

A. BACKGROUND INVENTORY & ANALYSIS



BACKGROUND INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Clarion River Access Management Plan

July 2024

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INTRODUCTION

The Clarion River Access Management Plan will explore ways to enhance and improve access to the beautiful and scenic Clarion River in Clarion County. The Plan will focus on the specific segment of the Clarion River from Piney Creek Dam to Cooksburg, referred herein as the “study area”, and will offer recommendations on how to best utilize this section of the River moving forward to improve access to the many recreational opportunities that the River has to offer.

The purpose of this Background Inventory and Analysis report is to provide a snapshot of current land uses, existing conditions, environmental and land resources, access points to highways and trails, cultural and historic resources, circulation and access patterns, natural resources and features, existing water access points, biological resources, available utilities and infrastructure, and other assets and features in the Clarion River study area.

This report is broken down into the following sections:

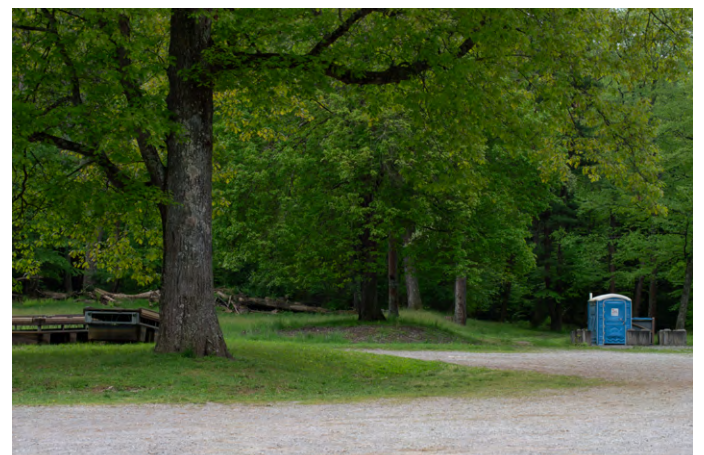
- Study Area Background
 - Historic and Cultural Resources
 - Land Use Findings
- Existing Conditions and Natural Resources
 - Natural Land Features
 - Climate and Bioresources
- Infrastructure, Circulation, and Access Patterns
 - Utilities
 - Access and Circulation
- Conclusions and Next Steps



The Gravel Lick Boat Launch



The Toby Boat Launch



The Mill Creek Boat Launch

STUDY AREA BACKGROUND

Historic and Cultural Resources in the Study Area

Overview

In addition to the plethora of outdoor recreation opportunities and natural resources found in Clarion County, the County is also home to several historic and cultural resources. Within the study area alone, there are several historic buildings, bridges, churches, and markers as well as numerous cultural resources, including the Ross Memorial Library, many of the buildings that are found at Pennsylvania Western University Clarion, the buildings and businesses that comprise the downtown Clarion Borough central business district, and more.

Connecting patrons and users of the Clarion River to the various amenities throughout the study area is very important to promoting economic development in the region as whole. There are several benefits and positive outcomes associated with creating connections to historic and cultural resources, including the following:

- Helps to preserve the collective heritage of the area, as many of these resources hold stories, traditions, and artifacts that are essential to understanding the County's past and shaping its future.
- Develops a sense of cultural identity and belonging and helps to foster pride in the area's heritage and sense of community.
- Offers educational insights into different time periods, societies, and cultural practices, and provides opportunities for learning and developing an understanding of history, art, and other aspects of the local and regional culture.



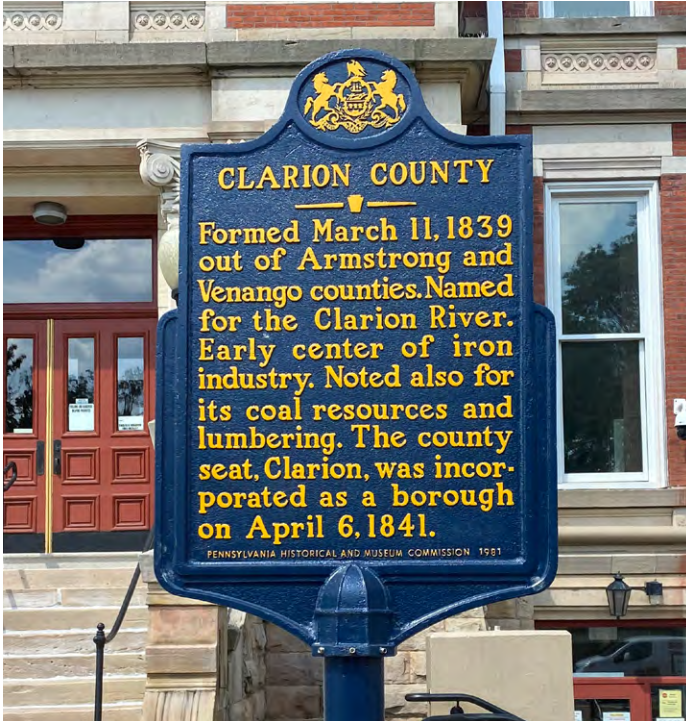
The Clarion Free Library

- Facilitates cultural exchange and dialogue, and allows for the sharing of ideas, traditions, and experiences.
- Draws tourists into the area to help stimulate the local and regional economies.
- Fosters social cohesion by bringing people together around shared interests and experiences.

Overall, connecting people to historic and cultural resources is essential for preserving our past, shaping our present, and inspiring our future. These connections help to enrich lives, strengthen communities, and promote a greater understanding and appreciation across cultures and generations. The following subsections provide a synopsis of some of the historic and cultural resources present in the Clarion River study area.

Historic Markers

There are two historic markers in the area, one that notes the Clarion County Courthouse and another for the Helen Furnace.



Clarion County historic marker

The Clarion County marker is located in front of the Courthouse in Clarion Borough, along Main Street between North 5th Avenue and North Jefferson Place. Categories that coincide with this County Courthouse historic marker include Business and Industry, Coal, Government and Politics, Government and Politics 19th Century, and Iron and Steel.

The other historic marker in the Study area is for Helen Furnace. This marker is located in Highland Township, along Miola Road at White Oak Drive. Categories that coincide with this marker include Coal, Business and Industry, Furnaces, and Iron and Steel.

Historic Resources, Sites, and Buildings

There are several historic buildings and sites located throughout Clarion County as well as in the project study area. Nationally, properties are nominated to the National Register of Historic Places by the State



Helen Furnace historic marker, image courtesy of the HMDB

Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). In Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC)'s State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) performs the duties of the SHPO. The SHPO's role in this process is at a review and advisory level. The Keeper of the National Register at the National Park Service (NPS) is the only person to have the authority to list a property or determine if it is eligible for the National Register. All other findings by the SHPOs or federal agencies are considered to be opinions.

To list a property in the National Register, property owners must apply through the SHPO. The SHPO reviews submitted nominations to determine whether they meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. The SHPO's National Register review staff reviews adequacy of documentation, assures that the procedures and standards of the National Register program are met, and conducts site visits to proposed historic districts.

The following series of charts includes a listing by municipality within the study area of all the various historic buildings and sites, including those that are actually listed, those that are eligible but their status is undetermined, and those that are historic to some nature or degree, but are deemed not eligible.

Municipality

Historic Resources (Listed*, Eligible-Undetermined, and Not Eligible)

Clarion Borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seceder Cemetery • Asbury Garage • Asbury Church • Toby Bridge, Clarion Township and Highland Township • Patton Property • Group Enterprises Property • Palo Property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hubauer Property • Trout Run School • Heinrich House • Clarion Public School Annex • Seminary Hall • Clarence C. Sherry Property • W. Carl Swartzfager Property • H. Ray Pop Property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Margaret Aaron Property • Frank Cook Property • CC Corbett Property • Richard L. Leadbetter Property • New Rehoboth-Greenville Presbyterian Church • Fred Martz Property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hilton Young Property • Clara Sherman Property • Dorothy M. Platt Property • Ion Mansion • Ethel P. Culbert Property • Joe Hubauer Property • Donald F. Heasley Property
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Image courtesy of New Rehoboth-Greenville Presbyterian Church



Image courtesy of Visit PA GO

Municipality

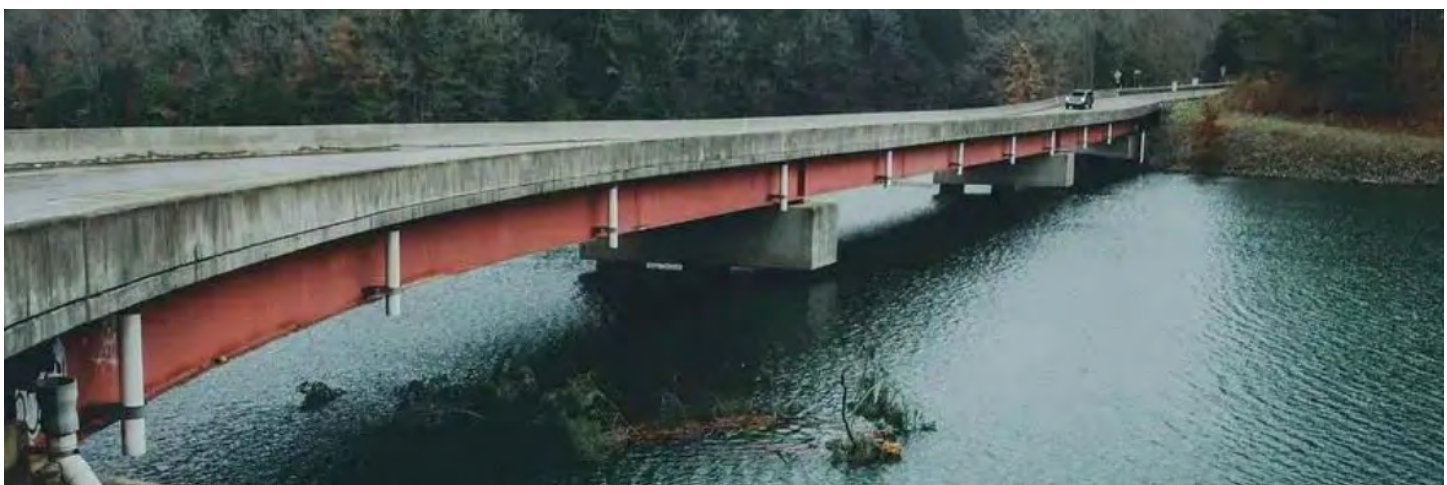
Historic Resources (Listed*, Eligible-Undetermined, and Not Eligible)

Clarion Township	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seceder Cemetery • Asbury Garage • Asbury Church • Toby Bridge, Clarion Township and Highland Township • Patton Property • Group Enterprises Property • Palo Property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hubauer Property • Trout Run School • Heinrich House • Clarion Public School Annex • Seminary Hall • Clarence C. Sherry Property • W. Carl Swartzfager Property • H. Ray Pop Property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Margaret Aaron Property • Frank Cook Property • CC Corbett Property • Richard L. Leadbetter Property • New Rehoboth-Greenville Presbyterian Church • Fred Martz Property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hilton Young Property • Clara Sherman Property • Dorothy M. Platt Property • Ion Mansion • Ethel P. Culbertson Property • Joe Hubauer Property • Donald F. Heasley Property
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Municipality

Historic Resources (Listed*, Eligible-Undetermined, and Not Eligible)

<p>Farmington Township</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gravel Lick Bridge • Old Spring Reservoir, Cooks Forest State Park • Township Bridge No. 216 • Park Residence and Garage and Ranger Station 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seneca Point Fire Tower along Firetower Road • Cooks Forest Sawmill Center for the Arts • Roy P. Stuart Property • St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marcella B. DeCarlo Property • Theodore Ochs Property • Lottie Holabaugh Property • Aloysius M. McCloskey Property • Dana Host Property • Paul Hydinger Property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leila Schaming Property • Carl Garrett Property • Tylersburg United Methodist Church • Kenneth McFarland Property • Leo Moore Property
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The Toby Bridge, image courtesy of courtesy of Garrett Talkington Photography

Municipality

Historic Resources (Listed*, Eligible-Undetermined, and Not Eligible)

<p>Millcreek Township</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Millcreek Bracket Dams • Township Bridge No. 42 • Township Bridge No. 44 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisher Methodist Church • Odd Fellows Hall
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Municipality

Historic Resources (Listed*, Eligible-Undetermined, and Not Eligible)

<p>Monroe Township</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eaker Home • Licking St. John’s • Dr. Wood Office • Kuhn’s Farm • Fulton Cochran Home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keever House • Polk Furnace Congregation • Kaster House • Township Bridge No. 22 • Myers Finefrock House 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra A. Wyman Property • John A. Lerch Property • Larry P. Gourley Property • Denny E. Newell Property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vern Over Farm • Terry McElhatten Property • Donald D. Kahle Property • Elliott’s Grocery
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Municipality **Historic Resources (Listed*, Eligible-Undetermined, and Not Eligible)**

<p>Highland Township</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toby Bridge, Clarion Township and Highland Township • Helen Furnace School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Township Bridge No. 3 • Township Bridge No. 1
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Municipality **Historic Resources (Listed*, Eligible-Undetermined, and Not Eligible)**

<p>Paint Township</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lewis Woofter Property • Piney Station Hydroelectric Plant • Roy E. Barnett Property • Arthur E. Myers Property • George A. Myers Property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack McClain Property • Manor Church • Township Bridge No. 205 • Township Bridge No. 206 • Clarion River Bridge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David J. Zacherl Property • Paul E. Wagner Property • Cyril J. Schmader Property • Lester Watson Property • Bruce Bouch Property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James C. Elliott Property • National Fuel Gas Supply Company • Gerald D. Schmader Property • Paul E. Wagner Barn
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Municipality **Historic Resources (Listed*, Eligible-Undetermined, and Not Eligible)**

<p>Piney Township</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lewis Woofter Property • Pittsburg and Shawmut Railroad Tunnel • Piney Station Hydroelectric Plant • Pine Grove Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarion Poor Farm • Stoney Lonesome School • William McEwen Property • Burns Farm
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Pittsburg and Shawmut Railroad Tunnel, image courtesy of the Coal and Coke Blogspot

Natural Heritage Areas

Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) are sites that have been identified as areas that support rare plants or animals, exemplary ecological communities, and Pennsylvania's native species' biodiversity. The Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) inventories and reports the critical biological resources found within each NHA and throughout each county in Pennsylvania.

There are two NHAs within the Clarion River project study area municipalities. These include the following:

- Clarion River at Maxwell Run, in Millcreek Township
- Clarion River at Tom's Run, in Farmington Township

Clarion River at Maxwell Run in Millcreek Township is a large riverine site that supports a total of nine Pennsylvania species of concern. The majority of the species found in the Clarion River at Maxwell Run are odonates, or dragonflies and damselflies. This section of the River also supports populations of the mountain brook lamprey, which is a state imperiled fish. All of the species of concern in the Maxwell Run NHA need access to cool, clean, and fast flowing water.

Clarion River at Tom's Run in Farmington Township is another large riverine site within the project study area. The Tom's Run NHA supports a total of 13 Pennsylvania listed species. And almost all of these species share one habitat need, and it is clean, cool, clear, and fast flowing water. Just like Maxwell Run, the majority of the species found at Tom's Run NHA are odonates, or dragonflies and damselflies. Populations of meadow willow are also known from this site.

According to the Natural Heritage Inventory fact sheets for the Clarion River at Maxwell Run NHA and the Clarion River at Tom's Run NHA, repairing and maintaining the forested riparian buffer in the upstream portion of the Clarion River watershed is critical to maintaining the

water quality that supports its unique species. Mitigation of Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) impacts will be a critical component of maintaining water quality at these sites over the long run. In addition, it is noted that development within the 100-year floodplain should be prohibited to preserve the flow characteristics of the river, maintain the forested riparian buffer, and prevent the loss of property and life during flooding events.

Conclusion

Understanding and connecting with the history and culture of the study area and Clarion County as a whole will help preserve the past, shape the present, and inspire the future. Based on the plethora of historic resources listed in the charts provided herein, it is clear that there are several historical resources located in all of the surrounding municipalities. Clarion Borough has 37 historical resources, Clarion Township has 28 historical resources, Paint Township has 21 historical resources, Farmington Township has 20 historical resources, Monroe Township has 28 historical resources, Piney Township has 8 historical resources, Millcreek Township has 5 historical resources, and Highland Township has 4 historical resources. These various historical resources, sites, and buildings offer numerous opportunities for the municipalities and the region as a whole.

With the abundance of historic and cultural resources within the study area and in the surrounding region, it is essential to create an environment where these resources are connected throughout the region and are easily accessible. Allowing patrons and users of the Clarion River to access the various amenities will help to preserve the heritage and history of the area, develop a sense of cultural identity and pride, facilitate cultural exchange and dialogue, foster social cohesion, boost tourism, and educate visitors on different time periods and cultural practices, all while promoting economic development.

Land Use Findings

Overview

The study area of the Clarion River for this Access Management Plan includes a section of the River and surrounding lands in Piney Township, Monroe Township, Paint Township, Clarion Township, Clarion Borough, Highland Township, Millcreek Township, and Farmington Township. The majority of land uses surrounding the Clarion River study area are wooded, natural areas with scenic landscapes that are somewhat secluded from the County’s towns and more developed areas. The following section provides an overview of the current land uses present by municipality in the study area, with focus along the River but also within the municipality as a whole in terms of local and regional destination points.

Paint Township

The portions of land around the Clarion River in Paint Township are primarily wooded, natural areas with substantial tree cover. In addition, this area is mostly undeveloped; however, there are some homes scattered along the River in this part of the study area.

Clarion County Park, a regional destination, is located north of the River and the Piney Creek Dam. Another destination point, Cutty’s Timberwolf Lodge, is also located in this area of the Clarion River. The Lodge has a boat launch and docks, space available for private events, and rents out tent spaces for camping. Lastly, there is a trailhead for the North Country Trail located off of State Route 322 in Paint Township.

One of the main roadways in the County and region, State Route 66, runs through Paint Township. A portion of Interstate 80 also runs through Paint Township.

Clarion Borough

The portion of the Clarion River study area found in Clarion Borough includes the Toby Boat Launch, one of two main public boat launch access points for the



Cutty’s Timberwolf Lodge, located just north of I-80 along the Clarion River



View of the Route 322 Bridge from the Toby Boat Launch in Clarion Borough



The Toby Boat Launch on the Clarion River in Clarion Borough

River. Overall, the area surrounding the River in Clarion Borough consists of primarily wooded areas with some homes located along the River that provide private dock access.

Downtown Clarion Borough is a desirable connection for patrons and users of the River in this area, as it offers shopping, dining, entertainment, and historic and cultural resources abound. In addition, Memorial Stadium is a potential destination from the River into the Borough. However, the terrain and topography here could be challenging for future connections.

Clarion Township

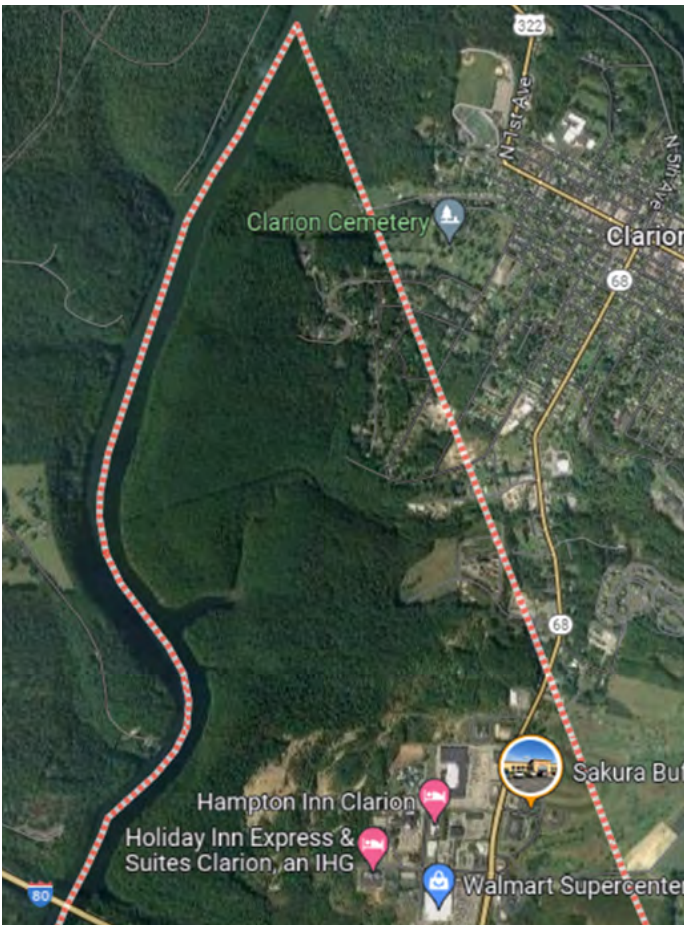
Land located along the Clarion River in Clarion Township consists of mostly wooded, natural areas with lots of tree cover. Moreover, there are some homes located off of Waterworks Road and some of the surrounding side streets, including River Lane, Robson Lane, and Horvath Lane. Slalom Run Road looks to have a few homes that provide private dock access to the River.

The Millcreek Boat Launch, the other main public access point for the River in the study area, is located in Clarion Township, off of Millcreek Drive. Located on State Game Lands 74 along the upper reaches of the Piney Reservoir, this launch provides access for motorboats and paddlers. There is parking for 10-12 vehicles with trailers, which often gets crowded on summer weekends. In terms of facilities on-site, there is a restroom open seasonally.

Lastly, there is PA American Water Treatment Plant located along the River in Clarion Township.

Monroe Township

The land around the Clarion River in Monroe Township is predominantly wooded, natural areas with lots of tree cover. Compared to other municipalities in the study area that are located along the River, there is not much private dock space provided in Monroe Township. Most housing in Monroe Township is tucked away in the wooded areas bordering the riverbank.

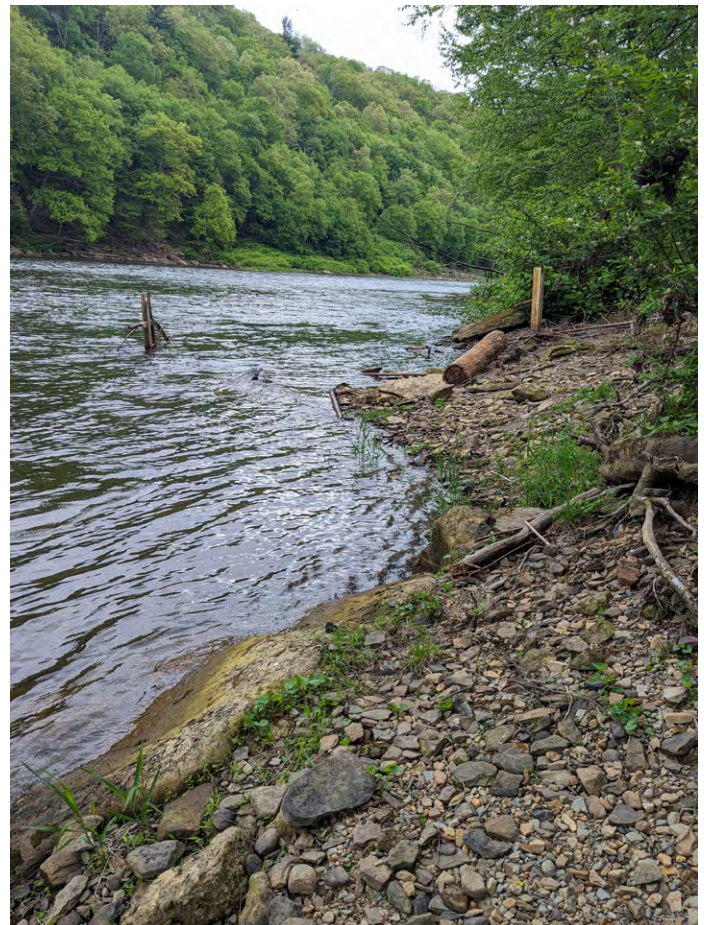


The southern commercial boundary of Monroe Township contrasted with the northern undeveloped portion of the Township.

State Route 68 is within Monroe Township and is home to several restaurants, hotels, shopping centers, etc. and is a regional destination point. Besides the businesses along State Route 68, there are not many other businesses to connect to or visit near this section of the River. Piney Dam Road, a portion of which is located in Monroe Township, does look to have some homes and farmlands as well as a few scattered businesses, including the Lewis Art Studio.

Piney Township

Piney Township is home to several regional destinations including Piney Dam Park and the Clarion Trestle Bridge. There is also access to the Piney Rail Trail south of the River, approximately 3,150 feet from the Clarion Trestle Bridge. The Brookfield Power Plant is located next to Piney Dam and Piney Dam Park directly along the River.



River access from the Piney Dam Park within Brookfield's Power Plant

Areas surrounding the Clarion River in this part of the study area are mostly wooded, natural areas with lots of tree cover. There are also some homes with private dock access along the River.

Highland Township

Areas found along the Clarion River in Highland Township are mostly wooded, natural areas with significant tree cover. In addition, there are some residential uses along the River, including West and East Maple Lanes and Jacks Mountain Lane that provide private dock access. Road T-574 has some houses and then gets more rural and secluded. There are indications that this road goes almost all the way down to the River so this could be a potential future access point.

There is an area of homes and a neighborhood along Wolverine Lane, Corbett Lane, and Eagles Nest Lane



This portion of Highland Township consists of residential property along the Clarion River

that is located across the River from the Millcreek Boat Launch, which could be a possible point of access in the future

Areas along the River in the northern section of Highland Township are very rural, desolate, and undeveloped.

Millcreek Township

Land uses along the River in Millcreek Township are mostly wooded, natural areas and somewhat secluded. There are not many homes or private docks in this part of the study area.

Another public access point for the River, the Gravel Lick Canoe Launch, is located in the northern part of Millcreek Township. This hand-carry launch is located about one mile downstream of the Gravel Lick Bridge. There is parking for 10-15 cars at the canoe launch.



The Gravel Lick Canoe Launch, managed by the PA Fish & Boat Commission



Cook Forest State Park in Farmington Township, image courtesy of Callihan Images

Farmington Township

Areas along the Clarion River in Farmington Township are mostly wooded, natural areas with extensive tree cover. There are some regional destination points and attractions, including Cook Forest’s Seneca Point. There is also a trailhead for Bakers/North Country Trail located off of Gravel Lick Road. Lastly, the Henry Run Sawmill Dam Falls is located in Farmington Township and can be accessed via hiking along the North Country Trail. The Scenic North Country Trail runs parallel to the River from River Lane and Gravel Lick Road to Cook Forest. Hemlock Island is located across from the Henry Run Sawmill Dam. Several years ago, there were plans to put camp sites on the Island, but those plans were halted when composting toilets were not approved at the site.

Conclusions

Much of the land along the Clarion River within the project study area is owned privately and consists of wooded lands and tree covered areas with private homes. Many of the private homes have access to the

River via their own private docks. There are several local and regional destinations not just along and near the River but in the surrounding study area as a whole that may attract those frequently utilizing the Clarion River into towns for various activities.

The two main public access points are the Toby Boat Launch in Clarion Borough and the Millcreek Boat Launch in Clarion Township. There is also the Gravel Lick Canoe Launch in Millcreek Township, which is a hand-carry launch only.

The analysis of the existing land uses along and surrounding the project area shows us that there are ample opportunities for possible increased connections to regional destinations. In addition, there are also several locations where additional public river access can be explored to enhance the public’s access to the beautiful and scenic Clarion River for all users, from motorized boaters to floaters to swimmers to fishermen to paddle boaters and more.

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural Land Features

Overview

As a part of the Clarion River Access Management Plan, the following maps were made to illustrate important characteristics of the study area for the purposes of potential future development, connectivity, and accessibility. Understanding these characteristics is crucial as the County looks to identify the best places for additional development, new public access, and other connections to popular destinations along and near the River. This section will primarily focus on abiotic land factors, which are the non-living land factors that have an impact on the surrounding environment. This includes geologic land features-- characteristics of the land's shape or topographical characteristics-- and hydrologic features-- characteristics of the waterbodies in the environment (rivers, lakes, ponds, creeks, etc.).

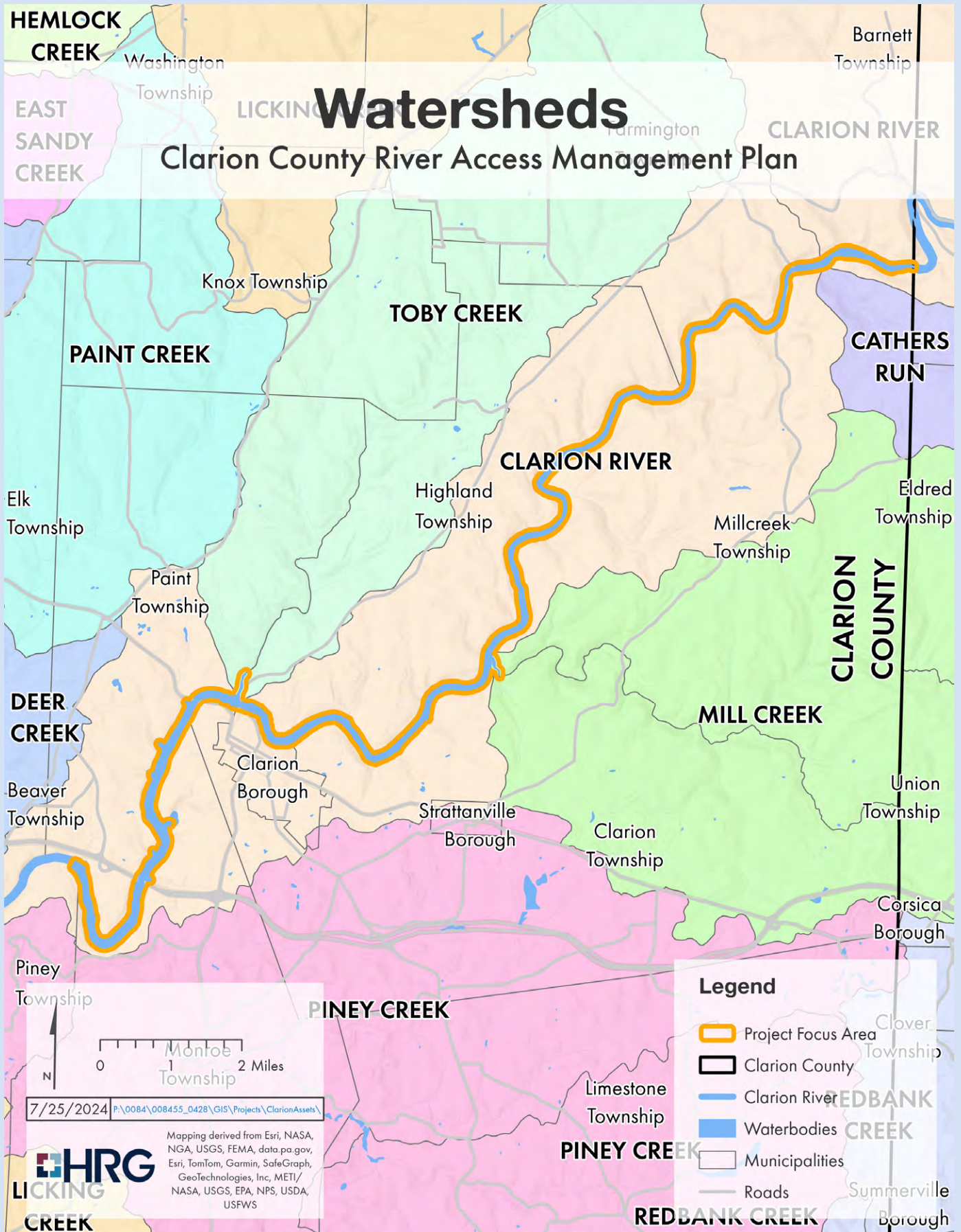


The Clarion River and its shores

Watersheds

The map on the following page shows the numerous watersheds in Clarion County. However, the Clarion River is mainly contained within the Clarion River watershed. Toby Creek, Mill Creek, and Cathers Run watersheds are also tributaries to the Clarion River. It is worth noting that there are public access points in all three of these watersheds. These include the Toby Boat Launch in Toby Creek watershed, the Mill Creek Boat Launch in the Mill Creek watershed, and the Gravel Lick Canoe Launch in the Cathers Run watershed. The main water

body seen in the study area is the Clarion River. There are several other unnamed small ponds and creeks seen throughout the various municipalities and watersheds. The largest to note is between Strattanville Borough and Clarion Township. Other important waterbodies include Mill Creek, Blyson Run, Maxwell Run, Cathers Run, Trout Run, and Piney Creek. These waterbodies are important because they may already be used for fishing and boating, and people who may already be using these waterbodies for recreational activities may also be likely to use the Clarion River to participate in similar recreational activities.





The Frank James Watts Memorial Bridge over the Clarion River

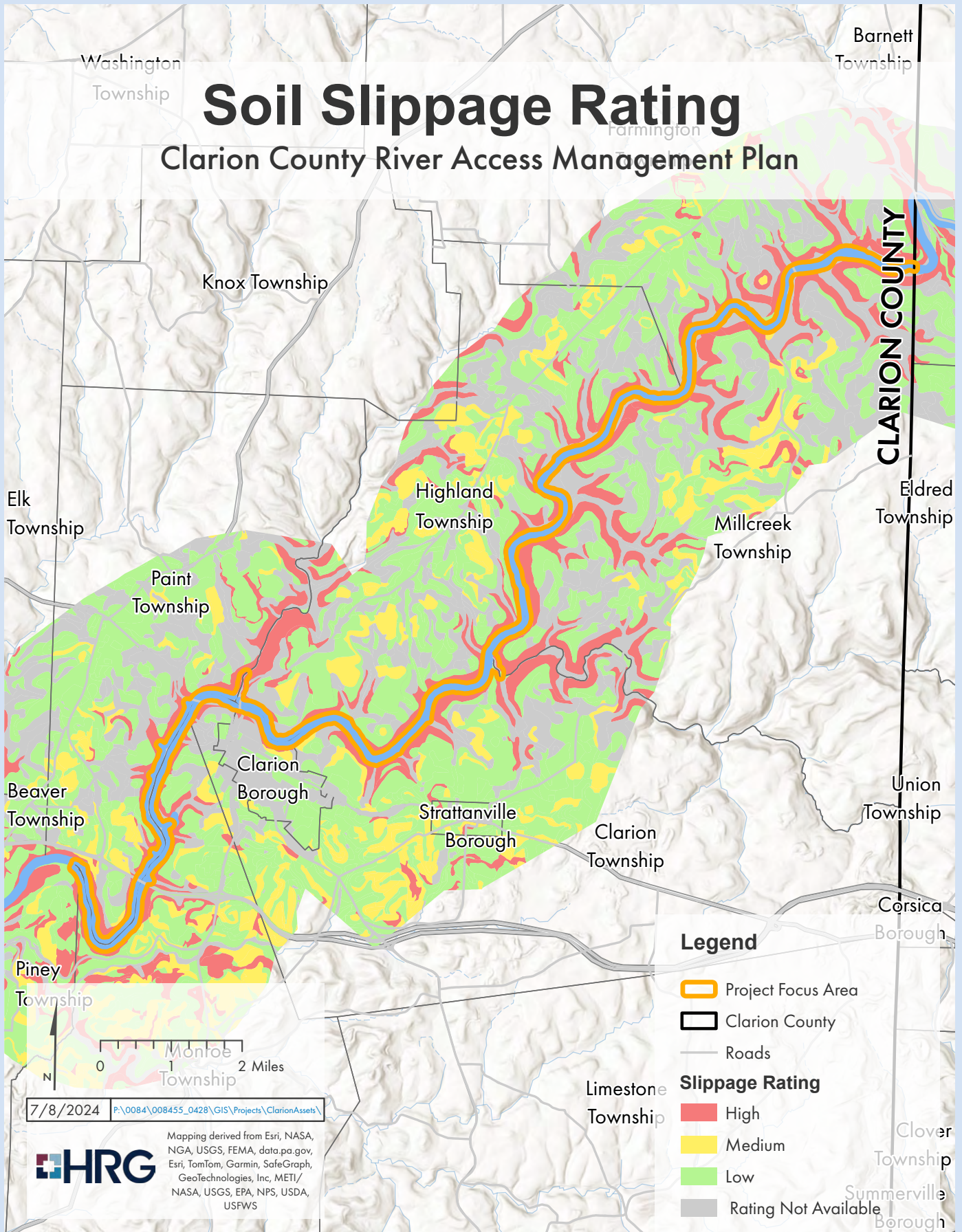
Soil Slippage

Soil slippage ranking involves the potential hazard that an area of soil will slip when vegetation is removed, soil is almost or completely saturated, or any other natural practices applied. Slippage is an important consideration for engineering practices, such as constructing roads and buildings, and for forestry practices. Soil slippage potential classes are estimated by observing attributes like slope, lithology, strike and dip, surface drainage patterns, and occurrences of such features as slip scars and slumps. Slippage rankings are important in terms of development because they can help illustrate where the safest places for development are when deciding where to place new access points in the future.

According to the map on the following page, soils with high slippage ratings are mainly seen closest to the Clarion River. The map on the following page indicates that the further away from the water, the lower the soil slippage rating. Towards the River's bend closest to Piney Dam Road, there is an area east with a low rating of soil slippage and may be a good area for accessibility and development to the River. Similarly, north of Berg Lane is another area with low slippage ratings. However this area is surrounded by soil with high slippage ratings and may be prone to neighboring soil slippage. Across the River from Blyson Run as well as across from Maxwell Run may be other development opportunities with low soil slippage ratings

Soil Slippage Rating

Clarion County River Access Management Plan





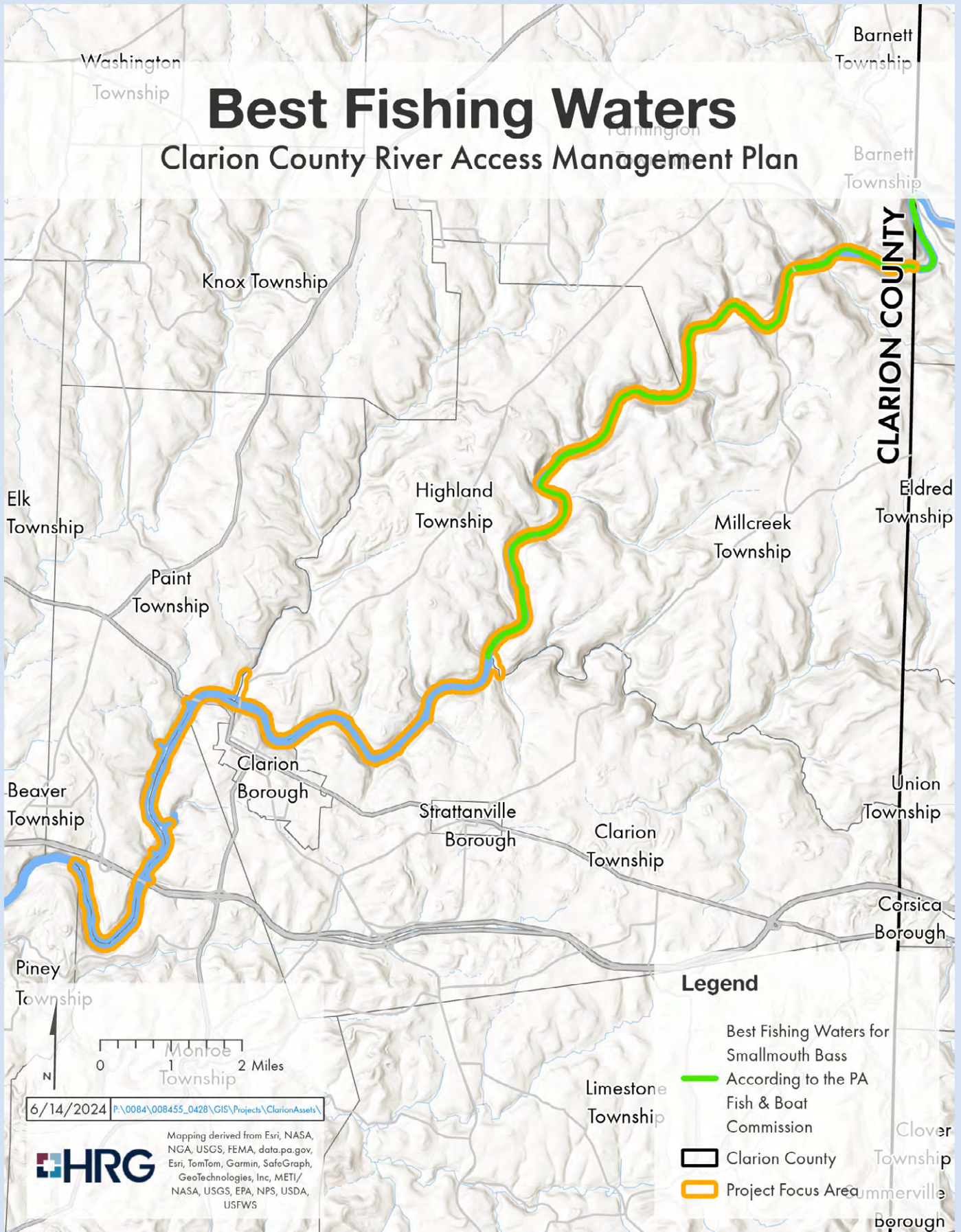
The North County Trailhead

Best Fishing Waters

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission’s mission is: “to protect, conserve, and enhance the Commonwealth’s aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities.” With this mission in mind, the PA FBC keeps track of important information regarding major waterbodies, their conditions, and their wildlife. According to the map on page 22, the northern region of Clarion River (just north of Mill Creek Boat Launch) is considered a high-quality river segment for fishing Smallmouth Bass according to the PA FBC. This is relevant considering the popularity of fishing as a recreational activity within the study area. Additionally, areas with high-quality fish should be prioritized for future access points.

