



KNOXVILLE'S URBAN WILDERNESS

2016

Four-Year Implementation Plan



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Acronym Glossary:

AMBC / Appalachian Mountain Bike Club	TDOT / Tennessee Department of Transportation
GSMNP / Great Smoky Mountains National Park	UW / Urban Wilderness
LPF / Legacy Parks Foundation	WMA / Wildlife Management Area
MOU / memorandum of understanding	

The Partners That Collaborated On This Plan



Consultant Team



THE VISION



**KNOXVILLE'S
URBAN WILDERNESS**



Big Picture and Background

The Urban Wilderness—Present and Future

The Knoxville Urban Wilderness represents a dynamic partnerships that shines a spotlight on the natural, historic, recreational, and environmental resources of a City. The Urban Wilderness Vision will be a legacy project that pairs in importance with the community's critical role in protecting the Great Smoky Mountains nearly a century ago.

The Urban Wilderness is a collaborative project that is reinventing Knoxville as one of the Southeast's premier outdoor towns. Just minutes from downtown, the **Urban Wilderness currently is a fabric of connected parks, open space, and trails with over 1,000 forested acres, 50-miles of multi-purpose trails**, world class mountain bike trails and a bike park, Ijams Nature Center, rock-climbing, four Civil War sites, a Wildlife Management Area with opportunities for hunting and fishing, and several scenic quarries.

The fabric of the Urban Wilderness will connect schools, neighborhoods, downtown, and existing and emerging businesses. It will stimulate the economy and the revitalization of South Knoxville; many of the investments will not be made by government, but through actions of the community and non-profits.

The Urban Wilderness is estimated to have a future annual impact of \$14 million as a regional destination and a \$29 million impact as a national destination, as based on a study done by the University of Tennessee.



Vision and Goals of the Urban Wilderness

The Vision

The steering committee defined its vision for the Urban Wilderness, **15-20 years into the future. This vision represents what the UW will be and not what it currently is.**

The Urban Wilderness, in the heart of Knoxville, is the Southeast's most desired place to live and adventure in the outdoors. It has a connected system of trails, waterways, open space, parks, thriving neighborhoods, and historic, cultural, and shopping destinations. Whether you are a visitor or resident, the Urban Wilderness provides world-class outdoor adventure at your doorstep.

Using the Goals to Vet Projects

The goals below should be referenced in future planning, as a "filter" through which all projects are vetted. Projects that will accomplish the most goals should be a priority for partners and for funding.

Goals

The Systems are Interconnected: including parks, open space, trails, pedestrian/bike facilities, schools, communities, downtown, and commerce.

Make the UW Inclusive and Accessible: All ages, abilities, level of experience, and interests in outdoor recreation have a place in the Urban Wilderness.

Spur Economic Development and Revitalize Communities: Increase regional attention as an outdoor destination that spurs business development, increases visitors, and increases quality of life for residents.

Create a Destination with a Sense of Place & Quality Experience: Build upon the cultural, natural, and heritage assets, lauding what makes this place unique and building civic pride.

Engage Visitors and Residents to Get Outside: Gets more residents and visitors outside as their awareness of access and opportunities is increased.

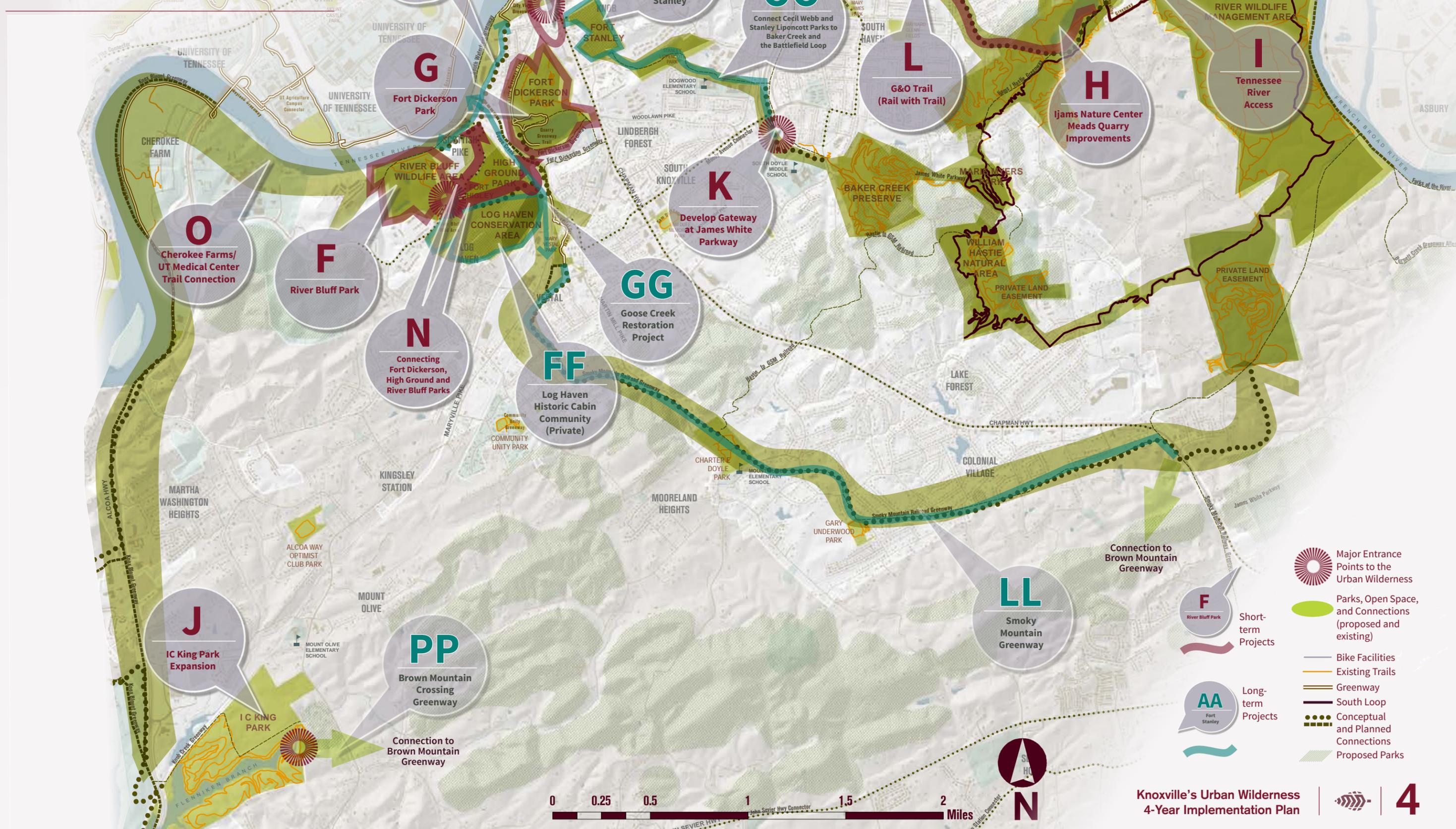
Make the UW a National and Regional Destination for Adventure Sports and Travel and Heritage Tourism: Provides a venue for all kinds of adventure sports, competitions, novice outdoor adventurers, heritage and cultural tourism, and increases recognition by national media for outdoor and heritage tourism.

Collaboratively Manage and Champion the UW: Partners have a unified vision, have clear roles, collaboratively manage, collectively seek funding, and measure and celebrate successes. Partnerships are strengthened or born in support of the vision.

Increase Health of Community: Provide opportunities for group recreation, school commuter, business commuter, or family outings that will improve the community's health and combat obesity.



Planned Short and Long-term Projects Map



O
Cherokee Farms/
UT Medical Center
Trail Connection

F
River Bluff Park

N
Connecting
Fort Dickerson,
High Ground and
River Bluff Parks

J
IC King Park
Expansion

PP
Brown Mountain
Crossing
Greenway

Connection to
Brown Mountain
Greenway

FF
Log Haven
Historic Cabin
Community
(Private)

GG
Goose Creek
Restoration
Project

K
Develop Gateway
at James White
Parkway

M
Connecting the
Battlefield Loop and
G&O Trail Across
Chapman Hwy.

HH
Fort
Stanley

OO
Connect Cecil Webb and
Stanley Liponcott Parks to
Baker Creek and
the Battlefield Loop

L
G&O Trail
(Rail with Trail)

H
Ijams Nature Center
Meads Quarry
Improvements

I
Tennessee
River
Access

LL
Smoky
Mountain
Greenway

F
River Bluff Park

AA
Fort
Stanley

- Major Entrance Points to the Urban Wilderness
- Parks, Open Space, and Connections (proposed and existing)
- Bike Facilities
- Existing Trails
- Greenway
- South Loop
- Conceptual and Planned Connections
- Proposed Parks



Planned Short and Long-term Projects

 Symbol denotes project voted highest priority by steering committee

SHORT-TERM (1-4 YEARS) LONG-TERM (5+ YEARS)

Project	Planning Effort & Year of Plan	Synopsis	Elements of Project	Project	Planning Effort & Year of Plan	Synopsis	Elements of Project
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URBAN WILDERNESS (UW)-WIDE

A	 Comprehensive Wayfinding Plan	UW Four-Year Implementation Plan, 2016	Comprehensive system that ID's potential locations for a hierarchy of wayfinding signage for the UW. This could range from gateways to trail signage, incorporating previous signage and branding efforts.	Develop a wayfinding plan that ID's individual Locations and coordinate with the City to install. Partners begin to implement signage related to their projects.
B	 Develop Gateways Pilot Project		Identify landmark gateways to the UW, whether built or proposed, and develop a comprehensive approach to the style of these gateway features through architectural, landscape, and UW branding.	Several gateway projects determined in more detail further in this plan.
C	Develop Cooperative Partnership Structure		Develop a more structured approach to the collaboration of core partners, and determine what projects will be collaborative.	Identify lead for collaborative projects and UW-wide efforts (Legacy Park Foundation suggested as continued lead).
D	Expand Tourism Marketing Efforts		Work with Visit Knoxville to determine how to regionally promote the Urban Wilderness, specifically for adventure racing, travel articles, and regional advertising.	To be determined, but could include developing marketing materials, a visual guide for the UW, developing a promotional event (national tier)
E	Work With Partners to Further Economic Development		UW Four-Year Implementation Plan, 2016 South Waterfront Plan, 2006	Further economic development around key areas of the UW to include food, beverage, services, and lodging.

URBAN WILDERNESS-WIDE

AA	Comprehensive Wayfinding Plan Implemented	UW Comprehensive Wayfinding Plan, Year To be determined	Implementation of plan from large and iconic gateway project, entrance features, down to major trail loop signage, or other projects identified in the plan.	To be determined.
BB	Develop Further Gateways	UW Four-Year Implementation Plan, 2016	Continue to develop gateway projects.	To be determined.
CC	Develop Cooperative Partnership Structure	UW Four-Year Implementation Plan, 2016	Elements of cooperative partnership could establish management and maintenance roles, ID'd holder of land and easements, or any other needs established by partners	To be determined.
DD	Work With Partners to Further Economic Development	UW Four-Year Implementation Plan, 2016	Further economic development around key areas of the UW to include food, beverage, services, and lodging.	To be determined.
EE	Work With Partners to Further Economic Development	UW Four-Year Implementation Plan, 2016 South Waterfront Plan, 2006	Further economic development around key areas of the UW to include food, beverage, services, and lodging.	To be determined.

THE BATTLEFIELD LOOP

F	 River Bluff Park	River Bluff Master Plan, 2014 Knoxville Battlefield Loop, 2016-2017 (Ongoing)	The site preserves a significant viewshed from downtown and sensitive habitat, with plans to connect to the Battlefield Loop and the South Waterfront, and develop parking and other amenities.	Parking lots on Cherokee trail and off of Carl's Lane, a Battle of Armstrong Hill interpretive program, a natural playground, a Tennessee River overlook, kayak and canoe launch, a South Waterfront Greenway connection, quarry pond trails and boardwalk, Natalie's Garden, pavilion, and a connection to High Ground Park.
G	 Fort Dickerson Park	Knoxville Battlefield Loop, 2016-2017 (Ongoing)	Improve access to and develop amenities within a park that surrounds the Scenic Quarry Lake and encompasses a Civil War site.	Trailhead and parking areas at entrance in the west (W. Blount Ave.), east (Chapman Highway), and north (Augusta Ave.), a beach and swim area, a beach access path, a comfort station, several improved overlooks, improved and new trails, a covered bus stop at the east entrance, the soon to be built Fort Dickerson Memorial (at the east entrance).

THE BATTLEFIELD LOOP

FF	Log Haven Historic Cabin Community	Knoxville Battlefield Loop, 2016-2017 (Ongoing)	Log Haven will be an artist-in-residence community and conservation area that eventually ties to the Candora Marble, which the Aslan Foundation may purchase for artist studios.	Artist-in-residence cabins, Log Haven Commons (exhibits, studio space, offices), Woodland Amphitheater, Cherokee Cove Gateway, private trails, Cherokee Cove Trail (public trail as part of the Battlefield Loop).
GG	Goose Creek Restoration and Preservation	Knoxville Battlefield Loop, 2016-2017 (Ongoing)	Preserve Goose Creek corridor and connect a system of small parks, including the existing Mary Vestal Park, the South Knoxville Community Center, and the Boys and Girls Club.	Goose Creek land acquisition, creek restoration, and other items to be determined.
HH	Fort Stanley	Knoxville Battlefield Loop, 2016-2017 (Ongoing)	Historic Civil War site and park with trails.	New trailhead off of Chapman Highway adjacent to Kern's Bakery, new trails.

IJAMS NATURE CENTER

H	Mead's Quarry Improvements	Ijams Nature Center Master Plan, 2016	Develop the Quarry site for improved water access and use through improved vendor/education facilities, parking and infrastructure.	Construction of a vendor/education facility and improved parking and water access for all users.
I	Tennessee River Access	Ijams Nature Center Master Plan, 2016	Improve access to the Tennessee river for all park users.	Install an accessible dock and boat launch, overlooks, deck and put in/put out vehicular access.

IJAMS NATURE CENTER

II	Overnight Visitor Experience	Master Plan and Board Strategic Priorities Process (2020)	Expand educational mission and user experience through a unique, overnight facility option (i.e. cabins, "tree-hotel" or yurt).	Construction of unique overnight facilities and programmed experiences on the Ijams campus.
JJ	Property Expansion	Master Plan and Board Land/Facilities Committee (2020)	Consider key land acquisition that supports and adds additional protection to Ijams' property and allows for expanded visitor experiences supportive of the Ijams' mission.	Land acquisition that supports Ijams' mission—specifically the long term desire for expanding the visitor experience (overnight stays).

PARKS (EXPANSIONS OR NEW—OTHER THAN BATTLEFIELD LOOP PARKS)

J	IC King Park Expansion	The Knoxville-Knox County Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan, 2009	Expand IC King Park with an alternative access off of Maryville Pike with play fields, a playground, and trails.	Develop park containing parking, a playground, a large and small dog park, ADA pathways, and 3-miles of trail.
K	Develop Gateway at James White Parkway	---	Develop access point to the Urban Wilderness that will serve as a trailhead to access multiple existing and future trails/James White Greenway.	

