

2025

JACKSON
COUNTY,
NORTH
CAROLINA



Pinnacle Park



MASTER PLAN

Town of Sylva, Jackson County, NC

DEVELOPED BY:



EQUINOX
balance through proper planning



ABOUT THIS PLAN:

This plan was developed for the Pinnacle Park Foundation and the Town of Sylva to guide the recreational improvements for Pinnacle Park in Jackson County, NC.

PLAN DEVELOPED BY:



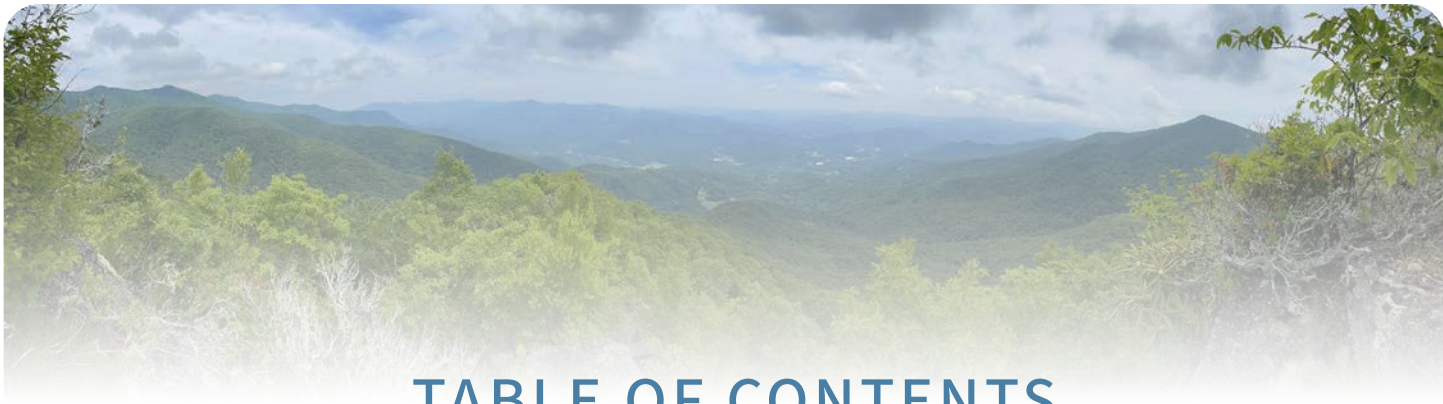
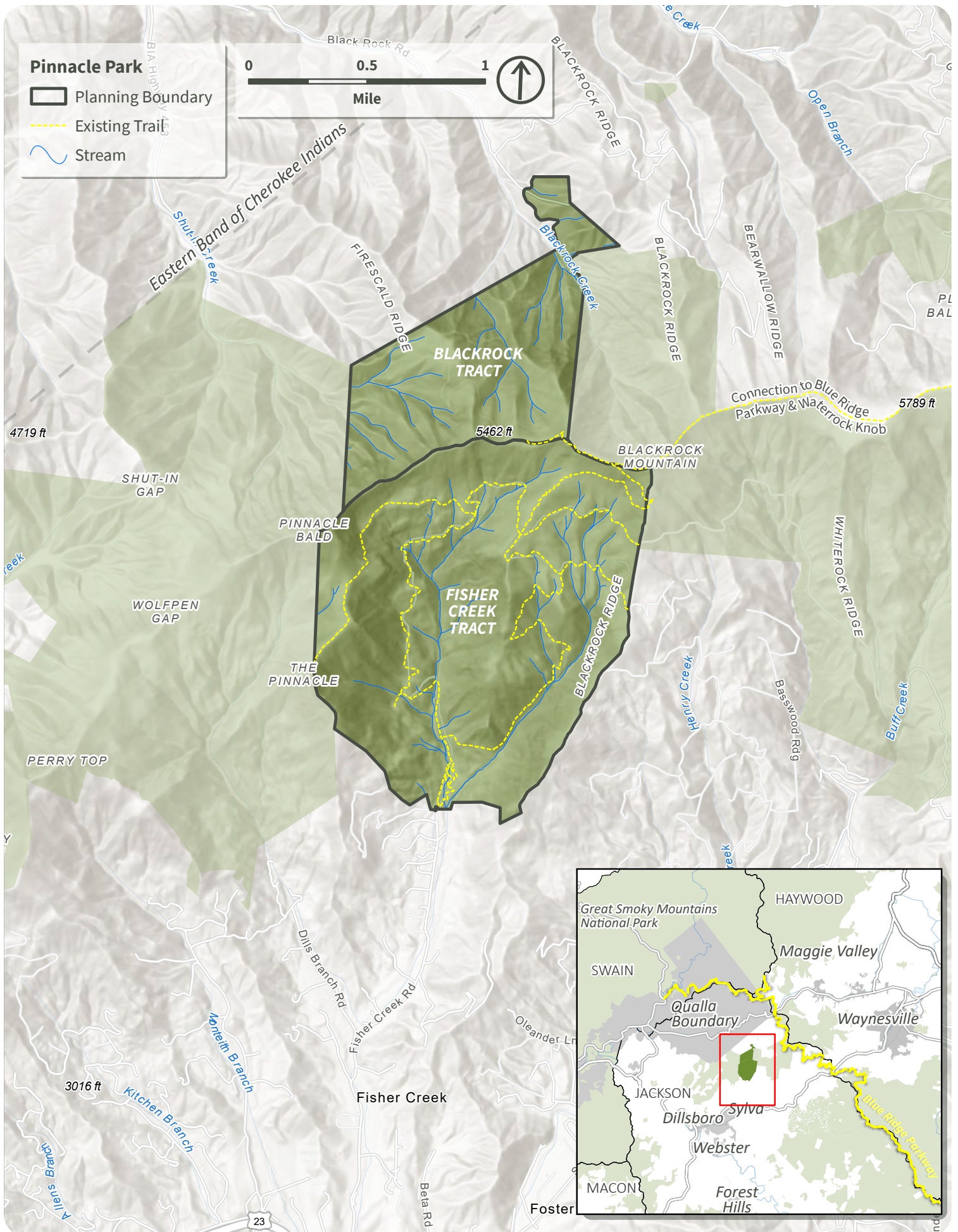


TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1	Ecological Restoration	44
Project Justification.....	1	Impoundment Infrastructure	44
Constraints for Access & Use	3	Inclusivity	45
Vision & Goals	4	Wayfinding & Placemaking	46
CH 1: SITE ANALYSIS & RESEARCH	5	New Recreational Uses	47
Pinnacle Park By The Numbers	6	Emergency Access	48
Recreational Trends	7	Trail Improvements	49
Reference Parks	11	New Trail Alignments	50
Review of Rights & Restrictions	13	Park Maintenance	52
History of the Property.....	15	CH 4: STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN	54
Ecological Significance.....	16	Strategic Actions by Year	55
Existing Conditions	17	Funding Resources	61
Opportunities & Constraints.....	24	CH 5: PUBLIC INPUT	63
CH 2: TRAIL ASSESSMENT	27	Public Meeting Summary	64
Trail Assessment Summary	32	Public Survey Summary	65
CH 3: PARK MASTER PLAN.....	34	APPENDIX: 2024 Grant Application	
Master Plan Process	35	Site Plans.....	69
Final Master Plan	39	APPENDIX: Draft Master Plan	
Trailhead Parking Improvements	41	Concepts	72
Ecological Preservation, Interpretation ..	43	APPENDIX: Trail Assessment	
		TRACS Forms.....	78





Pinnacle Park Master Plan

Introduction

Pinnacle Park consists of two forested parcels located in Jackson County, NC, owned by the Town of Sylva. The Park is part of the Plott Balsam Mountains of the Southern Appalachian Mountain chain, situated within the ancestral homelands of the Cherokee people.

Sylva is largely a rural community, incorporated in 1889, and located approximately 26 miles west of Asheville. Sylva encompasses approximately three-square miles and has a population of approximately 2,720 people based on 2018 census data. Sylva is experiencing rapid population growth of full-time and part-time homeowners, and rapid growth in tourism, with many recreational opportunities on the nearby Tuckasegee River, other rivers and streams, on surrounding Nantahala National Forest lands, along the Blue Ridge Parkway, and Great Smoky Mountains National Park within a 30-minute drive. The Town attracts people for education with Southwestern Community College within Sylva and Western Carolina University five miles away in the adjacent town of Cullowhee. The downtown Main Street community attracts townspeople and visitors with parks, playgrounds, restaurants, bars and breweries, shops, festivals and an outdoor stage for concerts.

Pinnacle Park consists of two adjacent tracts, encompassing the Fisher Creek watershed (1,088 acres), Blackrock Creek (441 acres), for a total of 1,529 acres of land. Fisher Creek is the Town's former watershed and the original "Pinnacle Park" while Blackrock Creek was acquired by the Town in late 2019.

Project Justification

Pinnacle Park attracts townspeople and visitors from a multitude of states, mainly for hiking, but also for backcountry camping, with old logging roads and other trails and a small parking area at the end of Fisher Creek Road, but no other built amenities. The highest elevation in the Park abuts the peak of Blackrock Mountain at 5,810 feet, with other notable features being Pinnacle Mountain at 5,400 feet and The Pinnacle, a popular 4,800-foot rocky summit with panoramic views of the surrounding area. Blackrock Mountain and other adjacent conserved lands to the east will soon become part of a 5,329-acre Waterrock Knob regional expansion of the National Park Service's Blue Ridge Parkway. The Park is also adjacent to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' 471-acre Shut-In Creek property to the northwest, and Nantahala National Forest land to the west.

Some of the community groups that utilize the park and trail system on a regular basis include school groups, outdoor educational programs, researchers from nearby universities, and hiking groups. The lower section of the park is also host to the only certified forest therapy trail in North Carolina, and many visitors come to this section to experience the beauty and peacefulness of nature.

Based on a visitation monitoring project completed by the Pinnacle Park Foundation in 2022 and 2023, Pinnacle Park receives a lot of visitors, and this visitation is spread rather evenly throughout the year, as well as throughout each week. The Fisher Creek Trailhead parking area of Pinnacle Park receives an average of 55 to 70 vehicles per day, or about 20,000 to 26,000 vehicles per year. While, as one would suspect, Saturdays receive the most vehicle visitation, all other days of the week are not far behind.

As for trails and trail destinations, the following are rough estimates of use:

- Bridge Loop/Forest Therapy Trail (which includes access to an alternate, user-generated trail to the East Fork trail): average of 17 users per day, or roughly 6,000 users per year.
- (lower) West Fork trail: average of 17 users per day, or over 6,000 users per year.
- (lower) East Fork trail: average of 7 users per day, or roughly 2,500 users per year.
- The Pinnacle: average of 10.5 users per day, or roughly 3,900 users per year.
- Blackrock summit (from Pinnacle Park): average of 7.5 users per day, or roughly 2,700 users per year.
- Additionally, many uncounted visitors enter the park from the Blue Ridge Parkway connection trail from the northeast, which also connects to Waterrock Knob.

Pinnacle Park Master Plan

Introduction

Constraints for Access & Use

Overall, the landscape at Pinnacle Park is incredibly steep and most of the amenities are accessible to only the most physically fit individuals. The existing hiking trail system needs maintenance and repairs. Existing trail routes often follow old logging roads, which is not considered sustainable trail design. Additionally, the property is very ecologically-important and encumbered by conservation easements which restrict where recreational development can occur. A Botanical and Natural Resource Survey Report for the full property was completed prior to the start of the master planning process to ensure an environmentally-sensitive approach was at the forefront of the development of the master plan.

The existing parking area at the Fisher Creek Trailhead is steep and parking spaces are not marked. On a busy day, the parking lot can fill fast if visitors park haphazardly. Due to its rural location, many users feel that safety is a concern in this parking area. For this reason, a motion activated camera and light have been installed.

According to the recreational needs survey that was completed in 2023, the top three obstacles that contribute to people not using Pinnacle Park, in order, are:

- 1) Poor maintenance/trails in bad shape
- 2) Lack of parking or personal transportation
- 3) Amenities are not accessible

For the reasons described above, the first phase of planned improvements to the park are focused on upgrading the existing trail system, increasing accessibility to park experiences and to improving the existing parking area.



Pinnacle Park Master Plan

Vision & Goals

The below statements were developed by the Pinnacle Park Master Plan Steering Committee to help guide the direction of this planning effort.

PINNACLE PARK

MASTER PLAN

VISION

Pinnacle Park is the pride of the community for the Town of Sylva and Jackson County. The park provides protection for important resources including water quality, native plants, and animals while at the same time hosts thoughtfully planned and implemented outdoor recreation facilities. The natural beauty of the site is unique and will be conserved in perpetuity for all to enjoy.



GOALS

- **Provides a sustainable trail system** that is thoughtfully planned and provides access for a variety of skill levels.
- **Protects natural, cultural and viewshed resources.** The park will create a space for visitors to enjoy the land while conserving significant resources. This includes the management of invasive species.
- **Provides a space for education and research** about the park's unique ecosystems.
- **Provides space for the community to practice physical well-being, mental well-being and contemplation.**
- **Is well maintained** by both public and private entities, including the Town of Sylva and volunteer groups.
- **Has adequate amenities to support the use of the park now and in the future.**





Chapter 1

Research & Site Analysis

Pinnacle Park *by the numbers*

360
degrees

The park includes trails to **360-degree views** of the Plott Balsams and surrounding region. Pinnacle Rock and Blackrock provide unparalleled views.



CAMPING
Five backcountry campsites are available for permitted use.

Approximately **18 rare species** and their habitat have been recorded within the park. Conservation and stewardship of these species and their communities is a high priority.



18



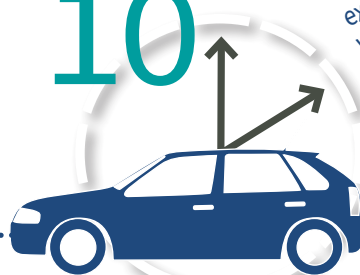
of existing streams and seeps with excellent water quality.

Water quality is very important as the park lays within the Scott Creek Watershed. Scott Creek is currently a 303d listed waterway.



Pinnacle Park currently has **9.3 miles** of hiking trails.

10



Pinnacle Park is a **10-minute drive** from the Town of Sylva.

~6,000

Approximately **6,000 annual visitors** to both the park and the forest therapy trail have been recorded.

FOREST THERAPY TRAIL

1ST

Pinnacle Park hosts North Carolina's **first certified** Forest Therapy Trail.



2,770'

There is 2,770 feet of elevation gain between the Pinnacle Park Trailhead and Blackrock.

1,529

ACRES

The total current acreage of Pinnacle Park is **1,529 acres**. The surrounding region currently utilizes this acreage for educational activities and research activities. Organizations such as Muddy Sneakers and Western Carolina University host trips to Pinnacle Park for educational purposes.

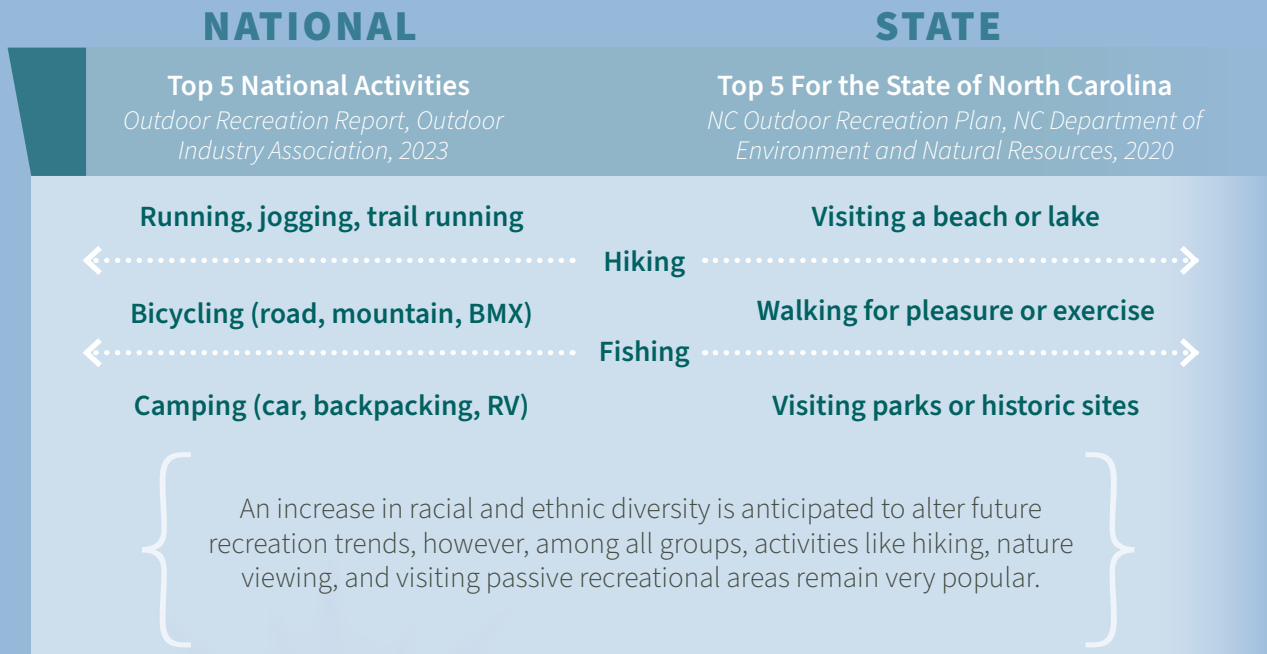
State & National Trends in Outdoor Recreation

Jackson County has a projected population increase (from 2007-2027) of 11.2 - 27.9%¹. The demand for outdoor recreation on public lands will continue to increase in the county. Planning for current and future trends of outdoor recreation in both the state and the nation will ensure that the park meets the Town of Sylva and Jackson County's longterm public recreational needs and that the park is well-positioned to receive public grant funding which prioritize projects that support broader regional or national goals. The following pages provide an overview of some of the relevant state and national trends in outdoor recreation.

¹ *North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020 - 2025*, NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 2020

Top Activities

Below are the listed the top outdoor recreational activities in the nation and in the state, based on public survey results. Note that hiking and fishing remain in the top 5 activities in both national and State of North Carolina trends.



Unpaved trails are the #1 most needed amenity identified by outdoor recreation providers in the State of North Carolina, followed by **picnic shelters** and **wildlife observation sites**

NC Outdoor Recreation Plan, NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 2020

Recreation Choices While Camping

Western North Carolina has been cited as one of the best places for camping in the country, based on recent studies. Therefore, it should be expected that visitors and locals will be camping in, if permitted, or near Pinnacle Park more and more, and the following recreation choices they're presented with will determine how they spend their money.²

Since 2017, fishing has grown and waned as a favored activity while camping. Compared to 2020, fishing is on par with pre-COVID-19 results and up in participation 13 percentage points since 2021. Canoeing and kayaking, geo-caching, and horseback riding are all up since 2020.³ While geo-caching is generally not considered an appropriate activity in a park as ecologically-sensitive as Pinnacle Park, it is good to note that guided scavenger hunts are growing in popularity, likely with families going camping. Guided plant identification activities may fill the role of a popular activity for children to do while camping at a park.

Below are some trends in recreation activities that people have indicated they participate in while on a camping trip, by year:

Recreation While Camping ³	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Change since 2020
Fishing	47%	50%	49%	52%	36%	49%	- 3%
Canoeing/Kayaking	35%	37%	37%	32%	31%	44%	12%
Hiking	53%	51%	51%	46%	37%	42%	- 4%
Bird watching	23%	25%	25%	31%	29%	33%	2%
Hunting	10%	14%	14%	19%	12%	23%	4%
Scenic drives/Sight-seeing	30%	30%	30%	27%	21%	23%	- 4%
Mountain biking	13%	18%	18%	19%	19%	23%	4%
Visit historical sites	25%	25%	25%	19%	16%	19%	0
Running/Trail running	15%	15%	15%	16%	17%	16%	0
Geo-caching	7%	8%	8%	6%	6%	16%	10%
Horseback riding	10%	12%	12%	8%	8%	16%	8%
Rock climbing or bouldering	9%	11%	11%	12%	10%	14%	2%
Stand-Up paddle boarding	5%	7%	7%	6%	7%	10%	4%
Snow skiing or snowboarding	4%	7%	7%	7%	7%	9%	2%
Whitewater rafting/Kayaking	6%	7%	7%	7%	6%	9%	2%

²“The Best Cities to Go Camping.” Name Bubbles, 27 April 2023, <https://www.namebubbles.com/blogs/just-for-fun/the-best-cities-to-go-camping-name-bubbles>

³2023 North American Camping & Outdoor Hospitality Report, Kampgrounds of America, Inc., 2023

Emerging National Trends in Parks

The following are some general trends in activities, programming, and designs that are seeing a rise in popularity in parks with similar characteristics as Pinnacle Park and should be considered while planning possible improvements.



Nature-Based Recreation: Rural parks often emphasize nature-based recreational activities such as hiking, biking, birdwatching, and wildlife viewing. The demand for these activities has continued to grow as people seek outdoor experiences in natural settings.

Greener and More Sustainable Parks: Parks and recreational areas are increasingly being designed with sustainability in mind. This includes initiatives like the use of native plants, energy-efficient and bat-friendly lighting, and eco-friendly materials to reduce environmental impact. This trend also aims towards well-maintained and connected trails that offer diverse experiences for visitors.



Natural Play Areas: There is a growing trend toward incorporating natural play elements like boulders, logs, and water features into park designs to encourage unstructured, imaginative play.

Dark Sky Parks: Many parks are aiming more and more to minimize light pollution and become designated “dark sky” parks, providing optimal conditions for stargazing and astronomy programs.



Accessible and Inclusive Design: Parks are being designed to be more accessible to people of all abilities, with features like ADA-compliant paths, inclusive playgrounds, and sensory-friendly spaces.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI): The outdoor industry is working to become more diverse and inclusive. Efforts are being made to make outdoor activities and spaces more accessible and welcoming to people of all backgrounds and abilities.



Camping and Overnight Stays: Rural parks often provide camping facilities, including traditional campgrounds and backcountry camping options. Demand for camping and RV sites continues to remain high.

Micro-adventures and Local Exploration: The pandemic accelerated the trend of people exploring their local areas. Micro-adventures, which involve short, accessible outdoor experiences close to home, have been gaining popularity.



Outdoor Wellness: The link between outdoor activities and mental and physical wellbeing continues to gain recognition. Many individuals are turning to outdoor recreation as a way to reduce stress, improve mental health, and stay physically fit.

Wellness Retreats and Outdoor Fitness: Outdoor wellness retreats, including yoga and meditation retreats in natural settings, as well as fitness classes and events are becoming more popular.

continued on next page...

Emerging National Trends in Parks (continued)



Technology Integration: Technology is playing an increasing role in outdoor recreation. This includes the use of apps and QR codes on signs for navigation, tracking, education, and trail information. Additionally, these can be used for virtual tours and educational to provide interactive experiences for visitors.



Rise of E-Bikes and E-Scooters: Electric bikes (e-bikes) and electric scooters continue to grow in popularity as convenient and sustainable transportation options for outdoor enthusiasts and urban commuters.



Conservation and Stewardship Initiatives: There is a growing emphasis on conservation, stewardship efforts, and citizen science initiatives within parks, including habitat restoration, native species planting, and wildlife conservation programs.



Environmental Education: Many rural parks focused on environmental education by offering interpretive programs, guided hikes, and educational signage to teach visitors about local flora, fauna, and conservation efforts.

Outdoor Learning Spaces: With a focus on experiential education, some parks are incorporating outdoor classrooms and interpretive areas for schools and educational programs.

Educational and Skills Training: There is a growing demand for outdoor education and skills training, including wilderness survival courses, navigation training, and outdoor safety workshops.

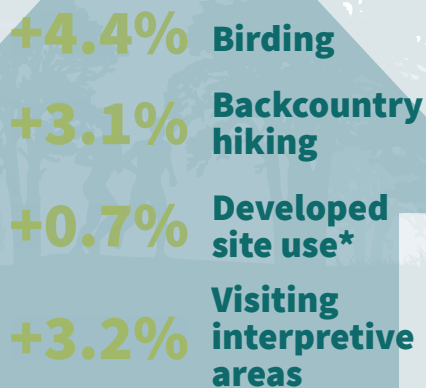
Citizen Science Programs: Many parks are engaging the community through citizen science initiatives and interactive experiences, encouraging people to participate in conservation and research efforts.



Volunteer and Stewardship Programs: Many recreation areas are encouraging community involvement through volunteer programs, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility among residents.

Collaborative Partnerships: Parks often collaborate with local organizations, nonprofits, and government agencies to expand offerings, improve infrastructure, and enhance the visitor experience.

Positive Trends in Popularity of Outdoor Recreation (Nationally, Percent Change Per Capita Between 2008 and 2030) *Federal Outdoor Recreation Trends, USFS*



*i.e. family gathering, picnicking, developed camping










Reference Parks

To help guide the Master Plan for Pinnacle Park Equinox assessed recreational spaces in communities of similar population size as the Town of Sylva. This analysis provides information on how to successfully address issues such as capacity, functionality, accessibility, and maintenance of the park. Similarities, differences and overall takeaways are provided in the table below to provide insight for planning.

Public Uses of Park Lands



Camping Hiking
Equestrian Biking

					ALLOWED PUBLIC USES	RESTRICTED PUBLIC USES
PARK NAME	ACRES	NEAREST TOWN	OWNER	TRAIL TYPES & MILEAGE		
PINEY KNOB TRAIL SYSTEM	700+ acres	Murphy, NC 2021 Pop. 1,659 Town center located 4.6 miles away from park	Town of Murphy, NC	23.2 Miles of Hiking and Biking Trails		
ROUGH CREEK WATERSHED TRAIL SYSTEM	870 acres	Canton, NC 2021 Pop. 4,373 Town center located 5 miles away from park	Town of Canton, NC	10+ Miles of Hiking and Biking Trails		
ELK KNOB STATE PARK	4,303 acres	Meat Camp, NC 2021 Pop. 3,101 Town center located 3 miles away from park	State of North Carolina	5.5 Miles of Hiking Trails		
LAMAR ALEXANDER ROCKY FORK STATE PARK	2,076 acres	Erwin, TN 2021 Pop. 6,052 Town center located 14 miles away from park	State of Tennessee	20 Miles of Hiking Trails 15 Miles of Biking Trails		

Town of Sylva *statistics*

2021 Population

2,611

The Town of Sylva center is located 4 miles from the existing Pinnacle Park parking area.

Pinnacle Park *statistics*

Town of Sylva owns and maintains the park, including the trails and parking area. The park currently provides just under 9.5 miles of trail open for users.



Hiking and Camping are allowed throughout the park



Equestrian and Biking are not prohibited, but maintenance & sustainable trail design must be considered

PARK NAME	SIMILARITIES	DIFFERENCES	TAKEAWAYS
PINEY KNOB TRAIL SYSTEM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town owned watershed property located within 10 minute drive from town center. Important water resources on property Includes small parking area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trails maintained by volunteers Less total acreage. Park and trails host a detailed wayfinding system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider placing Mileage Markers every 0.25 miles for confidence of users and safety. Active trained volunteers assist with trail maintenance regularly. Multi-use trail system has posted share the trail rules.
ROUGH CREEK WATERSHED TRAIL SYSTEM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property was once water resource for Canton. Under conservation easement with important ecological and water resources. Friends of Rough creek watershed is an organization dedicated to sustainably managing the tract. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biking and hiking allowable on all trails. Permanent caretaker lives at entrance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set of established park rules available online and at gate kiosk. Caretaker house ensures consistent eyes are kept on property at all times.
ELK KNOB STATE PARK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steep terrain. Sensitive habitat including high elevation forests. Panoramic views from peaks within the park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Properties that comprise the park are disconnected. Some flatter terrain is available to host uses such as a visitor center and campsites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider establishing areas that are restricted from all development based on important natural resources. Consider the potential for trail connectivity to spaces outside of the park. The Elk Knob trail system is a part of a network of trails creating the Northern Peaks State Trail.
LAMAR ALEXANDER ROCKY FORK STATE PARK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small parking area at trailhead with limited spaces. Contains pristine headwater streams. Many existing trails considered strenuous. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Backcountry campsites can be reserved on the state park website. Detailed trail maps available with descriptions of trail conditions. Variety of trails for various uses available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider having a reservation system for backcountry campsites. Consider having a detailed map available on site and online that provides greater detail on trail conditions.

Review of Rights & Restrictions

NC LWF Conservation Easement Reserved Rights*

Fisher Creek Tract



Natural Surface Trails:

- use & maintain existing trails for walking, hiking, & horseback riding
- construct new walking, hiking, & horse trails (*see buffer requirement*)
- boardwalks, ramps, handrails, and pedestrian bridges are permitted when required by terrain

Parking Area:

- maintain the existing parking area

Existing Roadbeds:

- maintain & repair existing (no paving)

Utilities:

- install, connect, and maintain to serve permitted improvements

Environmental Learning Kiosk:

- construct, maintain, or repair signage and **1** kiosk to provide for public environmental education

Convenience Facilities:

- construct, maintain, or repair self-composting, solar powered convenience facilities

Stream Buffers:

Min. distance of 15 feet from all streams

- construct new natural surface walking & hiking trails, unless it is physically impractical to build in another location

Min. distance of 50 feet from all streams

- construct new horse trails - they may traverse streams at no more than 2 locations
- construct, maintain, or repair primitive campsites
- construct, maintain, or repair picnic tables
- **1** environmental learning kiosk

Min. distance of 300 feet from all streams

- convenience facilities
- **1** covered picnic shelter

Note: mountain biking and hunting are not mentioned in this C.E. (these uses are not prohibited nor encouraged)

both tracts



Public Use & Access:

- walking/hiking
- animal/plant observation
- nature & environmental education
- scientific study
- picnicking
- fishing
- camping (*in permitted areas*)
- horseback riding (*in permitted areas*)

Campsites:

- construct, maintain, or repair primitive campsites (*see buffer requirements*)

Picnic Sites:

- construct, maintain, or repair picnic tables (*see buffer requirements*)
- construct, maintain, or repair **1** covered picnic shelter (1 per tract) (*see buffer requirements*)

Vegetation Management:

- manage vegetation for the following activities:
 - boundary marking, fencing, signage
 - selective cutting, prescribed burning, & the application of herbicides & pesticides for:
 - fire containment
 - insect & disease control
 - restoration of hydrology
 - wetlands enhancement
 - control of invasive exotic plants
 - removal of damaged trees & debris which pose a threat to life or property

***Most of these reserved rights / permitted improvements still require approval from NC Land & Water Fund - please consult with the agency contact before any development takes place on the property.**

Blackrock Tract



Natural Surface Trails:

- construct hiking & non-motorized mountain biking trails (*see buffer requirement*)
- boardwalks, ramps, handrails, and pedestrian bridges (*up to 6-feet wide*) are permitted when required by terrain

Parking Areas:

- construct & maintain up to **2** parking areas (*see buffer requirement*)
- each may accommodate up to **10** vehicles
- must be located at the approx. locations shown on the "Existing Conditions Map" shown in this plan
- cannot be paved with asphalt but gravel and permanent vegetation may be used for stabilization

Existing Roadbeds:

- maintain & repair existing; portions of existing roads open to motorized vehicles may be paved for erosion control and to provide pull-outs to facilitate traffic flow
- horseback riding is permitted on portions of existing gravel roads

Observation Deck:

- construct, maintain, or repair **1** deck with optional bench seating, handrails, and steps & ramps as required by the terrain

Hunting & Fishing:

- provide the property for public hunting & fishing, and may charge a fee for this use

Stream Buffers:

Min. distance of 30 feet from all streams

- construct new natural surface walking & hiking trails

Min. distance of 100 feet from all streams

- **12** primitive campsites
- **6** composting toilets
- **2** parking areas
- **1** covered picnic shelter
- vegetation management to maintain existing viewpoints
- maintain existing open areas as early successional habitat to provide habitat diversity for wildlife species
- install small stations for security cameras, including solar panel and associated infrastructure



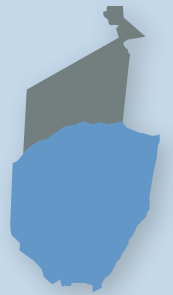
**This is only a summary of the reserved rights permitted by the North Carolina Land and Water Fund conservation easements for quick reference, and the original legal documents should be referenced before making any development decision.*

Review of Rights & Restrictions

NC LWF Conservation Easement Prohibited & Restricted Activities*

Restricted on both tracts

- No Industrial or Commercial Use
- No Agricultural, Timber Harvesting, Grazing, or Horticultural Use
- No Disturbance of Natural Features, Plants, or Animals
 - no trees may be cut or removed and the natural features may not be disturbed
- No Construction of Buildings
- No Signs, except for:
 - no trespassing signs
 - local, state, or federal traffic or similar informational signs
 - for sale or lease signs
 - signs identifying the conservation values of the property
 - signs identifying NCLWF or Sylva as the owner or source of funds for the C.E. on the property
 - educational & interpretive signs
- No Mineral Use, Excavation, Dredging
- Wetlands & Water Quality
 - no construction or other activities that would cause or contribute to pollution of or alteration of waterbodies
 - no diking, dredging, alteration, draining, filling, or removal of wetlands, except for activities to restore natural hydrology or permitted wetland enhancement (*with approval from NCLWF*)
- No Dumping
- No Subdivision
- No Using the Site for Compensatory Mitigation



**This is only a summary of the activities prohibited by the conservation easements for quick reference, and the original legal documents should be referenced before making any development decision.*

Jackson County Code of Ordinances**

Mountain & Hillside Development District

The property lies in the Jackson County Mountain & Hillside Development District because of its steep slopes. Therefore the following minimum standards shall apply to any land-disturbing activity on the property:

Cut and fill:

- Cut slopes shall be no steeper than one foot horizontal to 1 foot vertical and fill slopes shall not be steeper than 1-and-1-half feet horizontal to one foot vertical.
- Artificial slopes exceeding 35 feet in height shall be benched at 35-foot intervals.

