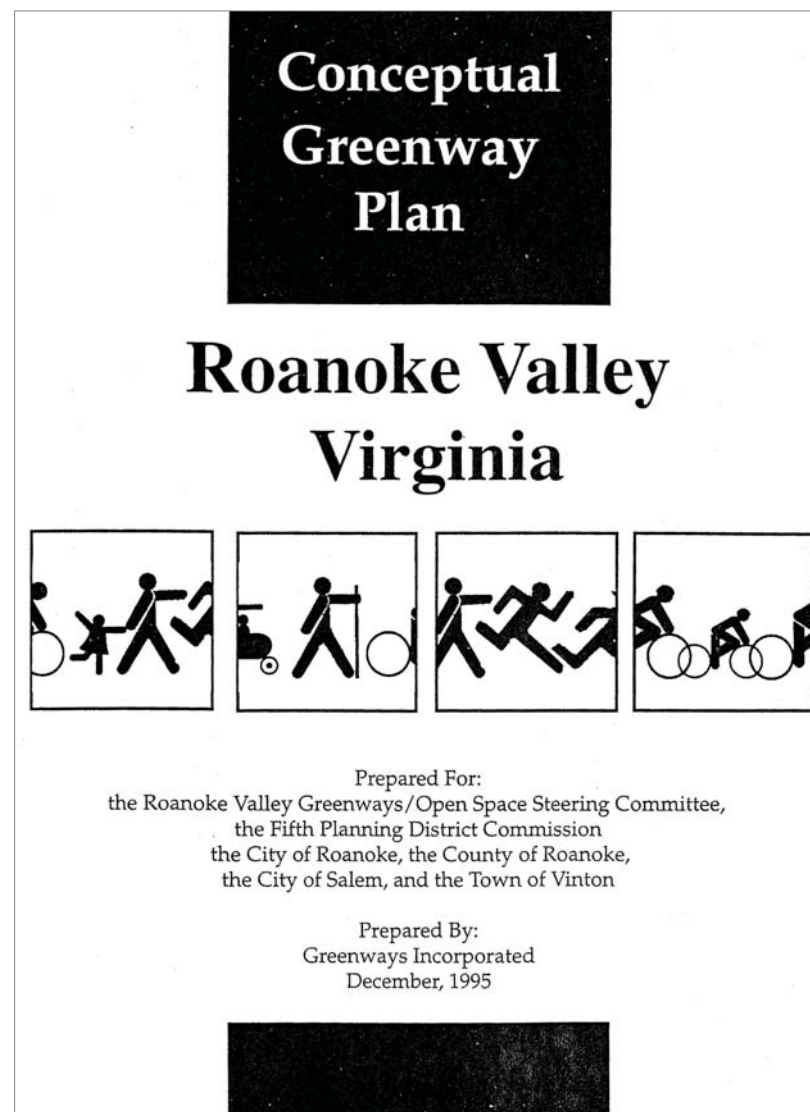


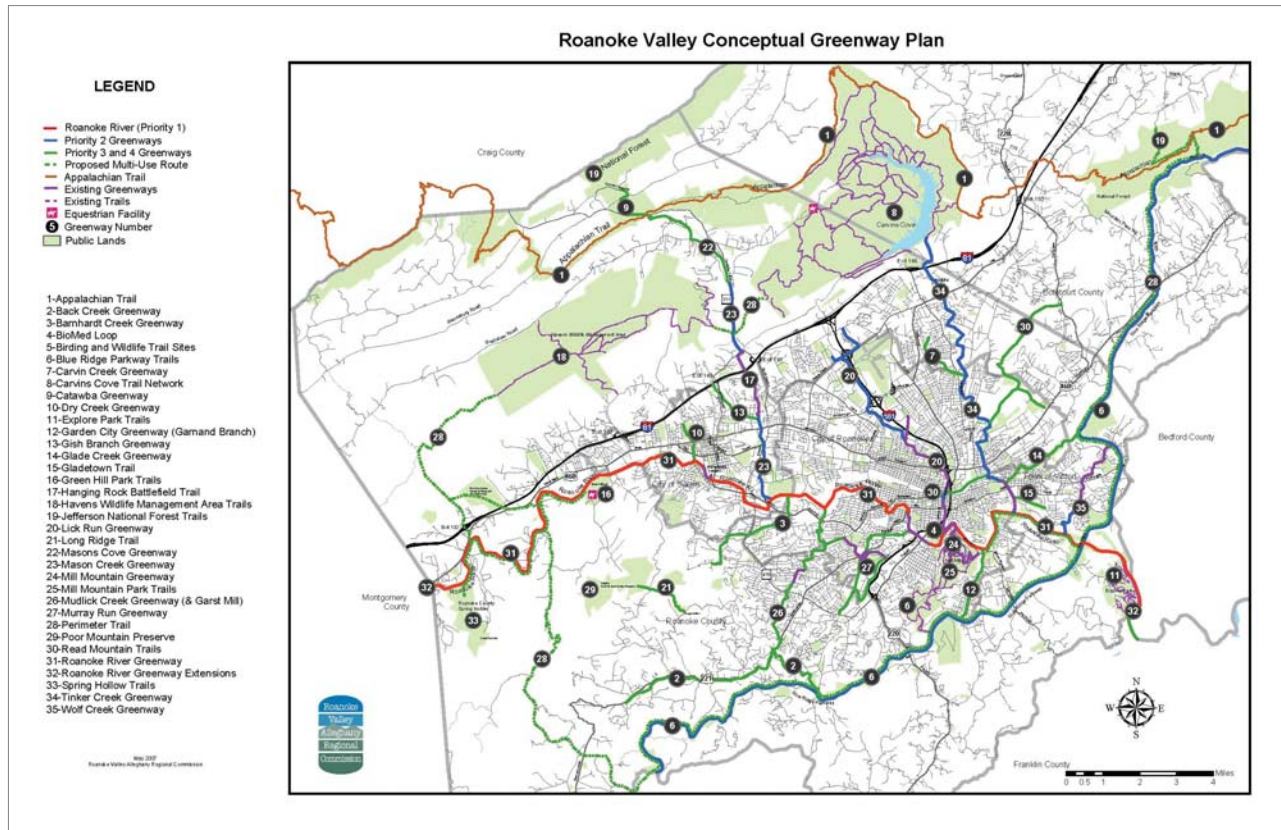
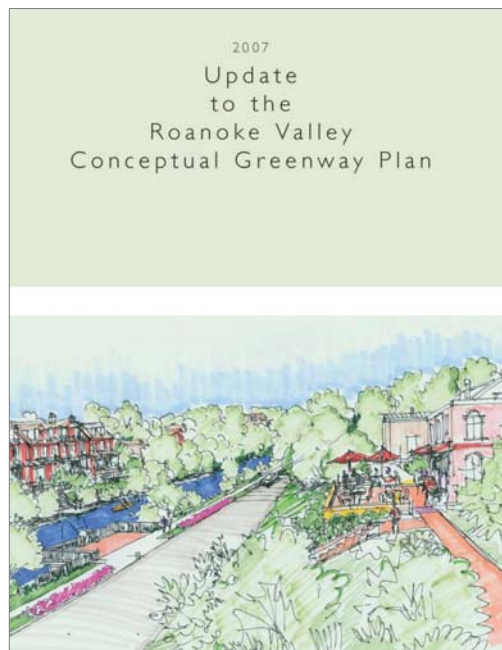
# West Roanoke River Greenway History

**1995:** The Roanoke Valley Conceptual Greenway Plan was completed which identifies the Roanoke River Greenway.



# West Roanoke River Greenway History

**2007:** The Roanoke Valley Conceptual Greenway Plan was adopted by the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission and member localities, including Roanoke County. The Roanoke River Greenway is the top priority.



# West Roanoke River Greenway History

**2007-2008:** Roanoke County constructs and opens the 0.8-mile section of the Roanoke River Greenway in Green Hill Park.





