

# SCOTTSVILLE VISIONS

2017 COMMUNITY HISTORY WORKSHOP: A COLLABORATION BETWEEN

THE TOWN OF SCOTTSVILLE



AND

UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA  
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

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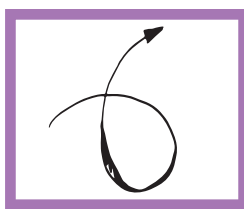
## Special Thanks To:

Linda LaFontaine, Evelyn Edson, Scottsville Museum, Bill and Brenda Hyson, Heather Stertzer, Nancy Arllen, Joan Swanberg, Peter Rapp, Jeffrey Plank, Walter Neighbors, John Neighbors, Astrid Henriksen, Amy Moyer, Mayor Nancy Gill, Chamber of Commerce, Scottsville Town Council.

# IDENTIFY ASSETS

## Engage Your Strengths

Scottsville, Virginia, a richly historic rivertown, presents an ample pallet of assets alongside opportunities for improvement. The town’s valuable resources, including its community base, its deep historic ties, and its natural environment, provide a well-equipped starting point for further enhancing what is inherently unique and compelling about the town.



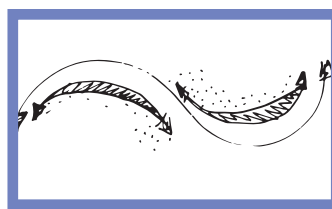
### Community

Scottsville’s strong community base is a collective whole, cycling and changing with new business, new residents, and new tradition-making.



### History

The historic foundation of Scottsville’s rivertown identity provides a rich backdrop for its vibrant way of life today, tending to its future by honoring its past.



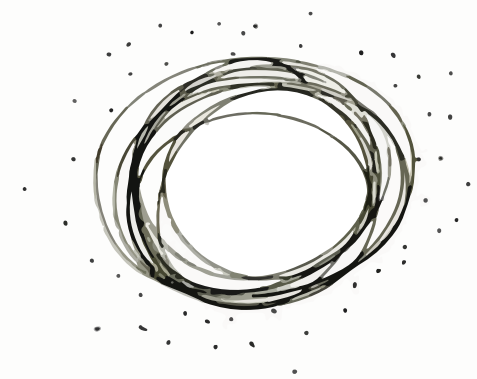
### Natural Environment

Scottsvilles’ new levee culture opens up the potential for a broader definition of its nature-based assets. Beyond the strong presence of the river, surrounding parks, public green spaces enhance the town’s bucolic natural environment.



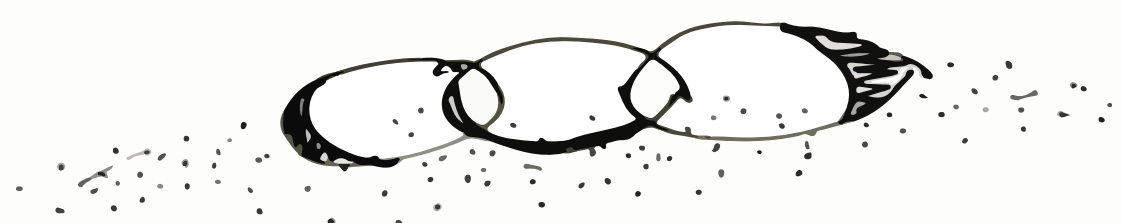
## Use Your Assets to Address Your Challenges

The map below highlights spaces that represent Scottsville’s strong assets of **history**, **community**, and **nature**. These indicated spaces also serve as sites of opportunity, ripe and ready for engagement. The town’s assets serve as a fortified foundation for addressing identified challenges: health and wellness, connectivity, accessibility and appeal, and character. The projects following this page offer potential methods for enhancement and growth in each area, strengthening the town in all areas.



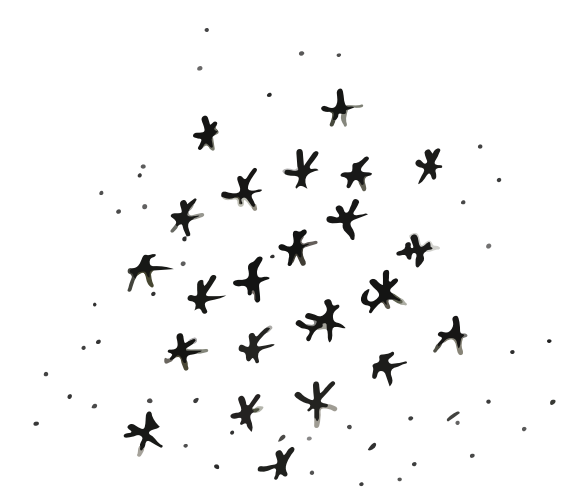
### HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Scottsville boasts two yoga studios, a fitness center and a pharmacy. However, its broader access to healthcare is limited due to the town’s distance from the region’s major hospitals and care-centers. The following projects address the broad definition of health and wellness for Scottsville’s locals, whether it be through internet access, outdoor nature trails, or expanded office spaces for local physicians and caregivers.



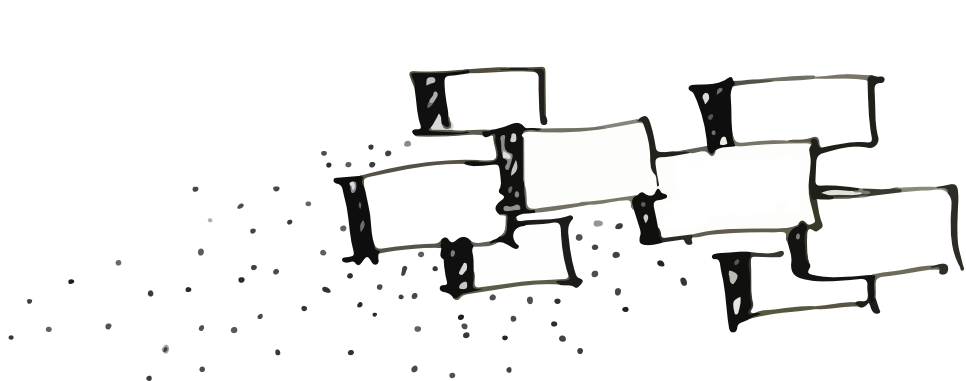
### CONNECTIVITY

Scottsville was once the center of trade and growing industry along the James River. However, with the rise of Charlottesville and Richmond’s big-city prominence through the years its connectivity has been compromised. Many of the following projects present solutions and suggestions for strengthening and enhancing Scottsville connection to local and regional networks and hubs of activity.



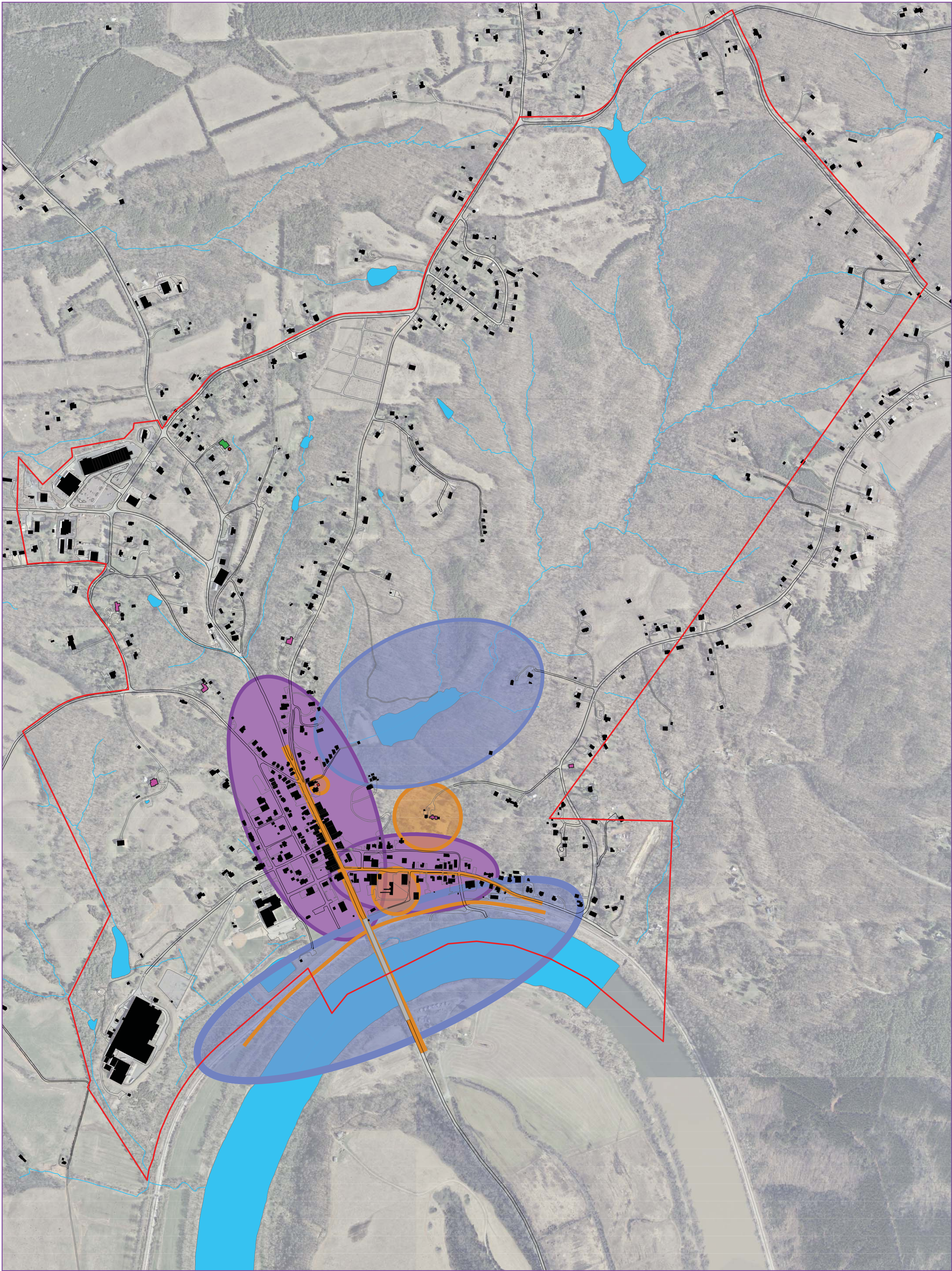
### ACCESSIBILITY AND APPEAL

Scottsville contains countless assets, however, accessibility, availability and proper appeal to each is often hindered by a variety of design limitations, keeping the town from catering to a broader audience of visitors and locals alike.



### CHARACTER

The rich, though often incomplete telling of Scottsville’s history provides an opportunity for the town to broaden its narrative, pulling in more voices and stories that speak to the truly nuanced history of the region.



## Use Scottsville’s Regional Past to Revitalize its Future

The James River and Kanawha Canal is central to Scottsville’s development and identity. Examining the canal system at the scale of the state of Virginia, new stories emerge that suggest potential typologies, approaches, and alliances across the region once reached by the canal. This list is not exhaustive, but provides a starting point for narrative threads and associated artifacts for city historical interpretation, and to help identify potential regional institutional alliances to inform revitalization efforts.

The canal that opened in Scottsville in 1840 was part of a planned longer route that would have run from **Richmond to the Ohio River** had it been completed. Prominent men of central Virginia, including **George Washington, Joseph Cabell** and others were involved in its planning and implementation.

The canal effort also involved a large labor force, including many enslaved African Americans and Irish immigrant workers.

In 1839, Scottsville was a mercantile hub where local businesses traded manufactured goods, money and enslaved people for agricultural goods. In its heyday, Scottsville would have been the hub for goods from a large agricultural hinterland that would have reached to the Shenandoah Valley and beyond.

A mid 19th Century Gazetteer notes that Nelson, Augusta, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Bath Counties (in Virginia) and Pendleton, and Pocohantas Counties (now in West Virginia) provided goods for sale in Scottsville markets.

These towns, of varying size exist in large part as a result of the James River and Kanawha Canal, or have histories intimately entwined with the canal.

Larger and mid-sized cities are centers of activity and collective memory, and could provide both institutional resources and narrative threads to tie to the town of Scottsville.

Scottsville shares a similar urban fabric, scale, and economic lull as **Buchanan**, another stop on the canal in the Shenandoah Valley.

**Canal money** fostered the development of institutions along its route, including:

**Washington And Lee University (Lexington)**  
In 1796, George Washington saved Liberty Hall Academy when he gave the school its first major endowment--\$20,000 worth of James River Canal stock.

**University of Virginia**  
Joseph Cabell, served on the Virginia General Assembly and had a hand in the development of both that institution and the Canal.

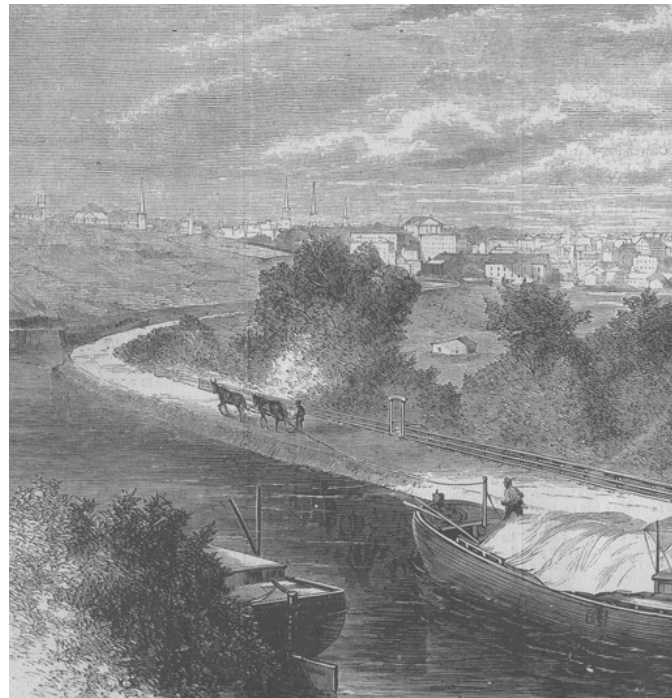
At least four buildings remain that are directly related to the use of the canal.

Scottsville and Buchanan have **canal-era warehouses** (the one in Buchanan is municipally owned). A **lock-keeper’s house** remains in Goochland County, and they **Tye River store** remains just upriver from Scottsville at the confluence with the Tye River.

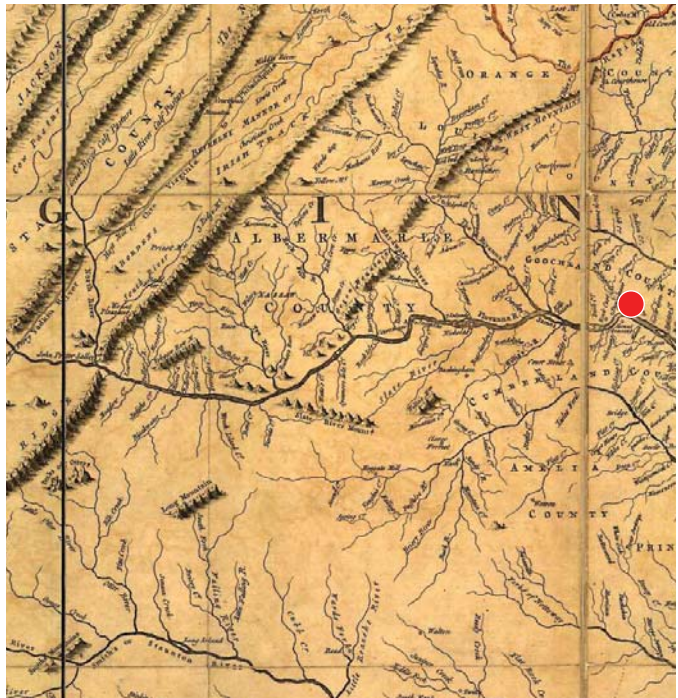
These structures are representative of architectural types associated with the Canal, and may be good opportunities for interpretation of that regional history.

**Ruins** of canal structures exist all along the former canal alignment. More investigation would be needed to find all structures remaining for interpretation, but many are documents showing remaining and former structures are publicly available through the Historic American Engineering Record program.

Many are also associated with extant walk/bike trail systems, like the Chessie Trail between Lexington and Richmond.



1870 view of canal



Detail of 1751 map



Downtown Buchanan, VA



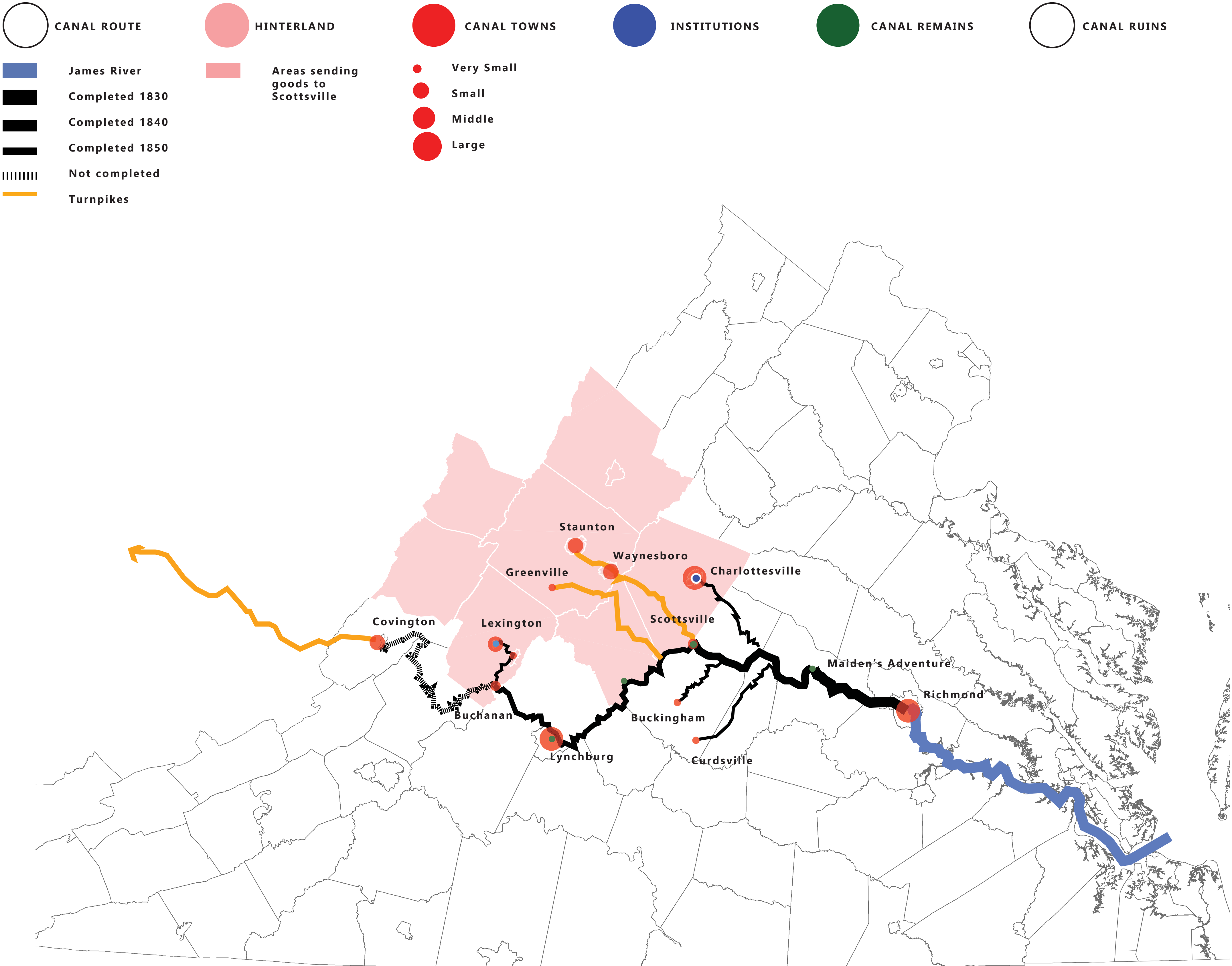
Washington and Lee Univ.



Extant canal structures



Canal ruins near Lexington



Regional spatial histories

Use Scottsville’s Broad Social History to Revitalize its Future

By broadening the social reach of the histories interpreted, Scottsville could have a wider appeal as a destination. Current interpretations of Scottsville’s history tend of focus on elite families and powerful white men. Below are some examples of stories not yet visibly interpreted in the area that could be mobilized to draw visitors, institutions, and resources to Scottsville.

The James River and Kanawha Canal was built largely by the labor of Irish immigrant and enslaved African Americans. After its completion, much of the daily labor of running the canal was also completed by African Americans. Very few of these stories currently appear in Canal Basin Park, and in the Scottsville Museum.

Below is an image from Harper’s Monthly article in 1850 shows “Aunt Hannah,” a fictional character based on a worker on a packet boat on the canal, through the eyes of a white luxury traveler. Interpreting these experiences through the eyes of the worker will provide counterpoints to elite histories.

As a city so central to transportation and commerce in antebellum Virginia, Scottsville would have been central to the domestic slave trade. By 1840, when Scottsville was connected to Richmond via canal, Richmond was the largest slave market in the upper south.

By the 1830s and 1840s, the domestic slave trade was dominated by major traders who ran “jails” in Richmond. Scottsville was a node of collection of the enslaved from the rural hinterlands of Virginia. Richmond traders employed agents in the countryside who served to searched for enslaved people to purchase and send to Richmond.

Louis Hughes was born enslaved in Charlottesville in 1832. His father was, his master John Martin, and his mother was an enslaved African-American woman.

When he was five, Martin sold him to physician Dr. Louis of Scottsville. This master told him he was to be hired out to the work along the canal, but instead he was separated from his mother and sold. He was first held by a Richmond trader, then traveled to Mississippi via Atlanta to labor on a large cotton plantation.

After emancipation, Hughes documented these experiences in the remarkable book **Thirty Years a Slave**.

Silas Omohundro was a major Richmond slave trader/jailer. He was born in Fluvanna County. He served as a rural agent for **Franklin and Armfield**, a major slave trading house in Alexandria before opening his own jail in Richmond.

His brother, **John Burwell Omohundro** lived near Scottsville and helped run the slave trading business.

The Omohundro family story is just one of many tales of white families in the Scottsville area implicated in the domestic slave trade. The Omohundro family still has connections to Scottsville, and to other institutions in the region.

Researcher Regina Rush has traced her family back to her great-great-grandparents **Nicey Anne Coles** and **Isham Rush**. Both were enslaved by the **Rives family** at Oak Ridge Plantation in Nelson County, and later at the Rives’ South Warren Estate near Scottsville and the Canal.

Rush has traced some her ancestral familial relationships, and even an escape attempt by her Great-great grandmother Nicey Coles in 1851. Financial clues suggest Nicey Coles traveled almost 70 miles before her capture and return to the plantation. After the Civil War, the family story moved to Esmont and Chestnut Grove.

**Carter G. Woodson**, known as the “father” of black history was born in New Canton in 1875 to formerly enslaved parents. His family moved to West Virginia where he worked as a coal miner and gained schooling at Douglass High School, Berea College, and Harvard University. He then pursued a global career as an educator and historian.

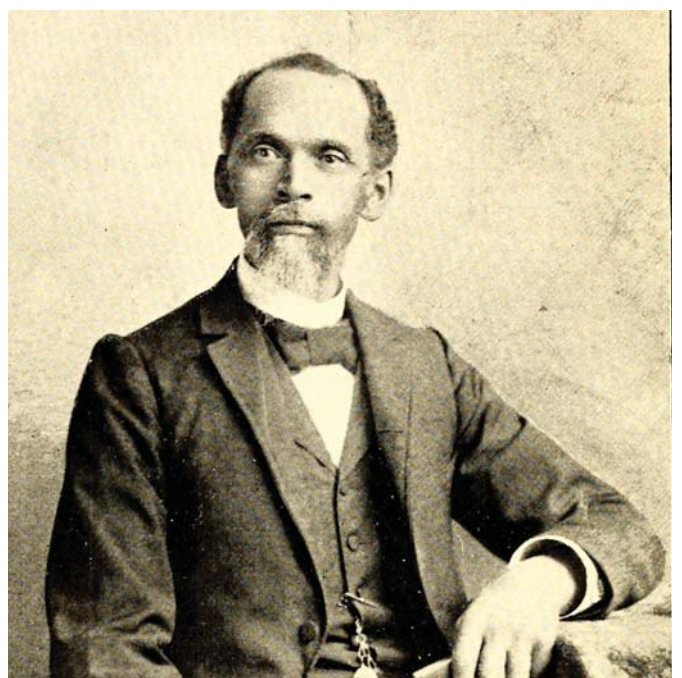
He noted that African-American contributions “were overlooked, ignored, and even suppressed by the writers of history textbooks and the teachers who use them.” In interpreting a diverse history, Scottsville can begin to address our country’s cultural myopia with regards to its own history.



“Aunt Hannah” on a packet boat



“Slaves Waiting For Sale”



Louis Hughes



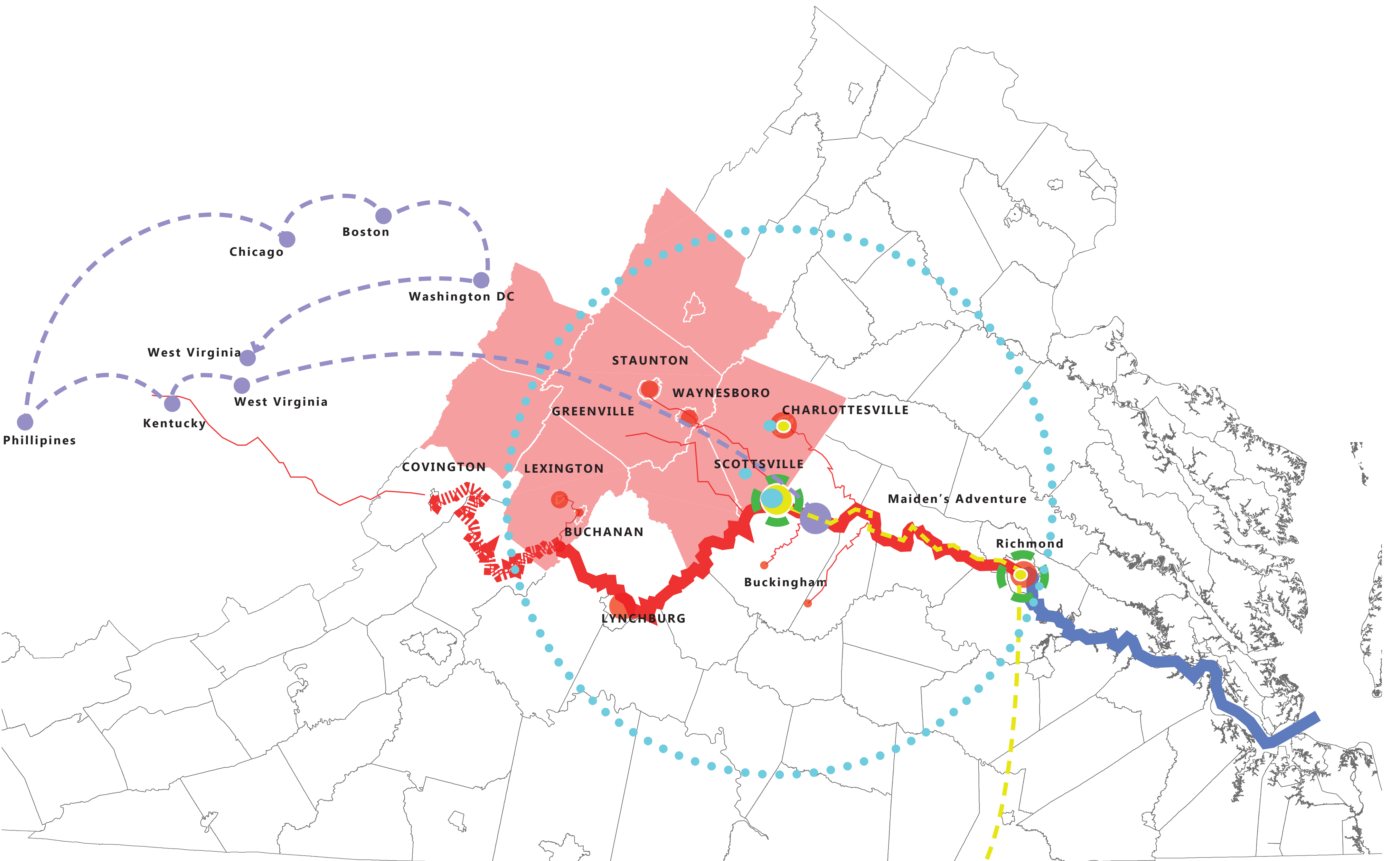
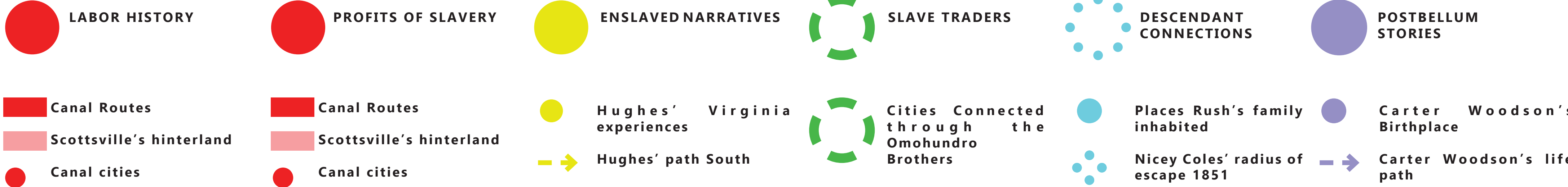
Silas Omohundro



Regina Rush, descendant



Carter G. Woodson



Regional social histories

To Mississippi Cotton Plantation

## Recognize Existing and Potential Connections

Looking to the future, it is critical that Scottsville recognize its existing regional networks and re-evaluate potential regional networks. These networks apply to the entire Scottsville community: tourism, faith, municipal partnerships, youth programs, health and wellness, education, and research. Harnessing these networks will provide potential opportunities to re-center Scottsville as an integral member of Albermarle County and Virginia at large. These networks, both existing and potential, are mutually beneficial for the Scottsville community as they are for connected organizations and institutions. Not only do these networks offer avenues for fundraising, publicity, and enrichment for local initiatives - but Scottsville also has the opportunity to return the favor. For instance, with new collaborative community workspaces.

**EXISTING**  
Networks connected to tourism in Scottsville include:

- Artisan Trail Network
- Canal Basin Square
- Confederate Cemetery
- Civil War Trail
- Scottsville Museum

**POTENTIAL**  
Many of the potential tourism and trail connections are tied to the abundant natural resources in Albermarle County and Virginia - especially the canal History

- James River Water Trail
- Properties for Venue Hire
- Maps and pamphlets published in bordering towns, cities, and counties.

**EXISTING**

- Watermarks Program and Camp
- Lions Club, Masonic Lodge, Senior Center

**POTENTIAL**  
Institutions and organizations with initiatives that align with Scottsville's African American and faith communities:

- Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture at William and Mary
- Carter G. Woodson Institute at UVA
- Slave Dwelling Project - based in South Carolina but conferences annually at UVA
- Coming to Table
- African-American Cemeteries in Albermarle and Amherst
- Monacan Nation - HQ in VA

**EXISTING**

- Scottsville Farmer's Market
- Bee City
- Scottsville Second Saturdays
- Artisan Trail Network

**POTENTIAL**  
Many bordering canal cities such as Buchanan face similar challenges to Scottsville in terms of their histories, urban fabric and population. Connecting and collaborating with such cities offer opportunities for all parties to leverage their people, histories and resources.

- "Pass-Through Cities: (like Buchanan)
- Adaptive Reuse of Canal Warehouse
- Increased Internet Access

**EXISTING**

- Boys and Girl's Club of Virginia
- Youth sports programs
- Youth support programs

**POTENTIAL**

- After School Programs, creative, educational, active
- Virginia 4-H, Albermarle Parks and Recreation

**EXISTING**

- UVA Health System
- Region Ten
- Gym, yoga studios
- Women's Initiative

**POTENTIAL**

- Health + Wellness facilities
- Trails
- Hosting athletic events and competitions

**EXISTING**

- Commercial travel companies like Amtrak and high volume highways seem to miss the town
- Highway 20 - should be re-evaluated

**POTENTIAL**

- Public system, such as statewide buses with town routes from bordering towns
- Capitalizing on highway 20 as a scenic byway
- Highway 20 provides access to Fluvanna and Albermarle counties
- The connection is key for movement in and between these counties and should be reconsidered as economic assets

**EXISTING**

- Scottsville Museum
- Virginia Foundation for the Humanities
- Institute for Public History at UVA

**POTENTIAL**

- Central Virginia Researchers meet every first Thursday of the month at the Jefferson School
- Offering a place for such organizations to meet in Scottsville



Civil War Trail, Scottsville, VA



Civil War Trail, Scottsville, VA



Artisan Trail Network Sticker in Storefront, Scottsville, VA



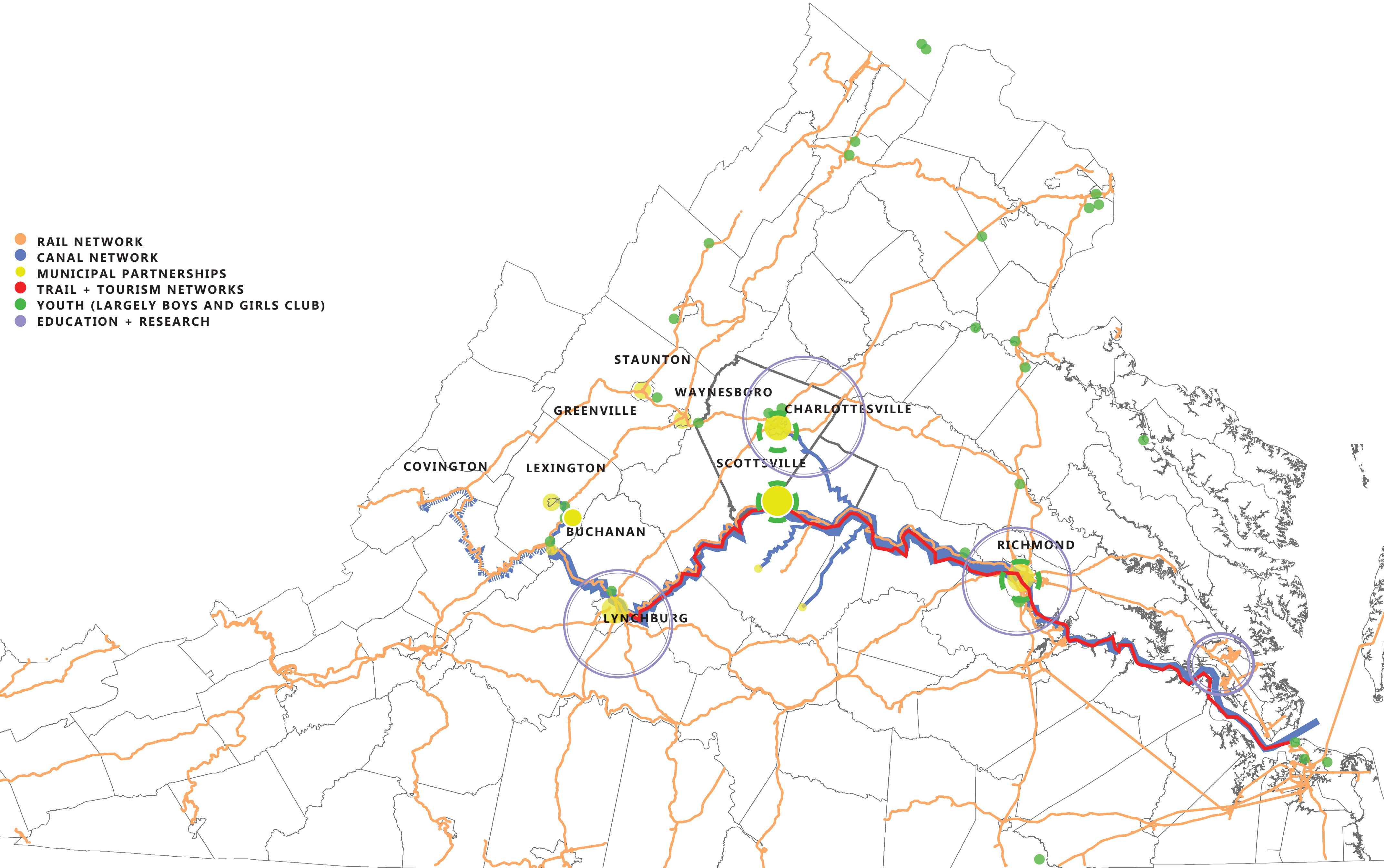
Boys and Girls Club Activity, James River, VA



Yoga Studio, Scottsville, VA



Central Virginia Researchers



Encouraging Healthy Practices

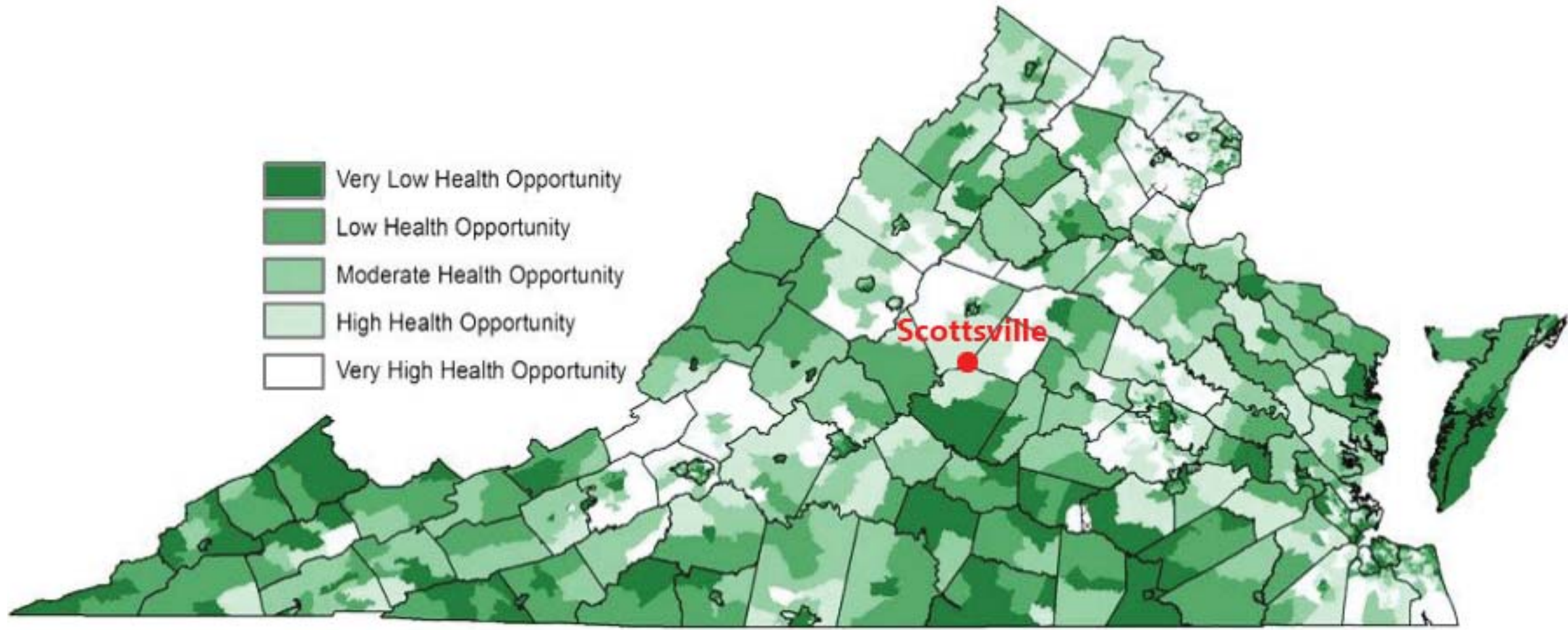
SCOTTSVILLE HEALTH MAP

Virginia’s Plan for Well-Being did a complete survey of all counties to understand disparity in health status. There were thirteen criteria (health opportunity indices) used to categorize each county (Figure 1).

Scottsville is a hinge location between Albermarle County, with very high health opportunities, and Nelson, Fluvanna, and Buckingham with very low health opportunities. Scottsville could be a bridge to greater health opportunities for the disadvantaged counties surrounding it.

	Scottsville	Albermarle Co.
Population	546	103,108
Median Age	42.4	38.6
Median Household Income	\$43,036	\$68,449
Number of Households	243	38,499
Median Property Value	\$206,600	\$313,800
Percent Home Ownership	56%	65.1%
White Residents	517	79,817
Black Residents	22	9,539
Other Ethnicities (Residents)	7	13,752

Disparity in Health Status



Health Opportunity Index

A composite measure of 13 indices that reflect a broad array of factors that health  
Air Quality • Population Density • Population Churning • Walkability • Affordability • Education • Food Access • Material Deprivation • Employment • Income Inequality • Job Participation • Segregation • Access to Health Care

Figure 1: Source - <https://virginiawellbeing.com>

SCOTTSVILLE POSITIVES AND CHALLENGES:

**Positives:** Walkability, Air Quality, Affordability, and Population Density.

**Challenges:** Segregation, Education (distance to schools), Health Care Access, Healthy Food Access, and Income Inequality.

Scottsville is doing relatively well on the health scale, but should develop initiatives to build on its positives while making sincere efforts to address its challenges.

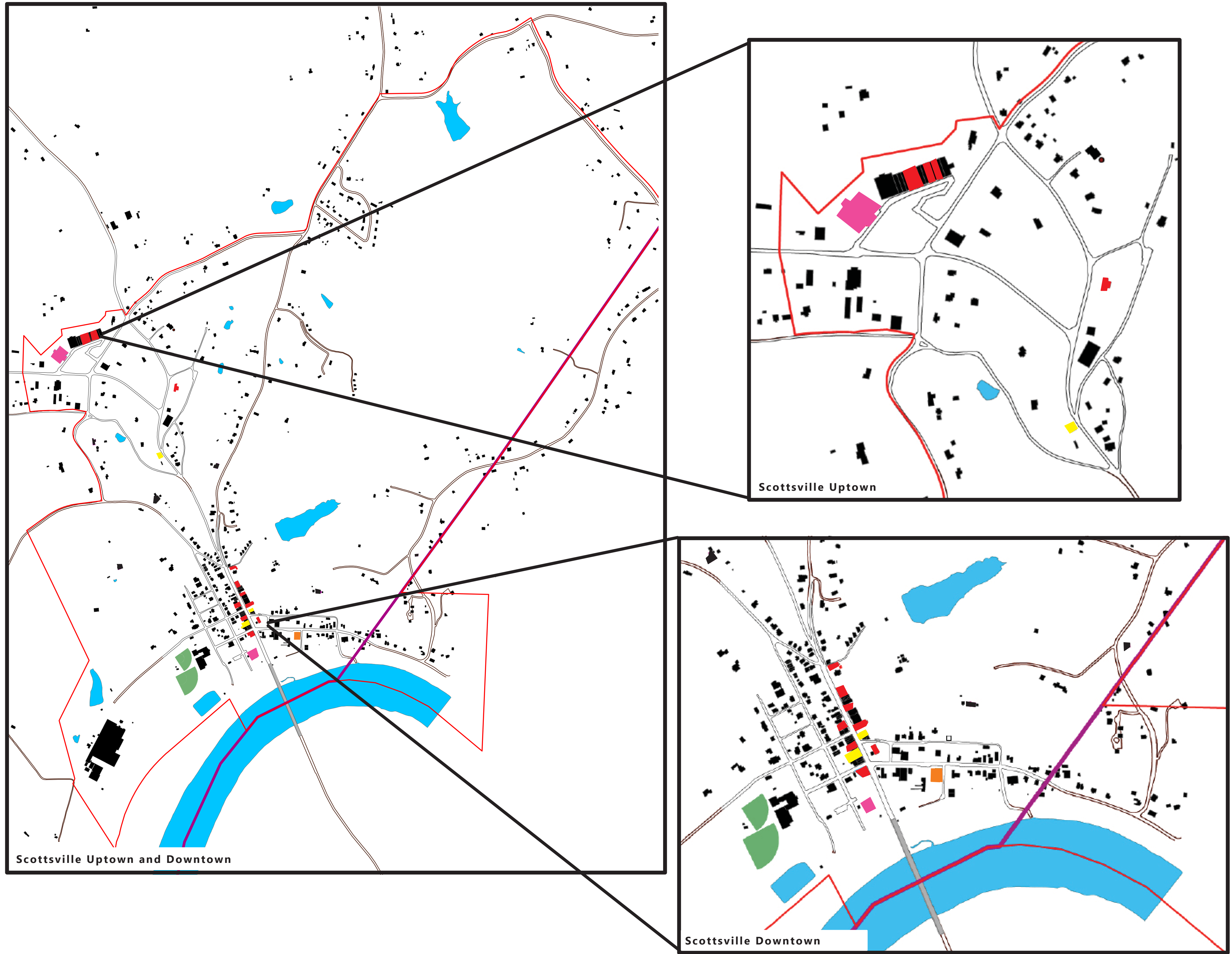


The red blocked items on this chart are food centers, restaurants, or coffee shops. There are currently about 10 options for Scottsville locals to buy, or pick up food. Of these only a handful are considered healthy options.

The items in blocked yellow are gym or fitness centers. There are 3 currently: two yoga centers and one small gym space. The town also has running, walking and biking paths around the lake, and the short levee path by the waterfront.

The orange blocked items are pharmacists or doctors. There is one pharmacy in the town limits. Note: there is one town family dentist, but this dentist is located in Fluvanna Co.

Pink blocks are grocery centers, (including the weekly Farmers Market) or any place that sells food for everyday life i.e. fresh produce, fresh proteins, and other food. The FoodLion is the only grocery store in town.



## Secure Internet Access For All Residents

### INTERNET ACCESS

Currently in Scottsville, like in most of Albemarle County, there is limited and for some no access to the internet (Figure 1). Today, alongside electricity and water, access the internet is one of the mandatory resources for everyday life. Accessing the internet is needed for many individuals every day for both work and school. The issue in Scottsville is the fact that the available internet is either too slow or the faster packages are too expensive, as seen in the table below. This lack of service is hindering both residential and commercial properties because most people looking to purchase a house or office space require internet access.

Currently for residential areas in Scottsville, each has 0-2 different providers available for internet access with about 53.3% with only 0 or 1 options available, as seen in Figure 2.

