

Martinsville-Henry County Rivers & Trails Recreational Use Plan



Martinsville & Henry County, Virginia
September 2008



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Prepared by
The Dan River Basin Association:
Martinsville-Henry County Rivers & Trails Group

In cooperation with
Henry County, City of Martinsville, and
West Piedmont Planning District

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Martinsville-Henry County Rivers and Trails Recreational Use Plan, through words and maps, provides a detailed description of the community's vision for the future. It provides some perspective on the history of the development of the vision of the greenways and blueways that are being planned or under development in the Martinsville area. The plan also addresses the roles of the many organizations and agencies that have been involved with creating the vision and implementing it on the ground.

To summarize, the projects that are either underway or envisioned over the next five years are listed below:

Future Projects

- Danville & Western Rail Trail
- Expansion of the Fieldale Smith River Trail
- Creation of a Mayo River State Park through the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and potentially through any future parks and recreation bonds
- Smith River Access at Mitchell Bridge Road
- Mayo River Access at Moore's Mill Road
- Walking trails at the Patriot Centre industrial park that will connect with Patrick Henry Community College and the Martinsville Reservoir
- Martinsville Reservoir trails
- Bike lanes along major roads in Martinsville and Henry County
- Completion of the Jamison Mill Trail at Philpott Lake in Franklin County
- Wetland boardwalk at Beaver Creek
- Land conservation, education, and stewardship forums
- Stream buffer protection education and stewardship programs
- Continuation of Trout in the Classroom and other water quality monitoring programs
- Smith River Corridor Plan

To help facilitate these projects, the region needs:

- Additional access easements granted to or purchased by the government agencies or private organizations for trails and river access
- Funding resources and/or in kind donations of labor and materials to create trails, river access, and facilities
- Funding for staff to coordinate the projects and programs related to them
- Continuing collaboration with state, city and county agencies and the partner groups

INTRODUCTION & VISION

- a. Plan Support
- b. Components of the Plan
- c. A Word about Trail Alignment
- d. Terminology
- e. Function and Types of Trails
- f. Benefits of Trails, Greenways, and Blueways

1. Introduction & Vision

The Martinsville-Henry County area is fortunate to have a great diversity of natural and cultural resources for its citizens and visitors to enjoy. As the region transforms from a predominantly industrial area consisting of textile and furniture production to a more diverse economy supported by growth in the knowledge-based economy, small businesses and tourism, a system of trails, greenways, parks, and river access areas will be an important selling point. Many citizens and businesses now consider a comprehensive trail network as important as other public services including roads, sewer, water, and quality education systems. The success of trail projects in revitalizing communities can be found throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia most notably Damascus, a town of fewer than 1,000, which now supports five bicycle stores as a result of the popularity of the Virginia Creeper Trail, a converted railroad bed. The combined efforts of this plan for rivers and trails along with a plan on street connectivity, currently being developed by a program funded by the Harvest Foundation, Activate Martinsville-Henry County, will enable Martinsville and Henry County to be seen as a model for other localities.

In addition to undeveloped areas or open space, Martinsville and Henry County's natural resources include three rivers: the Smith River, the North Mayo River, and the South Mayo River. The North and South Mayo rivers have been designated by the Virginia General Assembly as State Scenic Rivers. While access to the Smith River has been greatly improved in recent years, there is limited public access to North and South Mayo rivers and few public facilities within these river corridors. This plan will address the need to provide better access to the natural resources of Martinsville and Henry County and suggest a system of trails, river access points, and riverside parks to accomplish this task.

Imagine it's the year 2018, and a family from Fieldale is looking for an enjoyable way to spend their weekend together. Rather than hopping in the car, the family decides to get out their bicycles and ride Martinsville and Henry County's system of trails. The family heads east on the Fieldale Trail, where they stop to read an educational sign regarding the importance of protecting streamside forests. The family then crosses the Smith River on a pedestrian/cyclist bridge, and continues northeast on the Smith River Rail Trail. They enjoy a pleasant ride through Henry County and into the City of Martinsville. Once in Uptown Martinsville, the family exits the Rail Trail and begins riding in designated bike lanes, where they stop at local restaurants, museums, art galleries, and shops. After a fun-filled day in Martinsville, the family returns to the Rail Trail where they can safely return home, avoiding busy roads. While passing through Collinsville, Mom remembers that she needs a loaf of bread. Since the Rail Trail conveniently passes by several shopping centers, Mom can run in to get the items she needs and avoid having to drive back to the store. The family soon arrives home in Fieldale to reflect on their day. They enjoyed bicycling along scenic river trails and using linking trails to shop and eat. They saved money by

not having to drive, used a non-polluting form of transportation, improved their health and fitness, and learned a little about what they can do to protect the rivers they enjoy.

a. Plan Support

With funding from the Harvest Foundation of the Piedmont, the development of this plan has been supported by the Martinsville-Henry County Rivers and Trails Group (MHCRTG). The Group was formed by the Southern Environmental Law Center in 2004 with the mission to better leverage the natural and cultural resources of Martinsville and Henry County in accordance with the recommendation made in the Community and Economic Development Strategy for Martinsville and Henry County, 2004 Market Street Services Study (Market Street Study) commissioned by the Harvest Foundation.

In 2005, MHCTRG became part of the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA), which subsequently received funding from the Harvest Foundation to staff a Martinsville Office. The group has continued to collaborate with local government officials and other community groups in creating a conservation organization focusing on protection, enhancement and promotion of Martinsville and Henry County's natural resources for the benefit of its residents and businesses and to attract visitors to the area. This specifically included the development of this plan, the creation of trails and river access points, water quality monitoring and education.

The group has included representatives from the City and County, the Martinsville-Henry County Coalition on Health and Wellness, Trout Unlimited, the Henry County Bike Club, Activate Martinsville, Fayette Street Historic Initiative, Virginia Museum of Natural History, Smith Valley Canoe Club, Friends of Philpott as well as business representatives.

DRBA's MHCRTG has planned and implemented a number of the projects listed within this plan and continues to lead coordinated efforts to bring additional recreational opportunities to the Martinsville-Henry County community.

Additional input for the plan has been gathered from the community during public meetings and through surveys. Community involvement in the form of comments and volunteer services will be requested as the trail-building process continues to foster a sense of community ownership of the trail system.

Representatives from the City of Martinsville and Henry County have served on the Martinsville-Henry County Rivers and Trails Group committee and have provided responses to drafts of this plan. This plan has been developed with the anticipation that the completed plan and any plan updates will be formally adopted as a component of future local comprehensive land-use plans.

b. Components of the Plan

The plan can be divided into multiple components according to the six goals of the plan:

- To provide readers with an abbreviated guide to the different terminology, types, and benefits associated with trail and blueway development.

- To summarize current recreational opportunities available within Martinsville and Henry County and consider how to link these assets through trail development.
- To describe the trail planning process and incorporate public input and support from existing plans throughout the planning process.
- To address opportunities for rivers and trails-related recreational development throughout Henry County and the City of Martinsville, with special attention paid to the Smith, North Mayo, and South Mayo Rivers to increase access to the rivers and promote connections to existing and future recreational facilities.
- To guide the implementation of the plan including funding sources, land acquisition, best management practices, long term maintenance, and marketing.
- To discuss additional cultural and environmental initiatives that can be incorporated into trail development.

By meeting these goals, the long-term objective of developing a sustainable trail system that supports healthy lifestyles will be achieved. The trail system will connect people with places, including shopping, community facilities and schools. It will also link residents and visitors to the community's special natural, heritage and cultural features, fostering a genuine sense of stewardship of these resources.

c. A Word about Trail Alignment Proposed in this Plan

The systems of trails, parks, and river access points proposed in this plan are sizeable projects that will require many years of planning and project coordination in order to bring to fruition. The lines drawn in this plan are conceptual and not site-specific. As the projects develop, potential alignments will be discussed with individual landowners in the area. Over time development can take place only with the cooperation and support of landowners, additional sources of funding, and the work of multiple project partners to ensure realization of long-term goals.

This plan presents concepts out for public comment and involvement and encourages new discussions about the possibilities within the community for interconnected living. Readers are encouraged to think of these proposed linkages as more than a line on a map, but as a potential winding path that will connect people to places and to nature. The pace and location at which these plan elements are developed will depend greatly on the willingness and interest of landowners and citizens and the leadership of Martinsville and Henry County.

d. Terminology

A key component to guiding the general public, local officials and corporate contributors through the development of a greenway, blueway, or trail plan is the identification of common definitions for its central features. The following definitions for the terms greenways, trails, and blueways have been accepted by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and can be found in their 2007 Virginia Outdoors Plan.

i. Greenways

Greenways are linear corridors of open-space established along either a natural corridor, such as a riverfront, stream valley or ridgeline, or overland along a railroad right-of-way converted to recreational use, a canal, a scenic road or other route. They can be a natural or landscaped course for pedestrian, equestrian, or bicycle passage. The corridors typically link parks, nature preserves, cultural features or historic sites with each other and with populated areas. (Adapted from Charles Little, *Greenways for America*. 1990. The Johns Hopkins Press.)

Greenways can be designed for recreational use, to serve as a transportation corridor, or exclusively for environmental protection. Greenways are created primarily through local or regional initiatives reflecting community needs, and are defined by the people who create them. They can be publicly or privately owned, and are significant components of each community's green infrastructure.

ii. Trails

According to the Virginia Outdoors Plan, a trail is defined as the treadway and shoulders of a cleared or improved path.

There are many types of trails that have been developed with specific user groups in mind. Due to the increasing number of trail users and the variety of use types, many trails have become multi-use instead of single purpose trails. The majority of trails lie on public lands in parks, forests, refuges, on abandoned railroads acquired for the purpose, and along roads. In some localities, trails have been developed in stream valleys and across private lands through the use of easements and lease agreements.

Trails can provide close-to-home, accessible recreational opportunities with resulting health benefits. Trails can also serve as non-polluting transportation routes and a means of connecting community resources.

iii. Blueways/ Water Trails

The term blueway and water trail are used synonymously. Blueways and water trails are managed systems of access points and support facilities that allow trail users to plan multi-day river trips with assurance that access points, camping sites, rest stops and re-supply sites are clearly identified on maps and on signs visible from the water.

The most significant limitation to the public's ability to use the natural waterways in Virginia is access. To address this need, many public agencies have acquired land along waterways and have developed a system of access points and supporting structures including parking areas and boat-launching ramps.

e. Functions and Types of Trails

According to the Virginia Greenways and Trails Toolbox, the types and functions of trails are as diverse as the organizations that create and maintain them. Trails are used

for relaxation; for physical workouts; for access to specific places; as well as for getting to and from work. Trails can occur as individual routes between two points, but often occur in groups, comprising a trail system.

i. Functions of Trail Systems

Most trails can serve a variety of users, as long as volumes are low. However, as the level of usage increases on a trail, the various methods that people use to propel themselves may need to be separated. The functional description of a trail defines the type of trail being developed, with each type having numerous implications related to feasibility, design, cost, and management.

In general, a trail can be categorized as either a single-use or a multi-use trail. The categorization of a trail can change over the life of the trail. For example, many trails established in the past were intended for a single use such as walking. As their popularity grew and use increased, the variety of modes of transportation used on the trails also increased, and the trails that were once single-use trails became multi-use trails.

When planning a new trail, it is best to plan to accommodate design for the nature of future uses, or to design it with specific limitations as to use. When use of an existing trail changes, the trail should be modified so that all intended activities are accommodated. Where space permits, single-use trails can be properly converted to multi-use by adding treads, or surfaces, that are designed and marked for specific uses. A list of trail types with definitions can be found in the Appendix of this plan. In some combinations, these trails can properly function on a single tread or side by side. In other situations, these types of trails should have at least a separate tread or a completely separate route.

f. Benefits of Trails, Greenways, and Blueways

The benefits of trails, greenways, and blueways are varied and extensive. In addition to contributing to the preservation of natural features and providing public places for recreation and enjoyment, trails stimulate a local economy, improve the area's quality of life, and reduce traffic congestion. The following list of benefits is compiled from a number of sources including the 2007 Virginia Outdoors Plan, the Virginia Greenway and Trails Toolbox, the Trust for Public Land, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US Chamber of Commerce, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

i. Quality of Life

- Attractive natural settings, landscapes, open space, and forests are pleasing to look at and to live in, and contribute to mental well-being.
- Sustainable development conserves and protects adequate open space, parks, and natural areas while protecting air and water quality.
- The many recreational and natural resource amenities enhance quality of life and prosperity of the community.

- In certain industries, quality of life has become one of the top five deciding factors for choosing a site to locate a business. “Quality of life directly affects the quality and cost of labor” (Williams).

ii. Economic

- Greenways and trails increase real property values by providing buffers from additional development and increasing aesthetic qualities and serving as convenient recreational amenities.
- Increased property values result in increased property tax base for local governments.
- New business often forms to support recreational activities made possible by new trails and greenways and blueways such as bike retail and rentals, hiking outfitters, as well as watercraft retail and rentals.
- For every \$1 paid to canoeing outfitters, customers spent \$8 for gas, groceries, restaurants, campgrounds, and other lodging. (National Park Service)
- Existing business along trails; shops, restaurants, hotels, etc., enjoy extra business created by the additional foot traffic and tourism.
- In Boulder, Colorado, it was found that in one neighborhood where a greenway was built total property values increased by \$5.4 million generating \$500,000 per year in additional revenue for the community (National Park Service).

iii. Tourism:

- Increased recreational opportunities promote local tourism.
- In 2006, tourists spent over \$860 million in Southwest Virginia; a \$50 million increase from the previous year (Virginia Tourism Corporation).
- Tourism is Virginia’s third largest employer, generating four billion dollars in tourism payroll (Virginia Tourism Corporation).

iv. Health

- Trail systems often experience high levels of usage and serve a number of different uses that increase physical activity levels.
- The Market Street Study also proposed that the community work to alleviate social and health issues in Martinsville and Henry County.
- The Center for Disease Control states that “much of the chronic disease burden is preventable; physical inactivity and unhealthy eating contribute to obesity, cancer, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes.”
- According to the Virginia Department of Health, chronic diseases are listed as the “leading causes of death and disability in Virginia.”
- A 2003 survey of Virginia residents shows that 22% of adults are considered obese. In Martinsville-Henry County and the surrounding counties, the rate of obese adults is 28% (Virginia Department of Health).
- Creating environments that support regular physical activity is essential to reducing the epidemic of obesity.

- Environmental benefits of less water and air pollution will also help to reduce health problems such as cancer and respiratory disease or asthma.

v. Environment

- The buffer created by greenways and trails improves water quality by protecting streams from erosion and trapping pollutants.
- Greenways and trails improve air quality by providing routes for alternative forms of transportation and protecting trees.
- Greenways and trails provide refuge and safe migration routes for wildlife.
- Greenways and trails raise awareness of natural resources and promote stewardship.
- Greenways and trails help educate the public about the biological diversity of plant and animal species by maintaining connections between increasingly fragmented natural communities.
- Virginia presently ranks in the top eight among all states in globally rare plants and the top 14 for globally rare animals (Virginia Outdoors Foundation).

vi. Recreation

- The 2006 Virginia Outdoors Survey found that 92% of Virginia residents felt that having access to outdoor recreation opportunities is important.
- Seventy-two percent of Virginians walk for pleasure while 21% bike for pleasure (2006 Virginia Outdoors Survey). Most Virginians travel approximately 15 minutes from home to walk or bike for pleasure.
- Recreation is essential to personal health.
- Recreation and parks build strong families and healthy communities.
- Recreation reduces health care, social service, and police/justice costs.

vii. Transportation

- Greenways and trails provide routes for alternative forms of transportation including biking and walking.
- Greenways and trails increase the level of connectivity between popular locations which reduces overall traffic on road systems.

viii. Preservation

- According to the 2006 Virginia Outdoors Survey, visiting historic sites has become the 2nd most popular recreational activity.
- Greenways and trails reduce the amount of harmful development in the area and increase the preservation of natural resources.
- By connecting to historical sites and cultural centers, trails raise awareness of and preservation for these resources.
- Corridors that replace abandoned railroad tracks with trails (Rail-to-Trails) preserve the history of the railways and the industries that formed around them while making them available for recreational opportunities.

STATUS OF RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- a. Federal Lands, State Parks and Wildlife Management Areas
- b. Southern Virginia Recreation Facilities Authority
- c. City of Martinsville Recreation and Leisure Services
- d. Henry County Parks and Recreation Department
- e. DRBA Martinsville-Henry County Rivers & Trails Initiative

2. Status of Recreational Development

The 2007 Virginia Outdoors Plan presents recreational development in the Western Piedmont Region, including many of the activities and projects outlined below. In Martinsville and Henry County, there are many recreational areas currently in existence. By developing trails and greenways around these facilities, the end result will be a more accessible area so that families can safely walk or bike to ball fields, playgrounds, and natural areas.

a. Federal Lands, State Parks, and Wildlife Management Areas

Residents and visitors of Martinsville and Henry County enjoy a wide variety of natural areas and parks operated by various state and federal departments including Philpott Lake, Fairy Stone State Park, Fairy Stone Wildlife Management Area, and Turkeycock Mountain Wildlife Management Area. These conserved areas offer visitors the chance to experience activities such as boating, swimming, fishing, camping, hiking, biking, bird watching, hunting, picnicking, and horseback riding. The following sections discuss these recreational opportunities further and provide additional information about each natural area. Locations of these areas can be seen in the map on page 21.

i. Philpott Lake

Construction of the dam creating Philpott Lake started in 1948, with the dam capable of providing flood relief as early as 1951 and generating power by 1953. Philpott Lake takes its name from the nearby village in Henry County and consists of 3,000 acres of water and 6,000 acres of surrounding land in Henry, Patrick, and Franklin counties. Philpott Lake offers a wide variety of water and land activities including three Class A campgrounds, stocked water for fishing, 6,000 acres of managed land for hunting, picnic shelters, hiking trails, and boat launching/marina facilities for motorized and non-motorized boating.

The facilities along Philpott Lake are maintained and regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with assistance from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries which enforces state laws and laws regulating boating, fishing, and hunting. Friends of Philpott, a nonprofit organization, has formed to assist with the upkeep and advancement of the lake and its surrounding project area, and has worked with a coalition of governmental and non-profit agencies to assist the Corps to improve existing trails and facilities and to add new trails on Philpott Lake. These trails will be connected with the Smith River Trail System to enhance regional connectivity between the counties of Henry and Franklin.

ii. Fairy Stone State Park

Fairy Stone State Park was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1936 and named after the legendary cross-shaped stones that are prevalent in the area. Located in the northwestern corner of Henry County, Fairy Stone State Park expands westward with the majority of the park's 4,868 acres being in Patrick County. The park's facilities include; 18.5 miles of multi-use trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding, 57 campsites and 24 cabins for group and family camping, a 168-acre lake for fishing, non-motorized boating, and swimming, four group picnic shelters and a conference center, as well as 5,000 acres of separate land parcels designated for hunting.

Plans for future facilities include additional trails and an equestrian village where horses and their owners can be housed for overnight trips. Fairy Stone State Park is maintained and operated by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

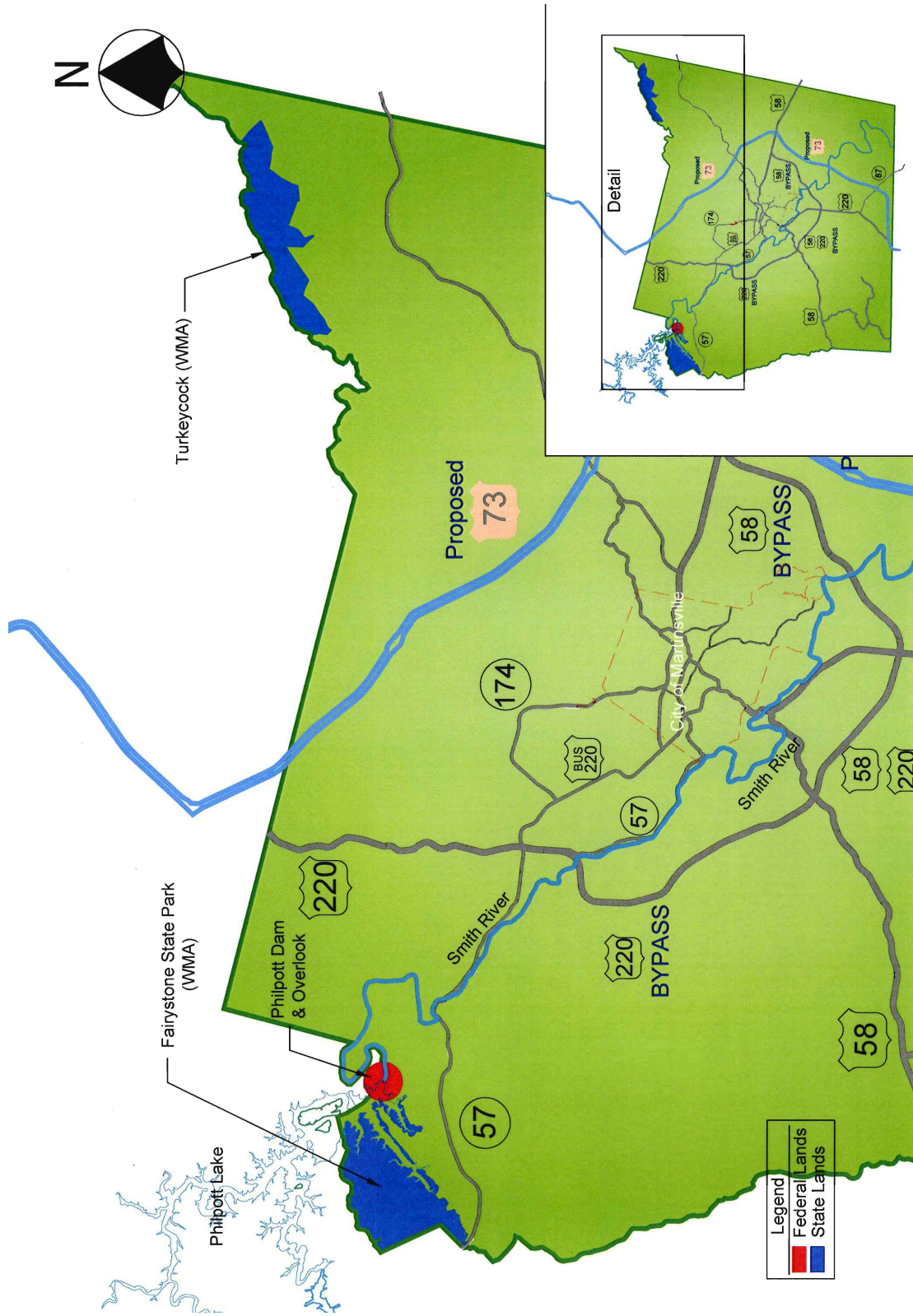
iii. Fairy Stone Farms Wildlife Management Area

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) manages this area of 5,321 acres in Patrick and Henry Counties. Potentially, it could also be the site of hiking trails and wildlife viewing in addition to the hunting during season. The area connects the Fairystone State Park and Philpott Reservoir. Nestled in the eastern foothills of the Blue Ridge, it features steep slopes and small areas of bottom land. The woodlands on the area are predominantly a mix of oak, hickory and pine. Forest management stresses maintaining habitat suitable for turkeys, deer and a variety of small game and nongame wildlife. An eight-acre marsh impoundment is a refuge for migrating waterfowl.

iii. Turkeycock Mountain Wildlife Management Area

The Turkeycock Mountain Wildlife Management Area consists of 2,679 acres of land along the ridge of Turkeycock Mountain which forms the boundary between Franklin and Henry counties. The management area is known for its dense hardwood forests which provide habitats for turkeys, deer, raccoons, squirrels, and a number of other non-game species. Because of these habitat opportunities and its low-impact hiking trails, the Turkeycock Mountain Wildlife Management Area is an especially good place to view birds and other wildlife.

Potential recreational opportunities within the management area include hiking, wildlife viewing, hunting, and fishing. Plans to develop the management area to offer additional recreational opportunities that can be promoted during the off seasons of hunting are underway between the VDGIF and the bordering localities.



Date: August 8, 2008 Scale: Not To Scale

State and Federal Lands

b. Southern Virginia Recreation Facilities Authority

The Smith River Sports Complex is a multi-purpose athletic and recreation complex scheduled for completion in the spring of 2009. The Sports Complex will feature two championship soccer fields with lighting, electronic scoreboards, synthetic turf, and fixed seating for 250 at each field. It will also include four additional full size soccer fields, a pavilion with concessions, restrooms, office and meeting space, picnic pavilions, playgrounds, and walking trails. The trails will eventually connect to adjacent property along the Smith River for hiking, fishing, bird watching and river access (a boat ramp is planned for the future). The fields can be rented for tournaments, camps, practices, band competitions, and group outings. The Smith River Sports Complex, seen on the map on page 25, offers a recreation area for local citizens, traveling teams and fans. The Sports Authority also has plans for an Uptown Sports Arena, also shown on the map.

c. City of Martinsville Recreation and Leisure Services

The City of Martinsville operates a dozen city parks offering a wide variety of activities from children swinging to students playing collegiate baseball games. The Department of Leisure Services also hosts a number of recreational events for children, adults, and seniors throughout the year.