Compaction of fill:

- All fill shall be stabilized in conformance with generally accepted engineering standards, including a compacted density of at least 95% proctor.
- Vegetation which has been cut or cleared shall be removed from the site and shall not be covered by, or embedded in, fill material.

Control of stormwater run-off:

- Run-off from concentrated impervious surfaces shall be collected and transported in a pipe or other approved manner to the bottom of the drainageway in a safe, adequate, and non-erosive manner.
- Where required, interceptor ditches shall be established above steep slopes in such a way as not to avoid saturation or erosion of soil, and the intercepted water shall be conveyed in a pipe or other manner to the bottom of the drainageway.
- The overall drainage system shall be completed and made operational at the earliest possible time during construction.

Impact on adjacent property:

- Realignment of streams and natural drainage channels shall not be permitted.
- Natural or typical flow of surface or subsurface water shall not be altered or obstructed in any way by grade changes.

Best Management Practices

Additionally, development on the property must comply with best management practices established in the County Code of Ordinances, some of which that apply are listed below:

Land Disturbance and Grading:

- When grading is necessary, rigid contouring should be avoided; and grading should blend with the natural land form as much as possible.

Sensitive Natural Areas:

- Plans for development must avoid sensitive natural areas, which are defined in the County Code of Ordinances.

Lighting:

- Lighting should be muted and minimized as well as directed so that it does not spill over on to neighboring properties.
- High-pressure sodium lights are prohibited.

***This is only a summary of some of the Jackson County Code of Ordinances that apply to development on the property, and the full Code should be referenced before making any development decision.*



HISTORY of the PROPERTY

Originally the name of Pinnacle Bald was Sheep's Back Mountain. In a 1907 map, a trail was shown going up the left fork of Fisher Creek, crossing over the Plott Balsams and down Shut-in Creek. This may have been a local transportation route due to this presence on the map.

The **Fisher Creek Tract** was once in the private ownership of at least five separate owners (Ensley, Reed, Davis, Fisher, and City of Baltimore, MD)

Both properties were logged at various times during the 20th century. Last recorded logging event was in the early 1950s.

The **Fisher Creek Tract** was a Water Supply Watershed: The first tract was acquired by the town in 1919 by the Town of Sylva, then the remaining 4 tracts to be the Town of Sylva water supply watershed. The property was the source of the Town's water for 75 years.

May 7, 1992 the Town of Sylva adopted a watershed management policy resolution for the **Fisher Creek Tract**.

In 1995 the Town of Sylva adopted a 25 year lease agreement with the Pinnacle Park Foundation for the **Fisher Creek Tract**. It has since been a recreational property with hiking trails.

In 1997 the **Fisher Creek Tract** was connected to the Blue Ridge Parkway when a 1594 acre tract of land was purchased by The Nature Conservancy.

A Clean Water Management Trust Fund (now NC Land & Water Fund) easement was placed on the **Fisher Creek Tract** in 2006 and Pinnacle Park was established in 2007.

Town of Sylva acquired the **Blackrock Tract** in 2020 as an additional recreational asset to become a part of Pinnacle Park, following the establishment of a Conservation Easement in late 2019. Previously owned by America's Home Place from Gainesville, GA.

Early 2023 an in-depth Botanical & Natural Resources Survey Report was completed for both tracts of land.

During 2024-2025, a Master Plan was developed for all of Pinnacle Park.

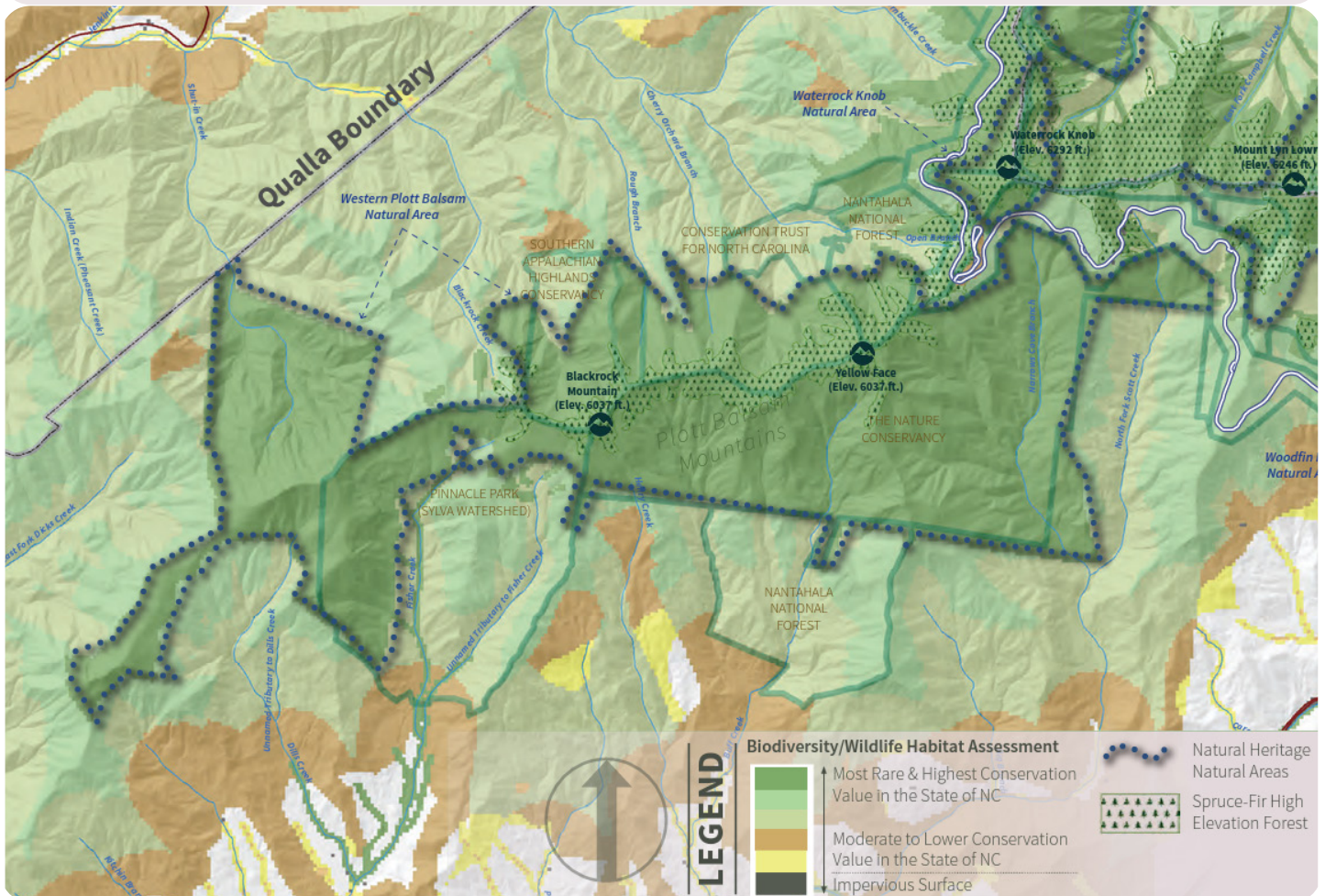
Ecological Significance of the Area

This park lies within the Plott Balsams, a significant ecological landscape that comprises about 77 square miles in total. In the 2018 Waterrock Knob Vision Plan, Pinnacle Park was listed as one of the important conserved lands that is a part of this interconnected network of conserved landscapes. The ridgeline that lies between the Fisher Creek Tract and the Blackrock Tract contains some of the rarest and highest conservation values in the State of North Carolina. It is an established natural heritage area, and is home of spruce-fir high elevation forest.

Significant rare species of animals and plants exist within the property boundaries of Pinnacle Park. To date, 13 rare plants and 3 rare animal species have been identified on the property. Preservation of the habitat that supports these species is imperative.



View from Blackrock





Site Analysis

An in-depth site visit was held in Fall 2023. A multidisciplinary team of planners, landscape architects, and trail designers to looked at the site through the lenses of potential recreational development. From this visit, the site condition of the property as it relates to slopes, soils, and physical features that impact the development potential of the property for park infrastructure was determined.

The following pages show site analysis maps, detailing areas of ecological significance and the existing conditions of the park. These analysis maps provide useful information to guide the master planning effort.

Pinnacle Park

Existing Conditions



Pinnacle Park is currently owned and maintained by the Town of Sylva. It is comprised of two tracts of land: the Fisher Creek Tract (1,088 acres) and the Black Rock Tract (441.18 acres). All the property is open to public recreational access, although due to multiple conservation easements on each tract, the allowable recreational uses are slightly different. A summary of the rights and restricted uses of the property have been provided as a part of this document.

The terrain of Pinnacle Park is steep and rugged. The existing trails on the property, primarily found on the Fisher Creek side, ascend more than 3000 feet in elevation in 3.5 miles from the Pinnacle Park Trailhead off Fisher Creek Road. The existing trails (mostly following along old logging roads) are rocky and challenging for foot traffic.

Most of the existing hiking trails leading to the upper ridges of the Fisher Creek Tract are steep and challenging. Specific existing trail conditions are described in the trail assessment section of this document.

A certified forest therapy trail is located adjacent to the parking area. Due to its proximity to the parking area and overall accessibility, it is one of the most heavily utilized areas of the park. This area boasts approximately 0.5 miles of trail and 4 small footbridges that are in good condition. This section of trail is the only certified Forest Therapy Trail in North Carolina and one of only twenty in the world.

The Blackrock Tract does not have an existing trail system, trailhead, or parking. The main access to this side is via Blackrock Road out of Cherokee. There is an existing gravel road that meanders up to the ridgeline, but much of the road is impassible due to failing culverts, improper drainage, and extreme erosion. Much of the landscape surrounding the

existing roadbed is disturbed. The Blackrock tract does not contain any vehicular access from the Town of Sylva, making overall access to this tract challenging.

The major destinations for visitors to hike to at the park are the Pinnacle and Blackrock. Blackrock is not located within the park property boundary. The elevation at Pinnacle rock is 5,008 feet and Black Rock sits at 6,037 ft. Stunning views are offered from both destinations and along the ridgeline.

The Fisher Creek Trailhead is currently the main access point into the park. This area hosts a gravel parking lot with space for approximately 20 vehicles. Individual parking spaces are unmarked. There is an existing kiosk here, with a rudimentary map of the trail system. There is signage directing visitors to acquire permits for hiking or camping, although it is not currently a requirement to do so. A camera is installed in the parking area for safety.

There is some wooden wayfinding signage within the park which is destination based. Overall, wayfinding signage throughout the park is minimal or absent. In some cases, the signage is even misleading.





Hydrology

The Fisher Creek Tract once was the water supply for the Town of Sylva. Two impoundments still exist along the stream channels. The park hosts 13.4 miles of perennial stream channel. All of these are classified as trout streams and have a required 25' buffer. From the 2022 botanical inventory, all hydrologic resources contained within the park were considered high value.

Sedimentation within the streams is one of the greatest threats to these waterways. The continuous, densely, and diversely vegetated riparian areas surrounding streams across the park act as buffers during storm events, filtering sediment from overland flows before they reach streams and wetlands.

Botanical & Natural Resource Survey

In 2022, Equinox completed a Botanical & Natural Resource Survey Report of both the Fisher Creek Tract and the Blackrock Tract.

The botanical inventory identified:

1. Twenty (20) natural communities on the park property.
2. Field investigations yielded observations of twenty-six (26) rare/watch-listed/exploited plants in places across the park.
3. Ten (10) non-native invasive plants were noted within the park property.

Overall the inventory found that Pinnacle Park contains incredible ecological resources having statewide and global significance.

The inventory report identified the following top priority Issues that need to be addressed with regards to ecological sustainability:

1. Road and Trail degradation
2. Poaching of rare or threatened species
3. Non-native invasive plants (NNIP)

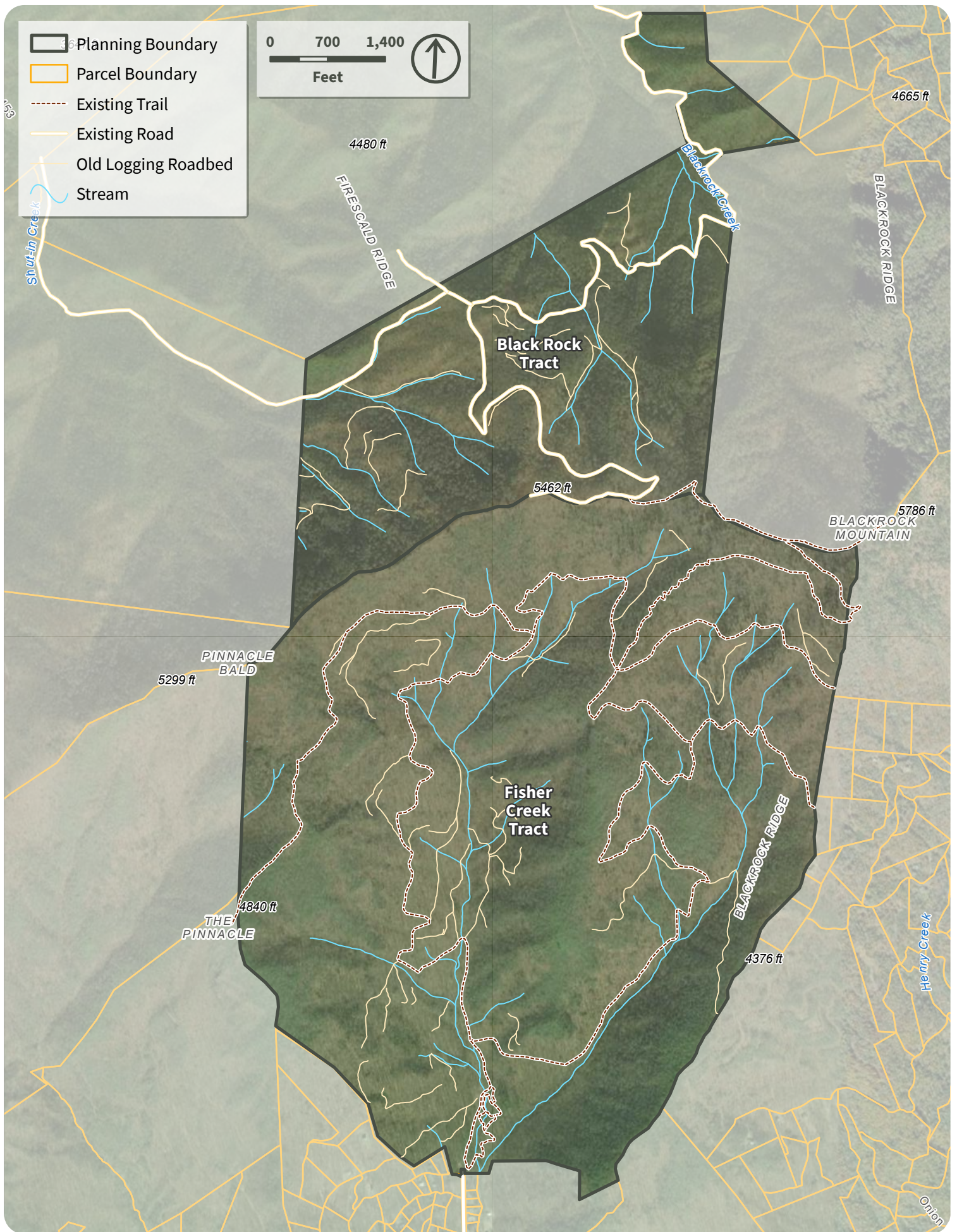
Another important ecological resource of note from the botanical inventory are the boulder field areas. These areas were also considered to be high value because historically they were inherently dangerous areas to try and log and were often only partially cut or avoided outright due to safety concerns. Furthermore, because the presence of shallow bedrock overwhelmingly stunts and warps canopy tree growth, significantly rocky areas also tend to support a lower proportion of marketable timber. Thus, these areas often coincide with locations of older, more intact stands of forest.

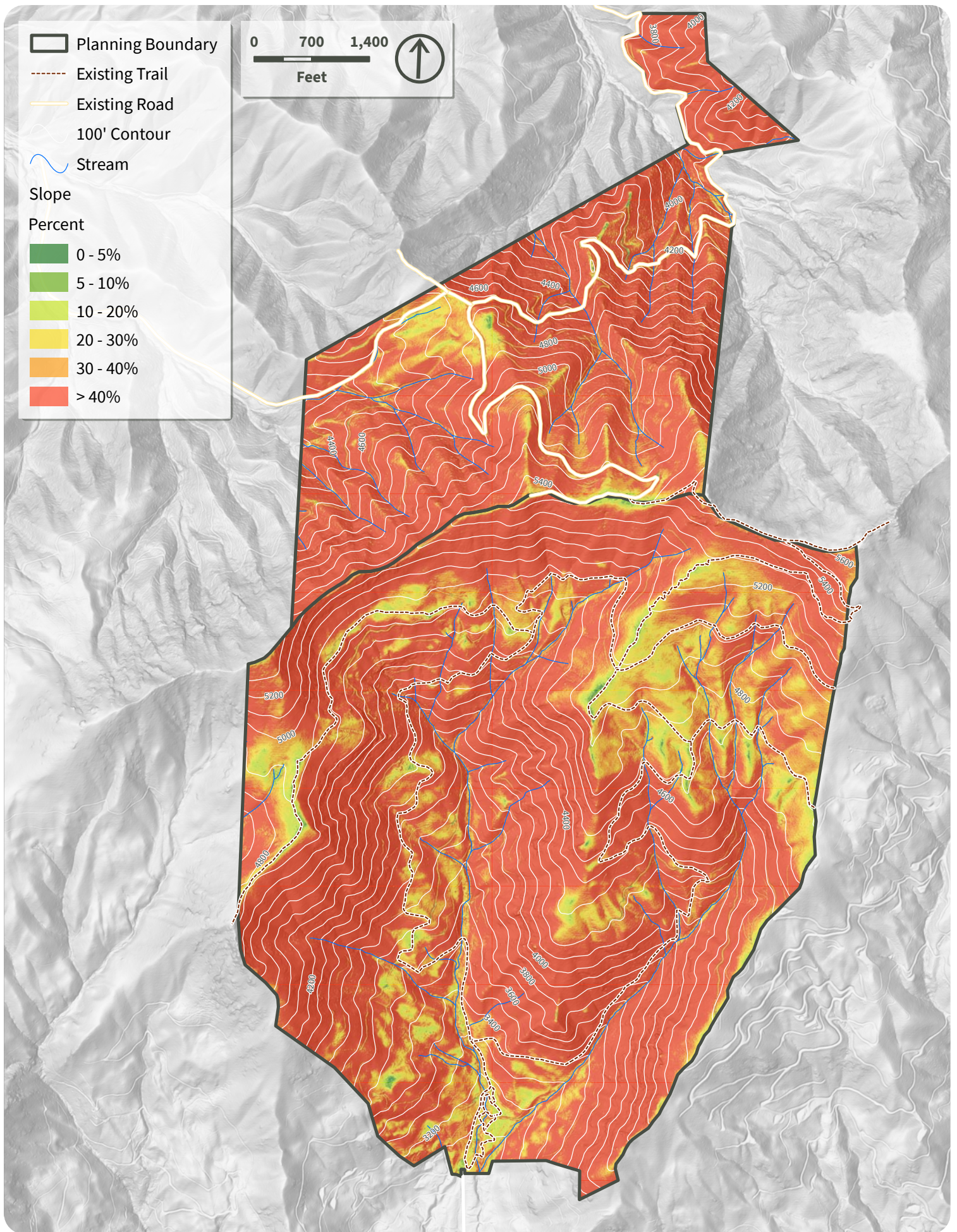
As a part of the inventory process, many locations within the property that could be considered as interesting or unique destination points for park users, including waterfalls, rock outcroppings, niche habitats, long-range vistas, and collections of beautiful wildflowers. As stated in the inventory, “many of these assets already exist in close proximity to existing trail infrastructure and can therefore be readily viewed and enjoyed by the public.”






Analysis

The following pages exhibit detailed maps of the site analysis process, including maps of ecological sensitivity and general existing conditions. These maps serve to guide the development of opportunities and constraints of the site and further direct the planning process of the park overall.











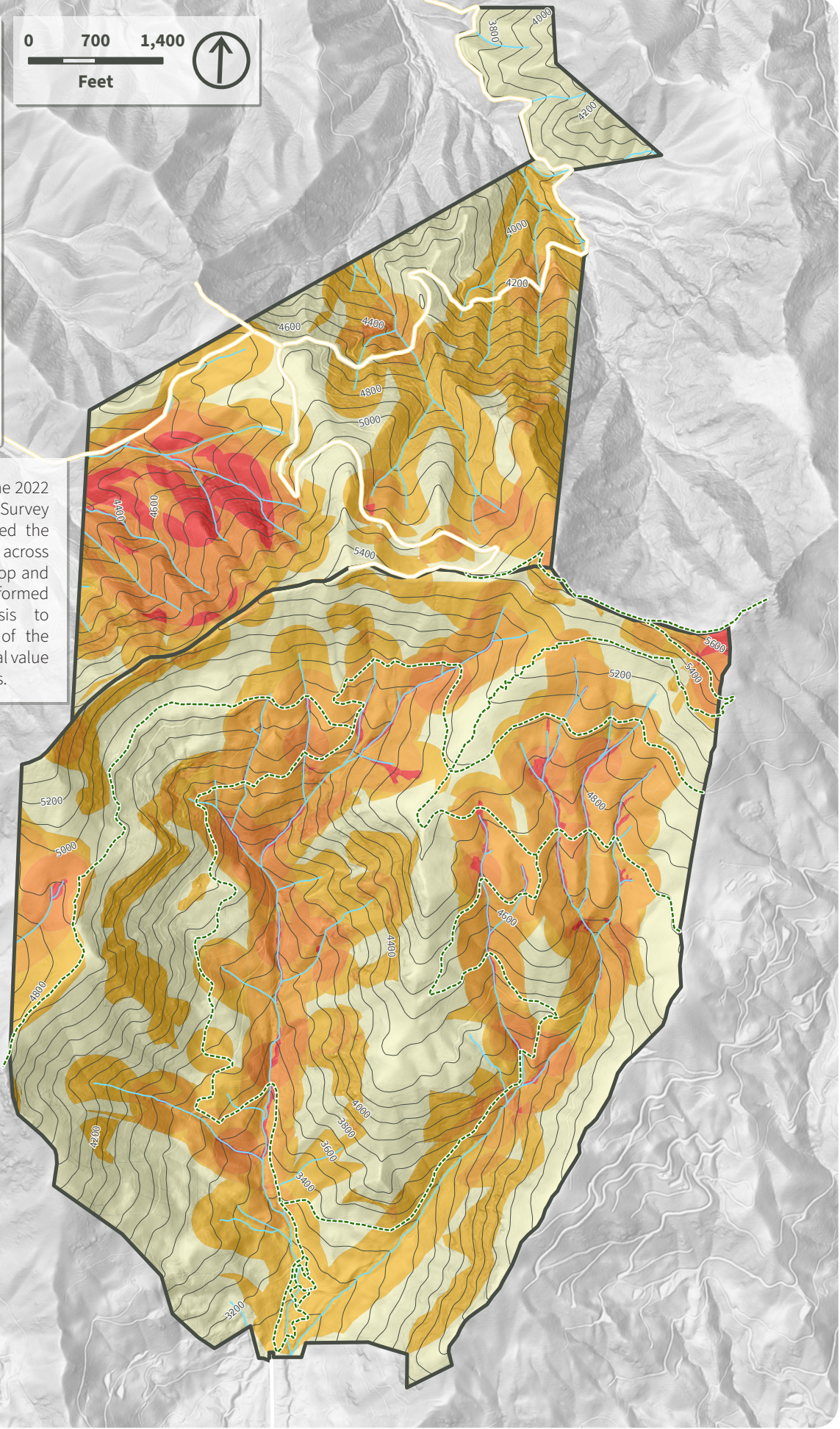
-  Planning Boundary
-  Existing Trail
-  Existing Road
-  100' Contour
-  Stream

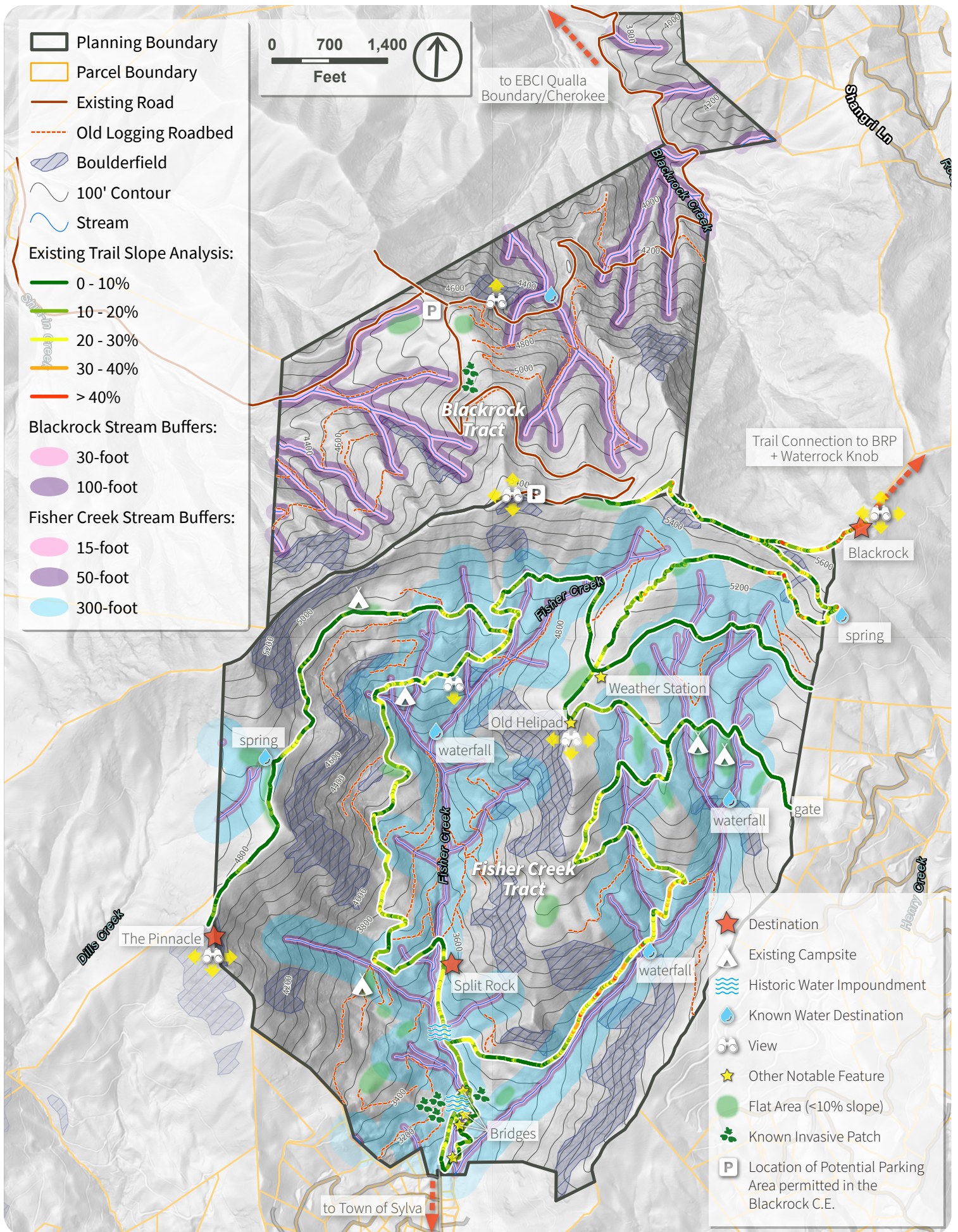


Ecological Sensitivity:
(number of overlaps)

-  3 - 6
-  7
-  8
-  9
-  10 - 12

The data for this map is from the 2022 Botanical & Natural Resources Survey for the site. Equinox considered the various conservation values across the site, identified during desktop and field assessments, and performed a geospatial overlay analysis to determine which areas were of the highest or most critical ecological value based on a variety of parameters.

