

Allatoona Creek Greenway Trail Scoping Study

Stakeholder Kickoff Meeting

October 30, 2024

Today's Agenda

1. **Introductions**
2. **Project Background**
3. **Study Overview**
4. **Existing Conditions – Key Findings**
5. **Vision and Goals**
6. **Next Steps and General Discussion**

Introductions

Project Partners

Cobb County Department of Transportation

Cobb County PARKS Department

Cobb County Water System

Consultant Team

- Gresham Smith
- Lumenor
- Nova
- Edwards Pitman
- American Engineers

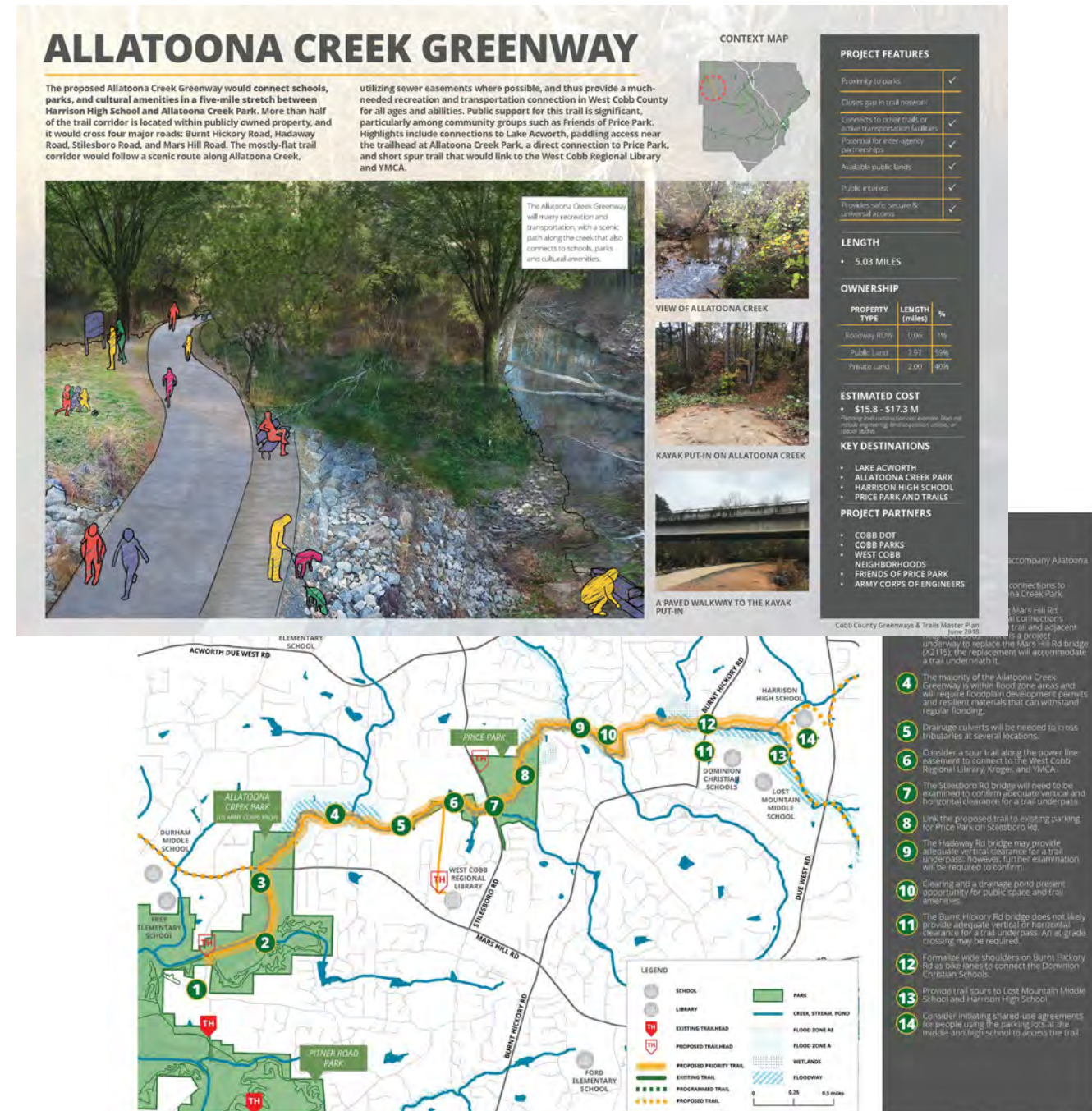
Stakeholder Committee

- Cobb County Community Development
- Atlanta Regional Commission
- SORBA/MTB Atlanta
- Friends of Kemp Park
- Friends of Price Park
- Lost Mountain Middle School
- Frey Elementary School

Project Background

Greenways & Trails Master Plan

- Adopted 2018
- Allatoona Creek Greenway was **1 of 8 Priority Projects** recommended
- Roughly 5 miles in length
- Largely intended to follow creek – to be determined
- Opportunities for connectivity to schools, parks neighborhoods



Overall Goals and Objectives

- Provide safe bicycle and pedestrian access to existing facilities and neighborhoods
- Provide a scenic corridor for outdoor recreation and transportation
- Create a safe transportation connection between schools, parks, and community facilities
- Understand opportunities and challenges in the study area
- Engage community members in shaping and developing alternatives and recommendations
- Assess feasibility of a trail in the study area
- Identify a preferred alternative and develop a concept to advance for further design phases



Challenges & Opportunities

1. Bridge 1 - County Line Rd
2. Bridge 2 - Mars Hill Rd
3. Bridge 3 - Stilesboro Rd at Allatoona Creek
4. Bridge 4 - Hadaway Rd at Allatoona Creek
5. Bridge 5 - Burnt Hickory Rd at Allatoona Creek
6. Bridge 6 - Due West Rd at Allatoona Creek

