

Mountains to Sea

Three Regions: Transforming Underused
Spaces into Community Anchors





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Meet our Participation Assistant, Menti

1. What geographic region
are you from?



Meet our Participation Assistant, Menti

2. What job or volunteer position brings you here today?

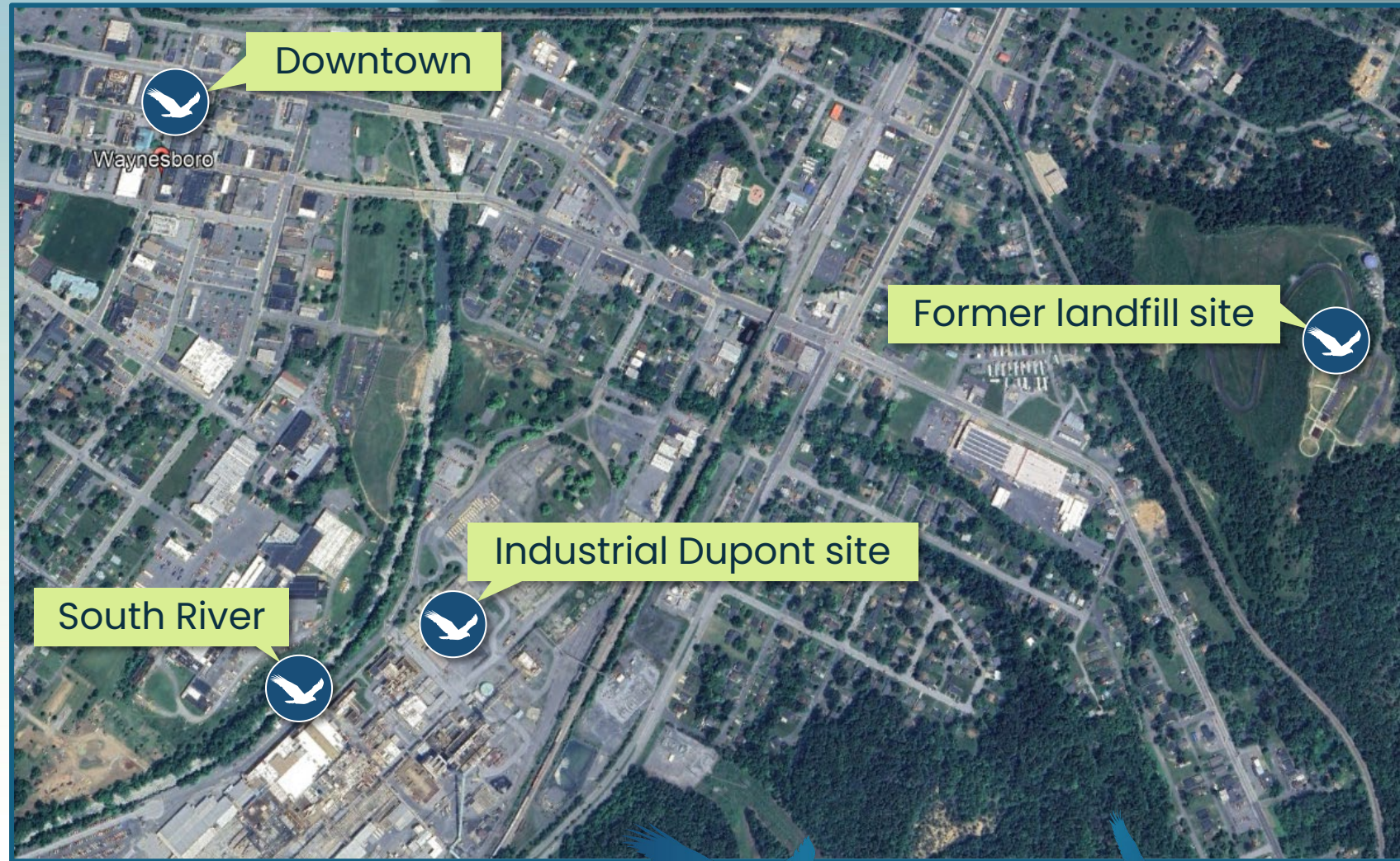


Virginia Land Regions

- Coastal Plain/Tidewater
- Piedmont
- Blue Ridge Mountains
- Valley and Ridge
- Appalachian Plateau



📍 Sunset Park – Waynesboro, VA



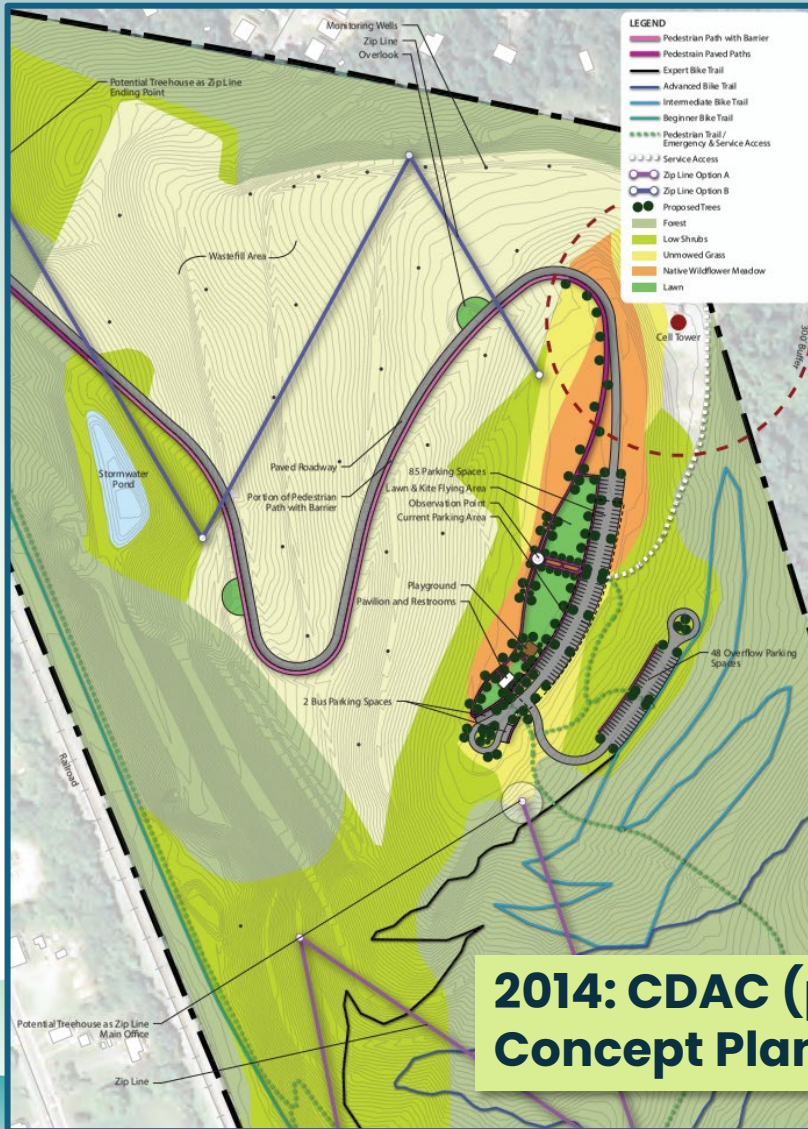
This landfill and quarry was an eyesore for Waynesboro for decades



