

Corridor Management Plan 2012



PO Box 874
Scott Depot, WV 25560
www.riverstoridges.com

**Developed by the Ridges Heritage Trail with the support of numerous partners
2012**



**View of the Ohio River at its confluence
with the Kanawha River – Point Pleasant**



Morning mist along the Rivers to Ridges Byway

Introduction

In 2009, the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail was designated as a State Scenic Byway by the West Virginia Division of Highways. The Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail consists of a primary route, two excursion loops and a connector spur which will give it ingress and egress to a second interstate. Our future plans are to seek designation for the entire system as a National Scenic Byway. At its southern entrance point, the Trail has a connection to the Midland Trail National Scenic Byway. This Corridor Management Plan will not only focus on the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail's existence as a state byway, but will set a path towards a final goal of achieving national designation.

This corridor management plan was compiled with the intention of benefitting the diverse communities that make up the Trail. It provides an inventory of the present, vision for the future and a blueprint for the development of the projects needed to make that vision a reality. Local communities will be able to better identify priorities for improvements and have direction in gaining funds for improvements. It will also help the communities of the Byway to better coordinate their marketing and outreach efforts.

The primary route of the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail begins in the historic City of Nitro. Situated along Interstate 64, the direct route between Charleston and Huntington, Nitro is perfectly located to serve as the southern gateway to the Trail. A large number of visitor facilities and shopping opportunities are available in Nitro, which bills itself as the antiques capital of West Virginia.

Upon leaving Nitro, on WV Route 25, the primary Trail connects with WV Route 62, hugging the scenic Kanawha River on one side and the iconic rolling hills of West Virginia on the other. The route travels through a mixture of small historic towns and rural communities. Sites significant to the region's historical and cultural heritage crop up throughout the Trail. Visitors will have the opportunity to tour Buffalo's Historic District, filled with original buildings from the mid-nineteenth century, and stop at scenic sites to watch river barges making their way up and down the Kanawha River. Unique events like Buffalo's Oktoberfest and Point Pleasant's Mothman Festival offer a taste of local culture to visitors. Whether visitors are interested in visiting the lower Kanawha River Valley's Civil War sites, experiencing the valley's rich cultural heritage, seeing the spots where historical personages like George Washington and Mad Anne Bailey left their mark, or waking up early to watch the early morning mist hanging over the river, there are sites along the Trail for every interest.

For travelers who might wish to leave the primary route of the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail for side trips, there are two adjoining loops. The Mary Ingles Excursion Loop, which follows WV Route 817, can be entered at the St. Albans exit of Interstate 64, by leaving WV Route 62 at the Winfield “Toll” Bridge, outside the town limits of Eleanor, or by crossing the Kanawha River on the Buffalo Bridge. The centerpiece of the Mary Ingles Loop is the Town of Winfield, which is the county seat for Putnam County. The historic court house, the home of the county’s first trial lawyer and judge and the southern side of the Winfield Locks and Dam are all sites worth visiting. Other places of interest include small arts and craft and antique shops, the Wetlands of Winfield and the John Amos power plant.

Another excursion route, the Ohio River Bend, can be accessed by following WV Route 62 north from downtown Point Pleasant or by traveling down river from Nitro toward Point Pleasant and turning north on County Route 23 at the Town of Leon. This route features a leisurely trip through some beautiful rural areas eventually bringing travelers to various points along the Ohio River as it meanders from Pittsburgh to Cairo, Illinois and the Mississippi River.

One additional excursion route that helps make up the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail Byway is the Ripley Connector Spur. This was added to the heritage trail in order to tie the Ohio River Bend Excursion Loop with Interstate 77 at the Town of Ripley. It, however, is more than a connector spur as Ripley has a beautiful historic district and boasts itself as home to the “USA’s largest small town Independence Day celebration.” During the trip from Ripley to the Ohio River Loop Bend Excursion travelers pass several intrinsic value sites including historic churches and Rollins Lake.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1 Introduction and Table of Contents and Location of the required 14 Points for Byways	2
Chapter 2 Location and Description	8
Chapter 3 Vision and Goals	10
Chapter 4 Intrinsic Qualities	13
Chapter 5 Intrinsic Qualities in their Context	41
Chapter 6 Signage, Interpretation, and Wayfinding	127
Chapter 7 Marketing	131
Chapter 8 Intelligent Development and Anomalous Intrusions	133
Chapter 9 Highway Safety, Accommodating Commercial Traffic, Pedestrians, and Shared Road Use	139
Chapter 10 Action Plan	142

Chapter 11 Collaborations, Partners, and Ongoing participation	146
---	-----

Location of required 14 Points for Byways

Point	Location
A map identifying the corridor boundaries, location of intrinsic qualities, and land uses in the corridor.	Corridor Boundaries Map on 11 Intrinsic Qualities Maps in each section Land Use Maps in Appendix A
An assessment of the byway's intrinsic qualities and their context	Chapter 4 and 5
A strategy for maintaining and enhancing each of the byway's intrinsic qualities	Chapter 8
A list of the agencies, groups, and individuals who are part of the team that will carry out the plan.	Chapter 11
A strategy for how existing development along the corridor might be enhanced and how to accommodate new development while preserving the byway's intrinsic qualities.	Chapter 8
A plan for on-going public participation.	Chapter 11
A general review of the road's safety record	Chapter 9

A plan to accommodate commercial traffic while ensuring the safety of sightseers in smaller vehicles, as well as bicyclists, joggers, and pedestrians.	Chapter 9
A listing and discussion of efforts to minimize anomalous intrusions on the visitor's experience of the byway	Chapter 8
Documentation of compliance with all existing local, state, and federal laws about the control of outdoor advertising.	Chapter 8
A plan to make sure that the number and placement of highway signs will not get in the way of scenery, but still be sufficient to help tourists find their way.	Chapter 8
Plans for how to market and publicize the byway.	Chapter 7
Any proposals for modifying the roadway, including an evaluation of design standards and how proposed changes may affect the byway's intrinsic qualities.	Chapter 8
A description of what you plan to do to explain and interpret your byway's significant resources to visitors.	Chapter 6



Pond at McClintic Wildlife Management Area

Locations and Descriptions

The primary route of the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail is 44 miles in length. At its southern end the trail begins on WV Route 25 in Nitro, follows WV Route 62 through the Kanawha River Valley and travels down river to Point Pleasant. There are also two excursion loops and a connector spur that make up the overall byway system.

The first of these is the Mary Ingles Excursion Loop which follows WV Route 817 from the St. Albans exit of Interstate 64 down the Kanawha River to the Buffalo Bridge at Frazier's Bottom. The Mary Ingles Loop has a total length of 22 miles. At the Buffalo Bridge, travelers can cross over the Kanawha River and return to the primary route along WV Route 62 at Buffalo. An additional excursion loop starts in the downtown area of Point Pleasant and travels through Mason County's scenic Ohio River Bend Area until it rejoins the primary route along WV Route 62 in the town of Leon. This excursion loop has a total driving distance of 48 miles. A 12 mile long connector spur provides a convenient way to reach the Ohio River Bends Excursion Loop from Interstate 77 at Ripley in Jackson County.

In the future, as WV Route 817 replaces portions of US Route 35, the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail hopes to extend the Mary Ingles Excursion Loop from the Buffalo Bridge to Point Pleasant.

The Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail is located in West Virginia's Metro Valley Region. The primary Trail follows the Kanawha River through Putnam and Mason Counties and passes through Nitro, Poca, Eleanor, Buffalo and Point Pleasant.

As a Heritage Trail, Rivers to Ridges will focus interpretive efforts on our historical and cultural intrinsic qualities, with secondary emphasis on scenic and recreational qualities.

The proposed story for the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail is "The Gateway to America's First Western Frontier."



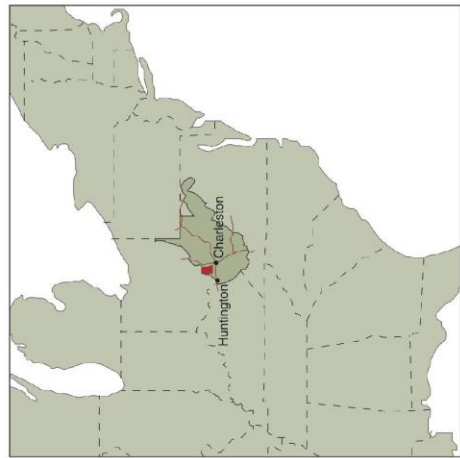
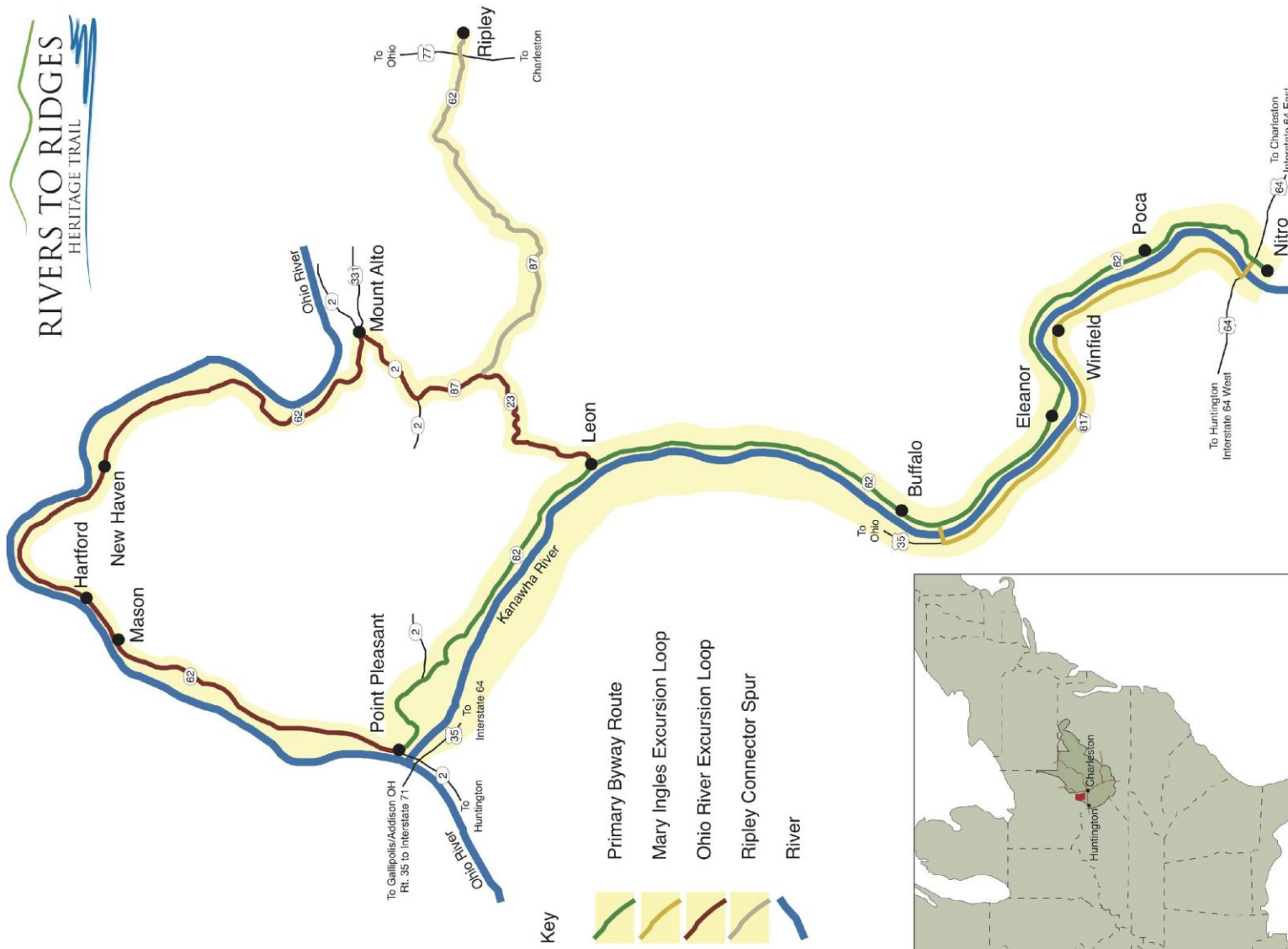
Mission Statement

The Mission of the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail is to enhance and promote education and economic activities in our region by preserving the heritage of the communities in the lower Kanawha River Valley and by sustaining and increasing cultural and heritage tourism through the development of a cohesive Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail marketing product. Additionally, we will enhance the quality of life in this area by developing projects for use by both tourists and residents.

Vision Statement

To increase and develop heritage tourism in Putnam and Mason Counties by promoting the lower Kanawha River Valley as a heritage education and tourism destination site and by preserving the physical and cultural remains of our unique culture and history.

RIVERS TO RIDGES HERITAGE TRAIL



Goals

To develop the economy of the lower Kanawha River Valley through the enhancement and promotion of heritage tourism.

To further develop recreational activities in Mason County and Putnam Counties, specifically through the development of infrastructure and amenities such as biking and hiking trails, rest stops and campground facilities.

To develop a cohesive marketing and interpretation plan targeted at raising regional and national awareness of the appeal of the lower Kanawha River Valley.

To preserve and interpret the lower Kanawha River Valley's unique historical assets, placing emphasis on the role the area played as the gateway to America's first western frontier.

To establish a fundraising program and endowment that will insure the sustainability of the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail.



Downriver of American Electric Power's John E. Amos Power Plant.

Intrinsic qualities are those parts of a byway that have a value in and of themselves. Intrinsic qualities may be Scenic, Natural, Historical, Cultural, Recreational or Archaeological. In order to gain recognition as a National Scenic Byway, the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail must demonstrate that at least one of our intrinsic qualities is of regional significance and defined as being unique within a two-state area.

Sites along the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail demonstrate five out of the six possible intrinsic qualities, with its historical intrinsic value being of greatest regional significance.



Historical

The historic story of the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail begins and ends with the Kanawha River. From prehistoric times to the modern era, the river has served as a convenient transportation route serving various human enterprises, such as commerce, war, peace and recreation. In most eras, the river was a ready source of food as well. Shoals like the ones at Nitro, Poca, Buffalo and Red House provided ideal fishing spots. The regular floods of the river created a rich bottomland in the valley that proved to be ideal for farming.

A variety of cultures in a series of prehistoric periods (beginning at least as far back as 13,000 years ago) drew sustenance from the Kanawha Valley. Many earthworks of the Adena, Hopewell, and Buck Garden cultures were extant in the 1890s when Cyrus Thomas studied and mapped them for the American Bureau of Ethnology. A few are still visible today. During the late 17th century, the Iroquois Confederated Nations depopulated the area's peoples through an unrelenting war for empire, so that when explorers from the British colonies first came to the Kanawha River Valley, the area was only sparsely settled by American Indians. By the 1720s, most of the area that is now known as West Virginia was a shared hunting ground for tribes like the Shawnee, Delaware, and Mingo in the Ohio country, and the Cherokee and Catawba from further south. In 1673, Gabriel Arthur accompanied a party of southern Tamahittan Indians to a Tutelo settlement named "Monyton" likely on the outskirts of modern day Buffalo. However, by the time Mary Ingles passed through in 1755 the village had been abandoned.

In 1770, George Washington, accompanied by other British subjects, including William Crawford (county surveyor of Augusta County), and guided by "The Pheasant" and another American Indian (likely Delaware as evidenced by the Lenape River names given in Washington's journal of the trip), canoed up the Kanawha River from its mouth to the vicinity of Thirteenmile Creek (present-day Leon). Some of his party went as far upriver as Eighteenmile Creek (present-day Robertsburg).





Washington chanced upon an old acquaintance, Kiashuta (the Seneca viceroy of the Ohio Country), who provided Washington details of the Kanawha River and its valley up to the falls, nearly 100 miles from the river's mouth. Kiashuta's details agreed closely with those provided by Washington's Indian guides.ⁱⁱ Crawford returned the following year to survey land on both sides of the Kanawha River in preparation for the dispersal of military land grants to Washington and other investors who had purchased warrants from veterans of the French and Indian War. In 1771, Crawford drafted the first survey maps of the Kanawha River Valley.ⁱⁱⁱ The next significant military warrant surveys of the Kanawha Valley were made in the spring of 1774 by another team of surveyors.^{iv}

The earliest known military events along the Trail were those associated with the Beaver Wars that caused the abandonment of Monyton. Later, several military campaigns of French armies and their Indian allies followed the Kanawha River trail from 1755 through 1758. The most significant of these was the campaign of the nearly 200 man army of Francois-Marie Picote, Sieur de Belestre II in the spring of 1756.^v Perhaps the most significant event of war to occur along the Trail was the battle of Point Pleasant. This history-changing battle took place in 1774 at what is now Point Pleasant. The largest battle of Lord Dunmore's War, the Battle of Point Pleasant pitted a force of approximately 1,000 Virginians led by Col. Andrew Lewis against an alliance of American Indian nations with similar warrior numbers led by Shawnee Chief Cornstalk (Okima Keigh-ta-qua). The defeat of the American Indian force decisively opened the Kanawha River Valley for settlement by English-speaking Euro-Americans and African Americans. Fort Randolph was

erected at Point Pleasant by Virginia to enforce the Ohio River boundary established between Virginia and Indian Territory after the battle. A replica of Fort Randolph has been erected at Point Pleasant's Krodel Park.



Every May the Murder of Cornstalk (November 1777) and the subsequent Siege of Fort Randolph (May 1778) are re-enacted at the reconstructed fort. In addition, every year the annual Battle Days festival pays tribute to the 1774 battle through reenactments and festivities at Tu-Endei-Wei State Park.

Settlers soon arrived to colonize the region around Point Pleasant. The first groups of settlers included frontier folk who would eventually become famous in American history. Daniel Boone arrived in the Kanawha River Valley in 1788, after land title disputes in the Kentucky region of Virginia. He settled in a small log cabin about four miles up Kanawha River from the town of Point Pleasant, and he spent much of his time surveying and trapping beaver. In 1789 Boone was appointed a Lieutenant Colonel of the Kanawha County Militia, and in 1791 he became a delegate from that county to the Virginia Legislature. He later returned to Kentucky, and in 1799 he left the region for Missouri.^{vi}

Anne Bailey, popularly known as Mad Anne Bailey and the Heroine of the Kanawha Valley, was another famous figure from this period. After her first husband died at the Battle of Point Pleasant in 1774 she left her son with a neighbor and joined the local militia as a scout. In 1785 she married a frontiersman named John Bailey and moved to Clendenin's Settlement. This town was located near modern day Charleston. In 1791 the local Fort Lee was threatened and began to run low on gunpowder. It was then that Anne Bailey

made a legendary 100 mile ride to Fort Savannah and back through the wilderness to retrieve a new supply of gunpowder. She is credited with saving the fort. Memorabilia from her life is on display at the Mansion House Museum at Tu-Endei-Wei State Park and a statue stands just outside the park along the system of floodwall murals.

By 1794 Point Pleasant had been founded by an act of the Virginia Parliament. Two years later the “Mansion House”, as it is called today, was constructed. The Mansion House is currently in use as a museum in Tu-Endei-Wei State Park.



In 1804 Mason County was created. By 1818 keelboats and ferries were regularly plying the Kanawha and Ohio Rivers. In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries the river was a convenient source of transportation, when roads were primitive at best and often became impassable. Goods could easily be shipped down the river to towns along the Kanawha and Mississippi, making the communities along the Kanawha ideal sites for the development of small industries.

In the earliest days of river navigation, keelboats and ferries were a common sight along the Kanawha River. Several of the present day boat launch sites started out as ferry launches. It wasn't until 1823 that the more advanced steamboats began to take over river traffic. Passenger steamboats and packet boats made regular trips up and down the Kanawha River for many years. Buffalo, Poca, and Point Pleasant were regular stops along the route. The River Museum in Point Pleasant maintains a large number of historic artifacts and resources about the region's river heritage.

In 1828 Anne Royall, one of the first women in America to own her own newspaper, wrote about her experiences traveling the Kanawha.

“Kanawha is a very handsome river, being generally as smooth as the Ohio, but by no means so limpid; it was a greenish appearance; you cannot see the bottom except at the shoals..... The river is covered with boats, some going up and some going down... Most people drank river water. I did not stomach it so well below the salt works as I saw several carcasses of horses floating downstream.”

At about the same time the different industries of the valley began to rapidly develop. Expansive stands of white oak and other virgin timbers created a thriving industry for wood based industries. Hundreds of people along the trail were employed by the Kanawha Salt Works as coopers and carpenters.



They produced white oak barrels and shipped them upriver to the salt works. Near the close of the nineteenth century the Courtney Lumber Company of Poca signed a contract to supply Standard Oil with 40 million barrels. For a time, Leon became a major shipbuilding center. Steamboats and oceangoing vessels were built and floated down the river to New Orleans for finishing work. Coal was discovered at the mouth of the Pocatalico River, creating a small mining industry.

By 1830 the population had grown to a size large enough to begin incorporating towns and building public institutions. Point Pleasant was incorporated as a town in 1833, followed by Buffalo three years later. Leon was founded three years after that. In 1848 Putnam County was created from pieces of Mason and Kanawha Counties. In 1849 the Buffalo Academy was established. In the years leading up to the Civil War the Buffalo Academy offered a full education in science, education, religion, ancient and modern languages, and classics. At the time it was considered to be one of the best schools in the region. The building still stands in Buffalo's historic district.

Everything changed for the valley in 1861. In that year forces from both the Union and the Confederacy entered the Kanawha River Valley. Public structures like the Buffalo Academy were converted into barracks and infirmaries for soldiers. Gen. Jacob. D. Cox lead an encampment at the mouth of 13 Mile Creek, near present day Leon. He continued to advance up the Kanawha River Valley, encamped at Raymond City (battle of Poca), and engaged the Confederates at the Battle of Scary Creek. Not only had the wrath of war begun, but that same year the Kanawha River flooded. Water levels reached sixteen feet over flood stage, the highest ever recorded in the area. According to Leland R. Johnson in *Men, Mountains and Rivers* (1977):





“In 1861 the Kanawha River had risen at the furious rate of four feet an hour, creating a current so strong that the Ohio river seemed to reverse its course and appeared to run upstream from Pt. Pleasant to Letart Falls. Floating buildings raced out of the mouths of the Kanawha, smashed into the north bank of the Ohio, leaving the wreckage to be carried upstream together with other debris to form a drift pile that completely closed the Ohio River channel for a time.”

In 1863 the Point Pleasant Courthouse was attacked by the 8th and 6th Virginia Cavalry for four hours. They believed the Union was storing arms in it. The courthouse stood, complete with bullet holes, until 1954, when the current courthouse was built.

On Oct. 26, 1864 the Union occupied Winfield to protect river transportation. Confederates forces attacked, but were forced to retreat when their commander, Philip Thurman, was killed. The next day, under a flag of truce, Capt. W.R. Bahlman carried a coffin into town and buried Thurman in an unmarked grave behind the home of James W. Hoge, a former Virginia Commonwealth attorney. Since that time the historic Hoge House has been relocated to a space behind the Putnam County Courthouse. In 2010 Philip Thurman was reburied, with full honors, behind the new location of the Hoge House.

The first railroad in Putnam County was built near Raymond City in 1880 to haul coal from the Big Otter mine to the riverfront. Some of the wood rails may still be seen at low water near the mouth of the Poca River.

On Nov. 13, 1883 a massive meteor shower frightened people throughout the Kanawha Valley. So many meteorites fell that people called it the Night the Stars Fell. Attendance at church the next day was record breaking and started off a religious revival throughout the region.

With the turn of the twentieth century new buildings and businesses continued to be built. In 1904 the Lowe Hotel was built in downtown Point Pleasant. The hotel is still in business. In 1915 the Marietta Manufacturing company moved to Point Pleasant and employed thousands to build sternwheelers and barges. It closed in 1970 and is used for storage now.

The start of World War I brought even more changes to the region. The town of Nitro was founded in 1917. Nitro was one of only two sites chosen by the government to be constructed as chemical production centers for the war effort. The town was constructed nearly overnight through the efforts of thousands of workers. The chemical plants of Nitro sent only one shipment of chemicals before the war ended. The need for war chemicals finished, the factories of the new town shifted over to the production of consumer chemicals. Today, the town of Nitro celebrates its heritage through its Boomtown Museum and annual Boomtown Festival.

The commercial infrastructure of the area took a huge step forward with the construction of the Silver Bridge in 1927. The structure connected Point Pleasant and Gallipolis, Ohio, and eliminated the Kanawha River as an obstacle to travel through the region. In 1967, however, the Silver Bridge collapsed. 46 people died in the tragedy. A memorial to those lost is located in Point Pleasant at the former base of the bridge.



In 1935, during the midst of the Great Depression, four model subsistence communities were founded in West Virginia. One of those was located along what is now the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail. Eleanor, named in honor of Eleanor Roosevelt, was constructed on land that once belonged to the Red House farm. The historic Red House, a plantation home dating from the 1830s, became the administrative center of the new community. Today the Red House serves as the Eleanor town hall. It also has a library/museum area set aside to commemorate the history of Eleanor.



Cultural

The culture of the communities along the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail is entwined with the area's history. It is impossible to consider one without the other. In this, the Metro Valley region of West Virginia, the earliest settlers were prehistoric American hunters and gatherers who found enough resources to sustain them for extended periods in one place. They used fire as a tool to manage vegetation for several purposes, but particularly for the improvement of grazing for game animals, such as deer and elk. The rock shelters found in abundance along tributaries of Kanawha River, provided excellent temporary camping space for seasonal hunting/gathering activities like harvesting nuts, netting spawning fish, and rendering bear fat. Such occupied shelters have been the targets of artifact collectors for 200 years and their abundance is reflected in the ubiquity of names like *rockcamp* or *rockhouse* attached to a stream epithet. In 2009, during the construction of U.S. Rt. 35, burials were found in a rockhouse along Threemile Creek in Mason County. This potentially significant archeological site was only minimally excavated before being permanently covered. Archeological sites along Kanawha River, like the John Amos Power Plant site, provide evidence of the importance of the river to cultures that depended heavily upon fishes and mussels found in abundance at the once numerous Kanawha River shoals. The power plant visitor center has on display some of the artifacts from an archeological investigation performed in 1968 during the plant's construction. This hunting/gathering lifestyle reached its peak in the Adena and Hopewell cultures that created extensive earthworks at ceremonial centers in the Ohio and Kanawha River valleys.

With the introduction of corn agriculture from the southwest to the eastern parts of North America, the hunting/gathering cultures were transformed.^{vii} Eastern American Indian cultures adopted corn-beans-squash farming (Three Sisters Agriculture) to supplement their hunting/gathering lifestyles. The last occupants of Monyton (at present-day Buffalo) were agriculturists as well as hunters and gatherers. Although the bulk of artifacts and skeletal remains removed from the site by archeologists have been moved out of the region, a historic marker at Buffalo identifies the location of the village.

The last occupants of the Oldtown archeological site, along Rt. 62 north of Point Pleasant, at the mouth of Oldtown Creek, were Shawnees in the historic period. George Washington referred to the village in his 1770 journal, “[...] by going up the Ohio a good Tract might be got of bottom Land including the old Shawna Town, which is about 3 Miles up the Ohio just above the Mouth of a C[ree]k [...]”^{viii}. The Shawnees, an Algonquian Language people, who settled at Oldtown Creek were part of a larger immigration event that began around 1720 and included Shawnees from southern regions as well as from the Susquehanna region of Pennsylvania, along with Delawares (another Algonquian people) from the Susquehanna, and Iroquoian Language people (mostly Senecas) from northwestern Pennsylvania and western New York. Traders licensed in Pennsylvania, like James Letort and Robert Smith, followed

these American Indian settlers and established trading houses not far from the mouth of the Kanawha River in the 1730s and 1740s. Letart Creek and Letart Rapids were named after Letort who maintained a trading house there. Letort traded with the Shawnees at Oldtown Creek before the occupants moved to Lower Shawnee Town (present-day Portsmouth OH and Southshore KY) around the time of King George's War (1744-1748).^{ix} Significant contributions of American Indians to the southern Appalachian regional culture that developed in the late 18th century included medicines, foods (e.g., hominy, Shawnee greens), hunting techniques, military tactics, frequent bathing, place names (e.g., *Kanawha*, *Allegheny*), and other language contributions, such as *poke* (the plant), *possum*, *pone*, *skunk*, *tomahawk*, and *moccasin*.



The earliest Euro-American settlers were families coming to settle the military land grants. These original families included a mix of English, German, and Scotch-Irish peoples. Slightly later immigrants contributed French, Dutch, and other European traits and traditions to the culture. The earliest African-American settlers were mostly slaves and indentured servants of the Euro-American settlers, and their contributions to subsequent cultural development were just as important as those of the American Indians and Euro-Americans. Gradually, all of these different traditions coalesced into the local Appalachian culture. This combined with a rich river heritage born from all the people who worked in the river trade throughout the nineteenth century. The architecture, crafts, antiques, museums, folklore, and art of the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail all pay tribute to this unique river and Appalachian heritage.

In the mid nineteenth century a German immigrant named Theobold Brenner arrived in Buffalo. He would write many letters back to his family in Germany describing the town as it was then.

“I am in a beautiful, fruitful valley whose mountains furnish the most romantic scenery. It is cut through by the Kanawha River on whose waters the steamboats unceasingly ply up and down making Buffalo the most pleasant spot to stay that I have yet found in the United States.”

“Buffalo lies in the midst of many farms, the most of them kept up by slave labor. The town has two churches, but you mustn’t imagine that they are stately buildings, for they are only rough houses made of boards.”

“An academy here attracts both boys and girls. They call themselves students but you mustn’t think of them as such a ‘loyal, jolly crowd as the students of Jena or other German universities.’ On the contrary, the fellows are as silly as children are to us. Their pleasures are tobacco chewing and all kinds of children’s sport; for example – shooting, etc.”^x

For visitors interested in architecture, many original nineteenth century buildings still stand throughout the Trail. The largest collection of historic buildings in their original location is in the town of Buffalo. In the town’s Historic District you can find the Buffalo Academy (1853), the Buffalo Welcome Center (formerly the Buffalo Bank which was founded in 1917), the Buffalo Presbyterian Church and the Buffalo Methodist Church. The oldest church in Buffalo, the Buffalo Baptist Church, is only a few blocks away.



Another site of interest for historic architecture is Point Pleasant’s Historic District. As part of West Virginia’s Main Street Program, this portion of Point Pleasant is being redeveloped. This area features several blocks of small specialty shops housed in Point Pleasant’s original downtown. In Tu-Endei-Wei State Park visitors can tour the Mansion House Museum, the earliest known hewn log building in the Kanawha River Valley.

An additional architectural site of interest is West Virginia’s State Farm Museum, located north of Point Pleasant. For several decades historic buildings from around West Virginia have been relocated to this site when their original sites were threatened. The buildings are open to the public, and many are furnished. Over thirty log buildings from different periods are located on the grounds of the museum, providing a complete history of the evolution of log construction in the region.

Several individual buildings of historic interest are also on display along the trail. The Federal style Hoge House, home to Attorney and Circuit Judge James W. Hoge, is currently being restored behind the Putnam County Courthouse in Winfield.

For more recent architectural history, the town of Eleanor was entirely constructed in the 1930s as a model subsistence community. A total of one hundred simple houses were laid out in spokes radiating out from the early nineteenth century Red House. A casual drive through the town reveals that many houses of the saltbox style still stand. Similarly, Nitro was constructed by the government during World War 1 over a period of months.



The communities along the River to Ridges Heritage Trail also have their own folklore. While many of those stories relate to our frontier past, none are more famous than the story of the Mothman. Nearly ten feet tall, the creature had glowing red eyes and huge wings and its feet were clawed like a bird, but the winged body was like that of a man. According to eye witnesses, many who are still living, it would fly at speeds that allowed the creature to keep up with speeding cars. First seen in 1966, for over a year and a half sightings became more common. Then on December 15, 1967, the Silver Bridge that connected Point Pleasant with Ohio collapsed, taking with its many cars and 46 human lives. It was the greatest tragedy to hit this region of our country. Immediately Mothman sightings stopped.

Some people claim Mothman was responsible for the disaster, while others believe he had come to warn of impending doom. In 1975, John Kyle wrote the book *Mothman Prophecies*. Kyle's book was turned into a major movie in 2002, making Mothman a national and international story. Since 2002, other films and documentaries have been produced on the story.

In order to preserve our culture and history a number of museums have been founded throughout the Trail. An example, the Boomtown Museum in Nitro shows in detail the construction of the town by the government during World War I.

The Buffalo Welcome Center maintains a number of albums including a pictorial history of a 1953 robbery of the Buffalo Bank. Visitors may also visit the Point Pleasant River Museum which is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the region's river heritage. Only a few blocks away from the River Museum, the Mothman Museum displays a number of artifacts and videos relating to the Mothman and the destruction of the Silver Bridge. Across the street from the River Museum is the Mansion House Museum in Tu-Endei-Wei State Park. The Mansion House was one of the first hewn log buildings in Mason County, and is currently on display as a historic house museum furnished with artifacts. On the third floor a number of artifacts from the Battle of Point Pleasant and from prehistoric cultures are on display. North of Point Pleasant, the West Virginia State Farm Museum displays over 30 historic buildings including a replica of the first Lutheran church constructed west of the Appalachian Mountains. Artifacts are also on display in many of the buildings.

Unique festivals take place throughout the year in different towns along the Trail. Most unique of all is the annual Mothman festival, which brings paranormal enthusiasts from around the region and country to Point Pleasant. Also in Point Pleasant, the Tribute to the River Festival and the Steamboat Regatta both celebrate the town's river heritage. Point Pleasant's Battle Days brings re-enactors from throughout the region to celebrate the Battle of Point Pleasant. The Siege of Fort Randolph is re-enacted annually in May at the reconstructed Fort Randolph located in Point Pleasant's Krodel Park. Several other historical education events take place at the fort throughout the year. Buffalo, Nitro, and Poca also have annual heritage festivals. Each fall Buffalo celebrates Oktoberfest. The Town of Winfield is the site of the annual Putnam County Homecoming in September. The West Virginia State Farm Museum hosts several celebrations throughout the year.



During the Christmas season sites along the Trail also host annual events. Krodel Park and the State Farm Museum both have annual Christmas Light shows.

A wide variety of public art has been erected throughout the Trail. In Point Pleasant the iconic statue of the Mothman stands in the middle of the Historic District. Not far away statues of Chief Cornstalk, Col. Andrew Lewis, and Mad Anne Bailey are on display in the Riverfront Park. All four were commissioned from local artist Bob Roach. Other examples of his work can be found in the town of Mason.

The floodwalls that separate Riverfront Park from the historic district have been converted into canvases of great murals telling the story of Point Pleasant as the gateway westward for the expanding nation in the late 18th century. The murals stretch east from the amphitheater and west to the entrance to Tu-Endei-Wei State Park. They highlight the historic cultures that have called the region “home”. The floodwall murals also present the grandest depiction of the Battle of Point Pleasant ever attempted, and it is truly breathtaking. Along Main Street in Point Pleasant’s Historic District, is the Gallery at 409, which displays work from local artists.



Large scale representations of historic quilt patterns can be seen on public and private buildings throughout Mason and Putnam Counties. These public art displays were created through the efforts of the Mason and Putnam County Quilt Trails.

Small craft and antique stores crop along the Trail. Nitro has the highest concentration, billing itself as the “Antiques Capital of West Virginia.” A large variety of antique stores and small craft stores are visible throughout the town. Local craft and antiques are also available in Point Pleasant and in locations along the Trail. Artwork from local crafters is on display at the Buffalo Welcome Center, and many crafters also set up booths at the local festivals.



Scenic

The most important scenic asset of the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail is the Kanawha River. The river is visible along nearly the entire primary route drive, and the majority of the sites along the Trail involve the river in some manner. Three bridges cross the river, showcasing some of the most scenic views in the region.

Of all the scenic views along the Kanawha River, one of the most dramatic is the confluence with the Ohio River. There, in a spot visible from Tu-Endei-Wei State Park in Point Pleasant, the greenish waters of the Kanawha River mix with the brown-shaded waters of the Ohio River. Both the Silver Memorial Bridge and the Bartow Jones Bridge are visible from this location. This spot is commonly filled with towboats and barges traversing the rivers.

Several locations along the Trail provide direct access to the Kanawha River. These were developed as boat access ramps, but have significant potential as scenic pull offs as well.



Many mornings throughout the year visitors willing to rise early might have the opportunity to see the hills and river shrouded in morning mist.

One of the most scenic times of the year to travel the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail is autumn, when the turning trees are at the height of their colors. The hills surrounding the route explode with all the colors of fall. A stop at one of the river access points allows visitors to look down a river surrounded by fall colors. There is no better time of year to cross the bridges over the Kanawha River and see the hills and river in all their beauty. A trip up into the Ohio River Excursion Loop allows visitors different views of the fall colors.



Natural

Like our historical and scenic intrinsic values, the greatest natural treasure of the Rives to Ridges Heritage Trail is the Kanawha River. The course of the river defines the trail geographically, culturally, recreationally, and scenically. Although the course of the river has ‘walked’ a lot over the years, it has remained largely unaltered by mankind, save for the locks and dam system.



Another major natural asset of the trail is the geology of the area. Geologically, this region of West Virginia is part of the Appalachian Plateau Physiographic Province. Around 800 million years ago much of western West Virginia was covered in an inland sea. During this time marine limestone, shale, siltstone and sandstones were deposited. In the next few million years, cycles of receding and growing seas left layers of limestone, sandstone, shale and coal. The Trail traverses two distinct geological areas. The majority of Mason and Putnam County lies atop Pennsylvanian geology. This was laid down 310 million to 230 million years ago and primarily consists of cyclic sequences of sandstone, clay, shale, limestone and coal. The Trail also crosses through an area of Permian stone, which was formed less than 230 million years ago. It is comprised of cyclic sequences of sandstone, red beds, shale, limestone and coal. In several locations along the trail exposed rocks demonstrating these layers are clearly visible from the road.

Perhaps the most interesting and unique geological aspect of the Rives to Ridges Trail is that it follows a river valley that was created more than 700,000 years ago. Before the Kansan glaciation of the North American continent, an ancient river geologists call “Teays River,” flowed in the same course that the New River and Kanawha River follow today from Boone, NC to a point directly across the river from Nitro, WV. The glacial maximum reached as far south as Moraine State Park in PA and Chillicothe, OH. The great ice sheet dammed many northward flowing rivers, including Teays River which flowed generally westward from Nitro to Huntington, on to Portsmouth, OH, where it



turned due north and then westward again to meet an extended arm of the Gulf of Mexico. The ice dam blockage of the northward flowing rivers (i.e., Monongahela, Little Kanawha, and Teays) created huge lakes that covered much of western West Virginia with millions of small arms extending up valleys and hollows. Eventually, many lake arms overflowed in various directions and the southwestward flowing Ohio River was born. As the newly formed Ohio River drained the lake waters southwestward, Teays River abandoned its original corridor between Nitro and Huntington, and a new river valley between Nitro and Point Pleasant formed—the lower Kanawha River Valley that nestles the Rivers to Ridges Trail.



This fascinating and fairly recent geological phenomenon is a good starting point for geological students exercising their mental acuity. Evidence of stream captures and stream flow reverses are visible to everyone at several locations within and near the Rivers to Ridges Trail. The grandest of these evidences are the huge sandstone cliffs that mark the narrowest part of the valley between Poca and Fraziers Bottom. Peering at these towering river sentinels, we can imagine the tremendous erosive power of the newly-formed river as it drained the huge lake backed up to distant reaches of the watersheds of Pocatalico, Coal, Elk, and Kanawha Rivers. Millions upon millions of tons of sediment, suspended in the raging current, scoured the underlying shales and caused their erosion-resistant sandstone caps to cave into the river, leaving their scarred faces to weather from tan to gaunt gray over the ensuing millennia.

This geological breach in the dike gave rise to a river valley that sustained a wide variety of cultures over many distinctive eras of human social development. In the 17th and early 18th centuries, the corridor became one of the most frequently traveled north-south corridors for American Indian trading enterprises, war exploits, and peace missions between the Great Lakes peoples and the southeastern peoples. The valley's northwest-southeast axis made it equally suitable for east-west traffic, hence the tremendous migration from eastern Virginia into Allegheny western Virginia by Euro-Trans-Americans and African Americans after the Battle of Point Pleasant secured the travel corridor for Virginia's expansive interests.



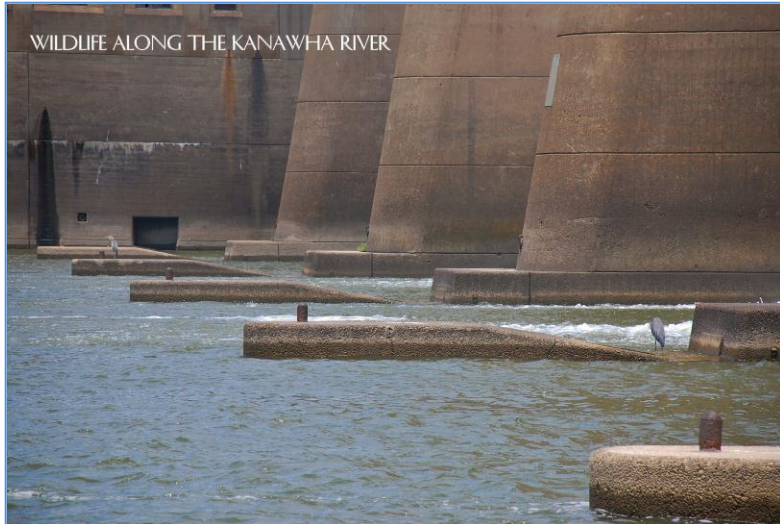
The weathering rock cliffs created talus slopes and formed deep fissures, suitable hibernacula for wintering rattlesnakes, well below the frost line. The hilly terrain northeast of the valley between Poca and Redhouse is now home to the westernmost population of timber rattlesnakes for that latitude. Other natural phenomena depended upon erosive forces carving through the rocks of the new river defile. For every erosive action, there is a downstream deposition action, and the broad bottom lands of the lower Kanawha River Valley are evidence of this. Before the great agricultural boom period of the early 20th century, these bottoms were very wet and afforded excellent habitat for certain water-loving creatures. George Washington's description of the valley in November 1770 makes this clear, "[...] all kinds of wild fowl, the<re> being in the Bottoms a great many small grassy Ponds or Lakes which are full of Swans, Geese, & Ducks of different kinds."^{xi} Although the drainage projects encouraged by state and federal farm agencies in the early 20th century took a toll on the natural wetlands that once crowded the valley, the construction of locks and dams on Ohio and Kanawha Rivers has created numerous embayments at tributary mouths. These "backwaters", as they are known by local folks, support thousands of migrating and resident waterfowl as well as wading birds and raptors associated with water, like bald eagles and ospreys.



The backwaters also provide excellent viewing areas for the growing number of wildlife watchers and birding enthusiasts. The restoration of suitable shallow-water feeding habitat resulted in the growth of a blue heron population to numbers large enough to support the second largest rookery in West Virginia near Buffalo. Each March and early April, bird enthusiasts gather to observe with binoculars and spotting scopes the heron family activities taking place atop the stately sycamores that stabilize the river bank at the rookery. A wetland mitigation project constructed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers at the Winfield Locks and Dam consists of a series of

shallow pools that are excellent habitats for numerous waders and waterfowl. This location, like the heron rookery, is a favorite birding spot, and the WV Birding List Serve internet discussion is frequently abuzz about unusual species sightings at the Locks and Dam. Other favorite Rivers to Ridges Trail wetland birding spots include the Wetlands of Winfield and Sixteenmile Creek wetland mitigation project (on the river's south side), and Armor Creek and Guano Creek backwaters (on the north side). For the terrestrial bird enthusiast, the Rivers to Ridges Trail has two public land facilities that can't be beat. The diversity of habitats, from piney ridges to beech coves to scrub-shrub and old fields, make the Amherst-Plymouth WMA and nearby Chief Cornstalk WMA excellent places to find a wide variety of perching birds, like the colorful wood warblers and tanagers, as well as numerous raptors and gallinaceous birds (i.e., wild turkeys, ruffed grouse, and American woodcocks). The abundance of tall oaks, maples, and poplars in forest crowns along the river's bordering ridges, supports several bird species that favor high canopy habitats. Species that are declining throughout much of their ranges are found in abundance here. The yellow-throated vireo and cerulean warbler are two such species.

The Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail Corridor hosts a wide variety of wildlife as well. The Kanawha River and the different ponds and small lakes along the corridor abound with largemouth bass, drum, walleye, channel catfish, northern pike and sauger. The forested hills and rural farmlands surrounding the route host a wide variety of birds and wildlife. In recent years bald eagles have been spotted near Winfield.





Recreational

Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail has existing facilities and others under development for a wide variety of recreational activities. With the easy access to the Kanawha and Ohio rivers, water recreation is a natural and popular activity. Facilities are also under development to expand the area's capacity to host activities like hiking, biking, and flying.

Boating

Boating facilities are available throughout the area. Access ramps are available at Nitro, Raymond City, Poca, Buffalo, Leon, Point Pleasant, and Mason. Boats with electric motors may be used at Krodel Lake and the ponds at McClintic Wildlife Management Area.

Fishing

Bass, drum, walleye, catfish, and sauger can all be found in the Kanawha River. Winfield Locks and Dam is a popular fishing spot. The backwaters at Nitro, Poca, Hometown, Plymouth, Gallatin Branch, Scary Creek, and other locations are extremely popular for bank fishing and bow fishing. Both Ridenour Lake and Krodel Lake are stocked with trout and allow fishing from the bank. Krodel Lake also maintains populations of sunfish, largemouth bass, northern pike, and channel catfish. Sunfish, crappie, largemouth bass and channel catfish are available at Ridenour Lake.

At McClintic Wildlife Management Area 32 ponds have been constructed and are open for year round public fishing. All offer carry-in boat access and bank fishing. Pond #10 has a fishing pier for physically challenged anglers. Largemouth bass, sunfish, northern pike, and channel catfish have been caught here.

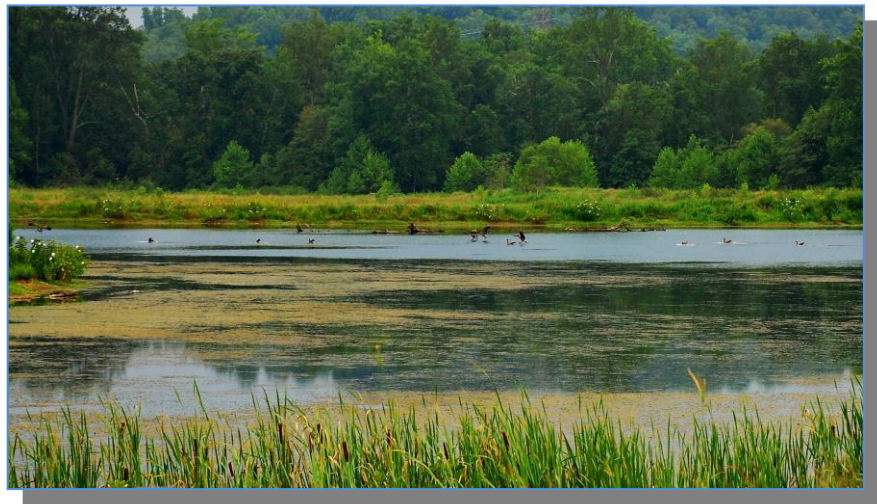
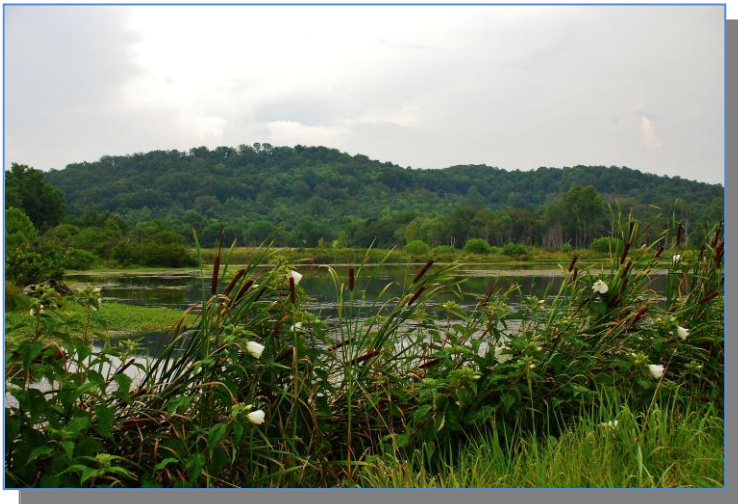
Hunting

Public hunting is available at the two state run wildlife management areas (WMA) which are located on the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail – McClintic WMA (Mason County) and Amherst-Plymouth (Putnam County). Chief Cornstalk WMA is located nearby along U.S. Route 35/WV Route 817, approximately eight miles south of Point Pleasant. Deer, mourning dove, grouse, rabbit, squirrel, turkey, waterfowl, woodcock, beaver, mink, muskrat and raccoon all populate the region. (Public hunting and fishing rules and regulations apply to all pertinent activities.)

Shooting and Archery

County Park in Eleanor has an outdoor shooting range managed by the Putnam County Gun Club. It includes outdoor pistol, outdoor rifle, rifle silhouette, pistol silhouette, and muzzle loading ranges. The park also has an archery range managed by Putnam County Parks.

Additionally, both McClintic Wildlife Management Area and nearby Chief Cornstalk Wildlife Management Area have shooting ranges.



Hiking and Backpacking

Hiking trails are currently being developed in County Park in Eleanor. There are also a number of trailheads in development throughout the corridor. The Mary Ingles Trail is planned as a long-distance trail running parallel to the river over the entire length of the Rivers to Ridges Trail. A 6-mile segment between the John Amos Power Plant and Winfield's eastern outskirts was dedicated in 2011. This trail honors the memory of Mary Ingles, the pioneer Virginia woman who traveled through the Kanawha River Valley on a journey of over 500 miles into and out of captivity amongst the Shawnees in 1755.

The Kanawha Trace, a 30-mile trail developed by Boy Scouts of the Tri-State Area Council, has its northeastern terminus at the Rivers to Ridges Trail's southwestern arm in Fraziers Bottom. This well-maintained trail is one of the most popular long-distance trails in the area, complete with designated overnight tenting spots.

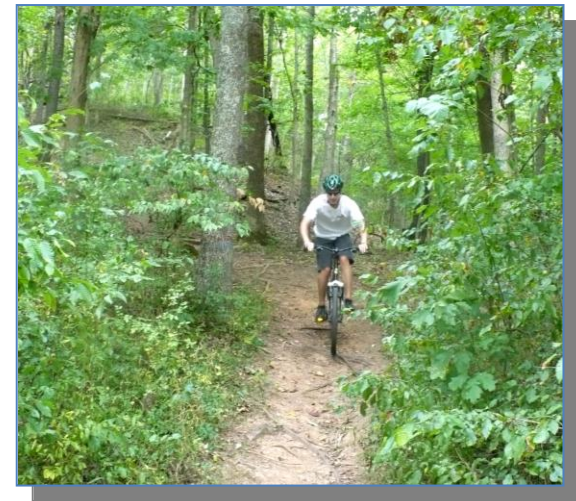


Camping

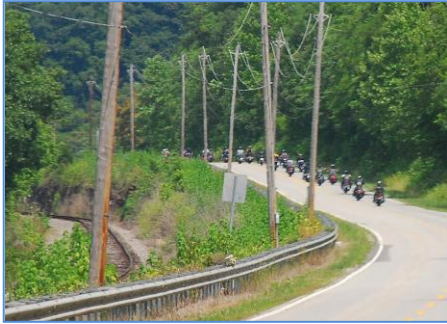
Primitive camping is available in designated locations of the wildlife management areas and Putnam County Park. Additionally, there are camping sites available at Krodel Park and a few other private campgrounds along the trail. The West Virginia State Farms Museum also has camping on their grounds.

Biking

Approximately 14 miles of mountain biking trails have been carved into the hills in and around Putnam County Park in Eleanor. The Kanawha Trace has become a popular and challenging trail for mountain bikers as well.



The rural roads that join WV Route 62 and leading into northern Putnam and Mason Counties are utilized regularly by road bicyclists. Their surfaces are paved and traffic is light making for not only scenic rides, but safe ones.



Motorcycling

Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail is located in the middle of a region ideally suited for motorcycle trips. One of the best routes follows the Ohio River Excursion Loop.

Ultralights

Putnam County Airport, which is located on WV Route 62, between Eleanor and Point Pleasant, has throughout the years been a base for ultra-light flying.



Birdwatching

Birds and wildlife are often visible along the Trail. Near Buffalo large numbers of turkey vultures can often be seen congregating. It is common to see owls, hawks and other birds in field bordering the roads. While a not so common thing, bald eagles have also been spotted at various times and locations. The Winfield Locks and Dam have an area designated for bird watching. McClintic Wildlife Management Area is home to a wide variety of waterfowl as well as rails, bitterns, prothonotary warblers, winter palm warblers, and savannah and swamp sparrows.

As a nearby attraction, WV Route 2 from Point Pleasant to Huntington is known for having some of the state's best bird watching. Bank swallows, waterfowl, pipits and sparrows can be spotted at the Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam. At Green Bottom Recreation Area birders can spot shorebirds, waterfowl, flycatchers, tree swallows, prothonotary warblers, blue grosbeaks, harriers and wood ducks. Likewise McClintic Wildlife Management Area is home to a wide variety waterfowl as well as rails, bitterns, prothonotary warblers, winter palm warblers, and savannah and swamp sparrows. Groups such as the Handlan Chapter of the Brooks Bird Club use the Wetlands of Winfield for regular meetings.



Archaeological Resources

Currently the archaeological intrinsic value of the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail is small, but this does not reflect the true nature of the extensive archeological resources that have been investigated along the Trail. The Point Pleasant website http://www.pointpleasantwv.org/MasonCoHistory/ARCH/Arch_1.htm reflects the extent of these archeological resources. This website mentions a few of the better known sites, like the McCulloch Mound, the Shadle Farm site, two sites near Sixteenmile Creek, and one near the mouth of Threemile Creek. During the Winfield Locks and Dam reconstruction, three sites were excavated along the Rivers to Ridges Trail corridor in Putnam County. A website with an easy to understand overview of Kanawha Valley prehistoric peoples is http://cwva.org/area_prehistories/kvprehistory-maslowski.html . Most publicly operated museums along the trail focus on more recent history, however, small collections of archeological artifacts can be viewed at the Farm Museum and the Mansion House Museum at Point Pleasant.

There is potential that an interpretive archaeological site could be developed in the future. Successful archaeological digs have been carried out on sites such as the Fort Ancient village outside of Buffalo (Monyton) and the location of the Battle of Point Pleasant. The artifacts and research recovered from these excavations still exist, but are scattered in different collections and archives throughout WV and in other states. For instance, the lead plate buried at Point Pleasant in 1749 by French military commander Celeron de Blainville is housed at the Virginia State Museum in Richmond. Much of the Sid Morgan collection, gathered mostly from the area around John Amos Power Plant, resides in the Morgan Museum that was moved to Milton, WV. The Threemile Creek rockhouse burial site, discovered during construction of the U. S. Rt. 35 four-lane highway, was not thoroughly studied, but was covered, awaiting a more appropriate time for investigation. Nonetheless, the site could be interpreted, as could many other sites from which numerous archeological studies have contributed to our current understanding of past cultures and events along the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail.

There is a great deal of interest in the area to work towards establishing an interpretive museum to display and interpret artifacts or facsimiles of the artifacts. It is not necessary to remove the artifacts from their current housing in order to utilize them for interpretive purposes within the region from which they were originally excavated. Artifact reproductions have served other museums well. The most important aspect of interpretation is that the connections between the manufacturers of the artifacts and the places in which the cultures lived be interpreted within the Rivers to Ridges Trail region. Facsimiles can serve that purpose. There is also a great deal of interest in utilizing interpretive signage at the physical locations of past archeological discoveries as well as at landscape features that reflect important events in human history along the Rivers to Ridges Trail.

-
- i Alvord, Clarence Walworth, and Lee Bidgood. 1912. *The First Explorations Of The Trans-Allegheny Region By The Virginians 1650-1674*. pp221-222. The Arthur H. Clark Company, Cleveland, Ohio.
- ii The Diaries of George Washington. Vol. 2. Donald Jackson, ed.; Dorothy Twohig, assoc. ed. The Papers of George Washington. Pp276-326. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1976. Kanawha Valley portion of the trip is detailed on pp307-308. The diaries can be read online at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gwhtml/gwhome.html> .
- iii Maxwell, William B., Esq. 2010. *West Virginia Historical Society, Vol. XXIV, No. 1, Spring 2010*, p6.
- iv Thwaites, R. G. & L. P. Kellogg. 1905. Bicentennial Edition, 1974. *Documentary History Of Dunmore's War 1774*.
- v Johnson, Patricia G. 1976. *William Preston and the Allegheny Patriots*. pp47-53. Walpa Publishing, Blacksburg VA.
Also see Isabel M. Calder, 1935. "Extract From The Journal Of Major John Smith, 1756-1757." Printed in *Colonial Captivities, Marches And Journeys*. p137. Edited under the auspices of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America. The MacMillan Company, New York, New York.
- vi Hammon, Neal O. Editor. 1999. *My Father, Daniel Boone, The Draper Interviews with Nathan Boone*. The University Press of Kentucky.
- vii McMichael, Edward V. 1968. *Introduction To West Virginia Archeology*. West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey, Morgantown, West Virginia.
- viii The Diaries of George Washington. Vol. 2. Donald Jackson, ed.; Dorothy Twohig, assoc. ed. The Papers of George Washington. P307. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1976. The diaries can be read online at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gwhtml/gwhome.html> .
- ix Hanna, C. A. 1995. *The Wilderness Trail*. Originally published 1911. Republished by Wennawoods in 1995.
- x Wintz, William D. 1993. *Annals of the Great Kanawha Valley*. p 71. Pictorial Histories Publishing Company. Charleston, West Virginia
- xi The Diaries of George Washington. Vol. 2. Donald Jackson, ed.; Dorothy Twohig, assoc. ed. The Papers of George Washington. P307. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1976. The diaries can be read online at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gwhtml/gwhome.html> .



Memorial Silver Bridge at Point Pleasant connecting West Virginia and Ohio

Nitro to Rock Branch

Nitro is located along Interstate 64 midway between Charleston and Huntington, West Virginia's two largest cities. As a city with a unique history and a large number of visitor amenities it makes an ideal jumping off point for the Trail.

Nitro was constructed by the government during World War I as a munitions manufacturing center for the war. It was one of only two such sites to be built. The town appeared almost overnight in 1918, constructed by thousands of workers. According to local oral tradition it was only able to supply one shipment of military chemicals before the war ended. After the war the factories of Nitro rapidly shifted over to the production of industrial chemicals. Although no chemical factories remain in Nitro today, for years it was one of the town's most important industries.

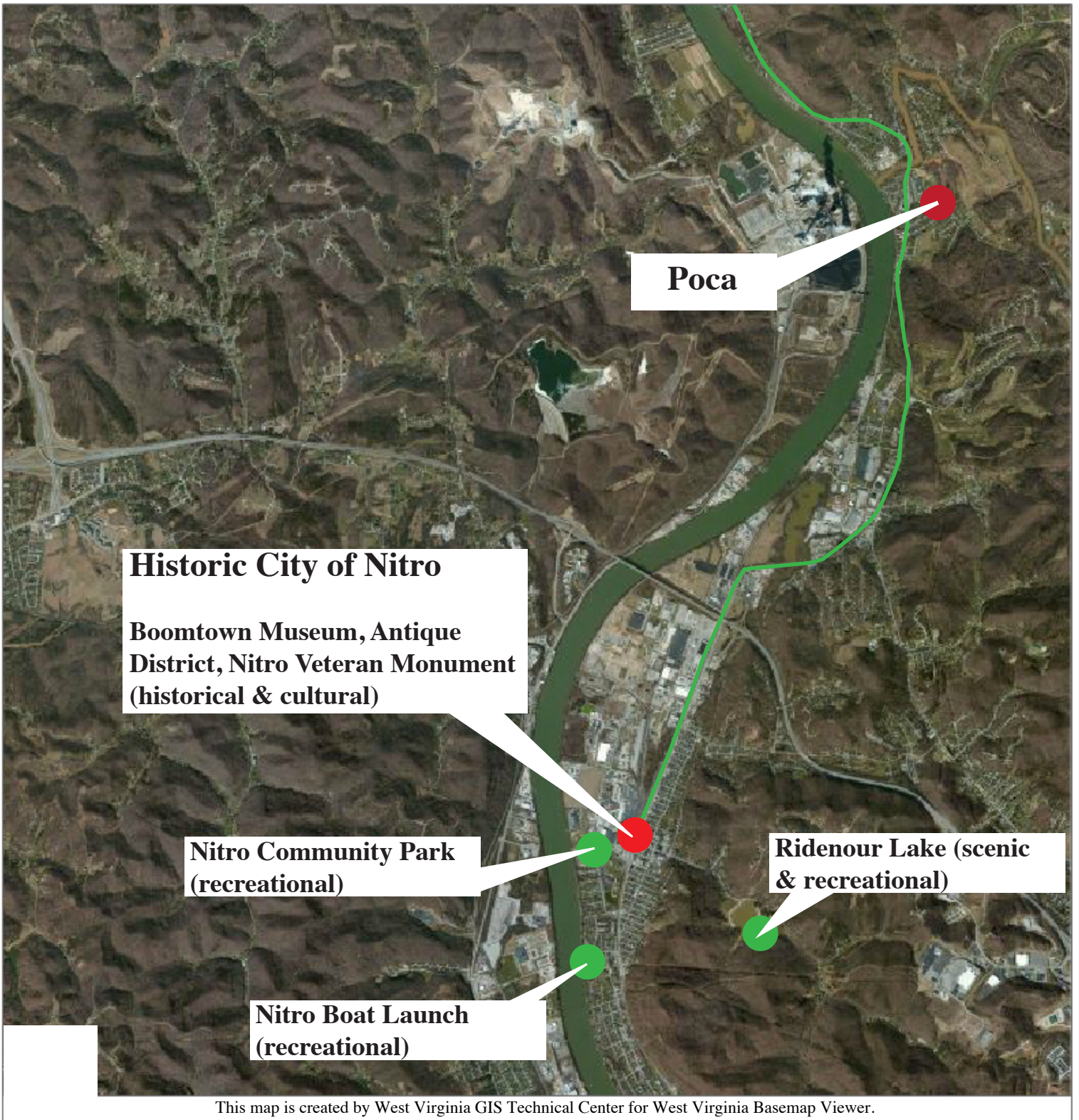


Boomtown Museum

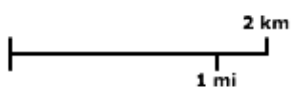


Nitro Veteran's Memorial

Nitro to Rock Branch



Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail 42a



- Town Center ●
- Point Marker ●
- Byway Route



Intrinsic Values Inventory – Nitro to Rock Branch

Site Name	Intrinsic Value	Type
Boomtown Museum	Historical, Cultural	Museum
Antiques District	Cultural	Shopping
Ridenour Lake	Recreational, Scenic	Fishing, Picnic area, Bird watching, Hiking
Nitro Community Park	Recreational, Historical	Swimming, Playground, Picnic area, Walking, Memorials
Historic Nitro	Historical, Cultural	Historic district
Nitro Veteran Memorial	Historical	Memorial
Nitro Boat Launch	Recreational	River access, Fishing

Annual Events

Events	Description	Location	Date
Nitro Boomtown Days Festival	A celebration of the culture and history of Nitro	Nitro	September

Boomtown Museum

The Boomtown Museum located in the Nitro Community Center tells the story of the town's unique past. It also contains displays and artifacts from wars throughout our nation's history.



Nitro Antiques District

Nitro bills itself as the "Antiques Capital of West Virginia." Any visitor who makes a stop in the downtown area has their pick of numerous small antique stores and malls that pepper the district. A number of small shops selling the art of local crafters as well as candles and gifts are scattered throughout the town.



Ridenour Lake

This lake, accessible by a short scenic drive from the antiques district, offers a number of different recreational facilities. Picnic areas, a small playground, and flush toilets are available. Camping and boating are not permitted, but a trail surrounding the entire lake provides bank fishing access. Fishing is available all year from 9:00 a.m. until dark. The lake is stocked with trout, sunfish, crappie, largemouth bass, and channel catfish.



Nitro Community Park

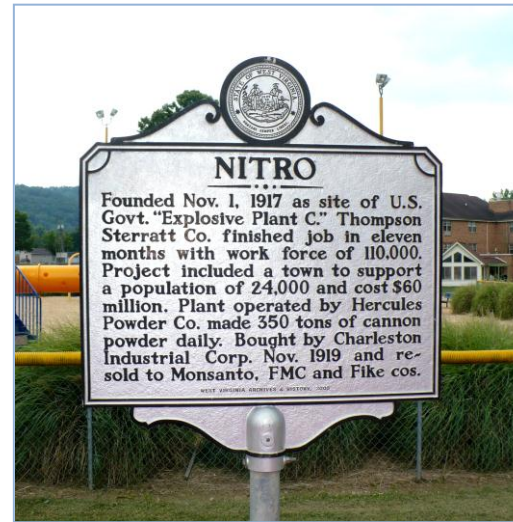
Numerous recreational facilities are available at this park, which include a softball field and playground equipment. The playground is believed to be one of the largest handicapped accessible playgrounds east of the Mississippi River. The city's public swimming pool is located in the park.



Historic Nitro

The part of Nitro most unchanged from its founding in 1918. Some of the original homes and factory buildings remain.

Nitro is known as a "Living Memorial to World War I."



Nitro Veteran's Memorial

A war memorial park located in Nitro's business district is dedicated to those who served in our nation's armed services.



Nearby Attractions Inventory for Nitro to Rock Branch Section of the Byway

Site Name	Location	Description
Brandywine Flea Market	Nitro	Vendors offering a wide variety of products – open throughout the year
Mardi Gras Casino and Resort	Cross Lanes	Casino, Greyhound racing, hotel
West Virginia State University	Institute	Founded in 1891 as one of the state's first historically Black colleges
Shawnee Park Mound	Institute	Indian Mound and public park
St. Albans Boat Launch and Park	St. Albans	Public river access facilities with limited camping and playground
Coal River Watershed	Multi-County	Recreation sites, canoeing, kayaking, fishing
Midland Trail National Scenic Byway	Multi-County U.S. Route 62	180 mile byway through West Virginia's mid section

Nearby Annual Events for Nitro to Rock Branch Section of the Byway

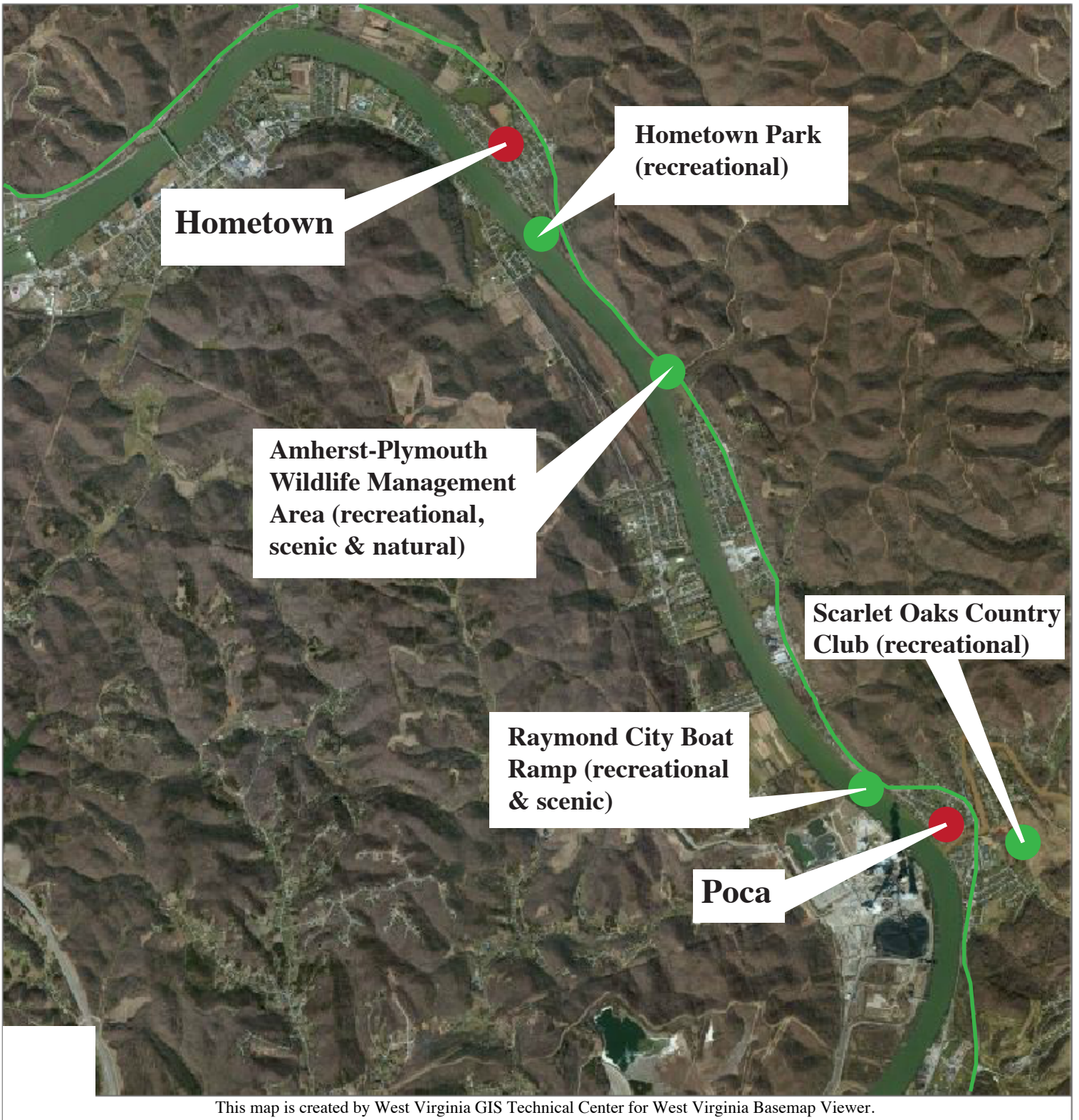
Event	Description	Location	Date
St. Albans River Festival	Celebrates the town's river heritage	St. Albans	June
St. Albans Festival of Lights	Holiday light display	St. Albans	November – December
Coal River Festivals	Cultural events and river activities	Multiple Counties	Throughout the year

Rock Branch to Hometown

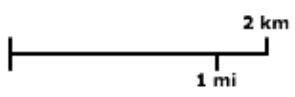
This section of the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail takes visitors down a winding road through thick forests and towns, some of which were developed as coal mining communities. On one side of the road the iconic hills of West Virginia rise, and on the other the waters of the Kanawha River flow. The road closely follows the Kanawha River, past the Raymond City Boat Ramp, and passes through the towns of Poca and Bancroft. Poca was named after the Pocatalico River. During the Civil War, the hills near Poca were prized as high ground by both armies, and skirmishes were fought near Poca and Raymond City.



Rock Branch to Hometown



Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail 48a



- Town Center ●
- Point Marker ●
- Byway Route —



Intrinsic Values Inventory – Rock Branch to Hometown Section of the Byway

Site Name	Intrinsic Value	Type
Scarlet Oaks Country Club	Recreational	Golfing, Banquet facilities
Raymond City Boat Ramp	Recreational, Scenic	Recreation Site
Amherst-Plymouth Wildlife Management Area	Recreational, Scenic	Public Wildlife Management Area, Hunting, Fishing, Bird watching, Hiking
Hometown Park	Recreational, Scenic	Recreation site

Annual Events

Events	Intrinsic Value	Location	Date
Poca Heritage Days	A celebration of culture and history for the Town of Poca	Poca	September

Scarlet Oaks Country Club

Known as one of the region's most challenging courses, Scarlet Oaks is open to the public. The 18-hole, par 72 course has a pro-shop, putting greens and driving range. Potential visitors can also pre-arrange for catering and use of Scarlet Oaks' banquet facilities.



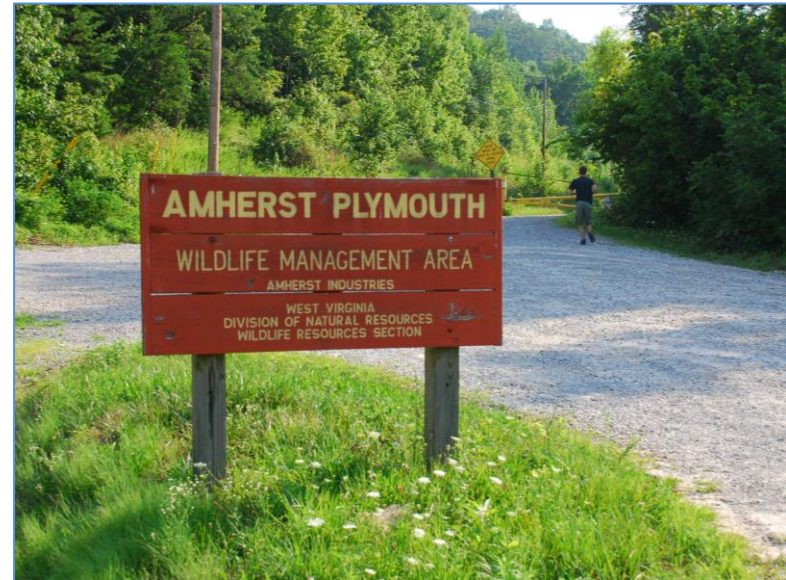
Raymond City Boat Ramp

The Raymond City Boat Ramp provides recreational access to the Kanawha River. A sizable parking lot is available at this location, as well as picnic facilities and space to walk along the docks. It provides a great place to watch the river flow by and catch glimpses of the barges that travel the river.



Amherst/Plymouth Wildlife Management Area

Amherst-Plymouth Wildlife Management Area covers 7,061 acres near Bancroft and Hometown. It is located along the banks of the Kanawha River, and fishing and hunting opportunities are offered. Hunting includes deer, grouse, rabbit, raccoon, squirrel, turkey, and Canadian goose. Fishing access is available from the banks of Guano Creek and the Kanawha River, and includes hybrid-striped bass, white bass, carp, channel catfish, flathead catfish, freshwater drum, and sauger.



Hometown Park

Hometown Park was developed when the area was known for coal mining. It was a community gathering place for miners and their families. It is in the process of being set up as a rest area for visitors traveling the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail. Over the past few years Putnam County Parks and Recreation and Rivers to Ridges have been making multiple improvements to the small Park. Picnic facilities and a small playground are available to the public. Additionally work is in progress to add restroom facilities to the park. An interpretive sign at the park indicates that the army led by Col. Andrew Lewis during Dunmore's War camped nearby. There is also a roadside monument that was placed in 1932. It commemorates George Washington's time in the region and was erected to celebrate his 200th birthday.



Hometown to Eleanor Section

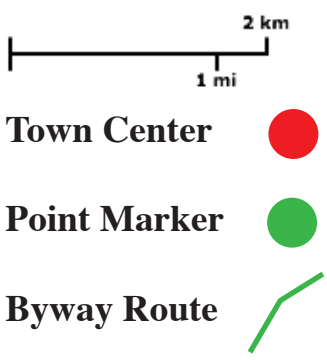
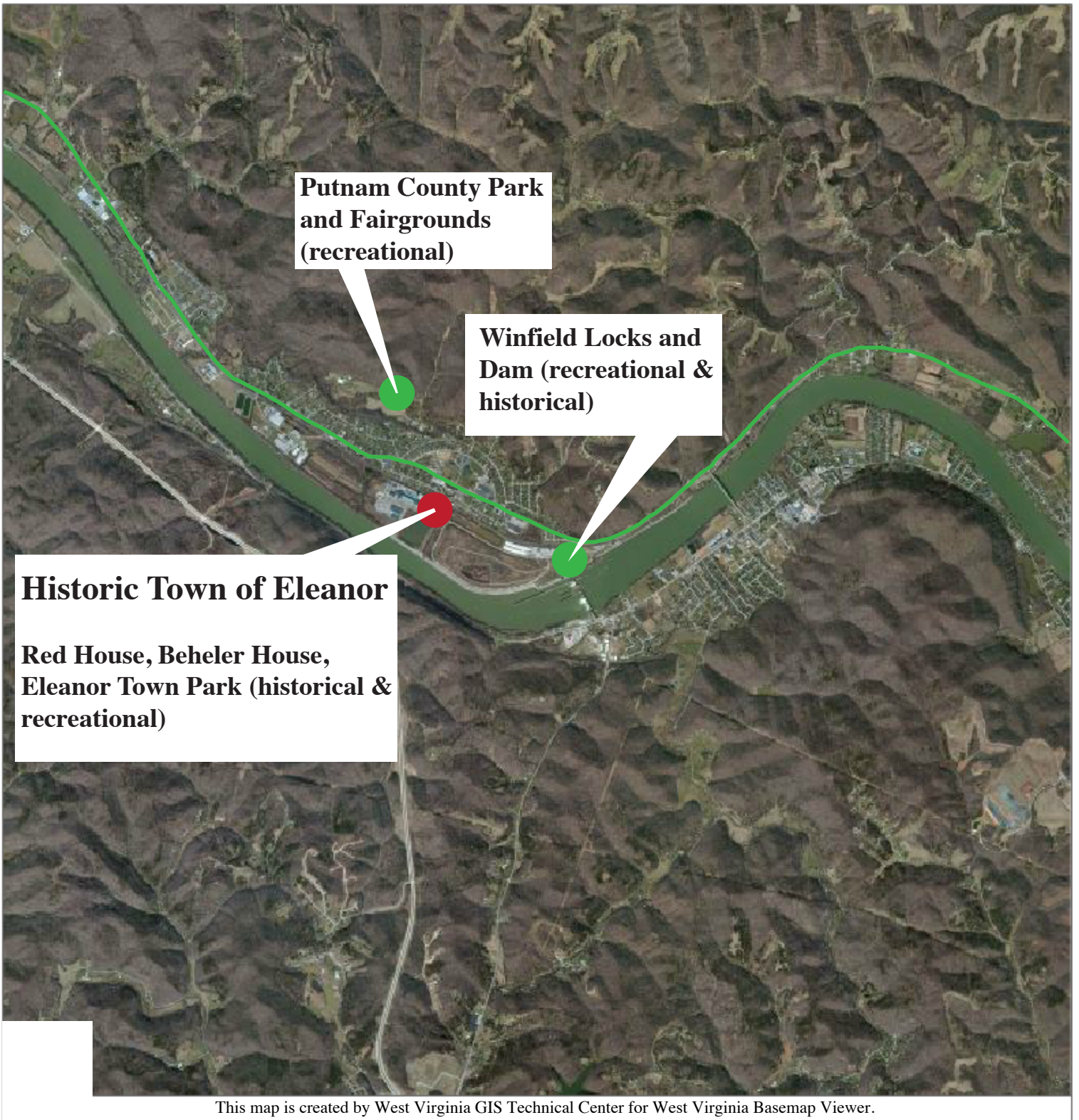
Leaving Hometown, the Trail begins to straighten out and leave the river for a brief time. Only a short distance past Hometown, the Trail passes the (Ross Booth Memorial) Winfield “Toll” Bridge. This is one of the departure points that leads to the Mary Ingles Excursion Loop. A quick trip over the bridge will bring you to Winfield, the county seat of Putnam County and home to several historic buildings.

Past the Winfield “Toll” Bridge, the Trail enters the small town of Eleanor. In 1934, this town was founded by the federal government as one of three experimental Subsistence Homestead projects in West Virginia. Initially called Red House Farms, in 1935 it was renamed in honor of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. Over the course of a few years 150 simple homes were built in a spoked layout radiating out from the historic Red House. Possibly built as early as 1825, the plantation home became the administration headquarters for the project. In addition to the homes and the Red House the project constructed a school, community farm, greenhouse, canning plant, carpentry shop, factory, farmers market, restaurant, filling station, and medical clinic. Homesteaders were employed in community projects and private industry, and participated in local government through town hall meetings at the Red House Association.

Eleanor Roosevelt is said to have visited the project at least four times. By 1947 all of the homes in the community had been purchased and completely paid for by the homesteading families. In 1967 the town voted to file for incorporation.



Hometown to Eleanor



Intrinsic Values Inventory – Hometown to Eleanor

Site Name	Intrinsic Value	Type
Winfield Locks and Dam	Recreational, Historical	Fishing, Bird watching, Picnic area
Historical Eleanor	Historical	Historical district
Red House	Historical	Historical building
Eleanor Town Park	Recreational	Picnic area, Playground
Putnam County Park and Fairgrounds	Recreational	Swimming, Hiking, Mountain biking, Playground, Fairgrounds

Annual Events

Event	Description	Location	Date
Down Home Days	Homecoming Celebration	Eleanor	June
Putnam County Fair	4-H and other exhibits, live entertainment and carnival rides	Eleanor	July
Annual Eleanor Arts & Craft Festival	Local Artisans Festival	Eleanor	November

Winfield Lock and Dam

There are limited recreational opportunities available along with a public fisherman's access. Three prehistoric occupational locations were investigated in the vicinity of the dam when it was being reconstructed. There is potential for interpretation.

Birding opportunities for waterfowl and wading birds are found at the shallow ponds created as part of the wetland mitigation portion of the reconstruction project.



Historic Eleanor

A section of the town of Eleanor which dates back to the original development of the town. The town was originally laid out in a crescent shape centered around the Red House



The Beheler House

There were five models of houses at Eleanor, all built for comfort and simple beauty of locally-manufactured cinder blocks.

The Beheler's home, is a small B-1 model on lot 153.



Red House

The Red House, or Ruffner House, may have been built as early as 1825. Throughout the nineteenth century it was the home of the Ruffner family and the center of their plantation. According to local oral history a slave was killed on the third floor stair landing and there is an entrance to a tunnel somewhere in the house that was used as a part of the Underground Railroad. In 1934 the building became the administration headquarters of the Red House Farms Subsistence Homestead Project. In 1999 ownership of the building was handed over to the city of Eleanor, and the building now houses the city offices as well as a small museum and a wing used for public meetings.

The museum is dedicated to preserving Eleanor's unique history. It is located inside the Red House, and accessible through the town's administrative offices. Here you can see a small collection of historic objects as well as copies of oral histories and local histories concerning the founding and early years of Eleanor.



Eleanor Town Park

Located in central Eleanor, the park is filled with playground equipment. Picnic shelters are available. A gazebo is also located in the park.



Putnam County Park and Fairgrounds

The site of the Putnam County Fairgrounds. Over 12 miles of mountain biking trails have been developed from trailheads in the Park. There are picnic facilities, a gun range, and a one-room schoolhouse.



Nearby Attractions for Hometown to Eleanor Section of the Byway

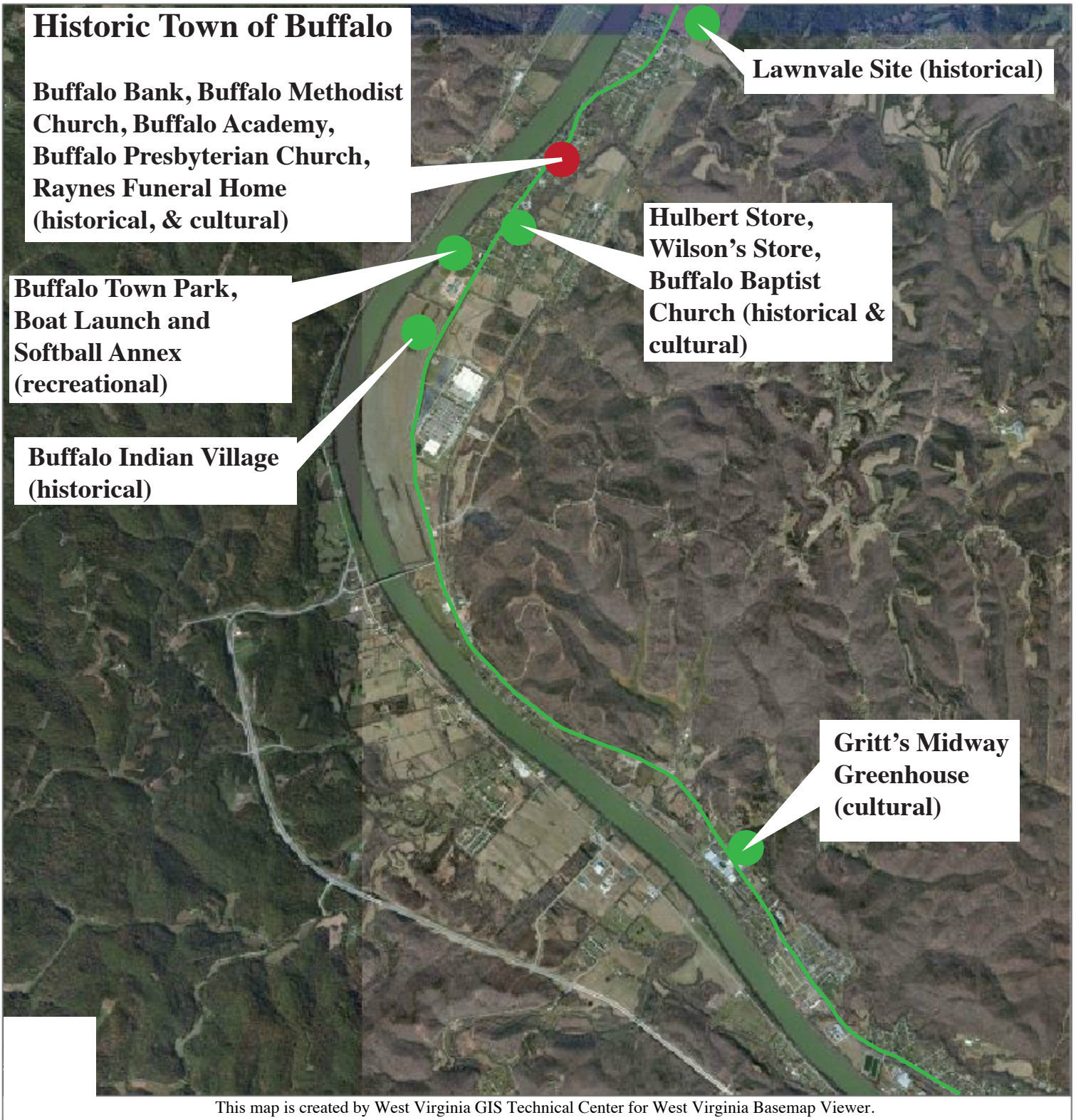
Site Name	Location	Description
Esther and Norman Walter Nature Area	Red House	30 acre nature park and hiking trail

Eleanor to Buffalo

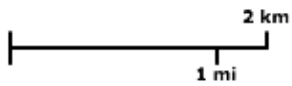
Leaving Eleanor behind, the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail makes its way seven miles north, past another bridge across the Kanawha River and into the town of Buffalo. The oldest town between Charleston and Point Pleasant, Buffalo has the largest intact Historic District along the Trail. The first settlers of Buffalo were members of George Washington’s extended family.



Eleanor to Buffalo



Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail 61a



- Town Center ● (red)
- Point Marker ● (green)
- Byway Route — (green line)



Intrinsic Values Inventory Eleanor to Buffalo

Site Name	Intrinsic Value	Type
Gritt's Midway Market and Greenhouse	Cultural	Agribusiness
Buffalo Indian Village	Archaeological	Archaeological site
Buffalo Town Park	Recreational	Recreational area
Baseball/Softball Annex	Recreational	Recreational site
Buffalo Boat Ramp	Recreational	Recreational site
Hulbert Store	Historical, Cultural	Historic building
Wilson's Store	Historical, Cultural	Historic building
Buffalo Baptist Church	Historical	Historic building
Buffalo Bank	Historical	Historic building, Buffalo/WV Rt. 62 Visitor Center
Buffalo Methodist Church	Historical	Historic building
Buffalo Academy	Historical	Historic building
Buffalo Presbyterian Church	Historical	Historic building
Raynes Funeral Home	Historical	Service
Lawnvale Site	Historical, Cultural	Plantation, Family cemetery

Annual Events

Events	Description	Location	Date
Buffalo Heritage Days	Cultural	Buffalo	May
Buffalo Oktoberfest	Cultural	Buffalo	October
Best of the Best Girls Softball Tournament	Recreational	Buffalo	April
Fourth of July	Historical, Cultural	Buffalo	July

Gritt's Midway Market and Greenhouse

Located in the community of Midway, between Buffalo and Eleanor, Gritt's Greenhouse sells a variety of small plants and seasonal fruits and vegetables throughout the year.



Buffalo Indian Village

Just outside of Buffalo, there is a sign marking the spot of an Indian Village. This site was excavated in the 1963. It was a village of the Fort Ancient Culture called Monyton by other American Indians, most likely Siouan-Language speaking people. It was abandoned at some point between 1673 and 1700, probably due to military expansion of the Iroquois Empire. A very small area was excavated and over 600 bodies were recovered.



Buffalo Town Park

The home of Buffalo's Independence Day Celebration, Buffalo Town Park is located along WV Route 62. It provides an entrance way to the town's baseball/softball annex and the Buffalo boat ramp. The Buffalo Branch Library and Senior Center are also located in the park. The park has a gazebo and will eventually have a large pavilion, ball courts and a walk trail.



Baseball/Softball Annex

The home of the Buffalo High School Bison boys baseball and girls softball teams. Buffalo claims the title of “Fast Pitch Capital of West Virginia.” The softball annex in Buffalo Park hosts the “*Best of the Best Girls Softball Tournament.*” The annually often brings in more than forty teams from throughout the entire region.



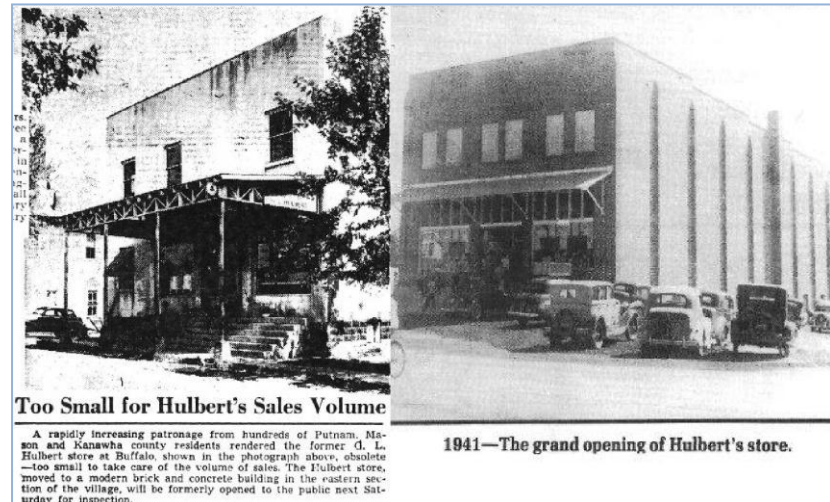
Buffalo Boat Ramp

Maintained by the town of Buffalo, the boat ramp has been in operation since the mid-1980's. It offers access to the Kanawha River and has ample parking.



Hulbert's Store

One of Buffalo's original dry goods stores. It was the first store east of the Mississippi to install an elevator. The Hulbert Store was one of the largest stores in the area, and people traveled from towns up and down the Kanawha River to shop there. While the original store remains as a storage building, the second Hulbert Store burned down in the 1970s. The steps that once lead to the entrance of the second store still remain.



Wilson's Store

Another of Buffalo's early dry goods stores, the building is currently in use as a food pantry and thrift store.



Buffalo Baptist Church

Buffalo Baptist Church was built in 1850, following the church's move from Springfield. The registers from before the Civil War list several slaves as members of the congregation.



Buffalo Bank (Buffalo Historic District)

Originally organized in 1917, the Buffalo Bank was the site of a bank robbery in 1953. Local oral history has kept the story alive. After closing the bank was abandoned for many years until a local effort began to restore the building. The building has been renovated to be used as a welcome center for the Town of Buffalo and Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail.



Buffalo Methodist Church (Buffalo Historic District)

The first church in town, the congregation was formed in 1833. The original building was burned down during the Civil War by Union Troops. It was rebuilt in 1870.

Buffalo Academy (Buffalo Historic District)

Founded in 1849 by a group of Buffalo citizens, the Buffalo Academy was well respected educational institution in the Kanawha River Valley in the years leading up to the Civil War. It was considered superior to the Marshall or Guyandotte Academy which would later become Marshall University. The building was erected out of local brick and constructed in the Greek Revival style. George Rosseter, who later became president of Marietta College (Ohio), was its first principal. The Buffalo Academy offered a full classical education that included ancient and modern languages, science, literature and religion.

During the Civil War the school was closed and the building was used as a barracks and hospital by both Union and Confederate forces. Significant repairs were needed after the war, causing the board of the Academy to transfer ownership of the building to the County School System. Until 1952 the building was in use as a school by Putnam County.



Buffalo Presbyterian Church (Buffalo Historic District)

Construction on the Buffalo Presbyterian Church was completed in 1857. The church started with a congregation of 20 people. In 1861 it was the site of the mustering of the Buffalo Guard and Co. D 7th Infantry of West Virginia.



Raynes Funeral Home

Charles H. Raynes established Raynes Funeral Home in 1920. Mr. Raynes became semi-retired in 1964 and turned the business over to Charles S. Raynes in 1969. He and his wife, Barbara became the owners in 1974. The funeral home still remains in the Raynes family.



Lawnvale Site

Lawnvale was one of this area's original plantation houses. The actual building burned down many years ago. A quick trip down a dirt road will bring you to the Lawnvale Cemetery. Members of the Lawnvale family, slaves, and Civil War soldiers are buried here.



Nearby Attractions for Eleanor to Buffalo Section of the Byway

Site Name	Location	Description
Gritt's Farm	Buffalo / Cross Creek	Working farm selling produce and plants
Cross Creek Auction	Buffalo	Weekly auctions

Buffalo to Point Pleasant

After leaving Buffalo the primary route continues to follow the Kanawha River as it flows toward its confluence with the Ohio River at Point Pleasant. Just north of Buffalo the road passes the Lawnvale Plantation, site of the battle of Atkinson's Gate. The road then travels through numerous small communities and farms as well as several interesting rock formations.

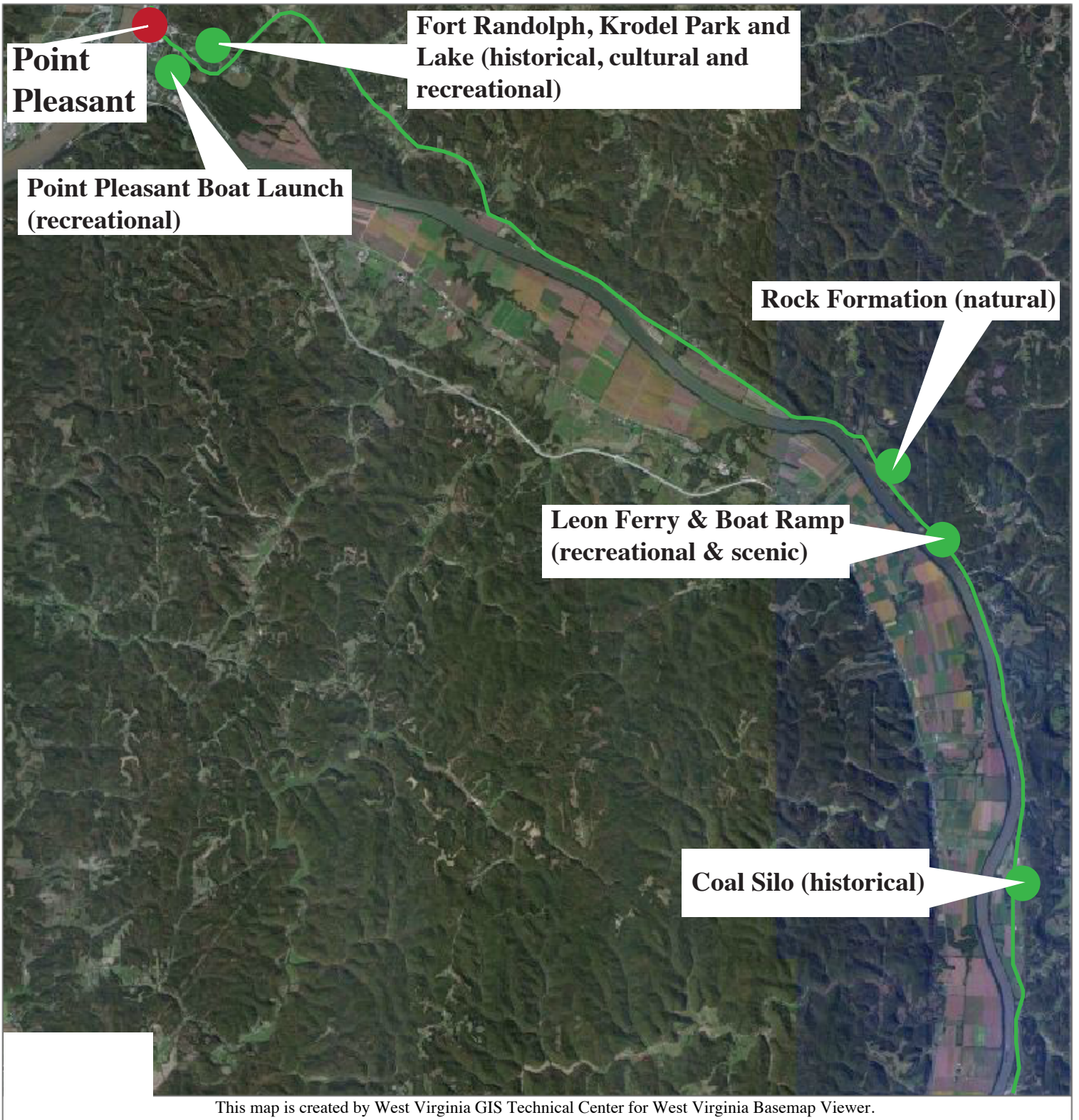
Glimpses of the Kanawha River can be caught through the trees shading the road on its south side. Also on the south side of the road, between the river and the pavement, railroad tracks can be seen for quite some distance. Remains of some of the early river navigational aids, such as locks 7, 9 and 11, can still be seen from the road.

The next historically significant town the road passes through is Leon. Today it has a population of only 400 people, but in the nineteenth century the bustling town was located amidst a large stand of white oak. That led to Leon becoming a center for shipbuilding. Using the local white oak, businesses built small river boats, steamboats, and keels for oceangoing vessels. The completed ships would then be floated downriver to New Orleans via the Ohio and Mississippi.

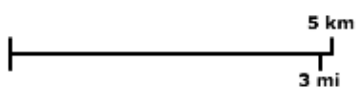
Leaving Leon WV Route 62 closely follows a large rock formation for several hundred feet. Here, the geology of the area can be clearly seen from the cuts made into the rock during the grading of the road. The road continues winding through a mix of small farms and rural communities for another 17 miles, until it finally begins to approach Point Pleasant.



Buffalo to Point Pleasant



Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail 73a



- Town Center ● (red dot)
- Point Marker ● (green dot)
- Byway Route — (green line)



Intrinsic Values Inventory – Buffalo to Point Pleasant

Site Name	Intrinsic Value	Type
Coal Silo	Historical, Cultural	Historic site
Leon Boat Ramp	Recreational, Scenic	Boating, Fishing
Leon Ferry	Historical	Historic site
Rock Formation	Scenic, Natural	Rock formation
Heritage Farms	Historical	Farming
Krodel Park and Lake	Recreational, Scenic	Picnic area, Fishing, Non-motorized boats, Walking trails
Fort Randolph	Historical, Cultural	Reconstructed historical site
Point Pleasant Boat Launch	Recreational	Boating

Annual Events

Event	Description	Location	Date
Siege of Fort Randolph	Cultural	Point Pleasant	May
Holiday Light Festival at Krodel Park	Cultural	Point Pleasant	Nov. - Dec.

Other traditional one-day events at Fort Randolph:

Eastern Woodland Indian Gathering	June
Liberty Day	July
Longhunters and Landgrabbers Day	August
Militia Muster Day	September
Harvest Fest / All Hallows Eve	October
Christmas on the Frontier	December

Coal Silo

This coal silo was used as part of a short-lived mining operation. When it was constructed, the conveyer belt leading to the structure was one of the longest in the world. At one point there was a second conveyer belt between the silo and a docking area near Leon's boat ramp. The pilings that were once used by barges are still visible from the boat ramp.



Leon Boat Ramp

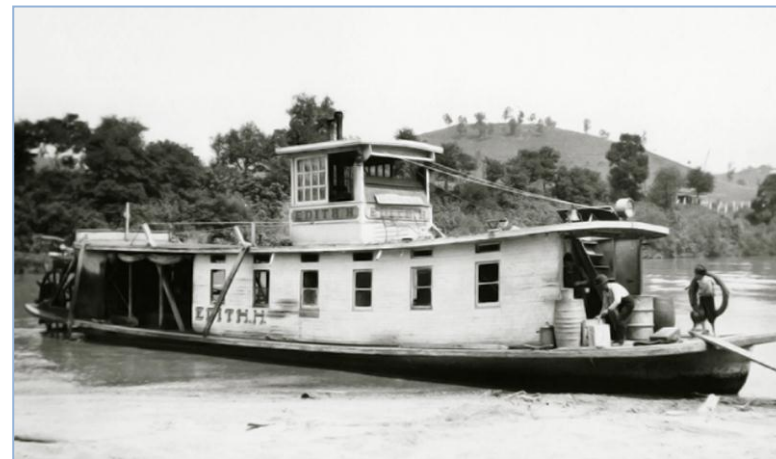
Of all the river access points, the Leon boat ramp is one of the most scenic. It is approached through a short drive under a stone railway overpass. The boat ramp area proper is a gently sloping paved area surrounded by trees and greenery, with an excellent view of the river. A second stone railway overpass is within easy view.

Several pilings are visible from the dock. These were once used by barges as they picked up loads from a short lived coal mine. Once a conveyer belt stretched all the way from the silo the coal was stored in to this location.



Leon Ferry

Packet boats stopped here regularly to take on and offload cargo. The ferry was operated for many years by Melvin Williamson.



WV Route 62 Rock Formation

The rocks near Leon are one of the most interesting geological formations visible throughout the entire trail. Here, you can see not only the tool marks left behind by the grading of the road, but a rare exposed surface of the rocks that make up the geology of the region. After heavy rains and the thawing of the snow, it is even possible to see thin streams making their way down the rockface, in miniature mimicry of waterfalls.



Heritage Farms

In 1784, Leonard Cooper, a Revolutionary War veteran, was granted 4,666 acres of land as a result of his service during our nation's struggle for independence. Heritage Farm has remained with his descendants, presently the Tom Wilson family, for almost 230 years. Still a working farm there are many wonderful stories associated with its history. It also has the only remaining Mail Pouch barn on this portion of WV Route 62.



Krodel Park & Lake

Located one mile east of Point Pleasant and easily accessible from WV Route 62, Krodel Lake offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities. The lake is stocked with trout, sunfish, northern pike, largemouth bass, and channel catfish. Both bank fishing and fishing from small motorized boats are permitted. Additionally camping, bathroom and picnic facilities are available. In December the park is the host of Point Pleasant's Christmas Lights display, and the park is also the home of a replica of Fort Randolph.



Fort Randolph

Located in Krodel Park, less than one mile from the site of the original fort as well as the historic Battle of Point Pleasant, Fort Randolph is a reconstructed replica of the fort that once stood in Point Pleasant during the Revolutionary War. It hosts several living history and reenactment events every year.



Point Pleasant Boat Launch

Located just across WV Route 62 from Krodel Park, this boat launch offers river access for Point Pleasant. Wildlife can be easily spotted from the location. Parking is available.



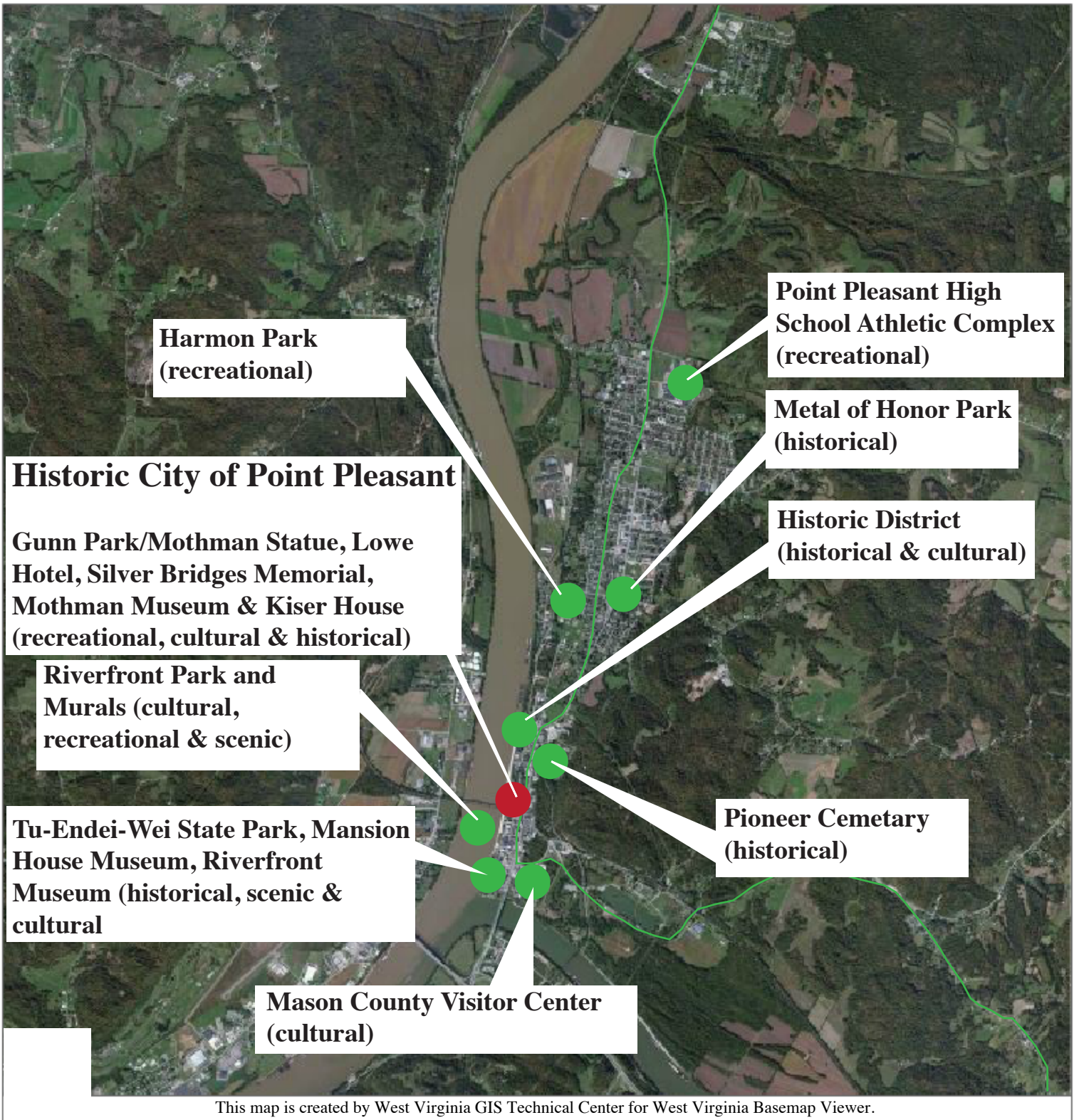
Point Pleasant

Continuing on the Trail, WV Route 62 passes under an old railroad bridge, through an opening in a floodwall, and into the historic town of Point Pleasant. As visitors pass the Mason County Library they can choose to go straight into Point Pleasant's Historic District and Riverfront Park or to make a right turn and follow WV Route 62 north towards the town of Mason and the Ohio River Excursion Loop of the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail.

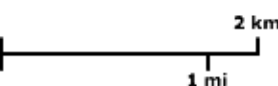


Artist – Jan Haddix, Point Pleasant, WV

Point Pleasant



Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail 79a



- Town Center** ●
- Point Marker** ●
- Byway Route** —



Intrinsic Values Inventory – Point Pleasant

Site Name	Intrinsic Value	Type
Point Pleasant Historic District	Cultural, Historical	Historic buildings and homes
Mothman Museum	Cultural	Museum
Mason County Visitor Center	Cultural	Visitor center, Gift shop
Point Pleasant River Museum	Cultural, Historical	Museum
Lowe Hotel	Historical, Cultural	Historic building
Kisar House	Historical, Cultural	Historic house
Silver Bridge Memorial	Historical	Memorial
Mothman Statue	Cultural	Public art
River Front Park	Cultural	Park, Amphitheater
River Front Murals	Cultural	Public art
Statues of Chief Cornstalk, Andrew Lewis and Mad Anne Bailey	Cultural, Historical	Public art
Tu-Endei-Wei State Park	Historical, Scenic	Park, Battlefield
Mansion House Museum	Historical, Cultural	Museum
Confluence of Kanawha and Ohio Rivers	Scenic	Scenic
Pioneer Cemetery	Historical	Cemetery
Harmon Park	Recreational	Park
Medal of Honor Park	Recreational	Memorial
Point Pleasant High School Athletic Complex	Recreational	Multi-sports facility

Annual Events

Event	Description	Location	Date
Shanty Boat Night	Cultural	Point Pleasant	April
River Regatta	Cultural	Point Pleasant	July
Mason County Fair	Cultural	Point Pleasant	August
Tribute to the River Festival	Cultural	Point Pleasant	September
Mothman Festival	Cultural	Point Pleasant	September
Battle Days	Historical, Cultural	Point Pleasant	October
Point Pleasant Farmers Market	Cultural	Point Pleasant	Seasonal

Point Pleasant Historic District

Located inside the flood walls and next to Riverfront Park, Point Pleasant's Historic District has been undergoing revitalization over several years. It is a part of West Virginia's Main Street program. All of the buildings within the few small blocks are original to Point Pleasant's heyday as an important river town. It offers a variety of small specialty stores and restaurants for visitors, conveniently located within walking distance of Tu-Endei-Wei State Park and Point Pleasant's three museums. On the District's north end visitors can follow a walking trail that takes them past a number of lovely historic homes.



Mothman Museum

This very unique museum is located in the center of the Historic District. For a small fee, visitors can view displays dedicated to Point Pleasant's most infamous resident. Props from the 2002 movie 'The Mothman Prophecies' are on display as well. A small media room offers visitors the chance to watch every documentary on the Mothman in the museum's collection. Visitors also have the opportunity to look through newspaper articles and videos of the disastrous collapse of the Silver Bridge. The museum operates a small giftshop.



Mason County Visitor Center

The visitor center is located in historic Point Pleasant at the foot of the Bartow Jones Bridge. Throughout the year, the staff provides information to visitors on local attractions and events. The center maintains a gift shop offering books about the history and culture of the area. Local souvenirs are also for sale.



Point Pleasant River Museum

Point Pleasant is home to West Virginia's only river museum. Artifacts from the steamboats and keelboats that once plied the Kanawha and Ohio rivers are on display throughout the museum. Additionally, the museum has a two thousand gallon aquarium housing a number of fish native to the local rivers. The museum also operates a gift shop and a creamery where guests can purchase delicious snacks and the 'best ice cream in town'. It hosts special events throughout the year.

In the summer of 2011, a state of the art river piloting simulator was installed. Visitors can experience steering towboats and barges along the Kanawha and Ohio Rivers. The simulator also offers a collection of other surface experiences such as a speedboat.



Lowe Hotel

The historic Lowe Hotel is located in the heart of the Point Pleasant Historic District at the corner of Fourth and Main Streets. This grand structure was built in 1901 and originally named the Spencer Hotel in honor of J.S. Spencer. Then operated by two brothers, Homer and Griff Smith, the hotel was purchased by the Lowe family in 1929 after the stock market crash and renamed the Lowe Hotel.



A.F. Kisar House and Memorial Gardens

A three-story brick home built in the late 1890s for a local jeweler. The interior of the home is filled with intricate wood carvings and imported tiles. The historic house is furnished with numerous pieces of antique furniture, such as a tiger-oak rocking chair and a rosewood piano as well as the giant griffin carved out of golden oak, that stands guard in the foyer. The house is being restored with grant funds provided by the West Virginia Division of Highways and the State Historic Preservation Office by Main Street Point Pleasant



Silver Bridge Memorial

Located in Point Pleasant's historic district, a plaque and display of 46 memorial bricks commemorate the lives lost in the 1967 collapse of the Silver Bridge.



Mothman Statue

A statue commissioned from Mason County artist, Bob Roach, stands in honor of the local legend. It is located in the center of Point Pleasant's Historic District, at Gunn Park, only a block from the Mothman Museum. During the Mothman Festival and throughout the year, it is a favorite spot for visitors to take photographs. Other statues commissioned from the same local artist stand in Riverfront Park and the town of Mason.



Point Pleasant Riverfront Park

One of the region's finest riverfront parks is located in the space between Point Pleasant's flood wall and the river. Throughout the summer and fall the park plays host to a variety of public events and festivals. The amphitheater is a favorite spot to hold concerts and pageants, and takes center stage during all of Point Pleasant's festivals. The Park also has facilities for docking boats of every size, and has been a favorite stop for paddleboats touring the river. It is within easy walking distance of Tu-Endei-Wei State park and the confluence of the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers.



Point Pleasant Murals Project

Artist Robert Dafford was commissioned to paint a series of elaborate murals on the floodwalls separating Riverfront Park from Point Pleasant's historic district. They cover subjects from the history of Point Pleasant, and make for a fascinating walk.



Statues of Chief Cornstalk, Andrew Lewis and Mad Anne Bailey

Statues of three of the region's most famous historical figures stand inside the Riverfront Park. Like the Mothman Statue only a few blocks away, they were sculpted out of stainless steel by local artist, Bob Roach.



Tu-Endei-Wei State Park

This park is located at the confluence of the Kanawha and Ohio Rivers. It adjoins Point Pleasant's Historic District and Riverfront Park. Access is from the street, or visitors can park by Riverfront Park and walk to the river entrance to the state park on the mural walk.

Tu-Endei-Wei State Park commemorates the frontiersmen and Indians who fought at the Battle of Point Pleasant in 1774. The name Tu-Endei-Wei is a Wyandotte's word meaning 'between two waters'.

These are the grounds where the legendary Battle of Point Pleasant was fought. Memorials honor the frontiersmen who died in the battle along with Chief Cornstalk, Colonel Anthony Lewis, and Mad Anne Bailey. This is also the best location to observe the meeting of the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers. On a good day you can clearly see the green waters of the Kanawha mixing with the brown shaded Ohio.



Mansion House Museum

This historic house museum stands in the center of Tu-Endei-Wei State Park. Erected in 1796 by Walter Newman as a tavern, it is the oldest, hewn log house in the Kanawha Valley. Preserved as a museum, it features displays of antiques and heirlooms of the era, including a large square piano believed to be one of the first brought over the Alleghenies. Two bedrooms are furnished with authentic four-poster beds that are more than 150 years old.



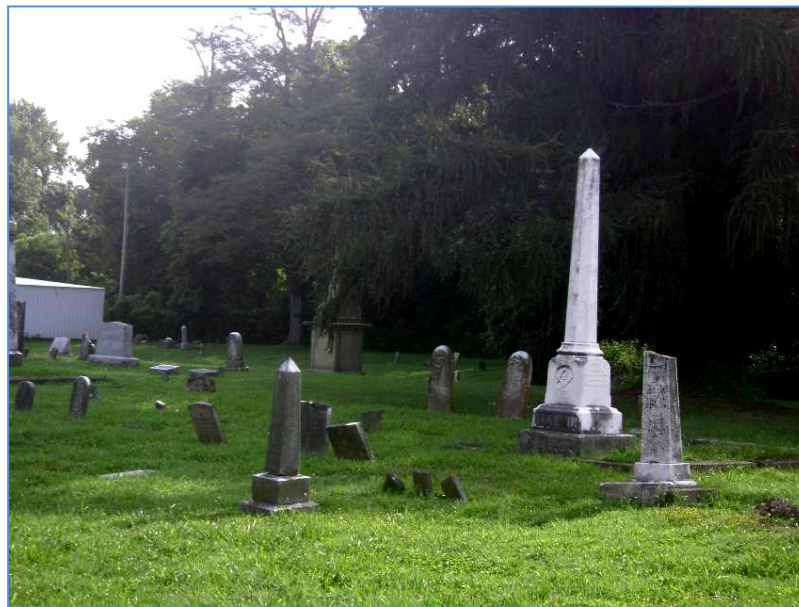


*The Point
(Confluence of the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers)*

This is one of the most scenic sites in the state of West Virginia. Looking out from Tu-Endei-Wei State Park, you can see the greenish waters of the Kanawha River mixing with the brown-shaded waters of the Ohio River. Barges and other boats can often be spotted making their way up and down the rivers.

Pioneer Cemetery

A small historic cemetery located along WV Route 62. The cemetery includes the graves of a number of Point Pleasant's earliest citizens of note such as revolutionary soldiers. A state roadside historic sign, located at Pioneer Cemetery, honors Dr. Jesse Bennett. In 1794, he performed the first Caesarian section in America. The patient, his wife Elizabeth, and the infant daughter, both survived and lived long lives, well into the 1800's. Dr. Bennett's grave is located in Point Pleasant about a mile from Pioneer Cemetery.



Harmon Park

A community park in Point Pleasant. It features a swimming pool, ball fields, basketball, tennis courts and a skateboard park.



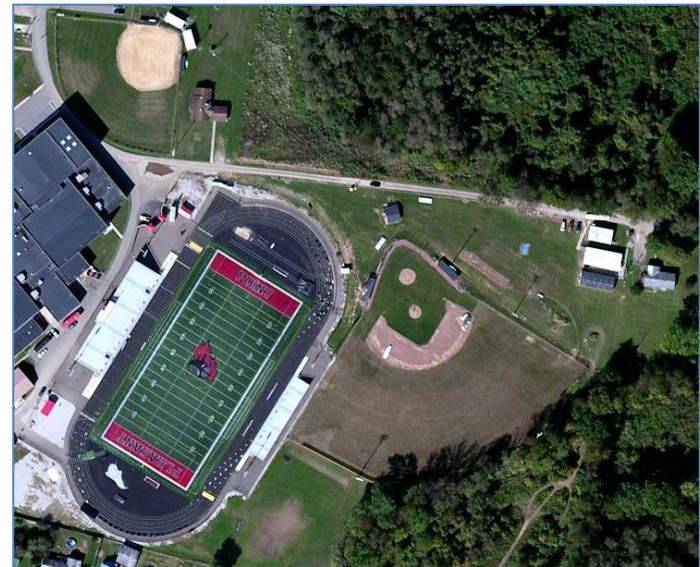
Medal of Honor Park

Constructed to honor Point Pleasant natives who gave their lives for our nation the Medal of Honor Monument is also the site of the city's Memorial Day ceremonies.



Point Pleasant Athletic Complex

The home of the Point Pleasant High School Big Blacks. This is one of the region's finest all sports facilities. The complex hosts track and field, football, soccer, baseball and softball. Tennis courts are planned.



Nearby Attractions Inventory for the Point Pleasant Section of the Primary Byway

Site Home	Location	Description
Ariel-Ann Carson Dater Performing Arts Center	Gallipolis, OH	Historic theater
Our House	Gallipolis, OH	Historical tavern, now operated as a historic house museum and arts center
John Gee Black Historical Center	Gallipolis, OH	Black history museum
Pine Street Colored Cemetery	Gallipolis, OH	Historic cemetery
Bob Evans Farms	Rio Grande, OH	Farm and restaurant
Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam	WV Route 2 South	Locks and dam, Fish hatchery, Recreation area
Greenbottom Wildlife Management Area	WV Route 2 South	Wetland, Hunting, Fishing, Wildlife, Bird watching
Jenkins Plantation Museum	WV Route 2 South	Historic home of Civil War General Albert Jenkins
Hillbilly Hotdogs	WV Route 2 South	Iconic restaurant featured on Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives
Guyandotte Cemetery	Town of Guyandotte	Historic cemetery dating back to the late 1700's
Maddie Carroll House	Town of Guyandotte	Historic house

Nearby Annual Events

Events	Description	Location	Date
Bob Evans Farm Festival	Celebration of our agricultural and rural heritage	Rio Grande	October
Guyandotte Civil War Days	Commemoration of the 1861 Civil War events in the Village of Guyandotte	Guyandotte	November

Byway Excursion Loops and Connector Route



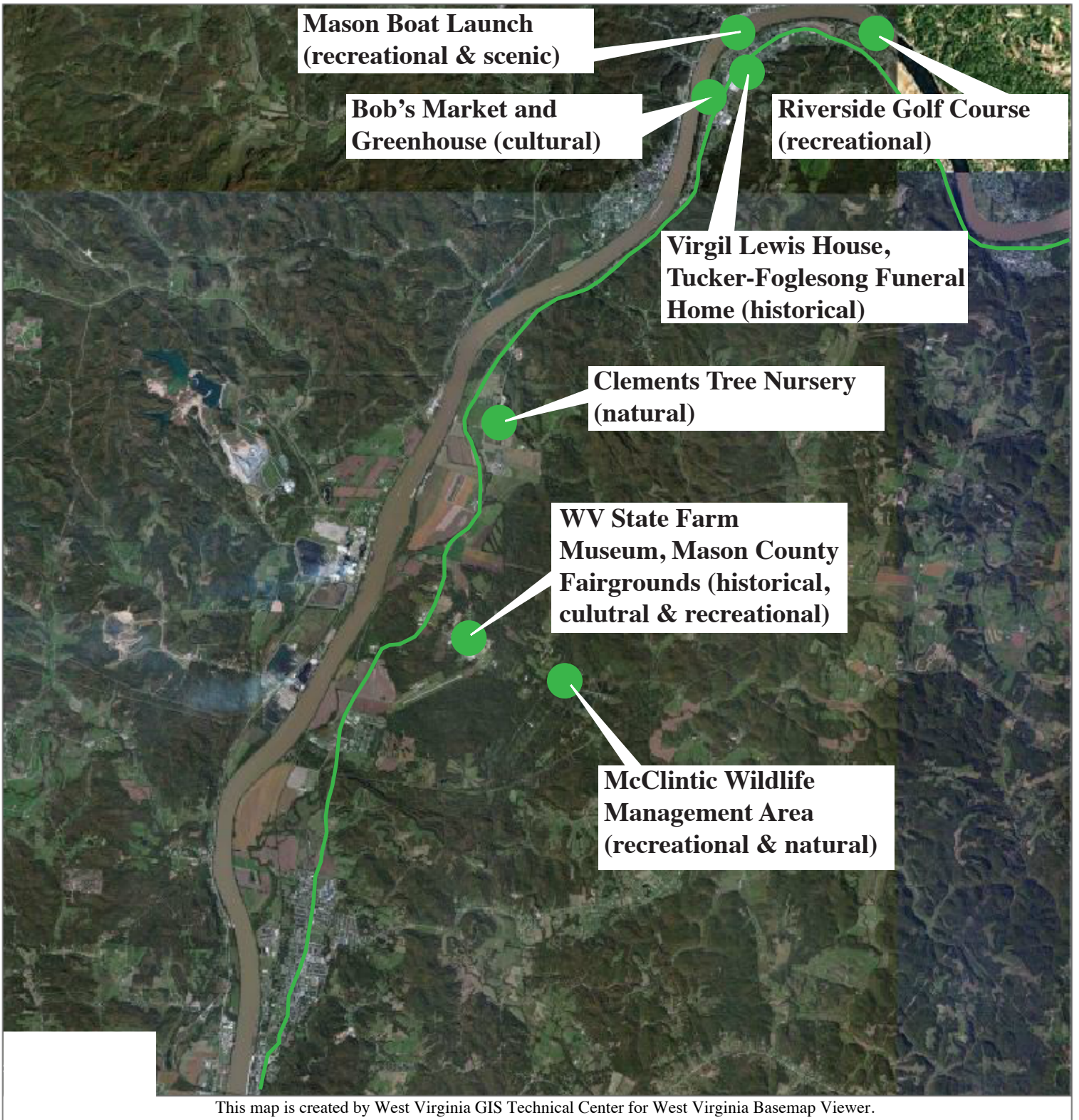
Mason County and Ohio River Excursion Loop

This section of the trail follows WV Route 62 north from Point Pleasant, traveling along the Ohio River through the small towns of Mason, Hartford and New Haven. It follows WV Routes 62, 87, 2, and County Route 23 through the scenic “bend area.” It rejoins the primary Trail at Leon. For part of the route it follows West Virginia’s Blue and Grey Trail. This loop wanders through some of the most scenic forest and river landscapes in the region, and is especially lovely in the fall, when the foliage colors are at their best.

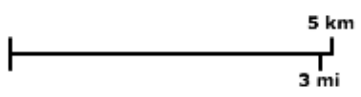


Roadside scenery along the Ohio River Excursion Loop

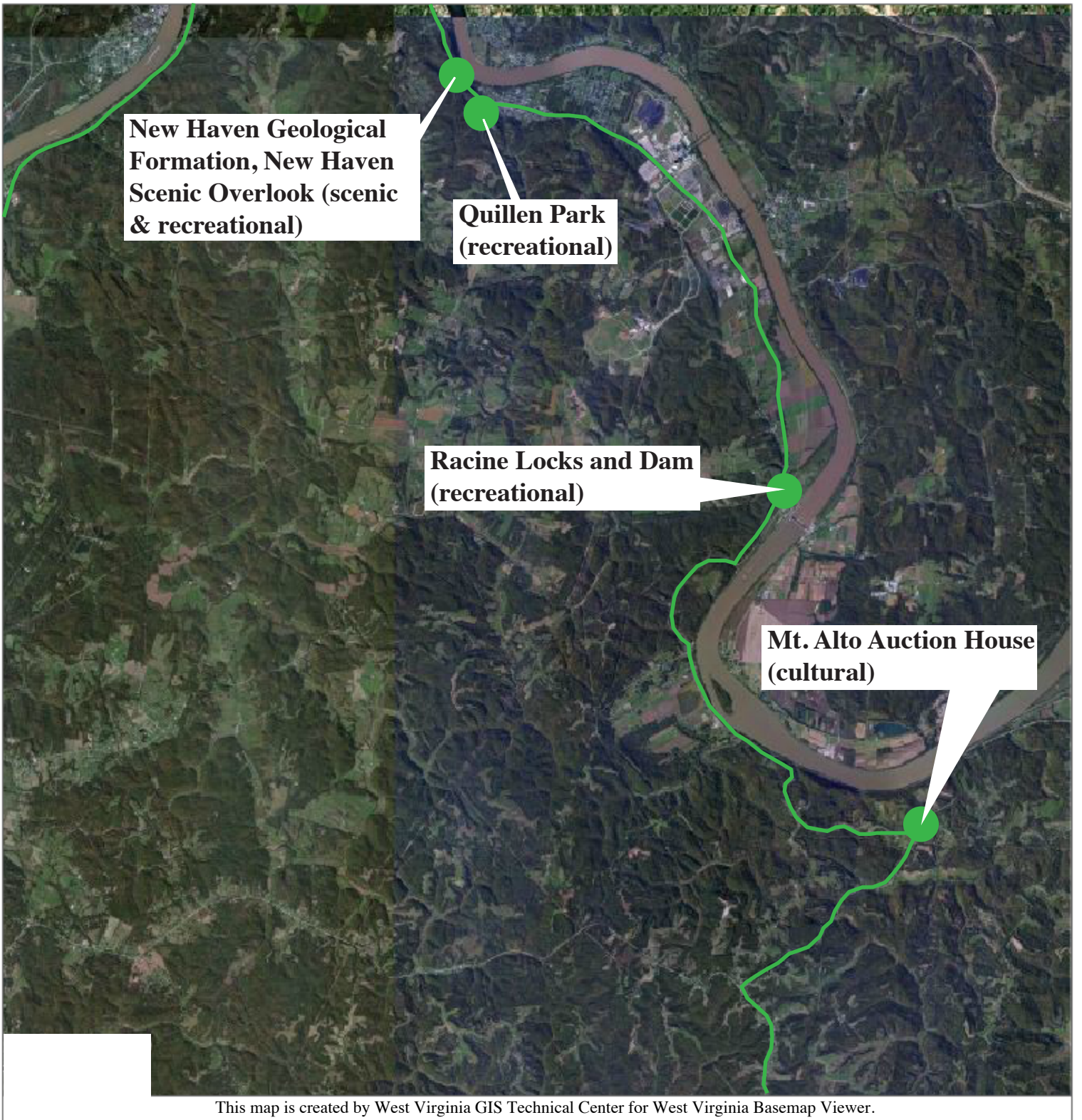
Ohio Excursion : Section 1



Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail 96a



Ohio Excursion : Section 2



New Haven Geological Formation, New Haven Scenic Overlook (scenic & recreational)

Quillen Park (recreational)

Racine Locks and Dam (recreational)

Mt. Alto Auction House (cultural)

Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail 96b

5 km
3 mi

Point Marker ●
Byway Route —



Intrinsic Value Inventory – Ohio River Excursion Loop

Site Name	Intrinsic Value	Type
Mason County Fairgrounds	Recreational, Cultural	Fairgrounds
West Virginia State Farm Museum	Historical, Cultural	Museum
TNT Area	Recreational, Cultural	Abandoned industrial site
McClintic Wildlife Management Area	Recreational, Natural	Recreational area, Hunting, Fishing, Hiking, Bird watching
Cléments Tree Nursery	Historical	Historical site, Business
Bob’s Market and Greenhouse	Cultural	Agribusiness
Virgil Lewis House	Historical	Historical house
Tucker-Fogelson Funeral Home	Historical	Historical house
Mason Boat Launch	Recreational, Scenic	Boating, Fishing
Riverside Golf Course	Recreational	Recreational area
Hartford Salt Works	Historical	Historical site
New Haven Geological Formations	Scenic, Natural, Historical	Geological formation, Historic roadside construction
New Haven Overlook	Scenic, Natural	Scenic overlook
Quillen Park	Recreational	Recreational area
Racine Lock and Dam	Recreational, Historical	Recreational area, Historic dam construction

Annual Events

Events	Description	Location	Date
Mason Catfish Tournament	Natural	Mason	June
Mason County Fair	Cultural	Mason	August

Traditional Events at the West Virginia State Farm Museum

Steam and Gas Engine Show	May
Mothman Festival – Hayride	September
Country Fall Festival	October
Christmas Light Show	December

Mason County Fairgrounds

The fairgrounds are located adjacent to the State Farm Museum. In August, this location hosts one of the state's largest county fair.



West Virginia State Farm Museum

The West Virginia State Farm Museum spreads over 50 acres and features 32 restored historic buildings. These include several family homes and log cabins, a replica of the first Lutheran church built west of the Appalachian mountains, a one-room schoolhouse, doctor's office, carpentry shop, blacksmith's shop, post office, and barbershop. Each building is filled with period furnishings and free to the public. Additionally, the State Farm Museum hosts a loom weaving workshop, gift shop, and the Morgan Taxidermy Museum. During various festivals the entire complex is staffed with volunteers who demonstrate blacksmithing and weaving, make apple butter and sorghum molasses, in the traditional way, and demonstrate the working steam engine collection.



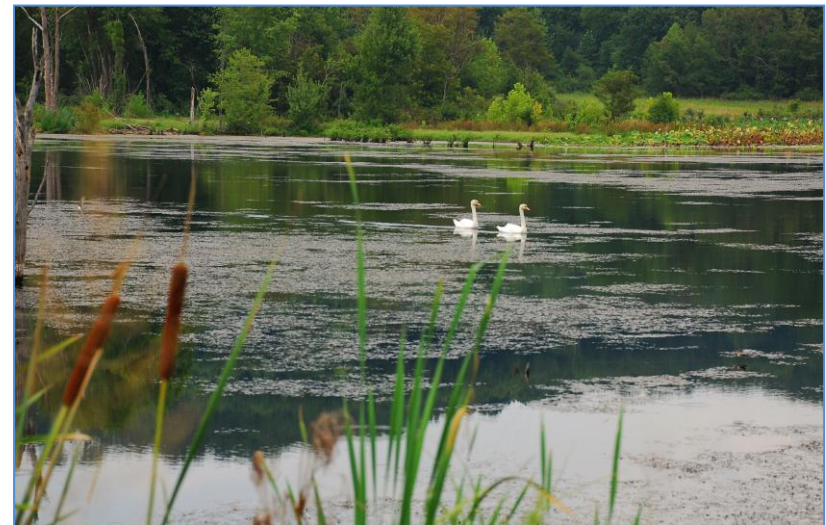
TNT Area

Located adjacent to and managed by the State Farm Museum, this wooded area was a production site for TNT during World War II. The area closed down soon after the war. In 1967, this was the site of the first Mothman sighting, and is now a popular stop for ghost enthusiasts. The West Virginia State Farm Museum operates hayrides through the TNT area several times a year.



McClintic Wildlife Management Area (WMA)

McClintic contains the greatest variety of wildlife habitats to be found within any West Virginia WMA. Approximately 600 acres of farmland, 1,100 acres of brushland, 180 acres of wetland, and 1,775 acres of mixed hardwood forest combine to provide excellent habitat for deer, waterfowl, turkey, squirrel, rabbit, mourning dove and woodcock. Waterfowl hunting on a portion of the area is by permit only during early October. Trapping for muskrat, mink, beaver and raccoon is productive and requires a special permit from the area manager. The area features a 100-yard shooting range. Warm water fishing is allowed in 29 of the area's 31 ponds, with bass and bluegill anglers enjoying the greatest success. Channel catfish and northern pike are stocked in several ponds. Rustic campsites with vault toilets and drinking water are available at a nominal fee.



Clements Tree Nursery

Now the site of a tree nursery for the West Virginia Division of Forestry, this location was once the home of Mark Twain's grandparents. It is currently responsible for protecting several historically important species of trees.

The nursery's orchard is home to adult American chestnut trees that produce blight-resistant seed. The American chestnut once was a common component of forests across the eastern United States, but by 1930 the tree was nearly eradicated by a disease called chestnut blight. Each year, the nursery produces 5,000 to 10,000 American chestnut seedlings in an effort to repopulate the species. Additionally, the nursery grows French oak seedlings not only to sell, but also to honor veterans of World War II. These trees came from seedlings included in West Virginia's shipment from the Merci Train, a group of 49 boxcars sent by the French to America in 1948 in gratitude for American aid in their recovery from World War II.



Bob's Market and Greenhouse

Bob's Market and Greenhouse is a locally owned business with branches in several different towns around the area. The market in Mason is the original. Here, they sell plants and gardening supplies, as well as locally grown produce and foods.



Virgil Lewis House

Located in the town of Mason, this Eastlake style house (c. 1885) was the residence of Virgil A. Lewis, first state historian and archivist, author and state superintendent of schools from 1893-97. In 2012 the Mason County Commission completed a feasibility study that considered the poor structural condition of the house. Consideration is being given to tear down the house, replacing it with a memorial park in honor of Virgil Lewis.



Foglesong-Tucker Funeral Home

A Town of Mason historical house currently in use as a funeral home.



Mason Boat Launch/ Charlotte Jenks Memorial Park

The Mason Boat Launch is located in Charlotte Jenks Memorial Park in Mason. The park offers a fantastic view of the Ohio River as well as the historic town of Pomeroy across the river. Picnic shelters, parking, and playground equipment are also provided in the park. It is also the center for an annual catfish tournament, considered to be the largest of its kind east of the Mississippi River.



Riverside Golf Club

A beautiful 18 hole, Par 70 public golf course with a driving range and practice greens. Riverside golf course also has a restaurant that is open year round.



New Haven Geological Formation

These formations are visible along the road for several hundred feet. The formation is located directly across the road from the New Haven Ohio River Overlook. Parking is available for people who wish to get a closer look.



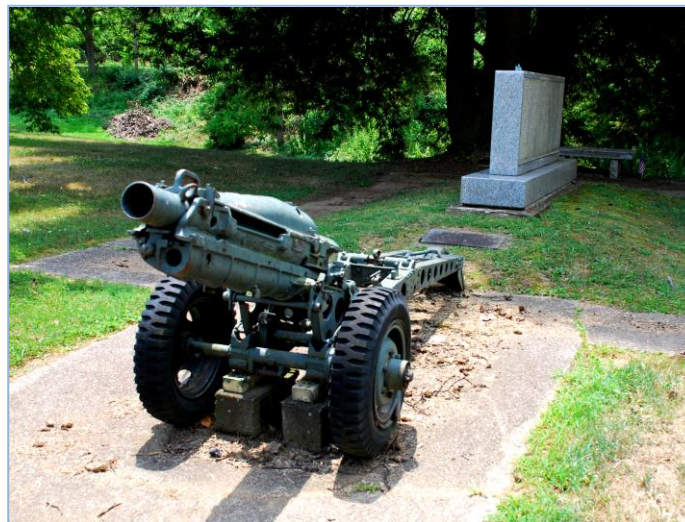
New Haven Overlook

Located South of New Haven, the overlook is a recent addition to the roadside facilities alongside WV Route 62. Facilities at the overlook include parking, a shelter, and a small park area. The overlook offers a magnificent view of the Kanawha River and the surrounding hills. Additionally, some interesting geological formations can be spotted across the road.



Quillen Park

Located just out of New Haven, Quillen Park has two picnic shelters, a rest room and a playground. A small war memorial with benches is located higher up the hill near the road. The park needs some repairs. It will be renovated as part of the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail in order to become a rest stop for this portion of the byway.



Racine Locks and Dam Recreation Areas

Racine Lock and Dam offers picnic facilities in two different recreational areas. A scenic view of the dam and the Ohio River is visible from the recreational access points.

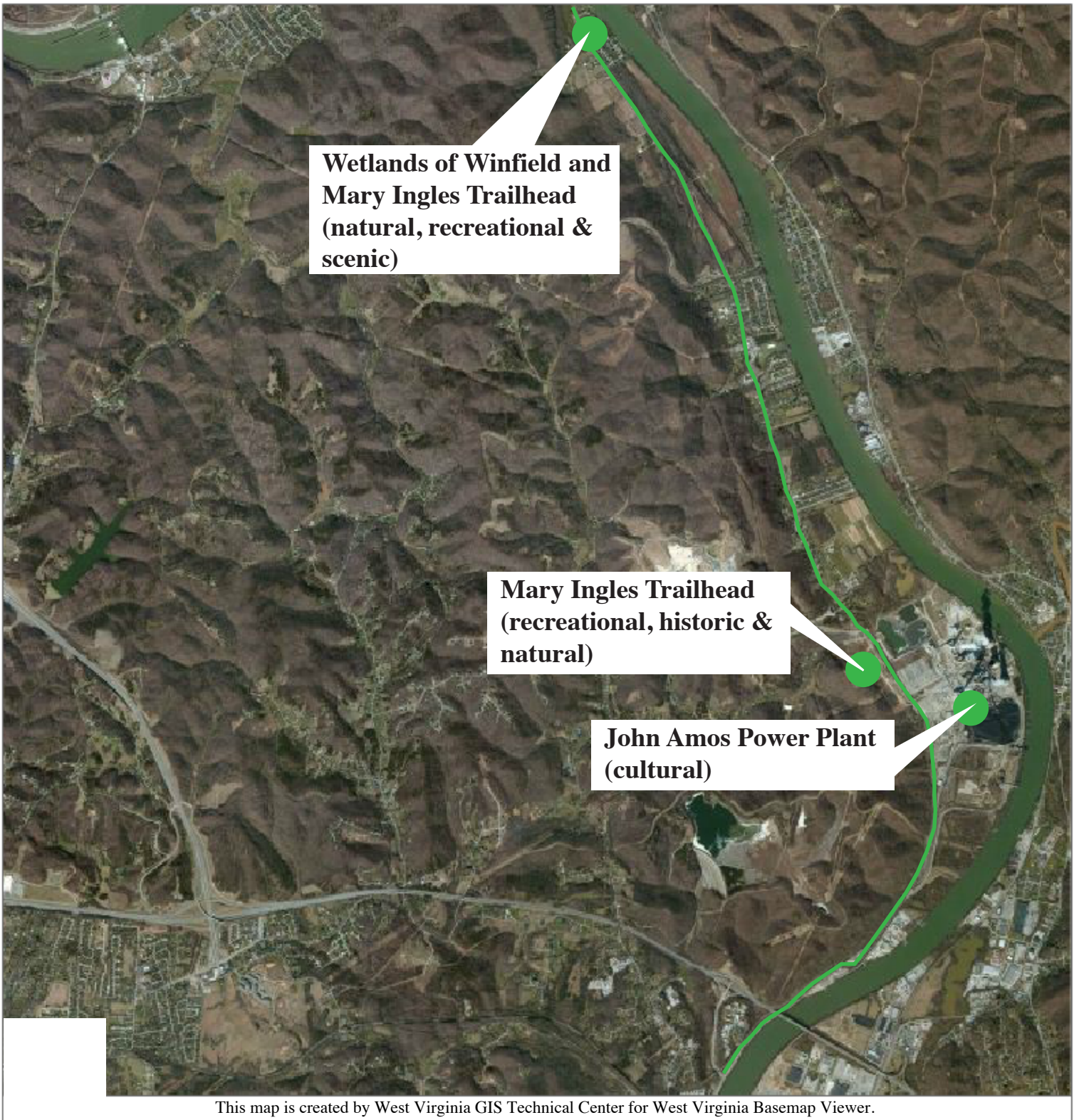


Mary Ingles Excursion Loop

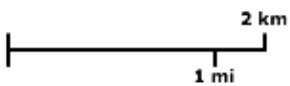
This portion of the overall heritage trail system has its entrance at the St. Albans exit (Exit 44) of Interstate 64. It follows WV Route 817 downstream, along the Kanawha River, to the Buffalo Bridge at Frazier's Bottom. The loop was designed to commemorate the story of the Mary Ingles, a Virginia woman, who was captured by the Shawnee in 1755. She later escaped and, following the region's rivers, walked over 500 miles to her home and family. While only 16 miles long, the loop is filled with historic sites and offers a variety of other intrinsic values.



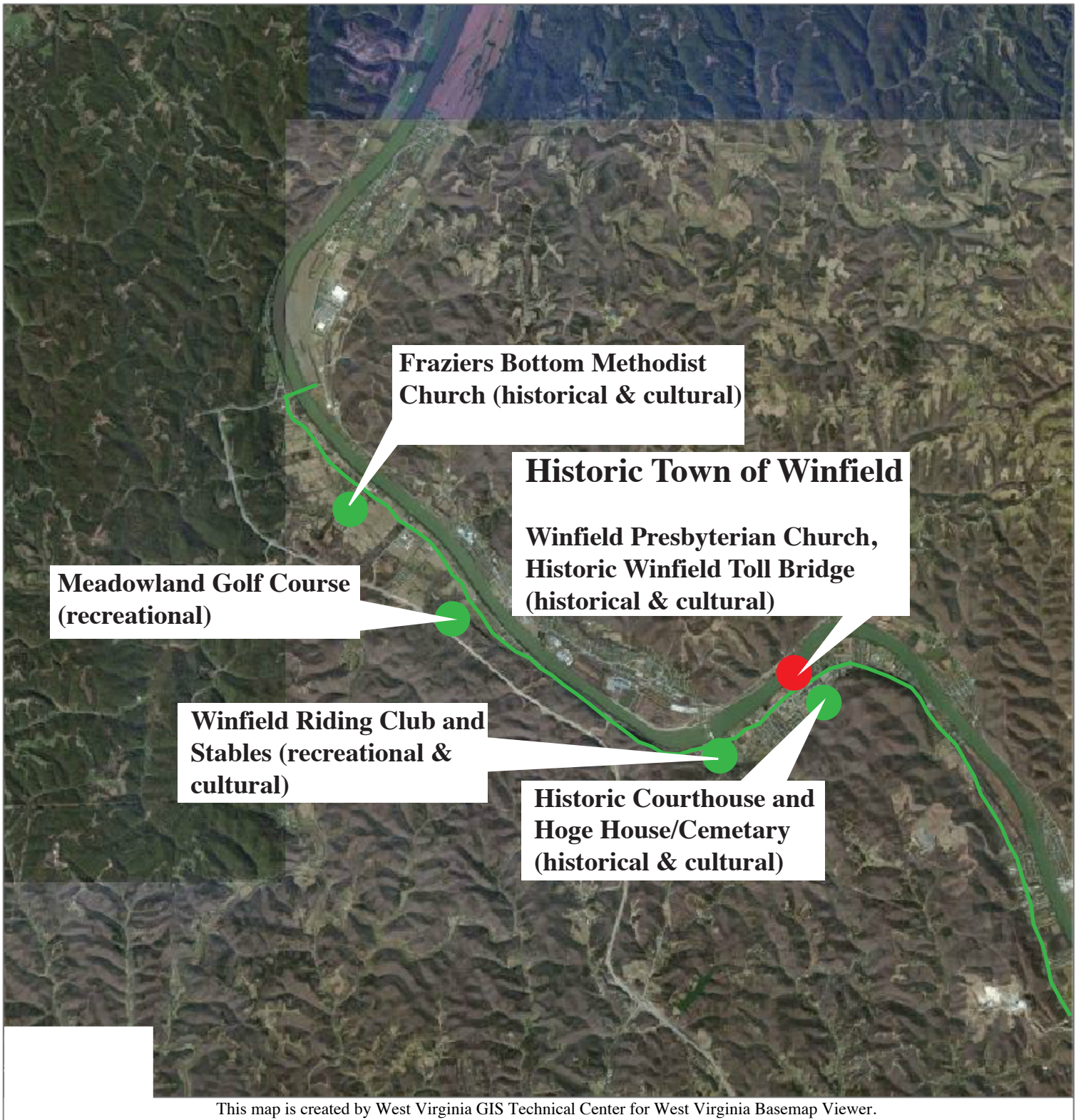
Mary Ingles Excursion : Section 1



This map is created by West Virginia GIS Technical Center for West Virginia Basemap Viewer.



Mary Ingles Excursion : Section 2



5 km
3 mi

- Town Center ●
- Point Marker ●
- Byway Route —



Intrinsic Values Inventory – Mary Ingles Excursion Loop

Site Name	Intrinsic Value	Type
John Amos Power Plant	Cultural	Industrial
Wetlands of Winfield	Natural	Ecology, Education
Mary Ingles Trail	Historical, natural, recreational	History, Education, Hiking
Putnam County Court House	Cultural, historical	Historical public building
Hoge House and Cemetery	Historical, cultural	Historical home
Winfield Presbyterian Church	Cultural, Historical	Historical church
Winfield Riding Club and Stables	Recreational, Cultural	Show horse facility
Winfield Fisherman Access Area	Recreational	Fishing
Meadowland (Deer Run) Golf Course	Recreational	Golfing
Methodist Church (Frazier's Bottom)	Cultural, Historical	Historic church

Annual Events

Event	Description	Location	Date
Putnam County Homecoming	County-Wide reunion, parade, and entertainment	Winfield	September

John Amos Power Plant

Named for a former director of American Electric Power, who was also known as a civic leader, businessman and legislature, the plant is one of the world's largest coal-fired generating stations. Historically the plant has been available for tours and has a public welcome center.



Wetlands of Winfield

This 22-acre environmental education facility was developed in 1999 through a partnership of Toyota Motor Manufacturing West Virginia and American Electric Power. Featuring ½ mile of trails, a centrally located kiosk and trail signs help to interpret the important wetlands. The Wetlands of Winfield are for education purposes alone and open only for pre-scheduled visits.



Mary Ingles Trail

Two trailheads, located along WV Route 817, provide entry points to this six mile segment of this foot traffic-only trail. Parking areas at each trailhead can accommodate up to twelve cars. Information signs help to interpret the story of Mary Ingles who, along with her two young sons and others, were captured by the Shawnees in 1755. Mary and an elderly lady were able to escape a few weeks later. Traveling over 500 miles to her home using only footpaths, buffalo roads, and ever-present rivers guided steps home. The trail provides opportunities for travelers to interact with nature and enjoy a number of scenic vistas of the Great Kanawha River Valley.



Putnam County Court House

This structure was built in 1900 to replace the original 1848 courthouse which collapsed in 1899. It is a Romanesque Revival building originally designed by Frank Pierce Milburn. The building has a hip roof and octagonal towers at all four corners. The Court House was added to the National Register for Historic Places in May 2000.



Hoge House and Cemetery

A one-story Federal style house built in 1838. In the 1850's it became the home of the James W. Hoge family. Mr. Hoge was a commonwealth attorney who represented Putnam County in the Virginia Convention which led to its succession from the Union. While voting against succession, he remained a supporter of the Confederacy. During a Confederate raid on Winfield Captain Philip J. Thurmond was killed. Under a white flag of truce, his body was brought to the Hoge home and buried. In 1867 James Hoge began serving as a circuit judge in the young state of West Virginia. With the possibility the home would be torn down an effort was launched in 2001 to have it relocated to a site behind the Putnam County Court House. In 2007 the home was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. A cemetery with some 24 Hoge family graves sits on a hill behind the present location of the home.



Winfield Presbyterian Church

On August 29, 1873 nine persons met and voted to found a Presbyterian Church. In 1913, the membership joined together to construct the building in which the church meets today. In the latter part of the 20th century chimes were installed in the steeple and can be heard each day at noon.



Winfield Toll Bridge

With its dedication on November 30, 1957 the Winfield Toll Bridge became the only bridge in the 40 miles between the cities of Nitro and Point Pleasant. Prior to that time river crossings were made by ferry boats. The ferry history spanned almost 140 years. In 2011, the Winfield Toll Bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places.



Winfield Riding Club and Stables

This facility is located at the intersection of WV Routes 817 and 34. In cooperation with such organizations as the West Virginia Quarter Horse Associations and the National Barrel Horse Associations, the riding club and stables host events throughout the year.



Winfield Fishmen Access Area

Located on the south shore of the Kanawha River across from the Winfield Locks and Dam, a walkway has been developed to allow fishermen to safely fish below the dam. A gravelled lot offers ample space for parking and a grassed area is being developed to house a small park that will have a kiosk dedicated to interpreting the history of navigation on the Kanawha River.



Meadowland (Deer Run) Golf Course

Built in 1995, this course is located in Frazier's Bottom. The 9-hole, par 36 course also has a driving range and practice green.



Frazier's Bottom Methodist Church

Built in 1845, and still with an active congregation, this church is one of the many historic Methodist Churches in the region. A cemetery with markers dating to the mid-1800's is on the church grounds.



Nearby attractions for the Mary Ingles Excursion Loop

Site Name	Location	Description
Valley Wave Pool Park	Hurricane	Water park, Recreation area, Picnicking Hiking
Sleepy Hollow Golf Course	Hurricane	Golfing & Banquet Facilities
Hurricane Main Street	Hurricane	Shopping, Celebrations
Hurricane City Park	Hurricane	Spray park, Recreation

Nearby Annual Events

Event	Description	Location	Date
Civil War Weekend	Re-enactment of 1863 skirmishes at Hurricane Bridge and Scary Creek	Valley Park, Hurricane	March
Princess Tea Park	Fairytale event for little princesses	Valley Park, Hurricane	April
Run for the Wall	Hosting motorcyclists enroute to Washington, DC Memorial Day	Valley Park, Hurricane	May
WV Pumpkin Festival	One of the state's largest fall celebrations	Milton	October
Psychopath	Haunted trail	Valley Park, Hurricane	October
Yuletide in the Park	Various evenings of holiday celebrations and a month long festival of lights	Valley Park, Hurricane	December

Attachment: Mary Ingles Excursion Loop - Potential extension

The Rivers to Rivers Heritage Trail's Mary Ingles Excursion Loop begins at Exit 44 (St. Albans) of Interstate 64. The loop travels 16 miles downriver on WV Route 817 to the Buffalo Bridge which crosses the Kanawha River to WV Route 62 and the Town of Buffalo. The planners and steering committee for the corridor management plan have a vision to eventually continue the loop onto Point Pleasant. Presently that would have to be done following the two lane US Route 35, a heavily traveled highway, which serves as a primary truck route. A portion of the US Route 35 has been developed into a four lane expressway. Fourteen additional miles may someday be developed as a four-lane highway. Should that happen the existing two lane US Route 35 will be incorporated into WV Route 817. If and when that is done, the entire length of WV Route 817 will become an excellent byway.

Once travelers pass the Buffalo Bridge they are treated to an array of historic homes, churches and scenic farmland. One of the region's largest family-owned "feed stores" and an active saw mill are also located along the route. An operational drag strip provides for that brand of entertainment and hunters and fishermen can enjoy the 11,000-acre Chief Cornstalk Wildlife Management Area.

With its potential importance to the Mary Ingles Excursion Loop, this attachment is being added to this portion of the corridor management plan and will serve as a planning document for such a time as the fourteen mile portion of a future WV Route 817 is a reality.

Intrinsic Values Inventory – Mary Ingles Excursion Loop – Potential Extension

Site Name	Intrinsic Value	Type
Pliny Presbyterian Church	Historical, Cultural	Historic building
General John McCausland House	Historical, Cultural	Historic home
Mail Pouch Tobacco Barn	Cultural, Historical	Cultural art
Southside Post Office	Cultural	Unique building
Kanawha Valley Dragway Park	Recreational	Auto racing
Mason County 4-H Camp	Recreational	Group dormitory, Camping
Yauger's Feed Store	Cultural	Agribusiness
Twin Rivers Hardwoods	Cultural	Agribusiness
Chief Cornstalk Wildlife Management Area	Natural, Recreational	Hunting, Fishing, Camping
Morgan House and Farm	Historical, Cultural	Historic home, Working farm
Redmond House / John McCausland Memorial Farm	Historical, Cultural	Historic home, Working farm

Pliny Presbyterian Church

This church was established in 1907 and is still active within the Presbyterian Church of America.



Redmond House/ John McCausland Memorial Farm

Also known as Grape Hill, this house was constructed in 1885 by former Confederate General John McCausland. Together with the outbuildings it is listed on the National Historic Register as a historic district. The house was constructed of undressed sandstone that was quarried nearby. One of the many interesting features of the house is its elevator and dumbwaiter that is operated by weights.



Mail Pouch Tobacco Barn

Barns with the Mail Pouch Tobacco advertisement painted on them were once common in this area. This barn, visible from the potential byway, is one of the few that remain.



Kanawha Valley Dragway Park

Built in the 1990's this local IHRA sanctioned drag strip attracts competitors and visitors from areas throughout the region.



Southside Post Office

One of the smallest detached post office buildings in the state of West Virginia, it still serves residents in this area of Mason County.



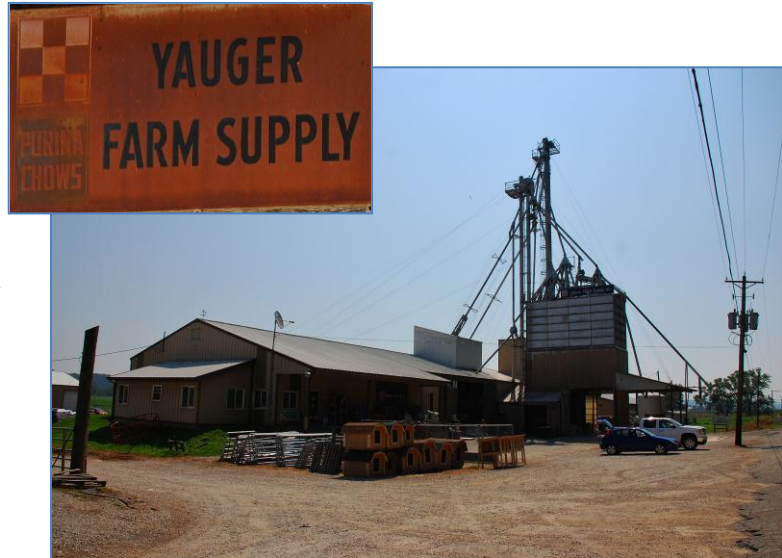
Mason County 4-H Camp

The camp is located just off the potential extension of the Mary Ingles Excursion Loop. For over 50 years the camp has been used for the annual county 4-H Camp and is open to other groups. There is a large dining hall and two dormitories.



Yauger's Farm Supply Store

For those who might travel this route, a great rest stop might be Yauger's Farm Supply which was built in the 1960's. The smells and knickknacks available in the store are definitely conducive to directing visitor's minds to Mason County's rich agricultural history.



Chief Cornstalk Wildlife Management Area (WMA)

This 11,000-acre WMA is managed by the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources. Deer, grouse, squirrel and turkey can all be hunted at Chief Cornstalk. Additionally a small lake is available for fishing largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish are common species.

A shooting range, rustic camping and hiking are also part of the recreational opportunities.



Morgan House and Farm (Shadle Farm)

A historic plantation that is surrounded by a working farm. The Mason County Convention and Visitors Bureau has often included this as part of their farm tours. The farm is also known for its having a Native American archaeological site.



Redmond House/John McCausland Memorial Farm (Smithland Farm)

Built in the 1860's by the Redmond family, the house remained in that family until 1892. It was then purchased by James W. Smith. Upon Mr. Smith's death, only five months after buying the farm, it was willed to former Confederate General John McCausland. Throughout the remainder of the 19th century and until 1981 the farm was owned by heirs of the general. In 1981 a portion of the farm, including the Redmond House, was deeded to the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA). Today it is still owned by the WVDA and is a working farm. The house and property are included on the National Register of Historic Places.



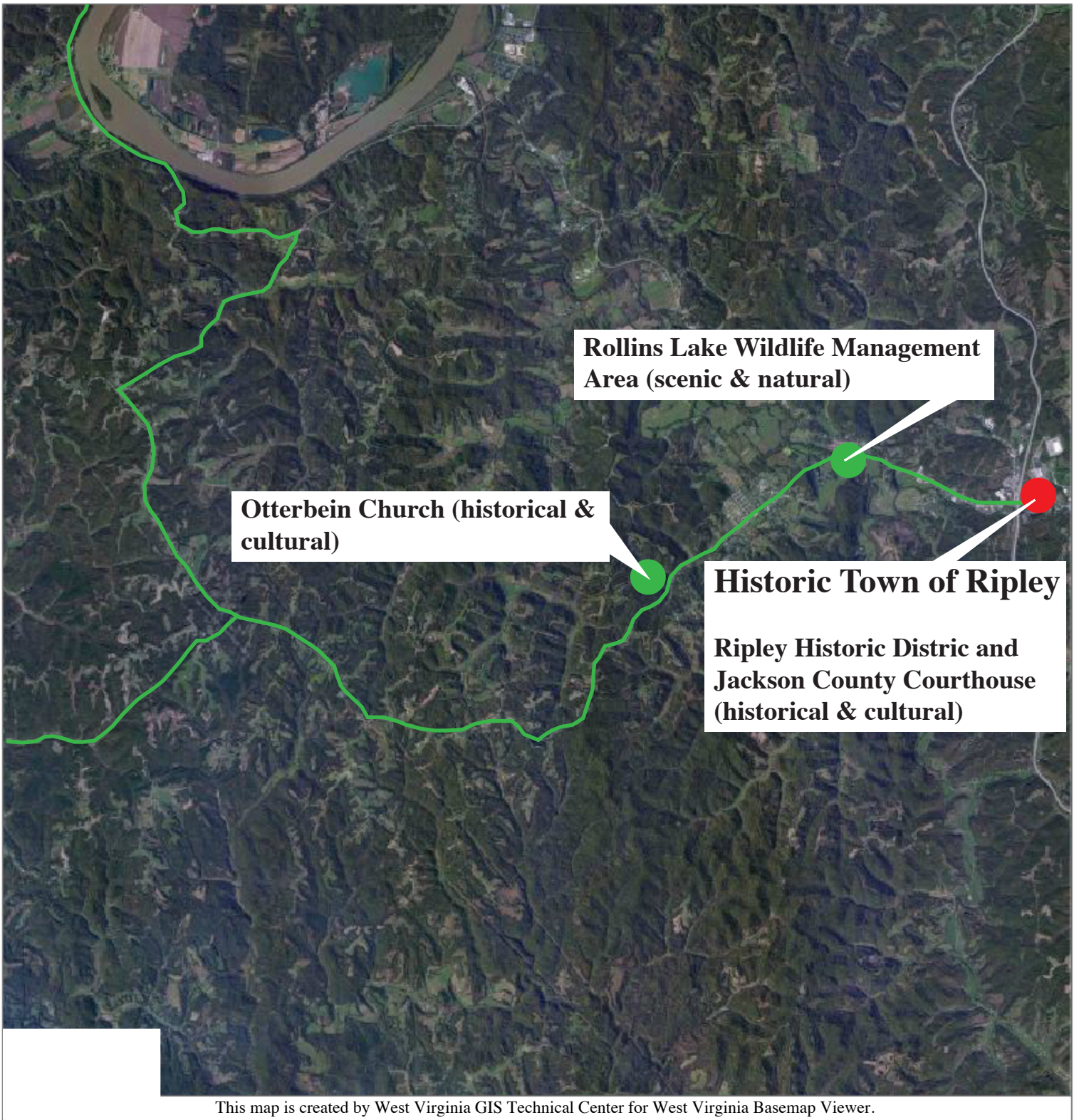
Ripley / I-77 Connector

The planners for the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail were interested in a way to connect the Trail to more than one interstate and found this possible along a route worthy of being part of the byway system. Not only is the town of Ripley located on an exit for Interstate 77, but it has a historic district and claims the title of the “biggest small town 4th of July celebration in the USA.” It also has different amenities, such as hotels, restaurants and gas stations. Leaving Ripley on WV Route 33, travelers can pick up WV Route 87 at the community of Evans, eventually connecting with WV Route 2 along the Ohio River Excursion Loop. There are a variety of intrinsic value sites on the connector, plus WV Route 87 is known as a particularly beautiful drive.






The last public hanging in WV in 1897
John Morgan, who had killed a woman and 2 of her children

Ripley Excursion



5 km
3 mi

- Town Center 
- Point Marker 
- Byway Route 



Intrinsic Values Inventory – Ripley / I-77 Connector

Site	Intrinsic Value	Type
Jackson County Courthouse	Cultural, historical	County seat, Historic building
Ripley Historic District	Historical	Historic homes and businesses
Rollins Lake Wildlife Management Area	Natural, scenic	Fishing
Otterbein Church	Cultural, historical	Historic church building

Annual Events – Ripley / I-77 Connector

Event	Description	Location	Date
Ripley 4 th of July	“Biggest small town 4 th of July celebration in the USA.”	Ripley	July

Jackson County Courthouse

The present Jackson County Court House, circa 1918, is the third building to serve as the center of government for the county. This beautiful, early 20th century building serves as the centerpiece for the 54-acre Ripley historic district. Many of the activities for the USA's "biggest small town 4th of July Celebration" takes place on the court house grounds.



Ripley Historic District

This National Historic District includes 110 buildings and one cemetery. Notable buildings include the U.S. Post Office, Phillips/Pfost House, Alpine Theater, Hockenberry Store building, Jackson County Courthouse, the Beymer House, the Clerc-Carson House and the Hinzman House. In 2004 it was listed on the national register of historic places.



Rollins Lake Wildlife Management Area

This Wildlife Management Area contains over 80 acres of land surrounding a lake. There is no hunting permitted, but the lake itself is available for fishing and boating.



Otterbein Church

Also known as Otterbein United Brethren Church, this historic church was built in 1896. It is a single-story frame building sheathed in clapboard and featuring a square tower with rectangular vents on each side, small brackets, and a hipped-pyramidal roof. A cemetery dating back to the 1800's is also on the property.



Nearby Attractions Inventory for the Ripley / I-77 Connector

Site Name	Location	Description
Cedar Lakes 4-H and Conference Center	Ripley	Lodging, Recreation
Statts Mill Campground	Fairplains	Camping, Recreation

Nearby Annual Events

Event	Description	Date
West Virginia Arts and Crafts Fair	Largest arts and crafts festival in WV	July



The overall interpretive theme of the Rivers to Ridges Heritage trail will focus on the role the Kanawha River played in the settlement of “America’s First Western Frontier”. The story of the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail will follow the development of the Kanawha River and the many roles it has played in the history of the valley and region from sources of food to major transportation routes to recreational usage.

The lower Kanawha River Valley is well situated to illustrate a wide variety of interpretive themes. Additionally, it has enough unique sites that specialized tours for different interest groups could potentially be developed.

The following chart lists some of the themes that have been suggested for development. Each will be attractive to multiple interest groups and is well represented by different sites throughout the trail.

Historical River Navigation

In the nineteenth century many of the towns located along the Kanawha River were actively involved in the steamboat business. Towns like Buffalo and Poca were regular stops for packet boats. Ships were built in Leon and Point Pleasant. Locally operated ferries were used to cross the river between towns. Freight and passenger vessels routinely navigated the Kanawha River between Charleston and Point Pleasant. For much of the nineteenth century the steamboats were the most reliable travel method along the river. Additionally there is the more recent history of the locks and dams along the river. The Kanawha River has the potential to showcase the entire history of river navigation in this region.

Appalachian Folklore

The lower Kanawha River Valley is the home of many local legends. Point Pleasant’s Mothman is by far the most famous. Additionally several historic buildings along the trail boast their own ghost stories.

Military History

The towns along the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail have been the site of battles in numerous wars. Military sites along the trail include monuments as well as the sites of battles from the following wars and campaigns.

- Belestre Campaign of 1756 (French and Indian War)
- Lord Dunmore’s War (1774)
- Civil War (1861-1865)

Agricultural History

The rich riverbottom land along the Kanawha River created perfect conditions for farming. Tours of existing farms are already in operation at several sites along the trail.

Surveying History

The entirety of the lower Kanawha river valley was originally surveyed in 1770-1771 by a team sponsored by George Washington. The map produced by these surveys still exists. The region has a unique opportunity to include information about eighteenth century surveying methods in the interpretation plan.

Industrial Development

This region has over two hundred years of industrial development for visitors to explore, ranging from coopering and the salt industry in the eighteenth century to modern day automobile and chemical plants.

Depression Era Projects

Several sites still exhibit structures constructed during the Great Depression by the Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps. Eleanor is one of three subsistence homestead communities constructed in West Virginia.

Interpretive Projects

The overall interpretive vision for the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail is to create a uniform interpretive plan following the story of the Kanawha River presented in multiple formats throughout the corridor.

A primary interpretation will be in the form of informational kiosks stationed at various sites. Each kiosk will have information about the history of that specific site as well as an explanation on how it fits into the overall story. Additionally, each kiosk will be marked with the logo of the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail and with a 'where are you' map.

Additionally larger kiosk shelters will be erected in the towns of Nitro, Eleanor, Leon and Point Pleasant. These towns will be promoted as historic sites in their entirety, due to their unique history. Because of a lack of specific historic remains, large scale photograph murals of the original appearance of the streets will be included in the shelters. If possible, the photographs chosen will have at least two points of reference with the modern landscape within view from the shelter.

Staffed interpretive centers will be located at regular intervals along the trail. Each interpretive center will focus on a different aspect of the heritage of the region. Two such centers have already been developed, one in Point Pleasant and the other in Buffalo.

Promotional brochures for the entire trail will be developed in cooperation with the overall interpretation plan. They will include maps and pictures of the area, information on opening hours of nearby attractions, short blurbs about the history and culture of the area, and space for advertising by local merchants and businesses.

Secondary amenity brochures will also be developed. These brochures will be simple in form and inexpensive to print in order to better facilitate updates to business information. They will include only basic information for visitors about restaurants, hotels, campgrounds, and other vital information.

A website for the trail will be developed and maintained. It will follow a similar design scheme to the other promotional materials developed for the trail. The website will act as the master gateway to the Trail. The primary function of the website will be to provide information to visitors and function as a marketing tool. As such it will have sections devoted to maps, itineraries, event schedules, photo galleries, and the different trail sites and activities. It will also be linked into all other social networking activities and the websites of related organizations.

In order to facilitate awareness of the Trail's heritage, several types of tours will be developed. Bus tours will be developed to take place occasionally on specialized topics. For those unable or unwilling to wait for the guided tours a self-guided audio tour will be developed and recorded. This will be available in several different formats at Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail visitor centers. It will also be available for download from the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail website. Eventually, each of the separate themed itineraries may have other audio tours accompanying them. Cell phone tours are also something that might be pursued.

Additionally, a geocaching trail will be developed to take advantage of the current interest in this activity. Caches will be sponsored by the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail and by the managing organizations for local attractions. The caches will be themed to follow the historical and cultural significance of the trail.

A passport program is being considered for visitors. They would have the opportunity to purchase a small passport book at area visitor centers. Passport stamping centers would be set up at certain sites along the Trail. A completed passport would then earn the visitor a small prize. Programs such as this have proven popular with children in the past.

Wayfinding signage will be limited to Tourist Oriented Directional/logo style signs i.e. simple signs with logos and miles listed for attractions and amenities

The marketing plan for the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail will follow a multi-pronged approach. Marketing opportunities will be pursued in a variety of formats (e.g. print and electronic).

Print Advertising

An annual brochure for the Trail as a whole will be developed. In order to cover production costs, advertising slots will be included. The opportunity to advertise in the brochure will be offered first to local and regional businesses. The brochure will also include visitor information and articles about the history and culture of the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail. The brochure will be distributed to local and regional visitor centers as well as at regional tourism conferences.

Regional advertising opportunities will be pursued. This will include an analysis of available regional magazines and pinpoint marketing aimed at likely interest groups. Possibilities include West Virginia tourism publications, fishing and hunting magazines, Civil War history media, birding publications, and local publications in Charleston and Huntington.

Any possibilities at collaborative marketing will be investigated and implemented.

Electronic Advertising

A website for the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail will be developed. Partnerships and links will be developed with the websites of like organizations.

An active social networking page will be developed on Facebook.

Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail will set up booths at state and regional tourism conferences.

An e-mail mailing list will be developed. Periodic content e-mails about the Trail will be sent to those on the list.



Coming into Poca on WV Route 62

Anomalous Intrusions

The majority of the route has been zoned for rural residential use. Additionally, there are a few smaller areas that have been zoned for industrial usage. Please see appendix for copies of local land use maps.

Control of Outdoor Advertising

Currently, billboards are erected in multiple locations along the trail, most commonly in developed areas. A small number are badly faded or ripped.

Officially the West Virginia Code states

(a) That outdoor advertising is a legitimate, commercial use of private property adjacent to roads and highways; (b) that outdoor advertising is an integral part of the business and marketing function and an established segment of the national economy which serves to promote and protect private investments in commerce and industry; and (c) that the erection and maintenance of outdoor advertising signs, displays and devices in areas adjacent to federal-aid interstate and primary highways should be regulated in order to protect the public investment in such highways, to promote the recreational value of public travel, to preserve natural beauty and to promote the reasonable, orderly and effective display of such signs, displays and devices.

The West Virginia Commissioner of Highways, by Order dated 11/30/98, prohibited outdoor advertising on state byways except in identified segments. Billboards and outdoor advertising are permitted in “segmented” non-scenic areas along such routes.

The Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail Council will be committed to supporting the prohibition of billboard advertising. This would protect areas of the Trail (Byway) where billboards would distract from the natural and scenic beauty and other intrinsic values of the Trail.

The Council will also work to oppose the uncontrolled used of large billboards for advertising, especially in areas of intrinsic values. There are a number of existing billboards along the Trail, but most are in areas that are commercial and/or industrial. The greatest amount of outdoor advertising is on smaller billboards or signs located on business properties or attached to the business structures.

Directional Signage

Additionally, the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail is in need of a plan for the development of directional signage. This type of signage must be sufficient to direct visitors to amenities and attractions without negatively impacting the scenic qualities of the corridor. As such, we recommend the installation of TOD style signage marked with the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail logo at key points throughout the trail.

Anomalous Intrusions

The purpose of this plan is not to limit development in order to preserve the intrinsic qualities of the corridor, but to develop a plan that will balance the interests of commercial development while preserving the unique culture and heritage of the corridor. Our goal is to develop facilities for heritage tourism even as we preserve the unique traits of the region. It will not ban commercial development, but it will give us guidelines to work with future development to minimize negative impact on the intrinsic qualities of the corridor.

The primary sources of anomalous intrusions, along the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail, are industrial sites and dilapidated buildings.

Most of the industrial sites along the Trail are located in areas that have long been used for this type of enterprise and the amount of scenic intrinsic value is limited. With other sites, in more sensitive areas, the Council will seek to develop a program to encourage vegetative screening. In order to limit former and existing residential sites that are either abandoned or unkept, the Council will work with the Mason and Putnam County Commissions to enforce existing laws concerning dilapidated properties. We will also seek a more pro-active approach during county-wide cleanups to encourage landowners to take advantage of free disposal.

Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail supports the following efforts to limit anomalous intrusions and promote intelligent development.

Main Street

Main Street Point Pleasant has been working to improve the downtown area of Point Pleasant since the 1980's. It is the state's oldest associate with Main Street West Virginia and is a member of the National Main Street program and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Main Street Point Pleasant has led in the construction of a \$5.5 million river front park, developed a project to have a series of murals placed on the outside of the city's floodwall and has worked diligently to bring new businesses into a downtown area that declined greatly after the collapse of the Silver Bridge in 1967.

Restricted Development Zones:

Use of Existing Structures:

With 126 miles in the primary route adjoining loops and the connector spur of the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail, there is a need for developing information and interpretive centers and rest stops. With a cadre of existing historic buildings, in need of restoration, the Council will strive to utilize existing buildings and facilities whenever possible. This will coincide with historic preservation/rehabilitation for adaptive reuse of historic structures.

Stewardship Awards:

As part of its ongoing public awareness campaign, the Council will annually confer “Stewardship Awards” to businesses, groups, and individuals who have shown a commitment to preserving heritage, preserving beauty, and developing quality of life along the Trail.

Improving and promoting the use of existing river access sites:

There are no less than six river access sites along the primary route of the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail. In order to maximize use of the Kanawha and Ohio Rivers for recreation along the trail, the Council will work to upgrade these sites and promote their availability and locations through brochures, on websites and other media. Efforts will also be pursued that will be directed at developing a water trail with state and/or national designation.

Integrating various modes of transportation along the trail.

The Council will continuously look for ways to join and integrate different services and modes of transportation throughout the corridor. This might include tourist buses and/or vans, exploring avenues to incorporate more public access to river tours, audio-guided driving tours, and promoting the area for its very fine bicycling and motorcycling backroads.

The Council is committed to maintaining the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail’s qualities and implementing programs which will enhance each of them.

National Register of Historic Places:

There are several homes and properties along the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail that have already been accepted as part of the National Register of Historic Places. There are more properties that can be considered for such recognition. Nitro and Eleanor are both possible candidates for becoming Historic Districts. Buffalo has an existing Historic District that might be considered for expansion.

Pull-offs:

With a myriad of historically significant sites and properties in the rural areas of the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail and the Mason and Putnam County Quilt Trails, the Council will seek to plan and construct a number of pull-offs throughout the Trail. There are already some pull-off areas that need to be inventoried, upgraded, maintained, and made known to the public through various media.

Demolition of Unsightly and Dangerous Buildings:

While the Council is very proud of the scenic areas of the Trail, there remains a need to seek to remove buildings that are not only run-down, but are also dangerous. According to the state law county commissions are permitted to enforce the demolition of abandoned and dilapidated properties. The Council will work with the Mason and Putnam County Commissions to identify such sites and offer our assistance in having them removed.

Museums and Interpretive Centers:

Point Pleasant is home to West Virginia's only museum dedicated solely to tell the history of our state's rivers. This wonderful facility was opened in 2003 and has seen steady growth in its programs and in visitation. At the other end of the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail, groups in Nitro have worked to find a way to construct a museum that would help preserve the rich history of a town built specifically to provide munitions for World War I. Other sites, including the Red House in Eleanor and Buffalo Academy, already serve as interpretive centers, but have potential to be greatly expanded. The Historic Hoge House and Redmond/McCausland House are marked for eventual use as interpretive centers and museums.

Interpretive Panels:

The Council is actively developing a strategy to place interpretive panels and kiosks throughout the Trail in order to provide historic information at various sites and panels at certain spots of interest.

Interpretive Programs:

Living history re-enactments have an ongoing history throughout the region of the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail. There are also existing venues which allow artisans to display their handiwork for local residents and visitors. The Council will seek to expand on these programs and to identify the potential to institute new ways and places to share in our rich culture and history.

Collaboration with Local Historical Societies:

The Upper Vandalia Historical Society, Putnam County Landmarks Commission, and Buffalo Historical Society are active in the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail. The Council will work with these groups to not only seek their assistance, but to provide assistance to them as needed. A close working relationship with the State Historic Preservation Office will be established and maintained.

Collaboration with the West Virginia Preservation Alliance:

The West Virginia Preservation Alliance is dedicated to heritage preservation and heritage tourism. By developing an ongoing relationship with the Alliance, Rivers to Ridges will be able to host and conduct Trail- wide seminars, workshops, and conferences on preservation.

Collaboration with various conservation groups and agencies:

In line with its commitment to preservation of scenic and natural qualities the council will work with local groups, such as Scouts and 4-H, and national entities, including AmeriCorps to maintain the Trail's areas of natural beauty. We will also work closely with the Western Conservation District in order to support their efforts to control soil erosion, protect stream quality and preserve prime farmland.

Truck Route

At this time, there are no plans to make any changes to the truck traffic along the roadways making up the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail.



Scene at McClintic WMA along the Ohio River Excursion Loop

Accident History

Compiled from data collected by West Virginia Department of Highways 2004-2007

Road Section	Length	Number of Accidents	Average per mile
WV 62, Nitro to Point Pleasant	45.2 miles	459	10.1
CR 23, from WV 62 to WV 87	6.8 miles	9	1.3
WV 87, from CR 23 to WV 2	2.4 miles	4	1.6
WV 2, from WV 87 to WV 62	3 miles	113	37.6
WV 62, from WV 87 to Point Pleasant	31.5 miles	155	4.9
Total	88.9 miles	740	8.3

Looking at current and projected road usage, the four most important groups of users expected to use the byway are commercial traffic, bicyclists, motorcyclists, and tourists. In support of this projected usage, the following problems and solutions have been identified.

Problem	Solution
A dangerous level of commercial traffic along Route 35	The majority of the commercial traffic is expected to shift over to the new US Route 35 once it is completed. This will leave Old US Route 35 (WV Route 817) as a slower paced Scenic Byway route.
There are very few safe locations for visitors to park or stop at scenic locations	Build a series of scenic and interpretive pull offs
There are no safe locations along the road for biking or hiking	Build trailheads for local hiking trails. Set apart backroad areas for mountain biking. Develop recreational facilities for biking and hiking throughout the region.
Directional signage is limited and confusing	Install new TOD style directional signage throughout the trail



The following Action Plan for the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail is a broad description of items that will be developed into goals and objectives allowing our organization to move ahead toward becoming a successful byway. It is divided into what we consider short (1-3 years), medium (4-7 years), and long-term (8 years and beyond) activities. Even with these timelines, some action items may begin sooner than outlined and some will be of a continual nature.

Short-term (1-3 years)

		Responsible Organization
Recreational	Development and Improvement of trails for hiking and biking	Rivers to Ridges and Bicycling Clubs
Recreational	Development of hiking and biking trail maps	Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail
Scenic	Support county-wide clean-up events	Mason & Putnam County Solid Waste Authorities
Visitors Services	Installation of directional signage	Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail and WV Department of Highways
Cultural	Expand the Mason & Putnam County Quilt Trails	Mason & Putnam County CVB's
Interpretation	Develop interpretive kiosks in Nitro, Eleanor and other locations utilizing historical photographs	Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail
Interpretation	Develop promotional materials	River to Ridges Heritage Trail
Interpretation	Develop and maintain a Rivers to Ridges website	Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail
Cultural, Historical	Support existing museums and interpretive centers	Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trial
	Establish a fundraising and revenue development program	Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trial

Medium-term (4-7 years)

		Responsible Organization
Scenic	Work with county commissions to better enforce existing laws concerning the care of derelict properties	Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail
Recreational, Scenic	Develop pull off and overlook areas	Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail
Visitor Services, Interpretation	Develop multiple visitors centers situated in strategic locations throughout the trail and in existing historical buildings when possible	Convention and Visitors Bureaus
Scenic	Implement grassroots beautification programs	Civic Organizations
Visitors Services, Interpretation	Develop multiple themed bus and self-guided audio tours	Convention and Visitors Bureaus
Interpretation	Develop geocaching trail	Convention and Visitors Bureaus
Interpretation	Develop passport program	Convention and Visitors Bureaus
Cultural	Develop trail sponsored cultural events in partnership with local organizations and support ongoing festivals	Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail
Recreational	Improve and promote river access sites	WV Department of Natural Resources
Revenue	Establish a fundraising and revenue development program	Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail
Staffing	Hire a paid staff under the direction of Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail	Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail

Long-term (8 years – plus)

		Responsible Organization
Recreational	Develop year-round and short-term camping facilities	Public recreation organizations, Private sectors
Scenic	Repair or remove derelict buildings and improve unsightly properties	Local units of government
Scenic	Plant screening vegetation around industrial areas	Businesses and groups such as master gardeners
Scenic	Develop scenic and interpretive pull-offs throughout trail	Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail
Interpretation	Support future efforts to have Nitro and Eleanor designated as historic districts and to expand the historic district in Buffalo	Civic organizations
Scenic	Implement a stewardship programs	Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail
Recreational, Visitor Services	Integrate and enhance alternate transportation	Convention and Visitors Bureaus
Cultural, Historical	Support the development of new museums	Local communities, Historic organizations, etc.

Steering Committee

Name	Organization	Contact Information
Lowell Wilks	Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail	lowell_w_25560@yahoo.com lowellwilks@riverstoridges.com
Council	Resource Conservation and Development Area	GreatKanawhaRCD@yahoo.com
Linda Bush	Putnam County CVB	tourism@putnamcounty.org
Denny Bellamy	Mason County CVB	tourism@masoncounty.org
Scott Williamson	Putnam County Parks and Recreation Commissioner	scott@putnamcountyparks.com
Charles Humphries	Main Street Point Pleasant, Point Pleasant Development	mcdaadm@masoncounty.org
Jim Caruthers	Citizen	magistrateblair@aol.com
Robin Neal-Montgomery	Citizen	robinnm67@live.com
Doug Wood	Citizen	chingwe1755@yahoo.com
Jessica Michal	AmeriCorps VISTA	jmichal@gmail.com
Mark Simonin	AmeriCorps VISTA	marksimonin@riverstoridges.com
Joseph Phillips	AmeriCorps VISTA	josephphillips@riverstoridges.com

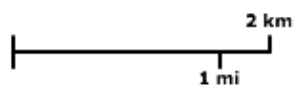
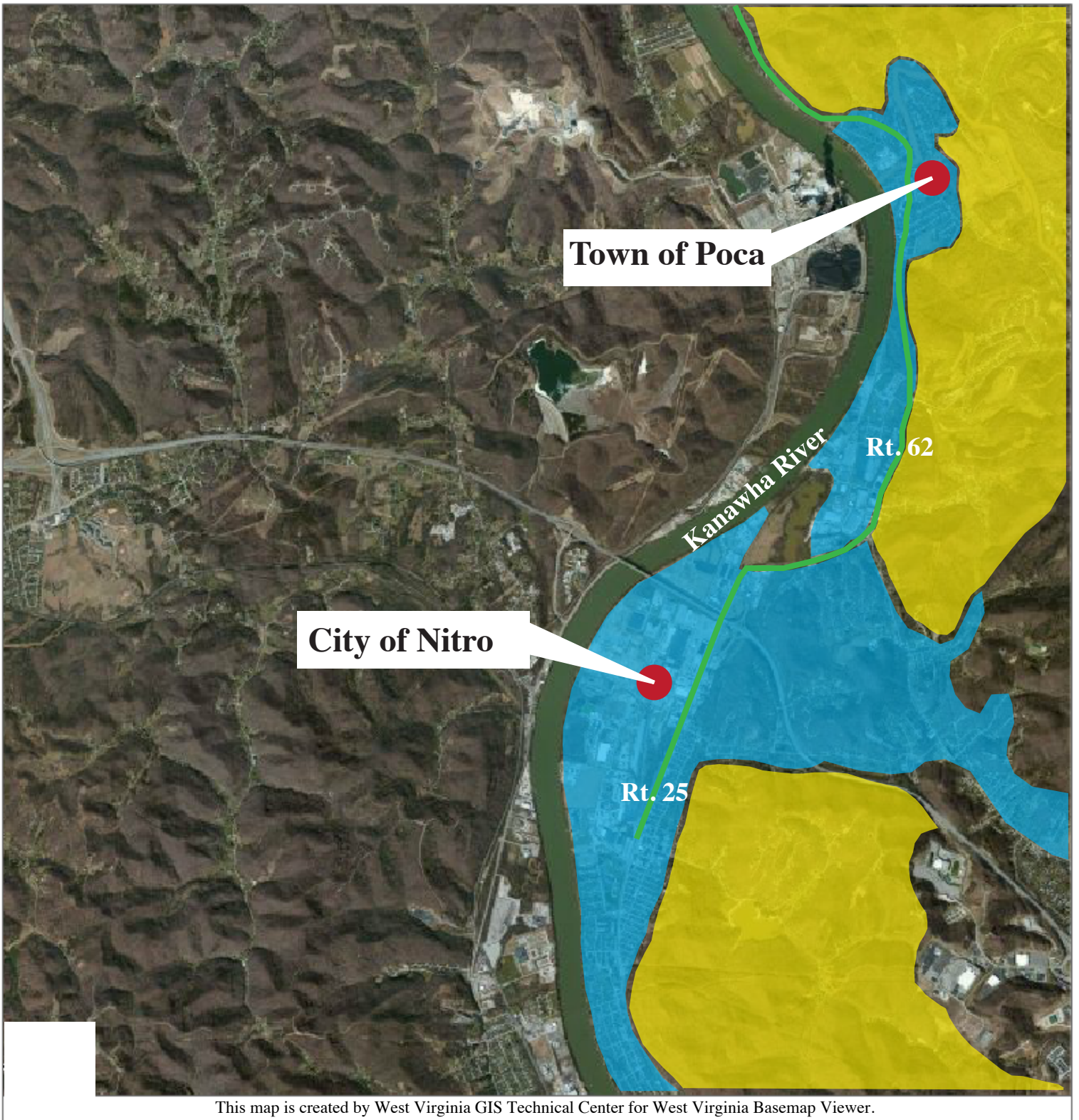
Collaborators

The Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail was developed under the direction of the Rivers to Ridges Heritage Train, Inc., formerly the Kanawha Gateway Heritage Area, a local economic and heritage education development non-profit organization. Funding for the development of the Corridor Management Plan (CMP) was provided by the West Virginia Division of Highways and the Federal Highways Administration. The CMP was developed in partnership with the Mason and Putnam County Commissions, Great Kanawha Resource Conservation and Development Area, the Mason and Putnam Counties Quilt Trails, the Putnam County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, the Mason County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Putnam County Parks, and Main Street Point Pleasant, Mary Ingles Trail Blazers and local historical groups.

Ongoing public participation in Rivers to Heritage Trail will be provided by a steering committee and annual public meetings.

Land Use Maps

Nitro to Rock Branch



Incorporated Area



Town Center



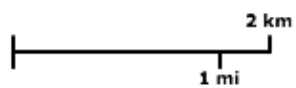
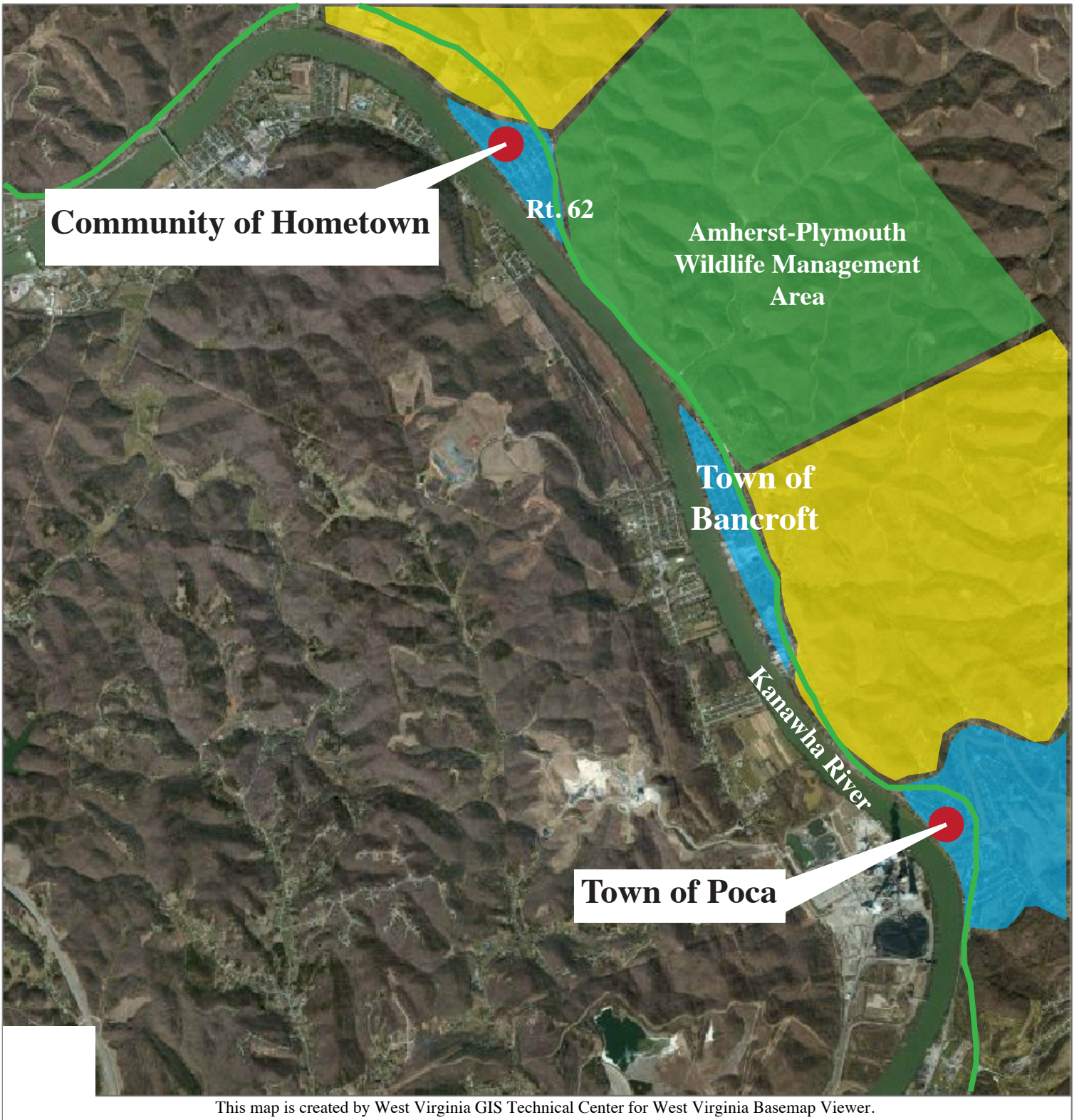
Rural Land



Byway Route



Rock Branch to Hometown



Incorporated Area



Public Land



Rural Land



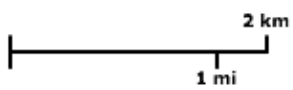
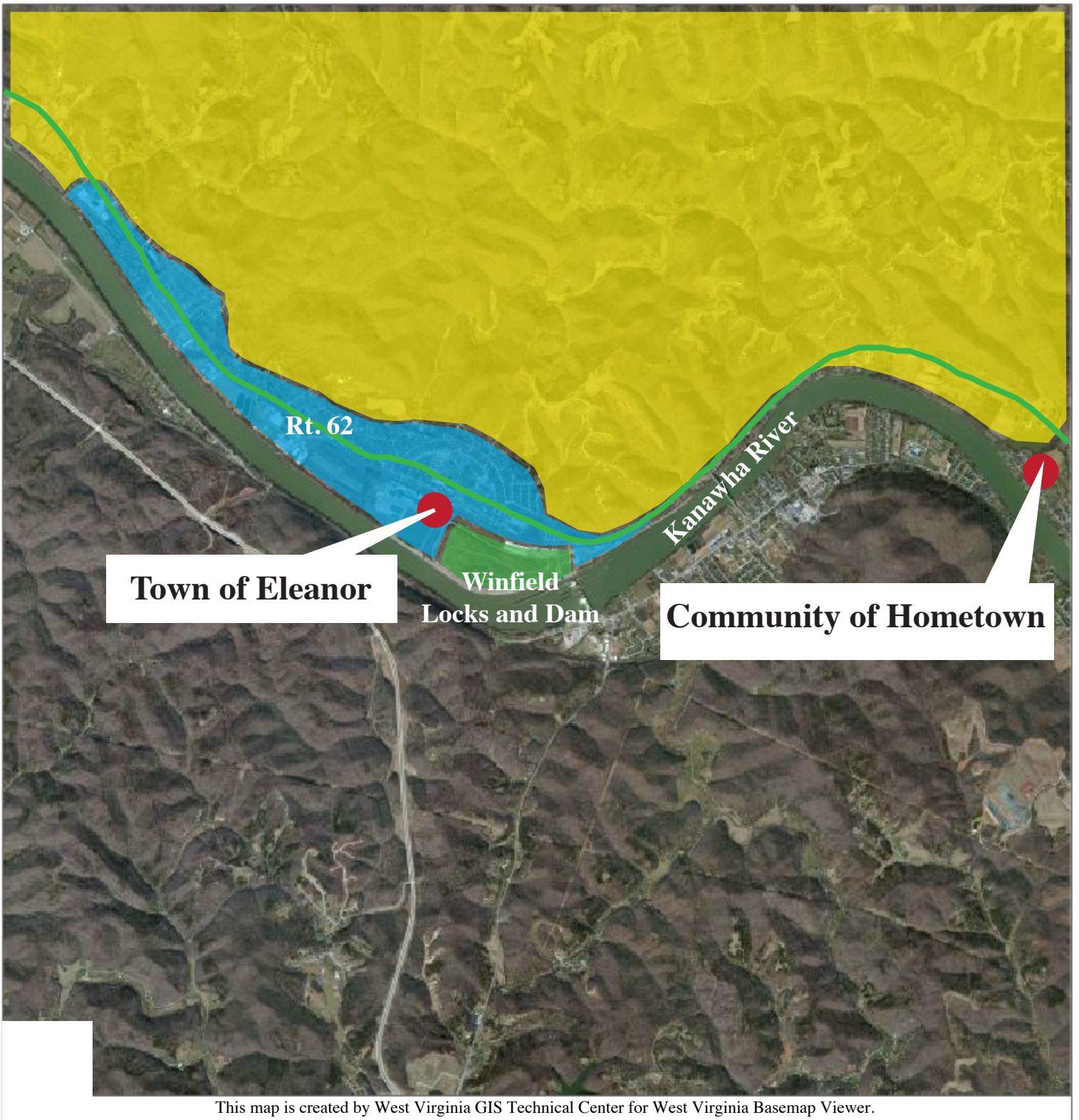
Town Center



Byway Route



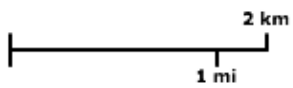
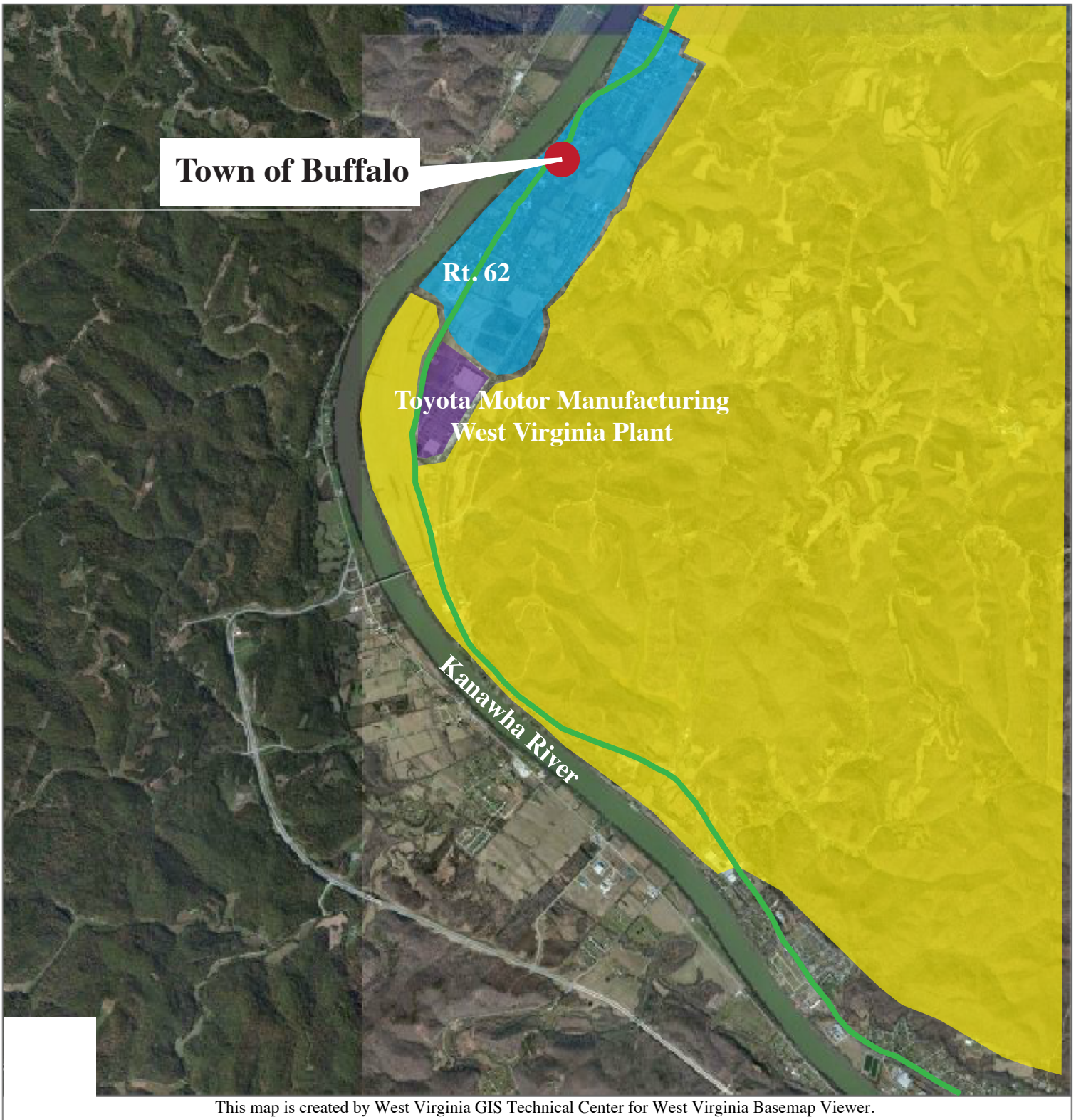
Hometown to Eleanor








- | | | | |
|-------------------|--|-------------|--|
| Incorporated Area | | Public Land | |
| Rural Land | | Town Center | |
| Byway Route | | | |



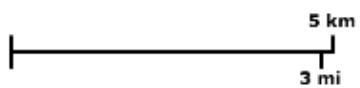
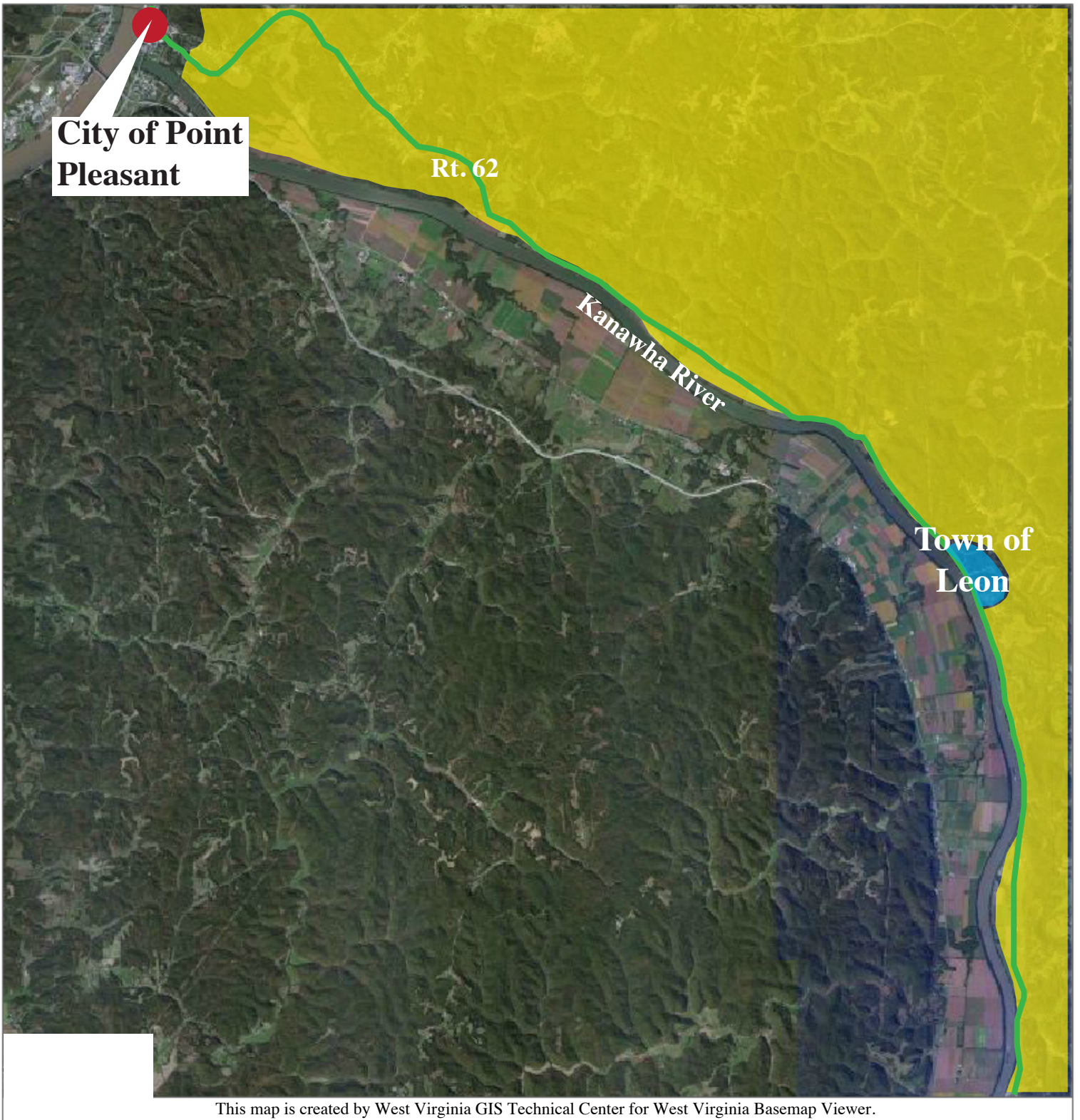
Eleanor to Buffalo



- | | | | |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Incorporated Area |  | Industrial Land |  |
| Rural Land |  | Town Center |  |
| Byway Route |  | | |



Buffalo to Point Pleasant



Incorporated Area



Town Center



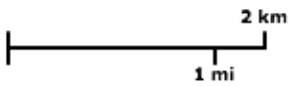
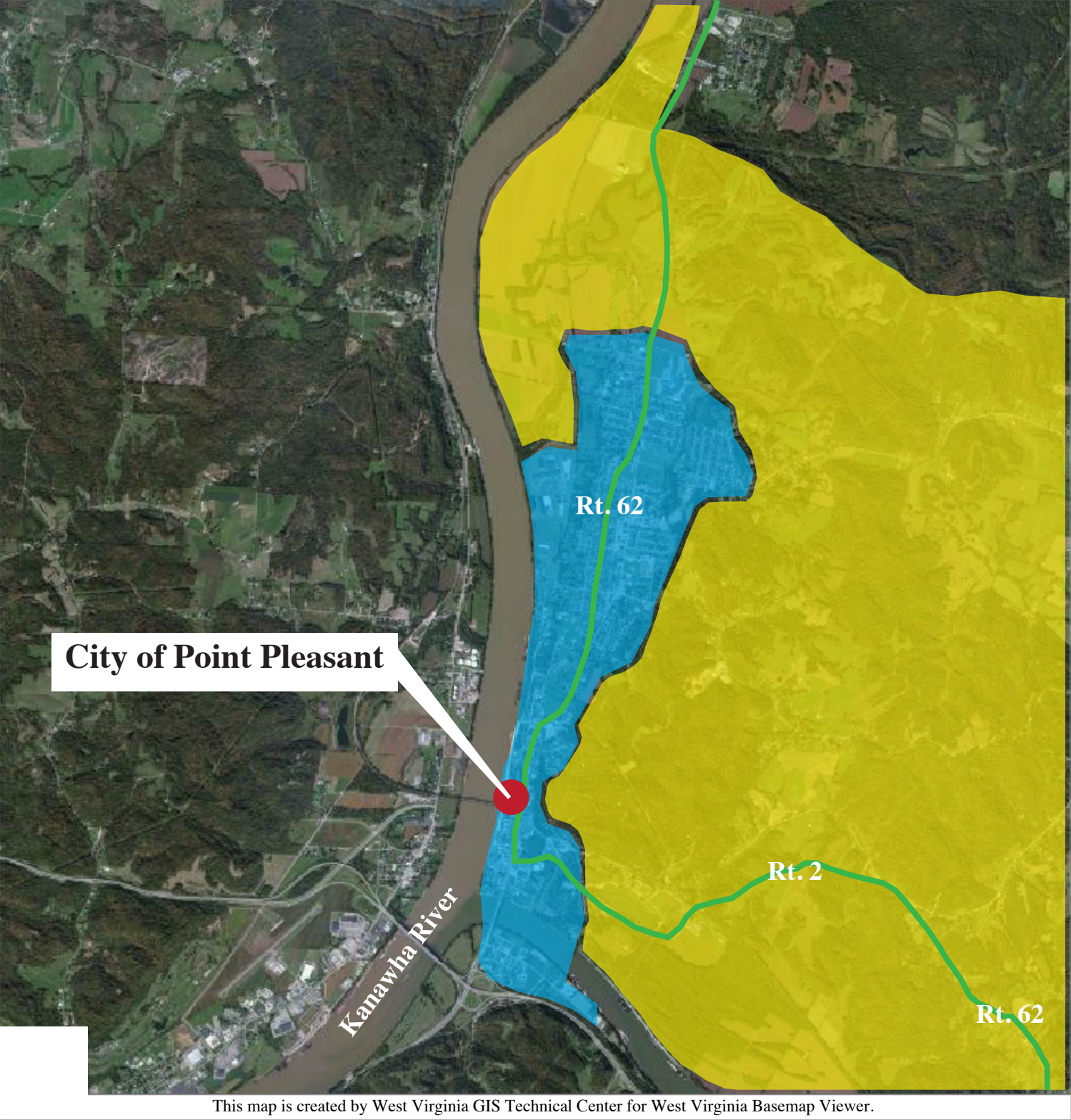
Rural Land



Byway Route



Point Pleasant



Incorporated Area



Town Center



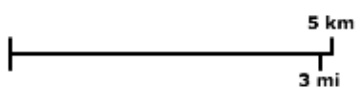
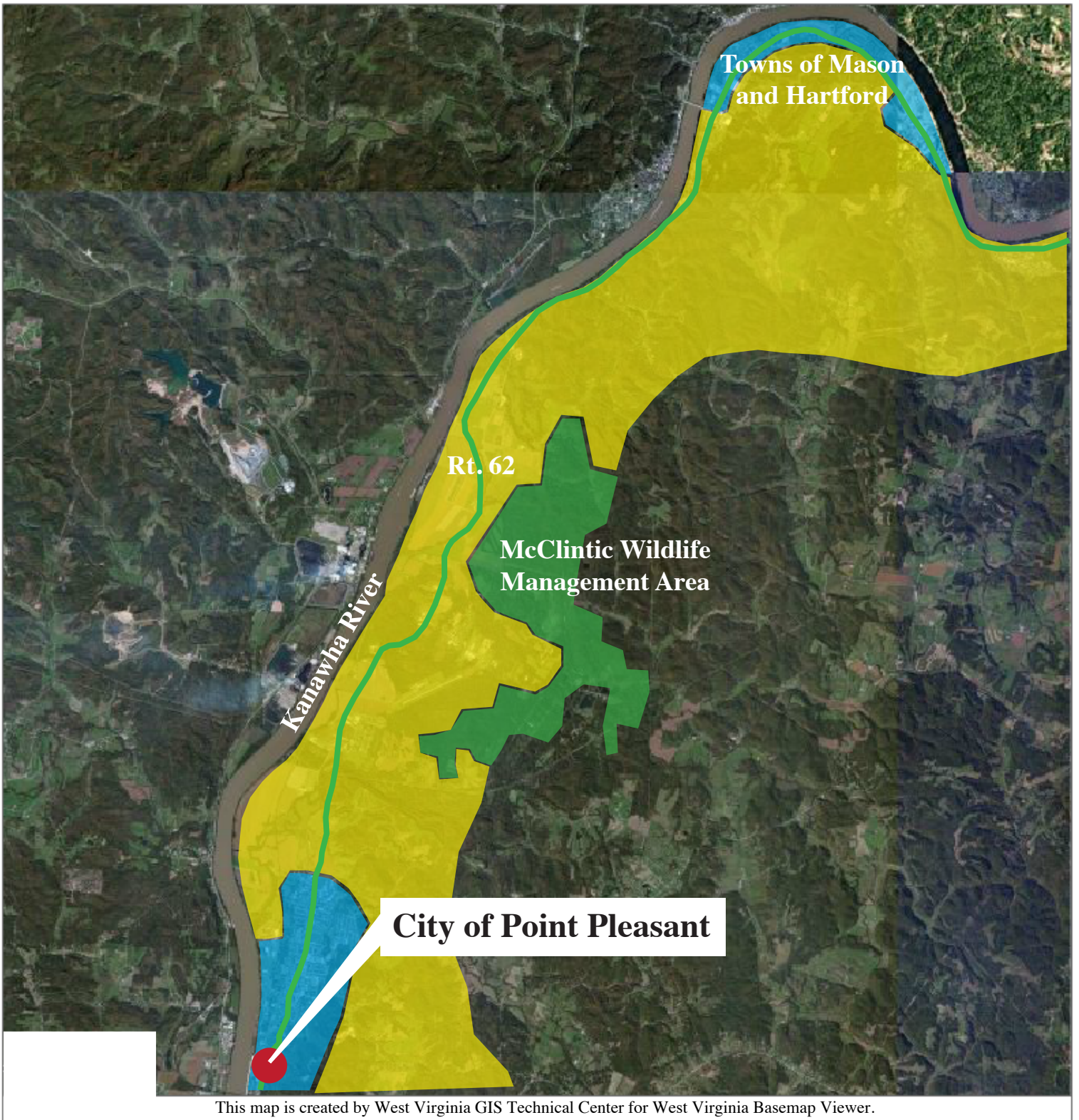
Rural Land








Byway Route



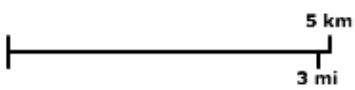
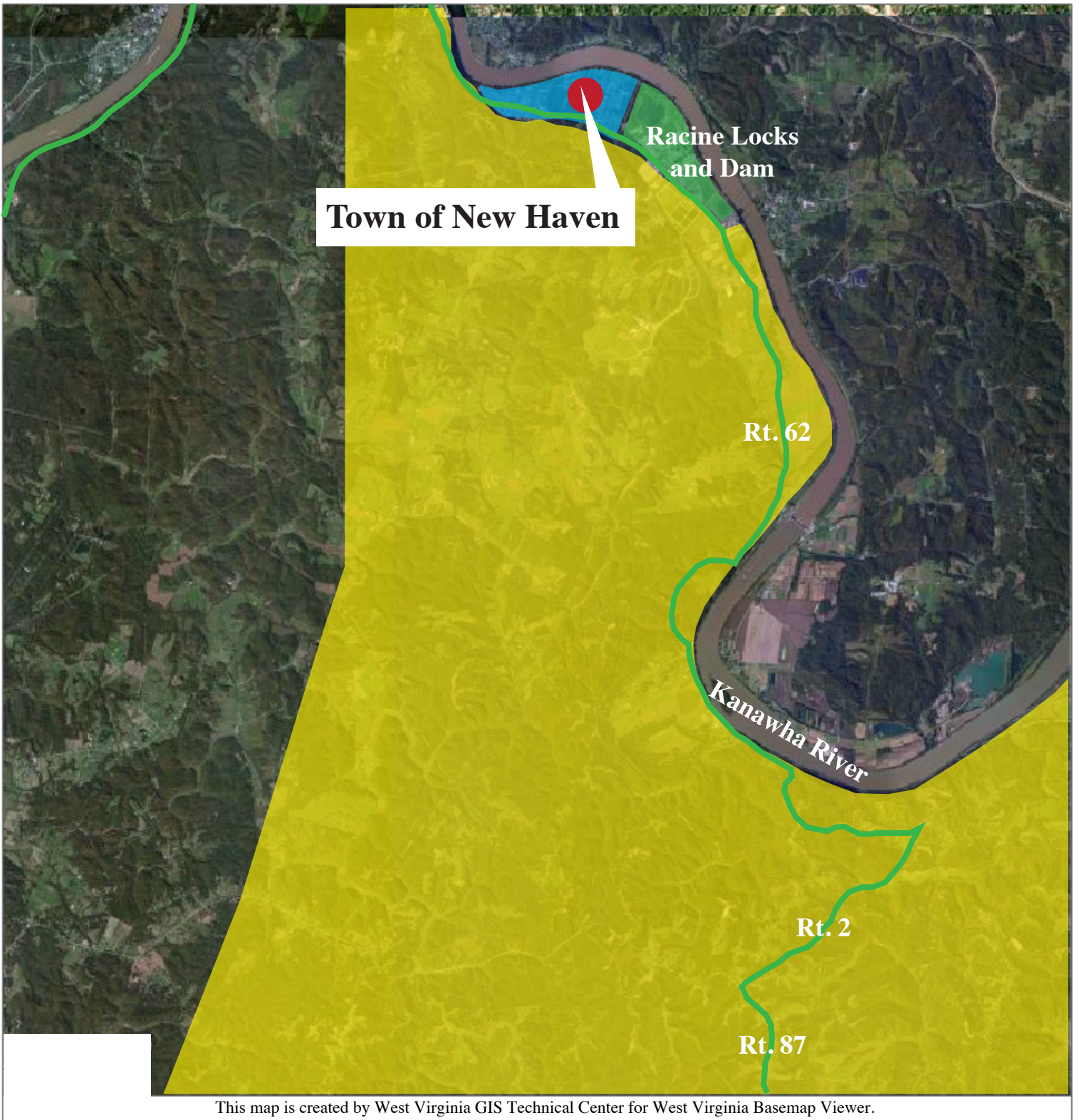
Ohio Excursion : Section 1








- | | | | |
|-------------------|---|-------------|---|
| Incorporated Area |  | Public Land |  |
| Rural Land |  | Town Center |  |
| Byway Route |  | | |



Ohio Excursion : Section 2

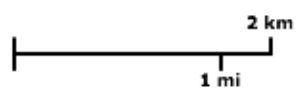
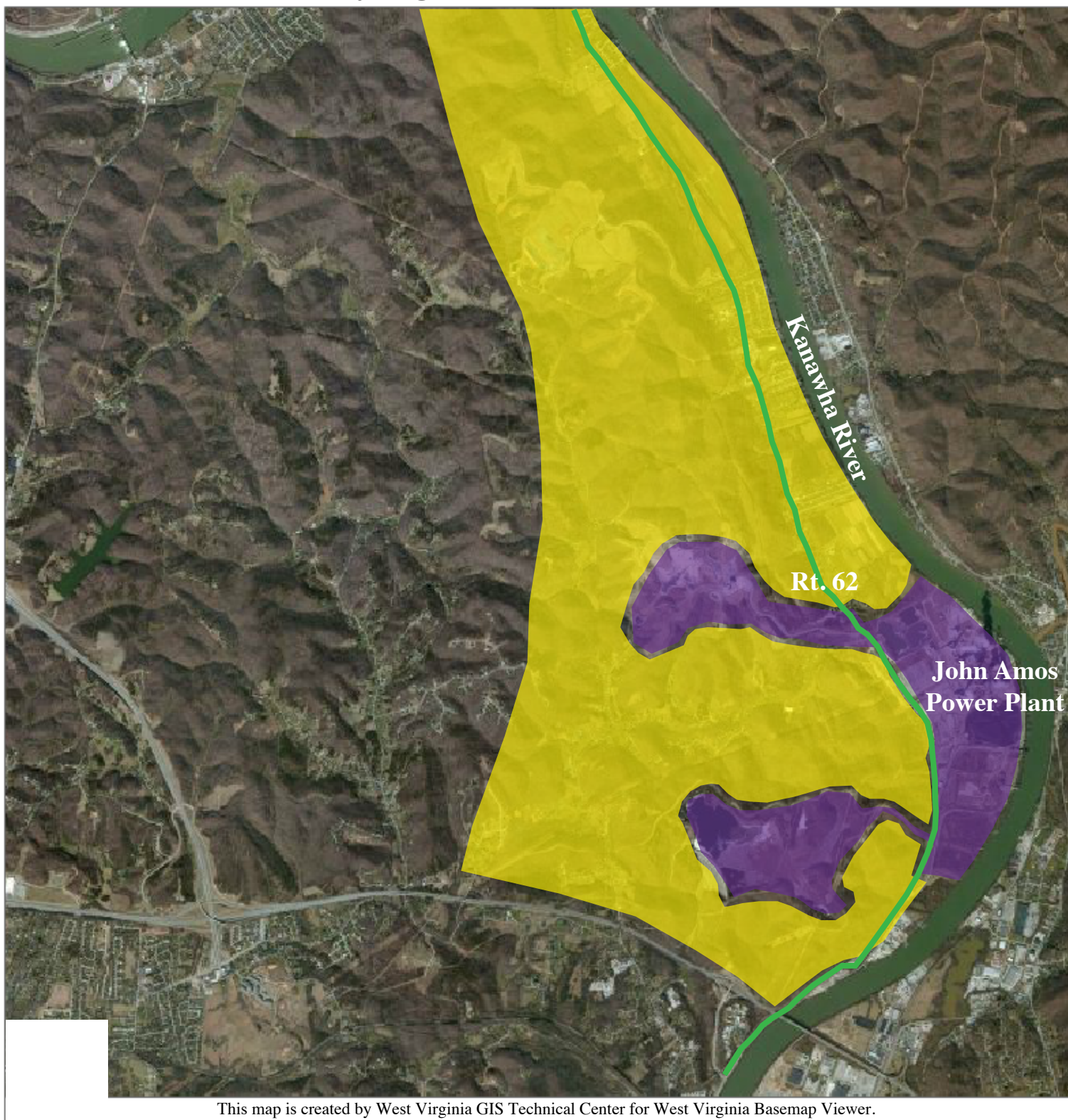


- Incorporated Area** 
- Rural Land** 
- Byway Route** 

- Public Land** 
- Town Center** 



Mary Ingles Excursion : Section 1



Industrial Land



Town Center



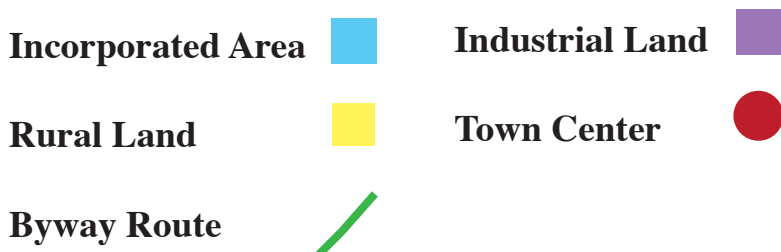
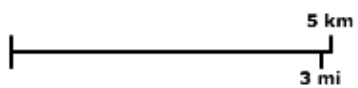
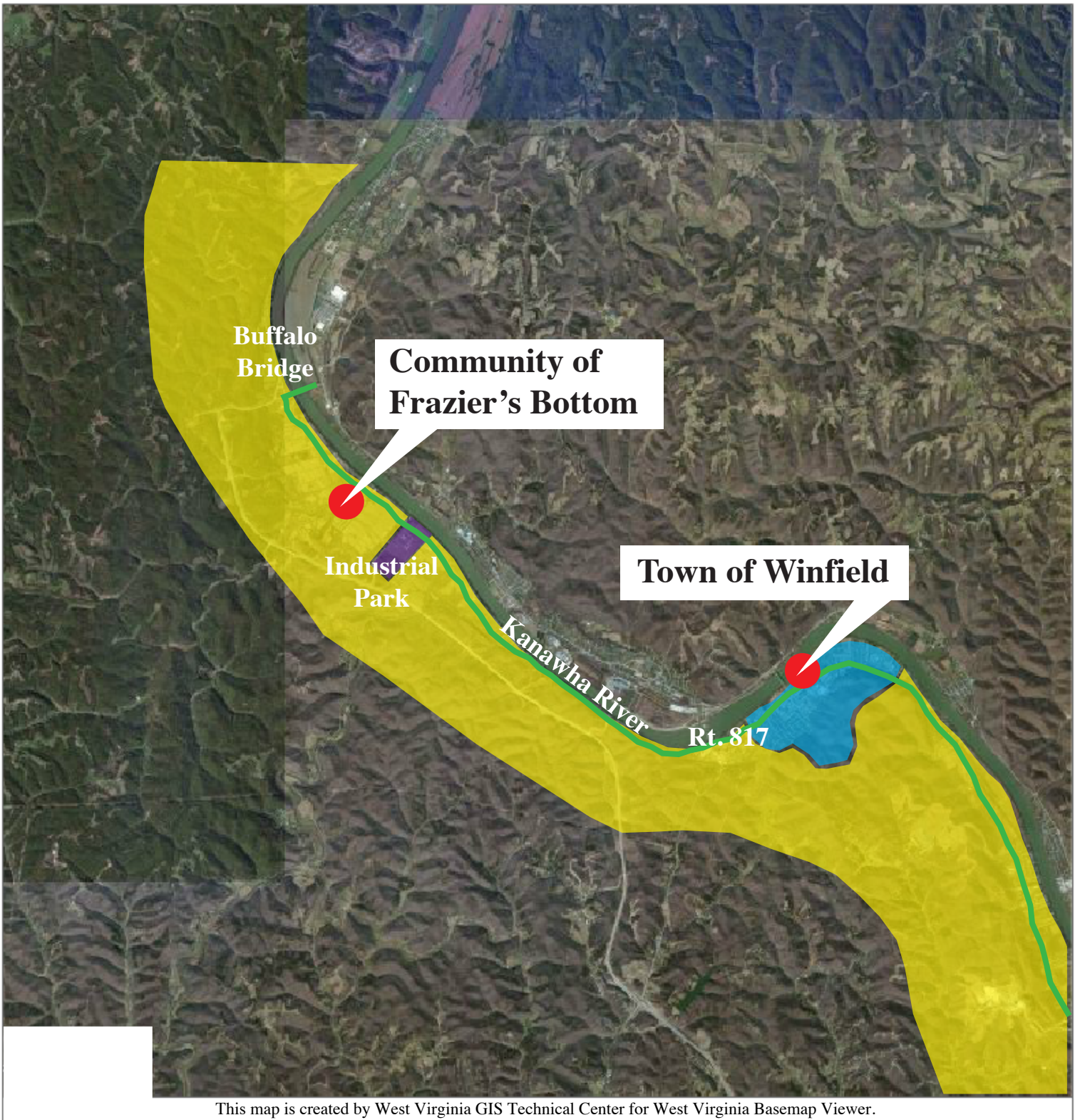
Rural Land



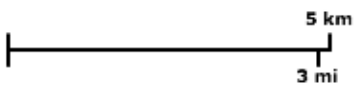
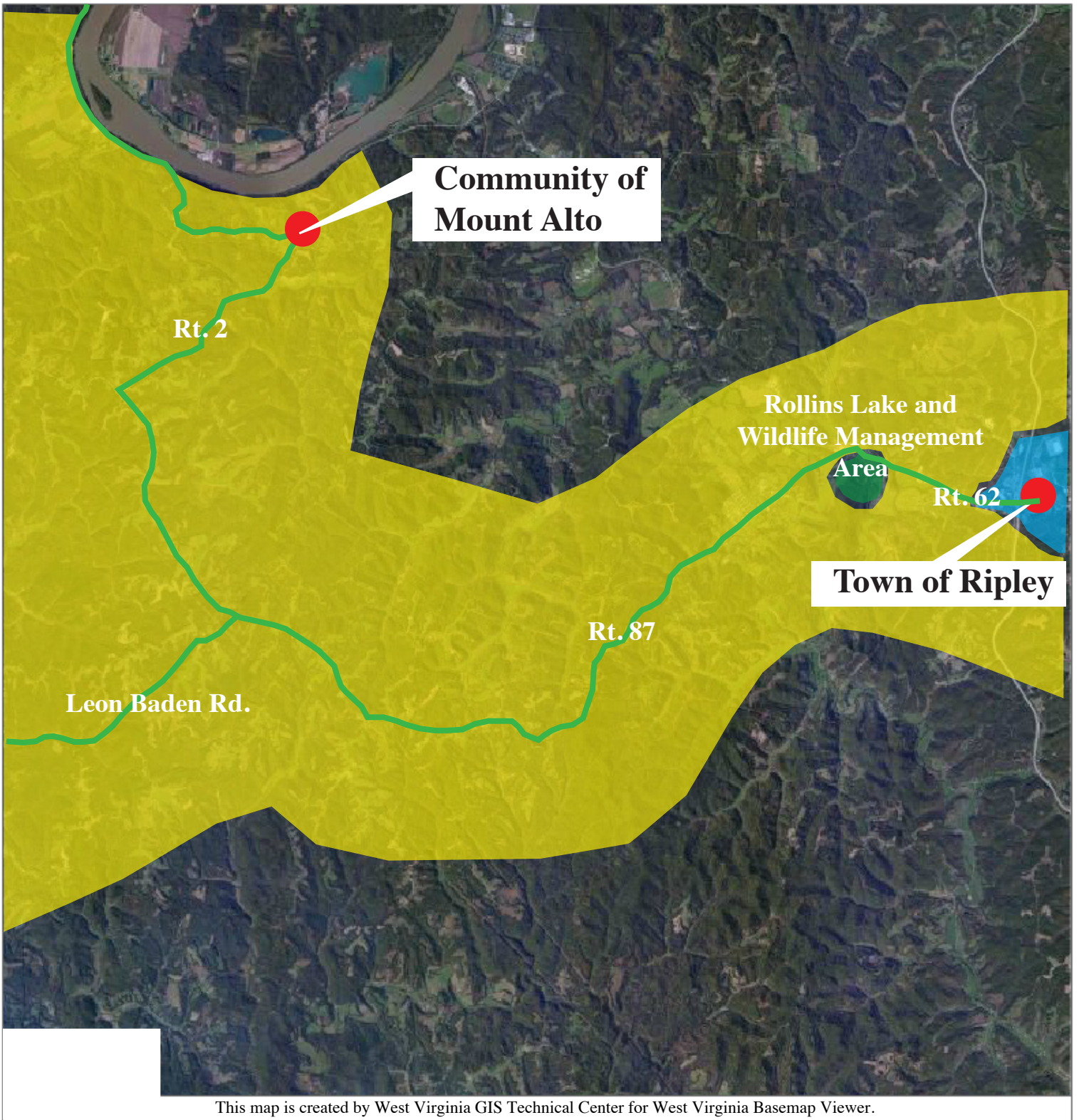
Byway Route



Mary Ingles Excursion : Section 2



Ripley Connector



Incorporated Area 

Rural Land 

Byway Route 

Public Land 

Town Center 

