



Passive Recreation Subcommittee Meeting

Funding Recommendations

August 20, 2024



Funding Recommendations

For each project, subcommittee members were asked:

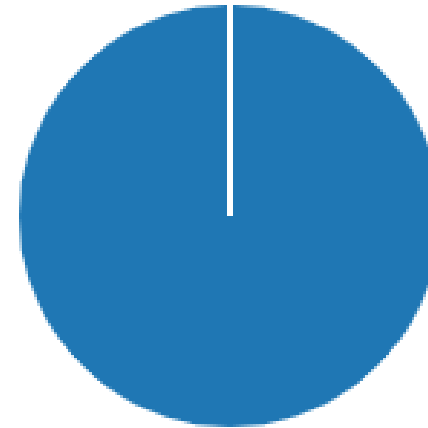
1. Do you recommend funding for this project?
2. If yes, provide comment on any partial funding and/or whether there are any other funding restrictions you would like considered for this project.

Please take into account: the project application; score report; presentations; site visits; follow-up information from applicants; subcommittee discussion; as well as the perspective & expertise you bring to this work.



Asheville Greenworks – Hominy Creek Greenway Trail Improvement and Ecological Restoration

● Yes - Full Funding	7
● Yes - Partial Funding	0
● No - not at this time	0



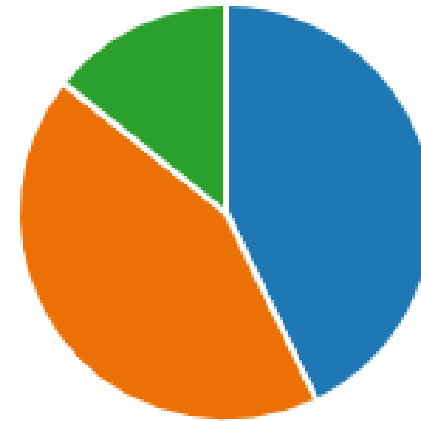
Asheville Greenworks - Hominy Creek Greenway Trail Improvements

- My understanding is that funding for the restoration plan is not yet in place. Grant funding for this project should be contingent on plan being in place within 12 months.
- Any outstanding legal issues must be resolved before funding is awarded.
- Existing, well used greenway connection that would benefit from proposed improvements
- Partial funding is not desirable here, in my opinion. It's a small ask for important trail improvements and non-native invasive plant control. There is an experienced and engaged volunteer group that has worked on part of the site for a number of years. These funds would help improve erosion issues, as well.



Balsam Gardens – 33+/- Acres on Sandhill Road

● Yes - Full funding	3
● Yes - Partial Funding	3
● No - not at this time	1



Balsam Gardens – 33+/- Acres on Sandhill Road

- FMV appraisal needed.
- Yes, based on acceptable FMV and County support to extend Enka Heritage Trail through this property.
- I would like to see a more formal review or appraisal on the property value. \$50,000 per acre for land in a flood plain seems high without the real possibility for future development of the land.
- Funding amount should be based on appraisal by a qualified appraiser. Aligns with County plans for greenway expansion.
- I support the goal of creek bank easement protection, current planning for creek bank restoration, and possible extension with the Enka Heritage Trail. I'm somewhat hesitant in spending a such large part of the Bond funds to acquire land that is not going to be threatened with development, however.



Camp Grier - Worx Community Forest Trail Development

● Yes - Full Funding	5
● Yes - Partial Funding	2
● No - not at this time	0






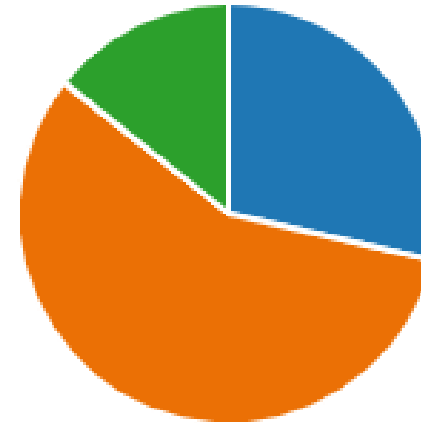
Camp Grier - Worx Community Forest Trail Development

- Subtract \$75,000 included in application for Administrative fee.
- Provides recreation opportunities in an area of the county that could benefit from this use. Reduce funding by amount not allowable by grant guidelines.
- I think this is a good project and has important educational benefits for schools and for public access in a community (Fairview) that needs such opportunities. Camp Grier has a solid history, as does Conserving Carolina and I am confident that these funds would be well spent and the project implementation/maintenance very well managed.



Friends and Neighbors of Swannanoa - Woodmen Trailhead & Educational Park

 Yes - Full Funding	2
 Yes - Partial Funding	4
 No - not at this time	1



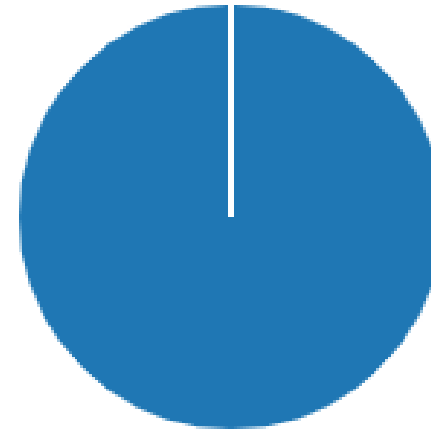
Friends and Neighbors of Swannanoa - Woodmen Trailhead & Educational Park

- Grant funds should be used for acquisition (only) of property by either purchase or easement, based on FMV of either.
- With the recent sale of the property described on the application, and no firm commitment from the new landowner, and no firm contract for the land across the river, there are too many moving parts here to award bond funds at this time. Hopefully this committee can hold some funds in reserve to revisit this or look at other future project proposals.
- Recommend funding for parcel and/or easement acquisition based on appraisal by a qualified appraiser. I do not support funding for a park at this time since the final footprint has yet to be determined and a formal plan has not been developed. I could support a park plan in the future once the final project area is defined and a plan developed.
- I feel like there are some unanswered questions here and we should move ahead with acquiring the property so it can be developed when all the other questions are answered.
- I totally support the funding needed for acquisition of the proposed purchase parcel. I really support the plans for this park and heard from the representatives that other parts of the proposal, beyond acquisition aren't as urgent. This area needs more park and greenway opportunities and this project offers important connections where none exist.



Haw Creek Community Association - Haw Creek Park Greenway

● Yes - Full Funding	7
● Yes - Partial Funding	0
● No - not at this time	0



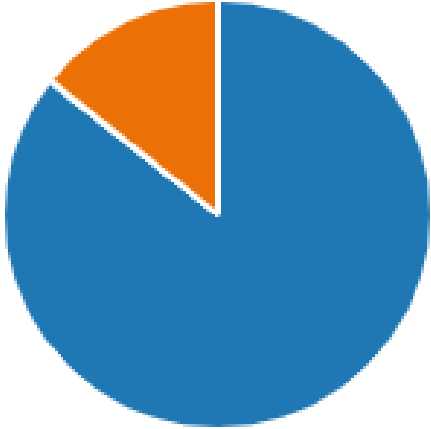
Haw Creek Community Association - Haw Creek Park Greenway

- Good addition to open space
- Wouldn't want to support partial funding. This is a very small ask, but offers an easement for acquisition and provides new public access, expanding Haw Creek Park connection to its other land parcel. East Asheville has few passive park opportunities and this community is engaged, has a good history, and access to many volunteers for monitoring/maintenance.



RiverLink - Gateway Park

● Yes - Full Funding	6
● Yes - Partial Funding	1
● No - not at this time	0



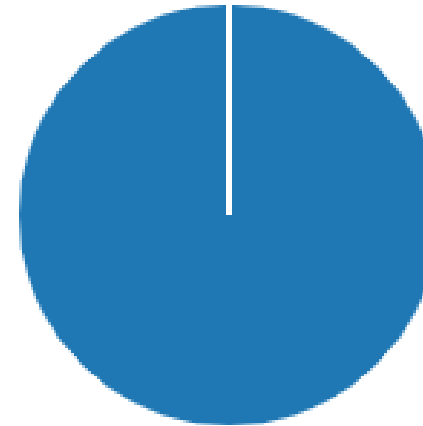
RiverLink - Gateway Park

- Good project and addition to greenway along river.
- I don't see a need for partial funding. It's a small ask and provides for needed public access and needed Non-native invasive plant control.
- Riverlink seems to be able to access more funds than the other projects that were submitted



Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy - Deaverview Mountain

● Yes - Full funding	7
● Yes - Partial Funding	0
● No - not at this time	0



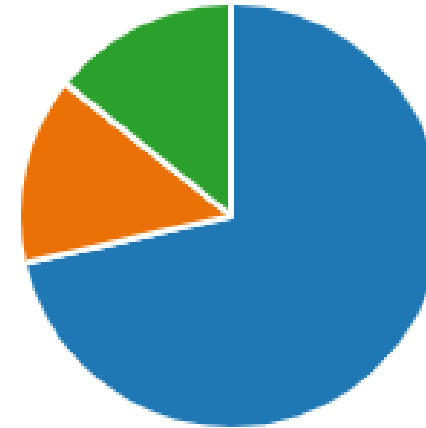
Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy - Deaverview Mountain

- Excellent addition to open space for passive recreation in an underserved area of the County.
- With a significant allocation of funds already approved for this project, I would consider reducing funding here, only if necessary, to get the total funds request in line with funds available after adjustments made for other projects based on appraisal, allowable use of funds per the grant, or other adjustments.
- I fully support this for full funding as it is critical for acquisition. It is also very important for its equity connection regarding proximity to an underserved, low income community. In addition, it has very high scenic and ecological values in an urban setting.



Town of Black Mountain – Ridgecrest Connector

● Yes - Full funding	5
● Yes - Partial Funding	1
● No - not at this time	1



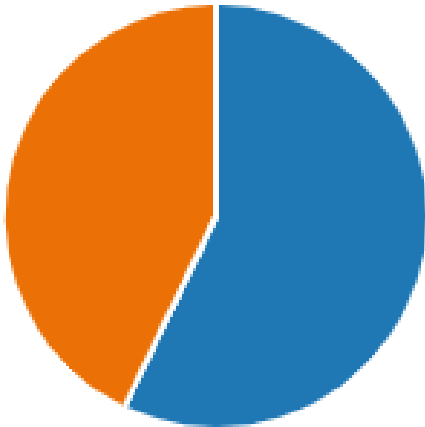
Town of Black Mountain – Ridgecrest Connector

- Contingent on funding for engineering and design study to be in place within 12 months.
- Provides a greenway connection identified by long term planning at Buncombe County. Provides access to many Black Mountain neighborhoods that currently lack pedestrian infrastructure. This section is part of the future Fonta Flora trail alignment
- The Town has tried to get funding for this for a long time and I believe has explored virtually every source available. I think that though it involves sidewalk construction, it offers important benefits to the community regarding schools and a non-wealthy and older residential community because it will eventually connect with a forested tract owned by the town in an area currently without any recreational hiking trails or natural area access. After learning more about this project, I am totally willing to approve funding to get this proposal finally started.



Town of Weaverville - Weaverville Watershed Trails & Wildlife Preserve

- Yes - Full Funding 4
- Yes - Partial Funding 3
- No - not at this time 0



Town of Weaverville - Weaverville Watershed Trails & Wildlife Preserve

- Full funding only if issue of parking is resolved and approved by Weaverville, NCDOT and (to some extent) neighbors. Preferably NO parking on shoulder of EMSH and construction of 2nd lot. Funding should not include maintenance.
- Applicant can stage out trail system with partial funding at this time, perhaps holding in reserve some portion of the full funding request until parking issues and visitor traffic is better understood. I would recommend funding between \$500,000 and 750,000 at this time.
- Provides recreation opportunities in an area of the county that could benefit from this use. Reduce funding by amount not allowable by grant request. I would encourage the Town of Weaverville to explore opportunities for acquisition of land in order to be able to provide future access from Eller Cove Road which would more directly benefit its residents. Access from Elk Mountain Scenic Highway should be carefully planned with a focus on safety and minimal disruption to neighbors. From a safety standpoint it appears the potential parking opportunity(s) further east near Buzzard's Rock may be more appropriate than the originally proposed parking area. Also, this area is further from the property perimeter and could allow for a more substantial buffer from neighboring properties. NCDOT, and possibly Buncombe County, would have input on any proposed parking area and has minimum standards that would need to be met in order to issue an approval for road access.



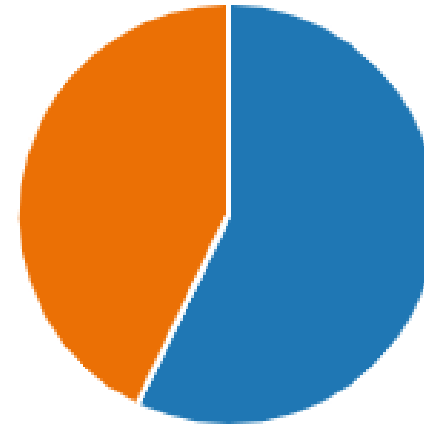
Town of Weaverville - Weaverville Watershed Trails & Wildlife Preserve

- I am in favor of this Park in every way. I still have major concerns about the parking design on such a dangerous road and think more thought should be focused on this aspect, as well as continued dialogue with the local community and NCDOT. I do support full funding to assure money is available for the best traffic design. And I believe that the expertise available with this project can come up with an acceptable solution for this and other safety issues (signage, monitoring, maintenance, enforcement) in the future. Some of these issues need addressing already and the Town will have to focus more resources on them in any event, regardless of the parking issues.
- More public comment needed



Town of Woodfin – Riverside Park Improvement

● Yes - Full Funding	4
● Yes - Partial Funding	3
● No - not at this time	0



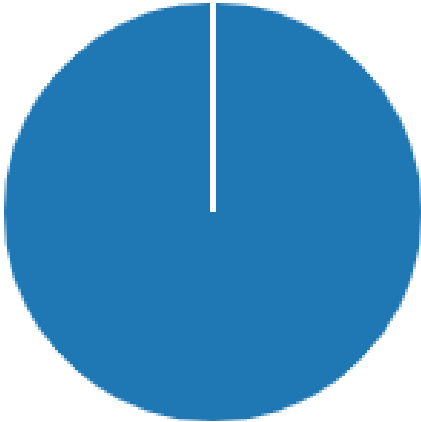
Town of Woodfin – Riverside Park Improvement

- Fund last as much as remaining bond funds allow
- This project will have a huge impact on passive recreation and greenway development in the County. Located beside the French Broad River, easily accessible and plenty of parking.
- Given this committee's limited funding, it is my opinion that a partial funding up to \$1 million is appropriate for the improvements at this time, with a funding restriction on the "Wave" or aquatic bypass portion of the project= no bond funds should be used for the Wave construction.
- This will help to further activate an important component of a future greenway system that could ultimately connect to Marshall similar to the way the River Arts District greenway development helped to activate other connection along the river when it was implemented. I would consider reducing funding here, only if necessary, to get the total funds request in line with funds available after adjustments made for other projects based on appraisal, allowable use of funds per the grant or other adjustments. This project is possibly the only one of all project requests that is truly shovel ready which provides confidence the funds can be used within a reasonable timeframe.
- I think the proposed plans are very good and know that Taylor's Wave will be a great economic resource for the area. Because of this impact, I believe it will attract more funding opportunities than other proposals might have in the in the future, so I feel the overall goals could still fairly soon.



Warren Wilson College – Improving Public Access & Recreation Use of College Lands

● Yes - Full Funding	7
● Yes - Partial Funding	0
● No - not at this time	0



Warren Wilson College – Improving Public Access & Recreation Use of College Lands

- Would like to see WWC commitment to easements for the Fonta Flora trail.
- Existing trail system, currently used by the public, that will benefit greatly from proposed improvements.
- I don't think it should get partial funding. It's a small ask and WWC has given access freely to the community for years. They deserve funds to improve trails sorely needing this.



Summary

Organization Name	Project Name	Full Funding	Partial Funding	No Funding
Asheville Greenworks/ Friends of Hominy Creek	Hominy Creek Greenway Trail Improvement and Ecological Restoration	7	0	0
Balsam Gardens, LLC	33 +/- acres on Sandhill Road	3	3	1
Camp Grier	Worx Community Forest Trail Development	5	2	0
Friends and Neighbors of Swannanoa	Woodmen Trailhead & Educational Park	2	4	1
Haw Creek Community Association	Haw Creek Park Greenway	7	0	0
RiverLink	Gateway Park	6	1	0
Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy	Deaverview Mountain	7	0	0
Town of Black Mountain	Ridgecrest Connector	5	1	1
Town of Weaverville	Weaverville Watershed Trails and Wildlife Preserve	4	3	0
Town of Woodfin	Riverside Park Improvement	4	3	0
Warren Wilson College	Improving Public Access and Passive Recreation Use of Warren Wilson College Lands	7	0	0

Next Steps

- **Today:** Build a funding scenario with a recommended award amount for each project and any contingencies for the award
- **Between now and September 17:** Staff to conduct additional vetting to ensure budgets and scopes align with funding guidelines
- **September 17 Meeting:** Subcommittee to vote on funding recommendations
- **October 1:** Board of Commissioners is briefed on subcommittee recommendations
- **October 15:** Board of Commissioners vote on funding awards

