

13-1 Lost in the Woods: Gunpowder Falls State Park Sweathouse Area Trail Network Expansion

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Problem Definition

Increases in outdoor recreation have **heightened the strain** on hiking & nature trails and their local ecosystems.

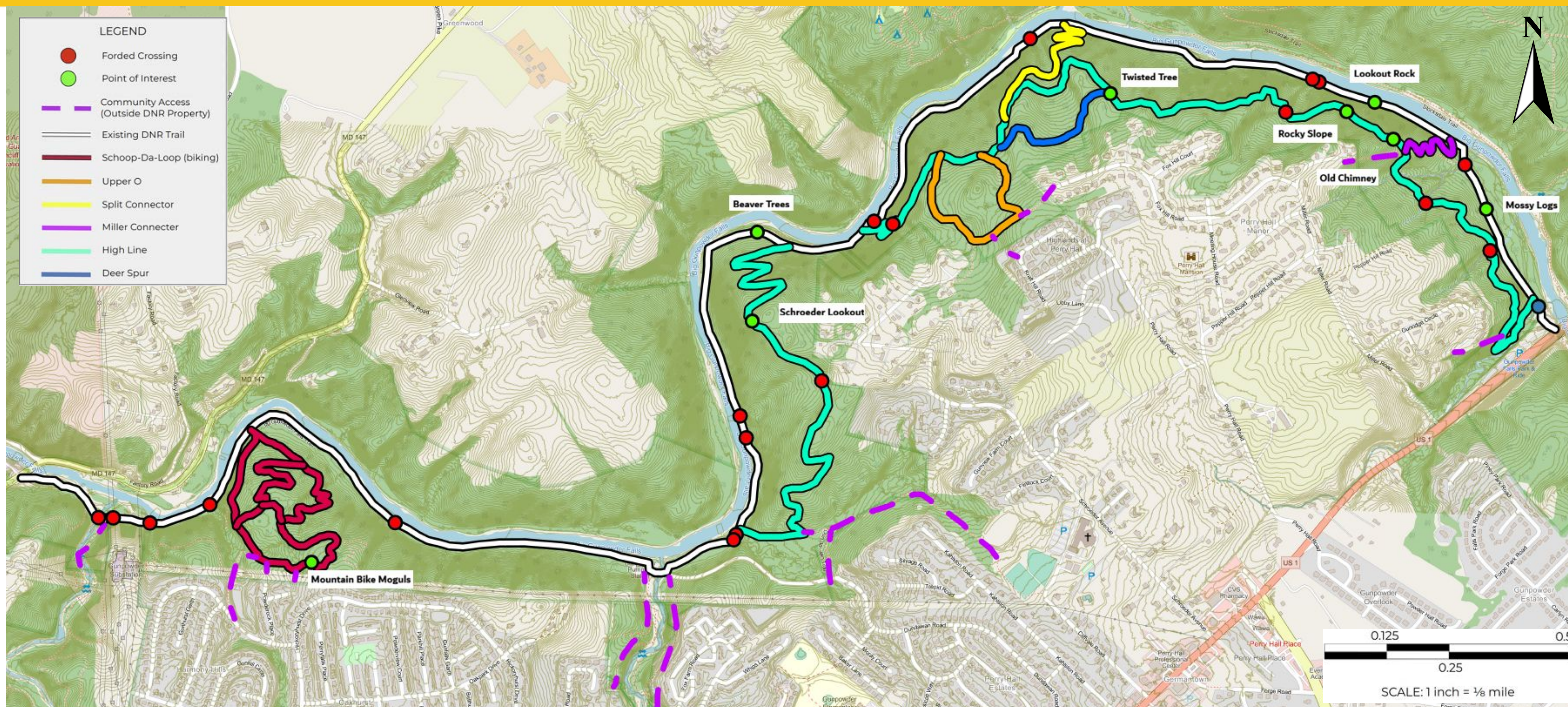
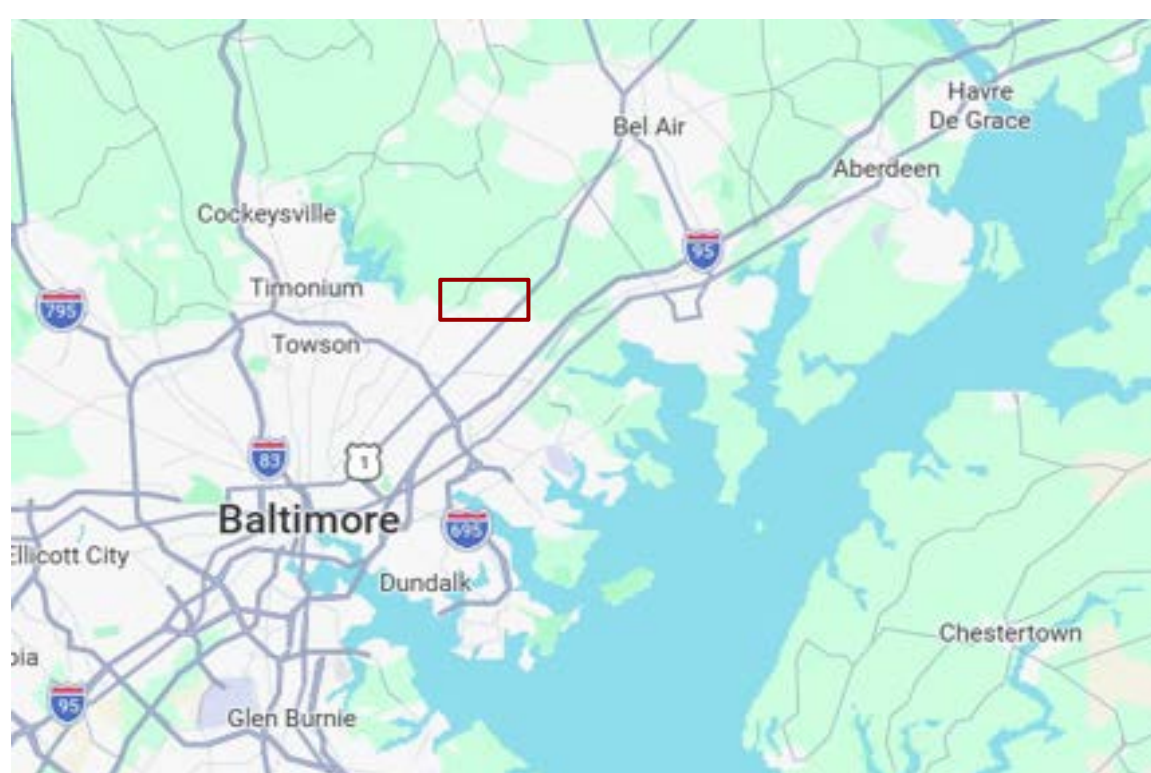
The south side of Gunpowder Falls features only a single trail option that **lacks several key features** including consistent walkways, loops, route and terrain variety, and access points.

The adjacent map outlines a proposed **series of trail corridors** within a new trail network on the south side of Gunpowder Falls.

These trails should provide recreationalists with a variety of distances, difficulties, and views.

Location

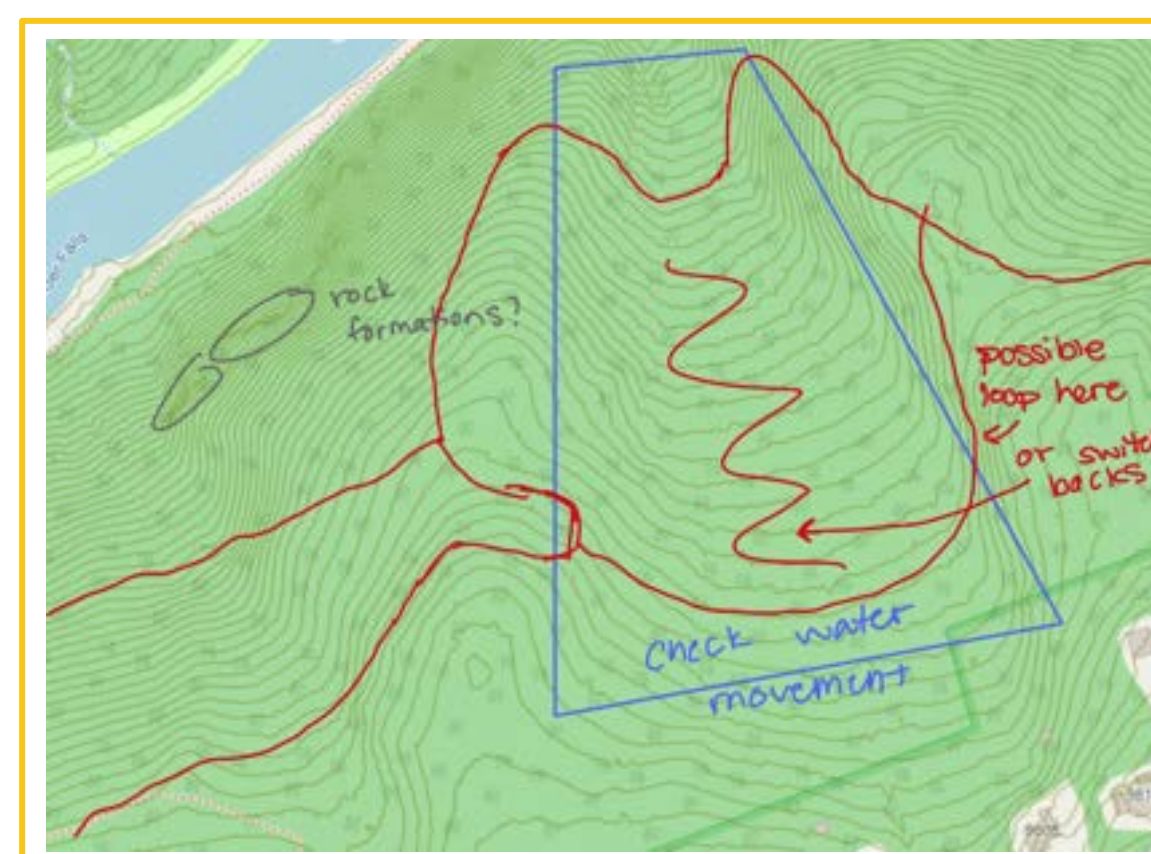
South side of Big Gunpowder Falls, in the Sweathouse Area of Gunpowder Falls State Park, north of Perry Hall, MD.



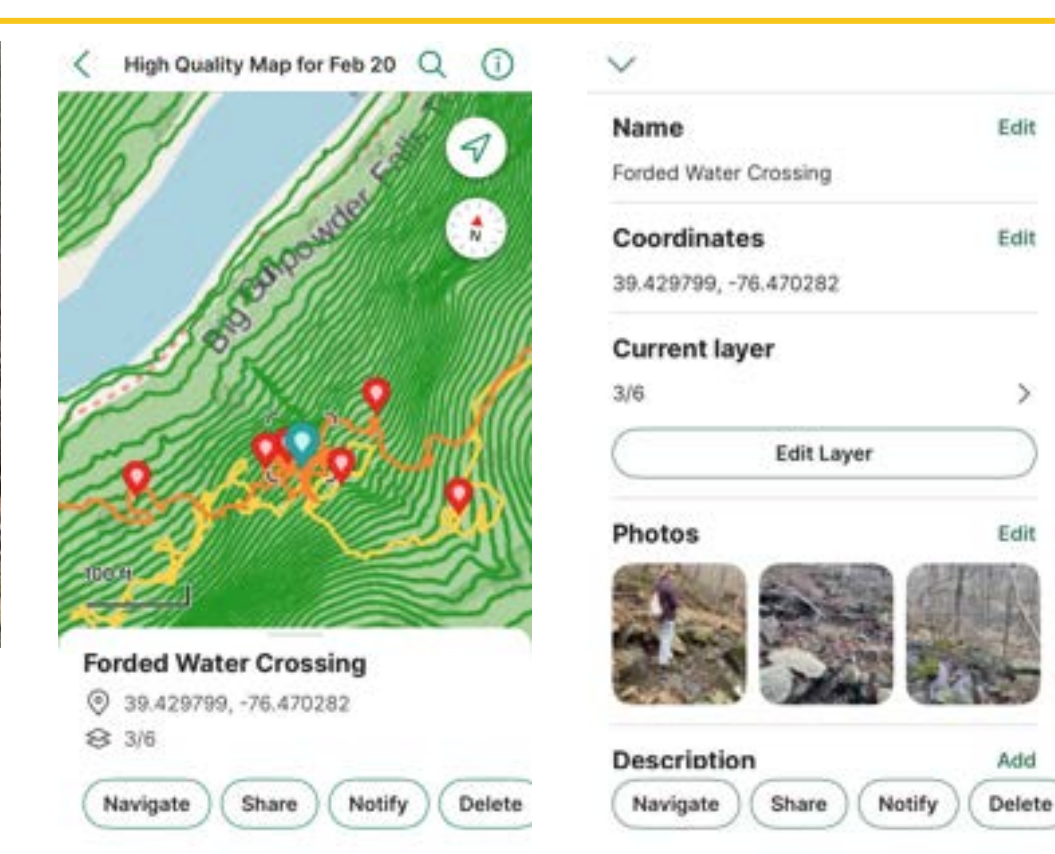
Design Criteria

- ❑ Single-track, natural trail
- ❑ Accessible to hikers, bikers, & equestrians
- ❑ Average route slope $\approx 5\%$
- ❑ Trail slope must obey the half rule (slope of the trail may not be more than half of the side slope at a given point)
- ❑ No fall line trails
- ❑ Appropriate crossing type (bridge/ford) must identified for each water crossing
- ❑ Add at least 3 neighborhood entrance/exit points
- ❑ Add at least 3 loops
- ❑ Incorporate most commonly occurring community recommendations (that fall within scope)

Methodology



steep, rocky terrain, one single track DNR trail, community made trails with inconsistent blazing, standing water & stream crossings



MDE site visit; crossing and wetland identification

learn about trail design; create basemap with online data

create design criteria and rough network sketches

draft and post survey for recreational stakeholders

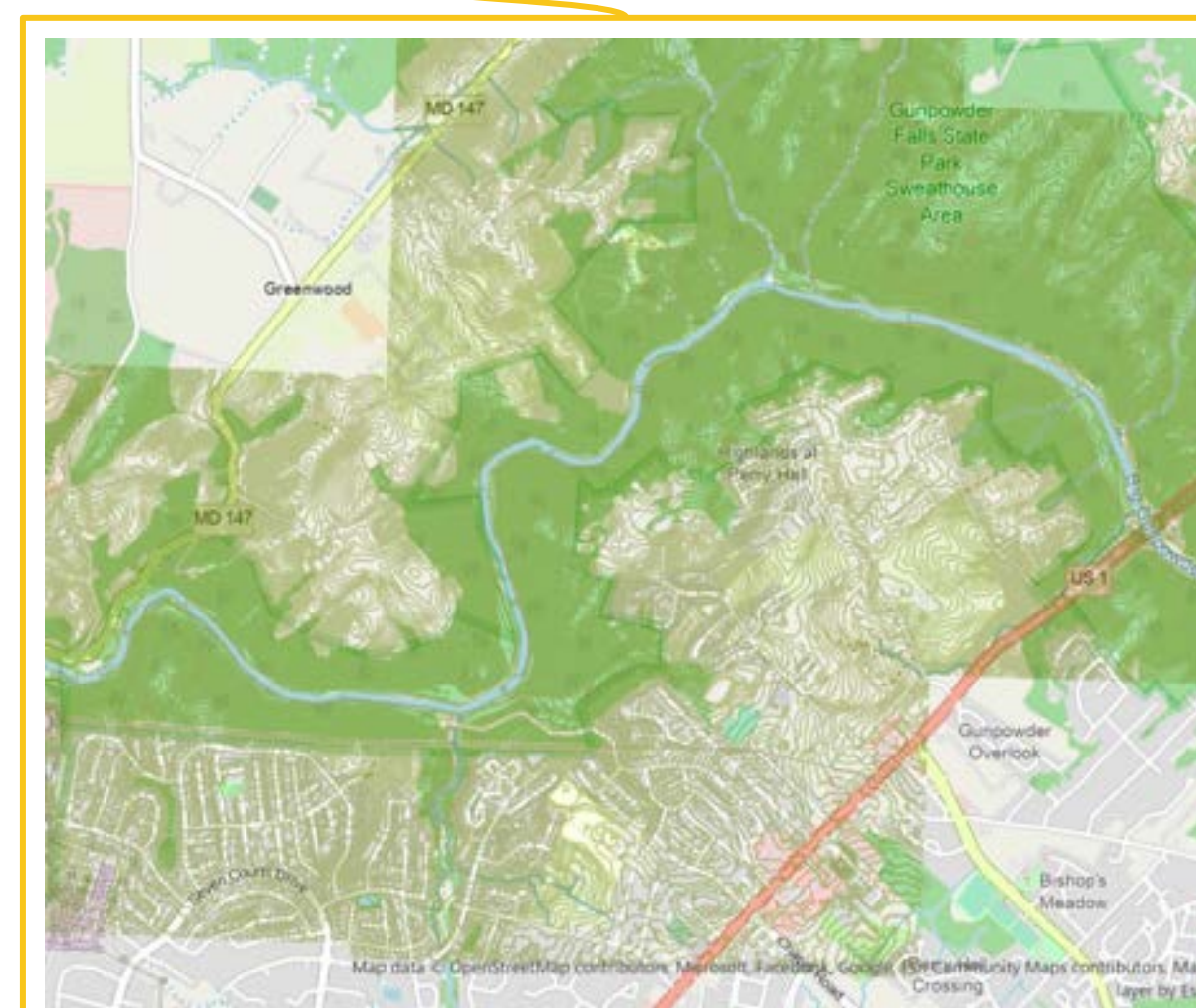
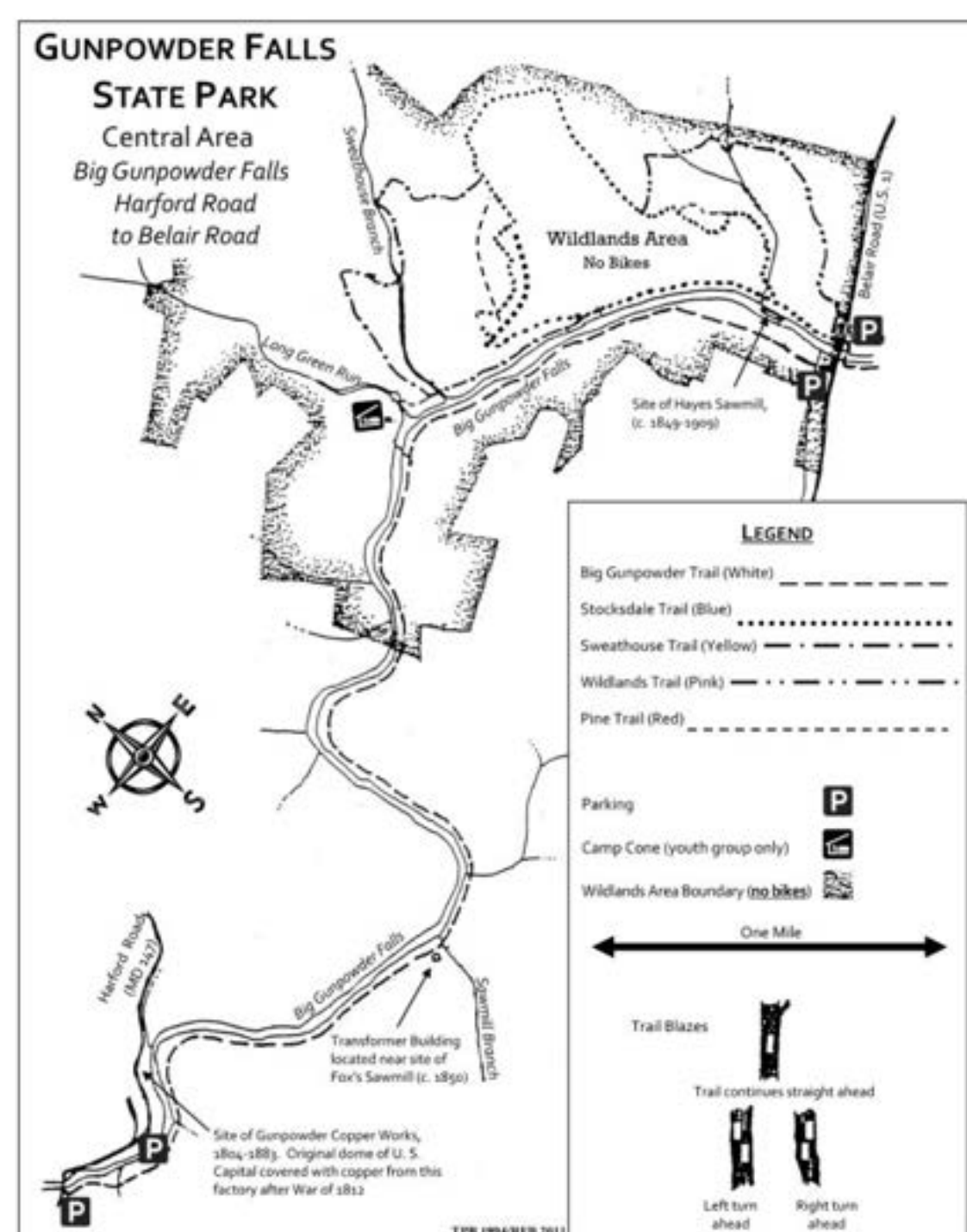
conduct site visits to gather data on existing conditions

update network design based on survey & site visits

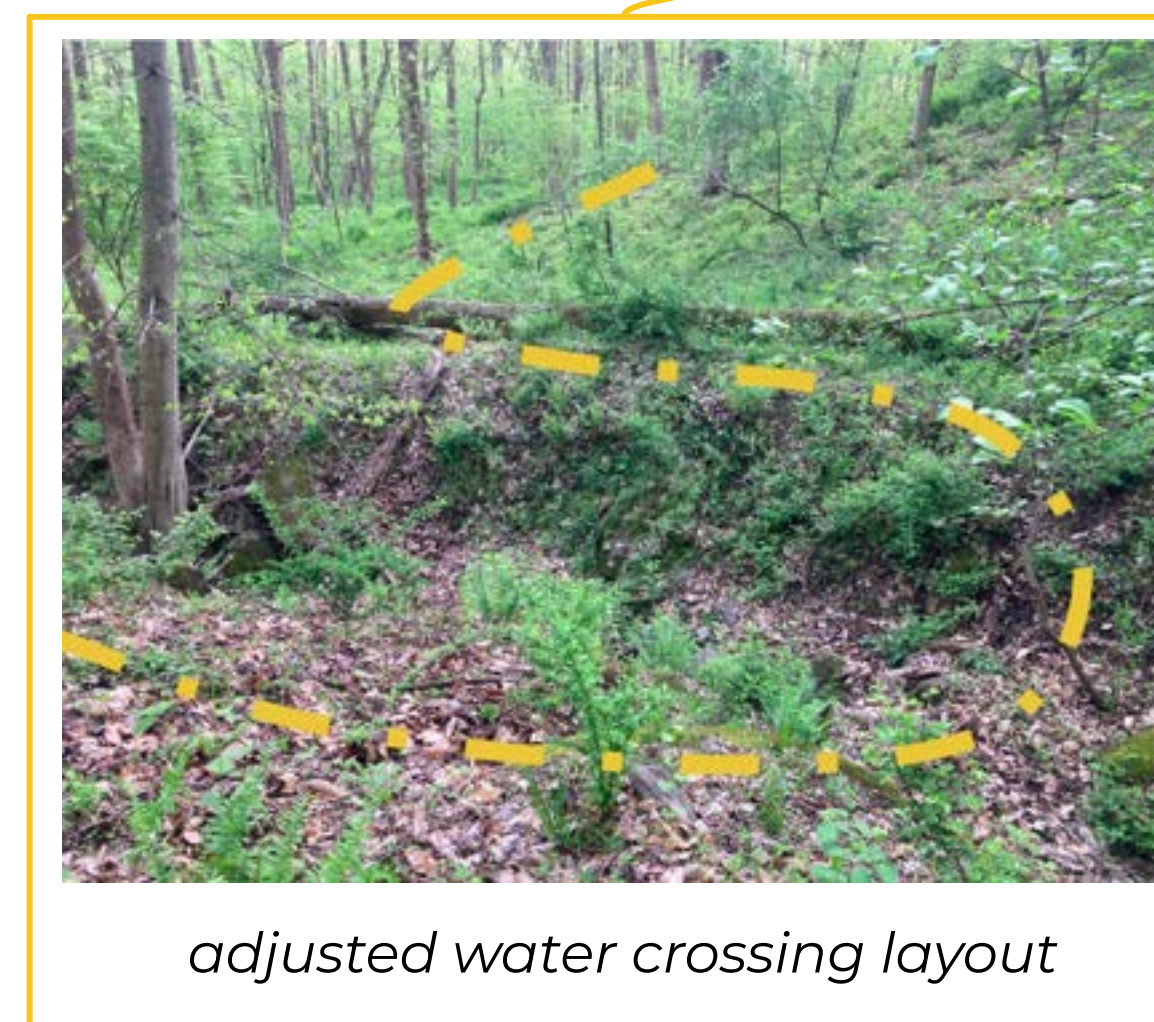
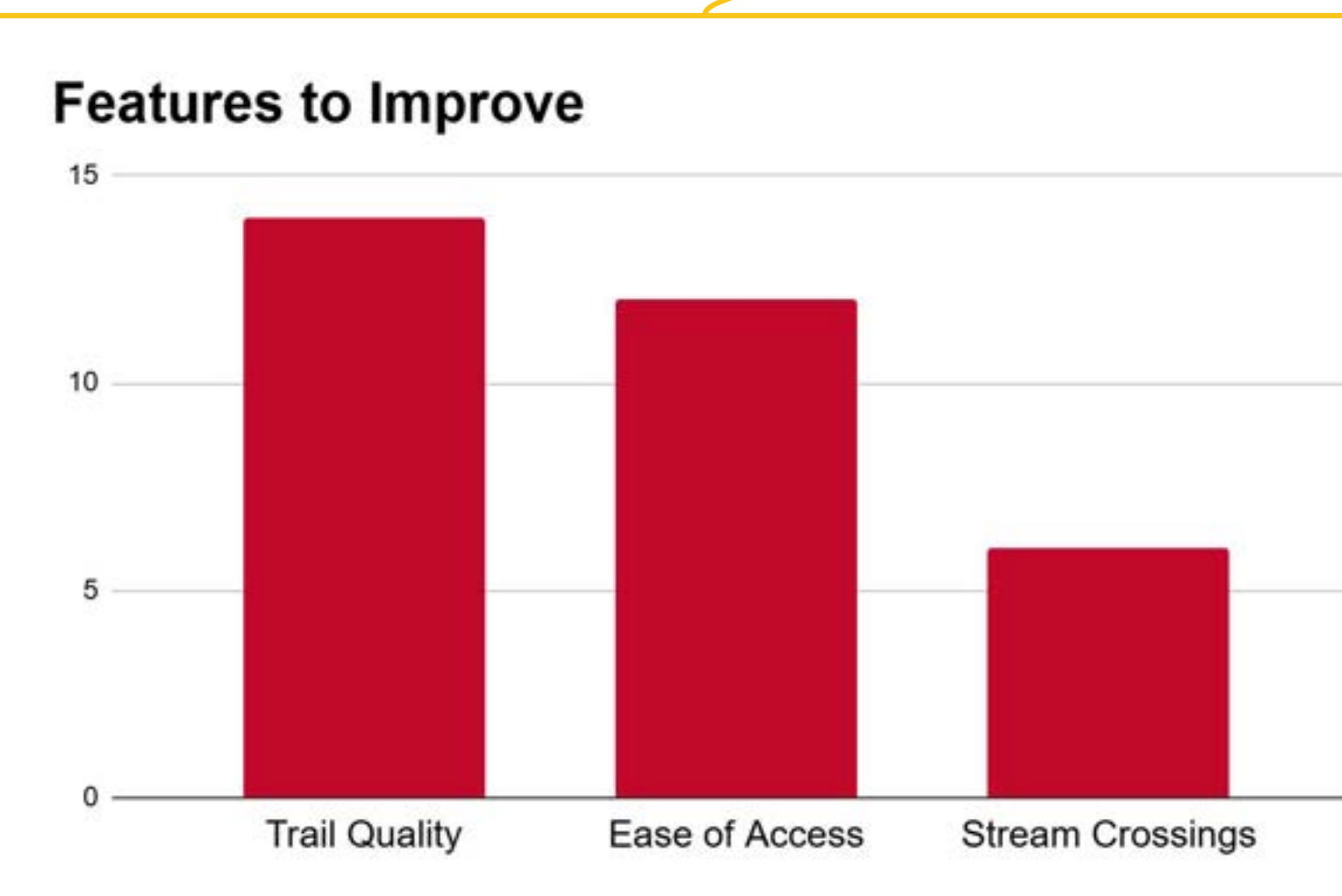
submit to DNR and MDE for project and permit review

permitting pre-app meeting; channel flow & slope calcs

update design based on permitting feedback



survey posting at trail signboard



adjusted water crossing layout