📍 Sunset Park – Waynesboro, VA



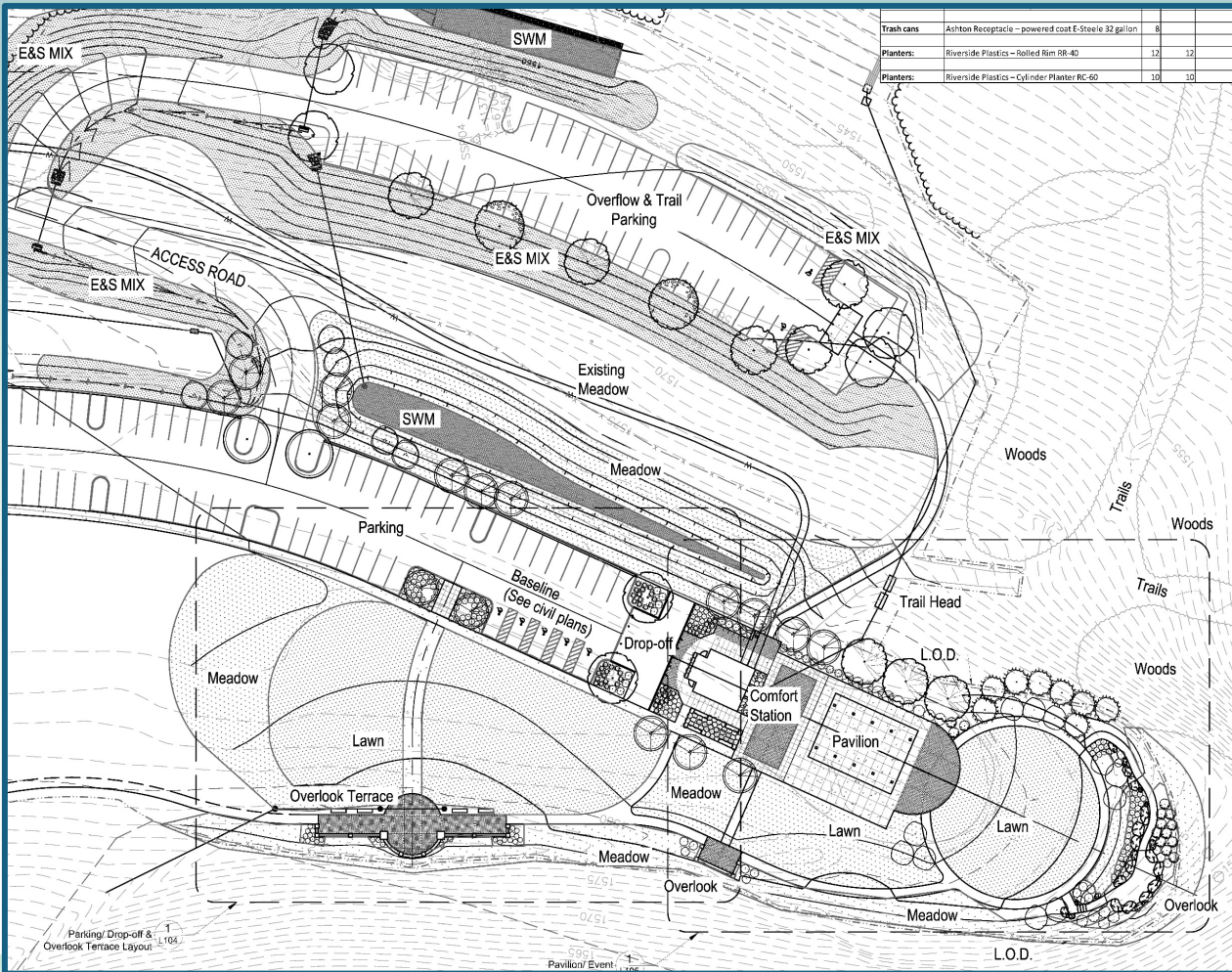
10 years in the making...



**2014: CDAC (part of VT)
Concept Plan**



A plan becomes reality...



- Event spaces and open lawn
- Picnic and event pavilion
- Restroom building inspired by historic Basic City railroad depot
- Viewing plazas and seatwalls
- ADA walkways and seating
- Native and naturalized planting areas
- Over 4 miles of trails for hiking/mountain biking
- Connection to the Crozet Blue Ridge Tunnel





