



COWEE VALLEY

SUSTAINING COMMUNITY IN THE COWEE VALLEY

COWEE VALLEY NARRATIVE

Central Question: As development pressures gravitate to the valley, how will the community grow in a manner that sustains the "transformative experience" of Cowee: its history, scenic beauty environmental quality, kinship/community life and economics? The following objectives and initiatives were developed through an intensive public design workshop with Cowee residents in May 2008.

Preserve History / Culture

- Education and cultural awareness programs for youth, residents
- Incentives for historic preservation
- Co-interpretation of Cherokee and Historic Resources
- Farmland Preservation
- New and Compatible Use of Historic Structures
- Maintain and enhance patterns of circulation and development that supports community life: clustered development near community center(s)
- Develop trails, interpretative routes, gateway signage

Sustain Cowee Valley's Timeless Scenic Beauty

- Preserve historic properties
- Establish Design Guidelines for compatible infill within the valley
- Develop plan for landscape treatment and signage for Route 28 Corridor
- Farmland Preservation
- Encourage cluster development outside of scenic corridors and agricultural lands

Sustain the Valley's Rich Biodiversity and Natural Features

- Manage water quality of creeks, streams and rivers
- Focus development outside of flood potential areas
- Harvest rainwater for reuse
- Identify best practices for well and septic design and maintenance; emerging technologies
- Model best practices for development on various terrain

Sustain Kinship, Neighboring, and Community Life

- Continue development patterns clustered around existing road networks and near community centers / hubs
- Enhance and build community ties with existing community/civic institutions: churches, fire department, Cowee Community Development Organization, etc.
- Promote affordable, attractive housing opportunities for new residents, especially young families

