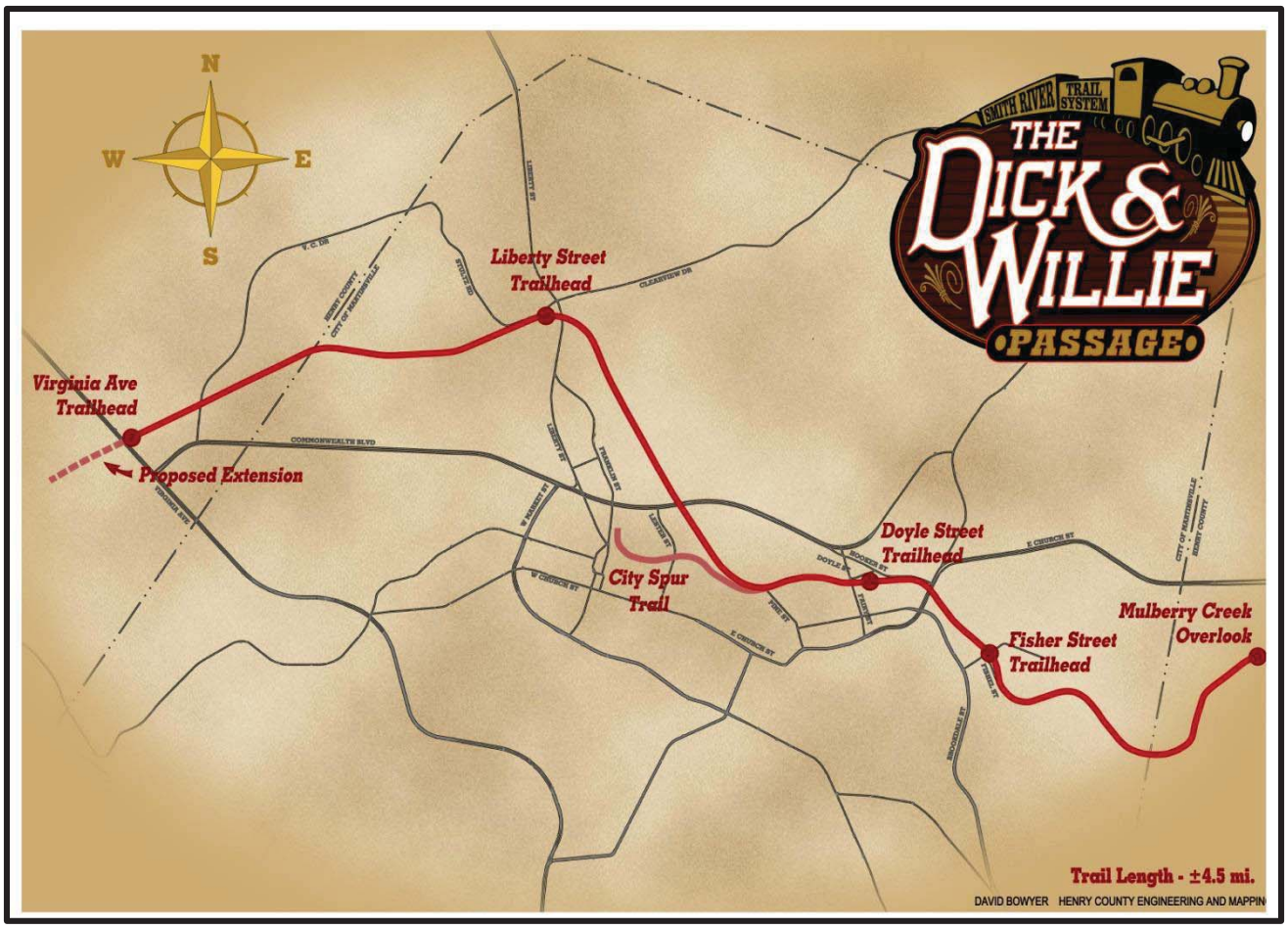
Dick And Willie Passage

Proposed Rail Trail Extension

3/2015



prepared by Brian Williams
Dan River Basin Association

DAN RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION

The Dick and Willie Passage Rail Trail Phase 1-5 was constructed in 2010 and currently extends 4.5 miles from the Virginia Ave trailhead to Mulberry Creek. The initial trail was constructed on the abandoned railway line purchased by Henry County. No additional abandonment by Norfolk Southern exist at this time and therefore any future expansion will involve private landowners and easement agreements or land purchase. The primary objective is to extend the trail and create a contiguous 10 mile path.