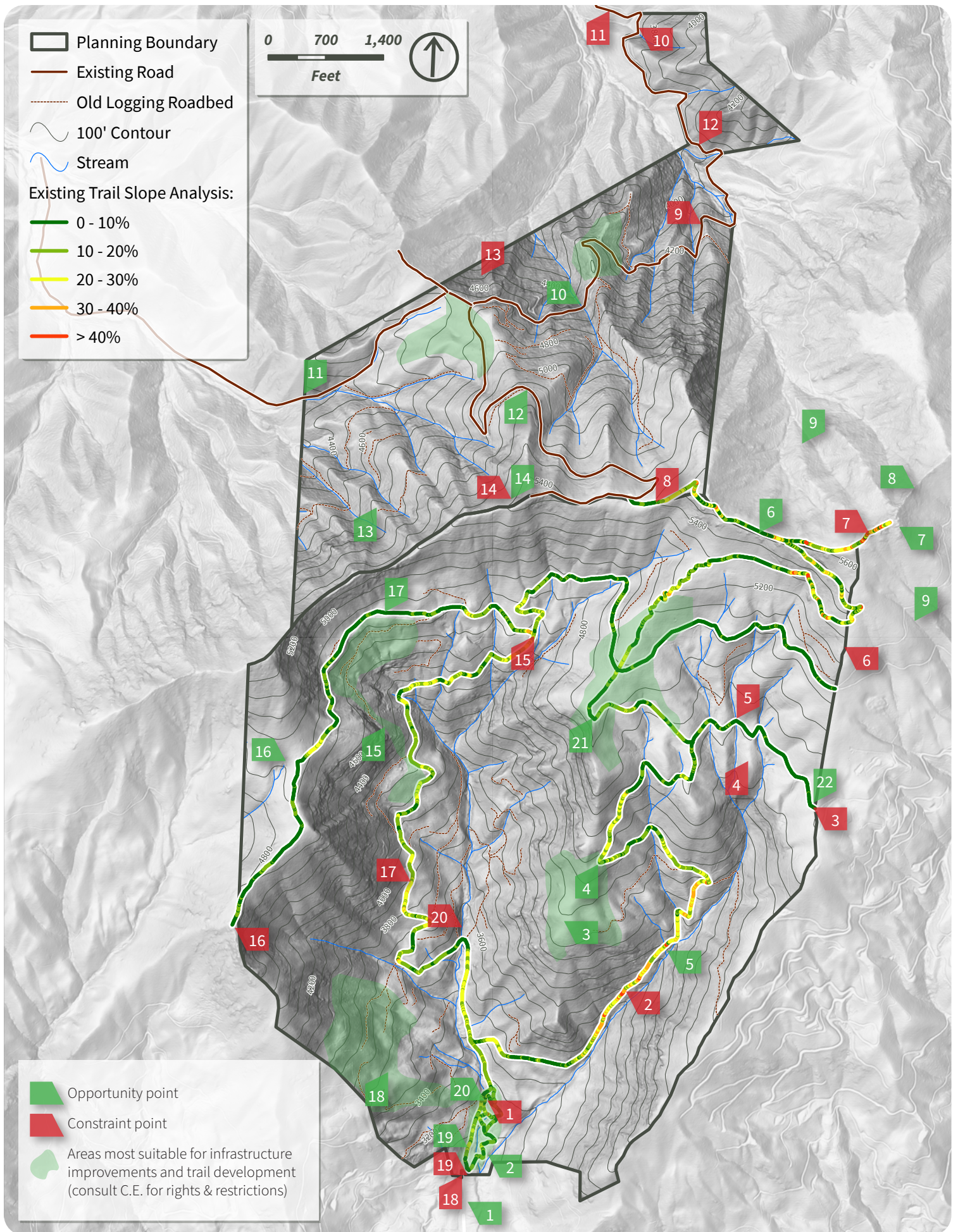






Opportunities & Constraints

The map on the next page is a synthesis of the existing conditions, the site analysis, and the trail analysis. This map identifies opportunities and challenges of the park property. By combining the information from the conservation easement of the allowable uses and restrictions, the botanical inventory and the observations from the design team. The most suitable areas for infrastructure improvements and trail development are shown.



Opportunities

- 1 Visitors drive through Sylva to access the Fisher Creek Tract, which can benefit Sylva economically.
- 2 Opportunity to make some part of this lower trail system universally accessible.
- 3 Potential destination at flat area for hikers.
- 4 Potential destination with views if managed.
- 5 Waterfall is a destination; hikers should be kept on trail.
- 6 Unique natural communities along the trail on ridgeline.
- 7 Blackrock is a destination for views.
- 8 Connection to Waterrock Knob & Blue Ridge Parkway.
- 9 Adjacent land is under conservation easement as well. Wildlife corridor connection.
- 10 Opportunity to interpret unique natural features along road/ trails.
- 11 Future connection to EBCI-owned Shut-In property.
- 12 Previously disturbed landscape provides opportunities for natural community restoration.
- 13 Intact forested areas should be maintained.
- 14 360-degree views.
- 15 Unique boulder field landscape area opportunity to make foot trail connection.
- 16 Spring may provide drinking water access to campsites at higher elevation.
- 17 Trail to the Pinnacle has gentle grade.
- 18 Flat areas can be utilized for amenities closer to the parking area. Areas suitable for a more-accessible trail system.
- 19 Forest Therapy Trail experiences high use and is popular for visitors.
- 20 Existing dams keep rainbow trout from entering brook trout habitat.
- 21 Potential for helipad for emergency access, currently provides a beautiful view point.
- 22 Emergency access through this entrance to reach upper ridges.

Constraints

- 1 Existing dams along Fisher Creek and tributaries are old and a safety hazard.
- 2 East Fork trail is steep single track and is challenging.
- 3 Gated access to park only accessible to residents of gated community.
- 4 Existing campsites hard to find and not signed. This is typical for all campsites.
- 5 Trail alignment through springs and are consistently wet and muddy.
- 6 The existing "Assault Trail" alignment is unsustainable.
- 7 Access to Blackrock is challenging, un-signed and destination not on park property.
- 8 Only connection to Blackrock Tract is via footpath and is un-signed.
- 9 Existing road through Blackrock Tract is in terrible condition and impassible by vehicle in some locations.
- 10 No parking available on Blackrock Tract to access.
- 11 Vehicular access to Blackrock Tract is only available via Blackrock Road and does not bring visitors to or near the Town of Sylva.
- 12 Minimal ways to monitor this side of the park for safety, trespassing to misuse of the park for Town of Sylva staff.
- 13 Extremely steep terrain throughout.
- 14 Highly disturbed landscape at top with trash and little to no vegetation.
- 15 Access to gentle grade trails along ridge is challenging.
- 16 Access to the Pinnacle is confusing and un-signed. The Pinnacle is on the border of the park property.
- 17 West Fork trail is steep and rocky.
- 18 The existing parking area at Fisher Creek is limited and unsustainable for high use.
- 19 Existing kiosk needs a clear map of trails. Information for permits and access is confusing.
- 20 Fisher Creek and its tributaries are high quality trout streams. Maintaining riparian buffers is of high importance.



All trails within Pinnacle Park are required to be designed to sustainable trail standards per the existing conservation easements. There are several design principles that can be applied to achieve sustainable trail design. Generally, these include designing trails to shed water, minimize natural resource impacts, minimize trail erosion, easing trail maintenance through proper design, and ensuring financial sustainability to manage the trails system.

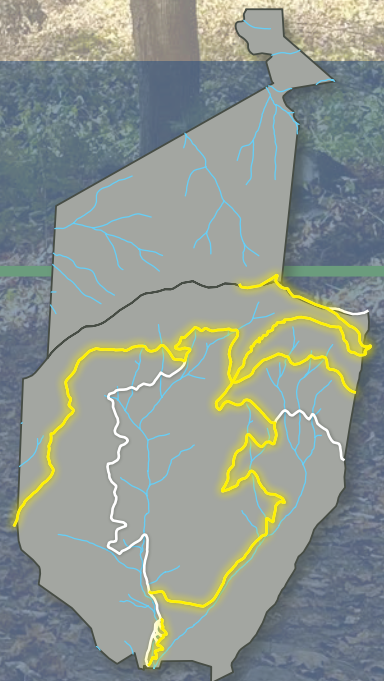
In the fall of 2023, the Equinox team performed a detailed assessment of 6.61 miles of existing trails in the park. The inset map of the property below displays the alignment of the assessed trails in yellow. USDA Forest Service (USFS) Trail Assessment and Condition Survey (TRACS) forms were filled out in detail for each assessed trail. These detailed forms from this assessment are available for the use of those managing and/or maintaining trails in the park, and are included as an appendix to this plan.











The main roadbed on the western side of the property commonly referred to as “West Fork” was not assessed due to its overall condition which closer resembles a rocky roadbed than a hiking trail. It is currently the only route from the Fisher Creek parking area that permits vehicle access to The Pinnacle and is the most viable emergency access route into the park.

The following pages show the resulting trail assessment maps. Each map focuses on a separate section of trail, detailing some areas/approximate locations that need the most-urgent maintenance if the section of trail is to remain open. The TRACS forms completed for each trail contain details on the condition of each trail and prescriptive tasks to address trail features that require maintenance.

Chapter 2

Trail Assessment

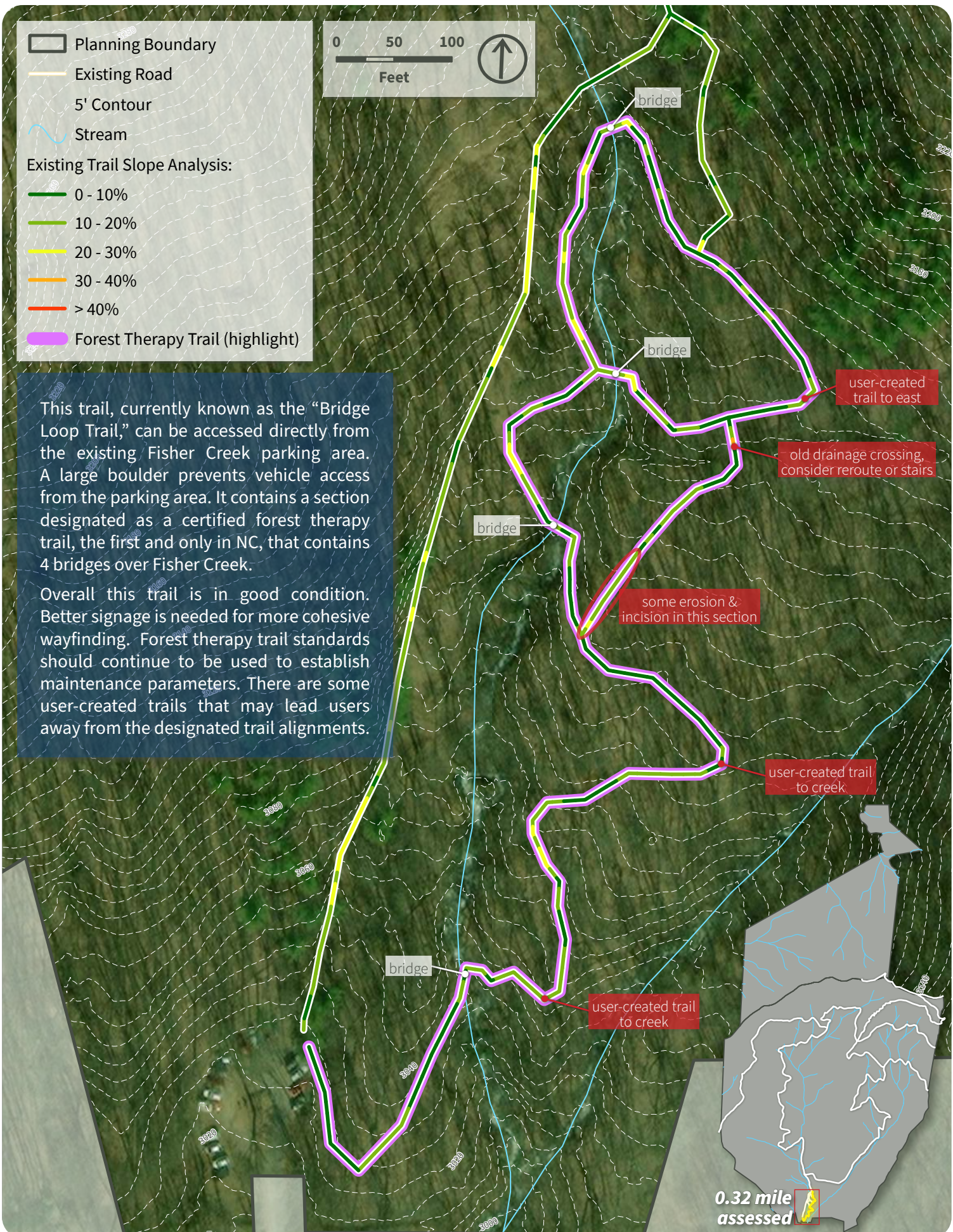


-  Planning Boundary
-  Existing Road
-  5' Contour
-  Stream
- Existing Trail Slope Analysis:
-  0 - 10%
-  10 - 20%
-  20 - 30%
-  30 - 40%
-  > 40%
-  Forest Therapy Trail (highlight)

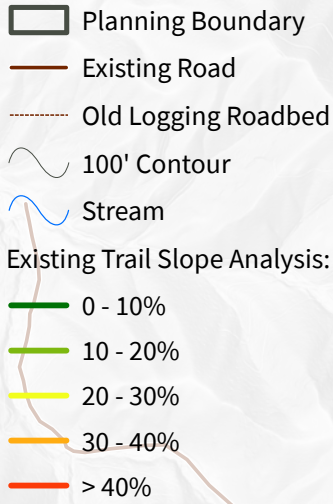


This trail, currently known as the “Bridge Loop Trail,” can be accessed directly from the existing Fisher Creek parking area. A large boulder prevents vehicle access from the parking area. It contains a section designated as a certified forest therapy trail, the first and only in NC, that contains 4 bridges over Fisher Creek.

Overall this trail is in good condition. Better signage is needed for more cohesive wayfinding. Forest therapy trail standards should continue to be used to establish maintenance parameters. There are some user-created trails that may lead users away from the designated trail alignments.



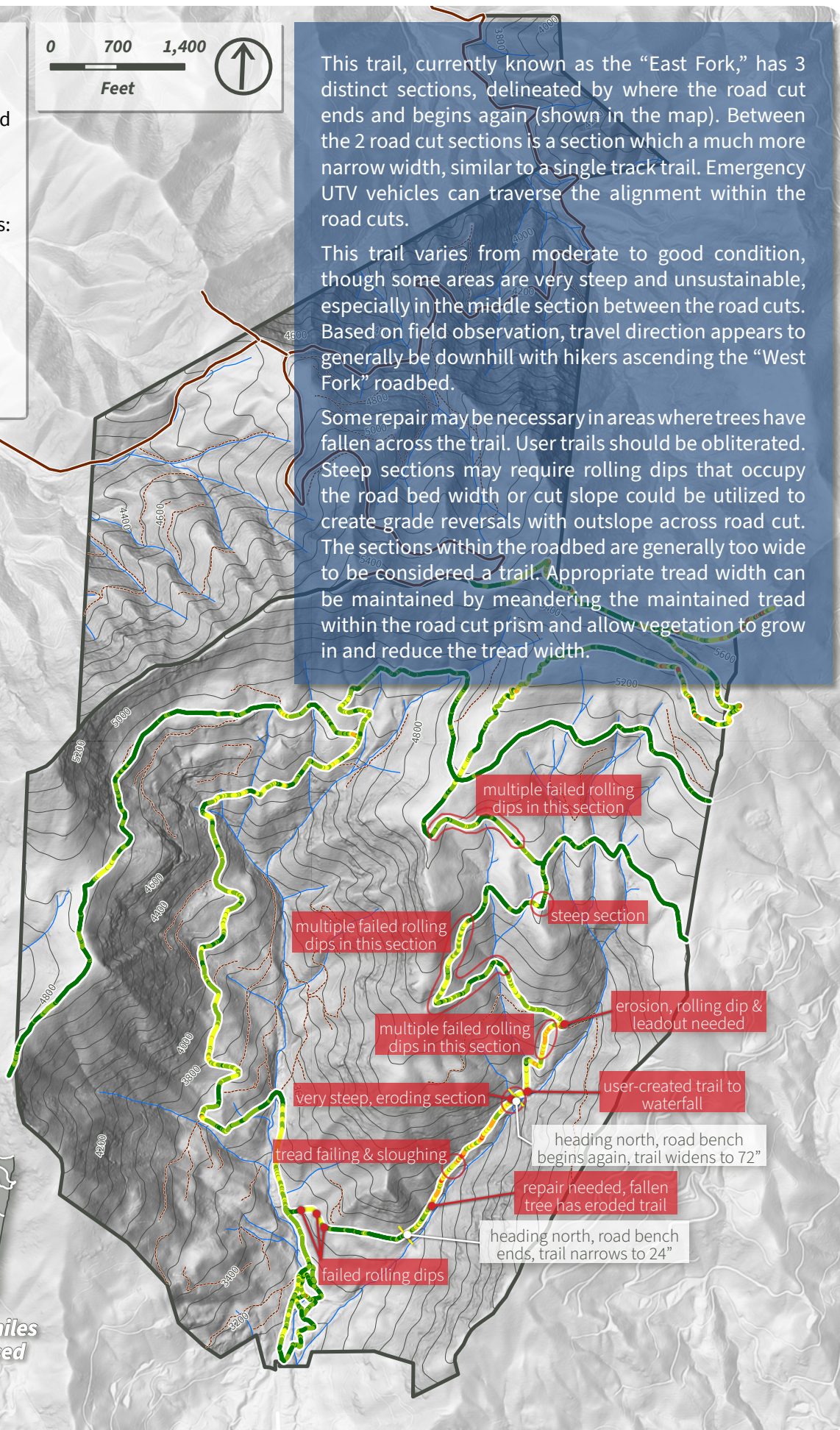
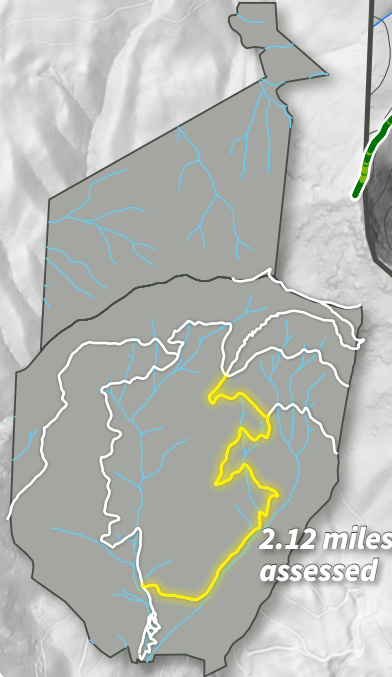
0.32 mile assessed 













This trail, currently known as the “East Fork,” has 3 distinct sections, delineated by where the road cut ends and begins again (shown in the map). Between the 2 road cut sections is a section which a much more narrow width, similar to a single track trail. Emergency UTV vehicles can traverse the alignment within the road cuts.

This trail varies from moderate to good condition, though some areas are very steep and unsustainable, especially in the middle section between the road cuts. Based on field observation, travel direction appears to generally be downhill with hikers ascending the “West Fork” roadbed.

Some repair may be necessary in areas where trees have fallen across the trail. User trails should be obliterated. Steep sections may require rolling dips that occupy the road bed width or cut slope could be utilized to create grade reversals with outslope across road cut. The sections within the roadbed are generally too wide to be considered a trail. Appropriate tread width can be maintained by meandering the maintained tread within the road cut prism and allow vegetation to grow in and reduce the tread width.

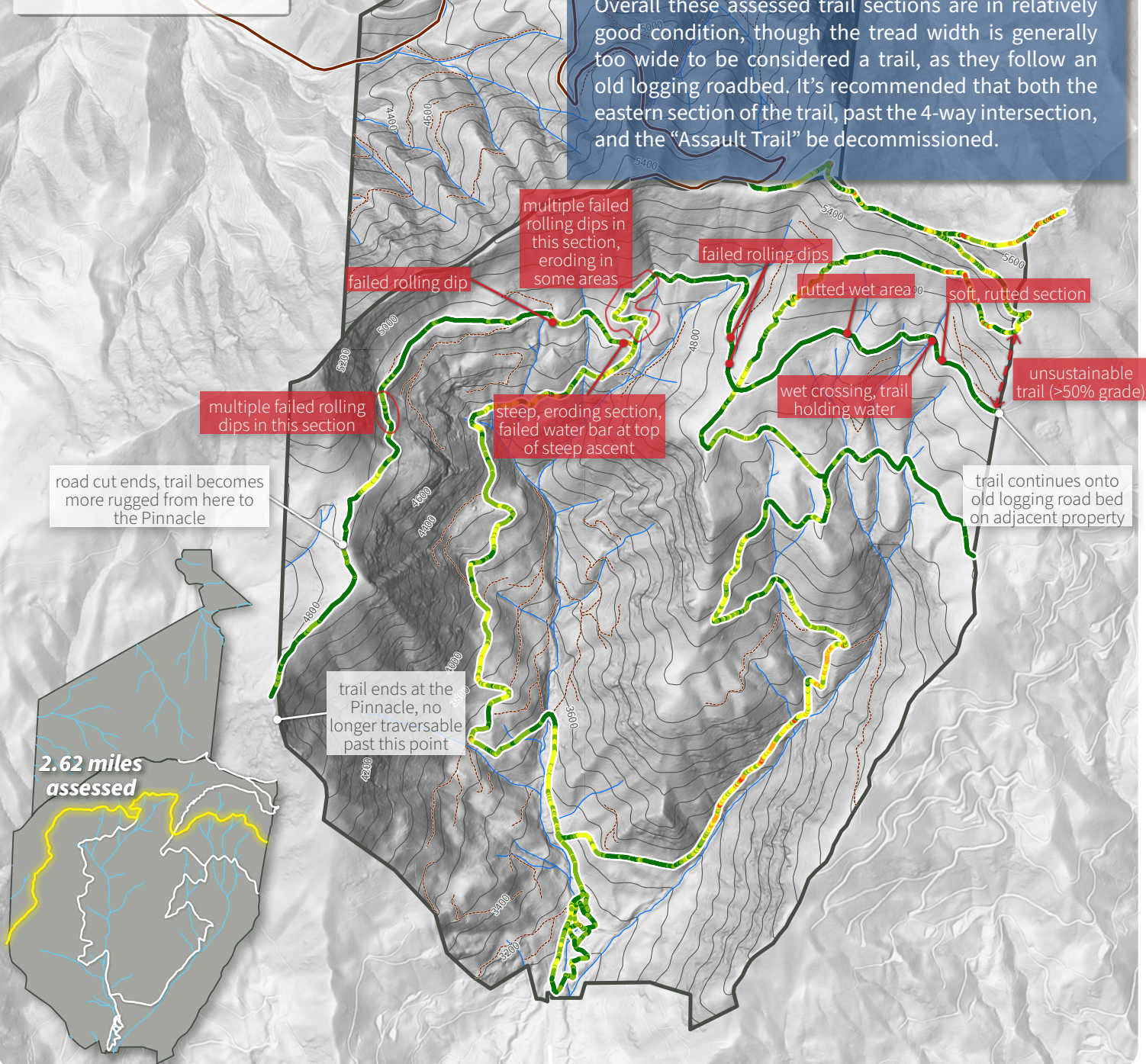


-  Planning Boundary
-  Existing Road
-  Old Logging Roadbed
-  100' Contour
-  Stream
- Existing Trail Slope Analysis:
 -  0 - 10%
 -  10 - 20%
 -  20 - 30%
 -  30 - 40%
 -  > 40%

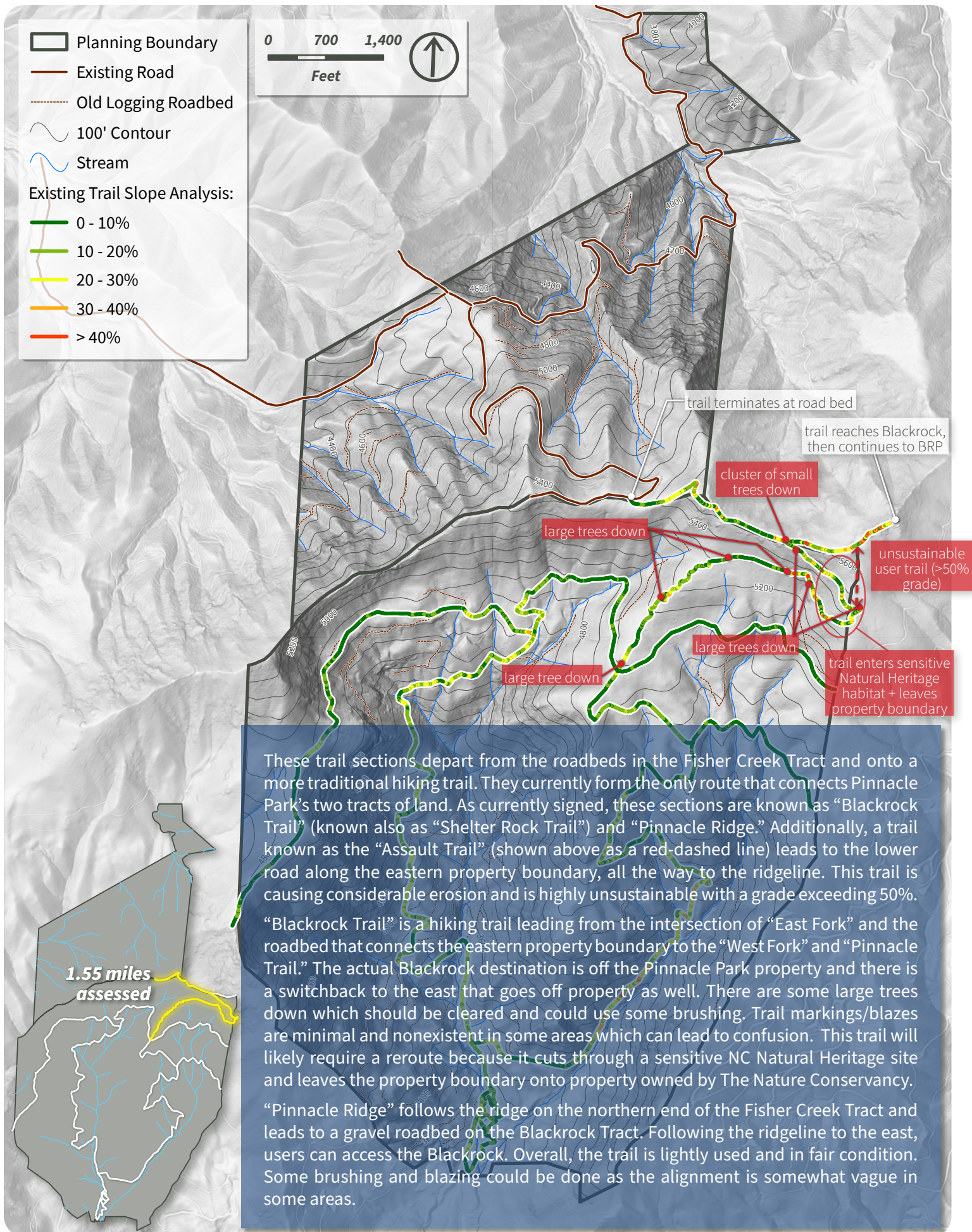


These trail sections create the main route from west to east and allow emergency UTV passage. The western section currently known as the “Pinnacle Trail” is the only access for users to reach The Pinnacle. The middle section connects the “West Fork” to the “East Fork” and serves as a connector between the two for users and emergency vehicles. The eastern section traverses to the eastern property boundary, where the old logging roadbed continues onto the adjacent property owned by The Nature Conservancy. Near the property boundary, an unsustainably steep trail, which is part of the “Assault Trail,” runs north (shown below as a red-dashed line).

Overall these assessed trail sections are in relatively good condition, though the tread width is generally too wide to be considered a trail, as they follow an old logging roadbed. It’s recommended that both the eastern section of the trail, past the 4-way intersection, and the “Assault Trail” be decommissioned.



2.62 miles assessed



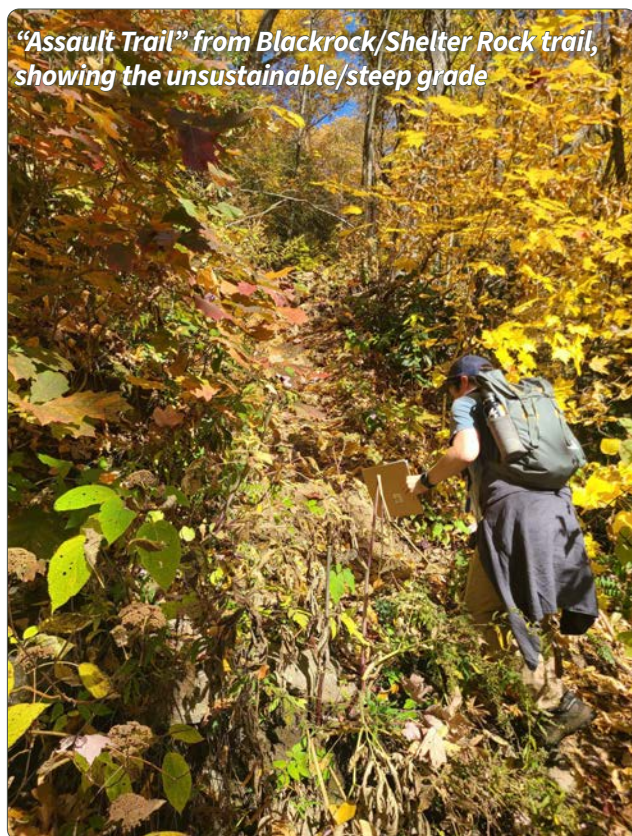
Trail Assessment Summary

The Pinnacle Park property is similar to many mountainous properties in this region which have been used for resource extraction over the years where improved access came in the form of logging roads and skid trails. In addition, the park was a watershed for the Town of Sylva and access was created to allow for the development of a dam for water impoundment. With a transition to recreation-based use, many of the existing logging roads and skid trails became the alignments for trail development. Today, the majority of the trails within Pinnacle Park are conversions from the original logging roads to today's trail system. The West Fork, a main corridor into the property, has been maintained to a width more similar to a traditional logging road and is currently a main access for emergency services in addition to hiking. Based on feedback received during the master planning process and field observations, it has been determined that this access will continue to be used for that purpose. While the West Fork provides the current quickest route to the Pinnacle as well as viewing and access opportunities for Fisher Creek, it provides a very different user experience than on trails with a lower development level.



Bridge along the Forest Therapy Trail

For other trails that traverse old roadbeds, the corridor has generally been allowed to grow in over time and become more confined and closer to the width of a traditional hiking trail. Constructed features have then been added when erosion or other natural occurrences have caused damage to a trail. As a result, roads which have reverted to trails contain many constructed features for the purposes of managing water runoff.



“Assault Trail” from Blackrock/Shelter Rock trail, showing the unsustainable/steep grade

As a result, roads which have reverted to trails contain many constructed features for the purposes of managing water runoff.

There are a few more singletrack trails such as the middle portion of East Fork where it appears the trail was built in order to connect the ends of two logging road segments that were terminated, presumably due to terrain and limited access for logging. These trails are similar to those mentioned above where the alignment may not follow typical preferred routes or footprints and may have additional constructed features including runoff management as well as features like stairs or other grade change designs to ease slope. While these types of road-to-trail conversions and alignments mentioned above are not ideal, they can be managed within the context of a larger program of work.

In addition, there have been some trails, like the Bridge Loop/Forest Therapy Trail and the Blackrock Trail, which have been built along new alignments and are constructed closer to currently accepted trail standards. These trails are generally in pretty good shape and may only need minor improvements in order to be sustainable for the long term.

Last, there are a few user-created trails which need to be acknowledged, and a determination should be made as to whether or not they can be added to the system or need to be decommissioned and obliterated. Over time, decommissioning may be appropriate for other existing trails, but this can be assessed over time within a comprehensive management program.

