

Clinch River State Park Master Plan

Public Input Meeting

December 16, 2021





Agenda

6:30pm-8pm

- Hello and welcome
- Meeting purpose
- DCR Mission
- Project objectives and process
- Advisory Committee
- Existing site conditions
- CRSP Purpose Statement and Goals
- Park character
- Public input
- Public comment and survey
- Next steps



Housekeeping

- All phone/ mics on mute
- Turn cameras off
- All comments and questions in the Chat Bar
 - These will be recorded and responded to by Feb. 8, 2022
- Additional comments will be received until Jan. 16, 2022 via email to: Jennifer Wampler at jennifer.wampler@dcr.virginia.gov.
- The pdf and recorded presentation will be made available after the meeting.
<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/masterplan>
- A public survey on park amenities is available until Jan. 16, 2022.
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CRSP-Public-Input-Survey>

Meeting Purpose

In conformance with State Park Master Plan requirements, the purpose of this meeting and workshop will be to

- share project process and objectives
- present site conditions and analysis
- summarize and report on previous input
- review the park's Purpose Statement and Goals
- give the public an opportunity for comment.

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Introduction to State Parks

DCR Mission:

Conserve, protect, enhance & advocate wise use of the Commonwealth's unique natural, historical, recreational, scenic & cultural resources.

State Park Mission:

To conserve the natural, scenic, historic & cultural resources of the Commonwealth & provide recreational & educational opportunities consistent with the good stewardship of these lands, waters & facilities that leave them unimpaired for future generations.



History of Virginia State Parks

The first 6 parks...out of the Depression

1936: Virginia opens a system of 6 state parks...most were a combination of donated land plus state funds for development





The System Grows

1940's through 1980's:

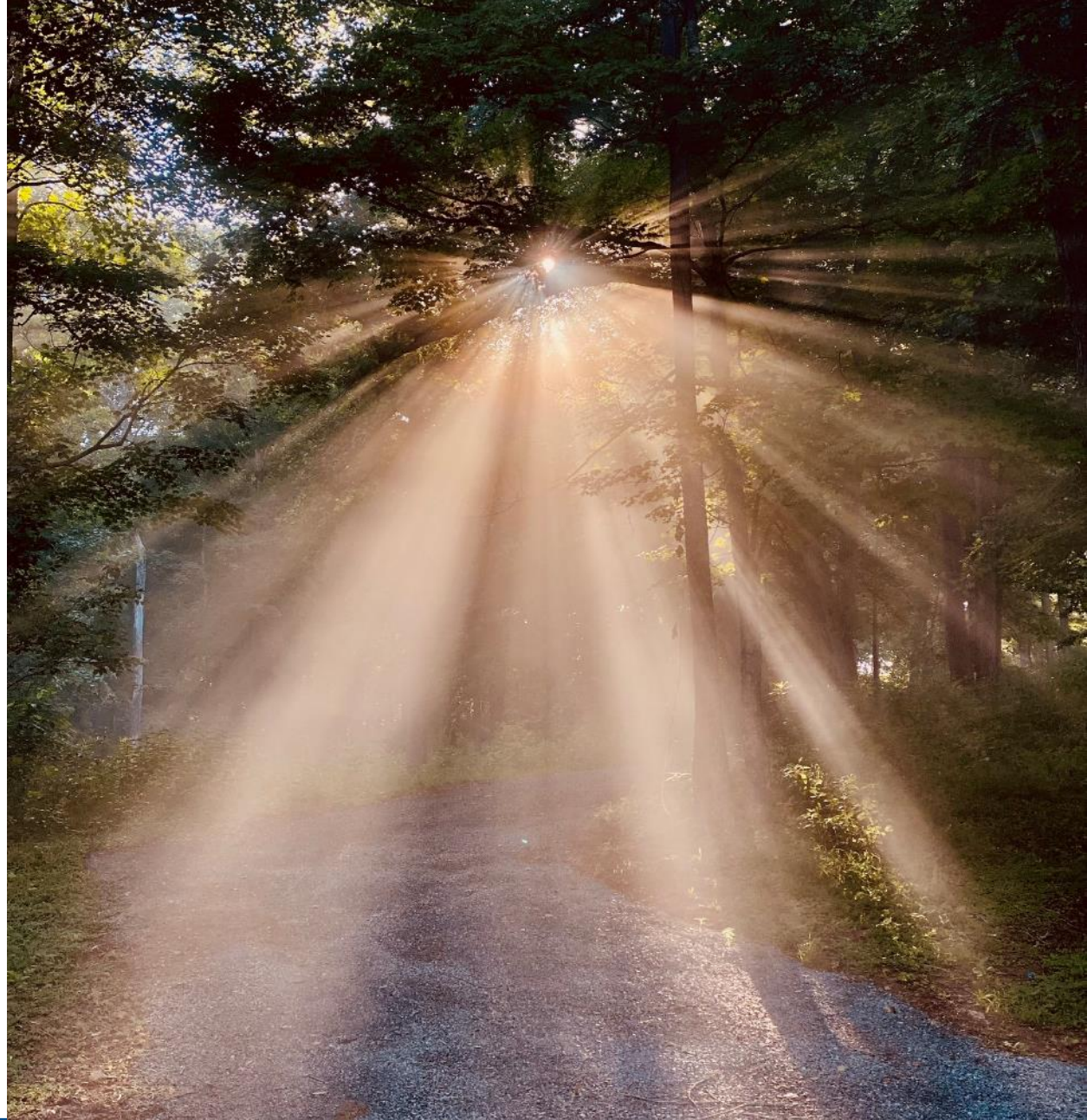
A steady procession of new parks acquired & developed through a combination of funds: donations, federal grant money, & state capital development

Voters support more growth & development

- 1990's through present: Two major bond referendums in 1992 & 2002 funded more than \$214 million in funds; 5 new parks & land for 6 more; 31 natural areas; 296 building projects: campgrounds, cabins, support facilities, etc.
- We continue to acquire lands, largely by donation or discounted sales...challenge is to find the development funds

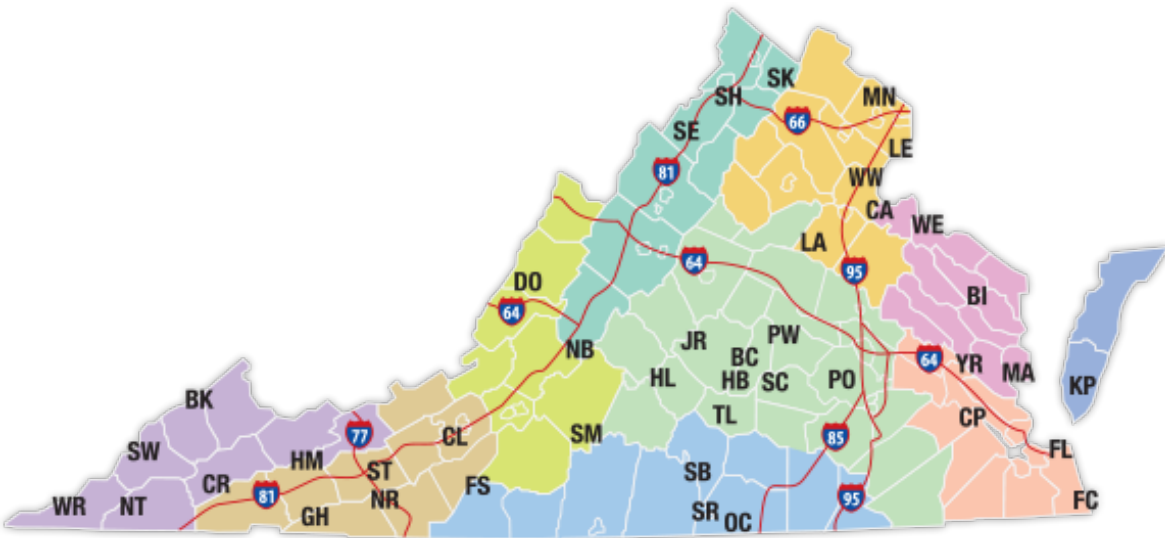
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Today's Virginia State Park System

