

Dan Scenic River Report

Pittsylvania County and the City of Danville



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

December 2012

Table of Contents

I.	REASON FOR THE STUDY	3
	A. Benefits of Designation.....	3
	B. Designation Process	3
II.	SUMMARY OF FINDINGS	4
III.	CORRIDOR STUDY MAP	5
IV.	ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS	5
	A. River Corridor Vegetation.....	5
	B. Riverbed and/or River Flow Modifications	8
	C. Human Development of Visual Corridor	8
	D. Historic Features	9
	E. Landscape	10
	F. Quality of Fishery	10
	G. Special Natural Fauna.....	11
	H. Water Quality	13
	I. Parallel Roads	14
	J. Crossings.....	14
	K. Special Features Affecting River Aesthetics	15
	L. Public Recreational Access	16
	M. Land Conservation	17
V.	LAND USE AND OWNERSHIP	18
VI.	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	18
VII.	CONSERVATION PLAN	19
VIII.	ANTICIPATED COST OF DESIGNATION	19
IX.	AGENCY COMMENTS/ RESOLUTIONS	19
X.	APPENDICIES	20
	A. Species Ranking definitions of DCR Natural Heritage	21
	B. Letters, Comments and other support documents (<i>pending</i>)	24
	C. Proposed Legislation.....	37

I. REASON FOR THE STUDY

On behalf of the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors and the City Council of Danville, local officials contacted the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) requesting that a segment of the Dan River within their jurisdictions be evaluated for possible inclusion in the Virginia Scenic River System. The river segment to be studied is described as from Berry Hill Bridge at Route 880 in Pittsylvania County to Abreu/Grogan Park in Danville.

The Scenic Rivers 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, or section thereof, must contain substantial natural, scenic, recreational and historical attributes. 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, 28 river segments, totaling more than 656 miles, have received Scenic River designation from the General Assembly. A list of those rivers can be found on the [Virginia Scenic Rivers](http://dcr.cache.vi.virginia.gov/recreational_planning/documents/srlist.pdf) website, http://dcr.cache.vi.virginia.gov/recreational_planning/documents/srlist.pdf, The entire *Code of Virginia* language relating to the Virginia Scenic River System can be found on line beginning with §10.1-400, <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+10.1-400>, and ending with the designation of the Hughes River, <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+10.1-418.8>.

A. Benefits of Designation

The Virginia Scenic River designation accomplishes the following:

- ⤴ 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,
- ⤴ requires all state agencies to consider visual, natural and recreational values of a Scenic River in their planning and permitting process (§10.1-402) <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+10.1-402>.
- ⤴ 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), <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+10.1-406.1>.
- ⤴ requires authorization by the General Assembly for the construction, operation and/or maintenance of any structure, such as a dam, that will impede the natural flow of a Scenic River (§10.1-407), <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+10.1-407>, and
- ⤴ allows riparian landowners to continue using their land as they did before designation, except for the §10.1-407 provision noted above (§10.1-408), <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+10.1-408>.

B. Designation Process

Scenic river evaluations involve data collection from state agencies, map surveys, related literature reviews and a field study to validate existing land use information and rank the river according to relative uniqueness or quality. Evaluations for each river or river segment take into consideration thirteen (13) different established factors or criteria, which provide a uniform gauge for all river studies. Field evaluations include physically canoeing or boating the stretch

of river being evaluated and rating the characteristics of the resource. The evaluation criteria are: River Corridor Vegetation, Riverbed and/or River Flow Modifications, Human Development of Visual Corridor, Historic Features, Landscape, Quality of Fishery, Special Natural Fauna, Water Quality, Parallel Roads, Crossings, Special Features Affecting River Aesthetics, Recreational Use and Land Conservation. A summary of the evaluation results is included in Section IV of this report - Environmental Analysis.

The Act instructs the 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 is a fulfillment of the statutory directive.