# West Roanoke River Greenway History

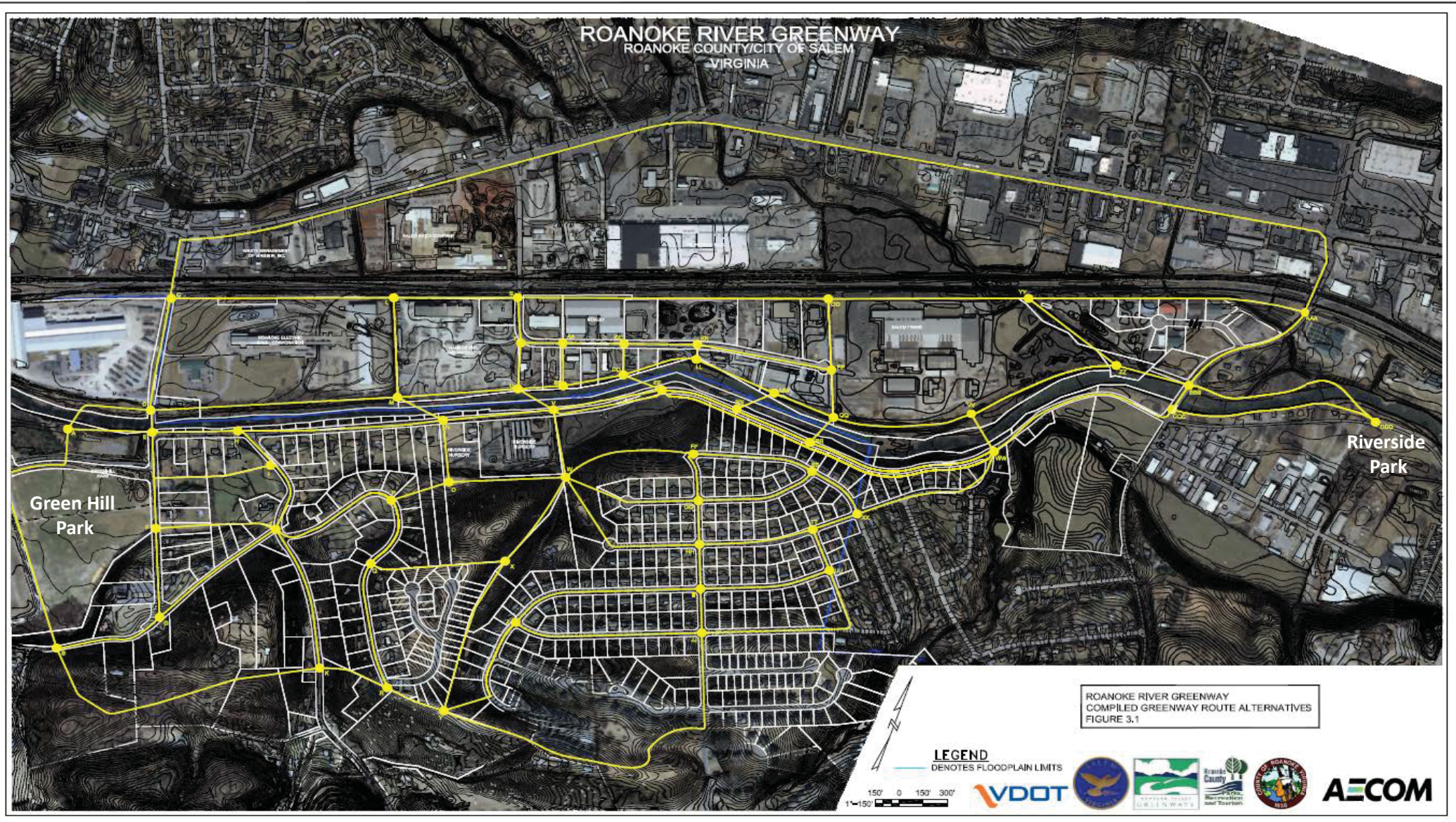
**2010:** Roanoke County awarded \$3.5 million in federal Open Container Grant funds from VDOT for design and construction of the Roanoke River Greenway between Riverside Park and Green Hill Park.

**2011:** Roanoke County hired AECOM to provide professional design and engineering services to evaluate potential greenway alternatives in the study area. A neighborhood informational meeting was held in March 2011 to solicit feedback on greenway alignments.

Residents located along West Riverside Drive between Diuguids Lane and Riverside Nursery indicated they were not supportive of the greenway on their property between the Roanoke River and West Riverside Drive.



2011-2012: Greenway alternatives were evaluated between Green Hill Park and Riverside Park.





# West Roanoke River Greenway History

**2012:** Roanoke County purchased 2244 West Riverside Drive from the Waldrop family for the Roanoke River Greenway. This property is currently being used for construction staging and will be the site of a new trailhead parking lot when Phase 1 construction is complete.



# West Roanoke River Greenway History

**2013:** AECOM finalized a Technical Report in June 2013 with a recommended greenway alignment with two bridges across the Roanoke River.

7

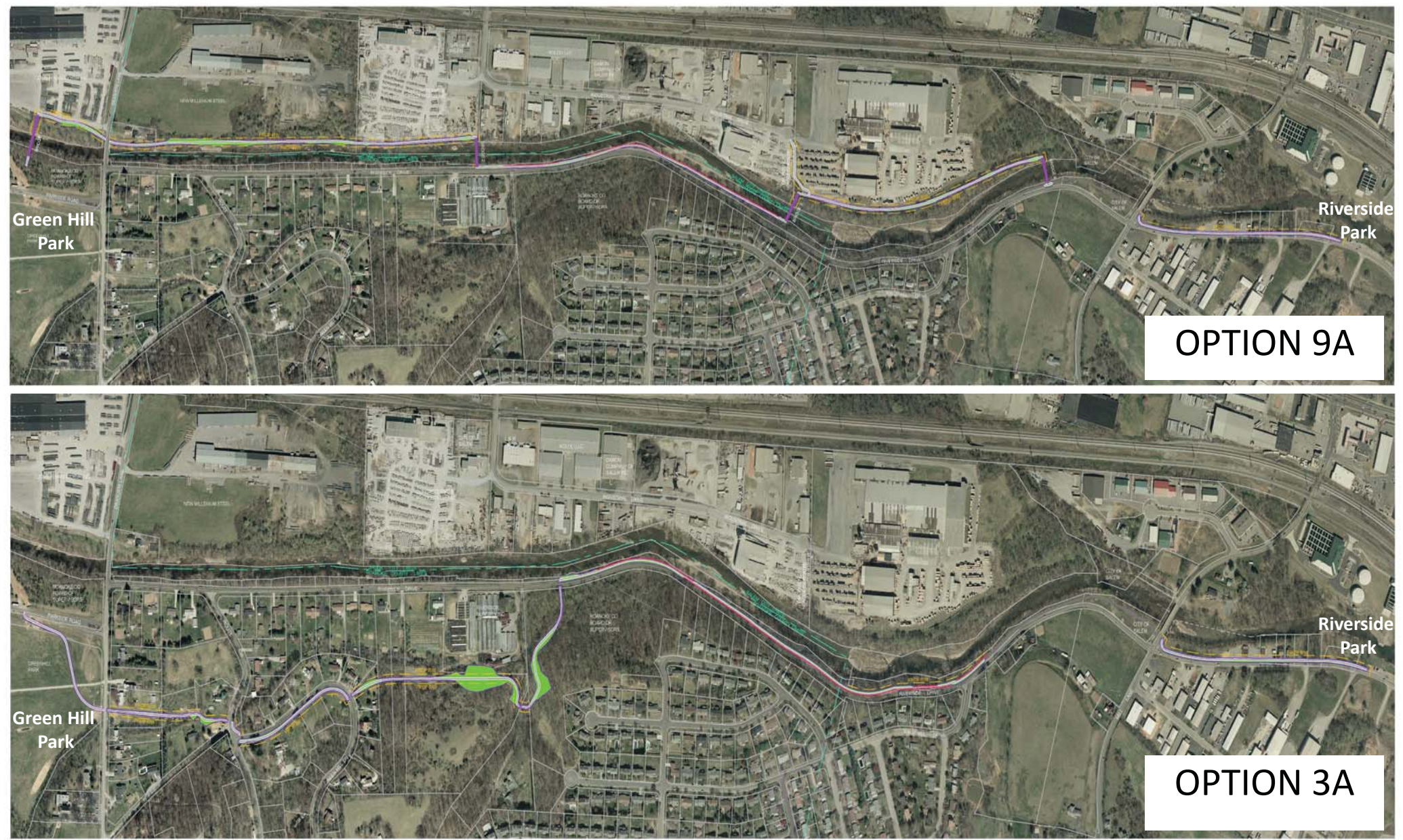


OPTION 4 – RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

Two other options were shortlisted for consideration, but not recommended (see next exhibit).



2013: AECOM Report shortlisted options not recommended:





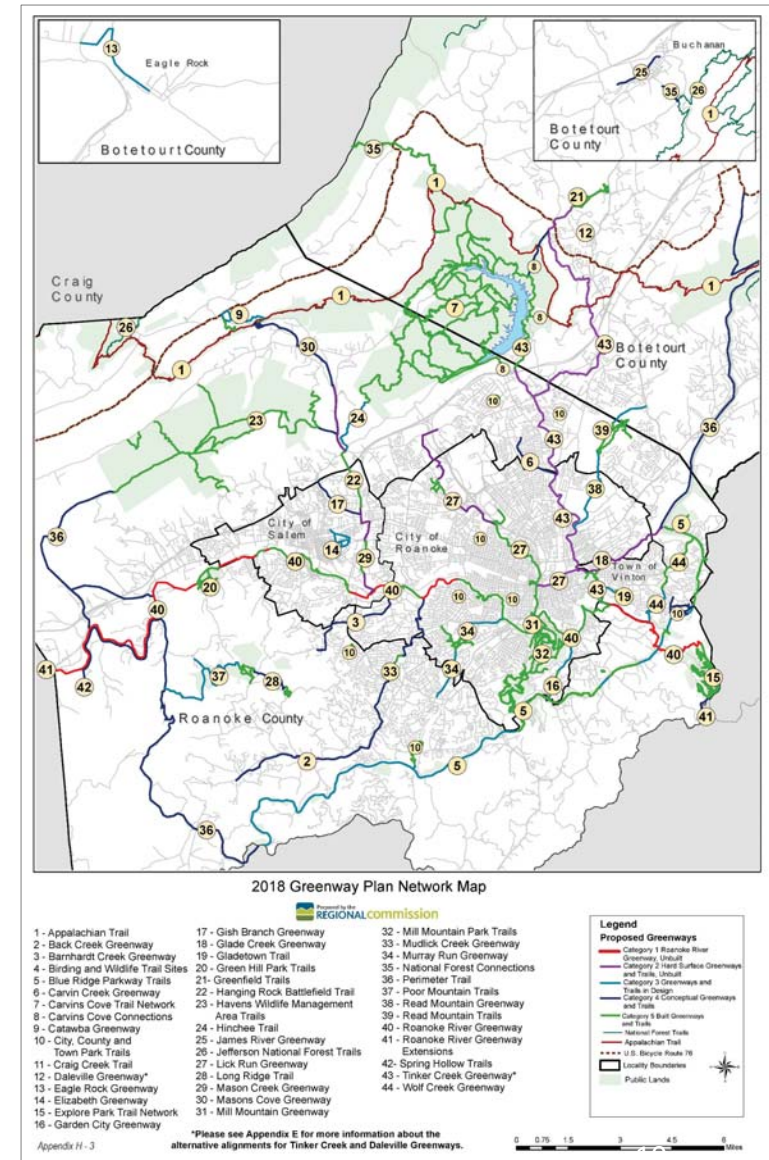
# West Roanoke River Greenway History

**2013:** Roanoke County, City of Salem, and the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission applied for and received a \$2,990,750 Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) grant to fund the Roanoke River Greenway between Green Hill Park in Roanoke County and Riverside Park in the City of Salem.

**2014-2018:** Roanoke County entered into a contract with Anderson & Associates of Virginia, Inc. (currently Hurt & Proffitt) to provide professional design, surveying, environmental, and engineering services for the recommended greenway alignment (i.e., Option 4).

Environmental investigations and coordination with federal and state agencies were conducted for water quality, hydraulics analysis for floodway and flood plain impacts, threatened and endangered species, geotechnical, and historical resources.

**2018:** The Roanoke Valley Greenway Plan was adopted by the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission and member localities, including Roanoke County. The Roanoke River Greenway is identified in Category 1.

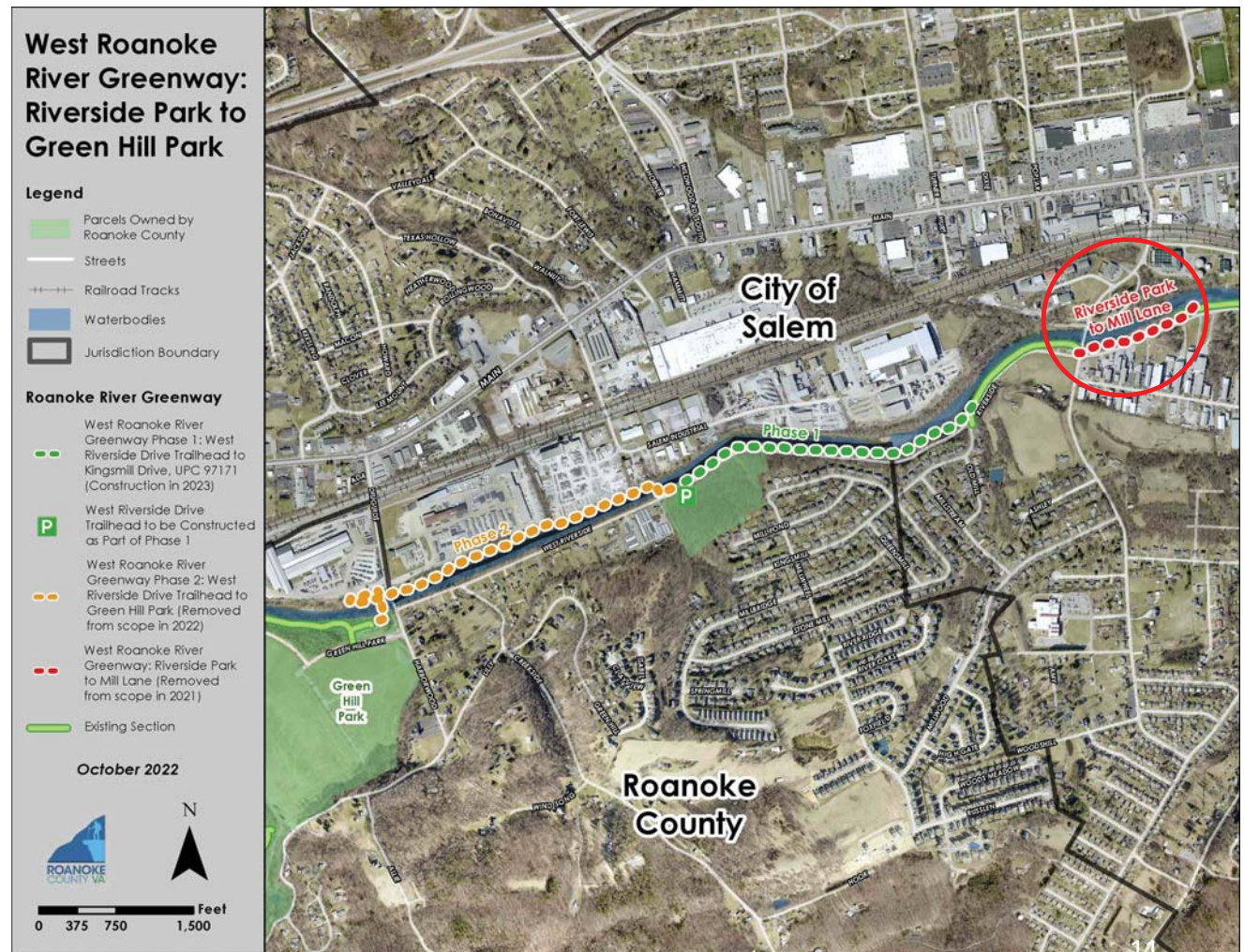




# West Roanoke River Greenway History

**2018-2020:** Right-of-way negotiations took place with property owners.

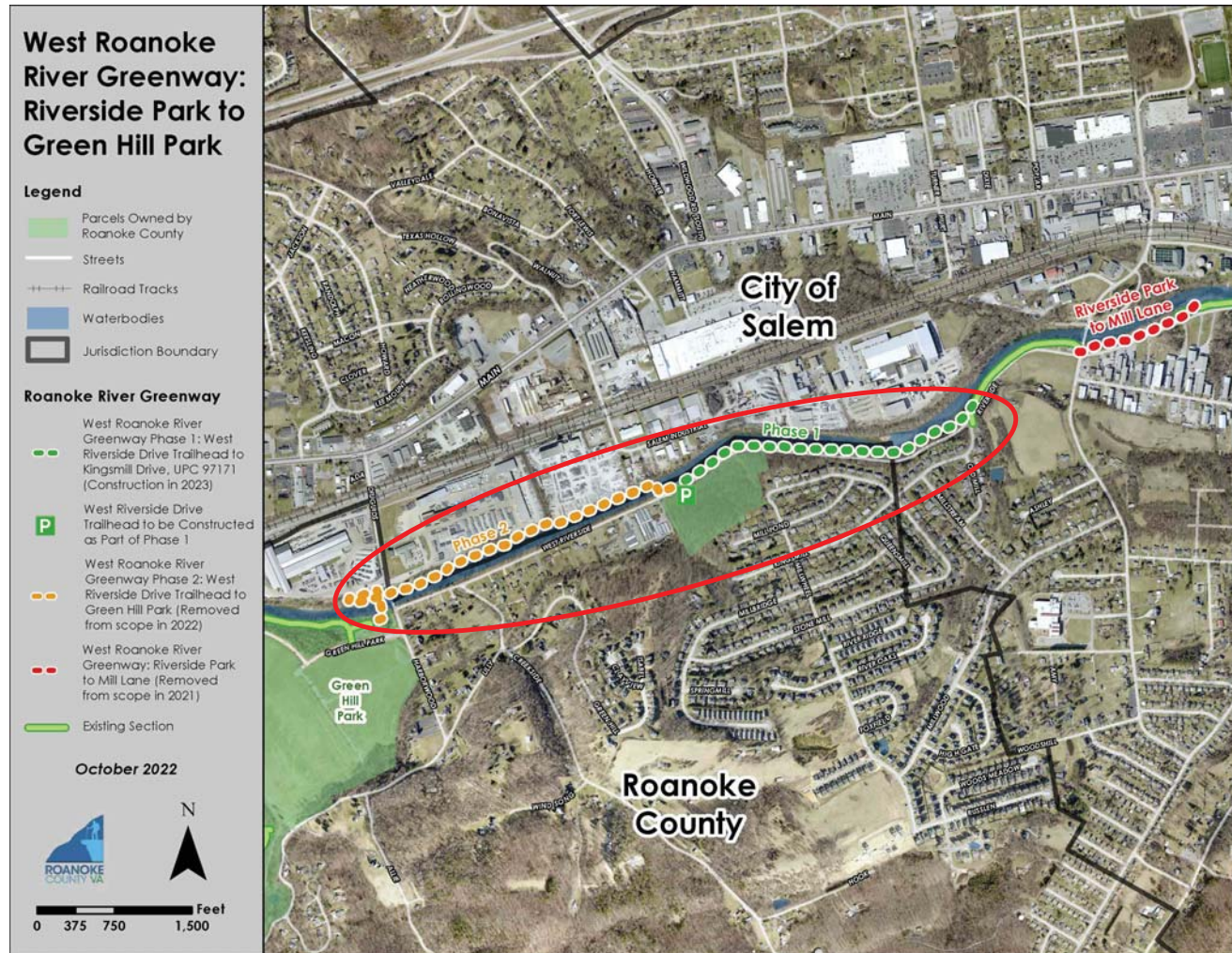
**2021:** Project scope was reduced to remove the greenway section proposed in the City of Salem between Mill Lane and Riverside Park, due to right-of-way acquisition challenges.





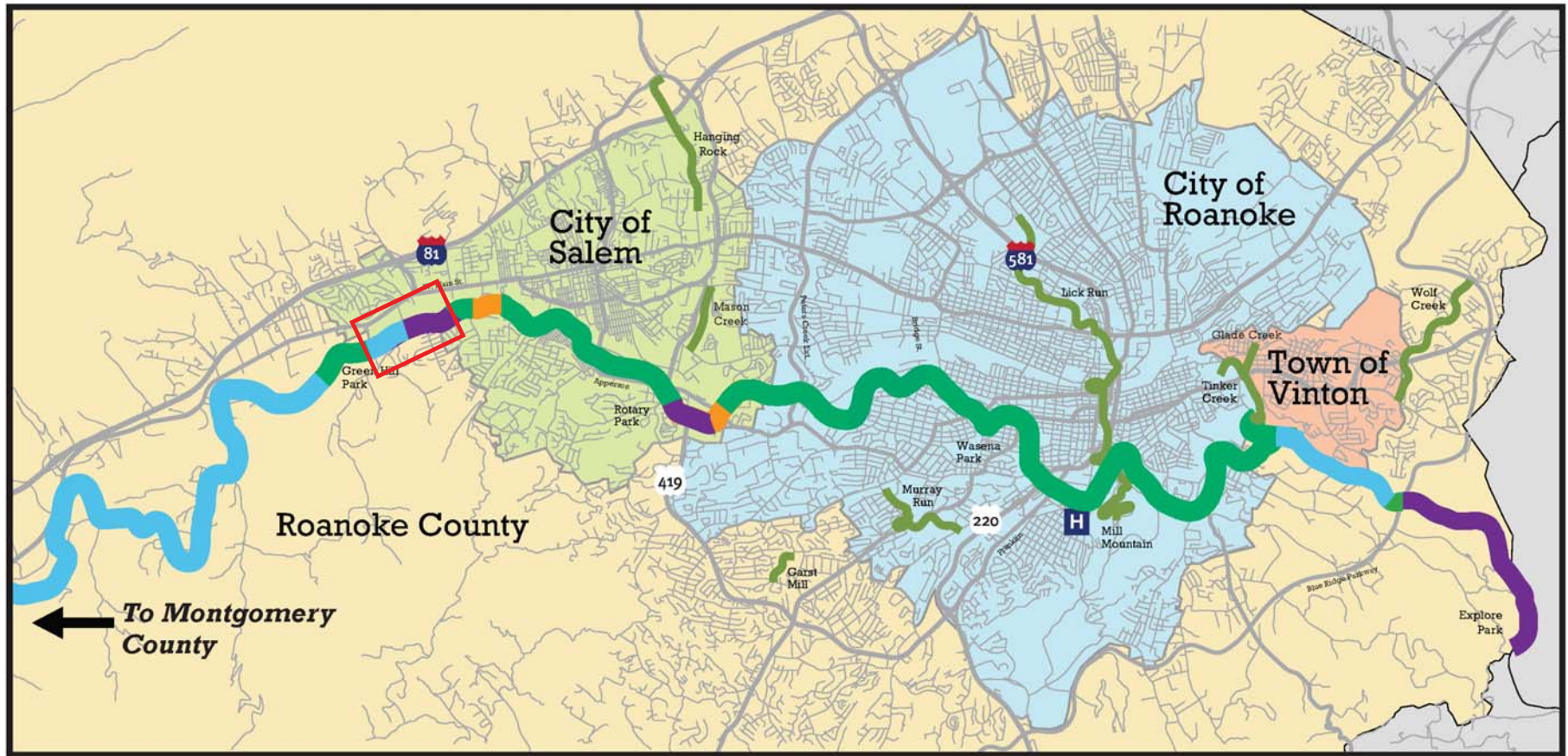
# West Roanoke River Greenway History

**2022:** Due to funding constraints, Roanoke County broke the project into two phases to advance construction of Phase 1 between the proposed trailhead on West Riverside Drive and the existing greenway across from Kingsmill Drive, the segment without bridges, where right-of-way had been obtained.





# Roanoke River Greenway Status Map



- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  Completed         |  Future Projects       |
|  Planning Underway |  Construction Underway |



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# West Roanoke River Greenway History

**2023:** Right-of way and environmental certifications were received. Phase 1 was advertised for construction. Burleigh Construction Company, Inc. started construction in November 2023.





# West Roanoke River Greenway, Phase 1 Overview

- **Features:** 0.6-mile, 10-foot-wide asphalt greenway, a paved 26-space trailhead parking lot, Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) retaining walls, and drainage improvements
- **Schedule:** Construction is underway with completion anticipated in Summer 2025
- **Funding Available:** \$12,571,742





# West Roanoke River Greenway, Phase 1 Flooding Issues

- **September 2024:** Flooding from Hurricane Helene caused damage to the jobsite requiring several partially constructed areas to be rebuilt, along with armoring of a streambank on the downstream end of the project that was washed away.
- **February 2025:** Another flood event occurred after several days of heavy rain. This caused another setback with several more partially constructed areas having to be rebuilt.

One benefit of the gabion basket retaining wall is to protect the greenway from future minor to moderate flooding events.





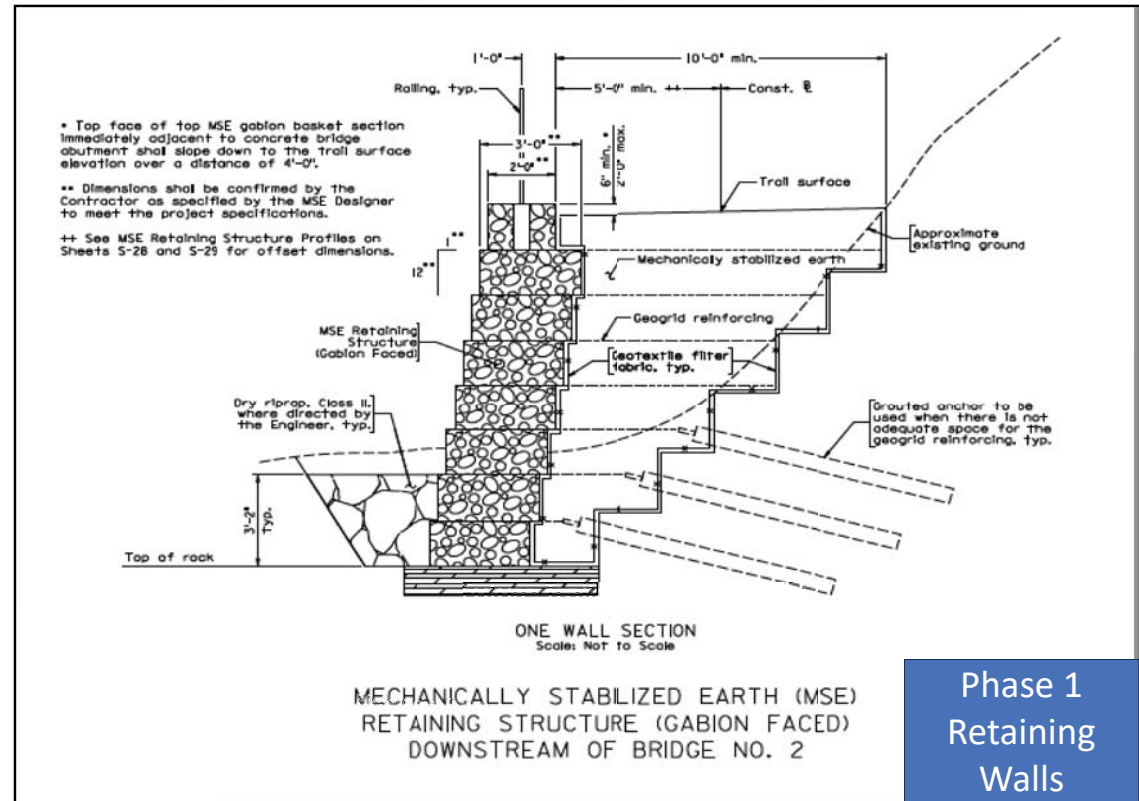
# West Roanoke River Greenway, Phase 1 Status

## Completed Activities:

- Contractor mobilization and equipment staging area
- All foundations have been constructed for retaining walls
- Approximately 80% of gabion retaining wall has been constructed
- Paving and railing installation has begun on areas where final grading has been completed

## Upcoming Activities:

- Finalize construction of MSE/retaining walls and drainage structures on remainder of project
- Final grading
- Install stone base, handrails, and pave greenway
- Construct trailhead parking lot
- Install crosswalk, guardrail, and signs



# West Roanoke River Greenway Gap Challenges

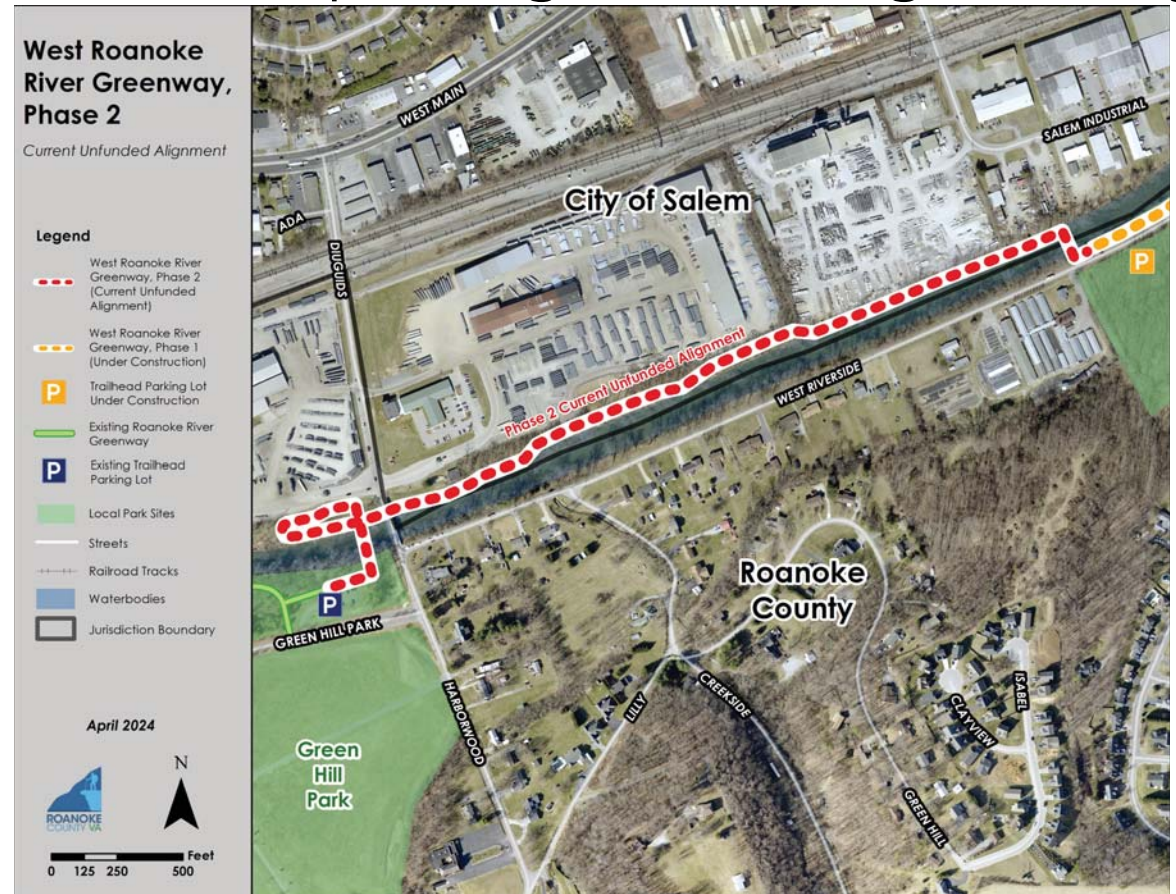
Roanoke County and the City of Salem have designed the current greenway alignments to minimize impacts to property owners. As a result, the greenway was designed close to the Roanoke River with retaining walls located within the floodway and 100-year floodplain (Phase 1) and two bridges spanning the Roanoke River (Phase 2).

It has been a complicated project for Roanoke County and the City of Salem staff to administer due to the interjurisdictional scope, right-of-way acquisition issues, environmental coordination, technical design of two bridges across the Roanoke River, gabion baskets/retaining wall structures proposed along the Roanoke River, changes in accessibility design regulations, and the prolonged time (14 years) that this project has been under development.



# West Roanoke River Greenway, Phase 2 Overview

- **Features:** 0.8-mile of 10-foot-wide asphalt greenway with two bridges over the Roanoke River and a grade-separated crossing underneath Diuguids Lane to connect the new Phase 1 greenway and trailhead parking lot to the greenway at Green Hill Park.
- **Schedule:** None
- **Funding Available:** \$0

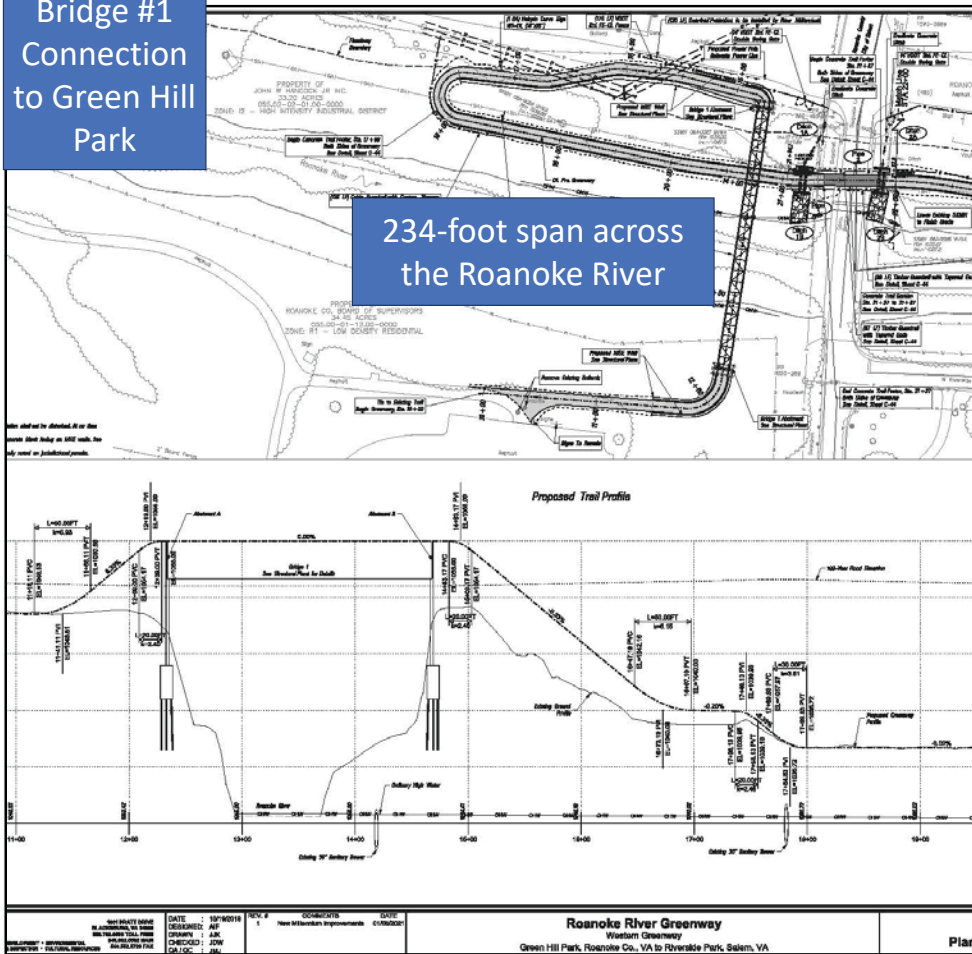


# West Roanoke River Greenway Phase 2 Challenges

The anticipated cost estimate for Phase 2 is at least \$20 million. The two proposed bridges are estimated to cost at least \$7 million, or one-third of the total estimate.

