

Wilderness Gateway State Trail in Hickory

LENGTH
11.43 miles

FROM
Henry Fork River Park

TO
Jacob Fork Park

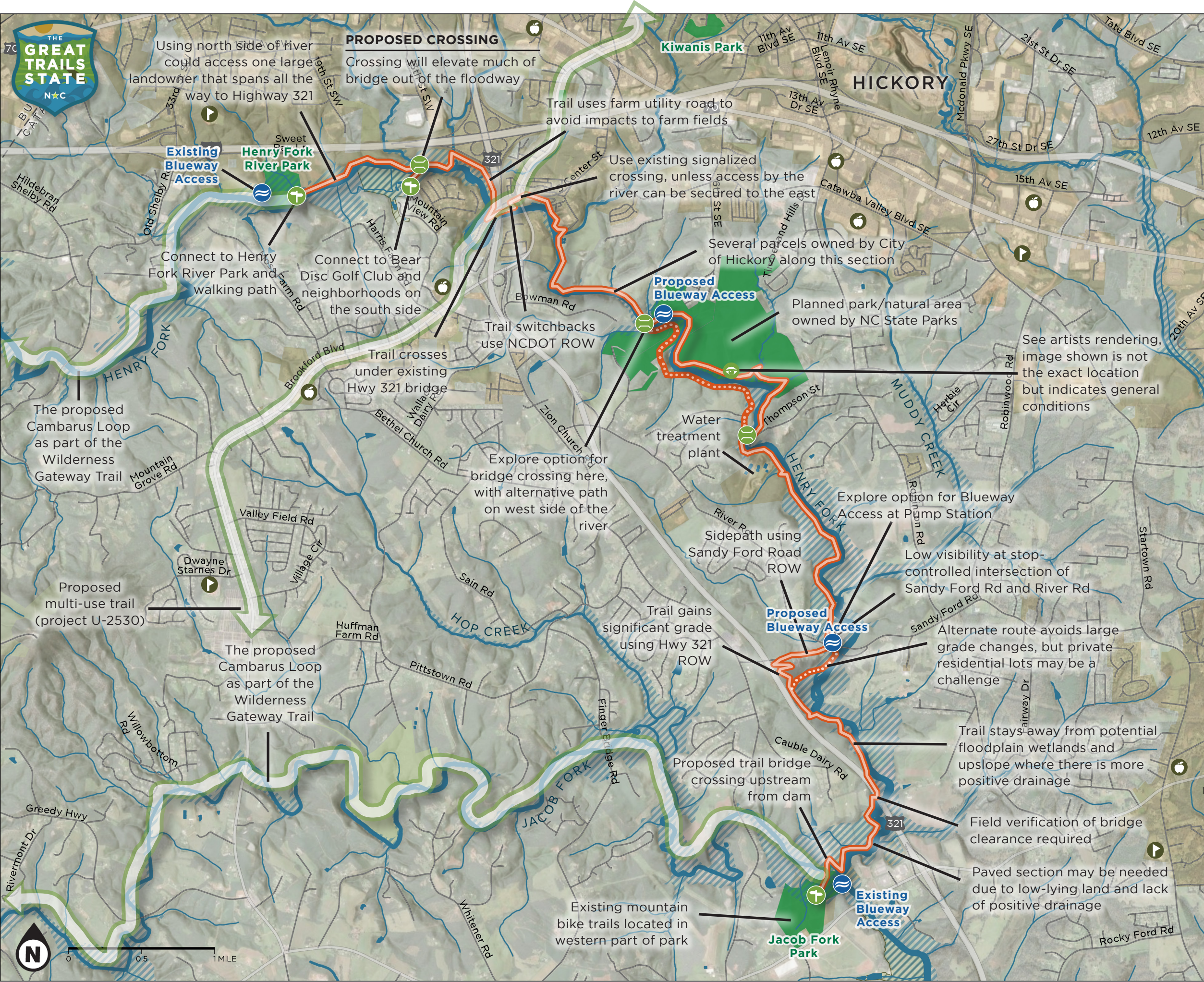
LEGEND

TRAIL FACILITIES

- Existing Trail or Shared Use Path
- Proposed Natural Surface Trail
- Proposed Alternate Route
- Future Trail Connections
- Proposed Trailhead
- Proposed Trail Bridge
- Existing/Proposed Blueway Access
- Location of Artist's Rendering

OTHER FEATURES

- 100-Year Floodplain
- Municipal Boundary
- Park
- Public Land (Federal/State/Muni.)
- School
- Grocery Store



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Why?

PROJECT CONTEXT

This section of the Wilderness Gateway State Trail connects the more urban areas of Hickory along Henry Fork to the more rural town of Newton. It connects to important properties owned by the Town of Hickory and Foothills Conservancy that will eventually become publicly accessible for trails and river access, becoming key destination along the trail.

KEY DESTINATIONS

- Henry Fork River Park
- Bear Disc Golf Club
- Future Nature Park (owned by Foothills Conservancy)
- Jacob Fork Park

SUPPORT IN PREVIOUS PLANS

NC State Parks developed the Wilderness Gateway State Trail Plan. This plan designated this section as part of the Cambarus Loop that connects Hickory and Newton to Bakers Mountain park to the west.

PUBLIC INPUT

The Wilderness Gateway State Trail Plan indicated there is public support for this section.



Proposed crossing improvement for the trail South Center Street trail crossing in Hickory

How?

JURISDICTION(S)

City of Hickory, Catawba County, Town of Newton

OTHER POTENTIAL PARTNERS

- Foothills Conservancy
- City of Hickory
- Town of Newton
- Carolina Thread Trail/Catawba Conservancy
- Adjacent property owners

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

NC Land and Water Fund, NC Water Resources, Recreational Trails Program, Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, NCDOT bicycle and pedestrian funding.

PLANNING-LEVEL COST ESTIMATES

The project cost is estimated to be around \$4.7 million total. Some of the costs include a natural surface trail south of the NC State Parks-owned property to Jacob Fork Park, a 10-12 foot paved trail north from the Foothills property to S Center Street, and a 10-12 foot crushed stone greenway from there to Henry Fork River Park. For a detailed breakout of planning level costs, see Appendix A.

ROW NEEDS

The majority of corridor ROW needs to be secured.

DESIGN OPTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

The trail could be a 3-4 foot natural surface trail in the majority of the rural areas, with some crushed stone and paved areas. See cost estimate section above for more details.