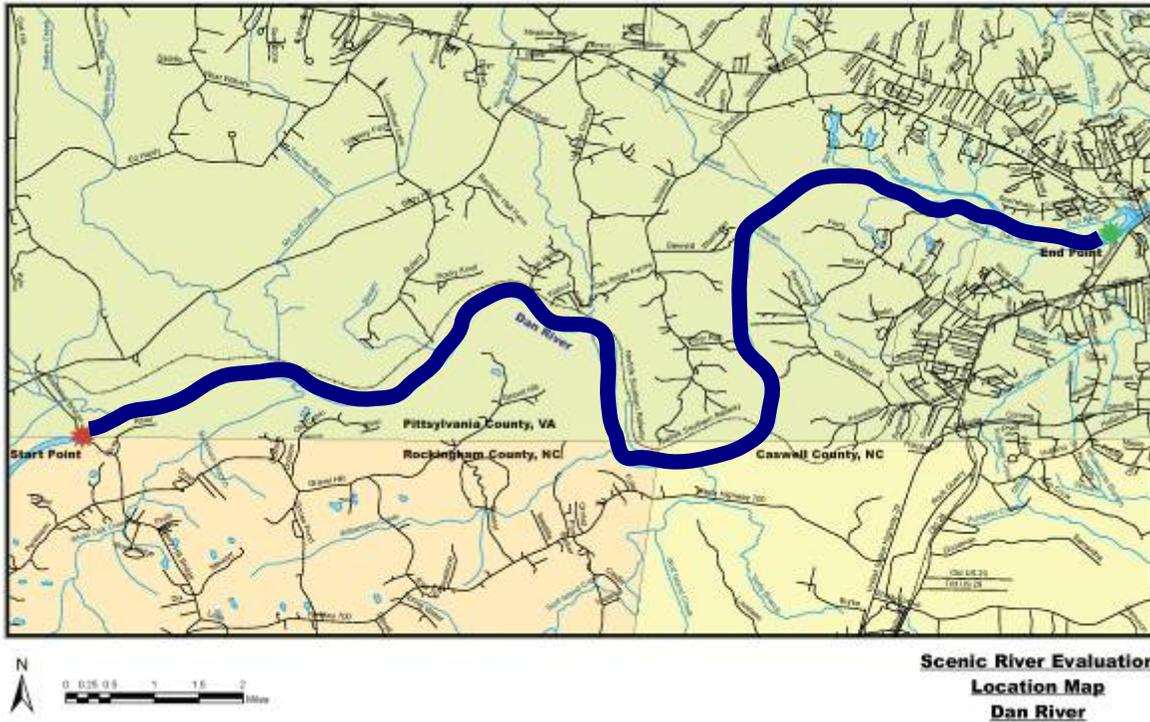
II. SUMMARY AND FINDINGS

At the request of the City Council of Danville and the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors, both of which have a boundary along the Dan River, DCR conducted a Scenic River evaluation of the Dan River from Berry Hill Bridge at Route 880 in Pittsylvania County to the downstream property boundary of Abreu/Grogan Park in Danville.

In this evaluation corridor, the Dan River flows into North Carolina for a short distance before returning to Virginia. DCR's findings during the study of the aforementioned Dan River segment in Virginia are contained within this report. The DCR evaluation of the Dan River corridor determines that the 15-mile section from Berry Hill Bridge at Route 880 in Pittsylvania County to the downstream property boundary of Abreu/Grogan Park, 2020 Memorial Drive in Danville, is eligible for inclusion in the Virginia Scenic Rivers System, and its designation as a Virginia Scenic River is recommended. It is further recommended that DCR be the administering agency.

III. CORRIDOR STUDY MAP

The Dan River in Pittsylvania County generally flows east along the Virginia-North Carolina state border. This report will discuss the river segment proposed for designation, which is specifically from Berry Hill Bridge at Route 880 in Pittsylvania County to Abreu/Grogan Park, 2020 Memorial Drive in Danville, a distance of approximately 15 miles.



IV. Environmental Analysis

In order to determine whether the proposed Dan River segment was eligible for scenic river designation, personnel from the Division of Planning and Recreation Resources of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and from the Community Design Assistance Center (CDAC) of Virginia Tech conducted an analysis of the river corridor. Staff, local officials, and interested citizens conducted the field investigation on July 6, 2012. The following is a description of the qualities and conditions of the resource that makes it a candidate for the Virginia Scenic Rivers System.

A. River Corridor Vegetation

The Dan River is a broad flowing river that travels through a forested landscape speckled with agricultural fields. Streamside vegetation is prevalent throughout the corridor with overhanging branches providing shade along its banks (Image 1).



Image 1: Typical Vegetation along the Dan River

The land along the river is primarily forested although some areas are open fields used for row crops, grazing, or hayfields (Image 2). Some sections of the river are also used for sand mining, where erosion is likely an issue (Image 3). More than 80% of the river has a forested riparian buffer of 100' or more between cleared areas and the water's edge, which provides the necessary buffer to protect water quality and fish habitat (Image 4). Approximately 18% of the remaining shoreline has forested riparian buffers less than 100'. These areas are typically adjacent to sand mines or agricultural fields.

