



AGENDA
BREVARD ECUSTA TRAIL ADVISORY BOARD - 2.0 REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, February 26, 2025 - 3:30 PM

A. Welcome and Call to Order

1. Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86111222082>

B. Certification of Quorum

C. Approval of Agenda

D. Approval of Minutes

1. Draft Minutes 12.04.2024
2. Draft Minutes 01.29.2025

E. Unfinished Business

1. Review of last meeting; follow-ups

F. New Business

Review Henderson County proposed trail rules.

1. *The group is asked to review the draft rules/trail etiquette document (attached) created by Henderson County's RTAC committee. ETAB must offer its feedback soon as RTAC plans to adopt these at an upcoming meeting.*

G. Remarks / Future Agenda Considerations

H. Public Comments

I. Closed Session(s)

J. Adjourn

Agenda Posted, Website, Sunshine List (February 24, 2025)
M. Baker, Board Secretary

To review Agenda materials, go to the City's website www.cityofbrevard.com. Select "Your

Government” tab followed by “Council Agenda Packet” tab. Agenda packet materials are posted on Thursday afternoon prior to Council’s Monday meeting.

**MINUTES
ECUSTA TRAIL ADVISORY BOARD 2.0**

**Wednesday, December 4, 2024 – 3:30 pm
City Hall Council Chambers**

Members Present: Aaron Baker, Chair, Council Member
Mac Morrow, Vice Chair, Council Member
Larry Chapman, Transylvania County Commissioner
Dee Dee Perkins, Transylvania Development Authority (Zoom)
John Ditillo, Friends of Ecusta Trail
Sheila Carland, Transylvania Economic Alliance
Doug Miller, Heart of Brevard
Meredith Carli, At-Large Appointment
Chris Burns, Henderson County RTAC

Absent: Madeline Hanley, At-Large Appointment
Rebekah Robinson, Conserving Carolina

Staff Present: Maureen Copelof, Mayor, Ex-Officio
Paul Ray, Planning Director
David Todd, City Engineer

Guests: Christine Stout (TPD), Vicki Eastland (Land of Sky/NCDOT), Teresa Buckwalter (TPD), Sarah Schafer (Watermark Landscape Architecture), Megan Foy (Equinox)

A. Welcome and Call to Order

Committee Chair Aaron Baker welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM.

B. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified by City Planner Katherine Buzby.

C. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda by Mr. Morrow, seconded by Mr. Chapman. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve October 30, 2024 meeting minutes by Ms. Carland, seconded by Ms. Carli.

E. Damage Assessment

Traffic Planning & Design (TPD) did an assessment of the hurricane damage by walking the entire trail over 2 days looking for things that need to be addressed during design. The results of the assessment are as follows: none of the jurisdictional features changed (streams, wetlands, etc.) so they are able to move forward with their submission of their natural resource submission to the State; some washout did occur along some sections. Behind the airport, they have discovered drainage pipes from adjoining properties that run under the trail that was not adequately sized so some sedimentation did occur but they already have a plan to replace those pipes. A bridge near the airport (Bridge 5) and a driveway were impacted with sediment. The bridge foundation did not move the width of the channel so they are changing their recommendation from rebuilding the bridge from a stiff timber bridge to concrete culvert to withstand the next storm better. There will be a cost associated with this new change so they are getting an estimate together for this change. Bridge 5.5 at King's Creek was completely removed from its foundation and deposited downstream on the French Broad River. The foundation is still viable so they still have an option to just replace the deck of the bridge. A GIS tool is available that shows all the areas that flooded and where the damage occurred and a link to the GIS to the board at a later date when available. At final design they will look at areas that were impacted by flooding and see if there is anything that needs to change to make the trail more flood resistant.

Henderson County sustained more damage than Transylvania County did, including multiple landslides and massive debris, with estimated damages at about \$500,000. The timeline for completion in their County has now been pushed out 6 more months due to repairing damages.

F. Preliminary Amenities Map

TPD has been developing a GIS map that shows the number and types of amenities, and the proposed location of the amenities. The amenities were categorized by levels 1-3 and they used the information they received from an ETAB poll to prioritize the different amenities. Design elements have been looked at for the amenities, such as the location and orientation markers that were originally proposed wooden materials but are considering composite materials. (see Amenities Handout attached). They also looked at historic stations and want to put information kiosks about them at these locations. TPD would like the board members review the GIS map and reach out to them if they have any ideas or concerns.

Mr. Baker questioned if corporate sponsors would be available for certain amenities and TPD responded that the non-profits usually serve as a project manager to the trails so Friends of Ecusta Trail may run a program but are looking at design elements that will have places for plaques.

G. Public Comment

Conserving Carolina was contacted by Job Corps looking for possible art projects for students on the trail.

H. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled ETAB 2.0 meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2025 at 3:30 PM.

I. Adjourn

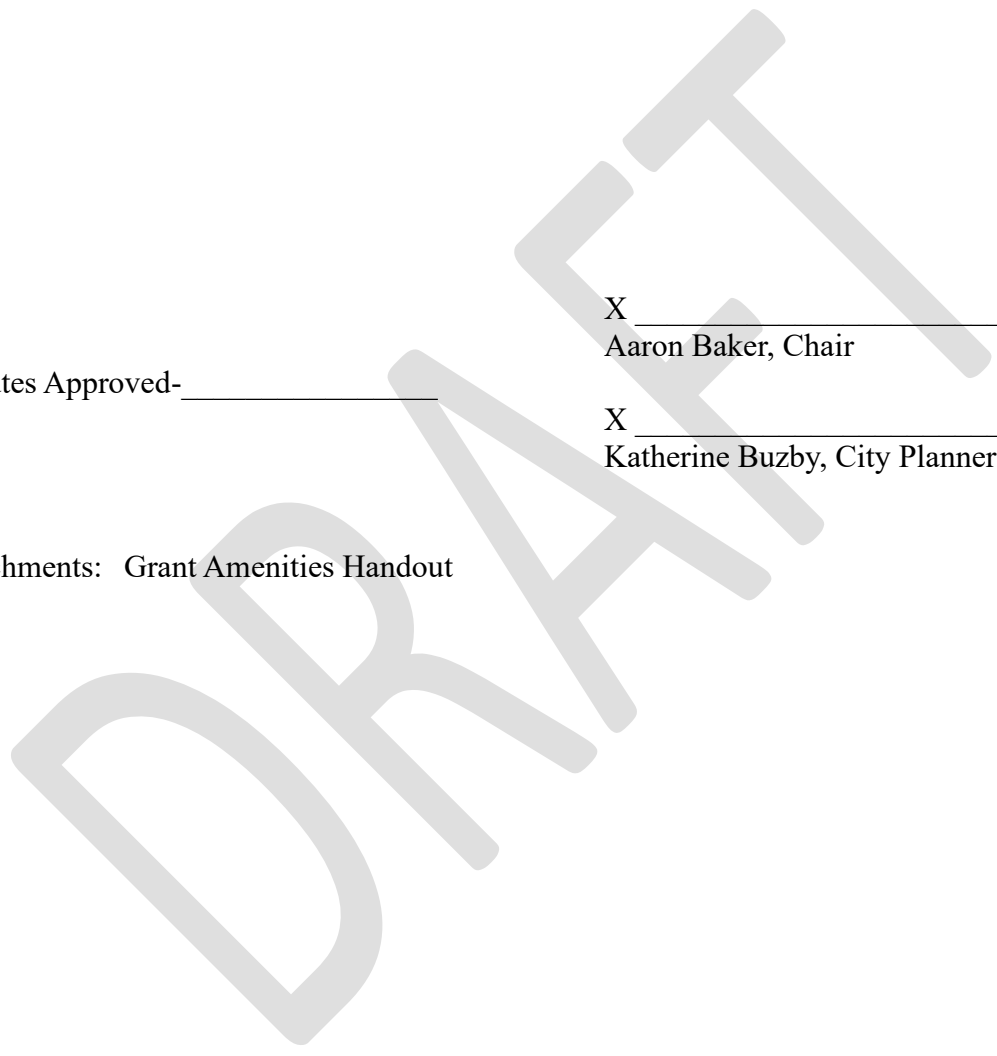
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:33 PM.

Minutes Approved- _____

X _____
Aaron Baker, Chair

X _____
Katherine Buzby, City Planner

Attachments: Grant Amenities Handout



MINUTES
ECUSTA TRAIL ADVISORY BOARD 2.0

Wednesday, January 29th, 2025 – 3:30 pm
City Hall Council Chambers

Members Present: Mac Morrow, Vice Chair, Council Member
Larry Chapman, Transylvania County Commissioner
Dee Dee Perkins, Transylvania Development Authority
Rebekah Robinson, Conserving Carolina
John Ditillo, Friends of Ecusta Trail
Sheila Carland, Transylvania Economic Alliance
Doug Miller, Heart of Brevard

Absent: Aaron Baker, Chair, Council Member
Meredith Carli, At-Large Appointment
Madeline Hanley, At-Large Appointment
Chris Burns, Ex-Officio

Staff Present: Maureen Copelof, Mayor, Ex-Officio
Paul Ray, Planning Director
David Todd, City Engineer
Madalin Baker, Board Secretary
Aaron Bland, Assistant Planning Director
Wilson Hooper, City Manager

Guests: Christine Stout (McAdams), Teresa Buckwalter (McAdams), Sarah
Schafer (Watermark Landscape Architecture), Lonnie Watkins, Tad Fogel

A. Welcome and Call to Order

Committee Vice Chair Mac Morrow welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:35.

B. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified by Board Secretary Madalin Baker.

C. Approval of Agenda

Motion to add agenda item “update on OMB announcement” to next line item by W. Hooper.
Motion to approve agenda with that edit by D. Perkins, seconded by L Chapman. The motion
carried unanimously.

D. Update on OMB Announcement

W. Hooper provided the Board with information about federal policy changes that could impact grants associated with the Ecusta Trail project. His updates included some of the following points.

- As RAISE and NFLTP grants were approved outside of current administration, they could potentially be protected.
- Previous support from state administration for the trail is promising.
- As RAISE was given down directly by a political appointee, it could be more secure.
- In future communications, emphasis to ensure protections on infrastructure project aspects of trail rather than environmental project.

W. Hooper asked L. Watkins if he had any additional updates or insight. L. Watkins mentioned there had been some discussion about various types of funding, grants/loans, etc. M. Copeloff asked if we had spent most of those funds. P. Ray asked what program carbon reduction falls under. L. Watkins answered that carbon reduction funding is different than grants and loans, so assumed not effected, but not officially confirmed. RAISE grant back to BUILD grant mentioned.

M. Morrow asked M. Copeloff if Chuck Edwards had been contacted. M. Copeloff said she would reach out, as well as requested board members reach out to Chuck McGrady.

D. Miller asked W. Hooper about potential legal challenges and outreach to state Attorney General, which W. Hooper said had not been pursued at this point yet with updates changing rapidly.

E. New Business

i. Review Trail Amenity Comments

T. Buckwalter gave a recap of the last meeting. Christy expressed excitement about the McAdams transition. Ecusta staff team remains the same, including sub-consultants.

Christy gave a big picture update on the NCDOT progress. Likely no overall change in the project timeline.

ii. Trailhead Discussion

T. Buckwalter introduced S. Schafer, of Watermark. S. Schafer shared all amenity marking should be complete in 3 weeks. Mapping and construction documentation can be expected at 100% scope of amenities contract. L. Chapman asked how Watermark is handling the issue of bathrooms on their Henderson County trail work. Henderson county trail is not building bathrooms, but working with nearby local private businesses.

D. Perkins asked if water filling stations will be available. S. Schafer shared that no additional water stations are being installed in Hendersonville, due to utility restraints.
D. Miller asked about amount of trail counters. S. Schafer shared some news from Hendersonville project.
D. Miller questioned quantity and intention of interpretive signs on proposed GIS Map.
W. Hooper asked if design process factors in the potential need to dig a well, etc. for bathroom service outside of COB water service area. D. Miller mentioned pit toilets as an option.
T. Buckwalter continued presentation with trail access conversation.

M. Morrow saw there were no further board questions on the presentation.

F. Public Comment

D. Perkins mentioned a shortfall in occupancy tax collections, in the amount of \$200,000. Briefly discussed the potential impact on budget.
W. Hooper asked about Asheville Highway roundabouts, making the area more friendly to trail users.
M. Copeloff referenced \$100,000 in state money possibly earmarked in 2023. Awarded to City of Brevard, perhaps as part of complete the trails funding, mentioned by R. Robinson.
L. Watkins asked W. Hooper about \$250,000 earmarked for roundabout project.
M. Morrow verified with W. Hooper that he had no further comments.
J. Datillo briefly discussed attachment A. Requested taking a vote on the proposed regulations at the next meeting.

G. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled ETAB 2.0 meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2025 at 3:30 PM.
M. Baker introduced herself as new Board Secretary.

H. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Minutes Approved-_____

X _____
Aaron Baker, Chair

X _____
Madalin Baker, Board Secretary

Attachments: Ecusta Trail Rules and Etiquette
McAdams Presentation Slides

Ecusta Trail Rules and Etiquette

Rules and Etiquette:
Respect private property. Stay on the trail.
The trail is open at all times, except for dangerous weather events or repairs.
Pedal-assist e-bikes are permitted.
Speed Limit 15 mph unless posted otherwise. Wheels yield to pedestrians.
Keep right except to pass. Give audible warning before passing.
Stay alert/Listen for approaching traffic; Decrease the volume of audio devices and keep one ear open.
Trail users should only park in designated areas.
Helmets are recommended for everyone on wheels but required for children 16 years of age and under.
Bicycle light-use is required from dusk to dawn (both front and rear lights are recommended).
No devices shall be left on the trail unattended, unless parked in appropriate parking places.
Do not block the trail. Pull off the trail when stopped.
Pets must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet and under control. Clean up after your pet.
Call 911 to report any emergency or suspicious activity.
Please report any vandalism, storm damage, or unsafe conditions immediately to Henderson County Parks and Recreation Department by calling 828-697-4884.

Prohibited Activities:
Littering and vandalism
Tobacco use of any kind
Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages or any intoxicants
Killing, trapping, or harming wildlife
Fireworks
Selling, soliciting, or exhibiting materials without a Parks and Recreation Issued Permit
Collection, removal, damage, or disturbance of any trail property, natural or cultural object
Horses
Camping
Prohibited vehicles include, but not limited to: ATVs, UTVs, 4-wheelers, golf carts, and tagged vehicles (including scooters or mopeds) Note: Individuals with a mobility disability have the right to use an OPDMD (Other Power-Driven Mobility Device)
None of these rules, regulations, or etiquette are to supersede state or federal law, infringe upon the rights of those protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act, or discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or gender.

Ecusta Trail Advisory Board

January 2025

- TPD now McAdams
- Big Picture Update
- Amenities Update
 - Henderson Co. Side (Sarah with Watermark)
 - Level 1 Amenities Discussion
- Trail Access Property Investigation
- Next Steps



Expertise Overview

TPD Asheville is now part of McAdams

Transportation



Planning + Design



Civil / Site Design



Water Resources



Construction Admin.



Geomatics



Expertise Overview

Same Team for Ecusta

Christy Staudt

Practice Lead, Active Transportation

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Asheville, NC 28801

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[JOIN OUR TEAM](#)



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Teresa Buckwalter

Senior Landscape Architect

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Big Picture Update

Preliminary Design

Responding to Review Comments on Preliminary Design

Scoping with NCDOT for Final Design

Final Design & Permitting

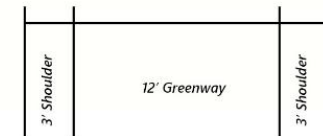
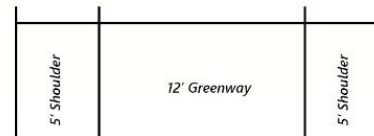
Design, Permitting & Construction Documents

Federal Clearances – NEPA, Utilities, ROW

Construction Letting

Still on Track for June 2026

ECUSTA TRAIL TYPICAL SECTIONS



Amenities

Henderson Co. Update

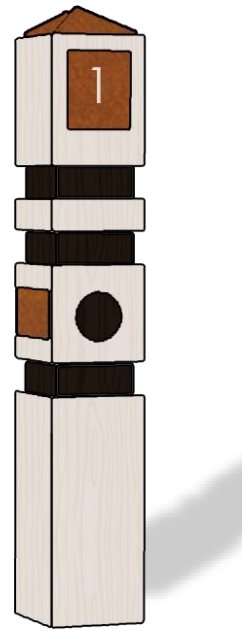
- Sarah Schafer,
Watermark



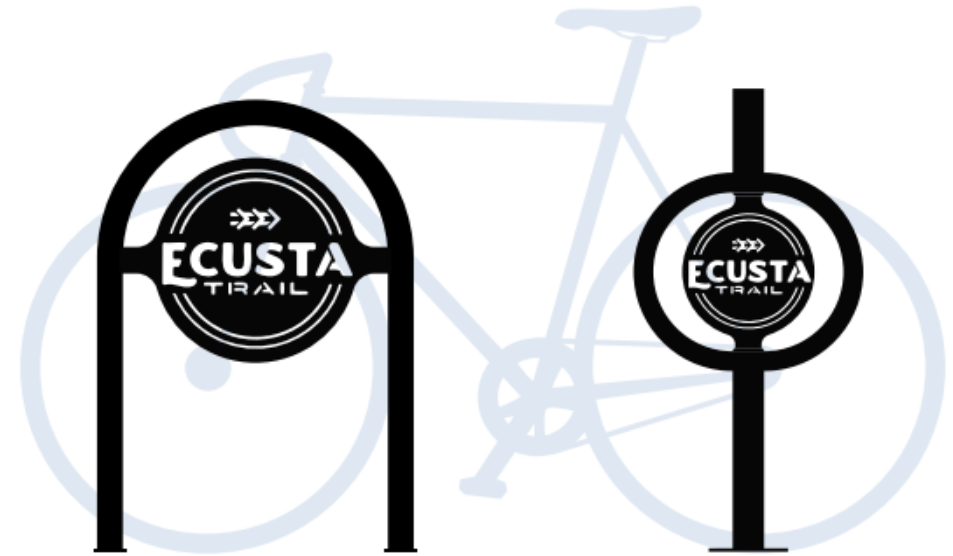
Amenities

Level 1 Amenities

- benches
- stations
- mile posts
- orientation markers
- bike repair stations
- trail counters
- bike racks



Mile posts



Amenities

Level 1 Amenities







1. Mapping: were you able to review the online map?
2. Feedback on initial locations of amenities.

Legend

AMENITIES

Amenities

RAISE GRANT

-  Landscape screening/buffer
-  Station with info kiosk
-  Orientation marker
-  Bench
-  Bike rack
-  Mile marker


LOCAL FUNDS

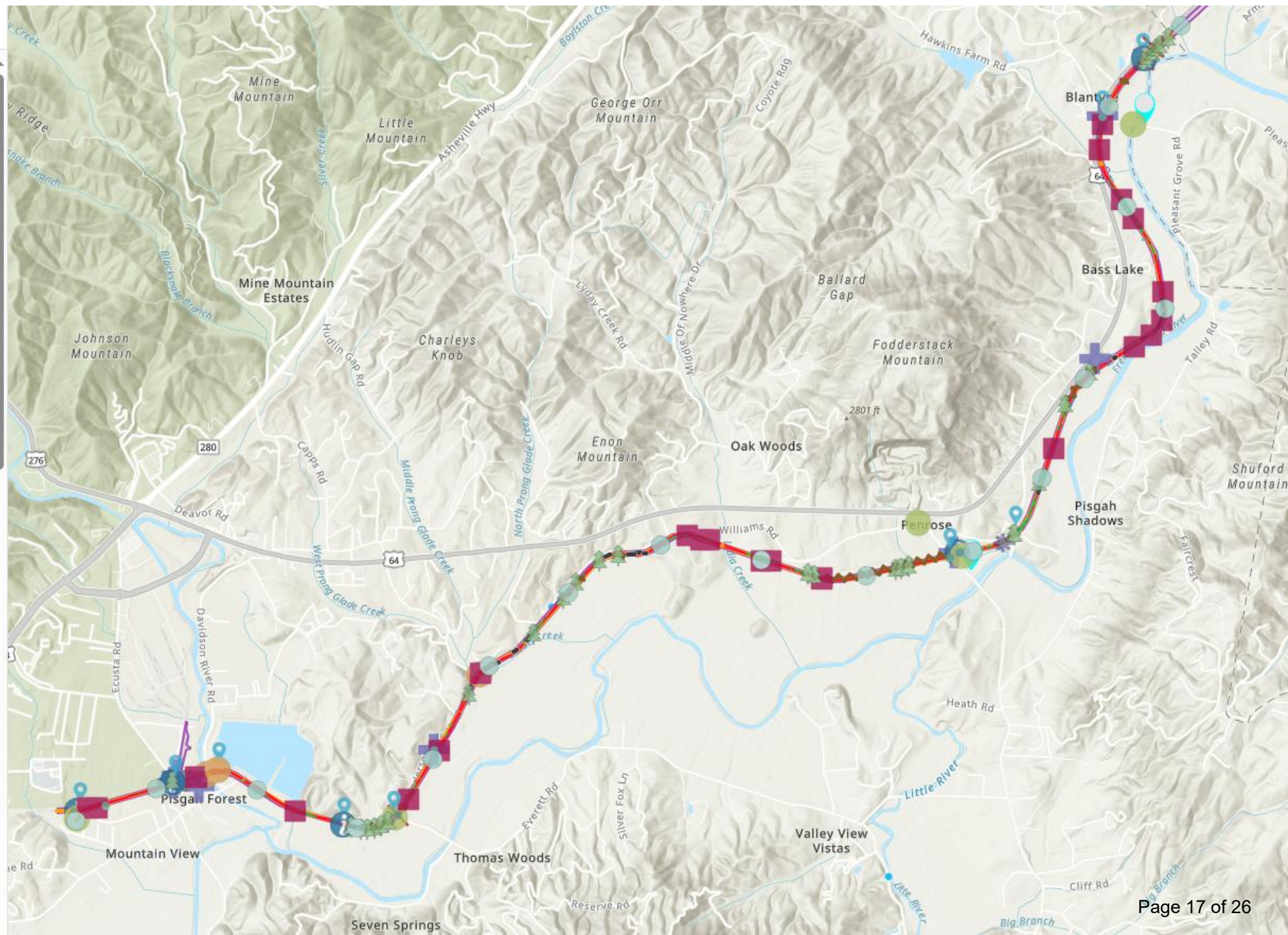
-  Viewing platform
-  Bike repair station
-  Interpretive sign
-  Tie in point with other bicycle/ped infrastructure
-  Other

Fencing



Parking

-  Needed location
-  Existing public parking
-  Parking concern area
-  Other

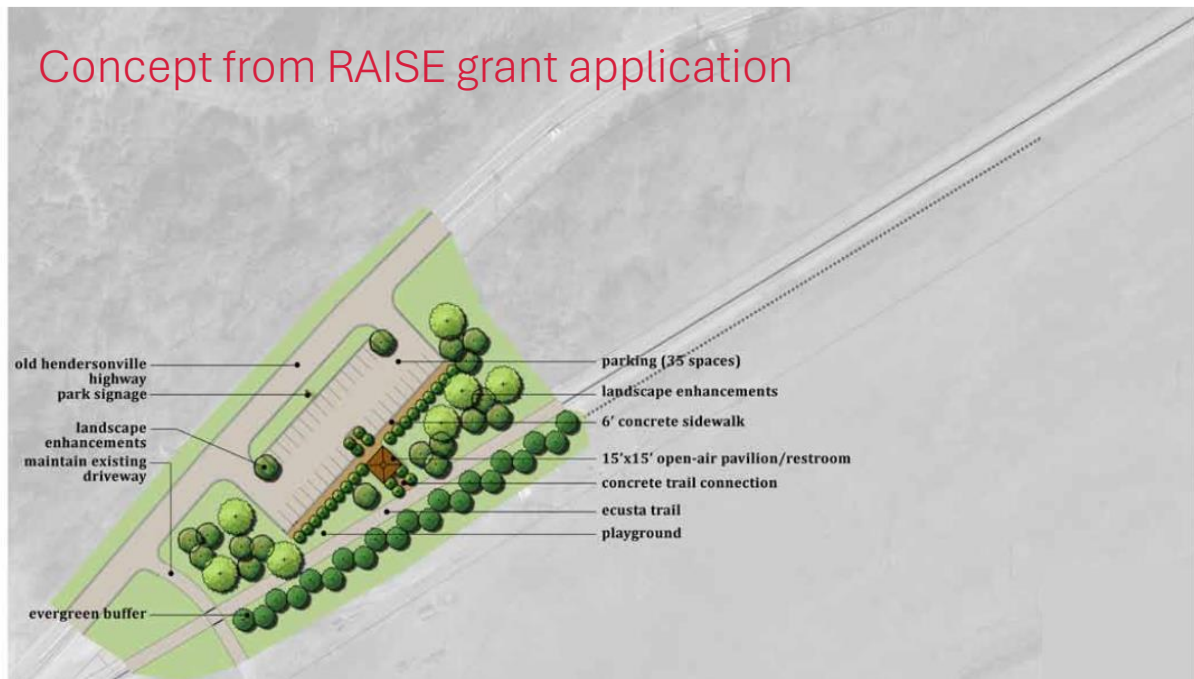


Trail Access

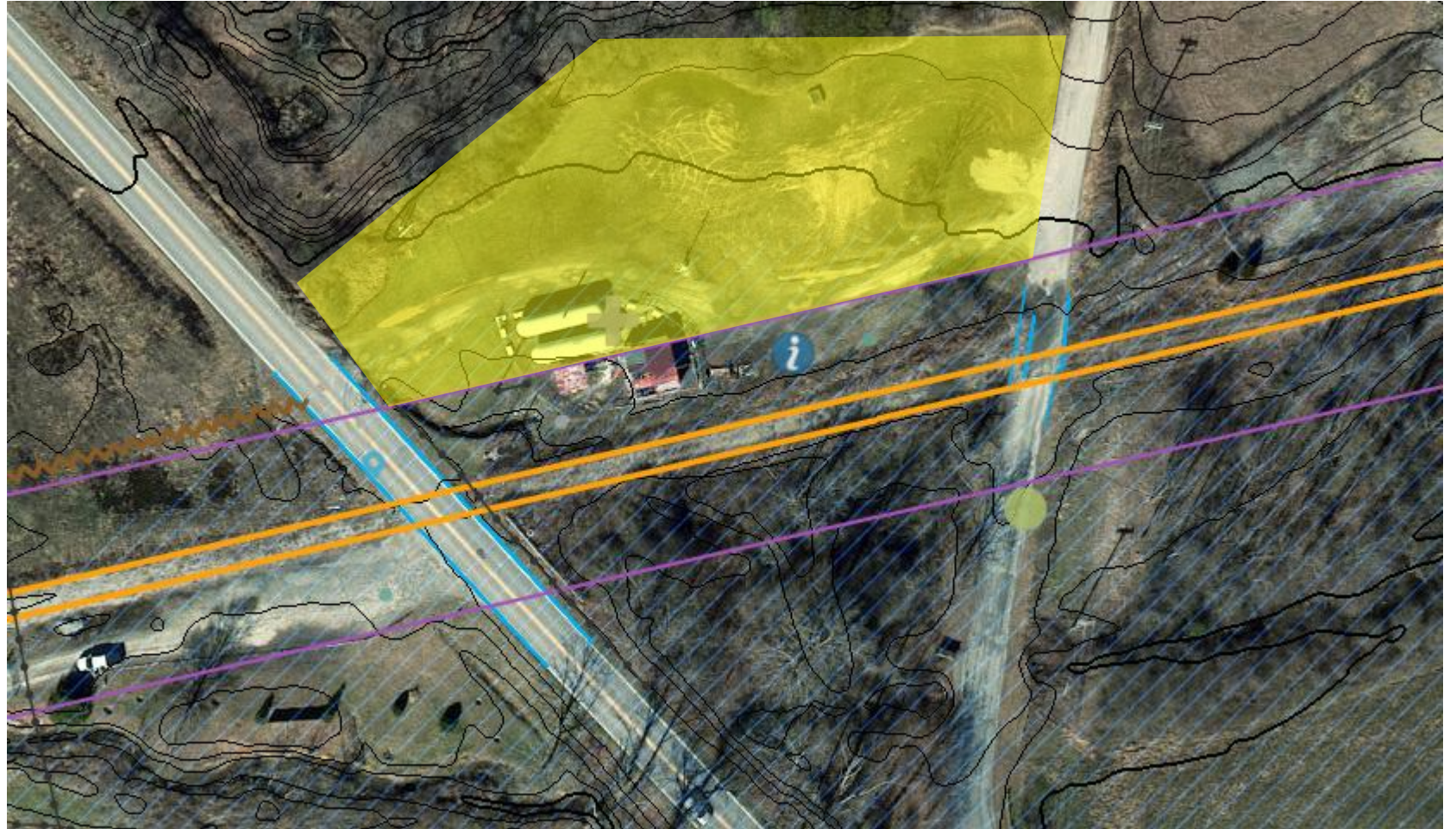
Adjacent Property Investigation

Owner	Address	Criteria			Trailhead Size	
		Adjacent to ROW	In Floodway?	Non Residential	10 -20 Car Parking	20+ Car Parking
Trans Co. Solid Waste	1767 Old Hendersonville Hwy.	X	PARTIAL	X	X	
Pisgah Labs	~3 Acre tract near Everette Rd.	X	NO	X	X	
Freeman Gas & Electric	Less than 1 acre on Crab Creek Road	X	PARTIAL	X	X	
Comporium	Adjacent to 4888 Hendersonville HWY	X	NO	X		X
STG Solar	Grove Bridge Rd.	X	PARTIAL	X	X	
Jones, James	Grove Bridge Rd.	X	YES	X		X

- 3-Acres off Old Hendersonville Highway
- Negotiating with owner
- NCDOT would need to approve driveways



- .9 acres between Crab Creek Rd. and APAC Dr.
- Ownership investigation



Trail Access

Ongoing Investigation

- » Initial property owner outreach.
- » Develop partnerships (ETAB, Conserving Carolina, Mountain True, County, FOET, etc.)
- » Sketches of trail access/parking for conversation.
- » Continued outreach and further site investigations needed including access (NCDOT)

Next Up

Coordination with FOET
on donor acknowledgement &
amenities



Thank you



STAFF REPORT

Ecusta Trail Advisory Board, Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Title: Review of last meeting; follow-ups

Speaker:

Prepared by:

Approved by:

Attachments:

STAFF REPORT

Ecusta Trail Advisory Board, Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Title: Review Henderson County proposed trail rules.
The group is asked to review the draft rules/trail etiquette document (attached) created by Henderson County's RTAC committee. ETAB must offer its feedback soon as RTAC plans to adopt these at an upcoming meeting.

Speaker:

Prepared by:

Approved by:

Attachments:

1. Attachment A - Ecusta Trail Rules and Etiquette (numbered)

Ecusta Trail Rules and Etiquette

Rules and Etiquette:
1. Respect private property. Stay on the trail.
2. The trail is open at all times, except for dangerous weather events or repairs.
3. Pedal-assist e-bikes are permitted.
4. Speed Limit 15 mph unless posted otherwise. Wheels yield to pedestrians.
5. Keep right except to pass. Give audible warning before passing.
6. Stay alert/Listen for approaching traffic; Decrease the volume of audio devices and keep one ear open.
7. Trail users should only park in designated areas.
8. Helmets are recommended for everyone on wheels but required for children 16 years of age and under.
9. Bicycle light-use is required from dusk to dawn (both front and rear lights are recommended).
10. No devices shall be left on the trail unattended, unless parked in appropriate parking places.
11. Do not block the trail. Pull off the trail when stopped.
12. Pets must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet and under control. Clean up after your pet.
13. Call 911 to report any emergency or suspicious activity.
14. Please report any vandalism, storm damage, or unsafe conditions immediately to Henderson County Parks and Recreation Department by calling 828-697-4884.

Prohibited Activities:	
1. Littering and vandalism	
2. Tobacco use of any kind	
3. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages or any intoxicants	
4. Killing, trapping, or harming wildlife	
5. Fireworks	
6. Selling, soliciting, or exhibiting materials without a Parks and Recreation Issued Permit	
7. Collection, removal, damage, or disturbance of any trail property,	8. -natural or cultural object
9. Horses	
10. Camping	
11. Prohibited vehicles include, but not limited to:	
12. IAVs, UIVs, 4-wheelers, golf carts, and tagged vehicles (including scooters or mopeds)	
13. Note: Individuals with a mobility disability have the right to use an OPDMD (Other Power-Driven Mobility Device)	

None of these rules, regulations, or etiquette are to supersede state or federal law, infringe upon the rights of those protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act, or discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or gender.