes to places to live. It is important to identify those areas of the City that are disadvantaged economically, as they are likely the areas that will benefit most from improved transit connectivity.

T4: Pedestrian Facility Condition

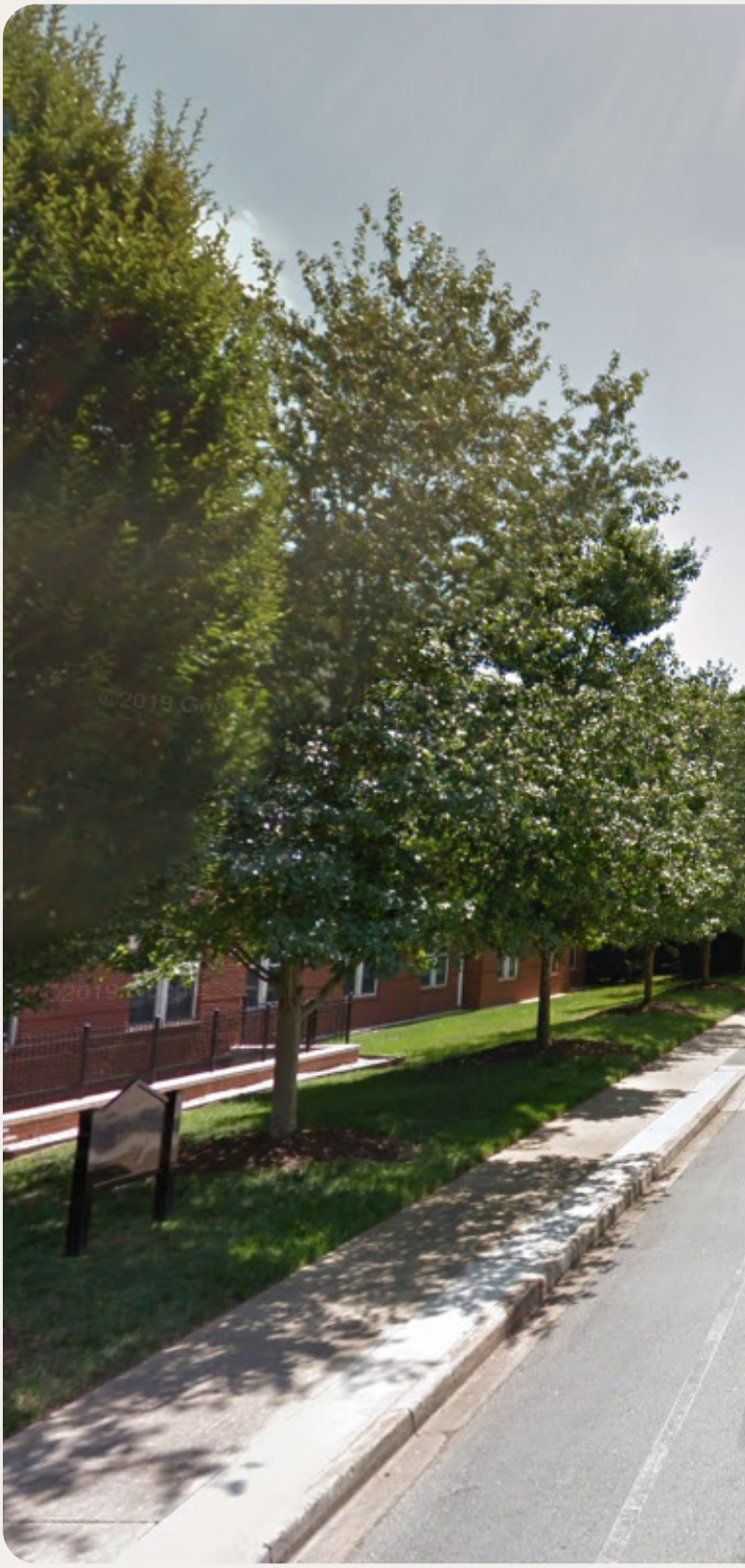
Monitoring and working to improve the condition of Spartanburg's sidewalk network is one of the most impactful ways for the City to reduce inequities. Sidewalks and other pedestrian facilities should be accessible and well-maintained, so that they can be used safely by everyone, regardless of age or physical ability.

bella
DANCE STUDIO
LFN
Live fit Now
Fitness & Pilates Studio

The Public Realm

A community's greatest potential for change is within the public realm, which encompasses all publicly held land. Streets often make up the largest portion of the public realm. The character and allocation of space on a street plays a key role in user experience. Streets should be attractive, inviting, accessible, safe, and comfortable for all users. Great streets place people first – people that drive a car, ride a bicycle, walk, ride transit, and live in or visit Downtown. A people-first design approach celebrates life, creates inviting and vibrant public spaces, and provides opportunity for community growth.

The design of streets should focus on a holistic approach that is context-sensitive to produce streets that deliver a balanced quality of service to all modes of transportation and a high quality of life for the surrounding community. Thoughtful design is also important to ecology as streets influence the environment through urban heat island effect, stormwater runoff, and the degree to which they support energy-efficient modes. Properly designed streets that create a multimodal network have the ability to change road safety, health, environmental stability, and economic trajectory of a community. People-first streets will embrace community values and enhance their quality of life, by providing spaces to live in, rather than simply providing a means of travel from one destination to another.

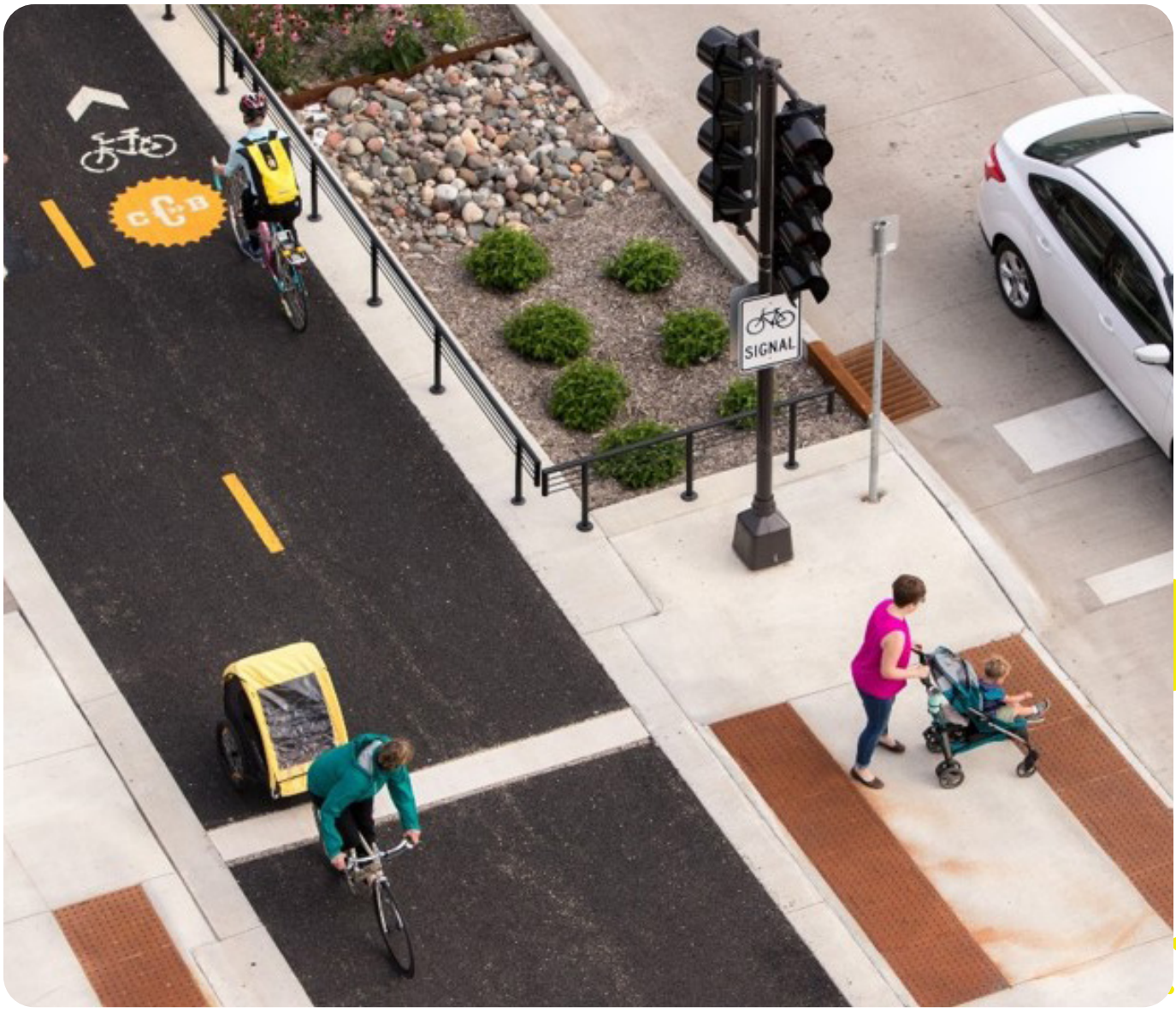


Complete Street Spartanburg Street View

E Vins St

Creating a Successful Multimodal Network

A successful multimodal network is one that creates safe, connected, and convenient mobility options for people of all ages, incomes, and abilities. Spartanburg's roadways connect motorists to the places they need and want to go. Ensuring the network provides the same connections for other users - bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit riders – is essential to supporting all modes. For many residents and visitors, walking and bicycling are important recreational activities. For others, access to a vehicle is not feasible and walking, biking, or riding transit may be vital forms of transportation. Elements of a successful multimodal network for Spartanburg are listed on the following page.

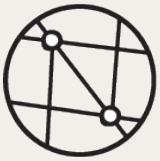


Multimodal Network

Elements of a successful multimodal network for Spartanburg

Safety: The frequency and severity of crashes are minimized; conflicts between nonmotorized users and motor vehicles are limited.

Comfort: Conditions do not deter nonmotorized users due to stress, anxiety, or concerns over safety.



Connectivity: All destinations can be accessed using a complete bicycle, pedestrian, and transit network with no gaps or missing links.

Directness: Bicycling and transit routes and trip times are minimized. Designated crossings are provided frequently to reduce trip distances.

Cohesion: Distances between parallel and intersecting nonmotorized routes are minimized.

Attractiveness: Routes direct bicyclists and pedestrians through lively areas and personal safety is prioritized.

Unbroken Flow: Stops, such as long waits at traffic lights, are limited and street lighting is consistent.

Equitable: Network improvements prioritize the most vulnerable roadway users, pedestrians and bicyclists, and seek to provide facilities where demonstrated need is the greatest.

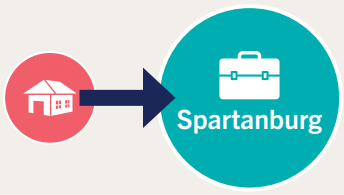
Transportation Overview

All transportation recommendations are based on a multifaceted existing conditions analysis and public feedback gathered throughout the planning process. Analysis included consideration of adopted transportation plans, existing bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, existing transit routes and their associated first/last mile infrastructure, crash data, and demographic characteristics such as commute trends and household access to vehicles. Major transportation-related findings from the analysis and public engagement phases of this plan are provided below.

Key Data

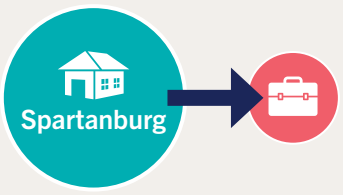
Demographics

- Census data shows there are pockets of the City, primarily near Downtown, where more than a quarter of all households lack access to a vehicle.
- More than twice as many people live outside the City and travel to work in the City than those that leave the City to work elsewhere.
- Fewer people drive alone to work (79.6%) and more commute by walking (3.4%) and transit (1.4%) than Spartanburg's peer cities of Florence, SC; Rock Hill, SC; Hickory, NC; and Johnson City, TN.
- Only 0.2% of the City's population bikes to work.



Worker Inflow
(Live elsewhere, work in city)
26,463

Live and Work in City
3,810



Worker Outflow
(Live in city, work elsewhere)
12,098

Source: US Census On the Map (2017)

Related Transportation Studies

Several other transportation-related studies have been completed since the City's previous Comprehensive Plan Update.

- The 2004 City of Spartanburg Comprehensive Plan includes few transportation-related recommendations. Rather, land use recommendations attempted to address traffic impacts.
- The 2009 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan encourages development of context-sensitive street design standards to prioritize development of low-stress facilities.
- The 2020 SPARTA Comprehensive Operations Analysis plan seeks to make transit a more convenient and viable choice through streamlined routes with extended hours and increased frequency.
- The 2016 SPATS Long Range Transportation Plan recommends prioritization of separated bicycle facilities, a total of fifty individual bicycle and sidewalk projects, fifteen intersection projects to improve nonmotorized safety, and expansion of the BCycle bike share program.

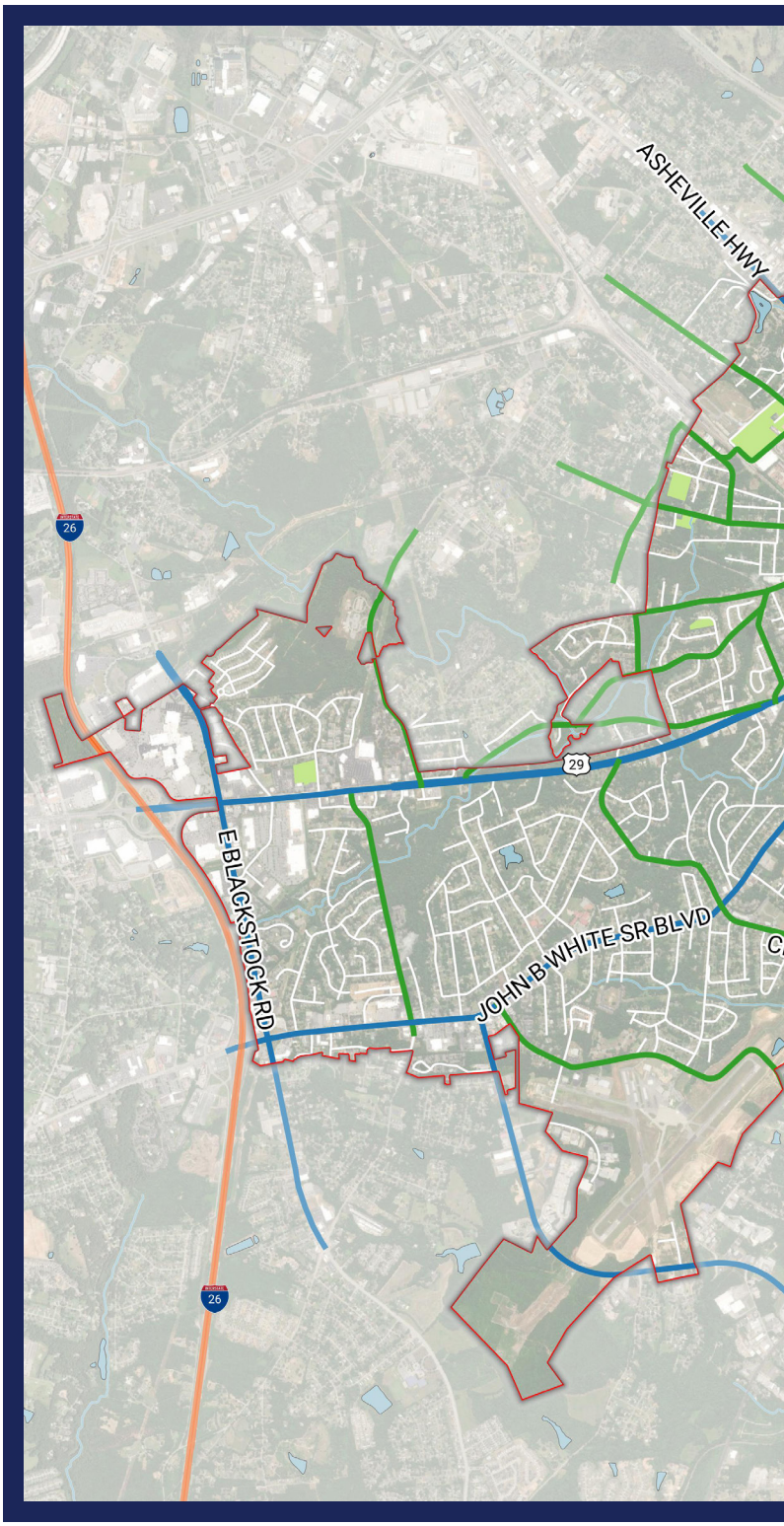
2009 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

2016 SPATS Long Range Transportation Plan

Transportation System

The City's current transportation system and the functional classification of streets is illustrated in the map below. It is important to note that there are more than twice as many miles of roadway owned and operated by the City of Spartanburg than by the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT). However, the state controls all major thoroughfares and any changes made to street design Citywide will require SCDOT coordination.

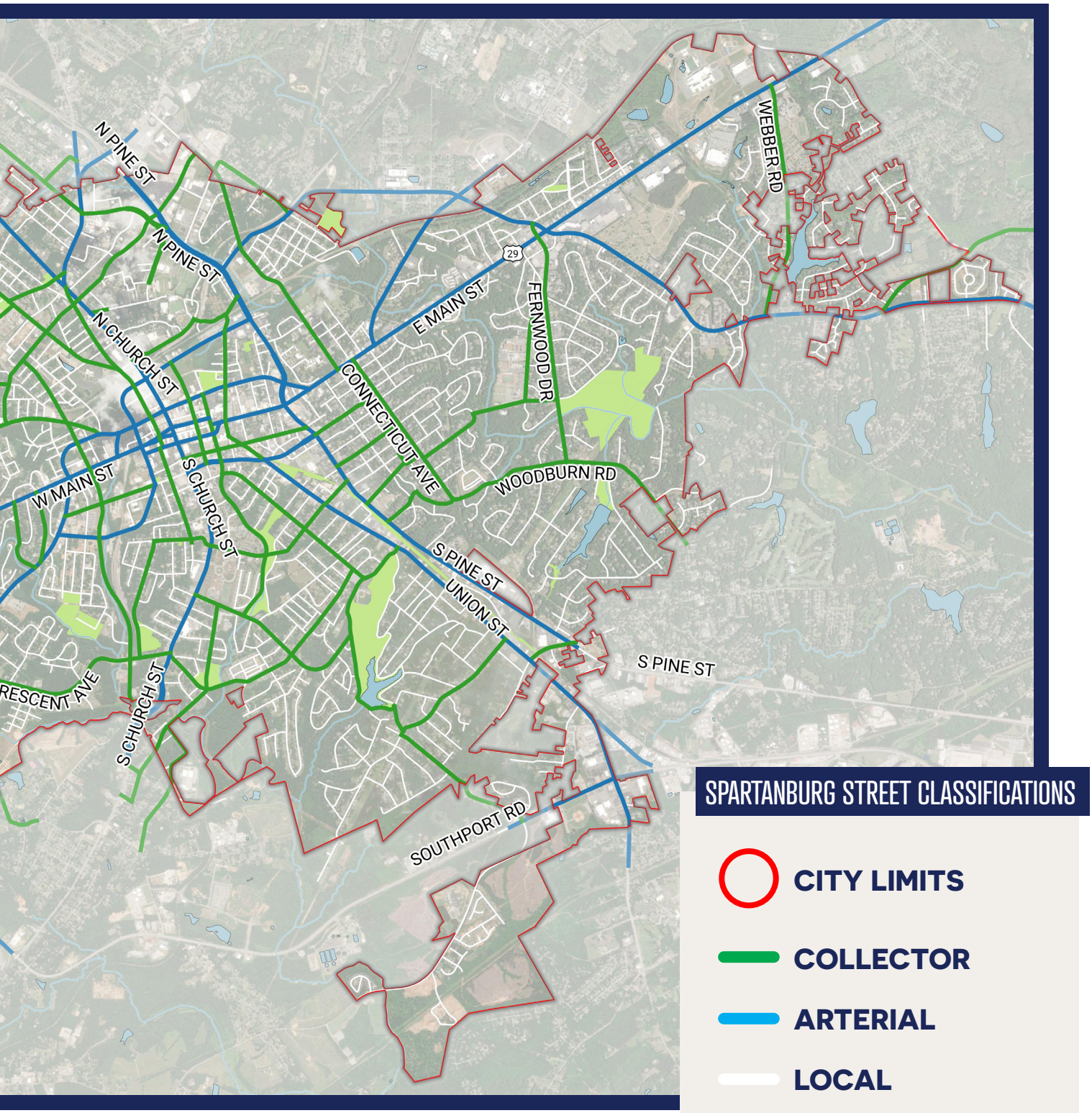
In the State of South Carolina, the DOT is required to upfit to current ADA standards any time work is conducted on an intersection that is a state-owned roadway. Currently, this is not a requirement for City-maintained streets. Improving accessibility on all streets throughout Spartanburg is an important step towards an equitable transportation system.



WHAT WE HEARD

Primary arterials are like traffic rivers that prove difficult and intimidating to navigate regardless of transportation mode used. Some of these arterials include:

- SC-29/ US29/W. O. Ezell Blvd./ East Main Street
- SC296 John B. White
- US-221 Church Street
- US-176 Pine Street


N PINE ST
N PINE ST
N CHURCH ST
E MAIN ST
29
FERNWOOD DR
WEBBER RD
CONNECTICUT AVE
W MAIN ST
S CHURCH ST
WOODBURN RD
S PINE ST
UNION ST
S PINE ST
RESCENT AVE
S CHURCH ST
SOUTHPORT RD
SPARTANBURG STREET CLASSIFICATIONS
CITY LIMITS
COLLECTOR
ARTERIAL
LOCAL

Recommendations (Transportation System)

01 Promote a dense, connected street grid

- Amend the City Zoning Ordinance to require all future roads be connected to public streets and prohibit dead-end streets, except where limited by site or environmental constraints.
- Amend the City Zoning Ordinance to require access roads and interparcel connectivity to reduce the frequency of and increase the spacing between driveway curb cuts.

02 Continue regional planning efforts to manage vehicular transportation demand and encourage biking, walking, and transit

- Examine barriers to implementing recommendations in previously adopted plans, particularly the 2009 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and the 2016 SPATS Long Range Transportation Plan.
- Consider updating the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan as much has changed in the City and the industry.
- Maintain and strengthen relationships with Spartanburg County, SPATS, SPARTA, and SCDOT.
- Monitor all street resurfacing schedules for the possible implementation of nonmotorized facilities.
- Develop a program to add bus shelters at key stops and provide multiple language translations at stops
- Continue investment in Appalachian Regional Travel Demand Model as a key tool for regional transportation projects and programs.
- Collaborate with SPARTA to make the Passenger Center a prominent Downtown asset; facilitate future transit facilities through regulatory assistance when necessary (e.g., rezoning).
- Explore regional light rail possibilities utilizing the Magnolia Street Depot (Refer to the Focus Areas section for more specific details and recommendations).

Recommendations (Transportation System)

03 Improve the aesthetic appeal of streets

- Require sufficient widths for landscape areas to support healthy canopy trees and, where appropriate, furnishing zones for public realm amenities (e.g., benches, pedestrian scale lighting).
- Reduce minimum vehicle parking standards overtime. Consider replacing minimum vehicle parking standards with maximum vehicle parking standards in the zoning ordnance.
- Work with SCDOT to accommodate non-standard lane widths where possible so that bike lanes can be included.

04 Develop a hierarchy of street types that support all modes of transportation and various land uses, and that contribute to development of distinct districts within the City

- Adopt a Complete Streets Policy that incorporates equitable transportation planning principles.
- Ensure transportation and land use planning are integrated.
- Codify street design guidance and associated street contexts within the City Zoning Ordinance and Downtown Code.

05 Ensure safety and ADA accessibility of the transportation system

- Conduct a safety review of the transportation system and identify areas that are most vulnerable due to lack of adequate signage and lighting; bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure; enclosed and accessible transit stops; crosswalks and signals; and other safety features. Prioritize these areas for transformation and improvement.
- Develop an ADA Transition Plan, either for the Transportation Department alone or as part of a Citywide Transition Plan including other facilities subject to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Create an annual budget allocation for sidewalk gaps and curb ramp improvements.
- Collaborate with Spartanburg County, SPARTA, and SCDOT as they implement their respective ADA Transition Plans.

06 Consider hiring a transportation planner to spearhead these efforts and strengthen transportation in the City and County (refer to "Government Employment & Facilities" section)

Vehicular Transportation

Spartanburg's streets are relatively safe for vehicles, but there is room for improvement when it comes to the safety of those using non motorized transportation. Plan Spartanburg participants cited some concerns with speeding on neighborhood streets that are used as cut-throughs to avoid major roadways. They also voiced concerns about red light running and a lack of yielding to pedestrians and bicyclists.

More than half of SCDOT roads with traffic count data have relatively low vehicle volumes (less than 6,000 vehicles per day). Spartanburg's primary arterials are congested during peak hours, but not to the extent of some neighboring communities.

Spartanburg's crash hot spots are mostly located along major thoroughfares and in or around Downtown.

WHAT WE HEARD

"Traffic isn't bad overall."

"Cyclists don't feel safe sharing the road with cars."

Recommendations (Vehicular Transportation)

01 Improve streetscape legibility

- Create clearly defined spaces with physical separation where needed. Use materials, pavement markings, and signage to indicate where modes are intended to mix or be separate.
- Work with Spartanburg County, SPATS, and SCDOT to improve critical intersections.

02 Ensure a well-maintained system

- Amend street maintenance requirements to limit the number of pavement overlays to two 1" overlays before milling must take place.
- Ensure pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities are kept clear and accessible.
- Continue synchronization of traffic signals to alleviate congestion.
- Establish maintenance schedules and assessment standards for motorized and nonmotorized facilities to avoid reliance on complaints or requests, which may lead to inequities.
- Measure equitable distribution of City resources including street paving funds.

Denny's
2 HR PARKING
WEEKDAYS
9 AM–5 PM

Non-Motorized Transportation

Spartanburg's network of sidewalks and bicycle facilities is growing, but there is room for improvement. The City has its own Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee, appointed by City Council and tasked with helping the City prioritize, develop and promote non motorized transportation projects.

The City's GIS data for sidewalks needs to be updated. Most streets in Downtown have sidewalks, but width and condition vary significantly. Existing sidewalks are not wide enough for the competing activities that take place on and around them: mailboxes, utilities, refuse bins, bicycles, etc. Many sidewalks, particularly on the City's south side, are in disrepair, which makes them uncomfortable and unsafe, particularly for the elderly and physically disabled. Newer subdivisions (circa 1960s-80s) often times have no sidewalks at all, creating traffic safety issues for their residents who are forced to walk on roads designed for quick movement, or in overgrown ditches.

Spartanburg was the first city in the State of South Carolina to be designated a "Bicycle Friendly Community" by the League of American Bicyclists. "Bike Town Spartanburg" is an initiative of Partners for Active Living in cooperation with several other local organizations dedicated to making Spartanburg "the bicycling hub of the Southeast." Their goal is to ensure communication between organizations and businesses to make bicycling in Spartanburg easy, safe, and accessible.

Bike lanes are present in most Spartanburg neighborhoods, but they are not well-maintained and generally have roadway and landscape debris in them. Evidence shows that these lanes are not being used properly. Many are riding contraflow or choosing to ride on the sidewalk as they feel more comfortable.

Strong connections to the trail network are increasingly enabling longer distance travel for bicyclists. While existing bicycle facilities and trails do connect, the ability to access key destinations is limited.

From an equity perspective, it is important for the City to take several factors into consideration when prioritizing non motorized transportation improvements.

- First, determine which neighborhoods are more likely to have lower instances of vehicle ownership, and are therefore more likely to walk or ride a bicycle as the primary means of transportation.
- Second, determine which neighborhoods are most likely to be disconnected from essential goods and services due to a lack of safe pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

These are the areas that are most in need of safe, accessible sidewalks and bikeways.

WHAT WE HEARD

"Need more protected bike lanes.

"Trails and neighborhood streets are safer for cycling."

"City streets aren't safe for biking, especially for kids."

"John B. White and SC-29 feel unsafe to cyclists."

"Need traffic calming to make streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists."

Spartanburg BCycle

Source: spartanburg.bcycle.com

Recommendations (Non-Motorized Transportation)

01 Create a continuous and connected nonmotorized network (see the map that follows)

- Construct bicycle and pedestrian routes to connect major destinations. Prioritize the construction of new facilities in neighborhoods with lower instances of vehicle ownership where facilities are necessary to reach essential goods and services. Prioritize "destination" facilities over "recreation" facilities.
- Establish a timeline for regular sidewalk and bikeway safety audits.
- Ensure pedestrian and bicycle facilities are considered during bridge replacement or renovation.
- Update geospatial records for nonmotorized facilities.
- Create more access to bike facilities with repair tools and pumps similar to facilities near the Bike Park.

02 Support bicycle and pedestrian programs

- Collaborate with Partners for Active Living, SPATS, the Spartanburg Police Department, and Spartanburg County Schools to expand Safe Routes to School programming to include additional schools and activities.
- Maintain a publicly available online map of all bicycle and shared use facilities throughout the City.
- Train all City staff to identify and report unsafe conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Support bicycle training for adults and youth through the Parks & Recreation Department.

03 Embrace off-road trails and greenways as part of the transportation network

- Increase connectivity to the trail system.
- Consider lighting on trails often used for commuting.

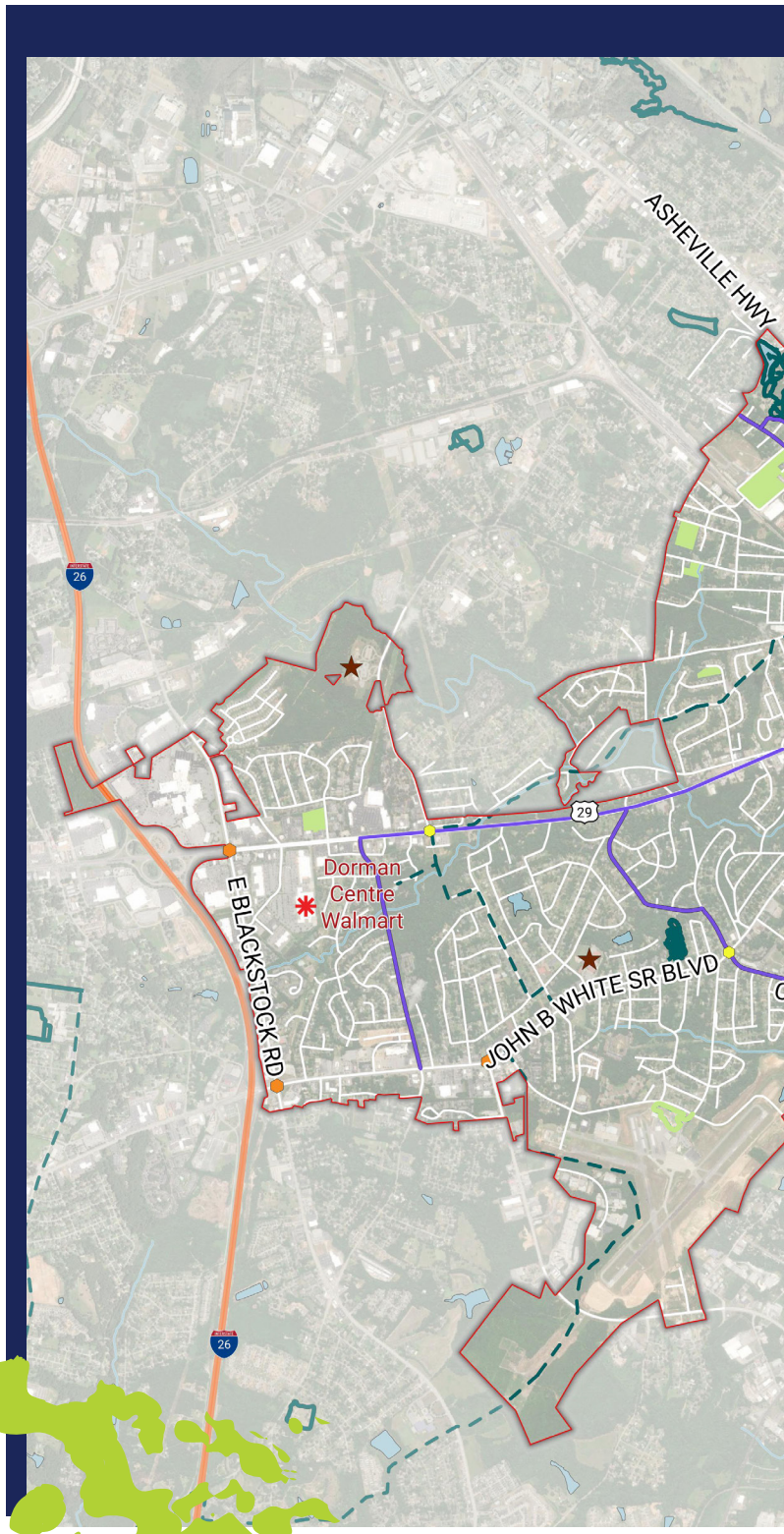
Recommendations (Non-Motorized Transportation)

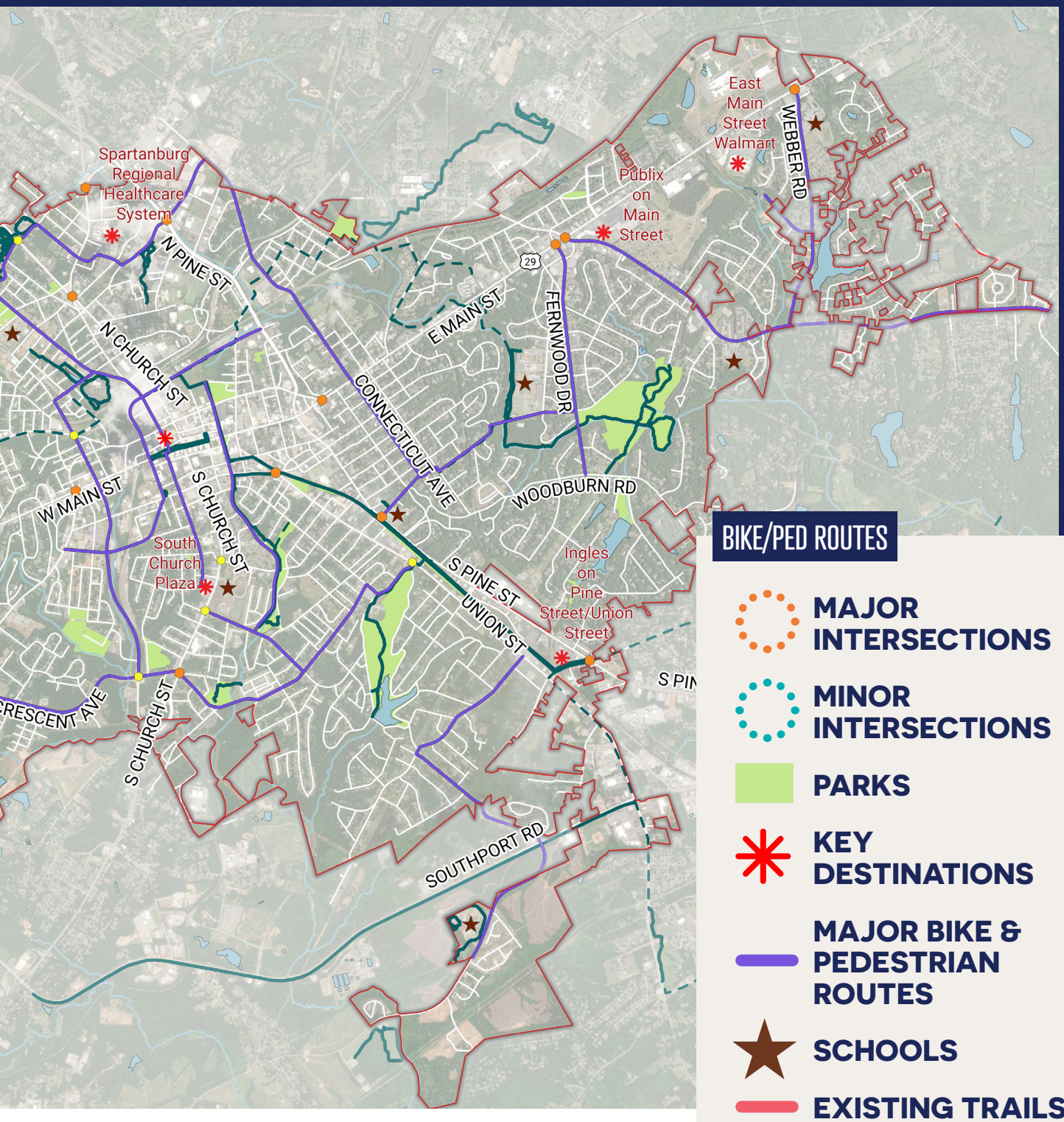
04 **Synchronize development of the nonmotorized network with new growth**

- Amend the City Zoning Ordinance to require new development and substantial redevelopment projects to construct planned multimodal facilities.
- Amend the City Zoning Ordinance to allow off-road trails to count toward useable open space requirements.

05 **Consider hiring a GIS technician to assist the City with data, spatial analysis, and mapping and measuring its Comprehensive Plan progress and equitable distribution of City Resources (refer to "Government Employment & Facilities" section)**

The map below identifies sixteen nonmotorized routes that will provide bicycle and pedestrian connections to key destinations. These destinations were identified as places that provide access to goods and services that support people's daily needs. The map also identifies fourteen intersection improvement projects. A successful multimodal network must begin with intersection improvements. These improvements may include but are not limited to, installation of sufficient lighting at night, protected intersection, audible pedestrian signals, leading pedestrian intervals, high visibility crosswalks, and ADA inclusion. The accompanying chart provides an index of all proposed routes and intersection improvements with street names and project extents.




Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System
N PINE ST
N CHURCH ST
W MAIN ST
S CHURCH ST
South Church Plaza
CRESCENT AVE
S CHURCH ST
CONNECTICUT AVE
E MAIN ST
FERNWOOD DR
29
Publix on Main Street
East Main Street Walmart
WEBBER RD
WOODBURN RD
S PINE ST
UNION ST
Ingles on Pine Street/Union Street
S PIN
SOUTHPORT RD
BIKE/PED ROUTES
MAJOR INTERSECTIONS
MINOR INTERSECTIONS
PARKS
KEY DESTINATIONS
MAJOR BIKE & PEDESTRIAN ROUTES
SCHOOLS
EXISTING TRAILS
PROPOSED TRAILS

Transit

Public transportation in Spartanburg is provided by the Spartanburg Area Regional Transit Agency (SPARTA). SPARTA provides low-cost public bus service throughout the City and to several destinations outside the City. There are 8 existing transit routes that provide weekday service from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with either 30- or 60-minute headways. SPARTA bus stops are located throughout the City, but not all stops have shelters. Some are simply signs on a post or utility pole and lack accessibility facilities or separation from traffic while waiting for the bus.

The limited hours of the current public transit system make it difficult for people who work evening or overnight shifts. It also makes it difficult for residents who do not own vehicles to participate in activities after work or attend weekend events.

WHAT WE HEARD

Need more covered bus stops.

"Travel time to the grocery store can sometimes take up to one and a half hours."

SPARTA

Spartanburg Area Regional Transit Agency (SPARTA)

Recommendations (Transit)

01 **Prepare streets for more widespread and efficient transit service**

- Require new development and substantial redevelopment projects provide transit easements and baseline infrastructure (i.e., concrete landing pads).
- Support development of efficient, convenient, and affordable transit along major commuter corridors to encourage more ridership and less dependency on a personal vehicle.
- Investigate requirements for future implementation of transit technology such as traffic signal prioritization, queue jumps, and transit-only lanes.
- Provide first-mile and last-mile nonmotorized connections to transit stops.
- Consider relocating existing covered bus stops that are inbound or too close to the transit center to be useful, to high volume stops along existing routes.

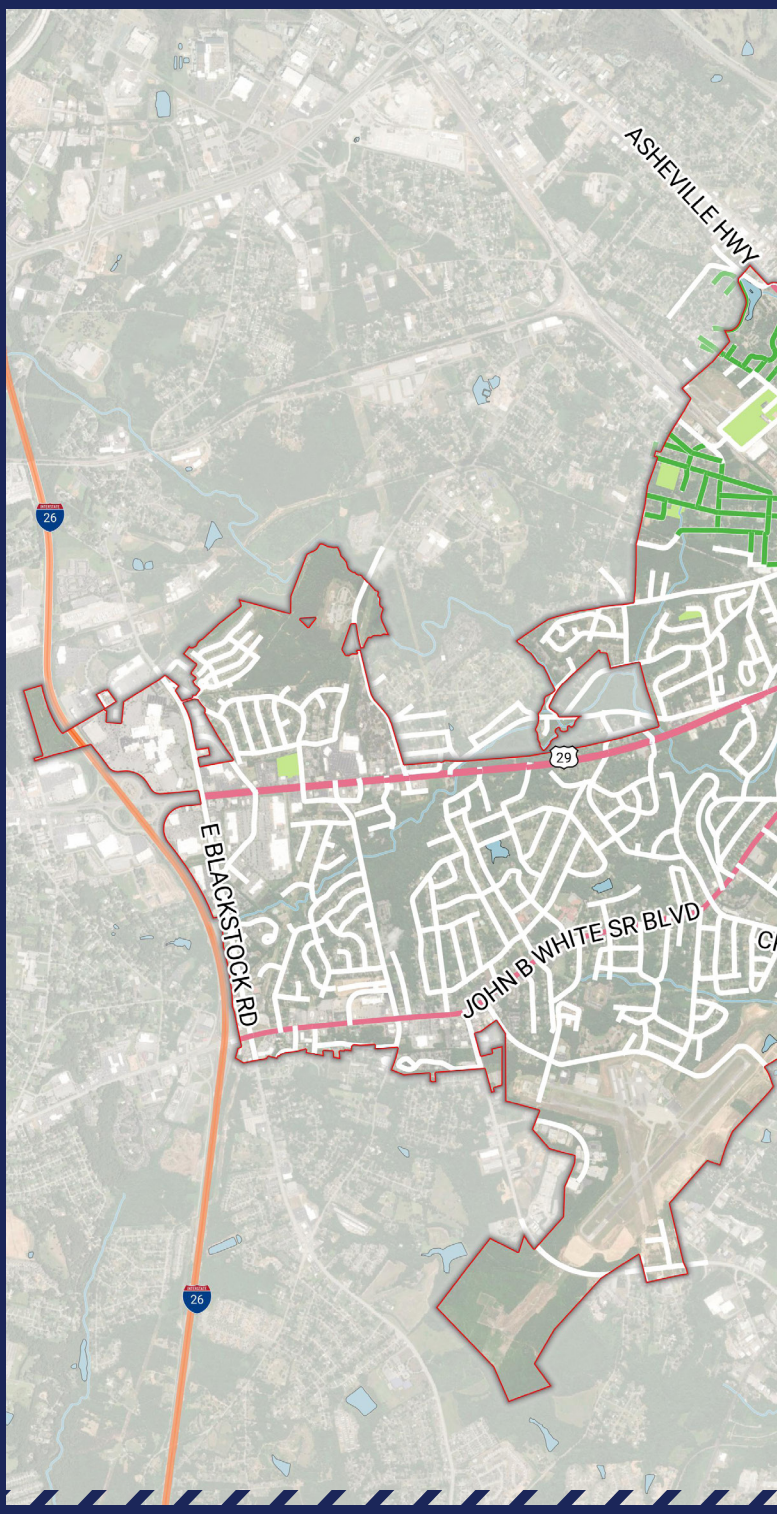
02 **See the "Cultural Resources Element" for additional recommendations related to public art and transit.**

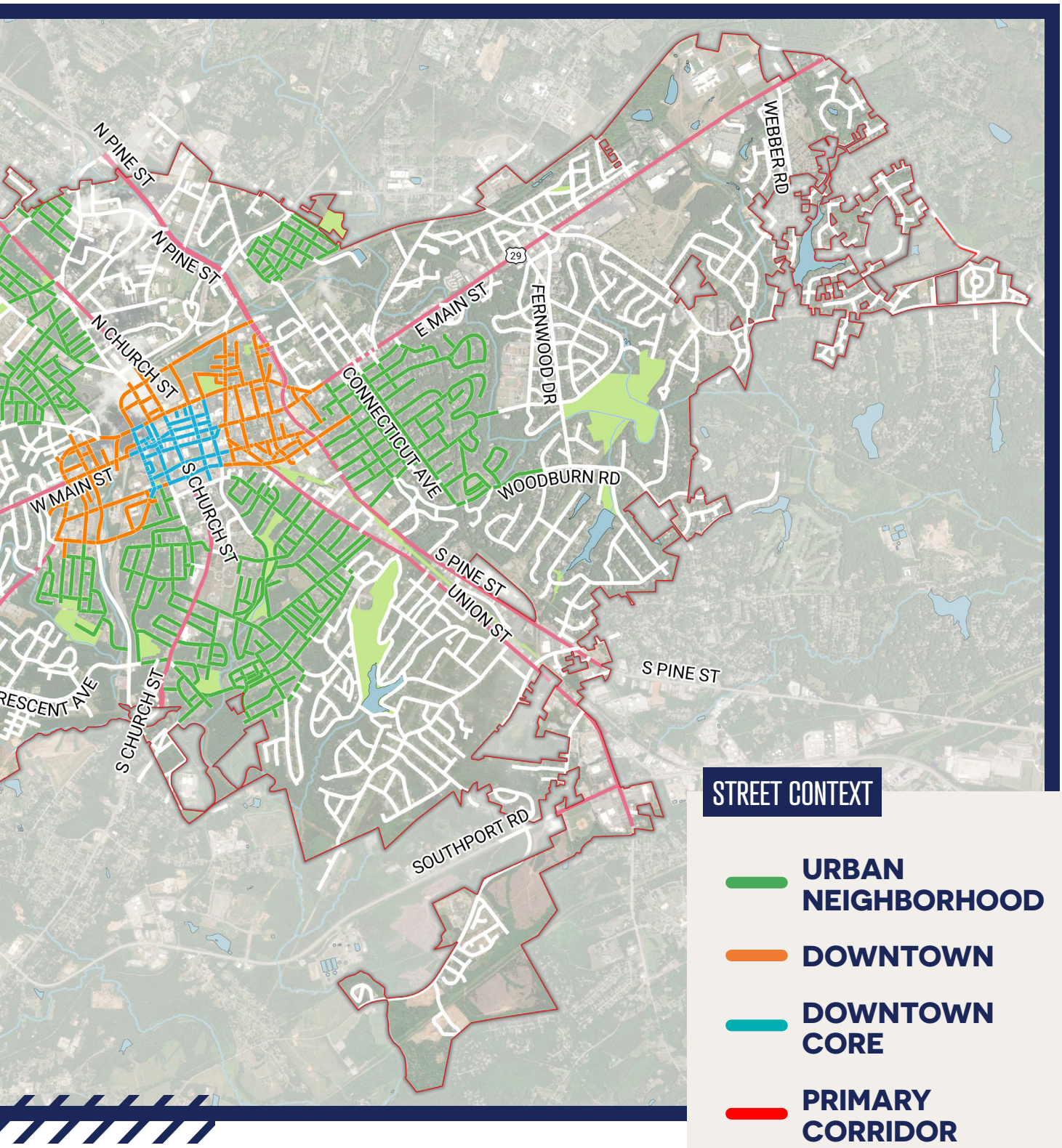
Street Design Guidance

Adopting standards that meet best practices for Complete Streets will guide the development of a well-functioning transportation system that puts people first. Such standards will also provide clear guidance for elected officials, developers, transportation agencies, and plan review staff. Street design guidance is crafted around five distinct contexts. This will ensure streets enhance the character of the area. The five street contexts include:

- Downtown Core
- Downtown
- Primary Corridor
- Urban Neighborhood
- Suburban Neighborhood

Design guidance for each street context contains a brief description, including opportunities to contribute to the multimodal network, along with target, or preferred, street characteristics. Illustrative cross sections are also provided to depict various options for implementing the target characteristics within each street context. Certain target characteristics and proposed cross sections may be applicable to more than one street context.

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CONNECTICUT AVE
FERNWOOD DR
WEBBER RD
29
W MAIN ST
S CHURCH ST
WOODBURN RD
S PINE ST
UNION ST
S PINE ST
RESCENT AVE
S CHURCH ST
SOUTHPORT RD
STREET CONTEXT
URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD
DOWNTOWN
DOWNTOWN CORE
PRIMARY CORRIDOR
SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD

Downtown Core

The Downtown Core context contains the highest density of development and pedestrian activity. It includes a full range of land uses (e.g., retail, office, multi-family residential, open space, etc.), defined city blocks, short distances between intersections, and minimal setback or build-to requirements that frame the public realm. This context offers a mix of amenities and destinations, including large employment centers. Multiple mobility choices outside of a personal vehicle are available and supported due to short trip distances, including biking, walking, and transit. Walking and biking occur regularly, as compact development patterns lend themselves to a network of on-street and adjacent-to-street facilities (e.g., sidewalks, bike lanes, separated bike lanes, etc.). On-street parking and parking structures are all available. However, the vision for this area is for someone to reach Downtown, park once, and walk or bike to all other destinations within the Core. The following street characteristics and facilities are most appropriate for the Downtown Core context.

