

Test the Trails Site Report

Neabsco Greenway from Benita Fitzgerald to I-95 (and back)

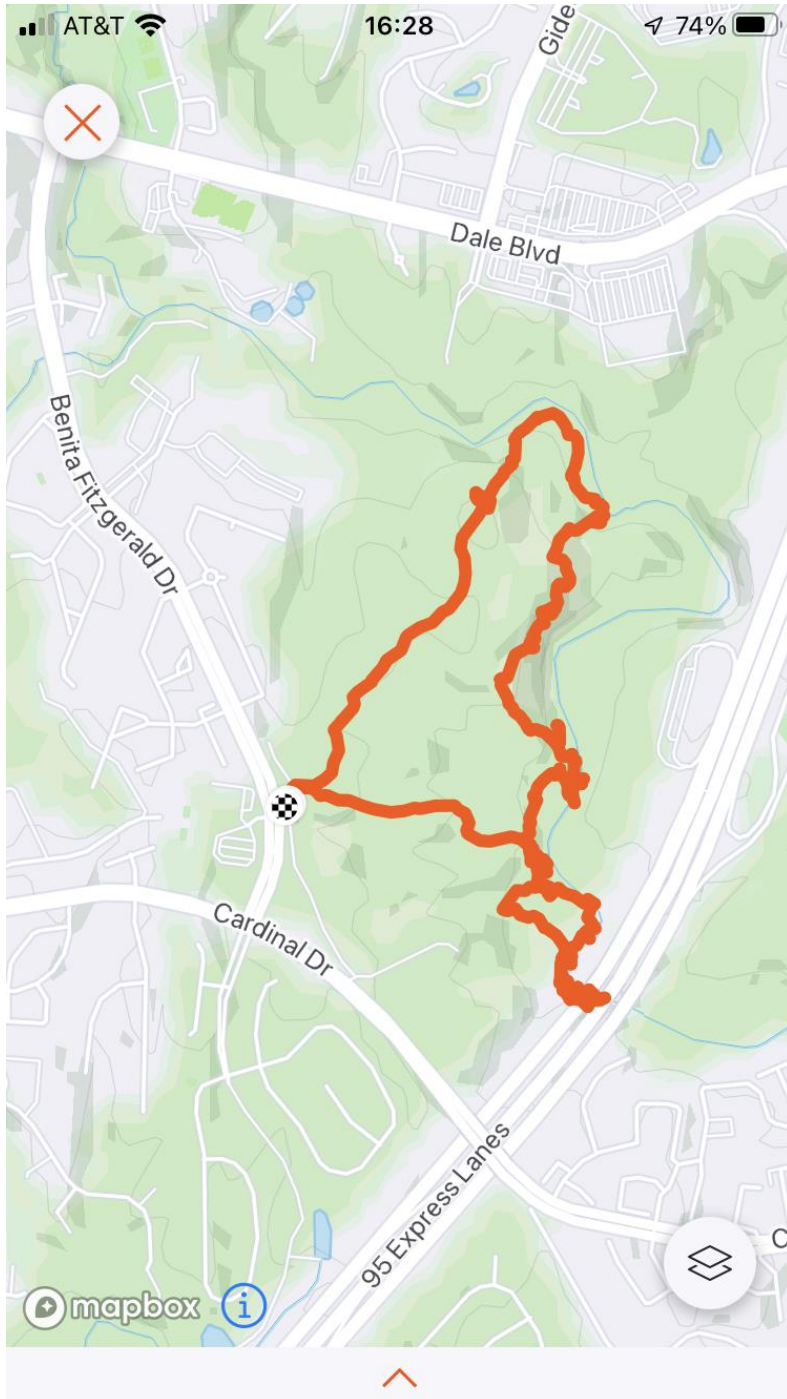
Site Visit Date: October 31, 2021

Explored by: Jason Williams, Neil Nelson, Guy Campbell, Charlie Grymes. Amy Richard Latalladi-Fulton, Richard Latalladi-Fulton, and Tim Chennault

