

- CITY OF ASHEVILLE MULTI-MODAL CORRIDORS**
1. BEAUCATHER MOUNTAIN GREENWAY
  2. BEAVERDAM CREEK GREENWAY
  3. BENT CREEK GREENWAY
  4. BEVERLY HILLS GREENWAY
  5. CANIE CREEK GREENWAY
  6. CLINGMAN FOREST GREENWAY
  7. EMMA GREENWAY
  8. FRENCH BROAD RIVER GREENWAY - EAST BANK
  9. FRENCH BROAD RIVER GREENWAY - WEST BANK
  10. GLENN'S CREEK GREENWAY
  11. HAW CREEK GREENWAY
  12. HOMINY CREEK GREENWAY
  13. LAKE JULIAN GREENWAY
  14. MONTFORD GREENWAY
  15. REED CREEK GREENWAY
  16. RHODODENDRON CREEK GREENWAY
  17. SMITH-MILL CREEK GREENWAY
  18. SWANNANOVA RIVER GREENWAY
  19. TOWN BRANCH GREENWAY
  20. WEST ASHEVILLE GREENWAY
  21. WEST ASHEVILLE RAILS-TO-TRAILS GREENWAY

GREENWAYS WITHIN CITY OF ASHEVILLE

GREENWAYS OUTSIDE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

ASHEVILLE CITY LIMITS

I-26 CONCEPTUAL PROJECT IMPACT AREA

# CITY OF ASHEVILLE GREENWAY MASTER PLAN



RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF UPDATES TO THE GREENWAY  
MASTER PLAN

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WHEREAS, The "City of Asheville Parks, Recreation, Cultural Arts and Greenway Master Plan" was adopted in February 2009 and it is now appropriate to update the plan after almost five years; and

WHEREAS, the master plan is a long-range planning document presented in goals, strategies and action steps that creates a vision and a guideline for a coordinated effort to deliver parks, greenways, recreation and cultural arts services over the next 10 to 15 year; and

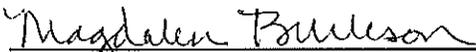
WHEREAS, the master plan updates does not commit City Council to a funding timeline for implementation, and the recommendations in the plan will be implemented as funding opportunities become available; and

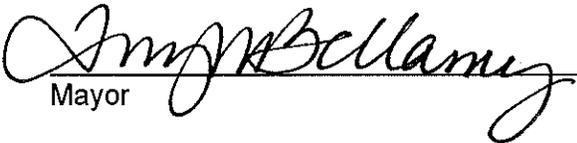
WHEREAS, Greenway Committee and Multimodal Transportation Commission agrees with the master plan updates and the recommendations as presented;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHVILLE THAT:

The Mayor is hereby authorized to adopt the updates to the Greenway Master Plan.

Read, approved and adopted this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2013.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Approved as to form:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

## **City of Asheville Greenway Master Plan - Proposed 2013 Updates**

The vision for the City of Asheville greenway system is a network of off-road trails utilizing natural corridors to connect people and places within the city. Asheville greenways will provide multimodal transportation, environmental, health, recreation, economic, educational, cultural, water quality, air quality and habitat preservation benefits. These natural corridors will be supplemented and connected when the need arises with transitional bicycle and pedestrian improvements along roadways, thereby addressing the Complete Streets model in strategic corridors.

The City needs to establish a comprehensive greenway development plan to meet the expectations of citizens who consistently rate greenways as a high priority in meetings and surveys. Asheville has lagged behind other cities in greenway development mainly because of a limited land inventory, the high cost of land acquisition in a rapidly growing city and the exceptional costs of greenway development in a mountainous region.