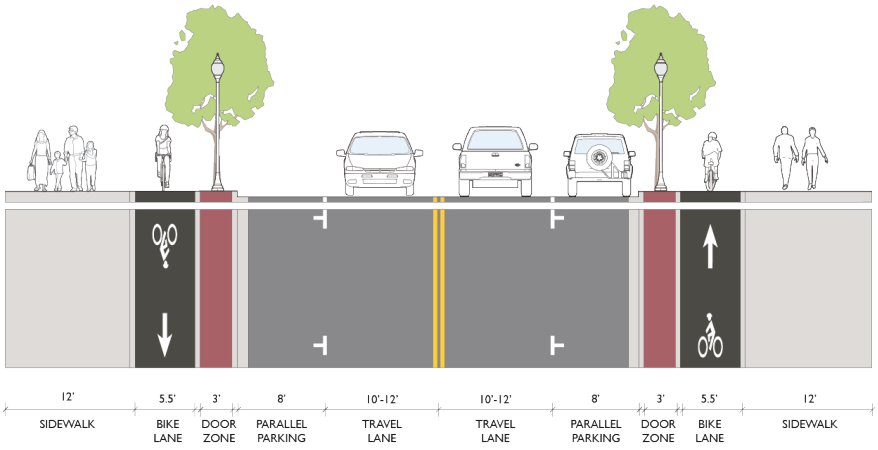
Target Street Characteristics	
Speed	15 - 25 mph
Lane Width	10’ - 11’

Pedestrian Facility	• Sidewalk on both sides with furnishing zone.
	  • Sidewalk width: 12’ minimum to establish proper sidewalk zones (Minimum 6’ clear zone)
	  • Furnishing Zone Width: 4’ minimum
	• Shared Street

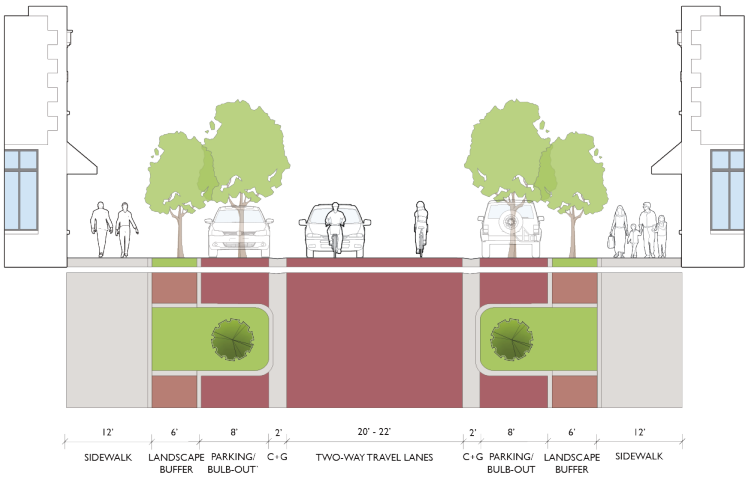
Bicycle Facility	• Shared roadway, buffered bike lane, separated bike lane • Shared Street
Transit	Central transfer location, floating bus stop, shelters.
Parking	On-street parallel and/or angled (angled only when proper sidewalk width can be achieved) on one or both sides of the street.
Landscape	Street trees and lush landscape.
Lighting	Ample pedestrian scale lighting and vehicular scale lighting at all intersections (ensure lighting illuminates all crosswalks and entire intersection, not just the traffic light itself).
Design	Self-enforcing or speed limit.

Downtown Core Street Context: Main Street

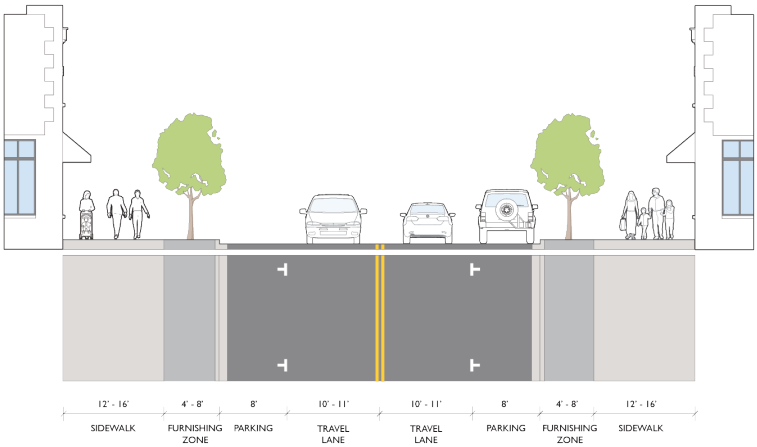
Downtown Core Street Types



Sidewalk Level Bike Lane

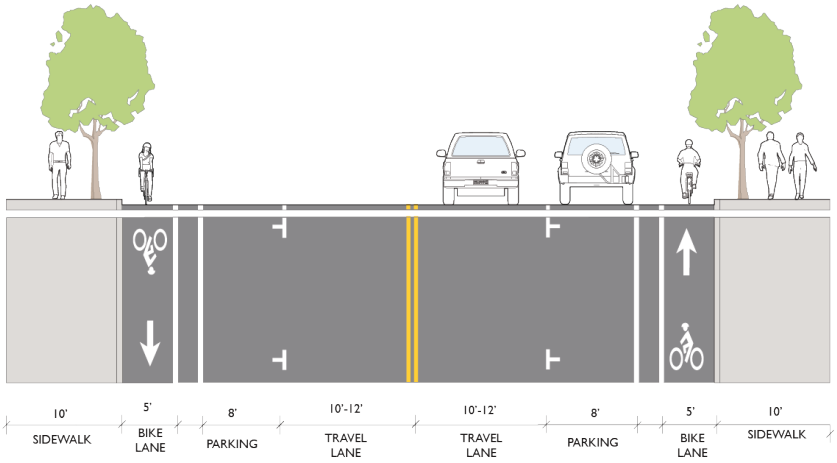


Shared Slow Street

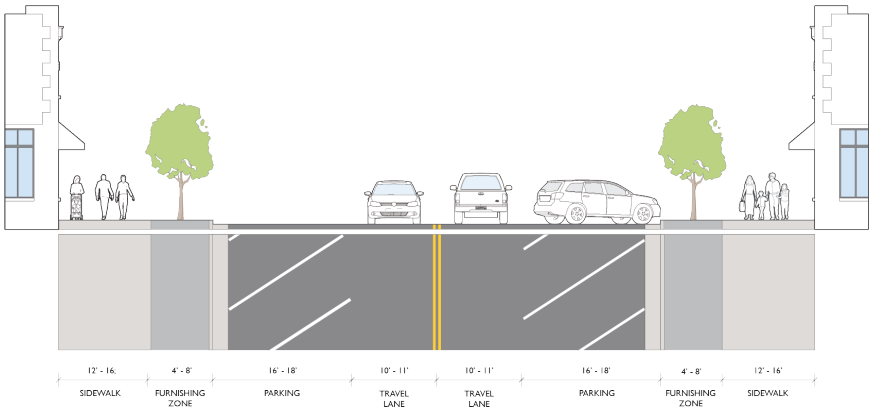


Wide Sidewalks + Furnishing Zone + On-Street Parking Two-Travel Lanes

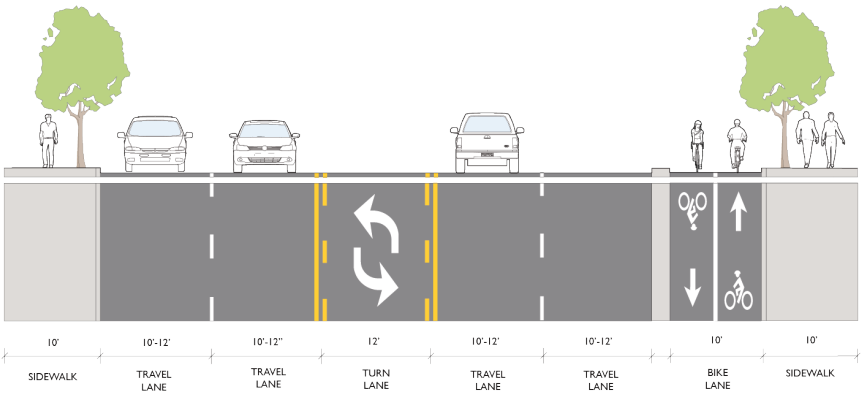
Downtown Core Street Types



Parking Protected Bike Lane



Wide Sidewalks + On-Street Parking Two-Way Street



Two-Way Separated Bike Lane 3+ Travel Lanes

Downtown

The Downtown context is similar to the Downtown Core with a variety of land uses (e.g., retail, office, multi-family residential, etc.); however, it is less dense and block lengths are often longer. Minimal setbacks or build-to standards may be required in some areas. This context offers multiple amenities and destinations, as well as a variety of mobility choices (e.g., walking, biking, transit, and personal vehicles). Short trips between destinations and proximity of signalized crossings may encourage walking or biking. On-street parking, surface lots, and structures are all available but may not be near destinations; therefore, many find walking and biking to be preferable. The Downtown context may exist adjacent to the Downtown Core or as a node of compact development surrounded by the neighborhood context. The following are facilities that are most appropriate for the Downtown context.

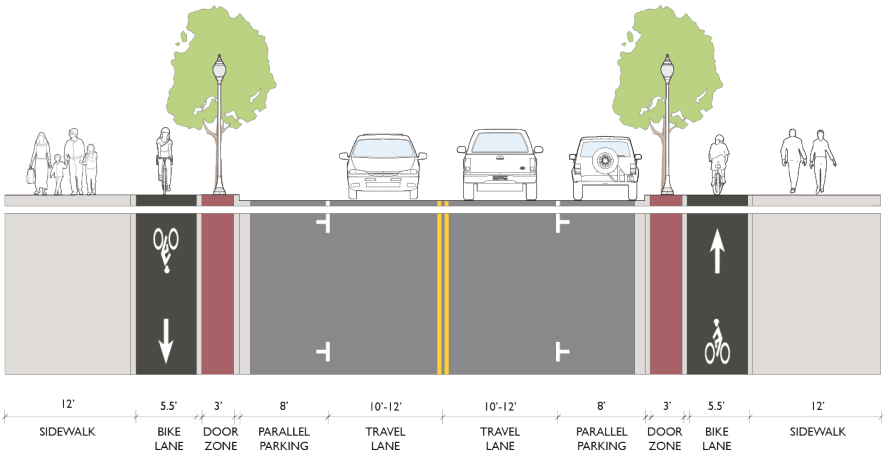
Target Street Characteristics	
Speed	25 mph or less
Lane Width	10’ - 11’

Pedestrian Facility	• Sidewalk on both sides with furnishing zone.
	  • Sidewalk width: 10’ minimum to establish proper sidewalk zones (Minimum 6’ clear zone)
	  • Furnishing Zone Width: 3’ minimum
	• Shared Street

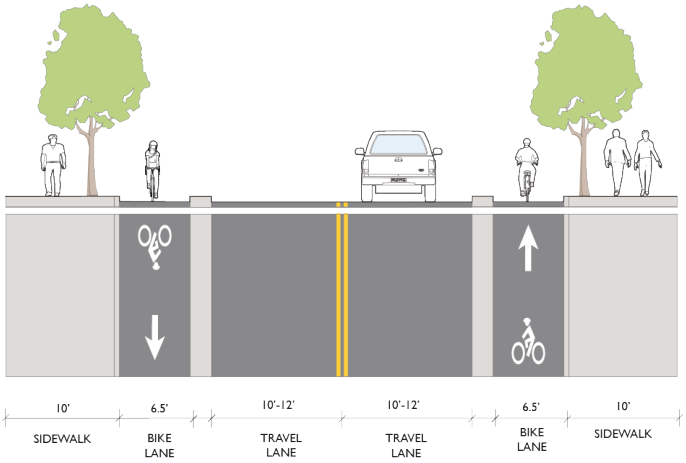
Bicycle Facility	• Shared roadway, buffered bike Lane, separated bike lane • Shared Street
Transit	Floating bus stop, shelters, queue jumps at signalized intersections (helping maintain efficient and reliable service).
Parking	On-street parallel and/or angled (angled only when proper sidewalk width can be achieved) on one or both sides of the street.
Landscape	Street trees and landscape at intersections and tree island bulbouts.
Lighting	Ample pedestrian scale lighting and vehicular scale lighting at all intersections (ensure lighting illuminates all crosswalks and entire intersection, not just the traffic light itself).
Design	Self-enforcing or speed limit.

Downtown Street Context: W. Main Street

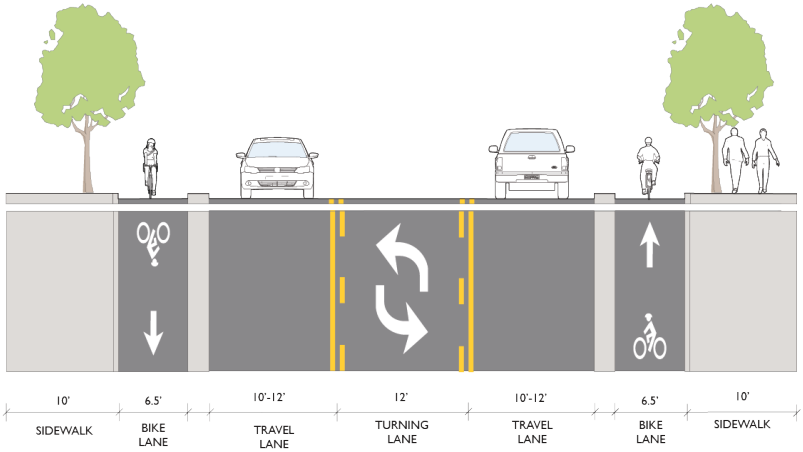
Downtown Street Context Types



Sidewalk Level Bike Lane

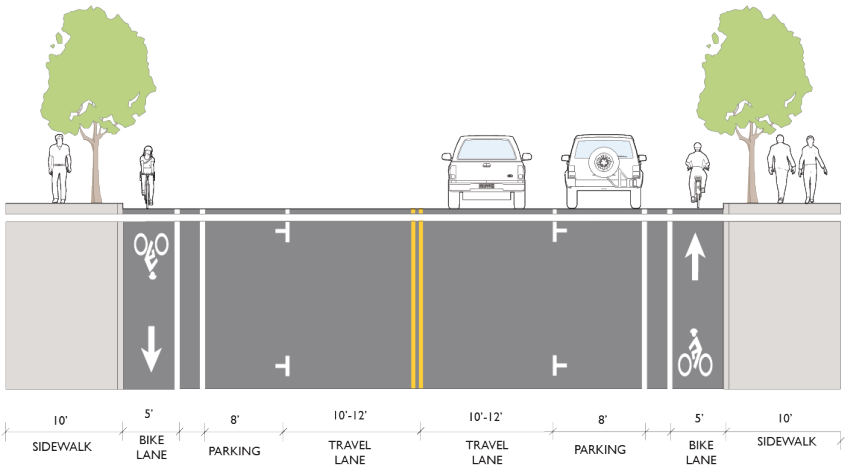


Separated Bike Lane

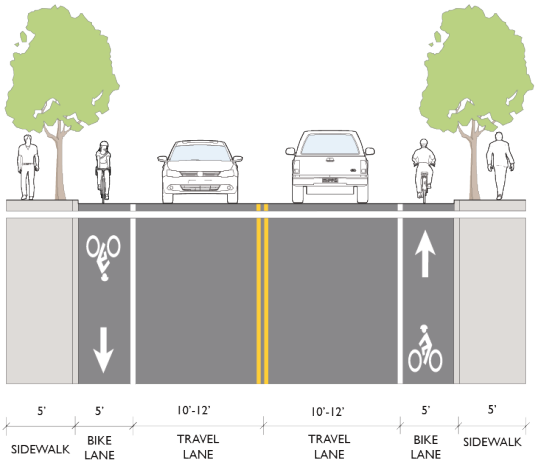


Separated Bike Lane

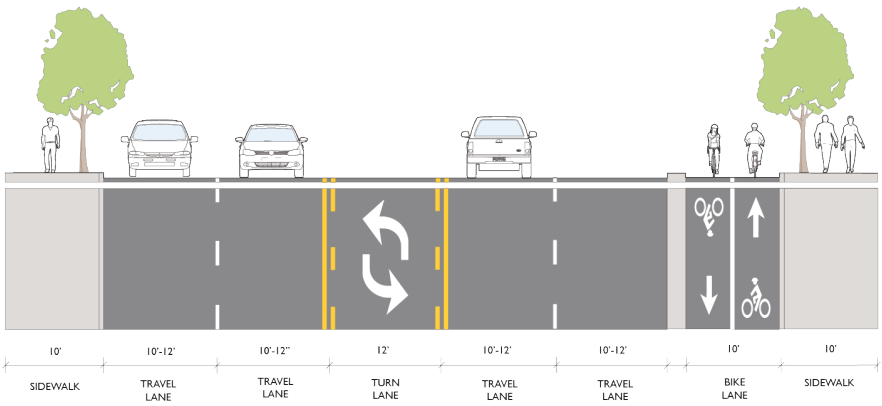
Downtown Street Context Types



Parking Protected Bike Lane



Bike Lane + Sidewalk



Two-Way Separated Bike Lane 3+ Travel Lanes

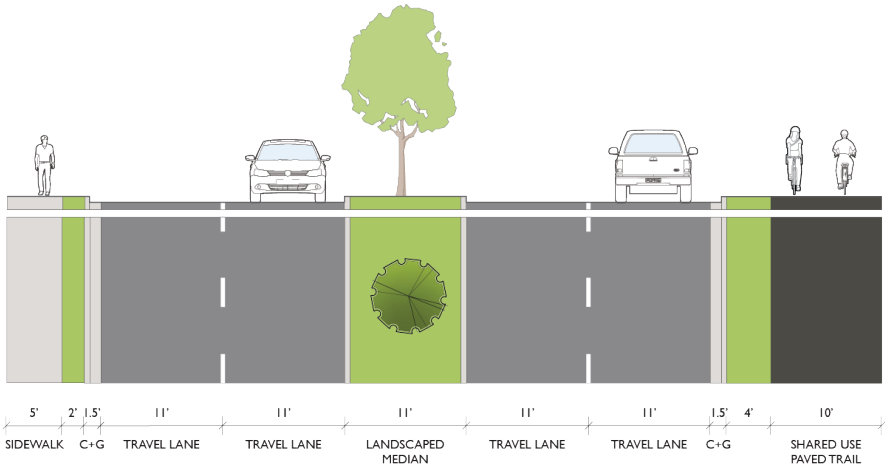
Primary Corridor

The Primary Corridor context efficiently moves people through the city both north, south, east, and west to major destinations from the Neighborhood to Downtown Core context. It includes a variety of land use types (e.g., residential, retail, office, park, commercial, etc.) that are rarely mixed with one another on a single site but are connected by a network of streets. Commercial and industrial development is spread out on medium to large parcels with larger setbacks and adjoining surface parking lots. Primary corridors increase vehicle mobility from the Neighborhood context into more dense contexts for employment, services, and/or entertainment. Biking and walking opportunities should be provided with separation from vehicle traffic through on-street facilities, detached sidewalks, and adjacent-to-street facilities (e.g., separated bike lanes, shared use paths, etc.) and the development of off-street trails. Seamless connectivity, however, may be challenging due to increased distances between destinations and/or signalized intersections along the street network. Until implementation of nonmotorized facilities and other safety improvements (e.g., curb cut reductions, protected intersections) are implemented, vulnerable users are encouraged to use neighborhood streets to limit exposure to primary corridors with higher volumes of traffic. The following are facilities that are most appropriate for the Primary Corridor context.

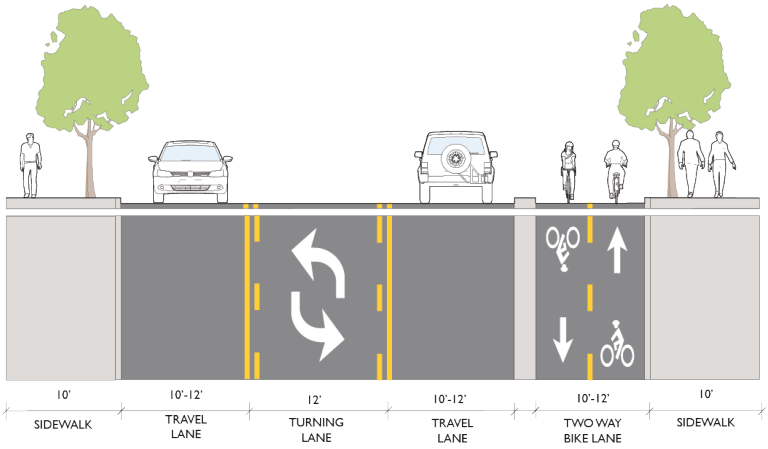
Target Street Characteristics	
Speed	35 - 45 mph
Lane Width	11’ - 12’
Pedestrian Facility	• Sidewalk on both ends of the street • Sidewalk width: 8’ Minimum if against the curb, 5’ minimum with 3’ landscape buffer • Shared use path
Bicycle Facility	Separated bike lane or shared use.
Transit	Floating bus stop, shelters, queue jumps at signalized intersections (helping maintain efficient and reliable service), some dedicated bus lanes.
Parking	No on-street parking.
Landscape	Street trees.
Lighting	Ample vehicle scale lighting along the corridor and at all intersections (ensure lighting illuminates all crosswalks and entire intersection, not just the traffic light itself).

Primary Corridor Context: US - 29

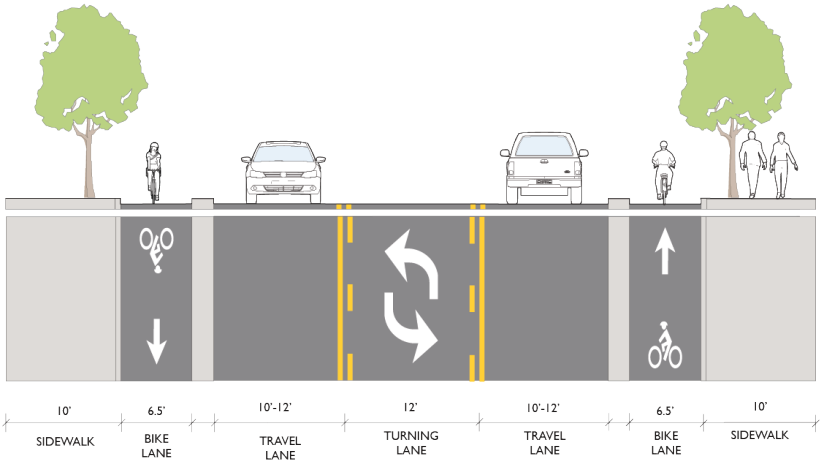
Primary Corridor Context Types



Shared Use Paved Trail 4 Lanes

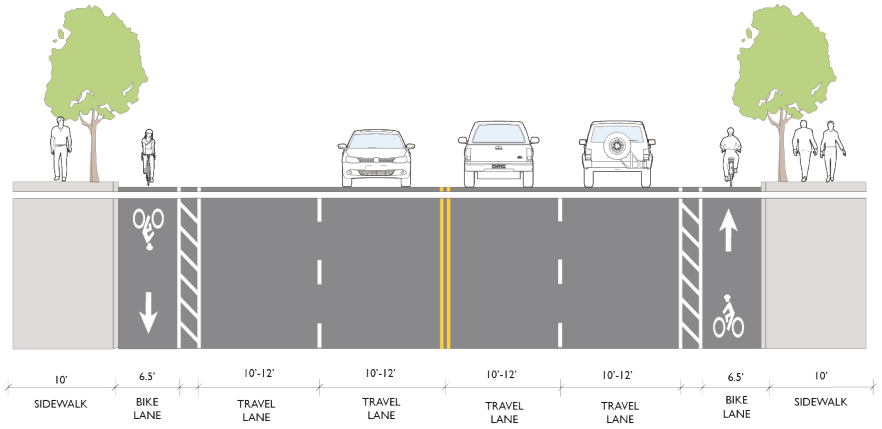


Two-Way Separated Bike Lane

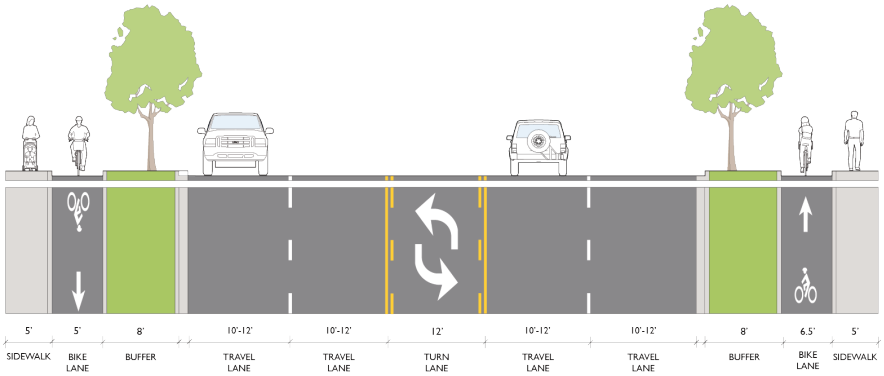


Separated Bike Lane

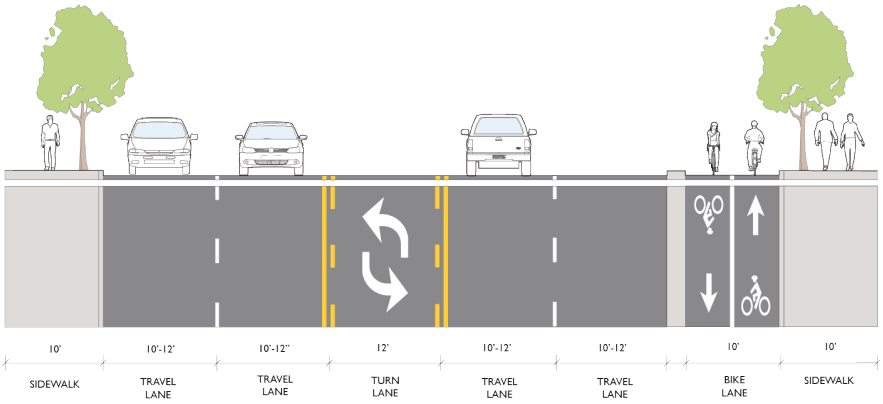
Primary Corridor Context Types



Buffered Bike Lane 3+ Travel Lanes



Bike Lanes + Sidewalk 3+ Travel Lanes



Two-Way Separated Bike Lane 3+ Travel Lanes

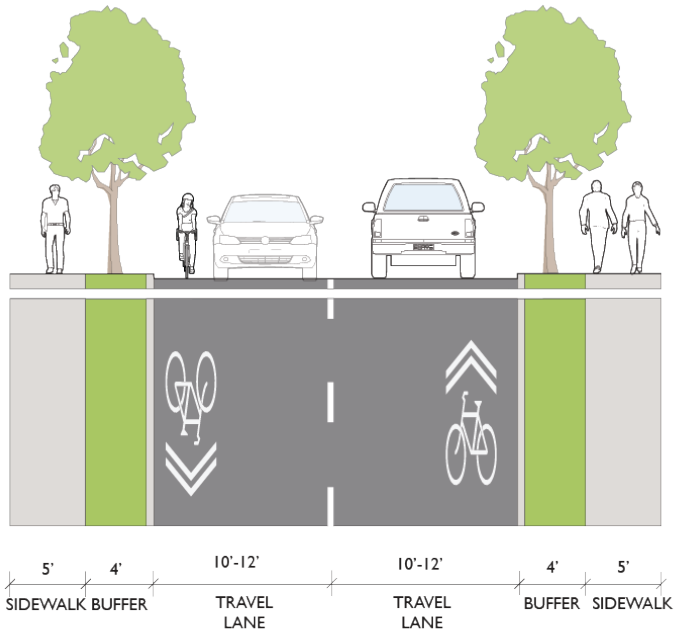
Urban Neighborhood

The Urban Neighborhood context is comprised of dense residential housing (e.g., single family, town homes, and multi-family dwelling units) along defined city blocks with little off-street parking. Streets have low speed limits, parking on one or both sides, sidewalks, and street trees are typically present between the sidewalk and curb. Multiple mobility choices outside of a personal vehicle are available and supported due to short trip distances and general proximity to Downtown Core, Downtown, transit stops, or nonmotorized routes. The following cross sections depict facilities that are most appropriate for the Urban Neighborhood context.

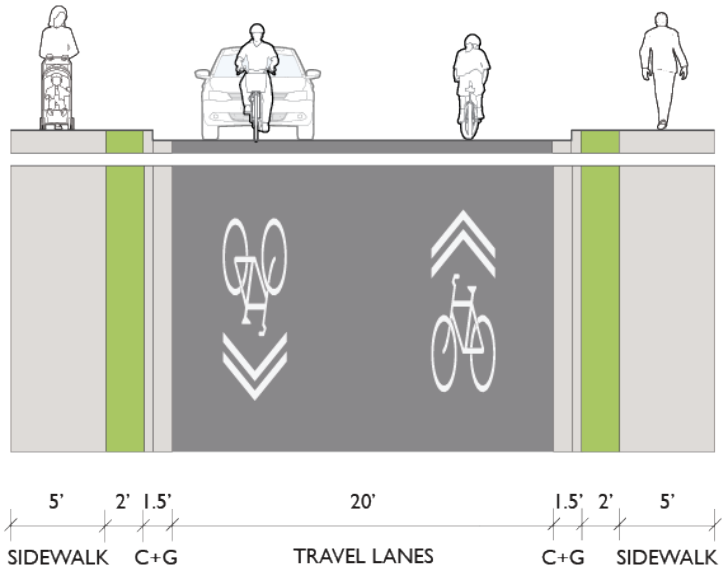
Target Street Characteristics	
Speed	15 - 25 mph
Lane Width	10’ - 11’
Pedestrian Facility	• Sidewalk on both sides • Sidewalk width: 5’ minimum (3’ landscape buffer preferred between curb and sidewalk)
Bicycle Facility	• Shared roadway, bike boulevard.
Transit	Bus stop, shelters.
Parking	On-street parallel on one or both sides of the street.
Landscape	Street trees allowed within the right-of-way.
Lighting	Ample pedestrian scale lighting and vehicular scale lighting at all intersections (ensure lighting illuminates all crosswalks and entire intersection, not just the traffic light itself).
Design	Self-enforcing or speed limit through traffic calming measures beyond speed bumps.

Urban Neighborhood Context: Hampton Drive

Urban Neighborhood Context Types

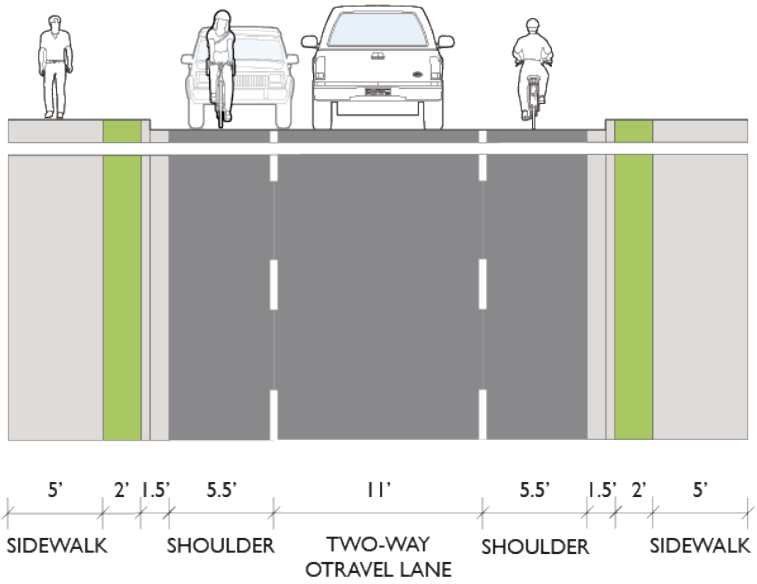


Bike Boulevard Neighborhood Street

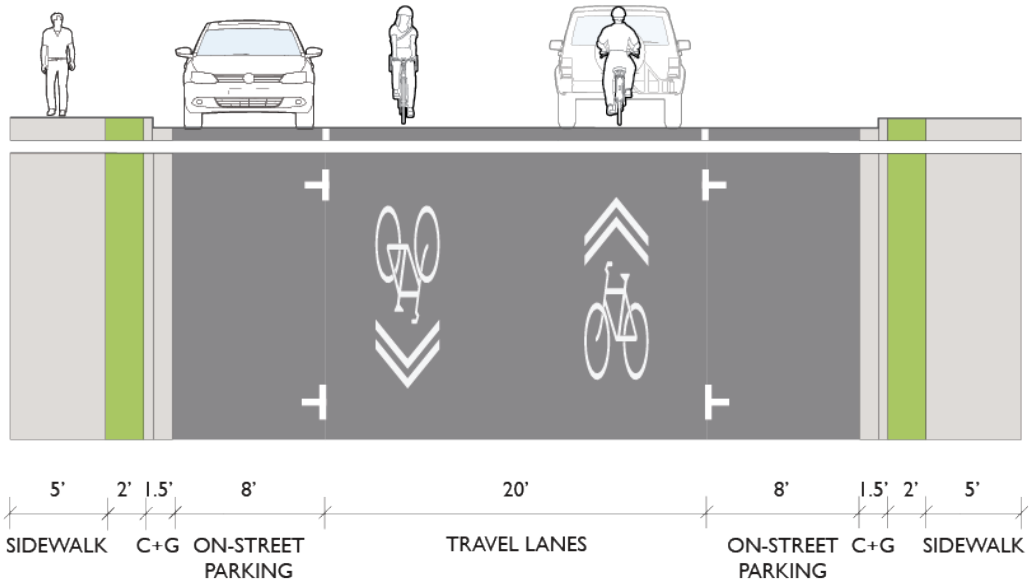


Neighborhood GReenway

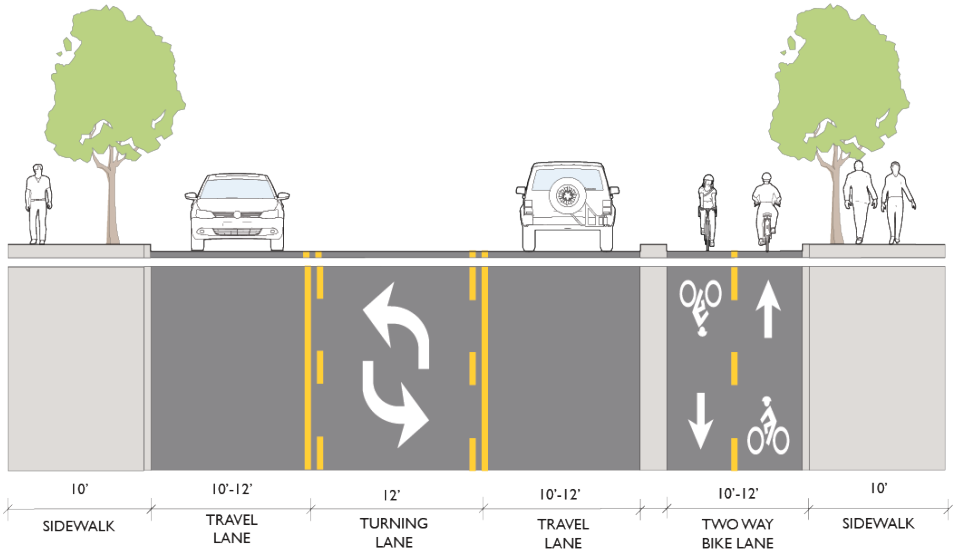
Urban Neighborhood Context Types



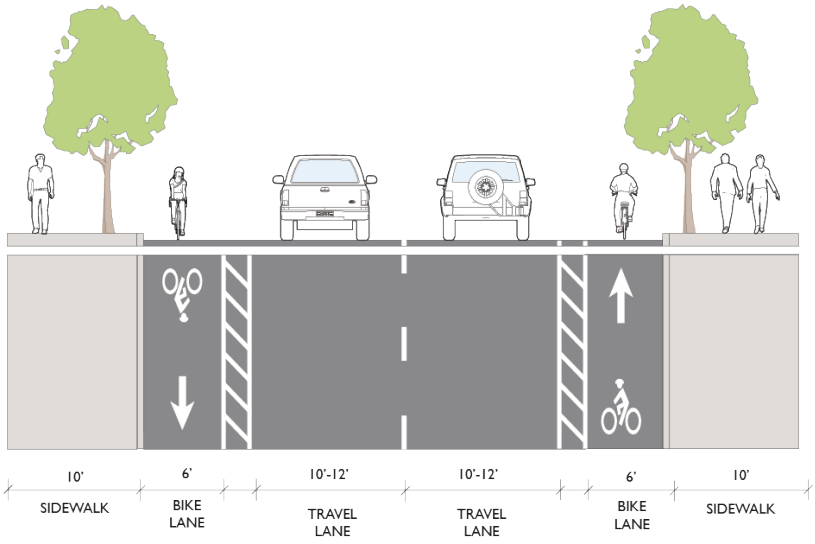
Advisory Shoulder



Neighborhood Greenway

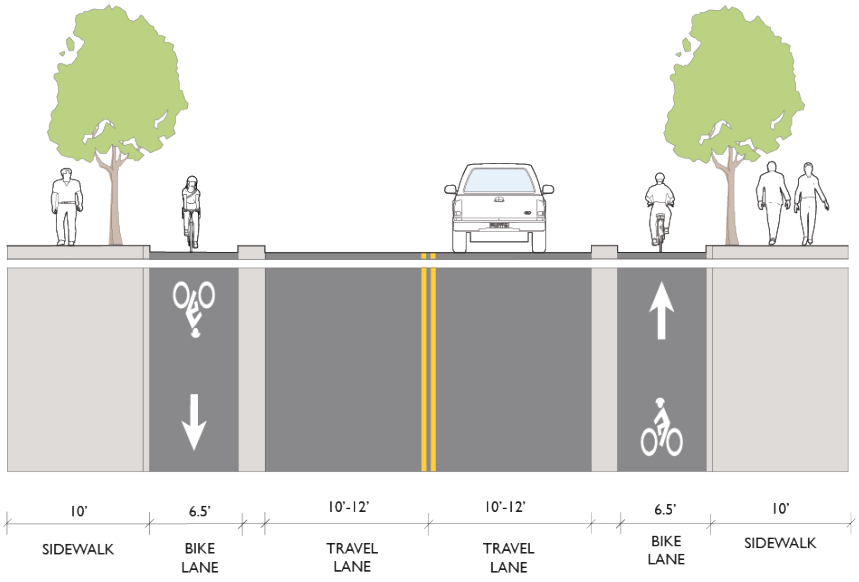


Two-Way Separated Bike Lane

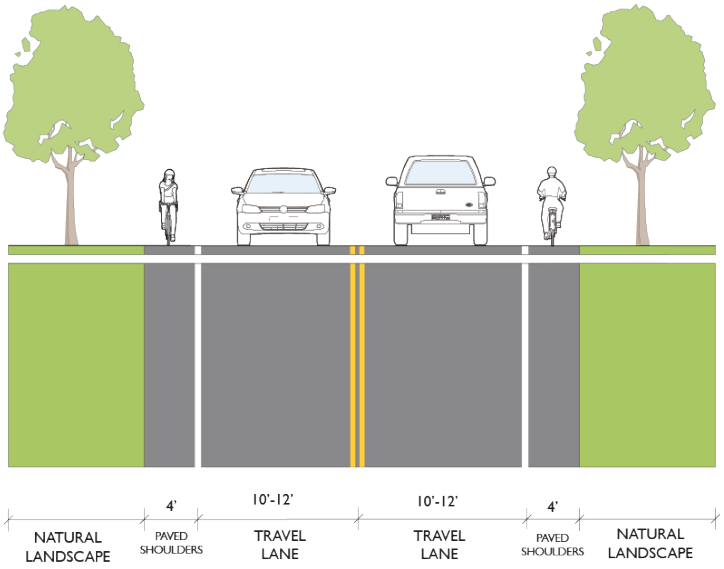


Buffered Bike Lane One-Way Street

Urban Neighborhood Context Types



Separated Bike Lane



Paved Shoulders

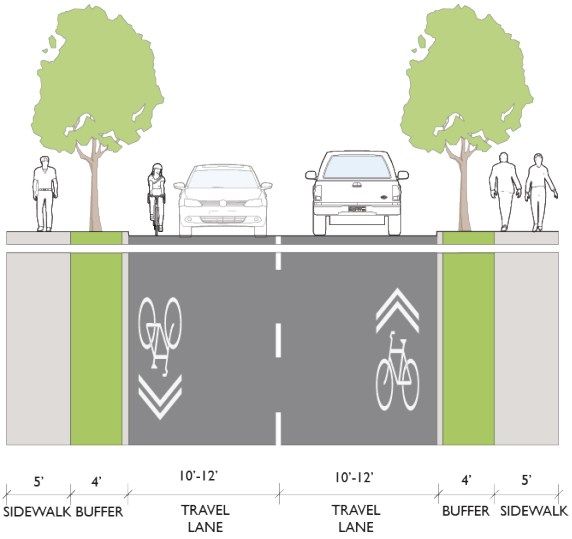
Suburban Neighborhood

The Suburban Neighborhood context is comprised of a mix of residential housing (e.g., single family, town homes, and multi-family dwelling units) and light commercial use along the street network. Light commercial development is spread out on medium to large parcels with larger setbacks and adjoining surface parking lots. Residential development is spread out on small to medium parcels with wide driveways and ample off-street parking. Land uses are rarely mixed with one another on a single site but are connected by a network of streets. Suburban Neighborhood streets may also serve as collector corridors to primary corridors from neighborhood streets of a residential land use. All mobility options (e.g., walking, biking, transit, and personal vehicles) should be accommodated; however, transit may not directly reach all neighborhood streets. Along higher speed streets, biking and walking opportunities should be provided with separation from vehicle traffic through on-street facilities, detached sidewalks, and adjacent-to-street facilities (e.g., separated bike lanes, shared use paths, etc.) and the development of off-street trails. Slower speed streets can accommodate many neighborhood greenway applications. The following are facilities that are most appropriate for the Suburban Neighborhood context.

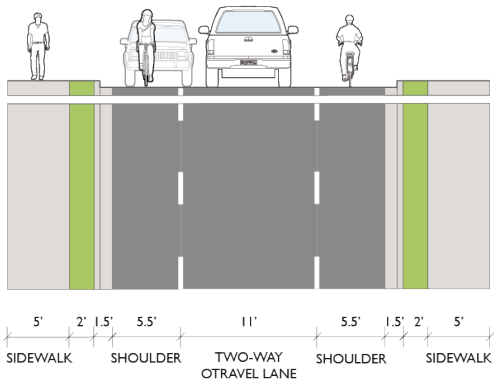
Target Street Characteristics	
Speed	15 - 45 mph
Lane Width	10’ - 12’
Pedestrian Facility	• Sidewalk on both sides • Sidewalk width: 5’ Minimum (3’ landscape buffer preferred between curb and sidewalk)
Bicycle Facility	Shared roadway, neighborhood greenway, separated bike lane, buffered bike lane, shared use.
Transit	Bus stop and shelters.
Parking	On-street parallel on one or both sides of the street at or below 25mph.
Landscape	Street trees.
Lighting	Ample pedestrian scale lighting and vehicular scale lighting at all intersections (ensure lighting illuminates all crosswalks and entire intersection, not just the traffic light itself).
Design	Self-enforcing of speed limit.

Suburban Neighborhood Street Context: Forest Ave

Suburban Neighborhood Street Context Types

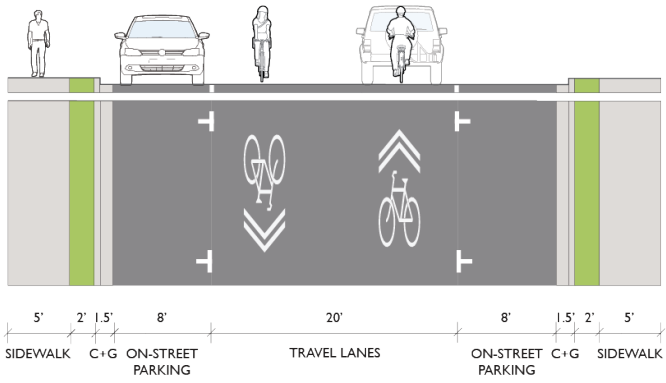


Bike Boulevard Neighborhood Street

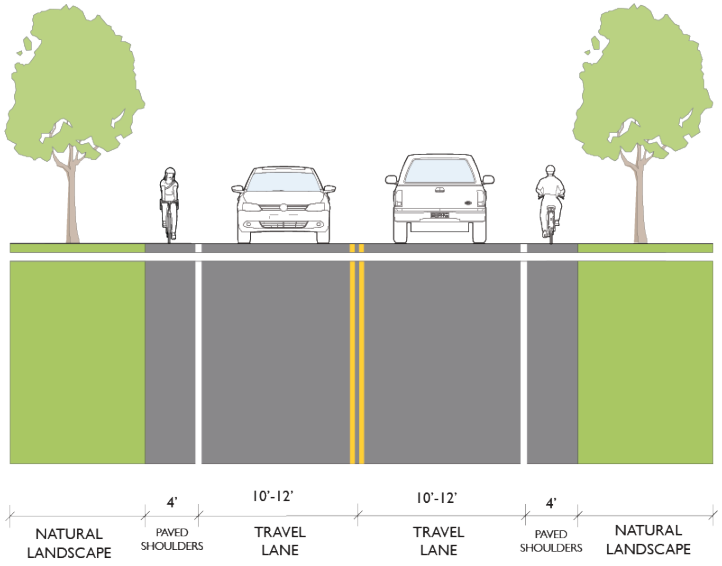


Advisory Shoulder

Suburban Neighborhood Street Context Types

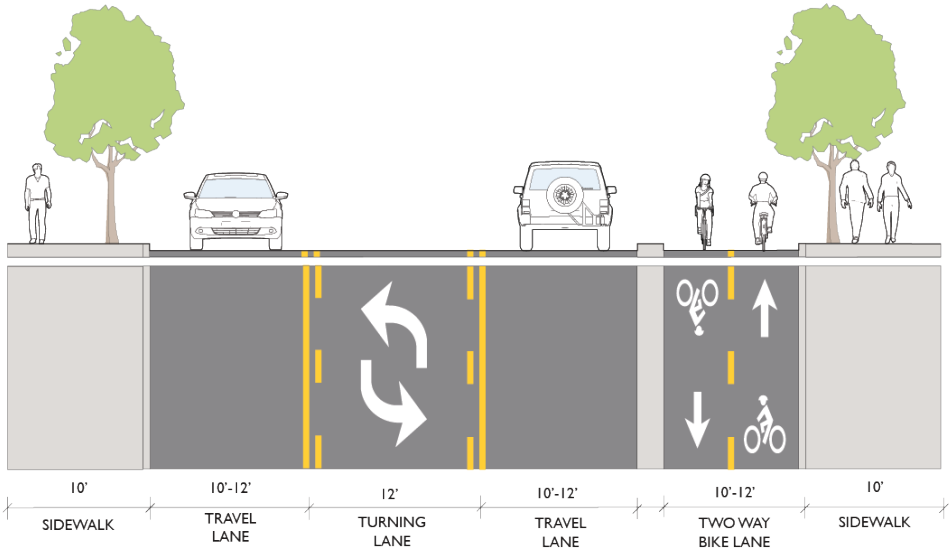


Neighborhood Greenway

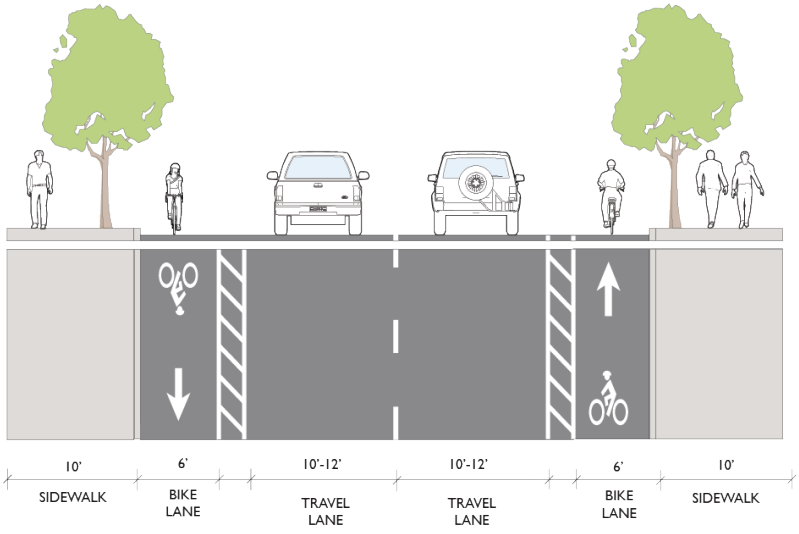


Paved Shoulders

Suburban Neighborhood Street Context Types

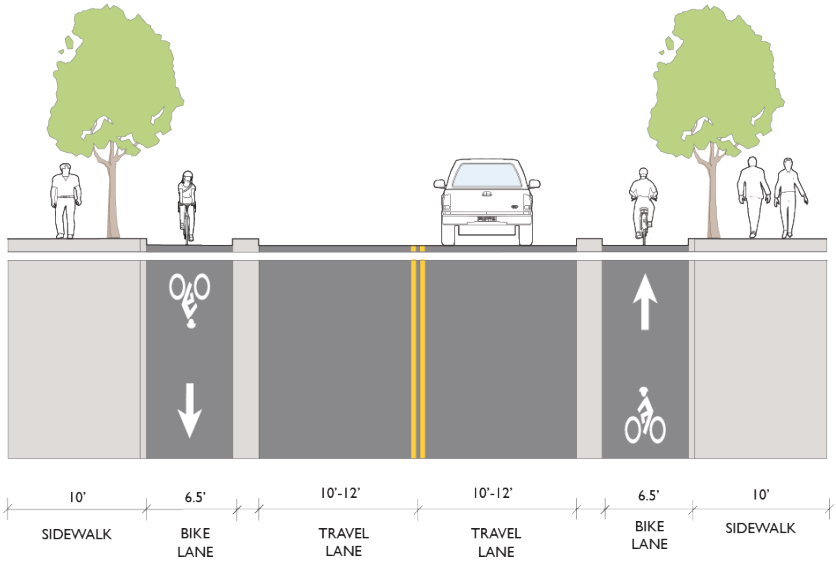


Two-Way Separated Bike Lane

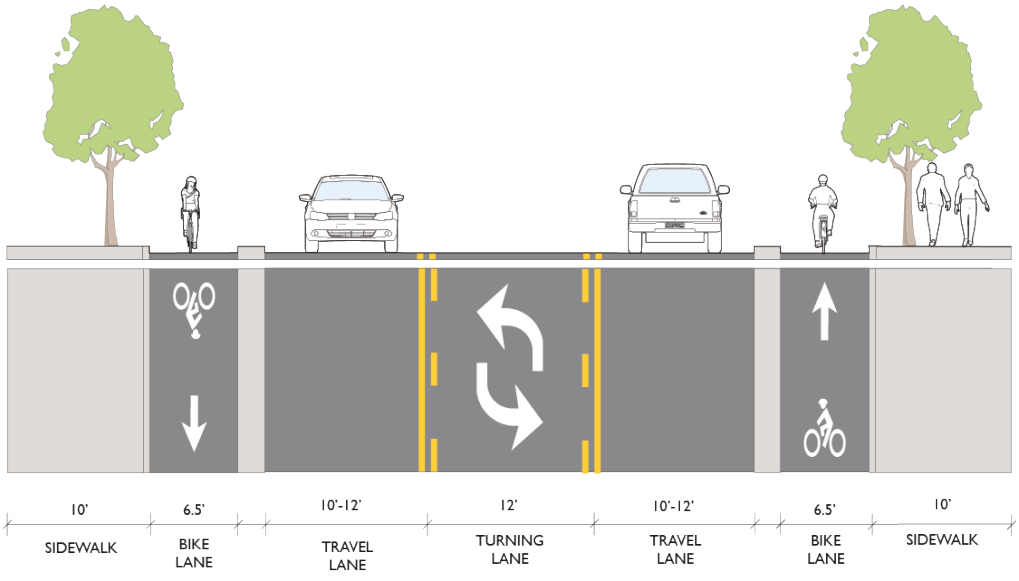


Buffered Bike Lane One-Way Street

Suburban Neighborhood Street Context Types



Separated Bike Lane

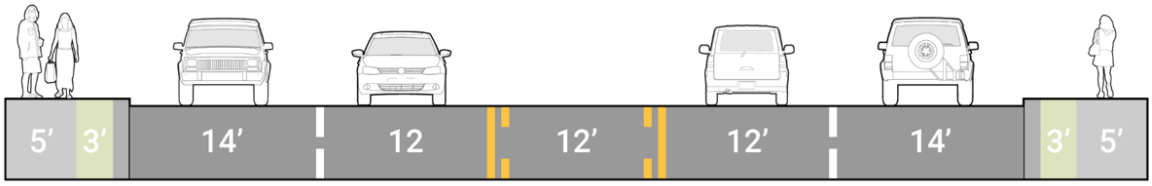


Separated Bike Lane

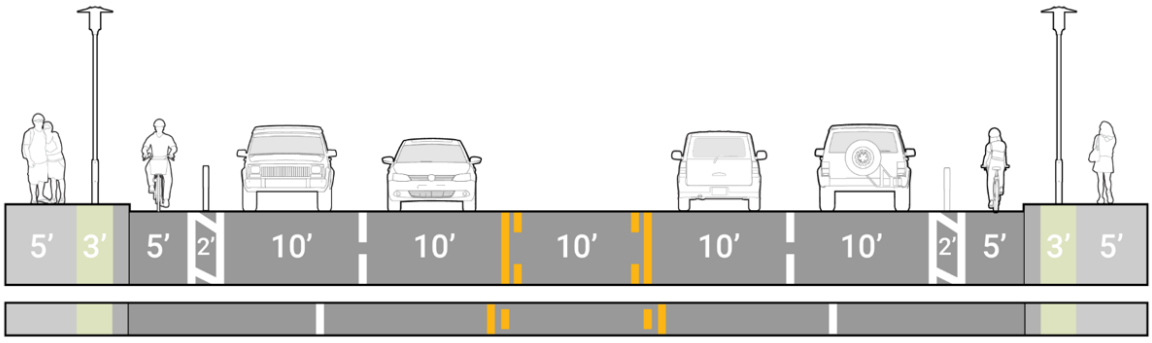
Reallocation of Street Width

While there are many strategies for implementing changes to Spartanburg's street network, reallocating space (road diet) within the width of the existing roadway is often one of the most cost-effective and logistically feasible options. At the onset, streets were designed to connect people to goods and commerce. Over the years, streets have transitioned from being people oriented to car centric, dividing communities, and not accommodating all modes. Streets have also become wider, which the City of Spartanburg can use to its advantage by reallocating street width to more vulnerable users—pedestrians and bicyclists—while maintaining the flow of vehicular traffic.