Bridge #1  
Connection  
to Green Hill  
Park

234-foot span across  
the Roanoke River

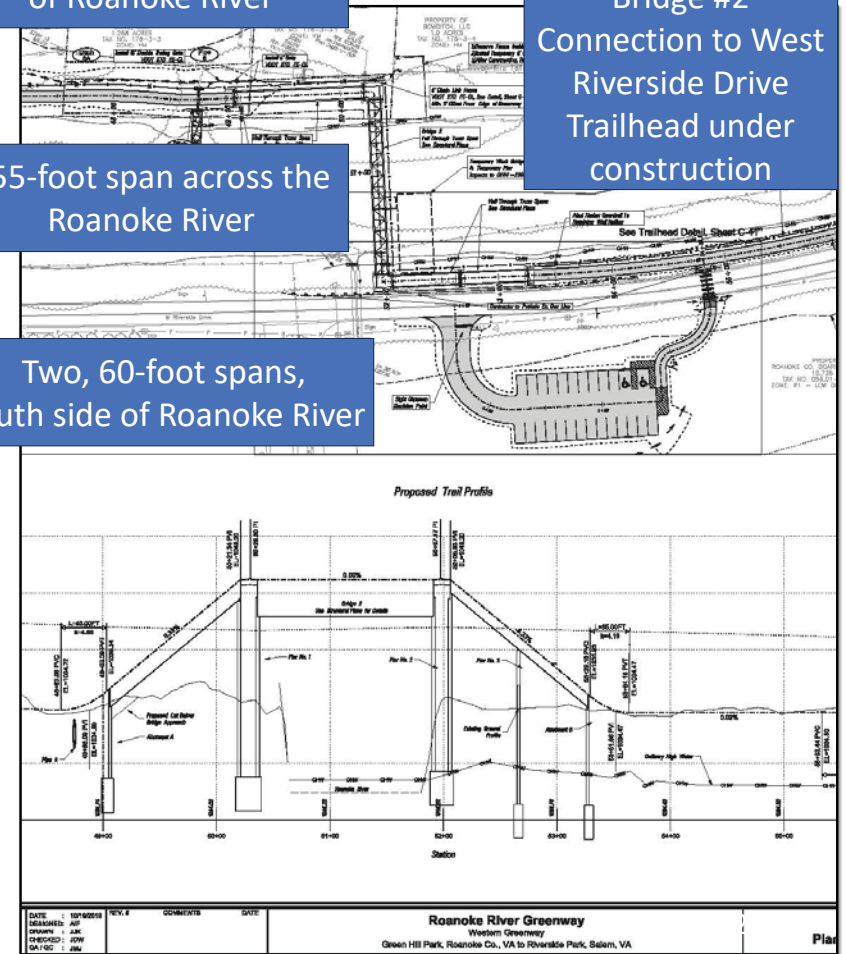


115-foot span, north side  
of Roanoke River

Bridge #2  
Connection to West  
Riverside Drive  
Trailhead under  
construction

155-foot span across the  
Roanoke River

Two, 60-foot spans,  
south side of Roanoke River



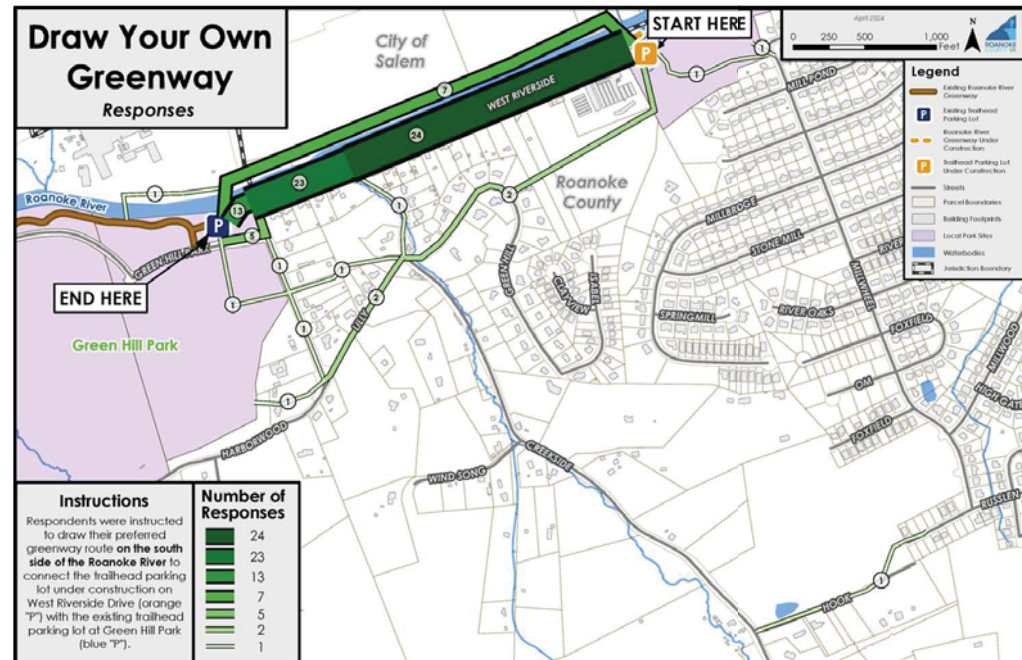


# West Roanoke River Greenway, Phase 2 Community Meeting

**April 11, 2024:** A total of 95 people attended an open house-style meeting at Fort Lewis Elementary School to:

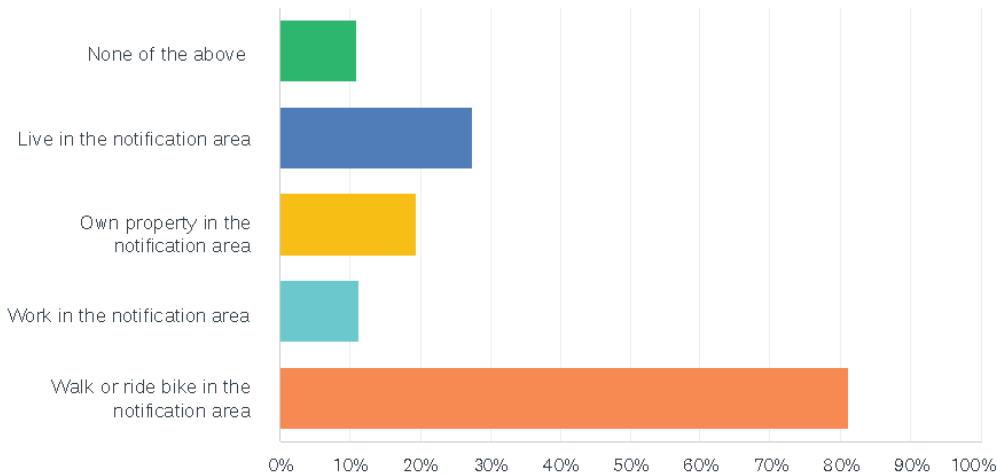
- Learn about the status of Phase 1 construction;
- Review the history of the West Roanoke River Greenway, Phase 2 segment; and
- Consider potential alternative routes to connect Phase 1 to the existing greenway at Green Hill Park.

A survey was available from April 11 through May 10, 2024 and 189 survey responses were received.

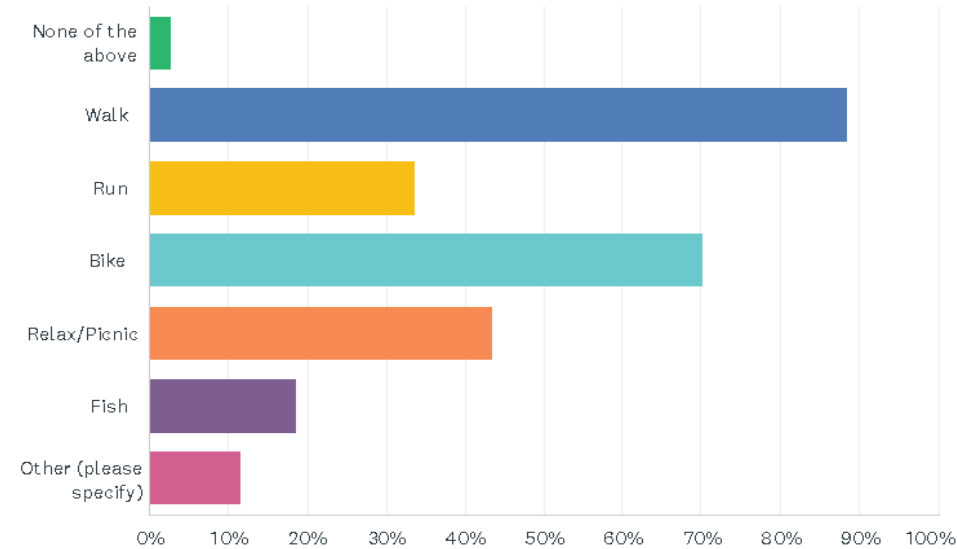


# May 2024 West Roanoke River Greenway Phase 2 Survey Results

**Question 3:** What is your relationship to the community meeting notification area for this project? (Check all that apply)



