

Implementation Process

Chapter 1 - Stages of the Process



The implementation of a greenway involves four stages: the **Regional Plan**, the **Greenway Master Plan**, the **Design and Construction Phase**, and the **Management Plan**.

Introduction

The implementation of a greenway involves four stages: the *Regional Plan*, the *Greenway Master Plan*, the *Design and Construction Phase*, and the *Management Plan*, as shown in Figure 32 in the *Implementation Process Introduction*. The following is a brief description of each of the four stages.

Regional Plan

A regional plan ensures that an individual community's master plan works with and complements the master plans of adjacent communities. These master plans include transportation, greenspace, land use, and watershed plans. Depending on the goals of each regional plan, the region may be defined by a watershed, a political boundary, or a geographic or ecological region.

A greenway segment is an important component in regional planning. It may become a component of a larger greenway plan for the region, as well as a component of the Chattahoochee River Corridor. The Georgia Department of Community Affairs can provide local governments with useful information about regional planning, as can the applicable Regional Development Center. The Chattahoochee River Corridor also may be a significant part of the community greenspace programs in those counties that participate in the Georgia Greens-

pace Program administered by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. *Appendix C* provides additional resources for assistance in developing various regional plans. The **Water Quality: Watershed Protection Plan Guideline** contains more information on regional planning focused on water quality.

Greenway Master Plan

The greenway master plan focuses on the greenway segment and its relationship to the surrounding region. The master plan identifies areas for preservation, restoration, water quality improvements, education, and recreation. Although it describes elements and facilities to be included within the program for the greenway, the master plan is conceptual and does not show specific locations for any element. Instead, it examines relationships between the program elements. The greenway master plan states the goals and issues involved in the project. It also outlines the program, addresses implementation costs, identifies funding sources, and proposes a timeline for completion of the greenway segment. The master planning process usually takes from six to twelve months to complete.

Design and Construction Phase

The design and construction phase involves the detailed design of site elements, development of construction documents,

and construction of elements within the greenway segment. Construction documents consist of technical drawings and specifications based on the greenway master plan, applicable regulations, funding source requirements, design of site elements, and in-depth examination of the site conditions. They include the specific location and design of all the greenway program elements.

Construction documents are used to direct the construction process. Successful construction within the greenway segment is achieved through the use of these documents and the cooperative effort of the project partners, design team, and contractor during construction.

Management Plan

This step is often overlooked in the greenway project process. The management plan should be developed concurrently with the master planning and construction documents. A decision about the greenway management approach may affect a design decision. Management plans identify the managing agency, the funding source, and what expertise, equipment, and supplies are needed. For these reasons, management plans are beneficial in making more accurate long-term cost predictions for the greenway. Well written management plans are crucial to the success of the greenway.

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The following guidelines (discussed in *Principles and Guidelines*) provide more information about management plans:

Preservation: Management Plan Guideline

Restoration: Management Plan Guideline

Water Quality: Watershed Protection Plan Guideline

Recreation: Management Guideline

The Cast

Greenway implementation involves various groups of people including the project partners, planning team, design team, stakeholders, and agencies. The following are general definitions of some of these groups based on their roles in the project.

Project Partners

Project partners include the project client(s) or someone appointed by the client(s),

such as a project manager or a committee. Other partners may include nonprofits or governmental agencies that provide funding or other project assistance.

Planning Team and Design Team

The planning team and design team are the groups of professionals hired to complete the greenway project. The *planning team* is formed to create the greenway master plan. The *design team* is formed to complete the design and construction phase of the project.

Professional assistance is important because of the sensitive nature of greenway design. It is critical to accurately identify sensitive natural and cultural areas within the greenway. It also is essential to design and construct recreational elements in an environmentally sensitive manner, as outlined in these guidelines. Professionals with experience in greenway projects or environmentally sensitive design should be selected for the project.

The teams may include the professionals listed in Table 9.

Stakeholders

Stakeholders are people who are in some way affected by activity in the river corridor. The stakeholders will vary depending on the location and goals of the project. Stakeholders are discussed in more detail under the **Community Participation: Project Input Guideline**.

Agencies

Agencies are the federal, state, county, or local governmental bodies involved in the greenway project. They may provide funding and therefore have certain project requirements that must be met. They also may participate in a regulatory capacity and require permits based on federal, state, or local laws. An agency might also be a project partner. *Appendix B* reviews some of the permits that may be applicable to the greenway project.

Table 9
Professionals found on greenway planning and design teams.

Professional	Expertise
Landscape Architect	Project coordination, greenway master planning and design, including restoration projects and community participation activities.
Civil Engineer	Topographic, hydrological issues, and infrastructure.
Biologist/Ecologist	Identification of wetlands and significant natural areas. Preservation plans. Restoration projects. Management plans.
Urban Planner	Regional planning and economic studies.
Environmental Planner	Watershed, preservation, and restoration planning.
Architect	Design of buildings, other architectural structures (e.g., pavilion, restroom facilities).
Surveyor	Location and recording of existing site conditions. Recording of plat for right-of-way, easements, and land acquisition.
Archeologist	Identification of cultural resources.
Environmental Engineer	Water resources issues.
Recreation Planner	Programming and master planning of recreational amenities and recreational needs assessment.
Structural Engineer	Bridge design and structural amenities (e.g., observation tower).
Geotechnical Engineer	Soil testing and subsequent design recommendations based on test results.
Real Estate Professional/Land Trust	Land, easement, and right-of-way acquisition.
Graphic Designer	Signage plan and interpretive signage.