

Planning for Pedestrian Infrastructure

2026 National Regional Transportation Conference



Pedestrian Infrastructure

Pedestrian Infrastructure

“Pedestrian” - A person traveling by manual power.

Pedestrian Infrastructure

“Pedestrian” - A person traveling by manual power.

“Infrastructure” - The facilities and structures needed for an entity (community) to operate.

Pedestrian Infrastructure

“Pedestrian”

“Infrastructure”

= A critical way a community establishes its sense of place by enabling people interaction.

Pedestrian Infrastructure

The collection of people-oriented spaces and routes that connect them.

= A critical way a community establishes its sense of place by enabling people interaction.

Pedestrian Infrastructure

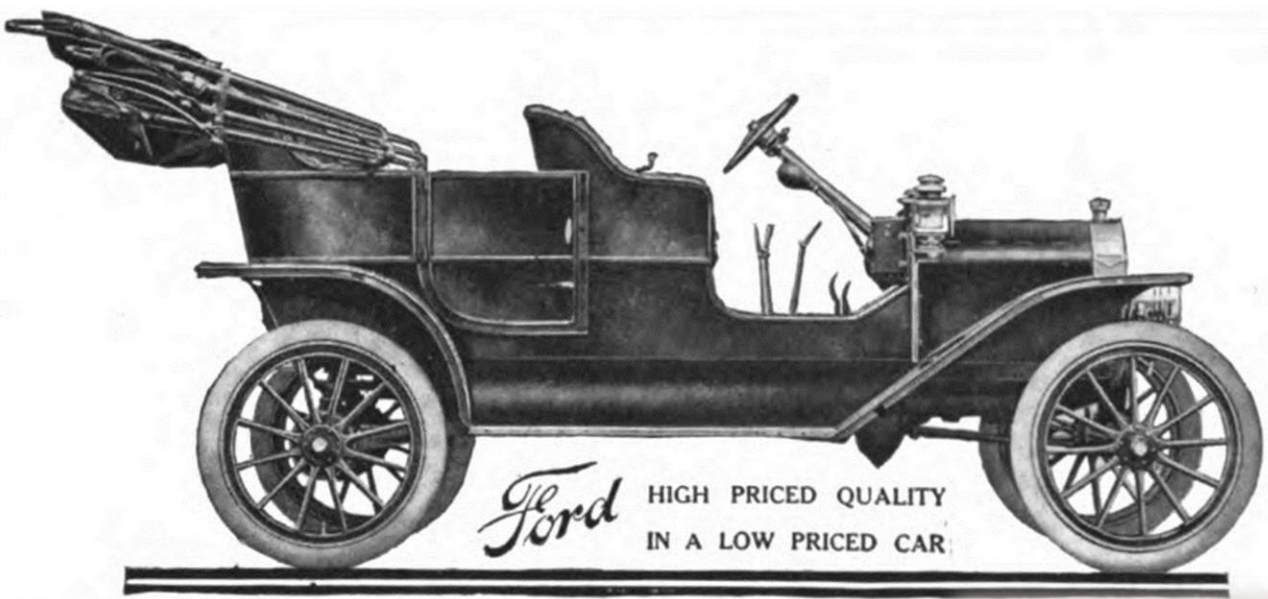
The collection of people-oriented spaces and routes that connect them.

Communities that want spaces to be vibrantly full of people need to design accordingly!