The proposed routes being considered are

- **Virginia Avenue to Koehler**
- **Mulberry creek to the Smith River Sports Complex**

The continuation of the trail west to the Smith River at Koehler could not be realized at this time due to Norfolk Sothern's active railway line to "Recycle Systems" on Virginia Ave. Private land owners holding additional segments of the old railway line from Mulberry creek, through the Chatmoss area were contacted for possible easements to continue the trail east. Some property owners along the proposed route would not grant easements for the extension of the trail and therefore a new route was investigated.

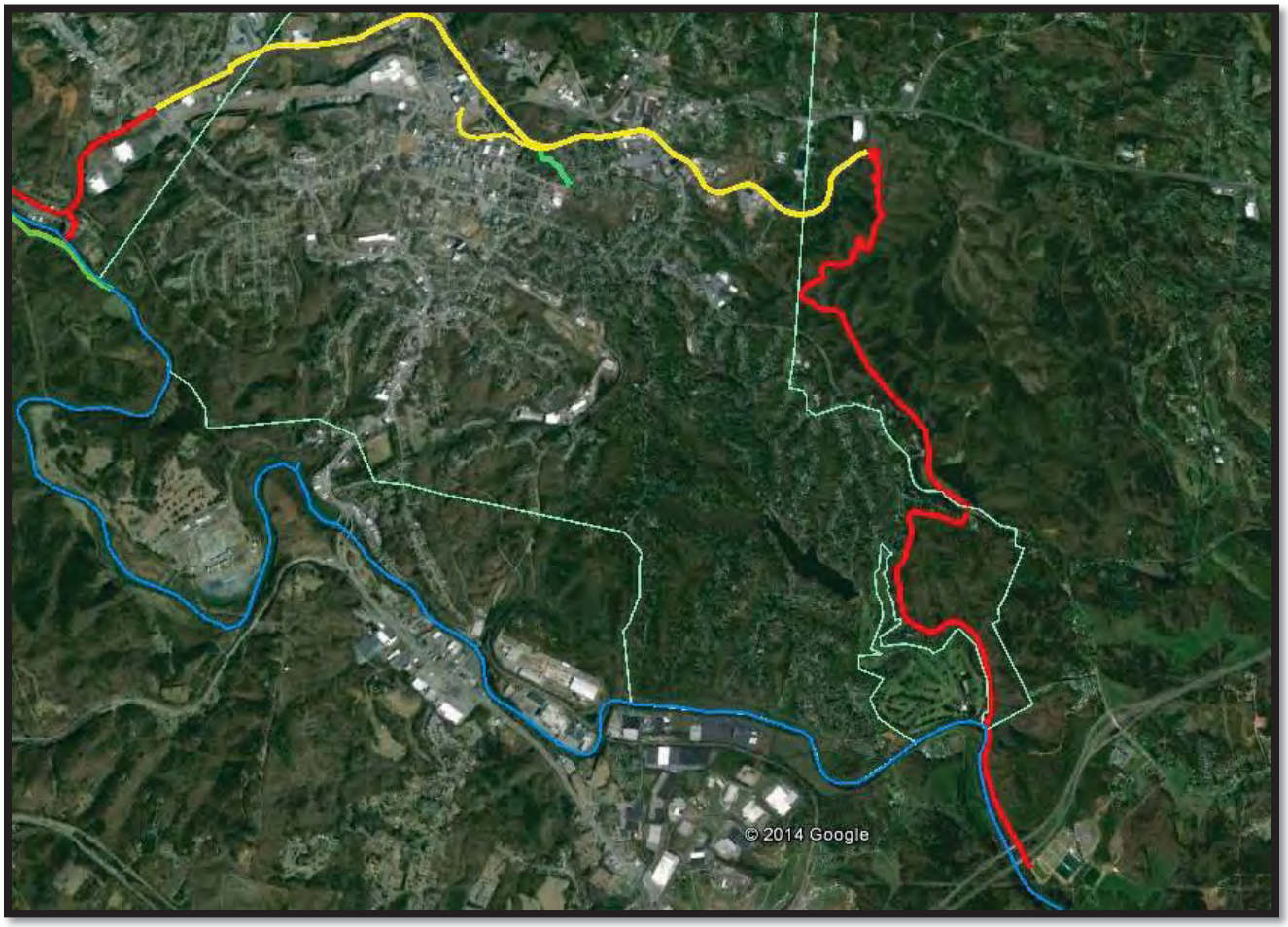
In February 2011, a team from Henry County including: Henry County Commission Chairman Benny Summerlin, Director of the Public Service Authority Tim Pace, Henry County Parks and Recreation Director Roger Adams, and Dan River Basin Association Program Manager Brian Williams explored the active sewer line easement from Mulberry creek to Spruce Street and determined this to be a viable route. A new easement would have to be obtained from each landowner along the route. Additional routes were explored that would continue the trail to the Smith River Sports Complex including utilization of streets, installation of sidewalks and additional routes through private property. The decision was made to begin work on a proposal and funding to extend the D&W from the current end at Mulberry creek to the Smith River Sports Complex. This would be accomplished as Phase 6A (Mulberry to Spruce) and Phase 6B Spruce street to the Smith River Sports Complex. This eventual connection, if realized would add a distance of ~5.2 miles, providing a total length of nearly 10 miles. The economic impact of the additional mileage would be realized in increase trail use, the ability to hold a marathon and additional races, and increased use by the local community improving overall health and quality of life.