Best Fishing Waters

Clarion County River Access Management Plan



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Mapping derived from Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA, data.pa.gov, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/ NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS

Legend

- Best Fishing Waters for Smallmouth Bass According to the PA Fish & Boat Commission
- Clarion County
- Project Focus Area



Water access at the Millcreek Boat Launch

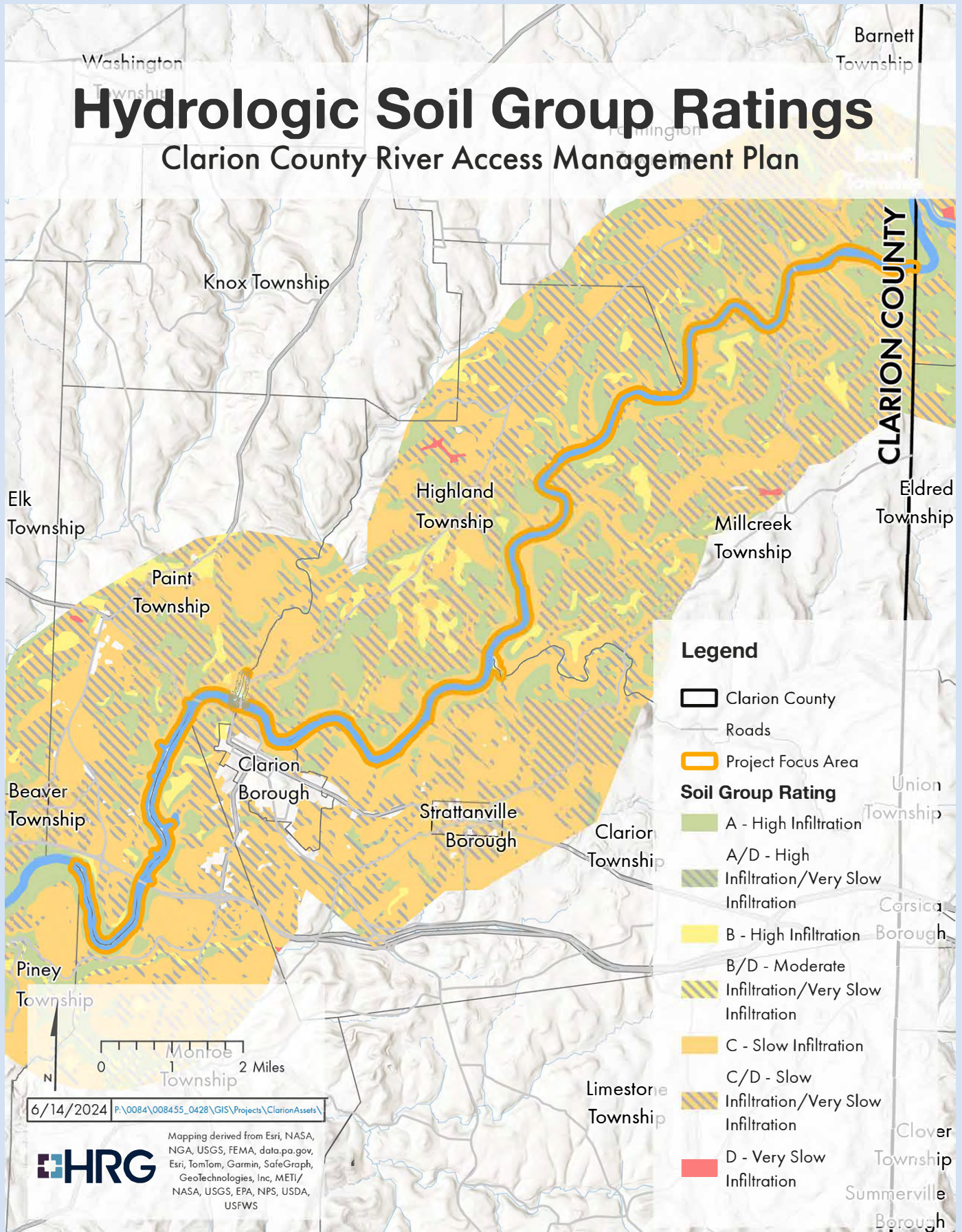
Hydrologic Soil Groups

The hydrologic soils map on page 24 indicates which soil types have high water transmission rates and slow infiltration rates. There are four groups not including dual classes A, B, C, and D. Soil group A is sand or gravel that has high water transmission rates, which is best for construction or development. Soil group D is clay or clay-like soil that has slow infiltration rates and will shrink or expand depending on the amount of water being absorbed at that time. Soil groups B and C are moderate, with soil group B having a moderate rate of water transmission and soil group C having a slow infiltration rate when extremely wet. While soil groups B and C are not great for large infrastructure, they are likely able to handle lighter infrastructure safely, such

as public restrooms, docks, and small parking pads. This information tells us that soil groups A and B are the best soil groups for development. The dual soil groups, A/D, B/D, and C/D are without interference naturally soil group D, but when drained meet the classifications for the first letter soil group. The majority of land in the study area is either soil group C or C/D, leaving an abundance of safe land for light development of access points. East of Perry Lane there is a substantial amount of soil group A land which maybe a preferable area for development. Further north, north of Millcreek Drive and east of Miola Road there are various areas of soil group A land around the River, these areas may also be preferable for development.

Hydrologic Soil Group Ratings

Clarion County River Access Management Plan



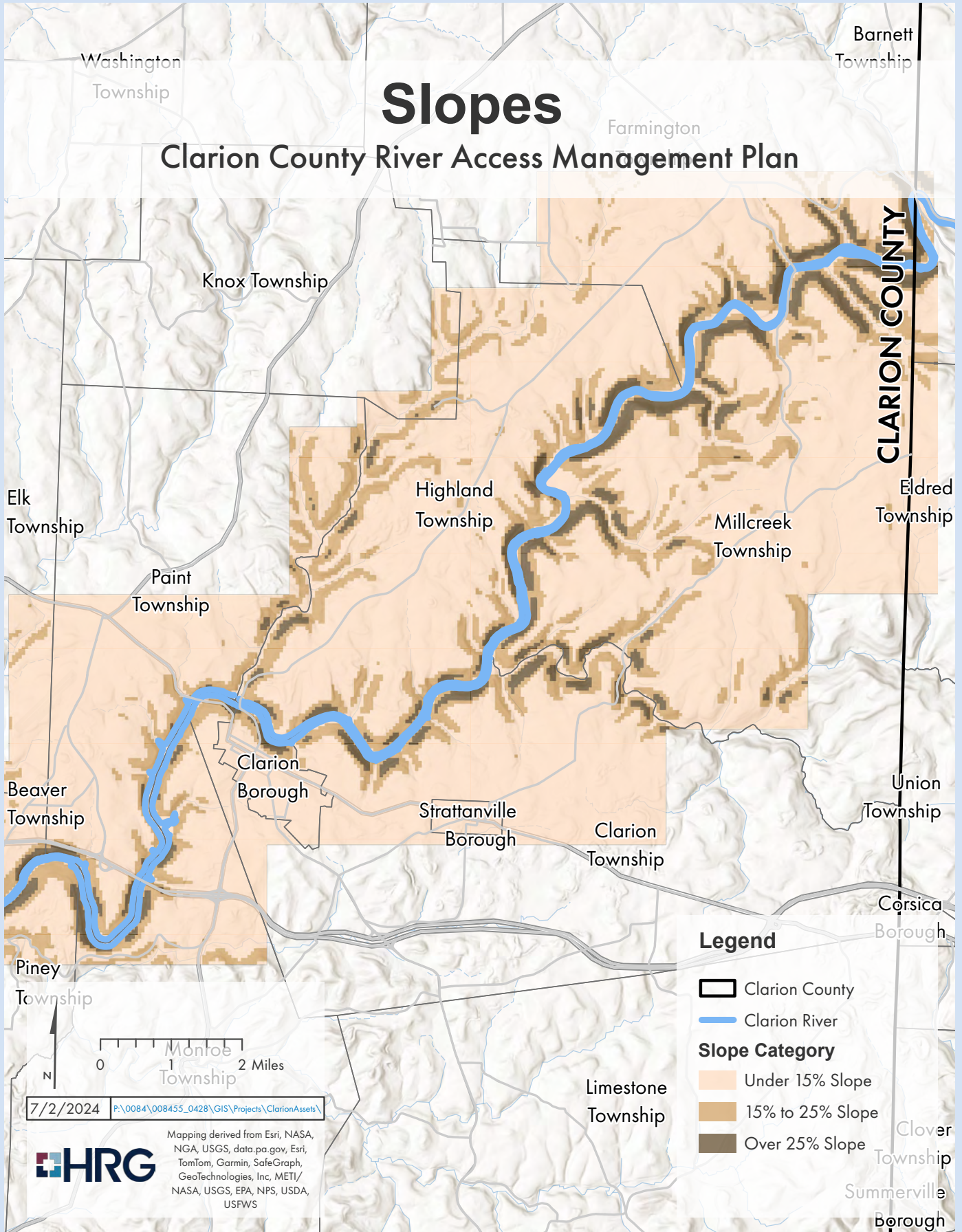


The Clarion River

Slopes

When considering areas for development, the most ideal areas have a low slope change percentage. It is important to note that the data has been based off of index contours for processing purposes, meaning extremities may not be indicated. According to the map, the lighter areas have lower slope change percentage, meaning these areas are most suitable for development. The slope change percentage (as seen on the map on page 26) around the River is generally higher due

to the lateral and vertical erosion of riverbank soils. Percentage of slope change around the southern region of the River is more often 15% to 25%, this slope range is fit for cautionary development. The best areas for development in the southern region of the River would be near Cutty's Timberwolf Lodge and east of T-575. The northern area of the River has a higher average slope percentage change. Across the river, west of Maxwell Run, north of Blyson Run, and along Callihan Run would be best fit for cautionary development.



State Forests and Game Lands

There is only one state forest within the study area, Clear Creek State Forest. This state forest (seen on the map on page 27) includes 16,716 acres of land in Jefferson, Clarion, Venango, Forest, and Mercer Counties. Clear Creek State Forest is a popular destination for various outdoor activities like fishing, camping, and hiking and is also home to preserved old-growth forests. It is also located north of State Game Land 074 and is west of State Game Land 283. There are two other state game lands located within the study area, State Game Lands 063 and 072. These lands are meant to manage wildlife habitats and are dedicated to legal opportunities for hunting and trapping. These areas are crucial when determining where new access points should be placed. Since these areas already have frequent users, it may be beneficial to create more access points, so users of these lands also have easy accessibility to the Clarion River.

Conclusions

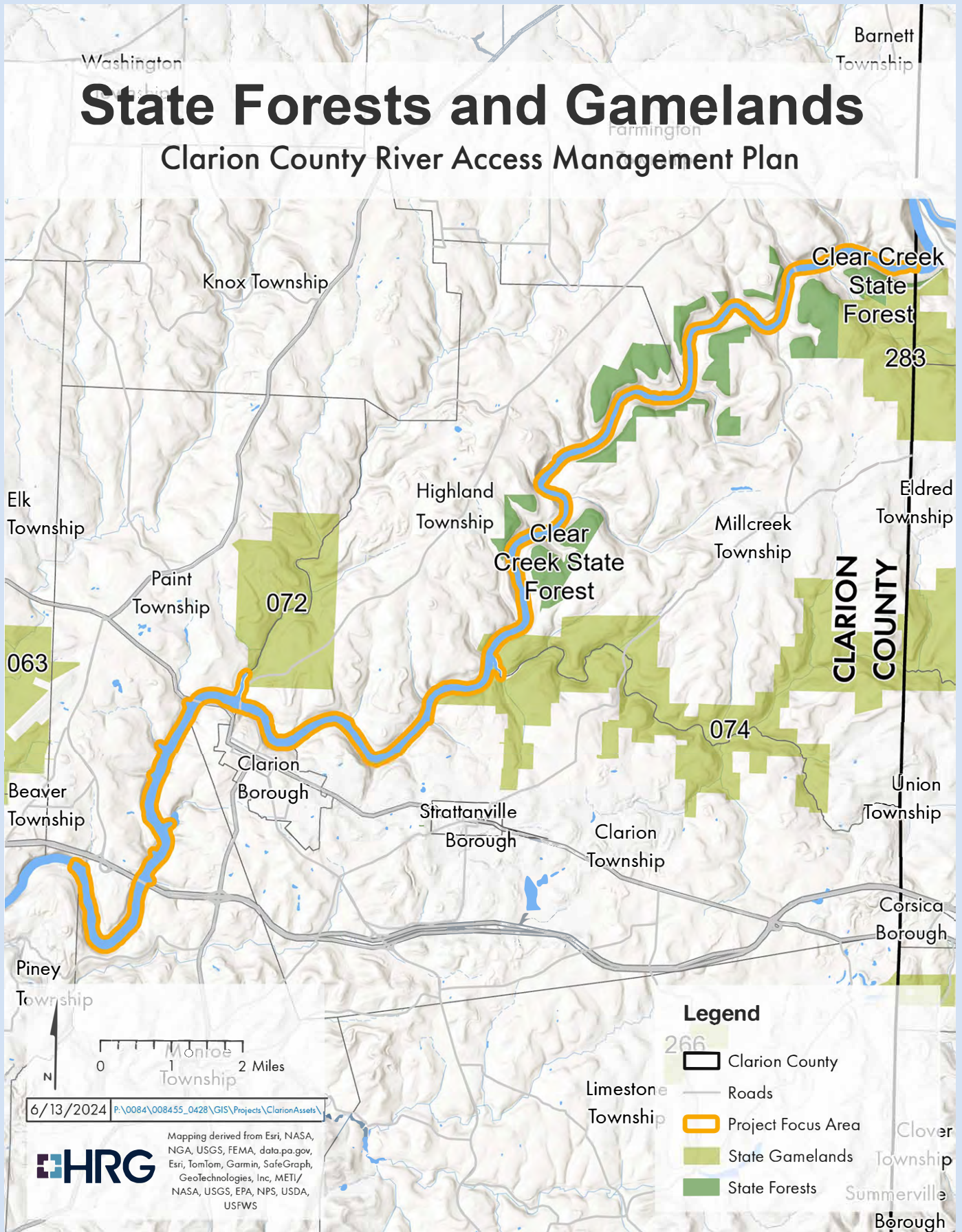
When considering greater development and enabling greater accessibility, it is crucial to understand various land factors including environmental factors and popularity of surrounding areas. As seen in the Soil Slippage Map, areas near Blyson and Maxwell Run have low soil slippage ratings. Maxwell Run connecting to the Clarion River also has a portion of land with grade A hydrologic soil. This makes the land preferable for light development. This land is in the Clear Creek State Forest and connects to the high-quality fishing waters

for Smallmouth Bass according to PA FBC, making it an already popular destination. Due to these qualities, this area could be a beneficial access point. Another potential access point could be across the River from Blyson Run. There is ample soil with high infiltration rates, however; soil slippage rankings in this area are higher. This area also will help connect more people who live more than 15 minutes away to a current access point, is surrounded by the Clear Creek State Forest, and is considered high-quality water for fishing by PA FBC. These characteristics also allow for a beneficial access point. The last potential access point would be off of River Road. The soil slippage rankings are low and the soil grades in the area allow for high infiltration making this portion of land well equipped for development. This also allows greater access for those who live outside of the 15-minute drive radius for current access points. This area, however, is not close to any State Game Lands or State Parks. Understanding and assessing the characteristics illustrated in the maps is essential for determining the best places for potential access points. There are various factors that need to be considered throughout this process and the collection of maps included in this background report are meant to make it easier to visualize those factors and understand the impact of placement.

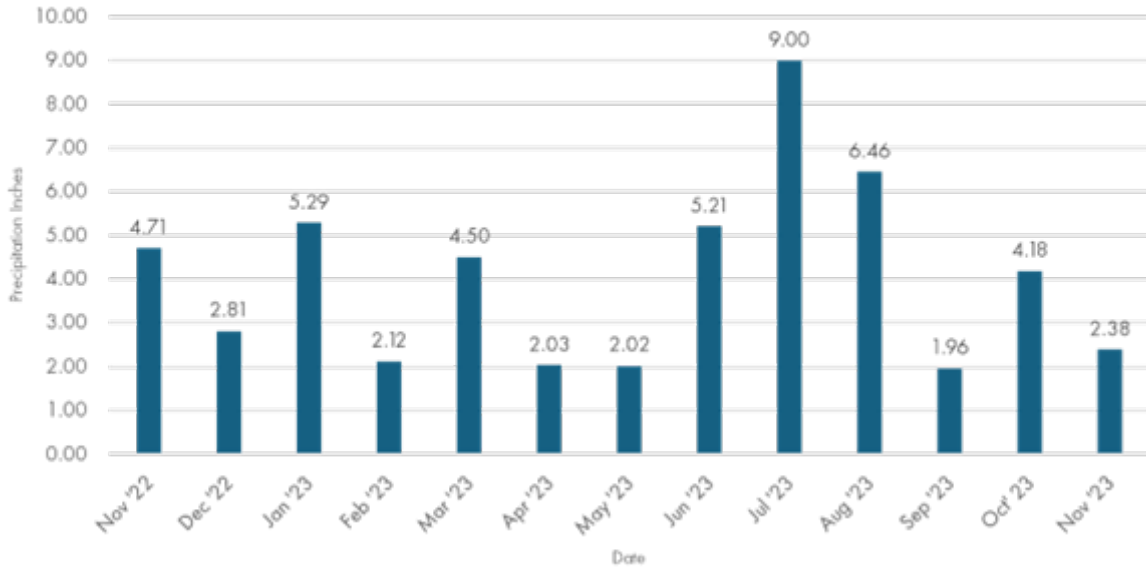
Please note that we acknowledge, as is inherent with areas surrounding major waterbodies, there are always heightened concerns of soil stability, flood risk, and slopes that are too steep for development.

State Forests and Gamelands

Clarion County River Access Management Plan



Total Precipitation in inches per month in Clarion County



Climate and Bioresources

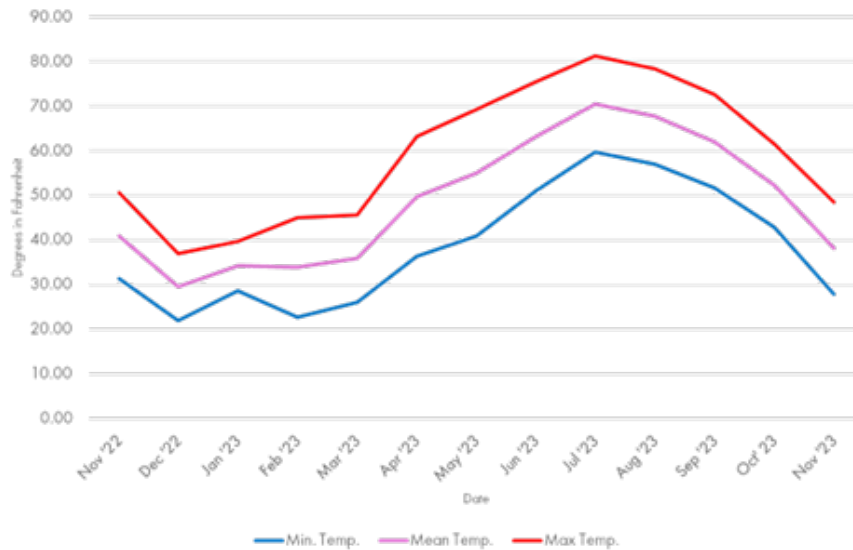
Climate

Climate is defined as the long-term weather pattern of a region. Clarion County has a humid continental climate, characterized by warm summers and cold to very cold, snowy winters. This climate type generally experiences precipitation throughout the year, with the highest precipitation in the summer months. This is consistent with the temperatures and precipitation observed between November of 2022 and November of 2023 in Clarion County. During this period, temperatures ranged from a low of 21.9°F in December 2022 to a high of 81.20°F in

July 2023. Minimum, maximum, and mean temperatures can be seen in the chart below.

Observed precipitation was also consistent with the humid continental climate. The highest total monthly rainfall documented during the observed period was in July of 2023, with a total of nine (9) inches that month. While the greatest rainfall was during the summer, there is precipitation observed throughout the year. In Clarion County, snowfall is common from October to April.

Clarion County Temperatures by Month



Forests

Over 60 percent of Pennsylvania is covered by forests, which provide unique landscapes, valuable natural ecosystems, a variety of ecosystem services, and a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities. This means that the ability to utilize these areas for recreation and potential economic value must be balanced with their preservation. The following map has highlighted state forests, mature oak stands, young aspen stands, and old growth forests within the study area. Consideration for additional access to the Clarion River should factor in the potential to leverage existing interest in forest recreation, while ensuring conservation of these important resources.

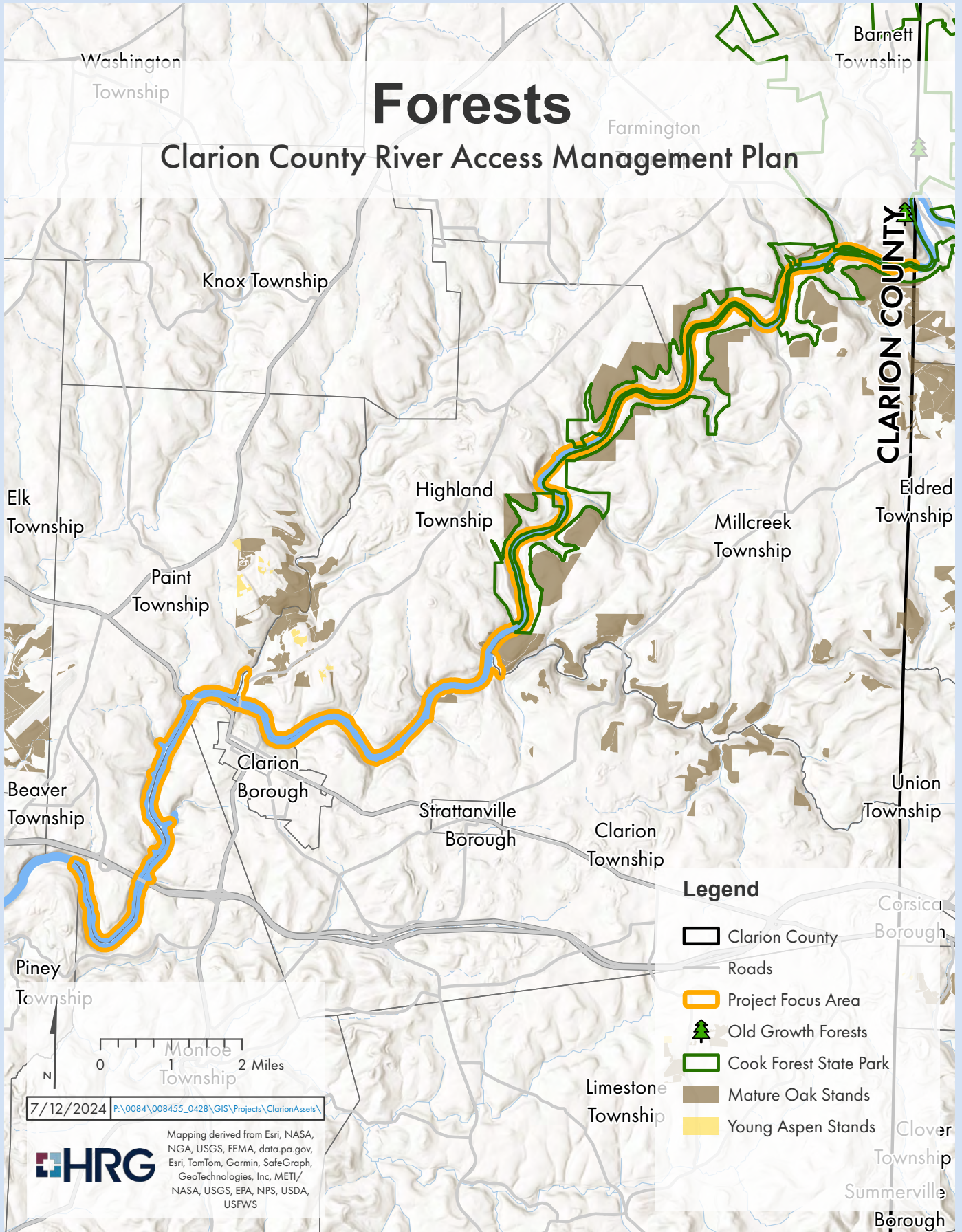
Pennsylvania is divided into twenty forest districts, each responsible for protecting the encompassed forest land from fire, destructive insects, and disease. Clarion County is part of District 8, which houses Clear Creek State Forest, the primary state forest within the study area, highlighted by the green outline in the map. Clear Creek State Forest covers 16,716 acres surrounding the Clarion and Allegheny Rivers. The forest spans Clarion, Jefferson, Venango, Forest, and Mercer Counties. Red oak, white oak, red maple, birch, beech, and tulip poplar trees are all present throughout Clear Creek, along with a host of other plant and animal species.

In addition to flora and fauna, Clear Creek State Forest is home to a variety of activities. Hiking, hunting, bird watching, and fishing are all common. Clear Creek is also a working forest, meaning that active sustainable timber harvesting, gypsy moth spraying, stream buffering, and wildlife and wild character conservation efforts may be happening in the forest at any given time.

Aside from the large, active ecosystems that make up state forests, specific tree stands may symbolize unique

natural character in an area. Also shown in the map, mature oak stands (highlighted by brown polygons), young aspen stands (highlighted by yellow polygons), and old growth forests (identified with pine tree icons) are present around the study area. A diversity of young and mature tree stands means that there is also a diversity of habitat. An aspen stand is considered young when it is between one and twenty years old. During this time frame, the stand will have a uniquely high density, greater than any other forest type in Pennsylvania. This provides great coverage and food supply for many animals, like deer, elk, and rabbits. Meanwhile, older tree stands, like the mature oak stands and old growth forests, also provide great habitat, in addition to a host of other natural services, like greater carbon sequestration, and enhanced soil productivity and erosion protection. Two old growth forests are present near the study area, Forest Cathedral Natural Area and the Swamp Natural Area. These forests are located in Cook Forest State Park, which overlaps Clear Creek State Park, continuing northeast into Jefferson and Forest County.

Overall, the presence of diverse forest and tree types in an area can help ensure the region's biological health. The study area contains diverse tree species and tree stands of varying ages, which help to create a strong and diverse ecosystem. People can benefit from these natural areas, while considering their conservation. When considering additional access to the Clarion River, the unique recreational draw of these forest environments helps to create demand. Impacts on these areas related to any construction or development that may follow should be considered.



Bioresources

Bioresources can include a variety of naturally occurring assets, from plant and animal species to forests and meadows.

To help ensure the protection of both flora and fauna, the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Policy requires a PNDI report to be run prior to any permits being granted. A PNDI report utilizes data from the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) to identify and assess potential threats to threatened and endangered species, special concern species, and rare and significant ecological features. Potential threats are evaluated and identified as "conservation measures," which may or may not require additional action, based on data from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), the Fish and Boat Commission, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Services. In this case, PNDI reports were run for the entire study area to help understand potentially sensitive areas, prior to determining specific project locations and permit needs. Prior to any development, reports will need to be rerun based on specific sites or locations selected.

To run the planning level PNDI reports, the study area was divided into two sections, Section A- Piney Dam to Mill Creek Boat Launch, and Section B- Gravel Lick Road to Cook Forest State Park. In Section A, only one conservation measure was noted by the Fish and Boat Commission, which simply noted that timber rattlesnakes (*Crotalus horridus*) are common in this area and are likely to be encountered during construction. No additional action is required for the conservation measure in Section A. Timber rattlesnakes are present in fifty of the sixty-seven Pennsylvania counties. They are a species of pit viper, which are venomous with a very toxic bite, so users in the area should be careful. While timber rattlesnakes

are often viewed as undesirable and frightening, they are also an important part of the ecosystem, helping to control pest populations- including ticks. Therefore, hunting and collecting of timber rattlesnakes is controlled by the DCNR and causing damage to basking or denning habitat is illegal.

For Section B, additional conservation measures were identified, some of which would require additional action before a permit could be granted. The DCNR noted Big Bluestem – Indiangrass Floodplain Grassland and Hemlock Palustrine Forest as special concern resources, which means that these plant species are classified as, "...rare, tentatively undetermined or candidate as well as other taxa of conservation concern, significant natural communities, special concern populations (plants or animals) and unique geologic features." While DCNR noted these plant species, no additional action is required during the permitting process, only additional consideration during the implementation or construction phase to help mitigate any impact on these plants. In general, reducing project footprints or creating designs that provide vegetative buffers between the project and these species may be beneficial in reducing potential impacts. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission noted an endangered species and a special concern species within Section B of the study area. The specific species are not revealed for their protection. Further review of this project by the Fish and Boat Commission may be necessary for any project in Section B. Finally, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service noted proximity to a bald eagle nest within this section. Under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, an additional permit may be required for projects in this area. Once a specific project has been identified, the PNDI may be rerun to determine if further action is needed to protect the endangered or special concern species potentially present, or to determine the specific measures needed to help protect Bald and Golden Eagles.

INFRASTRUCTURE, CIRCULATION & ACCESS PATTERNS

Utilities

Overview

Utilities and infrastructure are crucial when creating new river access areas as they ensure safety, accessibility, and functionality. Reliable utilities like water, electricity, and internet access are essential for maintaining cleanliness and supporting recreational activities. Proper planning of these elements promotes environmental sustainability and enhances the overall user experience, making the river access area a valuable community asset.

Broadband Access

Broadband access is an assessment of a region's wide bandwidth data transmission over a high-speed internet connection. According to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), broadband internet is considered internet service with a minimum download speed of 25 mbps and a minimum upload speed of 3 mbps. The map on the following page features the fixed broadband availability per H3 Resolution-8 (a hexagonal area of land that is about 0.74 km²). Broadband access is typically organized into three categories:

- Served – speeds greater than or equal to 100/20 mbps
- Underserved – speeds less than 100/20 mbps but greater than or equal to 25/3 mbps
- Unserved – speeds less than 25/3 or not low-latency

The map shows the number of Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSL) in a H3 Resolution-8 area that have

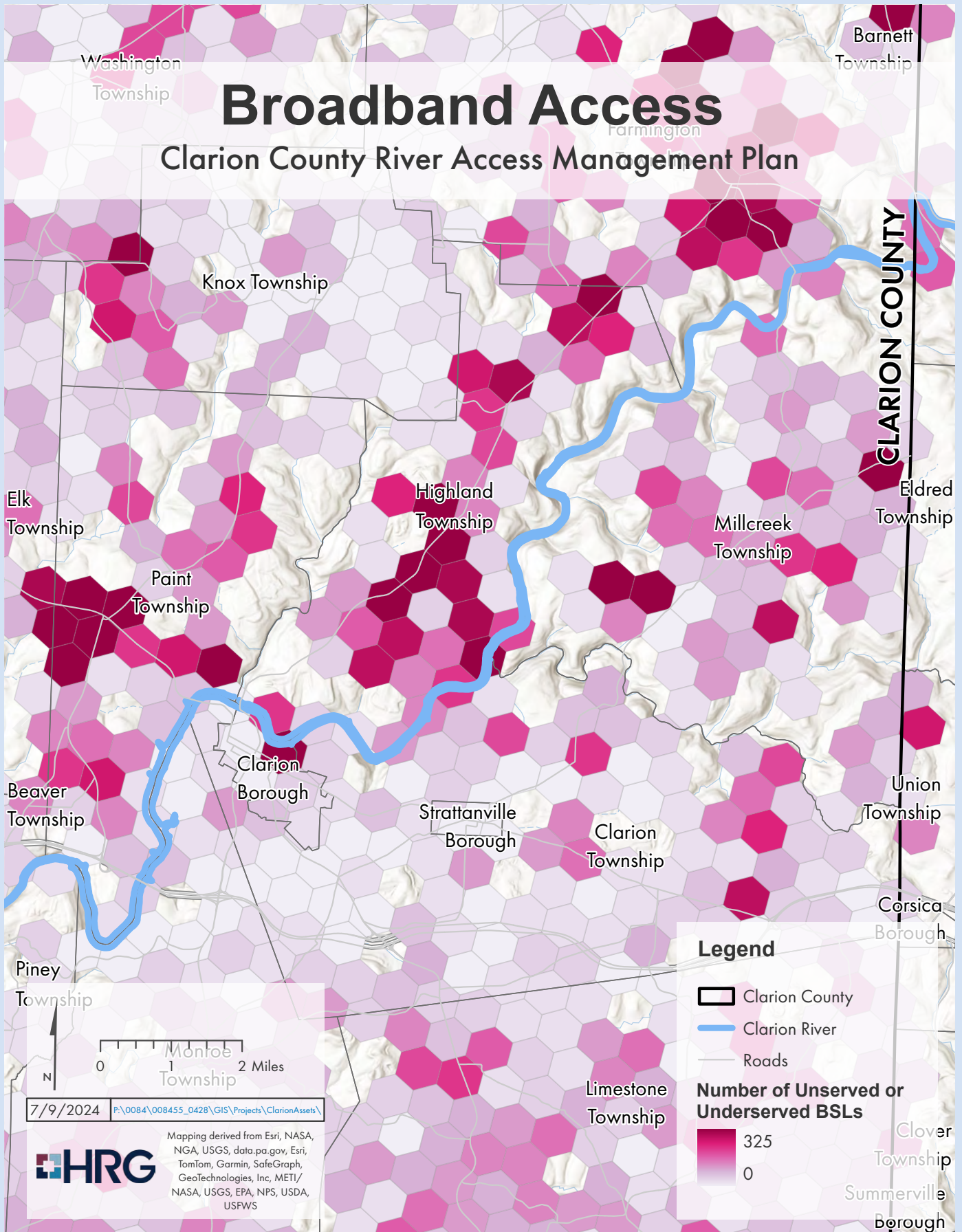


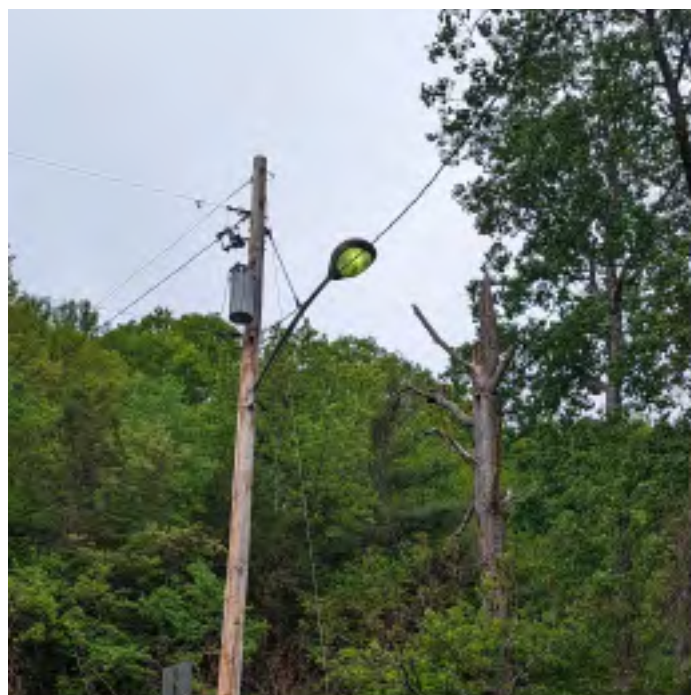
A North Country Trail directional sign

been assessed as either underserved or unserved in terms of broadband access. The map indicates a higher rate of underserved/unserved regions north of the Clarion Riverbank across the Study area. Municipalities that have generally poorer broadband access include Paint Township, Highland Township, and Farmington Township. While broadband access does not include cellular service availability, understanding the access to broadband regionally may indicate that residential areas with poorer broadband access may not have appropriate internet access at home that provides information on current public access points for the River. Therefore, there may be a large percentage of the population north of the Riverbank that are unaware of updates and the status of vital access points.

Broadband Access

Clarion County River Access Management Plan





Some of the utility infrastructure at the Toby Boat Launch

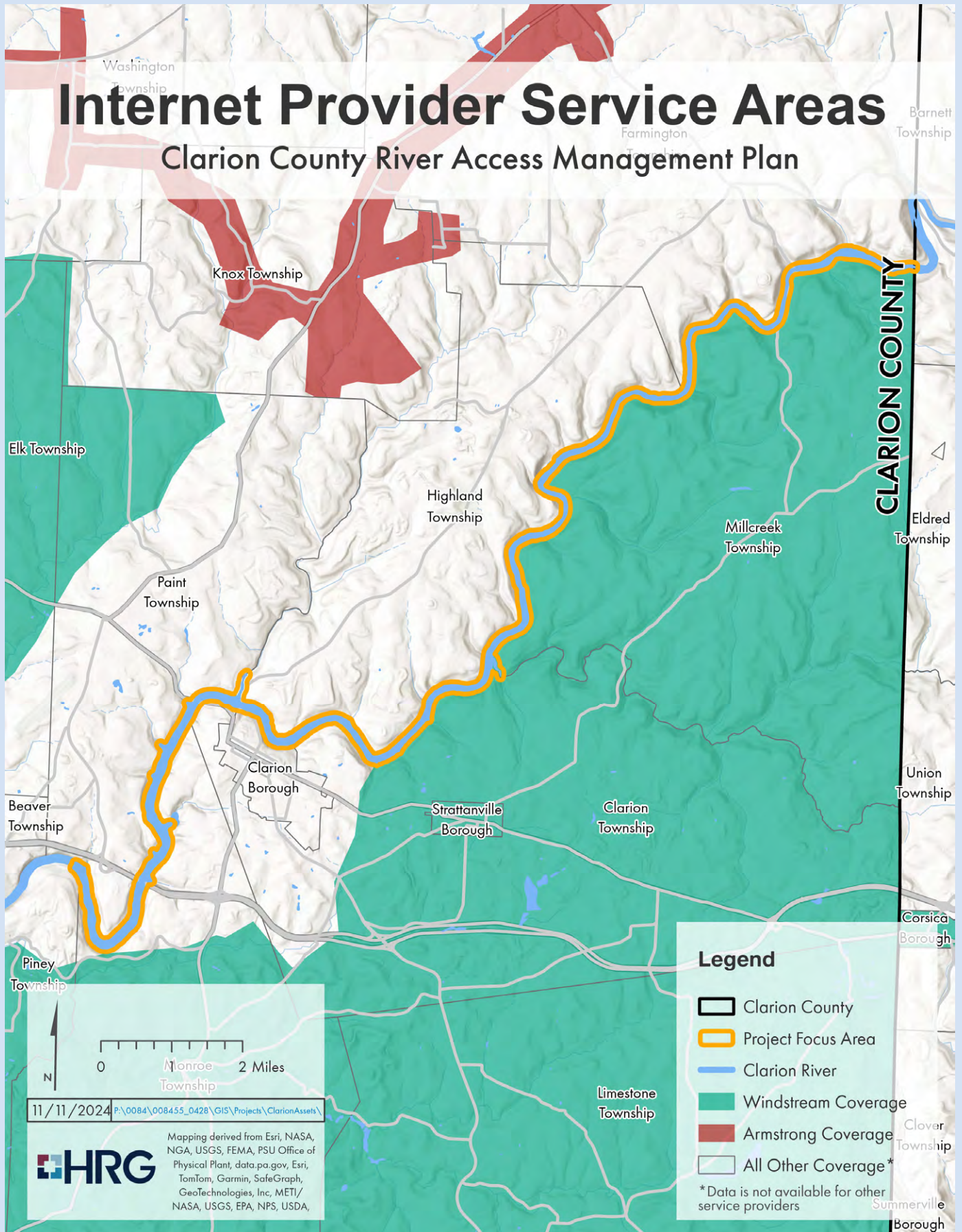
Internet Provider Access

The Broadband Access map indicates a lack of high-quality internet access in the region north of the Clarion Riverbank. When comparing this map to the Internet Provider Service Areas map on the following page, there is a clear relationship between areas without internet provider access and areas with insufficient broadband access. The two major home internet providers in the study area are Armstrong and Windstream. Armstrong only services the portion of State Route 66 and Old Fryburg Road within Washington, Knox, and Farmington Townships. Windstream covers a more significant portion of the Study area with the region south of the Clarion Riverbank almost entirely serviced aside from the Clarion Borough area and its surrounding region.

The Internet Provider Service Access Map also shows locations of local cellular towers. The only cellular tower within the Study area is located just west of Corsica Borough. At its closest point, the Clarion River is about 6 miles from the tower. While the maximum technical range for cellular towers can reach as far as 40 miles, topographical variation can greatly affect the quality and extent of signal received from a tower.

Internet Provider Service Areas

Clarion County River Access Management Plan

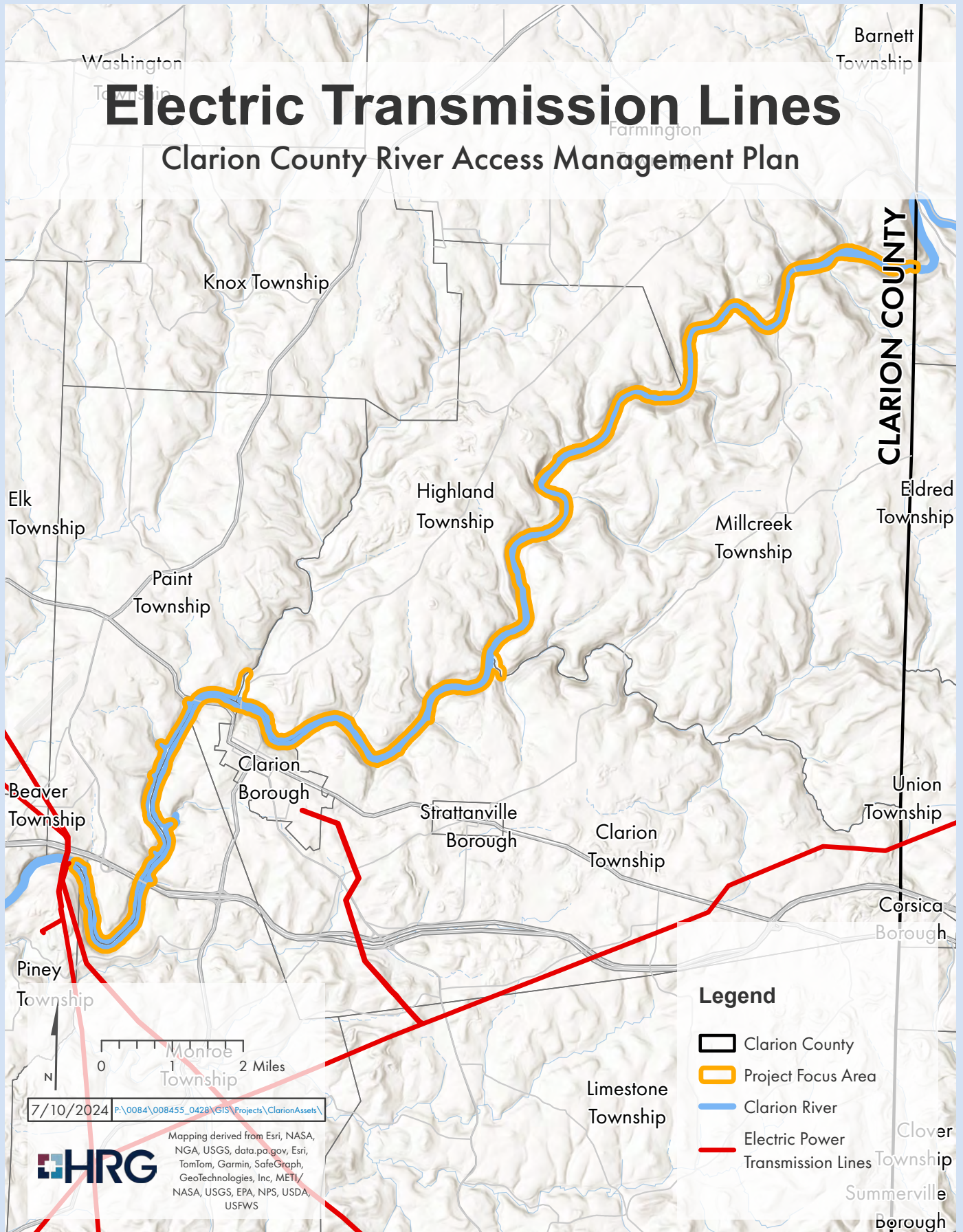


Electric Transmission Lines

The map on page 38 shows the active high-voltage power transmission lines that run through the Study area. While this map does not include local low-voltage power lines, it is clear that there is a stronger electric presence on the southern side of the Clarion Riverbank. All of the power lines within the Study area are owned and managed by West Penn Power and are within the voltage classification of 100 to 161 kV. Lack of access to high-voltage power may pose a challenge when trying to improve access to the River. If new facilities were to be built on the northern shore of the River, considerations should be made regarding the access and quality of power available to use for new facilities.

Electric Transmission Lines

Clarion County River Access Management Plan

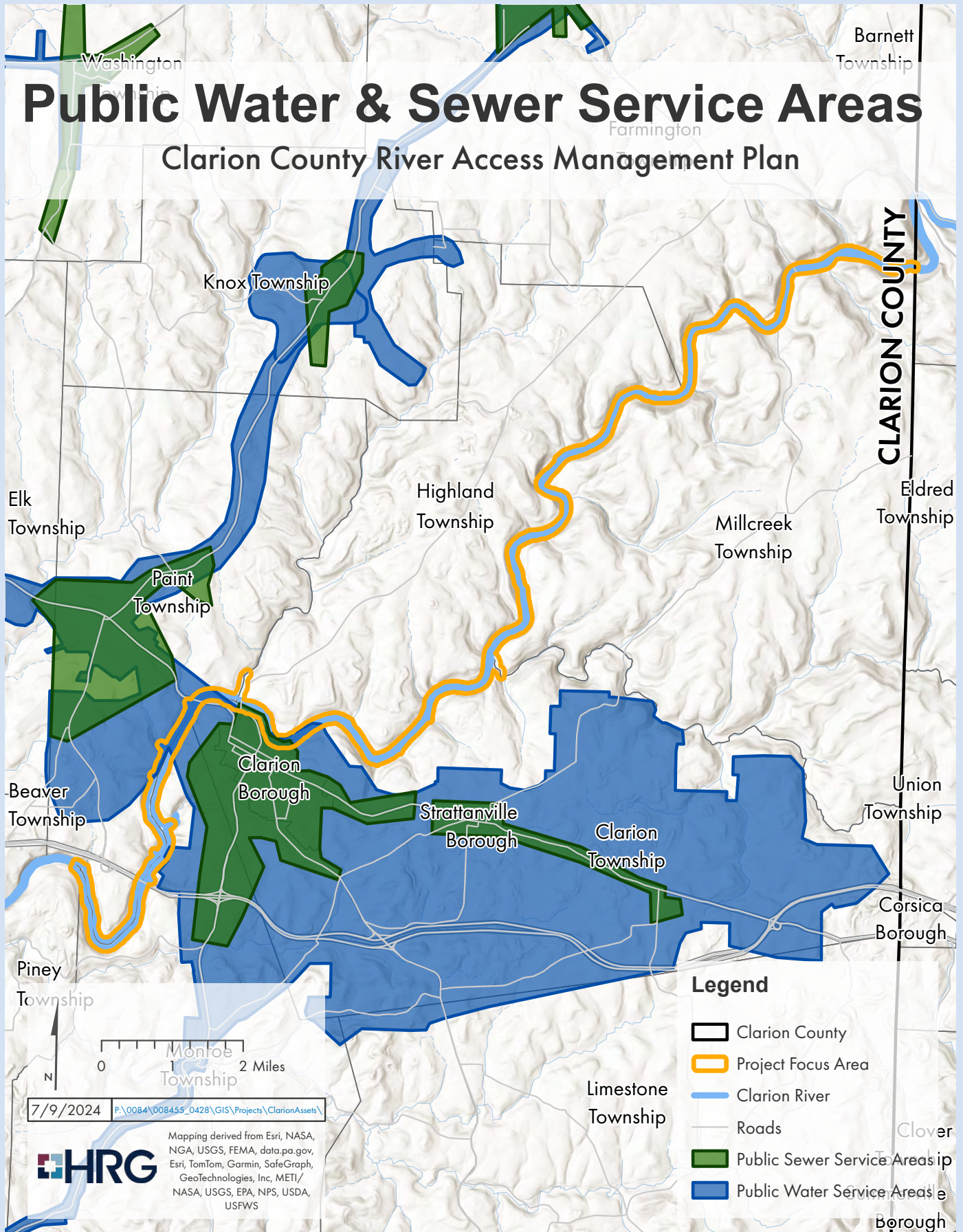


Public Water and Sewer Service Areas

As seen on the map on page 40, access to public water and sewer is mainly located in more densely populated areas including Clarion Borough, Clarion Township, Strattanville Borough, the Marianne neighborhood in Paint Township, and along State Route 66 heading north through Knox Township. Sewer access is more limited, with service in only Clarion Borough, the Marianne neighborhood of Paint Township, the Lucinda neighborhood of Knox Township, and the extent of State Route 322 from the Borough to C L School Road and State Route 68 from the Borough to just beyond the I-80 interchange. For the locations without access to public sewer and water, businesses and residences are required to have wells and septic tanks to manage those resources. The lack of sewer and water availability for the vast extent of the Study area should be considered when proposing the development of new access points. If a new access point is to provide water access and restrooms, those facilities would need to consider alternatives to public utility access including installation of dry toilets and wells.

Public Water & Sewer Service Areas

Clarion County River Access Management Plan



Access and Circulation

Overview

Access to Recreation for All is one of five major priorities of the Pennsylvania Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Important components of “Access” include the following:

- Equity
- Diversity
- Proximity to recreation, particularly for underserved communities
- Physical access for people with disabilities

Outdoor Recreation Access

In a project led by the Trust for Public Land, Pennsylvania has established an online mapping tool that allows recreation providers to measure the level of access versus needs in their service areas.

Clarion County has an abundance of natural and recreational resources. However, much of the County is classified as a “high” or “medium” need when evaluated based on the ability to walk to a recreation area within ten minutes. The level of need is based on three factors- population density, youth population density, and low-income population density.

The project area, identified in bold on the following map, is classified as high to medium need in the southwestern

half near Clarion Borough where population density is higher. The northeastern portion of the project area is generally classified as low need, likely due to lower population density and the area’s proximity to Cook Forest. Higher incomes may also affect the classification, as people with higher income have more access to transportation and private recreation options.

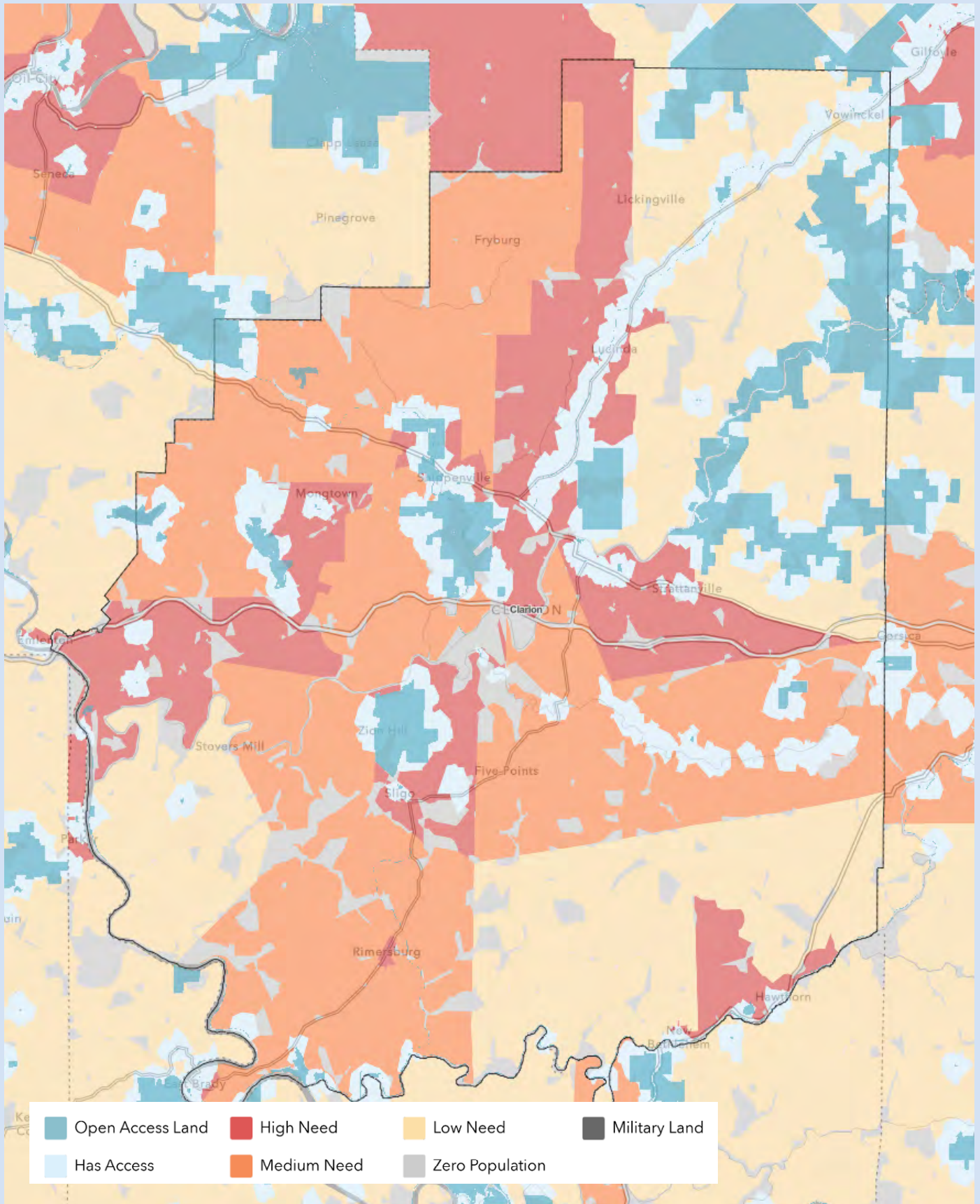
The map on the following page illustrates need areas based on access to parks, trails, and open space within a ten-minute walk.

When evaluating Clarion County’s residents’ access to water recreation, all of the identified public water access points are considered. “Access” is identified as being within a ten-minute drive of a water access point.

Countywide, data shows that Clarion County compares well with water recreation access statewide. Clarion County provides particularly well for populations identified as minorities (78%), linguistically isolated (83%), and households without vehicles (69%). The least-served population identified is people that have less than a high school education (55%).

Most of the project area is considered to have sufficient access to water recreation. Much of Monroe Township’s population has medium need, while in Paint and Clarion Townships there are pockets of high need. Along the Clarion River, one notable high-need area is located

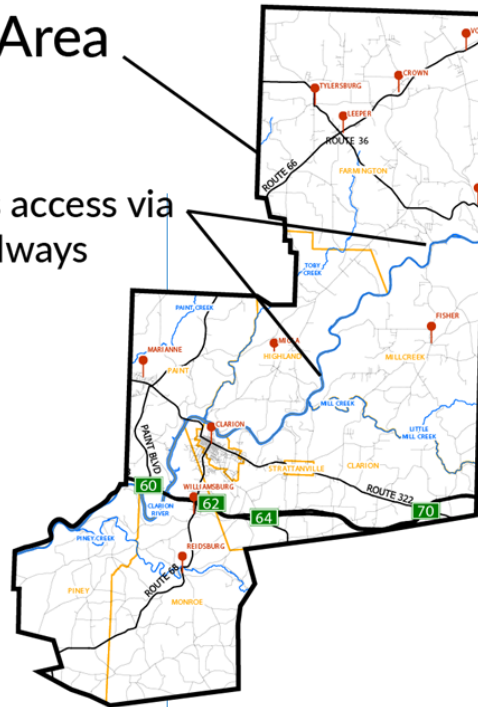
	Statewide	Clarion County		Clarion Comparison
Population Served:	61%	61.91%	+	0.91%
Kids Served:	60%	62.39%	+	2.39%
Low-Income Served:	64%	63.67%	-	-0.33%
Minorities Served:	68%	78.48%	+	10.48%



Source: Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), The Trust for Public Land (TPL), WeConservePA Esri web portal [https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/4b34299cf99b4d699135e38c3ca0d6d9/page/10-Minute-Walk-\(County\)/](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/4b34299cf99b4d699135e38c3ca0d6d9/page/10-Minute-Walk-(County)/)

Project Area

Less access via roadways



Source: Clarion County; Notes by HRG

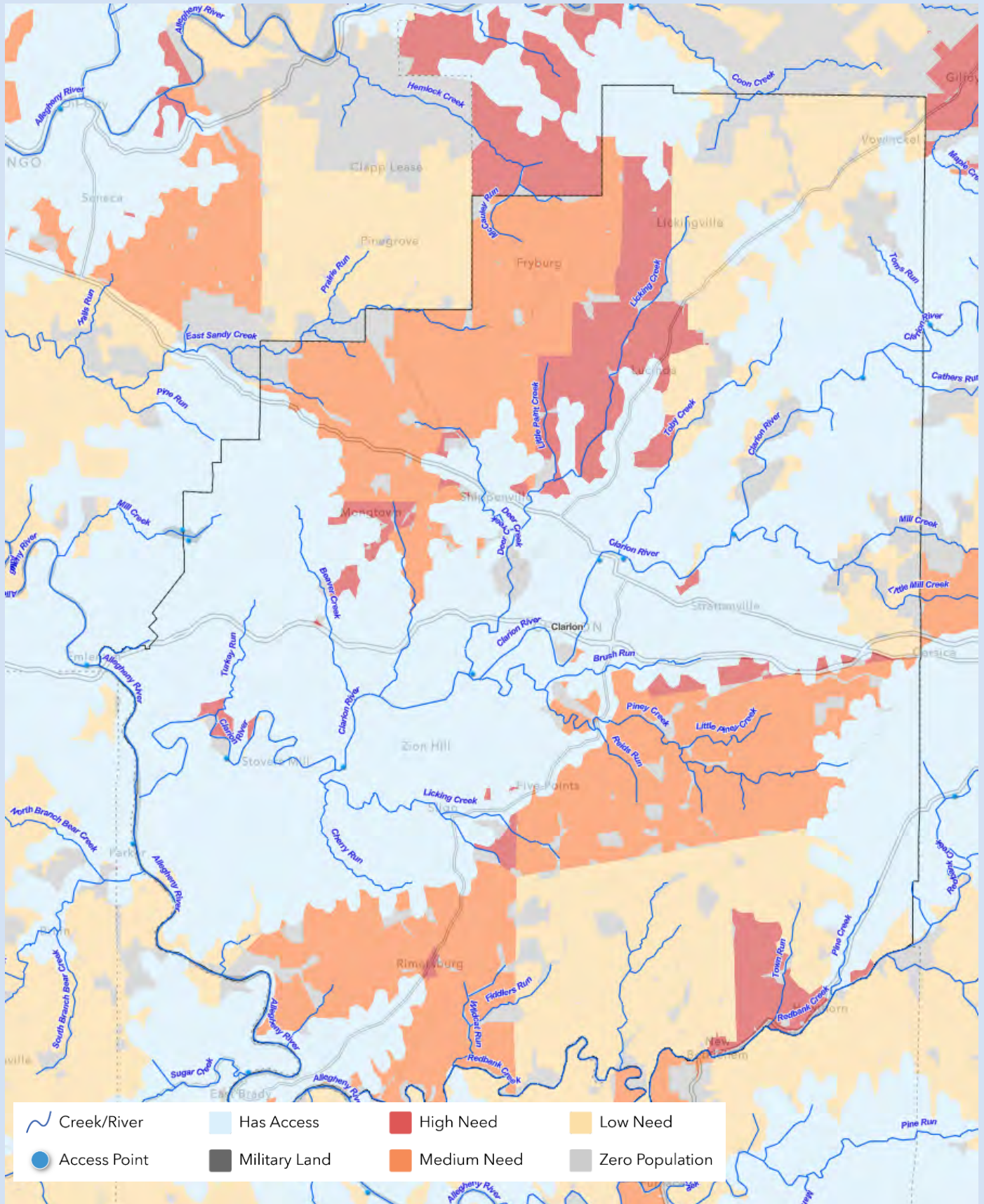
in Highland and Clarion Townships between the Toby Boat Launch and the Mill Creek Launch. Between the Mill Creek and Gravel Lick access points, areas are identified as having access; however, there is no public launch available in this area. Where Clear Creek State Forest abuts the Clarion River, it is likely that the mapping algorithm indicates access regardless of whether such access is practical. There are no improved access areas between Mill Creek and Gravel Lick.

The map on the following page highlights the water recreation access in the study area.

The above analysis regarding access to parks, trails, open space, and water recreation is a high-level assessment. Access can also be limited by local conditions such as the number and type of roadways present. A map of County roads indicates that throughout Clear Creek State Forest between Mill Creek and Gravel Lick, the density of roadways in the vicinity of the Clarion River is very low (below), limiting the options for practical water access.

While there are additional roads accessible by vehicle not included on the County map, a site inventory indicated that both mapped and unmapped routes vary in pavement condition, width, and markings. Some roads are earth surface and have become rutted. In addition, many roads do not allow two vehicles to safely pass. Road markings and wayfinding devices vary within and outside of public lands, but in general there are few markers indicating the route to the river or to public access points.

While high-level mapping and data analysis indicates that access is sufficient in much of the project area, the planning team identified a need for improved access points, improved roadway access, and an improved wayfinding system even where public water access is deemed to be provided.



Source: Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), The Trust for Public Land (TPL), WeConservePA Esri web portal [https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/4b34299cf99b4d699135e38c3ca0d6d9/page/10-Minute-Drive-\(Water\)/](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/4b34299cf99b4d699135e38c3ca0d6d9/page/10-Minute-Drive-(Water)/)



Public access improvements

Access to Roads and Highways

Overall, the study area of the Clarion River is located within close proximity to several main roads and highways. Interstate 80 runs through part of the study area in Piney Township. In addition, Routes 322, 66, and 68 are within reasonable distance from the Clarion River study area and run through parts of Paint Township, Piney Township, Clarion Township, and Clarion Borough. The map on page 46 highlights the Major Roadways around the study area.

Given that there are several major roadways and highways that are within close proximity to the study area, it is important to look at the Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) counts along these roadways. Looking at the traffic counts helps to capture existing users and potential new users of the Clarion River for recreation and enjoyment. Interstate 80 has the highest AADT counts in the region, followed by sections of Routes 322, 66, and 68. The roadways with the highest AADT are shown in purple shading on the Traffic Counts map on page 47.

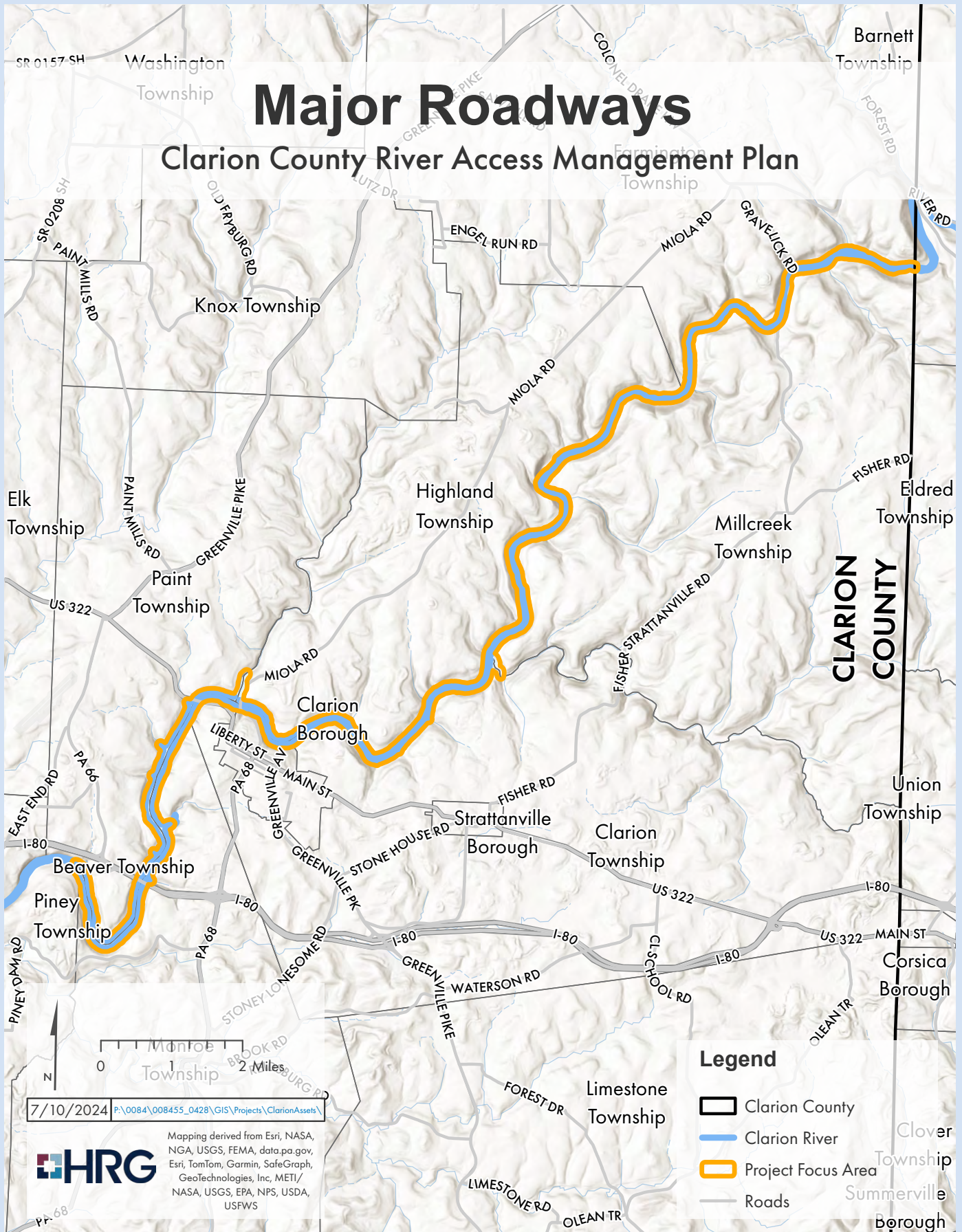
Having several major roadways within the study area helps to provide additional options to expand and improve access to the Clarion River for all. It is important to identify, as part of this Plan, where potential connections or access areas can be built. The southern portion of the study area has better access to area roadways. The northern, and more rural part, of the study area does not have access to as many roadways. Having access to these major roads and highways can be leveraged to create better connectivity to the River and to other assets and destinations in the region as whole.

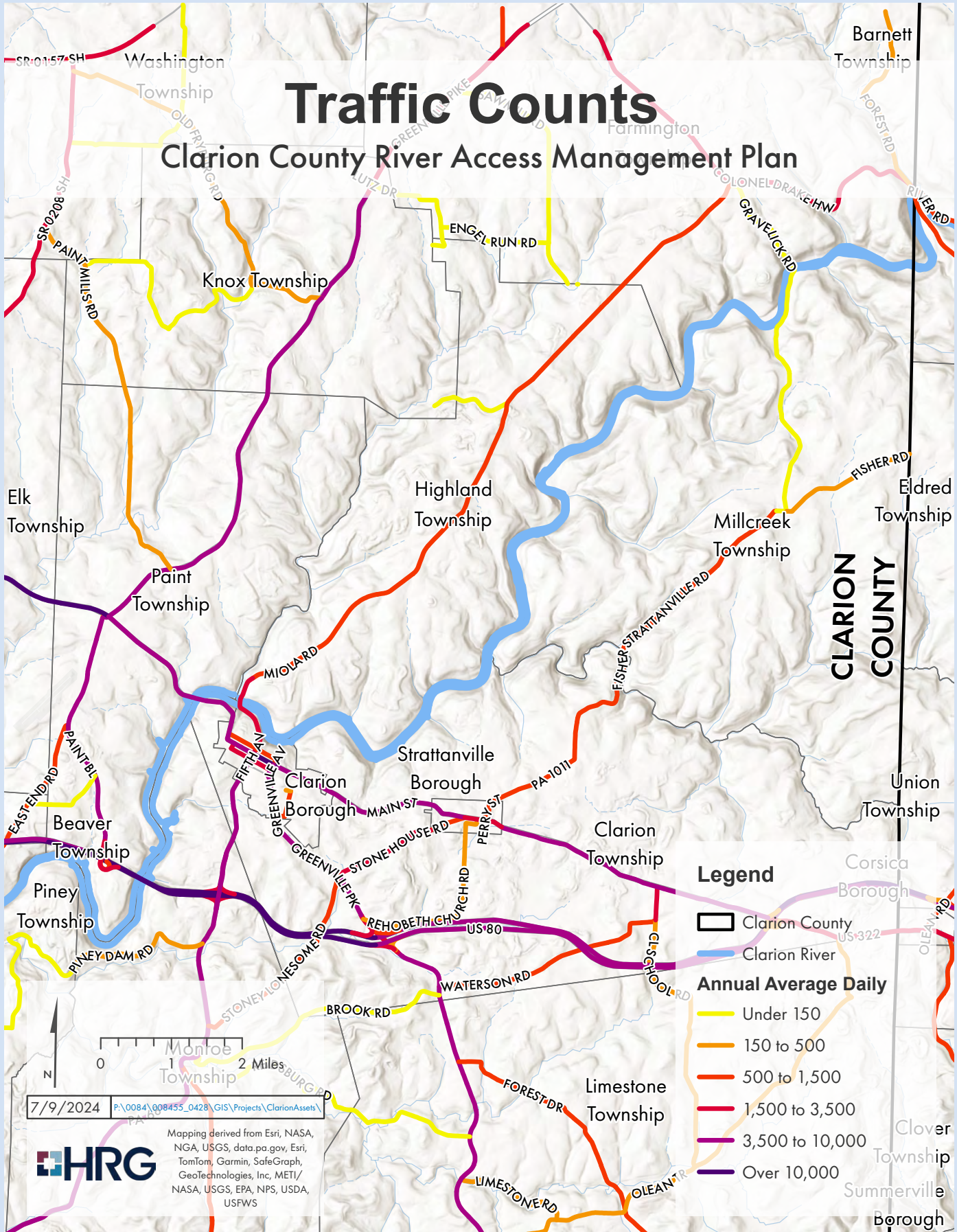
Private Facilities on Public Land

In some water access areas identified as publicly accessible, private facilities have been installed with signage prohibiting public access. The area where this was most prevalent is on Old Route 322, on lands improved with funding for the Piney Project by Brookfield Renewable Power. More information is needed to understand the status of private owners operating on public access land, and how private access is allotted.

Major Roadways

Clarion County River Access Management Plan





The 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Outdoor Recreation Access

Outdoor recreation access is governed by guidelines developed by the U.S. Access Board that are considered enforceable under the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA), rather than by rules under the 2010 ADA. The guidelines provide exceptions to accessibility requirements under four rules, available online from the U.S. Access Board (<https://www.access-board.gov/aba/guides/chapter-10-outdoor/>).

No existing access points along the Clarion River in the study area are fully ADA accessible. Improvements have been installed by Clarion County at the Toby Boat Launch for use by people with disabilities, but the site layout allows limited mobility and access. Some of the improvements need maintenance or are missing some accessible features. Addressing accessibility constraints at the Toby Boat Launch may best be remedied by a holistic accessibility plan for the site.

The Mill Creek Launch does not have designated ADA improvements, but is a relatively level site with many opportunities. Gravel Lick does not have ADA improvements and may be exempt from Outdoor Access requirements due to topography.

Permitting

Access to the Clarion River may also be limited by various regulatory requirements. This includes boat registration and launch permits required to use access points. An input session held by DCNR in March 2024 at the Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society conference indicated that there is concern among recreation professionals who serve low income populations or who are trying to draw new people to use recreation sites that permits are an obstacle for financial, transportation, or other reasons such as the need to plan ahead and a general lack of knowledge.



Some of the ADA infrastructure at the Toby Boat Launch

Mill Creek and Gravel Lick are Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC or “Commission”) launches. Unpowered boats launched at Commission lakes and access areas as well as Pennsylvania State Parks and Forests must display a boat registration, Commission launch permit, or Pennsylvania State Parks launch permit. A list of places in Clarion County to purchase a launch permit is available on the PFBC website (<https://pfbc.pa.gov/brag/use/clar.htm>).

Clarion County offers fishing permits online, but there is no information available about purchasing a launch permit, and the fishing permit link was broken at the time accessed (https://www.co.clarion.pa.us/government/elected_officials/treasurer/forms.php#outer-256 accessed June 4 and July 9, 2024). The lack of online information and permit availability may impact residents’ and visitors’ ability to readily access existing fishing and boating resources, particularly if those residents are low income and/or do not have regularly available personal transportation.

CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

This Background Inventory and Analysis Report has provided an overview of the many cultural, historic, environmental, and natural resources present throughout the designated study area for the Clarion River Access Management Plan. The report also provides a glimpse into the existing conditions of the area, including land uses, infrastructure, and circulation and access patterns.

The Clarion River, and more specifically the study area that is part of the Access Management Plan (AMP), is home to a plethora of resources and assets. The ultimate goal of the AMP is to enhance and improve access to the River for Clarion County residents and visitors. The River is used for many recreational activities, including

fishing, canoeing, boating, swimming, floating, wading, kayaking, paddle boarding, and other motorized activities.

The information gathered and analyzed in this Report will be used to develop sections of the Access Management Plan. Specifically, this information and analysis will be used to identify potential new access points and locations in the study area, to discuss maintenance considerations for the various activities supported by the river and for any potential new access points, and to develop action strategies to address any goals and objectives related to the creation of the various proposed new access points and overlooks.



The old 322 south bank river access

PNDI Reports

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: **Clarion River Access Management Plan (Piney Dam to Mill Creek)_R008455.0428_Ph 06**

Date of Review: **4/10/2024 01:37:07 PM**

Project Category: **Recreation, Other**

Project Area: **139.38 acres**

County(s): **Clarion**

Township/Municipality(s): **CLARION; CLARION TOWNSHIP; HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP; MONROE TOWNSHIP; PAINT TOWNSHIP; PINEY TOWNSHIP**

ZIP Code:

Quadrangle Name(s): **CLARION; STRATTANVILLE**

Watersheds HUC 8: **Clarion**

Watersheds HUC 12: **Blyson Run-Clarion River**

Decimal Degrees: **41.217707, -79.378073**

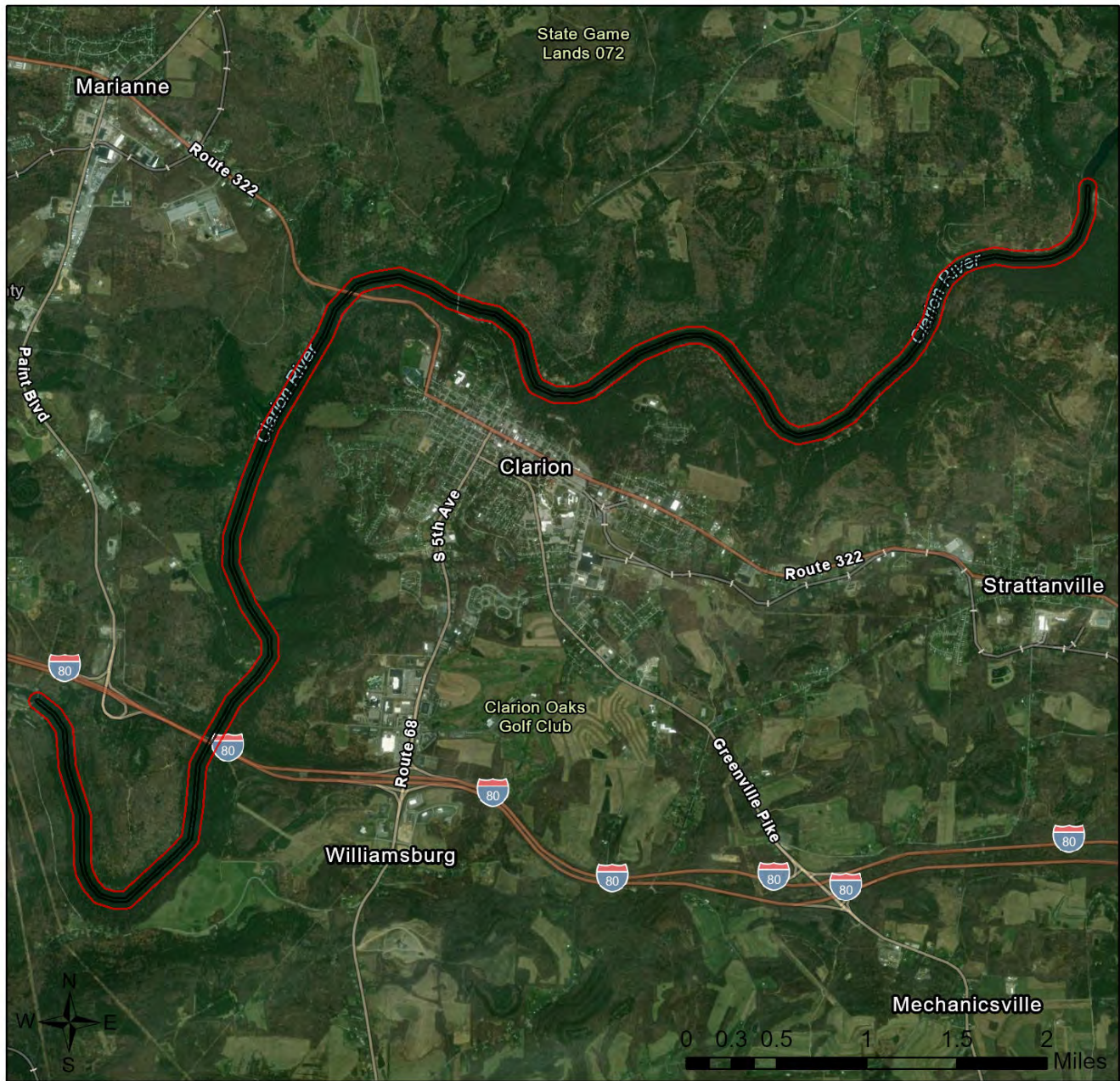
Degrees Minutes Seconds: **41° 13' 3.7456" N, 79° 22' 41.620" W**



2. SEARCH RESULTS

Agency	Results	Response
PA Game Commission	No Known Impact	No Further Review Required
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	No Known Impact	No Further Review Required
PA Fish and Boat Commission	Conservation Measure	No Further Review Required, See Agency Comments
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	No Known Impact	No Further Review Required

Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) records indicate that while threatened and endangered and/or special concern species and resources are in the project vicinity and that recommended Conservation Measures should be implemented in their entirety to avoid and minimize impacts to these species, no further coordination is required with the jurisdictional agencies. If a DEP permit is required for this project, DEP has the discretion to incorporate one or more Conservation Measures into its permit. This response does not reflect potential agency concerns regarding potential impacts to other ecological resources, such as wetlands.

Map Title

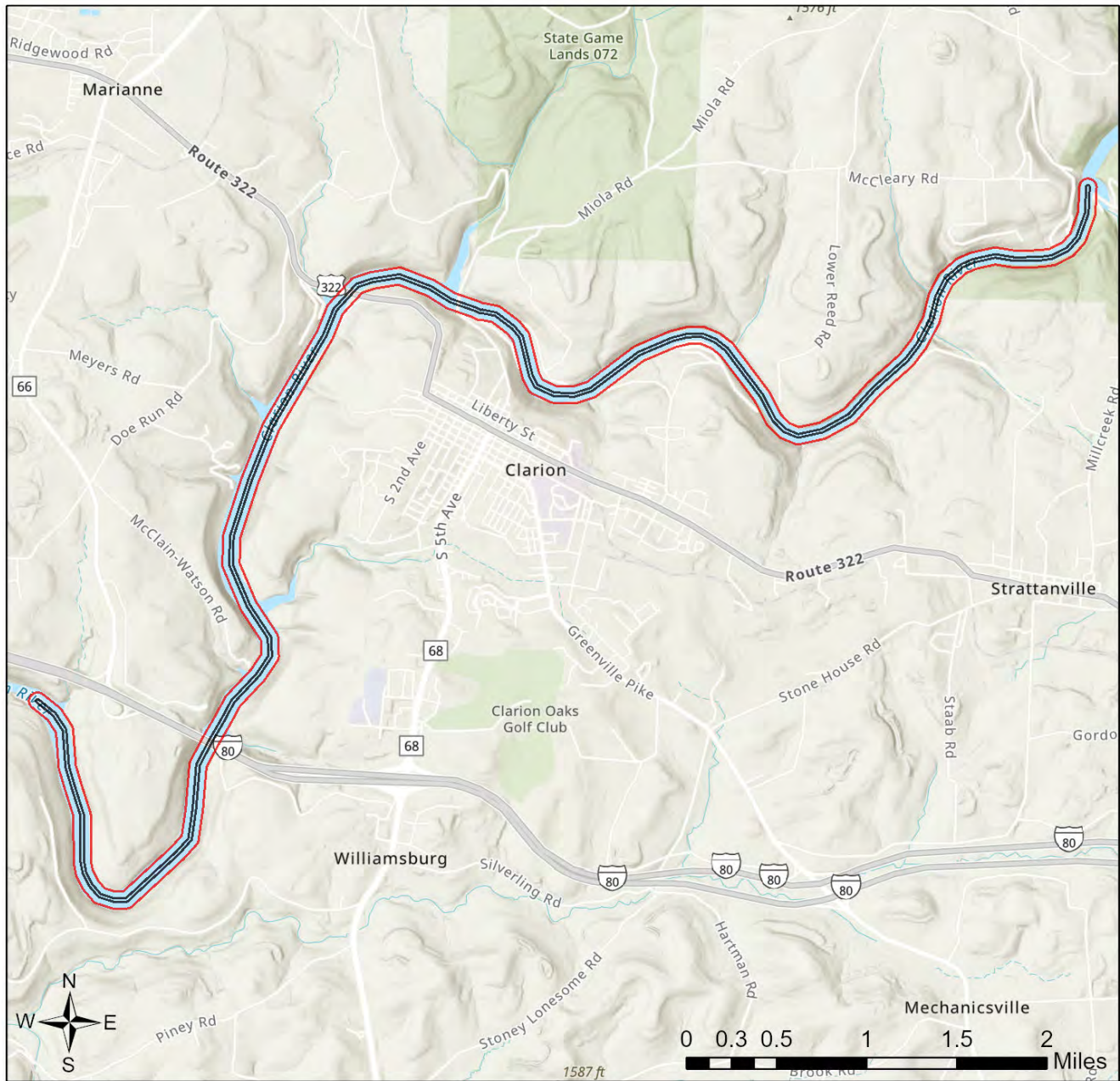




-  Buffered Project Boundary
-  Project Boundary



Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community

Map Title



-  Buffered Project Boundary
-  Project Boundary



Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community

RESPONSE TO QUESTION(S) ASKED

Q1: The proposed project is in the range of the Indiana bat. Describe how the project will affect bat habitat (forests, woodlots and trees) and indicate what measures will be taken in consideration of this. Round acreages up to the nearest acre (e.g., 0.2 acres = 1 acre).

Your answer is: No forests, woodlots or trees will be affected by the project.

Q2: Is tree removal, tree cutting or forest clearing of 40 acres or more necessary to implement all aspects of this project?

Your answer is: No

3. AGENCY COMMENTS

Regardless of whether a DEP permit is necessary for this proposed project, any potential impacts to threatened and endangered species and/or special concern species and resources must be resolved with the appropriate jurisdictional agency. In some cases, a permit or authorization from the jurisdictional agency may be needed if adverse impacts to these species and habitats cannot be avoided.

These agency determinations and responses are **valid for two years** (from the date of the review), and are based on the project information that was provided, including the exact project location; the project type, description, and features; and any responses to questions that were generated during this search. If any of the following change: 1) project location, 2) project size or configuration, 3) project type, or 4) responses to the questions that were asked during the online review, the results of this review are not valid, and the review must be searched again via the PNDI Environmental Review Tool and resubmitted to the jurisdictional agencies. The PNDI tool is a primary screening tool, and a desktop review may reveal more or fewer impacts than what is listed on this PNDI receipt. The jurisdictional agencies **strongly advise against** conducting surveys for the species listed on the receipt prior to consultation with the agencies.

PA Game Commission

RESPONSE:

No Impact is anticipated to threatened and endangered species and/or special concern species and resources.

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

RESPONSE:

No Impact is anticipated to threatened and endangered species and/or special concern species and resources.

PA Fish and Boat Commission

RESPONSE:

Conservation Measure: Projects conducted in the occupied range of the timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) have a high risk of encountering this species during construction.

- 1) Workers responsible for implementing this project should be advised that timber rattlesnakes may be encountered and that avoidance is the best means of minimizing risks to personal safety. It is suggested that safety protocols be implemented for timber rattlesnake encounters and workers should be advised that the timber rattlesnake is a state protected species and is not to be harmed. Killing of timber rattlesnakes is prohibited by the Commission pursuant to 58 Pa. Code Section 79.6.
- 2) We recommend that a timber rattlesnake habitat assessment be conducted in the project area by a qualified timber rattlesnake surveyor in order to assist project planners in avoiding disturbance of critical habitat. A list of qualified surveyors and habitat assessment protocol can be found here.
 - See <http://www.fishandboat.com/Resource/AmphibiansandReptiles/Pages/TimberRattlesnakeConservation.aspx> for a list of Qualified Timber Rattlesnake Surveyors
 - See <http://www.fishandboat.com/Resource/AmphibiansandReptiles/Pages/TimberRattlesnakeConservation.aspx> for the Timber Rattlesnake Habitat Protocol
- 3) If potential den (over-wintering) habitat is located during the habitat assessment, we recommend that the project be modified to avoid direct impacts to this irreplaceable habitat, or a Timber Rattlesnake Presence-Absence Survey of potential den (over-wintering) habitat be conducted in the habitats that are currently slated for direct disturbance to determine the presence or absence of rattlesnake hibernacula in the project area. Survey reports should be sent to PFBC for review and consultation. This information is necessary to allow PFBC to formulate recommendations to avoid adverse impacts to this species of special concern.
 - See <http://www.fishandboat.com/Resource/AmphibiansandReptiles/Pages/TimberRattlesnakeConservation.aspx> for the Timber Rattlesnake Presence-Absence Survey Protocol
- 4) If potential or occupied gestation habitat is located during the habitat assessment and cannot be avoided by the proposed development, we recommend that this habitat be replaced using our habitat creation guidelines.
 - See <http://www.fishandboat.com/Resource/AmphibiansandReptiles/Pages/TimberRattlesnakeConservation.aspx> for the PFBC Gestation Habitat Creation Guidelines
- 5) Tree clearing and timbering within potential timber rattlesnake critical habitats (135°-275° aspect, >10% slope) should be conducted from October 16 to April 14 in order to avoid encounters with timber rattlesnakes.
- 6) For the safety of workers and snakes, the Commission recommends that a PFBC permitted timber rattlesnake biologist who has the proper skills to handle this venomous species be on-site prior to and during construction, between April 15 and October 15, to inspect and clear the area (including staging areas and access roads) of timber rattlesnakes and to capture and remove any rattlesnakes that may interfere with work activities.
See <http://www.fishandboat.com/Resource/AmphibiansandReptiles/Pages/TimberRattlesnakeConservation.aspx> for the Monitoring Guidelines
- 7) If concerns arise during construction over high numbers of snake encounters or habitat alteration, please contact the PFBC at 814-359-5237 for consultation with our biologists.

PFBC Species: (Note: The Pennsylvania Conservation Explorer tool is a primary screening tool, and a desktop review may reveal more or fewer species than what is listed below.)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Current Status
Sensitive Species**		Special Concern Species*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

RESPONSE:

No impacts to **federally** listed or proposed species are anticipated. Therefore, no further consultation/coordination under the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq. is required. Because no take of federally listed species is anticipated, none is authorized. This response does not reflect potential Fish and Wildlife Service concerns under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act or other authorities.

* Special Concern Species or Resource - Plant or animal species classified as rare, tentatively undetermined or candidate as well as other taxa of conservation concern, significant natural communities, special concern populations (plants or animals) and unique geologic features.

** Sensitive Species - Species identified by the jurisdictional agency as collectible, having economic value, or being susceptible to decline as a result of visitation.

4. DEP INFORMATION

The Pa Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requires that a signed copy of this receipt, along with any required documentation from jurisdictional agencies concerning resolution of potential impacts, be submitted with applications for permits requiring PNDI review. Two review options are available to permit applicants for handling PNDI coordination in conjunction with DEP's permit review process involving either T&E Species or species of special concern. Under sequential review, the permit applicant performs a PNDI screening and completes all coordination with the appropriate jurisdictional agencies prior to submitting the permit application. The applicant will include with its application, both a PNDI receipt and/or a clearance letter from the jurisdictional agency if the PNDI Receipt shows a Potential Impact to a species or the applicant chooses to obtain letters directly from the jurisdictional agencies. Under concurrent review, DEP, where feasible, will allow technical review of the permit to occur concurrently with the T&E species consultation with the jurisdictional agency. The applicant must still supply a copy of the PNDI Receipt with its permit application. The PNDI Receipt should also be submitted to the appropriate agency according to directions on the PNDI Receipt. The applicant and the jurisdictional agency will work together to resolve the potential impact(s). See the DEP PNDI policy at <https://conservationexplorer.dcnr.pa.gov/content/resources>.



5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The PNDI environmental review website is a preliminary screening tool. There are often delays in updating species status classifications. Because the proposed status represents the best available information regarding the conservation status of the species, state jurisdictional agency staff give the proposed statuses at least the same consideration as the current legal status. If surveys or further information reveal that a threatened and endangered and/or special concern species and resources exist in your project area, contact the appropriate jurisdictional agency/agencies immediately to identify and resolve any impacts.

For a list of species known to occur in the county where your project is located, please see the species lists by county found on the PA Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) home page (www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us). Also note that the PNDI Environmental Review Tool only contains information about species occurrences that have actually been reported to the PNHP.

6. AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Bureau of Forestry, Ecological Services Section
400 Market Street, PO Box 8552
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552
Email: RA-HeritageReview@pa.gov

PA Fish and Boat Commission

Division of Environmental Services
595 E. Rolling Ridge Dr., Bellefonte, PA 16823
Email: RA-FBPACENOTIFY@pa.gov

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Pennsylvania Field Office
Endangered Species Section
110 Radnor Rd; Suite 101
State College, PA 16801
Email: IR1_ESPenn@fws.gov
NO Faxes Please

PA Game Commission

Bureau of Wildlife Management
Division of Environmental Review
2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797
Email: RA-PGC_PNDI@pa.gov
NO Faxes Please

7. PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Dalena Groshek
Company/Business Name: Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.
Address: 220 W. Kensinger Drive, Suite 100
City, State, Zip: Cranberry Township, PA 16066
Phone: (724) 779-4777 Fax: ()
Email: dgroshek@hrg-inc.com

8. CERTIFICATION

I certify that ALL of the project information contained in this receipt (including project location, project size/configuration, project type, answers to questions) is true, accurate and complete. In addition, if the project type, location, size or configuration changes, or if the answers to any questions that were asked during this online review change, I agree to re-do the online environmental review.


applicant/project proponent signature

04/10/2024
date

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: **Clarion River Access Management Plan (Gravel Lick to Cook Forest)_R008455.0428_Ph 06**

Date of Review: **4/10/2024 01:33:25 PM**

Project Category: **Recreation, Other**

Project Area: **158.97 acres**

County(s): **Clarion; Forest; Jefferson**

Township/Municipality(s): **BARNETT TOWNSHIP; CLARION TOWNSHIP; FARMINGTON TOWNSHIP; HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP; MILLCREEK TOWNSHIP**

ZIP Code:

Quadrangle Name(s): **COOKSBURG; LUCINDA; STRATTANVILLE**

Watersheds HUC 8: **Clarion**

Watersheds HUC 12: **Blyson Run-Clarion River; Toms Creek-Clarion River**

Decimal Degrees: **41.304532, -79.263210**

Degrees Minutes Seconds: **41° 18' 16.3134" N, 79° 15' 47.5568" W**

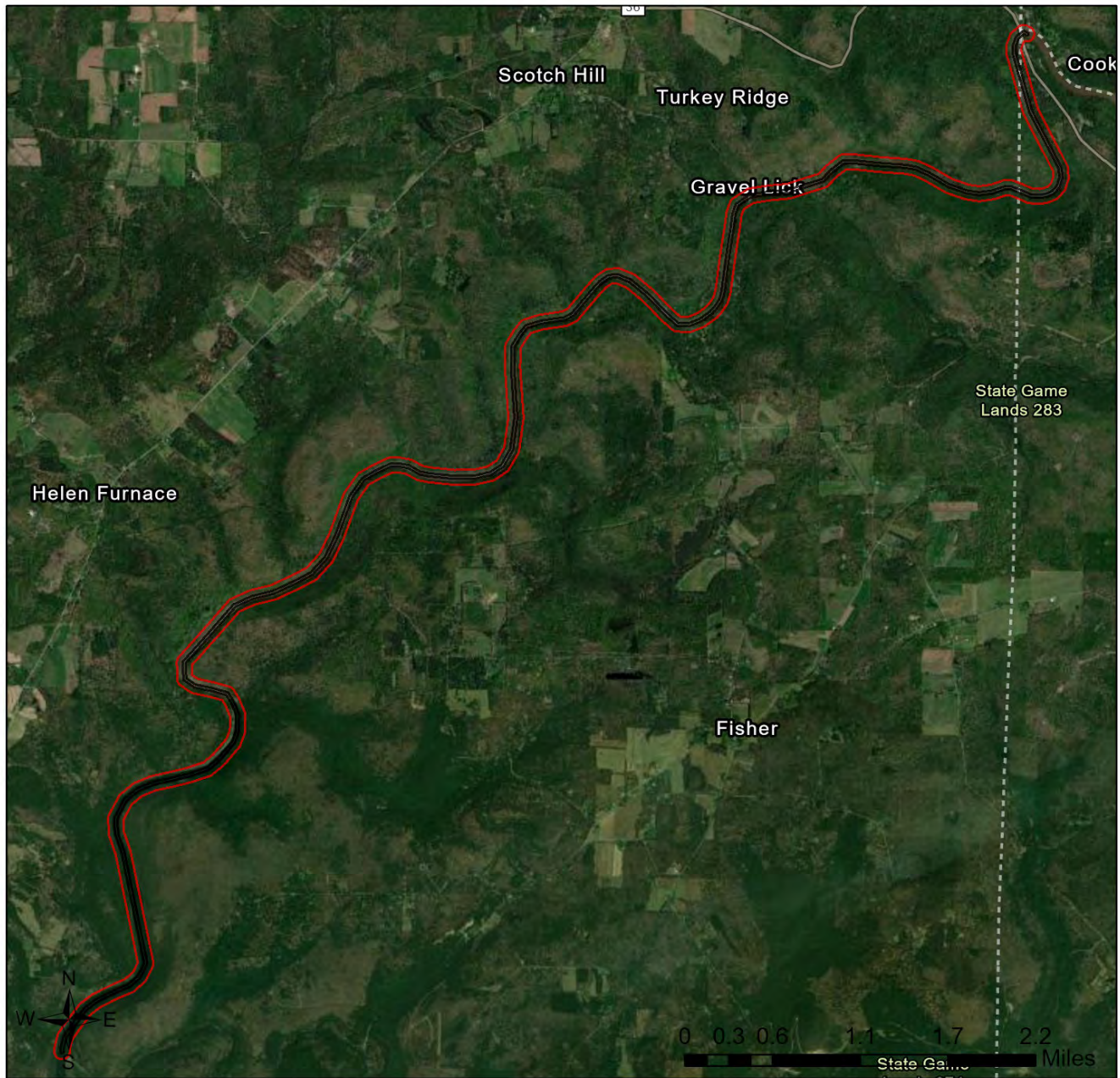
This is a draft receipt for information only. It has not been submitted to jurisdictional agencies for review.



2. SEARCH RESULTS

Agency	Results	Response
PA Game Commission	No Known Impact	No Further Review Required
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	Conservation Measure	No Further Review Required, See Agency Comments
PA Fish and Boat Commission	Potential Impact	FURTHER REVIEW IS REQUIRED, See Agency Response
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Potential Impact	MORE INFORMATION REQUIRED, See Agency Response

As summarized above, Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) records indicate there may be potential impacts to threatened and endangered and/or special concern species and resources within the project area. If the response above indicates "No Further Review Required" no additional communication with the respective agency is required. If the response is "Further Review Required" or "See Agency Response," refer to the appropriate agency comments below. Please see the DEP Information Section of this receipt if a PA Department of Environmental Protection Permit is required.

Clarion River Access Management Plan (Gravel Lick to Cook Forest)_R008455.0428_PI





-  Buffered Project Boundary
-  Project Boundary

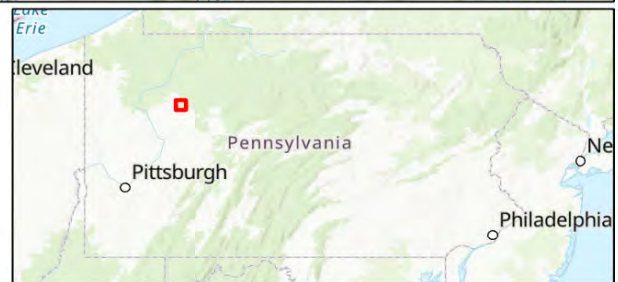


Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community

Clarion River Access Management Plan (Gravel Lick to Cook Forest)_R008455.0428_PI



-  Buffered Project Boundary
-  Project Boundary



Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community

RESPONSE TO QUESTION(S) ASKED

Q1: Does the following statement apply to this project? The project area HAS been investigated by someone qualified to identify and delineate wetlands, and wetlands or streams were located, and some project activities will or might occur within 300 feet of a wetland or stream.

Your answer is: Unknown

Q2: The proposed project is in the range of the Indiana bat. Describe how the project will affect bat habitat (forests, woodlots and trees) and indicate what measures will be taken in consideration of this. Round acreages up to the nearest acre (e.g., 0.2 acres = 1 acre).

Your answer is: No forests, woodlots or trees will be affected by the project.

Q3: Is tree removal, tree cutting or forest clearing of 40 acres or more necessary to implement all aspects of this project?

Your answer is: No

3. AGENCY COMMENTS

Regardless of whether a DEP permit is necessary for this proposed project, any potential impacts to threatened and endangered species and/or special concern species and resources must be resolved with the appropriate jurisdictional agency. In some cases, a permit or authorization from the jurisdictional agency may be needed if adverse impacts to these species and habitats cannot be avoided.

These agency determinations and responses are **valid for two years** (from the date of the review), and are based on the project information that was provided, including the exact project location; the project type, description, and features; and any responses to questions that were generated during this search. If any of the following change: 1) project location, 2) project size or configuration, 3) project type, or 4) responses to the questions that were asked during the online review, the results of this review are not valid, and the review must be searched again via the PNDI Environmental Review Tool and resubmitted to the jurisdictional agencies. The PNDI tool is a primary screening tool, and a desktop review may reveal more or fewer impacts than what is listed on this PNDI receipt. The jurisdictional agencies **strongly advise against** conducting surveys for the species listed on the receipt prior to consultation with the agencies.

PA Game Commission

RESPONSE:

No Impact is anticipated to threatened and endangered species and/or special concern species and resources.

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

RESPONSE:

Conservation Measure: Minimize project footprint to limit adverse impacts to the plant community of concern. Use stringent erosion and sedimentation controls before, during, and after project implementation to ensure that sediment and contaminants do not enter any waterway(s) (rivers, creeks, streams, tributaries) or waterbodies (lakes, ponds). To the extent possible provide a natural vegetated buffer between the project activities and any aquatic or wetland plant community of concern, if present. Do not alter stream flow, lake or pond, levels, or extract groundwater near wetland plant communities. Avoid the introduction of invasive species in order to protect the integrity of nearby plant community of concern. Voluntary cleaning of equipment/vehicles, using clean fill and mulch, and avoiding planting invasive species [Invasive Plants \(pa.gov\)](https://www.pa.gov/conservationexplorer/content/survey-protocols) will help to conserve sensitive plant habitats.

DCNR Species: (Note: The Pennsylvania Conservation Explorer tool is a primary screening tool, and a desktop review may reveal more or fewer species than what is listed below. After desktop review, if a botanical survey is required by DCNR, we recommend the DCNR Botanical Survey Protocols, available here:

<https://conservationexplorer.dcnr.pa.gov/content/survey-protocols>)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Current Status	Proposed Status	Survey Window
Big Bluestem - Indian-grass Floodplain Grassland	Big Bluestem - Indian-grass Floodplain Grassland	Special Concern Resource*	Special Concern Resource*	
Hemlock Palustrine Forest	Hemlock Palustrine Forest	Special Concern Resource*	Special Concern Resource*	

PA Fish and Boat Commission

RESPONSE:

Further review of this project is necessary to resolve the potential impact(s). Please send project information to this agency for review (see WHAT TO SEND).

PFBC Species: (Note: The Pennsylvania Conservation Explorer tool is a primary screening tool, and a desktop review may reveal more or fewer species than what is listed below.)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Current Status
Sensitive Species**		Endangered
Sensitive Species**		Special Concern Species*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

RESPONSE:

Information Request: Due to the proximity of this project to a bald eagle nest, it is possible that project activities may disturb bald eagles, which is a form of "take" under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and may require a permit. The Service has prepared a project screening form to help you determine which specific measures may be necessary to avoid disturbing bald eagles and their nests, based on the type and scope of your proposed project or activity, and its distance from a bald eagle nest. Complete the "Bald Eagle Project Screening Form" (see https://www.fws.gov/northeast/ecologicalservices/pdf/eagle/NE_Bald-Eagle_Project-Screening-Form_rev20200416.pdf) and implement the measures identified on that form. Submit a copy of the completed Screening Form to the appropriate federal or state permitting agencies (e.g., PA DEP).

* Special Concern Species or Resource - Plant or animal species classified as rare, tentatively undetermined or candidate as well as other taxa of conservation concern, significant natural communities, special concern populations (plants or animals) and unique geologic features.

** Sensitive Species - Species identified by the jurisdictional agency as collectible, having economic value, or being susceptible to decline as a result of visitation.

WHAT TO SEND TO JURISDICTIONAL AGENCIES

If project information was requested by one or more of the agencies above, upload* or email the following information to the agency(s) (see AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION). Instructions for uploading project materials can be found [here](#). This option provides the applicant with the convenience of sending project materials to a single location accessible to all three state agencies (but not USFWS).

*If information was requested by USFWS, applicants must email, or mail, project information to IR1_ESPenn@fws.gov to initiate a review. USFWS will not accept uploaded project materials.

Check-list of Minimum Materials to be submitted:

___ Project narrative with a description of the overall project, the work to be performed, current physical characteristics of the site and acreage to be impacted.

___ A map with the project boundary and/or a basic site plan (particularly showing the relationship of the project to the physical features such as wetlands, streams, ponds, rock outcrops, etc.)

In addition to the materials listed above, USFWS REQUIRES the following

___ **SIGNED** copy of a Final Project Environmental Review Receipt

The inclusion of the following information may expedite the review process.

___ Color photos keyed to the basic site plan (i.e. showing on the site plan where and in what direction each photo was taken and the date of the photos)

___ Information about the presence and location of wetlands in the project area, and how this was determined (e.g., by a qualified wetlands biologist), if wetlands are present in the project area, provide project plans showing the location of all project features, as well as wetlands and streams.

4. DEP INFORMATION

The Pa Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requires that a signed copy of this receipt, along with any required documentation from jurisdictional agencies concerning resolution of potential impacts, be submitted with applications for permits requiring PNDI review. Two review options are available to permit applicants for handling PNDI coordination in conjunction with DEP's permit review process involving either T&E Species or species of special concern. Under sequential review, the permit applicant performs a PNDI screening and completes all coordination with the appropriate jurisdictional agencies prior to submitting the permit application. The applicant will include with its application, both a PNDI receipt and/or a clearance letter from the jurisdictional agency if the PNDI Receipt shows a Potential Impact to a species or the applicant chooses to obtain letters directly from the jurisdictional agencies. Under concurrent review, DEP, where feasible, will allow technical review of the permit to occur concurrently with the T&E species consultation with the jurisdictional agency. The applicant must still supply a copy of the PNDI Receipt with its permit application. The PNDI Receipt should also be submitted to the appropriate agency according to directions on the PNDI Receipt. The applicant and the jurisdictional agency will work together to resolve the potential impact(s). See the DEP PNDI policy at <https://conservationexplorer.dcnr.pa.gov/content/resources>.

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The PNDI environmental review website is a preliminary screening tool. There are often delays in updating species status classifications. Because the proposed status represents the best available information regarding the conservation status of the species, state jurisdictional agency staff give the proposed statuses at least the same consideration as the current legal status. If surveys or further information reveal that a threatened and endangered and/or special concern species and resources exist in your project area, contact the appropriate jurisdictional agency/agencies immediately to identify and resolve any impacts.

For a list of species known to occur in the county where your project is located, please see the species lists by county found on the PA Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) home page (www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us). Also note that the PNDI Environmental Review Tool only contains information about species occurrences that have actually been reported to the PNHP.



B. PAST PLANS REVIEW



Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.
220 West Kensing Drive, Suite 100
Cranberry Township, PA 16066
724.779.4777
www.hrg-inc.com

PAST PLANS REVIEW

CLARION COUNTY RIVER ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN

MARCH 25, 2024, UPDATED SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

Introduction

Clarion County is embarking on a River Access Management Plan which will focus on a segment of the Clarion River from Piney Creek Dam to Cooksburg and will give Clarion County insight on how to best utilize this segment of River as a recreational asset. This plan will produce concepts, initiatives, and best practices to implement and will benefit the County with increased recreation-based tourism, enhanced access, and improved wireless connectivity to businesses, individuals, and emergency services. The following plans and studies were reviewed as part of this Past Plans analysis:

- 2022 Northwest Greenways Plan
- 2022 Clarion County Comprehensive Plan Update
- 2005/2006 Clarion River Greenway Plan
- 2010 Clarion County Greenways Plan
- 2011 Borough of Clarion Comprehensive Recreation Plan
- 2021 Evaluation of the PA Wilds Recreation Plan
- Piney Branch ATV Rail Corridor Trail Study
- Pennsylvania Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan: Recreation for All, 2020-2024
- Pennsylvania Land and Water Trail Network Strategic Plan, 2020- 2024
- Pennsylvania Water Trails Program Strategic Plan, 2017- 2022
- Piney Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 309) Article 405 Recreation Plan, July 2009

2022 Northwest Greenways Plan

Northwest Pennsylvania is rich in recreation opportunities and natural resources that are unique and special to the area. Planning for the preservation and expansion of these regional assets and the value they provide is important for ensuring their future and the future benefit to the area. The Northwest Pennsylvania Greenways Plan is a multi-county planning effort between Clarion County, Crawford County, Erie County, Forest County, Mercer County, Venango County, and Warren County that sought to conserve the region's essential natural resources, identify project partners, and determine techniques for strengthening regional resiliency.

- The Plan identified that 52 miles of the Clarion River have been federally designated as a Wild and Scenic River.
- Recommendations for the Clarion River included improving access to the Clarion River in Clarion County.
- The Plan also proposed the development of a future trail along the Clarion River.

- A Greenway was proposed for the Clarion River area.
- The Plan also outlined several trails that run through or propose to run through the County that may be useful entities to connect with river resources through this Plan including the following trails:
 - Allegheny River Trail (ARTinCC), which is currently in the process of securing rights for public access between Emlenton and Foxburg.
 - North Country Scenic Trail which begins at the southern end of the Allegheny National Forest and extends through Cook Forest State Park. There are also plans to include this section of trail in the Appalachian Trail that extends from Maine to Georgia.
 - Redbank Valley Trail to Sligo, which was a 9 mile stretch of rails-to trails completed in 2019 that extends through south central Clarion County.
 - Redbank Creek Water Trail that follows the Red Bank Creek, a tributary of the Allegheny River.

2022 Clarion County Comprehensive Plan Update

Prior to the 2022 update, Clarion County last updated their Comprehensive Plan in 2004. Thus, the County was due for an update. The 2022 Plan outlined the goals for the next 10 years in the County that spanned topic areas including economic development, housing, utilities/facilities, attraction to young families, county uniqueness, and parks/recreation. From the Plan's public input process, the following goal categories were developed:

1. Promoting Economic Development and Growth
2. Sustaining Healthy, Livable Communities
3. Expanding Opportunity with Infrastructure Improvements
4. Support Fun Places to Play: Parks and Recreation

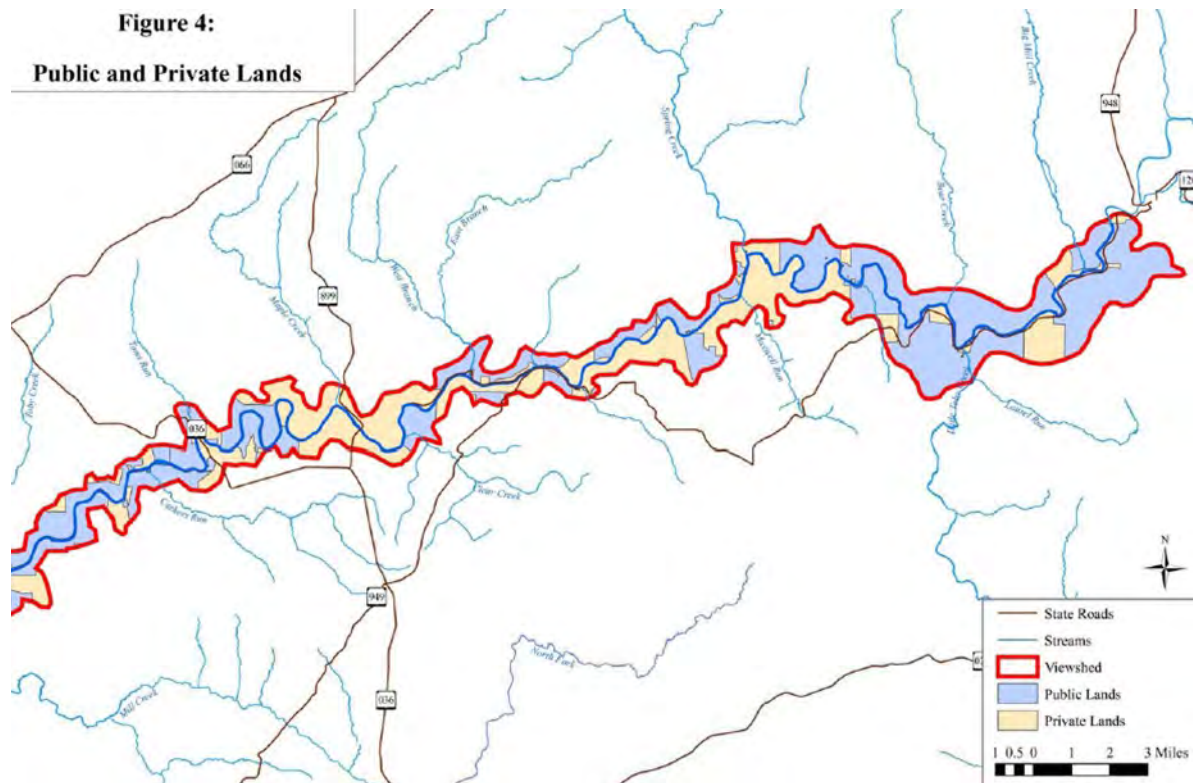
Several of these goal categories had subsequent objectives that focused on the improvement of access to the County's natural resources, especially of the river systems.

In the Promoting Economic Development and Growth chapter, Goal 2 was to Promote the County's existing assets, including relevant objectives such as creating a wayfinding signage plan for the County's parks, trails, and other recreational assets. Goal 4 from this chapter also recommended developing a marketing strategy that advertises the region as a "close to home" tourist destination.

In the Fun Places to Play: Parks & Recreation chapter, Goal 2 outlined the need for increasing access to the Clarion and Allegheny Rivers through boat launch improvements and wayfinding signage. Goal 4 also highlights the need to create a trail system throughout the County to increase connectivity. Since many of the trails in the County following the rivers, improvements to these trails will also improve access quality for the rivers.

2005/2006 Clarion River Greenway Plan

This Plan was developed to establish a Greenway around the Clarion River in order to prepare and protect for the future of the region. The Clarion River Greenway encompasses a 51.7-mile portion of the 100-mile river that is used most for recreation due to its large number of public land acres that border the river.



The Plan is divided into 5 Reaches, or segments of the River, that were assessed for quality and access. Then, recommendations were developed to improve the conditions of the Reach. The following were the identified reaches and some of the relevant recommendations for the Greenway:

1. Ridgway to Clarion Ghost Towns (Little Toby Creek)
 - a. Undertake a review of the current public access to the Clarion River in Ridgway to determine if improvements are needed.
 - b. Explore the possibility of installing limited, low-impact signage along the river, depicting river miles and sites where canoeists can rest, camp along the shore, or disembark.
 - c. Undertake proper marketing and limited infrastructure development of the Clarion/Little Toby Creek Trail area with a goal of making the area a popular greenway destination.
 - d. Explore the local stakeholder proposal for improved access to Little Toby Creek.
2. Little Toby Creek to Allegheny National Forest (Irwintown)
 - a. Explore the possibility of constructing additional bathroom facilities along the Clarion River.

- b. Allegheny National Forest staff should explore the viability of a new hiking trail connecting Arroyo to Irwintown.
 - c. Investigate the creation of additional hiking trails connecting to the river. Explore possibility of developing paved bike trails geared toward family use. Any planned addition to the trail network should be done through a very public process to ensure all stakeholder concerns are addressed.
 3. Allegheny National Forest (Irwintown) to Clear Creek State Park
 - a. Replicate recurring river cleanup events throughout the greenway, such as those held in Ridgway, to remove trash before and after the tourist season, to help promote the Clarion River Greenway.
 - b. Land managers along the greenway that allow camping should explore the feasibility of adding primitive, riverfront campsites. Also, Allegheny National Forest staff should explore the possibility of prohibiting camping in problem areas close to private lands.
 4. Clear Creek State Park to Cook Forest State Park
 - a. Research hydrologic conditions associated with abandoned wells to ensure that they are understood before wells are plugged.
 5. Cook Forest State Park to Piney Dam Backwaters
 - a. Complete the portion of the North Country Trail that passes from the Clarion River Greenway to the Allegheny River. Completion will increase visitorship to the trail and the entire greenway region.
 - b. Develop a Clarion River Greenway Recreation Guide to educate visitors about the various recreational opportunities offered within the greenway and the surrounding area.

2010 Clarion County Greenways Plan

This 2010 Plan was developed to be synthesized into a portion of the Northwest Greenways Planning effort undertaken by the Northwest Regional Planning and Development Commission. The goals of the Plan included the following:

- Enhance existing natural areas primarily for wildlife habitat
- Promote the wise use of agricultural land
- Provide recreational opportunities for County residents through wise use of trails and open spaces on existing public land
- Promote economic growth through recreation
- Encourage counties and local municipalities to work in unison to help develop their various resources

Many of the land-based trails outlined in this Plan were incorporated and adopted into the greater Northwest Greenways Plan that can be seen in a prior section of this plan review.

2011 Borough of Clarion Comprehensive Recreation Plan

The 2011 Plan was written as an update to the last PROS Plan written in 1997. The 2011 Plan recognized that many of the actions proposed in the 1997 Plan were still accurate and relevant and the update would be focused on continuing the momentum from the previous Plan. The following four goals were highlighted in the 2011 Plan:

- Improve existing parks and recreation facilities
- Develop and expand partnerships with regional organizations to provide new recreation facilities and programs
- Capitalize upon the Clarion River to enhance parks and recreation
- Explore the interest in creating a regional parks and recreation committee to oversee recreation in the Clarion Region

Additionally, the Plan outlined possible upgrades and improvements to key recreational areas in the Borough including the Toby Boat Launch on the Clarion River. Below is a summary of some of the relevant recommendations made throughout the Plan:

- Continuing to implement the Master Site Plan, removal of invasive plant species and debris cleanup, and development of both sides of the Boat Launch Area
- Connect the Toby Boat Launch to the downtown area
- Develop a passive riverfront park on the Clarion Foundation property and create a feasibility study
- Develop the US 322 public river access with docks and a boat launch
- Promotion of the river to support tourism

2021 Evaluation of the PA Wilds Recreation Plan

The 2006 PA Wilds Recreation Plan recommended immediate action to protect the Clarion River's resources from unmanaged recreational use. Following this Plan, County Commissioners from Elk, Forest, Jefferson, and Clarion Counties partnered with DCNR and the Allegheny National Forest to perform a recreational assessment of the Clarion River corridor. By 2007, the Clarion River Recreation Assessment made the following recommendations:

- Better manage primitive camping
- Improve signing and access
- Improve enforcement and public contacts
- Better visitor information and services
- Support community revitalization

- Explore different options for intergovernmental cooperation to support implementation

Due to this Plan, the assessment managed to coordinate the investment of over \$2.8 million for road, assess and sign improvements along the River. Other items included in the Plan were improvements to riverside camping policies and new camping locations, assessment of paddling safety at the Piney Dam, use assessments of various unofficial access points, and funding sources for those activities.

Piney Branch ATV Rail Corridor Trail Study

In December of 2018, the Piney Rail Riders, a non-profit organization supporting legal trails for off-road vehicles, received a \$64,000 grant from Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to prepare a feasibility study for the Piney Brank ATV Rail Corridor. The proposed trail is 24 miles connecting Piney Township to Brookville. The trail follows an abandoned rail line and the scope of improvements needed to complete the trail were generally unknown.

In 2022, the Piney Rail Riders presented the progress of the feasibility study and assured the Clarion Eagles that the final report would be completed by the end of the year. In early 2024, the Piney Rail Riders shared that the group is preparing a grant request for funding of the purchase of the trail. The feasibility study estimated that \$1.2 million would be necessary to purchase the 600 acres of property involved in the rail-trail.

Pennsylvania Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan: Recreation for All, 2020- 2024 (2020)

Planning for outdoor recreation is a top priority for DCNR. The Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan provides a five-year blueprint for state and local governments and other providers on how to best deliver and invest in outdoor recreation. The plan offers recommendations and action steps following five priority areas:

- Health and Wellness: Promoting Healthy Living Through Outdoor Connections
- Recreation for All: Ensuring Equity in Access to Pennsylvania's Outdoors
- Sustainable Systems: Protecting and Adapting Our Resources
- Funding and Economic Development: Elevating Outdoor Recreation
- Technology: Using New Tools to Improve Engagement

This plan specifically encourages increased access to outdoor recreation opportunities and motivates the use of the statewide plan as a guide for local planning efforts.

Pennsylvania Land and Water Trail Network Strategic Plan, 2020- 2024 (2020)

This document was created as a companion to the Statewide Recreation Plan. The plan provides an update since the 2014 Pennsylvania Trails Plan and outlines new priorities and action steps for land and water trails moving forward. The plan's priority areas include:

1. Close priority trail gaps in Pennsylvania's statewide land and water trail network with the overall goal of having a trail within 10 minutes of every Pennsylvanian.

2. Coordinate state and federal funding and programs to leverage maximum investment in priority trail projects.
3. Cultivate a variety of partnerships to build capacity to address local and regional trail needs.
4. Provide more opportunities and connections for everyone to regularly use a trail.
5. Establish and expand regional trail networks to connect communities and community assets.
6. Maintain and improve existing land and water trails and related infrastructure.
7. Promote Pennsylvania's trails and their economic, environmental, and health benefits.

As part of priority area one, the plan also specifically calls out increasing, "...opportunities for water-based recreation by identifying areas with the greatest need for public access and closing gaps in water trails." Strategies for this action step includes studying existing public access along waterways within the Pennsylvania Water Trail Network and identify high need areas. The Pennsylvania Water Trail Network includes the Clarion River Water Trail.

Pennsylvania Water Trails Program Strategic Plan, 2017- 2022 (2017)

This plan is a result of joint effort by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC), DCNR, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (FBC), and the National Park Service to promote and maintain the Pennsylvania Water Trails Program's network of creeks and rivers. The Pennsylvania Water Trails Program's primary goals are to:

- Develop trails that promote sustainable use of natural resources.
- Increase and improve access to Pennsylvania's water trails.
- Connect water trails to land trails.

The program has eight guiding principles to help achieve these goals:

1. Partnerships
2. Stewardship
3. Volunteerism
4. Education
5. Conservation
6. Community Development
7. Diversity
8. Wellness and Well-being

**C. SURVEY RESULTS &
STAKEHOLDER MEETING
NOTES**

SURVEY RESULTS

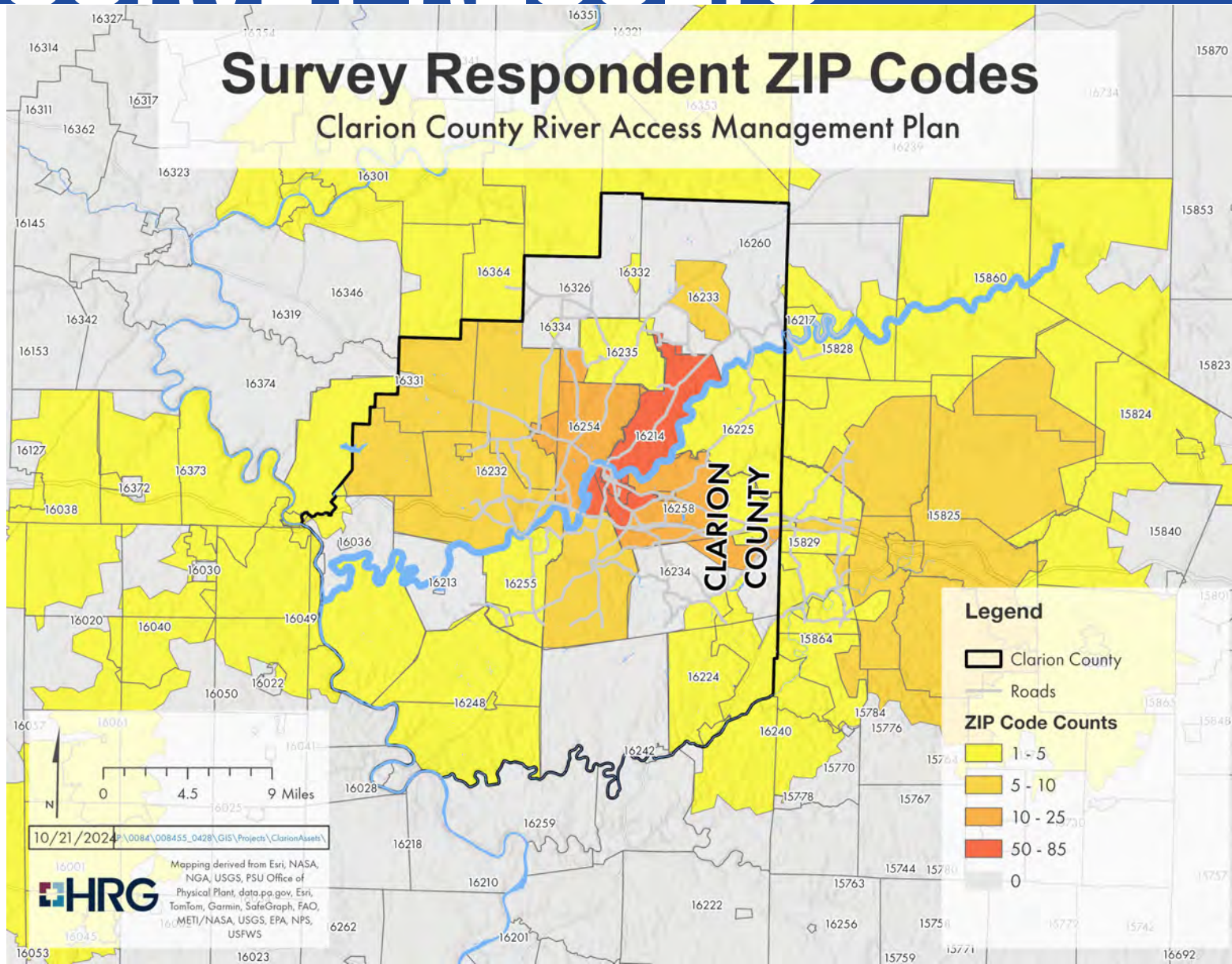


Clarion River Access Management Plan
Clarion River
Clarion County, Pennsylvania

INTRODUCTION

- The following is a summary of the comments received through the Online Community Survey. The survey was created to provide an online forum, allowing the public to comment on issues and topics that should be addressed by the Clarion River Access Management Plan. The survey was available from May 1, 2024 to July 19, 2024 and was then reopened from September 11, 2024 to October 11, 2024.
- Within the summary, the term “mentions” refers to the total number of times a topic or issue was cited throughout the survey responses. This means that the number of mentions may exceed the total number of comments because one response may mention multiple topics or issues.

SURVEY RESULTS



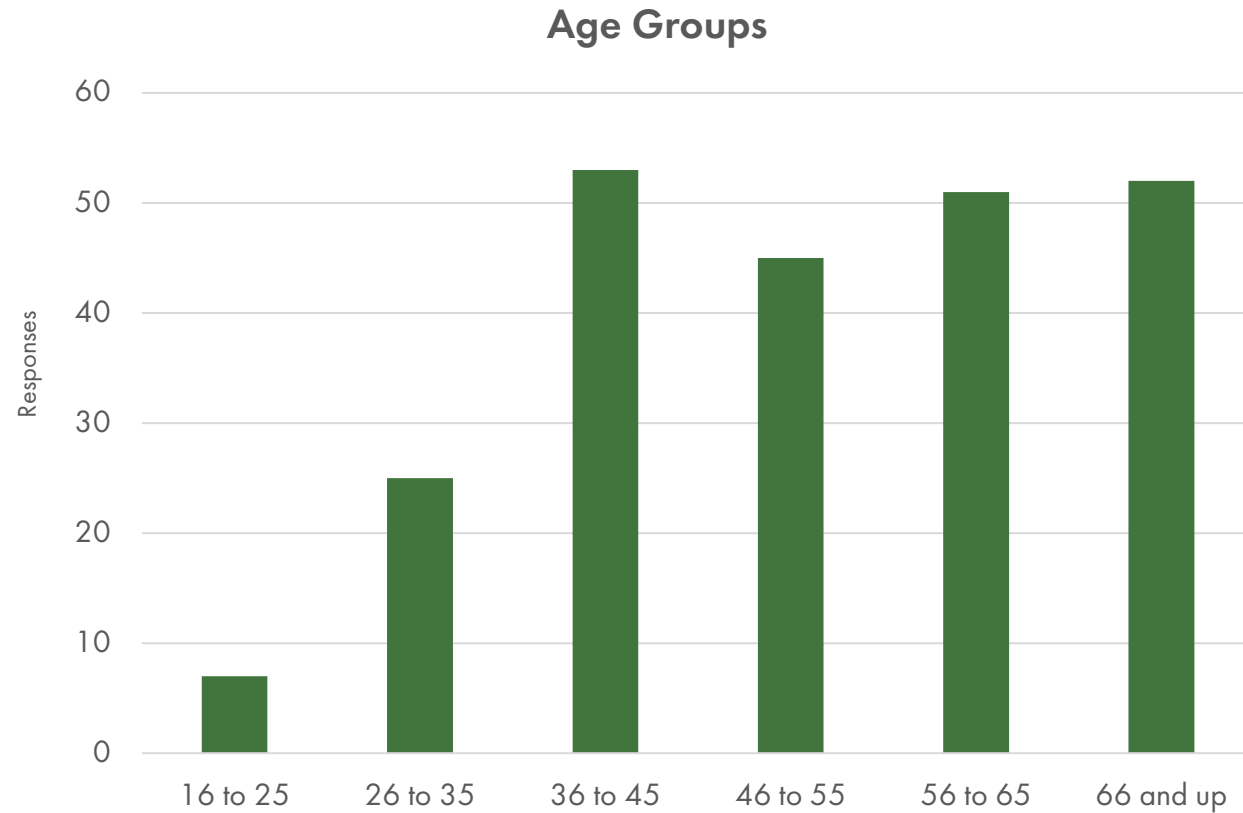
OTHER ZIP CODES NOT SHOWN:

- Pittsburgh metro region ZIP codes
- 43402 (NW Ohio)
- 45056 (SW Ohio)

SURVEY RESULTS

- The 16214 ZIP code– the area including Clarion Borough, Clarion Township, and Highland Township– was the most common ZIP code indicated, with 81 responses.
- Surrounding communities like Strattanville and Shippenville also received a large number of responses being in the 10-25 response count range.
- The majority of respondents were concentrated in the center of the study area, with the center being Clarion Borough and extending to Knox to the west and south, Lucinda to the north, and Brookville to the east.
- The survey extended much further than the general study area though with Harrisville, PA to the west, Butler, PA to the south, Tionesta to the north, and Brockway, PA to the east all having responses.

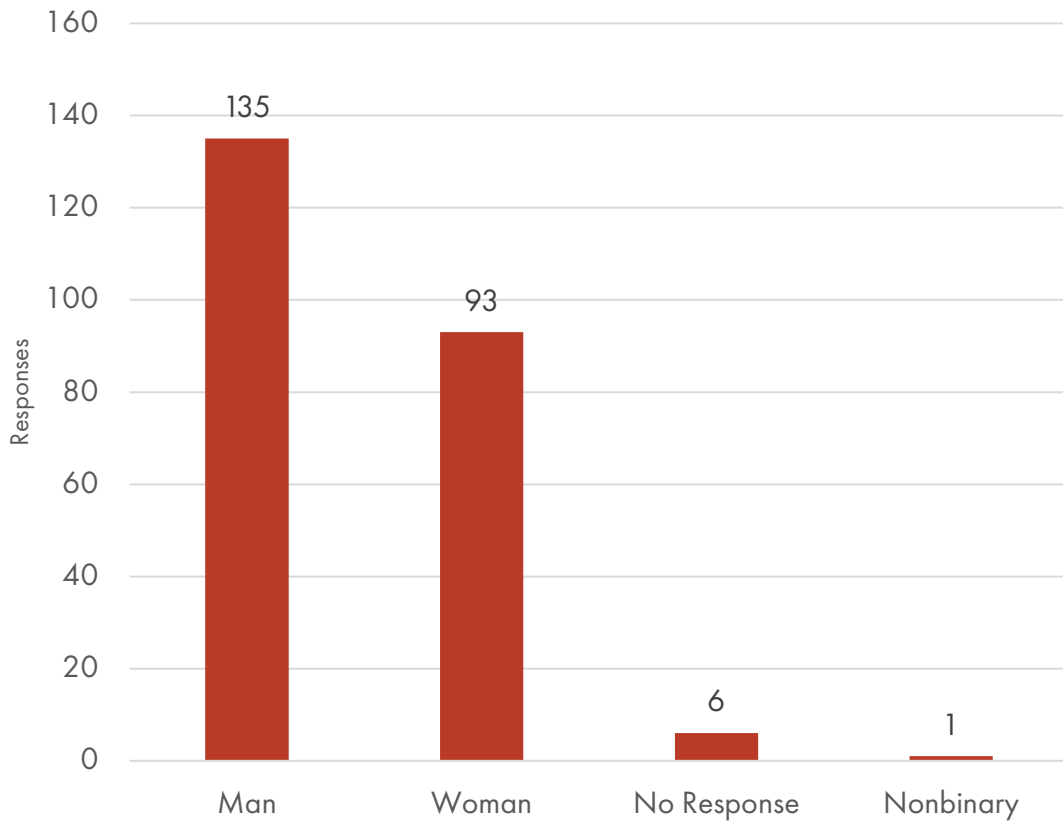
SURVEY RESULTS



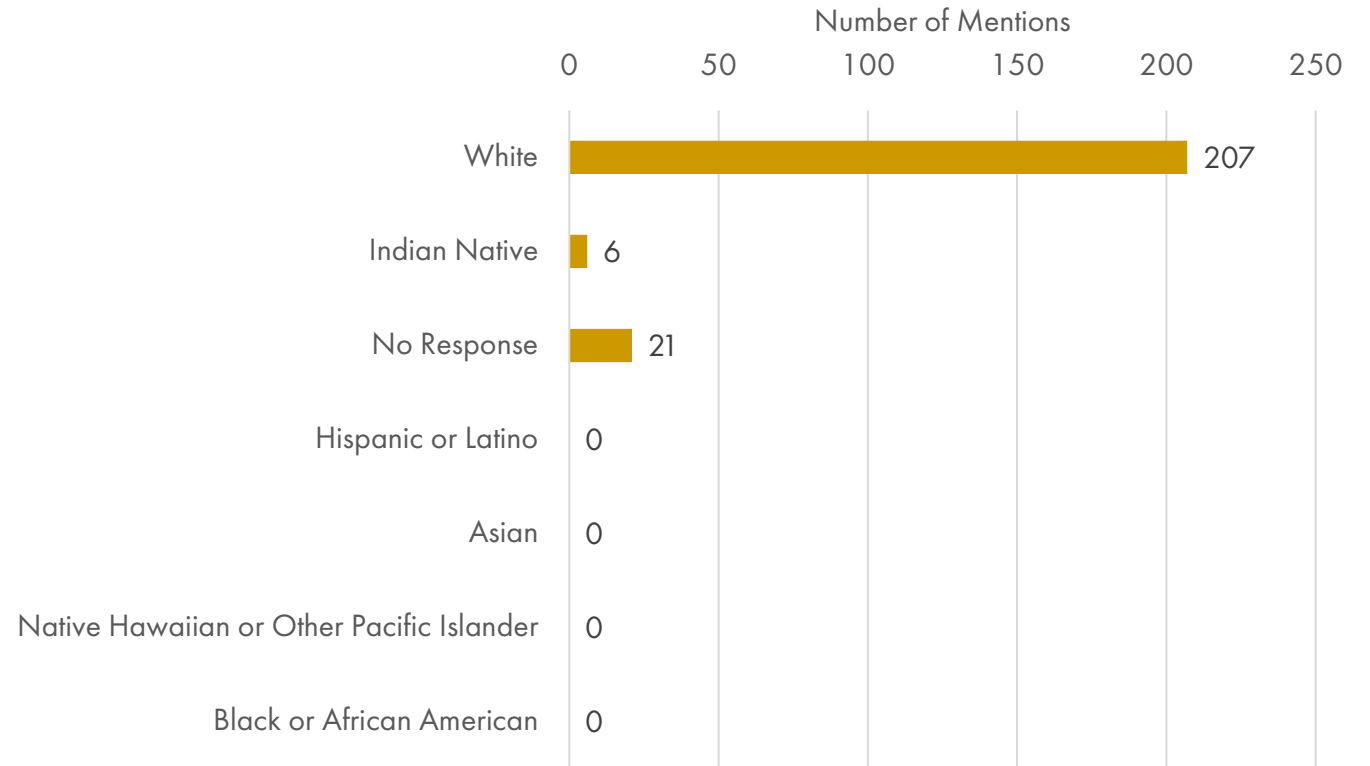
234
TOTAL RESPONSES

SURVEY RESULTS

Participant Genders

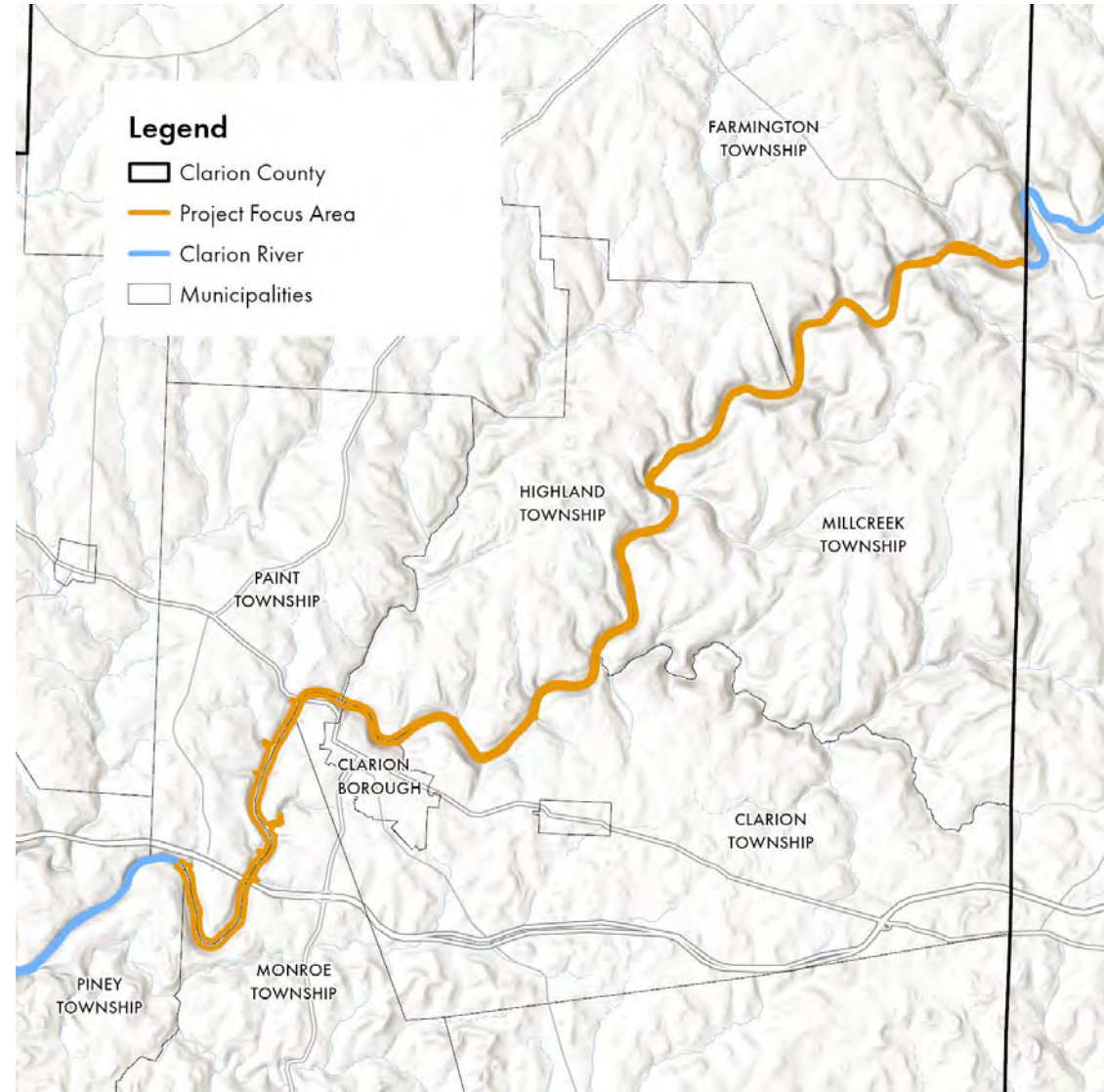
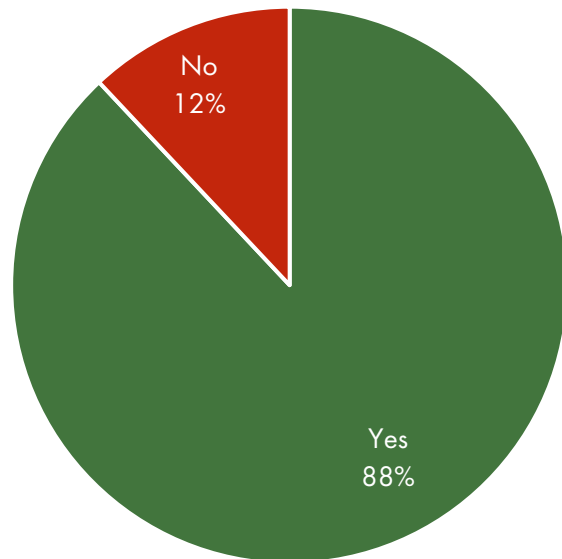


Participant Race



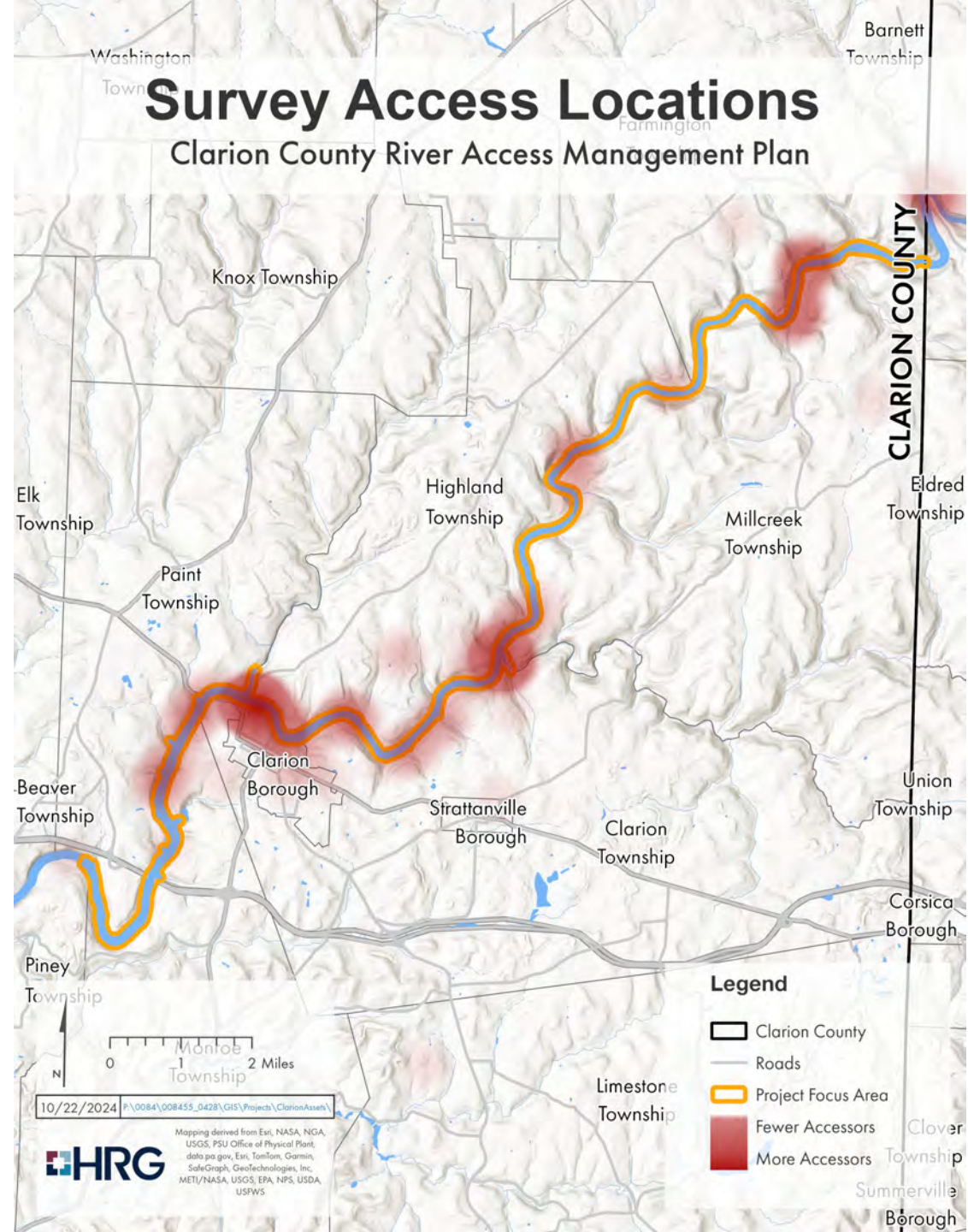
SURVEY RESULTS

Do you currently access the Clarion River as it passes through the study area (as seen in the map)?



SURVEY RESULTS RIVER ACCESS

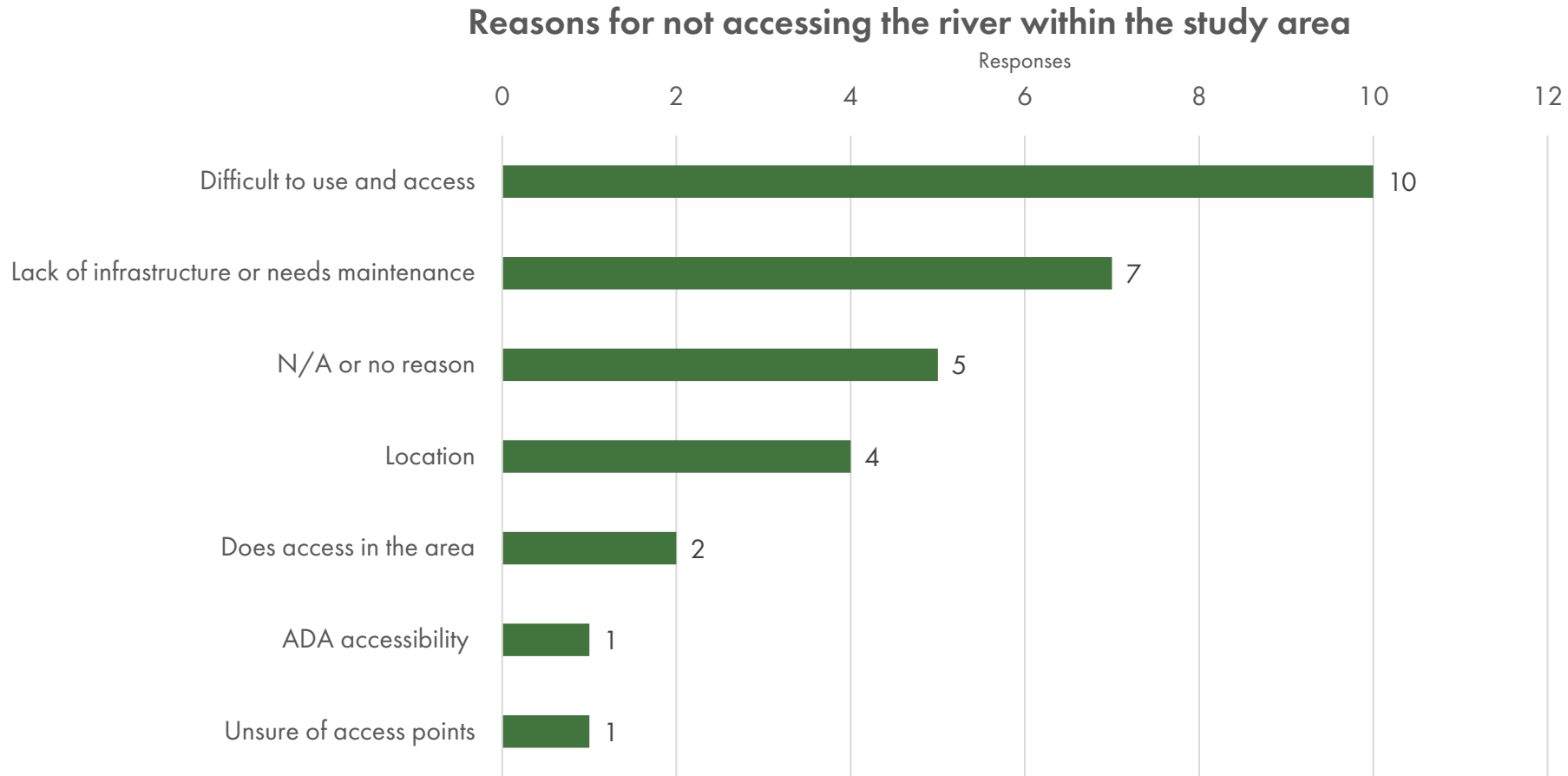
Study Area River Access Locations



SURVEY RESULTS

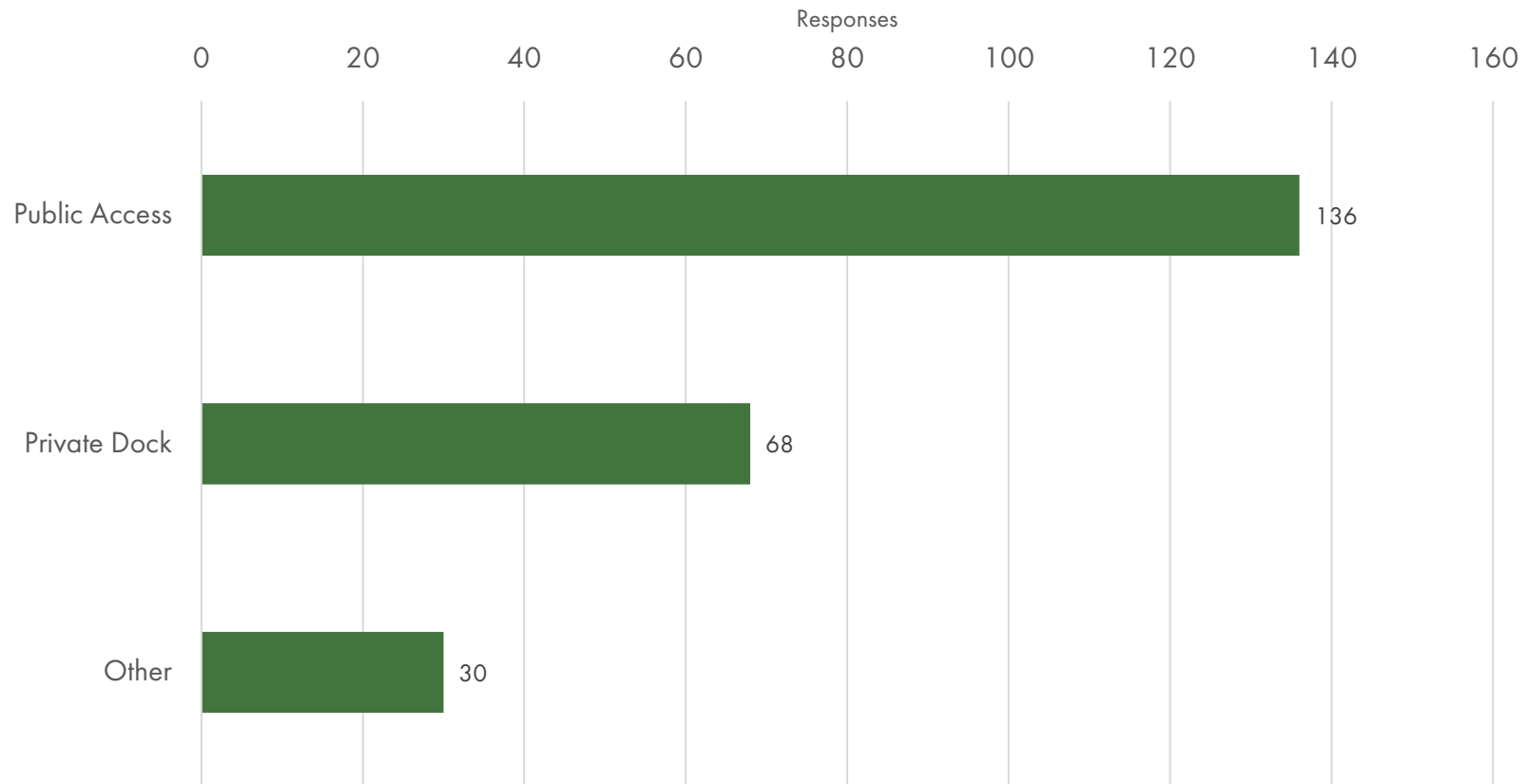
- Access areas are indicated by red highlights on the map. The extent of the red area does not necessarily represent the geographic extent of the access area. Instead, areas that received more responses are represented by a deeper red color and a larger halo. Areas that received few responses are smaller and lighter.
- Clarion Borough has the most accessors near Toby Boat Launch. Near Mill Creek Boat Launch and near Gravel Lick Boat Launch both have significant accessors. Fewer accessors are scattered throughout the study area in the southern region of Perry Township, in the center of Toby Township, Near Huckleberry Ridge, within Strattanville, northwest in Limestone Township, in the northern region of Farmington Township, and east of the Clarion County border along the River.

SURVEY RESULTS



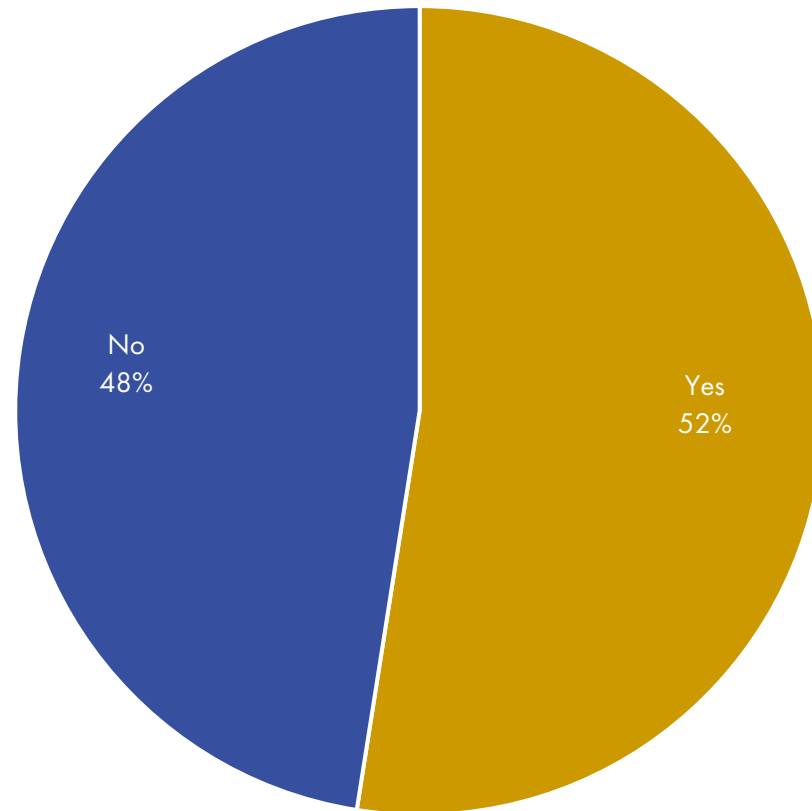
SURVEY RESULTS

If you do currently access the Clarion River within the area described, how do you access the river?



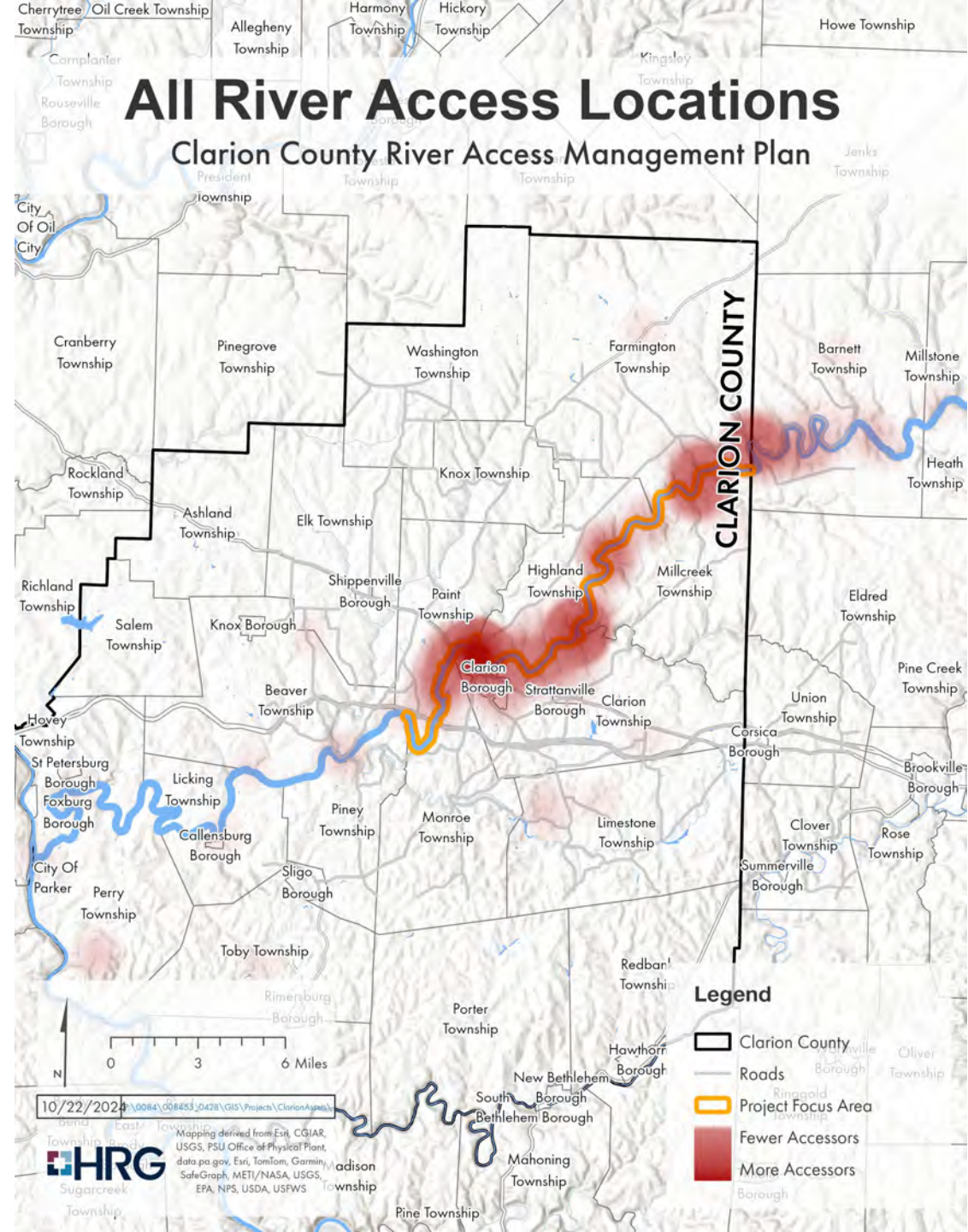
SURVEY RESULTS

Do you access the Clarion River in other areas?



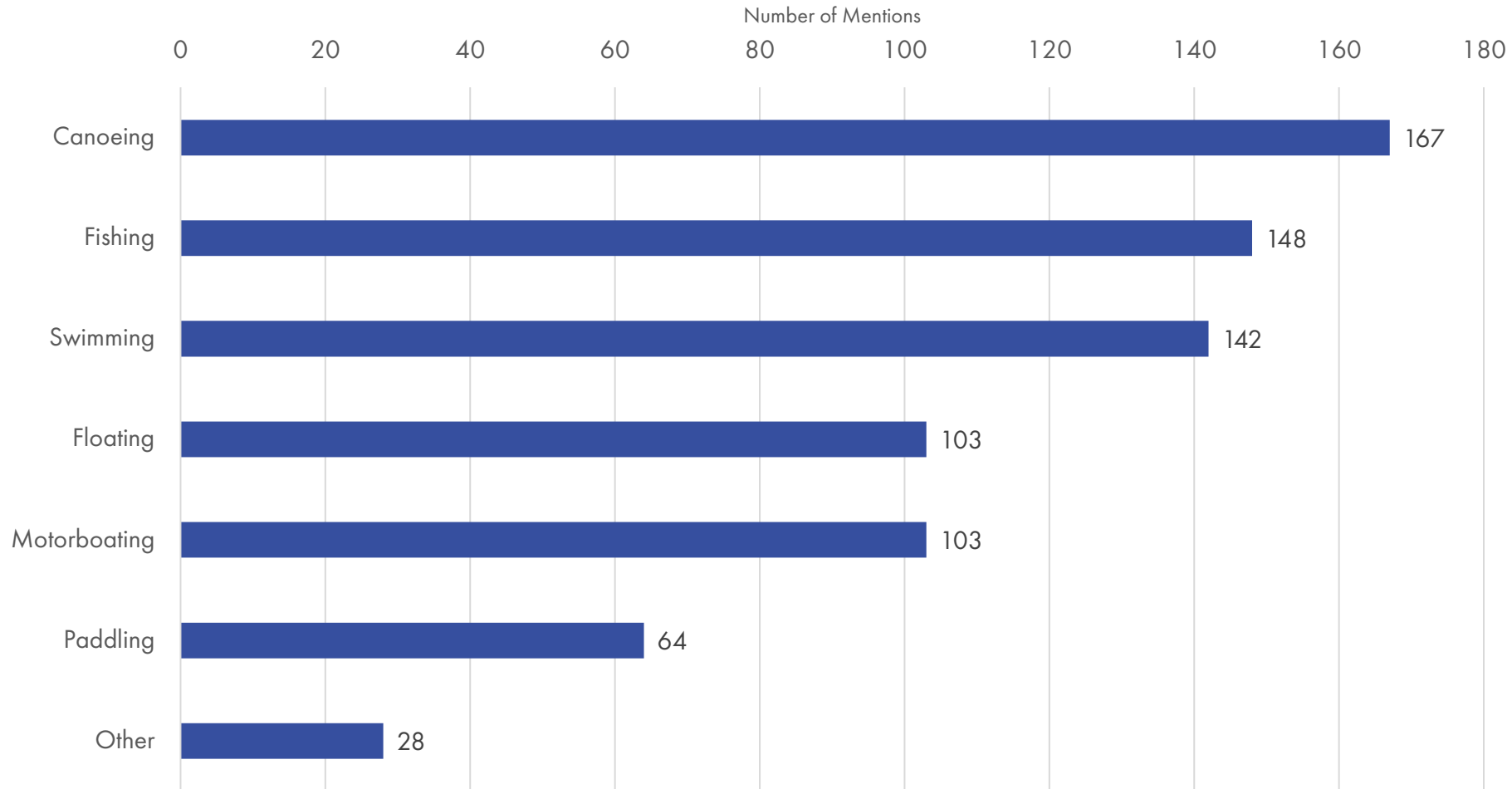
SURVEY RESULTS RIVER ACCESS

Other River Access Locations



SURVEY RESULTS

In what ways do you interact with the Clarion River?

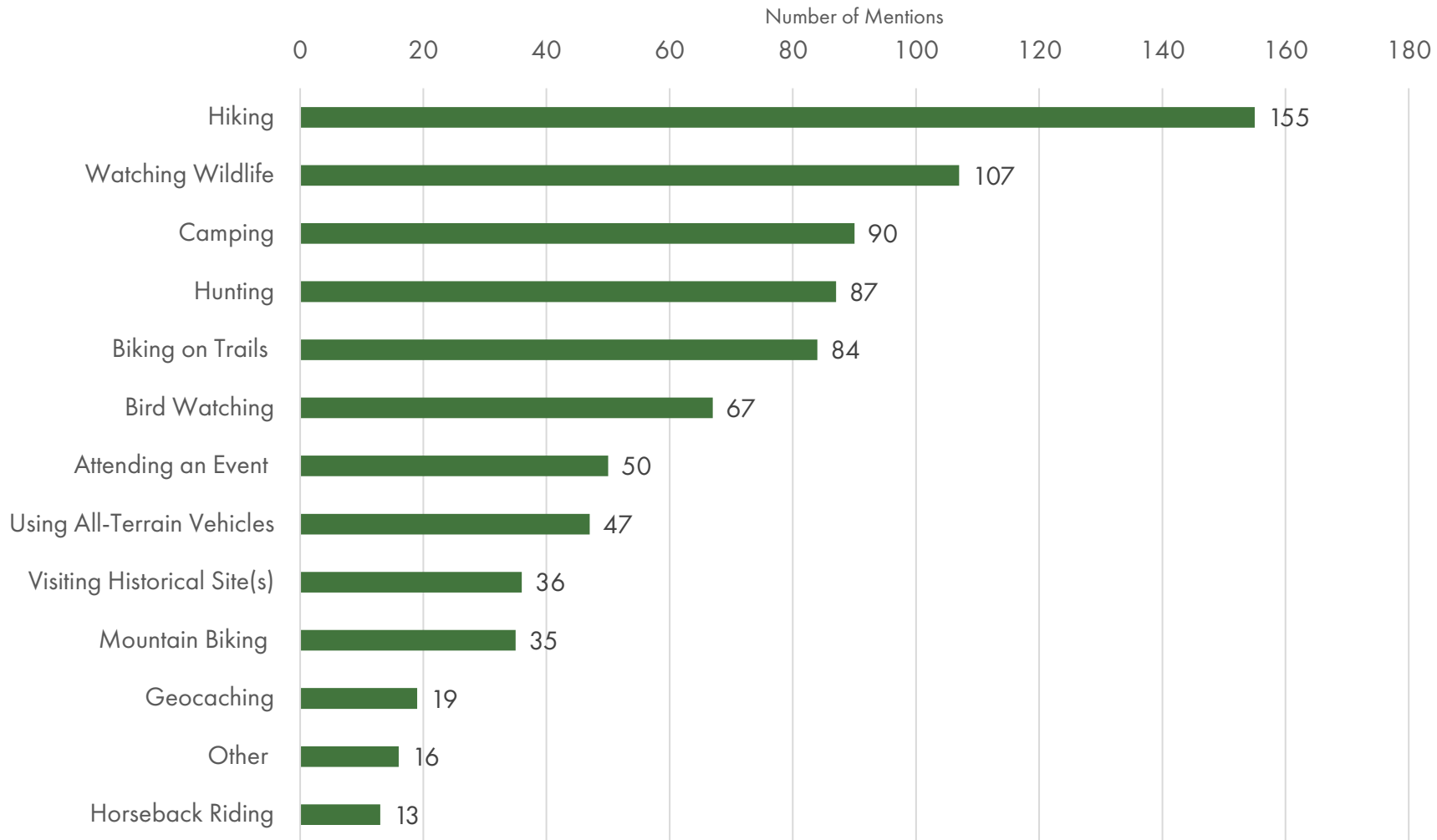


OTHER RESPONSES:

- Biking
- Walking
- River Cleanup

SURVEY RESULTS

Do you participate in any other outdoor recreational activities in the area surrounding the Clarion River? Select all that apply.

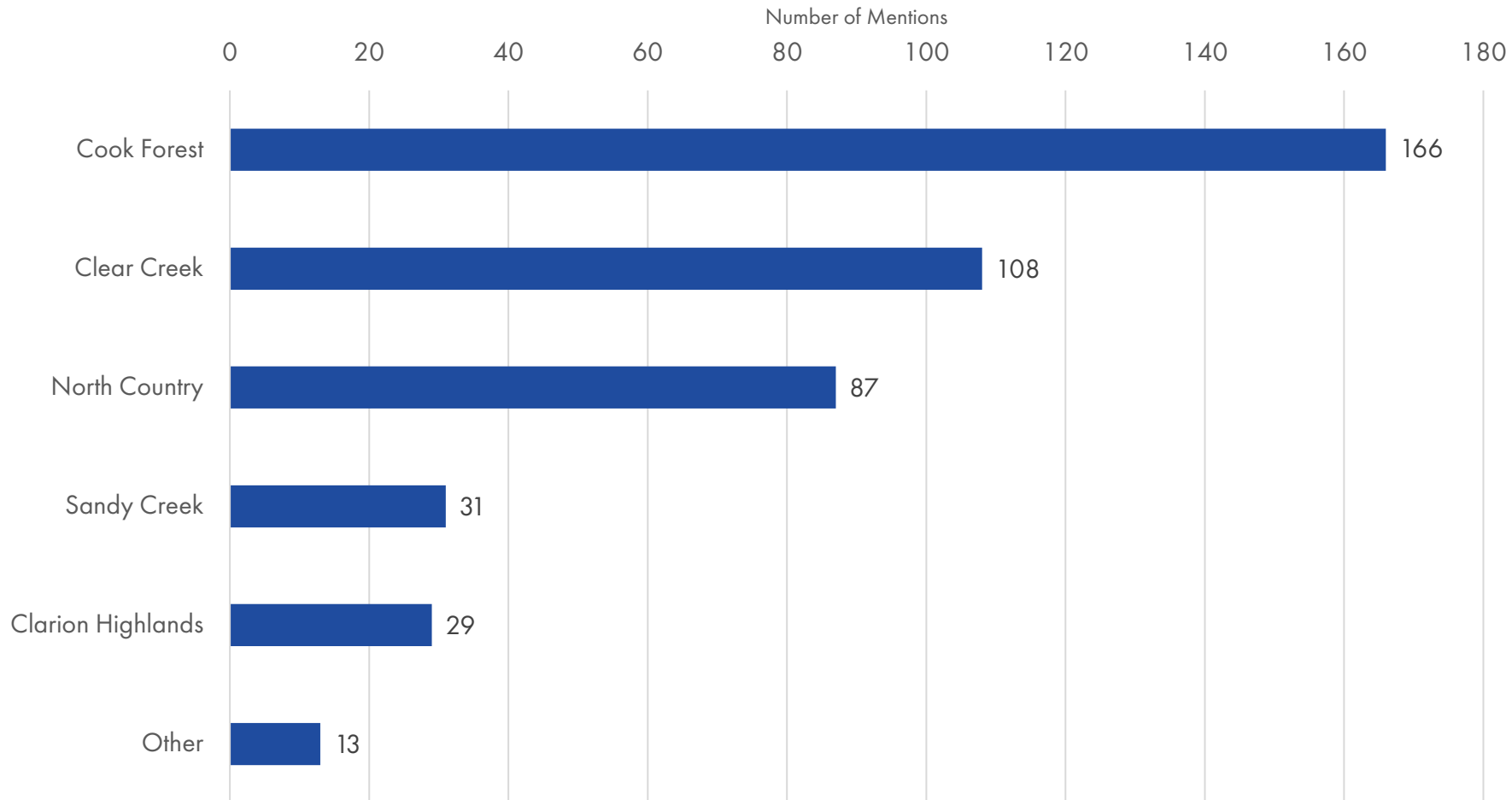


OTHER RESPONSES:

- Photography
- Picnics

SURVEY RESULTS

When accessing the Clarion River, do you also access other trails, parks, or recreational opportunities at the same time?

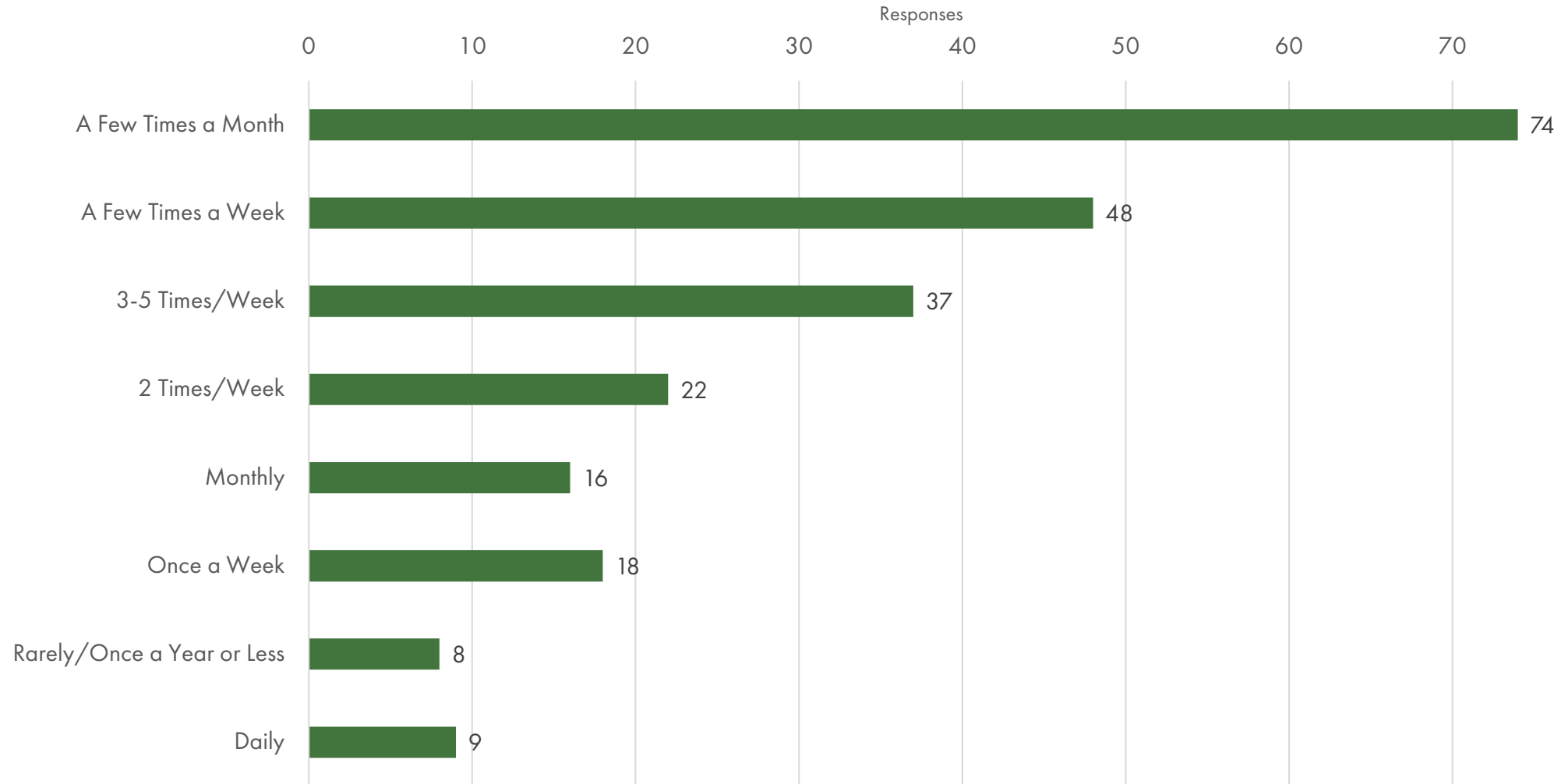


OTHER RESPONSES:

- Remaining at the river and riverbank

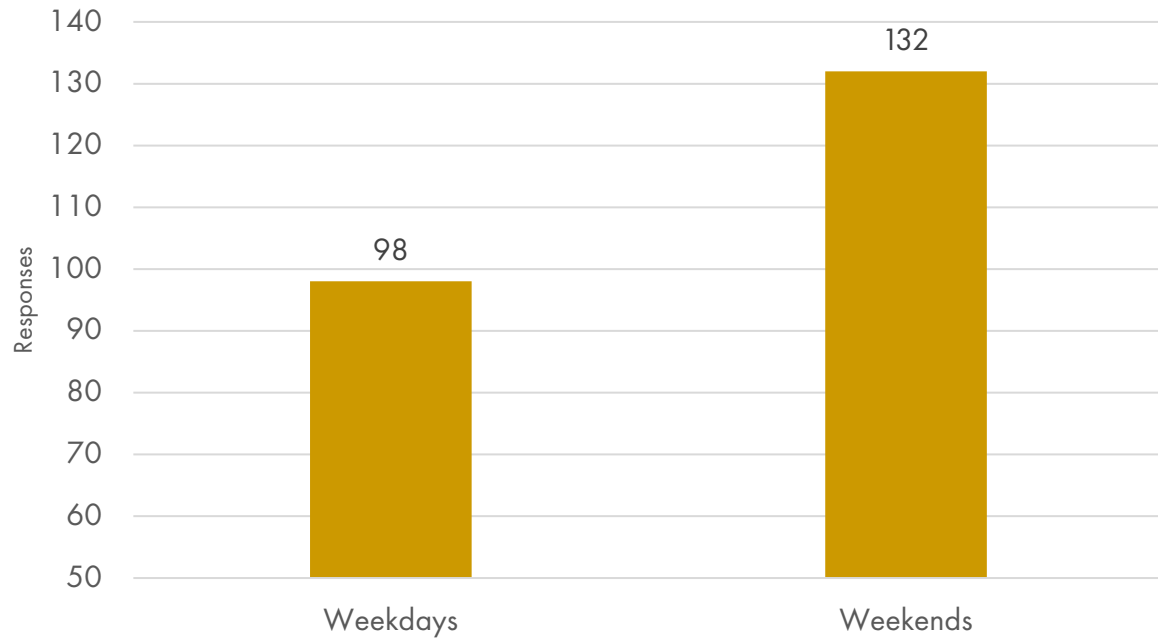
SURVEY RESULTS

How often, on average, do you access the Clarion River?

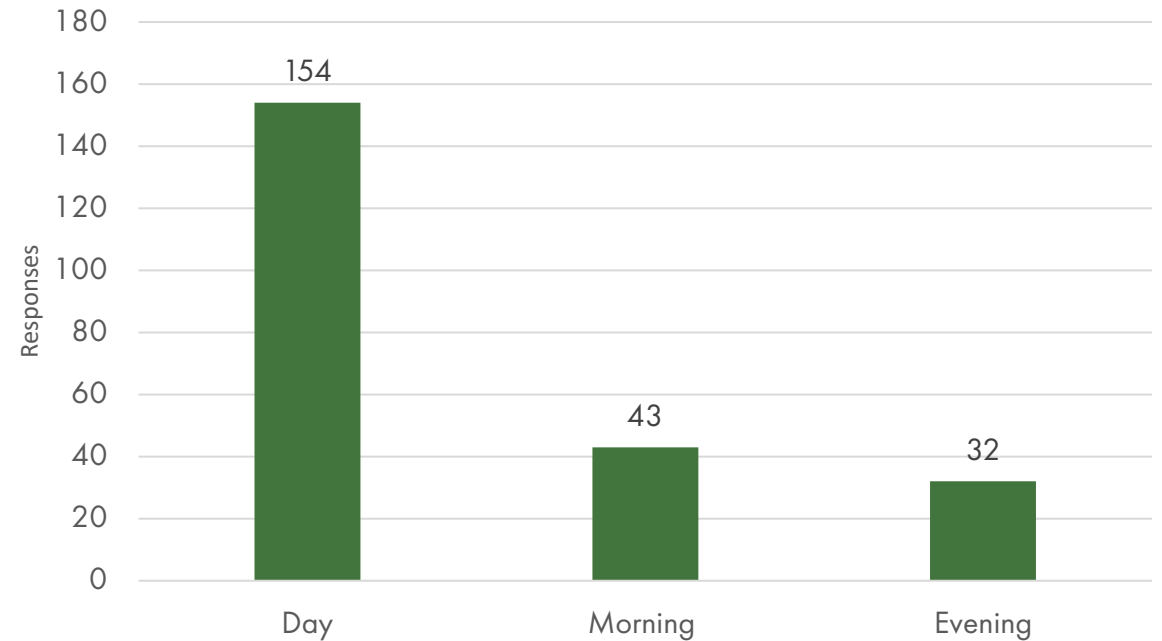


SURVEY RESULTS

Generally, what time of week do you access the Clarion River?

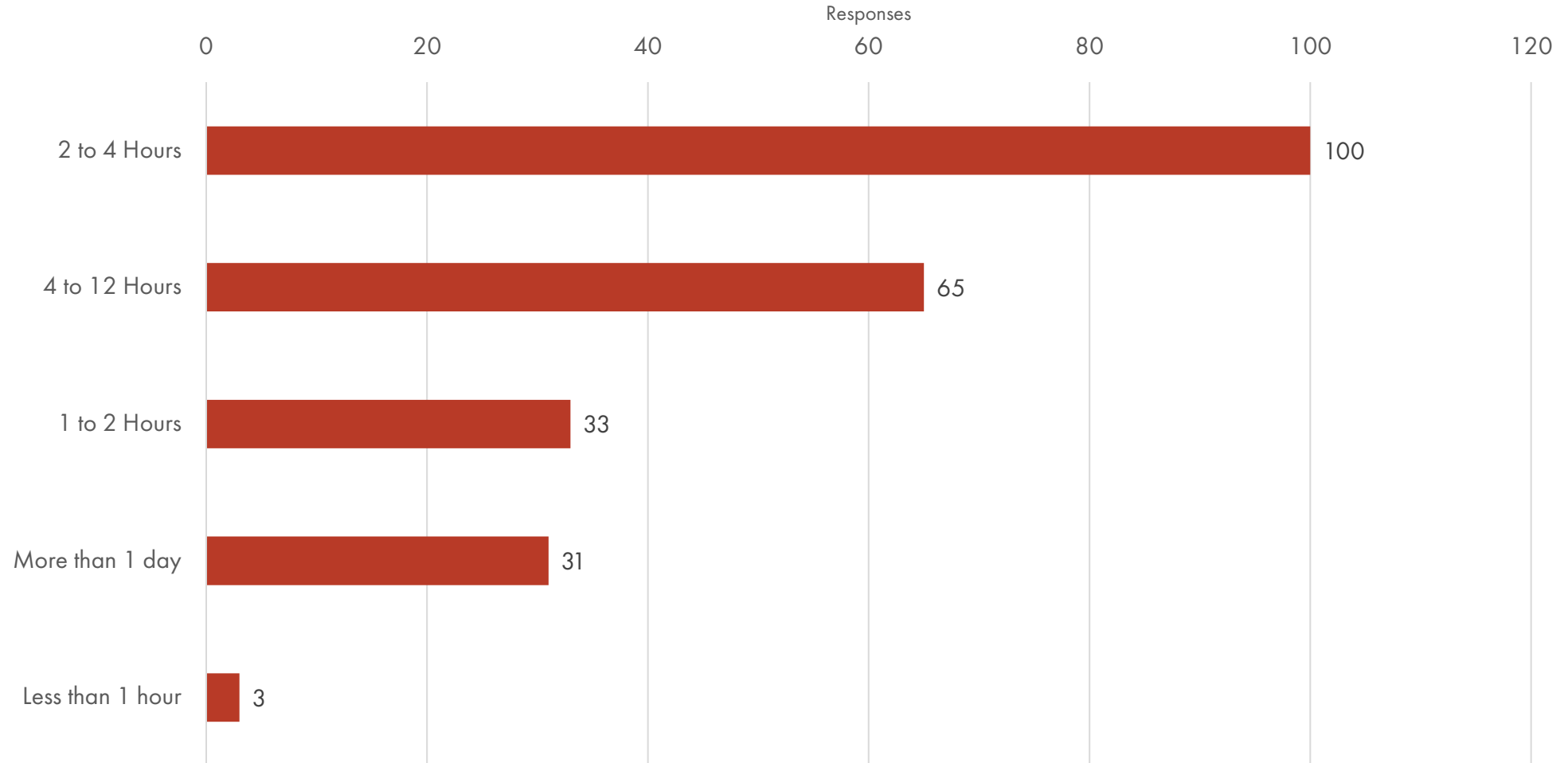


Generally, what time of day do you access the Clarion River?

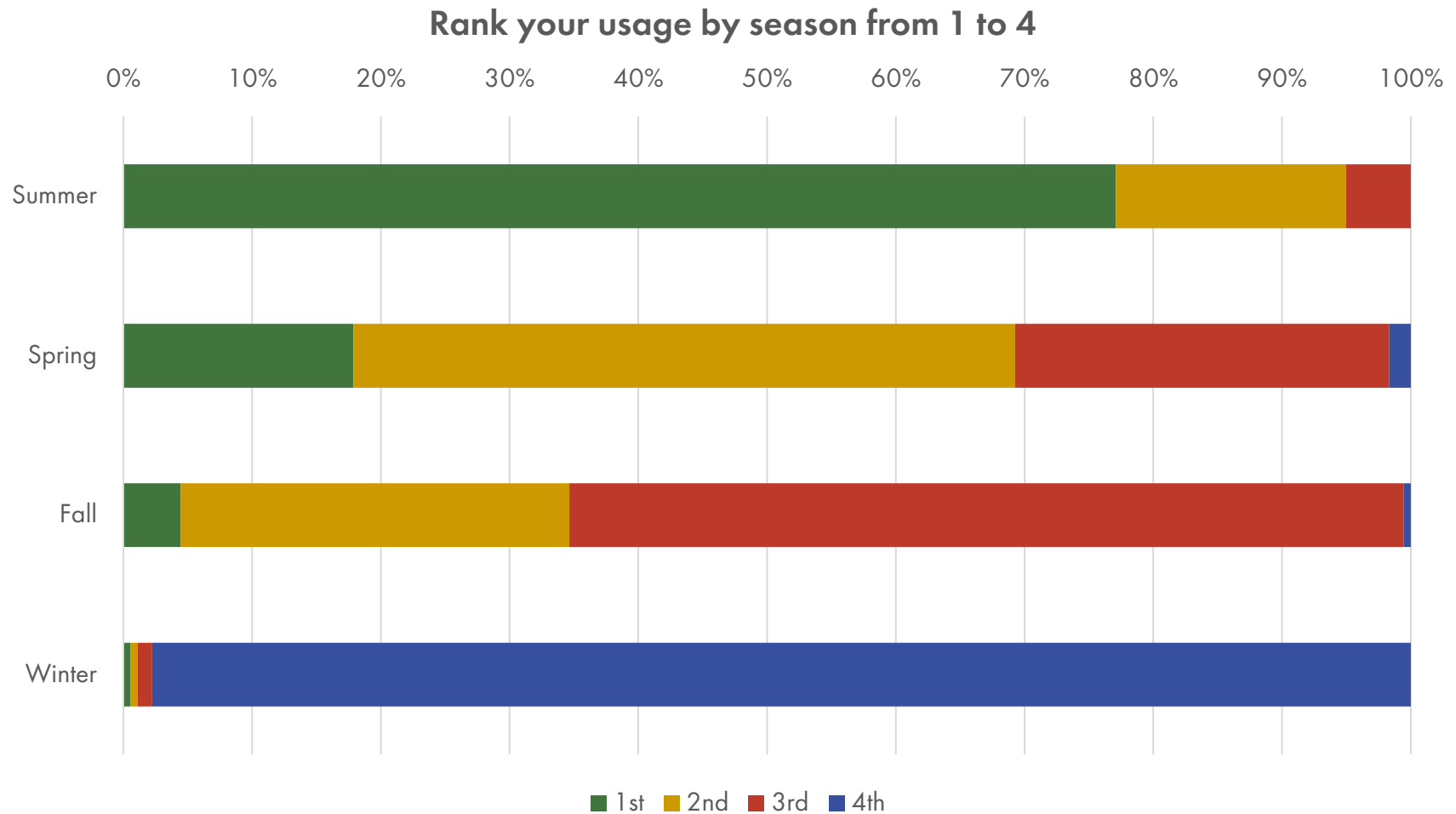


SURVEY RESULTS

How much time do you generally spend on each visit?

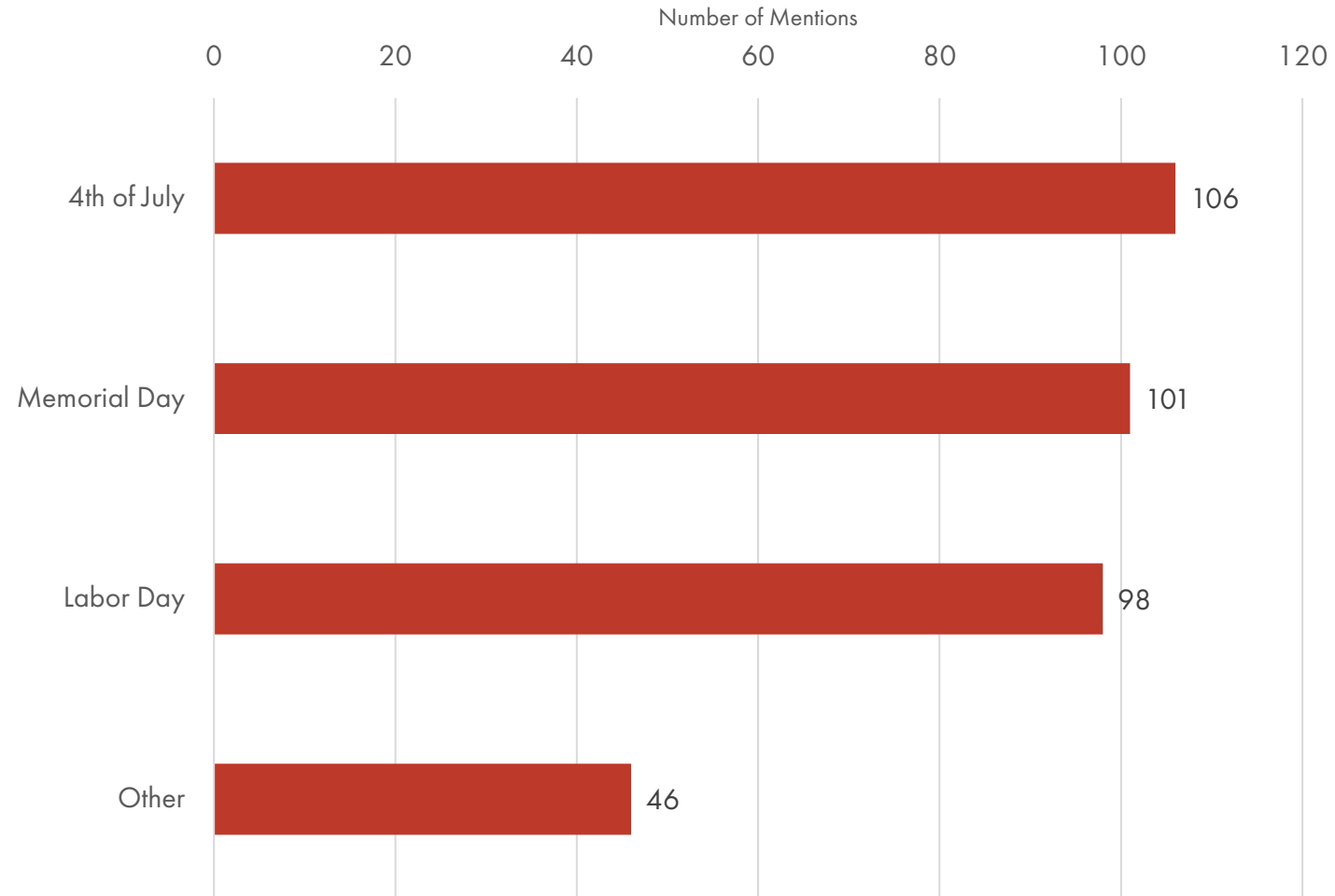


SURVEY RESULTS



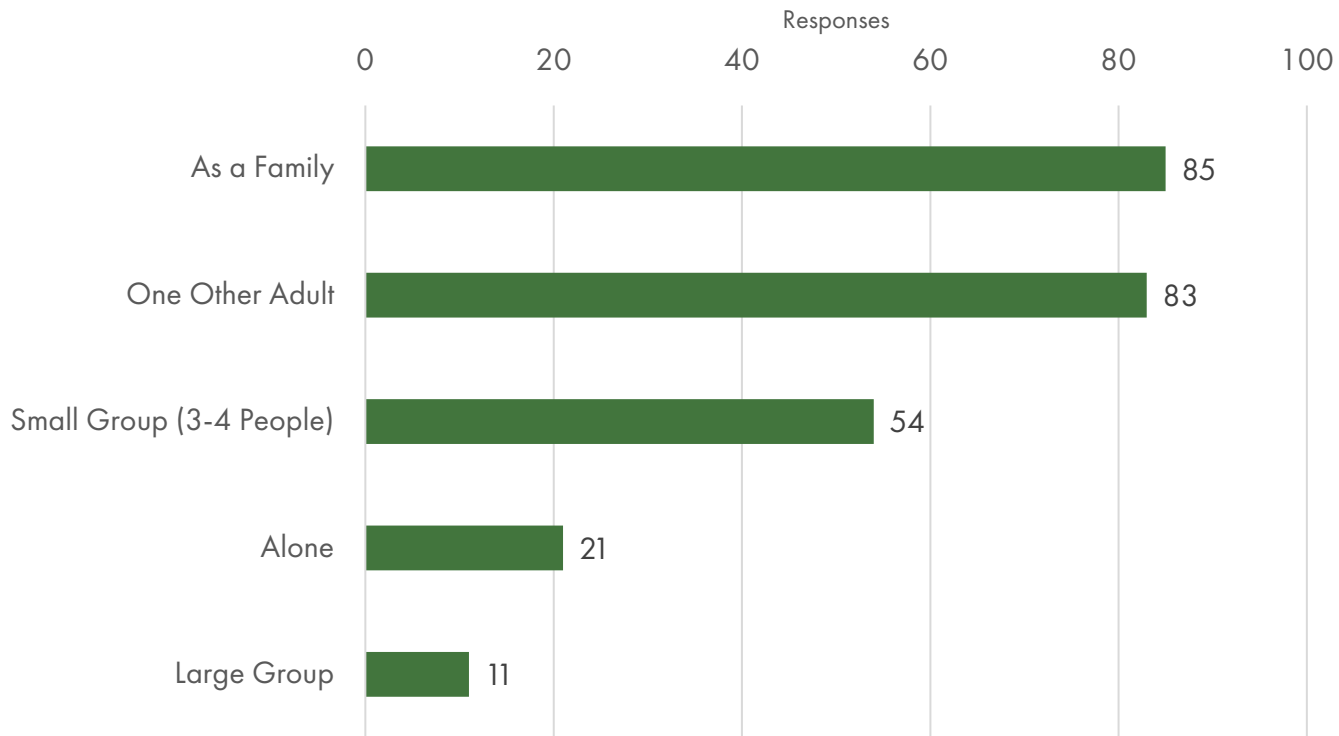
SURVEY RESULTS

Do you generally visit the river for specific holidays?

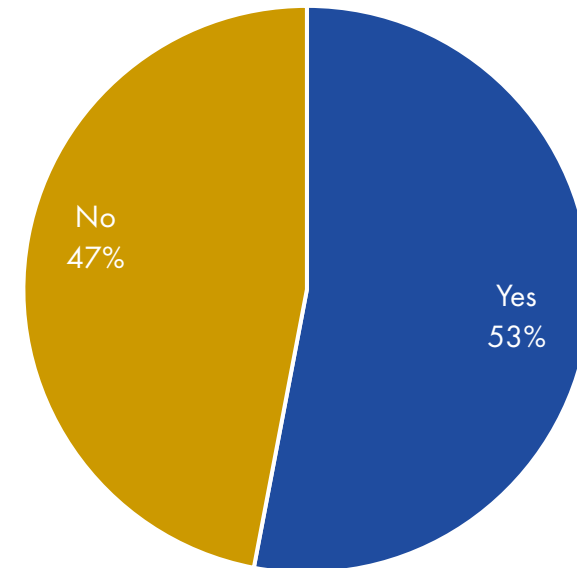


SURVEY RESULTS

With whom do you visit the River with?

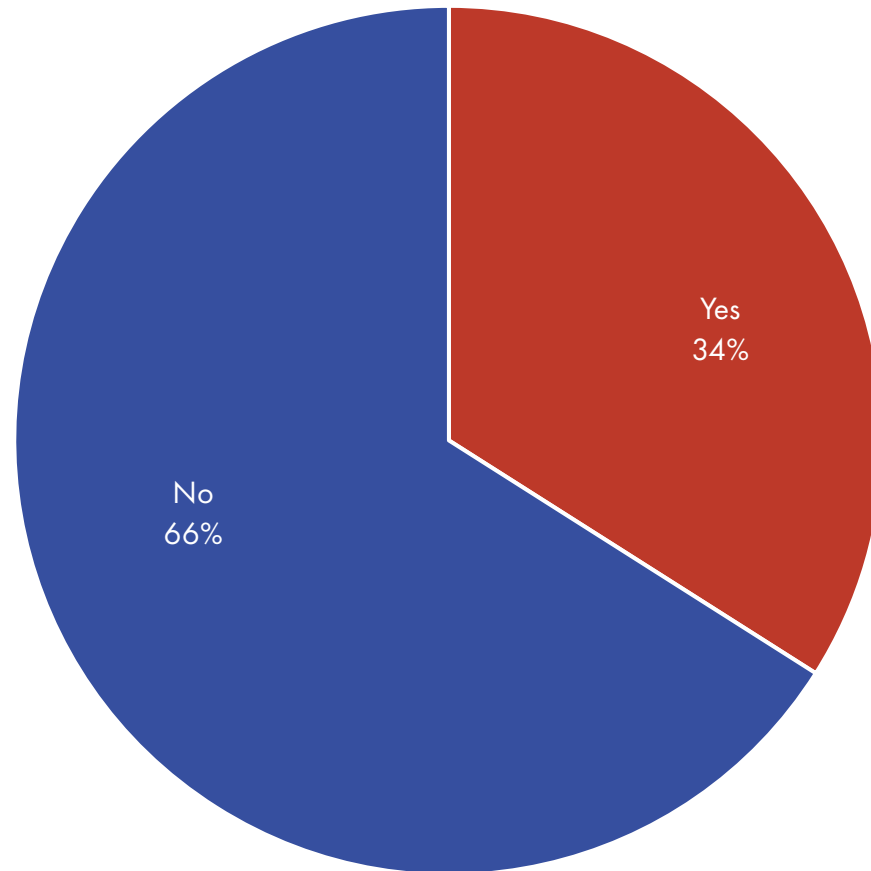


Do you visit the river with children 15 years or younger?



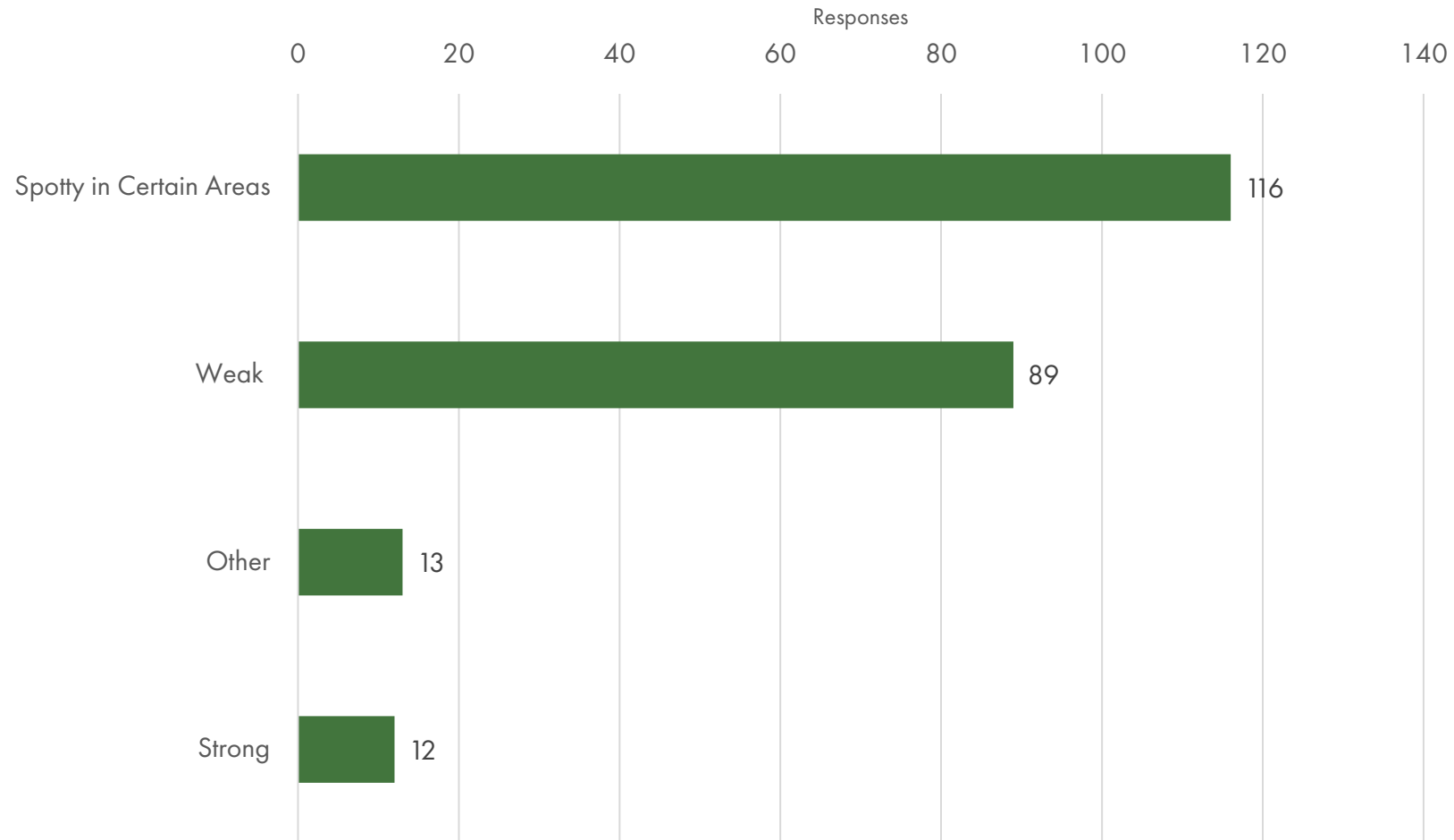
SURVEY RESULTS

Do you usually bring a pet with you to visit the Clarion River?



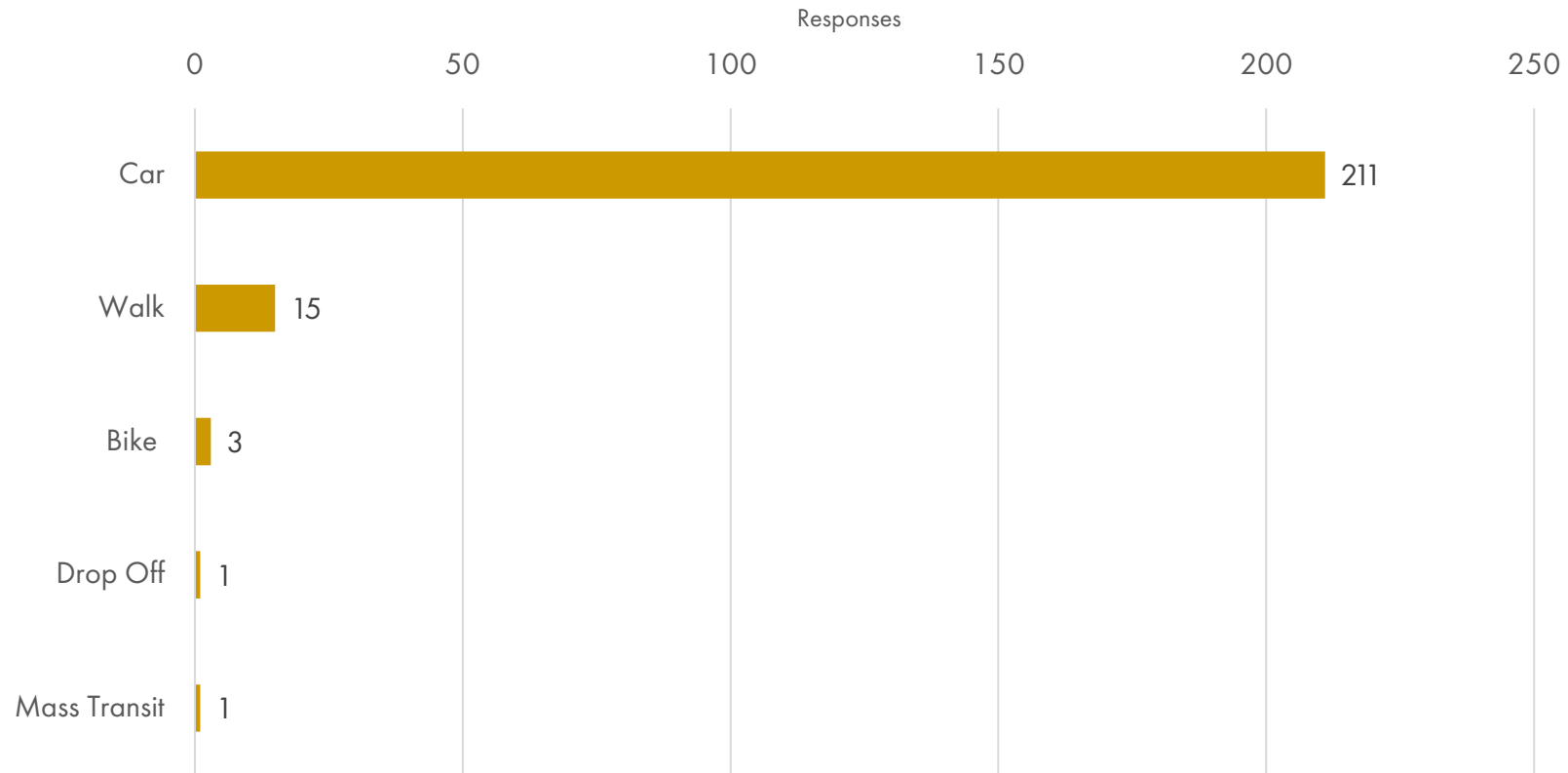
SURVEY RESULTS

When you visit the Clarion River, how would you describe the strength of your cellular signal?



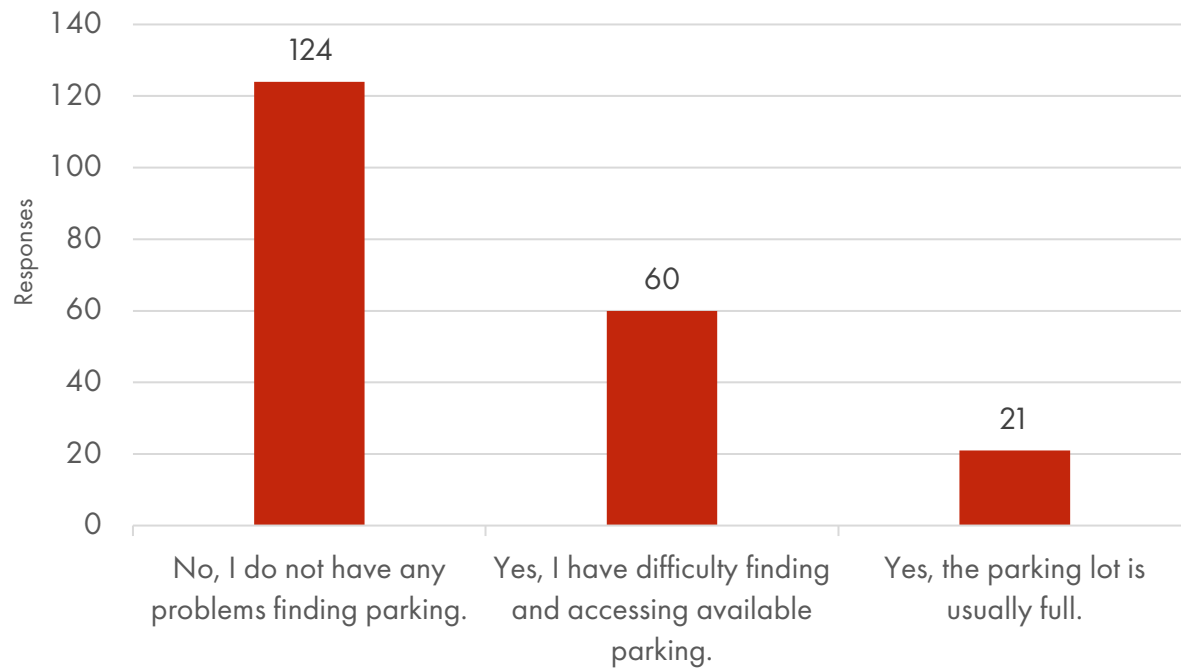
SURVEY RESULTS

How do you generally get to the river?

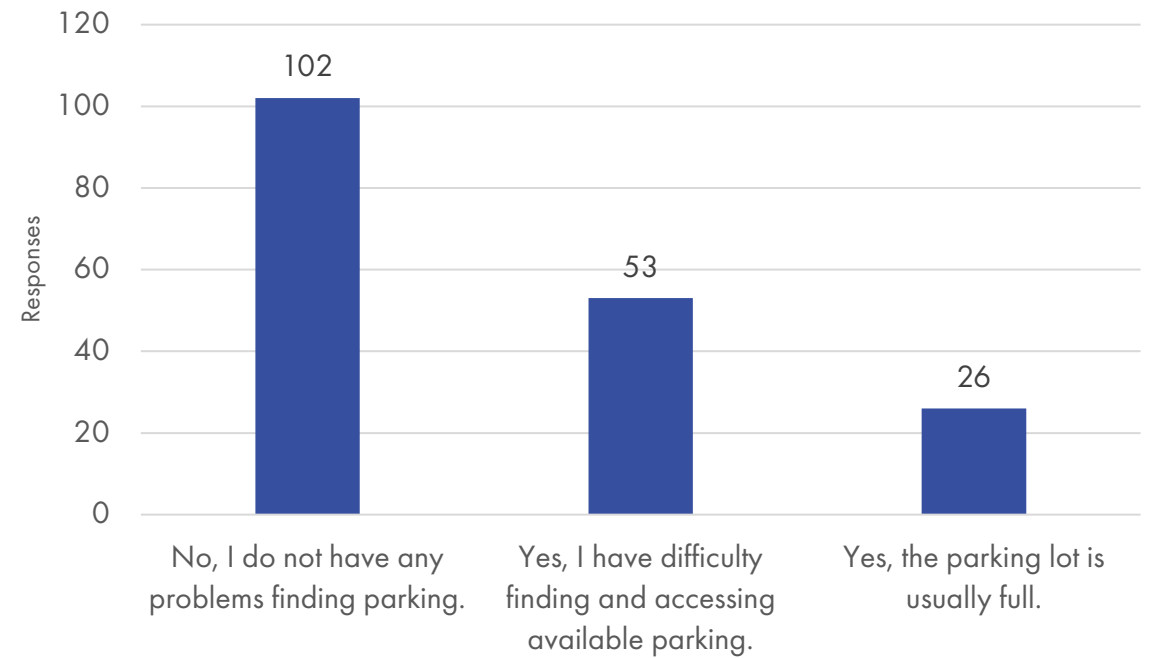


SURVEY RESULTS

If you drive, and you are planning to float and are **not** partaking in any motorized activities, do you have difficulty parking?

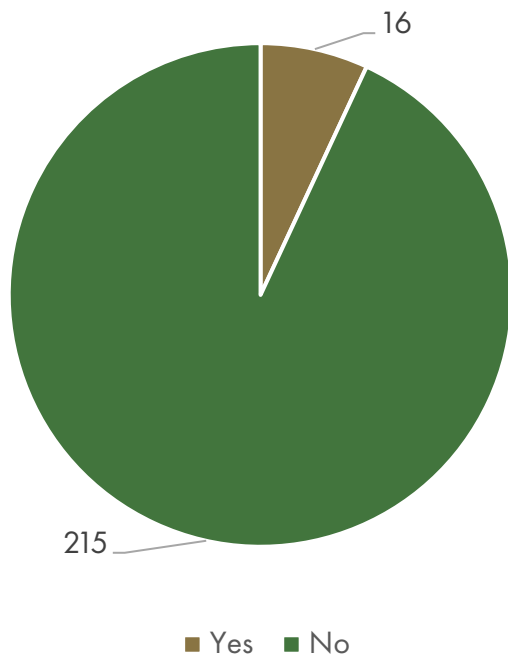


If you drive, and you are planning to use your boat or partake in motorized water activities, do you have difficulty parking?

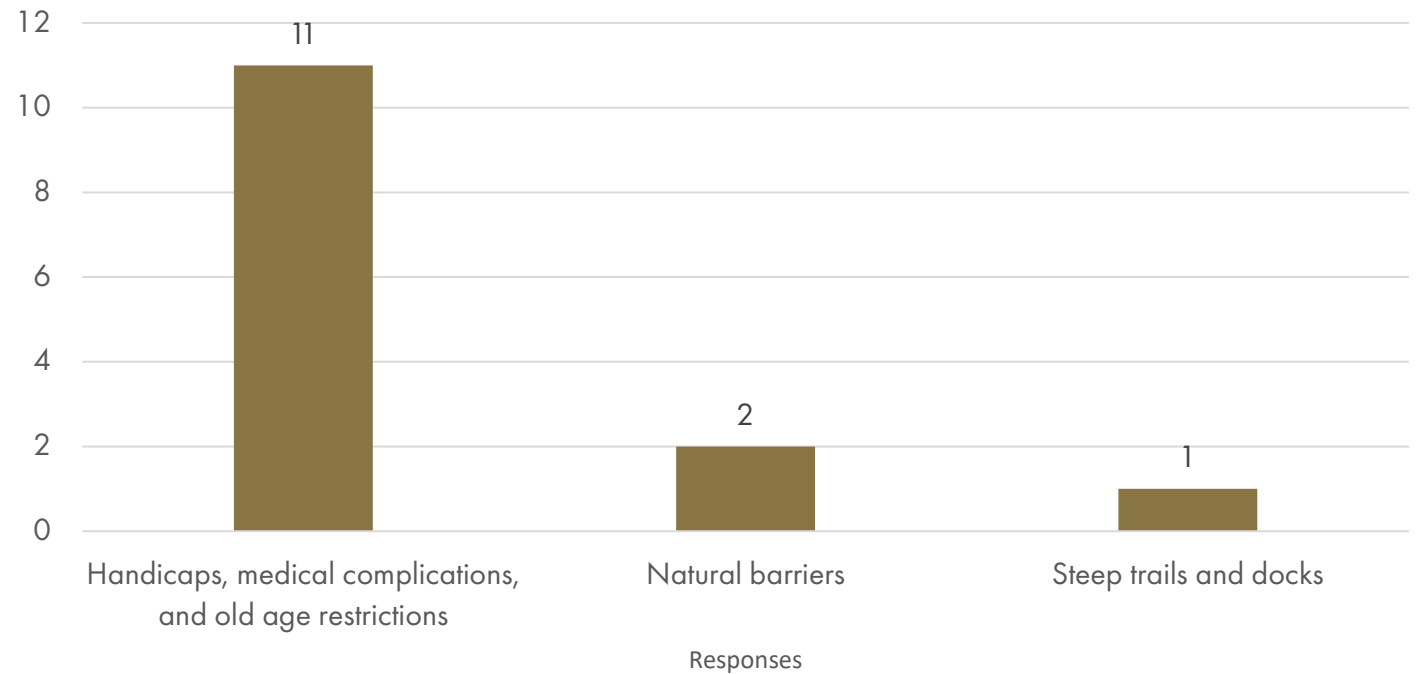


SURVEY RESULTS

Do you have any physical limitations that make accessing the river difficult?

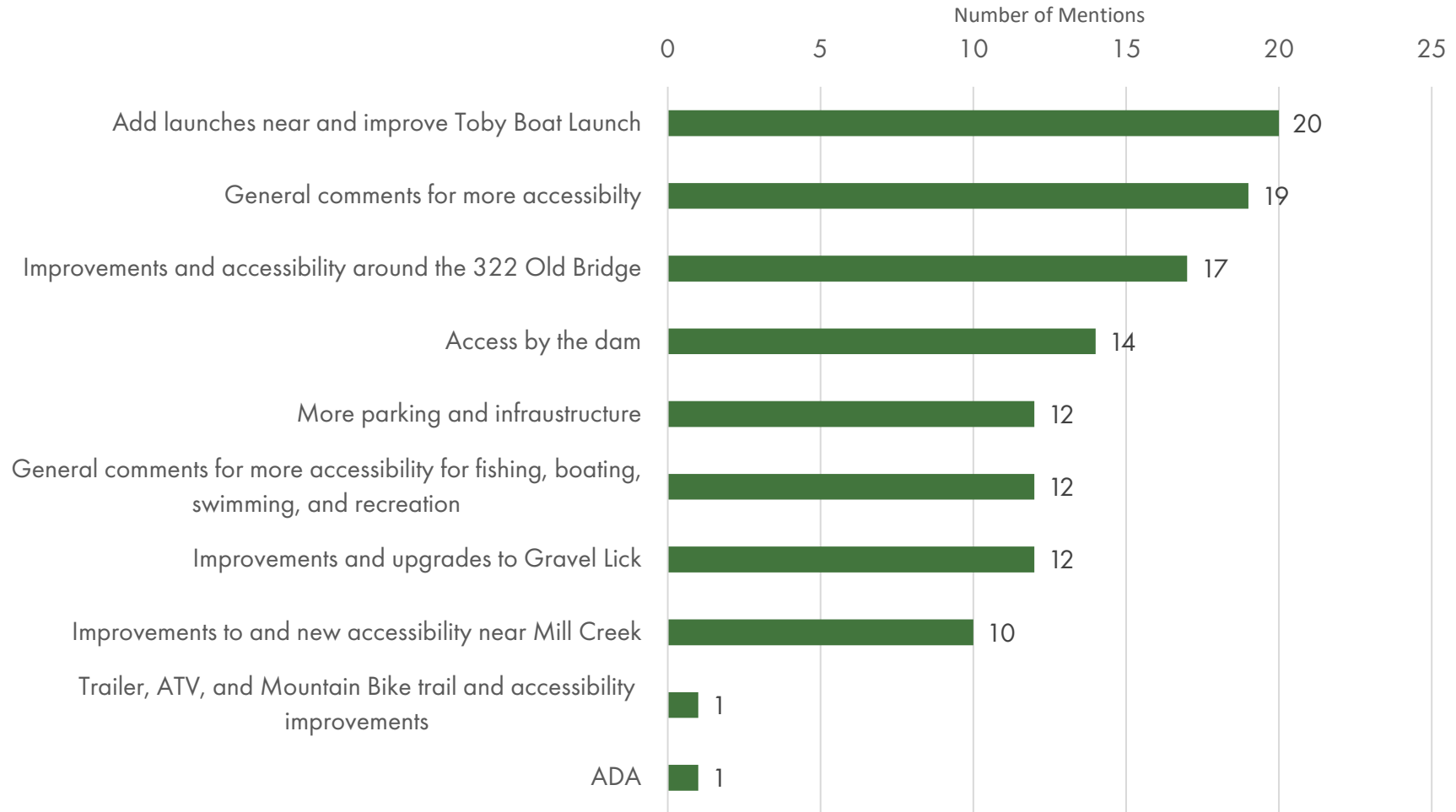


Please give a brief explanation.



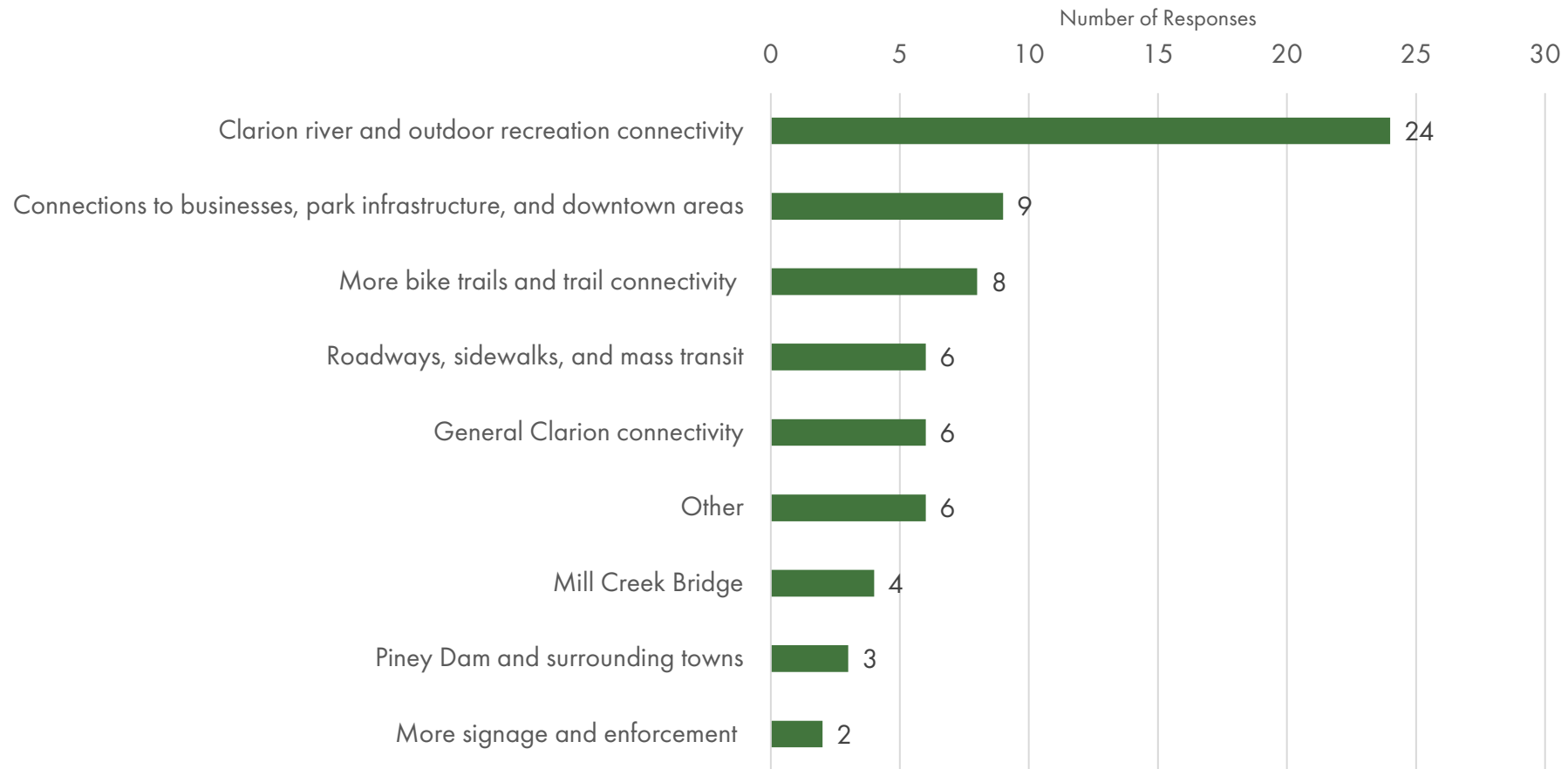
SURVEY RESULTS

What specific river access points do you think should be added?



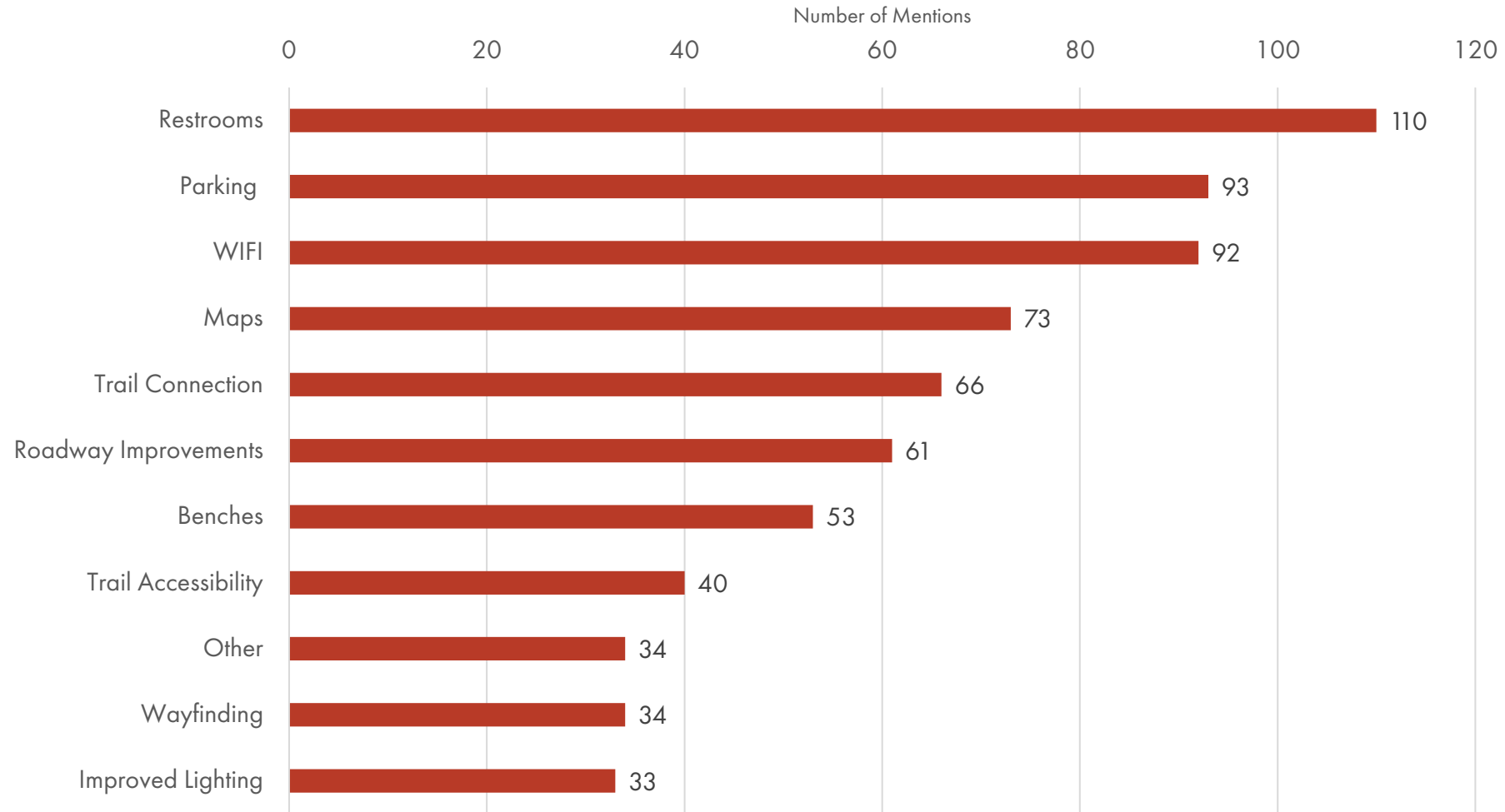
SURVEY RESULTS

Are there specific connections between the Clarion River and neighboring towns or businesses, trails, parks, or recreational resources that you think should be created?



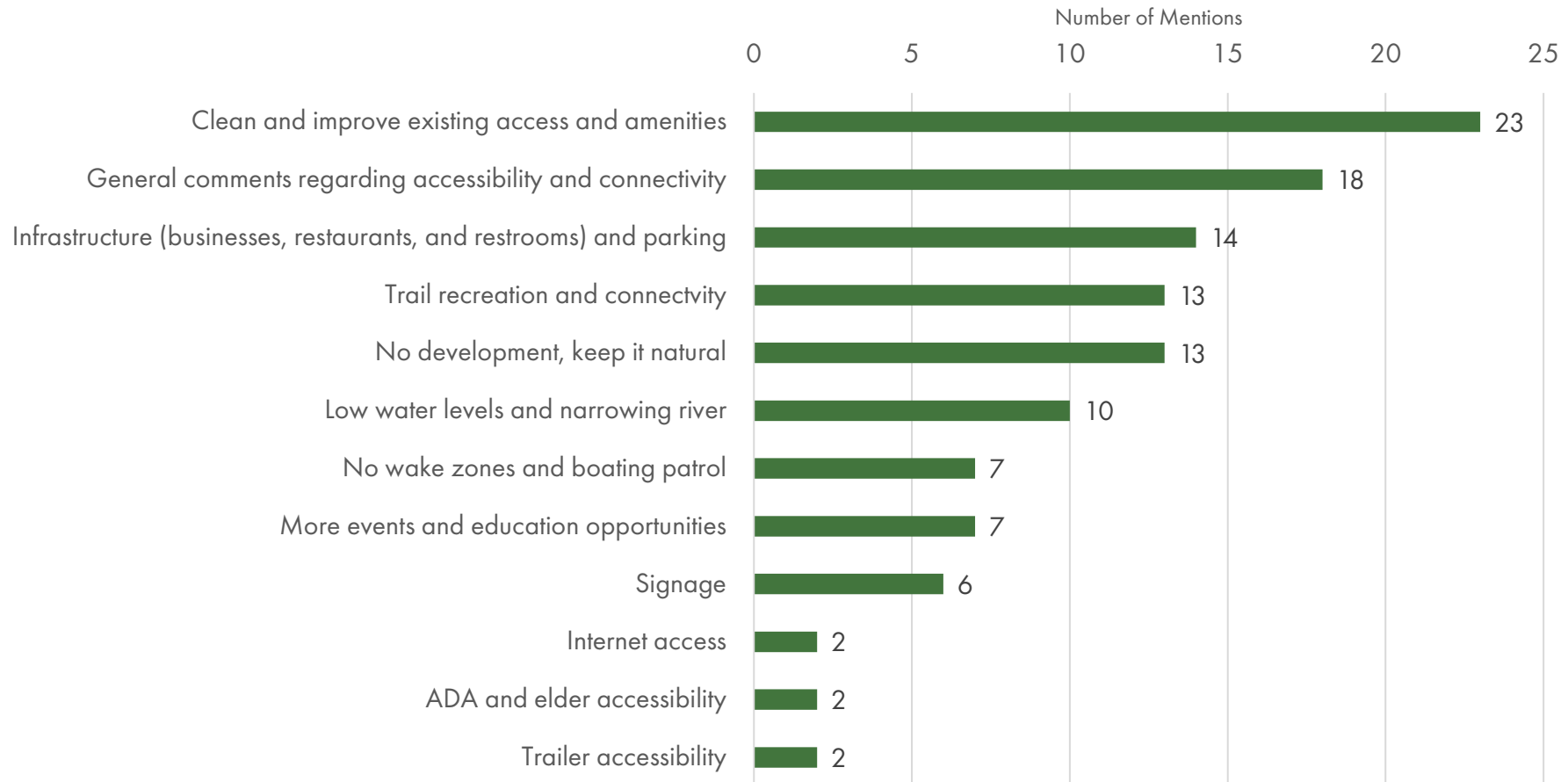
SURVEY RESULTS

What facilities would motivate you to access the Clarion River more readily?



SURVEY RESULTS

Do you have any other comments related to accessing the Clarion River or surrounding outdoor recreation opportunities?



SURVEY TAKEAWAYS

- The majority of respondents were in the age range of 36 to 45, but other age ranges had a similar number of responses. Age range 16-25 had the fewest of responses.
- Most respondents stated that they visit the park a few times a month.
- Most respondents stated they usually visit the River on the weekends.
 - Most respondents stated that they visit the River during the daytime.
 - Most respondents stated they visit the River for 2 to 4 hours.
- Summer is the most popular time to visit the River.
 - Holidays are also a popular time to visit the River. The Fourth of July received 106 responses, followed by Memorial Day (101) and Labor Day (98)

SURVEY TAKEAWAYS

- Most respondents stated they visit the River as a family.
 - Just over half of respondents stated they visit with children 15 years old or younger.
 - More than half of respondents stated they do not visit with any pets.
- A large majority of respondents stated they do not have physical limitations.
 - Of the respondents that do have physical limitations 10 mentioned handicaps, medical complications, or age-based restrictions; 2 mentioned natural barriers; and 1 mentioned steep trails and docks.
- Most respondents stated their cellular signal was spotty in certain areas.

SURVEY TAKEAWAYS

- Most respondents stated they usually access the River by car.
 - For those respondents that drive to the River, for motorized and nonmotorized activity, majority of respondents stated they do not have difficulty parking.
- Most respondents indicated they use a public access to access the River.
- A large majority of respondents stated they access the River through the study area
 - Of the respondents that do not access the River within the study area, most respondents (11) stated that it was due to use and access difficulty.
- Just over half of respondents stated they access the River outside of the study area.
 - Most respondents stated they use Cook Forest to access the River.

SURVEY TAKEAWAYS

- Most respondents stated they believed that more access should be placed near Toby Boat Launch.
- Most respondents expressed interest in more trail connectivity
- Restrooms (93), Parking (81), and WiFi (73) were given the most responses for facilities that would motivate respondents to access the River more
- Most respondents canoe when at the River and they go hiking as another outdoor activity.
- Most respondents indicated that new boat launches and boat launch improvements were important.



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Cranberry Township, PA 16066
724.779.4777
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MEETING NOTES

CLARION RIVER ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Key Stakeholder Focus Group Meeting #1

September 11, 2024 9:10 a.m.

Meeting Attendees:

Name	Company	Email
Laura Ludwig	HRG	lludwig@hrg-inc.com
Sommer Schneller	HRG	sschneller@hrg-inc.com
Lori Morgan	HRG	lmorgan@hrg-inc.com
Christina Sarson	HRG	csarson@hrg-inc.com
Kristi Amato	Clarion County Planning & Development	kamato@co.clarion.pa.us
George Alexander	Local Business Owner	gwa104@gmail.com
Kathleen Lester	Brookfield Renewable	kathleen.lester@brookfieldrenewable.com
Gabe	Brookfield Renewable	gabe.@brookfieldrenewable.com

AGENDA

Laura Ludwig from HRG began the meeting by reviewing the agenda as follows:

- Project Summary and Work Completed to Date
- Day of Field Work Summary
- Discuss Initial Survey Results

- Review Draft of the Background Inventory and Analysis Report
- Discuss Upcoming Key Stakeholder Focus Groups
- Discuss Next Steps

DAY OF FIELD WORK SUMMARY

HRG Staff went to visit the following sites during their field work investigation on May 15, 2024:

- Piney Dam River Access Area
- North Country Trailhead/ Old US 322 River Access Area on the north
- Old US 322, south side of the River
- Toby Boat Launch area
- Mill Creek Boat Launch
- Gravel Lick Rd Bridge & Gravel Lick Canoe Launch

Ms. Sarson reviewed the findings for each of the destinations listed above. Toby Boat Launch area was found to have the most facilities. While there is parking and some ADA amenities at the Toby Boat Launch, vehicle and pedestrian circulation is confusing and ADA amenities do not have accessible connections to each other and some elements are in need of repair. Stormwater and safety issues were also recognized as issues that need to be addressed. Signage needs to be consistent.

North Country Trailhead/ Old US 322 River Access Area on the north and Old US 322, south side of the River are not official access points but are used often for recreation activities like fishing. Signage is limited and unclear in this area and the entrance of Old US 322 south side is not signed. Both areas have very steep access with stairs. There are various private dock or fishing areas that are accessed from this road and are signed as private/no trespassing.

Gravel Lick Rd Bridge & Gravel Lick Canoe Launch was also considered difficult to find and did not have adequate signage. In addition, it was noted that there was no cellular service in the area which also impedes accessibility. The parking area was in good condition. Access to the River was steep and narrow with no ADA accessible amenities.

There are two routes to access Mill Creek Boat Launch: Millcreek Dr. and T572 single lane bridge provides ATV access. The parking lot is large and offers ample room for turnaround and the concrete boat launch is in good condition. Two portable toilets are maintained but no other utilities are present, including cellular service. ADA access could be improved.

Piney Dam River Access Area has steep dirt trails with cable barrier signed “No vehicles beyond this point” with nothing indicating a public amenity. Signage on site is unclear, there is no signage on routes, and public/restricted boundaries are also unclear. This site is not ADA accessible and could benefit from development.

INITIAL SURVEY RESULTS

Ms. Schneller reviewed the initial survey results. The survey was opened on May 1, 2024 and was closed on July 19, 2024. The survey received 122 responses. Ms. Schneller reviewed a map indicating public locations where respondents access the river. Most respondents had access to the river, and canoeing and fishing were the most popular activities among respondents. Ms. Schneller also presented respondent preferences for locations of improvements or new access points, and the types of improvements that respondents indicated would motivate them to use access the river more readily. Supporting infrastructure and services, including restrooms, parking, internet access (wifi), and maps, were most important to users.

DRAFT BACKGROUND INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS OVERVIEW

Ms. Ludwig next reviewed the key findings from the Draft Background Inventory and Analysis Report, noting the report was broken down into the following sections:

- Study Area Background
- Existing Conditions
- Infrastructure, Circulation, and Access Patterns
- Conclusions and Next Steps

The Study Area Background identified numerous historic and cultural resources throughout the study area that can be leveraged for increased river access and connectivity into towns and neighborhoods. There were also two Natural Heritage Areas identified within the region that

are home to rare plants, animals, and ecosystems. Within the study area commercial development is predominantly centralized in Clarion Borough and Township while other areas in the study area are scarcely developed, mostly with single family homes.

When evaluating the existing conditions of the study area, topics like soil stability, flood risk, and slopes are concerns inherent to areas surrounding waterbodies. Keeping these concerns in mind, there are various opportunities for River access like Maxwell Run and Blyson Run.

In the Infrastructure, Circulation, and Access Patterns section, lack of cellular service is recognized as a problem for visitors looking for existing access points. Another concern is that public water, sewer, and electric is limited within the study area, with most of the public utilities centralized in the Clarion Borough area which may decrease accessibility. Roadways are another concern regarding accessibility. Major roadways are concentrated towards the southern portion of the study area, making access to the remaining portion of the study area a challenge.

DISCUSSION

Ms. Lester/Brookfield Renewables noted that five of the six existing access sites involve property/waterfront owned by Brookfield. She asked about whether Brookfield had been consulted prior to the focus group meeting. Ms. Ludwig explained that the purpose of the focus group meetings is to collaborate with Brookfield and other stakeholders, and that if needed HRG will conduct additional interviews or meetings with Brookfield if needed. No recommendations have been made at this point, and the plan will not be complete until early 2025.

Ms. Lester asked whether the PA Fish and Boat Commission is a part of the plan. Ms. Sarson stated that the plan is being conducted at the County level to determine needs within the Clarion Count, but that the state Fish and Boat Commission is participating as a stakeholder.

Ms. Lester requested that the survey be reopened in order to allow Brookfield's local staff and approximately 280 lease holders to participate. Ms. Schneller will reopen the survey and share the link with all stakeholders participating in the focus groups, to include Brookfield. Stakeholders will be able to share the link with as many additional participants as needed.

Ms. Lester noted that Brookfield's handling of existing access sites is limited by their Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license and is in accordance with plans approved at the

federal level. She stated that no improvements or changes to these plans would be made until relicensing in five years. The planning team from HRG requested that Brookfield share plans approved by FERC for incorporation into the Access Management Plan, and Ms. Lester said those plans can be shared. HRG expressed interest in ensuring that the research conducted for the Access Management Plan, and collaboration with Brookfield, could make a positive contribution to the upcoming FERC relicensing. HRG would like to speak with Brookfield further to identify any problem areas where the recommendations to be made in the Access Management Plan can assist Brookfield in identifying solutions that benefit all stakeholders.

Ms. Lester noted that the official name of the access area below the Piney Dam is the Downstream Fishing Access Area. She stated that this area is intentionally a remote access, rustic, unimproved site. She explained the monitoring system that was instated as a requirement of federal licensing. The paper forms on a kiosk are there for people accessing the bank fishing site to record their visits to the site. Under the federal license Brookfield is required to track usage, and the site is not supposed to be improved unless usage increases.

Ms. Lester noted that the Old 322 North site is a private lease, but the lease has been abandoned by the lessee. Additionally, the property at the bend in the road is the subject of a legal dispute involving a private property owner, and any improvements or changes will be delayed until the legal action is resolved. HRG asked if Paint Township was a party in the legal action. Ms. Lester said they were not.

Ms. Lester explained that the Toby Boat Launch is leased by Clarion Borough from Brookfield. Maintenance and improvements at the launch and shoreline are governed by the lease agreement. Upper parking lots are owned and maintained by the Borough.

Ms Lester indicated that the responsibility for the facilities at Mill Creek is shared between Brookfield (shoreline), PA Fish and Boat Commission (boat ramp), and the Game Commission (parking area). HRG noted that the Game Commission will be added to stakeholders to participate in and review the draft Access Management Plan.

FOCUS GROUP EXERCISES

Stakeholders were invited to participate, either on paper maps or online digital maps, in the following design exercises. Stakeholders were instructed to include needs and opportunities

regardless of assumptions about feasibility, as potential limiting factors will be considered in the next phase of this study.

In addition to the topics and discussions noted below, location-based comments were recorded and combined for meetings #1-3 on the satellite imagery and maps provided.

Existing Access Points Design Improvements Charette

Stakeholders were asked to indicate issues or limitations at the six existing access points, what improvements could be made, recreation activities that should be added, connections that are needed, and/or areas to be preserved.

Proposed Access Mapping Exercise

Stakeholders were asked to indicate where new public access was most needed, where opportunities may exist, where new recreation activities could be added, where connections are needed, and/or areas to be preserved.

Mr. Alexander noted several opportunities for new river access points as follows:

- The Martha Berg estate/Applewood Valley, currently managed by Berg's sister Jenny
- Charles Kaufman estate, approximately 500 acres with three active hunting leases. There is a rough road, Lower Reed Road [T-574], that can be used for mountain biking and trail running.
- Henry's Bend/Henry Run and Hemlock Island above Gravel Lick; people canoe/paddle down from Cooksburg to this natural attraction
- Private access on the north shore at Old Sarvey Mill Road. The area is eroded from horse traffic, and people accessing the area for parties. Highland Township is maintaining the area but it is not appropriate for two-lane traffic and would need a parking area.

Proposed recreation activities

The group agreed that separation of activities would be beneficial to reduce conflict between users/activities, particularly boating, kayaking, and fishing.

Mr. Alexander noted that a small group of local people gather to take advantage of white water paddling. White water can be found at a few locations within the study area, one of which is on the Mill Creek tributary starting at Fisher Road and ending at the Mill Creek Launch. He does not think this would be a good activity to advertise to the public without a guide for safety reasons, but could be an opportunity for local businesses or a group/club to develop.

Mr. Alexander noted that place for swimming is needed. In particular, there is no place for families with young children to swim safely. The Mill Creek access may be a good location for swimming. Even better would be a public dock with deep water.

Potential connections

Mr. Alexander noted the following:

- An existing trail runs along a former light rail line between 322 and I-80 and is used for mountain biking, running, and ATVs (see Brian Huwar)
- There is a hunting/game trail from Mill Creek Road south along the stream
- A local mountain biking group meets at Mechanistic Brewing regularly and is working with the University to develop mountain biking trails, to start with a beginner-level trail
- There is an ongoing effort for an extension of the North Country Trail into Clarion, led by Lane Goehring (sp?) via 322, and in the vicinity of the Genoe farm and Berg estate
- Some use Brookfield's inspection roads as trails

DISCUSSION

Stakeholders were invited to share any opportunities or issues that were not previously discussed, or any questions they may have about the Clarion River Access Management Plan.

Mr. Alexander noted different ways people currently access the river:

- Many local people use a combination of private and public launches to put in/take out canoes and kayaks at their desired location. For example, they may use Mill Creek to put their boats in the water, and then take them out when they reach their own property.

- Some people do not use Fish and Boat access because a boat registration or launch permit is required, and while the cost is not high permits must be obtained in advance. He stated Gravel Lick is particularly used like this. HRG observed the “No Parking” signs on Gravel Lick Road and a path down to the river where people are not using the improved Fish and Boat launch.
- University students gather at “the rock” near the Toby bridge at the confluence of Toby Creek and the Clarion River. There is a rock that students swim to that is a ramp on one side and shear on the other where they jump off.

The group discussed that the N 322 area legal action may be involving landowners Brian Huwar or Terry Rapp.

NEXT STEPS

Ms. Ludwig wrapped up the meeting by reviewing the next steps in completing the Clarion River Access Management Plan:

HRG	Key Stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reopen online survey and share the link with all Focus Group participants• Conduct a second day of field work based on the results of today’s Key Stakeholder Focus Groups• Schedule the next Steering Committee meeting to share the results of today’s Key Stakeholder Focus Groups• Begin work on draft recommendations of the Clarion River Access Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please ensure you have signed in to the meeting. If you have shared your email address, you will have additional opportunities to engage and comment on the Clarion River Access Management Plan• If you have not taken the online survey, you are invited to use the link in HRG’s upcoming email to do so• Brookfield Renewable will forward the online survey to its local staff and existing leaseholders• Brookfield Renewable will coordinate with HRG to share plans created during the most recent FERC relicensing

Key Stakeholder Focus Group Meeting #1

Clarion River Access Management Plan

September 11, 2024

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Ms. Ludwig thanked participants and encouraged stakeholders to continue to reach out with feedback and questions.



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MEETING NOTES

CLARION RIVER ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Key Stakeholder Focus Group Meeting #2

September 11, 2024 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Attendees:

Name	Company	Email
Laura Ludwig	HRG	lludwig@hrg-inc.com
Sommer Schneller	HRG	sschneller@hrg-inc.com
Lori Morgan	HRG	lmorgan@hrg-inc.com
Christina Sarson	HRG	csarson@hrg-inc.com
Milissa Bauer	Scenic Rivers Recreation LLC	mbauer@kriebelenergy.com
George Alexander	Local Business Owner	gwa104@gmail.com
Cindy Staley	Highland Township	castaley2@comcast.net
Rick Staley	Highland Township	eaglec@penn.com
Chuck Alexander	Highland/Farmington	calexander@foreconinc.com

AGENDA

Laura Ludwig from HRG began the meeting by reviewing the agenda as follows:

- Project Summary and Work Completed to Date
- Day of Field Work Summary
- Discuss Initial Survey Results

- Review Draft of the Background Inventory and Analysis Report
- Discuss Upcoming Key Stakeholder Focus Groups
- Discuss Next Steps

DAY OF FIELD WORK SUMMARY

HRG Staff went to visit the following sites during their field work investigation on May 15, 2024:

- Piney Dam Downstream Fishing Access Area
- North Country Trailhead/ Old US 322 River Access Area on the north
- Old US 322, south side of the River
- Toby Boat Launch area
- Mill Creek Boat Launch
- Gravel Lick Rd Bridge & Gravel Lick Canoe Launch

Ms. Sarson reviewed the findings for each of the destinations listed above. Piney Dam Downstream Fishing Access Area has steep dirt trails with cable barrier signed “No vehicles beyond this point” with nothing indicating a public amenity. Signage on site is unclear, there is no signage on routes, and public/restricted boundaries are also unclear. This site is not ADA accessible and could benefit from development.

North Country Trailhead/ Old US 322 River Access Area on the north and Old US 322, south side of the River are not official access points but are used often for recreation activities like fishing. Signage is limited and unclear in this area and the entrance of Old US 322 south side is not signed. Both areas have very steep access with stairs. There are various private dock or fishing areas that are accessed from this road and are signed as private/no trespassing. For both of these sites, it was noted that the access route is part of the public right of way, while the waterfront is owned by Brookfield Renewable.

Toby Boat Launch area was found to have the most facilities. While there is parking and some ADA amenities at the Toby Boat Launch, vehicle and pedestrian circulation is confusing and ADA amenities do not have accessible connections to each other and some elements need repair.

Stormwater and safety issues were also recognized as issues that need to be addressed. Signage needs to be consistent. The site is operated and maintained by joint agreement between Clarion Borough and Brookfield Renewable, in which the Borough owns the upper parking areas and is a lease holder for the waterfront and boat ramp.

There are two routes to access Mill Creek Boat Launch: Millcreek Dr. and T572 single lane bridge provides ATV access. The parking lot is large and offers ample room for turnaround and the concrete boat launch is in good condition. Two portable toilets are maintained but no other utilities are present, including cellular service. ADA access could be improved. It was noted that, while the parking lot is the responsibility of the Game Commission, and the boat ramp is controlled by the Fish and Boat Commission, the shoreline of Mill Creek is owned by Brookfield Renewable.

Gravel Lick Rd Bridge & Gravel Lick Canoe Launch was also considered difficult to find and did not have adequate signage. In addition, it was noted that there was no cellular service in the area, which also impedes accessibility. The parking area was in good condition. Access to the River was steep and narrow with no ADA accessible amenities. It was noted that this site is owned by the Fish and Boat Commission and is the only exiting public access site that is not under the control of Brookfield Renewable.

INITIAL SURVEY RESULTS

Ms. Schneller reviewed the initial survey results. The survey was opened on May 1, 2024 and was closed on July 19, 2024. The survey received 122 responses. Ms. Schneller noted that in the first focus group meeting today, key stakeholders from Brookfield Renewable requested that the survey be reopened in order to allow their local staff and 280 dock lease holders to submit responses. HRG will share the online survey with Brookfield as well as all other key stakeholders who provide contact information. New results will be recorded and incorporated into the final survey results in the draft Access Management Plan.

Ms. Schneller reviewed preliminary results, including a map indicating public locations where respondents access the river. Most respondents had access to the river, and canoeing and fishing were the most popular activities among respondents. Ms. Schneller also presented respondent preferences for locations of improvements or new access points, and the types of improvements that respondents indicated would motivate them to use access the river more

readily. Supporting infrastructure and services, including restrooms, parking, internet access (Wi-Fi), and maps, were most important to users.

DRAFT BACKGROUND INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS OVERVIEW

Ms. Ludwig next reviewed the key findings from the Draft Background Inventory and Analysis Report, noting the report was broken down into the following sections:

- Study Area Background
- Existing Conditions
- Infrastructure, Circulation, and Access Patterns
- Conclusions and Next Steps

The Study Area Background identified numerous historic and cultural resources throughout the study area that can be leveraged for increased river access and connectivity into towns and neighborhoods. There were also two Natural Heritage Areas identified within the region that are home to rare plants, animals, and ecosystems. Within the study area commercial development is predominantly centralized in Clarion Borough and Township while other areas in the study area are scarcely developed, mostly with single family homes.

When evaluating the existing conditions of the study area, topics like soil stability, flood risk, and slopes are concerns inherent to areas surrounding waterbodies. Keeping these concerns in mind, there are various opportunities for River access like Maxwell Run and Blyson Run.

In the Infrastructure, Circulation, and Access Patterns section, lack of cellular service is recognized as a problem for visitors looking for existing access points. Another concern is that public water, sewer, and electric service is limited within the study area, with most of the public utilities centralized in the Clarion Borough area which may decrease accessibility. Roadways are another concern regarding accessibility. Major roadways are concentrated towards the southern portion of the study area, making access to the remaining portion of the study area a challenge.

FOCUS GROUP EXERCISES

Stakeholders were invited to participate, either on paper maps or online digital maps, in the following design exercises. Stakeholders were instructed to include needs and opportunities regardless of assumptions about feasibility, as potential limiting factors will be considered in the next phase of this study.

In addition to the topics and discussions noted below, location-based comments were recorded and combined for meetings #1-3 on the satellite imagery and maps provided.

Existing Access Points Design Improvements Charette

Stakeholders were asked to indicate issues or limitations at the six existing access points, what improvements could be made, recreation activities that should be added, connections that are needed, and/or areas to be preserved.

The group discussed private dock leases on Brookfield's property, and a past legal dispute between a property owner and Brookfield. The property owner wanted to place a dock on what he considered his property, but the area was part of the waterfront condemned by Brookfield. Some property owners still do not want to pay lease fees to Brookfield because their deed says "to the water's edge." Leases are \$100 [annually] and there is a waiting list, but property owners have "preference." People have received notices and fines if they don't pay.

Mr. Alexander suggested a dock for deep water public swimming would be a good use of the Old 322 North access area. This area would be a great location for a public dock as it is in close proximity to the North Country Trail. This may be something Paint Township could look into as it works with Brookfield on potential riverfront development.

Ms. Bauer noted that a big limitation to access to trails and water is the lack of pedestrian bridges or a safe way to cross the river. The swimming rock, popular with university students, is not accessible without a car. Students cross the Toby bridge, and it isn't safe. Kids jump off the bridge. The bridge does not have good pedestrian access.

Mr. Staley discussed Clarion Borough's planned future retaining wall and other improvements at the Toby Boat Launch. An application was submitted to DCNR for the project. The group discussed circulation and parking at the Toby Boat Launch. Users are supposed to park trailers

and cars separately, but do not. The area becomes congested and there is no safe pedestrian area.

The need to have separate areas for different types of recreation is needed at the Toby Launch (fishing, boating, and kayak/canoe launch). Separate parking is needed for the swimming rock; now people park at the already-crowded Toby Launch.

Mr. Staley noted that the Clarion Fire & Hose Company retained a large parking area beyond the Borough property at the Toby Launch and was not aware of any ongoing use of that parking area.

Mill Creek gets very busy, in part because people try to swim there but are not supposed to. People swim across the river to the Miola side, crossing through the boat lanes. Swimmers and boats need to be separate for safety.

Swimming is a big need since the pool in Clarion closed. Swimming would be best near the population center in Clarion, but there should be a walkway down to the water.

Gravel Lick can be used for swimming, off the ledge at the public turnaround.

Proposed Access Mapping Exercise

Stakeholders were asked to indicate where new public access was most needed, where opportunities may exist, where new recreation activities could be added, where connections are needed, and/or areas to be preserved.

The group discussed the status of the Cutty property, the Timberwolf Lodge, which may not be operating.

Mr. Staley discussed Highland Township's application for a grant from DCNR to improve, or armor, Mill Creek Road on the north bank, an area that was discussed in the previous meeting as having erosion concerns due to people using it to access the river. Mr. Staley wasn't sure which grant program was used but followed the same process to apply for signage for 4-wheelers.

The group discussed Dr. Varner's property at Old 322 North, described as the fenced area being used for storage. Dr. Varner is still using the property.

Ms. Staley asked whether property owners on the opposite bank from proposed improvements would be consulted or notified. There is some concern that opening up new public areas will disrupt the serene, natural, private areas and the lifestyle of property owners.

The group discussed the need for a pedestrian connection across the river, particularly between the Toby Launch and the swimming rock. The University could be a partner, because the river and the rock in particular is a draw for students. Ms. Bauer proposed that a structure could be added to the existing Toby bridge to provide a safe route.

DISCUSSION

Stakeholders were invited to share any opportunities or issues that were not previously discussed, or any questions they may have about the Clarion River Access Management Plan.

The group discussed that, in addition to conflicts with Brookfield over dock leases, there have been cases where a property owner wanted to reinforce the riverbanks to prevent erosion but was not permitted to do so by Brookfield.

NEXT STEPS

Ms. Ludwig wrapped up the meeting by reviewing the next steps in completing the Clarion River Access Management Plan:

HRG	Key Stakeholders
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Key Stakeholder Focus Group Meeting #2

Clarion River Access Management Plan

September 11, 2024

Page 8

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MEETING NOTES

CLARION RIVER ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Key Stakeholder Focus Group Meeting #3

September 11, 2024 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Attendees:

Name	Company	Email
Laura Ludwig	HRG	lludwig@hrg-inc.com
Sommer Schneller	HRG	sschneller@hrg-inc.com
Lori Morgan	HRG	lmorgan@hrg-inc.com
Christina Sarson	HRG	csarson@hrg-inc.com
George Alexander	Local Business Owner	gwa104@gmail.com
Linda LaVan-Preston	Clarion Borough	llavan@clarionboro.org
Carol Lapinto	Clarion Borough	clapinto1@comcast.net
Amanda Hepinger	Real Estate Professional	amandahepinger@gmail.com
Ken Ganoe	Paint Township	kenganoe993@gmail.com
Craig Lewis	Paint Township	craig7282@gmail.com

AGENDA

Laura Ludwig from HRG began the meeting by reviewing the agenda as follows:

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respondent preferences for locations of improvements or new access points, and the types of improvements that respondents indicated would motivate them to use access the river more readily. Supporting infrastructure and services, including restrooms, parking, internet access (Wi-Fi), and maps, were most important to users.

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In the Infrastructure, Circulation, and Access Patterns section, lack of cellular service is recognized as a problem for visitors looking for existing access points. Another concern is that public water, sewer, and electric service is limited within the study area, with most of the public utilities centralized in the Clarion Borough area which may decrease accessibility. Roadways are another concern regarding accessibility. Major roadways are concentrated towards the southern portion of the study area, making access to the remaining portion of the study area a challenge.

FOCUS GROUP EXERCISES

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Existing Access Points Design Improvements Charette

Stakeholders were asked to indicate issues or limitations at the six existing access points, what improvements could be made, recreation activities that should be added, connections that are needed, and/or areas to be preserved.

Ms. Lapinto described the Toby Boat Launch historic plans, which included pedestrian walks and a boardwalk. The plans weren't implemented because of opposition by a former landowner, and because of the land taken for the Toby Bridge. She noted that the Borough also owns land on the far (west) side of the Toby Bridge, but it is too steep to develop. She also noted that a grant was received, and the replacement of the steps is pending.

Stakeholders discussed that there used to be boat fuel available at the Toby Launch, but that business was closed because of problems with its operation. Cutty's Timberwolf Lodge used to sell fuel but no longer does.

Mr. Lewis described Old 322 North proposed facilities that he had asked Brookfield about in the past. Proposed improvements included relocating the kayak launch from the Toby Boat Launch, a multipurpose trail connecting to the North Country Trail, and park amenities like a pavilion with picnic tables. This area could also accommodate swimming.

The Toby site is very steep, and there have been reports of boats tipping.

Ms. Lapinto noted that the kayak rental business at the Toby Boat Launch seems to be very successful, and the owner might be open to moving to an area where there would be less conflict with boats. Ms. LaVan-Preston noted that the portable restrooms at Toby have had complaints from park users and from the rental company, because people have used them for cleaning fish, preparing food, preparing bait, etc. and this became a health hazard.

Ms. Lapinto and Ms. LaVan-Preston described their participation in the FERC relicensing process several years ago, when a local boat captain (Kaufman) gave Borough staff and officials a tour of problem areas in the dam operating area.

At Old 322 South, Ms. Lapinto used to have a lease on the private land accessed by the public ROW (owner Terry Pope) but when rates were raised to \$300, she stopped leasing.

Ms. Heping described ongoing issues with canoe/kayak routes from Cooksburg. People renting kayaks in Cook Forest have drowned or been lost between Cook Forest and Gravel Lick because they do not know how far it is (or cannot find Gravel Lick). People are trying to access Henry's Run and the hike to the scenic, historic stone wall waterfall [Sawmill Dam]. There has been litigation regarding public access to the waterfall. People try to paddle upstream and get stuck; cannot find Gravel Lick; cannot make it to Gravel Lick and take out on private land; or do find Gravel Lick but cannot get their boats out because of deep sediment/mud and the steep, muddy ramp. Needs include:

- A canoe/kayak takeout at or near Henry Run or Gravel Lick bridge and/or
- Repairs to Gravel Lick, e.g. bank hardening, to mitigate mud
- Better marking of Gravel Lick from the river, possibly with distance markers

Ms. Heping will share educational materials Brookfield distributed to local realtors. Before receiving the materials, she did not know how the lease process worked or where to find information about it.

Proposed Access Mapping Exercise

Stakeholders were asked to indicate where new public access was most needed, where opportunities may exist, where new recreation activities could be added, where connections are needed, and/or areas to be preserved.

DISCUSSION

Stakeholders were invited to share any opportunities or issues that were not previously discussed, or any questions they may have about the Clarion River Access Management Plan.

NEXT STEPS

Ms. Ludwig wrapped up the meeting by reviewing the next steps in completing the Clarion River Access Management Plan:

HRG	Key Stakeholders
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Ms. Ludwig thanked participants and encouraged stakeholders to continue to reach out with feedback and questions.

D. STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES



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MEETING NOTES

CLARION RIVER ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Steering Committee Kickoff Meeting

April 29, 2024

Meeting Attendees:

Name	Company	Email
Laura Ludwig	HRG	lludwig@hrg-inc.com
Sommer Schneller	HRG	sschneller@hrg-inc.com
Lori Morgan	HRG	lmorgan@hrg-inc.com
Chris Sarson	HRG	csarson@hrg-inc.com
Kristi Amato	Clarion County Planning & Development	kamato@co.clarion.pa.us
Milissa Bauer	Scenic Rivers Recreation LLC	MBauer@kriebelenergy.com
Dane Higbee	Delta Development Group	dhigbee@deltaone.com
Jamie Feikls	Recreation Program Manager for Allegheny Forest	
George Alexander	Local Business Owner	
Joel McNeil	Resident of Clarion	
Max Smith	Clarion University Foundation	

SCOPE OF WORK AND PROJECT SCHEDULE REVIEW

After introductions, Laura Ludwig and Lori Morgan from HRG began the meeting by reviewing the scope of work for the project, which includes the following phases:

- Phase 1 – Public Outreach and Participation
- Phase 2 – Background Information, Inventories, and Analysis
- Phase 3 – Definitions of Overlook Points and Access Points

- Phase 4 – Development of Action Strategies
- Phase 5 – Final Report and Final Project Deliverables

Ms. Ludwig noted that these phases will run concurrently at many times and to expect deliverables from different phases in random order. She then asked if the group had any questions or comments regarding the process. Mr. Smith asked if the HRG team had notified any landowners yet that their properties may be of focus for the project. Ms. Ludwig clarified that no landowners have been contacted at this phase in the project but will involve those individuals at a later point in the project. Ms. Sarson also shared that moving forward, the main land priorities for access points will be those publicly owned to avoid any conflicts in the future. Mr. Alexander reminded the team not to blindside any members of the community and if the team needs property ownership information, it can be found on the Clarion County GIS website. Mr. Alexander also invited the HRG team to present the project and future concepts to the Clarion University Foundation as a part of the process. After finishing reviewing the scope of work phases and tasks, Ms. Morgan reviewed the schedule and noted that given the current schedule, the project is well underway and on time.

COMMUNITY SURVEY REVIEW

Ms. Schneller reviewed the draft survey with the Steering Committee, including the types of questions asked, and a brief instruction on using the mapping tools integrated into the survey. She asked the committee if the language describing adding new access points was confusing and if they had any suggestions for clarifying the instructions. Mr. Higbee suggested rewording the instructions to indicate “the plus symbol above” to not confuse users between the new map button and zoom button. Ms. Schneller responded that she would make that adjustment and have the survey ready for public launch.

Ms. Schneller then asked the Steering Committee if and how their organizations have been able to successfully spread the word about similar opportunities in the past. Mr. Alexander shared that the team could post an article on Explore Clarion, post in the Facebook group “What’s Happening in Clarion?” and print and disseminate flyers and posters for local businesses and the Chamber of Commerce, library, and post office to hang up.

Ms. Schneller followed up with discussion with a question about the timeline for opening the survey. She shared that surveys have been open in the past for as few as a couple of weeks to several months. She asked the Committee their thoughts on the length of keeping the survey open. The group agreed to launch the survey at the beginning of May and have it after the Pop-Up Clarion event on June 7 and 8. HRG agreed to prepare flyers, a QR code, and a finalized link for distribution this week.

ITEMS TO DISCUSS AND NEXT STEPS

Ms. Sarson shared the immediate next steps for the project, which included receiving a finalized list of Stakeholders that HRG will interview as well as some dates and times to hold those meetings. She also shared that HRG has a tentative plan to do a field workday/site visit on May 9th as long as the weather is amenable.

PAST PLANS REVIEW

Ms. Sarson noted HRG has completed the review of past plans and studies, which included the following:

- 2022 Northwest Greenways Plan
- 2022 Clarion County Comprehensive Plan Update
- 2005/2006 Clarion River Greenway Plan
- 2010 Clarion County Greenways Plan
- Piney Branch ATV Rail Corridor Trail Study
- Pennsylvania Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan: Recreation for All, 2020-2024
- Pennsylvania Land and Water Trail Network Strategic Plan, 2020- 2024
- Pennsylvania Water Trails Program Strategic Plan, 2017- 2022

Ms. Sarson noted that the Steering Committee should review the full document for accuracy, but she reviewed some of the key points found through the review process.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS

Ms. Ludwig reviewed the initial land use review findings including the PNDI report that was conducted. She noted that some of this information will be checked during the fieldwork process. She noted some of the trail connections that already exist, as well as other transportation routes, which may serve as potential connections.

BRAINSTORMING VISIONING ACTIVITY

Ms. Sarson transitioned the conversation to a brainstorming activity. She first asked the group what were the biggest needs that this Plan should address in regard to river access. Ms. Bauer suggested that the access points need better publicity including advertising areas that are accessible for people without boats for activities like fishing and swimming. She also identified the Paint Township 322 bridge as a potential access point, however there is no internet or wifi in the region. Ms. Bauer suggested that younger individuals may be more likely to visit these access points if cell service permitted activities such as geocaching. Mr. Alexander suggested that there needs to be more public family access, since the area is not very wealthy, areas that are free to use and do not require bringing expensive equipment allows more people access to nature. Many people currently use the rock at the university but are required to traverse an unsafe bridge to access it. Mr. Alexander also proposed that more trails should be connecting trails to the Clarion town center and the river. Mr. Higbee suggested that there is already a desire to better connect Clarion Borough with the river and identified that if we increase access to the rivers from downtown, more people may visit downtown.

Ms. Sarson then asked the Committee what areas were most in need of additional access points. Mr. McNeil shared that the current access in the borough is very tight and in rough shape. That also included

insufficient storage available and dock space. The river is currently only available to the few that can get dock space access from private property owners otherwise you have to put in and take out at the public ramp, where access is limited and not in great shape. Mill Creek is not well known and is hard to get to and Gravel Lick access is still open, but the boat has to be registered with Fish and Game, motorized boats are also not allowed because that is the shallow part of the river. Ms. Ludwig asked if anyone accessed the river on the north shore, Mr. Higbee shared that across from Mill Creek there is an access point, but it is in rough shape and has tough terrain.

Lastly Ms. Sarson asked the group about any areas that have potential to be great access points. Ms. Ludwig shared that through the Land Use research, Cutty's Timber Wolf lodge can be a potential connection and discussion with the owners. It could be a privately owned, makeshift boat launch that can be used for a fee and a rental dock. Ms. Bauer shared that the University Foundation is a great opportunity, and that they may consider a lease to generate income for current owners.

NEXT STEPS AND TO-DO LISTS

Ms. Ludwig wrapped up the meeting noting the following:

- HRG will edit the survey as discussed and anything else needed and will get it posted and advertised this week.
- May 9 fieldwork is tentatively planned for HRG staff.
- Background Inventory and Analysis will be sent to the Committee in the next few weeks.
- Stakeholder Focus Groups will be completed in May per the project schedule.
- HRG is asking the Steering Committee to spread the word about the survey and help advertise and provide a list of key stakeholders.
- Mr. Alexander will provide contact information for Explore Clarion and business owners for advertising the survey.



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MEETING NOTES

CLARION RIVER ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Steering Committee Meeting #2

July 24, 2024

Meeting Attendees:

Name	Company	Email
Laura Ludwig	HRG	lludwig@hrg-inc.com
Sommer Schneller	HRG	sschneller@hrg-inc.com
Lori Morgan	HRG	lmorgan@hrg-inc.com
Christina Sarson	HRG	csarson@hrg-inc.com
Ally Buerk	HRG	abuerk@hrg-inc.com
Kristi Amato	Clarion County Planning & Development	kamato@co.clarion.pa.us
Milissa Bauer	Scenic Rivers Recreation LLC	MBauer@kriebelenergy.com
Dane Higbee	Delta Development Group	dhigbee@deltaone.com
Jamie Feikls	Recreation Program Manager for Allegheny Forest	
George Alexander	Local Business Owner	gwa104@gmail.com
Max Smith	Clarion University Foundation	msmith@cuf-inc.org
Ryan Borcz	Cook Forest and Clear Creek State Park	rborcz@pa.gov
Kylie Maland	Western PA Conservancy	kmaland@paconserve.org
Theron Miles	Scenic Rivers Recreation LLC	tmiles@milesbrothersllc.com
Jim Crooks	Scenic Rivers Recreation LLC	jimcrooks@aol.com

AGENDA

Laura Ludwig from HRG began the meeting by reviewing the agenda for the second Steering Committee meeting, as follows:

- Day of Field Work Summary
- Review Draft of the Background Inventory and Analysis Report
- Discuss Initial Survey Results
- Discuss Upcoming Key Stakeholder Focus Groups
- Discuss Next Steps

DAY OF FIELD WORK SUMMARY

HRG Staff went to visit the following sites during their field work investigation on May 15, 2024:

- Toby Boat Launch area
- North Country Trailhead/ Old US 322 River Access Area on the north
- Old US 322, south side of the River
- Gravel Lick Rd Bridge & Gravel Lick Canoe Launch
- Mill Creek Boat Launch
- Piney Dam River Access Area

Sommer Schneller and Christina Sarson reviewed the findings for each of the destinations listed above. Toby Boat Launch area was found to have the most facilities. While there is parking and some ADA amenities at the Toby Boat Launch, vehicle and pedestrian circulation is confusing and ADA amenities do not have accessible connections to each other and some elements are in need of repair. Stormwater and safety issues were also recognized as issues that need to be addressed. Signage needs to be consistent.

North Country Trailhead/ Old US 322 River Access Area on the north and Old US 322, south side of the River are not official access points but are used often for recreation activities like fishing. Signage is limited and unclear in this area and the entrance of Old US 322 south side is not signed. Both areas have very steep access with stairs. There are various private dock or fishing areas that are accessed from this road and are signed as private/no trespassing.

Gravel Lick Rd Bridge & Gravel Lick Canoe Launch was also considered difficult to find and did not have adequate signage. In addition, it was noted that there was no cellular service in the area which also impedes accessibility. The parking area was in good condition. Access to the River was steep and narrow with no ADA accessible amenities.

There are two routes to access Mill Creek Boat Launch: Millcreek Dr. and T572 single lane bridge provides ATV access. The parking lot is large and offers ample room for turnaround and the concrete boat launch is in good condition. Two portable toilets are maintained but no other utilities are present, including cellular service. ADA access could be improved.

Piney Dam River Access Area has steep dirt trails with cable barrier signed "No vehicles beyond this point" with nothing indicating a public amenity. Signage on site is unclear, there is no signage on routes, and public/restricted boundaries are also unclear. This site is not ADA accessible and could use development.

DRAFT BACKGROUND INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS OVERVIEW

Ms. Ludwig next reviewed the key findings from the Draft Background Inventory and Analysis Report, noting the report was broken down into the following sections:

- Study Area Background
- Existing Conditions
- Infrastructure, Circulation, and Access Patterns
- Conclusions and Next Steps

The Study Area Background identified numerous historic and cultural resources throughout the study area that can be leveraged for increased river access and connectivity into towns and neighborhoods. There were also two Natural Heritage Areas identified within the region that are home to rare plants, animals, and ecosystems. Within the study area commercial development is predominantly centralized in Clarion Borough and Township while other areas in the study area are scarcely developed, mostly with single family homes.

When evaluating the existing conditions of the study area, topics like soil stability, flood risk, and slopes are concerns inherent to areas surrounding waterbodies. Keeping these concerns in mind, there are various opportunities for River access like Maxwell Run and Blyson Run.

In the Infrastructure, Circulation, and Access Patterns section, lack of cellular service is recognized as a problem for visitors looking for existing access points. Another concern is that public water, sewer, and electric is limited within the study area, with most of the public utilities centralized in the Clarion Borough area which may decrease accessibility. Roadways are another concern regarding accessibility. Major roadways are concentrated towards the southern portion of the study area, making access to the remaining portion of the study area a challenge.

INITIAL SURVEY RESULTS

Lori Morgan reviewed the initial survey results. The survey was opened on May 1, 2024 and was closed on July 19, 2024. The survey received 185 responses. Ms. Morgan reviewed some initial results and noted that HRG staff is still actively reviewing and analyzing the data. Full analysis of the survey results will be sent out via email.

UPCOMING KEY STAKEHOLDER FOCUS GROUPS

Ms. Ludwig began discussing the upcoming key stakeholder focus group meetings. To date, HRG staff has received 22 names to organize into focus groups. Ms. Ludwig noted that HRG will likely group them into about three groups of seven for the meetings and the focus groups will take up one full day of in person meetings.

Ms. Ludwig notified the Steering Committee members that HRG staff is still looking for contact information for five people suggested as key stakeholders, as follows:

- William Bohlander
- Mark Miller
- Vince Neiswonger
- Terry Pope
- Rick Staley

It was noted that William Bohlander did not want to be on the Stakeholder list when asked. So, he will be removed from the list. The Steering Committee started to brainstorm ways to reach out for that contact information. Discussion then arose for potential dates to have the key stakeholder focus group meetings. The week of August 26th and September 9th were both brought up. George Alexander also noted that the key stakeholder event could be held at the Mechanistic Brewery/ Brewpub. It was determined the week of August 26th would be the primary week to look to host the focus groups.

NEXT STEPS

Ms. Ludwig wrapped up the meeting by reviewing the next steps for both HRG staff and the Steering Committee and/or County:

HRG	Steering Committee and/or County
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalize survey results and send out• Finalize Background Inventory and Analysis (Phase 2) and send out• Finalize list and schedule Key Stakeholder Focus Group meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Send HRG remaining contact info for property owners• Pick a date for next Steering Committee meeting – late September after focus groups and float day?

When discussing next steps, Milissa Bauer had asked HRG staff if any private lands were viewed during the field work and considered for access. Ms. Ludwig suggested that a second day of field work be done to look at private property accessibility and other potential angles. Ms. Sarson noted that private lands were

not viewed during the initial field work, and that private property owners would need to be contacted prior to any additional field work. Ms. Ludwig suggested that the Steering Committee could help to narrow down the list of properties to try to gain access to. Mr. Alexander stated that the Steer could help by highlighting specific sites on a map. It was also noted by the Steer that looking for accessibility via boat could be potentially beneficial. Separate float/boat and field work days will be targeted for September.



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MEETING NOTES

CLARION RIVER ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Steering Committee Meeting #3

October 31, 2024

Meeting Attendees:

Name	Company	Email
Laura Ludwig	HRG	lludwig@hrg-inc.com
Sommer Schneller	HRG	sschneller@hrg-inc.com
Lori Morgan	HRG	lmorgan@hrg-inc.com
Christina Sarson	HRG	csarson@hrg-inc.com
Kristi Amato	Clarion County Planning & Development	kamato@co.clarion.pa.us
Milissa Bauer	Scenic Rivers Recreation LLC	MBauer@kriebelenergy.com
Dane Higbee	Delta Development Group	dhigbee@deltaone.com
George Alexander	Local Business Owner	gwa104@gmail.com
Max Smith	Clarion University Foundation	msmith@cuf-inc.org
Jared Heuer	Clarion County Economic Development Corporation	jarred@clarioncountyedc.com

AGENDA

Laura Ludwig from HRG began the meeting by reviewing the agenda for the third Steering Committee meeting, as follows:

- Review Key Stakeholder Focus Groups
- Day of Field Work #2 Summary
- Discuss the Final Survey Results
- Access Recommendations

- Discuss Next Steps/Timeline

REVIEW KEY STAKEHOLDER FOCUS GROUPS

Ms. Ludwig reviewed the results of the three stakeholder meetings held at Mechanistic Brewing Co. on September 11, 2024. She noted that a total of about 14 stakeholders participated across the three meetings and several Steering Committee members also attended. Ms. Ludwig thanked Mr. Alexander for allowing HRG to use the Brewery, noting it was a great venue. In addition, Ms. Ludwig stated that the results of the meetings helped to inform what additional places and sites would be visited during HRG's next scheduled day of field work.

DAY OF FIELD WORK #2 SUMMARY

Chris Sarson from HRG summarized the second field work day performed by HRG staff on October 3, 2024. Ms. Sarson noted that the purpose of this session was to review proposed assess location.s She also noted that preparation work was done to contact property owners and resource agencies in advance in order to prepare appropriately to gain permission to access the sites.

She reviewed the Mays Property. The portion of the property that is currently for sale does not have river access, but the owner may be willing to include access or alternatives parcels given the interest. She noted that if the Economic Development Commission was interested in acquiring the site, that it would make sense to include a parcel with river access. Dane Higbee asked what the access might look like if that was included, if it would be a skinny strip or larger access point. Ms. Sarson commented that HRG staff did not feel like they were in a position to negotiate about what the site might look like, but that could be done in the future. George asked what HRG suggested as potential uses for the site. Chris noted that there was a flat area that may even be able to house a recreational business which could have access constructed. George noted the potential uses might be valuable for arguing value of the property. Jared noted that thinking about the uses would also be important given the role of the economic development corporation in promoting the outdoor recreation economy as well as being able to create jobs in a conventional retail location. George noted there could be a lot of different opportunities given the proximity to the interstate and the hotels, which Jared echoed. Chris clarified if the economic development corporation would like to see sketches or just a list of possible uses, and Jared said he would be interested in a sketch if possible. Chris asked what originally got the corporation interested in looking at the Mays parcel for commercial uses. Jared noted that the idea had come from Milissa Bauer, but that it also came from the new role of the office as a tourism office and a grant from the EPA and they were interested in looking at how resources could be used to make better use of the property related to larger goals to expand retail and commercial, related to making Clarion County a destination. This would also create a hub of dining and retail right off the exit, near Cook Forest. Milissa echoed that this seemed like a good opportunity to create a joint venture with grant funding and private resources to accomplish several goals that their office currently has. Ms. Sarson noted that on a call with Brookfield they wanted to be kept in the loop because no matter the property lines they own the river front, so they would like to be involved within any future coordination because they can place limitations on potential future use. Ms. Ludwig asked if there were any specific uses that people were interested in promoting in that location. The group discussed swimming in the area, and Ms. Sarson noted

that Brookfield will not allow any swimming on any of their properties because of a fatality at another facility.

Next, Ms. Sarson discussed the second site visited, the Swimming Rock/Toby Creek. She noted that they tried to find reasonable and safe access to the Rock but had a difficult time. There is a scenic waterfall, Rapp Run, which is really pretty and had some rudimentary parking near it. Overall, there are some large drops in this area and there are some dirt trails. This could be a simple improvement that would include expanding the parking area and adding some signage regarding the scenic stop. It was fairly easy to access the waterfall.

Ms. Sarson also reviewed some findings from the Gravel Lick Bridge, which is about a mile upstream from the Gravel Lick Canoe Launch. This area is not too steep. There is no parking provided currently, but the area is partially cleared and could be a good opportunity.

Ms. Schneller discussed the findings from Henry Run/ Hemlock Island, which is part of the North Country Trail. This area was very pretty and scenic. There are no current take out locations here. It may be possible to add a take out location, but it is not accessible via vehicle. George noted that access is restricted and there is currently a lawsuit about whether or not access needs to be allowed.

Ms. Sarson commented on the field work notes from Blyson Run and Cathers Run, which are in Millcreek Township. She noted it is not realistic to upgrade infrastructure to make it accessible at this time due to disputes between landowners or the timber company use of the property.

DISCUSS UPDATED/FINAL SURVEY RESULTS

Ms. Schneller reviewed the updated survey results. She noted that there was an increase in the number of respondents accessing the river via private docks, which is not surprising because Brookfield forwarded it to their dock holders. There was also an increase in the number of users accessing the river with other adults, but it is not a significant change. Overall, Ms. Schneller noted that the total responses to the survey increased to 234 responses after the reopening.

ACCESS RECOMMENDATIONS

Next, Ms. Sarson presented the proposed improvements, moving downstream to upstream.

Toby Boat Launch Improvements:

ADA access already submitted; pedestrian and ADA walkway; restrooms; fish cleaning stations separate from the restrooms; access along 5th Ave; lavender area could be used for a walking trail down from 5th Ave to Toby Boat Launch; fireman's road and associated houses need to go through the launch, which is an issue when the launch is crowded; improvements include retaining walls, area already exceeds 2:1 slope which is greater than desired, so retaining walls are needed but expensive, but would resolve erosion, storm drainage issues, circulation issues.

Ms. Sarson presented to potential design options for the Toby Boat Launch.

Option 1: Circulation remains the same. Overflow parking kept up at the top.

Option 2: This option creates two levels instead of three with minimal additional retaining walls; a lot more earthwork and grading is involved with this design, but a better and more clear separation; Fireman's road separated from launch traffic; safer, but larger investment because of earth moving and permitting; Brookfield property and floodplain, so this would be a longer process to get it approved.

George noted that there is a trail that goes near the loop trail- HRG will follow-up with George to get that location.

Dean asked if HRG could quantify the additional trailers and cars that could access the site as a result of this proposed redesign. Chris said she could add some language.

It was confirmed that Toby Boat Launch is a site that the group would be interested in seeing additional details on in the final Plan.

Eagle Overlook:

Ms. Sarson noted that the Eagle Overlook is a great place to walk and a great site, mainly for pedestrians. She noted that HRG would not propose a tower style overlook. Just something simple.

Max noted that people would have to go pretty deep into the woods to get to an overlook location and that he was curious about how to create the best overlook on the property. Ms. Sarson noted that it might be a few blocks or about 100+ yards or so. She also noted there is a location between 6th and 7th, but that's the access used to access foundation property.

George noted that Mountain Biking Clarion was recently granted access and started to construct a trail just below the proposed overlook site.

Next steps will be coordination with the groups involved (University Foundation, Mountain Bike Group), with documentation and slightly revised recommendations from HRG, but not additional guidance from HRG as part of this study.

Opposite Mill Creek Launch (George's Dad's property):

- Bridge abutment; steep; private lease docks; could be area for fishing dock; adjacent public land (Game Commission could be trading to Bureau of Forestry)- too steep; road is well maintained
- Old State Road Location- weren't able to visit, but would be an option for swimming (George- nice for wading and fishing- George will continue conversation and HRG will follow-up)
- Improve the area by creating cell service- small cell network- functions like a network repeater to bring connection down to the lower topography

Highland

The longest stretch between boat launches- too long according to DCNR standard of 5 miles. This would reduce the distance between Mill Creek and Gravel Lick. Suggested improvements include:

- Road improvements- earth road that needs to be improved- would improve access to a number of trails as well as the river
- No signage for public land
- Small parking area- would recommend parking and ADA space in the parking near the river
- Additional trail to the river
- Good opportunity on public land

Mill Creek Launch

- Not a ton of improvements necessary as it functions pretty well as is
- Cell service is definitely a big need. HRG recommends a small cell network here.

Ms. Ludwig confirmed three locations for additional detail in keeping with project scope. Chris next discussed draft access recommendation priorities. She noted this should be based on the greatest need and most feasible. Chris noted the May Property and Toby Boat Launch would be included and asked for consensus on the third property. Dane noted that Milissa should be consulted with about the overlook property, but she had to leave the meeting. Max noted that if there is interest in the Foundation property for the overlook he would just like to make sure the Foundation is coordinated with moving forward. The group confirmed that the three sites for additional consideration should be the Mays Property, Toby Boat Launch, and Eagle Overlook.

Chris asked Kristi asked about getting the Toby Boat launch improvement on the TIP because of access issues with flooding and emergency services, given the adjacent homes. Kristi said she would look into it. Dane asked if there was interest from the Borough in participating in the boat launch improvement. Chris noted HRG will coordinate with the Borough moving forward.

DISCUSS NEXT STEPS

Finally, Ms. Ludwig reviewed next steps with the group.

HRG will send the draft to the Steer for review by noon, next Friday, November 8. HRG asks for comments from the Steer by the following Monday, 11/11.

Laura will coordinate with Kristi next week for advertisements for the public review.

The next steer will be 12/9 at 10:00 am.

An additional board meeting will be added in November to give an overview informally before the formal presentation on December 10. Kristi suggested at the work session on November 12, and said she will make sure there is time on the schedule. If not, it can also be presented on November 27.

E. COST ESTIMATES



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ENGINEER'S OPINION OF PROBABLE PROJECT COST

TOBY BOAT LAUNCH REHABILITATION

Clarion River Access Management Plan

HRG Project Number: R008455.0428

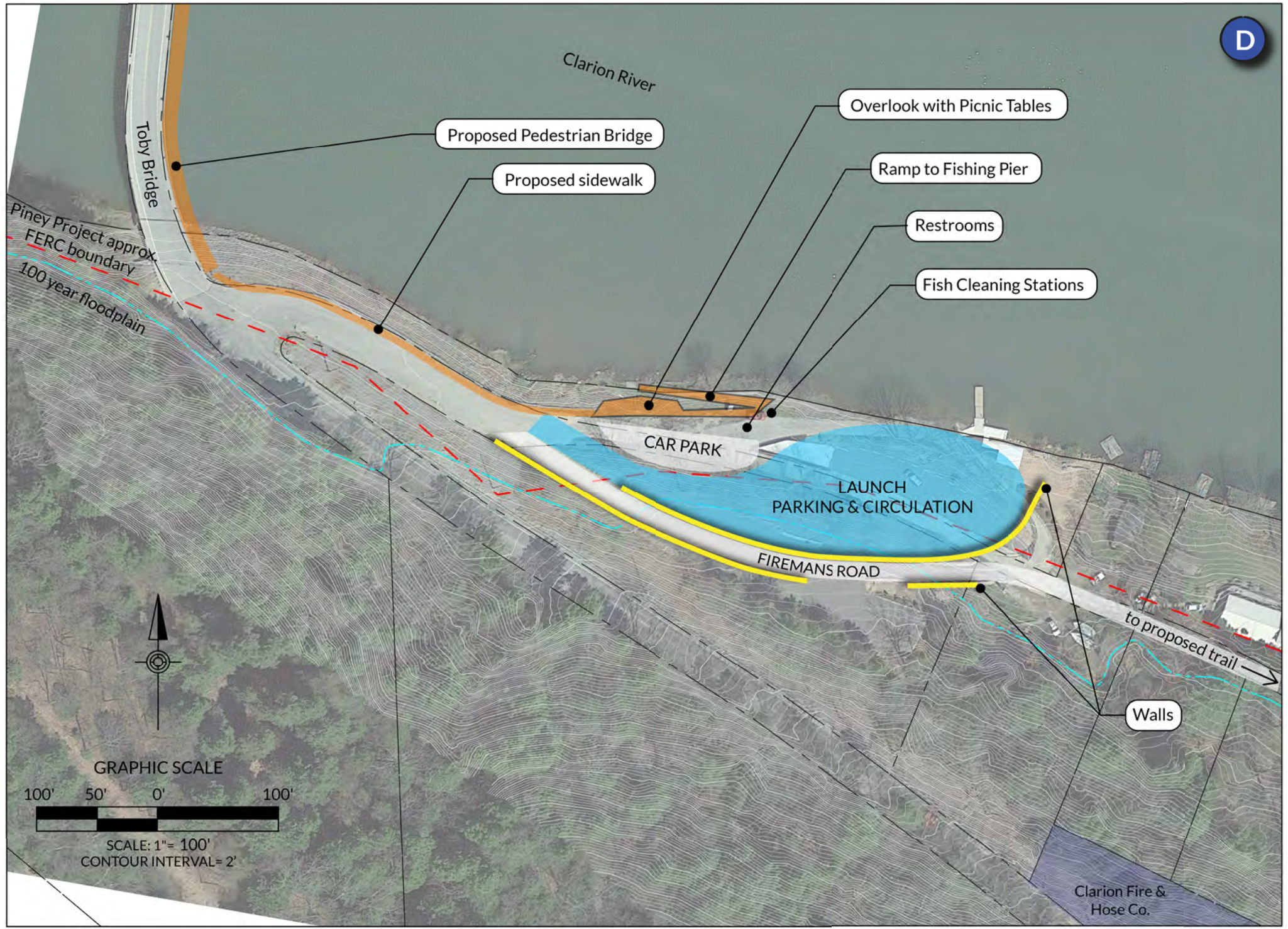
Date: November 2024

Note: This high-level cost opinion was prepared based on the preliminary sketch included in this Appendix and is subject to change.

OPTION 2					
SCOPE: RETAINING WALL TO RELOCATE THROUGH-ROAD (FIREMANS ROAD)					
PARKING: TRAILER: 17 (14 PULL-THROUGH SPACES) CAR: 23 (2 ADA)*					
ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	EST. QTY.	UNIT	UNIT COST	EXTENSION
GENERAL					
1	MOBILIZATION, PROJECT MANAGEMENT, BONDS, AND INSURANCE	1	LS	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 65,000.00
2	TRAFFIC CONTROL AND MAINTENANCE	1	LS	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
3	EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROLS	1	LS	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
4	DEMOLITION	1	LS	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
5	CLEARING AND GRUBBING	1	LS	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
EARTHWORK					
6	BULK EARTHWORK	12500	CY	\$ 7.50	\$ 93,750.00
7	FINE GRADING	1	LS	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
8	TOPSOIL STRIPPING	180	CY	\$ 5.00	\$ 900.00
9	TOPSOIL REPLACEMENT	50	CY	\$ 4.00	\$ 200.00
PAVING					
10	ASPHALT PARKING	4,600	SY	\$ 60.00	\$ 276,000.00
11	WHEEL STOP	23	EA	\$ 200.00	\$ 4,600.00
12	STRIPING	1	LS	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
13	ADA PARKING REQUIREMENTS	1	LS	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00
14	CONCRETE PEDESTRIAN PAVEMENT	70	SY	\$ 130.00	\$ 9,100.00
15	PEDESTRIAN ROUTE DELINEATION ON EXISTING PAVEMENT	1	LS	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
16	CURB RAMP	1	EA	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
17	PAINTED CROSSWALK	110	LF	\$ 2.00	\$ 220.00
LANDSCAPE					
18	NATIVE PLANTINGS	300	SY	\$ 40.00	\$ 12,000.00
STRUCTURES					
19	REINFORCED RETAINING WALL	6,250	SF	\$ 40.00	\$ 250,000.00
20	RESTROOM WITH DRINKING FOUNTAIN	1	LS	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00
21	SMALL SHELTER	1	LS	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
22	RAMP TO FISHING PIER	1,360	SF	\$ 50.00	\$ 68,000.00
FURNISHINGS					
23	FISH CLEANING STATION	1	EA	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
24	PICNIC TABLE	3	EA	\$ 350.00	\$ 1,050.00
25	WASTE RECEPTACLE	5	EA	\$ 400.00	\$ 2,000.00
26	SIGNAGE	1	LS	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00
UTILITIES					
27	WATER LINE	300	LF	\$ 50.00	\$ 15,000.00
28	WATER FITTINGS, PRESSURE TESTING, DISINFECTION	1	LS	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
29	WATER METER PIT	1	LS	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,500.00
30	ELECTRIC LINE	450	LF	\$ 50.00	\$ 22,500.00
31	ELECTRIC PANEL	1	LS	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
32	LIGHT POST AND FIXTURE	4	EA	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 30,000.00
STORMWATER					
33	6" HDPE	380	LF	\$ 130.00	\$ 49,400.00
34	8" HDPE	100	LF	\$ 170.00	\$ 17,000.00
35	INLET	4	EA	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 10,000.00
36	TIE IN TO EXISTING SYSTEM	1	LS	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
CONSTRUCTION SUBTOTAL					\$ 1,211,000.00
CONSTRUCTION CONTINGENCY (5%)					\$ 60,550.00
ENGINEERING DESIGN, PERMITTING, AND SURVEYING (25%)					\$ 302,750.00
					\$ 1,574,300.00
TOTAL					\$ 1,575,000.00

Note: This high-level cost opinion was prepared based on the preliminary sketch included in this Appendix and is subject to change.

*This estimate would create 1 additional trailer space and 6 additional car spaces. This estimate may change subject to final site plans.



PRELIMINARY SKETCH - FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY



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ENGINEER'S OPINION OF PROBABLE PROJECT COST

EAGLE OVERLOOK DEVELOPMENT

Clarion River Access Management Plan

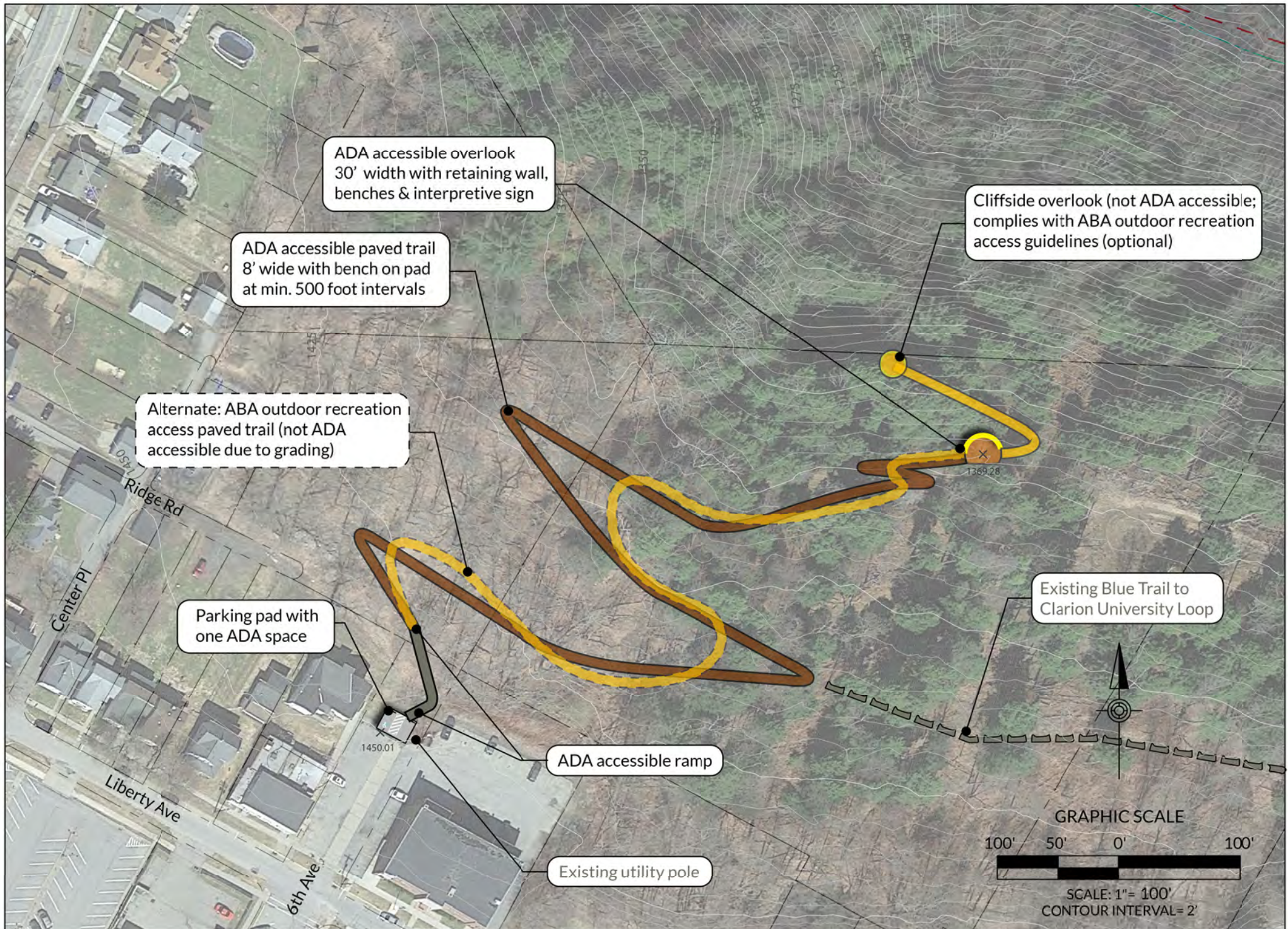
HRG Project Number: R008455.0428

Date: November 2024

Note: This high-level cost opinion was prepared based on the preliminary sketch included in this Appendix and is subject to change.

ADA ACCESSIBLE OVERLOOK					
SCOPE: PAVED ADA PATH TO PAVED OVERLOOK WITH RETAINING WALL					
ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	EST. QTY.	UNIT	UNIT COST	EXTENSION
GENERAL					
1	MOBILIZATION, PROJECT MANAGEMENT, BONDS, AND INSURANCE	1	LS	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
2	TRAFFIC CONTROL AND MAINTENANCE	1	LS	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
3	EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROLS	1	LS	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
4	DEMOLITION	1	LS	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
5	CLEARING AND GRUBBING	1	LS	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
EARTHWORK					
6	BULK EARTHWORK	490	CY	\$ 7.50	\$ 3,675.00
7	FINE GRADING	1	LS	\$ 650.00	\$ 650.00
7	CLIFFSIDE OVERLOOK (OPTIONAL) AGGREGATE SURFACE W SPLIT RAIL FENCE	1	LS	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 2,250.00
8	TOPSOIL STRIPPING	250	CY	\$ 5.00	\$ 1,250.00
9	TOPSOIL REPLACEMENT	50	CY	\$ 4.00	\$ 200.00
PAVING					
10	CONCRETE PARKING AREA	32	SY	\$ 130.00	\$ 4,160.00
11	WHEEL STOP	2	EA	\$ 200.00	\$ 400.00
12	ADA PARKING REQUIREMENTS	1	LS	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00
13	CONCRETE PEDESTRIAN RAMP WITH ADA RAIL	100	LF	\$ 350.00	\$ 35,000.00
14	PAVING AT OVERLOOK	58	SY	\$ 100.00	\$ 5,800.00
15	ASPHALT TRAIL	1,320	SY	\$ 52.00	\$ 68,640.00
STRUCTURES					
16	REINFORCED RETAINING WALL	310	SF	\$ 40.00	\$ 12,400.00
FURNISHINGS					
17	ADA BENCH	5	EA	\$ 800.00	\$ 4,000.00
18	SIGNAGE	1	LS	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
STORMWATER					
33	STORMWATER MANAGEMENT	1	LS	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 55,000.00
CONSTRUCTION SUBTOTAL					\$ 239,000.00
CONSTRUCTION CONTINGENCY (5%)					\$ 11,950.00
ENGINEERING DESIGN, PERMITTING, AND SURVEYING (15%)					\$ 35,850.00
					\$ 286,800.00
TOTAL					\$ 287,000.00

Note: This high-level cost opinion was prepared based on the preliminary sketch included in this Appendix and is subject to change.



PRELIMINARY SKETCH - FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY