



Hunnicutt Food Forest

Students for Stewardship is a student-led group at Clemson University committed to restoring ecosystems and advancing sustainability. We turn underutilized spaces into productive, resilient landscapes that benefit both the campus and community.

We've made an impact by adopting Reach-One of Hunnicutt Creek, starting mushroom logs for the **Hunnicutt Food Forest**, participating in Arbor Day plantings, and launching restoration projects. By working with Clemson's Sustainability Commission, city officials, and community groups, we're transforming neglected spaces into thriving ecosystems.

Our Vision – The Green Corridor Opportunity

Clemson has a strong foundation with the South Carolina Botanical Gardens, and now is the time to expand that success. We aim to create green corridors that improve biodiversity, enhance mobility, and strengthen climate resilience.

By partnering with Clemson University and the City of Clemson, **We can use storm debris, salvaged materials, and student efforts to expand green spaces at low cost.** With the right support, we can turn this vision into reality.

Our Ask – We need your help

To make this vision a reality, we need support, resources, and institutional backing. Specifically, we are asking for:

- A Trash Can – A simple yet essential addition to keep the site clean.
- Road Maintenance & Pathways – Improvements to the access road and a new path that aligns with the Green Crescent Trail.
- A Water Source – We hope to put a shed near the water main to store tools and provide irrigation.
- Official Support – Recognition from Clemson University and the City to legitimize and expand our work.
- Engagement from You – We need partners, advocates, and guidance to bring this green corridor to life.

We're ready to turn vision into action—let's build something lasting together!

Overview - Getting into Official Plans

The Hunnicutt Food Forest (HFF) represents a unique opportunity to align with both Clemson University's Long-Range Framework Plan and the City of Clemson's Comprehensive Plan. As both the university and city pursue initiatives centered around sustainability, pedestrian connectivity, and urban green spaces, HFF can serve as a living laboratory for community-driven ecological restoration, urban food production, and sustainable land use. By integrating HFF into broader university and city planning efforts, we can enhance public engagement, environmental stewardship, and multimodal accessibility for both students and the broader Clemson community.

Key Objectives



Strengthening University & City Collaboration

Aligning The City of Clemson's **Comprehensive Plan** and **Clemson University's Long-Range Framework Plan** emphasizes stronger **town-gown relationships**, making East Campus an ideal bridge between university and city-led initiatives.

- Coordination with Clemson University various stakeholders, city officials, and community groups/stakeholders presents a key opportunity to integrate HFF into planned expansions like the Green Crescent Trail, Botanical Gardens enhancements, and urban landscape connectivity projects.

Enhancing Campus & City-Wide Mobility: The Missing Link

HFF is strategically located near the Green Crescent Trail, Botanical Gardens, and Gateway Park, creating a continuous green corridor that connects university spaces with the broader Clemson community.

- This effort aligns with the university's initiatives to expand President's Park, enhance the Pecan Grove, and implement green infrastructure improvements.
- City planning efforts emphasize the expansion of non-vehicular transit options, including pedestrian-friendly spaces and bike connectivity, reinforcing the role of HFF in improving mobility and sustainability.

MOBILITY BIG IDEA #1

Pedestrian Enhancements

Designating central campus as a Pedestrian Priority Zone and enhancing pedestrian connectivity

The creation of a Pedestrian Priority Zone (PPZ) in the campus core is a key recommendation of the Framework Plan. Implementing the PPZ will require several interrelated strategies to ensure that a coordinated mobility system is established over the coming years. These strategies include:

- Closing streets within the PPZ to general vehicular traffic
- Relocating parking to the periphery of the PPZ and other outlying areas
- Diverting traffic from Walter T. Cox Blvd. and Cherry Road to Perimeter Road
- Emphasizing Perimeter Road as the main access and cross-campus road
- Expanding the bicycle network
- Locating transit hubs to provide convenient access to the PPZ

The Pedestrian Priority Zone (PPZ) encompasses the central campus area generally extending from Walter T. Cox Blvd. and Heisman Street on the north, Cherry Road on the east, and Williamson Road on the west. The southern boundary is located within the interior of the campus and is defined by the Ag Quad, the STI building, and the proposed Southwest Quad. Overall, the idea is to limit vehicular traffic in the campus core to the degree possible, with the understanding that limited access will be necessary for transit, service,

and emergency vehicles as well as members of the campus community who are issued permits to use remaining parking spaces, including ADA parking areas.

