

**LOCAL SUCCESS
STORIES:**

TRAIL TOURISM IN
RURAL COMMUNITIES

CEDARTOWN
GEORGIA



Cedartown, Georgia

- Population 10,313
- 6 Public Parks, 1 Trail, Historic Downtown, Performing Arts Center
- Ongoing commitment to resident quality of life, outdoor recreation, and leveraging economic benefits of public spaces.

Historic Downtown: The Heart of Our City

- Downtown Cedartown Association & Downtown Development Authority
- Let's Talk Sessions and Importance of Public Information Office
- Events: Homecoming parade, May Mixer, Trailhead Art Gallery, Bulldog Bash, Trick-or-Treat, Christmas Parade
- Using Traffic Data

LET'S TALK!

Historic
**DOWNTOWN
CEDARTOWN**
Georgia

**LANKFORD
CORNER
UPDATES**

HOSTED BY:
CEDARTOWN
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GUEST SPEAKER:
SHANE HAMPTON
MAIN STREET AMERICA

**30 PM - THE DEPOT
T, CEDARTOWN, GA**



HISTORY IN THE MAKING: THE SILVER COMET THEN AND NOW



1969: THE "SILVER COMET"
PASSENGER TRAIN IS
DECOMMISSIONED.

1989: CSX DISCONTINUED THE
RAIL LINE.

1992: GEORGIA DOT
PURCHASED RAIL LINE

1998: CONSTRUCTION
BEGINS IN SMYRNA, GA

2008: CONSTRUCTION
IS COMPLETED IN
CEDARTOWN,
GEORGIA

LAST FOOT OF TRAIL
August 29, 2008

- Passenger train included baggage cars, coaches, sleepers, dining car, and 48-seat observation car
- Daily trips from New York to Birmingham beginning **May 18th, 1947**
- **January 18th, 1969** – Last trip from Atlanta to Birmingham
- **1992** GDOT purchases the rail line from CSX and begins planning trail system.
- **1998 - 2008** Construction of the Silver Comet Trail along the abandoned rail line. Final stretch of trail made possible by efforts from Cedartown resident, Jane Wyatt, and the PATH Foundation.
- **August 29th, 2008** – Last foot of SCT installed.

Silver Comet Trail: Quick Facts



61.7 MILES – SMYRNA TO
CEDARTOWN



CONNECTS TO 33-MILE
CHIEF LADIGA TRAIL
(ALABAMA)



LONGEST, CONTINUOUS,
PAVED TRAIL IN THE
UNITED STATES (94.7 MILES
TOTAL)



