



The Doodle Trail: A Joint Initiative by Easley and Pickens  
Promoting Health, Recreation, and Connectivity



**EASLEY**  
PARKS & RECREATION

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# Doodle Trail

The Doodle Trail, a 7.5-mile rails-to-trails collaboration between the City of Easley and the City of Pickens, officially opened on Memorial Day Weekend in 2015. The multi-use trail is available from dawn to dusk for activities like biking, walking, running, and rollerblading. Motorized vehicles, including mopeds, are not permitted.

The Doodle line has a rich history tied to the industry and economy of both Easley and Pickens. In 1890, South Carolina granted a charter for the construction of a railroad between Easley and Oolenoy Gap, passing through Pickens. After eight years of development, the 7.5-mile stretch connecting Easley and Pickens became operational in 1898. For over a century, until 2013, the Doodle line transported various goods, including food, textiles, and automobile parts, between the two cities. Locals affectionately called it the "Pickens Doodle" because the freight engine, unable to turn around, ran backward between Easley and Pickens, resembling a doodlebug.

In 2017, the City of Easley extended the trail into its downtown, offering users a chance to stop and enjoy local eateries, shops, and community events.

The Doodle Trail preserves the legacy of this historic railway and the vital connection it established between Easley and Pickens over 120 years ago. Come explore the trail and support the local businesses along the way!



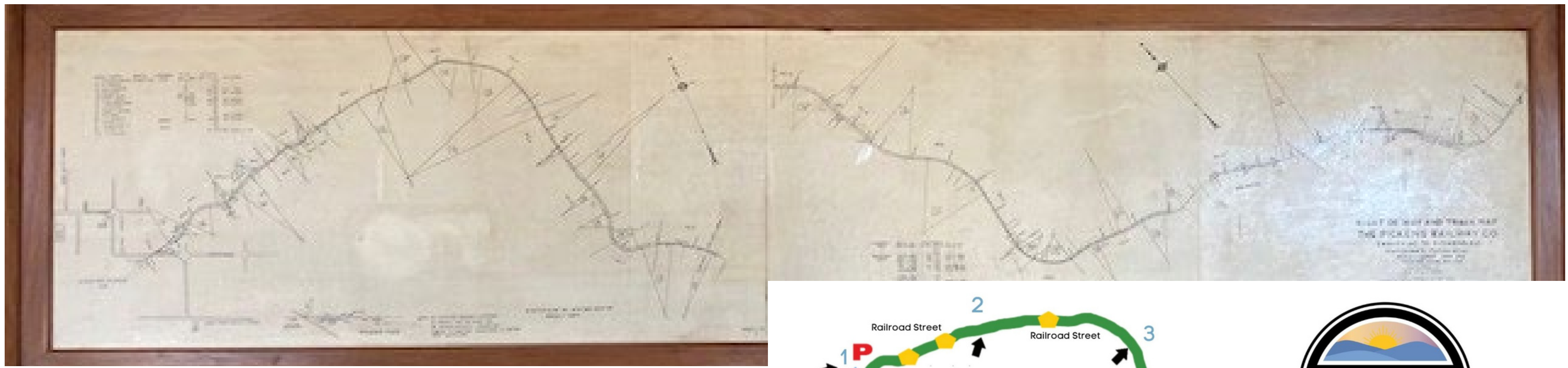
# Collaboration Between Easley and Pickens

### Joint Efforts for Trail Success:

The Cities of Easley and Pickens have worked closely together to ensure the Doodle Trail's development, maintenance, and long-term success. This partnership not only enhances the functionality of the trail but also strengthens the bond between the two municipalities, promoting shared goals for community health, recreation, and economic growth.