The Dan River Basin Association is working with Henry County and the Harvest Foundation as well as VDOT on funding opportunities and logistical and environmental considerations in order to develop a feasible plan.

The following maps show a rough draft of proposed routes for the trail. Engineering studies and easement acquirement will be needed before further detail can be accomplished.

Phase 6A and 6B

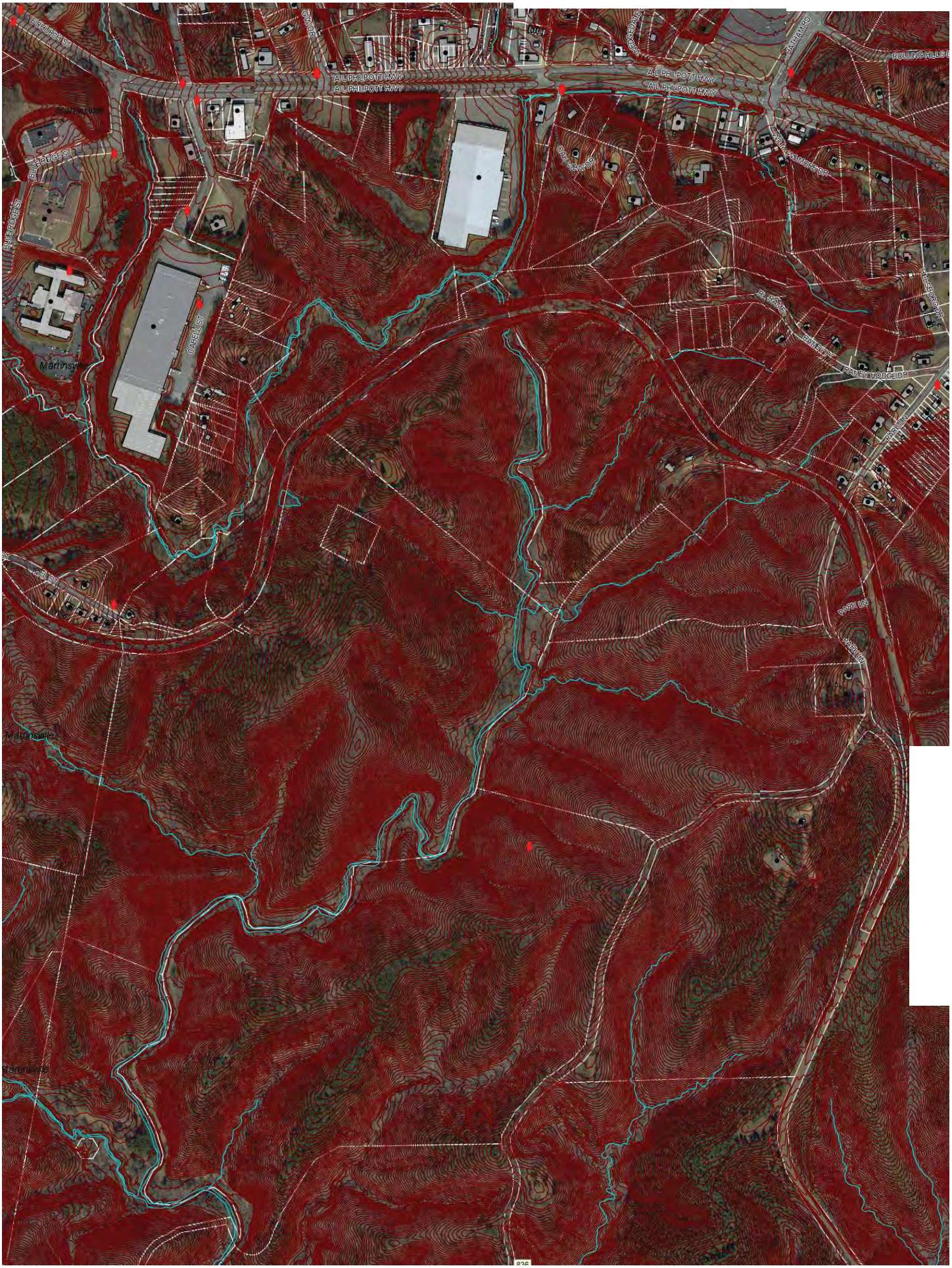
Mulberry Creek to Spruce Street
Spruce Street to Smith River
Sports Complex



