

The River Line Historic Area embraces historic and natural resources near the Chattahoochee River to unite the community as a place of distinction.



Remains of an 1864 Shoupade on Fort Drive, Cobb County, Georgia

Acknowledgements

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Chattahoochee River

1.0 Overview

1.1 Project Beginning

The Mableton Improvement Coalition nonprofit serves as an umbrella organization for the River Line Historic Area Committee, which is most beneficial in attracting and managing financial grants. Using a grant from The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, the Mableton Improvement Coalition contracted for a conceptual study of the entire River Line Historic Area, which is located in southeast Cobb County. This project was intended to be a complement to a study being done by Cobb County in the River Line area.

Cobb County's River Line study area is bounded to the south by the Chattahoochee River (which forms the boundary between Fulton and Cobb counties) and to the north by Buckner Road. The focus of the Cobb County study was to develop a master plan that looked at land use, preservation, recreation, and non-vehicular transportation planning for this part of the county. The Cobb County study area was limited in size in part because of budget constraints, and also because the County did not want to include Vinings as part of the study at this time.

The Mableton Improvement Coalition's (MIC) defined study area for the River Line Historic Area is considerably larger. This study takes a broader look at the issues within the area and seeks to provide a framework for future endeavors by MIC's River Line Historic Area Committee (RLHA).

1.2 Project Scope of Work

Prior to commencement of this project, a scope of work was developed to help define expectations.

TASK A. EXISTING CONDITIONS ANALYSIS

The consultant attended a kick off meeting with the project stakeholder group to review the RLHA Committee's goals, objectives and schedule for the project.

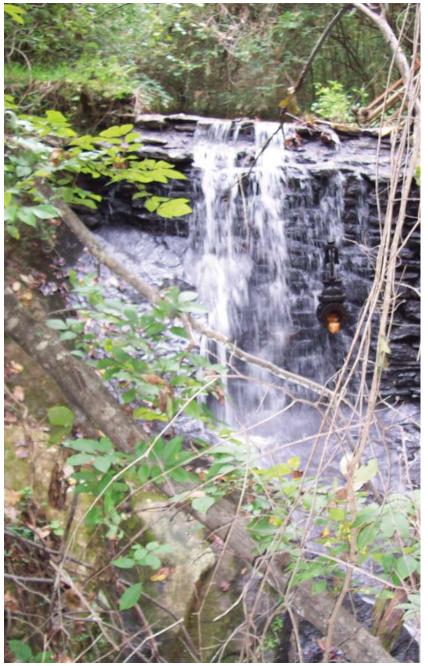
The first task was to conduct a review and analysis of the project site. The consultant analyzed the study area's existing land use, future land use, existing and proposed trail and sidewalk networks, environmental constraints and assets, and community facilities. Also, the consultant conducted a general review of existing known historic remnants.

TASK B. STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Conducting an open process is an essential foundation in building community support, which in turn facilitates the necessary political approvals and, ultimately, the optimum plan for the site. An open process is one that invites, welcomes and thoroughly considers the ideas and concerns of area residents and other interested parties.

It was the responsibility of the core team to guide the development of a longrange vision for the site, mediate among the stakeholders, coordinate with Cobb County, and engage a stakeholder group interested in cultural and historic resources. The consultant conducted meetings in charrette-like work sessions and documented comments and input, graphically showing how the discussions address the study area. The following meetings were conducted in conjunction with project milestones for the stakeholder involvement task.

- Work Session 1 following the review and analysis of existing conditions task.
- Work Session 2 following development of the preliminary concept and draft products.
- Work Session 3 following the refinement of a preferred conceptual master plan and final draft products.



TASK C. INITIAL CONCEPTUAL SCHEMES

Based on initial findings and on input, the consultant created a Conceptual Master Plan, intended to be consistent with the vision statement developed for the project.

The Conceptual Master Plan was presented at the stakeholder group meeting. The goal of this workshop was to arrive at a refined master plan, referred to as the Preliminary Draft Master Plan.

TASK D. PRELIMINARY DRAFT MASTER PLAN

A Preliminary Draft Master Plan was prepared based upon feedback from MIC's RLHA Committee. Their comments were evaluated and developed into a plan that reflects the project team's recommendation.

TASK E. FINAL MASTER PLAN REPORT

After meeting with the MIC's River Line Historic Area Committee and conducting Work Session 3 with stakeholders, the consultant prepared the Master Plan report, which addressed comments to date from the various stakeholder groups. The Master Plan report summarizes the "complete process" for the project.

Howell Mill Dam

2.0 Stakeholder Participation

2.1 Importance of Stakeholder Involvement

For a project such as the River Line Historic Area, it is critical that local stakeholders have an active role. This type of project takes years to implement, and the only way it can become a reality is if individuals and organizations step forward and help lead the way.

2.2 Stakeholder Meetings

Three stakeholder meetings were planned for the River Line Historic Area project. The first work session followed the review and analysis of existing conditions task. The second followed the development of the preliminary design concept and draft products, and the third meeting followed the refinement of a preferred conceptual master plan.

2.2.1 MEETING 1 (DECEMBER 11, 2008 AT WHITEFIELD ACADEMY)

The first stakeholder meeting was held at the Whitefield Academy, which is located within the study area. The purpose of this meeting was to review the objectives of the project and to seek input from the group. The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

- What are we trying to accomplish?
- Scope of Work
- Visioning and Goal-Setting
- Mapping Exercise
- Next Steps

The presentation started with a short discussion of the overall goals of the project, and how we would be working with local stakeholders to develop the Master Plan. There was also a discussion of how this project fits with the work being conducted on the Cobb County River Line project.





Scope of Work

The Scope of Work was presented in order to give the group an idea of what was expected. The scope of work was simplified in order to make it easier to present, and was defined in six major steps. They are:

- Vision and goal-setting
- Develop resource maps
- Develop preliminary design concept
- Develop final design concept
- Prepare Implementation Plan
- Prepare final documents

The presentation also included an overview of the scope of work for Cobb County's River Line project.

Visioning and Goal Setting

The Visioning and Goal Setting part of the presentation focused on three fundamental questions:

- What is the River Line Historic Area?
- What is your vision for the River Line Historic Area?
- What are the critical issues/components that need to be addressed?

Mapping Exercise

There was also a mapping session at the meeting. The intention of the mapping session was to gather local knowledge and identify key resources on a map, and to use this information to generate different planning concepts. Among the topics discussed during this part of the presentation were:

- Critical issues / components
- Opportunities / resources
- Constraints
- Land use
- Connectivity

Participants were asked to gather around a table and mark up a map in order to show their areas of concern or interest.

Comments

Comments from the meeting include the following:

• Why did Cobb County pick the River Line area to study? Partly it is because the area is going through a lot of change, and the County wanted to focus



on the area to develop specific recommendations and an implementation plan to address issues. The Community Development Department generated the boundaries for their study. Budgetary concerns forced the County to concentrate on a smaller study area.

- The Cobb County plan does not include Vinings.
- There are more historic resources in the area beyond Civil War remnants. Other important resources include those of Native Americans. They came because of the available source of water and because this was a good place to grow crops. The stakeholders wanted to be receptive to all historic resources.
- Geologically the river follows a fault line.

During the Visioning Session, the following comments were made:

- Civil War resources, such as the Shoupades, were mentioned frequently. But it is important to remember that there is also a much bigger scope of history involved.
- There are also other important resources to consider for the future, including public access to the river, hiking trails, restaurant over river, and a river walk. This is one of few places in this area where there is not much development around river.
- People felt we don't give the Chattahoochee River enough attention; it is a resource that can drive up real estate values.
- Two important issues that were identified were that people don't have access to the river, and many don't even know it is there.
- One issue is that there are many things that are taken for granted about this area, including: South Cobb Drive, Veterans Pkwy, I-285 – major regional arterials; 10 miles away from Phipps Plaza and CNN Plaza on surface streets. Railroads and creeks have protected the area from development. There were a lot of camps and summer homes here, and it was considered to be a retreat area.
- The river is the focus. It is why people came here to begin with. We need to identify different periods of growth to create a theme that focuses on development of the river as a resource.

- A visual preference survey is helpful for generating ideas. Though is not part of this study, it could be beneficial going forward.
- There is a woodland component that needs to be preserved.
- The historic area is composed of several small-scale communities which arose because of the connection to the river.
- We need to improve visual access to the river.
- There is a lack of sense of community, but it's improving due to new development; this has to do with lack of gathering areas.
- Unlike Vinings, the River Line area doesn't have a recognizable name or a strong sense of place.
- There is an opportunity with City of Atlanta being on the other side of river. An LCI (Livable Communities Initiative) study is planned for this area.
- There is a lot of industrial on Riverview Road.
- The "organizing factor" is the Chattahoochee River and Nickajack Creek.
- The area is potentially too large to be defined as one community; maybe it is a collection of communities.
- There is a perfect opportunity for this study because industrial lots may be more willing to part with property.
- All of Riverview Road is included in this study. It could be a gracious entry point into Cobb County.







- Riverview Road was historically a dumping ground (wrecking yards, smelters, asphalt companies).
- There is 50 million square feet of antiquated industrial space in Fulton County across the river.
- We estimated that the study area is about 10 square miles in size.
- Many envision the area as a tourist attraction due to the Shoupades. They need to be connected (some are in Vinings, some in Veterans Memorial); some linkages have been lost due to development in the area.
- The area needs historic interpretation. A visitor center could help convey all aspects of the history of the area.
- The viewshed needs protecting. What did the area look like in past?
- Growth is seen as positive for this area.
- How many Shoupades are left, and which ones are accessible? There
 were 36 original, and 8 are left. Some can be accessed from surrounding
 neighborhoods. Some are still pristine. At the 100 acres off Veterans
 Memorial on the river you can walk the ridge line.

