



# A Brief History of Greenways in North Carolina

Carrboro Greenways Commission

January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007

# Statewide

- The flooding of Crabtree Valley in the early 1970's (right before Crabtree Valley Mall was set to open) caused city, state, and federal officials to examine land use and floodplain management issues
- 1972- formation of the Capital Area Greenway System in Raleigh

# Statewide

- 1973: Thesis of Bill Flournoy, NCSU Landscape Architecture student, “proposed a strategic use of part of the city’s floodplain for an open-space corridor system between adjoining land uses.”
- Based in part on Flournoy’s thesis, City of Raleigh created a Greenway Commission in 1974.

# Statewide

- Raleigh's success inspired communities throughout NC to establish their own local, county-wide, and regional greenway programs throughout the 1980's
- Large scale regional trails include the Mountains-to-Sea trail, the American Tobacco Trail, the Haw River Trail, and the proposed north-south, 2600 mile East Coast Greenway in the central part of the state.

# Statewide

- First National Greenways Conference held in Raleigh in 1992\*
- NC one of the first to convene a citizen's commission to study the effects of a statewide greenways program. Led to the release of the NC Greenways Advisory Panel report in July, 1994.\*

# Carrboro- A Brief Timeline

- 1969- Research Triangle Planning Commission releases Development Guide: Triangle wide planning effort to identify development trends and plan for a regional open space network.
- 1970- Land Use Study with brief description of Bolin Creek Basin
- 1970- Community Facilities and Land Development Plan: “Carrboro should adopt a policy of stream valley open space preservation and acquisition.”

# Carrboro- A Brief Timeline

- 1980- Neighborhood Parks and Greenway System Plan (NPGSP); Greenway along Bolin Creek Proposed from Estes to Seawell School Road. Two purposes listed: 1) preserving natural ecological processes and 2) providing low cost recreation areas. Due to community concerns noted in a public hearing on May 10, 1983, the BOA removed the Greenway Plan from the NPGSP.

# Carrboro- A Brief Timeline

- 1980-89- Several developments approved along Bolin Creek: Bolin Forest, Fox Meadow, Spring Valley, Cobblestone, and Highlands.
- 1987- Buffer requirements for streams located outside University Lake Watershed enacted.
- 1987- Joint Planning Area Land Use Plan establishes Town planning jurisdictions and Rural Buffer.

# Carrboro- A Brief Timeline

- 1989- Inventory of Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitats of Orange County, NC: Identifies Bolin Creek corridor from Estes to Homestead and Morgan Creek corridor be designated “natural areas”
- 1989- Year 2000 Task Force Report: “The town should encourage and contribute to the development of greenways and parklands along streams and easements dedicated to public use. These areas should be preserved as much as possible in their natural state.”

# Carrboro- A Brief Timeline

- 1990's- Water quality monitoring of Bolin Creek initiated in a joint effort with Chapel Hill
- 1990-97- Several developments approved along Bolin Creek tributaries (Meadow Run, Wexford, Cates Farm, Lake Hogan Farms, Sunset Creek, Tupelo Ridge, Highlands North, The Cedars at Bolin Forest)

# Carrboro- A Brief Timeline

- 1994- Recreation and Parks Comprehensive Master Plan; Includes proposal for “Bolin Creek Greenway”, a 7 mile, off-street trail. Also envisions Morgan Creek Greenway as 3 mile greenway from Smith Level to University Lake with connections along a Morgan Creek tributary to Southern Community Park.

# Carrboro- A Brief Timeline

- 1997- A Landscape with Wildlife for Orange County: Recommends preservation of prime forest areas and wildlife corridor connections between these areas. 500 ft buffers recommended around prime forest areas.
- 1998- Chapel Hill Greenways; Comprehensive Master Plan; Effort to formalize greenway planning efforts that began with 1985 Greenways Task Force Report.

# Carrboro- A Brief Timeline

- 1999- Facilitated Small Area Plan for Carrboro's Northern Study Area; Bolin Creek floodplain included among northern study area's unique natural areas. Identifies strategies for acquisition/dedication to protect the creek and long term goal of connecting of Homestead Road at Lake Hogan Farms to the Bolin Creek greenway.

# Carrboro- A Brief Timeline

- 1999-Report of the Master Recreation and Parks Work Group; Report prepared by group of citizens and staff throughout the county which assessed needs including “begin acquiring property along Morgan Creek and Bolin Creek.
- 1999- Orange County Lands Legacy; Includes criteria for distribution of bond funds for public acquisition of open space, greenways, and riparian corridors.

# Carrboro- A Brief Timeline

- 1999- Rating Land in Orange County by its Wildlife Value- A Landscape with Wildlife, Part II; Report presents a methodology for evaluating land as habitat for native wildlife in Orange County.
- 2000- Carrboro Visions 2020; Policy recommendations of developing greenways and parklands along streams and easements, and practice ecologically sound maintenance of open space.

# Carrboro- A Brief Timeline

- 2001- Voter support for greenways as part of \$75 million bond countywide bond referendum.
- 2001- Acceptance of Offers of Dedication for Public Access; In accordance with possible bond for parks and greenways, 38 offers of dedication made to town since 1981 identified. Town accepts these offers.

# Carrboro- A Brief Timeline

- 2002- Town of Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Master Plan; Chapel Hill's first formal master plan for Parks and Recreation.
- 2003- Voter support for greenways as part of \$4.6 million bond Town bond for sidewalks and greenways.
- 2003- Pacifica and Winmore approved along areas of Bolin Creek, Public Access granted from Pacifica to branch of Bolin Creek

# Carrboro- A Brief Timeline

- 2003- Funds for Greenway Planning for Morgan and Bolin Creek included in Durham, Chapel Hill, Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization list (DCHC MPO) for Surface Transportation- Direct allocation in FY 04 and 06 with funds allocated for construction for FY 06 and 08, respectively.
- 2004- Adam's Tract purchased through cooperative effort of Town, County, and Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

# Carrboro- A Brief Timeline

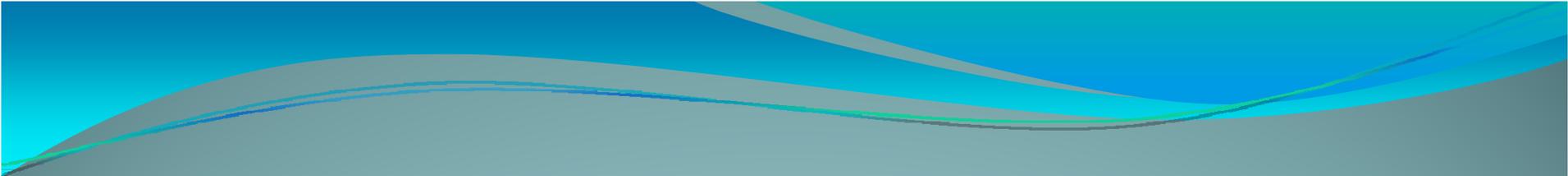
- 2006- Recreation and Parks Comprehensive Master Plan Update; Includes detailed sections on “Greenway Guidelines and Development Criteria” and “Alternative Funding Sources”
- 2006- Carrboro Greenways Summit
- 2007- Carrboro Greenways Commission Formed

# Carrboro

- 30+ year emphasis on natural resource protection
- 20+ year emphasis on public access to stream corridors

# Carrboro

- Greenway development has occurred in an incremental fashion while taking steps to address financial constraints, citizen and property concerns.



# Roles of Commission and Staff

# Staff Liaisons to Commission

- **Brendan Moore**, Recs & Parks Facilities Administrator  
918-7392; bmoore@townofcarrboro.org
  - **Randy Dodd\***, Environmental Planner  
918-7326; rdodd@townofcarrboro.org
  - **Adena Messinger**, Transportation Planner  
918-7329; amessinger@townofcarrboro.org
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## Staff Responsibilities

- Logistics (set agendas, record minutes, facilitate meetings)
- Update Greenways Commission webpage
- Liaison to NCDOT/MPO as needed

# Role of Commission Members

## Commission Charge

The commission shall **recommend** to the Board **policies, programs, and actions** that may assist the town in safeguarding the water quality, environment and livability of the community by establishing greenways...The commission may also **encourage effective stewardship and management** of such greenways and promote educational, recreational, and public health usage consistent with the protection of this resource.

# Role of Commission Members

## Commission Charge

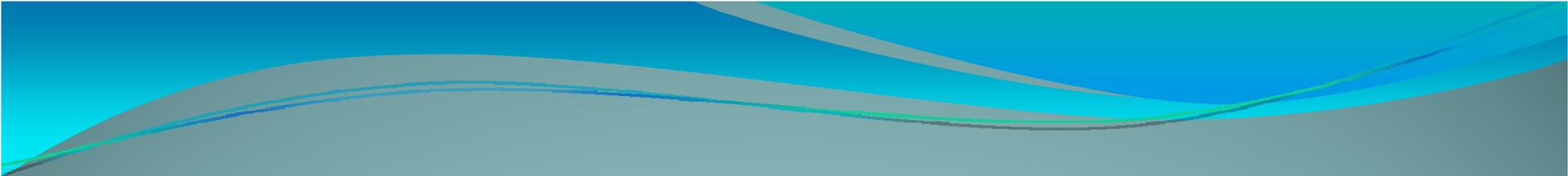
Greenways defined:

Greenways are unbroken chains of preserved open space surrounding stream and wildlife corridors, headwaters, water recharge areas and significant ecosystems that also provide bicycle and pedestrian connections between neighborhoods and for the community.

# Role of Commission Members

## Upcoming Tasks

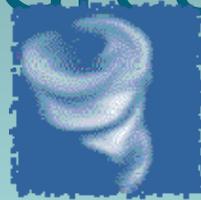
- Commission meetings structure (today)
- Election of officers (today)
- Work with staff to develop RFQ for consultant(s) to prepare conceptual plans for the Morgan Creek Greenway and Bolin Creek Greenway
- Recommendation to Board of Aldermen re: consultant selection



# Current Greenway Activities

# Planned and Existing Greenways

- A whirlwind tour
- Overview of Carrboro greenway geography
- Existing greenway patchwork
- Leveraging of neighborhood development process

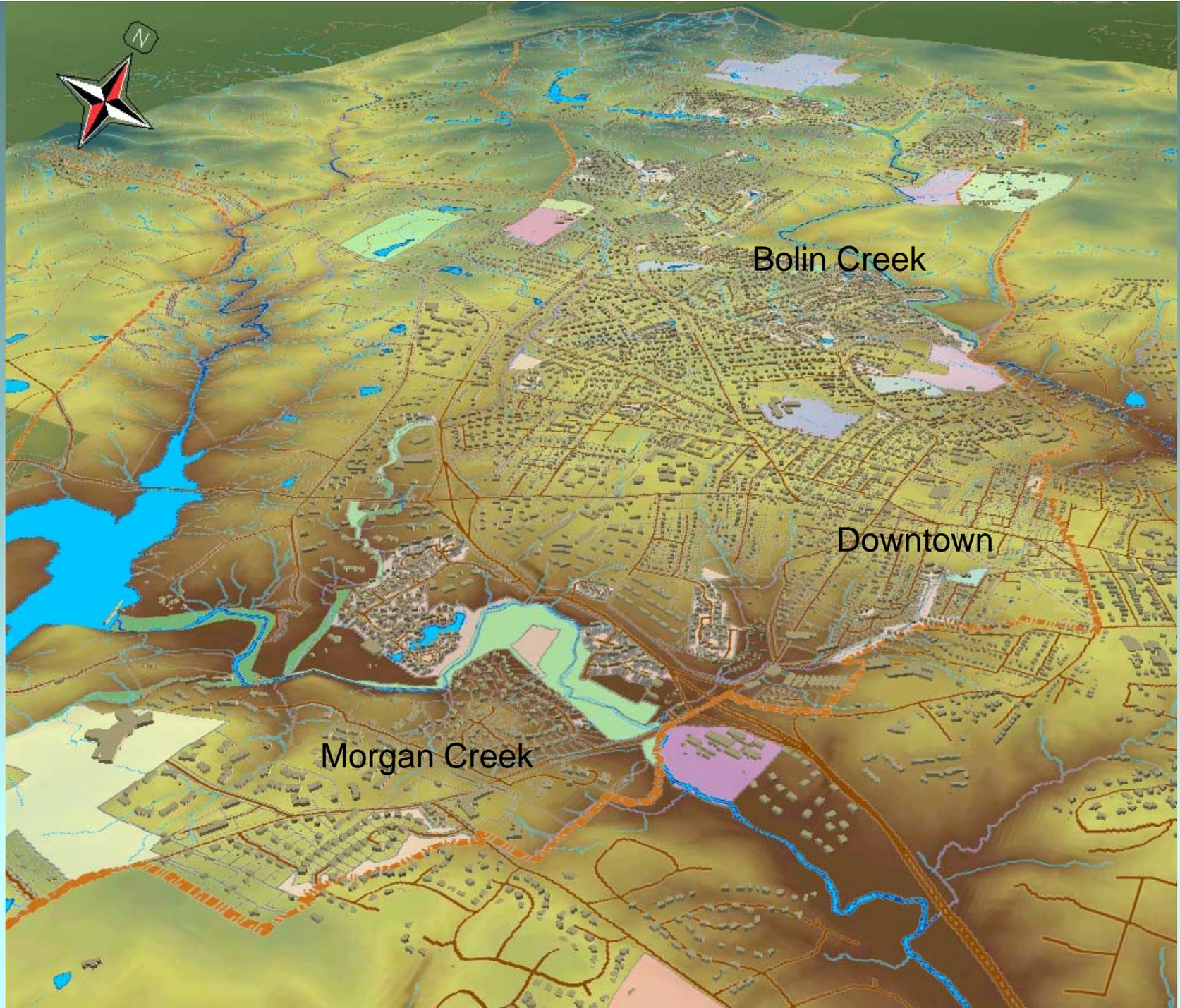


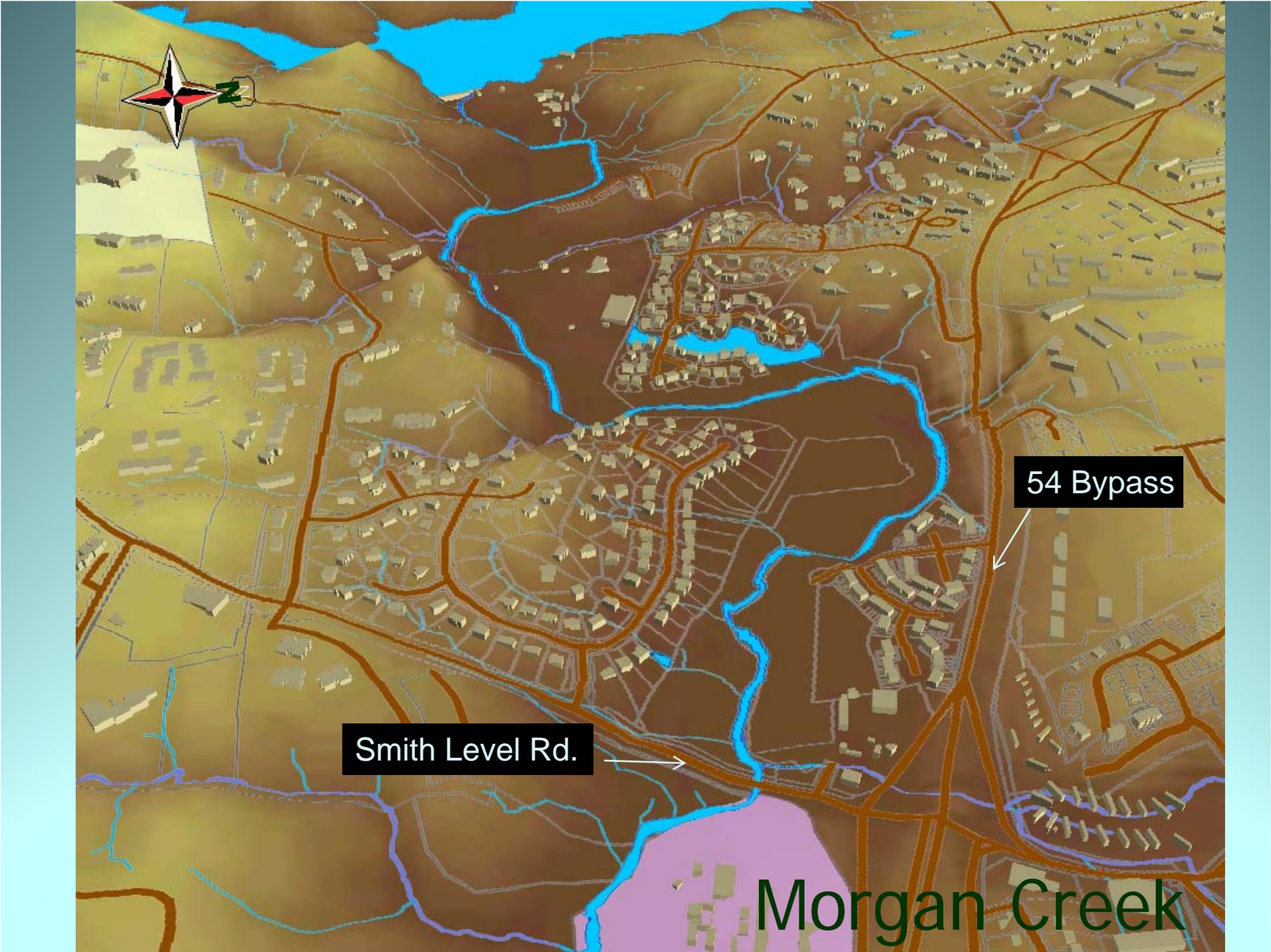


Bolin Creek

Downtown

Morgan Creek

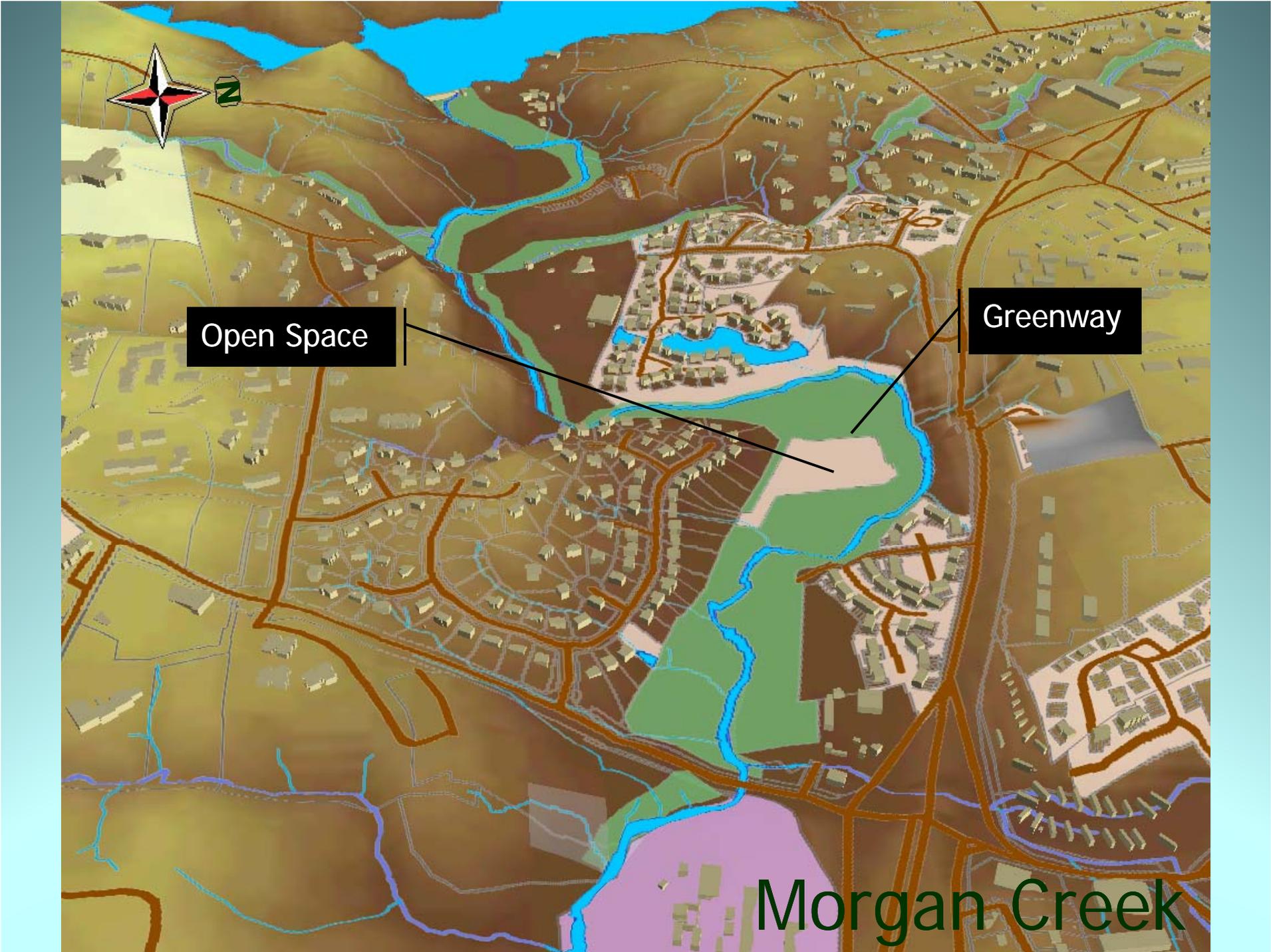




Smith Level Rd.

