

# *Small Towns Collaborative Master Plan*

**Philpott · Bassett · Stanleytown · Fieldale**

August 2013



**Henry County, Virginia**

*...A River of Opportunity Runs Through It*

Prepared by: Brian Williams, Anna Wallace  
Dan River Basin Association



## **Small Towns Collaborative Master Plan:**

A partnership effort between community organizations in Henry County, Virginia to advance the communities of Philpott, Bassett, Stanleytown, and Fieldale.

### **Goal**

To promote the amenities and visions of each community and work toward the common goal of creating a destination for visitors and an inviting environment for residents, families and small business owners.

## **Small Town Collaborative Committee Members:**

Jeb Bassett (Bassett)

Bill Adkins (Fieldale)

Doug Stegall (Fieldale)

Alice Gwyn (Fieldale)

Virginia Hamlet (Stanleytown)

Herman Wolf (Fieldale)

## **Partners:**

- Dan River Basin Association (Brian Williams, Anna Wallace)
- Henry County Parks and Recreation (Roger Adams)
- Harvest Foundation (Nancy Cox)
- West Piedmont Planning District Commission
- Henry County Planning & Zoning (Lee Clark, Mary Ann Mason)
- Community Representatives from Bassett, Fieldale, and Stanleytown
- Phoenix Community Development Corporation (Sergio Amato)
- Martinsville - Henry County Economic Development Corporation (Jennifer Doss, Mark Heath)

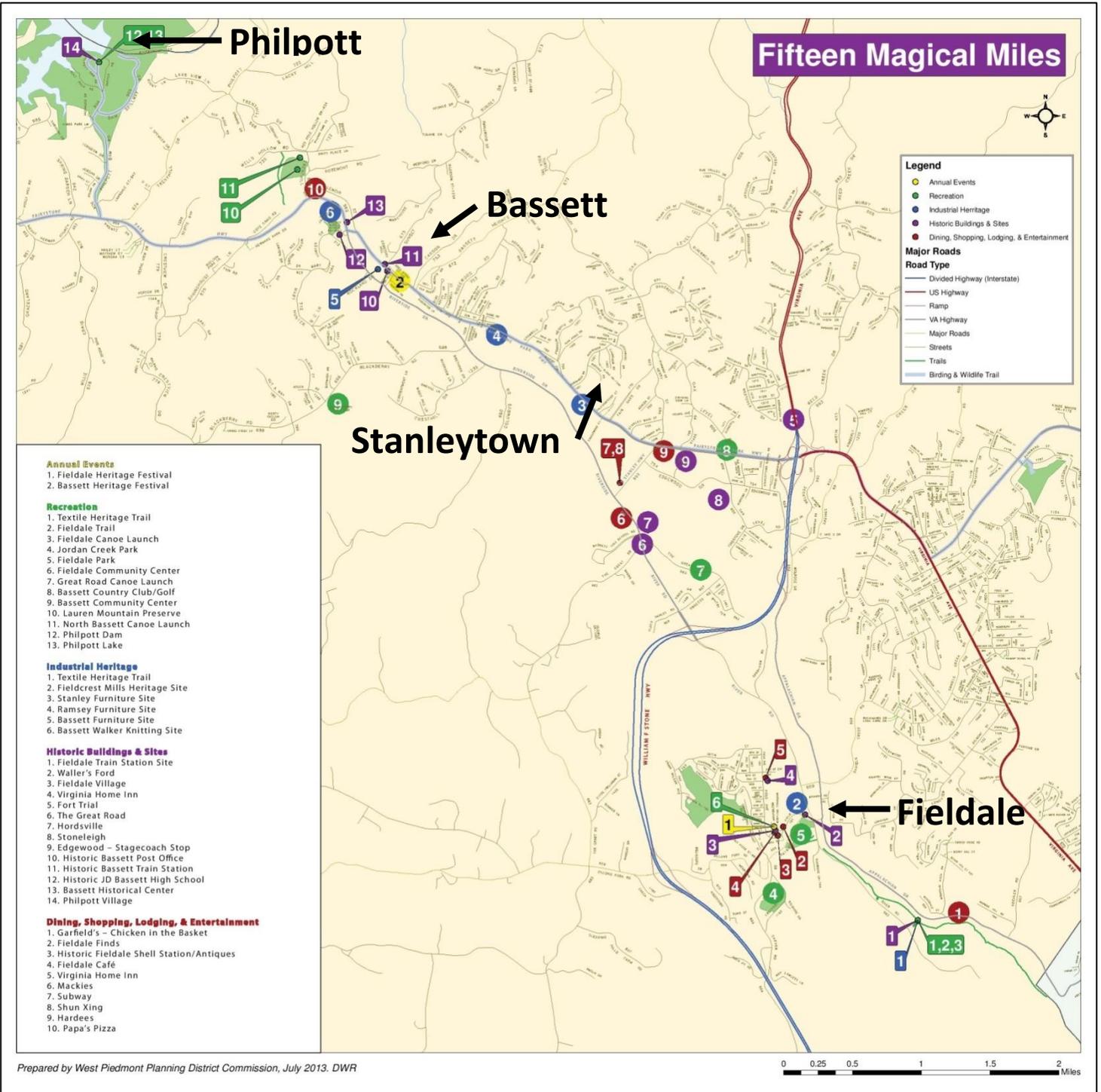
## **Enhancing:**

Trails, Parks, Community Centers, Music & Event Venues, Historic Sites, Heritage Sites

## **Contents:**

- Inventory of Existing Amenities
- Proposed Projects
- Implementation and Resource Protection

# Inventory Map: Events, Recreation, Industrial Heritage, Historic Buildings & Sites, Dining, Shopping, Lodging and Entertainment



# Inventory: Annual Events

## 1. Fieldale Heritage Festival

**Fieldale Community Center**  
**70 Marshall Way**  
**Fieldale, VA 24089**

Exhibits include historic displays with photos, silent movies, newspaper articles, personal memorabilia and more that depict the beginning of the area all the way through to the present, live country, bluegrass and gospel music throughout the day, artisan demonstrations, delicious food, activities for the children, an evening street dance, city historic walking tours and so much more. The festival event is part of a community revitalization effort. Fieldale is a proposed historic district - having been established in 1917 and named for its famous founder, Marshall Field, Sr. This fun filled family event is free and open to the public.



**Accessibility:**

Family Friendly

**Date/Hours:**

Saturday, May 17, 2014

Saturday, May 16, 2015

**Admission Fee:** Free

**Telephone:**

Doug Stegall: (276) 647-3552

Alternate Number: (540) 493-4604

**Email:**

[Info@FieldaleHeritageFestival.com](mailto:Info@FieldaleHeritageFestival.com)

**Website:**

[www.FieldaleHeritageFestival.com](http://www.FieldaleHeritageFestival.com)

## 2. Bassett Heritage Festival

**Downtown Bassett near Historic Train Depot**  
**3559 Fairystone Park Highway**  
**Bassett, VA 24055**

This event is sponsored by the Stanleytown Ruritan Club. The Bassett Ruritan Club also participates with a Country Breakfast. There is a Classic Car Show, lots of music, free Rides for children sponsored by Bassett Industries and an Honorary Mayor will be elected-results announced just before the 2pm parade. The festival is held rain or shine. Historic exhibits can be seen in the old Train depot. Displays include Native-American artifacts, photography, historic displays and more.



**Accessibility:**

Wheel Chair Access

**Date/Hours:**

Saturday, September 14, 2013

Saturday, September 13, 2014

**Admission Fee:** Free **Telephone:** (276) 647-3404

# Inventory: Recreation

## 1. Textile Heritage Trail

**Textile Heritage Trail**  
**3251 South River Rd**  
**Fieldale, VA 24089**

Along the self-guided tour in Fieldale, visitors will see a glimpse of the nearby historic Fieldcrest Mills opened by Marshall Field & Co. in 1919, and its iconic smokestack. The trail is a quarter-mile loop trail that features an elevated boardwalk with a series of seven interpretive signs along the way.

A supplemental sign to the Textile Heritage Trail is located in Uptown Martinsville along the Uptown Connection Trail overlooking Commonwealth Clocktower.

The Textile Heritage Trail is part of the extensive Smith River Trail System, a network of multi-use trails, river access points and parks designed for a variety of outdoor adventures. It also has been listed as a point of interest along the Southern Textile Heritage Corridor, a 700-mile National Heritage Corridor that spans from Richmond, Virginia to Montgomery, Alabama.



**Accessibility:**  
Wheel Chair Access  
**Telephone:**

## 2. Fieldale Trail

**3521 River Road**  
**Fieldale, VA 24078**

The Fieldale Walking Trail is a 6 mile, out and back, long multiuse trail designed for walking and biking along the Smith River in Henry County. This trail is part of the Smith River Trails system composed of boating access points, parks, and multiuse trails being developed to create opportunities for people to enjoy and learn more about the Smith River in Henry County. Trail users can experience nature at its finest with views of the Smith River and glimpses of wildlife including deer, geese, groundhogs, squirrels, birds, and butterflies. While you are in Fieldale, also visit the trail's neighboring parks- Fieldale Ball Park and Jordan Creek Park- as well as the Fieldale Access Point located at the beginning of the trail.



So grab your boat, fishing rod, bike, or walking shoes and come out and enjoy the Smith River in Fieldale!

### 3. Fieldale Canoe Access

**3521 River Road  
Fieldale, VA 24089**

Henry County Parks and Recreation have established this access point for convenient public use of the Smith River. Parking is convenient to the access point. This section passes industrial sites, homes and the Dupont private nature preserve. Class I rapids are found in the first few miles; the last two miles are on a lake created by the dam. Paddlers can exit on the left before the dam at the Doe Run Access. This is a popular section of the



river for boating, fishing, and viewing wildlife. Paddlers should be aware that the entrance ramp is rustic and that water levels are subject to rapid change due to releases from Philpott Dam. Water temperature is cold year round. Paddlers should check USGS gauges and please call for water release schedule.

