



Henderson County Board of Health

Henderson County Department of Public Health
Steven E. Smith, MPA – Secretary to the Board
Henderson County Health Director

1200 Spartanburg Highway, Suite 100 Hendersonville, NC 28792
Main Phone: (828) 692-4223 | Administration FAX: (828) 697-4709

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

February 13, 2018

James Crafton
Chairperson/Engineer

Henderson County Board of Commissioners
Attn: Michael Edney, Chairman
1 Historic Courthouse Square, Suite 1
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Robyn Bryson
Vice Chairperson/Pharmacist

Re: Greenways in Henderson County

Bo Caldwell
General Public

Dear Chairman Edney,

Robert Duffey
Physician

The Henderson County Board of Health heard a presentation at their November 14, 2017 meeting from the Friends of the Oklawaha Greenway. The topic of greenways is relevant to our public health mission since obesity is consistently selected in the community health assessment process as one of the county's health priorities. The resulting action plans to address obesity and avoidable chronic disease continue to emphasize the importance of additional physical activity opportunities and improved nutrition. The benefits of additional physical activity options are quantifiable with reliable research publications like the NC Medical Journal estimating that for every dollar invested in accessible pedestrian and bike trails, a community saves three dollars in direct medical expenses.

David Ellis
General Public

Graham Fields
General Public

Bill Lapsley
County Commissioner

Leslie Leidecker
Veterinarian

The board commends the recent decision by the Henderson County Board of Commissioners to initiate the feasibility studies for the northward and southward extensions of the Oklawaha Greenway. This is an important step forward to evaluate options for expansion of community greenways and associated improvements with health outcomes. We support these initiatives and will assist in any way possible through our community health improvement process to advance these important investments in our quality of life.

Craig Poole
Optometrist

Pete Richards
Dentist

Barbara Stanley
Nurse

Sincerely,

James Crafton, Chairman
On Behalf of the Henderson County Board of Health