

Allatoona Creek Greenway Trail Scoping Study

Stakeholder Meeting #2

March 4, 2025

Today's Agenda

1. **Introductions & Project Background** *(10 minutes)*
2. **What We've Learned** *(15 minutes)*
 - Existing Conditions
 - Community Feedback
3. **Potential Alternatives (Break-out Sessions)** *(45 minutes)*
4. **Summary Discussion (Q&A)** *(15 minutes)*
5. **Next Steps and Deliverables** *(5 minutes)*

Introductions & Project Background

Project Partners

Cobb County Department of Transportation

Cobb County PARKS Department

Cobb County Water System

Consultant Team

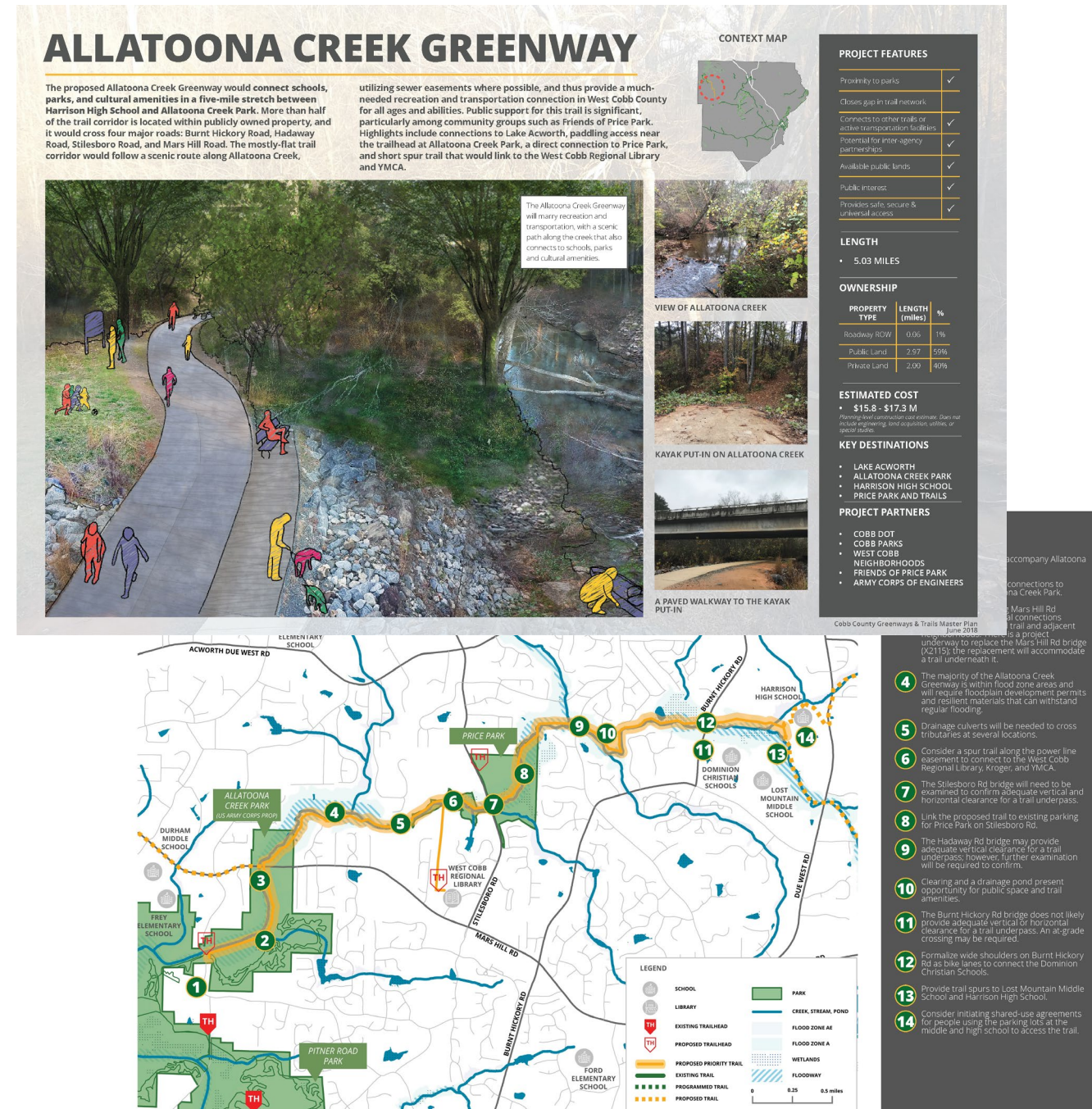
- Gresham Smith
- Lumenor
- Nova
- Edwards Pitman
- American Engineers

Stakeholder Committee

- Cobb County Community Development
 - *Phillip Westbrook*
- Atlanta Regional Commission
 - *Reginald James*
- SORBA/MTB Atlanta
 - *Josh Camp/Thom Cerny*
- Friends of Kemp Park
 - *Peggy Ashley*
- Friends of Price Park
 - *Dave Schwickerath*
- Cobb County Schools
 - *Joshua Morreale*
- Cobb County Police Department
 - *Sgt. Ablashi*
- Community Advocate
 - *Eric Wilhelm*