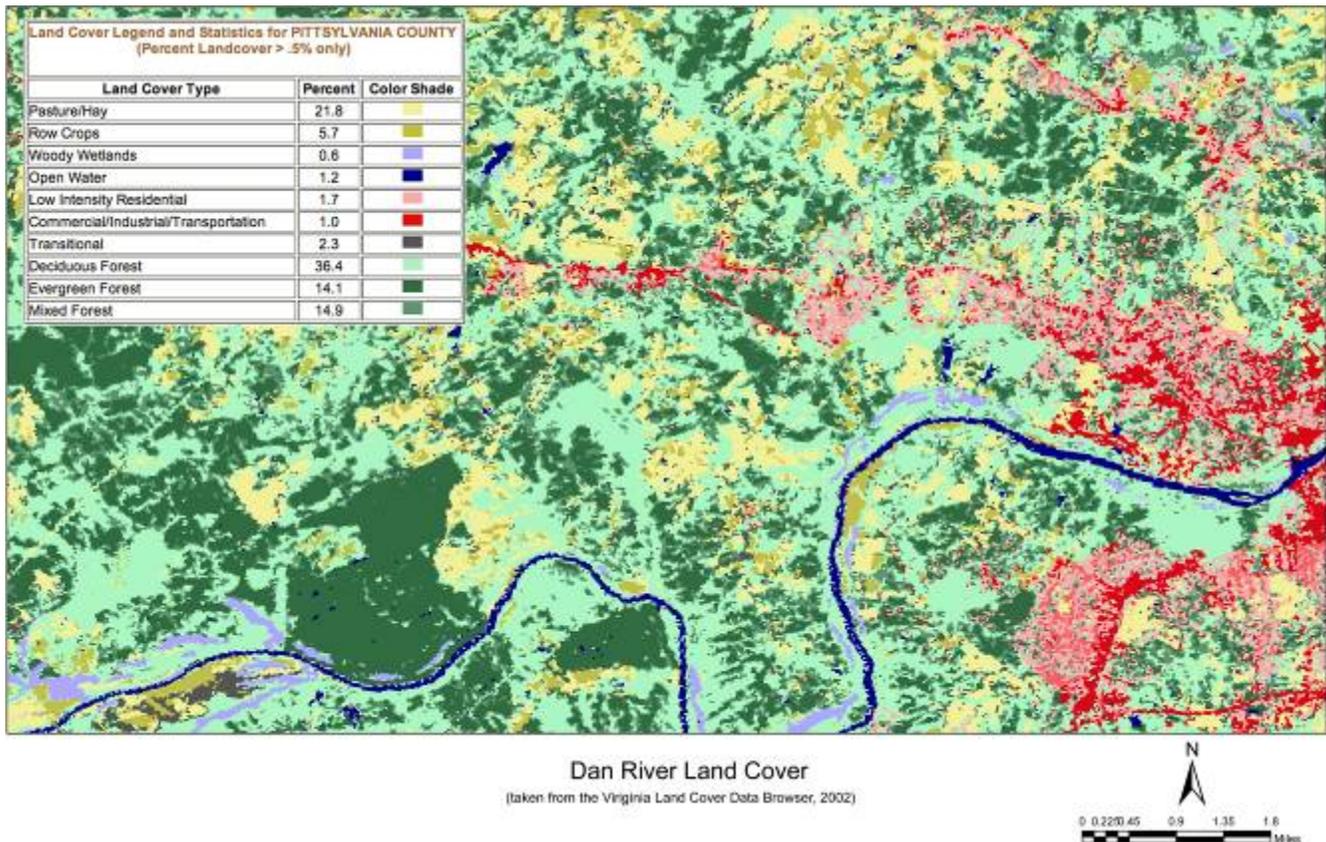


Image 2: Dan River Land Cover



Image 3: Sand mine along the Dan River



Image 4: Buffers less than 100', Dan River from Berry Hill Bridge to the Schoolfield Dam

Vegetation along the corridor is generally comprised of eastern hardwood forests. The evergreen trees along the corridor consist of Shortleaf Pine, Loblolly Pine, Virginia Pine, Pond Pine, Eastern Red Cedar, Rhododendron, and Mountain Laurel. Fall color provides a particularly delightful show with a wide variety of colors from species such as Virginia Creeper, Deerberry, Spicebush, Serviceberry, Red Chokeberry, Blackberry, Sumac, Viburnum, Dogwood, Birch, Red Maple, Black Gum, Sweet Gum, Green Ash, Tulip Poplar, and Scarlet Oak.

B. Riverbed and/or River Flow Modifications

The river section studied is a free flowing river. The riverbed ranges from mud, silt and sand in the slower deeper sections of the river to smooth river rock in the shallow-swifter moving waters. Naturally occurring rock ledges and outcrops add visual and paddling interest to the journey (Image 5); while minor riffles add to the excitement of the trip, these do not require advanced paddling skills and do not impact flow. There are no flow obstructions on this river segment. At the end of this river segment is a public boat launch at Abreu-Grogan Park and just below the park is Schoolfield Dam, which is a major obstruction for further downstream touring.



Image 5: In-stream and shoreline rock formations

C. Human Development of Visual Corridor

The Dan River corridor contains few signs of human development. Several houses are seen along the route, but they are mostly clustered near the eastern terminus just above the Schoolfield Dam (Image 6). The other human interventions include bridges and utility line crossings (see Section J. Crossings) and seasonally placed agricultural irrigation pumps (see Section H. Water Quality). These pumps were more prevalent in the beginning of the study corridor where agricultural land use (tobacco) was observed. The pumps were not in operation during the study so operational noise cannot be reported.



Image 6: House located on the Dan River in Windsor Heights

D. Historic Features

One historic feature, Dan's Hill, is located along evaluated section of the Dan River. Dan's Hill is a Victorian estate that was built around 1833 for Robert and Catherine Ann Pannill Wilson and is an example of Federal architecture. It is listed on both the Virginia Historical Register and the National Register of Historic Places. Although the property abuts the river, the historic home is not visible to boaters.

Paddlers are able to see the Dan River Mill, however, peaking up over the forest's edge from the river (Image 7). The Dan River Mill, located in the center of the City of Danville, is also listed on both the Virginia Historical Register and the National Register of Historic Places. It opened on Thanksgiving Day, 1921 and was utilized as a textile mill until the 1990s. The building displays minimal exterior Gothic Revival stylistic features and is typical of textile mills during this era.



Image 7: View of the Dan River Mill from the Dan River

E. Landscape

The Dan River originates in Patrick County, VA and meanders in between North Carolina and Virginia, crossing the state line eight times, as it flows into the Kerr Reservoir on the Roanoke River. The Dan River is part of the Dan River Basin along with its five major tributaries: the May, the Smith, the Sandy, the Hyco, and the Banister Rivers. The Dan River flows through the Piedmont Plateau, a large, level landscape, creating a wide, slow river typical of the Piedmont region.

F. Quality of Fishery

The fisheries rating for the Dan River ranges from poor to good, depending on season and area. This section of the Dan provides habitat for bluegill, shad, catfish, carp, bass, perch, gar and sunfish species. Based on relative abundance, the Dan River could provide a year-round fishery for sunfish and catfish. All other game species appeared not abundant enough to support a diverse recreational fishery.¹

Local anglers target primarily brim species, including Smallmouth and Largemouth bass during spring and these species can remain active until the heat of summer drives the fish into deeper and cooler holding waters. These specific holding waters will produce throughout the summer season but overall, the fishing is slower. Shade and temporary structure by way of downed trees, branch overhangs and snags are also primary holding areas. More permanent rock structure, visible in shallow runs are reported as poor fishing locations by local anglers, perhaps due to higher exposure and lack of protective holding water in these areas.

The Dan is considered highly probable habitat for the endangered Roanoke logperch. Despite failing to observe logperch, the Dan appears physically capable of supporting populations of logperch, based on the presence of deep, swift runs and un-embedded gravel substrate. Given the proximity of these streams to other occupied streams, logperch could conceivably expand into these areas in the future or be translocated there by management agencies seeking to reintroduce logperch.²

Sources:

¹ *RF02-04 Warmwater Stream Investigations, Dan River 2003* - Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Richmond, Virginia

² *Assessment of the distribution and abundance of Roanoke logperch (Percina rex) in the Dan River basin of Virginia*, James H. Roberts Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061, for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Richmond, Virginia

G. Special Natural Fauna

The Natural Heritage Program of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) identifies areas that have a biodiversity significance ranking based on the rarity, quality, and number of element occurrences they contain.

The Dan River has four globally and subnationally significant natural heritage resources associated with it. See ranking definitions in the Appendix.

These include:

1. *Stewartia ovata*, Mountain Camellia, ranked G4[Global - Apparently Secure Status]/S2 [Subnational - Imperiled Status] (Image 8)



Image 8: *Stewartia ovata*, Mountain Camellia

2. *Phlox pilosa* spp. *pilosa*, Downy Phlox, ranked G5T5[Global - Secure Subspecies Status]/S2[Subnational - Imperiled Status] (Image 9)



Image 9: *Phlox pilosa* spp. *pilosa*, Downy Phlox

3. *Trifolium reflexum*, Buffalo Clover, ranked G3G4[Global - Vulnerable-to-Apparently Secure Status]/S1[Subnational - Critically Imperiled Status] (Image 10)



Image 10: Trifolium reflexum, Buffalo Clover

4. *Ameiurus brunneus*, Snail Bullhead, ranked G4[Global - Apparently Secure Status]/S2[Subnational - Imperiled Status] (Image 11)

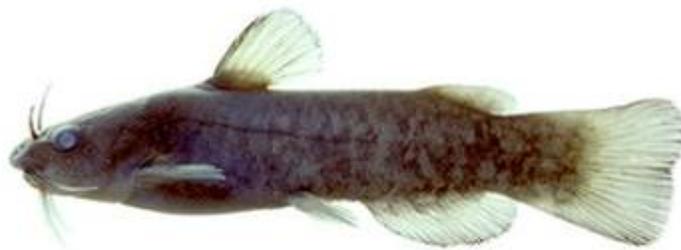


Image 11: Ameiurus brunneus, Snail Bullhead

This section of the Dan represents the extreme northern tip of the range of this southern species primarily found through the Carolinas and into Florida.