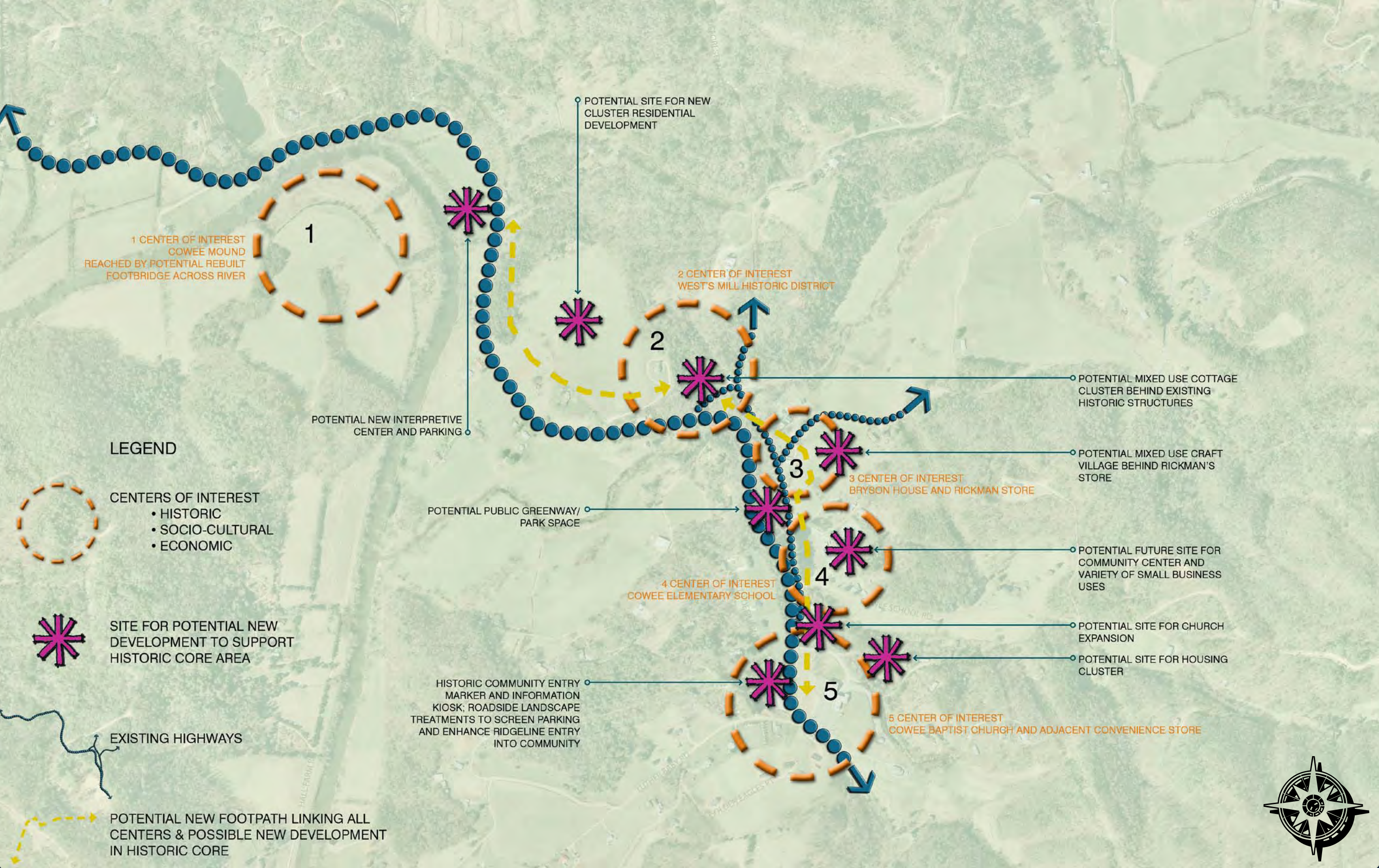
Sustain Community Economic Systems

- Crafts/local produce markets
- Tailgate market
- Rickman store reuse for community/economic ventures
- Preserve the Cowee School for public use as school or retrofit for restaurant, culinary education/uses, business incubator

COWEE VALLEY past & future diagram



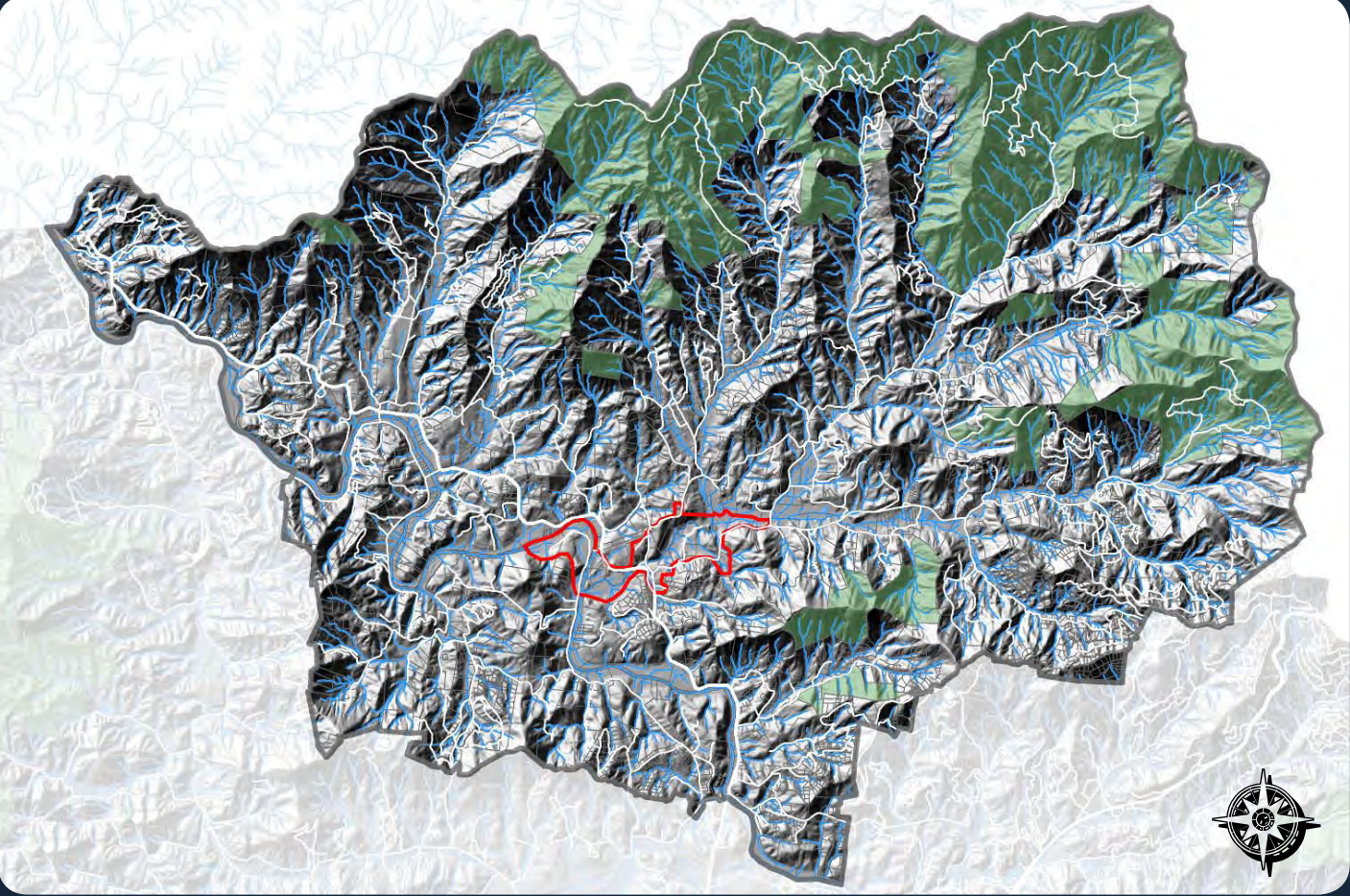
COWEE VALLEY corridor & centers enhancement concept plan