The Dan River Basin Association has worked in partnership with Henry County Engineering and the Virginia Department of Transportation to secure a parcel of land along Spruce street for a possible Dick and Willie Trail head. The VDOT right of way is inside the City limits and they have agreed to turn over the property to the City of Martinsville which is turn has agreed to allow this site to be developed as a parking area and trailhead for the D&W

The proposed route would extend from this trail head and dependent on easements, would travel west to the Smith River then downstream to the SRSC, passing under the HWY 58 bypass bridges. Easements must be obtained from at least two property owners along this route. If easements are obtained, planning can move forward with the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) witch includes an environmental impact study paid for in part by Henry County and the Dan River Basin Association. The proposed trail route is contingent on the easements from private landowners.

Mulberry Creek to Spruce Street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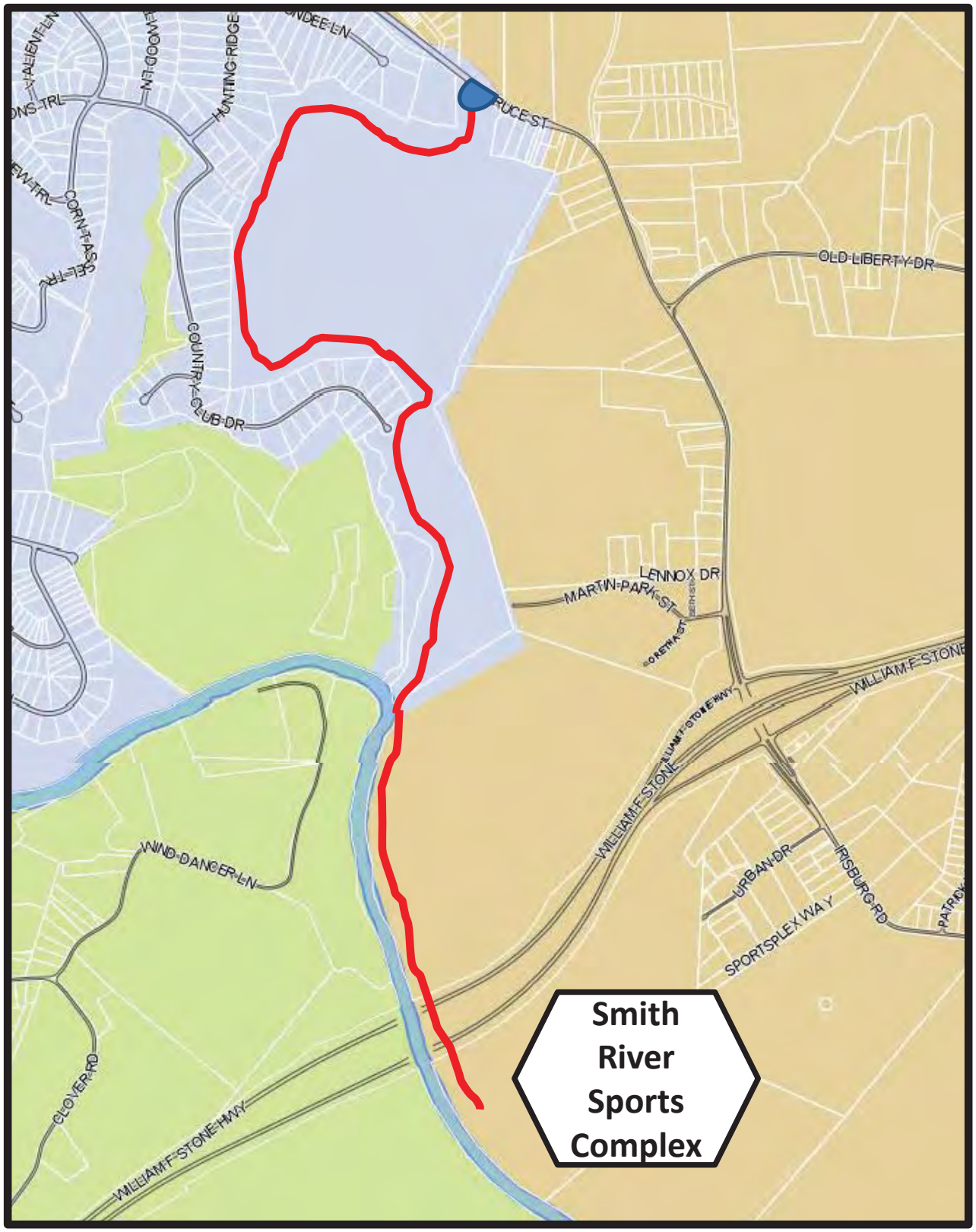
FAMEY HODGE DR
PARK LN
PARK LN
Martinsville
Martinsville