- The plan can help attract tourism for the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.
- There are four major trench lines in Cobb County, and over 100 miles of earthworks just in Cobb County. There were 180,000 men here during the Civil War.
- Who are we creating River Line area for? We need to think of future generations, and help younger people visualize why they should want to live and work here. How do we blend history and development?
- Plans for the area need to take into account both tourists and residents.
- Pieces of history that need to be emphasized include railroading. The great locomotive chase was here (Atlanta was Terminus); the Silver Comet Trail is located where railroad tracks used to be; a trolley line used to go through this area (trolley stop at Log Cabin).
- There are a number of interesting sites, such as the 100 acres on the river, the 24 acres at Nickajack, and the Ohio Battery, and the key is to develop a vision that ties them together.
- Historic cemeteries in the area are not officially protected, but the Cobb County Cemetery Committee takes care of many.

Some of the comments about the mapping exercise included the following:

• At Oakdale Road & Fort Drive there is access to Shoupades.



- This is the "northwest perimeter of Atlanta" rather than Mableton; it could be called "River Line, Georgia."
- One key is to pull River Line pieces together, including cemeteries, trenches, railroads, etc.
- One possibility is to include a visitor center, auditorium, and display stages – recreating what it looked like through the centuries. The Hooper Turner House could be used as a visitor center; it has high visibility on Oakdale Road and a central location in the River Line Historic Area.
- One idea is to involve the Girl Scouts / Boy Scouts. There is a Girl Scout camp still functioning off Veterans Memorial Highway.
- At the end of Fort Drive there is one Shoupade. Suggest four houses here be condemned to convert to green space.
- The only good view of the river is at the 100 acre site along Discovery Boulevard. There are also good views to Atlanta from Oakdale Road.

2.2.2 MEETING 2 (MARCH 18, 2009 AT WHITEFIELD ACADEMY)

The 2nd workshop was held March 18, 2009 at Whitefield Academy. The intention of this workshop was to discuss the Preliminary Concept.

Agenda

The Agenda for the meeting was as follows:

- Welcome & Introductions
- Scope of Work
- Resource Maps
- Review Draft Vision Statement & Goals
- Review Composite Map
- Feedback on Products (i.e. handout, poster, & booklet)
- Next Steps & Close

Resource Maps

The resource maps that were completed earlier in the process were shared at the meeting. These maps provide the foundation for planning recommendations, and they should support future efforts in the River Line Historic Area. The resource maps included:

- Study Area Boundaries
- Cobb County Existing Land Use
- Environmental Resources
- Cobb County Future Land Use

- MIC Trail and Sidewalk Recommendations
- Cobb County Trails

Vision Statement

A Draft Vision Statement was developed for the River Line Historic Area. It stated:

"Rising from the banks of the Chattahoochee River, the River Line Historic Area is a community where history, nature, and modern lifestyles are intertwined. Development is based on a philosophy of sustainability that permeates where we live, work, shop, and play."

"Although just minutes away from downtown Atlanta, River Line embraces the best features of small town life. Children can walk to school, and residents and visitors have places to gather. Trails and sidewalks knit the area together, and opportunities to learn about the rich history of the area abound."

The general consensus was that the statement was too long and too vague. Most thought the focus needed to be more on the historic characteristics of the River Line area.

The RLHA Committee later developed a more condensed vision statement, as follows: "The River Line Historic Area embraces historic and natural resources near the Chattahoochee River to unite the community as a place of distinction." (See Section 4 - Master Plan.)

Products

The review of products included a two-page handout that featured a map of the River Line Historic Area on one side, and text about the Civil War on the other.

The poster included a map of the River Line Historic Area, and focused on the historic resources in the area. It also included photographs of these resources. The poster is intended to be an information display about the River Line Historic Area.

The third product was a small brochure that includes multiple pages to tell the story of the River Line Historic Area. One two-page layout focused on the history, and another on the natural resources and open space in the River Line area. The third two-page layout focuses on the vision statement and general goals.

Notes

Notes from the workshop include the following:

Context & Background

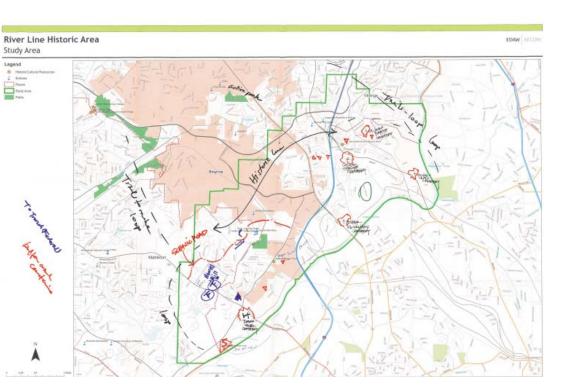
- River Line Historic Area (RLHA) is around 7 miles long; Vinings is located in top half of area
- The RLHA boundary was formed by identifying land lots that contain earthworks; this is the reason for the jagged border

Comments on Deliverables (i.e. handout, brochure, and poster)

- Using the aerial photograph as background: too busy?
- EDAW will test 2 versions of the maps: one with a background aerial image which is more faded and one without an aerial
- The aerial may be more appropriate for the larger poster piece
- Smyrna soccer field needs to be on maps
- More children need to be depicted in visionary images of area
- Including an inset map, which shows where the RLHA area is in its wider context (i.e. in Cobb County, near Atlanta), could be helpful
- Label and emphasize Chattahoochee River on maps (it's one of the area's biggest assets so promote it)
- Label I-285 and other major thoroughfares more clearly
- Show the trench line where it is relative to the other trench lines (this is the 4th)
- Add Whitefield Academy and Pace Academy fields on maps as assets
- Stakeholders have more images of the area which can be used in materials, which include photos from Whitefield Academy picnics and possibly Vinings Estates residents ("United Nations in Cobb County"), as well as historic photos (GBA)
- Emphasize the importance of preservation in the area focus should be on the historic assets of RLHA
- Branding and identity will be important elements to clarify and highlight

Emerging Goals

• Support the establishment of the Nickajack Creek Trail and Chattahoochee River Walk connections to the Silver Comet Trail



- Have historic cemeteries adopted
- Protect Shoupades
- Improve streetscape connect North Oakdale Road with South Oakdale Road using historic street lamps with flags, River Line Historic Area logo, or signs
- Establish River Line Historic Area nonprofit
- Support the planning of and public access to new parks
- Support new and improvement of existing sidewalks
- Be part of the upcoming Sesquicentennial celebration/events
- Establish the Hooper-Turner house as RLHA focal point

2.2.3 MEETING 3 (JULY 8, 2009 AT WHITEFIELD ACADEMY)

The third and final meeting was conducted on July 8, 2009 at Whitefield Academy. The preferred conceptual master plan, final products, and implementation strategies were reviewed.

3.0 Resource Maps

3.1 Production of Resource Maps

Existing data was collected and organized to create a series of Resource Maps of the River Line Historic Area.

The maps generated for this study include:

- Study Area
- Cobb County Existing Land Use
- Cobb County Future Land Use
- Environment
- MIC Trail & Sidewalk Recommendations
- Cobb County Trails

3.2 Data Sources

Most of the data used to develop the Resource Maps for the River Line Historic Area was provide by Cobb County. Cobb County departments utilize geospatial information for their work involving: public safety, community development, taxation, infrastructure management, parks and cultural affairs, and other government services. The County's Geographic Information System (GIS) data was used to generate most of the resource maps for this project.

According to the Cobb County web site, "A Geographic Information System (GIS) uses computers and software to map and analyze places and events on the earth's surface. GIS allows a person to view, understand, question, interpret and visualize data" The County's GIS Plan is refined on a yearly basis to accommodate changing county needs and new GIS technology.

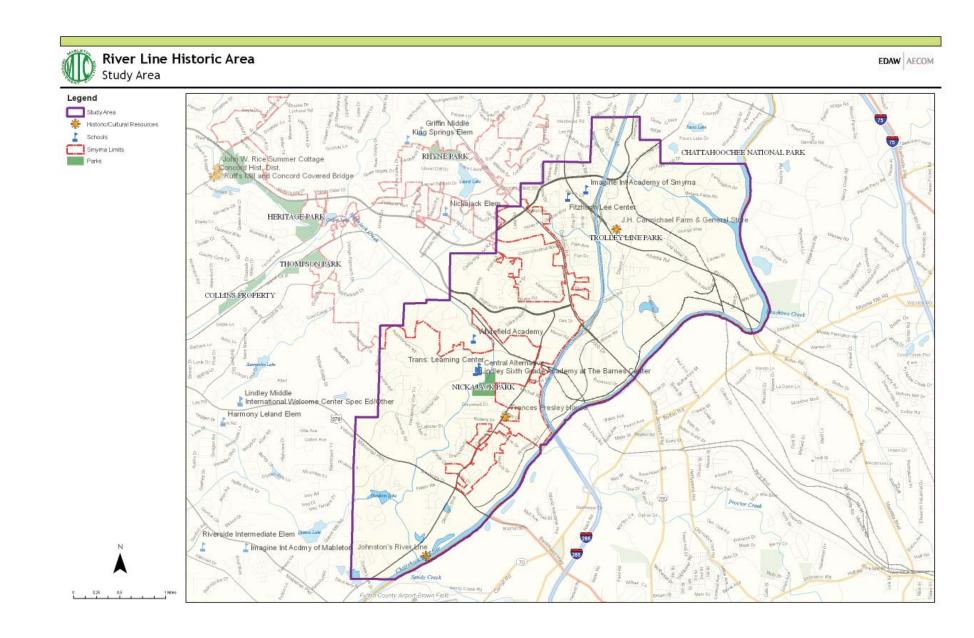
The GIS data used to produce the Resource Maps for the River Line Historic Area is the most current and up-to-date available from the County, but it is