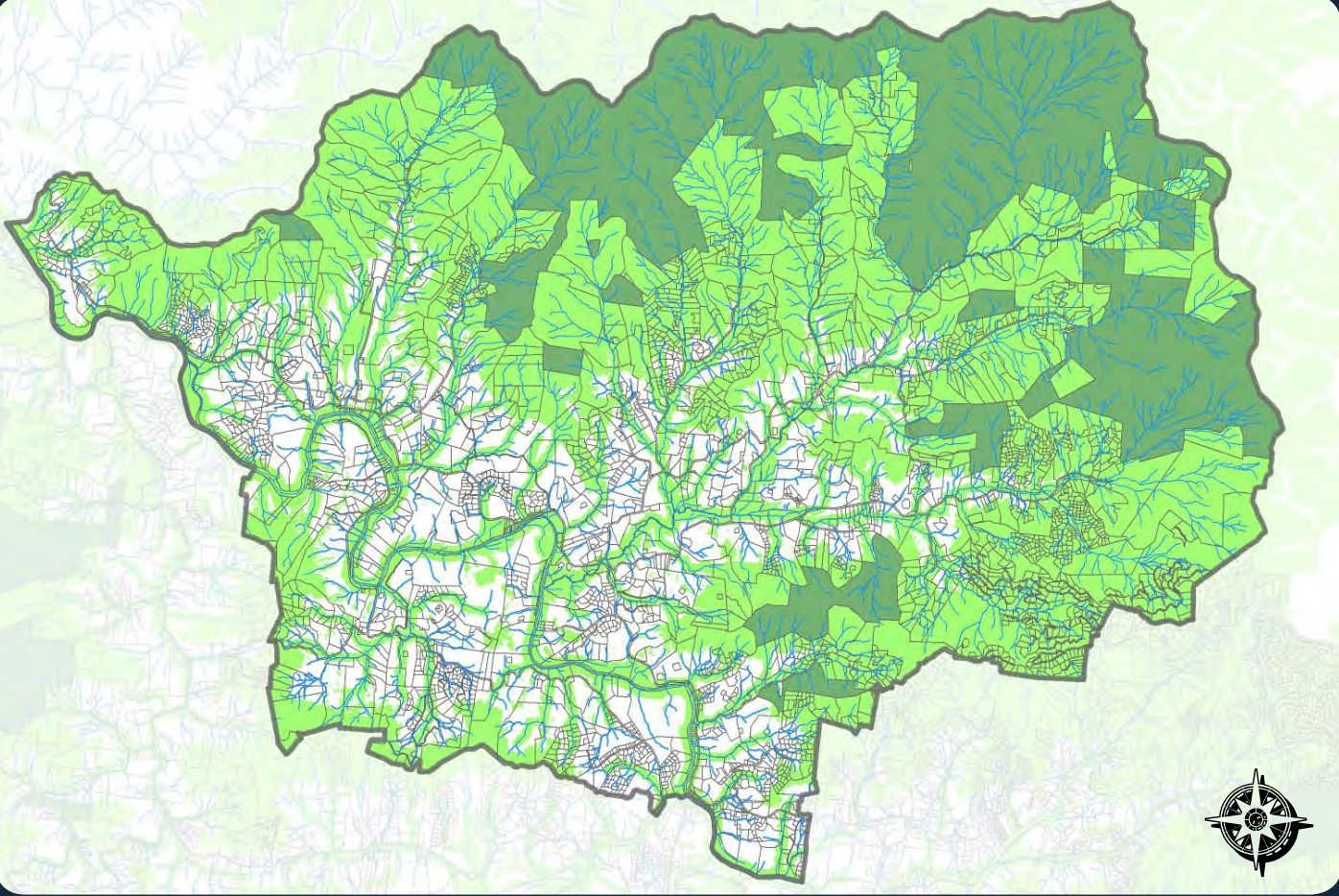
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION DURING CHARRETTE (MAY 2008)



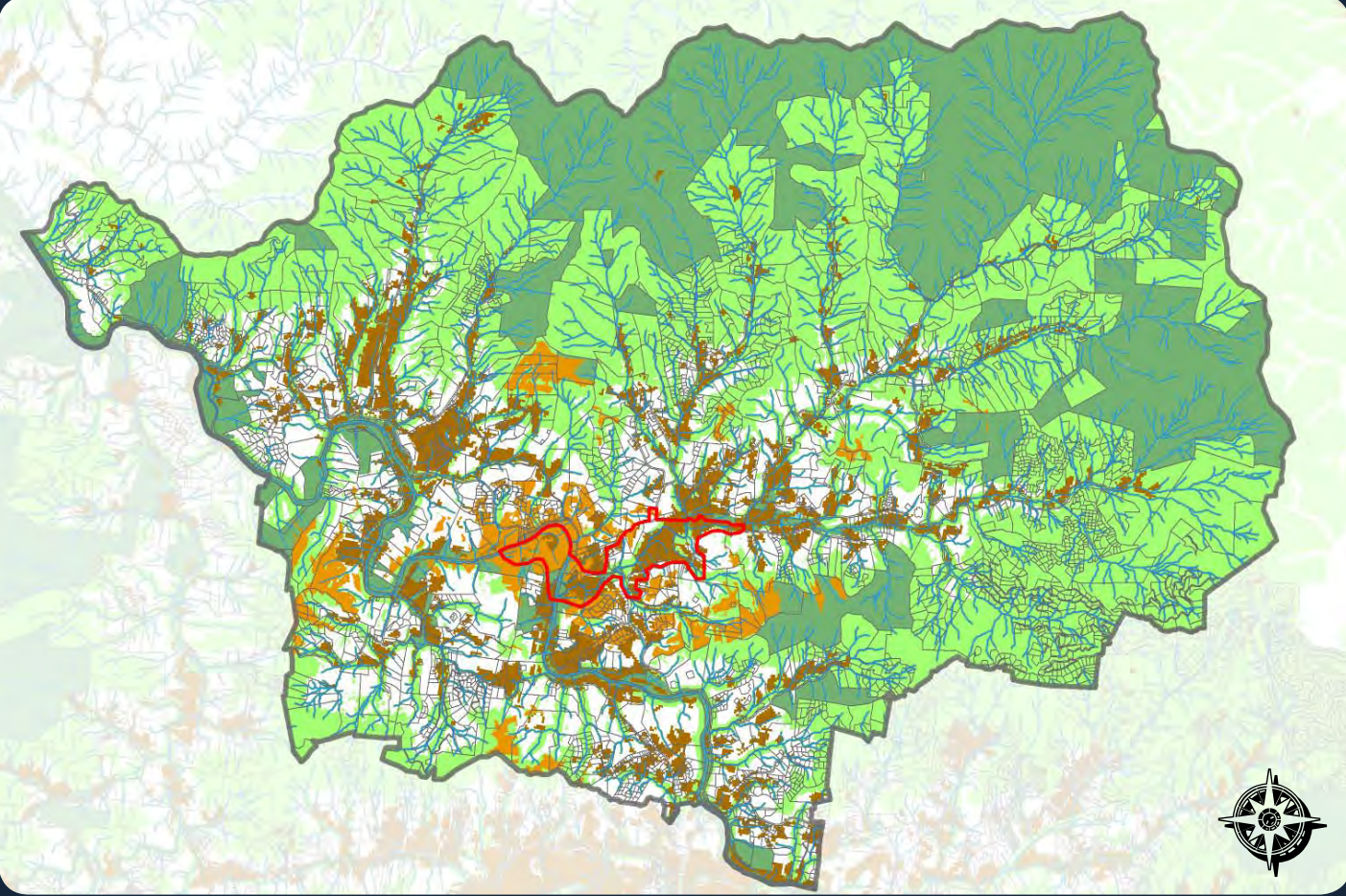
DESIGNERS RESPOND TO PUBLIC INPUT WITH DRAWINGS



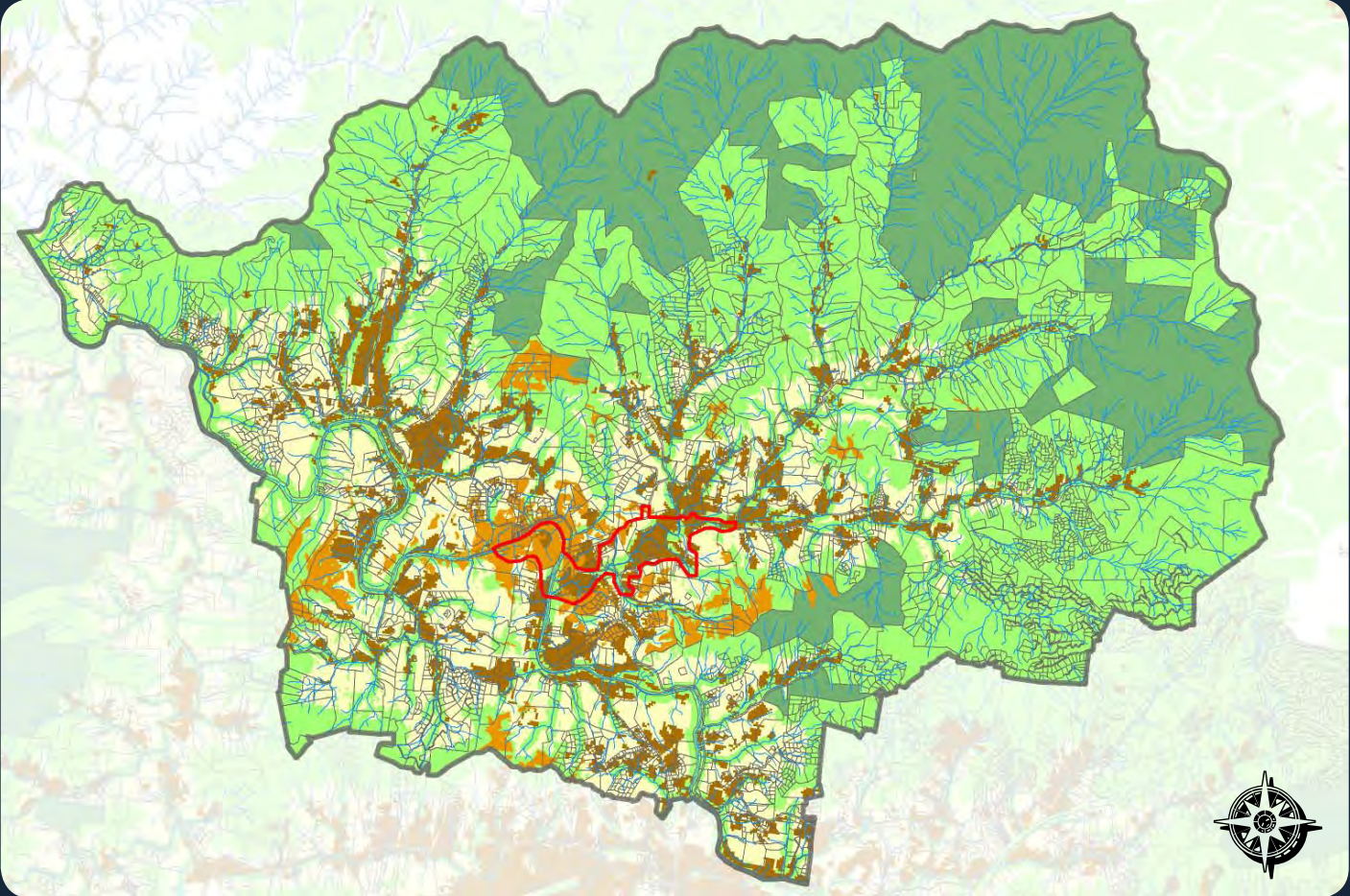
Cowee Township 3-D topographic map. Historic District in red.



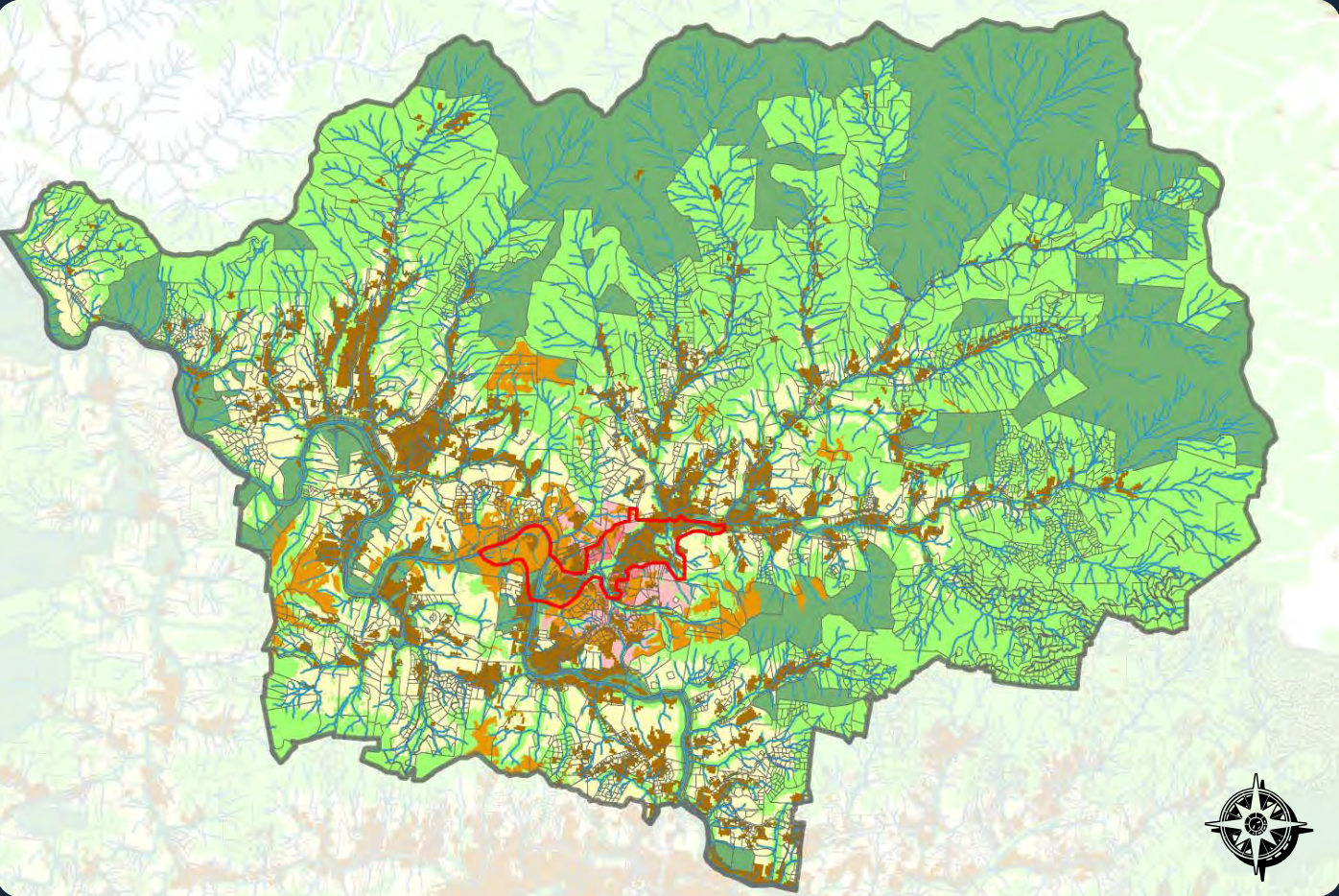
Permanently Preserved (dark green; 50' riparian buffers; delineated flood plain; Federal and State land; conservation easements and conservation areas) and Strategic Natural Conservation Areas (light green; Primary ridge-tops; Slopes >30%; Highly erodible soils; Prime wildlife habitat; Endangered/ sensitive plant communities; Soils not stable for septic; Areas prone to landslides)



