

Charlotte • 2020 • Visit theloopclt.org



The New Heartbeat of SouthPark

The Loop is a **CATALYST PROJECT** that brings a new kind of energy and **VITALITY** to SouthPark. It will enhance what people already know and love about the community by providing **NEW EXPERIENCES** that SouthPark has not had, and what people **EXPECT TODAY**. Across Charlotte and across the country the most vibrant, **SUCCESSFUL** and desirable **PLACES** to live, work and play are **ANCHORED** by active, culturally vibrant and inclusive public spaces. It is **CRITICAL** that SouthPark move quickly to **ADDRESS THIS EXPECTATION**. In combination with Symphony Park, the Loop will fill a **MISSING PIECE** of SouthPark's long term appeal as a **GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD** for businesses, residents, and visitors.



Active Public Spaces | Guthrie Green
Credit: Jonnu Singleton:SWA



REGULAR EVENTS | PHILADELPHIA NIGHT MARKET
Credit: Dave Tavani for The Food Trust



SMALL-SCALE PLACEMAKING
Credit: Dániel Kiss

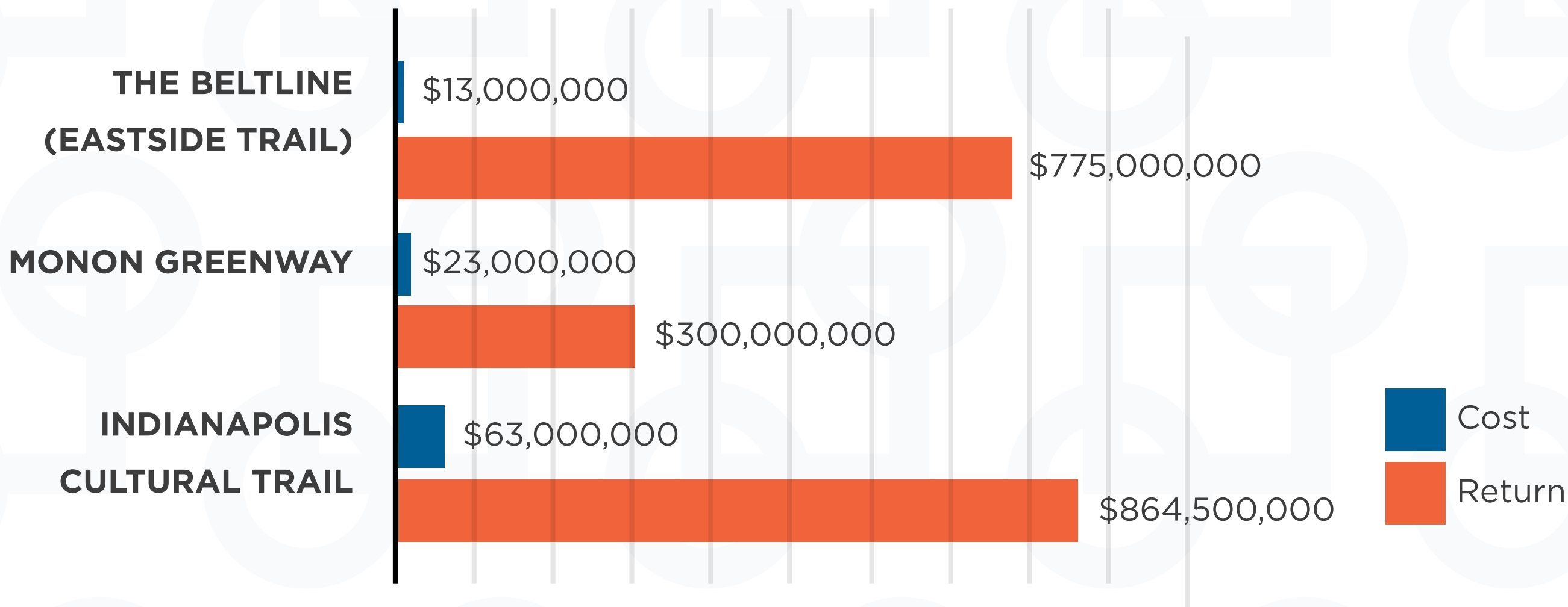


INTEGRATED ART
Credit: Nicola Parente

COST VS. RETURN OF TRAIL CASE STUDIES

Benefits

The last twenty years have seen the resurgence of urban walkable places. Few investments have outperformed public spaces as drivers of economic value, quality of life, safety, civic engagement, and opportunity. And most of all this is what the residents of SouthPark have asked for.