Greenways are defined by the Greenway Commission as *“connected pathway systems that provide non-motorized transportation options, environmental benefits, opportunities for active recreation and health, economic development and community building.”*

These ribbons of open space are located within linear corridors that are either natural, such as rivers and streams, or manmade, such as abandoned railroad beds and utility corridors. Greenways, as vegetated buffers protect natural habitats, improve water quality and reduce the impacts of flooding in floodplain areas. Most greenways contain trails, which enhance existing recreational opportunities, provide routes for alternative transportation, and improve the overall quality of life in an area.

This definition speaks to a great deal of the greenway corridors as defined by the proposed master plan. In addition to the aforementioned, greenways are transitional corridors that are part of the greenway network of connectivity. These are streets that improved to connect and bridge the experience between greenways when off-road land opportunities are not available. These transitional corridors would have ample pedestrian and bicycle design as well as streetscape amenities such as wayfaring signage, landscape, benches, etc. to reinforce the connection between the greenways with elements associated with the off-road corridors.

*Amendments to the current Asheville Greenway Master plan now are being considered to enhance connectivity via this multi-modal form of transportation for the following reasons:*

-Buncombe County revised the “Buncombe County, NC Greenways and Open Space Plan” in July 2008 (developed by Land-of-Sky) as well as the development of the “Connect Buncombe Greenway and Trails Master Plan” which was adopted in August 2012 provided an opportunity to dovetail the City and County master planning efforts.

-The North Carolina Department of Transportation is furthering its planning and design for the proposed I-26 Connector improvements which is currently under the “development” stage.

-The former Greenway Commission, which is now part of the Multimodal Transportation Commission, along with City staff recognize the need to consider other possible greenways they would enhance connectivity especially within the I-26 corridor

-The “City of Asheville, Parks, Recreation, Cultural Arts and Greenways Master Plan” was adopted in February 2009 and it is now appropriate to update the plan after almost five years.

-The Greenway Commission in 2012 held a public work session open house to get community feedback on the current greenway plan and ideas for future corridors and connections. The community feedback was incorporated into the updated plan and map.

### **DOT Highway impacts on the Asheville Greenway Master Plan**

The I-26 Connector project is currently in the development stage by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. There are numerous alternatives which are under consideration as it passes through the City of Asheville and each one can impact the proposed greenway network in different ways.

The City of Asheville requests that the North Carolina Department of Transportation consider the integration of the City of Asheville’s Greenway Master Plan to enhance connectivity and not create barriers to the pedestrian and cyclist who would utilize this system. It is not possible to describe exactly how each greenway in the City of Asheville’s Greenway Master Plan interfaces with the I-26 Connector due the alternatives that are still under consideration by the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

**The impacts of the I-26 improvements are shown on the Asheville’s Greenway Master Plan map via two shapes.**

There is a linear buffer area that is on either side of the I-26 corridor that indicates potential highway corridor improvements where there are no I-26 Corridor alternatives that would impact the greenway connectivity in a variety of ways. **The City of Asheville will request that the North Carolina Department of Transportation consider connectivity and the integration of the greenways within this area and not create barriers to the pedestrian and cyclist.**

There are also three circular areas shown on the map along the I-26 corridor that indicates potential corridor improvements where there are various I-26 design alternatives that could impact the greenway connectivity in a variety of ways. **The City of Asheville will request that the North Carolina Department of Transportation consider connectivity and the integration of the greenways within these areas and not create barriers to the pedestrian and cyclist.**

The following list delineates the greenways that are proposed in the City of Asheville’s Greenway Master Plan and could potentially be impacted by the I-26 Corridor improvements proposed by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. These greenways are noted

below along with their corresponding number which defines them on the City of Asheville's Greenway Master Plan map.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Number as Shown on Map</b>
Beaverdam Creek Greenway	2
Glenn's Creek Greenway	10
French Broad River Greenway – East Bank	8
Montford Greenway	14
Smith Mill Creek Greenway	17
Emma Greenway	7
West Asheville Greenway	20
French Broad River Greenway – West Bank	9
Hominy Creek Greenway	12
Bent Creek Greenway	3
Lake Julian Greenway	13

### **City of Asheville Greenways**

The following greenways are already adopted in the City of Asheville Parks, Recreation, Cultural Arts and Greenways Master Plan” which was adopted in February 2009. Each corridor is within the limits of the City of Asheville. There are modest extensions to some of the greenways in terms of their length often because transition corridors were added to them to indicate the connectivity between greenways for a comprehensive, interconnecting greenways system. Any additions to previously adopted greenway corridors within this section are elaborated within the description the specific corridor.