Due to the lack of high speed internet in people’s homes, the Scottsville Library and Coffee Shop have become popular spots for locals because they both have open internet access. Even people from outside Scottsville come to the library just to use the internet and will sit outside after close in their cars. Also, most areas which do have internet explain that it will not always work

because they use satellite which will not work when it’s cloudy or raining, and during high demand hours it essentially becomes useless. Most people pay to have a cell phone data plans on top of their internet plan.

To help remedy these issues the Albemarle County Broadband Authority was formed and meets each month. The authority received part of the \$945,000 Virginia Telecommunication Initiative Grant, thus giving Albemarle Co. \$118,400 to help their own local communities improve their telecommunication infrastructure as well as help build the Virginia economy by spurring job creation opportunities. Albemarle has currently been working with CenturyLink to provide these services to the county.

Finally, there is Dark Fibre infrastructure running under Scottsville and some of its surrounding areas. This Dark Fibre is optical fiber infrastructure which is not currently in use and can be purchased and used by private companies. These networks require less power and have a better signal strength than traditional networks.

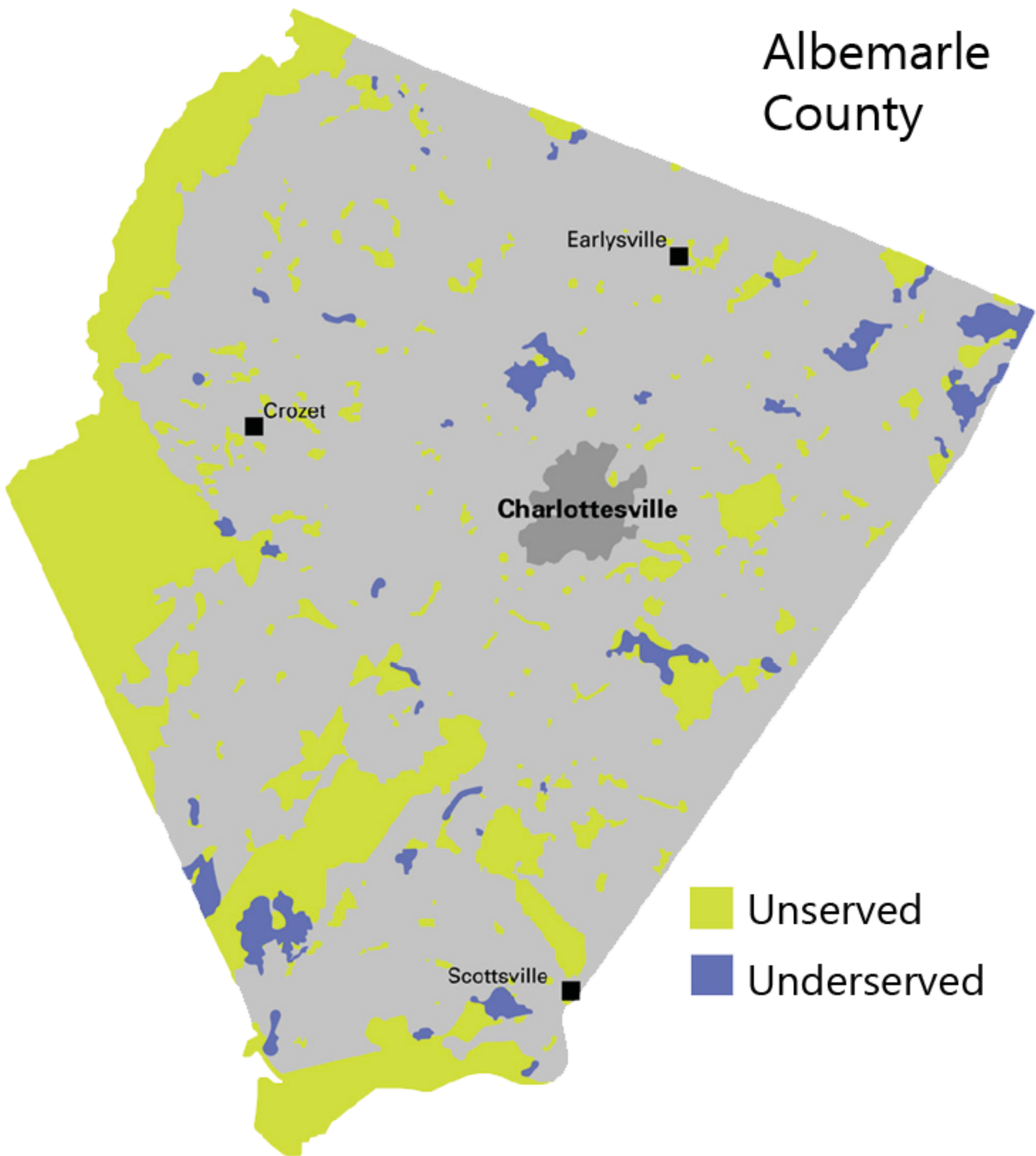


Figure 1: Source: Baars, Samantha Martin |LEAVE. “The digital divide: Broadband-less lives hold rural residents back.” C-VILLE Weekly. May 04, 2017. <http://www.c-ville.com/digital-divide-broadband-less-lives-hold-rural-residents-back/#.WiI10VF9670>.

The table below table it explains the average price, speed (megabits per second), coverage and download speed of the top four internet providers for Scottsville residences and businesses.

Currently in Scottsville service averages about 7.39 mbps per home, which is significantly lower than Charlottesville which averages 39.22 mbps. Also, when looking at the whole of Virginia, which averages 50.87 mbps, it is about seven times slower. This chart also compares at the price ranges (cheapest and most expensive packages) for the top download speed of that package as listed by each provider.

	SATELLITE OR NON-SATELLITE	COVERAGE OF TOWN	FASTEST SPEED (MBPS)	AVERAGE DOWNLOAD SPEED	STARTING PRICE (DOWNLOAD SPEED PER MONTH)	TOP PRICED PACKAGE (DOWNLOAD SPEED PER MONTH)
RESIDENTIAL						
CenturyLink	Non-Satellite	88.60%	80	4.0 mbps	\$45.00 (up to 10mbps)	N/A
Xfinity	Non-Satellite	49.70%	150	27.2 mbps	\$49.95 (up to 10 mbps)	\$99.95 (up to 400mbps)
HughesNet	Satellite	100%	15	N/A	\$49.95 (up to 25 mbps)	\$69.99 (up to 25mbps)
Exede Internet	Satellite	100%	12	6.4 mbps	\$30.00 (up to 12 mbps)	\$100.00 (up to 25 mbps)
BUSINESS						
CenturyLink	Non-Satellite	100%	80	4.0 mbps	\$54.99 (up to 10mbps)	\$84.99 (up to 25 mbps)
Comcast Business	Non-Satellite	43.80%	150	27.2 mbps	\$69.99 (up to 25 mbps)	\$499.95 (up to 1,000mbps)

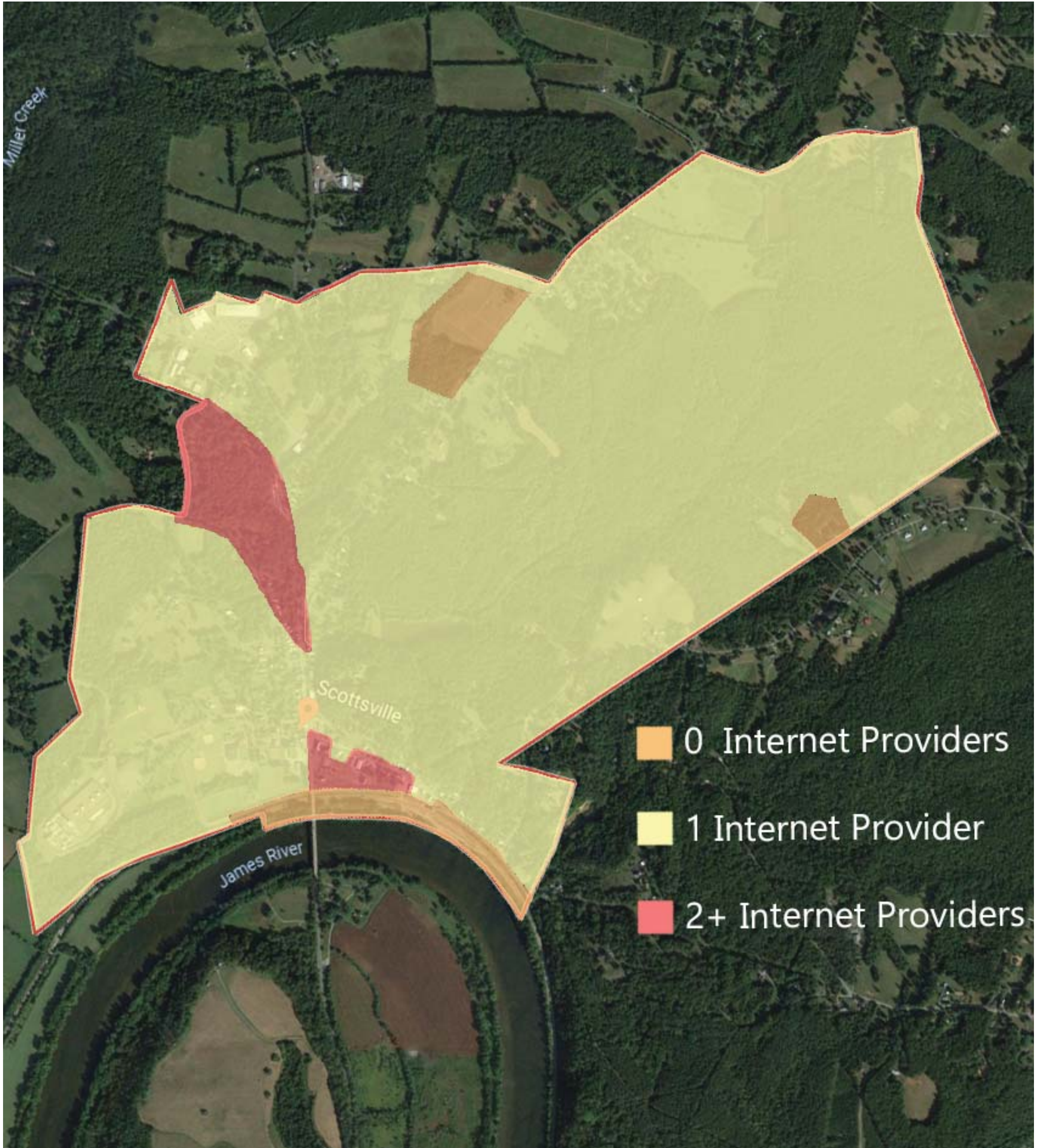


Figure 2: Map of Scottsville internet providers

### HOW MANY MBPS PER ACTIVITY BY ONE USER (AVERAGES):

- Basic web use- 2mbps
- Steaming Music – 2mbps
- Media Sharing- 10mbps
- Streaming HD video – 10mbps
- Video chat – 10 mbps
- Online gaming – 25mbps
- File Downloading (large) – 50mbps
- Cloud Storage – 50mbps

# RE-CENTER SCOTTSVILLE

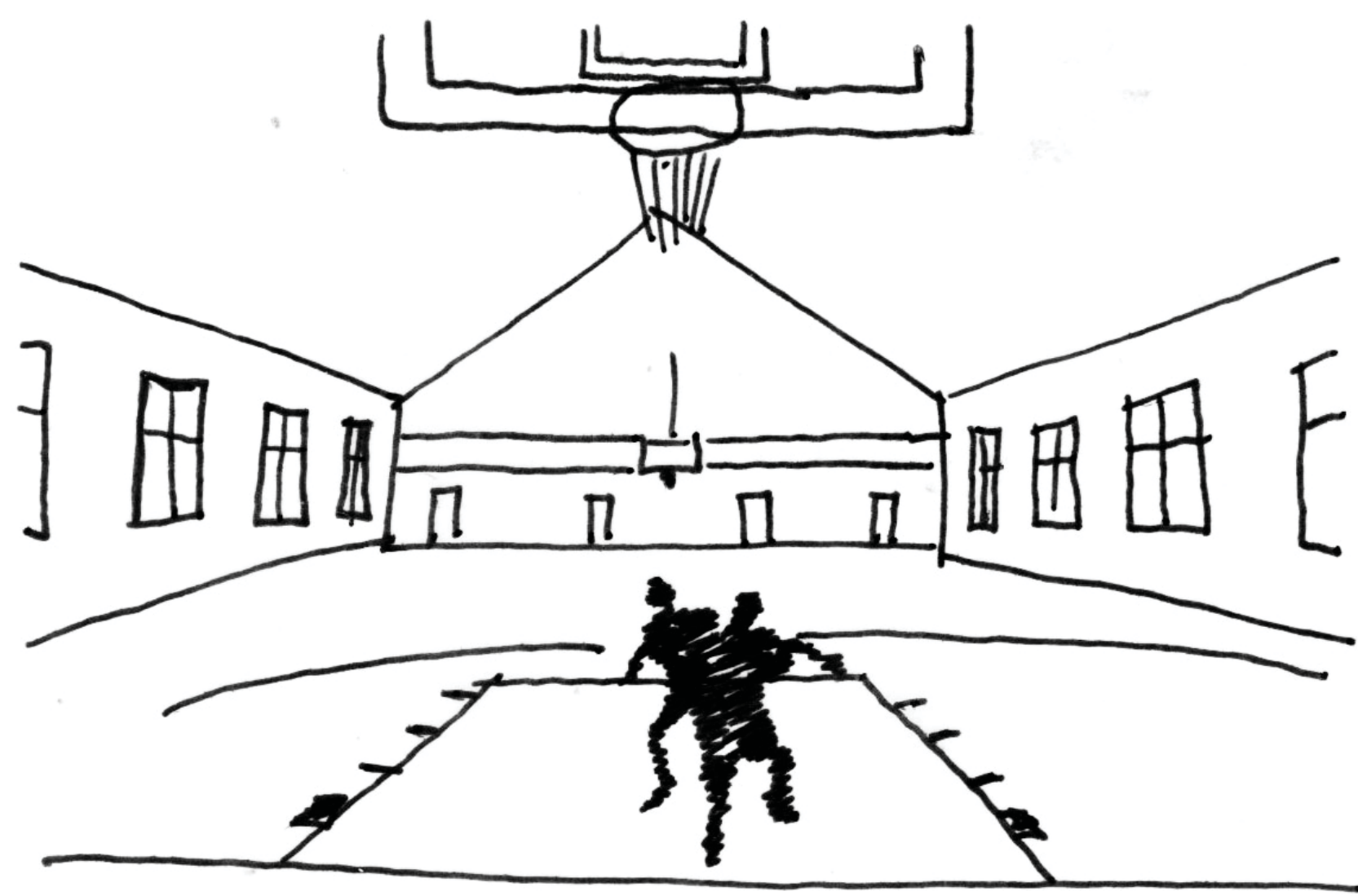
## Foster Healthy Living



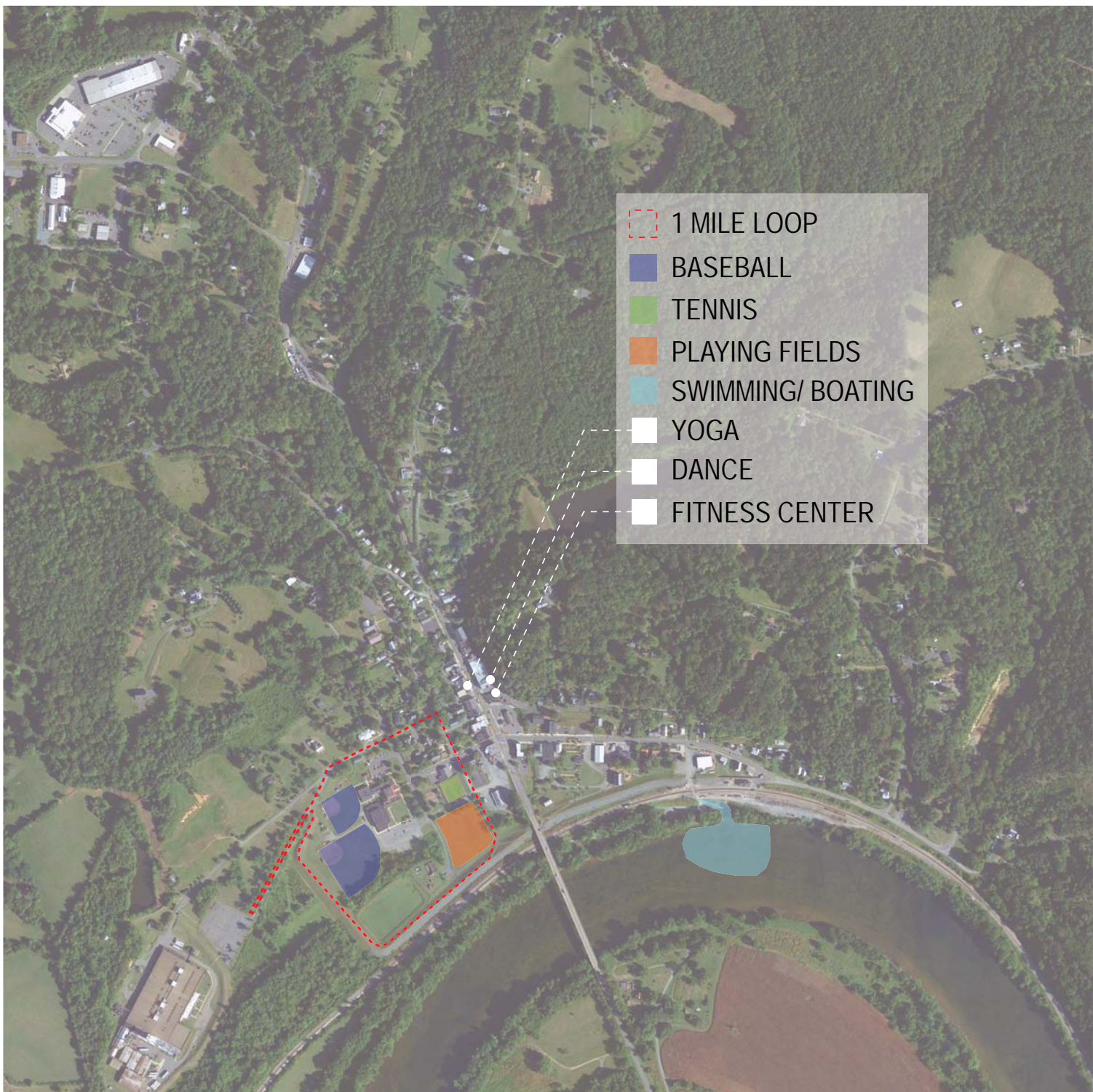
### MAPPING HEALTHY LIVING

Living and encouraging a healthy lifestyle is done best in a community environment. Establishing a healthy community within Scottsville can be done through engaging already established and functioning community networks. The town already has a vibrant and active faith community. By using these resources and infrastructures a healthier environment can be created that is mutually beneficial to both congregations and their institutions.

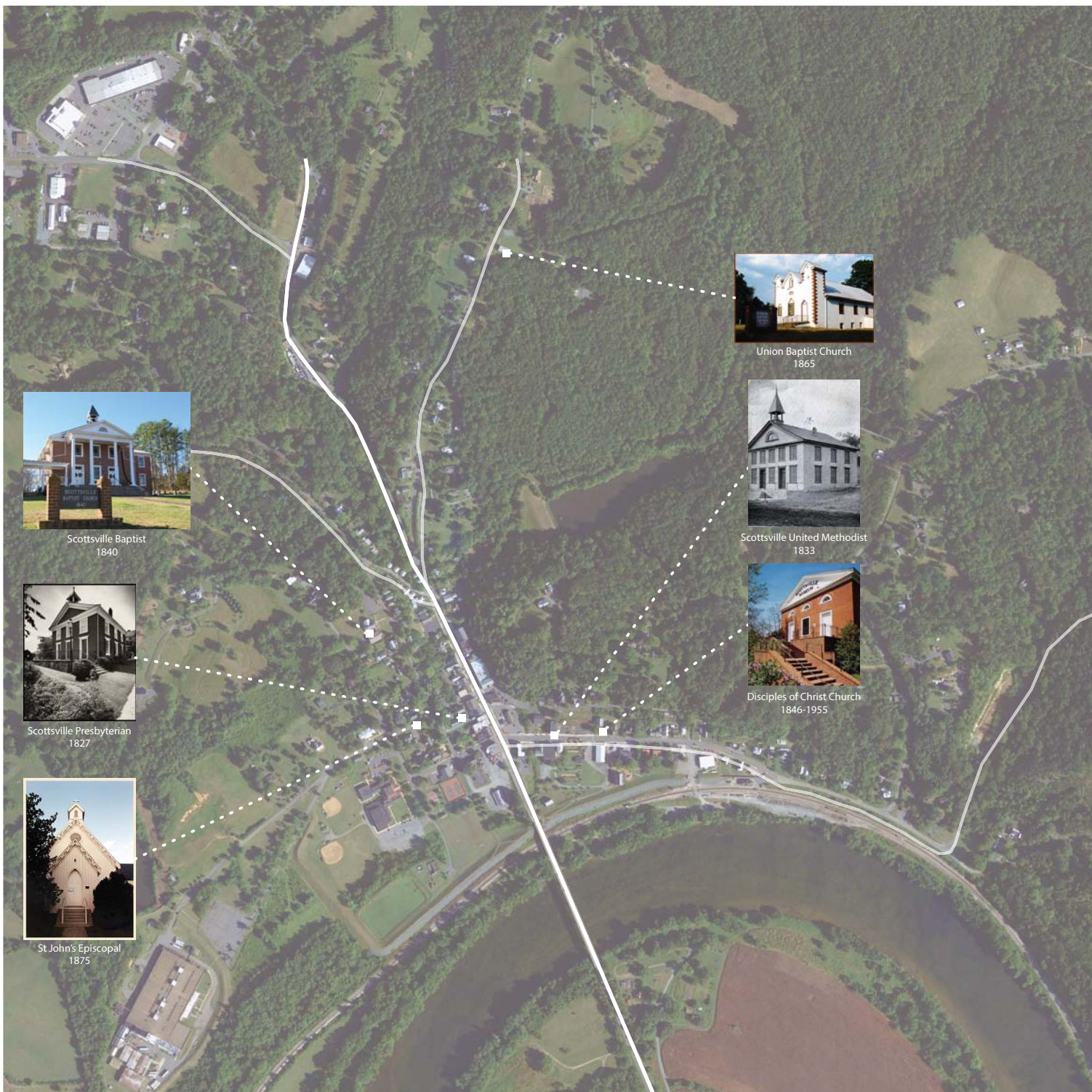
Many places of worship serve the communities through outreach. Whether by feeding the hungry, creating food or clothing drives, faith places can help enforce positive change. Some outreach could be health focused. By building places of healthy living alongside places of worship, both can further promote their objectives while furthering outreach. Healthy competition of baseball, basketball, touch football etc. are all ways faith communities can promote healthy living.



**ACTIVE YOUTH PROGRAMS.**  
Healthy living and activities starting at a young age encourages wellness throughout life.



**HEALTHY SCOTTSVILLE.**  
Running route and playing fields in Scottsville.



**HEALTHY COMMUNITY.**  
Tapping into already successful communities within Scottsville to promote health.



Restored Historic Elevation and New Gym Proposal

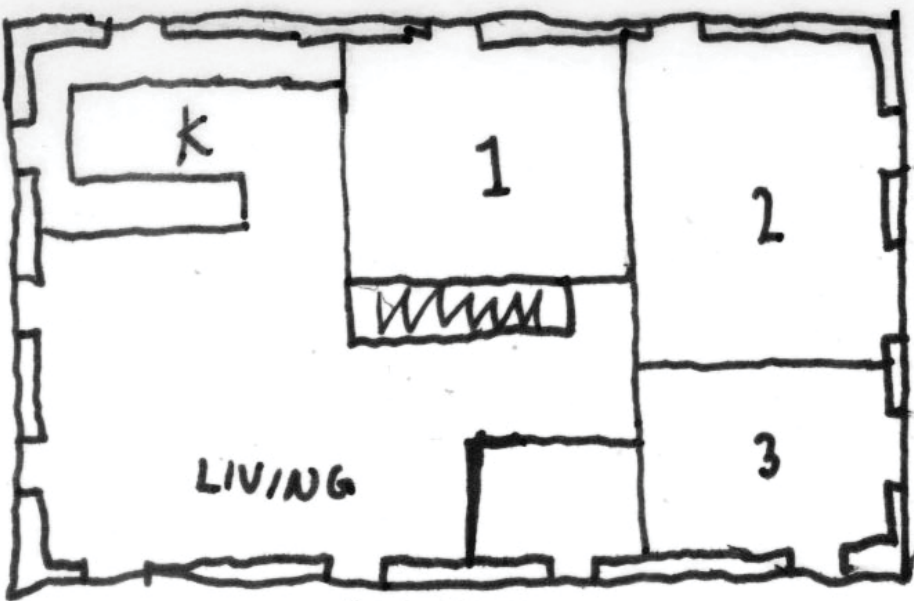
# RE-CENTER SCOTTSVILLE

## Rebuild for Health

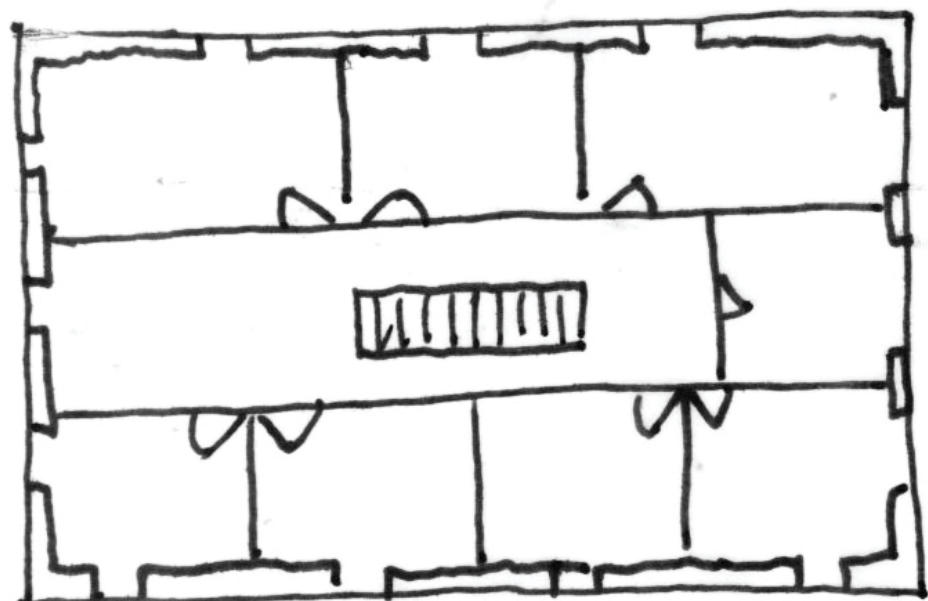
### REBUILDING HISTORY

Rebuilding Scottsville's history to influence a healthy community can be a priority to both rejuvenate its proud history while making it a healthy hub for the region. Reconstructing the lost tobacco warehouses that used to populate the canal front of Scottsville into modern buildings capable of holding office medical spaces as well as rentable units provides appropriately-scaled buildings in town. Protected behind the levee, once unoccupiable first floor spaces can become store fronts for healthy living with offices and housing above. Central to the design of Mobile Medicine facilities are rooms or cubicles for rent that allow patients to privately and securely meet with medical professionals all over the world through skype to address medical issues and health in rural Piedmont Virginia. Spaces to work, live and eat healthy make Scottsville a hub for new growth.

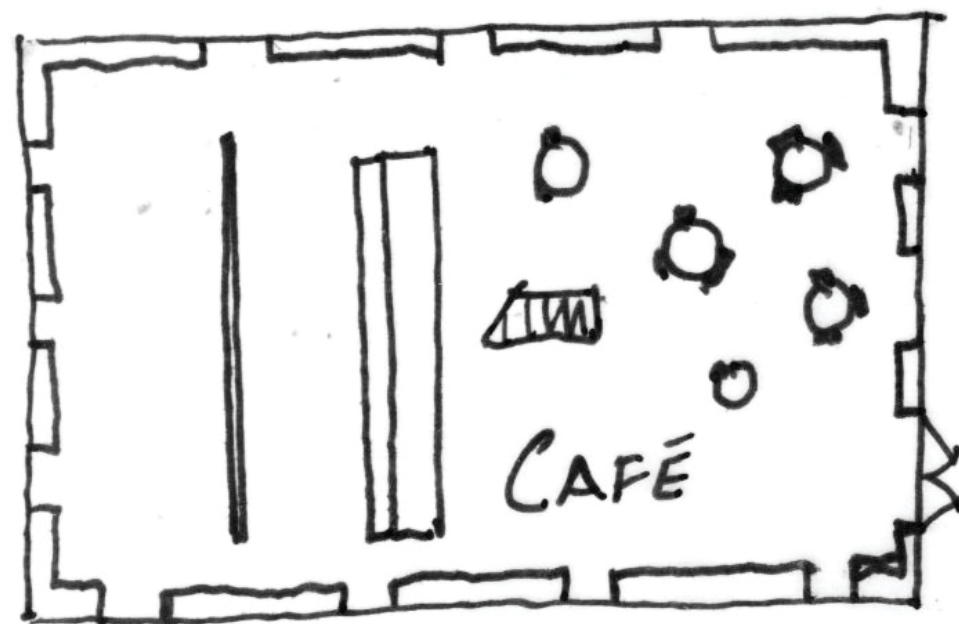
New buildings dedicated to active, healthy lifestyles and sports make Scottsville a regional hub for surrounding localities. Successful active communities in town can promote healthy living practices and living. Instead of Charlottesville being the major hub for medical needs, Scottsville can once again be the center of a regional network.



LOFT



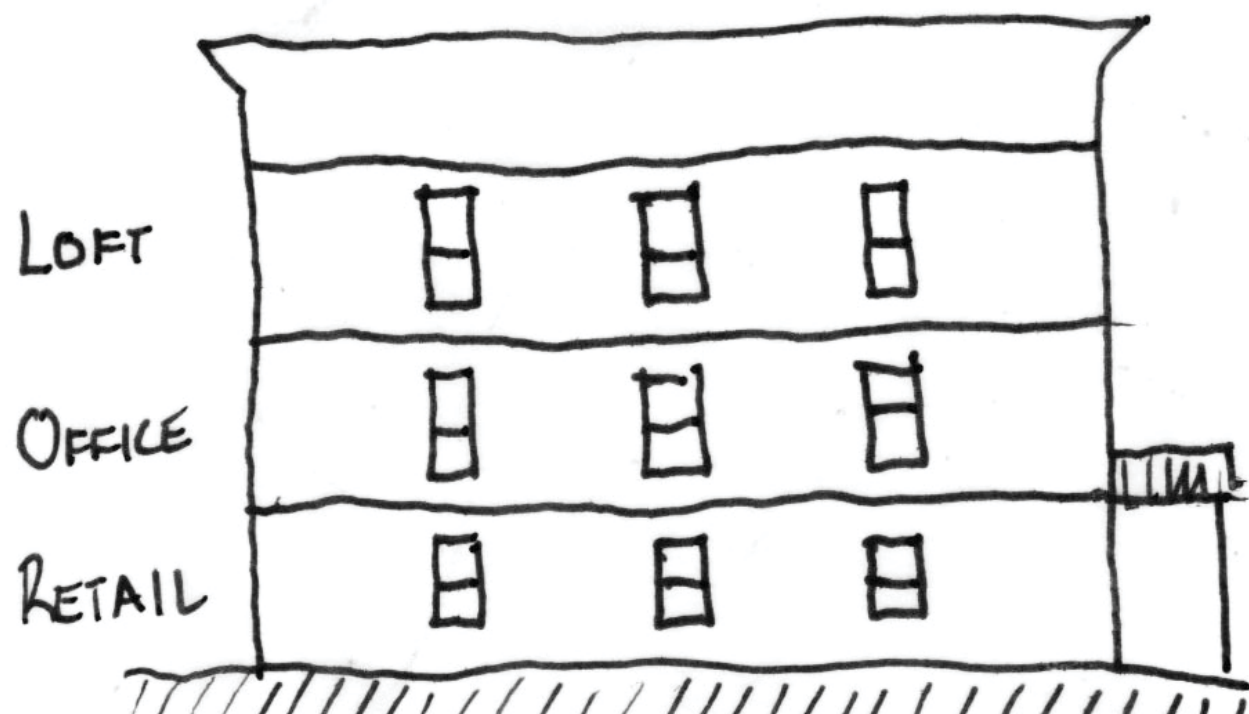
OFFICE



RETAIL



EXISTING WAREHOUSE ELEVATION AS PRECEDENT



MIXED USE LIVING and WORKING

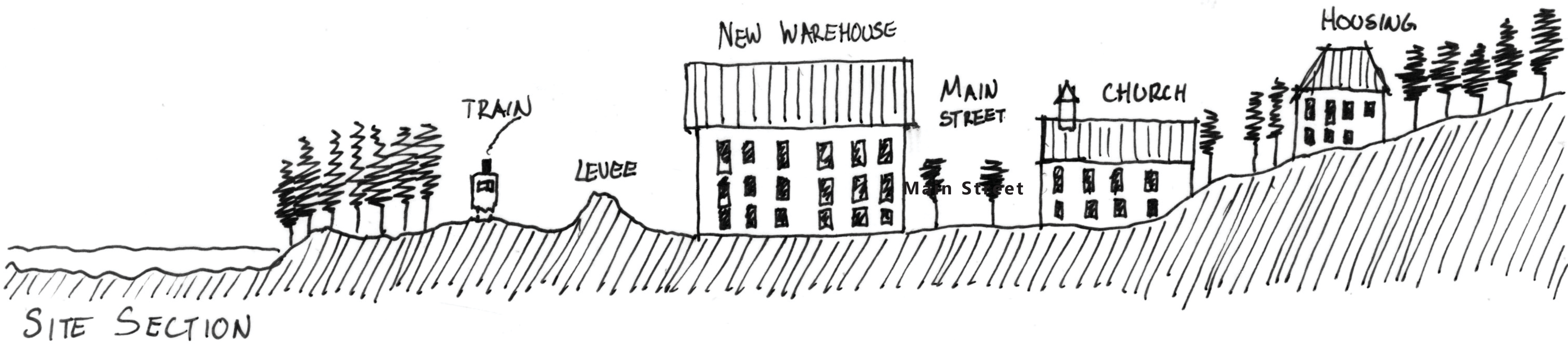
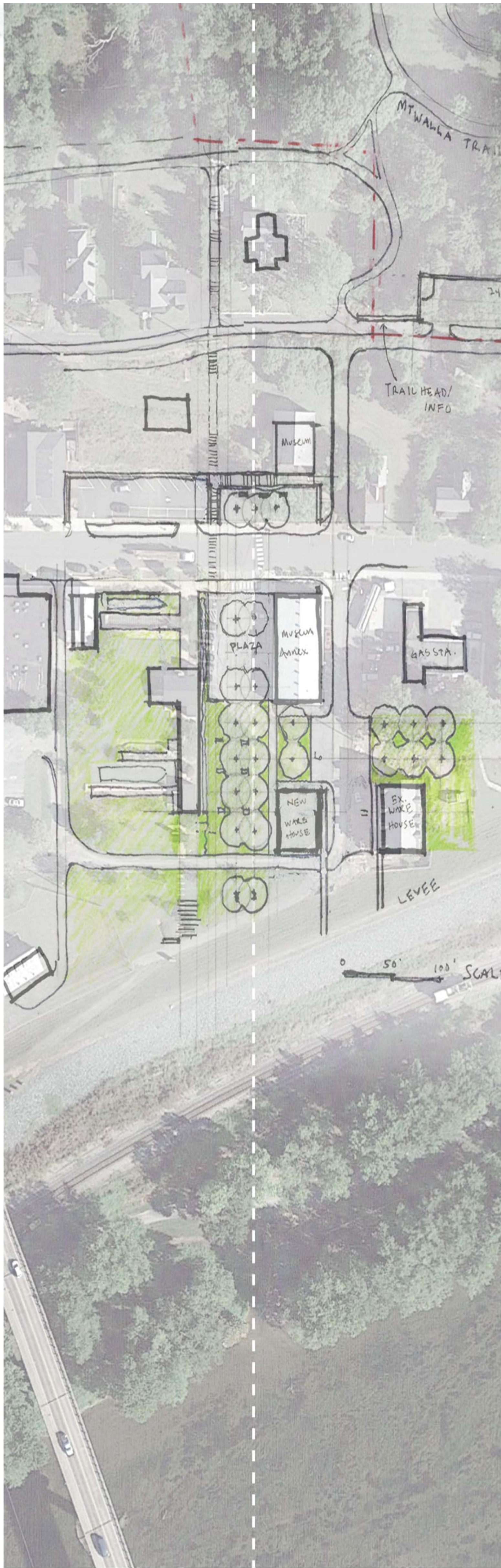


(ORIGINAL)



(PROPOSED)

OLD PRECEDENTS: NEW LIVING



SITE SECTION

# REVITALIZE DOWNTOWN

## Cultivate Multi-Unit Housing



**EXISTING WAREHOUSE TYPOLGY**

We propose using the existing warehouse typology on the riverfront as an opportunity for multi-unit housing on the upper floors. Due to the floodplain, the first floor would be designated as commercial, providing space to promote healthy living with store fronts and Mobile Medicine rooms.

**TOWNHOUSE TYPOLGY**

Downtown Scottsville is a small, quaint area so we propose townhouse style homes resembling the existing typologies providing single-family housing to fit into the limited space, while connecting to the existing built environment.

**TERRACE HOUSING TYPOLGY**

Due to Scottsville's terrain, we propose the implementation of these multi-unit residential communities that can transverse the hills while still remaining in the downtown area. Terrace housing will embrace the existing landscape and promote a visual connection to the river.

**DETACHED HOUSING TYPOLGY**

Harrison Street provides examples of detached housing, which should be emulated in new construction continuing Scottsville's residential identity. This new construction would provide the possibility for affordable housing to still fit the existing landscape.

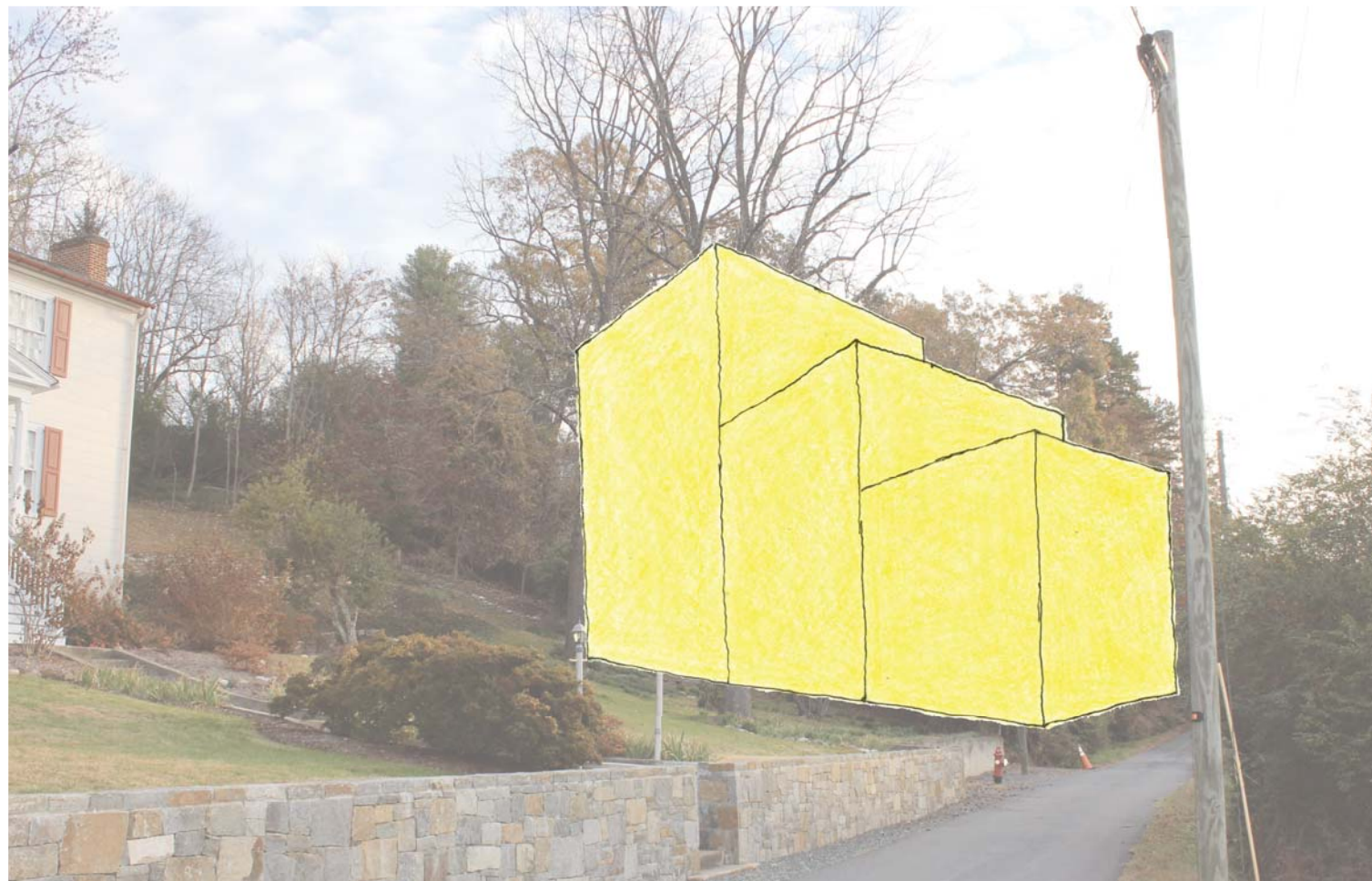
**ADDITION ON EXISTING STOREFRONT TYPOLGY**

Valley and Main Street have stores and homes lining the sidewalks. We propose additions be made on top of the some stores creating a "live-work" opportunity, while still retaining the streets' historic appearances.



Existing Warehouse

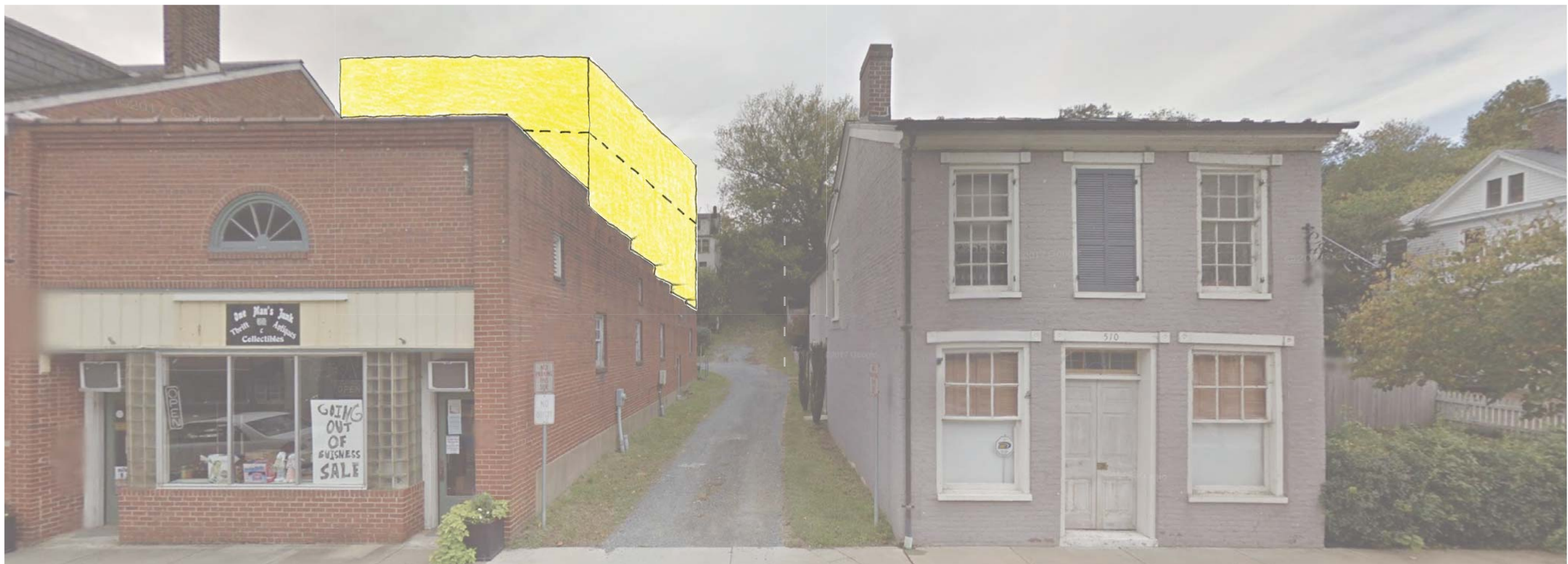
Townhouse



Terrace Housing



Detached Housing



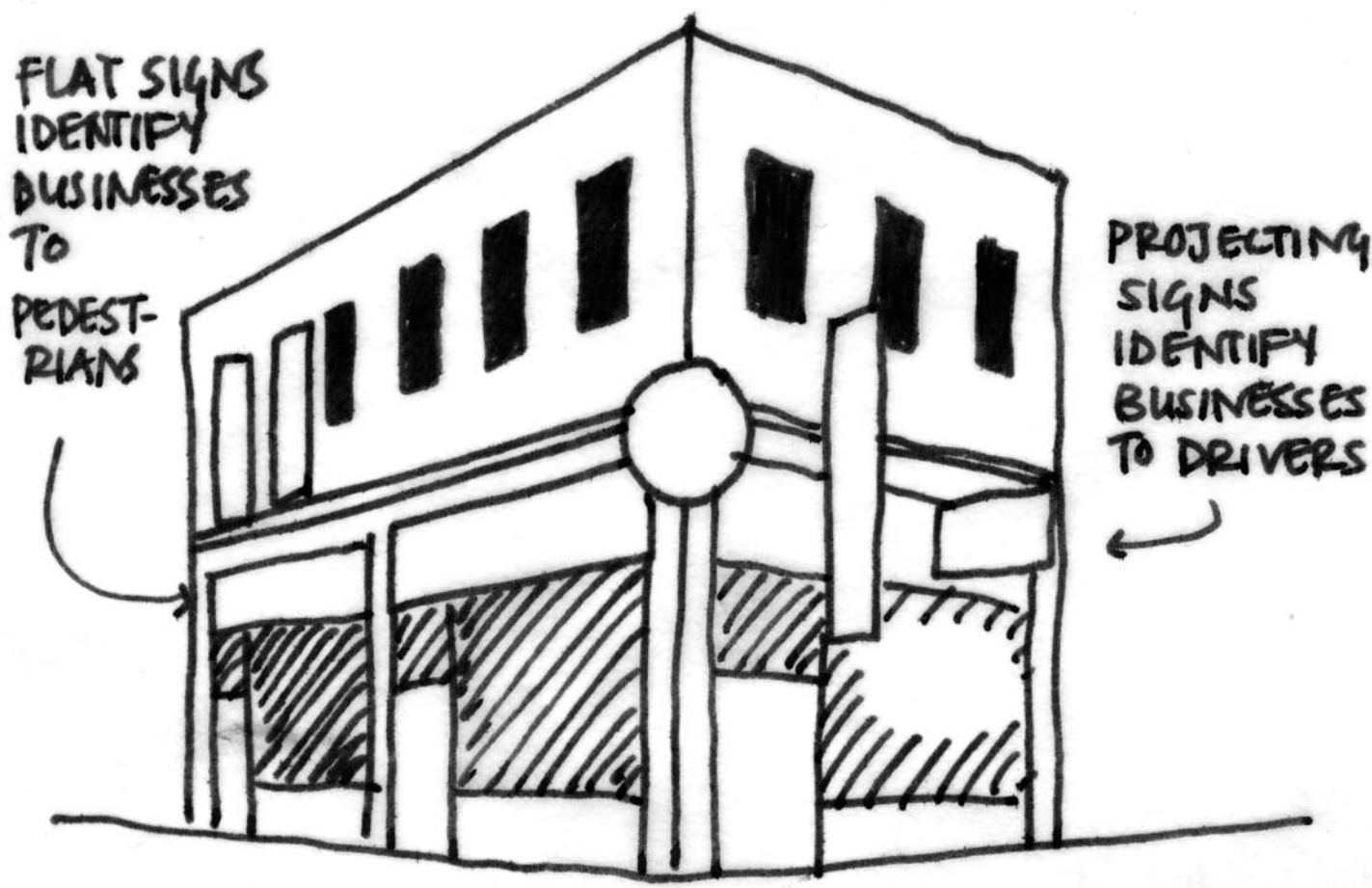
Commercial Infill Housing-Addition on Existing Storefront

Invite Commercial Infill

PROPOSAL

By looking at what Scottsville already has and simply adding to it, forgotten spaces can come back to life and new areas can be created. The built environment, start-up companies, and interactive spaces will allow for economic and social growth in Scottsville. The invitation of commercial infill opens the town’s doors to new opportunities and growth.

