

EXTENDING THE LEGACY TRAIL

intent

To extend the Legacy Trail from the Kentucky Horse Park to Georgetown using design characteristics of the existing Legacy Trail, and develop a precedent for a regional greenway system for the Bluegrass.

overview

Approximately twelve miles in length, the Legacy Trail is the longest paved multiuse trail in Central Kentucky (Steve Austin, Personal Communication, March 23, 2011). The Legacy Trail opened in September of 2010, in time for the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games that were held in Lexington at the Kentucky Horse Park. The trail served as a nonmotorized and recreational method of getting people back and forth from the Kentucky Horse Park and downtown Lexington. Extending the trail provides an excellent opportunity to continue the precedence set by the existing Legacy Trail segment as a greenway trail for the Bluegrass Region. Working towards the creation of a regional greenway system will allow for nonmotorized modes of transportation, which are more sustainable in regards to energy use, air quality and water quality. Extending the Legacy Trail provides the opportunity for Scott County to encourage active recreation and increased physical activity. It also provides access to the cultural, historical and ecological landscapes of the Bluegrass. These opportunities will assist in improving the physical and social health of communities within the Bluegrass Region.

This project was organized into three phases, which would help in the process of gaining support from the public, the landowners affected and politicians (figure 1). Phase one is established as the existing Legacy Trail segment, which expresses progress and possibility. The second phase is the Horse Park Segment which connects the Kentucky Horse Park to Georgetown College.

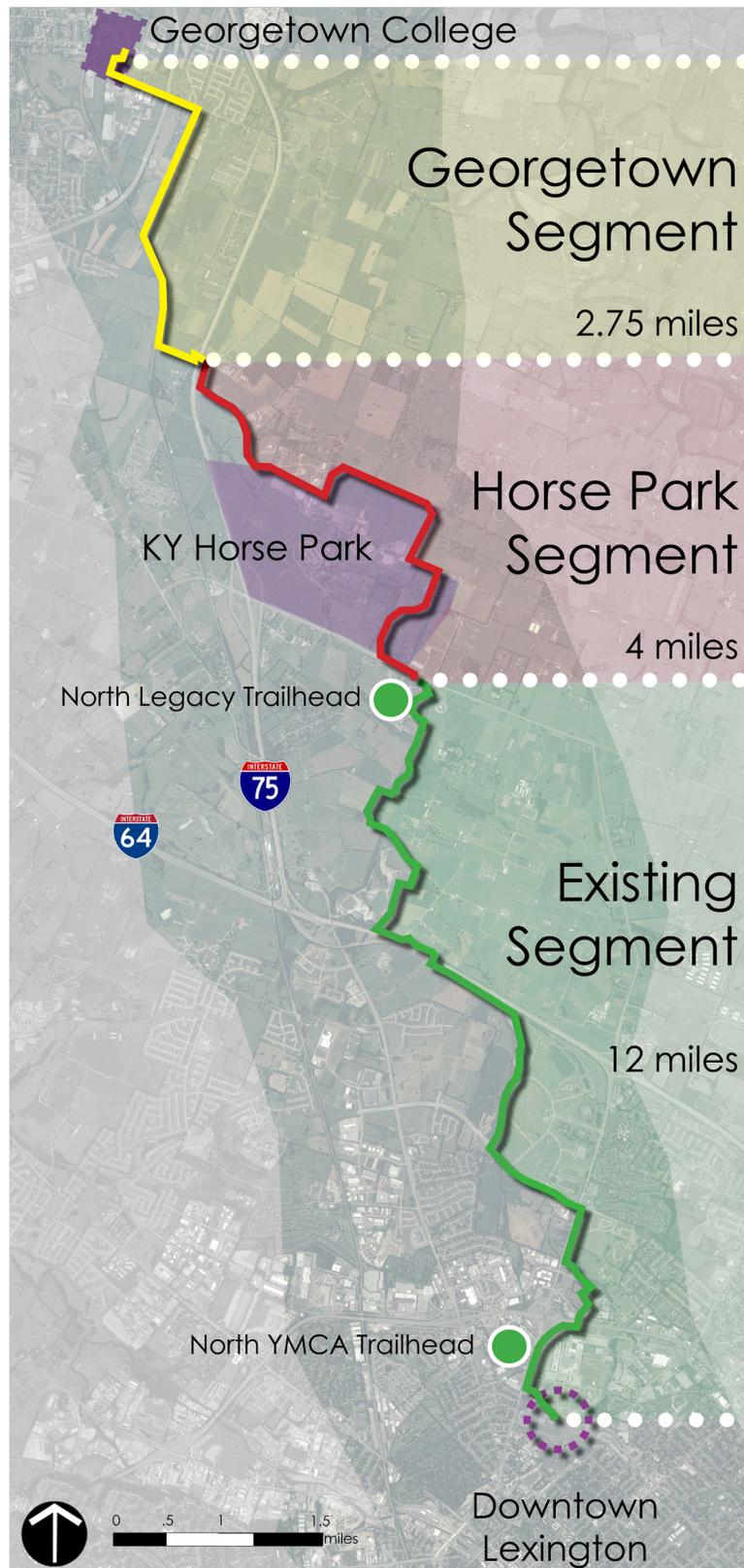


figure 1 This map illustrates the three phases of the Legacy Trail extension project: the Existing Segment in green, the Horse Park Segment in red, and the Georgetown Segment in yellow.

To introduce the idea of connectivity and greenways to the community, a bike trail is being proposed. This feature has received considerable interest among stakeholders which indicates a desire for a more connected community and the benefits associated with its implementation.

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recommendations

In order to maintain a cohesive design vocabulary throughout this project, the design concepts developed by CBA, Inc., and Strand Associates for the existing Legacy Trail are continued in the proposed Legacy Trail extension. Limestone plays an important role in many aspects of the Bluegrass Region. It is a commonly used building material, and is featured in the dry laid fences seen all across the landscape. This cultural, physical, and economic connection with limestone was used as inspiration for the overall design concept for the Legacy Trail. The Horse Park Segment (figure 2) follows existing roadways along the perimeter of the Kentucky Horse Park property for safety and security reasons established by the administrators of the Kentucky Horse Park. This segment will continue from the North Legacy Trailhead to the I-75 tunnel near the Barton Farm. This segment will use matching signage and bicycle infrastructure to get through the Horse Park while remaining nonintrusive to Horse Park functions and aesthetics. The Georgetown Segment (figure 3) will be primarily off road and will use the same design standards as the existing Legacy Trail. This segment will terminate at the Georgetown College Athletics Campus at a recommended trailhead.



figure 2 This is a map of the proposed Horse Park Segment which utilizes existing infrastructure. (Data Source: Kentucky Geography Network)



figure 3 This is a map of the proposed Georgetown Segment that illustrates route options based on a variety of opportunities and constraints. (Data Source: Kentucky Geography Network)

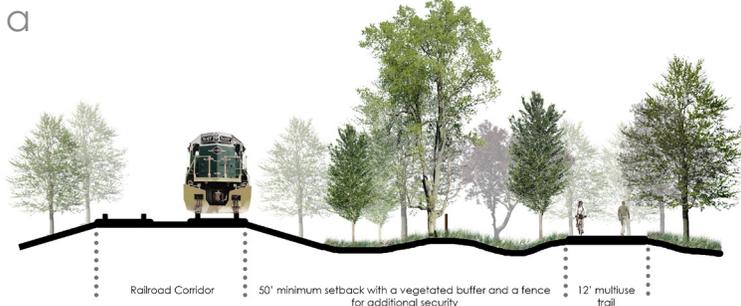
Program elements planned for the Legacy Trail extension include (figure 4a-c):

- trailheads
- rest areas
- public art
- educational/interpretive signage
- limestone landscape elements
- pedestrian bridge
- rails with trails corridor
- native landscape plants

figure 4 (a-c) Illustrations of various program elements proposed for the Legacy Trail Extension.



Rest area on the Horse Park Segment.



Section drawing of the Rails-with-Trails segment.



Proposed pedestrian bridge to safely cross the U.S. 460 Bypass.

A variety of routes and options were provided to stakeholders for their input. Several constraints required innovative means of thinking to ensure a safe and secure route for this trail. Trailheads are placed at convenient locations to provide ease of use.