



GEORGIA

CONNECTIVITY + REVITALIZATION HARTWELL, HART CO. GA

DATES: FALL 2022

Hart County, and its county seat of Hartwell, are home to a wide array of historic and natural resources: lakes, trails, parks, historic neighborhoods. Despite close proximity, the surrounding neighborhoods are disconnected from the various resources and amenities in Hartwell.

Interested in promoting multi-modal connectivity, the Hart County Archway Partnership reached out to the Center for Community Design and Preservation (CCDP) at the University of Georgia College of Environment and Design (CED) to provide design solutions to connect the assets of the Lake Hartwell and Downtown areas, provide safe alternatives to vehicle traffic, and revitalize specific community resources.

CCDP hosted a design charrette - a multi-day workshop that brings designers and locals together to envision plans for the future – to obtain insight and feedback from local stakeholders and provide a service-learning

“The charrette emphasized the importance of understanding your audience and being an active listener. I learned that a large part of community engagement comes from the discussion before/after proposing a development goal or proposed solution.”

-Master of Landscape Architecture Student



This outreach project was conducted by students and faculty of the
UGA COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENT + DESIGN
Ph: (706) 542-1816 www.ced.uga.edu

PARTNERS: HART COUNTY ARCHWAY PARTNERSHIP, CITY OF HARTWELL

CONNECTIVITY + REVITALIZATION HARTWELL, HART COUNTY



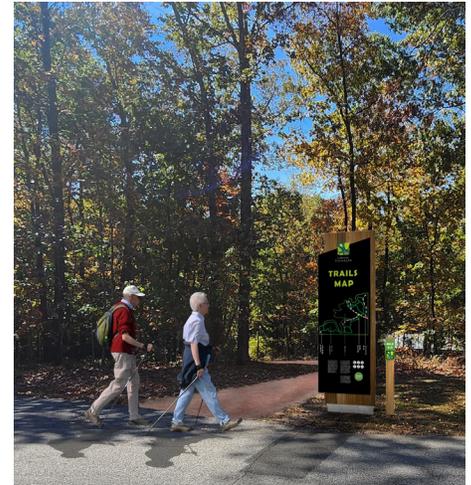
College of
Environment + Design
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



Proposed improvements to the Richardson Community Center include a history mural and a basketball court.



Multi-modal connectivity improvements along Forest Avenue could connect the Marina to Downtown.



Trail head markers and wayfinding graphics could help hikers take better advantage of trails at Hartwell Lakeside Park.

service-learning opportunity for CED students. The goal of the charrette was to suggest multimodal connections that would allow for longer hiking and biking routes, greater use of public facilities, and revitalization of underserved areas in the historic African American Rome neighborhood. The charrette was conducted over two separate weekends in Hartwell with virtual public input in between to obtain citizen feedback.

The charrette focused on a former state park on Lake Hartwell, a historic African American neighborhood, and potential walking and biking connections between local destinations. Utilizing in-person observation, case studies, best practices, and public feedback,

the charrette team developed concepts for enhanced connectivity. Sidewalks, multi-modal side paths, woodland trails, greenways, water-based ferries, and bridges are all included as design possibilities. These concepts showcase enhanced lake amenities, increased hiking trail access and wayfinding, a reimagining of a historic school gym as a community center, infill housing types, and priority connections between parks, schools, homes, and shopping areas. By providing options for people to safely walk, bike, or scooter, more Hartwell residents, such as kids and adults that do not drive, have the freedom to get where they want to go and get a little exercise in the process.

Through the concepts provided by the design charrette, the City of Hartwell has received numerous awards and grants to assist in the implementation of greater connectivity. The city received a \$10,000 grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation through the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable to launch access to recreational amenities. The city is also utilizing the plans provided from the charrette in the Georgia Main Street accreditation process. Jason Ford, Economic Development Director for the City of Hartwell, commented that “The UGA Center for Community Design and Preservation’s design charrette is an outstanding tool that communities can use to build community input and support for projects that may not have a clear way forward.”

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