A park that has earned its name



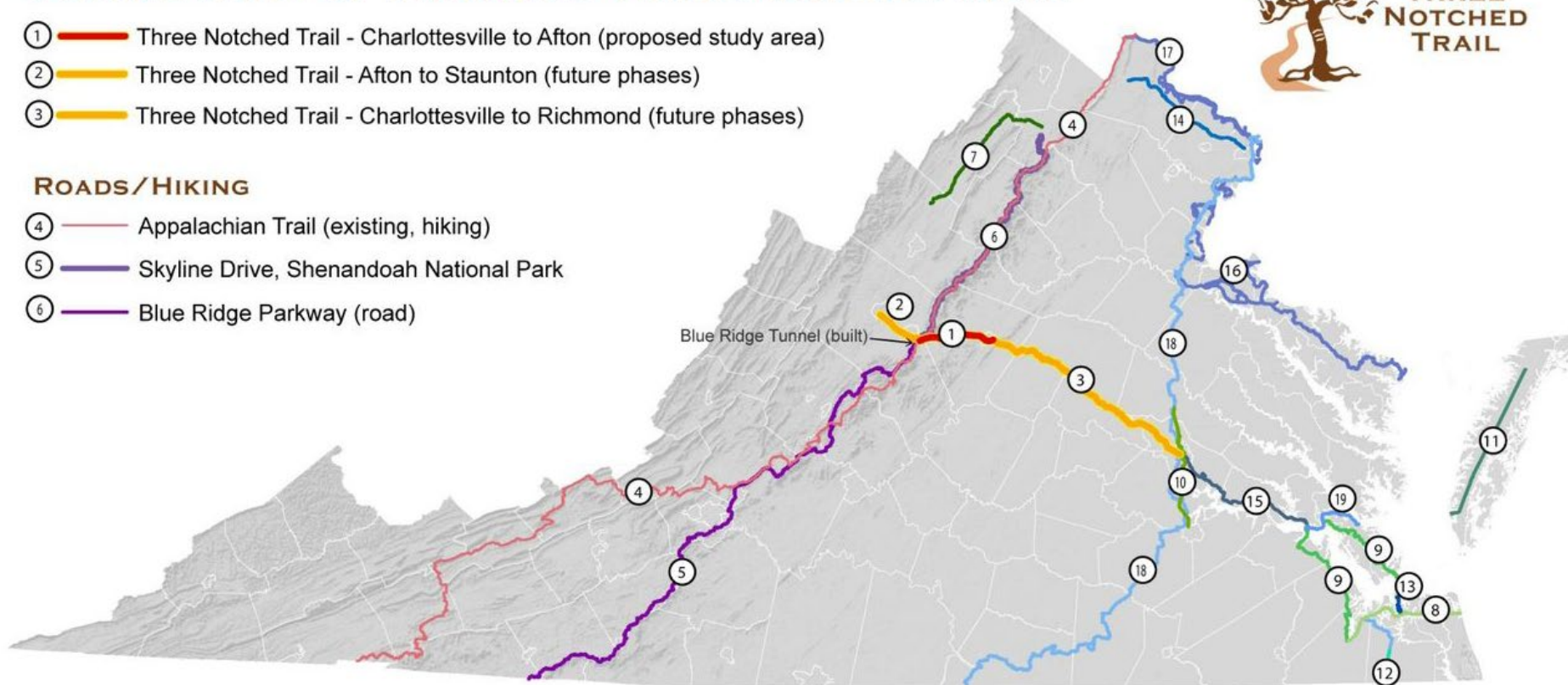
CONNECTIVITY OF VIRGINIA'S THREE NOTCHED TRAIL



- ① — Three Notched Trail - Charlottesville to Afton (proposed study area)
- ② — Three Notched Trail - Afton to Staunton (future phases)
- ③ — Three Notched Trail - Charlottesville to Richmond (future phases)

ROADS/HIKING

- ④ — Appalachian Trail (existing, hiking)
- ⑤ — Skyline Drive, Shenandoah National Park
- ⑥ — Blue Ridge Parkway (road)



ENVISIONED, PLANNED, OR UNDER STUDY

- ⑦ — Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail (envisioned/planned)
- ⑧ — South Hampton Roads Trail (partial build, planned)
- ⑨ — Birthplace of America Trail (planned)
- ⑩ — Fall Line Trail (construction funds appropriated)
- ⑪ — Eastern Shore Rail to Trail Study Area (under study)
- ⑫ — Dismal Swamp Canal Trail (partial build, planned)

EXISTING, PARTIAL, WITH MORE BEING PLANNED

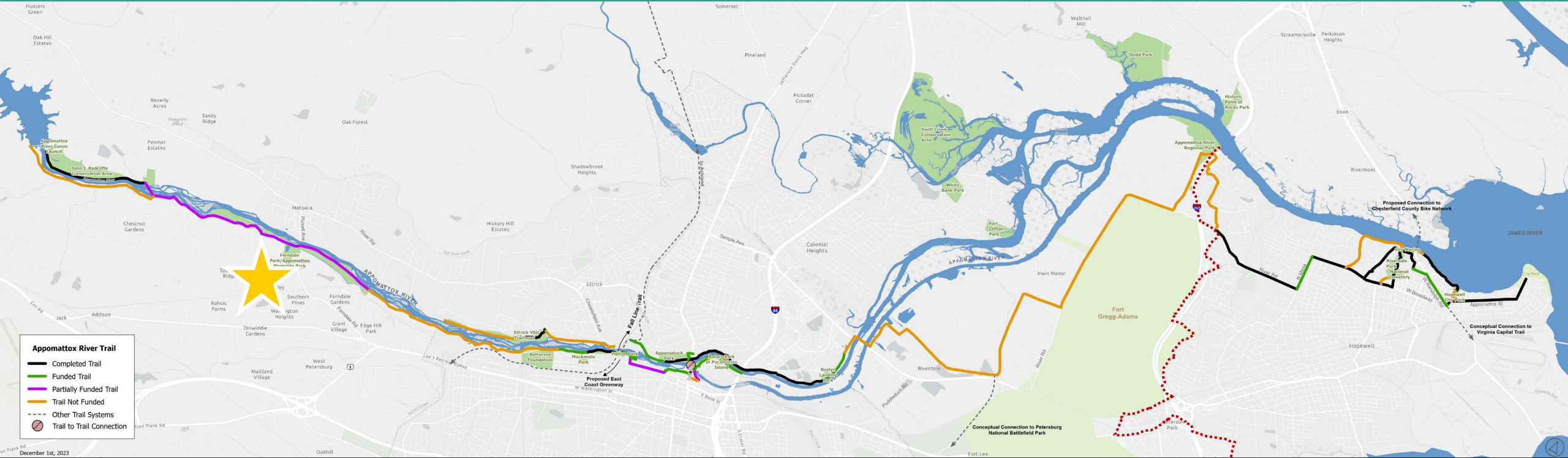
- ⑬ — Elizabeth River Trail (existing)
- ⑭ — WOD Trail (existing)
- ⑮ — Virginia Capital Trail (existing)
- ⑯ — Potomac Heritage (existing, more planned)
- ⑰ — C&O Canal Towpath (existing)
- ⑱ — East Coast Greenway Routes
- ⑲ — Colonial Parkway (existing)