**Question 4:** Do you use Roanoke Valley Greenways for any of the following activities? (Check all that apply)

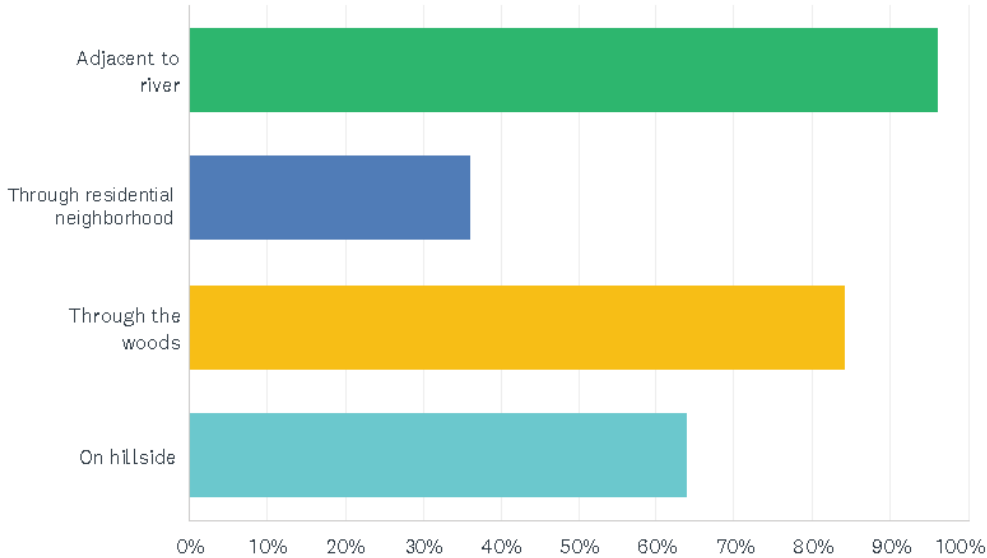


Other Responses	
River Access	10
Commute	5
Access Parks	1
Access Playgrounds	1
Access Restaurants	1
Birding	1
Electric Upcycle	1
Fishing	1
Make Friends	1
Volunteer	1

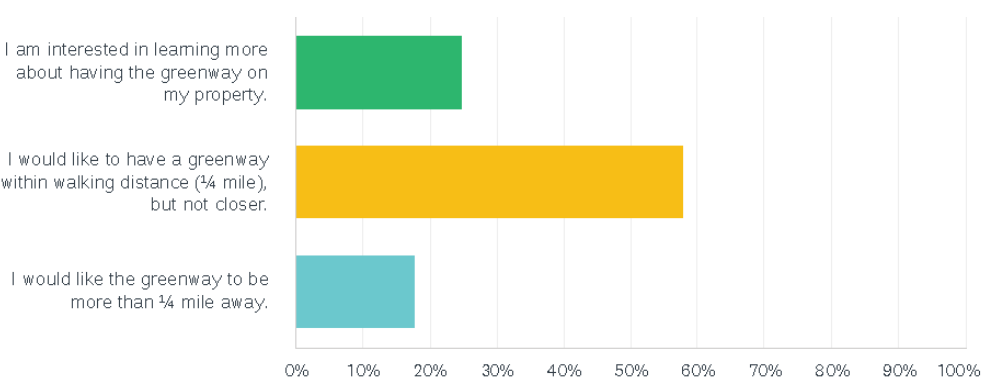


# May 2024 West Roanoke River Greenway Phase 2 Survey Results

**Question 5:** What kind of greenway would you like to see in your community? (Select as many as you like)

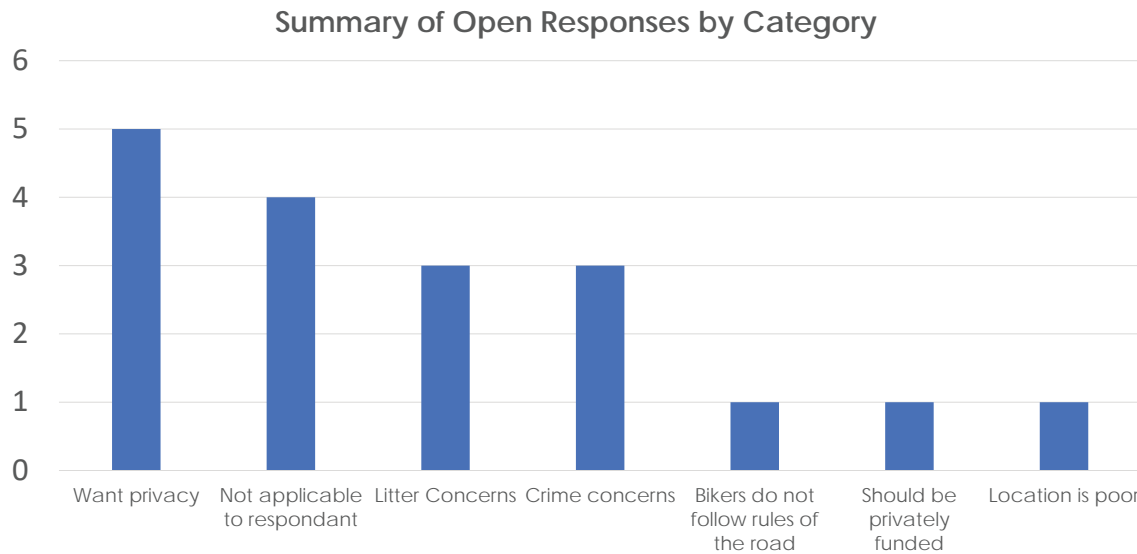


**Question 6:** How comfortable would you be with the location of a new greenway where you live?

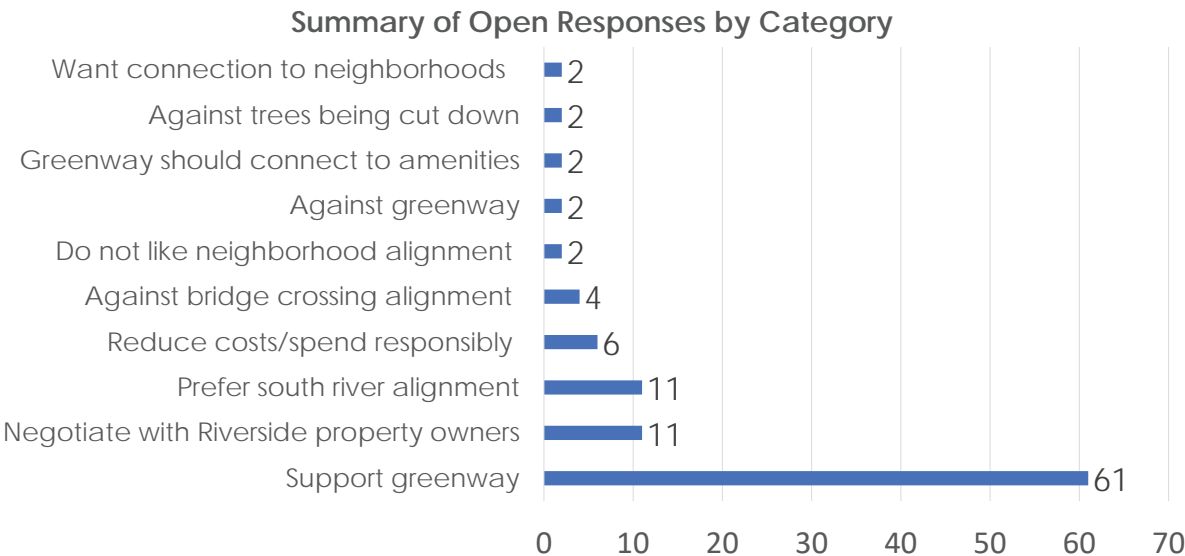


# May 2024 West Roanoke River Greenway Phase 2 Survey Results

**Question 8:** If you would like the greenway to be further than ¼ mile away from your property, we respect your values and would like to hear your concerns about having a greenway close to your home. Please share your point of view.



**Question 10:** Please share any other thoughts about this greenway project.





# April and May 2024 Concerns Expressed

## 1. Speeding on West Riverside Drive

- County Police have identified a speeding issue on West Riverside Drive and are running additional radar in the area.

## 2. Tree buffer between West Riverside Drive and the river blocks the view, sound and light from Salem Industrial Park

- West Riverside Drive could be reconstructed with curb and gutter and shifted towards homes to leave space for a 10-foot-wide asphalt greenway. Potential benefits:
  - Preservation of existing tree buffer;
  - Slowing traffic speeds with the perception of a narrower roadway;
  - Eliminating the potential for lawn rutting from mail trucks so mailboxes could be moved closer to homes on the south side of the roadway from the north side; and
  - Improving the turning radius and distance from the bridge corner at the Diuguids Lane/ Harborwood Road intersection.

# April and May 2024 Concerns Expressed

## 3. Heavy Truck Traffic on West Riverside Drive also damages Diuguids Lane bridge

- Through truck restriction criteria have been evaluated by County Police and VDOT and a restriction is not warranted at this time.



