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Report

Connectivity Trail for Six County Region



MID-OHIO VALLEY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

March 1, 2012





Report

Connectivity Trail for

Six County Region

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Connectivity Trail for Six County Region

Overall Connectivity Trail

Trail Description

The majority of the Connectivity Trail for the Six County Region utilizes existing city, county, state and federal roads to connect major towns, parks, and the vast scenic countryside throughout the study area. One portion of the proposed trail will utilize a proposed trail that has not been constructed. The unconstructed trail is a portion of the Floodwall Trail in Parkersburg and Vienna. The purpose of this trail is to introduce and connect exciting scenic and recreational areas in this region of the beautiful State of West Virginia without the use of motorized means. The intent is to make use of walking, hiking, and bicycling to visit the many attractions this trail has to offer. This trail will connect the towns of St. Marys, Ellenboro, Cairo, Arnoldsburg, Spencer, Elizabeth, Mineral Wells, Parkersburg, Vienna, Willamstown, and Waverly. It will connect Mountwood Park, Ritchie Mines Wildlife Management Area, North Bend State Park, Calhoun County Park, Charles Fork Lake Park, Arnoldsburg Park, Spring Heights Education Center, Sportsman Park, Point Park, McDonough Park, and the North Bend Rail Trail. The Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Airport is easily accessible from the trail which opens the possibility to reach out to populations outside the six county area and potentially in other states.

Trail Length

The length of the Connectivity Trail for the Six County Region is 240 miles. This overall length includes the North Bend Rail Trail.

Surfacing

The surfacing material for this overall trail will consist of the existing road surfaces. The existing road surfaces will vary depending upon the type of road and the condition. The majority of the road surfaces will consist of asphalt and gravel.

Connectivity to Adjoining Trails

The Connectivity Trail for the Six County Region will allow trail users the opportunity to connect and utilize trails in and around the North Bend State Park, North Bend Rail Trail, and the Ritchie Mines in Ritchie County, McDonough Park in Vienna, Mountwood Park in Wood County, Spring Heights Education Center and Charles Fork Lake in Roane County, Calhoun County Park and Arnoldsburg Park in Calhoun County, and Sportsman Park in Wirt County. This trail has the potential to connect many more of the fifty potential trails that were developed as a part of the connectivity enhancement projects in each of the six counties.

Benefits of the Trail

The scenic and diverse qualities of this trail will be significant. Users will have a unique opportunity to experience an amazing portion of West Virginia's beauty in detail. They will get to really experience the culture, architecture, railroad and mining history, wildlife, beautiful vistas, vegetation, waterways, and the topography. This trail can be experienced in smaller segments and loops.



Permitted Uses-Activities

Permitted uses for the Connectivity Trail for the Six County Region will consist of walking, jogging, hiking, running, bicycling and horseback riding.

Design Constraints

The majority of this trail utilizes existing city, county, state and federal roads and does not require the construction of a trail. However, a portion of the trail utilizes the proposed and unconstructed Floodwall Trail in Parkersburg and Vienna. Currently the West Virginia Division of Highways does not participate in a shared road system for their existing roads that have not been designed for that purpose; however, they do not prohibit individuals from walking, jogging, hiking, bicycling, or horseback riding on roadways. For this reason the possibility of trail – shared road signage will more than likely not be possible.

Phasing

Due to the majority of this trail utilizing existing streets and roads the phasing is quiet simple. The majority of the trail exists and currently can be used. The proposed – unconstructed portion for the Floodwall Trail can be constructed as funds become available. The Floodwall Trail will provide a valuable link from Parkersburg to Vienna and allows for the continuation of the portion of the trail that has been constructed from Point Park to the Pond Run outfall.

Estimate Cost

There would be no cost to utilize existing streets and roads that are proposed for the majority of this trail. However there would be cost to construct the Floodwall Trail portion of the Connectivity Trail for the Six County Region Trail. The estimated cost breakdown for the Floodwall Trail includes construction related items such as mobilization, clearing & grubbing, pavement types, grading, seeding, bridge, elevated wooden walkway, trail head signage, wayfinding signage, trail mileage markers/signage, and contingency.

Estimated Cost:

<u>Pavement Type</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Concrete	\$2,285,000
Asphalt	\$1,562,000
Stone	\$1,526,000

Signage

Due to the West Virginia Division of Highways currently not participating in shared road use on their existing roadways that are not designed for such use there will be not signage for the majority of the Connectivity for the Six County Region Trail. However, there is trail head signage proposed on the Floodwall Trail and information about the connectivity trail could be added to this signage to inform trail users of its existence.



Funding Sources

Potential funding sources for the Floodwall Trail project include the following:

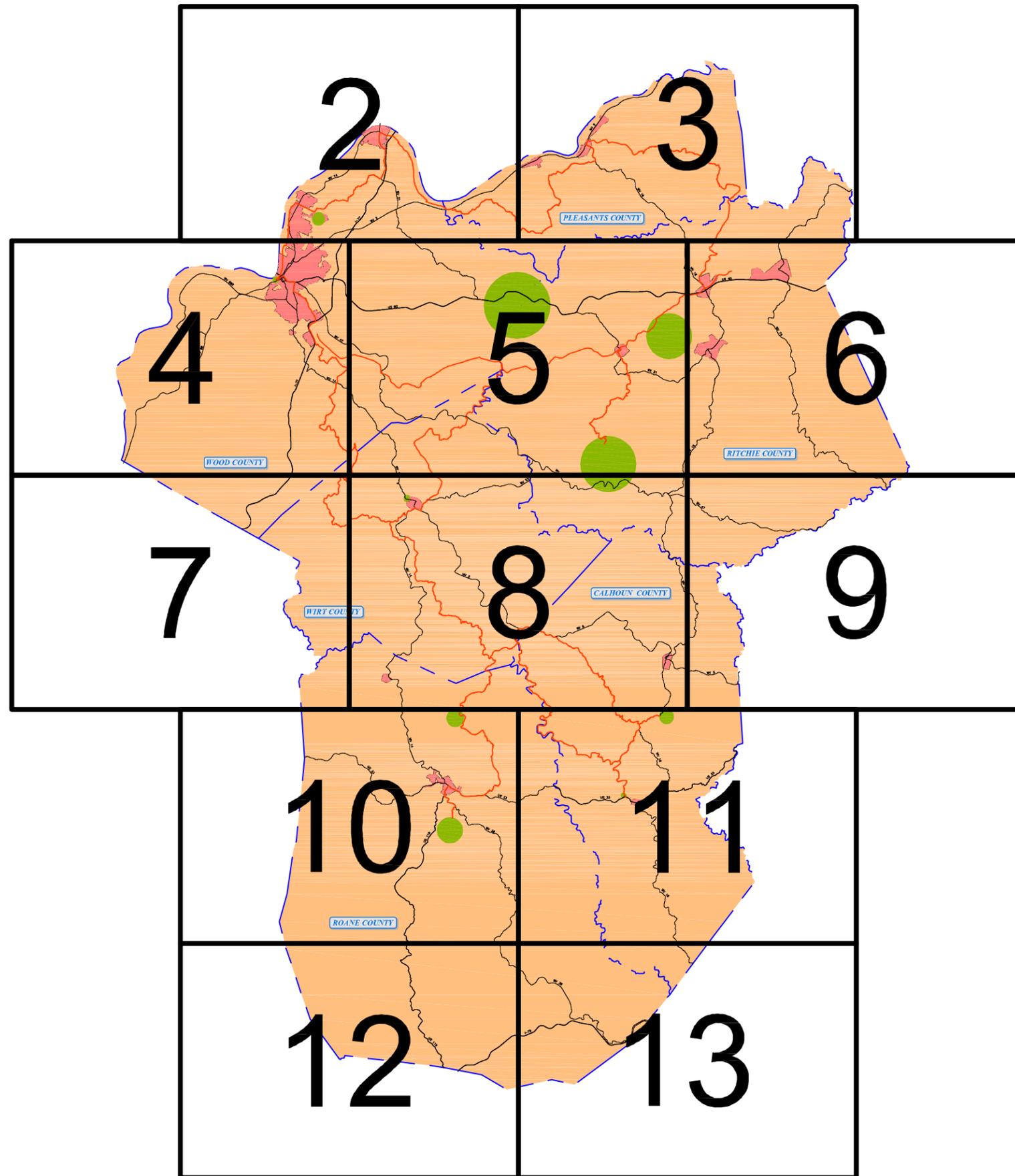
- West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) – Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program
- West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) – Recreational Trails (RT) Program
- West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) - Safe Routes To School (SRTS)
- West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) – Transportation and Community and System Preservation Program (TCSP)
- West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) – Other Congressional Awards (e.g. STP Funds, Section 115, Section 117, etc)
- Federal: Transportation – Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) – Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program
- Community Development Block Grants through HUD (the Department of Housing and Urban Development)

Wayfinding Signage

Wayfinding signage is under the same restrictions as other signage for this trail due to the current policy on shared road use by the West Virginia Division of Highways. This trail will need the assistance of other means to make potential users aware of its existence and locations. Internet web sites for cities, towns, parks, OPAM, MOVHD, local chamber of commerce departments, and bicycle groups are good sources to get the word out about the existence of the Connectivity Trail for the Six County Region.

Maps

CONNECTIVITY TRAIL
FOR
SIX COUNTY REGION



LEGEND

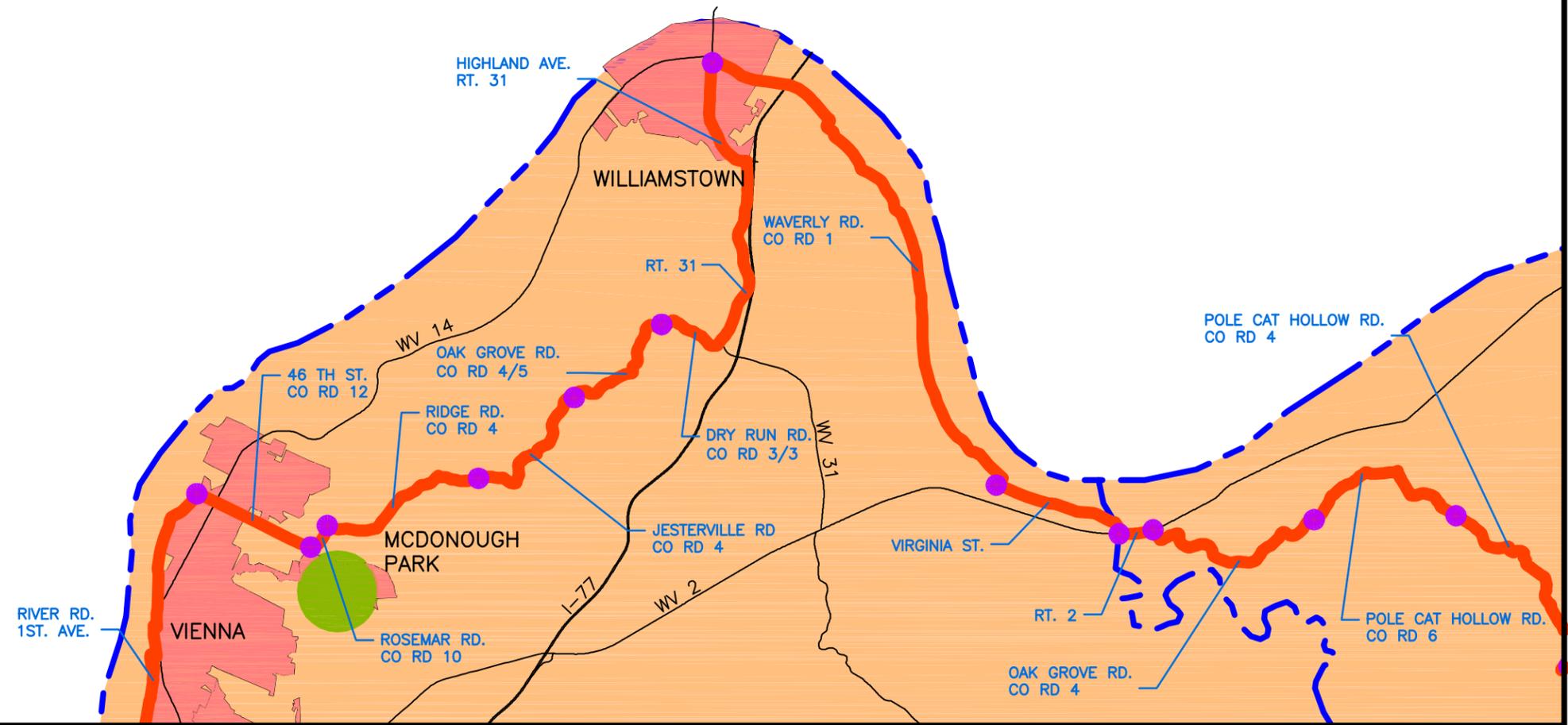
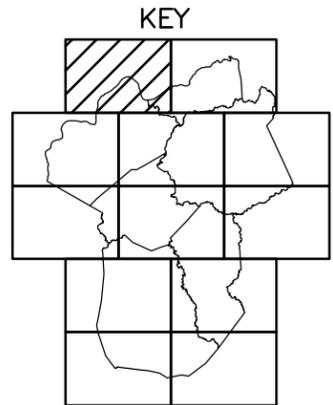
-  CITY LIMITS
-  PARK AREA
-  COUNTY LINE
-  PROPOSED TRAIL
-  MAJOR ROADS



CONNECTIVITY TRAIL FOR SIX COUNTY REGION

LEGEND

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- WV 36 MAJOR ROADS
- ROAD CHANGES