- 1. Shared Vision
- 2. Joint Maintenance
- 3. Collaborative Events and Programming
- 4. Economic Development Initiatives
- 5. Future Development and Expansion





# Trail Map

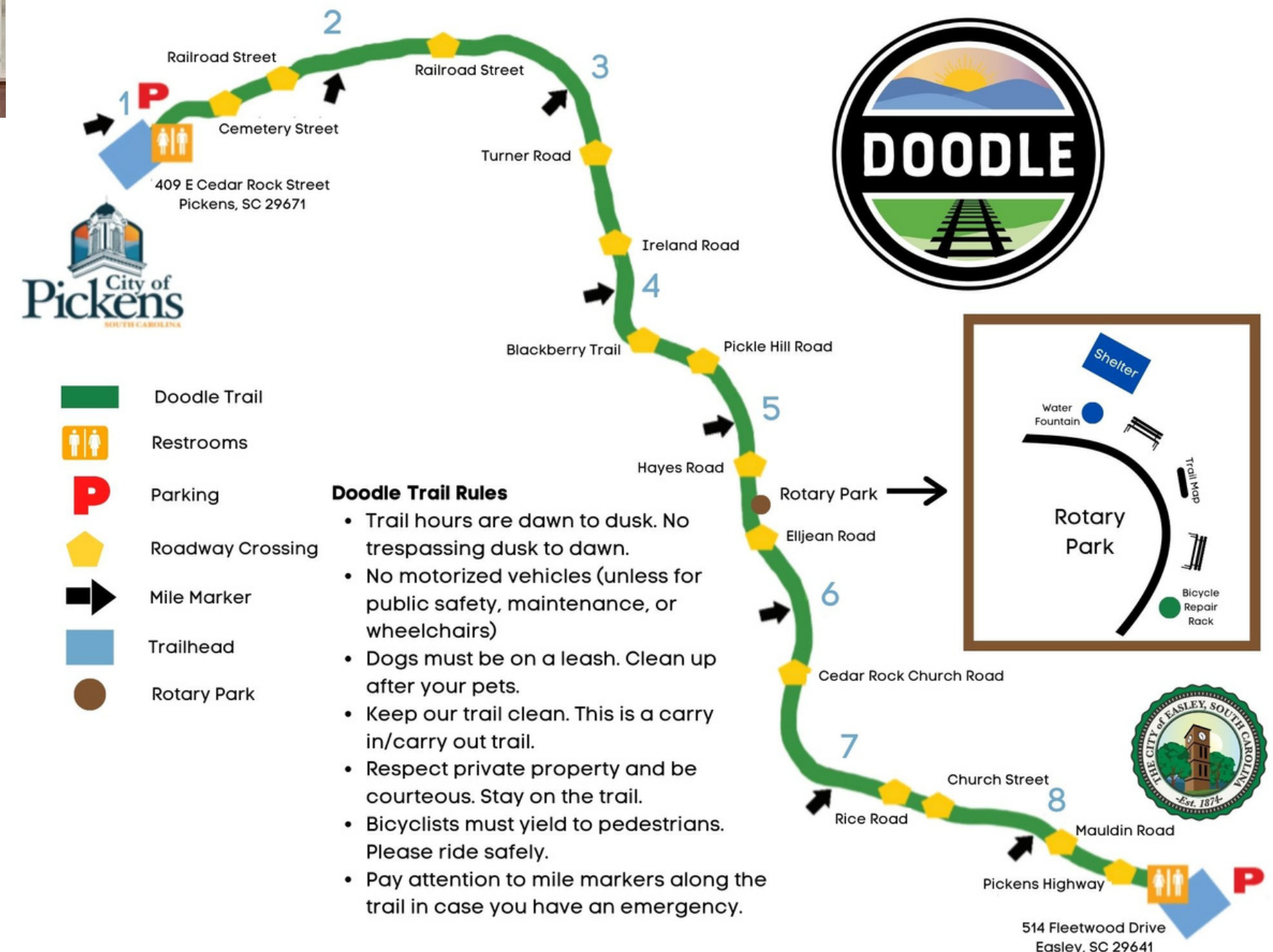
## Key Points:

### Primary Trailheads:

- **Easley Trailhead:** Located near downtown Easley, this trailhead offers convenient access to local businesses, restaurants, and amenities. It's also near the JB Red Owens Sports Complex, providing easy connectivity to a major recreational hub.
- **Pickens Trailhead:** Situated close to downtown Pickens, this trailhead allows visitors to explore Pickens' vibrant town center, local parks, and community events. The nearby amenities make it a popular starting point for residents and visitors alike.
  - Home of the Pickens Railroad Museum and Historic Site Marker 3922

### Connectivity and Accessibility:

- **City -to -City Connection:** The Doodle Trail connects two cities, making it a valuable transportation and recreational link between Easley and Pickens. Residents can bike, walk, or run between the two, promoting a sustainable transportation option and encouraging tourism in both areas.



# Our Vision

01

## Community Connectivity and Accessibility

Create a seamless, accessible trail network that connects key areas within Easley and Pickens, including parks, schools, businesses, and residential neighborhoods. This will encourage residents to use the trail for commuting, recreation, and leisure.

- The original trail was positioned between two parks, effectively utilizing their locations as the trailheads.



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## Health and Wellness Promotion

Position the Doodle Trail as a central resource for promoting physical activity and mental well-being among residents. The trail will serve as a hub for community fitness events, educational programs, wellness initiatives and partnerships.



03

## Cultural, Historical and Environmental Engagement

Transform the Doodle Trail into a cultural and historical corridor that celebrates the heritage and stories of both Easley and Pickens. The trail will serve as an interactive experience for residents and visitors, showcasing local art, history, and community events.



# Community Events and Programs

The Doodle Trail serves as a vibrant hub for community engagement, offering a variety of events and programs that foster connection, promote healthy lifestyles, and enhance the beauty of the surrounding area. Here are some of the key community events/programs taking place on the Doodle Trail:

## 1. Kids in Parks Program

- Overview: The Kids in Parks program encourages outdoor exploration and physical activity among children. This initiative features various activities and educational programs that engage youth with nature.

## 2. Senior Rides Program

- Police Department Collaborations: Local police departments partner with community organizations to offer transportation for seniors residing in retirement homes. This program provides seniors with the opportunity to enjoy the Doodle Trail, promoting physical activity and social interaction.

## 3. Beautification Clean -Up Days

- Community Involvement: Regular beautification and clean-up days encourage community members of all ages to come together and maintain the Doodle Trail. These events not only enhance the trail's appearance but also foster a sense of pride and ownership among residents.

## 4. Doodle Day with SC -7, March of Dimes, Pickens County Library, Safe Kids Upstate

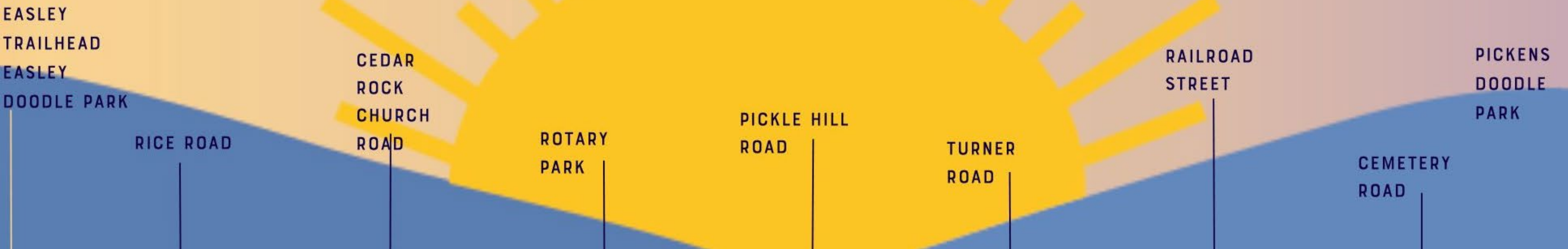
- Awareness Campaigns: Various promotional initiatives aim to raise awareness of the Doodle Trail and its benefits. This includes informational sessions, social media campaigns, and local partnerships to encourage more residents to use the trail.

