

6.0 Future Planning and Implementation

6.1 SHARED-USE PATH

While it is within the long-term vision of the Louisville Metro government to fully implement the Louisville Loop, funding for the complete implementation of the Louisville Loop has not been secured. At this stage of the planning process for the Fairdale to Floyds Fork Corridor segment of the Louisville Loop, the identification of the recommended shared-use path alignment provides the foundation for future action. As part of, or separately from, future land use decisions, the identification of the recommended shared-use path alignment enables Louisville Metro Parks a better position in the negotiation for the accommodation of the recommended shared-use path alignment. It is important that each phase of the shared-use path construction is successful and continues to build momentum for the ensuing phases of the Louisville Loop. It is practical and reasonable to construct the recommended shared-use path alignment in short segments of several miles at a time. As mentioned earlier, the biggest hurdles to getting the shared-use path implemented are available funding and the securing of sufficient right of way. Louisville Metro Parks should continue to hold discussions with various property owners along the recommended shared-use path alignment to get their support and buy in on benefits of the Fairdale to Floyds Fork Corridor segment of the Louisville Loop. Additionally, this fully executed planning document will aid Louisville Metro Parks in obtaining funding sources for implementation (see Section 6.5).

6.2 SOFT SURFACE PATH NETWORK

The incorporation of a soft surface path network as part of the recommended shared-use path alignment provides Louisville Metro Parks and applicable interest groups concepts to continue to develop equestrian opportunities. The locations identified within the Fairdale to Floyds Fork Shared-Use Path and Ecological Restoration Plan are a starting point for collaboration between equestrian or other interest groups and Louisville Metro government to establish a network of soft surface paths in this segment of the Louisville Loop. Equestrian opportunities were identified during the planning process as a much needed amenity. A local, grass-roots effort combined with local government can further the development of these opportunities. Using and expanding upon the existing amenities within McNeely Lake Park and the Jefferson Memorial Forest will continue to build support for additional soft surface path network opportunities to be located within the study area.

6.3 ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

The inventory of ecological resources within the study area provides a baseline of those resources. Ecological restoration opportunities were identified and used as one of the factors in the selection of the recommended shared-use path alignment. The areas for ecological restoration should be evaluated further to identify specific measures that would best increase the ecological functions of the area. The process for evaluation can occur as part of, or separately from, path development. Depending on the measures of ecological restoration, funding sources from other entities may become available.

6.4 IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING

The implementation of the Louisville Loop, including the Pond Creek and the Fairdale to Floyds Fork corridors, is subject to many factors. Those factors can include funding or land donations in a certain geographic region, land or infrastructure development activities, or other initiatives that could provide resources for the development of a path segment. The development of a comprehensive implementation plan for the Louisville Loop is recommended because it would provide:

1. An approach for the implementation of path segments as they become available
2. A priority or plan of action for segment implementation
3. A process to be followed and actions to take for segment implementation

An implementation plan would help outline the total costs, right of way requirements, teaming partners, and funding strategies for the implementation of the Louisville Loop. It is logical that the first priorities for phasing within the Fairdale to Floyds Fork Corridor segment of the Louisville Loop would be to concentrate on locations that are currently under the control of Louisville Metro, or that would connect with other proposed segments of the Louisville Loop. These locations include McNeely Lake Park, as well as the connections to the Pond Creek and the Floyds Fork Corridor segments of the Louisville Loop. By expanding the Louisville Loop adjacent to these key locations first, it will create a more continuous feel and identity for what will eventually become part of a 100-mile network of paths throughout Louisville and Jefferson County.

6.5 POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

Various local, state, and federal funding sources will need to be identified that can be used to fund various portions of the Fairdale to Floyds Fork Corridor segment of the Louisville Loop. Grants and other programs should also be explored. Some potential federal funding sources could include programs such as:

- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)
- Surface Transportation Program, MAP-21 (STP) – may be used for the construction of bicycle transportation facilities and pedestrian walkways related to safe bicycle use and walking.
- Highway Safety Improvement Programs (HSIP)
- Section 402 State and Community Safety Grants
- State funding sources may include programs such as:
 - Local administrator of federal funding for Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) funds.
 - State Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funds – through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Local funding sources from benefactors, private foundations, or organizations could include examples such as:

- 21st Century Parks
- Future Fund Land Trust
- Local private sector funding
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LCWF) Grants – distributed by the National Park Service where communities raise a 50 percent match.

6.6 CONCLUSIONS

In April, 2013, the Louisville Loop Master Plan was unanimously recommended for approval to the Louisville Metro Council by the Planning Commission. Although Louisville Metro government has been fully supportive of the Louisville Loop initiative for nearly a decade, one factor that goes into the long term viability of the overall project is to have a reasonable phasing plan that will allow for the future implementation of the recommended shared-use path alignment. Focusing initially on constructing the recommended shared-use path alignment on property that is currently under Louisville Metro's control, for instance McNeely Lake Park, will provide momentum and a connection point for the ensuing phases of path development. Segments of the recommended shared-use path alignment shown in this plan may not be constructed for several years, depending on when sufficient property is secured and funding is available for construction. With the recommended shared-use path alignment for the Fairdale to Floyds Fork corridor of the Louisville Loop now identified, Louisville Metro government will have a blueprint and a plan of action when future development projects come about within this study area. If a proposed development project is submitted for a location that is adjacent to where the recommended shared-use path alignment is shown, Louisville Metro will be able to negotiate for the accommodation of the proposed shared-use path alignment within their development proposal. Also, if any of the roadways are planned on being widened or upgraded along the recommended alignment, a shared-use path can also be considered at that time.