

City of Harrison

RECREATIONAL & BIKE TRAIL MASTER PLAN



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RECREATIONAL & BIKE TRAIL MASTER PLAN
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SECTION I – INTRODUCTION

The City of Harrison Recreational and Bike Trail Master Plan offers recommendations for preserving and protecting natural resources within the City of Harrison. This plan also addresses improving community access to outdoor resources and community destinations by developing a network of multi-use trails.

The purpose of this Master Plan is to address the needs of the citizens and visitors related to transportation, recreation and economic pursuits that can be addressed through a comprehensive alternative transportation and trail system.

The Plan outlines the implementation of a network of multi-use and bike trails with in-street linkages within the City of Harrison. The system is extensive and comprehensive, and at the same time provides a realistic program for satisfying the needs of citizens regarding access to outdoor resources and linkages to popular destinations (parks, schools, etc.).

The vision of this Recreational and Bike Trail Master Plan is to establish alternative modes of transportation, active recreation, and preservation of natural resources as an integral part of daily life in the City of Harrison.

The following sections list categorical goals and objectives.

SECTION II – TRANSPORTATION

Goal: To provide alternative transportation opportunities for citizens and visitors of the City of Harrison.

Objectives:

- Provide for the public's interest, safety and general welfare by encouraging and offering a well-planned, safe and efficient system for pedestrians and bicyclists that will connect neighborhoods, parks, schools, and businesses.
- Incorporate bicycle-friendly and pedestrian friendly design and construction considerations into street reconstruction or new construction.
- Provide connections and trails between on-street bikeways.
- Utilize signage, markings, and other devices to regulate, warn, or guide the users of the trail system, including motorists.
- Address individual neighborhood needs such as access to schools, parks, commercial centers, churches and places of employment.
- Provide public facilities for bicycle and pedestrian travel including parking, lock-ups, park-and-ride locations in association with North Arkansas Transportation Service system and restrooms in appropriate locations.

SECTION III – ENVIRONMENT

Goal: Develop and protect greenway corridors that will enhance the environment by conserving floodplain lands, preserving the local landscape character, protecting wildlife habitat and improving air and water quality through the preservation of vegetation and the reduction in automobile dependency.

Objectives:

- Promote the restoration of wetlands and disturbed landscapes, use of native vegetation for habitat purposes and planting of trees in greenway corridors.
- Improve water quality by protecting and restoring the natural stream banks and flood plain area along greenway corridors.
- Promote the use of natural techniques in stream bank stabilization.
- Protect, restore, and maintain environmentally sensitive lands to support plant and animal habitat.
- Improve air quality through promoting non-motorized forms of transportation and protecting and enhancing the tree canopy.

SECTION IV – RECREATION/FITNESS

Goal: Improve opportunities for safe, accessible recreation throughout the City of Harrison.

Objectives:

- Link parks, schools, and other recreational facilities through trail and on-street linkage development.
- Address the needs of a variety of trail users by providing paved and unpaved surfaces.
- Promote the use of trails as a recreational amenity for businesses, schools, and local clubs.
- Provide recreational trail amenities, such as picnic areas, mile markers, drinking fountains, restrooms, benches, fitness stations and fishing areas.
- Provide trail access and trail types to multiple users including walkers, joggers, bicyclists, skaters, and wheelchair users.
- Provide lighting where appropriate.

SECTION V – EDUCATION

Goal: Highlight and connect significant natural and historical resources in the area with trail corridors. Create an informed user group of citizens and visitors that understands the rules and benefits of alternative transportation and the trail system.

Objectives:

- Promote the trail system through bike events and public/private partnerships.
- Gain support of political leaders and the media through sustained education efforts.

- Educate motorists, cyclists, and trail users as to safe behavior and trail etiquette in order to reduce user conflicts.
- Establish and promote “outdoor classrooms” and signage along trails to teach students about riparian and terrestrial ecology, hydrology, and natural history.
- Provide interpretive signage along trails to highlight the natural and historic resources of Harrison.
- Develop promotional materials such as web pages, trail maps, education packets and events that will highlight trail and greenway opportunities and the benefits of trails.

SECTION VI – SAFETY

Goal: Design and manage all components of the trail system to ensure the safety and security of users.

Objectives:

- Provide signs/signals for at-grade street crossings.
- Provide grade separated crossings of trails and roadways when possible.
- Implement an easy and convenient “user request” system to submit safety concerns.
- Build trails to national standards for user safety.
- Develop a uniform signage system for trails and on-street linkages to orient and educate trail users.
- Include lighting along trails with are open at night.
- Promote trails as “self-policing” facilities, where the potential for criminal activity is reduced by the number of trail users and proximity to neighbors.
- Minimize the potential for user conflicts through proper design, education, and maintenance.

SECTION VII – ECONOMIC

Goal: Improve and enhance the economic health of the region by increasing property values, attracting businesses and providing citizens recreational opportunities near their homes and places of work.

Objectives:

- Increase the value of nearby residential, commercial, and industrial properties through trail development.
- Encourage the formation of public/private partnerships to help manage and fund the trail system.
- Provide trails as incentives for companies and individuals seeking to relocate.
- Establish trails as tourist destinations.
- Provide opportunities for economic growth through the creation of trail related businesses such as bike outfitters, trail tours, bike shops, bed and breakfasts, and restaurants.

SECTION VIII – MAINTENANCE & MANAGEMENT

Goad: Properly maintain trail facilities to ensure user safety and enhance the quality of the user's experience.

Objectives:

- Develop a maintenance program which ensures that the trails and on-street linkages are clean, safe, and accessible.
- Develop an Adopt-a-Trail program to involve volunteers in maintenance activities.
- Provide trash and recycling receptacles along trails.
- Provide suitable detours for users when trails are closed for repairs.

SECTION IX – FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN

This Recreational and Bike Trail Master Plan is intended to be a first-generation master plan to promote alternative transportation within the City of Harrison. It is anticipated that more details will be added to the plan as the system is developed. These additions may include:

- Design guidelines
- Funding sources
- Detailed description of each proposed trail and greenway or on-street linkage.
- Operations and management.

SECTION X – MASTER PLAN MAP

Copies of the official Recreational and Bike Trail Master Plan Map will be kept on file at the City Clerk's office and the Department of Public Works facility.