

The Greenway News



The Yadkin River Greenway Council Newsletter

The Greenway... To Build And Preserve!

2016 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

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A Message from the President

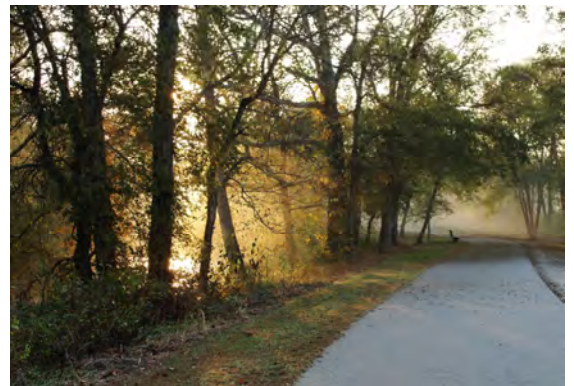
I recently had the opportunity to bump into an old business acquaintance while on one of my recent greenway walkabouts.

Upon learning of my involvement with the greenway, he enthusiastically exclaimed, The greenway is the **BEST!** thing to ever happen to Wilkes County!"

Now, while I can't *totally* support his position, I *CAN* whole heartily agree that it is certainly **ONE!** of the best things to ever happen!

I am pleased to report that several significant events occurred in 2016 to further expand the greenways popularity and usefulness to the community. The first was the continued expansion of the Moravian Creek section to Wilkes Community College. The second was the continued planning and initial construction of the Smoot to Memorial Parks to Mulberry Fields connector. Details of these exciting projects will be shared shortly.

Thanks to the generous financial support of the community, 2016 was a great year for Greenway fund raising programs. In addition, generous funding by various corporate and governmental entities allowed the Greenway to continue to expand and help meet the recreational and physical fitness needs of the visitors and citizens of Wilkes County.



The Yadkin River Greenway
Photo by William and Lynn Clark

The Council would like to thank our partners in interest, the Towns of Wilkesboro, North Wilkesboro and Wilkes County for their continued support, protection and maintenance of this valuable asset. Their efforts continue to sustain its growth and development.

Since its inception back in 1992, the Greenway has now grown to over **7.6** miles in length in six unconnected sections. And, when the Moravian Creek extension and link up to the existing WCC trail system is finally completed, the first **CONNECTED** section!

I would like to thank our Council members for their efforts and support and congratulate them on their continued success.

As always, I look forward to seeing **YOU!** on the **Greenway!** Or, as some like to say, "The best thing to ever happen to Wilkes County!"

Charlie White

Future Memorial Park to Mulberry Fields Connection

These photos were taken in October of 2016 and show the initial construction of a new Greenway segment near Memorial Park in North Wilkesboro. Construction funds were provided by a National Park Service grant source “The Outdoor Foundation.” The Yadkin River Greenway is working with the Town of North Wilkesboro to complete this project. Construction will commence as soon as plans, permits, grants and funding are in place.



The site preparation above shows the clearing of brush and grading of the surface.



Geo-fabric installation

Gravel installation

Compacted surface ready for paving



The above photo shows the location of the intersection of the existing Memorial Park to Smoot Park Greenway Section.

Moravian Creek to Wilkes Community College Extension Construction

Construction of the “descent phase” of the greenway behind the Windemere Apartment complex, down to the WCC trail facility and campus, was completed in 2016.

The credit for the idea and vision of this connector must be given to the Town of Wilkesboro’s past Maintenance Director, Jim Wyatt. We also extend our thanks to the very skilled Wilkesboro town employees who helped make this construction feat possible.

Here are a few photos that help illustrate how this extension was accomplished.



National Park Service Master Plan Completed

The National Park Service, in Partnership with the Yadkin River Greenway and other local communities have completed a Master Plan for developing on-the-ground sections of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail from W. Kerr Scott Dam to Elkin. The study area includes a 19 mile route that passes through Wilkes County and sections of Surry and Yadkin Counties.

Boone based Destination by Design spearheaded the development of the master plan for the project. The plan includes mapping, GIS gathering components, historic sites, topographic data and other related information. A key factor in the development of this corridor is that the National Park Service has deemed that the trail corridor can be placed anywhere within a half mile distance from the actual historic route and still be considered eligible for certification. Over the past years, several sections of the Yadkin River Greenway have been certified as sections of the Overmountain Victory Trail. In addition, the town of Elkin recently obtained 13 land easements which, when the trail segments within those easements have been constructed, will bring the on-the-ground Overmountain Victory Trail close to the Wilkes County line.