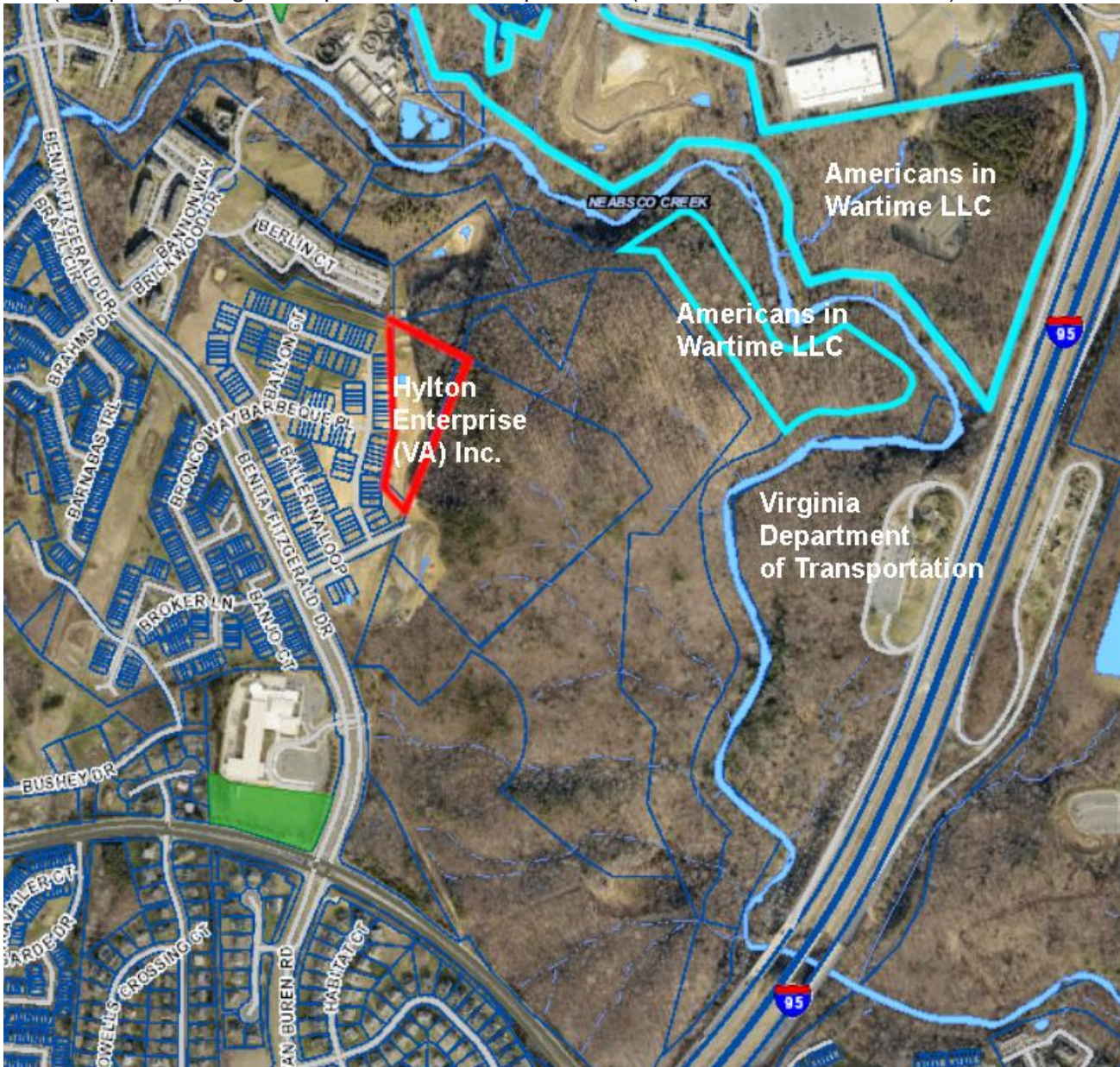
Area Explored: Portion of Neabsco Creek for 2 miles downstream of Benita Fitzgerald

Link to this hike via STRAVA: <https://www.strava.com/activities/6194120910>

Here is a link to a similar hike March 2021: <https://www.strava.com/activities/4973482317>



Land Ownership: Cecil D. Hylton Estate, Americans in Wartime LLC (two parcels), Hylton Enterprises (VS) Inc. (one parcel), Virginia Department of Transportation (underneath and next to I-95)



Prince William County Magisterial District: Neabsco

Report: This is a rural rustic area with much diversity with gorgeous terrain. We did not hike a path that would indicate a future greenway, but rather explored the area. However, we did note several areas that would provide for a majestic trail with several areas that would offer amazing views and provide for a great community park as well as a tourist destination. We did some “bushwacking” to I-95 Neabsco on some old utility roads and deer trail. We experienced some areas of grade and slope (with some elevation change up to 200’ in ¼ mile). Many areas were easy to traverse on the old utility roads. Some other places were tougher due to the grade and slope of the topography. A great area to discuss geology, topography and creation of the landscape, and especially history of the Neabsco Iron Works. Can also tie the future trail into the Dale City I-95 Car Rest stop for ease of access as well as restroom facilities. Can develop a small park on western side of the rest stop.

