

WEST REGION BLUEWAY & TRAIL SYSTEM

Advisory Committee Meeting
October 12, 2023



WELCOME!



1) Project Review

- Goals and Timeline

2) Recent Events

- Public Open House & Workshops
- Public Input Results

3) Blueway Access Update

4) Shared-Use Trail Draft Alignment

5) Next Steps

PROJECT SCOPE

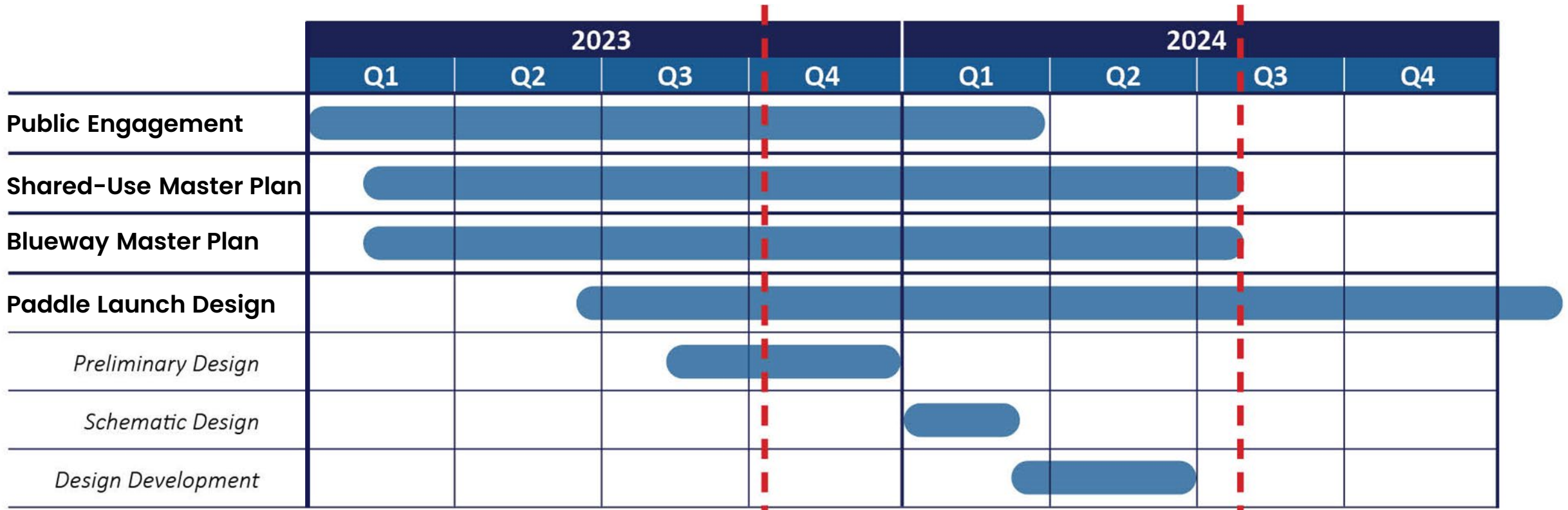
- ✦ **Expand and strengthen** western Hamilton County's blueway
- ✦ Identify **four to five new access points** along the blueway trail and develop design concepts
- ✦ Prepare plans for a **shared-use trail** along the Great Miami River corridor



PROJECT TIMELINE

Shared-Use & Blueway Master Plans
DRAFT

Shared-Use & Blueway Master Plans
FINAL



RECENT EVENTS

- ✦ **Advisory Committee Meeting – 6/15/23**
- ✦ **Public Open House – 7/13/23**
- ✦ **Public Input Website – 6/19/23 to 8/7/23**
- ✦ **GPHC Leadership Team Meeting – 8/15/23**
- ✦ **GPHC Shared-Use Trail Workshop – 9/19/23**
- ✦ **Bi-Monthly Coordination Call – Ongoing**

Thomas Buckley

Amy Roell

Luce, Matt

Tim Zelek

✦ **Advisory Committee Meeting – 6/15/23**

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✦ **Bi-Monthly Coordination Call – Ongoing**

Chris Manning (Guest)

Laura Whitman

Mike Brech

Becky Osinski

6/15 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

What you told us:

- Enhanced/Constructed access
- Economic development engagement
- Retail and commercial assets
- Community excitement!



Limited carry (close parking) to water is nice for users

Heritage park - Paved surfaces can be easily cleaned off after flooding

Cleaning kayak launch is time/staff intensive so is usually left for mother nature.



Stone steps could also serve as a rest/viewing spot

Like this one - more natural but still accessible!



Enhanced launch would be nice for the return / take out after a day on the water.

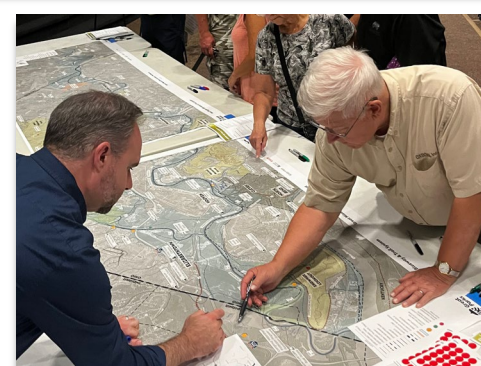


Like this one!

Steps would be nice for Willow Park if the site becomes an official access point



PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE – 7/13/2023



WEST REGION BLUEWAY & TRAIL SYSTEM

Great Parks
FIND YOUR WILD

great parks is leading the development of a master plan for the West Region Blueway & Trail System – a new initiative to bring people closer to nature by expanding opportunities for water- and land-based adventure in western Hamilton County.

This system will create new connections for paddlers to explore the region by water and establish a new shared-use trail from Fairfield to the Ohio River for walkers, runners, bicyclists, and more!

Visit one of our open houses to learn more and participate in the planning process.

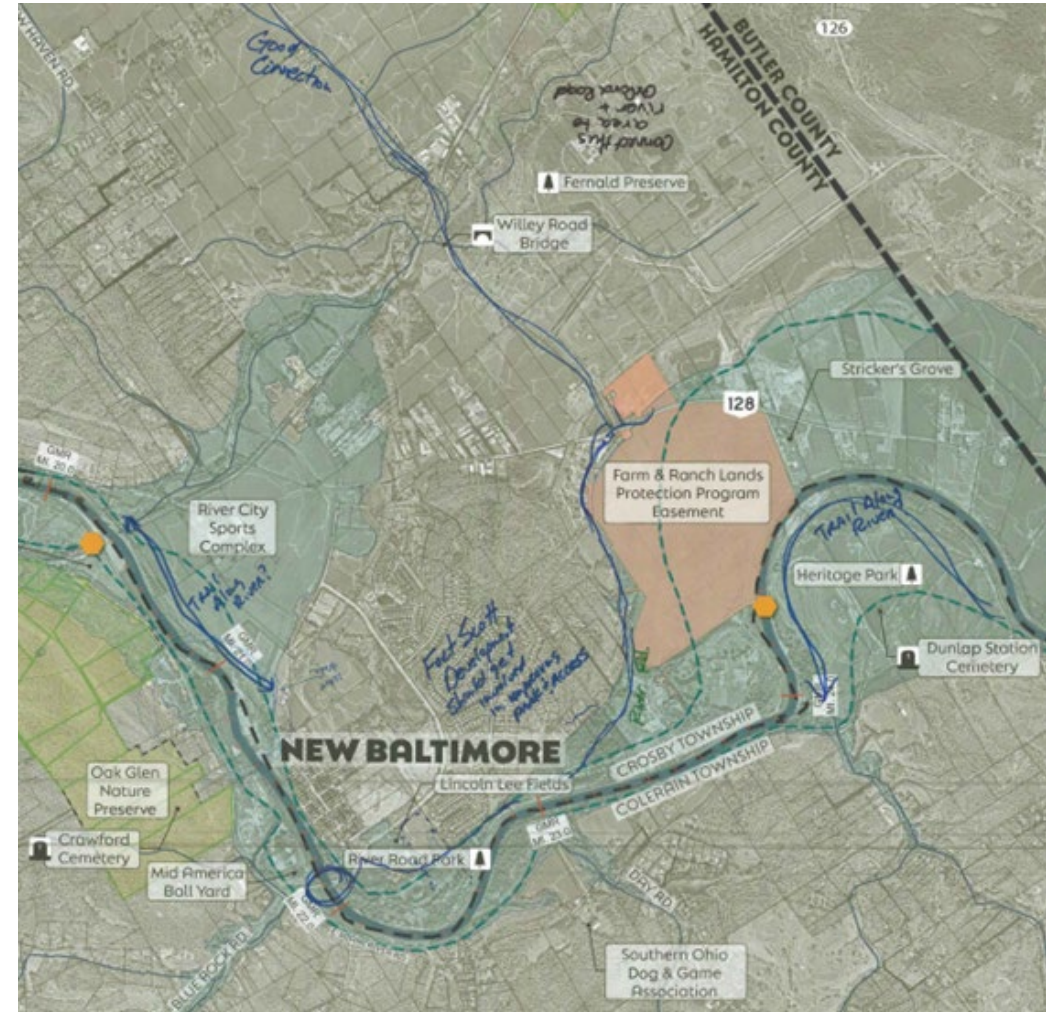
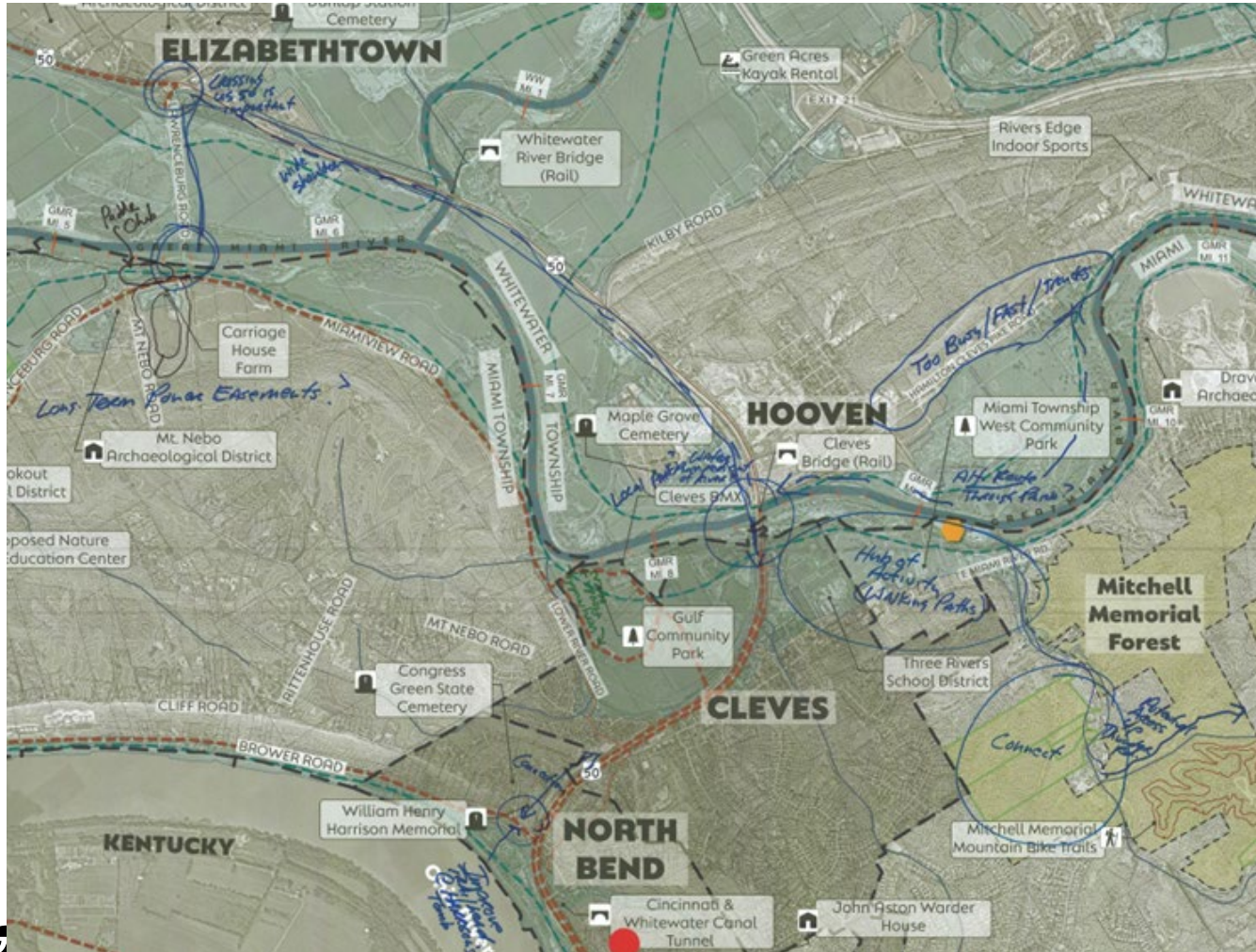
Individuals with disabilities needing reasonable accommodations to participate should contact Great Parks by July 8 at (513) 521-7275, voice/ITD.

IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE
 July 13 | 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.
 Whitewater Crossing
 Christian Church
 5771 OH-128
 Cleves, OH 45002

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE
 June 19 – August 7, 2023
GreatParks.org/WestRegionTrails

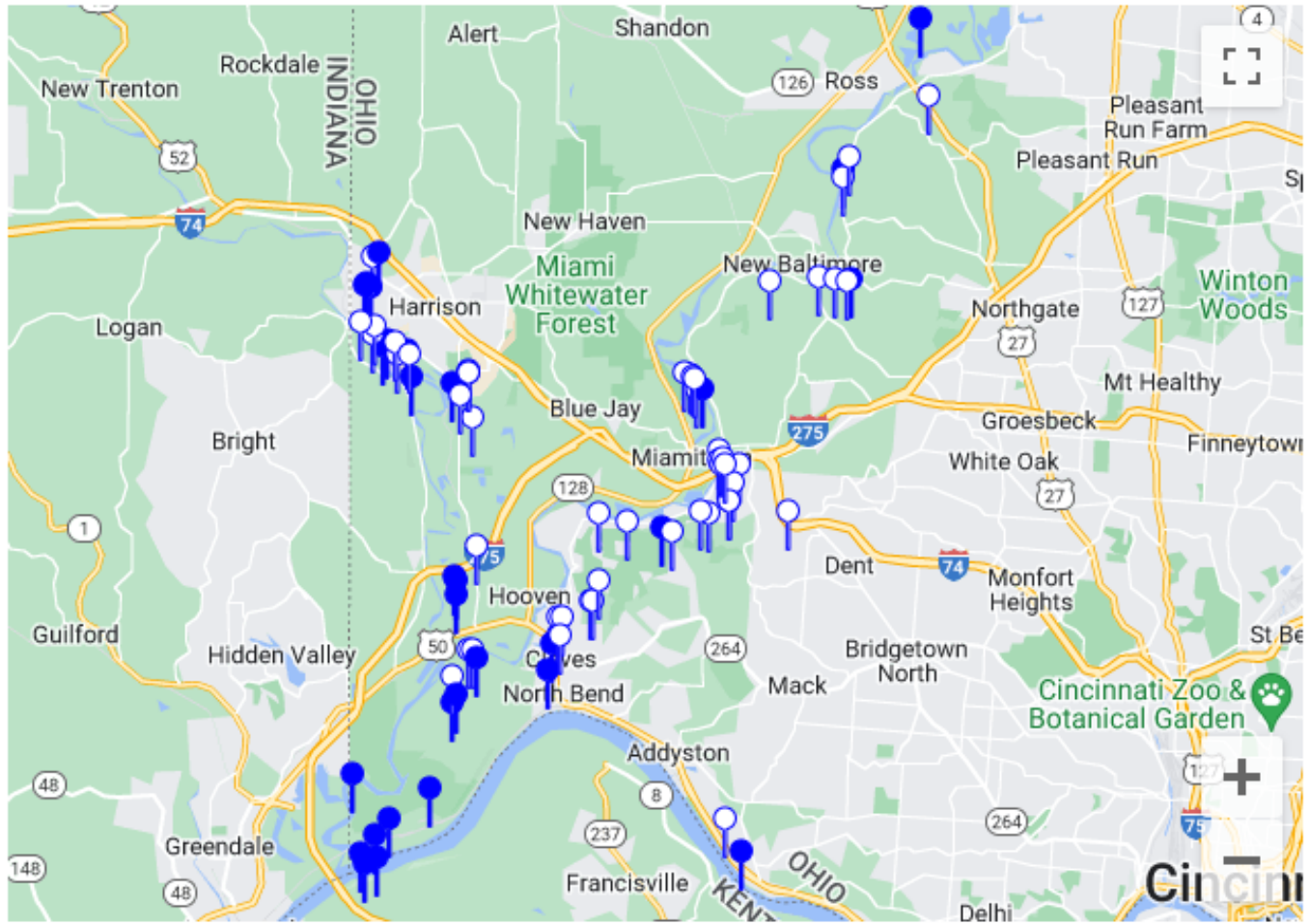
To participate, visit GreatParks.org/WestRegionTrails