## 5. 5K / 10k / 15k Races and Events Throughout the Year

- Annual 5K Runs: The Doodle Trail hosts several 5K races and fun runs throughout the year, attracting participants of all ages. These events promote health and fitness while bringing the community together for a common goal.
- Themed Events: Themed events, such as holiday runs or charity walks, create a festive atmosphere and encourage participation from families and local businesses, enhancing community spirit.



# MY FAVORITE PART OF THE DOODLE TRAIL IS...



## Economic Impact on Easley and Pickens

The Doodle Trail serves as a vital economic asset for both Easley and Pickens, contributing to the growth of local businesses, tourism, and property values. By providing a safe and attractive outdoor space, the trail encourages increased foot traffic and fosters a vibrant community atmosphere.

1. Increased Foot Traffic and Business Growth
2. Tourism Development
3. Enhanced Property Values
4. Sponsorship and Partnership Opportunities
5. Employment Opportunities



# Trail Maintenance & Safety

Ensuring the Doodle Trail is well-maintained and safe for all users is essential for promoting community engagement and encouraging outdoor activities. This slide outlines the strategies and best practices for maintaining the trail's integrity and ensuring user safety.

- 1. Regular Maintenance Collaboration Schedules between Departments
- 2. Safety Measures and Infrastructure
- 3. User Education and Awareness
- 4. Addressing Safety Concerns

Ongoing maintenance and safety initiatives are vital for ensuring that the Doodle Trail remains a valuable asset for the communities of Easley and Pickens. By implementing proactive measures and fostering community engagement, the trail can continue to be a safe, enjoyable, and well-maintained space for all users.



# Funding and Support

Securing funding and support for the Doodle Trail is essential for its maintenance, development, and community engagement initiatives. A collaborative approach involving local governments, businesses, organizations, community members and grants ensures that the trail remains a vibrant and accessible resource for all.



## Municipal Support

The Cities of Easley and Pickens allocate portions of their annual budgets to the maintenance and enhancement of the Doodle Trail. This funding covers regular upkeep, safety improvements, and seasonal maintenance efforts.



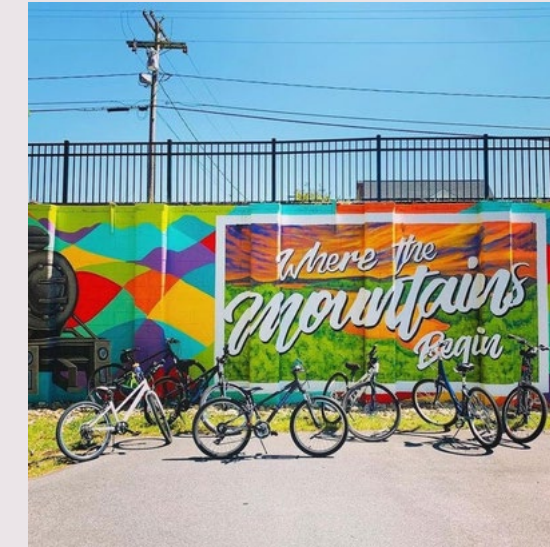
## Hospitality Tax

Hospitality tax can be used to finance local projects, such as park maintenance, recreational facilities, and community events, enhancing the quality of life for residents.



## Accommodations Tax

Accommodations tax revenue for development projects, both cities can enhance their appeal as tourist destinations, potentially leading to increased business opportunities and job creation in the hospitality sector.



## Grants

Actively pursue state and federal grants aimed at improving recreational infrastructure.



## Sponsorships, Partnerships and Volunteers

Focused on health, wellness, and environmental stewardship can unlock additional funding opportunities through grants and community outreach programs.