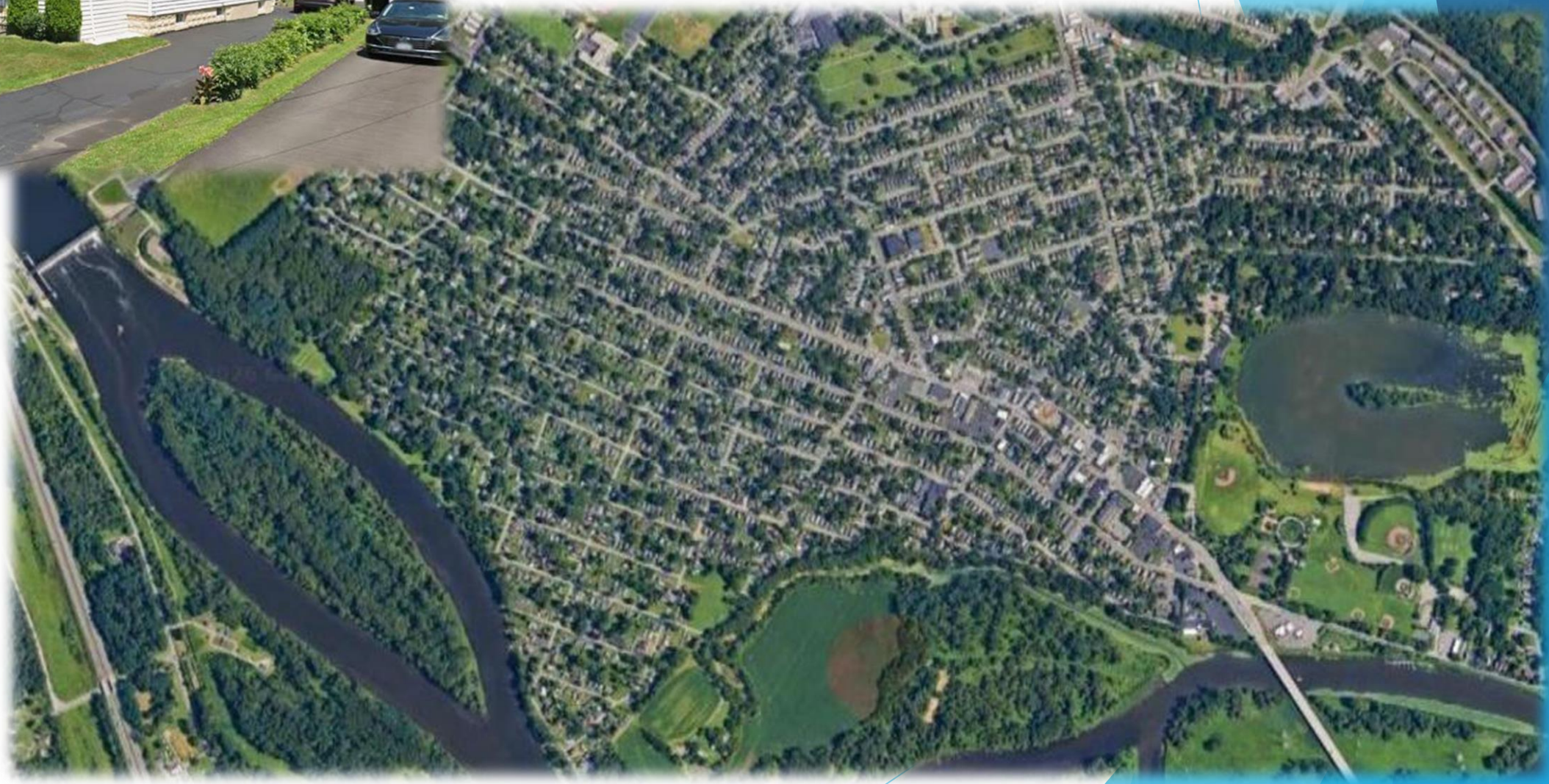
Pedestrian Infrastructure

- *Sidewalks*
- *Trails*
- *Passive use parks*
- *Civic destinations*
- *Walkable connections*

Now we need to think of these things holistically as infrastructure!







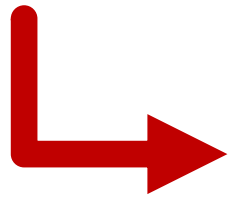






SOCIAL EVOLUTION = DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

- *People are living longer*
- *Families = fewer kids + older parents*
- *Households more mobile*

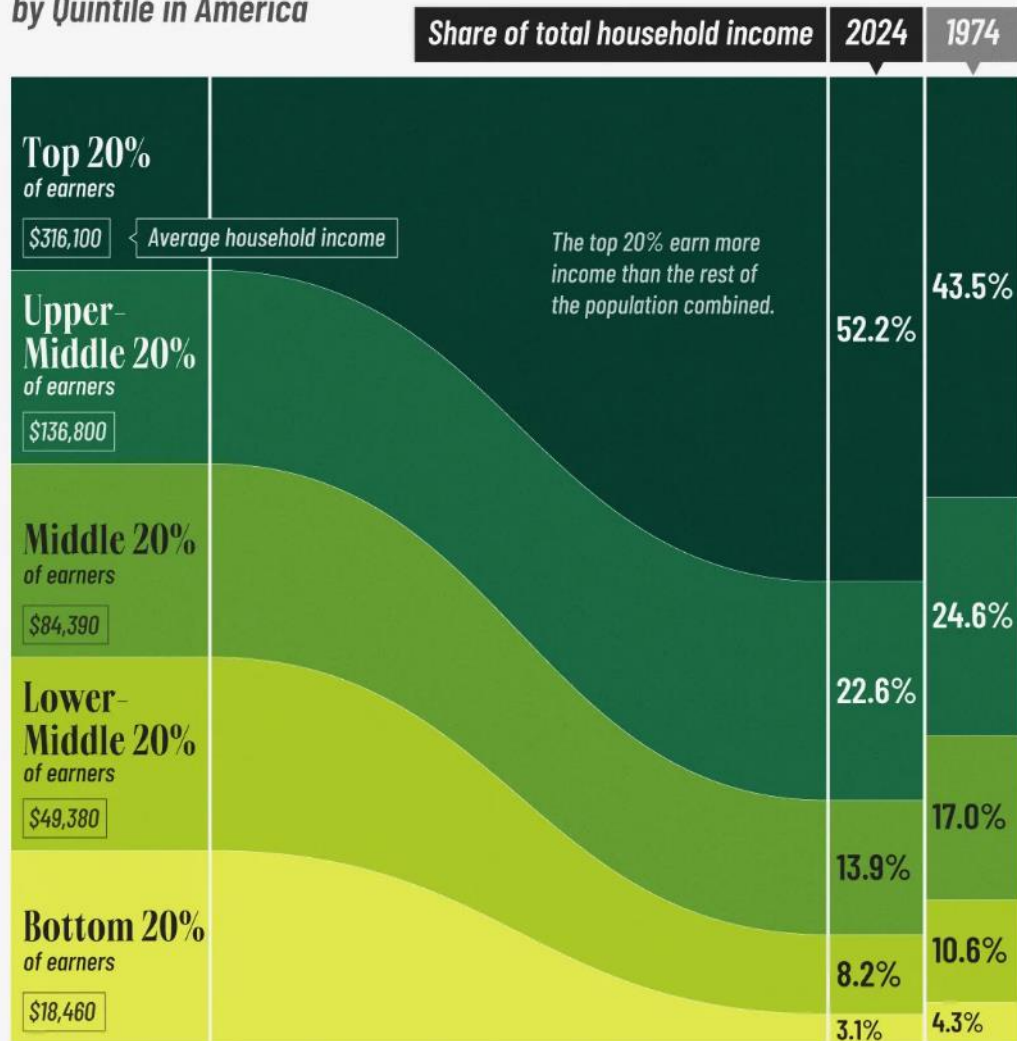


- *Decrease in home size demanded*
- *Increasing demand for access to amenities*



Income Distribution

by Quintile in America



VISUAL CAPITALIST

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



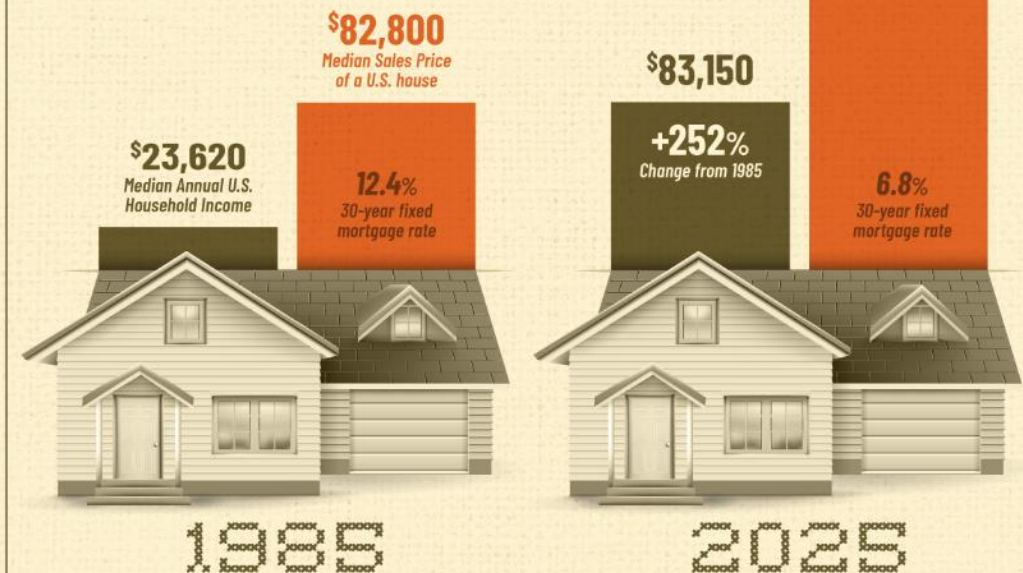
voronoi
BY VISUAL CAPITALIST

Where Data Tells the Story



U.S. INCOME & HOUSE PRICES

The home price-to-income ratio (years of income to buy a typical home) has risen from 3.5 in 1985 to 5.0 in 2025.



VISUAL CAPITALIST

Sources: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Motio Research. Mortgage rates are an avg. through calendar year. As of July 8 for 2025. 1985 figures in nominal dollars (not adjusted for inflation)