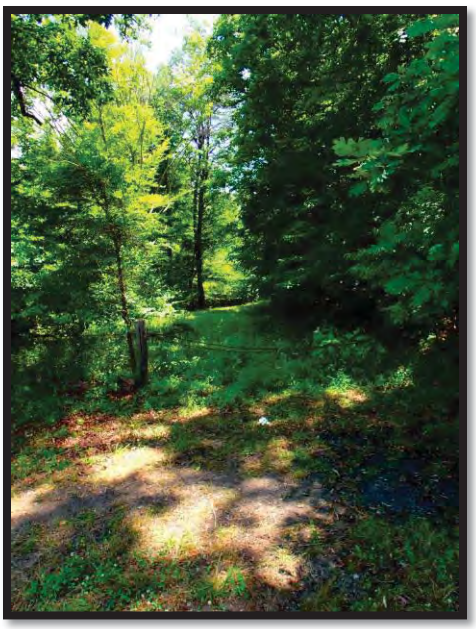
850
818
790
SPRUCE ST
CORN TASSEL TRL
CLARKE RD
DEER MEADOW DR
SPRUCE PARK DR
DUNDEE CT
DOVE LN
HAZELWOOD LN
MELROSE PL
VALENT LN
DUNDEE LN

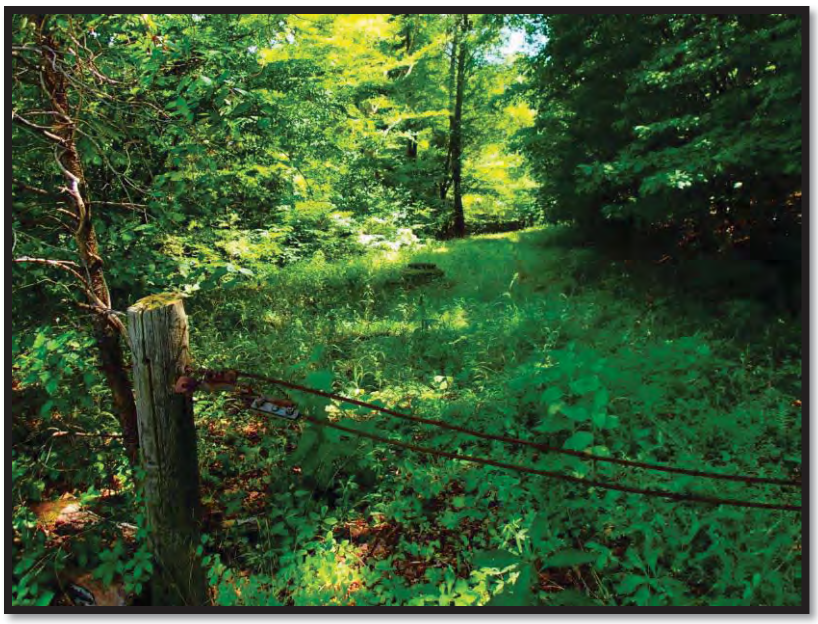
Mulberry Creek to Spruce Street

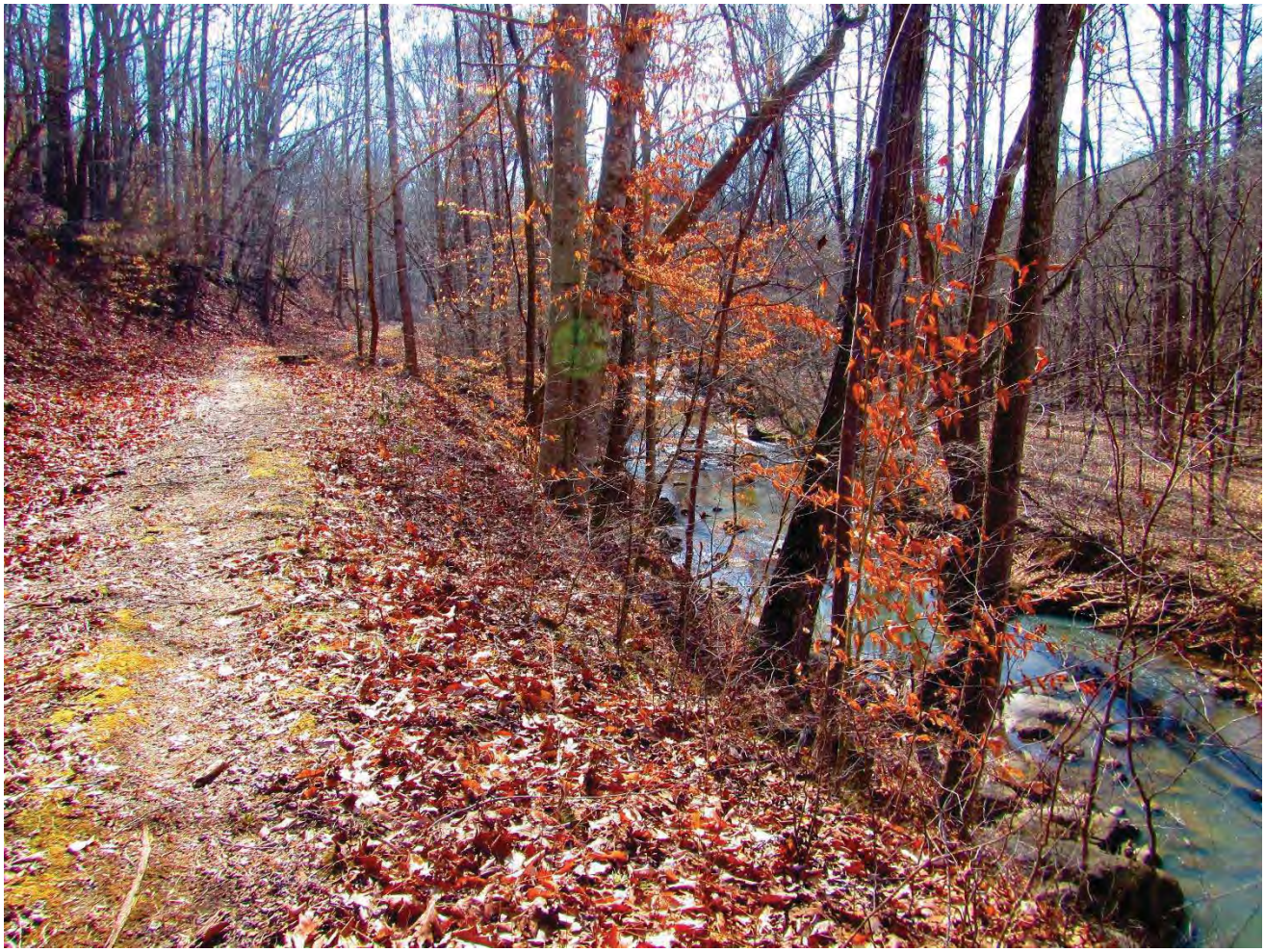
Spruce Street to Sports Complex

