

City of Norcross

*65 Lawrenceville Street
Norcross, GA 30071*



Meeting Agenda

**Thursday, February 20, 2025
5:00 PM**

2nd Floor Conference Room

Parks, Green Spaces, and Trails Commission

Tixie Fowler, Chair

Joe Weber, Board Member

Kassie Diehl, Board Member

Scott Leslie, Board Member

Jon Davis, Board Member

1. **Call to Order**
PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES
2. **Action Item: Ratification of January 2025 Meeting Minutes**
[Parks, Green Spaces, and Trails Commission - Regular Meeting - Jan 16, 2025, 5:00 PM](#)
3. **Ongoing Business**
 - A. **Council Update** (*Councilman Bruce Gaynor*)
 - B. **Tree Preservation Board Update** (*Terry Sutton*)
 - C. **Parks, Greenspaces, Trails & Green Infrastructure Master Plan Updates**
 - Joe Weber will provide highlights of 2025 AARP Community Challenge grants opportunities
 - Kassie will provide status of outreach to Christ Episcopal Church re potential expansion of Johnson Dean Forest in collaboration with Tree Preservation Board
 - Hunter Rawls will update status of the proposed green roof kiosk in Pinnacle Park and trees installation at Summerour Park
 - Tixie will share Councilman Myers' report re discussions with Church re parking at proposed Phase 1 of development of 10-acre land
 - Scott and Jon will report status of RFP for concept plan development of greenspace Priority One Project
 - Tixie will facilitate self-assignment of Board member projects based on strategies prioritized in PGT&GI Plan. Tixie will reference the following:

Suggested Reading (for discussion). Source: PGT&GI Plan, 2024:
"Protect the City's Ecological Bones" (pg. 117, 119)
"Strategic Stewardship to enhance Nature" (pgs. 121 - 131)
"Create Natural Connections to Recreation" (pgs. 135 - 137)
"Optimize Green Spaces to Serve Community Needs" (pg. 139)
"Funding" (pgs. 151-154)
4. **New Business**
None.
5. **Additional Input/Discussion Not Otherwise Addressed By This Agenda**
6. **Adjourn**
Next meeting March 20, 2025

City of Norcross

65 Lawrenceville Street
Norcross, GA 30071



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 16, 2025
5:00 PM

2nd Floor Conference Room

Parks, Green Spaces, and Trails Commission

Tixie Fowler, Chair

Joe Weber, Board Member

Kassie Diehl, Board Member

Scott Leslie, Board Member

Jon Davis, Board Member

1. Call to Order

The Parks, Green Spaces, and Trails Commission meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Chair Tixie Fowler.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Departed
Tixie Fowler	Chair	Present	
Joe Weber	Commission Member	Present	
Kassie Diehl	Commission Member	Present	
Scott Leslie	Commission Member	Present	6:34 PM
Jon Davis	Commission Member	Present	

Additional Attendees:

Hunter Rawls - Staff liaison

Terry Sutton - Tree Preservation Board liaison

Charlie Riehm - Tree Preservation Board

Bruce Gaynor - City Council liaison

2. Ratification of December 2024 Meeting Minutes (Action Item)

Parks, Green Spaces, and Trails Commission – Regular Meeting - Dec 19, 2024 5:00 PM

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Joe Weber, Commission Member
SECONDER:	Jon Davis, Commission Member
AYES:	Fowler, Weber, Diehl, Leslie, Davis

3. Ongoing Business

A. Council Update - (Councilman Bruce Gaynor)

Per PG&T's request for guidance re prioritizing PGT&GI Plan strategies, Gaynor advised PG&T to steer away from buying land at this time and instead focus on leveraging greenspaces already owned by City. Gaynor also updated the Commission on rumors that the Downtown Development Agency (DDA) was planning to extend Skin Alley up to City Hall, noting that actual plans are to create a pedestrian-friendly contiguous pathway from City Hall to far end of Downtown Historic Norcross. Chairperson Tixie noted this connectivity goal is part of PG&T assignment to create and endorse trails and pathways development throughout the city and suggested DDA include PG&T in ongoing connectivity development. Tixie also noted the shared concerns of PG&T and the Tree Preservation Board regarding the health of the American Elm and Gaynor emphatically assured the Commission that the Elm's expansive root system and overall health will be protected and preserved to the full ability of the city at all times.

B. Tree Preservation Board (TPB) Update (Terry Sutton and Charlie Riehm)

Charlie presented the TPB's goal of expanding the footprint of Johnson Dean Forest Preserve and to work with Christ Episcopal Church to either negotiate a legal right-of-way through church property for a trail and/or buy outright as city property. Discussion was if best to create a conservation easement or other options. Commission board discussed liability issues and land management.

TO DO: Charlie and Kassie agreed to partner and reach out to key church stakeholders to "brainstorm" opportunities. Goal is to create a "what if" scenario and present to City Manager for funding considerations.

C. Parks, Greenspaces, Trails & Green Infrastructure Master Plan Updates

Hunter Rawls shared overview of the proposed green roof kiosk in Pinnacle Park noting that Norcross Sustainability Manager Jalia Killings is spearheading that project.

Scott Leslie reported the timing is not right to pursue the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) "Call for Projects" and both he and Jon Davis recommended a phased concept plan be developed for the greenspaces targeted for parks development in East Norcross (per PGT&GI Plan).

TO DO: Scott and Jon agreed to present to Council at the next Planning Session a request for direction re the appropriateness of developing an RFP with Staff.

4. New Business

None.

5. Additional Input/Discussion Not Otherwise Addressed By This Agenda**6. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM with a motion to adjourn made by Joe, seconded by Kassie; motion passed 4-0 (Scott had left meeting at 6:34pm)