

**Greenway Master Plan**  
 Prepared October 10, 2016 for  
**Albany/ Dougherty County, Georgia**  
 by KAIZEN Collaborative

### 3.3 Trail Segment #1: Albany/Sasser Rail Trail to Riverfront Trail

For years, the railroad corridor from Albany to Sasser was utilized to transport goods to the City of Albany and across the Southeast. Since the abandonment of the rail, it has become an overgrown eyesore of little importance to the region. With successful implementation of the first trail segment, this will no longer be the case. South Georgia Rails to Trails, Inc. and the City of Albany have begun a resurrection of this once busy transportation corridor for a completely different purpose: a multi-use greenway trail for non-motorized travel. The rehabilitation of this old rail bed into a trail system for recreation will increase the overall health of the region, and will once again make this corridor a vibrant asset and economic generator for the community.

The route utilizes the abandoned railroad from Sasser, Georgia to the Jefferson Street overpass in the City of Albany, where the rail bed intersects with the west side of the Norfolk Southern rail line. When the trail enters Dougherty County, it crosses Slappey Blvd and the new Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market. This is a popular destination for trail users and an ideal location for a trailhead at the edge of the existing parking lot. The trail continues along the rail corridor towards Albany, running adjacent to several neighborhoods. Residents in these neighborhoods will be able to access the trail by using existing sidewalks or intersecting residential streets. The goal is to make a connection to the existing Riverfront Trail along the Flint River. There are two viable and equally important options to make this connection. The first option is to continue down the rail corridor and build a pedestrian bridge over the active Norfolk Southern rail lines allowing trail users to safely cross this obstacle. The trail will continue along the abandoned corridor for a short distance before connecting directly into the Riverfront Trail. The second option is to link this trail into the Albany community by connecting to Tift Park and into downtown Albany.

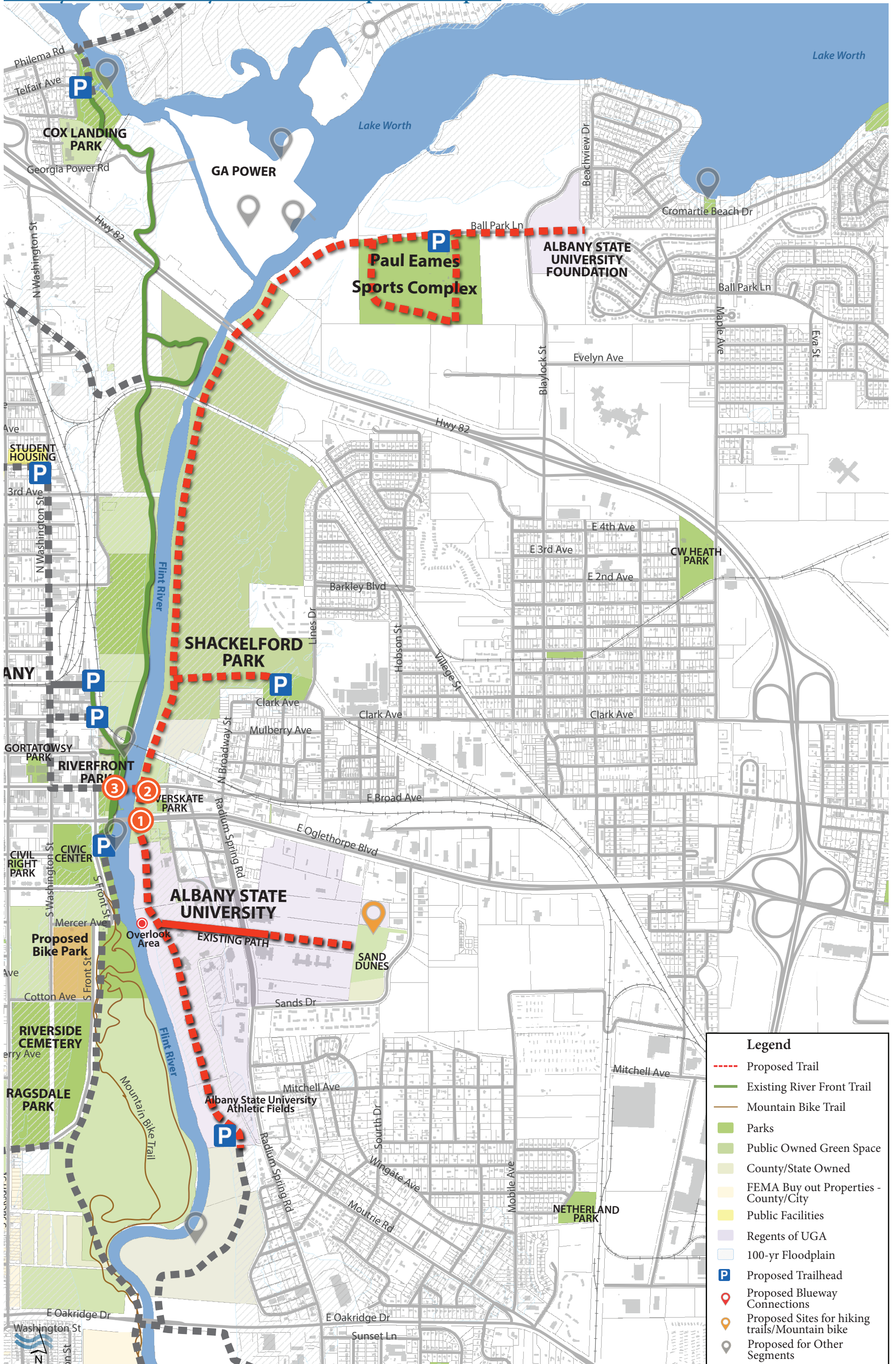
Feedback from community meetings has shown that a strong connection to Tift Park is desired by many Albany residents. This is a focal point for the community and is a critical link for the Rail Trail corridor just a few blocks north of the park. The design team believes the best way to make this connection is to merge off the rail corridor at North Monroe Street on the east side, and head south to Tift Park. This multi-use path will weave through city or county