Since the plan's inception, the City of Martinsville has also constructed the Uptown Spur Trail, a 0.6 mile multi-use trail that will eventually connect the Smith River Rail Trail with Uptown Martinsville. The trail also has the potential to be extended and connect to local attractions such as the Virginia Museum of Natural History and Wilson Park. The paved trail serves as the city's first multiuse trail and work is already in progress to beautify the trail's corridor and incorporate cultural initiatives along the trail. More information about the trail can be found in the Smith River Trail System Section of this plan in coordination with the Smith River Rail Trail.

Current goals for the city's parks include fully developing the potential uses of each park and making the park system as a whole more accessible by addressing safety concerns. At this time, all of the city's parks are closed from sunset to sunrise and a number of them are gated off to prevent non-permitted traffic from entering the park. By removing these gates, arranging regular police patrols, and opening up the parks, the City of Martinsville hopes to increase the use of the parks by area residents. The recently approved concept plan for Wilson Park includes connecting with the Virginia Museum of Natural History to create an outdoor classroom along with woodland trails and gardens. Amenities for each City of Martinsville park can be seen on page 24 in Table 1. Locations of each facility can be found in the map on page 25.

d. Henry County Parks and Recreation

In 2004, collaboration between the MHCRTG and the County began. At that time, Henry County had a total of 12 facilities that were maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation for public use. These facilities include six developed parks, additional ball fields leased from clubs, and ball fields leased from different school facilities.

Since the collaboration with the DRBA's MHCRTG began, Henry County has constructed and maintained five river access points listed in the Blueway Plan for the Smith River Trail System, the Fieldale Trail along the Smith River mentioned in the Greenway Plan for the Smith River Trail System, and purchased and developed the Richard P. Gravely, Jr. Nature Preserve, which also borders the Smith River. The department's future plans include providing for the continued maintenance of these facilities, the improvement of certain park features, and the acquisition of additional equipment to accomplish these maintenance and improvement goals. Amenities for each of Henry County's recreation areas can be seen in on the following page in Table 2. Locations of each facility can be found in the map on page 25. Henry County has also actively managed the planning stages for the Rail-to-Trail project along the former Danville and Western Railway line, which has been funded by a Virginia Department of Transportation enhancement grant. The rail-to-trail is discussed further at page 37.

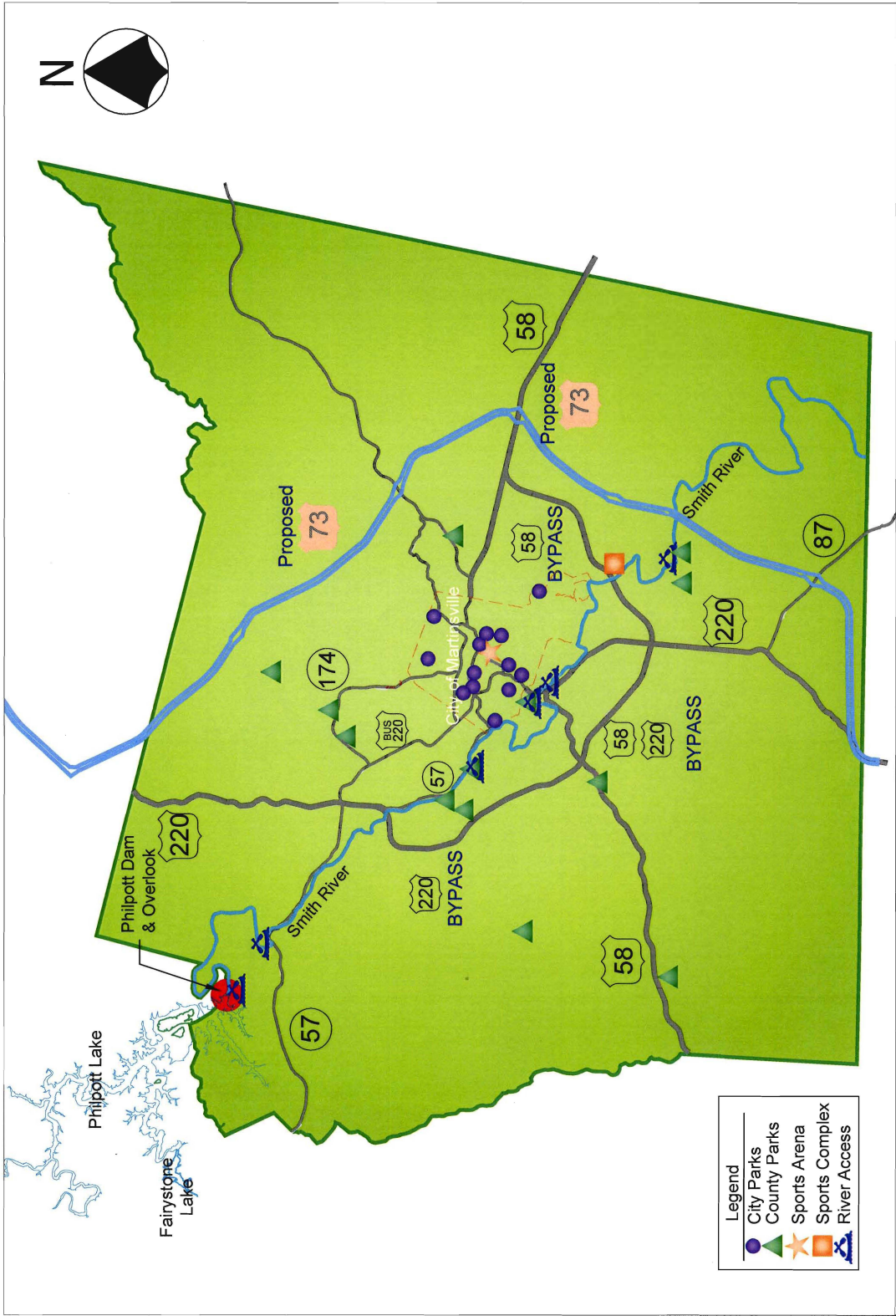
Table 1: City of Martinsville Park Amenities

	Tennis	Basketball	Ball field	Trails (Mi.)	Playground	Picnicking	Restroom	Acres	Location
Frank Wilson Memorial Park	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	30	Church St.
Patrick Henry School Recreation Area		•	•		•			30	Church St.
Dr. Dana O. Baldwin Memorial Park	•	•	•		•	•		15.5	Swanson St.
J. Russell Mason Park	•	•			•	•		6.5	Barrows Mill Rd.
Chatham Heights Park	•	•	•		•	•	•	9	Chatham Heights Rd.
Jackson Street Park	•				•			0.3	Jackson St.
Southside Park	•	•	•		•	•	•	37	Ranson Rd.
West End Park	•	•	•		•		•	13.72	Cardinal Ln.
Oak Street Park					•			1.10	Oak St.
Cole and Carol Street Park					•			1.6	Cole St.
Victor A. Lester Memorial Park					•			0.6	Mulberry Rd.
Spruce Street Park	•		•					5.2	Spruce St.
Hooker Field			•				•	7	Chatham Heights Rd.
Uptown Spur Trail				0.6					Liberty St.

Table 2: Henry County Recreation Area Amenities

	Tennis	Ball field	Trails (Mi.)	Playground	Picnicking	Restroom	Volleyball	Acres	Location
Jack E. Dalton Park		•	0.6	•	•	•	•	30	Jack Dalton Rd.
Jordan Creek Park		•		•	•	•		13	Creekside Dr.
Collinsville Jaycee Park	•		1.25	•	•	•		27	Parkwood Ct.
Fisher Farm Park		•		•	•	•		127	Leisure Tr.
Fieldale Park		•			•	•		10	Field Ave.
Fieldale Trail			1		•	•		5	S. River Rd.
Figsboro Fields		•						5	Ridgedale Dr.
Horsepasture Ruritan		•						5	Al Philpott Hwy.
Doe Run Park			1.25		•	•		30	Dupont Rd.
Gravelly Nature Preserve			2		•	•		75	Eggleston Falls Rd.
Mt. Olivet Ruritan		•						5	Ward Rd.
Samuel Hairston		•						5	Samuel Hairston School Rd.
Sanville Ruritan		•						5	Stones Dairy Rd.
Spencer-Penn Field		•	TBA	•				5	Spencer Penn Road

TBA- indicates amenities that will soon be added.



Recreational Areas

Date: August 8, 2008 Scale: Not To Scale

3

PLANNING PROCESS

- a. Need for the Development of a Plan
- b. Scope: Description of the Study Area
- c. Funding of the Plan
- d. Development of a Steering Committee

3. Planning Process

a. Need for the Development of a Plan

In order to create opportunities and raise funds to expand river and trail-based recreation in Martinsville and Henry County in an efficient and sustainable manner, a common vision and road map for future planning and implementation is needed. Creation of the Rivers & Trails Recreational Use Plan enables stakeholders to understand the broader vision for the area and the benefits that the City of Martinsville and Henry County will receive by offering enhanced recreational opportunities. It also allows the components of the plan to be developed in a coordinated manner, so that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Each of the localities within the study area has been negatively affected by the decline in furniture, textile, or tobacco manufacturing, and all of these localities have turned to tourism as a way to improve local economic conditions.

Trails and river access points have been identified as potential attractions for visitors looking for a way to enjoy the outdoors in a rural setting. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) supports local efforts and has been strongly encouraging the different counties to work together to connect local trails to a future state-wide trail from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Chesapeake Bay. Although the trans-Virginia trail system is an extensive undertaking, taking decades for completion, each county has eagerly accepted the task of completing its own section of the trail and is thankful for the additional support of a regional effort.

b. Scope: Description of the Study Area

The geographic area studied by this plan is comprised of the County of Henry and the City of Martinsville, which lies within the geographic boundaries of the county. Henry County is located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains along the Virginia/North Carolina border with Rockingham County, NC to the south. In Virginia, Franklin County lies to the north, Pittsylvania County to the east, and Patrick County to the west. Over 56,000 people reside in Henry County and 14,000 live within the City of Martinsville.

c. Funding of the Plan

Development of this Recreational Use Plan was funded through a grant by The Harvest Foundation of the Piedmont and with in-kind contributions from the Dan River Basin Association. The Harvest grant also provided DRBA with funding to hire staff to assist in the planning and development of projects proposed within the plan.

d. Development of a Steering Committee

In May of 2008, members of DRBA's Martinsville-Henry County Rivers & Trails Group held a strategic planning session to discuss the continued development of trails, parks,

and river access points. At this meeting, the group collaborated to propose ideas for future projects that would aid in the connectivity of Martinsville and Henry County's existing recreational facilities. A list of the potential projects discussed at the Strategic Planning meeting is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Rivers & Trails Steering Committee: Long-term Goals

	By Year 1 2009	By Year 3 2011	By Year 5 2013
BLUEWAYS VISION	Handicapped accessible fishing deck at the Smith River near Bassett	Smith River access at Mitchell Road Bridge	Develop river trail on Smith with interpretive signs
		Smith River access near CPFilms or 220 Bypass	Access on the North & South Mayo Rivers
		Access on Mayo River at Moore's Mill Road	Seek suitable locations for additional Smith River Access in south-east Henry County
		Smith River access at Soccer Complex with fishing pier	Develop Smith River Access in vicinity of Frith Rd.
TRAILS VISION	Complete Fieldale Trail Phase II	Fieldale Trail Phase III	Complete Smith River Rail Trail Phase IV
	Begin Phase I of Smith River Rail Trail	Develop Falls Creek Trail at Mitchell Road Bridge (Grant Funded)	Construct foot bridge across the Smith River at the "rag factory" site
		Complete Smith River Rail Trail Phases II & III	Develop trail around Martinsville Reservoir
		Develop Trails at Bassett Horseshoe	
		Connect Uptown Martinsville with Soccer Complex	

4

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- a. Public and Open Steering Committee Meetings
- b. Survey Findings
- c. Future Community Involvement
- d. Corresponding Community Developments

4. Community Involvement

Public involvement is critical to the planning, development, and maintenance of any successful trail system. Early involvement in trail development creates a sense of ownership and encourages involvement including contributing additional funding or private property along the trail, volunteering to help build or maintain the trail, and using the trail in a responsible manner. A lack of public support can greatly postpone or even eradicate specific trail projects and discourage any future developments. Fortunately, the need for public involvement was recognized at the beginning of these trail projects.

a. Public and Open Steering Committee Meetings

As trails became increasingly popular in Southern Virginia and throughout the nation, the demand for trails in Henry County as a way to promote local and regional tourism efforts and increase economic development began. The creation of DRBA's Martinsville-Henry County Rivers and Trails Group in 2005 channeled local interest into a functional committee dedicated to the planning and development of multiuse trails and paddling trails. This committee, consisting of community leaders in health, recreation, local government, planning, surveying, cultural heritage preservation, and environmental protection, has worked for the last three years researching possible locations for trails and river access points, negotiating with landowners, and applying for funds for trail development. The group continues to hold monthly meetings so that community leaders can discuss coordinating efforts to achieve a common goal.

b. Survey Findings

Three surveys were implemented during the planning process to gather public input. The first was an informal recreational survey given to 50 respondents in 2007. This survey asked interested residents of and visitors to Martinsville and Henry County about specific recreational uses, including walking, biking, and paddling as well as general questions about the recreational opportunities in their locality. The results of the survey are divided into four main sections: walking, biking, boating, and funding.

i. Walking

The results of the survey show that two-thirds of respondents walk at least twice per week and that most of those are walking for the physical benefits. People who walk are most concerned about a pleasant route, and then the convenience of the route.

ii. Biking

Most of respondents have never biked, while one fourth of the respondents bike at least once per week. Of those who do ride bicycles, almost three-fourths ride for

physical benefits. Half of local bikers ride on public roads and an equal number of bikers are concerned with their safety while riding.

iii. Boating

For the purpose of the survey, boating was defined as kayaking, canoeing, rafting, or tubing; one-third of the respondents boat at least twice per year. The survey also shows that one-fourth of respondents own personal watercraft such as a canoe, kayak, raft, or tube.

iv. Funding

Of the area respondents surveyed, the majority is in favor of increased spending on walkways and bikeways. Most believe that the source of funding should come from state and federal transportation funds as well as state and local general funds. A majority of respondents are also in favor of increased funding for river access, they believe that funding should come from state general funds.