Expected species of some frequency along the river include deer, turkey, rabbit and quail. Other species expected along the corridor include diverse populations of small mammals, amphibians, reptiles and insects. Varieties of bird species found in the corridor include a moderate level of water-associated

fowl, such as blue heron, wood duck and kingfishers. Bald Eagles are reported by locals and by godanriver.com but none were witnessed during the field evaluation. Pittsylvania County is not defined as Bald Eagle “occupied” by the Virginia Bald Eagle Nest And Productivity Survey: Year 2011 Report produced by the Center for Conservation Biology (CCB), College of William and Mary and Virginia Commonwealth University, Williamsburg, VA. The CCB offers the public to participate in Bald Eagle reporting at <http://www.ccb-wm.org>.

H. Water Quality

The extent of visibility through the water column during the field investigation was 4 feet. Thus, in the shallower sections of the river, this offers clear views of river features (Image 12). These turbidity conditions were reported as typical for the Dan.



Image 12: The Dan River bottom is viewable in some areas

Periodic evidence of bulky trash was witnessed and largely attributed to storms (high-winds & heavy rain run-off) by way of road crossings (Image 13). The periodic tire was recorded but other forms of consumer garbage was rare.



Image 13: Roadway construction/traffic blockade

The Dan River fully supports aquatic life, wildlife, and recreation uses. The water quality rating is low for most of the activities related to the river. Bordering agricultural land and extensive breaks in vegetative buffers, while offering visual diversity and interest, contribute to sedimentary depositing. This is especially so following heavy rains when turbidity increases. In this section of the river, seasonal agricultural use of the river can be witnessed along banks near farmland by way of floating irrigation pumping stations (Image 14).



Image 14: Floating pump for agricultural irrigation

I. Parallel Roads

No parallel roads were predetermined by way of roadway map analysis nor was any evidence of parallel roads witnessed along the entire length of this section of the Dan River.

J. Crossings

The crossings consist of roads, railroads, pipelines and power/communication lines; most cross perpendicular to the Dan, thereby having limited visual impact on the river experience. There are several overhead and visual crossings of this section of the Dan River. Power and/or communication (4) wires are the most common. Roadways/Railroads (2) were within close visual proximity and witnessed as one crossing occurrence.

Visual crossings are unique. As experienced from the river, these crossings are attributed to below/grade/waterline pipeline utilities (Image 15). The crossings are easily determined by large breaks in the buffer on both sides of the river. Signage (to warn boaters of anchor hazards) and visible utility markers are typically present and further define this type of crossing. Under certain conditions, this type of crossing is considered neutral as it offers view-shed opportunities of the surrounding landscape that are not otherwise possible.



Image 15: Typical sub-grade utility crossing

K. Special Features Affecting River Aesthetics

This section of the Dan River has intermittent aesthetic attributes. Stretches of homogenous character are broken with periodic areas of high interest. These points of interest include in-stream rock formations, small rapids and a large island that offers variable characteristics depending on the course one takes.

The section of the river featuring the island offers two personalities of the Dan. In the main course, the river character is typical of the Dan, and features a wide river corridor, open to the sky with open foreground and middle-ground views. On the other side of the island, the personality of the Dan is more intimate, offering a near enclosed canopy with ample shade. The lower water depth also provides views to the riverbed and provides a delightful offshoot from the main river (Image 16).



Image 16: Branch of the Dan River encircling an island

A section of northern bank offers steep stream-side bluffs featuring an undergrowth of rhododendron and shade which stands in stark contrast to the rest of the corridor (Image 17).



Image 17: In-stream/shoreline bluff

The visitor will have a sense of remoteness and isolation between areas of heavy stream-side use (agriculture, sand mine). Views are also relatively homogenous with little changes in fore, middle or back ground diversity. The corridor is largely open to the sky which presents a consistent visual condition without a significant vegetative canopy.

As one approaches the City of Danville, a long view to the stacks of the historic Dan River Mill also offers a cultural view into the history of the region and of the river (see Historic Features). At this point, the river starts to slow, due to the backwater of an impoundment beyond the study area. This produces several navigable tributaries on either side of the Dan which offer paddlers a unique experience very different than the primary corridor.

While the field evaluation was conducted in July, local residents and members of the float team report that floating along this section of the Dan during fall foliage changes is extremely rewarding. This

condition is confirmed based on the visual identification of stream-side species boasting exquisite fall color such as Virginia Creeper, Paw-paw, Eastern Redbud, Dogwood, and Sassafras.

L. **Public Recreational Access**

The river allows year-round paddling with minimal portages in shallow sections during dry periods. Paddlers and tubers obtain access at public bridge crossings and by permission of private land holders. The Dan Scenic River segment includes public access at a developed boat launch located at the end of the study corridor (Image 18). From this launch, motor boats are able to access the Dan upstream to the shallow sections in the study corridor. Plans for additional access and current Dan River access information is offered by the Dan River Basin Association (<http://www.danriver.org>).



