



TRIANGLE GREENWAYS COUNCIL

N E W S

Spring 2014

- **TRIANGLE GREENWAYS COUNCIL MISSION:**

The mission of the Triangle Greenways Council is to promote greenways and trails in the Triangle through public information services, to advocate for the creation of interconnected greenways that will serve all Triangle residents, and to preserve land for future greenway corridors.

- **TGC's WEB SITE IS BACK**

The TGC web site has returned. Please bookmark our web site at www.trianglegreenways.org. There you will find complete information on our programs and activities. If you are part of the online social community be sure to check our Facebook page for the most recent details on upcoming events. If you provide us with an email address, we will send you our quarterly newsletters.



• COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

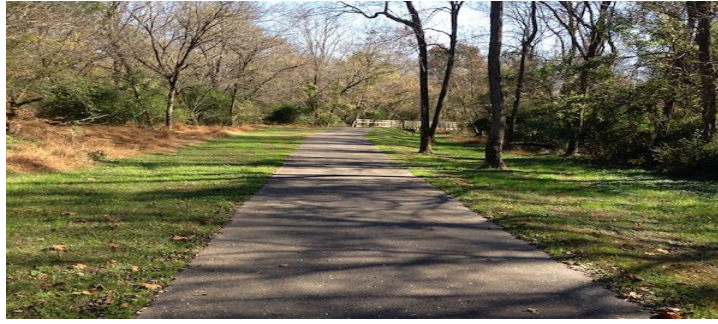
For more than three decades the TGC has taken the initiative to promote creation of local greenway systems and a regional greenways network. While it would be inappropriate to claim sole responsibility for the continuing success of public greenways in the area, there is no doubt that the TGC has been a persistent and strategic advocate/partner in the process. As an all-volunteer nonprofit corporation, your TGC's capacity is only limited by the number and interests of its volunteers, and its fundraising skills.

Entering this year the TGC Board has pursued several opportunities to yield both near-term and long-term benefits for greenways and the communities they serve.

- The TGC applied for and was accepted to receive a grant from the Conservation Trust for NC to host a Summer Diversity Intern. Fifty-seven applications were received and are being reviewed. The recipient will work out of Raleigh's Walnut Creek Wetland Center, and pursue several activities [historic research, site inventories, land stewardship, etc] on the Wetland Park and TGC greenway conservation properties. The intern will get a varied experience, while completing projects that will create immediate and lasting improvement to existing and future greenways.
- The TGC continues to refocus its land trust activity in the aftermath of the NC Conservation Tax Credit's repeal, and reduction/consolidation of State land conservation grant programs. Raleigh's land conservation grants for drinking water quality protection through the Upper Neuse Clean Water Initiative remains a positive opportunity that will be utilized. Otherwise, creative approaches will have to be devised and attempted in efforts to accumulate greenway corridors that can generate the greatest public benefits.
- The TGC is exploring other possible initiatives that could contribute accelerated greenway creation. For example: (1) how to advance integration of a uniform greenways network, (2) how to stimulate support systems for greenway based tourism, and (3) how to finance a benefit/cost analysis of communitywide public greenway infrastructure. Further, a fundraising strategy will also be required to initiate a TGC property stewardship service project program and/or recurring public use/education programs.

To accomplish a significant number of these opportunities, in the process of advancing local greenway systems and a regional greenways network, the TGC needs more members, and volunteers with complementary skills. Please keep your membership current, and be TGC's ambassador to greenway users/enthusiasts you may know. Volunteers who will be intermediaries to potential corporate or foundation funding sources are also welcome. Please contact the TGC to explore how you can help today, to make a better tomorrow for our communities and region.

- - *Bill Flourney*, President.



- **TRAIL OPENINGS**

Walnut Creek Trail Completion

The Walnut Creek Greenway Trail now extends more than 15 miles from Lake Johnson across the southern part of Raleigh to the Neuse River. The last 4.5-mile section of the trail, from Rose Lane to the Neuse River Trail, was completed in February.

The paved trail follows Walnut Creek and surrounding wetlands and includes nearly a mile of boardwalk. The money for the project came from three sources: a parks bond issue that Raleigh voters approved in 2007; a transportation bond issue approved in 2009, and the state's Parks and Recreation Trust Fund.

The Walnut Creek trail is part of the broader Capital Area Greenway system and includes connections to Pullen Park, N.C. State University's Centennial Campus, the State Farmers Market, downtown, the Walnut Creek Wetland Center and the Walnut Creek Softball Complex.

While the newest section is relatively short, it ties Raleigh's inside-the-Beltline greenway system to the Neuse River Trail, making it possible to bike from Crabtree Valley Mall and the N.C. Museum of Art to Clayton or Knightdale for rides of more than 30 miles.

Construction continues on the final 4.1-mile section of the Crabtree Creek Greenway, which will extend from the WakeMed area east to Anderson Point Park and the Neuse River Trail. The Crabtree Creek trail is set to be completed this fall.

American Tobacco Trail Bridge Completion

The long-awaited American Tobacco Trail Bridge over Interstate 40 is now open and trail lovers and bicyclists are invited to come and take a stroll over this unique structure - only the second of its kind in the United States. The new 270-foot-long pedestrian bridge is located just west of Fayetteville Road and the connection to the trail heading south is located in the parking lot near Southpoint Cinemas at The Streets at Southpoint.

• WALNUT CREEK WETLANDS CENTER

Programs and displays for all ages are available year-round at the Walnut Creek Wetlands Center. The Center is a unique facility in Raleigh that is adjacent to the urban wetlands of Walnut Creek. Come for a visit or attend a program. Upcoming programs are listed below. Most require preregistration. More information is available at www.parks.raleighnc.gov or by calling 919-831-6640.

Preschool: Swamp Romp; Recycling for Beginners.

Youth: Discovering Wetlands; Nature Night at Walnut Creek.

Family, Adult, and Young Adult: Wetland Birds and Butterflies; Beginning Worm Composting; Nature Journaling on Walnut Creek; Project WET; Wetland Worm Harvesting Party; Rarely Seen Species Workshop.

• NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY

The North Carolina State Parks and the Recreation Resources Service are hosting a Trails Workshop to be held June 4-5 at the Nature Research Center in Raleigh, NC. For more information go to: http://cnr.ncsu.edu/rrs/nc_trails.htm

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has some funding available for local governments to work on land use planning projects that enhance wildlife habitat conservation, called 'Partners for Green Growth'. Pre-applications are due May 19, 2014.

Charlotte area: The Anne Springs Close Greenway is a popular island of wilderness in an urban setting. The high usage resulted in upgrades. www.charlotteobserver.com/2014/04/20/4853845/anne-springs-close-greenway-changing.html#.U1wF3FdQFMI

Singapore: another example of nature in a densely populated area: www.nytimes.com/2014/04/06/travel/in-singapores-center-but-a-world-away.html?src=dayp&_r=2

Durham: The City Council faces a difficult choice: www.heraldsun.com/opinion/editorials/x2025289633/A-difficult-trails-choice

Asheville: Work has begun to extend the Reed Creek Trail: www.citizen-times.com/article/20140311/NEWS01/303110017/UNCA-downtown-greenway-work-nears-start

- **JOIN TGC OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW**

Get involved in the support of greenways in the Triangle region. Become a member of the Triangle Greenways Council. Join on line by going to the TGC website link: www.trianglegreenways.org or complete the following form and mail it to the Triangle Greenways Council, 520 Polk Street Raleigh, NC 27604

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

\$50 donation: Greenway Corridor Conserver
\$100 donation: Greenway System Builder