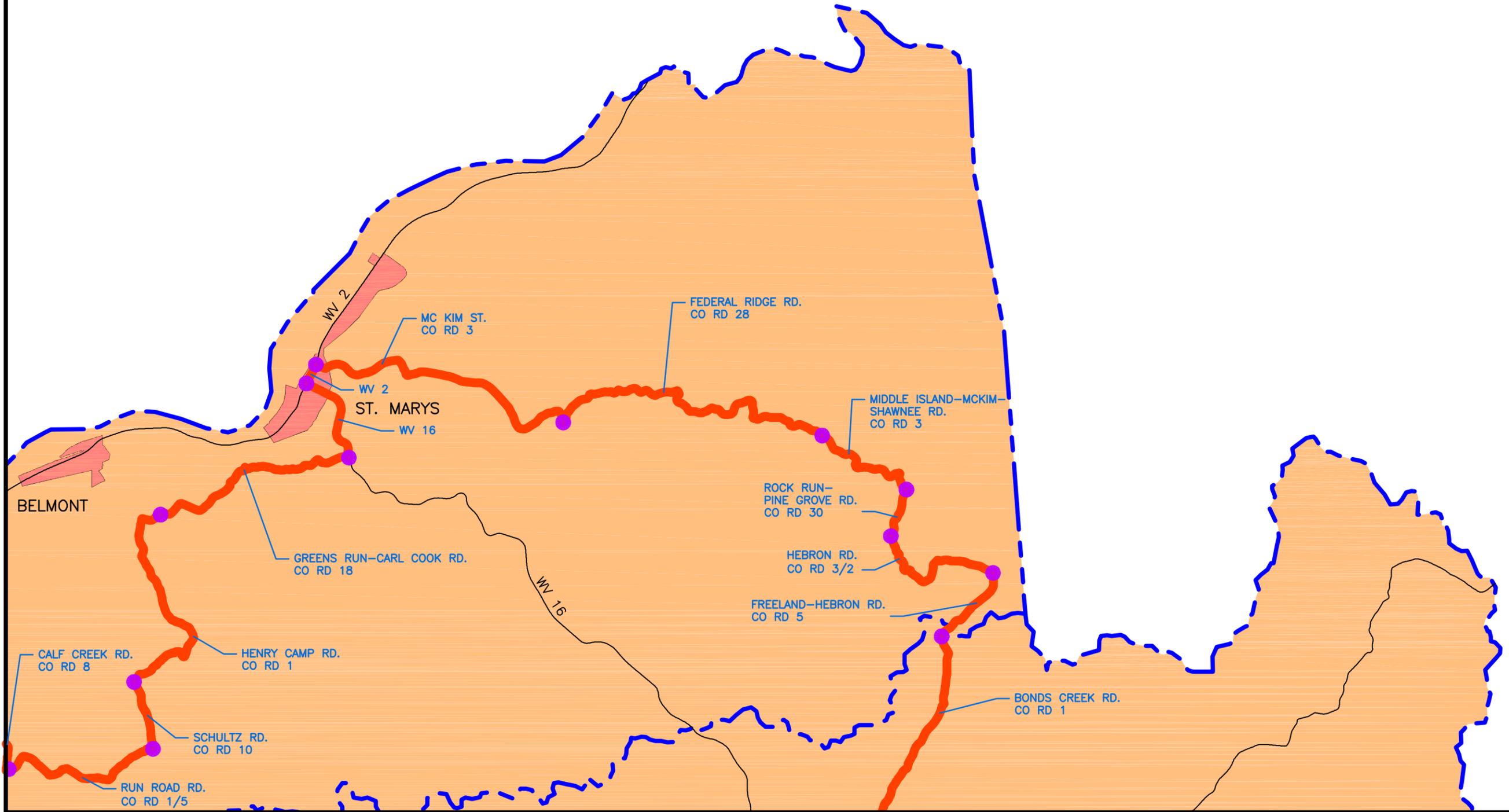
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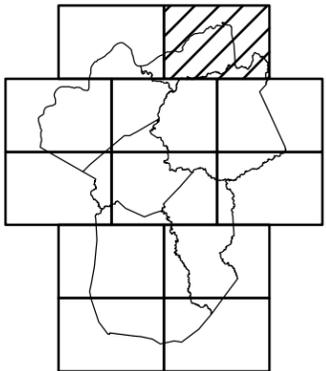
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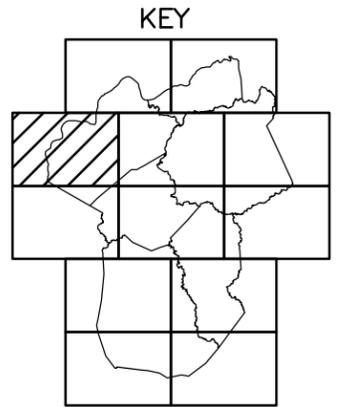
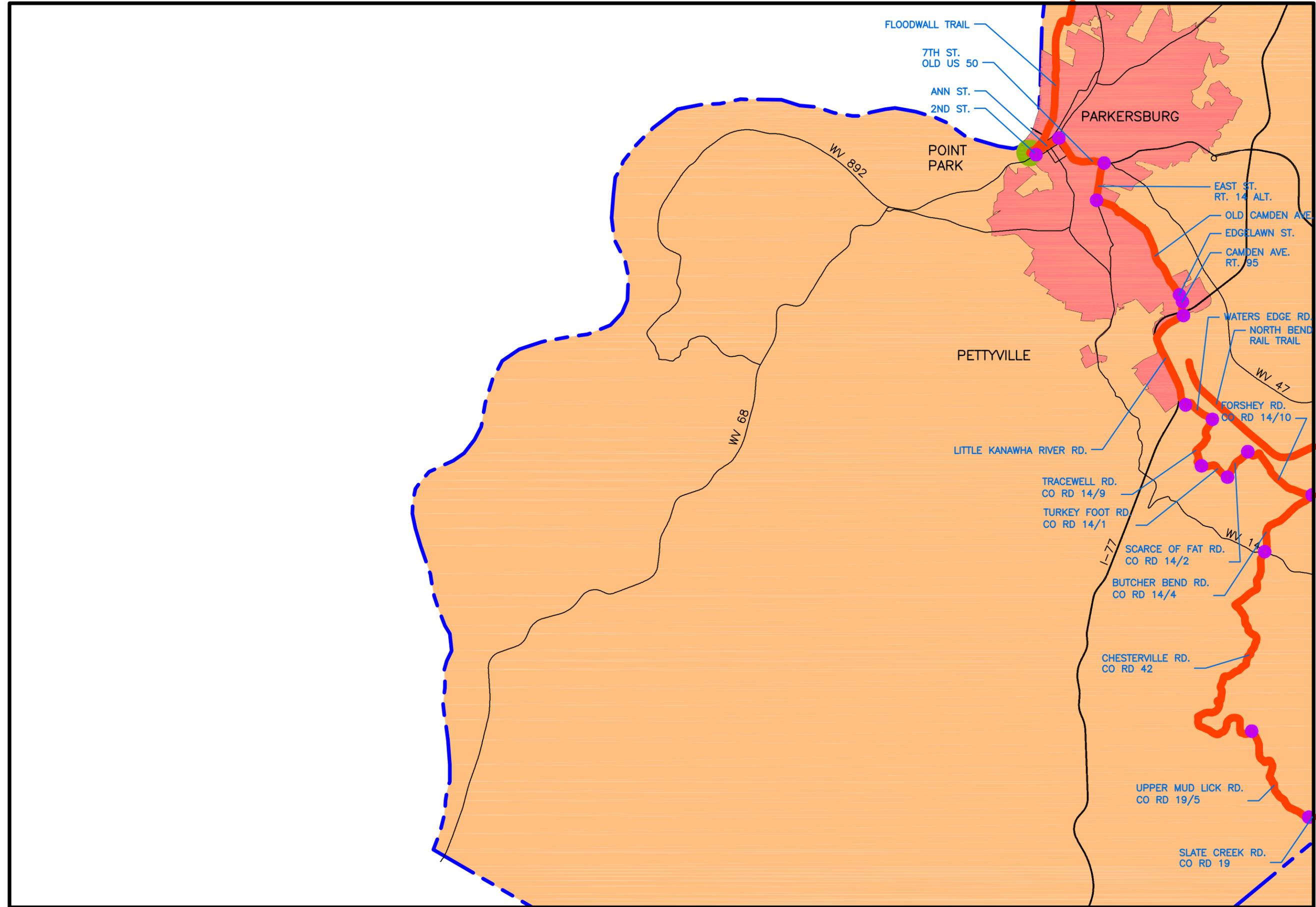
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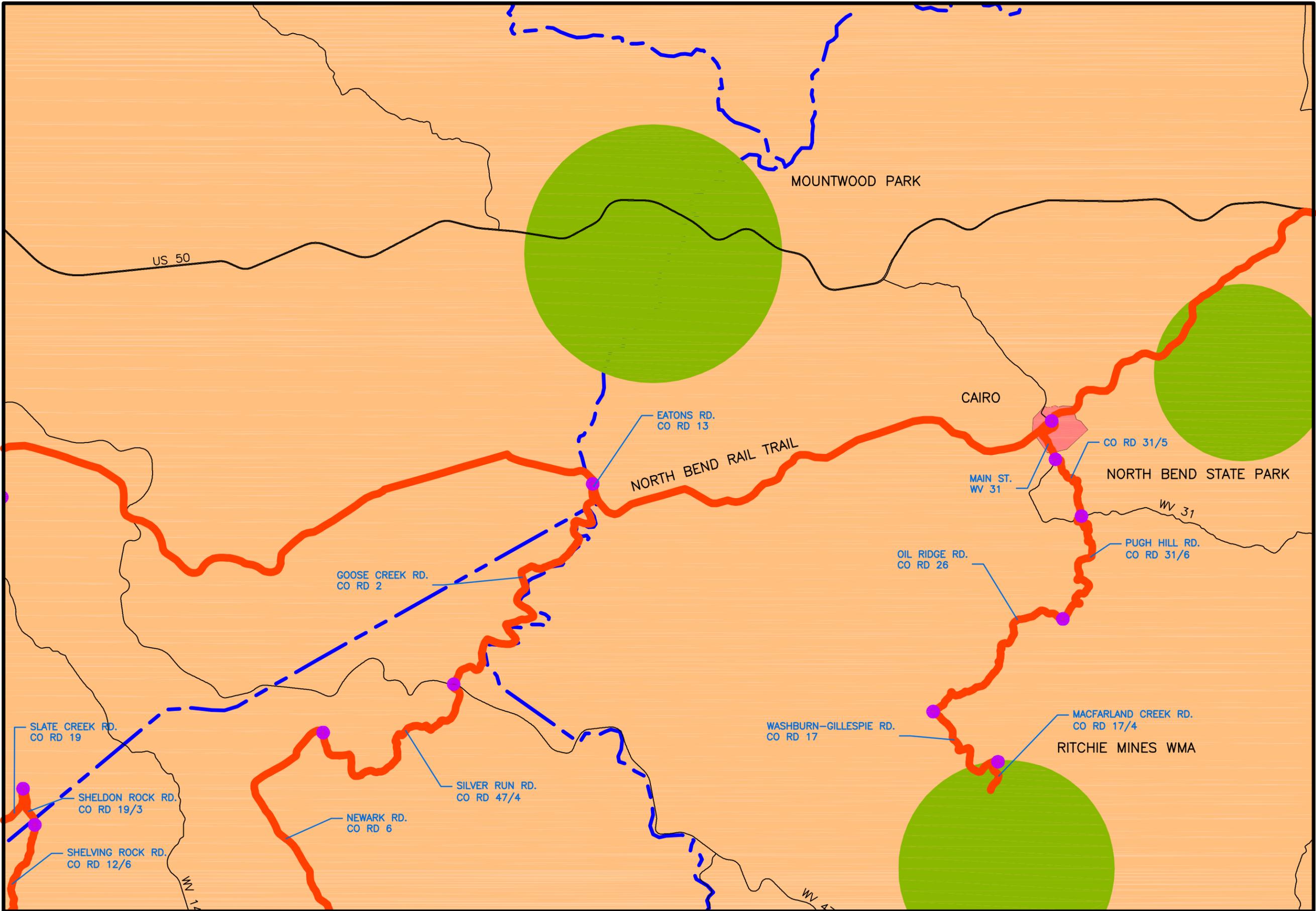