# Call to Action: Get Involved

Friends of the Doodle Trail Program

## Key Responsibilities

1. Promotion and Awareness of the Trail
2. Education of the Trail
3. Support and Assistance on Recommendations
4. Community Engagement and Input

# Future Development: Brushy Creek Greenway



The Brushy Creek Greenway is a transformative project aimed at enhancing connectivity and recreation in the Upstate region. Spanning three phases, this greenway will eventually link Easley's JB Red Owens Recreational Complex to the Doodle Trail in Downtown Easley which currently connects into downtown Pickens. The addition of this trail will offer residents and visitors an extensive network of trails for biking, walking, and outdoor activities.

## Phased Development Plan

### 1. Phase One:

- Current Construction: Phase One of the Brushy Creek Greenway is nearing completion and focuses on creating a seamless connection from Easley's 140-acre sports complex to Pearson Road in Easley.
  - This phase features a 800 foot bridge cross over the Brushy Creek Greenway with a 10x10 observation deck.

### 2. Phase Two:

- Trail to Hwy 8 / 123

### 3. Phase Three:

- Hwy 8 / 123 into Downtown Easley to connect to Doodle Trail
- Connection to Doodle Trail: This phase will integrate with the Doodle Trail, allowing users to transition easily between the two trails and enjoy a continuous recreational experience. This connectivity will promote active transportation options and enhance access to community amenities.

# Future Development: Pickens Recreation Center Connection



The Pickens Recreation Center Connection will be a completion of the original design for the Pickens end of the Doodle Trail. This completion will connect the Doodle Trail head to the Pickens Parks and Recreation offices and Cheri T. Anthony Recreation Complex via the Pickens Jaycee Park and Appalachian Lumber Greenway. This bikeway will connect each of our main parks with the downtown business sector and will loop in our Pickens Library branch to the pathway.

