



Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter Outline:

1. Overview
2. Project Purpose and Goals
3. Study Area

1. Overview

In November 2008, the Town of Carrboro commissioned Greenways Incorporated to prepare a conceptual master plan for the Bolin Creek Greenway. The Bolin Creek Greenway project was initiated by the Town for the purposes of alternative transportation, recreation, and environmental protection and restoration.

2. Project Purpose and Goals

Greenways preserve land and provide continuity to an open space system providing multiple benefits to the community and the environment. They connect natural areas and provide habitat for wildlife, as well as corridors for recreation. Greenways help filter sediment and pollutants from runoff thereby improving water quality; they enhance the natural function of streams and floodplains and accommodate stormwater flows. Creating a greenway along Bolin Creek provides an important opportunity to enhance the environment and quality of life for Town of Carrboro citizens.

Greenways Incorporated met with Town of Carrboro staff and members of the Carrboro Greenways Commission at the kickoff of the project to discuss overarching goals of the plan. The following are some of the key issues of importance in the development of the Bolin Creek Greenway.

Ecology and the Natural Environment

Bolin Creek is considered to be one of the Carrboro's richest natural resources. Therefore, protecting and improving water quality along the Bolin and Jones Creek corridor are of utmost importance to the Town. In 2006, Town staff teamed with the Chapel Hill Engineering Department, the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to form the *Bolin Creek Watershed Restoration Team*. The team's initiative includes efforts to restore and enhance the Bolin Creek Watershed as well as preparing grant applications and leveraging other resources to receive funding for these efforts.

Transportation

Greenways and off-road trails serve a transportation purpose by providing alternative routes of travel among the places where people live, work, learn, visit, shop and play. The proposed Bolin Creek Greenway provides an opportunity to connect various uses along its corridor and in neighboring jurisdictions, thereby decreasing automobile dependency and increasing bicycle and pedestrian mode share in Carrboro.

Recreation & Quality of Life

Providing safe access to Bolin and Jones Creek is important to the success of the proposed greenway. Trail accessibility and connectivity to other Carrboro parks and open space will be considered as part of the area's overall network of recreational facilities.

3. Study Area

The study area for this segment of the Bolin Creek Greenway extends approximately three miles, and makes up nearly 400 acres. The planning area starts at Estes Drive Extension and follows the creek north through Carolina North Forest to Homestead Road. Where Jones Creek and Bolin Creek converge, the study area travels along Jones Creek and ends at the northernmost edge of Lake Hogan Farms subdivision. Links to existing greenways are anticipated in the following neighborhoods: Claremont I and II, Winmore, and Lake Hogan Farms. Additionally, connections to Cobblestone, Fair Oaks, Spring Valley, all phases of Bolin Forest, Wexford, and Fox Meadow are anticipated.