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Where Data Tells the Story



Sidewalks & Crosswalks



Sidewalks & Crosswalks



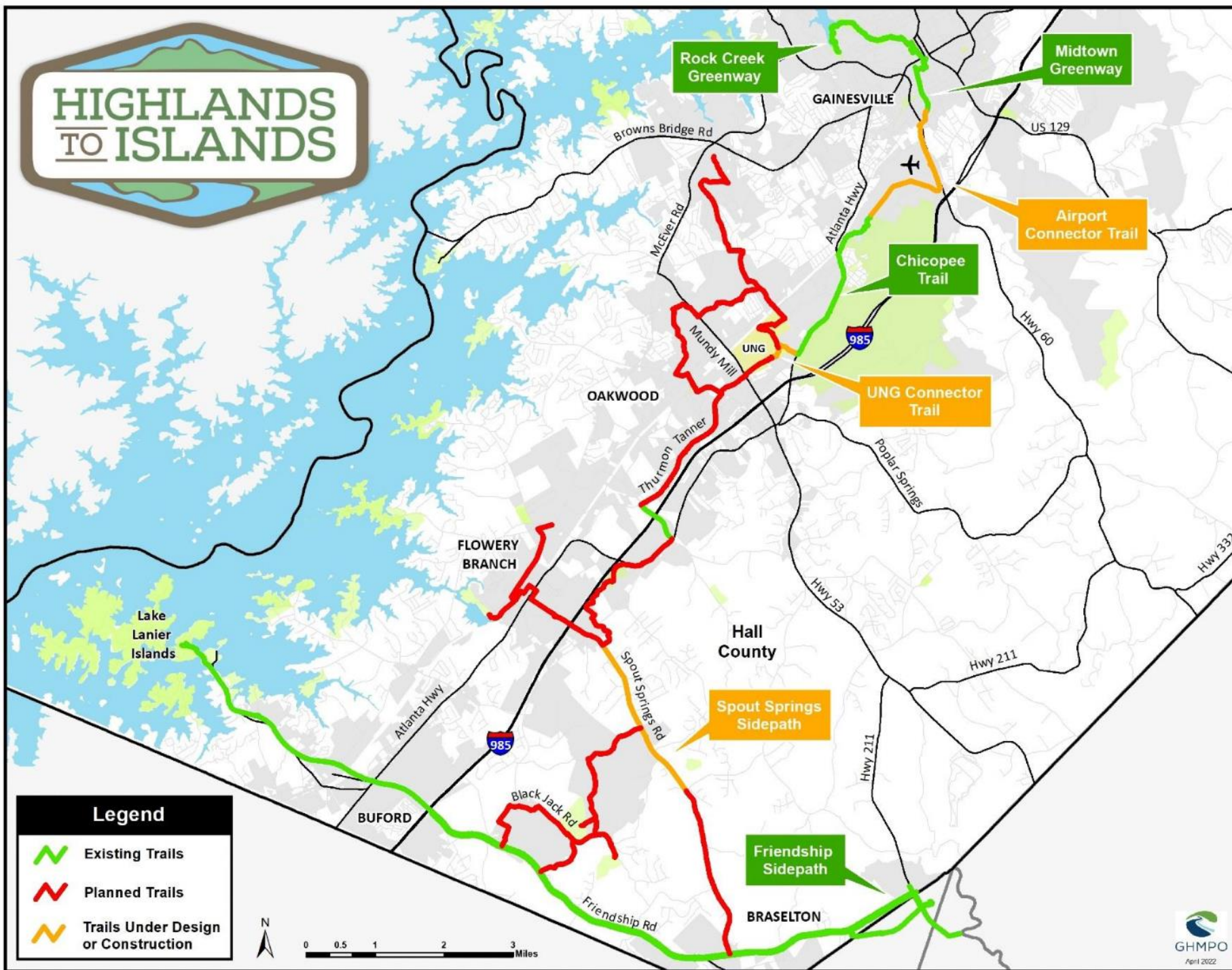