## 4. Litter

- Roanoke County offers a Park Partners Program to help maintain County parks and keep them clean



## 5. Park users trespass on private property, Crime and Homelessness

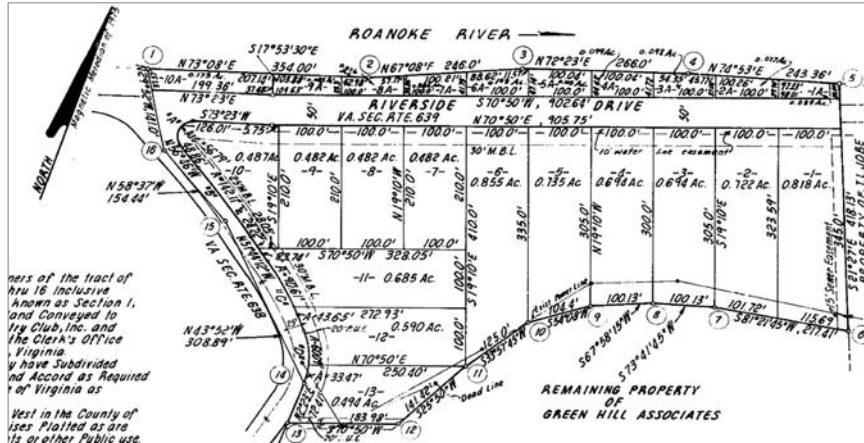
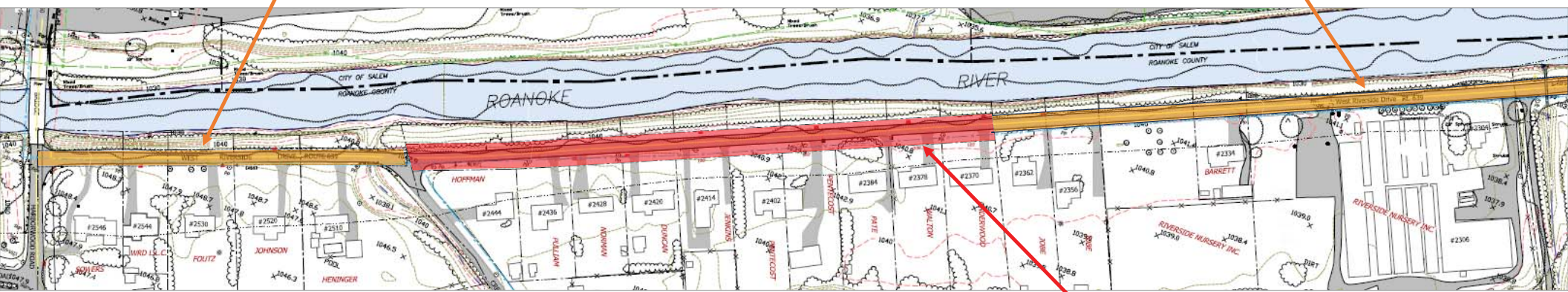
- Roanoke County Police will patrol new greenway segments



# West Riverside Drive Characteristics

West Riverside Drive between Diuguids Lane/Harborwood Road and Riverside Nursery lies within public right-of-way that is maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). This right-of-way was created at different times and has different characteristics.

A 30-foot-wide prescriptive easement established in 1944 or earlier exists across 11 parcels fronting West Riverside Drive between Diuguids Lane/Harborwood Road and Riverside Nursery.



50-foot-wide right-of-way was dedicated to Roanoke County across the frontage of 10 parcels in March 1975 (Plat Book 9 Page 38).

# Potential Phase 2 Greenway Concepts

*Please complete a survey **by April 25, 2025**, to provide your thoughts on three potential options to complete the West Roanoke River Greenway Phase 2 Gap between Phase 1 and Green Hill Park.*

## **Option 1:** South side of the Roanoke River between West Riverside Drive and the river

- Ten-foot-wide asphalt greenway
- Gabion basket retaining wall along the Roanoke River for the length of the greenway
- Timber guardrail/fencing between the greenway and the retaining wall
- Some trees and vegetation along the river would be removed for construction with some trees remaining to provide a visual and sound buffer
- Eight-foot-wide landscaped buffer strip between the greenway and the road that could include street trees
- Curb and gutter along the north side of West Riverside Drive next to the landscaped buffer strip to improve drainage and protect greenway users
- Least expensive option



# Potential Phase 2 Greenway Concepts, Continued

**Option 2:** South side of the Roanoke River with West Riverside Drive shifted to the south and the greenway located between the new roadway location and the river

- Ten-foot-wide asphalt greenway
- Shift and reconstruct West Riverside Drive between Diuguids Lane/Harborwood Road and the new trailhead under construction a distance of up to 17 feet with curb and gutter on both sides to improve drainage and to potentially slow traffic
- Gabion basket retaining wall along the Roanoke River at both ends of the greenway segment with timber guardrail/fencing
- Many trees and vegetation along the river could remain to keep the visual and sound buffer
- Eight-foot-wide landscaped buffer strip between the greenway and the road that could include street trees
- Increase the distance between West Riverside Drive and the Diuguids Lane bridge to reduce the potential for bridge damage
- More expensive option

# Potential Phase 2 Greenway Concepts, Continued

## Option 3: North side of the Roanoke River

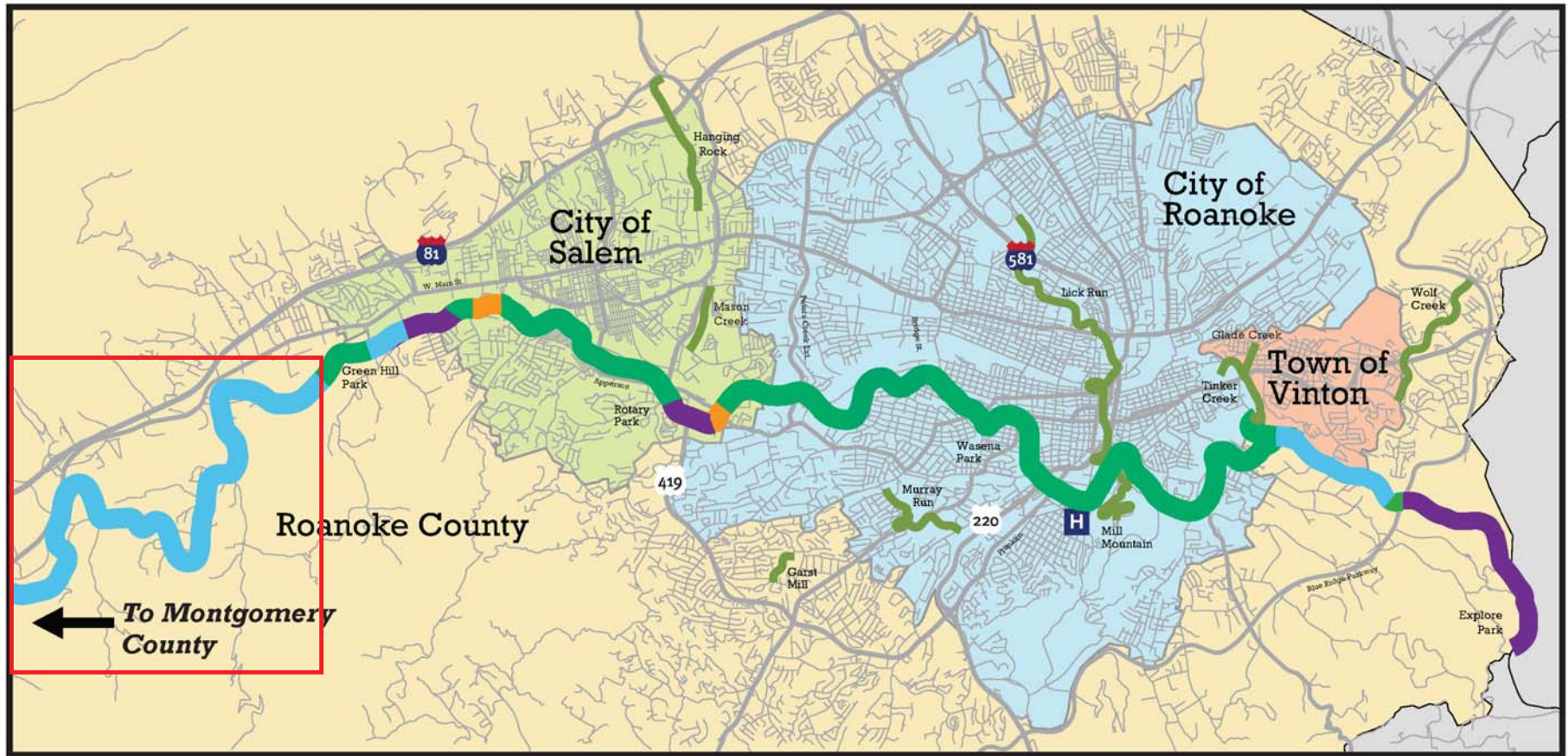
- Ten-foot-wide asphalt greenway
- Two greenway bridges would cross the river at the end of Phase 1 and upstream of the Diuguids Lane bridge to Green Hill Park
- Timber guardrail/fencing between the greenway and the river
- Security fencing between the greenway and private property
- Most expensive option

## Next Steps

Roanoke County plans to submit a grant application in September 2025 to request funding to move forward with one of the three potential greenway options.



# Roanoke River Greenway Status Map



- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  Completed         |  Future Projects       |
|  Planning Underway |  Construction Underway |



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# West Roanoke River Greenway Feasibility Study

(Green Hill Park to Montgomery County)

The West Roanoke River Greenway Feasibility Study is currently being drafted. The content of the Study is informed by feedback received from citizens and stakeholders during an extensive public outreach process that included community meetings and surveys in October 2022 and July 2023. It is anticipated that public hearings for adoption of the Study will be held with the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors in Summer or Fall 2025. The draft Study will be made available for public comment in advance of the public hearings.