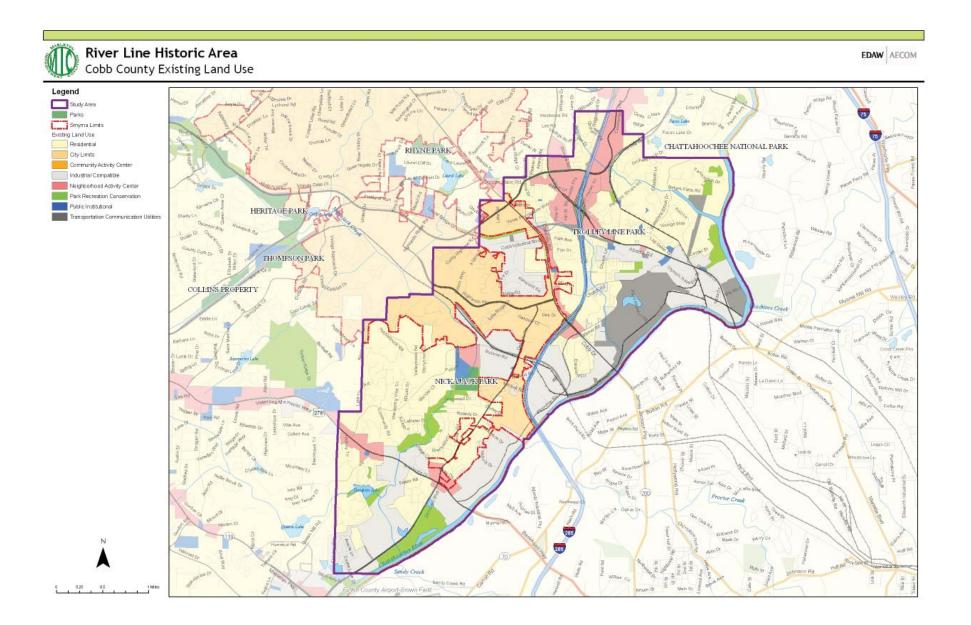
intended to provide the basic information needed to take a broad-brush look at the area.

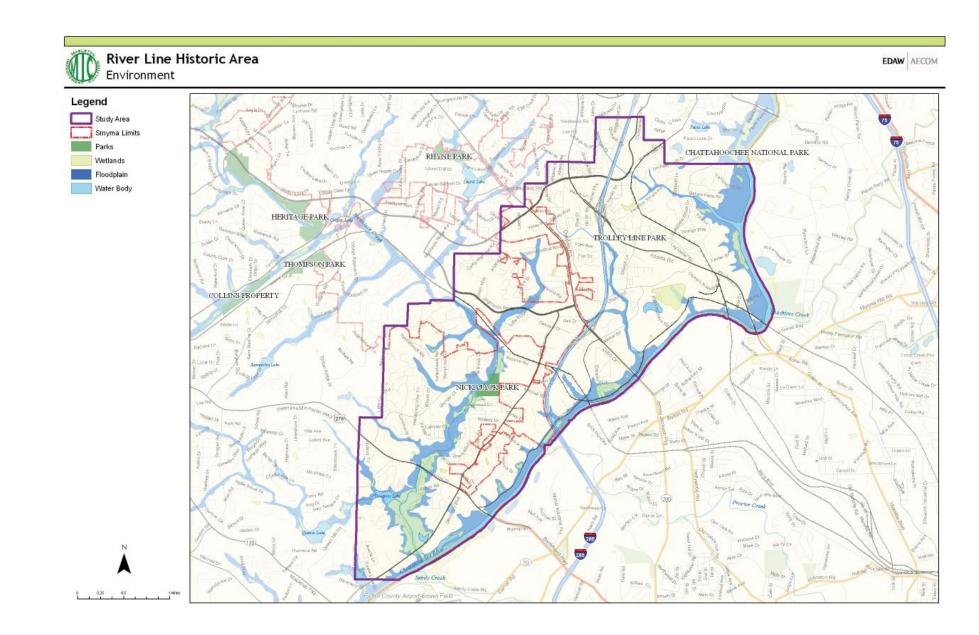
Among the kinds of data used to generate the Resource Maps are:

- Transportation
- Existing Land Use
- Future Land Use
- Parks and Recreation
- Public Land
- Environmental Floodplains & Wetlands
- Existing and Proposed Trails
- City Limits
- Facilities
- Sub-divisions
- Historic and Cultural Resources
- Site Plans for Proposed Developments

The Historic Location of Civil War Earthworks map produced by Cobb County shows the original Civil War Trench Lines. The River Line Historic Area is located in the southeast portion of the county. Connected by land lots, it is possible to see how the RLHA boundary was configured to encompass all of the earthworks in the area.



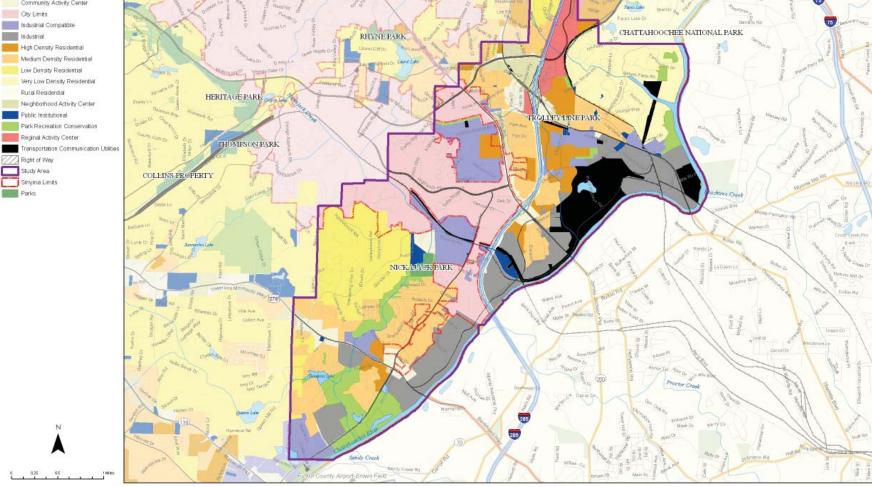




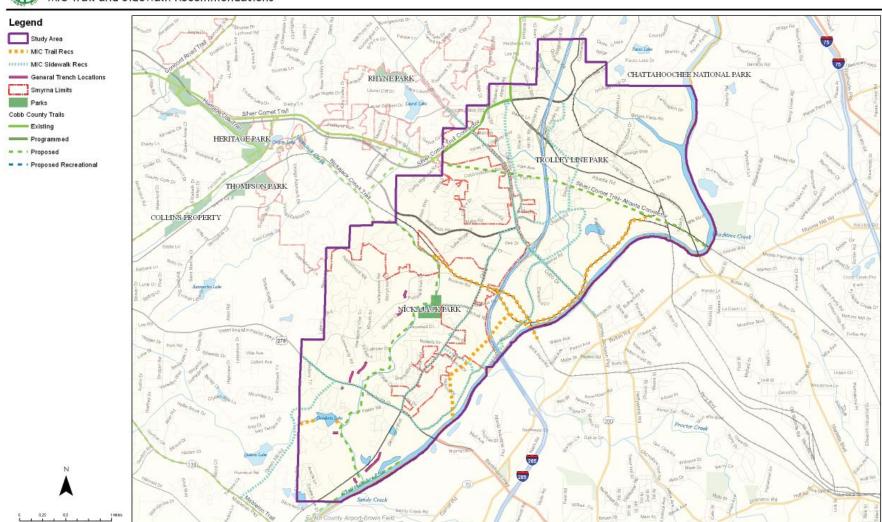
River Line Historic Area Cobb County Future Land Use (2008)

