

Orange County Trails Plan Project Update · October 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.

September Workshop Highlights

Two open house style community workshops were held on Wednesday, September 24 in Chapel Hill and Sunday, September 28 in Hillsborough to share progress on the draft Trails Plan.

After reviewing insights from the visioning process—which included two workshops in May and an online survey over the summer—participants provided feedback on the draft trail network map, which is comprised of 12 potential trail segments. They shared what is working well and what could be improved to better align with the community’s vision for countywide trail connectivity.

Workshop participants also had an opportunity to share their thoughts on the guiding principles for the Trails Plan and rank the potential trail segments in order of priority.



October Pop-Up Events

Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation (DEAPR) staff attended the following events to bring workshop content out into the community and gather more feedback on the draft trail network.

- Orange County Road Show (October 12)
- Soccer.com Center (October 16)

What's Next?

November 9

Draft Trails Plan Network Survey closes

The online survey will close on Sunday, November 9 at 11:59 PM. Be sure to share your feedback!

Dec. 9 (Tentative)

Sharing of the Draft Trails Plan

An update on the Trails Plan is expected to be shared with the Board of County Commissioners at the December 9 business meeting. As this date is tentative, please check the agenda for the most up to date information on meeting topics. Board feedback will be incorporated into the draft plan this winter and shared for formal consideration in Q1 2026.

Did you miss the workshops or pop-ups?

Draft Trails Plan Network Survey

An **online survey** has been developed with questions from the September workshops and October pop-up events. Take the survey today to make your voice heard and help shape the Orange County Trails Plan!

The survey will remain open until 11:59 PM on **Sunday, November 9**.

Want to learn more?

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