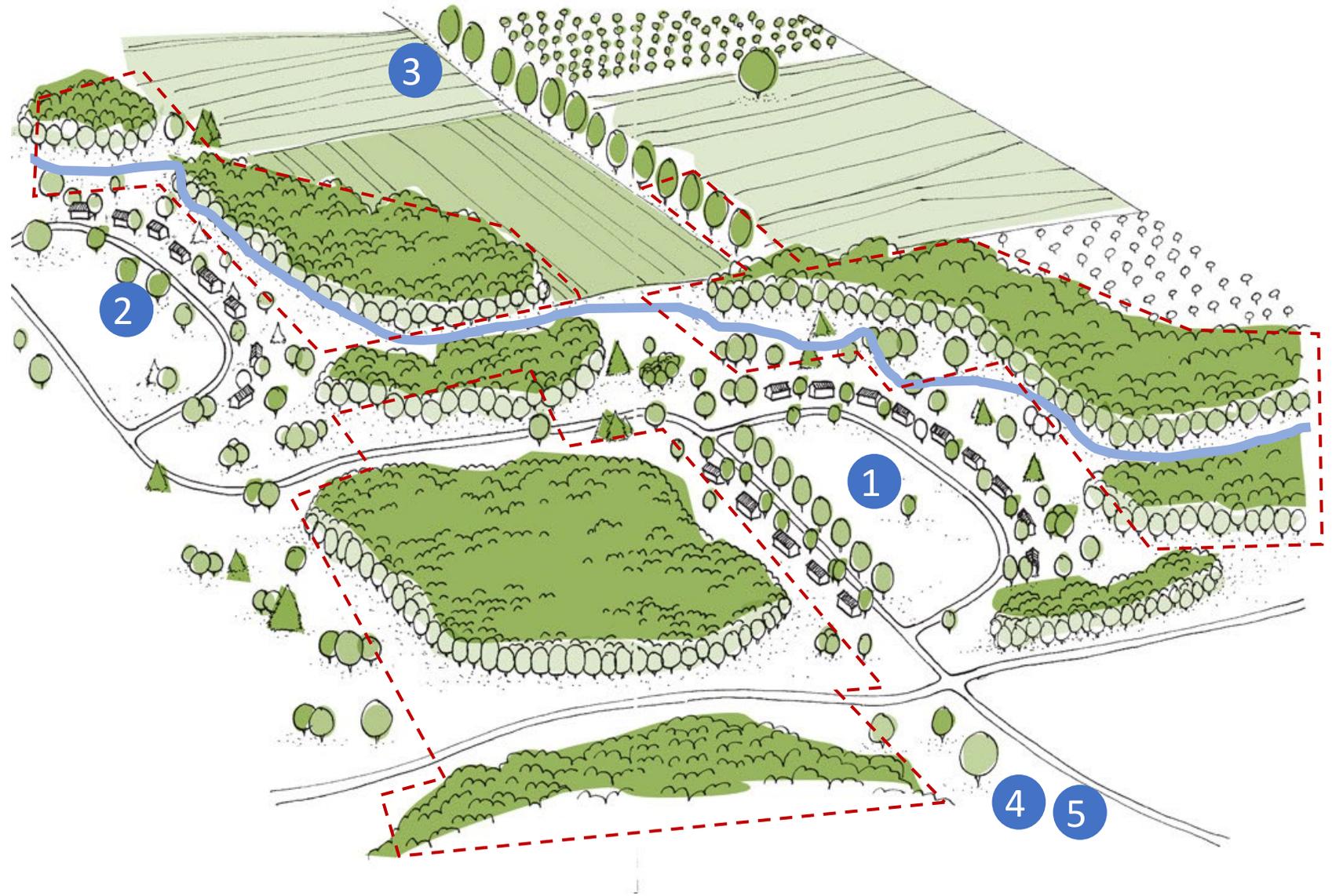


Trail Mix Magic

Blending Communities and Conservation

The City of Exurbia is experiencing rapid low-density development in an area that was primarily used for agriculture. The city owns three wooded parcels it has zoned as conservation/recreation but hasn't acted on any major plans, as it would like to find an affordable way to join the parcels first. Lately, city staff have been getting calls and emails from the community demanding they make a decision and take action on the use of the parcels.



1 “The neighbors in Wooded Acres want a large connected park and trail, including a dog park and children’s playground. We believe most of the area in question is undevelopable and in the floodplain, so putting it towards conservation and recreation uses would be better for everyone. We are concerned about contamination from agricultural spraying.”



2 “The owners at Yaupon Estates are concerned about the rapid pace of development in this once-bucolic county. We want no new parks or trails and are especially opposed to any changes that would increase traffic or noise near our streets, backyards, or poolside cabanas.”



3 “The Farming Association and County University Extension advocate for keeping working lands workin’. We do not want restrictions on agricultural uses or clearing potentially productive lands. We would consider conservation and access easements across some of our land if the easement allows for continued agricultural use.”



4 Metropolitan Development Conglomerate, Inc. opposes large-scale conservation of this parcel. Our independent studies show the floodplain covers only a small portion and would like the land opened up for private sale and development of residential housing. We would gladly create a creekside park and trail for the new buyers – err – residents of the community.



5 “The Frogs First Front and our sizeable coalition of amphibian advocates are calling for the total conservation of the parcel with no trails or increased human access in order to protect the endangered salamander that inhabits the stream area. We will stop at nothing to protect our slimy friend and are prepared to file an endangered species protection suit to stop or defer any changes to this unique ecosystem.”



● What would you do?



National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program



NPS-RTCA supports locally-led conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the United States. NPS-RTCA assists communities and public land managers in developing or restoring parks, conservation areas, rivers, and wildlife habitats, as well as creating outdoor recreation opportunities and programs that engage future generations in the outdoors.

NPS-RTCA does not provide financial assistance or monetary grants. As a collaborative partner, we provide professional services to help you achieve your conservation and outdoor recreation project vision. Through an application process, community groups, nonprofit organizations, tribal governments, national parks, and local, state and federal agencies can apply for NPS-RTCA technical assistance.

Park Planning Tools and Partners

1. [Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/rtca)
2. [ParkScore Home: Trust for Public Land \(tpl.org\)](https://www.tpl.org/parkscore)
3. [ParkServe - Trust for Public Land \(tpl.org\)](https://www.tpl.org/parkserve)
4. [Explore the map - Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool \(geoplatform.gov\)](https://www.geoplatform.gov/explore-the-map)
5. [Playground Planning Checklist & Tools | Adventure Playground \(adventureplaysystems.com\)](https://www.adventureplaysystems.com/playground-planning-checklist-tools)
6. [Rangeland Analysis Platform \(rangelands.app\)](https://www.rangelands.app)
7. [PACT: Predictor of Avian Communities Tool \(ecosheds.org\)](https://www.ecosheds.org/pact)
8. [Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework \(acpf4watersheds.org\)](https://www.acpf4watersheds.org)
9. [Vegetation GIS Data System -Home Page \(arizona.edu\)](https://www.arizona.edu/vegetation-gis-data-system)
10. [Recreation Grants — Texas Parks & Wildlife Department](https://www.texaswildlife.com/recreation-grants)