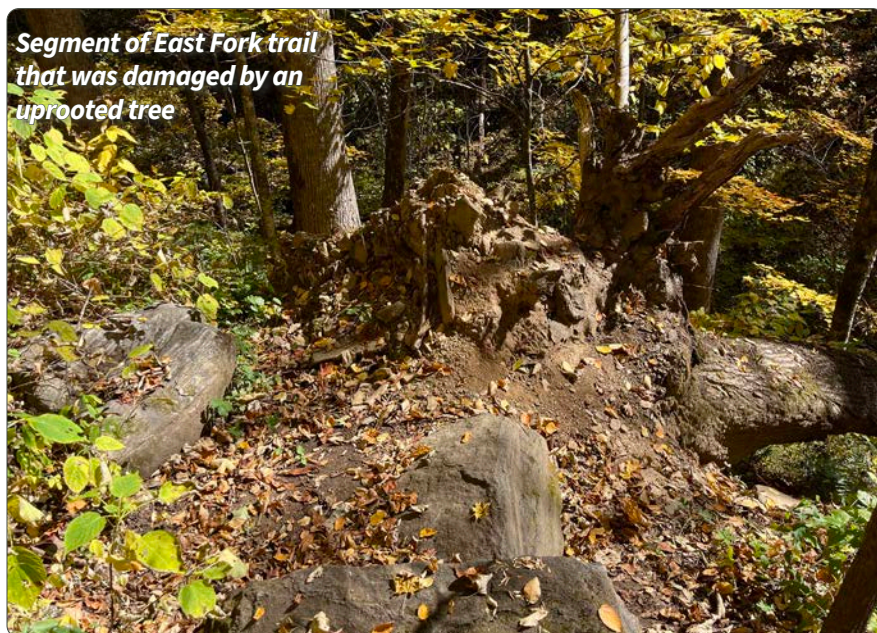
During the trail assessment, system trails within Pinnacle Park (as identified by the steering committee) were traversed and evaluated based on the USFS sustainable trail standards as well as its TRACS guidelines. The guidelines provided a basis by which to designate trail class for each trail assessed. This information was then used to develop trail condition surveys and trail management objectives (TMOs) for each trail. A documented TMO will pinpoint the intended use and management requirements for each trail. The documentation and classification of existing trails is an important aspect of developing a maintainable and manageable trail system.

Overall, the Pinnacle Park trails are in a condition that mimics many others in our region. There are areas where the trails are performing great and require minimal work while others are in poor condition and need immediate work. Outside of any needs associated with meeting requirements of the existing conservation easement or natural heritage requirements, **no trails were identified that require immediate closure.** A notable observation of the current system is that there are limited options for destinations or loop opportunities within the lower portion of the property. Most hikers encountered by the trail assessment team had hiked all the way up the West Fork to Pinnacle or were doing a loop that went up West Fork and then came down East Fork. Given the terrain, **consideration should be given to identifying destinations lower on the property and creating shorter loop opportunities to access those destinations.** Also, loops that can get users off West Fork will allow for a more remote experience for some users. **East Fork should be closely monitored over time due to its slope and it may be advisable to consider a reroute to a more sustainable grade.**

With the assessment data, park managers now have a tool to be able to track and evaluate these trails over time. Most importantly, **a consistent maintenance program should be implemented in order to be able to spread work throughout the year.** As new trails are constructed and use continues to rise, management decisions should be made as to which trails take priority and where trails that require extensive maintenance may need to be rerouted or even decommissioned in order ease the pressure on these maintenance activities.



Downed trees over the Blackrock/Shelter Rock Trail



Segment of East Fork trail that was damaged by an uprooted tree



Chapter 3

Park Master Plan

Master Plan Concept

- Planning Boundary
- Existing Road
- 100' Contour
- Stream

0 700 1,400
Feet



improve existing
1/2 mile of road for
vehicular access



Trailhead
Kiosk



Proposed
Bench or
Rest Area



Proposed
Viewing
Platform



Existing
Destination



Backcountry
Campsite



Outdoor
Classroom



Vehicular
Parking



Hiking
Only



Proposed
Hiking
Only



Vehicular
Road



Emergency
Access Point

provide overlook
platform on knoll on
Blackrock Tract

trail should be rerouted to avoid
environmentally-sensitive areas

create additional hiking-
only trails in strategic
areas throughout
property

add benches at locations
for rest and scenic and
wildlife viewing

existing private gate
prevents emergency
access here

provide outdoor
classroom for school
groups

some user-created routes
can be re-routed & converted
to sustainable trails - others
should be removed

improve parking
area, add accessible
parking, update kiosk

add accessible trail
and viewing platform



Blackrock Tract

Due to the Blackrock Tract being more accessible from the Cherokee/ Maggie Valley side of the mountain, and less accessible through Sylva, the current proposed uses for this section of the park are limited. It is recommended that initial steps be taken to, at minimum, stabilize the heavily eroding roadway that winds through the property and establish this access as a hiking trail for adventurous visitors. These stabilization efforts will also provide ecological benefit to the already disturbed landscape.

The first half mile can be stabilized for vehicular access. The remaining sections of the road base should be stabilized to reduce erosion and provide opportunities for hiking.

At minimum, a continuation of wayfinding signage should be placed along the existing roadway for safety. See the recommendation focus section for more information.

It is recommended to preserve and protect the areas that are ecologically sensitive.

It is recommended to wait on any further investments into additional amenities on this side of the mountain until other partnerships are identified and secured, including with Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians who own the adjacent Shut-in Tract.



Fisher Creek Tract

Investments in improvements to the park should be focused on the Fisher Creek Tract. As it already sees a level of usage from the community, improvements can be implemented in various stages that improve user experience, enhance the ecology of the forest, and that help minimize degradation.

The following pages describe more detail on recommendation focus areas. Some of the main recommendations for the Fisher Creek Tract are:

- Improve existing trail system for hiking only use
- Decommission trails that are harmful or contributing to ecological degradation.
- Add more hiking trails where appropriate.
- Provide amenities that enhance user experience throughout the park, where appropriate.
- Improve parking area as the grand entrance to the park.
- Preserve and protect areas that are most ecologically sensitive
- Educate park visitors through wayfinding and educational signage

Conceptual Images



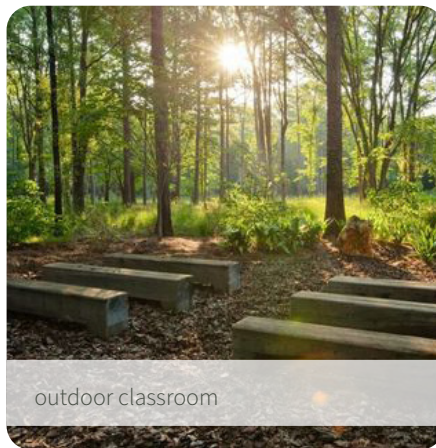
maintain emergency access trail



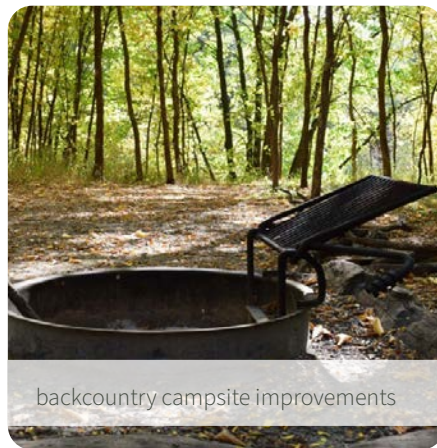
pit toilet at fisher creek trailhead



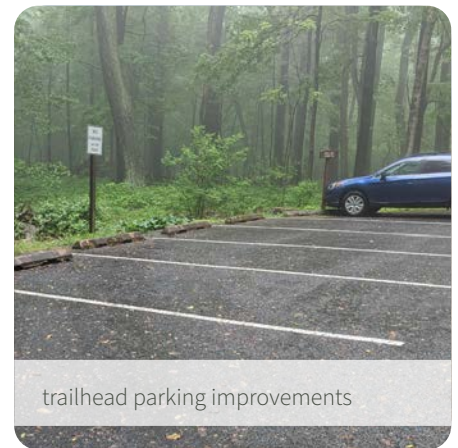
additional hiking opportunities



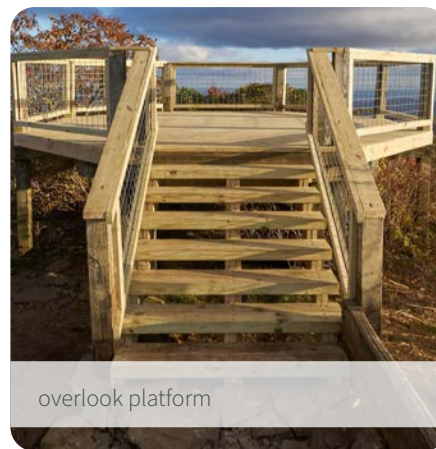
outdoor classroom



backcountry campsite improvements



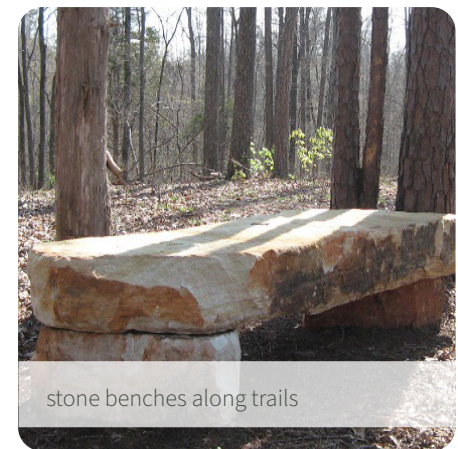
trailhead parking improvements



overlook platform



accessible platform



stone benches along trails

The above images represent examples demonstrating the possible designs of the proposed amenities for the master plan. New amenities are offered throughout the park. This includes low-maintenance stone benches placed periodically for visitors to rest along the challenging climbs. It also includes an overlook platform that is accessible for hikers on the exposed knoll at the top, between the two tracts. Revegetation of this area with native high elevation grasses or ground covers should be considered. This area is a premier viewing location that can be considered as destination just as important as the Pinnacle.

Pinnacle Park Master Plan

Meeting the Plan Goals

The master plan is presented on the following pages, offering a blueprint for the future of Pinnacle Park. Below are the six goals defined by the steering committee early in the planning process to define the outcomes of this plan, each followed by an explanation of how the proposed design and layout of the future park addresses these goals.

Pinnacle Park provides a sustainable trail system that is thoughtfully planned and provides access for a variety of skill levels.

This plan provides three new trail alignments to be constructed in the future, the Boulder Trail, the Fisher Creek Trail, and the Pinnacle Connector trail. There are also proposed reroutes and improvements to create a more sustainable trail system. These new alignments provide access to unique areas of the park and provide a system that meets the needs of different skill levels.

Pinnacle Park protects natural, cultural and viewshed resources. The park will create a space for visitors to enjoy the land while conserving significant resources. This includes the management of invasive species.

All of the proposed amenities and trails in this master plan were vetted through the lens of resource protection. Existing trails that previously impacted significant ecological resources are recommended to be rerouted. Care and proper maintenance of the park amenities will contribute to the protection of resources, including the continued control of invasive species.

Pinnacle Park provides a space for education and research about the park's unique ecosystems.

An outdoor classroom space is shown in the master plan, along with an improved parking area with defined bus parking. It is also recommended to include a series of interpretive signage throughout the park, allowing visitors to learn about the unique natural resources.

Pinnacle Park provides space for the community to practice physical well-being, mental well-being and contemplation.

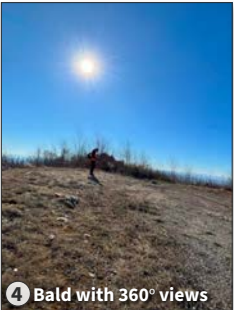
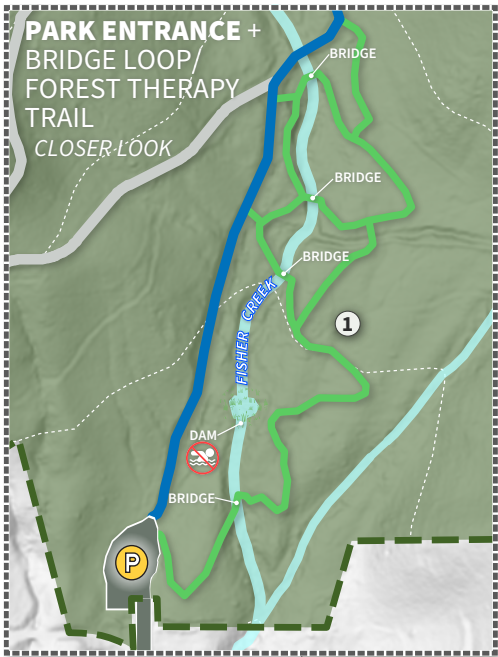
During the planning process, the community expressed the importance of the trails and especially the Forest Therapy Trail as places where they can experience nature near the town center of Sylva. This master plan provides a variety of trails at varying difficulty levels for visitors to experience the park. The plan recommends the periodic placement of benches along the trail system for rest and contemplation. The Forest Therapy Trail is a major asset for the park and this plan recommends enhancing it and constructing a platform that is accessible, meeting the needs for more members of the community.

Pinnacle Park is well maintained by both public and private entities, including the Town of Sylva and volunteer groups.

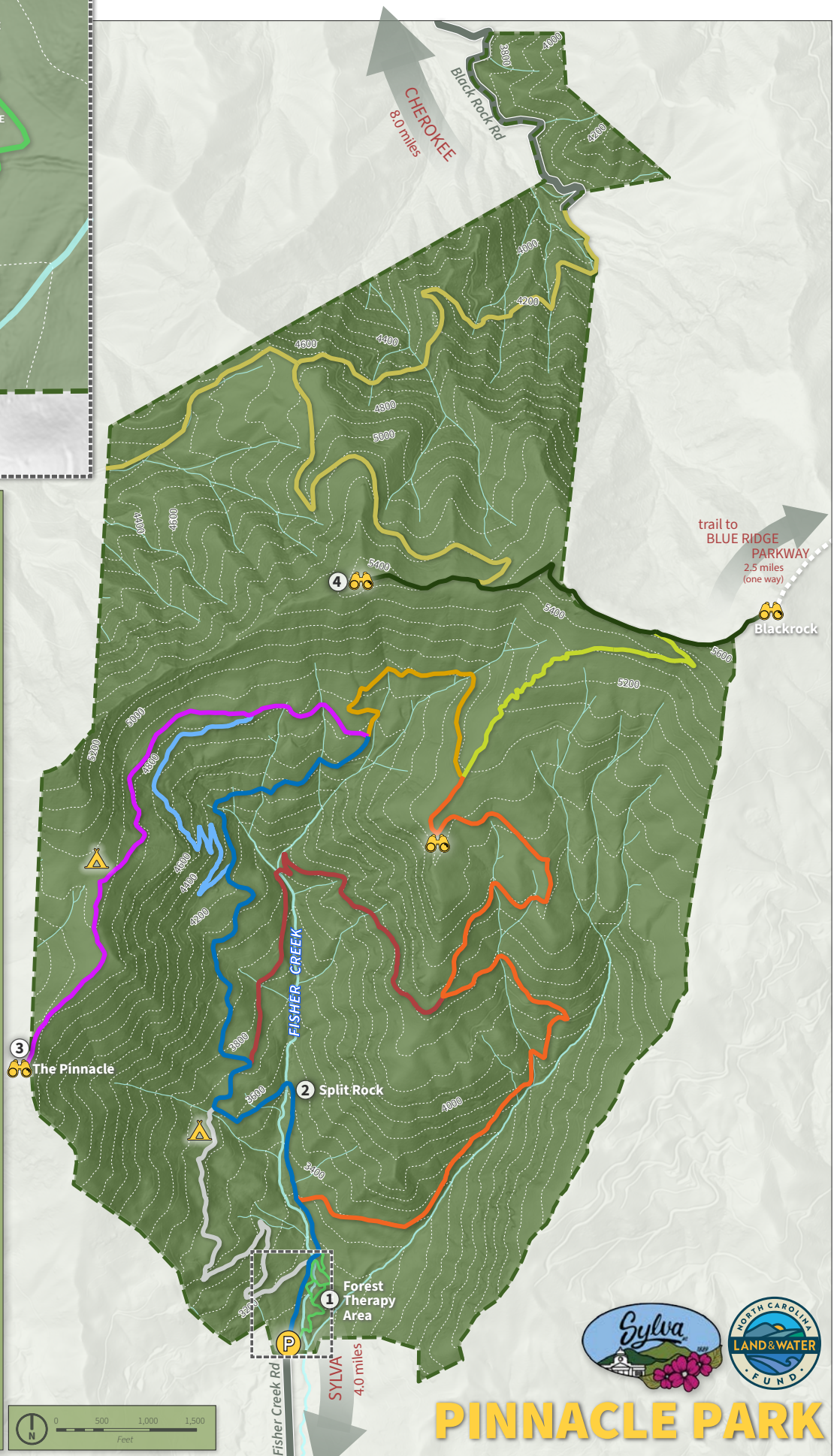
This plan recommends the creation of a maintenance regime and schedule to be adopted by the Town of Sylva and the Pinnacle Park Foundation. The recommendations also include ways in which volunteers can assist in the continued maintenance and stewardship of the park.

Pinnacle Park has adequate amenities to support the use of the park now and in the future.

The use of Pinnacle Park as a recreational resource will always be limited by its steep terrain and limited parking. With the significant natural resources present on the property, thoughtful placement of amenities throughout the park is essential. This plan recommends a limited yet thoughtful amount of new amenities along the trails as well as the improvement of the existing limited parking, allowing for the natural environment to thrive in place for decades to come.



- Backcountry Campsite
- Overlook View
- Vehicular Parking
- West Fork (1.94 miles)
- East Fork (2.12 miles)
- Bridge Loop/Forest Therapy Trail (0.47 mile)
- Boulder Trail (0.93 mile)
- Fisher Creek Trail (1.05 miles)
- Pinnacle Trail (1.31 miles)
- Pinnacle Connector (0.85 mile)
- Middle Fork Connector (0.65 mile)
- Shelter Rock Trail (to Blackrock) (0.76 mile)
- Blackrock Ridge (0.71 mile)
- Blackrock Road-to-Trails
- Vehicular Road



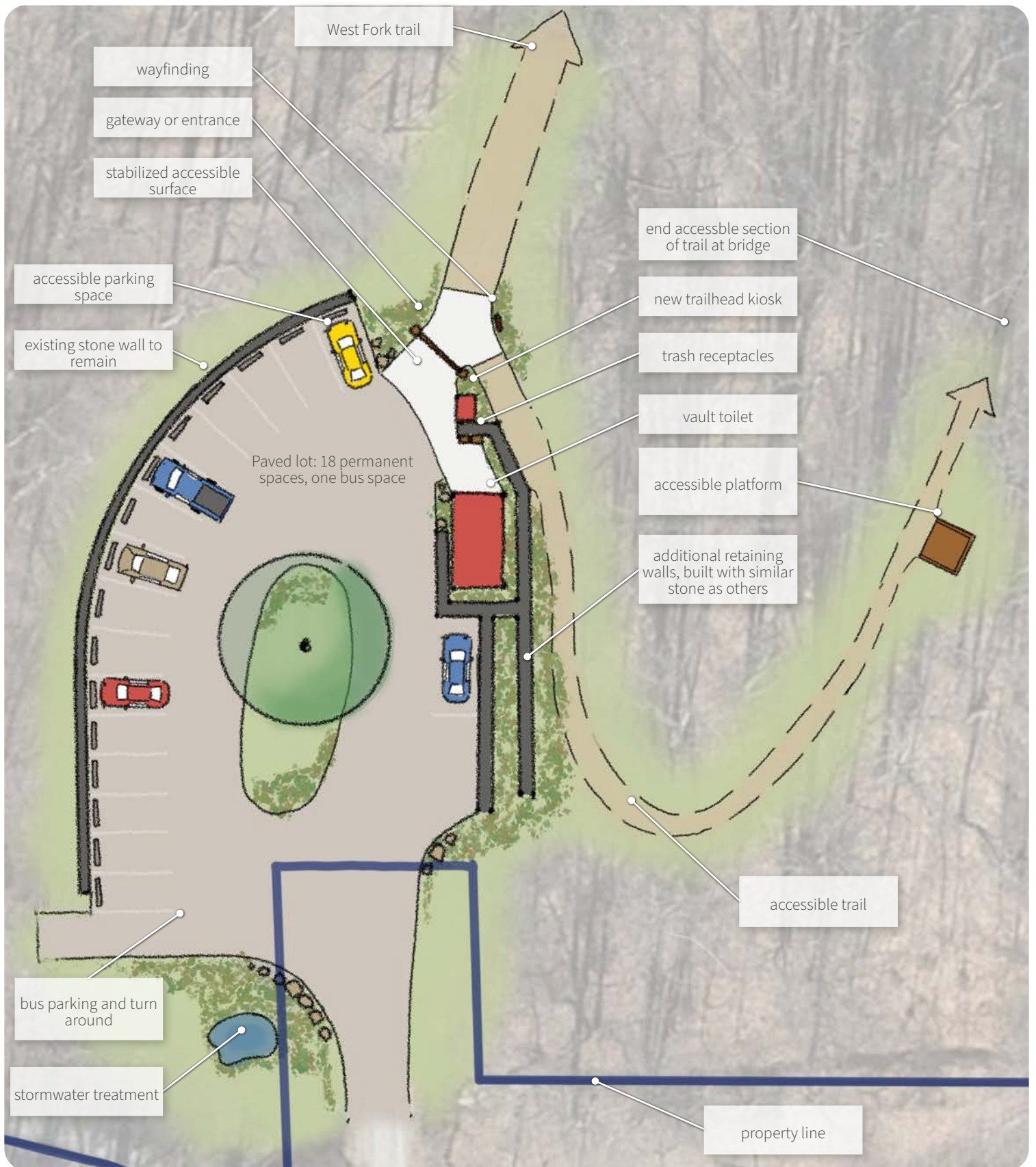
PINNACLE PARK

A person is walking away from the camera on a dirt trail through a forest. The trees are covered in bright yellow autumn leaves, and the ground is covered in fallen leaves. The person is wearing a dark t-shirt and light-colored pants. The background is a dense forest of tall trees with yellow foliage.

Focused Recommendation & Guidelines

The community has shown they have a vested interest in caring for this special asset for the Town of Sylva, and improvements are needed to make the park and existing trails safer, more accessible, and more environmentally sustainable. This master plan seeks to focus recommendations on the most-needed considerations, not just on built improvements, but also on long-term management and maintenance for this park to protect the park's ecological significance and user experience.

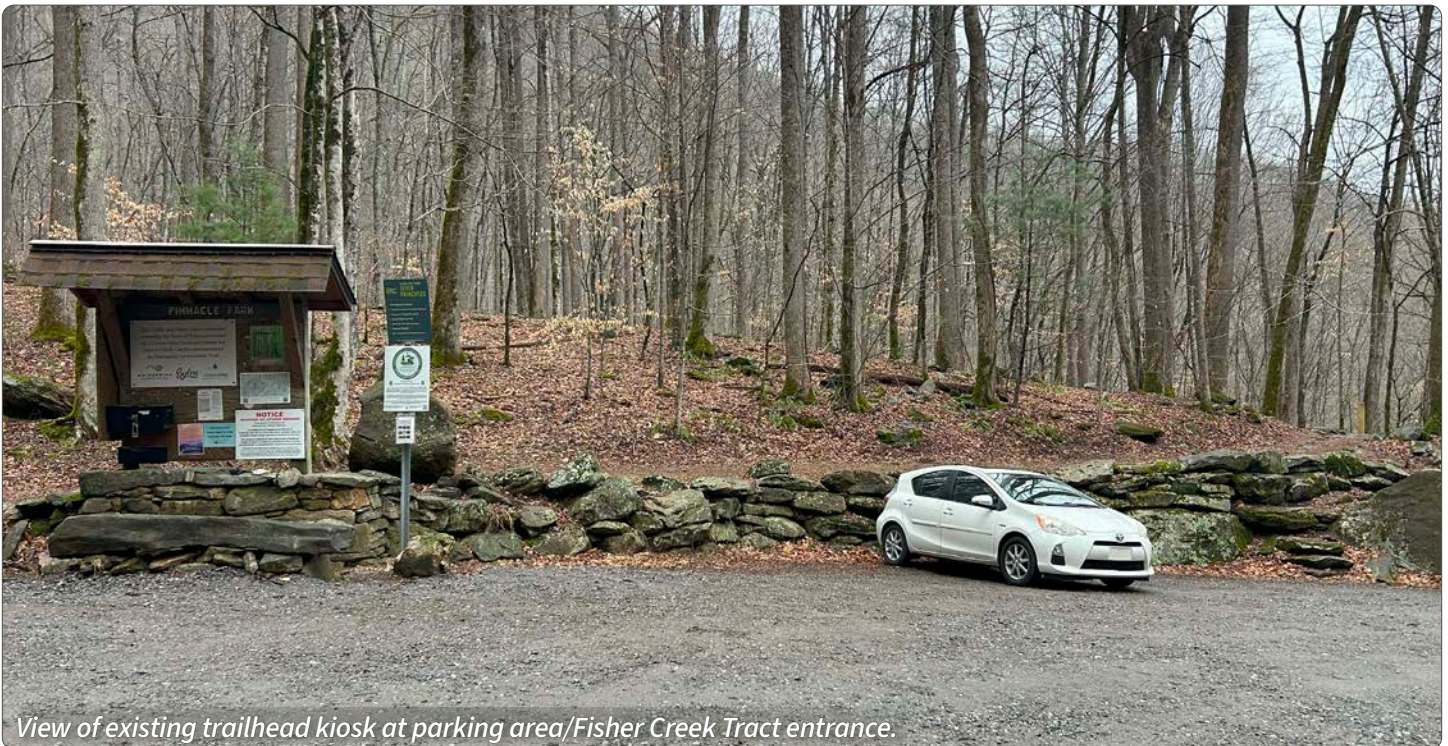
Recommendations: Trailhead Parking Improvements



Recommendations: Trailhead Parking Improvements

It is recommended that the parking area at the Fisher Creek trailhead be rearranged and improved. This will include defining the circulation through the parking area, the demarcation of spaces with wheel stops, expansion of the space (as possible), installation of a vault toilet, and re-envisioning of the trailhead kiosk space.

The concept rendering for upgrading the Fisher Creek Trailhead access (shown on the previous page) maximizes parking while also adding multiple new beneficial amenities. It includes a vault toilet in an accessible location that is oriented in a manner to increase its functionality. If the vault toilet is not installed, this area could be utilized for additional parking spaces. In this concept, the parking area is paved and a stormwater treatment area is provided at the south end of the parking area. Each parking space is marked and includes a wheelstop. A new trailhead kiosk, entrance signage, and trash facilities are shown. Because much of the park is inaccessible from an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) perspective, improving the first section of the Forest Therapy Trail until the first bridge so that it is more accessible is recommended. Additionally, a viewing platform off the side of this accessible trail is shown, which would include an element of ecological interpretation, to create a destination that is easy to access.



View of existing trailhead kiosk at parking area/Fisher Creek Tract entrance.



Parking area over capacity on a busy day.

Recommendations:

Ecological Preservation, Interpretation

Pinnacle Park contains incredible ecological resources that have statewide and global significance. The 2023 Botanical and Natural Resources Survey Report states that “it is critical that the site’s sensitive resources are protected from existing and future impacts.” It also states that these resources “should be celebrated and interpreted so that the public can experience them in their natural state, learn about their constituent parts, and connect with them on a meaningful level such that they, too, will understand the ecological importance of the resources.”

The placement of any new trail or amenity should be done with reference to the aforementioned 2023 report and the included ecological sensitivity map. No new development should occur in areas with high ecological sensitivity.

It is recommended that a review process be enacted for any new development within the park boundaries. A responsible party such as the Pinnacle Park Foundation Board should review the locations of any new development based on referencing the ecological sensitivity map prior to any approval or funding allocation. **The approval for new amenities must also be granted by NC Land and Water Fund.**

In tandem with enacting a development review and approval process, it is recommended also develop a comprehensive set of interpretive signage to help visitors learn about the importance of the ecological resources on the property. These should be placed periodically along the trail system and can include interactive elements, such as links to websites or places for people to record their observations as they visit the park. The NC Land and Water Fund (NCLWF) logo should be displayed on the parking area kiosk and any other sign that references the park’s ecological resources. This logo would be an update to the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund logo that is on the existing kiosk, which the is former name of NCLWF.



Southern Appalachian brook trout (char) in Fisher Creek.



Canadian milkvetch (Astragalus canadensis), an uncommon plant that occupies rocky, nutrient rich woodlands in the western extent of Pinnacle Park.

Recommendations: Ecological Restoration

Non-Native Invasive Plants

The Pinnacle Park Foundation and the Town have already started work on non-native invasive plant control/removal, both through private contractors and volunteer workdays. This should be a priority activity and should continue. Critical to this work is the early detection of non-native invasives and rapid response, which can be accomplished through training volunteers and education/raising awareness (through interpretive signage on site, for example).

Poaching

Preventing poaching, particularly poaching of plants, is a difficult endeavor, especially in a natural area the size of Pinnacle Park. However, examples of effective strategies used at other sites with rare or exploited species include limiting vehicular access at entry points with roads, strongly worded signage warning against poaching, cameras (either operational or decoy), and frequent monitoring.

Management of Old Water Supply Infrastructure

As the park was previously a water supply area, there are anthropogenic features, such as leftover debris and pipe infrastructure, that pose a risk to humans and wildlife. It is recommended to:

- Remove above-ground/exposed pipes and rubber tires along the East Fork trail, and white plastic pipe near the Bridge Loop/Forest Therapy Trail.
- Consider removing excavated channel and berm from East Fork to West Fork (fill in channel with berm material; may involve some tree cutting).
- Continue to inspect the existing impoundments along the stream channel for impairment.

Recommendations: Impoundment Infrastructure



View of the impoundment.

It is recommended that the existing impoundment/dam along Fisher Creek be left in place, unless it becomes obvious that failure of the dam structure becomes imminent. The dam is currently impeding nonnative rainbow trout from accessing native brook trout habitat and is thus serving a unique beneficial purpose, per a report from NC Wildlife Resource Commission.

Although the impoundment is currently full of sediment, dredging is not allowed within the park per the conservation easement, with two exceptions: 1) as may be necessary for the purposes of combating erosion or incidental to any conservation management practices otherwise permitted, and 2) for activities to restore natural hydrology or wetlands enhancement.

Signage should be placed adjacent to the dam to warn park users to not walk on or access the dam. Interpretive signage could be placed explaining the history of the structure's use for the Sylva watershed and the unique ecological purpose it serves now.

Recommendations: Inclusivity

Much of the park is inaccessible due to steep rocky terrain. Physical barriers at Pinnacle Park include:

- **Trails around gates:** consider widening the trail around the gate to allow for easier access, but keep narrow enough to impede vehicles including recreational ATVs.
- **Inaccessible or incomplete signage:** signs and trail descriptions should state what a visitor can expect to encounter in the park, including descriptions of trail surface, elevation gains, crossings, etc.
- **Trail and surface degradation:** if an accessible trail is created, consider applying a consistent maintenance regime to keep it accessible. Better surface material options (that aren't paved) include hard packed dirt or decomposed granite, but require inspection and repairs more frequently to keep accessible.
- **Roots and rocks on trail:** trails can be altered or rerouted to avoid as many rocks and roots as possible. Enlist the assistance of a professional trail builder.

“

In the world of outdoor recreation, equity means that all people have the opportunity to enjoy meaningful, empowering outdoor recreation experiences, regardless of their ability level.

- Accessibility Toolkit for Land Managers, Willamette Partnership

”

Note that some of these may be challenging to change or repair, but acknowledgment of them in the landscape and a concerted effort to make changes is worthwhile.

Improvements can be made to create a space that is more inclusive for all visitors. Some recommendations for this include:

- Create at least one **accessible parking space** with access to a **section of accessible trail with a destination platform**. This would bring the joy of being in nature that is so unique to Pinnacle Park to all people.
- Commit formally to inclusion in internal policy and **make accessibility a priority**. For example, in planning, engage disability communities and consultants with lived experience to provide feedback before and during project design.
- **Provide clear information**, both online and at the park itself, **about what is and is not accessible in the park**. When an accessible area is created, show it on a website or other media outlets in an easy-to-access format.
- **Provide accessible amenities close to other amenities**, not isolated from other usable spaces.
- **Provide trailhead signage and maps in other languages** (Spanish and/or Braille).

