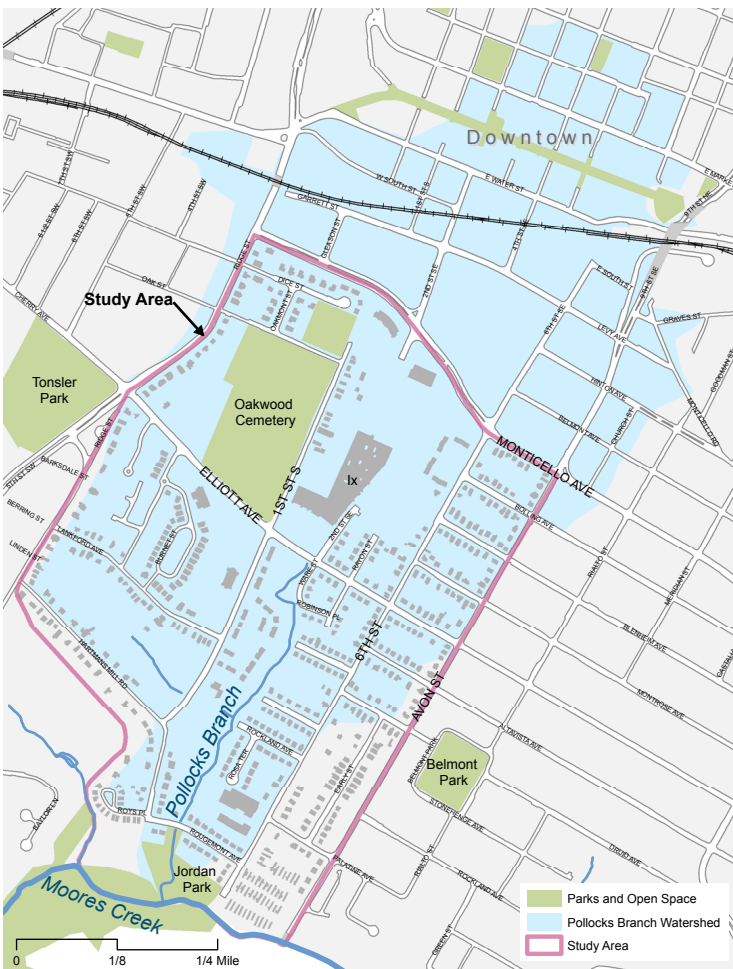


Pollocks Branch Walkable Watershed Concept Plan



Rain that falls within Pollocks Branch watershed (shown in blue above) flows to the Pollocks Branch, then to Moore's Creek, the Rivanna and James Rivers and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay.

In urban areas, the stormwater drainage system, which includes a series of underground pipes, open stream channels, street gutters and ditches, can carry pollutants from streets, yards and businesses to the creek.

A walkable watershed includes neighborhood amenities that improve stormwater and pedestrian safety simultaneously.

Overview

The City of Charlottesville has collaborated with residents and partner agencies to develop this Pollocks Branch Walkable Watershed Concept Plan. The Walkable Watershed process links the concepts of clean waters and healthy communities to improve creeks and neighborhoods simultaneously.

Building on the design goals from the 2013 Strategic Investment Area Plan (SIA Plan), this concept plan integrates pedestrian, cyclist and watershed improvements into a collective vision to improve both Pollocks Branch and neighborhood quality of life.

Working together, the City, the James River Association, Skeo Solutions, the Center for Watershed Protection, and The Bridge PAI have identified a set of near-term action steps, and have begun to implement improvements. The Pollocks Branch Walkable Watershed Concept Plan aims to:

- **Connect the neighborhood** to Pollocks Branch, Moore's Creek and the surrounding natural areas and parks;
- **Provide safe passage and routes** for pedestrians and cyclists;
- **Clean stormwater** runoff using green infrastructure before it enters the creeks;
- **Engage and educate** residents to celebrate Pollocks Branch and promote watershed stewardship.

