



Little Sugar Creek Greenway & Stream Enhancement

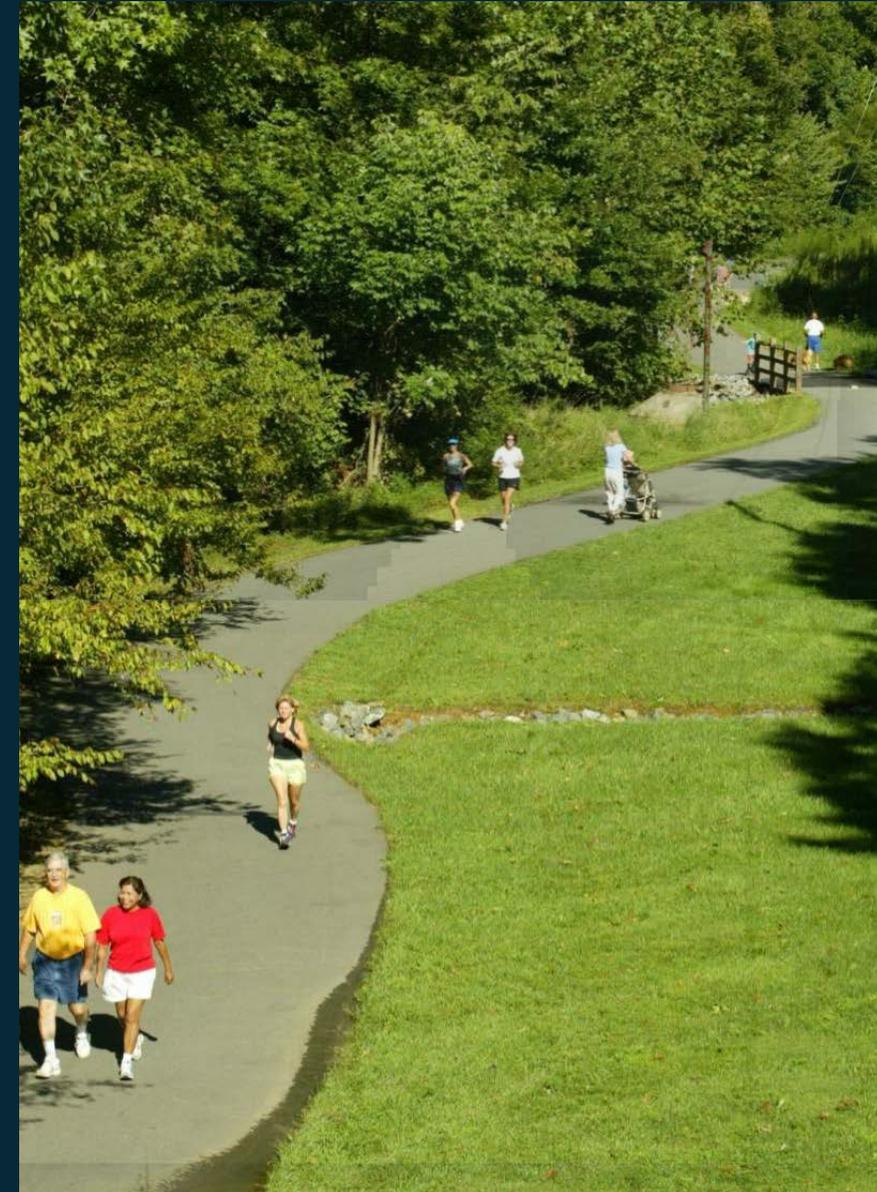
I-485 to Polk Historic Site

Polk Historic Site to South Carolina State Line

What is a Greenway?



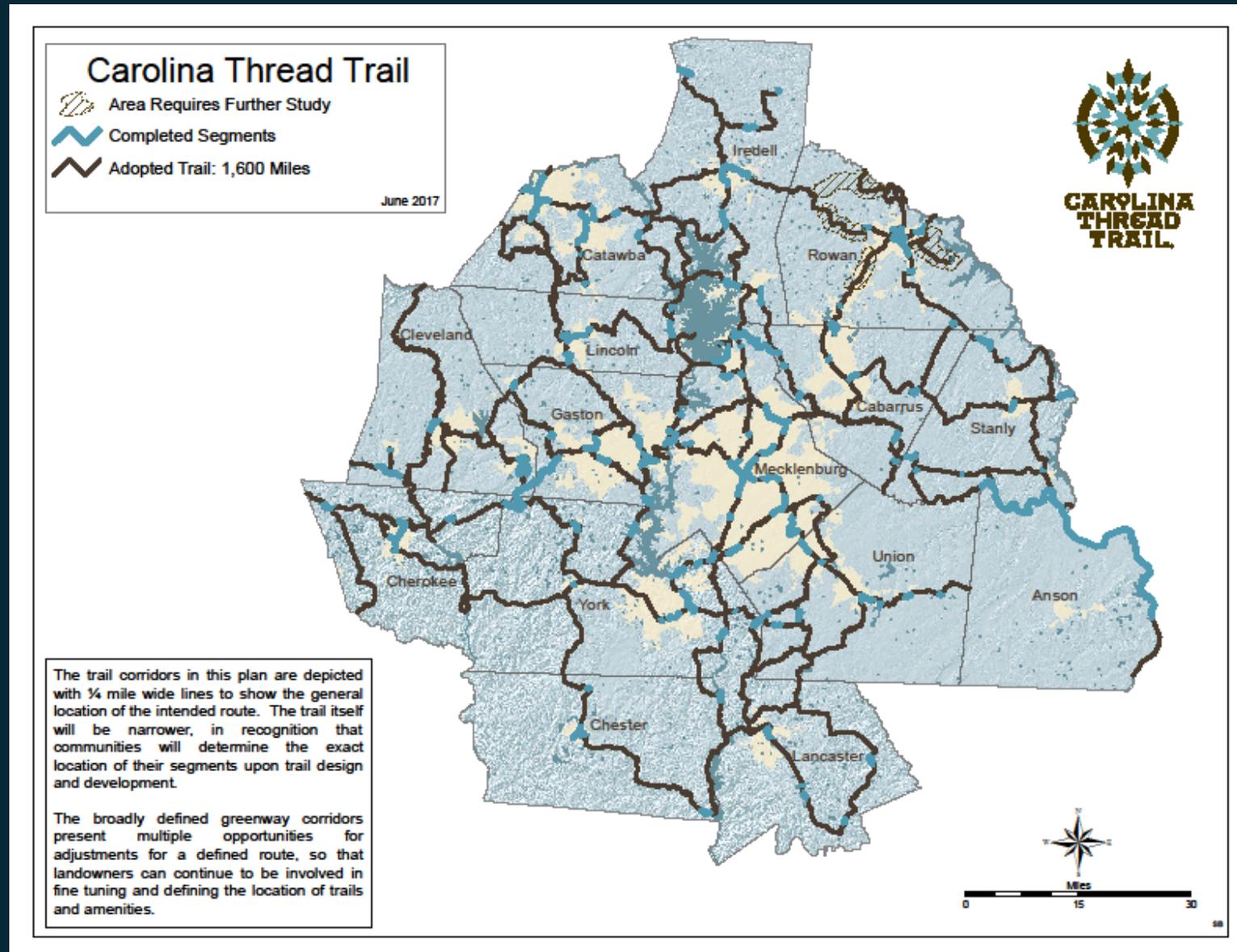
- Active Transportation
- Linear Public Park
- Recreation
- Health and Fitness
- Desirable Amenity
- Access to Destinations
- Creates a Sense of Community
- County standard is a minimum 10'–12' wide asphalt trail conforming to AASHTO and ADA for recreational trails.
- 47 miles are complete and open
- Mecklenburg County Greenway Plan currently calls for over 200 miles.



Carolina Thread Trail



- Regional trail network covering 15 counties in North and South Carolina
- Will link 2.3 million people with 1,500 miles of trail when complete
- 260 miles of trail and 170 miles of blueways currently open to the public
- www.carolinathreadtrail.org