21 TRAILHEADS - 9
LOCATED IN POLK
COUNTY

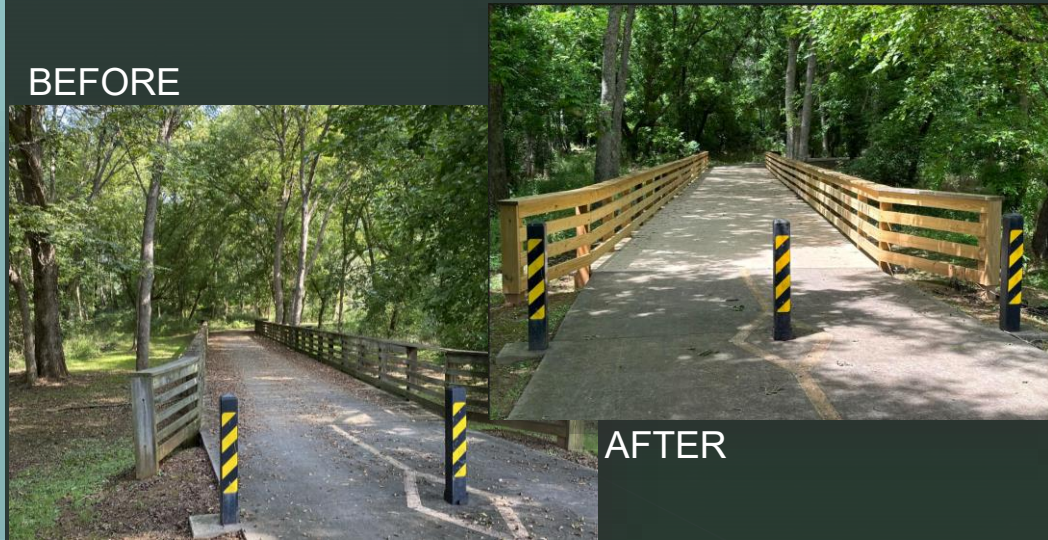


TRAILS ARE ACCESSIBLE
FOR ALL NONMOTORIZED
TRANSPORTATION
INCLUDING HORSES

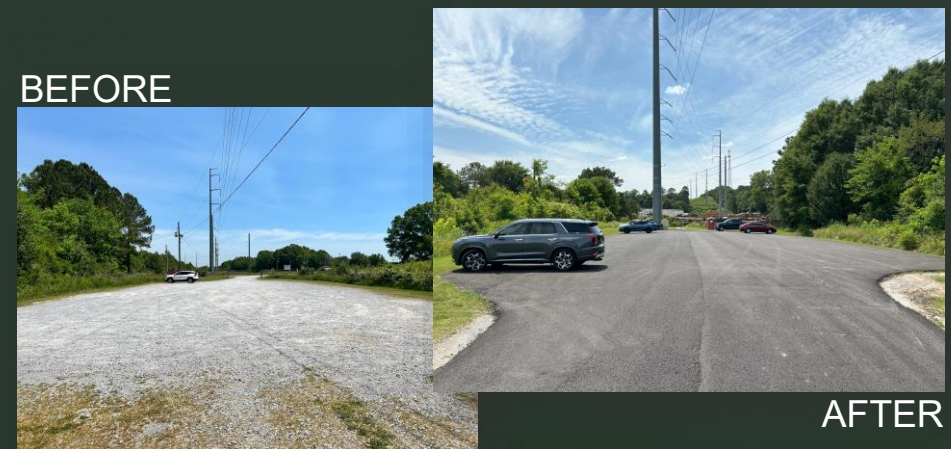
NOTABLE CEDARTOWN LANDMARKS:

SEABOARD DEPOT/WELCOME CENTER & STATE LINE GATEWAY

Trail Maintenance



- Recreation and Public Works Departments
- My30125 App – Resident and Visitor Access
- Leveraging DNR Recreational Trails & LWCF Programs

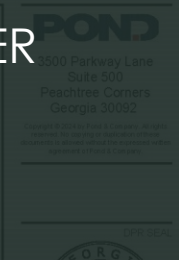


FROM BLUEPRINTS TO **BIG IMPACTS**



DOWNTOWN CORRIDOR ENHANCEMENT
& STREETScape
2008 – PRESENT

LANKFORD CORNER AT THE SILVER
COMET
2012 - PRESENT



114 STUBBS ST; 116 HERBERT ST; 520
GEORGIA
POND PROJECT NUMBER: 1230224
MAY 15, 2025

How did we get here?
Who helped along the way?
Who will benefit?



WOODLAND/HERBERT LOT



TRAIL-CENTRIC EVENTS



2025... SO FAR...

Rails to Trails Event

Annual Trailhead Art Gallery

Marathons and Cycling Groups

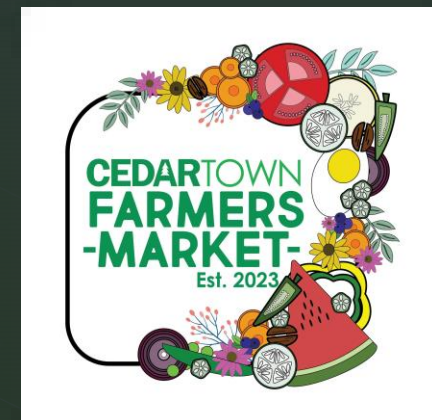


Coming Soon!

Farmer's Market @ Lankford Corner

Food Truck Fridays

Downtown Music Events



Trailhead Art Gallery

ARTIST RECEPTION & PUBLIC UNVEILING

10 AM - NOON

May 10 2025

CALL FOR ARTISTS

All mediums considered. All accepted entries will be digitized for outdoor display. Original art will not be altered. Scan QR code for artwork specifics and submit process.

Trailhead Art Gallery:

The Trailhead Art Gallery is an open-air display of creative talent that is located along Cedartown's Silver Comet Trail at the Cedartown Welcome Center. Artwork (photos, digitally converted drawings and paintings) are printed onto thick, weatherproof material and secured along the fence line at the Cedartown Welcome Center. The Welcome Center sees an average of 7,000 visitors each year.

WWW.CEDARTOWNGEORGIA.GOV/TAG/

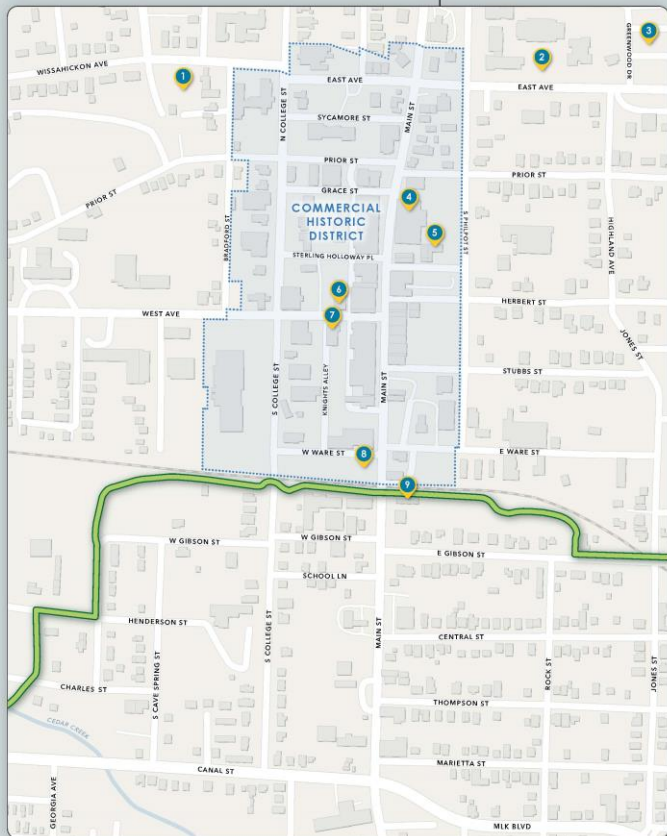
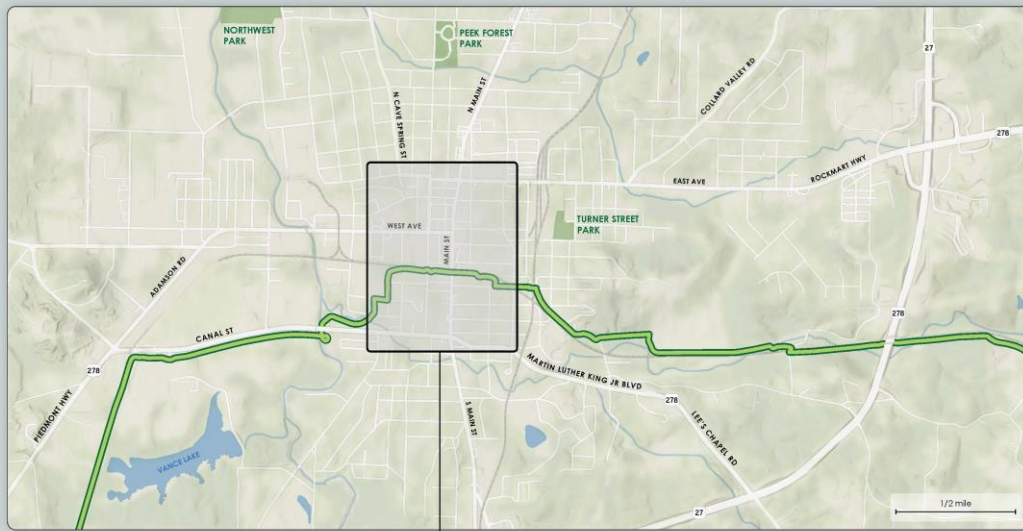
Economic Impacts: Leveraging Trail Tourism



Taking Inventory

- What do we have?
- What do we know?
- Who is responsible?

SILVER COMET TRAIL CONNECTIONS & POINTS OF INTEREST IN CEDARTOWN



SILVER COMET TRAIL CONNECTIONS IN CEDARTOWN

- 1 TRAIL OF TEARS REMOVAL CAMP SITE
BIG SPRING PARK
- 2 CEDARTOWN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
AND LIBRARY
- 3 HISTORIC GREENWOOD CEMETERY
- 4 CEDARTOWN MUSEUM OF COCA-COLA
MEMORABILIA
- 5 DOUG SANDERS GOLF MUSEUM
- 6 THE WEST CINEMA
- 7 POLK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM
- 8 LANKFORD CORNER
- 9 CEDARTOWN WELCOME CENTER



DESIGN
RAILS TO TRAILS CONSERVANCY

SPONSOR
THE POLK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, CEDARTOWN, GEORGIA

PHOTOGRAPHY
CEDARTOWN VISITORS CENTER

PREPARED BY
RAILS TO TRAILS CONSERVANCY



GMA Hometown Spotlight – 9/18/24

Courtesy of Rails to Trails through the Department of Transportation's Thriving Communities Program

VISITOR PROFILE & TRAFFIC ANALYSIS



Photo Credit: Downtown Cedartown Association



VISITOR PROFILE + TRAFFIC ANALYSIS DOWNTOWN CEDARTOWN

January 2025

Developed by Main Street America, as part of technical assistance funded by the United States Department of Transportation through the Thriving Communities Program

Courtesy of Main Street America through Department of Transportation's Thriving Communities Program

Downtown Cedartown

Cedartown, Georgia



Photo Credit: Downtown Cedartown Association



10.2K residents

of Cedartown city, Georgia
(U.S. Census Bureau, 2020)



