

Big Idea #1: Highlight

Build an urban trail to connect and highlight the unique qualities and competitive strengths of Downtown Columbia.



To better link Downtown's most popular destinations, which are disconnected and spread over a large geographic area, and to help strengthen the identity of Downtown, **a signature urban trail is envisioned for the heart of Columbia.**

The trail will offer a safe, accessible, low-stress route for local residents and employees, and provide a distinctive linear park experience for both locals and visitors.

With a boom in the value of trail-oriented development around the country, this presents an opportunity to attract and retain people and investment in Downtown Columbia.



Urban Trail Potential

Vista Loop - 2.7 miles connecting the Riverfront, Gist Park, State Museum, Vista, the State House and USC

Capital Loop - 2.5 miles connecting Finlay Park, Main Street, the State House, USC and the Vista

Case Study: Cultural Trail (Indianapolis, IN)



The trail uses excess right-of-way from wide city streets to connect the city's cultural districts to each other and improve pedestrian and bicyclist access throughout the city. Significant portions of the Cultural Trail were constructed in 90 ft right-of-way, which is smaller than almost all of DT Columbia's streets, making a great case study of what is possible.

The Capital Loop and Vista Loop urban trails are primarily located on locally-owned streets, providing the most flexibility for streetscape enhancements and trail amenities that will encourage daily use. They are also aligned with Downtown's major retail corridors, providing support to the restaurants, retailers, and businesses that rely on daily foot traffic.

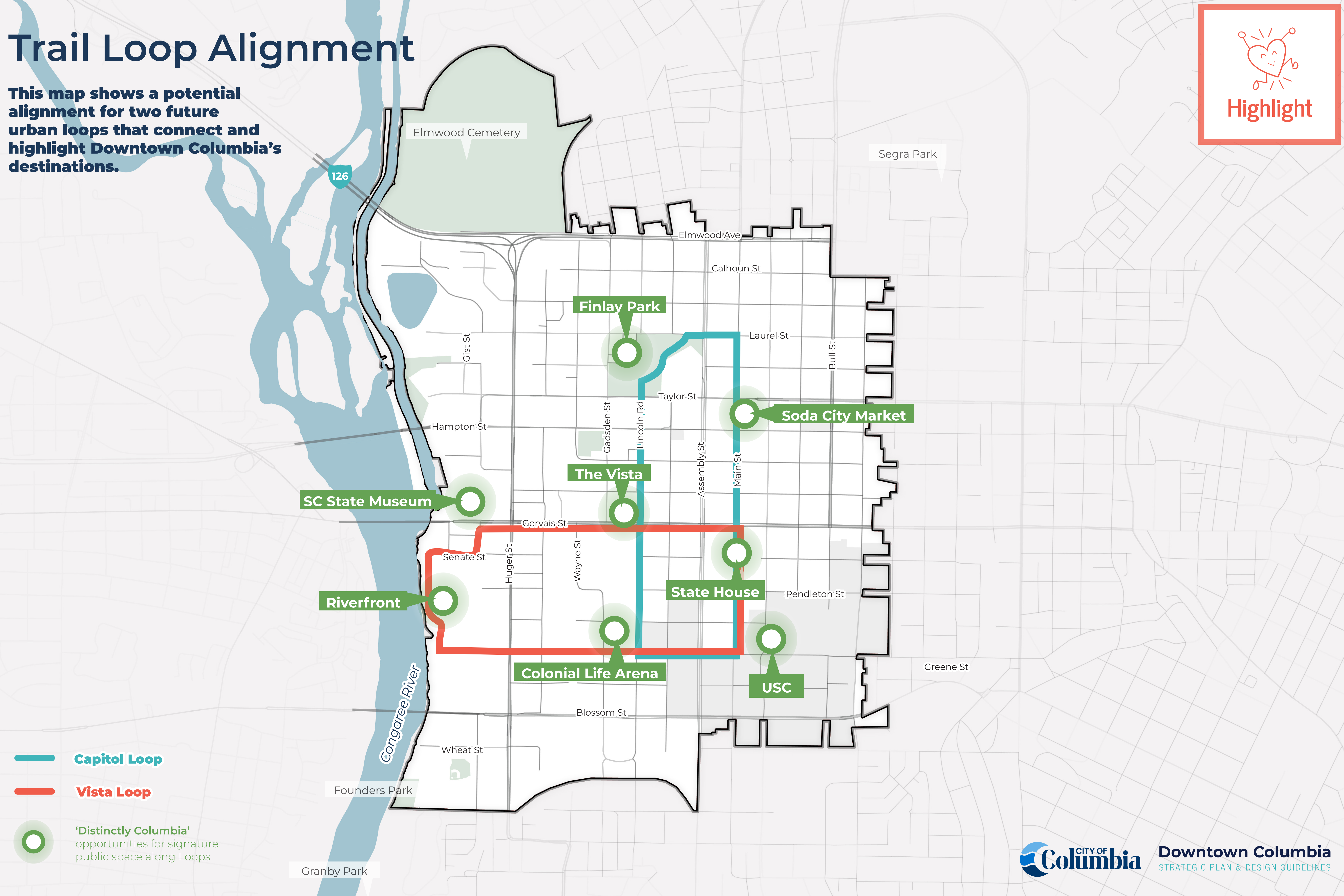
"The river front is a great place to walk. I like the unpaved side path. I wish the trail was longer"

"Down Main St - the architecture is varied and fantastic on all the buildings. I love the fairy lights that arch across the street."

"Main street has a feeling of a walkable and lively city. The outdoor atmosphere is simply amazing!"

Trail Loop Alignment

This map shows a potential alignment for two future urban loops that connect and highlight Downtown Columbia's destinations.



 **Capitol Loop**

 **Vista Loop**

 **'Distinctly Columbia'**
opportunities for signature
public space along Loops

