

CAPITAL CASCADE TRAIL - SEGMENT 2

The park will include a series of sidewalks and trails providing over 2.3 miles of connected walkways, meandering through the landscape and park amenities. Capital Cascade Trail extends from Franklin Boulevard to Gadsden Street along the eastern edge of the park. After crossing the railroad, the trail turns west toward Monroe Street where it terminates until Segment 3 is constructed. The Capital Cascade Park amenities will ultimately provide park visitors with a long list of interesting venues:

- The history of our Capital City will be presented on a perimeter timeline fence
- The history of the African-American community known as "Smokey Hollow" will be interpreted at a plaza that will include a misting fountain and Smokey Hollow bronze relief
- The historic Meridian Monument will be celebrated as the centerpiece of the park
- A major entertainment venue will be incorporated with the Meridian Monument Plaza providing a covered stage and sloped amphitheater for over 3,500 people
- Adjacent to the Meridian Monument Plaza will be a cascade fountain that will interpret and celebrate the historic cascade that was located nearby
- Adjacent to the cascade fountain will be an interactive dancing fountain that will provide a major play venue in the park
- Boca Chuba (our City's symbolic flood protector) will be located at the outfall of the lower pond
- Other amenities may be added to the park in the future. These include but are not limited to a grand entrance from Monroe Street, a celebration of Centennial Field, the renovation of the Lake Hall School House, and a Veterans Memorial

PROJECT UPDATE

The design and permitting phase for Capital Cascade Park began in May 2006. The first step in the process was to complete a park programming effort that refined and expanded the Capital Cascade Trail Segment 2 Master Plan preferred concept. In June 2006, agenda setting meetings were held with project stakeholders, city and county staff, and area neighborhood representatives to assist the design team in further defining the anticipated park usage, event types and sizes, event requirements, and longer term maintenance issues. The results of this effort were presented to the public during the first Park Programming Workshop.

Based on the input from the stakeholders along with community input from the initial Park Programming Workshop, a Preferred Concept Plan was developed and presented to the Citizens Advisory Committee and to the Technical Coordinating Committee.

During the second Programming Workshop, the Preferred Concept Plan was supplemented with renderings to illustrate the design intent. Following this second workshop, the Preferred Concept Plan was presented to and approved by the Intergovernmental Agency (IA). With this approval, the design team initiated the detailed design of Capital Cascade Park.

Phase 2 construction plans (50%) were presented during the final Public Meeting in October 2007. In December 2007 a \$10 million fundraising campaign was kicked off with the announcement of a \$662,000 donation for the park walkways and trails. Tallahassee-based Capital Health Plan made the donation stating that the 2.3 miles of trails will encourage physical fitness and improved health.

The design team is currently working on the completion of the 90% construction documents and has initiated the permitting process. Federal, state, regional and local regulatory agencies will participate in the extensive permitting effort that must be completed prior to starting construction. The critical path regulatory agency in the permitting process is the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) which is a two step process. The first application is for a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) that evaluates the existing conditions. The LOMR will be submitted to FEMA by mid 2008. The second application is for a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) that will address the proposed improvements. Following the permitting process, construction contracting will commence. Depending on the permitting process, construction is expected to commence late 2009 with the first completed section of the park open to the public in late 2011.



Top - Meridian Monument Plaza, Bottom - Amphitheater





PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Capital Cascade Park has been recognized by Blueprint 2000 as the centerpiece of the Capital Cascade Trail greenway project. Forming a gentle bend in the southeast corner of Tallahassee's downtown, Capital Cascade Park will ultimately provide significant stormwater management facilities that will abate the existing flooding problems along the St. Augustine Branch and provide a beautiful setting for a world class park.

The stormwater management facilities will include a series of organically shaped ponds connected by a restored stream bed landscaped with native and "Florida Friendly" riparian vegetation to protect the stream bank from erosion and create natural habitat. The stormwater facilities will provide both flood protection and treatment of urban runoff pollutants. A large underground culvert will divert the runoff generated by large storm events directly to the lower pond to protect the integrity of the restored stream bank and to minimize the impact to the park. Capital Cascade Park is being designed to flood during major storm events. This is necessary to provide the desired flood relief both upstream and downstream of the park.

Capital Cascade Park will be a continuous park extending from Lafayette Street on the north to Monroe Street on the southwest. To make the park continuous, Gaines Street (from Meridian Street to Suwannee Street), Gadsden Street (from Bloxham Street to north of the railroad), and Bloxham Street (from Gadsden Street to Meridian Street) will be removed. To address vehicular circulation issues and to provide additional "eyes on the park", a new park road will be constructed adjacent to the railroad to connect Gadsden Street to Suwannee Street. This new roadway will be named Cascade Park Lane.

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SCHEDULE