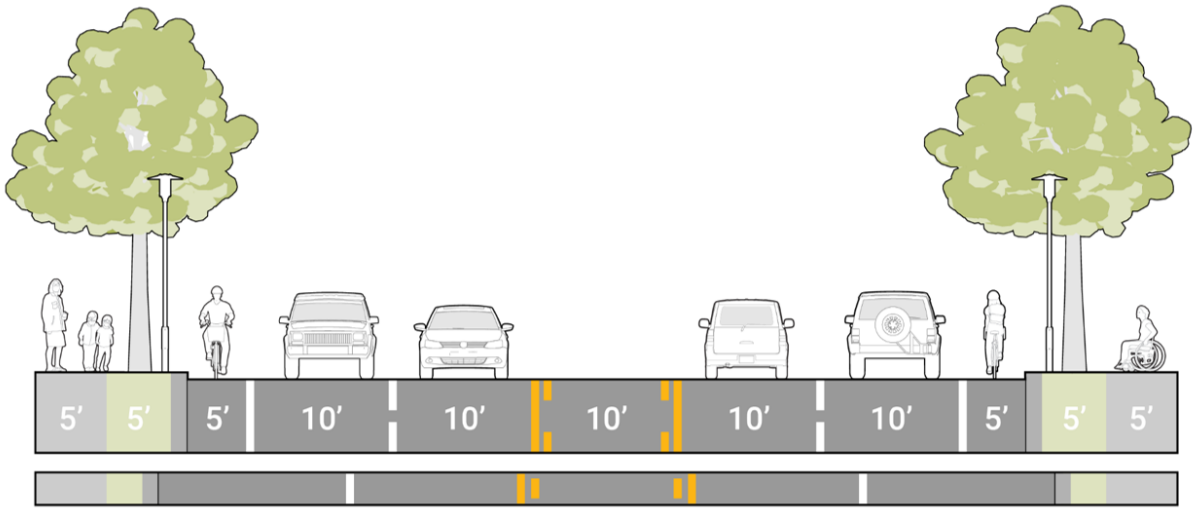
Reallocation of street width can range from low cost, simple striping modification, to higher cost with physical relocation of curbing or the installation of physical buffers. If possible, higher cost solutions should be installed in conjunction with other capital improvement projects such as utility and stormwater updates. Through flexibility and ingenuity, designs can respond to desires, safety, and need, not merely strict guidelines.



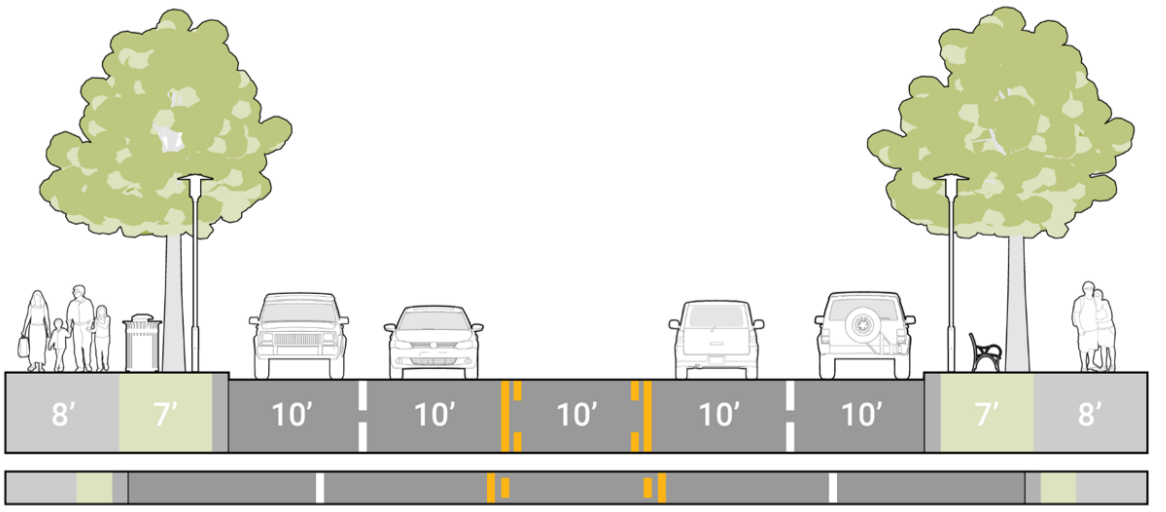
BEFORE FHWA Achieving Multimodal Networks: Applying Design Flexibility and Reducing Conflicts



AFTER FHWA Achieving Multimodal Networks: Applying Design Flexibility and Reducing Conflicts



BEFORE FHWA Achieving Multimodal Networks: Applying Design Flexibility and Reducing Conflicts



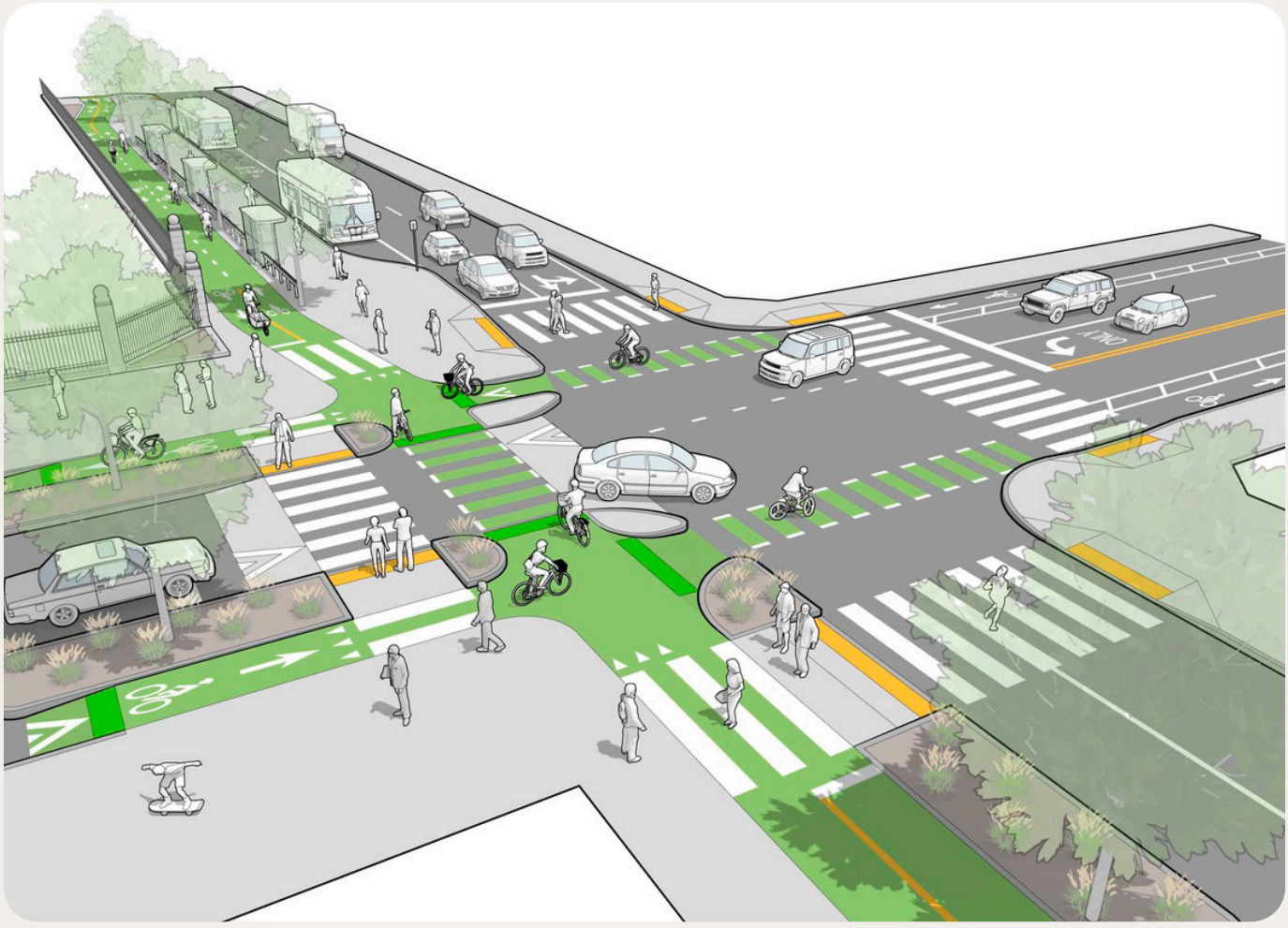
AFTER FHWA Achieving Multimodal Networks: Applying Design Flexibility and Reducing Conflicts

Best Practices for Additional Facilities

Along with the preceding street design guidance, the following best practices for other transportation facilities will support the creation of people-first streets throughout the city.

Where feasible, protected intersection design increases visibility of nonmotorized users and provides physical separation from vehicles. Corner islands shorten the crossing distance for pedestrians while creating space needed for vehicles to yield to bicyclists and pedestrians without impeding traffic.

Protected Intersection

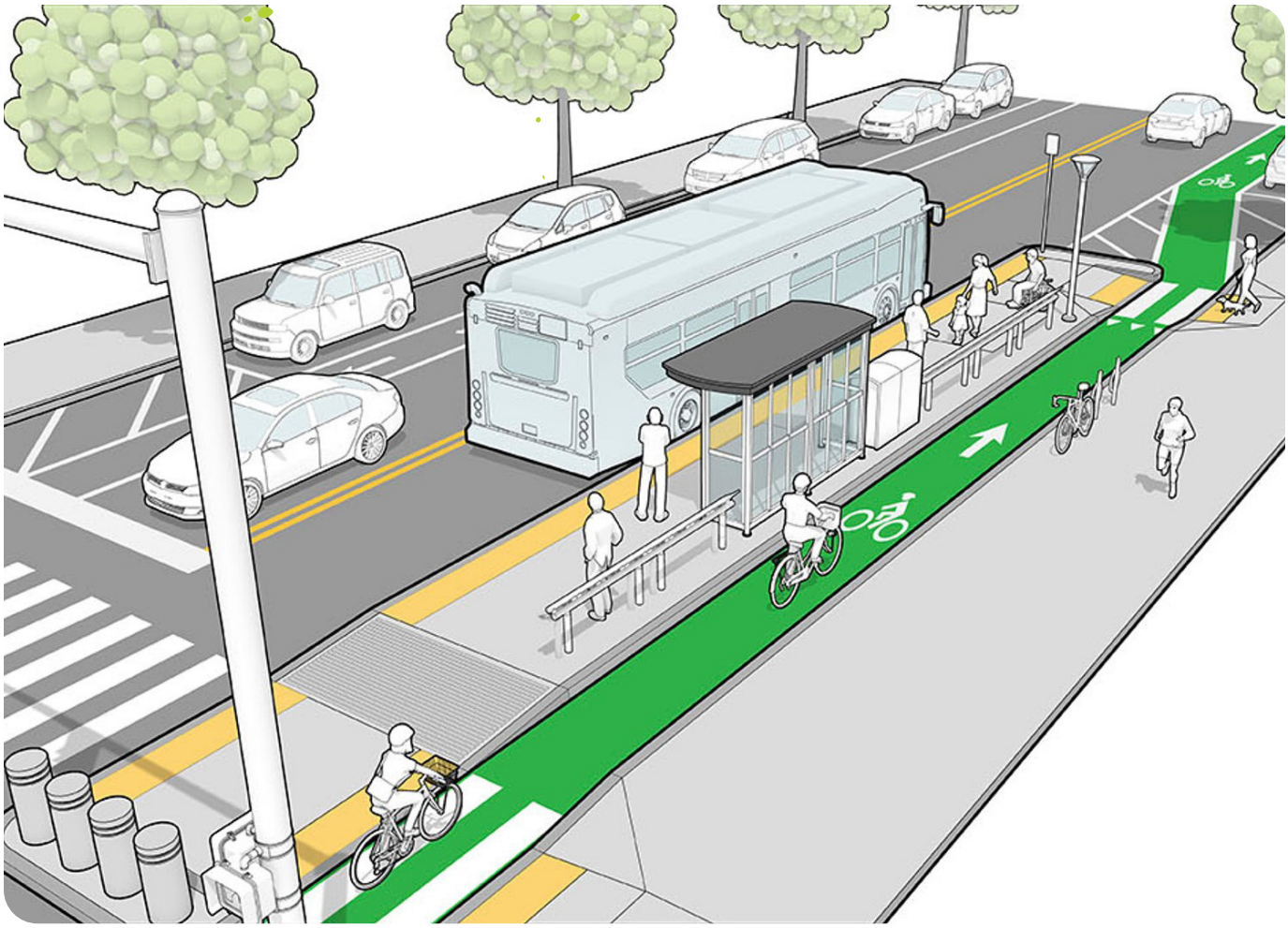


Protected Intersection Design

Source: Toole Design Group

As bicycle routes are constructed and transit service is expanded throughout the city, implementation of floating bus stops will streamline transit boarding and reduce conflicts between bicyclists and buses.

Floating Bus Stop



Floating Bus Stop Design

Source: Toole Design Group

Public Art and Transportation

Transportation systems are highly visible opportunities to incorporate art into the public realm. City-owned streets and pedestrian pathways have been used as artist canvases, providing high-impact, accessible art to the community.

The Creative Crosswalk Project was a collaborative effort between the City of Spartanburg, the Downtown Development Partnership, the Chapman Cultural Center, and OneSpartanburg to create crosswalk murals at two intersections in Downtown Spartanburg. The murals were created by local artists selected through an application process.

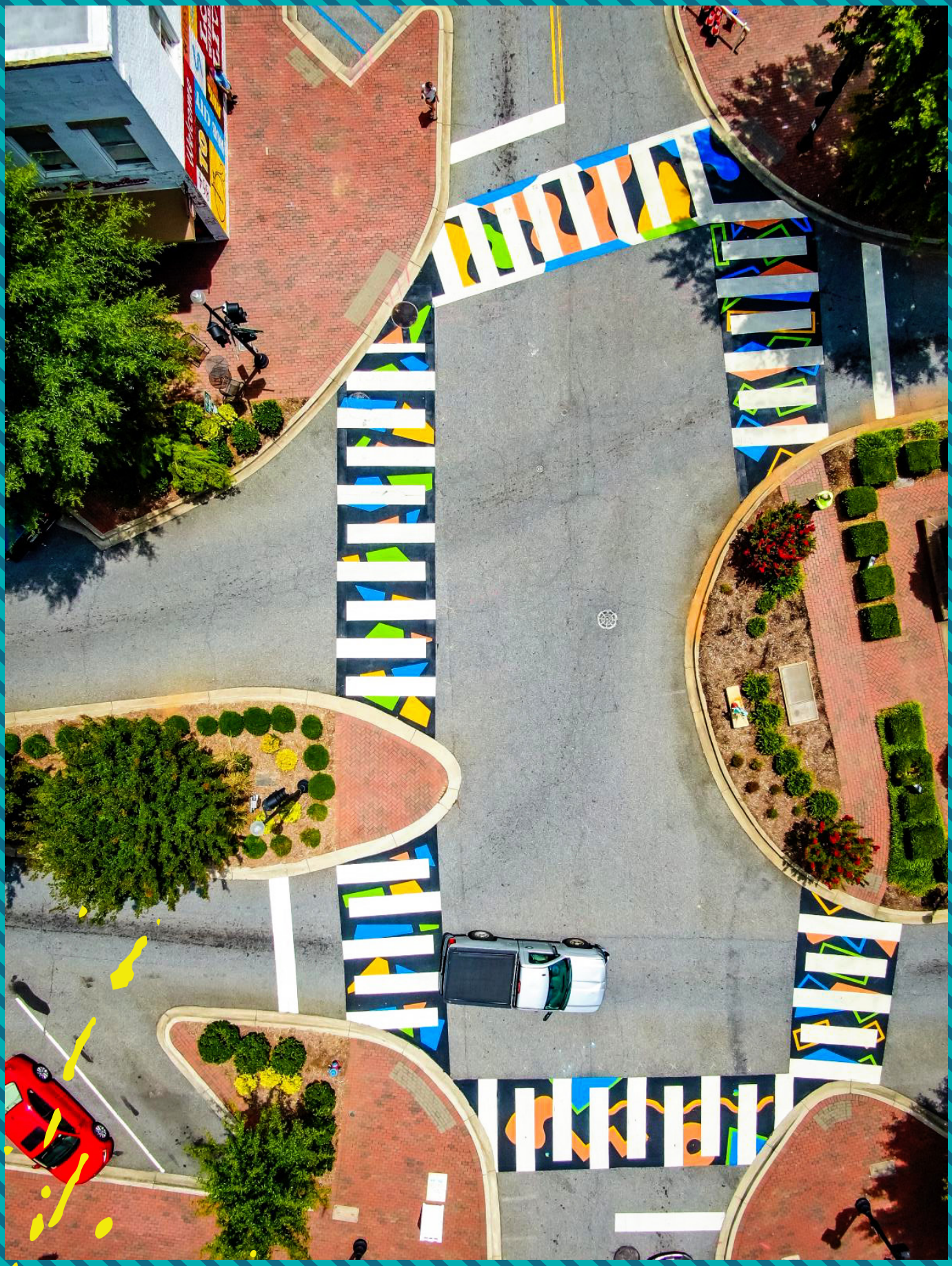
The Cleveland Park Walkway Project is a walkway mural designed and implemented through a partnership between Chapman Cultural Center and Spartanburg County Parks and Recreation. The brightly colored underpass walkway in the Cleveland Heights neighborhood creates a safer, more pleasing pedestrian experience between Berry Field and Cleveland Park.

Public transit systems provide a great opportunity to bring art to the community, but also to encourage people to use public transit. By treating transit stations like art exhibits, they become more than just places to wait for a bus. Even the experience of riding a bus can be made more interesting, educational, and inspirational through the incorporation of art. Buses provide mobile exhibit space, inside and out; and those that are equipped with audio visual equipment can even provide music or digital art. Making public transportation more attractive is a win-win for the community.

Recommendations (Public Art and Transportation)

01	Continue to work with Chapman Cultural Center and other local organizations and funding sources to create art on public streets.
02	Work with SPARTA to incorporate art into buses and bus shelters.
03	Consider how seating/comfort amenities can be implemented into highly traversed streets, especially in combination with public art.

Cleveland Park Walkway Project



Creative Crosswalk Project

Air Travel

The Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport is located on the southwest edge of the City and is notable for being the oldest commercial airport in South Carolina.

Recent improvements have helped the airport make a more significant contribution to the economic development of the City. In 2017/2018, the existing runway was extended an additional 1,700 feet for a total length of nearly 6,000 feet. At the same time, the runway was resurfaced and airport navigation and lighting systems were upgraded. The terminal also underwent a renovation in 2011. The airport's recent improvements have allowed it to compete with other regional airports by accommodating larger corporate jets.

Recommendations (Air Travel)

01	Continue to capitalize on recent upgrades to the airport by marketing it to companies and executives looking to relocate to Spartanburg.
02	Support Partners for Active Living (PAL) efforts to expand The Daniel Morgan Trail to Airport and nearby Airport Park.

Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport

Source: facebook.com/SPAairport

Rail Travel

Spartanburg currently has one passenger train station located on Magnolia Street just northwest of Downtown. The current depot building is a one-story brick structure with a small waiting area. There is no staff or ticketing service at the station.

The Hub City Railroad Museum is located inside the depot building and operated by the Greenville Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society.

The Spartanburg station is serviced by Amtrak's Crescent line, which links New York City to New Orleans, with major stops in Birmingham, AL; Atlanta, GA; and Charlotte, NC.

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), in cooperation with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is working on a project to bring high-speed passenger rail to the Atlanta to Charlotte corridor, a part of the Southeast High-Speed Rail corridor designated by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The FRA is currently exploring options for three different corridor-route alternatives, one of which would follow the existing Amtrak Crescent route through Spartanburg. In September 2019, the FRA and GDOT presented a draft Environmental Impact Statement for public review, a process that has been extended or delayed as of early 2021. Despite these delays and the uncertainty of the route, the City should prepare for the possibility of more active passenger rail service in Spartanburg.

Recommendations (Rail Travel)

01 Prepare for the possibility of expanded passenger rail service in Spartanburg through the creation of Transit-Oriented Development zoning and land use regulations.

A double stack intermodal train passes the Caboose

Source: Hubcitymuseum.org

NATURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT

Introduction

Spartanburg and the Upstate South Carolina region are rich in natural resources, providing numerous opportunities for outdoor recreation and enjoyment, and contributing to the health, quality of life, and economy of the City and the surrounding region. The City has a climate that is warm and temperate, with an average annual temperature of about 60 degrees. Spartanburg sees annual precipitation of approximately 48 inches and only a slight chance of snow in the winter months.

Spartanburg is located approximately 200 miles northwest of the Atlantic coast and 100 miles southeast of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Its location makes it ideal for those who enjoy access to both the beach and the mountains. The City has relatively flat topography, though some steeper slopes can be found adjacent to waterways.

Ensuring that Spartanburg's natural resources are preserved and maintained is important to the overall health of the community and the environment. The trees, vegetation, topography, wetlands, ecosystems, and viewsheds all contribute to the overall character of the City.

From an equity perspective, it was noted during Plan Spartanburg that many of the City's most popular natural areas, including the Cottonwood Trail, are in parts of the City that are generally more economically advantaged, and that some of these amenities are not easily accessible to disadvantaged parts of the community. There was a desire to identify opportunities for additional green spaces throughout the City, particularly on the north, south, and west sides of Spartanburg. This topic is discussed further in the "Spartanburg's Green Network" section that follows.

Cooperation & Collaboration

Spartanburg has a number of organizations working together to promote the protection and enjoyment of natural resources within City limits and across the broader region. The City's spirit of cooperation is a point of pride, and these relationships are the reason for its success when it comes to natural resource management.

At the state level, the **South Carolina Department of Natural Resources** (www.dnr.sc.gov) oversees the management of natural resources across South Carolina. Their mission is to serve as the principal advocate for and steward of the state's natural resources. Their vision for South Carolina is "enhanced quality of life for present and future generations through improved understanding, wise use, and safe enjoyment of healthy, diverse, sustainable and accessible natural resources."

At the regional level, **Upstate Forever** (www.upstateforever.org) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to "protect critical lands, waters, and the unique character of Upstate South Carolina." In addition to protecting land and water, their goals include fostering a love of place; conveying the importance of "now," and serving as a trusted community champion. Upstate Forever collaborates with communities, land owners, and other stakeholders to balance growth with the protection of natural resources. They are the first nationally accredited land trust organization and have protected more than 25,000 acres across the Upstate region through voluntary land easements.

On a local level, **Spartanburg Area Conservancy** (SPACE) (www.spartanburgconservation.org) is a non-profit organization based in Spartanburg that focuses on land conservation, parks management, and environmental outreach. Their mission is to "promote, protect, and preserve natural resources and open space in the Spartanburg community." More information about the work of SPACE can be found in the "Conservation Areas" section on page 176.

Another organization that contributes to the conservation and enjoyment of natural resources in Spartanburg is **Partners for Active Living** (PAL) (www.active-living.org). PAL is a non-profit whose mission is to advance active living, promote healthy eating, and foster health equity in Spartanburg County. One of the primary ways that they achieve these goals is through trail development and stewardship. PAL's successes include the Daniel Morgan Trails System and the Mary Black Foundation Rail Trail. More information about PAL can be found at www.active-living.org.

The majority of the City's parks and recreational facilities are managed by the **City of Spartanburg Parks and Recreation Department** (www.cityofspartanburg.org/parks-and-recreation). Their goal is to enhance quality of life in the City through a variety of recreational programs and opportunities in safe, well-maintained facilities and parks. More information about City recreational and cultural facilities can be found in this section and the "Cultural Facilities" section that begins on page 226.

The **Spartanburg County Parks Department** (www.spartanburgparks.org) oversees a number of parks, lakes, rivers and trails across Spartanburg County, some of which are within City limits.

Natural Resources Equity Indicators

The Equity Indicators as they relate to Natural Resources are proximity and quality of parks and recreation facilities; parks and recreation facility use; and tree cover. These are statistics that are easily mapped and should be overlaid on top of other data like race and income to identify neighborhoods that lack access to green space in the City.

N1: Proximity to Parks & Recreation Facilities

Low income and minority residents in Spartanburg are more likely to live in neighborhoods that do not have adequate access to parks and recreation facilities. Ensuring that they do is an important step towards community health and quality of life. At a minimum, every home should be within a ten-minute walk of a park.

N2: Quality of Parks & Recreation Facilities

Parks are more than just places to be outside. Parks and recreation facilities should be safe, accessible, and have appropriate amenities and programming for the communities they serve. The City should create an evaluation system for existing and future parks and score them based on safety, accessibility, maintenance, and available amenities. It is also suggested that the City establish a GIS Technician position to carry out these efforts, along with any associated assessment recommendation work (refer to "Government Employment & Facilities" section).

N3: Parks & Recreation Facility Use

Parks and recreation facility use should be measured in several ways. The overall use (or underuse) of a facility is an indicator of its value to the community. The way a park is used helps shed light on what amenities are most desirable and what amenities may be underutilized or inappropriate for the community that park serves. A facility may be underused for several reasons, from perception of safety to mismatched demographics. For example, a large new playground might be built in an area where few children live. The playground may still be frequently used by those who can drive to it, but it is of little use to a low-income family without a vehicle that lives too far away to walk. The City should track not only how much use a park gets, but where the people who use that park actually live, and how they get to it.

N4: Tree Cover

One of the most physically obvious signs of neighborhood inequity in Spartanburg is the lack of trees in its most racially and economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. Unfortunately, these are also neighborhoods where people are more likely to be walking to their destination, which can be extremely uncomfortable when shade is scarce.

American Forests (americanforests.org) has developed a Tree Equity Score to ensure "every neighborhood has enough trees so that all people experience the health, economic, and other benefits that trees provide." The score is based on tree cover, population density, income, employment, race and ethnicity, age and urban heat island effect. Calculating the City's current Tree Equity Score can provide a baseline upon which to improve.

Spartanburg's Green Network

Participants in Plan Spartanburg expressed the need for a green infrastructure plan to determine where to direct growth, preserve open space, and add new parks and recreation opportunities. Creating a "Green Network" plan will help elected officials and partner agencies prioritize land acquisition and infrastructure projects. A network of green spaces connected by green corridors, greenways, and green streets will help protect and enhance the natural resources of the City including waterways, floodplains, existing trees, and recreation areas.

By studying the City's current green infrastructure overlaid on GIS Census data related to the racial composition of Spartanburg's neighborhoods, it becomes clear that green spaces and outdoor recreational opportunities are disproportionately accessible to predominantly white neighborhoods. A green infrastructure plan is an opportunity to mitigate these inequities and identify the areas most in need.

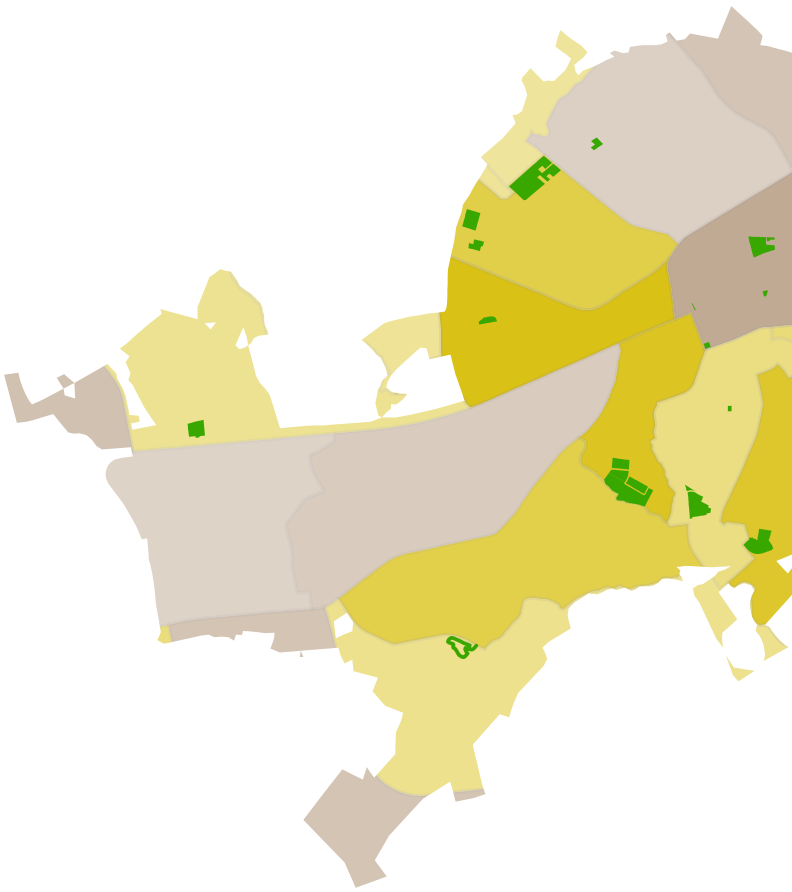
The City should protect key environmental features while accommodating future development. The focus should be on increasing connections between people and open spaces, and providing amenities in places that are lacking them. New development and existing neighborhoods should incorporate open space and stormwater infrastructure elements as amenities.

Examples of Green Network implementation can include:

Green Spaces

Green space includes all the parks, greenways, floodplains, and forested areas now (or planned for) in the City, as well as other protected open spaces. Natural areas and improved spaces are all key components to a full and functional green network.

Census tracts with majority non-hispanic white population



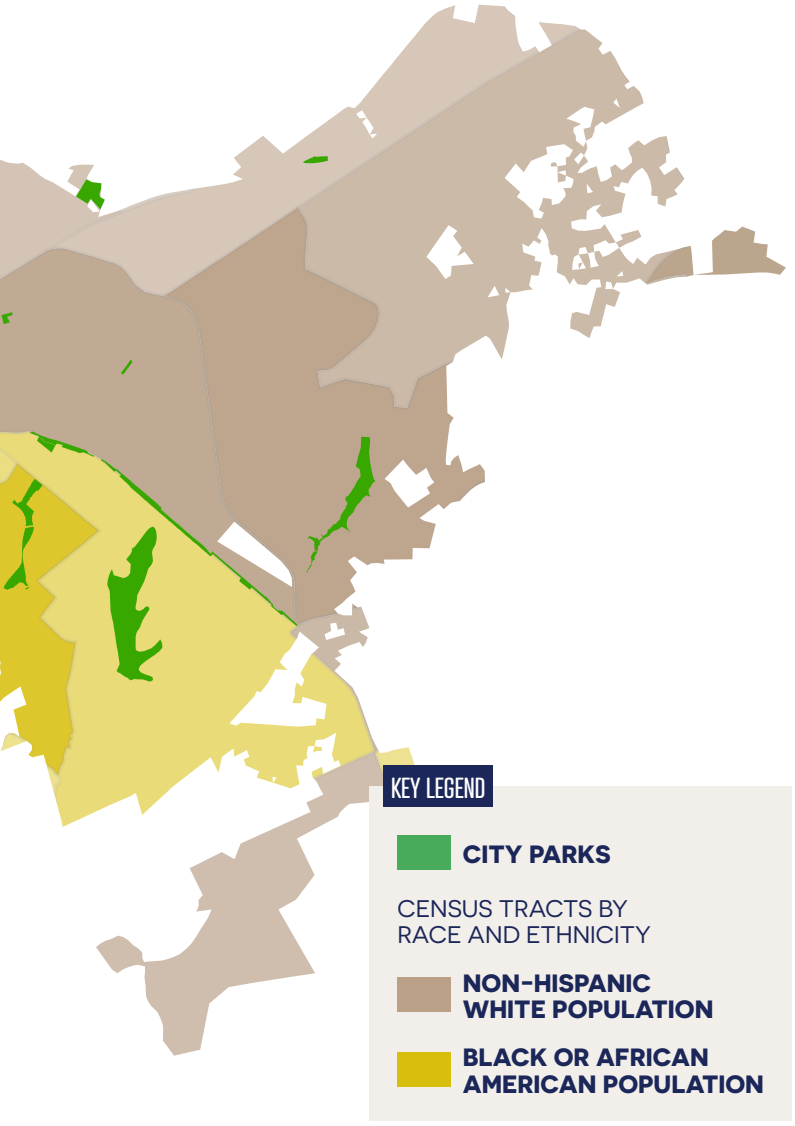
Source: 2019 ACS

Green Corridors

In their natural state, green corridors help conserve valuable natural resources, such as water quality where vegetation remains intact along and around water bodies and preserved wetlands. They also serve as wildlife corridors connecting essential habitat areas. Green corridors can also consist of greenway trails and green streets to connect green spaces and other destinations such as shopping, streets, schools, neighborhoods, and other destinations in Spartanburg. As such, these corridors can serve as safe and pleasant transportation routes. Additional tree planting associated with these projects can help to enhance the existing urban forest and provide a more desirable user experience. Green corridors can protect private property, buffering it from incompatible uses, while improving access to nature.

Green Streets

A green street is a street right-of-way that, through a variety of design and operational treatments, gives priority to bicycles, pedestrian circulation and stormwater treatment. The improvements may include sidewalk widening, bike lanes, landscaping, traffic calming, and stormwater planters.



WHAT WE HEARD

"Need a green infrastructure plan."

Recommendations (Green Network)

01 Prepare a Green Network plan that focuses on building a comprehensive and continuous green infrastructure network with special attention to equitable facilities and outcomes. Prioritize connecting key destinations through green corridors and include greenways to increase regional and local biking and walking trips.

Parks & Recreation

The City's Department of Parks and Recreation manages 294 acres of parks, open space, trails, and recreation facilities, all of which contribute significantly to a healthy lifestyle and a high quality of life for Spartanburg's residents and visitors. Spartanburg's parks system is one of its greatest community assets, and the City works closely with Partners for Active Living and the local school districts to provide parks and recreation facilities and programming.

The Department of Parks and Recreation oversees 30 community and neighborhood parks, ranging in size from less than an acre to 102 acres. To further expand park access, the City entered a partnership with Spartanburg County School Districts 6 and 7 so that the City's residents could use eight of the school districts' underutilized play spaces and athletic facilities during non-school hours.

The City also offers a variety of health classes, after-school and adult education programming, community rooms and indoor recreation facilities at the City's three Community Centers, including the newest addition – the **Dr. T.K. Gregg Community Center** which re-opened in 2020. There is no immediate need for additional community or activity centers in Spartanburg.

Spartanburg's parks and recreation facilities provide a broad range of indoor and outdoor activities, but there is a growing need for programming and facilities that cater to all ages and abilities. While current facilities meet the needs of most residents, there is room for improvement in terms of equity and accessibility. Plan Spartanburg participants emphasized the need for parks and recreation facilities that can be utilized by everyone, including older and disabled residents, neurodivergent children, and older teens.

Those who participated in Plan Spartanburg had a broad wish list when it came to parks and recreation amenities, including more tennis and basketball courts; additional soccer fields; another outdoor pool; improved park safety; enhanced tree cover; and opportunities for boating and fishing.

Unfortunately, in terms of space, Spartanburg is relatively built-out, and there are few opportunities for large scale parks within City limits. Future efforts should focus on smaller scale neighborhood parks and enhancements to existing parks.

In terms of equity, there was much discussion of the difference in perception and experience of Black residents in the City's parks. Some Black participants told us that they do not feel comfortable in some of Spartanburg's public spaces, having been treated inequitably by law enforcement or other residents. This is an experience that is not unique to Spartanburg, and is the result of implicit bias that can lead white people to see Black people as threatening. In order to provide public spaces that are truly equitable, the City must ensure that everyone feels comfortable and welcomed in them, regardless of race or other factors.

The **Safe Routes Partnership** (www.saferoutespartnership.org) recommends several approaches to designing spaces and programming to promote safety and address inequities. The goal is to avoid situations that may lead to the police being called, and to eliminate unnecessary negative interactions with the police. The first,

most critical step is engaging with the community to understand how the design of public spaces affects feelings of safety and welcoming. When improving existing spaces, the City should first focus on enhancing safety and accessibility. The next step is providing features and amenities that reflect the needs and desires of the people who use the space. It is also important to strengthen community connections, with the understanding that people who know their neighbors are more likely to communicate and develop trust.

C.C. Woodson Comunity Center

WHAT WE HEARD

"Need more multi-use green spaces."

"Need a broader variety of parks and recreation amenities."

"Need more parks and recreation in rural areas of the City."

"Many parks are underutilized."

City of Spartanburg Parks & Recreation		
PARKS		
Park Name	**Size**	**Location**
Airport Park	7 acres	500 Ammons Road
Andrews Farm Park (Pinecrest Park)	29 acres	1370 Pinecrest Rd (off Woodburn Rd)
Barnet Park	7 acres	248 E. St. John St
Beaumont Park (Adams)	9.2 acres	380 E. Boundary Dr (off Isom Rd)
Beaumont Mills Park	1 acre	660 Southern Street
Butterfly Creek & Greenway	8 acres	Northside Development
Chapel Street Park	1.61 acres	104 Chapel St (off N. Church)
Downtown Pocket Park		190 W. Main Street
Duncan Park and Stadium	102.53 acres	81 West Park Dr
E. Lewis Miller Park	0.14 acre	E. Main St
Edward C. Stewart Park (Fairforest)	20.69 acres	500 Highland Avenue
Evins St Park	0.14 acres	Evins St
Fairgrounds Basketball Courts	1 acre	Piedmont Interstate Fairgrounds
Farley Avenue Park	2.29 acres	Farley Ave
Happy Hollow Park	.94 acres	640 Glendalyn Ave (Converse Hts area)
Hillcrest Park	2.51 acres	1445 Maryland Ave., (Park Dr. off Hillcrest Ave.)
Hot Spot Skate Park	0.98 acres	339 Union Street
Hub City Art Park	0.42 acres	209 S. Daniel Morgan Ave. (Corner of Daniel Morgan & Henry St.)
Irwin Park	14 acres	685 Irwin Avenue
Play on Main - Denny's Plaza Park	0.22 acres	E. Main St., Liberty St. and Broad St.
Play60 Park at the Rail Yard	7 acres	353 Forest Avenue
Mary H. Wright Greenway	Part of Priscilla Rumley Park	Hudson Barksdale Ave (S. Converse)

City of Spartanburg Parks & Recreation		
PARKS		
Park Name	**Size**	**Location**
Priscilla Rumley Park	23.9 acres	100 Alexander Ave. [Hudson Barksdale Ave to Caulder to Alexander Ave.]
Rail Trail Dog Park	0.54 acres	845 Union St., Across from Duncan Park Entrance
Richardson Park	.25 acres	217 E. Main Street
Riverbirch Trail	2 acres	Spartanburg H.S. - Sydnor Rd.
S. Converse St. Park	0.78 acres	419 S. Converse Street
Summer Hill Park	1.89 acres	311 Hillandale Rd
T.K. Gregg Ballfield	11.09 acres	Northview St., (310 Oakland Ave, 29302)
Vic Bailey Subaru Bike Park	Part of the Rail Yard	353 Forest Avenue
Train Station	10 acres	298 Magnolia St
Willow Oaks Park	0.40 acres	194 West Hampton Avenue, 29306
RECREATION CENTERS		
Recreation Center	**Size**	**Location**
C.C. Woodson	3.31 acres	210 Bomar Ave, 29306
Dr. T K Gregg Community Center	9.0 acres	650 Howard Street, 29306
Rev. James D. Thornton Activity Center	26.73 acres	500 Norris Street, 29306

Swimming Pools	**3**
C C Woodson Outdoor Pool	1
Dr. T K Gregg Indoor Pools	2

Ball Fields	**7**
Adams Park (Beaumont Park)	1
Duncan Park Little League Ballfields	2
Irwin Park Ballfields	2
Stewart Park Ballfield	1
T. K. Gregg Ballfield	1

Interactive Fountains / Splash Pads	**3**
Airport Park	1
Barnet Park	1
Edward C Stewart Park	1

Recommendations (Parks & Recreation)

01	Prioritize creating welcoming and inclusive spaces for people of all ages and abilities.
02	Encourage inclusive activation and programming of parks and open spaces for the elderly and persons with disabilities or neurodivergent conditions.
03	Regularly engage the community in discussions about parks and recreation facilities in the City to ensure park programming meets the needs of residents who use the system. Work directly with residents to ensure the City provides inclusive and accessible parks and outdoor recreation opportunities.
04	Ensure equitable access to parks in the City by conducting a neighborhood-level analysis to determine which residential areas lack accessibility to a park within a ten-minute walk. The analysis should be conducted by the recommended GIS Technician, who would analyze the of the number of households served by each park, the walking distance to each park from the homes that it serves, and the quality of the pedestrian connections.
05	Find opportunities to create smaller, neighborhood-level parks in areas that are currently lacking them. Areas mentioned during the public process include the Park Hills neighborhood and the area around the Mall.
06	Provide safe connections to parks and recreational facilities from neighborhoods and schools through a system of connected sidewalks and trails that can also serve a recreational purpose.
07	Evaluate each park and the pedestrian and bicycle routes to the park from the surrounding neighborhoods to ensure maximum accessibility and ADA compliance.
08	Implement strategies that will increase opportunities for, knowledge of, and access to parks and recreation spaces throughout the City.
09	Advertise new expanded park access to City residents as they are added. For example, the 8 play spaces and athletic facilities within Spartanburg County School Districts 6 and 7 that are now available to the public during non-school hours.
10	Consider providing wi-fi in the City's parks. Currently, wi-fi is only provided in the Community Centers and Downtown Pocket Park.
11	Provide recycling containers in City parks.
12	Enhance park safety by providing additional lighting and emergency call buttons.

Recommendations (Parks & Recreation)

13	Utilize CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles in new and existing parks. One way to improve park safety is to evaluate landscape and hardscape to ensure visibility into and out of the parks.
14	Work with the community to develop park programming and events to strengthen community unity and provide opportunities for neighbors to gather and get to know one another in the parks near their homes.

Playgrounds & Youth Recreation Facilities

Spartanburg has fifteen public playgrounds located throughout the City that provide a variety of play structures and amenities for children. However, most of these playgrounds are geared towards younger children, with few places geared specifically toward pre-teens or teens. The City's Hot Spot Skate Park is the first public concrete skate park in South Carolina. The park provides programming including clinics and lessons, but does not provide equipment.

Partners for Active Living has several programs and initiatives aimed at encouraging youth to be more active. Many of these focus on walking and bicycling because they are considered the most cost-effective and accessible forms of physical activity. PAL's most recent strategic plan focuses on the development of new trails and improved playgrounds. Spartanburg Trail Bingo is a scavenger hunt/activity challenge that covers over a dozen parks and trails in the Spartanburg region. PAL's website also offers three different family-friendly scavenger hunts and a handful of walking and biking routes to explore.

The City utilizes ESRI data to assess the location of existing and future playground facilities. This data reveals "play deserts" where there are no playground facilities within a ten-minute walk

Participants in Plan Spartanburg expressed interest in playgrounds and recreational amenities for neurodivergent children, such as sensory paths and adaptive equipment. There was also a desire to incorporate art into the City's playgrounds to appeal to children with different physical abilities or interests. One group requested more informal, natural play areas that are safe for children to explore and learn about their environment.

WHAT WE HEARD

"Spartanburg has a good number of playgrounds."

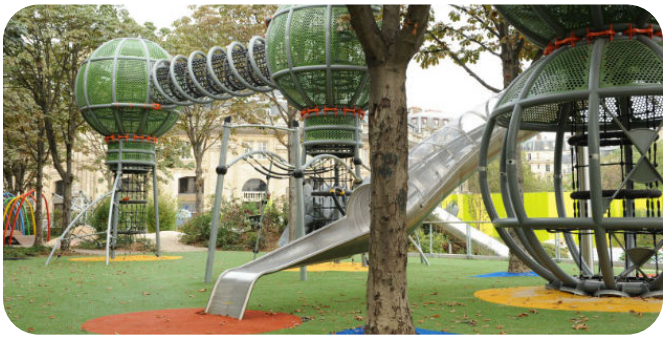
"Need a playground for older children and teens."

Hot Spot Skate Park

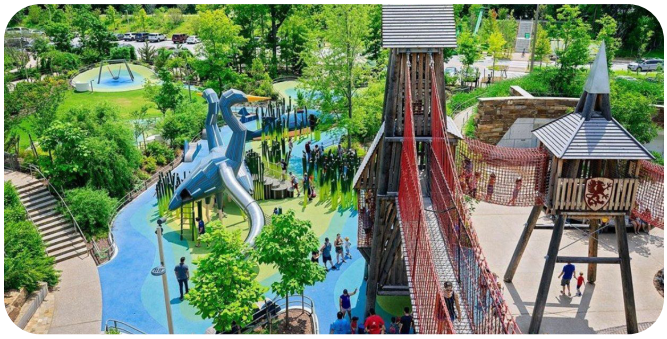
Recommendations (Playgrounds & Youth Recreation Facilities)

01	Continue to coordinate with Partners for Active Living to explore opportunities to utilize other spaces in Spartanburg for active recreational purposes for youth.
02	Consider constructing a unique type of "adventure playground" that encourages exploration and creativity and would appeal to older children, including teens. Examples include The Yard on Governor's Island in New York City; The Gathering Place in Tulsa; Jardin Nelson Mandela Terrain d'Adventures in Paris; and Maggie Daley Park in Chicago. Another example is the water park at The Falkirk Wheel in Dundee, Scotland. This park goes a step beyond your typical splashpad and includes interactive water-powered kinetic sculptures.
03	Evaluate existing playgrounds to ensure they provide adequate shade and safety features.
04	Work with local partners and sponsors to provide free admission to fee-based recreational facilities so that families that may not otherwise have the means can enjoy all that Spartanburg has to offer.
05	Consider providing rental equipment at the Skate Park for youth who may want to try the sport or cannot afford their own equipment.
06	Support the development of a Spartanburg Food System Plan.
07	Incorporate multi-lingual signage at parks, creating spaces where all feel welcome.

The Yard on Governor's Island in New York City



Jardin Nelson Mandela Terrain d'Adventures in Paris



The Gathering Place in Tulsa

Maggie Daley Park in Chicago

PLAYBOOSTER

Welcome

Other Amenities

Participants in Plan Spartanburg indicated the importance of working directly with the community when identifying potential new recreational amenities and facilities. During Planapalooza™, residents discussed how providing the "wrong" amenities can exacerbate feelings of displacement in the minority community. For example, many "trendy" new residential and mixed-use projects across the country have repeatedly proposed bocce ball courts. Bocce is a traditional Italian lawn game that is popular in regions with large numbers of Italian immigrants. Until recently, bocce was relatively uncommon in the South, and some participants voiced confusion at the idea of providing an unfamiliar amenity in a development located within a predominately Black community.

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), pet ownership is on the rise across the country. Nearly 38 percent of households nationwide had one or more dogs in 2016, the highest rate of dog ownership since the AVMA began tracking data in 1982. A rise in pet adoptions during the 2020 coronavirus pandemic will likely cause this number to continue to rise. Not surprisingly, many of the participants in Plan Spartanburg indicated a desire for an additional dog park in Spartanburg. The City's current dog park is located near Duncan Park, adjacent to the Rail Trail. This location is convenient to residents in neighboring Converse Heights, South Converse, and Duncan Park. Those who live further out in the City would also like opportunities for their dogs to play and socialize. Further commentary provided insight into the desire for separated dog parks for varying breed sizes, and more frequent maintenance of the park, as well as additional amenities for both owners and pets.

