

The Violet Crown Trail System is an ambitious project to create a community-wide regional trail system that will link the central City of Austin, Texas to its southern urban edge and beyond to the rural hill country. The City of Austin, the Hill Country Conservancy, and many other stakeholders are proposing a multi-modal trail system that will be a unique intersection of environmental, business, and community interests in providing a trail that will allow an alternative transportation system. The trail will provide access to commercial and retail centers, neighborhoods, parks, and other points of destination. The proposed trail will connect to major highways, arterials and residential streets.

The Violet Crown Trail System will provide a primary trail that will stretch for approximately 34 miles. The trail will begin in Zilker Park in downtown Austin and travel southward to the existing trail system in the City of Sunset Valley just south of U.S. Hwy 290. From there, the trail will pass through or near seven neighborhoods, including one of the region's largest master planned communities (Circle C Ranch); three major retail and commercial centers; and the nationally known Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. The Violet Crown Trail will link to the existing Austin area trail system, including the Town Lake Trail along Lady Bird Lake, which provides recreation and transportation for more than one million users per year. In addition, this project will connect to the proposed 25-mile trail system planned for the suburban area known as Oak Hill. Thus the primary trail will connect to neighborhood and city trails creating a network of 95 miles of trails. The Violet Crown Trail will be the connector for these existing and other planned trails in this region such as connecting to the proposed MOPAC Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge over Barton Creek.

The proposed trail will provide access to several parks including the Barton Creek Wilderness Park, the Williamson Creek Greenbelt, Dick Nichols District Park, the Deer Park preserve, Circle C Ranch Metro Park, and the Veloway facility for bicycles and skaters. This urban portion of the Violet Crown Trail System will end at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center which is a major destination for locals as well as national and international visitors. The overall impact of the trail system will be significant. It will provide an alternative transportation system that currently does not exist in this highly populated area. The existing roadways of this area are well known for traffic congestion. This trail system will address the pressing need for citizens and visitors to travel throughout central and south Austin without using a vehicle.