**Telephone:**

(276) 634-4640

Dan River Basin Association: (276) 634-2545

Call for Water Release Schedule Recording: (276) 629-2432

Fax: (276) 634-4637

**Email:**

[radams@co.henry.va.us](mailto:radams@co.henry.va.us)

**Website:**

[www.henrycountyva.gov/parksandrec](http://www.henrycountyva.gov/parksandrec)

**Accessibility:**

Family Friendly

### 4. Jordan Creek Park

**243 Creekside Dr  
Martinsville, VA 24112**

Jordan Creek Park is a 13 acre park located in Fieldale that is used mostly for athletic events. There are two tournament baseball fields in the park that's used for games for a variety of leagues. The park also has a picnic shelter with cooking grills, a playground and new restrooms. Our picnic shelter may be reserved up to six months in advance. The shelter provides the perfect place to hold your next family or social function. It doesn't matter if it is a large or small cook-out, family reunion or a church or civic gathering, our shelter provides the perfect accommodations. Kids love to be outside and they also love to play on our playground. They get to be as loud and run as fast as they want. While they're running and having fun, the grill can be fired up to get food ready. We operate and are open every day of the year.

**Telephone:**

(276) 634-4640

Fax: (276) 634-4637

**Email:**

[radams@co.henry.va.us](mailto:radams@co.henry.va.us)

**Website:**

[www.henrycountyva.gov/parksandrec](http://www.henrycountyva.gov/parksandrec)

**Accessibility:**

Pet Friendly

Family Friendly

## 5. Fieldale Park

**188 Field Ave  
Fieldale, VA 24089**

Fieldale Park is located in the heart of historic Fieldale, VA. The park has a baseball field that is used by a variety of leagues. Jordan Creek borders the park and provides for a quiet peaceful setting to read a book or just relax and enjoy nature. The park also has a picnic shelter with cooking grills and a restroom building. We would love for you to spend a day with us. The grills are waiting for those juicy steaks, hamburgers and hotdogs to be thrown on them. Nothing tastes better than a delicious grilled piece of meat. While the food is being prepared,



enjoy a nice friendly game of baseball. Our picnic shelter is here for your convenience and can be reserved up to six months in advance. Planning ahead allows you to rest easy and know that your next birthday party or social gathering is under control. We're open 365 days!

**Telephone:**

(276) 634-4640

Fax: (276) 634-4637

**Website:**

[www.henrycountyva.gov/parksandrec](http://www.henrycountyva.gov/parksandrec)

**Accessibility:**

Pet Friendly

Family Friendly

## 6. Fieldale Community Center

**Marshall Way  
Fieldale, VA 24089**

Fieldale Community Center offers: Nautilus, free weights, and exercise, Large party room, Ping Pong, 2 full size swimming pools, Swim Team, 2 toddler pools, Concessions, Swimming lessons, Water Aerobics, Gymnasium, Billiards, Tee Ball, Gymnasium, TV room, Computer Room \*8 Computers, Basketball - boys & girls, Co-ed volleyball, Indoor Soccer, Playground, Easter Egg Hunt, Softball, Dance classes & dance/baton camp

**Phone:** 276-673-6836 **E-mail:** [elva@e-dzine.com](mailto:elva@e-dzine.com)



**Center Hours of Operation**

Summer (May - Sep.): Monday - Friday 10 AM - 8 PM and Saturdays 9 AM - 6 PM

Winter: Monday - Friday 1 PM - 8 PM and Saturdays 9 AM - 6 PM

**Pool Hours of Operation (Memorial Day - Labor Day):**

Monday - Friday: 11 AM - 8 PM . Saturday: 10 AM - 5 PM . Sunday: 1 PM - 5 PM

## 7. Great Road Canoe Access

**4313 The Great Road  
Fieldale, VA 24089**

This public canoe access point across the road from Eastman has convenient parking and a short walking trail with picnic area. Paddlers should be aware that the entrance ramp is rustic and that water levels are subject to rapid change due to releases from Philpott Dam. A great place to wade in the water or just relax and enjoy the view. Paddlers should check USGS gauges and please call for water release schedule.



**Telephone:**

(276) 634-4640

**Email:**

[radams@co.henry.va.us](mailto:radams@co.henry.va.us)

**Website:**

[www.henrycountyva.gov/parksandrec](http://www.henrycountyva.gov/parksandrec)

**Accessibility:**

Family Friendly

## 8. Bassett Country Club/Golf

**1230 Oak Level Rd  
Bassett, VA 24055**

Enjoy a couple games of golf at Bassett Country Club (BCC) every day of the week. The greens are open to anyone who wants to play. Experience our challenging 9 hole course. Our motto is, "If you can play well at Bassett Country Club, you can play well anywhere." Come see for yourself. Our fairways and tees are Bermuda Grass, and the greens are Pencross Bent Grass. The course is 6177 yards long. Tee times aren't usually needed so



stop in and play a round or two. Our pro shop is open for any of your golf needs; shoes, jackets, golf balls and more. We do close some days for tournaments and special events, so please check the calendar or call the Pro Shop for the latest information and available play times. Mon-Fri 8:30-6:30, Sat-Sun 1:00-6:30

**Average Cost Per Person:** Contact BCC

**Telephone:**

(276) 629-3242

**Website:**

[www.BassettCC.com](http://www.BassettCC.com)

## 9. Bassett Community Center

**119 Blackbery Road  
Bassett, VA 24055**

The Bassett Community Center is a family-oriented facility that offers lots of recreational opportunities for the entire family. Multiple memberships are available for those in the community, but visitors may take part in the fun with a \$6 daily fee. Those under 2 years of age are admitted free. There is no limit on the number of visits and non-members do not have to be accompanied by a member. Bassett Community Center offers an outdoor seasonal pool, baby pool, volleyball, basketball, playground, ball fields, pool table, air hockey, table soccer, ping pong, fitness and weight rooms and more. Pool party, gym and room rentals for birthday parties, baby showers, reunions, etc. are also available.



**Pool hours:**

Mon-Thur 11am-6pm  
Fri and Sat 10am-6pm  
Sun 1-6pm

**Telephone:**

Bassett Community Center: (276) 629-5225

**Email:**

[bassettcc@gmail.com](mailto:bassettcc@gmail.com)

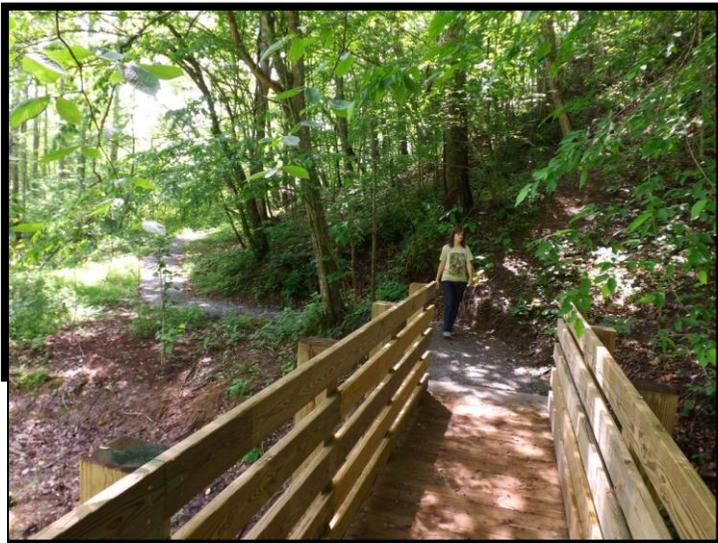
**Accessibility:**

Family Friendly

## 10. Lauren Mountain Preserve

**Wells Hollow Road  
Bassett, VA 24055**

Lauren Mountain Preserve is a 1.5 mile out and back trail that follows the Smith River and is located in Bassett, VA on Wells Hollow Road. Wildflowers and a variety of interesting plants can be found at this site. Huge beech trees and beautiful river views are part of the experience for the hiker or fisherman.



**Telephone:**

Henry County Parks & Rec: (276) 634-4640

**Email:**

[radams@co.henry.va.us](mailto:radams@co.henry.va.us)

**Website:**

[www.henrycountyva.gov/parksandrec](http://www.henrycountyva.gov/parksandrec)

## 11. Bassett Canoe Access

**271 Trent Hill Drive  
Bassett, VA 24055**

This public canoe access point located adjacent to the historic Bassett Furniture plant has convenient parking. In this relatively urban portion of the Smith River, paddlers will view what remains of a once vibrant furniture manufacturing industry along the river's banks in Bassett and Stanleytown. This section, featuring Class I and II rapids, includes Native American fish weirs and 19th-century batteau navigation structures, visible at low water. Paddlers should be aware that water levels are subject to rapid change due to releases from Philpott Dam.



Water temperature is cold year round.

Paddlers should check USGS gauges and please call for water release schedule.

