



**MONROE COUNTY PARKS:
NORTHAMPTON PARK TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY
DRAFT TRAIL RECOMMENDATIONS**

AUGUST 20, 2026

INTRODUCTIONS



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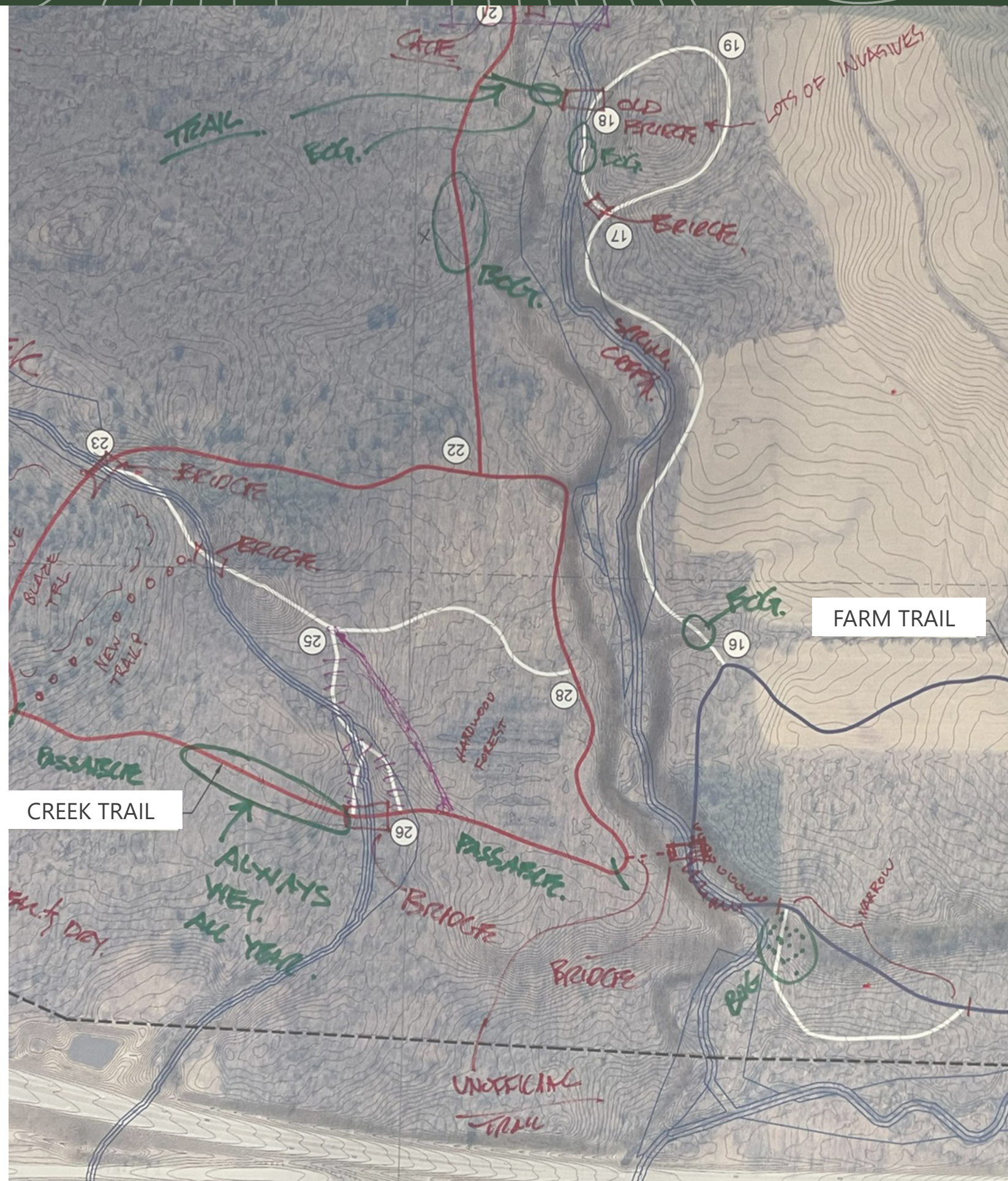


Kevin A. Nagle
EDR Landscape Designer



Monroe County
Parks





PROJECT HISTORY: SITE INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

OVERVIEW:

A comprehensive assessment of Northampton Park's trail network conducted in June 2025 to document existing conditions and identify improvement opportunities.

DATA COLLECTION:

1. GPS Mapping via GIS and Tablet Devices
2. Boots-On-The-Ground Field Surveys
3. Photo Documentation
4. Prepare Basemapping





PROJECT HISTORY: SITE INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

KEY STRENGTHS

- Trail Quality
- Existing Topography
- Vast Recreational Uses
- Ecological Value
- Expansive Park
- Central Hubs
- Accessibility

CHALLENGES & LIMITATIONS

- Wet and Impassable Areas
- Wayfinding Deficiencies
- Difficult Access to Key Trails
- Trailhead Parking
- Amenities and Infrastructure
- Trail User Conflicts
- Unauthorized Trail Usage

PROJECT HISTORY: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

FEEDBACK

- Focus Group Meetings
- Public Meeting No. 1
- Public Comment Forms
- Project Website & Email

FOCUS GROUPS

- Legislator Colby
- Springdale Farms
- Boots & Saddles
- Swain Ski Resort
- Section 5 Cross Country
- Monroe County Parks Advisory Committee

PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Meeting No. 1: October 16th, 2025
 - Location: Knollwood Lodge, Northampton Park
 - 70+ Attendees
 - Solicit Feedback on Study
- Meeting No. 2: Scheduled for August 20th, 2026
 - Location: Knollwood Lodge, Northampton Park

| NORTHAMPTON PARK TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY



PROJECT HISTORY:

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT - KEY THEMES

WHAT WE HEARD...

- Strong community interest in expanding, improving, and better managing the trail system.
- Users range from hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, runners, dog walkers, and local families.
- Broad support for legalizing and formally managing mountain biking on existing unsanctioned singletrack trails.
- Volunteers eager to help with maintenance, mapping, drainage, and stewardship if formally permitted.
- Current trail map seen as incomplete - excludes an estimated 16–20 miles of actively used trails.
- Equestrians want safe access, maintenance support, wet-trail fixes, and better signage.

Topic	Count	% of Total
Mountain Biking Access	41	63%
Volunteer Maintenance	32	49%
Trail Conditions & Wetness	30	46%
Maps & Signage	19	29%
Equestrian Access	10	15%
Dogs/Invasives/Misc. Issues	10	15%
Disc Golf	1	1.5%
Boces (Youth Priorities)	1	1.5%



DRAFT TRAIL RECOMMENDATIONS

- A** STRENGTHEN TRAIL STEWARDSHIP & MAINTENANCE PARTNERSHIPS.
- B** ESTABLISH MULTI-USE CORE TRAIL FROM SWEDEN-WALKER ROAD TO WASHINGTON STREET.
- C** DECOMMISSION OR REROUTE UNSUSTAINABLE TRAILS.
- D** DEVELOP NEW TRAILS TO STRENGTHEN CONNECTIVITY & USER EXPERIENCE.
- E** DESIGNATION & ADDITION OF SHARED USE TRAILS.
- F** ENHANCE & STANDARDIZE WAYFINDING SIGNAGE.
- G** IMPLEMENT RIGHT-OF-WAY SIGNAGE.
- H** ESTABLISH & IMPLEMENT EROSION CONTROL PRACTICES.
- I** PARK AMENITY ENHANCEMENTS TO SUPPORT USER NEEDS.
- J** CREATE MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS TO POINTS OF INTEREST.

TRAIL RECOMMENDATION **A**

STRENGTHEN TRAIL STEWARDSHIP & MAINTENANCE PARTNERSHIPS

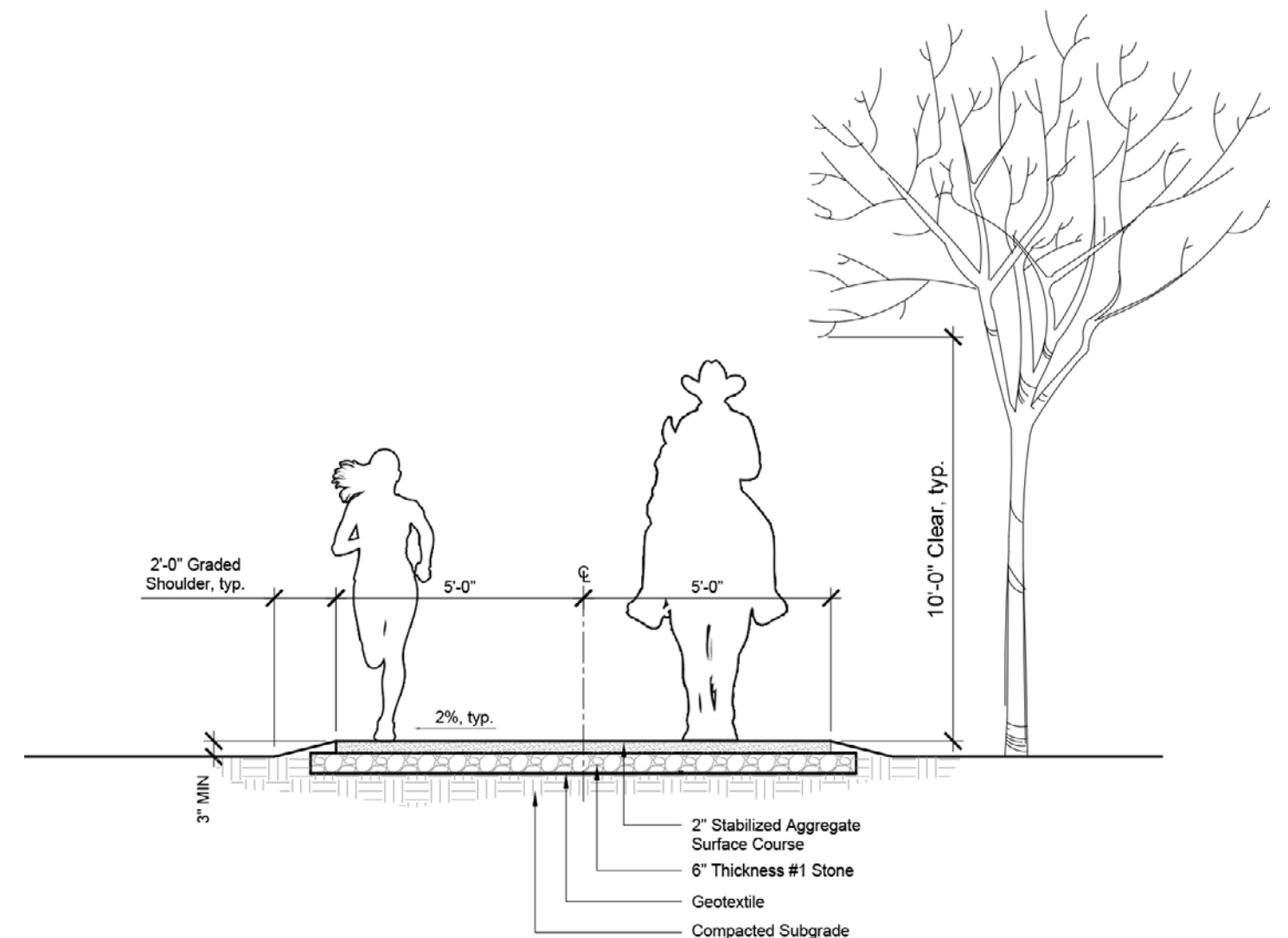
- Strong public support for volunteer trail stewardship.
- Partner with active hobbyist volunteer groups.
- Expand successful stewardship model used at other County parks (Tryon, Irondequoit Bay West).
- Potential Volunteer Opportunities
 - Brushing and vegetation management
 - Tread maintenance
 - Seasonal debris removal
 - Volunteer efforts shall be subject to Monroe County Parks coordination and approval
- County retains oversight of construction and power tool use.
- Improves long-term trail maintenance with minimal impact on County resources.
- Formal partnerships build on reportedly positive relationships between cyclists, equestrians, and other trail user types.



TRAIL RECOMMENDATION **B**

ESTABLISH A MULTI-USE PATH FROM SWEDEN-WALKER ROAD TO WASHINGTON STREET

- Develop a continuous 10-ft accessible multi-use path.
- Connect Sweden–Walker Road to Washington Street.
- Create an ADA-compliant route through the park.
- Strengthen regional connections to the Empire State Trail, Brockport and Spencerport.
- Phase construction to prioritize high-use areas along existing trail alignments.
- Provide gated access for maintenance and emergency vehicles while deterring unauthorized uses.



TRAIL RECOMMENDATION **B**

ESTABLISH A MULTI-USE PATH FROM SWEDEN-WALKER ROAD TO WASHINGTON STREET (CONTINUED)

1 TRAILHEADS

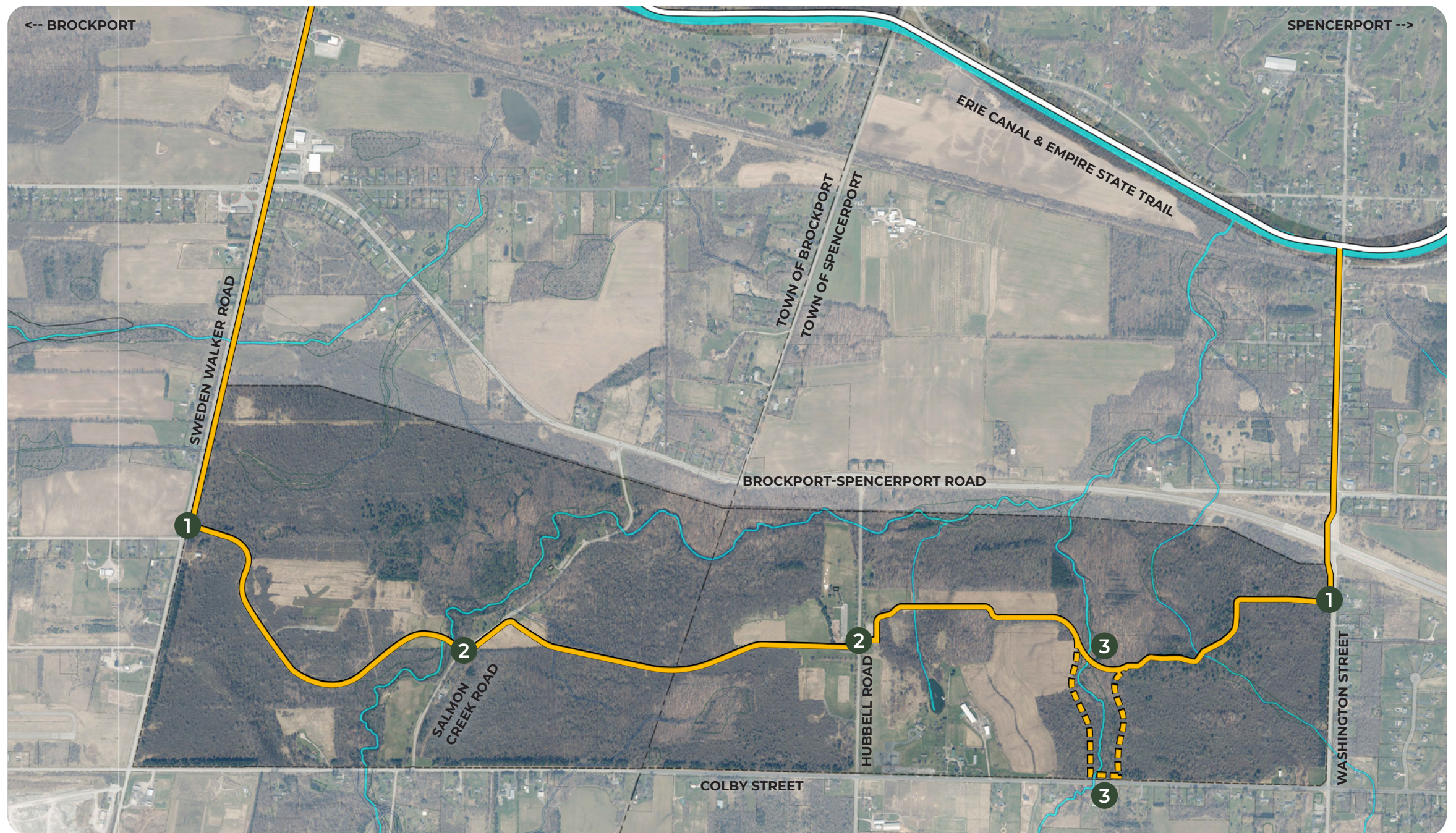
- Trailheads & Parking Areas - Core Trail
- Define Parking Areas
- Create Trail Gateways

