



# Razorback Regional Greenway

Benton and Washington Counties,  
Arkansas

Northwest Arkansas Regional  
Planning Commission

*Top: Cyclists utilizing an off-road section of the Razorback Regional Greenway. Photo by Finding Northwestern Arkansas. Bottom: The trail has encouraged physical activity by offering users a safe place for recreation. Photo by Finding Northwestern Arkansas.*

The Razorback Regional Greenway is a 36-mile bicycle and pedestrian network that connects six communities in Northwest Arkansas.

## CONTEXT

- Completed in 2015.
- South.
- Rural, urban, and suburban settings.
- \$38 million.

## BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

- Enhances connectivity between six towns with a multiuse path.
- Provides valuable recreational benefits.

## WHAT WAS THE PROJECT DRIVER?

The Razorback Regional Greenway in Northwest Arkansas began as a long-term goal of the area's regional planners, elected officials, and residents to increase mobility between the communities of Bentonville, Fayetteville, Johnson, Lowell, Rogers, and Springdale. In

2000, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) formed a task force to make regional trails a key component of their long-range transportation plan.

The route was to follow three historically significant routes in northwest Arkansas in conjunction with the Arkansas Heritage Trails program: the Butterfield Overland Mail route; Civil War routes; and the Trail of Tears. NWARPC facilitated a coordinated effort to gather input from the six communities via a series of **stakeholder engagement** opportunities, including public workshops and **design charrettes** to inform the design and route of the trail.

In November 2010, the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded NWARPC with a \$15 million Transportation Investment Generating

Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant to support the design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction of the trail. This grant was crucial to the completion of the project. Additionally, the Walton Family Foundation advocated for and supported the Razorback Regional Greenway, and pledged \$15 million for its development.

### HOW DID THIS CONNECT THE COMMUNITY?



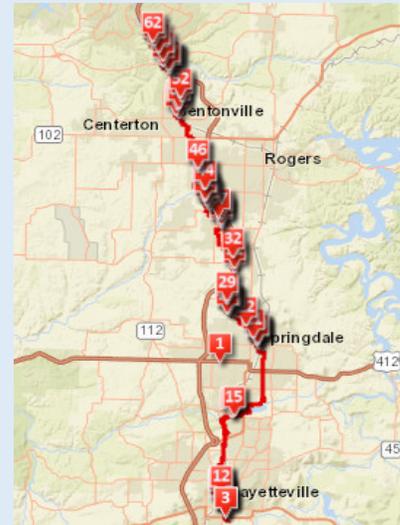
Cyclists taking the Razorback Regional Greenway to work. The trail serves as an important commuting route for residents. Photo by Finding Northwestern Arkansas.

The 36-mile shared-use trail extends from south Fayetteville to the Bella Vista Trail in north Bentonville. NWARPC's long-range transportation plan envisioned the majority of the trail to be constructed on roadways, with off-road sections integrated where appropriate.

The Greenway provides bicyclists and pedestrians with an efficient, low-stress, high-comfort route between 23 schools (including the University of Arkansas campus), three hospitals, arts and entertainment venues, parks, residential communities, shopping areas, and historic sites (such as the Trail of Tears Memorial and Veterans Wall of Honor). The trail also provides commuters with alternative transportation options to several major employment centers along the length of the corridor.

The greenway's design team used **Context Sensitive Solutions** and **Complete Streets** strategies to include a robust informational

signage program along the trail, including kiosks with regional and local maps, signs showing the distance to destinations, crossing and warning signs, community visitor guides, and interpretative signage.



A map showing the full extent of the Razorback Regional Greenway and the points of interest along the trail. Map by NWARPC.

As part of Arkansas' Transportation Alternatives Program, the Razorback Regional Greenway also embraces principles of "tactical urbanism" **pilot projects** that are low-budget, site-specific, community-informed, and rapidly deployable.

### WHAT WERE THE BENEFITS?



#### INVEST

The Razorback Regional Greenway has provided the residents of Northwest Arkansas with increased mobility between their communities along a seamless, safe, and accessible trail. The signage features have also increased user safety and enhanced navigation of the region's attractions. The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department identified future plans to expand the connecting trails and the greenway's bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure in the 2017 Arkansas Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan.

**For more information:** <http://nwarpc.org/razorback-regional-greenway/>