



Maury Scenic River Report

Rockbridge County

Prepared By
Department of Conservation and Recreation
Division of Planning and Recreation Resources

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I. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

In 2019, DCR completed a Scenic River evaluation for a section of the Maury River. The section begins at the confluence of the Calfpasture and Little Calfpasture Rivers and ends at Furrs Mill Road Bridge (SR 631).

Based on the evaluation, the 19.25 miles were deemed eligible for inclusion in the Virginia Scenic River System. The designation as a Virginia Scenic River is recommended, and it is further recommended that DCR be the administering agency.

II. REASON FOR THE STUDY

In May 2019, local officials from the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors contacted the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) requesting that a section of the Maury River be evaluated for inclusion in the Virginia Scenic River System. An evaluation of the section was completed in October 2019, wherein DCR concluded that the river was eligible for designation.

The Scenic Rivers Act instructs DCR to conduct, "studies of rivers or sections of rivers to be considered for designation," and to, "recommend to the Governor and to the General Assembly rivers or sections thereof to be considered for designation as Scenic Rivers." This report fulfills this statutory directive.

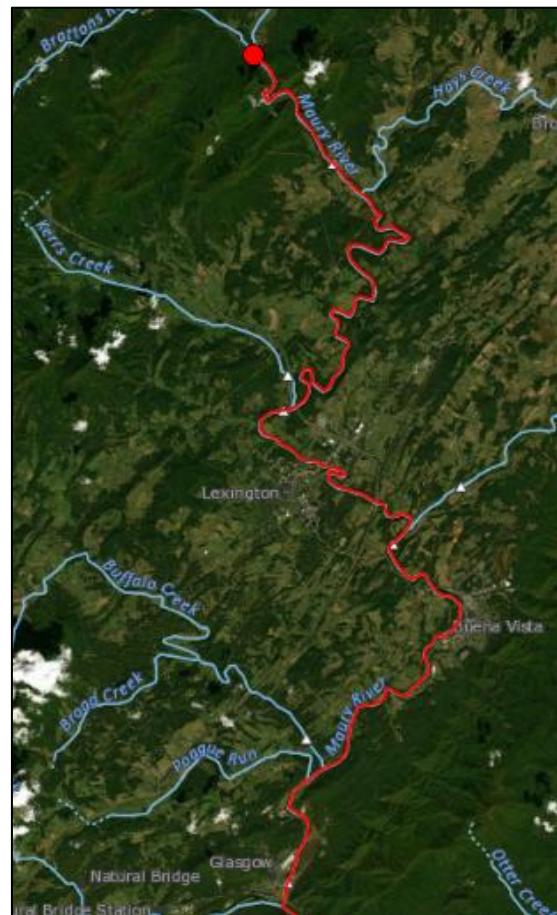
A. History of Scenic River Designation for the Maury River

The full length of the Maury River is approximately 40 miles (Map 1, Map 2). The river begins in Rockbridge County from the confluence of the Calfpasture River and the Little Calfpasture River. The Maury then flows south and meets the James River near Rockbridge County's southeastern border. The James River then flows across Virginia and ends at the Chesapeake Bay (Map 3). The Maury River is the only river in Virginia to begin and end within a single county.

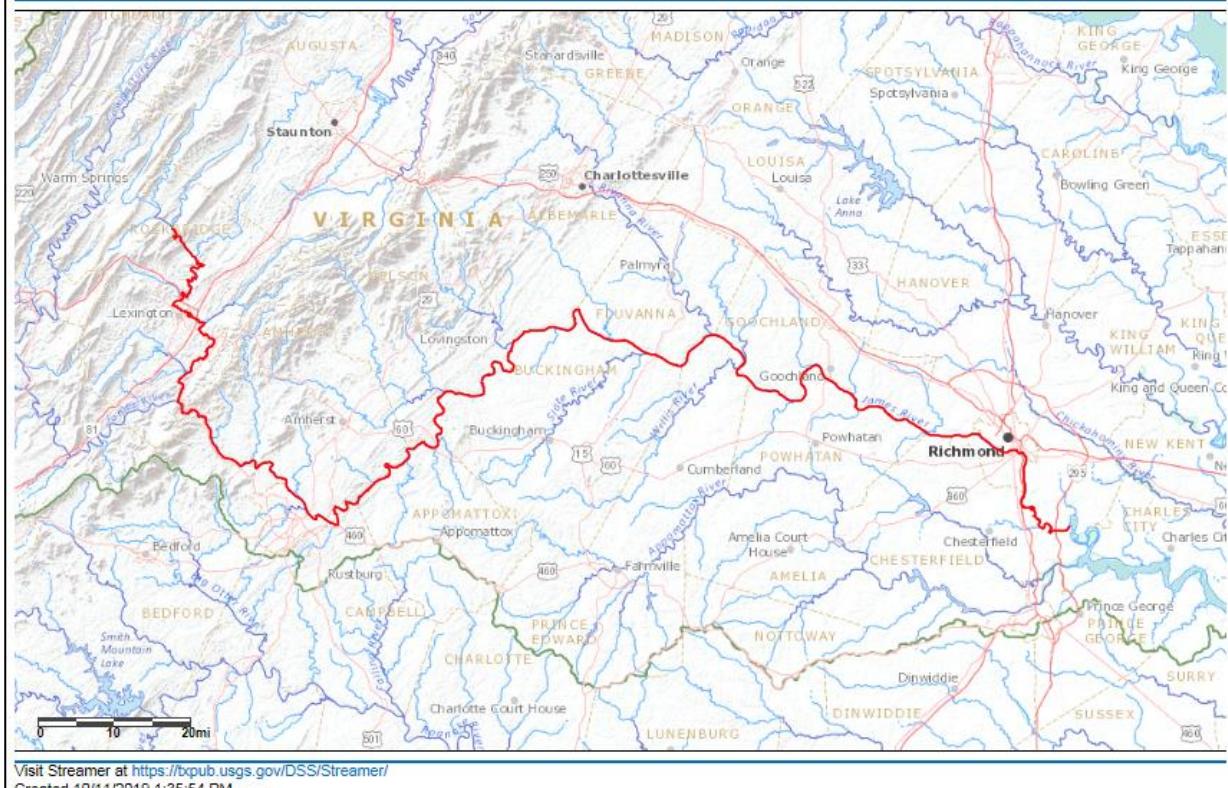
At present, no part of the Maury River is part of the Virginia Scenic River System.



Map 1. The full length of the Maury River, seen next to nearby highways. The full length is about 40 miles. Source: Google Maps



Map 2. The full length of the Maury River, seen next to nearby streams. Source: USGS Streamer, <https://txpub.usgs.gov/DSS/Streamer>



Map 3. The Maury River's connection to the Atlantic Ocean. The Maury River flows from the confluence of Calfpasture and Little Calfpasture Rivers, then joins the James River. The James River then crosses Virginia and empties into the Chesapeake Bay. According to the Trace Summary Report provided by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Streamer, the two rivers combined stretch 235 miles. They encounter 18 U.S. counties and 21 cities. Source: USGS Streamer, <https://txpub.usgs.gov/DSS/Streamer>

B. Benefits of Designation

The Scenic Rivers Act (the Act), found in Title 10.1, Chapter 4, §§ 10.1-400 through 10.1-418.1 of the *Code of Virginia*, was enacted in 1970 as a means of recognizing the Commonwealth's scenic rivers and their immediate environs. In order to be eligible for Scenic River designation, a river must contain substantial natural, scenic, recreational, and historical attributes.

Designated rivers need not include the entire river, and may include tributaries. At the request of the locality(s), DCR evaluates a specified river segment and writes a report documenting these attributes.

Since the passage of the Act, 33 river segments, totaling nearly 860 miles, have received Scenic River designation from the General Assembly. A list of those rivers can be found at:
<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/document/srlist.pdf>

The Virginia Scenic River designation accomplishes the following:

- Allows riparian landowners to continue using their land as they did before designation, except as provided in §10.1-407 (§10.1- 408),
<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title10.1/chapter4/section10.1-408/>
- Requires the Federal Energy Commission (FERC) to consider the impact of proposed hydropower or related projects on a designated Scenic River using the Scenic River report developed in the qualification process (Code Section E)
- Requires all state agencies to consider visual, natural, and recreational values of a Scenic River in their planning and permitting process (§10.1-402)
<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title10.1/chapter4/section10.1-402/>
- Gives riparian landowners, local citizens, and local governments a greater voice in the planning and implementation of federal and state projects that might affect the river (§10.1-406.1), <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title10.1/chapter4/section10.1-406.1/>
- Requires authorization by the General Assembly for the construction, operation and/or maintenance of any structure, such as a dam, that would impede the natural flow of a Scenic River (§10.1-407), <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title10.1/chapter4/section10.1-407/>

The Virginia Scenic River System is a state-level system for recognizing the uniqueness and quality of a river. Note that the Virginia Scenic River System is different from the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The national-level system has a different set of criteria, and requires designation by Congress or the Secretary of the Interior. According to rivers.gov, Virginia has approximately 49,350 miles of river, but no congressionally designated Wild and Scenic rivers.

C. Designation Process

Before an evaluation of a potential scenic river, DCR needs, in hand, a letter from the local governing body, county administrator, city manager or town manager requesting that a study be conducted.

In order to determine whether a river (or river segment) is eligible for Virginia Scenic River designation, it must be evaluated by the following criteria:

1. River Corridor Vegetation
2. Riverbed and/or River Flow Modifications
3. Human Development of Visual Corridor
4. Historic Features
5. Landscape
6. Quality of Fishery
7. Special Natural Flora and Fauna
8. Water Quality
9. Parallel Roads
10. Crossings
11. Special Features Affecting River Aesthetics
12. Public Recreational Access
13. Land Conservation

Each evaluation involves data collection from multiple sources. These include state agencies, local and regional planning commissions, map surveys, and related literature reviews. Each evaluation also involves fieldwork. The fieldwork requires canoeing, boating, or walking the stretch of a river and rating the characteristics of the resource. The fieldwork, combined with the data collected from multiple sources, are used to validate existing land use information and rank the river according to relative uniqueness and quality.

