

To Whom It May Concern:

It was recently brought to my attention that there is a possibility that the Oklawaha Greenway may be extended from Jackson Park to Blue Ridge Community College. I for one, and speaking on behalf of the Four Seasons Running Club, think that this would be a super opportunity for walkers, bikers, runners, and the community as a whole.

As the co-founder of the Four Season Running Club - Henderson County's running club, many years ago, I remember how difficult it was to find good urban trails throughout Hendersonville that were safe, attractive, and relatively flat for our club members. I also remember the days of the wetlands boardwalk trail off 7th Avenue. It always seemed to be in a state of disrepair. Fast forward a few years and we have the beautiful Oklawaha Trail connecting three of our parks and providing a perfect environment for people of all ages to walk, run, or bike outside.

One can look at the successes of both the Virginia Creeper Trail (in SW Virginia) and the Swamp Rabbit Trail (in Greenville, SC) and see just how much these trails and greenways have beneficially impacted these communities.

I truly hope the Oklawaha will be extended to Blue Ridge Community College. And let's not stop there. Perhaps there can be a trail extension from Berkeley Mills up to Fletcher Park someday. In any case, it is a known fact that greenways and urban trails have a positive economic and community health impact on the communities they serve.

Please feel free to contact me any time for additional support and comments about this potential project.

Sincerely,

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