## Phased Development Plan

### 1. Phase One :

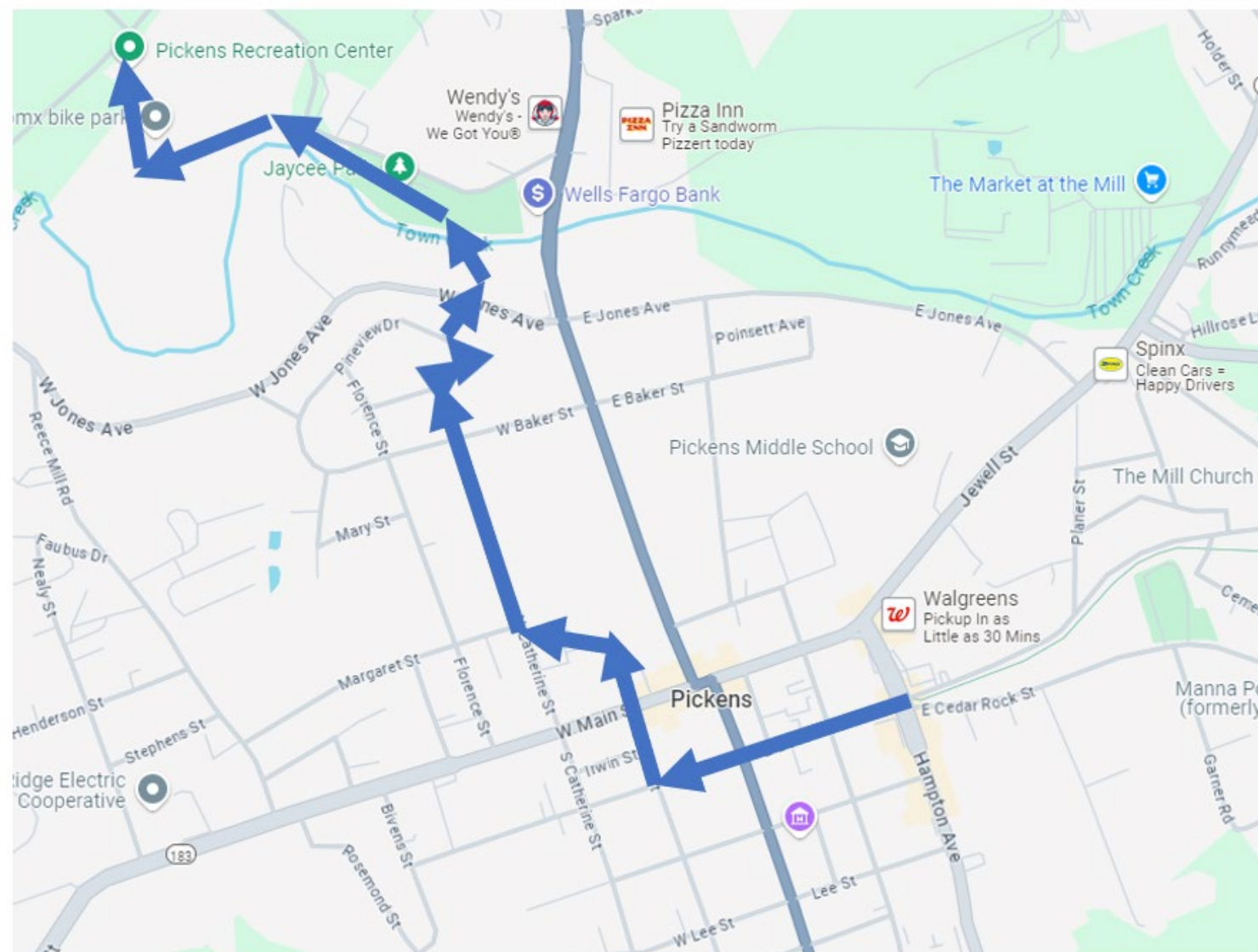
- Creating a bike lane from Doodle Trailhead to the Pickens Amphitheater.

### 2. Phase Two :

- Creating a bicycle boulevard from the Pickens Amphitheater to the entrance of Volunteer Field at Jaycee Park.

### 3. Phase Three :

- Marking and designating the trail through Jaycee Park and the Appalachian Lumber Greenway to the Recreation Complex.



# Shared Future: Enhancing Inclusivity Across Municipalities

The City of Easley and the City of Pickens are committed to fostering an inclusive community that prioritizes accessibility and recreational opportunities for all residents. In partnership with the Youth Learning Institute, we are excited to introduce new initiatives aimed at enhancing the playground experience for individuals of all abilities.

## Key Project: Accessible Swings at both current Trail Heads

### 1. Project Description

- Fully Wheelchair-Accessible Swings: As part of our collaborative effort with the Youth Learning Institute, we will be installing fully wheelchair-accessible swings at both Doodle Parks in Easley and Pickens. These swings are designed to provide individuals the opportunity to engage in play and social interaction alongside their peers, promoting inclusivity and accessibility in our community.
- Inclusive Design: The swings will be built with adaptive features that allow individuals in wheelchairs to swing comfortably and safely without a break in their play environment.



# Doodle Trail Success Stories



01

“Very pleased with the doodle trail . It’s paved the entire length of the trail, welcome to walkers and bicyclists . There are several scenic views and a few hills though so be ready for a workout . Well maintained, safe and looks like they built a nice playground for kids at both ends, completed with nice bathrooms that were open even during the pandemic .”

02

“We have lived in Florida for the past year which is flat so we have found the hills around NC/SC challenging! The trail was very busy the day we were there with families biking and lots of walkers/runners . If I lived around here I would be here frequently .”

03

“This trail goes through my neighborhood, so I walk it often . There's one bridge in particular that you always find interesting lil creatures like rabbits, cute lil mice, praying mantis, hedgehogs ...”



# Contact Us



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Thank You