Sidewalks & Crosswalks



Civic Destinations



HIGHLANDS TO ISLANDS

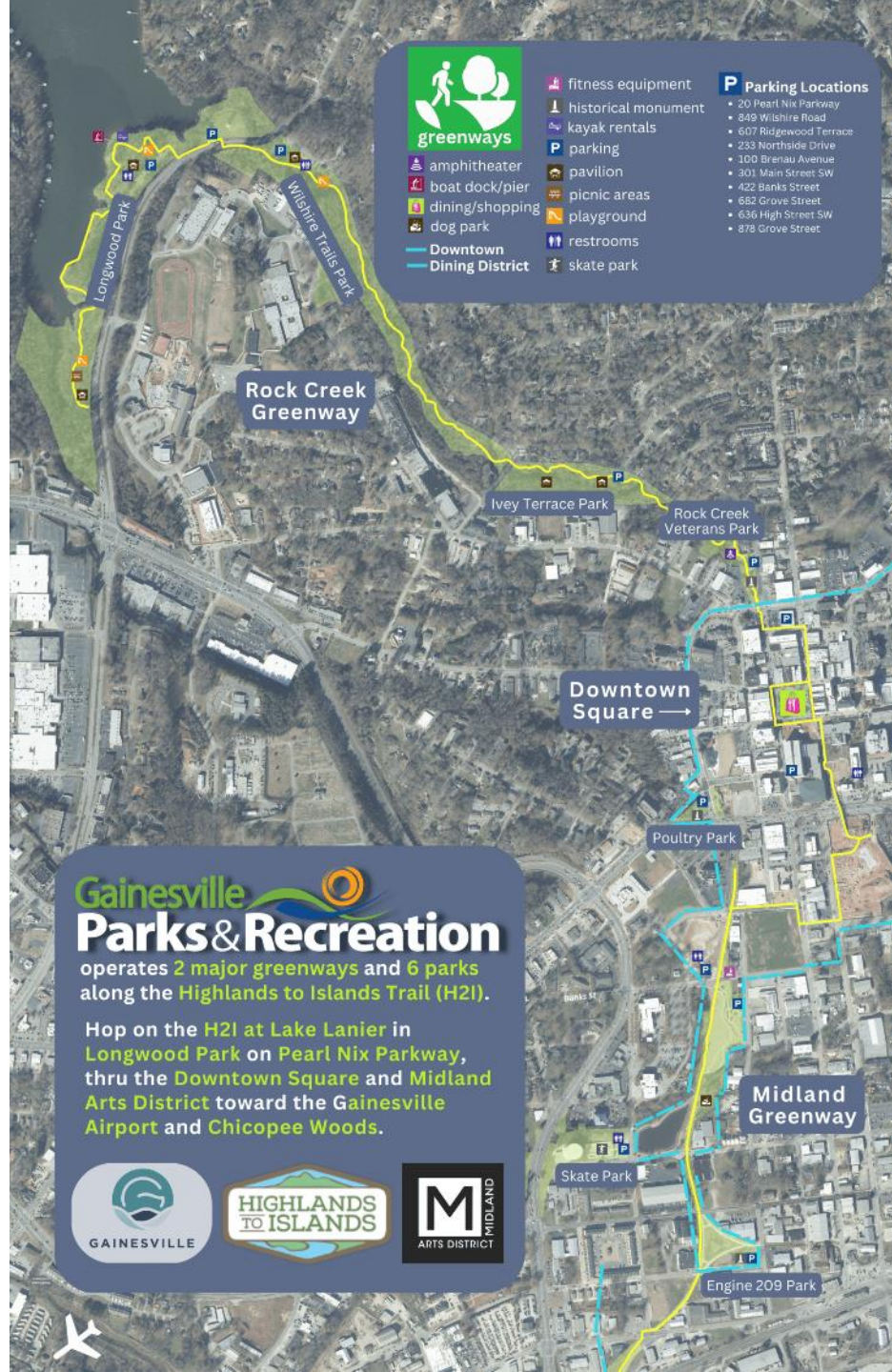


Trails & Greenways



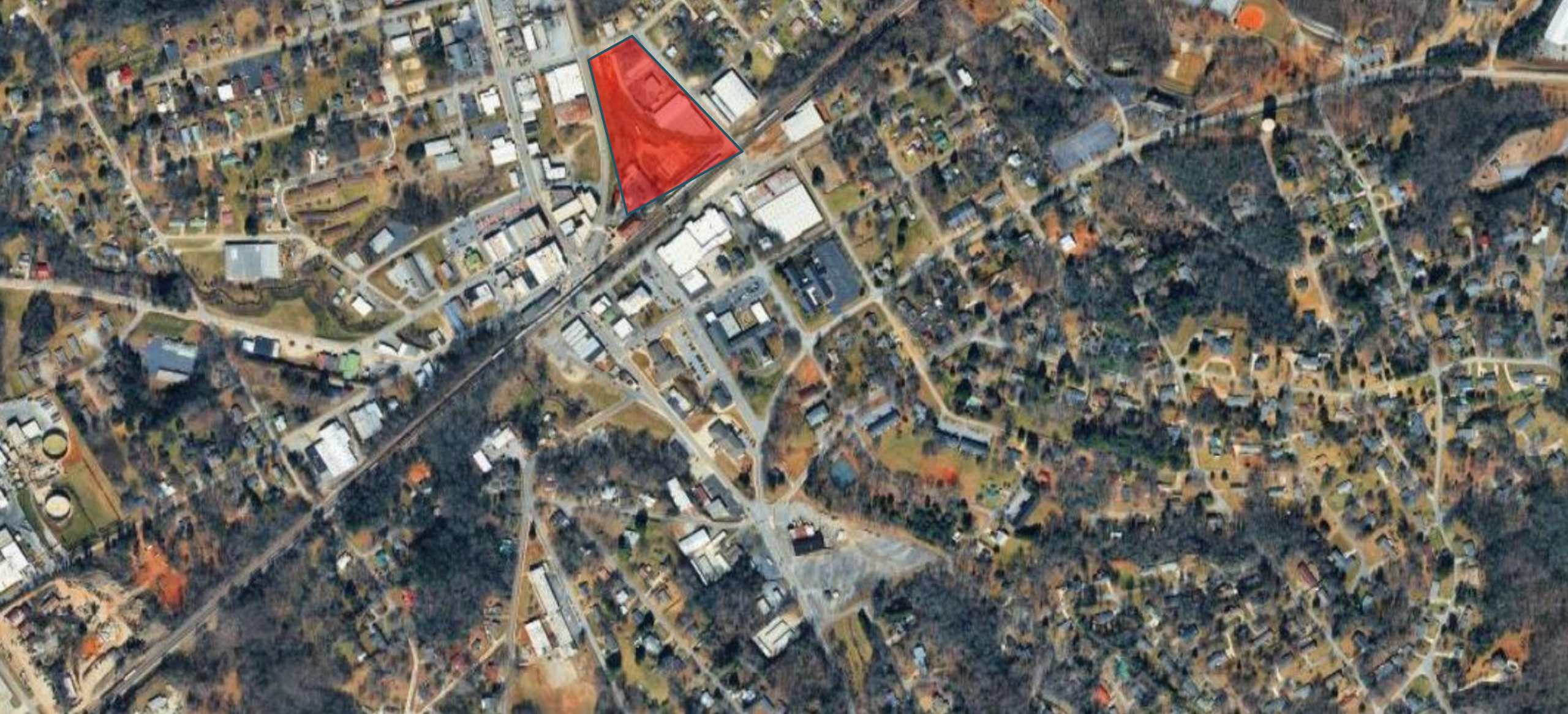
GAINESVILLE





Trails & Greenways







Trails & Greenways



WHAT SHOULD COMMUNITIES DO?

Communities that want spaces to be vibrantly full of people need to design accordingly!



WHAT SHOULD COMMUNITIES DO?

