

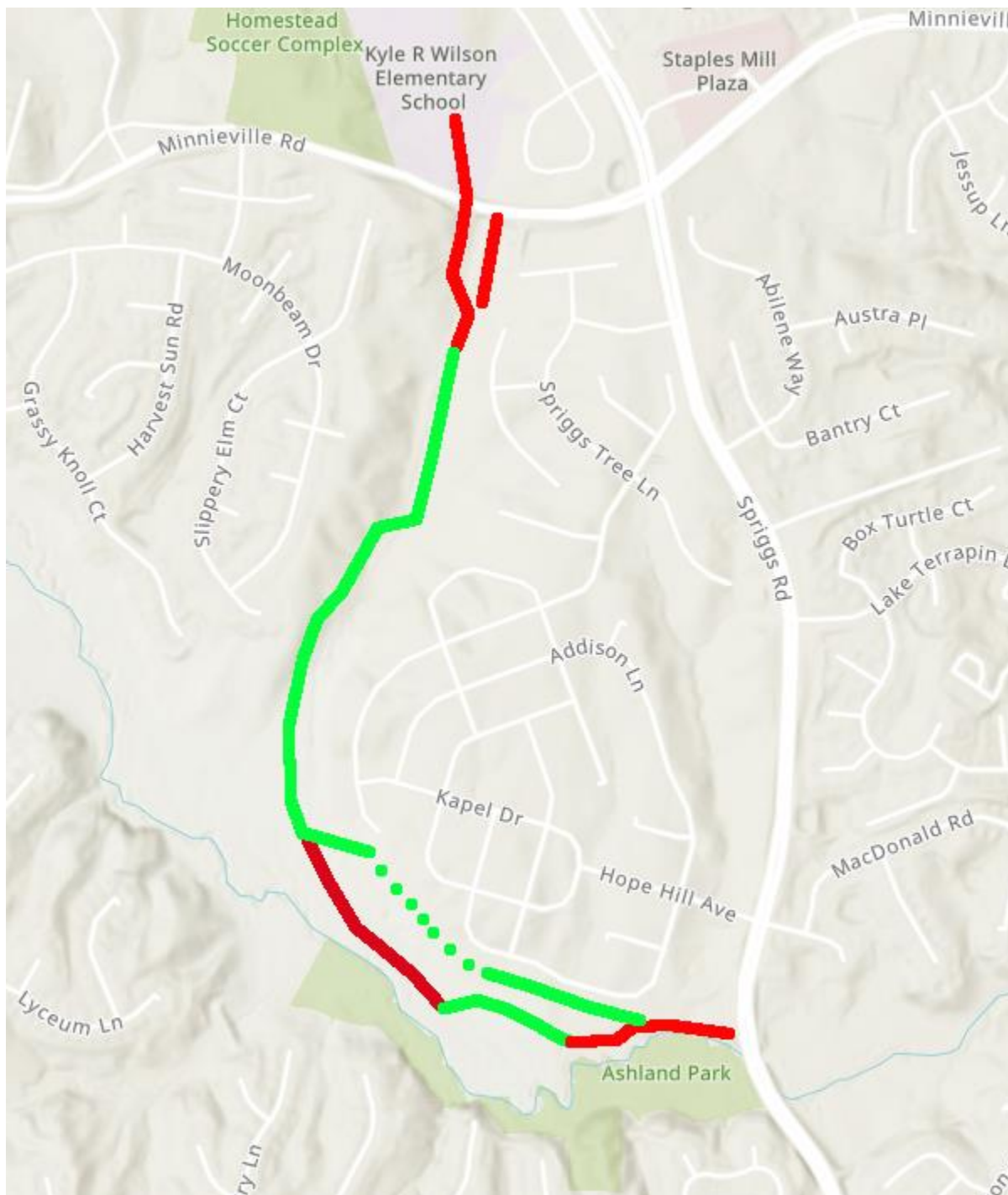
Test the Trails Site Report

Powell's Creek from Kyle Wilson Elementary School to Spriggs Road

Site Visit Date: November 7, 2021

Explored by: Neil Nelson, Mike Freeland, Brad Nance, Charlie Grymes

Area Explored: Unnamed tributary of Powell's Creek from Kyle Wilson Elementary School to Powell's Creek, then Powell's Creek to Spriggs Road.



Land Ownership: Prince William County, PW County School Board (Kyle Wilson Elementary School), Hope Hill Crossing South (blue boundary)



Prince William County Magisterial District: Coles

Report: There is no existing path from Kyle Wilson Elementary School to Minnieville Road, but it was an easy bushwhack with one minor stream crossing. Greatest challenge is the steep slope climbing up from stream to Minnieville Road.

Without a pedestrian crosswalk, there is no safe way to cross Minnieville Road without walking up to Spriggs Road.

Going downstream from Minnieville Road, we started on the right-hand side of the unnamed tributary. Though signs identified the boundary of the Resource Protection Area (RPA) owned by the county, grass was mowed behind the signs. After 100 yards, we crossed to the left-hand side of the tributary because there was a mulched trail already developed behind the Meadows at Barnes Crossing subdivision. A bridge perhaps 10 feet long would be required where we crossed.

The developed trail on top of the sewer line was well-screened from nearby houses. It crossed via a well-built bridge to the right-hand side of the tributary, though a small segment also continued on the left-hand side to connect to the nearby subdivision. There was no evidence of the sewer line on the right-hand side of the tributary.

On the right-hand side, the trail was deep within the stream valley, completely isolated from any houses. Two social trails extended towards Moonbeam Drive.

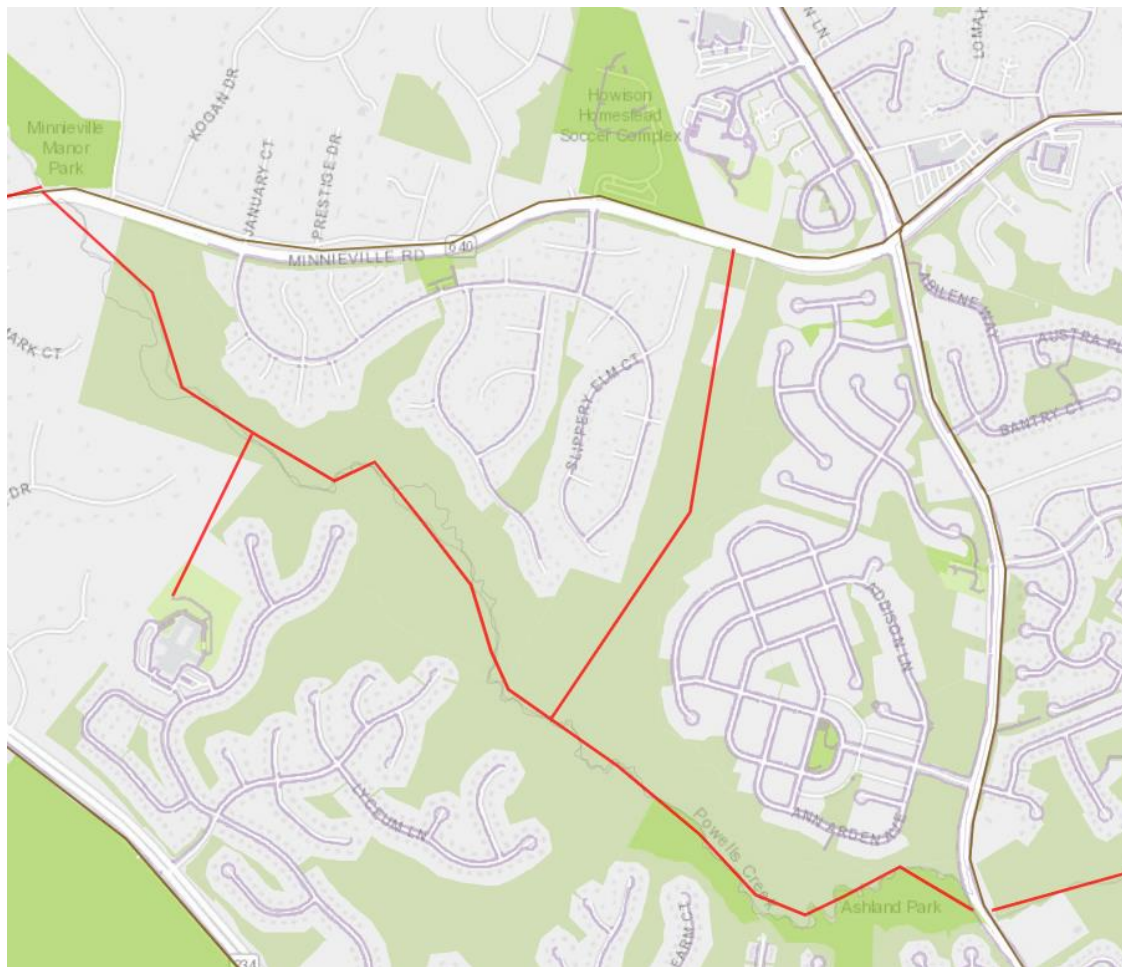
Near Powell's Creek, the developed trail ended in the soggy floodplain. The tributary lacked a well-defined channel; there was no difficulty crossing it to bushwhacking down the left-hand side of Powell's Creek. There was little understory or brush, but footing was soft and a boardwalk would be more appropriate than a natural surface trail for much of the distance.

We maneuvered through small channels crossing the floodplain before finally reaching Powell's Creek, which was too deep to cross. We moved away from Powell's Creek to take advantage of another developed trail behind the Hope Hill Crossing subdivision. It appears all of this section of developed trail was within the county parkland boundary, but it ended several hundred yards before reaching Spriggs Road. Bushwhacking to Spriggs revealed an underpass where rocks are a barrier to passage.

On the return trip back, we discovered a higher and drier option for a trail at the edge of the county parkland. It is possible that no bridges or boardwalk would be required on that route. The developed trail stopped where an HOA path led to the end of Spriggs Valley Court. It was easy to bushwhack on to Minnieville Road.

There appeared to be little public use of the route. No litter was found. Old signage that identified Stanley Martin Homes as the land owner were evident on the county parkland.

Greater Prince William Trails Coalition Aspirational Trails Map:



Benefit of this section: The trail down the tributary would provide community access to the Powell's Creek Greenway.

Estimated Costs:

Land or right-of-way acquisition: none

Engineering: _____

Construction: _____ (including \$____/foot for natural surface trail and \$____ for _____ bridges/fords)

Annual maintenance: _____

Pictures:

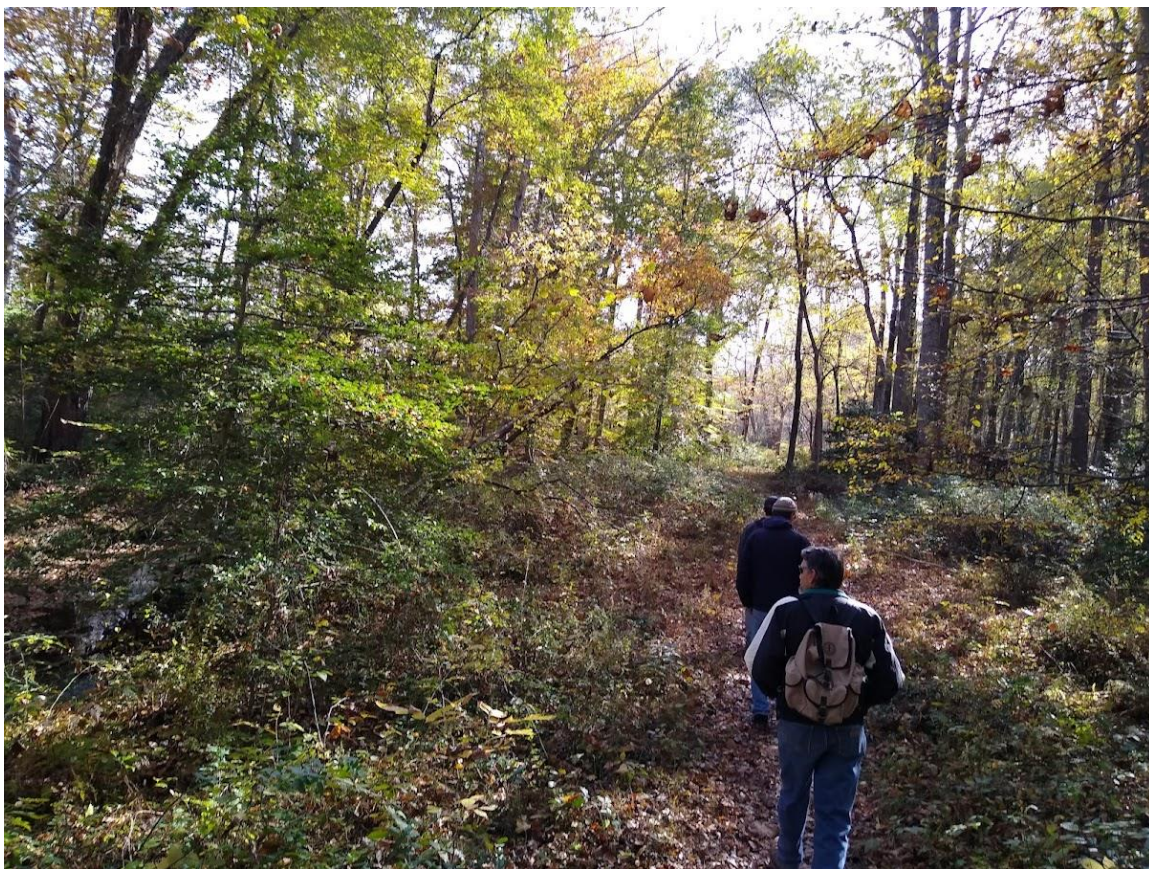
Stream between Kyle Wilson Elementary School and Minnieville Road:





Crossing from left-hand side to right-hand side of tributary:





Developed trail along tributary ends in floodplain:



A bridge would be required to cross Powell's Creek:



Developed trail behind Hope Hill Crossing:



Spriggs Road:



