

Swannanoa River Greenway Connection

LENGTH
6.19 miles

FROM
Biltmore Ave

TO
US 70 and City/County line

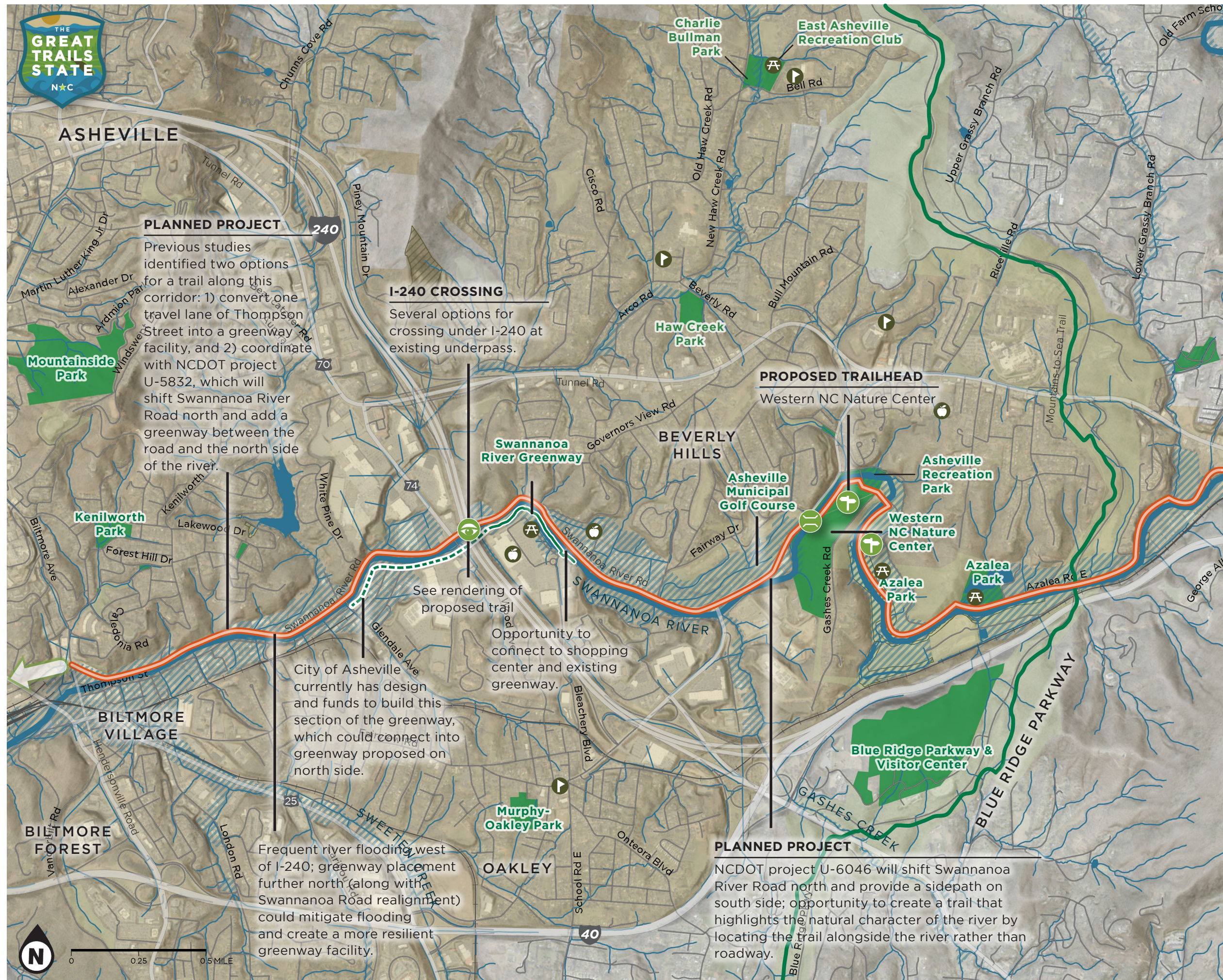
LEGEND

TRAIL FACILITIES

- Existing Trail or Shared Use Path
- Bike/Ped Project in Development
- Proposed Trail Route
- Future Trail Connections
- Proposed Trailhead
- Proposed Trail Bridge
- Location of Artist's Rendering

OTHER FEATURES

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



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Why?

PROJECT CONTEXT

This project serves as the major east-west trail connector through Asheville and is part of the Fonta Flora State Trail and the Hellbender Regional Trail System.

KEY DESTINATIONS

- Azalea Park
- Western NC Nature Center
- Swannanoa River Greenway and nearby shopping center

SUPPORT IN PREVIOUS PLANS

- Asheville Greenway, ADA, and Pedestrian (GAP) Plan (2022)
- Swannanoa Greenway Phase I & II Study (2019)
- French Broad River MPO Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2015)
- Fonta Flora State Trail Plans
- Hellbender Regional Trail Plan (2020)
- Buncombe County Greenway Master Plan (2012)
- Wilma Dykeman Riverway Master Plan (2004)

PUBLIC INPUT

Plans have a high level of support from the public. The GAP Plan prioritized this project as the city's highest greenway need.



Current conditions

How?

JURISDICTION(S)

City of Asheville, Buncombe County

OTHER POTENTIAL PARTNERS

- NCDOT
- Commercial partners along Swannanoa River and Biltmore Village
- Neighborhood Associations
- National Park Service-Blue Ridge Parkway
- Friends of Fonta Flora State Trail

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

Transportation Alternatives Program grants, Safe Routes to School, other state or federal grant funding

PLANNING-LEVEL COST ESTIMATES

Costs will be tied to the overall costs for the Swannanoa River Road slated projects (U-5832 and U-6406) in the State Transportation Improvement Plan to start in 2029. The unfunded section is from the WNC Nature Center east to US-70. The cost for this is estimated to be around \$7.9 million. See Appendix A for further details on this cost.

ROW NEEDS

The corridor will be acquired as part of NCDOT projects. The WNC Nature Park and Azalea Park are city-owned. ROW needs to be secured east of Azalea Park.

DESIGN OPTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Several options for crossing under I-240 at existing underpass: trail could go on-road with vertical separation from vehicles; however, routing the trail under the underpass separate from the roadway would make a more comfortable user experience by maintaining distance from vehicle traffic.



Rendering of proposed project (view from Swannanoa River Road underneath I-240)