

City of Norcross

65 Lawrenceville Street
Norcross, GA 30071



Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 18, 2025
5:00 PM

Public Works, Utilities, and Parks Facility
Parks, Green Spaces, and Trails Commission

Tixie Fowler, Chair

Joe Weber, Commission Member

Kassie Diehl, Commission Member

Scott Leslie, Commission Member

Jon Davis, Commission Member

1. Call to Order by Chair Tixie Fowler

The Parks, Green Spaces, and Trails Commission Special Called Meeting (rescheduled from the August 21, 2025 Regular Meeting) was called to order at 5:06 p.m. by Chair Tixie Fowler.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tixie Fowler	Chair	Present	
Joe Weber	Commission Member	Present	
Kassie Diehl	Commission Member	Present	
Scott Leslie	Commission Member	Present	
Jon Davis	Commission Member	Present	

Attending Public:

Terry Sutton - Tree Preservation Board Liaison
 Michael Jones - Staff Liaison

2. Action Item: Ratification of July, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Parks, Green Spaces, and Trails Commission – Regular Meeting - Jul 17, 2025 5:00 PM

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

3. Ongoing Business

A. Council Update - (Councilman Bruce Gaynor)

Gaynor absent, no report submitted.

B. Tree Preservation Board Update - (Terry Sutton)

Terry shared TPB's discussion re purchasing approximately 3 acres of land adjacent to Johnson Dean Forest Preserve and currently owned by Christ Church Episcopal. He reported that City Parks & Utilities Director Len Housley had attended a meeting with key Church stakeholders to discuss and that Len had informed the Church that the City - if it were to make an offer on the land (not confirmed that they will) would only consider offering appraised value of land. Len agreed to securing a survey of the parcels being considered and an appraisal of that land's current market value. PG&T noted that the proposed parcels do not result in connection from Barton St to Holcomb Bridge.

Terry also reported TPB's findings that City of Norcross' total tree canopy has been reduced by 22 acres in the past 18 - 24 months.

C. RFP for Piedmont Pathway Concept Report Update (Michael Jones)

Michael report Norcross City Council had approved the contractor selected to conduct the Piedmont Pathway Feasibility Study and a contract had been signed. Michael invited PGT to attend the project kickoff meeting (date and time to be determined) - Tixie, Scott and Jon said they would like to attend.

D. New Projects Planning

Commission members brainstormed ideas for strategies addressing selected strategies outlined in the PGT&GI Master Plan and self-assigned projects they will lead in collaboration with other PGT members, City staff and other local stakeholders (including other City volunteer boards.) Projects identified are as follows:

Kassie - Collaborating with Michael Jones to develop proposal for subcontracted youth programming in Norcross Parks for 2026. Kassie also agreed to write an article re group rides with students to school for submission to City of Norcross newsletter on behalf of PG&T.

Scott - collaborating with Norcross Sustainability Manager Jalia Killings to expand existing bike route for Pedal Norcross (October 18, 2025) and plan a table display promoting PG&T outreach initiatives such as surveying bikers for feedback on expanded route and additional feedback re biking in Norcross.

Joe - researching and organizing list of grant opportunities for greenspace and programming as outlined in PGT&GI Master Plan. Joe will gain understanding of land purchase opportunities for the city such as land banks, conservation credits, and propose strategies for engaging local private and corporate sponsors for projects funding.

Jon - developing a proposal for a series of local workshops potentially titled "Seeing Norcross As a Forest" as an effort to increase public awareness of the economic and ecological benefits of supporting forest remnants and greenspaces on both private and public land. Seeking potential project partners such as UGA Gwinnett Extension to assist with translation in order to support local Latino community members.

Tixie - identifying landmarks and environmental assets in the Downtown Historic Norcross area that will support a "Garden and Pollinator Trail" and propose a possible collaboration with Norcross Public Arts Commission and City of Norcross staff members to develop trail signage and promotion. Tixie will also address recommendations highlighted in PGT&GI Master Plan to increase awareness of City of Norcross parks locations.

4. New Business

None.

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

Scott reported meeting with Norcross Sustainability Manager Jalia Killings regarding his proposed bike route extension and shared the following outcomes:

- Jalia supported Scott's ideas for extending the annual bike route cycled at Pedal Norcross event, and agreed to meet with Norcross Police Chief to confirm feasibility of extended route. Scott reminded PG&T that the proposed route does not include bike trails east of Buford Hwy, noting that routes in this area will be addressed by both the Norcross Greenway and future Piedmont Pathway, and that connection from Historic Norcross to these futures projects is considered in his vision for expanding bike routes throughout the community.
- Jalia is reportedly checking into the status of Norcross' "Vision Zero" study and verify the parameters of the study area. She plans to share the City's proposed future bike routes and pedestrian paths (including new greenway) at Pedal Norcross.

6. Adjourn

Next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Thursday, September 18, 2025.

ACTION ITEM: Motion to adjourn made by Scott. Seconded by Joe; motion passed 5-0.