**Telephone:**

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Dan River Basin Association: (276) 634-2545

Call for Water Release Schedule Recording:

(276) 629-2432

Fax: (276) 634-4637

**Email:**

[radams@co.henry.va.us](mailto:radams@co.henry.va.us)

**Website:**

[www.henrycountyva.gov/parksandrec](http://www.henrycountyva.gov/parksandrec)

**Accessibility:**

Family Friendly

## 12. Philpott Dam Canoe Access

**1058 Philpott Dam Road  
Bassett, VA 24055**

Public non-motorized boat ramp at the base of Philpott Dam has convenient parking. The next public access is 6 miles downstream at Bassett Furniture Co. This section of river is scenic and a favorite spot for fishing. The Smith River is nationally recognized for its Native Brown Trout. Paddlers should keep an eye out for blooming rhododendron and mountain laurel in early summer. There are also wildlife viewing opportunities in the area. Paddlers should be aware that the entrance ramp is rustic and that water levels are subject to rapid change due to releases from Philpott Dam. Water temperature is cold year round. NOTE: Paddlers should check USGS



gauges and call for water release schedule.

**Average Cost Per Person: \$0.00**

**Telephone:**

(276) 629-2703

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Philpott

(automated): (276) 629-4512

Philpott Dam Water Release Schedule Recording:

(276) 629-2432

Fax: (276) 629-3493

**Website:**

[www.saw.usace.army.mil/philpott/index.htm](http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/philpott/index.htm)

**Accessibility:**

Family Friendly

### 13. Philpott Lake

1058 Philpott Dam Rd.  
Bassett, VA 24055



Nestled among the rolling foothills of Virginia's Blue Ridge, Philpott Lake is a scenic wonderland. The lake covers 3,000 acres with 100 miles of shoreland. Visitors to the lake are always amazed at the natural beauty of the area. Most areas are under forest cover. There are numerous recreational opportunities, including: boating, swimming, picnicking, hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, and wildlife observation. The lake has eight campgrounds, six beach areas, and nine boat launches. Visitors to Philpott should begin with a trip to the Visitor Center. Philpott Lake was built by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers between 1948 and 1951, with it opening in 1953. Philpott Lake is convenient to Greensboro, NC (60 miles), Roanoke, VA (50 miles), Winston-Salem, NC (60 miles), and Raleigh, NC (130 miles), and Richmond, VA (190 miles).

**Telephone:**

(276) 629-2703

Reservations (Camping): (877) 444-6777

U.S. Army Corps: (276) 629-4512

Fax: (276) 629-3493

**Website:**

[www.saw.usace.army.mil/Locations/DistrictLakesandDams/Philpott.aspx](http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Locations/DistrictLakesandDams/Philpott.aspx)

**Accessibility:**

Family Friendly

Wheel Chair Access

***Philpott Marina - Scheduled to be open and ready for guests late Summer 2013!***

*Boat launch site at Ramp #1 as well as the group camping site, with full hook-ups, are open and available for use now.* The marina will be located on Philpott Lake, a 3000 acre lake with 100 miles of shoreline nestled among the rolling foothills of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains. Visitors to the lake can enjoy numerous recreational opportunities including swimming, picnicking, hiking, biking, hunting, wildlife observation, boating and fishing. Philpott Lake has eight campgrounds, six beach areas and nine boat launches.

The Philpott Marina will offer a variety of amenities to make your next fishing or boating trip more convenient.

**Amenities Will Include:**

40 Reserved Slips (24 hour access)

6 Day Use Slips (first come first serve)

Fuel Slip , Marina Store , Restrooms , Picnic Area, Group Camping with full hook-ups (includes use of 2 slips)

**Boat Slip Rentals**

\$1200 per year

For more information on rentals contact Henry County Parks and Recreation office at the number listed.

**Telephone:** Marina Store: (276) 340-0485 Henry County Parks & Rec: (276) 634-4640

**Email:** [info@philpottmarina.com](mailto:info@philpottmarina.com) **Website:** [www.PhilpottMarina.com](http://www.PhilpottMarina.com) **Accessibility:** Family Friendly

# Inventory: Industrial Heritage

## 1. Textile Heritage Trail

**Textile Heritage Trail**  
**3251 South River Rd**  
**Fieldale, VA 24089**

Along the self-guided tour in Fieldale, visitors will see a glimpse of the nearby historic Fieldcrest Mills opened by Marshall Field & Co. in 1919, and its iconic smokestack. The trail is a quarter-mile loop trail that features an elevated boardwalk with a series of seven interpretive signs along the way. A supplemental sign to the Textile Heritage Trail is located in Uptown Martinsville along the Uptown Connection Trail overlooking Commonwealth Clocktower.



The Textile Heritage Trail is part of the extensive Smith River Trail System, a network of multi-use trails, river access points and parks designed for a variety of outdoor adventures. It also has been listed as a point of interest along the Southern Textile Heritage Corridor, a 700-mile National Heritage Corridor that spans from Richmond, Virginia to Montgomery, Alabama.

**Accessibility:**

Wheel Chair Access

**Telephone:**

Event Information: (276) 403-5949

**Website:**

<http://www.visitmartinsville.com/index.cfm/go/venues.details/type/attractions/ID/103823/Textile%20Heritage%20Trail>

## 2. Fieldcrest Mills Heritage Site



In 1917 Chicago's Marshall Field & Company began construction of Fieldcrest Mills, a plant that would eventually cover four acres. Along with the mill also came the area's very first paved road, connecting Fieldale to Martinsville.

In 1919 Fieldcrest Mills was one of the first textile mills in the area, producing towels. Marshall Field had created the largest retail and wholesale dry goods company in the world, and also the facilities needed to manufacture the merchandise it

sold. <http://www.visitmartinsville.com/Textile-Heritage.html>

### 3. Stanley Furniture Site

In 1924, Thomas B. Stanley, a Bassett Furniture executive and family member by marriage, left the company and moved down the Smith River a few miles and started his own company. Stock securities totaling \$300,000 were quickly sold to local interests to finance the new factory. By 1929, the company was free of debt. After struggling through a financial crisis in the early 1930s, Stanley Furniture emerged as one of the leaders in the furniture industry. In 2008, the company had \$226 million in annual sales. (<http://www.visitmartinsville.com/Furniture-Legacy.html>)

### 4. Ramsey Furniture Site



In 1934, Bassett Furniture Industries acquired the Ramsey Furniture Co., later to be known as Bassett Superior Lines, in a public auction for \$117,000. The factory closed in 2007.

(<http://www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/bassett-furniture-industries-inc-history/>)

### 5. Bassett Furniture Site



In 1901, J.D. Bassett, Sr., at the age of 35, saw the nearly unlimited future in Southern furniture manufacturing. He and his brother and brother-in-law pooled their entire resources, totaling \$27,500, and converted their sawmill business into a furniture factory. From this small beginning, the Bassett Furniture Industries grew over the next 100 years into a publicly traded company with 2008 sales topping \$288 million. (<http://www.visitmartinsville.com/Textile-Heritage.html>)

### 6. Bassett-Walker Knitting Site



Bassett-Walker, Inc, one of the world's largest manufacturers of knitting outerwear garments, was started in 1963 as Bassett Knitting Corporation in Bassett, Virginia. In 1941, the company was reorganized and S.S. "Sam" Walker became president of the new company - Bassett-Walker Knitting Company. The Company experienced a steady and healthy growth under the able leadership of Sam Walker through the 40's and 50's. Mr. Dudley Walker took over the leadership, as President of the company, after the death of his father in 1960. In May of 1964, the Walker

Knitting Company of Martinsville, Virginia, which had been started by Sam Walker in 1928, was merged with the Bassett-Walker Knitting Company. In February of 1980, the company was changed to Bassett-Walker, Inc.

(<http://www.bassetthistoricalcenter.com/resources/historicalcenter/Bassett-Walker%20History.pdf>)

# Inventory: Historic Buildings & Sites

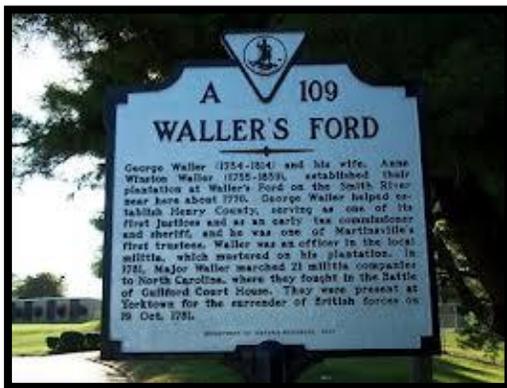
## 1. Fieldale Train Station Site



The Fieldale Station was one of the last remaining Danville and Western train stations in Henry County VA. It was originally built about 1920 to supplement the service of the station in Koehler. At one time a 3 room layover cabin existed between the Koehler and Fieldale stations and was used by rail employees. The historic structure was destroyed by fire in 2010 and the site is now part of the Textile Heritage Trail. The station was on the west side of the river and was built to serve the Danville and Western line. That line began in Danville and ran to Eden, NC and then back to Leaksville Station just east of the village of Cascade, VA. Percy Fulcher was the last to run a

train to Stuart, when the line was abandoned from Fieldale to Stuart in 1942. Norfolk Southern did not use the depot at Fieldale, but did use the D&W track to operate trains from Koehler to Fieldcrest Mills during the late 1980's and 1990's.

## 2. Waller's Ford



### Field Avenue

#### Fieldale, VA 24089

George Waller (1734-1814) and his wife, Anne Winston Waller (1735-1839), established their plantation at Waller's Ford on the Smith River near here about 1770. George Waller helped establish Henry County, serving as one of its first justices and as an early tax commissioner and sheriff, and he was one of Martinsville's first trustees. Waller was an officer in the local militia, which mustered on his plantation. In 1781, Major Waller marched 21 militia companies to North Carolina, where they fought in the Battle of Guilford Court House. They were present at Yorktown for the surrender of British forces on 19 Oct. 1781.