PARKS (EXPANSIONS OR NEW—OTHER THAN BATTLEFIELD LOOP PARKS)

KK	South District Recreation Center	The Knoxville-Knox County Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan, 2009	Develop a South District Recreation Center including indoor and outdoor recreation activities, which should be located on a major arterial for easy access.	Location to be determined.
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Planned Short and Long-term Projects

Symbol denotes project voted highest priority by steering committee

SHORT TERM (1-4 YEARS)					LONG TERM (5+ YEARS)				
	Project	Planning Effort & Year of Plan	Synopsis	Elements of Project		Project	Planning Effort & Year of Plan	Synopsis	Elements of Project
NEW GREENWAYS/ TRAILS OR CONNECTIONS					NEW GREENWAYS/ TRAILS OR CONNECTIONS				
L	G&O Trail (Rail with Trail)	Planning to be underway soon	A three-mile multi-use crusher run trail to be built along the G&O Railway (rail with trail), that connects Chapman Highway (near the South Waterfront), through Ijams to the South Loop of the UW, serving as commuter route and recreation asset	Elements To be determined, but early planning will require some acquisition of easements, working with encroachments, in addition to planning for trailheads and access points	LL	Smoky Mountain Greenway	The Knoxville-Knox County Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan, 2009	Develop a greenway that follows the former Smoky Mountain Railroad line, connecting the Vestal Area, Charter E. Doyle Park, and areas further South.	To be determined
M	Connecting Battlefield Loop and the G&O Across Chapman Highway & Making Chapman Highway More Pedestrian/Bike Friendly	Urban Wilderness & Historic Corridor Connectivity Study Narrative, 2009 Knoxville Battlefield Loop, 2016-2017 (Ongoing) The Knoxville-Knox County Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan (2009)	Chapman Highway is a major barrier in pedestrian/bike connectivity for the east and west sides of the Urban Wilderness and an above-grade crossing was one recommended solution in addition to improving overall pedestrian and bike connectivity in this area of Chapman Highway	Utilizes existing sidewalks and crossings (at East Blount Avenue) or study crossings that are not at-grade (possible pedestrian bridge) and improve Chapman Highway and Moody Avenue for pedestrians and bicyclists, where capable	MM	Baker Creek Greenway	The Knoxville-Knox County Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan, 2009	Develop a Baker Creek Greenway that connects the South Waterfront to Mary James Park and south to Baker Creek Preserve.	To be determined
N	Connecting Fort Dickerson, Fort Stanely, High Ground and River Bluff Parks	Urban Wilderness & Historic Corridor Connectivity Study Narrative, 2009 Knoxville Battlefield Loop, 2016-2017 (Ongoing)	Connect High Ground Park to Fort Dickerson via a multi-use trail along the South Waterfront or via a multi-use trail (that requires an easement purchase) from Scottish Pike Park to the west part of Fort Dickerson	Need to secure easement, potentially tunnel under CSX railway, have a pedestrian bridge across Goose Creek, travel across Blount Avenue, and connect into Dickerson Park on the west side	NN	South Waterfront Greenway	The Knoxville-Knox County Park Recreation and Greenways Plan, 2009 South Waterfront Plan, 2006	Continue to expand the South Waterfront Greenway.	To be determined
O	Cherokee Farms/ UT Medical Center Trail Connection	The Knoxville-Knox County Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan, 2009	Easement from River Bluff Park to University of Tennessee (UT) property will allow extension of greenway to connect Battlefield Loop to UT Medical Center, Cherokee Farm (Research and Development Campus), and the Knox Blount Greenway	The greenway will be a natural surface trail and may include other linking features like bike lanes, or sidewalks	OO	Connect Cecil Webb and Stanley Liponcott Parks to South Doyle and Baker Creek to the west, and the Battlefield Loop to the east	The Knoxville-Knox County Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan, 2009	Create a master plan to link Cecil Webb Park and Cecil Webb Recreation Center; consider an expanded open space system linking Dogwood Elementary and the old South Knoxville Elementary School.	To be determined
					PP	Brown Mountain Crossing Greenway	The Knoxville-Knox County Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan, 2009	Connect IC King Park to the core of the UW by connecting to the Smokey Mountain Railroad Greenway.	To be determined

Summary of Plans Reviewed for Short Long-Term Projects

South Waterfront Plan, 2006

The Knoxville-Knox County Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan, 2009

Urban Wilderness & Historic Corridor Connectivity Map, 2009

River Bluff Master Plan, 2014

Ijams Nature Center Master Plan, 2015

Ijams Nature Center Master Plan, 2015

I.C. King Park Master Plan, 2016

Annual Road Map 2016-2017, 2016

Knoxville Battlefield Loop, 2016

Knoxville's Urban Wilderness 4-Year Implementation Plan



Stakeholder Engagement



**KNOXVILLE'S
URBAN WILDERNESS**



Stakeholder Engagement

The Steering Committee

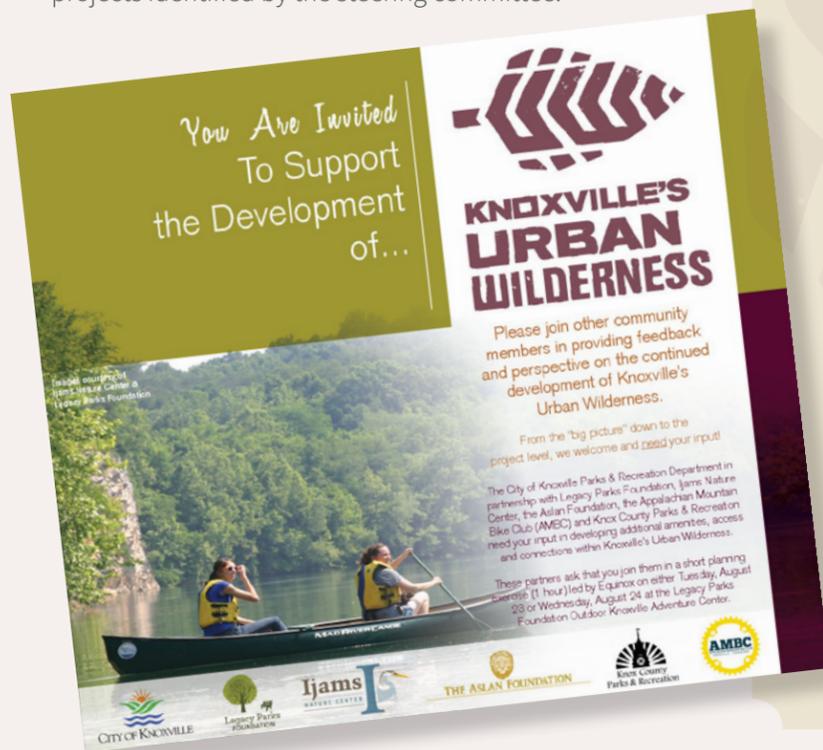
The public/stakeholder process is outlined in the following pages. This plan was developed through input from a core steering committee and over 65 stakeholders.

A steering committee made up of the core Urban Wilderness partners provided regular direction for this plan. This committee is comprised of the following organizations:

- » City of Knoxville, Parks and Recreation and Public Works
- » Legacy Parks Foundation
- » Knox County Parks and Recreation
- » Ijams Nature Center
- » Appalachian Mountain Bike Club (AMBC)
- » Aslan Foundation

The Two-Day Workshop

A two-day workshop occurred on August 23rd and 24th, 2016 with the goal to get input from stakeholders on the vision, goals, opportunities and challenges, and specific projects identified by the steering committee.



Stakeholders

Over 65 stakeholders attended the Two-day Workshop. The list of stakeholders include:

- » 3G Designs
- » Appalachian Mountain Bike Club
- » Aslan Foundation
- » City Council Members
- » City of Knoxville Redevelopment, Operations, and Parks and Recreation
- » Civil War Roundtable
- » Dewhirst Properties
- » East Tennessee History Museum
- » Hampton Inn, Downtown
- » Ijams Nature Center, employees and board members
- » Island Home Neighborhood Association
- » Joe Hultquist
- » John Becker
- » Kelly Conley
- » Kim Wood
- » Knox County Health Department
- » Knox County Recreation and Greenways
- » Knox County Schools
- » Knox Obesity Coalition
- » Knoxville Area Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)
- » Knoxville Chamber Economic Development
- » Knoxville History Project
- » Knoxville Track Club
- » Lake Forest Neighborhood Association
- » Legacy Parks Foundation
- » Lindbergh Neighborhood Association
- » Navitat
- » Partners Development
- » River Sports Outfitters
- » Sanders Pace Architects
- » South Haven Neighborhood Representative
- » Tennessee Valley Bikes
- » Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency
- » View Park Neighborhood Representatives
- » Visit Knoxville

Stakeholder Engagement and Refinement of the Plan



Stakeholder Comments on the Vision and Goals

Prior to the Two-Day Workshop, the stakeholders were sent an online survey of a draft of the vision and goals for the Urban Wilderness, which was developed by the steering committee. A summary of the responses are below.

Stakeholders feel they are **very familiar** options for **access to the Urban Wilderness, and access it in a lot of different ways**

“Let’s make this THE Priority for Knoxville (and emphasize action/building/improvements/expansion over more planning and talking).”
—Stakeholder quote from survey

Stakeholders **somewhat agree** with the proposed vision and some of the comments included:

- » Several felt there should be mention of **hunting and fishing** as part of outdoor recreation
- » Several felt that **shopping should be removed from the vision** statement, even though they agree it might be a side effect of the vision

Priority of Goals (based on stakeholder response)



What We Heard—Stakeholder Recommendations

Greatest Strengths

Proximity to Downtown. Once better connections are made to downtown, it's close proximity will be one of the UW's greatest assets.

The UW has world class amenities, with something for everyone. Once there are more amenities with a greater diversity of users, the UW will provide something for everyone. The mountain biking amenities are world class and should be promoted nationally.

The soul of the UW is fostered by non-profits and volunteer organizations and should continue to be non-profit and community led. This effort is led by non-profits such as Legacy Parks Foundation, Ijams Nature Center, Appalachian Mountain Bike Club, and the Aslan Foundation. Relationships with the Knoxville Track Club and others should continue to be fostered through this collaboration. AMBC has spent countless volunteer hours to help build UW amenities, which in turn has helped build community. The user community helps to police and provide information to new users. The Knoxville Track Club organizes races that connect the community. The UW connects physical places but most importantly creates a sense of community in South Knoxville.

Many layers of heritage are waiting to be unearthed. From the Civil War to the marble industry, there are many layers of history to unearth that will add to the richness of, and attract visitors to, the UW. The history of the conversion of industrialized land into a major ecotourism destination should be used as a major theme in the story of the UW.

Nature juxtaposed to the urban landscape sets the UW apart. The natural character of the UW juxtaposed to downtown is unprecedented. We must maintain this character to retain the greatest strength of the UW. The health, social, economic, and environmental benefits of this proximity to nature should be shared with the community.

“What the Urban Wilderness is doing is RE-BRANDING Knoxville as a City.”
—Stakeholder quote from workshop

Capitalize on the ties to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP). Capitalize on the physical and historic ties to the Park. The UW can have a National Park-like feel and experience which could draw some of the 9.4 million visitors from GSMNP. Use the story that Knoxville played an essential role in the creation of the GSMNP, and tie in the legacy to the creation of the UW.

Continue the relationship with schools, by getting kids into the UW through fieldtrips.

The UW connects communities and habitat! The UW has great opportunity to connect open space and communities. Much of South Knoxville is less walking/bike friendly and the connections in the UW will vastly improve community connectivity.

Capitalize on the culture of neighborhoods. Tight-knit and organized neighborhoods want to be part of the UW movement and efforts. Taking advantage of neighborhood groups will create local ownership.

Many are interested in making South Knoxville and the UW synonymous. The UW not only will redefine South Knoxville, but can define the character of Knoxville.

Over 65 stakeholders provided input on the Opportunities and Strengths of the Urban Wilderness

Stakeholders voted on what projects they felt were highest priority—this ranking is shown to the right



KNOXVILLE'S URBAN WILDERNESS			
Proposed Short Term (4-10 Years)			
Map Reference	Project	Planning Effort & Year of Plan	Synopsis
URBAN WILDERNESS (UW)-WIDE			
2	A	Comprehensive Wayfinding Plan	Comprehensive system that is a hierarchy of wayfinding signs ranging from gateways to trail access signage and directional signage.
12	B	Develop Gateways Pilot Project	Identify landmarks/gateways in comprehensive approach to the nature through an internal branding.
4	C	Develop Cooperative Partnership Structure	Develop a reconstruction collaboration of core partners, which will be used.
5	D	Expand Tourism Marketing Efforts	Work with V&A Knoxville to promote the Urban Wilderness, racing, travel articles, and...
8	E	Work With Partners to Further Economic Development	Further economic development efforts to include food, beverage...
THE BATTLEFIELD LOOP			
14	F	River Bluff Park/Wildlife Area	The site preserves a significant town and historic habitat, with Battlefield Loop and the South...
9	G	Fort Dickerson Park	Improve access to and amenities that surrounds the Clark Quarry...
IJAMS NATURE CENTER			
6	H	Mead's Quarry Improvements	Improve access to and amenities that surrounds the Clark Quarry...
7	I	River Access/Paddling/Programming	Improve access to and amenities that surrounds the Clark Quarry...
PARKS (EXPANSIONS OR NEW—OTHER THAN BATTLEFIELD LOOP)			
13	J	IC King Park Expansion	Expand IC King Park with an additional Mayville Park with play field, etc.
3	K	Develop Gateway at James White Parkway	Develop gateway to the Urban Wilderness at James White Parkway...
NEW GREENWAYS/ TRAILS OR CONNECTIONS			
1	L	G&O Trail (Rail with Trail)	A three-mile multi-use trail along the G&O Railway (can with trail) at Highway 60 near the South Waterfront...
10	M	Connecting Battlefield Loop and the Proposed G&O Trail Across Chapman Highway	Chapman Highway is a major barrier to connectivity between the Urban Wilderness and an urban area...
11	N	Connecting Fort Dickerson, High Ground and River Bluff Parks	Options for connecting recently being analyzed.



Addressing Challenges & Opportunities for Improvement

Expand the diversity of recreation options. Recreation opportunities appear one-dimensional, the UW is perceived as a place for the “hard core” recreation user. Expand and promote a diversity of opportunities beyond mountain biking or moderate-difficult trails. Provide more options for passive recreation or activities that do not require equipment.

Improve and expand access options and wayfinding in the UW. More signage is needed at access points and on trails. Several stakeholders reported users getting lost in the UW. It would also be helpful to identify easy vs. more difficult trails. Wayfinding from neighborhoods into the Urban Wilderness will help locals know where they can find access. Utilize the Google mapped trails and improve upon the mobile phone map application. Find the “sweet spot” that balances too little and too many signs.

Need commercial infrastructure that supports the UW. There is a need for commercial business, especially bike shops, restaurants/cafes, B&B’s, and camping opportunities.

Expand basic amenities. More restrooms and parking is needed throughout the UW. Make many small access points vs. fewer large access points. Other desired amenities include places to get water, have picnics/food trucks, and informational centers, like kiosks with maps.

Steward the UW collectively, as forest health is threatened. Forest health and especially invasive species are a real challenge for the UW. Several expressed the desire to come together as a community of stakeholders to share best practices, lessons learned, and take a stand against declining forest health.

Make improvements to Chapman Highway since it is a major barrier and detracts from the UW experience. Improvements to Chapman Highway will greatly enhance the UW by serving as a major gateway with supporting commercial enterprises, serving as an entrance to the UW with signage, and providing connection to the two parts of the UW.

Connect the Urban Wilderness. Connecting all UW properties should be a major focus, especially the connection of the South Loop to the Battlefield Loop. Access and connectivity in newer UW lands should take precedence over other amenities.

Address threat to loss of character in the neighborhoods. Many expressed a perceived threat to community character, with the coming of multi-family housing. Many felt the character is or will change. Actively planning to maintain the historic character is important.



Develop a clear and powerful message to define the UW. Develop a campaign for local awareness of the UW before national promotion. Create a clear message and market it locally. If all locals know where and what it is, they will bring visitors and provide free tourism promotion. Folks from West Knoxville are far less aware of the UW.

Improve user knowledge about regulations pertaining to different lands. Devise a way to communicate this. Ijams has specific regulations that need to be communicated. TWRA wants to resolve/address issues related to required permits and confusion on seasonal hiking regulations.

Capitalize on the Tennessee River and the South Waterfront more. More boat access is needed. This is an underserved asset of the UW. Work on ways to ensure the South Waterfront area feels part of the UW.

Perceptions exist that there are some conflicts with hikers/runners and mountain bikers and that families don’t use mountain biking trails in fear of getting run over.

New Opportunities

Formalize partner/stakeholder engagement. Many desire and have expressed need for routine communication/meetings quarterly, semi-annually, or yearly. Develop a yearly summit to engage all partners. These efforts can help “grease” the effectiveness of collaboration.

Develop UW ambassadors and/or a volunteer corps program, as a collaborative effort among partners. Utilize neighborhood associations and businesses to help grow, advocate, and make connections for the UW. Recruit companies and neighborhood associations to have volunteer work parties that provide services for the UW. Utilize partners and volunteers in environmental restoration and conservation through stream cleanups, invasive species control, and habitat improvements. Continue to build a volunteer base for trail construction and maintenance.

Expand Partnership with Schools. Expand field trips to Ijams and into the greater UW. Develop after school programs that engage the UW. Work with the Safe Routes to School program to be integrated into the UW’s connectivity goals. Work with schools to do bicycle rodeos that engage students with the UW.

Develop iconic gateways. Look at Tweetsie Trail as an example of iconic gateways

Get more funders to the table, especially other foundations.

Continue to expand cultural/heritage centers and programming like the Candora Arts and Heritage Centers, which can serve as cultural gateways into the UW. Partner with the Knoxville History Project to lead tours and hikes in the Battlefield Loop.

Explore opportunities to maintain affordable housing like a community land trust. This is especially critical if the UW causes home prices to rise.

Open a trolley/bus route to major gateways of the UW. Connect hotels, convention centers, outfitters, and the University of Tennessee together through transit. Visit Knoxville reports a high demand for visitors needing rides to the UW who are staying downtown.

Develop camping/cabins/“glamping”. Ijams Nature Center is considering a small camping area, which could be a pilot project that gages demand for this service.

Expand river access and programming. Provide guided boat tours on the Tennessee River under the banner of the Urban Wilderness. TWRA is interested in providing river access, potentially a fishing pier, in the next four years and may have grant funding to do so. Ijams will be opening a river access area within the next year.

Develop themed trails related to heritage, birding, and other themes. Develop one or more heritage trails. An example of this is the Freedom Trail in Boston. Other trails could be birding or wildlife viewing themed.

Integrate the arts into the UW using artists to help design the gateways. Engage the City Public Arts Committee in their ideas for artists integration. Develop more “arts in the park” opportunities, whether at Ijams Nature Center or other locations.

Expand rock-climbing opportunities. Ijams is expanding rock climbing as part of its outdoor adventure center activities. This can bring in new/expanded users.

Designate and build one or two visitor centers as major gateways into the UW. These could range from a building with a restroom to a major trailhead with a large covered outdoor kiosk.

Develop an UW themed education series that works as a collaboration of partners. UW partners could provide education to local landowners on stewardship opportunities. TWRA is interested in collaborating on education, whether related to training on hunter safety, invasive species management, or other programs. Ijams has expressed interest in collaborations as well. There is a need for organized tours to get non-traditional users out (involve speaker bureaus, civic clubs, etc).

Assess community needs and desires for recreation. The Health Department can promote activities and assess what kind of recreation the casual user wants.

Engage larger UW stakeholders in the Chapman Highway Corridor Study in 2017.

Build a University of Tennessee Partnership. UT groups are often using Ijams and Fork of the River WMA for education purposes, but don’t often notify or work with the landowners. Student research groups use the lands but rarely collaborate with the land manager. Having some kind of cooperative research relationship under the banner of the UW could be helpful.



**KNOXVILLE'S
URBAN WILDERNESS**

The Plan



Four-Year Implementation Timeline



Funding Need



Accomplishment or Project Completed



KNOXVILLE'S URBAN WILDERNESS

YEAR 1

(Present-June 30, 2018)

YEAR 2

(July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019)

YEAR 3

(July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020)

YEAR 4

(July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021)

URBAN WILDERNESS (UW)-WIDE PROJECTS



Implement Wayfinding & Gateways

Leadership team plans locations

6 Gateways implemented

» Ijams Nature Center implements wayfinding



» Fort Dickerson and G&O Trail wayfinding signage installed

6 Gateways implemented



» IC King Park and James White Parkway wayfinding signage installed

4 Gateways implemented

» IC King Park and James White Parkway wayfinding signage installed



4 Gateways implemented

Continue Implementing As Needed



Develop Cooperative Partnership Structure

» Establish core leadership team
» Hold first UW Summit, being "UW Alliance"
» Begin to outline management structure
» Develop an Urban Wilderness Coordinator position with LPF to coordinate the UW Alliance

» Hold UW Summit, strengthen UW Alliance
» Finalize preferred management structure for the UW
» Continue funding the UW Alliance Coordinator

» Hold UW Summit, strengthen UW Alliance
» Develop memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with partners
» Continue funding the UW Alliance Coordinator, seek permanent funding for position

» Hold UW Summit, strengthen UW Alliance
» Transfer any lands to land manager if needed

Continue Work



Expand Tourism/Local Visitor Marketing and Further Economic Development

» Establish action plan to market locals
» Host media tours with Visit Knoxville
» Develop package for conventions/hotels
» Engage on Chapman Highway Corridor Study
» Participate in business recruitment



» Shuttles from downtown to UW established and run by Visit Knoxville
» Continue to provide input on Chapman Highway

» Continue to support tourism and local resident marketing efforts and business recruitment

THE BATTLEFIELD LOOP



River Bluff Park

» Design and engineering completed

» Design and engineering for trails and parking/trailheads completed



» Fundraising
» Initial parking/trailhead(s) and trails implemented

Further park improvements (other park amenities) completed beyond year 4



Fort Dickerson Park

» Design and engineering completed



» Capital funding and fundraising
» Begin construction for basic improvements for parking and trails



» Capital funding and fundraising
» Begin construction for other amenities
» Trail construction and maintenance



» Capital funding
» Continue and complete construction

IJAMS NATURE CENTER



Mead's Quarry

» Implement wayfinding
» Develop vendor/concessions mobile structure
» Enhance swim area, beer garden, and landscaping and improve access to Quarry water for users
» Coordinate with Legacy Parks on the G&O project as it enters and travels through the Ijams property



» Capital campaign for improvements
» Add overnight camping experience for target groups specific to Ijam's mission
» Enhance lime kiln area and develop interpretation surrounding G&O Trail



» Capital plan build out



Tennessee River Access

» Open dock, road, boat rentals, and begin programming
» Coordinate with Legacy Parks on the G&O project as it enters and travels through the Ijams property



» Engineering and design for fully completed river access
» Fundraising and capital campaign specific to the build out of the Ijams Master Plan



» Capital plan build out

PARKS (EXPANSIONS OR NEW—OTHER THAN BATTLEFIELD LOOP PARKS)



IC King Park Expansion

» Implement LPRF grant, begin construction, complete trails



» Construction continues and completed



Develop Gateway at James White Parkway

» Finalize TDOT agreement
» Program space, and plan trail connections



» Fundraising
» Design, funding, and permitting completed
» BMX Park construction



» Construction of James White Parkway Gateway

NEW GREENWAYS/TRAILS CONNECTIVITY



G&O Trail

» Develop plan and cost estimates
» Find funding
» Sign easements and agreements
» Develop signage
» Construction underway and completed



» Develop side trails that connect the G&O to neighborhoods and amenities



Connect the Battlefield Loop Across Chapman Hwy

» Formalize plans for improvements for connectivity
» Consider in plans integrating a small UW Welcome Center

» Engineering, coordination with TDOT, public input

Construction occurs beyond year 4



Connect Fort Dickerson, Fort Stanley, High Ground, and River Bluff Parks

» Coordinate plans to connect Scottish Pike to River Bluff Park

» Initial connectivity/alignment identified
» Design for Cherokee Cove Trail connection



» Engineering, coordination with TDOT, public input, land acquisition, and landowner/easements
» Trail construction of Cherokee Cove Trail



Cherokee Farms/UT Medical Center Trail Connection

» Find funding
» Finalize easements and design
» Begin construction



» Continue and complete construction



Proposed Short-Term Four-Year Projects

Proposed Accomplishments of the Plan:

Implement Signage System. Multiple gateways, park entrance signs, and other signage implemented as part of a comprehensive program.

Form Urban Wilderness Alliance. An alliance of many partners begins to collaboratively manage the Urban Wilderness in a more formal way.

Expand Tourism and Marketing. Alliance works to collaboratively market. Initiate a shuttle for tourists from downtown.

Improve and Connect the Battlefield Loop. Fort Dickerson Park improvements are completed. River Bluff Park's trails and parking built. Connectivity to each part of the Battlefield Loop is improved.

Improve Ijams Nature Center. Improve Mead's/Ijams' Quarry Area, including a new outdoor classroom and implement river access.

Develop the James White Parkway Gateway. Develop another eastern gateway.

Expand IC King Park. Develop expansion with trails, dog park, and other facilities.

Develop the G&O Trail. Develop the rail-with-trail that will connect the South Loop to the Battlefield Loop.

- Develop plans for improvements at Chapman Highway and Moody Avenue
 - Facilitate inclusion of key intersections in Chapman Highway
 - Study possible connections at Blount Avenue or a possible separated pedestrian bridge crossing
 - Consider integrating a small UW welcome center as part of G&O crossing as gateway to the UW
- Engineering, coordination with TDOT, public input
Future phases occur beyond year 4

Design and engineering completed

Capital funding/fundraising

Begin construction for parking, trails, and basic improvements

Capital funding/fundraising

Begin construction for other amenities

Trail construction and maintenance (AMBC)

Capital funding/fundraising

Continue construction, completion

Easements and trail design finalized

Capital funding/fundraising

Construction continues and is completed

Implement LPRF grant, begin construction, trail construction and maintenance begins

IC King construction continues and is finished

Design and engineering completed

Design and engineering for trails and parking/trailhead(s)

Fundraising

Initial parking/trailhead(s) and trails implemented

Future phases occur beyond year 4

Coordinate connection from Scottish Pike to River Bluff

Initial connectivity/alignment identified

Design for Cherokee Cove trail connection

Engineering, coordination with TDOT, public input, land acquisition, coordination with utilities and railroad

Trail construction and maintenance, connect through Cherokee Cove into High Ground Park

Future phases occur beyond year 4 (connection from High Ground across Cherokee Trail)

Finalize TDOT agreement

Program Space between Baker Creek Preserve and James White Parkway

Plan trail connections from Dogwood Elementary to James White Parkway

Design, funding and permitting completed

Fundraising

Construction of James White Parkway gateway

Pedestrian Improvements to James White Parkway Bridge (Planning Underway with City)

Connect the Battlefield Loop and G&O Trail Across Chapman Hwy.

Fort Dickerson Park

Cherokee Farms/UT Medical Center Trail Connection

River Bluff Park

Connect Fort Dickerson, Fort Stanley, High Ground and River Bluff Parks

Develop Gateway at James White Parkway

G&O Trail (Rail with Trail)

Mead's Quarry

Tennessee River Access

- Implement wayfinding
- Develop vendor/concessions mobile structure
- Enhance swim area, beer garden, and landscaping
- Improve access to Quarry water
- Coordinate with Legacy Parks Foundation on G&O Trail through Ijams

- Initiate capital campaign for improvements
- Add overnight camping experience for targeted groups specific to Ijams' mission
- Historic interpretation of the lime kiln, enhance landscaping around G&O Trail

Capital campaign build-out

- Open dock
- Electric access gate installed
- Road improvements
- Boat rentals
- Adaptive programming with catalyst
- Coordinate with Legacy Parks on the G&O Trail project as it enters and travels through the Ijams property

- Fundraising and capital campaign specific to the build out of the Ijams' Master Plan
- Engineering and technical support for river access

Capital campaign build-out

Project ID'd in the Four-Year Implementation Plan

District Gateway Implementation

Site Entrance Gateway Implementation

Year Gateway Completed

Fundraising Action

Accomplishment/Project Completed

- Bike Facilities
- Existing Trails
- Greenway
- Conceptual Connections (Planning 2015)
- City/County Parks & Greenway Master Plan:
 - Planned Connections (Primary)
 - Planned Connections (Secondary)
 - ▨ Proposed Parks
 - ▨ Existing Parks/Open Space
 - ▨ Legacy Parks Easements
 - ▨ Public Lands



Urban Wilderness-wide / Four-Year Implementation Plan



PROJECT	YEAR 1 Actions	Partner(s)	YEAR 2 Actions	Partner(s)	YEAR 3 Actions	Partner(s)	YEAR 4 Actions	Partner(s)		
URBAN WILDERNESS (UW)-WIDE PROJECTS										
A	 Implement a Comprehensive Signage/Wayfinding Program	ALL YEARS Categorize difficulty of trails in future wayfinding maps Inventory all existing signs and create a geo-referenced database: Geo-reference all sign locations and create a standard database of information on each sign and continue to update as signage is added.							Lead: LPF/ Supporting: Leadership Team	
		Determine needs for pedestrian/trail wayfinding.	Lead: LPF/ Supporting: Leadership Team	YEARS 2-4 Continue to implement as trails and pedestrian/bike connectivity is improved					Lead: LPF/ Supporting: Leadership Team	
		Leadership Team, Led by City, Develops Auto-wayfinding Plan with sign locations and design details in collaboration with City Engineer, AMBC to help find examples from other trail system.								
		Fully plan auto and pedestrian wayfinding at Ijams Nature Center based on plan developed by leadership team	Lead: Ijams Supporting: City	Fort Dickerson and G&O Trail auto-wayfinding signage installed to direct to gateway/entrances/trailheads	Lead: City Supporting: Aslan and LPF	IC King Park and James White Parkway auto-wayfinding signage installed to direct to gateway/entrances/trailheads.		River Bluff Park auto-wayfinding signage installed to direct to gateway/entrances/trailheads.		
B	 Develop Gateways Pilot Project (As Part of Larger Wayfinding Program)	Implement District Gateway: Chapman Highway Gateway	Lead: City, Ijams, LPF, and Aslan	Implement Site Gateways:	Lead: City, LPF, Aslan, and County	Implement District Gateway: Gay Street Bridge Gateway	Lead: City Supporting Partner: LPF	Implement site gateways:	Lead: City and Aslan Supporting Partner: LPF	
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fort Dickerson East Entrance (modification to plans) High Ground Park Entrance Baker Creek/Adventure Playground Ijams Nature Center—Visitor Center Entrance Gateway Ijams Nature Center—Meads Quarry Gateway Ijams Nature Center—South Entrance Gateway 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fort Dickerson (west entrance) G&O Trail and Sevier Avenue Gateway G&O Trail and Island Home Gateway G&O Trail and Ijams Nature Center Gateway Will Skelton Greenway and Ijams Nature Center Gateway IC King Park 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Scottish Pike Park Gateway Suttree Landing Park Gateway Island Home Park Gateway James White Parkway Gateway 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> River Bluff Park Gateway at the Cherokee Trail Entrance River Bluff Park Gateway at Carl's Lane Entrance Cherokee Cove Trail Gateway 					
C	 Develop the Cooperative Partnership Structure, Known as the "Urban Wilderness Alliance"	Establish a core leadership team, meet monthly and ad-hoc groups meet as needed.	Lead: LPF and City Supporting: Leadership Team	YEARS 2-4 Meet monthly and ad-hoc groups meet as needed, take stock in first quarter of year four to assess accomplishments and develop next steps					Lead: LPF and City Supporting: Leadership Team	
		Explore funding and implement a position at LPF that would coordinate UW plan and the UW Alliance.		ALL YEARS Continue to hold Urban Wilderness Alliance Summit annually						
		Hold first UW Summit in 2017.	Lead: LPF Supporting: Leadership Team	Begin to outline a cooperative land management structure, determine ideal model	Lead: LPF Supporting: Leadership Team	Finalized preferred management structure for UW, including potential "land manager" for properties needing a cohesive manager	Lead: LPF Supporting: Leadership Team	Develop memorandums of understanding between organizations, if determined useful	Lead: LPF Supporting: Leadership Team	Transfer any lands to land manager if need is determined
D	 Expand Tourism/Local Visitors Marketing Efforts	Establish an action plan for marketing UW to locals Expand the UW Brand Package to be "open source", work with partners	Lead: LPF Supporting: Leadership Team	Develop and lead guided tours of the UW system	Lead: AMBC Supporting: Leadership Team	YEARS 3-4 Guided tour programs underway				
		Management of media outreach and/tourism marketing, provide content to Visit Knoxville, host media tours	Lead: LPF Supporting: Leadership Team Visit Knoxville	Establish shuttles from downtown (overseen by Visit Knoxville) to the Urban Wilderness as well as a bike share program	Lead: Visit Knoxville Supporting: Leadership Team	ALL YEARS Continue to management/coordinate media outreach and/marketing and provide content to Visit Knoxville				
		Develop packages for convention participants/hotels	Lead: LPF & Ijams Supporting: Leadership Team	YEARS 2-4 Continue to develop, collaborate, and measure success of tourism packages for visitors						
E	 Work With Partners to Further Economic Development and Ensure Quality Growth	YEAR 1 Work with MPC on Chapman Highway Corridor Study		YEAR 2-4 Help implement study: Work with MPC to address zoning and overlays adapted to support all efforts in the UW				Lead: City Supporting: Leadership Team		
		Participate in business recruitment	Lead: LPF Supporting: Leadership Team	YEARS 2-4 Continue to participate in business recruitment						

.....\$..... Funding Need Accomplishment or Project Completed



Developing a Cooperative Partnership Structure



The Urban Wilderness Alliance

One of the biggest recommendations to come out of the Four-Year Implementation Planning process, is the need for a more structured collaborative approach to manage, fund, and guide the implementation of the Urban Wilderness. The following recommendation were developed based on steering committee and stakeholder feedback:

- » **Develop the “Urban Wilderness Alliance”,** a formalized structure of partners that participate regularly or occasionally. During stakeholder engagement, many partners expressed the need for more communication and collaboration. Some of these topics are discussed in New Opportunities on page 10. Recommendations for cultivating the Urban Wilderness Alliance include:
 - **Hold an Annual UW Alliance Summit.** An annual UW Alliance Summit will allow partners to coalesce around key issues, help build capacity for UW implementation, and build advocates who will back the UW in the future.
 - **Provide quarterly electronic communication** to the partners and other interested parties on accomplishments and upcoming projects.
- » **Formalize the Leadership Team that heads the Urban Wilderness Alliance.** The leadership team, made of Legacy Parks Foundation, the City of Knoxville, Ijams Nature Center, Knox County, AMBC, and the Aslan Foundation, will guide the implementation of this plan as well as lead the growth of the Alliance concept. The team could meet monthly, or even more regularly for specific project coordination.

- » **Establish Legacy Parks Foundation as the coordinator of the Urban Wilderness Alliance and regular meetings of the Leadership Team.** An Urban Wilderness coordinator, which could be housed under LPF, would oversee day-to-day logistics. Funding this position will be critical to moving the Alliance concept forward.
- » **Build a Volunteer Corps.** Many partnering organizations already have a volunteer base. The UW Alliance can help build upon this base through a combined volunteer corps effort based on an individual’s interest (trail building and maintenance, invasive species management, engagement with users). AMBC and LPF’s UW Coordinator could share the role in building/coordinating this volunteer corps. Several stakeholders mentioned the potential to develop volunteer rangers that engage with users of the UW, especially on weekends where they could help users that are in need of assistance (flat tire, lost, etc), or educate them on user etiquette.

Cooperative Partnership Example



TAMALPAIS LANDS COLLABORATIVE

Cooperative models for managing public open space have become commonplace. One of the best examples similar to the Urban Wilderness Alliance is the Tamalpais Land Collaborative in the San Francisco Bay Area of California. This collaborative is made of the following entities:

- » The National Park Service
- » California State Parks
- » Marin Municipal Water District
- » Marin County Parks
- » The Golden Gate Parks Conservancy

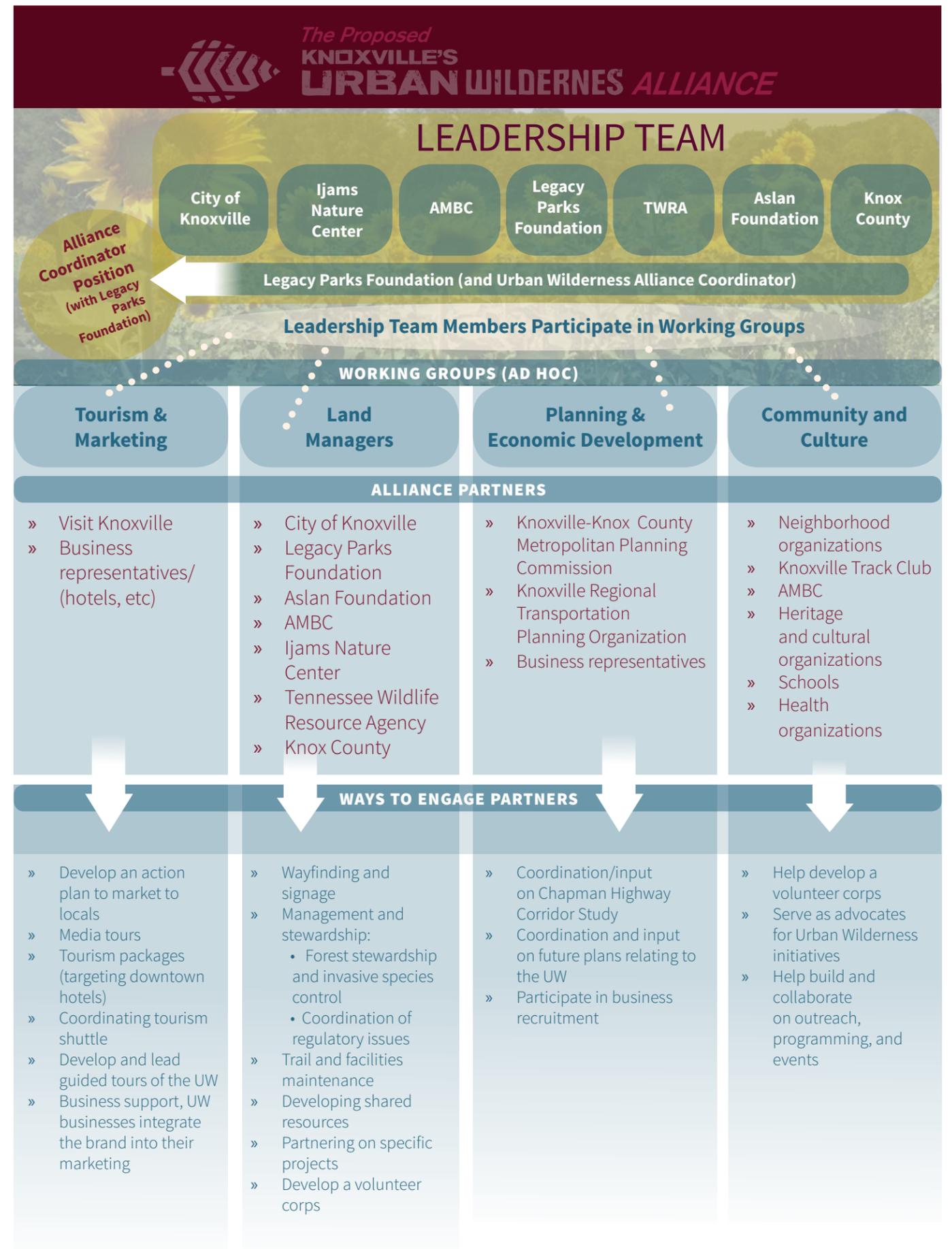
These organizations came together to re-brand a landscape and to increase collaboration where common goals existed. Philanthropic recruitment was a major focus and all partners agreed to seek philanthropic funding collectively versus competitively.

The Collaborative’s goals include efforts to restore the ecosystem, improve trail corridors, enhance visitor experiences, expand education and stewardship, and inspire community support through volunteerism and philanthropy.

Check out this incredible resource of information about the Collaborative and landscape/public lands collaborative management:

www.onetam.org

...It offers a much-needed unified platform for increased collaboration to support priority projects, sustain conservation and restoration program, coordinate education and stewardship, and increase the size and capacity of the volunteer corps caring for these lands. It also provides a vehicle for coordinated philanthropic support and community engagement that will demonstrate the power of collective impact and common vision.



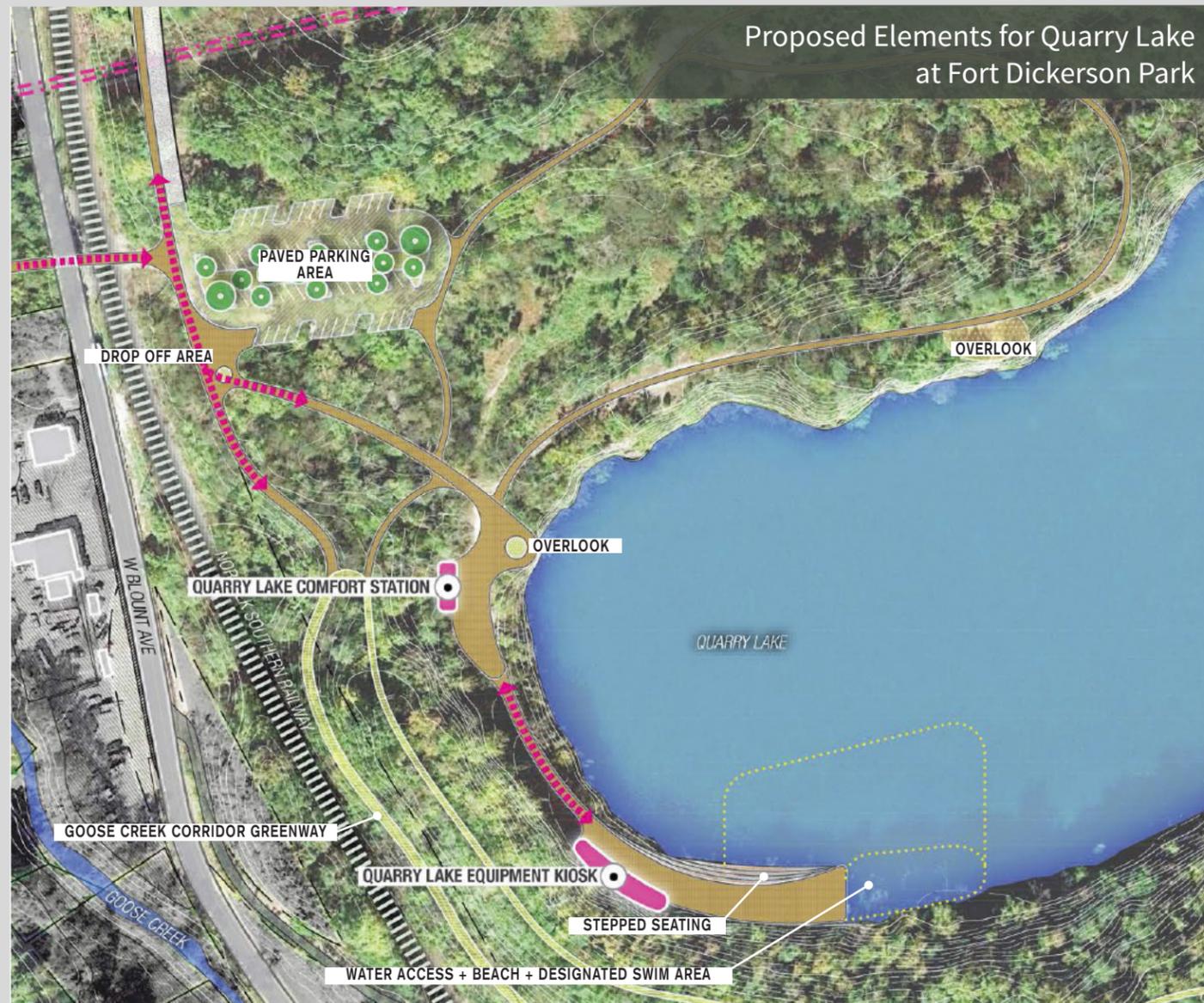
The Battlefield Loop / Four-Year Implementation Plan



KNOXVILLE'S URBAN WILDERNESS

PROJECT	YEAR 1 Actions	Partner(s)	YEAR 2 Actions	Partner(s)	YEAR 3 Actions	Partner(s)	YEAR 4 Actions	Partner(s)
THE BATTLEFIELD LOOP								
F	River Bluff Park	Lead: City and Aslan Supporting: LPF	Design and engineering completed	Lead: City and Aslan Supporting: LPF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and engineering for trails and parking/trailhead(s) 	Lead: City and Aslan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fundraising/funding need Initial parking/trailhead(s) and trails implemented 	Lead: City and Aslan Supporting: LPF and AMBC
G	Fort Dickerson Park	Lead: City and Aslan Supporting: LPF	Design and engineering completed	Lead: City and Aslan Supporting: LPF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital funding/fundraising Begin construction for parking, trails, and basic improvements 	Lead: City and Aslan Supporting: LPF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital funding Begin construction for other amenities Trail construction and maintenance (AMBC) 	Lead: City and Aslan Supporting: LPF and AMBC

.....\$..... Funding Need ✓..... Accomplishment or Project Completed



Proposed Elements River Bluff Park
Images from Knoxville Battlefield Loop Plan, Sanders Pace Architecture and PORT Urbanism, 2016



Ijams Nature Center / Four-Year Implementation Plan



KNOXVILLE'S URBAN WILDERNESS

PROJECT	YEAR 1 Actions	Partner(s)	YEAR 2 Actions	Partner(s)	YEAR 3 Actions	Partner(s)	YEAR 4 Actions	Partner(s)
IJAMS NATURE CENTER								
H	<p>Mead's Quarry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement wayfinding Develop vendor/concessions mobile structure Enhance swim area, beer garden and landscaping Improve access for users to the restrooms and Quarry water for vendor customers and swimmers Coordinate with LPF on the G&O project as it enters and travels through the Ijams property 	Lead: Ijams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate capital campaign for improvements Add overnight camping experience for targeted groups specific to Ijam's mission Historic interpretation of the lime kiln, enhance landscaping around G&O Trail 	Lead: Ijams Supporting: County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital campaign build-out 	Lead: Ijams Supporting: County		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open dock Electric access gate installed Road improvements Boat rentals Adaptive programming with catalyst Coordinate with Legacy Parks on the G&O project as it enters and travels through the Ijams property 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fundraising and capital campaign specific to the build out of the Ijams Master Plan Engineering and technical support for river access 			
I	<p>River Access/ Paddling/ Programming</p>	Lead: Ijams		Lead: Ijams Supporting: City				

Proposed Mead's Quarry Improvements (Outdoor Classroom)



Images from Ijams Outdoor Education Building Study, MHM and Ross/Fowler, 2016

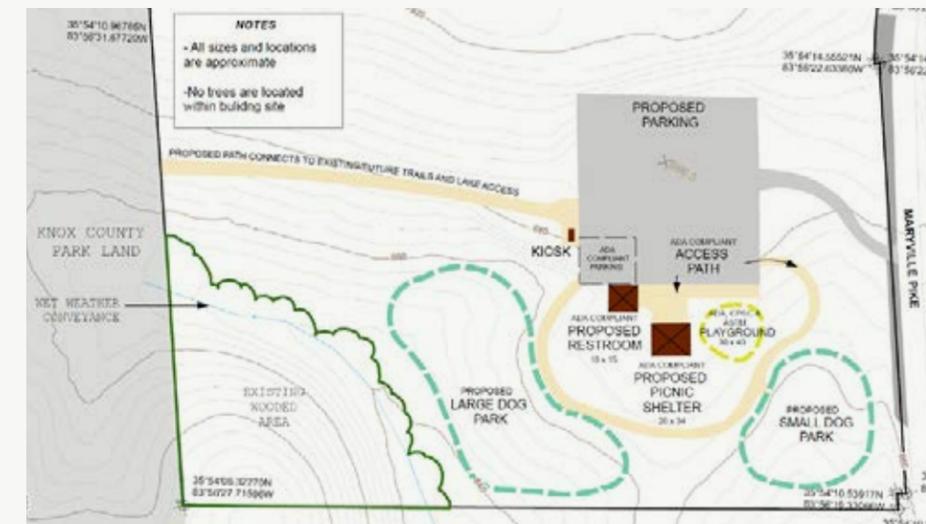
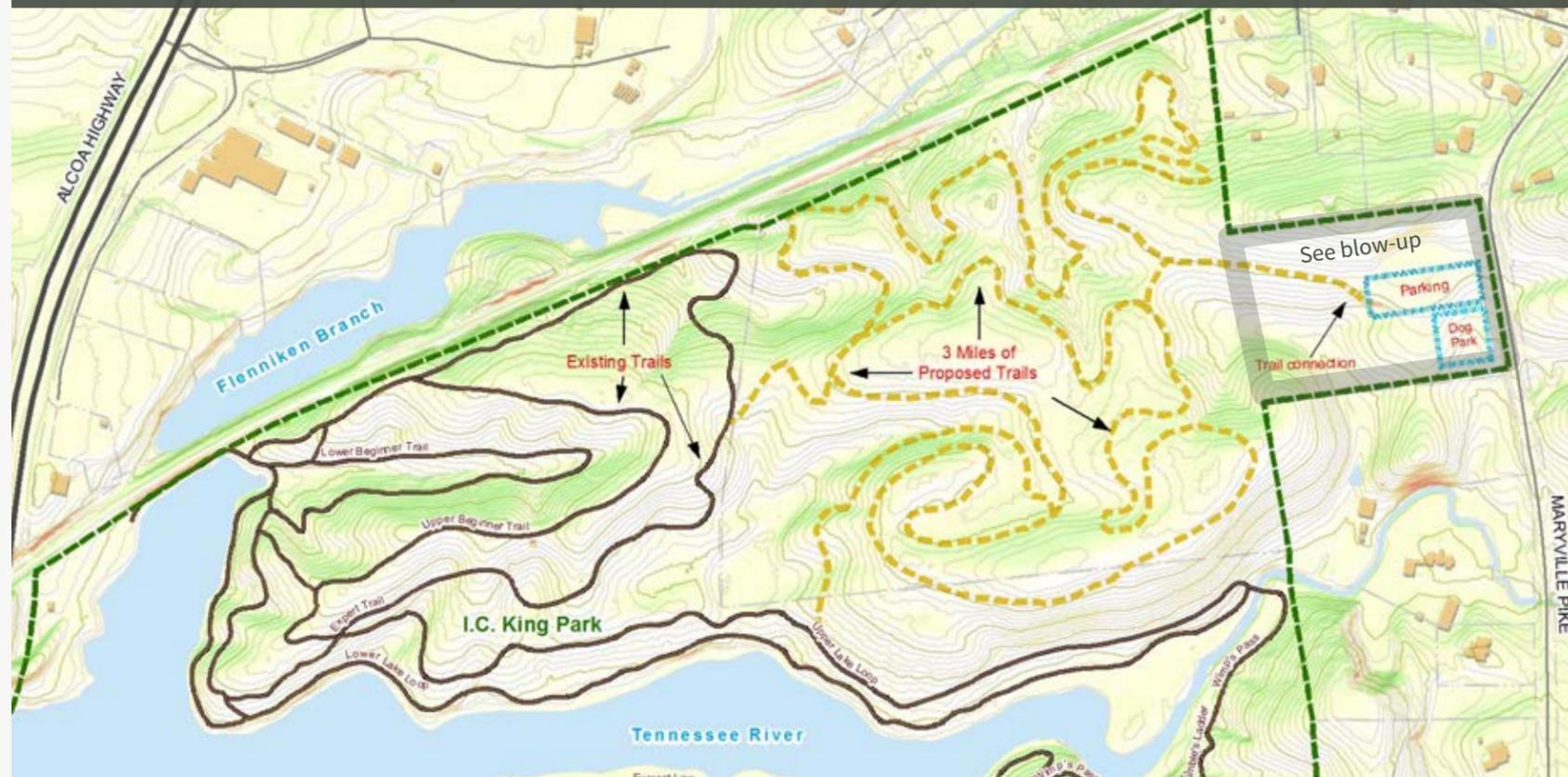


Parks (Other Than Battlefield Loop) / Four-Year Implementation Plan



PROJECT	YEAR 1 Actions	Partner(s)	YEAR 2 Actions	Partner(s)	YEAR 3 Actions	Partner(s)	YEAR 4 Actions	Partner(s)
PARKS (EXPANSIONS OR NEW—OTHER THAN BATTLEFIELD LOOP PARKS)								
J	IC King Park Expansion		Implement Local Park and Recreation Fund (LPRF) grant, begin park and trail construction, and then maintenance begins	Lead: County and AMBC	IC King construction continues and is finished	Lead: County and AMBC		
K	Develop Gateway at James White Parkway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize TDOT agreement Program Space between Baker Creek Preserve and James White Parkway Plan trail connections from Dogwood Elementary to James White Parkway 	Design, funding and permitting completed	Lead(s): City and LPF Supporting: AMBC	Construction of James White Parkway Gateway	Lead(s): City and LPF Supporting: AMBC		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BMX park location determined and designed Fundraising/funding need 	BMX Park construction	Lead(s): County and LPF Supporting: AMBC			

Proposed IC King Park Expansion



Blow-up of park detail

Images from Knox County, 2016



Trails & Connectivity / Four-Year Implementation Plan



KNOXVILLE'S URBAN WILDERNESS

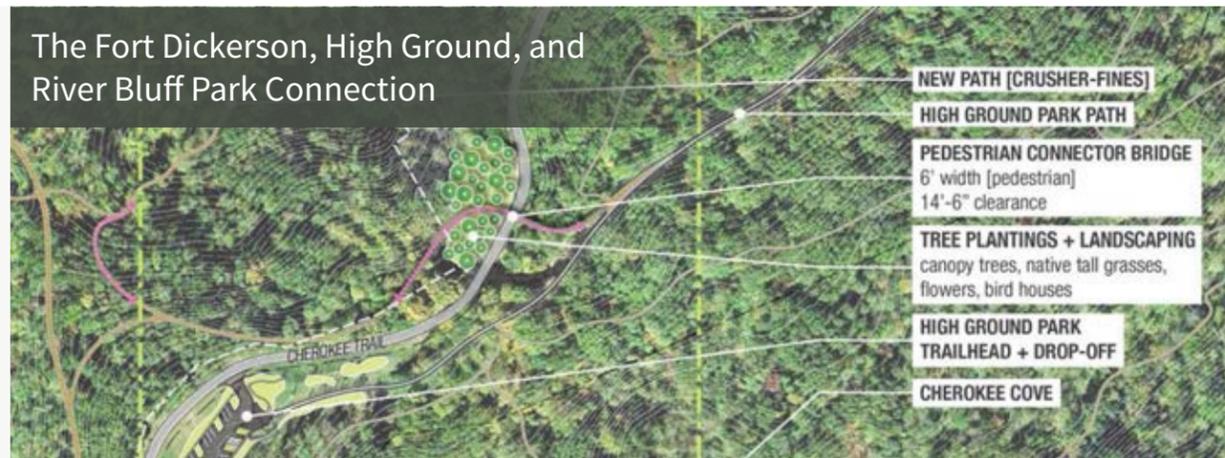
PROJECT	YEAR 1 Actions	Partner(s)	YEAR 2 Actions	Partner(s)	YEAR 3 Actions	Partner(s)	YEAR 4 Actions	Partner(s)
NEW GREENWAYS/TRAILS CONNECTIVITY								
L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop design plan and cost estimates Seek funding Sign easements and agreements Design/develop way-stations and signage Compile donated goods and services 	Lead: LPF Supporting: City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop side-trails that connect the G&O to neighborhoods and amenities 	Lead: LPF & AMBC Supporting: City				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction underway and completed 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers available for special projects and connections for G&O 					
M	Connect Battlefield Loop and the Proposed G&O Trail Across Chapman Highway		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop plans for improvements at Chapman Highway and Moody Avenue Facilitate inclusion of key intersections in Chapman Highway Study possible connections at Blount Avenue or a possible separated pedestrian bridge crossing Consider integrating a small UW welcome center as part of G&O crossing as gateway to the UW 	Lead: City Supporting: Aslan			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engineering, coordination with TDOT, public input 	Lead: City
N	Connect Fort Dickerson, High Ground, Fort Stanley and River Bluff Parks	Coordinate connection from Scottish Pike to River Bluff Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial connectivity/alignment identified Design for Cherokee Cove Trail connection 	Lead: Aslan Support: LPF	Lead: AMBC & Aslan Supporting: City		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engineering, coordination with TDOT, public input, land acquisition, coordination with utilities and railroad 	Lead: Aslan and City
							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail construction and maintenance, connect through Cherokee Cove into High Ground Park 	Supporting: AMBC
O	Cherokee Farms/ UT Medical Center Trail Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easements and design finalized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue and complete construction 					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek funding Start construction 							



Funding Need



Accomplishment or Project Completed





KNOXVILLE'S URBAN WILDERNESS



SOUTH LOOP TRAILS

THE SOUTH LOOP IS THE 13.8 MILE MAIN ROUTE THAT WILL BRING YOU BACK TO YOUR STARTING POINT.

TO FOLLOW THE SOUTH LOOP IF LOOK FOR THE PURPLE BLOW, TREE BLAZES OR STENCILS ON THE ROAD.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS APPLY

THE SOUTH LOOP IS A 13.8 MILE MAIN ROUTE THAT WILL BRING YOU BACK TO YOUR STARTING POINT.

TO FOLLOW THE SOUTH LOOP IF LOOK FOR THE PURPLE BLOW, TREE BLAZES OR STENCILS ON THE ROAD.



Design Guide

The Urban Wilderness Design Guide

Purpose and Need

Like many efforts of this nature, each partner brings their own identity system into play. The City of Knoxville has a well executed city brand, Ijams Nature Center is undergoing a re-imaging process that will introduce new gateways and signs, and the Legacy Parks Foundation has a brand system designed to showcase all of the outdoor opportunities in the metropolitan area. The Urban Wilderness itself has a brand identity that has already been successfully deployed in environmental graphics, promotional pieces, partnership efforts, and online.

Through the process of this four-year planning effort, several needs have been identified. They are:

- » **Retain partner identity.** Each of the partners in the Urban Wilderness needs to be able to identify as part of the partnership without compromising their own brand identity. This need varies by partner but carries across the area.
- » **Visual unity.** Each of the locations within the Urban Wilderness have the opportunity to reflect a consistent identity or marquee that lets visitors know they are in an Urban Wilderness location.
- » **Recognition.** Residents of Knoxville and visitors to the region need to be able to better navigate among the collection of assets within the Urban Wilderness and to understand the four themes that carry through the area: exploration, recreation, preservation, and conservation. This will require some consistency of environmental graphics that can be deployed over time.

Overview of Components

The design guide contains several key components:

- » **An inventory of existing graphics** used already within the Urban Wilderness and among the partners in the effort.
- » **An evaluation of the materials used within various locations** within Knoxville's Urban Wilderness.
- » **A material palette that recommends consistent elements** that can be used across a variety of locations within the area without compromising the uniqueness of each location.
- » **A signage plan that looks at primary gateways, secondary gateways, location signs, and key wayfinding signs that can be deployed over a four-year period.** This signage plan has a hierarchy and priority system that allows partners to implement this over time and in coordination with existing efforts.
- » **“Do and don’t” tips to help guide implementation.** These tips show both examples from other locations and mock-ups for the Urban Wilderness that will help decision makers through implementation.
- » **Thematic recommendations revolving around four key themes: exploration, recreation, preservation, and conservation.** These themes overlap in many of the Urban Wilderness locations and can be an effective way to organize visits for various audiences.
- » **Finally, the design guide contains a series of recommendations** for the partners in Knoxville's Urban Wilderness to consider through a four year implementation time frame.

This design guide is a toolbox that gives direction to the partners of Knoxville's Urban Wilderness by providing a consistent image for the individual elements of Knoxville's Urban Wilderness while preserving the uniqueness of each amenity within the area.

Existing Physical Conditions

The existing conditions of Knoxville's Urban Wilderness as a “destination” vary greatly and are a byproduct of separate entities working on different projects over many years. Coordinating these environmental graphics will help signal to residents and visitors that the Urban Wilderness is a cohesive collection of parks, open spaces, historic sites, and recreational opportunities. Ultimately, a well conceived system for the Urban Wilderness will place this location on par with some of the most dynamic outdoor experiences in the United States.

Overall Context: Currently, South Knoxville consists of a mixture of uses that center on the traditional suburban style corridor of Chapman Highway, a collection of neighborhoods of varying incomes and housing styles, more “exurban” uses outside of neighborhoods on old roadways, and various parks and attractions within the district.

There are several major institutions in the area including the Tennessee School for the Deaf, the Ijams Nature Center, and the former Baptist Hospital that is being redeveloped into the headquarters for Regal Cinemas.

The natural areas within the Urban Wilderness, with the notable exception of a few parks and the Ijams Nature center are not well signed and are difficult to locate for outsiders.

Gateways:

The Urban Wilderness itself has no gateway identification at any entryway into the area. A visitor from outside of the area (and even Knoxville residents) have no sense that they have crossed a threshold into what is defined as the Urban Wilderness.

(Image right) Gay Street is the best pedestrian/bicycle connection into the Urban Wilderness area. An overhead structure at the south side of the bridge provides opportunity for gateway signage.

Image bottom right) While South Knoxville has an aging sign at the southeastern corner of the intersection of Chapman Highway and Blount Street, there are no other gateway signs to the area.



Existing Physical Conditions

Entryway and Interpretive Signs:

Signage in the Urban Wilderness varies greatly. Major attractions like Ijams Nature Park have attractive (if temporary) gateway signs, thorough interpretive signs, and the first start of implementing the Urban Wilderness brand at kiosks. Fort Dickerson has a historic marker and a highway sign on Chapman Highway but no indication of its inclusion in the Urban Wilderness.

Other parks within the Urban Wilderness have traditional Knoxville City parks signs that consist of etched wood posts. Several parks also have no indication that they are part of the Urban Wilderness (and a few have little to no signage). The Urban Wilderness branding has been implemented at Baker Creek Preserve, IC King Park, and at other key trailheads.

High Ground Park has attractive gateway signs and interpretive panels that begin to set a standard for other locations, but has yet to integrate UW branding.



Existing Physical Conditions

Auto-wayfinding Signs:

Knoxville has recently implemented a comprehensive downtown wayfinding plan. While this plan does a good job of navigating visitors through downtown Knoxville, it does not include, nor does it continue into the Urban Wilderness. Auto-wayfinding in the Urban Wilderness is nearly non-existent with the notable exception of signs directing visitors to the Ijams Nature Center. Even these signs are inconsistent and are placed in ways that do not connect Ijams to other attractions. New parks such as High Ground Park have no wayfinding and don't include signals that entryways to the park exist.



Materials:

Existing materials in the Urban Wilderness, while varied depending on the location, show a remarkable ability to be compatible over the entire district.

- » **Stacked and rough cut stone** is used in parks like Fort Dickerson and High Ground Park. Stacked stone is an excellent way to show continuity within the district on primary and secondary gateway signs. Rough-cut limestone is also plentiful in South Knoxville and pays homage to the Urban Wilderness' heritage.
- » **Wood posts** are used in a variety of locations and, while they vary in condition, can be a simple material to use in other locations in the Urban Wilderness.
- » **Split rail fencing** is evident in several locations (most notably at High Ground Park). Split rail fencing shows both a rustic and historic look.
- » **Corten metal** is used at Ijams Nature Center with strong effect and in the kiosks for gateways to the Urban Wilderness.



An Homage to the Past

Many visual elements from the limestone industry days of South Knoxville can be utilized in future signage and design elements, from the rough cut limestone to the architectural vernacular of the quarries.



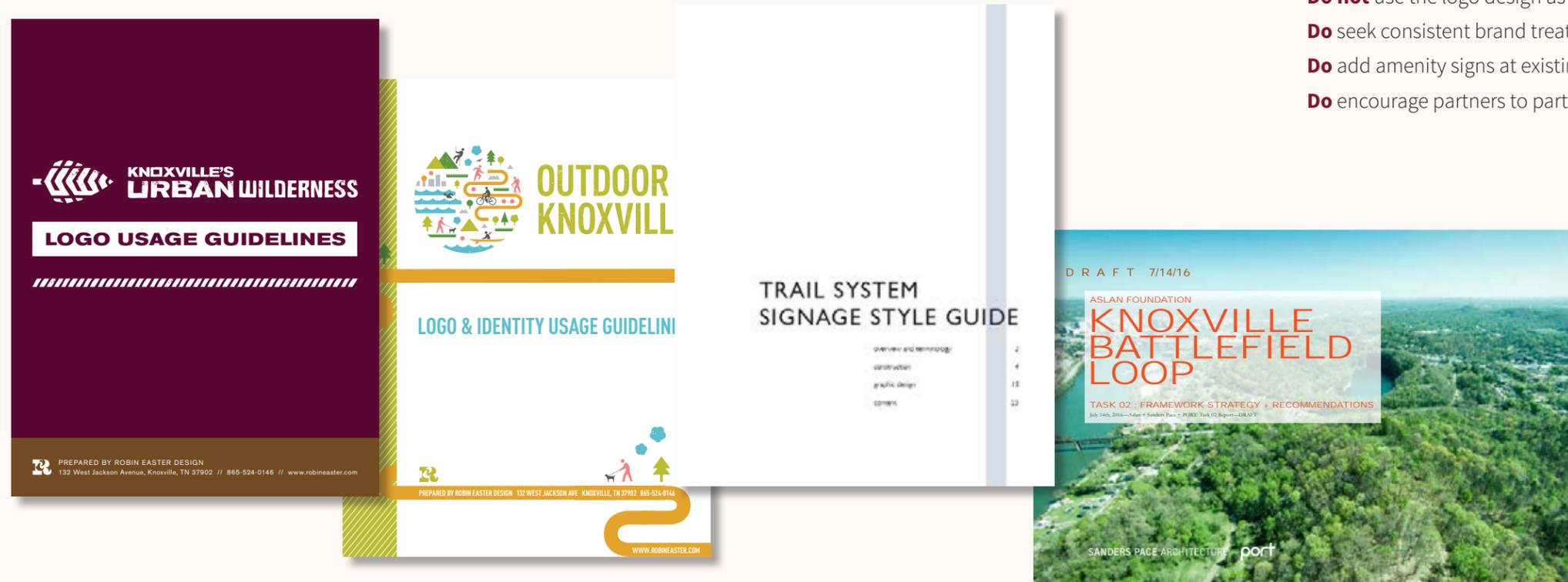
Sign Clutter:

Over time individual signs have accumulated on posts in the area resulting in sign clutter and difficult navigation through the district. Within parks in the Urban Wilderness, regulatory signs have also accumulated and show no consistency.

Design Elements

Precedent Guides

This style guide relies on elements from existing style guides already in place. The goal is to unify guidance from the Urban Wilderness Logo Usage Guidelines, the Outdoor Knoxville Logo & Identity Usage Guidelines, and the Urban Wilderness Signage Style Guide. This cohesive approach also reaches out to citywide identity systems and the Visit Knoxville green. This style guide also takes cues from Sanders Pace Architecture Knoxville Battlefield Loop Framework Strategy and Recommendations.



Do's & Don'ts

- Do not** change the color of the Urban Wilderness signs. The maroon and other Pantone colors defined should remain consistent throughout the district and on all signs and printed material.
- Do not** change the language on the signs. In all cases, the approved use would be: Knoxville's Urban Wilderness or Urban Wilderness, using the typeface accordingly.
- Do not** use the logo design as an arrow pointer for signs.
- Do** seek consistent brand treatment along existing signs.
- Do** add amenity signs at existing parks.
- Do** encourage partners to participate in the sign design.



Activity Icons/Park Amenities

Activity Icons were pulled from the Outdoor Knoxville branding to demonstrate potential activities and amenities found within the individual parks. These examples include running/walking, climbing, hiking, biking, kayaking, swimming, as well as whether pets are permitted.

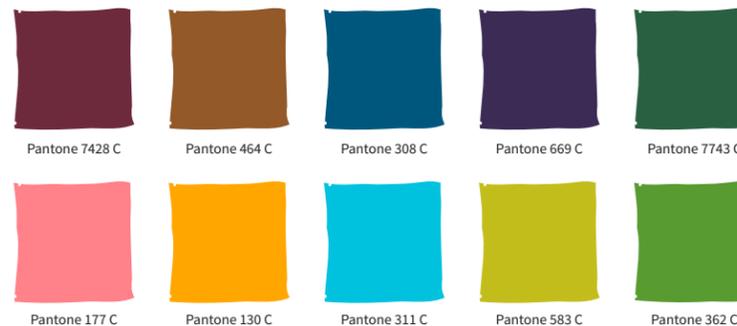
Typeface

The typefaces used in the system are as follows:
 Berthold Akzidenz is used in marketing material.
 The custom typeface for the Urban Wilderness is used strictly for the logo itself.
 For wayfinding signs, Federal regulations require that a reflective typeface Highway Gothic be used for attractions on the signs.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
 abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Color Palette

A broad color palette was created by combining existing elements found in the existing Brand Style Guidelines for the Urban Wilderness, and Knoxville Outdoors, as well as Urban Wilderness Trail System Style Guide and the City of Knoxville. These colors represent the natural elements found within the park system and combine in numerous complimentary and contrasting ways.

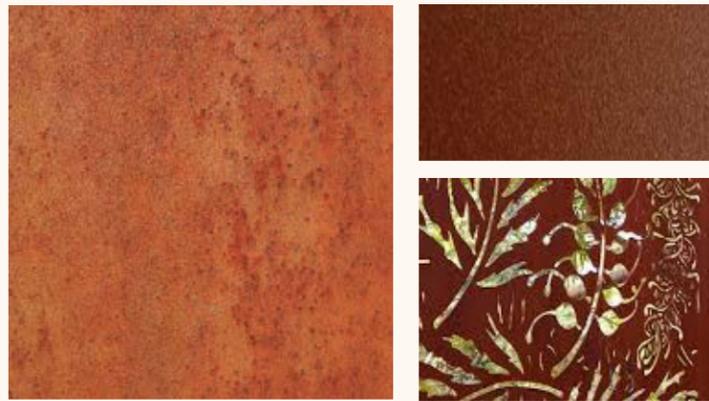


Material Recommendations

Based on existing material usage and the integral relationship with the surrounding natural environment the Urban Wilderness enjoys, a selection of natural and historical elements is the most appropriate when building gateways, entry signs, kiosks and other park related structures. The materials listed below can be executed more formally or casually depending on the nature of the attraction. A larger more formal location may use the more refined elements below while a smaller location may be more informal and natural. Ultimately, the final design of each sign is going to depend on the character and amenities of the individual park, the design aesthetic prescribed by the agency managing the park, and their budgetary allowances. On the following pages, examples are shown for an array of options utilizing a variety of the recommended materials.

Corten

Corten is a unique metal that allows for an oxidized patina to form on it while retaining structural integrity for many years. It adds a rustic, industrial texture. Corten can also be laser cut for signage letter or for patterns/forms. An alternative for sign frame posts to Corten is a steel powder-coated brown, which is often much cheaper.



Aluminum

Aluminum can be used for simple and durable sign panels. It can also be cut for sign lettering adding depth to the signs and greater contrast when ground lighting is used.



Quarried/Rough Cut Stone

Quarried limestone has a historical significance and provides a very unique and recognizable texture to the building palette.



Stacked Stone

Stacked stone is used in abundance and provides a broad array of possible uses from curbing and retaining walls, to sign footers, and many other uses.



Wood

Wood adds a warmth and approachability to kiosks and gateway signs. Weathered or stained wood can be used for gateway signs, kiosks, gates, and other structures along with the other materials to create balance in the natural elements. Pressure treated wood is recommended for all posts. Sandblasted wood (shown in middle images) is a common signage material, and can be done in such a way to create relief, smooth and rough surfaces. If the wood is treated with paint or stain, it typically has a long life span.



- » **Provide neighborhood groups access to an open sourced file system that allows them to use the Urban Wilderness brand** in neighborhood meetings, on signs, and in community marketing. This will engender community pride of place for neighborhoods that are part of the district.
- » **Continue to deploy the “partner” program with private sector businesses.** Consider licensing the Urban Wilderness Logo to partners and through a review process. The more people wear, use, and promote the brand, the more recognition will be built for the UW.
- » **Deploy a brand style guide that provides a “Rules to the Road” for using the Knoxville Urban Wilderness brand system.** The current guide provides rules for trail systems and should be expanded to the entire system.
- » **Deploy the “toolbox” included as part of this program.** All of the files generated through this project will be available on a cloud link in five different file formats for each implementation piece.
- » **As part of the “Urban Wilderness Summit” , provide updates on progress within the area. Include both marketing and on-the-ground successes.**

Gateway & Entrance Planting Recommendations

Planting Enhancement:

Planting and vegetation are a more subtle but still significant part of the material palette. Plantings when combined with hardscape elements should help to aid in recognition of, and support visual unity throughout, the Urban Wilderness. Planting enhancement creates ground plan interest to draw the eye in and helps to reinforce the signage and branding.

All supplemental planting should incorporate the following:

- » **Plant masses** to create a simplified, supportive base for signage
- » **Limited plant selection will create continuity throughout** the Urban Wilderness and aid in recognition when combined with hardscape elements
- » **Masses of complementary color** to reinforce and harmonize with signage color schemes
- » **Flashes of contrasting color** for locations with heightened need for visibility and interest
- » **Drought tolerant and low-maintenance** to reduce maintenance needs
- » **Seasonal interest plantings to include plant color and texture** throughout the year
- » **Native and naturalized plants** to strengthen “sense of place”

Planting Suggestions:

- » **Soft textured grasses:** Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium* ‘The Blues’), Blue Gama grass (*Bouteloua gracilis* ‘Blond Ambition’), Red switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum* ‘Hot Rod’)
- » **Flowering groundcovers with decorative foliage:** Leadwort (*Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*), Moss Phlox (*Phlox subulata*), Creeping St. John’s Wort (*Hypericum calycinum*), Coral Bells (*Heuchera* spp.)
- » **Flowering perennials:** Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida* or *hirta*), Blazing star (*Liatris spicata* ‘Kobold’), Wild indigo (*Baptisia* ‘SolarFlare’ and ‘Midnight’ Prairie Blues), Salvia (*Salvia nemerosa* ‘Blue Hill’)



The Urban Wilderness Signage Suite



Gateway Signage

Auto-wayfinding
(Urban Wilderness-wide)

Auto-wayfinding
(Park Specific)

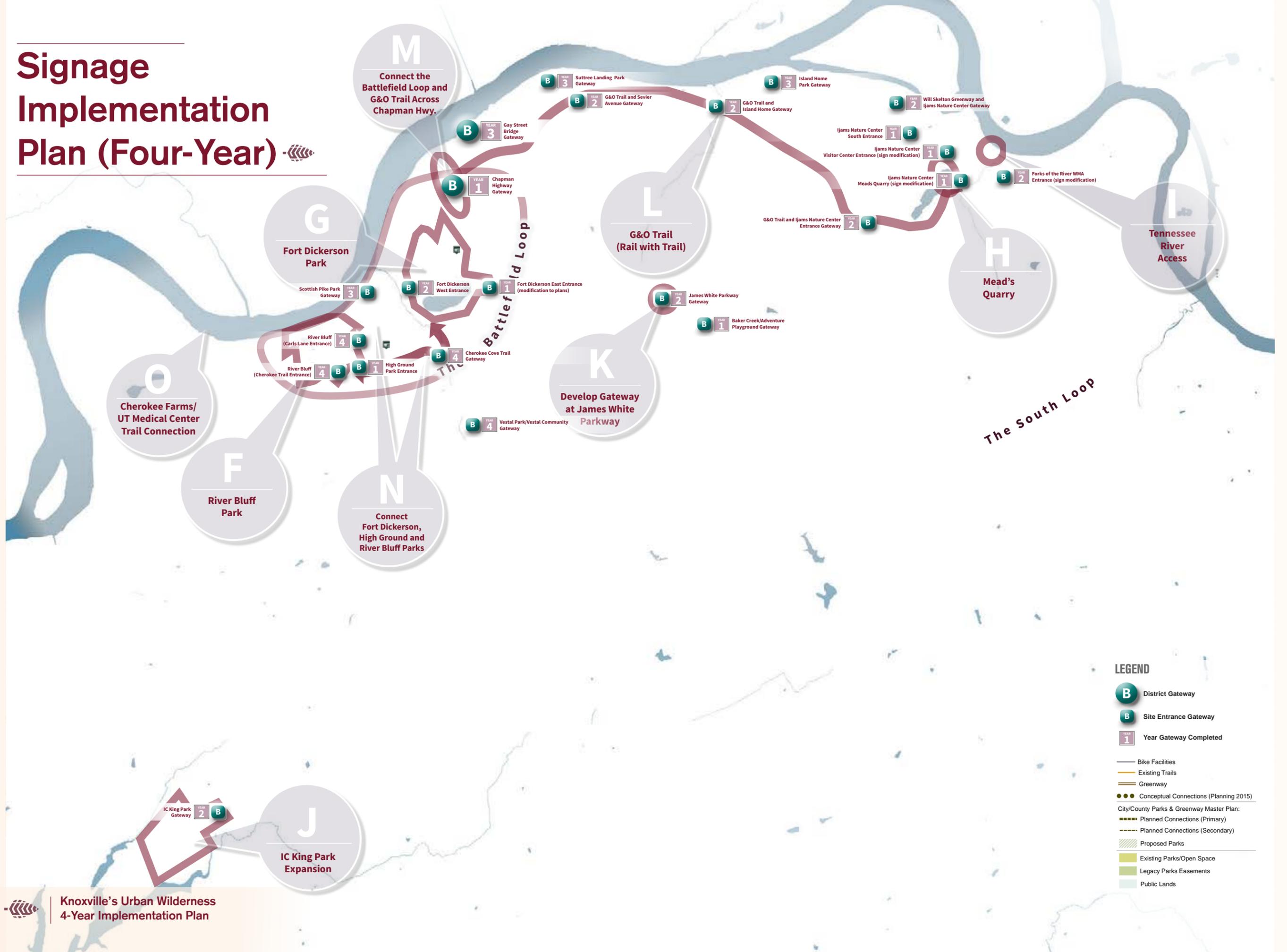


————— Park Entrance Sign —————
————— Attraction Entry Sign —————
————— Primary Trailhead Kiosk —————
————— Attraction Sign & Secondary Trailhead Kiosk —————
————— Trail Sign —————

————— Signage Style previously designated in Trail System Signage Style Guide —————



Signage Implementation Plan (Four-Year)



LEGEND

- B District Gateway
- B Site Entrance Gateway
- YEAR 1 Year Gateway Completed

- Bike Facilities
- Existing Trails
- Greenway
- Conceptual Connections (Planning 2015)
- City/County Parks & Greenway Master Plan:**
- Planned Connections (Primary)
- Planned Connections (Secondary)
- Proposed Parks
- Existing Parks/Open Space
- Legacy Parks Easements
- Public Lands



District Gateway

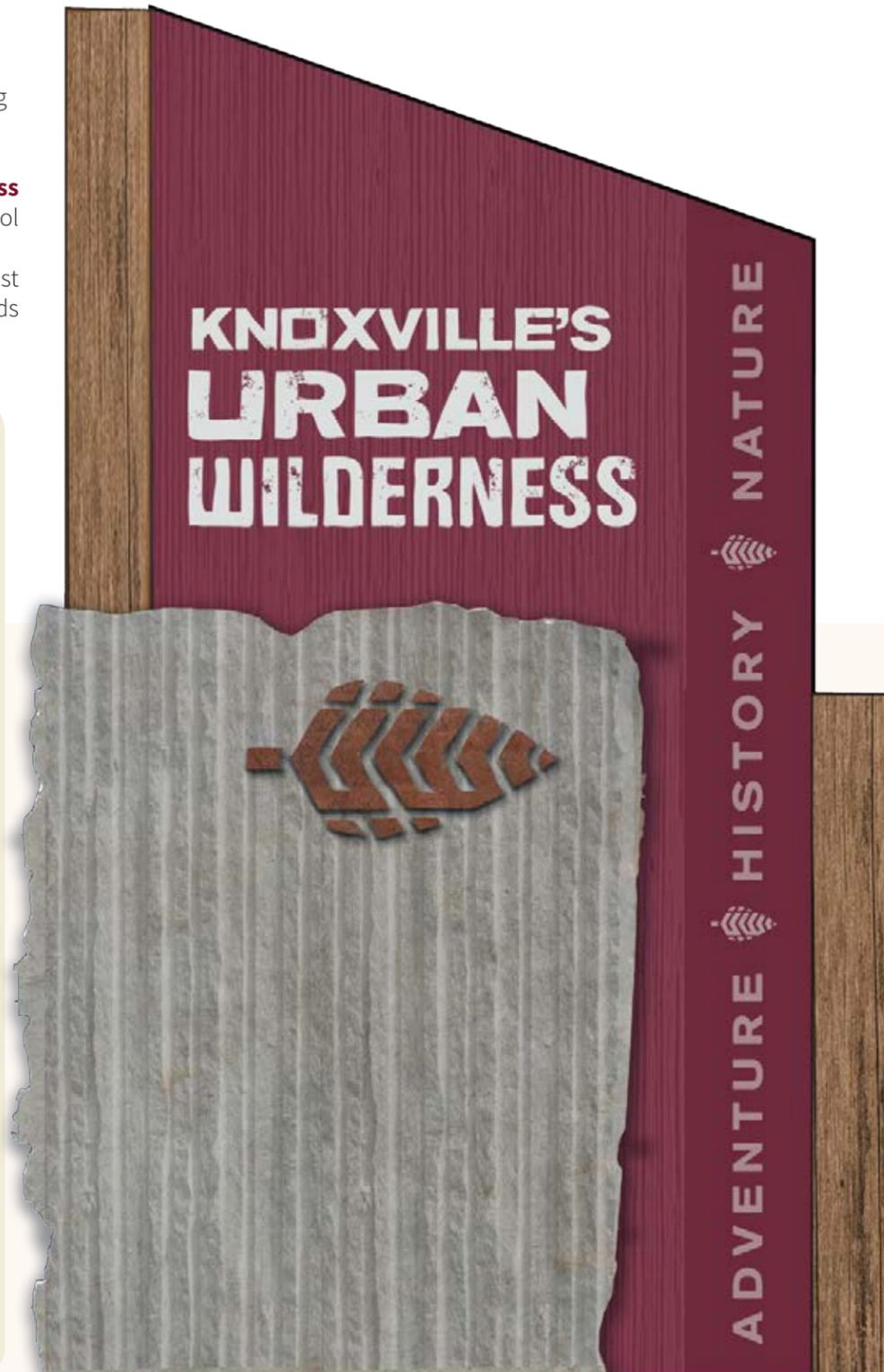
Making a statement

District gateways are areas outside of parks that serve as a regional entrance into the Urban Wilderness district. The Gay Street Bridge and Chapman Highway are the two most important gateways identified.

Gateways should have some of the following unified features:

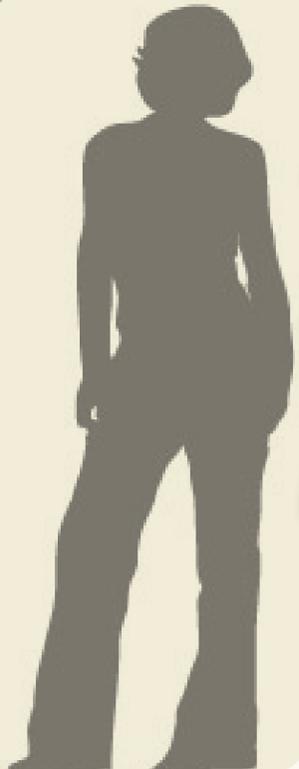
- » **Prominent use of the Urban Wilderness brand mark (the leaf)** as a visual symbol that can be used, even without words
- » **Large scale**, where the height is at least twice the height of a human, and stands out in a street landscape

Recommended Gateway

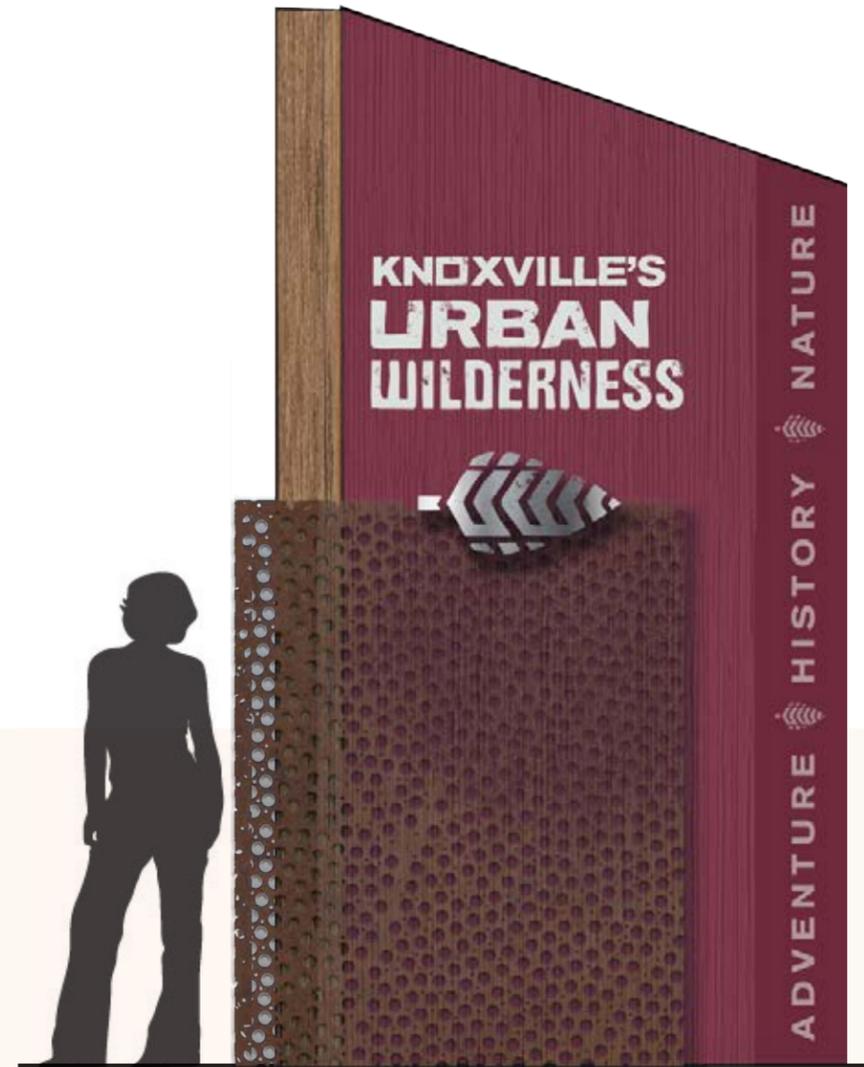


Materials: Dimensions:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Wood | To be determined |
| Corten (laser cut leaf) | |
| Quarried Stone | |
| Sandblasted wood sign | |



Optional Gateway



Materials: Dimensions:

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| Wood | To be determined |
| Sandblasted wood sign | |
| Corten (laser cut screen, welded into box form or stand alone screen) | |
| Stainless steel (laser cut leaf) | |



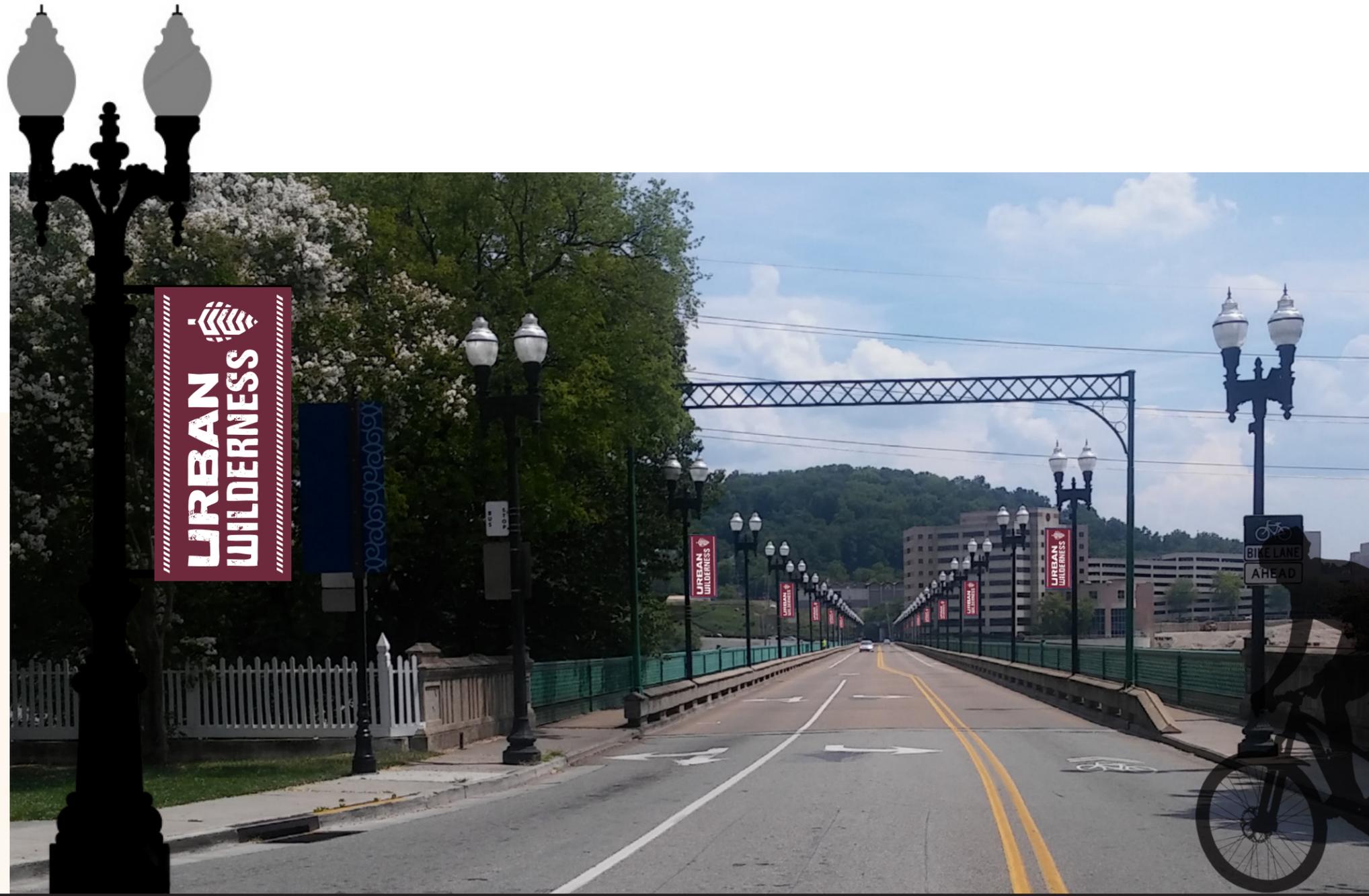
(Top) example of stainless steel with corten screen, (Bottom) example of lettering or logo attachment

Primary/District Gateway

Using the Tennessee River as a Gateway into the Urban Wilderness

Making a statement

The Gay Street Bridge in particular provides an opportunity for a banner that serve as a gateway into the Urban Wilderness.



Business/Secondary Gateways

Businesses and roads can serve as gateways into the district. The sign below can be adapted for business to incorporate, or this sign can serve as an alternative gateway feature.

This option is recommended at areas where the scale will not be dwarfed by a wide street like Chapman Highway.



Proposed

Park Entrance Sign

Medium to Large Park Entrance Signs

For park entrances, three options are presented. All show a stacked stone column and base with post and beam mounts.

The two larger options show a sandblasted wood sign, incorporating the logo and name of the park. For city/county parks, the logo could be included above the name.

A corten sign could use laser cut vinyl or aluminum lettering applied by adhesive. Adhesive vinyl can be cut from a reflective stock allowing more sign visibility between dusk and dawn, while cut aluminum lettering would provide more depth if ground lighting is to be installed.

Laser-cut Corten would be placed on the column, with a pressure-treated lighter wood backing to make the logo “pop.”



Optional Corten Sign

Materials:
 Wood
 Corten or sandblasted wood sign
 Stacked Stone
 Vinyl or Aluminum
 Overlay for lettering/ logo (on Corten sign)

Dimensions:
 To be determined



Attraction Entry Sign

For Smaller Parks or Major Attractions Within Parks

These smaller signs can be used for smaller parks or for specific attractions within larger parks. The frame can be built using wood, pressure treated wood beams, or powder coated metal beams. A stone base can be incorporated if desired.

The sign panel can be made of aluminum, sandblasted wood, or fiberglass/high pressure laminate.

The sign panel uses the primary font and also **allows for the use of icons** depicting what activities can be found within the park. More detail about sign panel design can be found in the Urban Wilderness Signage Style Guide.

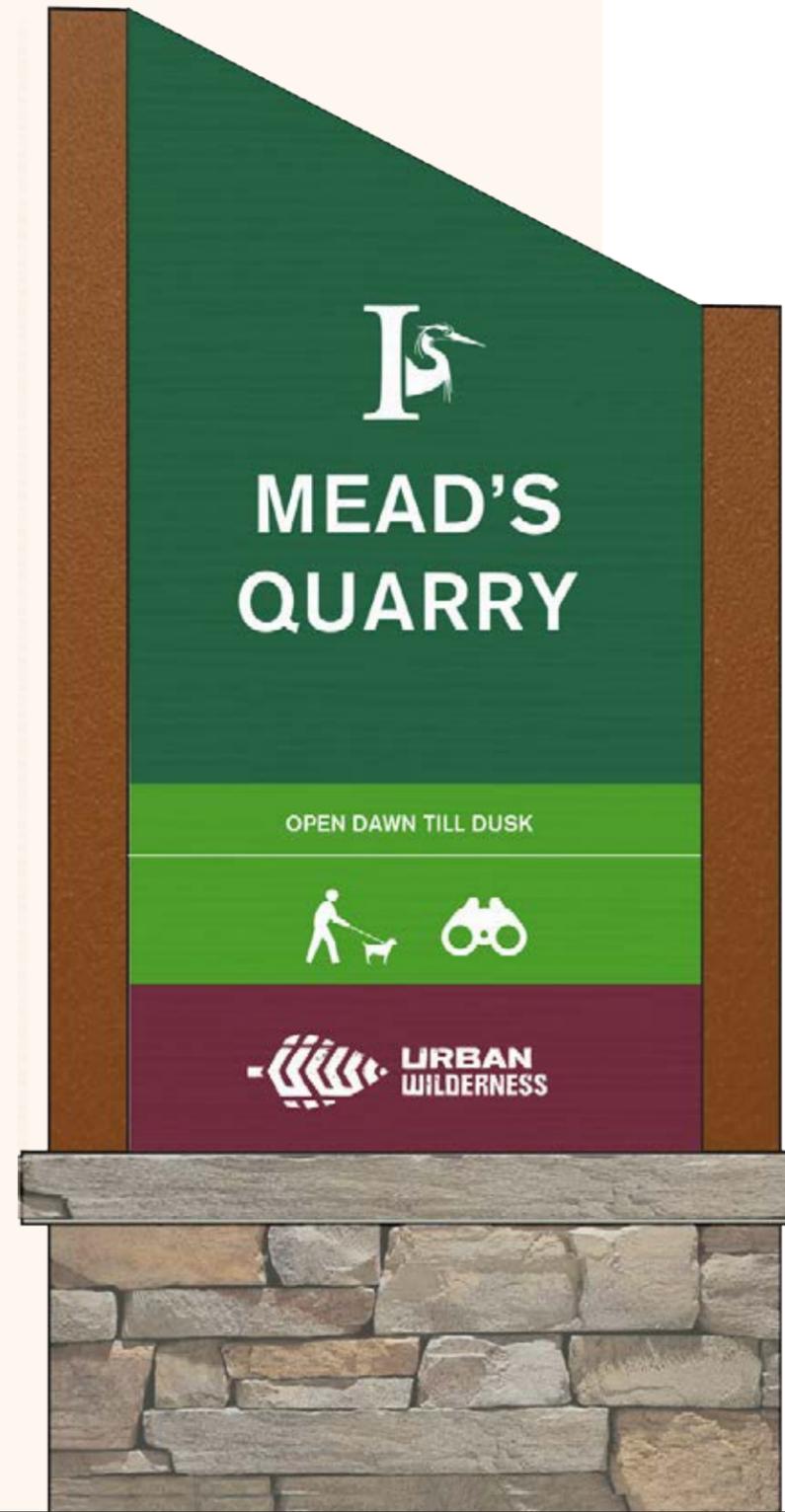


Materials:

- Wood
- Powder coated metal or wood beams
- Stone base (optional)
- Aluminum/wood/ or fiberglass panel

Dimensions:

- 10' Tall
- 4' Wide
- 2' Deep



Attraction Sign/Secondary Trailhead Kiosk

For Smaller Parks and Informational Kiosks

These smaller signs can be used for smaller parks or for specific attractions within larger parks. They can be built using wood or corten and can also incorporate a stone footer if desired. The sign panel uses the primary font and also allows for the use of icons depicting what activities can be found within the park. More detail about sign panel design can be found in the Urban Wilderness Signage Style Guide.



Materials:

Wood/Corten/ or Powder coated Steel Beams
Aluminum or Fiberglass Panel
Stone base (optional)

Dimensions:

8' Tall
4' Wide
2' Deep

Auto-wayfinding

Auto-wayfinding signs are an integral part of the overall implementation of Knoxville's Urban Wilderness. These signs do not need to mimic those that have been successfully deployed in downtown Knoxville, but rather should be simple signs mounted on regular poles that follow MUTCD guidelines for signs.

Primary Trailblazers like the one illustrated to the left would occur along major highways in the Urban Wilderness. They would point out major attractions. Primary trailblazers should remain auto oriented but in some cases may incorporate bike or pedestrian oriented signs.

Secondary Trailblazers would happen on roads where the MUTCD guidelines are less stringent. They would allow for smaller cap-heights, a more compact sign, and in some cases more than three destinations. The sign illustrated here shows the Ijams logo and a series of attractions. This sign would occur within Ijams nature center.

The final sign would be a demarcation sign that indicates arrival at a specific destination. These signs would indicate where to turn for the main entrance into a location within the Urban Wilderness and would complement the gateway signs.

Materials:
Aluminum laser cut sign added to top or bottom of auto-wayfinding signs

Dimensions:
Vary

Aluminum wayfinding signs (blue signs) manufactured by the City of Knoxville

Primary Trailblazers



Secondary Trailblazers







Funding the Plan



Prioritizing Funding

Determining How to Spend Public Dollars

This plan identifies where funding is needed, with the assumption that there will be a combination of City, State, philanthropic, and possibly even Federal dollars to make this plan happen. When determining what projects will have the biggest impact, and to prioritize funding needs, consider the following factors:

- » Does it **meet most of the goals** of the Urban Wilderness?
- » Does it provide for a **large and broad diversity of users**?
- » **Is it a collaborative project** with several partnering organizations?
- » **Does it connect and increase access to the Urban Wilderness?**
- » **Is there a direct link to an increase in health** because of the project?
- » **Are there economic and tourism benefits** that will result from the project?
- » **Does it increase awareness of the Urban Wilderness?**
- » **Does it leverage funding** to match several funding sources, from federal, state, local, or private dollars?

Funding Sources

Assessment of Federal and State Funding Availability

Federal and State Existing Funding Possibilities Identified for Greenways, Trails and Parks:

USDOT Tiger Grants – On 7/29/16 U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced that nearly \$500 million will be made available for transportation projects across the country from the [2016 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery \(TIGER\) grant program](#). The highly competitive TIGER grant program supports innovative projects, including multi-modal and multi-jurisdictional projects, which are difficult to fund through traditional federal programs. This year’s awards focus on capital projects that generate economic development and improve access to reliable, safe and affordable transportation for communities, both urban and rural. [The 2016 Tiger Grant Awards](#) will improve safety and economic opportunity in two U.S. territories, 32 states, and 40 communities across the country. The TN Department of Transportation was awarded \$10 million for completion of 16 miles of the Foothills Parkway to provide a new link that increases access to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park

Note: USDOT’s website states that successful TIGER projects leverage resources, encourage partnership, catalyze investment and growth, fill a critical void in the

transportation system or provide a substantial benefit to the nation, region or metropolitan area in which the project is located. Source: US DOT website.

Tiger Grant 2016 Application Timeline: There is a prerequisite to register to apply on www.grants.gov opening in February. Allow 2-4 weeks to process; grant applications are usually due April 29th. Transportation Planning Organizations/Regional Planning Organizations do not play a formal role in selecting or submitting these applications. However, TPO’s are certainly an excellent resource for guidance and technical assistance.

TDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) – Applications are annually submitted from local government agencies or a combination of eligible agencies for the federal aid available from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The program has a complex and lengthy process (up to 3 years from award date) to reach construction phase. Funds 80% of construction costs on a reimbursement basis. Eligible projects are for construction only of bicycle and pedestrian off-road paths, sidewalks, main street improvements and landscaping. While TAP projects are not capped by TDOT, it is noted on their website’s Frequently Asked Questions that “the average TAP project award is approximately \$350,000. In order to be cost effective, projects should exceed \$250/\$350k and rarely will any single phase be awarded in excess of \$1 million.”

TAP State Program Application Timeline: The application cycle is open from July 1 to October 3 each year until 3:00 p.m. Central Standard time. All local governmental agencies, including those within the Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga, and Knoxville MPOs/TPOs, may submit an application to the State competitive program.

TAP Regional Application Timeline: The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization is in the process of approving a slate of projects for FY 16-18 funding. Staff report that it will probably be another two years before they issue another call for projects unless some the approved projects fall through. Regional Surface Transportation Block Grant (RSTB): Funds are programmed through the Regional TPO and can be used for any project that would also qualify for the TAP funding as described above.

Note: [The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization](#) has developed its Draft Transportation Improvement Program (Plan) for 2017-2020 which is available on their website & includes several greenway, pedestrian/bike and Chapman Hwy improvement projects for Knoxville and Knox County that utilize TAP and RSTB funding among others.

TDOT Safe Routes to Schools – The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program is a federally funded grant program focused on increasing levels of walking and bicycling to school among elementary and middle school students. For 2017 Fiscal Year the SRTS Mini-Grant Program will fund

Funding Schedule

		YEAR 1 (Present-June 30, 2018)	YEAR 2 (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019)	YEAR 3 (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020)	YEAR 4 (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021)
URBAN WILDERNESS (UW)-WIDE PROJECTS	Implement Wayfinding & Gateways	\$	\$	\$	\$
	Develop Cooperative Partnership Structure	\$			
	Expand Tourism/Local Visitor Marketing and Further Economic Development				
THE BATTLEFIELD LOOP	River Bluff Park Wildlife Area				\$
	Fort Dickerson Park		\$	\$	✓
IJAMS NATURE CENTER	Mead's Quarry Improvements/Overall Master Planning		\$	\$ ✓	\$
	River Access/Paddling/Programming			\$	✓
PARKS (EXPANSIONS OR NEW—OTHER THAN BATTLEFIELD LOOP PARKS)	IC King Park Expansion				
	Develop Gateway at James White Parkway		\$ ✓	✓	
NEW GREENWAYS/TRAILS CONNECTIVITY	G&O Trail	\$ ✓	✓		
	Connect the Battlefield Loop Across Chapman Hwy				
	Connect Fort Dickerson, High Ground, and River Bluff Parks				✓
	Cherokee Farms/UT Medical Center Trail Connection	\$	✓		

.....\$..... Funding Need ✓..... Accomplishment or Project Completed

mini-grant applications that provides assistance to schools and communities to support safety education and encouragement for walking & biking to school. Examples of eligible funding include student safety patrol, pedestrian education campaigns, Walk to School Day events, Bike to School day events, Walking School Bus or Bike Train Programs and Bike Rodeos. Maximum grants are \$5,000 per school. No funding match is permitted.

SRTS Mini Grant Application Timeline: Applications are available November 11th, and are due January 31st. Workshop training will be held in Knoxville. Preregistration is required. Grant applications must be submitted by local governments that are either cities or counties. Regional agencies, PTO’s, bike clubs, non-profits & other organizational can partner with local government to submit applications. A letter of endorsement from the school district is required.

TDEC Recreational Trails Program (RTP) – RTP grants are 80% grants and have a 20% match and may be used for both natural and hard surfaced trails located only on publicly owned land. On road or sidewalk projects are not eligible. 15% of the grant may be spent on acquisition, engineering and grant administration and 85% must go toward construction. The focus of the RTP is to create connections in parks, to schools, work, retail and other locations as multi modal opportunities across the state of Tennessee. The maximum grant amount for Tennessee RTP grants has been \$200,000 with a minimum grant of \$20,000.

TDEC RTP Application Timeline: Each eligible applicant was allowed to submit one RTP application for the 2016 RTP grant cycle. All applications had to be received at the TDEC Recreational Education Services main office in Nashville by 4 pm Central Standard Time on April 22nd. A complete application manual is available on the TDEC website.

TDEC Local Park & Recreation Fund (LPRF) – Available to local governments on a two-year grant cycle. Recreational greenway and trail facilities can be constructed with this funding program and eligible projects include land acquisition, rail development and capital projects in parks, natural areas, and greenways. At least 60 percent of the funds allocated will go to municipal governments as authorized by TCA 67-4-409. All grant projects must be on publicly owned land. Maximum grant awards are \$500,000 and minimum are \$25,000.

TDEC LPRF Application Timeline: For 2016 grants an application workshop was held in early December 2015. All applications had to be RECEIVED at TDEC’s Recreational Education Services main office in Nashville by 4 pm Central Standard Time on April 22nd. A complete application manual is also available on the TDEC website.

Examples of public-private partnership projects in Tennessee that have been accomplished with funding from their local governments, a variety of TDOT and TDEC grants, and private dollars per Bob Richards, TDEC Trails and Greenways Coordinator, include:

- [Chattanooga River Walk](#) – Now known as the Tennessee Riverpark, this greenway currently has 8 miles open to the public and follows the south bank of the Tennessee River. A footbridge on the west end (near John Ross Bridge/ Market St. SR 8) takes you to the north bank and Coolidge Park.
- Memphis Greenways –
 - [Shelby Farms Greenline](#) - A 6.5-mile bike lane connecting Midtown Memphis, just on the other side of Overton Park, to Shelby Farms;
 - [Bike Arch into Overton Park Bike Plaza](#);
 - [Overton Park Conservancy RTP Trail](#);
 - [Broad Street to Tillman Connector \(renamed The Hampline\)](#) – A 2 mile connection between Overton Park and Shelby Farms Greenline;
 - [Wolf River Bridge & Wolf River Connector](#) – A corridor of protected green space along the Wolf River, which includes a paved pathway for non-motorized transportation. It is being constructed in sections and will eventually extend a total of 30 miles to connect neighborhoods from downtown Memphis through the cities of Germantown and Collierville.

Phase 1 was completed in 2010 and Phase 2 is underway, which began in 2011. The project is a public/private partnership managed by the Wolf River Conservancy.

- [Tims Ford State Park Accessible Trail](#) – A 1.1-mile Marble Plains Loop Trail that is ADA accessible to an overlook in Tims Ford State Park in Winchester, TN.

Conclusion: There are considerable state and federal resources available. However, as expected, all such resources are through competitive grants. TDOT funds must be for transportation purposes – trails or sidewalks that get people from Point A to Point B and be accessible – not just recreational.

As noted in the examples listed above, projects can be achieved when combined with local government funding, private dollars from corporate and/or private foundations, and crowd- sourcing fundraising appeals.

The most likely state & federal funding sources applicable to Urban Wilderness Projects are:

- TDOT’s Transportation Alternatives State Competitive Grant Program which has a complex and lengthy process that can take up to 3 years from award date to reach the construction phase of a project.
- TDOT’s Safe Routes to Schools (100% funding)
- TDEC’s Recreational Trails Program (80-20 match);
- TDEC’s Local Park and Recreation Fund (50-50 match).

For the short-term UW strategic plan of four years, the less likely sources are:

- US DOT’s Tiger Grant Program which funds multi-million dollar projects, requires 50-50 match, and usually requires multiple years of applications to secure an award.
- TDOT’s Multi-Modal Access Fund – \$30 million was set-aside from state gas tax revenue for 2014-16 for new state-funded programs, but was not extended in the 2016-17 state budget. If it is resurrected by the Governor and General Assembly it would again be a source to support transportation needs of transit users, pedestrians, and bicyclists through infrastructure projects that address existing gaps along state routes. Multi-modal grants were available to cities and counties as a 95% grant to 5% hard cash match. Eligible projects include bicycle/pedestrian connections with transit, connecting sidewalk gaps, adding bike lanes on or connecting to a state route, or creating a transit hub.

The 4-Year Strategic Plan for Knoxville’s Urban Wilderness should enable the UW partners to develop a cooperative approach to seeking other state and federal resources for the highest priority “big-ticket” projects each year. This collaboration should ensure that the partners’ different projects are much less likely to be competing against each other for funds, and it increases opportunities to achieve success in securing those resources.

Private Sector Support

Private Foundations identified that fund the specific program areas of Environment, Healthy Lifestyles, Economic Development Projects (Tourism), & Historical Preservation in Knox County:

Foundations in Knox County:

According to the most recent data available (Filings for 2013 2014 Fiscal Year) from The Urban Institutes’s National Center for Charitable Statistics there are 77 private foundations listed in Knox County. The majority have stated specific interest areas for their giving that are unrelated to the UW initiatives. There are perhaps eight that either have been or could be a potential funding partner for the right UW project—given their financial resources, stated interest areas and/or demonstrated past giving. Those include:

Aslan Foundation: A partner in this UW strategic planning initiative, Aslan has already significantly invested in the UW’s development to date with Higher Ground Park, Ft. Dickerson and Fort Higley, and is currently developing their own strategic plan for future funding priorities and projects. Therefore it is expected that Aslan can and will play a major funding role in their UW projects over the next four years.

Seven Islands Foundation: Seven Islands Foundation (Pete & Linda Claussen) has also been a partner investing in land preservation/conservation in and around the UW area including Seven Islands State Birding Park and Ijams Nature Center. Currently the Claussen family, owners of the Gulf & Ohio Railroad, is working with Legacy Parks to develop the G&O Rail with Trail project—a three mile multi-use trail from Chapman Highway to Mead’s Quarry and the South Loop Trails of the Urban Wilderness.

The Haslam Family Foundation, Clayton Family Foundation, Haslam 3 Foundation, & Charis Foundation: Each of these Foundations have considerable assets and have very generously funded a wide variety of community projects in the past and could potentially be a funding partner for the right piece of a project. However, the UW projects more than likely may be outside of their priority areas of interest, but certainly not out of the question.

William B. Stokely Jr. Foundation: This foundation has considerably smaller total assets however the Stokely Foundation lists historical preservation as an area of focus.

Private Foundation Application Timelines: For the most part applications for various projects are accepted on an ongoing basis. Individual inquiries should be made to determine timeline for project applications.

Corporate and Community Foundations

Alcoa Foundation – An environmental project of this type is one of the foundations primary areas of interest. Therefore, it is feasible that a grant could potentially be secured. Grants range from \$15,000 - \$50,000 and could be multi-year (up to 3 years), if successful metrics are reached each year. The largest past gift given was \$3 million.

Alcoa Foundation Application Timeline: The grant cycle begins early in the first quarter of the calendar year.

East Tennessee Foundation – Currently the East Tennessee Foundation’s grants program is location and focus area specific. In Knox County it appears that their only applicable fund is Economic Development Fund of East TN and those grants are capped at \$7,900 for one year which could only serve as gap funding for one project. However, the Foundation can also assist by looking at their donor-advised funds to identify anyone with particular interest in the environment and health.

Humana Foundation: Knoxville is one of the locations chosen by the Humana Foundation for the opportunities to increase impact on community health & well-being in 2017. The funding priorities are healthy behaviors, health education and access to health Services and projects seeking funds must be aligned with one or more of these focus area. The Humana Foundation also has a multi-year partnership with KaBoom!, a national non-profit building safe and active play places across America and could be a resource for park playground development.

Humana Application Timeline: Letters of Intent will be accepted from December 1 – December 15, 2016, & selected organizations will be invited to submit on-line grant applications during the month of January 2017.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of TN: There are several programs, including Giving Arms/Tennessee Health Foundation, with focus areas of funding for projects that emphasize healthy living, health care access and quality of life. The Community Trust’s focus areas including economic and community development. There is also corporate sponsorships, which include employee volunteers and in-kind donations. The majority of support appears to occur in Chattanooga, Nashville and Memphis.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of TN Application Timeline: Inquiries are accepted on an on-going basis. Submit a cover letter to determine eligibility. If invited to proceed applicant must submit application within 30 days. Review & Approval Process can take up to three months.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation - With the sole mission of improving health and health care, one of the foundation’s programs that could well be tapped for a greenway project such as this is the \$25,000 Culture of Health Prize. It is awarded annually to 10 communities with projects chosen to foster change and improvement in the culture of health.

RWJ Foundation Application Timeline: Phase I -November 3, 2016 (3 p.m. ET) Phase I Applications (for all applicant communities) due; Phase II-December 9, 2016 Invitations extended to select applicant communities to submit Phase II Applications- January 20, 2017 (3 p.m. ET) - Phase II Applications (for invited communities). Awards will be announced in Fall 2017.

Trinity Health Foundation of East Tennessee - Formerly known as the Mercy Health Partners Foundation, Trinity was established when Mercy Health Partners was sold to a for-profit system and contains the assets of St. Mary’s and Baptist Hospitals’ foundations. Healthy Life Choices is one of their five health initiatives, and grants are solicited annually.

Note: Legacy Parks Foundation has been selected for a Trinity 2016 Phase I Large Grant Award of \$15,000 for planning the development of Baker Creek Preserve Park. Upon completion of the project plan, Legacy Parks will be eligible to compete for a Phase II Implementation Grant of up to \$150,000.

Baker Creek Preserve is connected to South Doyle Middle School by way of the new Baker Creek Trail and intersecting Cherokee Trail. Both trails connect the school directly into the Urban Wilderness and adjacent neighborhoods. The Bike Park and adventure play structures planned will encourage fun, challenging physical activities for the students.

Conclusion: Corporate and private foundations supporting projects are generally focused on a specific geographic service area based on either the location of residence or their corporate headquarter location and/or where they do business. Further most Foundations limit their contributions to specific areas of focus. Specific foundation support available is limited to the examples cited above. While foundation support will play a role in the amount of funding potential possible, it will most likely augment project funding to fill in gaps for a specific piece(s) of a project that fits their niche, and/or help to provide matching required to secure federal or state funding.

Private Grassroots Support Opportunities:

Social Media Fundraising via Crowdsourcing Sites - IOBY (In Our Back Yard) was the site used by supporters of The Hampline Project in Memphis to raise \$70,000 in a few months to fill the gap of funding needed to break ground on “The Hamp” connector. Average gifts were \$50; however, many people gave \$9.01. The Memphis area code inspired this amount. This project could do \$8.65 to mirror our area code. Another strategy asked individuals to sponsor one foot of the trail for \$55.

Friends Group – Legacy Parks Foundation has a well- established Friends fundraising base that supports their work and assists specific projects as well as fundraising events.

Grass-Roots Partnerships - Legacy Parks Foundation can and will continue to seek partnerships with well-established grassroots organizations serving children and youth, i.e. Boys & Girls Clubs of East TN, Emerald Youth Foundation, and others interested in collaborative initiatives within the Urban Wilderness and surrounding inner city area.

Sales to Large and Small Companies of Naming Rights for amenities provided along the trails, in parks and destination areas. This may include trail markers, benches, bridges, etc. Friends of The Tweetsie Trail in Johnson City, TN raised \$45,000 by offering naming rights for \$300 sponsorships of a 4 foot bench to be placed on the Trail.

Private Corporate Partners/Investors: Major businesses located in South Knoxville in and around the Urban Wilderness may be potential partners and/or investors in UW projects that enhance the amenities that impact their employees’ or residents’ quality of life including wellness, additional commercial, residential and tourism related development.

Major Employers in South Knoxville

- Regal Entertainment Corporate Headquarters
- University of Tennessee Medical Center
- Major Developers of Residential/Commercial Properties
- Manufacturing businesses located in Forks of the River Industrial Park including Keurig Green Mountain Coffee, Melaeuca Inc., Aqua Chem, Fresenius Medical Care North America, and Republic Plastics.

In-kind support can be a good option for smaller companies to participate in supporting projects. Examples of corporate in-kind support could be donation or a significant discount of materials or services; or conducting volunteer workdays on a portion of the trail. All types of opportunities also exist for smaller corporate sponsorships of materials, benches, pavers, markers and signage as cited in the Tweetsie Trail case study.

Vendors of Products, Equipment & Services for trail construction, recreation, hospitality (food, drink, and lodging) is most often offered as support through retail promotions, initiatives and partnerships.

Conclusion: While a number of private resources have been identified as potential funders, it is most likely that the major funding sources for the infrastructure projects will be the local, state and federal sources augmented by private sources.







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