



The Alpha Loop is a dynamic and transformative project for Alpharetta.

These multi-use paths connecting Avalon to Downtown Alpharetta currently involve two interconnected routes including a three-mile inner loop and a five-mile outer loop that would link locations like Downtown Alpharetta, Avalon, and the Northwinds area located at Haynes Bridge Road and S.R. 400. Portions of the three mile inner loop will include landscaped and natural areas along stream sections as well as future wetland overlook areas. The trail will range in width from 12' to 16' and will be lighted. The trails will include bicycle service areas and pockets of seating areas where people can gather or rest.

The Alpha Loop will better connect our neighborhoods, improve our travel and mobility, spur economic development, and elevate the overall quality of life in the Technology City of the South.



You've Got Questions? We've Got Answers!

There are many components to the Alpha Loop, and as such, there are many questions. Below, we answer some of the most common questions.

What are your plans to connect the east side of Georgia 400?

Ultimately, the City wants to expand the Alpha Loop network to provide easy access throughout the community. While that includes connections to neighborhoods and destinations on the east side of Georgia 400, our current activities are focused on creating connections between Downtown, Avalon, and the North Point Activity Center as the central component of the network. We will then begin to seek and plan for spokes that will make the additional connection. It is likely that connections to the east will center on using Webb Bridge Road, Encore Parkway, and possibly Kimball Bridge Road and would be incorporated into larger corridor improvement projects. We currently are in the early stages of planning corridor improvements along Webb Bridge and Kimball Bridge Roads, and our Encore Parkway Project that is currently under construction includes pedestrian improvements that will provide safe, convenient connection to the Big Creek Greenway.

What are the plans for the Big Creek Greenway?

Similar to creating connections to neighborhoods east of Georgia 400, connecting the Alpha Loop to the Big Creek Greenway would center on using Webb Bridge Road, Encore Parkway, and possibly Kimball Bridge Road and would be incorporated into larger corridor improvement projects. We currently are in the early stages of planning corridor improvements along Webb Bridge and Kimball Bridge Roads, and our Encore Parkway Project that is currently under construction includes pedestrian improvements that will provide safe, convenient connection to the Big Creek Greenway.

What has been done so far?

The City has leveraged ongoing developments along the north side of Thompson Street to begin that portion of the Alpha Loop. The developers of those private projects are actually constructing those segments of the network as they build their projects. We are also in active discussions with the owners of properties needed for the connection on the eastern side of Haynes Bridge Road to secure the land needed for that segment of the Alpha Loop. Art Alpharetta is currently working to incorporate sculpture locations from Avalon to Downtown. The trail will connect existing and future residential areas to over 3 million square feet of office space currently constructed and under construction with another 3 million allowed by right. This will equate to 15,000 jobs. The loop will also connect residents and workers to over 700,000 square feet of commercial and restaurant uses that will provide recreational activities as well as the possibility of a second mode of transportation.

When do you expect the project to be completed?

Development of the Alpha Loop is a long-term project for the City and will, like the Big Creek Greenway, take a number of years to complete. We do, however, anticipate some sections to be completed as early as late 2017. The entire section from Downtown to Avalon will be completed by spring of next year.

DEFINITION OF SPACE & EXPERIENCE

**key points of interest are in bold*

AREA ① Old Milton Road Entry & Promenade Walk

A promenade walkway leads visitors into the wooded areas of the trail from the **street entry off of Old Milton Parkway**. It is lined with medium sized trees to provide shade and give a pedestrian scale to the space. The straight portion of the route in this area creates a direct movement through the locale due to close bordering developed properties. Once under the canopy of the woodlands, a plaza is provided for users to gather and relax before continuing down the way. Plaza space will offer areas where the natural landscape can converge with the constructed landscape and create urban pockets within. Visitors will be able to use the location for reading, picnicking, exercise, opportunities to incorporate visual or engaging artworks, or to simply take in sounds and views of nature.

AREA ② Elevated Walkways with Enhanced & Preserved Native Micro-Ecologies

An elevated walk moves through area two which offers visitors a unique experience. It will travel through multiple ecological zones from the overlooks down to the edge of the stream, enhancing the visitor's experiential journey. There is an entry point for the community on the east side where residents can conveniently access the trail. The overlook on the east side of the boardwalk offers a view of the stream below. The stream will be enhanced by cleaning and thinning, new native plant installations increasing stream bank stabilization, additional boulders and river rock in the streambed, and constructing naturalized weir dams to control water flow. Access to the proposed upland meadow landscape is provided with a foot trail.

AREA ③ Pocket Park Spaces & Ecological Zones

Pocket spaces are located along the route in this area for sitting and gathering. The settings are situated on a secondary path, detached from the main trail, which creates a stronger connection to the naturalized landscape. Additionally, the pocket spaces will be organically formed and quilted into the existing landscape. The natural landscape will merge with the built environment to eliminate hard edges in the zone. The incorporation of art in the pocket spaces is an opportunity to create a sense of independent character for each of the sites making it unique. A second elevated overlook is offered along the main trail with a foot trail located below which leads the visitor to the stream edge and transitions through different ecologies along the way.

AREA ④ The Underground Passage

Area four is devoted to the experience of the underground passage and the third elevated overlook. Moving toward the tunnel, visitors will experience a sense of increasing enclosure until they are completely inside. The third overlook is located just south of the tunnel. This overlook is unique because of the upland meadow to the west and the ravine and stream bed to the east. There are connections in area four to **Westside Parkway** at the roadside for visitors to enter into the trail system.

AREA ⑤ The Promenade Plazas and Pockets

Area five offers a naturalized pocket and three smaller plaza spaces. The plazas are situated in the landscape complimenting the existing topography. While the two located on the southern side serve as overlooks, the single setting on the northern edge is carved into the existing terrain. The three plaza spaces are located adjacent to corporate business facilities and are positioned between existing parking lots. The plazas will offer an escape for the corporate and business workers and will also create continuity in the linear park and trail system. Opportunities for the inclusion of artistic works in these areas will establish a sense of independent identity for each plaza. The pocket park is located south of **Teasley Place** serving as an entry for neighboring residents to enter the trail system and as an additional gathering location along the linear park.

AREA ⑥ Grand Plaza Spaces

The southern entry to the linear park is highlighted with an urban plaza at the intersection of **Kimball Bridge Road and Northwinds Parkway**. The location will offer opportunities to incorporate art, bicycle facilities, seating, and native landscape beds. The site serves as bookends to the heart of The Loop function as the transitional area from the natural environment into the developed urban landscape. Plaza forms and spaces will be directly proportionate to the intersections to which they serve. Each spot shall set the stage for the user experience as visitors move through the corridor.



Alpha Loop map



Artist rendering of the Loop's greenspace section.