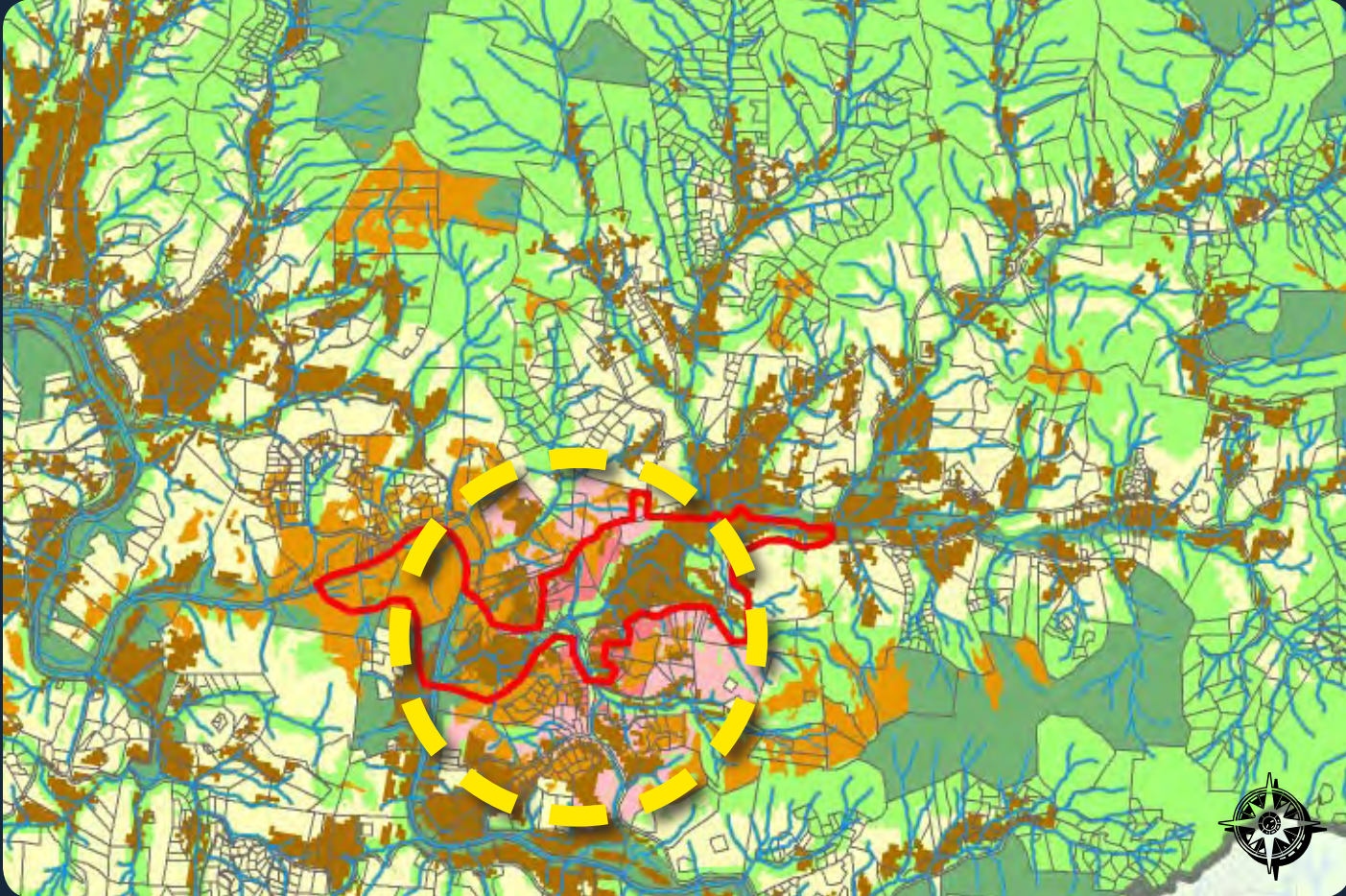
Strategic Cultural/Economic Conservation Areas (Agricultural Lands: dark brown; Viewshed from Cowee Mound: orange; National Register Properties & Locally significant properties: not shown)