2 MID-BLOCK CROSSINGS

- Crosswalk at Hubble & Salmon Creek Road
- Maintain East/West Trail Connectivity
- Improve Safety with Pavement Markings & Signage

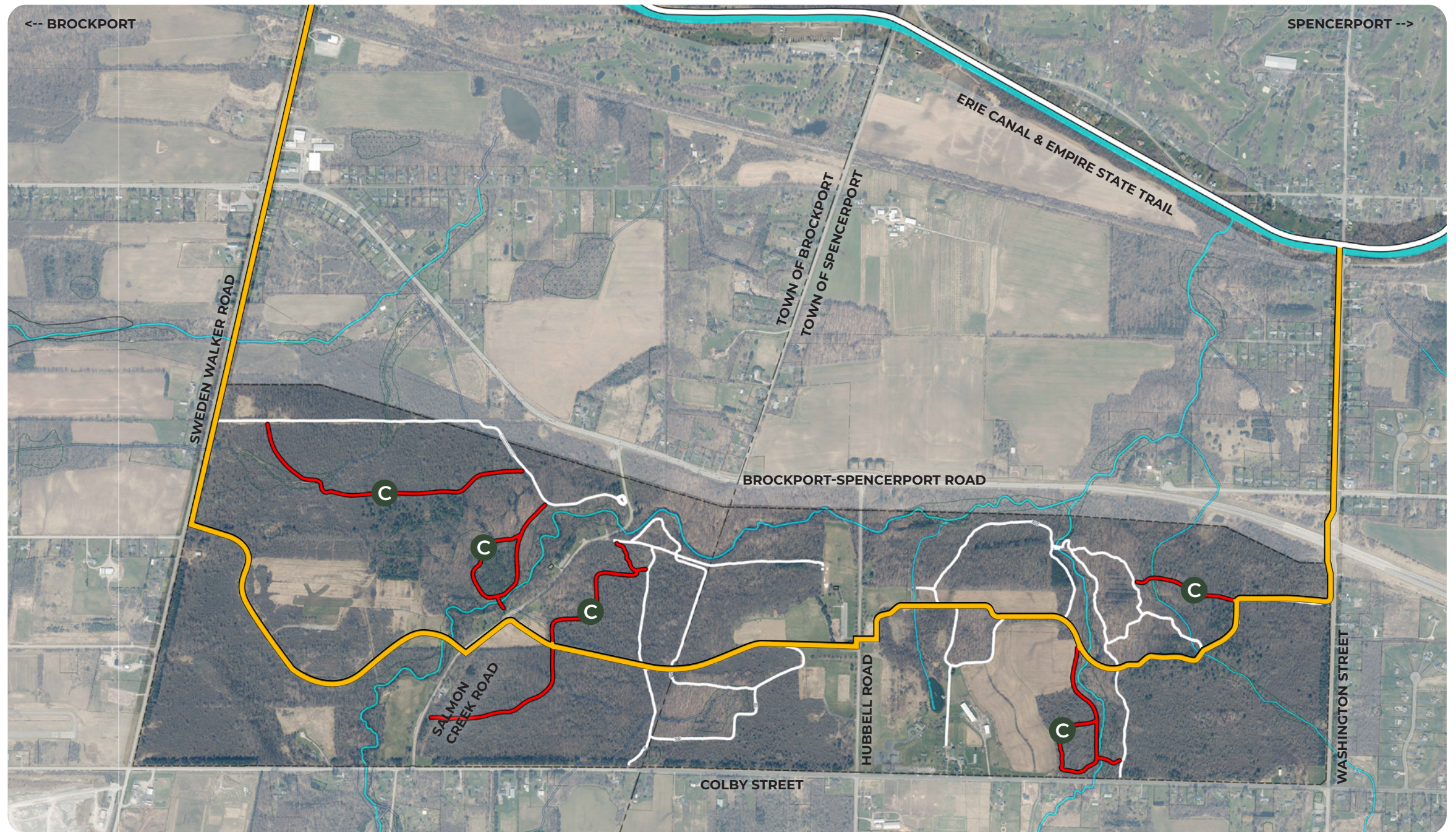
3 TRAIL ALIGNMENT

- Steep Grades at Spring Creek
- Realign Trail
- Bridge Crossing
- Reroute via Colby Street



TRAIL RECOMMENDATION **C** DECOMMISSION OR REROUTE UNSUSTAINABLE TRAILS

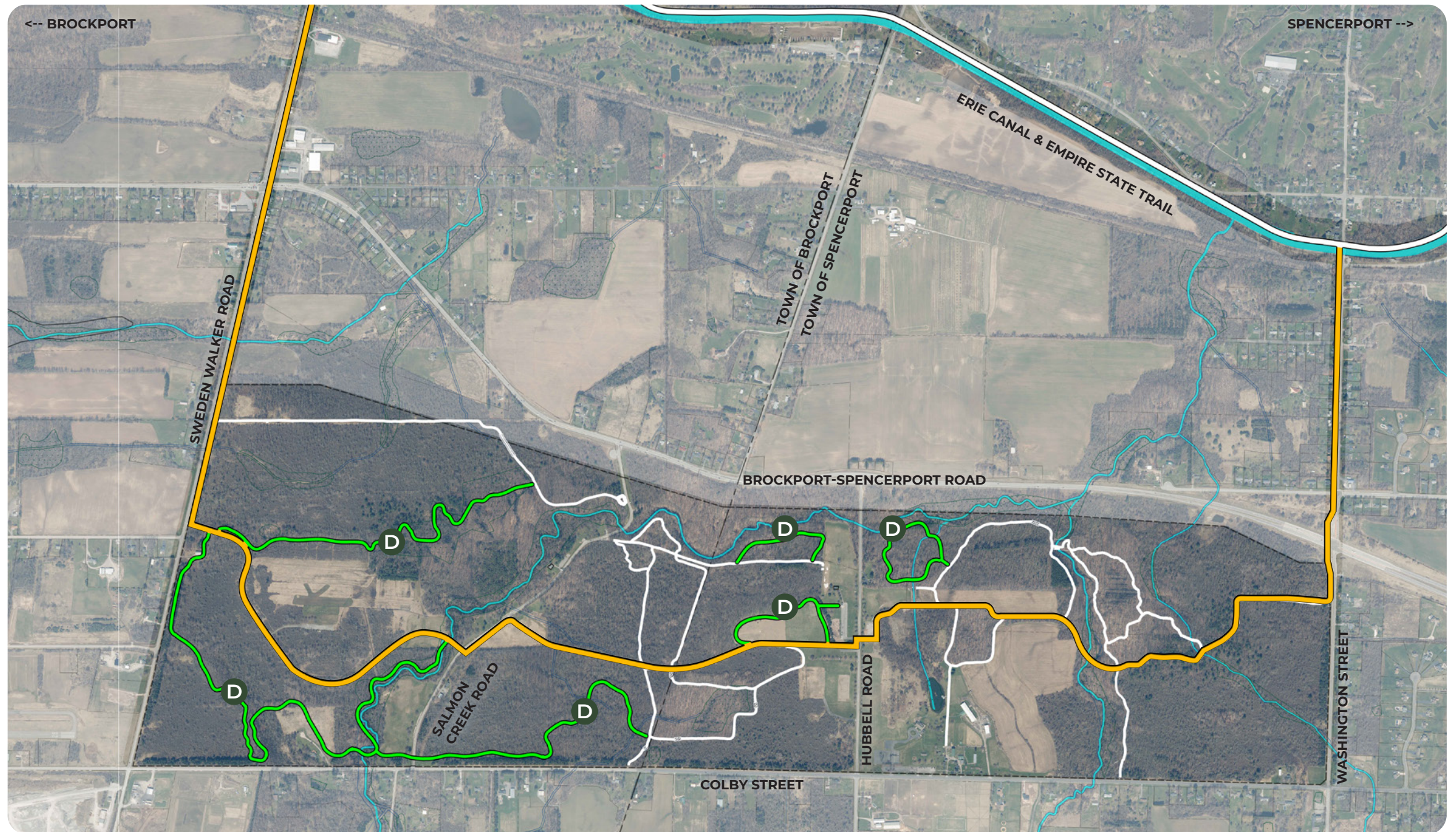
- Some trail segments are chronically wet, redundant, or cause confusion due to overlapping alignments.
- Example: the Loop Trail's wet conditions warrant decommissioning.
- Low-impact closure methods
 - Natural barricades
 - Halting maintenance
 - Signage for restoration
- Balance decommissioned / removed trail mileage with future trail additions.



TRAIL RECOMMENDATION **D**

DEVELOP NEW TRAILS TO STRENGTHEN CONNECTIVITY & USER EXPERIENCE

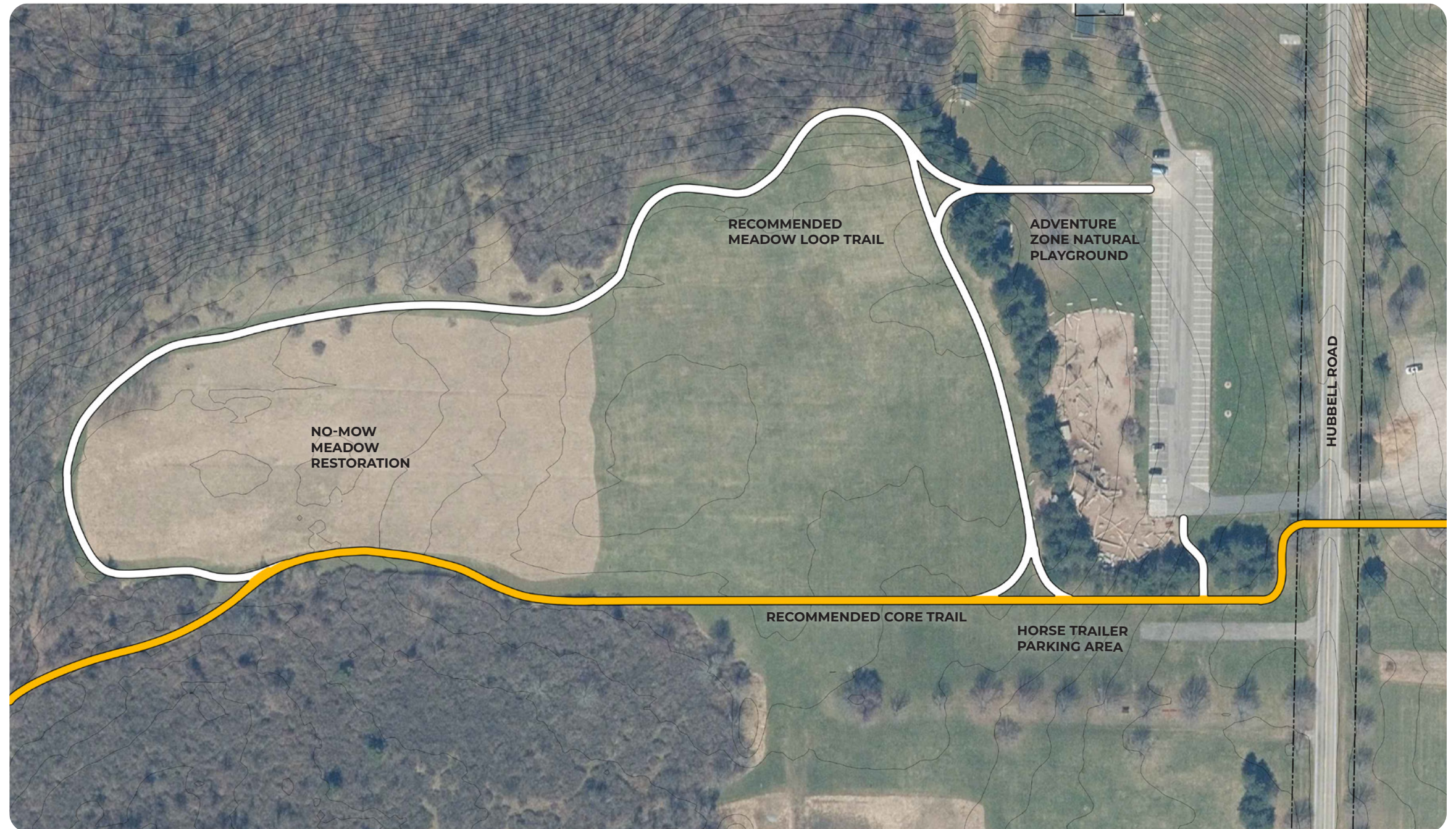
- Core Trail to reuse existing healthy trail segments.
- Unsanctioned trails could be formally incorporated where appropriate.
- New trail mileage could offset decommissioned trail mileage to balance maintenance resources.
- Trail alignments shown are conceptual and subject to future environmental review, engineering, and final design.



TRAIL RECOMMENDATION **D**

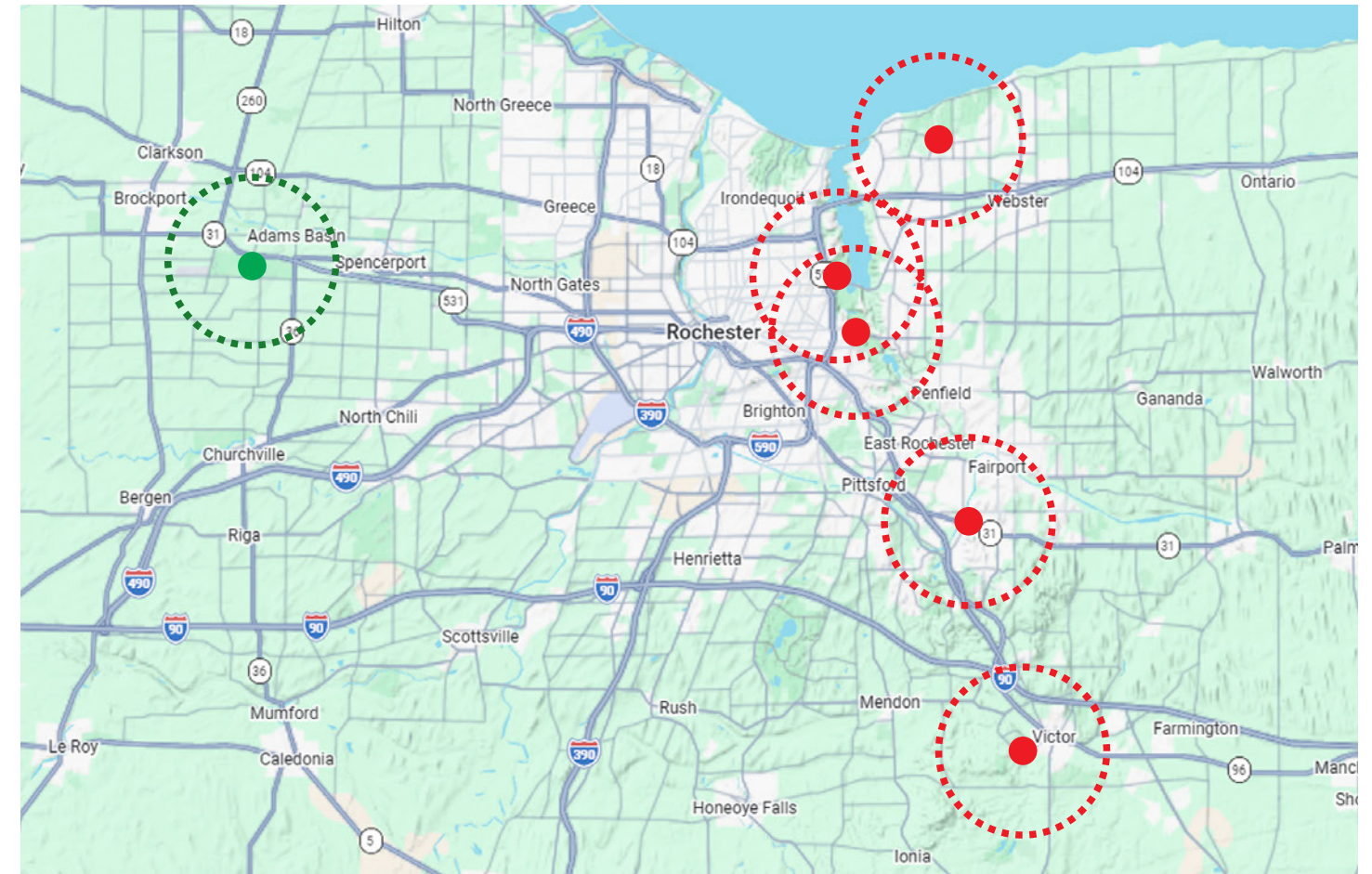
DEVELOP NEW TRAILS TO STRENGTHEN CONNECTIVITY & USER EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

- New accessible surface “Meadow Loop” Trail recommended around the meadow restoration area (near the Adventure Zone Natural Playground).
- Provides an accessible, centrally located option for families, dog walkers, older adults, and casual users.
- Suited for short, low commitment walking or biking close to established park facilities.
- Proximity to parking, restrooms, and the playground makes the meadow loop a convenient, visible amenity for users of all ages and abilities.



TRAIL RECOMMENDATION **E** DESIGNATION & ADDITION OF SHARED USE TRAILS

- Strong public support for legalizing mountain biking.
- Addresses a regional gap - no permitted mountain biking trails currently exist in western Monroe County.
- Existing use of bicycles demonstrates demand within the park.
- Enforcement of unauthorized riding is impractical at current scale.
- Recommend clear policy, designated routes/permissible areas, and an updated trail hierarchy + signage.
- Existing cyclist–equestrian relationship on trails is reported as positive, suggesting shared-use is possible.



TRAIL RECOMMENDATION **F** ENHANCE AND STANDARDIZE WAYFINDING SIGNAGE

- Many users report difficulty navigating the park.
- Adopt a formal trail-blazing standard.
- Improve navigation through updated trail maps.
- Highlight the Core Trail as the network “spine.”
- Add kiosks and orientation panels at key intersections.
- Number major junctions for navigation and emergency response.
- Use standardized green/blue/black (Piste Grading System) to indicate trail difficulty ratings.
- Identify trail maintenance responsibilities (County vs. volunteers).



TRAIL RECOMMENDATION **G**

CONSISTENT IMPLEMENTATION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY SIGNAGE

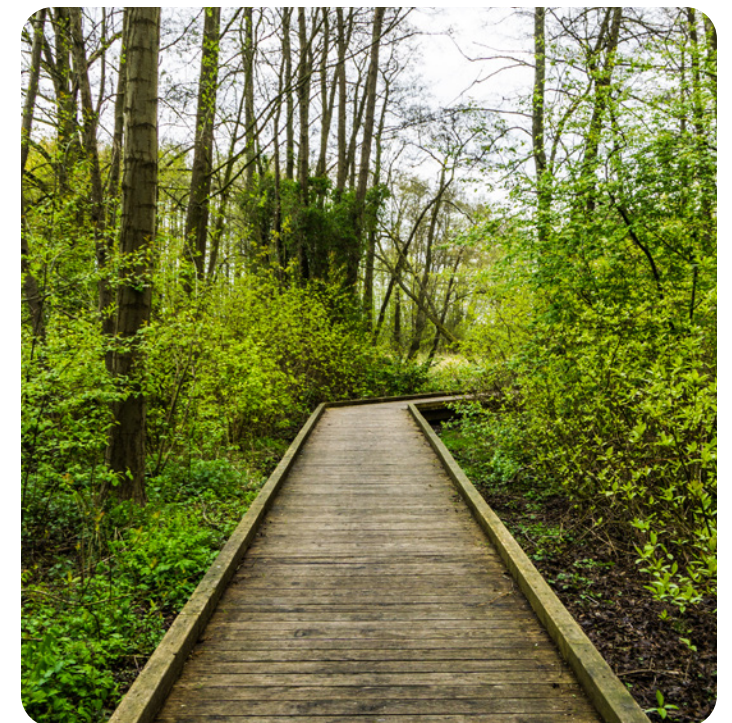
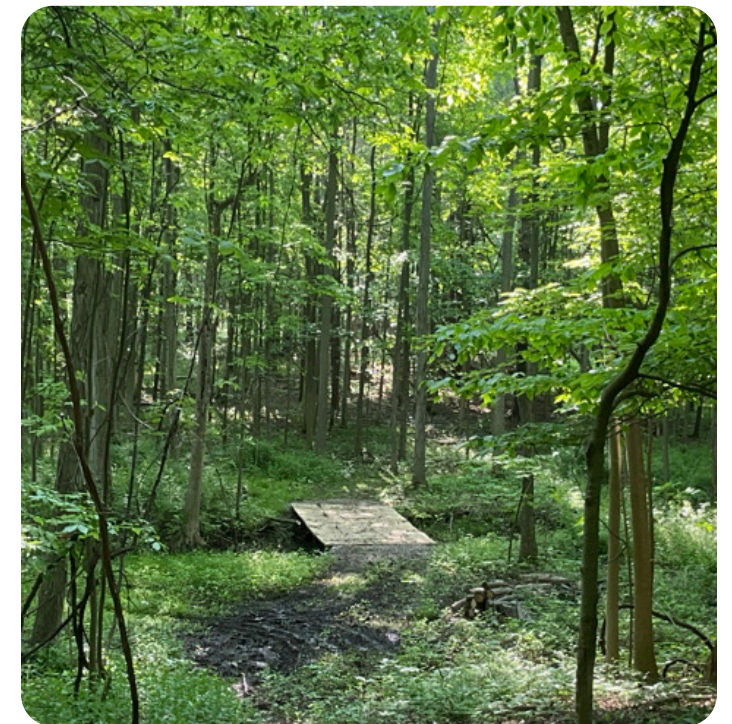
- Establish clear trail user priority:
Horses → Hikers → Cyclists
- Install use-specific signage at trail access points.
- Clearly identify hiking, biking, equestrian, and multi-use trails.
- Provide start/end markers for one-way routes to mitigate conflict.
- Maintain consistent signage throughout the trail system.



TRAIL RECOMMENDATION **H**

ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT EROSION CONTROL PRACTICES

- Prioritize selective surface and drainage improvements.
- Evaluate cost-effectiveness before upgrading wet segments.
- Decommission trails where repairs are not feasible.
- Match treatments to site conditions:
 - Bank-run rock for low spots (current effective practice)
 - Bridging for short wet crossings (<20')
 - Boardwalks for larger wetland crossings
- Focus investment on durable, sustainable solutions.



TRAIL RECOMMENDATION I

PARK AMENITY ENHANCEMENTS TO SUPPORT USER NEEDS

- Consider adding additional portable restrooms at trail hubs to better serve various user groups.
- Example: Relocate or provide additional portable restroom at the horse trailer/playground area.
- Upgrade riding arena with:
 - New boards and protective coatings.
 - Improved sand management.
 - Ongoing maintenance support.
- Provide expanded trailhead and user amenities, including:
 - Additional trail kiosks.
 - Printed trail map handouts.
 - Bike repair stations & racks.
 - Waste stations.
 - Scenic overlooks and rest areas with benches.
 - Interpretive signage highlighting the park's natural features, wildlife, and history.



TRAIL RECOMMENDATION **J**

CREATE MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS TO POINTS OF INTEREST

1 SALMON CREEK ROAD DAY-USE AREA:

- Connect surrounding trail segments with this central gathering area.
- Embrace creek access and wildlife viewing opportunities.
- Provide low-impact amenities focused on nature appreciation.

2 “THE GROTTO” ON SPRING CREEK:

- Potential scenic rest stop area and connection between existing trails.
- Requires bridge replacement and switchback improvements for safety and accessibility.

3 “GEORGE CURTIS” TRAIL:

- Enhance short scenic route along Salmon Creek.
- Consider staircase improvements for steep, muddy sections.
- Highlight wildlife viewing opportunities.





QUESTIONS & OPEN DISCUSSION

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO:

NorthamptonTrailStudy@monroecounty.gov

Comments accepted through September 4, 2026.