Construction of a natural surface trail would require primarily cutting the trail with manual labor or machinery to establish a natural path that would be very easy to maintain. Some sections would require a bench cut into the topography. Access under I-95 would be easier on the northern side of the creek (which is side of the rest area), so one or more bridges or fords across Neabsco Creek would be appropriate. Part of trail would parallel the future America in Wartime Museum campus. We could partner with the group to establish a special section of the trail.

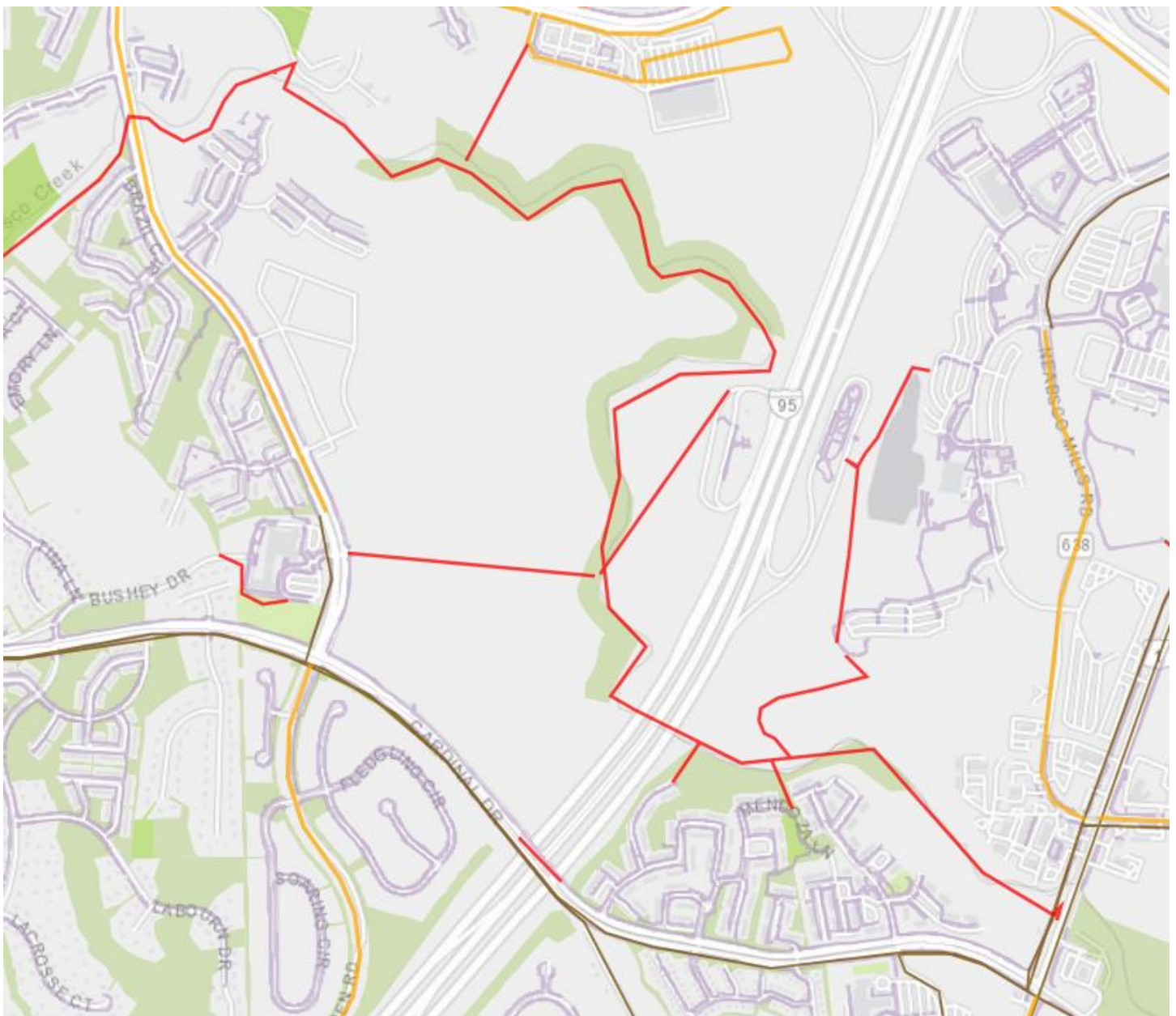
The trail would be suitable for users on gravel bikes as well as walkers.