Areas suitable for development (light yellow)



Areas for infill/concentrated development (pink; 1/2 mile radius from Rickman Store)



Detail view of area for infill/concentrated development (pink; yellow circle shows 1/2 mile radius from Rickman Store)

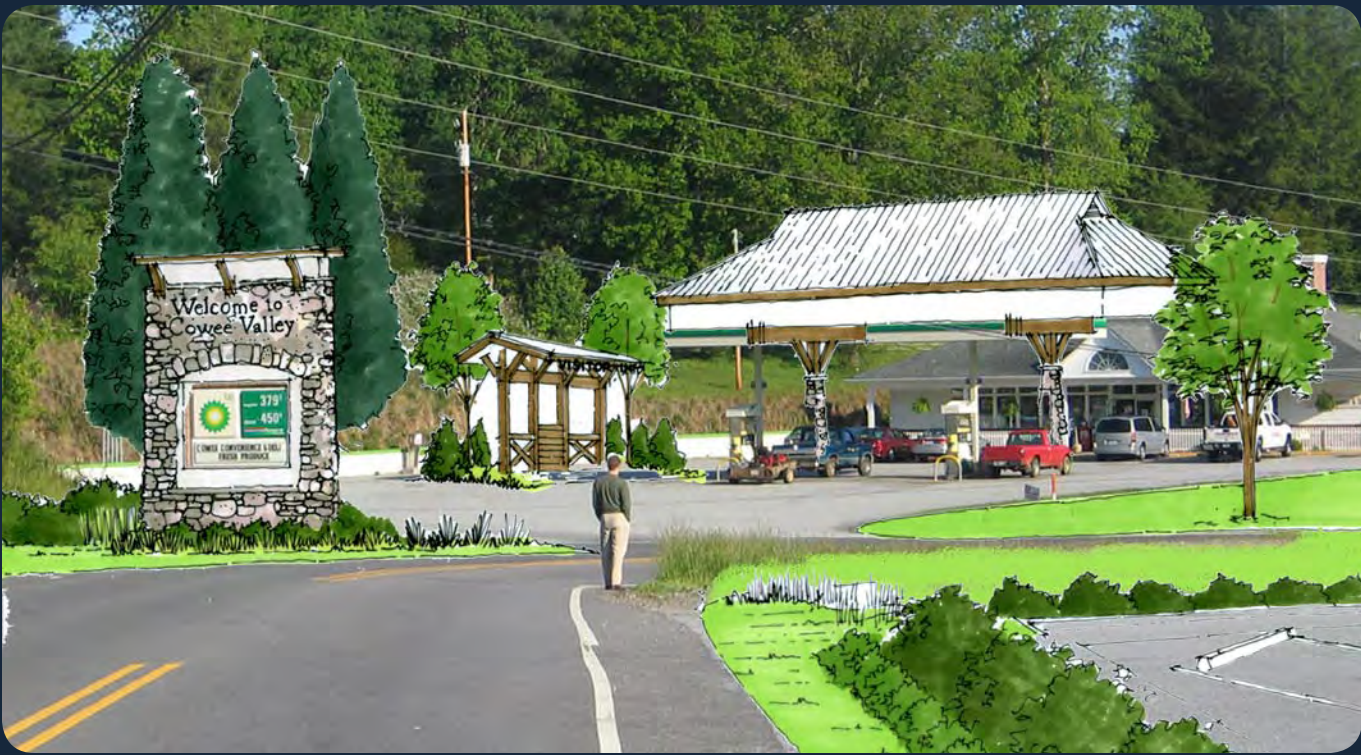
LAND SUITABILITY ANALYSIS MAPS





COWEE VALLEY

SUSTAINING COMMUNITY IN THE COWEE VALLEY



GATEWAY SIGNAGE AND LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS



POTENTIAL SCHOOL PROPERTY ENHANCEMENTS