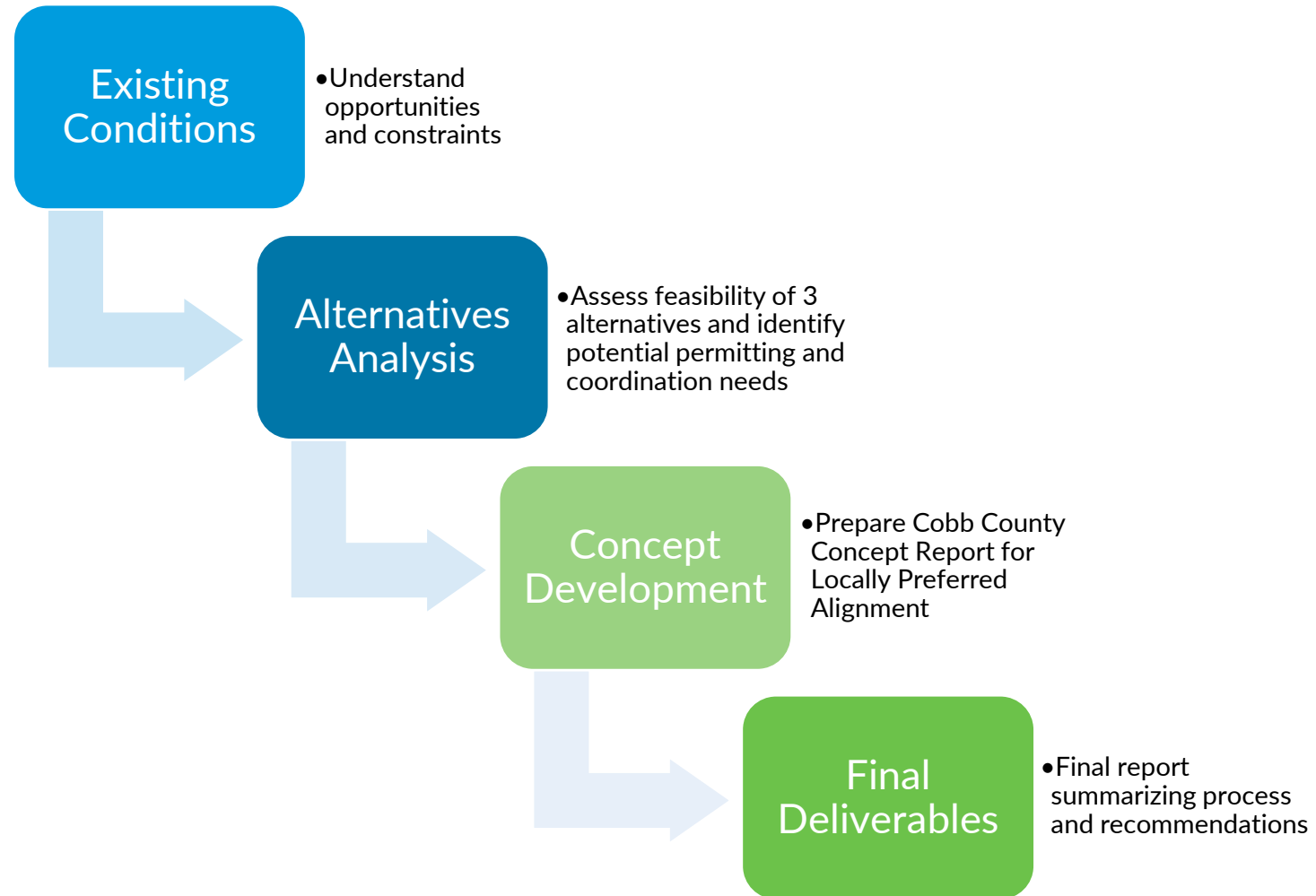


Study Overview

What is a Scoping Study?

A scoping study is a **preliminary assessment** that helps practitioners **understand the current state** of the project area (existing conditions), **determine how much further development** is needed, and to **identify key project risks**.

The goal is to prepare the project for advancement to preliminary engineering and subsequent phases.



Criteria and Considerations

The study will assess alternatives and make recommendations based on the following:

- Consistency with the vision and goals set forth in the County's Comprehensive Transportation Plan, Greenways and Trails Master Plan, and the Atlanta Region's Plan
- Broad public and stakeholder support
- Maximizing safety, connectivity, and efficiency throughout the trail
- Potential to address the existing and future needs of pedestrian and bicycle users
- Eligibility for federal funding in future project phases

1 Project Management



- Project Management Plan
- Monthly Project Management Team (PMT) Meetings
- Monthly Coordination Calls
- Monthly Invoices and Progress Reports



Deliverables: Project Management Plan, Agendas & Minutes, Invoices and Progress Reports

2

Stakeholder and Public Engagement



- Stakeholder and Public Engagement Strategy (SPES)
- Stakeholder Steering Committee (SSC)
- Walking Tours/Listening Sessions
- Pop-Ups and Intercepts
- Project Website – Hosted by County
- Public Open Houses
- Project Fact Sheet/Flyer and Direct Mailer



Deliverables: SPES, SSC Agendas and Summaries, Materials for Engagement Activities, Information for Website

Project Website

- Project-specific site linked from Cobb County's website
- Informational and interactive
- Online mapping, questionnaire/survey, comment form, project documents

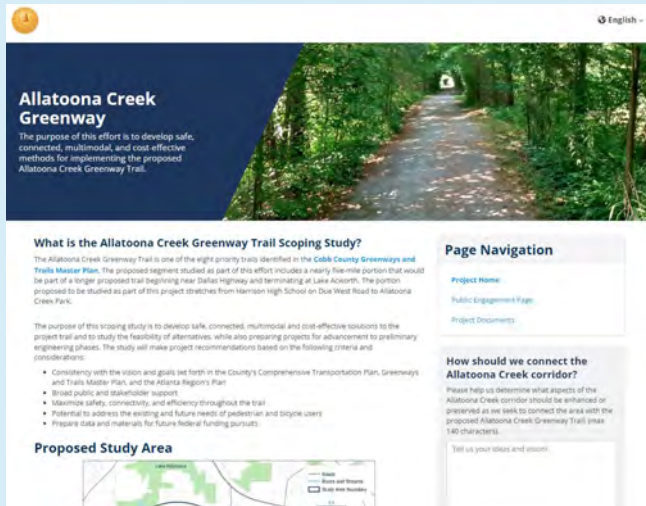
www.cobbcounty.org/acgstudy

Public Open Houses

- Up to 4
- Convenient and accessible locations
- Timed to coincide with key project milestones: project visioning, potential greenway ideas, draft concept, final concept
- First scheduled for Nov. 19th

Fact Sheets and Flyer/Mailer

- Introductory flyer mailed to addresses in the study area
- Fact sheet can be used at pop-ups, intercepts, handed out at walking tours, etc.
- Can be updated twice to send home from school with students to inform families about open houses



Walking Tours/Listening Sessions

- Up to 6 total, max 2 hours each
- Small groups
- Unscripted activities to observe conditions in the area, receive input, and learn about community concerns, opportunities
- Friends of Parks, HOAs, neighborhood groups, advocacy organizations, etc.



Pop-Ups and Intercept Surveys

- 2 intercepts at locations near project area (e.g., park, library, school)
- Up to 4 pop-ups at community events (e.g., festivals, etc.)
- Inform people about the project, how to participate and provide input, quick exercises to get early input

Are there other groups we need to be talking with or reaching out to engage?

3

Existing Conditions and Technical Analysis



- Data Collection, Mapping and Analysis
 - Existing infrastructure
 - Community facilities and destinations
 - Utilities, property boundaries
 - Ecological, historical resources
 - Demographics
- Field Visits
- Environmental Screening
- Traffic and Safety
- Geotechnical, Hydrology, and Structures



Deliverables: Existing Conditions Analysis Document,
Environmental Screening Resource Survey

4

Alternatives Analysis and Concept Plan Development



- Identify up to 3 initial alternative concept ideas
 - Plan-view layout diagrams
 - Typical sections
 - High-level cost estimate
- Feasibility Assessment of Initial Ideas
 - Evaluation matrix based on agreed-upon factors
- Identify Preferred Alternative
- Cobb County Concept Report
 - For preferred alternative, after survey

Deliverables: 3 Initial Concept Alternatives, Evaluation Summary Memo, Cobb County Concept Report for Preferred Alternative

5 Survey Database



- Establish Boundary
- Property Owner Notification
- Collect Information Inside Field Survey Limits
- Property Owner Database
- Survey Data Processing



6

Final Project Deliverables



- Final Report
 - Draft and final
- Appendices
 - Preferred alignment layout and typical sections
 - Initial alternative layouts and typical sections
 - Environmental screening and existing conditions
 - Cost estimate

Deliverables: Final Report, Appendices, Electronic Files

Project Schedule

 We are here!

Note: As of October 2024; subject to change as project evolves.

