



A PROJECT OF THE
RIVANNA TRAILS FOUNDATION





Source — www.rivanna.avenue.org

Who we are ...

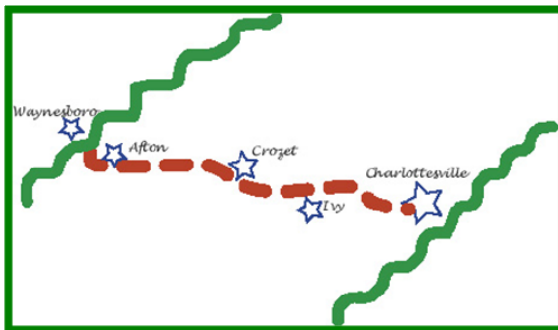
The mission of the Rivanna Trails Foundation (RTF) is “to create, promote the creation of, and protect footpaths, trails and greenways within the Rivanna River watershed.” We incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1992, and have completed more than 20 miles of hiking trails. Our first trail project was to establish the *Rivanna Trail*, a loop trail that circumnavigates the City of Charlottesville. More recently, we have moved “outside the loop” to create the *River North Trail*, which runs north from the loop through the neighborhoods of Belvedere and Dunlora and beyond.

What we are doing ...

Our goal is to create a scenic and safe walking and biking route from the Rivanna River near Monticello to the Blue Ridge Mountains following the path of the historic Three-Notched Road. Originally conceived by a small group of community members, this project has become the second major RTF initiative to expand our trail network outside of the existing loop trail.

Our work on the Three Notched Trail (TNT) is at a very early stage. We have begun planning a route. We hope that the first phase of the trail will begin in the vicinity of University Hall, skirt the athletic stadiums to reach Old Ivy Rd., follow the railroad tracks and Ivy Rd. west from Bellair Market, cross the Health Sciences Northridge property, join a stretch of the original Three-Notched Road behind the Christian Aid Mission, then follow either 250 West or Old Ballard Rd. west from Broomley Rd., and eventually reach West Leigh Drive.

Currently, our efforts are focused on researching the ownership of parcels along the proposed trail corridor and contacting landowners to obtain permission for the trail to cross their property. We are grateful to the Christian Aid Mission and the Korean Church of Charlottesville who have both already granted permission. We have also had encouraging discussions with



representatives of the Health Sciences Center and the University. Because our planning efforts are still so preliminary, it is important to

understand that the trail route is quite unsettled and thus subject to change depending on obstacles or opportunities that may arise.

We have also met with City and County officials to promote the trail. A western greenway is already included in the Virginia

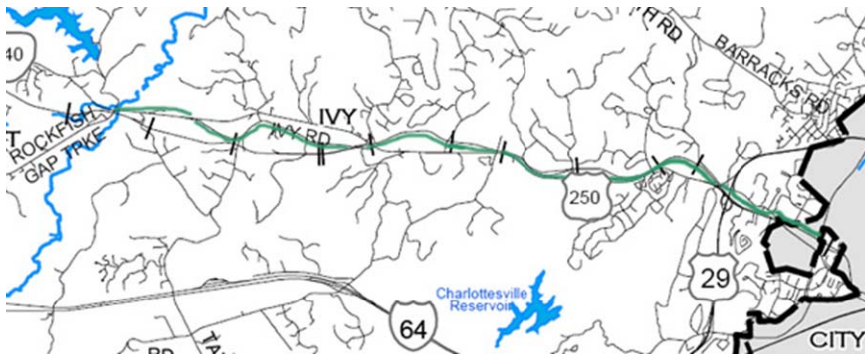
Outdoors Plan and will soon become part of the next Albemarle County Master Plan. RTF has been incredibly fortunate to have the continued support and guidance of Chris Gensic, Charlottesville's Park and Trails Planner. In addition, we expect to collaborate closely with Albemarle County Greenways Planner, Dan Mahon.

What's next ...

As the trail route takes shape, we will reach out to residents of adjacent neighborhoods and invite them to become involved. First and foremost, we want to be sure to address any concerns about having a public access trail in the area. Informational meetings and individual discussions with neighbors will give us an opportunity to describe RTF's own experiences developing other trails in our area as well as how trails have affected other communities around the country.

Our ultimate objective is for the TNT to become the backbone for a network of connecting trails throughout surrounding communities. We envision safe routes for bicycle commuters, recreational cyclists, runners and hikers to reach the main TNT corridor from adjoining neighborhoods without risking life and limb on Owensville or Old





Tentative Trail Route – UVA to Mechum River

Ballard Road. We want children to be able to walk or ride their bikes to school without hugging the shoulder of busy public roads. Connecting paths will create new routes for family walks, nature hikes, and friendly visits to neighbors.

How the trail benefits our community ...

The Three Notched Trail will help transform our community. We can reduce our current automobile dependency and instead emphasize safe, healthy and environmentally responsible human-powered transportation and recreation. Here are a few of the potential benefits the TNT will make possible:

ECONOMIC – Studies show that private property values are higher for parcels adjacent to public access trails compared to those farther away. Hiking and cycle touring companies would leap at the opportunity to run trips between Charlottesville, Monticello and Skyline Drive.

HEALTH AND SAFETY – Hiking and bicycling combat childhood obesity. Separating bicycle paths from auto traffic dramatically reduces the risk of fatal accidents. Stretches



Source— www.pedbikeimages.org / Dan Burden

of the trail will parallel the existing railroad right of way and provide a safe alternative that discourages young people from traveling along the railroad tracks.

ENVIRONMENTAL – Human-powered transportation reduces carbon emissions and gasoline consumption. Time spent in the outdoors encourages respect for nature and environmental stewardship.

HISTORICAL/CULTURAL PRESERVATION – The Three Notched Road linked many historically significant sites and the TNT would allow hiking and bicycle tours along this historic route.

RECREATIONAL – New opportunities for casual family hiking and biking will encourage area residents to enjoy the outdoors. The TNT could also be used for serious distance running or charity races.

What you can do to become involved ...

We welcome your support and encourage you to contact the TNT project leaders Rip Verkerke (rip@verkerke.com) and Chris Gensic (gensic@charlottesville.org) to learn how to become involved.

If you own property along the trail corridor or know someone who does, we would love to talk with you about participating in trail development. We also encourage neighbors to discuss the issues surrounding the TNT and consider establishing connecting trails.

If you have any questions or concerns, we also would be delighted to hear from you. We hope to be able to announce publicly the opening of a portion of the first phase of the trail by the end of this calendar year.





A section of the original Three Notched Road just east of Broomley Rd.

Contact Us

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