GREENWAY LINKAGES PLAN
(For Northern Overland Park)

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Implementing The Plan:

What is a Greenway Linkage?
A greenway linkage is defined as open space land set aside for public use that is in linear form. A greenway linkage provides a continuous landscaped linear or greenway area. Following natural and developed areas and existing topography, existing greenways should be extended and enhanced to encourage use by people. These linkages may vary in width and may be created by using separate adjacent parcels of land or may be located within the rights-of-way of existing or future streets. These linkages may range in width from a narrow trail to a wide park.

What is the Greenway Linkages Plan and Guidelines?
The Greenway Linkages Plan and Guidelines are separate documents. The Greenway Linkages Plan addresses the comprehensive level of the needs of the City. It includes a map that is included in the City’s Comprehensive Plan, updated annually and shows the types of linkages proposed and the areas of the city that may include these linkages. The Guidelines, which are only reviewed periodically, are an updated document from the Comprehensive Plan. The Guidelines describe a level and show a series of graphic illustrations the five different types of greenway linkages that are proposed. More detailed explanations of the illustrations below can be found from the Greenway Linkages Guidelines.

How can you use the Greenway Linkages Plan and Guidelines?
The Greenway Linkages Plan and Guidelines can be used to determine the location and identify the types of linkages proposed in an area.

What is the process for acquiring individual linkages?
The process for acquiring individual linkages is as follows:

First, the area shown on the Greenway Linkages Map and Guidelines is identified on the site planning for a preliminary plan for a subdivision, preliminary plan for a commercial development, or preliminary plan for a multi-use development.

Second, the land identified on the Greenway Linkages Map and Guidelines can be reviewed to determine how it is used and if it is available for acquisition. If the land is available, the developer may purchase the property and, in turn, use the plan to help in coordinating the development of the proposed multi-use development.

Third, the City builds the bike/pedestrian trail where it is available. In some cases, the City may acquire additional easements to be used for public walkways, such as building within the rights-of-way of commercial or mixed-use developments. In some cases, the City may acquire additional easements to be used in the development of the trail. In other cases, the City may acquire additional easements for the development of a trail.

Fourth, the City installs plant materials and seed or sod to create a viable greenway linkage. In some cases, the City may acquire additional easements to be used in the development of the trail.

Fifth, the City builds all landscaping and improvements on the site.

Sixth, the City builds all landscaping and improvements on the site, including the open space and trail elements.

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Implementing The Plan:

A major limitation in developing the Greenway Linkages Plan for Northern Overland Park is the challenge of developing a plan for a built-out area of the city. Fewer options are available for linking long-established neighborhoods, shopping, and office areas with existing parkland, schools, the new community center, and other public facilities. Most streets are already built and 4-foot wide sidewalks are already in place. In north Overland Park, outside of Indian Creek, there are few opportunities to build trails along minor streams as many flow through private backyards or are piped underground.

Although limited, there are cases where the right-of-way is adequate for a greenway linkage. In some cases, 4-foot wide, asphalt or concrete multipe歉 trails are possible. In other cases, the use of the existing 4-foot wide sidewalk and a proposed on-street bike route is the only practical way of providing a linkage.

Changes to the Plan will likely occur as some opportunities will not be feasible while other opportunities may open up. In many circumstances, the proposed multi-use trails will be built when funds become available and issues can be worked out with the adjacent property owners.

The Plan for north Overland Park is proposed to be developed over a 15 to 20 year period. Similar to the Plan for the south, the Plan for the north will be reviewed annually as part of this update to the City’s Comprehensive Plan.