📍 Ferndale Riverside Park – Dinwiddie County, VA

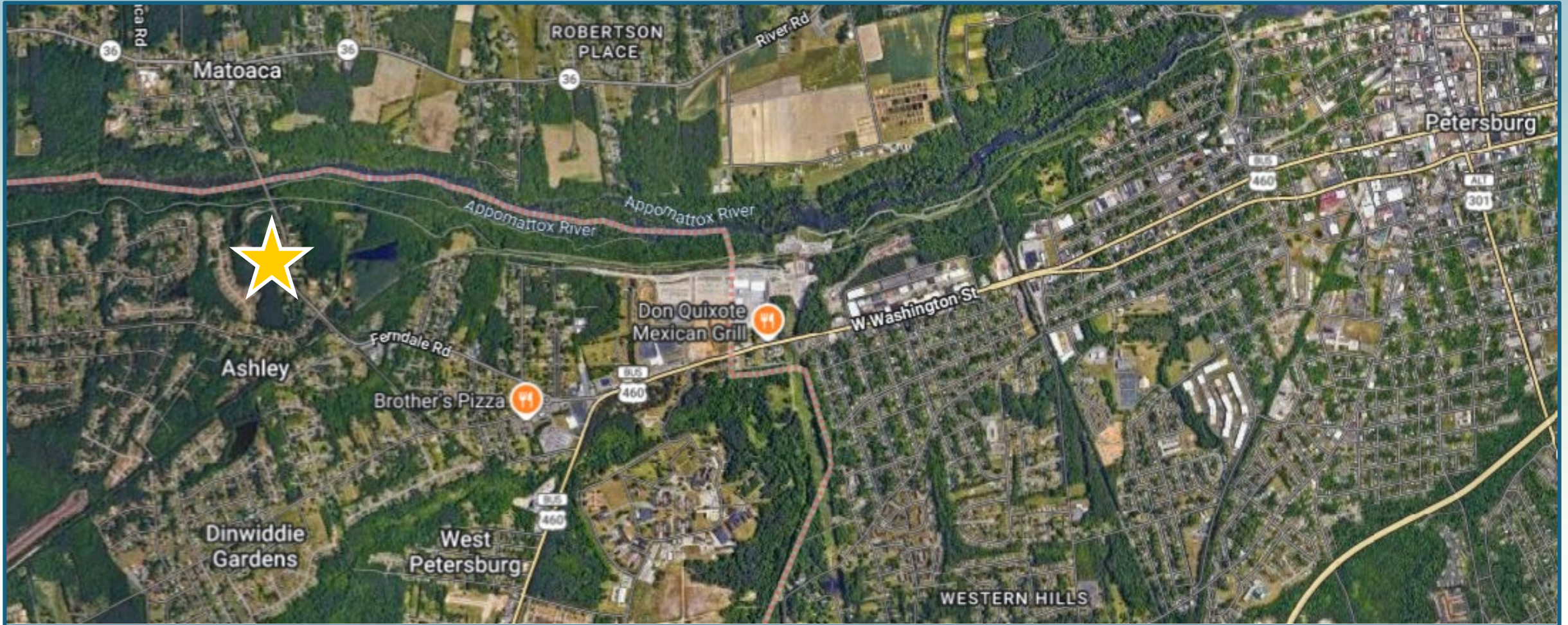


Friends of the Lower Appomattox River

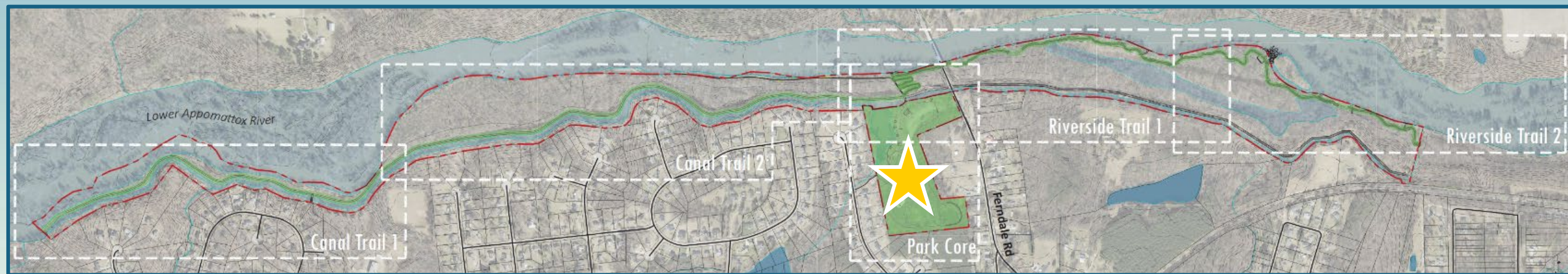
Appomattox River Trail



📍 Ferndale Riverside Park – Dinwiddie County, VA



📍 Ferndale Riverside Park – Dinwiddie County, VA



History of the Park (120+ years in the making)

Canal Era (1795–1850)

The park houses remnants of the Upper Appomattox Navigation canal system, which connected farms in the Appomattox Valley to Petersburg

Surveying (1807–1810)

Benjamin H. Latrobe, often called “America’s first architect,” surveyed the area for the canal construction between 1807 and 1810

Amusement Park (1910–1928)

Ferndale Park operated as a recreational area during this period. The park featured a variety of entertainment facilities typical of early 20th century “trolley parks,” including:

- **Carousel** and traditional rides
- **Bowling alley**
- **Movie theater** and an **ice cream parlor**

Beginnings of Dominion (1935–1971)

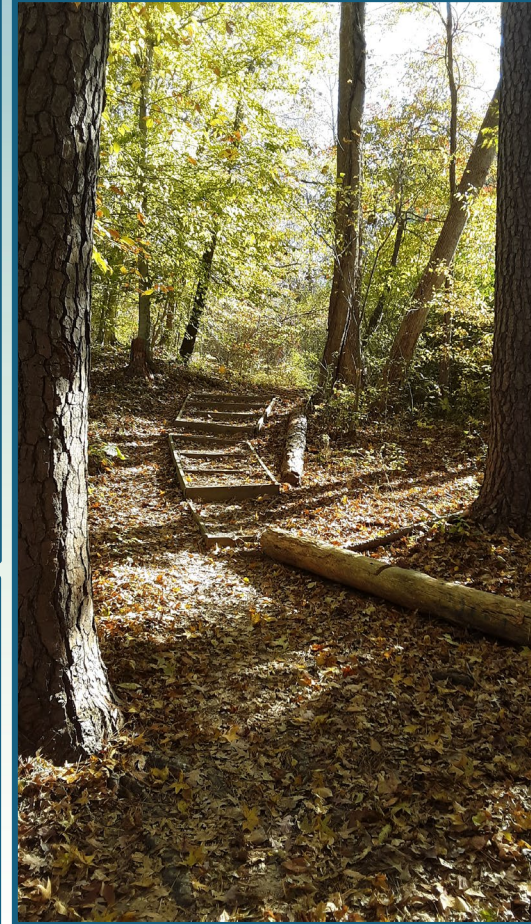
VEPCO converted the canal from navigation to a water supply canal to run a hydro-electric plant. Dominion donated the canal and parkland to the City of Petersburg in 1971

