

11-17-25

MACON COUNTY BOARD APPROVES FIRST STEP FOR CREATION OF BIG CREEK RIPARIAN GREENWAY CORRIDOR AND BIKEWAY PLAN AS PART OF FT DANIEL CONSERVATION AREA EXPANSION

The Macon County Board approved the Re-Plat of **Woodbine Park Prairie Estates** on November 13, 2025. It includes a 4-acre recreational bikeway that will connect the **Fort Daniels Conservation Area** to Lake Decatur.

The **Macon County Conservation District (MCCD)** was unable to secure grant funding in late 2024 to acquire the land, so owner Sally Fletcher proposed an alternative plan to jump-start the project with the creation of a four-acre tract that she will donate to MCCD, along with a planned gift of 40 acres from her brother David Fletcher. These two gifts expand the **Fort Daniels Conservation Area** and connect it with **Spitler Woods State Park**.

Big Creek Riparian Greenway Corridor and Bikeway

Site Development Plan
Macon County Conservation District
Big Creek Riparian Greenway
Corridor and Bikeway

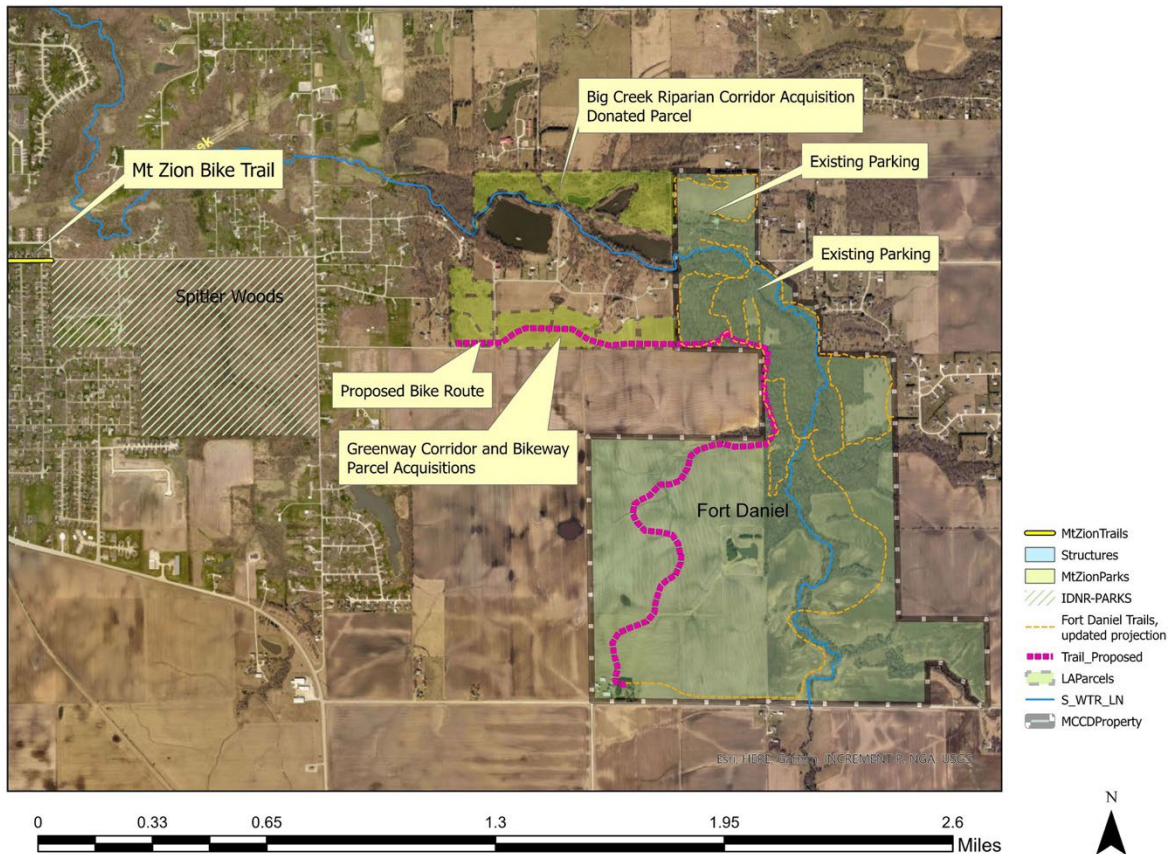


Figure 1 MCCD plan for Big Creek Riparian Greenway Corridor and Bikeway 2024

WOODBINE PARK ESTATES SUBDIVISION WILL BE SURROUNDED BY PROTECTED CONSERVATION PARK LAND WITH THE LAND DONATION FOR THE BIG CREEK RIPARIAN GREENWAY CORRIDOR AND BIKEWAY

Aligned with the mission of the Woodbine development, which aims to preserve a crucial environmental corridor between Spittler Woods State Park and Fort Daniel Conservation Area along the Big Creek Valley, Sally and David Fletcher's gift will make sure that this land stays undeveloped in perpetuity.

Extensive restoration of wildlife, wetlands, and prairie grasses has been undertaken on the property. A stream-bank stabilization project for Big Creek was completed in 1997 and served as a demonstration project for Illinois.

The development of the Big Creek Riparian Greenway Corridor and Bikeway will help preserve important historic and environmental treasures for Macon County.

<https://woodbineparkestates.com/history/>

MCCD will seek new funding to build the Bikeway Path and further develop the Ulery historic Woodbine 1862 farmhouse, acquired in 2024. These efforts aim to preserve the landmark Woodbine Farm and resort, which served as a resort and vacation spot for Chautauqua events in the early 20th century.

About the Fort Daniel Conservation Area

The Macon County Conservation District hosted the [Wine in the Wild Event in June 2025](#). This event launched the campaign to restore this historic home and the surrounding Woodbine Property.

The Big Creek Riparian Greenway Corridor and Bikeway Plan is expected to increase property values for all Woodbine residents (<https://woodbineparkestates.com>), as a county park will soon surround the subdivision. This change will enhance law enforcement, public safety, infrastructure, and provide more recreational options, all of which will support the property's conservation mission.



Figure 2 Woodbine Farmhouse Built in 1862

CHAD M. OSTERBUR, PE, PLS Fehr Graham I Engineering & Environmental was the project manager for the re-plat and represented Sally Fletcher before the Macon County Board.

Contact: David Fletcher 217-855-0979