- 41 parks, 4 under development
- 75,000 + acres
- 34 historic register sites
- 660+ miles of trails
- 25 parks with overnight facilities
- 28 visitor centers
- 99 picnic shelters
- 11 swimming beaches
- 1,677 campsites & 50 yurts
- 306 full-service cabins
- Visitation in 2020 – 7.8 million



Park Services & Facilities

Each park has a unique set of facilities, activities, and services

- Day Uses: hiking, swimming, picnicking, boating, bicycling, horseback riding, canoeing, kayaking
- Overnight: cabins and camping
- Programs, education, interpretation
- Conference and meeting facilities





The relevancy of state parks in the 21st century & beyond

- Parks are a part of the Community: Friends Groups, volunteerism, economic benefit.
- Solutions to many of today's challenges: "Nature Deficit Disorder", daily stress, and the need for affordable recreational opportunities
- The need for parks is greater today than it has ever been...places to reconnect to nature, to be with families and friends, and to re-establish personal well being

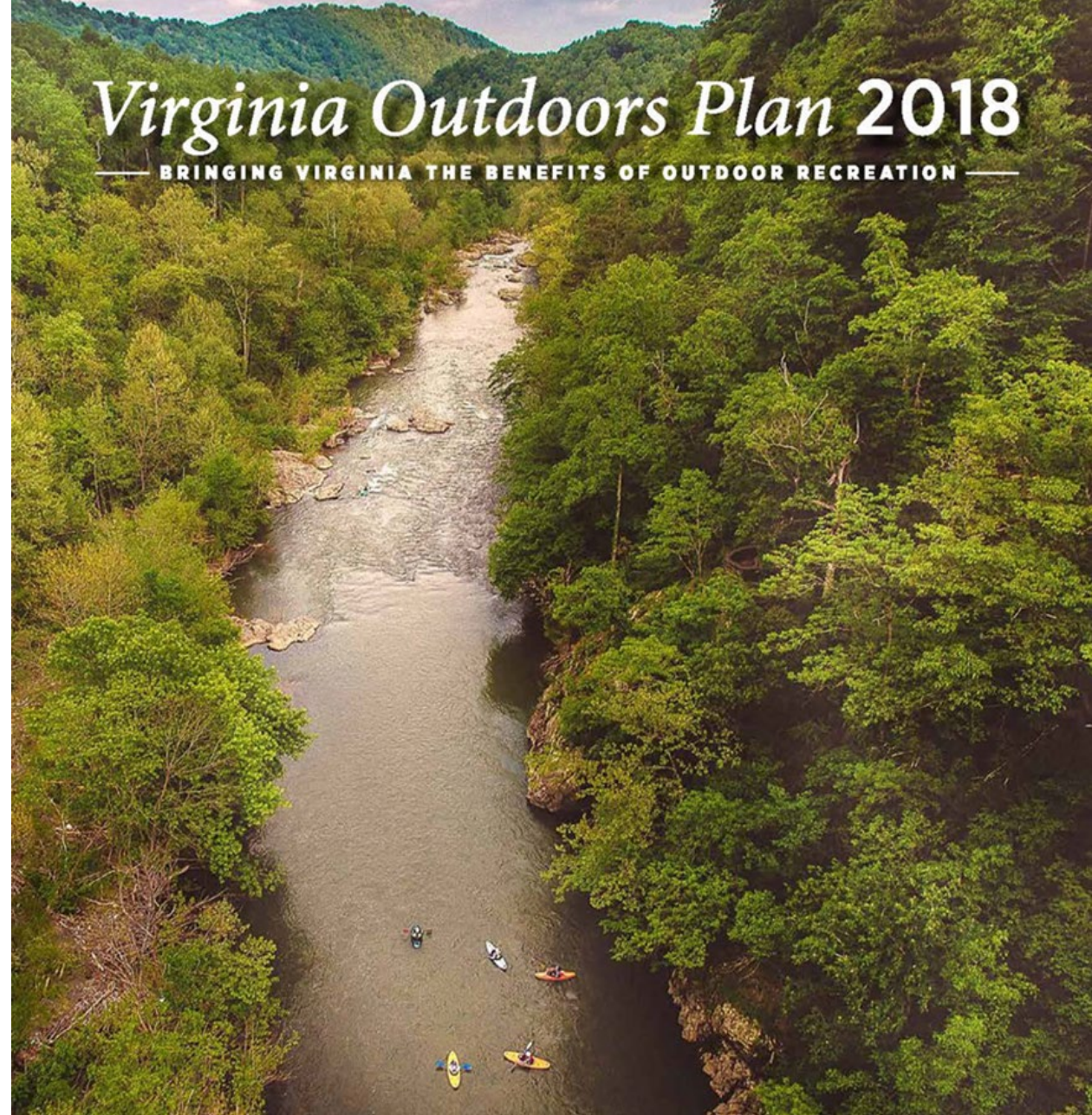
Virginia Outdoors Plan

Commonwealth's Outdoor Recreation
and Land Conservation Plan

- Guide to Master Plan process
- Conducted every 5 years
- Next Plan in 2023 – public participation welcome

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State Park Master Planning Code