The Overmountain Victory Trail honors the 1780 historic Revolutionary War campaign of the Battle of Kings Mountain. The Battle of Kings Mountain resulted in a Patriot victory and is considered, among military historians, as the turning point in the American Revolutionary War. The Overmountain Victory Trail was designated by Congress in 1980 and signed into law by then President Jimmy Carter.

The Total designated route is 330 trail route is 330 miles and passes through sections of Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Counting the Yadkin River Greenway section mileage and the Elkin Trail mileage, approximately 6 miles is already on the ground from Elkin to W. Kerr Scott Dam.

Contained in the Master Plan are design concepts which provide visually pleasing improvements created by signage and landscaping along overpasses, bridges, trail heads, and informational kiosks in the Communities from Elkin to W. Kerr Scott Dam. In addition, the Master Plan identifies potential areas where the trail might pass through the communities along the Yadkin River near NC Highway 268 from Elkin to W. Kerr Scott Reservoir. The Yadkin River Greenway contains several Park Service Certified sections of the Overmountain Victory Trail.



The above graphic is one of many design concepts contained in the Overmountain Victory Trail

Volunteers Make A World Of Difference

“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul.”
- John Muir

We have journeyed a long way since 1994 and with the help of our volunteers we have accomplished much in many different ways. Volunteers keep our greenway beautiful and functioning by helping maintain our trails, landscaped areas and corridors along the Yadkin and Reddies Rivers. These greenway volunteers give people the opportunity to enjoy nature while walking, running, biking or just socializing, which also helps foster a sense of a healthy community.

The Yadkin River Greenway Council would like to applaud and recognize the devoted volunteers who have been with us, year after year in helping us to meet our mission and goals, while continuing down the path to a wonderful adventure toward more beautiful and flourishing greenway trails.

- The Master Gardeners - under the leadership of Bill Hanlin and Diane Stephens - and in cooperation with the Town of North Wilkesboro's maintenance crew have worked together to keep the area at the Reddies River Trailhead beautifully landscaped and well preserved. Also, the Master Gardners agreed to maintain the area around the recognition wall.
- With help from the Health Foundation the area around the recognition wall was mulched and groomed, prior to the opening of the new outdoor exercise facility located near the YMCA Express.
- Jim Brown, with Tyson Foods, Inc. – leads a group of Tyson employees in maintaining and grooming the greenway section from the Wilkesboro Tyson Trailhead, along Ray's Way to Pardue Crossing and the landscaped area below the crossing.
- Sonny Church dedicates his efforts to preserve an area along the greenway at the confluence of the Yadkin and Reddies Rivers which he created in memory of his parents.
- Dan Day agreed to groom and preserve the area where a tree and monument plaque was installed in memory of his mother, Pat Day.
- Keith Howell, father of Eagle Scout, William Howell, continues to groom a flower bed and landscaped corridor along the Jefferson Turnpike trail.
- Ginger and Harvey Barlow have for many years, pruned and planted new flowers in the landscaped area near the dental office parking lot.

(Volunteers continued)

- A special thanks to Lisa and Laura Laufenberg for the volunteer hours they spent mulching and doing weed control around the blueberry bushes on the Reddies River Trail at the confluence of the rivers. These were volunteer hours Laura needed to complete a project she was involved in, in her hometown in the state of Ohio.
- Julie Hubbard maintains the canoe access facility on the Mulberry Fields section near Pardue Crossing. The access steps were constructed by his son, Miles, as an Eagle Scout project.
- Renee and Allen Winkler agreed to preserve and groom an area around the picnic tables and benches along Smoot Park to Memorial Park greenway section. The picnic and benches were constructed and installed by their son, Corey, who successfully earned his scout rank by completing this project.
- As Always, a special thanks to William and Lynn Clark who routinely clean up trash along the greenway while exercising and walking their dog.
- David Wiles and Graham Wyche, two of our council members, have volunteered and agreed to groom and trim the blueberry bushes adjacent to the confluence of the rivers.
- Maintenance plays a major part in keeping the greenway trails a pleasant recreational park for all the participants to enjoy. Over the past year the towns of North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro and the Parks and Recreation Department maintenance crews, have delivered and assisted in spreading mulch, cutting downed trees, mowing, replacing rock dust along the trails and repairing erosion. Thank you for your exceptional response in making sure that all greenway sections are safe for greenway users.
- We are grateful and very appreciative to the Boy Scouts in our community for their continuing support and for all the Eagle Scout projects that take place along the greenway corridors.
- Brett Buckhart, under the leadership of Gary Jordan and Troop 335 scout members built and replaced numerous bluebird boxes on the Reddies River Trail, the Moravian Creek Trail at River's Edge and on the Smoot to Memorial section of the greenway.
(See below photo and write-up)



For his Eagle Scout Project, Boy Scout Brett Buckhart of Troop 335, replaced or installed 34 new Bluebird nesting boxes along the Yadkin River Greenway. In addition, Brett inspected and cleaned all the existing bluebird boxes. Brett also collected the GPS locations of all the Bluebird boxes and furnished the greenway with an inventory sheet for future use and maintenance of the existing bluebird boxes.

Going forward, BSA Troop 335 has agreed to adopt the Greenway Bluebird box inspection and cleaning duties. Bluebird boxes greatly assist in the successful nesting of the beautiful Bluebirds along sections of the Yadkin River Greenway.

You Can Help Beautify the Greenway Become a Greenway Volunteer!!!

With the continued expansion of the greenway, the Council will need even more dedicated volunteers to aid in our growth and create new recreational opportunities.

If you or your organization is interested in volunteering, please contact the Yadkin River Greenway office at 336-651-8967 or Freida Matthews at 336-838-4938.

Brett Buckhart, a member of Boy Scout Troop 335, stands by one of the new Bluebird Boxes that he installed along the greenway near Memorial Park as part of his Eagle Scout Project.

Bus Turnaround Installed Near Willow Lane

The National Park Service provided a \$5,000.00 grant to construct a bus turnaround area on the Yadkin River Greenway near Willow Lane in North Wilkesboro. The bus parking lot will allow buses to bring students attending educational programs about the Overmountain Victory trail during the annual reenactment march to Kings Mountain, South Carolina. On September 29, 2016, an estimated 600 Wilkes County Students attended programs on the greenway conducted by the Overmountain Victory Trail Association re-enactors who, while dressed in period clothing of the American Revolutionary War, told the story of the Historic Battle of Kings Mountain.



Bus Turnaround Area at the end of Willow Lane along the Greenway

600 Wilkes County Students And Teachers Connect To Their History



Re-enactors from the OVTA present demonstrations along the Greenway on September 29th for Wilkes County students

On September 29, Over 600 students, teachers and volunteers from Wilkes County Schools joined the Overmountain Victory Trail Association (OVTA) re-enactors on the Yadkin River Greenway for a day of experiencing history up close.

The Wilkes County 4th Graders came out for a field trip to connect with their history and learn about the historic campaign to the Battle of Kings Mountain which took place in 1780.

Re-enactors, clad in 18th century colonial period dress, provided demonstrations and hands on activities informing the students of the story leading up to the Battle of Kings Mountain.

During the day, students rotated through stations which included topics such as colonial cooking, life in the militia, marching and drilling and skills of the backcountry frontier.

The event was held near Willow Lane along the Greenway. Students and teachers alike remarked how beautiful the greenway is along the river.

Construction Highlights

During 2016, work continued on the Moravian Creek segment of the Greenway that extends into Wilkes Community College. The Town of Wilkesboro continued the construction of this segment of the greenway and extended the rough trail all the way into the community college trail system. Several storm water structures and retaining walls were constructed as part of this effort with some work remaining to be completed on the college campus proper. As part of finalizing this segment of the greenway, the Greenway and the Town of Wilkesboro were able to procure a grant from the North Carolina Water Resources Department to pave the remainder of the section of the greenway from just North of Highway NC 268 bridge all the way to the proposed new trailhead at the Wilkes Community College campus parking area. Construction of this section of the greenway is to take place sometime in the spring of 2017, as the weather allows, and after the Merlefest Music Festival is complete.

The Greenway Council, in conjunction with the Town of North Wilkesboro, continues to work on a connector between Memorial Park and the existing Mulberry Fields segment of the greenway. As of this writing, all of the necessary easements have now been procured with the exception of one. This particular easement has been agreed to verbally and finalization of paperwork is needed to record the proposed easement. Actual physical work has already started on this segment along the Yadkin River on the Phillips family property that was formerly The Gun Club. All of the grading and installation of stone base is in place in preparation for future expansion from Memorial Park to the Mulberry Fields area. We continue to procure the funding for the construction of this segment of the greenway. We have currently received several grants and commitments for the funding required for this segment, and we are in the process securing other grants that have been applied for to complete the funding necessary to proceed with the design and construction. As of this writing, we anticipate to have the funding in place by the summer of 2017 with design and permitting of this section to take place throughout the winter months of 2017-2018. We anticipate to continue with the actual on-ground construction and completion of this segment sometime by the end of the summer of 2018.

In 2016, the Yadkin River Greenway was able to secure a grant from the National Park Service for \$5,000.00 to construct a bus turnaround at the end of Willow Lane, near access to the Yadkin River Greenway. This particular bus turnaround has been completed and will be utilized to bus in students during educational trips to the Yadkin River Greenway area.

During the latter part of April, 2016, North Carolina Department of Transportation and N.C. State University installed a vehicle/pedestrian counter just east of our trailhead, at the recognition wall, to gather data relative to bicycle and pedestrian use of the greenway. This counter continues to work and provides data that will be utilized in the future for quantifying utilization of [the Yadkin River Greenway](#).

Finally, over the past two years, the Greenway Council and The Health Foundation have been working to establish an adult exercise area on the greenway. This past summer, The Health Foundation funded the construction and installation of an adult exercise equipment center directly west of the existing recognition wall, at the access of the Yadkin River Greenway trailhead. This adult exercise equipment station will become part of the greenway system once the greenway is extended in a westerly direction, toward the Adult Daycare Center, in the future.

The Yadkin River Greenway continues to evaluate future expansions to the greenway system. We are always appreciative of the "Friends of the Greenway" for their continued support, financial and otherwise. We like to extend our continued gratitude to the many landowners that have generously provided easements during 2016 which allows for future expansion of the Yadkin River Greenway.

Fundraisers and Annual Contributions Help The Greenway Expand

In just fifteen years, the Yadkin River Greenway has gone from blueprints of empty land to footprints on miles of greenway. 8.2 miles of Greenway give everyone easy access to the beauty of the land along the rivers that flow through the center of our community and the greenway helps connect our parks and neighborhoods. Today we have new sections in the construction and planning phases.

Our community is fortunate to have many local citizens whose generosity helped build the extensive Greenway system we have today. Local contributions not only pay for construction costs, they also help us win grants! Significant public support is a major requirement of the grant application process. Over half the money raised to build our current Greenway system has come from grant sources outside our community. Over half the money spent, to date, on Yadkin River Greenway construction has come from grants.

Our Council employs an Executive Director who actively seeks sizeable grants from many sources that provides the majority of funding for the construction of new Greenway sections. We're pleased to say that we have been very successful in qualifying for grants over the previous years. Your contributions to the Greenway organization helps pay for this function, which has enabled us to more than double the amount of new construction projects the Council has been able to fund and construct. Each dollar you give helps the Council receive many more from grant sources.

Your donation keeps our Greenway system growing. You can choose one of three ways to direct your contributions.

1. You can specify 100% of your contribution is to be spent on construction of new Greenway segments.
2. You can give an unrestricted contribution to the Greenway that enables us to plan new sections and to find and secure grants to pay for new construction. Become a member of the Friends of the Greenway with your annual gifts, or send us a contribution. Any funds received in excess of our operations expenses can be used for construction.
3. You can support Greenway fundraisers that help fund the administration and operations of the Greenway organization. Our fundraisers include:
 - The Turtle Regatta Drop Dunk and Draw Event is held in October at the Mulberry Fields Trailhead. Become a Turtle Regatta sponsor, by "adopting" a turtle for \$5. The first turtles drawn from the holding tank, are awarded various prizes. The Turtle Regatta is scheduled for during this year's Trail of Treats day along the Yadkin River Greenway. Stay tuned for the details!
 - The Greenway Benefit Golf Tournament is held annually at Oakwoods Country Club. Sign up for a fun round of golf or be an event sponsor. The Golf Tournament will be held this year on June 30th at just after noon.
 - All event sponsors are recognized at the event and in news releases in our community! Thanks to all who donate, volunteer and work to help grow our Greenway system!!! *The Yadkin River Greenway Council is a 501(c)3 charitable organization and donations are tax deductible.*

Graham Wyche Fundraising Chair and RG Absher, Executive Director



A golfer tees off!



Gearing up for the Regatta!!!



Turtles Awaiting the Drawing!!

The Greenway Council

The 2014 Yadkin River Greenway Council members were: Charles White, President & Chairman, Carolyn Frazier-Pardue, Vice President, Gary Cogdill, Treasurer, Susan Buchanan, Secretary. Other Council members are: Dr. Craig Bennett, 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, Roy Williams and Graham Wyche. 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 to learn more about us! We're also now on **Facebook!** Check us out!

Schedule of 2015 Yadkin River Greenway Meetings: February 24, March 24, April 21, May 26, June 23, (June meeting is also our annual meeting), July 29, August 25, September 22, October 27, November 24, (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.

Our Friends, Contributors And Sponsors

Members of Friends of the Yadkin River Greenway

(A–C) Jim and Rose Andrews, Wayne and Zedena Barker, Harvey and Ginger Barlow, Leo and Ila Baugham, Wayne and Zedena Barker, Bob & Carol Black, Gary D. Blevins, William Bernson, Karen and Harold Bumgarner, Edwin Canter, Phil and Cecilia Carlson, Kin and Vicki Church, William and Lynn Clark, Bill and Karen Clifton, Anne Clifton, Sonny and Piper Church, Mrs. George Collins, Howard and Brenda Colvard, Rick and Trish Cook, Cubic Inc., Ed and Ramona Curtis

(D—K) Lois Ann Doss, Allen and Audrey Dyer, Ginger Edmiston and Bobby Johnson, Camille Eller, Claudia Eller Tolbey, Mike Eller, Kim and Claude Faw, Buddy Forester, Chuck Forester, Rayanne Francis, Russell and Loraine Golds, Ruth Graham, Fred and Jean Graf, Ted and Jacquelyn Hall, Bill and Ruth Harris, John and Peggy Harwell, Vaughn and Francis Hayes, Lee Herring, Leonard G. Herring Family Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. James R. Hicks III, James M. Huffman, Rebecca Hubbard, Alison Huskey, Gary and Madelene Johnson, Keith and Amanda Johnston, Patsy Jones, Petro Kulynych Family Foundation I, Petro Kulynych Family Foundation II

(L–P) Arnold and Becky Lakey, Gerald and Linda Lankford, Dean and Susan Ledbetter, Pete and Wilma Lovette, Carroll Lowe, Pete Mann, Richard and Dot Marlow, John and Freida Matthews, Pam and Drew Mayberry, Carl McCann, David and Connie McNeil, Mike and Donna McNeil, Brenda B. Moore, Anne Pardue, Phylliss and Dave Moulton, Tim Murphy, Sandra and John Oliver, Lisa Pardee, Carolyn Frazier-Pardue, Ned and Betty Pierce

(R–Z) Dusty, Lynne and D. Rhodes, Chuck and Belinda Smithey, Gordon Smoak, Jim and Luci Smoak, Mary Spears, Larry and Diane Stone, Stone Foundation, Steve and Kay Steele, Sam Stroud, Alvin Sturdivant, Frank Taracido, FW and Martha Townes, Jim Sturdivant, Glenda and Franklin Triplett, William and Karen Watts, David Wiles, Charlie and Mary White, Lane Wood, Graham Wyche, Fran and Tim York, Randall Zirkle

Walker Level Members (\$100-\$499) Harvey and Ginger Barlow, Kin and Vicki Church, Mrs. George B. Collins, Rick and Trish Cook, Cubic Incorporated, Allen and Audrey Dyer, Ginger Edmiston and Bobby Johnson, Camille Eller, Kim and Claude Faw, Caroline Frazier-Pardue, Chuck Forester, Russell and Lorraine Golds, Kim, Kathy, and Trevor Hamby, Jacquelyn and Ted Hall, John and Peggy Harwell, Bill and Ruth Harris, Vaughn and Frances Hayes, Reggie and Karen Hill, Mr. and Mrs. James R. Hix III, Dr. Carl Hoffman, Rebecca Hubbard, James Huffman, Gary and Madeline Johnson, Patsey Jones, Arnold and Becky Lakey, Dr. Henry C. Landon, Pam and Drew Mayberry, David and Connie McNeil, Lisa Pardee, Ned and Betty Pierce, Rusty and Lynne Rhodes, Chuck and Belinda Smithey, Jim and Luci Smoak, Mary Spears, Daine and Lanny Stephens, Stone Foundation, Alvin and Shirley Sturdivant, William Watts, Charlie and Mary White

Hiker Level Members (\$500-\$1499): Phil and Cecilia Carlson, Bill and Ruth Harris, Claude and Kim Faw, Leonard G. Herring Family Foundation, Ed Greene, Mike and Donna McNeil, Steve and Kay Steele, Graham Wyche

Recognition Wall Donors

Jogger (\$1,500 to \$2,999) total contributions: John & Fran Bond, Margaret & Thomas McMahan, Brenda & Carl Page, Jack Anderson, Kimberly & Brian Peace, Betty & Clarence Benton, Wilkes Journal-Patriot, Vicki & Bob Taylor,

(Jogger Level Continued) Mary Iva & Jim Gray, Wilkesboro Down Town Merchants, Dariel Rathmell, Mary & Bill Marlow, Betty Reinhardt, Stephen J. Wessels, Dot & Richard Marlow, The North Wilkesboro Rotary Club, Wilma and Pete Lovette, Beverly & Gaither Keener, Martha, Charlotte, William & “B” Towns, Northwestern Bank, Kiwanis Club of North Wilkesboro, Frances & Bill Casey, Blue Ridge Engineering, Mary Lee Culler, Kim and Claude Faw, Mark and Patricia Pegram, Ed & Patricia Sturdivant, Dr. & Mrs. John Bennett, Dr. & Mrs. Brad Shinaman, Autumn Nichols, Vicki & John Barker, Michelle & John Pontzer, Dr. David Sargent & Dr. Barry Ellis, Charlie & Mary White, Paul & Joyce Anderson, Meadows Mills, Inc., June & Bob Hege, David & Lisa Factor, Dr. Joseph H. Johnson, Patricia W. Johnson, Wanda & David Henson, Steve & Ann Palmer, Ned and Betty Pierce, Carol Stone, ECMD, Inc., Women’s Service League of Wilkes, Wilkes Community Foundation, Kodak, Mildred R. Turner, Vicki & Jeff Gray, Dr. Joseph H. Johnson & Patricia Johnson

Pathfinder (\$3,000 to \$4,999) total contributions: Hall Petroleum Co., Inc., Heather & Tim Murphy, Lisa & Perry Jennings, Karolen & Tom Bowman, Camille Lovette Eller, First Union Bank, John E. Gyax, Ken and Laura Welborn, Cooks Inc., Pat McNeill Day, Pete Mann, Connie & David McNeill, Anne Pardue, Kay & Steve Steele, Nancy & Bob Ricketts, Mr. & Mrs. C.O. Lovette, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Wooten, Ray Stroud, RMC Metromont Materials, Kim & Jug Shumate, Ina Parker, Kathy & Craig Bennett, Duncan Electric Corporation, Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Curl, William M. Duncan, Sr., Abby, Andrew, Jan & Dennis Huggins, Mary & Ed Spears, Advantage West-North Carolina, Gardner Glass Products, Greg Stikeleather.

Explorer (\$5,000 to \$9,999) total contributions: Randell K. Hayes, Shirley and Alvin Sturdivant, Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home, First Citizens Bank, Freida and John Matthews, Mark and Teresa Church, Frances and Vaughn Hayes, Vulcan Materials, BB and T, Luci and Jim Smoak, In Honor of Rose S. Andrews, Yadkin Valley Bank, Bruce and Vicki Church, Lena R. Lovette, Duke Energy Company, Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, National Park Service, Wilkes Community Foundation, American Drew and La-Z-Boy Co. Wachovia Foundation, Carolyn and Billy Bare, Kin and Vicki Church, Carolina Realty, Inc. Joyce and Nick Cirillo, Chuck Forrester

Trailblazers \$10,000 and up total contributions: Carson Foundation, Jane & David Kim, Rusty & Duane Smith, Becky & Arnold Lakey, Pam & Lee Herring, Judy & JC Faw, Children of Rachel N. & Vernon S. Church, Larry & Diane Stone, Wilkesboro TDA, Lanny & Diane Stephens, The Jim Shumate Family, Rose & Leonard Herring, Tyson Foods, Thomas Frazier, MD., Keith & Amanda Johnston, Lorene & Robert Joines, Sandy, Matthew & Jim Faw, Petro Kulynych Family Foundation, I and II, Cubic Inc., Willis Hoyl Bryant, Debbie & “Mule” Ferguson, NC DENR, Tamm & Cam Finley, Friends of Bran Goad, NC Department of Transportation, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Lowes’s Charitable and Educational Foundation, Dwight & Anne Pardue, Brushy Mountain Water Co., Gwyn F. “Duck” Vannoy

How to Attain Recognition Wall Status

Once you become a Friend of the Greenway, your contributions are continually tabulated. As you make additional contributions, you will progress through the donation membership levels. Once your combined contributions reach \$1,500, your contributions will be recognized as a “Jogger” and your name will be engraved on a bronze plate and placed on the recognition wall!

See the Sponsorship and Friends Levels on the Back of this newsletter!!

If you have questions about becoming a Friend of the Greenway, call our office at: 336-651-8967 or visit our web page at:

www.yadkinrivergreenway.com

Photos of the Greenway!!! By Betty Owens

These outstanding photographs were taken by Betty Owens. For more of Betty photos, be sure and check out our Facebook page!! We encourage you to take photos and share them with the Greenway.



White Tailed Deer



Great Blue Heron



A Hawk's view!!



Eastern Bluebird



Mallard

From birds and mammals to reptiles and amphibians, the Yadkin River Greenway is teeming with wildlife, stunning scenery and new discoveries! Come out and enjoy the Yadkin River Greenway!!!

Don't forget to bring your camera or phone camera!!



A Winter Stroll!

Photos of the Greenway!!! By William and Lynn Clark

These outstanding photographs were taken by William and Lynn Clark. For more of their photos, check our Facebook page!! While on the Greenway, a surprise is certain to await you! We invite you to get out and enjoy the Greenway!



The Arrival of Spring



Wild Aster



Wild Azalea



Summer Reflections



Swallowtail Butterfly

Taking The Long Range View

Sooner or later each of us will say goodbye for the last time, for it will be our turn to move on to our eternal reward. Like most people I am in no hurry for that day to arrive, and there are many preparations I have not completed yet. My procrastination will not, however, delay my departure.

Most of us will not long be remembered after we are gone, and that's okay. Hopefully future generations will benefit in some way from what we did in our lifetimes, even if those generations are unaware of who we were, or what we did.

One such meaningful legacy is the Yadkin River Greenway. It is my fervent wish that the greenway be completed, although it may not happen within my lifetime. A few landowners apparently expect never to leave this mortal existence, for they have refused to grant easements for completion of the greenway. Charlie White has asked that I not name names here, but I do hope and pray that those holdouts soon will see the light and decide to cooperate.

I also hope that local governments will continue to support and maintain the YRG as long as humans live in Wilkes County. Theoretically the Greenway Council will eventually complete its mission and dissolve itself, but that doesn't seem likely to happen soon.

Generous citizens have provided much of the funding to build the Yadkin River Greenway thus far. People who do this are taking a risk that they will not need that money later in life, but few can be sure of that. Certainly after you have taken your last breath, money will be of no particular use to you.

I have some long-term suggestions for all supporters of the greenway. First, if you wish to make a donation to memorialize someone on the occasion of their death, please consider making it to the Yadkin River Greenway. Alternately, you can make that donation within their lifetime so that they will know about it, specifying that it is given in their honor.

Second, please ask your family to name the Yadkin River Greenway in your obituary as a suggested recipient of memorial gifts. Generally up to two charitable causes may be specified.

Third, if your personal financial situation allows, please consider including the Yadkin River Greenway as a beneficiary in your will. I know of one former YRGC member who has done this already, and I plan to do it myself. If you love Wilkes County, this is one of the best ways to have a positive impact beyond your lifetime.

Sam Stroud
YRGC Member

Bike and Pedestrian Counter Now In Use



Counter Installation



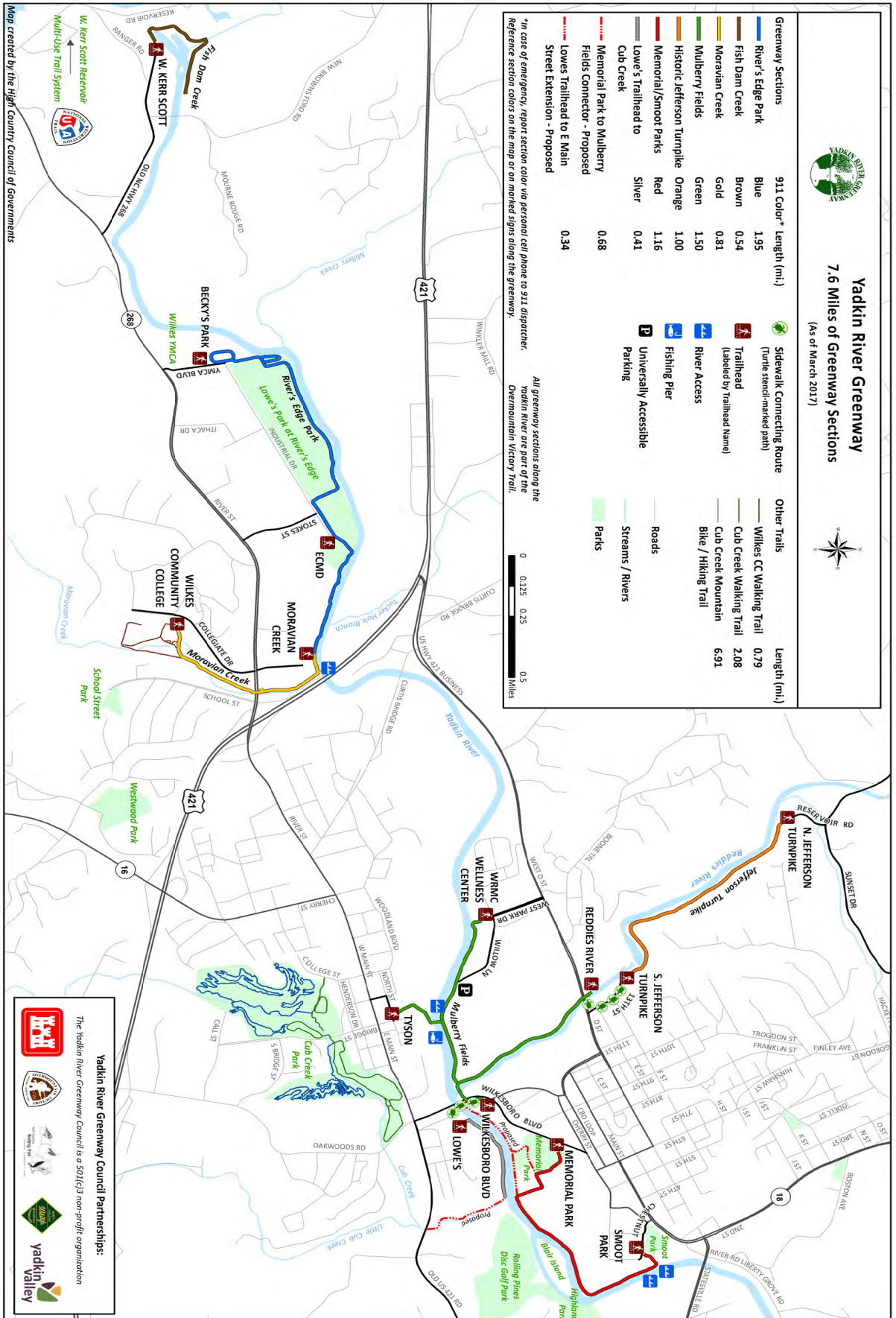
Installed Counter

In April, the NCDOT (Non-motorized Volume Data Program) installed a bike and pedestrian counter at the confluence of the Reddies and Yadkin Rivers to learn more about this greenway section and gather initial counts data, features and characteristics of the greenway.

Using raw data projections, it has been estimated that the counter was on target to record over 100,000 "hits" (on an annual basis) indicating each time a greenway user passed THIS one point on the greenway! For the first time in the greenways existence, we now have an idea as to how popular the greenway system is and the magnitude of its use by the citizens of and visitors to, Wilkes County!

Biking and Pedestrian data is collected by infrared and motion detectors in the sensor column and bikes are detected by an induction loop that was installed in the pavement. At midnight of each day the data is transmitted, via a cellular connection (which is housed in the adjacent in-ground, sealed vault), to the programs central data collection center in Raleigh. The Greenway Council is provided summary reports on a quarterly basis.

2016 Revised Yadkin River Greenway Section Map



Yadkin River Greenway

PO Box 191

Yadkin River Greenway
PO Box 191
North Wilkesboro, NC 28659

Phone: 336-651-8967
Email: yrgreenway@pcshome.net



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 11 new members during 2016 for a grand total of 278 past or present members! Of these, many members renewed their membership during the past year. We hope all will renew during 2017!

Friends of the Greenway contributions, over the past 14 years, now total over \$150,000.00 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:

Walker: \$100 to \$499
Hiker: \$500-\$1,499
Jogger: \$1,500-\$2,999
Pathfinder: \$3,000 to \$4,999
Explorer: \$5,000 to \$9,000
Trailblazer: \$10,000 and up

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 **Jogger** and a bronze recognition name plate will be installed on the Greenways Recognition Wall for all to see!

Thanks again for your continuing support! If you have any questions, please call the Greenway office at: 336-651-8967.

RG Absher, Executive Director
