

# The Greenway News



## The Yadkin River Greenway Council Newsletter

### THE GREENWAY... TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN!

#### 2012 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

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#### A Message from the President

When I joined the Greenway Council in 2004, past Executive Director, Bill Clifton, advised me that along with the Council's primary goal of greenway development and expansion, the Council, from time to time, also had to assume the roles of instigators, agitators and aggravators!

This past year, Bill's profundity has been proven to be an exact apt appellation. While this past year has been one of the Council performing the day to day responsibilities of planning, fundraising and construction, it also added a new responsibility, which I describe as: "The Summer of Maintenance."

Whereas the Council has made great strides with greenway development and construction over the past years, this year, the Construction Committee took a look at the condition of the greenway sections constructed to date. In doing so, several were found to be wanting.

With this in mind, the Committee turned its attention towards evaluating their condition and formulated plans for cleanup, repair and refurbishment.

The Council also reinforced its relationships with our partners in interest, the County of Wilkes and the Towns of Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro.

Meetings were held to develop a perpetual maintenance program and assign and define maintenance responsibilities.

I am pleased to report that those efforts have been productive and all maintenance departments have made strides in cooperating with the Council's suggestions.

The Council has exciting plans in the works for future expansion and you should be seeing the commencement of those projects in the future.



Former Executive Director and Current Council Member, Bill Clifton, stands at Fish Dam Creek Bridge

As the Council begins another year, we invite you to join us at our regularly scheduled monthly meetings to receive updates on expansion plans and progress.

Meeting details and a schedule of our meetings are located on page 6.

If you can join us, the Council suggests you contact our Executive Director, RG Absher, to confirm the proposed schedule dates and times and assure that our meeting facility can accommodate your presence.

I now invite you to enjoy the news of our past year's events and projects as presented by the Council's various Committee Chairpersons and Executive Director.

As always, I look forward to seeing **YOU** on the Greenway!

Charlie White

## GREENWAY 2012 CONSTRUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

During 2012, new construction activity on the Yadkin River Greenway was not as pronounced as in years past. However, a significant amount of work continued in the area of easement procurements and maintenance work on existing Greenway segments. The ongoing work on the Smoot to Memorial Park segment (Phase III Segment 1) was completed during the early part of 2012. This segment of the Greenway was described in detail in the January 2012 Volume of the Construction Highlights. The addition of the 1.2 mile segment between Smoot and Memorial Parks has been a great success has been described by many as the most beautiful section of the Greenway system.

In 2012, the NC Fish and Wildlife Commission finally constructed a much anticipated fishing pier near the Pardue Crossing at the Yadkin River. In conjunction with the new fishing pier, a new universally accessible parking lot, approximately 1000 feet west of the Pardue Crossing, was constructed and is currently in operation. The new parking area is designed for a capacity of two (2) vehicles. The parking lot is constructed with a paved trail that ties into the existing Greenway, thus providing easy access to the fishing pier for individuals with physical challenges.

Not much progress has been realized in the completion of the Moravian Creek to Wilkes Community College (Phase V, Segment 2) project. This portion of the Greenway, which starts at the Moravian Creek Trail Head and extends along Moravian Creek to the bridge on Highway 268. It has been delayed because one property easement has not been finalized. While the owners of the property have been cooperative in the easement procurement effort, other issues have arisen that have delayed finalization of this easement. We will continue to work with the property owners in hopes of finalizing the construction of this segment by the end of this year.

Near the end of 2012, we received notification that the Yadkin River Greenway would be receiving a Recreation Trails Program (RTP) grant of \$75,000.00 to construct the Lowe's Trailhead to Cub Creek/Yadkin River Confluence (Phase III, Segment 2a) section of the Greenway. As of this writing, we have secured all of the easements needed to proceed with the construction. We are in the process of finalizing the contract for the grant. We anticipate beginning the design work for this segment of the Greenway early this spring with construction following in late spring or early summer. The RTP grant is a matching grant and the Yadkin River Greenway Council will have to procure additional funding for this match. The proposed Phase III, Segment 2a section represents an additional 2,113 linear feet of trail or 0.40 miles.