54 Bypass

Morgan Creek



Open Space

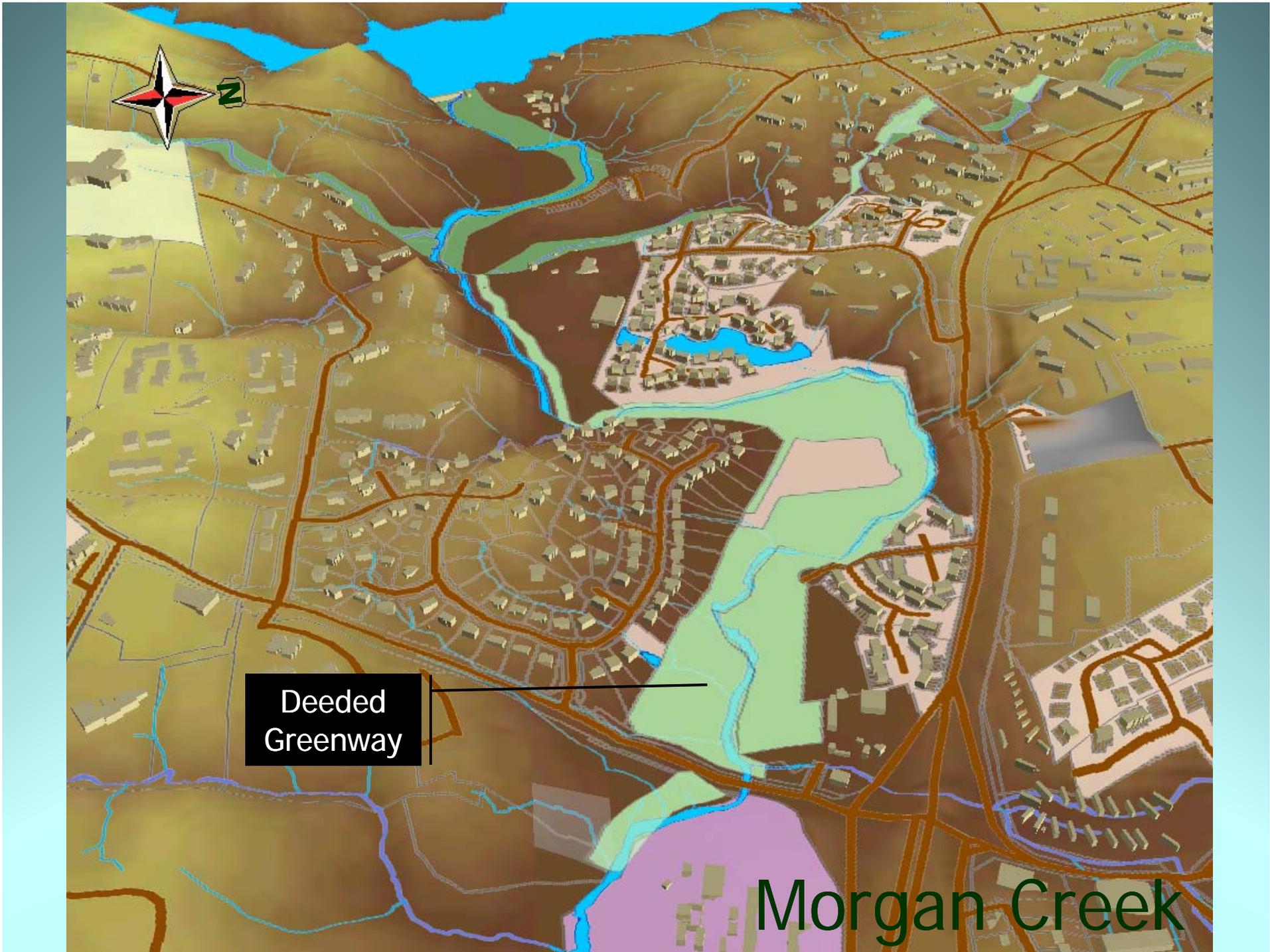
Greenway

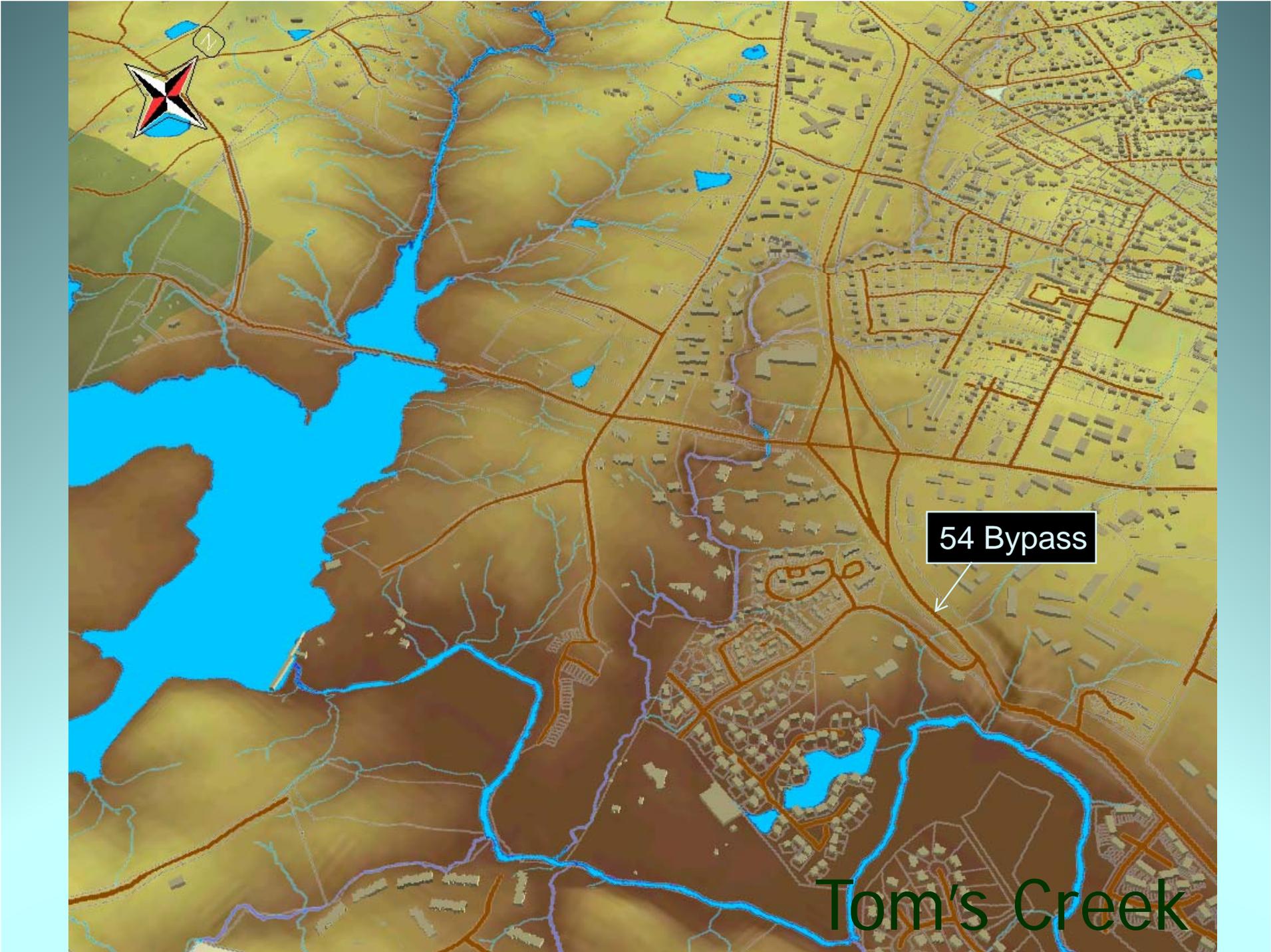
Morgan Creek



Deeded  
Greenway

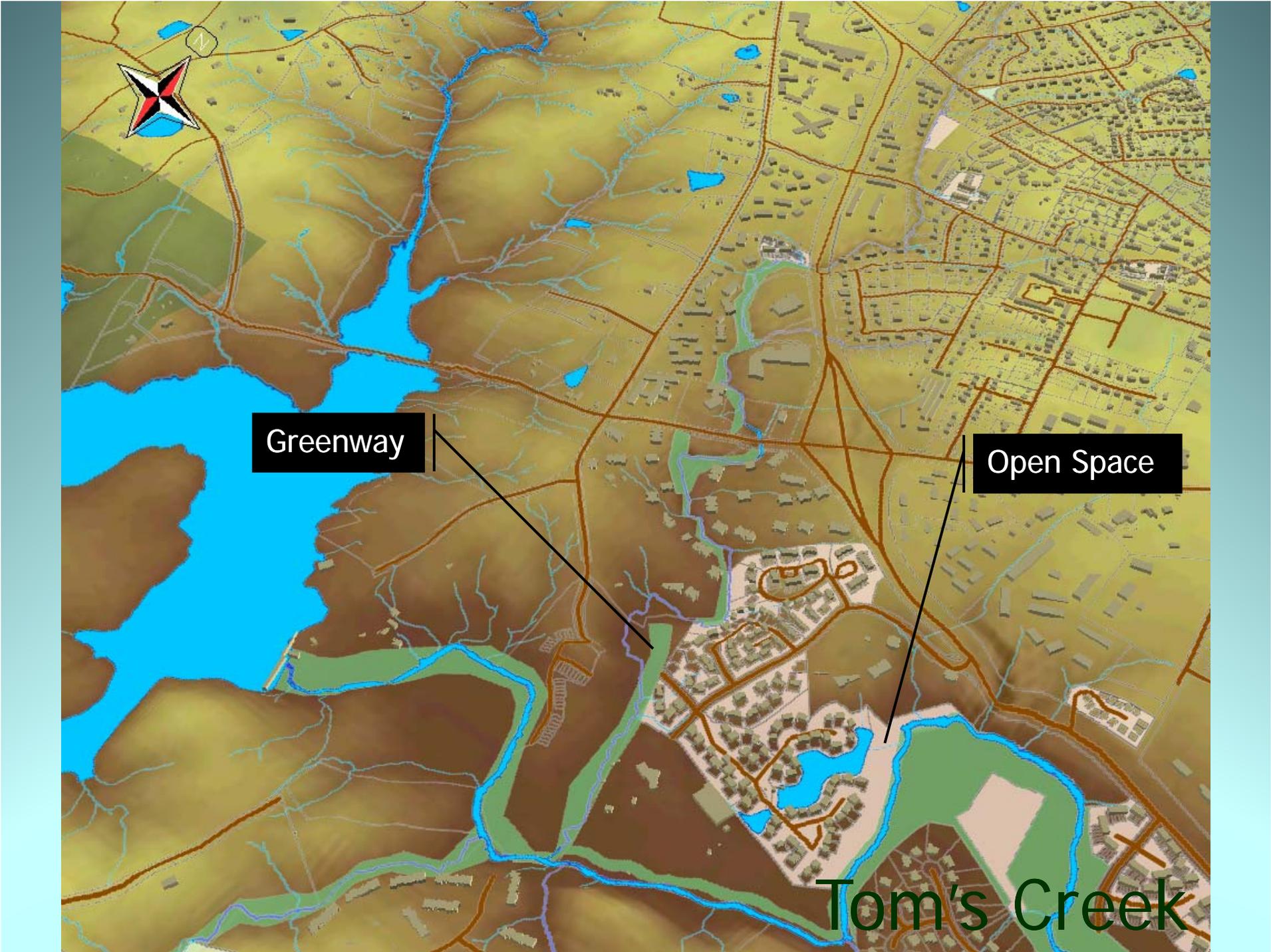
Morgan Creek





54 Bypass

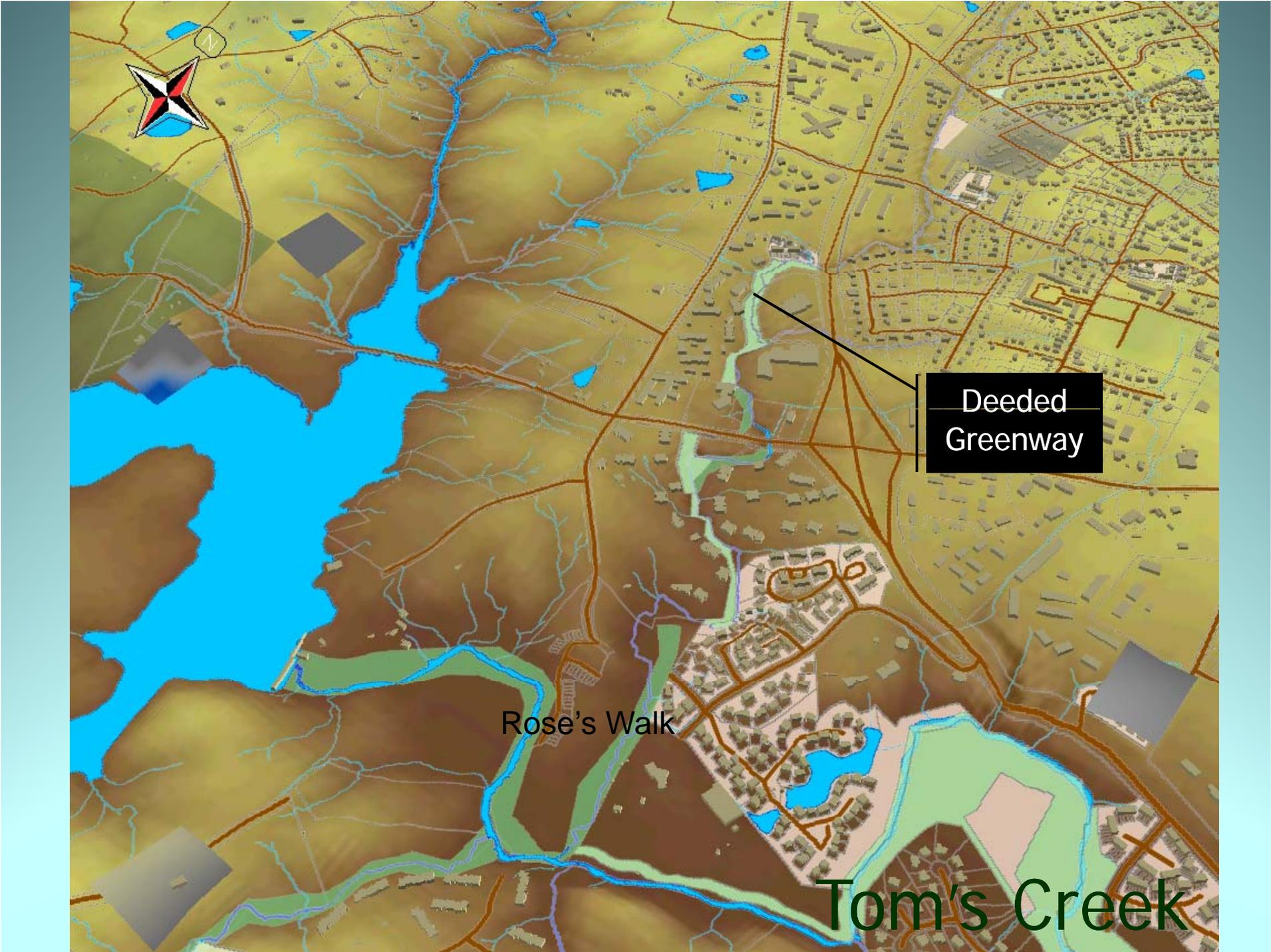
Tom's Creek



Greenway

Open Space

Tom's Creek



Deeded  
Greenway

Rose's Walk

Tom's Creek







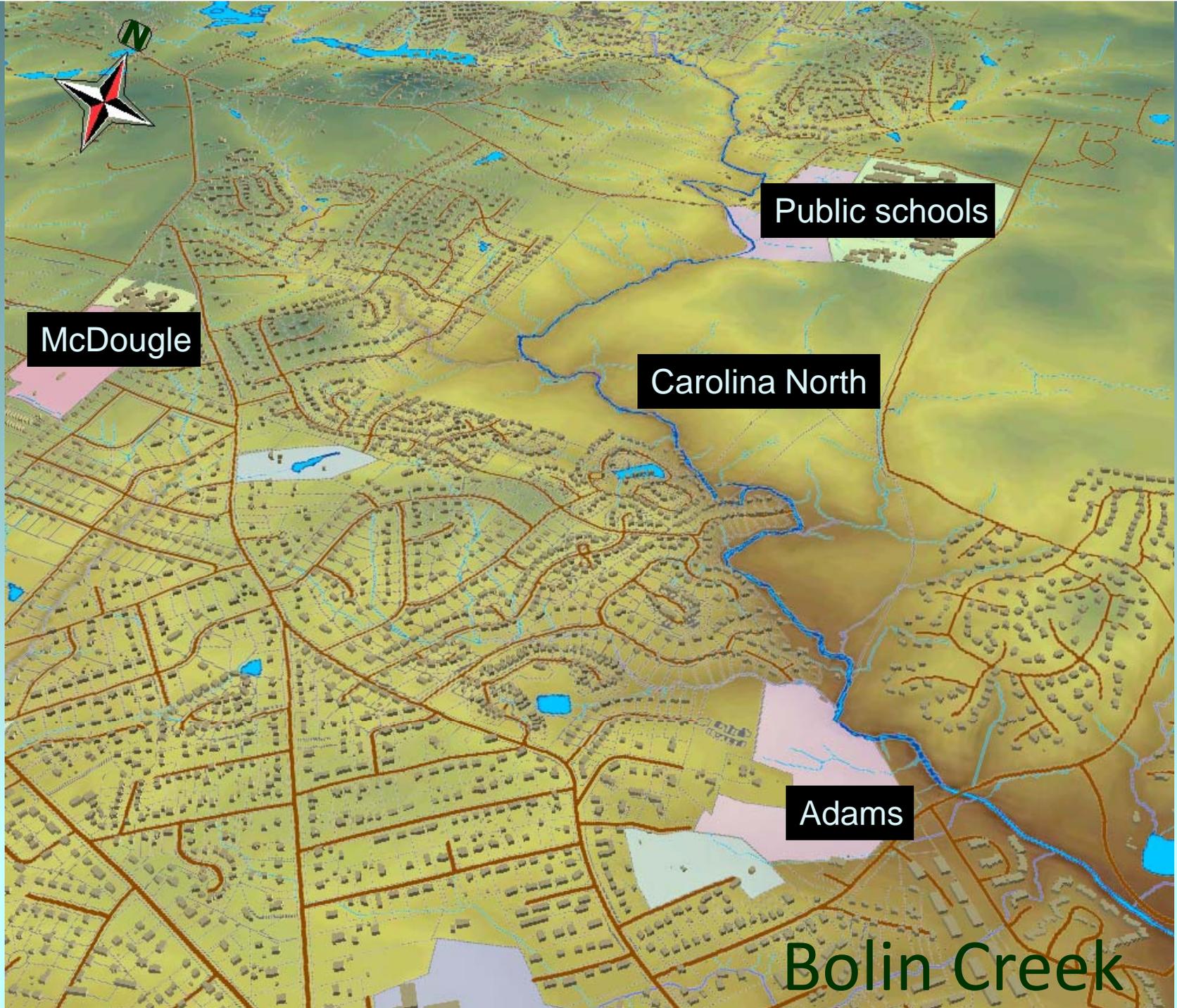
McDougle

Public schools

Carolina North

Adams

Bolin Creek



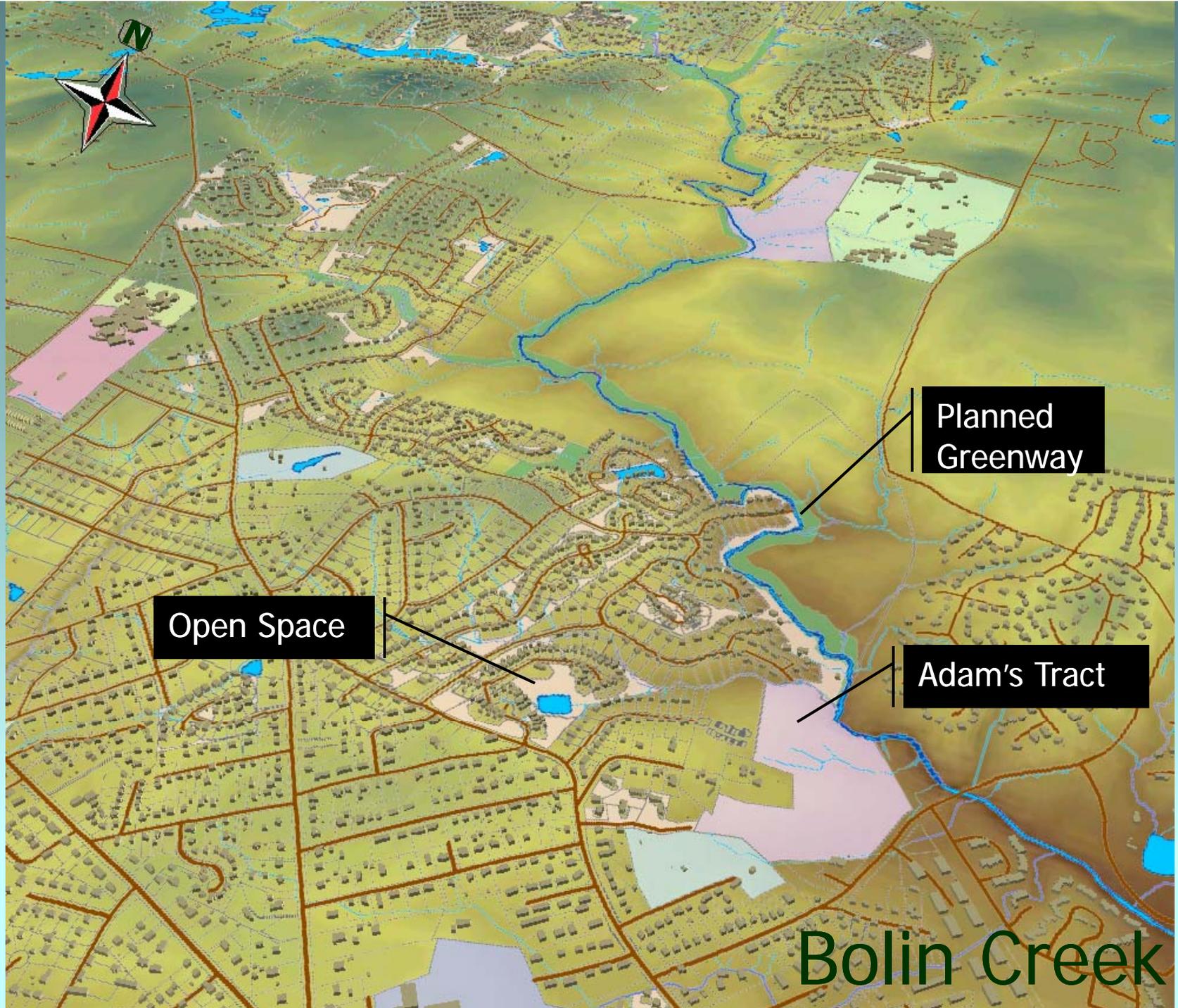


Open Space

Planned  
Greenway

Adam's Tract

Bolin Creek

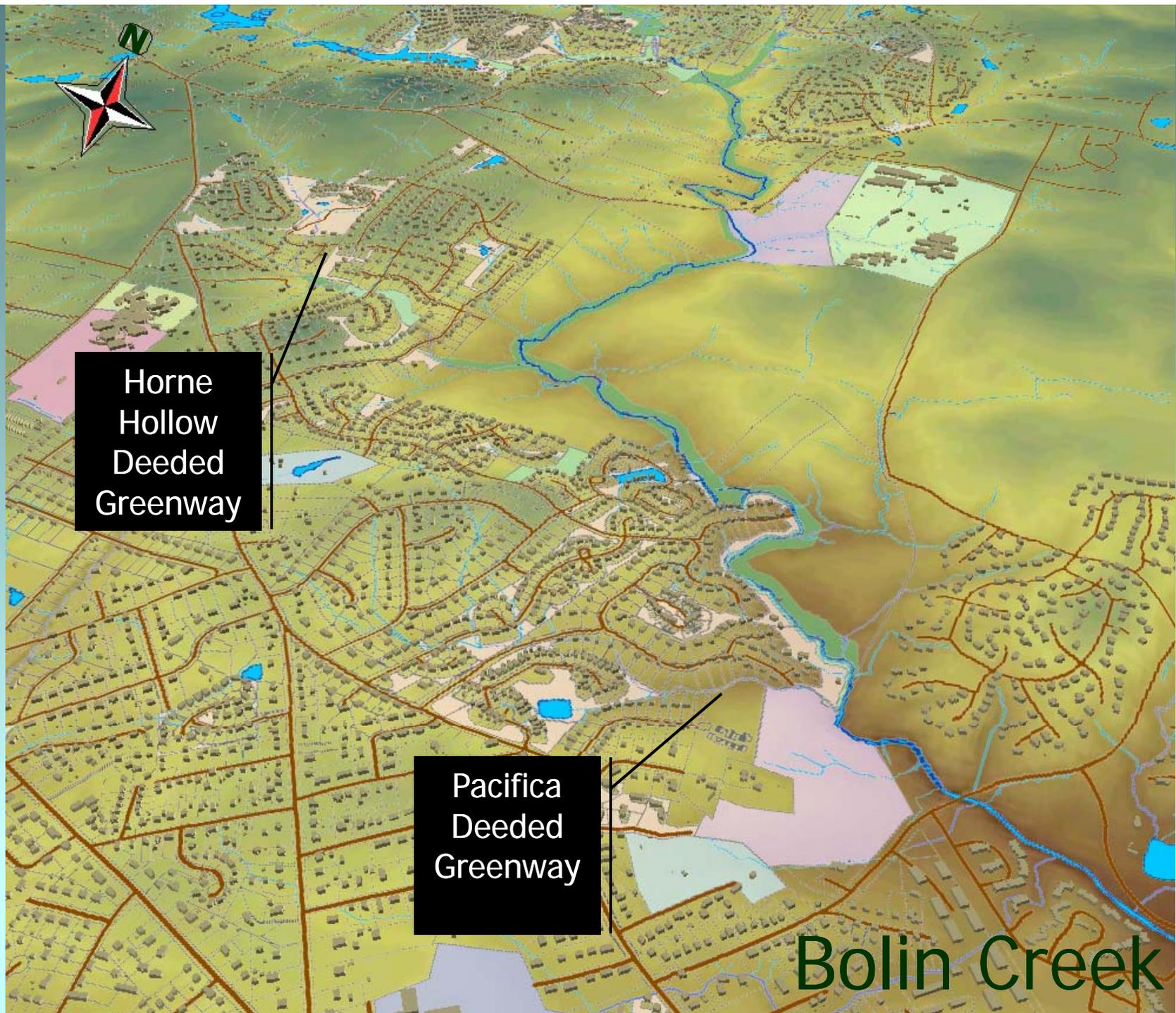




Horne  
Hollow  
Deeded  
Greenway

Pacifica  
Deeded  
Greenway

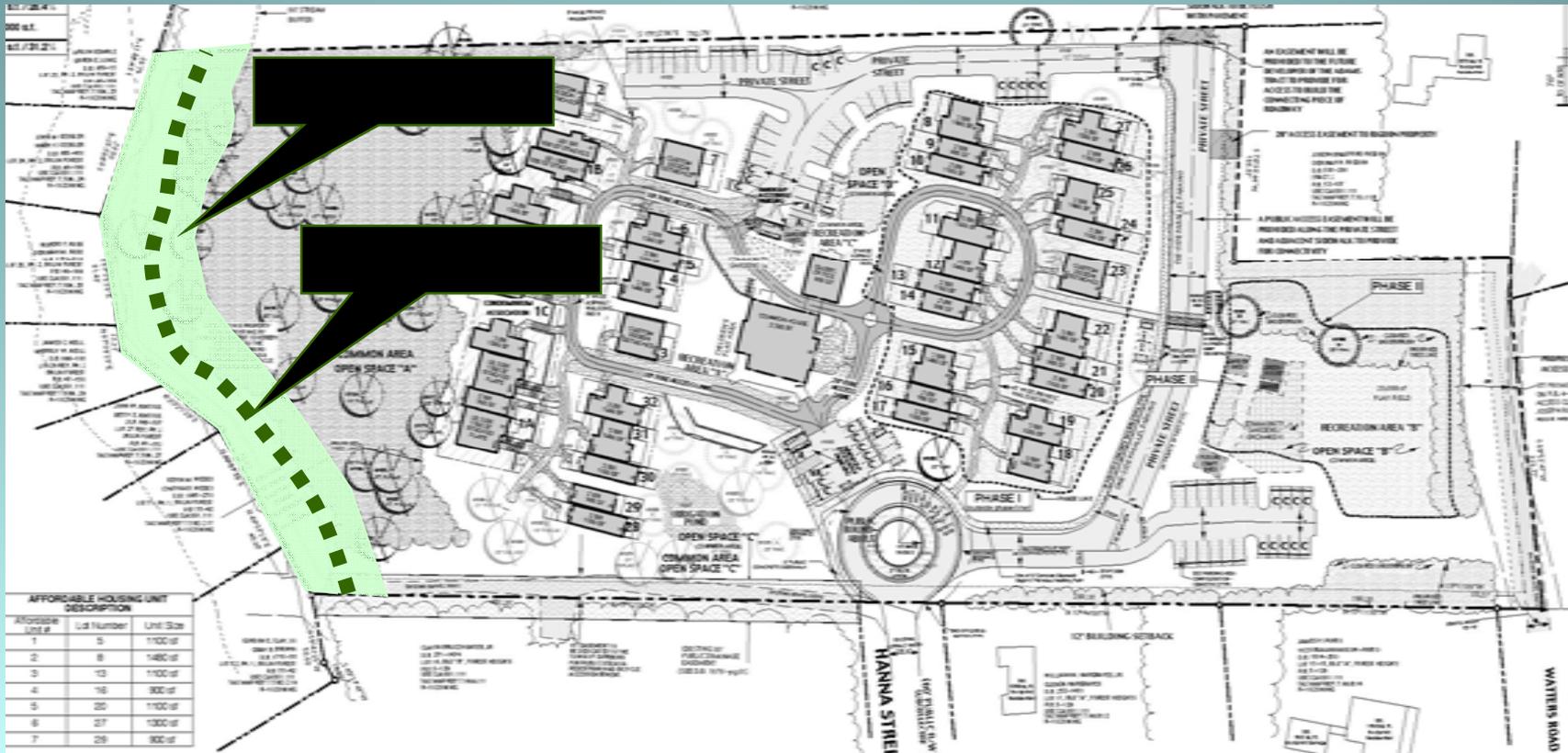
Bolin Creek



# Horne Hollow



# Pacifica

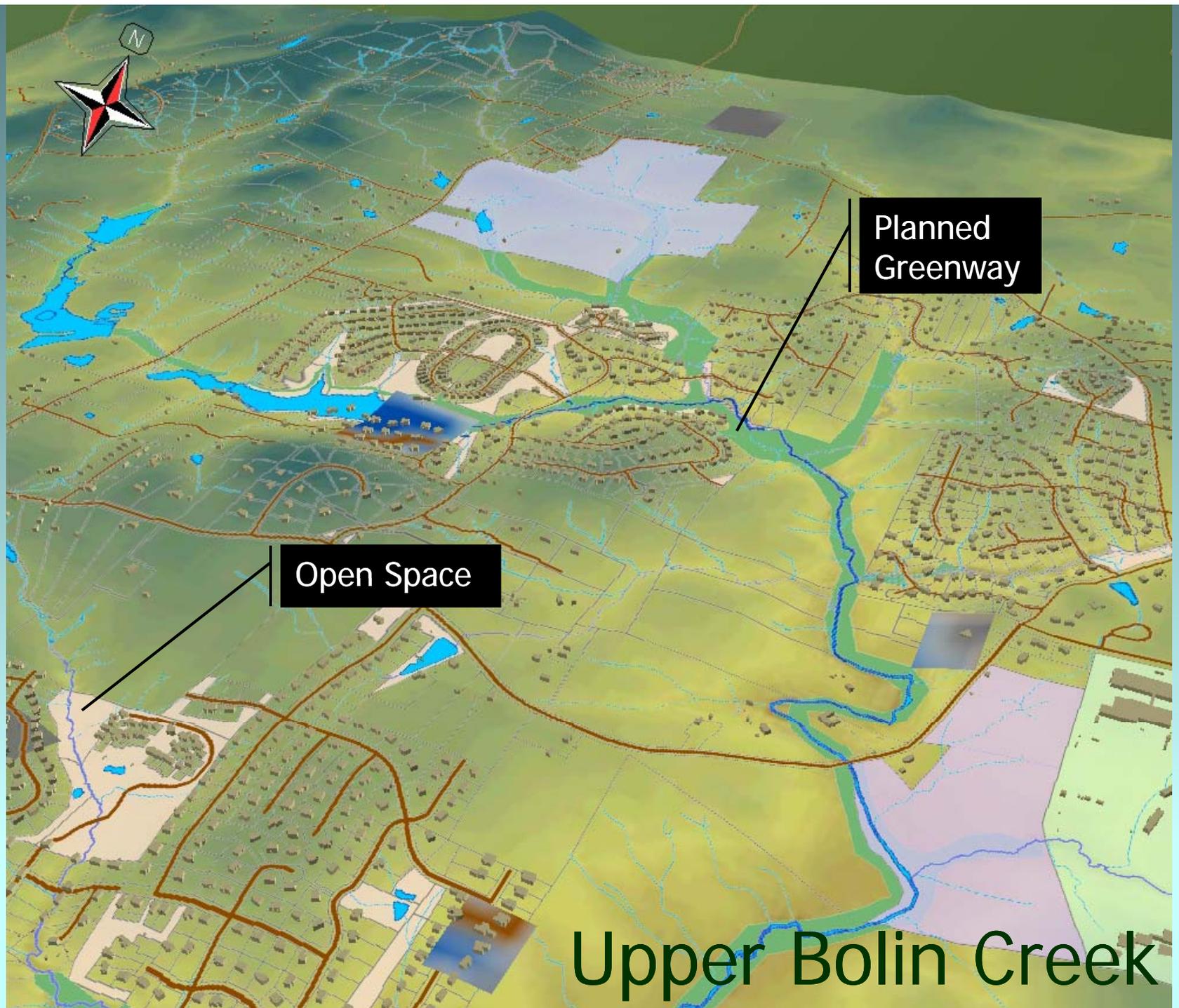




Planned  
Greenway

Open Space

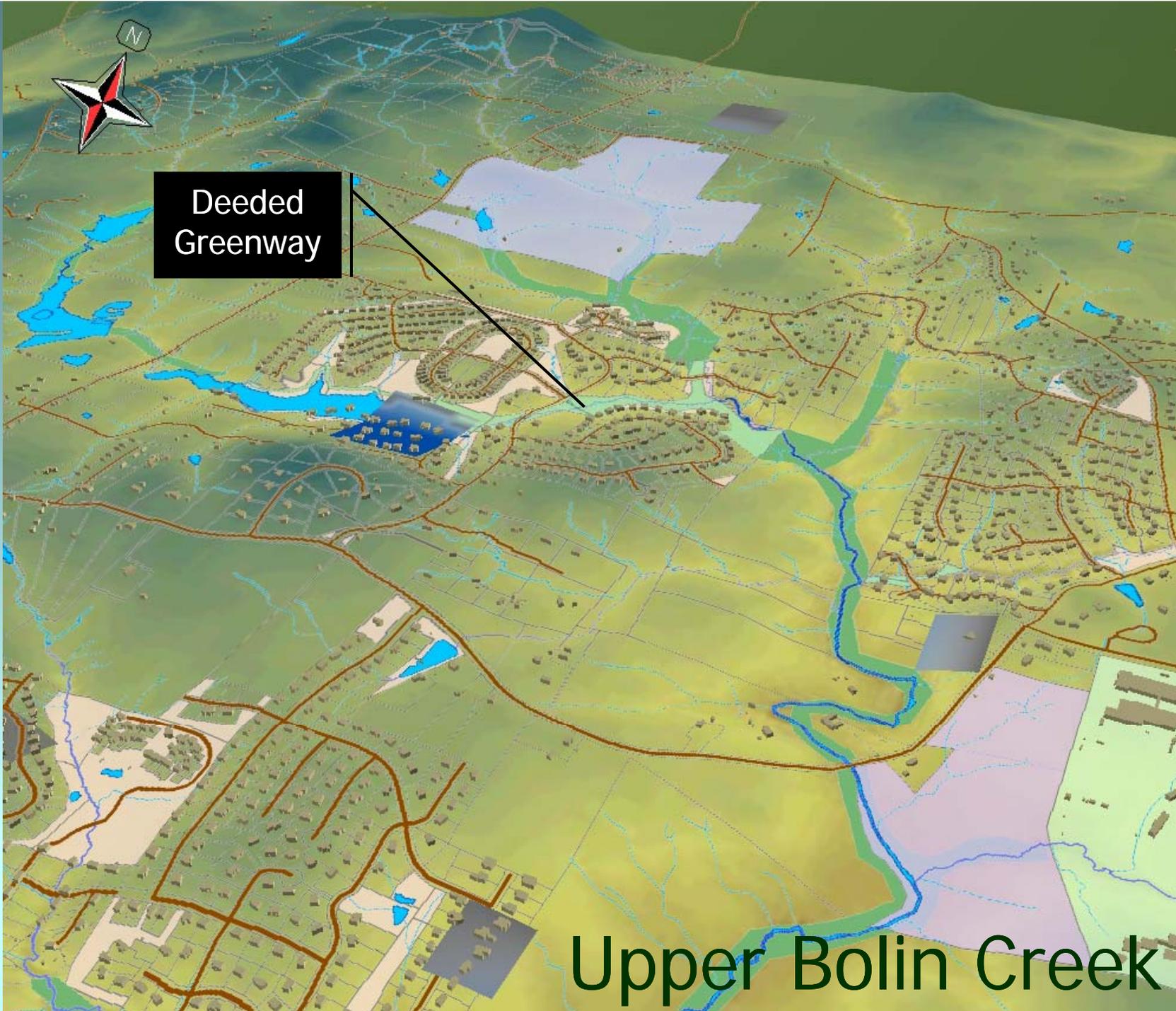
Upper Bolin Creek

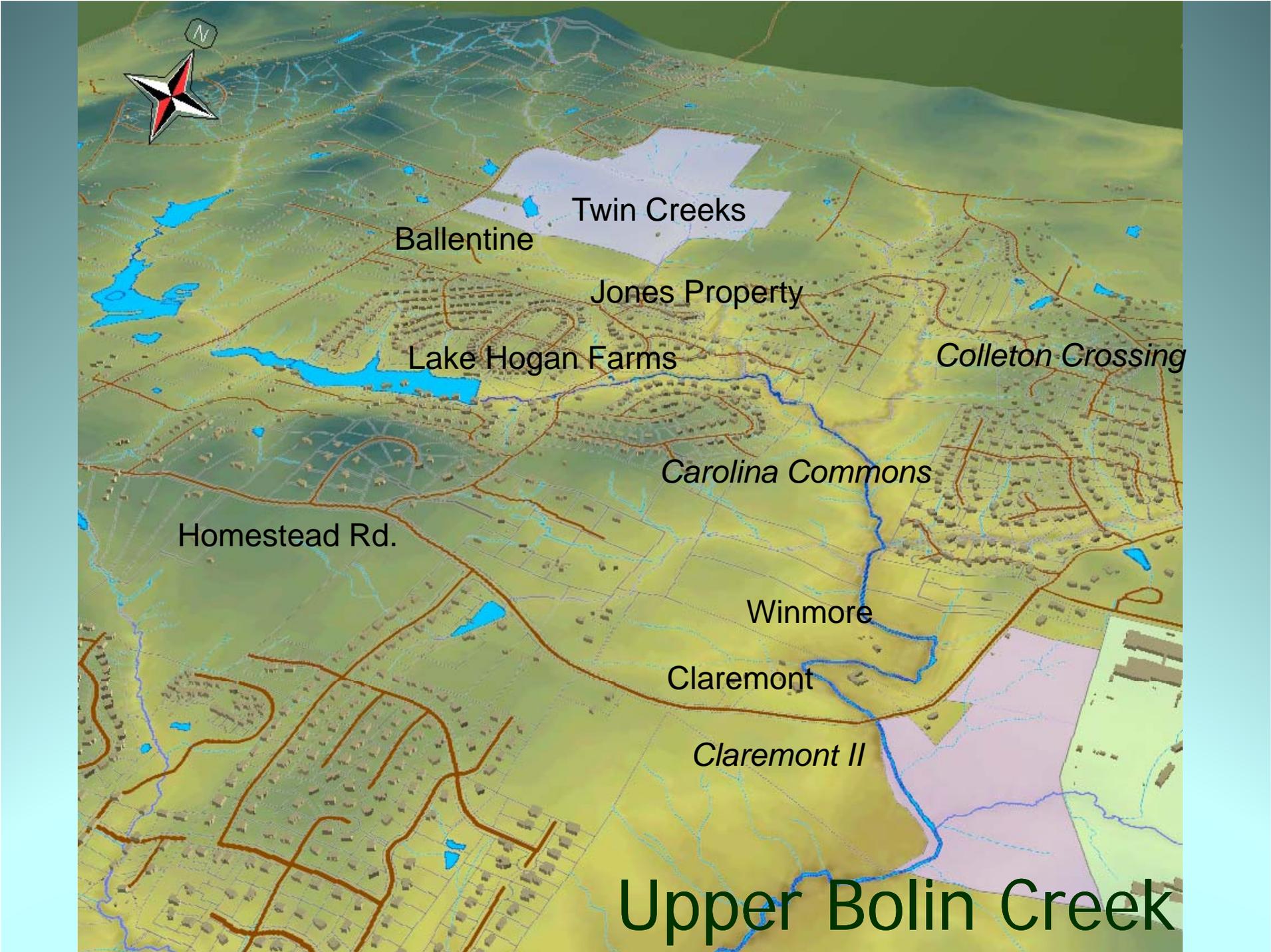




Deeded  
Greenway

Upper Bolin Creek





N

Twin Creeks  
Ballentine  
Jones Property  
Lake Hogan Farms  
Carolina Commons  
Homestead Rd.  
Winmore  
Claremont  
Claremont II  
Colleton Crossing

# Upper Bolin Creek

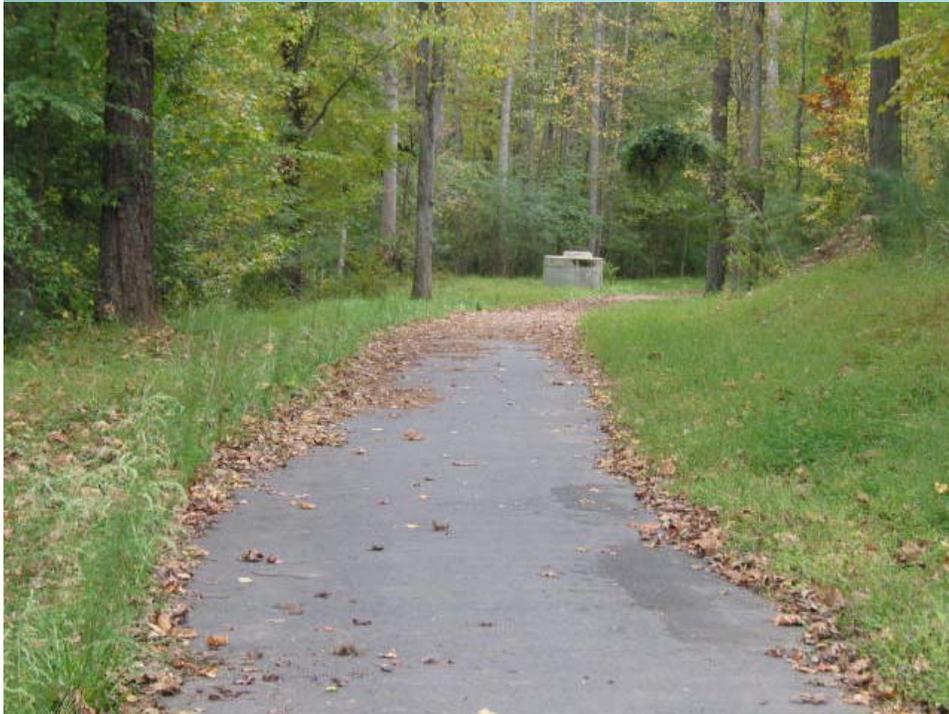




## Lake Hogan Farms



# Lake Hogan Farms

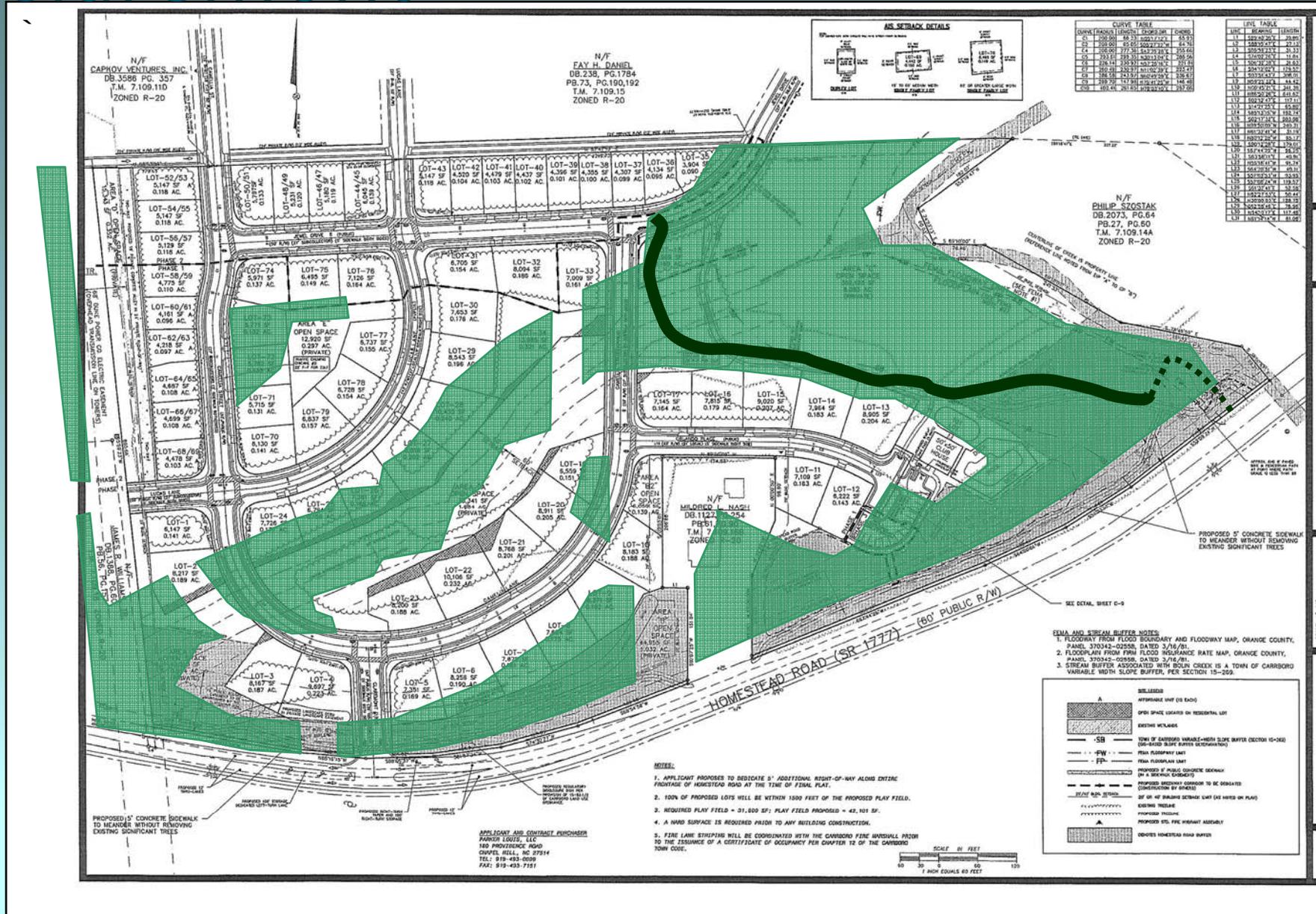


# Winmore

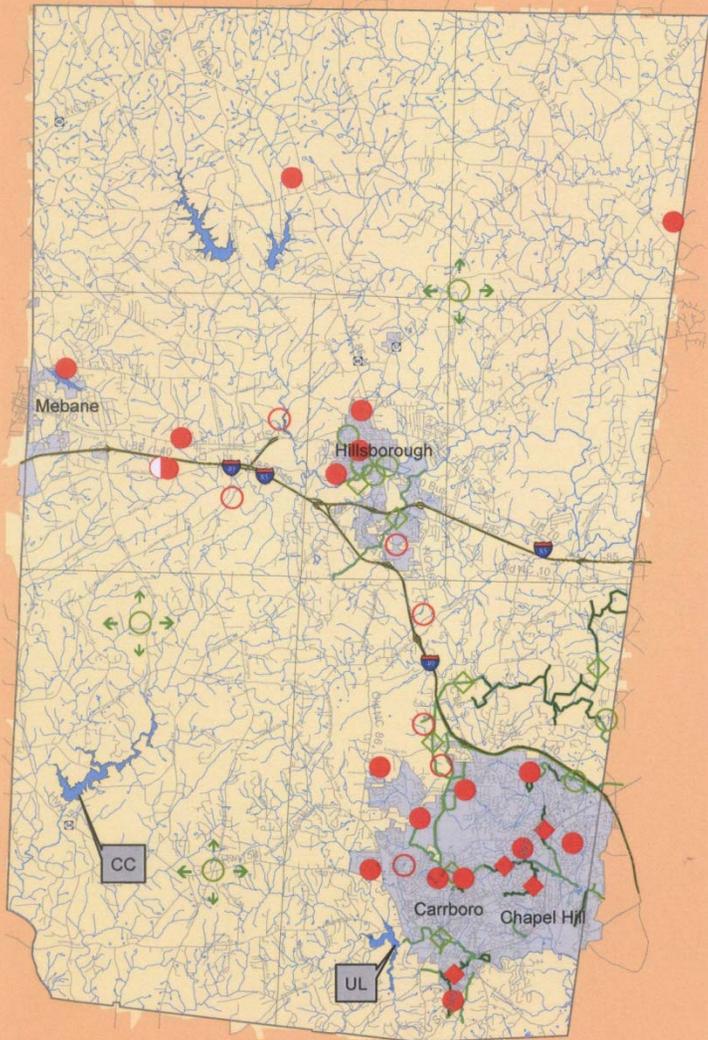




# Claremont



# Composite Countywide Plan for Parks and Trails Existing & Proposed, February 2006



## Legend

- ◆ Existing Trails
- ◇ Proposed Trails
- Proposed Parks
- Planned Parks
- Existing Parks



1 0.5 0 1 2 miles

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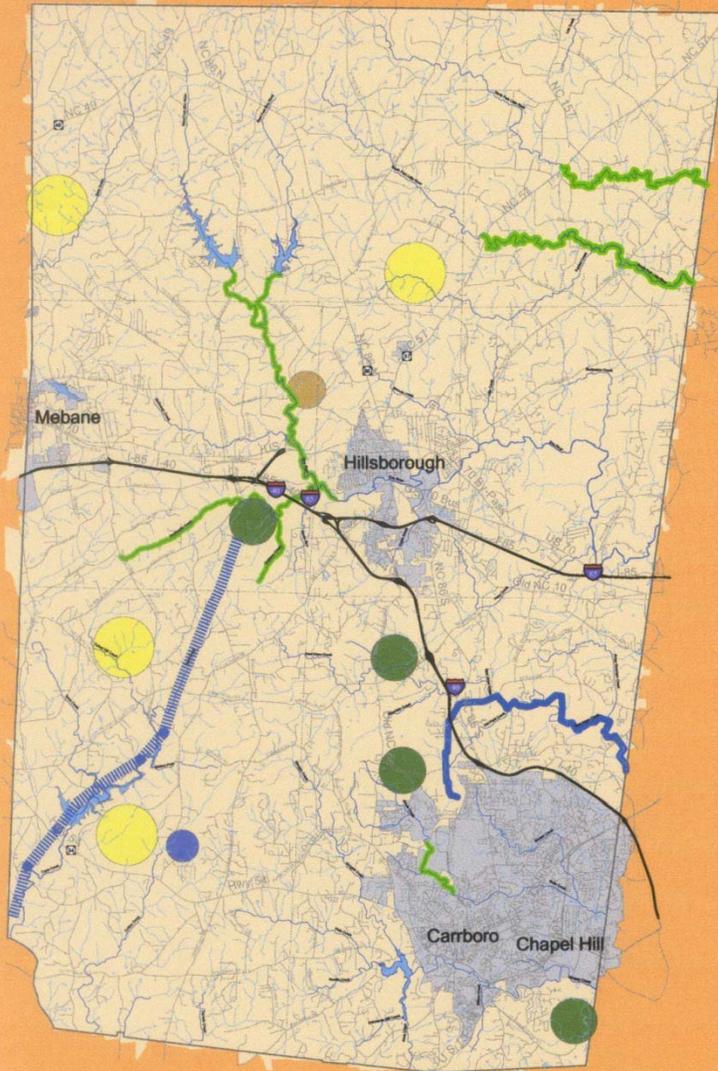
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Orange County, NC Environment

Adopted February 22, 2006  
March 2, 2006 by Young

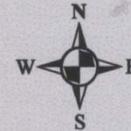


# Orange County Lands Legacy Action Plan 2006-08 Adopted September 12, 2006



## Legend

- Historic/Cultural
- Prime Farmland
- Riparian Buffers
- Natural Areas
- Parkland/Trails
- major\_strm



1 0.5 0 1 2 Miles

**This map is not a certified survey and no reliance may be placed in its accuracy**

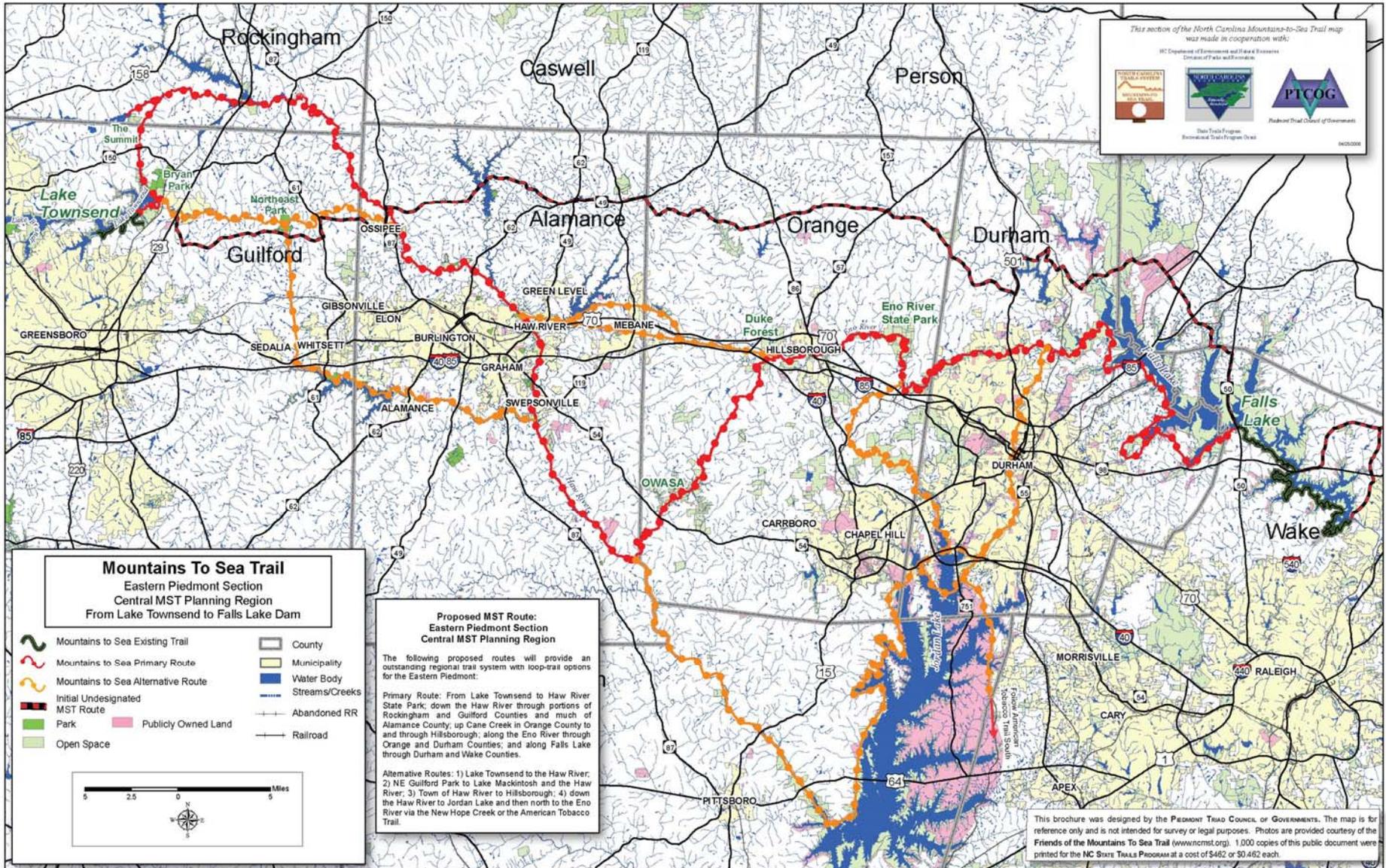
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Orange County, NC  
Environment & Resource  
Conservation Department  
306-A Revere Road  
Hillsborough, NC 27278  
PH (919) 245-2590

September 22, 2006  
R. Young



This section of the North Carolina Mountains-to-Sea Trail map was made in cooperation with:

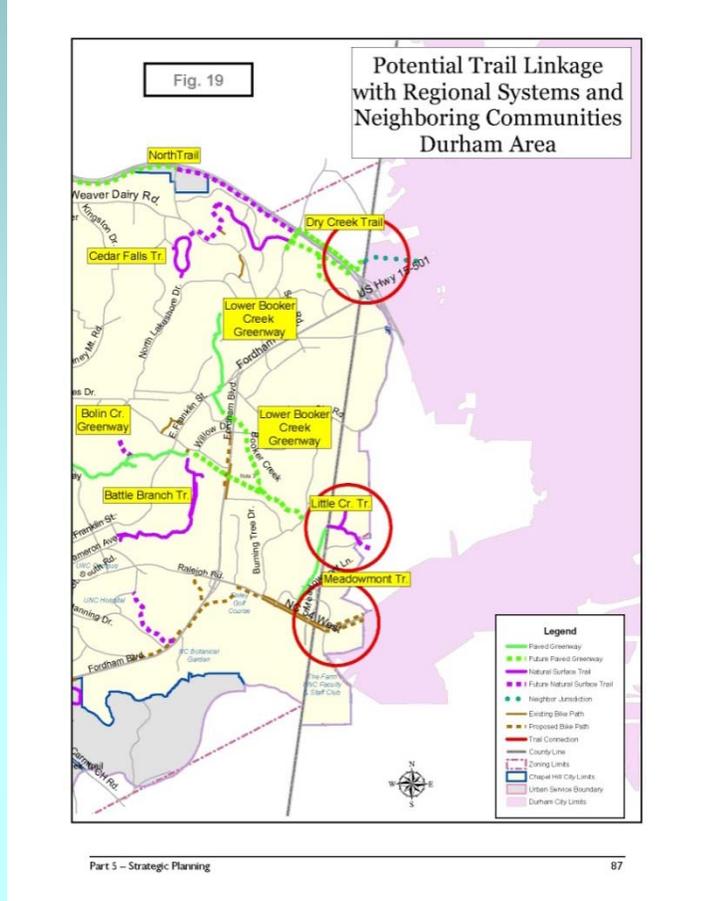
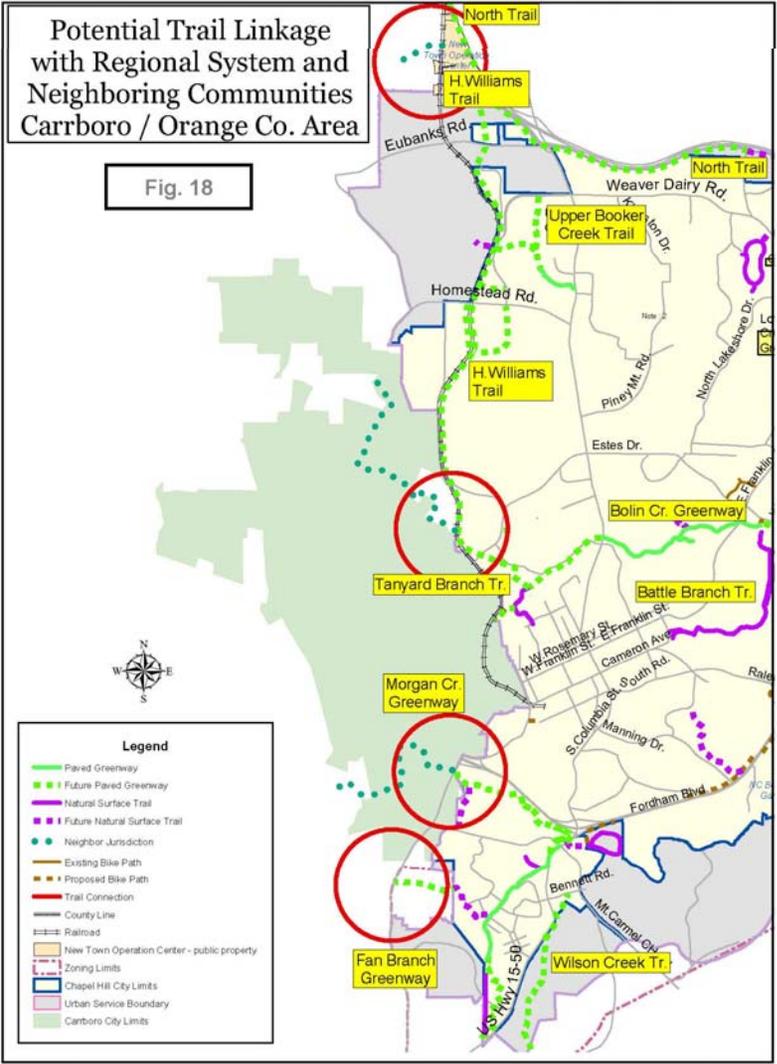




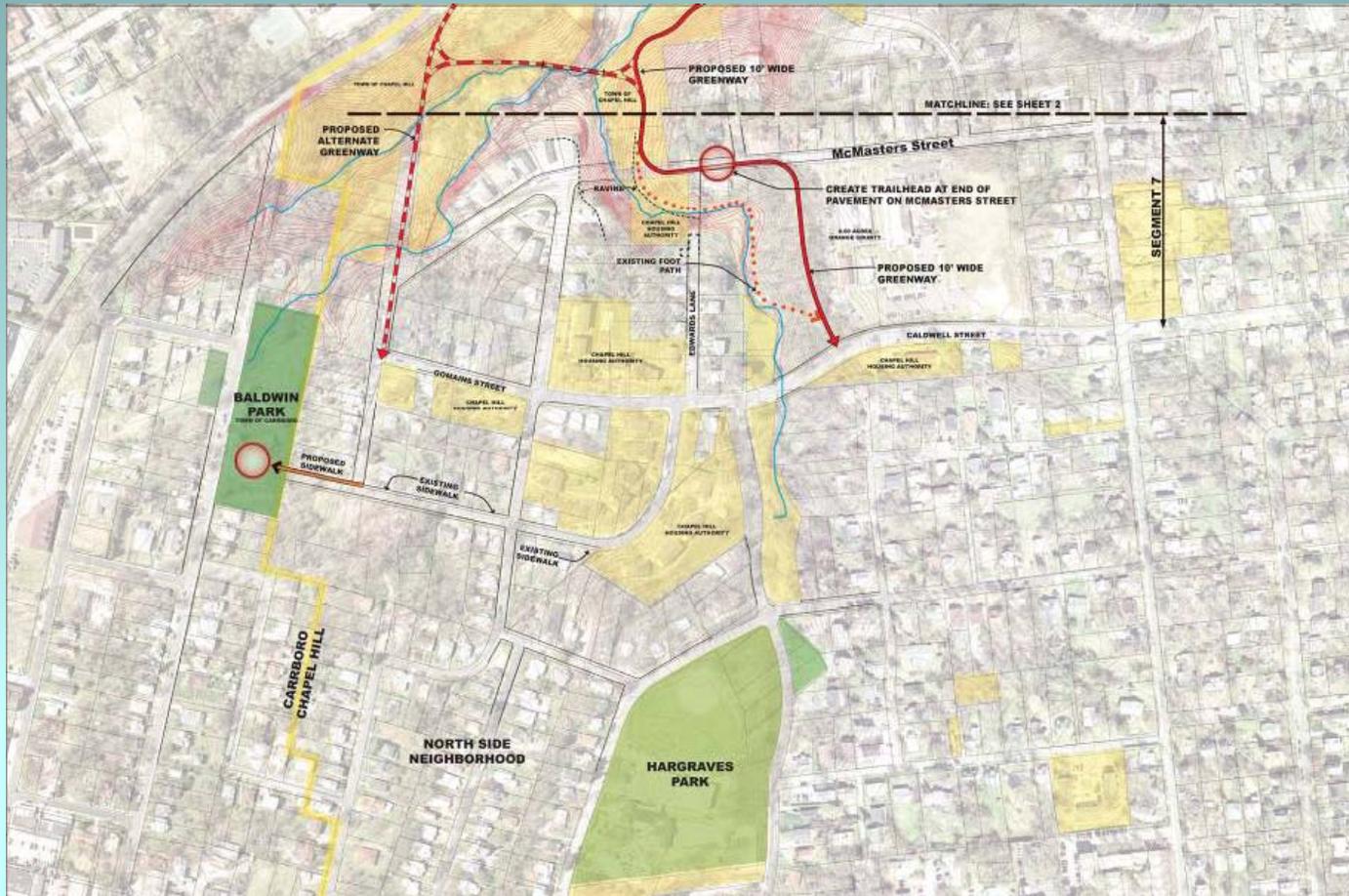
State Trails Program  
Recreational Trails Program Grant

04/02/2006

# Chapel Hill Connectivity



# Bolin Creek Greenway: Chapel Hill



## Connection to Baldwin Park

- Would provide connectivity between parks in Chapel Hill and Carrboro
- Would meet objectives in Carrboro's Vision 2020 and the R&P Master Plan update of 2006
- Staff recommendation (in Resolution A):
  - Support this trail connection
  - Recommend including stream restoration along this segment of Bolin Creek, obtaining funding from environmental agencies/programs



## Segment 6: Estes undercrossing location

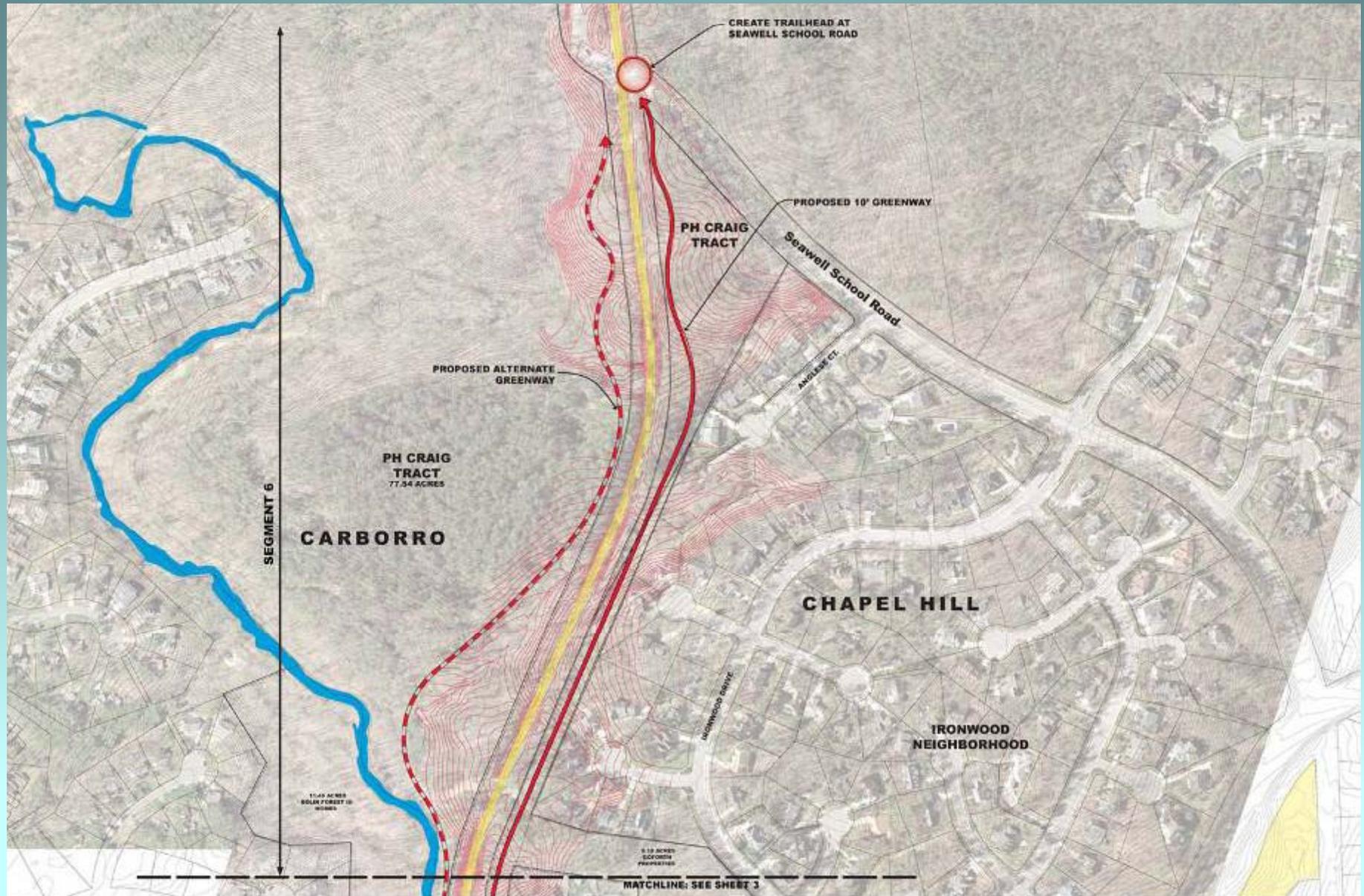
Three-barrel culvert too small

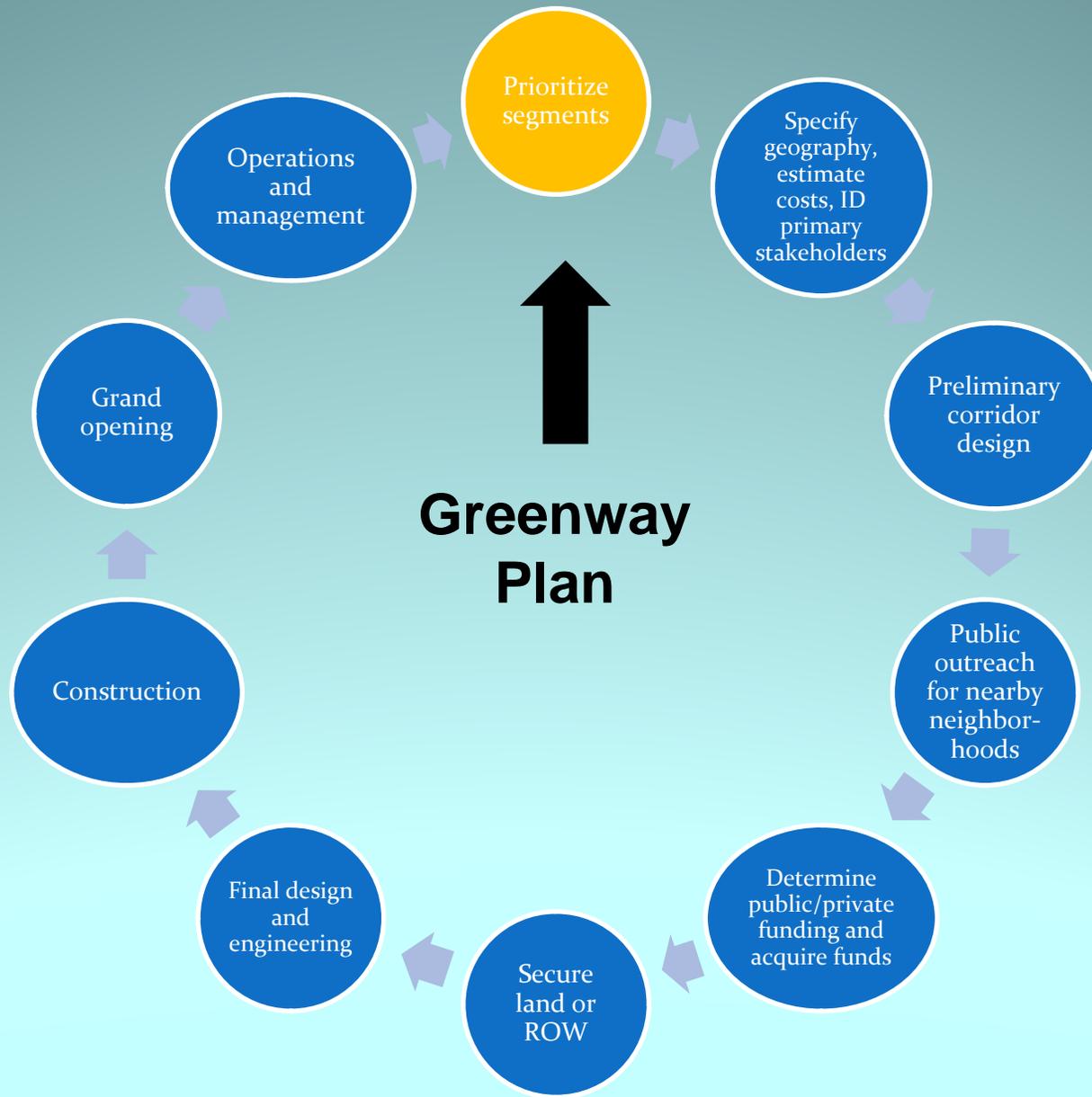
Elevation change is  
challenge

Preferred solution: new  
underpass to north of culvert



# Segment 6: North to Seawell School Rd.





# Current Funding Sources

## Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO)/Town Bond

### DCHC MPO STP-DA Projects Currently Funded for Carrboro

Project Name	Planning Estimate*	Construction Estimate**	Total Cost Programmed	MPO/Town Share via Bond (80%/20%)
Bolin Creek Greenway	\$70,000	\$737,500	\$807,500	\$646,000/\$161,500
Morgan Creek Greenway	\$50,000	\$600,000	\$650,000	\$520,000/\$130,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>	<b>\$1,337,500</b>	<b>\$1,457,500</b>	<b>\$1,166,000/\$291,500</b>

\* These estimates were put together in 2003 and provided for a level of design that would include where the trail would be built, what easements would be required, and identification of stream crossings. They included a 10% contingency for attorney fees and environmental coordination.

\*\* These estimates were put together in 2003 and included a portion for design and survey work.

# Comprehensive Bicycle Plan

- NCDOT planning grant
- Greenways, Inc.
- Kick-off: January 24<sup>th</sup>