



May 2026

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

2026 Comprehensive Plan Update & Recreation and Parks Master Plan

The City of Sandy Springs is initiating an update to its *Comprehensive Plan* in accordance with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' ("DCA") Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning. Concurrently, the City will also be updating its *Recreation and Parks Master Plan*. Together, this effort will be known as THE NEXT CHAPTER.

The Comprehensive Plan serves as the City's primary policy document, guiding decisions related to future growth, land use, infrastructure, housing, and economic development over a 10- to 20-year period. The Recreation and Parks Master Plan, last updated in 2019, strategically addresses and enhances the City's greenspace and greenways, recreation, parks, open space, and trails. It assesses the current inventory and determines the potential of adding more recreation and parks initiatives.

With so much of the Conservancy's mission being discussed and prioritized in these plans, it is vital that we play an active role in the project. We are pleased that Sandy Springs Conservancy Board Member Linda Bain has been appointed to the project's Advisory Committee.

The project kick-off was held on May 20th. The Conservancy is tracking every step of this planning effort. Stay tuned for further information about the planning process and upcoming public engagement opportunities including a public input meeting being planned on June 23. For all City events, visit [Events | City of Sandy Springs](#).



(Above) NEXT CHAPTER Advisory Committee Member and Conservancy representative Linda Bain in action at the May 20th kick-off meeting. The NEXT CHAPTER is a perfect example of a city combining a long-range master plan with a strategic, subject area plan. It is a great way for citizens to get involved in their community and a big opportunity for the Conservancy to advance parks and trails.

Update on Springway Trail 2C

Progress continues on the 2C Segment of the Springway Trail. The Sandy Springs Conservancy has been an active partner in planning and design of this section, providing first-hand input on trail layout and key communications with surrounding neighbors and property owners. When finished, this section of the trail will run from the Morgan Falls Overlook Park parking lot northeast along the south shore of the Morgan



Falls Reservoir to Adair Lane. Views of the water from this forested trail will be remarkable. As of May, trail design is over 30% complete.



Our mission beyond Sandy Springs: spotlight on the Chattahoochee RiverLands Project

The Sandy Springs riverfront is an amazing resource for us, but the benefits of the Chattahoochee extend to many others. For the past several years, the Chattahoochee RiverLands project has been working to pull those benefits together.

As the Trust for Public Land wrote, the Chattahoochee RiverLands “will reunite the River with the Metro Atlanta Region, and link suburban, urban, and rural communities into a continuous 100-mile public realm. More than a trail, the RiverLands is a linear network of greenways, blueways, parks, and the destinations they create, that will bring people to the water’s edge, promote stewardship and conservation of the river, and reveal the subtle magic of the Chattahoochee to all.”

The Sandy Springs Conservancy is a member of the Chattahoochee Working Group - a stakeholder group convened to engage with each other on a regular basis to better understand Chattahoochee-related topics, agendas, and initiatives. This group will continue to meet to work towards implementing the Chattahoochee RiverLands Greenway Study’s vision and proposals. For more information, visit [Chattahoochee RiverLands](#).

Fun Fact

June 6th is National Trails Day! The American Hiking Society’s National Trails Day a chance to get outdoors, connect with your community, and give back to the trails you love. Find out more at [National Trails Day® - American Hiking Society - First Saturday in June](#).

Sandy Springs Conservancy welcomes two new board members

Linda Bain and **Andy Bauman** have joined the Sandy Springs Conservancy as board members! For Bain, this is her second time with the organization. Welcome to the board and thank you for serving!

Upcoming Events

The Sandy Springs Conservancy will partner with Council Member Dr. Melody Kelley for an upcoming Trail Blazer's Walk. The event will be held on the Springway Trail at Orkin Lake. The event has not yet been scheduled as the original date was rained-out. Watch for updates.

The Conservancy will take part in the Sandy Springs Farmer's Market on June 13th. In conjunction with the [Sandy Springs Civic Roundtable](#), members of the Sandy Springs Conservancy will have a table and tent at this market event. Stop by and see us!



Conservancy out in the Field

Conservancy Board Members Terry Morris and Doug Morgan (left) took to the water on April 24 for an educational tour of the Chattahoochee River with Jason Ulseth, Riverkeeper and Executive Director of the [Chattahoochee Riverkeeper](#) on April 24th. The outing offered a firsthand look at the river's ecology, history, and ongoing conservation efforts.

Riverkeeper has been out front in informing the community about the May 20th water pollution event on the river south of the Peachree Creek confluence and making sure that it is fully investigated.

Staff News

The Sandy Springs Conservancy welcomed new staff earlier this year as John Maximuk was hired as the executive director. John comes to this position from a career in city planning. He is an [AICP certified planner](#) with experience in both non-profit management and local government. Prior to joining the Conservancy, John worked in the Washington DC area, Boston area, and for the past 20+ years



in metro Atlanta with Fulton County, City of Decatur, City of Chamblee and the smart growth non-profit [Livable Communities Coalition](#).

In addition, John serves as Chair of the non-profit [Architecture and Design Center](#) (Atlanta) and serves on the Alumni Association Board of Directors for his alma mater [Ohio University](#) (Athens).

John grew up in Cleveland, Ohio spending a lot of time exploring the [Cuyahoga Valley National Park](#) – a river valley park that is remarkably similar to the [Chattahoochee](#). Today he lives in Candler Park with his family.

John is looking forward to helping the Conservancy connect people to great public places! He can be reached at John@sandyspringsconservancy.org.

Thank You for Supporting Parks, Trails and Greenspace!

Your support makes it possible for the Conservancy to continue to work on efforts to make Sandy Springs a greener place for everyone to enjoy!

The Sandy Springs Conservancy's mission is to create, conserve, and connect, parks, trails, and greenspace in our community. The Conservancy identifies opportunities, brings together stakeholders, builds partnerships, and provides funding to jump-start parks, trails and greenspace projects throughout the city. Your support allows SSC to continue this mission for the benefit of everyone in the community now and for future generations!





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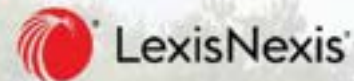
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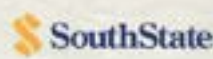


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