Additionally, including a QR code link to a map that can be downloaded onto a mobile phone would assist visitors while navigating the park. The downloadable map can be georeferenced and used in a mobile app such as Avenza so users can see on their phone where they are in the park in relation to their planned route and destination. This will also keep users on the trail and away from sensitive natural heritage sites.

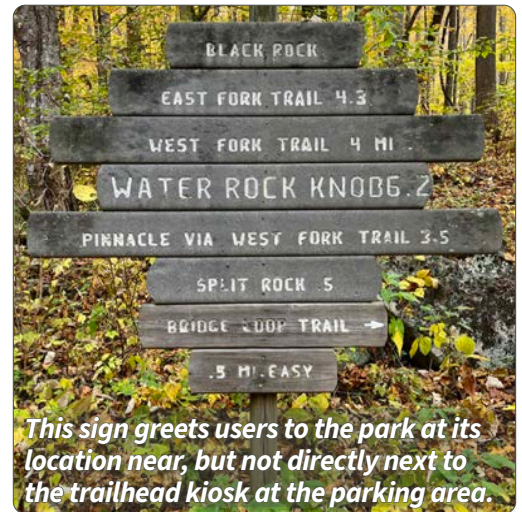


Recommendations: Wayfinding & Placemaking

Current Conditions

Wayfinding at Pinnacle Park currently consists of a large sign at the main entrance listing many destinations (shown to the right), a trailhead kiosk in the parking area, small wooden signs along trails for destinations and overlooks, and painted tree blazes with irregular placement throughout the park. The current system provides attractive signage on natural materials but is inconsistent and can often be confusing to users navigating the park.

Several trails have up to 3 different color blazes with no obvious meaning, and there are often too many blazes visible in one area or no visible blazes at all for long lengths of trail. The wooden directional signage, often placed at major intersections, can sometimes seem misleading and unclear. For example, at a trail intersection there are 7 destination signs on 3 separate posts, some with arrows and distances written next to the destination, and some with directions that may not be accurate (see photo at the bottom of this page). This intersection has multiple signs that are not cohesive in how they present information and can be confusing to the risk of visitors, as they may lead some in the wrong direction and/or outside of the property boundary, which itself is not always marked. For example, an old logging road in the northeast area of the park leaves the park boundary with no indication whether the visitor is still in the park.

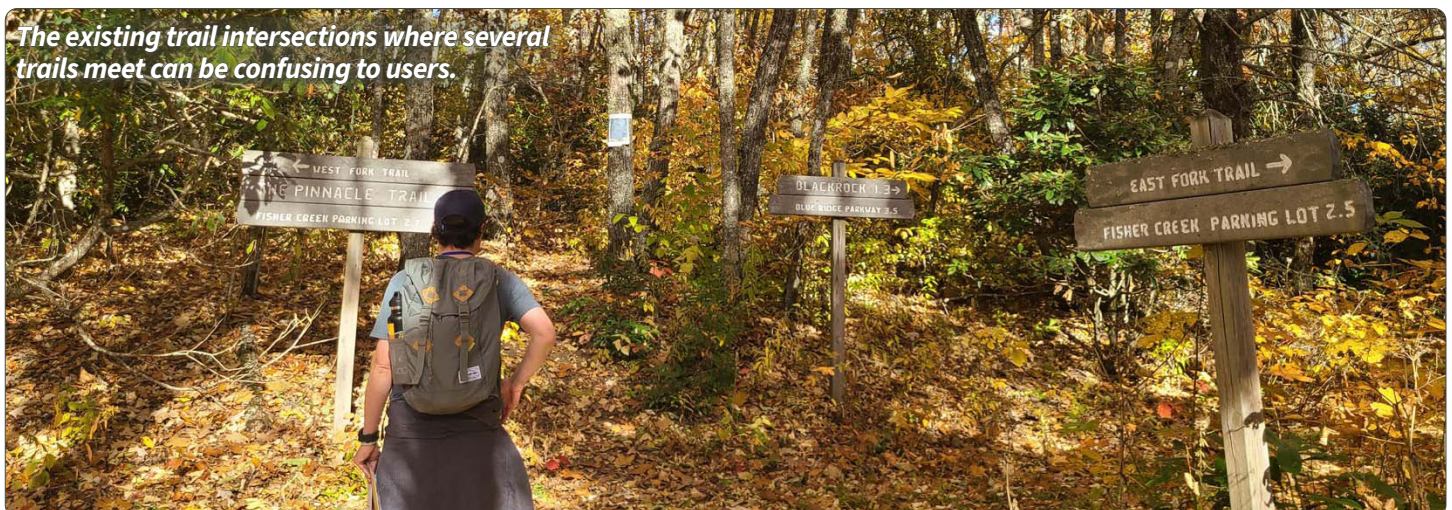


This sign greets users to the park at its location near, but not directly next to the trailhead kiosk at the parking area.

Recommendations

To ensure users are always aware of their location, marking trail alignments and distances with blazes should be done judiciously. A good rule of thumb is to be able to see the next blaze within 300-500 feet from the previous blaze, so there may be instances where no blazes are visible, but if a user progresses in either direction along the trail, they will encounter a blaze within a short and reasonable distance. Blazes should be provided on both sides of any blaze tree unless the trail is single-directional, in which case, they would be blazed only in the direction of travel. Blazes should not be overused.

Well maintained and managed trails, signage, and wayfinding are critical components of creating an identity for the recreation area. Consistent and cohesive signage can also help reduce the need for signs in some areas. The need for placemaking in a park with as many remote areas as Pinnacle Park will take careful thought and planning. See Emergency Access recommendations on page 48. **The development of a signage and wayfinding plan for Pinnacle Park will be paramount to creating a safe and cohesive feel to the park which will heighten user experience.**



The existing trail intersections where several trails meet can be confusing to users.

Recommendations: New Recreational Uses

Pinnacle Park offers trails available for hiking (including a forest therapy trail) and campsites, but other recreational uses are either not permitted or not supported by current park infrastructure. Some additional uses explored in this plan are briefly discussed in this section.

Mountain Biking

Nantahala Area Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association (NAS) is a mountain biking organization that has taken interest in potential non-motorized biking opportunities in Pinnacle Park. In 2021, NAS created a plan that explored the possible development of additional trails that could support mountain biking on the Fisher Creek Tract, Black Rock Tract, and adjacent Shut-In Tract (which is owned by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians). Since the creation of this plan, no trails or additional infrastructure have been built to support mountain biking.

While the conservation easements on the properties do not legally restrict mountain biking from occurring, concerns from the general public and the land managers over the possible degradation of ecological resources from this activity have incited serious conversations over whether this use should be approved and invested in at this park. At the time of this master planning process, a final decision on these questions has not been made by the land managers.

Rock Climbing

The Carolina Climbers Coalition (CCC) along with members of Western Carolina University and Black Balsam Outdoors, have identified rock climbing resources within Pinnacle Park. CCC regularly works with municipalities, state agencies, and federal entities to open sustainable rock climbing destinations in the region, and have expressed interest in helping create and manage permissible climbing access at the park without the need for any additional resources from Town staff. The organization has professional trail staff and a consistent volunteer base who could help with climber access trail work, if it is the desire of the Town and Pinnacle Park Foundation members, and extensive understanding of formalizing climbing management plans.



According to CCC, Pinnacle Park has two main climbing zones offering different types of climbing at different difficulties; roped traditional climbing, bouldering, and even some potential ice climbing. Evidence of past climbers reveals that there is a public desire for people to climb in these areas.

Roped Climbing Area: This cliff is located off trail by a few hundred feet above the existing West Fork, near an existing camp site and below the existing trail to the Pinnacle. CCC could install a 0.3-mile climbers access trail which would provide improved access. The cliff ranges from 30-70 feet tall. The cliff could provide an estimate of 20 or more rock climbs of various difficulties, and a few potential ice climbs when conditions allow. This is approximately 3 day's worth of climbing for a typical climber. The ice climbing would be exceptional and unique. Fixed anchors and slings were noted on the cliff, meaning the public has a desire to climb here.

Bouldering Area: This bouldering area identified by CCC is Split Rock, which is located directly on, and slightly above the West Fork. Minimal work would need to be completed here, but CCC could install a small trail to link together the boulders above Split Rock. There are 4-5 boulders in close proximity to the trail that appear to provide a variety of difficulties. It is likely that there are 30 or more boulder routes in this area. This offers approximately a half day's worth of bouldering for a typical climber. Online photographs show people bouldering at Split Rock, indicating a public desire to utilize this space as an amenity.

It is recommended that the Town and the Pinnacle Park Foundation continue conversations with CCC and other potential partners regarding establishing permissible climbing locations which would not take additional resources from the existing land managers.



Bouldering Area (Split Rock), photo courtesy of Carolina Climbers Coalition

Recommendations: Emergency Access

To facilitate a timely response in the event of an emergency at Pinnacle Park, first responders such as Town of Sylva Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Fire Department and Police, and Jackson County Search and Rescue will need to know how to access different areas of the trail network. **Updated trail map data in a georeferenced format should be provided to each of these emergency responder groups annually.** This information ultimately will go onto the shared emergency response tool called the SARTopo mapping system that directs responders to emergencies. The map should include what size vehicle can safely traverse the trails for emergency access. For example, Lower West Fork trail can be traversed by a utility vehicle, but some proposed trails may be only accessible by UTV or foot-traffic/bike. The Jackson County Rescue squad currently has two UTVs and drones for backcountry emergency situations.

Planned wayfinding and placemaking are paramount to creating a safe experience in the park. As stated on page 46, a signage and wayfinding plan specific to Pinnacle Park should be developed. For emergency response purposes, **trail signage should be labeled with an emergency marker system**, where each sign is assigned an identification letter and number. When reporting an emergency, the dispatcher will ask for the address or location of the emergency and this will assist in locating individuals within the park. All trails should have a number and letter at minimum every quarter (¼) mile for location identification. This should also be updated in the georeferenced data as new trails and markers are added.

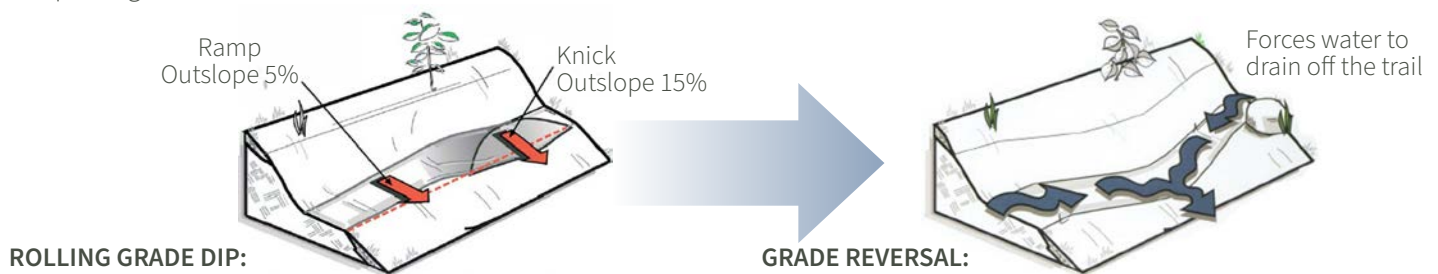
A full map of trails and trail numbering for emergency access check-in points should be displayed for park users at trailhead kiosks. Trails should be labeled on the map with difficulty level and note about preparedness for visitors when embarking on a hike. Another important note to provide to park users is cell phone service coverage. Trailhead and kiosk signs should include important emergency contact information and be updated as any changes occur.

The Town should also coordinate with the All Trails mobile app to ensure that trail alignments are accurate. The newly launched “AllTrails Land Manager Portal” allows land managers to control the content shared about the trails to the public on the popular hiking mobile app. Information on trail closures based on inclement weather or maintenance activities can be provided using this method. This would require regular management of the app by Pinnacle Park staff. Apple is also expected to release features on its iPhone Maps app which will allow users to search, find, and navigate recreational trails, this may include a similar avenue for landowners to communicate with the public.

Guidelines: Trail Improvements

Initial work on trails at Pinnacle Park should focus on maintaining the existing trail corridor, including the trail tread and vegetative clearing widths.

- Trail managers should inspect and maintain constructed drainage features including grade reversals, rolling dips, water bars, leadout ditches, sediment traps, etc.
- If constructed features are failing or significantly eroded, they should be repaired as quickly as possible. Consideration should be given to modifying the feature to a more modern feature type, adding features in problem areas or potential trail relocation if issues are persistent. An example of a modern feature conversion would be converting a rolling grade dip to a grade reversal, demonstrated here:



- Trails with significant use and/or erosion can become incised over time. Periodic de-berming should be done to ensure drainage can properly run off of trails.
- Trail managers should develop a schedule of assessing and documenting trail conditions daily as they go about their work. It can be beneficial to have an outside observer engaged to periodically conduct detailed assessments independent of, but with, Town of Sylva staff input. The combination of having a daily perspective along with periodic review by someone less familiar with the trail system can be beneficial in developing a well-rounded maintenance and management program at Pinnacle Park.
- Priorities for initial trail improvement include:
 - **Blackrock Trail** – There is a segment of the Blackrock Trail that was constructed through a sensitive NC Natural Heritage resource and leaves the northeast property boundary. This section of trail should be rerouted to avoid the protected resource and stay within the park, then constructed to meet minimum trail design standards identified for its use. Additionally, the trail leaves the property again as it heads east once the ridge is attained. Until it is rerouted, the point where the trail leaves the property should be signed to prevent confusion about the park boundary.
 - **East Fork** – The middle section of East Fork leaves the old logging roadbed and becomes a narrow singletrack as it traverses steep areas along and above a large unnamed tributary to Fisher Creek. There are sections where the trail tread needs improvement, and the construction of stairs or other grade change features may be necessary. This section of trail should remain at a lower level of development (such as a Class 1 trail) due to the sensitive nature of the terrain it traverses. Consideration should be given to whether public stream access is appropriate and whether the existing access points should be decommissioned or improved. If increased use is anticipated over time, potential reroute options should be considered.
 - **Pinnacle Trail** – The section of the Pinnacle trail that connects to the Lower West Fork is steep and incised. Given the popularity of this route, consideration should be given to providing a reroute that would eliminate this conduit for erosion. The trail width should be similar to the existing footprint which is a higher level and would accommodate motorized emergency access. The remainder of the trail is in relatively good shape and would require minimal maintenance to be able to bring this trail up to full standards.

When evaluating existing trail condition or scouting for potential new trail alignments, the slope of the surrounding area should be considered as this can impact maintenance requirements and the long-term sustainability of the trail. Generally, the **half (½) rule** is used in trail planning where the allowable running slope of a trail is influenced by the slope of the surrounding areas. For instance, if the overall slope of the land (surrounding area) is 25%, a general rule would be that the running slope of the trail does not exceed 12.5%, or half (½). Then, the trail tread itself should be pitched out to the downhill side (cross slope) at a grade of 3-5%. Existing site conditions, soil types, and proposed trail widths will have an impact on this too, but the goal is to design so that any water runoff that comes down onto the trail is directed to run across and then off the trail, rather than turning and running down the trail (leading to long-term erosion).

The use of constructed runoff management features such as grade reversals can help ensure runoff doesn't run down the trail for too long of a distance before shedding off, but the features can concentrate the runoff. The runoff outlet location, drainage area size, and frequency of use should be carefully considered. Other features like water bars (dirt or log) are sometimes easier to construct, but require more maintenance over time and are not as effective as features such as grade reversals. The trail development level, defined by the "Trail Class" number on TRACS forms, and use should be considered in determining the final drainage solution for any trail. **See Appendix: Trail Assessment TRACS Forms (page 78) for details on the conditions of certain trails, their Trail Class, and some specific improvement recommendations.**

Guidelines: New Trail Alignments

Here are some reasons for the proposed new trail alignments shown in this Master Plan:

- The current trail system requires a minimum ~4 mile hike to reach a destination or complete a loop. Intermediate loops and destinations should be identified lower in the property which can provide opportunities for a wider range of users.
- Intermediate loops will allow more hike options to get users off West Fork and into new areas of the park.
- One trail will need to be rerouted to avoid a sensitive Natural Heritage site. All new trail alignments must be approved by NCLWF as required by the easements to ensure they do not encroach on other sensitive sites.
- New trail alignments built to modern trail standards will contribute to a reduced need for maintenance over time and may reveal opportunities to reroute or decommission trails that may not currently follow the best alignment or support the identified recreational needs of the park.

Here are some considerations when constructing the new trail alignments, as proposed in this plan:

- As potential trail alignments are identified, consideration should be given to the intended experience and level of use which will inform the trail development level (trail class) necessary to achieve the desired result. Wider, more developed trails will require a larger footprint and generally less running grade to be sustainable.
- Landforms/geographic features should be considered as they may impact alignments and can even be incorporated as destinations to improve the user experience. For instance, topographic maps can be used to identify where there may be a rock outcrop or abrupt change in grade that may provide an opportunity for an overlook view. Or, the topography in drainages may indicate a possible waterfall location where the trail could traverse above or below for viewing. Landforms can also be used to ease grades in turns or provide resting opportunities along steep trails.
- From a design standpoint, different trail classes allow for different steepness of grades, trail widths, corridor clearances, etc. Prior to layout and field-truthing a new trail alignment, the expected trail class should be identified which will inform the parameters noted above.
- When crossing streams, the type of crossing which will be most appropriate for a given situation should be considered. Generally, bridges or fords are preferred over placing culverts in a stream. Note that construction involving "waters of the United States" may require coordination with US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and NC Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ).

- For road to trail conversions, the program of work may not be as simple as just letting the road grow in and having a straight path down the corridor. Many times, the outslope of the road may not be enough to adequately shed runoff. Consideration should be given to meandering the trail within the roadbed and using the backslope or cutslope to create undulation which will support moving runoff off the trail efficiently. Many times, a proper road to trail conversion can be more extensive and costly than building a new trail to current standards. Just because there is a corridor present, it does not mean it's the best path for sustainable trail development and construction.
- Observing proposed or existing routes through all seasons will assist trail planning staff in determining the fitness of new corridors and the level of improvement or rerouting needed to maintain the sustainability of existing/rebuilt trails.

New Trail Sustainability

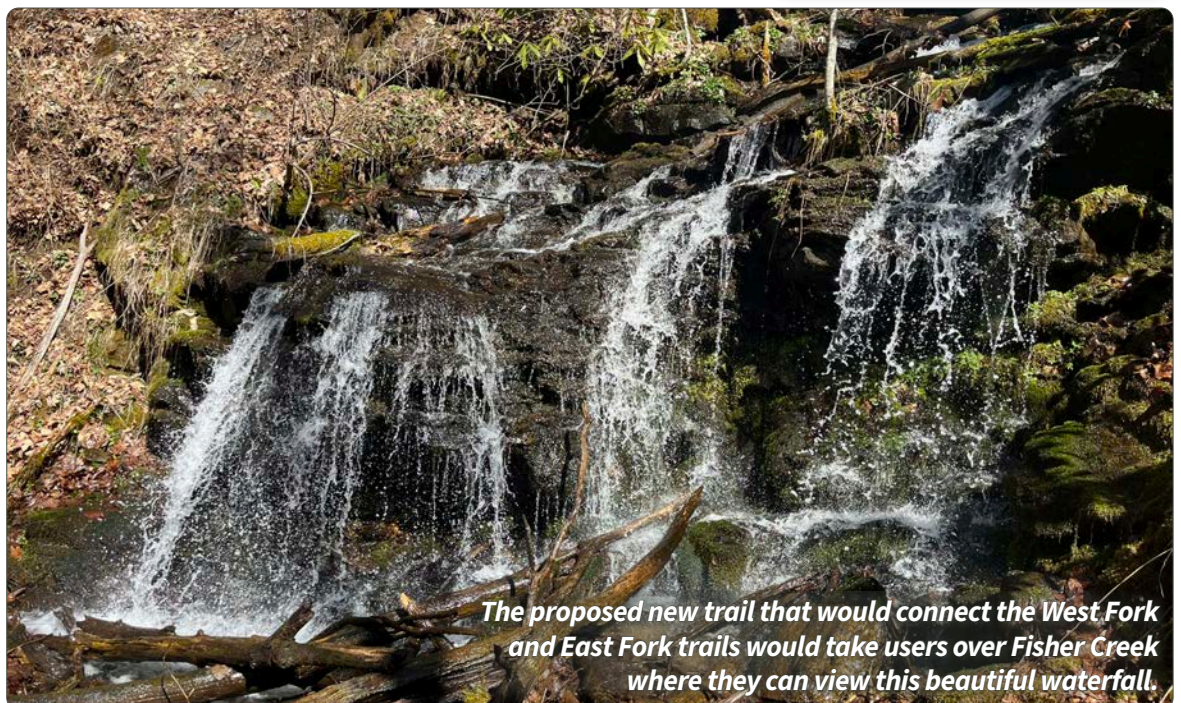
Any new trails in the park should be designed to sustainable trail standards and must adhere to the restrictions of the conservation easement. While there are several principles to meet sustainable trail design, the main concepts are to design so that water is constantly shed from the trail, minimize natural resource impacts and erosion, design to limit maintenance needs, and ensure for financial sustainability to manage the trails system. If built with proper sustainability standards, the cost and resources put into maintenance are lower than otherwise. The following guidelines should be considered:

- **Utilize Professional Trail Builder Association (PTBA) members** who are vetted by their peers and are skilled in sustainable trail design and construction.
- **Utilize best practice erosion control measures**, following sustainable trail design standards, including using highly protective measures to prevent sediment moving into waterways.

Design and construction of trails is a complex combination of skills and should be accomplished by experts. Experience in trail design, construction, and management is essential for implementing projects that involve poor soils, complex topography, high levels of use, and extensive improvements, such as surfacing or structures. Experience is also essential for the design of multi-use trail corridors that meet standards to allow for the safe use of a trail by multiple types of groups.

In addition to consulting experts in trail design and construction, it can be important to seek advice from experts in resource disciplines. Two of the most common problems of backcountry trail systems, deterioration of popular trails through overuse and the development of undesired routes at popular destinations, can be avoided by following commonly accepted standards of trail design after thorough assessment of the existing environmental conditions.

Any new alignments that are added to the system should have trail sustainability standards applied to their construction for a multitude of reasons, including a reduction in long-term costs.



The proposed new trail that would connect the West Fork and East Fork trails would take users over Fisher Creek where they can view this beautiful waterfall.

Guidelines:

Park Maintenance

A maintenance plan and schedule should be developed and adopted by the Town and the Pinnacle Park Foundation, or another partner organization that can help with maintenance of the park. Maintaining a system of trails can take a team of managing partners. There are several options for maintenance partnerships moving forward. These partnership options can be explored more in the maintenance plan, but any formal partnership should be defined in a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) if with a volunteer organization, or with a legal contract if with a professional consultant.

Trail Maintenance Inspections and Addressing Issues

Typical maintenance issues that should be observed and addressed include:

- Erosion
- Failure of drainage features
- Fallen trees
- Impediments to the treadway that exceed the level of difficulty
- The gradual appearance of rocks and roots, and others
- Vegetation growing into the clearance zone
- Sloughing/eroding embankments
- “Shortcuts” and unauthorized trails

Trail issues should be monitored and addressed in a timely manner. Per North Carolina’s Recreation Use Statute, which is a state law, . . .*“Any person, as an owner, lessee, occupant, or otherwise in control of land, who allows without compensation another person to use the land for designated trail or other public trail purposes or to construct, maintain, or cause to be constructed or maintained a designated trail or other public trail owes the person the same duty of care he owes a trespasser.”* While this minimizes the Town’s liability, the door can be left open for liability if maintenance is lapsed.

Inspection and Maintenance Needs

Trails should be maintained to a standard set by U.S. Forest Service standards and defined by further specifications, including how the trail should be maintained as it relates to the level of difficulty. Trails should be assessed on a rolling annual schedule but may need more frequent inspections if major weather events like wind and ice are occurring. A park user reporting method will also help address immediate issues that are needed. The following is a summary of trail maintenance needs:

- **Structural inspections and maintenance** – Trail bridges and any other structures should be inspected by trained Town staff or a contractor.
- **Clearing of the corridor** – Clearing the corridor to a defined width for the trail. This can be done through bush hogging, trimming bushes, and pruning trees. Includes removal of trees and vegetation prone to come down in storms.
- **Ensuring Adequate Cross Slope** – Cross slopes should be maintained at 5%.
- **Maintain Trail Tread** – The tread of all trails should be maintained per designed use of the trail.
- **De-berming the trail** – Over time, trails can erode into “troughs” and the downhill side will need to be de-bermed to allow for drainage.
- **Maintain trail drainage** – All designed drainages should be maintained. Washouts should be repaired. This includes natural drainage like dips and built drainages like culverts (which exist on some of the logging road-to-trail conversions).

Closure/Decommissioning Trails

Trail closures should occur for maintenance, safety reasons, and to prevent resource impacts if there is inclement weather. This practice of closing trails after heavy rain or freeze events is common for mountain biking trails, but can still be very beneficial for the long-term sustainability of hiking trails. **A set policy should be defined for when inclement weather closes trails**, but it is typically done after any major rain or snow event until the trail surfaces dry out.

Preventing Unwanted Trail Use

Off-trail use can impact the natural environment and is something that should be actively managed. Some of the common reasons for users going off trail and the management remedy to prevent or mitigate this impact are:

Newer-Created Trail Routes/Trail Widening:

Issue: Lack of trail maintenance, which forces users to use different routes.

How to Address: Ensure regular trail inspections and reporting of issues by trail users is addressed quickly.

Rogue (User-Created) Trail Building:

Issue: Occasional “rogue” trail building by public trail users can occur on public lands, and this has happened in some areas of Pinnacle Park. This has created additional trails in the park that are not sustainable for heavy use and should be decommissioned to prevent future use and for the purpose of ecological restoration.

How to Address: With constant enforcement, “eyes on the ground”, and trail user self-reporting, the creation of new trails can be limited. Determine the necessity of decommissioning rogue, user-created trails and/or old logging roads by taking an inventory of the trails and phasing which ones should be decommissioned based on their level of use and how sustainable they are.



Decommissioned logging road. Image Source: Handbook for Forest, Ranch, and Rural Roads by the Pacific Watershed Association.

Using Volunteers for Trail Management

Volunteers can be an incredible resource to the Town and Pinnacle Park Foundation but should never perform tasks that they have not been trained to do. The Town or Foundation should ensure that all volunteers, including those volunteering through partnering nonprofits, should sign a waiver release to waive the Town of liability.

Potential volunteer use for trail management:

- Patrolling the trail for promoting safe riding, Leave No Trace Principles, etc.
- Trail inspections
- Trail maintenance, if led by a skilled leader (note: use of chainsaws by volunteers should only be done by those that are chainsaw certified)
- Emergency aid
- Providing a presence and resource on the trail
- Trail building, if for shorter sections and if led by a skilled leader
- Volunteers operating chainsaws or other power cutting tools must wear appropriate PPE's including eye protection, hearing protection and safety chaps.



Chapter 4

Strategic Action Plan



This **Strategic Action Plan** reflects the needs and interests of the community and the organizations that are responsible for the continued existence of Pinnacle Park, which is an incredible resource to the region. It provides a set of actions to be taken, who will be responsible for the actions and a rough estimate of potential costs that could be incurred. This is meant to be a guide for those engaged in implementing the Master Plan and caring for the park for the next four years.

Strategic Action Plan - Year 1

Priorities	Responsible Party	Potential Cost	Notes
1 Decommission hazardous sections of existing trails, including segment of Blackrock/ Shelter rock trail	Town of Sylva staff	Paid time for field work to decommission trail	<i>*this should be completed first as it is in violation of the conservation easement</i>
2 Hire individual to assist with grant applications and to oversee implementation of master plan elements (part-time or full-time)	Pinnacle Park Foundation Board, with support of Town of Sylva staff	Annual part or full time salary position with benefits, funded by PPF	
3 Seek grant sources for implementation (year-round), utilize Fisher Creek Fund as match source	Pinnacle Park Foundation employee, or specify point-person on PPF board to lead effort	Paid time for preparing and submitting grant applications	<i>*apply for grants for new trail construction for East Fork to West Fork over Fisher Creek and Outdoor Classroom to Campsite 1 Trail, seek funding for comprehensive wayfinding plan</i>
4 Stabilize Blackrock Road	Town of Sylva hire contractor to grade and stabilize 1/2 mile of road	\$50,000	<i>(quote from 2023 is \$39,500)*includes approval of improvement design from NC Land and Water Fund</i>
5 Hire certified trail builder to build Fisher Creek Trail and Pinnacle Connector (utilizing RTP Funding)	Town of Sylva to hire certified trail builder with use of awarded 2025 RTP funding and Fisher Creek Fund match	\$115,000	<i>*includes approval of new trail alignment from NC Land and Water Fund *add temporary wayfinding</i>

Strategic Action Plan - Year 1

Priorities	Responsible Party	Potential Cost	Notes
6 Organize volunteer groups to assist in most urgent maintenance activities including keeping trails free of debris and maintaining trail drainage	Pinnacle Park Foundation employee, with Town of Sylva approval and support	Paid time for organizing and leading volunteer efforts	
7 Trail Improvements — Lower West Fork Trail (10,245 LF improvement)	Town of Sylva contract with professional trail builder	\$40,980 (2024 est.)	
8 Trail Improvements — East Fork Trail (11,218 LF improvement)	Town of Sylva contract with professional trail builder	\$44,872 (2024 est.)	
9 Trail Improvements — Blackrock/Shelter Rock Trail (2,969 LF) in sections that aren't being rerouted	Town of Sylva contract with professional trail builder	\$11,876 (2024 est.)	
10 New Trail — Blackrock/Shelter Rock Reroute (1,050LF)	Town of Sylva contract with professional trail builder	\$9,450 (2024 est.)	<i>*includes approval of new trail alignment from NC Land and Water Fund *add temporary wayfinding</i>
11 Continue aggressive invasive plant control	Maintain contract with consultant	Annual contract amount	<i>*ensure that any additional volunteer efforts are in coordination with contracted services</i>
12 Develop a maintenance plan for full park	Town of Sylva staff or hire a consultant	\$25,000 (potential consultant fee)	<i>*plan should include annual, seasonal, and monthly tasks to appropriately maintain park</i>

Strategic Action Plan - Year 2

Priorities	Responsible Party	Potential Cost	Notes
1 Seek grant sources for implementation (year-round), utilize Fisher Creek Fund as match source	Pinnacle Park Foundation employee, or specify point-person on PPF board to lead effort	Paid time for preparing and submitting grant applications	<i>*apply for grants for new trail construction for Parking Lot Improvements (paving, vault toilet, trailhead kiosk), wayfinding signage, and benches</i>
2 Set up donor program for construction and installation of benches	Pinnacle Park Foundation employee or PPF Board Members with Town of Sylva approval and support	Paid time for preparing donor program and marketing	
3 Develop comprehensive wayfinding & interpretive signage plan	PPF with assistance of consultant	\$25,000 potential consultant fee	
4 Trail Improvements — Pinnacle Trail and Middle Fork West Fork Trail (10,352 LF)	Town of Sylva contract with professional trail builder	\$41,408 (2024 est.)	
5 New Trail — Boulder Trail - Outdoor Classroom to Campsite 1 Trail (4,890 LF)	Town of Sylva contract with professional trail builder	\$44,010 (2024 est.)	<i>*includes approval of new trail alignment from NC Land and Water Fund *add temporary wayfinding</i>
6 Invasive treatment	Town of Sylva contract with consultant	Annual contract amount	<i>*ensure that any additional volunteer efforts are in coordination with contracted services</i>
7 Continue maintenance per plan	Pinnacle Park Foundation employee, or Town of Sylva staff		<i>*can integrate use of volunteers</i>

Strategic Action Plan - Year 3

Priorities	Responsible Party	Potential Cost	Notes
1 Seek grant sources for implementation (year-round), utilize Fisher Creek Fund as match source	Pinnacle Park Foundation employee, or specify point-person on PPF board to lead effort	Paid time for preparing and submitting grant applications	<i>*apply for grants for new trail construction for outdoor classroom, viewing platform on ridgeline, accessible trail and creekside platform, and existing campsite improvements</i>
2 Trail Improvements — East Dead End Road Trail (2,451 LF)	Town of Sylva contract with professional trail builder	\$9,804 (2024 est.)	
3 Trail Improvements — Pinnacle Ridge Trail (2,386 LF)	Town of Sylva contract with professional trail builder	\$9,544 (2024 est.)	
4 Design and permit parking improvements	Town of Sylva contract with professional trail builder	\$65,000 potential consultant fee	<i>*includes approval of improvements from NC Land and Water Fund</i>
5 Print and install all new wayfinding signage	Pinnacle Park Foundation employee, or Town of Sylva staff		
6 Invasive Treatment	Town of Sylva contract with consultant		
7 Continue maintenance per plan	Pinnacle Park Foundation employee, or Town of Sylva staff		<i>*can integrate use of volunteers</i>

Strategic Action Plan - Year 4+

Priorities	Responsible Party	Potential Cost	Notes
1 Install all parking area improvements at Fisher Creek Road entrance	Town of Sylva to contract with professional contractor	\$325,059 (2024 est.)	*includes Paved Parking Area w/ Accessible Space, Stormwater Feature, Stone Stacked Wall at Parking Area, Vault Toilet, Gateway/ Entrance Sign, Trailhead Kiosk w/ Stabilized Accessible Surface, and Trash Receptacle Area
2 Seek grant sources for implementation (year-round), utilize Fisher Creek Fund as match source	Pinnacle Park Foundation employee, or specify point-person on PPF board to lead effort	Paid time for preparing and submitting grant applications	*apply for grants for continued maintenance of park amenities
3 Complete backcountry campsite improvements	Town of Sylva to contract with professional contractor	\$25,000 (2024 est.)	
4 Design and permit outdoor classroom, viewing platform on ridge, accessible creekside platform, and accessible trail	Town of Sylva to contract with consultant	\$50,000 Potential consultant fee	*includes approval of improvements from NC Land and Water Fund
5 Install outdoor classroom	Town of Sylva to contract with professional contractor	\$15,000 (2024 est.)	*includes approval of improvements from NC Land and Water Fund

Strategic Action Plan – Year 4+

Priorities	Responsible Party	Potential Cost	Notes
6 Install viewing platform on ridge	Town of Sylva to contract with professional contractor	\$30,000 (2024 est.)	
7 Install accessible creekside platform and accessible trail section	Town of Sylva to contract with professional contractor	\$32,120	
8 Re-evaluate contract needs for invasive removal	Town of Sylva to contract with consultant	Annual contract amount	
9 Re-evaluate maintenance regime + plan for next 4+ years	Pinnacle Park Foundation employee, or Town of Sylva staff	Paid time for evaluation and planning	

Notes:

- After any update or creation of a new trail, Emergency Services should be provided updated georeferenced information.
- To assist with funding, volunteer maintenance or construction, consider utilizing partnerships. Some potential partners are listed below.