owned property for this entire segment with no acquisition or easements needed. There is a possibility for a future recreation facility on the north side of the National Guard Armory, which would provide opportunity for the trail to connect with this facility. Once the trail reaches 7th Ave, an at-grade crossing with rapid flashing beacons will provide a safe crossing into Tift Park. Community feedback suggests a major trailhead is desired at Tift Park for locals and visitors to access the trail.

Once the trail reaches the proposed trailhead at Tift Park, it will head southeast connecting to the adjacent Boys and Girls Club, tennis courts, and the existing community bathrooms. Once to the corner of 5th Ave and Jefferson Street, the trail will cross 5th and continue south on the west side of Jefferson Street. The sidewalk is proposed to be widened to accommodate a 10' wide side path. At 4th Ave, the trail will cross Jefferson Street on the south side and head east to North Washington Street, modifying the sidewalk to a 10' wide side path. This will allow the trail to link into Phoebe Putney Hospital, the UGA College of Pharmacy, and the new medical student housing development. At the corner of 4th Avenue and Washington Street, a small trailhead is proposed where Phoebe Putney Hospital has purchased two adjacent lots. At this point the trail will head south on the west side of the street, as a side path within the right-of-way to Broad Ave. In areas where the right-of-way is constricted, there are areas where the curb and gutter will need to be modified to obtain a 3 foot minimum buffer between the trail and roadway. The side path will continue down to Broad Avenue, making critical connections to two proposed trailhead locations. The first location is at the Thronateeska Heritage Center at the open greenspace just to the south side of the train depot museum. The second is at the end of Flint Avenue where the existing spur to the Riverfront Trail is located. The trail will reach Broad Ave where it will then turn to the east, and follow the north side of Broad Ave down to the riverfront. Here it will connect with the existing Riverfront Park and gain access to Albany State University via the Broad Avenue Bridge.

Within this segment improvements to the water trail access point at U.S. Hwy 19 Bridge are needed. Improvements for parking are proposed along with signage and improved canoe and kayak launch facilities.

# Albany State University to Paul Eames Sports Complex





Existing pathway along the east side of the Flint River near the Hwy 19 road bridge



Existing boardwalk to view the sand dunes on the east side of Albany State University