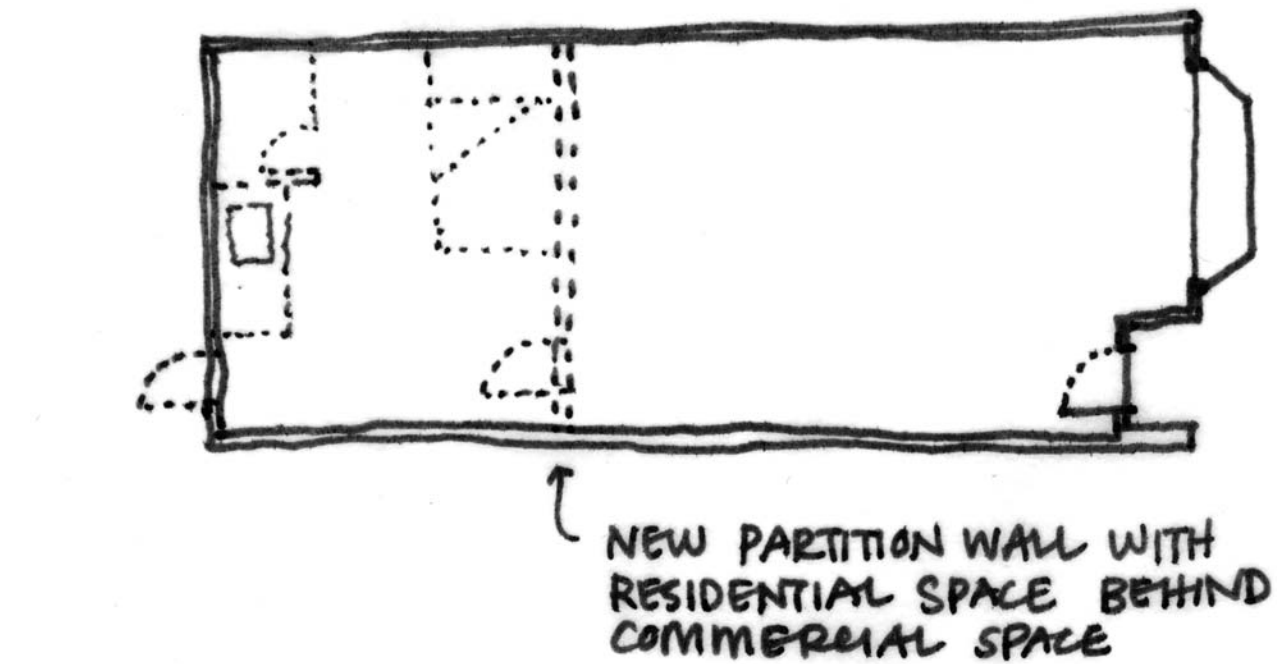
IMPROVE SIGNAGE ALONG MAIN STREETS



Marking the exteriors of stores and businesses with signs signals their identities and encourages interaction with the space.

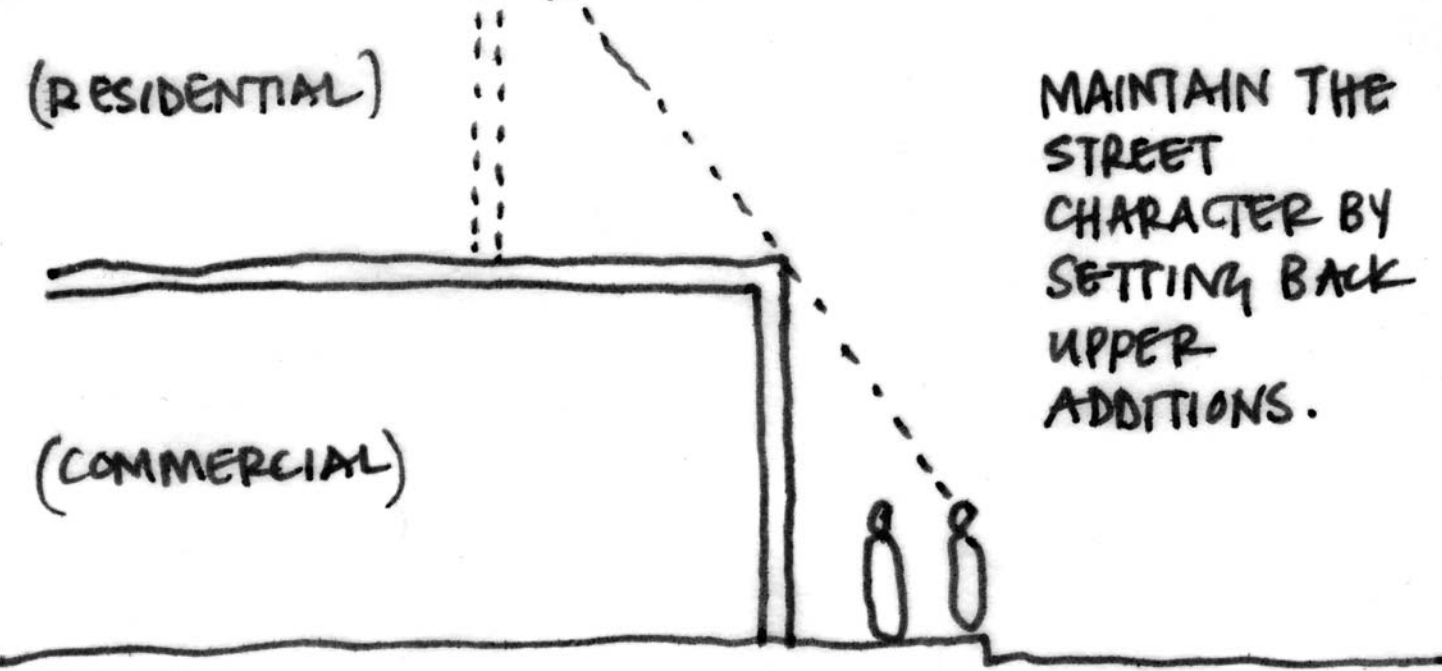
DEVELOP UNIT FLOOR PLANS FOR TYPICAL SCOTTSVILLE COMMERCIAL SPACES

- RETROFIT THE BACK OF COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS TO REDUCE TOTAL RENTS OF BUSINESS OWNERS



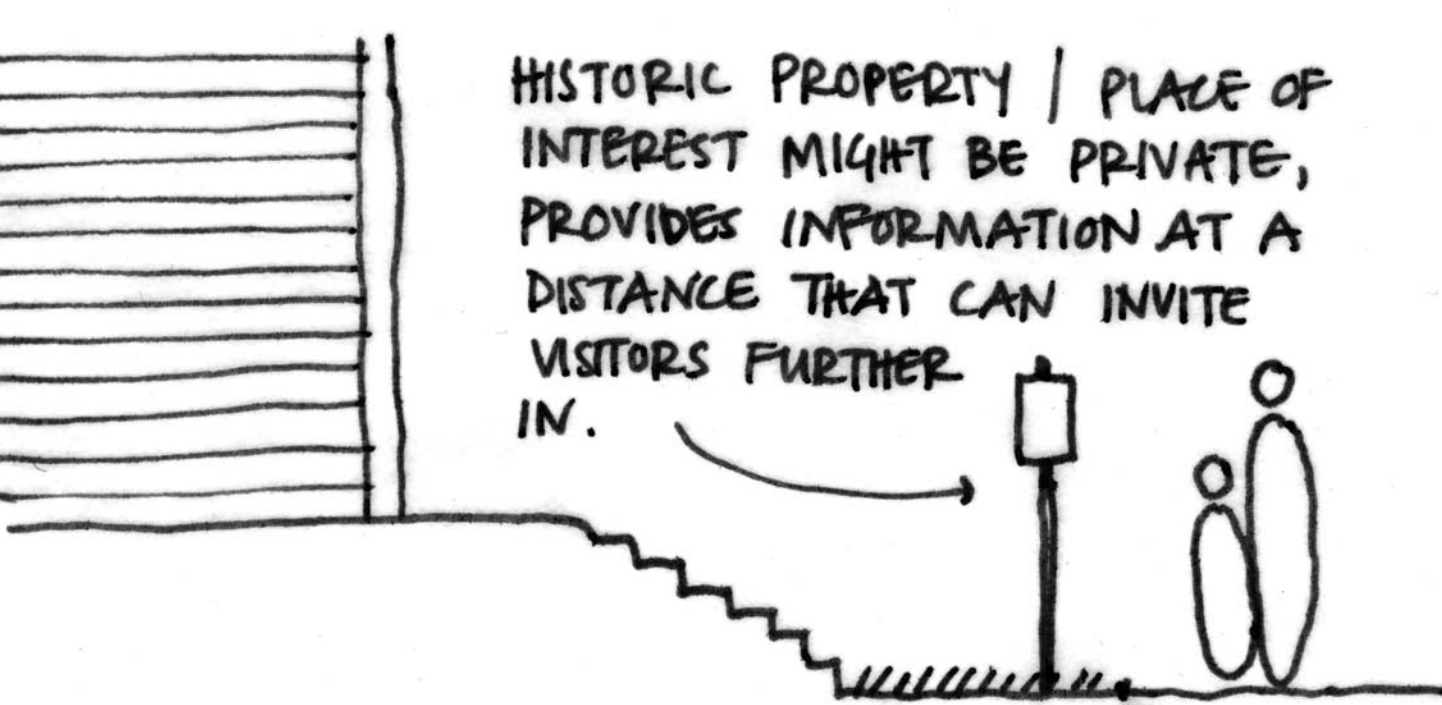
Proposing interior divisions of Valley St. fronted buildings to create a “live-work” space providing lowered living expenses.

DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR ADDING SECOND STOREYS TO EXISTING SINGLE-STOREY COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS.



Due to limited space available for expansion horizontally, we propose vertical growth at the back of buildings, limiting their visibility from street level.

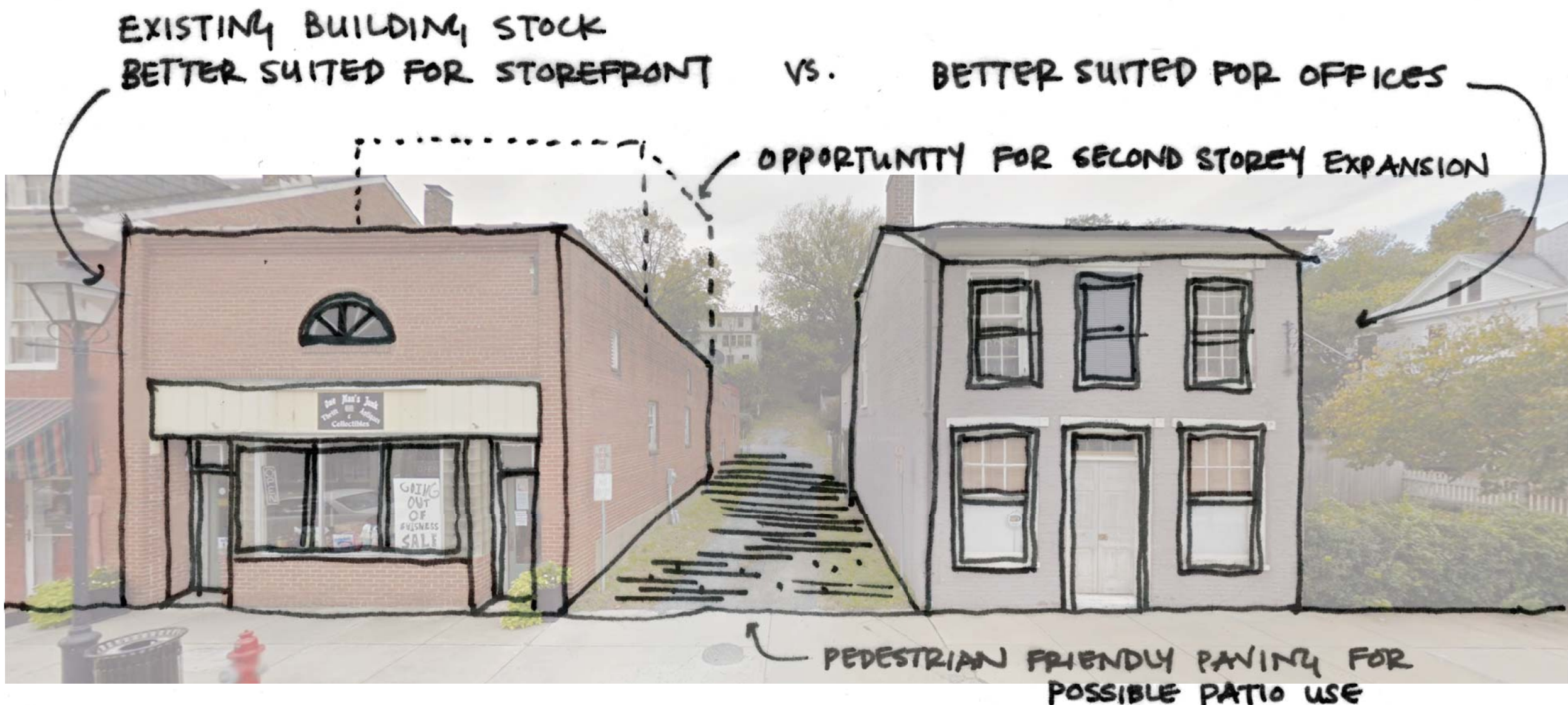
ESTABLISH SIGNAGE FOR HISTORIC HOMES AND OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST CLOSE TO THE SIDEWALK — IS THIS LAND PUBLIC OR PRIVATE?



Through visible signage marking public spaces, the community has more opportunity for physical and social engagement.



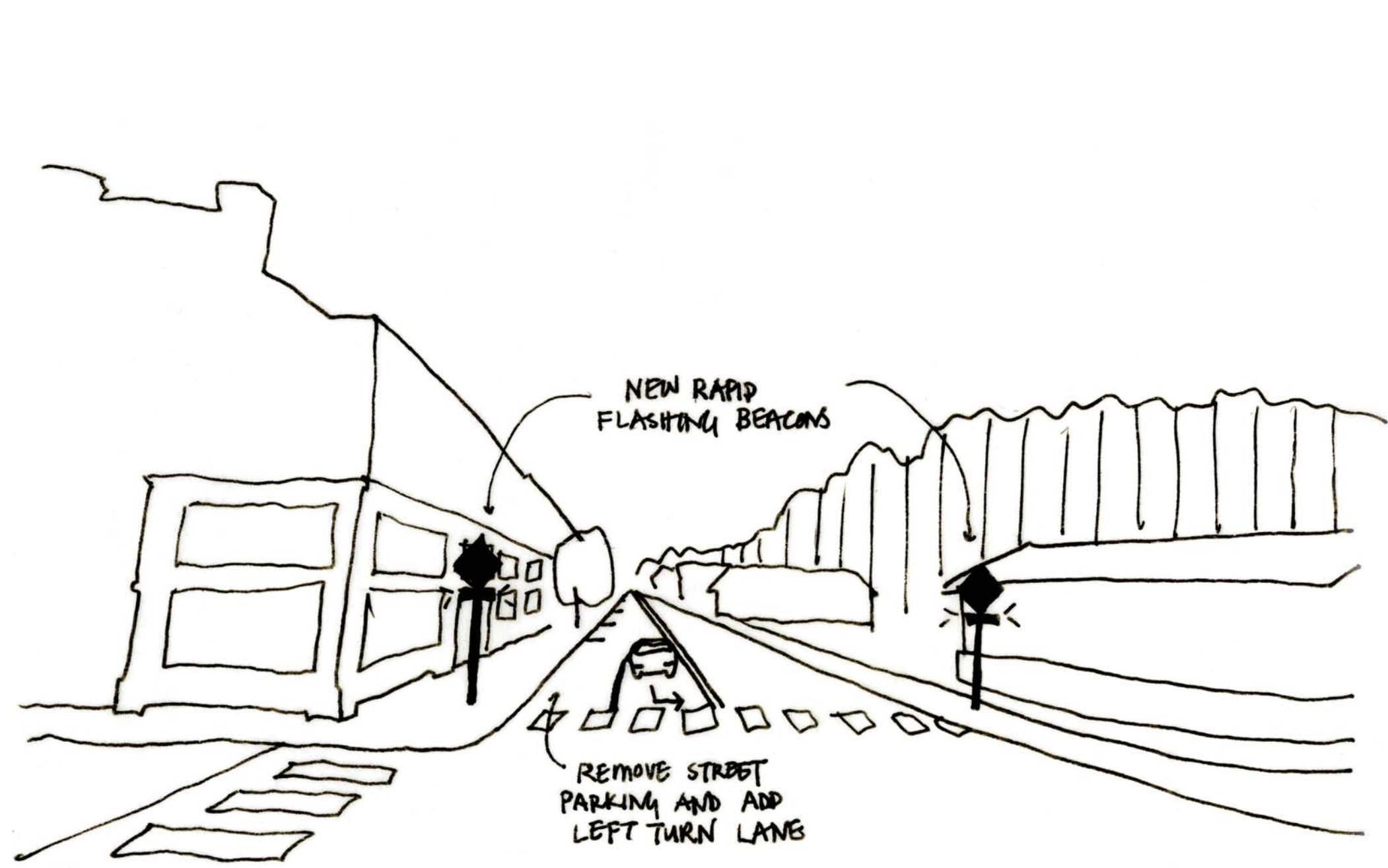
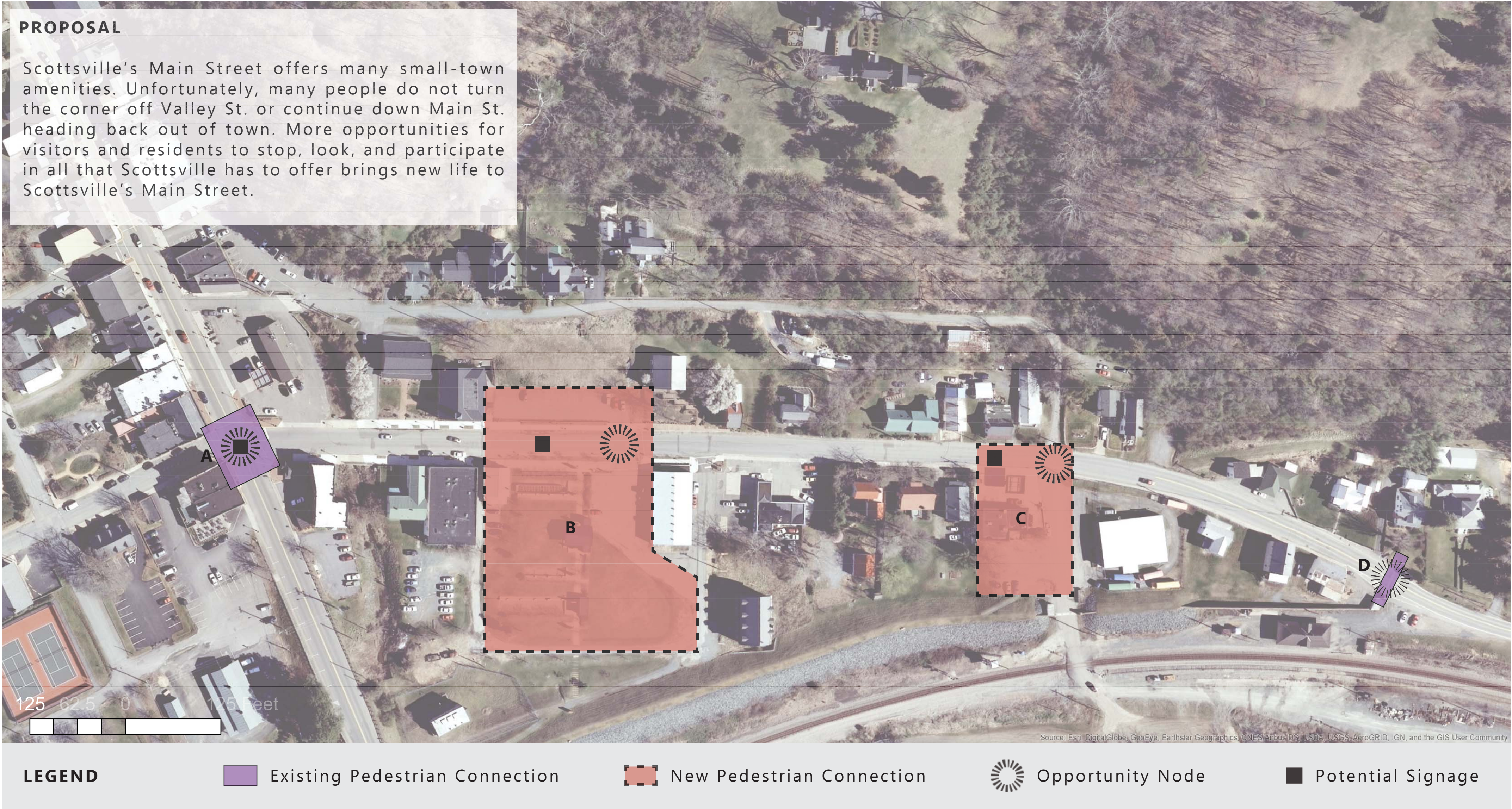
LEGEND	Vacant Lot	Parking	Opportunity Node
	Empty Storefront	Future Corridor	Church
	Community Site		Recreational Amenity