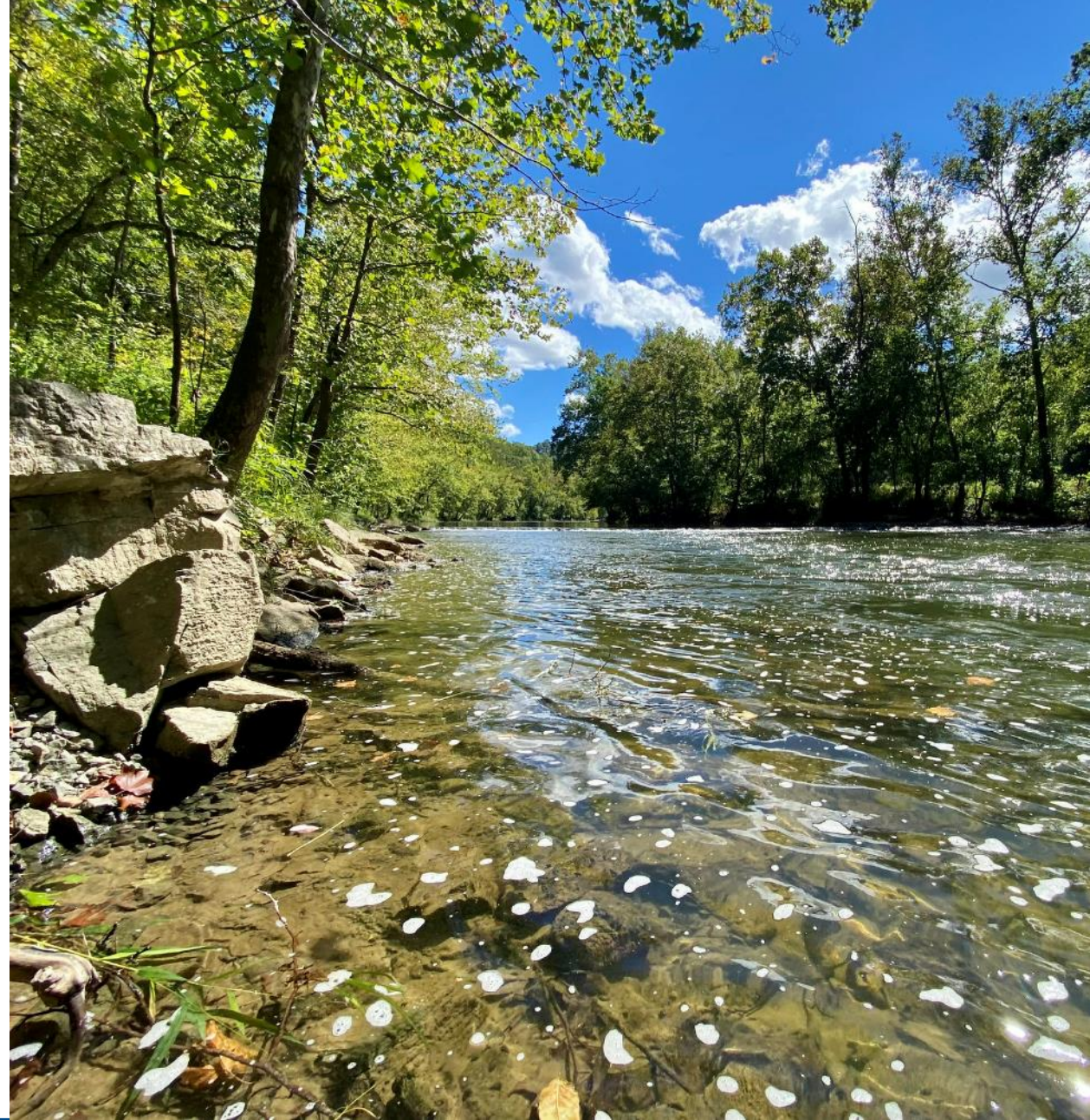
§ 10.1-200.1. State park master planning

- (i) for all **existing state parks**, (ii) **substantial land acquisitions**, and (iii) prior to major **improvements**
- A **guide for the development, utilization and management** its natural, cultural and historic resources
- developed in stages with public input

Project Objectives

Once developed, Clinch River State Park will highlight the Clinch River's natural, historical, and recreational resources as the first blue-way state park in Virginia.

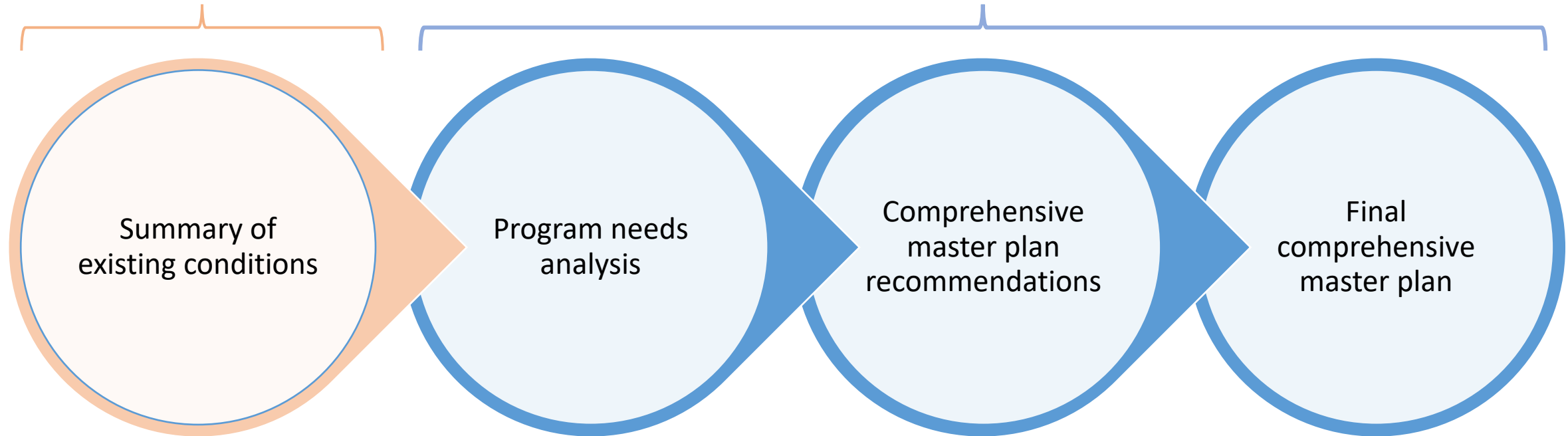
The comprehensive plan will set a framework of goals, programming, and priority implementation for the development of current sites and future site acquisitions.



Process

Stage 1 -
Conservation

Stage 2 - Recreation





Advisory Committee

- 30 members representing 20 organizations in the Clinch River region
- Involved in the master planning from start to finish
- Shares input on the park development through workshops, meetings, and surveys

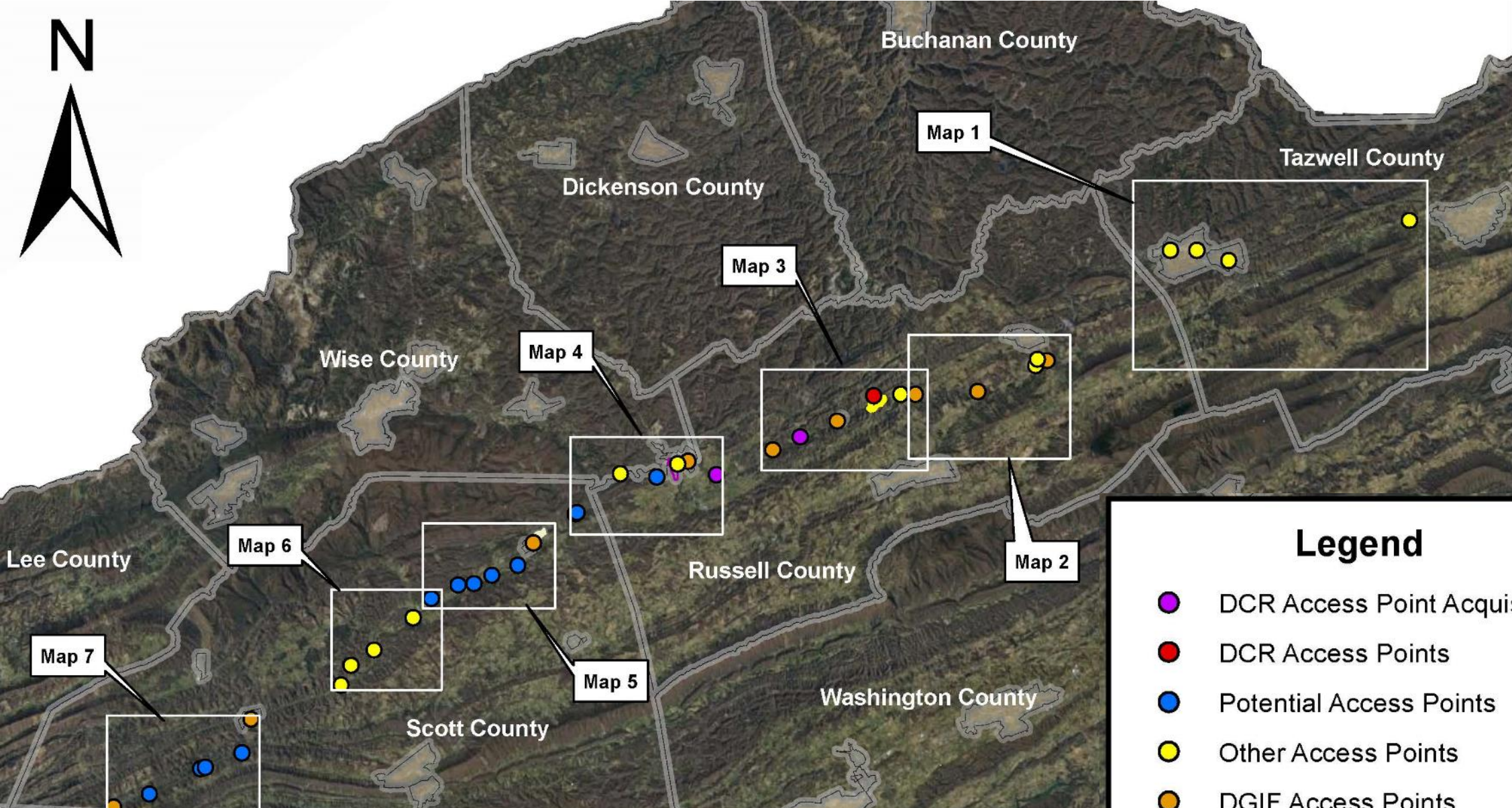
Questions or Comments?

Please enter your questions or comments into the chat bar

All emails and questions from the chat bar will be responded to by February
8th, 2022

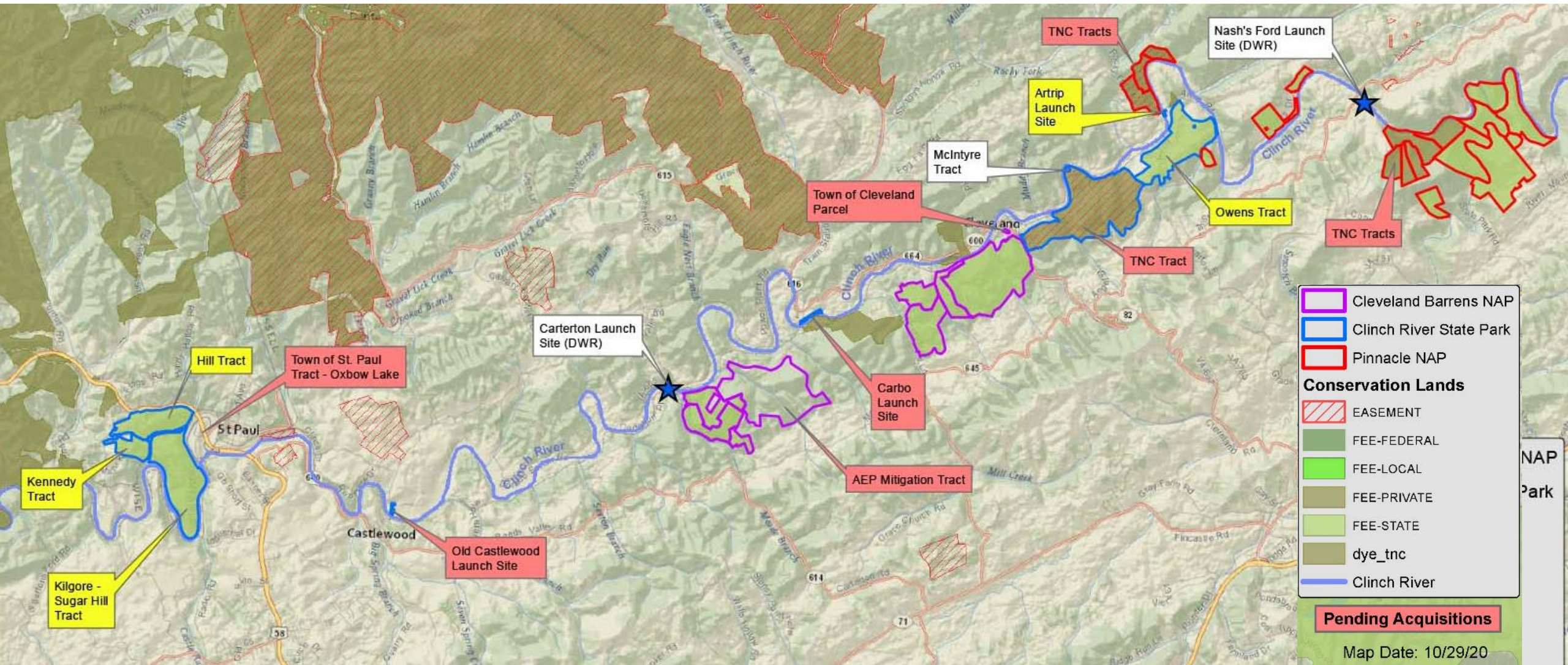
<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/masterplan>

Clinch River State Park Locations



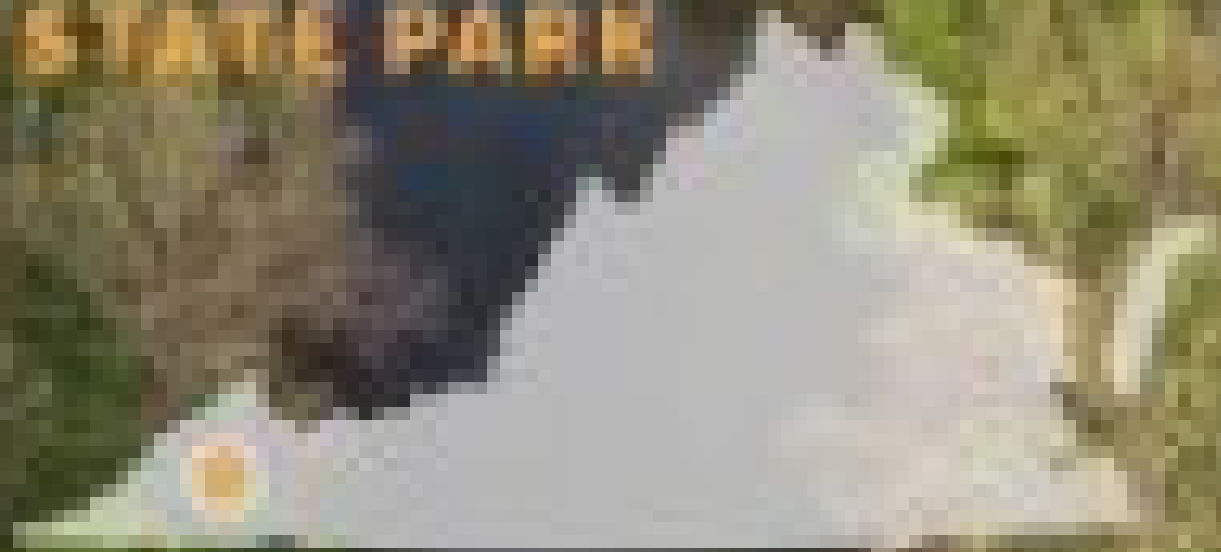
DCR Acquisition Lands Along Clinch River

Pinnacle to St. Paul



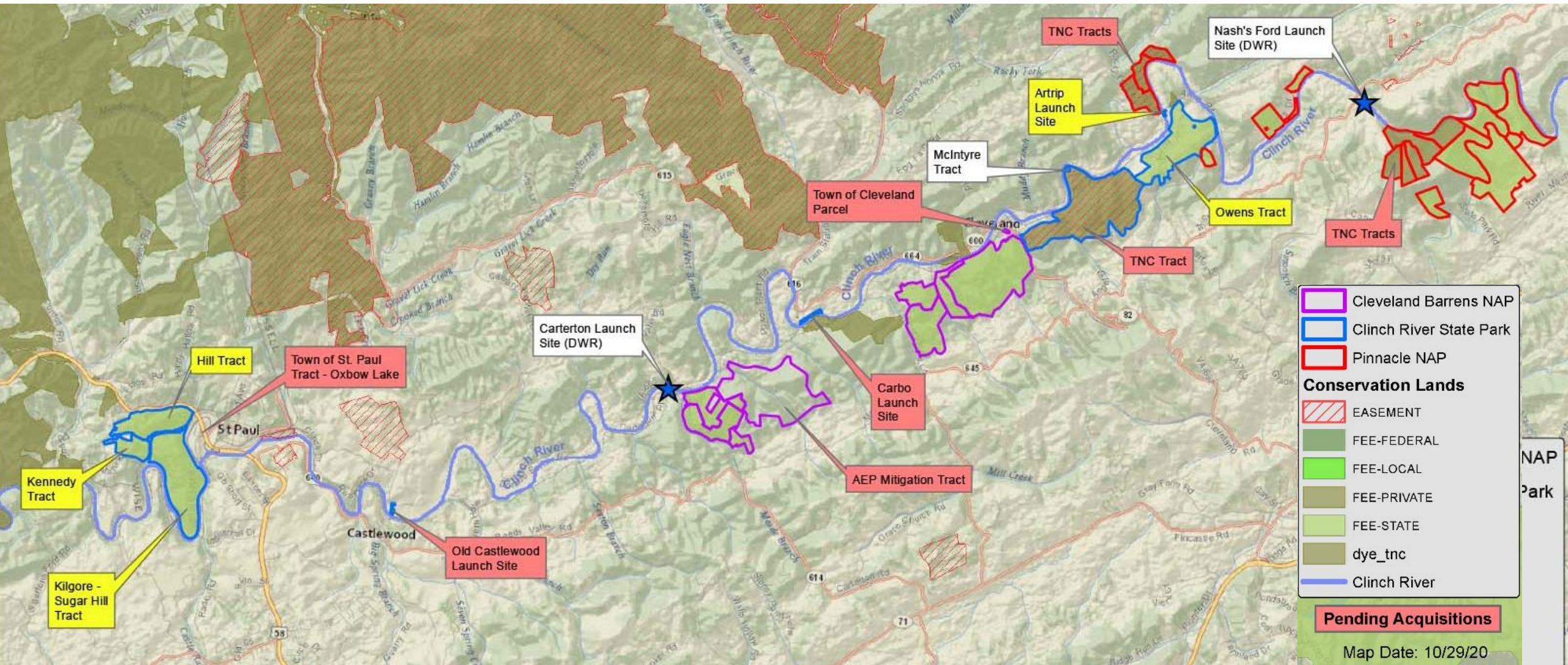
CLINGH RIVER

STATE PARK



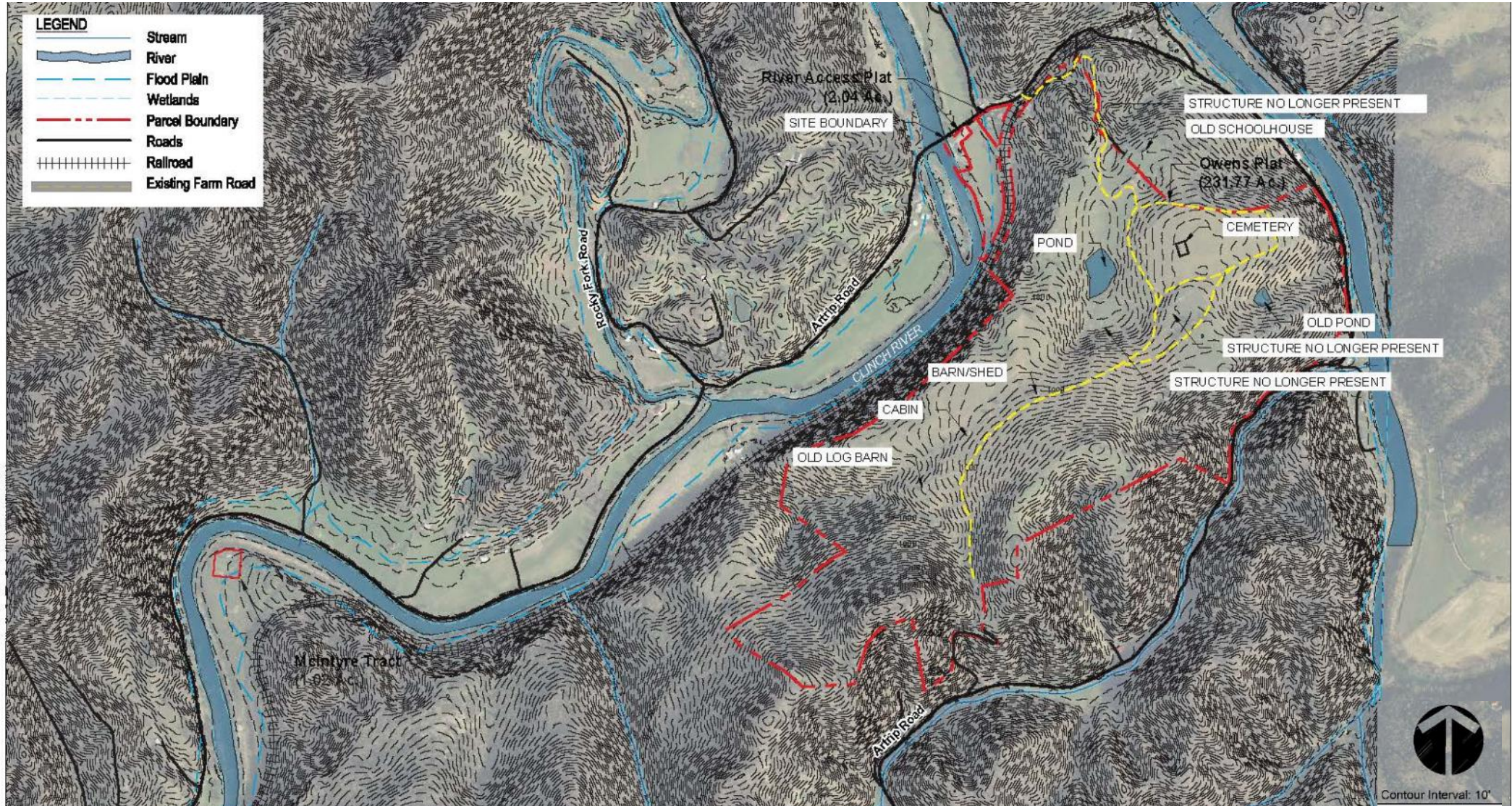
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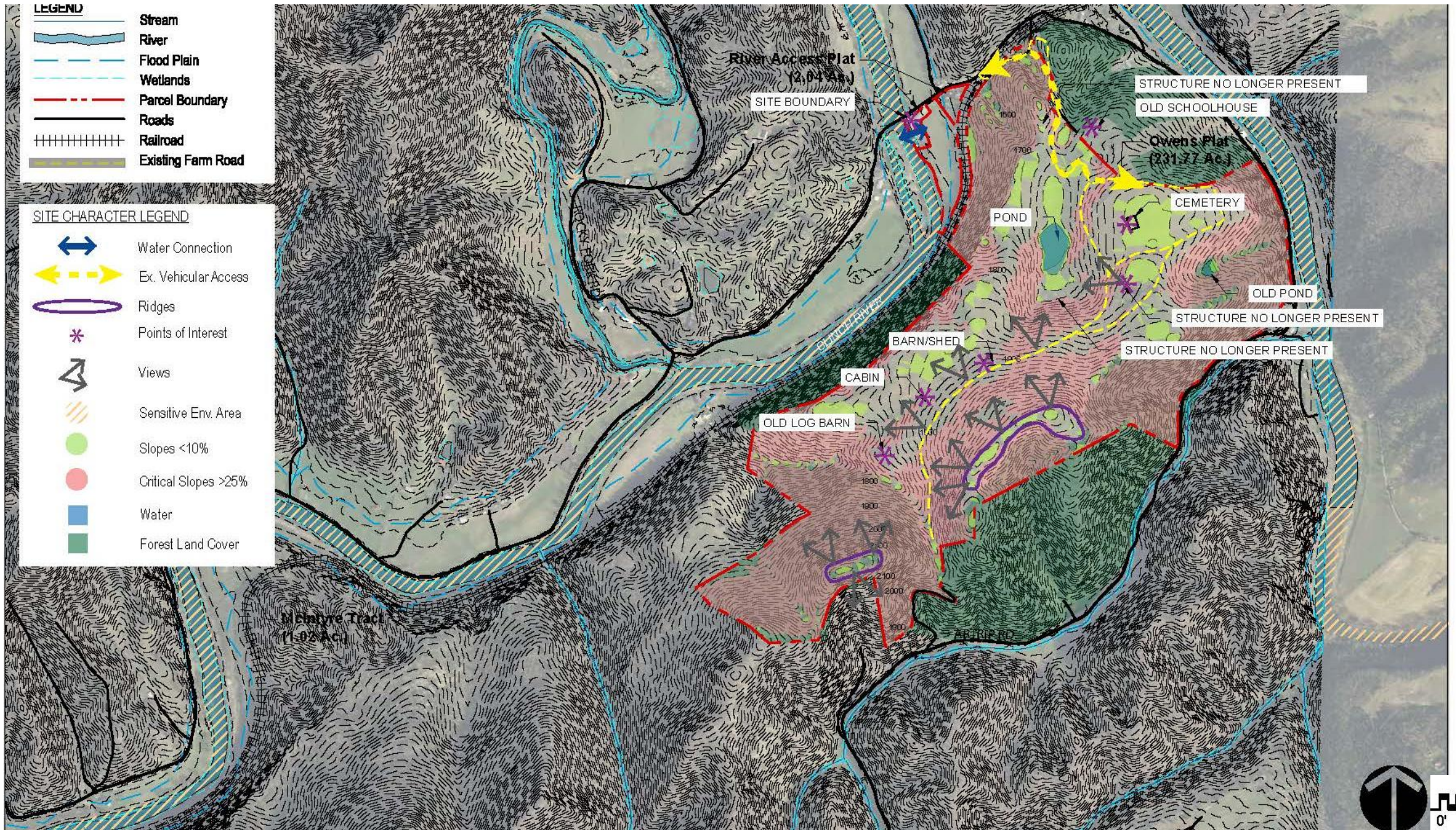
Russell County Tracts (Atrip Acquisitions)





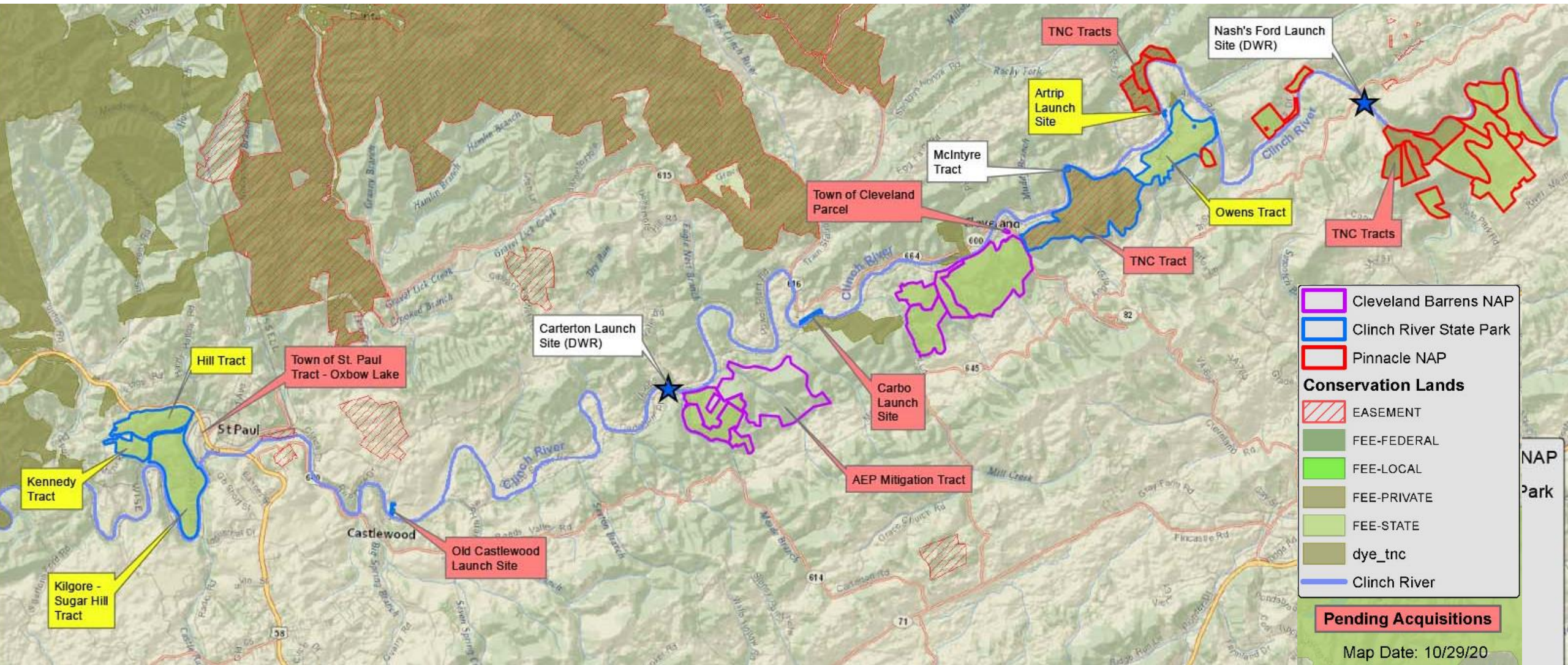


Opportunities and Constraints - Russell County Tract (Artrip)



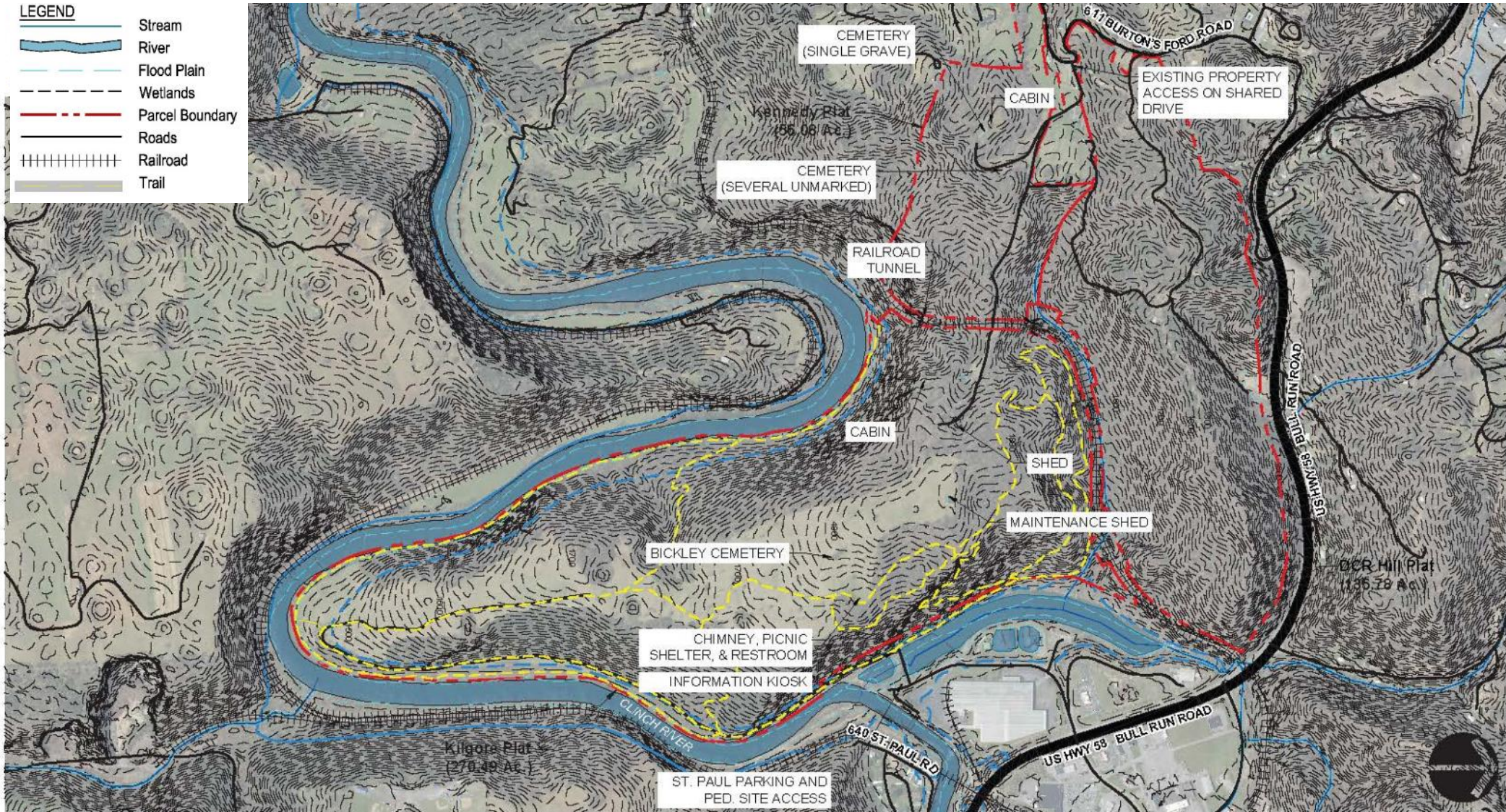
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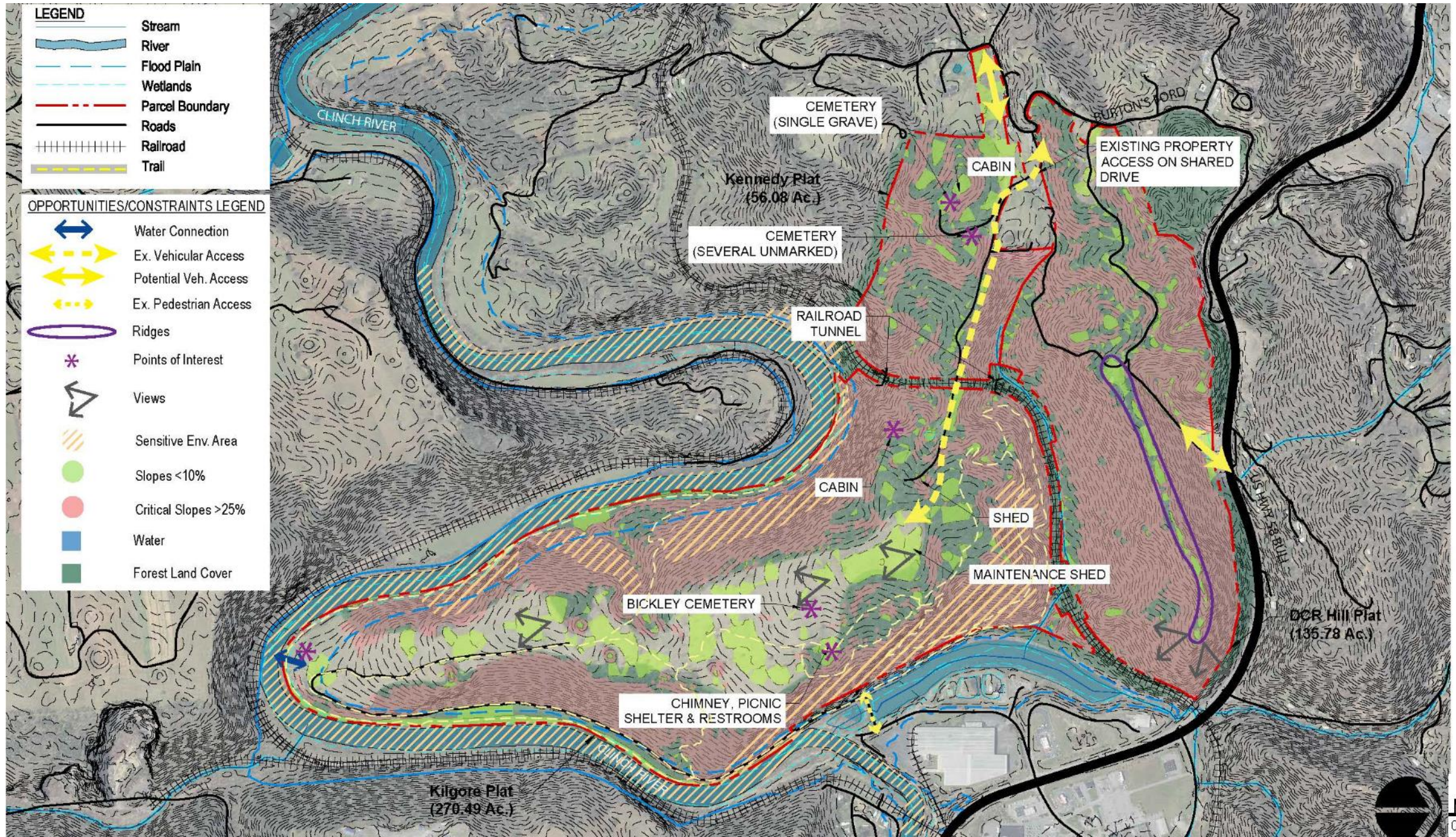
DCR Acquisition Lands Along Clinch River

Wise County Tracts (St. Paul Acquisitions)





Opportunities and Constraints - Wise County Tract (St. Paul)



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Clinch River State Park Purpose Statement

“Clinch River State Park is envisioned as a string of pearls along the ecologically significant Clinch River, providing opportunities for all for recreation and education that connects visitors to the environmental and cultural significance of the river and the region, conserving and enhancing sensitive resources; and fostering connections within and between adjacent communities.”

CRSP Goals

Goal 1.0 – Protect, conserve, and enhance the natural, scenic, cultural, and historic resources of the park.