### **Beaucatcher Mountain Greenway**

Length: 1.25 miles

Trail Type: 10' wide Asphalt

Description: This corridor nearly extends the length of Beaucatcher Mountain from Memorial Stadium and White Fawn Reservoir (above McCormick Field) to Helen's Bridge near I-240 and Tunnel Road. This wooded corridor below the crest and on the western side of the mountain's ridge will have commanding views of downtown Asheville. The trail will a couple on-road in portions along Ardmion Road and South Beaumont Street and at times meander through parks such as Memorial Stadium, White Fawn, Mountainside, Beaucatcher Overlook and Beaucatcher Reservoir Park.

### **Beverly Hills Greenway**

Length: 1.25 miles

Trail Type: 10' wide asphalt and concrete sidewalk

Description: This paved greenway starts at Swannanoa River Greenway on Swannanoa River Road near Recreation Park and extends northward to Haw Creek Park. The trail would wind through the rolling and beautifully wooded Beverly Hills neighborhood that was developed and on the perimeter of the notable Donald Ross golf course. The route would include both on-road and off-road trails that meander around and through parks such Ann Patton Joyce Park and Municipal Golf Course and eventually connect to the Haw Creek Greenway.

### **Clingman Forest Greenway**

Length: 1.0 mile

Trail Type: 10' wide Asphalt

Description: This greenway originates near Aston Park at the intersection of Clingman Forest and Hilliard Avenue and continues southward to the Dr. Wesley Grant, Sr. Southside Center near the intersection of Depot and Livingston Street. The northern portion passes through a wooded ravine via an off-road greenway trail. The southern on-road segment has been added to the plan to connect this greenway to the Town Branch Greenway via a transitional corridor design. This greenway will pass through the developing River Arts District. There are many potential connections to Aston Park, Asheville Middle School, YWCA, Owens Bell Park and the surrounding residential areas and link the Reed Creek and Clingman Forest Greenway.

### **French Broad River Greenway – East Bank**

Length: 3.5 miles

Trail Type: 12' wide asphalt

Description: The French Broad River Greenway system is Asheville's major north-south alternative transportation corridor and overlaps with a portion of the Wilma Dykeman RiverWay Plan, a major urban waterfront redevelopment project. The French Broad River Greenway on the east bank is envisioned as being a mostly off-road corridor that parallels the river from the Amboy Road Bridge to the intersection of Riverside Drive and Broadway. The settings of this corridor vary greatly from being very natural in the northern to southern portions to areas that are highly disturbed by past riverfront development in the more urban central segment. This greenway would respect and reflect future development as it becomes more urbanize and a community and tourist destination just west of the downtown. The greenway passes through the western edge of the River Arts District and ties into the Swannanoa River Greenway and near the Amboy Road bridge where the rivers converge.

### **French Broad River Greenway – West Bank**

Length: 7.25 miles

Trail Type: 12' wide asphalt

Description: The French Broad River Greenway system is Asheville's major north-south alternative transportation corridor and overlaps with portions of the Wilma Dykeman RiverWay Plan. The French Broad River Greenway is described two segments due to its large scale and possible implementation phasing. The west bank segment begins at Hominy Creek Park and travels along the banks of the French Broad River until it reaches the municipal park, Richmond Hill. The west bank of the French Broad River Park is less developed and often steeper than the eastern bank. Similar to the east bank, portions of the northern and southern segments are more naturalistic in nature and the central portion experienced more development historically and is similarly undergoing planning and development to foster a more urbanized and enriching setting. A segment has been added to the plan (between Haywood Road to Richmond Hill Park) to foster greater connectivity and dovetail with future economic development of the river valley. This Hominy Creek Greenway ties into the western end of this greenway.

