

Project Information			
<b>Project Name:</b>	Roanoke River Greenway through Explore Park	<b>Federal Project#:</b>	RSTP-5128(435)
<b>Project Number:</b>	9999-080-934, C501, P101	<b>Project Type:</b>	Construction
<b>UPC:</b>	113567	<b>Charge Number:</b>	113567, Activity 600 series
<b>Route Number:</b>	9999	<b>Route Type:</b>	N/A
<b>Project Limit--From:</b>	Rutrough Rd	<b>To:</b>	1.4 mile north of Rutrough Rd
<b>Additional Project Description:</b>	This project involves constructing a 1.4-mile extension of the Roanoke River Greenway (RRG) bicycle/pedestrian trail through Explore Park in Roanoke County (Attachment A - Project Location Map). The RRG extension will be a 10-foot-wide, paved trail and will provide a connection to the RRG - Blue Ridge Parkway to Explore Park segment, currently in design under Project #FL16-080-000, P101, R201, C501 (UPC 110155).		
<b>Purpose And Need:</b>	The 2018 Roanoke Valley Greenway Plan's vision is to create a greenway network as part of the bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and provide connectivity to neighborhoods in the region. This trail will provide a critical linkage between the Roanoke Valley Greenways trail network and the recreational facilities at Explore Park and along the Blue Ridge Parkway.		
<b>District:</b>	<b>City/County:</b>	<b>Residency:</b>	
Salem	Roanoke	Salem	

**Date CE level document approved by VA Division FHWA:** 01/24/2021

**FHWA Contact:** Jones, Kevin

**Project in STIP:** Yes      **In Long Range Plan?** Yes

**CE Category 23 CFR 771.117:** c03

**Description of Category:** Construction of bicycle and pedestrian lanes, paths, and facilities.

**Logical Termini and Independent Utility:** Yes

**Next Phase of Funding Available?** Yes

**Comments:** The proposed trail construction is included in the STIP Grouping for Construction: Transportation Enhancement/Byway/Non-Traditional; therefore, it meets the fiscal constraint requirements.

**Typical Section:** The proposed typical section for the trail includes a 10-foot pavement width and 2-foot unpaved shoulders on both sides.

**Structures:** N/A

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC

**Minority/Low Income Populations:** Present with no impact **Disproportionate Impacts to Minority/Low Income Populations:** No

**Source:** Salem District - Environmental Section

**Existing or Planned Public Recreational Facilities:** Present with no impact

**Community Services:** Not Present

**Consistent with Local Land Use:** Yes

**Source:** Roanoke County GIS Database; Salem District Planning Section

**Existing or Planned Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities** Present with no impact

**Source:** Roanoke County Parks Planning Manager; Salem District Planning Section

**Socio-Economic Comments:** The percentage of low income populations in the project area Census Tract Block Group is above the state and US average; however, all right-of-way to be acquired for the project is undeveloped park land owned by Virginia Recreational Facilities Authority (VRFA). There are no relocations, no displacements and no disruption of community services (e.g., police services, fire protection, emergency medical services and/or school bus operations). Therefore, the proposed project will not have a Disproportionately High and Adverse Effect on any population that may qualify as an EJ Community. In accordance with the provisions of E.O. 12898 and FHWA Order 6640.23, no further Environmental Justice analysis is required. See Environmental Justice Analysis (Attachment B).

Existing recreational amenities along the proposed shared use path include hiking, biking, camping, etc. Several primitive campsites, as well as canvas/bell tent sites, exist along the river (Riverside Campground) in the vicinity of the proposed shared use path. Temporary impacts such as limited trail access and closures to sections of the Riverwalk Trail and Riverside Campground are likely during construction as the park is open year-round for activities. Appropriate signage of temporary trail closures or rerouting will be provided during construction to maintain the safety of trail users. Coordination with the operators of the park will occur to minimize impacts during peak usage. It is expected that once complete, the facilities will be restored to pre-construction conditions. All right-of-way to be acquired for the project is undeveloped land owned by the VRFA.

## SECTION 4(f) and SECTION 6(f)

**Use of 4(f) Property:** No

**Source:** Salem District Environmental Section; VA Outdoors Plan Mapper

**6(f) Conversion:** No **Acres of Conversion:**

**4(f) Comments:** This project qualifies for an exception from Section 4(f) per 23 CFR 774.13(g). Per 23 CFR 774.13(g) "Transportation enhancement activities, transportation alternatives projects, and mitigation activities, where: (1) The use of the Section 4(f) property is solely for the purpose of preserving or enhancing an activity, feature, or attribute that qualifies the property for Section 4(f) protection; and (2) The official(s) with jurisdiction over the Section 4(f) resource agrees in writing to paragraph (g)(1) of this section. Roanoke County, which operates the Explore Park under a 99-year lease, is the official with jurisdiction and has agreed via letter, dated September 20, 2022, to the Sec. 4(f) exception per 23 CFT 774.13(g).

**6(f) Comments:** There are no Section 6(f) properties within the project corridor.

## CULTURAL RESOURCES

**Section 106 Effect Determination:** NO EFFECT

**Name of Historic Property:** None

**DHR Concurrence date:** 01/28/2022

**MOA/PA Execution Date:** None

**Cultural Resource Comments:** VDHR concurred on January 28, 2022 that there were no historic properties within the project's APE and no further identification efforts were warranted.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

**Are Waters of the U.S. present?** Yes

**Linear Feet of Impact:** Approximately 493

**Federal Threatened or Endangered Species:**

Roanoke Logperch (Percina rex)-Federal:FE-No Effect

Indiana Bat (Myotis sodalis)-Federal:FE-May affect, Not Likely to adversely Effect

Northern Long-Eared Bat (Myotis septentrionalis)-Federal:FT-May affect, Not Likely to adversely Effect

Based upon review of federal databases including IPaC, federal T&E species have a  10/19/2022 L Wade potential to occur in the project area.

**100 Year Floodplain:** None

**Regulatory Floodway Zone:** Present with no impact

**Zone Code:** AE

**Public Water Supplies:** Not Present

**Are any tidal waters/wetlands present?** No

**Wetlands:** None

**Tidal Acres of Impact:**

**Tidal Wetland Type:**

**Are any Non-Tidal Wetlands Present?** Yes

**Non Tidal Acres of Impact:** 0.01

**Non Tidal Wetland Type:** Forested

**Total Wetland Acres of Impacts:** 0.01

**Are water quality permits required?** Yes

**Natural Resource Comments:** Waters of the U.S. (WOUS):

There will be approximately 434 square feet (0.01 acre) of unavoidable, permanent loss to Palustrine Forested (PFO) wetland. There will be approximately 493 linear feet (4,133 square feet) of permanent impacts and 132 linear feet (510 square feet) of temporary impacts to 5 perennial and 1 ephemeral stream channel. Permanent impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and waters have been avoided and minimized to the greatest extent practicable. All temporary impacts will be returned to pre-construction conditions, including contours and elevations, upon completion of construction. Waters of the U.S. impact totals stated above are based on 50% design plans. It is anticipated that additional avoidance and minimization measures will be incorporated as the design progresses which may change the impacts to Waters of the US for the project prior to permit acquisition for the project. Permit types and any required mitigation impacts will be determined during the water quality permit acquisition process.

100-Year Floodplain:

Zone AE (1% annual chance of flooding) floodways are identified within the proposed Action Area by FEMA on Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 51161C0276G – Effective Date September 26, 2007. These floodways are located along the eastern boundary of the Proposed Action Area and are associated with the Roanoke River. The FEMA regulated Zone AE limits range from the 813 to 815 foot elevation. These jurisdictional elevations were located using field survey and overlaid on the 50% Plans (dated July 2022). Based on the limits shown on the 50% plans, the shared use path will not encroach upon these jurisdictional elevations and will not result in any floodway/floodplain impacts.

## AGRICULTURAL/OPEN SPACE

**Open Space Easements:** Not Present

**Agricultural/Forestal Districts:** Not Present

**Source:** Project Definition Form

**Agricultural/Open Space Comments:** There are no Agricultural/Forestal Districts or Open Space Land Easements present within or adjacent to the project corridor per a search of the VDOT GIS Integrator, dated 08/02/2022.

## FARMLAND

**NRCS Form CPA-106 Attached?** Yes

**Rating:** 125

**Alternatives Analysis Required?** No

**Source:** Natural Resource Conservation Service GIS Database & CPA 106 Form; Salem District Environmental Staff

**Farmland Comments:** Per 7 CFR 658.2(a), VDOT has elected to make the determination that these lands could be utilized as farmlands; however, based on VDOT's completion of the Corridor Assessment Criteria in Part VI of Form CPA-106 (Attachment C - CPA-106), this project's combined score (Parts V and VI) will be less than 160 points, even if the Part V value was the maximum of 100 points. Therefore, per 7 CFR 658.4(c)(2), this project need not be given further consideration for protection and no additional sites need be evaluated.

## INVASIVE SPECIES

### Invasive Species in the project area? Yes

There is potential for invasive species to become established along the limits of disturbance of the project during and following construction. Section 244.02(c) of VDOT's Road and Bridge Specifications includes provisions intended to control noxious weeds (which includes non-native and invasive species).

While rights-of-ways are at risk from invasive species colonization from adjacent properties, implementing the above provisions would reduce or minimize potential for introduction, proliferation, and spread of invasive species. Additionally, the implementation of best management practices for erosion/sediment control and abatement of pollutant loading would minimize indirect impacts to adjoining communities and habitat by reducing excess nutrient loads that could encourage invasive species proliferation.

**Invasive Species Comments:** According to the Wetland Delineation Report (October 2021), prepared by AECOM for the proposed Action Area, Chinese privet (*Lingustrum sinense*) was identified as the dominant species of the shrub stratum in one Palustrine Emergent/ Palustrine Forested wetland area. Surveys for the report were limited to wetlands and streams, and one upland site, within the action area. Chinese privet is listed as an invasive species and/or noxious weed and is classified in Virginia as an Invasiveness Rank (I-rank) High species by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (VDCR). Provisions in Sec. 244.02(c) of VDOT's Road and Bridge Specifications and industry best management practices will be implemented to control/reduce the spread of non-native and invasive species within the project area.

## AIR QUALITY

### Air Quality Status and Regional Conformity

Jurisdiction Description: This project is located within an Attainment area for all of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). In accordance with 40 CFR Part 93, transportation conformity requirements are not applicable to the project since the project is not located in a nonattainment or maintenance area for any transportation-related criteria pollutant (i.e., ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, and carbon monoxide). In addition, the project is located in a volatile organic compounds (VOC) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) Emissions Control Area. As such, all reasonable precautions should be taken to limit the emissions of VOC and NOx. The following VDEQ air pollution regulations must be adhered to during the construction of this project: 9 VAC 5-130, Open Burning restrictions; 9 VAC 5-45, Article 7, Cutback Asphalt restrictions; and 9 VAC 5-50, Article 1, Fugitive Dust precautions.

### Exempt Status

The project is of the type that would be exempt from conformity, as outlined in section 93.126 of the transportation conformity regulation. Therefore, CO, PM, and MSAT analyses are not required for either conformity purposes (per EPA regulation) or NEPA (per FHWA guidance, and VDOT programmatic agreements with FHWA and corresponding protocols specified in the VDOT Resource Document.)

This project is exempt under 40CFR 93.126- Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities.

## NOISE

**Noise Scoping Decision:** Noise Form not added.

**Barriers Under Consideration?** No

**Noise Comments:** Based on the scope of work, the Central Office Noise Section has programmatically determined that this project is not defined as a "Type I" project.

## RIGHT OF WAY AND RELOCATIONS

**Residential Relocations:** No

**Commercial Relocations** No

**Non-Profit Relocations:** No

**Right of Way required?** Yes

**Fee Simple:** 0

**Temporary Easement:** 12.3

**Permanent Easement:** 5.3

**Utility Easement:** 0

**Amount of Right of Way Acreage:** 17.6

**Septic Systems or Wells:** Not Present

**Hazardous Materials:** Not Present

**Source:** Salem District Hazardous Materials Staff; Roanoke County Parks Planning Manager

**ROW and Relocations Comments:** Explore Park is owned by the Virginia Recreational Facilities Authority (VRFA), a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Roanoke County has a 99-year lease for management of Explore Park that was executed in 2013. All right-of-way required to construct the trail will be obtained from the VRFA.

Based on a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, dated Sept. 16, 2021, no Recognized Environmental Concerns (RECs) were identified within the footprint of the proposed trail.

## CUMULATIVE AND INDIRECT IMPACTS

**Present or reasonably foreseeable future projects (highway and non-highway) in the area:** Yes

**Impact same resources as the proposed highway project (i.e. cumulative impacts):** No

**Indirect (Secondary) impacts:** No

**Source:** Salem District Environmental Section

**Cumulative and Indirect Impacts Comments:** UPC 110155 (FL16-080-000, P101, R201, C501) and UPC 113356 (EN18-080-932, P101, R201, C501) are currently in the preliminary engineering phase to extend the Roanoke River Greenway trail to its terminus at Explore Park. Per EM-NEPA-715, the indirect and cumulative effects of the proposed action have been considered as part of this document. The impact causing activities proposed as part of the project could result in limited indirect effects to the surrounding area. These impacts could be minimized and mitigated through appropriate erosion and sediment controls, stormwater management, and adhering to permit conditions. While there are past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects planned in the area, the proposed project would not contribute to the cumulative effects of these projects.

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

**Substantial Controversy on Environmental Grounds:** No

**Source:** Roanoke County Parks Planning Manager

**Public Hearing:** Yes **Type of Hearing:** Willingness

**Other Public Involvement Activities:**

**Type of Public Involvement:**

**Public Involvement Comments:** Local notification of willingness to hold a hearing will be made through local press, other local news sources, and signage on site. These efforts will be coordinated by Roanoke County and will occur in late fall of 2022 when 90% plans are complete.

## COORDINATION

### State Agencies:

Department of Historic Resources  
DEQ - Water Division

### Federal Agencies:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

### Local Entity:

Roanoke County Administrator

### Other Coordination Entities:

Simpson, Robin C

10/28/2022

Environmental Manager, CE Certification

Date

This project meets the criteria for a Categorical Exclusion pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.4 and 23 CFR 771.117 and will not result in significant impacts to the human or natural environment.

## Documentation of FHWA Review

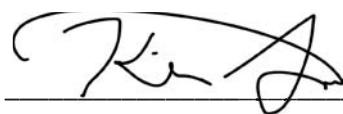
Project Name: **Roanoke River Greenway through Explore Park**

State Project Number: **999-080-934, C501, P101**

UPC: **113567**

Based on the information provided and after review of the Categorical Exclusion document for the subject project, FHWA approves the document for public availability.

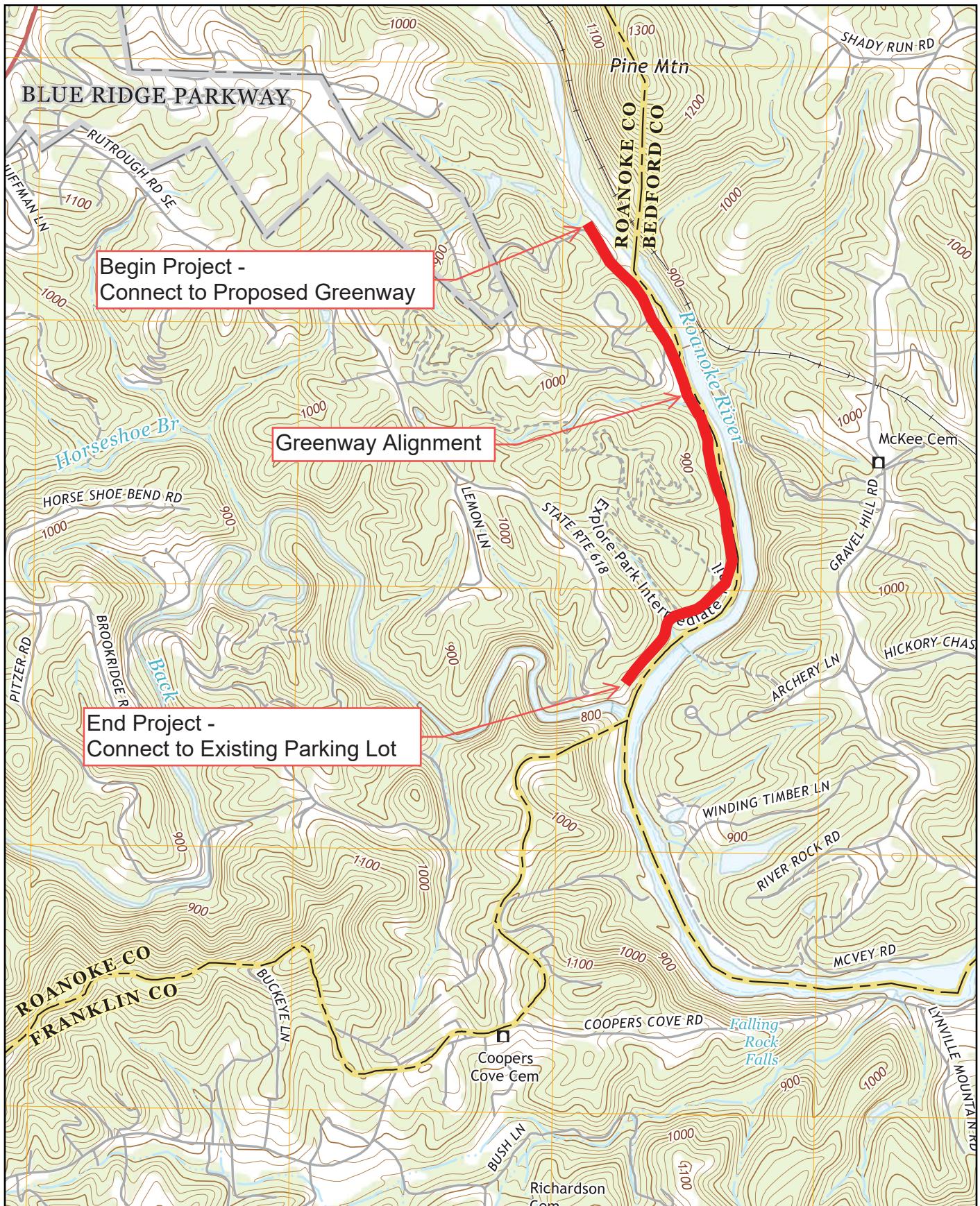
Kevin Jones



11/17/2022

FHWA- Virginia Division

Roanoke River Greenway Through Explore Park  
USGS Location Map



**ATTACHMENT B**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ANALYSIS**

**Roanoke River Greenway through Explore Park**  
State Project # 9999-080-934, C501, P101  
UPC # 113567

<b>PEOPLE OF COLOR AND LOW-INCOME ANALYSIS</b> – Based on EJScreen Socioeconomic Indicators <sup>1</sup> –						
Roanoke, Virginia Blockgroup 511610310001 VIRGINIA, EPA Region 3 (Population: 1,552)						
Category	Populations	Value	State Avg.	%ile in State	USA Avg.	%ile in USA
Demographic	People of Color	17%	39%	28	40%	35
Demographic	Low Income	35%	24%	72	30%	62

*The percentage of people of color populations in the project area Census Tract Block Groups given above are below the state and US average. The percentage of low income populations in the project area Census Tract Block Groups given above are above the state and US average. However, there are no relocations, no displacements and no disruption of community services (e.g., police services, fire protection, emergency medical services and/or school bus operations); therefore, there are no disproportionately high and adverse effects on any populations.*

All right-of-way to be acquired for the project is undeveloped park land owned by the Virginia Recreational Facilities Authority (VRFA); therefore, there will be no relocations or displacements. Approximately 17.6 acres right-of-way acquisition is proposed along the 1.4 mile-long extension of the Roanoke River Greenway within the 200-ft wide study corridor (permanent easement – 5.3 acres, and temporary easement – 12.3 acres). Local traffic will not be impacted by the subject project based on no existing roadways within the project limits. Consequently, there will be no major disruption of community and emergency services (e.g., police services, fire protection, emergency medical services and/or school bus operations) for any populations. As a result, no people of color or low income populations have been identified that would be adversely impacted by the proposed project, as determined above. A review of supplemental Justice40 Transportation Disadvantaged Census Tracts (Historically Disadvantaged Communities)<sup>2</sup> mapping tool did not identify any Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) within or adjacent to the project corridor. DACs were identified within the City of Roanoke; however, the DACs were located more than four miles from the closest boundary of the proposed project. Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of E.O. 12898 and FHWA Order 6640.23, no further Environmental Justice analysis is required.

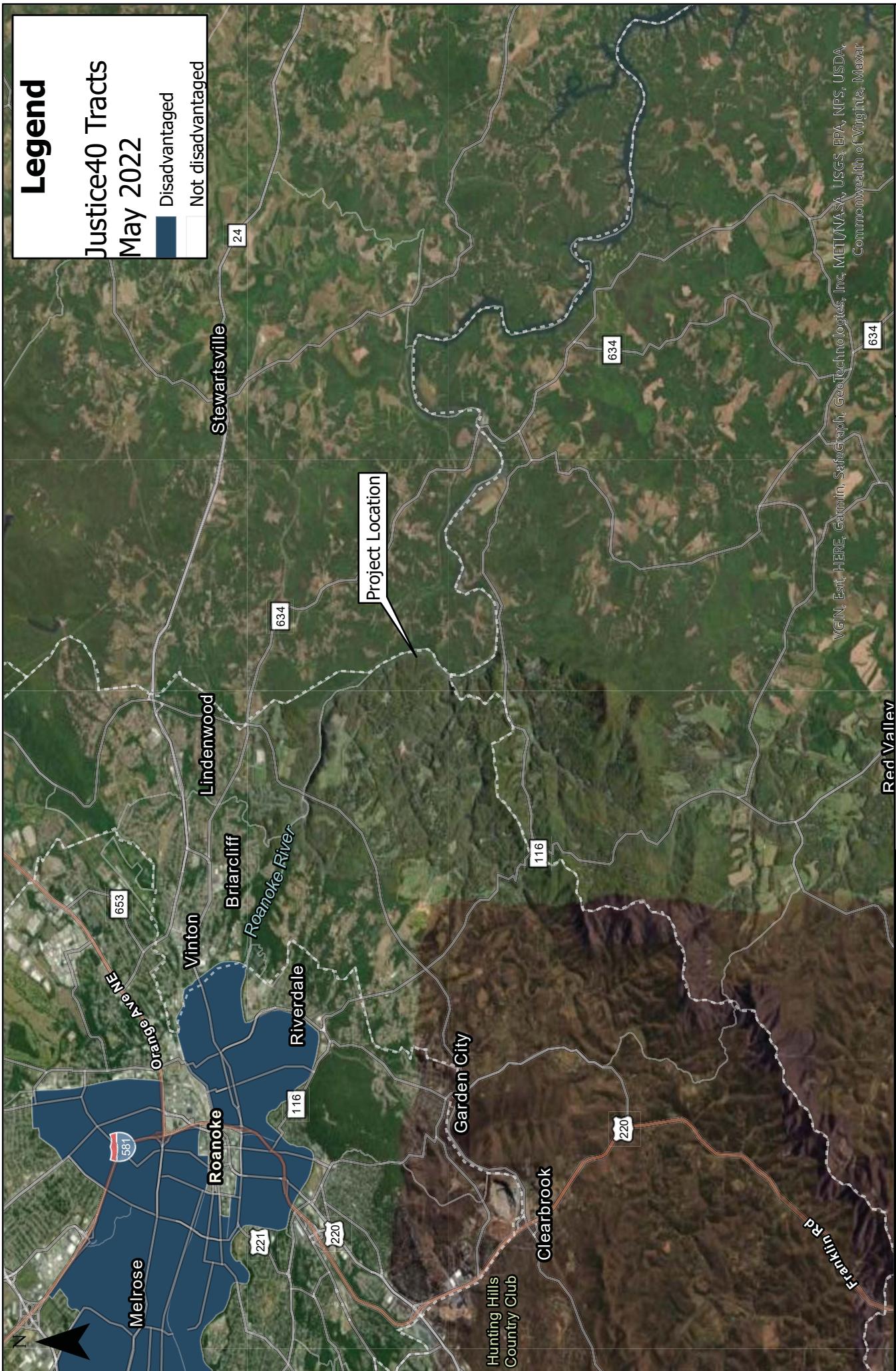
<sup>1</sup> US Environmental Protection Agency, EJScreen Report (Version 2.0). Report for Blockgroup: 511610310001 generated by H. Kemp, 21 October 2022, using "[https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/ejscreen\\_SOE.aspx](https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/ejscreen_SOE.aspx)"

<sup>2</sup> ESRI Demographics, Justice40 Transportation Disadvantaged Census Tracts (Historically Disadvantaged Communities), May 30, 2022, generated by H. Kemp, 21 October 2022, using "<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=bdac3e391cd04d2396983fc67c23bf1c>"

## Legend

Justice40 Tracts  
May 2022

Disadvantaged  
Not disadvantaged



Justice40 Tracts May 2022

Project Name: Roanoke River Greenway through Explore Park  
Project/UPC Number: 9999-080-934, C501, P101; UPC 113567  
Location: Roanoke Co., Virginia  
Data Source: Produced by VDOT Salem

N

0 5,000 10,000 Feet

0 20,000

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING  
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request January 20, 2021	4. Sheet 1 of 1	
1. Name of Project Roanoke River Greenway Through Explore Park		5. Federal Agency Involved Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)		
2. Type of Project Trail/Path Construction		6. County and State Roanoke County, Virginia		
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		1. Date Request Received by NRCS	2. Person Completing Form	
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form).		YES	NO	
5. Major Crop(s)		6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction <b>Acres:</b> _____ % _____		
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used		9. Name of Local Site Assessment System		
		10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS		
<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		<b>Alternative Corridor For Segment</b>		
		Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly		2.38		
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services		7.62		
C. Total Acres In Corridor				
<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland				
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland				
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted				
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value				
<b>PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)</b>		100		
<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))</b>		Maximum Points		
1. Area in Nonurban Use		15	15	
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use		10	10	
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed		20	0	
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government		20	0	
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average		10	0	
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland		25	0	
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services		5	0	
8. On-Farm Investments		20	0	
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services		25	0	
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use		10	0	
TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS		160	25	
<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>				
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100	100	
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)		160	25	
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> (Total of above 2 lines)		260	125	
1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used?  YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Reason For Selection:				

Per 7 CFR 658.2(a), VDOT has elected to make the determination that these lands could be utilized as farmlands; however based on VDOT's completion of the Corridor Assessment Criteria in Part VI above, this project's combined score (Parts V and VI) will be less than 160 points, even if the Part V value was the maximum of 100 points. Therefore, per 7 CFR 658.4(c)(2), this project need not be given further consideration for protection and no additional sites need be evaluated.

Joyce Barkley - Environmental Document Specialist, Sr

January 20, 2021

Signature of Person Completing this Part:

DATE

NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor

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Prime Farmland

