

# **2016 Annual Report**

An incredible team of people are diligently working to make the Middle Fork Greenway a reality. This report highlights the team's efforts and progress in 2016.

# www.MiddleForkGreenway.org

# 2016 Milestones

Over \$810K raised for Middle Fork Greenway development



Main trailhead and parking established, connecting Shoppes on the Parkway and Roots Restaurant to downtown Blowing Rock



12 new acres will extend the Middle Fork Greenway nearly another mile

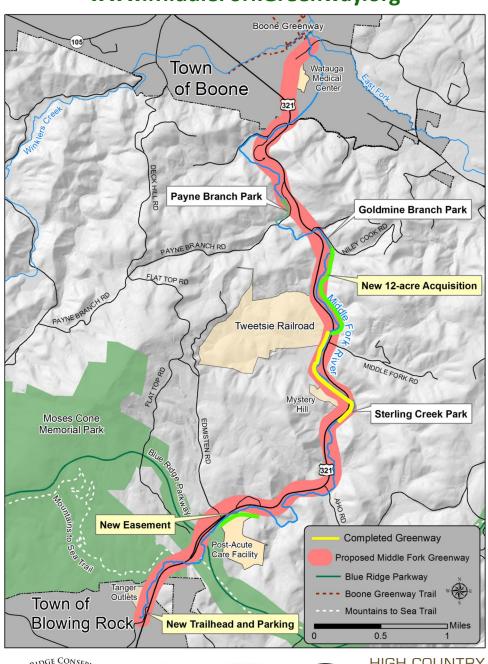


Chestnut Ridge easement donated by Appalachian Regional Healthcare System



Aho Road Bridge Replacement to accommodate Middle Fork

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## 2016 Annual Report, cont.











# **Land Acquisition**





Blue Ridge Conservancy purchased 12 riparian acres with funding from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina and NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund. This land will permanently protect the Middle Fork New River and link the existing trail at Tweetsie Railroad to Goldmine Branch Park on Niley Cook Rd. extending the Middle Fork Greenway nearly another mile.

# **Blowing Rock Connects to Middle Fork Greenway**





Want to learn more and get involved? Visit our website learn more sign up for our e-newsletter, donate to the and Middle Fork Greenway! www.MiddleForkGreenway.org

The NC DOT has constructed the main Middle Fork Greenway trailhead parking area, installed a safe pedestrian crosswalk and established greenway trail that connects Roots Restaurant, Shoppes on the Parkway and Chetola to Downtown Blowing Rock. The Middle Fork Greenway in partnership with the town of Blowing Rock have submitted a federal grant to extend the greenway trail through the Blue Ridge Parkway land and Foley Center at Chestnut Ridge.



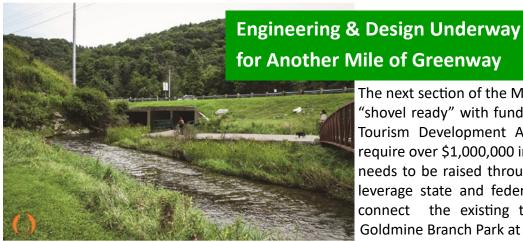












Schematic of bridge and trail to go under the Hwy 321 box culvert at Northern end of Tweetsie Railroad

The next section of the Middle Fork Greenway is getting "shovel ready" with funding from the Watauga County Tourism Development Authority. This section will require over \$1,000,000 in construction costs which still needs to be raised through private donations that can leverage state and federal grants. This section will connect the existing trail at Tweetsie Railroad to Goldmine Branch Park at Niley Cook Rd.

Middle Fork New River

Future Middle Fork Greenway path under bridge

# New Easement will Extend Middle Fork Greenway

Appalachian Regional Healthcare System donated a 2,000 linear foot easement through the Foley Center at Chestnut Ridge to Watauga County for the future Middle Fork Greenway. North Carolina Department of Transportation also provided space under the Reba and Grady Moretz bridge to accommodate the future greenway trail. Fundraising is in progress for construction of this section.

### Safe Passage under Aho Road

NC DOT will be replacing the bridge crossing over the Middle Fork New River on Aho Rd. Middle Fork Greenway received \$160,000 from Recreational Aid Funds and Watauga County Tourism Development Authority for NC DOT to accommodate the future Middle Fork Greenway project. This bridge should be completed by the end of 2017.























