

Engineering Services
Planning and Development
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources

South Park Heritage Trail Schematic Design

City Council Meeting

November 4, 2025



Agenda

- Project Overview
- Community Engagement Summary
- Schematic Design Review
- Estimated Implementation Schedule
- Questions

Project Overview

Project Scope: Creation of Heritage Trail through the historic South Park neighborhood

Budget: \$4.5 Million

- \$3M from the \$275M 2022 Parks Bond Referendum
- \$1.5M from Federal Grant
- \$120K for Public Art

Design Consultant: Design Workshop

Community Engagement: Concept Design: March 2023 – September 2024
Schematic Design: September/October 2025

Community Engagement

Concept Design Phase

November 2023: Community Advisory Group (CAG) approved by City Council

Feb. 2024 – Oct. 2024: 6 Joint CAG meetings

June 2024 – Oct. 2024: 4 Public Open Houses

June 2024 – Oct. 2024: 3 Focus group and stakeholder meetings

Schematic Design Phase

September 2025: Community Advisory Group Meeting

September 2025: Public Presentation and Engagement Activities

October 2025: Presentation at Downtown Raleigh Alliance

October 2025: Historic Resources and Museums Advisory Board

Project Background

Originally a community-initiated project.

South Park East Raleigh Neighborhood Association, Ms. Lonnette Williams, community members and other stakeholders worked with NCSU College of Design to produce the South Park Heritage Report in 2014.

“Protecting history, creating new economic opportunities, and enhancing the visual character of the built environment” were the main focus points of their project.

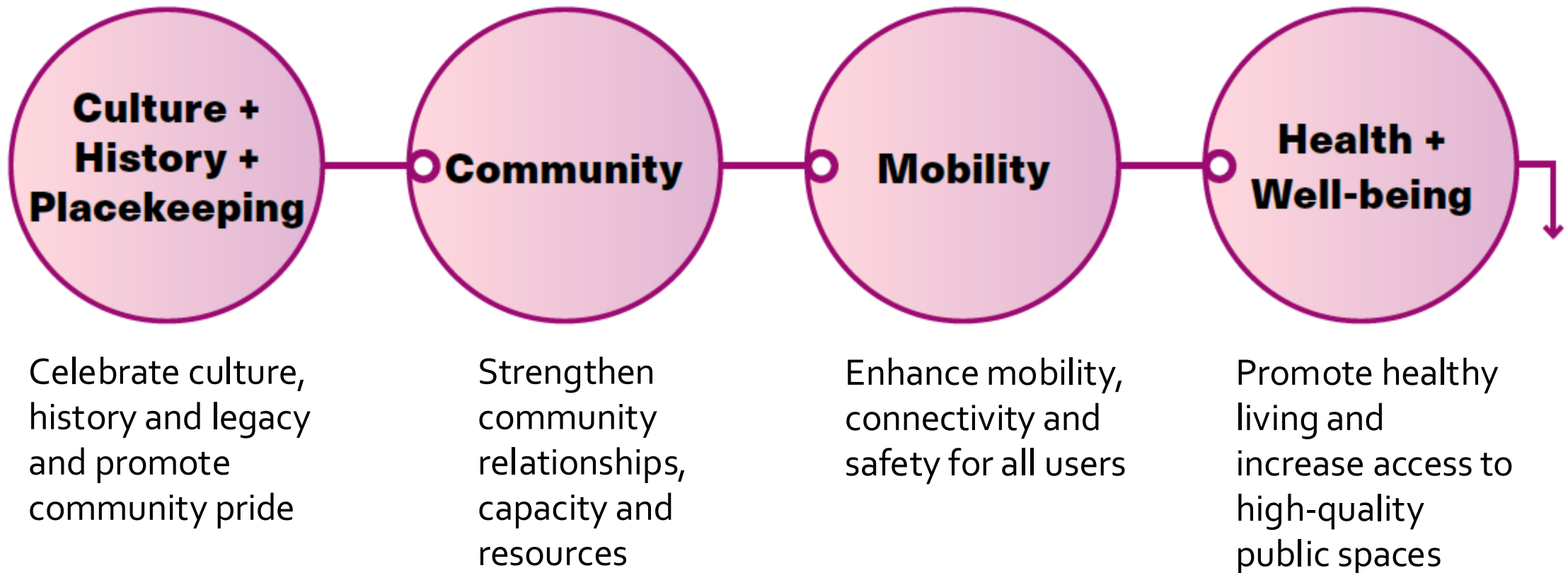
Report was the basis for South Park Heritage Trail



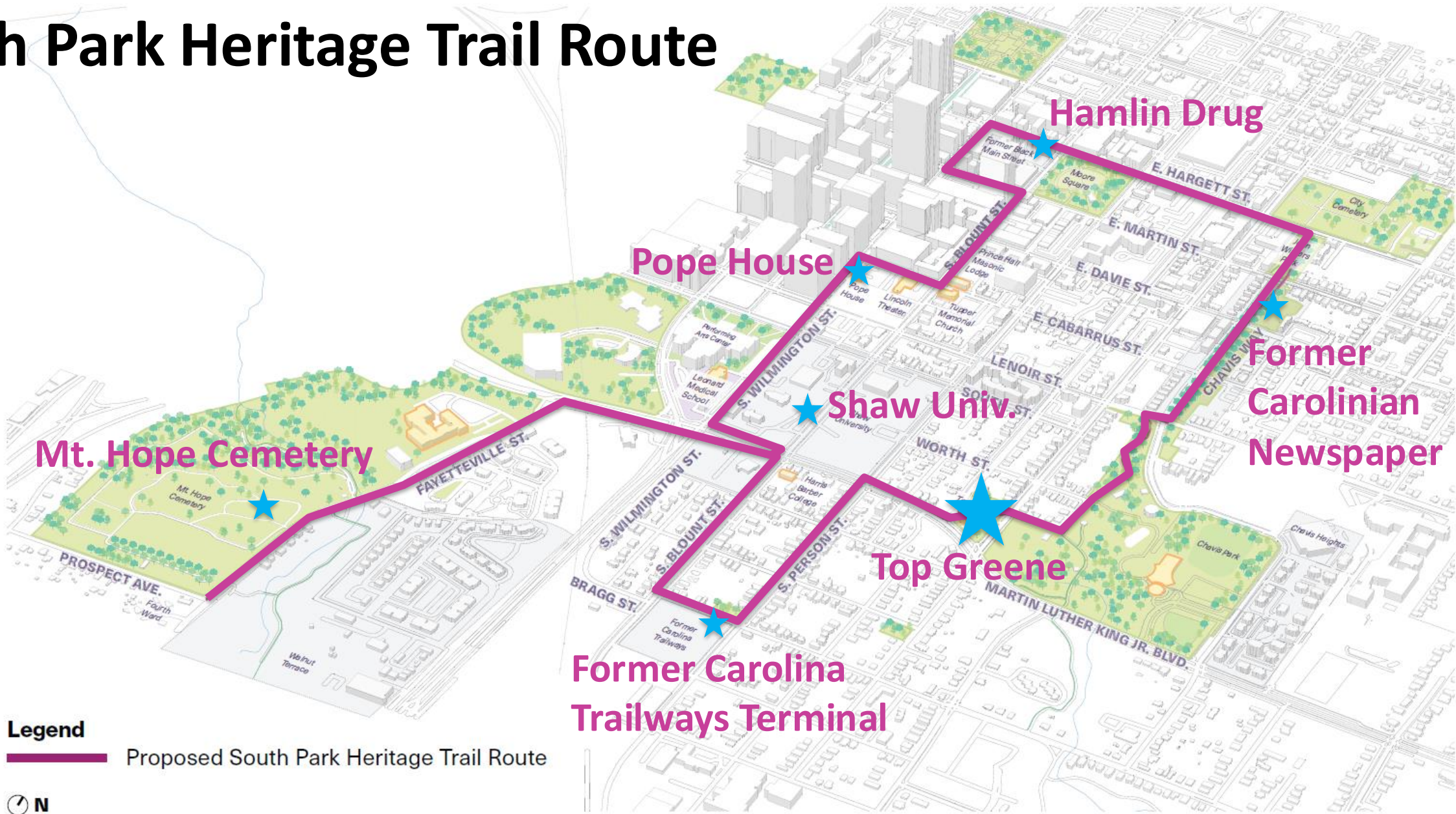
SOUTH PARK HERITAGE
WALK PROJECT
educate, preserve, memorialize

Project Purpose and Goals

A heritage trail is a collection of features within the streetscape and other public spaces which may include interpretive elements, art, and signage that tell the area's history from the perspective of its residents



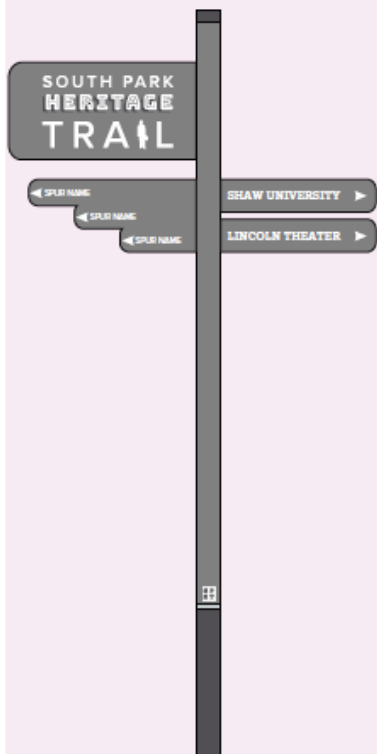
South Park Heritage Trail Route



Signage and Wayfinding

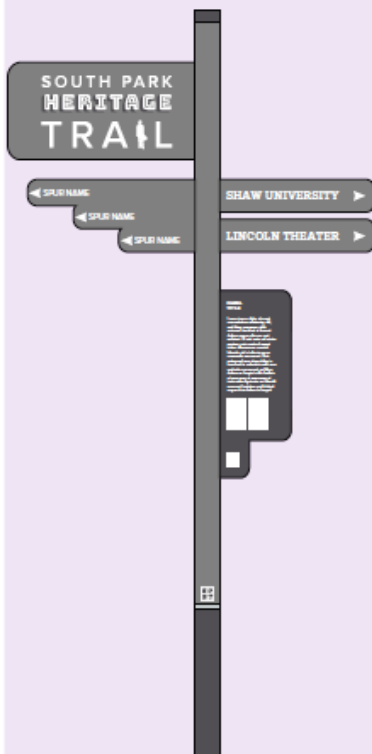
Not to Scale

Signage Type 1a



Decision point
signage

Signage Type 1b



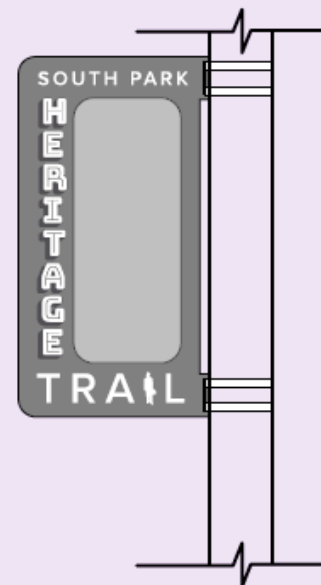
Decision point
signage with
info panel

Signage Type 2



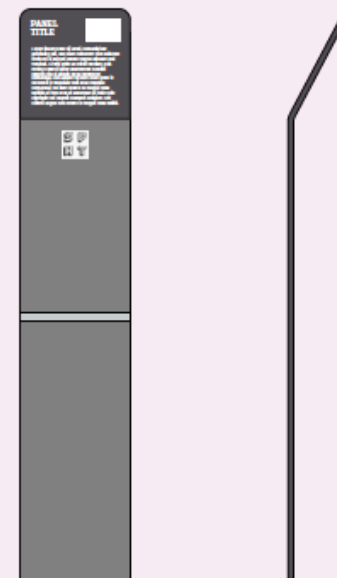
Perforated info
panel

Signage Type 3



Branded pole
banner

Signage Type 4

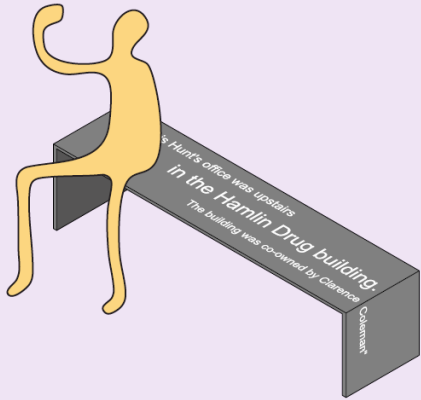


Informational
pedestal

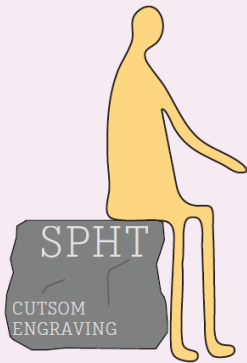
Signage and Wayfinding



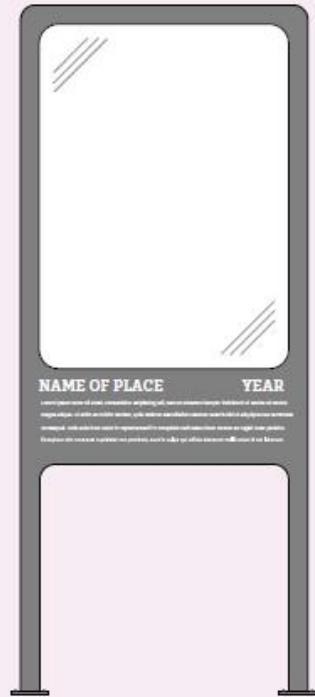
Interpretive Elements



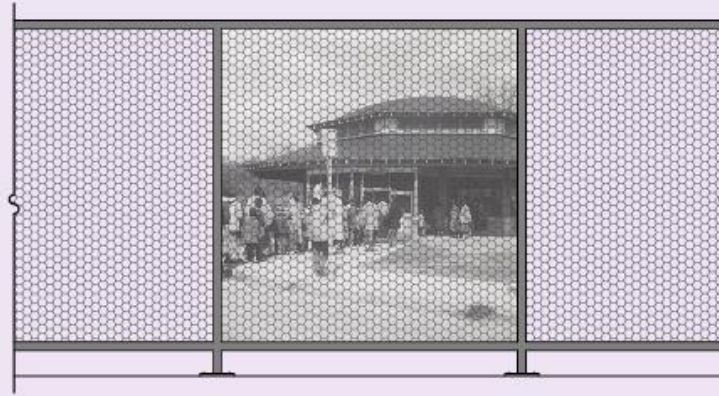
Storytelling Bench



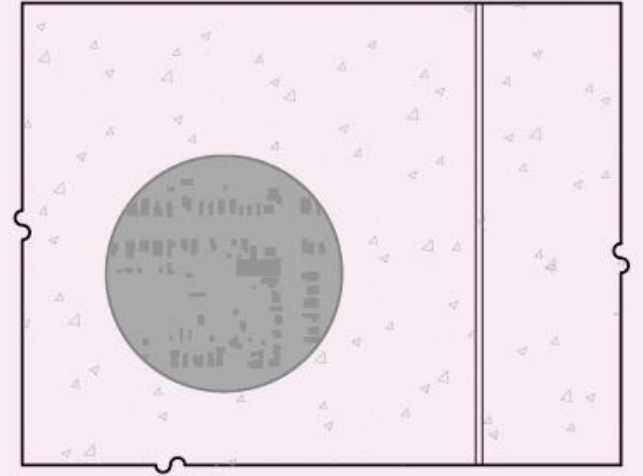
Natural Stone Bench



Viewfinder



Decorative Pedestrian Railing



Metal Medallion Inlay

Interpretive Elements



Public Art: Stacy Utley's Storytelling Beacons

- 3-4 Locations along SPHT
- Figures filled with historical images from the South Park community's family photos, school yearbooks and artifacts from the City archives.

Artist Statement:

The Figure as a Storytelling Beacon: Silhouettes have long been a powerful form in African American art, symbolizing identity, memory, and cultural heritage. In public art, the human figure can serve as a powerful beacon – embodying lived histories, collective memory, and the resilience of community.



Public Art: Stacy Utley's Storytelling Beacons



Estimated Schedule

- Design Development Phase: Fall 2025 - Spring 2026
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment Preparation: Fall 2025 – Summer 2027
- Construction Documents and Permitting: Spring 2026 – Summer 2027
- Bidding and Contracts: Summer 2027 – Fall 2027
- Construction: Fall 2027 - Spring 2029

Significant Schedule Considerations

- Federal and State Permitting
- 3+ miles of linear project
- Right-of-Way and residential property coordination

Recommendation

*Recommend approval of the
Schematic Design for the South
Park Heritage Trail.*

Questions?