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE



PUBLIC INPUT WEBSITE

If you'd like to suggest a location for a new launch site along the Great Miami or Whitewater rivers, place a point on the map to show us where it is. Points can only be placed in the highlighted study area.



great parks

WEST REGION BLUEWAY & TRAIL SYSTEM

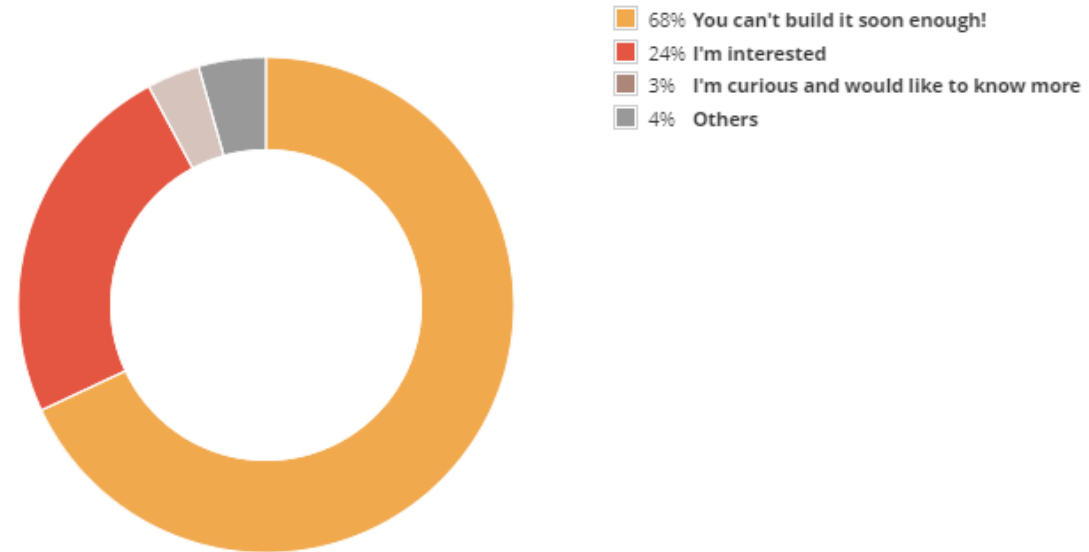
virtual open house and survey



Project Engagement

| VIEWS | PARTICIPANTS | RESPONSES | COMMENTS | SUBSCRIBERS |
|-------|--------------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| 1,588 | 501 | 13,761 | 1,126 | 170 |

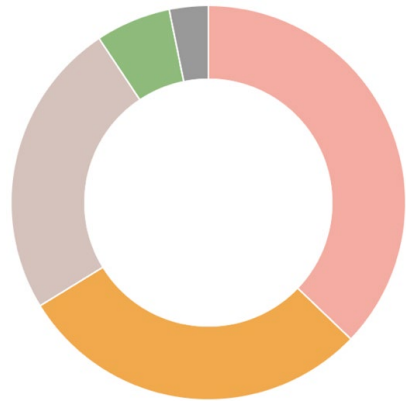
How interested are you in a new shared-use trail along the Great Miami River corridor?



PUBLIC INPUT WEBSITE – RESPONDENT PROFILE

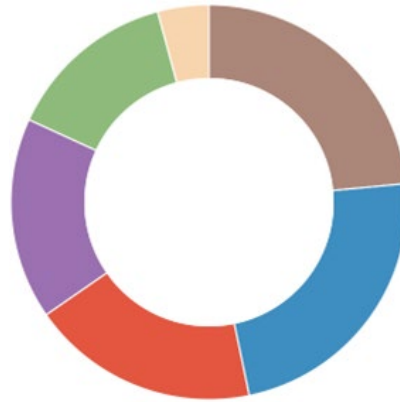


In general, how often have you visited a Great Parks location/property in the past 12 months?



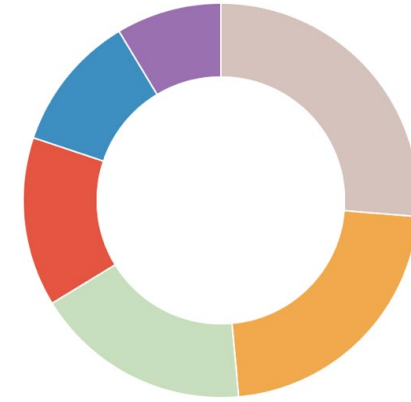
- 37% Several times a month
- 29% Daily or weekly
- 24% Several times a year
- 6% Just once or twice
- 3% Others

How often do you go on paddling trips (canoe, kayak, paddleboard, etc.)?



- 23% Once or twice a season
- 23% I don't go often, but I'd like to go more
- 19% Once or twice a month
- 17% I don't go on paddling trips
- 14% Just once or twice every year or so
- 4% Daily or weekly

How often have you used a shared-use trail in the past 12 months?



- 26% Several times a month
- 22% Daily or weekly
- 18% Every few months
- 14% Once a month
- 11% Just once or twice
- 9% I haven't used a shared-use trail in the past 12 months



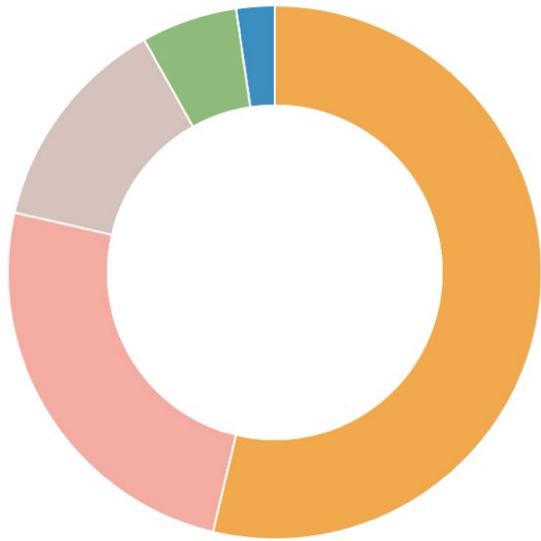
BLUEWAY LAUNCH SITES



PUBLIC INPUT – BLUEWAY ACCESS



How likely are you to use the West Region Blueway?



- 54% **I will definitely use it**
- 25% **I'll probably use it**
- 13% **I'm not sure yet**
- 6% **It's unlikely that I will use it**
- 2% **I definitely won't use it**

How interested would you be in combining a paddle trip with one or more of the following activities?

| | Very interested | Somewhat interested | Not sure | Not very interested | Not interested at all |
|--|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Exploring nearby natural points of interest/historic sites | 61% Very interested | 28% Somewhat interested | 6% Not sure | 2% Not very interested | 3% Not interested at all |
| Exploring nearby communities | 42% Very interested | 38% Somewhat interested | 11% Not sure | 6% Not very interested | 3% Not interested at all |
| Hiking | 59% Very interested | 26% Somewhat interested | 7% Not sure | 4% Not very interested | 4% Not interested at all |
| Biking | 44% Very interested | 28% Somewhat interested | 11% Not sure | 10% Not very interested | 8% Not interested at all |
| Walking | 56% Very interested | 34% Somewhat interested | 5% Not sure | 3% Not very interested | 3% Not interested at all |



BLUEWAY SITE SELECTION PROCESS



Westside Riverways & Trail System
Draft Selection Scorecard for Paddlecraft Launch Access Sites

Apr-23
Site #: 4

| | Heavy ← Strong | | | | Light → Weak | |
|---|----------------------|---|---|---|--------------------|------------------|
| Ecology | | | | | | |
| Minimal Impact to Sensitivity Index | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| Natural features to showcase | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 11 |
| Opportunities for restoration | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| Use of site due to seasonal inundation & safety (1) | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | no shared access |
| Accessibility | | | | | | |
| Carry distance from parking | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| Topography of path to river | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 11 |
| Ability to use natural features for launch | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| Impact of nearby hazards upon access to river | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| Distribution / Location | | | | | | |
| Preferred spacing within corridor | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| Preferred location on river bend | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 10 |
| Property control (2) | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| Synergy with adjacent uses and assets (3) | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| Programming | | | | | | |
| Suitability for Guided tours & teaching opportunities | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| Suitability for Unguided / recreation use | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 21 |
| Access to vehicular corridors | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| Diversity of experience | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| Year round opportunity potential | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| Infrastructure / Buildings | | | | | | |
| Ease of maintenance (4) | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| Potential to add storage site | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| Potential to add vendor base camp site | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 22 |
| Proximity to utilities | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| Potential for reuse of existing building(s) | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | |

- 1) Staff Kick-off & Advisory Committee Meetings
- 2) Related Studies & Supporting Doc Analysis
- 3) Determination of Preliminary Sites
- 4) Environmental Desktop Review



BLUEWAY SITE SELECTION PROCESS



Project Name Launch Sites
Site Name Launch #4
Report Date 5/8/2023
County, State Hamilton, Ohio

Report Contents

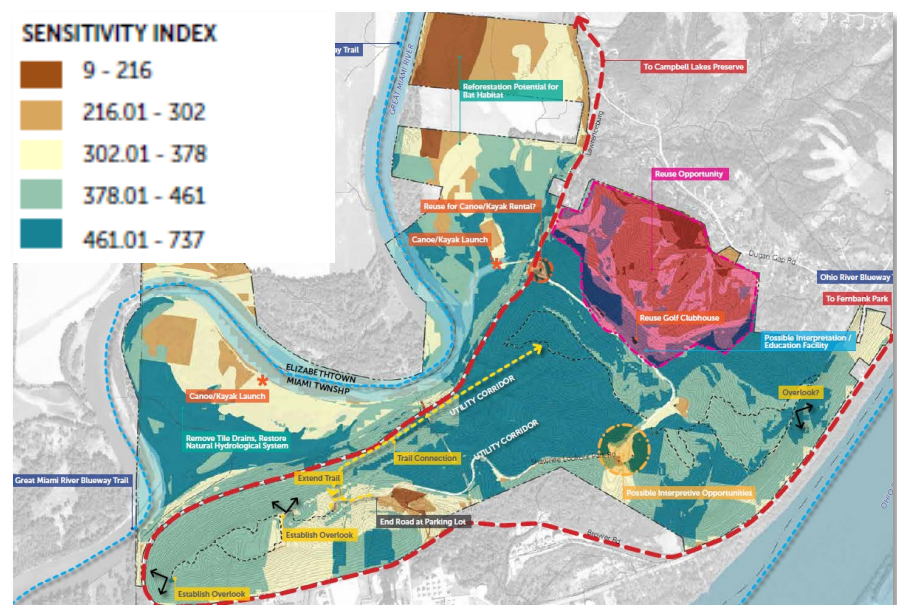
| Boundaries | Subtypes |
|--|----------------------------|
| Prime Farmland | |
| Percentage of gSSURGO Prime Farmland within subject property | |
| Percentage of slope subject derived from DEM | 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 100 |
| Percentage of Flood Plain 1 subject | 100 Year Floodplain |
| Flood Hazard (F) subject | N/A |
| Hydrological Hazard (H) subject | Lake/Pond |
| Waterway (W) subject | Artificial Path |
| Wetland (W) subject | Riverine, Lakes |
| Other | N/A |
| | N/A |
| | N/A |
| | N/A |
| | N/A |
| | N/A |
| | N/A |
| | N/A |
| | N/A |
| | N/A |
| | N/A |
| | N/A |

Sensitivity Index

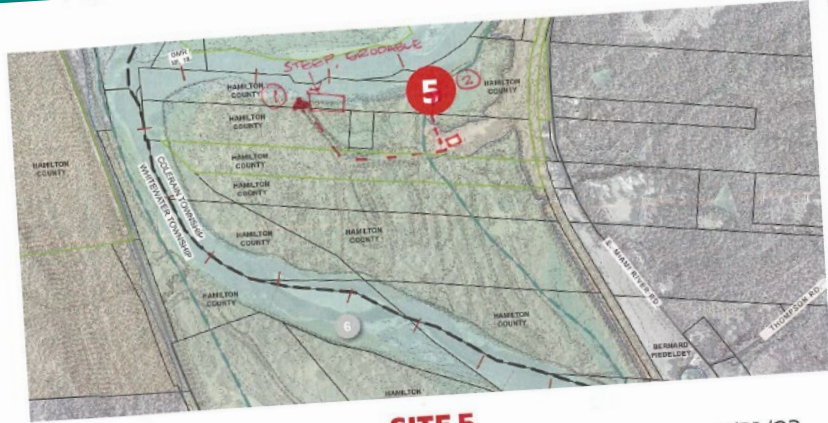
| Color | Area (Total) | % Coverage |
|------------|--------------|------------|
| Dark Blue | 7.34 acres | 40.76% |
| Light Blue | 4.22 acres | 23.42% |
| Yellow | 0.41 acres | 2.25% |

5) Natural Resources Team Review

6) Consultant Team Preliminary Recommendations



BLUEWAY SITE SELECTION PROCESS



VISITOR MATT L.

SITE 5

- KATE
- ALEX
- DANISL
- JANET
- SHAN

DATE 7/31/23

- CATEGORIZE & SCORE

FIELD NOTES:

- OLD GRAVEL PIT
 - GRADUAL WALK - BUT FAR ~ 1,700 FT
 - NOT VERY ACCESSIBLE
 - WATER SCHOOL LOCATION - NOT GREAT
 - CONCERNED ABOUT ACCESS MAINTENANCE
 - GOOD RUSTIC ACCESS SITE
 - SHORTER WALK, STEEPER GRADE
 - BAD EROSION SPOT (DEPOSITION)
 - 2 PROVIDES GOOD PROTECTION OF 1
- SIGNAGE FOR WATER LEVELS
- RIVER TRAM?



calm water pool photo for potential



Facing South, looking down on site. Calm waters for natural launch location. Existing barn in top left corner



Field and soccer on left side



Existing facility and entrance drive on site. Photo is facing Northeast. Launch location in top left corner of photo



Photo is approx. 0.1



Island upstream of launch site. Photo is facing Southwest. Site #5 is located in the top center of this photo

7) Great Parks Review & Feedback

8) Site Visits



BLUEWAY ACCESS – TYPOLOGY



NATURAL



ENHANCED



CONSTRUCTED



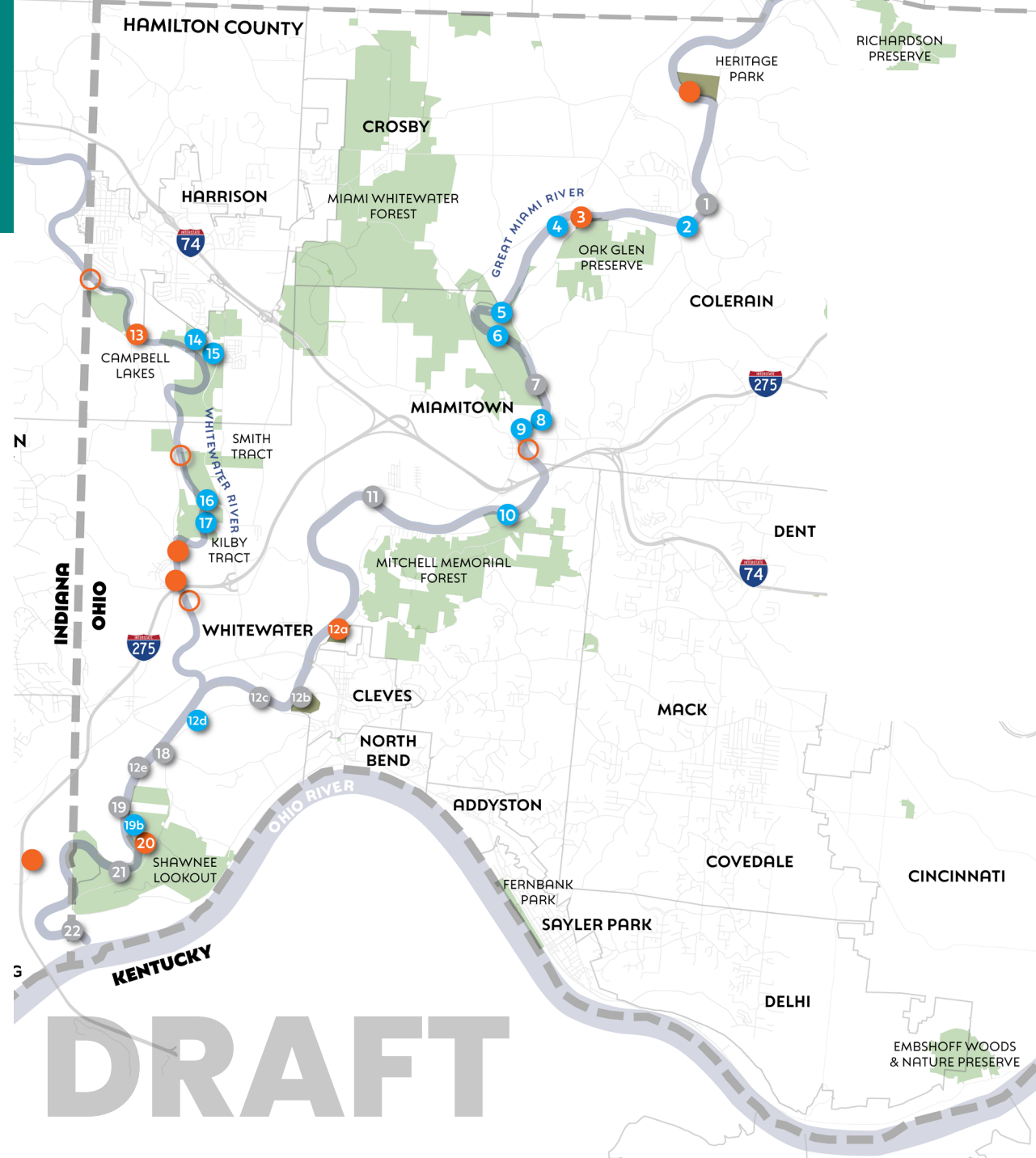
BLUEWAY SITE SELECTION PROCESS

SITE DISTRIBUTION

| Site # | River | Mile |
|--------|-------|------|
| 1 | GMR | 22.3 |
| 2 | GMR | 21.8 |
| 3 | GMR | 19.6 |
| 4 | GMR | 19.7 |
| 5 | GMR | 18.3 |
| 6 | GMR | 17.4 |
| 7 | GMR | 16.5 |
| 8 | GMR | 15.7 |
| 9 | GMR | 15.5 |
| 10 | GMR | 14.0 |
| 11 | GMR | 11.9 |
| 12a | GMR | 9.1 |
| 12b | GMR | 7.9 |
| 12c | GMR | 7.2 |
| 12d | GMR | 5.8 |
| 12e | GMR | 4.9 |
| 13 | WW | 7.4 |
| 14 | WW | 6.6 |
| 15 | WW | 6.4 |
| 16 | WW | 3.7 |
| 17 | WW | 3.4 |
| 18 | GMR | 5.2 |
| 19 | GMR | 4.1 |
| 19b | GMR | 3.5 |
| 20 | GMR | 3.4 |
| 21 | GMR | 3.1 |
| 22 | GMR | 0.5 |

LEGEND

- POTENTIAL LAUNCH SITE LOCATIONS
- LAUNCH SITES - NOT IN CONSIDERATION
- EXISTING LAUNCH SITES PUBLIC
- EXISTING LAUNCH SITES PRIVATE



DRAFT



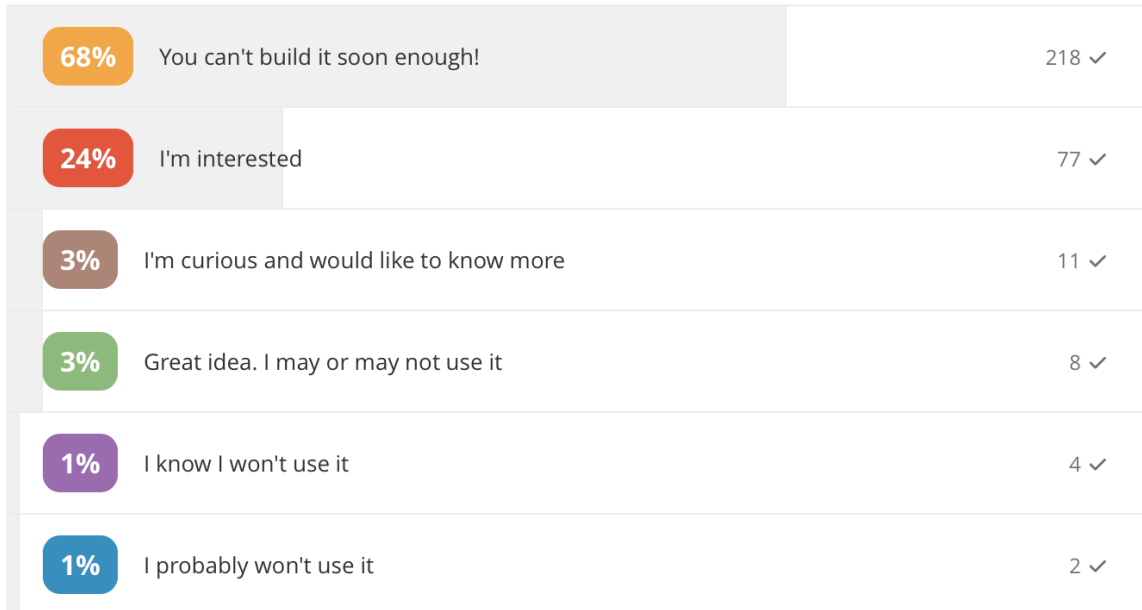
SHARED-USE TRAIL



PUBLIC INPUT – SHARED-USE TRAIL



How interested are you in a new shared-use trail along the Great Miami River corridor?



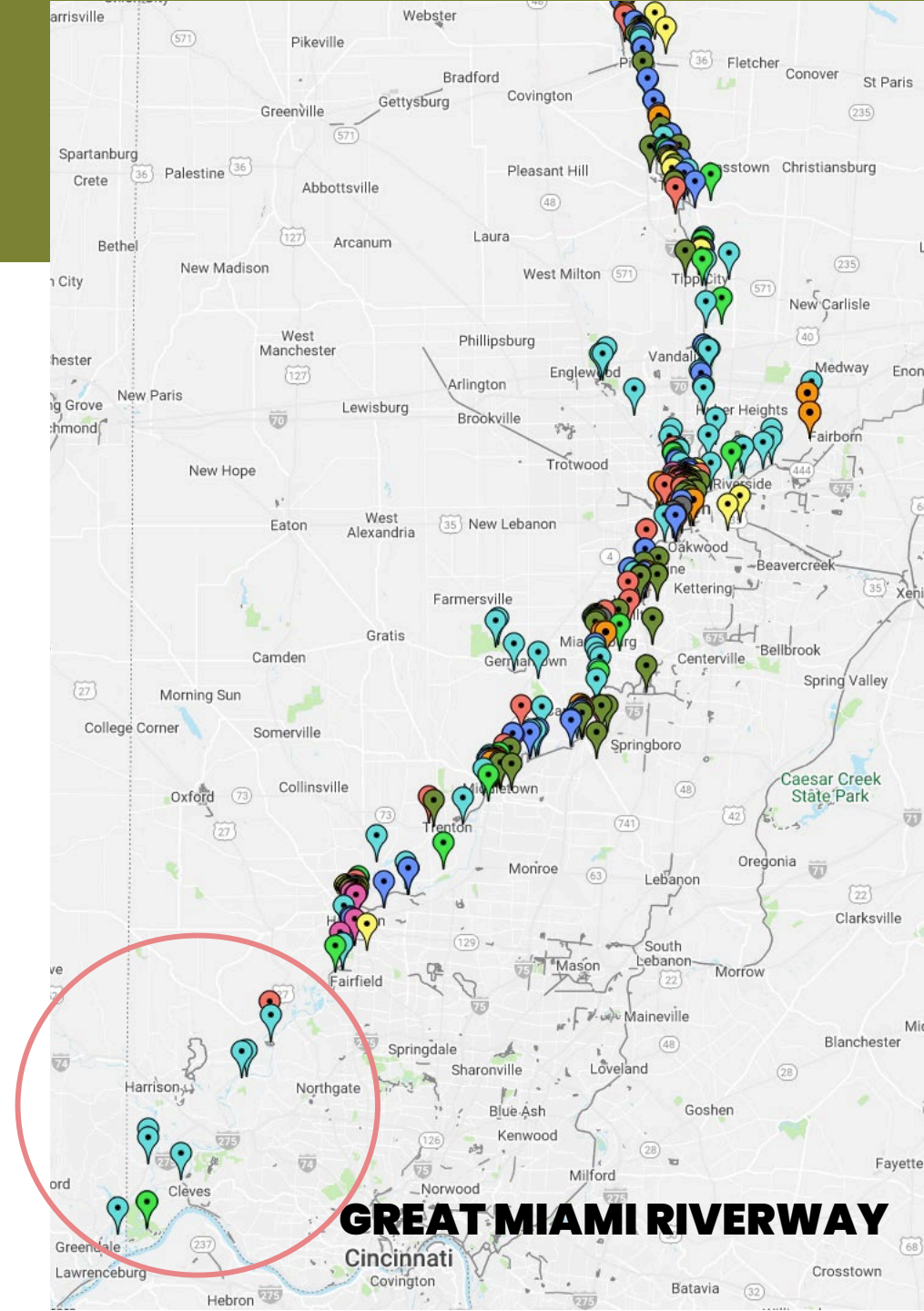
How interested would you be in combining a trip on the shared-use trail with one or more of the following activities?

| | Very interested | Somewhat interested | Not sure | Not very interested | Not interested at all |
|---|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Exploring nearby natural points of interest and/or historic sites | 62% Very interested | 35% Somewhat interested | 1% Not sure | 1% Not very interested | 1% Not interested at all |
| Exploring nearby communities | 41% Very interested | 41% Somewhat interested | 10% Not sure | 6% Not very interested | 1% Not interested at all |
| Visiting a restaurant/entertainment venue | 52% Very interested | 35% Somewhat interested | 9% Not sure | 2% Not very interested | 2% Not interested at all |
| Hiking | 61% Very interested | 31% Somewhat interested | 5% Not sure | 2% Not very interested | - Not interested at all |
| Walking | 62% Very interested | 30% Somewhat interested | 6% Not sure | 2% Not very interested | - Not interested at all |



NEW SHARED-USE TRAIL

- ✦ Will travel along the **Great Miami River corridor**
- ✦ Will **extend the Great Miami Riverway** through Hamilton County to the Ohio River
- ✦ Alignment alternatives will:
 - Allow users to enjoy changing landscapes
 - Maximize accessibility for all ages and abilities
 - Create new connections between parks, surrounding communities and other trails (existing and planned)
- ✦ **Trail development needs partnerships** with local communities



GREAT MIAMI RIVER CORRIDOR



GREAT MIAMI RIVER CORRIDOR



GREAT MIAMI RIVER CORRIDOR



ASSET PRIORITIES

Sporting Venues

- 8. Fairfield Sportsmen's Association
- 9. Lincoln Lee Fields
- 12. River City Sports Complex
- 15. Mid America Ball Yard
- 20. MVP SportsPark
- 24. Robin's Nest Golf Course
- 25. Miami Whitewater Soccer Complex
- 28. Miami View Golf Club
- 30. TFA Soccer Fields
- 31. Little Fenway Park
- 34. Edgewater Motor Sports Park
- 37. Rivers Edge Indoor Sports
- 58. Lawrenceburg Speedway

Trails

- 17. Shaker Trace Horse Trail
- 18. Badlands & Timberlakes Trails
- 36. Wood Duck & Mountain Bike Trails
- 52. Miami Fort Trail
- 53. Blue Jacket & Little Turtle Trails
- 61. Dearborn Trail

Priority Level for Trail Connection

- High
- Medium
- Low

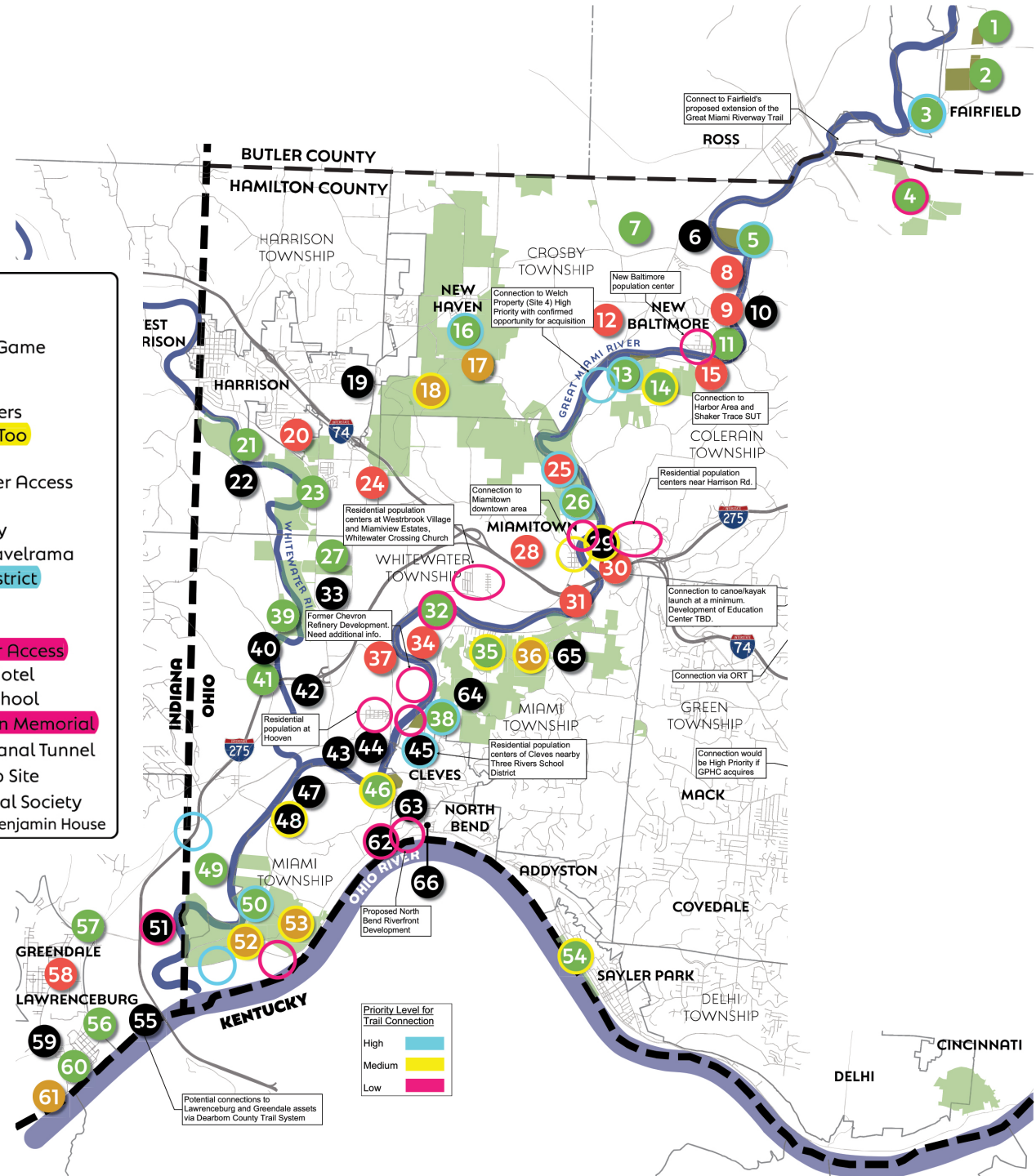
Parks

- 1. Waterworks Park
- 2. Thomas O. Marsh Park
- 3. Furfield Dog Park
- 7. Richardson Preserve
- 5. Heritage Park
- 7. Fernald Preserve
- 11. River Road Park
- 13. Dravo Park
- 14. Oak Glen Preserve
- 16. Miami Whitewater Forest
- 21. Willow Park on the Whitewater
- 23. Campbell Lakes
- 26. Simmonds Family Dog Park
- 27. Smith Tract
- 32. Edgewater Park
- 35. Mitchell Memorial Forest
- 38. Miami Township West Community Park
- 39. Kilby Tract
- 41. Riverview Park
- 46. Gulf Community Park
- 49. Shawnee Lookout Conservation Easements
- 50. Shawnee Lookout
- 54. Fernbank Park
- 56. George Street Park
- 57. Oxbow Nature Conservancy
- 60. Lawrenceburg Dog Park

Future intent for Oak Glen to be better defined

Other

- 6. Stricker's Grove
- 10. Southern Ohio Dog & Game Association
- 19. Harrison High School
- 22. Cincinnati Aeromodelers
- 29. Tippecanoe & Kayaks Too
- 33. Weber's Farm Market
- 40. Lawrenceburg Rd. River Access
- 42. Green Acres Rentals
- 43. Maple Grove Cemetery
- 44. IOK Four Wheelers Gravelrama
- 45. Three Rivers School District
- 47. Willow Run Stables
- 48. Carriage House Farm
- 51. Oxbow East Lake River Access
- 55. Hollywood Casino & Hotel
- 59. Lawrenceburg High School
- 62. William Henry Harrison Memorial
- 63. Historic Whitewater Canal Tunnel
- 64. Historic Lochry's Camp Site
- 65. Cincinnati Astronomical Society
- 66. William Henry Harrison/Benjamin House

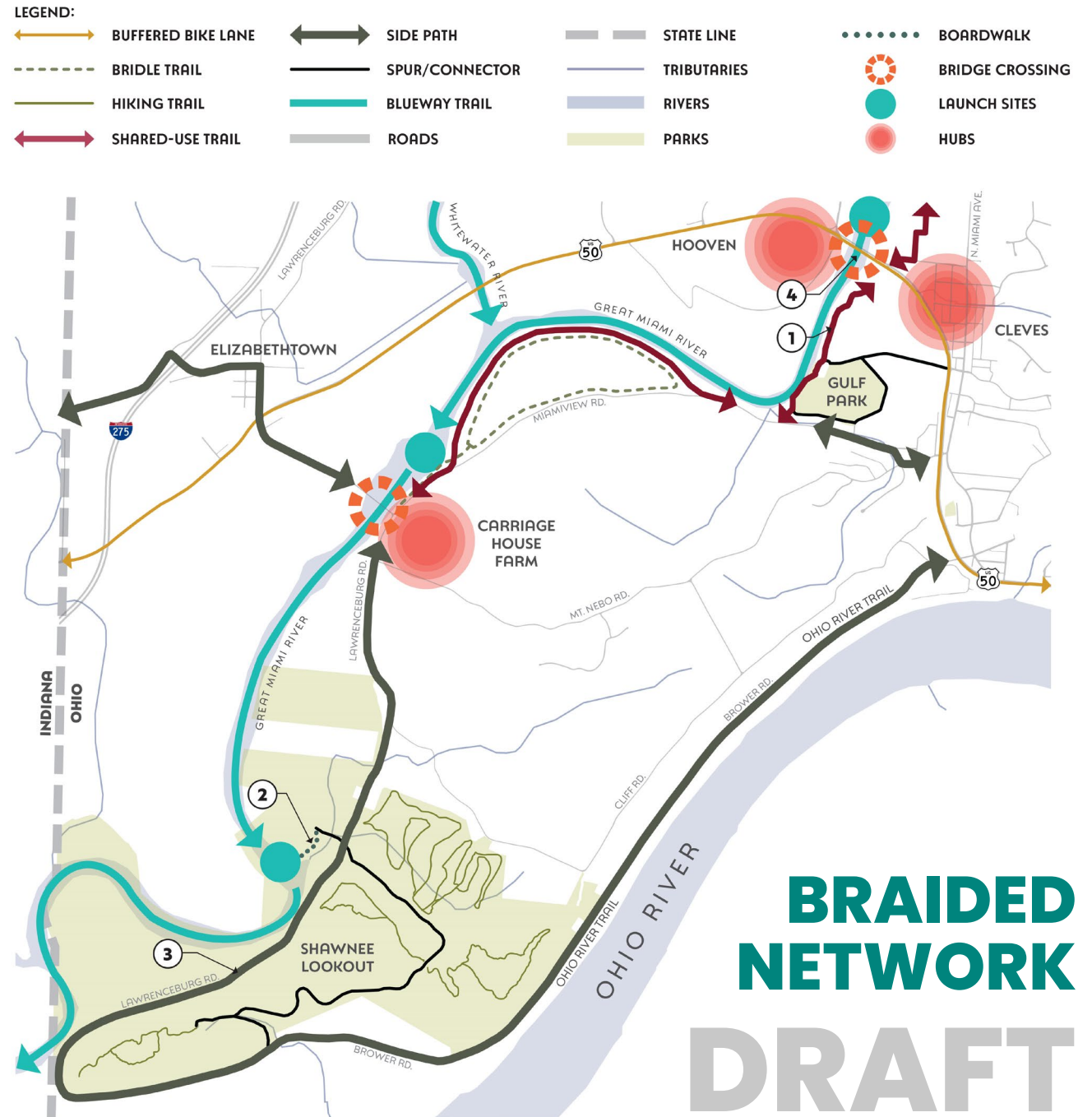


Draft Alignment

- ✦ **Spine** – Primary alignment from Butler County to Ohio River Trail, that generally follows either side of the Great Miami River

- ✦ **Spurs** – secondary connection to corridor Assets

- ✦ **Alternates** – routes to be considered for back-up connections of Spine





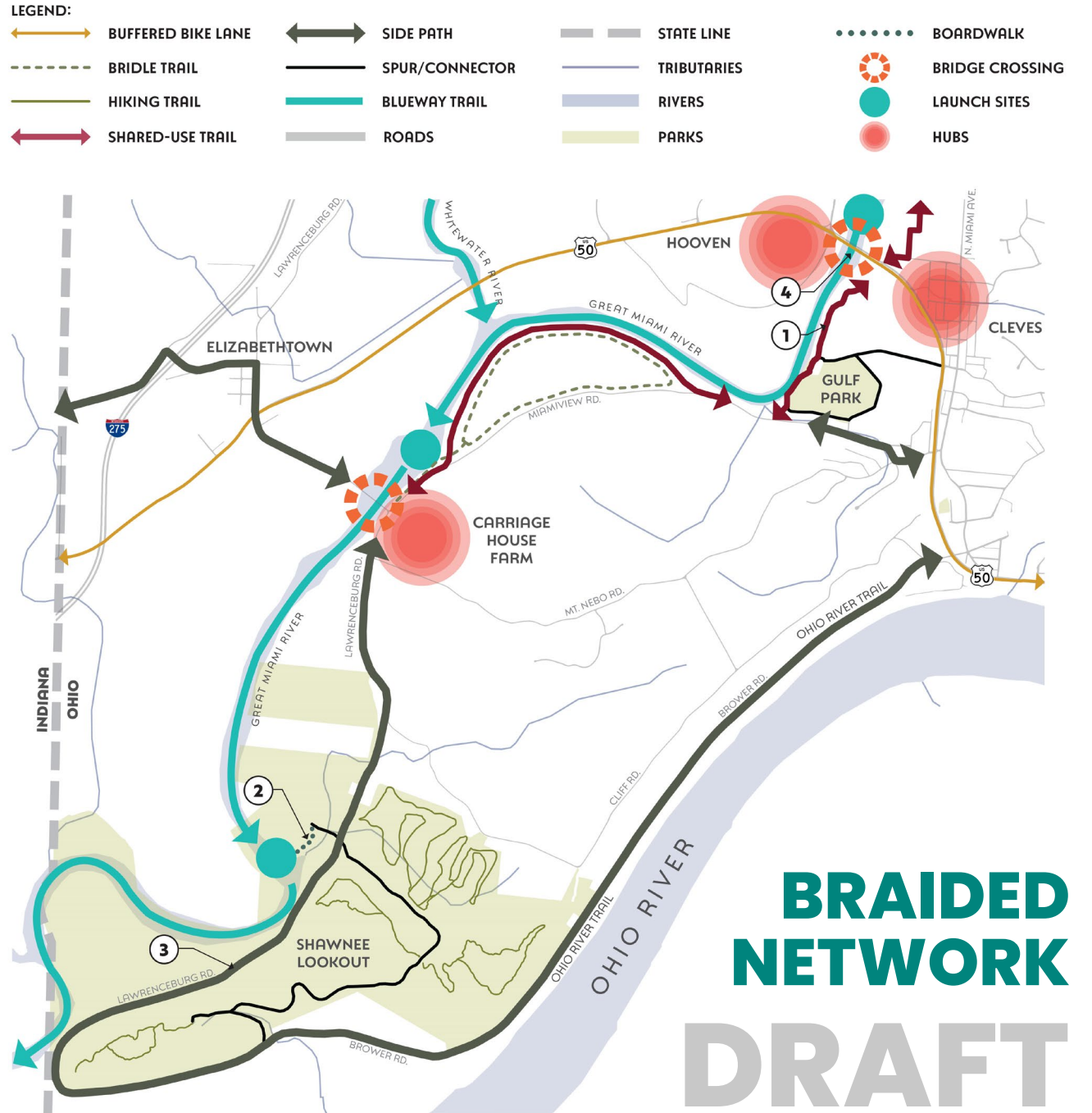
 Shared-Use Trails



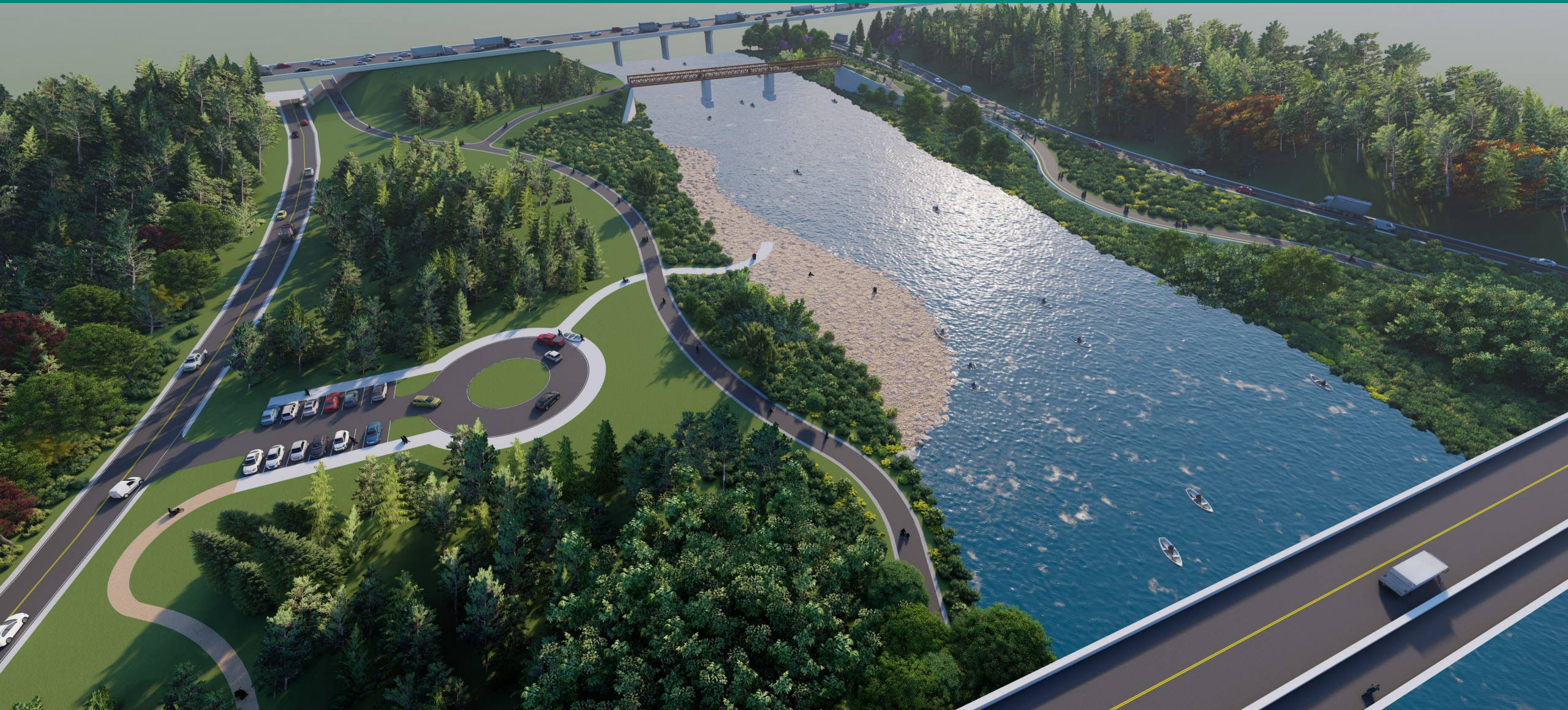
 Hiking Trails



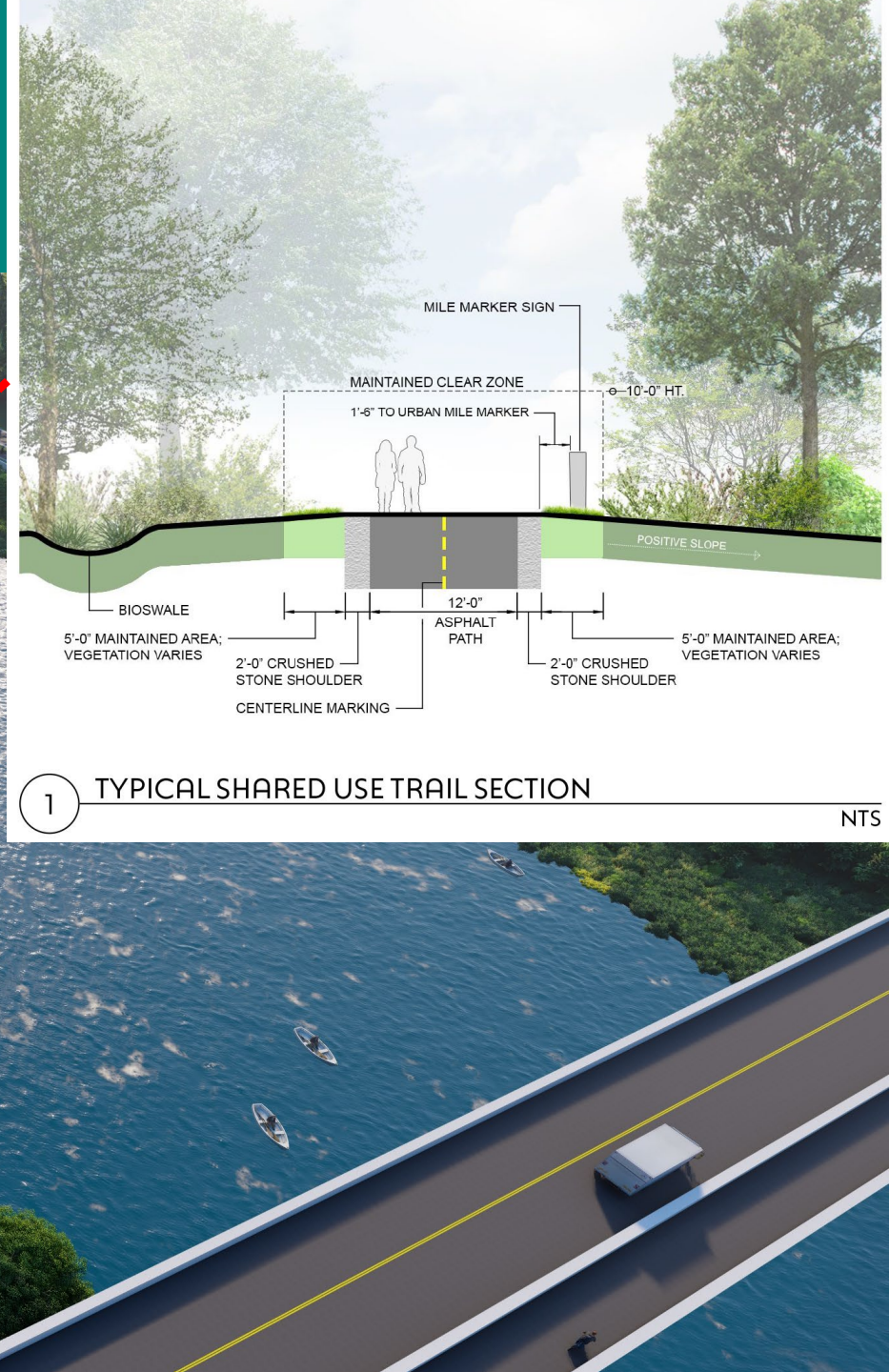
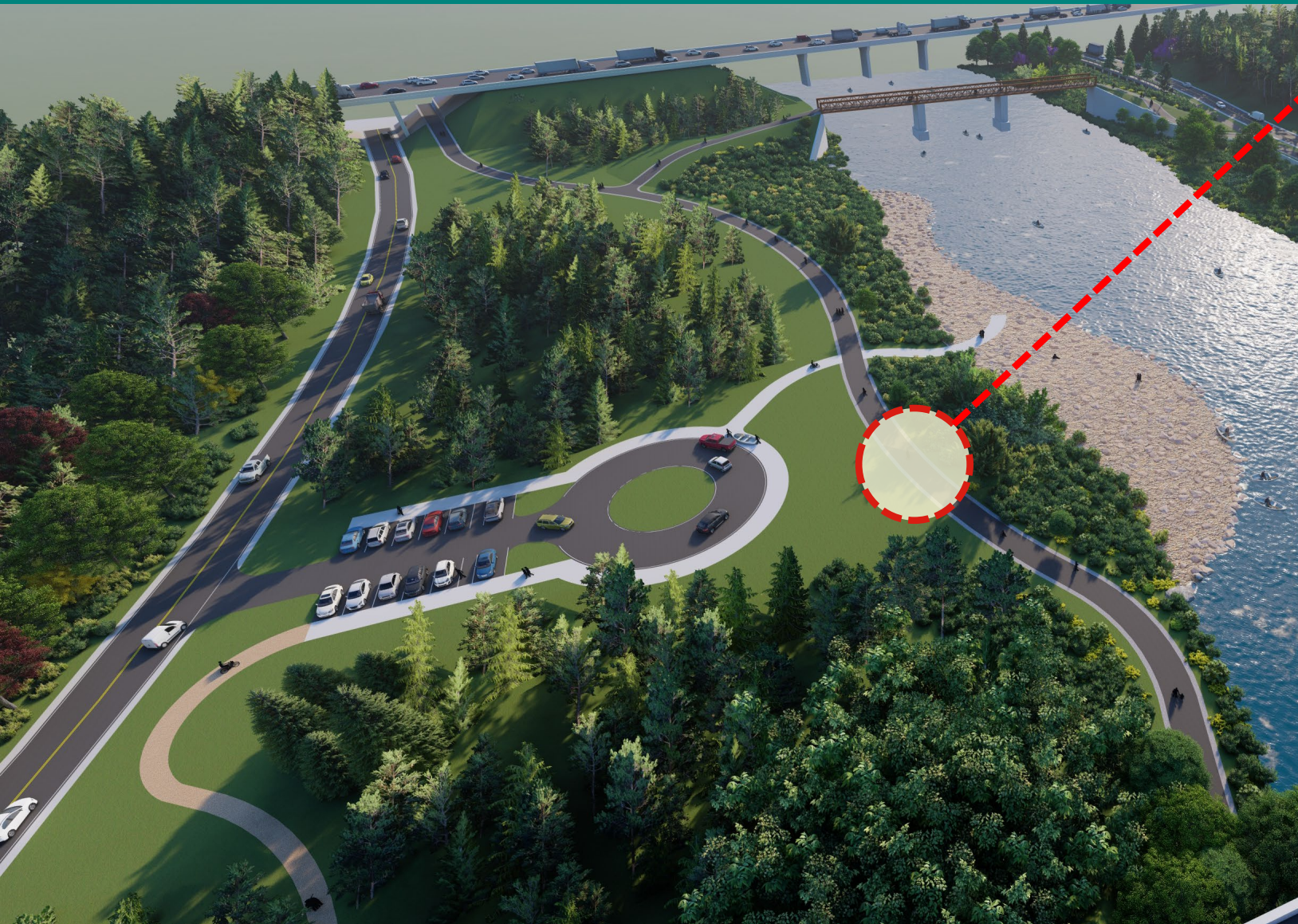
 Blueway Trail



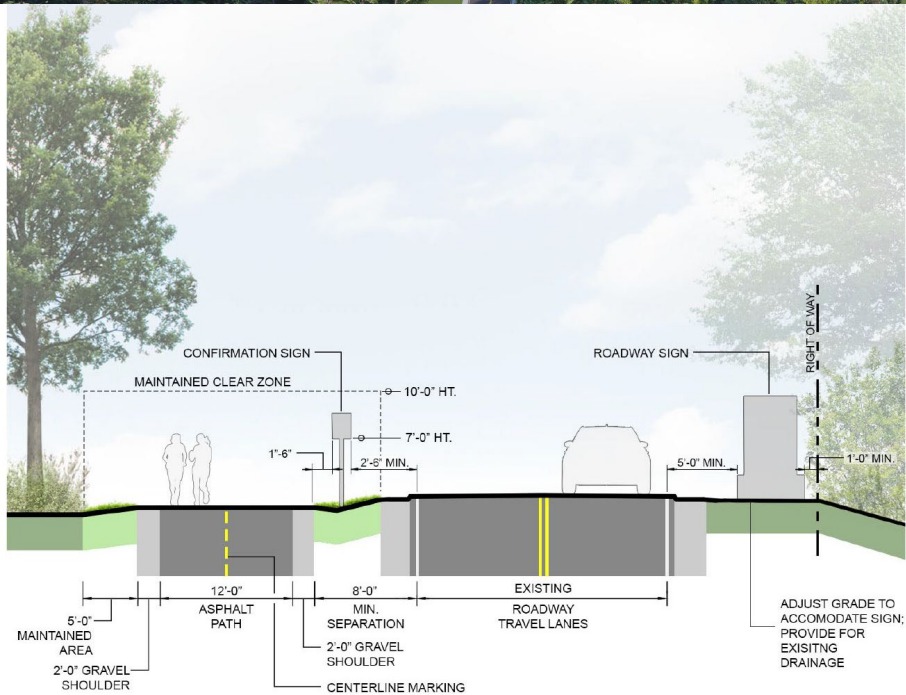
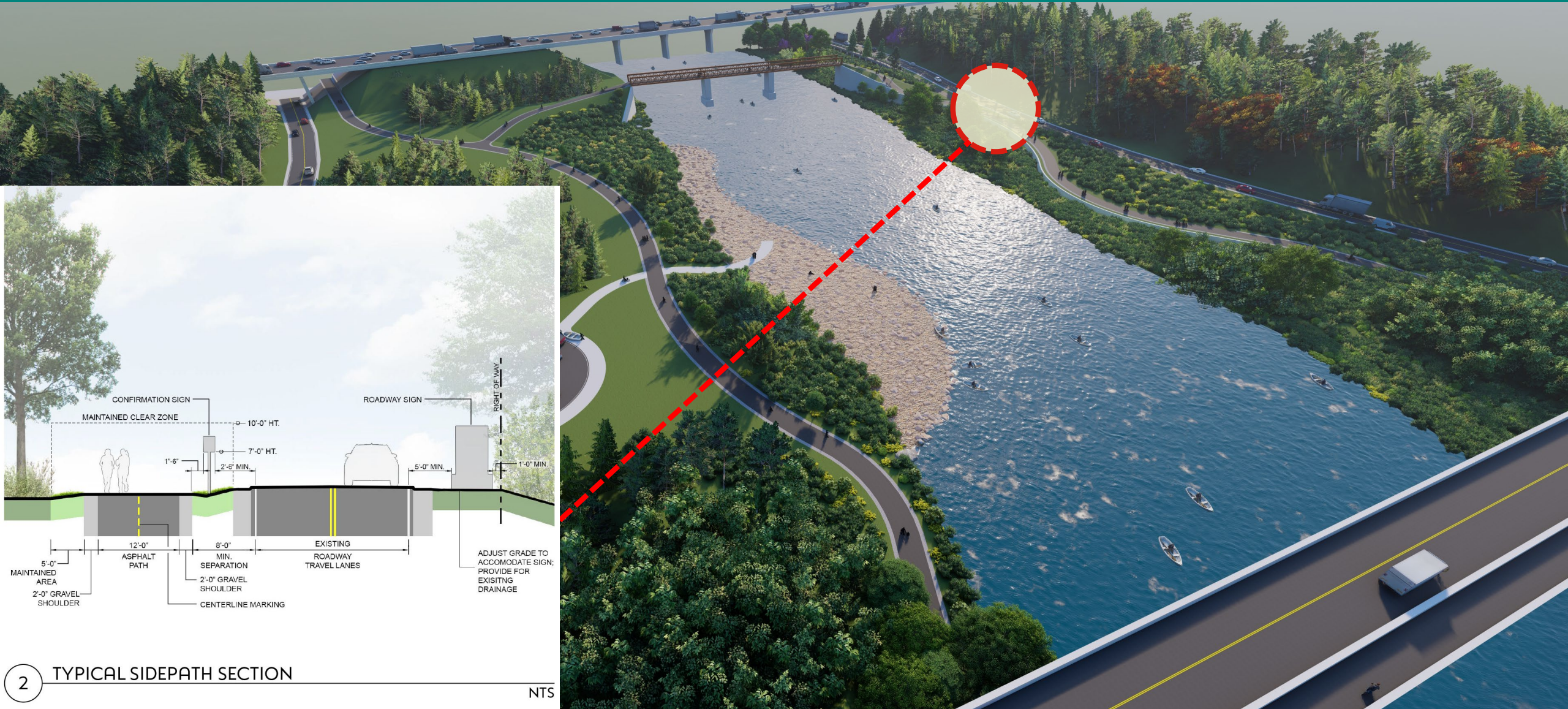
TRAIL TYPES & TYPICAL SECTIONS



TRAIL TYPES & TYPICAL SECTIONS

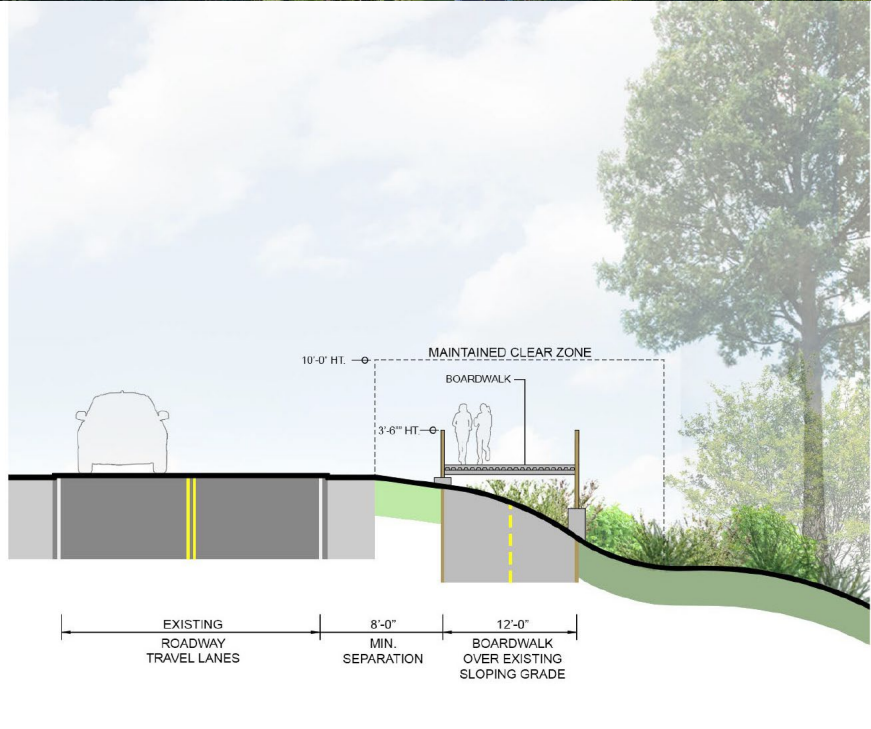
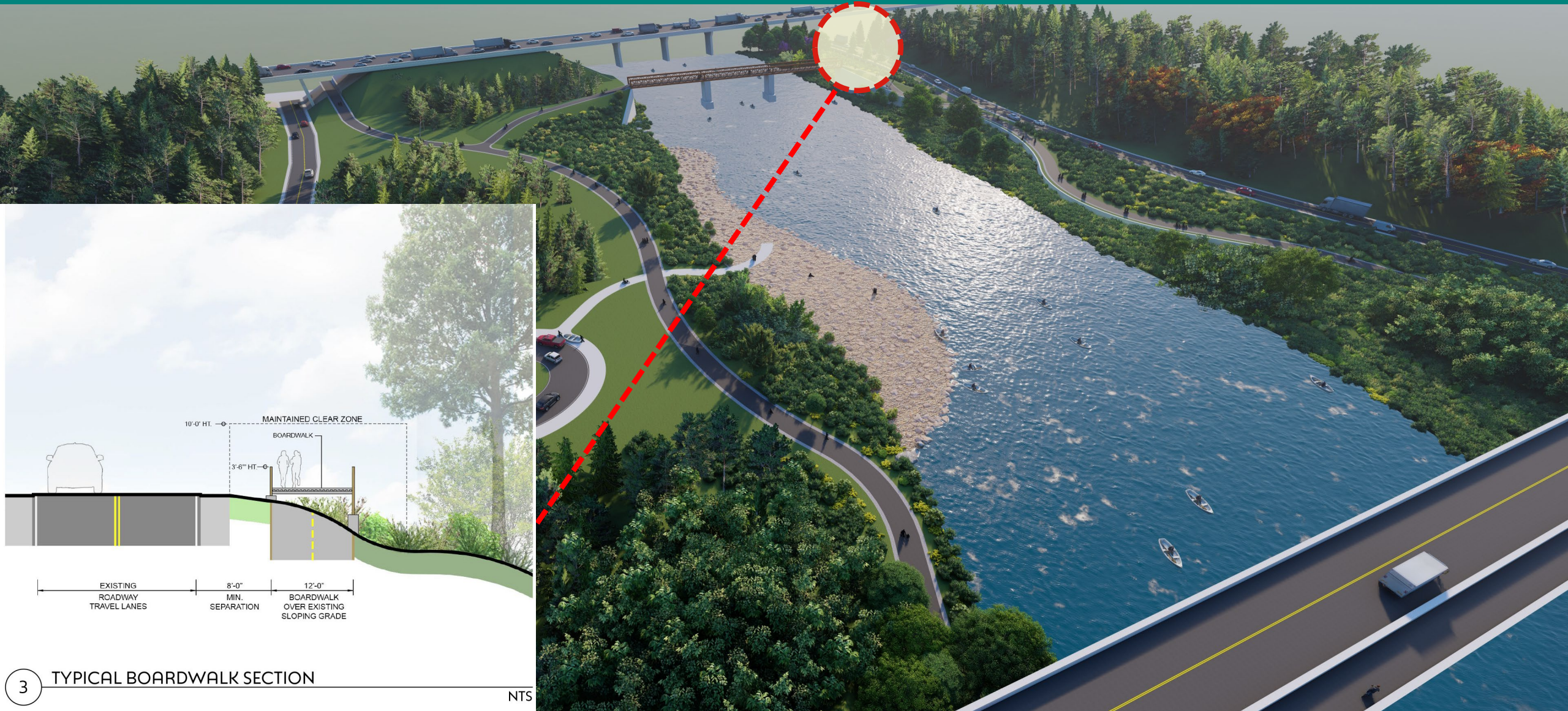


TRAIL TYPES & TYPICAL SECTIONS



2 TYPICAL SIDEPATH SECTION

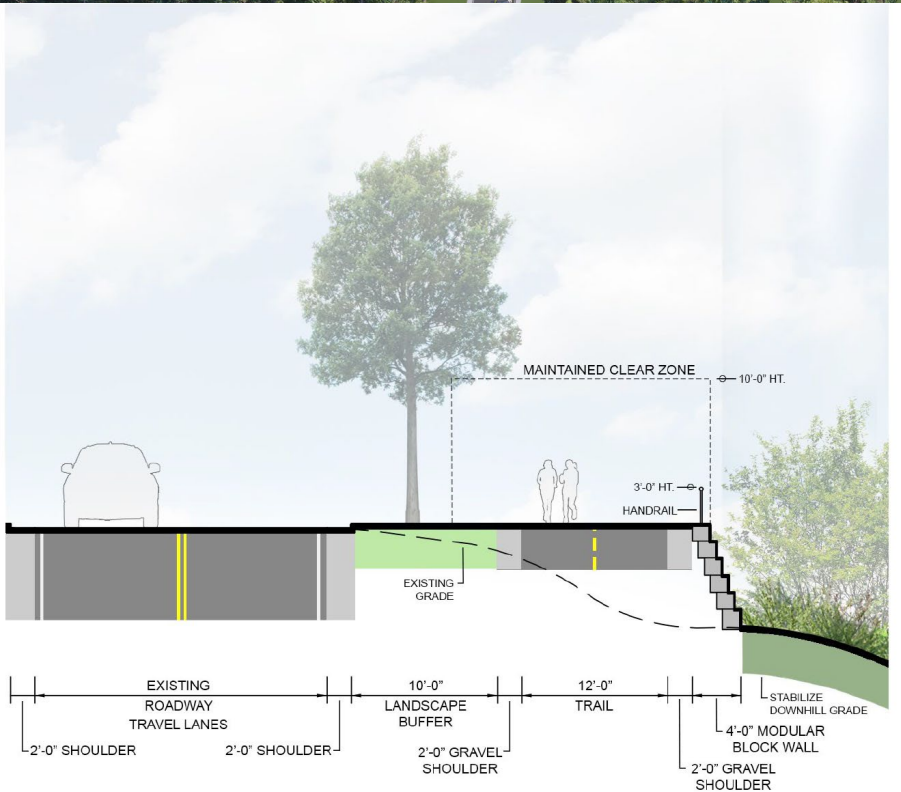
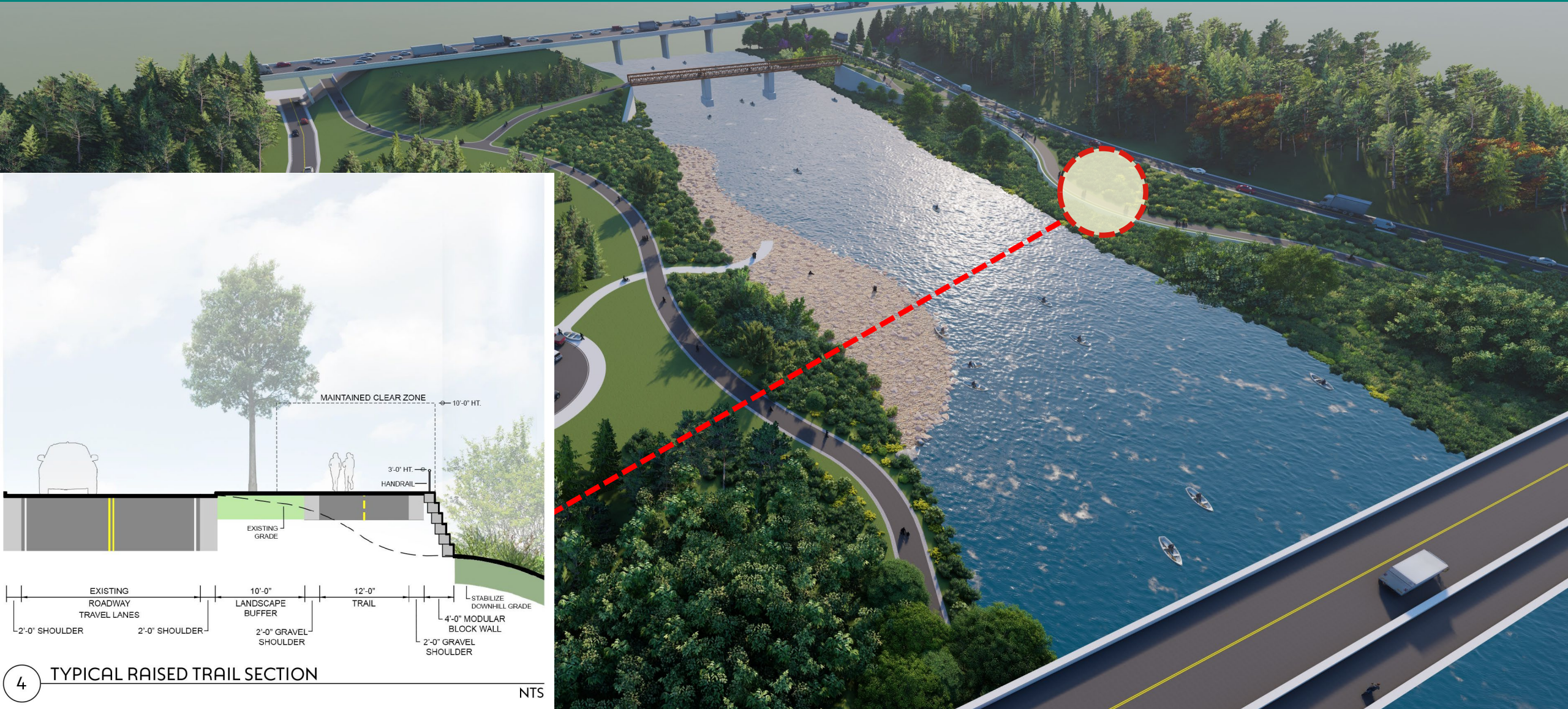
TRAIL TYPES & TYPICAL SECTIONS



3 TYPICAL BOARDWALK SECTION

NTS

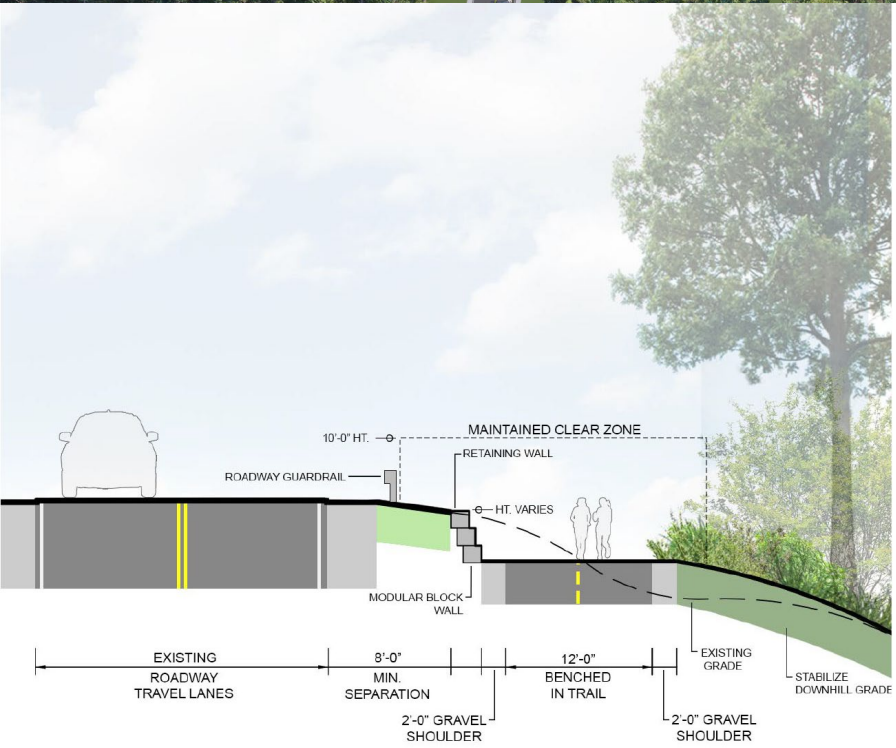
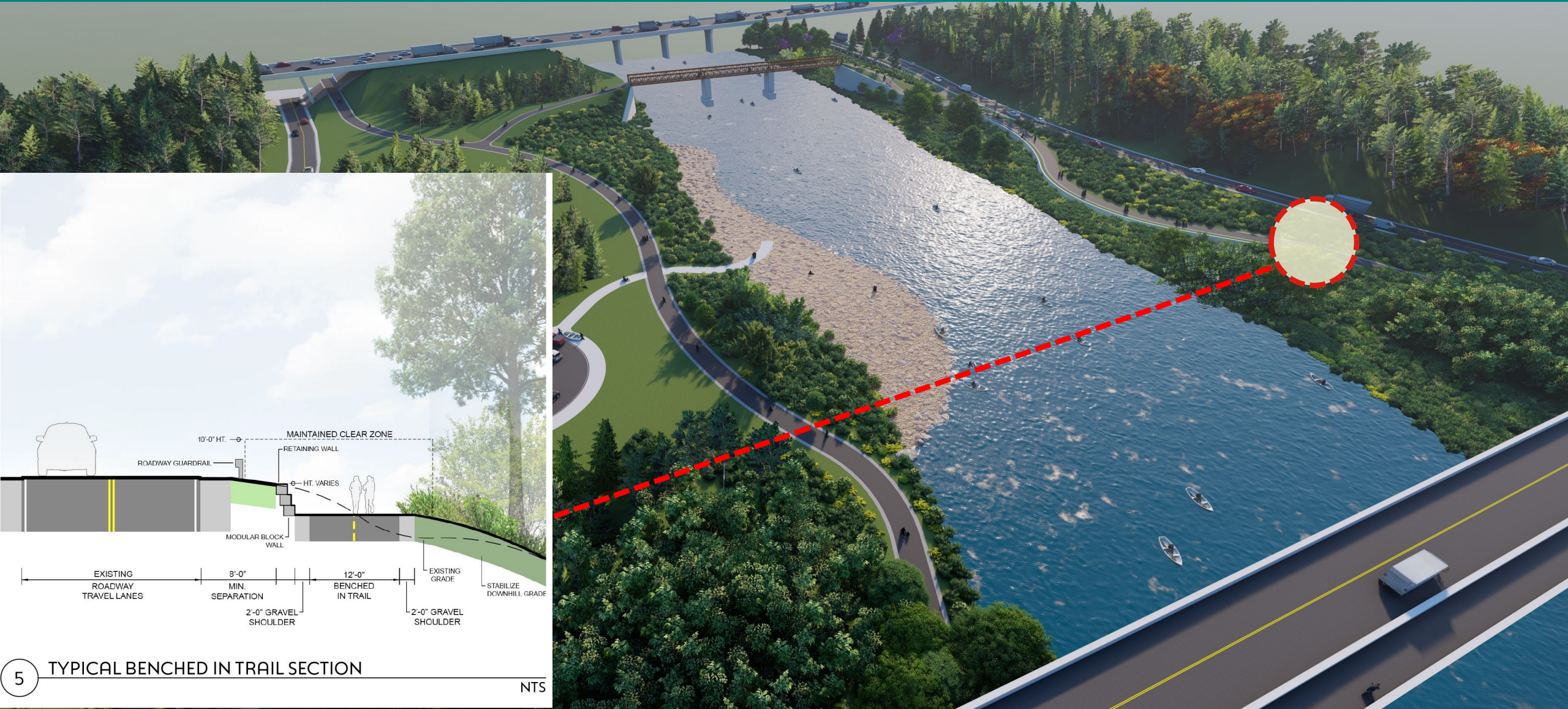
TRAIL TYPES & TYPICAL SECTIONS



4 TYPICAL RAISED TRAIL SECTION

NTS

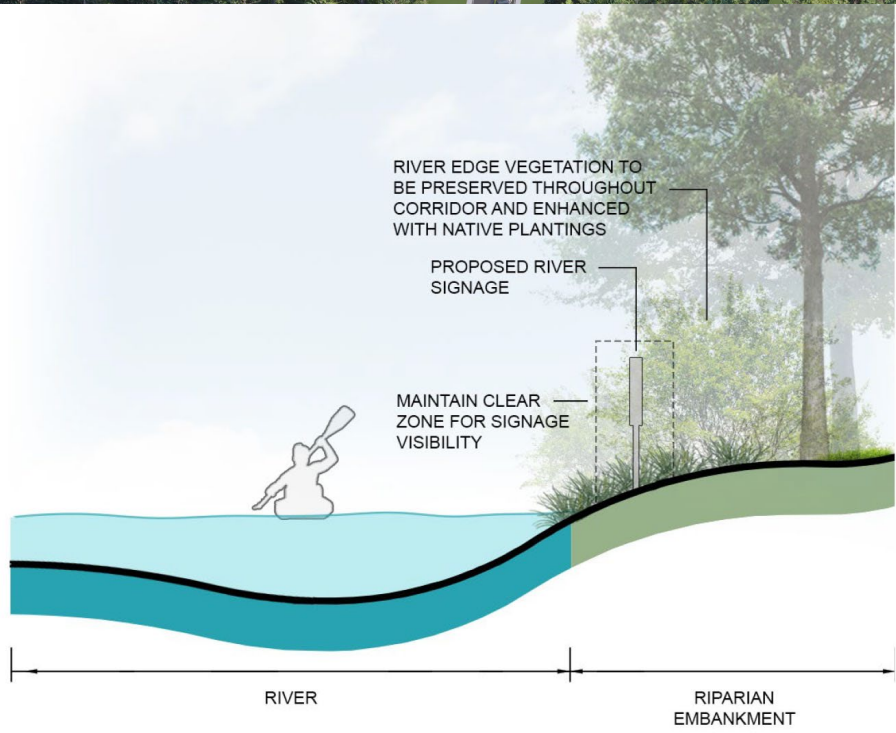
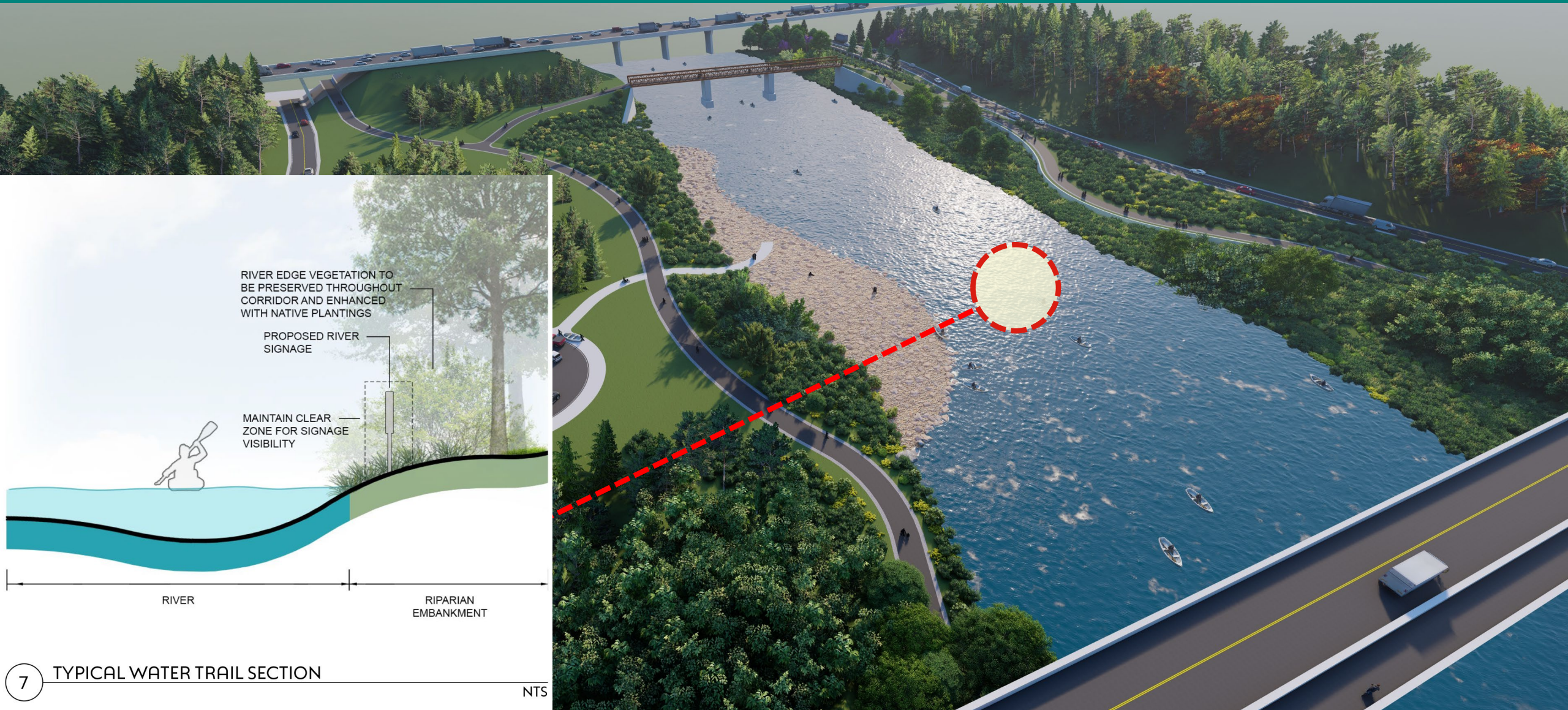
TRAIL TYPES & TYPICAL SECTIONS



5 TYPICAL BENCHED IN TRAIL SECTION

NTS

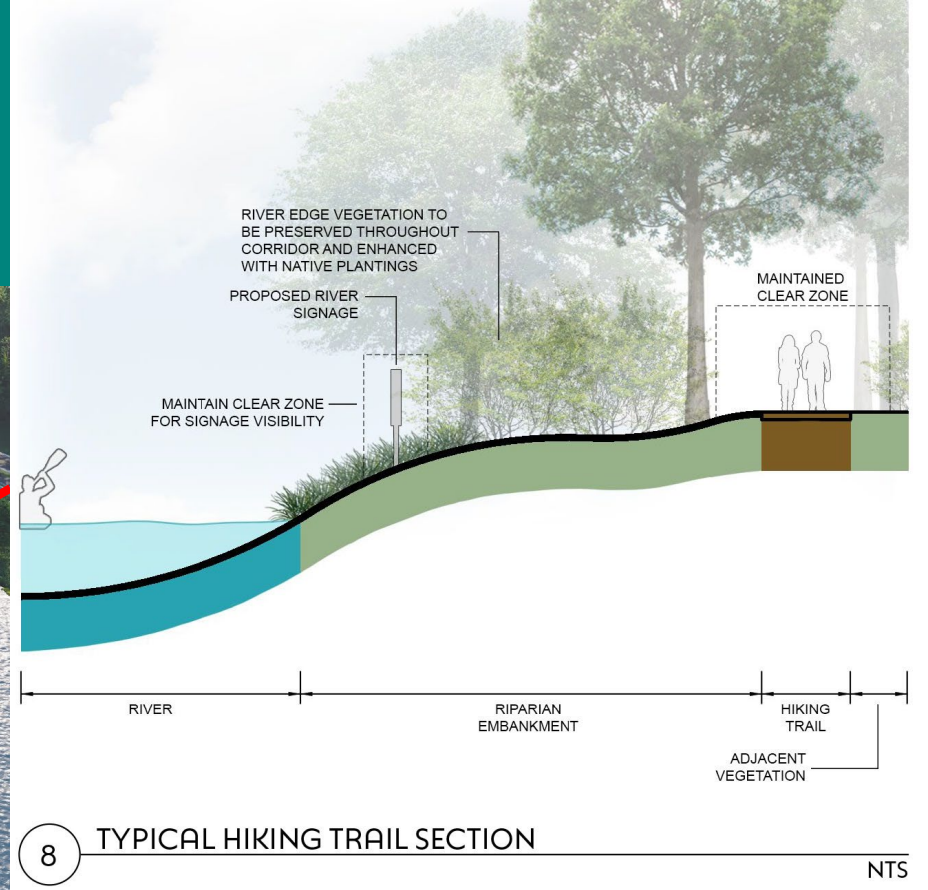
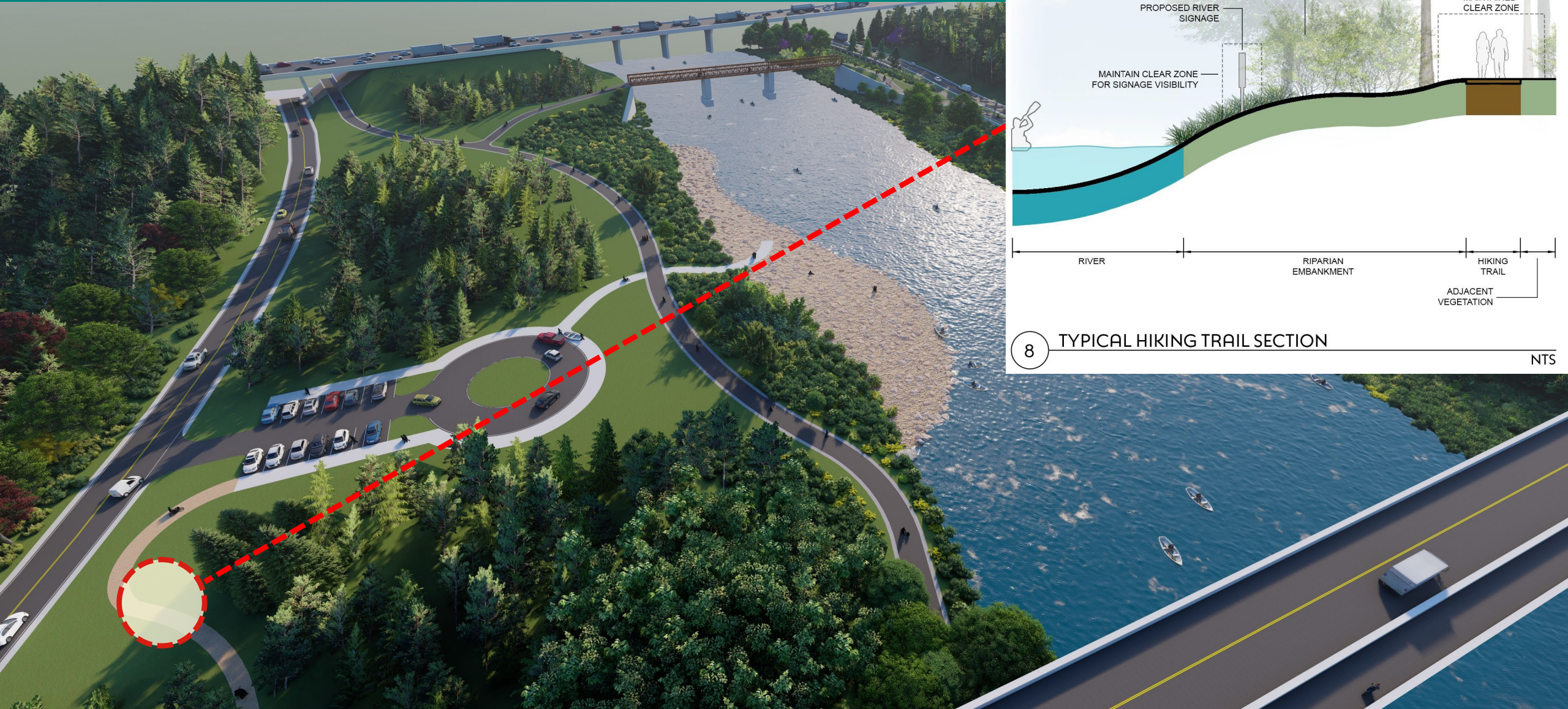
TRAIL TYPES & TYPICAL SECTIONS



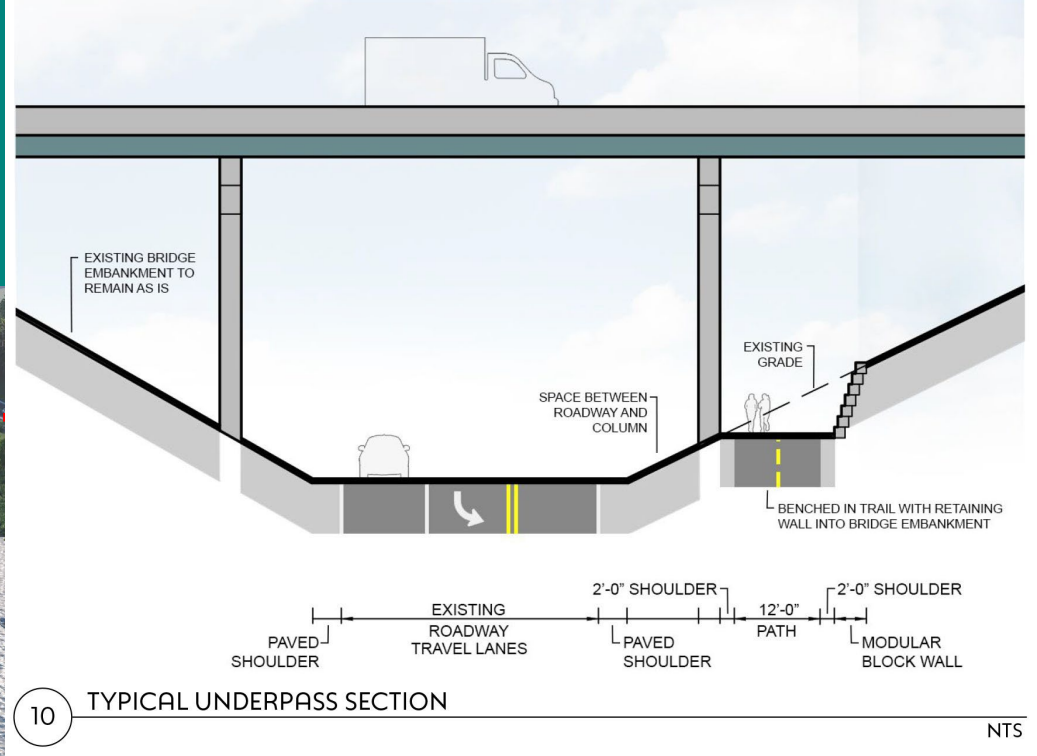
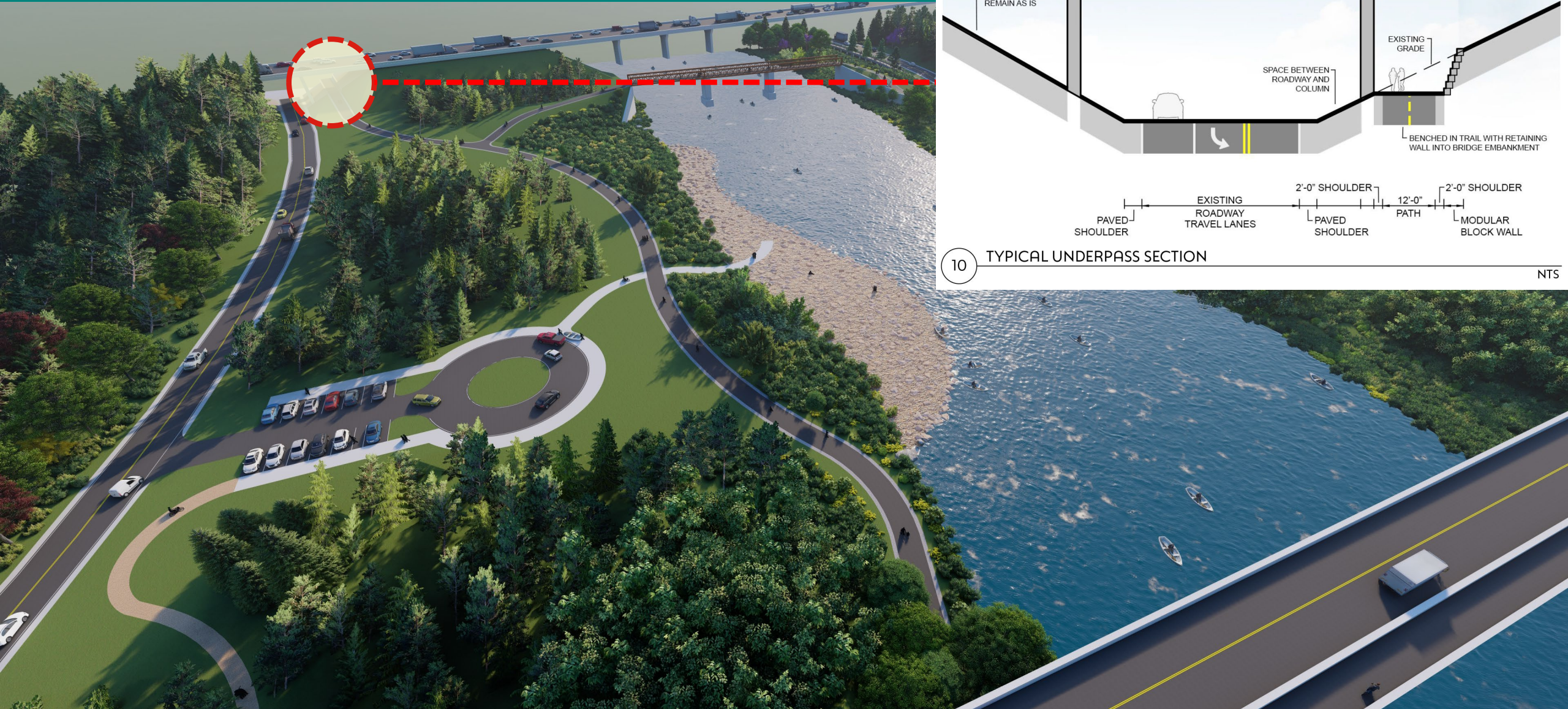
7 TYPICAL WATER TRAIL SECTION

NTS

TRAIL TYPES & TYPICAL SECTIONS



TRAIL TYPES & TYPICAL SECTIONS



BRIDGE DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS



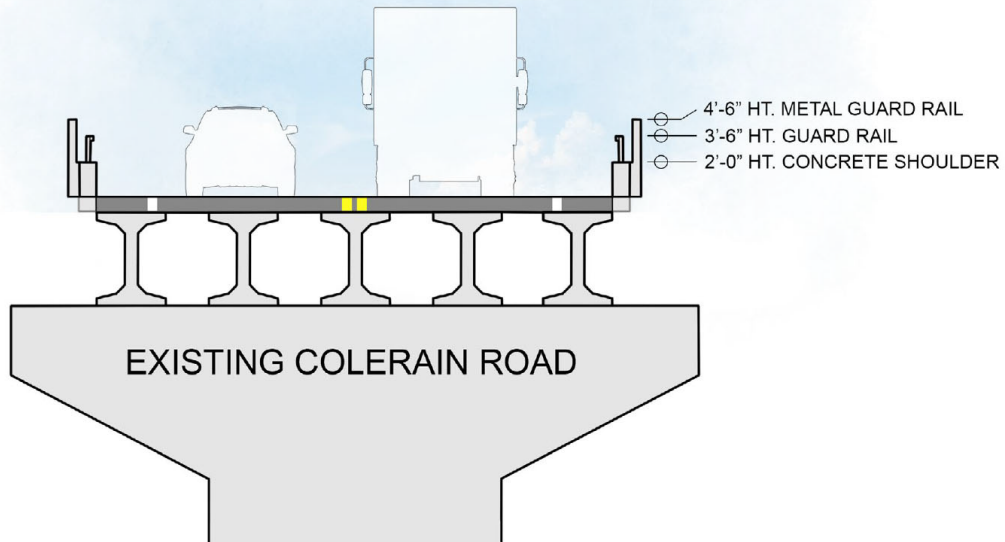
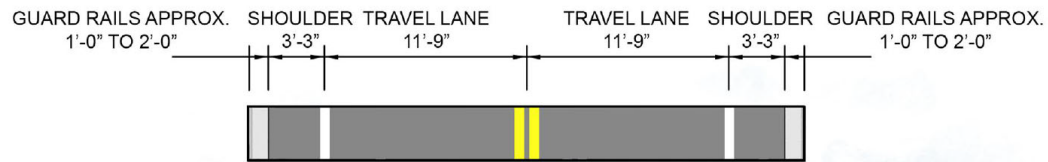
Trail with Raised Curb



Separated Trail with Railing

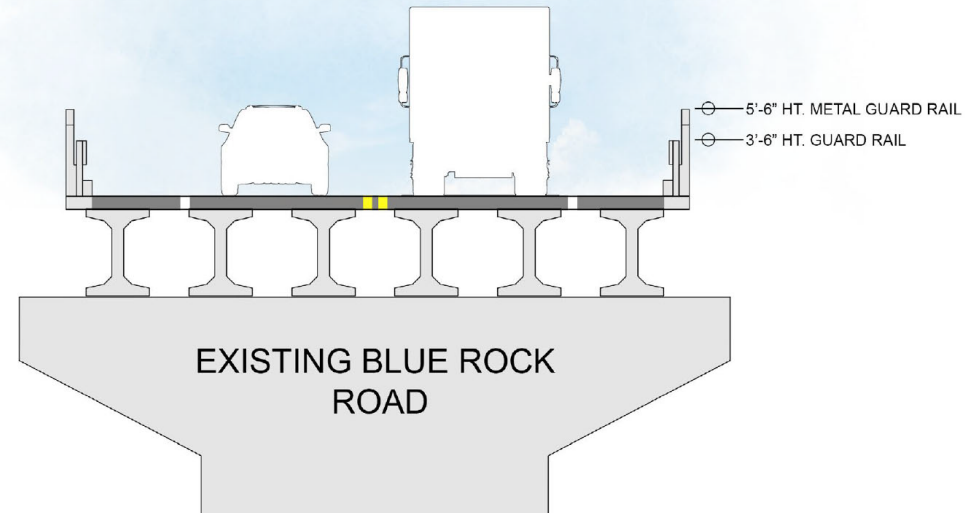
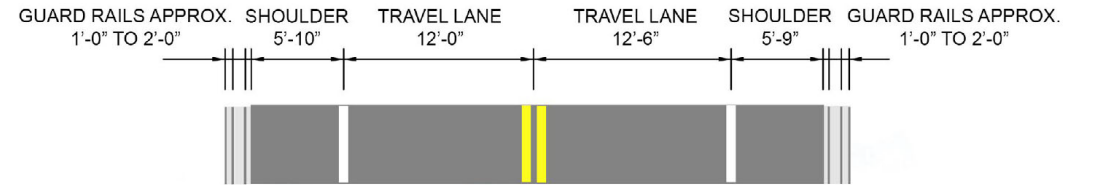


EXISTING BRIDGE SECTIONS



11 EXISTING COLERAIN ROAD BRIDGE SECTION

NTS

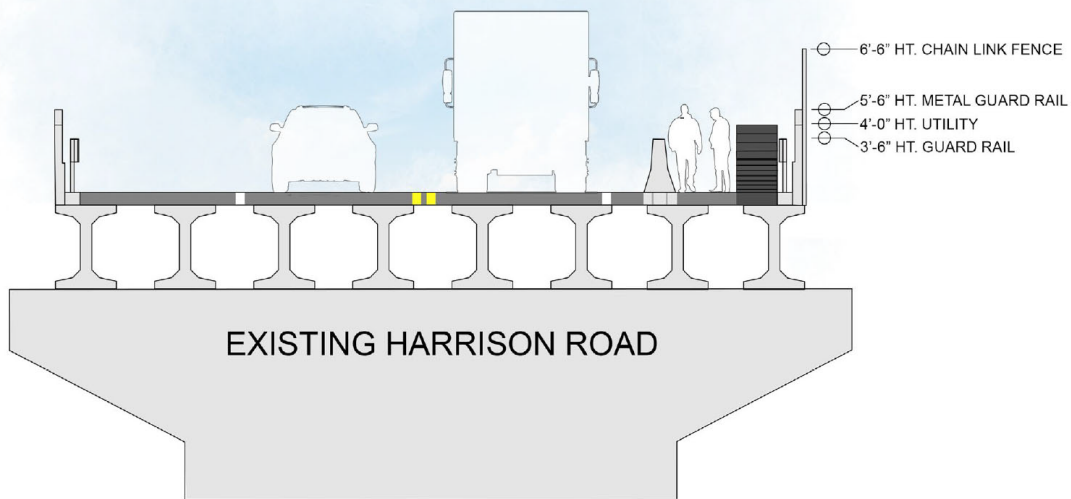
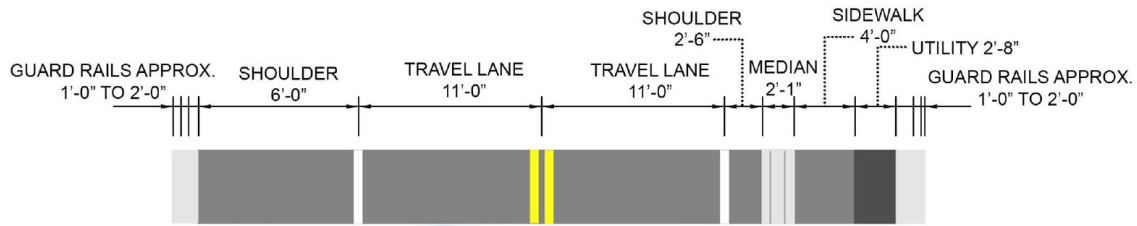


12 EXISTING BLUE ROCK ROAD BRIDGE SECTION

NTS

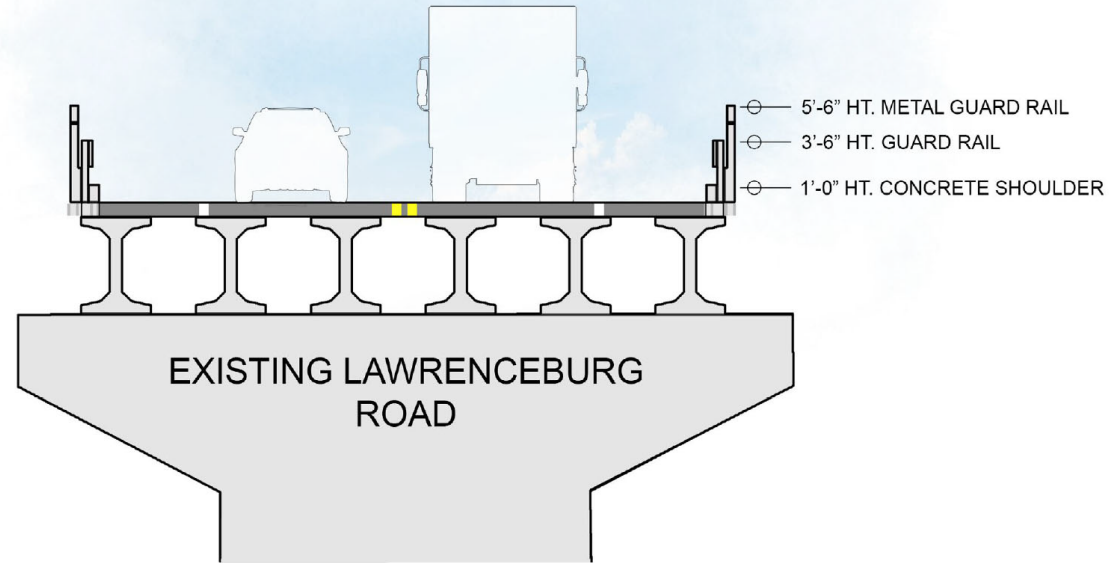
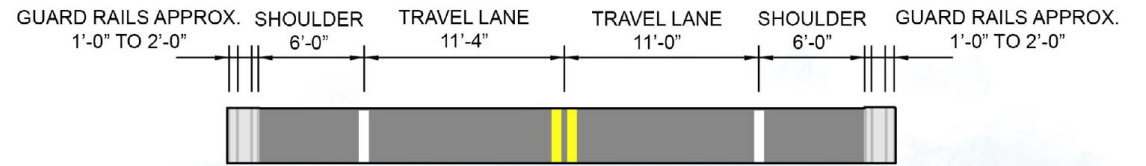


EXISTING BRIDGE SECTIONS



13 EXISTING HARRISON ROAD BRIDGE SECTION

NTS



14 EXISTING LAWRENCEBURG ROAD BRIDGE SECTION

NTS



SAFETY – INTERSECTION TREATMENTS



RECTANGULAR RAPID FLASHING BEACONS (RRFB)



HAWK SIGNAL

TRAILHEAD / ACCESS POINT STANDARDS

Asset-based approach

- Locate trailheads where users are expected to enter/exit trail (i.e., existing parks and other community assets)

Trailheads

- Formal connections to trail for vehicles, pedestrians & bicycles.
- Developed areas that offer a range of facilities to trail users (parking, restrooms, shelters, trail information)



TRAILHEAD / ACCESS POINT STANDARDS

Asset-based approach

- Locate trailheads where users are expected to enter/exit trail (i.e., existing parks and other community assets)

Access Point

- Informal connections to trail for pedestrians and bicycles (wayfinding signage, bench and map)



TRAILHEAD / ACCESS POINT STANDARDS

Asset-based approach

- Locate trailheads where users are expected to enter/exit trail (i.e., existing parks and other community assets)

Rest Areas

- Points along the trail to pull off and pause/rest (bench, drinking fountain, interpretive signage at point of interest)

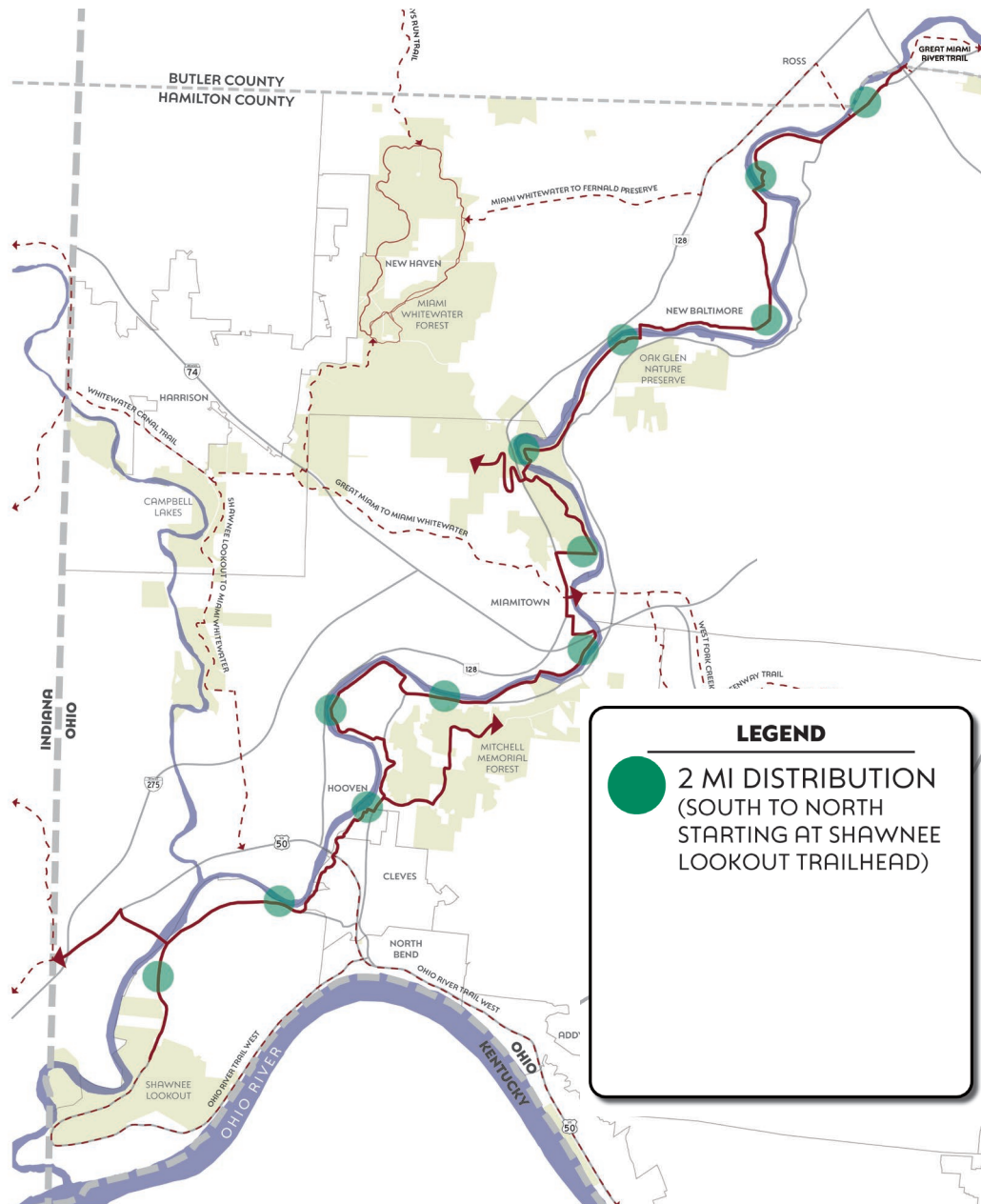


TRAILHEAD / ACCESS POINT STANDARDS

Local Distribution – no overarching approach

- 3 miles (max) – LMST outside of Milford/Loveland
- 2 miles (max) – Louisville Loop
- 2 miles in rural areas – GMRT in Sidney
- 1.5 miles (max) – Five Rivers MetroParks
- < 1 mile in urban/residential areas – GMRT in Sidney, LMST in Milford/Loveland

Federal/ODOT/OKI funded projects require “logical termini” at each end of a trail project.

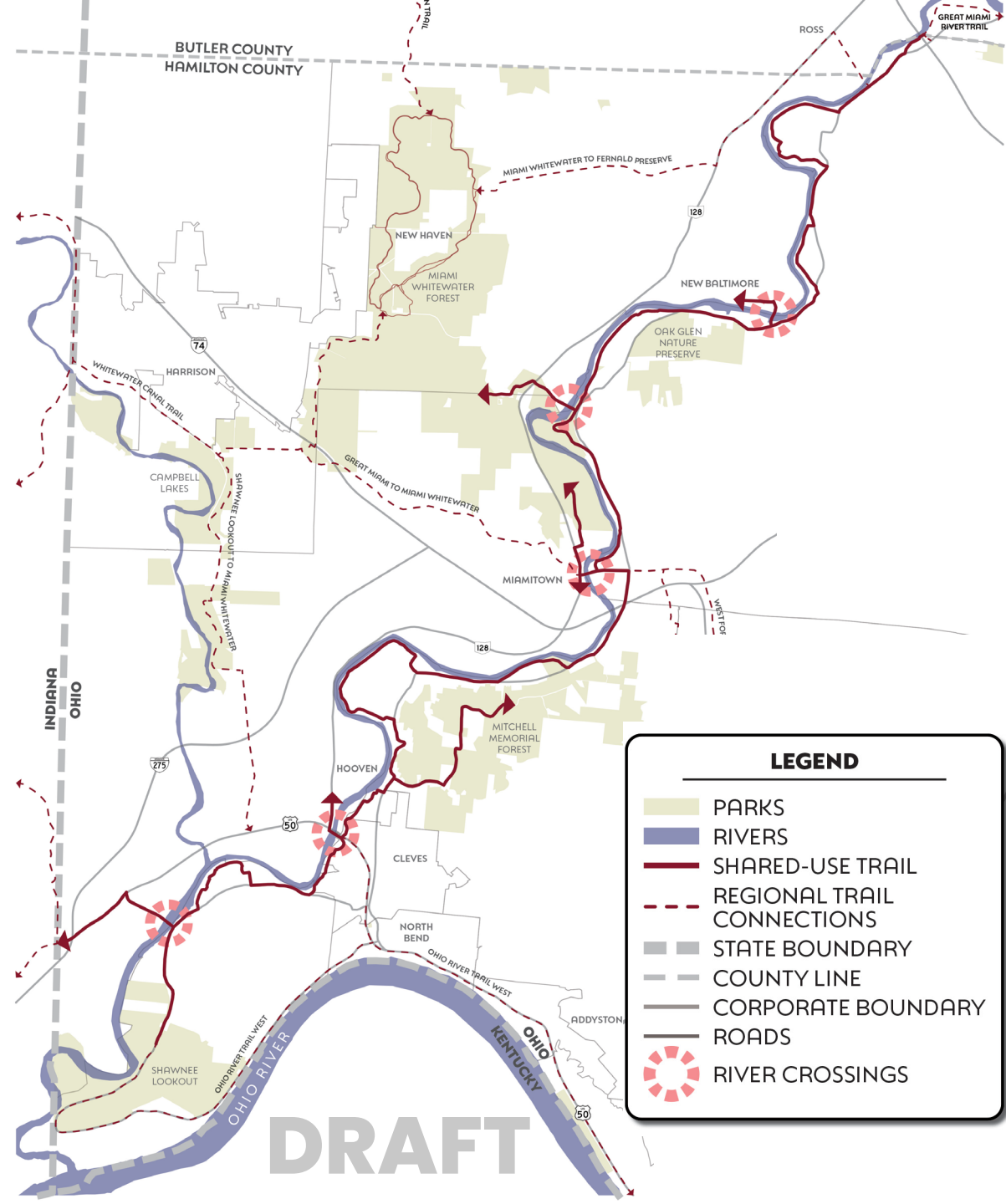


SHARED-USE TRAIL OPTIONS



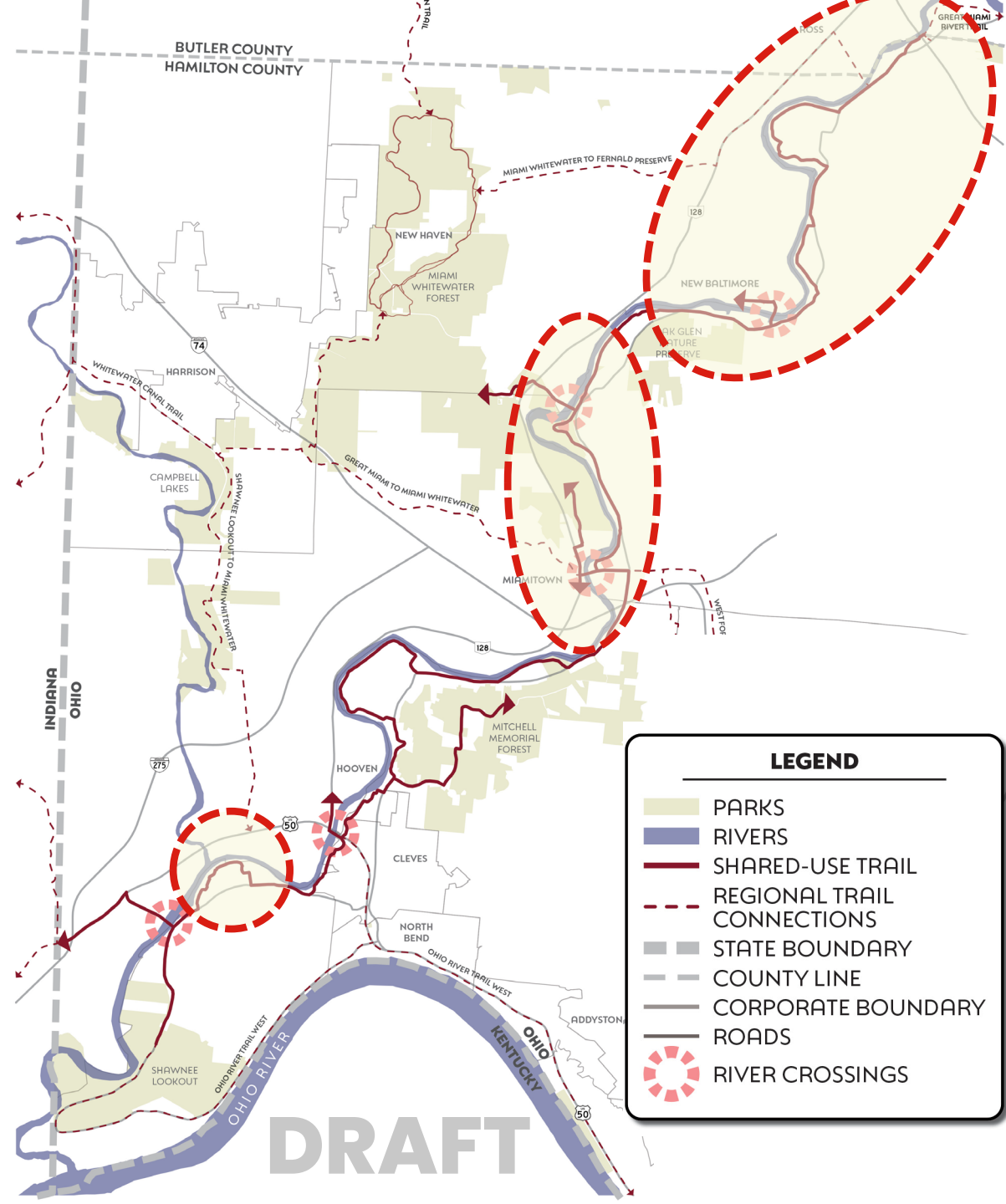
Draft Alignment

- 🌿 Mileage
- 🌿 River Crossings
- 🌿 Launch Sites
- 🌿 Parks
- 🌿 Asset connections
- 🌿 Townships /
Communities
- 🌿 Parcel acquisitions /
Easements
- 🌿 Trailheads



Draft Alignment

- 🌿 Mileage
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Communities
- 🌿 Parcel acquisitions /
Easements
- 🌿 Trailheads



DRAFT ALIGNMENT REVIEW

A photograph of a cyclist riding away on a paved path through a dense forest. The scene is captured during the "golden hour" of sunset, with a warm, orange glow filtering through the trees. The cyclist is wearing a blue jersey and dark shorts. In the distance, two other cyclists are visible on the path. The overall atmosphere is serene and scenic.