



Blue Ridge National Heritage Area PRIORITY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Greenway System to Connect Henderson, Buncombe, and Transylvania Counties
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Project Narrative:	<p>The heritage of our region is strongly tied to the outdoors and the natural landscape of the mountains. Farming, hunting, fishing, logging, hiking, wildcrafting, gardening, boating, and many more elements of the local lifestyle are dependent on the natural environment. Because of this area's natural amenities, which draw tourists, businesses, and residents to the area, a greenway connecting our parks, schools and natural amenities is needed.</p> <p>Apple Country Greenway Commission</p> <p>About five years ago the Apple Country Greenway Commission held public meetings and created a conceptual plan for more than 100 miles of possible trails in the county. The first phase of the Oklawaha Greenway officially opened in 2004, offering cyclists and runners a paved trail between Jackson Park and Seventh Avenue.</p> <p>The master plan, which included the recently completed Oklawaha Trail, located in Jackson Park. This 12-foot-wide, three-fourths of a mile long trail cost about \$250,000, with about \$174,000 coming from state and federal grants, the rest from the City of Hendersonville.</p> <p>The commission hopes to add another two phases to the Greenway. Phase two would extend the Greenway from Seventh Avenue to Patton Park, and the third phase would complete the Greenway with a section from Main Street to Jackson Park. The Apple Country Greenway Commission is currently seeking funding for the remaining two phases of the Oklawaha Greenway</p> <p>The Henderson County Strategic Plan, approved February, 2005, contained a strategic goal to "Form a community and regional greenway network." This initiative is the logical next step in fulfilling this strategy.</p> <p>Greenway to Connect DuPont State Forest to Henderson, Buncombe, and Transylvania Counties</p> <p>The centerpiece for this initiative -- DuPont State Forest, a 10,000-acre forest on the Henderson/Transylvania County line -- has miles of trails for equestrian, mountain biking, and hiking enthusiasts. It is the most visited forest in the state, with 106,000 visitors in 2004. Its waterfalls, lakes, woodlands, clear streams, abundant flora and fauna, wetlands, and natural wonders attract visitors from around the country, the region, and the local area. Near to DuPont are Pisgah National Forest, Bent Creek</p>
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	<p>Experimental Forest, Holmes State Educational Forest, the NC Arboretum, Biltmore Estate, and the river park in downtown Asheville.</p> <p>A greenway connecting these and the tourist destinations of Hendersonville, Brevard, and Asheville will prove a boon to the economies of all communities and enhance the quality of life for residents. The greenway will connect communities, cities, towns, and countryside and provide opportunities for bicycling, hiking/walking, jogging, and a chance to visit cultural amenities, educational sites, and scenes of beauty along the way. It highlights the variety of natural amenities, farms, and villages in the area, and encourages healthful activity in the region. Future possibilities for new attractions, businesses, and events (such as bicycle tours, marathons, triathlons, and other sport and outdoor opportunities) abound. Greenways and parks already exist along the proposed route and can be used as connectors.</p>
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Goal:	To construct a greenway system through three counties -- Henderson, Transylvania, and Buncombe Counties -- to highlight the region's natural amenities, increase tourism, enhance quality of life for residents, and improve the economy,
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Henderson County Greenway Commission; Transylvania County Greenway Commission; Riverlink	<p>Est. \$20,219,760 to construct a 45 mile-long asphalt greenway that is 12' wide. This includes est. cost for drainage, signage, bridges, and possible land acquisition</p> <p>Cost Breakdown by County</p> <p>Henderson County - \$4,942,608 Transylvania County - \$6,919,651 Buncombe County - \$8,357,500</p>	2015

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify route(s) of greenways - Fundraising - Prepare preliminary master plan - Plan annual events to build support 		Greenway Commissions, Riverlink, and local governments

Performance Measures:	Master plan approved by each government entity;
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	finances made available; greenways built in each county/community
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Status:	In planning stage
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