



TRIANGLE GREENWAYS COUNCIL

N E W S

Summer 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.



- **FESIVAL IN MOTION**

The 4th Annual *Festival in Motion* will be held Saturday, September 27, 10:00 - 2:00 in and around the Walnut Creek Wetlands Center. The Festival provides a day of family fun. Please plan to attend. For updated details, please monitor the Triangle Greenways Council Facebook page.

• COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

When the TGC was originally organized in the early 1980s its purpose was greenway advocacy and education. It evolved a public service function in the late 1980s when it began construction of twenty-five miles of trail on the south shore of Falls Lake, which became the first section of the Mountains to Sea Trail dedicated in the region. It evolved further in the late 1990s when it began a land trust function, which has now conserved more than 750 acres of riparian corridor in three counties that will eventually become part of local government greenway systems.

With the Legislature's repeal of the NC Conservation Tax Credit at the end of last year, as well as significant reductions in State land conservation grant programs over the last six years, the TGC's current land trust activity is minimized. On the more positive side, Raleigh continues its commitment to the Upper Neuse River Clean Water Initiative and land conservation as a method for drinking water quality protection. We are reassessing our business model to better reflect the new reality. This could include less-traditional approaches for land conservation, and participation in a statewide effort to reestablish a state tax incentive for the donation of land for conservation purposes.

The present lull in land trust activity has allowed greater attention to the TGC's other purposes. With our first-ever grant for a Summer Diversity Intern we have a graduate student from NCSU's College of Natural Resources who is juggling a variety of tasks/topics in preparation for a final project report. [See next newsletter] The TGC celebrates almost two years of involvement in the preparation of Raleigh's updated Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources System Plan that will advance greenways even further over the next decade. See <http://www.yourparksyourfuture.com/> Progress appears possible on other opportunities as well [see last newsletter] and will be reported as they are activated.

The TGC has always been committed to the long-view of what is required to create optimally functional local greenway systems and a regional greenway network that provides the greatest combination of public purposes/benefits (urban planning & pattern, environmental mitigation, ecosystem function, public health, quality of life, flood damage avoidance, outdoor classrooms, economic advantages, etc). The vision continues through this momentary period of reassessment and refocusing.

Everyone interested in supporting more and better greenways is welcome to participate. Contact the TGC to discuss active involvement (volunteer opportunities), donations (money, economic assets, real property), or other ways (collaborations, partnerships, etc) to invest in a better future for ourselves, our community, and the growing Triangle region.

- - *Bill Flournoy*, President.

- **WALNUT CREEK WETLANDS CENTER EVENTS**

Ross Andrews Nature Trail and Learning Circle

Please join members of Partners for Environmental Justice on Saturday, August 23rd to build and dedicate the Ross Andrews Nature Trail and Learning Circle at the Walnut Creek Wetland Center.

Details: Saturday, August 23, 8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Walnut Creek Wetland Center 950 Peterson Street, Raleigh, NC 27610
Please register for the event through the City of Raleigh Volunteer page or R.S.V.P. with Frank McKay at frankmckay73@gmail.com.



Teen Project Improves Walnut Creek

The North Wake Teen Homeschoolers met at the Walnut Creek Wetlands Center on May 17 for a community service project. The TGC coordinated the project with the Walnut Creek Wetland Center. The Wetland Center provided gloves, bags and litter pickers for the teens. TGC coordinated the event in getting the Center involved, distributing and receiving permission forms, scheduling the event, participating and disposal of the litter bags. They were also joined by 6 or so parents and picked up over 15 bags of litter along Walnut Creek Greenway.

The event followed one of the major storm events and you can see the large stump that was actually on the trail that has since been removed by the City. The group had to dodge and go over several areas that had mud deposits as well without complaint! In addition to the litter pick-up the group learned a little of the cultural and natural history of the Walnut Creek corridor with a stop at the Boneyard Lake overlook. Signs of wildlife were also seen along the trail.

- **TRAIL OPENINGS**

Hillsborough Portion of Mountain to Sea Trail

Now Open! Get your walking shoes on. Riverwalk Phase II is now open in Hillsborough. The majority of the second phase of the Town of Hillsborough’s trail along the Eno River opened July 4. Some construction, seeding and sign installation will continue until the formal opening celebration on Oct. 11. The open portion of Riverwalk Phase II runs from River Park – behind the Orange County Justice Facility on Margaret Lane – to the bridge by Gold Park, located at 415 Dimmocks Mill Road.

Phase II is a 1-mile greenway with loop trails that provide additional public access to Gold Park, which is owned by the town. It connects the park to trails in the county-owned River Park and is the primary route for the N.C. Mountains-to-Sea Trail. It will be one of the few sections of the statewide trail located in an urban environment. Construction on this second phase started in October.

Construction on Riverwalk Phase III is now underway. This third phase of the greenway trail is also part of the primary corridor of the N.C. Mountains-to-Sea Trail. Riverwalk Phase 1 in downtown Hillsborough opened in 2009.

Knightdale Connects to the Region

Now Open! Trail users will now be trying a new greenway trail and boardwalk in Knightdale. The 3.5 mile Mingo Creek Trail is open and connects seamlessly with the Neuse River trail in Raleigh. In addition to the beautiful Mingo Creek Trail, users will have access onto many additional miles of Capital Area Greenway trails. The Knightdale web site (www.knightdalenc.gov) has a link showing the location of the trailhead. A formal dedication of the trail will take place later in August.

- **TGC IS ON FACEBOOK:**



Triangle Greenways Council is on Facebook. “Like” our new page to keep up to date on the latest TGC developments. www.facebook.com/pages/Triangle-Greenways-Council/323580024345402

- NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY

Raleigh's Greenways, TGC and our President gained recognition in *Walter* magazine <http://www.waltermagazine.com/raleighs-amazing-greenway/>

A report indicates a “green ceiling” when comparing minority representation in environmental organizations as compared with percentage make-up of the population
http://diversegreen.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2014/07/FullReport_Green2.0_FINAL.pdf

Winston-Salem looks forward to the benefits of a new greenway trail
http://www.journalnow.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-new-greenway-trail-will-be-welcome-addition/article_a8d4d9c4-f7d4-11e3-8198-0017a43b2370.html

Raleigh benefits from a Trip Advisor review of the Capital Area Greenways
http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g49463-d4302691-Reviews-Capital_Area_Greenway-Raleigh_North_Carolina.html

Rockingham and Hitchcock Creek received national attention in *America's Rivers* magazine. The community had turned its back on the creek. Now the development of a “Blue Trail” has opened the Creek to water recreation.
http://www.americanrivers.org/blog/transforming-forgotten-creek-community-treasure/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=amrivers&utm_content=4+-+Learn+How+raquo&utm_campaign=2014-current&source=2014-current

Cullowhee embarked on an ambitious greenway trail project but has encountered cost overruns on an essential component - bridge construction.
<http://www.smokymountainnews.com/news/item/13987-greenway-bridge-hits-a-350-000-snag>





- **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