Greenways & Trails Master Plan

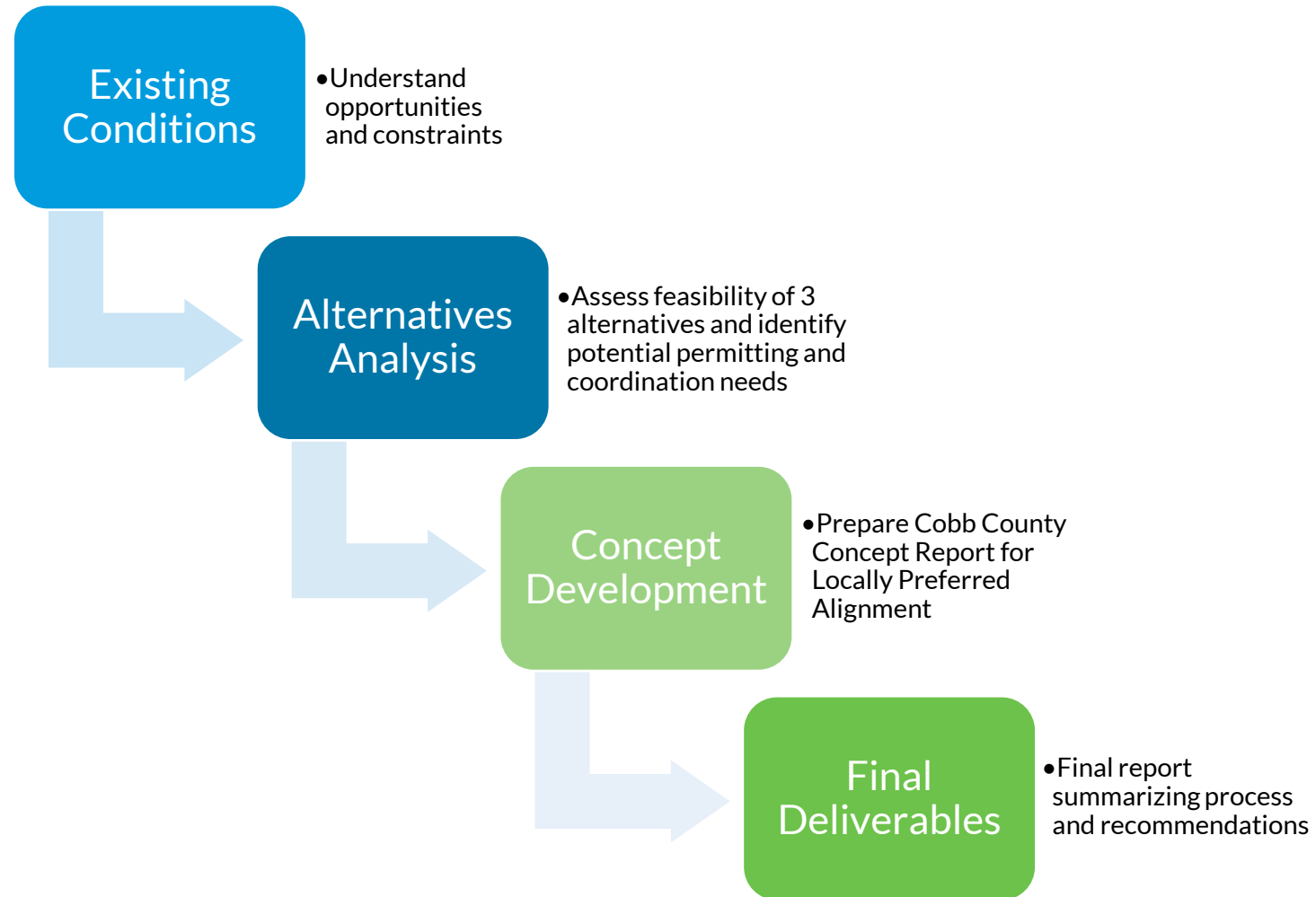
- Adopted 2018
- Allatoona Creek Greenway was **1 of 8 Priority Projects** recommended
- Roughly 5 miles in length
- Largely intended to follow creek – to be determined
- Opportunities for connectivity to schools, parks, neighborhoods



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.



Project Schedule

We are here! 

Note: As of March 2025; subject to change as project evolves.

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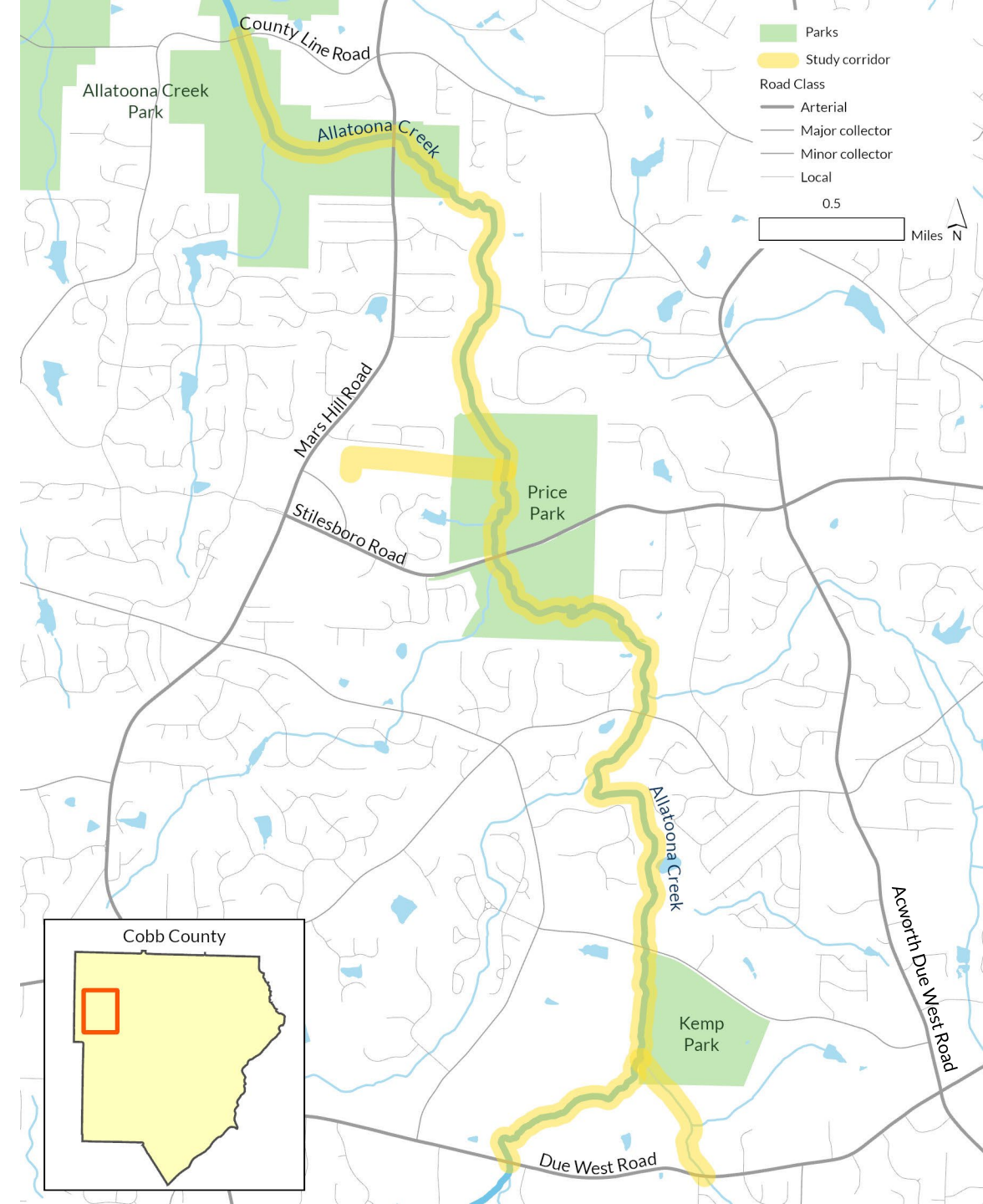
Overall Goals and Objectives

- 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

What We've Learned

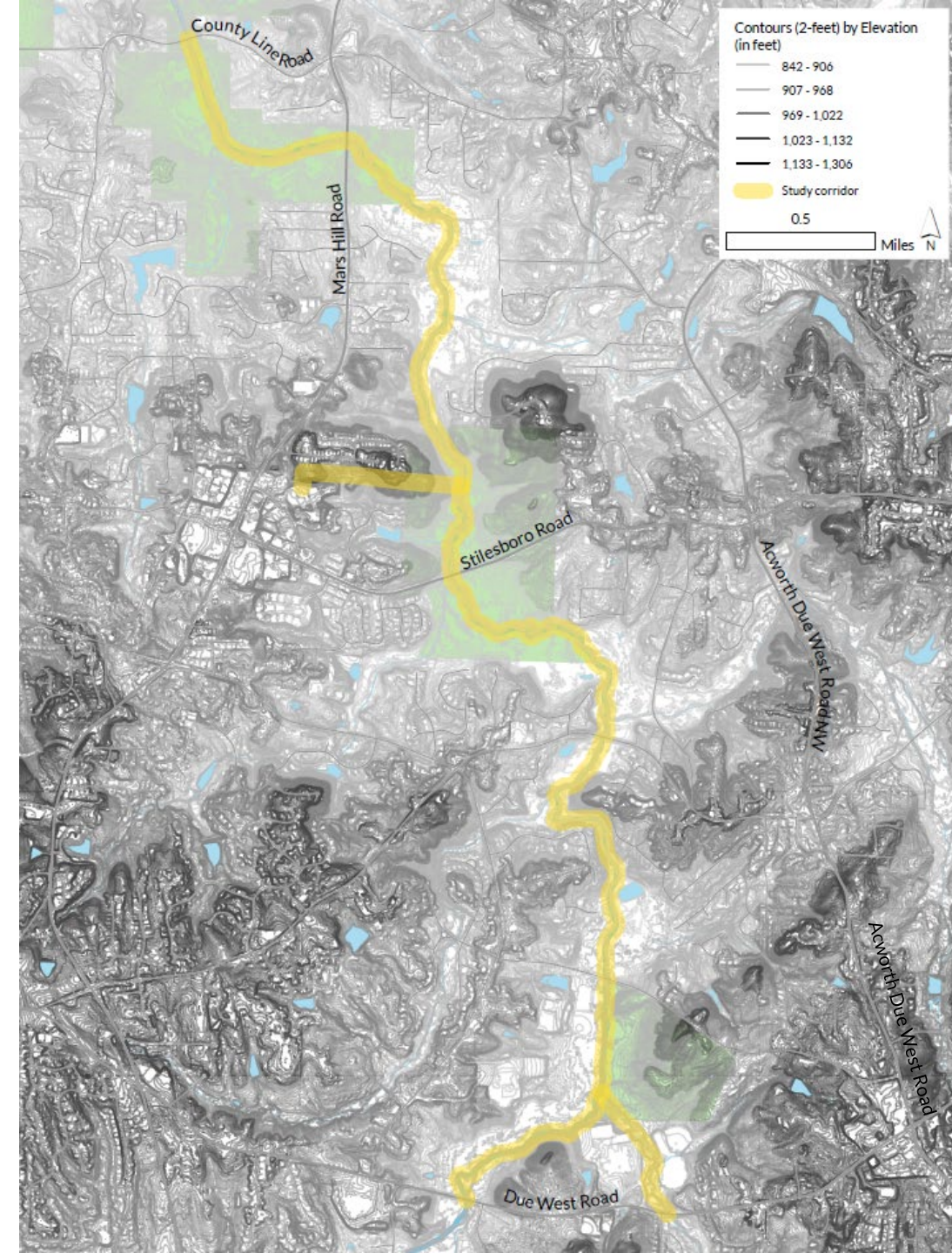
Study Area

- 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



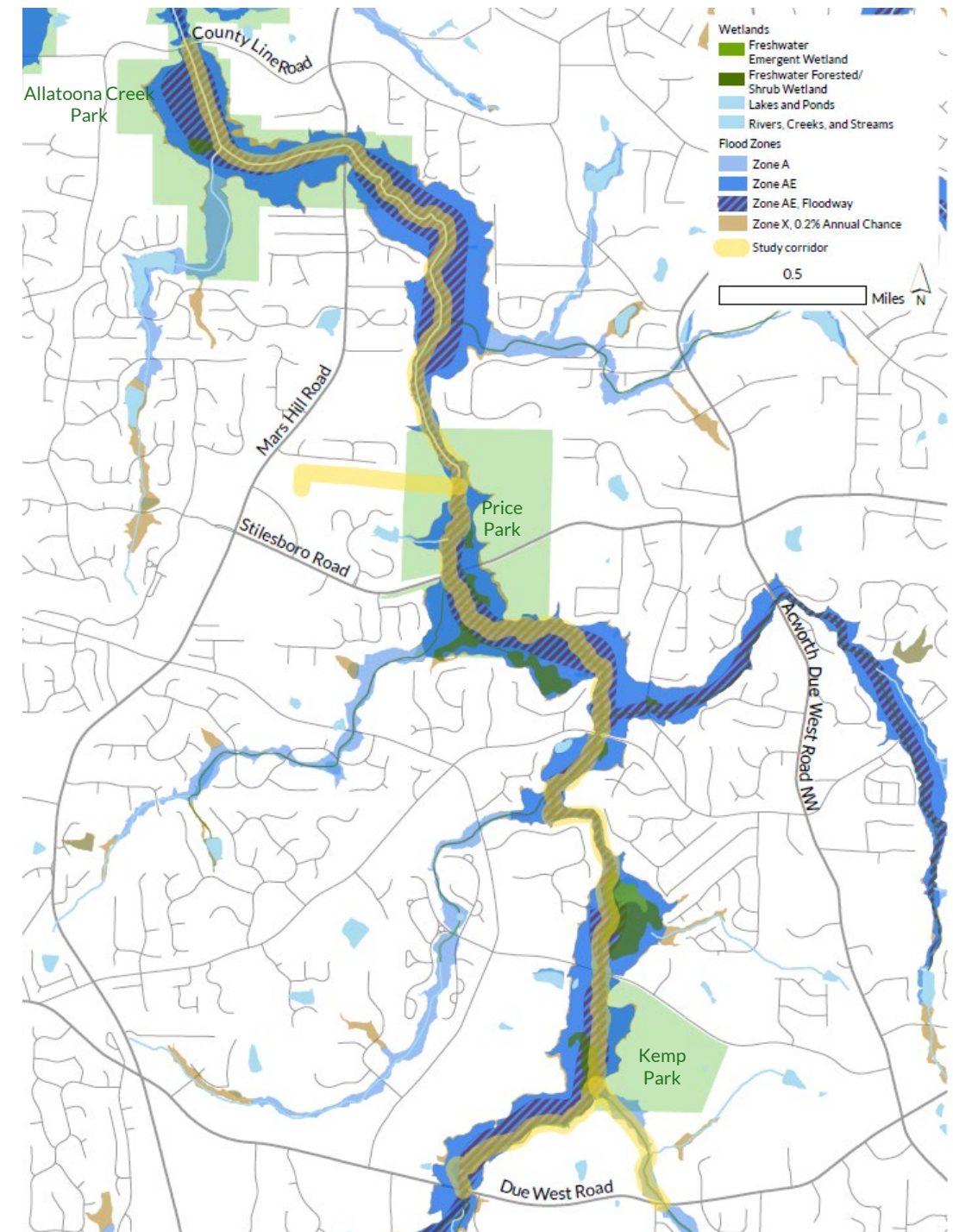
Topography

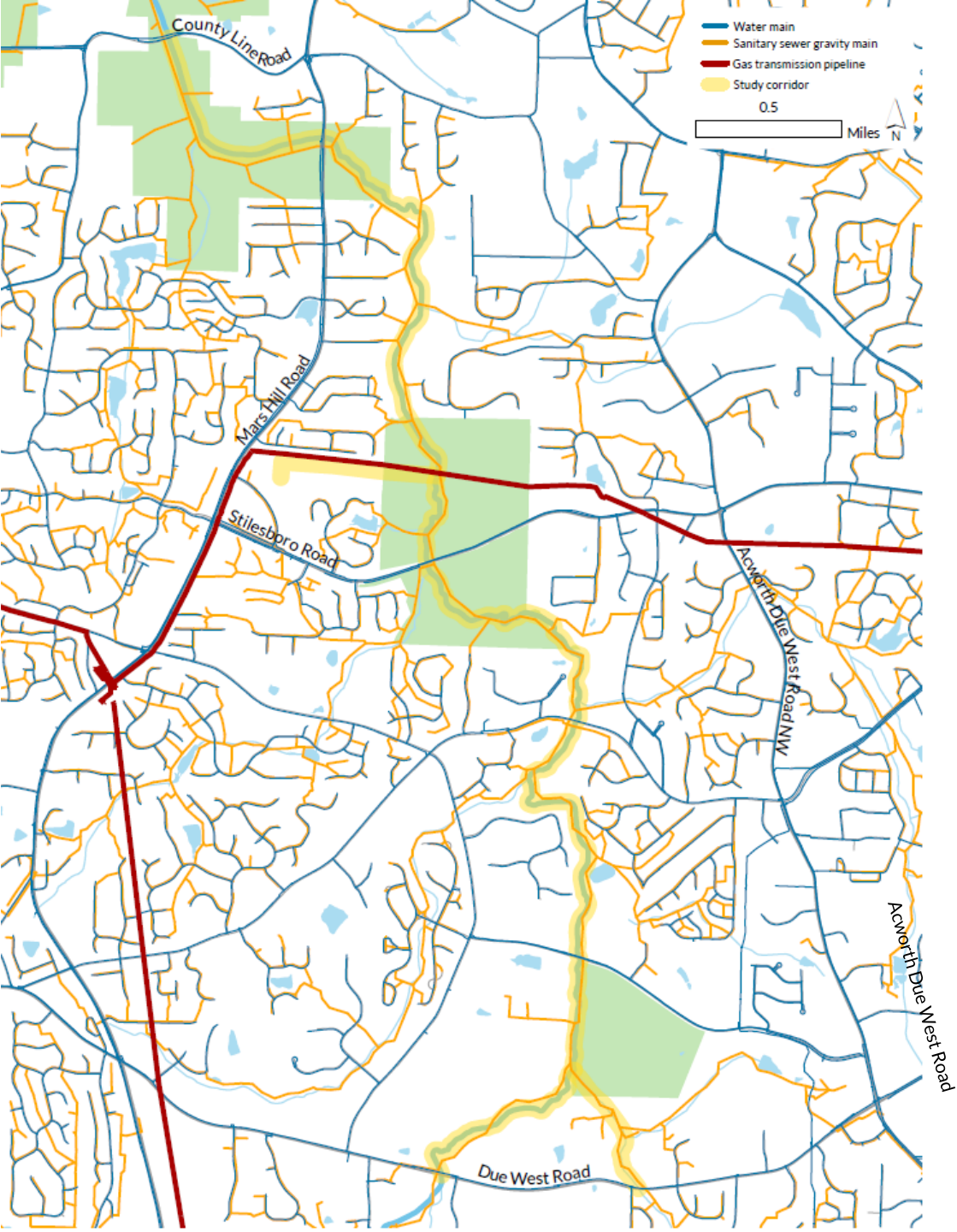
- Topography can help determine accessibility
- Allatoona Creek corridor represents a low point in the area
- Steep inclines north of the Stilesboro Road corridor present possible access challenges
- North to south, topography is rolling and generally level



Wetlands and Flood Zones

- Mostly Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
 - Impacts to wetlands (clearing, fill, etc.) must be mitigated and could impact project cost
- Some Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Flood zones tend to be wider the farther north along the corridor





Utilities

- Utility lines can represent potential alignments for trails that may be less intrusive to private property interests
- Sanitary sewer lines throughout the project area
- Project area is bisected by a large gas transmission pipeline

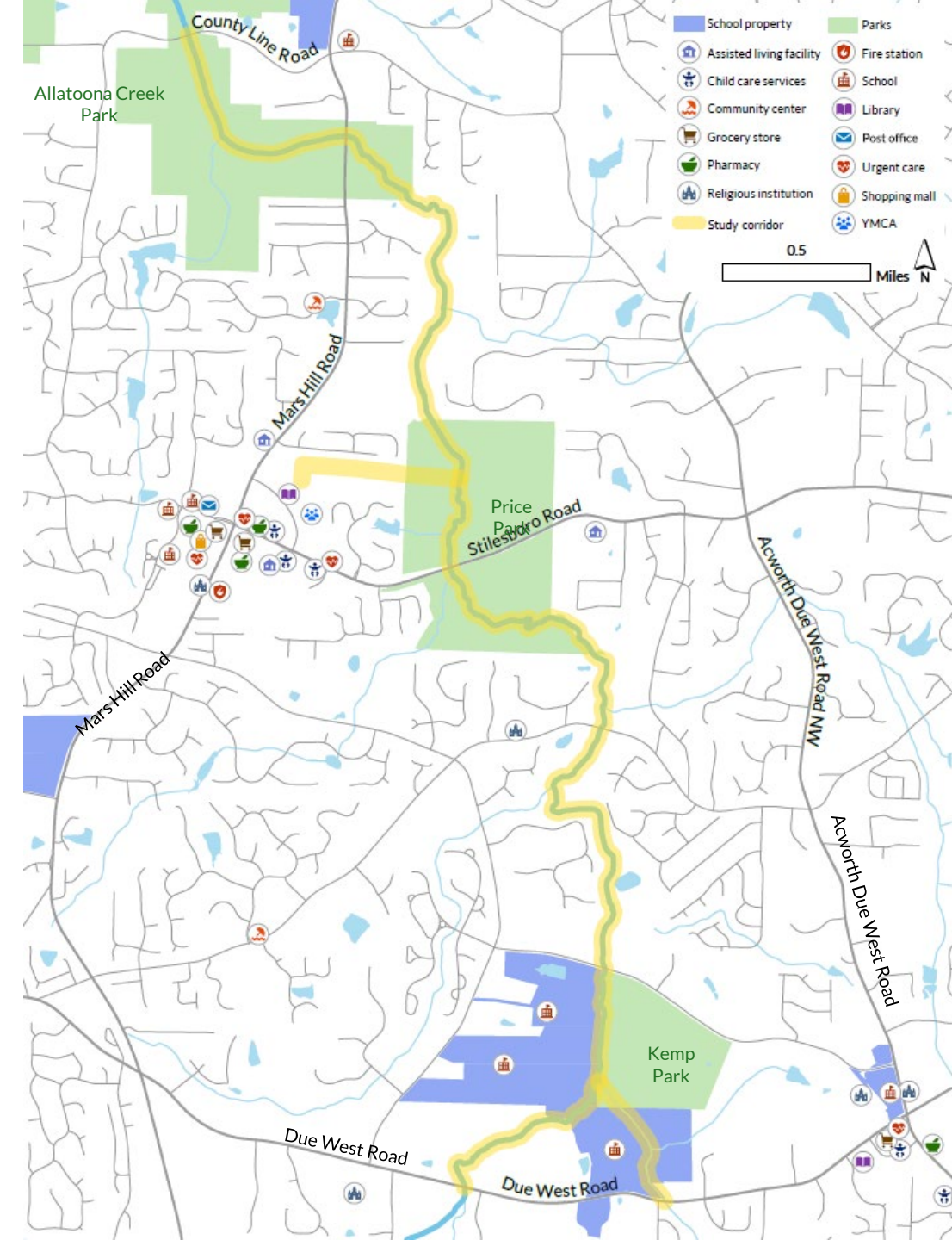


Subdivisions

- The project corridor is home to a large number of communities/neighborhoods
- Most neighborhoods are represented by Homeowner's Associations
 - Notable exceptions along Mars Hill Road section of corridor
- Desire for direct access varies widely between communities

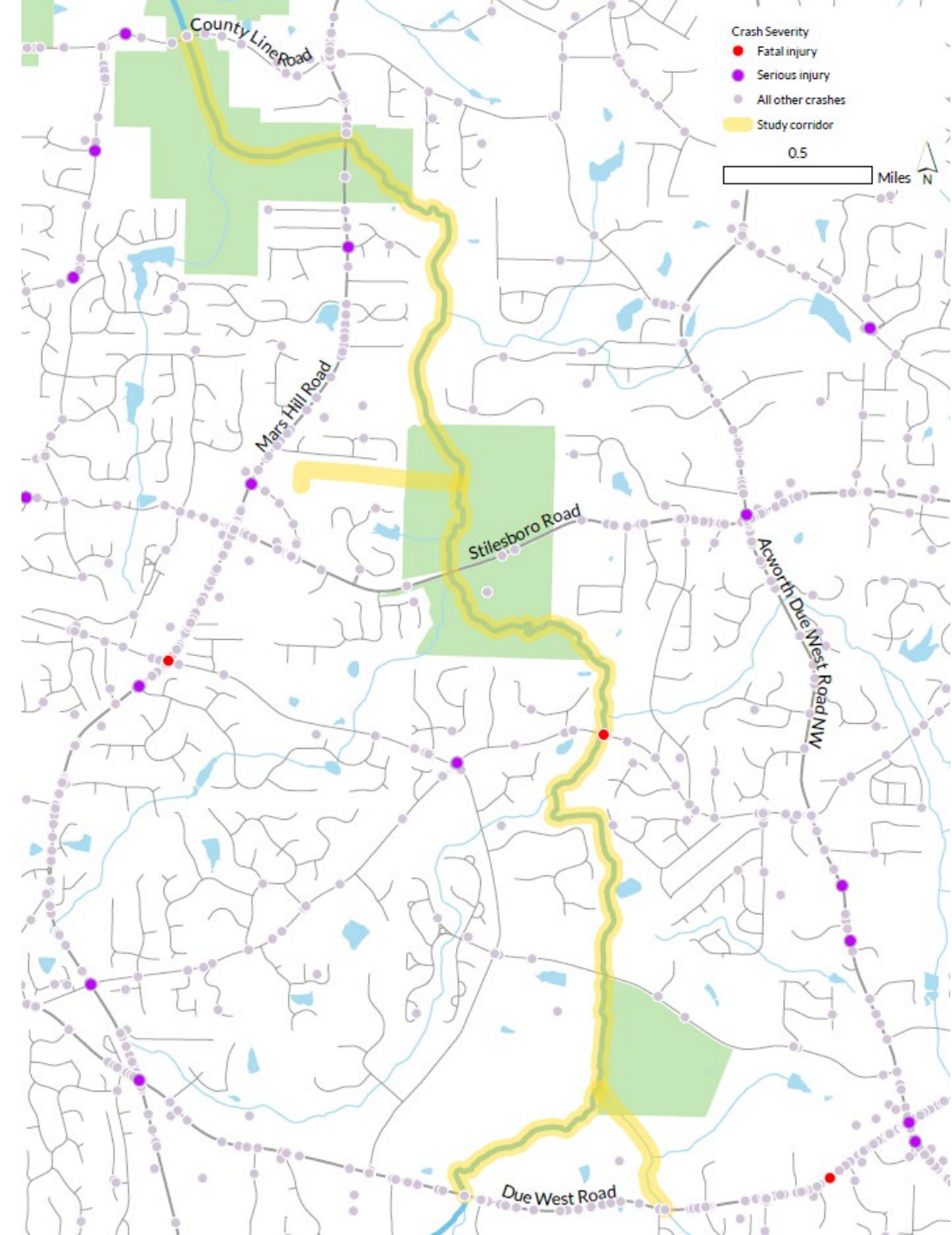
Community Points of Interest

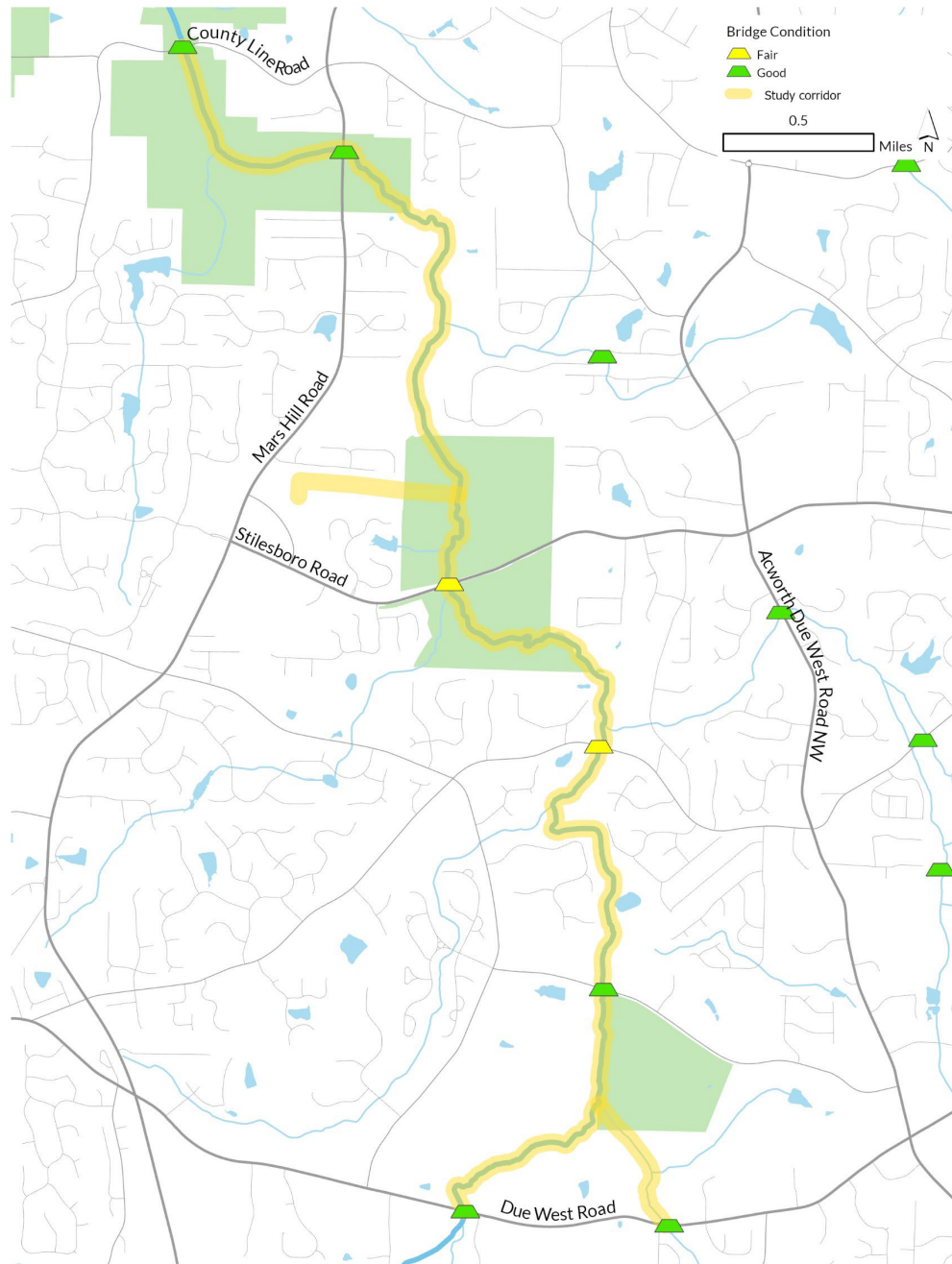
- Consistent with land uses
- Mainly concentrated in clusters within commercial areas
- Several schools nearby
- Clusters include grocery stores, clinics, and childcare



Crash Severity

- Several notable serious or fatal injury crashes within the corridor
- Most crashes in the area do not involve serious or fatal injuries (but still represent a need for multimodal options)



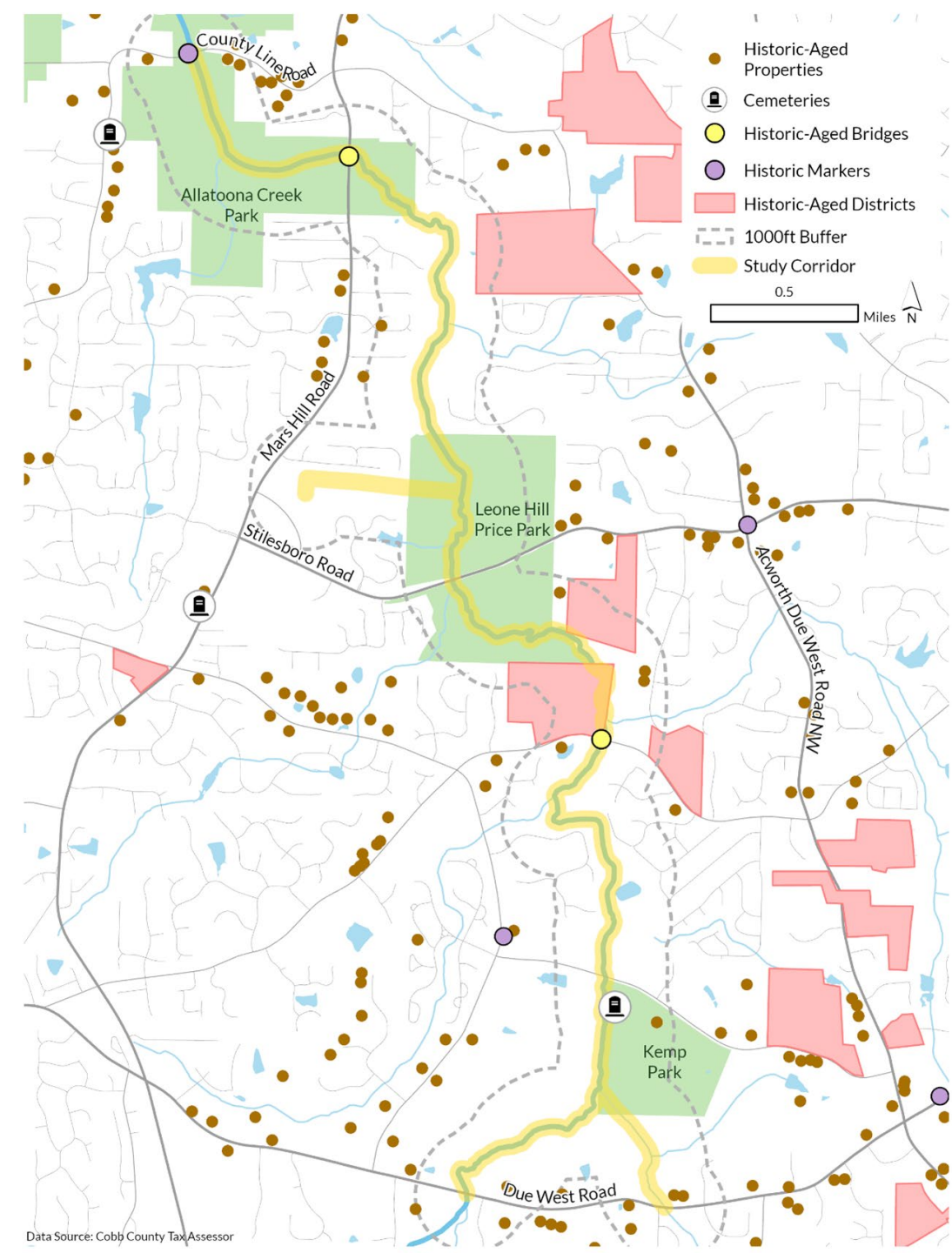


Bridge Conditions

- There are multiple bridges along the corridor that represent potential future “bottlenecks” for alignments near the creek
- Most bridges along the corridor are in good condition
 - Notable exception at Stilesboro Road

Historic Resources

- Potentially eligible historic resources
 - 45+ years of age and meet certain other criteria
- Most potentially eligible historic resources are structures
 - Some districts related to Civil War
 - Cemetery in Kemp Park



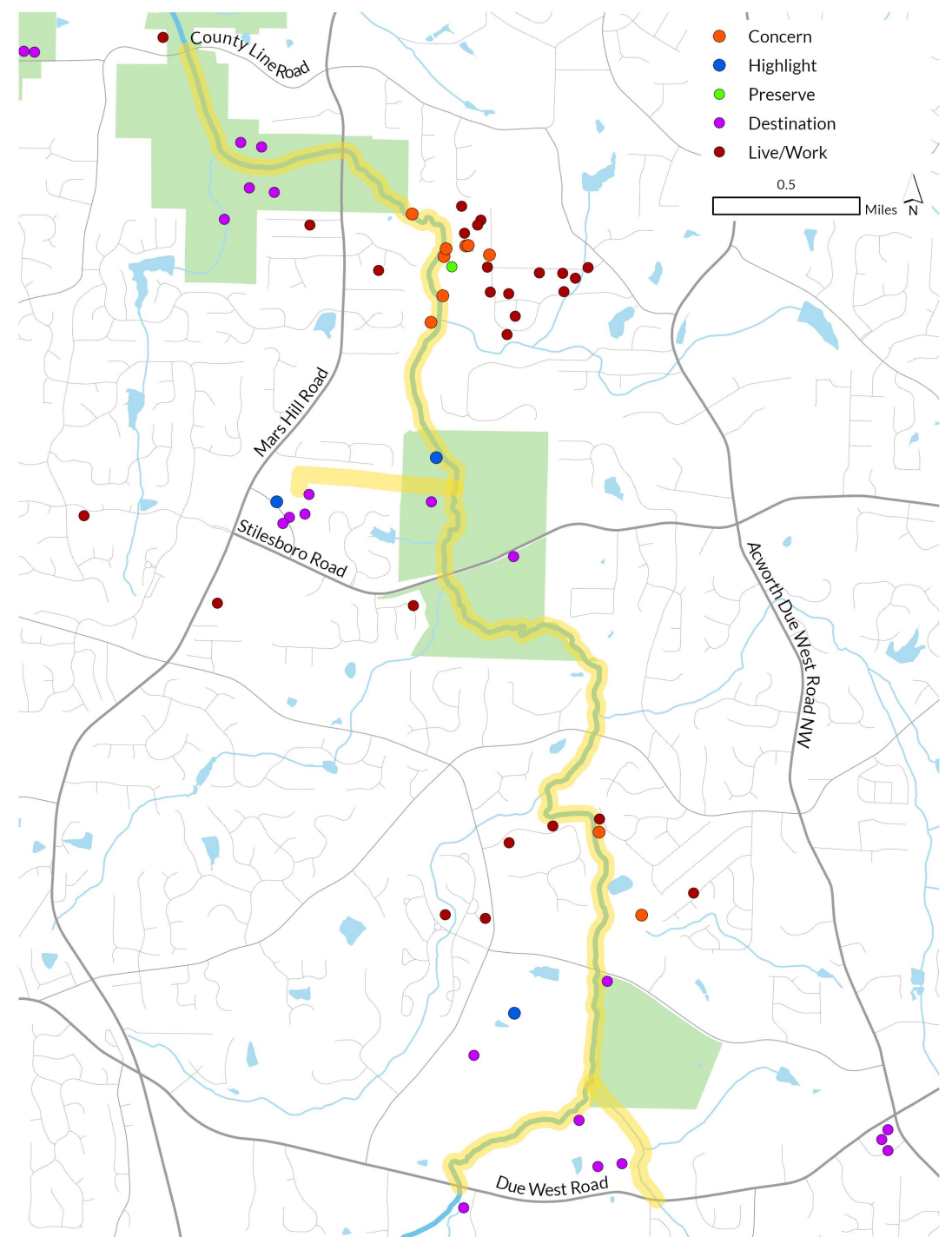
Engagement

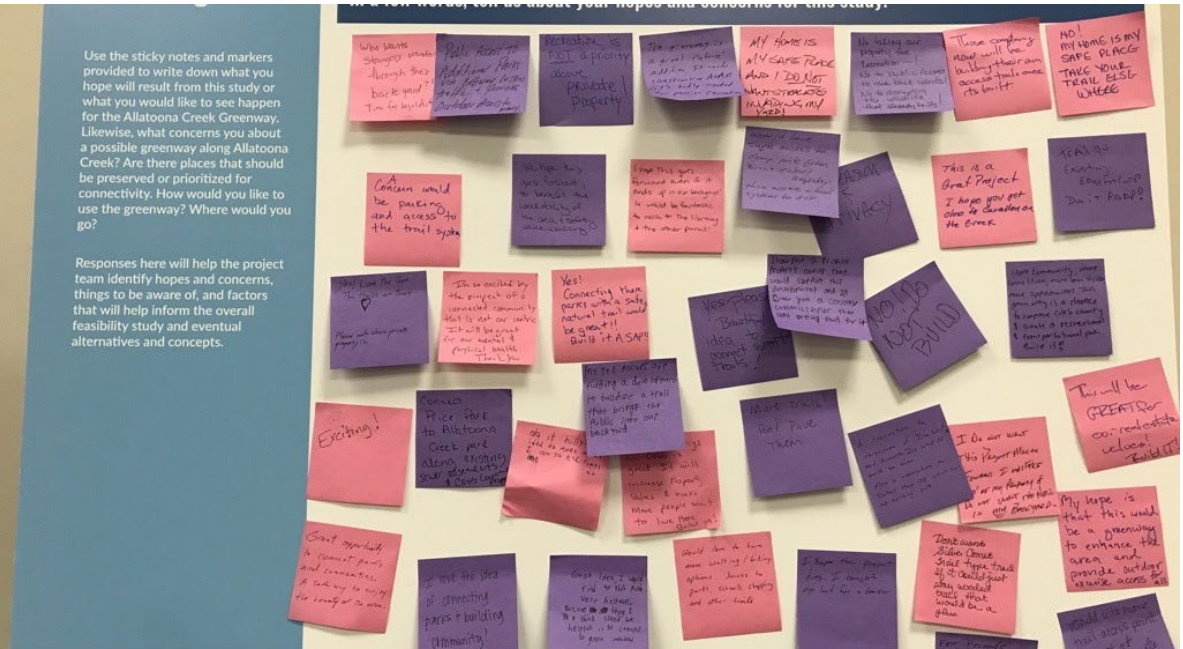
- Engagement Website
- Community Walking Tours
- Stakeholder Committee Meetings
- Community Pop-Up Events
- Public Open House



Engagement

- Engagement and comments came from throughout the project study area
- Greater concentrations of comments on the northern portion of the study area
- Most “concerns” mentioned related to private property rights and questions around access





Potential Alternatives

Break-out Session

Precedent Trails



Precedent Trails



Precedent Trails



Precedent Trails



Precedent Trails



Precedent Trails



Instructions

- The Committee will split into three groups, with each group being assigned to a section of the proposed trail study area (each showing multiple alternatives)
- Take 15 minutes to review the section at your table – working with the facilitator to provide feedback and insight
- After 15 minutes, each group will rotate onto the next Alternative (45 minutes total)
- We'll reconvene after for a summary discussion!

Summary Discussion

Questions, concerns or general feedback

Next Steps

Next Steps

- Pop-Up Event
 - Oregon Park, Saturday, March 29, 2025
- Walking Tours
 - Mars Hill Corridor communities
 - Recreational Users
 - Mid-March
- Public Open House
 - Tuesday, April 1, 2025



Thank you!

Erin Thoresen, AICP
Gresham Smith

Project Manager

erin.thoresen@greshamsmith.com

d. 678.518.3881

Laura Beall, AICP
Cobb County DOT

Planning Division Manager

Laura.Beall@cobbcounty.org

d: 770-528-1539

Kelsey Vizzard
Cobb County DOT

Planner III

Kelsey.Vizzard@cobbcounty.org

d: 770-528-4367