The grant was awarded by the McCrory Administration's Department of Transportation statewide contingency fund. This 90-foot bridge will cross the Middle Fork New River and is part of the 1.3 mile section in Blowing Rock to be completed. In November 2016, the town of Blowing Rock and Middle Fork Greenway submitted a Federal grant in 2016 to fund from Shoppes on the Parkway through the Foley Center at Chestnut Ridge. This investment in our project will help drive economic activity in our region, foster healthy activities and provide pedestrians and cyclists with a safe way to experience our beautiful mountain landscapes and waterways.





Governor McCrory brought a crowd out to the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce.















### **2016 Middle Fork Greenway Events**

In 2016, the Middle Fork Greenway partnered with many businesses, organizations and government agencies to build a strong, healthier and greener High Country community!

- Boone & Blowing Rock 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Christmas parades
- "Kids in the Creek" at Sterling Creek Park
- FLOATFEST
- Mountain Ninja Warriors
- NC Governor Bridge Funding Dedication in Blowing Rock







- Appalachian Mountain Brewery & High Gravity Adventures' Zombie Fun Run
- Stick Boy Mayview Madness 5K
- Celebration at High Gravity Adventures for the purchase of 12 new acres with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of NC and NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund
- Represented at Banff Film Festival, Music on the Lawn at Inn at Ragged Gardens, Land Trust Day, Cyclovia, ASU Civic Engagement Fair
- Volunteer Workday at Sterling Creek Park and Payne Branch Park (24 High school and college students), milkweed planting along the Greenway

#### Middle Fork Greenway 2016 Sponsors, Donors & Partners

Thank you for your generosity!













#### **Individual Donors**

Tim & Carolyn Hilton Catherine & Brett Scantlin Grace Scantlin Lillian Bindseil Mary Louise Allen Louise W. Allen **Bob & Susan Hambright Anne Burgess** Teresa Buckwalter Pete & Zika Rea **Donald Saunders** Brian & Allison Sain Jim Steele Paul and Lois Carter Charme Davidson Ann Pipes Curtis Andrews Sterling & Barbara Whitener Pamela Hoffman Brent Moore & Tim Gupton

#### **Volunteers**

**Ann Browning Anne Burgess** Ben Edwards Joe Furman Diana Godwin Bill Hall Dick & Joan Hearn David Kraft Roger & Kay Landis John Lanman Doug May Rob Mendel Mike Page **Judith Phoenix** Lance & Linda Campbell Virginia Powell Eva Rand Zika Rea Jim Steele Jerry Sumner **David Trahan** 

#### **Grants & Foundations**

Tim & Carolyn Hilton
Catherine & Brett Scantlin
Grace Scantlin
Lillian Bindseil
Mary Louise Allen
Louise W. Allen
Mitchell Allen & Chantal Fabre
Bob & Susan Hambright
Anne Burgess
Teresa Buckwalter

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina
NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund
Blowing Rock Tourism Development Authority
Watauga Tourism Development Authority
Town of Boone
Recreational Aid from General Assembly
Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corp.
Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
Pfizer Foundation
People for Bikes

#### **Business Sponsors**

Appalachian Mountain Brewery Appalachian Ski Mountain Wahoo's Adventures Rhoddie Bicycle Outfitters SKA Consulting Brushy Fork Environmental High Country Jewelry and Gifts

#### **Partners**

Watauga County, Town of Blowing Rock, Town of Boone, Appalachian State University, Appalachian Regional Healthcare System, NC Dept. of Transportation, Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce, Boone Chamber of Commerce, High Country Recreation, Boone Area Cyclists, Tweetsie Railroad, New River Conservancy, Town of Boone Public Works, Town of Blowing Rock Planning Dept., Blowing Rock Economic Development Committee, Blowing Rock Fire Department, Destination by Design, Business After Hours, Trout Unlimited, NC Wildlife Resources, Appalachian District Health Department, High Country Council of Governments, Faithbridge Church, Roots Restaurant, Inn at Ragged Gardens, Watauga River Partners

#### **In-Kind Support**

Wonderland Woods.TV, Appalachian Mountain Brewery, Blowing Rock Ale House, Ric and Liane Mattar, Chris Whitener, Barbi B. Whitener, Beth Davison, Adam Sheffield, Appalachia Cookie Company, Blue Ridge Bites and Brews, High Gravity Adventures, Rygid Group LLC., Stick Boy Kitchen, Indulge Bakery, Hatchet Coffee, Camp Coffee, Wendell Hicks Tree Service, Highland Landscaping, Food Lion, Harris Teeter, Lowes Foods, mPrints, US Fish and Wildlife, Lowe's Hardware, Doc's Rocks, Mystery Hill