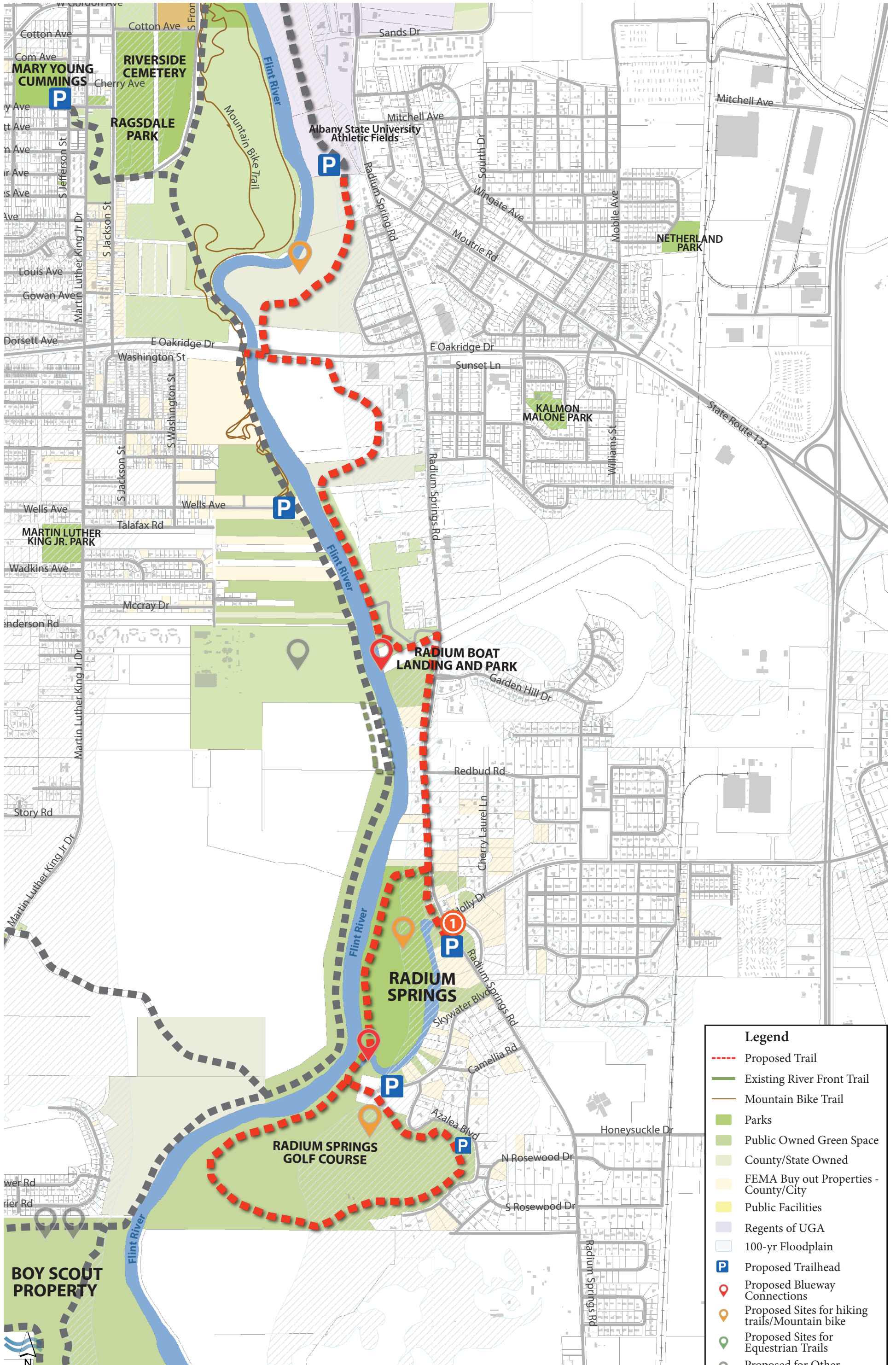


View north from proposed trailhead site at Shackelford Park



Existing Paul Eames Sports Complex

# Albany State University to Radium Springs



Legend	
	Proposed Trail
	Existing River Front Trail
	Mountain Bike Trail
	Parks
	Public Owned Green Space
	County/State Owned
	FEMA Buy out Properties - County/City
	Public Facilities
	Regents of UGA
	100-yr Floodplain
	Proposed Trailhead
	Proposed Blueway Connections
	Proposed Sites for hiking trails/Mountain bike
	Proposed Sites for Equestrian Trails
	Proposed for Other Segments



Existing dirt path at Radium Landing Park where the proposed multi-use trail will follow



Beautiful overlook of the Flint River at Radium Golf Course

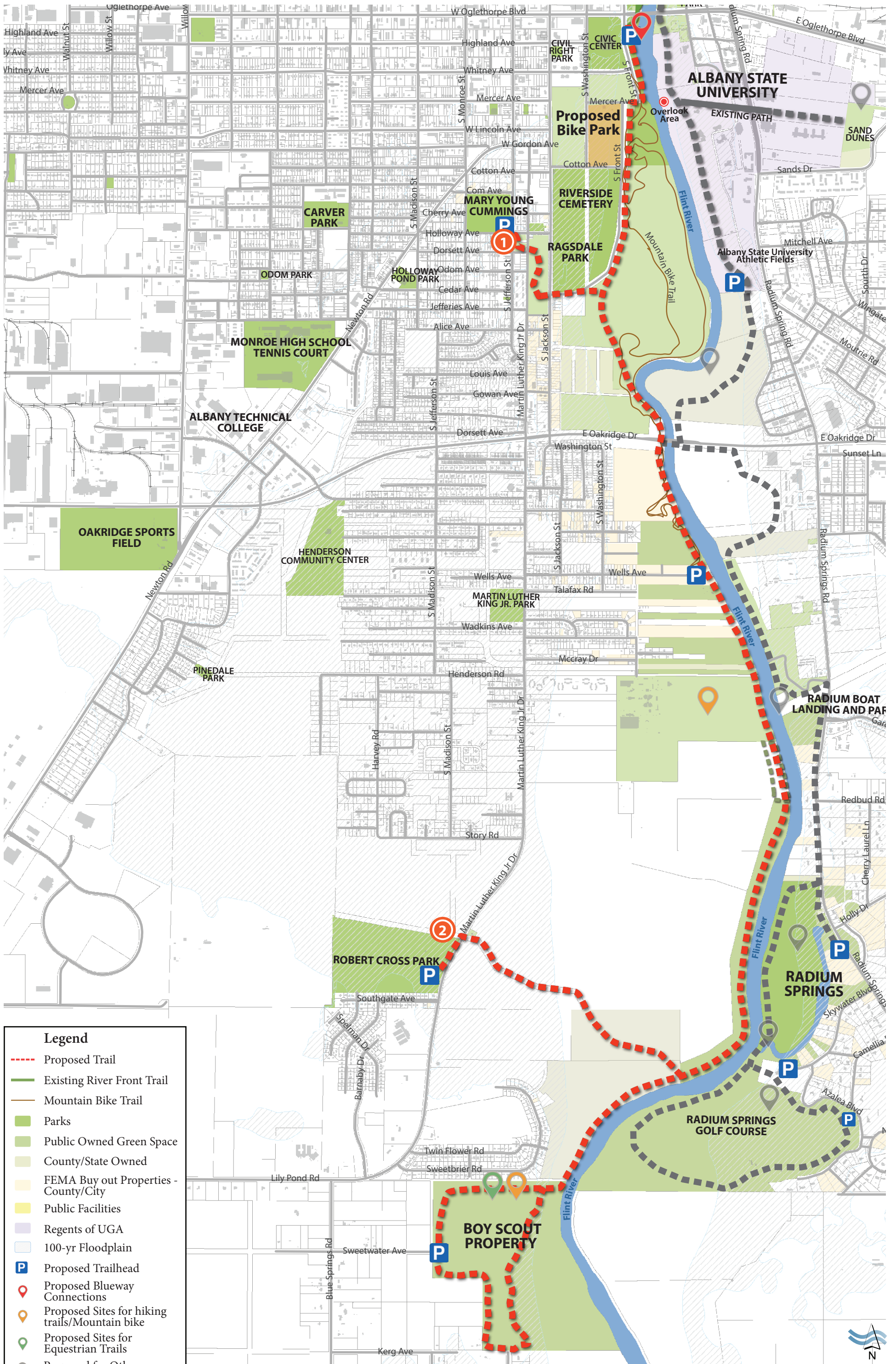


Discussing the trail alignment through Radium Springs to the proposed Radium Golf Course trail



Existing Radium Springs Creek Bridge where the proposed multi-use trail will cross

# Downtown to Boy Scout Property



**Legend**

- - - Proposed Trail
- Existing River Front Trail
- Mountain Bike Trail
- Parks
- Public Owned Green Space
- County/State Owned
- FEMA Buy out Properties - County/City
- Public Facilities
- Regents of UGA
- 100-yr Floodplain
- Proposed Trailhead
- P Proposed Blueway Connections
- P Proposed Sites for hiking trails/Mountain bike
- P Proposed Sites for Equestrian Trails
- P Proposed for Other Segments





Open greenspace for proposed pump track and mountain bike practice course



Beautiful oak trees at Boy Scout property along existing fire break road



Vacant building proposed to house operations for the pump track and mountain bike practice course



Existing hiking and mountain biking trails just south of Downtown Albany