

ELISHA MITCHELL  AUDUBON SOCIETY

ASHEVILLE • NORTH CAROLINA

January 6, 2019

Henderson County Board of Commissioners
1 Historic Courthouse Square
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Honorable Commissioners,

I am writing to say that the Elisha Mitchell Audubon Society supports the Henderson County Greenway Master Plan.

Elisha Mitchell Audubon Society is one of 10 National Audubon chapters in North Carolina and represents more than 1,200 members in Henderson, Buncombe and surrounding counties.

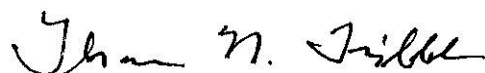
Greenways provide critical habitat for birds and other wildlife. Extensive development from population growth leads to fragmentation of natural habitat. Population growth is inevitable but good planning can mitigate the loss of natural habitat. Greenways provide critical corridors that connect fragmented patches of habitat, allowing the movement of birds and other wildlife between populations that may be separated by human development.

The Henderson County Greenway Master Plan eloquently describes many of the benefits of greenways to residents and tourists alike. Most important to Elisha Mitchell Audubon is that the plan recognizes its value in promoting conservation of habitat and diversity.

I will add that Jackson Park in Hendersonville is a wonderful birding site, attracting thousands of birds, especially during spring and fall migration. Birders from across the state visit Jackson Park during these periods, staying in local hotels, eating in local restaurants and visiting other attractions in the area. An improved greenway system will only enhance the attraction of Henderson County to birders from across the state.

Thank you for making continuing to work hard to make Henderson County and western North Carolina a wonderful place to live and to visit.

Respectfully,



Tom Tribble, President
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