Modern Era

Today, it serves as a popular recreational area for nature activities and is a critical segment of the 25-mile Appomattox River Trail



A Park Past its Prime



The Plan



Outdoor education area



ADA picnic shelter & amenities



Kayak access slide and steps



Pavilion / small performance venue



Carousel



Deck overlook



Multi-use event and recreation lawn



ADA kayak launch



Access steps and slide



Multi-use hard court



Food truck picnic area with tables



Towpath trail



Nature play equipment



Grass terraced hillside



Fitness station equipment

Precedent Images

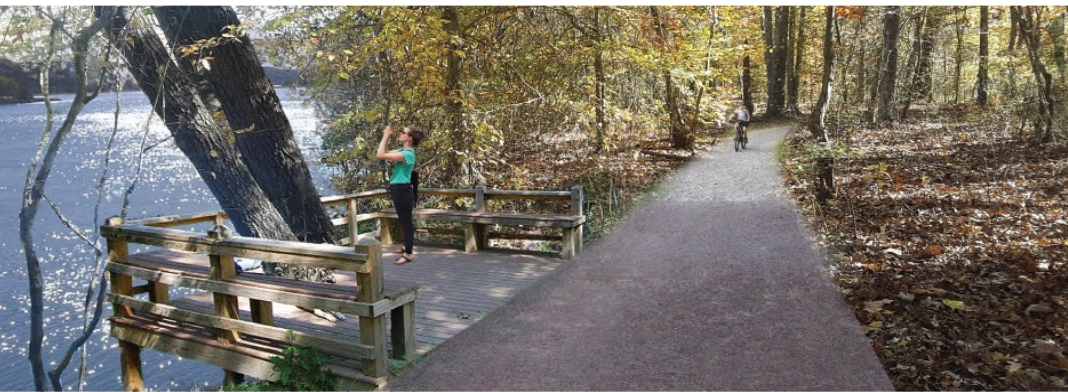
The programmatic elements of the project have been chosen based on existing conditions and feedback received from stakeholders, client team, community members and the survey. The images on this page are examples of the amenities that could be included in the project.



The Plan



Existing: Riverside trail near tire swing.



Proposed: Riverside trail widened into a multi-use path with wooden bridge crossing.



Existing: Riverside path.



Proposed: Riverside trail widened into a multi-use path.

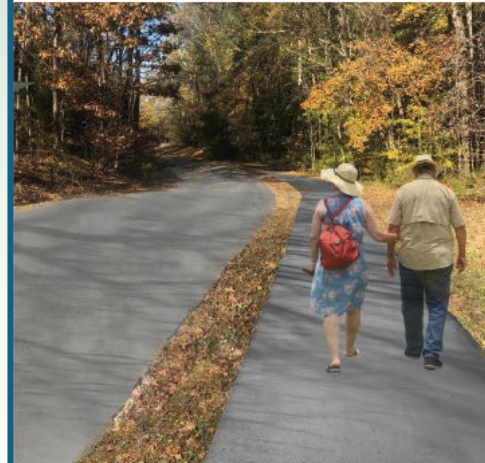


Existing: Riverside path at a water crossing

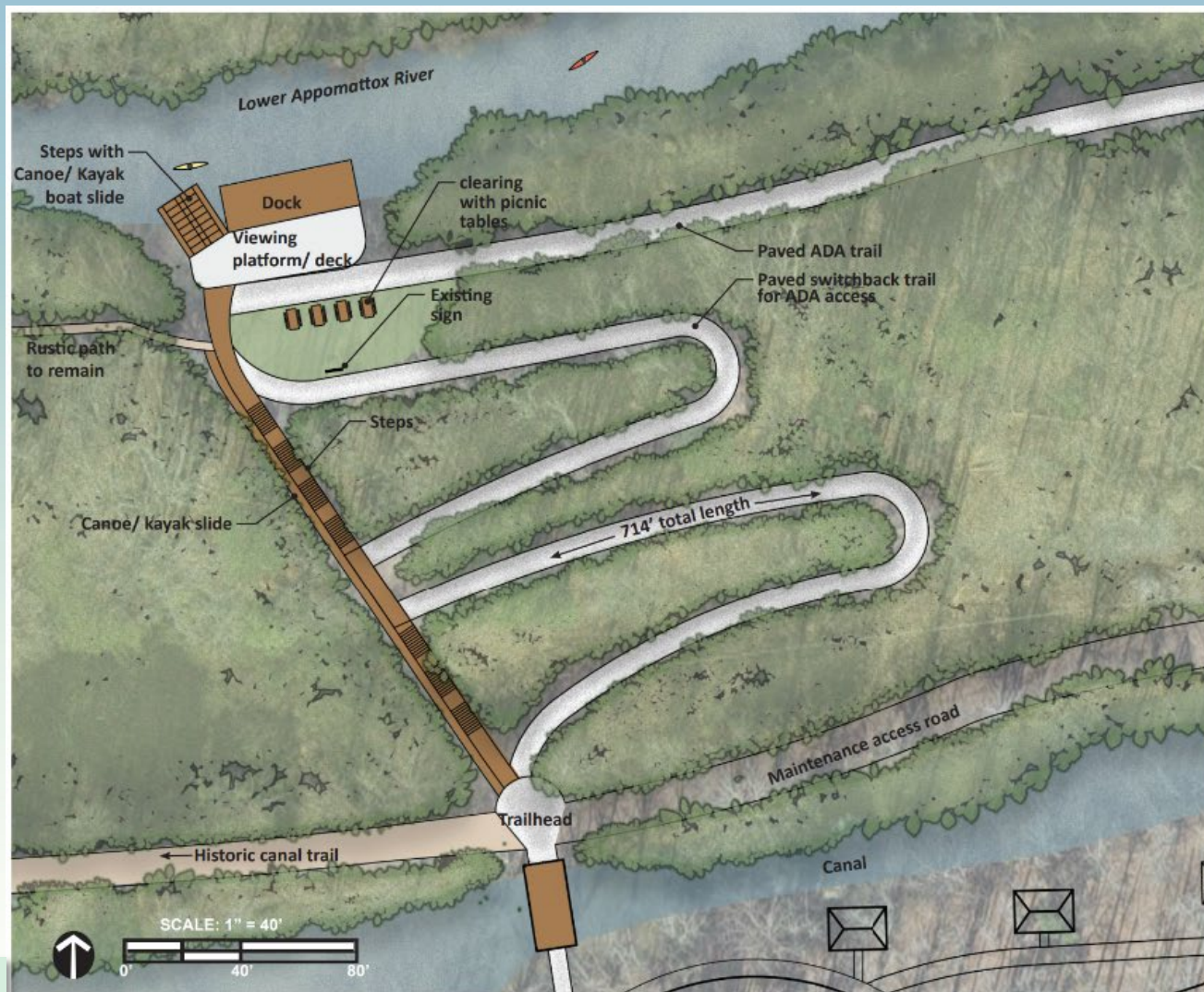


Proposed: Riverside trail widened into a multi-use path with bridge crossing.





