

..Title

The Infinity Line (B)

The Infinity Line is an idea that expands on the City's Rails-to-Trails, Depot Park, and Plan East initiatives. It originated as a Capstone project from a landscape architecture student at UF. It is an eleven mile continuously looping paved trail connecting twelve neighborhoods, nine city parks, & three existing Rails-to-Trails with Depot Park at its center. The eleven mile looping trail is divided into two sections; a northern urban loop which goes through residential and commercial areas, and a southern nature loop which goes through parks, green spaces, and the Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park. The northern loop consists of the existing 6th street and Waldo Road Rails-to-Trails, with a new proposed "connector trail" along N.E. 16th Avenue. The southern loop consists of the existing Hawthorne Rails-to-Trails and the WSPP proposed Sweetwater Trail with another new proposed "connector trail" along the Wetlands Preserve Park. These connectors will necessitate the partnership of multiple departments and agencies within the City of Gainesville and Alachua County.

One of the larger sections of the Infinity Line that sits within the GCRA district runs a total of 2.4 miles along the Eastside/Waldo Road corridor. The goal for this segment would be to redesign the Eastside Rails-to-Trails and Waldo Road corridor to address safety issues, residential blight, and neighborhood connectivity. A subsequent goal of redesigning the Waldo Road corridor is to encourage redevelopment and reinvestment in the Eastside Duval neighborhoods. Furthermore, connecting the Rails-to-Trails at University Avenue and Waldo Road (Five Points) with a pedestrian bridge can provide an opportunity for an Eastside Gateway while providing safe passage for Duval residents to Depot Park and vice versa.

The second largest portion that sits within the GCRA district is along the 6th St. Rails-to-Trails which spans a total of 1.7 miles. This trail is well established and represents the standard "place making" character of the Infinity Line; i.e. an extension of Depot Park. Although this trail is well established, similar residential blight occurs along the Porters neighborhood where the trail interacts with the neighborhood. The goal for this segment is to address neighborhood connectivity, invite redevelopment and reinvestment, and provide residents of Porters safe access to the other amenities within the City.

The overall purpose of the Infinity Line is to provide Gainesville residents with an alternative way to explore and experience the diverse and rich culture within the City while also providing a safe and comfortable way to do so and spur economic development. This concept was presented to the City in 2017 and a portion of the Infinity Line have been in planning under the Wild Spaces Public Places Department.

..Fiscal Note

None

..Recommendation

Hear presentation from Staff