

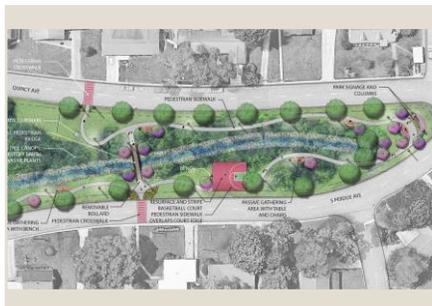
Recreation and Natural Assets

Core Objective

Maintain and expand a beautiful and healthy natural environment and recreational assets that are accessible to everyone.

Key Components

*Connectivity
Accessibility
Safety
Environmental Quality
Aesthetics/Beauty
Preservation*



Rails to Trails Greenway Progress



In the FY2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) and the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) have approved the use of federal transportation funds for 80% of the full construction cost of the 4.8-mile greenway along abandoned rails in Oak Ridge. A 20% local funding match is required. At this time the project consultant has completed preliminary design, and the next phase involves railway acquisition and final design.

The Greenway system brings parkland nearer to all Oak Ridge citizens. It provides opportunity for motorless commuting, enjoyable physical exercise, learning experiences about wildlife, and connects to parks, schools, and shopping areas.

Woodland Park Construction



During an early meeting of the City Blueprint process, citizens suggested improving the greenspace between Purdue and Quincy in the Woodland neighborhood. The Community Development Department committed to help turn this space into a neighborhood pocket park, and initial clearing and creek restoration work was done shortly thereafter.

In the FY2019 Annual Action Plan, federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are allocated for Woodland Park as neighborhood improvement in one of the City's target areas. The first phase of the park will be completed in 2020, including a pedestrian walking trail around the greenspace, new crosswalks to adjacent streets, picnic table and bench installation, and screening and signage at the basketball court.

Senior Center Completed



After many years in the process, construction on a new Senior Center for Oak Ridge was completed in September of 2019 with a Grand Opening following in October. The new center houses a recreation room, a lounge area, an exercise room as well as meeting rooms for classes and programs for citizens age 50 and older. This new facility allows opportunities for recreation, information, volunteerism, education, health screening, and physical fitness to help keep our older citizens active and engaged in the community.

"Greatest place to hang out with friends and to make new friends."
(Facebook post)