

2015 Achievement Awards Virginia Association of Counties

APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 1, 2015.** Please include this application form with electronic entry.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Locality: _____

Program Title: _____

Program Category: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Title: _____

Department: _____

Complete Mailing Address: _____

Telephone # _____ Fax # _____

E-mail: _____

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: *R. Wailes*

Project Title

Fighting Creek Park Enhancement and Expansion Project, Powhatan County, Virginia

Selection Criteria

Promote intergovernmental cooperation and/or cooperation with local, state and federal entities and/or a private enterprise in addressing problem or situation.

Brief Summary (press release)

Through community partnership and collaboration, Powhatan County was able to complete a \$242,000 trail enhancement and expansion project creating a 2.5-mile walking/hiking/jogging loop through Fighting Creek Park and the historic Powhatan Court House Village for \$123,000.

The partners in the project included Virginia Department Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Department of Transportation, Powhatan County Departments of Parks and Recreation, Public Works and GIS, Powhatan Rotary Club, James River Master Naturalist, Goochland – Powhatan Master Gardeners , Powhatan Boy Scouts, Scottville at Powhatan Courthouse, Colonial Pipeline and the citizens of Powhatan.

Project Description

Fighting Creek Park, completed in 2005, is a 200 acre park which consists of the County's public library, the YMCA, a four-field baseball complex, a five-field soccer complex, an eighteen hole disc golf course, a handicapped accessible playground, an amphitheater, several picnic shelters, a sensory garden created by the local Master Gardener Association, walking trails and approximately 50 acres of woodlands.

The Fighting Creek Trail Enhancement and Expansion project (project) renovated the existing trails and extended the trail through the park and across private property to connect to existing sidewalks which created a 2.5-mile walking/hiking/jogging loop through Powhatan's historic Court House village area and Fighting Creek Park. This trail extension not only physically connected the community, but it enables citizens to safely and comfortably enjoy a range of recreational and cultural amenities in the County.

The project was estimated to cost \$242,000. In May 2010, the County was awarded a \$100,000 recreational trail grant by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) funded through the Federal Highway Administration which required a \$20,000 match from the County. With only \$120,000 of funding, the County had to divide the project into phases. Phase 1 renovated the existing trail and extended the trail to the park boundary. Phase 2, extending the trail through private property to connect to the existing sidewalks and creating the loop, had to put on hold.

County Staff and our partners began work on Phase I. The project was managed by the Public Works Director and the Facilities and Grounds Manager. Much of the physical labor was provided by Public Works Department staff, who installed the majority of the trail. Citizens volunteered their time and labor to help clear brush and debris to open up a path through the woods. This included the James River Master Naturalist and the Boy Scouts. The Boy Scouts built

benches. The Master Gardeners identified and labeled plants along the trail to educate citizens. The Rotary Club donated the equipment for a fitness course. The local VDOT office constructed a culvert for the project.

In the spring of 2013, Phase I was almost complete and the County had not spent all of the \$100,000 of grant funds. Under the direction of the newly hired County Administrator, the Public Works Director sought time and scope extensions from DCR to allow the County to use the grant to complete Phase 2 of the project. The staff at DCR worked closely with County staff to get the extensions approved.

Phase 2 was to construct the trail across privately owned property. Colonial Pipeline and Scottville, a fifty-five and older housing development, both donated easements. Scottville also donated labor and equipment to the project. County GIS staff prepared the trail-head maps and trail brochure.

Through the hard work of staff, labor from volunteers, value engineering, and managing the project in-house, the estimated \$242,000 project cost was completed for \$123,000; \$94,000 from the DCR grant and \$28,000 from local funds, most of which was donated in-kind labor.

The County held a ribbon-cutting celebration and an inaugural trail walk on June 18, 2014, recognizing all who contributed to the project. In attendance were representatives of all our partners, past and current County employees as well as state and local officials. The project is an excellent example of the cooperation of local and entities, non-profits, private enterprise and citizens in successfully addressing a need of the community.

Project Photos



Sponsor and Trail Partners sign located at Library trail entrance



Portion of trail through Colonial Gas pipeline easement featuring newly constructed bridge and rock piles for erosion prevention



Portion of trail featuring exercise equipment funded by the Rotary Club



June 18, 2014 Trail re-opening ceremony - Senator Watkins, Delegate Ware, Board of Supervisors, County staff and our partners in the project



June 18, 2014 ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by our partners and state and local officials



Scenic portion of trail



Trail markers



Zig-zag bridge portion of trail that leads to amphitheater



Benches along the trail were constructed by local Boy Scout Troops



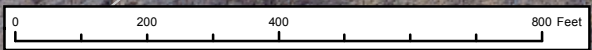
Inaugural Trail Walk – June 18, 2014

COUNTY OF POWHATAN FIGHTING CREEK PARK TRAILS ENHANCEMENT AND EXPANSION PROJECT

Phase I

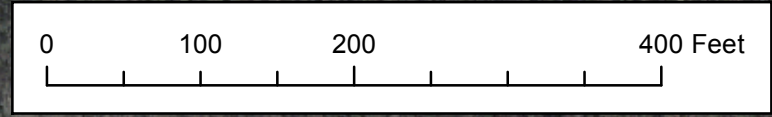
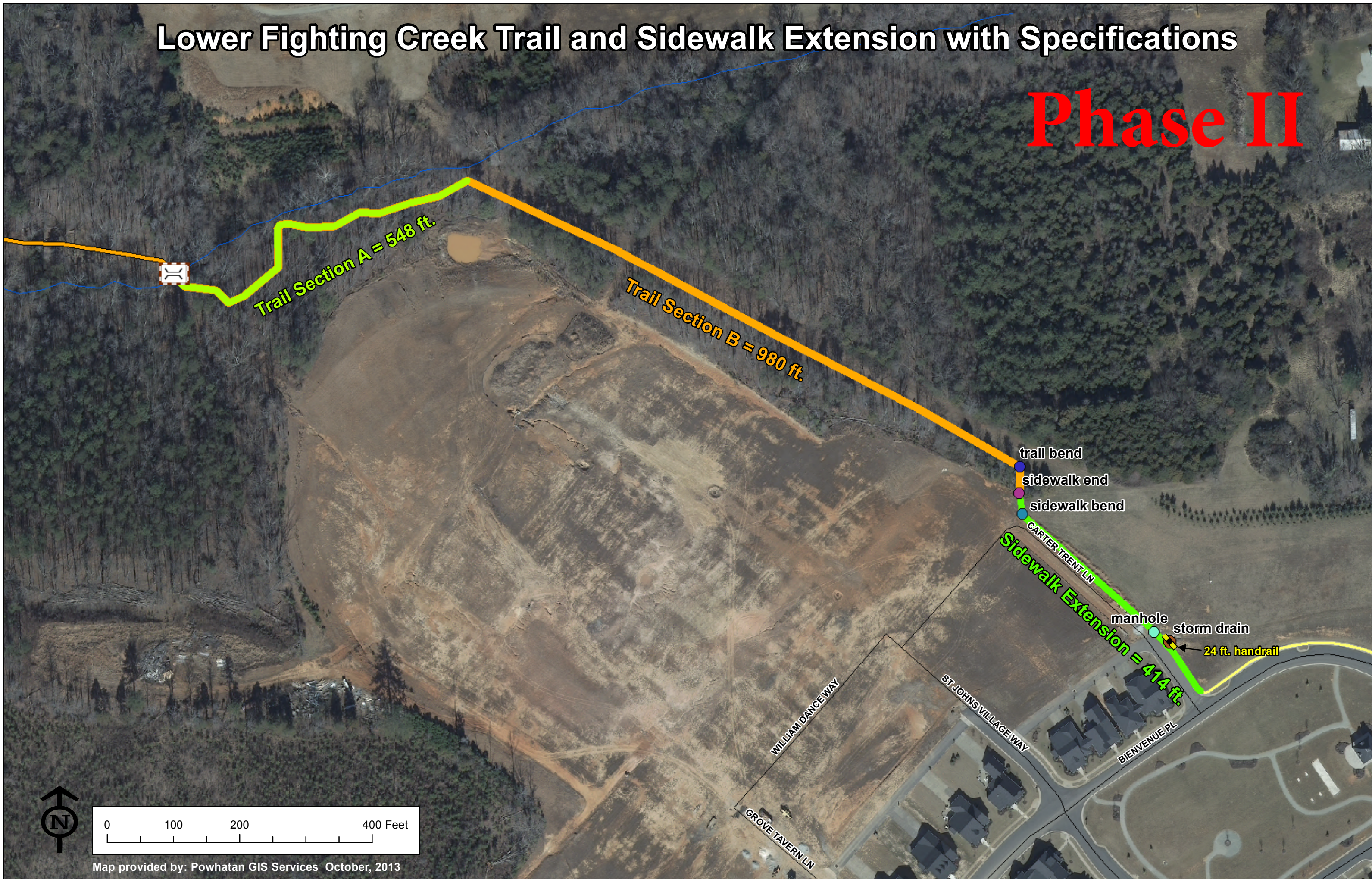


- Existing Trails Crushed Gravel (2,679 ft.)
- Existing Trails Chipped Mulch (1670 ft.)
- Section 1 (300 ft.)
- Section 2 (1,010 ft.)
- Section 3 (1,776 ft.)
- Section 4 (140 ft.)
- Future Connection into Scottville
- Bridge
- Low Rail Bridge
- Culvert Pipe
- Waterfall
- TaxParcel



Lower Fighting Creek Trail and Sidewalk Extension with Specifications

Phase II



Map provided by: Powhatan GIS Services October, 2013

TWO & A HALF MILE LOOP