Potential Partnerships FOR IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGIC PLAN

- Carolina Mountain Club
⇒ hiking trail stewardship
- Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture
⇒ trout conservation
- Carolina Climbing Coalition
⇒ if rock climbing is formalized
- Nantahala SORBA
⇒ if mountain biking is formalized
- Mainspring Conservation Trust, The Nature Conservancy
⇒ conservation partners which steward adjacent properties
- The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina
⇒ funding for implementation
- Dogwood Health Trust
⇒ funding for implementation
- Jackson County Community Foundation
⇒ funding for implementation

Funding Resources

STATE/FEDERAL	Can Fund	Max. Request	Required Match	Notes	Link
Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)		Contact ARC	Up to 50%	Outdoor recreation projects fall into the “Building Regional Culture and Tourism” priority. Collaborative partnerships make for a stronger application.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arc.gov/about-arc-grants/ • arc.gov/investment-priority/building-regional-culture-and-tourism
NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)		\$500,000	50% (1:1)	Annual competitive reimbursement grant. Funds can be for site acquisition, renovation, and construction of trails or nearly any type of park facility or amenity, including parking areas.	ncparks.gov/about-us/grants/parks-and-recreation-trust-fund/partf-applicants
NC Recreational Trails Program (RTP)		\$100,000 maximum, \$10,000 minimum	25%	Annual competitive reimbursement grant. Funds can be for development & enhancement of public trails & trail facilities. Safety and Education grant option available as well.	trails.nc.gov/trail-grants/apply-grant
Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)		\$500,000	50% (1:1)	Annual competitive reimbursement grant for the acquisition, development, renovation, or combination projects for outdoor public recreation.	ncparks.gov/about-us/grants/land-and-water-conservation-fund
LOCAL GOV.	Can Fund	Max. Request	Match %	Notes	Link
Jackson County Tourism Development Authority (JCTDA)		Most requests are in the ~\$2,000 range, but higher amounts may be considered	No requirement - the more the better	Competitive grant geared towards generating increased tourism. Applications accepted on an ongoing basis. Strong consideration is given to collaboration between public/private organizations. Village-wide wayfinding/signage could be a good fit.	discoverjacksonnc.com/tda-docs/funding/

FUNDING STRATEGY TIPS:

SECURING MATCHES:

- Fundraise your grant match locally when you can, it is a great opportunity to ask businesses and others to invest in the project. Naming opportunities for business is a standard practice in parks and recreation.
- Use donated easements and land acquisition as a match. Many of these grants will allow for donated easements to be used as a match.

APPLYING FOR GRANTS:

- Work with other local groups who have a mission to bring economic activity to the region, consultants, or others who have expertise in grant applications.
- If you have cost estimates older than two years, you will want to adjust your cost estimates as construction costs can vary wildly based on market fluctuations.

Funding Resources

PRIVATE	Can Fund	Max. Request	Required Match	Notes	Link
The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina (CFWNC)		varies by specific grant type	No requirement - the more the better	Competitive grant local to WNC. Requests that exhibit the greatest community benefit will be given the highest consideration.	cfwnc.org/grantseekers/about-grants
Dogwood Health Trust (DHT)		Contact DHT	Capital requests require other sources of support, but no set amount	Grant opportunities change per cycle but include "Health & Wellness" funding applicable to trails. DHT can also provide support for non-profit capacity building. Additionally, the "Leverage Fund" can fund grant writers for larger grant opportunities.	dogwoodhealthtrust.org/grantmaking/
Duke Energy Foundation		\$20,000	No requirement - the more the better	Grants must fall within one of 3 focus areas. "Climate Resilience" or "Justice, Equity and Inclusion" focus areas may be best - educational signage or land conservation.	duke-energy.com/community/duke-energy-foundation/north-carolina
Jackson County Community Foundation		N/A	\$1,500-3,000 average (not to exceed \$8,000)	Variety of Funds and Endowments; Ideal focus should give priority to Jackson County's health, food, education, and youth.	nccommunityfoundation.org/communities/western/jackson-county/applying-for-grants
Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV)		\$50,000	50% (1:1 non-federal, may include time, materials, in-kind service; 3:1 is preferred)	Funding for Brook Trout conservation and restoration actions. See website for specific funding details.	easternbrooktrout.org
(Other) Private Foundations		varies	varies	Visit North Carolina Network of Grantmakers website	ncgrantmakers.org
(Other) Corporate Gifts & Sponsorships		varies	varies		
(Other) Family and/or Individual Gifts		varies	varies		

FUNDING ICON KEY

- Trail Construction
- Trailheads, Wayfinding & other Site Amenities
- Education or Interpretation
- ADA Accessibility Upgrade
- Land Acquisition or Habitat Restoration
- Indicates a preference in applications for projects that are ADA accessible



Chapter 5

Community & Stakeholder Engagement Process



PUBLIC MEETING Overview

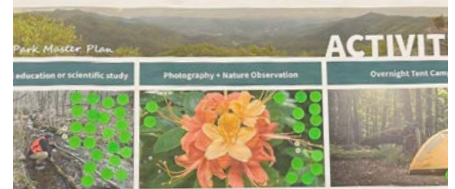
October 23, 2023

A public meeting was held in the Jackson County Public Library in downtown Sylva on Monday, October 23, 2023 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM to better understand the desires for the potential improvements to Pinnacle Park. Approximately 35 people attended the event, and each attendee had the opportunity to engage with the project staff and voice their opinions regarding the future of the park. Below is a summary of the feedback given on the interactive boards presented:

Desired Activities



Stakeholder Engagement



Interactive Boards



Conversation Facilitation

Desired Improvements



PUBLIC ONLINE SURVEY Overview

FALL 2023

A public survey was launched in Fall 2023 and remained open for two months. The goal of this survey was to gather input from a large portion of the current/potential user groups of the Pinnacle Park property. The results are intended to guide the design process for the master plan. The following is a summary of some of the findings.

BY THE NUMBERS

695
respondents

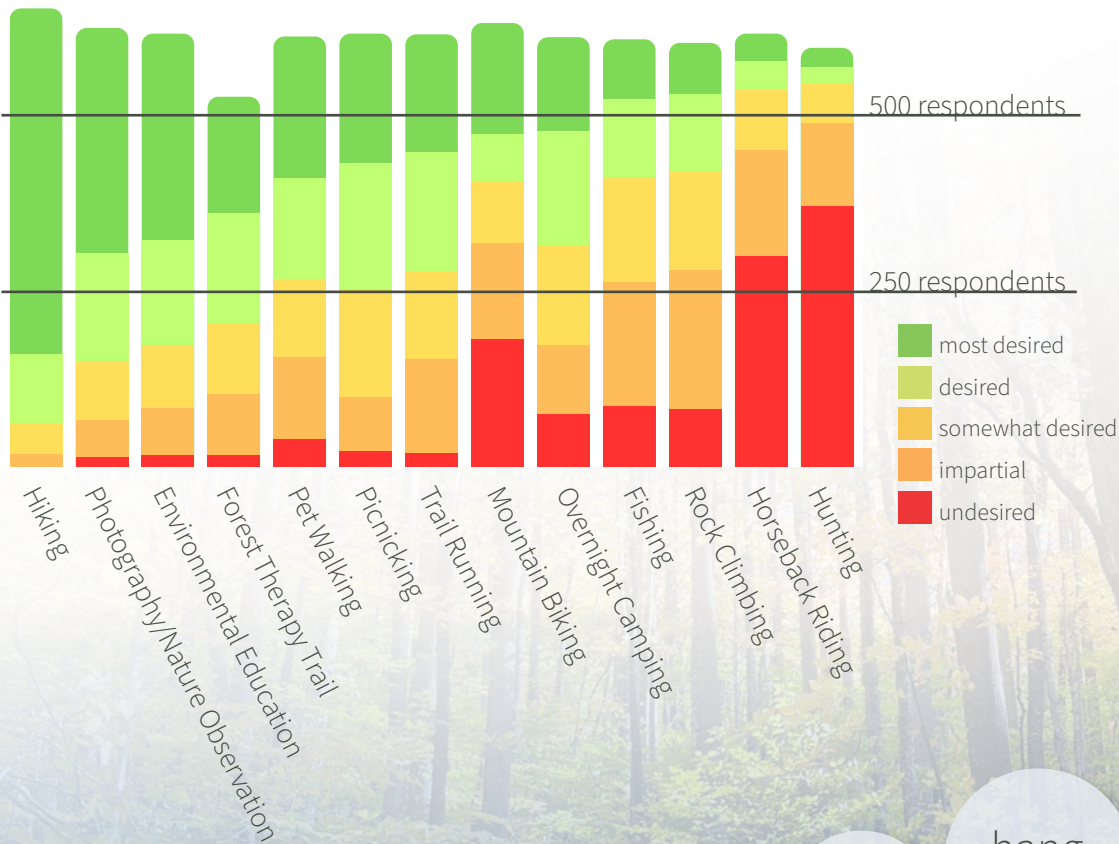
111
unique zip codes

43%
are Sylva residents

86%
have visited the
park before

75%
are Jackson County
residents

What are the most desired park activities?



Other activity ideas
suggested by survey
respondents:



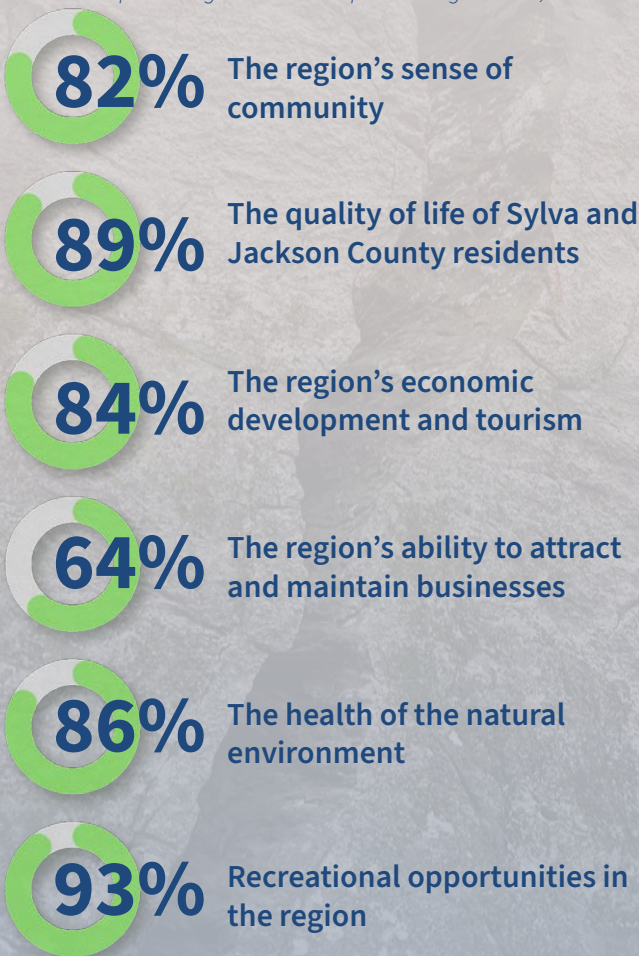
What people think makes Pinnacle Park special:



“ Pinnacle Park is a beautiful tract of land for the local folks and visitors who enjoy a place to recreate in a natural setting. Recreation means different things to different people, and the park has the space and potential to meet the needs/desires of everyone if access is well thought out and implemented. We have the science and technology to create trails that are sustainable and which can provide wonderful outdoor experiences for generations to come. ”

What benefits will come from improvements to Pinnacle Park?

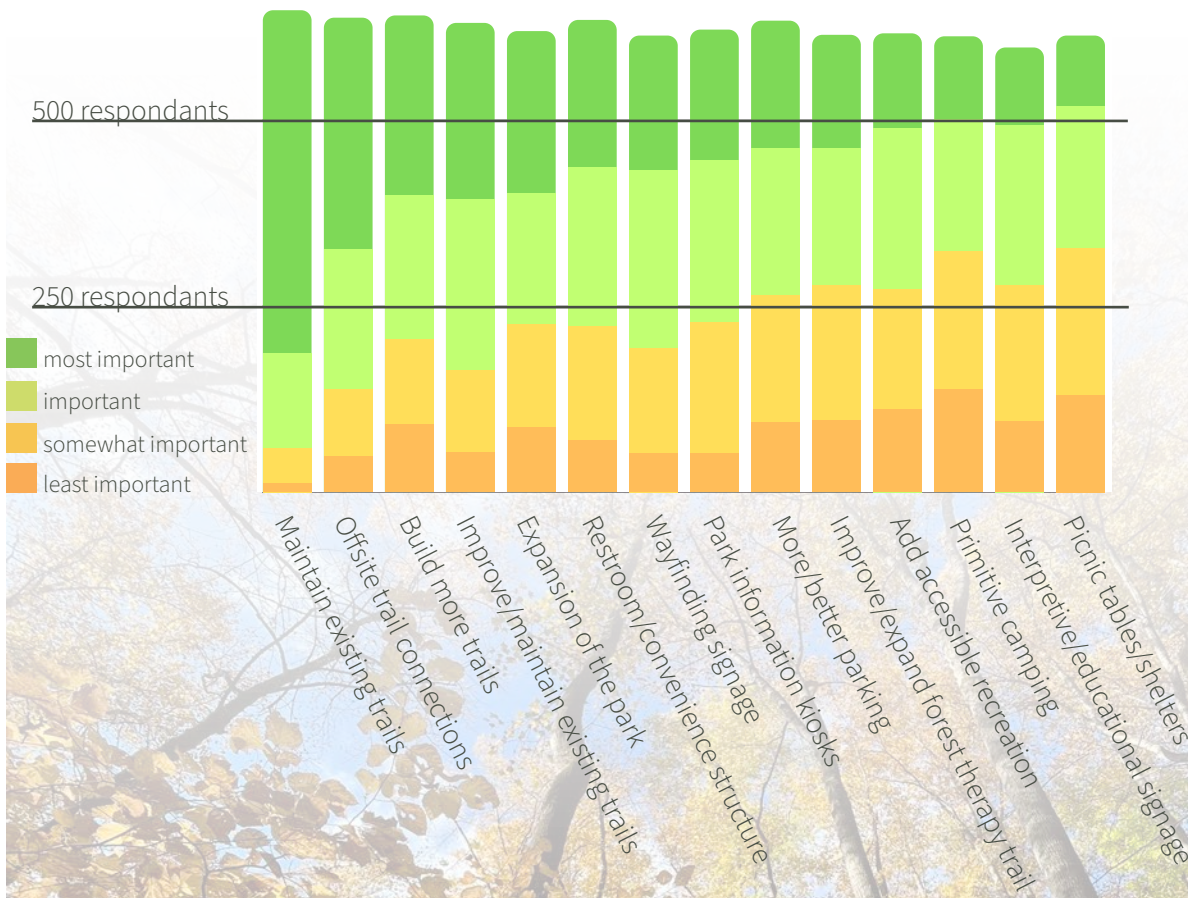
(respondents were asked if they agree with the following benefits; percentages indicate respondent agreement)



What are the top reasons preventing people from using Pinnacle Park?

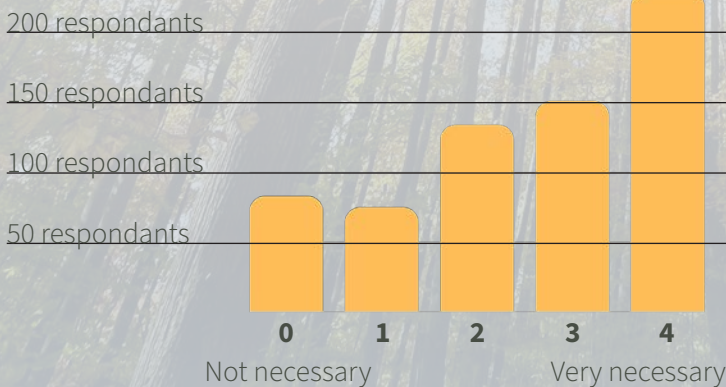
- 1 Poor maintenance/trails in bad shape (37.6%)
- 2 Lack of parking or personal transportation (20.3%)
- 3 Amenities are not accessible (15.8%)
- 4 Security/safety concerns (15.1%)
- 5 Don't know what the park offers (13.3%)
- 6 Too far from their residence (12.6%)
- 7 Don't know where the park is located (7.9%)
- 8 Personal health issues (5.2%)

Desired park improvements:



“ Areas should be made accessible, but there should be a balance between accessibility and maintaining a beautiful natural area... ”

How necessary do people think it is for the park to be universally accessible?

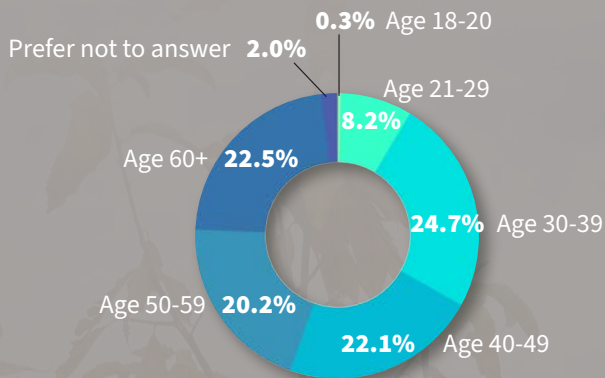


Overall comments and key themes expressed by respondents:

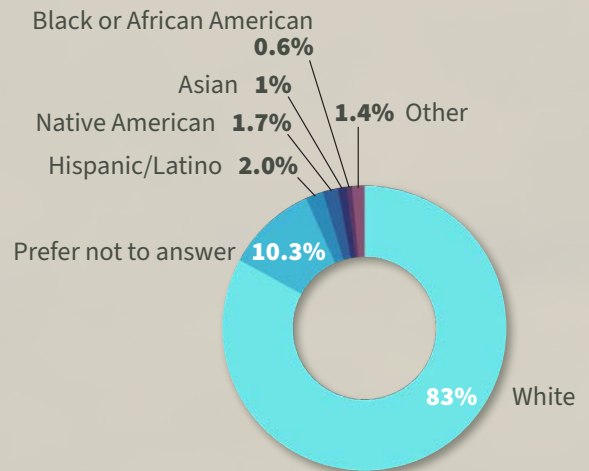
- protection for the ecological sensitivity of the land and the water quality of streams
- concern over the security and inadequate size of the parking area
- some main trails are too steep and rocky for most users
- concern over additional traffic on residential roads needed to access property
- there is a current lack of wayfinding signage, but planning efforts should avoid creating “too many” signs
- concern over conflicts between uses
- many respondents want to see offerings for more types of user groups
- balance between providing for human recreation and the natural environment is key

Demographics

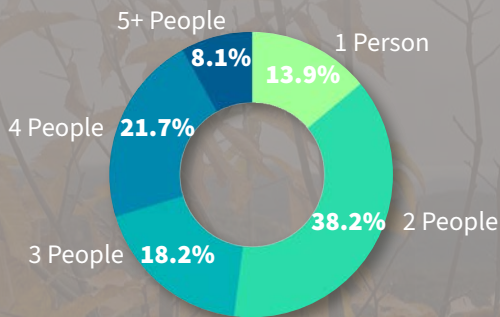
Respondent Age Range:



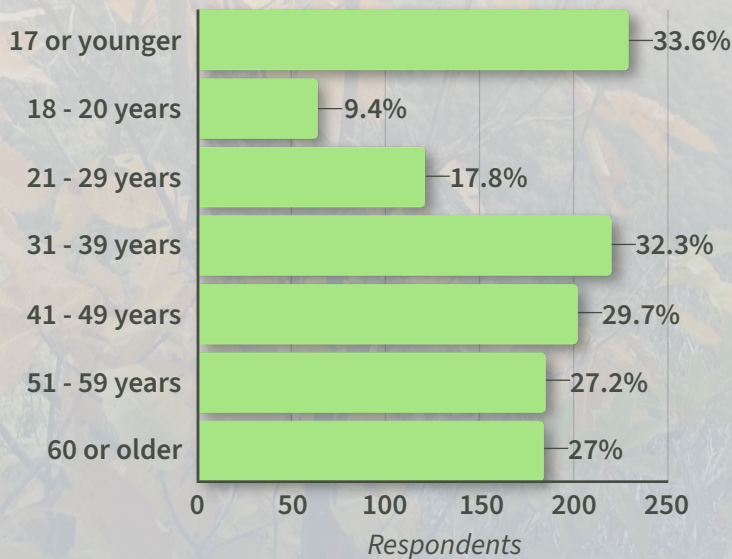
Respondent Race & Ethnicity:



Respondent Household Size:



What age ranges from the households of respondents are most likely to use the park:



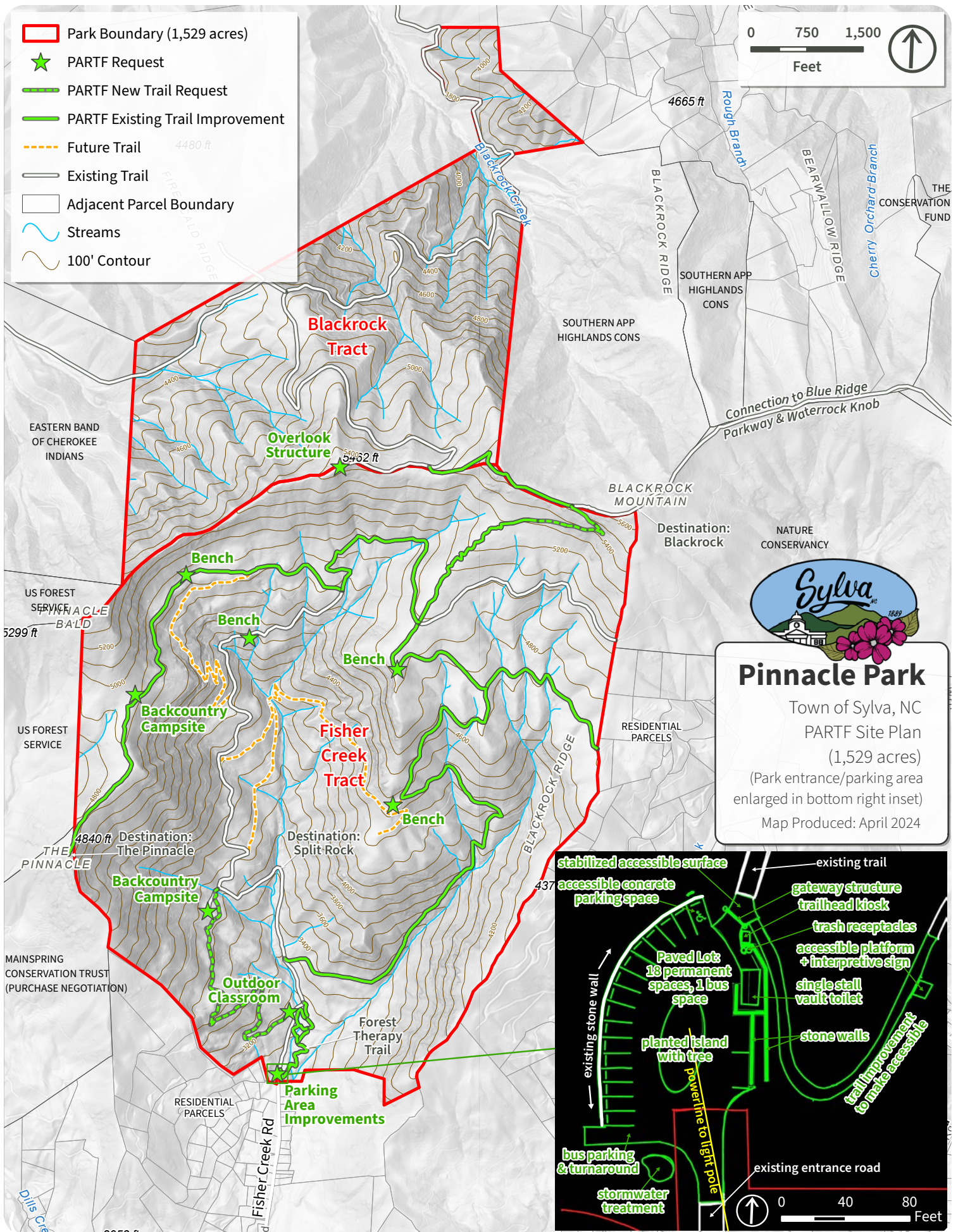
Respondents indicated they believe that the youngest members of their household, as well as themselves (when correlated with the overall age ranges of respondents), are most likely to visit and use Pinnacle Park.



Appendix

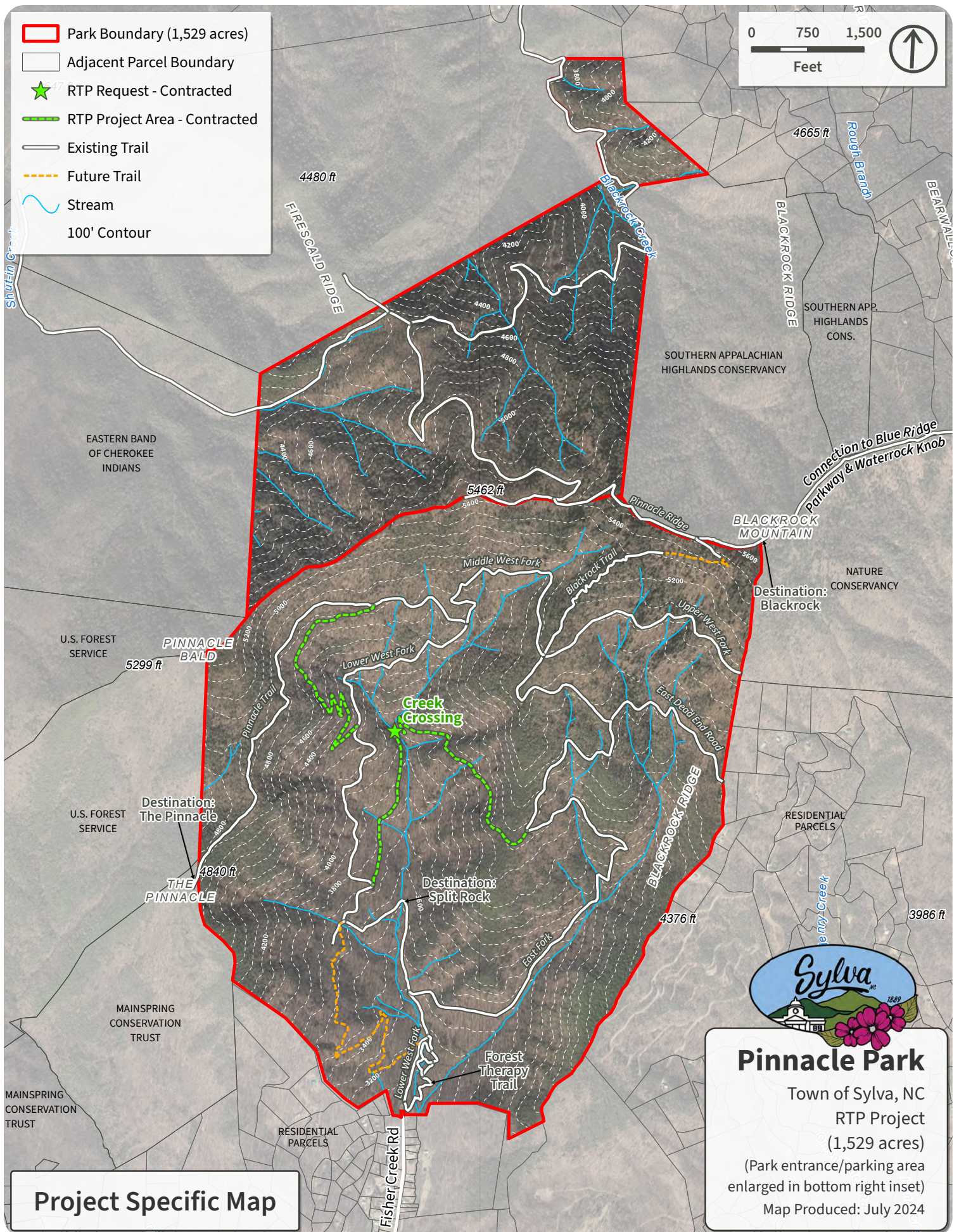
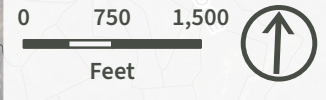
2024 Grant Application Site Plans

The following maps were prepared for submission to the NC Parks and Recreation Authority to demonstrate the locations of proposed improvements to be partially paid for using matching funds from the 2024 NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) and NC Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant programs.



Pinnacle Park
 Town of Sylva, NC
 PARTF Site Plan
 (1,529 acres)
 (Park entrance/parking area enlarged in bottom right inset)
 Map Produced: April 2024

- Park Boundary (1,529 acres)
- Adjacent Parcel Boundary
- ★ RTP Request - Contracted
- RTP Project Area - Contracted
- Existing Trail
- Future Trail
- ~ Stream
- 100' Contour



Project Specific Map



Pinnacle Park





Town of Sylva, NC
RTP Project
(1,529 acres)
(Park entrance/parking area enlarged in bottom right inset)
Map Produced: July 2024















Appendix

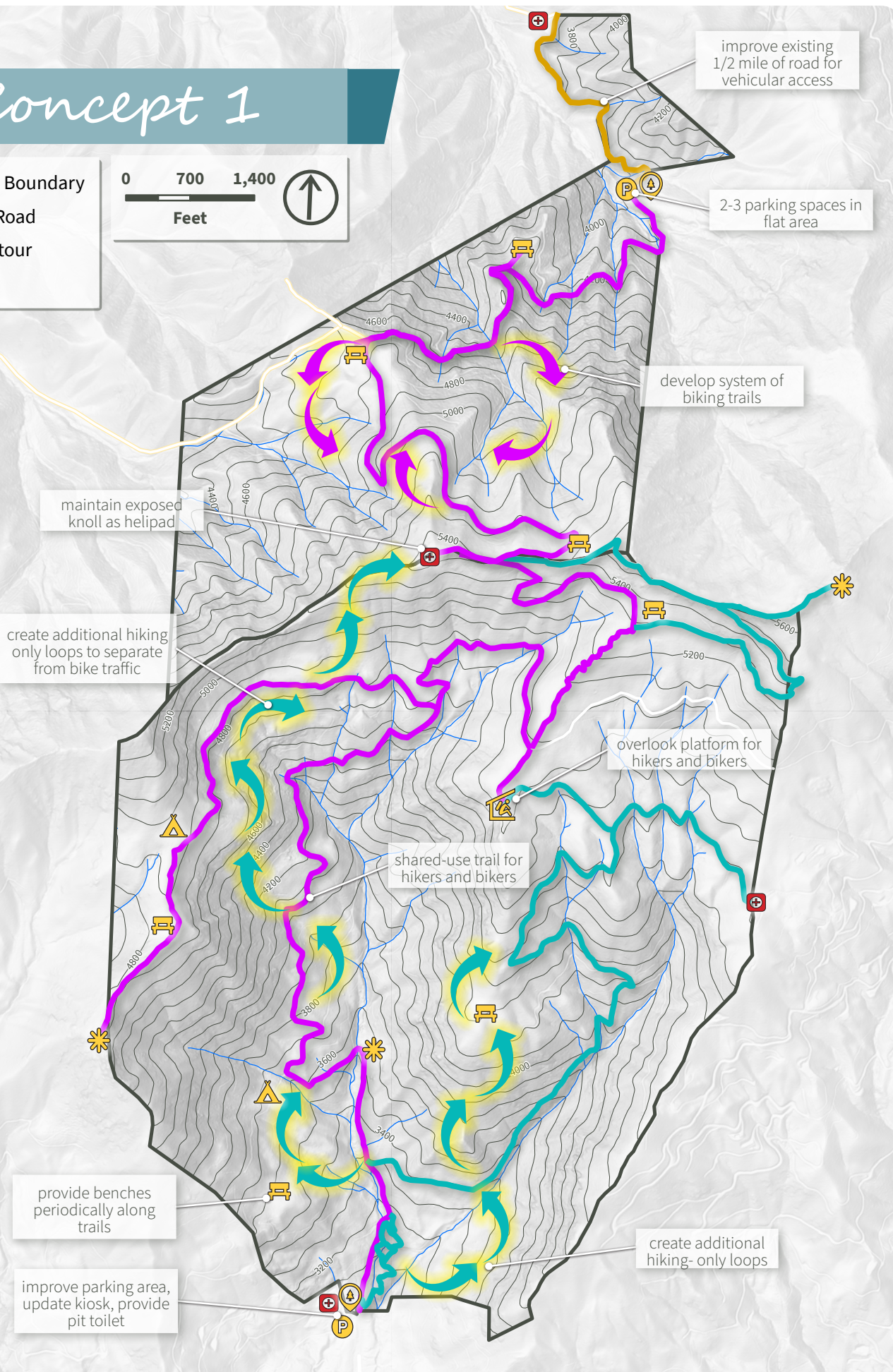
Draft Master Plan Concepts

Concept 1

-  Planning Boundary
-  Existing Road
-  100' Contour
-  Stream



-  Trailhead Kiosk
-  Proposed Bench or Rest Area
-  Proposed Overlook Structure
-  Existing Destination
-  Backcountry Campsite
-  Vehicular Parking
-  Hiking Only
-  Proposed Hiking Only
-  Biking/Hiking
-  Proposed Biking/Hiking
-  Vehicular Road
-  Emergency Access Point



improve existing 1/2 mile of road for vehicular access

2-3 parking spaces in flat area

develop system of biking trails

maintain exposed knoll as helipad

create additional hiking only loops to separate from bike traffic

overlook platform for hikers and bikers

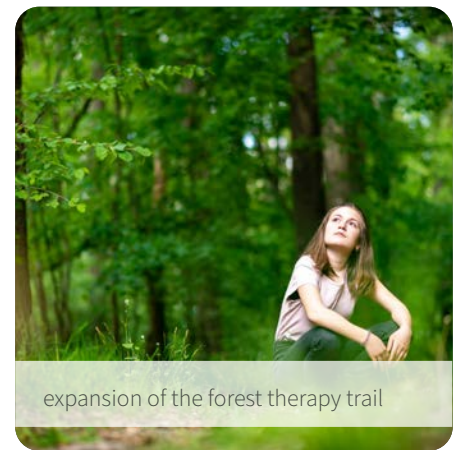
shared-use trail for hikers and bikers

provide benches periodically along trails

improve parking area, update kiosk, provide pit toilet

create additional hiking-only loops

Concept 1



Concept 1 allows bike access on both the Fisher Creek Track and the Black Rock Tract. On the Fisher Creek Tract, bike access is limited to a handful of trails only to allow bikers to access the Black Rock Tract from the Sylva side of the park. All bike trails allow hiking as well, but only pedestrians would be allowed on hiking-only trails. The trail types can be identified through design and wayfinding signage.

Providing at least some biking trail offerings on the Fisher Creek tract is for two reasons. The first reason is for ensuring the park remains an asset for the Town of Sylva – bringing all visitors through Sylva to get to the park. Secondly, emergency access is much easier through this side of the park. As the Fisher Creek trailhead will incur more usage, it is suggested to include a pit toilet facility for visitors.





Multiple new single-track hiking only trails are proposed in this concept on the Fisher Creek side to provide this separation of uses. A variety of trail loops with various skill levels are provided to give hikers on the Fisher Creek Tract more options for accessing unique areas in the park. The forest therapy trail would be expanded to the other side of the stream.

The Blackrock Tract will include the development of biking and hiking shared use trails throughout. The existing road will be accessible by UTV but will mainly be offered as a shared use trail for park visitors.














New amenities are offered throughout the park. This includes low-maintenance stone benches placed periodically for visitors to rest along the challenging climbs. It also includes an overlook structure that is accessible for both bikers and hikers on the Fisher Creek Tract. The exposed knoll at the top, between the two tracts, is to be maintained for a helipad for emergency access. Revegetation of this area with native high elevation grasses or ground covers should be considered. This area will also act as a premier viewing location.



Concept 2

-  Planning Boundary
-  Existing Road
-  100' Contour
-  Stream



-  Trailhead Kiosk
-  Proposed Bench or Rest Area
-  Proposed Overlook Structure
-  Existing Destination
-  Backcountry Campsite
-  Outdoor Classroom
-  Vehicular Parking
-  Hiking Only
-  Proposed Hiking Only
-  Biking/Hiking
-  Proposed Biking/Hiking
-  Vehicular Road
-  Emergency Access Point

provide parking for mountain bikers and trailhead kiosk

improve existing gravel road for vehicular use, include pull-off areas for passing

develop system of biking trails to potentially connect to shut-in tract

provide overlook platform on knoll

consider placement of helipad on flat area

create additional hiking only trails throughout

benches on knoll

provide outdoor classroom for school groups

extend forest therapy trail and provide small destination shelter

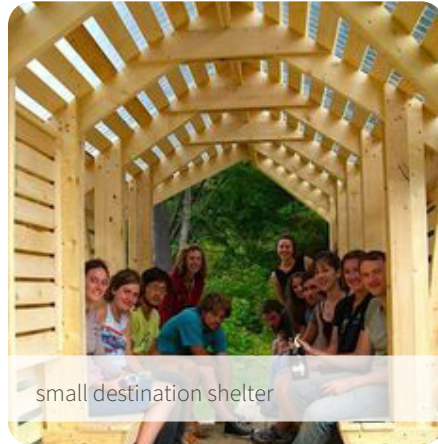
improve parking area, add accessible parking, update kiosk

add accessible trail and viewing shelter

Concept 2



accessible viewing platform



small destination shelter



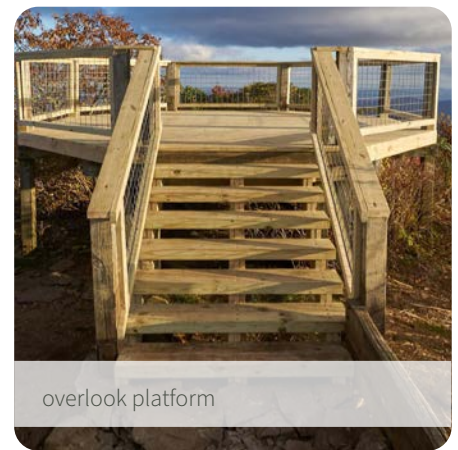
mountain biking trails on Blackrock tract



outdoor classroom



accessible trails



overlook platform

Concept 2 proposes the separation of trail uses, with hiking only on the Fisher Creek Tract and biking restricted to the Blackrock Tract. Visitors who intend to mountain bike will have to access the park from the Blackrock side. Hikers can access from either side. This concept would require the improvement of the gravel road on this side to provide an area for parking on the Blackrock Tract.

A variety of new trails for hiking can be integrated into the trail system on the Fisher Creek Tract. A variety of trail loops with various skill levels are provided to give visitors more options for accessing unique areas in the park.

A shared use bike trail system would be developed on the Blackrock Tract. To support use of this side, a small parking area would be constructed in the flat area where the intersection of road access lays to the Shut-in Tract.

Concept 2 focuses on increasing accessibility to the Fisher Creek Tract. New amenities proposed for Concept 2 include an accessible overlook, a picnic pavilion and an outdoor classroom for school groups. The trail leading to the accessible viewing platform should be an accessible surface. Like Concept 1, benches would be placed periodically for visitors to rest along the challenging climbs.

This concept includes overlook structure on the exposed knoll that straddles the two properties. This would allow for restoration of the natural communities along the ridge line by controlling the footprint of impact on the knoll.



Both Concepts



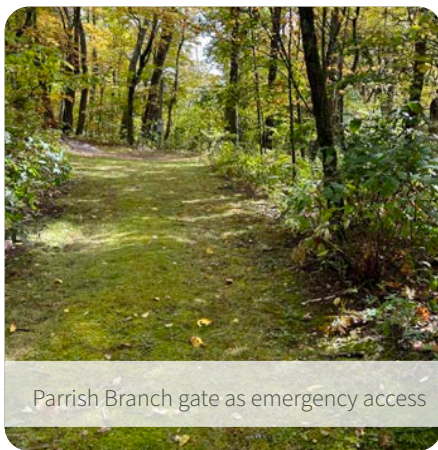
maintain emergency access trail



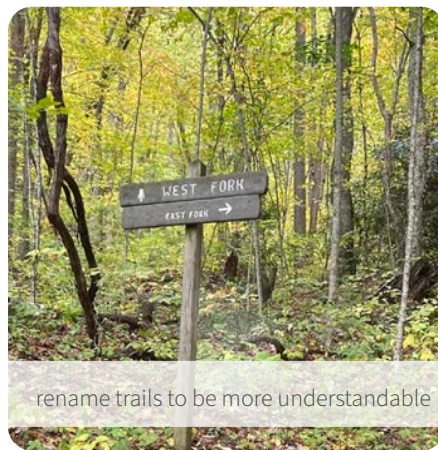
backcountry campsite improvements



additional hiking opportunities



Parrish Branch gate as emergency access



rename trails to be more understandable



trailhead parking improvements

Recommendations for both concepts include the following:

- Rename trails to be more understandable and improve wayfinding.
- Enhance the existing parking area on Fisher Creek Road by updating circulation and marking parking spaces.
- Utilize the Parrish Branch development access for an emergency access point.
- Maintain the “West Fork Trail” as a road for UTV and emergency access.
- Abandon campsites 4 and 5 due to their proximity to water resources. Abandon campsite 2 due to proximity to hiking trail. Enhance existing or proposed campsites with defined fire ring and visible signage.
- Provide new trails in low-impact locations for hiking or biking opportunities.

In the fall of 2023 over two days (October 26 and November 2), the Equinox team performed a detailed assessment of 6.61 miles of existing trails in the park. USDA Forest Service (USFS) Trail Assessment and Condition Survey (TRACS) forms were filled out in detail for each assessed trail. The following pages are select pages from the TRACS forms which were filled out that data, which create a compilation of the data used as the basis for Chapter 2: Trail Assessment in this plan. There may be some typos on the forms, and some comments and recommendations on the condition of certain sections of trail may no longer be applicable, but this assessment informed the comprehensive review and big picture recommendations of the trail system in Pinnacle Park.

Please Note: The names of each trail on the TRACS forms are the names that were provided to the planning team as GIS data, as well as some maps of the park. See these trail names as labels on the existing trail system on page 35 of this plan (Master Plan Concept). Some of these trail names may change as a result of this planning effort.

The “East Fork Trail” assessment is split into 3 sections: “Lower”, “Middle”, and “Upper” to distinguish where alignment leaves a roadbed, travels along a much narrower single-track trail (“Middle”), then picks up on a roadbed again. Each of these sections were assessed as one trail in the field, but were distinguished in this appendix with separate cover pages, as each has its own trail characteristics.



Appendix

Trail Assessment TRACS Forms



TRACS Trail Management Objectives

Region: Forest: District:

Trail Name: Bridge Trail (this assessment only included the eastern forest therapy trail route, and not the 2 bridge "loops") **Trail Number:**

Trail Beginning Termini: Pinnacle Parking Area **Beg. Milepost:** 0.0

Trail Ending Termini: Lower West Fork Trail **End. Milepost:** 0.31

Trail Inventory Length: .31 Miles **Trail Mileage Source:** Wheel GPS Map Unknown

TMO Trail Section

Section Beg. Termini: **Beg. Milepost:** 0.0

Sec.# **Section End. Termini:** **End. Milepost:** 0.31

Designed Use Objectives

(Check one)

Trail Type

Standard Terra Trail

Snow Trail

Water Trail

(Check one)

Trail Class

1 (Primitive/Undeveloped)

2 (Simple/Minor Development)

3 (Developed/Improved)

4 (Highly Developed)

5 (Fully Developed)

ROS/WROS Class (Check one)

Non-Wilderness	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban	Wilderness	<input type="checkbox"/> WROS 1
	<input type="checkbox"/> Rural		<input type="checkbox"/> WROS 2
	<input type="checkbox"/> Roaded Modified		<input type="checkbox"/> WROS 3
	<input type="checkbox"/> Roaded Natural		<input type="checkbox"/> WROS 4
	<input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Primitive Motorized		<input type="checkbox"/> WROS 5
	<input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Primitive NonMotorized		<input type="checkbox"/> WROS 6
<input type="checkbox"/> Primitive			

NOT APPLICABLE

Designed Use

(Check one)

Hiker / Pedestrian

Pack & Saddle

Bicycle

Motorcycle

All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)

Four-Wheel Drive Vehicle > 50"

Cross-Country Ski

Snowshoe

Snowmobile

Watercraft - NonMotorized

Watercraft - Motorized

Design Parameters

(Fill in all that apply)

Tread Width (inches)

Target Grade (%)

Short Pitch Maximum (%) (up to 200' lengths)

Target Cross-Slope (%)

Clearing Width (feet)

Clearing Height (feet)

Switchback Radius (feet)

Target Frequency Per Year

(Fill in all that apply)

Trail Opening

Tread Repair

Drainage Cleanout

Logging Out

Brushing

Snow Trail Grooming

Condition Survey

TRACS Survey

Trail Name: Bridge Trail		Trail No:		Survey Date: 26-Oct-23				
Termini this Survey:	BMP 0+00	Description: Pinnacle Parking		Surveyors: Fusco/Smith				
	EMP 16+55	Description: Intersection of Lower West Fork Trail						
Overall Trail Condition Comments: Overall trail in good condition. Better signage is needed for more cohesive wayfinding. Verify against forest therapy trail required parameters.								
Unit of Measure:		English	Metric	Measure Method:	Wheel	Tape	Trail Use Comments	
Trail Management Objectives (TMO):		Established	Attached	Not established				
TMO Comments:								
Other Attachments:		Productivity Factors Form	Photo Log Form(s)	Photo Record Form	Sign Inventory Form(s)	Trail Bridge Form(s)		
BMP	Feature		Condition		Task		Critical	Non-Crit
EMP	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Freq	Sevty
0+00		multiple panel sign w bridge trail indicated real and synthetic wood		good		consider single material at next refresh		
0+09		tread width		60"+		none		
0+24		tread width with boulder restriction - 24" root and rock debris		good		consider widening for better accessibility but keep restriction to prevent unwanted use		
1+30		6x6 treated post		good		determine need. Looks like used to be cable gate		
1+30		short pitch - 14%		good		none		
2+11								
3+12		20' wood plank bridge, block footers, round pol stringers, 60"clear width, raised 4x4 curb - 5" height		good condition		monitor drainage gaps in curb and clear for drainage, remove leaves		
3+32								

TRACS Survey (continuation sheet)

Trail Name: Bridge Trail		Trail No:		Survey Date: 26-Oct-23				
Beg Station	Feature		Condition		Task	Critical	Non-Crit	
End Station	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Freq	Sevty
3+32		short pitch - 15% +/-		good		monitor and block if necessary		
4+00								
4+00		user trail to east		minimal use		monitor and block if necessary		
4+00		grade 13%		good		none		
5+29								
5+29		15% climbing turn up to near impoundment		good		monitor for erosion		
6+07								
7+76		turn at large boulder, user trail to creek		good		determine whether to keep user trail, no significant resource damage		
9+25		trail narrows, 48"		good				
9+44		trail split, bridge trail west, bypass trail east, map shows Bridge Trail 2 to west and Bridge Trail to east		good		make consistent with map, add post and mount signs		
9+44		18% Grade, long straight section, eroding close to intersection w/ Bridge Trail 2		eroding close to intersection w/ Bridge Trail 2, some incision		consider meandering trail reroute and/or add stairs closer to intersection		
10+31								

TRACS Survey (continuation sheet)

Trail Name:		Bridge Trail		Trail No:				Survey Date:		26-Oct-23	
Beg Station	Feature			Condition			Task			Critical	Non-Crit
End Station	Code	Comments		Code	Comments		Code	Comments		Freq	Sevty
10+31	14%, 48" width			good							
11+23											
11+61	crossing of old drainage ditch										
11+61	18% short pitch			fair			consider reroute or stairs				
11+82											
11+95	intersection w/ Bridge Trail 2 connector w/ bridge 3/4 signs on tree			good			consider signs on post, add trail name signs				
12+65	unmarked intersection, user-created trail to east						determine user created trail extent and decommission as necessary, or evaluate for adding to system				
14+23	intersection, trail sign on post, "main trail" to east, "Bridge 4" to west			good			change signs to be consistent with trail naming				
15+50	kudzu along trail, both sides						confirm part of eradication plan				
16+55	intersection with Lower West Fork Fork Trail			good			evidence of fire pit at intersection, obliterate - purple, yellow and white blazes. Determine nature of blazes and confirm consistency. Appears bridge trail is white blaze, consider more blazes if blazing is to be a trail ID element				

On pages 82-89, the “East Fork Trail” assessment is split into 3 sections: “Lower”, “Middle”, and “Upper” to distinguish where alignment leaves a roadbed, travels along a much narrower single-track trail (“Middle”), then picks up on a roadbed again. Each of these sections were assessed as one trail in the field, but were distinguished in with separate cover pages, as each has its own design parameters.



TRACS Trail Management Objectives

Region:

Forest:

District:

Trail Name:

Trail Number:

Trail Beginning Termini:

Beg. Milepost:

Trail Ending Termini:

End. Milepost:

Trail Inventory Length: Miles

Trail Mileage Source: Wheel

GPS

Map

Unknown

TMO Trail Section

Sec.#

Section Beg. Termini:

Beg. Milepost:

Section End. Termini:

End. Milepost:

Designed Use Objectives

(Check one)

Trail Type

- Standard Terra Trail
- Snow Trail
- Water Trail

(Check one)

Trail Class

- 1 (Primitive/Undeveloped)
- 2 (Simple/Minor Development)
- 3 (Developed/Improved)
- 4 (Highly Developed)
- 5 (Fully Developed)

ROS/WROS Class (Check one)

ROS

Non-Wilderness

- Urban
- Rural
- Roaded Modified
- Roaded Natural
- Semi-Primitive Motorized
- Semi-Primitive NonMotorized
- Primitive

WROS

Wilderness

- WROS 1
- WROS 2
- WROS 3
- WROS 4
- WROS 5
- WROS 6

NOT APPLICABLE

Designed Use

(Check one)

- Hiker / Pedestrian
- Pack & Saddle
- Bicycle
- Motorcycle
- All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)
- Four-Wheel Drive Vehicle > 50"
- _____
- _____

- Cross-Country Ski
- Snowshoe
- Snowmobile
- _____
- _____

- Watercraft - NonMotorized
- Watercraft - Motorized

Design Parameters

(Fill in all that apply)

Tread Width (inches)

Target Grade (%)

Short Pitch Maximum (%)
(up to 200' lengths)

Target Cross-Slope (%)

Clearing Width (feet)

Clearing Height (feet)

Switchback Radius (feet)

For double lane if desired

Target Frequency

Per Year

(Fill in all that apply)

Trail Opening

Tread Repair

Drainage Cleanout

Logging Out

Brushing

Snow Trail Grooming

Condition Survey

TRACS Survey

Trail Name: East Fork - Lower		Trail No.:		Survey Date: 26-Oct-23				
Termini this Survey:	BMP	Description:		Surveyors:	Fusco-Smith			
	EMP	Description:						
Overall Trail Condition Comments:		Based on field observation, travel direction appears to generally be downhill with hikers ascending west fork road bed. While roadbed cut exceeds trail standards, efforts should be made to manage tread width within trail Class 3 parameters. This can be achieved by meandering maintained tread within road cut prism and allowing vegetation to grow in to Trail Class 3 parameters (18"-36"). Steep sections may require rolling dips that occupy the road bed width or cut slope could be utilized to create grade reversals with outlope across road cut. Emergency UTV vehicles can still traverse the alignment to end of road cut (where Lower East Fork ends and Upper East Fork begins).						
BMP EMP	Feature		Condition		Task		Critical	Non-Crit
	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Freq	Sevty
0+00	intersection east fork, trail sign		good		none			
0+00	11%		good		consider deberming along this section			
0+44								
1+76	rolling dip		failed, leadout blocked		reestablish rolling dip and leadout, remove obstructions - consider enlarging to grade reversal using side slope above			
1+76	22% grade, bermed on downhill side old skid trail or road bed		not heavily eroding, low use		deberm and outslope, add rolling dip midway through this section			
3+53								
3+53	rolling dip/knick		failed		enhance to full rolling dip, reshape leadout			
3+53	21% grade		fair, low use not significantly eroding		deberm and outslope, add rolling dip midway through this section			
4+93								

TRACS Survey Form v4 - (2/2004)

Page 2 of 3

TRACS Survey (continuation sheet)

Trail Name: East Fork - Lower		Trail No.:		Survey Date: 26-Oct-23				
Beg Station End Station	Feature		Condition		Task		Critical	Non-Crit
	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Freq	Sevty
4+93	rolling dip		failing		reestablish and enlarge			
4+93	18% grade, 60" width		good		consider adding dip or relocating dip at 4+93 to this location, may have been a dip previously			
5+45								
6+71	72" width		good, outsloped bench					
7+64	tree down		passable		remove w hand saw			
9+36	12% grade descent to low point		good		monitor and outslope low point as necessary			
10+25								
12+07	apparent downhill user trail, collecting runoff		some erosion		decommission and obliterate			
12+93	tread width narrows 30", bench stays about same width		good		none			
13+95	road bench ends, trail narrows to 24", boulders above begin East Fork - Middle		good		none			

TRACS Survey Form v4 - Continuation (2/2004)

Page 3 of 3



TRACS Trail Management Objectives

Region:

Forest:

District:

Trail Name:

Trail Number:

Trail Beginning Termini:

Beg. Milepost:

Trail Ending Termini:

End. Milepost:

Trail Inventory Length: Miles

Trail Mileage Source: Wheel

GPS

Map

Unknown

TMO Trail Section

Sec.#

Section Beg. Termini:

Beg. Milepost:

Section End. Termini:

End. Milepost:

Designed Use Objectives

- (Check one)
- Trail Type
- Standard Terra Trail
 - Snow Trail
 - Water Trail

- (Check one)
- Trail Class
- 1 (Primitive/Undeveloped)
 - 2 (Simple/Minor Development)
 - 3 (Developed/Improved)
 - 4 (Highly Developed)
 - 5 (Fully Developed)

ROS/WROS Class (Check one)

- | | | | |
|----------------|---|------------|--|
| Non-Wilderness | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban
<input type="checkbox"/> Rural
<input type="checkbox"/> Roaded Modified
<input type="checkbox"/> Roaded Non-Motorized
<input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Primitive Motorized
<input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized
<input type="checkbox"/> Primitive | Wilderness | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 1
<input type="checkbox"/> WROS 2
<input type="checkbox"/> WROS 3
<input type="checkbox"/> WROS 4
<input type="checkbox"/> WROS 5
<input type="checkbox"/> WROS 6 |
|----------------|---|------------|--|

NOT APPLICABLE

Designed Use

- (Check one)
- Hiker / Pedestrian
 - Pack & Saddle
 - Bicycle
 - Motorcycle
 - All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)
 - Four-Wheel Drive Vehicle > 50"
 - _____
 - _____
 - Cross-Country Ski
 - Snowshoe
 - Snowmobile
 - _____
 - Watercraft - NonMotorized
 - Watercraft - Motorized

Design Parameters

- (Fill in all that apply)
- Tread Width (inches)
 - Target Grade (%)
 - Short Pitch Maximum (%) (up to 200' lengths)
 - Target Cross-Slope (%)
 - Clearing Width (feet)
 - Clearing Height (feet)
 - Switchback Radius (feet)
 - _____

Target Frequency

- Per Year (Fill in all that apply)
- Trail Opening
 - Tread Repair
 - Drainage Cleanout
 - Logging Out
 - Brushing
 - Snow Trail Grooming
 - Condition Survey
 - _____

TRACS Survey (continuation sheet)

Trail Name: East Fork - Middle		Trail No:		Survey Date: 26-Oct-23	
Beg Station	Feature	Condition	Task	Critical	Non-Crit
End Station	Code Comments	Code Comments	Code Comments	Freq	Sevty
13+95	21% grade, protrusions increase, maybe lower level trail starting here. From 3 to 2	good, rocky			
14+43					
14+87	4' grade change,	sloughing and eroding,	add stairs or reconstruct , 75'+/-		
17+94	fallen tree took out trail	trail has rerouted around but exposed soil and sloughing occurring	minor tread and slop work to ease sideslope below trail.		
18+35	30% slope up,	good due to low use and steep side slopes	none		
19+38					
19+38	35% slope up	good due to low use and steep side slopes	none		
20+60					
21+17	ephemeral drainage	good, some tread erosion	monitor and armor as necessary		
22+60	tread sloughing, 18"	tread failing and sloughing	reestablish tread		
22+84					
24+80	40% grade up				
25+41					

TRACS Survey (continuation sheet)

Trail Name: East Fork - Middle/Upper		Trail No:		Survey Date: 26-Oct-23	
Beg Station	Feature	Condition	Task	Critical	Non-Crit
End Station	Code Comments	Code Comments	Code Comments	Freq	Sevty
26+58	notched log step, 24"	retaining trail above	leave in place for now. Monitor		
30+94	log obstacle	notched for step	monitor and cut out once decayed.		
33+20	minor seep				
33+25	very steep eroding section	eroding	add stairs, stone or logs available		
33+66					
33+66	attain bench cut, tread 48", bench 8-10' begin East Fork - Upper	good, still 30% +, low use			
34+95	user trail to waterfall below	low use good condition	monitor		
38+46	stream crossing	good			
38+65	26% up to switchback	stable, low use	monitor		
40+04					



TRACS Trail Management Objectives

Region:

Forest:

District:

Trail Name:

Trail Number:

Trail Beginning Termini:

Beg. Milepost:

Trail Ending Termini:

End. Milepost:

Trail Inventory Length: Miles

Trail Mileage Source: Wheel

GPS

Map

Unknown

TMO Trail Section

Sec.#

Section Beg. Termini:

Beg. Milepost:

Section End. Termini:

End. Milepost:

Designed Use Objectives

- (Check one)
- Trail Type
- Standard Terra Trail
 - Snow Trail
 - Water Trail

- (Check one)
- Trail Class
- 1 (Primitive/Undeveloped)
 - 2 (Simple/Minor Development)
 - 3 (Developed/Improved)
 - 4 (Highly Developed)
 - 5 (Fully Developed)

ROS/WROS Class (Check one)

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|------------|---------------------------------|
| Non-Wilderness | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban | Wilderness | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 1 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural | | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 2 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Roaded Modified | | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 3 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Roaded Non-Motorized | | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 4 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Primitive Motorized | | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 5 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Primitive NonMotorized | | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primitive | | | |

NOT APPLICABLE

Designed Use

- (Check one)
- Hiker / Pedestrian
 - Pack & Saddle
 - Bicycle
 - Motorcycle
 - All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)
 - Four-Wheel Drive Vehicle > 50"
 - _____
 - _____
 - Cross-Country Ski
 - Snowshoe
 - Snowmobile
 - _____
 - Watercraft - NonMotorized
 - Watercraft - Motorized

Design Parameters

- (Fill in all that apply)
- Tread Width (inches)
 - Target Grade (%)
 - Short Pitch Maximum (%) (up to 200' lengths)
 - Target Cross-Slope (%)
 - Clearing Width (feet)
 - Clearing Height (feet)
 - Switchback Radius (feet)
 - If double Lane is desired

Target Frequency

- Per Year (Fill in all that apply)
- Trail Opening
 - Tread Repair
 - Drainage Cleanout
 - Logging Out
 - Brushing
 - Snow Trail Grooming
 - Condition Survey
 - _____

TRACS Survey (continuation sheet)

Trail Name: East Fork - Upper		Trail No:		Survey Date: 26-Oct-23				
Beg Station	Feature		Condition		Task		Critical	Non-Crit
End Station	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Freq	Sevty
40+81		add rolling dip above switchback						
41+58		existing rolling dip and leadout		almost full		reestablish dip and leadout		
41+58		31% grade up, 10' bench, 8' tread		stable,		allow bench to grow in, maintain 5' tread.		
42+86								
42+86		log water bar		full		establish rolling dip or larger water bar and leadout		
44+16		rolling dip and leadout		dip full and leadout partially blocked with debris.		reestablish dip and leadout, remove debris from feature		
45+03		rolling dip with log water bar and leadout		full but functioning		reestablish rolling dip and leadout, make deeper, remove log water bar		
46+08		establish rolling dip below intersection, grade trail above to drain toward cut bank and provide leadout ditch above switchback						
50+08		rolling dip		functioning		maintain and enhance		