Dog Park

Recommendations (Other Amenities)

01	Refer to the recommendations in the preceding "Parks" section.
02	Encourage developers to engage the community in discussions about open space amenities included as part of development projects early and often. Working directly with the community will help developers identify the types of amenities and facilities that reflect the culture and character of the existing residents, or the market demographic.
03	Consider providing new recreational amenities in existing City parks. Survey residents to determine whether amenities such as futsal courts or zip lines may be desirable.
04	Promote Spartanburg's lesser-known parks and recreation opportunities such as the Hub Love Geo Trail. Raise awareness of the wide variety of recreation opportunities available and where to find them.
05	When developing new public parks and park amenities, engage the neighboring community in discussions about specific park features and amenities. Work directly with the residents that will use the park to ensure it meets their needs.
06	Consider additional locations for dog parks, especially on the north and west sides of the City.
07	Consider separation of facilities for dog parks between large and small breed sizes, as well as working with public works staff to determine cleaning and new amenity schedules.
08	Encourage "active aging" by investing in outdoor exercise equipment designed for seniors that can be incorporated into the City's existing parks and athletic facilities.

Trails & Bicycling

Spartanburg has several popular trails including the Mary Black Foundation Rail Trail, the Daniel Morgan Trail System, and the Cottonwood Trail.

The Mary Black Foundation Rail Trail is a nearly 2-mile rail-to-trail conversion that connects several of the neighborhoods on Spartanburg's south side to Downtown. The trail was a Partners for Active Living project and has become one of the City's most popular recreational amenities for walking and biking. Adjacent to the Rail Trail is The Rail Yard, a 7-acre City-owned park that includes the Vic Bailey Subaru Bike Park.

The B-Cycle bike sharing program was implemented in Spartanburg in 2012. This project brought together local sponsors including the City of Spartanburg, Converse College, Wofford College, and VCOM to provide bicycle rentals in the City. There are currently 5 stations and 50 bicycles available to rent. Participants in Plan Spartanburg indicated that the B-Cycle program could be made more equitable by providing a variety of sizes of bikes, particularly for younger children or the physically disabled.

Partners for Active Living is currently working with several public and private partners, including the City of Spartanburg and the Mary Black Foundation, to implement a 32-mile trail system in Spartanburg and the surrounding county. The Daniel Morgan Trail System, or "The Dan," will connect 11 miles of existing trail with 21 miles of new trail.

The Cottonwood Trail is part of the Cottonwood Trail Preserve, which is discussed in more detail in the "Conservation" section that follows.

Source: palspartanburg.org

Vic Bailey Subaru Bike Park

Recommendations (Trails & Bicycling)

01 Continue to work with PAL to connect/complete the Daniel Morgan Trail System and to develop new trails in Spartanburg.

02 Continue to support the B-Cycle program and look for opportunities to provide additional stations. The City should consider asking B-Cycle to provide alternative bicycling options including child-sized and American Disability Act-compliant bicycles.

03 Look for opportunities to provide better access to drinking water along Spartanburg's trails.

04 Invest in path lighting and other safety features to ensure these amenities provide the equipment needed for a safe experience.

Cottonwood Trail

Healthy Living

Social Determinants of Health

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are five Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), defined as "the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age." They include:

EDUCATION ACCESS & QUALITY

HEALTH CARE & QUALITY

NEIGHBORHOOD & BUILT ENVIRONMENT

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY CONTEXT

ECONOMIC STABILITY

SDOH are non-medical factors that affect health – the forces and systems that influence life expectancy and susceptibility to disease. These factors have been shown to be even more important than lifestyle choices when it comes to health. Examining the Social Determinants of Health in a neighborhood, community, city, or region can help identify health inequities and preventable health risks in specific areas.

In December 2019, the USC Upstate Metropolitan Studies Institute (MSI) completed the Spartanburg County Community Health Needs Assessment. This project was an effort of The Road To Better Health Coalition (RTBH) (www.rtbhspartanburg.org), a partnership of community leaders and organizations that track key SDOH and set goals to improve the health of Spartanburg County.

In the Health Needs Assessment, the MSI identified several factors that play a key role in determining the health outcomes of the Spartanburg community. These factors included issues of homelessness and the need for affordable housing; as well as transportation availability and accessibility. Both topics are addressed specifically in the Housing and Transportation Elements of this Plan, but it is worth reiterating the way that housing, transportation, and other factors can influence the health of a community. Increasing housing choices and densities in a neighborhood can help introduce more affordable options and give people the ability to "age-in-place" and live close to social and familial support networks. Neighborhood design must include access to public transportation; safe and accessible pedestrian facilities; access to fresh food and essential services. Doing so ensures that residents of those neighborhoods will have access to the things they need to enjoy good health and quality of life.

Partners for Active Living (PAL) has been instrumental in helping the City achieve its goals of safe walking and bicycling, access to healthy food, and improved equity as it relates to the health of Spartanburg residents. PAL was involved in the Plan Spartanburg process and shared their goals related to active living.

PAL PLAY. ADVOCATE. LIVE WELL.

Recommendations (Social Determinants of Health)

01	Seek ways through transit service or safe pedestrian facilities to help people access jobs, parks, community centers, and other venues where programs, events, and other activities are available. See the Transportation Element for specific recommendations.
02	Promote policies that provide those with higher risk of negative health outcomes access to affordable housing in communities with healthier environments. See the Housing Element for specific recommendations.
03	Establish centers that provide integrated services in places that are convenient to access. For example, offer integrated mental health and primary health services to people in their homes, in schools, and at community policing substations.
04	Incorporate environmental justice principles in planning. All people, regardless of race, income, or other factors should have the same protection from environmental and health hazards. Collaborate with the community to understand environmental justice concerns and help mitigate them through thoughtful planning decisions.
05	Continue to work with Partners for Active Living, public health officials and area agencies to raise awareness among City leaders of opportunities to improve community health—and the many benefits of doing so—so the community's health becomes a key consideration in the formulation of local policies. Pursue opportunities, such as training and orientation programs, to educate City officials and employees, especially those who play a key role in developing City budgets, about how the built environment affects health and physical activity.
06	Utilize spatial analysis to create a SDOH assessment of every neighborhood in the City, in order to better understand and target issues in a tailored manner for each area. This would provide the recommended GIS Technician an opportunity to analyze and utilize the data when determining departmental budget allocations every year.

Technology & Health

The 2019 Health Needs Assessment identified emerging technology as a social determinant that will impact health systems in Spartanburg County. There are increasing opportunities to utilize technology to help improve community health. In addition to enhancing access to education and employment opportunities to address socio-economic conditions correlated to health disparities, the City can use technology to collect data about and evaluate conditions in the City that affect health. By focusing on the determinants of poor health, the City can consider strategies that employ technology to understand better the circumstances that contribute to identified health problems.

Recommendations (Technology & Health)

01 Continue to utilize technology to help improve community health, such as implementing the use of ArcGIS apps to track data, poll the public, understand city worker response and timing, and analyze existing physical conditions in real-time.

Food & Health

Throughout Plan Spartanburg, one of the most frequently recurring themes was the need for improved access to fresh, healthy foods, especially in the City's racially and economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. Several prior studies, including the Highland Transformation Plan, Greenville-Spartanburg Food System Assessment and Plan, and the Spartanburg County Community Health Needs Assessment address these issues, which extend beyond a lack of affordable and healthy food sources. The Health Needs Assessment identified the Top 5 Factors Keeping People From Being Healthy, two of which related to food. 31.3 percent of adults and children have unhealthy diets, and 31.3 percent of people do not know how, or do not have time, to cook "healthy" foods.

Partners for Active Living (PAL) helps provide healthy food to people in Spartanburg. One of PAL's projects, **Spartanburg Food System Coalition** operates with the goal of strengthening the local food system by increasing access to healthy food and addressing food-related issues and disparities in the City. The Coalition includes emergency food providers like food pantries, soup kitchens, meal sites, and food box/backpack programs. **Eat Smart Move More Spartanburg County** is a PAL program that brings together community organizations to promote healthy eating and living and to reduce high obesity rates in the region.

Recommendations (Food & Healthy)

01	Partner with local organizations to provide educational resources that help teach people how to shop for and prepare healthy foods.
02	Continue to work with PAL and other food agencies to provide increased access to healthy food, especially in disadvantaged neighborhoods without convenient access to grocery store or fresh food market.
03	Continue to support PAL's efforts to engage with Spartanburg school districts to support health & wellness.
04	Implement a traveling produce and fresh foods market that comes to designated locations in specific neighborhoods in accordance with a regular schedule.
05	Consider incorporating edible landscaping, community gardens, pollinator gardens, and/or rooftop gardens into parks and other City-owned buildings and property. Explore opportunities to create related jobs for low-income individuals, or utilize volunteer labor and distribute harvested products to low-income neighborhoods.
06	Review and Implement recommendations of the Greenville-Spartanburg Food System Assessment and Plan.
07	Provide incentives for grocery stores, farmers markets, food carts and other mobile vendors to locate in underserved communities.
08	Work with the Spartanburg Food System Coalition in developing and implementing a Community Food Center to provide greater access to healthy local food and to scale our local food production and distribution within the city, county, and throughout our state and region via the SC Food Hub Network.
09	Collaborate with other organizations to further the development of programs that increase the ability of shoppers to use food assistance benefits and the ability of farmers to accept electronic and other forms of payment at farmers' markets and farm stands.
10	Support solutions like FoodShare Spartanburg that get healthy local food into under-re-sourced communities.
11	Incentivize farmers markets and mobile markets to locate in multiple neighborhoods across the city, with a focus on locating in under-resourced neighborhoods with little or no access to healthy fresh food.

Climate Change & Environmental Sustainability

Promote Green Building and Development

Buildings are some of the largest consumers of energy from fossil fuels, the major contributor of greenhouse gases. From design to reduce heating and cooling of structures to the selection of building materials, buildings can be constructed to be more energy efficient.

To promote a more environmentally friendly approach to new development and redevelopment, developers and builders in Spartanburg should be encouraged to adhere to the principles of green building, as defined by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The USGBC developed the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building certification program to rate the design, construction, operation and maintenance of buildings and neighborhoods. A complementary program to consider is the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) (sustainablesites.org), a "comprehensive system for creating sustainable and resilient development projects." SITES "offers a comprehensive rating system designed to distinguish sustainable landscapes, measure their performance and evaluate their value." Certification is available for projects on sites with or without buildings, and can include parks, campuses, streetscapes, residential sites and more.

Spartanburg has already seen a commitment to environmentally conservative development practices in and around the City. The Wofford College Environmental Studies Center (located in nearby Glendale) was the first academic building in South Carolina to receive LEED Platinum status for its renovation of the historic Glendale Mill building, originally built in the 1890s. Other LEED certified buildings in Spartanburg include the George Dean Johnson Jr. College of Business & Economics ("The George"), the Mary Black Medical Office Building, the QS-1 Headquarters Building, and several buildings that comprise the Spartanburg Day School campus.

Participants in Plan Spartanburg were in favor of environmentally sustainable practices like green roofs, rain gardens, solar panels, bioswales, community gardens, and edible landscapes. They understood the importance of educating the community about these types of solutions and encouraging their application in public and private projects.

Green Street Streetscape

Recommendations (Promote Green Building and Development)

01	Consider developing a Climate Action Plan, with racial equity and social/environmental justice as its foundation.
02	Promote energy conservation and efficiency through encouragement, incentives, regulation, and leading by example. Public facilities and buildings should be models for economically viable resource efficiency and renewable energy sources.
03	Develop a program to educate City staff, local builders & contractors, and developers about sustainable building techniques and available certifications and incentives.
04	Encourage green building and development techniques in private development projects throughout the City.
05	Develop programs to aid residents with high energy burdens.
06	Encourage/Incentivize LEED standards so that implementation is not limited to predominately wealthy institutional developments.

Harvest Park

Wildlife & Wildlife Habitat

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (DNR) oversees hunting and fishing statewide, collects and manages data, and provides educational resources related to wildlife in South Carolina. While there are no designated wildlife management areas within Spartanburg, the DNR maintains a list of rare, threatened, and endangered species in Spartanburg County.

As previously discussed in the "Cooperation and Collaboration" section on page 146, **Upstate Forever** works to protect natural resources, including wildlife, in the Spartanburg region. In addition, the organization advocates for the protection of native species by supporting efforts to stop the Black-market trade of native turtles and other reptiles.

The Edwin M. Griffin Nature Preserve is a 118-acre nature preserve on the eastern edge of the City that provides habitat for deer, wild turkey, fox, coyote, beaver, raccoon, the occasional bear, and a variety of birds, and reptiles. The preserve is made up of floodplain, wetlands, and forest containing tulip poplars, oaks, river birches, hackberry, and cottonwoods. The Edwin M. Griffin Nature Preserve is part of the South Carolina Birding Trail, which aims to increase economic activity by promoting nature and bird watching in the State.

Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve is a ten-acre public garden located on John B. White Sr. Boulevard, between the Woodland Heights and Park Hills neighborhoods. Hatcher Garden offers educational programs and summer camps for Spartanburg elementary school students. Funding for Hatcher Garden is provided through community support and grants from the City of Spartanburg and several other organizations.

While it is important to protect the habitat of native species in and around Spartanburg, it is equally important to reduce and prevent the introduction of invasive or non-native species. One notable invasive species in Spartanburg is kudzu, sometimes referred to as "the vine that ate the South." This plant, native to Asia and introduced to North America in the late 1800s as a means of erosion control, has spread aggressively throughout much of the United States. It has had a major impact on native plant communities, crowding out and physically crushing other vegetation. The **Trees Coalition** (www.treescoalition.org) is a non-profit group of volunteers and paid landscapers who work with Spartanburg's neighborhoods to help care for native trees and educate on the removal of invasive species such as kudzu.

In Converse Heights, the Neighborhood Association worked with the Trees Coalition on the "Crystal Springs Ravine Project." This program is an effort to control invasive species that had destroyed the natural ecology of the Crystal Springs Ravine. The project attracted attention because of its use of a herd of borrowed goats to clear Kudzu and other overgrowth. The program was supported by contributions, primarily from those in the surrounding neighborhoods.

EQUITY

PLANAPALOOZA™ PARTICIPANTS IN OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS WERE INTERESTED IN PURSUING SIMILAR PROGRAMS, BUT THERE WAS CONCERN ABOUT THE COST AND EFFORT OF DOING SO IN LOWER INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS.

Recommendations (Wildlife & Wildlife Habitat)

01	Continue to work with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Upstate Forever to protect endangered species habitats.
02	Support the efforts of the Trees Coalition to inspire the Spartanburg community to care for native trees and eradicate invasive species.
03	Continue to fund and support the efforts of Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve. Explore ways to raise awareness of this important asset and make programming more accessible for Spartanburg residents.
04	Explore options to fund and create similar preserves to Hatcher Garden and the Cottonwood Trail on properties with similar geographic conditions.
05	Discourage the introduction of invasive or non-native species in public open spaces and on private property.
06	Evaluate the need for invasive species removal in other parts of the City and find ways to fund projects such as the Ravine Project in neighborhoods that may not have the same resources available.

Hatcher Garden

Source: hatchergarden.org

Conservation Areas

The City of Spartanburg does not currently have any land designated as “conservation” on its zoning map, but land in the City is protected through conservation easements and the efforts of the Spartanburg Area Conservancy (SPACE).

SPACE protects over 5,000 acres in the Spartanburg area, much of which is not open to the public, but has a significant impact on the environmental health of the region by protecting air and water quality, habitat, and other natural resources. Some of these protected properties have historical significance and some are home to rare and/or threatened wildlife.

Within the City of Spartanburg, SPACE is responsible for the Cottonwood Trail and the Edwin M. Griffin Nature Preserve. The Preserve is the largest natural area in the City, and features wetlands, open spaces, geological formations, and a 1.5 mile stretch of Lawson’s Fork Creek. It has over 4 miles of trails accessible for hiking, running, and walking, and creek access for kayaking and canoeing.

Because the area within the City limits is nearly entirely built out, there are not many opportunities for large new tracts of conservation land. Efforts should focus on continuing to preserve existing conservation areas while finding opportunities to better connect them through the Green Network discussed on page 150.

Edwin M. Griffin Nature Preserve, Cottonwood Trail

THE SPARTANBURG AREA CONSERVANCY
SPACE
INC.
City of SPARTANBURG
south carolina
WOODBURN ROAD
LAWSONS FORK CREEK
SYDNOR ROAD
MONROE ROAD
LEGEND

Trees

Spartanburg's urban forest is an important economic and environmental asset to the City and contributes positively to the health of the environment and the quality of life of residents. Trees are invaluable in their ability to clean the air, provide visual and auditory buffers, preserve soil and reduce erosion, and enhance streetscapes and public places.

Trees also play an important part when it comes to equity. There is a noticeable difference in the quality and location of street trees in the City. Established suburban residential neighborhoods are more likely to have mature trees and continuous shade canopies, while neighborhoods closer to Downtown and particularly on the Southside have fewer, smaller trees. This disparity becomes very apparent when considering that people who live in neighborhoods with fewer trees are more likely to rely on public transportation, walking and bicycling. The lack of trees results in an uncomfortable, and, in summer months, even potentially dangerous condition.

Participants in Planapalooza™ and several On the Table meetings discussed the importance of trees in urban areas and indicated a lack of trees in some of Spartanburg's parks, including Barnet Park. There was some discussion of implementing tree planting requirements for residential properties in the zoning ordinance. However, doing so could place undue hardship on individuals living in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. The City should find ways to increase the number of trees on private property through public/private partnerships and funding, with a focus on lower income neighborhoods that may not otherwise have the means to plant additional trees.

Tree planting and preservation programs, tree ordinances, conservation easements, and capital investments should all be explored as ways to increase the City's tree canopy. However, grassroots efforts often prove to be among the most effective means of protecting and expanding the tree canopy, especially in urban areas where development and redevelopment have resulted in the clearing of trees. The Trees Coalition nonprofit helps educate the Spartanburg community on how to care for native, existing trees, but does not plant trees as part of its mission.

The City should evaluate its development standards and tree planting/replanting programs to identify opportunities to further enhance tree preservation efforts. In addition, the City should consider pursuing its former Tree City USA status (www.arborday.org) through potential partnerships with SPACE and the Trees Coalition.

TREE CITY USA®

Recommendations (Trees)

01	Work with American Forests (americanforests.org) to calculate Spartanburg's Tree Equity Score to better understand the impact of inequitable distribution of trees in the City and to identify areas in need of trees.
02	Evaluate the City's streets and transportation networks through GIS analysis to determine which routes are most frequently utilized by non-vehicular transportation (refer to "Government Employment & Facilities" section). Prioritize increasing the street tree canopy in areas used most by pedestrians and bicyclists.
03	Evaluate the City's public transportations stops and plant trees to provide shade for those waiting for a bus.
04	Evaluate the City's parks and recreation facilities to assess whether they provide adequate shade trees.
05	Consider implementing a routine evaluation of trees in public spaces to ensure regeneration of mature trees through natural regeneration or new plantings.
06	Consider hiring an urban forester to care for Spartanburg's existing trees.
07	Support the efforts of the Trees Coalition by continuing to remove and control invasive species such as ivy and kudzu that can threaten trees.
08	Assisted by grant funding and guided by City staff, encourage local organizations to take the lead on tree planting along streets and in public spaces and parks.
09	The City should supplement the urban forest through tree planting associated with any improvements to the public realm, particularly streetscape, park, and trail projects.
10	Enable the planting of new trees on private property, especially in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods, through City funding or public/private partnerships.
11	Establish a Tree Preservation Program by including standards for tree conservation and tree planting in the zoning ordinance.*
12	Spend at least $2 per capita on urban forestry.*
13	Observe Arbor Day.*

* In order to be considered a Tree City USA.

Water & Wetlands

Protecting Spartanburg's ground water and surface water should be a top priority when it comes to natural resources, to ensure that the community has an ample source of clean, potable water. The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) suggests that the quality of drinking water is dependent on pollution-free sources of water, well-maintained pipes and infrastructure, and modern treatment facilities. As previously discussed in the Community Facilities element of the Comprehensive Plan, Spartanburg Water Systems provides water and sewer service to the entire City.

Because Spartanburg's water supply comes from nearby lakes and reservoirs, controlling storm water to minimize pollutants is critical. As storm water runoff flows over land masses and other impervious surfaces, such as paved streets, parking lots, and building rooftops, it accumulates pollutants such as chemicals, debris and sediment that can cause negative impacts to the environment and natural resources. See the Community Facilities element of the Plan for additional discussion and recommendations related to improving storm water management.

The City of Spartanburg is one of the participating jurisdictions in the 2017 Spartanburg County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Plan addresses the potential effects of both flood and drought in the City, both of which are considered likely or highly likely to occur in the future. It also provides a comprehensive set of goals and strategies to mitigate the impacts of these natural hazards.

As previously discussed in the Community Facilities element of the Plan, Spartanburg's water treatment facilities can meet a much greater demand (well over double) than its what is used currently. Additionally Spartanburg's water supply is sourced from Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir 1 but does not yet utilize Lake Blalock which is also under its management. As such, water supply and water treatment availability will not be limiting factors as Spartanburg continues to grow.Regardless, the City should take steps towards a more sustainable and environmentally responsible future by conserving water and protecting water sources. Methods of water conservation include the use of water-saving fixtures and appliances and maintaining pipes and water infrastructure. In landscaped areas, incorporating drip irrigation, rain collection, and drought-friendly xeriscaping can help reduce water needs. Additional strategies for protecting water sources include the elimination of harmful pesticides and fertilizers and responsible disposal of hazardous chemicals.

Spartanburg's lakes, streams and wetlands are valuable resources that should be protected as both amenities and vital parts of the ecosystem. Some of these resources are protected through conservation easements and the efforts of the Spartanburg Area Conservancy (SPACE).

Duncan Park Lake is a manmade lake completed in 1937 as a Works Project Administration (WPA) project. The lake and the adjacent Duncan Park are surrounded by a loop road that provides view of the water, and a hiking trail along the west side of the lake. Fishing, swimming, and boating are currently prohibited by the City of Spartanburg Parks & Recreation Department. During Plan

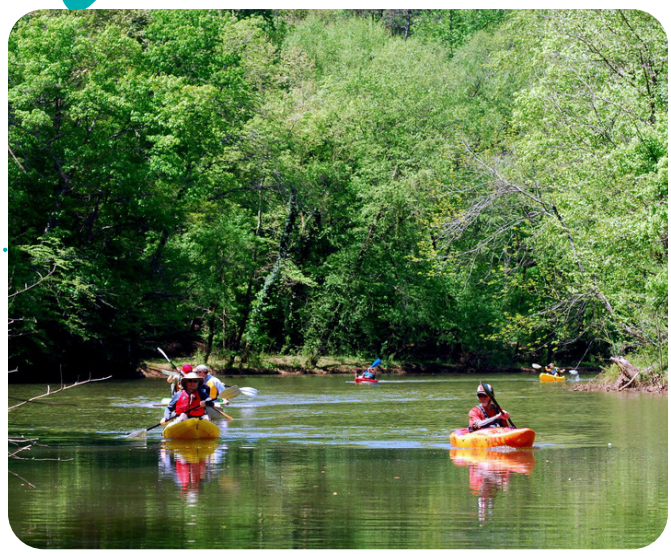
Spartanburg, many residents expressed interest in making Duncan Park Lake available to the public for fishing and recreational boating. It was also suggested that the prohibition of fishing may have been a racially exclusionary decision. Whether this is true or not, it is important to understand the implications of that perception on residents in the racial minority.

Lawson's Fork Creek provides an opportunity for non-motorized boating and recreation. The Pacolet & Lawson's Fork Blueway begins near downtown Spartanburg and extends to the Town of Lockhart. The Blueway project is a joint effort of the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, and Spartanburg County.

Recommendations (Water & Wetlands)

01	Support the efforts the Pacolet & Lawson's Fork Blueway project by identifying additional public access points along Lawson's Fork Creek and educating the community about this valuable resource.
02	Mitigate streambank erosion with vegetation and proactive stormwater management.
03	Consider designating specific areas along Duncan Park Lake for fishing.
04	Consider allowing non motorized watercraft on Duncan Park Lake.
05	Work with property owners and developers to implement stormwater facilities on older commercial properties that currently sheet-flow water due to lack of stormwater standards at their time of development.

Duncan Park Lake



Pacolet & Lawson's Fork Blueway

RESILIENCY ELEMENT

Introduction

Equity and resiliency go hand in hand. A resilient city is an equitable city, as the ability to prepare for and recover from crisis depends on the relationship of exposure to risk and access to resources. A city cannot be resilient if portions of the population are disproportionately burdened by risk or are unfairly excluded from accessing resources, either material or social.

Given that addressing inequity reduces vulnerability, nearly all the recommendations in this Plan contribute to resiliency either directly or indirectly. Specifically:

- The recommendations in the Economic Development Element will make Spartanburg more resilient against strong shifts in markets and economic crises.
- The recommendations in the Housing Element will foster social capital through neighborhood stabilization; and will prevent inequitable exposure to environmental hazards.
- The recommendations in the Transportation Element will make Spartanburg less reliant on automobiles and reduce the need for massive amounts of impervious surfaces that support vehicles; and will foster social capital through people-oriented streets.
- The recommendations in the Natural Resources Element will preserve natural areas that lessen the impact of natural hazards, as well as filtrate and reduce pollution; and will create spaces and programs that foster social relationships.
- The recommendations in the Community Resources Element will boost social capital within and between neighborhoods.
- The recommendations in the Community Facilities Element will make Spartanburg more efficient and effective at carrying out emergency management and response during disasters; and will make public facilities more sustainable to build and maintain.
- The recommendations in the Land Use and Community Character Element will make Spartanburg grow in a more sustainable manner.

Relevant Plans

City of Spartanburg Stormwater Management Plan, 2020

This plan establishes the City of Spartanburg's authority to regulate development and redevelopment based on federal and state water quality requirements. The plan identifies six primary strategies, or minimum control measures, for controlling stormwater and improving water quality. These include a range of strategies, such as public education and involvement, reducing illicit discharges, enforcing stormwater runoff regulations for construction activities, requiring developers to construct permanent stormwater infrastructure, and preventing pollutants from municipal facilities.

City of Spartanburg Zoning Ordinance, 2015

This document guides development in Spartanburg and includes many elements related to resilience. The ordinance not only recognizes the importance of floodplains and wetlands, but establishes requirements for preservation of riparian buffers of 50 to 100 feet through a Riparian Buffer Overlay District. Riparian buffers are required even for streams that are not currently associated with the floodplain. Other items the ordinance contains related to resilience include requirements for structures to be elevated in accordance with the Flood Insurance Rate Map, restrictions on use of fill to alter the grade of sites, site plan review standards for stormwater management, tree protection regulations, and landscape requirements.

Spartanburg County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2018

This plan identifies action steps to mitigate natural and manmade hazards that are common to each jurisdiction in Spartanburg County. The plan notes that the City of Spartanburg has strong technical capacity, diverse fiscal resources, and high political support for hazard mitigation.

South Carolina Baseline Resilience Indicators for Communities (BRIC) – 2015

This study shows relative resiliency scores for each of South Carolina's counties as compared to the rest of the state and the nation. Spartanburg County has a medium resilience score in the national comparison, but a slightly higher score (medium-high) when compared to the rest of the state.

Resilience Equity Indicators

The Equity Indicators as they relate to resilience consider environmental conditions, exposure to hazards, and conditions that impact recovery from disaster or crises. The indicators include impervious surface cover; tree cover; proximity of housing to natural and manmade hazards; and access to emergency services and response times. While downtown is a key area for resiliency efforts, the disadvantaged residential neighborhoods in the City are the focus of this element as these areas tend to be the most vulnerable to economic and environmental disruptions, and have historically tended to lack investment.

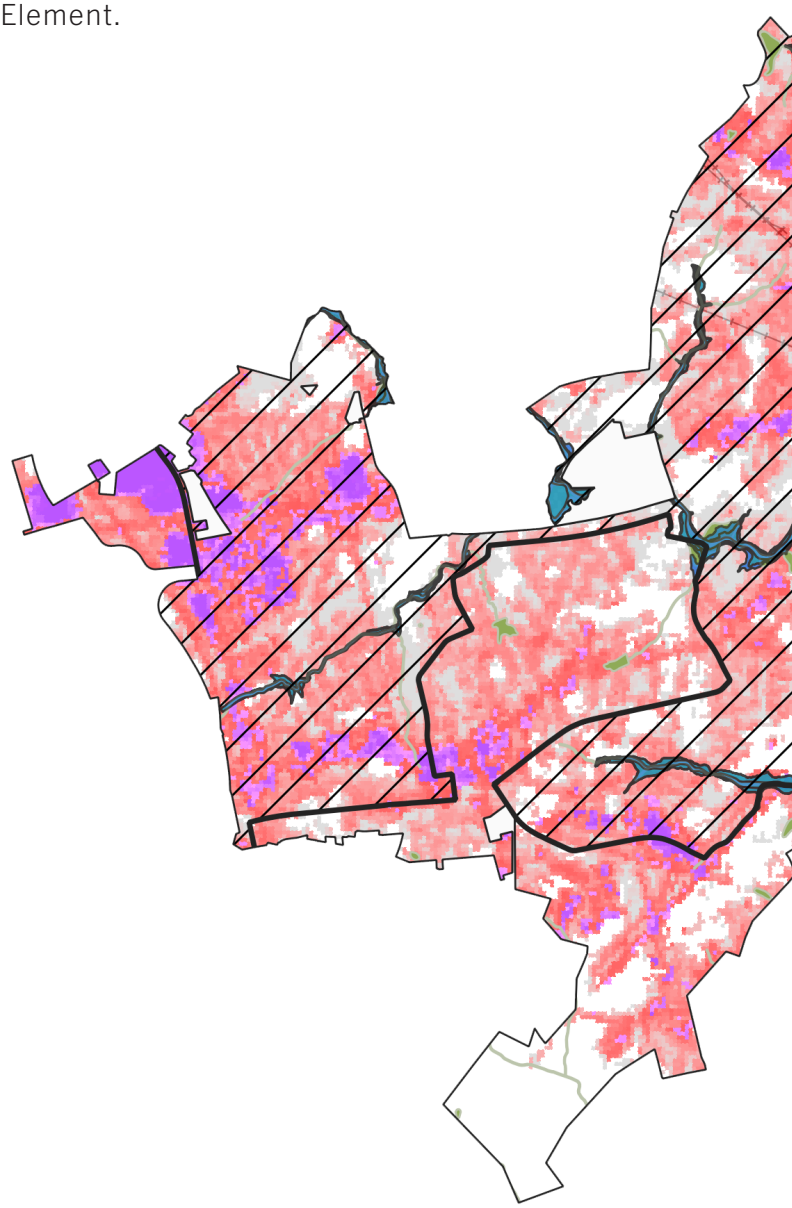
R1: Impervious Surface Cover

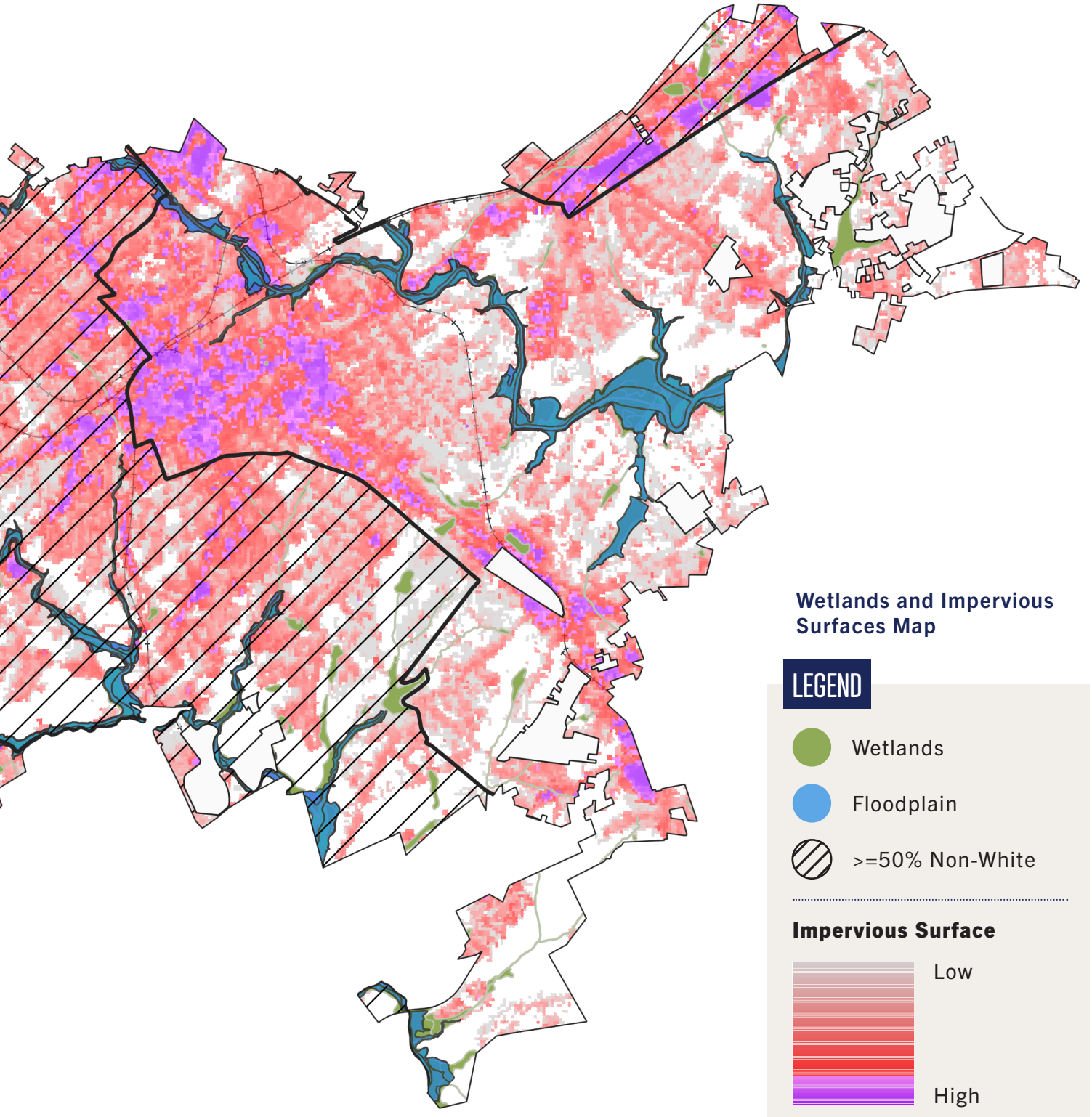
Surfaces that do not allow water to pass through or absorb in any way are considered impervious. Impervious surface area is important to measure because large amounts can indicate issues related to extreme heat, poor water quality, flooding, and loss of wildlife habitat. Generally, non-white communities are disproportionately affected by overabundance of impervious surface cover.

R2: Proximity of Housing to Natural and Manmade Hazards

Historically, low-income and minority housing has been pushed into areas that, due to natural hazards such as flooding, are less suitable areas for construction. Manmade hazards, including brownfields, landfills, and illicit dumping sites, also typically overlap with low-income and minority areas. These issues present a compound set of risks. Tracking the location of low-income housing in relation to natural and manmade hazards reveals inequalities that can be addressed through mitigation, environmental remediation, relocation assistance, and policies that prevent locating new industrial uses in residential areas.

In addition to the unique Equity Indicators above, this section should reference the tree cover Indicator in the Natural Resources Element and the access to emergency services and response times Indicator in the Community Facilities Element.





Wetlands and Impervious Surfaces Map

Dynamic Places

The driving force behind this update to Spartanburg's Comprehensive Plan is the need to respond to change. This Plan provides strategies to adapt planning goals and processes to new social, economic, political, and environmental conditions. Spartanburg and the world around it are constantly in flux. For example, floodplains are now markedly inaccurate because the precipitation and flooding trends used to estimate floodplains are evolving in rapid and erratic ways due to climate change. The key to being a resilient city is to be prepared and nimble enough to respond to dynamic shifts that arise.

Often resilience is viewed strictly through the lens of vulnerability to natural hazards. This is partially because the wealth of data related to natural hazards makes such events easy to track and allows for some level of prediction. However, communities are vulnerable to many types of hazards that manifest over various timelines. Acute hazards have a relatively rapid onset and even though they may be repetitive, they do not last for a prolonged period of time. Examples of acute hazards include hurricanes, winter storms, hazardous materials spills, and active shooter events. Chronic hazards are those that are persistent or are continuously present for long periods of time. Examples of chronic hazards are climate change, sea level rise, and drought. Resilience is also impacted by vulnerability to social, economic, and public health issues. In the past, the City has assisted residents in accessing recovery and mitigation funding from FEMA, state, local, and federal funding sources.

Keys to Resiliency

- Continuously assess risks and resources to cope with risks
- Address systemic social issues that disproportionately increase risk or limit access to resources to cope
- Examine previous experiences and efforts
- Prepare for known risks
- Strengthen partnerships
- Educate as many as possible about severity of risks
- Equip as many as possible with skills and knowledge to address risks
- Test new technologies and practices
- Limit reliance on unsustainable, difficult to access, or costly resources
- Avoid single-use investments (infrastructure, materials, programs, etc.)
- Pursue place-based initiatives
- Foster empathy

Stormwater pond on VCOM campus

Inventory of Resilience Conditions

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Risk Index, which compares an index for 18 natural hazards to indexes for social vulnerability and community resilience, Spartanburg County has a 'Relatively Moderate' level of risk. This is the same as Greenville County, but higher than surrounding counties in South Carolina. At the City level, flooding, especially flash flooding, is a concern due to steep slopes in proximity to creek beds. A summary of natural and manmade hazards of concern to Spartanburg, as identified in the Spartanburg County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, is presented below.

Summary of Hazards; Spartanburg County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (2018)

Hazard	Number of Documented Events	Property Damage (2016 dollars)	Deaths/ Injuries	Expectation for Future
Drought	17 (countywide)	n/a	n/a	Likely. Lower probability for long-term extreme drought.
Hailstorm	40	$17,365,970	0/0	Highly likely.
Heat Wave/ Extreme Heat	n/a	n/a	n/a	Highly likely. Especially in urban areas.
Hurricane/ Tropical Storm	n/a	n/a	n/a	Likely.
Lightning	6	$365,933	1/2	Highly likely.
Severe Thunderstorm/ High Wind	61	$275,753	0/1	Highly likely.
Tornado	1	$0	0/0	Likely.
Winter Storm and Freeze	79 (countywide)	$18.6 million (countywide)	0/0	Highly likely.
Earthquake	11	n/a	n/a	Unlikely.
Landslide	0 (countywide)	n/a	n/a	Possible. Likelihood unable to be determined due to lack of data.
Flood	12	$4,389,779	0/0	Highly likely.
Wildfire	318 (countywide)	n/a	n/a	Likely. Though less likely in urban areas, more property is at risk at fringes of development.
Hazardous Materials Incident	237	$5,422,695	8/9	Highly likely.
Major Transportation Incident	1*	n/a	1/29*	Possible.

*This incident involved a children's train ride derailing within Cleveland Park.

Review of Community Lifelines

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) identifies seven categories of fundamental services that contribute to resiliency and are essential to re-establish during disaster recovery. A summary of the Community Lifelines as they pertain to the City of Spartanburg is presented below. More in-depth information is available in the Housing Element, the Transportation Element, and the Community Facilities Element.

- Safety and Security
  - » The City of Spartanburg Fire Department operates five fire stations and monitors the need for additional stations as the City grows and annexes land.
  - » The City of Spartanburg Police Department manages four Patrol Districts out of one central police station and is in need of additional staff to achieve its safety and security goals.
  - » Spartanburg County provides Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and operates three stations within the City.
- Food, Water, and Shelter
  - » Spartanburg is home to chain and local grocery stores, but there are areas of the City that are categorized as food deserts.
  - » Municipal water is provided by Spartanburg Water Systems, which has the capacity to more than triple the volume of water it treats. However, older piping is a concern that will require maintenance in the future.
  - » Sewer is managed by Spartanburg Water and the Spartanburg Sanitary Sewer District Commission, which also has ample capacity to increase service. Aging pipe systems, especially clay pipes are a maintenance concern.
  - » In terms of drought, Spartanburg County has experienced extreme or exceptional drought (the two highest of five total categories) nine times between 2000-2016 for a total of 128 weeks.
  - » Flooding is a higher concern for Spartanburg than other municipalities in the county. A flash flood in 1998 caused over $3.5 million in property damages within the City. Twenty-two of the 57 reported flood losses to the National Flood Insurance Program by the County occurred in the City of Spartanburg. However, there are non-mitigated repetitive loss properties in the City.
  - » The Spartanburg Housing Authority provides various types and sizes of affordable housing, which contributes to social capital by combating gentrification and displacement, and concentration of lower income populations. Ensuring provision of affordable housing throughout the City will further social capital by encouraging diverse neighborhoods and relieving the concentration of affordable housing.
- Health and Medical
  - » Spartanburg is home to the Spartanburg Medical Center, which provides emergency and non-emergent medical services.

» In addition to for-profit medical service providers, there are medical centers that provide free or subsidized medical services, such as the St. Luke's Free Clinic.

- Energy

» Electric service in the Spartanburg area is provided by Duke Power. Gas service is provided by Piedmont Natural Gas.

- Communications

» The City uses a multi-faceted approach to interactively communicate with community members. Communication mediums include the City website, a map-based mobile app, traditional print media, television, and various online media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, and Vimeo. Tornado sirens are used as well but are transitioning to an app-based warning system.

» Currently, communication is geared toward English speakers. This Plan however, recommends the City continue to evaluate the languages in which information is communicated to ensure everyone has access to information and engagement opportunities.

- Transportation

» US-29 runs east-west through the City with two other US highways (US-176 and US-221) providing north-south access. Interstate 26 aligns with part of the western limits of the City.

» Spartanburg has one passenger train station with service by Amtrak's Crescent line. Several railroads traverse the City with many at-grade crossings.

» The Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport is located just southwest of Downtown and is the City's largest owned asset. The airport's runway was expanded in 2016.

» The Spartanburg Regional Area Transit Agency (SPARTA) operates 8 transit routes throughout the City, but services times and headways are limited.

» A growing network of off-street and on-street trails traverses the City.

- Hazardous Materials

» The vast majority of hazardous material incidents within the County have occurred within Spartanburg. 22 of the 237 incidents in Spartanburg have been serious. Most of these occur on the highway, but one did occur on the railroad tracks.

Building Social Capital

Social capital is the value of social relationships that exist within a community, to other communities, and to formal institutions. Strong social capital is widely recognized as a sign of community resiliency and upward social mobility. This may take the form of using social networks to assess needs within a community, mobilizing resources within the community to assist others, or activating institutional connections to acquire outside assistance. Social capital takes time to build.

During the Planapalooza, it was apparent that strong neighborhood identity is an asset to the City. While social capital may be high within individual neighborhoods with community members being well-connected to each other, Planapalooza participants noted the legacy of urban renewal has severed the urban fabric, destroyed local businesses, and created inhospitable streets for people who walk and bike – all of which degrade social capital between neighborhoods.

At the county level, Spartanburg enjoys a higher rate of social connectedness than over half of the counties in the state. Social capital is higher in the neighborhoods immediately south and west of downtown. These are also areas with high density of civic organizations and are home to several of the public community/recreation centers. Tracking areas slated for higher density development reveals that development pressure, which could trigger displacement, disproportionately impacts Spartanburg's non-white populations.

Current strategies the City uses to promote social capital are generally centered around leisure/recreation and community capacity building. Specific examples include Unity Week, Citizen Academy, the Neighborhood Connections program, Citizen Advisory Councils, event assistance for Neighborhood Block Parties, and the Neighborhood Tool Shed program. Moving forward, public art programs should strive to contribute to social capital and highlight the importance of hazard mitigation by memorializing previous disasters.

C.C. Woodson Community Center

Recommendations (Building Social Capital)

01 Stabilize and strengthen neighborhoods.

- Identify and use GIS to map key community gathering spaces.
- Pursue neighborhood stabilization programs that provide relief for established residents by combatting gentrification and offer neighborhood mobility options for those that want to relocate.
- Consider a community benefits agreement (CBA) policy to require CBAs between developers and community groups to ensure community oversight and engagement, and to provide community members leverage in determining how development occurs.
- Create a community building microgrant program to incentivize small scale community events and initiatives.
- Encourage distribution of affordable housing, small scale housing (e.g., ADUs), and public housing throughout the city.
- Offset costs for Neighborhood Block Parties in low-income areas.
- Host smaller public events intended to foster relationships between nearby neighborhoods.

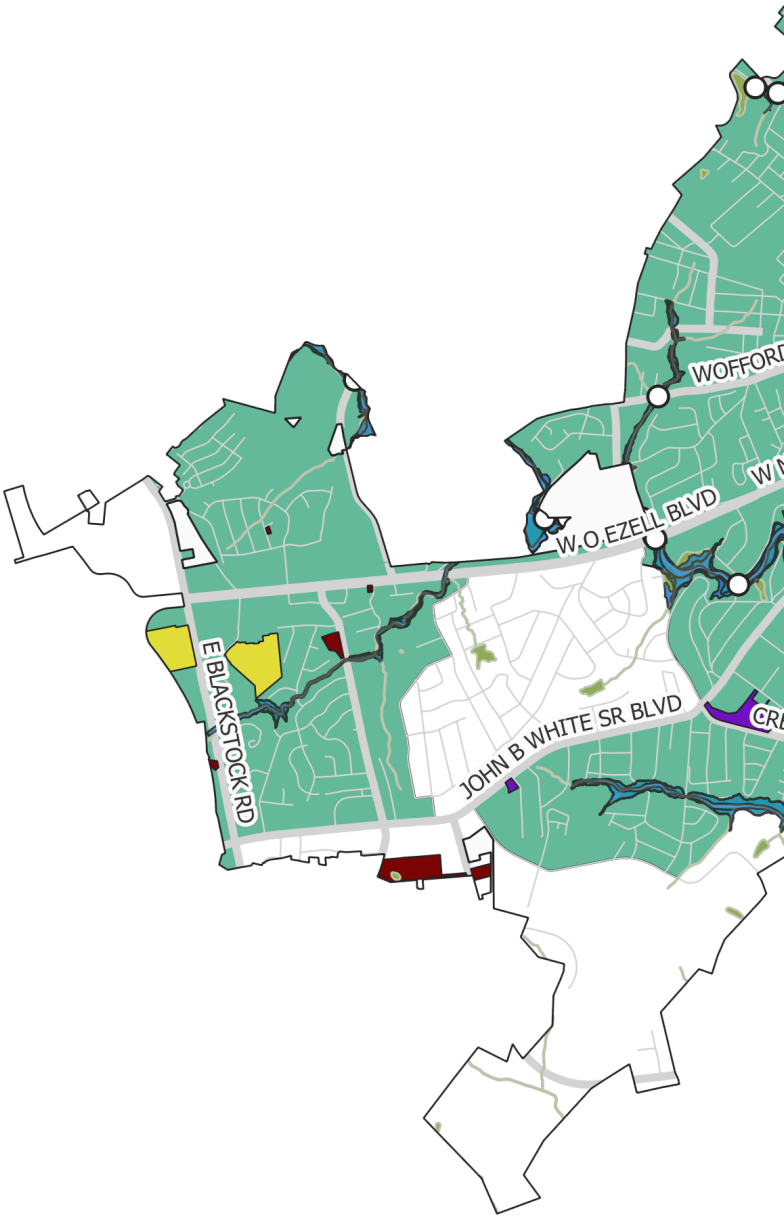
02 Investigate the social impact of and collective response to previous disasters.

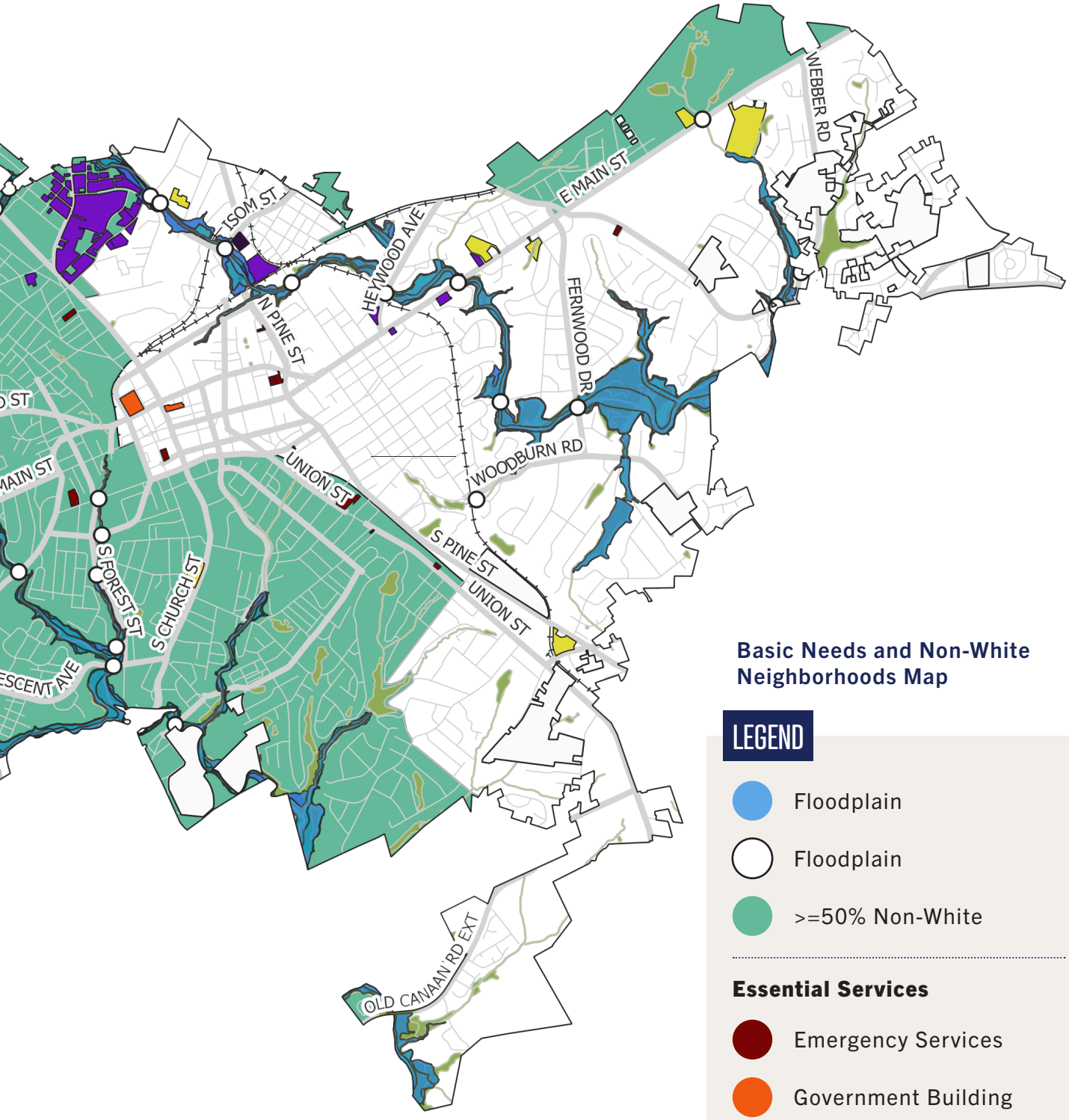
- Fund neighborhood-scale public art to memorialize experiences with and impacts of natural or manmade disasters.
- Host listening sessions to discuss how emergencies and disasters have influenced neighborhood change over time.