Once the study has been completed, and DCR has finalized a report and designation recommendations, resolutions and letters of support should be solicited from as many governmental and civic groups and individuals as possible. These letters and resolutions will become part of the official record if a public hearing on the designation recommendation is held.

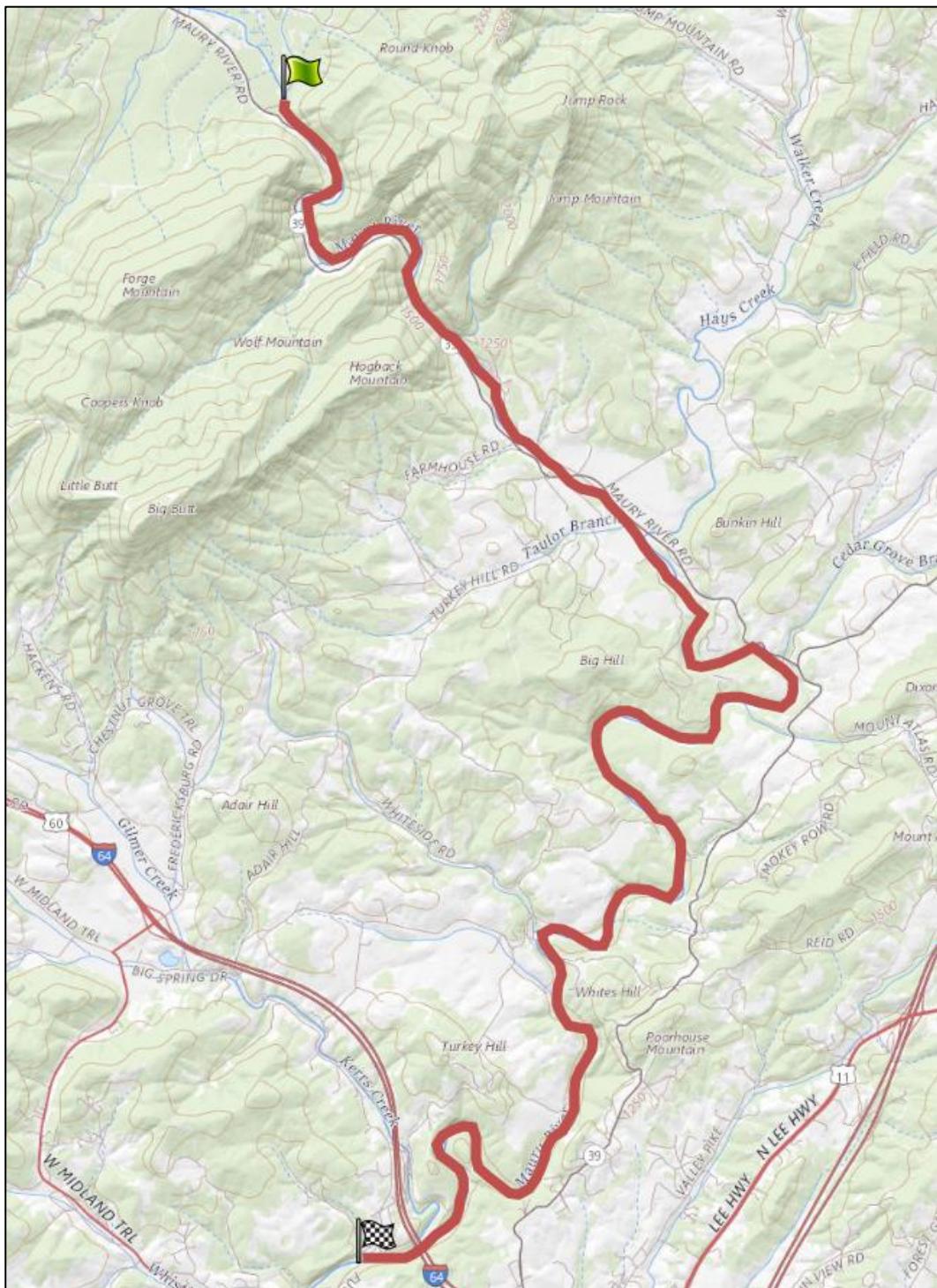
The support of local members of the General Assembly is also part of designation. They introduce the designation legislation and also provide support throughout the legislative process. Sample legislation can be obtained from DCR staff. For proposed legislation, see **Appendix D**.

III. CORRIDOR STUDY MAP

The Maury River originates within Rockbridge County, Virginia from the confluence of the Calfpasture River and the Little Calfpasture River. The Maury then flows south until it reaches the James River.

This report will discuss 19.25 miles of the Maury River (Map 4). The evaluated section begins at the confluence of the Calfpasture and Little Calfpasture Rivers. The section ends at Furrs Mill Road (SR 631) in an area known as Bean's Bottom. Furrs Mill Road crosses over the Maury River near Kerrs Creek and Interstate 64.

The first several miles of the Maury River are in a mountainous area known as Goshen's Pass. Goshen's Pass is a gorge in which the Maury River flows between steep cliffs.



Map 4. The section of the Maury River evaluated. The green flag represents the starting point, at the confluence of the Calfpasture and Little Calfpasture Rivers. The checkered flag represents the ending point, at Furr's Mill Road (SR 631). The ending point is nearby Kerrs Creek and Interstate 64. Source: EnviroAtlas, <https://enviroatlas.epa.gov/enviroatlas/interactivemap/>

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Personnel from DCR's Division of Planning and Recreation Resources and local stakeholders completed a field evaluation of the Maury River on August 7, 2019 and October 3, 2019. The first date, August 7th, the team evaluated the river from Calfpasture and Little Calfpasture Rivers to Rockbridge Baths. The second date, October 3rd, the team evaluated the river from Rockbridge Baths to Bean's Bottom. The following is a description of the qualities and conditions of the resource that make the Maury a candidate for the Virginia Scenic River System.

A. River Corridor Vegetation

The Maury River winds through a varied landscape of forestland, islands, rapids, and cliffs. The evaluated 19.25 miles had nearly all of its shoreline lush with forested buffers of at least 100 feet (Image 1, Image 2).

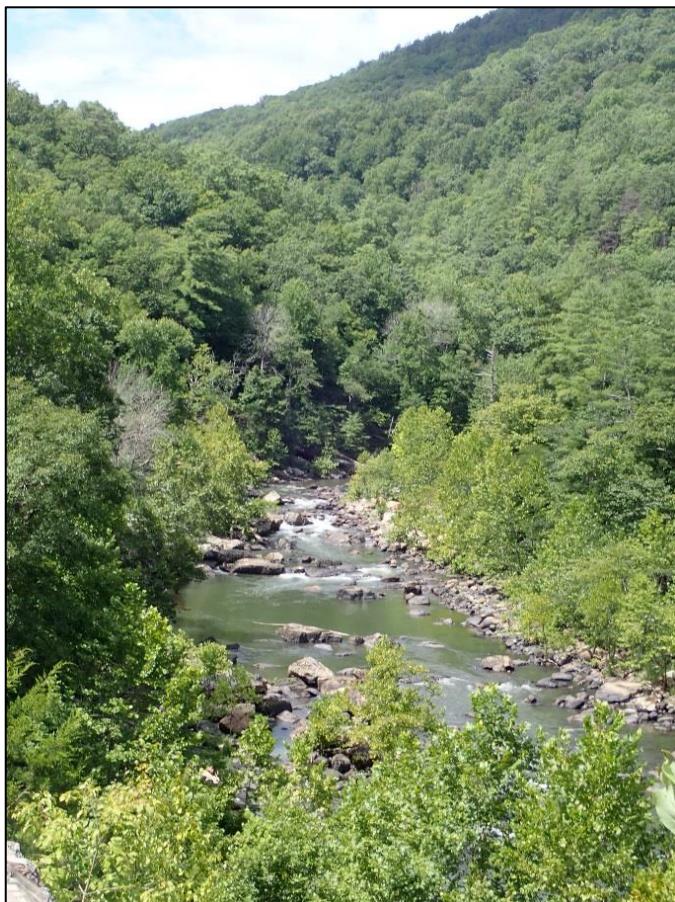


Image 1. Lush buffer along the Maury River.

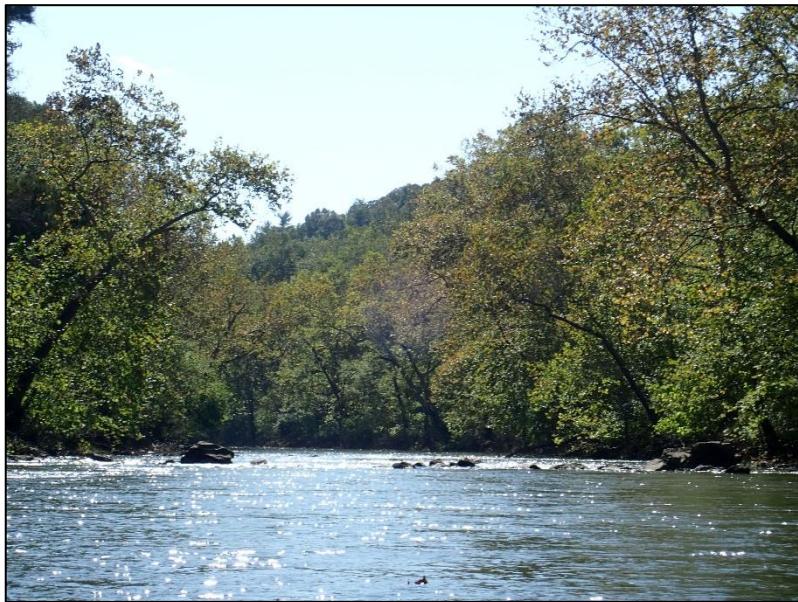


Image 2. Lush buffer along the Maury River.

B. Riverbed and/or River Flow Modifications

The evaluated 19.25 miles of the Maury River were free-flowing and meandering. Naturally occurring outcrops, islands, cliffs, and in-stream rock formations added visual and paddling interest (Image 3).

