

*Y*ukon

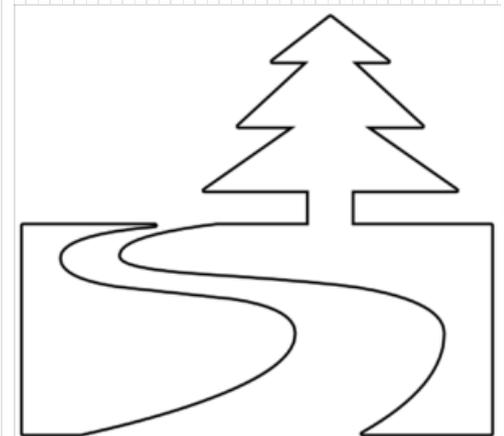
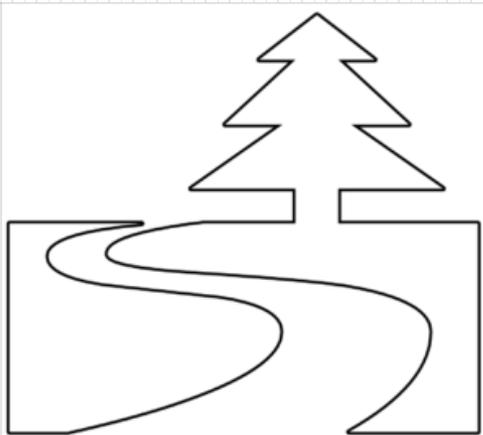
Trails Master Plan



A trail to your future...

Yukon Trails Master Plan

Made possible through a technical assistance grant from
the National Park Service – Rivers, Trails, and
Conservation Assistance Program



A trail to your future...

What is a trail?

- Trails provide what many Americans seek – close-to-home recreational areas, community meeting places, historic preservation, educational experiences, natural landscapes and beautification. Trails help communities build pride by ensuring that their neighborhoods are good places to live, so that children can safely walk or bike to a park, school, or to a neighbor's home. Trails help make communities more attractive and friendly places to live. (Benefits of Trails and Greenways, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy)
- For this project, a trail is defined as a travelway created between various destinations intended to be used by walkers, runners, bicyclists, in-line skaters and wheelchair users as an avenue for recreation, exercise, or alternative transportation.

Benefits of Trails:

- Encourage physical activity
- Affordable opportunities for outdoor recreation
- Connect parks in a network of recreational areas
- Improve quality of life / livability
- Enhance sense of community and social relationships
- Increase property values
- Strengthen local economy
- Increase tourism-related sales / businesses
- Bolster sense of community identity and pride
- Highlight historic and cultural areas
- Enhance options for transportation alternatives

Why a Trails Master Plan?

- In a 2002 survey of recent home buyers sponsored by the National Association of Realtors and the National Association of Home Builders, **trails ranked as the second most important community amenity out of a list of 18 choices.** (Consumer's Survey on Smart Choices for Home Buyers, 2002)
- Trails create an improved self-image and social relationships, reduced crime, a livelier community atmosphere and a lifestyle which encourages young people to find their entertainment in healthier and more wholesome ways. (Active Living – Go for Green, 1996)

Having a plan in place will...

- Allow the City to explore funding opportunities and options for development of the trail system
- Allow the City to prioritize projects such as completion of missing sidewalk segments, creation of on-road bike lanes with symbols and signage
- Provide focus on identified areas of interest and direct future development in those areas

Brief history of project to-date:

- Awarded technical assistance grant by NPS – RTCA
- Formed Task Force
- Task Force meetings to determine scope
- Focus Groups met to focus on smaller areas of the map
- Public outreach efforts increased to obtain citizen input

Public Outreach Methods

- Numerous press releases
- Website – www.cityofyukonok.gov/trails
- Survey – <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/V&XPG57>
- Email – trails@cityofyukonok.gov
- Informational posters
 - City Hall, Library, Community Center
- Utility bill inserts
 - June, August, September
- Elementary school weekly folders
- Public meetings
 - November, December

Trails Task Force Representatives

- City of Yukon
- Yukon City Council
- Yukon Chamber of Commerce
- Yukon Public Schools
- Yukon Park Board
- interested citizens (hikers, cyclists)
- Integris Hospital
- OK Turning Point Council
- Canadian County Health Dept.
- Oklahoma State Dept. of Health
- Association of Central Oklahoma Governments
- University of Oklahoma, School of Architecture
- NPS-RTCA representatives

Trails Task Force

- **MISSION STATEMENT:** The mission of the Yukon Master Trails Task Force is to solicit public input and incorporate that information into the development and design of a Master Trails Plan for the City of Yukon to provide enhanced outdoor exercise and recreation opportunities for the citizens of Yukon and surrounding communities.
- **VISION:** The vision of the Yukon Master Trails Task Force is to design and develop an extensive trail system to connect destinations within the City of Yukon, as well as link the City with surrounding communities. The goal is to tie the trail system into Yukon's rich history through the Chisholm Trail and Route 66 to further support its goal of becoming a destination city for tourists. It is anticipated that the trail system might serve as a model for other communities wishing to provide a venue which encourages family fun and togetherness, as well as supporting a healthy lifestyle for all citizens. A trail system that brings all of these points together (history, health, and exercise) will only serve to deepen the sense of pride that Yukon citizens have in our city.

Focus Areas

- Linking parks, schools, and neighborhoods
- Existing areas where network could easily be completed with sidewalk segments
- Areas on existing roads where bike lanes can be created with symbols and signage
- Potential link areas with OKC trail system

Summary of Online Survey Results

Citizens were asked to complete a brief online survey to provide input into the project... the following is a summary of the notable results.

Demographics

- Male – 49% Female – 51%
- Location – wide coverage throughout the community
- Age
 - Under 24 – 1%
 - 25-39 – 30%
 - 40-65 – 59%
 - 66 and over – 10%

Current Use Information

- How many times do you walk or bike per month?
 - Average response – 15
- How do you use the existing trails / road network?
 - Bike
 - Walk
 - Run
- What trails / roads do you currently use?
 - Chisholm Trail Park
 - Neighborhood / residential streets and sidewalks
 - Major public roads – Route 66, Cornwell, Vandament, Garth Brooks, Yukon Parkway, Wagner Road
 - Lake Overholser and Lake Hefner Trails in OKC

How barriers will be addressed:

- Barriers to current use:
 - Too far from home
 - Too short
 - Not marked
 - Difficult to access
 - Safety concerns
 - No bikes allowed on current trails
- Master Plan response:
 - More connections in the trail network
 - Education and public outreach regarding trail system
 - Safety issues will be considered
 - Bike lanes or multi-use trails will be included

What might encourage more use?

- Survey responses:
 - Longer trails
 - More access points
 - Closer to home
 - Lighting
 - Safety
 - More information
 - Connections to OKC trail system
 - Multi-use
- **Master Plan will provide:**
 - More connections within the trail network
 - Safety issues and concerns will be addressed
 - Education and public outreach
 - Website
 - Posters / brochures in various community locations
 - News releases
 - Utility bill inserts
 - Parks & Recreation publications

Noted preferences: (in order of preference)

- Preferred Surface:
 - Hard surface (concrete / asphalt)
 - ** good for accessibility
 - Natural surface
 - Crushed rock surface
- Preferred Uses:
 - Mixed use
 - Walking
 - Biking

Important Criteria / Project Focus:

(noted as “important” or “somewhat important”)

- Safety / security
- Preserve natural areas
- Multi-use
- Access to nature
- Restore native vegetation

Important facility amenities:

(noted as “important” or “somewhat important”)

- Multi-use
- Water / benches / trash cans
- Restrooms
- Parking
- Play areas
- Picnic areas
- Nature viewing
- Educational signage

Important Outcomes of this project

- Improved quality of life
- Improved safety for walking / biking / running
- Connections to regional trail system
- Additional opportunities for outdoor exercise and recreation

Additional Comments of note

- Connect to Lake Overholser trail
- More biking / running options
- More connections within Yukon
- Maintain natural areas
- Multi-use trails
- Ability to walk / bike to festivals and events
- Maintenance concerns
- Safety concerns (lack of signage for bikes)

Remaining steps in process:

- Compile Task Force recommendations with public input
- Finalize map
- Draft Master Plan document
- Research grants that might be available for trails related projects
- Move forward into the future and implementing the Master Plan!

Map available for comments

Thank You for coming...

Please continue to check the newspaper, utility bill inserts, and website for updates as we move forward with the final Trails Master Plan map and related document, as well as implementation of the Plan.

**Please share the website / survey link
with friends and neighbors!**