



**Celebrate  
Greensboro**  
Art. Culture. Entertainment.



# Downtown Greenway

Connecting the  
Community

**G**reensboro boasts one of the best parks and recreation systems in the nation as well as a robust arts and culture scene. So it makes sense that the city works to fuse these two assets. And the new Downtown Greenway does just that.

The \$26 million, four-mile bike and pedestrian trail will loop around downtown, connecting dozens of neighborhoods. The Greenway also will serve as the hub for the city's entire trail system, which is currently being ramped up with an additional 400 miles of trails to complement the 81 miles already in existence. Oh, and did we mention it's the only one of its kind in the state?

Currently, a quarter of a mile of the Downtown Greenway has been completed

and is open for public enjoyment as the other phases begin design and construction. Not only does the Downtown Greenway promote a healthy lifestyle for residents and visitors, it also encourages alternative transportation, making it easy for city residents to walk, jog, or bike to downtown.

As if all that wasn't enough, the Downtown Greenway also serves as an open-air art venue adding to the city's great inventory of public art. Functional pieces such as benches, bike racks, trash cans, and signage, as well as pieces for historical and inspirational purposes, will be located throughout the Greenway. Several works of art already can be enjoyed.

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You'll find regional artist Juan Logan's granite and sandstone work titled *Grounded Here*. It commemorates the history of the Warnersville neighborhood, the first organized African-American community in Greensboro.

Continue your meditation at Five Points Bench designed by North Carolina artist Gary Gresko. Individual chairs, or "points," form the bench and each is carved with an inspiring word like "strength," "faith," and "hope."

The Downtown Greenway also will feature four major cornerstones of public art to represent the four pillars of Greensboro's character: motion, tradition, innovation, and freedom. Artists for the cornerstones are selected from a national pool to design and build the pieces.

Brower Hatcher, a Rhode Island artist, was selected to design the first cornerstone titled *Gateway of the Open Book*. More than



20 feet tall, the stainless-steel structure will change with the weather and time of day. Multiple layers of the geometric framework will incorporate work by local artist Frank Russell and by students at Greensboro's Jones Elementary School, making this structure a piece that truly connects the community with art. And that's the main purpose of the Downtown Greenway — to serve as a connection between the community, the city, and the arts.

Clockwise from top left: family biking, doggie water break along the Greenway, artist Frank Russell with elementary school students, artist Gary Gresko sitting on his Five Points Bench, and a part of the *Gateway of the Open Book* sculpture.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ACTION GREENSBORO