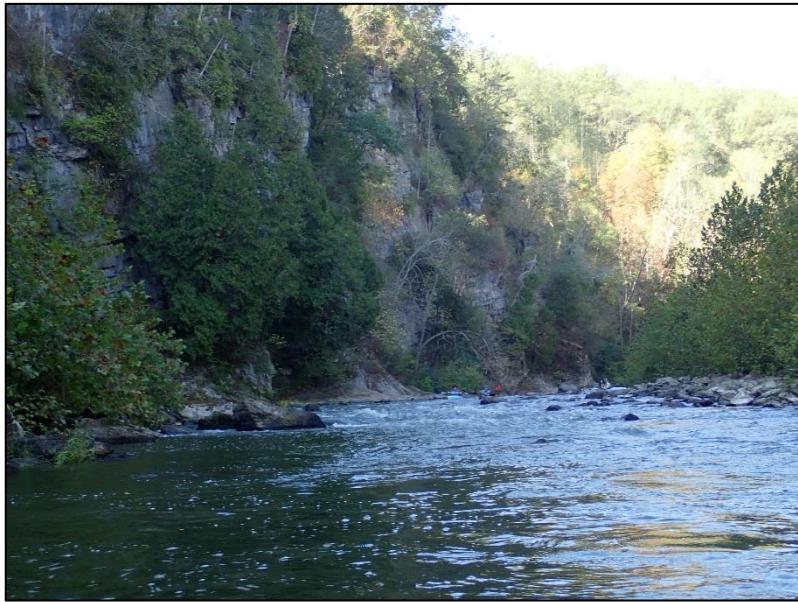


Image 3. Cliffs along the Maury River.

C. Human Development of Visual Corridor

The 19.25-mile section was remote, with forestland on either side of the river. The first part, from Calfpasture and Little Calfpasture Rivers to Rockbridge Baths, had nine houses, cabins, barns, industrial buildings or clusters visible from the river. The second part, from Rockbridge Baths to Bean's Bottom, also had nine such structures visible from the river (Image 4, Image 5). Mobile homes were not included in the counts.

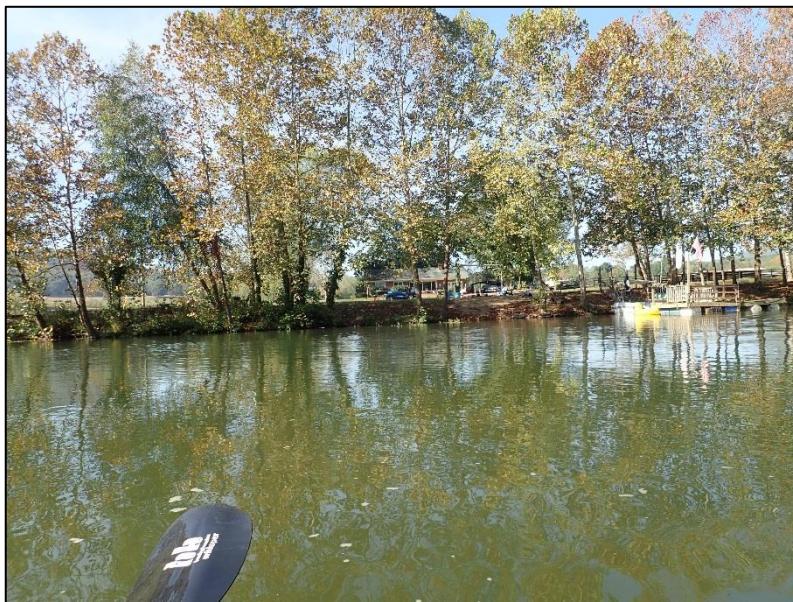


Image 4. Home next to the Maury River. Note the absence of forested buffer.



Image 5. Home next to the Maury River. The home is surrounded by trees.

D. Historic Features

The Maury River is named after Matthew Fontaine Maury. According to the DGIF website:

“The Maury River was first called the North River of the James. It enters the James River from the north. But then came Matthew Fontaine Maury, a professor at Virginia Military Institute in the years following the Civil War during which he had served in the Confederate forces. In those postwar years he fell in love with Goshen Pass and requested that at his death his remains be carried through the pass and on to Richmond for burial. An honor guard of Virginia Military Institute cadets carried out his wish.”

A monument for Maury¹ can be found by Maury River Road (SR 39) (Image 6, Image 7).

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) lists eight historical/cultural features of significance within 1000 feet of each side of this Maury River section. These are places that are either eligible or potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Resources.

More details about the sites are below:

(1) Ebenezer United Methodist Church (Historic)

73 McCurdy Lane, Route 732, Rockbridge County.
Latitude: 37.90557997; Longitude: -79.41869336

(2) Faust House (Historic), Mast House (Current), Millhaven (Historic)

86 Rick Mast Loop, Rockbridge County.
Latitude: 37.90433401; Longitude: -79.41433118

(3) Mountain View (Historic)

16 McCurdy Lane, Rockbridge County.
Latitude: 37.90584159; Longitude: -79.41626466

(4) Asher Harman House (Historic), Cameron-Harmon Plantation (Historic), Oak Hill (Historic), Virginia Horse Center (Current), Willow Springs Farm (Historic)

Alphin Lane - Alt Route 750, Rockbridge County.
Latitude: 37.81303043; Longitude: -79.41999321

(5) Rockbridge Baths Historic District

Maury River Road, Rockbridge County.
Latitude: 37.90449249; Longitude: -79.41639482

(6) Bethesda Presbyterian Church (Historic/Current)

Bethesda Road, Route 668.
Latitude: 37.8941943; Longitude: -79.40157773

(7) Maury Highway (Historic)

¹ A monument for Maury can also be found in Virginia's capital—the City of Richmond—along Monument Avenue.

Maury Highway – Alt Route 39.
Latitude: 37.93301895; Longitude: -79.44937046

(8) Bridge #1012 (Current Name)

Maury River Road – Alt Route 39.
Latitude: 37.9291565; Longitude: -79.45430278



Image 6. Maury monument along SR 39.

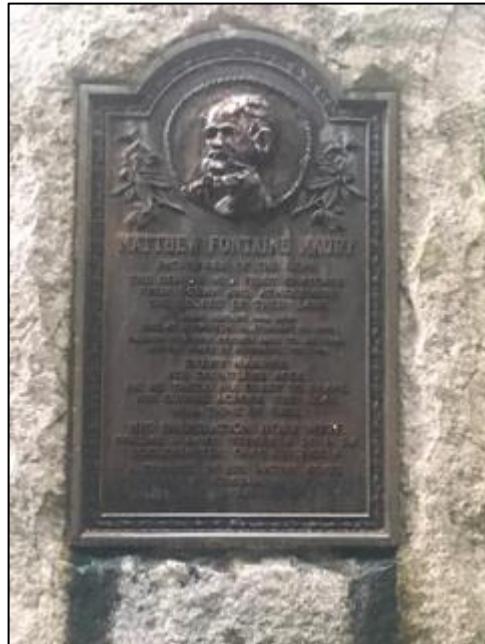


Image 7. Close-up of Maury monument along SR 39.

E. Landscape

The 19.25-mile section of the Maury River is in Virginia's Blue Ridge province. This province is a narrow zone of Virginia with thin soils, impervious rock, and rapid movement of water in cracks and fissures.

The Maury features rapids, islands (Image 8), and cliffs, and is lush with forested buffers. This portion of the Maury also offers some mid-distance views (Image 9).

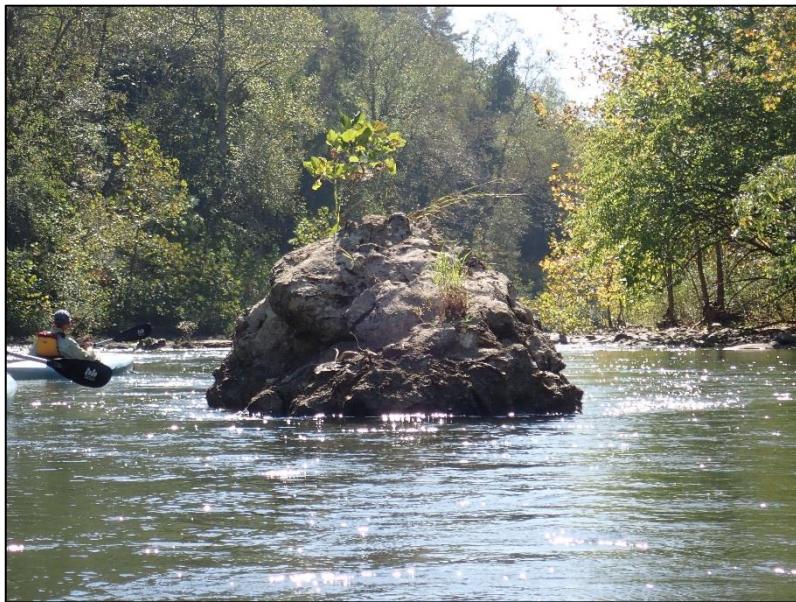


Image 8. Island in the Maury River.

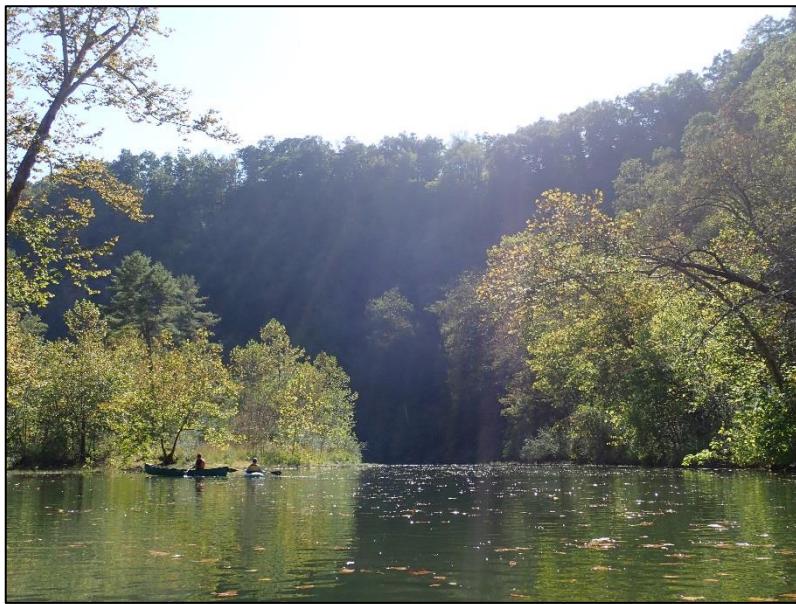


Image 9. An example of a mid-range view offered on the Maury River.