Image 18: Public Boat Launch - Abreu/Grogan Park (end of Dan Scenic River Segment)

M. **Land Conservation**

There is limited protection of the Dan River by conservation easements or other protections. Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) holds a conservation easement along the study corridor. This easement includes approximately .5 miles of shoreline along the northern bank of the river just above the Schoolfield Dam and across from public access and boat launch at Abreu/Grogan Park (Image 19).

V. LAND USE AND OWNERSHIP

Lands in the study corridor are primarily in private ownership. Adjacent land use within the corridor is agricultural, interrupted by occasional second homes and industry. Most of the land use, other than forested, is not visible, or if it is, it is only visible for very short spurts of time. The only concentrated development is at Danville, which is a relatively short piece of the 15-mile segment, and its impact is minimal. Future planning has most of the corridor in agriculture, open space/forest, or conservation lands, thereby limiting development along the corridor and ensuring protection of the corridor's scenic values.

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Department of Conservation and Recreation concludes that the Dan River in Pittsylvania County and the City of Danville from Berry Hill Bridge at Route 880 in Pittsylvania County to the downstream property boundary of Abreu/Grogan Park in the City of Danville, a distance of approximately 15 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, the unique flora and fauna, and its historic setting.

Flowing through largely agricultural and forested land, this river segment possesses a number of interesting aesthetic features including in-stream and stream-side rock formations. Its generous corridor provides an interesting mix of foreground, middle-ground and far-ground views. The adjacent landscape consists of few man-made features and variations in terrain and vegetation. The Dan River is a Piedmont Plateau river that meanders through large forested and agricultural tracks of level land with unique qualities that add much to the Scenic River value of this corridor. This section of the Dan is also home to four globally and regionally significant rare flora/fauna species.

Considering all aspects of the Dan River within Pittsylvania County and the City of Danville as described in this report, DCR recommends it as a good candidate for Virginia Scenic River designation.

It is recommended that:

1. The Dan River in Pittsylvania County and the City of Danville from Berry Hill Bridge at Route 880 in Pittsylvania County to the downstream property boundary of Abreu/Grogan Park in the City of Danville, a distance of approximately 15 miles, be recommended for Virginia Scenic River Designation;
2. The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) be appointed the Administering Agency;

VII. CONSERVATION PLAN

A variety of elements contributes to the conservation plan for the Dan River. These elements call for a minimum effort and specific actions on the part of the General Assembly, local and state units of government, and individual and riparian landowners.

Legislation establishing Virginia Scenic River designation for the section of the Dan River under consideration is the first element that must be implemented. In addition to clearly expressing the policy intent of the Commonwealth with regard to protection and conservation of the river, designation will focus attention on the river as a natural resource of statewide significance. The increased attention will help ensure a greater scrutiny of plans or proposals that have the potential to significantly alter or destroy those resource qualities that make the river worthy of designation. The locality has the option of creating a local river committee that is either appointed by the DCR or the locality and that will work with the DCR to consider and manage the scenic attributes of the river (see code section [§ 10.1-401.A.4](#) and [§ 10.1-406.1](#)).

A second element of the Conservation Plan involves the City of Danville and Pittsylvania County. Land use plans should explicitly reflect citizens' recognition, appreciation and concern for the river and the valuable role it plays in the region's quality of life. Such plans should be aimed in part at protecting the river and its environs from potential development, or at least to make sure that the development that does occur utilizes low impact development strategies as much as possible.

The final element of the Conservation Plan is the continued individual stewardship of local and riparian landowners. Over the years, this stewardship has been good. If not for this stewardship, the river might not still possess the attributes necessary for inclusion in the Virginia Scenic River System. Through continuation of these efforts, the natural and scenic character of the river can be protected.

Action by the General Assembly to designate this section of the Dan River and the carefully coordinated efforts of the City of Danville and Pittsylvania County should combine to protect the natural and scenic qualities of the recommended section of the Dan River for the enjoyment of future generations. Proposed Legislation is provided in the Appendix.

VIII. ANTICIPATED COST OF DESIGNATION

The only anticipated direct costs as a result of the designation will be those incurred by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) as a result of its duties as administrator of the river. At present, these costs are estimated to be in the range of \$1,000 per year.

IX. AGENCY COMMENTS/ RESOLUTIONS

A draft report was circulated for review among DCR Divisions, other state agencies, the City of Danville and Pittsylvania County. Their comments and any support documents are included in the Appendix of this report.

X. APPENDICIES

- A. Species Ranking definitions of DCR Natural Heritage
- B. Letters, Comments and other support documents
- C. Proposed Legislation

Appendix A

Species Ranking Definitions of DCR Natural Heritage

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	FEDERAL STATUS	STATE STATUS
Stewartia ovata	Mountain Camellia	G4	S2	NL	NL
Phlox pilosa spp. pilosa	Downy Phlox	G5T5	S2	NL	NL
Trifolium reflexum	Buffalo Clover	G3G4	S1	NL	NL
Ameiurus brunneus	Snail Bullhead	G4	S2	NL	NL

Definitions of Abbreviations used on Natural Heritage Resource Lists

The following ranks are used by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation 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.