TRACS Survey (continuation sheet)

Trail Name: East Fork - Upper		Trail No:		Survey Date: 26-Oct-23				
Beg Station	Feature		Condition		Task		Critical	Non-Crit
End Station	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Freq	Sevty
50+94		15% slope up, 12' bench, 8-10' tread		good		deberm and outslope where possible		
52+27		rolling dip		functioning but almost full		maintain and outslope		
53+26		rolling dip		functioning but almost full		maintain and outslope		
54+84		rolling dip		full, not functioning		reestablish dip and outslope		
55+36		rolling dip		functioning but almost full		maintain and outslope		
55+90		spring running down interior edge of trail and crossing here.		stable		monitor and look for opps to allow spring to run original alignment.		
57+22		stream crossing w 18" hdpe pipe		functioning but shotgun on downhill side. Seep seems to be weeping from slope back to 55+90		pull pipe and reestablish broad rocky stream bed, or replace pipe but install at grade; monitor seep and crossing along interior slope		
57+84		old rolling dip		not functioning		reestablish dip and leadout		

TRACS Survey (continuation sheet)

Trail Name: East Fork - Upper		Trail No:		Survey Date: 26-Oct-23				
Beg Station	Feature		Condition		Task		Critical	Non-Crit
End Station	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Freq	Sevty
60+60		large double hickory crossing trail		passable		chainsaw removal to clear trail.		
62+80		rolling dip		full, not functioning		reestablish dip and outslope		
64+31		rolling dip		full, not functioning		reestablish dip and outslope		
66+42		rolling dip		full, not functioning		reestablish dip and outslope		
67+07		add rolling dip						
67+82		rolling dip		full, not functioning		reestablish dip and outslope		
68+98		rolling dip		full, not functioning		reestablish dip and outslope		
69+85		rolling dip		full, not functioning		reestablish dip and outslope		

TRACS Survey Form v4 - Continuation (2/2004)

Page 4 of 7

TRACS Survey (continuation sheet)

Trail Name: East Fork - Upper		Trail No:		Survey Date: 26-Oct-23				
Beg Station	Feature		Condition		Task		Critical	Non-Crit
End Station	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Freq	Sevty
70+88		rolling dip		full, not functioning		reestablish dip and outslope		
71+62		rolling dip		full, not functioning		reestablish dip and outslope		
72+26		rolling dip		full, not functioning		reestablish dip and outslope		
73+00		rolling dip		full, not functioning				
74+27		rolling dip		full, not functioning		reestablish dip and outslope		
75+61		alignment flattens out for better running grade						
79+60		stream crossing, no evidence of pipe but appears to be stable, old purple/yellow blaze				monitor, possibly some overflow in times of flood		
85+50		steep pitch 21-grade				monitor		
86+05								

TRACS Survey Form v4 - Continuation (2/2004)

Page 5 of 7

TRACS Survey (continuation sheet)

Trail Name: East Fork - Upper		Trail No:		Survey Date: 26-Oct-23				
Beg Station	Feature		Condition		Task		Critical	Non-Crit
End Station	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Freq	Sevty
86+05		rolling dip		full, not functioning		reestablish and outslope		
91+62		intersection, two signs, blackrock pinnacle to left, fisher creek parking pointing back down hill, old road to right no sign, yellow purple blaze		fair		consolidate signs, add sign for access to right, note campsites to right, formalize blazing		
95+42		rolling dip		full, not functioning		reestablish and outslope		
96+25		rolling dip		full, not functioning		reestablish and outslope		
97+55		rolling dip		full, not functioning		reestablish and outslope		
98+96		rolling dip		full, not functioning		reestablish and outslope		
102+69		rolling dip		functioning but needs maintenance		maintain		
104+56		rolling dip		functioning but needs maintenance		maintain		

TRACS Survey (continuation sheet)

Trail Name: East Fork - Upper		Trail No:		Survey Date: 26-Oct-23				
Beg Station	Feature		Condition		Task		Critical	Non-Crit
End Station	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Freq	Sevty
106+22		rolling dip		functioning but needs maintenance		maintain, clean out sediment from dip and leadout		
106+98		overlook opp at opening on ridge, old fire ring				remove fire ring due to proximity to trail, consider veg management to open up view		
113+42		rolling dip		functioning but needs maintenance		maintain, clean out sediment from dip and leadout		
114+69		trail terminus, multiple signs, paper map taped to tree		good condition		sign clutter, consolidate, maybe a post w destinations an a second with trail names, possible kiosk location		



TRACS Trail Management Objectives

Region:

Forest:

District:

Trail Name:

Trail Number:

Trail Beginning Termini:

Beg. Milepost:

Trail Ending Termini:

End. Milepost:

Trail Inventory Length: Miles

Trail Mileage Source: Wheel GPS Map Unknown

TMO Trail Section

Section Beg. Termini:

Beg. Milepost:

Sec.#

Section End. Termini:

End. Milepost:

Designed Use Objectives

- (Check one)
- Trail Type
- Standard Terra Trail
 - Snow Trail
 - Water Trail

- (Check one)
- Trail Class
- 1 (Primitive/Undeveloped)
 - 2 (Simple/Minor Development)
 - 3 (Developed/Improved)
 - 4 (Highly Developed)
 - 5 (Fully Developed)

ROS/WROS Class (Check one)

- ROS
- Urban
 - Rural
 - Roaded Modified
 - Roaded Non-Motorized
 - Semi-Primitive Motorized
 - Semi-Primitive NonMotorized
 - Primitive
- WROS
- WROS 1
 - WROS 2
 - WROS 3
 - WROS 4
 - WROS 5
 - WROS 6
- NOT APPLICABLE**

Designed Use

- (Check one)
- Hiker / Pedestrian
 - Pack & Saddle
 - Bicycle
 - Motorcycle
 - All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)
 - Four-Wheel Drive Vehicle > 50"
 - _____
 - _____
 - Cross-Country Ski
 - Snowshoe
 - Snowmobile
 - _____
 - Watercraft - NonMotorized
 - Watercraft - Motorized

Design Parameters

- (Fill in all that apply)
- Tread Width (inches)
 - Target Grade (%)
 - Short Pitch Maximum (%) (up to 200' lengths)
 - Target Cross-Slope (%)
 - Clearing Width (feet)
 - Clearing Height (feet)
 - Switchback Radius (feet)
 - _____

Target Frequency

- Per Year (Fill in all that apply)
- Trail Opening
 - Tread Repair
 - Drainage Cleanout
 - Logging Out
 - Brushing
 - Snow Trail Grooming
 - Condition Survey
 - _____

TRACS Survey

Trail Name: Middle West Fork			Trail No.:		Survey Date: 26-Oct-23	
Termini this Survey:	BMP		Description:			
	EMP		Description:			
Overall Trail Condition Comments:		This appears to be used as main route to top of mountain, so it acts more like a road than a trail. There are a number of sections that exceed trail Class 3 parameters but there are limited opportunities to modify the trail/road without significant reroutes. Consider maintaining to minor road standards and for emergency access.				
BMP EMP	Feature Code Comments		Condition Code Comments		Task Code Comments	
					Critical Freq	Non-Crit Sevty
0+00	intersection of east fork trail		good, see east fork terminus for sign recs			
1+76	old gate		not functional			
2+79	add rolling dip					
4+22	ephemeral drainage crossing		good, some erosion at outlet		monitor and harden tread if erosion gets worse.	
5+29	rolling dip		full, not functioning		maintain and outslope	
9+78	seep area		not impacting trail more than some moisture		monitor	

TRACS Survey (continuation sheet)

Trail Name: Middle West Fork			Trail No.:		Survey Date: 26-Oct-23	
Beg Station	Feature		Condition		Task	
End Station	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Code	Comments
					Critical Freq	Non-Crit Sevty
11+83	crossing at fisher creek		good, did not get a visual on whether there is a pipe			
21+53	crossing at headwaters trib to fisher creek, 15" +/- metal pipe		good condition		monitor outlet an rock armor if necessary to prevent erosion	
22+69	rolling dip		not functioning		reestablish and outslope	
26+55	rolling dip		not functioning		reestablish and outslope	
27+00	rolling dip		not functioning		reestablish and outslope	
28+00	add rolling dip					
29+83	rolling dip		not functioning		reestablish and outslope	
31+07	rolling dip		not functioning		reestablish and outslope	

TRACS Survey (continuation sheet)

Trail Name: Middle West Fork		Trail No:		Survey Date: 26-Oct-23				
Beg Station	Feature		Condition		Task		Critical	Non-Crit
End Station	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Freq	Sevty
31+11	27% descent through turn, station at apex 31+62		rocky and eroding somewhat, fair condition		monitor			
32+13								
33+06	rolling dip		full, not functioning		reestablish dip, outslope to leadout			
34+60	intersection pinnacle/blackrock		good					



TRACS Trail Management Objectives

Region:

Forest:

District:

Trail Name:

Trail Number:

Trail Beginning Termini:

Beg. Milepost:

Trail Ending Termini:

End. Milepost:

Trail Inventory Length: Miles

Trail Mileage Source: Wheel

GPS

Map

Unknown

TMO Trail Section

Section Beg. Termini:

Beg. Milepost:

Sec.#

Section End. Termini:

End. Milepost:

Designed Use Objectives

- (Check one)
- Trail Type
- Standard Terra Trail
 - Snow Trail
 - Water Trail

- (Check one)
- Trail Class
- 1 (Primitive/Undeveloped)
 - 2 (Simple/Minor Development)
 - 3 (Developed/Improved)
 - 4 (Highly Developed)
 - 5 (Fully Developed)

ROS/WROS Class (Check one)

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|------------|---------------------------------|
| Non-Wilderness | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban | Wilderness | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 1 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural | | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 2 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Roaded Modified | | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 3 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Roaded Non-Motorized | | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 4 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Primitive Motorized | | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 5 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Primitive NonMotorized | | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primitive | | | |
- NOT APPLICABLE

Designed Use

- (Check one)
- Hiker / Pedestrian
 - Pack & Saddle
 - Bicycle
 - Motorcycle
 - All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)
 - Four-Wheel Drive Vehicle > 50"
 - Old Logging Road
currently used for hiking (design)
 - Cross-Country Ski
 - Snowshoe
 - Snowmobile
 - _____
 - Watercraft - NonMotorized
 - Watercraft - Motorized

Design Parameters

- (Fill in all that apply)
- Tread Width (inches)
 - Target Grade (%)
 - Short Pitch Maximum (%)
(up to 200' lengths)
 - Target Cross-Slope (%)
 - Clearing Width (feet)
 - Clearing Height (feet)
 - Switchback Radius (feet)
 - _____

Target Frequency

- Per Year
(Fill in all that apply)
- Trail Opening
 - Tread Repair
 - Drainage Cleanout
 - Logging Out
 - Brushing
 - Snow Trail Grooming
 - Condition Survey
 - _____

TRACS Survey

Trail Name: Upper West Fork				Trail No.:		Survey Date: 2-Nov-23	
Termini this Survey:		BMP		Description:		Surveyors: Fusco-Smith	
		EMP		Description:			
Overall Trail Condition Comments:		Rolling grade but generally outloped, bermed in some areas, overgrown in places but passable. Since this trail's only destination is a logging road that leaves the property and an unsustainably steep trail which should be decommissioned it's recommended that this trail be decommissioned as well.					
Unit of Measure:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English		<input type="checkbox"/> Metric		Measure Method: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wheel <input type="checkbox"/> Tape	
Trail Management Objectives (TMO):		<input type="checkbox"/> Established		<input type="checkbox"/> Attached		<input type="checkbox"/> Not established	
TMO Comments:							
Other Attachments:		<input type="checkbox"/> Productivity Factors Form		<input type="checkbox"/> Photo Log Form(s)		<input type="checkbox"/> Photo Record Form	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sign Inventory Form(s)		<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Bridge Form(s)			
BMP		Feature		Condition		Task	
EMP		Code Comments		Code Comments		Code Comments	
						Critical Non-Crit Freq Sevty	
0+00		intersection at east fork/middle west fork		good, 8 ft width bench, 6' tread		none, consider allowing vegetation to grow in more if reduced tread width is desired	
13+33		rutted wet area		rutted and wet		Puncheon or turnpike may be easier than grading out. Possible volunteer trail day. Non-critical based on use level but would be more sever with heavier use.	
13+72							
14+29		blueline crossing per map		dry, no water or evidence of runoff, no pipe or need for one.		monitor	
20+45		blueline crossing per map		dry, no water, evidence of ephemeral runoff		monitor tread and outfall and reinforce with rock as needed	
23+09		wet crossing		trail holding water		Puncheon or turnpike to allow water to migrate below. Consider open bottom arch pipe as last resort	
23+89		blueline crossing per map		dry, no water evidence of ephemeral runoff, 18" metal pipe 20' long		stable, monitor	

TRACS Survey (continuation sheet)

Trail Name: Upper West Fork				Trail No.:		Survey Date: 2-Nov-23	
Beg Station		Feature		Condition		Task	
End Station		Code Comments		Code Comments		Code Comments	
						Critical Non-Crit Freq Sevty	
26+52		rutted section		rutted section, soft		Puncheon or turnpike if unable to outslope to grade. There is a low spot here for water to collect	
26+78						x	
27+27		rolling dip draining spring runoff		spring mostly dry at this time but can see evidence of previous runoff		monitor, during rain event or wet period if possible to see where water issues are coming from, possible outslope dip for better drainage	
34+49		road hits property line, signs for fisher/pinnacle and blackrock/blue Ridge Parkway		road continues off property and another old logging road goes uphill		consolidate signs and add property marker, possibly do more to decommission trails other than road bed	



TRACS Trail Management Objectives

Region:

Forest:

District:

Trail Name:

Trail Number:

Trail Beginning Termini:

Beg. Milepost:

Trail Ending Termini:

End. Milepost:

Trail Inventory Length: Miles

Trail Mileage Source: Wheel

GPS

Map

Unknown

TMO Trail Section

Section Beg. Termini:

Beg. Milepost:

Sec.#

pinnacle

End. Milepost:

Designed Use Objectives

- (Check one)
- Trail Type
- Standard Terra Trail
 - Snow Trail
 - Water Trail

- (Check one)
- Trail Class
- 1 (Primitive/Undeveloped)
 - 2 (Simple/Minor Development)
 - 3 (Developed/Improved)
 - 4 (Highly Developed)
 - 5 (Fully Developed)

ROS/WROS Class (Check one)

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|------------|---------------------------------|
| Non-Wilderness | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban | Wilderness | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 1 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural | | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 2 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Roaded Modified | | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 3 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Roaded Non-Motorized | | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 4 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Primitive Motorized | | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 5 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Primitive NonMotorized | | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primitive | | | |

NOT APPLICABLE

Designed Use

- (Check one)
- Hiker / Pedestrian
 - Pack & Saddle
 - Bicycle
 - Motorcycle
 - All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)
 - Four-Wheel Drive Vehicle > 50"
 - Old logging road converted to trail
 - _____
 - Cross-Country Ski
 - Snowshoe
 - Snowmobile
 - _____
 - Watercraft - NonMotorized
 - Watercraft - Motorized

Design Parameters

- (Fill in all that apply)
- Tread Width (inches)
 - Target Grade (%)
 - Short Pitch Maximum (%) (up to 200' lengths)
 - Target Cross-Slope (%)
 - Clearing Width (feet)
 - Clearing Height (feet)
 - Switchback Radius (feet)
 - _____

Target Frequency

- Per Year (Fill in all that apply)
- Trail Opening
 - Tread Repair
 - Drainage Cleanout
 - Logging Out
 - Brushing
 - Snow Trail Grooming
 - Condition Survey
 - _____

TRACS Survey

Trail Name: Pinnacle Trail		Trail No.:		Survey Date: 2-Nov-23			
Termini this Survey:	BMP	Description:		Surveyors:	Fusco-Smith		
	EMP	Description:					
Overall Trail Condition Comments:		This trail follows an old logging roadbed and takes users to the Pinnacle overlook. This roadbed is in relatively good condition when compared to the other roadbeds with steeper grade that received regular use (West Fork and East Fork). End of roadbed to the west takes users off property to the Pinnacle and into the adjacent "Dills Creek Tract" which is off property. Access to lower overlook at the Pinnacle is off property as well. It is recommended to acquire access easement into "Dills Creek Tract" for continued use, or otherwise acquire this property as part of the park.					
Unit of Measure:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English	<input type="checkbox"/> Metric	Measure Method:			
Trail Management Objectives (TMO):		<input type="checkbox"/> Established	<input type="checkbox"/> Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Not established			
TMO Comments:							
Other Attachments:		<input type="checkbox"/> Productivity Factors Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo Log Form(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo Record Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Sign Inventory Form(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Bridge Form(s)							
BMP	Feature		Condition		Task		
EMP	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Code		
					Comments		
					Critical Freq		
					Non-Crit Sevty		
0+00		short pitch 24%, climb		incised and eroding	maintain tread after fixing dip above, long term, alternate route may be desirable	X	
0+89							
1+05		water bar with leadout		8' width, incised and eroding	enlarge to rolling dip		X
6+20		drainage crossing, 12" hdpe pipe		good	monitor outfall and reinforce if starts to erode		X
9+76		rolling dip		old and somewhat nondescript	reestablish dip and outslope, tree down but passable, consider removal		X
9+76		short pitch 23.5%		fair	slightly incised, outslope where possible, de berm		X
10+40							
26+43		rolling dip 0+00		fair	monitor and maintain as necessary		X

TRACS Survey Form v4 - (2/2004)

Page 2 of 4

TRACS Survey (continuation sheet)

Trail Name: Pinnacle Trail		Trail No.:		Survey Date: 2-Nov-23			
Beg Station	Feature		Condition		Task		
End Station	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Code		
					Comments		
					Critical Freq		
					Non-Crit Sevty		
27+33		leadout at rock outcrop		tread is good, some erosion at leadout	monitor leadout and reinforce outlet as necessary, 8' trail width		X
28+90		low point drainage crossing		good	monitor leadout and reinforce outlet as necessary,		X
29+25		rollip dip, leadout cut through berm		good but steep leadout	monitor and consider relocation of dip or remove all together		X
32+33		rolling dip with leadout		good	enlarge at next maintenance cycle		X
32+93		short pitch 20%, dip at 7+40, dip at 8+56 dip at 9+77		dips present but not functioning	reestablish dips and leadouts	X	
36+43							
51+90		13%, 6' width		good	none		X
53+39							
60+54		user created campsite		in trail	decomission or possibly relocate, spring downslope nearby		X
61+33		end road cut					X

TRACS Survey Form v4 - Continuation (2/2004)

Page 3 of 4

TRACS Survey (continuation sheet)

Trail Name: Pinnacle Trail		Trail No:		Survey Date: 2-Nov-23				
Beg Station	Feature		Condition		Task		Critical	Non-Crit
End Station	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Freq	Sevty
61+33		trail becomes class 1 to end		good, typical level 1		none		X
64+23								
64+23		rock outcrop, survey marker, end of trail		rock outcrops				X
64+20		end of traversable section						X



TRACS Trail Management Objectives

Region:

Forest:

District:

Trail Name:

Trail Number:

Trail Beginning Termini:

Beg. Milepost:

Trail Ending Termini:

End. Milepost:

Trail Inventory Length: Miles

Trail Mileage Source: Wheel

GPS

Map

Unknown

TMO Trail Section

Section Beg. Termini:

Beg. Milepost:

Sec.#

Section End. Termini:

End. Milepost:

Designed Use Objectives

- (Check one)
- Trail Type
- Standard Terra Trail
 - Snow Trail
 - Water Trail

- (Check one)
- Trail Class
- 1 (Primitive/Undeveloped)
 - 2 (Simple/Minor Development)
 - 3 (Developed/Improved)
 - 4 (Highly Developed)
 - 5 (Fully Developed)

ROS/WROS Class (Check one)

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|------------|---------------------------------|
| Non-Wilderness | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban | Wilderness | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 1 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural | | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 2 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Roaded Modified | | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 3 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Roaded Non-Motorized | | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 4 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Primitive Motorized | | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 5 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Primitive NonMotorized | | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primitive | | | |
- NOT APPLICABLE

Designed Use

- (Check one)
- Hiker / Pedestrian
 - Pack & Saddle
 - Bicycle
 - Motorcycle
 - All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)
 - Four-Wheel Drive Vehicle > 50"
 - _____
 - _____
 - Cross-Country Ski
 - Snowshoe
 - Snowmobile
 - _____
 - Watercraft - NonMotorized
 - Watercraft - Motorized

Design Parameters

- (Fill in all that apply)
- Tread Width (inches)
 - Target Grade (%)
 - Short Pitch Maximum (%) (up to 200' lengths)
 - Target Cross-Slope (%)
 - Clearing Width (feet)
 - Clearing Height (feet)
 - Switchback Radius (feet)
 - _____

Target Frequency

- Per Year (Fill in all that apply)
- Trail Opening
 - Tread Repair
 - Drainage Cleanout
 - Logging Out
 - Brushing
 - Snow Trail Grooming
 - Condition Survey
 - _____

TRACS Survey

Trail Name: Blackrock/Shelter Rock Trail		Trail No:		Survey Date: 2-Nov-23				
Termini this Survey:	BMP 0+00	Description: Intersection of East Fork/Upper West Fork/Middle West Fork				Surveyors: Fusco-Smith		
	EMP 62+17	Description: Pinnacle Park property boundary (trail continues beyond)						
Overall Trail Condition Comments:		The alignment has a few trees down which should be cleared and could use some brushing. Trail markings are minimal and nonexistent in some areas, which could lead to confusion. The Blackrock/Shelter Rock Trail is a Class 2 hiking trail leading from the intersection of east fork/upper west fork/middle west fork trails. The actual Blackrock destination is off the Pinnacle Park property and there is a switchback on this trail that goes off as well. This trail does not take users directly to the Blackrock destination. "Shelter Rock" is an unofficial name that comes from a landmark on this trail. It's recommended that an official name is adopted for this trail that better reflects the destination.						
Unit of Measure:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English	<input type="checkbox"/> Metric	Measure Method: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wheel <input type="checkbox"/> Tape		Trail Use Comments: Lightly used		
Trail Management Objectives (TMO):		<input type="checkbox"/> Established	<input type="checkbox"/> Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Not established				
TMO Comments:								
Other Attachments:		<input type="checkbox"/> Productivity Factors Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo Log Form(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo Record Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Sign Inventory Form(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Bridge Form(s)		
BMP	Feature		Condition		Task		Critical	Non-Crit
EMP	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Freq	Sevty
0+00		intersection West Fork/East Fork, 34%	good	but erosion should be expected if trail starts to get more use	signs confusing, consider consolidating into single post			X
0+00		steep start.	good	but has potential for erosion.	possibly realign to better grade or add stairs			X
0+11								
0+30		white dot blaze	good		None, rectify with any system wide blazing improvements			X
0+60		white dot blaze	good		2nd blaze in 30 feet. Recommend longer distance between blazes. At or just beyond line of site is typical			X
0+96		large tree down, 30" dia.	blocking	Trail	chainsaw to remove		X	
2+02		white dot blaze	good	condition, good location				X

TRACS Survey (continuation sheet)

Trail Name: Blackrock/Shelter Rock Trail		Trail No:		Survey Date: 2-Nov-23				
Beg Station	Feature		Condition		Task		Critical	Non-Crit
End Station	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Freq	Sevty
2+02		21% slope short pitch	good			monitor for erosion		X
3+45								
4+36		white dot blaze	good			good location		X
7+85		white dot blaze	fading			refresh if sticking with painted blazing		X
10+80		large tree fall in trail, 24"		causing some trail creep to avoid		remove w chainsaw	X	
11+62		white dot blaze	good					X
13+43		switchback, some minor grading	good			monitor for erosion		X
14+00		short pitch 29%				monitor for erosion, could extend to east and create switchback at better grade. Switchback appears to be off property, ensure this is allowed and formalize encroachment agreement	X	
14+78								
16+43		down log 18"				chainsaw removal	X	

TRACS Survey (continuation sheet)

Trail Name: Blackrock/Shelter Rock Trail		Trail No:		Survey Date: 2-Nov-23				
Beg Station	Feature		Condition		Task		Critical	Non-Crit
End Station	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Freq	Sevty
16+90		white dot blaze	good					X
19+75		white dot blaze	good					X
21+66		white dot blaze	good					X
22+30		white dot blaze	good					X
22+90		tree down		trail has rerouted around, causing braiding		remove log w chainsaw and bring trail back to original alignment	X	
32+75		log down 18"		blocking trail, raised		chainsaw removal	X	
34+88		short pitch 31%	good			monitor		X
35+17								
35+75		triple tree down 2- 12", 1- 24"		blocking trail, raised		chainsaw removal	X	

TRACS Survey (continuation sheet)

Trail Name: Blackrock/Shelter Rock Trail		Trail No:		Survey Date: 2-Nov-23				
Beg Station	Feature		Condition		Task		Critical	Non-Crit
End Station	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Freq	Sevty
36+08		white dot blaze		good				X
36+52		white dot blaze at shelter rock, attains old bench cut past shelter rock		fading		let blaze fade or choose this one over 36+08		X
38+70		seep, minor drainage		good		monitor to ensure resource protection		X
40+80		short pitch 34%		good		monitor		X
41+98								
44+44		intersection of old fallline trail.		still evident and has pink flags.		decommission and obliterate side trail	X	
45+00		switchback apparently off property		good		acquire easement or reroute to stay on sylva property	X	
47+40		short pitch after switchback, 39%, ,		exceeds short pitch maximum grade.		Monitor and consider reroute to reduce grade.		X
47+61								
47+61		Steep trail splits off to right, excessively steep.				decommission and obliterate trail up to right. On TNC property		X

TRACS Survey (continuation sheet)

Trail Name: Blackrock/Shelter Rock Trail		Trail No:		Survey Date: 2-Nov-23				
Beg Station	Feature		Condition		Task		Critical	Non-Crit
End Station	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Freq	Sevty
55+50		rock outcrop						X
56+48		short pitch up 32%		good		monitor		X
57+26								
57+30		small tree falling across trail		head height		cut out w hand saw	X	
58+60		small tree falling across trail		head height		cut out w hand saw	X	
59+51		large down trees with brush. In area of many dead pine		blocking trail for 40'		chainsaw and hand saw removal.	X	
60+50								
61+17		intersection pinnacle ridge trail, wooden sign to blackrock, no sign to pinnacle ridge. Blackrock trail blazed round white paint.		good, sign on tree		Put sign on post. Determine terminus. Confusing because black rock trail goes off property. Also, Pinnacle Ridge Trail can be confused with the Pinnacle destination below which can't be accessed from here currently. Possible start of Blackrock Trail if reconfigured		X
62+17		property boundary		Trail continues on to Blackrock and beyond		Determine whether this access is allowed by landowner. Possibly sign to indicate leaving Pinnacle property	X	



TRACS Trail Management Objectives

Region:

Forest:

District:

Trail Name:

Trail Number:

Trail Beginning Termini:

Beg. Milepost:

Trail Ending Termini:

End. Milepost:

Trail Inventory Length: Miles

Trail Mileage Source: Wheel GPS Map Unknown

TMO Trail Section

Section Beg. Termini:

Beg. Milepost:

Sec.#

Section End. Termini:

End. Milepost:

Designed Use Objectives

(Check one)

- Trail Type
- Standard Terra Trail
 - Snow Trail
 - Water Trail

(Check one)

- Trail Class
- 1 (Primitive/Undeveloped)
 - 2 (Simple/Minor Development)
 - 3 (Developed/Improved)
 - 4 (Highly Developed)
 - 5 (Fully Developed)

ROS/WROS Class (Check one)

- | | | | |
|----------------|--|------------|--|
| Non-Wilderness | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban
<input type="checkbox"/> Rural
<input type="checkbox"/> Roaded Modified
<input type="checkbox"/> Roaded Natural
<input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Primitive Motorized
<input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Primitive NonMotorized
<input type="checkbox"/> Primitive | Wilderness | <input type="checkbox"/> WROS 1
<input type="checkbox"/> WROS 2
<input type="checkbox"/> WROS 3
<input type="checkbox"/> WROS 4
<input type="checkbox"/> WROS 5
<input type="checkbox"/> WROS 6 |
|----------------|--|------------|--|

NOT APPLICABLE

Designed Use

(Check one)

- Hiker / Pedestrian
- Pack & Saddle
- Bicycle
- Motorcycle
- All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)
- Four-Wheel Drive Vehicle > 50"
- _____
- Cross-Country Ski
- Snowshoe
- Snowmobile
- _____
- Watercraft - NonMotorized
- Watercraft - Motorized

Design Parameters

(Fill in all that apply)

- Tread Width (inches)
- Target Grade (%)
- Short Pitch Maximum (%) (up to 200' lengths)
- Target Cross-Slope (%)
- Clearing Width (feet)
- Clearing Height (feet)
- Switchback Radius (feet)
- _____

Target Frequency

Per Year

(Fill in all that apply)

- Trail Opening
- Tread Repair
- Drainage Cleanout
- Logging Out
- Brushing
- Snow Trail Grooming
- Condition Survey
- _____

TRACS Survey

Trail Name: Pinnacle Ridge		Trail No:		Survey Date: 2-Nov-23	
Termini this Survey:	BMP 0	Description: intersection Blackrock/Shelter Rock Trail		Surveyors: Fusco-Smith	
	EMP 25+15	Description: intersection of old development/logging road on orth side of ridge on Blackrock Tract			
Overall Trail Condition Comments:		Overall, the trail is lightly used and in good condition. Some brushing and blazing could be done as the alignment is somewhat vague in some areas. Consideration should be given to renaming Blackrock Trail from the beginning point of Pinnacle Ridge back down toward the intersection of east fork/upper west fork/middle west fork. This seems more intuitive for users of Pinnacle Park wanting to stay on Pinnacle property moving between the south and north sections and vice versa.			
Unit of Measure:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English	<input type="checkbox"/> Metric	Measure Method: <input type="checkbox"/> Wheel <input type="checkbox"/> Tape	
Trail Management Objectives (TMO):		<input type="checkbox"/> Established	<input type="checkbox"/> Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Not established	
TMO Comments:					
Other Attachments:		<input type="checkbox"/> Productivity Factors Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo Log Form(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo Record Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Sign Inventory Form(s)
				<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Bridge Form(s)	
BMP	Feature		Condition		Task
EMP	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Code Comments
					Critical Non-Crit
					Freq Sevty
0+00		intersection Blackrock Trail		none	
0+21		blowdown multiple small trees.		chainsaw removal	X
9+90		short pitch up - 28%	good	monitor	X
14+56		rolling dip, 36" width, 20%, class 2, possibly 3 from here out.	good	none	X
14+56		short pitchdown 20%	good	none	X
14+97					
14+97		Rolling dip, 36" width,	good	none	X

TRACS Survey (continuation sheet)

Trail Name: Pinnacle Ridge		Trail No:		Survey Date: 2-Nov-23	
Beg Station	Feature		Condition		Task
End Station	Code	Comments	Code	Comments	Code Comments
					Critical Non-Crit
					Freq Sevty
15+18		switchback	good		X
15+33		rolling dip, 4' width	good		X
15+67		grade reversal	good		X
16+35		grade reversal	good		X
16+86		rolling dip, 4' width	fair	needs to be reshaped and deepened	X
18+67		short pitch down, 29% more of a trail class 1	good		X
19+81					
25+15		trail terminates at old road across ridge (old property line prior to Sylva acquisition) on Blackrock Tract			X





EQUINOX

balance through proper planning

