

Pigg River Low Head Dam Passage Pilot Project



Franklin County

A Natural Setting for Opportunity

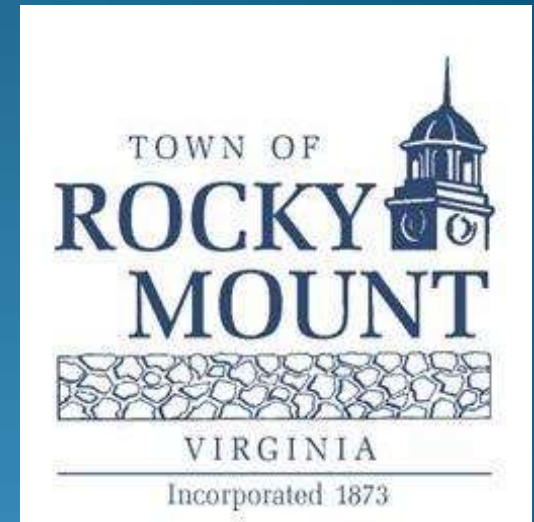


Photo credit: USGS - Neal Burkhead



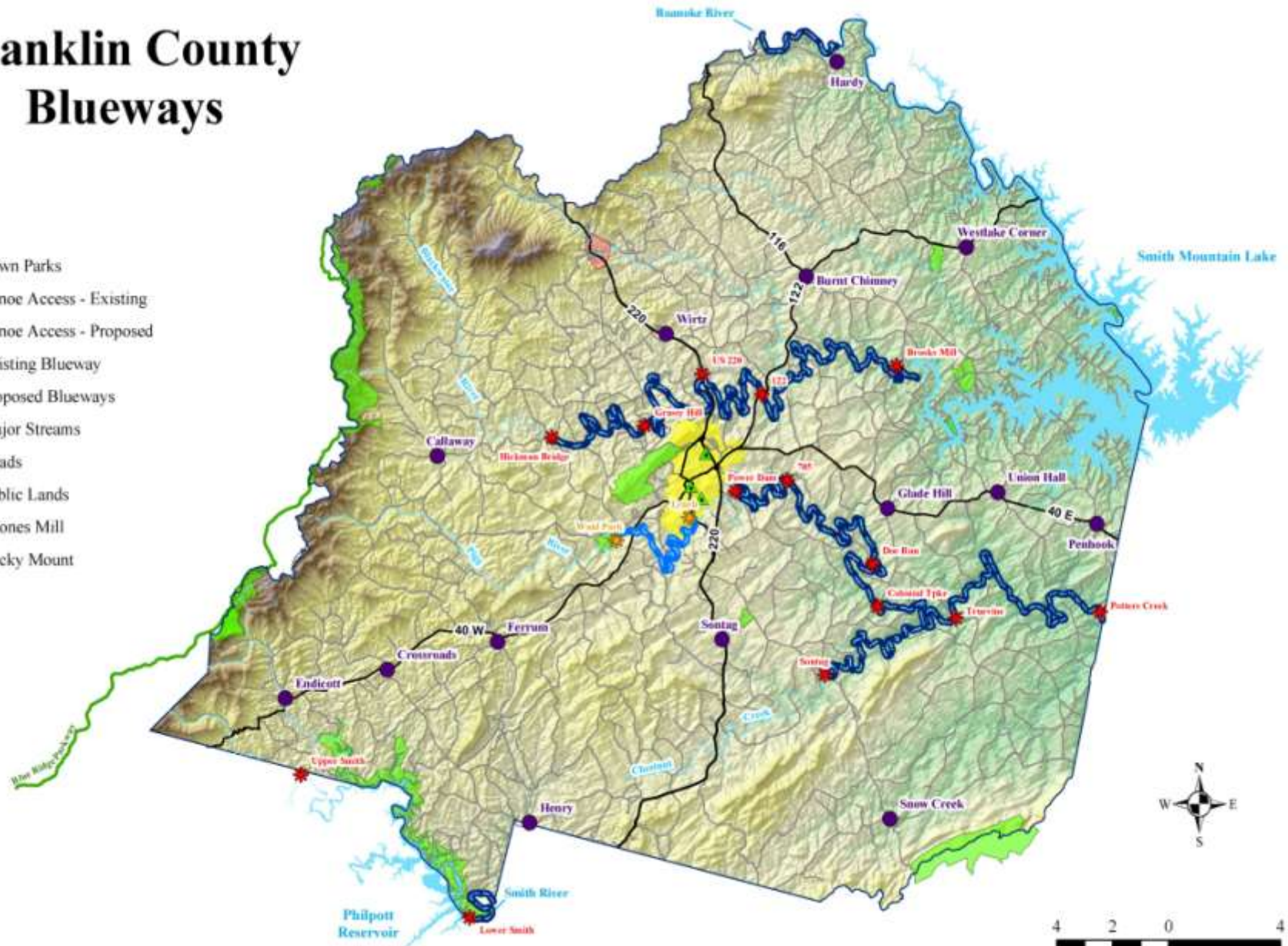
Action Timeline

- Board directed staff to complete a rough design and vet it with the agencies and partners in Summer 2008.
- Pre-permitting meetings completed from October 2008-February 2009.
- Redesign of initial project completed in March to assuage regulatory agency concerns
- Final design received by staff on May 29.
- Opportunity to discuss other site options aside from river park design should an alternative approach be the Board's direction.

Franklin County Blueways

Legend

-  Town Parks
-  Canoe Access - Existing
-  Canoe Access - Proposed
-  Existing Blueway
-  Proposed Blueways
-  Major Streams
-  Roads
-  Public Lands
-  Boones Mill
-  Rocky Mount









Four Site Options Big Differences

- Complete Dam Removal
- Dam Facing
- In-Stream Park
- No Action



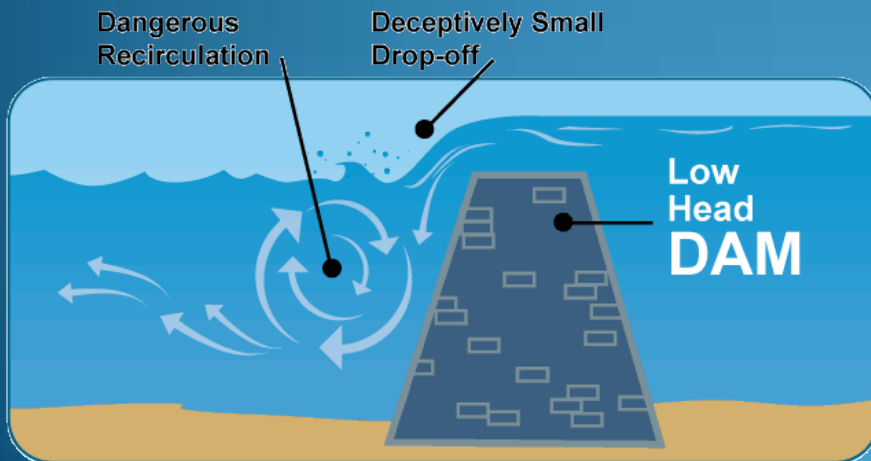
Complete Dam Removal



Complete Dam Removal Summary

- Significantly Lower Cost - \$100-\$125,000
- Permitting is much, much, much smoother and quicker
- Complete removal of hazard
- Would result in total removal of water holding capacity in the area
- Permits full passage for fish and boats
- Possibility of significant federal/state grants to support.

Dam Facing/Retrofitting



Dam Retrofitting Summary

- Significantly Lower Cost - \$20,000
- Permitting is much, much, much smoother and quicker
- Preserves water holding capacity behind dam
- Does not permit passage of boats and fish.
- Removes hazard of entrapment and hydraulic.
- Can be removed if/when dam is removed at some later time with not a significant cost increase

In-Stream Park Concept



Low Head Dam Removal Projects







In-Stream Park Summary

- Most capital and permitting intensive of the proposals. (est. cost of \$316,000)
- Regulatory and permitting is challenging – will require first-of-its-kind studies and practices
- Produces a safe, and unique, community asset that will define passive recreation in this area of the county
- Allows for fish and boat passage
- Increases recreational use of the river corridor in association with the Town's trail component
- Can be phased.
- Allows for future water withdrawal at the site by the Town.



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Board Action Requested for Staff:

- No Action. If no action, when/if do you want it revisited.
- Seek Design/Funding/Permitting for Dam Removal with Town. No County cost share at this time aside from staff time.
- Seek Design/Funding/Permitting for Dam Facing with Town. Minimal County cost for retrofit – contribution of County staff time
- Complete final design and submit permits with in-stream park. \$40K of design and permitting work. Aim for permits issued in late Fall 2009.