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

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

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY
VIRGINIA

William D. Sleeper
County Administrator
P.O. Box 426
Chatham, Virginia 24531
dan.sleeper@pittgov.org



Phone (434) 432-7710
Fax (434) 432-7714
Gretna/Hurt (434) 656-6211
Bachelors Hall/Whitmell (434) 797-9550

September 4, 2012

Ms. Danette Poole
Division Director, Planning and Recreation Resources
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
203 Governor Street
Richmond, VA 23219-2010

RE: Scenic River Designation of the Dan River

Dear Ms. Poole:

Pittsylvania County is pleased to receive the letter announcing that the Dan River is recommended for designation as a Virginia Scenic River. We are proud of our area's natural resources and we are glad to receive this official recognition.

This letter is to confirm that the County intends to work with our partner in this project, the City of Danville, to pursue formal Virginia Scenic River designation of the Dan River from Berry Hill Bridge at Route 880 in Pittsylvania County to the downstream property boundary of the Abreu-Grogan Park in Danville. The Resolution of support will be on the agenda for the Board of Supervisor's meeting on September 18, 2012. Copies of the signed Resolution will be forwarded to the Department of Conservation and Recreation and we will contact our General Assembly representatives to request that they serve as patrons for the legislation that will codify the designation.

We greatly appreciate the assistance provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and in particular Lynn Crump, throughout this process.

Sincerely,

William D. Sleeper
County Administrator

WDS/br

Cc: Lynn Crump, Environmental Programs Planner, Department of Conservation and Recreation
Joseph C. King, City Manager, City of Danville
David Parrish, Deputy City Manager, City of Danville
Gregory L. Sides, Assistant County Administrator, Pittsylvania County

AUG 28 2012



City of Danville, Virginia

JOSEPH C. KING
CITY MANAGER
E-MAIL: kingjc@ci.danville.va.us

427 PATTON STREET
P. O. BOX 3300
DANVILLE, VIRGINIA 24543

(434) 799-5100
FAX: (434) 799-6549
www.danville-va.gov

August 23, 2012

Ms. Danette Poole
Division Director of Planning and Recreation Resources
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
203 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219-2010

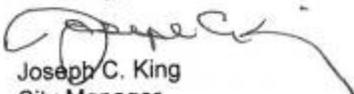
Dear Ms. Poole:

The City of Danville is pleased to receive the letter announcing that the Dan River is recommended for designation as a Virginia Scenic River. The City of Danville and Pittsylvania County are thankful to have such a vital natural resource in the area and look forward to the opportunity to gain official recognition of that resource.

This letter is to confirm that the City intends to work with Pittsylvania County representatives to enthusiastically pursue formal Virginia Scenic River designation of the Dan River from Berry Hill Bridge at Route 880 in Pittsylvania County to the downstream property boundary of Abreu-Grogan Park in Danville. The council letter and resolution of support will be on the October 2, 2012, City Council agenda. Council members have already expressed strong support for the designation. Copies of the signed resolution will be forwarded to the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The localities will contact the local General Assembly representatives to request that they serve as patrons for the legislation that will codify the designation.

The time and support provided by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to facilitate the addition of the Dan River to the program are greatly appreciated. Staff will be in contact with Lynn Crump if it is decided that a public presentation regarding the evaluation is desirable.

Sincerely,



Joseph C. King
City Manager

C: Lynn Crump, Environmental Programs Planner, Department of Conservation & Recreation
William D. Sleeper, Pittsylvania County Administrator
Greg Sides, Assistant County Administrator
David A. Parrish, Deputy City Manager
Bill Sgrinia, Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism
Karen Cross, Director of Outdoor Recreation



*Preserving and Promoting the Natural and Cultural Resources of the Dan River Basin
through Stewardship, Recreation, and Education*

September 6, 2012

Danette Poole
Director, Division of Planning & Recreation Resources
Department of Conservation & Recreation
203 Governor St., Suite 326
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Ms. Poole:

The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) is pleased to learn that portions of the Dan and Banister rivers are being recommended for Virginia Scenic River designation.

Founded in 2002, DRBA works to bridge borders and build communities in the piedmont region of southern Virginia and northern North Carolina. By protecting the region's natural assets such as the Dan and Banister rivers, and by promoting a bi-state network of rivers, greenways, and trails, DRBA promotes tourism as well as healthy lifestyles.

The Dan River from Berry Hill Bridge at Route 880 in Pittsylvania County to the downstream boundary of Abreu/Grogan Park in the City of Danville, a distance of approximately 15 miles, provides a gentle stream in a wilderness setting, abundant wildlife, and lush forested banks. The Banister River from Anderson Bridge at Route 640 in Pittsylvania County to the confluence of the Dan River in Halifax County, a distance of approximately 38.4 miles, also gives a sense of remoteness as it flows over a rock-strewn bed through dense forests.

Both of these rivers have been traveled by DRBA members and guests as part of our popular First Saturday Outings, held year-round for the public since 2002. We know first-hand of the beauty of these rivers, and we consider it most appropriate that they receive designation as Virginia Scenic Rivers. This designation would greatly support our efforts to preserve and promote these rivers as important natural and cultural resources in the Dan River basin, and we enthusiastically endorse this recommendation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fletcher Waynick".

Fletcher Waynick, President
Dan River Basin Association

North Carolina: Suite 401, 413 Church Street • Eden, NC 27288 • 336-627-6270
Virginia: P. O. Box 7 • Collinsville, VA 24078 • 276-634-2545
www.danriver.org

Printed on recycled paper

Appendix B - Letters, Comments and other support documents

From: Jay Woodward (MRC)

Sent: Monday, October 22, 2012 3:12 PM

To: Rhur, Robbie (DCR)

Cc: Watkinson, Tony (MRC)

Subject: Proposed Scenic River Designation of Segments of the Dan, Bannister and Meherrin Rivers

Dear Ms. Rhur,

Per the October 15, 2012 memorandum from Danette Poole requesting comments on the proposed Scenic River Designations for certain segments of the Dan, Banister and Meherrin Rivers, VMRC would like to offer the following:

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Staff has no comment on the local requests to designate the subject segments of the three rivers described as "Scenic Rivers." The VMRC would continue to assume our proprietary responsibility in the management of any impact to or encroachment upon the beds of these river segments below the ordinary high water line through the Joint Permit Application process. We would continue to seek comments from DCR, DGIF and other state agencies, as well as any stakeholders or members of the public at large for such activities involving the submerged lands along the proposed river segments during the standard public interest review process, as required by the Code of Virginia.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue and we look forward to working with you as this process develops.

Jay Woodward, Environmental Engineer, Habitat Management Division

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

(757) 247-8032 office, (757) 504-7009 mobile

jay.woodward@mrc.virginia.gov Website: www.mrc.virginia.gov

From: **Ray, Alfred C. (VDOT)**

Sent: Friday, November 16, 2012 9:55 AM

To: Poole, Danette (DCR); Reed, Beth (DCR)

Cc: Cromwell, James R. (VDOT); Jordan, Elizabeth (VDOT); Newman, Regina K. , E.I.T. (VDOT)

Subject: FW: Potential Virginia Scenic River Designations

Ms. Poole,

Thank you for providing VDOT with the opportunity to review these recommendations. Typically we do not see these until they are submitted as bills during a General Assembly session. In most cases, at that time we ask the bill's sponsor to add the following language:

"Nothing in this section shall preclude the Commonwealth or a local governing body from constructing, reconstructing, operating, or performing necessary maintenance on any road or bridge project."

If you have any questions please give me a call. Thank-you

Chip

A.C. (Chip) Ray, Environmental Program Planner

Virginia Department of Transportation

1401 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219

804/371-2605 (office), 804/814-0603 (cell)

alfred.ray@vdot.virginia.gov



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Street address: 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219
Mailing address: P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218
TDD (804) 698-4021
www.deq.virginia.gov

Douglas W. Damensch
Secretary of Natural Resources

David K. Paylor
Director

(804) 698-0320
1-800-692-7482

January 15, 2013

David A. Johnson, Director
Department of Conservation and Recreation
203 Governor's Street
Richmond, VA 23219-2094

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for requesting input from the State Water Control Board (Board) on the three Scenic River designation proposals for portions of the Dan, Banister and Meherrin Rivers, as noted in your November 27, 2012, letter. DEQ has reviewed its files and the reports on the three proposals. Based on the reports, General Assembly designation of the above as scenic rivers will not impact existing Board programs. Therefore, DEQ, acting on behalf of the Board, has no comment on the proposed designations.

Sincerely,


David K. Paylor

cc: Danette Poole, DCR
David Dowling, DCR
Michelle Vucci, DCR
Cindy Berndt, DEQ
Melanie Davenport, DEQ

Proposed Legislation

Proposed Legislation for the scenic river designation of the Dan River in the City of Danville and Pittsylvania County

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 4 of Title 10.1 a section numbered § 10.1-XXX.X. , relating to Scenic Rivers.

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-XXX.X as follows:

§ 10.1-XXX.X. Dan State Scenic River.

The Dan River from Berry Hill Bridge at Route 880 in Pittsylvania County to downstream property boundary of Abreu/Grogan Park, 2020 Memorial Drive, in the City of Danville, a distance of approximately 15 miles, is hereby designated a component of the Virginia Scenic Rivers System. Nothing in this section shall preclude the Commonwealth or a local governing body from constructing, reconstructing, or performing necessary maintenance on any road or bridge.