Another survey was sponsored by Activate Martinsville-Henry County and conducted in the spring of 2008 by a consultant from the University of North Carolina. The survey was given both verbally and written to “a diverse group of professionals, businesspersons, public administrators, and advocates from Martinsville and Henry County”. Respondents identified a wide array of barriers to active living in M-HC, but most considered individual attitudes to be the greatest barrier. Furthermore, they rated “residents of Martinsville and Henry County are not very active” but indicated that over the last decade, they have seen some increases. Results of the survey showed that increased physical activity contributes to a “healthier workforce with less absenteeism and turnover”, as well as “promoting a new path for economic development based on livability factors.”

A third survey was implemented in 2008 to participants at the first Annual Smith River Fest. This was an informal event, with only one-week’s notice of a dam release from the Smith River. The purpose of the survey was to help estimate the economic impact of paddlesports for this event. Sixty-two of the 234 paddlers participated in the survey. The results indicated that 42% of paddlers traveled over forty miles to come to the event while 8% traveled over one-hundred miles. It also showed that 9% of paddlers stayed overnight in local lodging and that the visitors spent on average \$31 per person in Martinsville and Henry County on food, gas, and lodging. This survey effectively showed that having recreational resources in Martinsville and Henry County is important for tourism. Johnny Buck, staff writer for the Martinsville Bulletin, summed it up in his article *A Green Sales Pitch*, saying “I’d never really thought of it [the Smith River] as a tourism magnet until Saturday.”

c. Future Community Involvement

It is highly recommended that Martinsville, Henry County, and DRBA’s M-HC Rivers and Trails Group continue to involve the public in plans for trail development. Additional public meetings need to be held to introduce the specific trail projects to all

the different communities within Henry County. Often these public meetings will lead to future volunteers so contact information should be collected at each of these meetings. While future trails may be shown with generalized swaths and not parcel-specific denotation, landowners along the different trail corridors should be contacted to address any concerns they may have and to develop ways to overcome any barriers to trail development. Whenever possible, a trail corridor should be obtained by securing recreational easements.

The Commonwealth of Virginia does not use eminent domain to acquire property for recreational purposes. Landowners that sign these easements are protected by Virginia Law (29.1-509), which holds landowners harmless from all liability to hunters, fishers, sightseers and others, and requires the local government agency or authority to pay the cost of any necessary legal services.

Another user survey should also be considered after the construction of the trails to evaluate the user's trail experience and collect any suggestions for improvement. Additional forums may be used for the same purposes and contact information should be posted at the beginning of the trail and on trail guides to give users the opportunity to voice complaints, offer positive testimonials, or identify potential safety hazards.

Additional public involvement should be encouraged through volunteer opportunities such as trail clean up days, trail maintenance days, or a regular trail watch group. Volunteer groups such as scouts, faith-based groups, garden clubs, adopt-a-street participants, the Southwestern Piedmont Master Naturalists, and many others should be included in these opportunities. Other activities along the trails include events such as charity walks, river festivals, flotillas, art displays, or music festivals.

d. Corresponding Community Developments

Several community organizations work to encourage use of area recreational facilities, and all but NCI participate in the monthly coordinating meetings of the M-HC R&T. The following is a list of organizations presently offering programs centered on outdoor recreation.

i. Activate Martinsville-Henry County

Activate currently hosts events to encourage walking and biking on area trails. The Low-Impact Beginners Walk is offered three times per week for people who are just beginning to walk for fitness. The Beginners Walk is popular due to the ability of the walker to choose how long they walk based on their own individual fitness level. The Chain Gang is another new program to be held at Martinsville Middle School this fall. Participants will take used bicycles and refurbish them so that students in need can have a bike to ride to school on. This initiative encourages safe biking and promotes alternative transportation.

DRBA plans to partner with Activate to develop a recreational access map for walkers, bikers, and paddlers. The comprehensive map will have information on

all recreational opportunities available to residents of and visitors to Martinsville and Henry County.

ii. Henry County Bike Club (HCBC)

HCBC hosts weekly bike rides through Martinsville and Henry County for members and the public. On the fourth Saturday of each month, they offer a Beginners Bike Ride on the Fieldale Trail to educate novice cyclists on bicycle safety and to encourage them to become more active riders. HCBC also hosts Lunch on the Run in Uptown Martinsville for walkers and bikers to enjoy the Uptown Spur Trail while on their lunch breaks.

iii. Martinsville-Henry County Children and Nature Network

With support from The Harvest Foundation of the Piedmont, the Virginia Museum of Natural History and partners have developed a new nature and outdoor initiative entitled the Martinsville Henry County Children and Nature Network (MHC C&NN). The MHC C&NN will serve as a clearinghouse for environmental information, use nature as a way to stimulate learning, develop opportunities for quality family time in the outdoors, and position VMNH as a leader in environmental education. MHC C&NN will serve as a means to provide hands-on, real-world opportunities for children, educators, and families to increase appreciation for nature and the outdoors and as an effective means to better understand and address community environmental issues.

iii. Martinsville-Henry County Coalition for Health and Wellness

The Coalition has created an informative brochure to promote walking for fitness and the trails available for them to use in Martinsville and Henry County. The organization also uses facilities such as the Richard P. Gravely, Jr. Nature Preserve for their “M-HC After 3” summer camps to enjoy hiking. DRBA has partnered with the Coalition to present educational programs to the camp programs on hiking, paddling, and enjoying the outdoors.

iv. Henry County Parks & Recreation (HCPR)

The HCPR Senior Services Division has partnered with DRBA to host monthly guided walks at the Gravely Nature Preserve in Ridgeway. The concept of walking groups is being expanded to also include a group walk on the Fieldale Trail two times per week.

v. Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH)

VMNH currently utilizes the area trails for youth programming, geocaching, and environmental education. They have plans in place for future trail use including birding programs and the addition of new facilities at the nearby Wilson Park. The proposed facilities include an outdoor classroom for nature study, woodland trails and gardens, and a skatepark

vi. New College Institute (NCI)

NCI, located in uptown Martinsville, has been taking advantage of their close proximity to the Uptown Spur Trail by utilizing it during their youth summer camp programs. Topics such as art and math were explored on the trail in the summer of 2008. Similar camp programs are being planned for future years.

MARTINSVILLE-HENRY COUNTY TRAIL SYSTEMS

- a. County-wide Rivers & Trails Plan
- b. Smith River Trail System Plan
- c. Smith River Blueway Plan
- d. River-side Parks and Preserves
- e. Regional Trail Connections

5. Martinsville-Henry County Trail Systems

a. County-wide Rivers & Trails Plan

The county-wide rivers and trails plan for Martinsville and Henry County includes a network of interconnecting trails that serves many different users, allows for connectivity and promotes alternate modes of transportation. The plan will consist of bike lanes, urban trails, rural trails, and blueways. In addition to walking and biking the areas will be beneficial for applications such as nature photography, bird/wildlife watching, and relaxation.

i. Bike Lanes

In Collinsville, funding has been acquired by Henry County, with the encouragement of Activate Martinsville-Henry County, to include bike lanes in the re-design of Virginia Avenue (shown in Figure 1 on page 36). On Virginia Avenue, vehicular lanes will be narrowed to allow a bike lane to be added to each side of the road.

With assistance from VDOT and Henry County, Share the Road signs have been erected along Kings Mountain Road. Activate continues to work with VDOT and County officials to determine feasibility of bike lanes connecting Kings Mountain to Virginia Avenue.

Funding has been acquired from VDOT by the City of Martinsville to widen Liberty Street to from two-lanes to four-lanes. From the city limits to Stultz Road, bike lanes, crosswalks and other safety features have been included in the re-design that will enhance transportation in this busy area.

In Uptown Martinsville, Activate continues to work with the City and VDOT to re-stripe, where feasible, sections of Market, Mulberry, Starling, Corn Tassell, Indian Trail, Prospect Hill, Sam Lions and Spruce Streets to include bike lanes. These bike lanes will provide connectivity of the proposed Uptown Arena to the Soccer Complex. VDOT recreational access funds will be used to widen Irisburg Road at the Soccer Complex and include bike lanes that will connect to Spruce Street.



Furthermore, Activate is identifying safe bicycling routes from accommodations to the Martinsville Speedway and hopes that in the future there will be bike lanes connecting the Soccer Complex to the Martinsville Speedway.

Biking and walking to these destinations would greatly reduce traffic congestion especially around the speedway on race days.

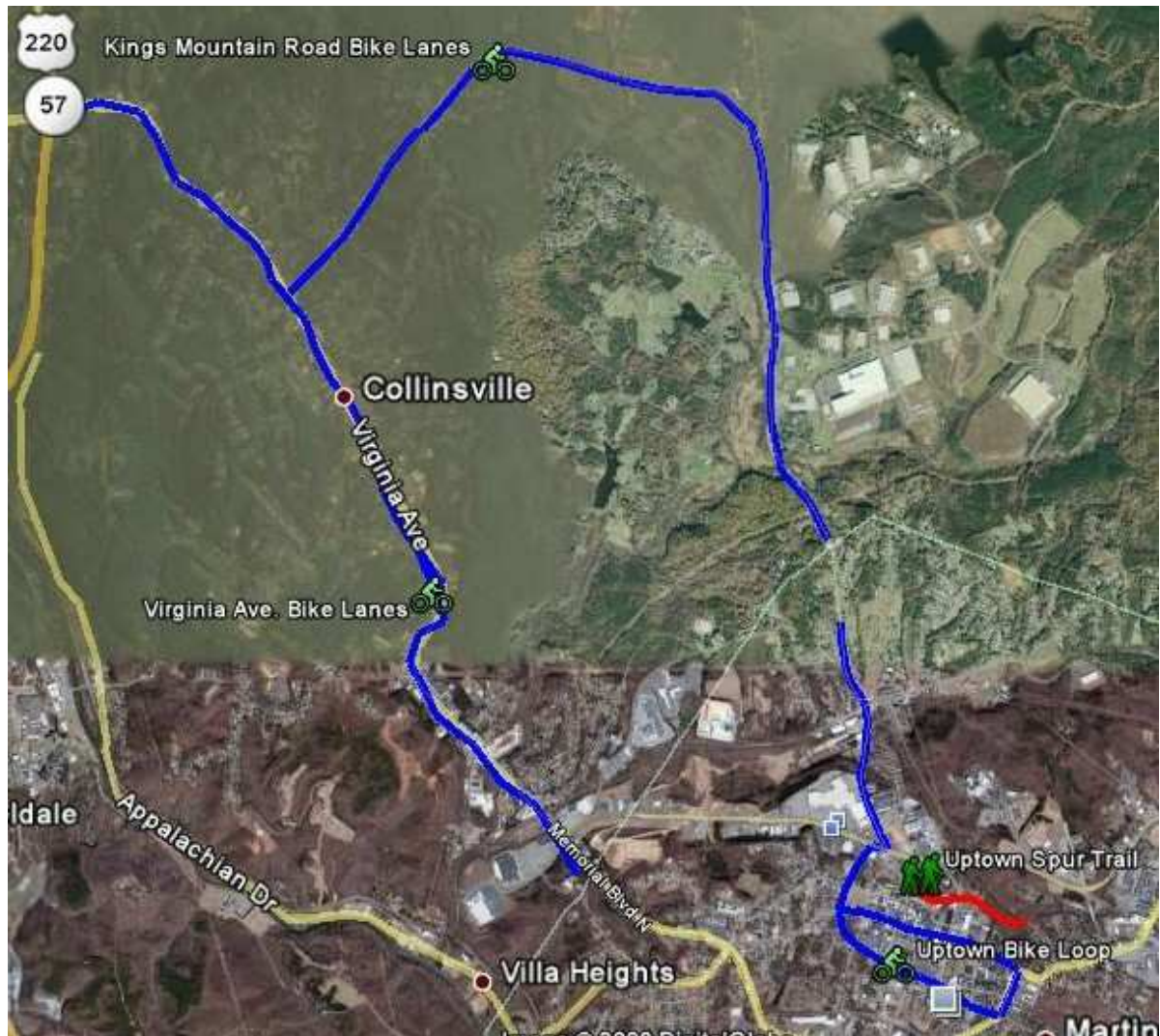


Figure 1: Proposed bike lanes are shown in blue above.
The existing Uptown Spur Trail is shown in red.

ii. Urban Trails

Urban trails, found in cities, are typically paved or covered in gravel. They are used for fitness and as alternative forms of transportation to enhance connectivity between neighborhoods, schools, community centers, and businesses.