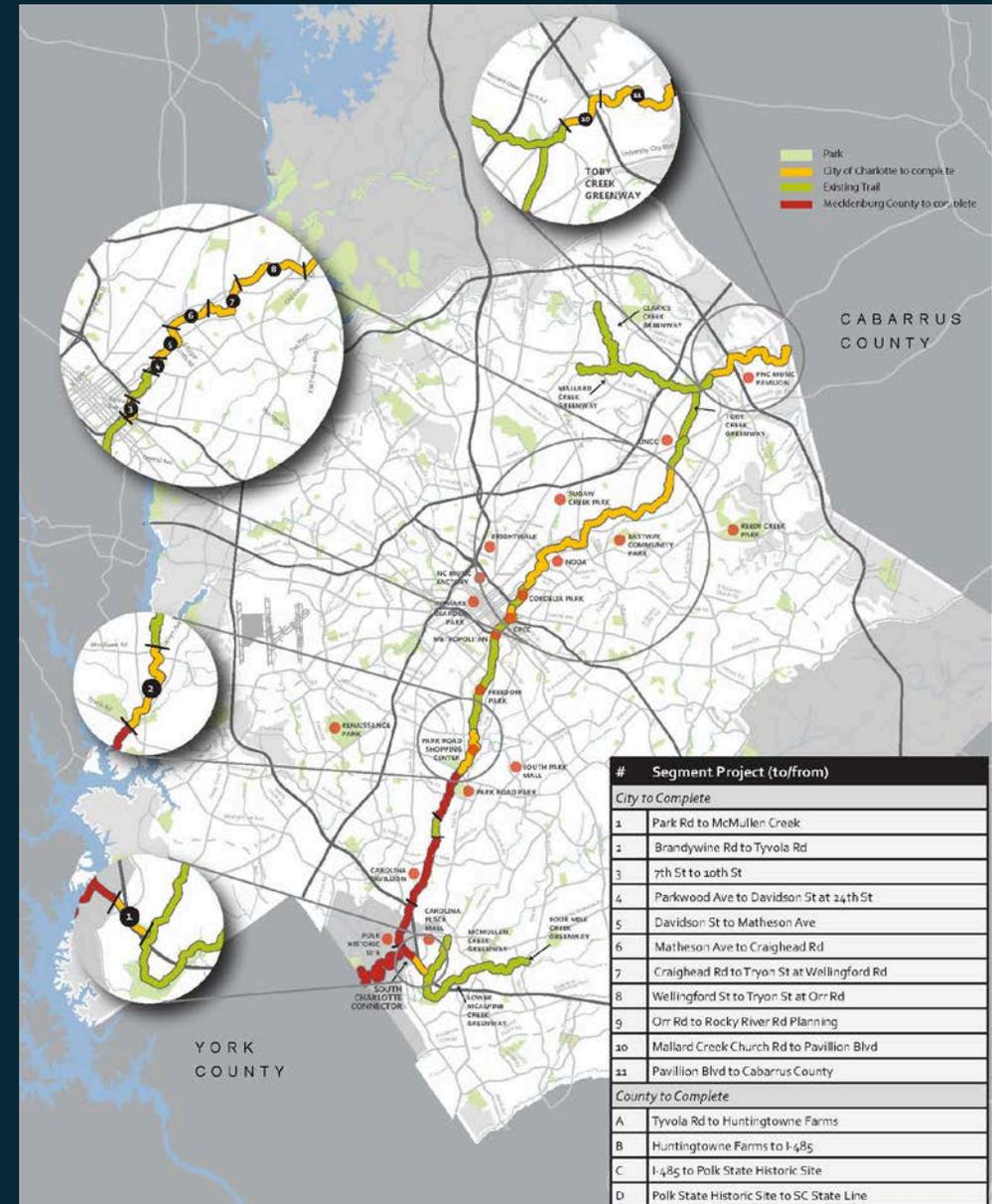


Cross Charlotte Trail



- Seamless pathway across the City and County
- Separated from roads as much as possible
- Over 30 miles of connected trails and greenways
- Connects 140,000 residents and 130,000 jobs

<http://charlottefuture.com/XCLT>



Little Sugar Creek Stream Enhancement

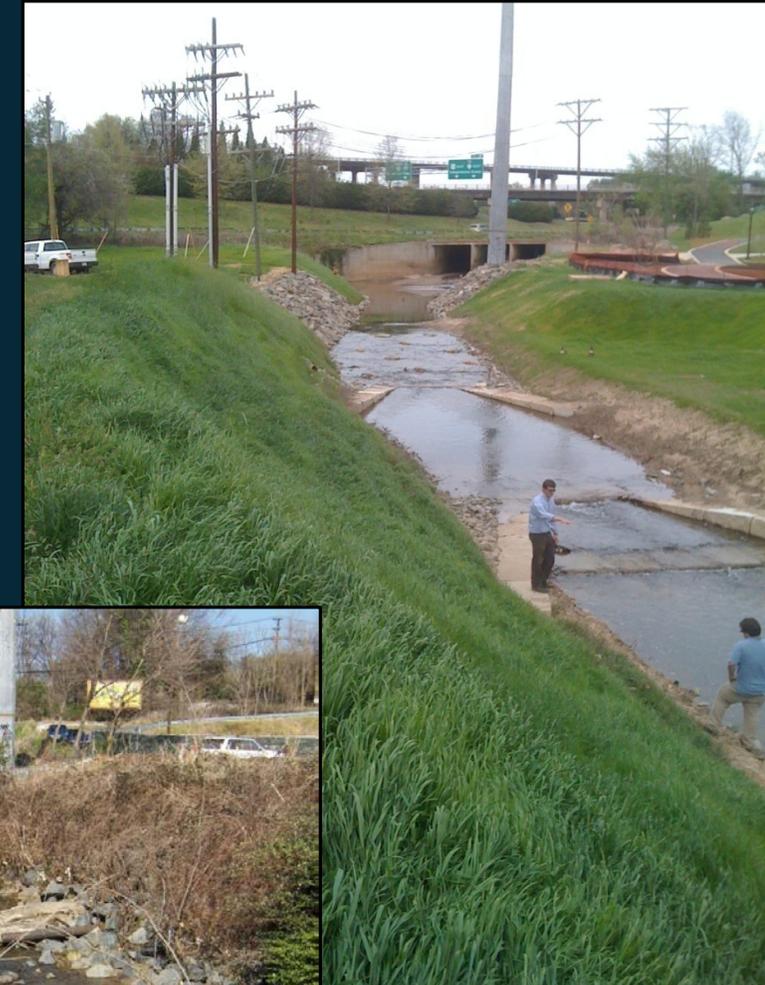


Mecklenburg County
Park and Recreation
*The Natural Place
To Be...*



Stream & Wetland Restoration Projects improve water quality and aquatic life by reducing erosion and restoring habitat in streams, floodplains and wetlands

- Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services collects a Storm Water Fee and is responsible for maintenance on the drainage infrastructure
- Mecklenburg County is responsible for the FEMA Streams (streams that drain a square mile or more) One of the components of the maintenance program is to restore damaged and degraded stream channels
 - Stop erosion and property loss
 - Improve Aquatic Ecosystem
- County Stream Restoration Program



Little Sugar Creek Stream Enhancement



Over the Past 40 Years in Mecklenburg County water quality has been degraded by rapid growth.

- Population has more than **doubled** (Our population density is at 1,933 persons/square mile, which is 10 times the average density for the rest of the State)
- Pollution sources have **tripled**

Charlotte Skyline 1973 (population = 354,656)



Charlotte Skyline 2015 (population = +1,000,000)

Little Sugar Creek Stream Enhancement



Whitley Water Mill on Long Creek in Charlotte – circa 1900

By 1800, mills could be found on almost all the streams in Mecklenburg County with year-round flow. These mills and the waters they bordered became the focal point of early development.



Ladies fishing in Little Sugar Creek in Charlotte – circa 1890



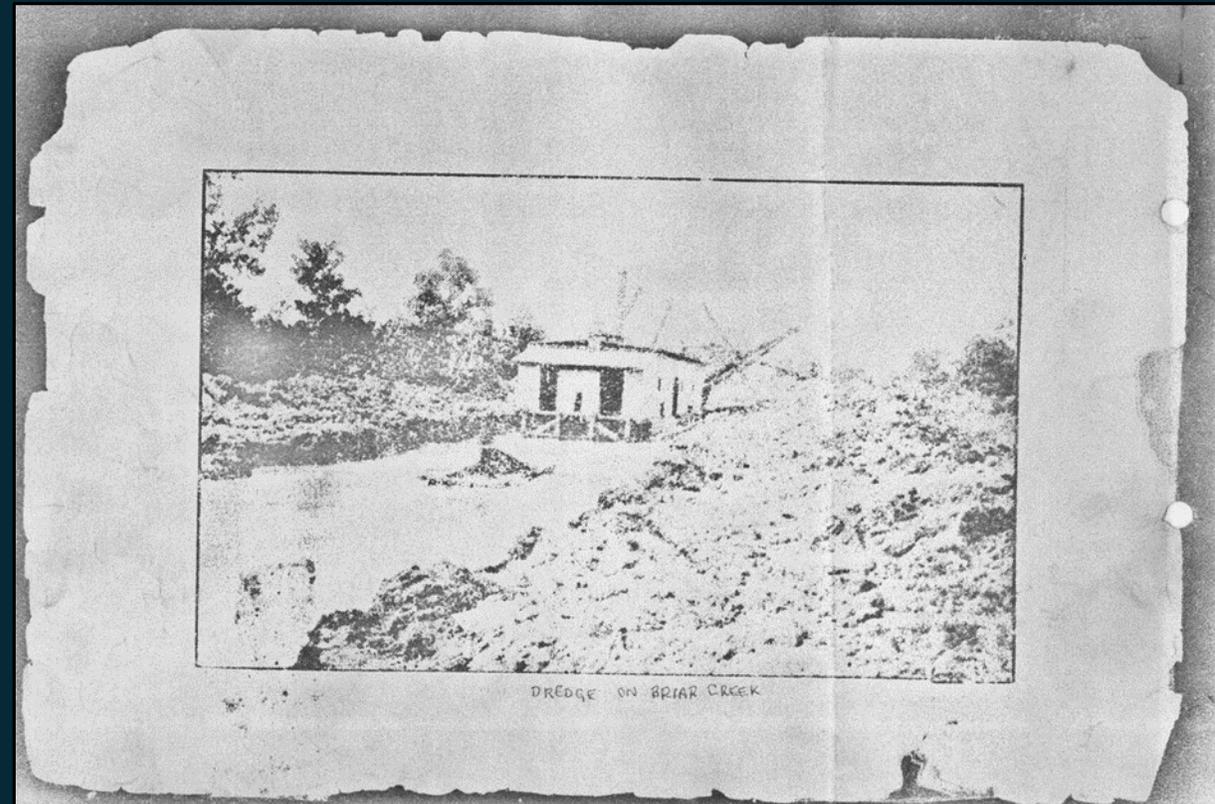
Swimming hole in Long Creek in Charlotte – circa 1910

Little Sugar Creek Stream Enhancement



In the 1920's almost all streams in Mecklenburg County were straightened to facilitate drainage, control malaria and drain wetlands to facilitate agriculture

- Steam shovels cut a straight 'ditch' in place of a meandering stream and piled the spoils atop the banks
- This worked at the time, however with increasing development came increasing stream flow, which began to eat away at the 'ditch' that was created



