

VISION HIGHLIGHTS



SECTION 1: LOWER SOUTH END .5 miles

1 Terminus Park

Converting the lawn of the CATS maintenance facility to a public park with a green lawn and boardwalk across a stormwater retention garden.

2 Triple C Link / Beer Garden

A beer garden linking Triple C Brewery to the trail.

3 Silo Park

An existing 30' x 300' right of way could become a wider edge along the trail with enhanced landscaping and permanent ping pong tables.



Terminus Park

SECTION 2: SOUTH END SOUTH .6 miles

4 Skate Mini-Park

A vacant ravine could be repurposed as a destination for skaters.

5 Pocket Park

A triangular rear yard behind the Ashton could be captured and enhanced into a small park.

6 Trolley Stop Park/Atherton Market

Enhance the walkway from Tremont to the old Trolley Stop and along the back of Atherton Mill to connect to the restaurants and Atherton Market.



Trolley Stop Park

SECTION 3: CAMDEN SQUARE .68 miles

7 Coop Plaza

The grassy area across from Price's Chicken Coop, between the tracks and Camden, could become a plaza with outdoor seating.

8 Phat Burrito Plaza

The surface parking lot offers a great opportunity to celebrate this space at the heart of South End, with seating and shade trees.

9 Camden Square

This intersection feels like the center of South End and presents the perfect chance to create an official "Town Square".

10 Arlington Park

There is ample "leftover" space between the trail and the Arlington that could be captured and designed as a formal park along the east side of the trail.



Camden Square

SECTION 4: CITY LOOP 1.57 miles

11 CATS Substation Park

This property, owned by CATS, could be designed as a mini park green area with double "porch style" swings and a fountain.

12 City Link Park

This 60' wide section of highway right of way could become a great park with signature views of Uptown, and a safer, greener link between Morehead and the Tryon Street Bridge.

13 Observer Plaza

The front yard of the Observer building could be carved out into a plaza with exhibits created by the Observer celebrating the news.



Substation Park

SECTION 5: UPTOWN .65 miles

14 First Ward Park

First Ward Park will serve as the northern anchor for the Rail Trail.



First Ward Park

Charlotte's Rail Trail will be a vibrant public park that winds 4 miles through the heart of our downtown. It will connect restaurants, bars, shops, galleries and cultural institutions, and create new green spaces large and small for the surrounding neighborhoods. This map highlights some of the new parks and public spaces that are part of the Rail Trail Vision.



Why is the Rail Trail a good thing for Charlotte?

The Rail Trail will:

- Create a unique recreational asset for the seven neighborhoods along the trail and all of Charlotte’s citizens.
- Be a destination where visitors can experience Charlotte’s culture and character.
- Support the innovative small businesses in South End and give shoppers an easier way to access the galleries, shops and restaurants throughout the district.
- Strengthen the identity of Charlotte as city of creativity and cultural experiences.

How long is the Rail Trail? Where will it go?

The vision for the Rail Trail stretches 4 miles, from the proposed Terminus Park just south of New Bern Station, through the heart of South End along the light rail line, and across I-277 into Uptown, where it will connect to museums, performing arts spaces, the 7th Street Public Market, and the new First Ward Park.

Who is involved?

The idea of developing the Rail Trail into a linear park is part of the 2020 Center City Vision Plan adopted by City Council in 2011. In late 2012, Charlotte Center City Partners commissioned the Trail Design Collaborative to develop a vision for the Rail Trail.

The planning, design and construction of the trail will be a joint effort between Charlotte Center City Partners, the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation, and the property owners, business stakeholders and residents who live along the trail. South End’s renaissance grew from grassroots efforts driven by community leadership. Likewise, the designs for the Rail Trail will be built on input from everyone in the communities along the trail.

Why do we have a vision for the Rail Trail? What does that mean? What’s next?

The images and ideas in this vision are concepts; not specific plans. The next steps will include developing a Master Plan for the trail, seeking sponsors, and working with sponsors and adjacent property owners to design and enhance specific places on the trail. Building out and expanding upon the Rail Trail will not happen overnight. It will evolve one space at a time. The first steps are to share this vision and develop a master Framework Plan for the length of the trail. This Framework Plan will be completed in 2014.



What is the Charlotte Rail Trail?

Charlotte’s Rail Trail will be a vibrant public park that winds through the heart of downtown. The 4 mile trail will connect neighborhoods from Sedgefield, Southside Park, Brookhill, Dilworth, Wilmore, South End and Uptown. But it will belong to everyone in the Queen City.

The Rail Trail will become the place to discover cafés and bars, explore galleries, see artists at work, stumble upon an impromptu concert, stroll with your family, or relax on a bench and watch the city come alive around you.

The walkway alongside the LYNX Blue Line already exists. With the help of passionate supporters, the existing trail will be transformed into a network of gardens, public art, unique spaces and activities, and an endless string of places to sit, eat and play. The hardest part of building a park—acquiring the land—is done. Now we have an opportunity to turn it into something extraordinary.



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