✓ Be Realistic / Be Mindful

- *Understand & accept future conditions*
- *Know your resources & abilities*



WHAT SHOULD COMMUNITIES DO?

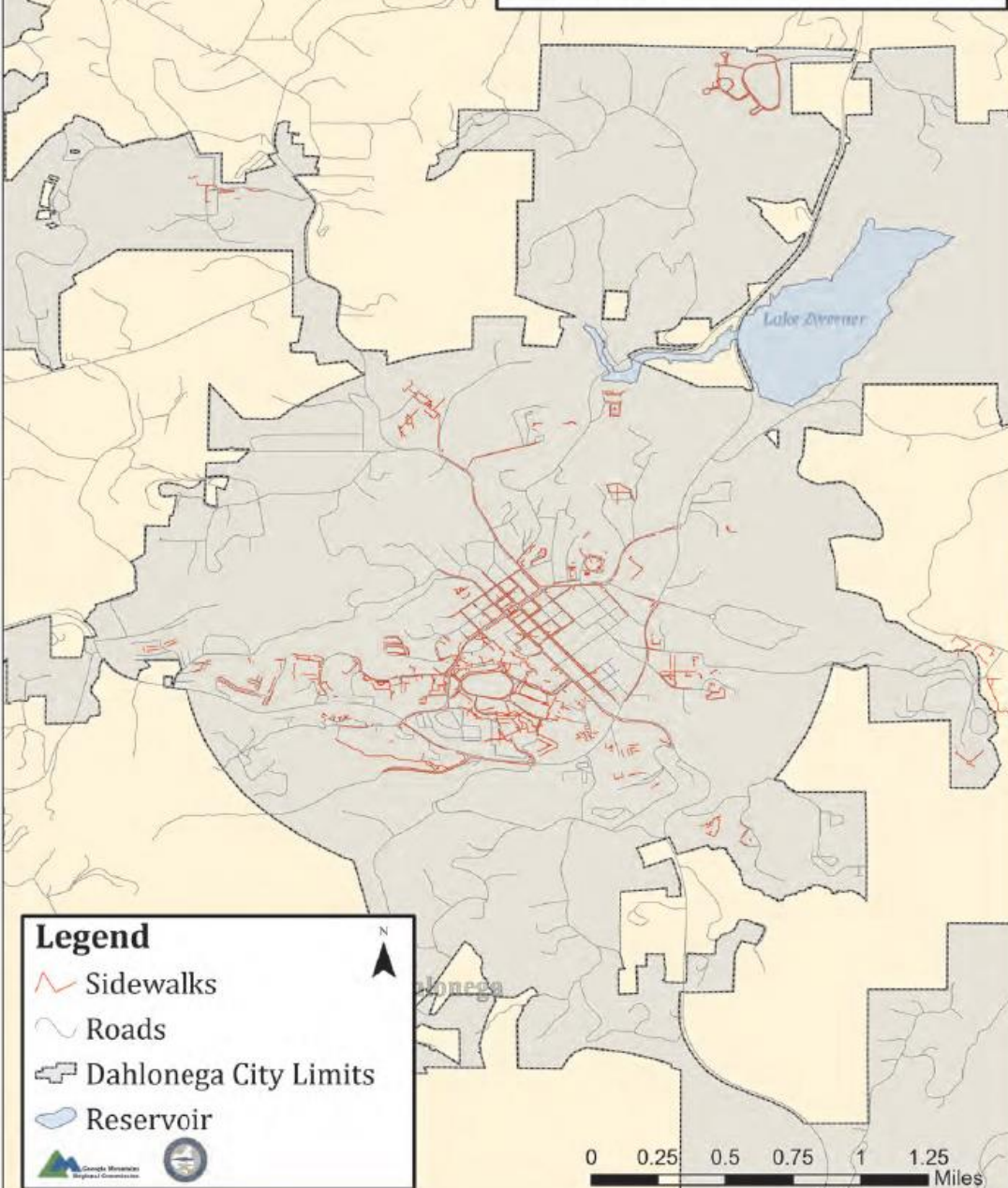
✓ Plan for pedestrian infrastructure

- *Comp Plans; Master Plans*
- *Budget line items*
- *See it as a vital part of connectivity*
- *Design events with pedestrians in mind*



