

Greenbelt Commission: Purpose, Vision and Proposals

Oversight Committee

City of Norman, Oklahoma

April 14, 2022

Mark A. Nanny - Co-Chair and Ward 1

George Dotson – Chair and Ward 5



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Greenbelt Commissioners

<https://www.normanok.gov/your-government/boards-commissions>

Mark Nanny – Co-Chair & Ward 1

Zach Dufran – Ward 2

Robert Huskey – Ward 3

Kristina Wycoff – Ward 4

George Dotson – Chair & Ward 5

Andrew Hewlett – Ward 6

Maureen Chittenden – Ward 7

Rachel Wyatt-Swanson – Ward 8

Marguerite Larson – Member at Large



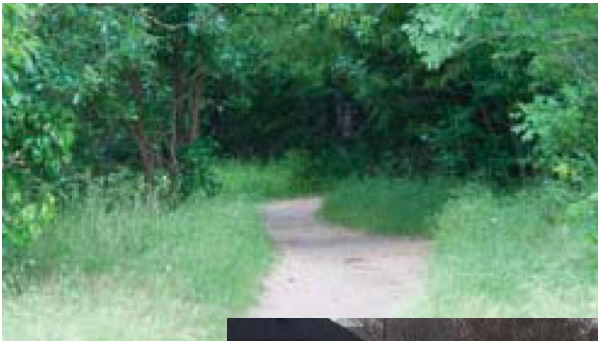
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Purpose of presentation

- Demonstrate the need for clarification of Greenbelt Commission's responsibilities and scope as described in ARTICLE XXI
- Present the steps the Norman Greenbelt Commission is taking to facilitate and grow Norman's Greenbelt System, both in urban and rural areas.



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Outline

- What is a Greenbelt?
- History and purpose of the Greenbelt Commission
- Needs and Proposals as identified by the Greenbelt Commission
 1. Clarification of GBC scope and responsibilities as described in Article XXI
 2. Proposal for moving forward on facilitating Greenbelts and Trails in Norman



What is a Greenbelt?

In Norman, the term Greenbelt refers to three ways to protect natural areas and open space with a system of land parcels that work together to help maintain the beauty and livability of our city.

They are:

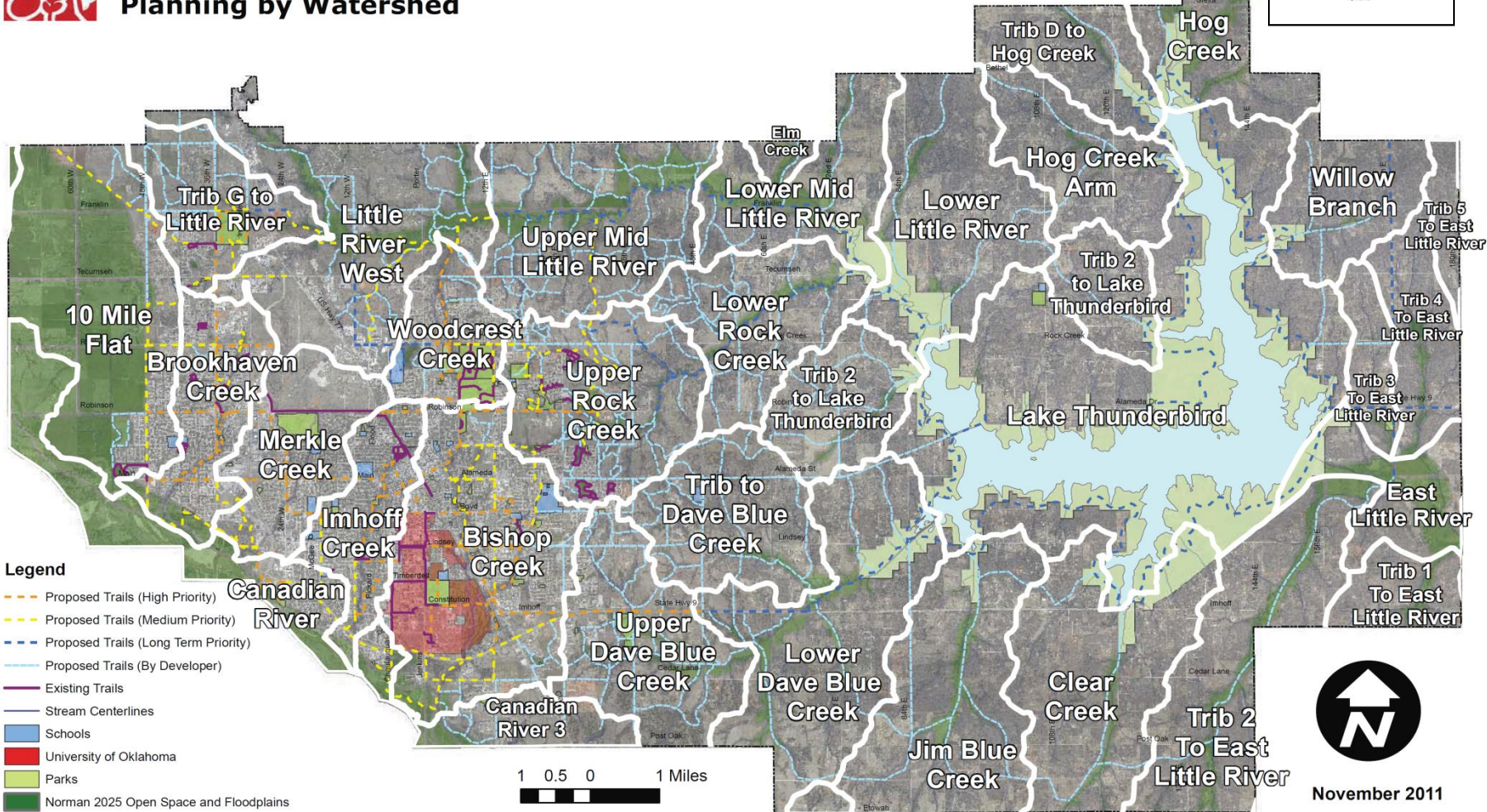
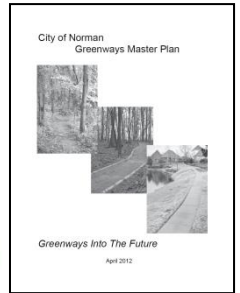
- 1) Norman's existing public parks, golf courses, and nature preserves. These are already open to the public for recreation.
- 2) A system of trails (both on and off-road) between parks and other open spaces, that will allow people to walk, run, bike, skate or ride horses. These would typically be publicly owned and open to the public.
- 3) Large areas of privately owned lands which may not allow public access but will help beautify the city. Examples of such areas are farmland dedicated to permanent agricultural use and portions of private residential developments set aside for open space.



Current & Proposed Major Trails



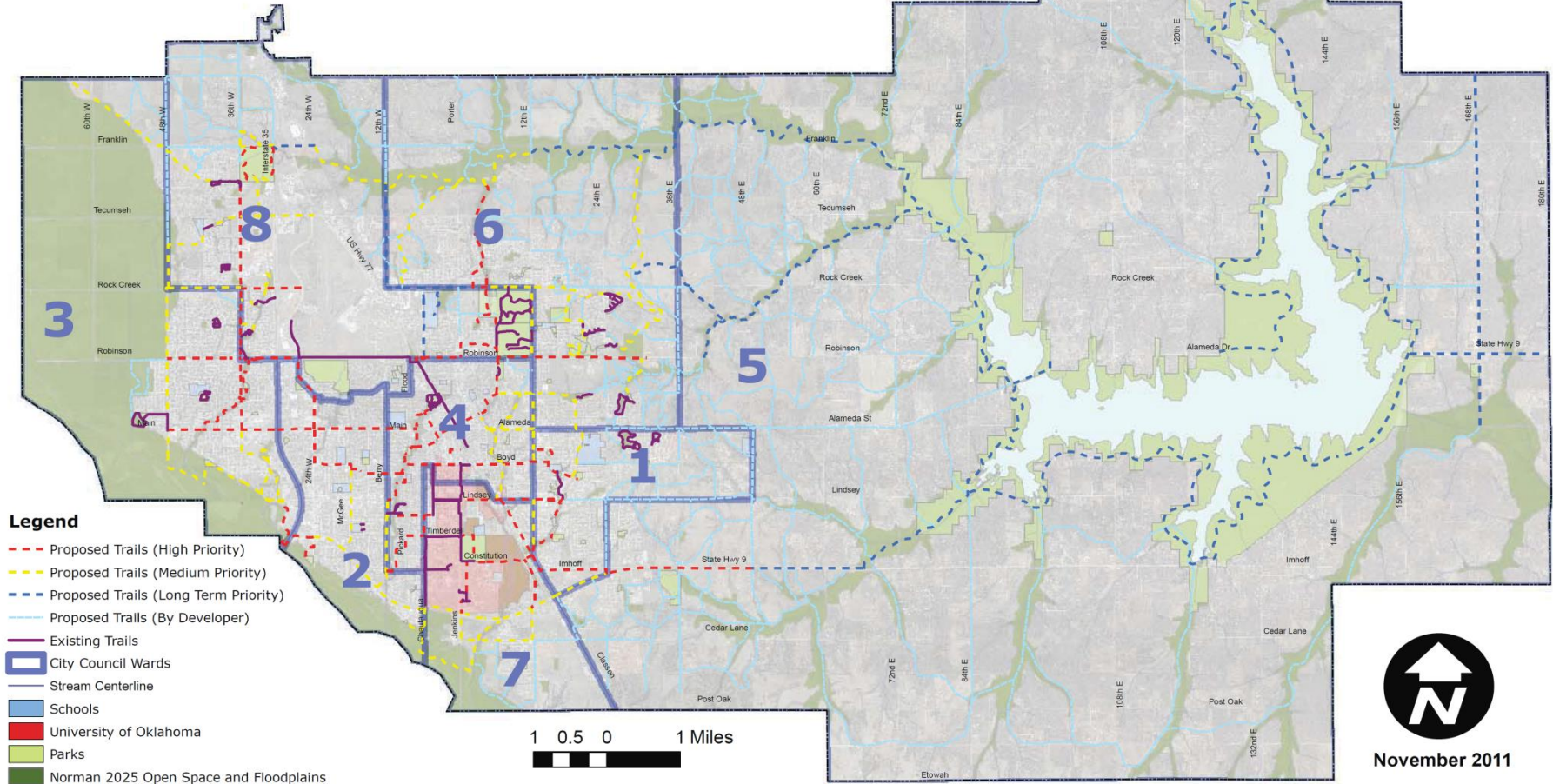
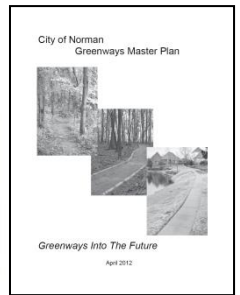
Planning by Watershed



Current & Proposed Major Trails



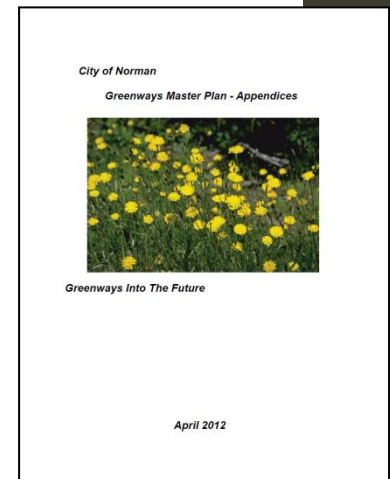
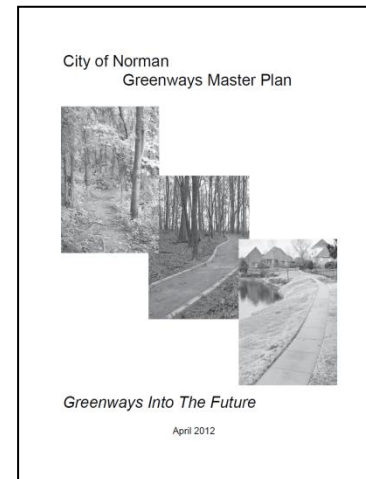
CITYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS



November 2011

Greenbelt Commission History

- **September 1996** – Norman 2020 Land Use and Transportation Plan
Goal 5: Greenbelt Development: Establish a Greenbelt for Norman
- **October 1997** - Citizens Greenbelt Steering Committee
“A Report on Greenbelts and Greenways for Norman”
- **February 2000** – Norman Greenbelt Commission appointed
- **July 2002** – “Green Dreams – Report and Recommendations on Forming a Greenbelt System for the City of Norman”
- **2009** – Greenway Master Plan prepared by Halff Associates Inc.
- **2009** – City Council accepted the seven key guiding principles as basis for development of future policy and regulations related to developing a system of trails and pedestrian connections throughout Norman
- **August 2012** – Greenways Master Plan adopted by City Council



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Purpose of the Greenbelt Commission

The Norman City Council established a permanent Greenbelt Commission in 2000 that will:

- Identify possible parcels of land and develop a policy to determine Greenbelt suitability for individual parcels
- Work for partnerships and other means of implementation, including securing funds
- Make recommendations to the City Council regarding policies and other related matters
- Advocate for the Greenbelt System in the city's planning process
- Solicit public opinion in planning for the Greenbelt and facilitate citizen participation in the planning process so that the public's interest in the Greenbelt System is expressed
- Develop policies regarding security and safety in the Greenbelt System



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Greenbelt Commission Responsibilities

- Identification of primary Greenbelt areas.
- Review of the Greenbelt Enhancement Statement for all platting and survey applications, which articulates how the goals and objectives of Norman's Greenbelt System plan are met by the proposed development.
- Comment on each Greenbelt Enhancement Statement, which is forwarded to the Planning Commission and the City Council.
- Encourage citizen input and public discussion of Greenbelt and Greenway opportunities in proposed developments.

GREENBELT ENHANCEMENT STATEMENT
City of Norman, Oklahoma

Greenbelt Case No. _____ Pre-Development Case No. _____

Applicant Name: _____ Date: _____

Contact Person: _____ Telephone/Fax/Email: _____

Name of Development: _____ Area (Acres): _____

General Location: _____

***Please attach a map, site plan and/or survey map illustrating the proposed development.**

Type of Proposal (please check all that apply)

a. This is a: Land Use Plan Amendment; Preliminary Plat; Rural Certificate of Survey; _____

b. Proposed Land Use: Residential _____ Commercial _____ Industrial _____ Other _____

1. Briefly explain the kind of development, types of buildings/uses, or character of your proposal and how it achieves the principles, purposes and goals of Section 4-2026. _____

2. Does your proposed development or project incorporate open space(s)?
Yes _____ No _____

Please check what type(s) of open spaces are proposed within your development:

Park:	Yes _____ No _____	Public _____ Private _____
Open Space:	Yes _____ No _____	Public _____ Private _____
Detention Pond:	Yes _____ No _____	Public _____ Private _____
Parking Lot Landscape:	Yes _____ No _____	Public _____ Private _____
Floodplain/Creek:	Yes _____ No _____	Public _____ Private _____
Other _____		

If the above noted areas are accessible via some other arrangement please explain. _____

3. Does the open space for this development include some kind of trail or path that meets the definitions contained in Section 4-2023A of the attached guidelines? (Indicate all that are applicable.)

Public Sidewalks (4'-5' wide)	Yes _____ No _____
Natural Trails (compacted earth 8'-10' wide)	Yes _____ No _____
Parkway Trails (durable surface 6'-8' wide)	Yes _____ No _____
Neighborhood Trails (durable or paved, 6'-10' wide)	Yes _____ No _____
Community Wide Trails (paved, 10'-12' wide)	Yes _____ No _____
Specialized Trails (equestrian, water, etc)	Yes _____ No _____
Other _____	

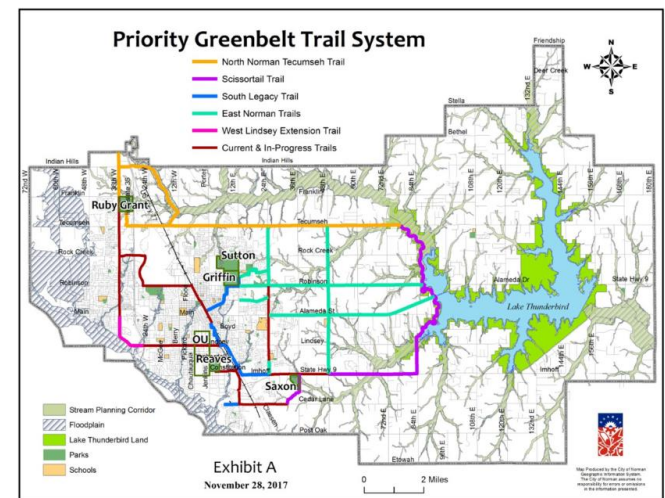
Aug 8, 2013

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Greenbelt Commission History – Part II

- **November 28, 2017**– Priority Greenbelt Trail System adopted by City Council
Resolution R-1617-32 – “adopted as addenda to the Greenway and the Parks and Recreation Master Plans to provide additional visioning for development of priority trails upon which to build additional open space, parks, greenways, trails, recreation, and other public transportation facilities within the City of Norman.”
- **2018** – Study of trail systems in Colorado, Nebraska, Arkansas, and Oklahoma
 - What do other states have, how was it developed, how is it maintained, and what can Norman learn from them?
 - Oklahoma’s unique land ownership laws prevent developing trail systems similar to how surrounding states developed their trail systems.
- **2020** – Clarification of Greenbelt Commission’s responsibilities and scope
 - Revise wording in ARTICLE XXI
 - Addressed question if GBC was limited only to the GB Master Plan and Priority Trail System, or if it could develop visions and recommendations beyond those outlined in the Master Plan so to grow with Norman.



Priority Greenbelt Trail System

- North Norman Tecumseh Trail
- Scissortail Trail
- South Legacy Trail
- East Norman Trails
- West Lindsey Extension Trail
- Current & In-Progress Trails

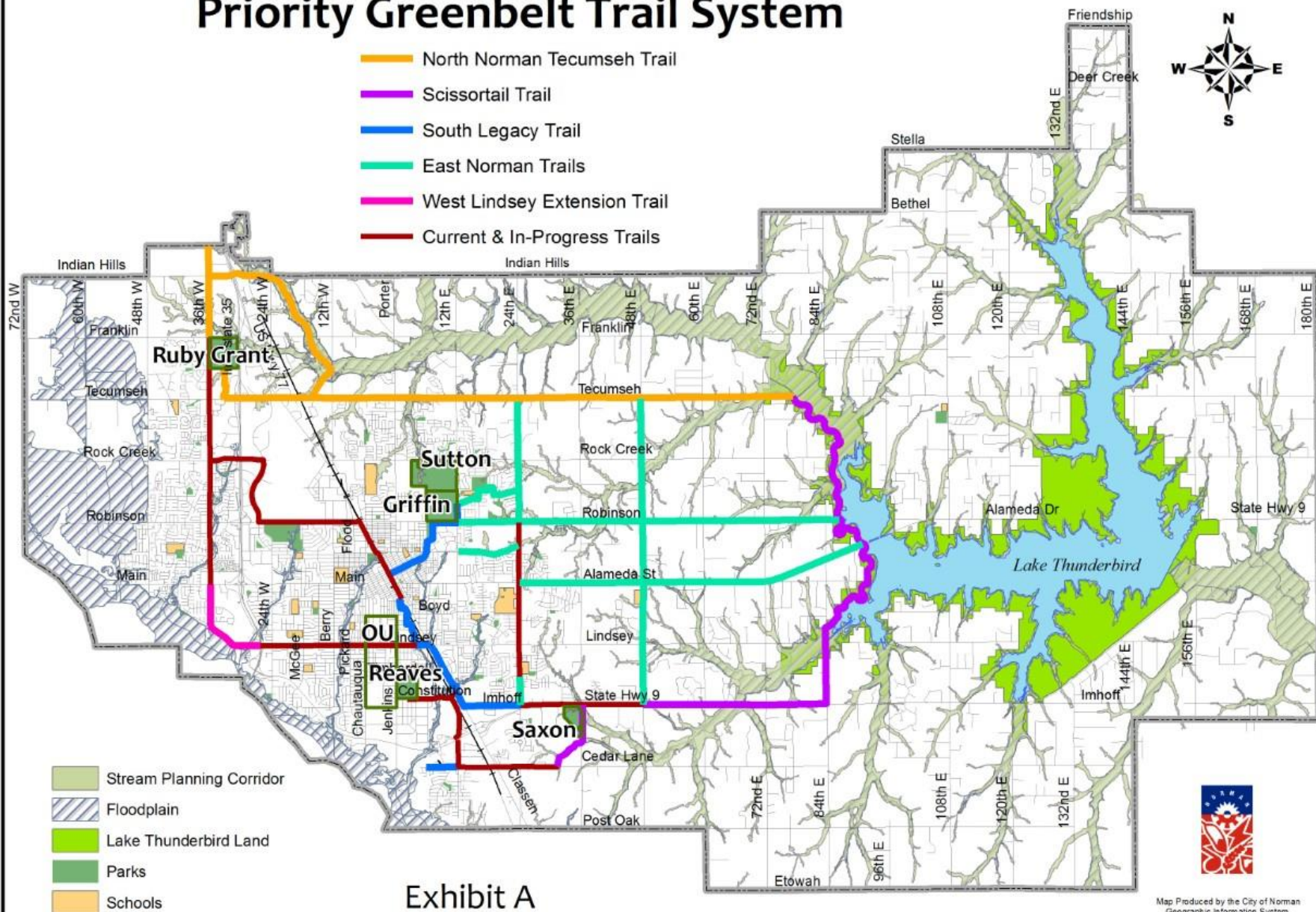


Exhibit A

November 28, 2017

0 2 Miles



Map Produced by the City of Norman
Geographic Information System.
The City of Norman assumes no
responsibility for errors or omissions
in the information presented.

Goals for Clarifying ARTICLE XXI

- 1) More definitive wording with respect to GBC's current responsibilities, as well as defining exactly what constraints (if any) are imposed by the Master Plan and Priority Trails Plan on our ability to be flexible and adapt to current needs and issues. We want to ensure that the GBC can be responsive and dynamic to the continuing change and development in Norman.
- 2) Determine what new responsibilities the GBC should assume in its role advising City Council and the Mayor. For example, expanding our responsibility to make Norman a "Greener City" rather than focus solely on trails.
- 3) Allow the GBC to address items consistently appearing in public surveys regarding what folks want in Norman: Connectivity of neighborhoods and points of interest, public green spaces for recreation and pedestrian traffic, nature trails and bicycle/walking paths to Lake Thunderbird.



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Next Steps for the GBC:

Immediate Term:

1. Encourage “Green” Development
2. City of Norman promoting Greenbelts

Long Term:

1. Alignment with the City of Norman Departments, Boards and Commissions
2. Integrate Greenbelt development with City-wide projects
3. Long-term development and management of Greenbelts



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1) Encourage “Green” Development

- *Encourage and reward developers for integrating and implementing Green Design into their projects, particularly Green Design that facilitates connectivity and aligns with the Greenbelt Masterplan*
- i) Facilitate efficient processing of green development , e.g. “Green Application Sheets” to move to the head of the line, and minimize excessive time spent dealing with approval of green design criteria
- ii) Allow Site Development Fees to be used for Greenbelt purposes that facilitate multimodal transportation
 - Example: Franklin Road far west side as demonstration project.
- iii) Develop R1”G” zoning to allow green residential development, e.g. smaller lots in lieu of greenways, cluster design, connectivity with greenways and trails
 - Make less complicated to use than PUD
 - Match guidelines with OKC



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2) City of Norman promoting Greenbelts

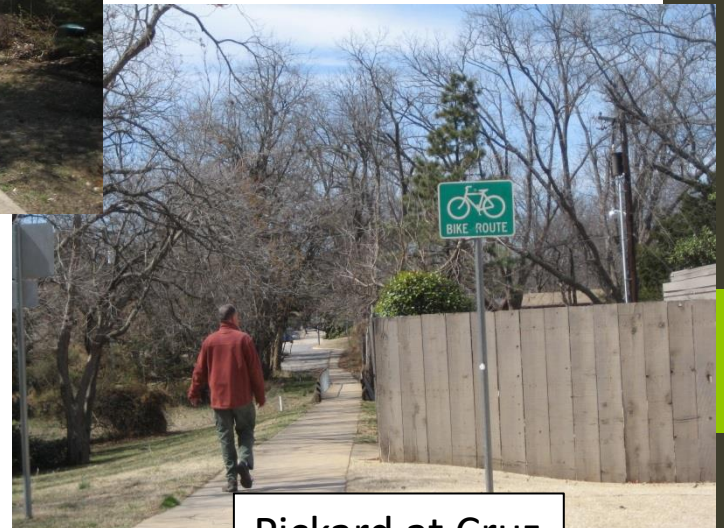
- *Incorporate promotion of the Greenbelt system with the growth and development of Norman*
- i) City code to promote connectivity of streets, sidewalks and trails between adjacent developments and to places of interest (e.g., schools, parks and shopping areas)



Cherrystone at Berry



Berry to Brookside



Pickard at Cruz



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2) City of Norman promoting Greenbelts

- *Incorporate promotion of the Greenbelt system with the growth and development of Norman*

- ii) Fast track building sidewalks and trails that connect new and existing developments located on proposed Greenbelt trails with existing trail system.
 - Annual recommendations for General Capital Projects
- iii) Integration of multimodal green corridors connecting areas with apartments to points of interest.
 - Example: Classen Blvd between Boyd and East Imhoff, and East Constitution to Jenkins



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1) Alignment with the City of Norman Departments, Boards and Commissions

*Greenbelts need to become an integral part of
the municipal infrastructure*

- In order to facilitate the effective development, implementation and management of Greenways, trails, and green urban corridors, GBC activities and goals need to be integrated into the operations and goals of pertinent City units*

Primary City Units:

- Norman Parks and Recreation, and the Board of Parks Commissioners
- Public Works Department
- Public Safety



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1) Alignment with the City of Norman Departments, Boards and Commissions

a) Norman Parks and Recreation, and the Board of Parks Commissioners

- i) Revise the definition of “park space” to include trails and ponds, “pocket” parks
- ii) Create a ratio of trails/open spaces (e.g. ball fields) required per resident in new developments
- iii) Repair of trails throughout Norman would be responsibility of Parks Dept. Trail maintenance (i.e. mowing) would be responsibility of Homeowner’s Association



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1) Alignment with the City of Norman Departments, Boards and Commissions

b) Public Works Department

- i) Monitoring and repair of hydraulic functioning of Greenbelt retention / detention ponds in subdivisions
- ii) Integrate Storm Water Runoff management designs and repair with Greenbelt development
 - Storm water fees to be used for a hydraulic engineer to monitor and manage systems
 - Attraction to Developers to utilize hydraulic features as part of Greenbelt to enhance “Quality of Life “



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1) Alignment with the City of Norman Departments, Boards and Commissions

c) Public Safety

- i) Greenbelt and trails designed to provide “eyes” on green spaces and promote safety
- ii) Effective monitoring and enforcement by Norman Police Department
- iii) Designed to minimize fire hazard concerns by Norman Fire Department

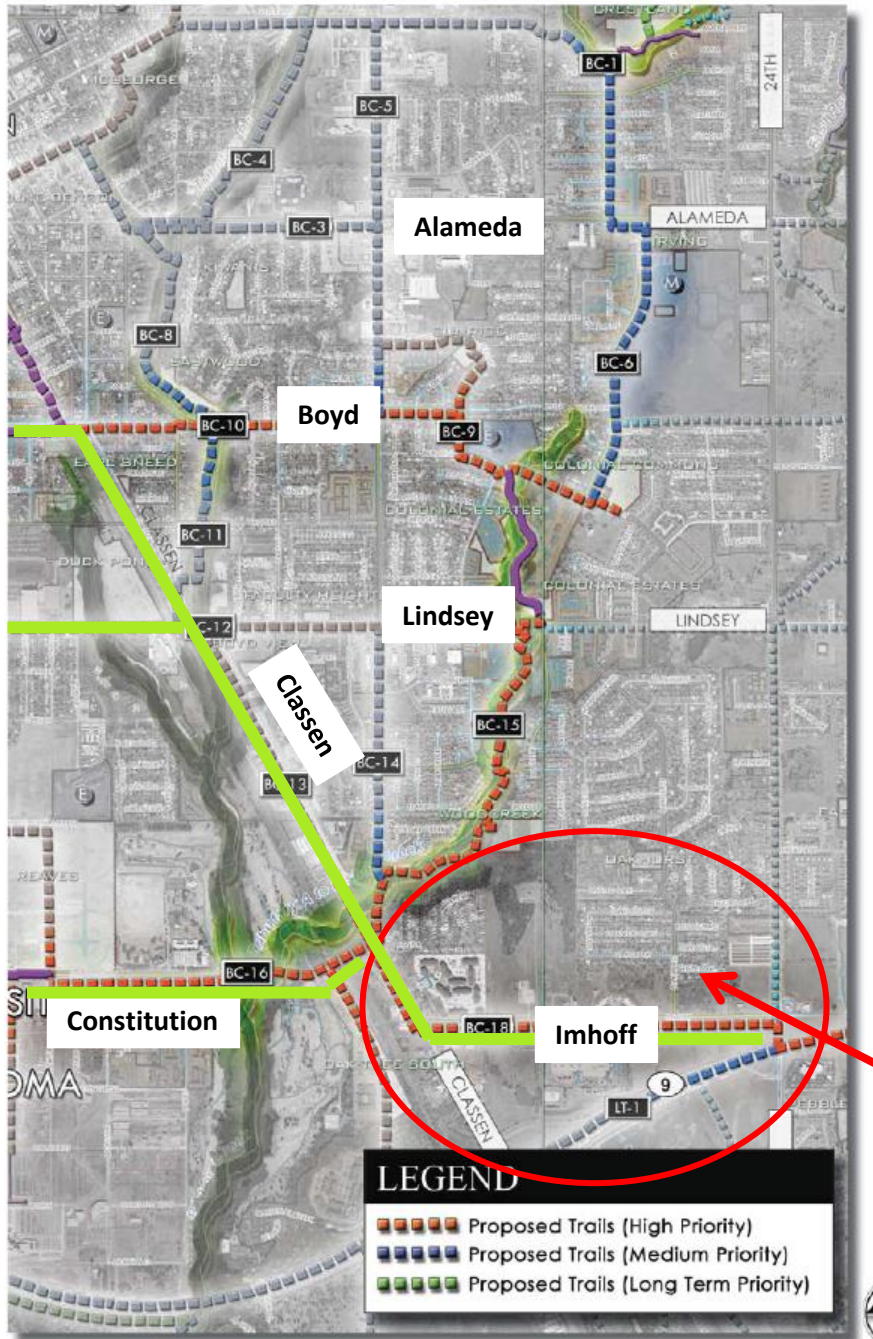


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iii) Integration of multimodal green corridors connecting areas with apartments to points of interest.

Example: Classen Blvd between Boyd and East Imhoff, and East Constitution to Jenkins

Connect with: OU South Research Campus, Central OU Campus, Campus Corners

- Greenery and landscaping
- Wide sidewalks
- Bicycle paths
- Safe cross walks and traffic lights
- Public Transportation route with bus stop/station on Imhoff

High growth area of apartment complexes



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2) Integrate Greenbelt with City-Wide Projects

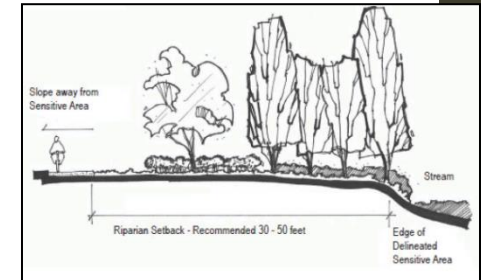
- *Integrating the Greenbelt system into city-wide and long-term projects*

i) Center City Master Plan / Visioning Project

ii) Implementation of the Storm Water Master Plan

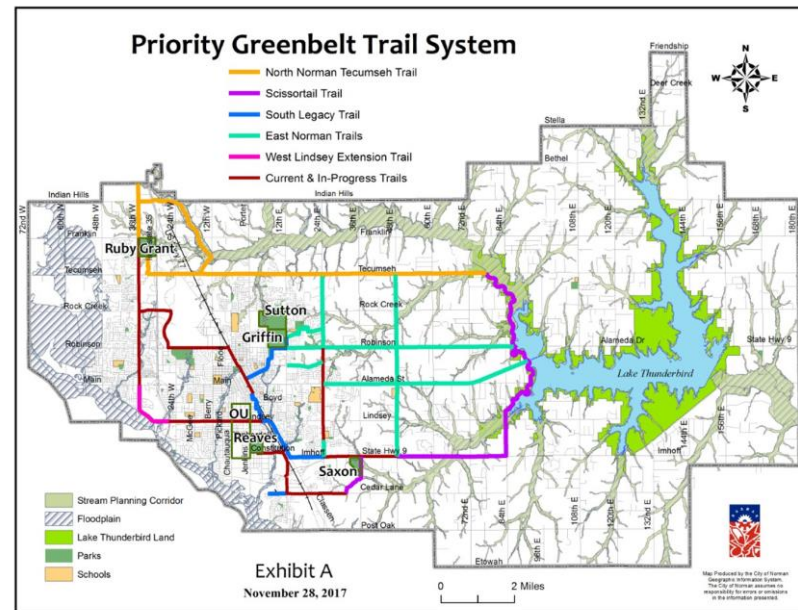
iii) Design of new, and restoration of current, roads to integrate Greenbelt trails

- Bridges to accommodate walking and bicycle paths
- Right of ways to accommodate walking paths and sidewalks



3) Long term development and management of Norman's Greenbelt System

- *Investing now to preserve future opportunities for the development of Norman's Greenbelt System*
- i) Methods for preserving and/or purchasing critical land or right of ways for future urban and rural Greenbelt trails and corridors
- ii) Funding for developing recreational trail system in eastern Norman to Lake Thunderbird



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