

## GREENWAY MANAGEMENT

The Five Mile Creek **Greenway District** pulls together six cities as trail managers to develop a regional greenway from a CSX rail corridor. Additional partner cities may be added in the near future.

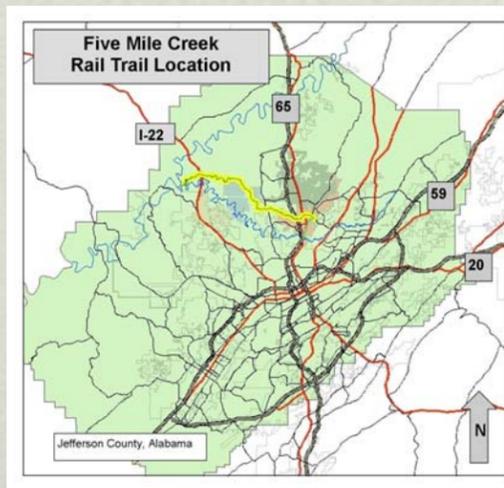
Railbanking, as defined by the [National Trails System Act](#), 16 USC 1247 (d), is a voluntary agreement between a railroad company and a trail agency to use an out-of-service rail corridor as a trail until a railroad might need the corridor again for rail service. Since the rail corridor is not considered abandoned, it can be sold, leased or donated to a trail manager without reverting to adjacent landowners. (For more info [www.stb.dot.gov](http://www.stb.dot.gov))

### Phases

The first phase of the Five Mile Creek **Greenway District** is to acquire the 16.5 mile rail corridor from CSX Transportation. The next phase will be to connect the rail trail to the other Greenway features. The April 2008 Five Mile Creek Trail Location Study by the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, identified connections in the Five Mile Creek watershed from Center Point through Tarrant, west to the Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River including parks, biking, hiking, and water trails.

### Greenway Benefits

A greenway trail is a **safe place** for families, bicyclists, runners, horseback riders, hikers, walkers, fishermen, canoeists, and bird watchers to enjoy the natural beauty of Alabama. Located 20 minutes from downtown Birmingham, small towns connected to the **Greenway** like Brookside, Graysville, and Cardiff offer outstanding beauty and a wealth of history. After the loss of community through recent devastating floods, there is hope for economic development with the opening of the Five Mile Creek Canoe Company and a network of canoe launches and camp sites. Preserving the unique history of the mineral rail line is integrated into the **Greenway District** plan. Outdoor classrooms, and a history museum are already being formed along connections to the proposed Rail Trail.



## CONNECTIONS

The Five Mile Creek Rail Trail is not planned to be an isolated strip of old railroad bed. This line was a primary mineral railroad connecting the coal mines and coke ovens that fueled Birmingham's iron, steel and railroad industries. Each Five Mile Creek **Greenway District** partner has a plan to connect their city to the Rail Trail.

### Metropolitan Planning Organization Funded Corridor Plans

**Center Point:** Connects the headwaters of Five Mile Creek to the Huffman neighborhood. The 3.8 miles of the Reed Harvey Community Greenway connects Center Point Ball Park, Civitan Park and Reed Harvey Park. **Fultondale:** Connects Cedar Street in Tarrant and the old Mary Lee Rail Line with the Five Mile Creek Rail Trail near Black Creek Park including historic preservation of the Lewisburg Coke Ovens site. An additional 3.1 miles will connect Black Creek Station and Fultondale Elementary School to the Rail Trail. **Brookside:** Connecting historic Brookside with the Five Mile Creek Rail Trail through 2.7 miles of rural road bicycle routes and 2.0 miles of wooded hiking trails along Newfound Creek.

#### Other potential connections:

**Tarrant:** Connects Hewitt Park on Hwy 79 through neighborhoods and past schools to the Mary Lee Railroad Trail in Fultondale.

**Gardendale:** The Clemons Recreation Complex soccer fields, Splash Pad and Celebration Park lie just north of the Rail Trail on Fieldstown Road. The new Trail offers the perfect extension to this recreational treasure.

**Newfound Creek Crossing:** A section of the trail travels through the 1200-acre Cornerstone Ranch, a privately owned camp for special needs children. The dramatic terrain of hills and lakes make a stunning backdrop for this special place.

**Graysville:** The northern extent of Graysville includes the Linn's Crossing area of the Rail Trail. The old Highway 78 route leads from the Rail Trail south to the Graysville Canoe Launch and Boy Scout primitive camp ground on Five Mile Creek.



*The Greenway District plan for the future of  
Five Mile Creek*



*History, Beauty and Family Adventure  
20 miles from Birmingham*

[www.fivemilecreekgreenwaydistrict.org](http://www.fivemilecreekgreenwaydistrict.org)

## ABOUT

An old mineral rail line – know as the CSX Transportation “Cane Creek Branch” - runs 16.5 miles from Fultondale to where Five Mile Creek joins the Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River. Since 2003 the Five Mile Creek Greenway Partnership has worked to make this rail line the backbone for a network of parks and trails.

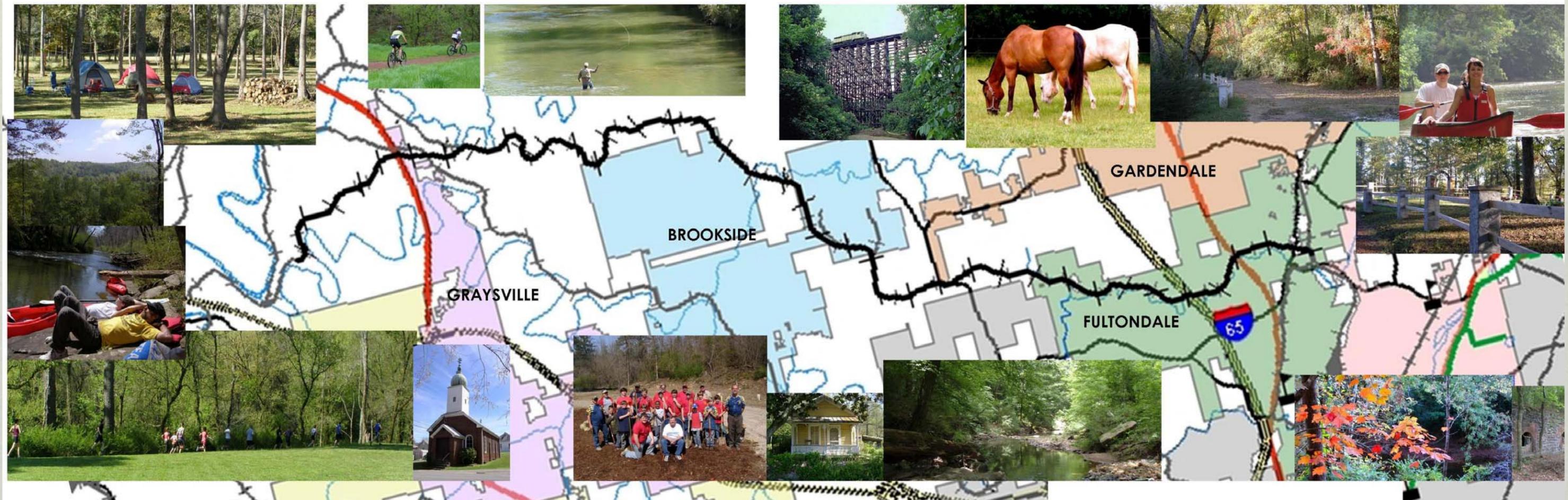
## FROM A TRAGIC BEGINNING

The Five Mile Creek Greenway Partnership began as a response to destructive flooding along Five Mile Creek in 2000 and 2002. A *local* partnership of cities, towns, Jefferson County, Cawaco RC&D Council, the Freshwater Land Trust, and the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham vowed to turn flooded home sites into an string of outdoor recreation destinations. Collectively the partnership has leveraged over \$4 million in grants to plan and build sections of connecting trails.

## TO A BRIGHT FUTURE

The Five Mile Creek **Greenway District** was incorporated in March 2010 to acquire, develop and manage the Five Mile Creek Rail Trail. Member cities include: Center Point, Tarrant, Fultondale, Brookside, Graysville, and Gardendale.

### FIVE MILE CREEK GREENWAY DISTRICT—HISTORY, BEAUTY AND FAMILY ADVENTURE.



## LOCAL HISTORY

From the remains of Bee Hive Coke Ovens in Lewisburg, Coalburg, and Brookside to the Brookside History Museum, pride and family history of mining binds this unique trail together. Cemeteries along the trail include the graves of civil war heroes as well as European and Russian immigrants who settled along the historic corridor to work in the coal mines.

## ADVENTURE AWAITS YOU

The ‘string of pearls’ along Five Mile Creek includes camp grounds, parks, museums, and the Five Mile Creek Canoe Company. Owned by the Town of Brookside, the canoe company offers access to fishing, swimming, birding, and adventure on the 26 navigable miles of Five Mile Creek.

## LOCATION

The future Five Mile Creek Rail Trail begins near Black Creek Park in the City of Fultondale, 10 minutes from downtown Birmingham, and runs west to the Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River. The old mineral rail line, steeped in history, winds through stunning scenery entirely within Jefferson County, Alabama.