The Plan



The river access point directly north of Ferndale Park is approximately 35' lower in elevation than the canal bridge. The universally accessible path from the canal bridge to the riverside viewing platform will need to be 700' in length. This is achieved using a series of switchbacks that intersect the access steps at the top, middle, and bottom of the slope. The steps and connecting kayak slide will follow the general path of the existing steps in order to reduce clearing and grading on the slope.



Switchback trail



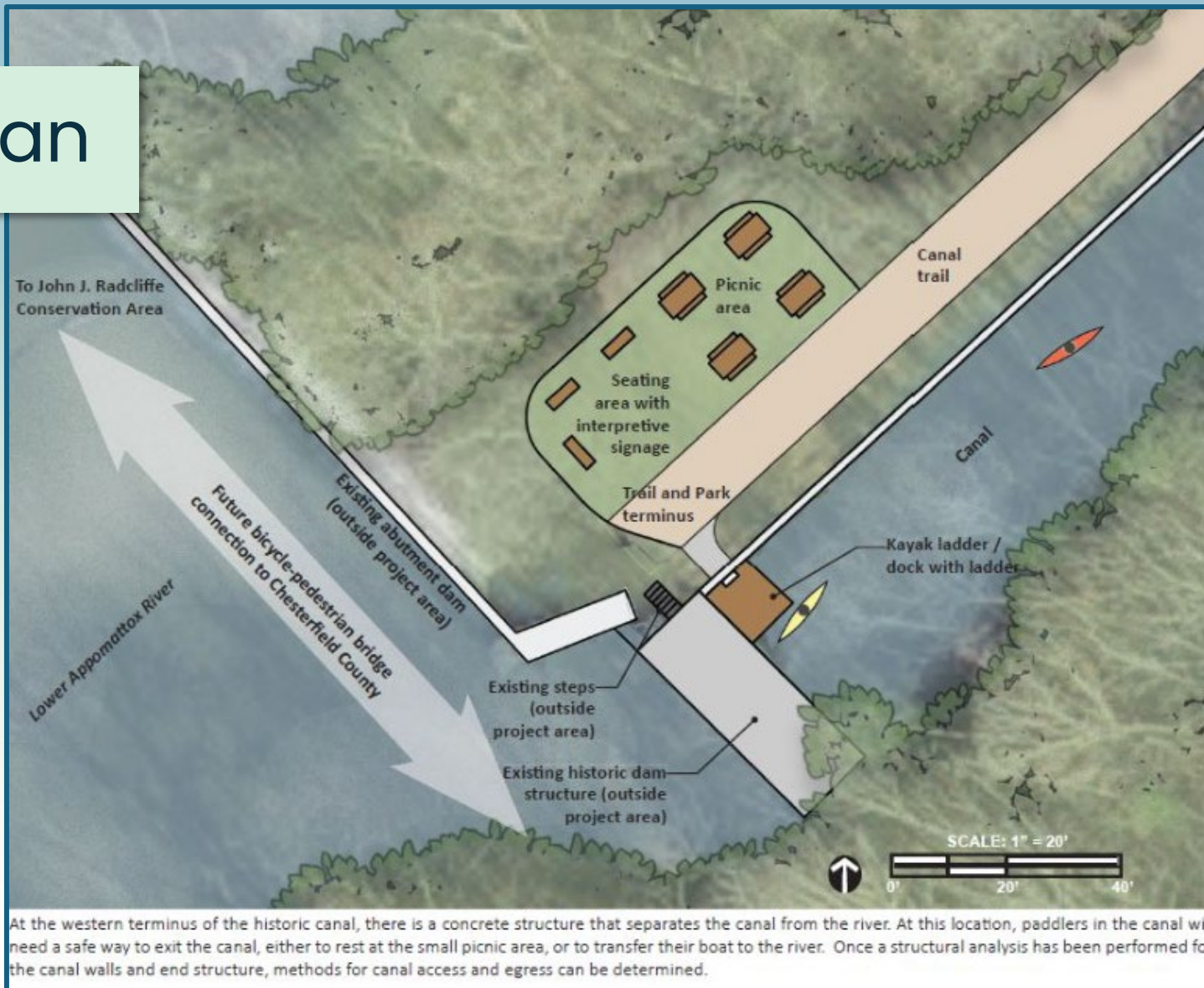
River overlook decking



Canoe/ kayak boat slide



The Plan



Options for canoe / kayak access to and from canal:



Slot Dock



Boarding steps

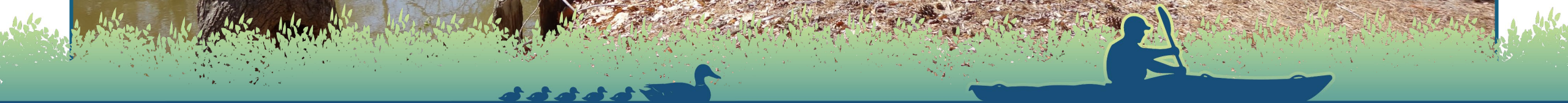
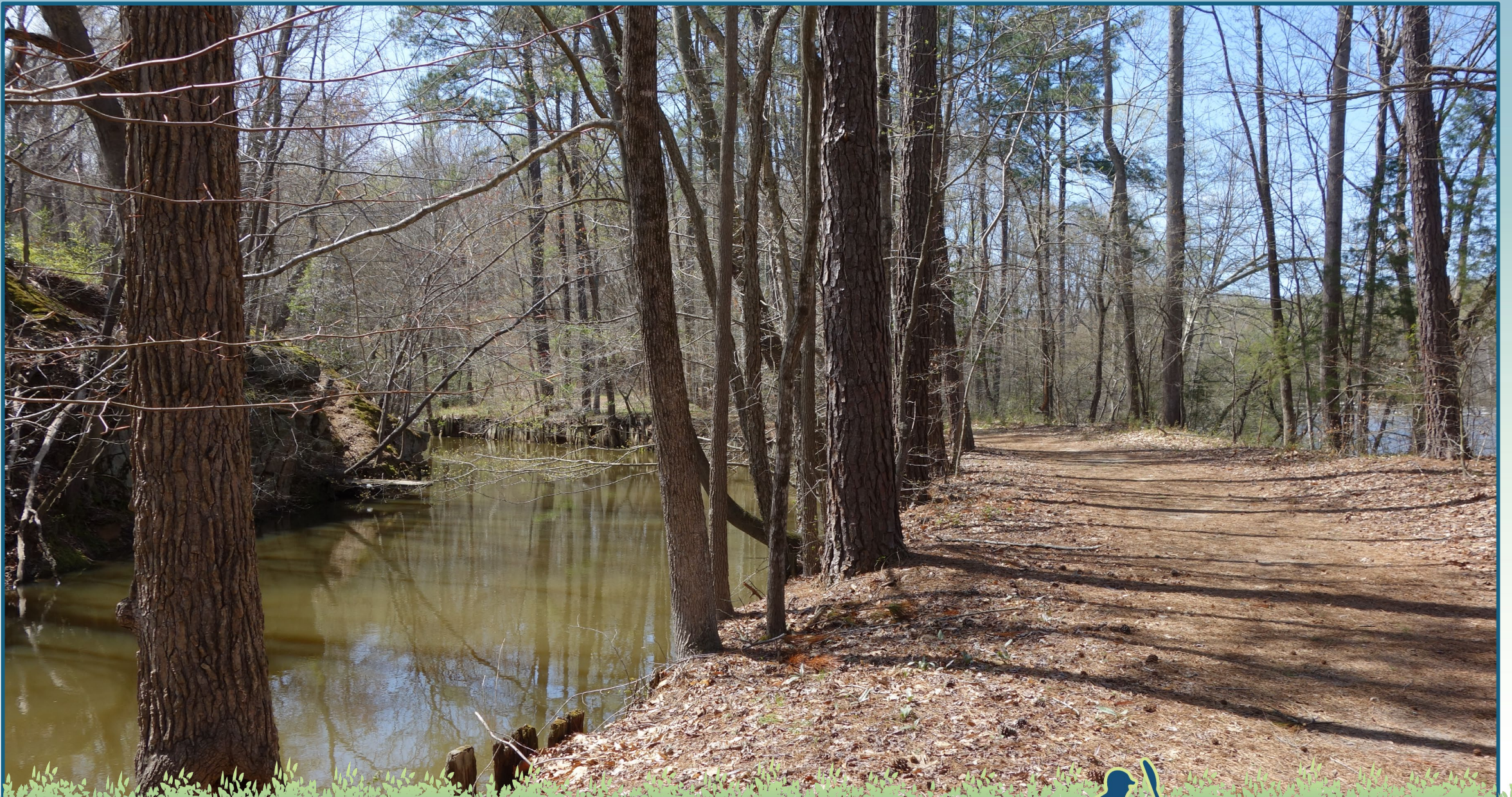


Kayak Ladder and Lift



Picnic Area along riverbank





📍 Blue Heron Landing Park – Chesapeake, VA

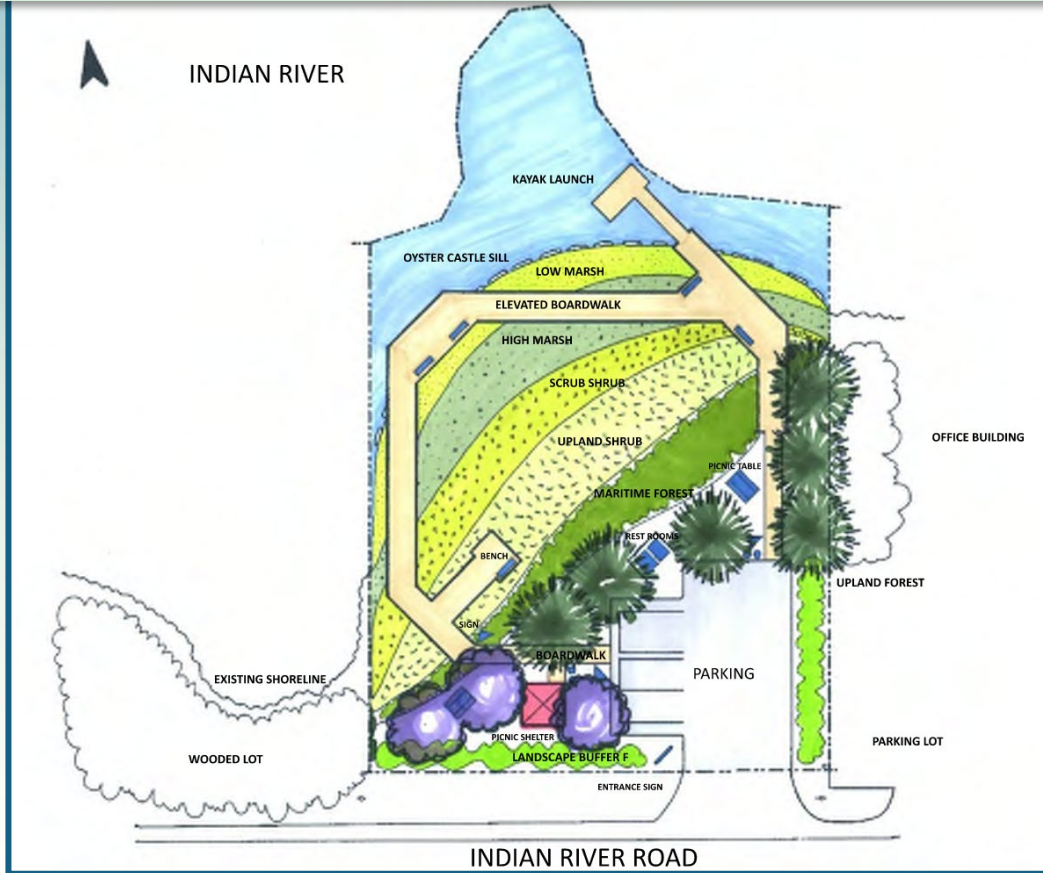


9 years in the making...

