



TRAIL CONSTRUCTION NEWS OF YOUR GREENWAY IN 2015

WINTER AND SPRING WORK TRIPS

On 12 work days during the first half of 2015, volunteers contributed 234 hours of their time and effort, turning the Sled Run from Oak Street to Mill Creek into a beautiful and well-constructed entrance to the Greenway trail. They filled the water-laden marshes of the old Sled Run with surge stone and gravel for essential support and transplanted native shrubs, ferns, and mosses to adorn the rock-lined edges of the new trail. A pavilion was moved from Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park to mark the gateway to the trail system.

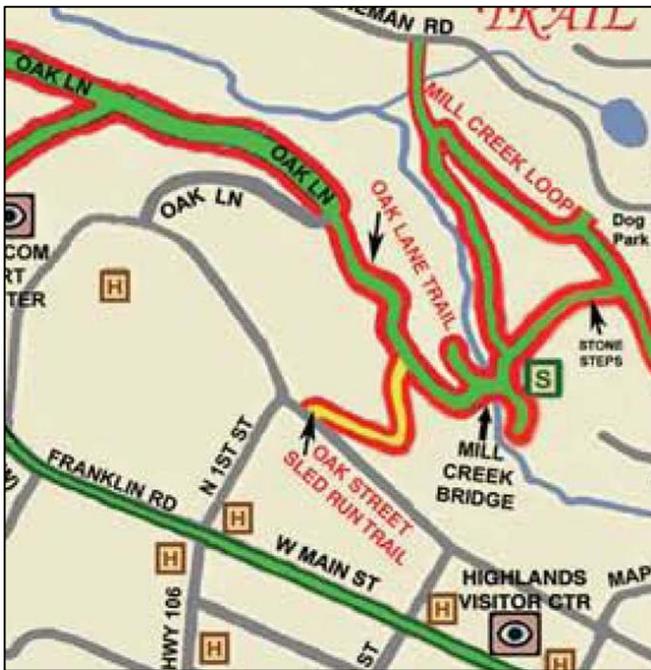


JUNE 6— "HIKE TO THE SUMMIT OF SATULAH MOUNTAIN"

A unique, expert-led hike of the Highlands Plateau Greenway was held on Saturday, June 6, to introduce the public to the summit of Satulah Mountain, which was purchased for the public in 1909 by the Highlands Improvement Society. The purchase created the oldest Land Trust in North Carolina, which is today's Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. Attendees on the hike heard about the history of Satulah Mountain, the botanical treasures that inhabit the summit, and the need to provide parking which would give equal access to older folk and children who cannot negotiate the approximate four-mile climb and return from town. The Greenway hopes a mutually satisfactory solution to the problem of access to the top can be reached among the public, private land owners, and the Land Trust.

SUMMER AND FALL WORK TRIPS

Greenway volunteers devoted 380 hours during 17 work days in the last half of 2015 to connecting the Coker Rhododendron Trail to the Bowery Road. This trail, which had been popular with the public for more than 80 years, had been recently closed where it crossed private land. But a land swap allowed rerouting the trail down a newly constructed stone stairway, across a creek on a wooden bridge, and up a hill facilitated by risers to a stone staircase at the trail's new entrance on the Bowery Road. Residents of the Bowery now have ready access to town through tunnels of rhododendron and laurel in a primeval forest of enormous oaks and hemlocks and passing thorough the Botanical Garden before reaching the Nature Center on Horse Cove Road.



VOLUNTEERING FOR GREENWAY WORK DAYS

Greenway work days are the 3rd Saturday of each month and the 1st Wednesday from May through October. If you are interested in participating, please register with Ran Shaffner at 828-482-1451 or email highlandsgreenway@nctv.com. We meet at the upper parking lot (near the pool entrance) behind the Rec Park at 9:00 AM for a brief orientation session. Participants are furnished the necessary tools and safety equipment. Participants should bring water, rain gear, and a day pack to hold them. Wearing clothes that can get dirty is advised.

Thank you for your support of the Greenway, whether a contributor or a volunteer. The Highlands Plateau Greenway was founded in 2005, incorporated in 2008, and recognized in 2010 as a National Recreation Trail. If you wish to renew your membership or become a new member, you can donate at www.highlandsgreenway.com or use the enclosed envelope. A contribution of any size will assure your membership and earn our heartfelt gratitude.

HIGHLANDS PLATEAU GREENWAY, P. O. BOX 2608, HIGHLANDS, NC 28741

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