

Application #: 48

1590 - Shenandoah County Conservation and Public River Access Along the North Fork of the Shenandoah

Application Details

Funding Opportunity: 1525-Preservation Trust Fund (PTF) - FY23 - Spring Round
Funding Opportunity Due Date: Mar 7, 2023 5:00 PM
Program Area: Preservation Trust Fund
Status: Under Review
Stage: Final Application

Initial Submit Date: Mar 1, 2023 3:29 PM
Initially Submitted By: Jenna French
Last Submit Date:
Last Submitted By:

Contact Information

Primary Contact Information

Active User*: Yes
Type: External User
Name*: Mrs. Jenna French
Salutation First Name Middle Name Last Name
Title: Director of Tourism & Economic Development
Email*: jfrench@shenandoahcountyva.us
Address*: 600 North Main St. Suite 101
Suite 101
Woodstock Virginia 22664
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip
Phone*: 540-459-1822 Ext.
Phone
###-###-####
Fax: ###-###-####
Comments:

Organization Information

Status*: Approved
Organization Name*: Shenandoah County
Organization Type*: Local Government
Tax Id:
Organization Website:

Address*: 600 North Main Street, Suite 107

Woodstock Virginia 22664-
 City State/Province Postal Code/Zip

Phone*: (540) 459-6185 Ext.
 ###-###-####

Fax: ###-###-####

Benefactor:

Vendor ID:

Comments:

PTF Application

Project Information

The project title will be used in public relations and grant documents should funding be awarded.

Is the project title the same as the application title?* Yes

Type of Applicant*: Local Government

Would you like to be considered for any other VOF grant program if eligible?

Other VOF Grant Program*: Yes

Land Protection Plan

Projects may consist of land acquisition, easement acquisition, and/or components critical for public use of the land such as infrastructure and the associated necessary engineering, design, and planning. Land protection is a required deliverable for all projects.

Select the real estate structure that best describes the project*: Fee-simple acquisition and land protection of entire parcel(s)

Please name specific land protection partner:

If requesting VOF as holder of real-estate interest, please contact VOF at grants@vof.org before submitting the application. VOF will review request and determine if they are best partner.

Is documentation of land protection partner/method included with this application? Yes

Proposals with a confirmed land protection partner are more competitive.

*:

Please upload documentation showing there is a willing, eligible, land protection partner should funding be awarded.

Partner Documentation Letter: SKM_C45823022717150.pdf

Project Location

(Latitude/longitude required*, other location info such as street address or tax parcel ID optional)

*See [Google Maps Guide](#) for directions on using Google Maps or contact grants@vof.org to ask for help getting latitude/longitude coordinates.

Project Location*: 38.859697 -78.498637
 Latitude (00.00000) Longitude (-00.00000)

Please provide any additional information to help locate the project site.

Other Location Information (such as street address or tax parcel ID): Tax Map ID# 059 A 040
 Other Location Info

The number of acres indicated below will be required to be protected in perpetuity should the proposal be awarded funding.

Total Acres to Be Protected*: 14.00

A GIS boundary for the property is requested if available.

GIS Boundary of Property/

Yes

Project Area Available?**(shapefile/geodatabase/KML/KMZ)*:**

If uploading shapefile(s), geodatabase, or multiple KML/KMZ files, please upload a single compressed/zip file with all spatial data in it.

If uploading a single KML or KMZ file, please upload the one file directly.

Please Attach:

59-A-40.zip

Provide a brief summary of this project in the space below.

Brief Summary*:

This project would enable Shenandoah County to purchase a 14 acre parcel located along a portion of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River that recently received its scenic river designation. We plan to grant VDOT an easement to build a new road and provide better transportation access to 7 Bends State Park, a 1066 acre park located on the opposite side of the river and to grant DWR an easement for public river access boat ramps and parking then place the parcel under conservation easement.

Project Description

Describe the property, including the existing conditions (size and composition of property, natural resource values, recreational, scenic, and cultural resources, and/or significant landscape features).

Project Description*:

The proposed property is 14 acres along the North Fork of the Shenandoah River just upstream from the main entrance to Seven Bends State Park, a 1066 acre site that was officially opened to the public in 2020 and maintained by DCR. The parcel is also along a portion of the river that recently received its Scenic River Designation. The property is wooded with no existing structures and most of the property is located within flood plain or has steep topography. People park here to access a swinging bridge crossing the river when the low water bridge floods or to take selfies or photos of the river. Across the river from the property is Muse Vineyards, another popular tourist attraction that attracts visitors from all over the United States. In addition to coming to enjoy the wines, the vineyard has walking trails throughout the property for guests to enjoy the scenery and outdoor recreation. Placing this 14 acre parcel into conservation easement would help to maintain the viewshed for visitors to the winery and those recreating along the river and nearby state park. In addition, the existing S Hollingsworth Bridge on the property is listed in the State Register of Historic Places as Bridge #6011, N Fork Shenandoah River Rt 609 by the Structures Task Group rating from 10/23/97.

Describe the planned method of land protection for this project (i.e., how the PTF requirement for a conveyance of real estate interest to VOF or a locality will be met)

Land Protection*:

Shenandoah County plans to place the entire 14 acre parcel under conservation easement along with a right of way granted to VDOT to construct a new VDOT maintained road crossing the river to allow safer access to Seven Bends State Park and other properties on the other side. We also plan to grant an easement to the Dept of Wildlife Resources (DWR) to provide public river access including a boat launch and public parking.

List the proposed goals and objectives of the project.

Goals and Objectives*:

The overall goal of this project is to allow additional public river access, conserve existing woodlands and viewshed along the Shenandoah River while also providing better access to Seven Bends State Park so that more people can enjoy that great resource. We intend to do this by Shenandoah County purchasing a 14 acre parcel that is currently on the market. Our objectives for purchasing this land include: 1. Securing a VDOT right of way to provide better access to Seven Bends State Park, a 1066 acre state park located about a mile away on the opposite side of the Shenandoah River with limited public access steep and narrow road conditions and a low water bridge. This has limited the park's fulfillment of the master plan since the current bridge is not structurally sufficient to support trucks towing boat trailers or campers and RVs. 2. Granting an easement to DWR for public river access and parking along the North Fork of the Shenandoah River between the site of the existing low water bridge and the location of the proposed new bridge. This would allow people an option to put in and float to two additional boat ramps located downstream and within Seven Bends State Park as well as additional fishing access and water recreation; and 3. Placing the property within a conservation easement. This property is also located along a portion of the river that has recently received its a Scenic River Designation so preserving the viewshed to prevent future development would be ideal in this location. Opposite the river from this property is also a vineyard which attracts visitors from throughout the mid-atlantic and the US, many of whom come to not only enjoy the excellent wines but to also take in the scenery of the Shenandoah Valley and would benefit from conserving the viewshed. This will help drive tourism to support our local tax base while maintaining our rural character. Residents' top concern is the need for safe and accessible river access which this satisfies.

Is this project part of a larger movement (e.g. Have other projects of a similar nature happened near this one? Is this one of many that are ongoing in this area?)

Part of a Larger Movement*:

Outdoor recreation and conservation are themes here. Shenandoah County has an active Conservation Easement Authority since 2007 and has preserved nearly 700 acres of land from development with 60 acres of forest protected in perpetuity in the last 2 years. The Town of Woodstock is located less than one mile from the property and adopted a Bike/Ped Plan to provide alternative transportation access and connect key resources and assets to the community. Seven Bends State Park was identified as one of those key connection points with the town hoping to extend a multi-use trail from the town to the park. Woodstock, the County and surrounding jurisdictions are also collaborating to develop a 50 mile rail trail connecting Front Royal to Broadway that would run just a few miles from this parcel.

How will this area be managed in the future?

Future Management*:

The county plans to keep most of the property as woodlands which should require little maintenance and upkeep. The river access and boat launch will be maintained by DWR and the road and new bridge would be maintained by VDOT.

Plan and Policy Alignment

Local Comprehensive Plan or Master Plan*: Yes

Date of Plan: 06/01/2019

Page #: Section 8-7. Section 9-6

Cut and paste the relevant plan excerpt below or provide the URL if you have one:

Relevant Plan Excerpt:

<https://shenandoahcountyva.us/planning/wp-content/uploads/sites/35/2022/12/Shenandoah-County-2025-Comprehensive-Plan-2019-Full.pdf>

Regional Plan*: Yes

Name of Regional Plan: Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission Stronger Economies Together

Date of Plan: 07/01/2016

Page #: 41

Cut and paste the relevant plan excerpt below or provide the URL if you have one:

Relevant Plan Excerpt:

http://users.neo.registeredsite.com/5/4/9/18967945/assets/NSV_Region_SET_Plan_November_2016_s9142.pdf Work with DGIF and VDOT to create boat ramps and water access

Virginia Outdoors Plan*: Yes

Year of Plan: 2018

Page #: 13.41, 13.43

Cut and paste the relevant plan excerpt below or provide the URL if you have one:

Relevant Plan Excerpt:

The most needed outdoor recreational opportunities for the Northern Shen Valley are natural areas, trails, parks and water access. Top outdoor activities by locals are visiting natural areas walking,

Does this project meet stated economic goals of VEDP or another state agency? Examples include land focused economic development (Ag & Forestry Industries, brownfields redevelopment)

VEDP or Another State Agency Plan*: Yes

Year of Plan: 2022

Page #: 20 of Exec Summary

Cut and paste the relevant plan excerpt below or provide the URL if you have one:

Relevant Plan Excerpt:

Page 20 of the Executive Summary of the State Park Master Plan notes the area for the South Hollingsworth road realignment and new bridge location.

Additional State Plan (if applicable): VDOT Seven Bends State Access Study

Year of Plan: 2021

Cut and paste the relevant plan excerpt below or provide the URL if you have one:

Relevant Plan Excerpt:

VDOT and the County conducted public outreach effort to discuss alternative alignment for the road. Alignment 3 was modified to tie into the existing S Hollingsworth Rd on the west side of the river.

Additional State Plan (if applicable):

Year of Plan: 0

Cut and paste the relevant plan excerpt below or provide the URL if you have one:

Relevant Plan Excerpt:

Does project contribute to coastal resilience?

Coastal Resilience*: No

Does project meet any other state defined policy goals? (Public Drinking Water, Carbon Sequestration, Nutrient Mitigation, Impaired Streams, etc.?)

Other State Defined Policy Goals*: Yes

Policy Goal: DWR plan

Please provide support documentation (examples would include plan citation, models supporting the project, etc.)

Support Documentation:

DWR has a plan that includes increasing access along the North Fork of the Shenandoah River. This property is also noted as having statewide conservation importance by VA Natural Heritage Data Explorer under Ag & Forestry, Scenic Preservation and Water Quality improvement categories. the site has a substantial impact on the North Fork of the Shenandoah River watershed, is listed on the Cultural Resource Preservation Index and scores a Class IV or very vulnerable risk to development

Additional Policy Goal:

Please provide support documentation (examples would include plan citation, models supporting the project, etc.)

Support Documentation:

Additional Policy Goal:

Please provide support documentation (examples would include plan citation, models supporting the project, etc.)

Support Documentation:

Use the space below to briefly describe any other plans that support this project, including relevant excerpts:

Other Plans:

NSVRC Final Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy- completed February 2019, Task 2.3.3- ?prioritize elements of trail development for each category: blueways??

Does this property have undocumented historic or cultural resources?

Historic or Cultural Resources*: Yes

Please describe them and their significance below.

Please Describe:

The existing S. Hollingsworth Bridge on the property is listed on the State Register of Historic Places as Bridge #6011, N Fork, Shenandoah River, Rt 609 by the Historic Structures Task Group rating from 10/23/1997

Project Purpose

Select the purpose that best fits the objectives of the project.

If you are uncertain which best summarizes your project, please contact grants staff (grants@mof.org).

Purpose*: Provide public access

Please select which category best describes the project.

Category: Water Access

Public Access Characteristics

Calendar*: The project site will be open to the public daily (excluding nights/holidays).
Please choose one.

Additional Information:

This site will include public river access 365 days/yr along with protecting the majority of the natural woodlands located throughout this 14 acre parcel. In addition, this project will provide better access to another 1066 acre natural resource, the state park.

Area*: Less than 50% of the project site will be open to the public.
Please choose one.

Additional Information:

Although only a few acres will be open to the public for river access, the rest of the site will be preserved. More importantly, this project will allow better access to an additional 1066 acres of public, DCR maintained property also open to the public 365 days/yr with river access and trails

Accessibility*:

The project site has public parking., The project site is accessible by foot, bike, scooter, etc. (connected to sidewalk or an existing public park).
Select all that apply.

Additional Information:

This site will have public parking and access in the short term with long term plans to incorporate foot and bike traffic through the implementation of the Town of Woodstock Bike/Ped Plan.

Community Description

Describe the community being served by this project.

Describe the importance of this project to the community and address how this project will better serve the community.

Community Description*:

Shenandoah County has a population of roughly 43,000 residents with tourism as the 2nd largest industry with most coming to enjoy the natural beauty and outdoor recreation throughout. However, public river access is very limited and has been cited as a priority for the community and DWR. Shenandoah County is updating its Comprehensive Plan and working on a Master Plan for the Shenandoah River where community input has overwhelmingly called for increased access to the outdoors with specific interest in safe and accessible access to the river and streams. In fact this was the #1 most cited comment in the entire community engagement process. In addition, our comp plan calls for the county to maintain its rural character and protect the viewshed. The 2018 VA Outdoor Plan also notes that 27% of individuals in the County are obese and 38% had no access to locations for physical activity. This project would help open up access for such activity through the increased river access on site and better access to the trails in Seven Bends State Park.

Describe how the community has been involved in the development of this proposal and/or will be involved in the implementation of this project. Describe how community support is shown for this project.

Community Involvement*:

The community has been involved over the past year as the county has been updating its comprehensive plan. This included more than 800 people attending 14 public collaboration events and 11 District Information Sessions where staff and members of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Shenandoah County engaged with members of the public. The comment most frequently heard was the need for safe and accessible access to the river and its streams. From the same studies, there was also overwhelming support around the County's existing vision which includes "protecting its natural resources", "ensure preservation of its natural beauty" and "serves its citizens with public facilities and services that enhance their quality of life". Additional findings showed that "we should increase river, trail and park access" and "river and creek access should be improved for all, including ADA, along with water quality". VDOT has also held community engagement and public hearings about the proposed route of the new road to access the park and received no opposition. In addition, we have letters of support from DWR, DCR, the Town of Woodstock and other groups showing their support behind this project. Additional public engagement of this specific project has been kept quiet so as not to hurt our bargaining position when it comes to purchasing the land.

How does this project address a specific need in the community or provide a unique service to the community?

Community Need/Service*:

This project will provide additional public river access which has been cited repeatedly by our residents and other state organizations such as DWR as a major priority. It will also provide better access to the State Park which has been limited in its ability to fulfill its master plan due to transportation deficiencies and help preserve the rural and scenic landscape of the county.

If yes, please describe what type of public access might be considered below.

Please Describe*:**Is the property an active, working farm?*****Describe Activity*:**

Does the property have, or has the owner begun the process of obtaining, a farm management plan that specifies Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will be implemented in the daily operation of the farm?

Farm Management Plan*:

Please list the type of farm management plans that will be followed (examples include conservation plan, nutrient management plan, resource management plan, etc.).

Type of Plans*:

Have Best Management Practices (BMPs) been implemented on the farm?

BMPs Implemented*:

Describe what practices are being utilized on the farm.

Describe Practices*:

Is the property in active timber production?

*:

Describe Activity*:

Does the property have, or has the owner begun the process of obtaining a written forest stewardship management plan?

Forest Stewardship Management Plan*:

Has the property been recognized by any programs or received any special designations? (Examples include clean water farm award, grand basin winner)

Property Recognized*:

Please List*:

Has the property been recognized as a Virginia Century or Bicentennial Farm?

Virginia Century or Bicentennial Farm*:

Additional Information:

Has the property been recognized as a Virginia Century Forest?

Virginia Century Forest*:

Additional Information:

Partnerships

Partners	Type of Support/Involvement
Department of Conservation & Recreation	.
Town of Woodstock	Work with the county and VDOT in development of additional pedestrian access to the town
Department of Wildlife Resources	Build boat ramps and public river access along with parking on site
VDOT	Build new road and bridge over the North Fork to access Seven Bends State Park
Industrial Development Authority of Shenandoah County	Act as the intermediary to buy the parcel and grant the easements and ownership to the county

Funding

While the budget section of this application must be completed, which includes documentation of any matching funds, please use the space below to describe any details about the budget or funding that could not be captured in a chart format.

How Will Funds be Budgeted*:

The Shenandoah County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) will loan the money for the initial purchase of the property and initiate the sale before eventually turning the property over to the County. Any legal fees associated with the transaction will be covered by the IDA and the County as matching funds but the hope is that the grant will fund the purchase of the 14 acres.

Explain if the grant funding is a key component to getting the project started or completed.

Grant Funding*:

Grant funding is a key component towards moving forward with the purchase of the property since the County had not budgeted funds towards the acquisition of this parcel but is trying to take advantage of the timeliness of it currently being listed for sale. Although there is tremendous community support for these types of efforts, additional county expenditures can be controversial and budgets are extremely tight right now.

Address how reduced funding would impact the scope of the project. Please address viability and scope at 75% and 50% of the requested funding.

Reduced Funding*:

We would do our best to negotiate a lower purchase price on the property below the \$300,000 asking price should full funding not be granted. However, It is possible that the project would fall through if full funding is not granted. We would approach the Industrial Development Authority to see if they would be willing to cover any financing gaps. It is not likely that the Board of Supervisors would be able to pull the funds from their budget to move forward given already pending debt service on other projects and facilities.

Additional Information

Is there additional information to be shared about this project?* Yes

Provide any other information about this project that makes it unique/special. If the area has special significance to the community, please describe it here.

Additional Information:

This project would not only conserve the 14 acres and provide additional public river access but it would also open up access to Seven Bends State Park and Muse Vineyards, two strong tourism drivers of our local community. Although the State Park only just recently opened to the public in 2020, the land had been designated to become a state park as early as the 1980s. This portion of the State Park was also historically the site of

the original Woodstock water reservoir providing additional historic relevance.

Estimated Timeline/Plan of Work

Estimated Timeline/Plan of Work

Start Date	Completion Date	Activity	Status	Responsible Party
04/01/2021	11/28/2021	VDOT and DCR Explore Alternative Access Solutions to Seven Bends State Park	Completed	VDOT and DCR
03/20/2023	06/30/2023	IDA to Negotiate Contract to Purchase with Property Owner	Not yet started	Shenandoah County Industrial Development Authority
06/30/2023	10/01/2023	County Grant VDOT Right of Way for public roadway to access 7 Bends State Park	Not yet started	Shenandoah County IDA and VDOT
07/01/2023	10/01/2023	Grant Easement to DWR for River Access, Discussions are underway but formal work hasnt begun	Not yet started	Shenandoah County IDA and DWR
10/01/2023	10/01/2024	Shenandoah County Places the Land Under Conservation Easement	Not yet started	Shenandoah County
10/01/2023	10/31/2023	Shenandoah County IDA sells land to the County for \$1	Not yet started	Shenandoah County IDA and Shenandoah County
10/01/2023	06/30/2024	Public River Access Developed to include boat ramps and parking	Not yet started	Department of Wildlife Resources

Budget

Budget

Item	Expense Estimated or Actual Cost?
Land Acquisition	\$300,000.00 Actual
	\$300,000.00

Other Fund Sources

Match Source	If other, please list	If Grant Program, please list Grant Funding Source Name	Funding Status	If requested, please list the anticipated award date	Match Type	If other, please list	Planned Use	Match Amount
Applicant's Organizational Budget			Secured	07/01/2022	Cash		legal fees to purchase property and secure easements and right of ways	\$20,000.00
Applicant's Staff Time			Secured	07/01/2022	In-kind donation of services		Staff Time for grant management and land acquisition and easements	\$5,000.00
Grant Program		DuPont Land conservation Grant	Requested	01/31/2024	Cash		Development of Public River Access in the form of boat launch, trails and parking	\$25,000.00
								\$50,000.00

Budget Summary

Total Requested Amount:	\$300,000.00
Total Match Amount:	\$50,000.00
Total Project Cost:	\$350,000.00
Match Percentage:	14.29%

Supplemental Material

Required Supplemental Material

Named Attachment	Required	Description	File Name	Type	Size	Upload Date
Aerial photograph with property boundary shown	✓	Aerial photos with property outline	14 acre aerial vof.pdf	pdf	233 KB	02/28/2023 03:44 PM
Locality tax map with parcel highlighted	✓	Property outline from Shenandoah County GIS showing property borders and relation to the river and current access road.	GIS Aerial Outlined.pdf	pdf	380 KB	02/28/2023 10:00 AM
Photographs showcasing the property, community, or project	✓	Photographs of property from real estate listing	14 acre vof .pdf	pdf	2 MB	02/28/2023 09:55 AM

Optional Supplemental Material

Description	File Name	Type	Size	Upload Date
Letter of support from DCR/seven Bends State Park for the project	Letter of Support Seven Bends_ SC VOF Grant Application.pdf	pdf	117 KB	02/27/2023 05:10 PM
Letter of Support from DWR in support of the project	Shenandoah County_Letter of Support_Feb 2023.docx	docx	82 KB	02/27/2023 05:11 PM
Signed Letter of Support from Town of Woodstock	Woodstock Signed_LoS_ShenCo_VOFgrant.pdf	pdf	43 KB	02/28/2023 11:39 AM
VDOT Plans for alternative access and proposed right of way	Seven Bends Ali-C_Align 3.pdf	pdf	1 MB	02/28/2023 10:09 AM
VDOT Plans for alternative access and proposed right of way	Seven Bends Ali-C_Align 3.pdf	pdf	1 MB	02/28/2023 10:09 AM
VDOT Proposed road route for alternative access to Seven Bends State Park	Alignment Option C_compressed.pdf	pdf	286 KB	02/28/2023 10:07 AM

District 1: Josh Stephens
District 2: Steve Baker
District 3: Brad Pollack
District 4: Karl Roulston
District 5: Dennis Morris
District 6: Tim Taylor



ADMINISTRATION
Evan L. Vass, County Administrator
Mandy R. Belyea, Deputy County Administrator

600 North Main Street, Suite 102
Woodstock, VA 22664
Tel: 540-459-6165
Fax: 540-459-6168
www.shenandoahcountyva.us

February 27, 2023

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Shenandoah County Board of Supervisors, I would like to express my support for the County's Preservation Trust Fund Grant through the Virginia Outdoors Foundation.

This project, if successful, will help Shenandoah County to advance the objectives of our Comprehensive Plan and the priorities of our community residents by helping to conserve the rural landscape while providing additional river access and recreational opportunities. In fact, as we have engaged local residents over the past year in the process of updating our Comprehensive Plan, the most frequently heard response to our public engagement process was the need for safe and accessible access to the Shenandoah River and our streams.

If successful in receiving enough funds for the County to acquire the property, our intent is to grant VDOT a right of way which would be used to build a new road to access Seven Bends State Park which is located on the opposite side of the river, grant DWR an easement along the property allowing for public river access and parking and place the rest of the property under conservation easement to prevent future development. It is our intent that Shenandoah County will hold the deed and be the owner of this property should we be successful in securing this grant and purchasing the property.

We hope you will support us in this effort and appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

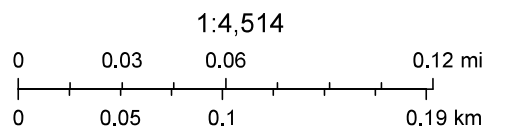
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karl Roulston', written over a white background.

Karl Roulston
Chairman

14 Acres Sanderling Property



February 28, 2023



2/28/23, 9:02 AM

Matrix



2/28/23, 9:02 AM

Matrix



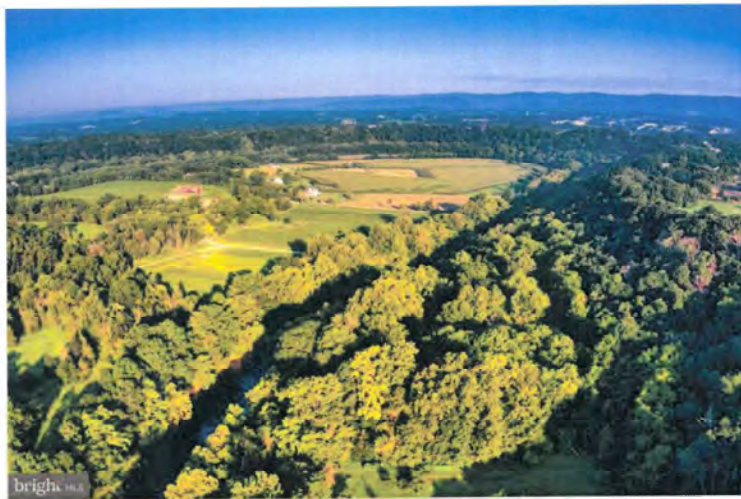
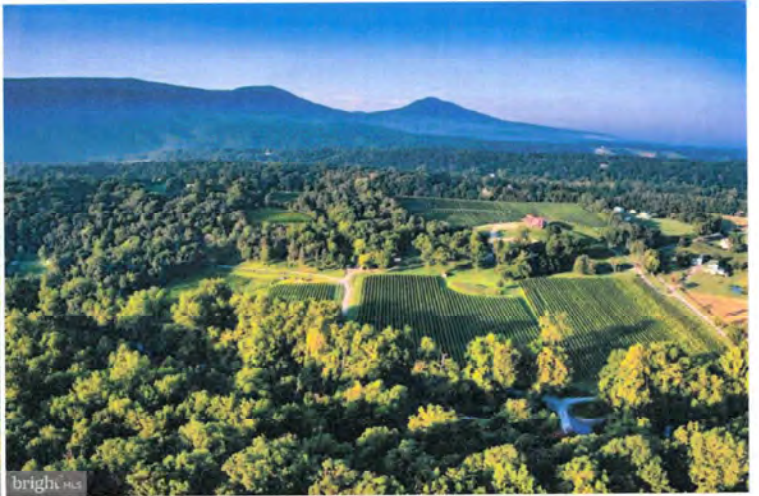
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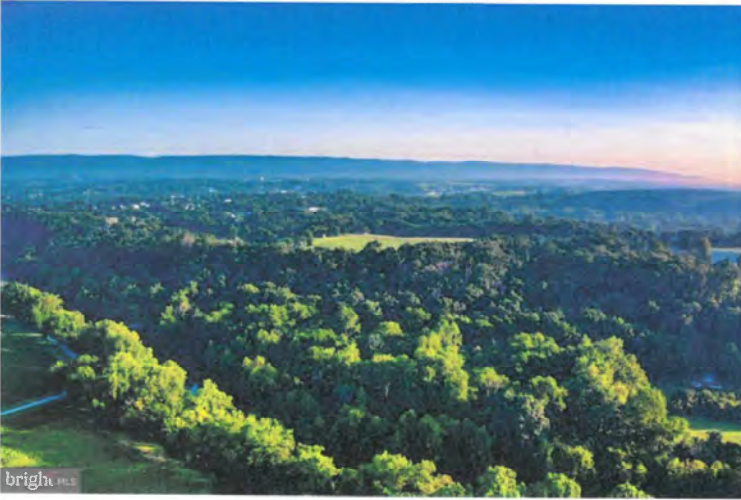
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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Darryl Glover
Deputy Director for
Dam Safety,
Floodplain Management and
Soil and Water Conservation

Laura Ellis
Interim Deputy Director for
Administration and Finance

Feb 27, 2023

Virginia Outdoors Foundation
Preservation Trust Fund Program
P.O. Box 85073
PMB 38979
Richmond, VA 23285-5073

Dear Grant Application Review Board,

I am writing to you to provide a brief overview of Virginia's 39th State Park, Seven Bends State Park and to articulate the impact that this grant application, if awarded, would make.

The purpose of Seven Bends State Park, the gateway to the heart of the Shenandoah Valley, is to provide water and land based outdoor recreational and educational opportunities while protecting and interpreting the spectacular scenic view shed and the unique geological, natural, and historical resources of the storied Seven Bends area of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River in Virginia.

The park consists of 1,066 acres situated in the geographically unique Seven Bends area of the River. It has approximately 3.8 miles of river front and 8 miles of trails. The eastern boundary of the park borders the U.S. Forest Service's George Washington-Jefferson National Forest and it is adjacent to the town of Woodstock Virginia. Over the past three years, Seven Bends State Park has seen an average of 81,000 annual visitors.

Seven Bends is currently being developed in a phased approach, with later phases focusing on camping, interpretive and overnight facilities. Unfortunately, the current low water bridges will not allow the later phases to be developed as is and serves a barrier to access of public lands. The Virginia Department of Transportation recently conducted an access study for Seven Bends and the parcel of land on S. Hollingsworth Rd. that is the focus of the grant application is crucial in allowing for the addition of a more substantial bridge to replace what is currently a bottleneck in access to the park and adjacent homes and businesses.

In addition to better access of Seven Bends State Park, the parcel has the ability of offering additional public parking and use of the river that would be an excellent complement to what is offered at Seven Bends State Park. While this property is not directly connected to the park it

will directly impact the park by allowing future development and improved public use of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dustin Haymaker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dustin Haymaker, Park Manager
Seven Bends and Shenandoah River State Parks



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Wildlife Resources

Travis Voyles
*Acting Secretary of Natural
and Historic Resources*

Ryan J. Brown
Executive Director

February 16, 2023

Virginia Outdoors Foundation:

One key segment of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (VDWR) mission is to “connect” the public to wildlife. The Department does this through improving access to public lands and waterways. VDWR strives to acquire/develop public access every 3-5 miles on navigable rivers throughout the Commonwealth. There are currently only a handful of developed public access sites across the entire North Fork Shenandoah River. VDWR routinely partners with localities in developing and maintaining access sites on navigable rivers across Virginia. VDWR is very supportive of Shenandoah County acquiring property where Hollingsworth Road crosses the North Fork Shenandoah River. We would enter into an agreement with the County to develop and maintain a public access site. Acquiring public access at this location would greatly benefit the local community as there is currently public access to the North Fork downstream at Seven Bends State Park. Please consider VDWR’s support for this acquisition when reviewing Shenandoah County’s request for VOF grant funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen J. Reeser".

Stephen J. Reeser
Regional Fisheries Manager
Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
steve.reeser@dwr.virginia.gov



February 27, 2023

Grant Review Committee
Virginia Outdoor Foundation
600 East Main Street, 4th Floor
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Re: Preservation Trust Fund

Dear Members of the VOF Grant Review Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I submit to you a letter of support for Shenandoah County's application to procure land that will both preserve outdoor space directly adjacent to the North Fork of the Shenandoah River, as well as expand opportunities for access to the newly formed Seven Bends State Park just outside of town limits.

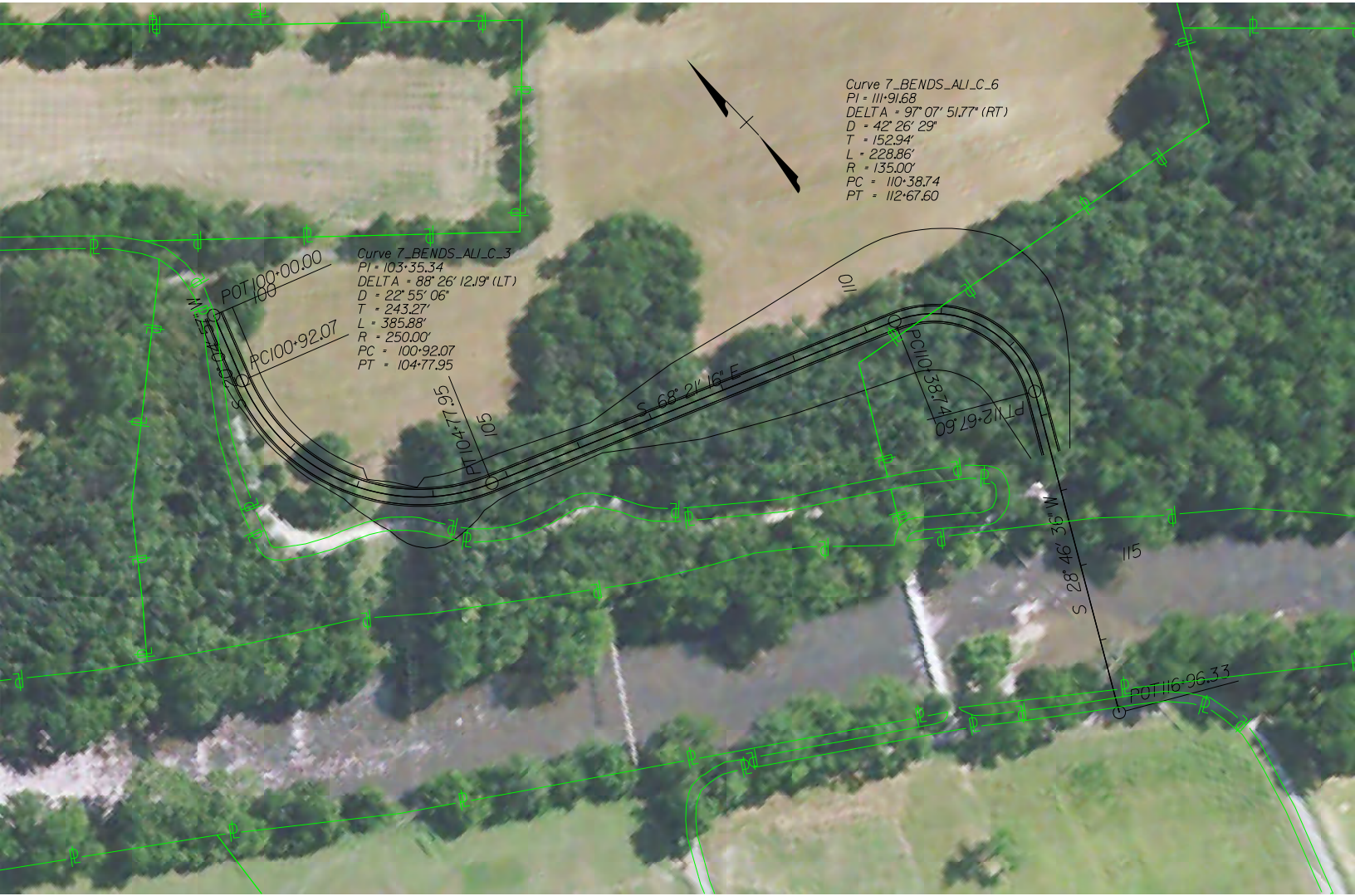
Due to its location, this project impacts Woodstock town visitors and residents alike. This already popular state park provides land- and water-based outdoor recreation, along with educational opportunities, yet its full potential is limited due to the access issues which overburden large vehicles and buses. Additionally, while the town's 2019 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan envisions connecting Woodstock's downtown to Seven Bends State Park, the means of entry makes alternative modes of transportation such as biking and walking unsafe and nearly unmanageable.

A portion of the property the County is pursuing will be needed in order to implement the transportation improvements developed by VDOT to address these known issues, so this project addresses the VDOT right-of-way obligation, and it provides a venue for additional river access and educational opportunities by Shenandoah County.

Thank you for your consideration in supporting this important project which promises to expand access to open space and the river, both of which are recognized as top assets to community residents and visitors. Should the grant committee have any questions, please feel free to reach me at 540.459.3621 or aaron.grisdale@townofwoodstockva.gov.

Sincerely,

Aaron Grisdale
Town Manager



Curve 7_BEKDS_ALI_C_6
PI = 111.9168
DELTA = 97° 07' 51.77" (RT)
D = 42° 26' 29"
T = 152.94'
L = 228.86'
R = 135.00'
PC = 110.3874
PT = 112.6760

Curve 7_BEKDS_ALI_C_3
PI = 103.3534
DELTA = 88° 26' 12.19" (LT)
D = 22° 55' 06"
T = 243.27'
L = 385.88'
R = 250.00'
PC = 100.9207
PT = 104.7795

POT 100.00.00
100
PC 100.92.07

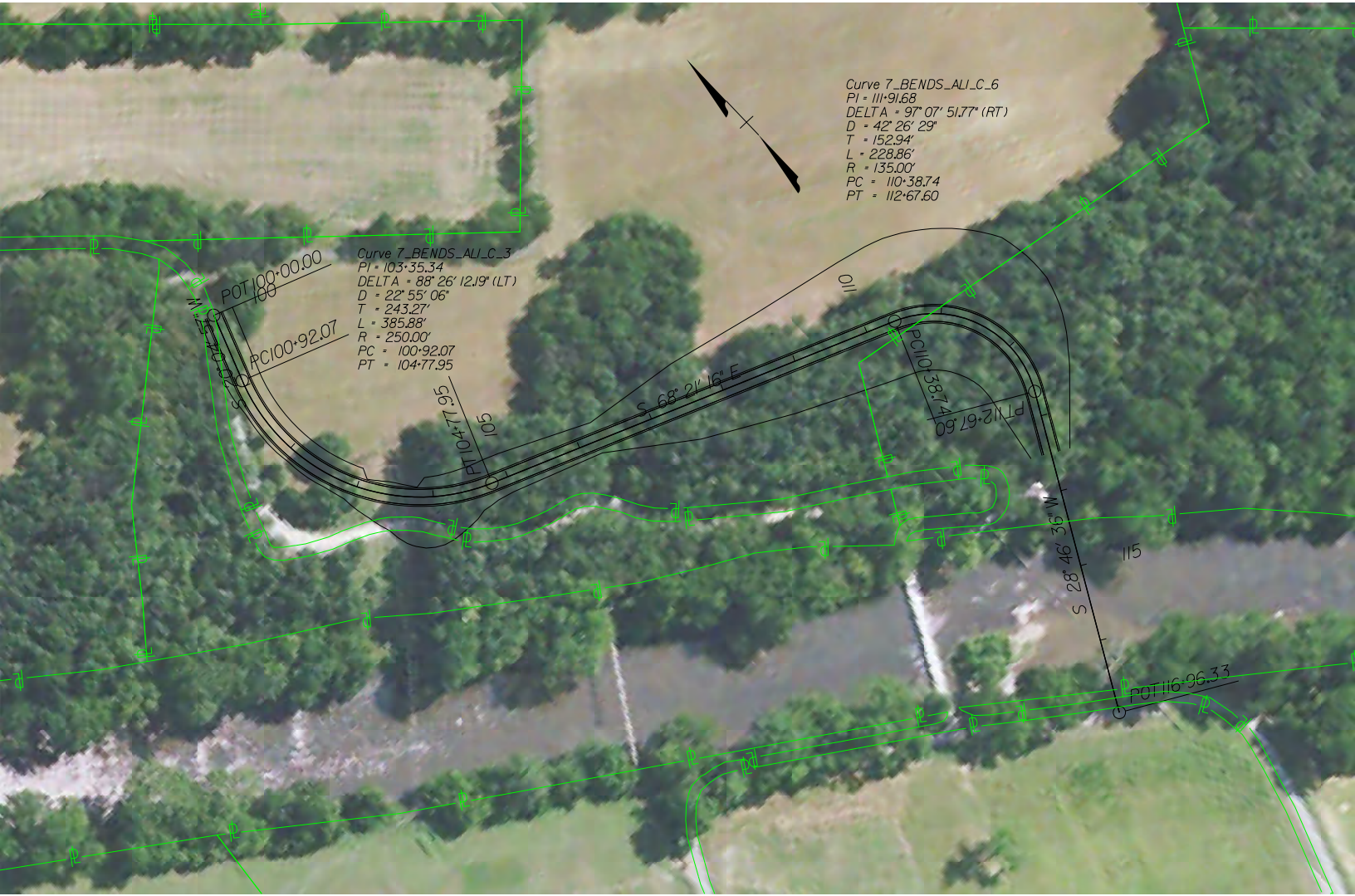
S 5° 17' 40" E
101

S 68° 21' 16" E

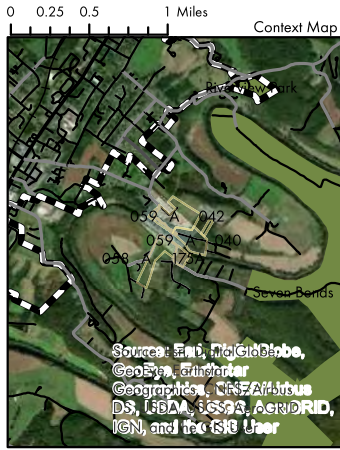
PC 103.38.74
PT 112.67.60

S 28° 46' 36" W
115

POT 116.96.33



Hollingsworth Road Alignment Option C



- Legend**
- Impacted Parcels
 - Parcels
 - Railroad
 - Town Boundary
 - Contours
- Roads**
- Road Type**
- Interstate
 - Primary
 - Private
 - School Access
 - Secondary
 - State Maintained
 - US Route
 - Driveway
 - Buildings



Prepared By
Shenandoah County
Office Of Community
Development



Sources: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar, @earthstar, GeoGraphics, USDA, Airbus DS, IGN, and the GIS User Community