The Smith River Rail Trail, located in Martinsville and Henry County, will consist of a 4.5 mile stretch of rail trail spanning from Uptown Martinsville to Collinsville and connecting to the Smith River Trail System in Fieldale. Partial funding for the project has been obtained by Congressman Rich Boucher, through Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU) funds, and work will begin in late 2008. The project is divided into five phases and will take several years to complete. The overall project will greatly enhance the connectivity within Martinsville and Henry County, allowing residents and visitors to travel from Fieldale to Uptown Martinsville without having to ride or walk on busy streets.

The Rail Trail will connect with the Uptown Spur Trail (discussed in section 2c) at the end of Pine Street. Other possible extensions of this trail are being examined, including a spur that would connect the Rail Trail to such destinations as the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH), Martinsville YMCA, and Wilson Park. Both the Rail Trail and Uptown Spur Trail can be seen in Figure 2 below.



Figure 2: The Smith River Rail Trail and Uptown Spur Trail are shown in red above. Blue lines represent the proposed bike lines shown on page 36.

iii. Rural Trails

For the purposes of this plan, trails that are not in an urban environment are considered rural trails. The trails typically are naturally surfaced, while some are covered with gravel or some other substrate.

A series of shared-use trails have been proposed for the areas around the Martinsville Reservoir, Patrick Henry Community College (PHCC), and the Patriot Centre industrial park. With cooperation from land owners, volunteers could develop the trails under the direction of a DRBA volunteer who has agreed to contribute an in-kind donation of equipment use. This would provide a new recreational area to Henry County at little or no cost, and enhance the quality of life for students at PHCC, residents around the reservoir, as well as employees of businesses located within the Patriot Center.



The Beaver Creek wetland, located on Kings Mountain Road in Collinsville, is the proposed site for an educational boardwalk and nature trail. DRBA is working in association with VMNH and land owners to create this facility. The trails and handicapped accessible boardwalk can be used by the residents of King's Grant Retirement Community, as well as school and museum programs, birding/wildlife watching, and for nature exploration by the general public.

A system of trails is also proposed in the southwest corner of Henry County at the Spencer Penn Centre. The series of trails would consist of a fitness loop around the ball field that would connect to wooded nature trails around the property.

The Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail guide (Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries) for the Mountain region shows specific sites in Turkeycock Loop and Fairystone Loop where historic resources and wildlife and birding sites can be reached by automobile in Martinsville and Henry County. This remains a valuable resource for the planning of additional walking and biking trails and river access points.

b. Smith River Trail System Plan

Trail systems can also have a mixture of trail types, such as the Smith River Trail System. This system will consist of trails through wooded areas, open fields, along road shoulders, and on sidewalks and bike lanes. The Smith River offers much scenic beauty along with an opportunity for linking communities along the river, such as Bassett, Stanleytown, Fieldale, Collinsville, Martinsville, and Ridgeway.

Greenways will make the river corridor more attractive for river-based businesses, tourism and special events such as century rides, marathons, and adventure racing. The

Smith River Trail System offers the potential for Henry County's facilities to connect with future trails and greenways in North Carolina and with the future Trans-Virginia Southern Trail system. Taken together, these future facilities will create a very attractive bi-state destination.

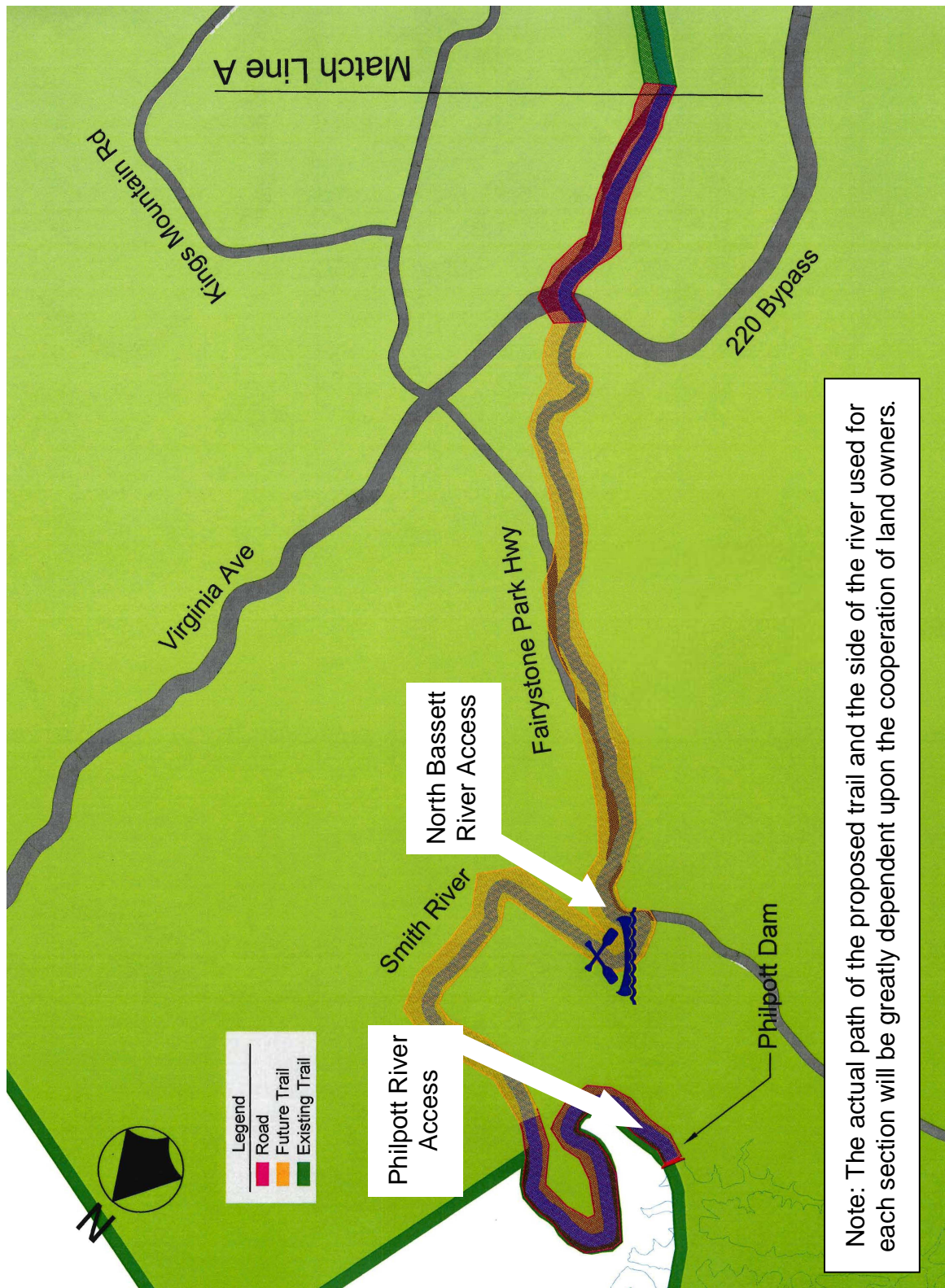
Throughout the next few pages are a series of maps following the Smith River through Henry County starting at the northwest corner of the county and working towards the southeast. The wide yellow corridor represents the proposed path of the Smith River Trail system along the Smith River.

It is important to note that the Smith River Trail corridor shown on the following maps is a conceptual idea. The actual path of the proposed trail and the side of the river used for each section will be greatly dependant upon the interest and cooperation of land owners. The corridor of the trail is not parcel specific and trails will not be planned without landowner permission.

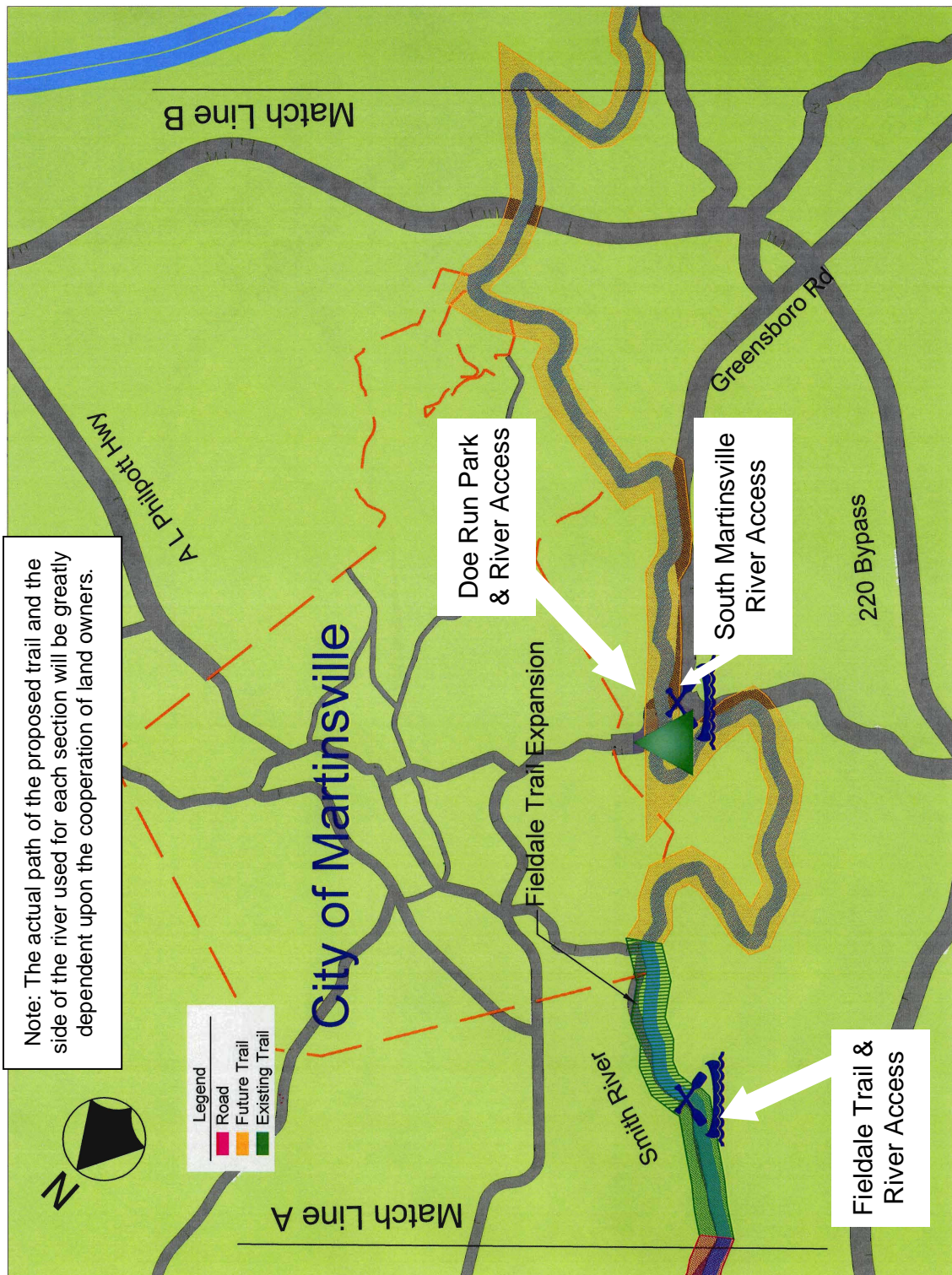
Smith River Trail System Index Map



Map Sheet 1: Bassett Area



Map Sheet 2: Martinsville Area



Map Sheet 3: Ridgeway Area



c. Smith River Blueway Plan

From the base of Philpott Dam to the North Carolina state line, the Smith River spans 45 miles. This natural corridor serves as an existing trail for canoes, kayaks, and tubes. A total of eight river access points (including one presently under development) currently exist along the Smith River and are used quite regularly by paddlers and floaters alike. Two are operated by the federal government and six are operated by Henry County. Locations for each river access can be seen in the maps on the previous pages.

