



mountaintrue.

Protecting the Places We Share.

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# MountainTrue champions resilient forests, clean waters and healthy communities in Western North Carolina.



# What we do

Focus on a core set of issues that have *high impact* on the *environmental health* and *long-term prosperity* of our region:

- Advocating sensible land use
- Restoring public forests
- Improving water quality
- Promoting clean energy
- Encouraging civic engagement



# Volunteer Water Information Network (VWIN)

- Volunteer-based chemical monitoring program.
- Sample 33 sites throughout Henderson County.
- Test for several parameters indicating pH, alkalinity, conductivity, nutrients, and sediment.
- Data covering nearly two decades.
- Allows MountainTrue and partners to identify streams facing degradation.
- Annual reports and interactive map available at [mountaintrue.org](http://mountaintrue.org).
- Accomplishments- Erosion and Sediment Ordinance and Mud Creek Restoration Project.



# Stream Monitoring Information Exchange (SMIE)

- Volunteer-based biological monitoring program.
- Sample 21 sites throughout Henderson County for aquatic macroinvertebrates.
- Aquatic macroinvertebrates are terrific indicators of water quality.
- Allows MountainTrue and partners to identify streams facing degradation.
- Annual reports and interactive map available at [mountaintrue.org](http://mountaintrue.org).
- Annual training held in March; recruiting new volunteers.



# Adopt-A-Stream (AAS)

- Enable community members to become stewards of sections of local streams, creeks, and rivers.
- Teams participate in trash clean-up events.
- Teams are watchdogs of their stream and perform regular monitoring.
- Teams are comprised of local businesses, local government departments, community groups, church or family groups, school groups, neighborhood associations, or individual citizens.



# Henderson County Big Sweep

- Annual county-wide stream clean-up event held in September.
- Adopt-A-Stream teams, and other groups and individuals throughout the community participate.
- In the past five years alone, MountainTrue Big Sweep volunteers have contributed over 1,400 hours removing almost 14,000 pounds of trash and recycling!



# Education and Outreach

- Organize and lead adult and youth education activities.
  1. Rugby Middle School field trip- collaborated with other organizations to educate 300 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Contribute to community outreach events.
  1. Mills River Day- contributed to the planning of, and participated in, Mills River Day.





# Other Opportunities

- Live Staking
  1. Reduce bank erosion by planting certain native plants such as silky dogwoods.
- Other opportunities may arise throughout the year.

