

# RAILS-TO-TRAILS PROGRAM

ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY GOVERNMENT, ATHENS, GA

Prime Engineering's team delivered feasibility study through construction administration services to design a 1.08-mile-long multi-use trail incorporating historic 19th-century infrastructure.

## **The project features:**

- Two pedestrian bridges totaling 592 feet in length
- An ADA-compliant ramp
- State-of-the-art erosion control measures

The Design and Survey portion of the project consisted of the following components:

### ***Rails-to-Trails Design and Survey Modifications***

Prime modified and perfected the conceptual design, survey updates, right-of-way plans, boundary survey, and staking along the entire project limits. Prime obtained all project-related plats, deeds, and easements for properties impacted, then created a property owner's record database file for those impacted properties.

### ***Pedestrian Bridges***

Prime's team also furnished structural design for two pedestrian bridges necessary to convert the former railroad corridor to pedestrian trails. Bridge #1 over Peter Street is a single-span, 97-foot-long prefabricated steel truss. Bridge #2 is scheduled to be constructed at a later date. Bridge #3 over North Oconee River is a four-span, 495-foot-long prefabricated steel truss using two of the existing piers from the original railroad bridge.

### ***Poplar Street Ramp***

The original design for the project included a third bridge: the historic Murmur Trestle. The bridge connected the elevated section between Peter Street and Poplar Street to Dudley Park. Parts of the bridge were removed during the 1980s due to safety concerns. The musical group REM took a picture standing in front of this trestle; it was placed on the back of their debut album cover, and the rest is history!

Pedestrians can enjoy a stroll on the trail while getting a firsthand look at the area's historical landmarks.

