

Asheville Greenway Commission
2012 Annual Report

The Greenway Commission meets the second Thursday of each month at 3:30 pm in the first floor conference room of City Hall. The Commission revised their mission in 2012 to the following:

The mission of the City of Asheville's Greenway Commission is to advise City Council on implementation of a system of greenways within Asheville by integrating City and County Parks and Transportation plans while educating and engaging the public and advocating for funding.

The Greenway Commission celebrates the progress the City has made on implementing greenways this year including:

- Opening an additional ½ mile segment of Reed Creek Greenway;
- Beginning planning for the UNCA portion of the Reed Creek Greenway;
- Choosing an alternative for RADTIP that includes a greenway throughout the route;
- Continuing design work and land acquisition for Clingman Forest, Town Branch and Beaucatcher Greenways;
- Beginning preliminary planning for Greenways on west side of the French Broad River through New Belgium and Progress Energy properties;
- Beginning discussion about a management agreement with Friends of the Hominy Creek Greenway for the Waller tract property; and
- Pursuing multiple land acquisition projects for future greenways.

2012 Greenway Commission Accomplishments and Actions:

- Welcomed Chris Pelly as City Council Liaison and Ally Wilson and Mary Weber as new members
- Moved from primary department relationship with Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts to Transportation Department with Mariate Echeverry as departmental contact
- Celebrated completion of an additional segment of the Reed Creek Greenway with ribbon-cutting ceremony
- Continued community outreach with presentations and presence at River Front Redevelopment Committee, Rexpo (Realtors) Exhibit, Girls in Sports Day, YMCA Healthy Kids event, Buncombe sports festival, and MAHEC Health symposium
- Reviewed and voted in support of 3 street closure requests
- Visited future greenway sites that will comprise the "River to Ridge" initiative and received a report on the initiative from Parks and Recreation staff
- Reviewed and voted in support of the Complete Streets Resolution
- Hominy Creek Greenway/Waller Tract: Urged City to obtain easements or other formal use agreements for private property crossed by greenway; voted in support of a management agreement between Friends of Hominy Creek Greenway (FOHCG) and the City
- Participated in RFQ review/consultant choice for Town Branch/Clingman Forest plan and Beaucatcher Mountain Greenway.
- Participated in two planning sessions in order to develop the new relationship with Transportation Department and review and update the mission and goals of the Commission

- Created a new definition for greenways: Greenways are connected pathway systems that provide non-motorized transportation options, environmental benefits, opportunities for active recreation and health, economic development and community building.
- Approved a new Greenway Commission mission statement noted above
- Voted in support of the Buncombe County Greenway Master Plan
- Identified goals for the Greenway Commission: pursue the means to add community-supported projects to the greenway portion of the Parks, Recreations and Cultural Arts Master Plan; pursue development of a comprehensive multi-modal transportation plan; develop a strategic plan for the Greenway Commission.
- Proposed hiring a consultant to review existing, related plans in anticipation of beginning a comprehensive transportation plan
- Visited the Sustainability Advisory Committee on Energy and Environment (SACEE) and described the work of the Greenway Commission. Invited SACEE to attend a Greenway Commission meeting.
- Supported a plan for the new Wild Cherry Bridge that accommodated bicycles and pedestrians.