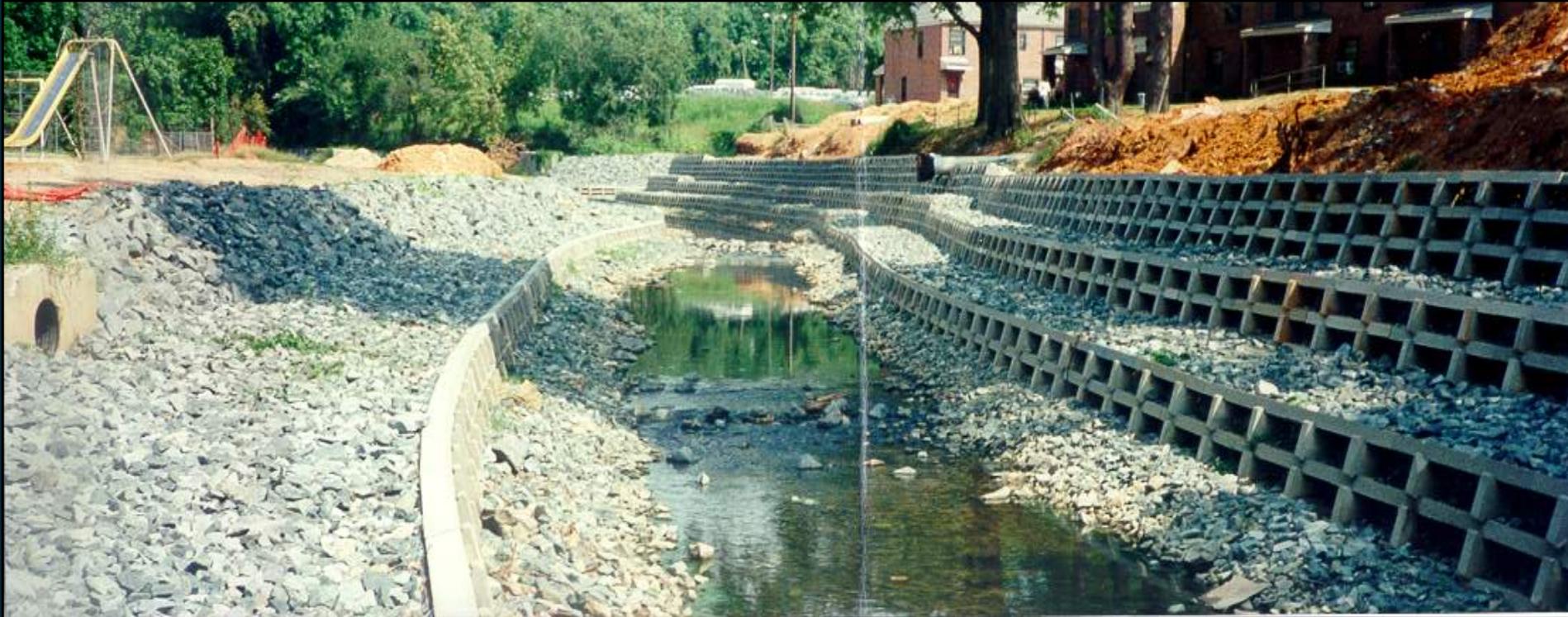
Little Sugar Creek Stream Enhancement



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In the 70's and 80's



Little Sugar Creek Stream Enhancement



Now - stability with habitat

- Natural Channel Design - Accelerating mother nature
 - Change the shape and location of the channel
 - Using vegetation in place of rock
 - Rock still used in strategic locations



Little Sugar Creek Greenway



- A master plan was prepared for Little Sugar Creek Greenway in 2004.
- Little Sugar Creek Greenway is part of the 2015 Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Master Plan Update adopted by the Board of County Commissioners.
- Little Sugar Creek Greenway has been adopted as part of the Carolina Thread Trail network and the Cross Charlotte Trail.

Project History

Little Sugar Creek Greenway



- Land acquisition and early planning began in Fall 2015
- Divided project into two segments:
 - I-485 to Polk Historic Site (includes South Charlotte Connector)
 - Polk Historic Site to South Carolina State Line



Process

Little Sugar Creek Greenway



- Current Charlotte Water sanitary sewer project to be completed Spring 2018
- Public Information Session: Thursday, October 26, 2017
- Complete design, permit and bid project
- Begin construction in Spring/Summer 2018.
- Anticipate 12-18 months to complete (complete Fall/Winter 2019)