## 3. Fieldale Village

### Marshall Way

#### Fieldale, VA 24089

Shortly after the turn of the 19th century, Marshall Field and Co., located in Chicago, became interested in this area of land for a new textile mill site, conveniently located on the Smith River between two railroads, the D&W and N&W. Marshall Field and Co. wanted to build a model town, which provided homes, churches, boarding houses and schools on this area of land. Later the company supervised the establishment of a bank, furniture and hardware store, a mercantile, hotel, drugstore, grocery store and a theatre. The town became self-sufficient, providing for all the needs of mill employees. As people came to the area seeking employment, the need for housing grew which spurred the construction of 87 houses that would be leased to mill employees. Marshall Field died in 1906 and never got to see the town that would bear his name. Upon his death, John C. Shedd took over Marshall Field and Co, and built the mills and Fieldale. In 2007 the Village of Fieldale was named to the State Historic Register and in 2008 it was added to the National Register.

#### 4. Virginia Home Inn

986 Field Ave  
Fieldale, VA 24089

The Virginia Home Inn is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was originally built for Marshall Fields in 1920. It is a 22-room home that has been converted into an Inn Bed & Breakfast with 8 rooms available for overnight guests. Each room has its own private bath with room darkening shades, allowing the perfect amount of light and are furnished with either poster or brass beds along with handmade quilts, Williamsburg quilts and white linen.

The downstairs area features a large gathering room furnished with antiques, old paintings, a brick fireplace, a large dining room and a library stocked with books. A sitting room with fireplace is located upstairs and is the perfect place to curl up with a cup of tea or a book. If you like the outdoors, enjoy the view from the 80 foot



balcony or porch while relaxing in a wicker rocker, loveseat or chair.

Book your room early for your choice of king, queen, doubles or twins. Daily Tea Time is at 4 pm with your choice of hot or cold tea, coffee and Virginia sweet biscuits. On-site antique shopping available for guests. You may come as a stranger but will leave as a friend.

**Telephone:**

The Virginia Home Inn: (276) 673-7717

**Email:** [info@thevirginiahomeinn.com](mailto:info@thevirginiahomeinn.com)

**Website:** [www.thevirginiahomeinn.com](http://www.thevirginiahomeinn.com)

#### 5. Fort Trial



**Route 57: 6 miles north of Martinsville**

Near here stood Fort Trial, one of a chain of forts built in 1756, in the French and Indian War, as places of refuge in Indian attacks. Washington visited it soon after its erection.

#### 6. The Great Road



Prior to the opening of the Wilderness Road and other routes west, this was part of the main corridor connecting Pennsylvania with settlements in the Carolina backcountry - particularly the Moravian Wachovia Tract. Beginning in the 1740s, many settlers traveled to/through Henry County with as many as 1,000 wagons a day in the 1760s. Initial settlement of present-day Henry County coincides with the road. Settlers represented diverse cultural backgrounds: Germans, Welsh, Scots-Irish, English and African.

<http://www.virginia.org/wildernessroad/wrCommunity.asp?community=23>

## 7. Hordsville

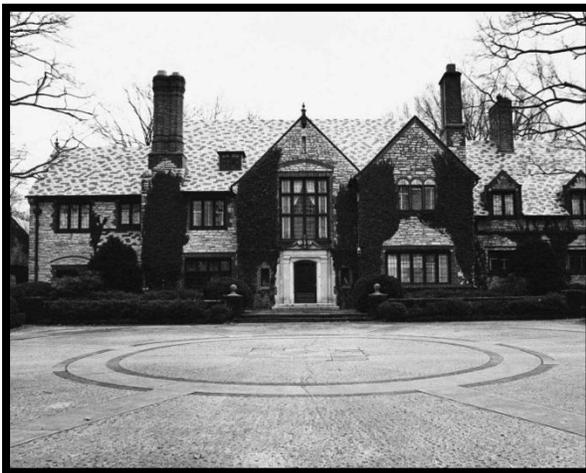
Hordsville was built in 1836 by George Hairston and Louisa Hardyman Hairston. He was the son of George Hairston and Elizabeth Perkins (Letcher) Hairston. It is located near Stanleytown on the old Carolina Post Road



between Bassett and Fieldale and is copy of a house George had seen in Richmond. It was built of brick made by slaves on the plantation and iron from the Hairston Foundry located where Fairystone Park is now. The land was purchased from John Hord, an Englishman, who is buried on a knoll, which can be seen from the front of the house. Near the house is the old cemetery referred to as "God's Acre" where many of the Hairston and related families are buried.

## 8. Stoneleigh

Stoneleigh is a private residence that was the former abode of Governor Thomas B. Stanley. Construction began in 1929 and it was completed in 1932. It was built in the Tudor Revival-style and crafted out of stone from the nearby Smith River. Stanley inhabited this 25-room mansion until his death in 1970 and his kids then took



ownership of the home. In 1980, the Stanley family made a generous donation of 1.2 million dollars of the 1.5 building to Ferrum College, leaving the college 300,000 dollars left on the statement on the mansion. In 1993 Bill and Barbara Topa had plans on making Stoneleigh into a four-star lodging and dining facility when they purchased the home in 1993.

## 9. Edgewood - Stagecoach Stop

### Old Stage Road Stanley, VA

Edgewood is an imposing 1830s manor house constructed for John Redd. During the 19th Century, Old Stage Road was known as the Great Wagon Road, used for travel from Salem, VA to Salem, NC. It was also known as the Carolina Stage Road. Previously, in the mid-1700's, this road was used by the Moravians coming from Pennsylvania to establish their settlement in Bethabara, N.C. Travelers forded the Smith River near Edgewood on their way south to North Carolina. The house type is most unusual in the area, with its Palladian three-part form, or "temple-wing" plan. Classical-inspired architecture was historically unknown to most residents of Henry County or nearby areas. Moreover, brick houses of Edgewood's vintage, scale, and grandeur are today uniquely rare in the region. [http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/register/Counties/Henry/044-5172\\_Edgewood\\_2006\\_NRdraft.pdf](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/register/Counties/Henry/044-5172_Edgewood_2006_NRdraft.pdf)

## 10. Historic Bassett Post Office

The Post Office is situated in the middle of the downtown area of Bassett and faces the Bassett Depot (044-5194) from the former Highway 57. The tall one-story American bond brick building features a side-gabled roof and a five-bay façade with a centered double-leaf door entrance with a Colonial Revival style door surround with an elliptical arched door surround. The interior features an original frame and glass vestibule and a mural titled “Manufacture of Furniture.” The fresco was painted by Walter Carnelli in 1939 and funded by the Section of Fine Arts under the Treasury Department and not the Works Progress Administration (WPA). This building and the Bassett Depot (044-5194) are the most architecturally significant resources in downtown Bassett. (<http://www.mhchistoricalsociety.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=hhwAIOjVwvk%3D&tabid=1434>)

## 11. Historic Bassett Train Station



The depot is located in the middle of the commercial downtown of Bassett and was built with rough-cut brick in the Colonial Revival style. The building has undergone changes, but still retains a hipped-roof with wide eaves and brackets—although the original roof had flared eaves and slate shingles. Its original wood windows and thick batten doors remain. (<http://www.mhchistoricalsociety.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=hhwAIOjVwvk%3D&tabid=1434>)

The Community Market is located in the old Bassett Train Depot and is not only a historic site but is the place to purchase fresh locally grown vegetables, fruits, canned goods and other garden items. The Bassett Community

Market is open each Thursday from 11 am to 1 pm during the months of June through October. <http://www.virginia.org/Listings/Events/CommunityMarketatBassettTrainDepot/>

## 12. Historic JD Bassett High School



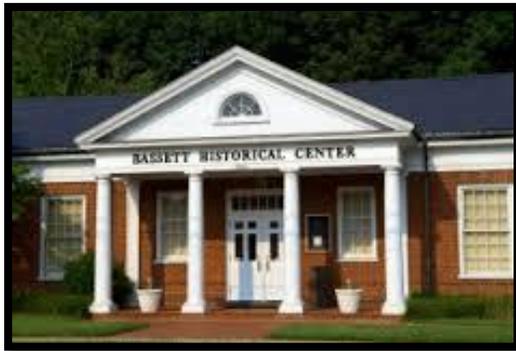
John D. Bassett High School, also known as Bassett Middle School, is a historic school building located at Bassett, Henry County, Virginia. It was built in 1947–1948, and is a two-story Georgian style brick school building. A rear addition was built in 1961. It has three bay portico entrances at each end with cupolas above. They provide public access to the two community spaces on the interior – the auditorium at one end and the gymnasium at the other. The building features a hip roof with slate shingles, gabled dormers and octagonal cupolas; and Flemish-bond variant brickwork with corner quoins and a water table. It was replaced by the Bassett High School, and continued to operate as a middle

school. The school closed in 2004. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_D.\\_Bassett\\_High\\_School](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_D._Bassett_High_School))

### 13. Bassett Historical Center

**3964 Fairystone Highway  
Bassett, VA 24055**

For those conducting family history or historical research, the Bassett Historical Center is a gem. It has all



records for Henry, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Franklin, and Floyd Counties in VA and Rockingham, Stokes and Surry Counties NC. Over 11,562 books/items are available to the public, as are family and local history files. Information and records are available for NC, SC, WV, MD, GA, PA, KY and TN.

A computer programmed for Family Tree Maker, Family Origins, etc.(and HeritageQuest and Ancestry.com). Patrons have come from every state as well as Italy, Switzerland, Sweden, Thailand, England, Canada, South Africa, Taiwan and Luxembourg. The center is also a museum with temporary and permanent artifact exhibits: musical instruments, clothing, tools, Appalachian

craft, and photographs.

**Hours of Operation:**

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 10 am - 5 pm

Tuesday 12 Noon - 5 pm

Friday 10 am - 2 pm

**Average Cost Per Person:** Free Admission

**Telephone:** Bassett Historical Center: (276) 629-9191 Fax: (276) 629-9840

**Email:** [mail@BassettHistoricalCenter.com](mailto:mail@BassettHistoricalCenter.com)

**Website:** [www.BassettHistoricalCenter.com](http://www.BassettHistoricalCenter.com)

**Accessibility:** Wheel Chair Access

### 14. Philpott Village

Once a railroad “turn-around” location and site of the DeHart distillery. The old grocery store and post office buildings, now abandoned and railroad pilings, are remnants of a by-gone era.

# Inventory: Dining, Shopping, Lodging and Entertainment

## 1. **Garfield's - Chicken in the Basket**

2670 Appalachian Drive  
Martinsville, VA 24112  
(276) 632-9008

## 2. **Fieldale Finds \_**

## 3. **Historic Fieldale Shell Station/Antiques**

478 Field Ave.  
Fieldale, VA 24089  
(276) 336-2536

## 4. **Fieldale Cafe**

63 Marshall Way  
Fieldale, VA 24089  
(276) 673-6621

## 5. **Virginia Home Inn**

986 Field Ave  
Fieldale, VA 24089  
(276) 673-7717

## 6. **Mackies**

275 Riverside Drive  
Bassett, VA 24055  
(276) 627-0156

## 7. **Subway**

325 TB Stanley Highway  
Bassett, VA 24055  
(276) 629-2929

## 8. **Shun Xing**

324 TB Stanley Highway  
Bassett, VA 24055  
(276) 629-9919

## 9. **Hardee's**

Fairystone Park Highway  
Stanleytown, VA 24168  
(276) 629-1122

## 10. **Papa's Pizza**

4288 Fairystone Park Highway  
Bassett, VA 24055  
(276) 629-6992

# Proposed Projects: Smith River Trail

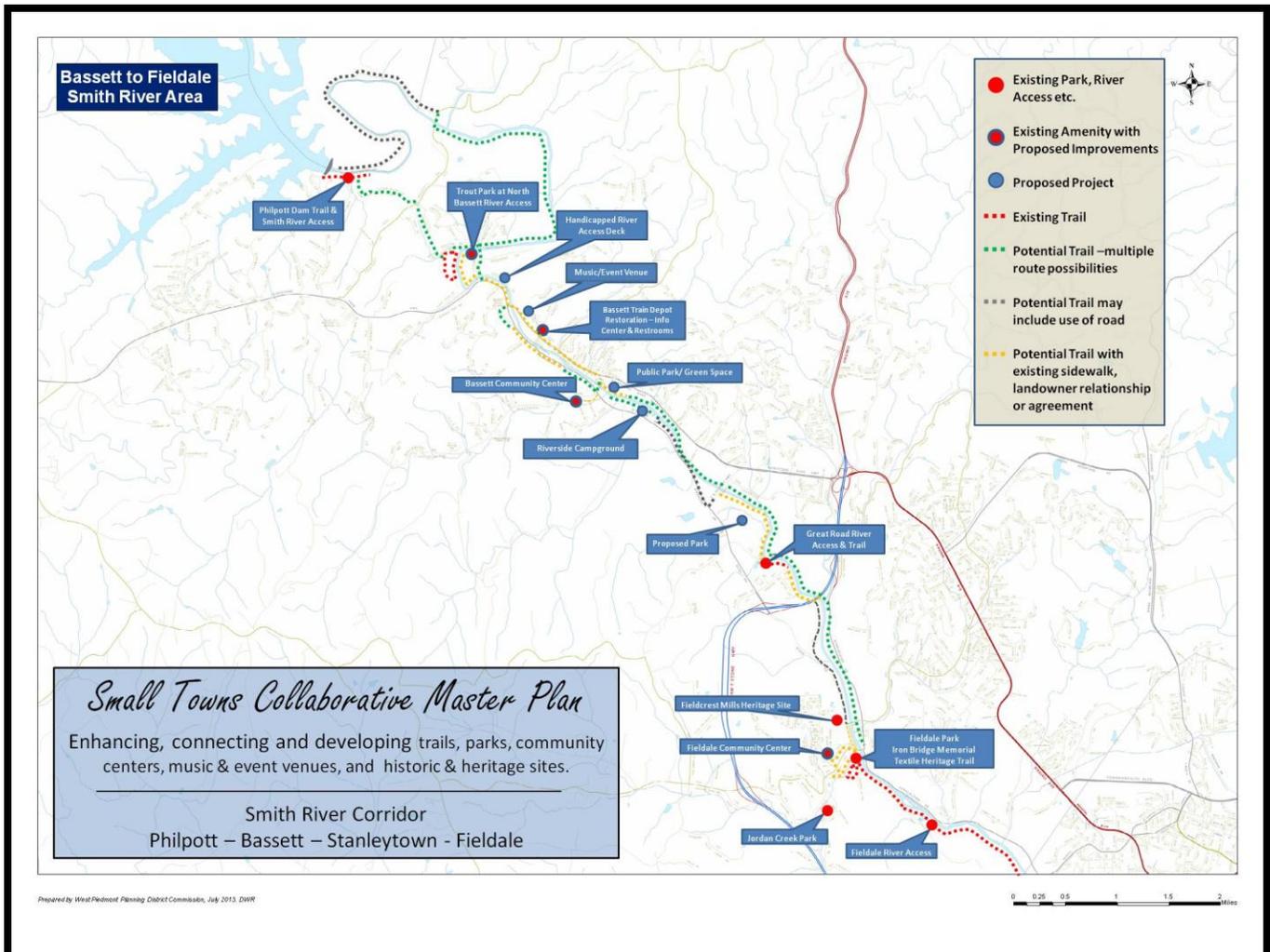
This plan proposes a continuous trail system along the Smith River corridor that would connect Philpott Lake and the communities of Bassett, Stanleytown and Fieldale. The trail would tie in existing parks, river access points, community centers, historic sites and heritage sites.

Along the route of the proposed trail there is potential to enhance existing amenities and develop new ones, which would increase the value of the trail and its impact on the community.

A contiguous trail system connecting these communities will attract visitors to the area and increase the quality of life for those living in these areas by providing the infrastructure for alternative forms of transportation such as walking and biking.

The proposed trail can be broken down into 4 sections: Philpott Lake to North Bassett, North Bassett to South Bassett, South Bassett to Stanleytown, and Stanleytown to Fieldale. Eventually, this trail could connect to the Dick & Willie Trail in Martinsville and become a major part of the Smith River Trail System.

The trail will utilize existing sidewalks, existing trails, donated land easements from private individuals and companies, existing utility easements, and transportation easements. The trail will have a variation of sidewalk, paved and natural surfaces with the predominant surface being asphalt.