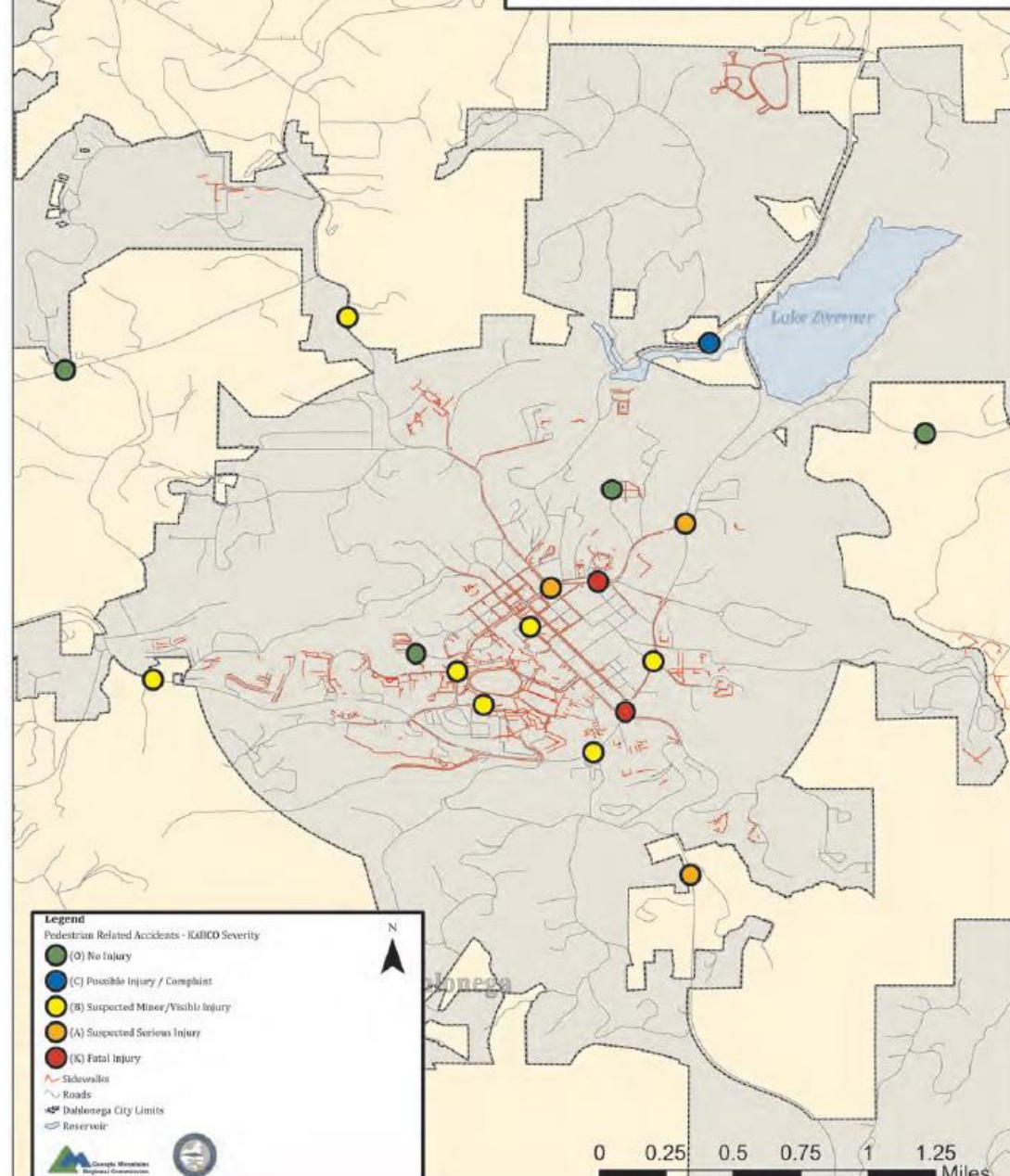
Dahlonega Sidewalks

Lumpkin County, Ga 2025



Dahlonega Sidewalks

Lumpkin County, Ga 2025





Gateway
Park



Hiking
Trails



Off-Road
Biking



New City
Hall Park



Walking
Trails



DAHLONEGA'S
GOLD NUGGET TRAIL



WHAT SHOULD COMMUNITIES DO?

- ✓ Think in Terms of Neighborhoods
 - *Connections to destinations*
 - *Relationship to downtown*
 - *Celebrate Main Street / Town Square*



QUESTIONS?



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