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

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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.

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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.

X _____
Aaron Baker, Chair

Minutes Approved-_____

X _____
Madalin Baker, Board Secretary

Attachments: Ecusta Trail Rules and Etiquette
McAdams Presentation Slides

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AH. A

RBA Meeting – Revised 1-14-25

Attachment A

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.

Attachment B

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



McAdams EQUINOX WATERMARK LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ▪ LAND PLANNING ▪ CONSULTING

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



cstaudt@mcadamsco.com



tbuckwalter@mcadamsco.com

Big Picture Update

Preliminary Design

Responding to Review Comments on Preliminary Design

Scoping with NCDOT for Final Design

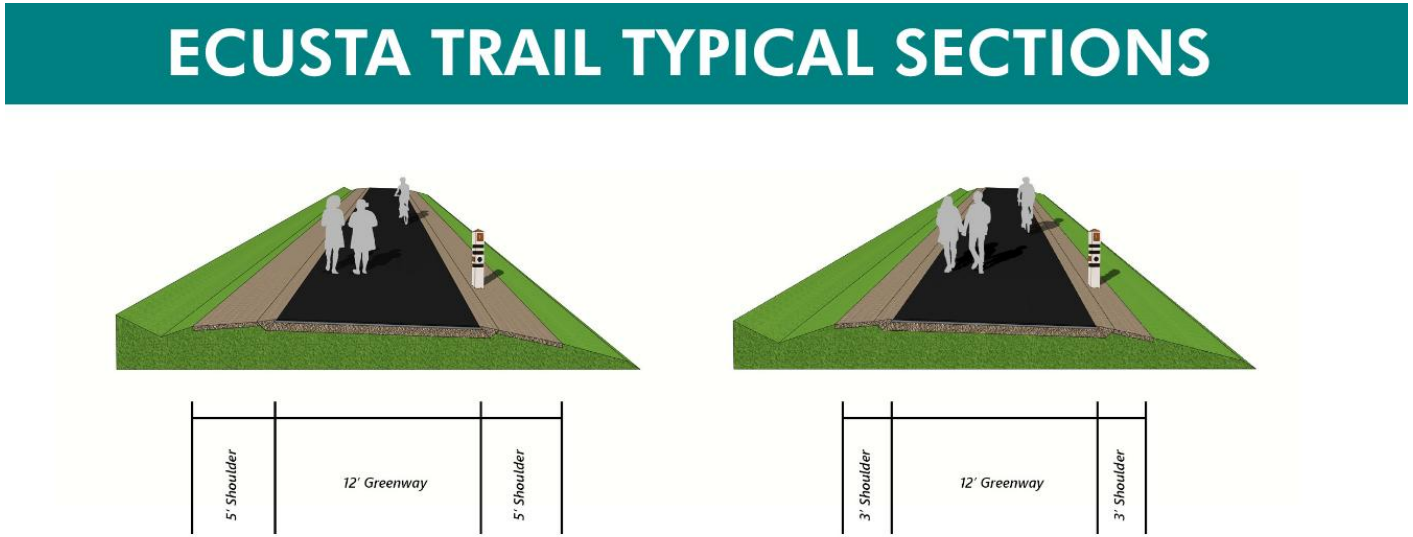
Final Design & Permitting

Design, Permitting & Construction Documents

Federal Clearances – NEPA, Utilities, ROW

Construction Letting

Still on Track for June 2026



Amenities

Henderson Co. Update

- Sarah Schafer, Watermark

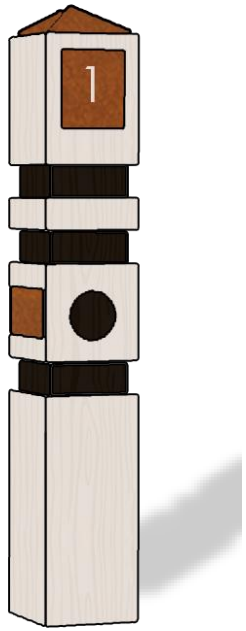


WATERMARK
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ▪ LAND PLANNING ▪ CONSULTING

Amenities

Level 1 Amenities

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



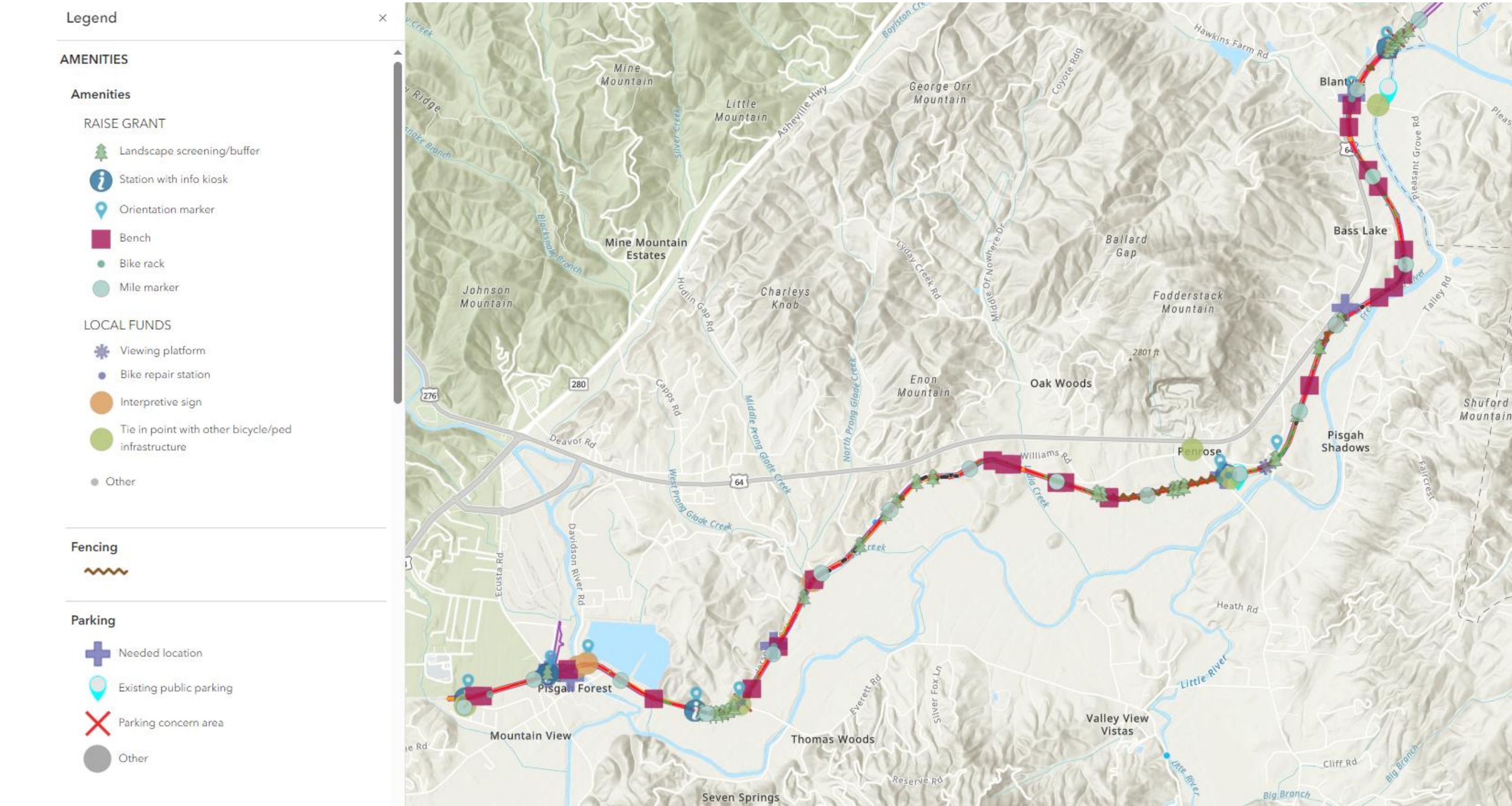
Mile posts



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
Mine Mountain
Little Mountain
George Orr Mountain
Asheville Hwy
Hawkins Farm Rd
Coyote Rdg
Pleasant Grove Rd
Bass Lake
Mine Mountain Estates
Johnson Mountain
Charleys Knob
Hudlin Gap Rd
Lyday Creek Rd
Middle Of Nowhere Dr
Ballard Gap
Fodderstack Mountain
Talley Rd
2801 ft
Oak Woods
Enon Mountain
Capps Rd
Middle Prong Glade Creek
North Prong Glade Creek
West Prong Glade Creek
Deavor Rd
Williams Rd
Penrose
Pisgah Shadows
Shuford Mountain
Faircrest
Ecusta Rd
Davidson River Rd
Pisgah Forest
Mountain View
Thomas Woods
Everett Rd
Silver Fox Ln
Heath Rd
Little River
Valley View Vistas
Cliff Rd
Big Branch
Seven Springs
Reserve Rd
276
280
64

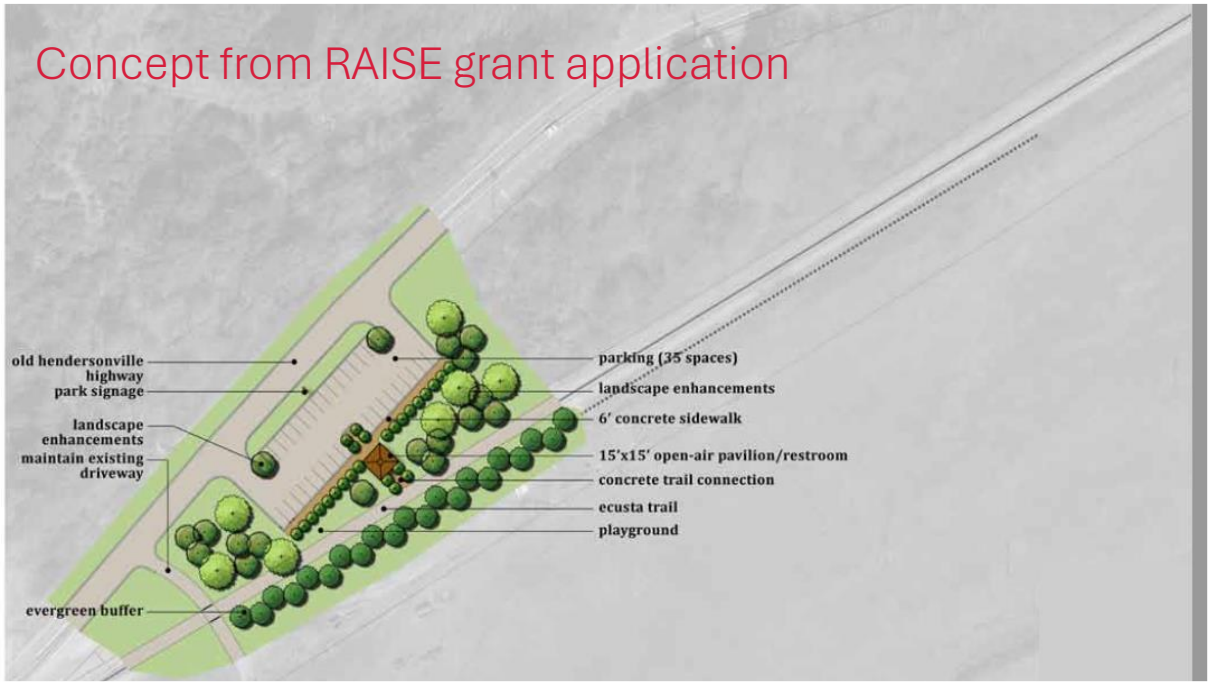
Trail Access

Adjacent Property Investigation

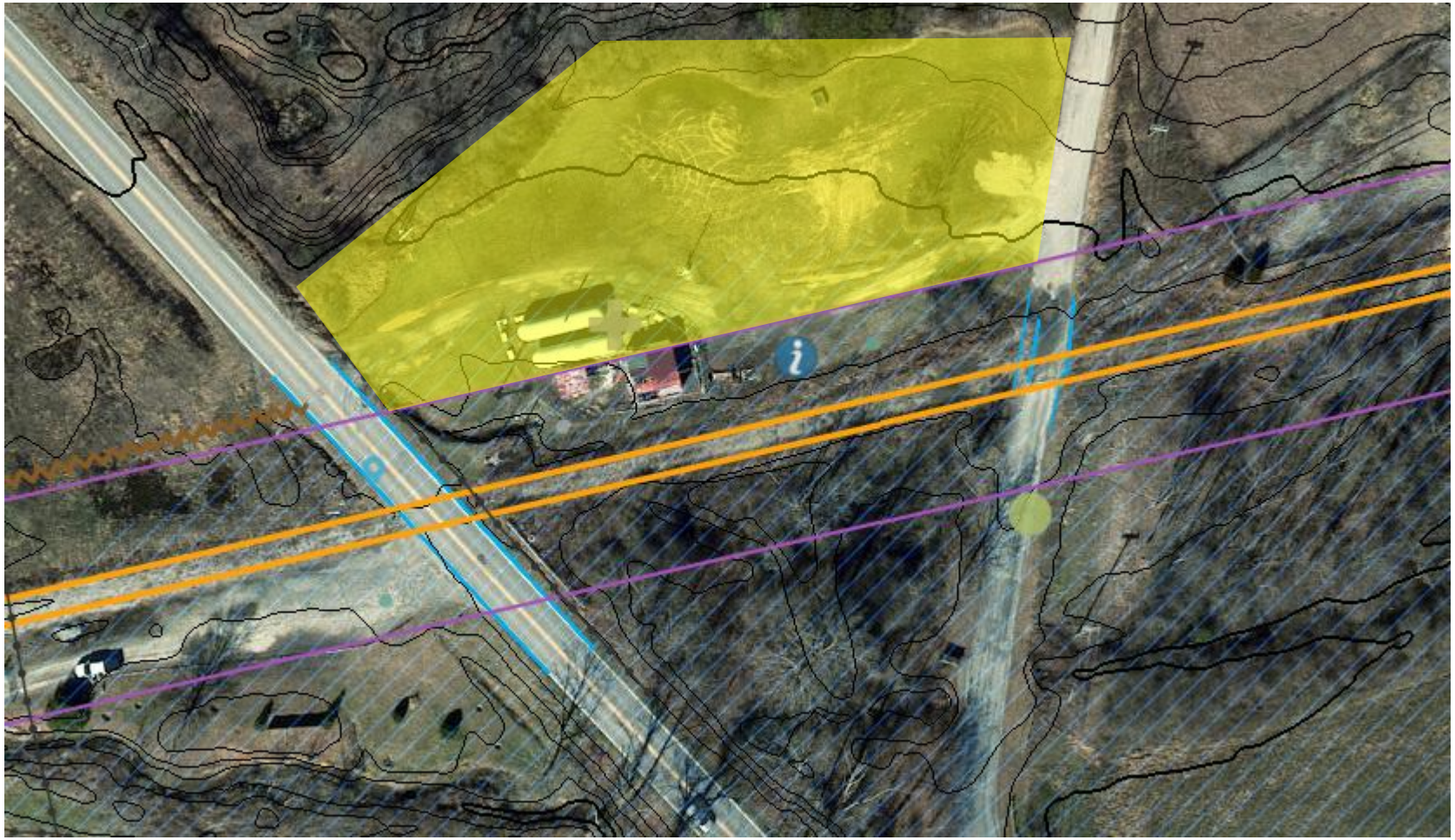
Owner	Address	Criteria			Trailhead Size	
		Adjacent to ROW	In Floodway?	Non Residential	10 -20 Car Parking	20+ Car Parking
Trans Co. Solid Waste	1767 Old Hendersonville Hwy.	X	PARTIAL	X	X	
Pisgah Labs	~3 Acre tract near Everette Rd.	X	NO	X	X	
Freeman Gas & Electric	Less than 1 acre on Crab Creek Road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

McAdams