#2 PRIORITY OF OVER 45 PROJECTS identified through the CNIP project **the residents of SouthPark wanted for their neighborhood**

Multimodal paths are proven to be one of the **most effective tools** to **REDUCE TRAFFIC** and physical safety in urban and suburban environments.

(Trust for Public Land, 2015)

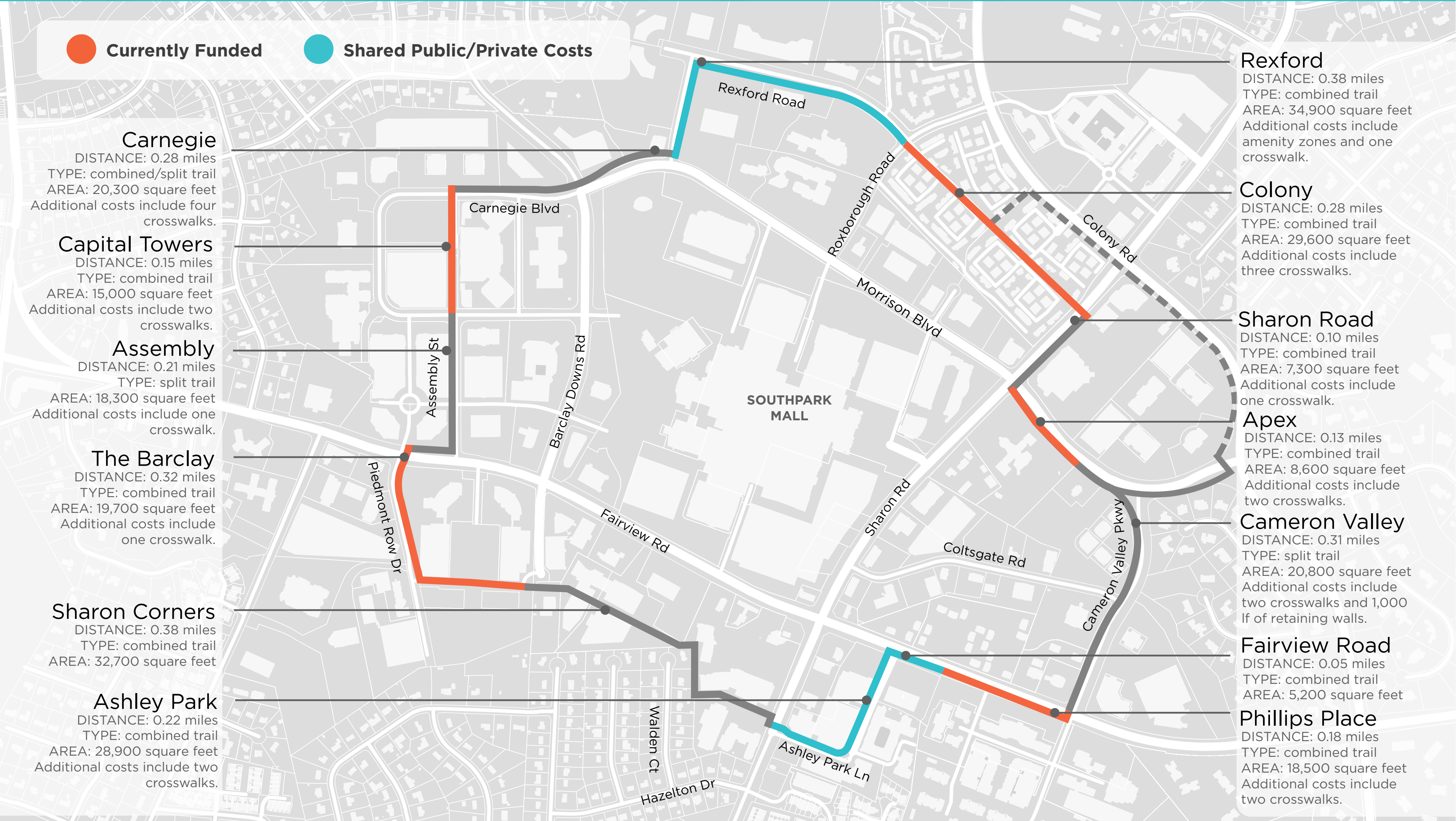
74%
higher rent rates for offices
in walkable urban areas

Nearly half of home buyers would pay **10%** more for homes located near parks and open space and **71%** of homeowners report say **it is important to be close** to trail when looking for a home

172%
increase in retail sales
for businesses surrounding quality public spaces

Progress

This is an investment in SouthPark (and Charlotte's future) that has been years in the making. It builds on a significant investment from the City, input from our residents, and is on the path to becoming one of Charlotte's signature assets.



- 2016**
ULI Technical Assistance Panel
SouthPark Study Area Identifies Improvements needed for the SouthPark area.
- 2018**
CNIP Study
City invests in the SouthPark area - The Loop identified as a priority by all stakeholders.
- 2018-2019**
Loop Design
Team selected - Vision and Design direction created.
- 2020**
Construction Begins
Initial sections of the Loop delivered - Childress Klein, Liberty Development lead the way by constructing initial segments of the loop.
- 2020**
Operating Plan
Phase 2 of design work - Funding strategies and operating plan and organizing structure identified.
- 2021**
Phase 1
First sections of the Loop open and initial program events are held.
- 2025**
Loop Complete



The Beltline | Atlanta, GA



Seattle Parklet | Seattle, Washington
Credit: Seattle DOT



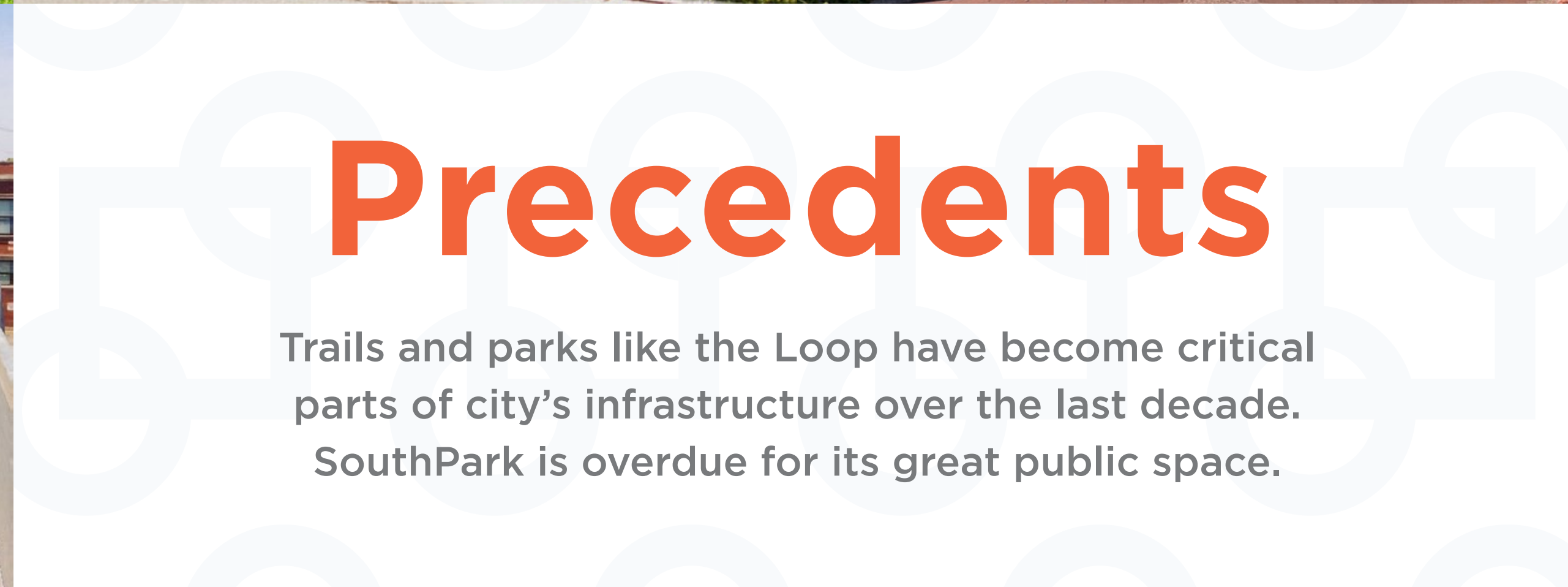
Cultural Trail | Indianapolis, IN



The Rail Trail | Charlotte, NC



The 606 Trail | Chicago, IL



Precedents

Trails and parks like the Loop have become critical parts of city's infrastructure over the last decade. SouthPark is overdue for its great public space.



Chicago Loop | Chicago, IL
Credit: Daniel X. O'Neil



Katy Trail | Dallas TX
Credit: Travel + Leisure



Monon Greenway | Carmel, IN



Guthrie Green | Tulsa, OK
Credit: Jonnu Singleton:SWA



Domino Park | Brooklyn, NY
Credit: Scott Beale

Costs

To ensure the Loop lives up to its promise and secures the long term vitality of SouthPark we need partners to help augment the investments the City and key developers have already made.

TOTAL ANTICIPATED COST
\$25.7M

EQUALS

COST PER MILE
\$7.34M

COMPARED TO

I-77 TOLL LANES
\$647M

ANNUAL OPERATING COST
\$1.0M

Includes staff responsible for programming, day to day operations, routine maintenance and landscaping, and lighting costs.

COST OF SIMILAR FACILITIES

INDIANAPOLIS CULTURAL TRAIL

\$7.8M/MILE

MONON TRAIL

\$5.7M/MILE

KATY TRAIL

\$6.1M/MILE

FUNDING GAP
\$19.2M

I-85 WIDENING
\$262M

TYPICAL LIGHT RAIL COSTS

\$100M/MILE

FAQ

Q What is the timeline?

A This is a complex project that requires cooperation amongst dozens of parties and through a well-developed part of town. The good news is that all the work has been done to envision and create a framework plan so we can move quickly with implementation. We are excited that we have a path to complete this in just five years – other examples of projects like this had similar or longer timelines.

Q How does The Loop align with future potential Transportation and Transit infrastructure improvements?

A There is not a silver bullet for traffic, but changing consumer behavior is a huge part of the solution. SouthPark has long been a car oriented place because there wasn't an appealing way to get around other than by car. Studies have shown that X% of the trips in the SouthPark area are people going from point to point within the neighborhood. The Loop will make it more practical (and fun!) to walk, bike or scooter than get in the car.

Q Who will maintain and program the Loop?

A We are studying various organizational models around the country and seeking input from key shareholders re: the best approach for Charlotte. There is likely to be a stand-alone nonprofit charged with stewarding ongoing investment, maintenance and programming of the Loop, which would also engage the public in ensuring the long-term health and vitality of the project. This group would be supported by an advisory board and City Staff.

Q How can I be confident that my contribution will be money well spent?

A There have been 3 studies prepared, including a ULI Technical Advisory Panel report developed by national experts across the country, that all result in this type of facility being a needed Improvement for the SouthPark area. Proven strategies and case studies nationally illustrate the return on the investment both financially and in quality of life. We have a neighborhood group In SouthPark Association of Neighborhoods that has a vested Interest and has been a shining example of community advocacy and will be leading the charge in oversight upon the start of this initial campaign.

Q How do the current circumstances including the COVID-19 pandemic and protests surrounding social injustice impact this project and others like it?

A Nationally recognized thought and urban design leaders are speaking out about the importance of inclusive and equitable public space investments just like The Loop. Though the topics are widely different, equitable public open space addresses both. Through the pandemic, national experts continue to emphasize the importance of being outside and being active. Active public spaces create opportunities for people to not only exercise their bodies but provide numerous benefits to mental health as well. There is a power in public space that unifies cities and neighborhoods in ways that will always be needed when developing successful communities. This project on numerous levels helps make the SouthPark area more resilient and desirable. Furthermore, while the impact of COVID is undeniable and long lasting, it will pass. The Loop will be an asset for SouthPark for decades to come and be a very visible and tangible example of inclusive and accessible investment in SouthPark.