EDAW AECOM

Legend 2008 Future Land Use Community Activity Center



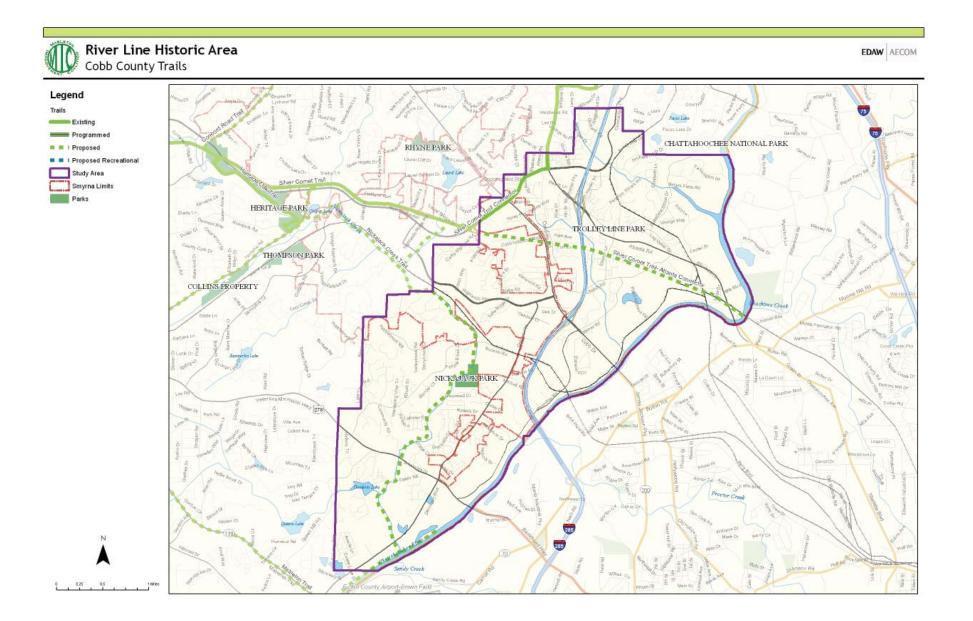
3.0 Resource Maps

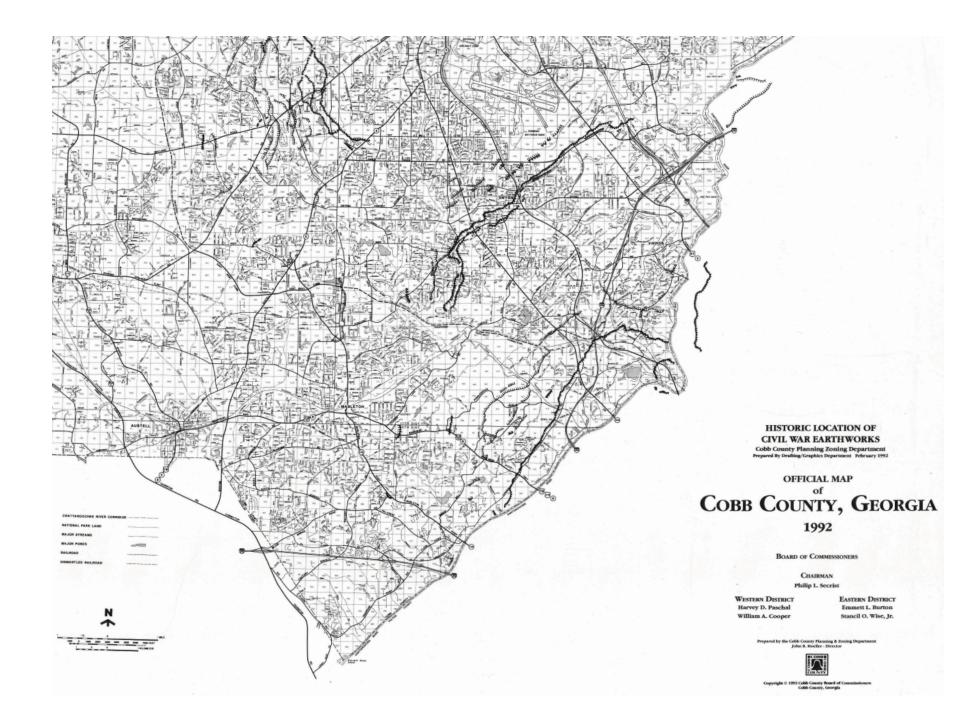


River Line Historic Area MIC Trail and Sidewalk Recommendations

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3.0 Resource Maps





4.0 Master Plan Development

4.1 Purpose of the Master Plan

The Master Plan for the River Line Historic Area is intended to provide a blueprint for determining how to address the issues within the study area. The River Line Historic Area (RLHA) is an area in transition, and a master plan will help manage the changes.

4.2 River Line Historic Area Vision Statement

The River Line Historic Area Committee developed a short, concise vision statement for this project. It is as follows:

"The River Line Historic Area embraces historic and natural resources near the Chattahoochee River to unite the community as a place of distinction."

This vision statement lays the foundation for developing a master plan for the River Line Historic Area.

4.3 River Line Historic Area Goals

The RLHA Committee developed a series of goals to drive the master planning process. These goals were developed to address the issues within the River Line Historic Area.

GOALS

- Build Nickajack Creek & Chattahoochee River trails
- Open Henderson Road Park and Johnston River Line Parks to the public
- Enhance streetscapes in the River Line Historic Area, joining North and South Oakdale Road
- Preserve the Hooper-Turner House as a Community Historic Landmark
- Restore historic features in the Hooper-Turner House, with trails leading to the creek

- Prepare the RLHA for tourism, especially during Sesquicentennial events
- Acquire remaining shoupades and earthworks for their protection
- Seek adoption of all abandoned cemeteries in the RLHA
- Enhance water quality and restore the riverbank where feasible
- Identify and preserve old growth trees
- Preserve wildlife habitat and enhance ecosystem
- Determine potential recreational uses
- Recognize the strategic importance of the river and railroad system
- Develop informational pieces for tours and education
- Establish long term management for the RLHA

4.4 Primary Planning Principles

By analyzing these goals established by the RLHA Committee, a series of planning principles was created to guide the development of a master plan. Specific principles for the River Line Historic Area include:

- Protect Natural Resources
- Emphasize Historic Resources
- Enhance Connectivity
- Build a Stronger Sense of Identity
- Expand Opportunities for Tourism
- Provide Access to the River
- Enhance Recreation Opportunities
- Create Community-friendly Character
- Plan for the Future

As future projects arise, these principles will help ensure that they are consistent with the broader vision established for the River Line Historic Area. By continuing to follow these principles, the RLHA Committee will eventually be able to completely redefine the River Line Historic Area and make it the "distinct" place mentioned in the Vision Statement.

4.5 Integration with Cobb County Master Plan

As mentioned earlier, this project was developed to coincide with the development of a master plan for Cobb County's River Line study. The Cobb County study area is considerably smaller than that defined for the River Line Historic Area.

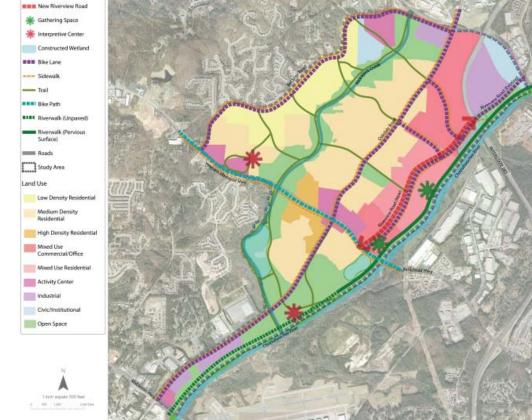
The Cobb County Community Development Agency (ComDev) requested land use, preservation, recreation, and non-vehicular transportation planning services for the development of a master plan in southern Cobb County. There were several desired products of the master plan including:

- Alternate land use scenarios to effectively manage the growth in the area
- Identifying non-vehicular transportation enhancements
- Suggesting multi -use path and recreational trail connections to expand the county's trail network
- Potential new park facilities
- Preservation of existing historic features and structures
- Development of recommendations to improve the quality-of-life for the area

4.5.1 COBB COUNTY MASTER PLAN

For the Cobb County project, three Alternative Planning Concepts were developed. They focused on the following themes:

- 1) Green/Community;
- 2) Historic/Cultural; and
- 3) Village Center



Cobb County River Line Master Plan

The Green/Community concept places an emphasis on natural resources, pedestrian connections, new parks, and community facilities. The idea is to focus on creating a strong sense of identity for the River Line area that is based in large part on parks, trails, and natural resources.

The Historic/Cultural concept emphasizes the rich, diverse history of the River Line area. It seeks to build upon this history and use it as the basis for creating a sense of identity for the area. One concern is that many of the historic resources in the area have been destroyed, so reconstructing or interpreting historic elements may be required.

The Village Center concept focuses on developing an urban center that serves as the heart of the River Line neighborhood, and making the transition from

a bedroom subdivision to a true Village Center. This approach is dependent upon one or more private developers taking the lead on constructing the urban center, but the County can offer incentives to encourage this type of development.

4.5.2 FINAL MASTER PLAN

The strongest elements from the three concepts were combined and then expanded in order to create a Final Master Plan. In particular, this Master Plan is developed around the idea of a Village Center, a strong green infrastructure, and embracing the historical significance of the River Line area.

The Village Center would include commercial, residential, and public uses, and would include public gathering spaces, walkways and trails, and strong visual and physical links to the river.

Roadway improvements need to occur along Oakdale, Buckner and Riverview roads. These roadways should be kept as two-lane roads, with bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides where feasible. These roads should be improved to better accommodate traffic but should also be kept residential in character, with street trees and bioswales.

According to the preferred plan, the natural resources around Nickajack Creek would be preserved and enhanced, with a trail along the creek helping to improve pedestrian connectivity. Developing a River Walk along the Chattahoochee River would provide opportunities for pedestrians to get closer to the water.

The development of an interpretive center within the River Line would provide a place to show some of the history and culture of the area. The center could include meeting rooms, interpretive displays, an archival library, a multi-media room, and historic features.

4.6 Master Plan for River Line Historic Area

The master plan for the River Line Historic Area (RLHA) builds upon the recommendations in the Cobb County Master Plan for the River Line area. Because of the scale of the area, the recommendations for the RLHA are broader and more general. They are intended to help guide projects such as the one developed by Cobb County. These recommendations are described on the following pages.

