



# CHIEF LADIGA TRAIL EXTENSION PROJECT

**ANNISTON, ALABAMA**

**TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Project Report:

4Site Inc. + J.R. Wilburn Associates

Date: 3.27.13

# CHIEF LADIGA TRAIL EXTENSION PROJECT FOR CITY OF ANNISTON, ALABAMA

**FUNDED BY:**

CITY OF ANNISTON AND THE APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

**MAYOR:**

VAUGHN STEWART II

**CITY COUNCIL:**

JAY JENKINS  
DAVID REDDICK  
SEYRAM SELASE  
MILLIE HARRIS

**CITY MANAGER:**

DON A. HOYT

**CITY PLANNER:**

TOBY BENNINGTON, AICP

*4Site Inc. Engineering, Land Planning, Landscape Architecture, Surveying*

*J. R. Wilburn Associates*

# **Chief Ladiga Trail Extension Project**

## **Introduction**

The purpose of the project was to develop a plan for the 1.) acquisition and 2.) development plan of an extension of the Chief Ladiga Trail from North Anniston south approximately seven miles to the Anniston Multi-Modal Transportation Center. The completion of the Chief Ladiga Trail project has the potential to increase tourism which will leverage private investment and new jobs. Recreation trails of this magnitude have been documented to have significant local area economic benefits including new and expanded business, new jobs, increased sales tax revenue, and increased property values along the trail route. This plan will allow the City to be effective in the acquisition and development of the project.

This effort was funded by the City of Anniston and the Appalachian Regional Commission to prepare a workable and economically beneficial route for the development of the Chief Ladiga Trail Extension from Mike Tucker Park in North Anniston/Weaver approximately 7 miles south to the Anniston Multi-Modal Transportation Center (Anniston Amtrak Station). The Chief Ladiga Trail, Alabama's first rails-to-trails project runs 33 miles from Anniston through Calhoun and Cleburne Counties to the Alabama-Georgia Line where it links with the 62 mile Silver Comet Trail extending through Georgia into the Atlanta Metropolitan Area. With the 7 mile extension proposed, the result will be a continuous 102 mile bicycle pedestrian transportation corridor (Coordinated with Amtrak Service through ARC Counties in Alabama and Georgia) linking Anniston and Atlanta.

## **Work Elements**

### **Task I: Data Collection**

- We began the process with a meeting with city officials for a review of the feasibility of the 7 mile rail corridor along the abandoned NS corridor.
- Following the meeting we compiled a list of data examples important to determining the feasibility of the Chief Ladiga Trail Extension. Using the City provided GIS data we were able to determine property ownerships, the topography, and many other major features along the 7 mile corridor. We were able to give a thorough analysis of the corridor through the data provided.
- We also reviewed other related bike and pedestrian plans developed for MPO in the City of Anniston.

### **Task II: Field Survey**

- We reviewed the opportunities and constraints of developing the trail alignment.
- A field survey then ensued and was carried out by Drew Wharton, Rod Wilburn, and George Boulineau using two all-terrain vehicles furnished by the City of Anniston and piloted by City staff.
- A photographic log of the corridor showing the alignment and key features is included in the following document which includes aerial photos, stations, and mile markers with trail alignment beginning at Mike Tucker Park and ending at the Multi-Modal Transportation Center.

### **Task III: Recommendations**

- There was a general site plan using GIS information and data for this provided by the City of Anniston. The site plan includes the general alignment, locations of at grade street crossings, bridge/trestle crossings, and where obstacles were found.
- Two obstacles of interest were identified along the proposed alignment.
  - 1.) The first being a fenced off portion of the trail near the M & H Valve Company property. This may be navigated by using the adjacent abandoned rail that will allow you to reconnect on the other side of the M & H Valve Company. The adjacent abandoned rail can also be used for connection to future trail spurs.
  - 2.) The second obstacle found was a number of tractor trailers parked on the trail alignment. This could easily be remedied by moving these tractor trailers from the proposed trail alignment.