In 2013, the Yadkin River Greenway Council will continue to work on the procurement of additional easements for future segments that are currently under consideration. We are in discussion with several land owners regarding proposed easements that will greatly enhance the functionality, as well as the beauty, of the Yadkin River Greenway in the future. As always, we look forward to the continued support of all of the "Friends of the Greenway" throughout the upcoming year in our efforts to expand the trail system of the Yadkin River Greenway.

By Frank Taracido, Construction Chair

## YADKIN RIVER GREENWAY'S NEW 911 COLOR CODE SYSTEM



New 911 Sign

The Yadkin River Greenway Council, along with the towns of North Wilkesboro, Wilkesboro and the Wilkes County Communications center have color coded all greenway sections for faster response to emergencies if and when they occur on the greenway.

Since the existing completed Greenway segments are presently unconnected, without this new color coding system it would have been virtually impossible to locate anyone who placed a distress call to 911 and only stated that they were "on the greenway."

Now, if you are on a greenway segment and need to contact emergency services, you simply identify the color of the segment, which is marked along the greenway section, you are on. Please remember to make a mental note of the color code each time you enter a greenway segment.

## SMOOT TO MEMORIAL TRAIL CEREMONY

The official Ribbon Cutting and Trail Certification Ceremony was held for the new Smoot Park to Memorial Park Section on October 2nd, 2012 at the Smoot Park picnic shelter. During the ceremony, the 1.2 mile section was officially certified and brought into the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail (OVNHT) System by the National Park Service. Over 150 people attended the rain soaked, noon day, ceremony and ribbon cutting.

Ceremony speakers included, NC Congresswomen Virginia Foxx, Senator Burr's Field Representative, Mike Finley, Wilkes County Commissioner, Chairman Gary Johnson, North Wilkesboro Mayor, Robert Johnson and Overmountain Victory Association President, Mark Bowen.

Author, Randell Jones, presented the history of the Overmountain Men who fought in the Revolutionary War, Battle of Kings Mountain, which took place on October 7, 1780. The OVNHT passes through Wilkes along the Yadkin River Greenway and honors the route of the Wilkes-Surry militia who passed along the Yadkin River in 1780 to ultimately participate in a patriot victory at the Battle of Kings Mountain. Kings Mountain is considered, by historians, as the turning point in winning our nations freedom in The American Revolutionary War.



Members of the Yadkin River Greenway Council stand with Guest Speakers and Officials at the October 2nd Trail Ceremony of the New Smoot Park to Memorial Park Section Dedication

Former US Congressman and US Senator James T. Broyhill also spoke on his successful accomplishment in getting the legislation approved in 1980 which designated the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail as a part of the National Historic Trails System.

RG Absher, Executive Director

## "Adopt-A-Trail" Volunteers Are How We Continue to Function

*"Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect the nations compassion, unselfish caring, and patience and just plain love for one another" - Emily Bombeck*

The New Year holiday provided the Yadkin River Greenway Council the opportunity to share our feelings of gratitude for the continued support and caring of our volunteers. Thank-you is not always enough to express our sincere appreciation for their long hours of hard work. These individuals dedication has helped make our journey along the trails and corridors enjoyable, pleasant, safe and accessible, all the while, improving our minds and bodies for a healthier community. The Council has been very fortunate to have these devoted community volunteers.

The Master Gardeners, under the leadership of Bill Hanlin, NC Cooperative Extension Service and Diane Stephens, Club President, are the keepers of the Reddies River Trailhead landscaped area. The Master Gardeners inspect the landscaping monthly and periodically conduct works days throughout the year.

Jim Brown, with Tyson, Inc. leads a group of Tyson employees to maintain and groom the trail from Tyson Trailhead to Pardue Crossing.

Ginger and Harvey Barlow conduct preening of the landscaping adjacent to the dental office parking lot, and the families of Jennifer and Arthur Lankford and Lee and Ginger Bentley, weed and groom the area around the Recognition Wall.

In addition, Freida Matthews performs weed control at Blueberry Garden and Sonny Church conducts preening at the Yadkin and Reddies Confluence.

New members who have joined the Adopt-A-Trail program include: Danny Day: who will clean the area around the Pat M. Day tree and memorial plaque, Keith Howell: will groom flowers and shrubs along his son William Howell's Boy Scout Eagle project along Jefferson Turnpike, Jule Hubbard: will keep in check the steps and area around the canoe ramp built by his son, Miles Hubbard, as an Eagle Scout project.

Adopt-A-Trail activities include: the Old Farts Hiking Club, with the help of the town of North Wilkesboro maintenance crew, cleanup fallen limbs, sticks and downed trees along the Jefferson Turnpike. Also, at the recognition wall during summer of 2012, the corridor was weeded and mulched by volunteers Freida Matthews, Keith Johnson, John Matthews, and Rob Hicks. (continued on page 4)



Eagle Scout Corey Winkler stands by a newly constructed park bench!



("Volunteers," continued from page 3)

A special thanks, to William and Lynn Clark for cleaning up the greenway while routinely walking their dogs and exercising on the trails.

We would be remiss not to remember and thank our maintenance crews. The maintenance crews from Wilkes County and North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro have been especially responsive to make sure the trails are maintained and safe for all citizens!

The greatest need for volunteers at this time is to help tend and care for the landscaped areas and sections along the greenway trails. There are many opportunities for new projects along the Rivers Edge, Fish Dam Creek, and Smoot to Memorials Trails.

If you or your organization are interested in volunteering for a project for the betterment of the greenway, please contact either RG Absher at the Yadkin River Greenway office ,651-8967, or Freida Mathews, Volunteer Coordination Committee Chairperson.

Freida Mathews  
YRGC Community Volunteer  
Coordination Committee Chair



Enjoy the Greenway All Year Long!!!  
A Fall Walk Along Jefferson Turnpike

## Greenway Memorials Serve as a Lasting Gift



The Yadkin River Greenway Recognition Wall



A Distance/Mileage Marker at Smoot Park

Throughout the years, as the Yadkin River Greenway has grown and expanded, a significant and important part of the funding has come through memorial and honorary gifts.

The Greenway Council, over the years, has created standardized donation levels for memorials and honorariums. They are:

- Donations of \$1,500 to \$2,500: a bronze nameplate on the "Jogger" Recognition Wall Plaque.
- Donations of \$2,500 to \$4,999: a bronze nameplate on the "Pathfinder" Recognition Wall Plaque and a tree planting with nameplate.
- Donations of \$5,000 to \$9,999: a bronze nameplate on the "Explorer" Recognition Wall Plaque and a tree planting with nameplate.
- Donations of \$10,000 and higher: a bronze nameplate on the "Trailblazer" Recognition Wall Plaque along with a mileage marker, constructed of Georgia Blue Granite (24" W X 10" D X 16" H), and a tree planting with nameplate.

RG Absher, Executive Director

## GREENWAY MAINTENANCE REQUIRES PARTNERSHIPS

It's often said that when the Greenway Council builds something, the work really just begins. This is certainly the case when new sections of the Yadkin River Greenway are constructed. Since the Yadkin River Greenway Council has a limited annual budget and resources to maintain the entire 7.2 mile network of Greenway segments constructed to date, the Council is very fortunate that our partnerships enable the maintenance and well groomed appearance of the greenway year around.

In order to maintain a high quality of maintenance and grounds upkeep, the work is carried out a result of a 3 way maintenance partnership with Wilkes County, North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro. This partnership requires periodic meetings, careful coordination and sustained efforts throughout the year.

In addition, beautifully manicured landscaping is a result of excellent partnerships with organizations like the Master Gardeners, Tyson Inc. employees, Boy Scouts of America, and private individuals who volunteer on the greenway.

Agency partners, who have provided in-kind donations, include the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, The US Army Corps of Engineers, The Yadkin Valley Heritage Corridor, The Wilkes Tourism Development, NC Adopt-A-Trail, Wilkes Community Foundation, Wilkes Community College, the NC Department of Transportation, and the NC Recreational Trails Program.

Also, there are partnerships made up of the adjacent landowners who have generously provided easements to make the Yadkin River Greenway possible. The greenway would be but a dream if it wasn't for the wonderful partnerships throughout the entire greenway community. The greenways success is due, in large part, because of the willingness and ability of the people of Wilkes to work together!

RG Absher, Executive Director

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP THE GREENWAY?

Originally just a gleam in the eyes of a few visionary people, nearly twenty years later the Greenway has become an integral part of the community. Many individuals and organizations have had a hand in this. But for the greenway to realize its full potential, many more will need to be involved. There are a wide variety of ways that individuals can help the greenway continue to succeed.

The most obvious way to support the greenway is to use it regularly, which will improve your health, boost your morale, and enhance the experience of others on the trail. When you do, please comply with the regulations posted near every trailhead in order to maximize safety and enjoyment for all users. Of course, some people do not comply with the rules, so your assistance in removing trash on or near the greenway would be most appreciated.

Everyone can help spread the message that the Greenway is a great place to visit and a worthwhile destination for day trippers from anywhere. Bicycle racers, bird watchers, and others come from afar to participate in events on the Greenway. They, in turn, sing its praises to others which help's promote tourism and has had a positive impact on the economy of Wilkes County.

The Council conducts a series of annual fundraising campaigns to defray operating expenses. The primary audience for the newsletter you are reading is Friends of the Greenway support program. Anyone can join by making a relatively modest (or larger!) annual donation to the Greenway Council. Another important Greenway fundraising source is the annual Turtle Regatta in May. The council also hosts a benefit golf tournament each September at Oakwoods Country Club. Both events offer sponsorship opportunities which include valuable publicity for businesses and individuals.

There are other ways to contribute financially to the greenway which have been previously discussed. The original Greenway footbridge over the Reddies River will need a new replacement deck soon. This could provide a unique gifting opportunity. If you wish to participate in Greenway fundraising efforts, please contact our office for more information.

All meetings of the Greenway Council are open to the public, and are announced in advance on our website. Guests are welcome and comments and suggestions are welcomed! Contact our office if you would like to see the agenda.

Greenway construction grantors generally require that needed easements be in hand prior to funds being awarded, so even a single missing easement can prevent a much longer segment of greenway from being built. This is why two lengthy gaps in the Greenway still exist between Smoot Park and Kerr Scott Dam. We hope that someday we will be able to eventually obtain these easements to complete the greenway!

Finally, if you have significant time and energy to commit, you may be interested in becoming a member of the Greenway Council. This requires attendance at monthly meetings and active participation in the fundraising efforts of the council. The position pays nothing but it is very rewarding in other ways. Please contact our office to learn more.

Sam Stroud,  
Yadkin River Greenway Council Member

## Fundraising: Ways You Can Help Grow the Greenway

We're always grateful for donations from people in our community who want to help keep our greenway growing. Those gifts are specifically used for greenway construction, not for operating expenses, and they are tax-deductible as the Greenway is a 501c-3 charitable organization.

The Greenway holds several events each year to raise money for the administration and operation of the Greenway organization. Our 10th annual Turtle Regatta was held on May 19, 2012. Over 1,000 toy turtles were "adopted" via a \$5 contribution that qualified the "adopter" of the first turtles across the finish line to win a variety of prizes. The first place prize was a bicycle donated by Cook's Inc. located at West Park. This past year's event raised nearly \$9,000 for the Greenways operation.



Gearing up for the Regatta!!!

Thursday, September 20, 2012 was the date of our 9th annual Yadkin River Greenway Benefit Golf Tournament which was held at Oakwoods Country Club. Participants enjoyed a great round of golf on what turned out to be a beautiful September day. Thanks to participants and various sponsorships from local businesses and individuals, the Council raised over \$6,000.



A Team Tees Off At The Annual Golf Tournament

Our "Friends of the Greenway" donation program produced over \$10,700 this past year! You can become a Friend of the Greenway as well! Just contact us by phone or email and we'll give you the information to join. The ever growing Greenway system belongs to all of us in Wilkes. Thanks to all who supported our Greenway efforts this year!!!

By: Keith Johnston,  
Fund Raising Chair  
and R. G. Absher,  
Executive Director



Lee Bentley Fires Away!!

## GREENWAY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MEETING DATES

At 2012 years end, the Yadkin River Greenway Council membership consists of Charles White, President & Chairman, Carolyn Frazier-Pardue, Vice President, Gary Cogdill, Treasurer, Susan Buchanan, Secretary. Other Council members are: Lee Bentley, Vicki Church, Bill Clifton, Darrell Groves, Gary Johnson, Keith Johnston, Freida Matthews, Carl McCann, Chuck Smithey, Steve Steele, Sam Stroud, Frank Taracido, David Wiles and Roy Williams. The Executive Director is RG Absher. We thank these individuals for their service and participation in the success of the Yadkin River Greenway.

Look us up on the internet at: [www.yadkinrivergreenway.com](http://www.yadkinrivergreenway.com) to learn more about us! We're also now on **Facebook!** Check us out!

***Schedule of 2013 Yadkin River Greenway Meetings:*** February 26, March 26, April 23, May 28, June 25, (June meeting is also our annual meeting), July 23, August 27, September 24, October 22, November 26, (No meetings are held in December due to Christmas holidays). Meeting times are typically at Noon at the Wilkes Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting Room. Any changes on our meeting dates, times and locations will be announced on the above web-site.



## TREASURES ABOUND ALONG THE GREENWAY



Fall view of Jefferson's Turnpike along the Yadkin River Greenway. Just one of many greenway scenic vistas!!

### Treasures ABOUND!

When you visit the greenway, bring your camera! You never know what you might see! The greenway is a wonderful place of discovery and new sights and sounds are waiting around every corner. The greenway is the perfect place to enjoy the changes of the seasons the entire year round and there is so much to see and experience.

I happen to be a naturalist and historian from my years of working at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir. I enjoy doing River Walks for groups. It's an opportunity for people to connect with the great outdoors along the greenway.

During a typical "Riverside Walk," I tell the group about the greenways history. The dream began back in the early 1990's when Dr. Phillip (Phil) Carlson, formally of Wilkes, came up with an idea to have a riverside trail that would extend from W. Kerr Scott Dam to Smoot Park. I remember talking to Phil about his dream during a canoe trip down the river. Phil had an amazing vision, and it's taken many years, many committees, hard work and a lot of funding to make Phil's dream become a reality.

And today, some 20 plus years after Phil's original idea of the greenway, there are 7.2 miles of greenway that have been constructed along this intended route. And nothing better sells the idea of a greenway to someone than for them to see it for themselves! We hope that many will take advantage of seeing the greenway first hand and experience its health and recreational benefits.

And there is so much to see! Examples include the rippling water of Fish Dam Creek Gorge trail just below W. Kerr Scott Dam and a fall walk along the ruggedly beautiful Jefferson's Turnpike.

I like to point out the spring wildflowers and the many species of ducks and waterfowl which can be spotted along the river banks. I encourage all to experience the greenway's beautiful scenery as the greenway is open year around. Also, you can follow the change in seasons along the greenway! Again you never know what surprises you see might see on any given day! So, again, I encourage you to be sure and bring your camera!!

RG Absher, Executive Director

### UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE FISHING PIER INSTALLED THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH NC WILDLIFE RESOURCES

This past year saw the completion of a universally accessible fishing pier installed along the Mulberry Fields section of the Yadkin River Greenway. The effort was made possible through a partnership with the Yadkin River Greenway Council and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission.

The new fishing pier provides universal access to fishing along the banks of the Yadkin River. The fishing pier parking area is located at the end of Willow Lane, near Cooks Sporting Goods, in North Wilkesboro.

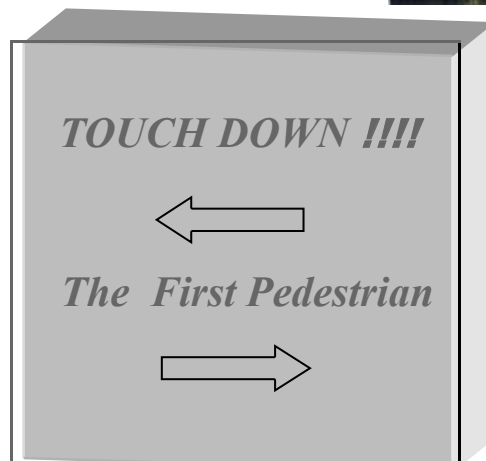
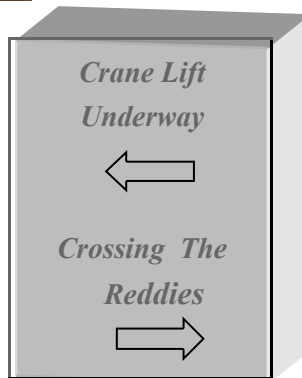
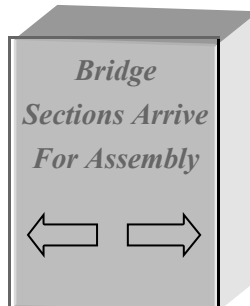
The fishing pier project is just one of the ways that the Yadkin River Greenway partners with other agencies that allows the greenway to expand entertainment opportunities for a wide variety of greenway users.



New Fishing Pier Installed near  
Pardue Crossing

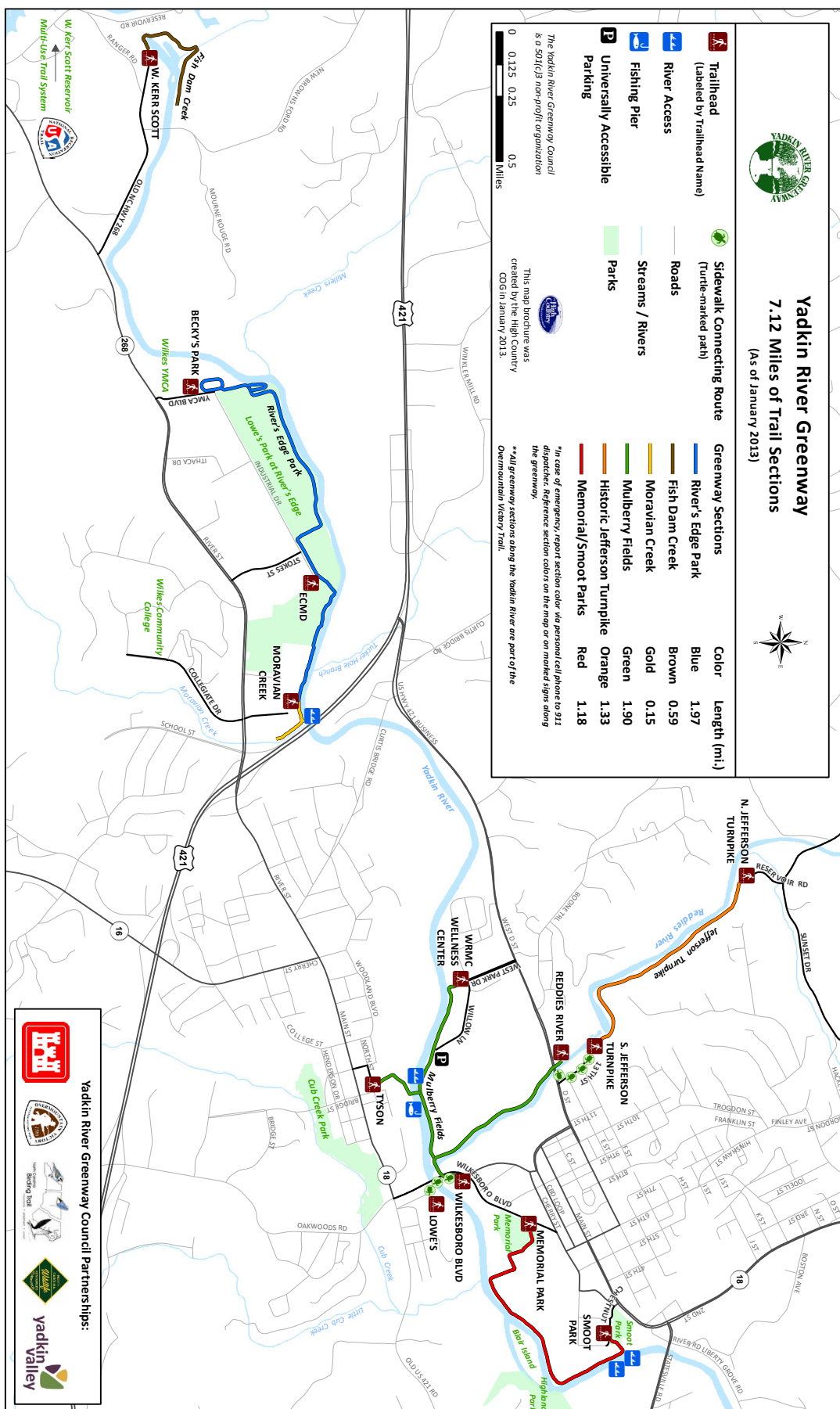
## BRIDGES OF THE GREENWAY

The first 156-FOOT-LONG GREENWAY PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE, which crosses the Reddies River, was placed February 20, 2002. The single-span steel truss bridge, weighing 68,000 pounds, arrived in three pieces and was assembled by Dane Construction Co. of Mooresville, NC which was the general contractor. The first person to cross the bridge was Mark McSwain of Gastonia. McSwain worked for AME Inc., which supplied the two cranes used to install the bridge. The 12-foot-wide bridge was purchased for \$190,000 from Steadfast Bridge Co. in Fort Payne, Ala. It is made with “weathering” steel and the deck is made of pressure treated wood.





## New Greenway Map As Shown On New Brochure



**The Yadkin River Greenway  
Council Newsletter**

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## BECOME A FRIEND OF THE GREENWAY!!

The **Friends of the Greenway** campaign has completed another year as a “grass roots” support organization. Friends of the Greenway added 12 new members during 2012 for a grand total of 254 members! Of these, 95 renewed their membership during the past year. We hope all will renew during 2013!

Friends of the Greenway contributions, over the past 10 years, now total \$96,050.00! These donations go a long way towards covering the administration expenses of the Yadkin River Greenway Council. This enables the Council to fulfill its mission of developing a greenway system in our community. Annual membership is open to all. And, since the Council is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization, membership dues are usually tax deductible.

We offer opportunities to our members to volunteer time on specific greenway events and projects, helping in the greenway office, and contacting prospective new members. This newsletter and other communications will, hopefully, keep our members informed of Greenway activities.

Each January, or based on membership anniversary date, we will begin contacting each Friend of the Greenway to consider the renewal of their membership and to continue their support of the greenway. Regular memberships are: \$20 for individuals, \$40 for families, \$12 for youth, \$100 for businesses, and \$50 for civic organizations.

Also, if you would like to be recognized as a **Friend of the Greenway**, the donation categories are:

**Daniel Boone:** \$100

**Sir Walter Raleigh:** \$250

**Henry Hudson:** \$500

**Lewis and Clark:** \$1,000

Once you become a Friend of the Greenway, your contributions are constantly tabulated. As you make additional contributions, you will progress through the donation ranks of membership levels mentioned above. Once you ultimately reach the combined contribution level of \$1,500, your contributions will be recognized as a **Pathfinder** and a bronze recognition name plate will be installed on the Greenways Recognition Wall, **Pathfinder** memorial for all to see!

Thanks again for your continuing support! If you have any questions, please call the Greenway office at: 336-651-896.

RG Absher, Executive Director