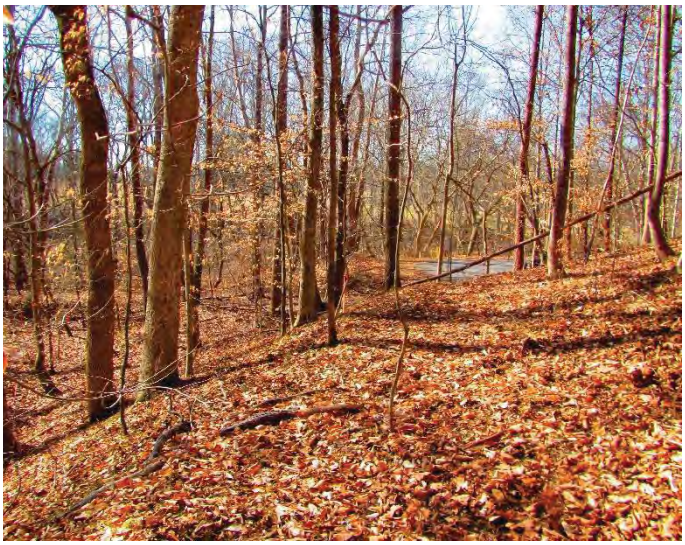


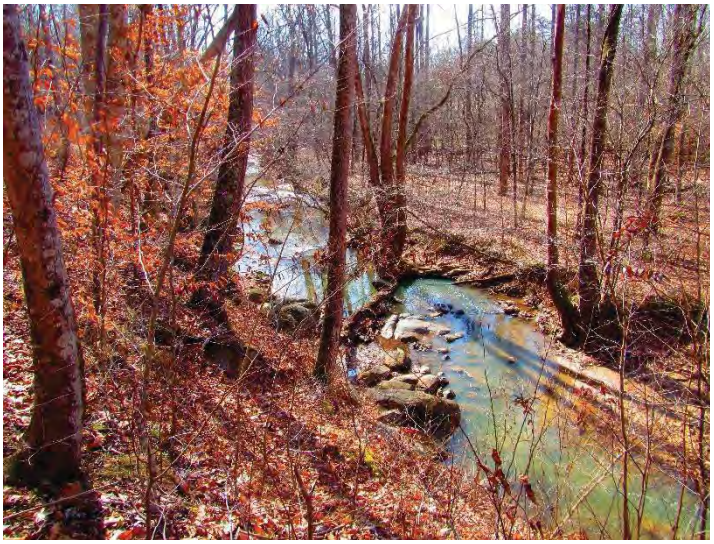
Spruce Street to Sports Complex



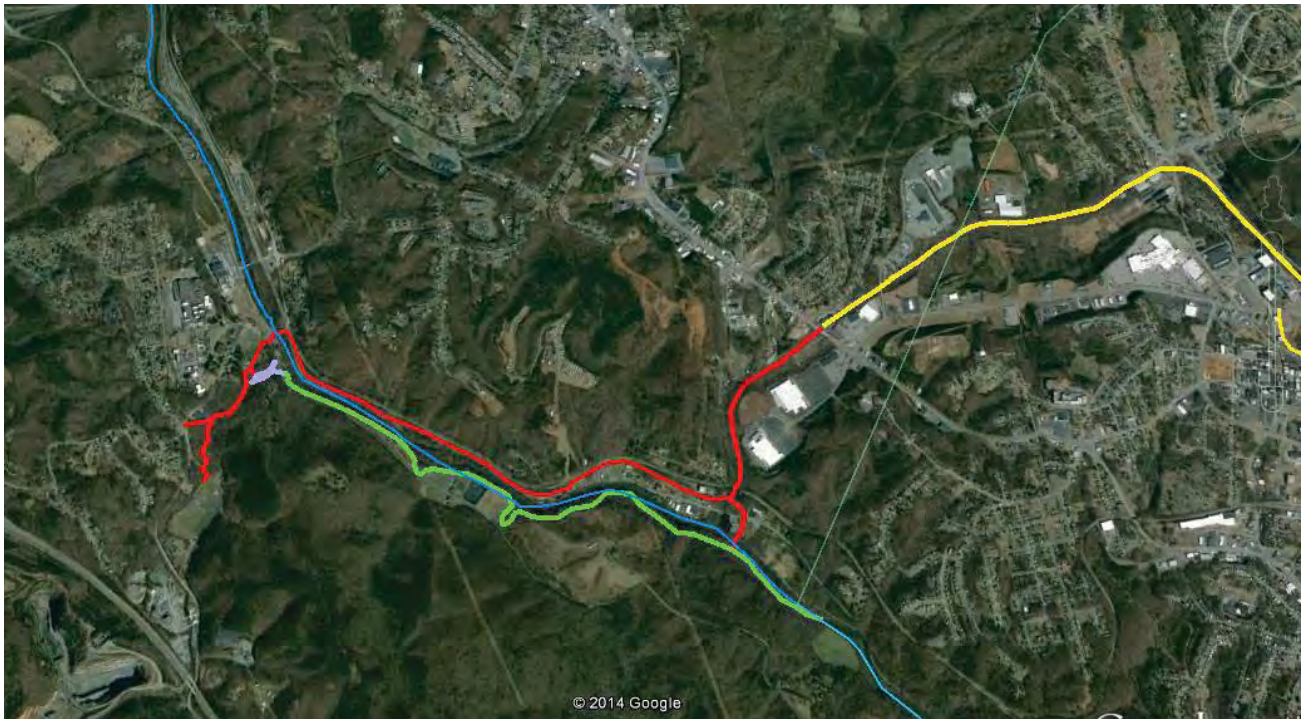


