

Orange County Trails Plan

Project Update · July 2025

What is the Trails Plan project?

The Trails Plan is a new Orange County Trails Plan (OCTP) and will serve as both a physical plan and policy implementation guide developed through an analysis of existing conditions and trends, evaluation of existing plans and trail systems, and other policies and initiatives. The outcome of this process will be a comprehensive trails plan that utilizes trail planning principles, a community engagement process, relevant data and analysis of trends, identification of opportunities and strategies, means and methods of coordination among different jurisdictions and trail systems, and an implementation plan with performance measures that track progress on achieving the goals and objectives of the plan.

The result of this planning effort will be a comprehensive, coordinated trails vision for the County, with corresponding policy recommendations and guidance for implementation of the plan over the next 20 years. The anticipated product will be a user-friendly, graphically pleasing document, reflecting concise goals, objectives, and policy recommendations.

Project Leadership

The Trails Plan is being led by the Orange County, North Carolina Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks, and Recreation (DEAPR) in partnership with a consultant team from Gensler. The Parks and Rec Council serves as a project steering committee, reviewing and providing feedback on deliverables and informing the direction of the project. The project leadership team worked together to co-create the Trails Plan vision workshop content.



Vision Workshop Highlights

Two vision workshops were held in May on Sunday May 18 in Chapel Hill, NC and on Wednesday May 21 in Hillsborough, NC. These workshops were open to all members of the community and followed a flexible, open house structure.

We estimate that 62 people attended over the two sessions. Over 370 sticky notes, 365 voting dots, and 33 exit surveys were collected. Participants marked parks and trails they use today and identified the activities they do there. Workshop attendees also provided their ideas and goals for the Trails Plan. Top goals included:

- Connect communities and points of interest
- Provide safe ways to travel by bike and by foot
- Expand and improve existing trails

The workshops were advertised through the Trails Plan web page, social media, other Orange County e-newsletters, and printed flyers.



Missed the workshops?

Please share your thoughts by taking this [online survey](#) with questions and activities from the workshop designed to uncover the community's vision for countywide trail connectivity.

What's Next?

August

The Trails Plan community survey will close on August 22nd at 11:59 PM EST. Take the survey today to make your voice heard!

September

A second public workshop will be held in September. Stay tuned for more details including dates, times, and locations.

Want to learn more?

Visit orangecountync.gov/trailsplan for more information on the project including the roadmap, upcoming events, and more.