Table 4: Smith River Access Points

River Access	Trails (Mi.)	Restrooms	Picnic Facilities	Location
Philpott – Henry Co.	0.5	•		Philpott Dam Rd.
Philpott- Franklin Co.	20	•	•	Stoneybrook Rd
North Bassett			•	Trenthill Dr.
Fieldale	2	•	•	S. River Road
Doe Run	1	•	•	Dupont Rd.
South Martinsville			•	Tensbury Dr.
Marrowbone Creek				Eggleston Falls Rd.
Mitchell Road Bridge	TBA	TBA	TBA	Mitchell Rd.

TBA- indicates amenities that will be added by the end of 2009.

To enhance the educational experience of a paddle down the Smith River, a series of signs located at existing bridge crossings is proposed to highlight the rich history of Martinsville and Henry County. Suggested points of interest include, but are not limited to, the Paleo-Indian archeology sites of Bassett; Bassett's history of operating the world's largest furniture industry, world's largest sweatshirt factory, and world's largest nylon factory; and history of Fieldale. It is important to note that many stretches of river along the Smith are pristine, undeveloped, and should be kept that way. Signs will be located only at bridge crossings as to not take away from the natural beauty of the river.

d. River-Side Parks and Preserves

Two riverside parks and a preserve are presently located along the Smith River and its tributaries. Fieldale Park is located on Jordan Creek in Fieldale and is conveniently located near the Fieldale Trail. Doe Run Park, seen on page 41, is also located on a small tributary that feeds into the Smith River. Riverside parks enable a wider variety of recreational uses, including fishing and boating. The Richard P. Gravely, Jr. Nature Preserve, seen on page 42, is Henry County's first park with interpretive trails. The facility provides educational information and opportunities for nature study in addition to other recreational opportunities such as geocaching, a sport where participants use global positioning systems (GPS) to find hidden treasures in the preserve.

e. Regional Trail Connections

The process of connecting local trails, should include plans for future connections to trails in adjacent localities to ensure a network of regional trails. A fold-out map showing the connections featured here can be found in the back of this plan.

i. Trans-Virginia Southern Trail

On the state level, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has been working with communities across Southside on a mountains-to-sea trail system that will travel from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Chesapeake Bay. This proposed system will include ten miles of trail along the Smith River as it passes through Henry County north of Martinsville.

ii. Utility Easements

Utility easements include land used for powerlines, sewer, and natural gas lines. Powerline easements make ideal trail corridors since the land is already cleared. Suggested connections include following lines from the north side of Philpott Lake to the Blue Ridge Parkway, and from the Smith River to the Dan River in Pittsylvania County. Use of easement corridors of buried sewer lines for trail purposes can be a cost-effective way to convert previously unused land into a recreational resource. Although there are many sewer lines within the county, one of particular interest in Fieldale connects Jordan Creek Park to the Fieldale Trail. These sewer easements can also help connect to other areas outside of Henry County as well. It is important to note that an additional easement would be required to place a trail over a sewer easement.

iii. The Carolina Road

This historic roadway, also known as The Great Wagon Road, was a spur off of The Wilderness Road. It passed through Henry County as it took travelers from Philadelphia to Georgia. The road was historically known to be a warrior path for the Iroquois Indians prior to 1744. In Henry County, this former roadway is believed to cross the Smith River in Stanleytown near the present-day CPFilms plant. The path can serve as a connective greenway north to Franklin County where it passes through Waid Park and near the Pigg River.

iv. Railroads

The historic Danville Western Railroad, known locally as the “Dick & Willie” spans from Fieldale to Stuart. This railroad which was partly abandoned in the 1940s and then fully abandoned in the 1970s, can serve as a connective greenway to our western neighbor, Patrick County.

vi. Philpott Lake Trails

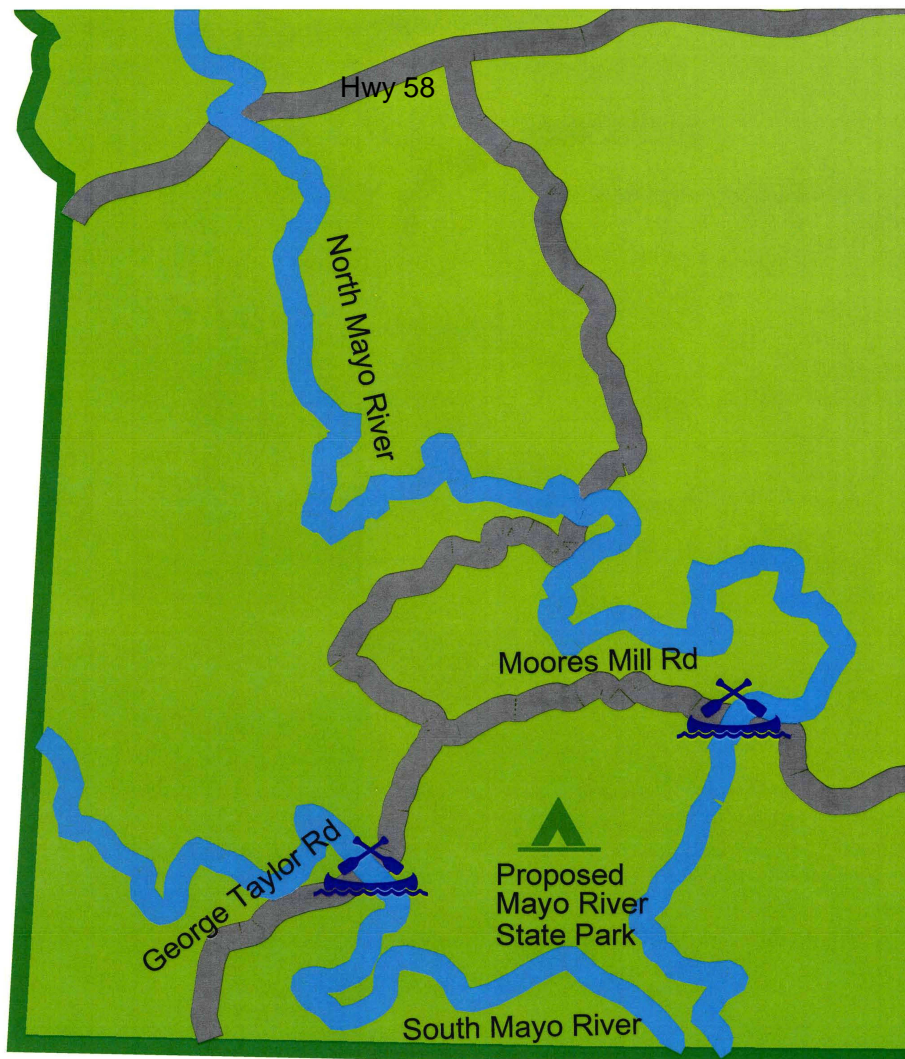
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in partnership with Friends of Philpott is currently constructing twenty miles of shared-use trails around Philpott Lake in Franklin County. The northern tip of the Smith River Trail System will connect to these trails.

f. North Mayo and South Mayo Trail System

i. Blueway Plan

With iconic rapids like the "Boiling Hole" in North Carolina, Byrd's Ledge on the Virginia/North Carolina state line, and prehistoric fish weirs dating back over one thousand years, the Mayo River is a local treasure. The stretch of the river between Moore's Mill Road and Anglin Mill Road is a very popular destination for white water paddlers. The greatest drawback to the North and South Mayo rivers in Virginia is their lack of public access.

Plans are underway to develop river access points along the Mayo but are dependent upon cooperative landowners and available funding. Two road crossings recommended for river access are Moore's Mill Road (Rt. 629) and George Taylor Road (Rt. 695), as shown on the map below. At this time access points are not recommended upstream of either of these locations due to generally low water flows.



ii. Status of the Mayo River State Park-Virginia

After the successful completion of a feasibility study and several site visits by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Virginia General Assembly designated the North and South Mayo rivers in Henry County as Virginia State Scenic Rivers in January, 2008. Even before that designation, DCR has been exploring the idea of establishing a Mayo River State Park in the southwestern corner of Henry County.

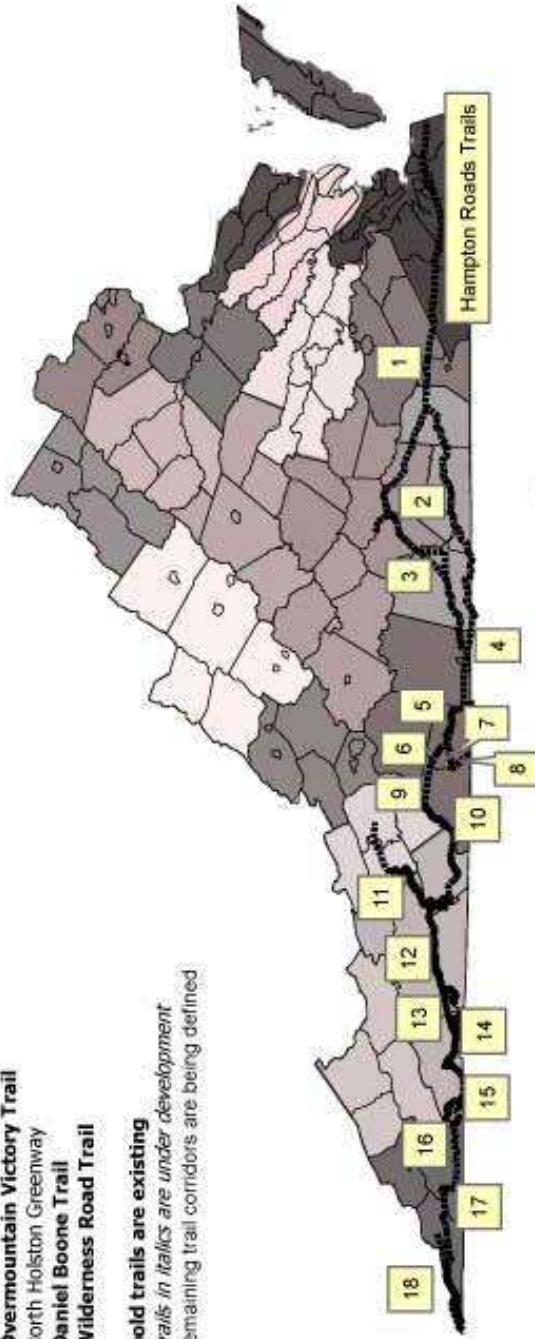
iii. Potential Connections

A Mayo River trail can link Stuart in Patrick County via the North Mayo corridor to Fieldale in Henry County by using the Danville-Western Railroad discussed in section 5e. It can also connect to future trails planned around Spencer-Penn Centre (discussed in section 5a). An especially important connection is to the North Carolina Mayo River State Park, which extends south from Henry County's border with Rockingham County, NC. Connections made by following the river corridor through the North Carolina Mayo River State Park include Rockingham County and the Towns of Stoneville, Mayodan, and Madison, where the Mayo River converges with the Dan River.

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- Old Virginian Railroad (pipeline)
- Tobacco Heritage Trail
- Staunton River Trail
- Dan River Trail
- Martinsville to Danville Connector
- Smith River Trail
- Patrick Springs to Fieldale Trail
- Mayo River Rail Trail
- Fairystone Connector
- Blue Ridge Parkway Trails**
- New River Trail**
- Virginia Highlands Trail**
- Iron Mountain Trail**
- Virginia Creeper Trail**
- Overmountain Victory Trail**
- North Holston Greenway
- Daniel Boone Trail
- Wilderness Road Trail**

bold trails are existing
trails in italics are under development
 remaining trail corridors are being defined



Proposed Trans-Virginia Southern Trail



Shades of gray represent
 planning district boundaries

6

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- a. Land Acquisition
- b. Funding
- c. Construction/Best Management Practices
- d. Long-term Maintenance Plans
- e. Trail Marketing Initiative

6. Implementation Strategies

a. Land Acquisition

There are four main types of land acquisition techniques used for present and future greenway, trail, and river access projects. The techniques are purchase for fee simple ownership, easements, leases, and donations.

i. Public Fee Simple Ownership

This is land that the county or city has purchased outright, as in the case of the Gravelly Nature Preserve which was purchased from the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

ii. Access Easements

Easements can be acquired by a municipality or private entity, such as a land trust or a private organization. The landowner retains ownership of the land but allows public access to private land. Access easements can be set for a period of time. Due to the investment in trail clearing and surfacing, an easement in perpetuity is preferred. Easement deed agreements vary from one land owner to the next. An example of an easement is Phase II of the Fieldale Trail; it crosses the property of three different landowners.

iii. Land Leases

Land for recreational areas can also be leased from an owner, such as Spencer-Penn Center where trails are proposed to be located around leased ballfields.

iv. Land Donations

Land donated to a public entity, such as Henry County, or a non-profit organization, is another way that land can be acquired for projects. Such donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

b. Funding

Funding for greenway, trail, and river access projects can be obtained from a number of sources, including the following:

i. Grants

Grants can be obtained from a wide variety of sources including government agencies, private foundations, and corporations. Obtaining this type of funding, involves submitting a grant application, getting approved for the project, and

reporting results back to the funding agent. Relevant funding sources include, but are not limited to the following:

- The Harvest Foundation of the Piedmont
- The Dominion Foundation
- The Kodak American Greenways Fund
- Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (grants for science & history programs held at the trails, parks, and preserves)
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Virginia Department of Forestry
- Virginia Department of Transportation
- National Parks Service
- National Trails Fund
- Bikes Belong

ii. Capital Campaigns

Fundraising in the form of a capital campaign is an option for projects requiring funding from many donors. It is recommended that an organization raise at least fifty percent of the funds prior to making the campaign public.

iii. In-Kind Donations

Donations of materials, equipment, or labor are considered in-kind. These donations are particularly useful when obtained in conjunction with a grant and classified as matching funds.

iv. Monetary Donations

Donations of money to an organization are another method of funding a project. Many times a donor will request that his or her donation be earmarked for a specific project.

v. Government Funding

Funding obtained from federal, state, county, or city governments can also be used for projects. An example of this funding is the Smith River Rail Trail.

c. Construction/Best Management Practices

To effectively create a trail, greenway, or blueways river access, efforts should be taken to ensure the sustainability of the project. One way to ensure that a trail is constructed in a sustainable and minimally invasive method, protecting the natural resources of the area, is to employ best management practices such as the construction standards established by the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA).

d. Long-term Maintenance Plans

With proper maintenance and upkeep, recreational areas can be a safe place for the public to enjoy the outdoors. Operation and maintenance plans are very important for designating necessary maintenance measures and responsible parties. Tasks might include supplying and emptying trash receptacles, removing fallen trees/limbs, cutting

back shrubs from the trail, and upkeep of the trail surface. In most cases, “Friends ” groups can be formed to assist with volunteer maintenance of a trail. Some duties can be performed by city and county staff with volunteer assistance. In other cases where access easements are granted to a non-profit group or club, volunteer labor can be relied on for maintenance or a private firm can be hired to oversee certain tasks. Either way, it is crucial for a facility to be kept clean and in working order for the public to feel secure and take pride in the facility.

e. Trail Marketing Initiative

Local trails along with river access points are currently being marketed in a number of ways on the internet, media, and in print.

i. Internet Sources

The known sources of marketing on the internet include but are not limited to:

Dan River Basin Association	www.danriver.org
The Rivers & Trails Blog	www.rivers-trails.blogspot.com
Virginia Tourism Commission	www.virginia.org
Henry County Parks & Recreation	www.henrycountyva.gov
Martinsville-Henry office of Tourism	www.visitmartinsville.com
City of Martinsville	www.ci.martinsville.va.us
Chamber of Commerce	www.martinsville.com
Club Websites for birding, cyclists, paddlers, and naturalists	
Websites for retail outfitters	
Mass E-mails to club/organization members	

ii. Media Sources

General information about trail projects and promotions for upcoming events have been featured on television and radio media including: BTW 21, B99, and WLOE radio. Future sources of media might include Blue Ridge Public TV, Comcast Community Calendar, and promotional videos to highlight recreational opportunities and the people enjoying them.

iii. Print Sources

Brochures, flyers, and other promotional materials have been made available to area visitor’s centers, trail kiosks, hotels, campgrounds, doctor’s offices, and community centers. The present selection of publications includes guides to area walking trails, river access points, and flyers for trail related events and volunteer opportunities. Future publications include DRBA’s water-proof Smith River Guide funded by the Harvest Foundation, and Activate’s outdoor recreation map funded by the Harvest Foundation and the Virginia Tourism Corporation. Press releases are also implemented to market special events and developments regarding recreational opportunities.

CORRESPONDING ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

- a. Land Conservation
- b. Riparian Buffer Protection
- c. Water Quality Monitoring
- d. Leave No Trace

7. Corresponding Environmental Initiatives

a. Land Conservation

According to the Nature Conservancy, “conservation easements are one of the most powerful, effective tools available for the permanent conservation of private lands in the United States.” The organization defines conservation easements as a “voluntary, legally binding agreement that limits certain types of uses or prevents development from taking place on a piece of property now and in the future, while protecting the property’s ecological or open-space values.” A subcommittee of M-HC R&T is developing a plan for educating area land owners about the importance and benefits of conservation easements along the Mayo and Smith River corridors as well as in other rural areas of the community. The benefits of conservation easements include permanent protection of family farms, wildlife habitat, open space and streams as well as some substantial tax advantages. In addition, conservation easements along the Mayo and Smith Rivers and their tributaries would improve the rivers’ capability to be successful fisheries, reduce erosion, and filter surface run-off before it enters the water. According to Dr. David Jones, a member of the conservation subcommittee, “the landowner can tailor any restrictions placed on his or her property to suit [personal] needs.” It is also important to point out that the landowner “still owns the property”. Conservation easements allow landowners to place limitations on growth or development on property while still using the land for a variety of purposes, including farming, timbering, and development of some structures. The Virginia Outdoors Foundation as well as many land trusts, such as the Western Virginia Land Trust, can help landowners design easements that fulfill individual needs. There are a number of federal and state tax benefits for landowners who place conservation easements on their property. Conservation easements do not necessarily allow public access to the property.

b. Riparian Buffer Protection

A riparian buffer is defined by the USDA Forest Service as “the aquatic ecosystem and the portions of the adjacent terrestrial ecosystem that directly affect or are affected by the aquatic environment. This includes streams, rivers, lakes, and bays and their adjacent side channels, floodplain, and wetlands. In specific cases, the riparian buffer may also include a portion of the hillslope that directly serves as streamside habitats for wildlife.” Protecting these buffers along local rivers and streams is critically important for environmental health. Since Southern Virginia is not covered under the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act, Henry County and Martinsville are currently without laws or regulations that protect the stream banks from being cleared by landowners. The establishment of riparian area laws to protect water quality can be part of the solution; however, the most efficient tool at the present time is public awareness. DRBA, with funding assistance from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation has

been working to enhance the quality of riparian buffers along the Smith River and its tributaries by planting streamside trees and shrubs in various impaired areas. Coordinating grants from Miller Brewing Company and Contech Stormwater Solutions have provided signage, brochures, and informational presentations to educate the public on the importance of a healthy buffer of trees, shrubs, and other plants along stream banks

c. Water Quality Monitoring

According to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, several streams and stretches of river in Martinsville and Henry County are considered impaired, that is, they do not meet water quality standards for fishable and swimmable waters. These include portions of the Smith and Mayo Rivers, and portions of Blackberry, Leatherwood, Beaver, Jordan and Marrowbone Creeks. Many of the impairments are due to high levels of e-coli bacteria from run-off and the lack of benthic macro-invertebrates, the small insects that live on the bottom of streams. Frequent monitoring of water quality conditions at each of these areas will help assess the level of assistance needed to improve environmental health of area streams and rivers.

i. Citizen Water Quality Monitors

Volunteer monitors are very helpful in the collection of water quality data. Monitors are trained in methods standardized by Virginia Save Our Streams (SOS), a division of the Izaak Walton League of America, and their methodologies are recognized by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. DRBA volunteers hold water quality monitoring (WQM) workshops throughout the year to certify both adults and youth as monitors. Once certified, these monitors will follow the SOS procedures to sample the water quality in a specific area several times throughout the year. Data is then submitted to SOS where it can be recorded and analyzed.

ii. Trout in the Classroom

Introduced nationally by Trout Unlimited and sponsored locally by Dr. David Jones, the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program has proven to have a tremendous impact on education and students throughout the region. The program is facilitated by DRBA staff and volunteers. In the 2007-2008 school year, over 2,000 students from schools in the city of Martinsville, and the counties of Henry, Franklin, and Patrick were served by the program. TIC's local motto is "Creating Excitement in Education"; a goal that has definitely been met in the area. The program fosters a conservation ethic and promotes preservation of our natural resources by raising trout from eggs to fingerlings then releasing them into the Smith River. This multi-faceted program has enhanced education in a variety of curriculum areas from math, science, English and even art. Schools are reporting increased test scores, higher interest in school curricula, and most importantly an awareness of water quality issues among students, teachers and parents and the desire to protect and preserve our local watersheds.

Most students who participate in TIC also have the opportunity to also learn about water quality monitoring and river creatures called macroinvertebrates featured in DRBA's *Tub-O-Bugs* show. The *Tub-O-Bugs* show is an excellent way to teach students about macroinvertebrates, which are aquatic insects used to determine the health of a stream. Students learn to identify the creatures and about their adaptations that allow each type of insect survive the cold, brisk waters of the river.

Other supporting educational programs being presented to groups by DRBA include *Stream: The Movie*, *Build a Super Macro*, and *The Adventures of Henry the Heron*. These presentations along with *Tub-O-Bugs* are excellent programs that enable youth of our area to become educated about protecting local resources. This education is extended to the public at area festivals and events. Attendees can experience the excitement of catching a live crayfish or watching hellgrammites crawl over rocks while learning their importance to the ecosystem.

The Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH), also offers a series of outreach programs dealing with water quality, as well as, the Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) program for educators which provides professional development credits to teachers.

iii. Stream Sponsors

As public awareness of issues affecting our local streams and rivers increases, another key program to incorporate in the future is the Stream Sponsor program. DRBA in association with SOS hopes to recruit volunteers living near tributaries such as Blackberry Creek, Town Creek, and Jordan Creek. The goal is for the volunteers to form neighborhood groups to monitor and protect these tributaries of the Smith River. By watching out for serious erosion problems, holding litter pick-ups and participating in WQM activities, each group can have a significant positive impact on the quality of both their tributary and the Smith River as a whole.

d. Leave No Trace

To help protect the land used for greenways, trails, parks, and preserves, it is recommended to post signs at trailheads and river access points encouraging visitors to follow Leave No Trace ethics. Relevant ethics should also be included in brochures and trail/river guides to assist users. "Leave No Trace is a national and international program designed to assist outdoor enthusiasts with their decisions about how to reduce their impacts when they hike, camp, picnic, snowshoe, run, bike, hunt, paddle, ride horses, fish, ski, or climb. The program strives to educate all those who enjoy the outdoors about the nature of their recreational impacts as well as techniques to prevent and minimize such impacts" (Leave No Trace). The seven principles are:

i. Plan Ahead and Prepare

Visitors should know where they are going and what to expect while there.

Guides and/or signs explaining the length, difficulty, and terrain of trails and blueways will enable the public to better prepare themselves for an outing.

ii. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

Since most paths along the Smith River Trail System will cross easements on private land, signs should be posted to remind visitors not to wander off the trails. By encouraging visitors to stay on the existing trail, this will greatly reduce the impacts of erosion in the trail corridor.

The setting up of make-shift campsites should be discouraged along the trails, out of respect for land owners, other trail users, and the environment. At the present time there are no plans for establishing designated campsites along the trail system; however, the trail will pass by privately and publicly owned campgrounds for the benefit of thru-hikers/bikers. Information on these amenities will be published in both river and trail guides to assist users in planning multi-day trips. The trails and blueways will also provide campground owners with increased foot-traffic to their businesses.

iii. Dispose of Waste Properly

The placement of attractive trash receptacles in prominent locations near trailheads, river access points, and picnic areas will serve as a visual reminder to dispose of waste properly. Signs along trail systems can also address this issue through non-threatening messages such as “Pack it in, Pack it out”, or “Please leave only footprints and take only photographs.”

iv. Leave What You Find

In areas of historic or natural significance, signs such as the later one referenced in section 8d iii can also serve as a non-threatening reminder for visitors to not remove artifacts or plants from the trail.

v. Minimize Campfire Impacts

Campfires will not be permitted along the trail system; therefore, this LNT ethic is not relevant to the project at the present time.

vi. Respect Wildlife

Due to safety reasons and out of respect for wildlife, hunting will not be permitted within the trail corridors. Signs will be posted at trailheads to address this issue. Visitors should also be reminded in the form of signs and/or information in guides to not feed wildlife along the trail, and keep all pets on a leash while utilizing the trail system.

vii. Be Considerate to Other Visitors

Trail and blueway users should be reminded of this ethic so as to allow all to share a positive experience in the outdoors. Word-of-mouth is the single most effective marketing tool available. If a visitor has an enjoyable experience while on the trail or blueway, he or she will share the experience with others.

CORRESPONDING CULTURAL PROGRAMS

- a. Historical Preservation
- b. Heritage Tourism
- c. Potential Art Programs

8. Corresponding Cultural Programs

a. Historical Preservation

As referenced in section 1f, visiting sites of historic interest was ranked in 2006 as the second most popular outdoor activity in Virginia. Preservation of historic sites and structures not only enables future generations to explore history; but also, when found along blueways and greenways they attract new groups of users. Areas of cultural and historic interest in Martinsville and Henry County include, but are not limited to: The Richard P. Gravely, Jr. Nature Preserve, Bassett Historical Center, pre-historic fish weirs, Paleo-Indian archaeology sites, the Virginia Museum of Natural History, the Fayette Area Historic Initiative, the Carolina Road, Spencer-Penn Centre, Rock Run School, historic industries of the area, and local railroads.

b. Heritage Tourism

The stories and history collected from the area can be incorporated into the proposed trail systems via trail guides, educational signs, and guided walks. Historical programs and guided walks at the Gravely Nature Preserve (hosted by DRBA), as well as Historical Uptown Walks (hosted by Activate and the Martinsville Uptown Revitalization Association) have already been proven to attract sizable audiences; therefore, it would be worthwhile to develop similar programs along other stretches of trail in Martinsville and Henry County.

According to the 2006 Virginia Outdoors Survey, driving for pleasure was ranked as the third most popular outdoor activity. The Smith River Guide, currently in development, will address this need. The guide will also provide information for readers about scenic byways and roads near the river and trail corridor so that they may enjoy visiting areas of natural and cultural significance while on a driving tour.

c. Potential Art Programs

Incorporating art into trail and greenway projects is another way to attract new communities of users. Art initiatives along trails and greenways are most appropriate in urban settings, although there might be special cases in which nature trails could support art programs such as decorated birdhouses.

Gateway Streetscapes has been working on art projects for the Uptown Spur Trail that will include large sculptures surrounded by decorative landscaping. The Smith River Rail Trail is another system where art initiatives would be appropriate. Works of art along trails and greenways can benefit the community not only aesthetically, but also as a fund raising opportunity. Businesses and individuals can sponsor decorative items along the trail, creating a sense of community pride.

Murals on the sides of buildings are another form of art that can be planned around trails and greenways. Piedmont Arts is currently planning a series of murals around town that will be visible from future bike lanes. An idea for a potential mural would reflect the wide array of recreational opportunities that center on our community rivers: hiking, boating, fishing, and enjoying nature.

APPENDICES

- a. Bibliography
- b. Photography Credits
- c. Index of Maps and Tables
- d. Contact Information

9. Appendices

a. Bibliography

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b. Photography Credits

Cover image: Designed by Darrin Doss- photos courtesy of (clockwise from top right corner) Brian Williams, Brian Williams, Jeannie Frisco, Darrin Doss, Darrin Doss, Jeannie Frisco, Randy Sweatt, Darrin Doss, (center top) Darrin Doss, (center bottom) Brian Williams.

Page 6: Brian Williams

Page 35: Jeannie Frisco

Page 38: Jennifer Doss

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d. Contact Information

Shown on pages 62-67 is important contact information for area recreational opportunities, chambers of commerce, municipal offices, state agencies, tourism offices, and related nonprofits of use in bringing to fruition the various agendas set forth in this plan.

Parks:

Fairy Stone State Park Phone: (276) 930-2424
967 Fairystone Lake Drive, Stuart, VA 24171
Web site: www.dcr.virginia.gov
E-mail: fairystone@dcr.virginia.gov

Henry County Parks and Recreation Phone: (276) 634-4640
3300 Kings Mountain Road, Collinsville, VA 24078
Web site: www.henrycountyva.gov
Email: radams@henry.co.va.us

Martinsville Leisure and Senior Services Phone: (276) 403-5140
746-B Indian Trail, Martinsville, VA 24112
Web site: www.ci.martinsville.va.us

Lakes and Reservoirs:

Martinsville Reservoir Phone: (276) 656-5179
P.O. Drawer 1112, Martinsville, VA 24114
Web site: www.ci.martinsville.va.us

Philpott Lake Phone: (276) 629-2703
1058 Philpott Dam Road, Bassett, VA 24055
Web site: www.saw.usace.army.mil
Email: philpott@usace.army.mil

Campgrounds:

Dan River Campground Phone: (336) 427-8530
724 Webster Road, Stoneville, NC 27048-8570
Email: danrivercampground@hotmail.com

David and Julia's Park Phone: (276) 632-8718
Martinsville, VA 24112
Web site: www.kimbanet.com/~rvpark/
E-mail: rvpark@kimbanet.com

Fairy Stone State Park
See information under Parks

Indian Heritage RV Park Phone: (276) 632-9500
184 Tensbury Drive, Martinsville, VA 24112
Web site: www.indianheritagervpark.net
E-mail: indianhrvp@embarqmail.com

Philpott Lake

See information under Lakes

Outfitters:**Dan River Adventures**

724 Webster Road, Stoneville, NC 27048-8570

Web site: www.eagle-falls-outfitters.com

Email: danrivercampground@hotmail.com

Hanging Rock Outdoor Center Phone: (336) 593-8283

3466 Moores Springs Rd., Westfield, NC 27053

Web site: www.hroonline.com

Email: hroc@triad.rr.com

Smith River Junction Phone: (276) 732-8815

5113 River Road, Fieldale, VA 24089

Web site: www.smithriverjunction.net

Email: buster@smithriverjunction.net

Three River Outfitters Phone: (336) 627-6215

413-B Church Street, Eden, NC 27288

Web site: www.3-r-o.com

Email: info@3-r-o.com

Troublesome Creek Outfitters Phone: (336) 627-6215

413-B Church Street, Eden, NC 27288

Web site: www.troublesomecreek.com

Email: troublesomecreek@mindspring.com

Clubs:**Blue Ridge Cycle Club** Phone: (276) 632-8171

P.O. Box 309, Ashville, NC 28802

Web site: www.blueridgebicycleclub.org

Blue Ridge Ski and Outing Club

P.O. Box 3784, Martinsville, VA 24115-3784

Web site: www.brsoc.org/

Carolina Canoe Club

Web site: www.carolinacanoecub.com

Email: info@carolinacanoecub.org

Coastal Canoe Club

Web site: www.coastals.org

Franklin County Creek Freaks

Web site: www.creekfreaks.org

Email: jennifermartin@franklincountyva.org

Franklin County Free Wheelers Phone: (276) 483-2722

5067 Franklin Street, Rocky Mount, VA 24151

Web site: www.franklinfreewheelers.org

Email: info@franklinfreewheelers.org

Henry County Bike Club

Phone: (276) 629-4701

10523 Henry Road, Henry, VA 24102

Web site: www.henrycountybikeclub.org

Rockingham County Naturalist Club

Email: mikevaughan@vnet.net

Smith River Valley Canoe Club Phone: (276) 638-4306

339 Figsboro Road, Martinsville, VA 24112

Email: creekr@webtv.net

Southern Virginia Mountain Bike Association

455 Woodlawn Drive, Danville, VA 24541

Web site: www.svmba.org

Email: svmbainfo@comcast.net

Tarheel Paddlers

7870 Creedmoor Drive, Rural Hall, NC 27045

Web site: www.tarheelpaddlers.org

Email: tarheelpaddlers@mindspring.com

Triad River Runners

PO Box 24094, Winston-Salem NC 27114-4094

Web site: www.trronline.org

Email: trrwebmaster@trronline.org

Chambers of Commerce:**Franklin County Chamber of Commerce** Phone: (540) 483-9542

380 Franklin Street, Rocky Mount, VA 24151

Web site: www.franklincounty.org

Email: info@franklincounty.org

Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce Phone: (276) 632-6401

P.O. Box 709, 115 Broad Street, Martinsville, VA 24114

Web site: www.martinsville.com

Email: mhccoc@mhccchamber.org

Patrick County Chamber of Commerce Phone: (276) 694-6012
20475 Jeb Stuart Highway, Stuart, VA 24171
Web site: www.patrickchamber.com
Email: econdev@co.patrick.va.us

Municipal Offices:

City of Martinsville Phone: (276) 403-5117
55 W. Church Street, Martinsville, VA 24114
Web site: www.ci.martinsville.va.us

Henry County Administration Building Phone: (276) 634-4603
P.O. Box 7, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Collinsville, VA 24078
Web site: www.co.henry.va.us

State Agencies:

Bassett Historical Center Phone: (276) 629-9191
3964 Fairystone Park Hwy, Bassett, VA 24055
Web site: www.bassetthistoricalcenter.com

New College Institute Phone: (276) 403-5612
30 Franklin Street, Martinsville, VA 24112
Web site: www.newcollegeinstitute.org

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Phone: (804) 786-1712
203 Governor Street, Suite 213, Richmond, VA 23219
Web site: www.state.va.us/dcr
Email: pco@dcr.virginia.gov

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Phone: (804) 698-4000
629 East Main Street, P.O. Box 10009, Richmond, VA 23240
Web site: www.deq.state.va.us

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Phone: (804) 367-1000
4010 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230
Web site: www.dgif.virginia.gov
Email: dgifweb@dgif.virginia.gov

Virginia Department of Transportation Martinsville Residency Phone: (276) 629-2581
309 Weeping Willow Lane, Bassett, VA 24055
Web site: www.virginiadot.org

Virginia Museum of Natural History Phone: (276) 634-4141
21 Starling Avenue, Martinsville, VA 24112
Web site: www.vmnh.net
Email: information@vmnh.virginia.gov

Offices of Tourism:

Franklin County Office of Tourism Phone: (540) 483-9293
2150 Sontag Road, Rocky Mount, VA 24151
Web site: www.visitfranklincountyva.com
Email: sholley@franklincountyva.org

Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation- Office of Tourism
Phone: (276) 403-5940
134 East Church Street, Suite 200, P.O. Box 631, Martinsville, VA 24114
Web site: www.YesMartinsville.com

Patrick County Office of Tourism Phone: (276) 694-8367
106 Rucker Street, P.O. Box 466, Stuart, VA 24171
Web site: www.co.patrick.va.us

Virginia Tourism Corporation Phone: (800) 847-4882
901 E. Byrd Street, Richmond, VA 23219
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Email: VAinfo@helloinc.com

Related Nonprofits:

Activate Martinsville Henry County Phone: (276) 638-2523
22 East Church Street- Suite 312, Martinsville, VA, 24112
Web site: www.activatemhc.org
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Friends of Philpott, Inc. Phone: (540) 365-7440
PO Box 265, Ferrum, VA 24088
Web site: <http://www.friendsofphilpott.com/>
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Web site: www.gatewaystreetscape.org
Email: gateway@co.henry.va.us

Izaak Walton League of America Phone: (301) 548-0150
702 Conservation Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 29878
Web site: www.iwla.org

Martinsville Henry County Children's and Nature Network

21 Starling Avenue, Martinsville, VA 24112

Email: tamara.poles@vmnh.virginia.gov

Martinsville Henry County Coalition for Health and Wellness Phone: (276) 638-2523 x.311

22 East Church Street, Suite 311, Martinsville, VA 24112

Web site: www.healthycommunitymhc.org

Email: info@healthycommunitymhc.org

Martinsville Uptown Revitalization Association Phone: (276) 632-5688

217 E. Church Street, PO Box 614, Martinsville, VA 24114

Web site: www.martinsvilleuptown.net

Southern Environmental Law Center Phone: (434) 977-4090

201 W. Main Street, Charlottesville, VA 22902

Website: www.southernenvironment.org

Southern Virginia Recreation Authority Phone: (276) 634-2543

3300 Kings Mountain Road, PO Box 7, Collinsville, VA 24078

Web site: <http://www.southernvirginiaspports.com/>

Email: dtoney@southernvirginiaspports.com

Southern Piedmont Master Naturalists Phone: (276) 634-4184

21 Starling Avenue, Martinsville, VA 24112

Web site: www.virginiamasternaturalists.org/southwesternpiedmont.html

Email: danny.casey@vmnh.virginia.org

Spencer-Penn School Preservation Organization, Inc. Phone: (276) 957-5757

475 Spencer-Penn Road, PO Box 506, Spencer, VA 24165

Web site: TheCentreAtSpencerPenn.com

Email: spspo04@yahoo.com

Virginia Horse Council Phone: (888) 467-7382

P.O. Box 665, Mineral, VA 23117

Web site: www.virginiahorsecouncil.org

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