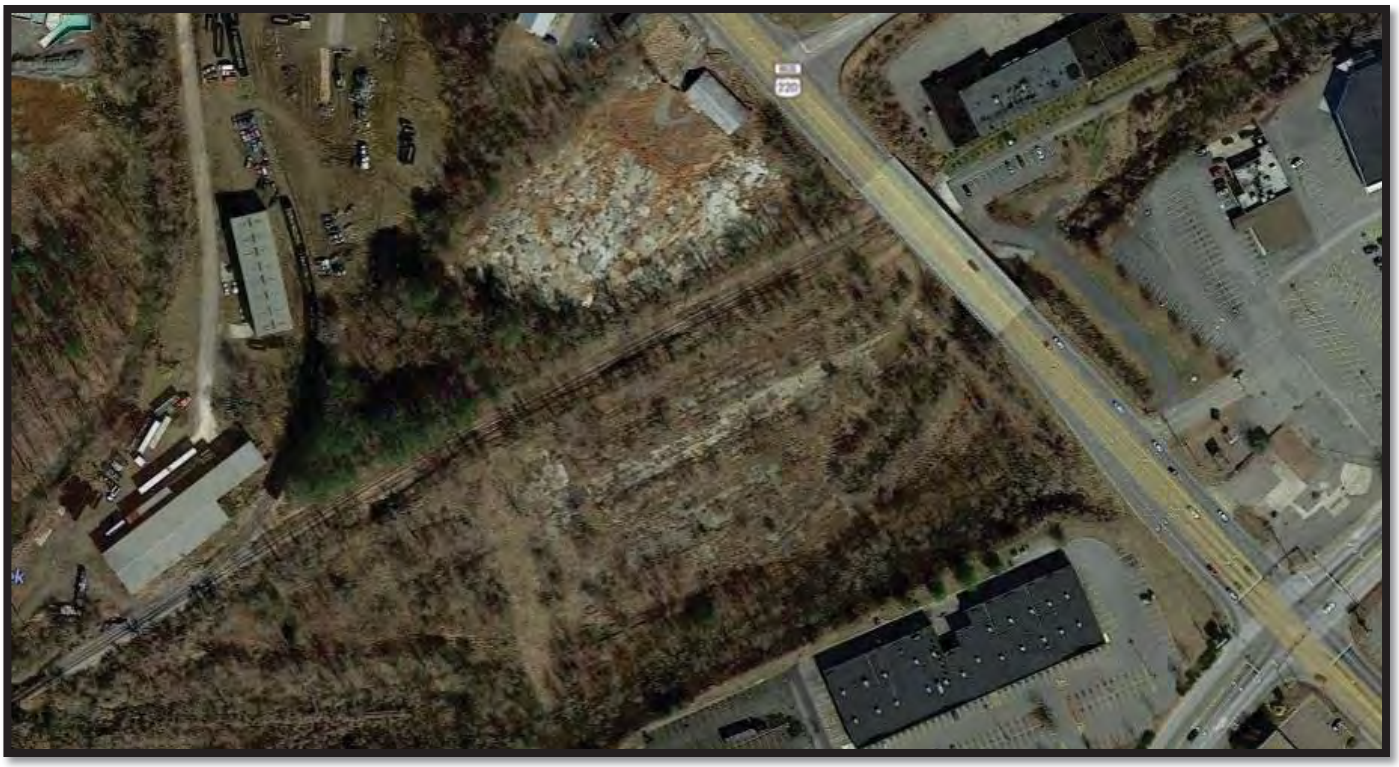






Virginia Avenue to Fieldale Trail





Appalachian

Beaver Creek
2201 Appalachian Dr
Appalachian Dr
Google

Google
Image capture: Jul 2012 Koehler R