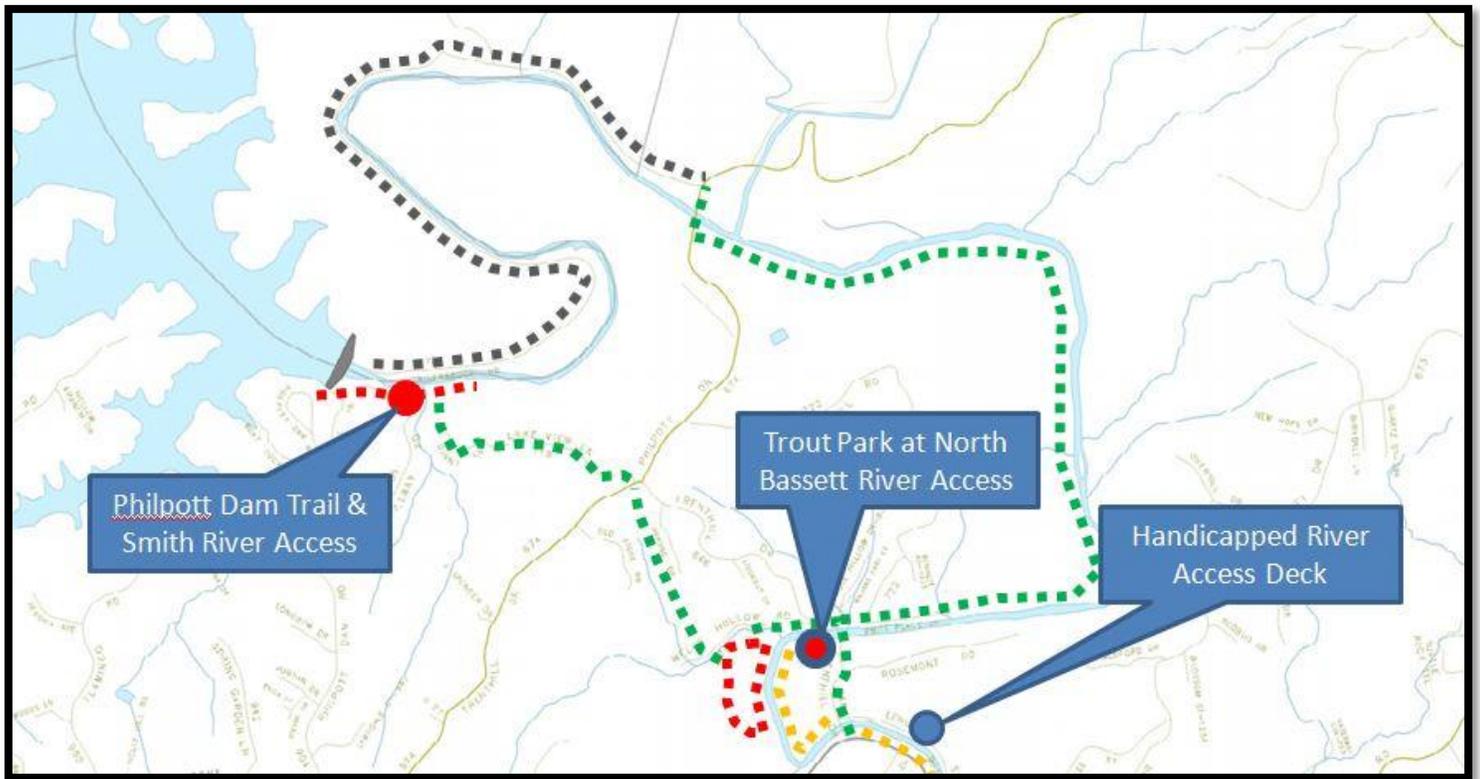


# Trail Section 1 - Philpott Lake to North Bassett

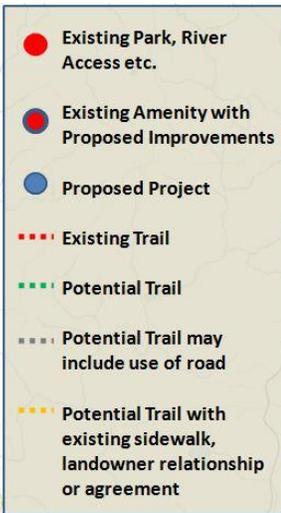
- Existing Park, River Access etc.
- Existing Amenity with Proposed Improvements
- Proposed Project
- - - Existing Trail
- - - Potential Trail
- - - Potential Trail may include use of road
- - - Potential Trail with existing sidewalk, landowner relationship or agreement

This section of the trail would connect Philpott Lake to North Bassett. There is an existing trail from the Philpott Lake Visitor's Center to the base of the dam at the Smith River. The trail runs alongside the river downstream, from the Dam to an existing river access point. From here, there are several possible routes that could connect to an existing trail at Lauren Mountain Preserve and the North Bassett river access, which is the proposed site for a Trout Park.

A combination of existing road, right of ways and private land would be used. From here, the trail would continue to where the sidewalk starts at the intersection of Trent Hill Drive and Fairystone Park Highway, near Papa's Pizza.



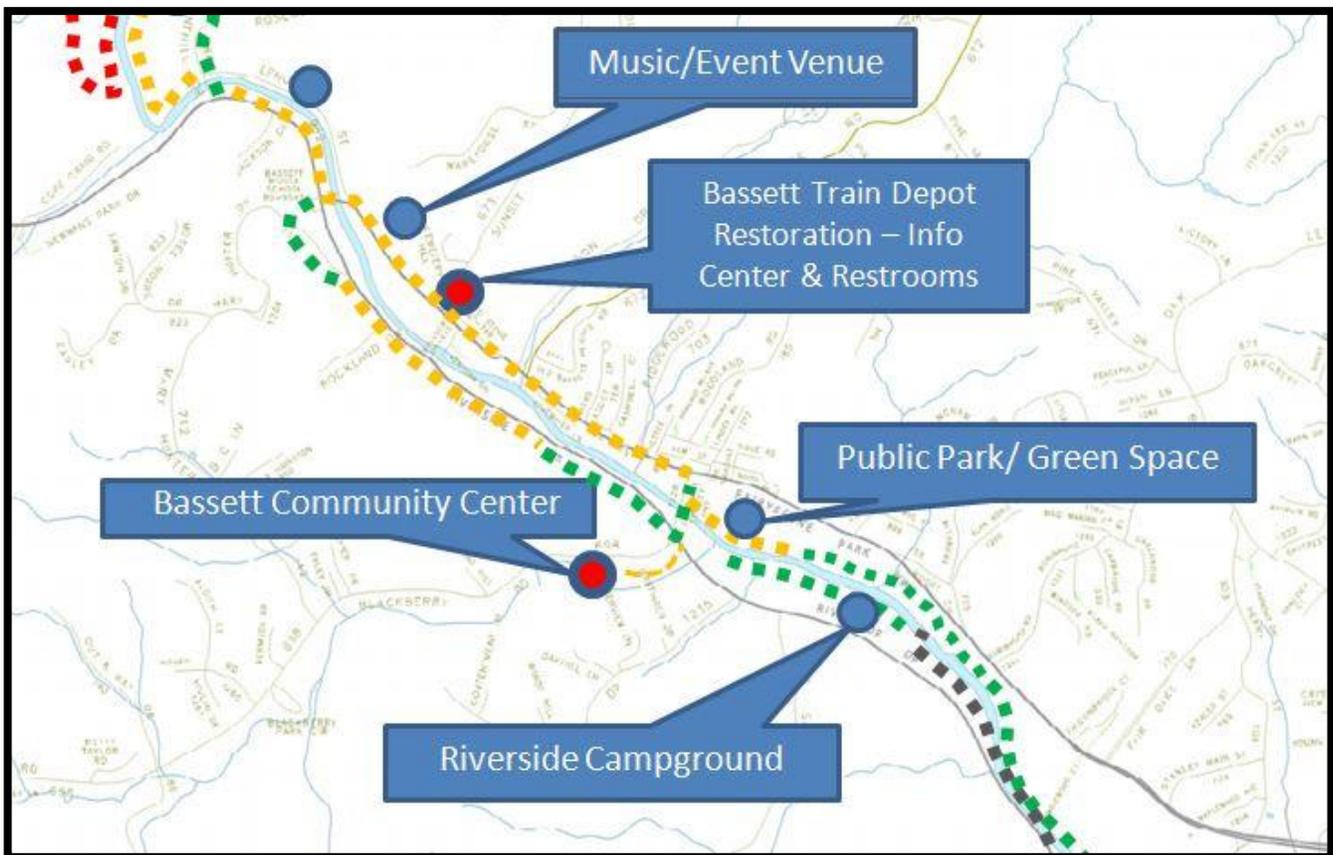
## Trail Section 2 - North Bassett to South Bassett



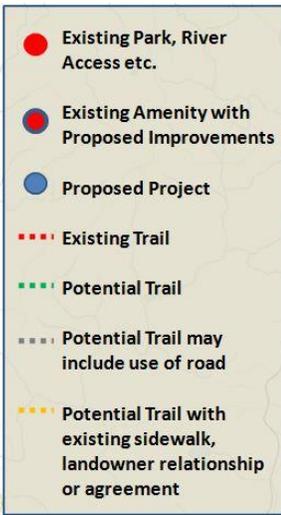
A large part of this section of the trail will utilize sidewalks and create a Bassett “Loop” that will take users by Papa's Pizza, Bassett Historical Society, the Historic Bassett High School and the Train Depot, for which there are proposed projects that would create a visitor's information center with public restrooms.

The use of existing sidewalks would make for simple implementation, requiring signage and curb-appeal projects, without requiring easements.

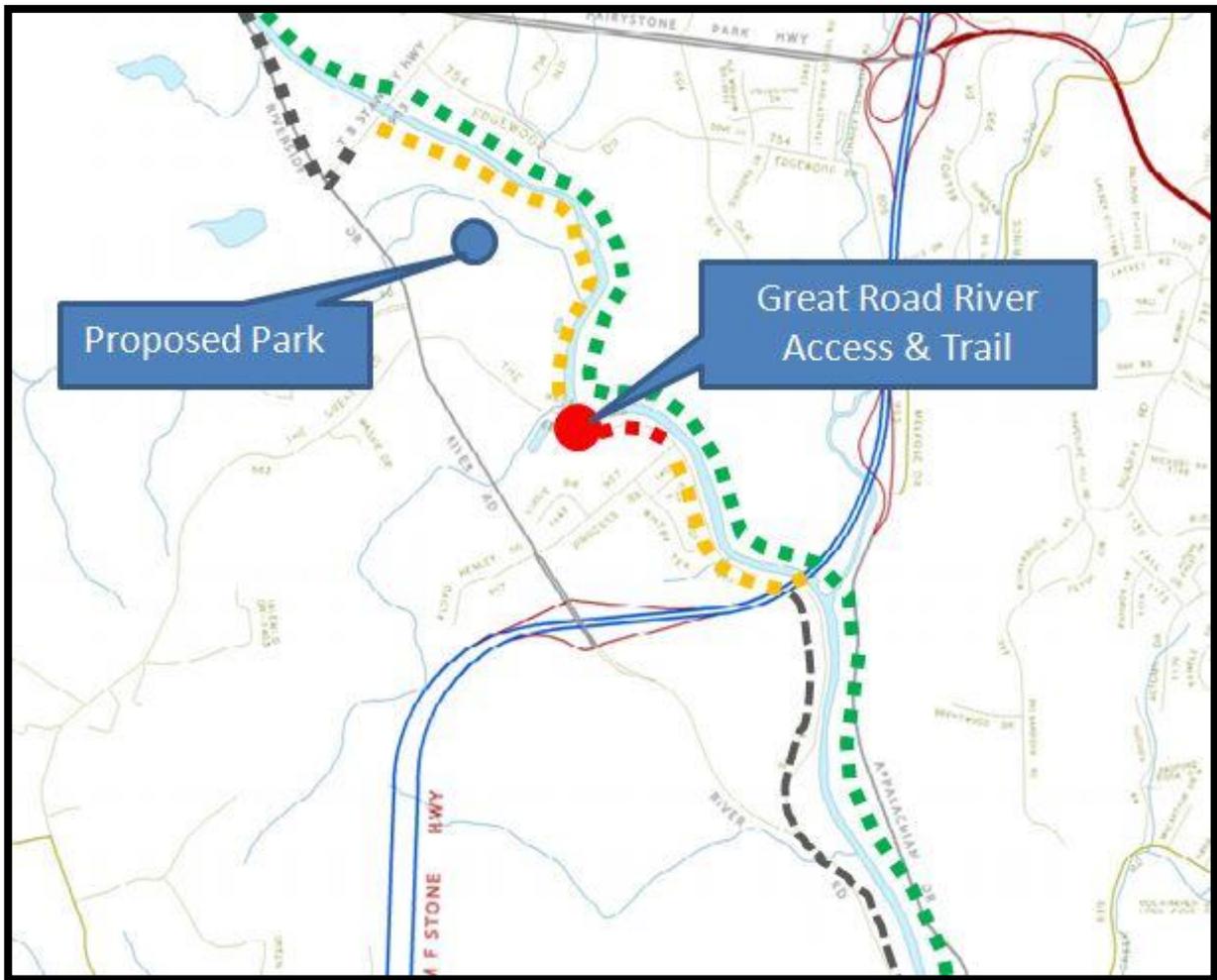
The trail could continue to South Bassett, adjacent to the river, passing the site of a proposed community green space/riverside park. There is also potential for a riverside campground along this section of the trail.



## Trail Section 3 - South Bassett to Stanleytown



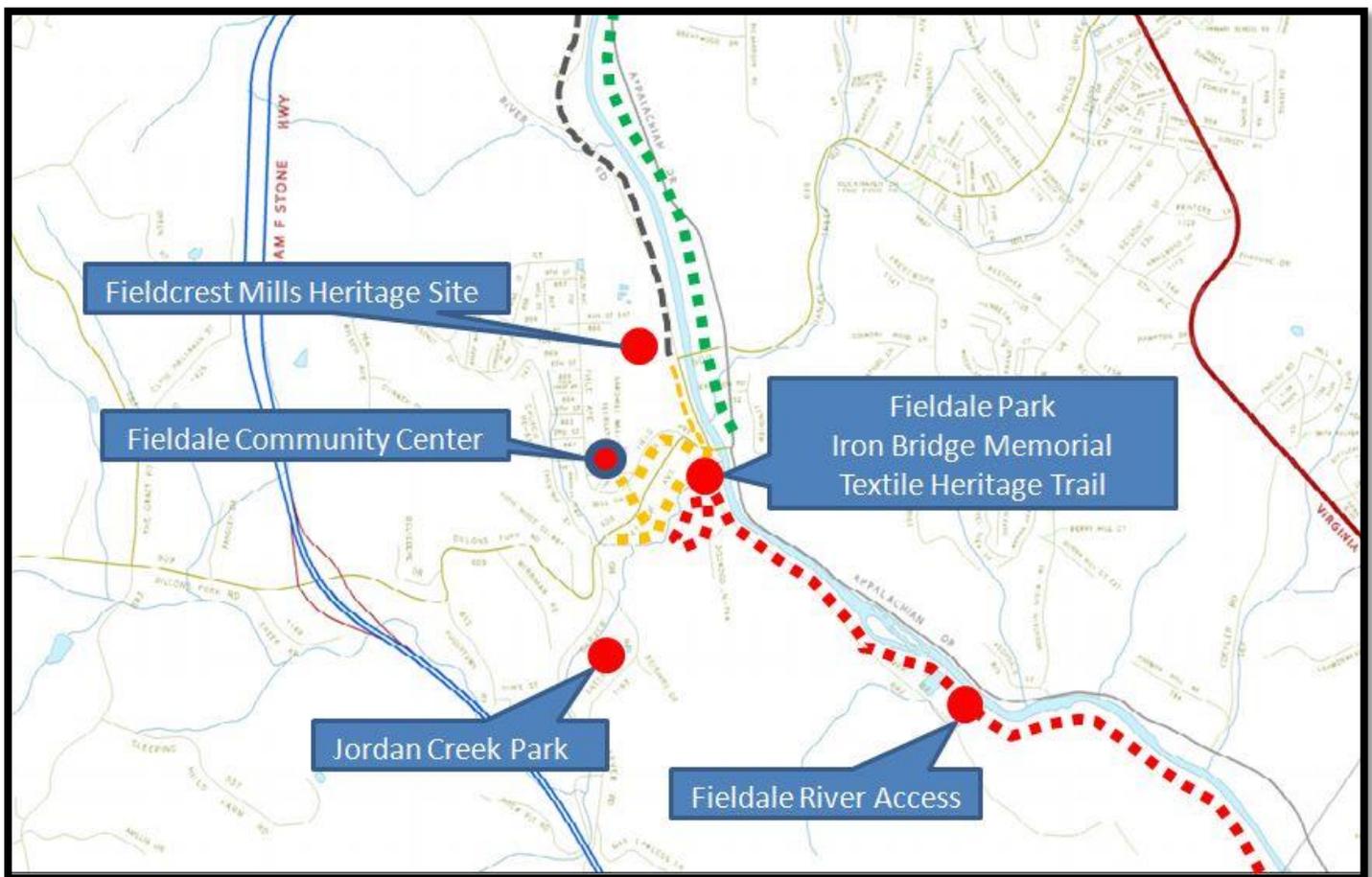
This section of trail will continue to follow the Smith River through Stanleytown, potentially connecting to the Great Road river access and trail. There is a proposed public park or green space along this section of trail.



# Trail Section 4 - Stanleytown to Fieldale

- Existing Park, River Access etc.
- Existing Amenity with Proposed Improvements
- Proposed Project
- Existing Trail
- Potential Trail
- Potential Trail may include use of road
- Potential Trail with existing sidewalk, landowner relationship or agreement

This section of the trail will connect to the existing Textile Heritage Trail, part of the Fieldale Trail, the Fieldale river access as well as Fieldale Park and the Fieldale Community Center.



# Proposed Projects: Amenities

## **Bassett Trout Park**

The North Bassett river access serves as a boat launch, fishing access and an outdoor classroom. The Trout in the Classroom program (TIC), managed by the Dan River Basin Association and established in Virginia by Dr. David Jones is the largest in the country and reaches thousands of children every year. Students and teachers are provided with a trout tank and trout eggs - they raise the trout to fingerling size over a 6 month school period before releasing them into the Smith River. Along the way, they learn many valuable lessons about watershed health and science.

The proposed Trout Park would be created utilizing North Bassett river access as an outdoor learning area, with seating, shelter and educational displays about the importance of protecting riparian buffer, the history of TIC, water quality and more. The site would also be an official water quality monitoring site for Henry County and could be used by surrounding schools and after-school programs to teach children and adults the importance of protecting our waterways.

## **Handicapped River Access Deck**

Riverside casting platforms will provide anglers with disabilities or those who use wheelchairs to access the Smith River for fishing. The platforms would be constructed to cantilever out over the river about 10 feet above the water's surface and have a low railing to allow for safe, easy casting. The proposed site for this amenity is on Lenoir Street in North Bassett.

## **Bassett Train Depot Restoration**

The Bassett Train Depot is an important historic site, which currently serves as a community market. However, there are improvements to be made enhancing the aesthetics and usability. The depot is the proposed site for a visitor information center that would provide information on the history and heritage of the area as well as Henry County. The proposed information center would have public restrooms and would serve as a trailhead for the Smith River Trail System.

## **Music & Event Venue**

The proposed site for the music and event venue is adjacent to the Train Depot in Bassett. The site was formerly an industrial site, which was demolished and is now a large grassy area. A section of the Smith River trails would run through this area connecting the park with the trail

## **Riverside Park/Public Green Space**

The proposed site for this public green space is adjacent to the Smith River along Fairystone Park Highway in Bassett. The park could include native plants, benches, a gazebo and informational signs. It would also serve as a valuable amenity and potential access point for the Smith River Trail System.

## **Riverside Campground**

The development of a campground along the Smith River and close to the Smith River Trail System would attract boaters and fishermen who are interested in longer excursions. A paddler could plan a weekend-long trip rather than a day-outing if there were easily accessible campground on the river.

## **Bassett & Fieldale Community Center Improvements**

Consider ways of connecting the Bassett & Fieldale Community Centers to the trail system. Other potential projects include continued structural improvements, outdoor education areas and water quality monitoring sites (Bassett - Blackberry Creek).

## **Outdoor/Adventure Center**

Outdoor retail is estimated to be a \$20 billion per year growth industry according to the Outdoor Industry Association. Master planning reveals that a center to attract outdoor enthusiasts to the region will compliment riverside improvements. The Adventure Center would distinguish itself from other “sporting good” and “outfitter” types of businesses because of the services it will provide: information, referral and a platform for appreciating and learning to use the river. Additionally, it will serve as a welcome center and hub for artisan crafting because it will carry locally made items in addition to traditional items like t-shirts, caps and whistles. An adventure center could provide outdoor recreational and environmental information, opportunities for environmental and community stewardship -- and merchandising.

## **Economic Benefits of Trails**

- Reduce cost of public services
- Improve health and wellness
- Attract tourists, boost local economy
- Improve real estate values
- Make communities more livable
- Attract business and industry



# Implementation & Environmental Conservation

The implementation of the proposed projects in this plan will require the continued assistance of its partners and the support of residents, businesses and local officials.

Funding for greenway, trail, and river access projects can be obtained from a number of sources, including grants, capital campaigns, in-kind donations, monetary donations and government funding.

**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. The Commonwealth of Virginia does not use eminent domain to acquire property for recreational purposes. Landowners who 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.

- **Public Fee Simple Ownership** - This is land that the county or city has purchased outright.
- **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 another.
- **Land Leases** - Land for recreational areas can also be leased from an owner, such as the Spencer- Penn Centre where trails are proposed to be located around leased ball fields.
- **Land Donations** - Land donated to a public entity, such as Patrick County, or a non-profit organization, such as a land trust, is another way that land can be acquired for projects. Such donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

**Construction/Best Management Practices** - To effectively create a trail, greenway or blueway, 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, thereby protecting the natural environment of the area, is to employ best management practices such as the construction standards established by the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA).

