

Annual Report
2011

Roanoke Valley Greenways



Bridging the Gap

Roanoke Valley Greenways 2011 Annual Report

Commission Members

Roanoke City: Jim Lee, Mark Lucas,
Jim Ritchie

Roanoke County: Charlie Blankenship,
Bob Blankenship, Donald Witt

Salem: Mac Johnson, Butch Elam,
Mark McClain

Vinton: Matthew Hare, Janet Scheid

The Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan
Planning Organization: Lee Osborne

Pathfinders for Greenways: Tim Cribbs

Roanoke City Staff: Steve Buschor,
Tom Carr

Roanoke County Staff: Lon Williams,
George Simpson

Salem City Staff: Lisa Garst, Ben Tripp

Town of Vinton Staff: Anita McMillan,
Karla Turman

Ex-Officio Members

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional
Commission: Shane Sawyer

Western Va Land Trust: Roger Holnback

Western Va Water Authority:
Sarah Baumgardner

Roanoke Regional Partnership:
Pete Eshelman

Star City Striders: Jim Humphrey

Blue Ridge Bicycle Club: Barbara Duerk

From the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission

Dear Roanoke Valley Greenway partners and users,

The year 2011 was an exciting time for Roanoke Valley Greenways! Construction projects were underway on both ends of the Roanoke River Greenway in Roanoke, setting the stage for a major expansion of that popular resource, including a dramatic connection to the Tinker Creek Greenway. Meanwhile in Salem, a contract was finalized for expansion of Roanoke River Greenway, and city staff started work on an important connector between two existing sections. All of these projects are slated for completion in 2012, with some already open as we write this report. This tremendous progress was made possible by the diligent planning and securing of funds by the Greenway Commission and the participating localities, working together in a shining example of regional partnership for the mutual benefit of all.

Looking to the future, we made significant progress in our endeavor to secure funding for the critical section of Roanoke River Greenway connecting Roanoke and Salem – our campaign to “Bridge the Gap”. We can now say with confidence that the “Golden Spike” moment that will complete an 18-mile trail along the Roanoke River is within our grasp. Much work remains to be done, but we are committed to seeing it through.

We’ve made progress in many other areas and in all the localities represented on the Greenway Commission, including new trails, improvements to existing trails, and the all-important planning and design that will lead to future expansion and enhancements.

None of this would be possible without the support of the political leaders, professional staff, and citizens of the participating localities of Roanoke, Roanoke County, Salem and Vinton. We are motivated by this support and pledge to continue our work toward the goal of a world-class greenway system for the benefit of all the people of the Roanoke Valley.

Sincerely,



Mark McClain,
Chairman



Liz Belcher,
Greenway Coordinator

Greenway Commission Staff

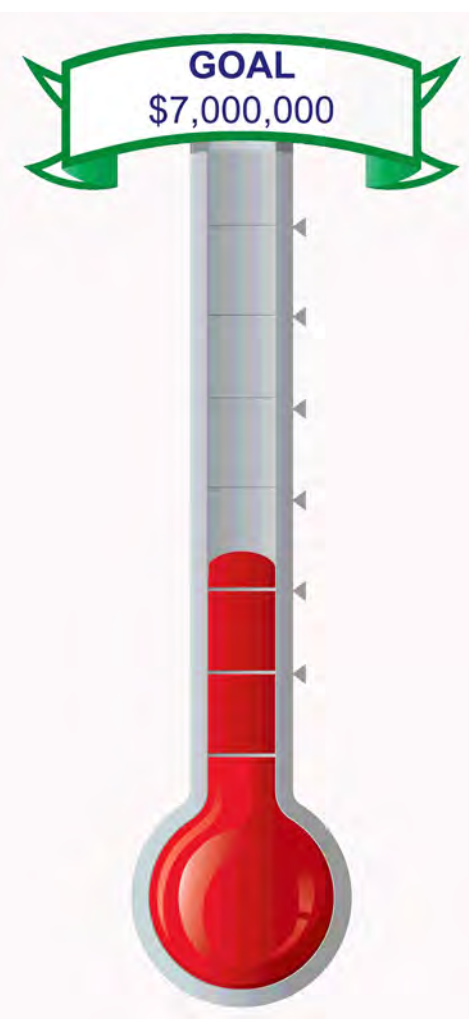
Greenway Coordinator: Liz Belcher

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www.greenways.org

Bridging the Gap

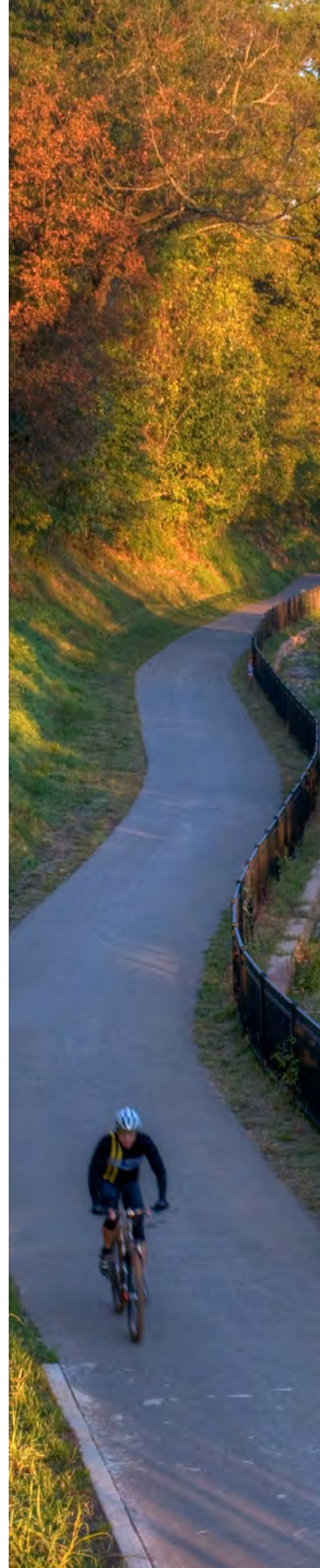
In 2007 when the Greenway Commission updated the Greenway Master Plan, we heard from citizens that they wanted a continuous greenway along the Roanoke River. This goal became more achievable when we received \$2 million from the ARRA Stimulus program in 2009 and \$4.8 million of Open Container funds in 2010. These two allotments through VDOT allowed us to address two very difficult pieces of the Greenway: the connection around the sewage treatment plant and the connection from Green Hill Park to Mill Lane. In addition, the Corps of Engineers agreed to build a final section in partnership with the City, the piece from Memorial Avenue to Bridge Street.

The Greenway Commission and four localities began to focus on the cost and logistics of completing the Greenway from Green Hill Park, through Salem and Roanoke, to Vinton and Roanoke County. In the center of this

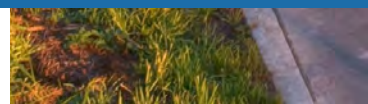


18-mile stretch, there was a four-mile piece that was unfunded from Rotary Park in Salem to Bridge Street in Roanoke. Due to right-of-way constraints and the proximity of railroad tracks and industries, the cost for this piece was estimated to be \$7 million. The Greenway Commission and Pathfinders for Greenways decided to make funding of this section their top priority.

In 2011 we began a three-year campaign to raise this money. We are pleased to report that by the end of 2011, \$2.2 million had been pledged and donated to the campaign. While we hope to benefit from additional federal and state grants, those resources remain uncertain and always require a match. In 2012, we are asking the public to become part of the equation and share our commitment to fund and build the Roanoke River Greenway. It has become, and will continue to be, a great thing for the valley, our businesses and our residents.



" This project will transform Roanoke in a very positive way." - S. Johnson





Roanoke River Greenway
in Green Hill Park



Hanging Rock Battlefield
Trail Greenway



Roanoke River Greenway
in Salem's Moyer Complex



Garst Mill Park Greenway

Enjoy all that the Roanoke Valley Greenways have to offer!

Paved Trails: 17 miles

	Mileage
Lick Run Greenway	3.5
Mill Mountain Greenway	3.1
Mudlick Creek Greenway at Garst Mill Park	0.5
Roanoke River Greenway (City of Roanoke)	5.9
Roanoke River Greenway (Roanoke County)	0.8
Roanoke River Greenway (Salem)	2.0
Tinker Creek Greenway	1.3

Cinder Surfaced Trails: 6.9 miles

	Mileage
Hanging Rock Battlefield Trail	1.7
Wolf Creek Greenway	2.2
Murray Run Greenway	3.0

Bicycle Routes: 42.2 miles

Bike Lanes	14.2
Bike Routes	28.0



Download trail maps at www.greenways.org

Natural Surfaced Trails: 146.8 miles

	Mileage		
Appalachian Trail	37.2	Green Hill Park Trails	1.9
Blue Ridge Parkway Trails	16.0	Havens Wildlife Mgt. Area	17.0
Carvins Cove Natural Reserve	46.0	Mill Mountain Park Trails	10.0
Explore Park Trails	12.3	Poor Mountain Preserve Trails	2.9
Fern Park	1.0	Read Mountain Park	1.9
Gladetown Trail	0.6		

Funding the Greenways

The Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission is funded by the City of Roanoke, Roanoke County, City of Salem and Town of Vinton on a per capita basis under provisions of an intergovernmental agreement. The Commission also solicits grants for construction of greenways and for operational expenses. Most of the greenway construction funds are managed through the localities' budgets.

Greenway Commission Summary Operating Report

	FY11	FY10
Income		
Contributions from localities	81,268	77,100
Other Income	<u>1,127</u>	<u>2,885</u>
	\$82,395	\$79,985
Expenses		
Salary and benefits	75,189	72,579
Professional audit services	4,725	4,500
Travel	2,996	1,999
All other expenses	<u>4,275</u>	<u>3,395</u>
	\$87,185	\$82,473
Net Income (Loss)	(\$4,790)	(\$2,488)

Pathfinders for Greenways

Calendar Year 2011

Income

Operating **\$13,150**

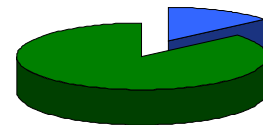
Expenses

Construction Projects	2,570
Equip., Maintenance & Tools	6,980
Office & Operations	8,620
Volunteer Training & Support	<u>4,380</u>

Total \$22,550

Capital Donations to Bridge the Gap

2011 Income*



Greenway
Commission
\$37,895

Pathfinders for Greenways
\$232,800

Expenses 2011

Brochures & Marketing	7540
Transaction Fees	<u>55</u>
	\$7595

*Financial data for the Greenway Commission is reported based on Fiscal Year 2011. Pathfinders for Greenways reports financial data based on Calendar Year 2011.

"I run and bike the greenway several times a week and my wife and I did not move back to the country when our kids left for college because in large part to the green way!!!! " - T. Dalton

Pathfinders for Greenways

Pathfinders for Greenways is a volunteer, non-profit organization supporting the greenway network in the Roanoke Valley. Tax-deductible donations from private contributions provides financial support for equipment, materials and construction of the ever expanding trail network.

In 2011, Pathfinders undertook two major initiatives beyond the group's normal trail building activities:

- Capital fundraising through the Bridge the Gap campaign, in partnership with the Greenway Commission, and
- Managing the Gallop 4 the Greenways, in partnership with the City of Roanoke and Down by the River.

The Gallop was challenging, as the weather was the most inclement ever and the rain ceased only for the start of the race. The \$24,000 proceeds from the Gallop were committed by Pathfinders to the Bridge the Gap campaign. Many thanks to the Valley Forward volunteers who did this fundraiser for the first four years and to the City of Roanoke who assisted in 2011.

Carvins Cove Trail Building

In 2011, Pathfinders worked with the City of Roanoke to coordinate volunteers as part of the implementation of the Carvins Cove Trail Management Plan. Pathfinders provided volunteers with several training opportunities, including the Professional Trail Building Conference, IMBA Trail Building School, First Aid, Chainsaw Certification, and CPR. Twenty-two trail monitors were recruited, with assignments for maintenance of individual trails. Pathfinders paid for the professional layout of three new trails included in the Plan. Construction of the Four Gorge Extension began in the spring and stretched across many weekends throughout the year, one component of the 1500 hours of trail work at the Cove.

Other Trail Construction

The Mid-Week Crew focused its trail building efforts on Read Mountain. The new hiking trail there features an exceptional array of rock work and steps. It will be completed in spring 2012, providing a five mile loop around the preserve. In addition, the crew continued to serve adjoining areas, with work at the Appalachian Trail, Mountain Lake, and Montgomery County. Once again, Pathfinders provided over 5300 hours of volunteer time building natural-surfaced trails for the greenway network.

Other Activities

In 1997 the Pathfinders bought the domain name: greenways.org. This web site provides information about all the greenways in the valley. The Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC) has been the key to providing greenway mapping, and in 2011 they received the NADO Excellence Award for the interactive greenway mapping on our website. Many thanks to RVARC and congratulations!

Pathfinders Board of Directors 2011

Tim Cribbs - President
Brian Batteiger - Vice President
Jim Mullens - Treasurer
George Belanger
James Breakell
Guy Byrd
Bill Gorge
Cyndi Hilton
Mark Hodges
Stewart Hubbell
Allison Masinter
Mack McGhee
Matt Miller
Linda Oberlender
Charles Osterhoudt
Amy Powell
John Renick
Dave Tompkins



Volunteer of the Year 2011 Maurice Turner

At the Annual Greenway Picnic held at Wasena Park in October, **Maurice Turner** received the Volunteer of the Year Award for his many years of service to the trail community, Mid-Week Crew, and Appalachian Trail.

" The greenway system is a linear portal into our communities, a communication between those using it and our neighborhoods, environment and our shared needs and endeavors." - J. Crawford



"Our whole family and many of our neighbors use and love the greenways. Thanks for this great addition to the recreational options here in the valley!" - E. Lepro