	2025												2026								
Task	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Task 1: Project Management	○ Notice to Proceed																				
Project Kickoff		■																			
Project Management Plan		■	■																		
Project Coordination Meetings (Monthly)		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Task 2: Stakeholder and Public Engagement																					
Stakeholder and Public Engagement Strategy		■	■																		
Project Website (Launch fall 2024, periodic updates)				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Stakeholder Steering Committee Meetings (x4)				■				■				■						■			
Educational Materials and Fact Sheets (Align with public open houses)				■				■					■					■			
Listening Sessions and Walking Tours (Up to 6)			■	■					■	■				■							
Intercept Surveys and Pop-Up Events (2 intercepts and 4 pop-ups)		■	■	■																	
Public Open Houses (Up to 4)					■	Visioning			■	Potential Ideas					■	Draft Concept			■	Final Concept	
Task 3: Existing Conditions and Technical Analysis																					
Data Collection		■	■																		
Review of Previous Plans, Studies, Regulations and Projects		■	■	■																	
Field Visits			■	■					■												
Mapping and Analysis		■	■	■	■																
Environmental Screening		■	■	■	■																
Evaluation of Traffic Operations and Safety		■	■	■																	
Utility Identification and Right-of-Way Research		■	■	■	■																
Geotechnical Assessment		■	■	■	■																
Existing Conditions Analysis Document (Draft and final)				■	■	■	■														
Task 4: Alternative Analysis and Concept Plan Development																					
Development of Preliminary Alternative Layouts and Typical Sections (Up to 3)							■	■													
Assessment of Alternatives & Selection of Preferred Alignment							■	■	■	■											
Prepare Assessment Memo (Draft and final)										■	■										
Refine Concept and Prepare Concept Report (After receiving survey data)															■	■	■	■	■		
Task 5: Survey Database Preparation																					
Survey Database Preparation (Assumes full concept corridor)										■	■	■	■	■	■						
Task 6: Final Project Deliverables																					
Implementation Strategy																	■				
Detailed Cost Estimate																		■	■		
Scoping Study Report																■	■	■	■	■	■

Preliminary Stakeholder & Public Engagement Schedule

TASK	START	END	2024					2025												2026		
			Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Stakeholder & Engagement Strategy	8/12/24	9/5/24																				
Project Website (First Update)	8/26/24	11/22/24																				
Direct Mailers/Take Home Flyers	8/26/24	9/20/24																				
Pop-Up Event #1	9/7/24	9/7/24																				
Listening Session/Walking Tour Round 1	9/9/24	10/18/24																				
Stakeholder Meeting #1	10/14/24	10/30/24																				
Public Open House #1 (In-Person - Visioning)	11/1/24	11/21/24																				
Project Website (Second Update)	1/20/25	5/16/25																				
Stakeholder Meeting #2	2/3/25	2/17/25																				
Pop-Up Event #2	2/3/25	3/7/25																				
Intercept Survey #1	2/3/25	3/7/25																				
Public Open House #2 (In-Person - Potential Ideas)	2/17/25	3/17/25																				
Listening Session/Walking Tour Round 2	2/3/25	3/7/25																				
Project Website (Third Update)	5/10/25	10/3/25																				
Stakeholder Meeting #3	6/9/25	6/27/25																				
Pop-Up Event #3	5/10/25	7/28/25																				
Intercept Survey #2	5/10/25	7/28/25																				
Listening Session/Walking Tour Round 3 (If necessary)	7/28/25	8/25/25																				
Public Open House #3 (In-Person - Draft Concept)	7/28/25	9/19/25																				
Project Website (Fourth Update)	10/3/25	3/31/26																				
Stakeholder Meeting #4	11/10/25	12/15/25																				
Pop-Up Event #4	10/13/25	12/8/25																				
Public Open House #4 (In-Person - Final Concept)	1/9/26	2/16/26																				

This schedule is current as of October 2024 – dates are subject to change as project evolves.