**Long-term Maintenance Plans**- With proper maintenance and upkeep, recreational areas are a safe place for the public to enjoy the outdoors. Operation and maintenance plans are very important for designating responsible parties and detailing necessary maintenance measures. 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 it.

**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.” DRBA is positioned to lead a watershed restoration initiative that will include a plan for educating area land owners about the importance and benefits of conservation easements along the Dan, 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 Dan, Mayo and Smith rivers and their tributaries would reduce erosion, filter surface runoff before it enters the water, and improve the rivers’ capability to be successful fisheries. According to Dr. David Jones, a member of Martinsville-Henry County’s DRBA 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.

**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 hill slope that directly serves as streamside habitats for wildlife.” Protecting these buffers along local rivers and streams is critically important for environmental health. In Henry County and similar surrounding areas, E. Coli contamination from livestock and improper septic systems are the largest threats to water quality. The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Districts work to encourage agricultural producers to participate in Best Management Practices and Incentives Programs that cover the cost of fencing livestock out of rivers and streams, preventing contamination.

**Water Quality Monitoring**- According to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, several streams and stretches of river in Henry County are considered impaired. 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.

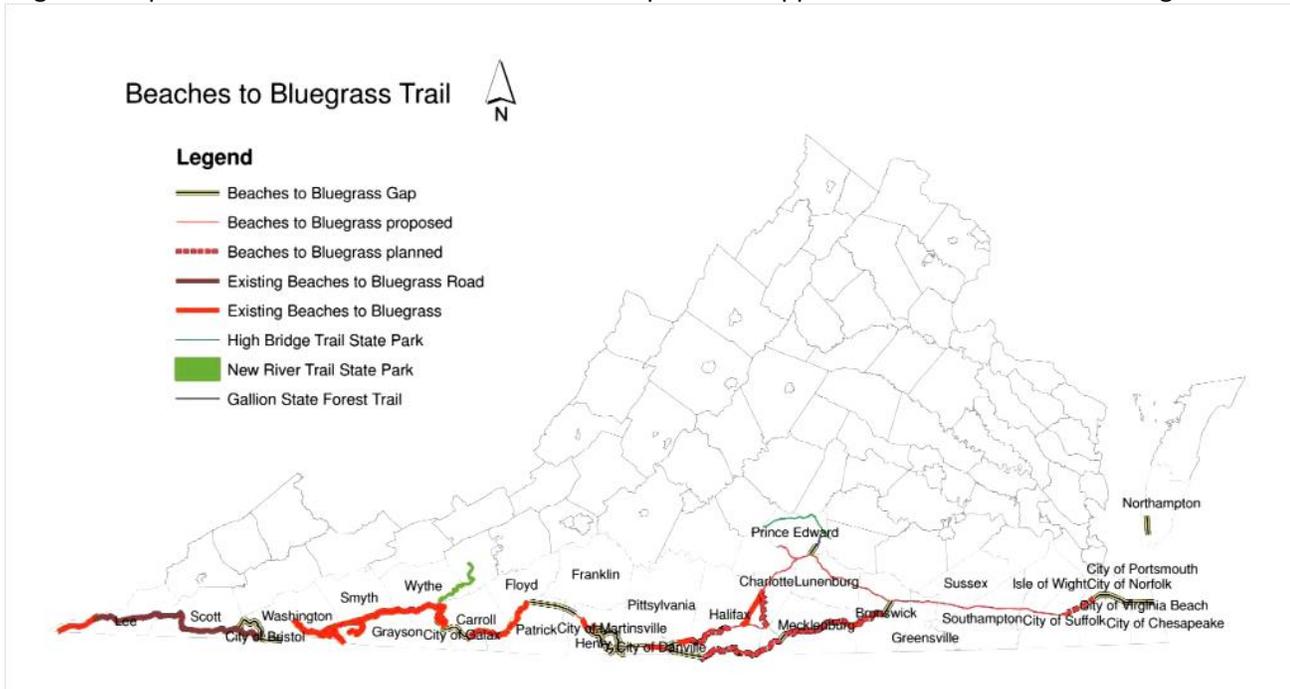


**Trout in the Classroom** - Introduced nationally by Trout Unlimited and sponsored locally by Dr. David Jones, the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program has proven to have a tremendous impact on education and students throughout the region. The program is facilitated by DRBA staff and volunteers. In the 2012-2013 school year, over 2,000 students from Martinsville, and the counties of Henry, Franklin, Patrick and Rockingham 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, such as 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.



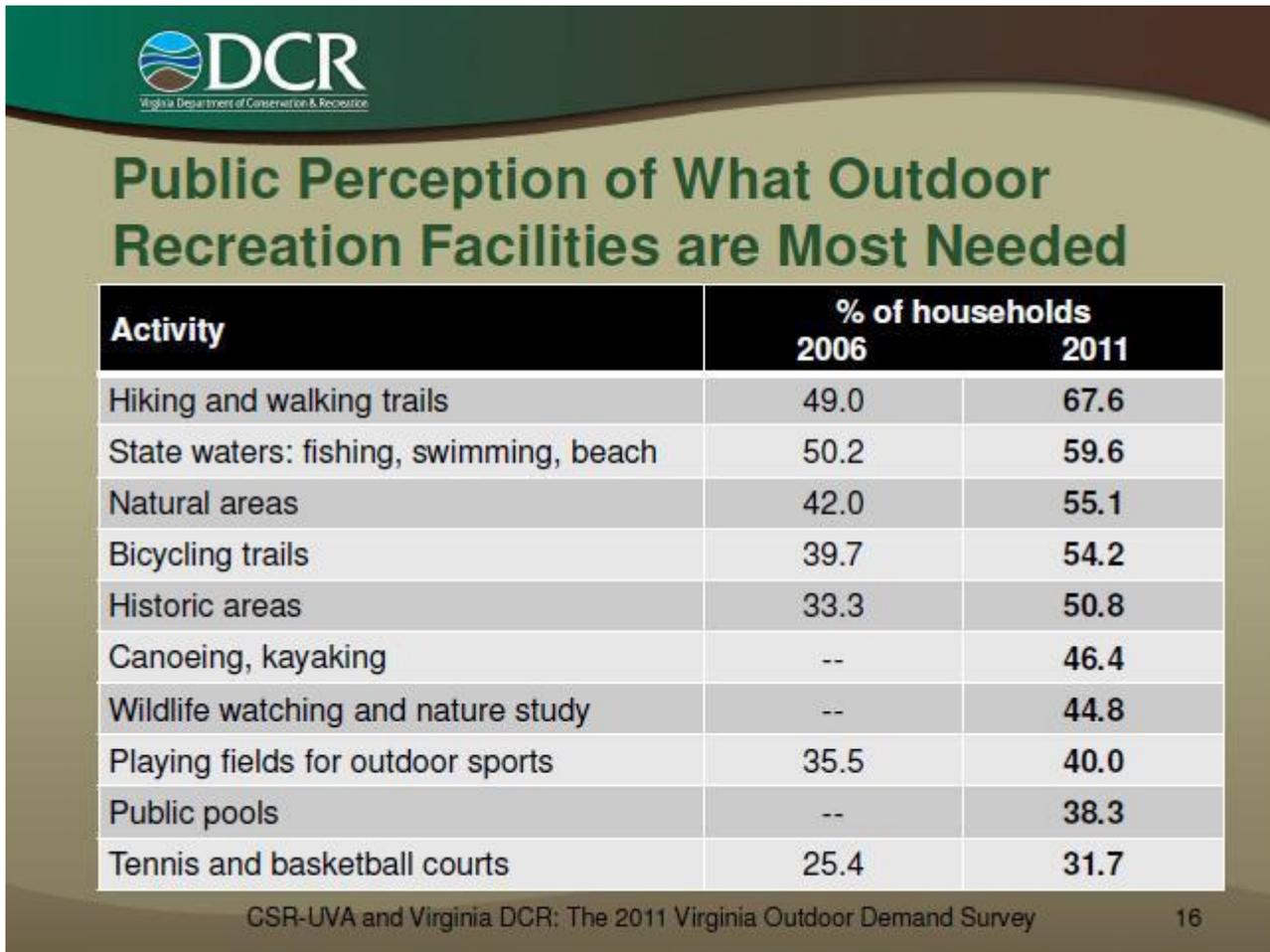
### Regional Connections

More than 400 miles long, the Beaches to Bluegrass Trail has ambitious plans to connect communities across southern Virginia and provide convenient recreational and transportation opportunities to thousands of Virginians



## Virginia's Long-Distance Trail Network Goals \*

- **Enhance access to the outdoors** through the development of a trails network that promotes healthy recreation and connects citizens including children and families to Virginia's diverse open space and natural landscapes.
- **Improve linkages between communities and key tourist destinations** in both rural and urban areas to promote regional outdoor recreation and heritage tourism initiatives, support local economies, and provide economic stimuli for small business start-ups and entrepreneurial expansion.
- Create the foundation of a statewide system of interconnected open space corridor through which trails traverse, in order to **support long-term protection of Virginia's "green infrastructure"** and the ecological services it provides.
- Integrate trails as a critical component in Virginia's transportation infrastructure, in order to **provide efficient and convenient non-motorized connections to neighborhoods, schools, community facilities, and employment centers.**
- Educate citizens about the trail network's social, ecological, transportation, and wellness benefits, and foster educational pursuits through environmental research, multi-cultural programs, and **"outdoor classrooms."**



\*Statistics provided by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation