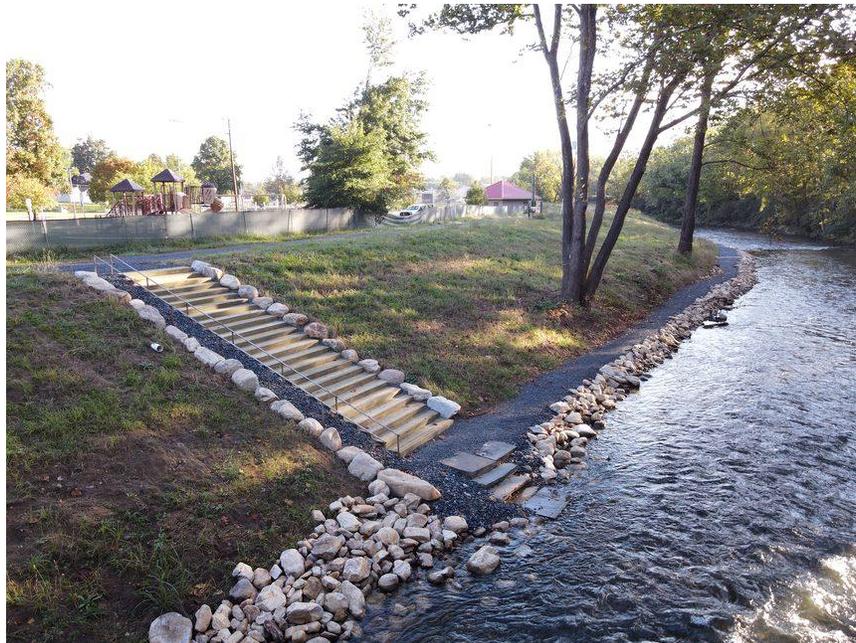




The South River Current

Promoting interest and collaboration for watershed stewardship

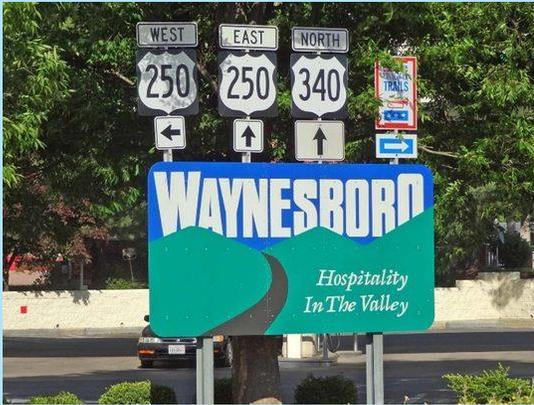


River Restoration: Creating More Connection Between Land and River

As mentioned in past issues of *The South River Current*, several design components of the riverbank restoration along the South River were integrated with the public and the City's future plans in mind. Easy river access, steps with a kayak launch leading to the river, and newly paved basketball courts are among the most noticeable efforts. But there are also other, less obvious aspects of the design that have enhanced the connection between people and the river, demonstrating that it is

possible to remediate and restore without eliminating aesthetics. At North Park, the team regraded the riverbank and lowered an oversized berm to make the slope more natural and provide a lawn seating area for little league baseball spectators. Natural brown, rounded stone (versus classic grey, angular stone) provides a more seamless visual from Bridge Avenue. These details were intended to preserve the welcoming character of the Waynesboro area and all the towns in the South River Watershed.

Did You Know?



- The City's construction on the greenways along the river is due to begin soon. We will update you as the project progresses!
- The Loth Springs Natural Area Project will help reduce pollution runoff and restore the natural habitat with a refreshed greenway and nature trail.
- Only a mill, an inn, one or two churches, and a smattering of residence were established in the area when Downtown Waynesboro was first constructed in 1798.



Connections: Old Town Name and Historic Building Come to Life

As the city of Waynesboro pursues renewed life for its downtown area, various businesses have repurposed old buildings, drawing residents and visitors to stroll through downtown Waynesboro again. Among them is Basic City Beer Company—named after a town that was once across the South River from Waynesboro. In the 1890s, Basic City was a steel-producing, beer-selling railroad town. By the 1920s, the town economy had tanked as lawsuits surfaced concerning the steel-making process. The land and buildings became a part of Waynesboro, and the town identity was all but lost. The owners of Basic City Beer Co. heard the story and embraced the name as their own. They set up shop in the old Virginia Metalcrafters Company building on East Main and integrated about a third of the original factory building into their enterprise, blending the new with the old. Stop in for a taste and embrace the history for yourself. Click [here](#) to find out more.



Take a Walk Back: Loth Springs, Former Resort Area, Becoming Area to Enjoy Nature

During the steel boom of the late 19th century when nature's springs were touted as mineral-rich "healing" baths, Ford's Hotel was built near Loth Springs. The hotel, located where Grace Lutheran Church on Wayne Avenue now stands, was purchased by W.J. Loth. Later known as the Brunswick Hotel Park and Springs, the resort area was a famous destination to get away from it all. The resort lake, created by damming the spring flow, had a small island complete with a gazebo and footbridge to the mainland. The area later became known as Loth Springs. Today, efforts are being made to restore the natural beauty of the area for residents and visitors to enjoy. The Loth Springs Natural Area project, funded in part by the DuPont Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration settlement, is a joint effort among several City departments, including the City Manager's Office, Public Works, Planning, and Parks and Recreation. Engineers have begun to establish a blueprint for the natural landscape, flagging surveyed trees in blue and wetland features in pink throughout the area. More information about the project can be found [here](#).

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