Process

Little Sugar Creek Greenway

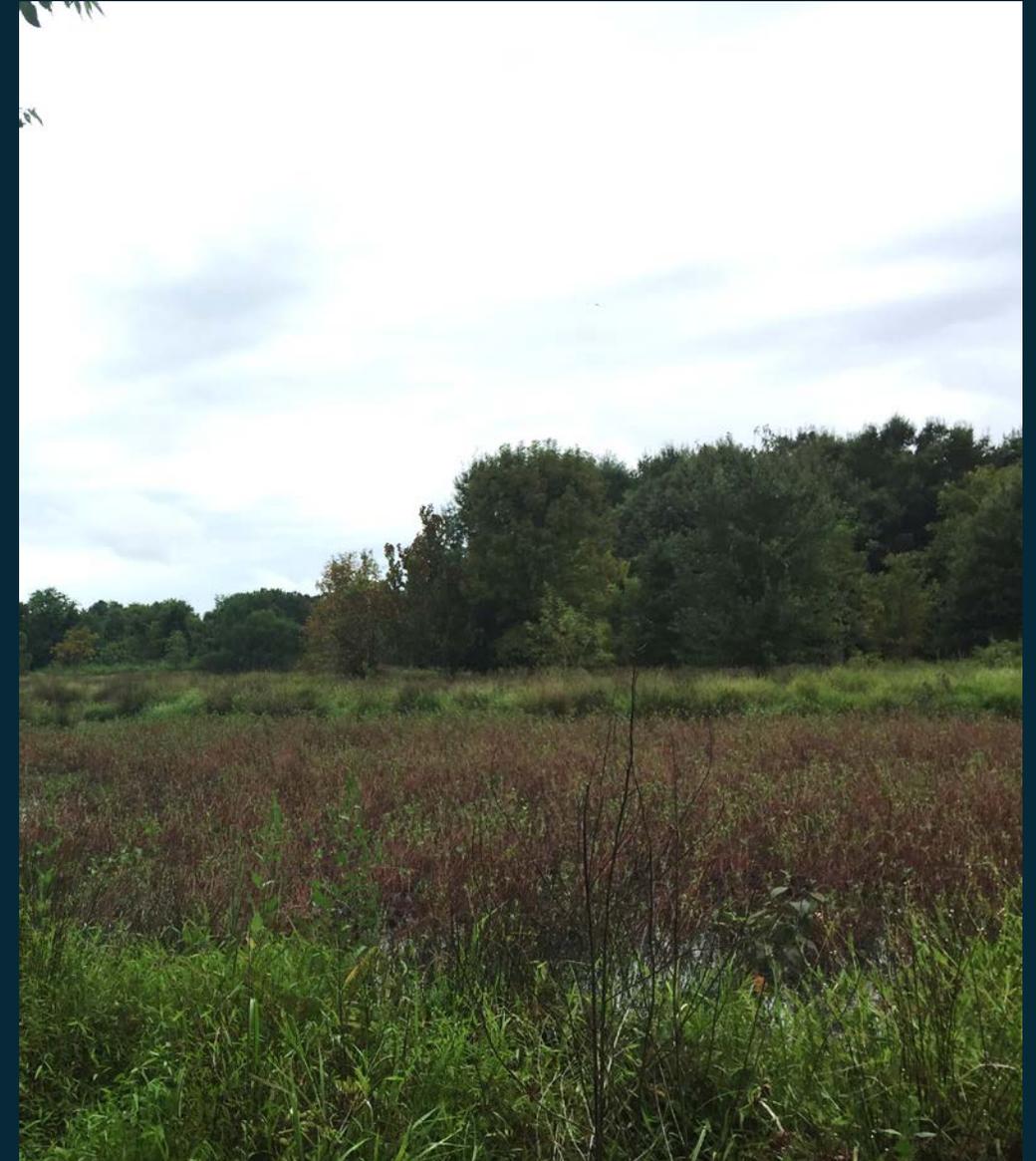


Little Sugar Creek Greenway & Stream Enhancement

I-485 to Polk Historic Site

LandDesign and Wildlands

Project Overview



Little Sugar Creek Greenway I-485 to Polk Historic Site



1. WATERMAIN

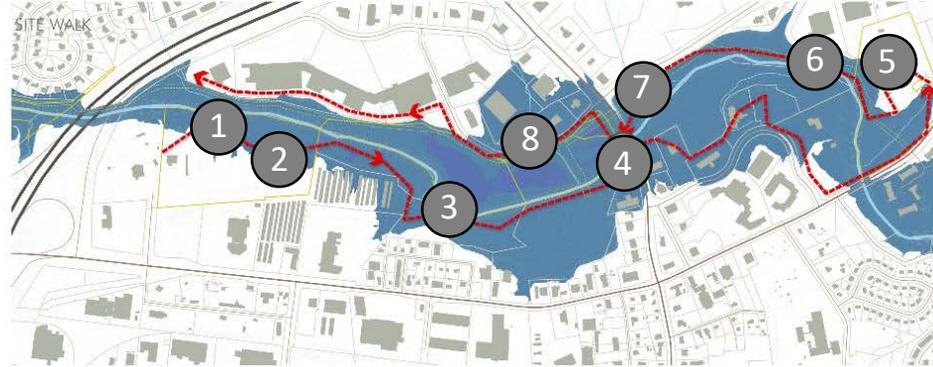
2. FOREST FLOODPLAIN

3. CHARACTER

4. UNDERPASS



5. JAMES K. POLK HOMESTEAD



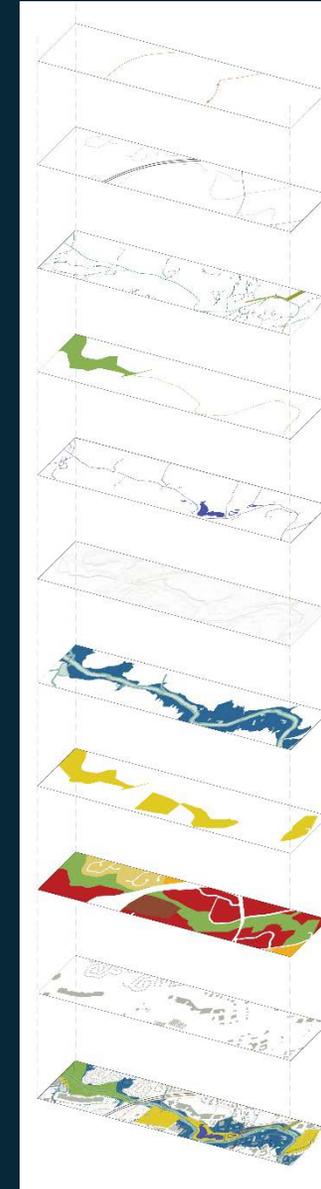
6. EASEMENT



7. MARSH



8. WETLANDS



PUBLIC TRANSIT

AUTOMOBILE NETWORK

UTILITIES

PARKS + GREENWAYS

STREAMS + WETLANDS

TOPOGRAPHY

FLOODPLAIN + SWIM + FLOODWAY

PUBLICLY OWNED LAND

LAND USE

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

COMPOSITE

Little Sugar Creek Greenway I-485 to Polk Historic Site

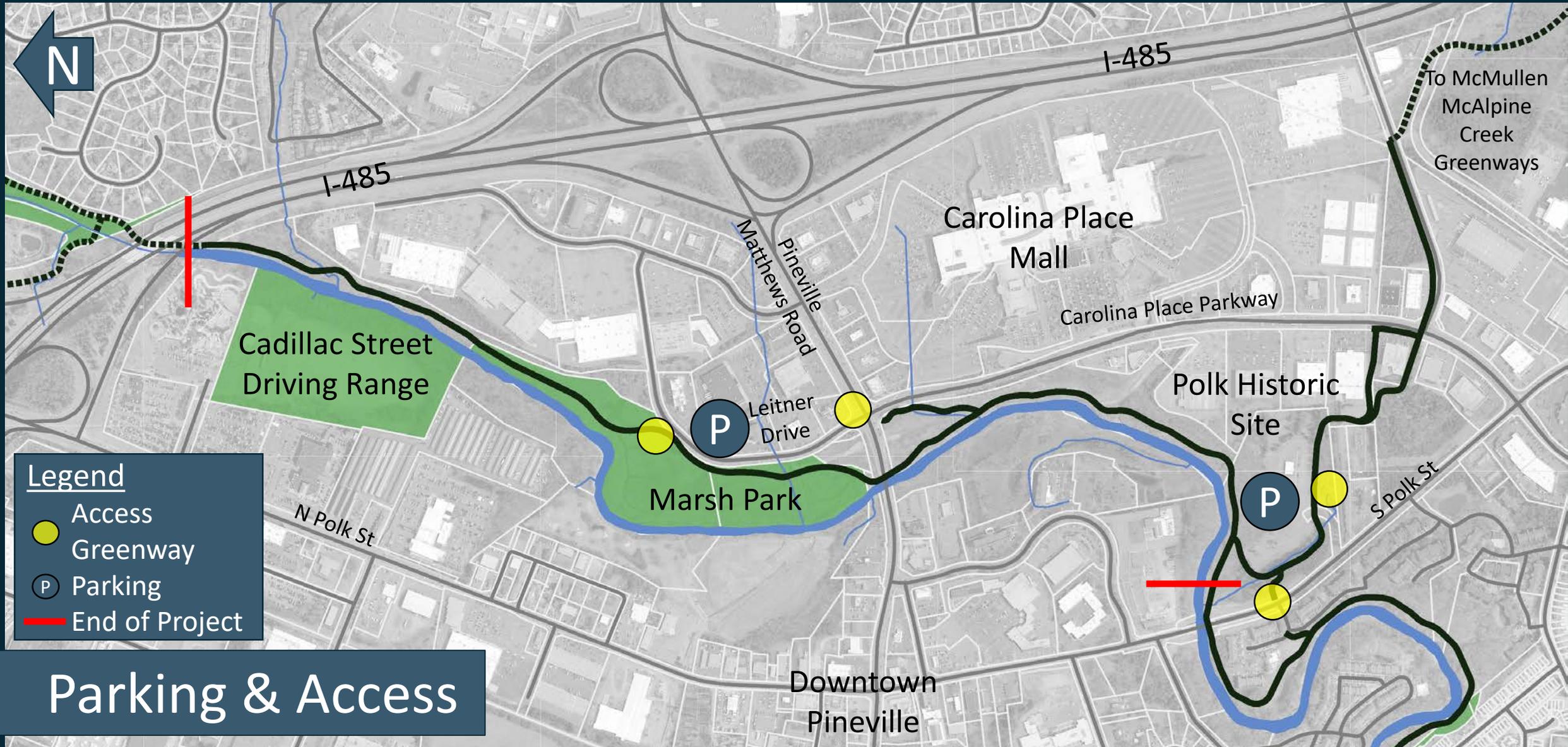


- NODE
- TRAILHEAD
- COMMERCIAL ZONE
- ENVIRONMENTAL ZONE
- CULTURAL ZONE
- LITTLE SUGAR CREEK
- PROMINENT VIEWPOINT
- ENGAGE EDGE
- SEWER EASEMENT
- PUBLICLY OWNED PROPERTY
- GREENWAY ALIGNMENT

Little Sugar Creek Greenway I-485 to Polk Historic Site



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Legend

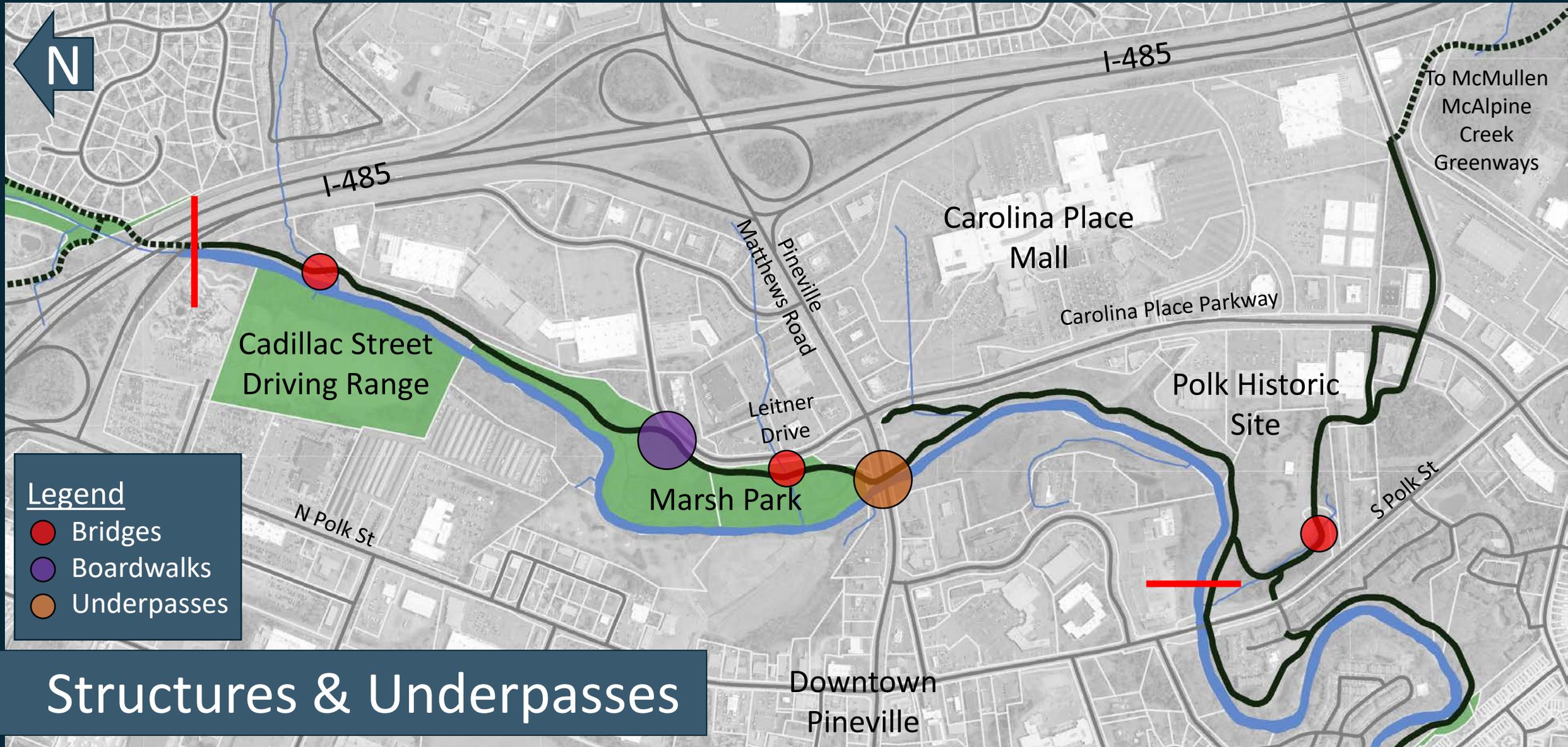
- Access
- Greenway
- Ⓟ Parking
- End of Project

Parking & Access

Little Sugar Creek Greenway I-485 to Polk Historic Site



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Structures & Underpasses

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Overall Trail Alignment

Land Design

Little Sugar Creek Greenway I-485 to Polk Historic Site



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Marsh Park Site Plan LandDesign

Little Sugar Creek Greenway I-485 to Polk Historic Site



BERMED PLANTING AND SEATING AREA – VIEW FROM PINEVILLE MATTHEWS ROAD AND HWY NC-51

Marsh Park Design Visuals LandDesign.

Little Sugar Creek Greenway I-485 to Polk Historic Site



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BERMED PLANTING AND SEATING AREA – AERIAL VIEW

Marsh Park Design Visuals LandDesign.

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GREENWAY ACCESS POINT AT
CAROLINA PLACE PARKWAY AND HWY 51

Marsh Park Design Visuals LandDesign.