4.6.1 Historic Plan

This plan shows the historic features within the River Line Historic Area. It includes:

- Federal Civil War Entrenchments
- Johnston's River Line Entrenchments (Confederate)
- Protected Confederate Shoupades
- Protected Federal Entrenchments

4.6.2 Historic Sites

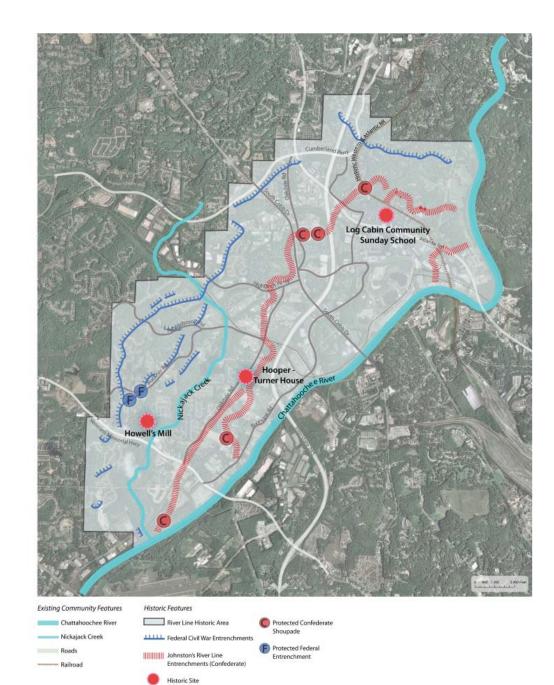
These resources are at the heart of efforts by the River Line Historic Area. It is critical that these historic features be protected where possible, and potentially restored or interpreted where it is not viable to preserve a feature.

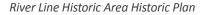
A more thorough historic and cultural resource survey needs to be conducted, however, to determine precise intervention strategies.

An important resource not shown on this map are the local cemeteries. Several of them have historic significance and need to be protected. The cemeteries are not shown on this map because of concern over vandalism.

Effort needs to be made to take care of the existing cemeteries. Programs such as Cobb County's Adopt-A-Cemetery should be promoted. There may also be opportunities to include the cemeteries as part of the interpretation of historic features in the River Line Historic Area. This interpretation should not be on-site, though, unless there are adequate security measures in place to ensure the cemeteries are protected.

A Comprehensive Historic Resource Plan needs to be developed in order to ensure there is a consistent and far-reaching approach to working with these resources. This plan would also include an interpretive plan that outlines how each resource would use to promote tourism in the River Line Historic Area.





4.6.3 Trails & Greenspace Plan

Connectivity is one of the major goals of the River Line Historic Area. The Trails Plan identifies the major trails and gathering spaces within the River Line Historic Area. This map shows:

- Sidewalks
- Nickajack Trail (proposed)
- Silver Comet Trail (existing and planned)
- Multi-use Trail (proposed)
- Riverwalk (proposed)

In addition to the trails, the plan shows areas that provide access to the trails. These include:

- Gathering Spaces
- Interpretive Opportunities
- Gateways

These three areas can come in a variety of forms. They could include trailheads, seating opportunities, areas for entrance signs and welcome signs, interpretive kiosks, small park-like settings, and other types of areas that connect to the trails.

The plan also includes park/conservation areas that parallels Nickajack Creek. This green space will include a series of trails and will serve as the spine that connects to all of the surrounding residential development as well as schools and other public uses.

Cobb County citizens approved a bond issue to support the acquisition of land to serve as parks, and there are a number of areas within the River Line Historic Area that should be considered. Several sites have been nominated by MIC and by other stakeholders in the area. If these sites are acquired, they need to be integrated into the master plan for the RLHA. If they are not acquired at this time, future efforts should be made to establish them as public greenspace.

4.6.4 Composite Plan

The composite plan integrates information from the Trails Plan and the Historic Resources Plan and creates





River Line Historic Area Trails and Greenspace Plan

a comprehensive plan to guide decisions for the River Line Historic Area. The plan includes existing community features, including:

- Silver Comet Trail
- Park/Conservation areas
- Chattahoochee River
- Nickajack Creek
- Roads
- Railroad

It also includes three "green" areas in the northeast that are defined as park/conservation areas in Cobb County's Future Land Use Plan.

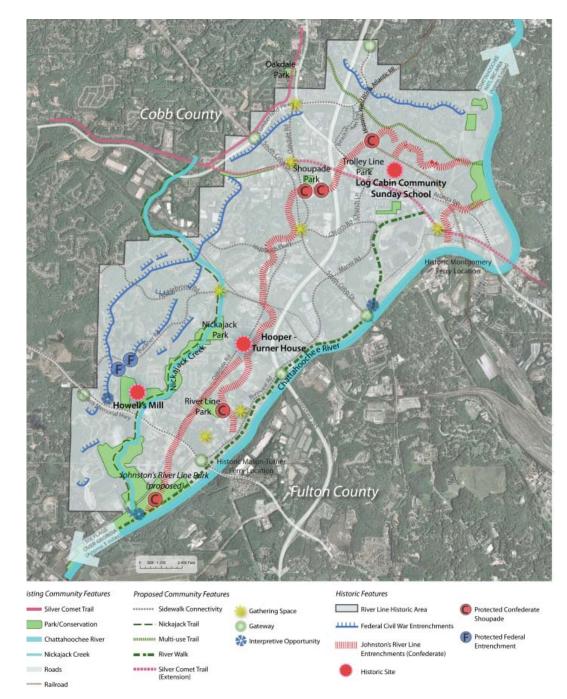
The plan includes historic features, including:

- River Line Historic Area boundary
- Federal Civil War Entrenchments
- Johnston's River Line Entrenchments (Confederate)
- Historic Sites
- Protected Confederate Shoupades
- Protected Federal Entrenchments

The plan also includes a number of proposed community features. These will be projects the River Line Historic Area Committee can work with others to develop. These proposed features include:

- Sidewalk Connectivity
- Nickajack Trail
- Multi-use Trail
- River Walk
- Silver Comet Trail Extension
- Park/Conservation areas
- Gathering Spaces
- Gateways
- Interpretive Opportunities

The concepts in this plan are broad and far-reaching and will take years to implement.



River Line Historic Area Composite Master Plan

5.0 Products

For the River Line Historic Area project, the EDAW team focused on four primary products, which are described below.

5.1 Master Plan Document

This document constitutes the Master Plan for the River Line Historic Area. It includes information about the planning process, scope of work, public meetings, data collected, maps produced, and final products. The purpose of this manuscript is to document the process for the entire project.

5.2. Handout

This is a one-page handout, with information on the front and back, that can be given to anyone interested in learning more about the River Line Historic Area. The document is intended to be $8 \ 1/2'' \times 11''$ to make it easy and affordable to be reproduced. It can be copied or printed in either black and white or in color. On one side of the handout is an article from Living Magazine on "The Civil War in Vinings." The article was written by Marion Blackwell, Jr., and was published in the April-May 2001 addition of the magazine. The article provides a good overview of the historic importance of this area. The article was provided by the River Line Historic Area Committee.

On the other side of the handout is a map prepared for this project showing the composite master plan for the River Line Historic Area. Data for this map was obtained from Cobb County and then augmented with input from the RLHA Committee.

5.3. Brochure

The brochure is a small, eight-page document that provides a quick overview of the findings of the River Line Historic Area project. It would be useful for local stakeholders, interested individuals or organizations, or developers who want to know about the possibilities within the area.

The document contains one two-page layout that focuses on the history of the area. Text and supporting graphics are part of a chronology that highlights key events in and around the River Line area. There is also a copy of the Historic Resources map that depicts historic features that currently exist within the River Line Historic Area. The more people know about the historic resources in the area, the more they will appreciate the importance of these resources.

The next two-page layout highlights the green resources in the area. It identifies existing trails and green space, and also includes key potential gathering spaces and gateways that would help define the overall character of the River Line Historic Area. The proposed extension of the Silver Comet Trail and new Nickajack Creek Trail are also highlighted along with many parks that dot the area.

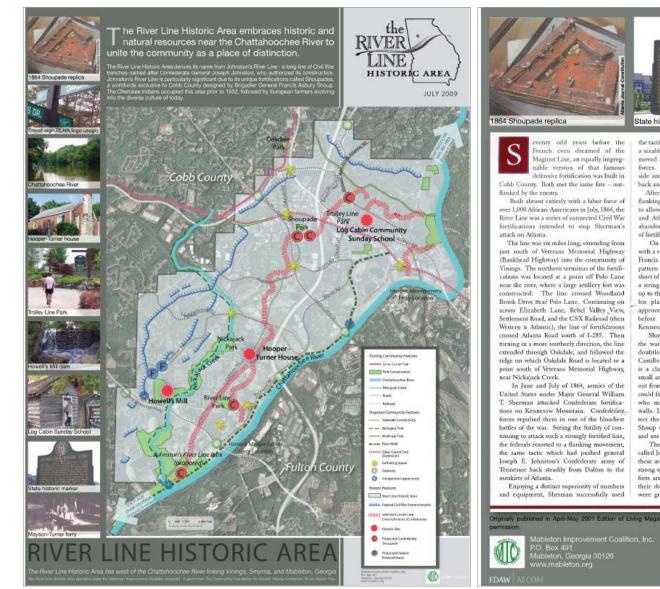
The final two-page layout focuses on the RLHA vision, goals, and planning principles. The community and its characteristics make this place unique. This "sense of place" currently helps define the River Line Historic Area and provides direction for future development. It also highlights the goals and objectives of the RLHA Committee and their plans on improving the quality of life in the River Line Historic Area.

Fifty (50) copies will be printed of this brochure as part of this study, but more can be created as needed.

5.4 Poster

The poster will be a 30" x 42" print that is intended to be used as a presentation visual aid. The poster includes the composite Master Plan for the River Line Historic Area. It also includes representative photographs as well as text that present the overall vision and philosophy behind the River Line Historic Area project.

As with the brochure, a select number of copies will be printed, but more can be generated as needed.





developed, but a few still remain.

The most accessible, and the one most likely to be preserved, is near the southern end of the line, and is on land now owned by Cobb County. Another is on Oakdale Road, partly in an apartment complex, and partly in the vard of a residence. One is off Atlanta Road in John Wieland's "Olde Ivy" development. A few scattered Shoupades are in the yards of homeowners and on church grounds.

Did the Chattahoochee River Line perform the task for which it was designed and laboriously constructed? Obviously not, or the national capital might be in Richmond today.

Confederate forces briefly occupied the River Line after their withdrawal from Smyrna and Marietta. When federal forces, in hot pursuit, encountered the line, bristling with cannons and Shoupades, they wisely decided not to waste lives by throwing men against such an impregnable obstacle. Sherman resorted to the same old tactic which had brought him from Dalton to the edge of Atlanta, a flanking movement.

As soon as General Johnston heard that Sherman's troops had crossed the Chattahoochee River above and below his fortress, he had his Confederate army abandon the River Line and withdrew into the fortifications around Atlanta.

Just as German forces negated the power of the Maginot line by going around it, so did the United States forces negate the effectiveness of the Chattahoochee River Line.

Historians William R. Scaife and William E. Erquitt wrote a book on the line in 1992, entitled The Chattahoochee River Line. The book contains much more information, including photographs of model Shoupades, details of construction, maps of the line and of troop movements, and more details about the Civil War in Cobb County.

Originally published in April-May 2001 Edition of Living Magazine by Marion Blackwell, reproduced with authors the RIVER LINE

River Line Historic Area Handout

the tactic of confronting the Confederates with a sizable force, while other units of his army moved around the side, or flank of the rebel forces. In order to avoid an attack into their side and rear, the southern forces would fall back and form a new line of defense. After the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain this

flanking movement began again. Not wanting to allow the federal forces to get between him and Atlanta, Johnston once again withdrew, abandoning Kennesaw Mountain and its line of fortifications.

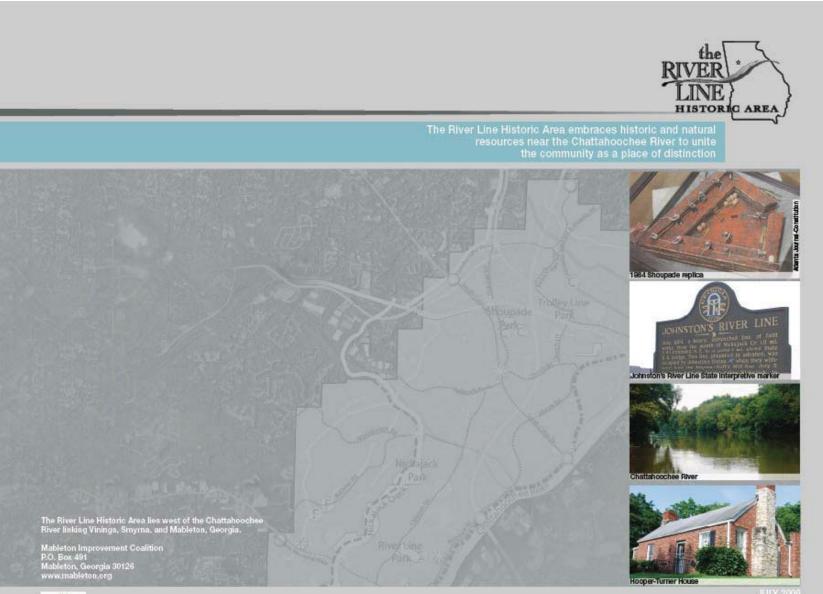
On Johnston's staff was a brilliant officer vith a variety of experience, Brigadier General Francis Asbury Shoup. In an effort to stop the pattern of retreating, and to stop the federals short of Atlanta, Shoup conceived the plan for a string of impregnable fortifications backing up to the Chattahoochee River. He presented his plan to Johnston, and the plan was approved in time to complete the fortifications before the rebel forces fell back from Kennesaw through Marietta and Smyrna.

Shoup had spent a part of his life prior to the war in St. Augustine, Florida, where he doubtlessly was inspired by the imposing Castillo de San Marcos. This old Spanish fort is a classic example of the use of bastions, small arrowhead-shaped forts which protrude out from its corners. Gunners in the bastions could fire into the sides and backs of enemies who may be attacking another part of the walls. Likewise, fire from the walls could protect the bastions. A graduate of West Point,

Shoup was also well educated in the design and use of military fortifications. The Chattahoochee river line, sometimes called Johnston's River line, consisted of 36 of these arrowhead-shaped forts, connected by a strong wall of log palisades and trenches. The forts are commonly called "Shoupades" after

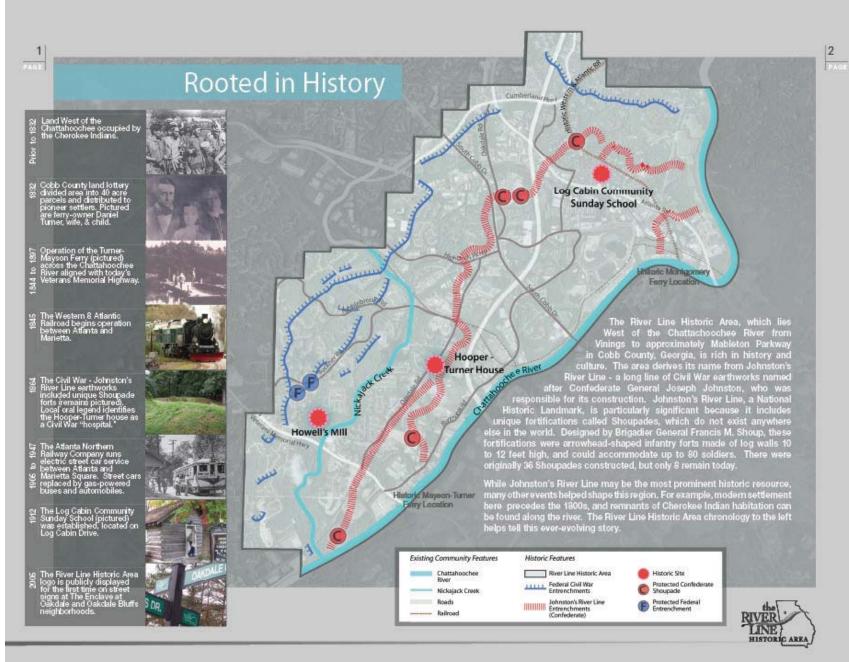
their designer, Gen. Shoup. Most of them were graded away as Vinings and Oakdale



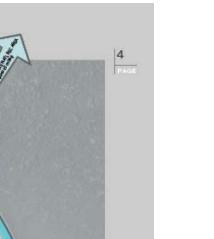




River Line Historic Area Booklet



River Line Historic Area Booklet



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5.0 Products

One of the most noticeable things about the River Line Historic Area is how "green" it is. Protecting and restoring the natural resources within the River Line Historic Area will help maintain its "green" character, preserve wildlife habitat, and provide recreation and social rectine measurements.

The Chattahoochee River is the most dominant physical element in the area, and it was the impetus for the area's original settlement. Nickajack Creek is one of the greatest assets in the River Line Historic Area, and is one of the primary waterways leading to the Chattahoochee. The undeveloped land around Nickajack Creek provides a great opportunity to develop a greenway that links the River Line area.

The Master Plan for the River Line Historic Area places great importance on the natural resources that help make this place unique. The plan recommends the following:

- Addition of pocket and linear parks
- · Access to community parks near the river
- Restoration of wetlands

Shoupade Park

Park

Nickajack

RiverLine

Park

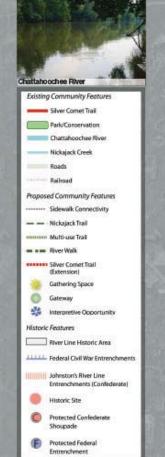
Johnston's River Line Par

(proposed)

Trolley Line

- Focus on protecting/enhancing natural resources
- Addition of trails, walks, and trailheads





River Line Historic Area Booklet

5

5.0 Products

Connecting the Community to Historic and Natural Resources

The River Line Historic Area embraces historic and natural resources near the Chattahoochee River to unite the community as a place of distinction.

The volunteer-based River Line Historic Area Committee operates under the nonprofit Mableton Improvement Coalition (MIC) to coordinate activities in the River Line Historic Area. Our mission is to help realize the vision for the area. A grant from The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta funded the Master Plan.

MIC developed a series of goals and planning principles to guide the development of a master plan. Specific principles for the River Line Historic Area include:

- Protect Natural Resources
- Emphasize Historic Resources
- Enhance Connectivity
- Build a Stronger Sense of Identity
 Expand Opportunities for Tourism
- · Provide Access to the River
- Enhance Recreation Opportunities
 Create Community-friendly Character
- Plan for the Future

As future projects arise, these principles will ensure that they are consistent with the broader sustained vision by the Mableton Improvement Coalition. These principles will redefine the River Line Historic Area, fulfilling the vision of creating a "distinct" place that celebrates nature and history together in one community.





4 Shoupade replica





Trolley Line Park



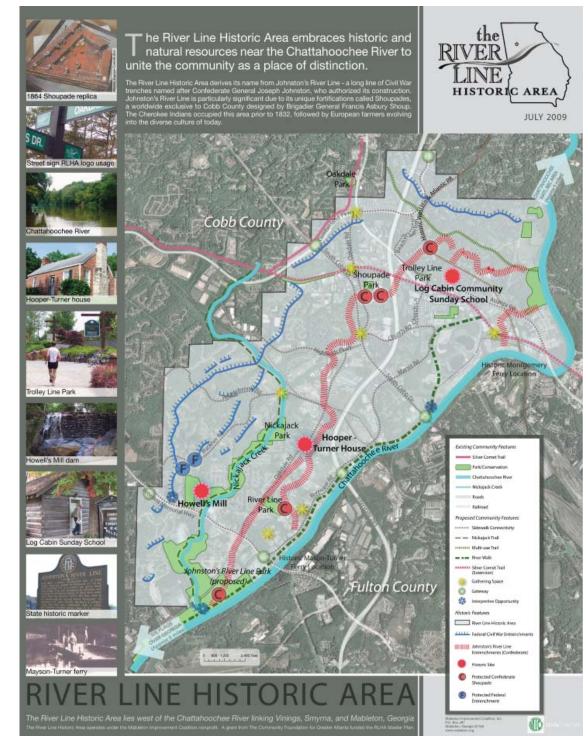
RLHA logo usage

Trail at Nickajack Creek



6

River Line Historic Area Booklet



River Line Historic Area Poster

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Nickajack Creek Pedestrian Bridge at Nickajack Park

6.0 Implementation Strategy

Master Plans such as this for the River Line Historic Area take years to create the intended impacts, and not everything can be accomplished all at once. An implementation strategy is needed to help prioritize action items.

6.1 Implementation

There are four basic implementation strategies that the River Line Historic Area Committee can pursue. These are:

- Pursue Funding Opportunities;
- Focus on Developing Partnerships;
- Focus on "Low Hanging Fruit"; and
- Continue to Promote the Larger Vision.

6.2 Pursue Funding Opportunities

One major limitation is that the RLHA Committee does not have available funds to implement many of their stated goals. It is critical that the RLHA Committee obtain sufficient funds to begin the process of pursuing these goals. There are a number of funding opportunities that could be explored.

Many federal, state and foundational grants are available to non-profit organizations such as the Mableton Improvement Coalition, and the RLHA Committee needs to be aggressive in pursuing these funding options. The grant from The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta is a good example. The amount obtained was not large, but it was enough to begin the planning process, and the result is this document.

The types of grants and funding that can be pursued are many and diverse. Though there are many different topics that can be addressed in the River Line Historic Area, of particular interests are grants that focus on:

- Environmental restoration
- Water quality and water resources

- Trails
- Recreation opportunities
- Cultural resources
- Historical resources
- Growth and development

Obtaining funding will most likely involve writing grant proposals and partnering with local organizations and agencies that already have funds for this type of work.

Reliance on Federal grants for initiatives such as those discussed for the River Line Historic Area is decreasing due to a shift from Federal to local control. It may be more effective for MIC to focus on state and local grant opportunities.

The RLHA Committee should also explore projects that have an opportunity to generate funds that can be poured backed into the River Line Historic Area. This could include low dollar items such as educational packages for schools or guided tours of historic features within the River Line area, or could be high dollar items such as an interpretive center or organized festivals near the river.

6.3 Focus on Developing Partnerships

One of the greatest short-term opportunities for the RLHA Committee is to partner with other organizations involved in the River Line area. The key is to look for partnerships that can grow and bring lasting value, rather than a one-time convenience arrangement. For example, the RLHA Committee should continue working with Cobb County. The maps and basic research generated via the Cobb Study was also used in the River Line Historic Area project.

There are opportunities to work with organizations such as the Kennesaw Battlefield Museum, Georgia Battlefield Association, Keep Cobb Beautiful, Cobb Adopt-a-Stream, Cobb Cemetery Commission, the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper and others that have a vested interest in the River Line Historic Area.

One significant example of a non-profit partner is the PATH Foundation. PATH developed trails throughout the Atlanta region, and they can help promote an integrated trail system and a greenway system in the River Line Historic Area.

There is an upcoming Atlanta Regional Commission LCI (Livable Centers Initiative) study involving the City of Atlanta and the Cobb County Community Development Department along Veterans Memorial Highway, and the RLHA Committee should seek to have a place on the advisory board for these types of projects.

The Mableton Improvement Coalition should also work with public and private school systems within the River Line area. There are numerous opportunities for developing education programs that would allow students to learn more about the natural and historic resources in the area. A fairly easy way for MIC to get involved with schools is to offer lectures and tours of the resources in the area.

Pace Academy constructed their sports fields on Riverview Road, and there may be opportunities to work with Pace on future projects. They have a vested interest in what happens within the River Line Historic Area.

The RLHA Committee should make an effort to position itself as the organization that organizes and manages volunteers within the River Line Historic Area. Volunteers often contribute because they have an interest in giving back to their community.

6.4 Focus on "Low Hanging Fruit"

There is an old saying that "nothing breeds success like success." In other words, as the RLHA Committee experiences success, even with small projects, it will be easier to develop future projects. It makes sense for the RLHA Committee to focus on projects that have the greatest likelihood of success. Typically these are projects that will not cost much but are of high interest to stakeholders and others who potentially would be willing to provide funding. For example, as mentioned earlier, focusing on projects that benefit school kids would be supported by the community.

The RLHA Committee may also want to focus on the historic resources in the area since they are one thing that makes River Line unique. In all of this study's stakeholder meetings, the general consensus was that these types of resources were important. It is easier to get people to support a project they believe is important and is timely.

As one MIC member suggested, one approach could be to rebuild a Shoupade, or several Shoupades. This would be a strong step toward preserving these assets, and the structure could be used for interpretation and marketing once it was completed. Getting residents involved as part of a community event could help bring people together.

Simply developing brochures and other materials that educate people about the River Line Historic Area should be very beneficial. MIC should be more proactive about the services provided, and advertise the value they bring to a community. The use of the products developed as part of this project is a very good step in that direction.

6.5 Continue to Promote the Larger Vision

It is important that the broader vision for the River Line Historic Area not be lost midst of all the short term activities. The goals laid out for the RLHA are far-reaching, and they will take years to implement. The master plan developed via this project needs to be revisited every year or so to ensure that it still is consistent with the vision for the area.

The concepts in this master plan need to be prioritized, and then the RLHA Committee should select a specific area and work on developing a more detailed plan that can lead to implementation. This plan should be a detailed master plan at the site level, and should include a defined budget, timetable for action, and a detailed implementation strategy, including potential partners.

One problem with the River Line Historic Area is that it is a "community" in name only. Most people driving through the area would not be aware of its rich history, nor would they get the feeling that there is anything unique about the area. The residential developments are disconnected and do not contribute to the feeling that this is a cohesive community. It is important to create an identity that helps give residents a sense of belonging, and visitors a clear sense that they are in a well-defined destination.

Future development in the River Line Historic Area needs to be more consistent with the existing trend toward residential development, and should follow a more consistent architectural style. As is recommended in the Cobb County River Line Master Plan, a Pattern Book (i.e. design guidelines) should be developed that identifies the shapes, materials, and patterns that build upon the historic and cultural character of the area, which should be used to help guide new development. The RLHA Committee should investigate ways to work with Cobb County to provide input into the development of a Pattern Book.

7.0 Appendix way is a paved path that is 12 feet wide, and links earthworks and sites from the Civil War's Battle of Stones River as it courses alongside

The Appendix includes support material used for this project. This information is available in digital format for the River Line Historic Area Committee.

The Appendix includes the following information:

7.1 First Stakeholder Meeting Presentation

The first stakeholder meeting was held at the Whitefield Academy on December 11, 2008. The purpose of this meeting was to review the objectives of the project and to seek input from the group.

7.2 Second Stakeholder Meeting Presentation

The second stakeholder meeting was held March 18, 2009 at the Whitefield Academy. The intention of this workshop was to discuss the Preliminary Concept and draft products.

7.3 Third Stakeholder Meeting Presentation

The third stakeholder meeting was held July 8, 2009 at Whitefield Academy. The intention of this workshop was to present the final products and to kick-off implementation.

7.4 Photos from Stones River Greenway

In the spring of 2009, a member of MIC made a trip to Murfreesboro, Tennessee. On that trip, this member visited the Stones River Greenway. The Greenway offers hikers a chance to enjoy human and natural history in the Murfreesboro area. The Greenway is a paved path that is 12 feet wide, and links earthworks and important sites from the Civil War's Battle of Stones River as it courses alongside the attractive Stones River. The greenway opened in 1997 and helps link together the different parcels that make up the Stones River National Battlefield.

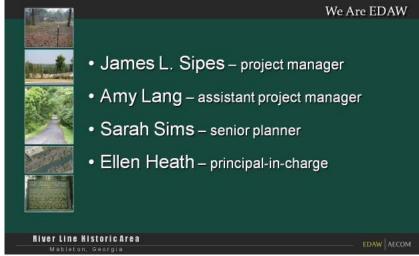
Currently, the Stones River Greenway System comprises nearly 4.5 miles of linear park trails.

There are many similarities between the Stones River Greenway and the basic concepts being explored for the River Line Historic Area.