### **Glenn's Creek Greenway**

Length: 1.5 miles

Trail Type: 10' wide asphalt

Description: This trail extends westward from Weaver Park on Merrimon Avenue to Riverside Drive along the French Broad River. This paved trail connects the Norwood, Montford and University neighborhoods via mostly wooded and richly landscaped settings. The trail is on-road in portions but there are also off-road trails as well through Weaver Park as well as the park-like setting of the University of North Carolina – Asheville. A segment has been added to the plan to have this greenway as well as the Reed Creek Greenway connect to the French Broad River Greenway Branch via a transitional corridor along Broadway. The Reed Creek Greenway links into this greenway corridor.

### **Haw Creek Greenway**

Length: 0.75 mile

Trail Type: 10' wide asphalt

Description: This section of greenway will extend northward from the East Asheville Recreation Center to the Haw Creek Elementary School. The trail would be on-road in portions but there would also be off-road trails as well via Haw Creek Park as well as the park-like settings of various private commercial and residential properties and its destination, the Haw Creek Elementary School, whose grounds are encompassed with a loop trail. This greenway would connect with the Beverly Hills Greenway.

### **Hominy Creek Greenway**

Length: 4.5 miles

Trail Type: 10' wide asphalt

Description: This greenway begins at Buncombe County's Hominy Creek Park located on the west bank of the French Broad River and travels essentially westward to Enka along the Smokey Park Highway. The eastern portion follows the riparian banks of Hominy Creek until it meets the I-26/I-40/I-240 interchange. Thereafter it can run parallel to Sand Hill Road as an on-road connector or follow Hominy Creek in a more circuitous off-road route pending more analysis. West of this segment it continues to parallel the disturbed riparian banks of Hominy Creek within the Enka Center property north of Biltmore Lake. This segment has been added to the plan to foster connectivity with the City's and County's master plans for this greenway corridor. This corridor connects with the Bent Creek and Canie Creek Greenways.

### **Montford Greenway**

Length: 1.25 miles

Trail Type: 10' wide asphalt

Description: This off-road trail begins at Gudger Street below the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center and continues west to the French Broad River Greenway. It originates near the Randolph Learning Center and passes north of the Issac Dickson Elementary School via a wooded ravine. A spur north of this portion has been added to the plan which will enhance connectivity to the Montford Neighborhood. This off-road trail originates at the Montford Complex and passes along Riverside Cemetery eventually connecting into the aforementioned greenway corridor in the vicinity of Hill Street.

### **Reed Creek Greenway**

Length: 2.0 miles

Trail Type: 10' wide asphalt

Description: The Reed Creek Greenway stretches from the Botanical Gardens on W.T. Weaver Boulevard to Aston Park at the intersection of Clingman and Hilliard Avenue. The segment that runs parallel to Broadway Avenue also follows a creek and riparian terrain with a slightly urban feel due to the proximity of the development along portions of Broadway. A segment west and south of this portion has been added to the plan via a transitional corridor. This on-road section would unite the Montford Greenway and Clingman Forest Greenway and pass by residential and educational land uses. Reed Creek Greenway would link into the Glenn's Creek Greenway at its northern end.

### **Rhododendron Creek Greenway**

Length: 0.75 mile

Trail Type: 10' wide asphalt

Description: This corridor begins at Hominy Creek Greenway on Shelburne Road near the former North Carolina National Guard (now owned by the City of Asheville) and extends to Sand Hill Road near Vance Elementary School. The trail will be on-road in portions such as along Talmadge Street but there would also be wooded, off-road trails as well through West Asheville Park and residential development such as the Davenport co-housing development for which an easement has been granted to the City.

