

Riverfront Greenway Trail Extension North: Shady Street Park & Trailhead

Shady Street Park & Trailhead

will improve unused, City-owned land near the Alabama River into a path and “trailhead” with parking, a picnic shelter and landscaping. It is about a mile as the crow flies from the Newtown Community. It is located at the northernmost end of the Riverfront Greenway Trail for bikers, walkers and runners going to and from downtown. Also, just under a mile from the Riverfront Park, the route can be utilized on the street itself from Lafayette to Walker Street to Shady Street until such time as a full separated bike/pedestrian path can be established. The project has the potential to jumpstart redevelopment on these underutilized properties and to leverage current private efforts to develop a recreational vehicle park and marina along the River.

Trail Head for River Walk/ Run Events

This new park and trailhead can serve as a kick-off spot for River Walks, runs, races, or casual strolls even before the Lafayette bike/ped path is completed. With a new shelter and picnic pavillion, there will be plenty of room for a crowd to cheer on the race, or a family of friends to gather for a birthday.

Habitat Restoration: Birds and Pollinators

Shady St. Trailhead currently exists as a gravel parking lot amidst overgrown patches of formerly residential and currently industrial land. There is an opportunity to remove invasive exotics and enhance native plantings. There are both riparian woodland and off-channel wet meadow patches that could be planted to increase habitat for birds, butterflies and pollinators. Asclepias Incarnata, or Swamp Milkweed, featured right, would thrive. Raptor perches could be added, especially in the southern most area. Local community groups such as the Alabama Invasive Plant Council, Montgomery Trees, River Region Trails Inc. and Auburn University Montgomery (AUM) will be great partners in tending and improving this unique landscape.



Shade for Parking and for Shady Street Sycamore (4) Willow Oak (3)

existing trees and iris

Catalpa (1) Knockout roses Blueberries

Swale includes: Bald Cypress (13) Black Gum (5) Native Seed Mix: Wet Prairie and on Berm Restoration Mix

Overcup Oak (2) Swamp Chestnut (1)

Outdoor Classroom Tulip Poplar (1) Redbud (3) Parsley Leaf Hawthorn (2)

Grasses: Muhly and Maiden (12-15 total)

Existing Red Cedar

Joseph

Walker Street

Riparian Habitat Sweet Bay Magnolia (3) Sycamore (3) Oak leaf hydrangea (5) Fern (9) Equisetum

Homestead Garden: Chickisaw Plum Fruiting Plum (3)

Swale Planting: Native seed + Bald Cypress and Black Gum

AL Indigenous Landscape Long Leaf Pine (12) Native azalea (20) Button Bush (3)

Shady Street Trailhead Park Planting Plan (phase 1)



Picnic Shelter and Tables

As a trailhead for races or starting/ending point for a day's adventure, Shady St. trail head will provide bike parking and picnic shelter. The park connects via crosswalks and accessible path from the parking lot. The Loop trail makes for a child size bike loop or allows a continuous ride for walks and races.

Honoring Neighborhood History, Adding Additional Amenities Over Time

This trail can be enhanced through time with the addition of public art, exercise stations or interpretive signs that recall the working riverfront and African American neighborhood's rich history along the way. It could further have benches for resting, night lighting or banners that relate to the river ecology and urban industrial history of the site. Perhaps even a small stage for new performances in the park.

Community Partnerships

This project will require community partnerships not only for funding, but for eradicating the invasive plants, planting trees and pollinator friendly native plants and programming community events. We are very excited to officially partner with AUM's Experiential Learning and Engagement Center as well as River Region Trails. We hope you will join the team!