F. Quality of Fishery

The evaluation team concluded that the game fish populations at the 19.25-mile section are excellent, and that there are prime fishing opportunities.

The Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries (DGIF) has supporting information. According to the DGIF 2008 report for the Maury River:

“Sport fish of the Maury River include stocked brown and rainbow trout that are introduced several times annually by DGIF in the Goshen Pass area. Smallmouth bass, redbreast sunfish, rock bass, and carp are the dominant species throughout the system.”

The DGIF web page for the Maury River (www.dgif.virginia.gov/waterbody/maury-river/) provides more information about trout fishing:

“Let’s take the rowdy water of Goshen Pass first. This section of the river is top trout fishing water, Category A. That means that it is stocked once in October, November-December, and January-February. But it is stocked twice monthly in March, April, and May, the top trout fishing months in Virginia. Like so many Virginia trout waters, the water becomes too low and warm to hold trout through the summer. No doubt a few trout hide in dark, deep holes, and make it through the summer, but not many. Trout are not released in June, July, August, and September. The October releases are often contingent upon the quality of the water. If a long dry summer spell extends well into the fall, the October stocking might be delayed.”

G. Special Natural Flora and Fauna

Goshen Pass Natural Area Preserve is 936-acres of mountains and forestland. The preserve is located along the evaluated section of the Maury River. The preserve is also Virginia’s oldest state-managed natural area—the Commonwealth first acquired the property in 1954. According to DCR’s webpage about Goshen Pass (www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/natural-area-preserves/goshen), the area has old-age chestnut oak forest, pine-oak-heath woodland and rocky riverside scrub communities.

Goshen Pass also has a designated DGIF Birding and Wildlife Trail. According to Find Wildlife VA (vafwis.dgif.virginia.gov):

Elevation: 1047 ft. Long thought of as Virginia’s gateway to the west, Goshen Pass once served as the stagecoach route from Lexington. The pass is located where the Maury River passes between Hogback and Jump mountains. The streamside vegetation and the forested slopes of these imposing mountains unite in a superb venue for wildlife watching. The roadside rest stop halfway through the pass provides easy access to the Maury River valley and all its blooming cardinal flowers and dense blazing star thickets. A boulder hodgepodge in the river forms a mosaic of shallow pools. The trees lining the banks of the Maury are excellent places to search for summer resident bird species such

as downy, hairy and red-bellied woodpeckers, northern flicker, eastern phoebe, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, white-breasted nuthatch, red-eyed vireo and American goldfinch. Look for indigo bunting in the more open areas along the river and common raven flying over the valley. Butterflies in the pass are numerous with pipevine swallowtail, great spangled fritillary, and silver-spotted skipper flitting between blooms of teasel and wild potato vine. Also be on the lookout for the state-rare Appalachian jewelwing damselfly, along the river's edge. Crossing the swinging bridge over the Maury River provides access to the numerous hiking trails through both Goshen Pass Natural Area Preserve (managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage) and the adjoining Goshen-Little North Mountain Wildlife Management Area (managed by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries). Spending time carefully walking these trails could yield views of the shyer denizens of the forest, such as wild turkey, black bear, pileated woodpecker and a variety of wood-warblers, not to mention the renowned white-tailed deer.

Year-to-year bird observations at Goshen Pass can be found at ebird.org
(<https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L718478&yr=all&m=>).

Species with Conservation Status

The 19.25 miles of the Maury River has several animal and plant species with state-level or national-level conservation status. The following list was provided by the DCR Natural Heritage Program.

For species ranking definitions (G1, G2, etc.), please see **Appendix B**.

(1) Dwarf Wedgemussel/ *Alasmidonta heterodon*

G1G2/S1/LE/LE

A small freshwater mussel with a trapezoidal-shaped shell. Typically, this species is found in shallow to deep quick running water on cobble, fine gravel, or on firm silt or sandy bottoms. Other habitats included are amongst submerged aquatic plants, and near stream banks underneath overhanging tree limbs. Information source: NatureServe Explorer. Photo source: Encyclopedia of Life (Image 10).



Image 10. Dwarf Wedgemussel, cc-by-3.0, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Northeast Region

(2) Madison Cave Isopod/ *Antrolana lira*

G2G4/S2/LT/LT

Albinistic; eyeless. Body flattened with anterior margin of head projecting as shelf beyond bases of both antennae. Mostly benthic walkers, but strong swimmers when disturbed. Lives in permanent darkness. Presumably rhythms more keyed to seasonal inputs of energy into habitat. Currently only known from West Virginia and Virginia caves. Information source: NatureServe Explorer. Photo source: Encyclopedia of Life (Image 11).



Image 11. Madison Cave Isopod, cc-by-nc-sa-3.0. Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Department of Invertebrate Zoology.

(3) Yellow Lance/ *Elliptio lanceolata*

G2G3/S2S3/LT

This elongate, freshwater mussel has shells over twice as long as tall. This species probably is rather sessile with only limited movement in the substrate. The yellow lance mussel exists in the Patuxent, Rappahannock, York, James, Chowan, Tar, and Neuse River basins in Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. It is also native to the Potomac River, but hasn't been reported in recent years. Information source: NatureServe Explorer. Photo source: Encyclopedia of Life (Image 12).



Image 12. Yellow Lance, cc-by-nc, © Femorale

(4) James Spiny mussel/ *Parvaspina collina*

G1/S1/LE/LE

One of three freshwater mussels where prominent spines can be found on juvenile shells. Adults have a dark brown shell and the spines are typically absent or reduced. This species lives in a variety of environments ranging from large rivers to shallow streams with slow to moderate current and relatively hard water on sand and mixed sand and gravel substrates. Information source: NatureServe Explorer. Photo source: The MUSSEL Project (Image 13).



Image 13. James Spineymussel from Rockbridge County, Virginia, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, USA.

(5) Rockbridge County Cave Amphipod/ *Stygobromus baroodyi*

G2G3/S1S2

Subaquatic, subterranean obligate. Endemic to one state: Virginia. Information source: NatureServe Explorer. Photo source: iNaturalist (Image 14).



Image 14. Genus Stygobromus, cc-by-4.0, © Andrew Cannizzaro.

(6) Harebell/ *Campanula rotundifolia*

G5/S1

A delicate perennial with graceful, slender stems, usually in clusters, rising in height from 4-15 in. The stems can be weak so that the entire plant bends over. Its rounded, basal leaves wither early while the narrow, stem leaves remain. Blue-violet bell-shaped flowers hang singly or in clusters along the top parts of nodding, thread-like, mostly unbranched stems that grow in small patches. The nodding, bell-shaped, lavender flowers are borne in loose clusters at stem tips. Information and photo source: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (Image 15).



Image 15. Harebell in Montana, Terry Glase, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

(7) Flattened spikerush/ *Eleocharis compressa* var. *compressa*

G4/S2

This perennial spikerush forms an unbranched culm that is about $\frac{1}{2}$ – $1\frac{1}{4}$ ' tall. The stiff culm is 0.5-1.5 mm. in diameter, medium green, and hairless; it is nearly terete below, becoming increasingly flattened above. A basal sheath surrounds the base of the culm; this sheath becomes light brown to reddish brown with age and it is truncate at the apex. There is no leaf blade. Information and photo source: John Hilty, Illinois Wildflowers (Image 16).



Image 16. Flat-stemmed spikerush, John Hilty, Illinois Wildflowers

(8) Freshwater Cordgrass/ *Spartina pectinata*

G5/S2

This perennial grass is about 3-7' tall and unbranched. The central culm is light green, terete (round in cross-section), and glabrous. The alternate leaves are located primarily along the lower half of the culm. The leaf blades are up to 2½' long and ¾" (20 mm.) across; they are linear, flat, green to yellowish green, and glabrous. Information and photo source: John Hilty, Illinois Wildflowers (Image 17).



Image 17. *Spartina pectinata*, John Hilty, Illinois Wildflowers.

(9) Sand Grape/ *Vitis rupestris*

G3/S1

A large perennial, bushy or shrub-like grape, sometimes sprawls over large areas but rarely climbs or has tendrils. Has alternate, short, wide, and toothed leaves. Fruits are black. Calcareous or gravelly banks, river bottoms, stream beds, washes, and scoured boulders and cobbles. It also occurs along the edges of limestone glades and barrens. Information source: NatureServe Explorer. Photo source: Encyclopedia of Life (Image 18).



Image 18. *Sand Grape*, cc-by-sa-3.0, © Krzysztof Golik.

(10) Peregrine Falcon/ *Falco peregrinus*

G4/S1B,S2N/LT

Like all falcons, peregrine falcons have long, tapered wings and a slim, short tail. In North America they are roughly crow sized, ranging in length from between 36 and 49 cm in males and 45 to 58 cm in females. Peregrine falcons prefer open habitats, such as grasslands, tundra, and meadows. Information and photo source: Animal Diversity Web (Image 19).



Image 19. *Peregrine Falcon*, cc-by-nc-sa 3.0, © James Dowling-Healey.

(11) Stonecat/ *Noturus flavus*

G5/S2

Stonecats are tan to gray dorsally and yellowish to white ventrally. The adipose fin is attached to the back of the stonecat throughout its entire length. Stonecats live in freshwater environments. They are found in large creeks and small rivers. They occasionally occur in tiny creeks or rivers as large as the lower Mississippi. Information source: Animal Diversity Web. Photo source: Encyclopedia of Life (Image 20).



Image 20. *Stonecat*, Public Domain, Matthew Patterson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

H. Water Quality

Visibility through the water column was clear (Image 21) and trash was infrequent (Image 22).



Image 21. Clear waters of the Maury River.



Image 22. Two tires along the Maury River. Trash appeared infrequently on the river.

I. Parallel Roads

Nearly all of the evaluated section of the Maury River is parallel to Maury River Road (SR 39). Different parts of the river section are also parallel to smaller roads such as McCurdy Lane, Copper Road (SR 727), and Alone Mill Road (SR 622).

While roads may negatively impact the sights and sounds of a river, the impact may be minor if the road is small or not frequently used. Some roads may even offer benefits to the river's scenic quality, by allowing fishing access and providing passerby views of the river. For example, Maury River Road is a designated Virginia Scenic Byway. The Virginia Byways program is managed by DCR and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). The program recognizes scenic roads that offer natural, cultural, historical, recreational and archaeological features. Maury River Road offers motorists views of the Maury River as well as public access points to the river (see **Section L: Public Recreational Access**).



Image 23. A motorist's view of the river from Maury River Road.

J. Crossings

Crossings are roads and power/communication lines that pass over a river. Although crossings reduce the sense of remoteness along a river, they can provide visual and physical access to the water.

Four roads cross over the 19.25 miles of the Maury River: Maury River Road (SR 39), Alone Mill Road (SR 622), Interstate 64, and Furrs Mill Road (SR 631) (Image 24, Image 25, Image 26, Image 27).



Image 24. Maury River Road.



Image 25. Alone Mill Road.



Image 26. Interstate 64 above the Maury River.



Image 27. Furrs Mill Road above the Maury River.

K. Special Features Affecting River Aesthetics

At the headwaters of the Maury River is Goshen Pass. The 3-mile long mountain gorge is a popular site for swimming, tubing, canoeing, fishing, and walking along the nearby trails. The site is also known for class II, class III, and class IV rapids.



Image 28. Boulders and rock outcrops in Goshen Pass.



Image 29. Children in Goshen Pass.

L. Public Recreational Access

The upper Maury contains the potential for Class IV+ rapids, and is therefore best for highly experienced paddlers (Image 30, Image 31). Other recreationists can still enjoy seeing and visiting the upper stretch, as nearly all of that section can be viewed from Maury River Road (SR 39). The rapids below Goshen Pass are safer for paddlers with good whitewater experience.

The Maury River has several public access points (Map 5). Recreationists can paddle, fish, and float down the river. There are periods of low flow in the summer where floats are not advisable.

A swinging bridge crosses the Maury River at Goshen Pass (Image 32). The bridge provides access to hiking trails through both Goshen Pass Natural Area Preserve and the adjoining Goshen-Little North Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The two parcels of mountain land total 33,697 acres and provide ample space for outdoor exploration around the river. Visitors of WMA should contact DGIF about how to obtain a license for hunting, freshwater fishing, or trapping.

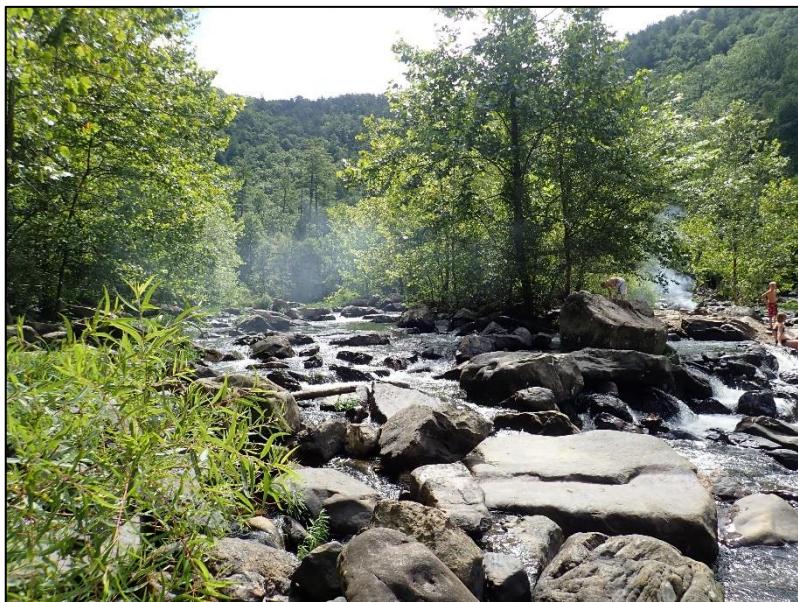


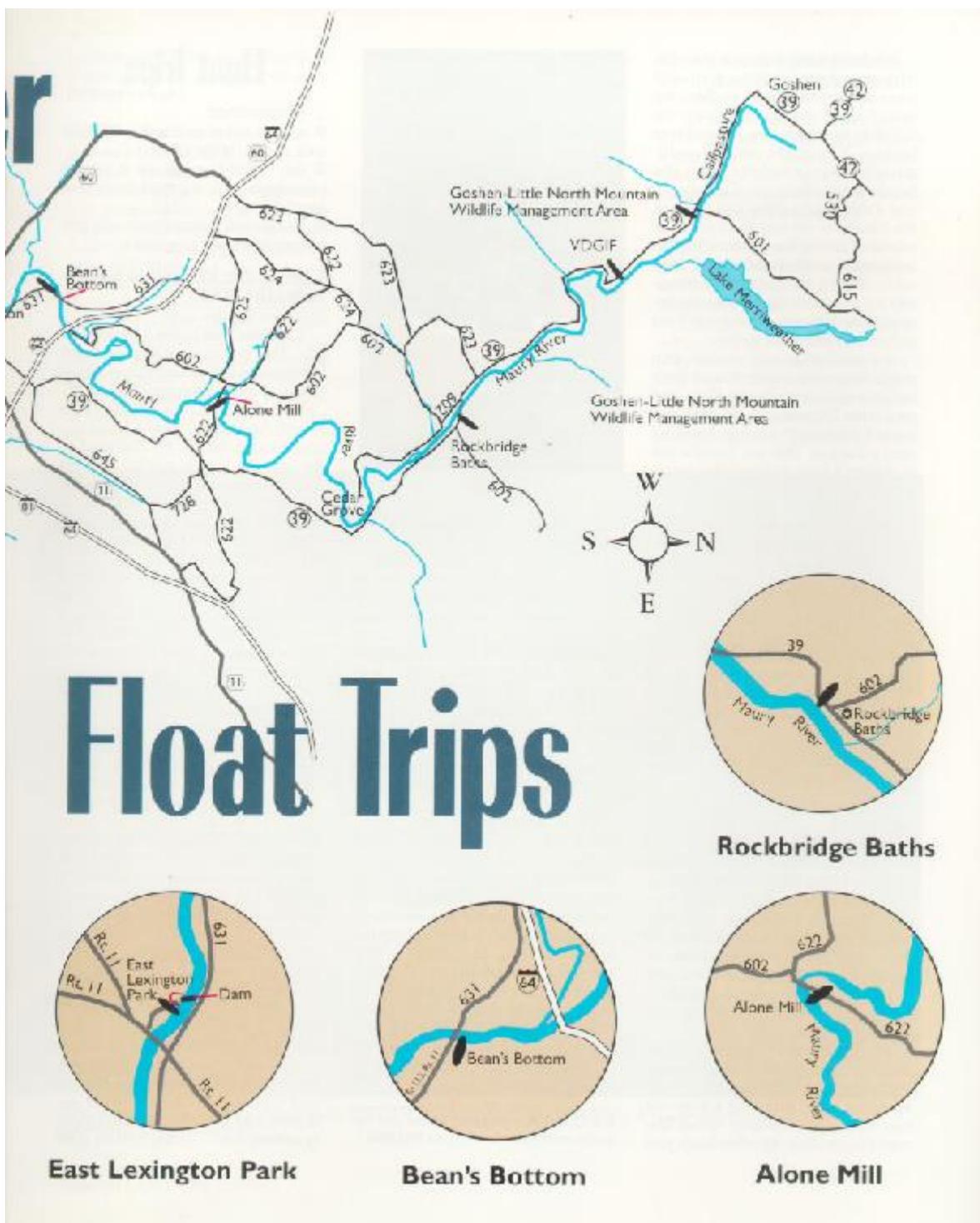
Image 30. Boulders in Goshen Pass. Children are standing on some of the boulders.



Image 31. Rapids in Goshen Pass. Paddling the upper Maury requires advanced skills.



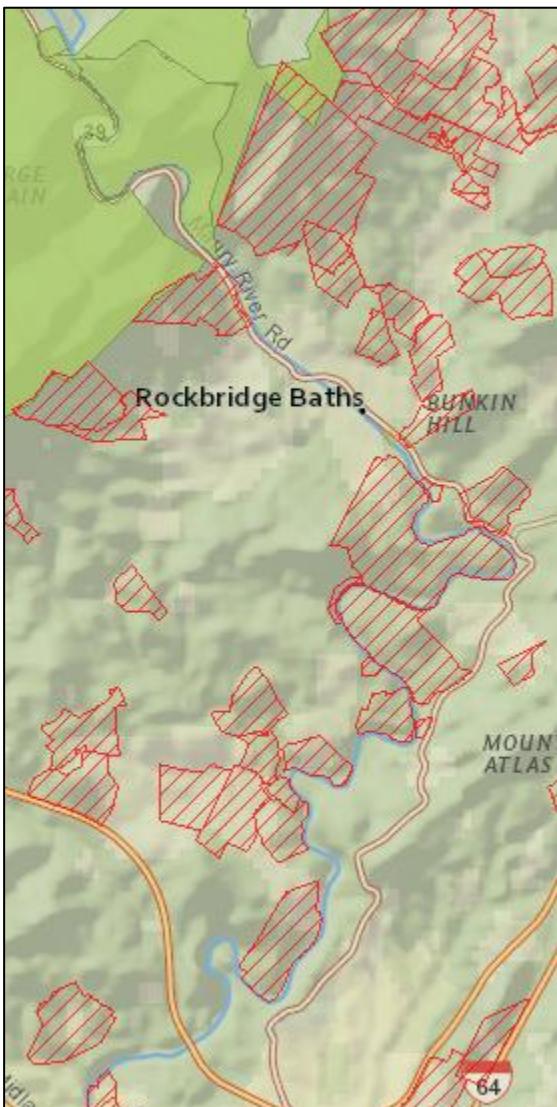
Image 32. Swinging bridge over the Maury River.



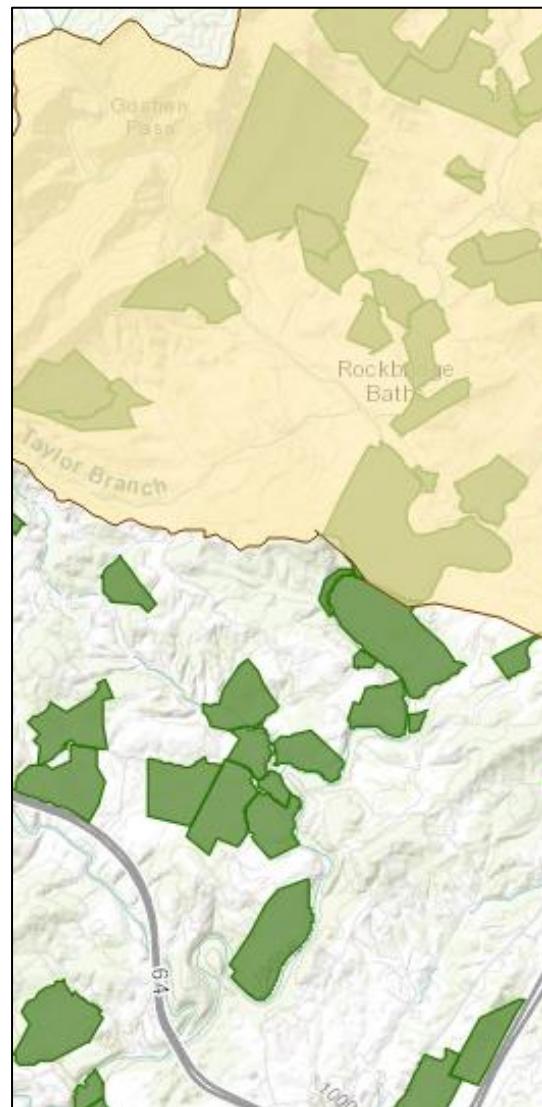
Map 5. Map of the Maury River, from Calfpasture and Little Calfpasture Rivers to Bean's Bottom. The map shows the public access points at WMA, Rockbridge Baths, Alone Mill, and Bean's Bottom. Close-ups of these access points are featured as medallions. (East Lexington Park was not part of the 19.25 miles evaluated.)
Source: <https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/waterbody/maury-river/>

M. Land Conservation

DCR's Natural Heritage Program provides information about managed lands and conservation easements. According to its inventory, the 19.25 miles of the Maury River has some protection from development (Map 6). In the north are Goshen Pass Natural Area Preserve (managed by DCR) and the adjoining Goshen-Little North Mountain Wildlife Management Area (managed by DGIF). In the lower-lying areas further south are various parcels of conservation easements, managed by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) (Map 7).



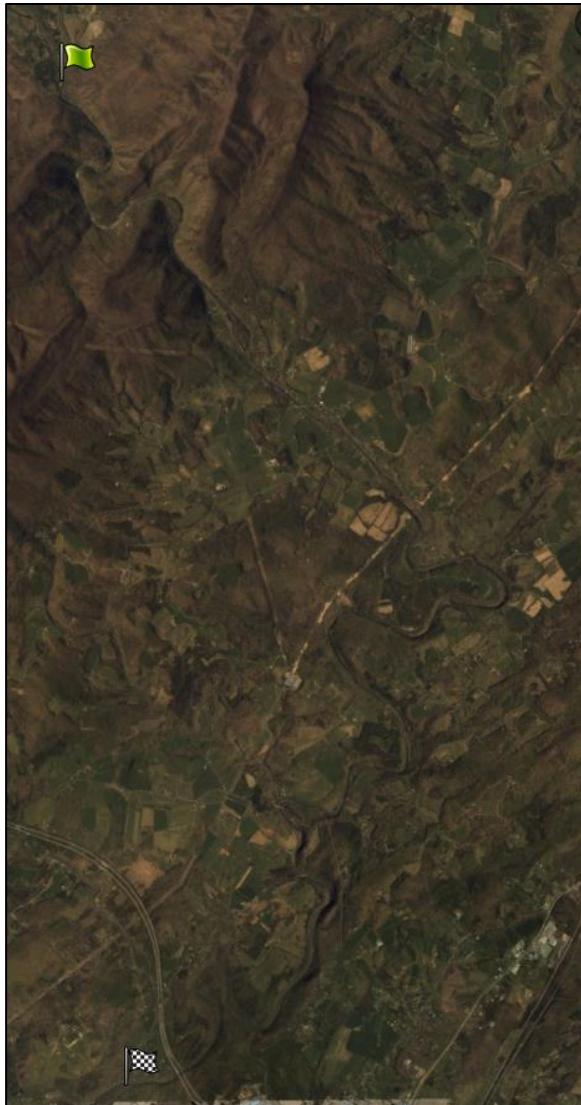
Map 6. Land conservation along the evaluated section of the Maury River. State lands are in green, and conservation easements are in red stripes. Source: Virginia Natural Heritage Data Explorer, <http://vanhde.org/content/map>



Map 7. VOF conservation easements (in green) along the Maury. In tan is a VOF-designated area for special consideration. Source: VOF Map Room, <https://vof.maps.arcgis.com/>

V. LAND USE AND OWNERSHIP

Lands along the study corridor are managed by state agencies (DCR and DGIF), VOF, local government, and private owners (see **Section M: Land Conservation**). The land is largely forested, with areas dedicated to homes, roads, and other human uses (Map 8, Map 9).



Map 8. Landscape around the Maury River, from the confluence of Calfpasture and Little Calfpasture Rivers (green flag) to Bean's Bottom (checkered flag). Note the mountains to the north, and the variegated, square parcels in the lower lands. Source: EnviroAtlas, <https://enviroatlas.epa.gov/enviroatlas/interactive-map/>



Map 9. Land use along the evaluated section of the Maury River. Most of the section is surrounded by Forest & Woodland (green). Other land uses are Developed & Other Human Use (pink) and Agricultural & Developed Vegetation (white). Source: GAP/LANDFIRE National Terrestrial Ecosystems 2011, <https://maps.usgs.gov/terrestrial-ecosystems-2011>

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) concludes that the Maury River from the confluence of the Calfpasture and Little Calfpasture Rivers to Furrs Mill Road Bridge (SR 631), a distance of approximately 19.25 miles, is hereby eligible to be a component of the Virginia Scenic River System. Scenic River designation is warranted because of the aesthetic and recreational qualities of the river section, its environs, and the unique flora and fauna.

Flowing through largely forested land, this river segment has a number of interesting aesthetic features including outcrops, islands, cliffs, rapids, and in-stream rock formations. Its winding course provides for interesting foreground and middleground views.

The Maury River is home to woodpeckers, pipevine swallowtails, cardinal flowers, and other species. The 19.25-mile section of the Maury also has 11 plant and animal species with state-level or national-level conservation status.

The studied segment of the Maury is rich with history. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) lists eight historical/cultural features of significance within 1000 feet of each side of the Maury River section. The 19.25 miles is also parallel to Maury River Road, which is a state-designated Virginia Scenic Byway. At present, no part of the Maury River is part of the Virginia Scenic River System.

Considering the aspects of this segment of the Maury River as described in this report, DCR recommends that:

1. The section that starts from the confluence of the Calfpasture and Little Calfpasture Rivers and ends at Furrs Mill Road Bridge (SR 631), a distance of about 19.25 miles, receive Virginia Scenic River designation, and
2. The Department of Conservation and Recreation be appointed the Administering Agency.

Proposed legislation for Scenic River designation is provided in **Appendix D**.

VII. CONSERVATION PLAN

The following recommended conservation plan would involve local and state governments, individual and riparian landowners, and local stewardship initiatives.

A. Virginia Scenic River Designation

Designation of the 19.25-mile section of the Maury would give riparian landowners, local citizens, and local governments a greater voice in the planning and implementation of federal and state projects that might affect the river. For other benefits of Scenic River designation, see **Section B: Benefits of Designation**.

The local government may create a local scenic river advisory committee to advise the local government on the protection or management of the scenic river segment within its jurisdiction.

For more information about this process, see *Code of Virginia* § 10.1-401 and § 10.1-406.1.

B. Land Use Plans

Rockbridge County can review its land use plan, to check whether it reflects citizens' recognition, appreciation, and concern for the river and the role it plays in the region's quality of life. Such plans could prioritize the protection of the river and its environs from potential development, or insuring that the development that does occur uses low impact strategies whenever possible.

C. Local and Riparian Landowners

Stewardship by local and riparian landowners has been good over the years. If not for this stewardship, the attributes necessary for inclusion in the Virginia Scenic River System might have been lost. Through continuation of these efforts, the natural and scenic character of the river can be protected.

D. Local Stewardship Initiatives

Several local initiatives support the conservation and recognition of the Maury River. The following describes a few of them.

The Rockbridge Area Conservation Council's mission is "to promote the wise stewardship and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources through education, advocacy, and action" for the benefit of the people of Rockbridge (www.rockbridgeconservation.org). The Council has used partnerships and grants to improve the watershed and water quality of the Maury River.

The Valley Conservation Council "protects the natural resources, cultural heritage, and agricultural vitality of the greater Shenandoah Valley region" (www.valleyconservation.org). The Council supports conservation efforts that impact the watershed of the Maury.

VOF maintains conservations easements around the Maury River. The organization has also designated a large area of land near the upper Maury as a Special Project Area. The designation emphasizes the importance of conserving this area of relatively pristine agrarian and forested land.

VIII. ANTICIPATED COST OF DESIGNATION

The only anticipated direct costs as a result of the designation would be those incurred by DCR as a result of its duties as administrator of the river. These costs are estimated to be within \$1,000 per year.

IX. AGENCY COMMENTS/ RESOLUTIONS

A draft report was circulated in 2019 among DCR Divisions, other state agencies, and Rockbridge County. See comments and resolutions of support in **Appendix C**.

X. APPENDIX

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Appendix A. Acronyms and Abbreviations

The Act	Scenic Rivers Act, Title 10.1, Chapter 4 of the <i>Code of Virginia</i>
DCR	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
DGIF	Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
SR	State Route
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VA	Commonwealth of Virginia
VDOT	Virginia Department of Transportation
VOF	Virginia Outdoors Foundation
WMA	Goshen-Little North Mountain Wildlife Management Area

Appendix B. Species Ranking Definitions of DCR Natural Heritage

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	FEDERAL STATUS	STATE STATUS
Villosa perpurpurea	Purple Bean	G1	S1	LE	LE

Definitions of Abbreviations used on Natural Heritage Resource Lists

The following ranks are used by DCR to set protection priorities for natural heritage resources. Natural Heritage Resources, or "NHR's," are rare plant and animal species, rare and exemplary natural communities, and significant geologic features. The criterion for ranking NHR's is the number of populations or occurrences, i.e. the number of known distinct localities; the number of individuals in existence at each locality or, if a highly mobile organism (e.g., sea turtles, many birds, and butterflies), the total number of individuals; the quality of the occurrences, the number of protected occurrences; and threats.

- S1** Critically imperiled in the state because of extreme rarity or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the state. Typically 5 or fewer populations or occurrences; or very few remaining individuals (<1000).
- S2** Imperiled in the state because of rarity or because of some factor(s) making it very vulnerable to extirpation from the state. Typically 6 to 20 populations or occurrences or few remaining individuals (1,000 to 3,000).
- S3** Vulnerable in the state either because rare and uncommon, or found only in a restricted range (even if abundant at some locations), or because of other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation. Typically 21 to 100 populations or occurrences (1,000 to 3,000).
- S4** Apparently secure; Uncommon but not rare, and usually widespread in the state. Possible cause of long-term concern. Usually >100 populations or occurrences and more than 10,000 individuals.
- S5** Secure; Common, widespread and abundant in the state. Essentially ineradicable under present conditions. Typically with considerably more than 100 populations or occurrences and more than 10,000 individuals.
- S#B** Breeding status of an animal within the state
- S#N** Non-breeding status of animal within the state. Usually applied to winter resident species.
- S#?** Inexact or uncertain numeric rank.
- SH** Possibly extirpated (Historical). Historically known from the state, but not verified for an extended period, usually > 15 years; this rank is used primarily when inventory has been attempted recently.
- S#S#** Range rank; A numeric range rank, (e.g. S2S3) is used to indicate the range of uncertainty about the exact status of the element. Ranges cannot skip more than one rank.
- SU** Unrankable; Currently unrankable due to lack of information or due to substantially conflicting information about status or trends.
- SNR** Unranked; state rank not yet assessed.
- SX** Presumed extirpated from the state. Not located despite intensive searches of historical sites and other appropriate habitat, and virtually no likelihood that it will be rediscovered.
- SNA** A conservation status rank is not applicable because the element is not a suitable target for conservation activities

Global Ranks are similar, but refer to a species' rarity throughout its total range. Global ranks are denoted with a "G" followed by a character. Note GX means the element is presumed extinct throughout its range, not relocated despite intensive searches of historical sites/appropriate habitat, and virtually no likelihood that it will be rediscovered. A "Q" in a rank indicates that a taxonomic question concerning that species exists. Ranks for subspecies are denoted with a "T". The global and state ranks combined (e.g. G2/S1) give an instant grasp of a species' known rarity.

These ranks should not be interpreted as legal designations.

- G1** Extremely rare and critically imperiled with 5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals; or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extinction.
- G2** Very rare and imperiled with 6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals; or because of some factor(s) making it vulnerable to extinction.
- G3** Either very rare and local throughout its range or found locally (even abundantly at some of its locations) in a restricted range; or vulnerable to extinction because of other factors. Usually fewer than 100 occurrences are documented.
- G4** Common and apparently secure globally, although it may be rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.
- G5** Very common and demonstrably secure globally, although it may be rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.
- GH** Formerly part of the world's fauna with some expectation that it may be rediscovered; generally applies to species that have not been verified for an extended period (usually >15 years) and for which some inventory has been attempted recently.
- GX** Believed to be extinct throughout its range with virtually no likelihood of rediscovery.
- GU** Possibly rare, but status uncertain and more data needed.
- G?** Unranked, or, if following a numerical ranking, rank uncertain (e.g., G3?).
- G_G_** The rank is uncertain, but considered to be within the indicated range (e.g., G2G4) of ranks (also, T_T_).
- G_Q** Taxon has a questionable taxonomic assignment (e.g., G3Q) and may prove to be invalid upon further study.
- G_T_** Signifies the rank of a subspecies (e.g., G5T1 would apply to a subspecies if the species is demonstrably secure globally (G5) but the subspecies warrants a rank of T1, critically imperiled.)

FEDERAL STATUS

The Division of Natural Heritage uses the standard abbreviations for Federal endangerment developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Endangered Species and Habitat Conservation.

- LE** Listed Endangered
- LT** Listed Threatened
- PE** Proposed Endangered
- PT** Proposed Threatened
- C** Candidate (formerly C1 - Candidate category 1)
- E(S/A)** Treat as endangered because of similarity of appearance
- T(S/A)** Treat as threatened because of similarity of appearance
- SOC** Species of Concern species that merit special concern (not a regulatory category)

STATE LEGAL STATUS

The Division of Natural Heritage uses similar abbreviations for State endangerment:

LE	Listed Endangered
PE	Proposed Endangered
SC	Special Concern - animals that merit special concern according to VDGIF (not a regulatory category)
LT	Listed Threatened
PT	Proposed Threatened
C	Candidate

For information on the laws pertaining to threatened or endangered species, please contact:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for all FEDERALLY listed species;
- Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Plant Protection Bureau for STATE listed plants and insects; and
- Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for all other STATE listed animals

CONSERVATION SITES RANKING

Rank is a rating of the significance of the conservation site based on presence and number of natural heritage resources; on a scale of 1-5, 1 being most significant. Sites are also coded to reflect the presence/absence of federally/state listed species:

Conservation Site Ranks

B1	Outstanding significance
B2	Very High significance
B3	High significance
B4	Moderate significance
B5	Of general Biodiversity significance

Legal Status of Sites

FL	Federally listed species present
SL	State listed species present
NL	No listed species present

Appendix C. Letters, Comments, and Other Support

1. Letters Requesting Designation

Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

Clyde E. Cristman
Director



Rochelle Altholz
Deputy Director of Administration and Finance

Russell W. Baxter
Deputy Director of Dam Safety & Floodplain Management and Soil & Water Conservation

Thomas L. Smith
Deputy Director of Operations

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

June 26, 2019

Mr. Spencer Suter
Rockbridge County Administrator
150 South Main Street
Lexington, Virginia 24450

RE: Proposed Scenic River Study of the Maury River

Dear Mr. Suter:

Thank you for your letter of May 16, 2019, expressing interest in the Virginia Scenic River program and requesting that the Maury River in Rockbridge County be studied to determine if the river section within the county will qualify for Scenic River designation. The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) administration and staff look forward to working with Rockbridge County on the evaluation of the river section from the confluence of the Calfpasture and the Little Calfpasture Rivers to the intersection of the Route 631, Furrs Mill Road Bridge in Beems Bottom.

We are currently finalizing our work plan for the summer of 2019. Please note that all field work must be completed while the river is able to be paddled and while trees are in full leaf. Lynn Crump, Environmental Programs Planner and coordinator of the Scenic Rivers program, can be reached at 804-786-5054 or Lynn.crump@dcr.virginia.gov. She will need the following at your earliest convenience:

1. The name and contact information of your representative who will be working with Ms. Crump on this project.
2. A guide who is familiar with current river conditions, at least two boats with paddlers, a shuttle to assist the DCR staff who will be floating/paddling the river segments.
3. Possible dates for the river field evaluation. Suggested dates need to be when the river is high enough for a successful paddle. We ask that you coordinate with your staff when proposing dates so that we can complete necessary field work within a couple of days.
4. A copy of your County comprehensive plan and/or strategic plan that show support for protection of natural resources and/or the Maury River.

600 East Main Street, 24th Floor | Richmond, Virginia 23219 | 804-786-6124

*State Parks • Soil and Water Conservation • Outdoor Recreation Planning
Natural Heritage • Dam Safety and Floodplain Management • Land Conservation*

2. DCR Designation Support

At the October 2019 Board of Conservation and Recreation meeting, the Board voted unanimously to support the designation of the Maury River in Rockbridge County as a Virginia Scenic River.

3. Agency Comments

None

4. Resolutions and Letters of Support



www.co.rockbridge.va.us

SPENCER H. SUTER
County Administrator
Office: (540) 463-1460
Fax: (540) 463-4346
ssuter@rockbridgecountya.gov

County of Rockbridge

Office of the County Administrator

150 South Main Street

Lexington, Virginia 24450

December 11, 2019

County Board of Supervisors

JOHN M. HIGGINS
Buffalo
Magisterial District

DANIEL E. LYONS
Kerrs Creek
Magisterial District

DAVID W. HINTY, JR.
Natural Bridge
Magisterial District

R. W. DAY
South River
Magisterial District

A.J. "JAY" LEWIS, II
Walkers Creek
Magisterial District

The Honorable Creigh Deeds
Virginia Senate
P.O. Box 396
Richmond, Virginia 23218

RE: Maury River Scenic River Designation

Dear Senator Deeds:

As you are aware, the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors recently adopted a resolution supporting the designation of the section of the Maury River from the confluence of the Calfpasture and Little Calfpasture Rivers to the Rt. 631 – Furrs Mill Road bridge in Beans Bottom within Rockbridge County as a Virginia Scenic River. This act of support came after Board discussions, a public informational meeting and a Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation evaluation, which indicated that this section of the river is indeed well-qualified for such designation. The next step in the process is to request that our General Assembly representatives to carry forward special legislation for the designation, in the upcoming legislative session.

A copy of the Board's resolution is attached, and we respectfully ask for your support in this initiative. A similar request is being submitted to Senator Creigh Deeds. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Spencer H. Suter".

Spencer H. Suter
Rockbridge County Administrator

Cc: The Honorable Ronnie Campbell
Enclosure

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA, HELD AT THE ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2019

**Resolution to Request a Portion of the
Maury River be Designated as a Virginia Scenic River**

WHEREAS, the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program was enacted by the Virginia General Assembly in 1970 for the purpose of identification and preservation of certain rivers, or sections of rivers, which possess high quality natural beauty; and,

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation has been charged with administering the Scenic Rivers Program and developing an objective evaluation process to judge the suitability of river segments; and,

WHEREAS, staff from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation visited the Maury River and evaluate its eligibility for Scenic River designation; and,

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation completed its evaluation of the portion of the Maury River from the confluence of the Calfpasture and Little Calfpasture Rivers to the Rt. 631 – Furr Mill Road bridge in Beans Bottom, and determines that it qualifies as a Virginia Scenic River; and,

WHEREAS, the Virginia Board of Conservation and Recreation supports the endorsement for designation of this section of the Maury River as a Scenic River.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors does hereby support the designation of the Maury River from the confluence of the Calfpasture and Little Calfpasture Rivers to the Rt. 631 – Furr Mill Road bridge in Beans Bottom as Virginia Scenic River; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors hereby requests that the Honorable Senator Creigh Deeds and the Honorable Delegate Ronnie Campbell serve as patrons for the legislation that will codify the Scenic River designation.

Adopted that 9th day of December, 2019.

Recorded Vote:

AYES: Higgins, Lyons, Day, Lewis

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Hinty

ABSTAIN: None

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By: _____

A.J. "Jay" Lewis, II, Chairman

Attest: _____

Spencer H. Suter, Clerk

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE
LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA 24450-0304

Institute Planning Officer
Phone 540-464-7697
Fax 540-464-7169

19 March 2019

Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors
Rockbridge County Administrative Office Building
150 South Main Street
Lexington, VA 24450

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express support for the request to designate the Maury River as a Scenic River. As an owner of property adjacent the Maury River, Virginia Military Institute (VMI) will always be a committed partner to well-designed programs which will protect this critical recreational and historical resource for enjoyment by future cadets and residents of Rockbridge County.

In addition to river frontage above Jordan's Point Park, VMI owns the Chessie Nature Trail which parallels over seven miles of the Maury River. The trail is used for VMI cadet training and is also open to the public for recreational use. Maintaining or increasing the natural features and scenic vistas will be key to ensuring the rivers aesthetic appeal for generations to come.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions about VMI's support for this proposal.

Sincerely,



Dale R. Brown, P. E.
Col, Virginia Militia
Institute Planning Officer

cc: Scenic Maury Committee
A. W. "Buster" Lewis
16 McCurdy Lane
Rockbridge Baths, VA 24473



WASHINGTON AND LEE
UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE UNIVERSITY TREASURER

March 27, 2019

Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors
c/o: Spencer Suter, County Administrator
150 South Main Street
Lexington, Virginia 24450

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I am writing on behalf of Washington and Lee University to express support for the request to designate the Maury River as a Scenic River of Virginia. As an owner of property adjacent to the Maury River, Washington and Lee University is a committed partner to programs that protect, promote and value the rich natural resources that are a part of this community. The Maury River has served as a recreational, educational and historic resource to the many generations of students, faculty and staff at the University. To ensure the protection, conservation and recreational opportunities of the Maury is a responsibility to not just the current students but to all future generations of students and members of the greater community.

It is a pleasure to be able to be enthusiastic about this opportunity, and should you have any questions or need additional information regarding the University's support in this process, please do not hesitate to contact me at smcallister@wlu.edu or by phone at (540)458-8942.

Sincerely,



Steve McAllister
Vice President for Finance
and Treasurer

cc: Scenic Maury Committee
Chris Wise



April 11, 2019

Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors
Rockbridge County Administrative Offices c/o Spencer Suter, County Administrator
150 South Main Street
Lexington, VA 24450

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of the Virginia Horse Center Foundation, I am pleased to express support for the request to designate the Maury River as a Scenic River of Virginia. The Virginia Horse Center (VHC) is a 620 acre equestrian competition facility that is adjacent to the Maury River.

The many thousands of people who bring their horses to our facility to compete consider its location in Rockbridge County and its proximity to Lexington as one of key reasons they enjoy competing at the VHC. Clearly, one of the great assets given to our area is the Maury River. Many of the patrons of the Horse Center trail ride their horses to the banks of the river. This kind of special activity is unique to the VHC and helps to make the experience of being there uncommonly special.

Therefore, the Virginia Horse Center Foundation is pleased to enthusiastically endorse this effort regarding the Maury River. If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me at 540-464-2969.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Nicholson".

John Nicholson
Chief Executive Officer
Virginia Horse Center Foundation

MEMORANDUM

To: The Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors

Re: Request to designate a segment of the Maury River as a Scenic River

The Scenic Maury Committee requests the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors consider making application to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) designating the 19.3 miles of the Maury River (formerly the North River), *the only river in the Commonwealth to begin and end within one county*, from its origin at the confluence of the Calfpasture and Little Calfpasture Rivers to the area known as Bean's Bottom as a Virginia Scenic River Segment under Section 10.1-400 of the Code of Virginia.

Background Information:

Over a year ago, a number of Rockbridge County landowners with property fronting on the Maury River began discussions to share aspirations for establishing Scenic River designation for a section of the Maury. They mapped and studied some of the tax parcels belonging to neighbors along the river, began contacting those they knew to raise the idea and seek tentative support and then requested the assistance of Supervisors Lewis and Lyons, Spencer Suter and Sam Crickenberger. When these river-front landowners, who value the Maury's scenic quality and believe it is worthy of respect and that others do as well, learned of similar interest by the RACC Watershed Committee, they created an informal ad hoc Scenic Maury group to determine what was possible.

The intent of the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program is “to identify, designate and help protect rivers and streams that possess outstanding scenic, recreational, historic and natural characteristics of statewide significance for future generations.” The program is managed by the state and should not be confused with the federal Department of the Interior’s Wild and Scenic Rivers Program. One of the program’s strengths is the partnership forged between citizens, local governments and the state. The partnership begins in the evaluation phase and continues through and after the designation process.” See link below:

<http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/srmain>

The Maury River is, without question, one of the County's most valuable assets to all who live along it, those who drive by it, those who paddle and fish upon it, and others. Throughout its length flowing through the entire county it does in fact possess "outstanding scenic, recreational, historic and natural characteristics" of "significance". It has been featured prominently recently in the nation's National Gallery of Art. More importantly it has connected us all and generations of Rockbridge natives and visitors to one another and to something larger. Let the County acknowledge the importance of that which connects us.

This ad-hoc group and most of the many individual river-front owners contacted to date wish to celebrate and protect, in a non-invasive way, the Maury's value, especially its contribution to an irreplaceable aesthetic setting and to property values. Much like recognition and protection on roads designated as Scenic Byways (e.g. Route 39, Route 252, etc.), Scenic River designation supports conservation and demonstrates how proud a community is of its resource.

Scenic River status grants no public access across private land, requires no changes to existing farming practices along the river, nor supersedes the County Board of Supervisors' ultimate authority over land use.

The committee, which thus far consists of David Hopkins, George Kosovic, John Lanier, Buster Lewis, Jay Lewis, Larry Mann, Gee McVey, John Pancake, Sandra Stuart, and Chris Wise, has contacted to date well over a majority of the riverfront landowners along the requested segment (ending at Bean's Bottom); and, in fact, they and neighbors also have spoken with a majority of landowners along the entire river (ending at the James, which in Rockbridge, already is designated as a Scenic River). Generally, this group has encountered broad support and a few individual reservations. As future conditions allow, it is our hope that other sections of the river also will receive Scenic River designation.

It also should be noted that over 6,000 adjoining acres in the headwaters are held between the Goshen Pass National Area Preserve and the Virginia Game Commission. Endorsement (attached) has been received from institutional river-front landowners: the Virginia Military Institute, Washington & Lee University, and the Virginia Horse Center.

Appendix D. Legislation for the *Code of Virginia*

03/23/20 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 403 (effective 7/1/20)

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- CHAPTER

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 4 of Title 10.1 a section numbered [10.1-418.10](#), relating to scenic river designation; Maury River.

[H 282]
Approved

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 4 of Title 10.1 a section numbered [10.1-418.10](#) as follows:

§ [10.1-418.10](#). *Maury State Scenic River.*

The Maury River in Rockbridge County from its origination at the confluence of the Calfpasture and Little Calfpasture Rivers to Furrs Mill Road bridge in Beans Bottom on Route 631, a distance of approximately 19.25 miles, is hereby designated as the Maury State Scenic River, a component of the Virginia Scenic Rivers System.

03/23/20 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 404 (effective 7/1/20)

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- CHAPTER

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 4 of Title 10.1 a section numbered [10.1-418.10](#), relating to scenic river designation; Maury River.

[S 288]
Approved

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 4 of Title 10.1 a section numbered [10.1-418.10](#) as follows:

§ [10.1-418.10](#). *Maury State Scenic River.*

The Maury River in Rockbridge County from its origination at the confluence of the Calfpasture and Little Calfpasture Rivers to Furrs Mill Road bridge in Beans Bottom on Route 631, a distance of approximately 19.25 miles, is hereby designated as the Maury State Scenic River, a component of the Virginia Scenic Rivers System.