Please visit: www.walkablewatershed.com/charlottesville or contact Dan Frisbee, City of Charlottesville at (434) 970-3997 or frisbee@charlottesville.org for more information.

Opportunities

On-Street Routes

- Primary Routes
- Missing Sidewalks

Safe Crossings

- Improved Intersections with Potential Stormwater Treatment (see SIA Plan)

Greenway System

- Existing Trails
- Potential Greenway Extension
- Potential Access Points
- Potential Creek Crossings

Green Infrastructure Projects

- Potential Capstone Projects
- Potential Planted Buffers
- Potential WaterWise Murals

Specific Recommendations

(described in more detail on pages 4-7)

- 1 Monticello Avenue Connector
- 2 Elliott Avenue Improvements
- 3 6th Street & Jordan Park
- 4 Pollocks Branch Greenway



- Existing Trails
- Parks
- Study Area

Improve On-Street Routes

Primary Routes

Add pedestrian and cyclist safety amenities along priority routes. Integrate natural drainage strategies to improve stormwater in conjunction with pedestrian amenities where feasible.

Missing Sidewalks

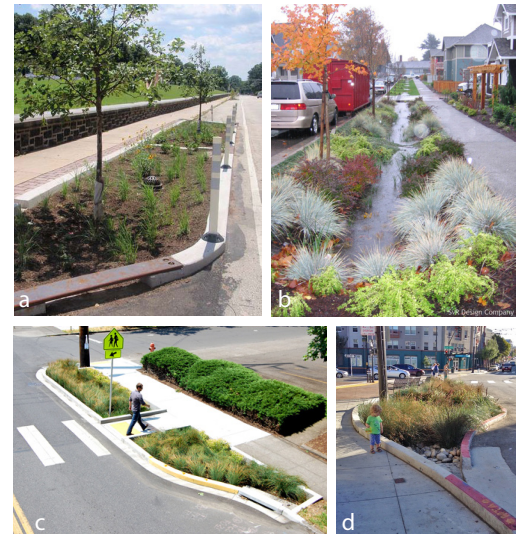
Add missing sidewalks along primary routes.

Safe Crossings

Provide safe crossings at intersections along primary routes. Integrate stormwater treatment where feasible (see SIA Plan).

Monticello Ave. Connection

Create pedestrian connection from South 1st Street to Monticello Avenue.



Examples of natural drainage strategies that support stormwater and walkability: a) curb extension, b) planted swale, c) curb extension with crosswalk, d) corner stormwater bulb-out with sidewalk.

Enhance and Extend Pollocks Branch Greenway

Existing Trails

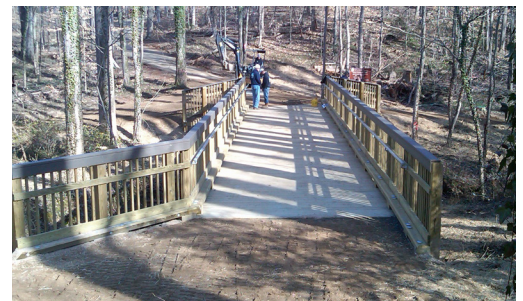
Formalize and clean-up existing section of Pollocks Branch Greenway.

Greenway Extension

Extend Pollocks Branch Greenway to Jordan Park, connect to regional trails along Moores Creek. Add creek overlooks at street crossings.

Access Points and Creek Crossings

Provide additional access points and creek crossings. Improve connections to on-street route.



Example of creek crossing.

Improve Water Quality through Green Infrastructure and Art

Green Infrastructure Capstone Projects *(see pg. 4)*

Build one of the following green infrastructure capstone projects with existing grant support:

- A. Crescent Halls Concrete Channel Retrofit
- B. Jordan Park Natural Drainage Feature

Planted Buffers

Consider planting vegetated buffers at street ends to slow and clean runoff before entering creek.

WaterWise Street Murals

Host workshops to teach neighborhood children about watershed health. Design and install murals to celebrate the creek. (Led by The Bridge PAI)

Rain Barrels and Educational Workshops

Install 50 rain barrels in the neighborhood and host residential workshops to promote watershed stewardship. (Led by the James River Association)



Proposed WaterWise street mural inspired by local youth creek discoveries.

1 Monticello Avenue Connector

Current Conditions

- Incomplete sidewalk network.
- Pedestrian thoroughfare with access to bus stop, Oakwood Cemetery, Daughters of Zion Cemetery and Crescent Halls.

Potential Opportunities

Create pedestrian connection from South 1st Street to Monticello Avenue:

- Add missing sidewalk along South 1st Street (north of Elliot Avenue) to improve pedestrian access.
- Add walking/biking connection to Monticello Avenue from South 1st Street along the western edge of the CRHA property. This concept is consistent with SIA goals to increase connectivity from South 1st Street to Monticello Avenue. Integrate trail safety features as needed to discourage unwanted behavior.
- Explore expanded garden area for Crescent Halls residents.
- Evaluate Green Infrastructure Capstone Project: Retrofit concrete stormwater channel at Crescent Halls to a natural drainage swale. (see below for more information)
- Coordinate improvements with Preservers of Daughters of Zion Cemetery efforts to preserve and enhance historic cemetery.



Concept Plan Zoom-in: 1st Street South - Monticello Avenue Connection

Crescent Halls Concrete Channel Retrofit

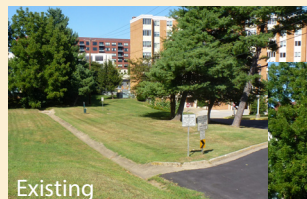
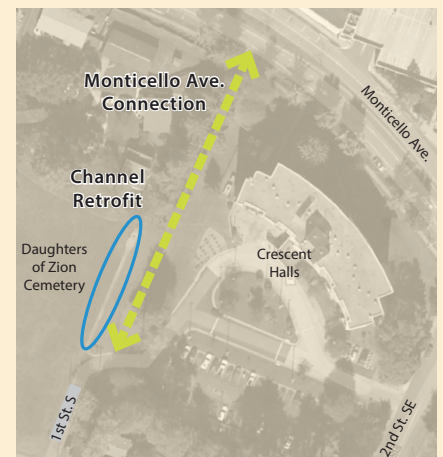
This green infrastructure capstone project candidate could provide opportunities to:

- Retrofit existing concrete stormwater channel into a planted swale.
- Include benches for residents and plants that attract pollinators and birds.
- Add walking/biking connection to Monticello Avenue.
- Maintain east-west pedestrian connection.

Project Feasibility

A survey of the project area revealed that the concrete channel at Crescent Halls is in very close proximity to the Daughters of Zion Cemetery. To avoid any potential disturbance to the cemetery, alternate locations within the watershed are being evaluated to install a green infrastructure capstone project.

Opportunities to provide benches, pollinator garden and walking/biking connection to Monticello Avenue on CRHA property can be explored further without posing a risk to the cemetery.



2 Elliot Avenue Improvements

Current Conditions

- Major pedestrian connection: a) east-west along Elliott Avenue and b) north-south along 1st Street South to downtown. No crosswalks along Elliott Avenue.
- Sidewalks on north side of the street only.
- Pollocks Branch is piped under the street and daylights on the south side of Elliott Avenue.
- School children wait for the bus near the intersection of Ware Street and Elliott Avenue.
- CAT bus stops at intersection of 1st Street South and Elliott Avenue. Bus stops lack any amenities (lighting, seating).
- City has identified Elliott Avenue for streetscape improvements, pending funding.

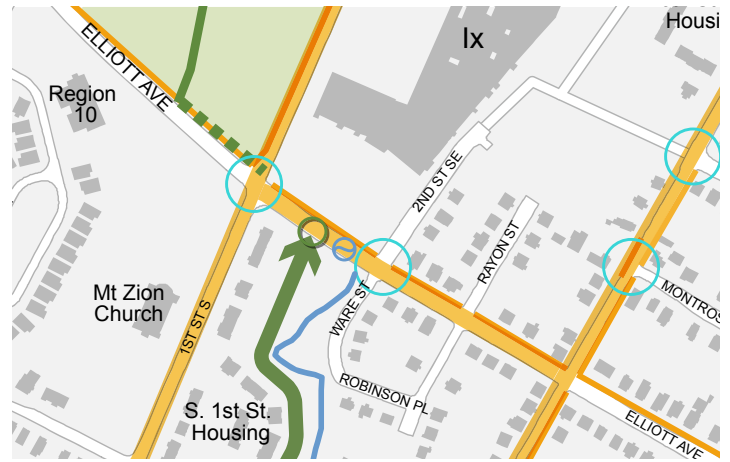
Potential Opportunities

Nearer term opportunities to improve walkability, connectivity and stormwater management:

- Move bus stop to creek crossing and improve bus stop amenities. **Completed: bus stops moved to safer locations and amenities provided.**
- Prioritize area for storm drain painting, which might also provide traffic calming in this area.
- Add on-street demarcation of stream crossing under Elliot Avenue.
- Add crosswalk on Elliot Avenue at South 1st Street. **Completed**
- Add crosswalk on Elliot Avenue at Ware Street.
- Add a trailhead (see 4 Pollocks Greenway). **Completed: trail access point established.**
- Modify road striping to narrow travel lanes to slow traffic, particularly at pedestrian connections.

Longer term infrastructure upgrades to improve walkability, connectivity and stormwater management:

- Add missing sidewalks along north side of Elliot Avenue.
- Integrate stormwater bump-outs with streetscape improvements or evaluate a curb cut and runoff diversion to a planted swale on Ix Property.
- Consider expanding trailhead into Elliot Avenue Gateway to Pollocks Greenway (see page 7)



Existing Conditions: Elliott Avenue at Ware Street (view east towards 6th Street)



Example of water-themed mural crosswalk in Montreal, Canada.



Example of stormwater bump-outs and road narrowing to slow traffic and treat stormwater runoff. Image source: ASLA.

3 6th Street & Jordan Park

Current Conditions

- Patchwork of sidewalks on both sides of 6th Street from Jordan Park to Blenheim Street.
- Narrow street with on street parking along both sides.
- Stormwater runoff from portions of 6th Street and some side streets drain to Jordan Park entrance area and into Moores Creek.
- Understated park entrance with on street parking at park entrance.
- Existing trail along Moores Creek.

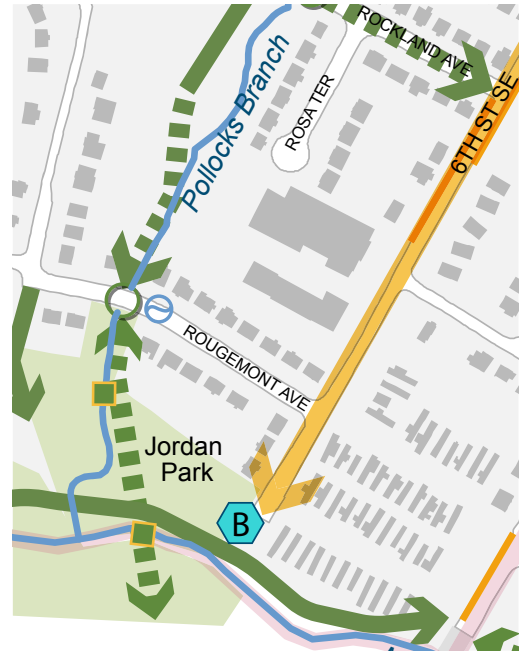
Potential Opportunities

6th Street:

- Add missing sidewalk sections along 6th Street between Jordan Park and Blenheim Avenue.

Jordan Park:

- Install Green Infrastructure Capstone Project to treat 6th Street stormwater runoff (see below).
- Explore Eco-Park concept that would include stream bank stabilization, stream channel improvements and vegetated buffers.
- Add footbridge crossing Pollocks Branch to improve access to/from the west and from the larger trail/bike route.
- Create Pollocks Branch overlook at Rougemont Avenue.
 - Replace chain link fence with more aesthetic fence. **Completed**
 - Create creek overlook area and add signage. **Completed: overlook added.**
 - Consider on-street demarcation of stream crossing under Rougemont Avenue.



Existing conditions: Jordan Park entrance at 6th Street.

Jordan Park Natural Drainage Feature

Opportunities to:

- Install natural drainage feature at entrance of park to slow and clean stormwater before it enters Moores Creek.
- Enhance park entrance by replacing guardrail.
- Consider including educational signage about the stormwater feature and the area's history.



Existing



Proposed

4 Pollocks Branch Greenway

Current Conditions

- Overgrown trail between Elliott Avenue and Rockland.
- Private property between CRHA property and Rougemont Ave.

Potential Opportunities

Formalize existing Pollocks Branch Greenway:

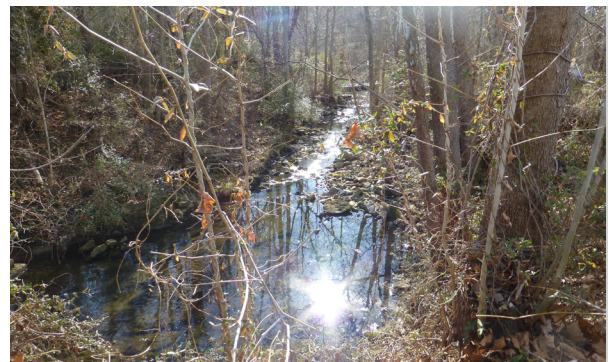
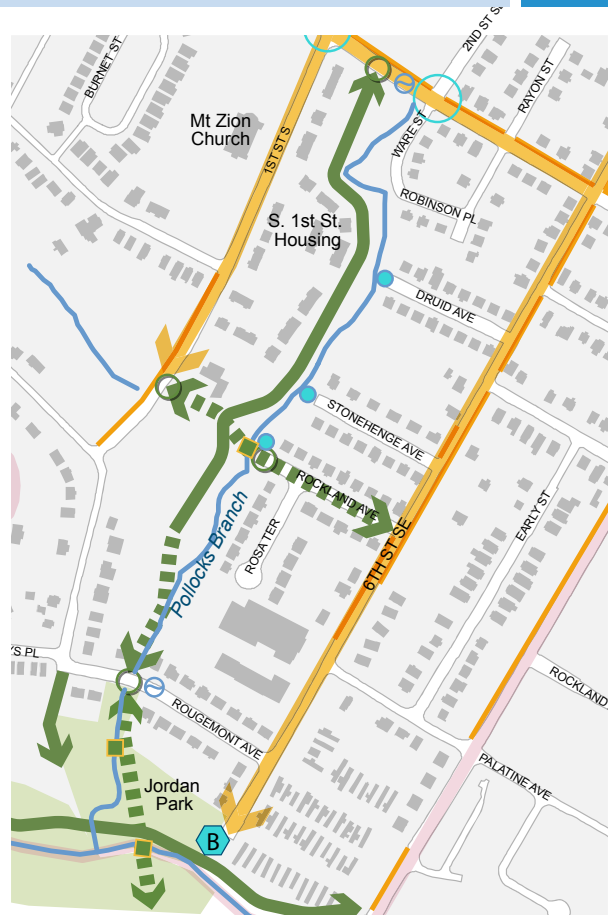
- Clear trail. **Completed**
- Establish trailhead at Elliott Avenue. **Completed**
- Improve trail access at South First Street Housing.
- Provide access to Jordan Park at Rougemont Ave. **Completed**
- Install trail signage. **Completed**
- Improve sense of trail safety, such as pruning vegetation to improve visibility. **Completed**
- Provide environmental education signage and creek overlook at Elliott Avenue trail access point (this is also where children wait for the school bus and could be integrated with relocated CAT bus stop).

Add Rockland Avenue Footbridge.

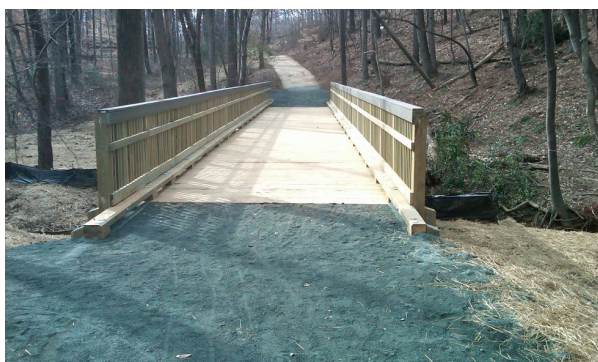
- Install footbridge crossing Pollocks Branch at Rockland Ave connecting to recreational field at South First Street Housing.
- Restrict vehicular access on trail by adding bollards or other obstacles.

Extend Pollocks Greenway to Jordan Park.

- Continue to work with property owners to extend Greenway to Rougemont Ave and connect to Jordan Park.



Existing conditions: View of Pollocks Branch from Rougemont Avenue.



Example of typical footbridge crossing in Charlottesville Parks (for Rockland Avenue Crossing)



Existing conditions: View from Jordan Park to informal trail entrance from Rougemont Avenue.

Accomplishments

The following activities have been accomplished to improve walkability and water quality (Fall 2015 - Summer 2016):

- Crosswalk at 1st Street South has been installed.
- Bus stop at 1st Street South and Elliott Avenue intersection has been relocated for improved safety and amenities added.
- Pollocks Branch Greenway has been cleared and improved.
- Trailhead for Pollocks Branch Greenway has been added at Elliott Avenue.
- Pollocks Branch Greenway has been extended from Rougemont Avenue to Jordan Park.
- Creek overlook at Rougemont Avenue has been added and chain link fence replaced with metal railing.
- Temporary WaterWise mural installed at Monticello Avenue.
- Educational workshops provided for community members.
- Rain barrels installed in Ridge Street community.
- Charlottesville High School students painted rain barrels.
- Permanent WaterWise mural installed on 6th Street SE.



Pollocks Branch Greenway Improvements



Pollocks Branch overlook created at Rougemont Avenue



Crosswalk added and bus stop improvements on Elliott Avenue.



Local high school students paint rain barrels for residents.



New Pollocks Branch Greenway entrance to Jordan Park



Community educational workshops held on composting and planting trees.



Permanent WaterWise mural installed on 6th Street.

Next Steps

Summer 2016

- Host Community Festival to celebrate opening of Pollocks Branch Greenway. (Project Team)
- Continue to install rain barrels in Ridge Street community (ongoing). (James River Association)
- Continue to work with property owners to create contiguous Greenway (ongoing). (City of Charlottesville)

Fall 2016 - Spring 2017

- Improve intersection at Monticello Avenue and 6th St SE. (City of Charlottesville)
- Construct green infrastructure capstone project with the help of volunteers. (Project Team)
- Explore partnership and grant opportunities to implement walkable watershed opportunities (ongoing).

For more information, please visit: www.walkablewatershed.com/charlottesville or contact Dan Frisbee, City of Charlottesville at (434) 970-3997 or frisbee@charlottesville.org.

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City of Charlottesville Departments of Public Works, Neighborhood Development Services and Parks and Recreation

Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority

Ridge Street Neighborhood Association

Piedmont Housing Alliance

Charlottesville Public Housing Association of Residents

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