7.5 Additional Resource Maps

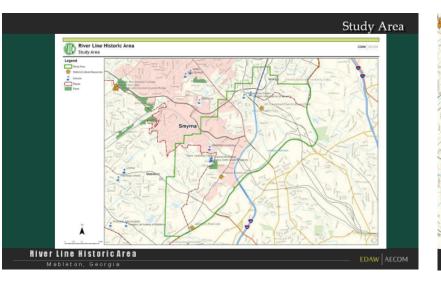
Two additional resource maps are included in the Appendix as reference: the Nickajack Creek Greenway Feasibility Study Concept Plan (which shows natural resources in a broad context) and a map by William Scaife depicting the original configuration of the River Line.



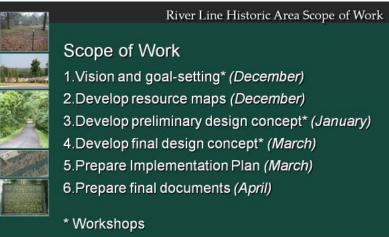




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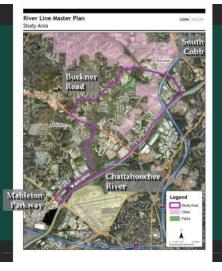






River Line Historic Area





Cobb County Scope of Work

- Land use
- Preservation
- Recreation
- Non-vehicular transportation

- EDAW AECOM



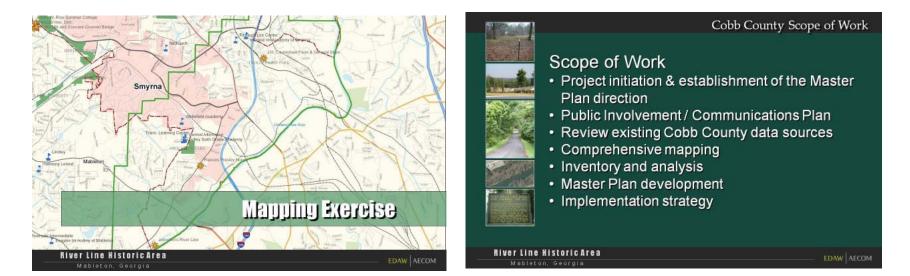
Visioning & Goal-Setting

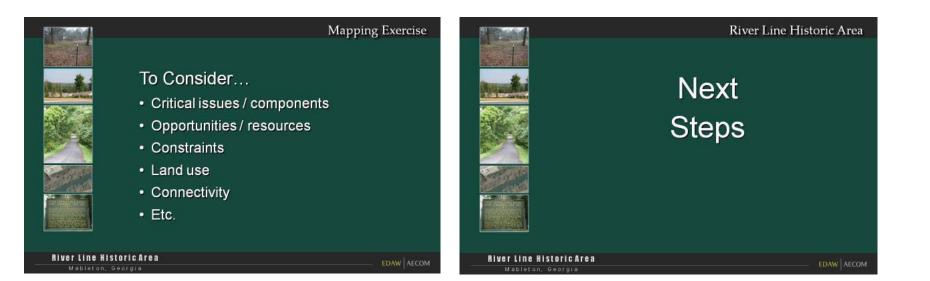
To consider...

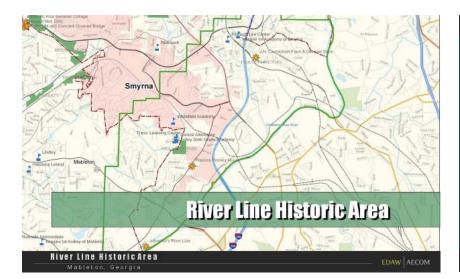
- What IS the River Line Historic Area?
- What is your Vision for the River Line Historic Area?
- What are the critical issues/components that need to be addressed?

River Line Historic Area Mableton, Georgia

EDAW AECON





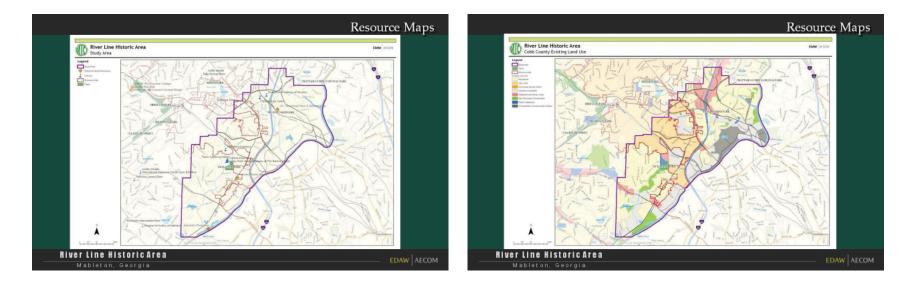


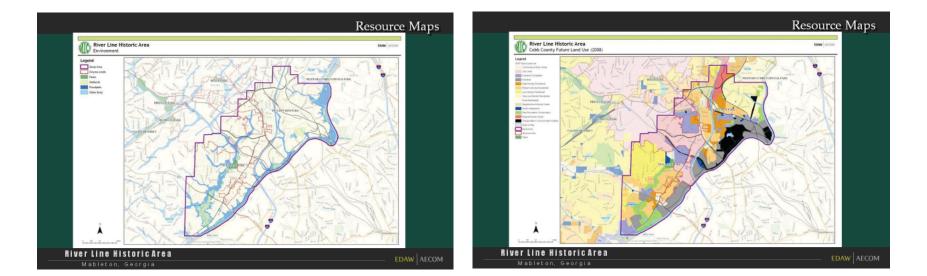


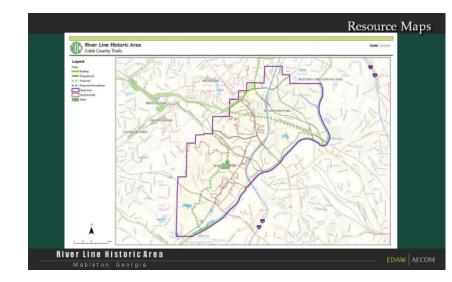
		Agenda
	Agenda 1. Welcome & Introductions 2. Scope of Work 3. Resource Maps 4. Review Draft Vision Statement & Go 5. Review Composite Map 6. Feedback on Products (i.e. handout poster, & booklet) 7. Next Steps & Close	
River Line	HistoricArea	EDAW AECOM

Mableton, Georgia

Task	Products	Status
Determine Vision and	Public participation plan	
Goals for RLHA	1" workshop (visioning)	
1 d	Notes & graphics from workshop	
	Vision & goals document	In progres
Develop Resource Maps	Open space, natural & recreational resources map	
	Cultural & historic resources map	
	Land use map	
Develop Preliminary	2"" workshop (design concept)	In progres
Design Concept	Draft preliminary design concept (x5)	In progres
Develop Final Design	Final design concept (x5)	In progres
Concepts	3 rd workshop (final design concept)	
Prepare Implementation Plan	Implementation strategies (including goals, actions, "quick wins," & schedule)	In progres
Prepare Final Documents	Poster-size maps of final Vision plan (x2)	In progres
	Brochures / booklets that function as executive summary (x50)	In progres
	Letter-sized handout (x1)	In progres
	Master plan books (x3)	In progres
	Digital versions of all products	In progres









Draft Vision Statement

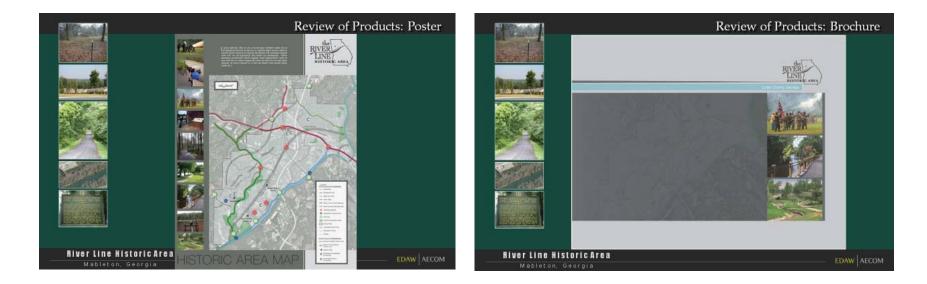
"Rising from the banks of the Chattahoochee River, the River Line Historic Area is a community where history, nature, and modern lifestyles are intertwined. Development is based on a philosophy of sustainability that permeates where we live, work, shop, and play.

"Although just minutes away from downtown Atlanta, River Line embraces the best features of small town life. Children can walk to school, and residents and visitors have places to gather. Trails and sidewalks knit the area together, and opportunities to learn about the rich history of the area abound."

River Line Historic Area Mableton, Georgia

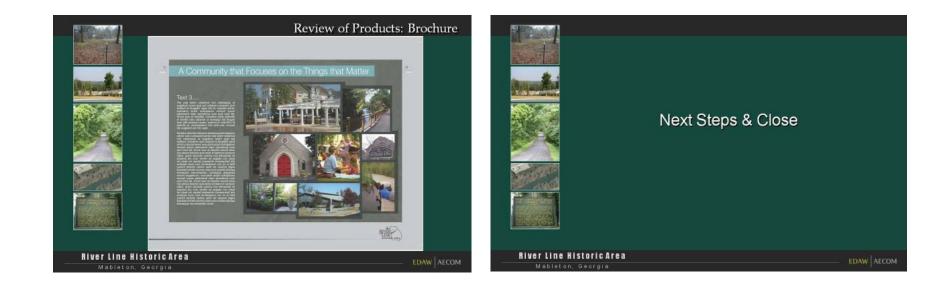


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Stones River Greenway System, Murfreesboro, Tennessee



Stones River Greenway System, Murfreesboro, Tennessee



Stones River Greenway System, Murfreesboro, Tennessee