Phase 1

Phase 2

Phase 3

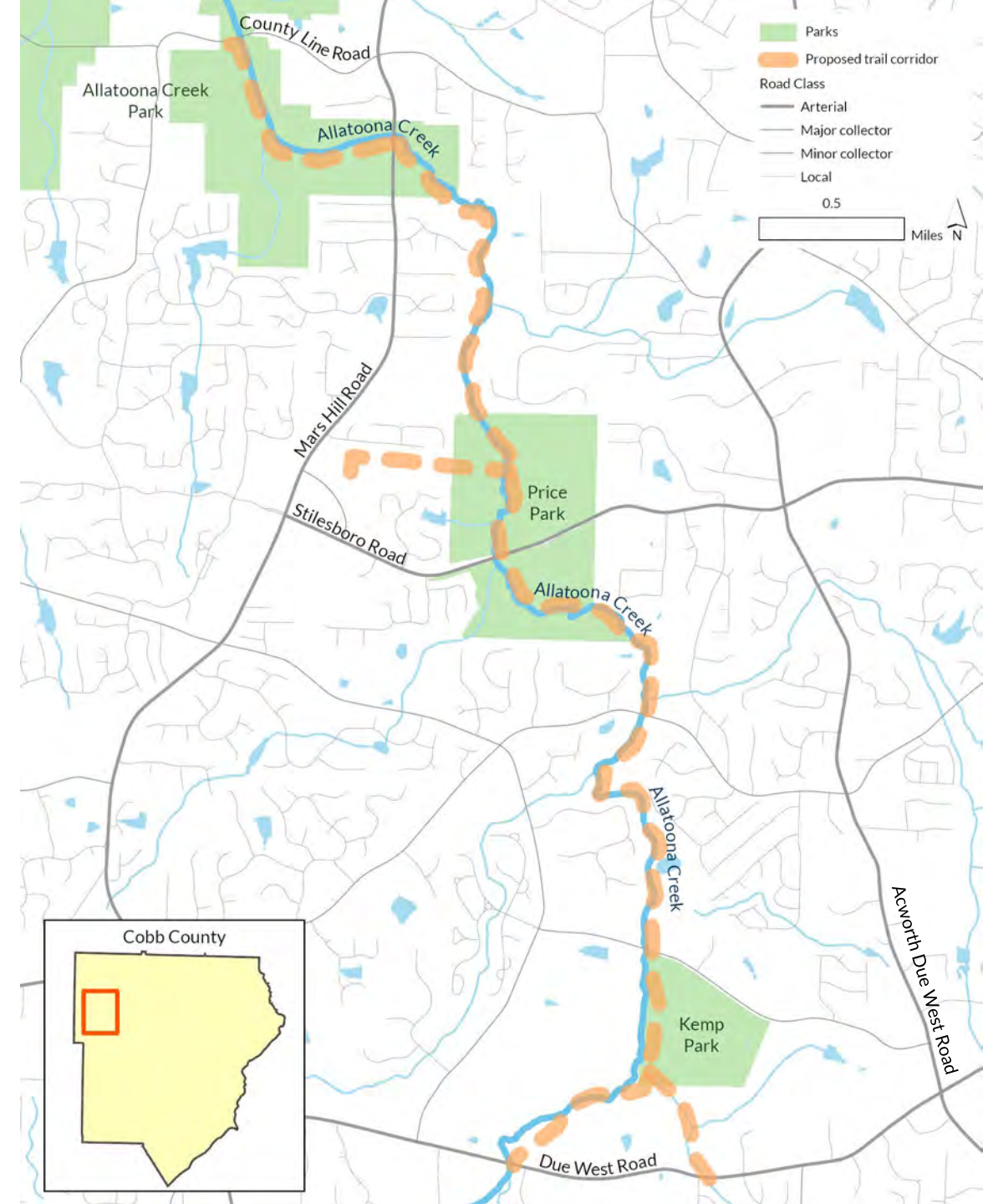
Phase 4

Existing Conditions

Key Findings

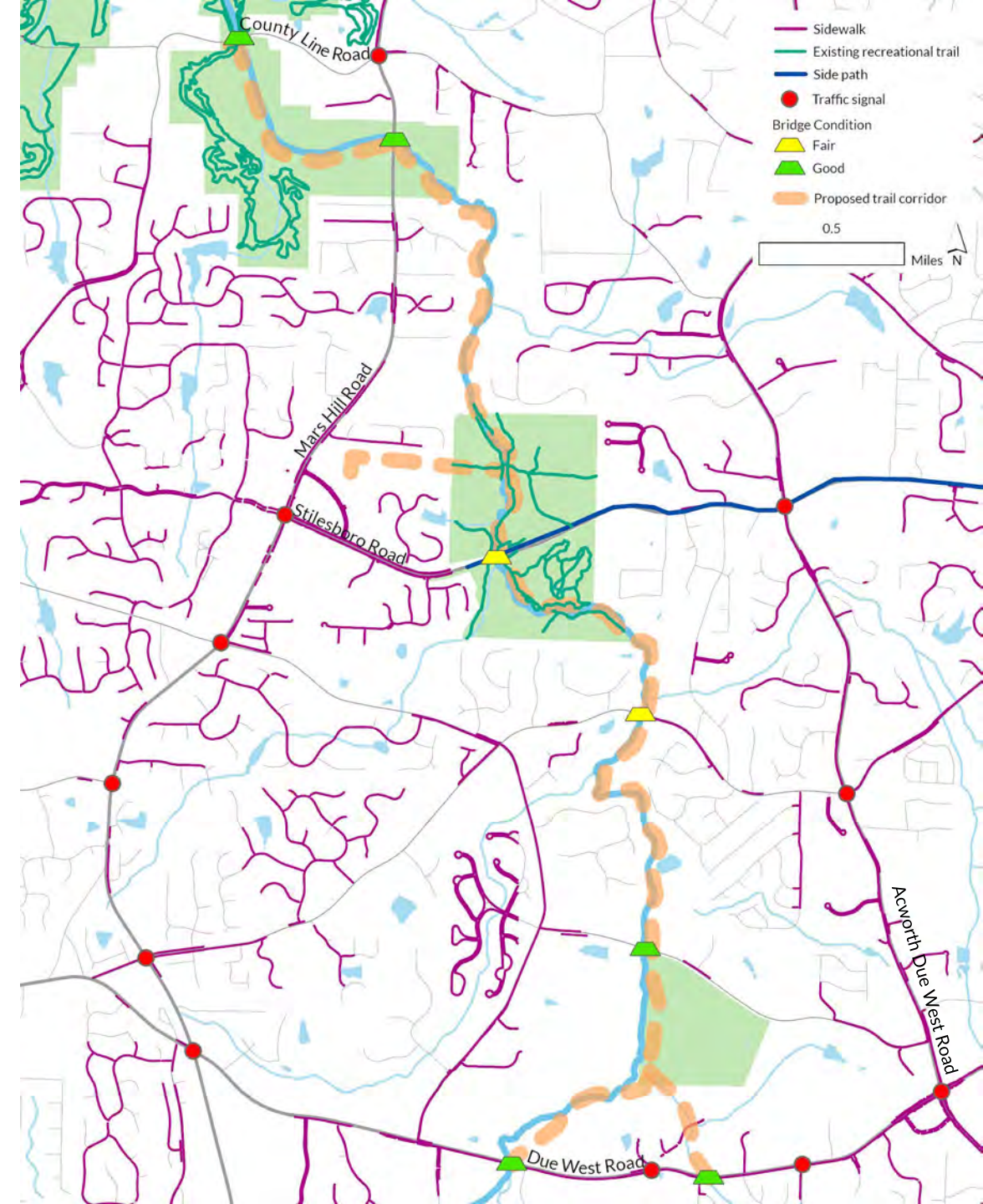
Study Area

- Northwest Cobb County
- Creek intersects with three parks
- Six roads cross over creek
 - 3 arterials (45mph), 1 major collector (40mph), and 2 minor collectors (35-40mph)
 - Traffic counts range between 3,450-17,180 vehicles per day



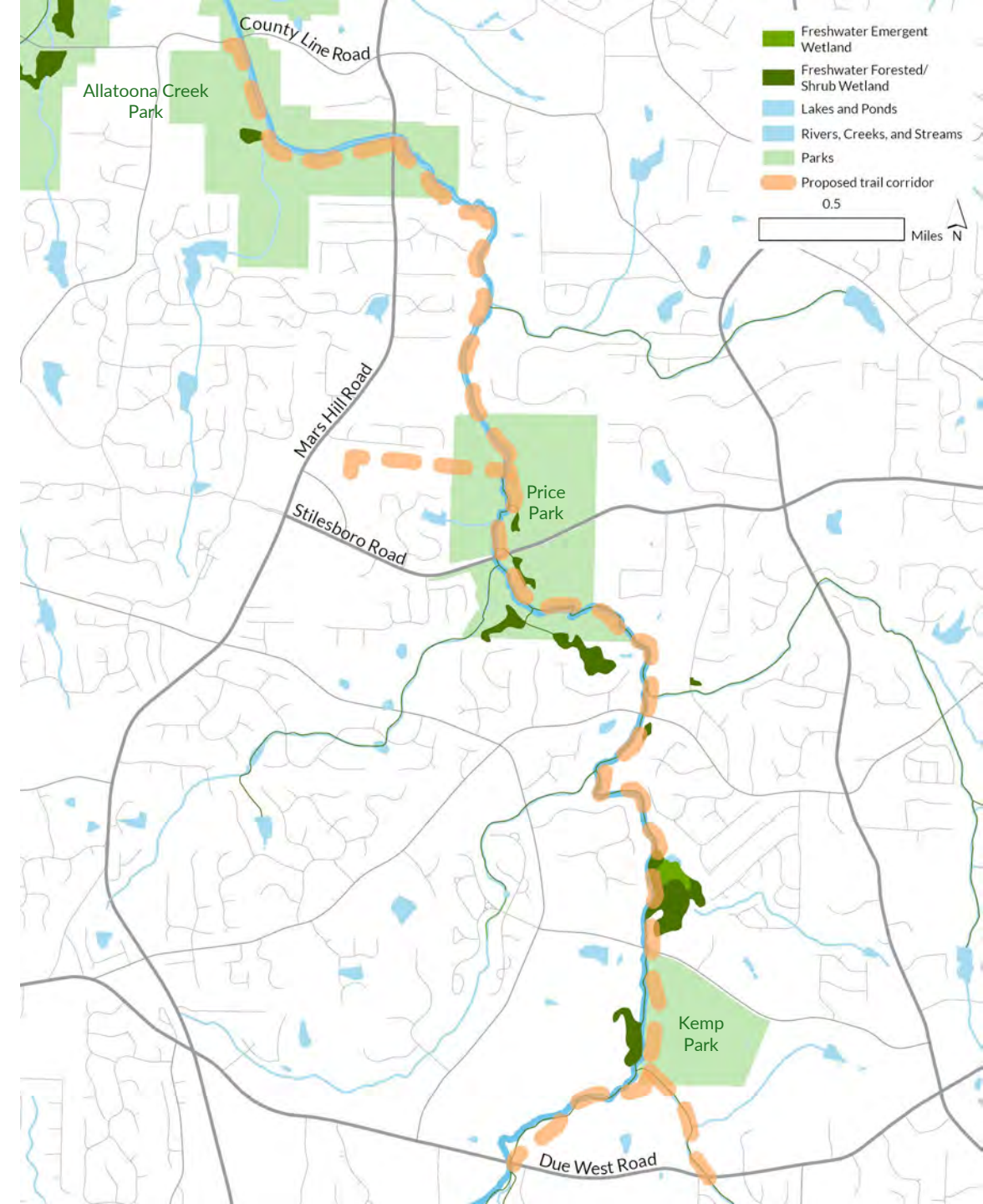
Transportation Infrastructure

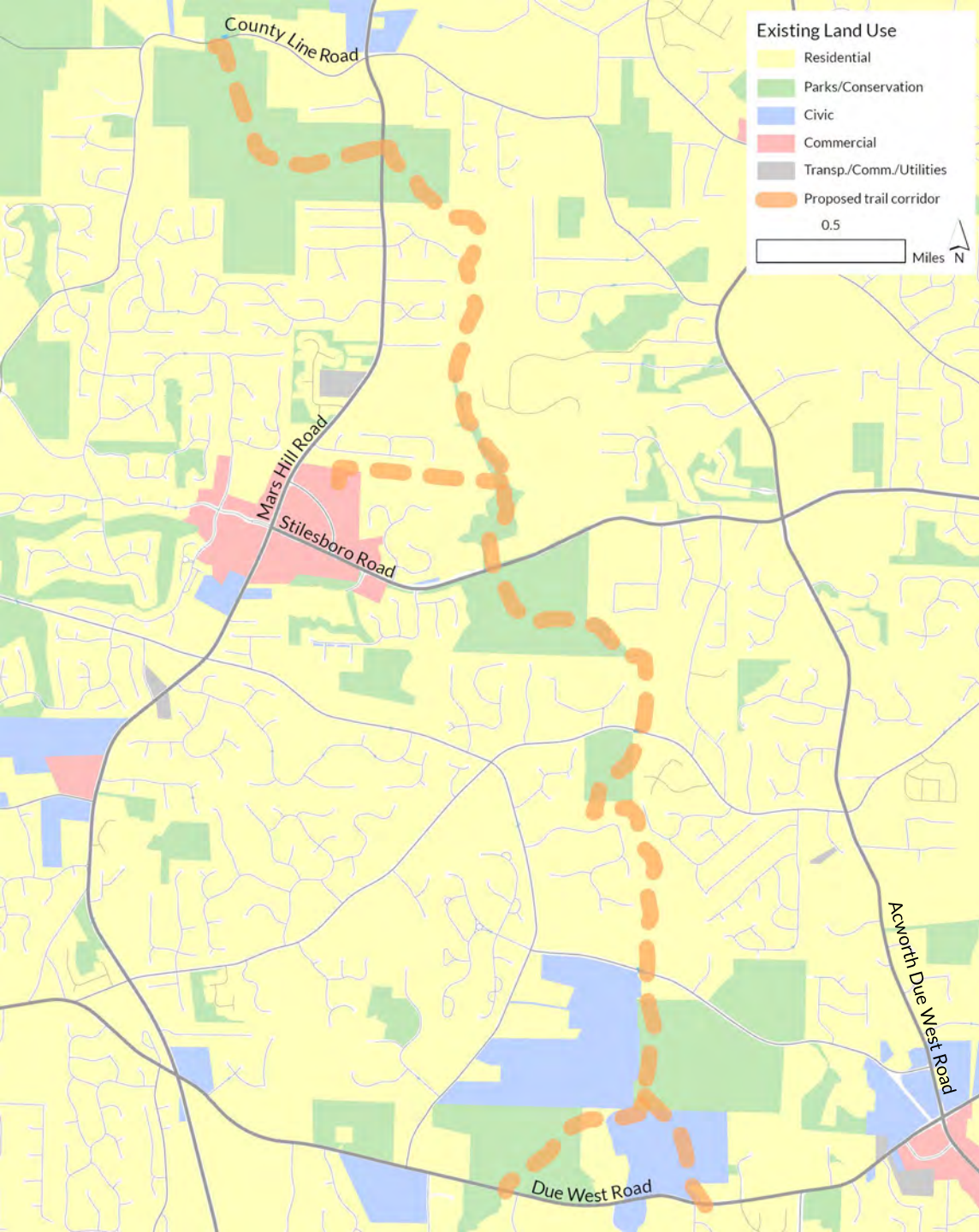
- Seven bridges cross over creek in study area
 - All are in good or fair condition
- Gaps in sidewalk on thoroughfares; sporadic throughout neighborhoods
- Inter-neighborhood connectivity is limited; many local roads end in cul-de-sacs or dead-ends
- Existing trails in the three parks



Wetlands and Water Bodies

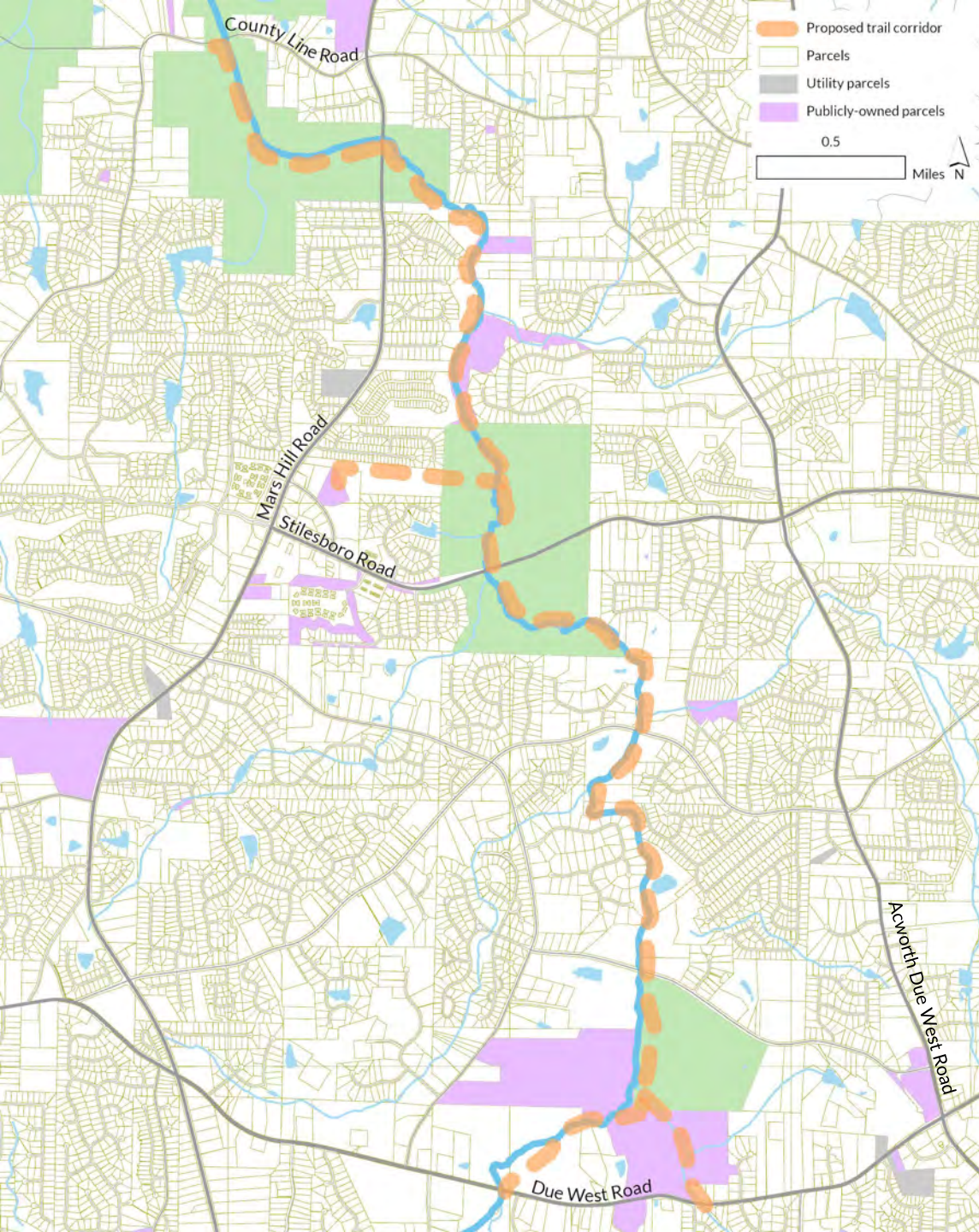
- Mostly Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
 - Continues along some rivers/creeks/streams
- Some Freshwater Emergent Wetland





Land use

- Mostly residential
- Commercial clusters to west and southeast
- Civic mainly represents schools and churches

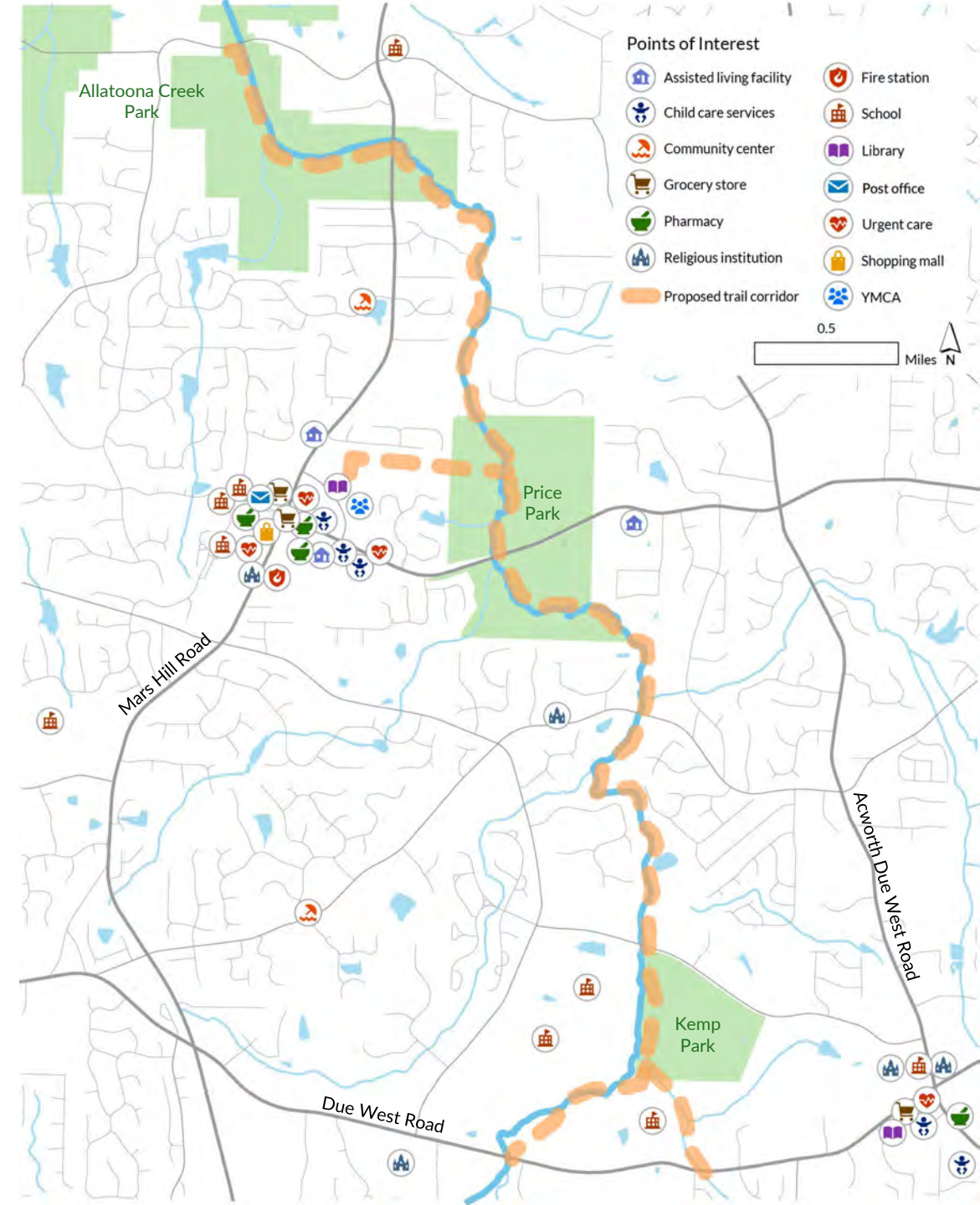


Property Ownership

- Parks make up most of publicly owned land
- Roughly around 75 private parcels along the creek
- Creek cuts through some properties; other properties appear to run up to creek
- Spur/branch at midpoint is along power line easement on property owned by Parkwood at Brookstone HOA

Community Points of Interest

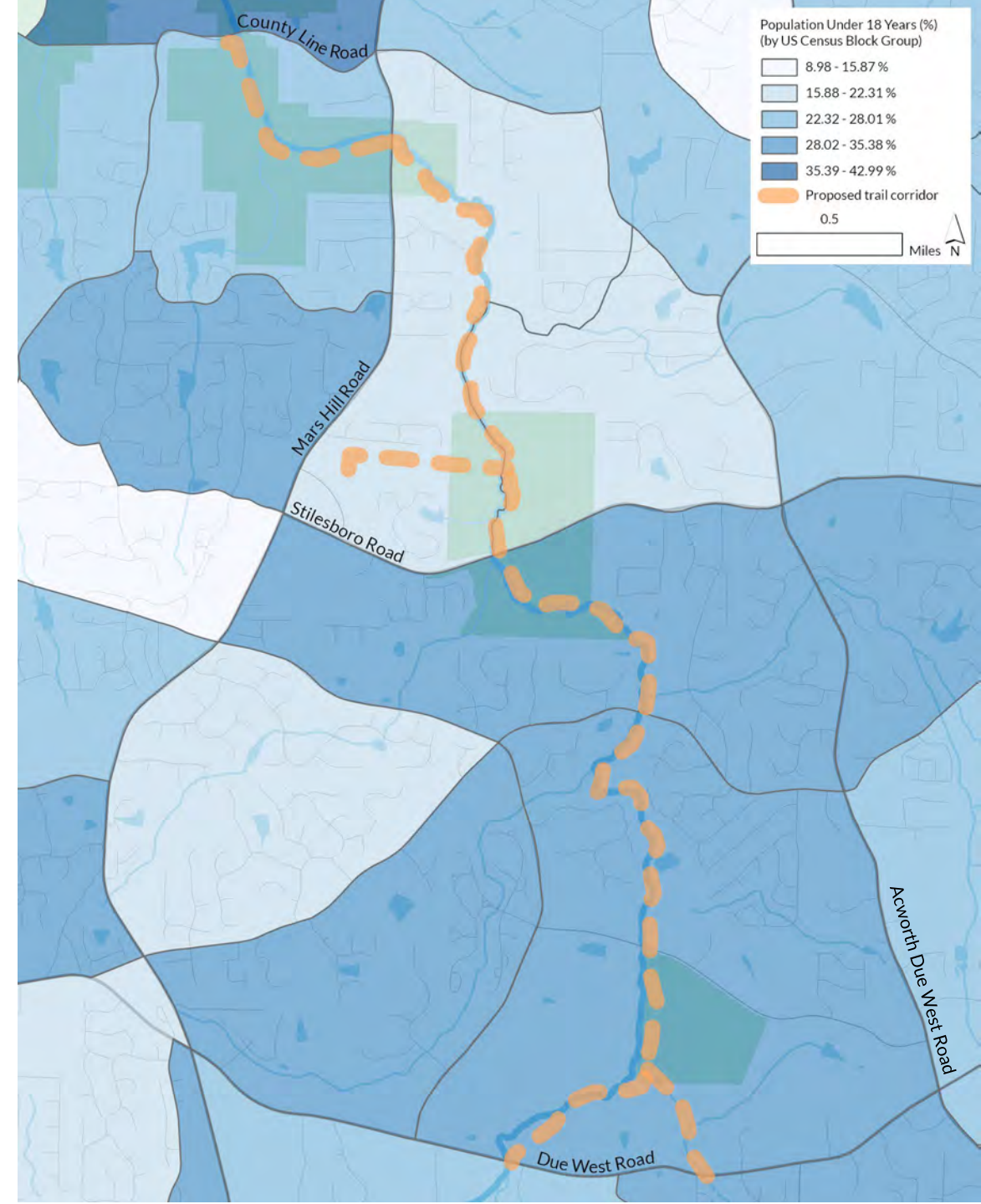
- Consistent with land uses
- Mainly concentrated in clusters within commercial areas
- Several schools nearby
- Clusters include grocery stores, clinics, and childcare



Population Under 18

- Block groups that contain or are adjacent to the creek have percent population under 18 years of age ranging between 19-43%

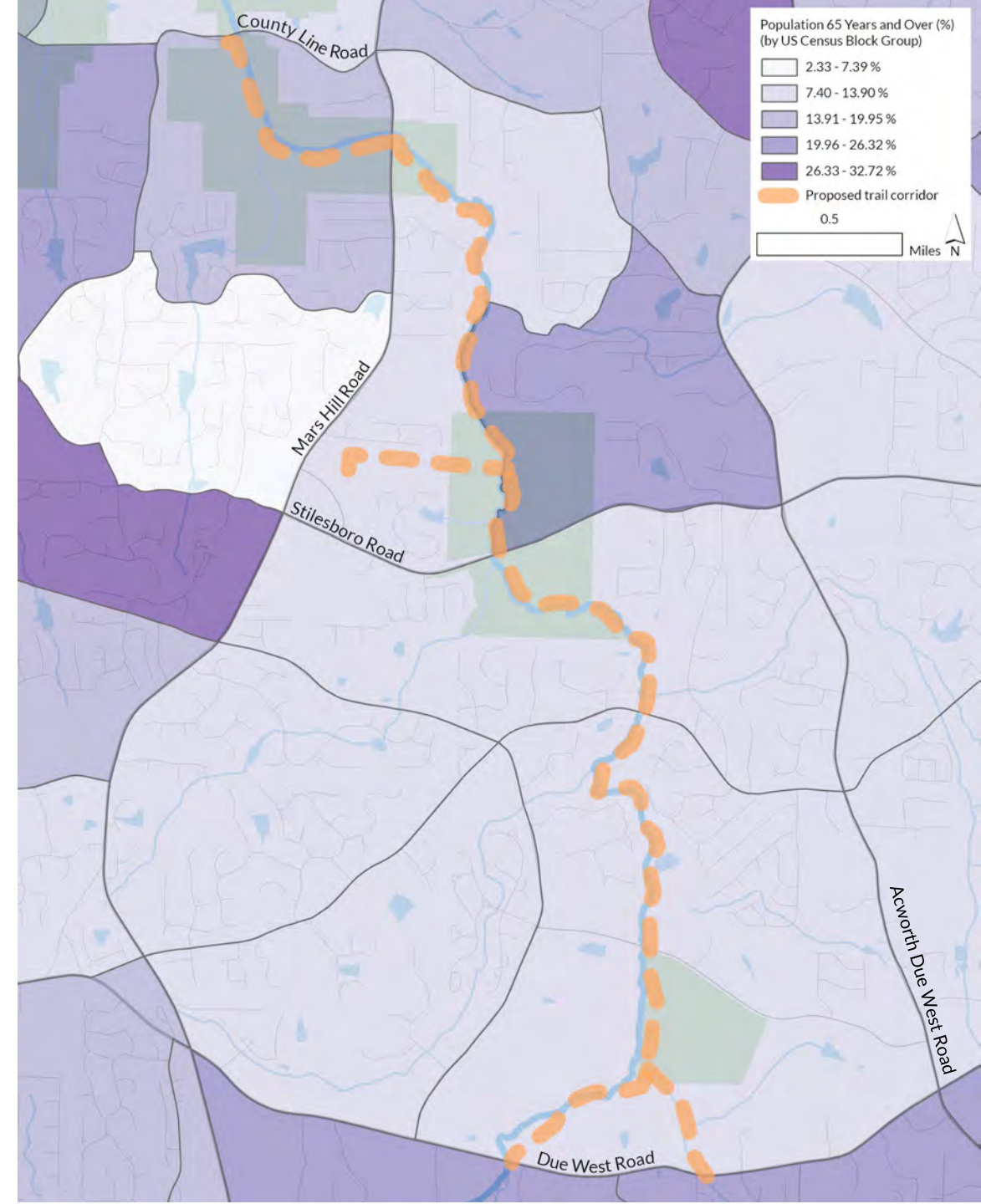
Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey (2022)



Population Over 65

- Block groups that contain or are adjacent to the creek have percent population over 65 years of age ranging between 9-24%

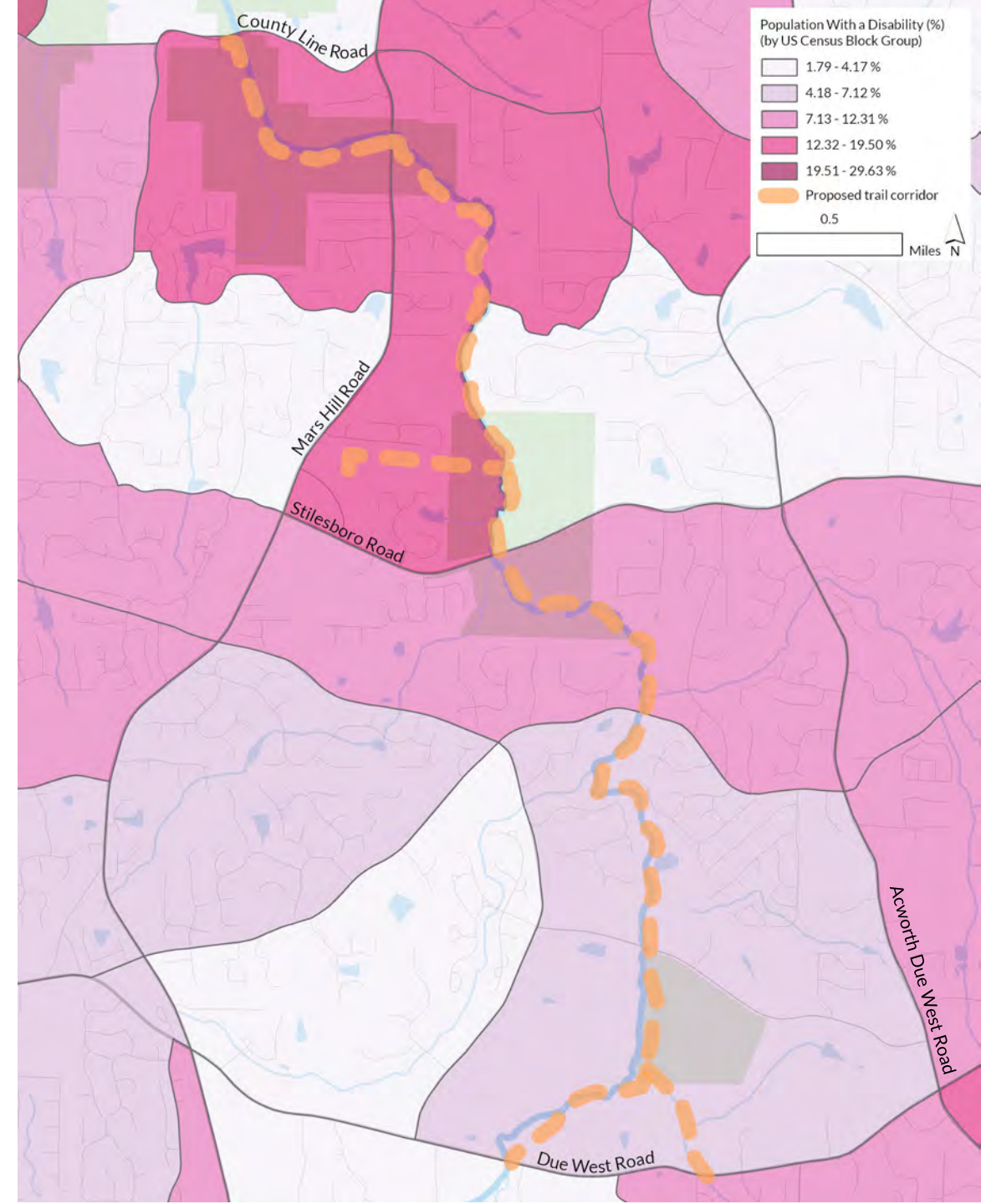
Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey (2022)

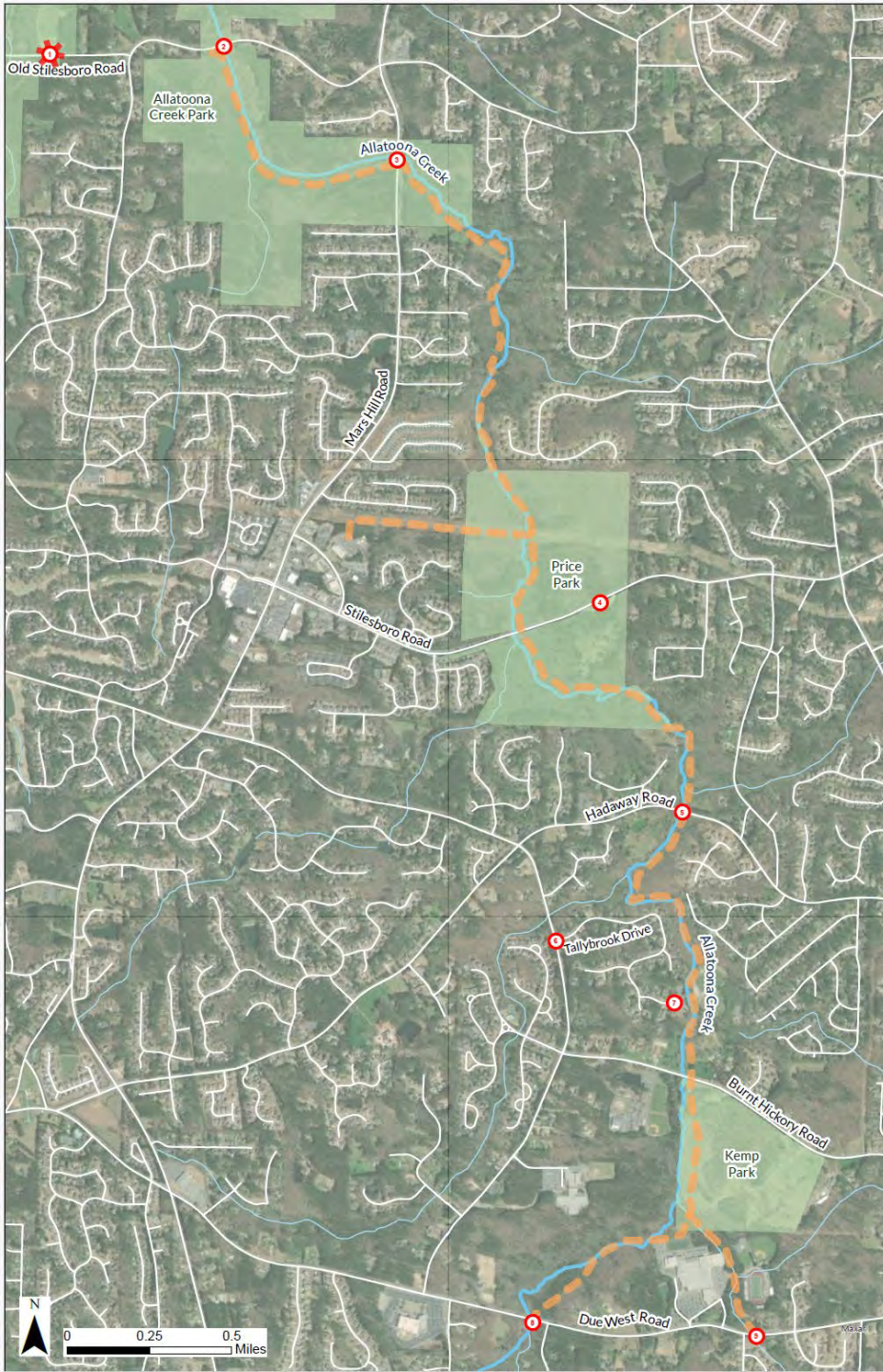


Population with a Disability

- Block groups that contain or are adjacent to the creek have percent population with a disability ranging between 3-16%

Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey (2022)

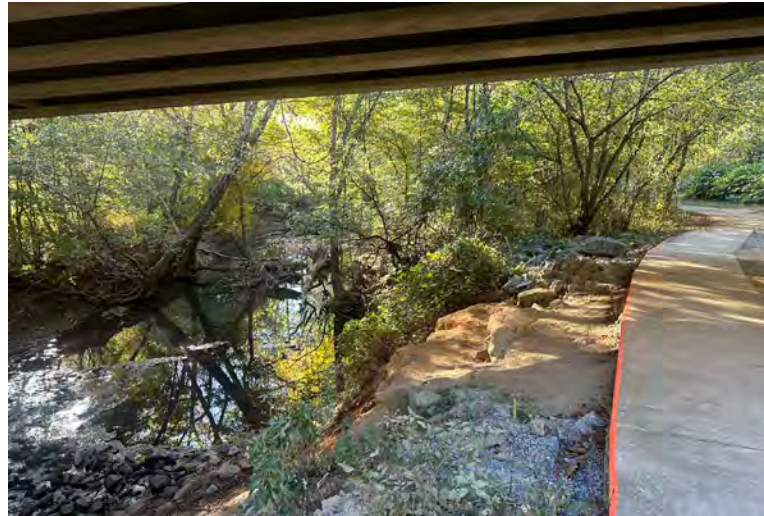




Site Visit Observations

- Project team conducted a driving site visit of the entire study corridor and stopped at major crossings along the route
- Gathered existing conditions notes and photos
- Focused on trail alignment opportunities and challenges
- Estimated clear height of existing bridges where trail could run through
- Noted adjacencies and possible crossings of roads, tributaries, and private property

Site Visit Photos



Walking Tour/Listening Sessions

- Toured Price Park and Kemp Park with their respective “Friends of” organizations
- Learned about the history of the parks
- Gathered general impressions from property owners/their attitudes toward the future greenway
- Informed team on how future goals of parks could align with future greenway
- Learned about desires, opportunities, constraints, and specific features for the future greenway



Walking Tour Photos



Vision and Goals

When you think of the future of Allatoona Creek Greenway, what one word comes to mind?

19 responses



How important are the following principles and priorities to the planning and design of an Allatoona Creek Greenway?



What are some key destinations that you would like to see with improved access or better connection to other places?

Schools.

Lake?

Neighborhoods

There are multiple parks on pitner road that should be included.

Acworth is building a trail around Lake Acworth

Oc Hubert and connection to army corps property at the lake

Fire station?

Future connection to Green Meadows preserve, which would also give connections to Kemp Library, Daily Grind, and all shops at Due West Corners.

What are some key destinations that you would like to see with improved access or better connection to other places?

Activity center Due west

**Access to both the brook
stone commercial area and
due west commercial area**

What are your hopes for this study? For an Allatoona Creek Greenway?

It gets built in my lifetime.

**We are able to get funding
and build it in my lifetime**

Community support

**Community excitement
that leads to fund raising**

Final route

**A greenway that brings more
than your average greenway:
natural playgrounds, bike
features, activities, amenities.**

What concerns do you have related to this scoping study? To an Allatoona Creek Greenway?

Fear of the people

Property owners

**One snobby landowner
will kill it.**

**I would like to take a
proactive approach to
communicating with property
owners**

NIMBYS

**Volume of people coming
into the area**

**My neighborhood has horses,
so they will be Leary of the
greenway going right next to
the horses.**

**Community's perception of
crime along a trail**

Next Steps & General Discussion

Next Steps

- Continue existing conditions assessment
 - Wrap up by end of 2024
- Continue community engagement activities
 - Walking tour with Friends of Allatoona Creek Park
 - Community open house in November



Upcoming Engagement Activities

Community Open House - Stop By Any Time!

November 19, 2024 6:00-7:30pm

West Cobb Regional Library

1750 Dennis Kemp Lane, Kennesaw, GA 30152

Visit the project website:

www.cobbcounty.org/ACGStudy or scan the QR code



Thank you!

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