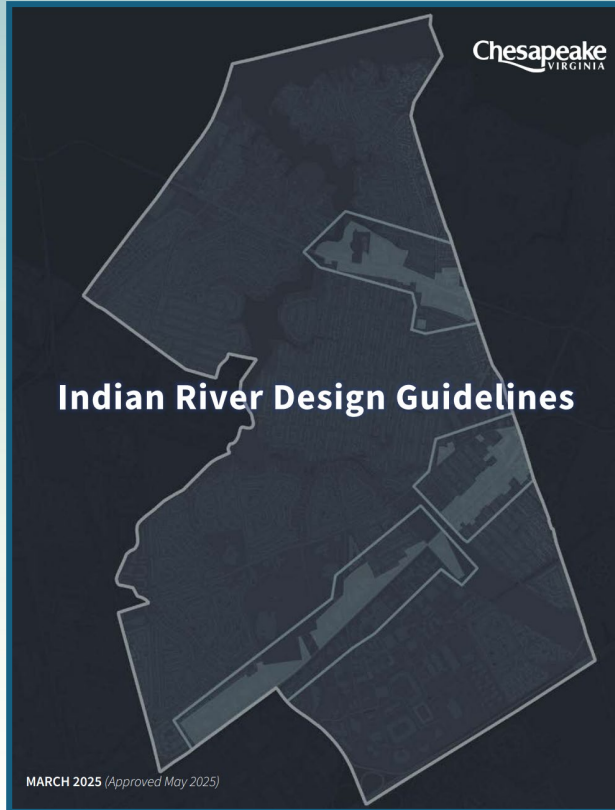
- VADCR VLCF Grant
- Over 9 conceptual plans analyzed
- 250 LF of pedestrian bridge
- Two covered outlooks
- ADA accessible kayak/canoe launch
- Over 100 LF of living shoreline with oyster castle sill
- Over 50 new trees, 200 shrubs and marshlands planted



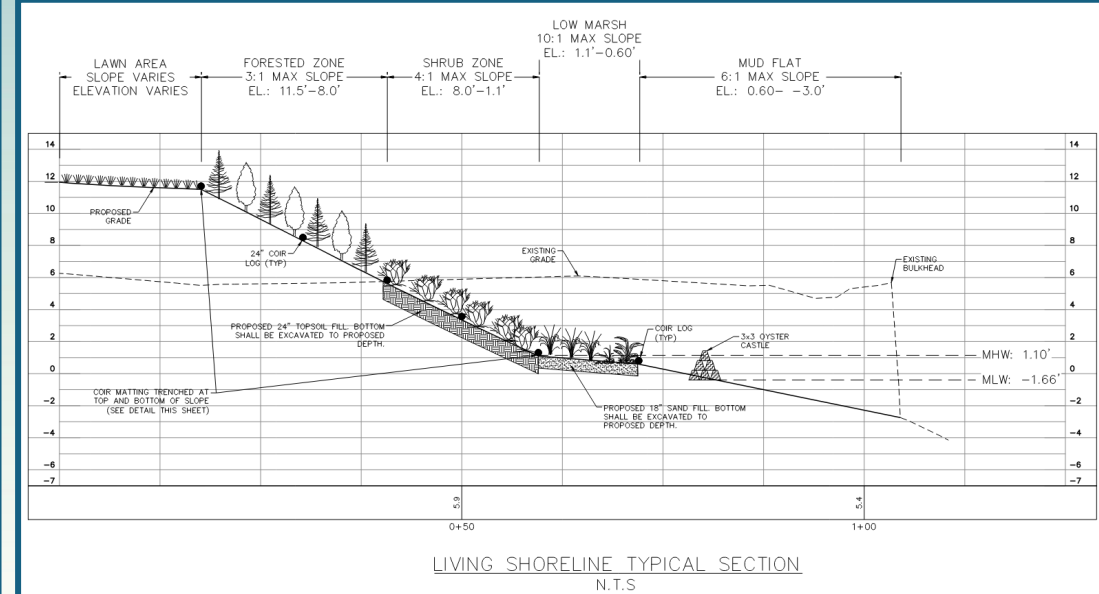
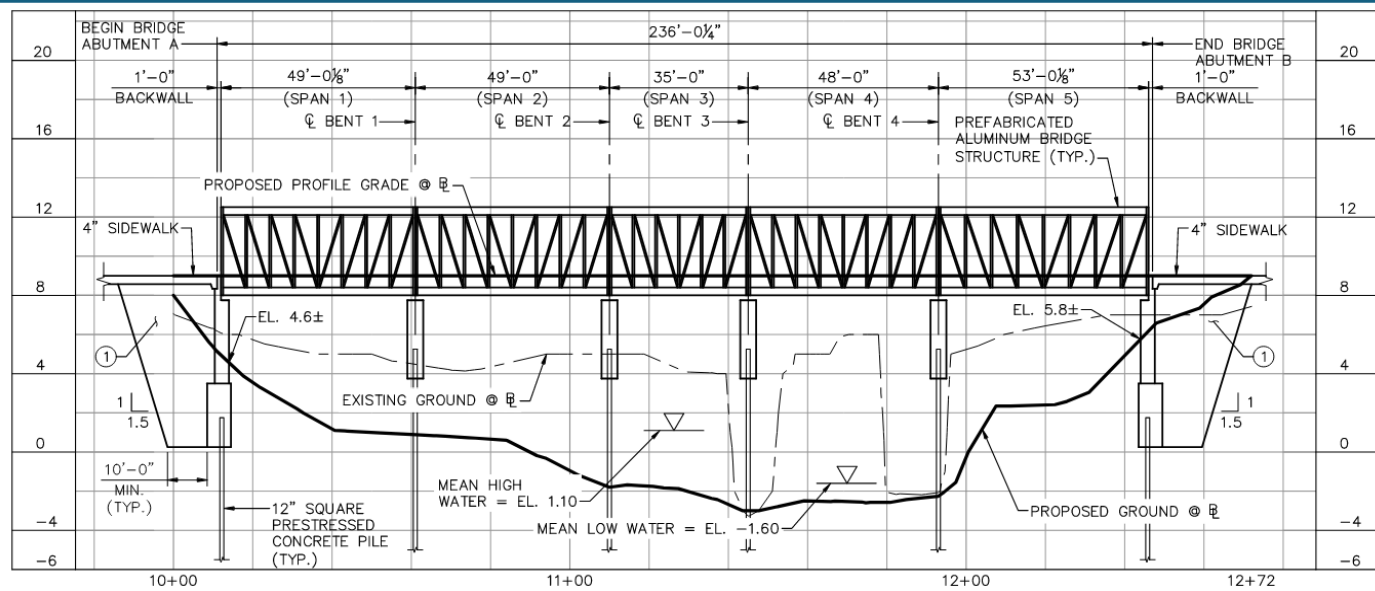
Design Considerations



Partnership, Perseverance, and Patience



Lessons passed on...



A park that honors its namesake!



Meet our Participation Assistant, Menti

3. List 2-3 challenges you have in building parks in your region.

