

— VERDAE —

SRT-Legacy Connector Advisory Group Planning Update

December 15, 2022

The Planning Team for the Legacy Connector project met with Advisory Group Members this week to discuss an exciting update on the project status. The past four months have been pivotal in moving the design process for the planned trail spur towards a more informed recommendation for alignment. Feedback and participation from development partners and stakeholders have been key in helping the Team navigate development questions that relate to constructability, optimal stream crossing, environmental protection, respect to adjoining property owners, user experience, project scope, and more. We are pleased to share the Advisory Group's meeting recap and development plan details with the community.

Planning Team Members

Team members for the project include Verdae Development, Inc (VDI), Kimley-Horn Engineering, Beau Welling Landscape Design, Beyer Blinder Bell Urban Planners, Harper Construction, and the City of Greenville. Additionally, the Team is supported by Greenville County Parks & Recreation, and three environmental advocacy partners—TreesUpstate, Upstate Forever, and Friends of the Reedy River.

2023 Project Scope

The Legacy Connector project, approximately one-third of a mile in length, will link Legacy Park to the newly paved extension of the Prisma Health Swamp Rabbit Trail. Development will include the completion of a successful permitting process with the City of Greenville and SC-DHEC for land disturbance and wetland crossing. Construction of trail features include an ADA compliant asphalt ribbon—similar to the SRT and a bridge measuring approximately 100' to span the Laurel Creek crossing. The permitting process will begin in January and construction completion is targeted for 2023.

Proposed Alignment

The path will be built primarily at natural grades on property owned by Verdae and the City of Greenville. Additionally, much care will be taken in the preservation and protection of trees. Final alignment will be approved by the City of Greenville as the project moves through the permitting process. The drawing below illustrates the proposed path.



Landscape Buffering to Enhance Privacy for Adjacent Property

Additional evergreens and trees will be installed in the area adjacent to residential property with views from the trail (between Legacy Park and the SRT). The approach involves the use of multi-layered plantings that will thrive in the existing environment. Property owners within this area will have an opportunity to review the landscape plan and provide additional feedback.

The User Experience

The Legacy Connector will welcome all and provide a multitude of benefits including recreation, health and wellness, and access to nature in the heart of Verdae. The trail spur is designed to be a passive connection—providing a perfect opportunity for a stroll, jog, or scenic bike ride. As with the SRT, the Legacy Connector will be open from dawn to dusk, welcoming pedestrians, and other forms of non-motorized use. The photo below is from a trail near Willis Park in Alpharetta, Georgia and exemplifies the Planning Team’s vision for the natural experience that the Legacy Connector can deliver.



Project Funding and the Plan for Future Ownership and Maintenance

Verdae is responsible for funding and development of the Legacy Connector. The City of Greenville is in the process of finalizing a Memo of Understanding (MOU) agreement with Verdae that states successful completion of the Legacy Connector amenity with full approval and inspection by the City of Greenville (per the terms of the MOU) will result in the City’s acceptance for ownership and maintenance of the trail as a public asset.

Future Project Phasing

During the Advisory Group input process, additional project enhancement goals were identified that are not included in the Legacy Connector 2023 Project Scope. As Verdae Development advances the redevelopment of property on Laurens Road, an activation of the western side of the SRT will be possible. Improvements to Legacy Park and Algonquin Trail will require additional planning outside of Legacy Connector activation.

A Broader Environmental Opportunity

The Planning Team believes the Legacy Connector project can (and should) be a catalyst project to advance environmental restoration of the Laurel Creek area. Advocacy Partners—TreesUpstate, Update Forever, and Friends of the Reedy River—agree with this approach. In early January 2023, the Team will begin an effort to seek grant funding to begin a broader effort to restore Laurel Creek and the adjacent riparian buffer.

A Huge Thanks to the Legacy Connector Advisory Group!

March 2022 marked the initial meeting of the Legacy Connector Advisory Group—an assembly of area residents, City staff/representatives, cycling/trail building/environmental experts, and supporters of Legacy Park/Legacy Square. The group helped create the design principles and provided much needed input along the planning process. The Planning Team is thankful for the contribution this group has delivered thus far.

Bob Bunchman
Calin Owens
Delroy Jones
Eric Van Beek
Frank Mansbach
Happy Holiday
Ty Houck

Joelle Teachey
Laura Griswold
Megan O’Neill
Shannon Lavrin
Steve Brandt
Taylor Davis
Wil Brassington

SRT-Legacy Connector Design Principles

- Create an active and inclusive trail connection:** facilitating circulation between Legacy Park, the Green Line of the Prisma Health Swamp Rabbit Trail, and Verdae Commons.
- Enhance community life and well-being:** providing meaningful connections, enhanced experiences of nature, and recreational opportunities.
- Establish fully accessible pedestrian and bike connections:** creating a trail that supports residents and visitors of all abilities and needs.
- Support comfortable, user-friendly access and wayfinding:** ensuring ease of use for both pedestrians and bikes with clear navigation promoting safety and security.
- Balance access and connectivity with minimal impacts:** addressing views, lighting, security, and privacy of nearby residential neighborhoods.
- Implement sustainable environmental and cost strategies:** responding to slopes, floodplains, and natural environments with durability and maintenance of construction to achieve the master plan vision.

Beginning in January 2023, visit [ImagineVerdae.com](https://www.imagineverdae.com) for month-end updates for Legacy Connector progress.

If you have a question about the Legacy Connector project, please email AskVerdae@Verdae.com