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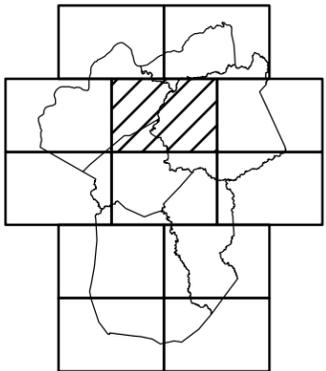
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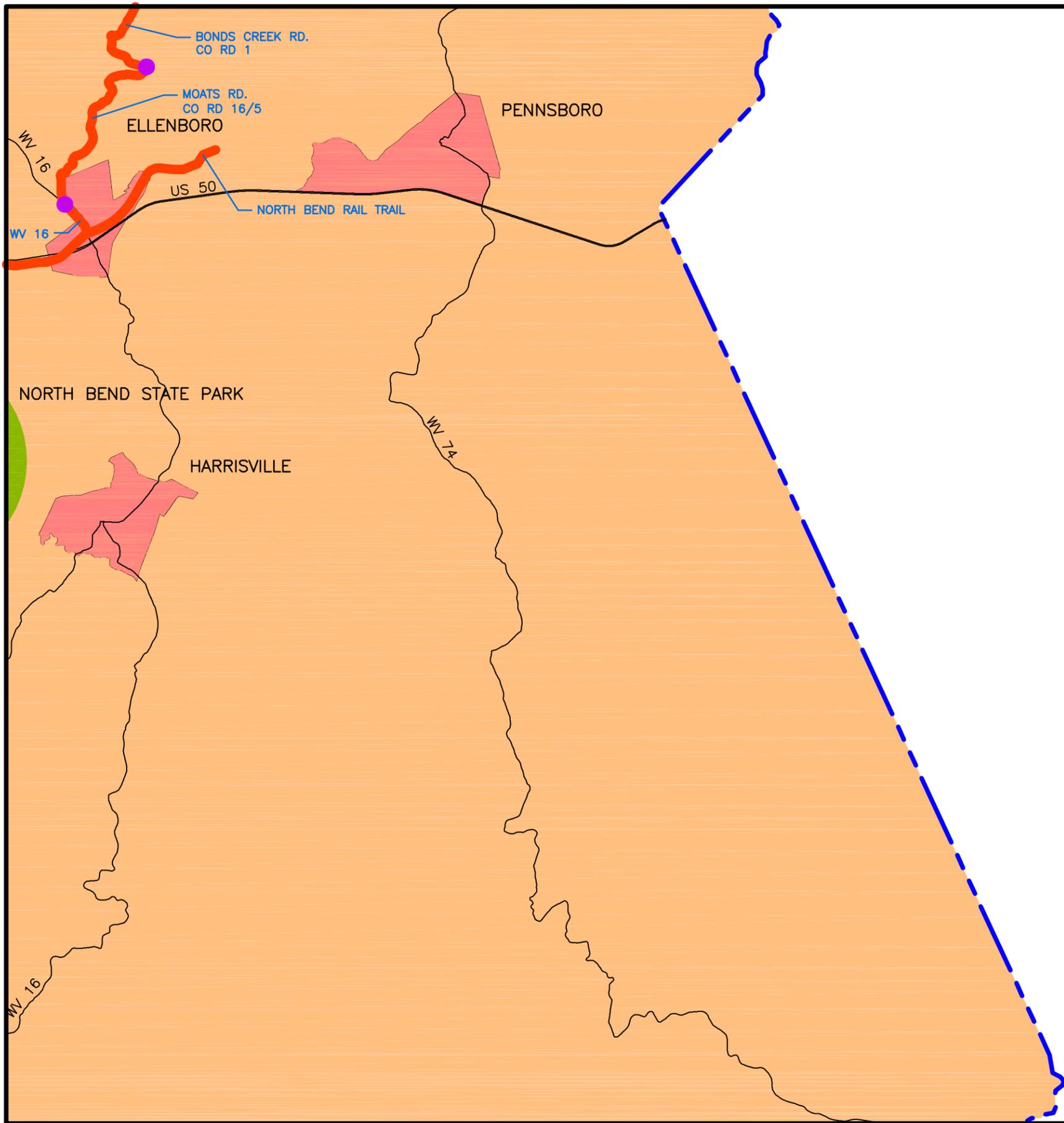
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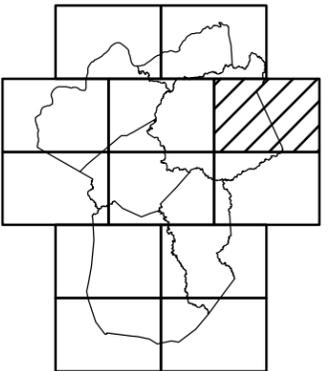
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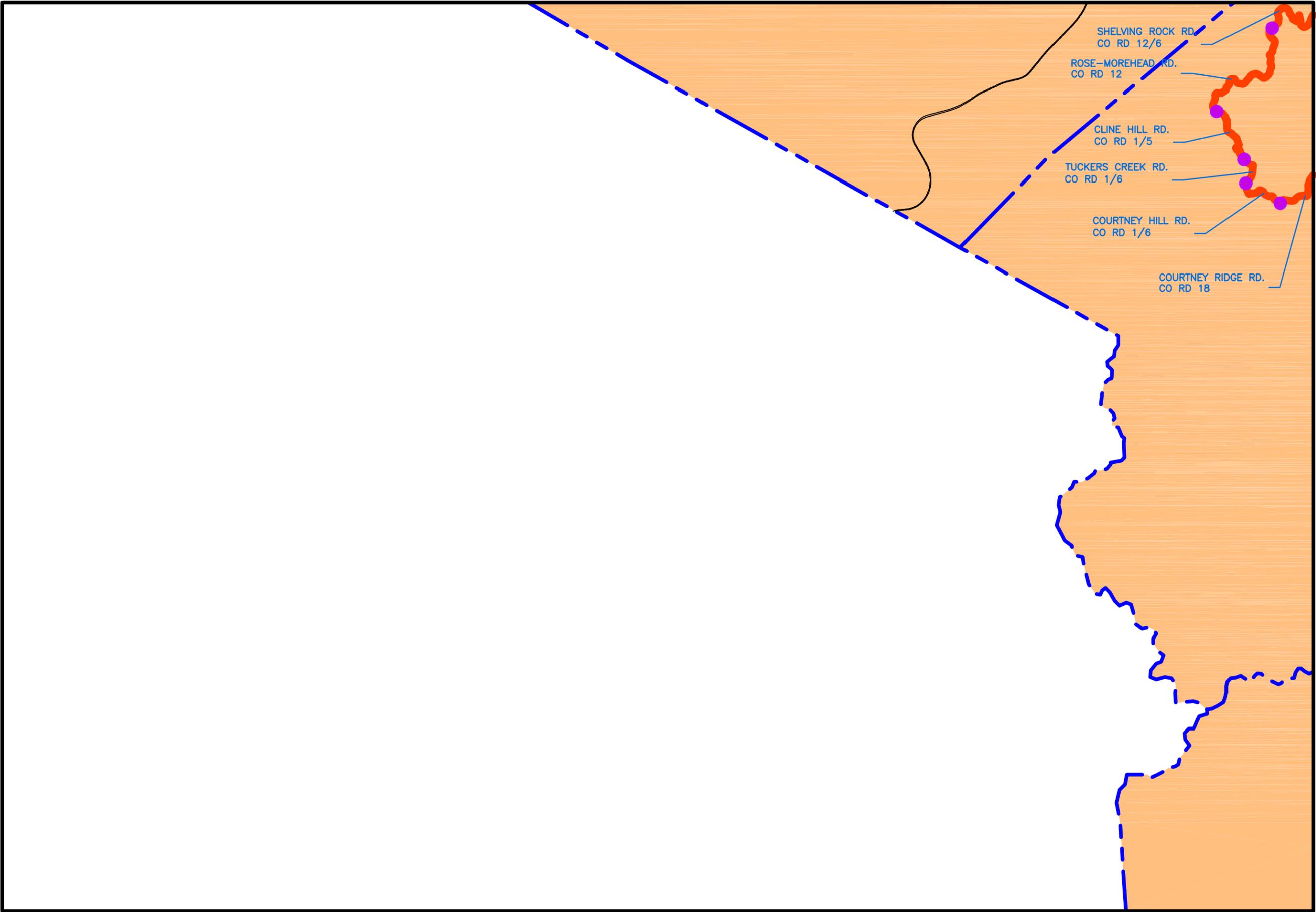
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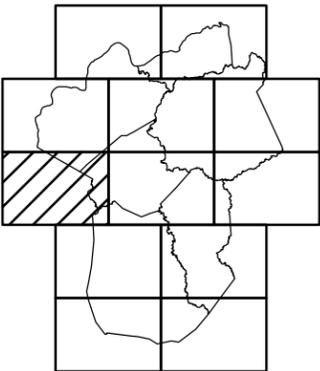
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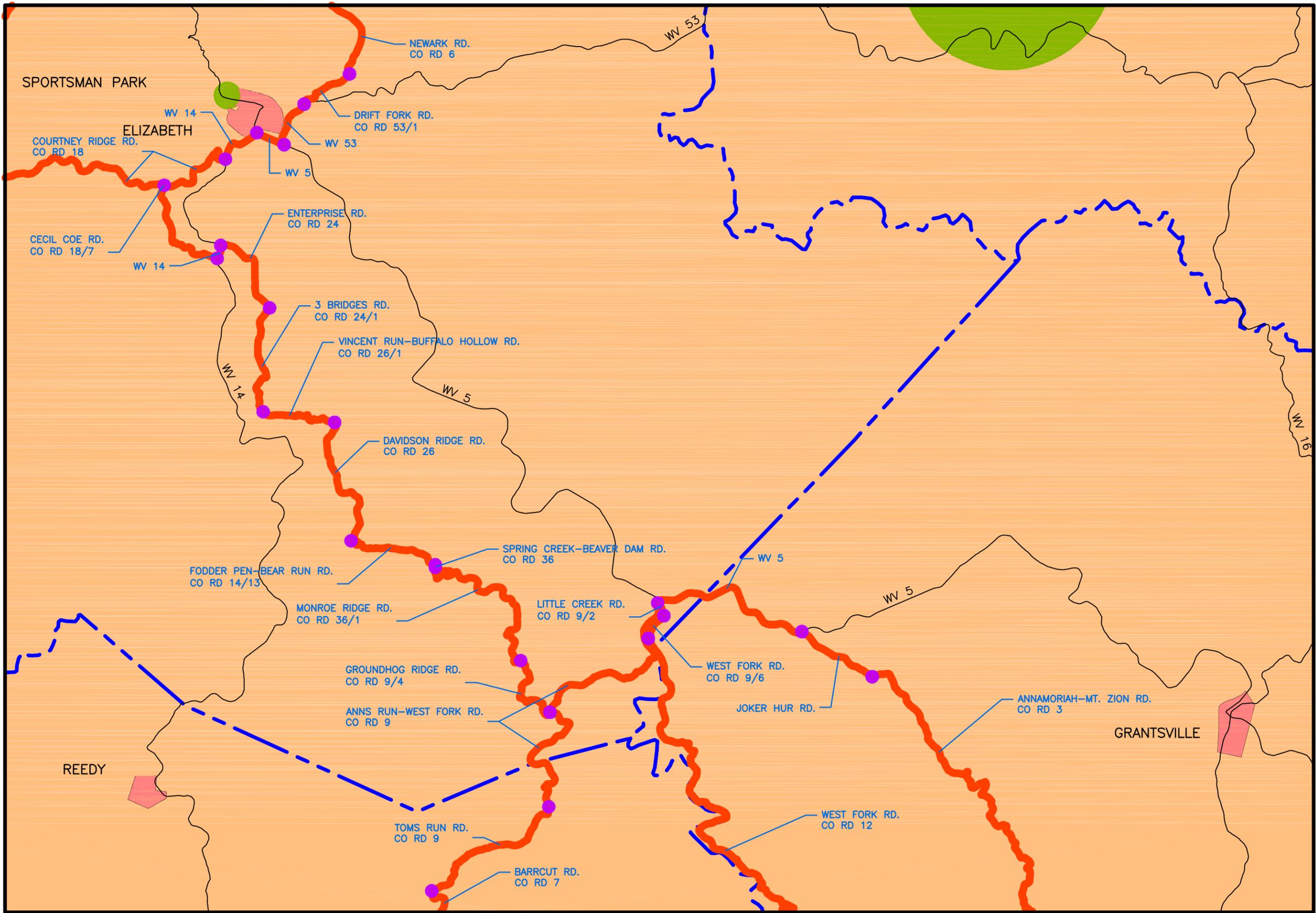
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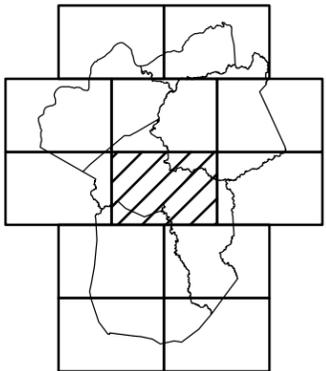
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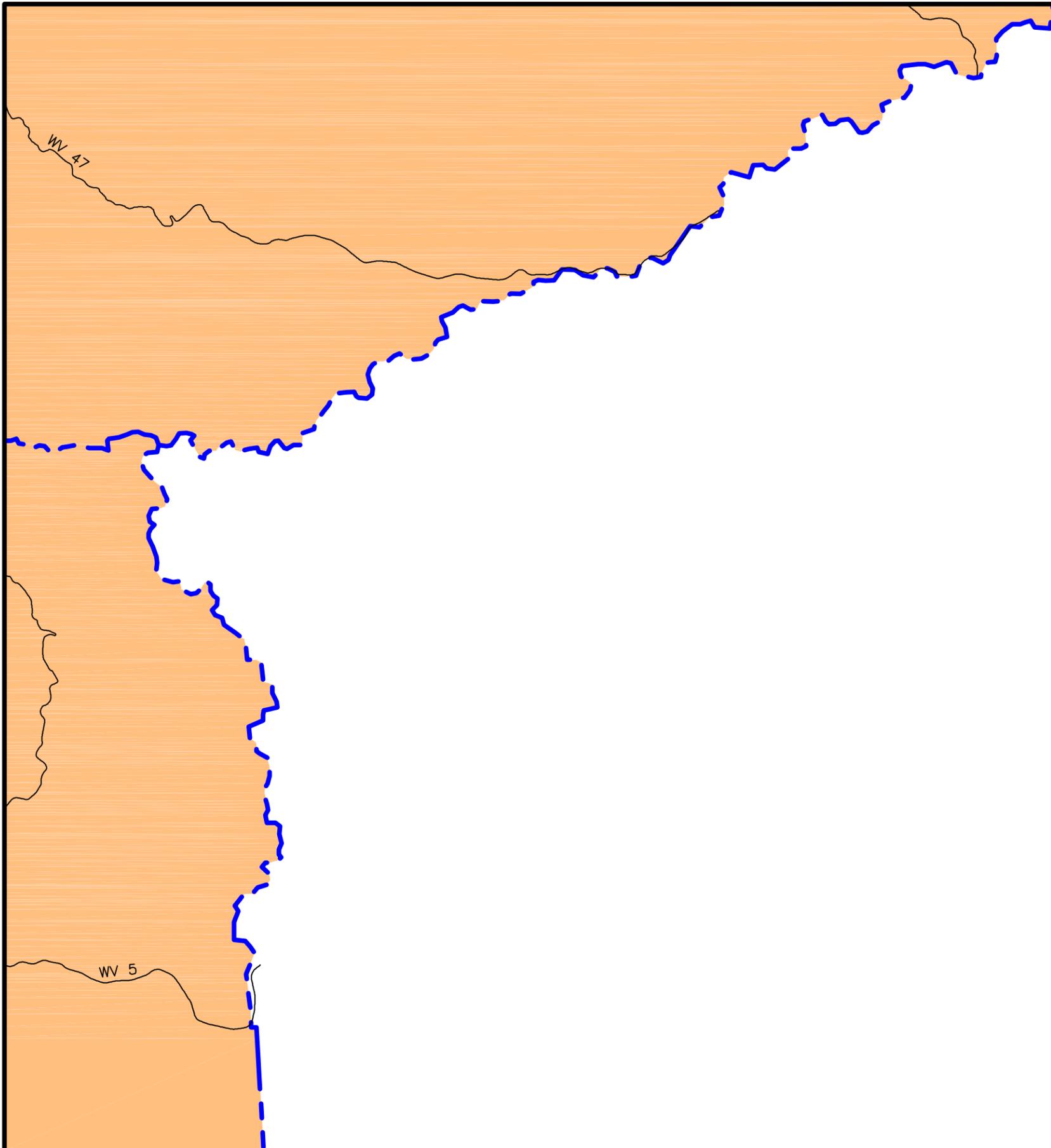
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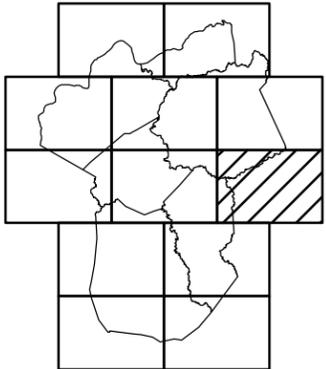
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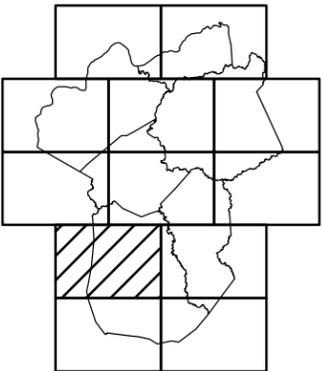


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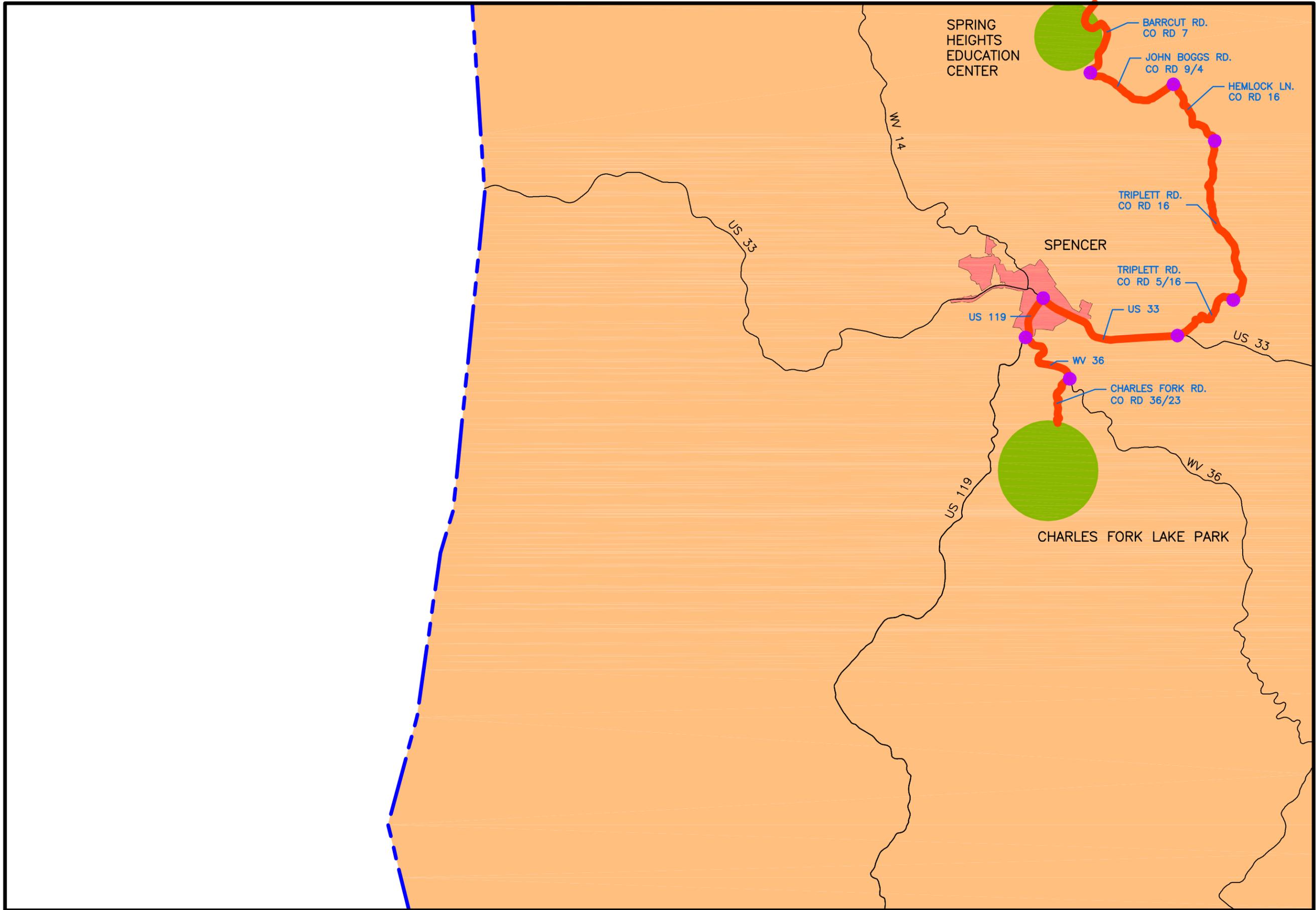
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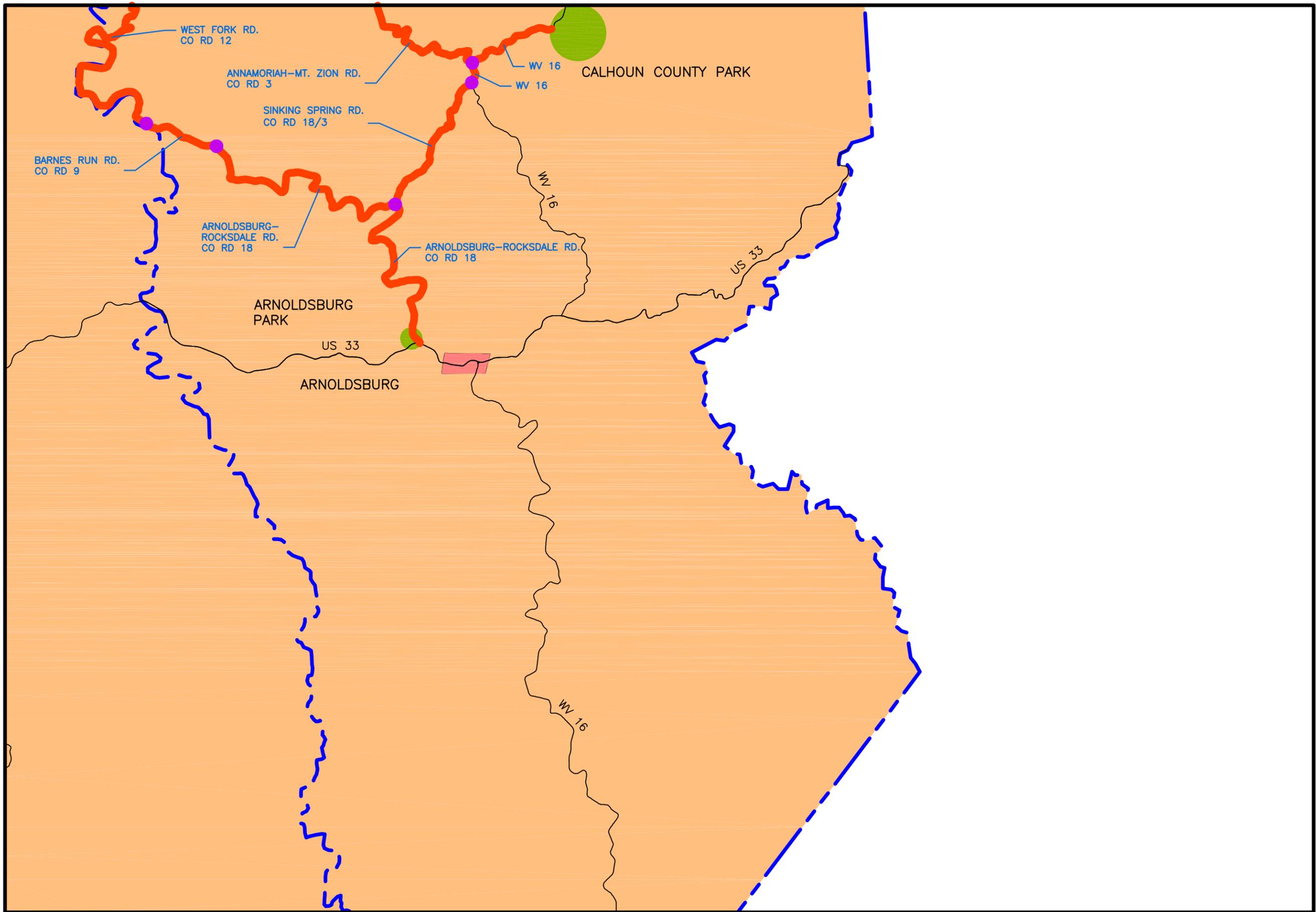
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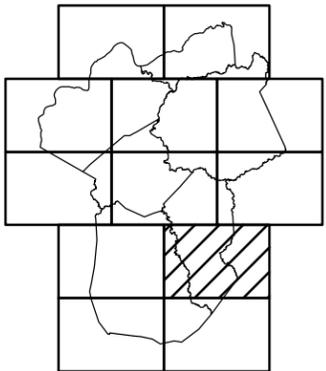
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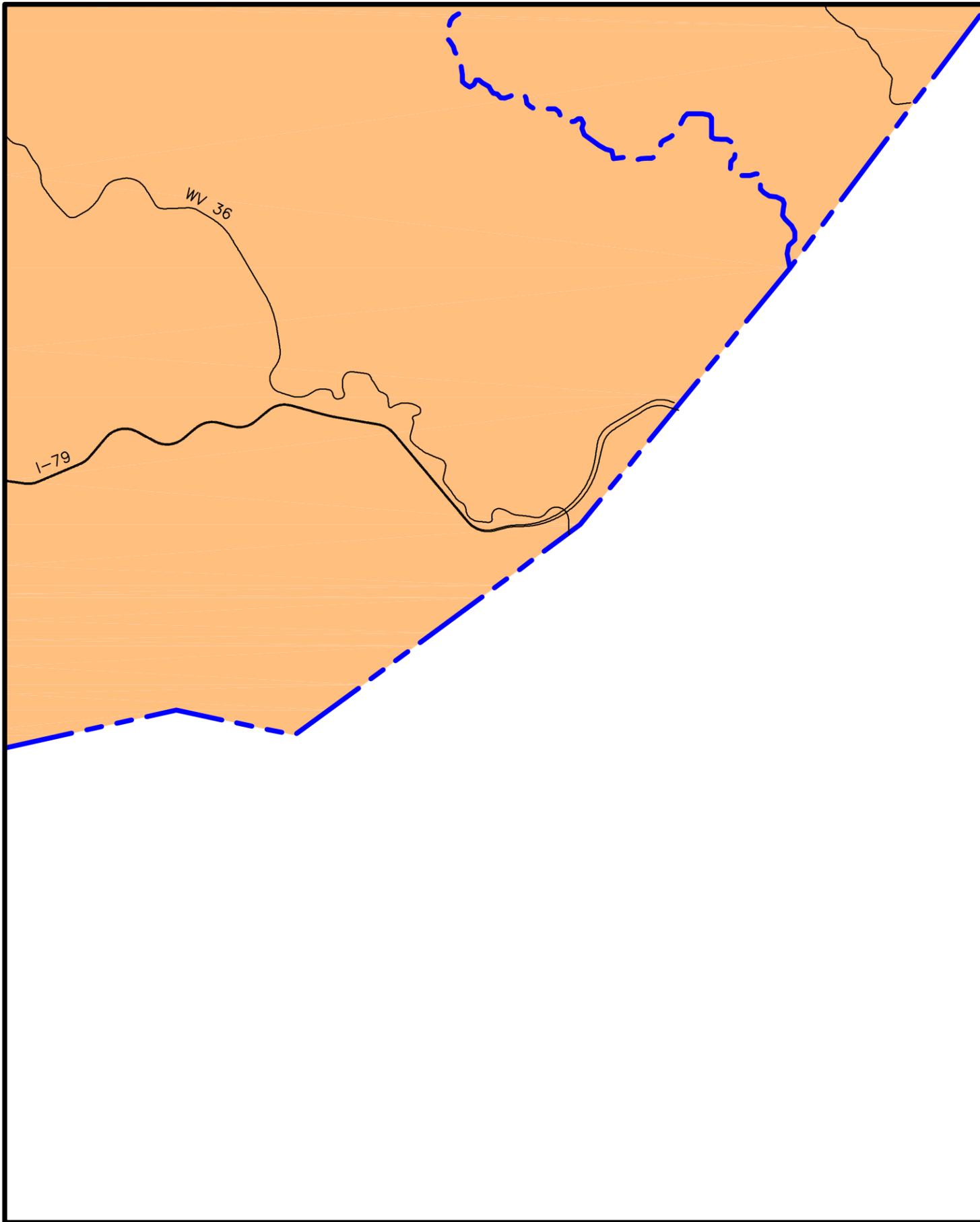
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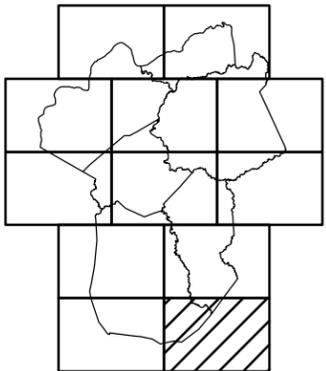
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Appendix



The following individuals are members of the Stakeholder's Committee for the development of the connectivity trail for the six county region (Calhoun, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt, and Wood Counties) that made up the project study area. They were valuable contributors to the design process which included attending a design meeting to develop a network of trails to connect major towns and parks throughout the project study area. During the meeting all the documented existing trail systems were reviewed along with the proposed trails that were developed for the Connectivity Enhancement Project in each of the above mentioned Counties. With this information committee members broke into teams and developed connectivity trails within each of their respective Counties. The proposed trails were then reviewed to verify connectivity characteristics. Their input was extremely valuable and without it the overall connectivity trail would not have linked some of the more interesting and scenic treasures in this six county region of West Virginia.

Stakeholder's Committee

Mandy Foulty

Janet Heiney

Bob Sims

Dawn McCartney

Kathy Mason

Fred Rader

Steve Parks

Kathy Mason

Mark Abbott

Judy Watson

Pay Mays

Bill Robinson

Beth Tuttle

Sherry Adams

Michelle Toman

Dick Wittberg

Crystal Proctor

Kim Coram

Ann Conageski

Carrie Brainard

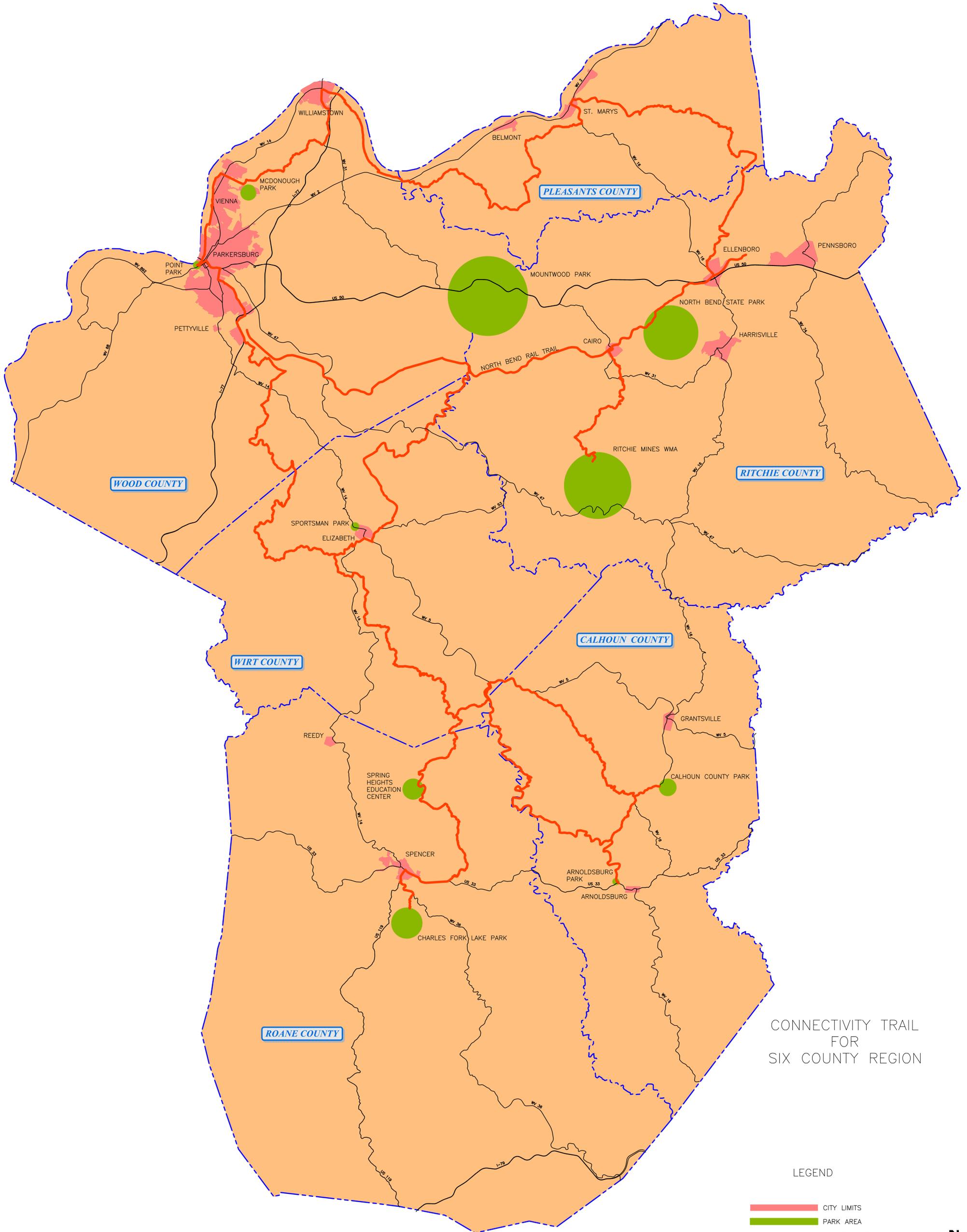
Jennifer Randolph

Travis Cullen

Barb McKown

Jean Simers

Enlarged Map



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