Balanced & Coordinated Growth

The systemic issues that contribute to inequalities and put minority and low-income communities disproportionately at risk of hazards will take time and effort to correct. Adopting a systems-based approach to development is critical. Spartanburg has experienced rapid growth that outpaces many of its nearby areas. Recommendations presented in the Land Use and Community Character Element lay out a vision for Spartanburg's Growth and Conservation Framework and provide long-term guidance for balanced growth at the City- and sector-scale. Additional strategies are needed to address vulnerabilities at the neighborhood scale.

Assessing the relationship among housing, access to basic needs, and potential flooding reveals disadvantaged communities are at risk of being isolated from critical services. Non-white residents in areas to the south and southwest are particularly dependent on N. Church Street and E. Main Street to reach Spartanburg Regional Hospital and basic shopping needs, which are concentrated on the far east corner of the City. Emergencies, such as highwater events that compromise bridges, could sever these access routes, an example being the bridge on SC 31/Heywood Avenue which connects downtown to the Spartanburg Medical Center's Mary Black Campus. Future growth should encourage businesses that provide for basic needs, such as food, routine medical care and pharmacies, and social services, to be well-distributed throughout the City.





Basic Needs and Non-White Neighborhoods Map

LEGEND

- Floodplain
- Floodplain
- >=50% Non-White

Essential Services

- Emergency Services
- Government Building
- Grocery Stores
- Medical Care

Another way to pursue balanced growth is through right-sizing infrastructure. Right-sizing focuses on ensuring the size, extent, or configuration of infrastructure is appropriate for current conditions or for realistic future expectations. A holistic approach should be adopted to assess the cost-benefit of infrastructure investments while considering how existing infrastructure can adapt to contribute to resiliency. Repurposing or shrinking oversized infrastructure can generate financial cost savings and reduce risks.

Comparing impervious surface coverage reveals disadvantaged communities have markedly larger areas of impervious surfaces than higher-income areas. This presents additional inequities in the northeast and southwest areas of the City where impervious surfaces overlap with floodplains. Targeted conversion of surface parking lots and roadways within the watersheds surrounding these areas is one way that right-sizing efforts can address these inequalities by reducing risk.

Achieving balanced growth also requires strong coordination. Historically, development applications and permits have been evaluated at face value with consideration of how proposed changes align with development goals for the surrounding land use and with environmental regulations. This can overlook the collective impact that development has on natural systems that contribute to resiliency, such as wetlands, riparian buffers, and forested areas. Development records should be digitized and updated regularly to facilitate a systems-based analysis of development and maintain a knowledge base of decisions that is accessible by all departments.

Recommendations (Balanced & Coordinated Growth)

01 Consider the collective impact of development, rather than impacts at the individual parcel scale

- Consider the impact of proposed development permits at the watershed-level to understand collective impact(s) to water quality and stormwater runoff.
- Continue partnerships with conservation organizations such as Upstate Forever and SPACE to identify and protect parcels which provide critical ecosystem services.
- Embrace infrastructure that serves multiple functions.
- Encourage infill development and redevelopment of existing sites.
- Establish processes for ensuring existing stormwater management features are protected from development and permanently preserved through easements or other means.

02 Invest in systems and processes that unify permitting and inspection of development.

- Conduct regular visual inventories of riparian buffers to aid in enforcement of setback requirements.
- Require developers to submit maintenance and inspection reports for permanent stormwater control measures (SCMs) on a regular basis.

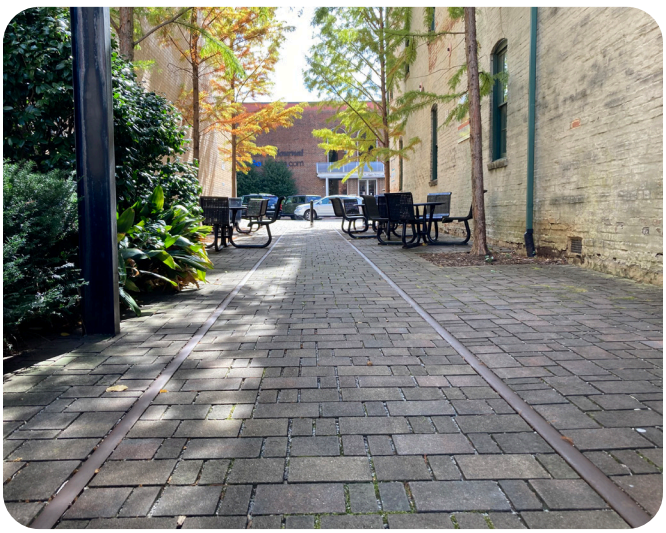
Mitigation

Mitigation activities should respond to vulnerability to known hazards, as well as underlying social, economic, and public health issues. The City uses regulations to limit development in hazard-prone areas and ecologically valuable locations, while encouraging density and preservation of canopy trees. Controlling the pace of development to ensure that infrastructure and public services keep up is another mitigation strategy.

Often the City upholds development requirements from outside agencies that ultimately help mitigate vulnerability to hazards. The EPA's Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit allows the City to require stormwater management activities during new and major redevelopment. Today, it is normal for developers to temporarily construct stormwater control measures (SCMs) to reduce the volume and pollutant load of runoff during construction. This was not the case even 10 years ago. Permanent SCMs are becoming more prevalent throughout Spartanburg as larger-scale development is required to install such features and as the City proactively constructs SCMs. Ensuring proper maintenance of these facilities is critical to success. One such effort carried out by the City and a suite of private partners is the West Main Street Pocket Park, which uses permeable pavers to filter stormwater runoff.

The City can also act as a facilitator and mediator to strengthen partnerships, or to help individuals and neighborhoods gain access to programs that foster resilience. It is valuable to investigate the distribution of, access to, and participation in workforce training programs as one means of understanding how communities are prepared to pivot with economic shifts. The SPARTA bus network connects disadvantaged neighborhoods to the Downtown Campus and Main Campus for Spartanburg Community College, as well as the Spartanburg County Adult Education Center, thus offering basic access to workforce training. However, it is important to consider convenience of this transit service in terms of frequency, directness, and service throughout the day. It is also important to track provision of workforce training programs related to green jobs, emergency services, and emerging sectors. An in-house apprenticeship program is another strategy cities are using to provide on-the-job training to job seekers.

Lastly, there are many funding sources for mitigation activities. Notifying community members of funding opportunities for mitigation should be a baseline action. Targeted outreach and technical assistance for vulnerable populations to apply for mitigation funding is preferred. The South Carolina Weatherization Assistance Program and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Mitigation are just two of the programs that help residents reduce vulnerability.



Downtown pocket park on West Main Street across.
Source: Spartanburg Herald Journal

Recommendations (Mitigation)

01 Provide targeted assistance to vulnerable communities to help residents access aid.

- Identify encampments of people experiencing homelessness that are in flood-prone areas and may require additional outreach or resources during high water events.
- Work with Spartanburg County Public Schools to increase awareness of tuition-free degree programs at Spartanburg Community College among neighborhoods of need.
- Help support applications to the SC Weatherization Assistance Program.
- Connect neighborhoods with higher populations of unemployed and underemployed people to major employers and workforce training centers via transit.
- Provide owner-occupied repair programs for elderly and other vulnerable populations.

02 Reduce exposure to identifiable natural and manmade hazards.

- Pursue remediation of brownfields and illicit dumping sites.
- Incentivize use of porous paving materials such as permeable pavers, pervious concrete, and porous asphalt.
- Pursue strategies to reduce solid waste.
- Identify and facilitate upgrades for compromised septic systems.
- Provide regular emergency service access points along trails and greenways.
- Ensure access to clean and affordable drinking water for all.
- Update the Spartanburg County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan to include action steps related to natural resources protection.

Disaster Recovery

While the County provides emergency management and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to the City, Spartanburg's Fire and Police Departments are critical to recovery from natural and manmade disasters. However, when communities have suffered from decades of disinvestment, unfulfilled commitments, and discriminatory practices, the lack of institutional trust can hinder top-down recovery efforts. There are also many other non-governmental entities that participate in recovery from these types of disasters, including volunteer organizations, the Red Cross, and religious groups. It is important to understand how various disaster recovery stakeholders overlap and which entities are trusted by community members. Trusted entities can vary by neighborhood.

Not every hazard can be fully mitigated, therefore making education around emergency response critical. For example, tornado sirens are a well-known sound to long-time residents but are often confusing and unfamiliar to new members of the Spartanburg community. Even as these sirens are replaced with digital app-based warning systems, it is important to consider accessibility of messaging to ensure all community members are informed about impending disasters and recovery processes.

Recommendations (Disaster Recovery)

01 Educate and train residents on hazard mitigation and emergency response.

- Facilitate partnerships among entities that welcome/educate new residents and those that provide disaster preparedness training.
- Host mobile workshops at the neighborhood scale for disaster preparedness and emergency response.

02 Expand emergency management planning to be more comprehensive.

- Integrate off-road trails and greenways into evacuation route planning.
- Establish plans for winter snow storage to keep sidewalks and bicycle lanes clear.
- Analyze emergency response times for along off-road trails and within parks.

03 Help community members access recovery funding and programs.

- Potential Regional, State, and Federal resources include:
- Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds,
- FEMA Individuals and Households Program (IHP),
- Palmetto SC Region of the American Red Cross,
- Central Carolina Community Foundation - One SC Fund,
- United Way of South Carolina, and
- USDA Foods Disaster Household Distribution.

Nature-Based Solutions

Natural systems have evolved over time to withstand natural hazards. Even though climate change has accelerated the intensity and frequency of many natural hazards, nature-based solutions are increasingly being embraced as sustainable and cost-effective alternatives to manmade engineering. Compared to traditional engineering and gray infrastructure, nature-based solutions are visibly accessible and not contained within closed systems, such as pipes and concrete. This makes it easy to assess maintenance needs, unlike traditional infrastructure, which may obscure maintenance issues until failure becomes catastrophic, such as a sink hole.

Spartanburg's Public Works Department has successfully employed nature-based solutions on a variety of stormwater management projects as SCMs. These include a rain garden located on Silver Hill Street behind the Spartanburg Marriot, daylighting and stream mitigation of the Butterfly Branch, and stewardship of riparian buffers. Green infrastructure can be a nature-based solution, but often includes manmade and engineered components that seek to mimic natural systems. The City's green infrastructure network includes the SCMs mentioned above, as well as other properties like large forested areas, parks, and wetlands.

Often the value of these properties is overlooked. Market forces and increased growth can cause the public to want to convert natural areas that provide critical ecosystem services into developed areas. The presence of wild and natural looking areas within an urban environment can also be perceived as messy or unkempt. Outreach and education are critical to garner understanding and support for future investment in nature-based solutions.

Recommendations (Nature-Based Solutions)

01 Encourage green infrastructure investments.

- Create an incentive program to reimburse property owners who retrofit their property to include green infrastructure.
- Identify opportunities to remove areas of impervious surface materials in neighborhoods with disproportionately less green space.
- Identify opportunities for turning vacant lots into environmental buffers or green space areas.

02 Bolster landscape standards and requirements.

- Update landscape standards to ensure diversity of species, to encourage native species, and to reconsider approved species based on anticipated changes due to climate change.
- Assume City maintenance of street trees in perpetuity.
- Establish minimum soil volume requirements for trees so roots have enough room to grow.
- Increase the minimum percentage of native species in riparian buffers.

03 Carry out an education campaign for green infrastructure.

- At each green infrastructure site, provide interpretative signage with a QR code to learn about green infrastructure.
- Work with the County to make green infrastructure GIS data available to the public online.

RJ ROCKERS
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HISTORIC
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WHERE YOU
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CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT

Introduction

Spartanburg's cultural resources are invaluable assets to economic vitality and quality of life. The spirit of collaboration in Spartanburg is evident in the efforts of the community to preserve history, celebrate its people, and encourage the arts and creative expression.

Spartanburg's cultural heritage is three-fold.

1. Spartanburg's cultural heritage is first expressed through its people – from its earliest settlers to its current residents. People have been moving to Spartanburg for over 230 years, bringing their own varied backgrounds, beliefs, religions, languages, and traditions, and ensuring that the City is ever-evolving culturally. Spartanburg has residents from more than 75 countries, with 98 languages spoken in the County. Understanding why people come to (or stay in) Spartanburg helps us understand each person's role in the City's story. Conversely, understanding why people may leave Spartanburg helps us understand whether it feels welcoming to other cultures, and whether people feel like they have "a place" in the community. Storytelling plays an incredibly important part in the cultural heritage of a place and can only happen when people are given the opportunity to share their experiences and traditions. These opportunities occur when people come together to celebrate, worship, live, work, and attend events. Preserving Spartanburg's past

means capturing and passing on these stories to future generations.

2. Cultural heritage is also expressed through the built environment – the spaces and places that people live, work, play and congregate. Spartanburg has a broad collection of houses, mills, commercial buildings, houses of worship, institutions, neighborhoods and districts that tell the story of the people who have lived there since its founding in 1787. From 18th century homes to turn-of-the-century mills, historic churches, and modern skyscrapers, Spartanburg's buildings are a tangible expression of its architectural heritage. Spartanburg is a city of neighborhoods, and each one has its own history, character and community. Understanding the similarities and differences between these neighborhoods is key to understanding the City as a whole. A visitor that only goes Downtown or a college student that never leaves campus misses out on the full picture of Spartanburg. To truly "see" the City, one must explore its neighborhoods and the places where people gather.

3. Finally, the cultural heritage of Spartanburg is expressed through the creations of the people who live there – the music, art, food, clothing, crafts, and other goods. These tangible expressions are the items that are bought, sold, consumed and shared in the City.

Cultural Resources Equity Indicators

When it comes to equity and cultural heritage, placemaking and representation matter. It is important for Spartanburg residents to feel like they have a place in the community and that they feel their cultural identity represented. Some of the participants in the public process, especially those that identified as immigrants or minorities, shared feelings of discomfort or alienation in the Spartanburg community.

For some of Spartanburg's disadvantaged communities, this feeling of displacement stems from a lack of a tangible cultural foundation. Many long-time Black residents of Spartanburg have witnessed the tremendous loss of their neighborhoods, commercial centers, historic structures, and artifacts. Immigrants that move to Spartanburg may have a difficult time connecting with the community due to cultural and language barriers, as well as real or perceived barriers to social life. From an equity perspective, it is equally important to find and preserve existing cultural resources as it is for people to create new ones to pass down to future generations.

The Equity Indicators as they relate to Cultural Resources are proximity and quality of libraries and community centers, attendance at cultural events, and cultural representation.

C1: Proximity and Access to Libraries, Museums, and other Cultural Institutions

Libraries, museums, and other cultural institutions provide opportunities for people to learn about their community and share their culture with others. Several participants in Plan Spartanburg indicated that they would participate in more cultural events if they were closer to where they lived and/or easier to get to. Others commented that the library is one of the most inclusive spaces in the City. The Spartanburg County Library and the Chapman Cultural Center are centrally located in downtown Spartanburg, but there are opportunities for satellite hubs and installations throughout the City, to improve access to cultural exhibits and information.

C2: Quality of Libraries, Museums, and other Cultural Institutions

Spartanburg's library, museums, and other cultural institutions have made great strides toward equity and diversity. Monitoring the types of resources, educational opportunities, exhibits and performances held in Spartanburg can help measure equity on a cultural level.

C3: Attendance at Cultural Events

A relatively simple way to measure the impact of the City's cultural resources on equity is to track attendance at cultural events and exhibits. Data should include not just the number of people that attend, but their age, race, income, and neighborhood of residence, which the recommended GIS Technician should compile and analyze (refer to "Government Employment & Facilities" section).

C4: Cultural Inclusion & Representation

This may be one of the most difficult Equity Indicators to quantify, but an important one, nonetheless. We know that representation matters in terms of equity and cultural resources, and that the diversity of the community should be reflected in its history, preservation, art, and cultural events.

GRAND OPENING
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THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF THE UPSTATE
130
SPARTANBURG
LOVE
WHERE YOU
PLAY

History

Spartanburg has a broad range of historic resources that reflect the City's rich, centuries-old heritage. Preserving Spartanburg's history is just as important as planning for its future. One of the first steps in comprehensive planning is identifying what makes a place unique, and the answers often lie in its buildings, its people, and its role in the region over time. This section discusses Spartanburg's architectural, industrial, military, and transportation history. In terms of equity, like in most other communities in the country, documented accounts of the City's history are racially biased. Black and African American people have lived in Spartanburg for over 230 years, but the scarcity of early records means we are still uncovering the Black history of the City. The Black community has suffered the disproportionate destruction of many of their homes, neighborhoods, businesses and cultural institutions in Spartanburg. While it is rarely possible to rebuild what has been lost, the City understands the importance of learning about, documenting, and sharing the Black history of Spartanburg.

Preserving Spartanburg's history is a collaborative effort between several State, regional and local organizations.

The **State Historic Preservation Office** (SHPO) has a Certified Local Government (CLG) Program through which participating local governments can receive support in the form of technical assistance, training, and grant funding. The City of Spartanburg currently participates in this program, which is designed "to provide an opportunity for local governments to become more directly involved in identifying, evaluating, protecting, promoting and enhancing the educational economic value of local properties of historic, architectural and archaeological significance."

The **Spartanburg County Historical Association** (SCHA) manages the Spartanburg Regional History Museum and three historic sites in and around Spartanburg, including the Seay House. The purpose of the SCHA is to promote interest in the history of Spartanburg County and to encourage the preservation of historical properties and artifacts.

Through Visit Spartanburg, **OneSpartanburg Inc.** offers a self-guided Historic Downtown Walking Tour of Spartanburg. The Tour highlights different eras in Spartanburg's history and takes about an hour to complete. The main tour focuses on buildings and significant sites in the downtown area, but visitors can also learn about Converse College, Wofford College, and some of Spartanburg's historic cemeteries. Other tours offered through OneSpartanburg are described in the following sections.

The **Spartanburg County Public Libraries** contain a wealth of resources for those interested in learning more about history in the region. The Kennedy Room of Local and South Carolina History houses an extensive collection of materials related to Spartanburg's history. The Cleveland Genealogy Department provides resources and access to genealogy databases for researchers. The library's collection includes books, periodicals, maps, media, manuscripts, and visual arts. The Library has a collection of other resources including photographs, journals, and oral histories for those interested in learning more about Spartanburg's Black history. More information

about the Library can be found in the Community Facilities element of the Plan.

The **Hub City Writers Project** is an award-winning organization founded in May of 1995 by a trio of writers in Spartanburg, SC. From its start, the Hub City Writers Project's primary goal is to capture the sense of place in a rapidly changing Southern city. Modeled after the Depression-era Federal Writers Project, they chose the name Hub City because it invoked Spartanburg's past as a 19th century railroad center and challenged them to make their hometown a center for literary arts.

Since its founding, Hub City has emerged as a leading publisher for writers across South Carolina and the American South, has introduced intensive literary arts programs, sponsored conferences, residencies, educational programs, and readings that have captured the complex cultural landscape of Spartanburg and the region.

Recommendations (History)

01	Continue to meet the requirements for participation in the CLG Program by enforcing the historic preservation ordinance; supporting the historic preservation commission; maintaining a system for the survey and inventory of historic properties; and encouraging public participation in the historic preservation program.
02	Make a concerted effort to understand what kinds of historic preservation programs are desired by marginalized communities and attempt to acquire SHPO grant funding during the appropriate yearly cycle to implement programs and accomplish tangible goals as it relates to honoring "hidden histories."
03	Continue to support the efforts of OneSpartanburg to bring history-related programming, events, and tours to Spartanburg.
04	Raise awareness of the City's many historic assets. The City should work with the State Historic Preservation Office, the Spartanburg County Historical Association, One Spartanburg, the Spartanburg County Libraries, and other partners to provide interpretive exhibits that showcase important aspects of the City's history, and through a review of historic surveys, select the appropriate locations for installations.
05	Expand the resources available to those seeking to learn about Spartanburg's black and immigrant history and the indigenous people that were the original settlers of Spartanburg.
06	Support the efforts of the Spartanburg African American Heritage and Culture Committee to bring black history-related programming, events, and tours to Spartanburg.

Architectural History

Spartanburg has a number of historic buildings and districts that contribute to its character and architectural history. At the center of it all is Morgan Square and the Downtown Historic District, Spartanburg's original courthouse village. The City was founded here, and the square was named after Daniel Morgan, a Revolutionary War General that led the Continental Army to victory in the Battle of Cowpens. Spartanburg's historic properties tell the story of the people who have lived and worked in Spartanburg, and the architectural styles that were common at the time. Now mingling with modern structures, many of the City's historic buildings have been preserved through the proactive measures of the Spartanburg County Historical Association, the Board of Architectural Design and Historic Review (HARB), and the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

Spartanburg's historic buildings span nearly two centuries, from a modest late 18th century home to a 1950s skyscraper. Spartanburg's mill buildings are recognized for the critical role they played in the American Industrial Revolution of the 19th century. The mill buildings are among the many structures that comprise an impressive list of local properties on the National Register of Historic Places.

The five historic districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places include:

- Wofford College (1854). The campus historic district includes the Italian Villa style Wofford Main Building and six residences in a southern vernacular style. These first buildings on campus were the work of skilled African American carpenters.
- Converse College Historic District. (1891-1915) This campus historic district includes eight buildings representing the Romanesque Revival, Gothic Revival, and Neo-Classical styles.
- Converse Heights Historic District (1900-1940). This residential historic district includes 460 contributing homes representing many of the architectural styles common at the time.
- Spartanburg Downtown Historic District (late 1800s, early 1900s) – Spartanburg's historic downtown is centered around Morgan Square and includes a number of commercial masonry structures.
- Hampton Heights Historic District (1885-1940). The oldest residential neighborhood in Spartanburg, featuring a number of architectural styles common at the time.

Beaumont Mill Village is not listed on the National Register, but the City has recognized its significance by creating its own local historic district designation and Design Guidelines. This district includes 317 properties and a variety of architectural styles.

The unfortunate truth is that very few of the structures in Spartanburg's original Black neighborhoods still stand today. The majority of the Southside community was destroyed during misguided Urban Renewal efforts of the 1960s and 70s. The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany on South Liberty Street is the oldest surviving African American church in the City, and the only original structure left in the Southside community.

Other important sites in Spartanburg's Black history include the Old City Cemetery, which contains the graves of some of Spartanburg's most prominent Black citizens, including Mary H. Wright; the Harlem Hell Fighters historic marker honoring the Black National Guard unit that trained in Spartanburg during World War I; and the Omega Psi Phi fraternity house on N. Dean Street that was originally the Alexander School, the oldest Black school still standing in Spartanburg.

Recommendations (Architectural History)

01	Develop an inventory of City-owned properties, particularly those that are assumed to have historical value. Have the recommended GIS Tech develop a database of all City-owned structures. As budgeting permits, conduct a physical assessment of all structures.
02	Promote private preservation efforts in Spartanburg's historic districts and support the efforts of the Historic Preservation Ordinance and the Board of Architectural Design and Historic Review.
03	Continue to work with the Spartanburg County Historical Association to promote historic preservation efforts, highlight Black and indigenous history, as well as the impact of other cultures brought by immigration to Spartanburg.
04	Protect sites, structures and monuments that are important to Spartanburg's Black history.
05	Identify other buildings, structures and districts, including the Magnolia Street Train Depot and Beaumont Mill Village, that may be eligible for National Register of Historic Places designation or other protections. Take necessary steps to ensure preservation.
06	Periodically review and amend the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance.
07	Periodically review and amend the Hampton Heights Historic District Guidelines and the Beaumont Mill Village Historic District Guidelines.

Industrial & Textile History

Spartanburg's industrial history dates back to 1773, when Colonel William Wofford built an iron-works near what is now the City of Spartanburg. By the early 1800s, the region was well-established as an iron producer, and parts of present-day Spartanburg were in what was known as "The Old Iron District."

Spartanburg's cotton mills are another important piece of its industrial heritage. Known as the "Lowell of the South," a reference to the massive textile mills in the city of Lowell, Massachusetts, Spartanburg saw a boom in mill development in the late 1800s. The first cotton mill in Spartanburg was Spartan Mill, which began operation in 1890. Over the next 20 years, nine other mills began operation in and around the City.

The mills contributed to an economic boom, bringing residents and jobs to Spartanburg, and establishing the City as an industrial center in the Southeast. Not everyone benefited from this boom, however. According to Dr. David Carlton's book "Mill and Town in South Carolina 1880-1920," the average work week in Upstate textile mills was more than 65 hours, and the many of the mills utilized child labor. Wages in the textile industry were lower than what was considered a "living wage," and many mill families lived in poverty.

One Spartanburg offers a half-day and full-day self-guided tour of the City's textile heritage (www.textiletowntour.com). Along with stops at several of Spartanburg's historic mills, the tour includes stops at the Pacolet Flood Memorial, which pays tribute to the victims of the 1903 flood that destroyed five cotton mills and killed 70 residents.

Many of Spartanburg's mills, including Drayton Mill, Arcadia Mill and Converse Mill have been redeveloped into apartments and commercial spaces. Finding new ways to utilize old buildings is a great way to preserve history while moving into the future.

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Black History

The Spartanburg Regional History Museum contains a collection of materials and artifacts related to the City's Black history. There, visitors can read interviews with ex-slaves that were captured by the Works Progress Administration in the 1940s, view art by prominent local African American artists, and see the legislative desk of Brenda Lee, who was Spartanburg's first Black female representative in the South Carolina House of Representatives.

The Spartanburg County Public Libraries have organized a "Highlights of Spartanburg's Black History" walking tour that explores Spartanburg's African American business district and the sites of several important events in the City's Black history. It aims to educate residents and visitors about the contributions of Black soldiers, business owners, legislators, professionals, and community leaders to the City of Spartanburg. The tour covers parts of the City that were demolished during Urban Renewal and sheds light on the emotional and physical impact of this upheaval on the Black community.

Though most of the buildings and monuments that represent critical periods in Spartanburg's Black History are under preservation, it is likely that many of the cultural resources considered sacred to disadvantaged communities are not officially recognized. Making efforts to find, document, and preserve these important resources is important when it comes to equity.

Former State Rep. Brenda Lee Pryce's desk on display at the Spartanburg Regional History Museum, the first African American woman elected to the Legislature from Spartan burg County.

Credit: Tim kimzey Spartanburg Herald Journal

Community leader and Spartanburg educator, Mary H. Wright on display at the Spartanburg Regional History Museum.

Credit: TIM Kimzey/SPartanburg Herald-Journal

Recommendations (Black History)

01	Acknowledge the impact of slavery, racism, segregation, and discrimination on Spartanburg's Black community. Understand the role Urban Renewal played in the destruction of Black neighborhoods and businesses through ongoing writing, storytelling, performance, and art.
02	Find, document, and preserve additional items of importance to Spartanburg's Black community.
03	Recognize the achievements of Black and African American people in Spartanburg. Celebrate the impacts they have had on the local community throughout the City's history.
04	Provide opportunities for the Black community to learn about and share their history in Spartanburg.
05	Incorporate Black History at all levels of public education within Spartanburg's school districts.
06	Explore opportunities for heritage tourism and expand resources on Black history in Spartanburg. Considerations may include a Black history museum or visitor's center, which could be the starting point for the Library's walking tour.
07	Support the efforts of the Spartanburg Regional History Museum and the Spartanburg County Public Libraries to provide information, materials, and programming related to Spartanburg's indigenous, Black and immigrant history.

MLK 2019 EVENT

THE
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
UNITY
WEEK
Celebration

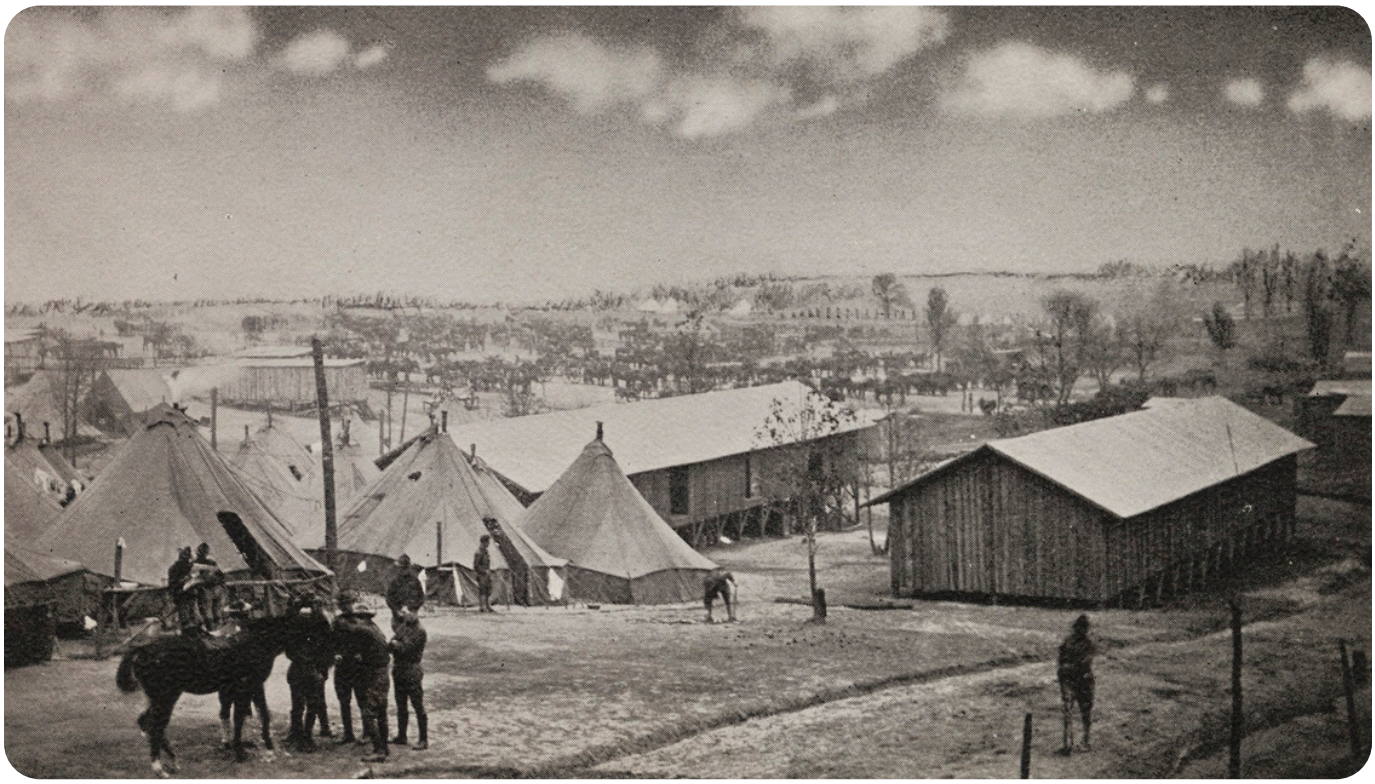
Military History

Spartanburg has a military history dating back to the American Revolution. Several battles and skirmishes took place in and around Spartanburg. During World War I, Camp Wadsworth (located where Westgate Mall is currently) served as a training location for National Guard Troops. Several decades later during World War II, Camp Croft served an Army training location and prisoner of war camp. This former military site turned State Park still contains some reminders of its history and remnants of munitions in areas not accessible to the public.

The Spartanburg Revolutionary War Trail is a self-guided tour and project of OneSpartanburg. Stops on the tour include the Daniel Morgan Monument, and a number of battle sites.

Recommendations (Military History)

01	Consider equity when protecting sites, structures, and monuments that are important to Spartanburg's military history.
02	Explore opportunities for military tourism and expand the resources available to those seeking to learn about Spartanburg's military history.
03	Support the efforts of OneSpartanburg to provide information, materials, and programming related to the military history of the area.



Camp Wadsworth

Source: digitalcommonwealth.org

Source: allthingsliberty.com

Transportation History

Hub City

Spartanburg's nickname, the Hub City is deeply ingrained in the community. It has been used through the decades to describe the community and is rooted in two related historic references.

In the early days of the region, no less than seven railroad lines passed through the city boundaries which at the time was almost a perfect circle. The lines converged in the city and radiated out like the spokes of a wheel.

The railroad history is likely tied to even earlier travel patterns where Native American and early colonial trails converged in Spartanburg as one of the oldest settlements in the region.

Even today, Spartanburg bears the unique attribute of being the only South Carolina City where an east/west Interstate 26 and north/south Interstate 85 not only intersect but traverse through the city and onward to further points in each direction.

Spartanburg Union Station was built in 1904 and served the Southern Railway, Clinchfield Railroad, and the Charleston & Western Carolina Railway. In it's heyday in the 1940s, Union Station saw upwards of 14 trains per day. The building complex deteriorated over the decades leading up to 1996, when a fire destroyed what was left, a secondary freight building that had been adjacent to the main station building. Fortunately, through the efforts of a local resident, the building was restored to its current one-story brick structure, which serves as an active train station and home of the Hub City Railroad Museum.

Hub City Railroad Museum

Opened in 2010, the Hub City Railroad Museum is run by volunteers and offers a variety of train memorabilia, viewing spots for train watching, and a 1947 Southern Railway Caboose. The Museum is operated by the National Railway Society.

Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport

South Carolina's first commercial airport opened in Spartanburg in 1927. The Art Deco airport building is over 80 years old, and was recently renovated. The airport played a significant role in WWII as a training facility for the US Army. In 2018, the City opened the adjacent Downtown Memorial Airport Park, which includes an aviation-themed playground and other amenities, and a view of incoming and departing aircraft. The park helps highlight Spartanburg's aviation history, which includes visits from Charles Lindberg and Amelia Earhart.

The Spartanburg Community Aviation Program (www.spartanburgsciencecenter.org/aviation) is a partnership between the Spartanburg Science Center and the Spartanburg Downtown Airport to "expose [the] community to the value and appreciation of aviation." The program gives students the opportunity to explore a diverse aviation curriculum, learning about different aircraft and aviation careers.

Recommendations (Transportation History)

01 Continue to support the efforts of the Hub City Railroad Museum and the Spartanburg Community Aviation Program to preserve Spartanburg's rail and aviation history.

Spartanburg Union Station

Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport

Hub City Railroad Museum

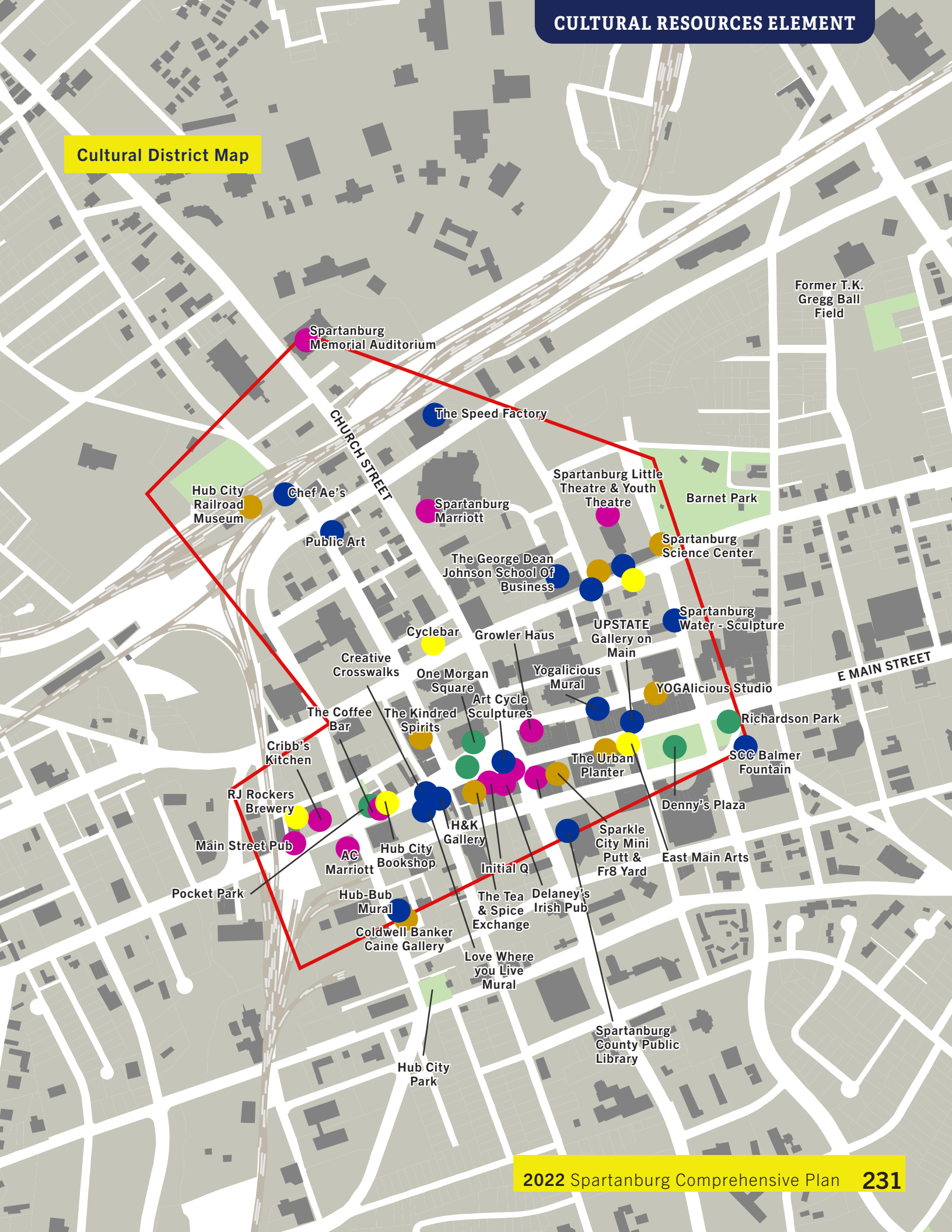
Source: Hubcitymuseum.org

Downtown Cultural District

In 2015, Downtown Spartanburg was designated one of the South Carolina Arts Commission's Cultural Districts of South Carolina (www.southcarolinaarts.com). The goals of this program are to attract artists, creative entrepreneurs, and cultural enterprises; to encourage economic development; to foster local cultural development; and to provide a focal point for celebrating local cultural identity.

The Downtown Cultural District encompasses an area surrounding Morgan Square and extending to the Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium to the north, the Grain District to the west, Denny's Plaza to the south, and Chapman Cultural Center and its neighboring museums to the east. The area includes 21 indoor live performance venues; nine outdoor performance venues; 43 galleries or exhibit spaces; 38 murals and other public art displays; five museums; 64 studios and workshops; 6 historic sites; and 15 green spaces and arboretums. Collectively, these areas host 1,335 events and festivals open to the public.

Cultural District Map



Recommendations (Downtown Cultural District)

01 Continue collaborating with Chapman Cultural Center, the Downtown Spartanburg Development Partnership, and other organizations to protect and enhance spaces and programming efforts in the Downtown Cultural District. This can be accomplished through the development of a Culture & Arts Master Plan. Residents, businesses and local artists should work collaboratively to identify what cultural facilities are currently lacking; identify existing underutilized assets the City could activate for cultural and economic development purposes; examine possible dedicated funding sources for cultural development; and develop a deeper understanding of where cultural access inequities exist within the City of Spartanburg.

02 **Advance the goals of the Downtown Cultural District through the following recommendations:**

- Ensure that the Cultural District reflects the cultural diversity of Spartanburg.
- Increase pedestrian and visitor activity by ensuring that the Downtown area is safe, walkable, and welcoming to all.
- Increase residency and occupancy by looking for opportunities to infill vacant properties and create new spaces for creative people and businesses Downtown.
- Attract new enterprises by providing incubator spaces and incentives to creative entrepreneurs with a focus on under-represented populations and business owners from disadvantaged communities.
- Foster art and performances in public places by collaborating with local artists. Spartanburg's creatives should be fairly compensated for their contributions to the City and should not be asked to donate their time or work.
- Continue to celebrate and recognize the region's LGBTQ+ community as the home of Upstate South Carolina's first Gay Pride celebration and parade and as a center of LGBTQ+ life in the region.
- Celebrate Spartanburg's evolving cultural identity by celebrating the wide variety of nationalities and cultural identities that call Spartanburg home. More detailed recommendations can be found in the "Festivals & Events" section that follows.

Recommendations Cont. (Downtown Cultural District)

03 Consider expanding upon the existing Downtown Spartanburg Cultural District by redeveloping underutilized properties in the Grain District. This area is ideal for the development of small shops, artisan maker spaces or live-work units where resident artists could demonstrate and sell their work. It is also an opportunity to explore Spartanburg's culinary heritage through food halls, incubator kitchens and markets. See Focus Area Plans for more details. More specific recommendations for the Grain District can be found in the Economic Development and Focus Areas elements of the plan.

The Arts

The Role of the Arts in Spartanburg

Spartanburg's role as a center for the artistic community is an important means of preserving cultures and sharing the cultural richness of Spartanburg. Spartanburg enjoys arts and cultural resources that rival those of much bigger cities and residents of the community continue to express a strong desire to expand arts-related programming and events and to provide options for all ages, cultural backgrounds, incomes, and abilities. As previously discussed, Downtown Spartanburg is the cultural hub of the City and the natural gathering place for the community. However, participants in the public process expressed a desire to expand the arts presence beyond downtown, into the City's many neighborhoods.

Several On The Table Meetings were held to discuss topics specifically related to arts and culture. They expressed a desire to develop Spartanburg's impressive arts scene even more, particularly by enhancing coordination and partnership between existing organizations. Plan Spartanburg participants shared creative ideas for new events and programs that can continue to bring the community together and attract more visitors through the arts. They expressed an interest in developing more diverse cultural activities like music workshops, crafts, and art classes.

Spartanburg has a unique opportunity to position its arts community as different from that of neighboring communities where the arts can sometimes be perceived as inaccessible and lacking diversity. Spartanburg has the unique distinction of benefitting from the combination of state-of-the-art facilities unrivaled in cities its size coupled with a dynamic grass roots "creative class" that fosters art that extends to neighborhoods, the public realm, the spoken and written word, music, and performance art.

Spartanburg should continue to market its own brand as an arts & culture destination that celebrates its international cultures, diverse population, complex history and wide array of creative expression. Plan Spartanburg participants indicated that while it is important to celebrate local arts, it is equally important to learn about arts and culture from around the world and from underrepresented populations. Deliberate efforts should be made by art partners to ensure that when marketing the arts in Spartanburg, residents should see themselves in marketing material.

The arts represent not only creative expression but also economic opportunity. Arts and Economic Prosperity® 5 was conducted by Americans for the Arts, the nation's nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in America in 2016 by the Chapman Cultural Center and included over 400 stakeholders in assessing the power of the arts on the Spartanburg Economy.

The report concluded that in 2015 the nonprofit arts and culture sector is a $32 million industry in the Greater Spartanburg Area—one that supports 1,130 full-time equivalent jobs and generates $2.7 million in local and state government revenue.

OVERALL GOALS RELATED TO THE ARTS

- Leverage existing events and enhance arts and culture within the City's identity and brand (locally and regionally) to benefit the local economy.
- Continue cultivating a culture of support for various forms of art.
- Foster connections that help bolster the City's identity as an arts community.

Mural Honoring JC Stroble of The Beacon

Street Performer

WHAT WE HEARD

"Develop an arts identity – spARTanburg."

"Need arts mentorship programs."

"Need a performing arts venue."

"Not everyone wants to go Downtown."

"Some people can't afford art classes."

"Expand arts & culture beyond downtown."

"Bring the arts to the neighborhoods."

"People need to buy local art."

Arts & Culture Institutions

The Chapman Cultural Center is Spartanburg's cultural hub, a three-building campus located at the edge of the Downtown Cultural District that includes a number of Spartanburg's cultural institutions, including the Spartanburg Art Museum, Spartanburg County Regional History Museum, and Spartanburg Science Center.

The Chapman Cultural Center's mission is to "provide cultural leadership for Greater Spartanburg by developing, strengthening, and promoting the scope, excellence, and educational role of the arts, humanities and sciences, and to further their significance in the life of our community." According to the center's website, they receive over 350,000 yearly visitors, put on almost 400 yearly events, and reach 40,000 students. Chapman works with Spartanburg's local school district to offer arts-related programming and share the cost of sponsoring artist residencies.

Chapman Cultural Center is owned and operated by the Arts Partnership of Greater Spartanburg, a non-profit organization with a 20+ year history of supporting the arts in Spartanburg County. Admission to many of the venues (including the Art Museum and Regional History Museum) is free, with donations accepted; or have a small admission fee (such as the Science Center). Chapman Cultural Center has a Community Grant Program funded by the South Carolina Arts Commission, which is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and the John and Susan Bennett Memorial Arts Fund of the Coastal Community Foundation of South Carolina. The program provides grants of up to $5,000 per project to cultural activities, programs and events that serve the needs of the Spartanburg community.

The Artists' Guild of Spartanburg was founded in 1957 as an organization of visual artists with the purpose of encouraging creative growth and promoting arts appreciation in the Spartanburg community. The Guild runs a gallery in Chapman Cultural Center.

The Artists Collective is an organization of artists living in and around Spartanburg. Its mission is to "create a community of artists wherein members mentor and support one another." The Collective provides affordable studio, display, and performance spaces to both established and emerging artists. They are housed in a 20,000 square foot building on West Main Street just west of the Grain District.

Hub City Writers Project is an award-winning nationally recognized nonprofit publisher and literary organization that has published more than 100 books since its founding in 1995. Originally modeled after the Depression-era Federal Writers Project, the organization has published important works of local history such as "South of Main," which explores the destructive effects of Urban Renewal on the city's Southside. In 2010, they opened Hub City Bookshop in Downtown Spartanburg, the nation's first full-service bookshop operated by a nonprofit organization.

Source: visitspartanburg.com; chapmanculturalcenter.org

Music & Performing Arts

Chapman Cultural Center is home to several performing arts organizations and venues, including the Spartanburg Little Theater, the Spartanburg Youth Theater, the Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra, Ballet Spartanburg, and the Music Foundation of Spartanburg.

The Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium has been a venue for music, comedy, theater, sporting events and large gatherings in Spartanburg since 1951. It is known as the "Showplace of the South" and is one of South Carolina's largest theaters, with a seating capacity of 3,244.

The Proud Mary Theatre Company is a non-profit regional community theater company devoted to LGBTQ+ plays and themes. Proud Mary is supported by Chapman Cultural Center and plays an important role in providing a creative performing arts outlet for the LGBTQ+ community.

The Spartanburg Music Trail is a project of the One Spartanburg. It honors local Spartanburg County musicians representing a variety of genres, at stops along a trail that will eventually circle downtown Spartanburg.

Other significant performing arts venues in Spartanburg include the Zimmerli Amphitheater at Barnet Park and Ground Zero historic live music venue.

Equity & the Arts

Diversity in the arts is important – people want to relate to artists and see themselves reflected in the art. PlanapaloozaTM participants voiced an interest in seeing more minority representation in Spartanburg's artists and arts educators. The City understands the economic, cultural, and social advantages of sharing and learning from different cultures and making arts and culture programming available and accessible to everyone. Art has the ability to bring people together to celebrate their differences.

Spartanburg has seen a number of recent initiatives aimed at bringing art into its neighborhoods and making cultural opportunities more available to underserved parts of the community.

Hub City Art Park is located in a former parking lot adjacent to a historic building. The privately funded urban park is open to the community and features a sculpture garden and spaces to create chalk art.

In 2014 Spartanburg's Northside neighborhood created a Community-Creative-Cultural Arts Plan as part of its larger Northside Redevelopment Master Plan. The Arts Plan aims to incorporate art into the daily life of residents of the Northside neighborhood.

The Northside Artlets project was funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and matching funds from Chapman Cultural Center. The project consists of four Artlets, which are small structures for creative gathering in neighborhood settings. The Artlets utilized repurposed materials from demolished buildings in the area and were constructed by neighborhood residents.

The Johnson Collection (www.thejohnsoncollection.org) is referred to "a private collection for public good" and includes 1,200 paintings, prints, sculptures and other works representing the region's rich art history. It includes a broad collection of artwork by women and African American artists, and the collection is made available through a downtown gallery, online gallery and traveling exhibitions.

There are many more opportunities to enhance equity by improving access to the arts and arts-related programming, especially in Spartanburg's economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. Additional efforts can be made to make everyone feel welcome in Spartanburg's art spaces.

Transportation was mentioned as a barrier to participating in many events in Spartanburg. Those who rely on public transportation indicated that evening and weekend event times and bus schedules are often in conflict. We also heard that college students without their own transportation are unlikely to leave the comfort and amenities on campus. Planapalooza™ participants recognized the importance of involving younger people in arts. There are two ways that Spartanburg can approach this problem – by providing transportation from neighborhoods to a central event location, or by increasing the number of neighborhood-centered events that help bring arts events into the community.

Recommendations (Equity & the Arts)

01	Provide destinations and programming for all ages, incomes, abilities, and cultural backgrounds.
02	Continue to support arts programming in Spartanburg's public schools in order to provide equitable access to students. Recognize that transportation may be an issue for some families, and that some students are unable to take advantage of extracurricular activities unless transportation is available.
03	Work with local partners and sponsors to provide free art classes. Avoid creating income-based programs or one-time-only free events that perpetuate inequities in the community.
04	Encourage and support neighborhood-level arts events like popups, mini galleries, sidewalk art show and walking art tours.
05	Prioritize some arts in the City for minority artists.
06	Partner with other art organizations that prominently feature minority artists.

Festivals & Events

Events that celebrate history and culture build community pride and, for some, foster a sense of belonging. One of the most effective ways to engage the community in shared experiences is to organize events and activities around holidays and other significant dates. These events can give participants an opportunity to learn something about their City while engaging with people they may not otherwise meet.

Spartanburg's venues and festivals draw attendees from the county and beyond. The City held its first annual International Festival in 1985, and since then it has grown to be one of the region's most popular events, with more than 12,000 attendees. The festival takes place in October, and each year features a different culture while celebrating the food, music, dance, art, and traditions of many others. The Annual Sidewalk Arts Show takes place on the same weekend.