### **Swannanoa River Greenway**

Length: 7.75 miles

Trail Type: 12' wide asphalt

Description: The Swannanoa River Greenway system is Asheville's major east-west alternative transportation corridor and overlaps with a large portion of the Wilma Dykeman Plan. The greenway trail would start at the Amboy Road Bridge and extend to the eastern limits of the city in Oteen. The greenway will pass along Meadow and Swannanoa River Road whose settings range from dense urban development areas such as that of Biltmore Village to more natural riparian landscape along the Swannanoa River. The trail would be on-road in portions and at times meander through open space parks such as Riverbend, Recreation and Azalea Park which are located on the eastern portion of the greenway. This greenway would link to the Beverly Hills and French Broad River Greenway.

### **Town Branch Creek Greenway**

Length: 1.25 miles

Trail Type: 10' wide asphalt

Description: This greenway corridor begins at the Dr. Wesley Grant, Sr. Southside Center and extends eastward to Memorial Stadium. The greenway would be a wooded, off-road experience as it heads from the Dr. Wesley Grant, Sr. Southside Center, parallel to Choctaw Street and Old Ashland Avenue, until it is the intersection of McDowell and Phifer Street. A segment east of this portion has been added to the plan to have this greenway connect with the Beaucatcher Greenway. This on-road, transitional corridor will be located along Southside, Short Coxe and Buchanan Avenue and terminate at the entrance of Memorial Stadium. The western end of the Town Branch Greenway would unite with the Clingman Forest Greenway.

### **Buncombe County Greenways**

As was noted previously, Buncombe County revised the “Buncombe County, NC Greenways and Open Space Plan” in July 2008 (developed by Land-of-Sky) as well as developing the “Connect Buncombe – Greenway and Trails Master Plan” which was adopted in August 2012. Greenways that relate to the City of Asheville’s Greenway Master Plan and also within the vicinity of the I-26 corridor are included within the proposed City of Asheville Master Plan to foster connectivity. The following lengths, trail type and descriptions pertain to the greenway portions within the limits of the City of Asheville unless otherwise noted.

#### **Bent Creek Greenway**

Length: 2.75 miles

Trail Type: 10' wide asphalt

Description: This greenway branches off of the Hominy Creek Greenway just east of the WNC Regional Farmer’s Market and travels southward to Biltmore Park. The northern portion is most likely an on-road section that passes through the County from the Farmer’s Market and along Brevard Road where it intersects with I-26. Thereafter it largely passes mostly through the limits of the City of Asheville City and land owned by the County of Henderson. The greenway continues outside of the City’s limits along the French Broad River’s riparian banks via an off-road trail until it reaches the vicinity of Biltmore Park and Long Shoals Road. At this junction it links to the Lake Julian Greenway.

#### **Hominy Creek Greenway**

Length: 1.0 mile

Trail Type: 10' wide asphalt

This greenway originates near the intersection of Brevard Road and I-26 and travels westward to Hominy River Park. The initial greenway segment begins where Brevard Road and I-26 meet and travels northwest through private wooded landscape within until it intersects Hominy Creek. Thereafter, it continues westward and parallel to the disturbed riparian banks of Hominy Creek within Enka Center north of Biltmore Lake. Within this corridor the greenway weaves in and out of the limits of the City of Asheville for several segments. Eventually the greenway continues westward into Buncombe County and southwest of Enka Lake to Hominy River Park. This greenway ties into the Bent Creek Greenway.

#### **Lake Julian Greenway**

Length: 3.00 miles

Trail Type: 10' wide asphalt

Description: This greenway trail extends from the French Broad River and the Bent Creek Greenway near the intersection of I-26 and Long Shoals Road and continues eastward to Collier Park and Mills Gap Road. The western portion of the trail passes mostly within the City limits through densely developed areas along Long Shoals Road which include mixed use development such as Biltmore Park, residential communities and a large complex of schools. It continues around the shores of Lake Julian via an off-road trail. East of this it continues to Sweeten Creek Road, which is the limits of the City, and continues eastward to Mills Gap Road. It is interesting to note that the eastern portion of the greenway in the county also loops by then traveling

northwest along Mills Gap Road and then south along Sweeten Creek Road where it terminates at Jake Rusher Park.

