



June 2026

Creating, Conserving, & Connecting Parks, Trails, & Greenspace in Sandy Springs

Sandy Springs Conservancy delivers grant funding

The Conservancy was pleased to receive a \$7,500 grant from the Sandy Springs Society in May. After careful review of 49 grant applications, the Society awarded this grant to Sandy Springs Conservancy in order to make improvements, place educational tree signage, and carry out beautification at [Ridgeview Park](#). The Conservancy is proud to partner with the Sandy Springs Society. Since 1988, the Society has had a remarkable record of improving the quality of life in Sandy Springs by supporting nonprofit groups.

MORGAN FALLS TRAIL UPDATE Segment 2C continues to move forward

Design work on Morgan Falls Trail Segment 2C continues to make steady progress. The Sandy Springs Conservancy is working alongside City staff, PATH Foundation, and Kaizen Collaborative to help shape this remarkable 1.6-mile addition to the Morgan Falls Trail system.

Beginning at [Morgan Falls Overlook Park](#), the trail will extend east, following a scenic tributary of the Chattahoochee River through mature forest, past dramatic rock outcroppings and beautiful waterfalls before connecting to Roswell Road.

When completed, Segment 2C will expand the Morgan Falls loop from 1.8 miles to approximately 3.4 miles, bringing us significantly closer to the vision of a continuous 5.6-mile trail loop around Morgan Falls.

City Council is expected to consider funding for Segment 2C before the end of the year. We encourage you to contact your City Council representative and let them know how important it is to keep the momentum moving forward. Completing the Morgan Falls Trail loop is more than just building another trail—it is an investment in Sandy Springs' quality of life, environmental stewardship, public health, and long-term economic vitality. It will become one of our community's signature recreational destinations and a lasting asset for generations to come.

Interested in seeing the proposed route firsthand? The Conservancy is offering guided tours of the future trail corridor. Contact us if you or your neighborhood, civic organization, or community group would like to schedule a tour (John@SandySpringsConservancy.org).



Future location of trail on south bank of a tributary of the Chattahoochee River at Morgan Falls

Sandy Springs is PLANNING in '26!

By now, a lot of residents in Sandy Springs have heard about *The Next Chapter*. As business activity slows down for summer, the



City is speeding up on civics – specifically long-range community planning and Recreation and Parks planning. The City has combined its comprehensive planning update with a specific focus on Recreation and Parks – so *The Next Chapter* is a big two-in-one public participation effort that will result in plans that guide decisions both for the community at large and for recreation and parks in particular.

Georgia and Comprehensive Planning

It's true that state law (Chapter 110-12-1, et seq) establishes requirements to “ensure that local comprehensive plans embody the articulated will of the community and provide the foundation for all decision-making by local government officials and other community leaders.” The City is doing all of this and more in 2026. The Next Chapter builds on the last plan (The Next Ten) in name and substance, doubling down on transparent policies and implementation goals. The City has again assembled an experienced, smart consultant team (Rhodeside & Harwell, Perez Planning + Design, and TSW) that is working closely with staff and elected officials. And true to all sound planning efforts, they are actively going out to residents and stakeholders in a big way to get input. That's where residents come in.

[Getting involved in the plan](#) not only gives residents a chance to voice preferences but also provides something tangible to track progress over the life of the plan. At the same time, the City's staff can more easily organize their resources to get things done.

The Sandy Springs Conservancy and *The Next Chapter*

The Conservancy was deeply involved in the last plan and has become a trusted advisor to the City on open space and trails. After just one month, we're busy again with this plan. As noted last month, board member Linda Bain has been appointed to the plan's steering

Looking for more information on Park Planning?

Find resources from the American Planning Association at [City Parks Forum](#)

Find resources from Park Pride at [Park Visioning - Park Pride](#)

Get background information on Comprehensive Planning from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs at [Local Comprehensive Planning | Georgia Department of Community Affairs](#)



committee. Board members have already given input in the plan's official stakeholder meeting which was held on June 23. And the Conservancy's *Thought Leaders Dinner* - scheduled for September 24th - has been designed and timed specifically for *The Next Chapter* – enabling the Conservancy to provide its best recommendations with perfect timing.

As the project develops community goals, the Conservancy is refining specific recommendations for community consideration. Our initial recommendations center on walkability, commitments to complete the trail plan, conducting gap analysis work to determine where parks and trails are needed, and exploring new funding tools.

The Conservancy is looking near and far for opportunities, and this summer that means putting ideas and recommendations into *The Next Chapter*. The next public meeting will be held in August. Sign up at [The Next Chapter - Sandy Springs](#). For more information about Conservancy work on this plan, please contact Conservancy executive director John Maximuk at John@sandyspringsconservancy.org.

Old Riverside Park is on the way!

The Sandy Springs Conservancy is thrilled that the City's Old Riverside Park Project has begun. The project will transform an undeveloped property into an accessible, environmentally sensitive, and community-focused park. According to the City, "the park design features a nature-based playground with log and wood play elements, picnic areas, and shade structures." At the April 7, 2026, City Council meeting, the City awarded a contract to Eastern Builders Inc. for construction of Old Riverside Park in the amount of \$3,980,770.00.

For Rough Draft Atlanta coverage, please visit [Sandy Springs finalizes Old Riverside Park design - Rough Draft Atlanta](#)



Inspire by Jim Weitzel

Copper with patina and painted steel – see it in person at Morgan Falls Overlook Park

New Leadership at the Chattahoochee National Recreation Area

On June 4 K. Lynn Berry assumed responsibility over the recreation area. According to the NPS, “Berry brings 16 years of National Park Service experience focused on collaborative engagement, partnership development, and deepening the connections between parks and the communities they serve.” A National Park Service (NPS) Superintendent acts as the Chief Executive for a park, holding ultimate responsibility for park operations, resource preservation, and visitor safety. Darrell Echols had been serving as the Acting Regional Director for the NPS’s Southeast Region since April 2025 including oversight of the Chattahoochee National Recreation Area.

For more information, visit [K. Lynn Berry Selected as Superintendent of Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area - Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

Coming To A Forest Near You In July



Cardinal Flower (*lobelia cardinalis*)

Support the Sandy Springs Conservancy!

Our success is made possible by both corporate AND personal support. When you support the Conservancy, you are investing in parks, trails and green space for residents to enjoy today and

for years to come.

Your contributions allow us to transform greenspace ideas into reality.





Thank You Sponsors!

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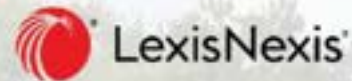
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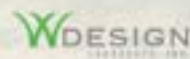
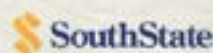


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