



Roanoke Valley Greenways
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ROANOKE VALLEY GREENWAYS ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008



Letter from the Chairman

Pathfinders for Greenways

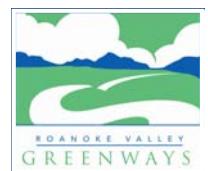


Without the support of the local governments, the Roanoke Valley Greenway system would not continue to grow.



Pathfinders volunteers logged more than 5,000 hours constructing trails and bridges and received more than \$90,000 in funds in 2008.

Trails in the Roanoke Valley Greenway System	
Paved Trails	Mileage
Lick Run Greenway	3.0
Mill Mountain Greenway	3.1
Mudlick Creek Greenway at Garst Mill Park	0.5
Roanoke River Greenway, City of Roanoke	5.3
Roanoke River Greenway at Green Hill Park	0.8
Roanoke River Greenway at Moyer Complex	0.5
Tinker Creek Greenway	1.2
Total	14.4
Cinder Surfaced Trails	Mileage
Hanging Rock Battlefield Trail	1.7
Wolf Creek Greenway	2.2
Murray Run Greenway	3.0
Total	6.9
Natural Surfaced Trails	Mileage
Appalachian Trail	37.2
Blue Ridge Parkway Trails	16.0
Carvins Cove Natural Reserve Trails	40.0
Explore Park Trails	12.3
Gladetown Trail	0.6
Green Hill Park Trails	1.9
Mill Mountain Park Trails	10.0
Poor Mountain Preserve Trails	0.6
Read Mountain Park	1.9
Total	120.5
Total Trails	142 Miles



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December 2008

Dear Friends,

The Roanoke Valley has become a greenway friendly community with 142 miles of trails for residents and visitors. The Intergovernmental Agreement that established the Greenway Commission eleven years ago is in the process of being renewed with continued long term commitment by the City of Roanoke, Roanoke County, City of Salem, and Town of Vinton. In addition to financing, each locality provides significant departmental resources from parks and recreation, planning, and engineering. The Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission has also taken a leadership role, helping with completion of the 2007 update to the greenway plan, upgrades to the website greenways.org, and publication of a mobility map that includes greenways and trails.

Greenways would not happen without active volunteers and community supporters. Pathfinders for Greenways has worked across the valley on construction of new trails and bridges at places like Carvins Cove, Read Mountain, Fishburn Park, and Green Hill Park. Pathfinders established a Greenway Fund with the Foundation for Roanoke Valley to begin an endowment for the long term benefit of greenways. Valley Forward held the Gallop 4 the Greenways, which raised \$35,000 in 2007 and again in 2008. Novozymes Biologicals, Inc. funded another \$50,000 toward its multi-year commitment to the greenways. All contributions go directly toward greenway construction and not administrative expenses.

Thanks to our Greenway Coordinator, Liz Belcher, who has provided guidance from the beginning of the greenway initiative. The Roanoke Valley's quality of life is enhanced by active organizations for cyclists, hikers, runners, and land preservationists who all share a passion for our natural environment. I invite you to make greenways your community project.

Sincerely,

Chair
Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission

Established in 1997, Pathfinders for Greenways is a volunteer, non-profit group that promotes the establishment and management of a network of greenways in the Roanoke Valley. Pathfinders volunteers have been particularly effective in building and maintaining natural surface trails, and in 2008 alone the Pathfinders group logged 5,000 hours of volunteer labor on 103 project days around the valley. Photos from many projects can be viewed at www.vast-network.org.

Using grant funds from the State, the Pathfinders purchased a Ditch Witch Sk500 for construction of trails. The auger attachment facilitates the installation of signs and was used extensively in the Carvins Cove Natural Reserve.



A February 2008 windstorm forced many trails in the Carvins Cove Natural Reserve to be temporarily closed because of the downed trees. Volunteers from Pathfinders logged over 100 hours of hard labor to clear trails and roads.



With assistance from the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, Pathfinders launched a new and improved website with better maps and online donation forms.

This past year, Pathfinders established the Roanoke Valley Greenways Fund at Foundation for Roanoke Valley with \$10,000 in seed monies. The fund will provide an endowment for greenways, and, as it grows, will provide for the construction and maintenance of the Roanoke Valley Greenways network of bicycle and pedestrian trails.

Pathfinders for Greenways Revenue 2008

Private Donations	\$52,000	Fundraising	\$ 200
Gallop 4 the Greenways	\$35,000	Office Assistant	\$ 4,075
Grant Reimbursement	\$ 3,100	Tools and Equipment	\$ 6,350
		Construction Projects	\$28,650
TOTAL	\$ 90,100	Special Events	\$ 1,450
		Web expenses	\$ 175
		Office expenses	\$ 1,800
		Endowment	\$10,000
		TOTAL	\$52,700

Pathfinders for Greenways Board of Directors 2008

President: Jeff Howard

Vice-President: Brian Batteiger

Treasurer: John Renick

Secretary: Cyndi Hilton/ Helen Smythers

Other Directors:

- Guy Byrd
- Tim Cribbs
- Bill Gordge
- Mark Hodges
- Scott Leffel
- Linda Oberlender
- Charles Osterhoudt
- Scott Perkins
- Amy Powell
- Warren Schimizzi
- Dave Tompkins
- Allen Walker

Advisory Board:

- Charlie Blankenship
- John Bradshaw
- Barbara Duerk
- Gary Oberlender
- Dave Oliver
- James Roberson
- Maurice Turner





The Greenway Commission secured more than \$658,000 in grant and donated funds during 2007 and 2008.

The Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission was established in 1997 to promote and facilitate coordinated direction and guidance in the planning, development and maintenance of a system of greenways throughout the Roanoke Valley.

Each of the four local governing bodies appoints three members and one member is appointed by the Metropolitan Planning Organization. Ex-officio members of the Commission

Members of the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission FY 2008

City of Roanoke: Lucy Ellett, Jim Lee and Randall Shaver/Danielle Rhine

City of Salem: Butch Elam, Mac Johnson and Jim Phipps

Roanoke County: Bob Blankenship, Charlie Blankenship and Don Witt

Town of Vinton: Matthew Hare, Barbara King and Janet Scheid

Metropolitan Planning Organization: Lee Osborne

Ex-Officio Members

City of Roanoke Staff: Donnie Underwood and Ian Shaw

City of Salem Staff: Ben Tripp and Teri Atkins

Roanoke County Staff: Lon Williams and Chris Patriarca

Town of Vinton Staff: Anita McMillan

Group Representatives

Blue Ridge Bicycle Club: Barbara Duerk

Pathfinders for Greenways: Tim Cribbs

Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club: Roger Holback

Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce: Joyce Waugh

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission: Shane Sawyer

Roanoke Valley Horsemen's Association: Bob Whitehurst

Star City Striders: Barry Brewer

Stormwater Management: George Simpson

Western Virginia Water Authority: Sarah Baumgardner

Western Virginia Land Trust: Roger Holback



The focus of the Roanoke Valley Greenway program for the next five years will be to finish the Roanoke River Greenway.

include staff from the governments' planning and parks departments, plus representatives of interested organizations and user groups.

In addition to using funds that come from the four localities on a per capita basis, the Greenway Commission has been instrumental during 2007 and 2008 in securing more than \$658,000 in grant funding and private donations for the localities to use for greenway construction.

Greenway Commission Revenue FY 08

<u>Source</u>	<u>FY 07</u>	<u>FY 08</u>
Localities	\$75,000	\$ 75,000
State	\$65,000	\$ 100
Private	\$40,100	\$ 5,900
TOTAL	\$180,100	\$ 81,000

Greenway Commission Expenses FY 08

	<u>FY 07</u>	<u>FY 08</u>
Personnel and Operations	\$ 77,000	\$81,000
Construction	<u>\$128,500</u>	<u>\$ 600</u>
TOTAL	\$205,500	\$81,600



Photo by Dan Smith

Liz Belcher, the Roanoke Valley Greenway Coordinator, is staff to the Greenway Commission.

In 2007 the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission and the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, working with the Cities of Roanoke and Salem, Roanoke County, and the Town of Vinton, completed an update to the 1995 greenway plan. This *2007 Update*, which was adopted by each locality,

recommended dividing the 35 greenway routes into four priority groups.

The top priority is completion of the Roanoke River Greenway within five years. The complete plan can be viewed on-line at www.rvarc.org/greenways.

Priority One—The Roanoke River Greenway

When completed, this 30-mile long greenway will connect the urbanized areas of the Cities of Roanoke and Salem to the rural edges of Roanoke County, the Blue Ridge Parkway and Explore Park. This greenway offers the most potential for recreation, health and economic development benefits.

Priority Two

These regional projects are already underway and provide connections from the Roanoke River Greenway to other public lands with clusters of trails. The goal is to finish these in five to ten years.

Blue Ridge Parkway Trails
Carvins Cove Trails
Hanging Rock Battlefield Trail
Lick Run Greenway
Mason Creek Greenway
Mill Mountain Greenway
Mill Mountain Park Trails
Tinker Creek Greenway
Wolf Creek Greenway

Priority Three

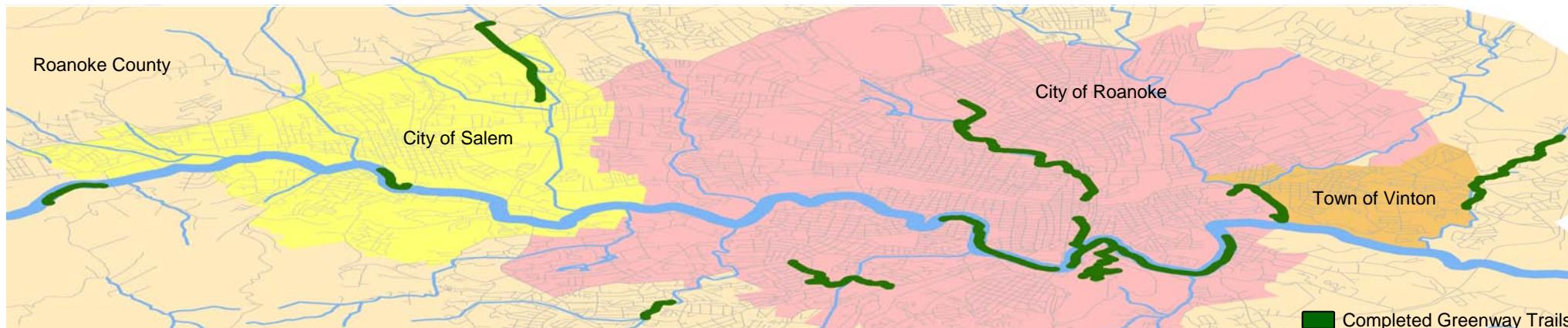
Priority three greenways are important to the localities for neighborhood use, public health and economic development. They should be completed in five to ten years.

Bio-med Loop
Garden City Greenway
Glade Creek Greenway
Gladetown Trail
Mudlick Creek Greenway
Murray Run Greenway
Neighborhood Connections
Read Mountain Trails

Priority Four

Priority four greenways are projects that will be completed as opportunities and resources arise. Within this priority are trails on other public lands, such as the Appalachian Trail and Blue Ridge Parkway, that can provide connectivity for the greenway network.





There are 142 miles of trail in the Roanoke Valley for our residents and visitors to enjoy.

From the graceful curves of the bridge at Fishburn Park to the gently flowing fence line along the Roanoke River, greenways are creeping across the Roanoke Valley enticing our citizens into the great outdoors. With new bridges and longer trail segments, made possible by great cooperation between the four localities and volunteers, the Valley now has 142 miles of trail in the greenway network for residents and visitors to enjoy.



Carvins Cove Natural Reserve

Volunteers logged more than 2500 hours in Roanoke's Carvins Cove Natural Reserve in 07-08. They cleared fallen trees, manufactured and erected new signage, built and repaired trail segments and constructed a new bridge. Horses, mules, bicyclists, hikers and the trusty Muck Truck carried timber and concrete up the hills so that volunteers could build the bridge on Four Gorge Trail.



Murray Run Greenway Bridge in Fishburn Park

Constructed in 2008 with over 1,000 hours of volunteer service, the Fishburn Park bridge connected a gap in the three mile Murray Run Greenway. Trail users now have a safe connection between six area schools.



Murray Run Greenway and Trailhead

Dedicated in honor of longtime volunteer and Pathfinder Board Member Dan Wright, the Murray Run Greenway Trailhead was constructed in 2007 in a cooperative project among the City of Roanoke, Greater Raleigh Court Civic League and Pathfinders for Greenways. Over 700 hours were dedicated to making this trailhead a reality.



Read Mountain Trails

It's probably safe to say that the average age of the users of Buzzards Rock Trail is decades less than that of the trail building team. Bill Gordge and other retirees volunteered over 1,380 hours in the fall of 2008 to complete 1.9 miles of trail in Roanoke County's newest park, Read Mountain Preserve.



Roanoke River Greenway

Construction is ongoing to connect new sections of the Roanoke River Greenway, the valley's priority project.



The City of Roanoke constructed three more miles of trail in the last two years, from Hamilton Terrace to the new parking lot near the Regional Water Pollution Control Plant. Built cooperatively with the Corp of Engineers as part of the flood reduction project, this give the City over five miles of greenway along the river.

Construction of Roanoke County's first section of Roanoke River Greenway was completed in Green Hill Park. Using Transportation Enhancement funds, the County built the paved 3/4 mile trail. With funding from Novozymes Biologicals, Inc. and the Roanoke Women's Foundation, volunteers from those organizations, HSMM and Pathfinders erected the 70-foot bridge in the middle of the greenway. Pathfinders also coordinated volunteer construction of several kiosks.

Volunteer of the Year



2007—Valley Forward

Valley Forward coordinated Gallop 4 the Greenways, a 5K race/walk to benefit Roanoke Valley Greenways. The proceeds from the first annual event topped \$35,000, and then they did it again in 2008!



2008—GE-TMGE Volunteers

Volunteers from GE-TMGE invested more than 1,000 hours of labor and design services to construct the Murray Run Greenway Bridge in Fishburn Park. This sweeping bridge beautifully adds connectivity to the Murray Run Greenway.

If you are interested in volunteering to help build Roanoke Valley Greenways, please contact Pathfinders for Greenways at www.greenways.org.