### **Additional Proposed Greenways**

The City of Asheville staff along with the former Greenway Commission (now a part of the Multimodal Transportation Commission) recognize the need to consider other possible greenways since they would enhance connectivity especially in the context of the proposed I-26 corridor improvements. **These greenway corridors will require in depth studies as to their exact alignment via feasibility studies.** The following lengths, trail type and descriptions pertain to the greenway portions within the limits of the City of Asheville unless otherwise noted.

#### **Beaverdam Creek Greenway**

Length: 4.0 miles

Trail Type: 10' wide asphalt

Description: This off-road/on-road greenway trail begins just west of Webb Cove Road and terminates just west of Beaver Lake. Future feasibility studies should consider off and on-road alignments parallel to Beaverdam Creek as much as possible through this wooded residential valley floor. Similarly there are potential extensions of the greenway into the county west of Beaver Lake to the French Broad River as well as east of Webb Cove Road to the Blue Ridge Parkway. This greenway corridor would link to the proposed French Broad River Greenway.

#### **Canie Creek Greenway**

Length: 1.00 mile

Trail Type: 10' wide asphalt

Description: This trail begins at the Hominy Creek Greenway in the vicinity of Sand Hill Road and continues northwest to Patton Avenue just east of the entrance to the Asheville School campus. It is a relatively level corridor that is a wooded, off-road corridor between Patton Avenue and Sand Hill Road. Thereafter it continues as an on-road corridor via Bear Creek Road for a segment and then the possibility of returning to an off-road trail along the riparian Hominy Creek pending access as it approaches the former Waller tract.

#### **Emma Greenway**

Length: 1.00 mile

Trail Type: 10' wide asphalt

Description: This off-road/on-road greenway trail begins just east of North Louisiana Avenue and then follows parallel to Emma Road until it meets Smith Mill Creek Greenway near the French Broad River Greenway. There is a creek and a railroad that parallels Emma Road which is lined with a number of residences and a golf course.

#### **Smith Mill Creek Greenway**

Length: 1.75 miles

Trail Type: 15' wide asphalt

This trail begins at Falconhurst Park (near the intersection of Patton Avenue and Leicester Highway) and travels eastward along the creek to the French Broad River. The greenway segment that parallels the development on the south side of Patton Avenue is an off-road greenway. The segment will connect to West Asheville Greenway. It then transitions into an on-

road greenway as it passes through private commercial properties for some distance. Thereafter the last portion is set in a more naturalistic or landscaped terrain as an off-road segment that weaves its way via the creek via private developments that include a golf course, commercial and railroad land uses.

**West Asheville Greenway**

Length: 2.75 miles

Trail Type: 15' wide asphalt

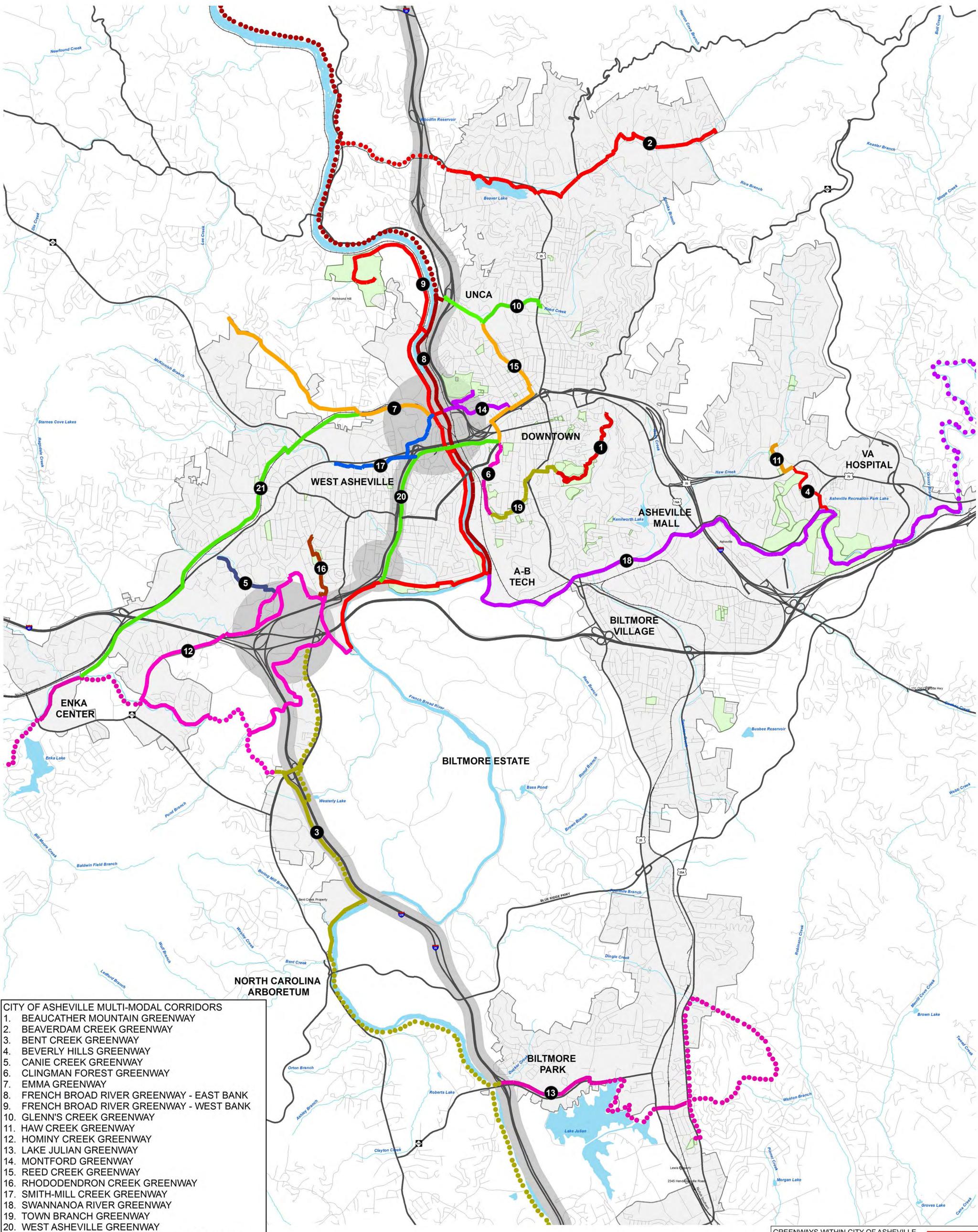
Description: This trail originates in the vicinity of the intersection of Clingman Avenue and Patton Avenue in the downtown (where the Reed Creek Greenway passes) and travels southwest along the I-26 corridor to the French Broad River Greenway in the vicinity of Carrier Park. It would be an off-road greenway that passes from the urban downtown to the natural riverfront environment as it connects various communities of West Asheville to the greenway system.

**West Asheville Rails-to-Trails Greenway**

Length: 4.75 miles

Trail Type: 12' wide Asphalt

Description: This potential greenway depends upon the abandonment of the current railroad usage and its possible conversion to a corridor that can incorporate the principles and resources of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. This corridor extends from the eastern end of the Emma Greenway in the proximity of the French Broad River to the Hominy Creek Greenway in the Enka Center vicinity.



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GREENWAYS WITHIN CITY OF ASHEVILLE ———

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ASHEVILLE CITY LIMITS

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