89.8K visitors

to Downtown
Cedartown in 2024



533K visits

to Downtown
Cedartown in 2024



**October 2024 -
Busiest Month**

Downtown Cedartown had
50K visits in October 2024



**Thurs. & Fri. -
Busiest Days**

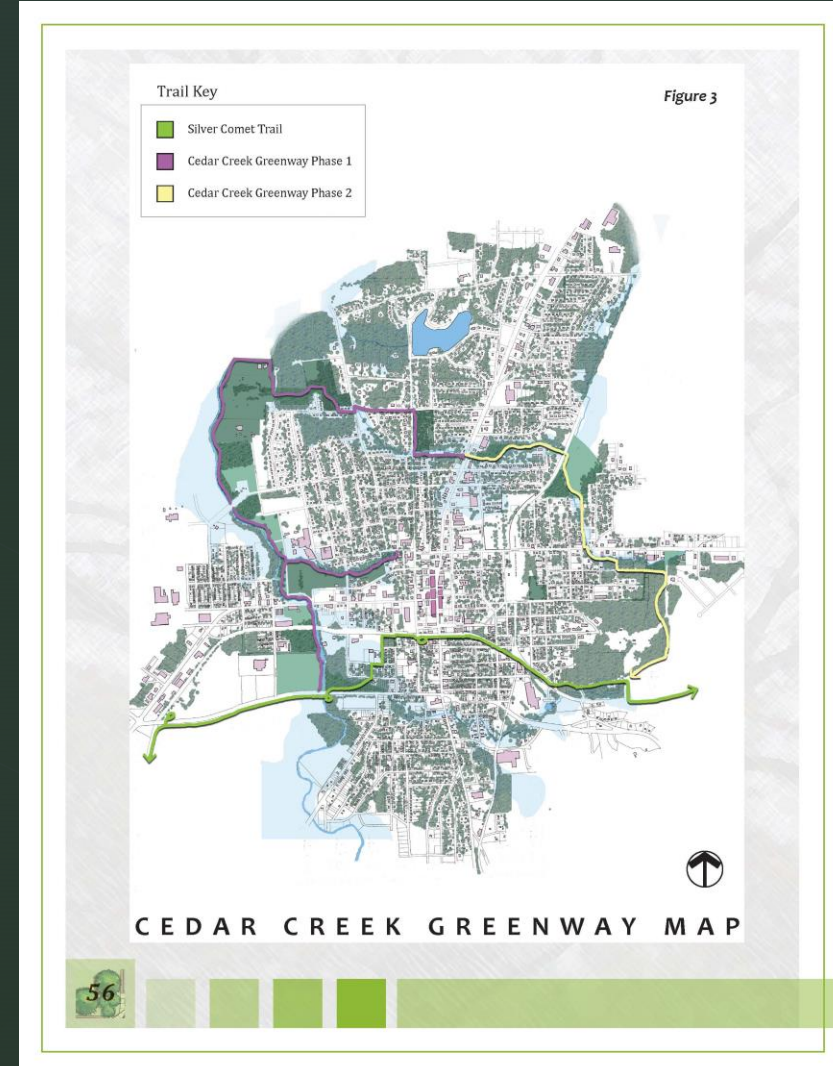
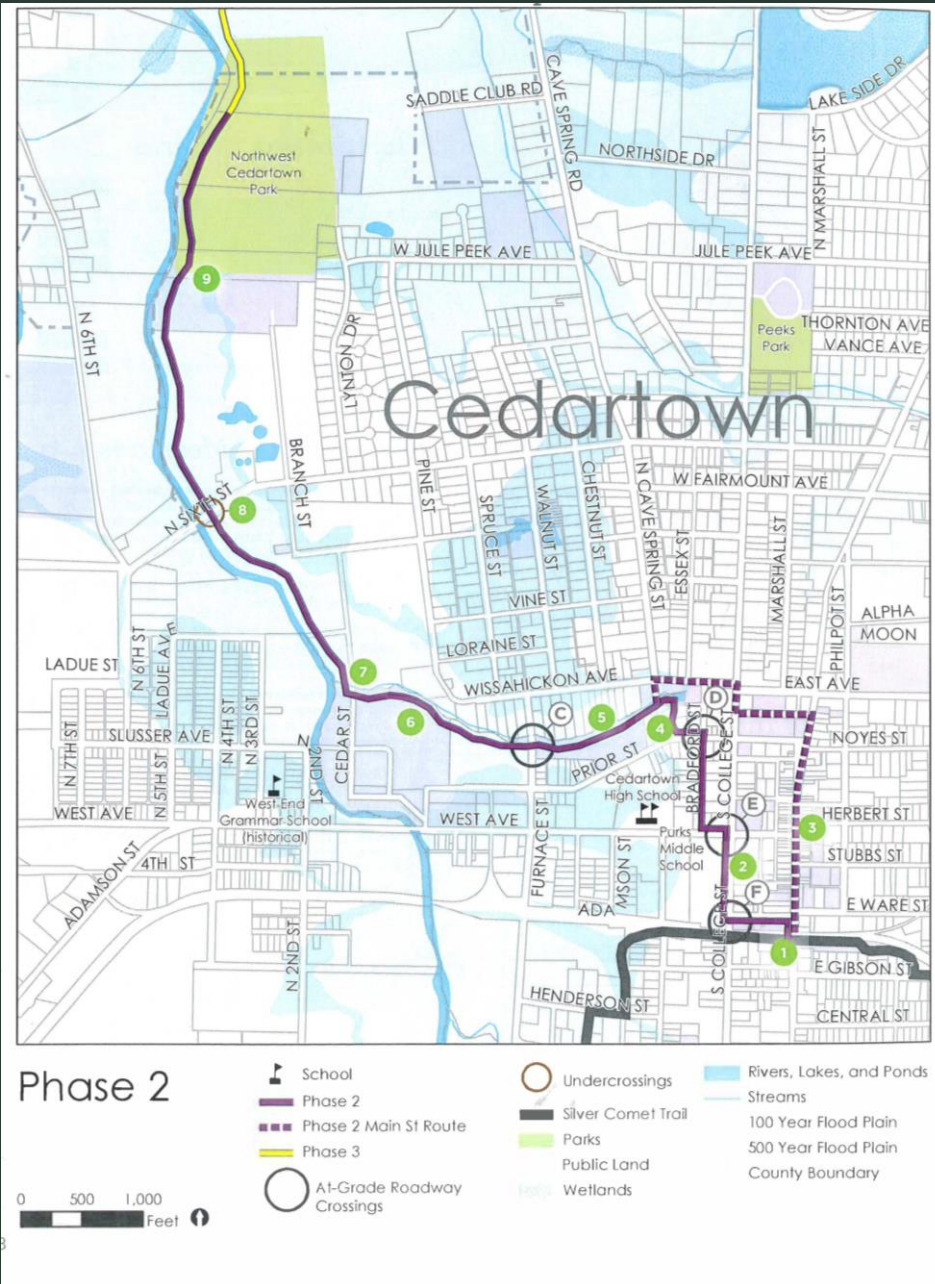
About 36% of visits take
place on Thursdays and
Fridays



**Lunch -
Busiest Time**

About 24% of hourly
visits occur between
11am - 2pm

CHALLENGES: Trail Expansion



CHALLENGES:

Maintenance, Funding & Intergovernmental Coordination



Photo Courtesy of Oscar Guzman

CP52-E - E9WL-N44T-3364
Welcome Center
12:46:36 AM EDT Friday, 6/6/2025



CHALLENGES: Trail Traffic into Downtown



CHALLENGES: Building Inventory





Regional Partnerships Create a Lasting Impact

- Build relationships with NWGRC staff.
- Shared vision and goals for individual community
- Regular meetings and quarterly check-ins

Goodyear Soccer Complex Phase I and II (2022 & 2024)
Silver Comet Rehabilitation (2023)
Lankford Corner at the Silver Comet (2025)
Boys and Girls Club Mini-Pitch (2024)
Downtown Corridor Enhancement (2026)
Cedartown Performing Arts Center Renovations (2026)



Q&A



THANK YOU!

CEDARTOWN
GEORGIA

2025

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TRAILHEAD ART GALLERY MAY 10th 10 - 12 PM CEDARTOWN WELCOME CENTER 609 S. MAIN	PEEK PARK CONCERT JUNE 21st 7 - 9 PM HISTORIC PEEK PARK N. COLLEGE STREET	PEEK PARK CONCERT JULY 12th 7 - 9 PM HISTORIC PEEK PARK N. COLLEGE STREET	DAILEY & VINCENT APRIL 12th 7:30 PM CEDARTOWN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER 205 E. AVE. cedartownshows.com
CPAC THEATER CAMP JULY 14-25th 8:30 - 5 PM CEDARTOWN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER 205 E. AVE.	PEEK PARK CONCERT AUG 16th 7 - 9 PM HISTORIC PEEK PARK N. COLLEGE STREET	HOLLOWAY FESTIVAL SEPT 27th 10 - 3 PM BIG SPRING PARK 301 WISSAHICKON AVE.	RANDY TRAVIS MORE LIFE CONCERT MARCH 20th 7:30 PM CEDARTOWN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER 205 E. AVE. cedartownshows.com
BOO BASH OCT 18th 4 - 7 PM BERT WOOD PARK 605 LYNTON DR.	DOWNTOWN TRICK OR TREAT OCT 31st 4 - 6 PM HISTORIC DOWNTOWN CEDARTOWN	FALL FESTIVAL NOV 1st 9 - 3 PM HISTORIC DOWNTOWN CEDARTOWN	CPAC THEATER CAMP Jr. JUNE 23-27th 8:30 - 5 PM CEDARTOWN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER 205 E. AVE.
CRYSTAL GAYLE SEPT 27th 7:30 PM CEDARTOWN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER 205 E. AVE. cedartownshows.com	CHRISTMAS PARADE DEC 4th 6 PM DOWNTOWN CEDARTOWN E ELLAWOOD TO QUEEN ST		

City of Cedartown | CityofCedartown | CityofCedartown | Free smart phone app: my30125 | www.cedartowngeorgia.gov

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