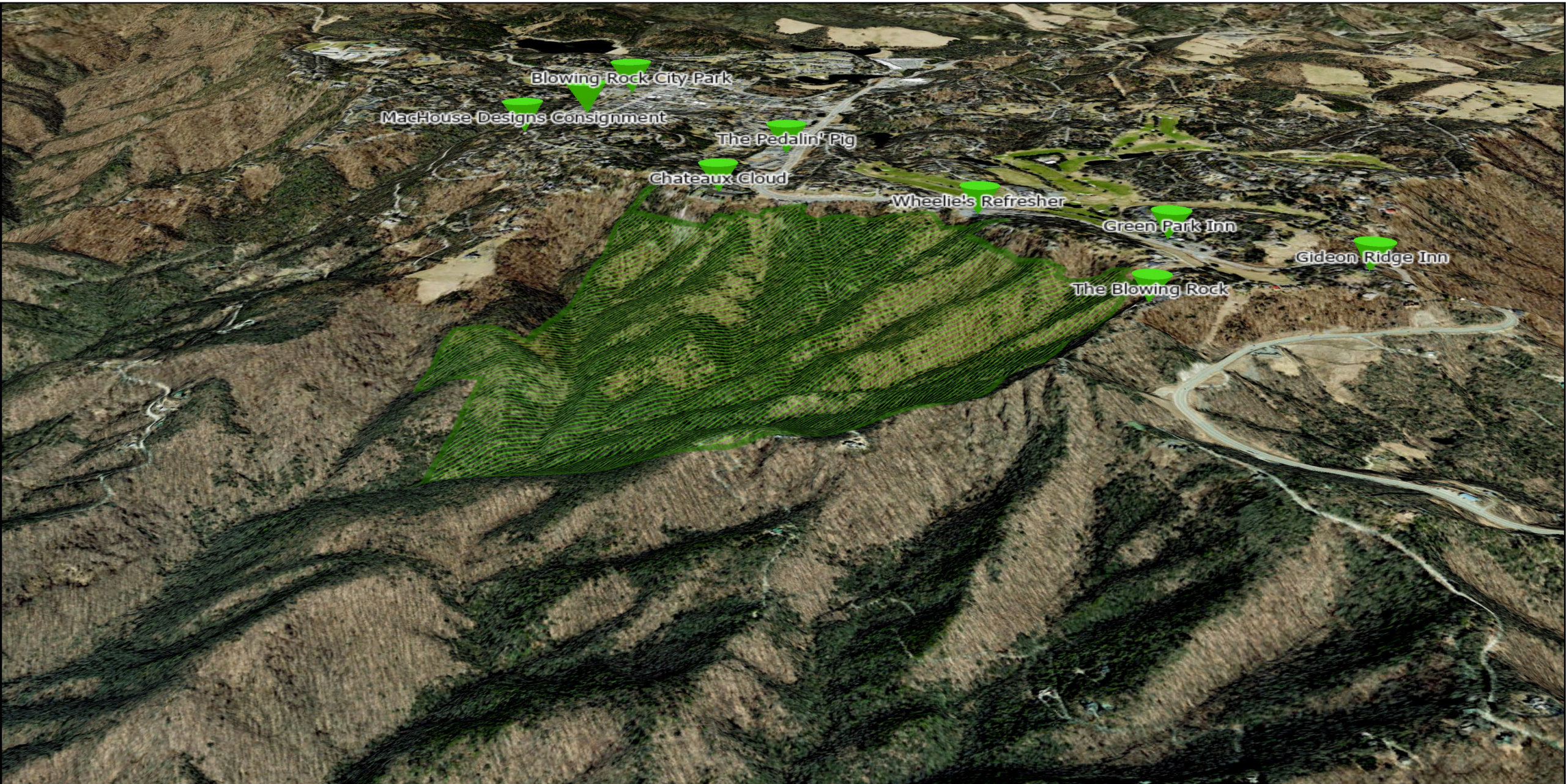
Johns River Headwaters GTSP Trail Grant Proposal

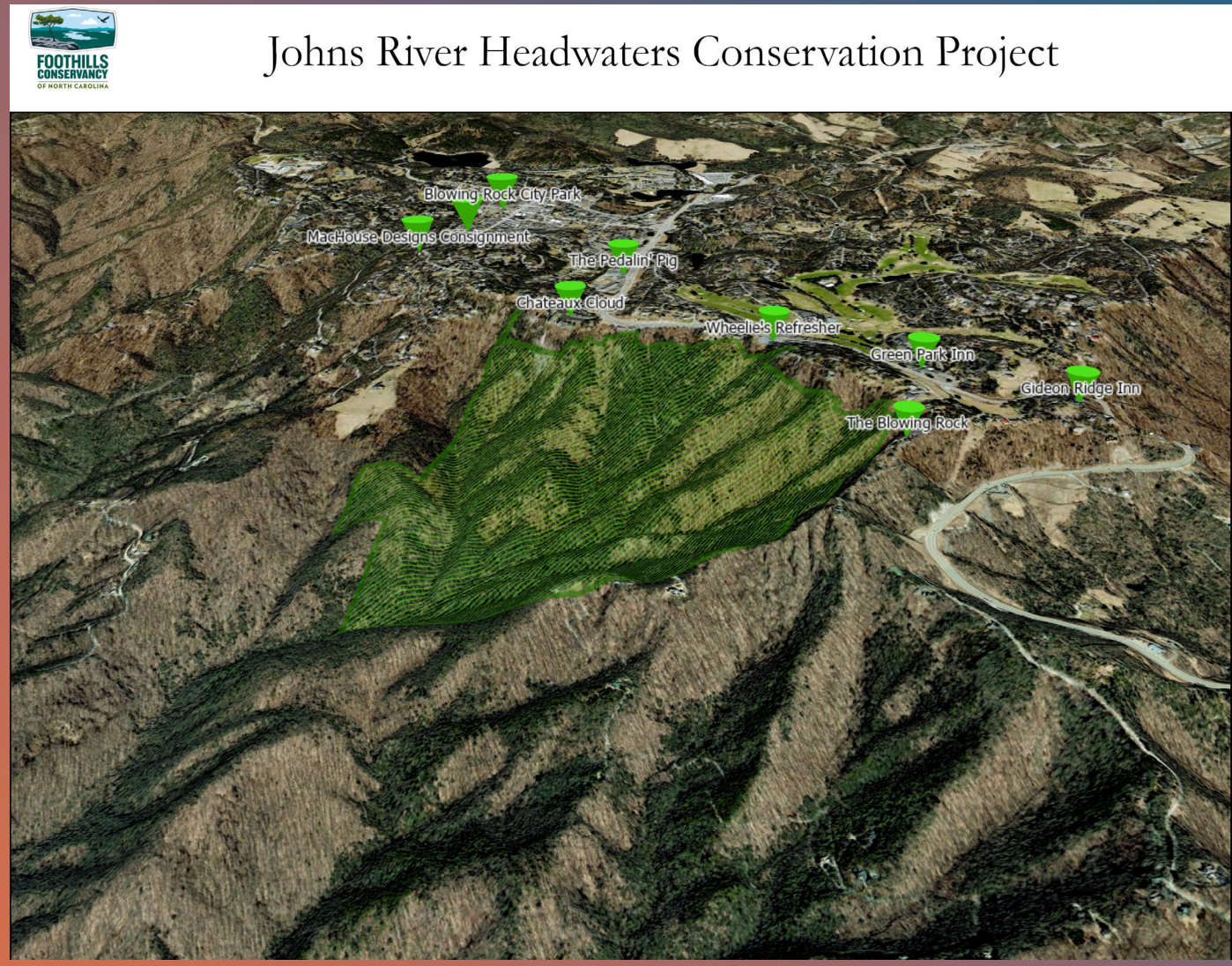
For Caldwell County 7-10-2024

Johns River Headwaters Conservation Project



Johns River Headwaters Property

- Protected by FCNC on February 9, 2024
- 326-acre parcel adjoining USFS land
- Protects significant natural communities and drinking water supply
- Preserves iconic viewshed
- Major community fundraising effort to purchase the land



Photos of the Property



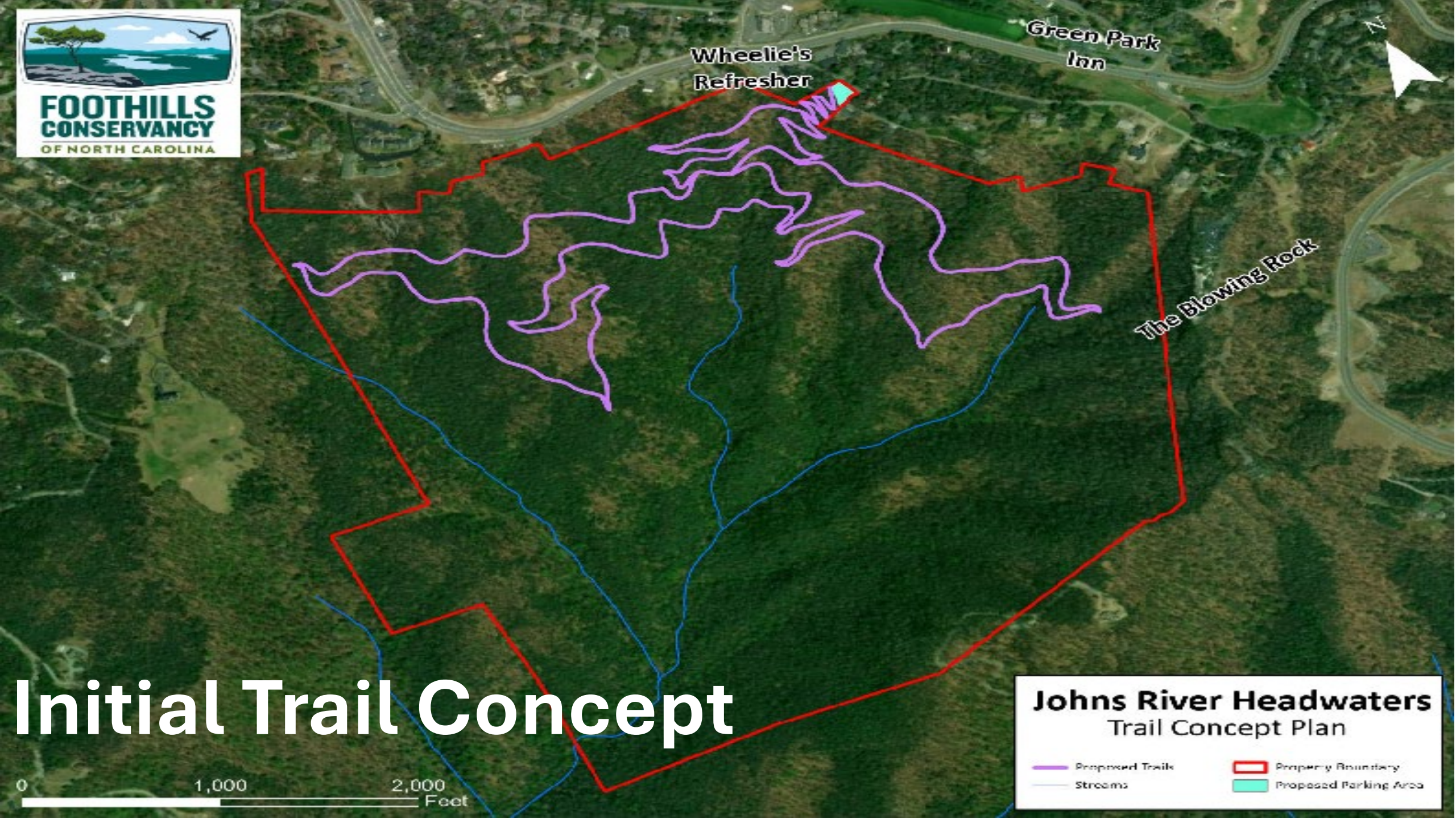
Photos of the Property



Photos of the Property

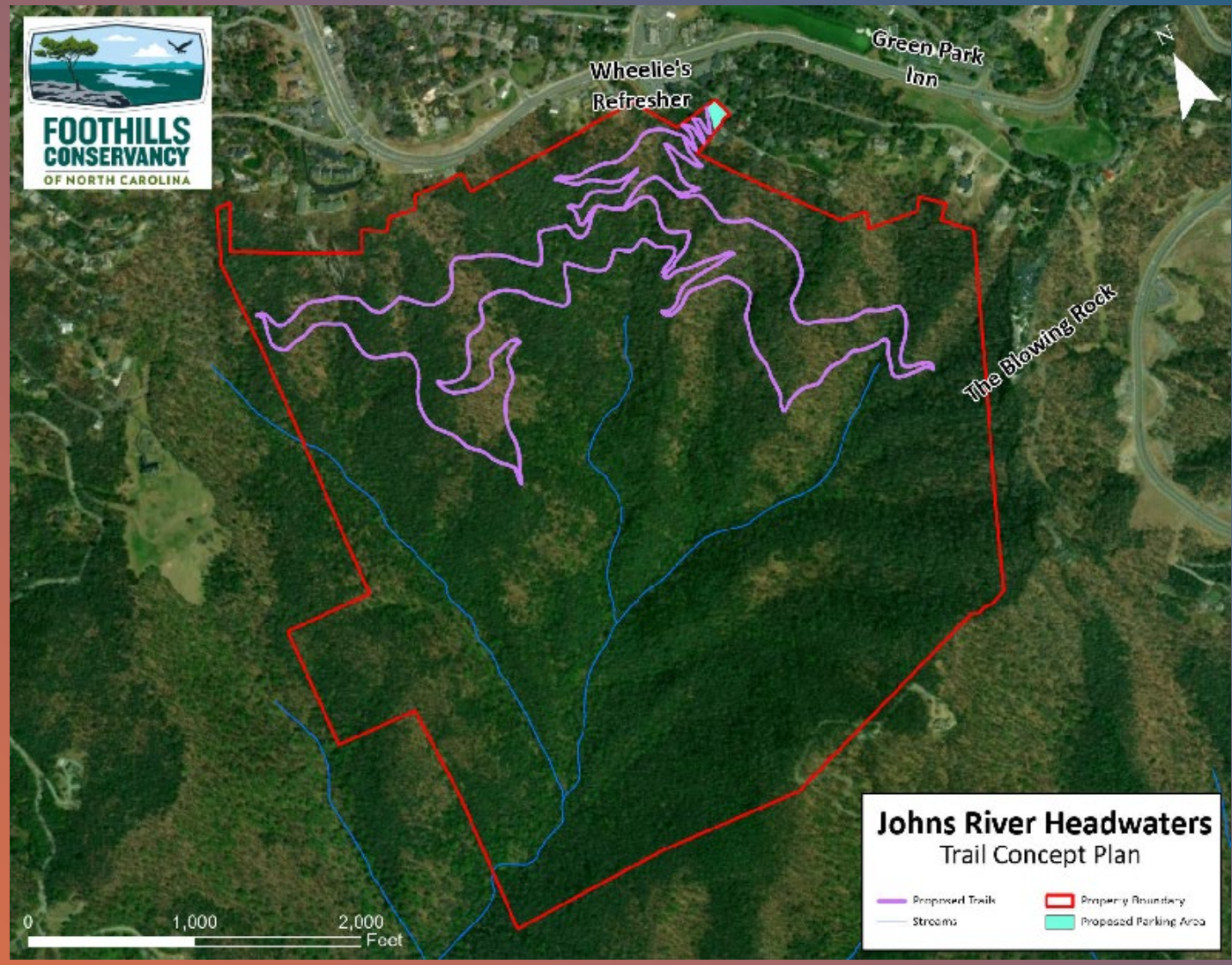




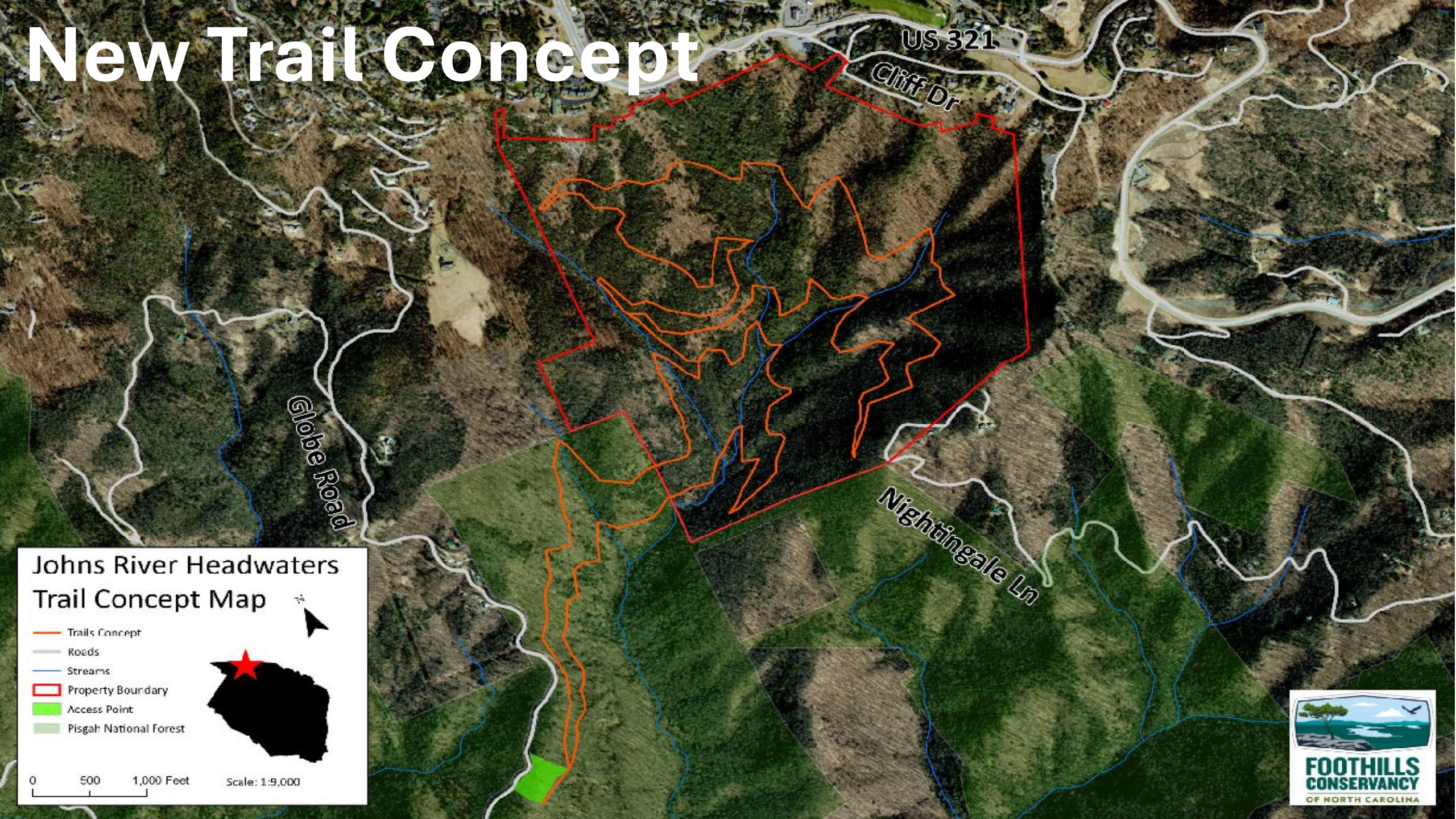

FOOTHILLS CONSERVANCY
OF NORTH CAROLINA
Wheelie's Refresher
Green Park Inn
The Blowing Rock
Initial Trail Concept
0
1,000
2,000
Feet
Johns River Headwaters
Trail Concept Plan
Proposed Trails
Streams
Property Boundary
Proposed Parking Area

Initial Trail Concept

- Developed to gauge public interest at fundraising/informational meeting
- Focused on access from top of property
- Would encounter challenges from steep upper terrain
- Public wants trails but did not want trailhead in residential neighborhood
- Interest in both hiking and mountain biking trails

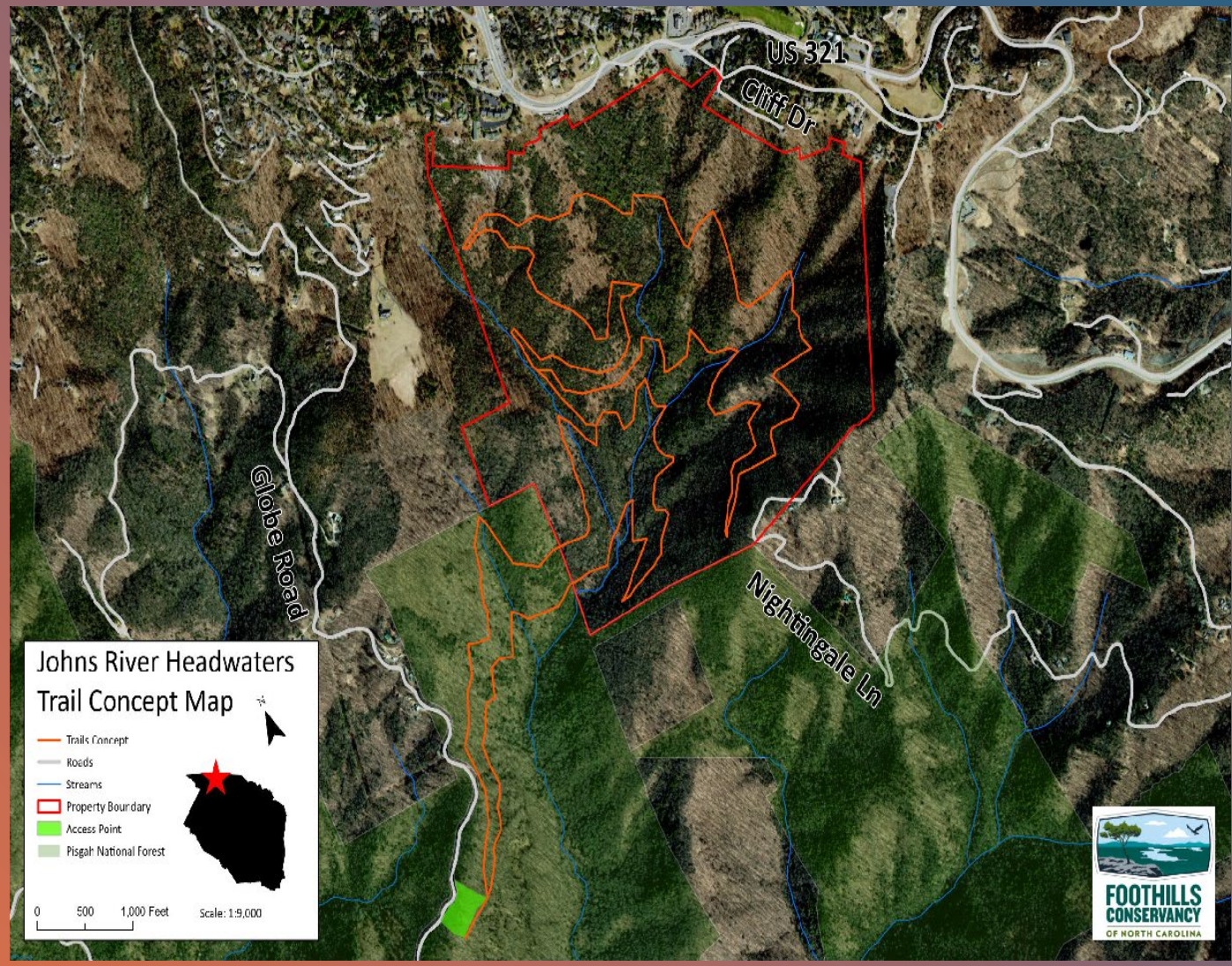


New Trail Concept



New Trail Concept

- Concept plan derived from public comments
- Focused on access from USFS lands off of Globe Rd
- Terrain is steep and challenging, probable stream crossings
- Will require NEPA permitting (Federal process)
- Trail system will need a full and comprehensive planning process



Great Trails State Program Grant

- $25 Million 1-time grant fund
- $100K grant minimum
- 2:1 match for Tier 2 Counties
- Cash, non-Cash, and non-state grant funds accepted as match
- App Deadline: September 3, 2024

Great Trails State Program (GTSP)

NC DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

NC Division of Parks & Recreation

Award Timeline:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO): March 1, 2024
- Application Deadline: September 3, 2024
- Awards made: Early 2025
- Contracts to selected recipients: Issued within 30 days of award announcement
- Project Period: 3 years

Contact Recreation Resources Service (RRS) for application assistance.
All applicants should register to submit an online application through WebGrants.
If you already have an account, you do not need to re-register.

How would the grant work?

- Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina (FCNC) writes the grant, Caldwell County approves the draft and submits grant
- If awarded, Caldwell County would contract with FCNC to execute the grant and higher subcontractors as needed
- FCNC would complete the design and permitting process to get project to shovel-ready status
- Caldwell County closes out grant in webgrant system
- FCNC would seek grant funding for construction of trail system



Other Questions

What is being asked of Caldwell County?

Be primary applicant for GTSP Grant

Contribute $15K towards grant match (cash and in-kind)

Act as passthrough entity for grant funds, reimburse through webgrants systems

Why is FCNC asking Caldwell to be Applicant?

FCNC is applying for other GTSP grants. Having a different applicant increase the chance of a grant award.

Who will be responsible for building and maintain the trails?

FCNC will be responsible for building and maintain the trails, not Caldwell County

Who is responsible for the raising the match funds?

FCNC will be responsible for raising the match funds from other local governments and private donors

How long will this take?

The federal NEPA process can take three years to complete. FCNC will work to complete the project as quickly as possible

Thank You for Your Consideration!