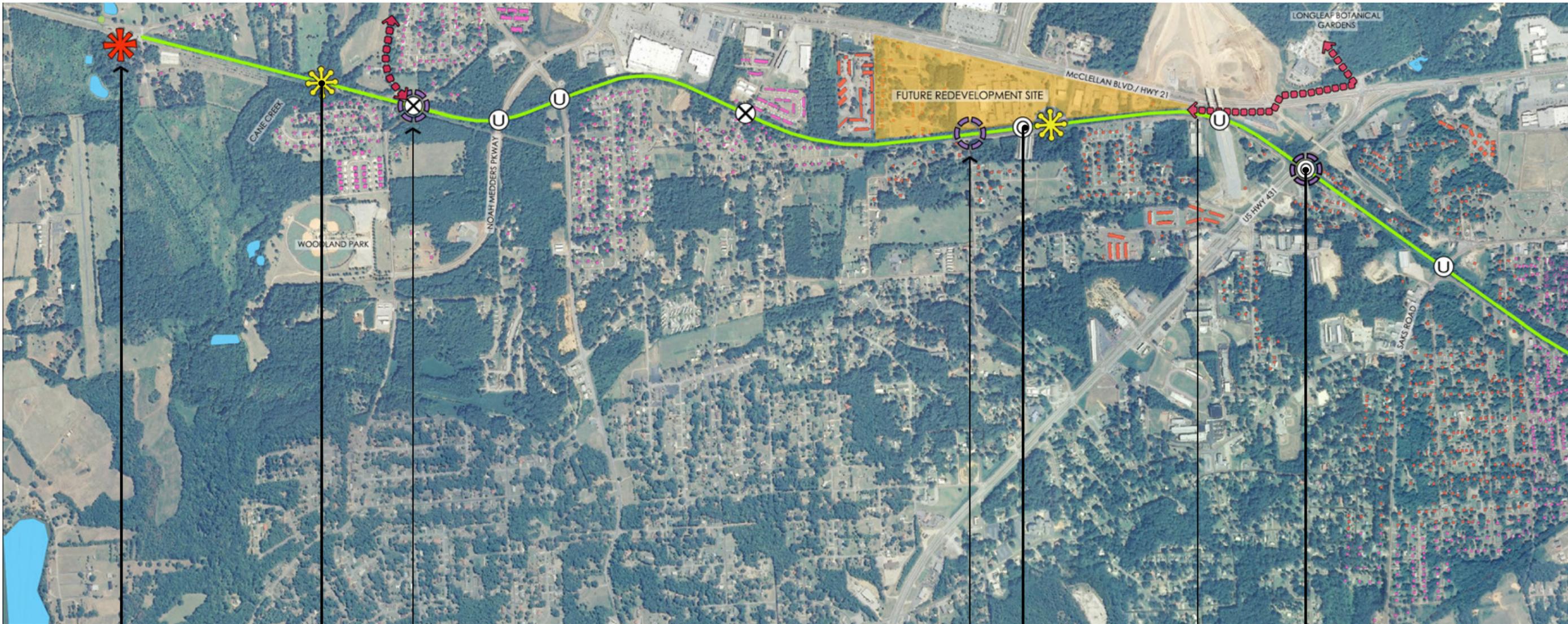
### **Preliminary Rough Cost Summary:**

Mobilization/Contingency	Trail Signs - (15)
Clearing/Grubbing	Trail Benches - (7)
Minor Grading/Earthwork	Trail Trash Receptacles - (11)
Trailheads - Mike Tucker Park & Multi Modal	Asphalt Path - 7.43 miles (10' Width)
Trailhead Restroom Pavilion (South)	Bridge Crossings -12' Width
Trailhead Picnic Tables	Street Crossings - (11)
Trailhead Kiosks	Culvert Crossings - (2)
Bike Racks	Trail Stripping - 7.43 Miles

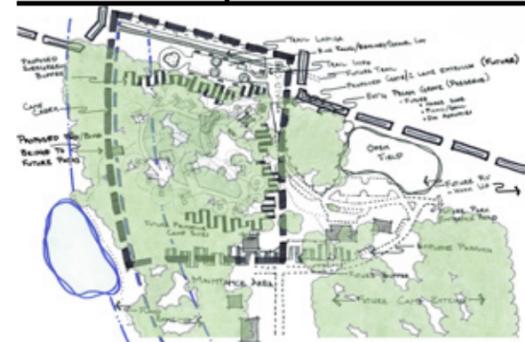
**TOTAL: \$1.6 Million**



**CHIEF LADIGA TRAIL EXTENSION  
CORRIDOR MAPPING (OVERVIEW)**



MIKE TUCKER PARK (TRAILHEAD)  
 FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS  
 WEAVER/ANNISTON  
 CONNECTIONS



FUTURE CONNECTION TO McCLELLAN  
 (GLADE ROAD CROSSING)

CANE CREEK TRESTLE



CONNECTION TO FUTURE DEVELOPEMNT  
 (CURRENTLY ANNISTON MIDDLE SCHOOL)

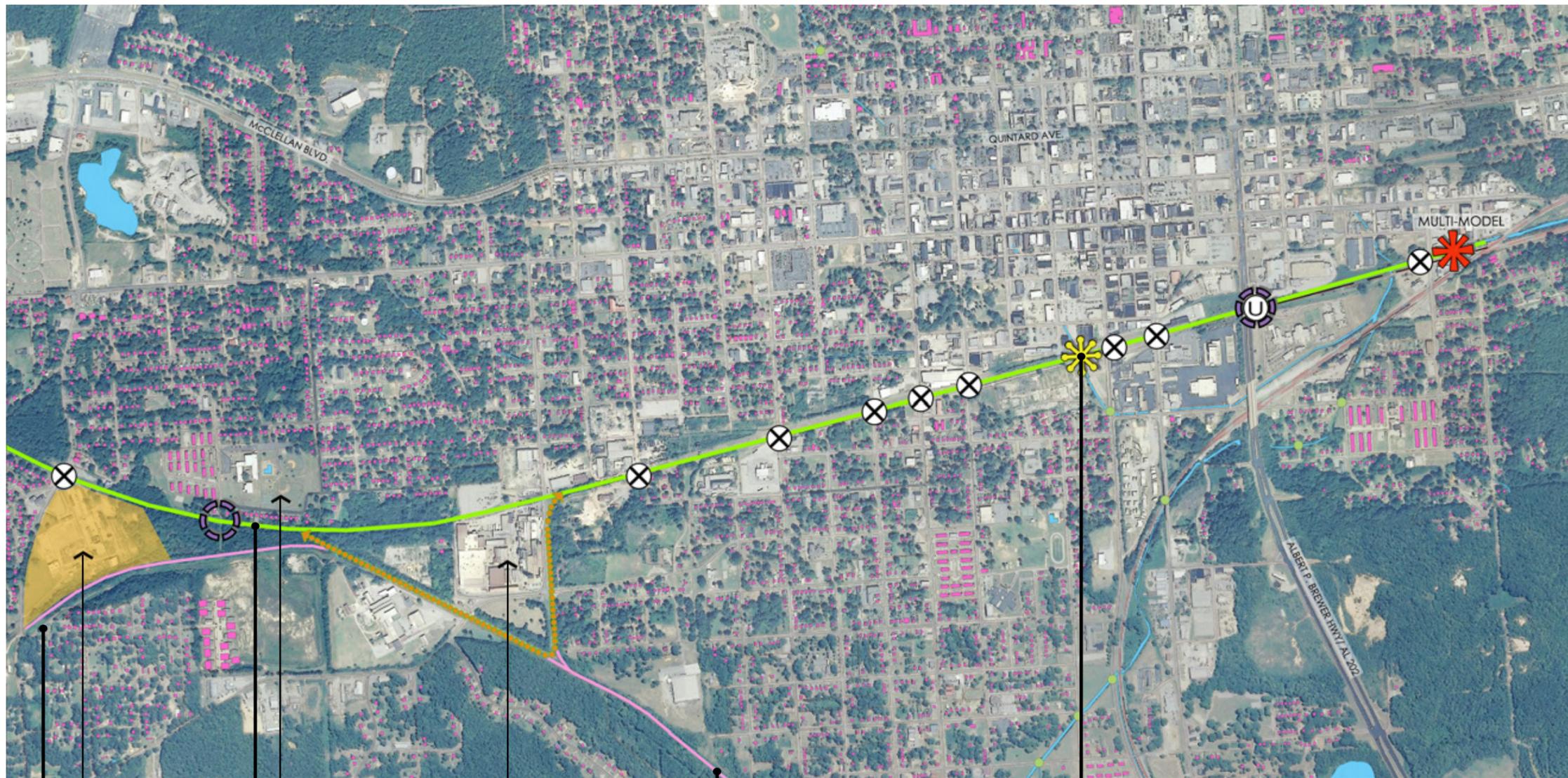
47th ST. AND CLEGHORN DR. TRESTLE



FUTURE CONNECTION  
 TO TRAILHEAD AT  
 LAGARDE PARK  
 (JAYCEE PARK)

US HIGHWAY 431 BRIDGE CROSSING





### LEGEND

- MAJOR TRAIL CONNECTIONS
- TRESTLE AND BRIDGE CROSSINGS
- MAJOR TRAIL DESTINATIONS (TRAILHEAD)
- ALTERNATE TRAIL ROUTES
- TRAIL CONNECTIONS ROUTES
- CHIEF LADIGA TRAIL EXTENSION
- POSSIBLE FUTURE TRAILS

### STREET CROSSINGS

NORTH TO SOUTH

- GLADE ROAD
- NOAH MEDDERS PARKWAY
- LENLOCK LANE
- HILLCREST ROAD/EAST 54th STREET
- 47th STREET/CLEGHORN DRIVE
- AL HWY 21 BRIDGE
- US HWY 431
- SAKS ROAD
- BLUE MOUNTAIN ROAD
- WEST 21st STREET
- WEST 18th STREET
- WEST 16th STREET
- WEST 15th STREET
- WEST 14th STREET
- WEST 11th STREET
- WEST 10th STREET
- AL HWY 202/ALBERT BREWER HWY
- WEST 4th STREET

- AT GRADE CROSSING    - UNDERPASS    - OVERPASS

CURRENT BROWNFIELD SITE/ FUTURE REDEVELOPMENT



HISTORIC DEPOT/ FUTURE TRAILHEAD

NORWOOD PARK CONNECTION

HISTORIC CONCRETE CULVERT

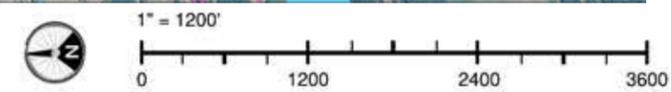


M & H VALVE COMPANY

FUTURE RAILROAD ABANDONMENT

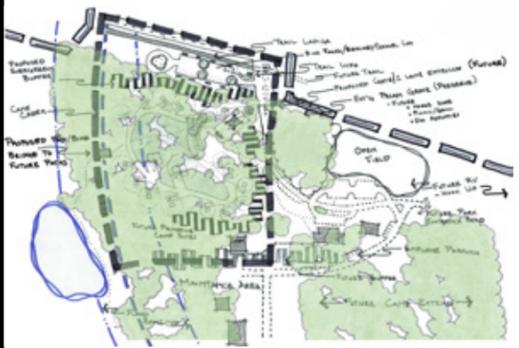


DRAINAGE DITCH BRIDGE CROSSING (DHR LOCATION)

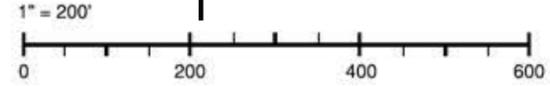




**CHIEF LADIGA TRAIL EXTENSION  
CORRIDOR MAPPING  
(DETAIL MAPPING)**



CHIEF LADIGA TRAIL EXTENSION (NORTH)  
FROM MIKE TUCKER PARK - MILE POST - 32.5



OBSERVING CANE CREEK TRESTLE





CONNECTION TO McCLELLAN  
ON ABANDONED SPUR

GLADE ROAD CROSSING



NOAH MEDDERS PARKWAY UNDERPASS



LENLOCK LANE UNDERPASS





THREE TYPICAL TRAIL CONDITIONS (MAJOR):

TYPICAL FILL CONDITION

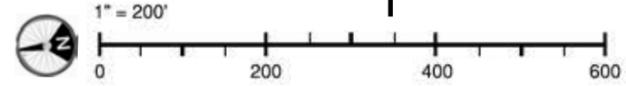


TYPICAL CUT CONDITION



TYPICAL BRIDGE CROSSING CONDITION





FUTURE REDEVELOPMENT  
(CITY OWNED PROPERTY  
AT MIMOSA DRIVE)

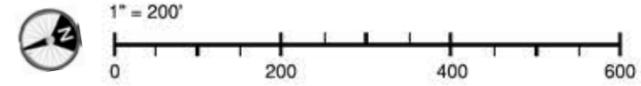


47TH STREET/CLEGHORN DRIVE TRESTLE





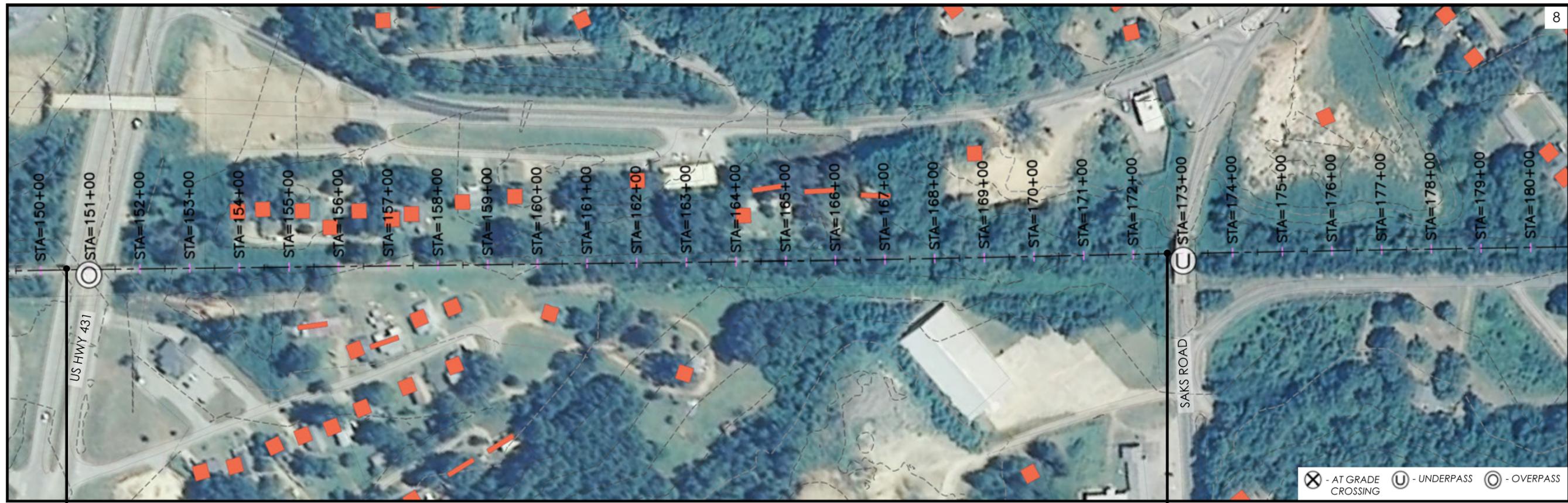
- AT GRADE CROSSING   
 - UNDERPASS   
 - OVERPASS



TRAILHEAD AND BOTANICAL GARDENS CONNECTION

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARKWAY OVERPASS



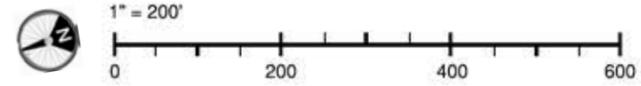


US HIGHWAY 431 OVERPASS



SAKS ROAD UNDERPASS



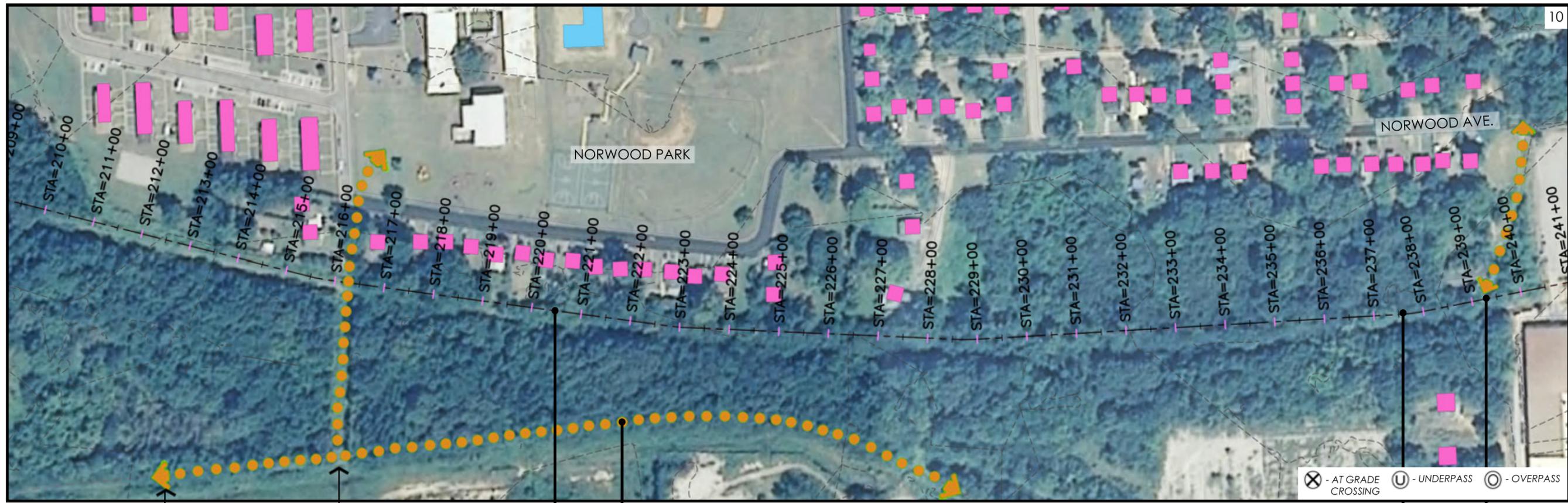


HISTORIC DEPOT /FUTURE TRAILHEAD OFF BLUE MOUNTAIN AVE.



BROWNFIELD SITE/REDEVELOPMENT



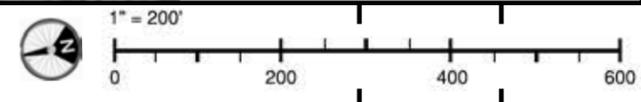


FUTURE TRAILHEAD  
CONNECTION AND  
HISTORIC DEPOT

M&H VALVE  
COMPANY  
BYPASS

LOOKING TOWARDS NORWOOD PARK  
(FUTURE CONNECTION TO PARK  
WEST 29TH STREET AND NORWOOD AVE)

LOOKING TOWARDS NORWOOD PARK  
(BYPASS ROUTE CONNECTION )



M & H VALVE COMPANY  
(NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTION)

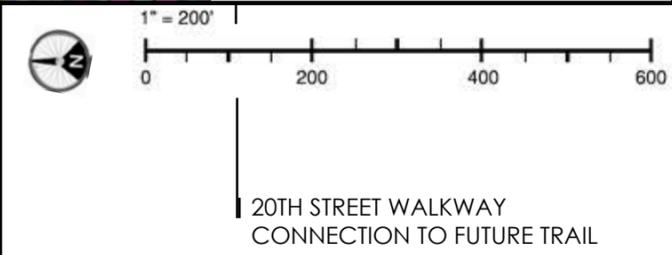




EXISTING SECTION OF TRAIL ON M&H VALVE'S PROPERTY (CLOSED - SEE NARRATIVE)

NEIGHBORHOOD TRAIL CONNECTION

BYPASS ROUTE CONNECTION



M & H VALVE COMPANY LOOKING NORTH



TRUCK TRAILORS PARKED ON THE RIGHT OF WAY(MOVED)



FUTURE WALKWAY CONNECTION



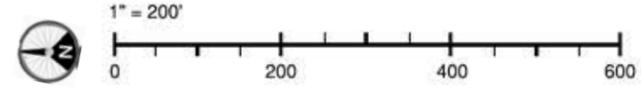


AT GRADE CROSSING AT 18TH STREET



OPEN AREA OF TRAIL LOOKING BETWEEN 18TH STREET AND 16TH STREET





DRAINAGE CANAL  
(NEAR CHALKLINE MILL SITE/ DHR SITE)

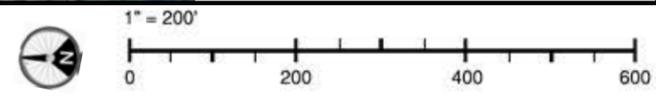


COLDWATER MOUNTAIN CONNECTION

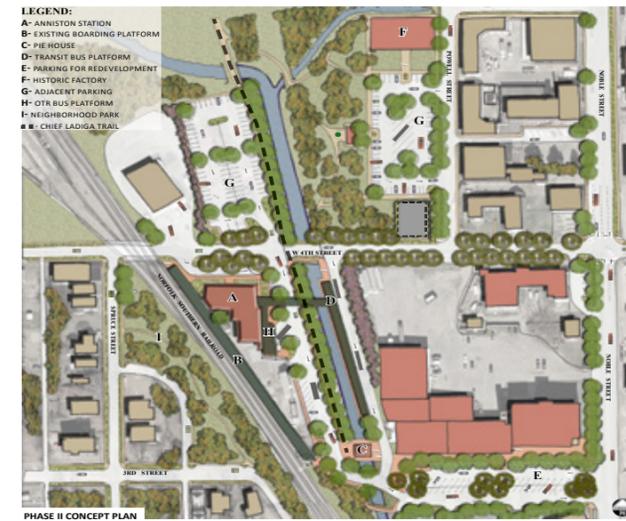


ALBERT P. BREWER HIGHWAY/  
HWY 202 UNDERPASS





### MULTI MODAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD



TRAILHEAD AT MULTI MODAL TRANSPORTATION CENTER



MULTI MODAL TRANSPORTATION CENTER AND THE NOBLE STREET CONNECTION

CHIEF LADIGA TRAIL EXTENSION TERMINUS STATION= 347+48  
TOTAL LENGTH: 6.58 MILES

LOCAL AMTRACK TRANSIT