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James K. Polk
Historic Site
Museum

Proposed Boulder Seating, Litter
Receptacles and Bike Racks

Proposed Access Trail with
Bench and Boulder Seating

Re-surface and Re-stripe Parking Lot

Proposed Evergreen
Trees, Typical

Little Sugar Creek Greenway

Proposed Shade Trees, Typical

Proposed Fence to Match Existing
On Site, Typical

Polk Historic Site

LandDesign

Little Sugar Creek Greenway I-485 to Polk Historic Site



Stream Enhancement

Little Sugar Creek Greenway I-485 to Polk Historic Site



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Example of bank grading and stream structures



Example of stream planting



Example of stream structure

Stream Enhancement

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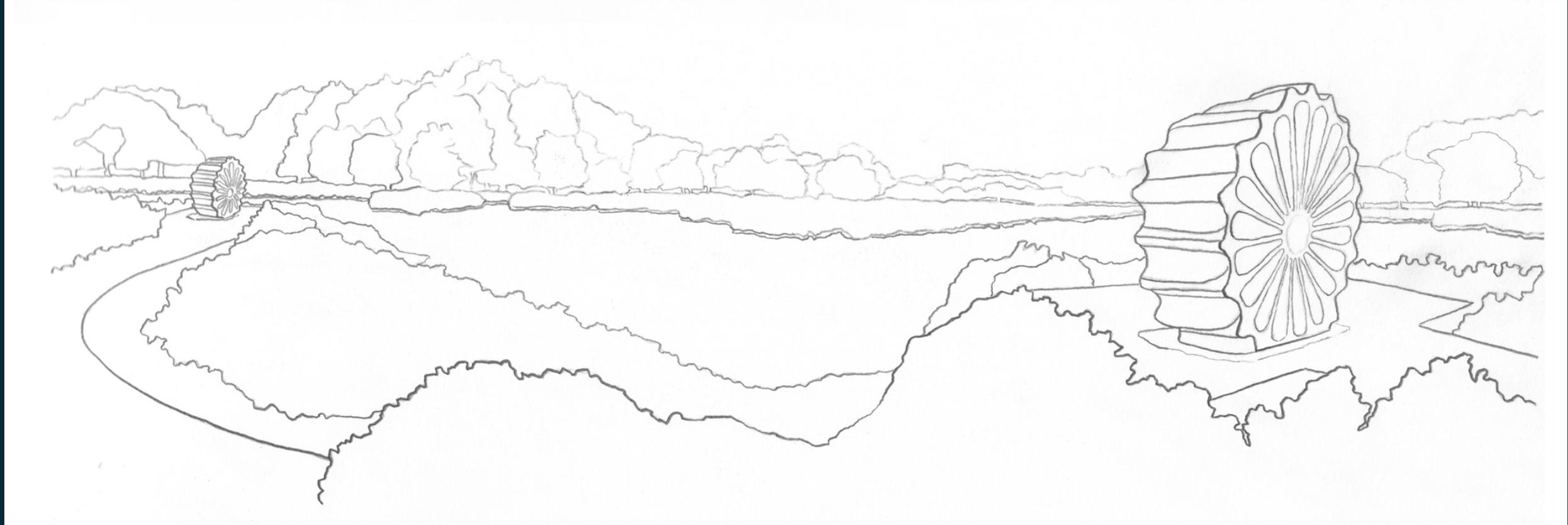


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Arts & Science Council

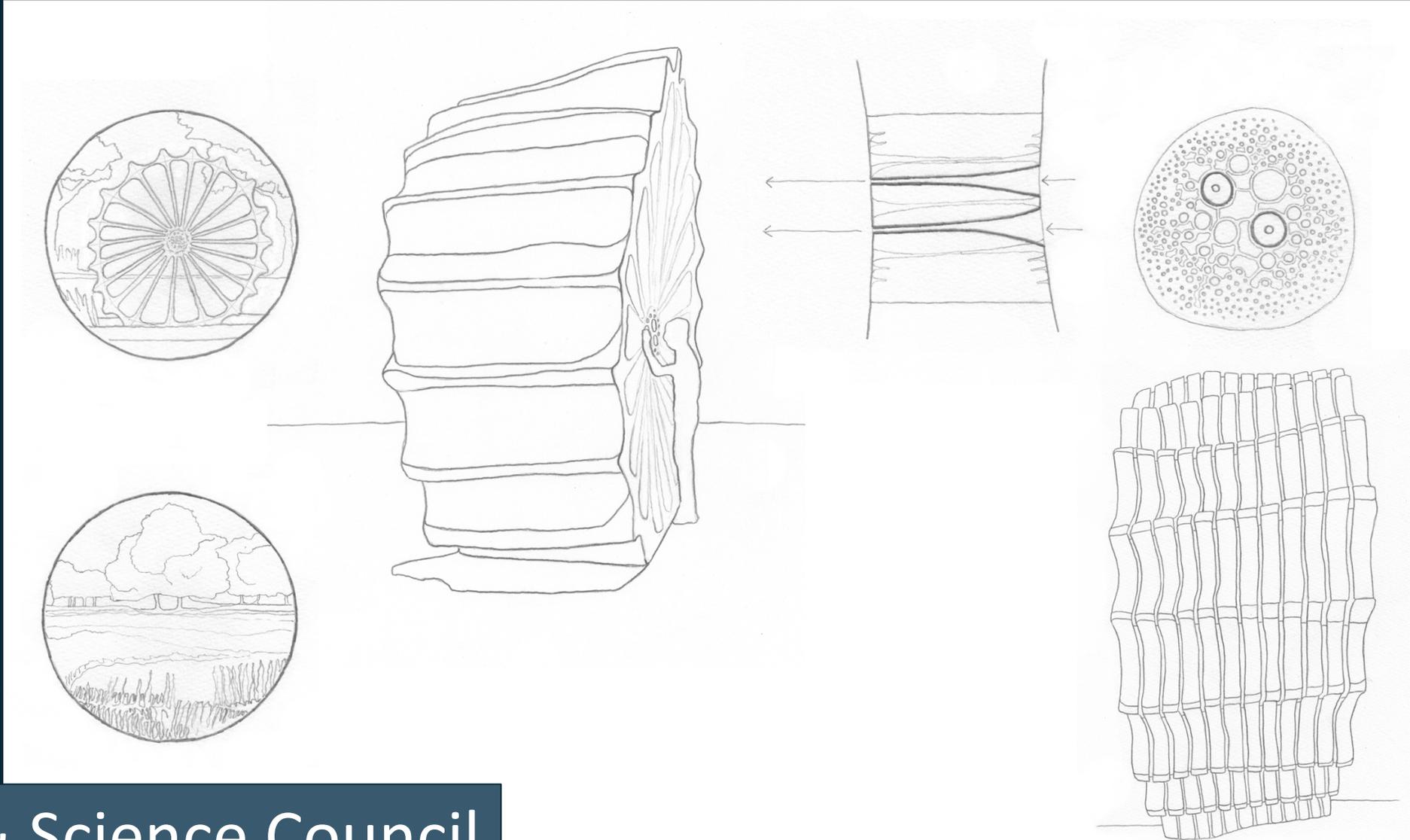
Little Sugar Creek Greenway I-485 to Polk Historic Site



