



Agenda

JCC Natural and Cultural Assets Mapping Committee

June 6, 2022, Meeting #4

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Building D, 101 Mounts Bay Rd, Williamsburg

Meeting Purpose: *Review the proposed network connectivity map for priority natural and cultural assets and potential strategies for the implementation plan.*

9:00 a.m. Welcome and meeting purpose

9:05 a.m. Minutes (Meeting 3) Submitted for Adoption Sent out to committee to review two weeks after last meeting. **Action:** Vote to amend/accept.

9:10 a.m. Public Comment – Comments limited to 2 minutes per person.

9:15 a.m. Update on status of asset maps – Consultants have completed updates from NCAMC comments and JCC staff. Also note new logo created by JCC for the project. Maps displayed for committee. **Action:** Viewing maps.

9:25 a.m. Review of network map connecting corridors – Maps displayed for committee.

What should we prioritize and connect? See draft corridor locations on map and comment. We want to connect priority cores. A priority core is one that has:

- ✓ High ecological value using ranking developed by VA Natural Heritage Program
- ✓ High recreation value based on its purpose as a park, trail, boating or fishing area etc.
- ✓ High cultural value due to having archeological, historic or social importance, part of a community character area etc.

A core area having all three of the values above – ecology, recreation and cultural importance – could become the highest ranked. However, an area could be important due primarily to ecological values (supports wildlife and native habitats) or it could be less ecologically important core but support multiple cultural values. Note that there are unknown archeological sites (Colonial or Native American), so just because an area does not list them does not mean that an area lacks cultural importance.

Connectivity (as we learned in NCAMC workshops 1 and 2) is important for species survival and fosters biodiversity but it also could support cultural values such as connections as a future trail. Connectivity is achieved through corridors which are modeled across the landscape based on whether there are clear and unobstructed pathways. A corridor can't cross a major road, but it could go under a road if there is a bridge above and enough room for passage below. Modeled corridors to connect high priority core areas will be presented. Some cores may not have high connectivity so they may be at higher risk, but they still could be protected. An ideal corridor is at least 1000 feet wide (approximately) with native landcover (e.g., trees) but there could be options to reconnect areas that are fragmented by planting back native vegetative cover. Those would be called restoration corridors. Streams and rivers often are good corridors too.

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Notation of an area as high priority does not imply that there will be any action to change its current use, ownership or property rights. The strategies to help conserve these important places will be shared with the committee a week before this meeting and at this meeting for comment. Areas that were noted as important and also at high risk may need more concerted effort to protect whereas an area that is already highly important but within a park and well managed may not need any additional strategies to ensure its longevity.

Action: Do these corridors look reasonable? Have we connected all the key areas? Based on input, consultants will finalize the connected network map. This becomes the base network map.

10:00 a.m. Opportunities – where might strategies be focused? Using the priorities (most important places) and the risk maps (areas that could be mostly likely to be changed, impacted or removed) where should new efforts be focused? What might change without any new actions? For example, which areas are most important to highlight for actions such as inclusion in ag forestal districts, or conservation easements (both voluntary actions for the landowner).

10:30 Discussion of strategies ideas. Questions, concerns, and new ideas. Strategy list sent out with agenda one week ahead of this meeting. Are these the best, most effective actions? What could be added or amended? Are there other partners to consult? Note that these ideas are still all draft and would be finalized after the meeting based on feedback, further committee review and action by the Board of Supervisors to adopt this plan. **Action:** Finalize the list for the public meeting.

11:45 Next Steps and Preparation for the Open House June 29, 2022

Open house to be held at the Recreation Center from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wed. June 29, 2022
Open house will be a drop in format with maps displayed and strategies displayed. A formal presentation with audience discussion will be held from 5:00 – 5:30 with public comment from 5:30 to 6:00. Consultant staff will be available to take comments during the entire open house. Participants will be able to comment on (like, dislike or amend) strategies and to offer new strategy ideas. Timeframe of 4-7 p.m. allows people to come early and leave early or come later and stay later. Committee members are requested to attend and to encourage at least 10 people from your district to attend too!

11:55 Final Public Comments

12:00 Adjournment