

FRIENDS OF THE
Oklawaha
GREENWAY



322 Killarney St.
Hendersonville NC
November 14, 2018

Henderson County Board of Commissioners
100 North King Street
Hendersonville NC 28792

RE: Henderson County Greenway Master Plan

Over the past several years the Friends of the Oklawaha Greenway have worked with many partners to promote, maintain and extend the Oklawaha Greenway. Based on this experience, we are confident that the added greenways proposed in the Greenway Master Plan would be well received, well used and well supported by the community. We therefore urge the plan's timely approval and implementation.

The Oklawaha Greenway is playing an important roll in strengthening our community. A run for Wounded Warriors sponsored by the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Humane Society's Strut Your Mutt Run, the Hands On! Mud Run, the Kiwanis Club Bunny Hop, and a 5-K race sponsored by the Salvation Army have brought us together and raised money to support important community organizations.

Other groups have brought us together on the Greenway to appreciate Henderson County's environmental and cultural heritage. The Boys and Girls Club, Carolina Botanical Club, Audubon Society, Bee City USA, Hendersonville Tree Board, Hands On!, Friends of the Oklawaha Greenway and the American Association of University Women have all used the Greenway for environmental education. Last summer, the Friends of the Oklawaha Greenway introduced the economic and cultural history of the Balfour community with its first History Walk.

The Greenway is also improving our health by promoting exercise through events like the Hendersonville Fun Friends weekly fitness walks, Rides for New Bike Riders by the Blue Ridge Bike Club, runs by the Four Seasons Running Club, outings by Carolina Village and a 4-H Club family bike ride. Special events like this year's Ville to Ville Relay and 5 K Volksmarch encouraged visitors to come and enjoy our community.

Community groups recognize the importance of the Greenway and they regularly volunteer to maintain and improve it. The Hendersonville Rotary Club, Conserving Carolina, Mountain True El Centro and Hendersonville Fun Friends help keep the trail clean, and Mountain True volunteers work with the City of Hendersonville to remove the invasive species along it. A Boy Scout is building a small boat ramp to provide Greenway access for Mud Creek, and 4-H worked

with Apple Country Woodworkers to provide bluebird nesting boxes. Park Ridge Hospital added a Born Learning Trail for young children, the Blue Ridge Bike Club added Bike Repair Stations, the Friends of the Oklawaha Greenway added Bike Etiquette Signs, and the Hendersonville Tree Board has planted several pollinator beds.

The Friends of the Oklawaha Greenway fully support the County's Greenway Master Plan and we look forward to working with the County to help implement it.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Hale
President, Friends of the Oklawaha Greenway
