



1. RAILS-TO-TRAILS: ESMONT TRAIL



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Esmont Trail is a 13-mile trail system from Alberene through the historic village of Esmont (the Village), to Warren. The Trail uses the abandoned Nelson-Albemarle rail line originally used for stone transport from the quarries to City of Charlottesville's C&O Railroad, and the town of Scottsville's Hatton Ferry on the James River. A .5-mile spur from the trail will connect the Village to Simpson Park on Porters Road.

BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY: The benefits to the community are tremendous. Albemarle County, City of Charlottesville, and the town of Scottsville are all working to be interconnected. Esmont lies within that connectivity and could bring in both Alberene and Schuyler, taking bicyclers, walkers, and horseback riders off the narrow roads, putting them on wonderfully scenic trails through old historic farmlands and beautiful quarry sites.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PROJECTS: An existing structure on the Purvis Store Market property will serve as a Trailhead offering bathroom facilities and bike repair facility.

ESTIMATED COST: Crushed Stone/mile \$100,000

SUSTAINABILITY OF PROJECT: The trail may be incorporated into the Albemarle County trails system.

JANUARY 2021 UPDATE: Friends of Esmont, Inc. was awarded a one-year planning grant for the Esmont-Alberene Quarry Line Trail funded by Bama Works Fund of Dave Matthews Band at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation. The Trail Master Plan, a working document, was created using these funds.