ILLUSTRATION SHOWING INFILL IN THE HISTORIC DISTRICT

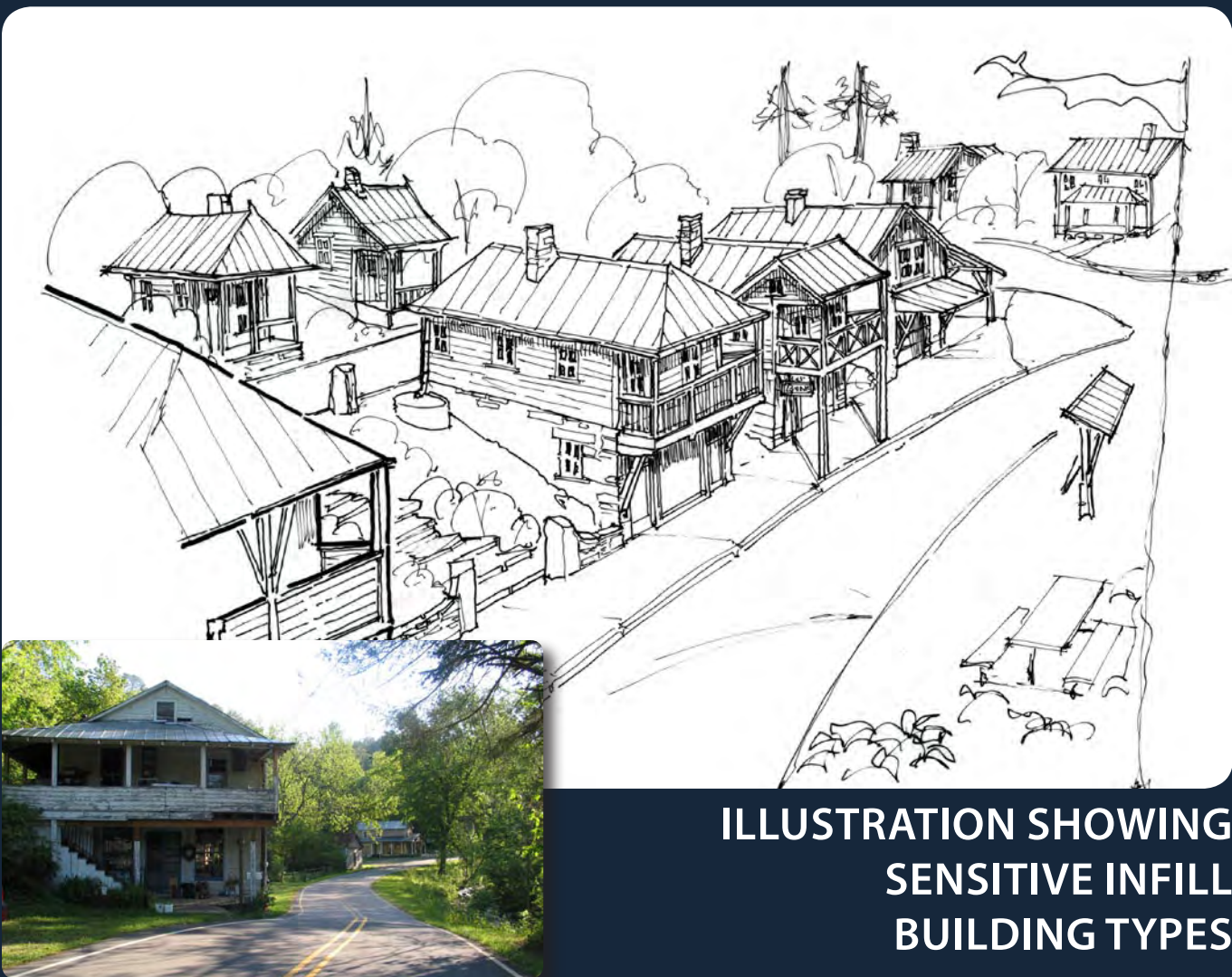


ILLUSTRATION SHOWING SENSITIVE INFILL BUILDING TYPES



ILLUSTRATION SHOWING CRAFT VILLAGE CLUSTER CONCEPT



A CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT AND INFILL PLAN FOR THE NC 28 CORRIDOR NEAR THE WEST'S MILL HISTORIC DISTRICT



AN EXAMPLE OF A RURAL RESIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT WITH INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY FARM & GARDEN PLOTS