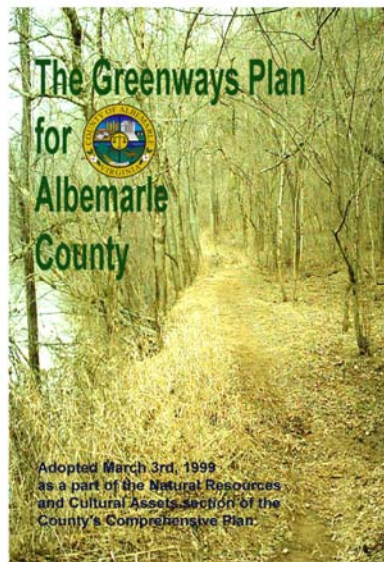


CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES AND PRESERVING OUR NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Albemarle County's Greenway/Blueway Initiative



Four General Principles For The Greenway Plan

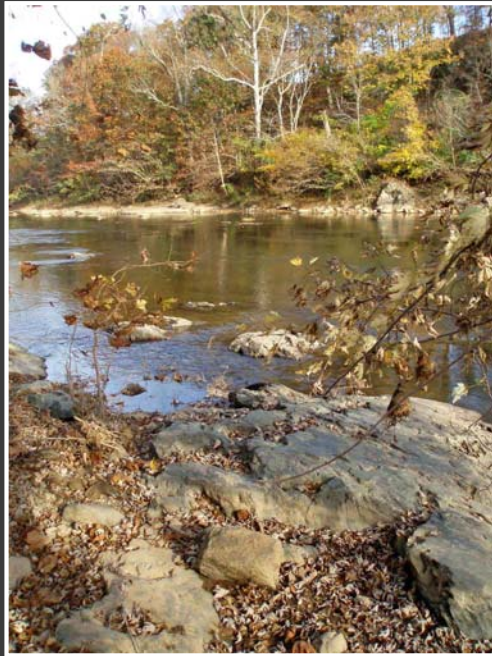
1-Establish a greenway system in Albemarle County that provides:

- Protection of river corridor vegetation, water quality and the viability of wildlife habitats;
- Recreational opportunities such as hiking, bicycling and fishing close to residential areas;
- An alternative transportation link of the County's and City's communities, parks, activity centers, schools, and commercial and office areas, thus reducing traffic congestion; and
- Educational opportunities such as nature hikes, species and plant identification, and interpretation of historic, architectural and natural resources.

2- Coordinate adjacent land development with consideration of the greenway, so that existing and future development will be integrated and harmonious with the greenway system. Integrate existing off-river/stream trails into the greenway system. Encourage public involvement in the planning and development of the greenway system.

3- Provide a cost-efficient trail system while meeting the principles outlined. Provide long-term-funding, maintenance, and administration for the implementation of the greenway system through a public-private partnership.

4- Develop community pride in the greenway system by increasing people's awareness and appreciation of the greenway system through promotions and special events.



1-Establish a greenway system in Albemarle County that provides:

- **Protection of river corridor vegetation, water quality and the viability of wildlife habitats**

Greenways corridors can function to preserve and maintain streamside forests and buffer areas, which are highly productive and diverse systems, which provide many important benefits. The quality of water can be maintained or improved by forested buffer strips along streams and rivers. The trees and shrubs filter and trap sediments and absorb pollutants from overland runoff and from the shallow ground water zone. The major pollutants include herbicides and the nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus. Although these nutrients are essential for the growth and development of all plants, an overabundance of either one may upset the delicate balance of the plant-nutrient-water relationship and actually become toxic to plants and animals.

The stream side forest and buffer areas are not only vital in improving water quality, but they generally house a great variety of plants and habitats, which is the main reason why they produce a great diversity of wildlife. Trees and shrubs are important for nesting birds and other animals and produce an abundance of food for wildlife. Contiguous forest areas also provide protective pathways for safe movement or migration of animals.

Streamside forest and buffer areas make streams and rivers suitable for many kinds of fish and other aquatic creatures. Tree roots help stabilize the stream bank and provide cover for fish, crayfish and aquatic insects. Plant materials that fall into the stream/river are a vital food source for many organisms. Bacteria, fungi, aquatic insect larvae, crayfish and other invertebrates break down this plant material into small particles. This very fine plant material known as detritus is used as food by many small aquatic animals such as minnows and insect larvae, which are major food source for the larger game fish.

Also greenways serve as overflow areas to absorb storm runoff and prevent flood damage; recharge aquifers; and maintain settings for natural and historic features, particularly historic and prehistoric archeological sites.

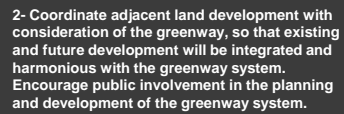
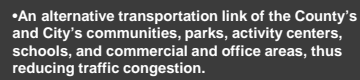


- **Recreational opportunities such as hiking, bicycling and fishing close to residential areas**

Provide recreational and educational opportunities - Greenways provide recreational opportunities such as hiking, bicycling, fishing, picnicking and canoeing. Also, greenways can function as "living classrooms" for nature studies of life histories and behavior of plants, animals and fish. These areas also have a great variety of birds making them favorite sites for bird watchers. Greenways increase the public's awareness of the environment.

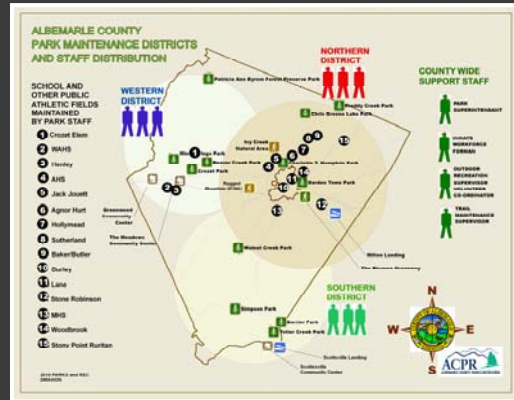
- **Educational opportunities such as nature hikes, species and plant identification, and interpretation of historic, architectural and natural resources.**







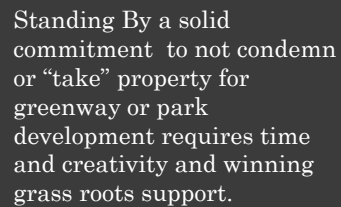
3- Provide a cost-efficient trail system while meeting the principles outlined. Provide long-term-funding, maintenance, and administration for the implementation of the greenway system through public-private partnerships.



4- Develop community pride in the greenway system by increasing people's awareness and appreciation of the greenway system through promotions and special events.



WHAT ARE WE LEARNING?



WHAT ARE WE LEARNING?
Patience.... And some more
patience..... and triage



Transforming a perfectly fine Parks and Recreation Department from sports and active recreation facility management to managing natural area recreation facilities and becoming responsible stewards of important and natural and cultural resources .

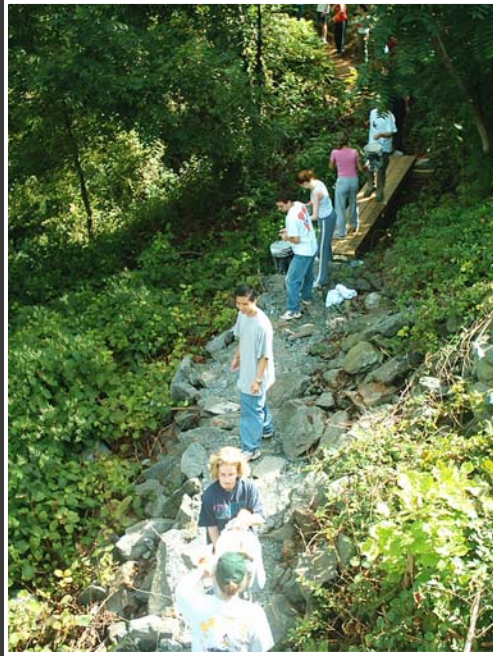
WHAT ARE WE LEARNING?
Not everyone gets it... Those who do are finding new interest in their work...



Bringing this forward without really being able to expand staff resources has been a challenge that is being met with overwhelming support from citizens stepping up to help make it happen.

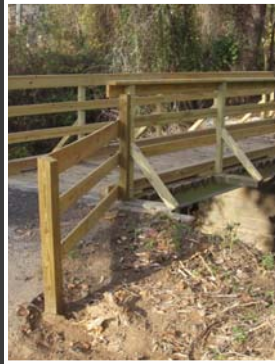
WHAT ARE WE LEARNING?
Volunteers are hard core....





A river corridor is a very dynamic landscape where Planning, designing and building for access requires new design thinking and management experience

WHAT ARE WE LEARNING?
Impermanence...



Providing Greenways,
Blueways and opening up
Natural Areas to Recreational
Use requires the introduction
of a number of constructed
amenities...

WHAT ARE WE LEARNING?
Bridges are expensive...



WHAT ARE WE LEARNING?
Signage is complicated...

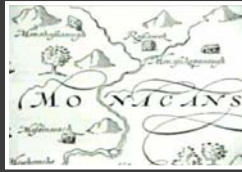




By accepting public ownership and responsibility for certain “left over”, unmanaged places we became landlords of an invisible population

WHAT ARE WE LEARNING?
Firm compassion...





By accepting public ownership and responsibility for certain “special”, formerly unmanaged or little known places... we became curators... story tellers



WHAT ARE WE LEARNING?
An understanding of “roots”...



By accepting public ownership and responsibility for certain “special”, formerly unmanaged or little known places... we are becoming stewards... guides



WHAT ARE WE LEARNING?
An understanding of “roots” and leaves...





By accepting public ownership and responsibility for developing and maintaining alternative transportation routes we are becoming connected...



WHAT ARE WE LEARNING?
To be open minded...