Goal 2.0 – Create a welcoming and safe experience for all

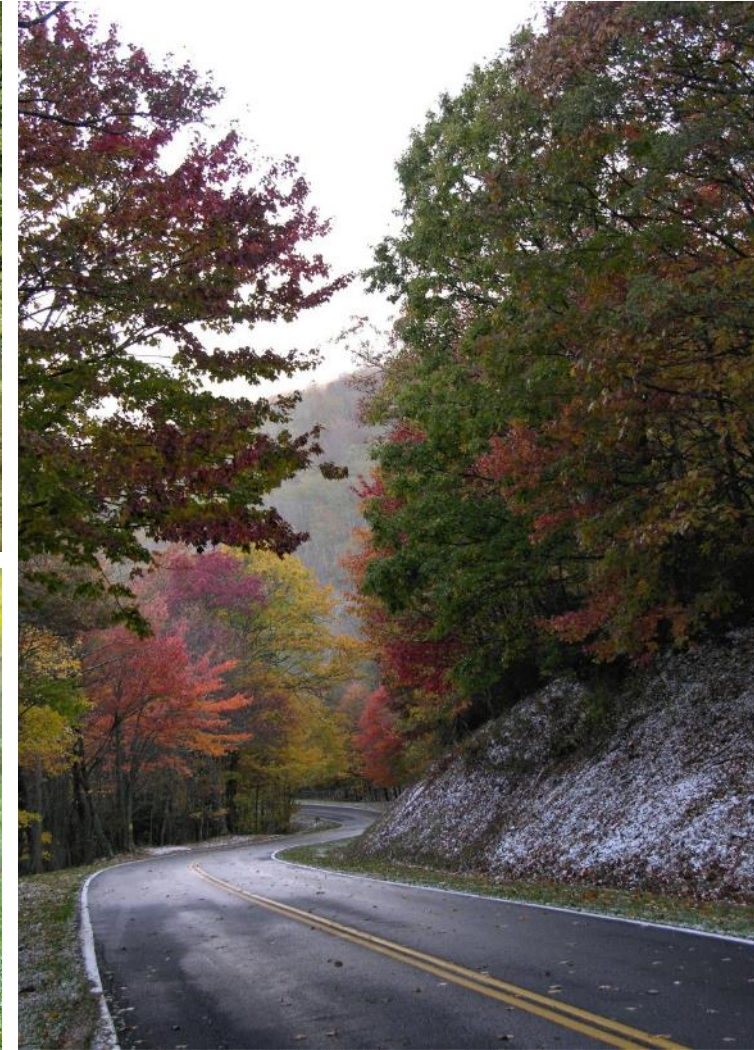
Goal 3.0 – Provide a range of overnight and day use opportunities and facilities for visitors to the park

Goal 4.0 – Provide facilities and programs for environmental, cultural, and historical education and interpretation

Goal 5.0 – Work across sectors to provide mutually beneficial efforts to enhance the Clinch River and the surrounding region

Goal 6.0 – Administer and manage the park in a professional and transparent manner which fosters the public's trust

Proposed Park Character



Proposed Park Character



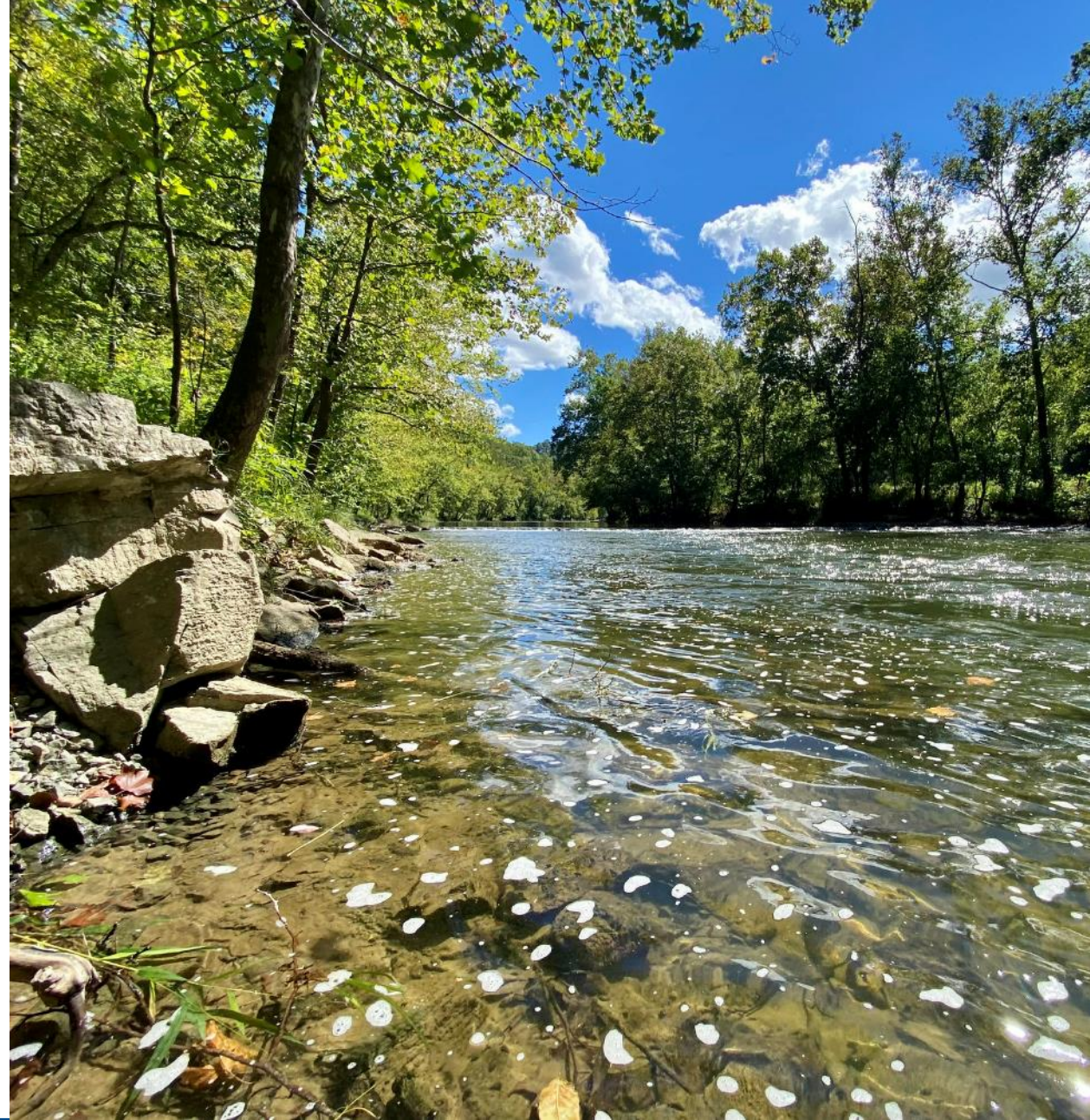
Public Input

We want to hear from you!

- Comments in chat bar
- Responses will be posted by February 8, 2022 at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/masterplan>

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Public Comment and Survey

We want to hear from you!

- Public comment period for 30 days (January 16, 2022)
- Email all comments to Jennifer Wampler at jennifer.wampler@dcr.virginia.gov
- Online recreation planning survey available until Jan. 16, 2022 at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CRSP-Public-Input-Survey>

Next Steps

An additional Advisory Committee Meeting and Public Meeting to review and comment on design

The pdf and recorded presentation will be made available after the meeting:
<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/masterplan>



Thank you for attending!

If you have any question, please contact
Jennifer Wampler at Jennifer.wampler@dcr.virginia.gov
by January 16th, 2022.

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