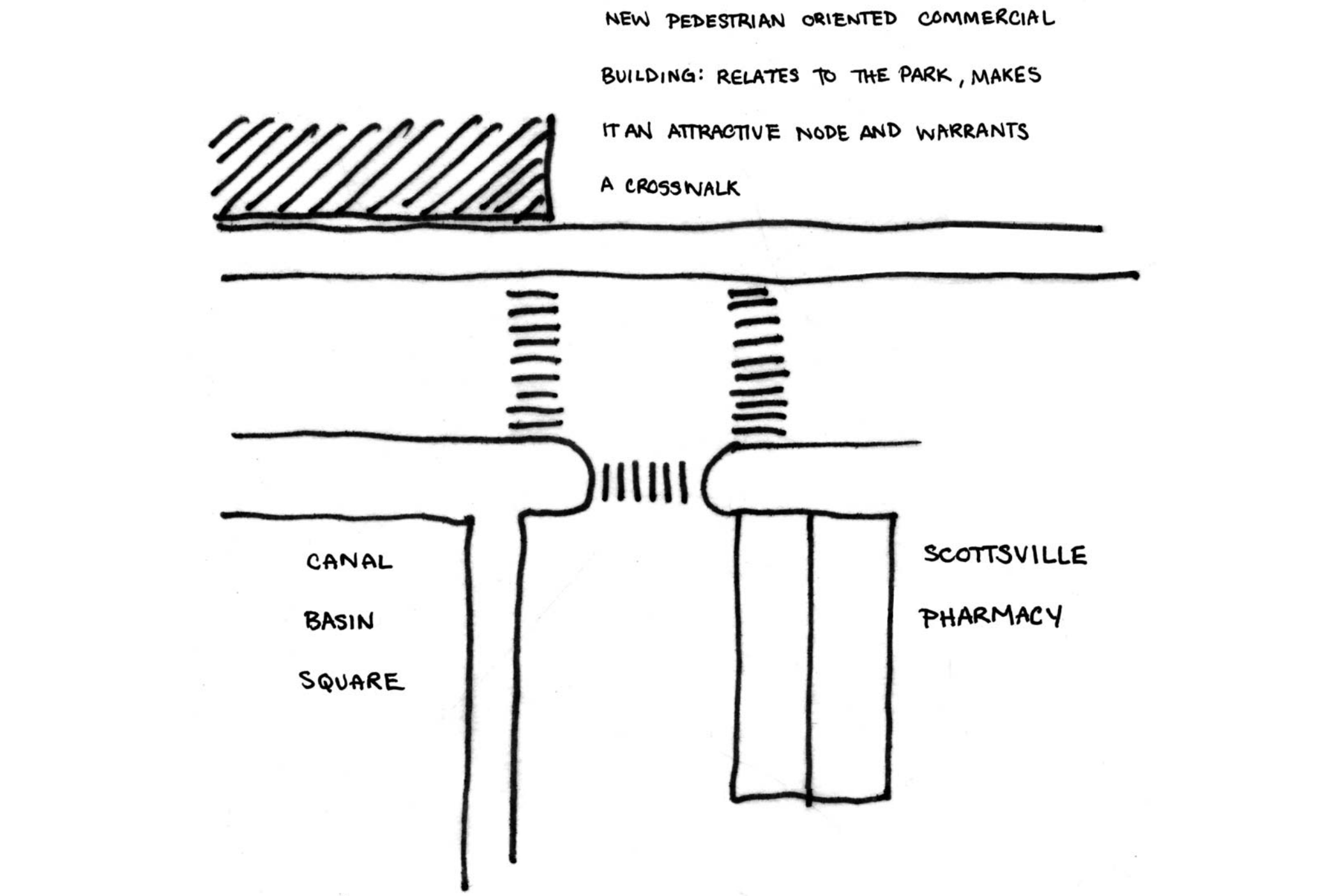
By creating spaces of natural engagement right off the main road, through parklettes and marked passageways, pedestrians are able to access and engage with more of the town.

# REVITALIZE DOWNTOWN

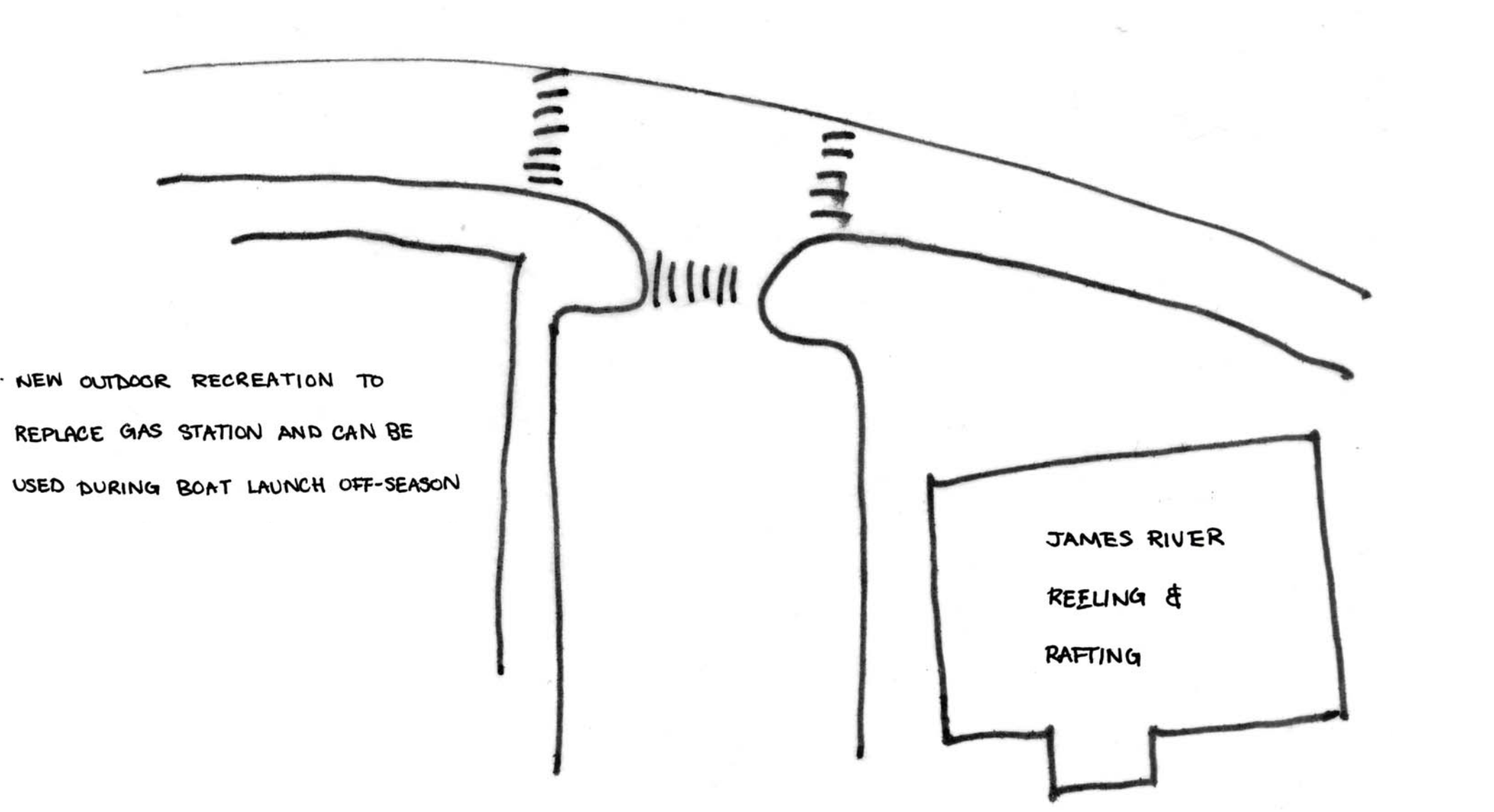
## Encourage Pedestrian Activity



A: Creating a left turn lane off Valley St. onto Main St. would slow traffic down, thus inviting Main St. engagement. In addition, installing signals at intersection crosswalks would mark their location and announce the presence of pedestrians.



B: A new pedestrian-oriented commercial building would promote resident and visitor activity in the area while needing additional crosswalks to explore the greater area.



C: Creating a year-round recreation hub next to the James River Reeling & Rafting would provide opportunity for community engagement outdoors while utilizing available space.



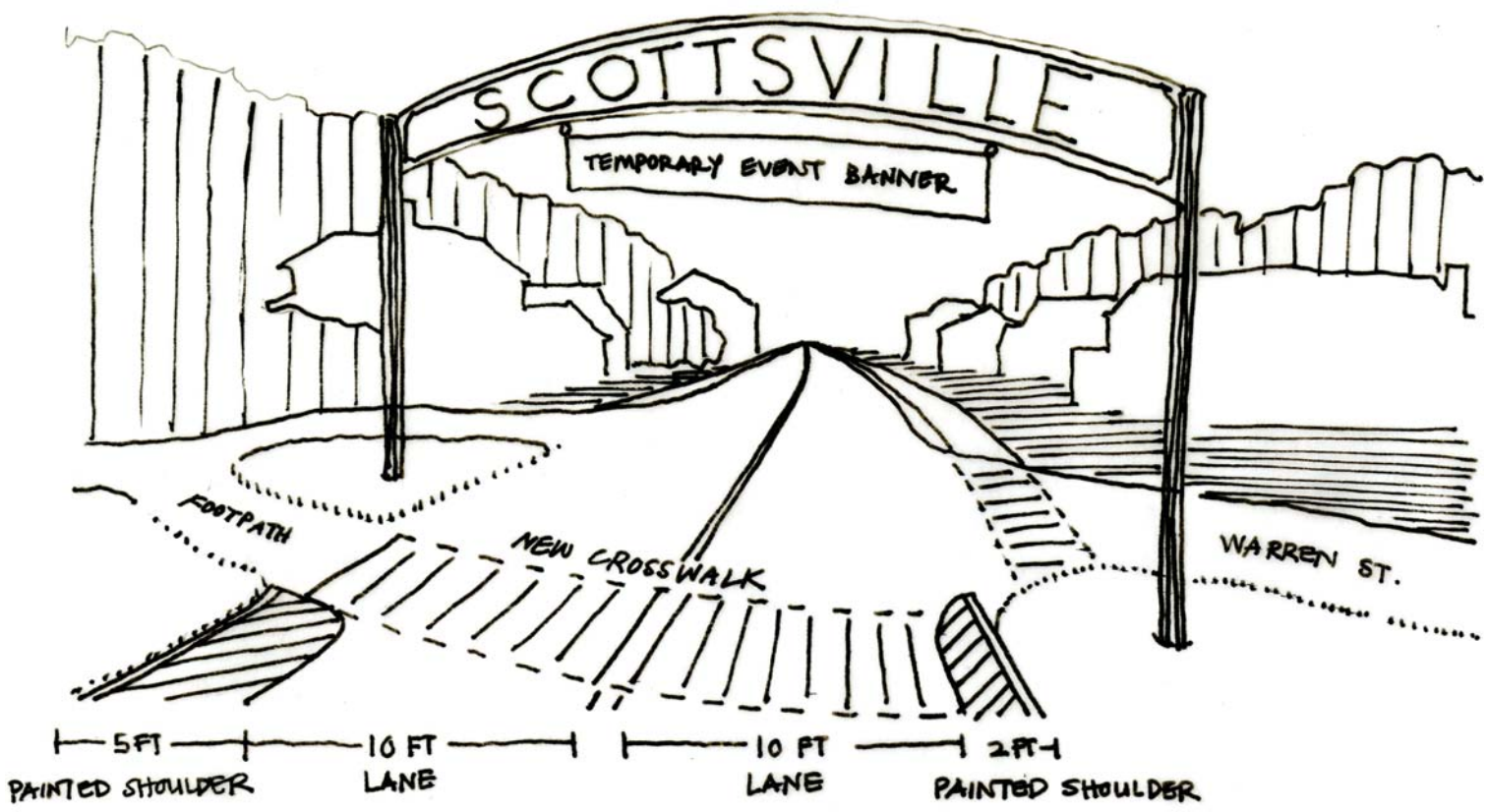
D: Knowing where Scottsville begins is key to welcoming residents home and visitors to town. Placing a gate along Main St. heading from Richmond allows for the driver and pedestrian to know there is something to be seen here.

# REVITALIZE DOWNTOWN

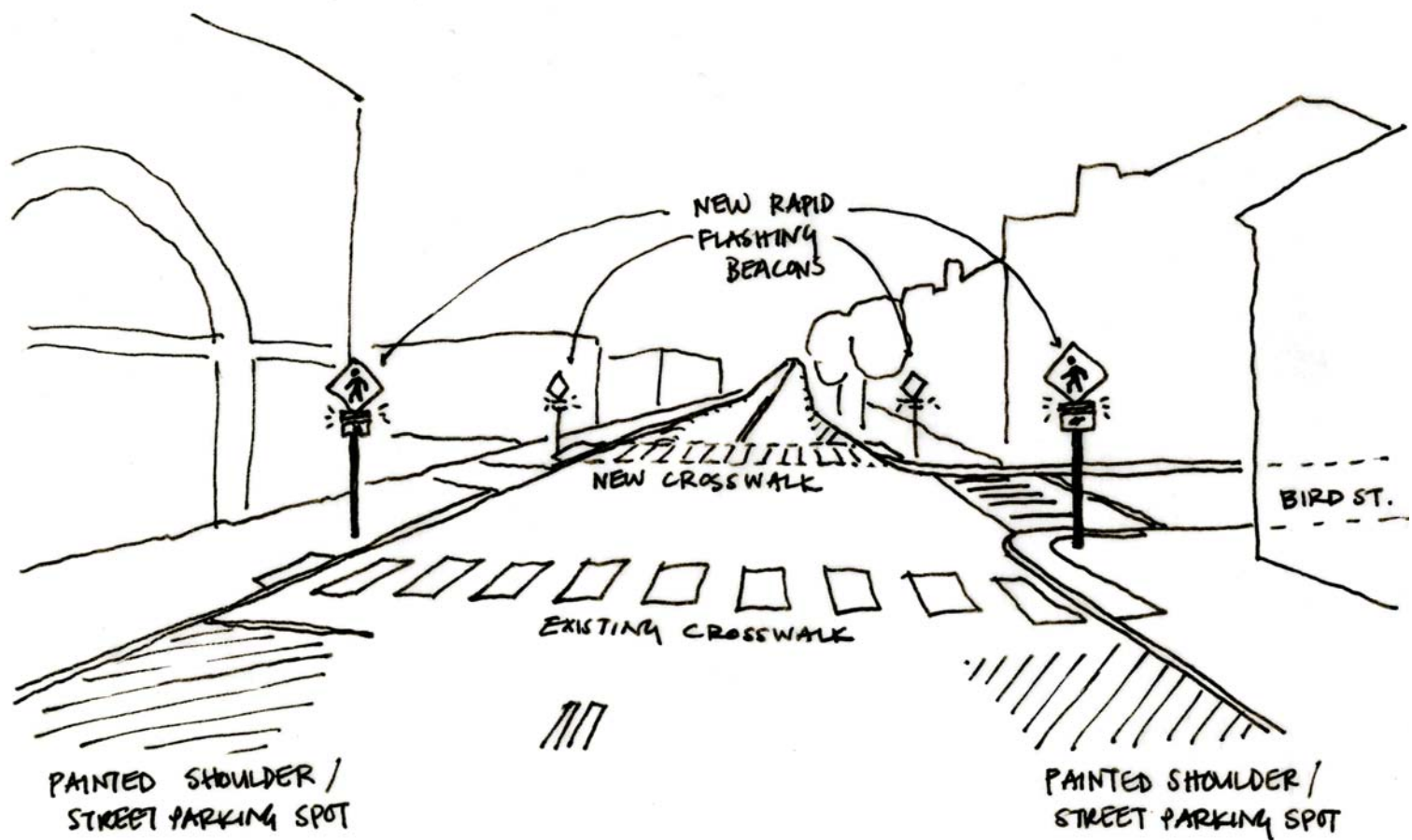
## Encourage Pedestrian Activity

### PROPOSAL

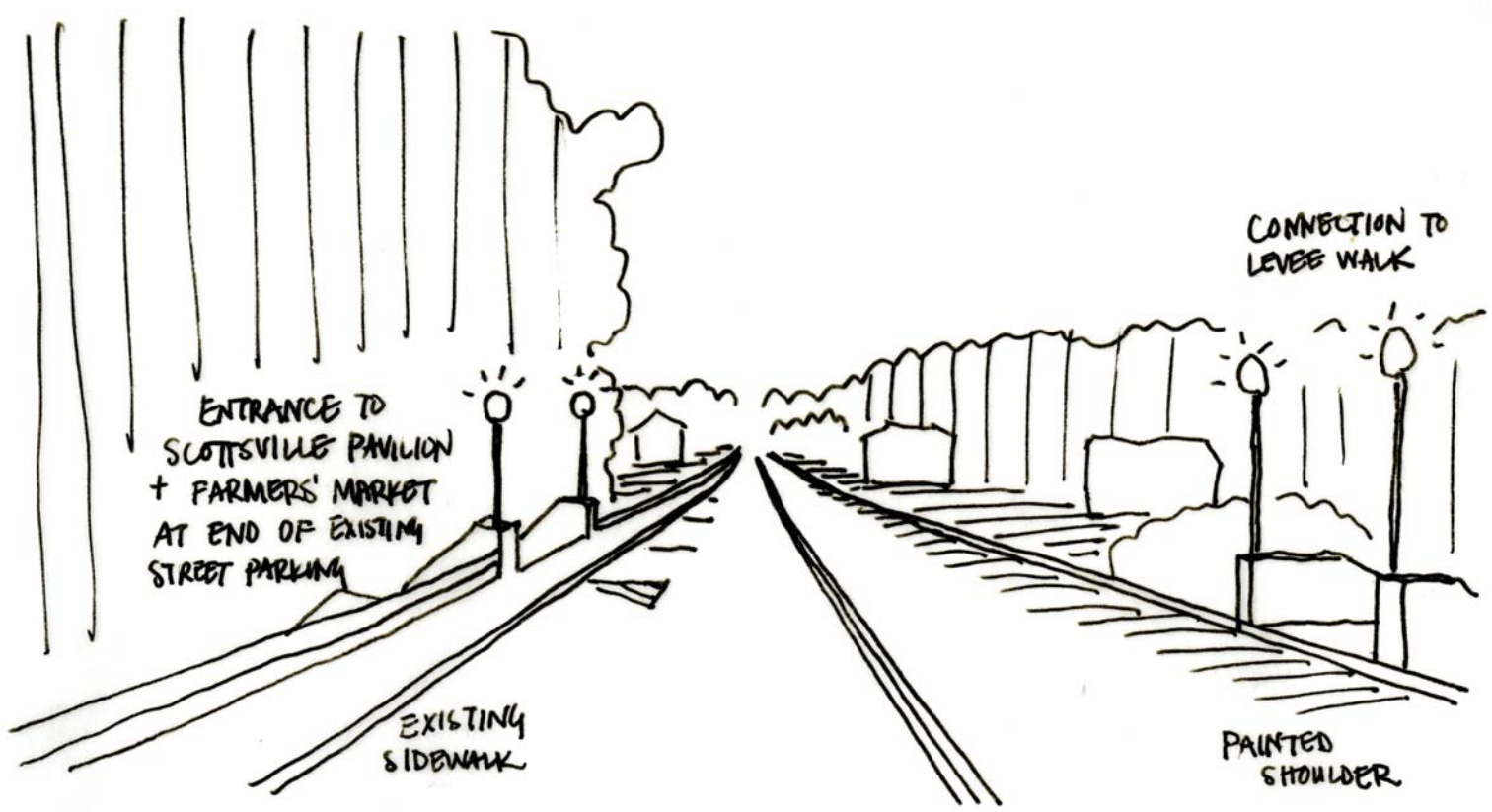
Scottsville’s small town delight of community, hospitality, scenery, and charm has great opportunity for both residents and visitors. One thing keeping the town from this image is constant traffic simply speeding through Valley Street. Slowing this down would create a quieter, safer environment for pedestrians: visitors and residents.



A: “Scottsville”. We propose the addition of a Valley St. entrance gate marking a start to both ends of the main downtown area.



B: Slowing traffic down and signaling crosswalk locations in the heart of Valley St. for safety and pedestrian engagement.



C: Implementing markers at the entrances of significant town locations: Farmers Market, riverfront, etc.

### PEDESTRIAN-ORIENTED SIGNAGE

- POINTING TO PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED COMMERCIAL NODES AND MINI-CORRIDORS



D: Creating signage for both pedestrians and drivers directing them to various locations and activities in town – informing them of the opportunities.



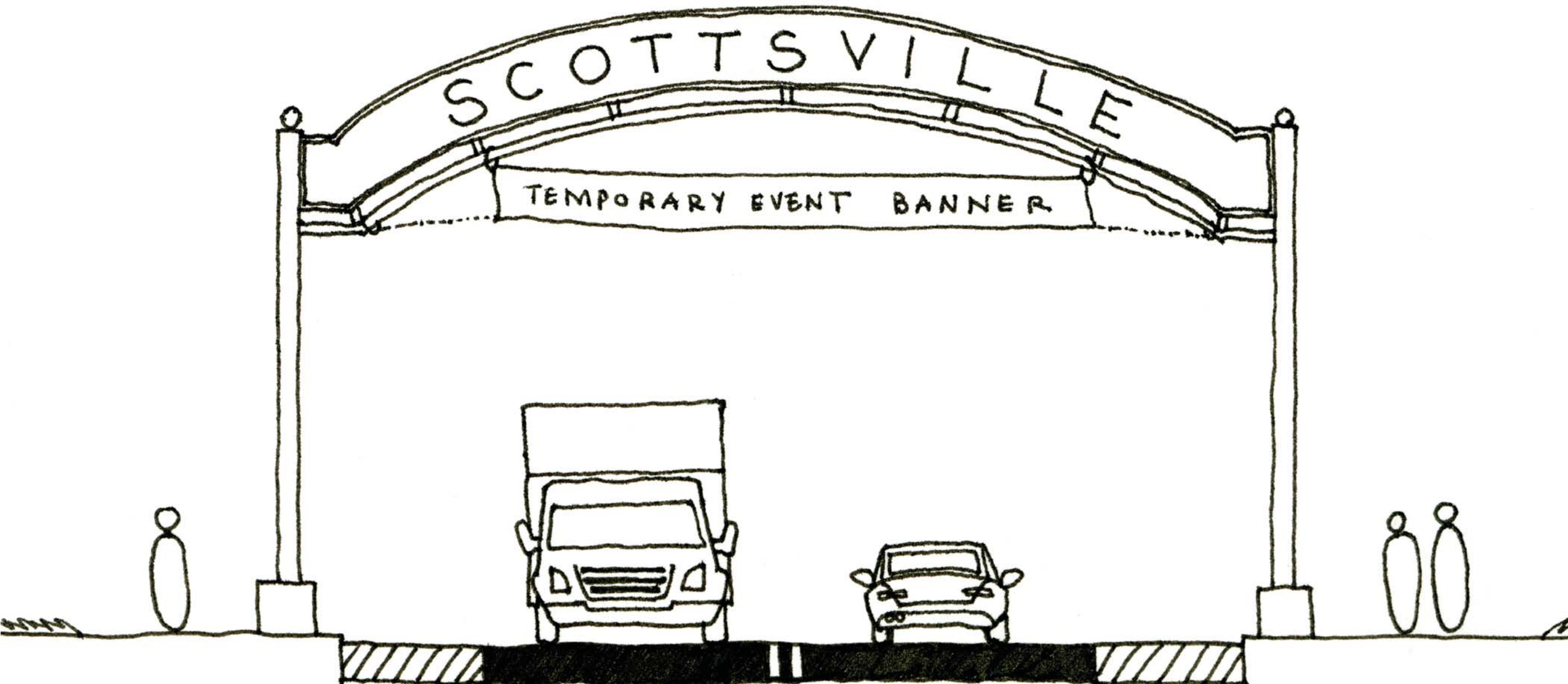
LEGEND

Existing Pedestrian Connection

New Pedestrian Connection

Opportunity Node

Potential Signage



A-Detail: Under the “Scottsville” entrance gate, add a removable/updateable sign informing newcomers of upcoming events in town.



## Take a Hike

### ENSURE SCOTTSVILLE’S HEALTH

Health systems are much more than doctors and hospitals. By spending time on trails, you incorporate healthy and sustainable practices into your lifestyle.

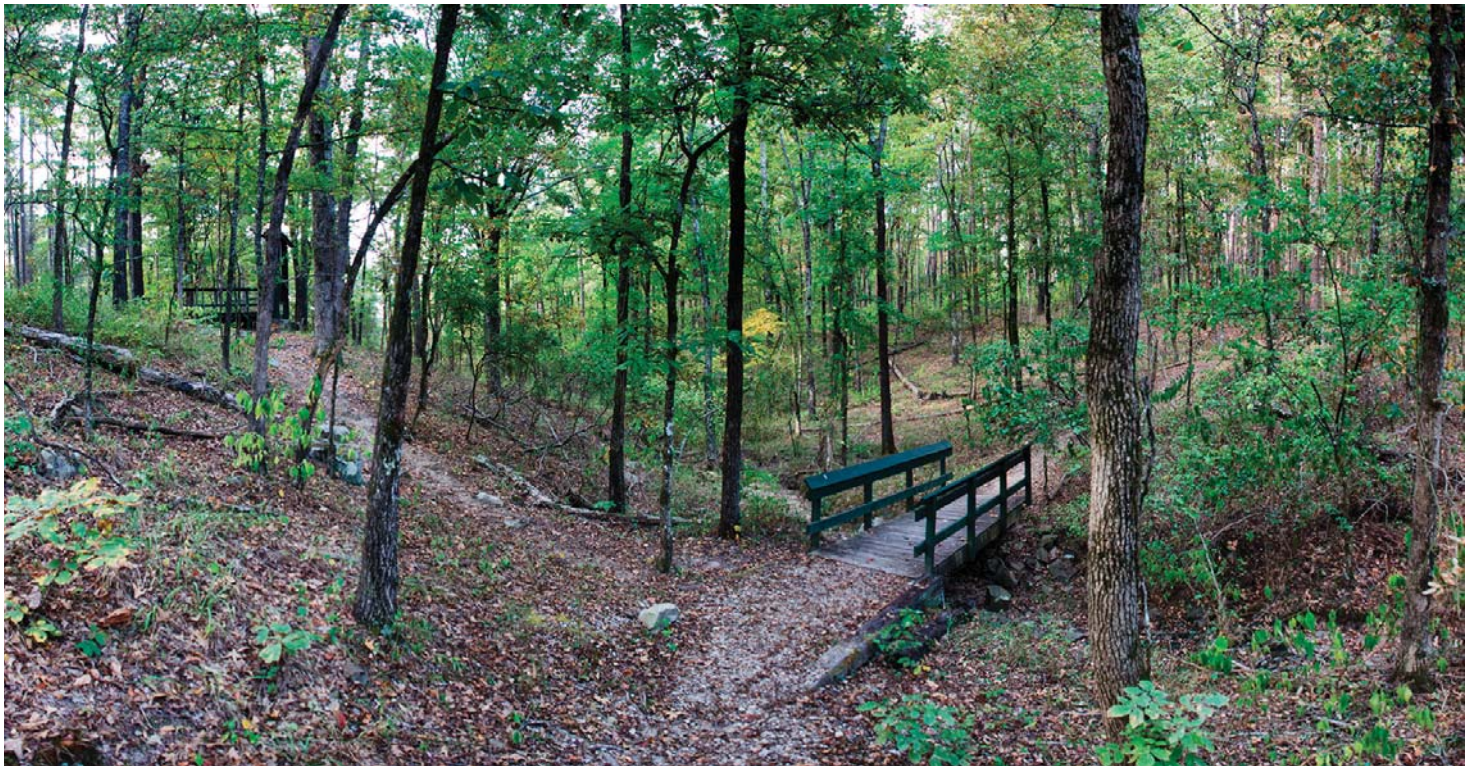
Scottsville’s comprehensive trail network can incorporate elements that encourage further usage. Trail markers will help hikers follow paths that are not very apparent, such as the existing north-eastern trails. Distance markers that have walking times will allow users to pick the trail that meets their needs. Footbridges over small brooks will improve the trail’s usability. Picnic tables will act both as a resting spot and a destination for outdoor meals.



Trail Marker: Appalachian Trail



Trail Sign in Multiple Languages



Trail Footbridge



Trail Picnic Table

Extending the trail to circle the Scottsville Lake and connect with Main Street could further integrate a healthy Scottsville lifestyle with the many assets inherent to the town itself, promoting businesses, acts of community engagement, and overall health along the way due to the vistas and direct connection to the town.

### So why invest in Scottsville’s outdoors?

Exercise and time spent in nature ensure health in the following ways:

**Smarter brains.** Being near fauna and flora triggers neurological changes that lead to clearer thinking, sharper focus, and increased creativity.

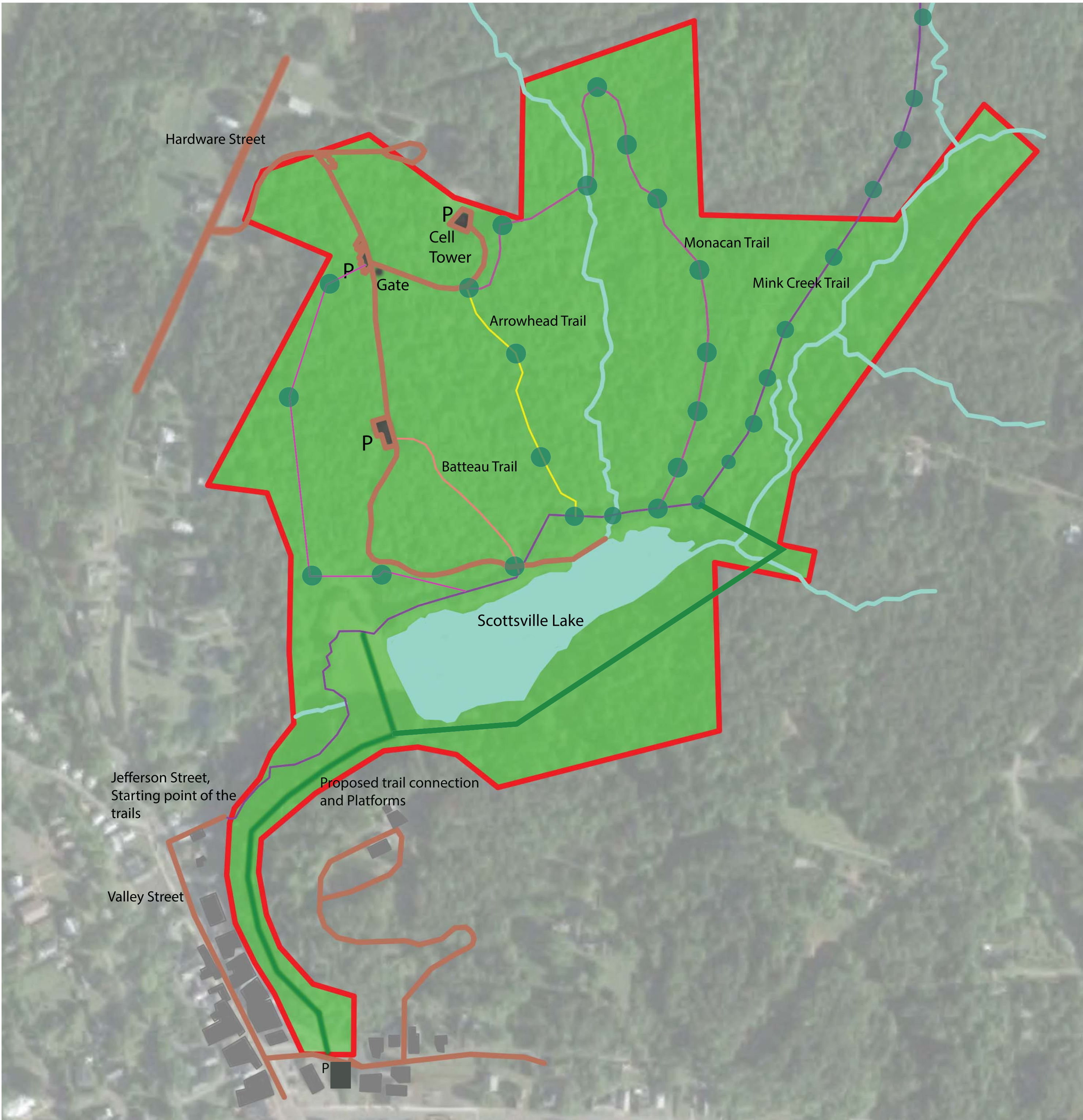
**Calmed minds.** Nature reduces stress, which is preemptive treatment for hypertension and heart disease.

**Happier lives.** Biophilia, or the love of living systems, is the intrinsic affinity that everybody holds towards nature. Even being subconsciously aware of natural elements can elicit a positive emotional response.

**Healthier bodies.** By participating in cardio exercise, you lower your blood pressure, risk of heart disease, and cholesterol levels.

Living in a town where hikes are a normal and popular affair would boast a population that experiences these benefits as a whole. So, if there were one thing doctors would prescribe as a preventative health care measure to Scottsville, it would be this:

Take a Hike!



- Existing Trails

Existing Roads
- Proposed intervention sites

Proposed Trails
- Parking lots

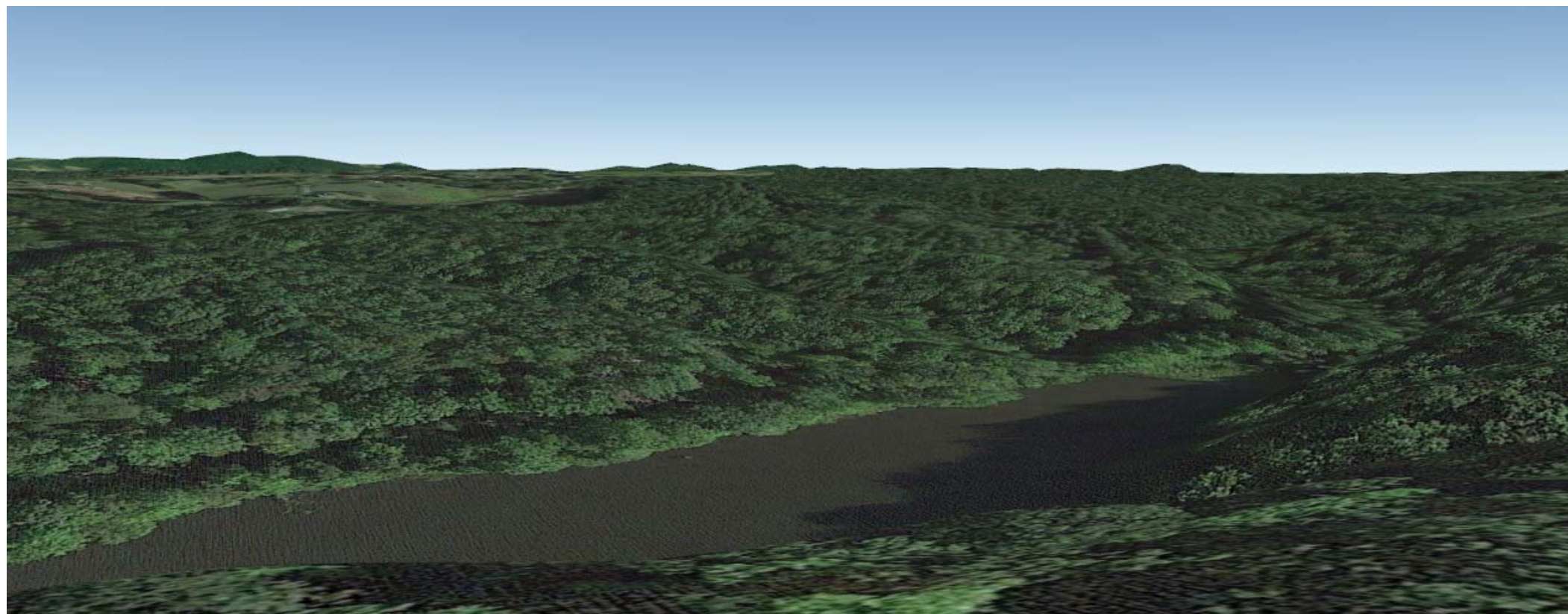
Van Clief Nature Area

Map of Scottsville’s Van Clief Trails, Roads, and Proposed Interventions

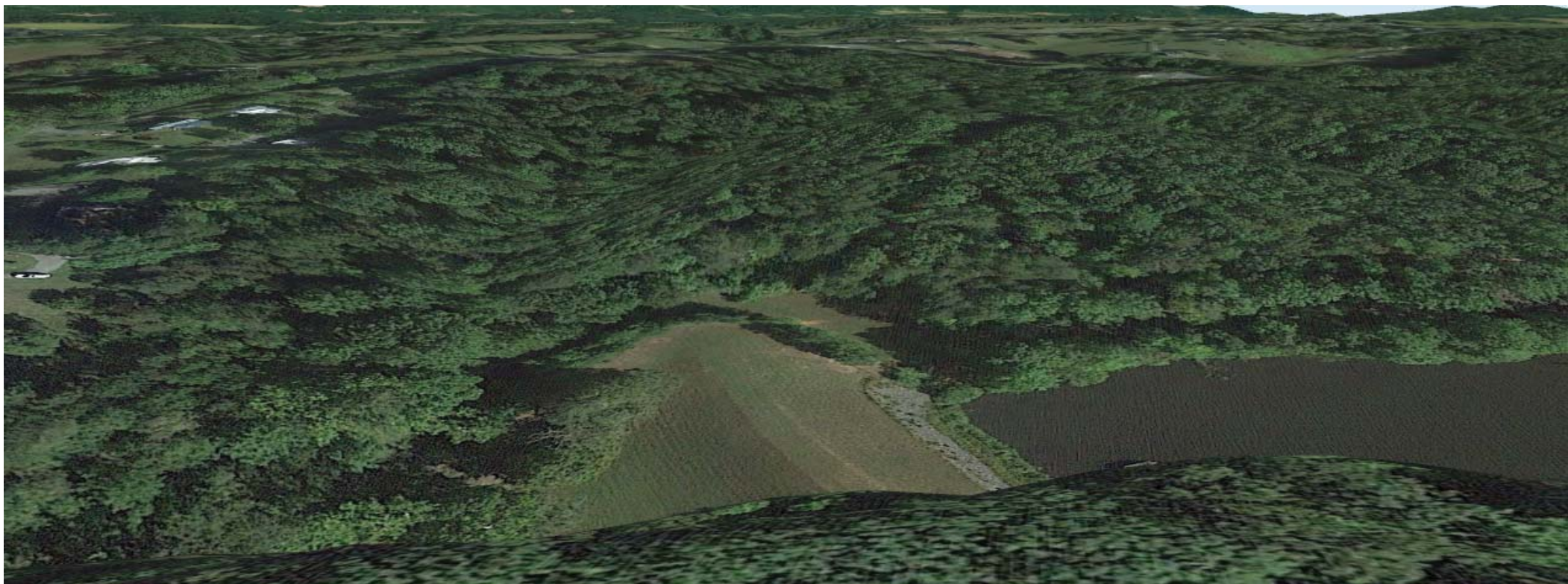
Create a New Trail

CONNECTING TRAILS, INCREASING ACCESSIBILITY

The following proposal seeks to tie the town of Scottsville proper with the extensive trail network proposed in the surrounding Van Clief Nature Reserve. Scottsville boasts both a captivating townscape and a rich natural environment – The task is linking and integrating the two. This project introduces a connecting trail behind Valley Street’s Victory Hall that would initiate such strategic networking. Complete with handicap-accessible ramps, paths, platforms and lookouts for the enjoyment of the area’s exceptional beauty, this path would effectively connect the growing trail network with the town’s center of community and activity. Scottsville can initiate a clear collaboration of assets by building this link, allowing townsfolk and visitors of all types, to see and experience the area in a fresh and engaging manner. Bringing these assets in tandem, Scottsville can creatively establish yet another point of pride and appeal, of memory-making and intentionality for its residents and visitors too.



View towards the lake and trails



View of trails

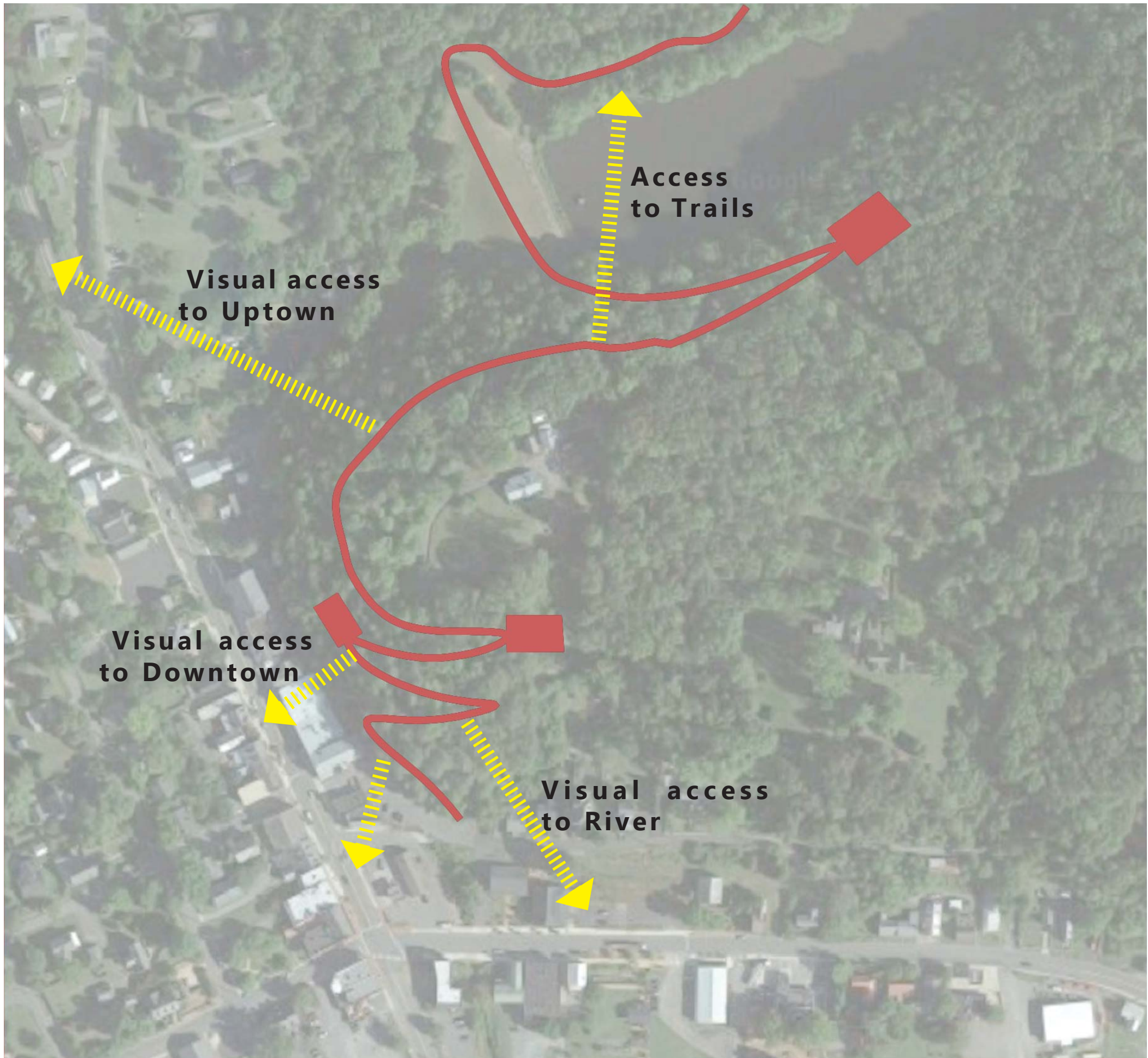
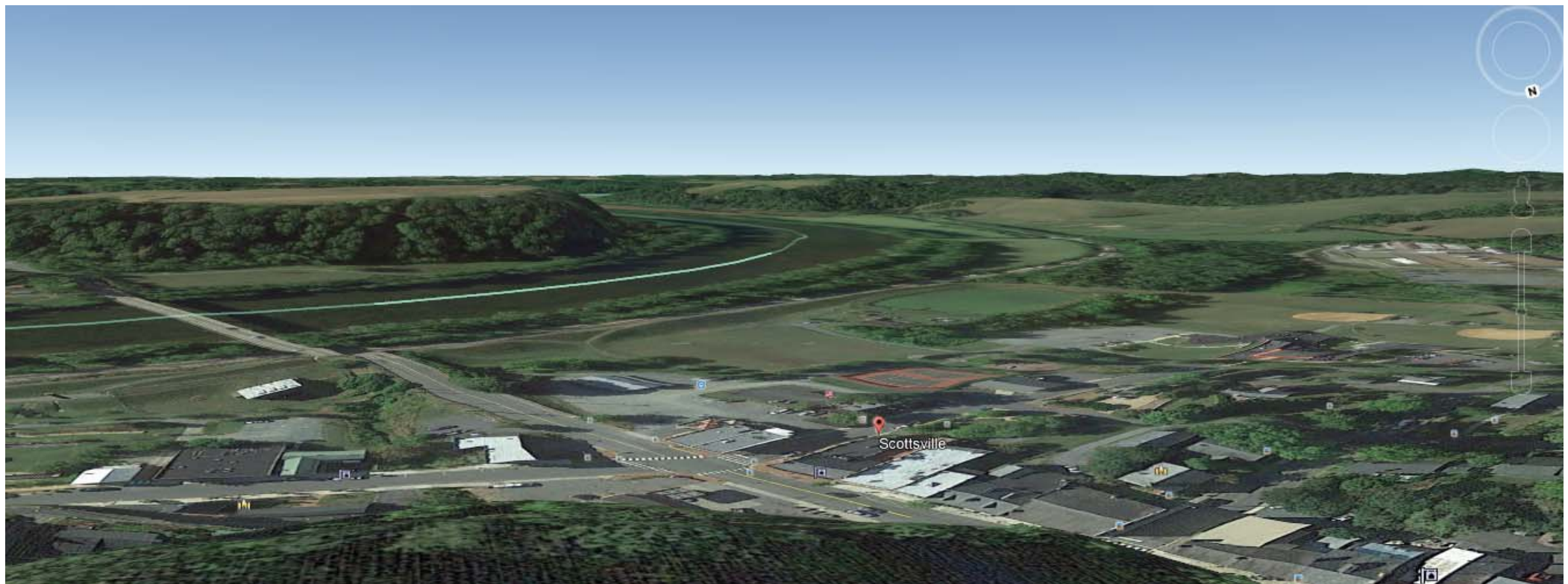
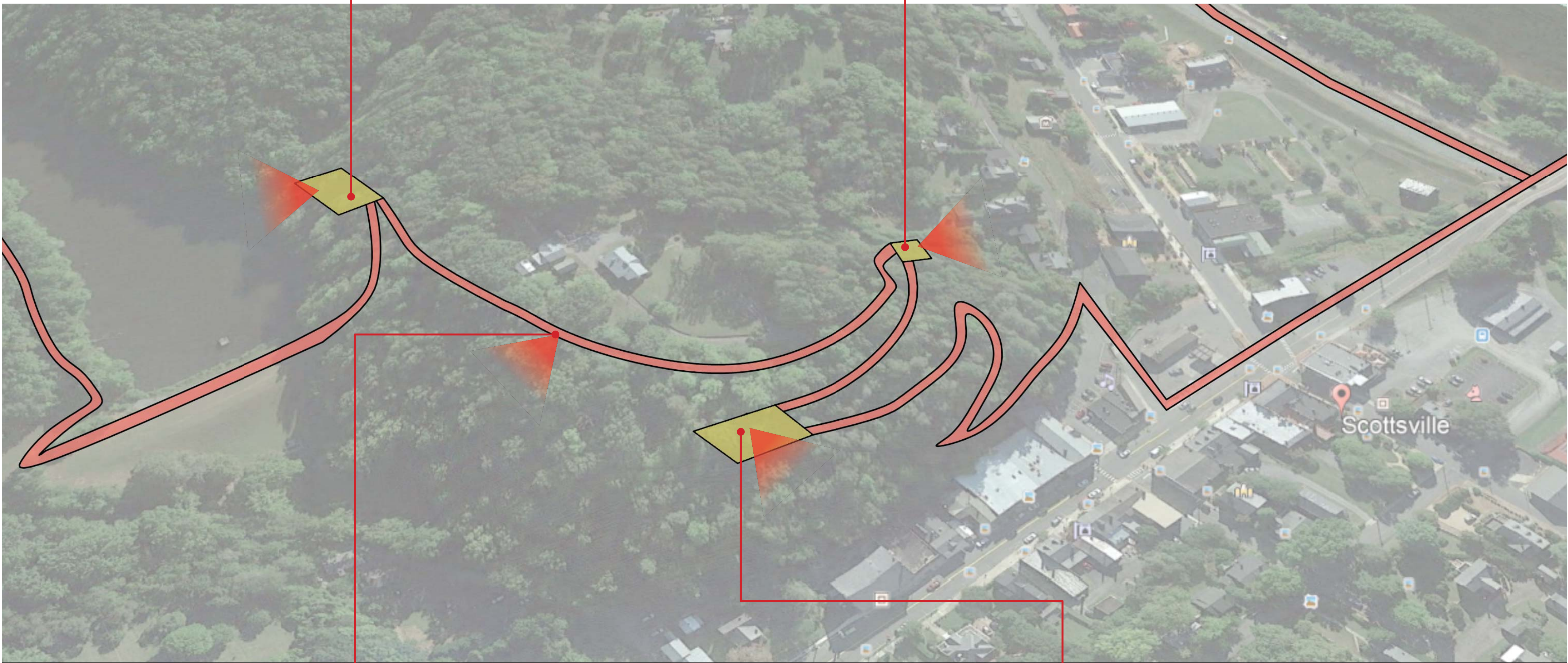


Fig. 1. Visual access to different parts of the town from the proposed trail and platforms in Van Clief Nature Area



Views of the river and town



View of uptown



View of downtown

Enhance the Levee and Connect to the River

LEVEE WALK PLATFORM

Scottsville Levee is a necessary protective measure for town residents. The high bank prevents destructive flooding from dominating the town narrative any longer. Despite its obvious and essential services, however, the levee also disconnects the town, literally and metaphorically, from its foundational identifier - the river. With a rich history, deeply tied to ferrying, canal and bateau-based trade and travel, the Scottsville levee currently poses a threat to the town's link to the past. It also inhibits the creation of a new "river culture." Canal basin square begins the work that the following proposition for transformation aims to expand upon.

By building a platform affixed to the structure of the levee, users are given the opportunity to interact with the levee in a new, elevated manner. Not only would it enhance the path already atop the levee, it would also encourage rest, pause, community gathering and most of all, a direct reference and reconnection to the river. Through signage and interactive exhibits, this space could also provide a locale for extending the efforts of canal basin square, perhaps referencing the many floods that shaped the resilient community of Scottsville we know today. This hypothesis offers a reconnection to the river, a space for further fleshing out some of Scottsville's most integral histories, and an enhanced opportunity for engagement with the landscape and people that inhabit it.

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

At its core, Scottsville remains a river town. The community's current infrastructure stems from its early use as a critical link along the James River trade network. However, as the county seat and its center, type and method of commerce shifted in favor of Charlottesville, the river took on a less elemental role in the Scottsville narrative. Over time, James River's tendency to flood also became an untenable threat. This well-founded concern lead to the town's beloved Mink Creek Dam and Raymond Thacker Levee, put into place to protect it from further damage, though simultaneously distancing Scottsville from what was once its lifeblood. The river's unsettled history rings true throughout the town, manifesting in a few aptly titled bars and pubs, yet lacking the critical visual linkage to the water itself.

As a rivertown absent of a river view and or ample river access, Scottsville has a unique opportunity is to reclaim this link to its historic identity, to revitalize its captivating river vista, and to engage its unquestionable capacity to bring people together. By investing in a pedestrian bridge that safely ushers locals and visitors alike, to leave the levee and experience the river, Scottsville stands to gain its identity tied to the shoreline. Synchronizing Scottsville with its historic riverfront opens opportunity for further development, community engagement and natural enhancement to an already vibrant townscape.

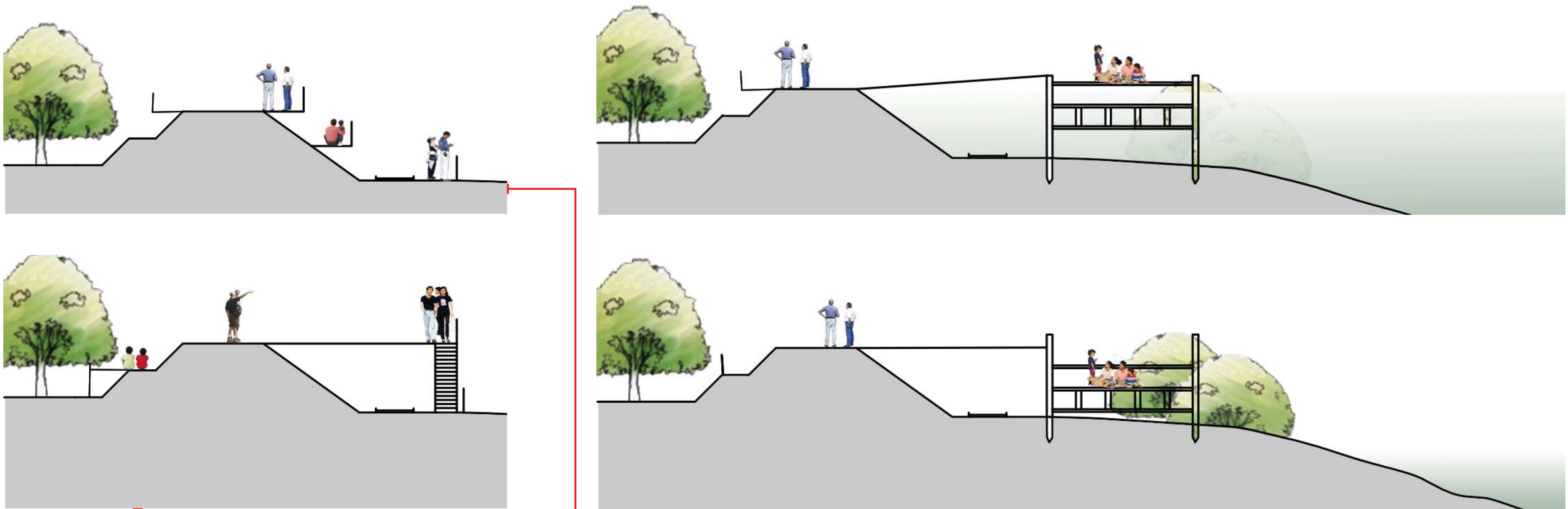


Fig. 1. A user platform atop the levee could provide a rich place for pause, gathering, and a guided look at the river and surrounding landscape. A floating structure at the water front allows different experiences with water.

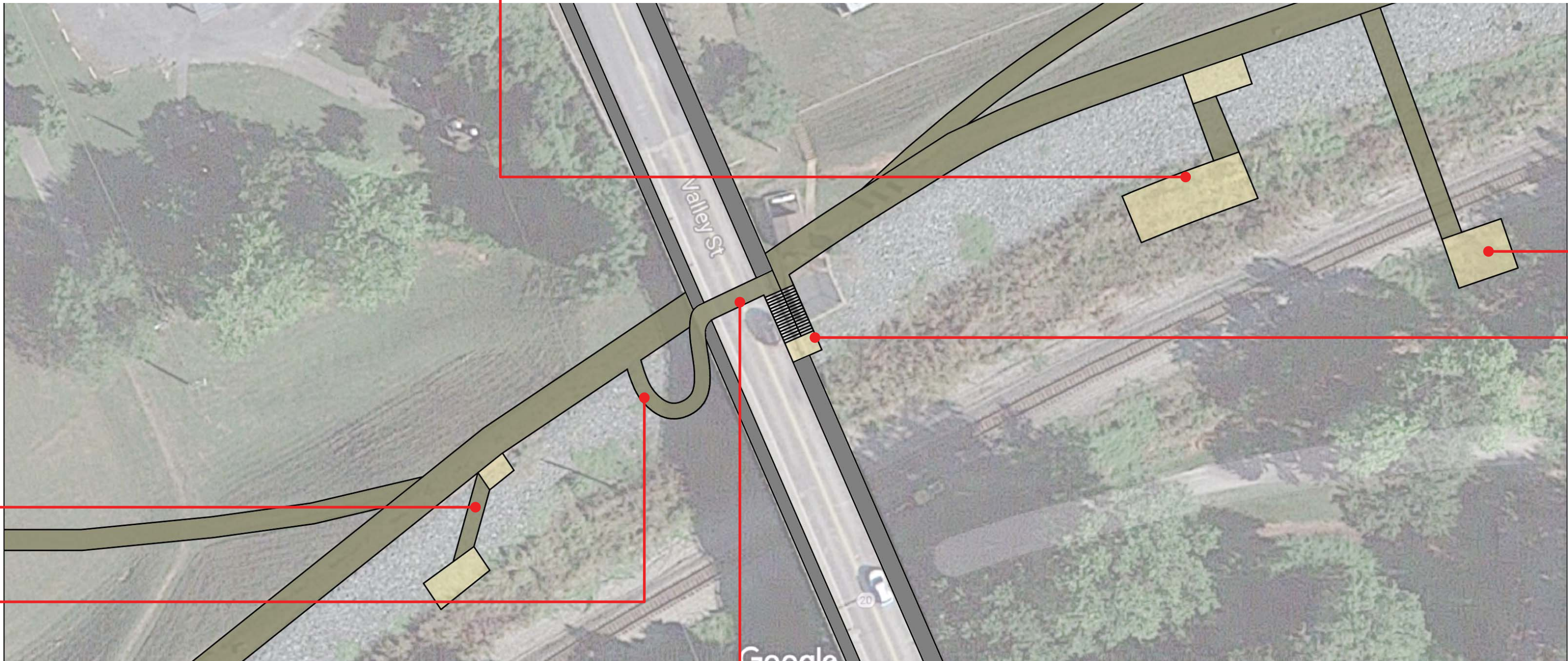


Fig. 2. Plan of the levee path, platforms and pedestrian bridge



Fig. 3. Proposed walking Ramp up to the bridge



Fig. 4. Picture of existing bridge



Fig. 5. Proposed Steps to the bridge

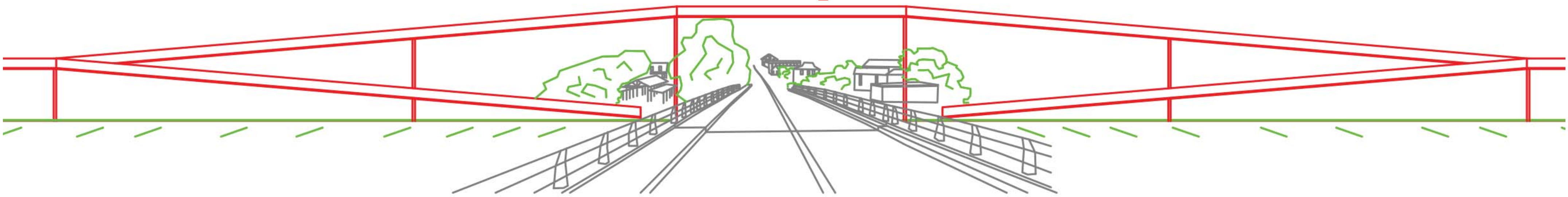


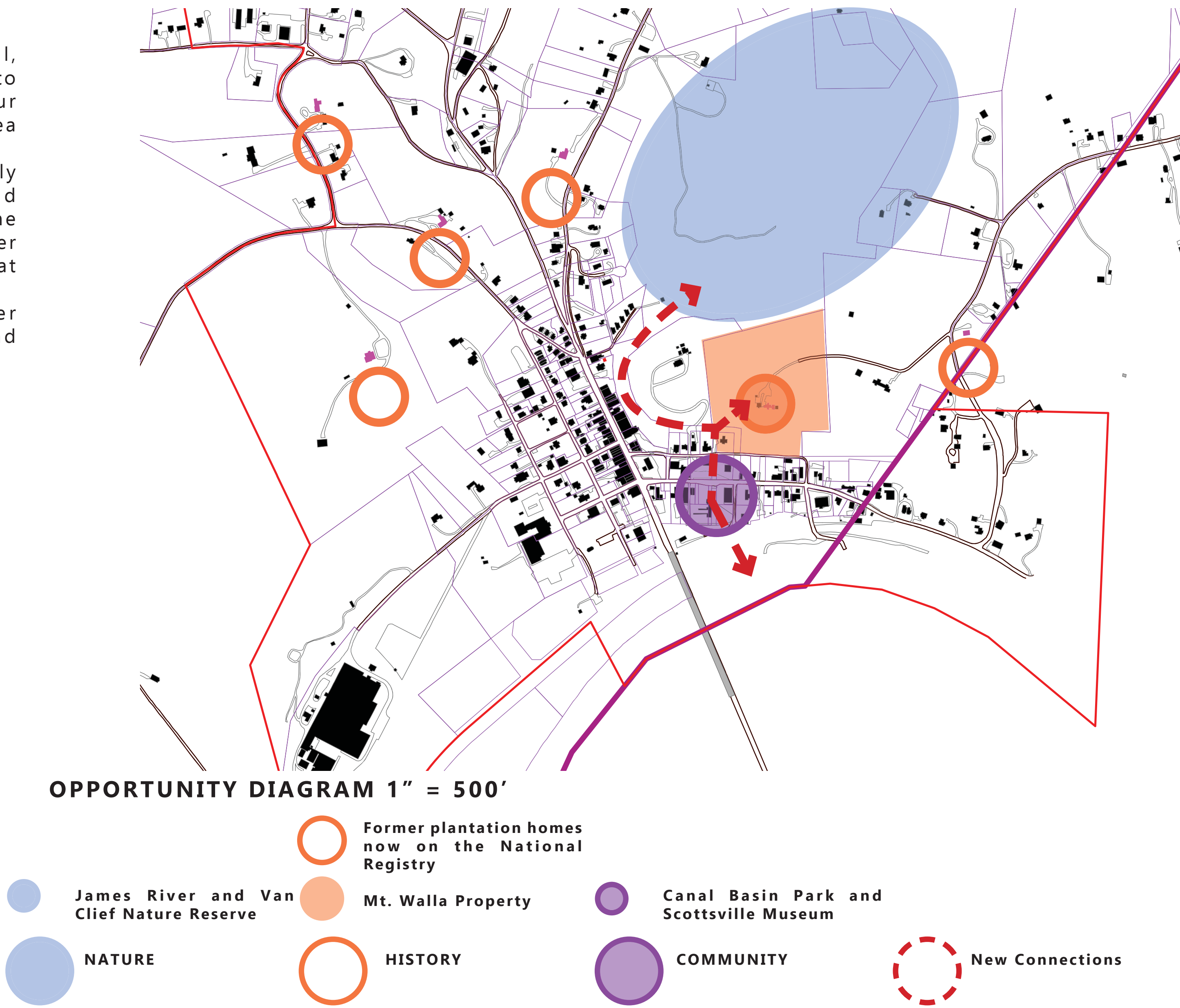
Fig. 6. Proposed footbridge on the levee

Connect Representative Landscape Types

Due to its small size, Scottsville has many natural, historical and community assets in close proximity to one another. This design proposes to connect four major community features that represent iconic area landscape types via a network of trails.

These trails utilize land in control of town, mostly inserted spaces between land parcels or on land contiguous with the Van Clief Nature Preserve. The design also suggests collaboration with the landowner of, or town acquisition of the Mt. Walla Property that sits between Main Street and the Nature Preserve.

These new connections would allow a fuller interpretation of Scottsville’s regional history and landscapes.



**Canal Basin Park** and adjacent areas along Main Street would become a new community hub for housing, services and broader historical interpretation. This plan would connect this space via pedestrian and automotive connections to **Mt. Walla**, one of the oldest properties in the area, built in the early 19th century. Use of this property would allow spatial and social broadening of Scottsville’s historical messages.

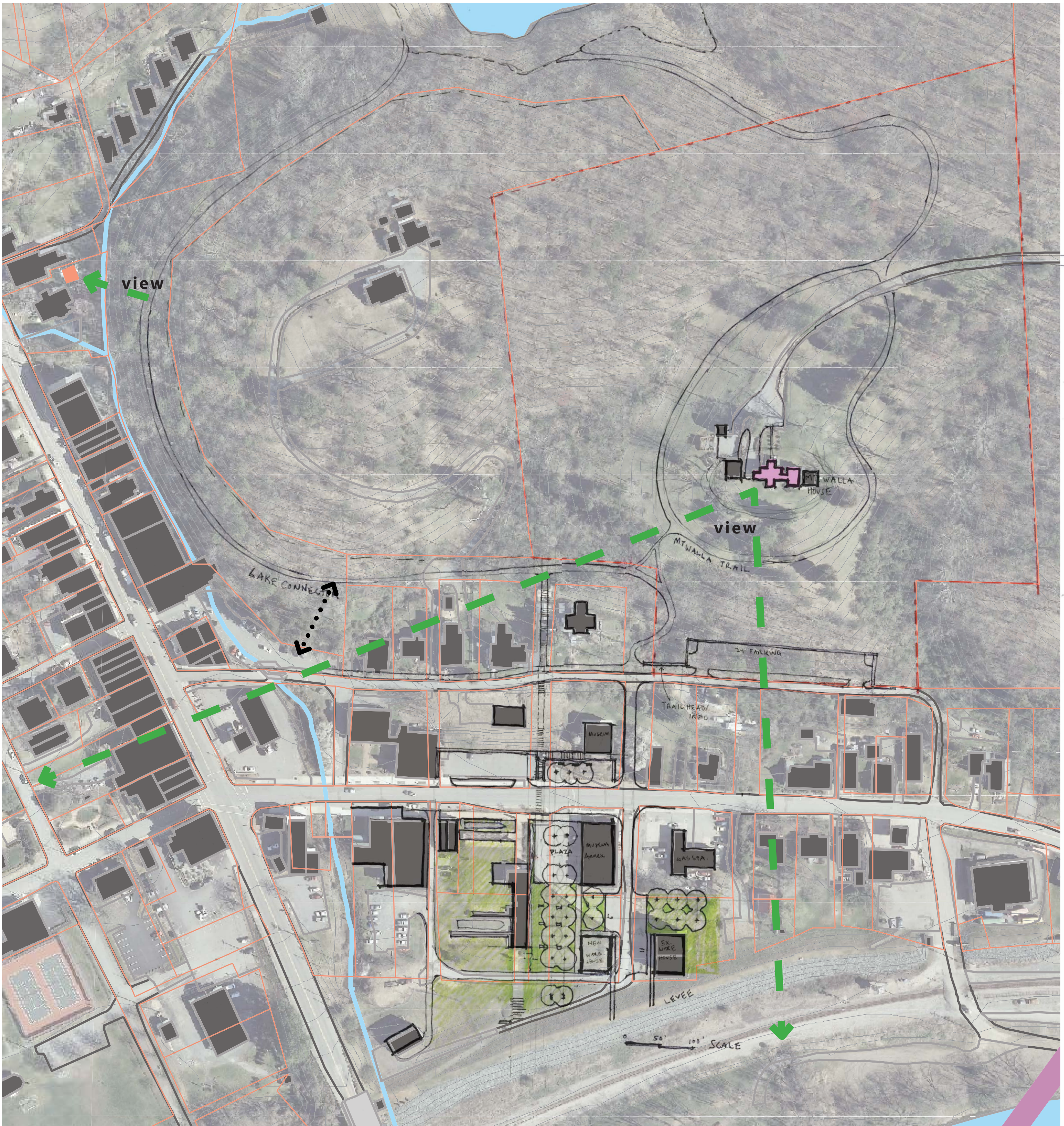
Mt. Walla’s site provides amazing prospect of the river, levee walk, Rt. 20 bridge, and city, which could visually restore connections to the river as a key feature of Scottsville’s identity. The parcel could also serve as an example of the larger agricultural landscapes that would have surrounded Scottsville during its canal days. The historic landowners, the Moon, Jefferson and Foland families were key participants in many facets of the canal-based economy of Scottsville and other regional institutions. Telling stories of the land’s Monican pre-European history, landowners, and enslaved could open opportunities to connect to larger historical networks to put Scottsville in its regional context.

Both Mt. Walla and Canal Basin Park/ Main street would be further connected to the Van Clief Nature preserve through a lower path circling the hill behind Valley St., traveling along a strip of land contiguous with the Nature Preserve Property.

This lower trail would allow interpretation of other significant sites along valley street (example, the slave dwelling behind the Barefoot Country Store) that are visually accessible but privately owned.



Mount Walla  
View towards town, 1911



Landscape Plan 1" = 100'