

Proposed Scenic Byway Information for Aden Road (646) to Joplin Road (619):

The Prince William Conservation Alliance along with community residents requests Board of County Supervisors support for securing Virginia's Scenic Byway designation for Aden Road and Joplin Road in Prince William County, Brentsville and Potomac Districts. These roads pass through areas that highlight the unique qualities of Prince William County, and showcase the environmental, cultural, and historical treasures our local community has to offer.

The proposed scenic byway begins at the intersection of Nokesville Road (Route 28) and Aden Road (646). From this point, the proposed byway continues southeast on Aden Road until it intersects with Joplin Road. The byway then continues South and East on Joplin Road until it intersects with Prince William Forest Park Entrance Road, where the Scenic Byway would come to an end before crossing over I-95. Park Entrance Road is the primary entrance to Prince William Forest Park.

Prince William Parkway (Rte 234) is in close proximity to the proposed scenic byway. Highlighting Aden and Joplin Roads as a scenic byway will give residents and tourists the option to discover "the road less traveled" through an area alive with natural and historical beauty. With its idyllic view of forests, working farms, and historic homes, churches, and cemeteries, this scenic byway truly shows some of the unique qualities that Prince William County has to offer.

Unlike the surrounding counties, Prince William currently has no roads in Virginia's Scenic Byways program, despite the many special places that this county has to offer. The Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) recently voted to nominate Antioch Road, including portions of Waterfall Road and Rte 55, in the Gainesville District for Virginia's Scenic Byway designation. The VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation and Virginia Dept. of Transportation are expected to evaluate that nomination this spring and have said they would also complete any additional proposals for Prince William County that are received in the near future at that time. Expanding the number and variety of Scenic Byways will help showcase the natural and cultural wonders the County has to offer, and can help to connect both locals and tourists with our rich history and beautiful countryside.

The proposal for Aden Road and Joplin Road also supports the goals laid out in Prince William County's Comprehensive Plan. According to the Environment Chapter, the County wants to ensure that "the natural beauty [of the County] is preserved, water quality is protected, property values and quality of life are enhanced, and ecological diversity is preserved".¹ In addition, the Cultural Resources chapter states that the county wants to "facilitate and encourage the identification and protection of the County's significant cultural resources" and "to enhance awareness of the history of the County and the importance of preserving properties that are significantly linked with that history".¹ The proposed scenic byway will help ensure that both the Environmental and Cultural goals of the county are met.

Highlighted Natural Sites:

Prince William Forest Park

Prince William Forest Park is largest example of Eastern Piedmont forest in the National Park System, protects 80% of the Quantico Creek watershed, and serves as a very important natural area in Prince William County.

Highlighted Historical Sites:A Walk in the Shoes of our Forefathers

The areas that these roads pass through are alive with the stories of the past. In addition to numerous historical sites and markers that fill this area, it is also an important route that was talked about and walked on by the first President of the United States, George Washington.

Aden Road was along the route mentioned by young (age 16) George Washington in 1748 when he went on his first surveying trip with the Fairfax's to survey Lord Thomas Fairfax's land in the Shenandoah Valley. Washington traveled from Belvoir along present day Route 1 Colchester and across the Occoquan River. From there, they traveled mostly southwest along what is mostly Minnieville Road today toward Independent Hill and west along present day Aden Road.

At Aden they turned south toward Cedar Run along Tacquet's Ford Road (now Fleetwood Road) and crossed Cedar Run at Tacquet's Ford (near where Fleetwood Road crosses Cedar Run today). They turned west, along present day Elk Run Road toward Catlett, where they met up with James Genn, the commissioned county Surveyor of Prince William, who lived on the road to Catlett. Genn had been one of the primary surveyors responsible for the Northern Neck survey in 1746 of the boundaries of the Fairfax proprietary and had been employed on other works for Lord Fairfax.

After leaving Catlett, Washington and his companions left for Neville's Ordinary, (along present day Old Dumfries Road) where the present community of Auburn is located. From there they headed toward west through present day Warrenton and on to the Shenandoah Valley.

Total Length:

Approximately 20.0 miles

Total Time to Drive:

Approximately 35 minutes

Jurisdiction:

Prince William County

Endnotes

¹ Prince William County Comprehensive Plan (Cultural Resources Plan and Environment Plan)-
<https://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/planning/Pages/Comprehensive-Planning.aspx>

APPENDIX A- List of Historic Sites near proposed scenic byway

ADEN ROAD

8. Kettle Run
9. Orange and Alexandria RR (Norfolk and Southern RR)
10. Overhead bridge over RR (being moved) James Nokes tract)
11. Marsteller School
12. Mt. Zion Lutheran Church
13. Nokesville
14. White Hall farm
15. Colvins Lane
16. Park Gate Drive
17. Bunker Hill
18. Smith's Shop
19. Shaffers Shop
20. Amos Smith Blacksmith
21. Wetzell's Store
22. White Hall Church & Cemetery
23. Aden Post office
24. Aden Store
25. Adams Corner
26. Calvary United Brethren Church
27. Asbury Methodist Church
28. Elliott's Cheese Factory
29. St James Church
30. Gold Ridge School

JOPLIN ROAD

1. Quantico Baptist Church and Cemetery (Smootite)
2. Union Baptist Cemetery (Clarkite)
3. Norman's Corner
4. Independent Hill School
5. 2nd Mt. Zion Church
6. Quantico National Cemetery
7. Crow's Store

APPENDIX B- List of Natural Sites and Waterways near proposed scenic byway

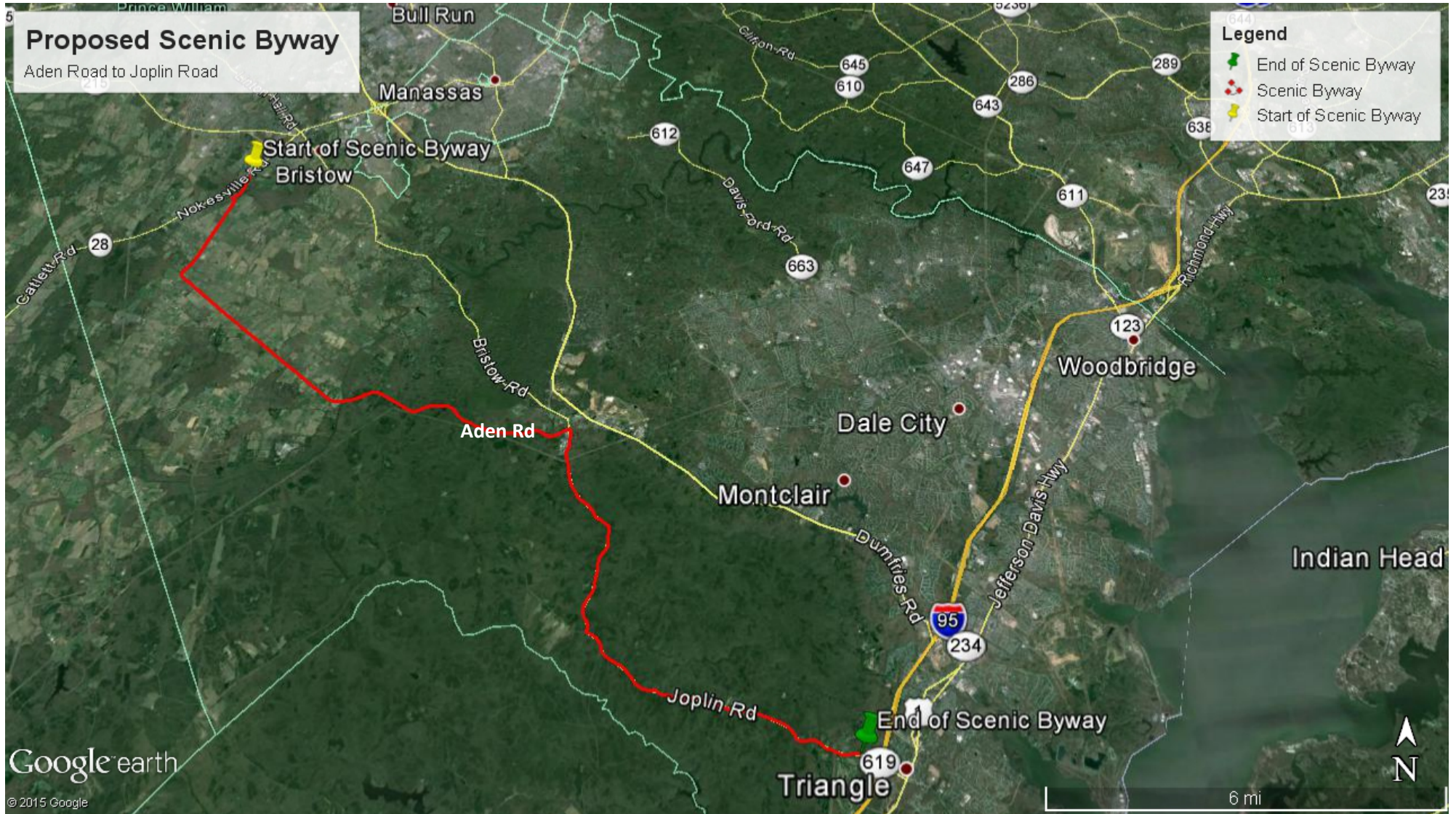
Waterways

1. South Fork Quantico Creek
2. Quantico Creek (and Quantico Creek Headquarters)
3. Cedar Run
4. Slate Run
5. Mary Bird Branch

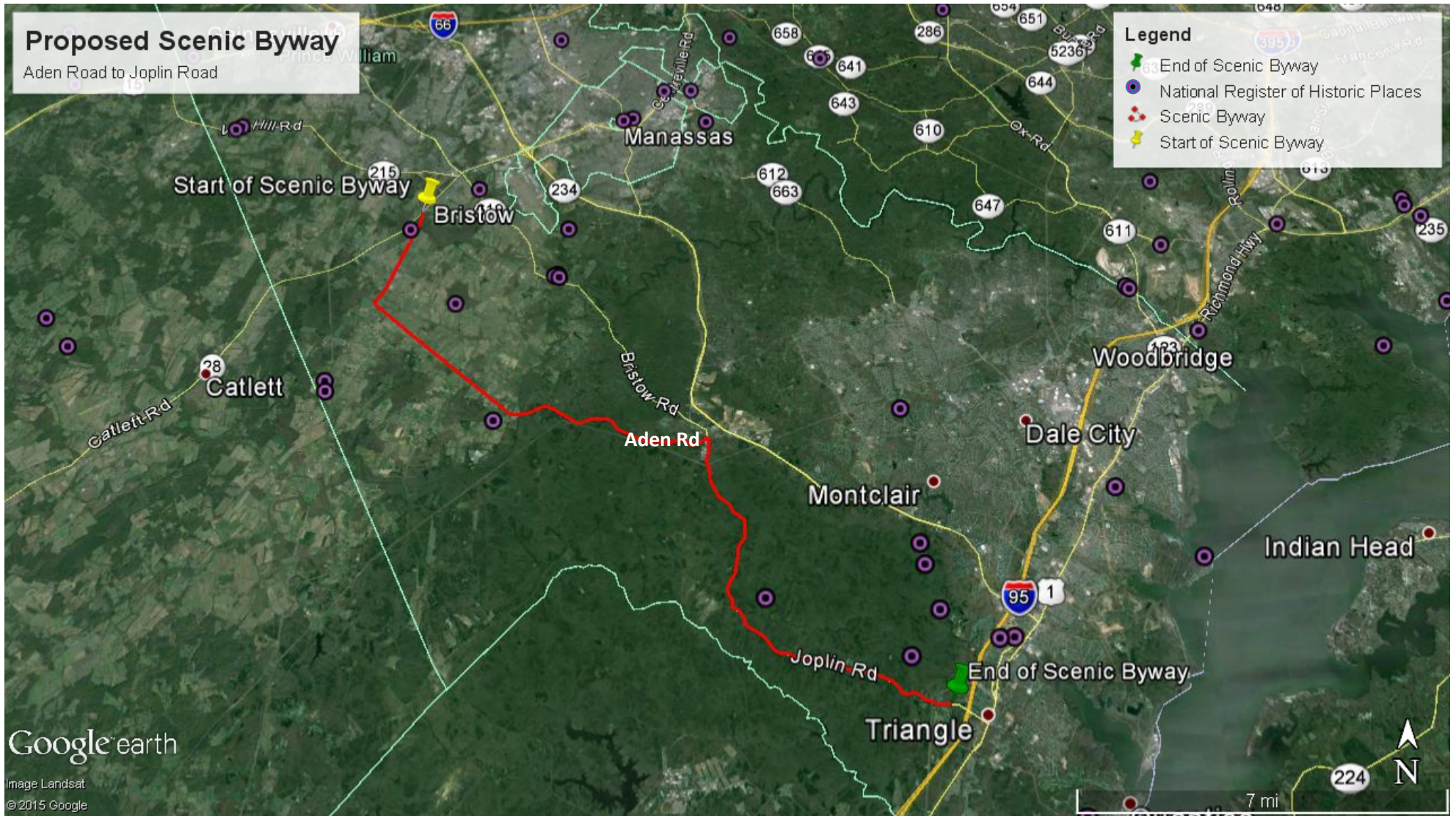
Parks

1. Prince William Forest Park
2. George Hellwig Memorial Park

APPENDIX C-Map of Proposed Scenic Byway (Generated with GoogleEarth)



APPENDIX D- Map Highlighting Historical Points of Interest (Generated with GoogleEarth)



APPENDIX E- Maps Highlighting Natural Sites, Waterways and Wetlands (Generated with GoogleEarth)

