

FACTS AND FIGURES

URBAN LITTLE SUGAR CREEK GREENWAY

Less than a decade ago, Little Sugar Creek had the worst water quality of any creek in North Carolina. Its natural flow was partially obstructed. It had been covered in places with asphalt, concrete, even a shopping mall. Hundreds of structures were built in its floodplain before the Charlotte and Mecklenburg County adopted floodplain regulations. Two major goals driving development of Little Sugar Creek Greenway (LSCGW) are to improve water quality and to create a trail to serve as a destination for tourism and recreation.

THE GREENWAY HAS MULTIPLE OBJECTIVES:

- Improve water quality
- Reclaim the creek as a natural treasure
- Provide an urban linear park as a destination near center city
- Provide a safe alternate transportation route
- Encourage a sense of community
- Improve health and fitness
- Improve air quality
- Conserve plant and animal habitat

QUICK FACTS:

- The urban section runs 1.2 miles.
- It will be part of an 18 mile greenway corridor from North Tryon Street to the S.C. state line. About 6 miles of trail are already complete.
- Construction on the urban greenway began in early 2008 and will be completed by Spring 2010.



PROJECT DETAILS

This urban section of Little Sugar Creek Greenway runs along King's Drive between East 7th Street and Morehead Street. This greenway trail will connect to an existing greenway that leads south to Freedom Park and Park Road Shopping Center. Another section will run north through Cordelia Park. The urban project includes a greenway trail, stream restoration, fountains and other water features, passive seating plazas, benches and seat walls, lighting for pedestrians, stone buildings with restrooms and vendor space, event gardens, public art, parking, and utilities for festival events. Construction began in early 2008 and is scheduled for completion in spring 2010.

PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDING

Public-private partnerships played a critical role in the funding, planning, design, and development of this greenway. The Little Sugar Creek Action Committee, Partners for Parks, May 20th Society, and the Arts and Science Council provided guidance, publicity, and political support as the project developed. Funding has been mostly from grants and bonds, although some support came from private partnerships. There have been cost savings from shared construction. The total cost for greenway and stream restoration is projected to be \$42 million.

Major funding sources are:

- NCDOT funding for greenway: \$5,330,000
- CWMTF Grant for stream restoration: \$1,895,000
- NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grants: \$1,895,000
- NC Division of Water Resources Grant: \$575,000
- Bonds for demolition: \$1,520,000
- Bonds and PayGo Funds (operational funds) for greenway: \$30,951,584
- Public art provided by May 20th Society value: \$500,000
- Memorial for Bradley W. Davis by the leadership of LandDesign: \$35,000
- Donation of clockworks by the Rotary Club of Charlotte: \$23,000
- In-kind services by partners: undetermined benefit

THE BOTTOM LINE: BENEFITS OF LITTLE SUGAR CREEK GREENWAY

Every dollar spent on the greenway is expected to generate at least \$3 of private development. For instance Pappas Properties built The Metropolitan, a multi-use development beside the greenway. The greenway is designed to blend smoothly with dining and retail space.