The Framework Plan includes recommendations for reinforcing and extending major pedestrian corridors within the PPZ. Improvements are proposed with the goal of integrating each corridor with the campus landscape framework and improving accessibility. Each corridor will be coordinated with campus landscape objectives including a comprehensive shade tree strategy. Universal access also will be stressed where the corridors extend into new areas of the campus and where new construction or renovation projects provide the opportunity to resolve existing vertical impediments to movement, especially stairs.

The proposed pedestrian corridor network is designed to establish a grid of north-south and east-west circulation routes consisting of the following:

- East Walk
- West Way & Fike Way
- Library Walk
- Ag Quad Walk
- Bowman Way

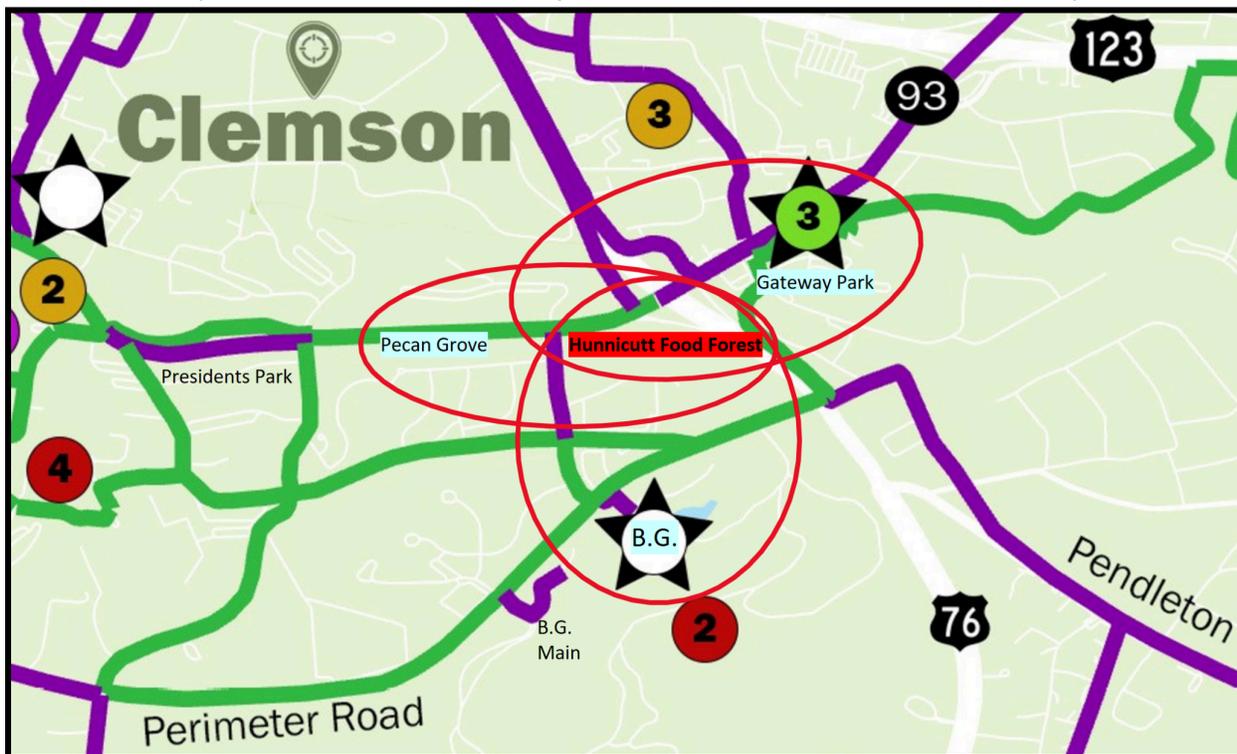


- Major Pedestrian Connection
- New / Enhanced Pedestrian Connection
- Pedestrianized Road
- New Pedestrian / Bike Off-road Trail
- Pedestrian Priority Zone

MAIN CAMPUS: MAJOR PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS
Enhancing pedestrian movement in the heart of campus and extending connections across-campus and to Lake Hartwell

MOBILITY 4179

The Hunnicutt Food Forest is strategically located near the Botanical Gardens, Pecan Grove, and Gateway Park, making it a Key Location for Green Crescent Trail development and potentially one of the most important junctions of pedestrian and bike pathways.



Strategic Location & Supporting Framework

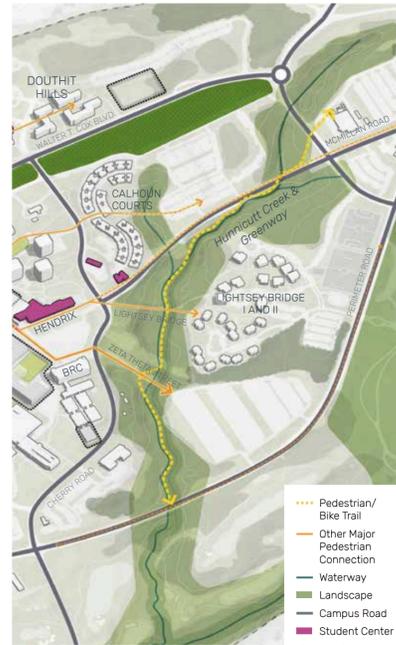
HFF is adjacent to multiple planned enhancements in Clemson's urban and university landscape, positioning it as a key focal point for ecological and urban development initiatives:

1. Hunnicutt Creek Greenway & Environmental Restoration

- The proposed Hunnicutt Creek Greenway aligns with Clemson University's goal of enhancing transit routes and restoring riparian ecosystems. By integrating native vegetation and improving water management, the project supports broader efforts to expand ecological restoration and strengthen non-vehicular connectivity within the Clemson community.

NATURAL OPEN SPACES & IMPROVED CONNECTIONS
Hunnicutt Creek Greenway and Environmental Restoration

Hunnicutt Creek runs through the eastern half of campus, passing underneath Lightsey Bridge. This creek corridor is currently experiencing erosion along its banks and restoration efforts are underway. In the future, this natural greenway could be enhanced with a multiuse trail, which could eventually connect towards Lake Hartwell.



TRAILS AND CONNECTIONS TO NATURAL RESOURCES

This map illustrates possible improvements to pedestrian and bicycle access to Lake Hartwell and other natural resources.

- Existing Major Pedestrian Connection / Campus Loop
- New or Enhanced Major Pedestrian Connection / Campus Loop
- Bike Connection to the Experimental Forest
- Long-term Option: Hunnicutt to Hartwell Greenway
- Lake Hartwell Access Point

2. Pecan Grove & President's Park Expansion

- The planned expansion of President's Park into Pecan Grove aligns with Clemson University's vision for improved green infrastructure and pedestrian connectivity. These spaces serve as critical corridors for recreation and biodiversity (American Chestnuts?), providing a natural integration of the Green Crescent Trail into campus.



NEW & ENHANCED OPEN SPACES

Expanded President's Park

The open space between Thornhill Village and Walter T. Cox Blvd. has the potential to be enhanced, acting as an extension of President's Park. The goal is to further reinforce the gateway character of this area, improving the experience of entering campus. The character could build upon President's Park, or it could be something else memorable and distinct.



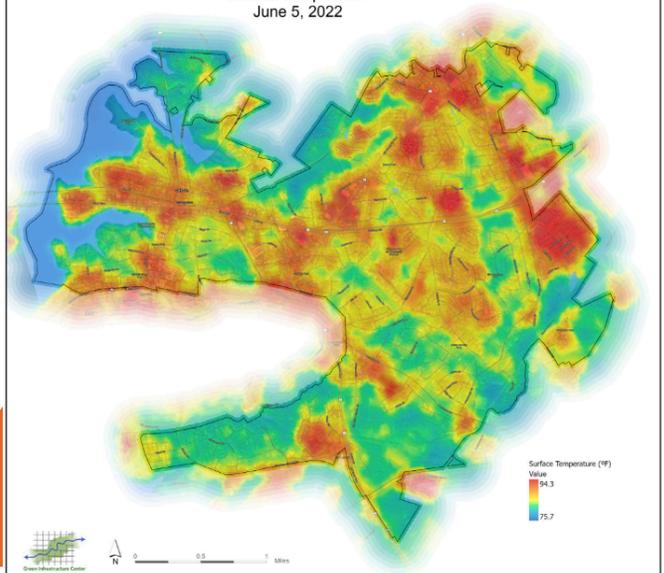
3. Heat Island Reduction & Urban Forestry Initiatives

- Both the University and City have Concerns and goals to Expand tree canopy coverage and implement urban forestry initiatives to help mitigate the heat island effect in Clemson. By integrating shade trees, green corridors, and native vegetation, these efforts enhance environmental resilience, improve air quality, and create cooler, more comfortable public spaces for both students and the broader community.



HEAT ISLANDS AND COOLING SHADE
On a hot day, some parts of campus feel hotter than others. Areas with lots of paving get hotter than areas with shade and green space.

Clemson, SC
Surface Temperature
June 5, 2022



Proposed Next Steps

- 1. Schedule a Site Walk & Discussion with Key Stakeholders**
 - **Facilitated by Students for Stewardship** to bring together university planners, facilities representatives, and the Green Crescent Trail team.
 - **Proposed Date:** Based on stakeholder availability via [LettuceMeet Poll](#).
- 2. Identify Collaboration & Funding Opportunities**
 - **University:** Integration into East Campus transformation plans.
 - **Green Crescent Trail Team:** Leveraging community partnerships for trail connectivity.
 - **City of Clemson:** Ensuring complementary planning efforts for broader pedestrian accessibility.
- 3. Develop a Phased Implementation Plan**
 - **Phase 1:** Site Assessment, Pathway Design, and Community Use Strategy.
 - **Phase 2:** Planting & Infrastructure Cohesion.
 - **Phase 3:** Educational Programming & Community Engagement.

Conclusion

We already have an incredible foundation with Clemson’s Botanical Gardens—now is the time to expand on that success and double down on our green infrastructure goals. With the right planning and partnerships, we can transform HFF into a model for sustainability, community resilience, and ecological restoration.

At Clemson, we have the best that South Carolina has to offer of experts, students, and community leaders that can help bring this project to life. By leveraging woodchips from storm debris and repurposing materials from campus remodeling efforts, we can turn what would be waste into valuable resources that support soil health, biodiversity, and long-term sustainability.

Let’s embrace the principles of a circular economy and build something truly beautiful together—a space that nurtures people, enhances our environment, and showcases the power of collaborative, community-driven action.



CONNECTING CAMPUS Perimeter Road Gateway Character

Under the Framework Plan, Perimeter Road will be reinforced as a gateway to the campus for visitors as well as day-to-day commuters. Enhancements are proposed to the landscape and signage elements along the road with the aim of improving wayfinding and to more closely integrate the roadway with the identity of the University. Proposed improvements include:

- Creating a boulevard streetscape in conjunction with the widening of Perimeter Road from Cherry Road to Highway 76 and the construction of the Newman Road roundabout and extension.
- New landscape and signage features at major destination points along the road: Cherry Road (directions to the Hendrix Student Center); Brooks Center for the Performing Arts; Visitor Center/Kappa Street; and the sporting venues on the west side of campus.