Arts & Science Council



Little Sugar Creek Greenway I-485 to Polk Historic Site



Little Sugar Creek Greenway

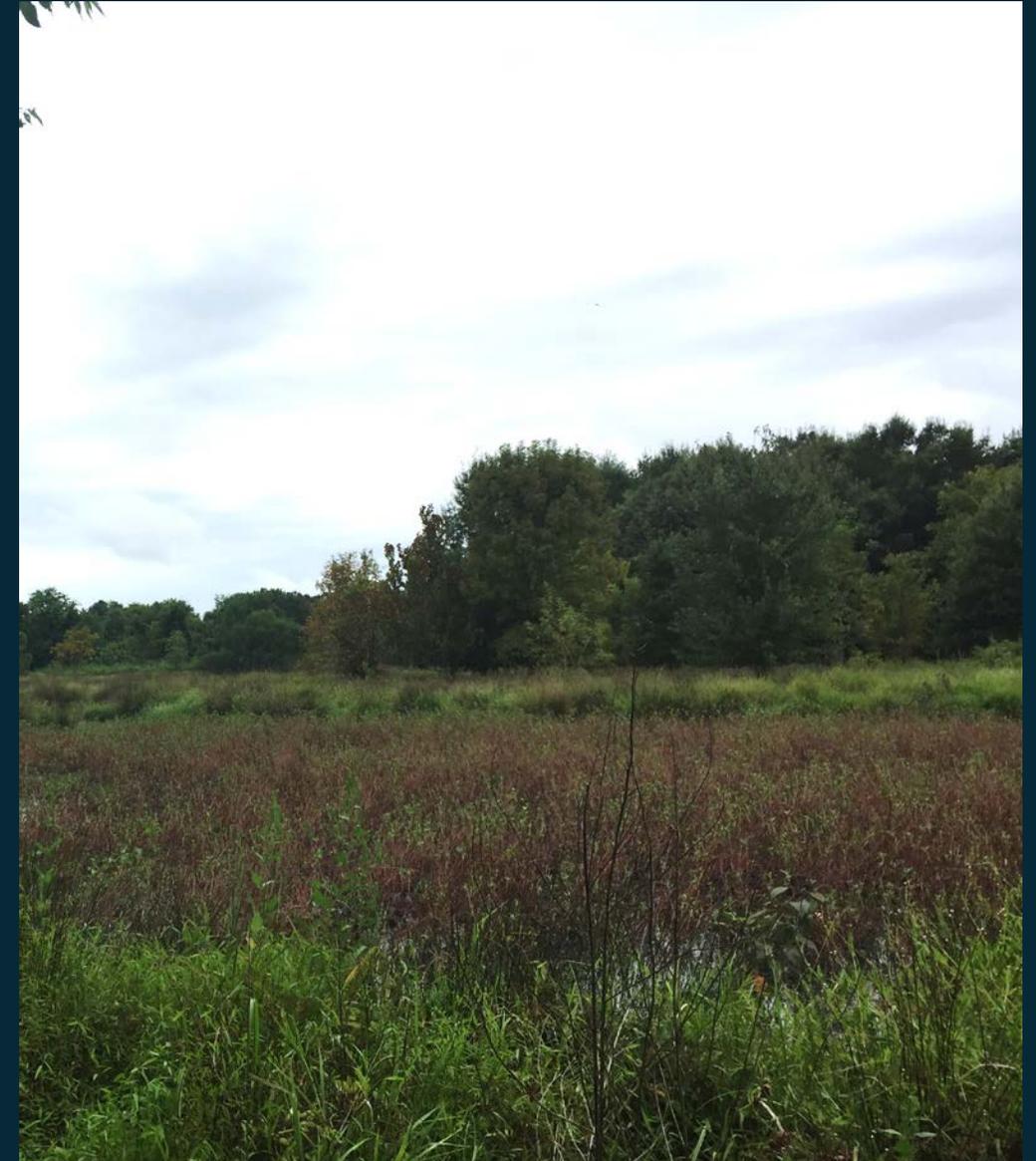


Little Sugar Creek Greenway & Stream Enhancement

Polk Historic Site to South
Carolina State Line

Kimley Horn

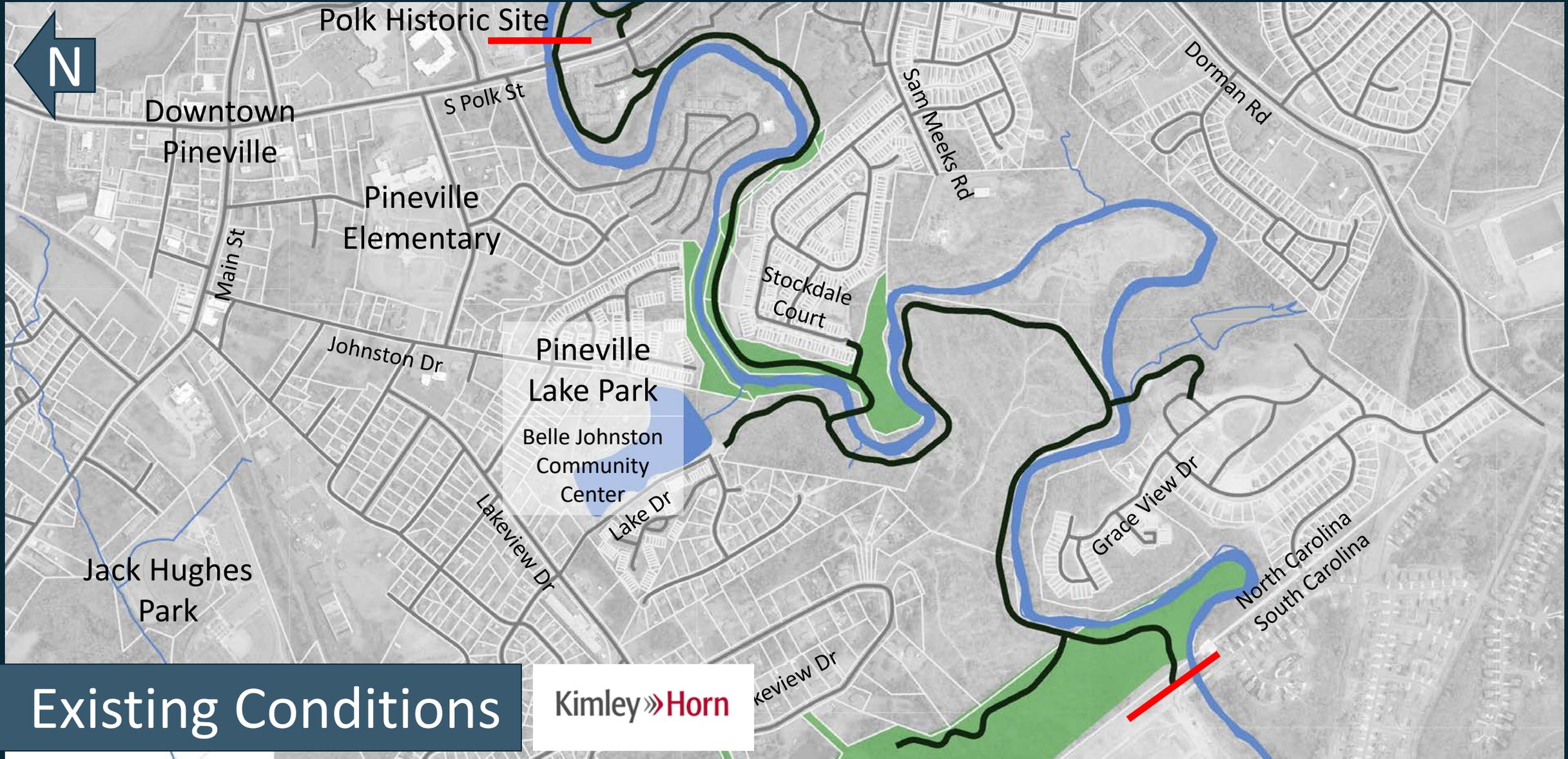
Project Overview



Little Sugar Creek Greenway Polk Historic Site to SC



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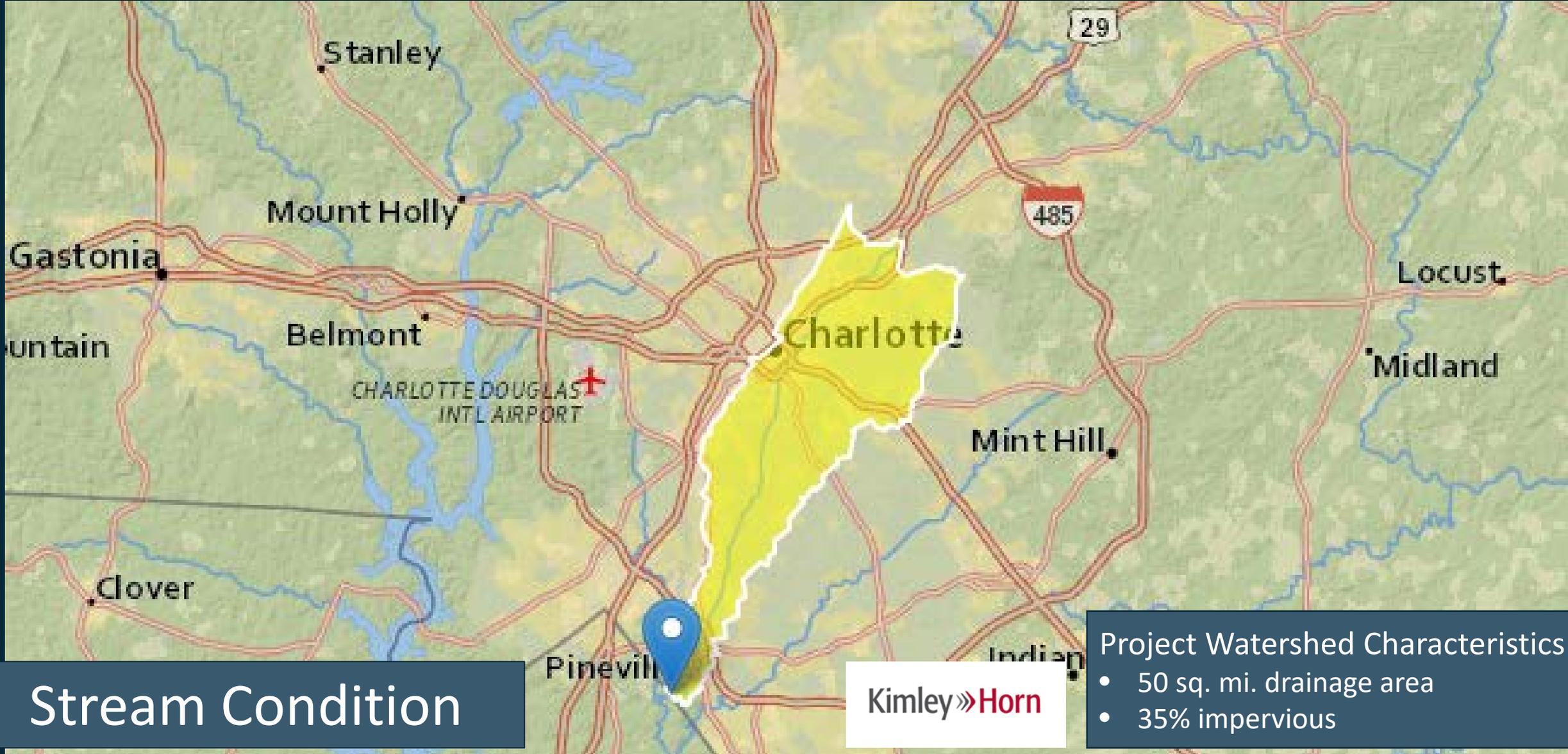
Existing Conditions

Kimley»Horn

Little Sugar Creek Greenway Polk Historic Site to SC



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Little Sugar Creek Greenway Polk Historic Site to SC



Stream Condition

Kimley»Horn

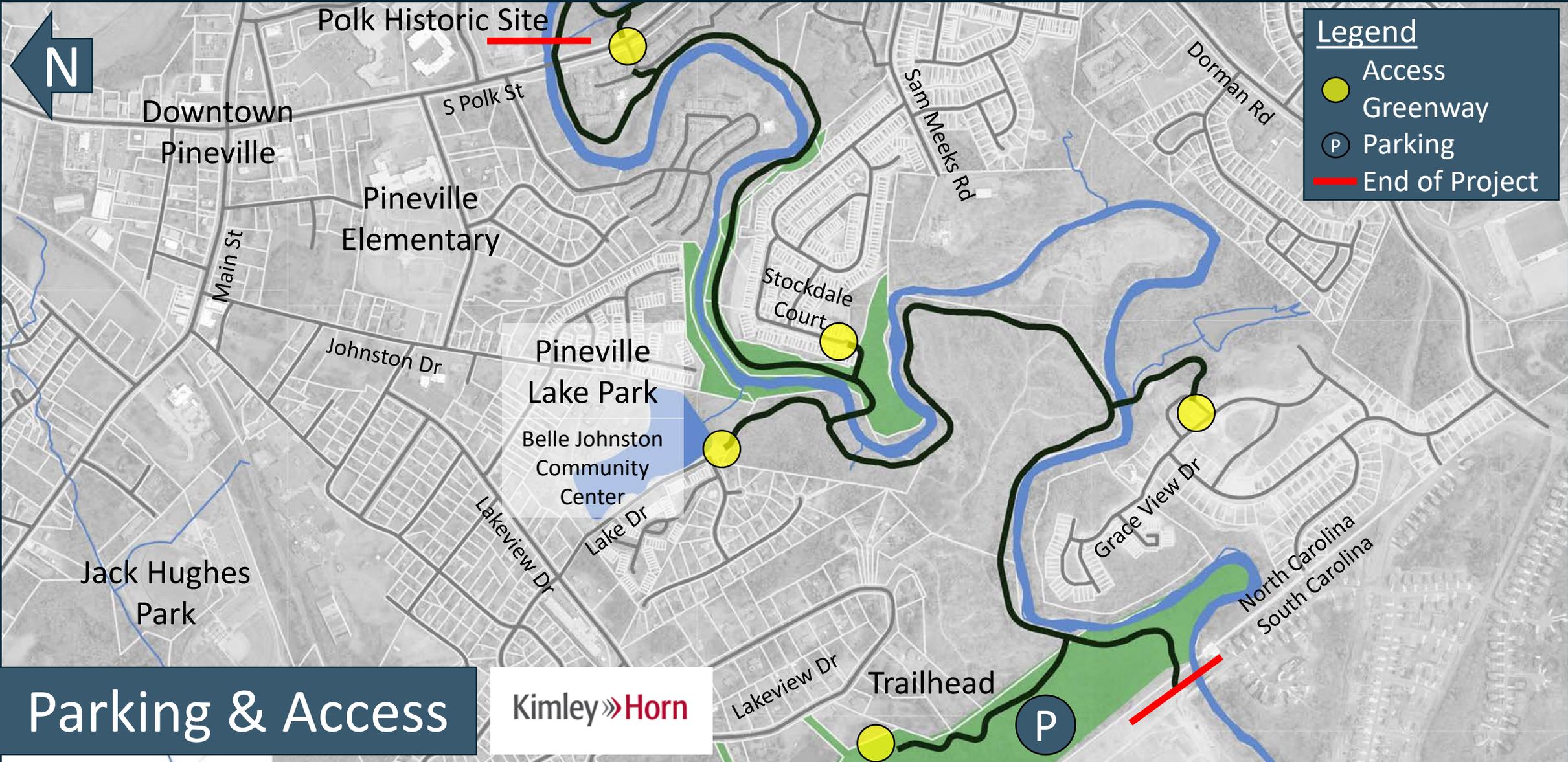
Little Sugar Creek Greenway Polk Historic Site to SC



Existing Conditions along Greenway

Kimley»Horn

Little Sugar Creek Greenway Polk Historic Site to SC



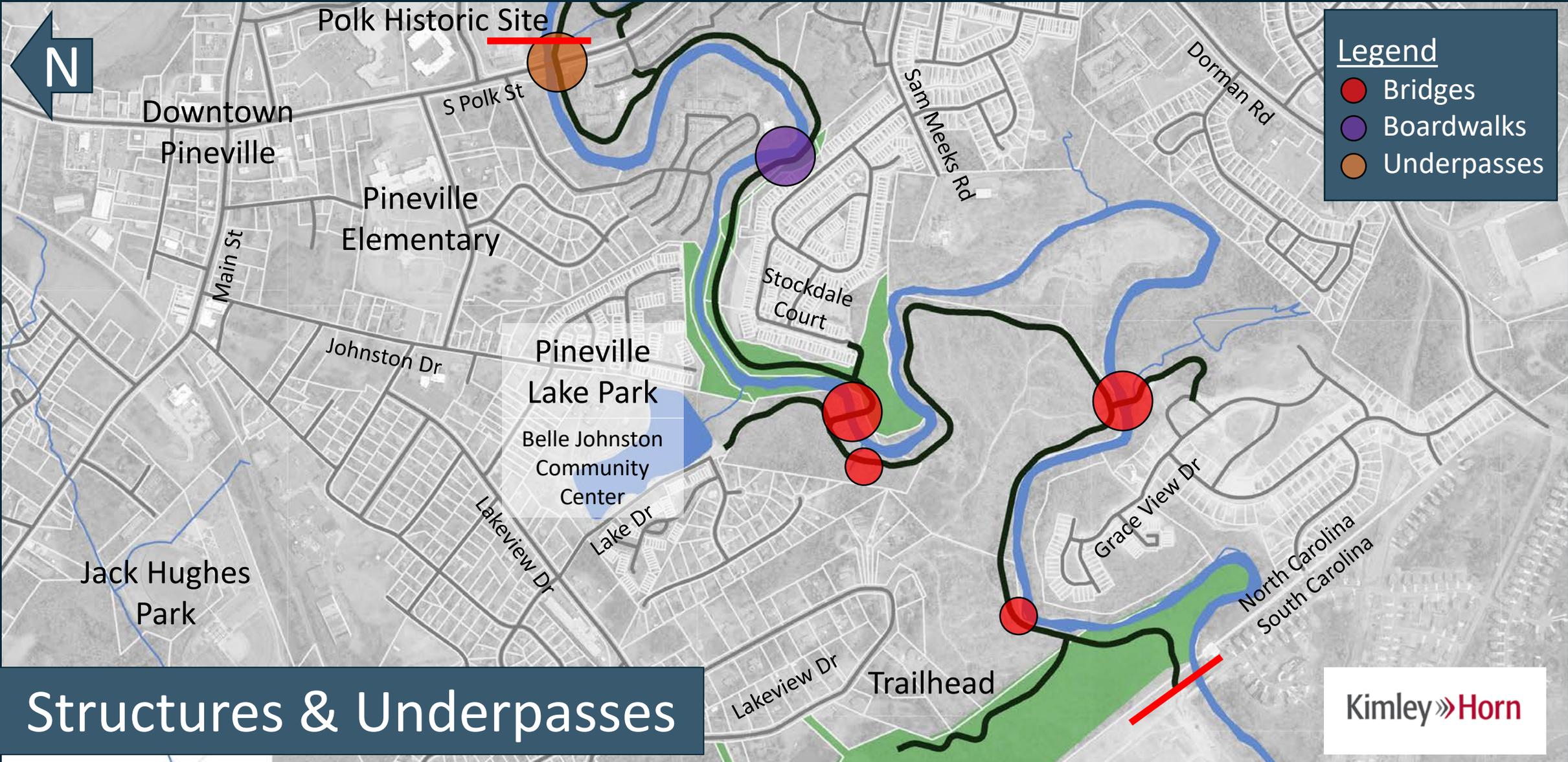
Parking & Access

Kimley»Horn

Trailhead

P

Little Sugar Creek Greenway Polk Historic Site to SC



Structures & Underpasses

Little Sugar Creek Greenway Polk Historic Site to SC



Structures & Underpasses

Kimley»Horn

Little Sugar Creek Greenway Polk Historic Site to SC

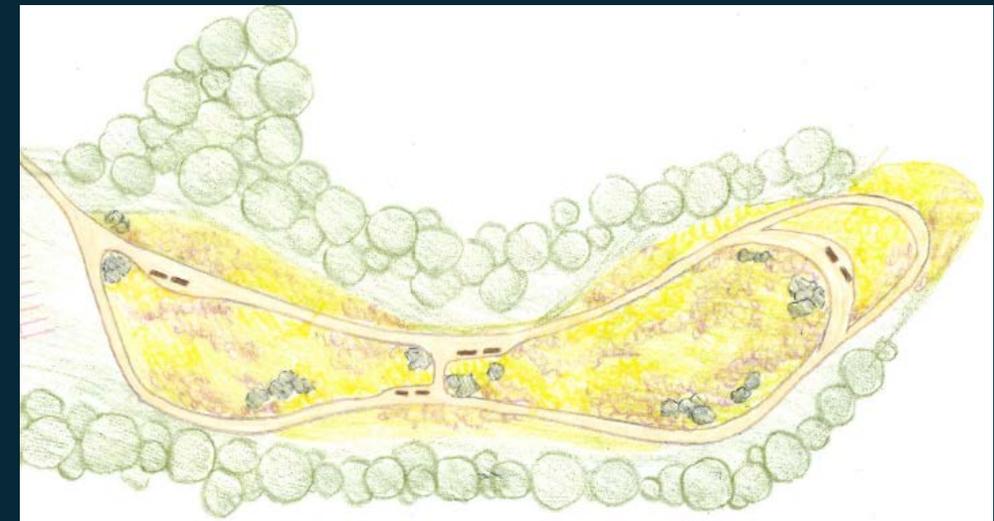


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Proposed Improvements

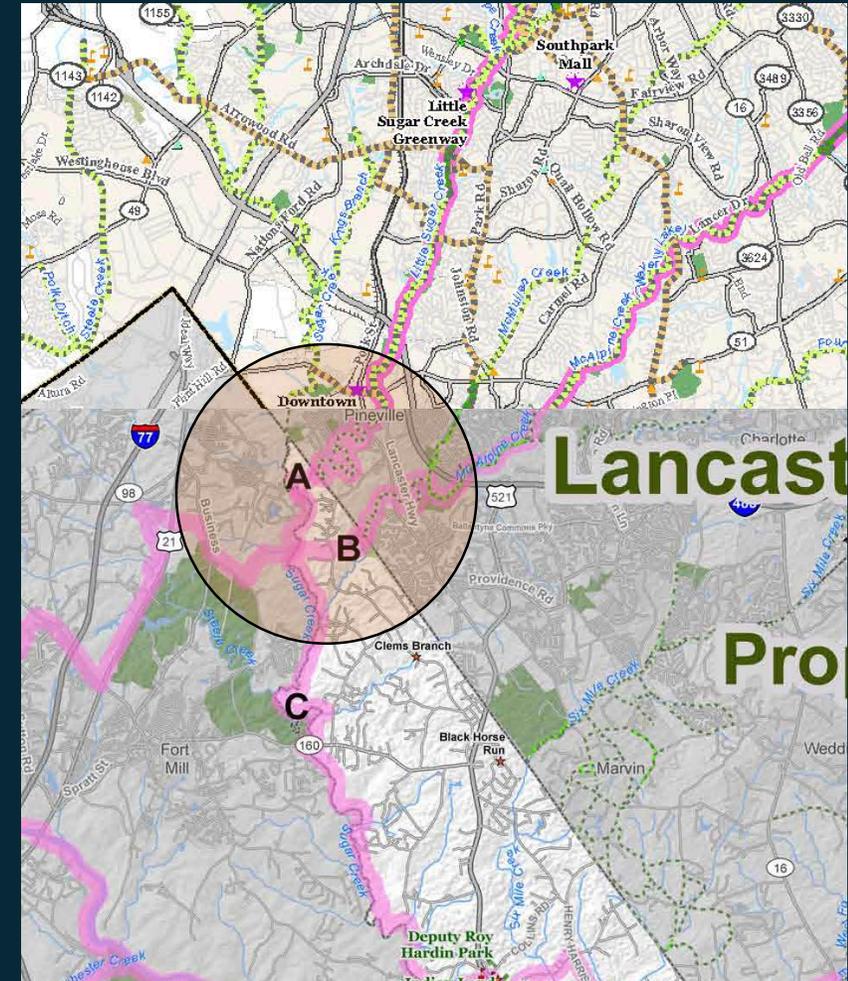
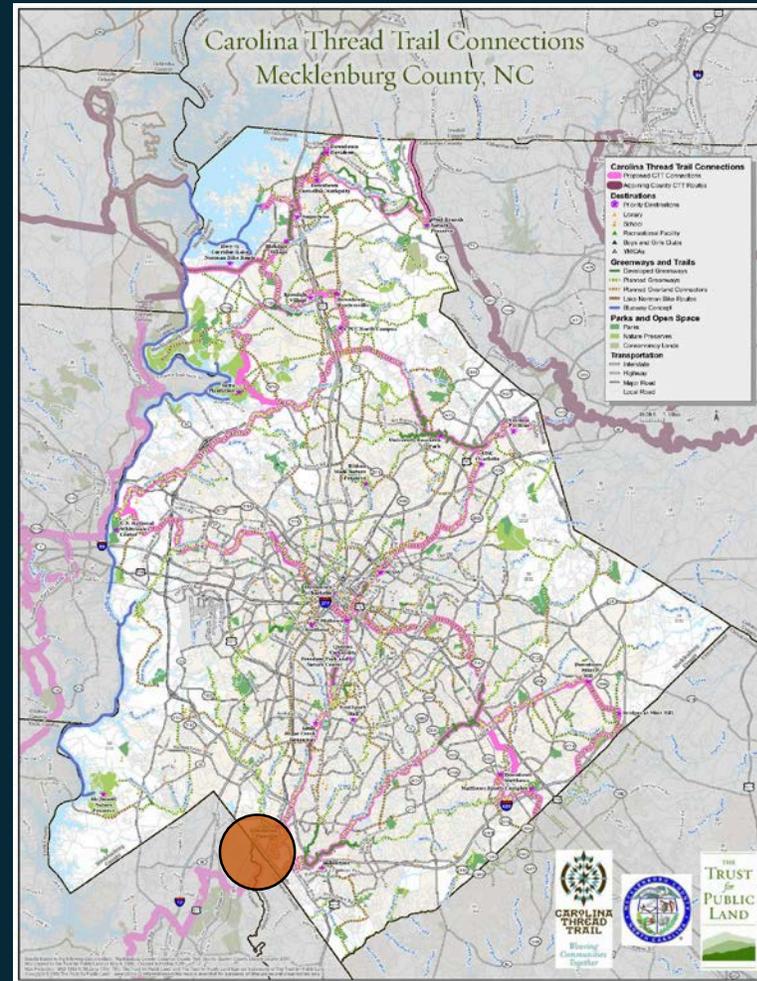
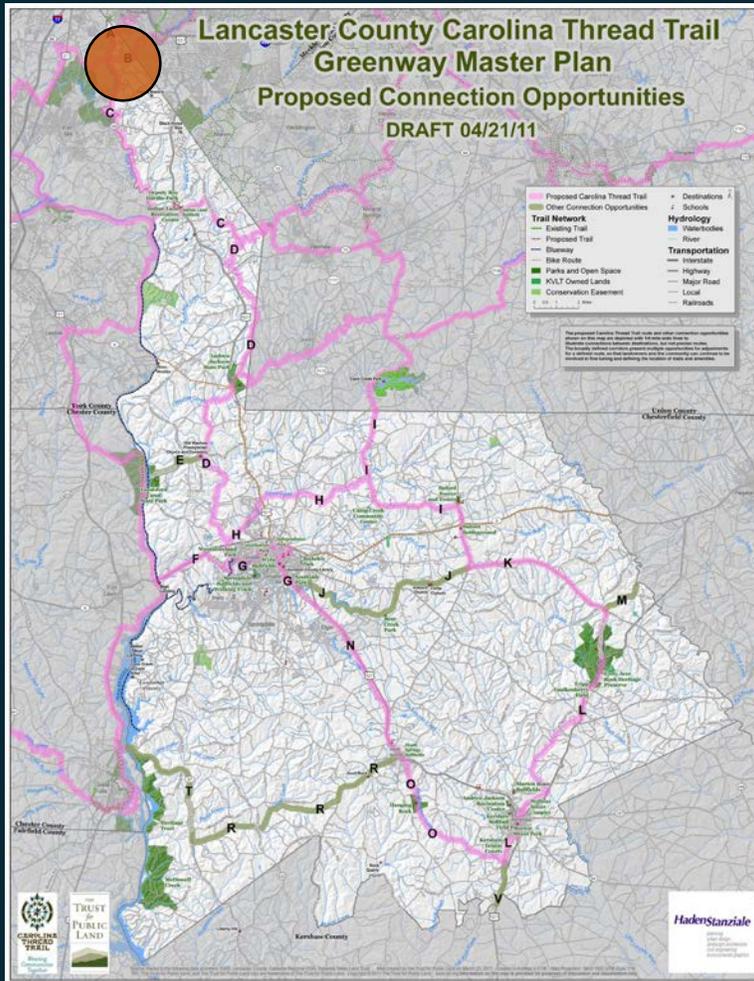
- 50 Spaces
- Bio-retention Pond
- Wayfinding, Benches, Bike Racks
- Natural Surface/Planting Area



Trailhead

Kimley»Horn

Little Sugar Creek Greenway Polk Historic Site to SC



Carolina Thread Trail

www.carolinathreadtrail.org

Little Sugar Creek Greenway Polk Historic Site to SC



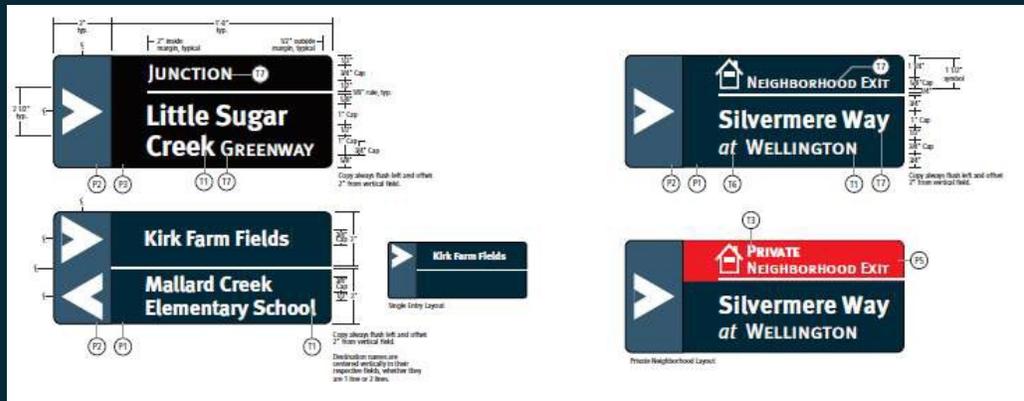
Stream Enhancement

Kimley»Horn

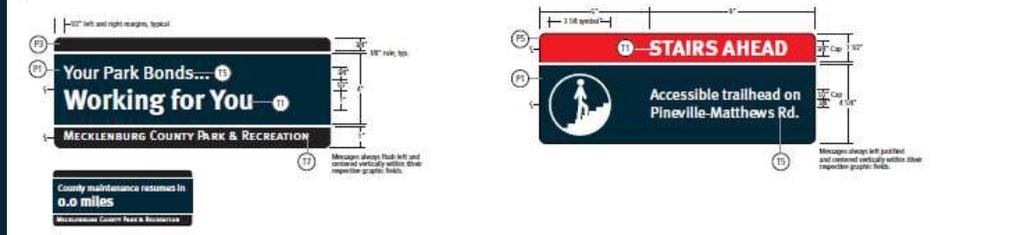
Proposed Improvements

- 2.5 Miles of Bank Grading
- 8 In-Stream Structures, 5 Riffles
- 12+ Acres of planting

Wayfinding



T-3-1 GRAPHIC LAYOUTS All layouts depict center-mount signs. Sign panels have graphics on one side only.



Greenways and Safety



- Greenways have had the fewest issues among Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation amenities.
- A 2004 study by UNC Charlotte on our greenways found that greenways do not increase crime and, in some instances, crime is slightly reduced.
- Crime exists everywhere; Call in Emergencies 911; otherwise 311
- Park Rangers and CMPD officers patrol trails.
- Common sense prevails– if you have valuables in your car, locate them out of sight and lock the vehicle.
- Avoid the trail during floods. Enjoy walking with a friend.
- Cyclists must have lights and reflectors after dark.

Questions



**Thank you for
participating in
your Community
Workshop!**



Contacts



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