Other popular events include:

- Spring Fling (May, Downtown – a weekend event with rides, attractions and live performances
- Red, White and Boom (4th of July, Barnet Park) – features music and fireworks
- Music on Main (Thursdays between April and August, Downtown) – an after-work live music series at Morgan Square
- The Greek Festival (September, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church) – a large street festival featuring food and other activities celebrating Greek culture
- Dickens of a Christmas (November/December, Downtown) – a street festival featuring Victorian-era street performers and costumes
- Festifall (October, Walnut Grove Plantation) – features 18th century reenactments and demonstrations
- Taste of the Backcountry (April, Price House) – features 18th century food and demonstrations
- Hub City Hog Fest (April, Downtown) – annual barbecue festival including live music
- Upstate Pride SC (www.upstatepridesc.org) hosts an annual March and Festival in November in partnership with the Unitarian Universalist Church in Spartanburg.
- Juneteenth (June, changes locations) – celebration of African-American freedom and culture, featuring food, dance competitions, music, vendors, and scholarly discussion of Blackness in America.

City events are funded through the Accommodations and Hospitality Tax revenues. This means that more visitors equals more revenue. Finding ways to draw people to Spartanburg and get them to spend a day, or a weekend, or even a week, helps support these events.

WHAT WE HEARD

"Need more diversity in events."

"Attract more tourists."

"Close streets for festivals."

"Love the International Fair – would like to see more of this."

"City has underutilized event spaces."

"More exhibitions."

Recommendations (Festivals & Events)

01	Support local initiatives to celebrate the city and bring the community together. The City and its partners (including Chapman Cultural Center, the South Carolina Arts Commission, and One Spartanburg) can sponsor and help organize such events to raise awareness of celebration-worthy milestones.
02	Continue to celebrate international cultures. Consider expanding on the annual International Festival and celebrating other events like Chinese New Year, Diwali, Cinco de Mayo, Dia de los Muertos, year-round.
03	Many cities in the US and around the world have "Fringe Festivals," which celebrate non-traditional styles of performance art including theater, music, comedy, and light installations. These events are often unjuried and without a selection committee, and performances are short and technically simple. Admission is sometimes free, and inexpensive otherwise. Many of these festivals feature traveling performers, but it can be a good way to showcase local talent as well. The City can work with the Spartanburg Ballet, Philharmonic, and other theater groups.
04	To ensure broad participation in festivals and events, ensure that public transportation is available; or provide transportation such as a shuttle bus that runs from walkable neighborhood centers or other neighborhood facilities. This can help reduce parking needs and allow events to take place in underutilized parking lots or on closed streets.
05	Consider bringing smaller events to individual neighborhoods, in order to increase participation in cultural events.

OTTON CANDY
CARAMEL APPLES
SNO CONES
COLD DRINKS
CANDY APPLES
CAKES
ACHOS
CORN FRESH
COTTON CANDY
CANDY APPLES
COLD DRINKS
Clock Tower

SPRING FLING
Food Court
Presented by
MORE THAN YOUR average STREET FEST
E Dunb
ONE WAY
CORN DOG
ICE COLD TEA
TED'S STREET FOODS
ICE COLD LEMONADE
FOOTLONG CORNDOG
PLATE CHICKEN STRIPS

Public Art

Public art, whether in the form of banners, sculptures or murals, demonstrates the City's commitment to arts and culture. In addition to enhancing the aesthetic quality of the streets and other public spaces, it helps create a sense of place that is uniquely Spartanburg. Providing public art that is accessible to all is an important step towards a more equitable future for the City.

The City should support the expansion of public art through investments in major public facilities, streetscape, and public space upgrades; private development and other investments; improvements to civic and institutional sites (i.e., City facilities as well as hospital and college campuses); grassroots efforts; and other mechanisms.

The Spartanburg Art Museum has a number of initiatives aimed at increasing public art and access to art in Spartanburg. The museum hosts a free, self-guided Art Walk on the third Thursday of the month. In 2018, the museum organized "Lighten Up Spartanburg!", a public art project that partnered local and regional artists with local business sponsors to decorate and install large fiberglass light bulbs throughout the City.

Public art can do much more than provide visual interest in Spartanburg. For example, in 2015, the City of Spartanburg was chosen to take part in Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge, a program intended to support public art projects intended to transform urban spaces with dynamic public art. The City worked with artist Erwin Redl on a project called "Seeing Spartanburg in a New Light." The artist collaborated with the Spartanburg police and fire department and several neighborhood organizations to design interactive light installations in the City. This public art display was designed to enhance community policing and public safety efforts in the City. The installations were on view from October 2016 to April 2017 and drew visitors from the region and beyond. These types of public art events can draw attention to issues in ways that are interesting and accessible to those that may not otherwise engage.

Hub City Art Park

WHAT WE HEARD

"Use colleges for local art exhibits."

"Commission local arts downtown."

"Designate City funding for the arts – murals, public art, musicians, street performers."

"Value local artists."

Recommendations (Public Art)

01	Develop a public art master plan. Chapman Cultural Center should play an active role in determining public art selection and placement and implementing a plan for public art. Such master plans are instrumental in obtaining grants from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and similar agencies.
02	Establish a public art policy and formal selection process, juried and administered by the Chapman Cultural Center in partnership with the City.
03	Think beyond murals. While murals are a great way to make art available to showcase local artists and achieve a lot of artistic "bang for the buck," there are many other ways to make art available to the public. Consider sculpture, street performances, and demonstrations.
04	Find ways to incorporate art into the streetscape through signage, lighting, furniture and displays.
05	Public transportation is a great way to introduce different media. Bus stops can be mini galleries, featuring changing displays or light installations. Buses can be wrapped in art on the exterior and play music or performances on interior screens.
06	Look for more opportunities and funding sources to put on public art events like "Lighten Up Spartanburg" and "Seeing Spartanburg in a New Light."
07	Make sure that public art is truly public – it should not be concentrated in one area – should be equally distributed and make available and accessible to all.

"Public art adds to the vibrancy of the City"

"Compensate local artists – don't ask for free work"

"City should adopt a public art policy and process"

Sports

Sports are another important cultural resource in Spartanburg. Until 2019, Wofford College played host to the NFL's Carolina Panthers training camp. Though the future of this agreement is currently unknown, the Panthers have a loyal following in the region. Wofford is also the location of the annual Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas, an all-star high school football game between top players from South Carolina and North Carolina. Wofford, along with USC Upstate, Spartanburg Methodist College, and Converse College have a variety of sports team.

Baseball has been a part of Spartanburg's history since the textile boom, when many of the mills had their own teams, and games were one of the primary sources of recreation and entertainment in the mill villages. Duncan Park Stadium is the oldest minor league baseball stadium in the country, and has been home to the Spartanburg Stingers, the Spartanburg Crickets, and the Spartanburg Phillies, a minor league team of the Philadelphia Phillies. The stadium is the current home of the Spartanburg High School baseball team. Many of Spartanburg's long-time residents have fond memories of attending baseball games at Duncan Park.

In September 2020, Spartanburg City Council entered into an agreement with the Coastal Plain League to utilize Duncan Park Stadium for a 2021 season. Many of Spartanburg's long-time residents have fond memories of attending baseball games at Duncan Park, and bringing a new minor league team, the Spartanburgers, to the City will ensure enjoyment for generations to come.

The City of Spartanburg has two recreational adult basketball leagues: Open League and Industrial League. The City Parks & Recreation Department partners with Spartanburg School District 7 to offer a girls' sports camp and a youth football camp. Many other sports programs are offered through the County Parks Department, private organizations, and other regional school districts.

Recommendations (Sports)

01	Ensure equitable access to City sports programs.
02	Work with the Coastal Plain League to offer attendance opportunities for those who may not otherwise be able to attend professional sporting events.
03	Explore more City sponsored summer and year-round competitive events for residents of the City.
04	Explore bringing Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) efforts or similar back to the centers to encourage amateur to professional sports advancement.
05	Create free sports leagues (soccer, basketball, football and others) sponsored by the City so that residents can access such programs at little to no cost.

Mtn Dew
ZION
SPARTANBURG
HIGHLAND COURTS

Colleges & Universities

Spartanburg has a mix of both public and private universities, each of which play a role in the Spartanburg community. They include Converse College, Sherman College of Chiropractic, Spartanburg Community College, Spartanburg Methodist College, University of South Carolina Upstate, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM), and Wofford College.

Over 15,000 students attend these institutes of higher learning, and come from all over the region, the country, and the world. The estimated impact of Spartanburg's colleges and universities is nearly $600 million dollars.

College Town Spartanburg (collegetownspartanburg.com) is a not-for-profit partnership with the City of Spartanburg and Spartanburg's seven public and private colleges and universities. Their aim is to create educational, social, service, and professional development opportunities for students in Spartanburg.

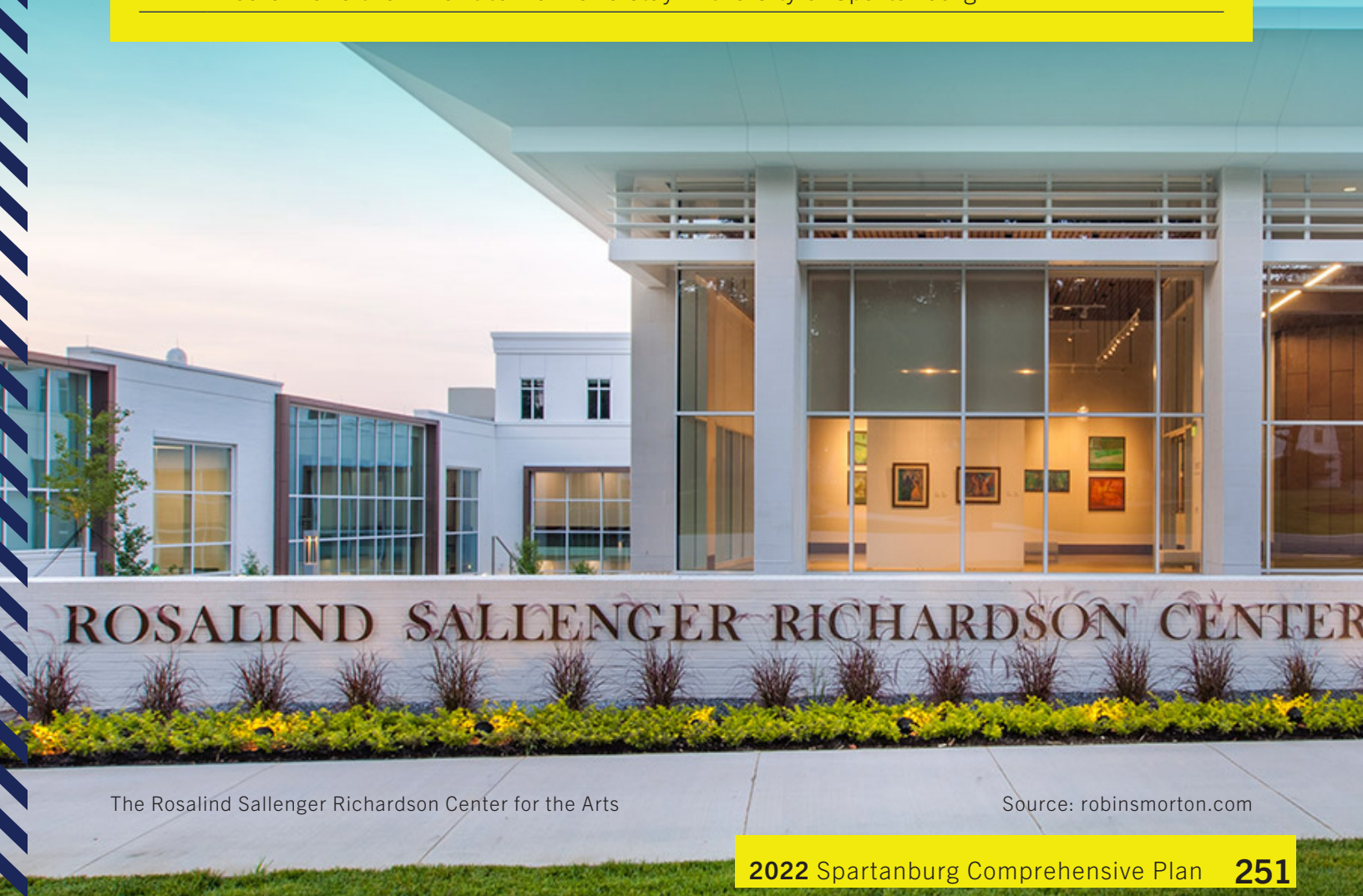
USC Upstate's Center for African American Studies (CAAS) offers an interdisciplinary curriculum designed to allow students to explore the culture and history of African Americans and enable discussions about the African American experience through campus and community initiatives. Their vision is to "serve the campus and the greater community as a crossroads for the intellectual examination of the African American experience in the region, state, and southeastern United States." Wofford College offers an African/African American Studies program as well.

The Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts opened at Wofford College in 2017. The Center houses two performance theaters, an art museum and an art gallery. In addition to student work, the Center boasts artwork and exhibits by visiting and nationally renowned artists. The museum and gallery are open to the public, and admission is free.

College Town Spartanburg

Recommendations (Colleges & Universities)

01	Continue to support the efforts of College Town Spartanburg to strengthen relationships between Spartanburg's colleges, universities, and the community.
02	Explore ways for Spartanburg's existing institutions to create more dynamic African American Studies programs.
03	Partner with local colleges and universities to provide learning opportunities to disadvantaged communities, by bringing them directly to neighborhoods.
04	Encourage Spartanburg's college and university organizations to partner with local restaurants and venues to bring more students downtown. Examples may include trivia, poetry, storytelling, and open mic nights.
05	Work with Spartanburg's college and university organizations on local arts exhibits and arts related programming.
06	Conduct an ongoing survey of college students from all 7 institutions to understand what would make them want to work and stay in the City of Spartanburg.



The Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts

Source: robinsmorton.com

Faith-Based Organizations

The City has a wide variety of faith-based organizations that for many, play an important part in life in Spartanburg. Spartanburg's churches and other houses of worship serve as community resources, social hubs, and places where neighbors, friends, and families come together to share common beliefs and work toward common goals. From an outreach perspective, some of these organizations host events throughout the year that encourage the public to participate, learn and celebrate other's beliefs and heritage such as the annual Greek Festival. Others encourage their congregations to participate in community initiatives such as Speaking Down Barriers which provide encounters for healing and justice.

Speaking Down Barriers

Speaking Down Barriers

Recommendations (Faith-Based Organization)

01 Recognize and utilize these organizations as critical channels of communication to members of the community that may not otherwise be reached. Maintain a list of leaders of these organizations and involve them in City wide decision making. They are often representatives of large groups that may not otherwise participate in public events and engagement activities. Utilize them as neighborhood liaisons.

02 Consider forming a clergy advisory council to meet with City Staff as part of the CAC. Representatives from organizations like Spartanburg Clergy Initiative would be well suited to advise on issues of equity and general needs and concerns of the community. Find ways for Spartanburg's faith-based organizations to share with the community. A directory of organizations and events that occur in Spartanburg could be a useful resource for the community to become more involved and present. Encourage them to make events or festivals open to the community in order to share their culture and history.

Culinary Arts & Food Culture

Spartanburg has a rich history related to agriculture, food, and the culinary arts. Food is incredibly important to the culture of a place, and has an impact on economic development, where people live, and their quality of life. The City has a variety of restaurants and culinary options, but participants in Plan Spartanburg expressed an interest in a diversity of restaurants that complements the diversity of the community as a whole.

The yearly International Festival is one of the City's most beloved events and opportunities to try foods from around the world. The "Boulevard of Food" has featured food from Germany, Japan, France, Kenya, Laos, Jamaica and many more.

The Hub City Farmers Market is held every Saturday Morning from April-December and once a month in January, February, and March at Northside Harvest Park on Howard Street. In addition to the Saturday Farmers Market, Hub City Farmers Market has an Urban Farm at Harvest Park that is open during the week for the community and youth to visit and learn about eating and growing local fruits and vegetables. Harvest Park is a prime example of accessing fresh foods within a food desert. If you are unable to access the market on Saturdays, Hub City Farmers Market has a Mobile Market that travels throughout Spartanburg Tuesday-Friday selling local produce and value-added goods in food deserts.

Recommendations (Culinary Arts & Food Culture)

See the Economic Development Element for recommendations related to food-related businesses in the City.

See the Transportation Element for recommendations related to food access in the City.

See the Natural Resources Element for recommendations related to community gardens and food growing in the City.

WHAT WE HEARD

"More varied cuisines."

"More diversity in restaurants."

"More resources for restaurant startups and small food-related businesses."

DR. T. K. GREGG
COMMUNITY CENTER
650

COMMUNITY FACILITIES ELEMENT

Introduction

Infrastructure is the backbone to a healthy economy and a major contributor to the quality of life for residents, businesses and visitors to the City of Spartanburg. An inventory of existing conditions and a discussion of future opportunities and concerns for eleven areas of infrastructure related to the City of Spartanburg's future growth are summarized in this Plan Element, including: water supply, treatment and distribution; sewer systems and wastewater treatment; stormwater management; fire protection; police protection; emergency medical services; government facilities; communication and transparency; educational facilities; and libraries. Cultural facilities, though referenced in the State Comprehensive Plan requirements for this Element, are covered in the "Cultural Resources" Element. Parks, recreation, and trails are covered in the "Natural Resources" Element.

The buildings, structures, community facilities and services associated with the infrastructure categories discussed in this chapter play an intricate role in the day-to-day functioning of Spartanburg. As a result, it is in the City's best interest to provide the infrastructure needed to meet existing community needs and to plan for and support future opportunities.

It should be noted that the City's current policy is to only annex additional property into the City limits if and when it can ensure the same Level of Service (LOS) for infrastructure and facilities. It will be important to continue to evaluate the impacts of potential annexations to maintain this policy.

Spartanburg's infrastructure needs have morphed over time and will continue to do so. Changes in the economy, consumer preferences and lifestyle choices all impact how Spartanburg should plan for and invest in future infrastructure. A growing and diverse population will place additional demand on the City's infrastructure. The City will have to reprioritize and reevaluate infrastructure capacity needs as demographics shift, new economic opportunities evolve, and areas of inequity emerge. This is no easy task as infrastructure investments are expensive and time-consuming given the cost of land, building materials, maintenance and operation, supporting equipment, and the human capital needed to administer, monitor and plan for the community's infrastructure needs.

Spartanburg Fire Department

Community Facilities Equity Indicators

The Equity Indicators as they relate to Community Facilities include access to internet and computers; access to emergency services and response times; attendance in public meetings; and representation on City boards and committees.

F1: Access to Internet

In this day and age, broadband internet service can be considered essential infrastructure. In a truly equitable community, everyone should have access to affordable, reliable internet. Areas with the lowest levels of access to internet correspond to areas of low-income and minority populations.

F2: Access to Emergency Services & Response Times

All parts of a community should have the same level of service and response times for emergency services such as fire, police, and ambulance. Studying these patterns can help reveal areas in need of improvement.

F3: Attendance in Public Meetings

Equitable participation in municipal decision-making is key to implementing all of the equity-related initiatives in this Plan and others. The City should consider tracking demographic and socioeconomic data of those who participate in public meetings.

F4: Representation on City Boards and Committees

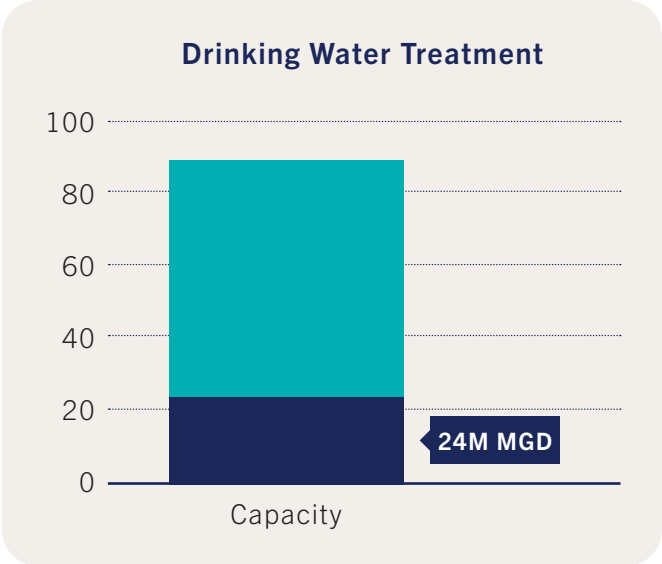
In addition to participating in municipal decision-making on an individual level, residents should be encouraged to join City boards and committees as representatives of their neighborhoods, organizations, and minority groups. The City should intentionally track ethnicity, gender, and council districts when considering board appointments.

Natural Facilities

Water Supply, Treatment & Distribution

The location of water lines and their availability has a direct impact on the location, type, and intensity of future development. Without connections to public water lines, homes would need to draw their water supply from wells and most major businesses could not operate. Water quality, water availability, topography and the cost of infrastructure expansion all help to determine where water mains are put in, and thus, where meaningful development can occur. Equitable distribution of clean water is an essential element to a prosperous Spartanburg.

The City of Spartanburg's water service is provided by Spartanburg Water Systems which is governed by the City of Spartanburg's Commission of Public Works. Potable water for City residents and businesses is drawn from the man-made Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1. The water drawn from these lakes is treated at R.B. Simms Drinking Water Treatment Facility, which has the capacity to treat up to 64 MGD, but only treats 24 million MGD based on the current demand. Spartanburg Water also manages Lake Blalock and its associated Myles W. Whitlock Water Treatment Facility (which has a treatment capacity of 23 MGD) but are not currently utilized as water sources for the City. As Spartanburg continues to grow, water supply and water treatment will not be limiting factors.



Many of Spartanburg's water pipes are decades old and require updating. Not only is older piping more likely to fail and require repairs, but it can also lead to deteriorating water quality. Many of the older pipes are only six inches in diameter, meaning they may need to be replaced with larger piping to add capacity for future development. Spartanburg's former mill areas may require special attention for future water pipe updates, as the lack of manholes in these areas make pipe repair particularly difficult and expensive.

Choose Tap

Recommendations (Water Supply, Treatment & Distribution)

01	Work with Spartanburg Water to identify residential areas in the City that may be the most susceptible to poor water quality based on the age and materials of the piping in those areas to ensure all of Spartanburg's residents are receiving safe and potable water.
02	Incentivize or help provide funding to help low- and fixed-income residents replace piping that could be potentially dangerous to health in the event of an emergency.
03	Partner with and encourage Spartanburg Water to use trenchless piping for updating old six-inch water piping residential neighborhoods. Trenchless piping can be a cheap alternative to traditional piping, and the installation process is generally less disruptive to the natural and built environment than replacing existing pipes with traditional piping.

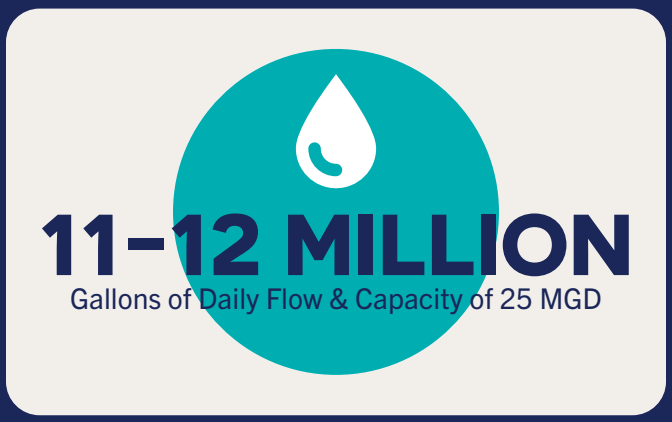
Source: facebook.com/spartanburgwater

Sewer Systems and Wastewater Treatment

Just like access to water, access to the sewer system has a direct impact on the location, type and intensity of future development. The City's sewer system is managed and operated by Spartanburg Water and the Spartanburg Sanitary Sewer District Commission, which are countywide organizations. The City falls entirely within the boundaries of Spartanburg Water's sewer service area, known as the Spartanburg Sanitary Sewer District. Generally speaking, every area of the City that will be serviced by sewer already is, and therefore, the footprint of the sewer network is unlikely to change in the future. However, as development occurs and density is intensified in targeted areas around the City, the portions of the system may need to expand its wastewater conveyance capacity to service the added residents and businesses.

A sewer system's performance is generally measured by its conveyance capacity – the volume of wastewater that can be transported through the City's sewerage system pipes – and the sewer system's treatment capacity, which refers to the amount of wastewater that can be treated at connected wastewater treatment facilities.

Spartanburg Water has planned well for the City and County's future, as there is plenty of capacity available for growth when examining Spartanburg Water's wastewater treatment capacity. The City's wastewater is sent to the largest treatment plant in the area – the A. Manning Lynch Wastewater Treatment Facility, which receives an average of 11-12 million gallons of daily flow and has a treatment capacity of 25 MGD. The plant is located south of the City along Southport Road, and uses gravity to convey the wastewater flow downhill from the City to the wastewater treatment facility.



As is the case with water, many of the City of Spartanburg's sewerage lines are old six-inch clay pipes and may need to be replaced, both because of age, and because the pipe size may need to be expanded to meet the demand put on the system by new development that occurs in the City.

Recommendations (Sewer Systems and Wastewater Treatment)

01 Partner with and encourage Spartanburg Water to use trenchless piping for updating the older six-inch sewer lines in areas that are targeted for future growth. Trenchless piping can be a cheap alternative to traditional piping, and the installation process is generally less disruptive to the natural and built environment than replacing existing pipes with traditional piping.

Stormwater Management

The City of Spartanburg's stormwater management system's performance has a direct influence on the natural environment and the likelihood of homes or properties flooding in the future. Impervious surfaces (roads, parking lots, building rooftops, etc.) interfere with the ability of rainwater to soak into the ground. Stormwater run-off from a rain event travels quickly across impervious surfaces, picking up pollutants, and carrying them to the City's stormwater system. When stormwater run-off collects these pollutants and drains them into natural water systems, it is known as non-point source pollution. When these pollutants reach a certain threshold within the water system, waterways are classified as "impaired". In the City of Spartanburg, both Lawson's Fork Creek and Fairforest Creek are classified as "impaired", however, this is a result of the area's agricultural legacy and is not atypical for more urbanized areas either. The "impaired" state of both Lawson's Fork Creek and Fairforest Creek has not only adverse effects for the environment, but also impacts the ability of residents to safely swim, fish, and engage in other recreational activities in these waterways.

The City of Spartanburg's stormwater management is overseen by the Public Works department's Streets and Storm Water Division, which oversees, inspects and helps to maintain more than 5,000 storm drainage structures, such as catch basins, drainage manholes, and riparian buffers. Currently, the City of Spartanburg charges commercial properties a fee of $30 per 2,000 square feet of developed property, which is conservative compared to neighboring jurisdictions.

Riparian buffers are areas of natural vegetation adjacent to waterways that are undeveloped and can be some of the most efficient and cost-effective stormwater management tools. The City currently requires setbacks of between 50-100 feet from waterways to help establish these riparian buffers.

While the City of Spartanburg has recently witnessed an increase in stormwater volume – which is what contributes to flood – the primary concern at this time is how stormwater run-off affects water quality, rather than quantity. Church Street, in particular, is a particularly high generator of stormwater-related non-point source pollution.

While residential areas could incorporate more stormwater management facilities to reduce flooding and non-point source pollution, commercial areas tend to be more significant contributors to these issues due to their large impervious surfaces (e.g., parking lots) and should be the focus of the City's attention.

The City's older neighborhoods tend to lack modern stormwater management facilities, and therefore, are more likely to flood. This affects neighborhoods across the socio-economic spectrum, but as a matter of equity, special attention should be paid to disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Permeable Pavers

Recommendations (Stormwater Management)

01	Consider implementing additional incentives or requirements for commercial developments and areas that have the potential to be redeveloped such that they incorporate modern stormwater management best practices, including but not limited to minimizing impervious surfaces and/or incorporating green stormwater management facilities that can mitigate stormwater quantity and improve stormwater filtration.
02	Consider enforcing 100-foot riparian buffers throughout the City, especially for new development.
03	Consider increasing the City's stormwater utility fee: A modest increase in this fee could help the Streets and Storm Water Division hire more staff to inspect and maintain existing stormwater management facilities and/or pay for the construction of more stormwater management facilities.

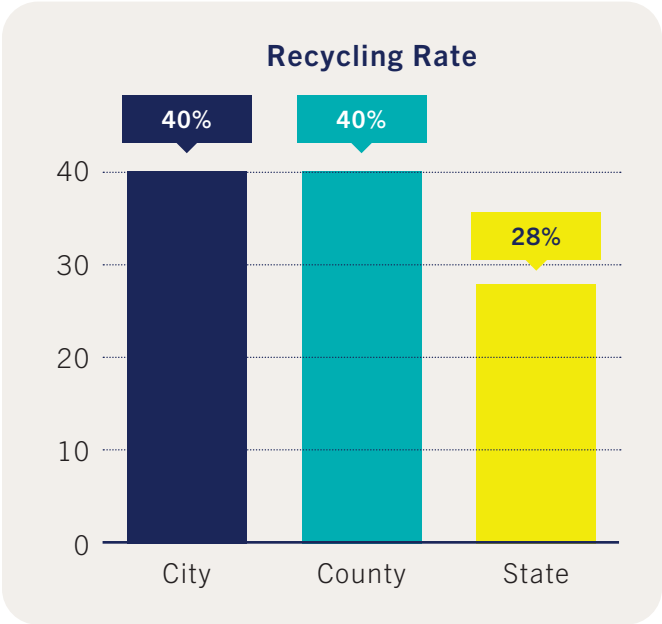
Riparian Buffer

Solid Waste Management

The Public Works Department's Solid Waste Division provides curbside solid waste collection for all City residents and for the City's downtown businesses, as well as select businesses outside of the downtown area that do not have space for an adjacent dumpster. The City also provides recycling bins and collection services for City residents on a voluntary basis, but they do not do so for businesses. Businesses must dispose of their own recyclables at one of the drop-off locations outside of the City, or contract with a private hauling company. It is important to note that the City's Solid Waste Division staff is currently at capacity.

Solid waste and recyclables collected by the Solid Waste Division are hauled directly to the Wellford Landfill Facility located in unincorporated Spartanburg County. The Wellford Landfill Facility is managed by the Spartanburg County Solid Waste Department and has ample capacity to meet the demand for the City of Spartanburg's future growth. The City's Solid Waste Division maintains a disused transfer station that was closed in the mid-2000s primarily for budgetary reasons. Today, it is primarily used for fleet maintenance and occasional solid waste transfer between vehicles. However, as the City grows, it may become advantageous to re-open the transfer station to help manage the added solid waste and recycling.

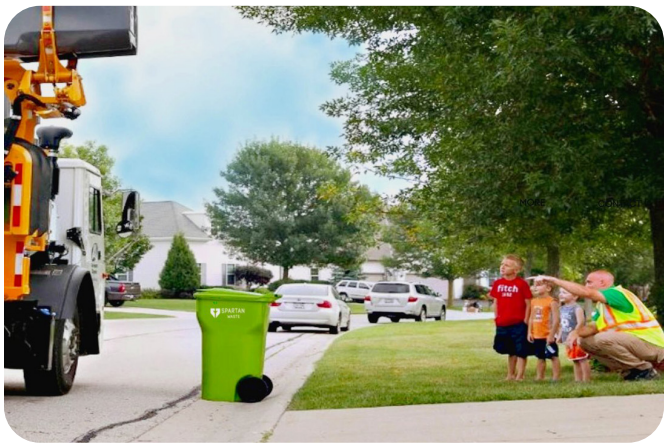
Of the 18 Recycling Collection Centers operated by Spartanburg County Solid Waste Department, three are conveniently located just outside of the City for residents and businesses to use when curbside pick-up is not an option. There are no Recycling Collection Centers located within city limits. In 2020, the City of Spartanburg had a 40% recycling rate, which matches Spartanburg County's recycling rate, and exceeds the state average of 28%. The City of Spartanburg does not have any specific recycling goals, but instead follows the State's lead. Community input indicated that there is a strong desire for additional recycling bins in Downtown Spartanburg, the elimination of single-use plastic bags, and a city-wide composting program.



Townhomes and multifamily developments are not always designed with solid waste collection in mind, and often include obstructions or narrow alleyways that prevent trucks from efficiently collecting trash and recyclables.

Recommendations (Solid Waste Management)

01	Repair and update the existing transfer station. The disused transfer station is still permitted to collect and transfer the City's solid waste and recyclables, but it would require an estimated $2M to repair and update the facility so that it is suitable for public use again.
02	Consider creating City wide recycling goals above and beyond those of the state.
03	Discourage the use of single-use plastic bags at Spartanburg businesses. Partner with local businesses to provide sturdy, no-cost reusable shopping bags, especially to residents of disadvantaged neighborhoods.
04	Implement a single-use plastic product ban at City events and facilities.
05	Consider implementing a City wide composting program.
06	Consider Sutera in-ground solid waste containment systems for areas that lack space for a dumpster. Sutera waste collection containers are between 35% and 95% below ground, utilizing less space than dumpsters, and therefore making solid waste disposal storage easier for areas with denser development. Incentivizing or codifying the use of Sutera would increase its use.
07	As the City's population and businesses grow, hire additional Solid Waste Division employees to meet the added demand.



Spartan Waste

Source: spartan-waste.com

Protective Facilities

Fire Protection

The City of Spartanburg's fire protection needs are met by the City's municipal Fire Department. In addition, the City's Fire Department has an established Automatic Aid Agreement with the Spartanburg County Fire Department, which allows both departments to activate the other's fire protection resources depending on the location and needs of any given fire emergency. The Spartanburg Fire Department's facilities, fleet and staffing needs are adequately met at this time.

The Spartanburg Fire Department consists of five fire stations located throughout the City which are staffed by 76 full-time uniformed firefighters and two civilian personnel. The Spartanburg Fire Department's vehicles and equipment are on a 10–15-year replacement schedule with new purchases made roughly every two years, which keeps the department's adequately supplied and up-to-date. Between 2015-2019, the Spartanburg Fire Department's average five-year response time was 5 minutes and 58 seconds. That has improved recently with response times averaging 5 minutes and 21 seconds over the past two years. The Spartanburg Fire Department is well trained, staffed and equipped which helped it to achieve a Class 1 ISO rating, which puts them in the top 1% of the nation's fire departments.

In 2020, the City approved the purchase of a property at 450 Wofford Street on which to build a new Central Station, which is meant to replace the current Central Station located at City Hall. This will result in an overlap of coverage between the new Central Station and Station 3, which is approximately ½ mile from the new Central Station location. The City commissioned a Police and Fire Department Organizational Study in 2016 which recommended consolidating the Fire Department's stations from 5 stations to 4 stations. While there are no immediate plans to consolidate Stations 3 and the new Central Station, there may be an opportunity to do so after the new Central Station is completed.

The decision to consolidate the new Central Station and Station 3 will likely depend on the location of future development. For instance, if most of the City's future development continues to be targeted in the Northside of the City, it may

be beneficial to maintain both stations given the density and concentration of larger buildings. However, if the City were to annex new land, especially south of the Spartanburg Downtown Municipal Airport, it may be necessary to move Station 3 to the southwest of the City in order to maintain adequate response times.

Recommendations (Fire Protection)

01	Depending on the location and density of future growth, as well as the location of any future annexations, the City may need to reexamine the Fire Department's station locations.
02	Consider consolidating the planned Central Station and Station 3, using the criteria described above.
03	As the City grows, the Planning Department, Fire Department and Spartanburg Water should work together to identify water mains that may need to be updated or have capacity expanded in order to provide an adequate water supply for fire suppression.

Source: facebook.com/NSAFD

Police Protection

Police protection for the City's residents and businesses is provided by the 134 sworn officers and 26 full-time civilian staff members serving in the City of Spartanburg's Police Department. The Police Department is currently at capacity when it comes to responding to calls. Having additional officers could help the police build relationships with the community to foster trust and prevent crime.

Over the past decade, crime rates have generally decreased across the city. However, crimes of opportunity, such as larceny and simple assault, remain a major concern and occur primarily around commercial areas.

The Spartanburg Police Department's Patrol Services are divided into four Patrol Districts: District 1 (North Side), District 2 (East Side), District 3 (South Side) and District 4 (West Side). Given the City's current population of 40,000, this equates to roughly one officer per 298 residents. The Spartanburg Police Department has been awarded National Accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) every four years since 1999.

The Spartanburg Police Department has a single station that is currently headquartered at City Hall. However, there are plans to build a new facility located at the intersection of W. St John Street and N. Forest Street which will occur when the City government moves into the new city-county government complex in 2024. These plans will meet the department's future facility needs. Police departments are less dependent on a network of stations than their colleagues in fire departments because they typically rely on mobile patrol vehicles, rather than stationary fire engines. Therefore, future police needs will largely consist of hiring new officers and purchasing new patrol vehicles and other specialty equipment.

Police Department fleet needs are currently being met; however, Spartanburg lacks a "Take-Home Car" policy, in which officers are allowed to bring their city-owned patrol vehicles home. Many neighboring jurisdictions offer this program, which gives them a competitive advantage when it comes to recruiting and retaining officers.

Cuts in funding also prevent the City from offering competitive salaries when compared to some of its neighboring jurisdictions. As a result, the Spartanburg Police Department has experienced a hard time recruiting and retaining officers.

Community input and interviews revealed a desire for additional police service. Cuts in funding in recent years have reduced the number of officers serving the city. Consequently, officers need to spend more time patrolling and less time interacting with, and embedding themselves into, the communities they serve.

Recommendations (Police Protection)

01	Consider providing funding for additional officers and/or higher salaries. This will help the Police Department to engage with the communities within their patrol beats and strengthen ties between residents and the City's Police Department.
02	Consider adopting a Take-Home Car policy for patrol vehicles as an incentive for recruiting and retaining police officers.
03	The Planning Department should partner with the Spartanburg Police Department as additional commercial development occurs to help mitigate crimes of opportunity.
04	Consider assigning officers to neighborhoods to "police in partnership" with residents, become a familiar and trusted presence in the community.
05	Analyze and update community engagement strategies with a lens of continuous improvement.
06	Consider hiring mental health professionals as part of the process to assist with police calls. Consider hiring bilingual staff and police officers to be in the community.

Spartanburg Police

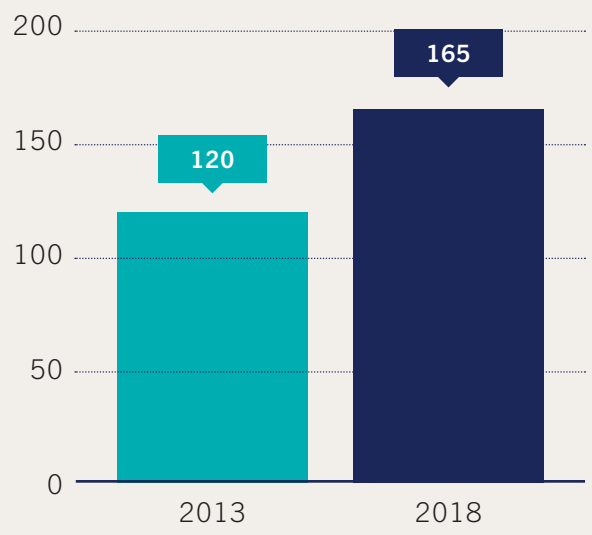
Emergency Medical Services

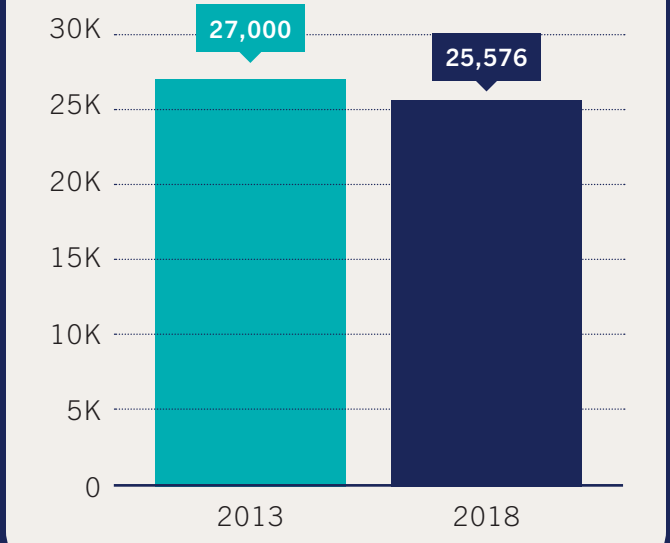
The City of Spartanburg's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) are provided for by Spartanburg EMS, which provides EMS services for the County as well. Of Spartanburg EMS's 20 stations, three are located within city limits, including Spartanburg EMS's headquarters in Converse Heights, the Spartanburg Medical Center in Cleveland Heights, and Station 13 located in Camelot.

Spartanburg EMS received an average of 165 daily calls to 911 for service in 2018, up from an average of 120 calls per day in 2013 Spartanburg EMS has 21 full-time ambulances on duty, which transported 25,576 people to the Spartanburg Medical Center in 2018, a reduction from over 27,000 transports in 2013. Spartanburg Medical Center has 540 beds and over 500 physicians ready to serve the City and County's medical needs.

Recommendations (Emergency Medical Services)

01 Continue to partner with Spartanburg EMS to address any future needs.





Source: spartanburgems.org

Government Employment & Facilities

The City of Spartanburg and Spartanburg County have entered into a joint facilities agreement to build a new courthouse, a new city-county government complex, and parking garage. The new courthouse will be located on Magnolia Street in Downtown Spartanburg, and will replace the existing 60-year-old building, which does not meet modern security or technological needs. Once the new courthouse is constructed, the old courthouse will be demolished and turned into a public plaza.

Construction for the new city-county government complex is slated to begin in 2022, after the courthouse is completed. The site for the 180,000 square foot joint government building has not yet been selected, though the current location of Spartanburg's City Hall – 145 West Broad Street – may be the most suitable site. The construction of the new courthouse and the new city-county government complex will be accompanied by a structured parking garage with over 600 parking spaces. The projects are being paid for by the Penny Tax approved in 2017, and will meet the long-term needs for government facilities expansion.

Recommendations (Government Employment & Facilities)

01	Continue to support the Justice planning study that covers all current and projected needs of the City and County Staff.
02	Consider developing a Transit Planner position, potentially to be housed within traffic administration, in order to manage vehicular transportation demand and encourage safe and efficient biking, walking, and transit options to be implemented within the City.
03	Consider creating a GIS Technician/ Analyst position to assist the City with data, spatial analysis, and mapping and measuring its Comprehensive Plan progress and equitable distribution of City Resources.
04	Consider hiring an urban forester to care for Spartanburg's existing trees.
05	Encourage private sector employers to "ban the box" to check criminal records where appropriate, similar to the City.
06	Consider hiring bilingual staff to answer all incoming calls to City Hall and other key departments of the City.

SPARTANBURG CITY HALL
PLEASE USE SIDE DOOR

Communication & Transparency

Information Technology

Municipal governments have more tools at their disposal than ever before when it comes to community engagement. City-led initiatives like Plan Spartanburg are most successful when decision-makers engage the community in a collaborative process. Spartanburg is already utilizing technology to raise awareness of projects and initiatives through its website, social media channels, and mobile app.

Spartanburg uses its official website, (cityofspartanburg.org) and social media accounts to disseminate information to the community. The website is a comprehensive collection of information for citizens, businesses, and visitors. The site provides detailed information about community services, public works departments, management services, development services, and City government. There are also direct links to many partnering organizations.

While the City website is well-organized and contains a wealth of information, it may be overwhelming for someone new to the City, or that does not speak English. It may be helpful to provide more guidance to new residents so that it is easier for them to "figure things out."

The Hey Spartanburg! map-based mobile app allows residents with access to a computer or smartphone the ability to report issues in the community. Using an interactive map, residents can report police, fire and animal control requests; code violations, issues related to streets, sidewalks, stormwater, traffic, solid waste, parks and recreation, special events and more.

Some cities have made great efforts to improve the transparency of the development application process. Creating individual web pages for larger, more complex projects could be an important step towards transparency.

From an equity standpoint, the City understands that not everyone has access to reliable internet service, and some people may not utilize web-based media regardless of availability. As technology advances, it will be important to evaluate different communication and engagement tools to ensure the City is reaching all members of the community, regardless of age, ability, neighborhood of residence or other factors. The Plan Spartanburg process relied not only on the project website, but on word-of-mouth, traditional print media, and a neighborhood ambassador program. Using the tools that are most effective for each audience is key.

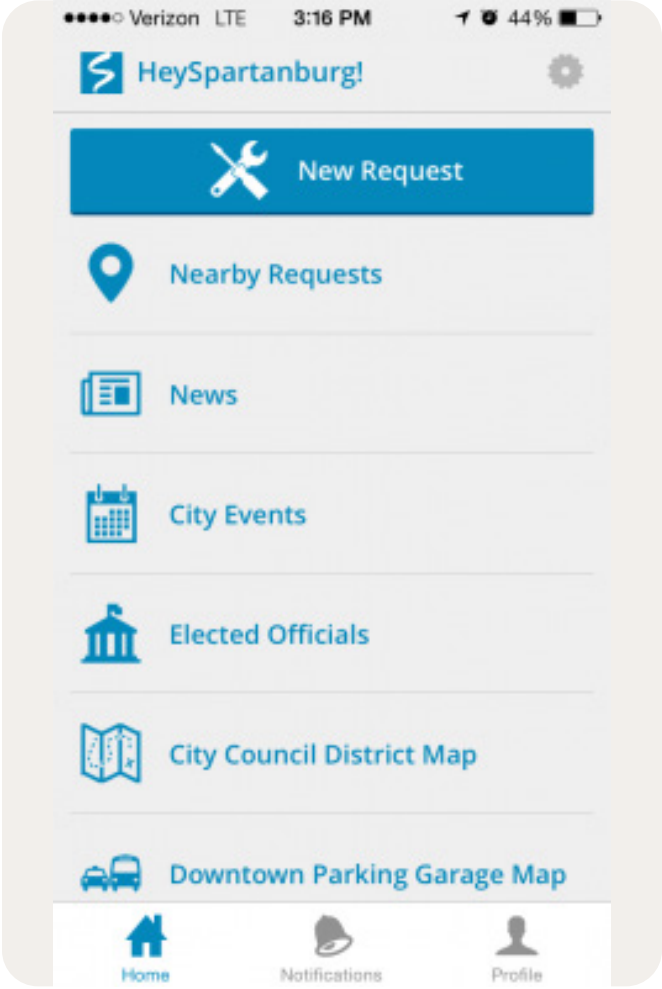
Transparency

Spartanburg residents value transparency and want to know how decisions are made and how City funds are allocated. Decisions made without transparency erode trust in elected and appointed officials and City staff. Without clear explanations of what the City does and how it does it, there can be a misunderstanding of municipal processes and decisions.

The City shares operational and financial information on its website, with links to past and present budgets; codes and ordinances; and meeting

agendas and minutes for its various decision-making councils and committees. City Council meetings are broadcast on the City Facebook page, and recordings are made available on the website. The City follows protocols and ordinance requirements for notifications to residents and property owners, but some of those procedures are not officially codified.

The City makes efforts to involve the community in planning processes and decisions, but there is a perception from some that these processes are not as inclusive as they could be. While City staff follows the notification procedures stipulated in its ordinances, there may be an opportunity to enhance transparency and communication. Plan Spartanburg participants would like to see more opportunities for "disconnected youth" – those without jobs and that are not currently attending school – to become more aware of City issues and have a voice in important decision-making.



Hey Spartanburg App

Community Input

Equity

The City of Spartanburg created an Equity & Inclusion Manager position in May 2020. The purpose of this position is to ensure that engagement with communities is equitable and representative of the diverse population of Spartanburg.

The Equity & Inclusion Manager recently collaborated with other city leaders to create a Black-owned business directory website (www.blkspartanburg.com). The directory aims to fulfill the community's desire to find and support Black businesses. Some of the other initiatives for the role are to:

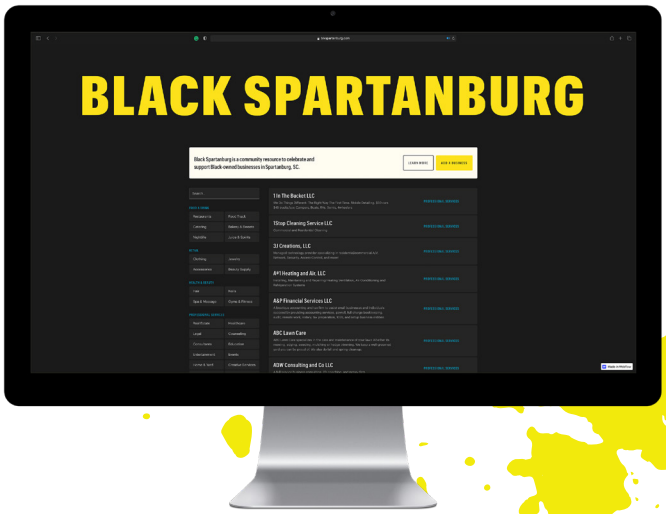
- Assist Small/ Minority/Woman Owned Business Enterprises (SMWBE) participants seeking contract opportunities with the City and reviews business background to recommend effective approaches
- Increase minority business development and lending,
- Assists in the development and monitoring city-wide SMWBE and other minority participation goals,
- Serve as liaison to Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) and promote the City's Equity and Inclusion strategies currently under development.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL
GOVERNMENT ALLIANCE ON
RACE & EQUITY

To continue education and active engagement in addressing historical racial inequities, the City is also a member of GARE and provides a survey to City employees on Equity and Inclusion strategies.

Participants in Plan Spartanburg would like to see City leadership engaging with the community at a more grass roots" level, primarily in a listening capacity. They feel that this type of engagement may draw attention to the issues of a diverse, and often underrepresented population.

Black's Grading Services is one of many business assisted by SMWBE



www.blkspartanburg.com

Recommendations (Equity)

01	Continue to evaluate the City's methods of communication and resident outreach to ensure everyone has access to information and engagement opportunities. This should include an evaluation of the languages in which information is communicated.
02	Require Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training for Staff at all levels to hold everyone accountable.
03	Consider creating a dedicated page on the City website with information about current development applications. City staff could create a brief, video introduction to explain each project and the process by which it is being evaluated for approval.
04	Create a set of clearly-defined protocols for notifying residents in advance of City decision-making. Evaluate how residents are notified to ensure the methods are equitable and accessible. Consider translating key documents and emergency broadcast.
05	Using outreach and engagement data and community surveys, develop a city-wide equitable communication strategy. This effort should be led by the Community Relations Office and Communications & Marketing Department with input from the Citizens Advisory Council.
06	Consider changing the navigation bar and other references throughout the City's website to read "resident" rather than "citizen." Spartanburg is a diverse community of long-time residents, transplants and immigrants, and not all residents are citizens. This recommendation should also apply to press releases and other official city communication.
07	Consider offering "Welcome to Spartanburg" sessions to new members of the community. These can be online or in-person live events during which a member of City Staff can walk new residents through the City website, explaining in general how the government works, what services and facilities are available, and how to find information about topics of interest. Consider offering these sessions in Spanish and determine if other languages are needed.
08	Consider creating a "Welcome Guide" for new residents of the City, with information about municipal services, utilities, and a reference list of "who to call" for various situations and questions. The Guide should provide information about getting involved in community events, committees, boards and other special interest organizations.
09	Explore opportunities to engage with the community through the official website and other online tools more effectively.
10	Consider an awareness campaign to promote the Hey Spartanburg! app and set a goal for number of downloads based on a percentage of the City population or provide another user-friendly app for residents.

Educational Facilities

The student age population in the City of Spartanburg is served by the Spartanburg County School System. Portions of District 6 and District 7 fall within city limits. Each district has its own school board which develops, adopts and administers district-wide rules, regulations and budgetary decisions. There are no current needs to expand District 6 or District 7's educational facilities that lie within City Limits.

District 7 serves most of the City's students, with the Cleveland Academy of Leadership, Jesse Boyd Elementary School, Mary H. Wright Elementary, Meeting Street Academy, Pine Street Elementary, E.P Todd Elementary School (K-8), Carver Middle School, and McCracken Middle Schools all falling within city limits. District 7's Spartanburg High School Freshman Academy and Spartanburg High are located just outside of the City's limits, but serve the City's high school age students as well.

A portion of District 6 also overlaps with city limits. Elementary school students located in the western wing of the City attend either Jesse S. Bobo Elementary or Woodland Heights Elementary.

During Plan Spartanburg, City residents expressed concern about the lack of, or poor condition of, the City's sidewalks, including how that impedes students' ability to travel to school safely. There was also discussion about the development potential of the area adjacent to E.P. Todd Elementary School, and the potential impacts on school attendance, traffic, and playground facilities.

Recommendations (Educational Facilities)

01 Continue to work collaboratively with Spartanburg County School System District 6 and District 7 to ensure that school facilities are providing the students and community with the facilities they need for students to flourish.

02 Conduct a city-wide assessment of pedestrian and bike infrastructure to identify areas where access to schools via non-motorized means is unsafe. With help from the recommended Transportation Planner, the City should then prioritize investing in the infrastructure needed to implement a Safe Routes to Schools program.

03 Collaborate closely with E.P. TODD Elementary School as future development occurs in this area in order to ensure that the school's facilities and students are not adversely impacted.

Libraries

The City of Spartanburg's library needs are provided for by the Spartanburg County Public Libraries. The Spartanburg County Public Libraries operates 10 full-service local libraries and a Bookmobile, with the headquarters and the largest library located in Downtown Spartanburg. The Headquarters Library has a diverse book collection for children, young adults, and adults on a variety of topics, as well as an extensive audio-visual collection, including audiocassettes, CDs, DVDs, video games, and audio / e-book downloads. In addition, it provides a variety of other amenities including a playground, free Wi-Fi, printing and copying services, private study areas, and Storytime programming for children aged 0 through 12.

Libraries are often welcoming places for members of the community, regardless of race, class, heritage or creed, and can serve as a central repository for community information and engagement. Community input expressed a desire for the Headquarters Library to fill that role, especially for the non-English speaking community.

Recommendations (Libraries)

01	Continue to work collaboratively with the Spartanburg County Public Libraries to fulfill their 3-Year Action Plan (2019).
02	Ensure that library programming meets the needs of the community that the library serves.
03	Ensure connectivity to local libraries by multiple modes of transportation.
04	Partner with the Library Headquarters to identify what municipal services could be more easily provided to the community at the Library in addition to, or instead of, at City Hall. This could include community orientation materials, licenses, taxes assistance, or language classes.

E.P. TODD Elementary School

Spartanburg County Public Libraries

PRIORITY INVESTMENT ELEMENT

Introduction

As communities grow, the demands placed on supporting infrastructure continue to rise and eventually necessitate additional capacity improvements to maintain adequate levels of services. Traditionally, elected officials rely on rising property taxes in addition to state or federal funding to pay for future year capital improvements. However, recent decreases in outside governmental funding, increases in construction costs for replacing and expanding public infrastructure and facilities, and rising resistance to increased property taxes have led many local governments to reconsider how they fund and program future capital improvements and facilities.

The Priority Investment Element inventories and evaluates available funding sources and anticipated revenues to finance public infrastructure and facilities recommended in previous elements of the Comprehensive Plan. It is focused on a ten-year planning horizon (through FY 2031/32) and identifies revenues and expenditures important to manage the location, magnitude, timing, and sequence of development depicted in the Growth & Conservation Map. The Priority Investment Element is an organizing document and should be referenced by the City when identifying priority investment areas and/or creating a Capital Improvements Plan, which the City does not currently have. Forward thinking in the Priority Investment Element should help reduce future budget shortfalls, increase cooperation between service providers, and provide opportunities for more cost-efficient, well-timed improvements to keep pace with future growth.

Spartanburg's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan provides a wonderful example of including a very detailed appendix of potential funding sources for its recommended projects. It considers state and federal funding sources and local options, as well as private and foundation funding sources.

NOVEMBER 2009

SPARTANBURG

BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN

SPATS

CITY OF SPARTANBURG

MARY BLACK FOUNDATION

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN

APPENDIX E OUTLINE:
Introduction
National and Federal Funding Sources
Overview of State Funding Sources
Local Government Funding Sources
Other Local Options
Private Foundations and Corporations

APPENDIX E: Funding

INTRODUCTION

Implementing the recommendations of this plan will require a combination of funding sources that include local, state, federal, and private money. Fortunately, the benefits of protected greenways, bicycle facilities, and pedestrian facilities are many and varied. This allows programs in Spartanburg County to access money earmarked for a variety of purposes including water quality, hazard mitigation, recreation, air quality, alternate transportation, wildlife protection, community health, and economic development. Competition is almost always stiff for state and federal funds, so it becomes imperative that local governments work together to create multijurisdictional partnerships and to develop their own local sources of funding. These sources can then be used to leverage outside assistance. The long term success of this plan will almost certainly depend on the dedication of a local revenue stream for greenways.

It is important that Spartanburg County, its municipalities, and SPATS fully evaluate its available options and develop a funding strategy that can meet community needs, maximize local resources, and leverage outside funding. Financing will be needed to administer the continued planning and implementation process, acquire parcels or easements, and manage and maintain facilities.

It is advised that Spartanburg County, its municipalities, and SPATS pursue a variety of funding options. Below is a list of some of the funding opportunities that have typically been pursued by other communities. Creative planning and consistent monitoring of funding options will likely turn up new opportunities not listed here.

NATIONAL AND FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES

Most federal programs provide block grants directly to states through funding formulas. For example, if a South Carolina community wants funding to support a transportation initiative, they would contact the South Carolina Department of Transportation and not the US Department of Transportation to obtain a grant. Despite the fact that it is rare for a local community to obtain a funding grant directly from a federal agency, it is relevant to list the current status of federal programs and the amount of funding that is available to South Carolina through these programs.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ACT (SAFETEA LU)

For the past 15 years, the Surface Transportation Act has been the largest single source of funding for the development of greenway, pedestrian and bikeway projects. Prior to 1990, the nation, as a whole, spent approximately $25 million on building community-based bicycle and pedestrian projects, with the vast majority of this money spent in one state. Since the passage of ISTEA, funding has been increased dramatically for bicycle, pedestrian and greenway projects, with total spending north of $5 billion. SAFETEA-LU will more than double the total amount of funding for bicycle/pedestrian/trail projects as compared to its predecessor TEA-21, with approximately $800 million available each year.

There are many programs within SAFETEA-LU that deserve mention. The authorizing legislation is complicated and robust. The following provides a summary of how this federal funding can be used to support certain elements of the Spartanburg Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

1) SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (STP)

This is the largest single program within the legislation from a funding point of view, with $32.5 billion committed over the next five years. Of particular interest to greenway enthusiasts, 10 percent of the funding within this program is set aside for Transportation Enhancements (TE) activities. Historically, a little more than half of the TE funds have been used nationally to support bicycle/pedestrian/trail projects. So nationally, it is projected that $1.625 billion will be spent on these projects under SAFETEA-LU.

2) CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY (CMAQ)

Under SAFETEA-LU, approximately $8.6 billion has been set aside. Historically, about five percent of these funds have been used to support bicycle/pedestrian/trail projects. This would equal about $430 million under SAFETEA-LU. The Spartanburg-Greenville-Anderson region will most likely remain a non-attainment area throughout the life of SAFETEA, and that makes it a very eligible community for this type of funding. The Birmingham, AL, metro region, for example, used all of its CMAQ allocation one year to fund a regional bicycle, pedestrian and trails study, which subsequently identified projects that were funded for development.

3) HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (HSIP)

SAFETEA-LU funds this program at $5 billion over four years. Historically, bicycle and pedestrian projects have accounted for one percent of this program, or about $50 million under SAFETEA-LU. Some of the eligible uses of these funds would include

Spartanburg's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan - Appendix E: Funding

Existing Revenue Sources & Funding Mechanisms

Generally, a local government's capital and operating responsibilities are financed by taxes and other fixed or restricted revenue sources. The local revenue structure is a function of the area's applicable state law, size, geography, government structure, land use and number of services provided. Typical sources of revenue include local taxes, fees and miscellaneous receipts; revenue transfers from federal and state government sources; and grants or in-kind donations from non-profit or private parties. Revenues may increase or decrease from year to year because of economic conditions, increasing property values, changing tax rates, or severity of delinquent tax bills.

Federal, state, and local funds likely to be available for the next ten years are summarized on the pages that follow. The available funds identified may be in existence at the time the project is implemented, used to pay down debt on borrowed monies, or sought through appropriate processes regulated by the South Carolina Code of Laws of 1976, as amended.

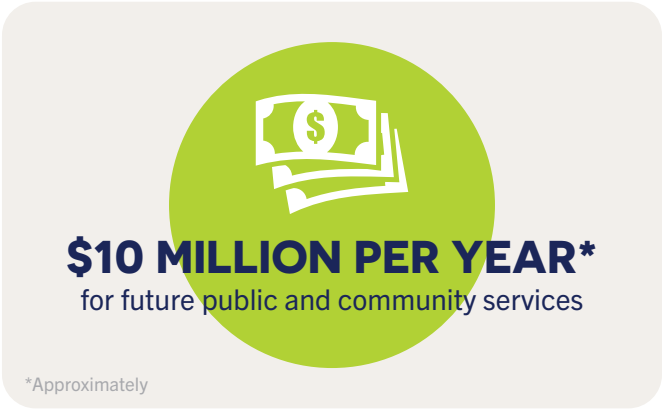
General Fund

The General Fund includes all funding sources not otherwise assigned to specific individual accounts. In Spartanburg, the general fund is financed primarily by property taxes and fees, licenses and permits. Additional sources of revenue for the general fund include fines and forfeitures; intergovernmental revenues; charges for services and miscellaneous revenue.

The general fund is used to finance policy and management; the finance department; development services; the police and fire department; public and community services. General fund expenditures usually include salaries, operating costs, and building and equipment renovations. The status of the General Fund varies from year to year through the adoption of the annual budget.

The Spartanburg City Council designates a portion of the general fund for public services (administration, maintenance, traffic services, street maintenance, fleet maintenance, and solid waste) and community services (community relations, parks & recreation administration, special events, recreation centers, parks, aquatics, and athletics) each year as part of the budget adoption process. In FY 2020/2021, the amount dedicated to public and community services ($10,477,043) represented 25% of the total general fund amount ($42,003,133).

The Priority Investment Element assumes funding levels for future public and community services from the general fund will continue at similar year-to-year levels in the future (approximately $10 million per year).



Special Revenue Funds

State Hospitality Tax

All accommodations in the State of South Carolina are subject to a 2% tax on lodging, referred to as the Hospitality Tax. These funds are collected by the State and then distributed to all counties and municipalities.

The Hospitality Tax Fund is used for capital projects, which have included cultural enhancements such as art projects, park improvements, community centers, and the Children's Museum of the Upstate. These funds are also used to service debts, and fund City and community events.

Local (County) Accommodation Tax

Local governments in South Carolina are authorized to levy a local accommodations tax (beyond the two percent state accommodations tax) of up to three percent of the gross proceeds derived by business owners renting rooms, campground spaces, lodging, or sleep accommodations.

Local accommodations tax proceeds must be used for tourism-related projects and programs as defined in the South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 6-1-530. The City accepts applications for Accommodations Tax funds from organizations that coordinate activities for the specific purpose of promoting and sponsoring tourism, travel, hospitality, and cultural activities that directly benefit the City of Spartanburg.

Local (City) Hospitality Tax

The City of Spartanburg collects a 2% tax on the sale of prepared meals and beverages. This tax is collected by business owners and remitted directly to the City. This fund may be used for the operation and maintenance of tourism-related activities and services, including police, fire protection, emergency medical services, and emergency-preparedness operations directly attendant to those activities.

Tourism projects and promotions are reviewed by the City's Hospitality Tax Grants Advisory Committee and a funding recommendation is presented to City Council for review and consideration. Other sources of revenue for this Fund include Sunday alcohol sales and investment earnings.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

The City receives federal funding from the CDBG Program for Affordable Housing/Housing Rehabilitation and Community Improvements.

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) HOME Partnership Fund Program

The City receives federal funding from HUD's HOME Program.

Multi-County Industrial Park Fund

This is an economic development program and is typically used for large developments. It requires working with Spartanburg County and a smaller, less developed county. MASC states "...to use the multicounty park concept, at least two contiguous counties, one of which must have a lower state-designated job development status, must partner with a private developer/owner to promote economic development. There are many benefits for the partners. Local governments benefit by sharing in the tax revenues generated by the park and spin off development." Spartanburg has used the MCIP to develop market rate and affordable housing and provide fee in lieu of tax payments.

Enterprise Funds

Enterprise Funds are used to account for operations: (a) that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises — where the intent of the governing body is that the costs (expenses, including depreciation) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges, or (b) where the governing body has decided that periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred, and/or net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability, or other purposes. The City has the following Enterprise Funds:

Airport Fund

This fund is primarily supported by hangar rental, fuel, and other fees, with additional support from the General Fund. It is used to fund the operation of the Downtown Memorial Airport, the City's largest owned asset.

Transit Fund

This fund is primarily supported by Federal Grant, with additional revenue sources that include charges for services, state grants, and support from the General Fund. It is used the fund transit operations in the City.

Parking Fund

This fund is primarily supported by parking fees and is used to fund parking operations and personnel in the City.

Stormwater Utility Fund

The City of Spartanburg combines stormwater and residential garbage fees for residents. This fund, supported by charges for services, is used to fund stormwater improvements in the public right of way. These proactive improvements prevent unexpected road closures, ensure roadway network viability, and keep the traveling public safe.

Recreational Facilities Corporation Fund

The Spartanburg Recreational Facilities Corporation ("SRFC") is a blended component unit of the City. The SRFC is a South Carolina non-profit corporation that primarily assists the City by constructing, owning, operating, leasing and managing the T.K. Gregg Community Center.

Downtown Memorial Airport

North Spartanburg Park - Spartanburg Recreational Facilities Corporation

Long-Term Obligations

The City issues bonds to provide funds for the acquisition and construction of major capital facilities.

General Obligations Bonds

General Obligations Bonds ("GOB") and General Obligation Refunding Bonds ("GORB") are direct obligations and pledge the full faith and credit of the City.

Special Obligations Bonds

These are used to fund specific revenue-generating projects. Special Obligation Bonds might be an opportunity to fund affordable and mixed-income housing and economic development projects.

Tax Increment Refunding Bonds

These are considered a special obligation of the City payable solely from ad valorem taxes generated by improvements to real property within the redevelopment project area.

Hospitality Tax Bonds

Hospitality Tax Bonds ("HTB"), Hospitality Tax Refunding bonds ("HTRB"), and Hospitality Tax Refunding and Improvement Bonds ("HTRIB") are special obligation bonds of the City that are secured by hospitality tax revenue.

Promissory Notes

The Promissory Notes ("PN") are special obligation debt of the City's blended components and are payable from their resources.

Capital Lease

Capital Lease ("CL") obligations are special obligations of the City payable from the general revenues of the City.

Grants

Grants represent discretionary, lump-sum funding that does not need to be repaid by the recipient. Conditional grants require a specific behavior or match on the part of the recipient. Unconditional grants have no requirements and the recipient is free to use the funds however they choose. There are no assurances previous grant categories or funding levels will be available again in future years, and most grant programs are awarded on a competitive- or merit-based basis.

The City has utilized a Miscellaneous Grant Fund in the past but has not budgeted for this type of funding in recent years.

In addition to the CDBG and Home Program Grants described in the preceding "Special Revenue Funds" section, the City also receives grants from the following state and federal organizations:

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

The FAA provides funds through the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and as general Operating Assistance.

SC Department of Transportation

The City partners with the Spartanburg Area Transportation Committee and the Spartanburg C-Funds Committee to repave streets in the City that are both City and County roads.

PalmettoPride

This is the State of South Carolina's beautification non-profit organization. PalmettoPride partners with local law enforcement to "prosecute littering and illegal dumping," (palmettopride.org/about). The City of Spartanburg Police Department has applied to PalmettoPride for grants associated with cameras and equipment to prevent littering.

US Department of the Treasury

In 2020, the City received funding from the COVID-19 Coronavirus Relief Fund. These grants were for the Airport, Transit System, Public Safety Departments and for employee cost for time loss due to the pandemic.

Qualified Opportunity Funds

Opportunity Zones are a new community development program established by Congress as a part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. They are designed to encourage long-term private investments in low-income communities, providing a federal tax incentive for taxpayers who reinvest unrealized capital gains into "Opportunity Funds," which are specialized vehicles dedicated to investing in specially designated low-income areas.

Opportunity Zones are designed to spur economic development by providing tax benefits to investors. First, investors can defer tax on any prior gains until the earlier of the date on which an investment is sold or exchanged, or December 31, 2026, so long as the gain is reinvested in a Qualified Opportunity Fund. Second, if the investor holds the investment in the Opportunity Fund for at least ten years, the investor would be eligible for an increase in basis equal to the fair market value of the investment on the date that the investment is sold or exchanged.

SPATS-Funded Projects

The Spartanburg Area Transportation Study (SPATS) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) plans and programs federally funded transportation projects in the urban areas of Spartanburg County.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) "Guideshare" funding is available to the SPATS MPO for transportation projects through the FAST Act transportation legislation. Spartanburg's funding allocation is based on the Spartanburg's urban area population compared to the state population applied to the amount of funding available. With the exception of interstate funding, the Guideshare allocation is the main source for major new location roadway projects in the SPATS area.

The SPATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) contains all approved federally funded transportation projects within the Spartanburg County urban area. This program is revised annually by the SPATS Policy Committee, the decision-making board of the Spartanburg Area Transportation Study. Projects in the SPATS Transportation Improvement Program can be found at: http://spatsmpo.com/programs/tip-transportation-improvement-program/

Additional Sources of Funding

American Rescue Plan Recovery Act Funding (ARPA):

One-time funds used throughout the community. The community is in the process of determining uses. They have received an allocation of $16.5 million in one-time funds. Spartanburg County received an allocation of 62 million in ARPA funds, some of which may be used in the city.

HOME Investment Partnerships American Rescue Plan Program (HOME-ARP)

One-time funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to assist with homeless efforts. The city received an allocation of $773,630 for homeless efforts. It is still in the planning phases of the grant process. Spartanburg County received an allocation of $2.1 million in HOME-ARP funds, some of which may be used in the City.

Public Infrastructure & Facility Needs

Generally, the level and mix of local government expenditures is a function of the area's size, geography, land use, economy, demographics, and services provided. Local preferences for service levels, service mix and access to facilities give decision-makers choices when programming public infrastructure and facilities to address existing deficiencies or serve new areas. Spending on capital projects may increase or decrease from year-to-year because of economic conditions or immediate needs in the jurisdiction. Opportunistic spending is sometimes used by the jurisdiction to take advantage of public-private partnerships or gain access to outside funding sources.

Public infrastructure and facilities recommended in previous elements of the Comprehensive Plan are summarized in the Implementation Matrix that follows this section. These projects will be important for managing the location, magnitude, timing, and sequence of development depicted on the Growth & Conservation Map.

Ten-Year Funding Gap Analysis

A funding gap exists when anticipated expenditures exceed anticipated revenues for the ten-year planning period. The total funding gap for public infrastructure and facilities recommended in the Spartanburg Comprehensive Plan could be up to $50 million over the ten-year period; assuming annual revenue sources and funding levels remain unchanged through FY 2031/32. The funding gap could be greater if all capital projects identified by City departments (beyond those recommended in the Comprehensive Plan) were included.

Most local governments face a dilemma when capital project needs exceed revenues available. In Spartanburg, the City's Budget and Accounting Department is responsible for preparing the City's annual budget and capital projects. Council reviews, prioritizes, and schedules capital projects each year so essential projects are funded first, followed by strategic projects, and then "luxury" or non-essential projects. Input from City departments and residents influence project priorities and funding scenarios. The City must find ways to increase funding for capital projects if a funding gap still exists for each year's capital project list. This may include raising tax rates, instituting, or increasing fees, issuing general obligation or special revenue bonds, or assuming loans. Other revenue sources and funding mechanisms available for implementing capital projects (not yet used) are discussed in the next section of the document.

The Priority Investment Element, and more importantly, a Capital Improvements Plan (CIP), distributes costly projects over time, protecting communities from abrupt tax increases and alerting elected officials of capital needs before they become unplanned emergencies. The City of Spartanburg does not currently have a CIP, but would benefit from one to help decision-makers coordinate capital improvements for greater efficiency and assess short-term financial decisions in the context of long-term fiscal needs and constraints. A decision-making matrix with equity built into the process would help the City evaluate the distribution of resources to areas of greatest need.

Reducing the Funding Gap

The Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan identifies where and how the City should encourage the right amount and type of development. Development should be guided to the right locations for the most efficient use of resources. Several strategies can help the City make more efficient use of existing infrastructure in an attempt to reduce the funding gap. It should be noted, however, that circumstances vary, and these strategies may not impact the funds available for infrastructure or facilities.

- Marked-based incentive tools
- Mixed-use development and redevelopment
- Affordable housing
- Density bonuses
- Revised zoning regulations that allow for smaller lots and reduced setbacks
- Fast track permitting, enabled through clear and predictable zoning regulations
- Donation of right-of-way by developers and others

Supplemental Potential Sources of Funds

Additional revenue sources or funding mechanisms are available to the City of Spartanburg to finance public infrastructure and facility projects; potentially addressing some of the funding gap identified in the previous section of this plan element. Some of these will require special action by the City Council in accordance with the Code of Laws of South Carolina and/or special authorization from the South Carolina Legislature.

Local Government Fund

The Local Government Fund provides resources to help defray the costs of delivering mandated state services such as administration of the judicial system, housing of state agencies, etc. State statute specifies a funding formula of 4.5% of the State's General Fund from the prior year.

State and Federal Grants

Grant funding is available through multiple state, federal, and local grant programs. The City has utilized multiple grant funding sources in the past for major projects and supplemental funding. Most grants require a local match, so public-private partnerships are essential to achieving the City's goals.

Grant sources could include:

- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- South Carolina Department of Commerce
- South Carolina Parks, Recreation & Tourism
- US Department of the Interior
- South Carolina Department of Transportation
- Federal Highway Administration
- Federal Transit Administration

Local Improvement Districts

Counties in South Carolina are authorized to create local improvement districts for the purpose of financing capital improvements. Provisions for assessing and levying property taxes in different areas and at different rates are set forth in the Code of Laws of South Carolina, Section 4-9-30(5)(a). Each district captures specific costs and benefits associated with new or upgraded capital facilities. Property owners in the local improvement district must agree to any new assessment to fund capital projects. The projects may be financed with bonds and paid back over time to expedite construction.

Development Impact Fees

Development impact fees represent financial payments from a developer to a local government for funding the proportionate share of off-site capital improvements identified to accommodate future growth. Fees may be collected for many different public facilities and services, including transportation, water, sewer, solid waste, stormwater, public safety, and parks. They generally provide a means for orderly development by mitigating the negative impacts of new growth, while passing costs onto new development rather than existing taxpayers.

The State of South Carolina grants powers for cities and counties to collect impact fees on new development pursuant to the rules and regulations set forth in the South Carolina Development Impact Fee Act (Code of Laws of South Carolina, Section 6-1-910 et seq.). Two factors control the legality of collecting impact fees. First, local governments must have authority to impose the fees as a condition of development approval. Second, the design and implementation of impact fee requirements must not be unfair, arbitrary, unreasonable, or without rational basis.

Real Estate Transfer Fees

A real estate transfer fee is assessed on the transfer, sale, or conveyance of real property. It is applied against the purchase price of a property and can be restricted to certain types of capital project expenditures. The South Carolina Legislature has strictly forbidden enacting real estate transfer fees without expressed authorization under the Code of Laws of South Carolina, Section 6-1-70.

South Carolina State Infrastructure Bank

The South Carolina State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) assists local governments with financing major transportation projects. It provides loans and other financial assistance for constructing or improving facilities. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis and fund availability changes from year to year.

Local Option Sales Tax

The State of South Carolina authorizes local governments with the power to collect different types of sales tax. One option is a voter-approved capital projects sales tax, which must be used to fund specific capital projects listed in Section 4-10-310 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina. The one percent sales tax can be collected for up to seven consecutive years. Spartanburg County residents approved a sales tax increase in 2017 (collection period ending in 2024) to fund a new judicial center, a city-county government complex, and other facilities totaling approximately $217 million.

Transportation Alternatives Program

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) provides federal funds to expand transportation choices and improve the overall transportation experience, including: on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities; infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility; community improvement activities and environmental mitigation; recreational trail projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing or constructing boulevards and other roadways

largely in the right-of-way of former divided highways. The federal government will pay up to 80% of eligible project costs for a TAP project. A local match of 20% or more is required for the remaining project costs.

Capital Lease-Purchase Agreements

A capital lease-purchase agreement lets a local government acquire capital assets (and eventually own them) while making periodic lease payments, including principal and interest, spread over a defined payback period. It is an alternative to cash purchases, traditional leases without ownership, or issuing bonds for major purchase. Items traditionally purchased with capital lease-purchase agreements include buses, fire-fighting vehicles and equipment, heavy equipment and machinery, office equipment, road maintenance vehicles, solid waste disposal equipment, or telecommunication systems.

Intergovernmental Coordination

The City of Spartanburg Comprehensive Plan tries to effectively and efficiently manage growth and development within the boundaries of the City. It is important to recognize many stakeholders influence growth and development in these areas beyond what City leaders or departments might control, and conversely nearby areas outside the City's planning jurisdiction are impacted by the plans, policies, projects and recommendations presented herein. Furthermore, many of the topics addressed in the Comprehensive Plan — environmental concerns, housing choices and affordability, transportation mobility, etc. — affect the City, the County, and the broader Upstate region.

South Carolina's Priority Investment Act requires coordination with adjacent and relevant jurisdictions and agencies impacted by information presented in the Priority Investment Element of the Comprehensive Plan. The entities involved in the provision of public services and impacted by the decisions of the City of Spartanburg may include:

Neighboring Municipalities

- **Campobello**
- **Central Pacolet**
- **Chesnee** http://www.cityofchesnee.org
- **Cowpens** https://www.townofcowpens.com/
- **Duncan**
- **Inman** https://www.cityofinman.org/
- **Landrum** http://cityoflandrumsc.com/
- **Lyman** http://www.lymansc.gov/
- **Pacolet** https://www.townofpacolet.com/
- **Reidville** http://www.townofreidvillesc.org/
- **Wellford** http://www.cityofwellford.com/
- **Woodruff** https://www.cityofwoodruff.com/

Public services

- **Spartanburg County Public Libraries**

School Districts

- **Spartanburg County School District 6**
- **Spartanburg County School District 7**

Utility Providers

- **Spartanburg Water Systems**
- **Spartanburg Commission of Public Works**
- **Spartanburg Sanitary Sewer District Commission**
- **Spartanburg County Solid Waste Department**

Emergency Providers

- **Spartanburg County Fire Department**
- **Spartanburg EMS**

Transportation Providers

- **Spartanburg Area Transportation Study (SPATS)** http://www.spatsmpo.com
- **SPARTA (Spartanburg Regional Transportation Association)** http://www.cityofspartanburg.org/sparta/routes
- **Spartanburg Regional Transportation Service Bureau (TSB)** https://www.spartanburgregional.com/community/transportation-services/
- **City of Spartanburg Downtown Airport** http://www.cityofspartanburg.org/airport

Regional Agencies

- **Appalachian Council of Governments (ACOG)** http://www.scacog.org/

State Agencies

- **SC Dept. of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)** http://www.scdhec.gov/
- **SC Dept. of Transportation (SCDOT)** http://www.scdot.org

HARPER
CORPORATION
General Contractors
RENOVATION
IN PROGRESS
mcmillan
pazdan
smith

LAND USE & COMMUNITY

CHARACTER ELEMENT

Growth & Conservation Framework

Planning for Spartanburg's successful future requires a careful balance between promoting conservation and supporting growth. This strategy identifies areas of the community that should be conserved or preserved and areas that should be allowed to grow or develop.

This section of the Comprehensive Plan describes the City's Growth & Conservation Framework, which is intended to guide growth by informing decisions about infrastructure investments, development and redevelopment activities, and initiatives to protect natural and cultural resources. Managing change in accordance with the Framework will help ensure a more equitable and higher quality of life for current and future residents, a more diversified local economy, and fiscal sustainability. More importantly, the new Growth & Conservation framework aims to mitigate some of the impacts of previous planning schemes

The Growth and Conservation Framework is the culmination of input gathered from participants throughout Plan Spartanburg, City officials and staff, GIS technical analysis and scenario planning. This framework will be used as the organizing structure for the City future decision-making priorities.

The Growth & Conservation Framework contained in this Plan protects the character of Spartanburg's existing single family residential neighborhoods while providing for much-needed additional housing and neighborhood services. Large areas of existing single-family residential areas outside the core of the City are intended to remain relatively unchanged. Preserving the residential character of neighborhoods, which represent most of the land in Spartanburg, is important to protecting the history and character of the community.

Because land within the City's existing boundaries is largely built-out, there are limited areas available for future growth. There are, however, a few key areas in the City where opportunities exist for redevelopment and growth that could enhance the City's character and better meet resident needs, especially in lower income, historically Black neighborhoods that have not benefited from the infrastructure investments that other neighborhoods have. Several of Spartanburg's automobile corridors are reimagined as walkable, multimodal streets with destinations serving adjacent neighborhoods, and existing single-use commercial development as new walkable, mixed-use destinations serving several neighborhoods in the community.

The Growth & Conservation Framework is a way to organize and illustrate the City's conservation and growth priorities. The Growth & Conservation Map (see page 256), often referred to as a Future Land Use Map, is made up of 9 Sectors. Conservation Sectors include permanently protected and recreational open space, while Growth Sectors include areas of the City that have opportunities for development or redevelopment. Growth Sectors are areas where the City could strive to

increase infrastructure capacity and availability, improve proximity of activity centers to nearby neighborhoods, and encourage private investment to meet the needs of Spartanburg residents, businesses, and visitors. Any future growth should be targeted in places where infrastructure capacity exists or can be expanded efficiently and in a way that is appropriate for the community. By organizing the City according to Conservation and Growth Sectors, intentional and informed decisions can be made about how to spend municipal dollars most efficiently on infrastructure improvements that will support the vision of a more equitable Spartanburg. Examples of some of the types of development and redevelopment that could occur in these Sectors are illustrated in the "Focus Area Plans" element that follows.

Sectors

As previously noted, the Growth & Conservation Map is organized using the Sector framework. Sectors are used to guide where, and to what extent, open areas and growth areas are to be encouraged and directed. Sectors are assigned to different areas based on a number of factors, including availability of planned and existing infrastructure and preservation of valuable open space.

Spartanburg's Growth & Conservation Map includes two (2) Conservation Sectors: C-1 Preserved Conservation Sector and C-2 Reserved Conservation Sector; five (5) Growth Sectors: G-1 Restricted Growth Sector, G-2 Neighborhood Controlled Growth Sector, G-3 Neighborhood Infill Growth Sector, G-4 Corridor Infill Growth Sector, and G-5 Center Infill Growth Sector; and two (2) Special Districts: SD-A Airport Special District and SD-C Campus Special District. These sectors are more fully described as follows:

C-1: PRESERVED CONSERVATION SECTOR

The Preserved Conservation Sector is assigned to open space areas that are protected from development in perpetuity and include areas under environmental protection by law or regulation as well as land acquired for conservation through purchase or by easement. These include surface waterbodies, protected wetlands and floodplains. Some of these areas may be available for passive recreational purposes and may include greenways, trails and other public access.

C-2: RESERVED CONSERVATION SECTOR

The Reserved Conservation Sector is assigned to open space areas that should but may not presently be permanently protected from development. This Sector is comprised of City parks, transmission line corridors, cemeteries and City/County schools with shared use agreements that provide public access to schoolgrounds for recreational purposes. These areas are intended for both active and passive recreational purposes and may include formal and informal parks and open spaces.

G-2: NEIGHBORHOOD CONTROLLED GROWTH SECTOR

Neighborhood Controlled Growth Sectors are areas that are developed with low- to medium-density neighborhoods that should remain "as is". These neighborhoods are defined by conventional suburban development patterns of primarily detached single-family houses, with a limited number of multi-family, commercial, and civic uses. There may be some limited opportunities for infill in this Sector, which should be at a scale and character compatible with surrounding development.

G-3: NEIGHBORHOOD INFILL GROWTH SECTOR

Neighborhood Infill Growth Sectors are areas that are largely developed with low- to medium density neighborhoods. These neighborhoods are defined by traditional development patterns of primarily detached single-family houses with a limited number of multi-family, commercial and civic uses. They are generally supported by the mixed use and commercial development of adjacent G-4 and G-5 Sectors. These areas are opportunities for future infill that may include accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and small pockets of additional housing choices at a scale and character compatible with surrounding development. This Sector's walkable, traditional historic character is conducive to rezoning as character-based districts. [Note: much of it is already zoned DT3 and DT4)

G-4: CORRIDOR INFILL GROWTH SECTOR

Corridor Infill Growth Sectors are areas that are generally located along transportation corridors, connecting activity centers and destinations in the City. These Sectors are mostly developed but still contain underutilized parcels. Most are defined by a conventional, auto-oriented suburban pattern of primarily commercial development. Some of the larger, deeper parcels in this sector may allow for a change in the pattern of development and the addition of multi-family and mixed-use buildings. New development, redevelopment, or the reuse of existing land and buildings should be encouraged to better meet the local goal of achieving more walkable and bikeable corridors and neighborhoods. Some portions of these sectors should be rezoned to character-based districts.

G-5: CENTER INFILL GROWTH SECTOR

Center Infill Growth Sectors include the City's historic downtown as well as some of its larger suburban centers, including the existing mall site. These centers of activity are mostly or fully built-out but still have vacant or underutilized land. Downtown is defined by a traditional historic downtown development pattern, though there are gaps in the streetscape and opportunities for infill. Other Infill Centers are characterized by conventional, auto-oriented suburban development patterns of primarily commercial development. Additional growth and development in these areas is desirable due to the presence of existing infrastructure. These areas represent the greatest opportunity for complete mixed use, walkable centers and character-based zoning. The plan envisions that most residential and non-residential development over the next ten years will occur in this growth sector.

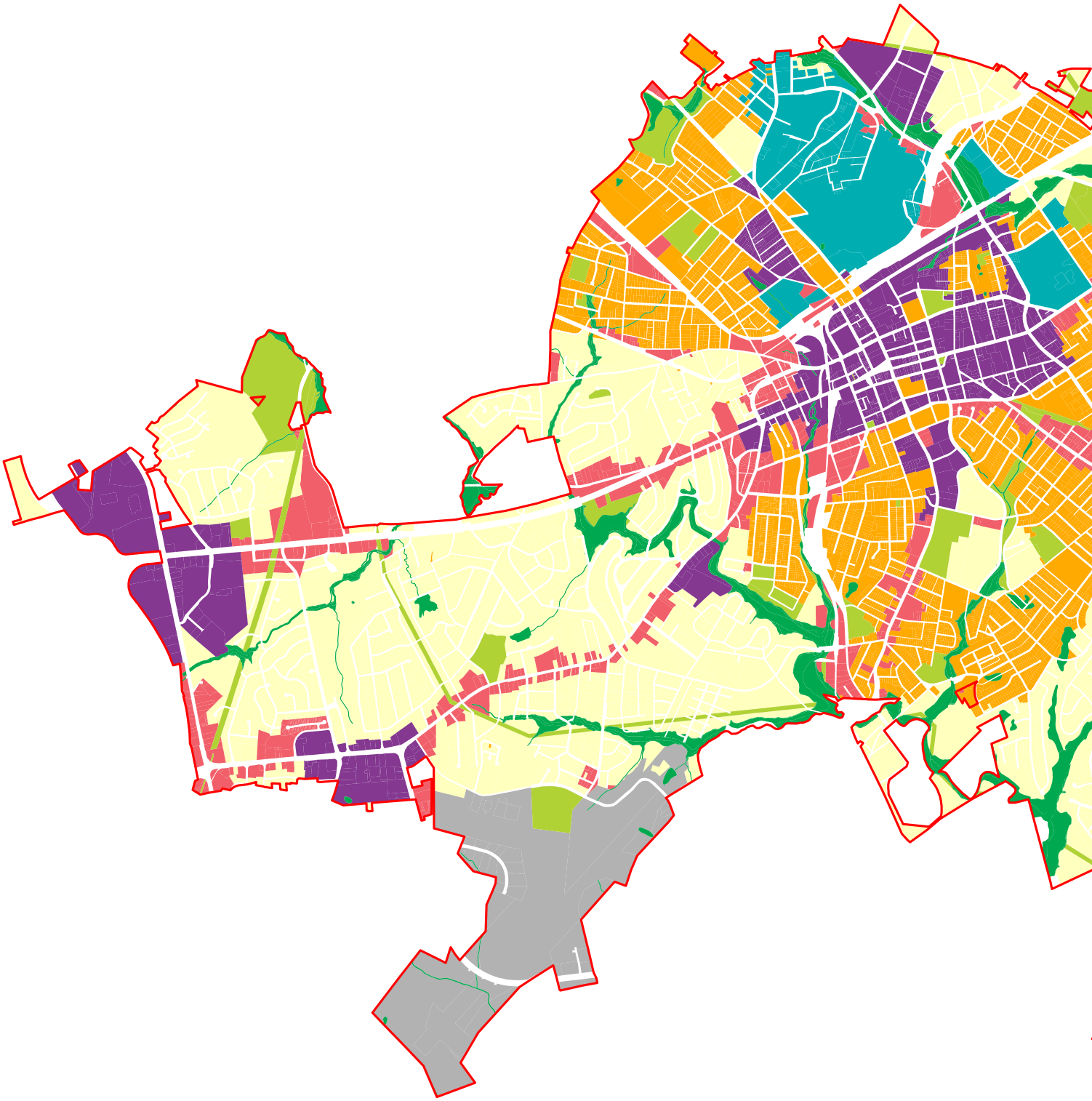
SD-A: AIRPORT SPECIAL DISTRICT

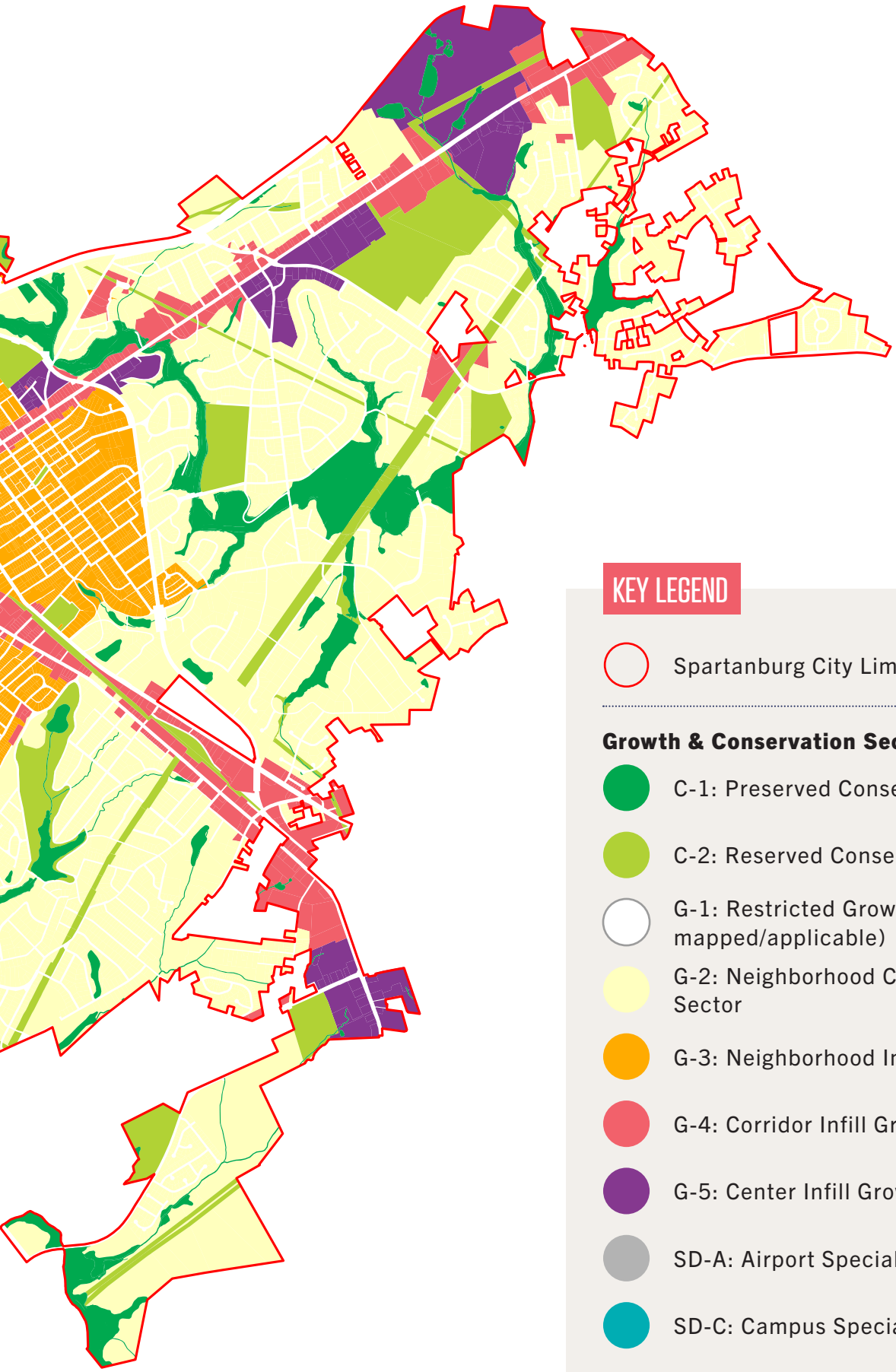
The Airport Special District represents Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport and the immediate surrounding areas used for airside activities.

SD-C: CAMPUS SPECIAL DISTRICT

The Campus Special District is assigned to the campuses of Spartanburg Medical Center, Wofford College, VCOM-Carolinas, and Converse College. Because of the large, detached building sizes, buildings that face onto internal greens, extensive parking, and other hospital and college/university characteristics, a unique set of standards are needed for these areas, including minimizing surface parking lots visible from public thoroughfares.

Growth & Conservation Map





KEY LEGEND

Spartanburg City Limits

Growth & Conservation Sectors

- C-1: Preserved Conservation Sector
- C-2: Reserved Conservation Sector
- G-1: Restricted Growth Sector (Not mapped/applicable)
- G-2: Neighborhood Controlled Growth Sector
- G-3: Neighborhood Infill Growth Sector
- G-4: Corridor Infill Growth Sector
- G-5: Center Infill Growth Sector
- SD-A: Airport Special District
- SD-C: Campus Special District

Community Character & Design

Focus on the Quality of Public Realm

Much of what we learn about a place, we learn as we see and experience the spaces that comprise the public realm. Because of this, cities deliberately enhance their public spaces to make a positive and lasting impression. Through design, we can strengthen our existing spaces and create new spaces that tell the many stories of Spartanburg: the stories that celebrate the City's history and heritage, the stories that build community pride, the stories that strengthen community ties, and the stories that inspire future generations. Neighborhood design should honor the existing culture and history of the community.

The City should explore ways to invest in the public realm and prioritize sourcing local artists for the design and creation of public art to align their investments with the City's identity. By creating a sense of place in key areas, especially downtown and along important gateways, the City can reinforce its "brand" and the image it would like to present. Public spaces, gateways, and highly trafficked areas are ideal locations to use physical elements like public art, streetscape improvements, signage and landscaping to make a statement about who and what Spartanburg is.

Monon Greenway Urban Trail

Source: reasite.com

Establish & Implement Street Design Standards

Streetscape defines a community's aesthetic quality, identity, economic activity, and health. When correctly designed, streetscape completes the street by encouraging more pedestrian traffic, improving the overall experience for users, and increasing biodiversity within urban areas. Both established neighborhoods and areas of potential growth in the City could link economic development, equity, public health, and environmental goals by adhering to well-planned streetscape design principles. Whether created through new construction or redesign of existing streets, consider the following streetscape elements to ensure the creation of usable public space:

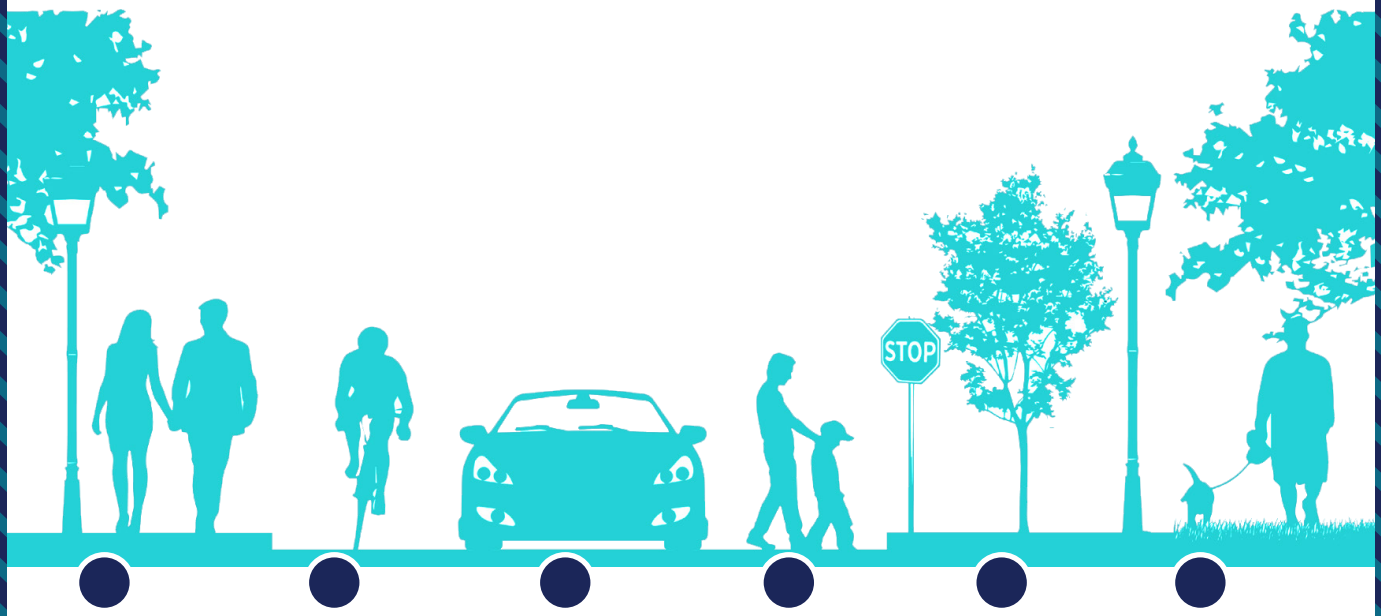
- Street Trees, Plantings, and Furnishings – A consistent pattern of street trees, plantings, and furnishings can be accomplished with a palette of types and equal spacing. Such regularity unifies the street while reinforcing the pedestrian scale and increasing comfort.
- Street Lighting - Lighting can be both street lighting and pedestrian lighting. Proper lighting can make both a more attractive and safer streetscape environment. Standards should be established for both types of lighting and determine when pedestrian lighting is required.
- Hardscape – Pavements, raised planters, and seat walls are among the features that comprise the hardscape. The impact of selected materials on the character of the street should be considered. Like street trees and furnishings, a simple palette and consistent application can increase the visual quality of the street.
- On-street Parking – On-street parking, especially downtown, is essential for optimal access and can serve as a buffer between vehicular and pedestrian traffic. It should be thoughtfully integrated into the streetscape to minimize points of conflict and facilitate safe exiting of vehicles onto adjacent sidewalks. Careful placement should not impede flow in pedestrian crosswalks or loading areas.
- Underground Utilities – Lines should be buried along streets in new construction. While burying lines on existing streets is preferred, the cost to do so can be high. As an alternative, consider relocating poles and lines to the edge of the right-of-way or to the parallel street or alley to minimize visual clutter.

Recommendations (Establish & Implement Street Design Standards)

01	Establish and implement design standards for City streets that incorporate the elements described above.
02	Pursue funding and assist neighborhood associations to pursue grants that will assist in the purchasing and installation of streetscape plantings and furnishings.

WHAT IS A COMPLETE STREET?

A Complete Streets approach integrates people and place in the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of our transportation networks.



ACTIVE SIDEWALKS
Sidewalks should be smooth, wide, feel safe, and have appropriate transitions to the street, making them easy to walk or use a wheelchair on.

DEDICATED BIKE LANES
Simple pavement markings creating a dedicated bike lane make both motorist and bicycle movement more predictable, and therefore safer for both. They may incrase the likelihood of casual rides using bicycles for transportation.

ACTIVE ROADWAY
One lane of car traffic going in each direction with a two-way-left-turn-lane (TWLTL) in the center would reduce the amount of car crashes on Government Street by providing turning vehicles a refuge from through traffic, while keeping through traffic moving more efficiently.

SAFE CROSSWALKS
Clearly marked crosswalks allow pedestrains and wheelchair users to cross streets safely, while making sure cars know where to expect them.

PLANTING STRIP
Street trees and landscaping slow speeding traffic, improve the aesthetics of the roadway, provide shade, and create a buffer between cars and people, amking a more inviting environment pedestrains.

GREEN SPACES
Parks and public green spaces create a destination, encouraging community interaction and providing a rest from the surrounding urban environment.

Update Development Regulations to Ensure High-Quality Development

The City of Spartanburg regulates conservation and growth through administration of the City Zoning Ordinance. The Ordinance is approved and administered by the City Council and details land uses and development standards applicable to new development and redevelopment of property located in the City.

The City of Spartanburg can encourage high-quality future development through the development standards in the Zoning Ordinance. Clearly articulating the community's desired vision for areas targeted for development or redevelopment will help the City ensure the type and quality of development it seeks.

The City's Zoning Ordinance has not had a major update since its adoption in 1999 and, even then was based heavily on its 1970's predecessor. Though it has been amended several times over the past 22 years to adapt to the changing needs and priorities of the City, it will need an "upgrade" to support the recommendations and concepts described in this Plan. Changes to the Zoning Ordinance will be necessary to provide the regulatory framework to ensure future development in the Growth Sectors is in keeping with the vision of the Comprehensive Plan.

The City updated the Zoning for its Downtown District in 2017, applying form-based zoning regulations to better implement the vision and goals established by the Downtown Master Plan (2007). The Downtown Code establishes four form-based districts, each with its own bulk standards and use restrictions.

While conventional zoning may still be appropriate for Spartanburg's existing single-family residential neighborhoods, a new ordinance that incorporates form-based (or character-based) elements in other parts of the City will assist in achieving high quality development. In contrast with conventional zoning that emphasizes separating uses, a form-based code uses character, or the look and feel of a place, as the primary organizing principle. While character-based concepts can be applied anywhere, they are most successful in areas that have a mix of uses already, and in historic districts.

FORM-BASED CODES ARE USED TO:

1. Encourage and increase the use of active transportation such as walking and biking;
2. Improve connectivity by creating interconnected multimodal transportation networks;
3. Identify appropriate locations for more compact, mixed-use development that can offer more choices and opportunities when it comes to housing, services, and social interactions;
4. Regulate development scale and design to ensure the form and character of development is compatible with surrounding land uses and the public realm; and
5. Regulate parking design and reduce the visibility of parking from the street and civic spaces.

One advantage of form-based coding is simplicity. The code is written in plain language, rather than in complicated "legal-speak," and is supplemented by easy-to-understand diagrams. The goal of a form-based code is to make it clear to the public and land owners what type of development is allowed and to make results of development more predictable. This approach would help consolidate, simplify, and update Spartanburg's existing zoning language to reflect the desires of the community.

Because form-based codes emphasize character and the design and context of development, an updated Zoning Ordinance will continue to regulate height and placement of buildings, the location of parking, the frontage, sidewalk, planting area, drainage, density, and the street itself. This information will be conveyed through easy-to-understand diagrams and illustrations.

Recommendations (Update Development Regulations to Ensure High-Quality Development)

01	Review the current zoning regulations to ensure that the current zoning permits the desired scale and character of development.
02	Consider the adoption of city-wide or area-specific form-based zoning to promote high-quality design and development. Amendments or revisions to the existing Zoning Ordinance should allow mixed-use development as identified in the Infill Growth Sectors.
03	As part of the zoning update, develop design standards for architecture, focusing on the materials, scale, orientation, and fenestration, particularly on facades visible from public spaces and streets. These standards can be incorporated into the Zoning Ordinance or can be separate Design Guidelines such as the ones for Beaumont Mill Village and Hampton Heights.
04	Lead by example by adhering to design standards for public buildings. By doing so, the City can encourage the private sector to employ the guidelines when designing new buildings or renovating existing buildings.
05	Acknowledge, research, and educate on existing land-use patterns that grew out of segregation fused/inspired designations from Spartanburg's early days, and encourage healthier land uses near or adjacent to any residential areas.

Encourage Retrofits and Adaptive Reuse of Buildings

The City of Spartanburg has a history of adaptive reuse. Many of the former mill buildings have been redeveloped to include new residential and commercial uses. Vacant or underutilized buildings should be prioritized for redevelopment, particularly Downtown. The City should help maintain the character of Spartanburg by facilitating the reuse of existing structures. The retrofitting of buildings, especially historic structures that are valued for their architecture, often requires substantial investments to meet building codes. The City should consider ways to alleviate the challenges of adaptive reuse through grants and alternative building standards.

Montgomery Building

Recommendations (Encourage Retrofits and Adaptive Reuse of Buildings)

01	Prioritize the adaptive reuse of buildings, especially historic structures.
02	Encourage retrofit and adaptive reuse through the use of grants and other incentives.
03	Provide information about resources available to building owners and developers who would like to pursue adaptive reuse projects.

Encourage Mixed-Use Development and Implement Best Practices in Mixed-Use Neighborhood Design

Spartanburg's existing zoning regulations have resulted in development patterns that, aside from Downtown, are primarily detached single-family homes with small pockets of multifamily and other non-residential development along the main thoroughfares. Because of this zoning, Spartanburg has a limited range of lifestyle options, making it difficult for seniors and others who may desire smaller homes and apartments within walking distance of amenities. While improvements are possible within the boundaries of the existing regulatory system, the City may want to consider an approach that focuses more on streetscape and building character, with less emphasis on separation of uses.

Large and small mixed-use centers across the U.S. have demonstrated economic competitiveness, appealing to the people's desire to live, work, shop, dine, learn, and play in walkable places. According to the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET) Healthy Living Program, "locating places of employment and enjoyment near places where people live shortens the distance that people have to travel to get to work, the grocery store, a park, or a restaurant." Development in this form facilitates not only improved equity, but more active living by making walking or bicycling to those destinations more feasible.

Vertically mixed-use buildings combine residential units with commercial uses. Typically, residential uses are located on floors above retail and office uses. Horizontally mixed uses refers to complementary uses in separate, adjacent buildings. Transitions between uses, including usable open space, should enhance compatibility. The organization of mixed-use development should create a local circulation network of complete streets that support pedestrians, bikes, and vehicles and, with internal vehicular connections, minimizes congestion on major roads.

Recommendations (Encourage Mixed-Use Development and Implement Best Practices in Mixed-Use Neighborhood Design)

01 Encourage and support compact, mixed-use development that responds to the wants and needs of residents, workers, students, and visitors. While Downtown has— and should continue to have—the greatest mix of uses at the highest intensities, other areas, as shown on the Growth & Conservation Map, are also appropriate. Such areas are intended to complement, not compete with, Downtown. On a smaller scale, neighborhood centers should also accommodate a mix of uses.

02 **Promote mixed-use development that integrates complementary uses by:**

- Situating homes, workplaces, parks, grocery stores, and services (e.g., laundry, banking, childcare) in close proximity;
- Linking uses with safe and comfortable sidewalks and other pedestrian facilities; and
- Considering appropriate locations for both the vertical and horizontal mix of uses.

03 Pursue LEED for Neighborhood Development (LEED ND) (www.usgbc.org) certification for new development. The goal of LEED ND is to "inspire and create better, more sustainable, well-connected neighborhoods."

Continue Specific/Small Area Planning

Planning for the future is the way that cities take a proactive approach to managing change. The City of Spartanburg recognizes that change is inevitable, and positive change is necessary for long-term economic sustainability. This Comprehensive Plan represents the community's vision for the City as a whole, and many of the recommendations are broad-based, rather than neighborhood-specific. As part of the implementation process, it will be important to take a more detailed look at specific parts of the City in order to location-specific issues and disparities between neighborhoods that are the result of racial and other inequities.

In 2017, planning students from Clemson University worked with the City and neighborhood residents to conduct four neighborhood-specific plans. Study areas included the Beaumont Mill Village area, Highland neighborhood, South Converse neighborhood, and the West Main Street Corridor.

The Beaumont Mill neighborhood in Northeast Spartanburg is a historic mill village, with approximately 300 homes surrounding the Beaumont Textile Mill. The neighborhood is relatively diverse, with a mix of race, ethnicity, and income. The Historic Beaumont Village Neighborhood Plan, completed in 2017, identified four major areas of improvement, including community image and the need for a neighborhood pocket park, updated historic guidelines, and traffic safety. Residents who participated in the planning process expressed concern about the safety of the existing Adam's Park, and the need for more green spaces and amenities. Three main goals were identified for the neighborhood: maintain community character, promote community identity, and enhance community health and safety. These goals and the accompanying recommendations are consistent with the overall goals of this Comprehensive Plan.

The South Converse Neighborhood is located southeast of Downtown Spartanburg, and is a primarily African-American community, disadvantaged in terms of income and education. The South Converse Neighborhood Conservation Plan was completed in 2017. Major concerns included property vacancy, transportation safety, and maintenance of neighborhood assets including sidewalks, street trees, and signage. Recommendations to address these issues included infrastructure investment, transformation of complete streets, enhanced code enforcement, improved non-vehicular transportation facilities, and general beautification efforts. These recommendations are consistent with the overall goals of this Comprehensive Plan.

The West Main Street Corridor Visioning Project addresses future development of an approximately 1.5-mile portion of W. Main Street and W.O. Ezell Boulevard to the west of Downtown Spartanburg. This major transportation corridor with a diverse economic base, but a significant number of vacant properties and need for infrastructure improvements. As an important gateway into Downtown Spartanburg, participants identified a need for streetscape and landscape improvements, as well as more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly facilities. Goals included the creation of a brand identity, improved trail connectivity, and an extension of the Downtown form-based code. The recommendations included in the study parallel the overall goals of this Comprehensive Plan.

The Highland Transformation Plan, approved in late 2020, addresses the specific needs of the Highland neighborhood, and includes strategies related to housing, transportation, development, and more. The plan is intended to bring improvement and investment into what has become one of the City's most impoverished areas, a historically African American neighborhood with a long and sometimes difficult history. The plan aims to improve housing quality and quantity, calm traffic, increase access to healthy food, and encourage mixed-use development – goals which align with those set forth in this Comprehensive Plan. The Highland Transformation Plan is a deeper dive into the specific issues of the Highland neighborhood, establishing targeted strategies, recommended partnerships, and possible funding opportunities.

The City should consider creating specific small area plans for other areas within the City in need of transformation, or that lend themselves to the creation of new places of interest. Some of these areas, including the Westgate Mall property and the Grain District, were identified during Planapalooza as areas in need of a strategic plan for the future. For these and several other areas, the consulting team created illustrative plans to demonstrate some possible redevelopment concepts. These plans can be found in the Focus Area Plans section of this document.

Recommendations (Continue Specific/Small Area Planning)

01	Further the goals of the South Converse Neighborhood Conservation Plan by conducting specific area planning in the Southside.
02	Further the goals of the West Main Street Corridor Visioning Project by conducting specific area planning in this neighborhood.
03	Expand upon the Focus Area plan created for the Westgate Mall property, the Grain District, the South Church Street Corridor, the Union Street Corridor, and the Fairgrounds area by conducting specific area planning in these areas.
04	Identify additional areas of the City where detailed small area plans are necessary to guide future preservation and development. Priority should be given to economically disadvantaged areas.

DK

Monitor & Quantify the Impacts of Development

Development types, locations, patterns, and intensities of future development will impact Spartanburg in a number of ways. It is critical that elected officials and City staff fully understand the potential impacts future development proposals may have on the community. There are several ways the City can anticipate and quantify the impacts of future development. Spartanburg could benefit from expanding its capabilities to summarize and report this information prior to approvals of future development. Doing so can help ensure that elected officials and the community fully understand potential impacts on needed infrastructure and the ability of the City and other service providers to provide services needed to support new development.

This Comprehensive Plan recommends the City utilize the CommunityViz model created during the Scenario Planning process to evaluate alternative development scenarios. This Geographical Information System (GIS) software for land-use planning would allow City staff to monitor and quantify the impacts of future development and report a variety of performance measures identified for new development proposals. It would also allow staff to perform "what-if" analysis on alternative development scenarios for planning purposes.

To ensure fact-based and informed decision-making, the City could create a methodology to report the 'likely impacts to infrastructure' in staff reports that are submitted to the City Council for their review as they contemplate development proposals in the future.

Recommendations (Monitor & Quantify the Impacts of Development)

01	Utilize the new Spartanburg CommunityViz Model developed for the Comprehensive Plan as a monitoring tool and scenario planning (what-if) platform.
02	Utilize and maintain the CommunityViz model to evaluate the potential impacts of significant development proposals.
03	Include likely impacts of significant development proposals in Planning staff reports to better inform land use decisions.

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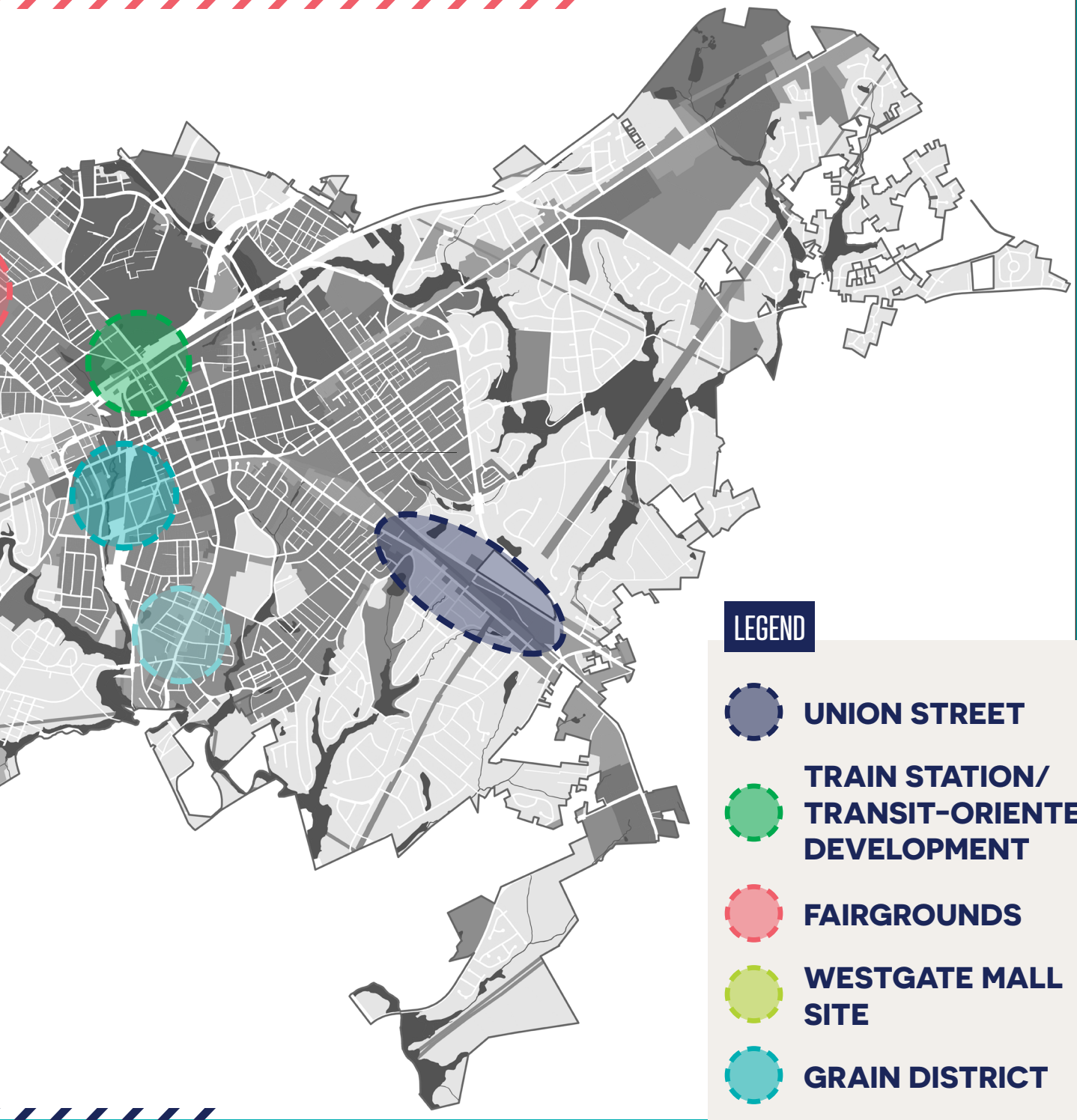
GBS BUILDING SUPPLY

FOCUS AREA PLANS

This section includes a collection of illustrative plan drawings that demonstrate how the recommendations and planning principles included in the Comprehensive Plan could "come to life." It is important to remember that the new development illustrated here might not be built exactly as envisioned, but the inspirational images represent a vision that will have a positive impact on the economy, tax base, affordability, mobility, environment, and quality of life. What is particularly important is that all these ideas for the built environment, economy, housing supply and transportation system are considered together so that they can complement and support one another. These long-range conceptual plans were developed during PlanapaloozaTM and were based on input received from participants in Plan Spartanburg. The plans detailed in this section show one potential development outcome for six specific locations in Spartanburg:

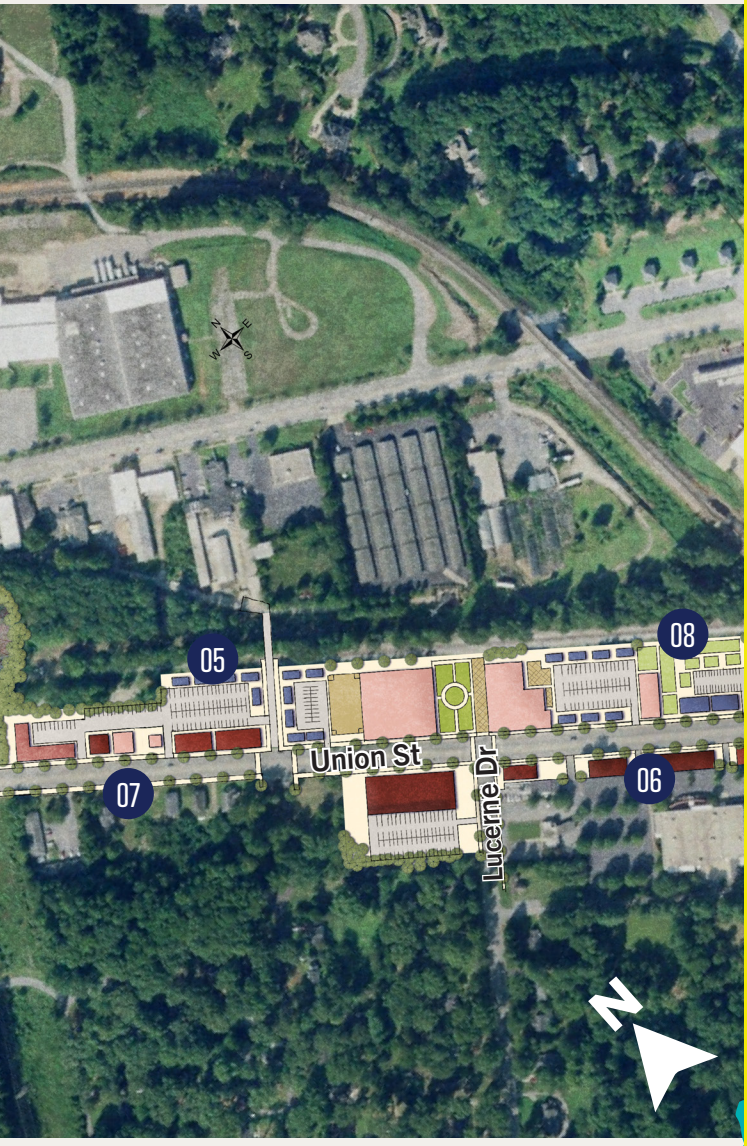
- Union Street
- Train Station/Transit-Oriented Development
- Fairgrounds
- WestGate Mall site
- Grain District
- Mixed Use Neighborhood Center


LEGEND
UNION STREET
TRAIN STATION/ TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT
FAIRGROUNDS
WESTGATE MALL SITE
GRAIN DISTRICT
MIXED USE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

UNION STREET

The plan shows one option to improve on the Union Street industrial corridor with context-sensitive infill. A neighborhood center is shown at the intersection of Union Street and Forest Avenue with a mix of commercial and residential uses. The Rail Yard park, with NFL Play60 course, and the Mary Black Rail Trail are great amenities to the neighborhood and this plan builds off of that. Shown here are a variety of housing types with courts that open up onto the Rail Yard park and units that face the Rail Trail to activate it and increase safety. The utility easement acts as a natural greenway and creates a space for a neighborhood park where it crosses Union Street and connects into the existing greenway. South on Union street there is the opportunity to add maker/ incubator artisan areas adjacent to the current Vintage Warehouse market and a food hub with community gardens (a "harvest center") as an amenity to the neighborhood.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This is an illustration of one possible scenario representing the views of many of the participants and is not intended to be the only plan possible for these properties. The property owner and/or the City will produce actual development plans through detailed study that will be reviewed during the official City development review process before any action would be taken on the site. This illustrative plan is intended to help the community visualize possibilities and create a platform for dialogue about the ideas contained in the images.



LEGEND

01 Infill rowhouses add a mix of housing to the neighborhood.

02 Mixed-use neighborhood with commercial and residential.

03 A variety of housing types (flats, townhomes, and single-family) with units fronting the greenway and the NFL park which increases the safety of these spaces by having eyes on the park. Parking is located in the interior courts.

04 New park in the existing utility easement area connects the street to the greenway and existing park areas.

05 Small-scale maker/artisan incubator spaces.

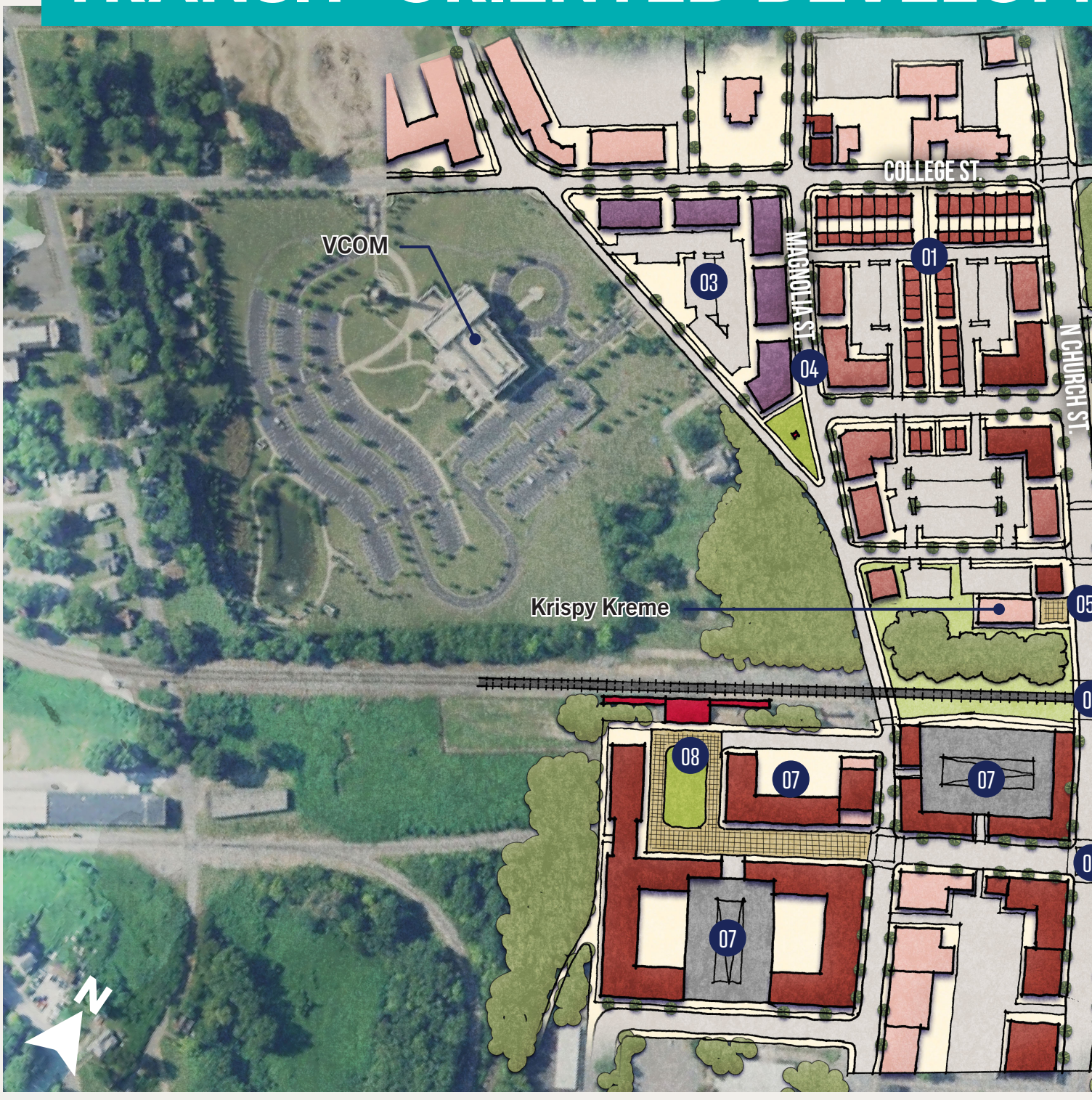
06 Infill buildings to define the street edge better than existing parking areas.

07 Sidewalks and street trees.

08 Harvest Park that contains community gardens, food stands and a food hall. This builds off the existing landscape supply store that is across the greenway.

09 The Rail Yard and the Play60 NFL.

TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPM



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MENT

LEGEND

01 Redeveloped County site with higher density: rowhouses and mixed-use buildings facing the streets.

02 New buildings by auditorium define the space facing the green area.

03 New institutional buildings to accommodate potential expansion of the VCOM campus.

04 New buildings define street and hide existing VCOM parking.

05 New plaza by the Krispy Kreme as well as added corner building.

06 Enhanced streetscape on bridges crossing the railroad tracks.

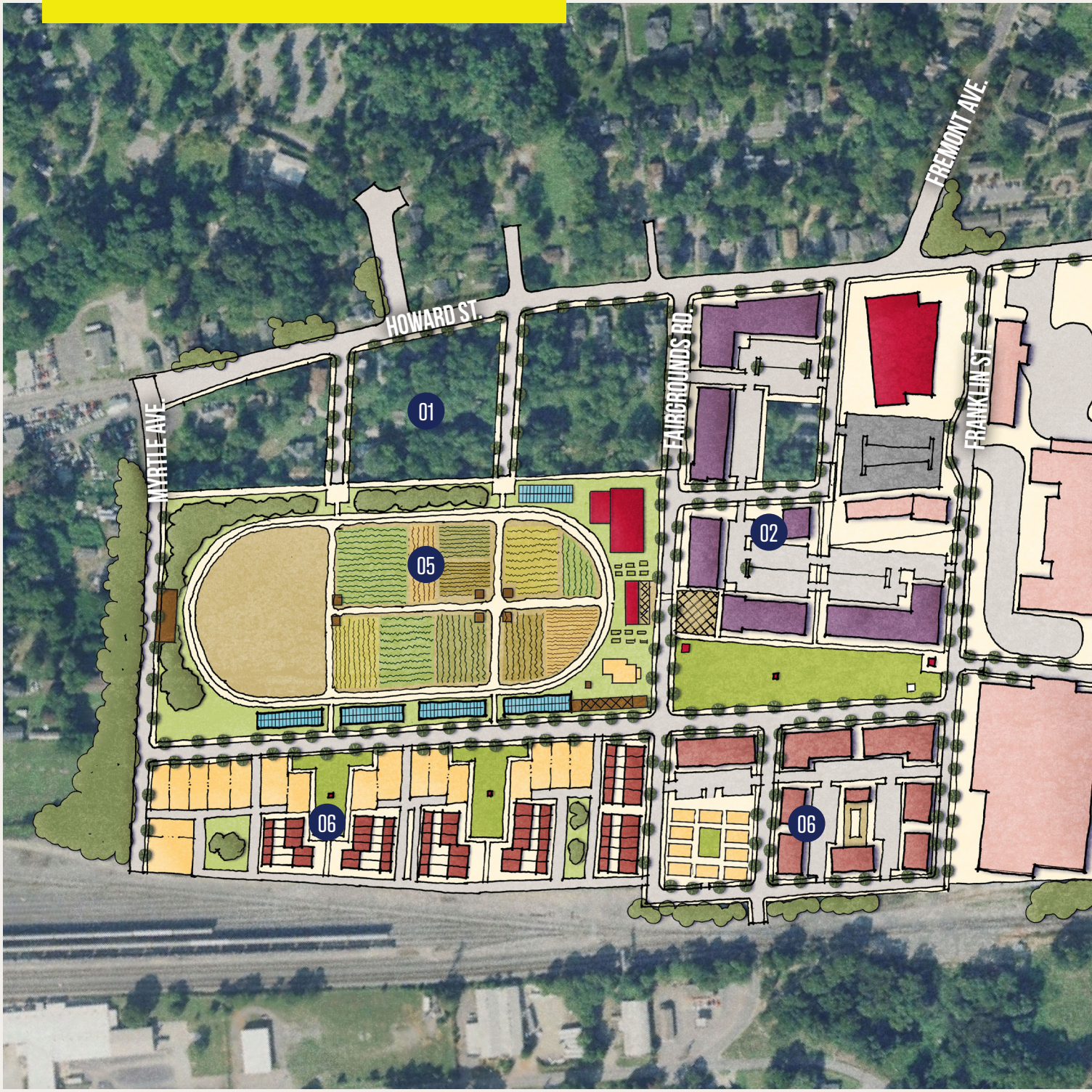
07 Higher density residential with parking structures closer to the rail station.

08 Higher density residential with parking structures closer to the rail station.

09 Buildings defining intersection and adding focus on hotel and its front green space.

With potential future rail service coming to Spartanburg, the area around the train station is a great opportunity for Transit Oriented Development. The existing railroad tracks create a barrier between the areas to the north and south. This plan demonstrates how to stitch those sides back together with a mix of housing, institutional and existing buildings. There are opportunities for both infill and redevelopment with higher density closer to the train station. The County complex site can be redeveloped with higher density to support transit. Buildings define the edges of streets with parking tucked behind.

FAIRGROUNDS



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The fairgrounds plan builds off the existing Franklin Center and Dr. T.K. Gregg Community Center to create an academic village. The plan shows a trade school for an additional education option and the old factory buildings redeveloped into a manufacturing area where people could put their education into practice. Baseball, soccer and basketball courts are shown as an amenity for the academic village and neighborhood. The old track area could be used for agriculture such as greenhouses, crops, bee farms, etc. to teach self sufficiency and sustainability. The existing single family neighborhood is preserved, but a mix of housing types are added to the area and the street network is connected into the neighborhood.

LEGEND

01 Existing single-family neighborhood.

02 Academic village.

03 Repurposed or replaced industrial buildings with manufacturing space to complement trade school.

04 Existing tank.

05 Sustainable food production teaching area.

06 Mix of single family housing, rowhouses, and multi-family housing.

07 Baseball, soccer and basketball courts added as an amenity to the neighborhood.

WESTGATE MALL REDEVELOPM

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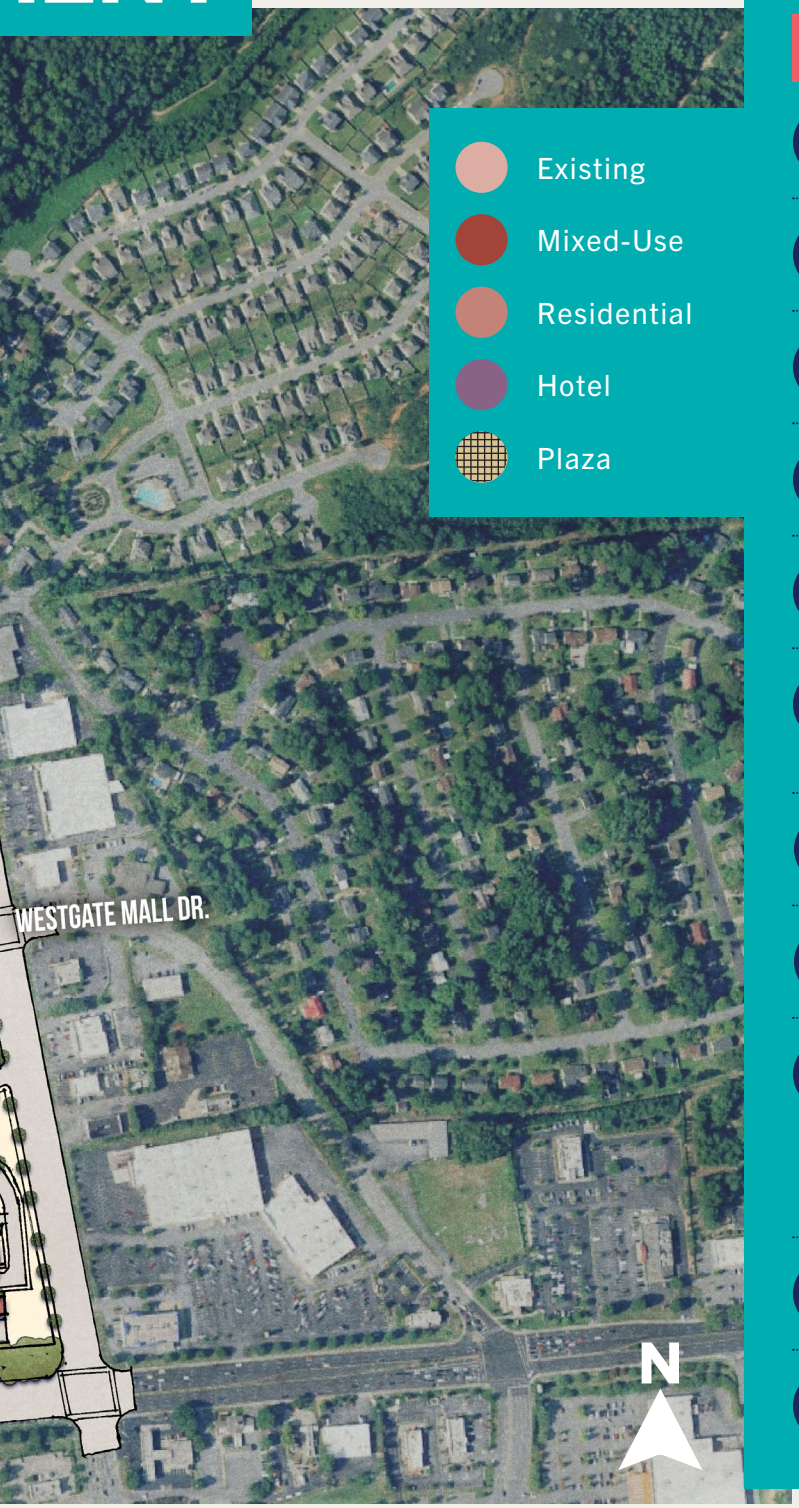

LEGEND

01 Structured parking with liner buildings.

02 Mixed-use streetscape with people living above businesses.

03 Townhouses.

04 Multi-family housing.

05 Hotel.

06 Existing Costco is maintained with buildings added to line the surface parking lot.

07 Liner buildings to shield parking expanse from view.

08 A pedestrian plaza was added in front of the existing movie theater.

09 Mixed-use buildings line the existing anchor buildings to frame the pedestrian plaza. String lights between the buildings can help to add character and a sense of place.

10 Buildings define and face preserved green area.

11 Existing strip center with liner buildings to shield parking from view.

WESTGATE MALL REDEVELOPM

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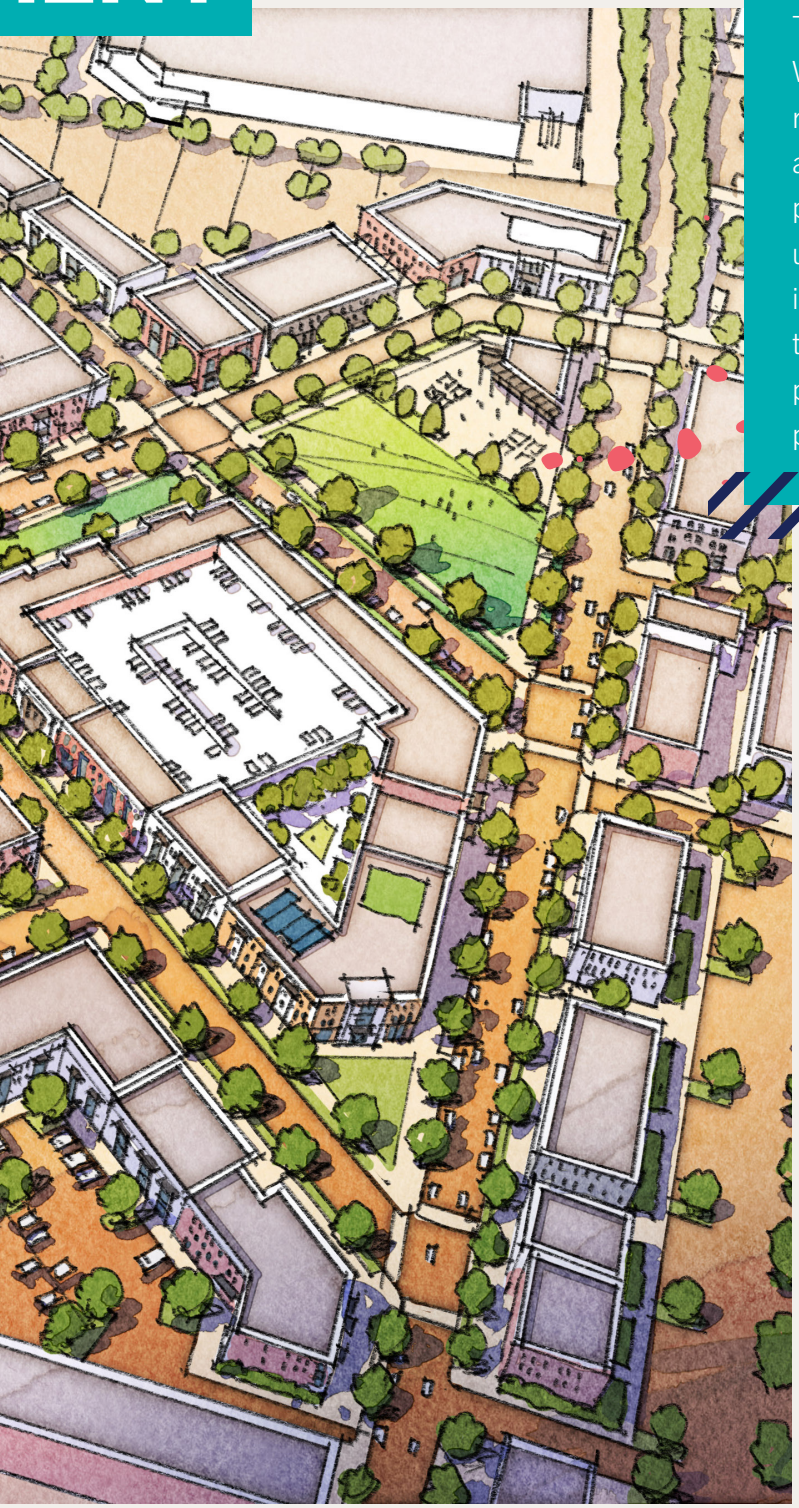

The plan demonstrates how to transform the WestGate Mall into a more dynamic, walkable redevelopment. The anchor department stores are saved with a mix of uses added to line the parking and create a great streetscape. The plan utilizes the topography for structured parking built into the topography with liner buildings screening the parking from the street. A series of parks and plazas and an urban green network trail system provides connectivity throughout the site.

GRAIN DISTRICT

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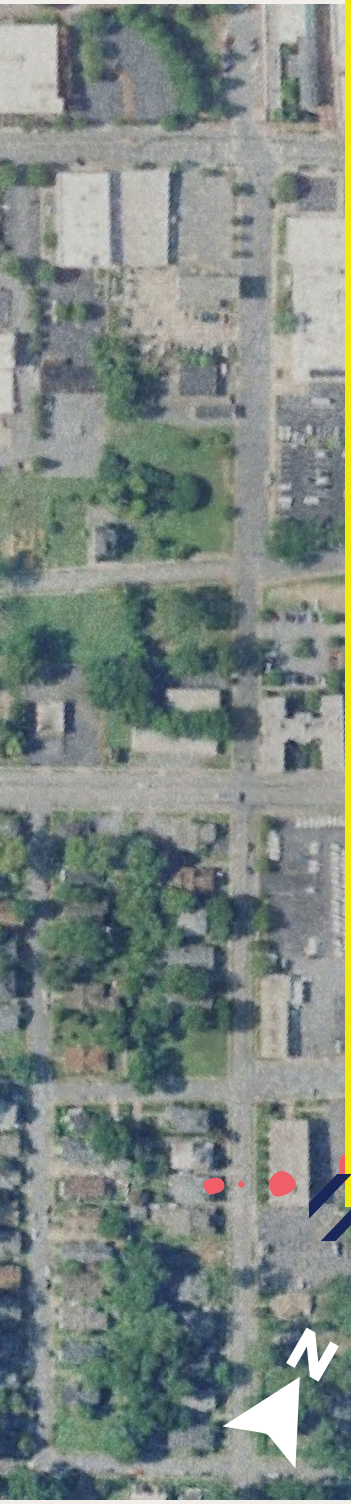

LEGEND

01 Repurposed historic building and ruin into a space that could be used for a food hall, co-working spaces, and/or market.

02 New civic open space that can be used for popup markets and community gathering and events.

03 Liner buildings to screen the parking on the existing hotel site.

04 Variety of new housing, business, and incubator spaces with parking in the rear.

05 Repurposed existing buildings for community uses that frame a new park space.

06 New community buildings.

07 New residential area with park on both sides of S. Daniel Morgan.

08 Road diet to make S. Daniel Morgan a more pedestrian-friendly, neighborhood-scale street.

GRAIN DISTRICT

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There is opportunity in the Grain District to build on the industrial character and heritage and to explore ideas for coworking, food halls, commercial incubator kitchens, and markets. This plan shows the historic industrial buildings being repurposed alongside added civic spaces for community gathering areas and popup markets for small scale vendors. A street network has been created throughout the site with small scale buildings framing the street and parking in the rear. On the south side of W. Henry Street, the plan transitions to residential to create an extension of the Hampton Heights neighborhood. A road diet is shown on S. Daniel Morgan to create a more neighborhood scale, pedestrian friendly street.

GRAIN DISTRICT

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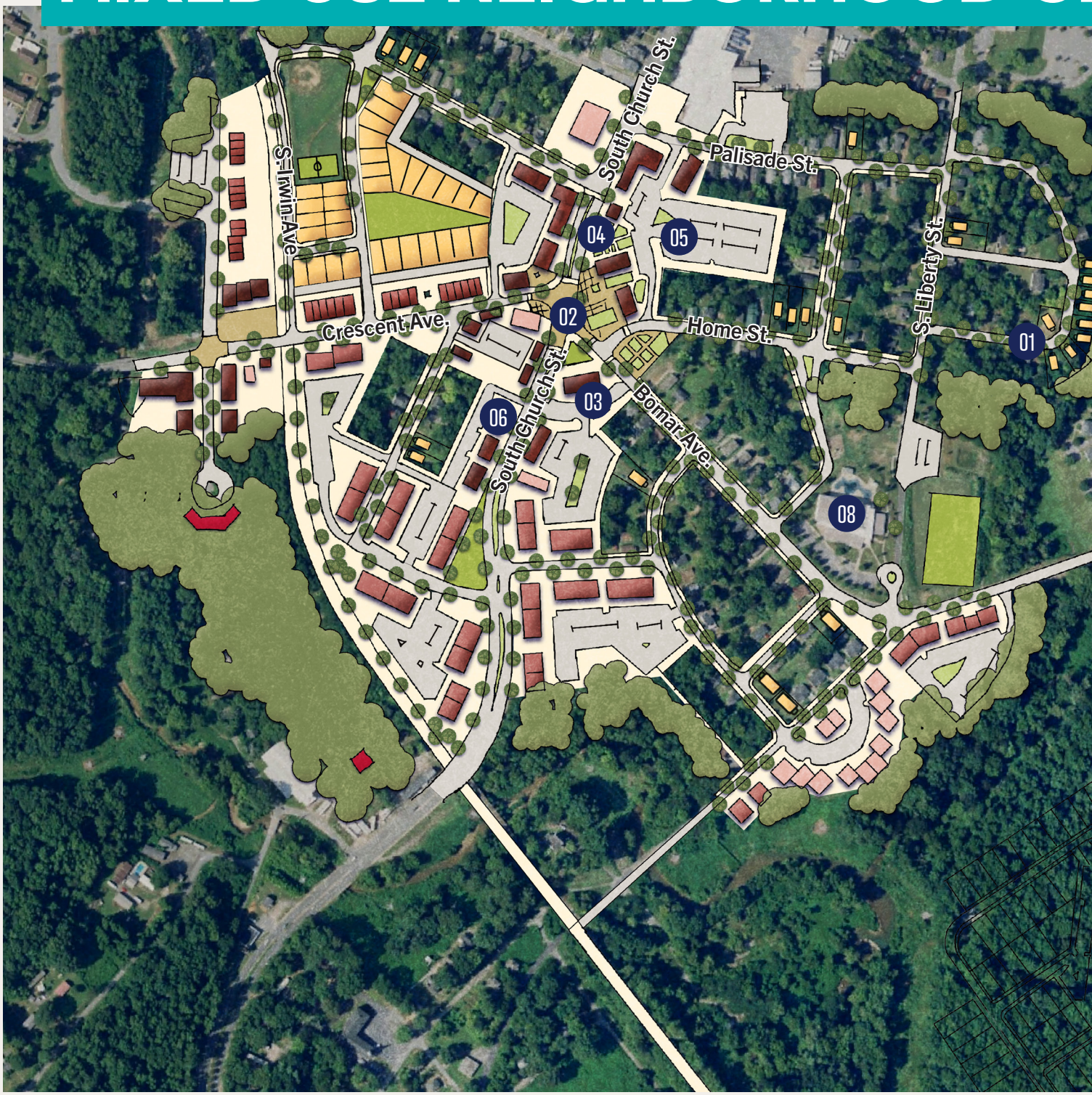
MIXED USE NEIGHBORHOOD C



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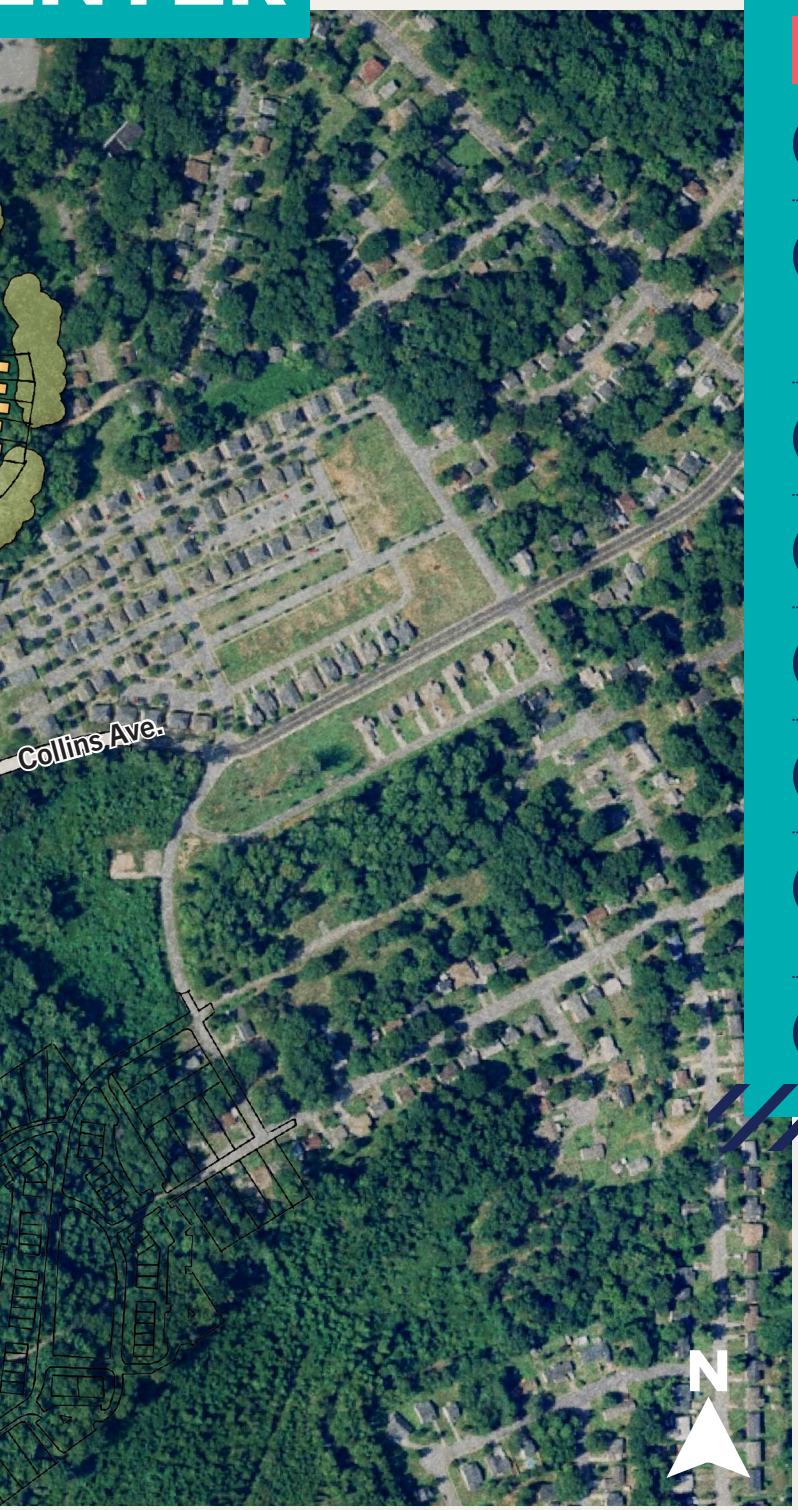
ENTER



LEGEND

01 Existing residential streets with infill homes on vacant lots.

02 Reorganized neighborhood center with new mixed-used buildings and the existing church facing gathering spaces with plazas and fountains.

03 Neighborhood-scale multifamily buildings with six to eight units each.

04 Harvest Park South with community gardens.

05 Rear parking areas with sustainable stormwater management.

06 New buildings along South Church frame a walkable streetscape.

07 New infill residential neighborhood with a mix of single-family and townhouses that frame a park space.

08 C.C. Woodson Recreation Center

MIXED USE NEIGHBORHOOD C

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ENTER

This plan centered on the South Church Street and Bomar Avenue intersection demonstrates how to take an area adjacent to a neighborhood and create a neighborhood center for people to have their daily needs met close to their home. It shows a mix of housing types and mixed use close to the intersection. At the intersection, a neighborhood park creates a gathering space with buildings fronting on to it. The illustration builds off the harvest park model that already exists in Spartanburg to create Harvest Park South with urban agriculture as an amenity to the neighborhood. The neighborhood center transitions to neighborhoods with a mix of residential. An improved streetscape connects neighborhoods into the center.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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