Scenic views of Neabsco Creek are common, including rapids over hard metamorphic bedrock approximately 400 million years old. Access points to the water are common.

The stream valley is isolated from adjacent homes

There appeared to be little public use of the route. Much litter was found. No signage identified land owners or prohibited trespassing. An apparent homeless camp with three tents/shelters was spotted.

Greater Prince William Trails Coalition Aspirational Trails Map:



Benefit of this section: This trail segment has two major benefits.

It would provide community access to the Neabsco Greenway, and provide interconnectivity of the Benita Fitzgerald and Cloverdale communities with the Cardinal and Route.1 communities. This will be the southern trail section to connect to the Neabsco Boardwalk at Neabsco Park. This area would be co-located and parallel to the America in Wartime Museum.

In addition, tourism potential is high. Overlooks of Neabsco Creek from rocky cliffs and outcrops 100-200' high are unique. This area **boasts** a great opportunity for a county or regional park with the idea of hosting an **adventure park** (such as a Zip line and Treetop Adventure park - <https://www.zipquest.com/> or <https://www.goape.com/location/maryland-rockville/>).

Estimated Costs:

Land or right-of-way acquisition: to be negotiated

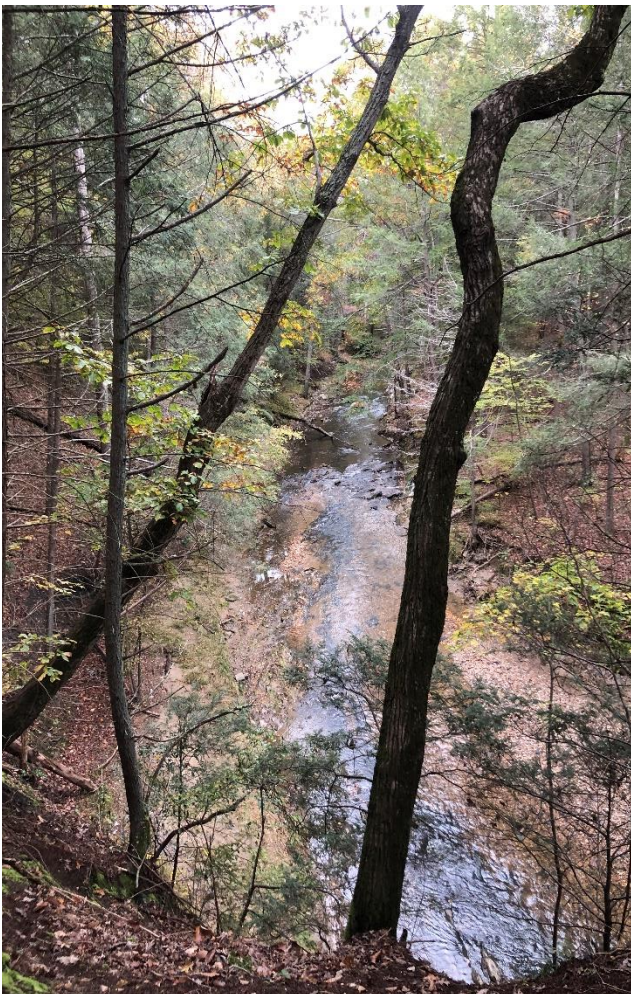
Engineering: _____

Construction: _____ (including _____ for _____ bridges/fords)

Annual maintenance: _____

Pictures: NOTE: more photos than those below are available in the Test the Trails – Neabsco Greenway folder at _____.

An area where the ridgeline is approximately 200' above the creek offering scenic view. A great place to build a "scenic overlook" to attract locals and tourist:



Common scenes of the creek:



