

Henderson County, NC



2015



PARTICIPANT PROFILE

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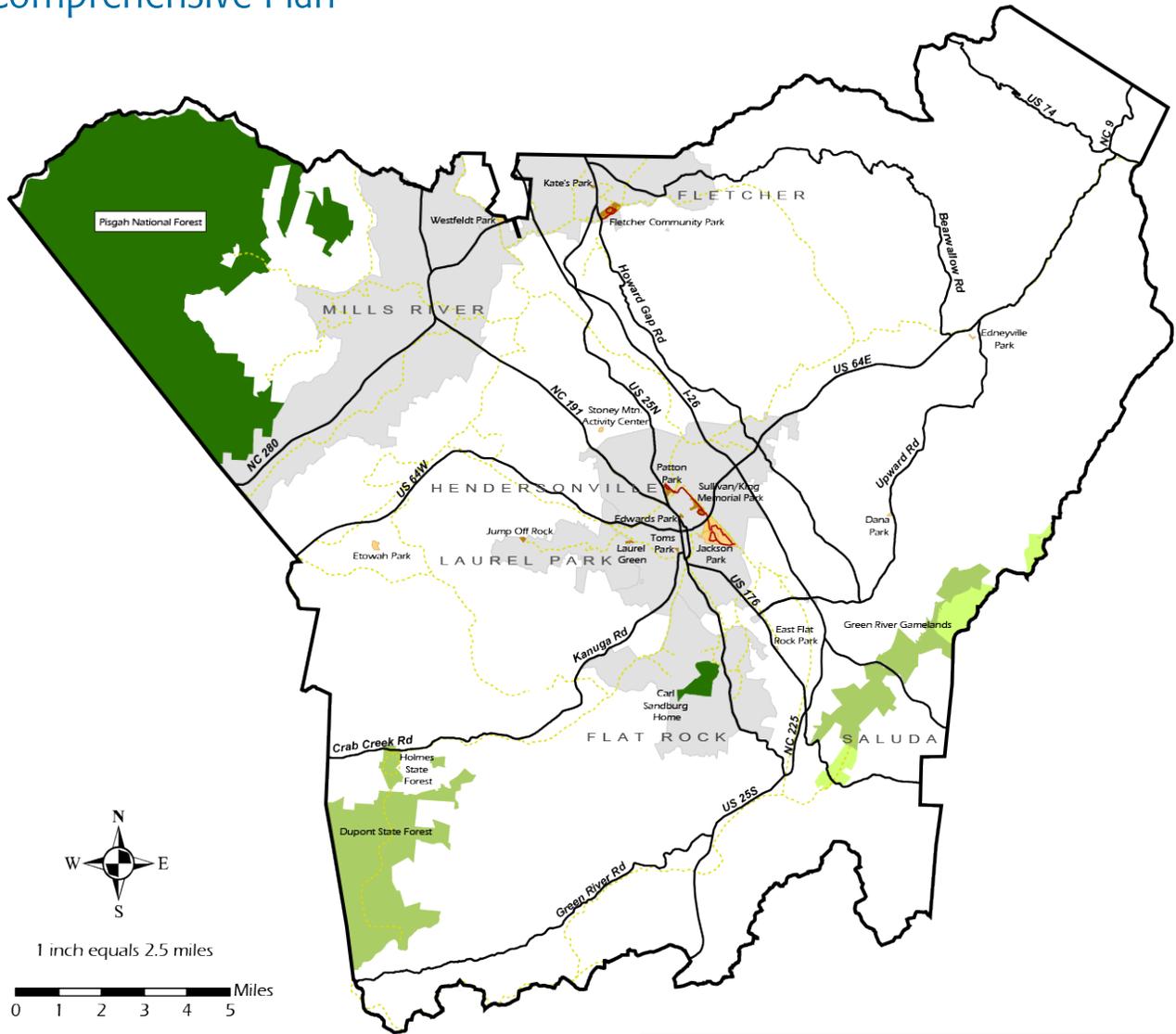
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Henderson County 2020 Comprehensive Plan



Public Parks, Recreation Sites, and Proposed Greenways

- Major Roads
- Future Greenways
- Proposed Apple Country Greenway
- Municipal Limits
- Park Ownership**
- U.S. Government
- State of North Carolina
- N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission
- Henderson County
- Municipal

This map was produced by Henderson County GIS, Assessor's, Land Records, & Planning Departments.

This map is prepared for the inventory of real property found within this jurisdiction, and is compiled from recorded deeds, plats, and other public records and data. Users of this map are hereby notified that the aforementioned public primary information sources should be consulted for verification of the information contained on this map. The County and mapping company assume no legal responsibility for the information contained on this map.

Henderson County



Henderson County is located in Western North Carolina, 22 miles south of Asheville, NC, in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains on a plateau with an altitude of 2200 feet above level. Henderson County is located on an intermountain plateau and is almost circled by mountains. Elevations range from 1400 feet near Bat Cave at the foot of the Blue Ridge, to 5000 feet on Little Pisgah.

Introduction to Henderson County:

- Named for Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court, Judge Leonard Henderson.
- Bordered by Buncombe County to the north, Rutherford and Polk counties to the east, Transylvania County to the west and South Carolina to the south.
- Largest apple-producing county in North Carolina.
- Economy based on tourism, manufacturing, agriculture and retirement.

Henderson County invites citizens to participate in local government by volunteering for an advisory board:

Advisory Council on Aging -Land of Sky Regional Council
Asheville Regional Housing Consortium
Henderson County Zoning Board of Adjustment
Agriculture Advisory Board
Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority
City of Hendersonville
Zoning Board of Adjustment
Animal Services Committee
Jury Commission
Town of Laurel Park Zoning Board of Adjustment
Blue Ridge Community College Board of Trustees
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
Western Carolina Community Action
Cane Creek Water & Sewer District Advisory Board
Library Board of Trustees
Home and Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee
Cemetery Advisory Committee
Mountain Area Workforce Development Board

Historic Resources Commission
Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Peer Review Committee
Mountain Valleys Resource Conservation and Development Program
Historic Courthouse Corporation (Heritage Museum Board)
Environmental Advisory Committee
Town of Fletcher Planning Board
Social Services Board, Transportation
Equalization and Review
Henderson County Planning Board
Senior Volunteer Services Advisory Council
Board of Health
City of Hendersonville Planning Board
Fire and Rescue Advisory Committee
Henderson Tourism Development Authority
Town of Laurel Park Planning Board
Recreation Advisory Board
Hospital Corporation Board of Director

Services Provided by County Government:

Animal Services, Board of Elections
E911 Communications Center
Water Quality
Cooperative Extension, Code Enforcement
Solid Waste
Geographic Information Systems
Emergency Management
Environmental Health
Permits & Inspections
Emergency Medical Services
Health Department
Planning
Rescue Squad

Six Public Libraries
Property Addressing
Fire Marshal
Parks & Recreation
Public Schools
Register of Deeds
Sheriff
Social Services
Tourism Development Authority / Visitor Center
Utilities/Cane Creek Sewer District
Veteran Services
Water Supply Watershed
Zoning

Active Recreation

Henderson County maintains eight parks, totaling 331 acres, which host numerous events and activities.

Landscaped Areas–

Designed Tree, Shrub, Turf, and Perennial Plantings

Jackson Park

- Jackson Park covers 212 acres, one of the largest county maintained parks in Western North Carolina.
- Facilities include 4 picnic shelters, 9 baseball fields, multi-purpose fields for soccer and events, 8 tennis courts, playgrounds, and many walking trails.
- Home to many species of birds, wildlife, and plants.
- The Oklawaha Greenway Trail is a partnership between Henderson County Parks & Recreation and the City of Hendersonville. 1.89 miles trail travels through Jackson Park, passes by King Memorial and Sullivan Park, along Mud Creek and ends in Patton Park.

Bullington Gardens

- 12-acre, nonprofit horticultural education center offering programs, activities and workshops.
- Includes a therapy garden, shade garden, butterfly garden, perennial borders, native woodland garden, and pumpkin patch and herb garden.
- Adult horticultural programs include basic gardening, landscape design, and others.
- BOOST Program works with special needs high school students to develop positive job skills toward fostering their independence.
- Volunteers assist with care of the gardens, care of plants in the greenhouse, educational programs, mow grass, maintain machinery, and raise funds.

Environmental Effort – Sustainable Development and Awareness

Bountiful Harvest Community Garden

- Community garden within Jackson Park that follows the USDA's recommendations for organic production.
- Approximately 30 plots available for the residents of Henderson County.

2015 PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

County Population: 109,540
Website: www.hendersoncountync.org
Contact Name: . Tommy Thompson, County Commissioner
Chairman, tthompson@hendersoncountync.org
Area in Square Miles: 375
Miles of Interstate Highway:67.28 lane miles
Miles of Paved Public Roads:791.51 miles
Miles of Unpaved Public Roads:78.93 miles

Chamber of Commerce:

Henderson County Chamber of Commerce

Visitor Center: Henderson County
Tourism Development Authority

Volunteer Involvement:

Animal Control 15 volunteers and 905.5 hours
Law Enforcement 80 volunteers and 20,431.75 hours
Library..... 215 volunteers and 15,193 hours
Parks and Recreation..... 280 volunteers and 5,780 hours
Tax Department 2 volunteers and 370 hours
Tourism Development Authority (Visitor Center)
..... 77 volunteers and 3,670 hours
Henderson County Extension Master Gardener Volunteers
.....contributed 5,467 hours

Henderson County invites citizens to participate in local
government by volunteering for an advisory board

Total Volunteer Hours- 51,817.25

- Nurtured and facilitated by Extension Master Gardener Volunteers through the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Henderson County Center.
- Plot holders and volunteers harvest rainwater, compost, follow integrated pest management practices, and are in the process of building a passively heated greenhouse.
- Established a passive solar greenhouse out of recycled materials in 2014.

Extension Pesticide Collection Day

- North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Henderson County Center, in cooperation with NCDA&CS' Pesticide Disposal Assistance Program (PDAP), provide a pesticide collection day for Henderson County.
- In the last 3 years, more than 9,000 lbs. of material was collected, some of the chemicals collected were: DDT, Lead Arsenic, chlordane, and 2,4,5-T "Agent Orange".
- Program reduces the dangers of potentially hazardous products disposed of improperly, and provides a good environmentally safe method for disposing of unwanted materials, insuring they are not dumped in our landfills.

Henderson County Convenience Center

- The Henderson County Solid Waste Department provides the Henderson County Convenience Center for recyclable materials, electronics, white goods (used appliances and metals), and wood waste.
- In fiscal year 2013-2014, Henderson County residents recycled 4,357 tons of recyclable materials.

The Convenience Center accepts the following items:

- Household trash: If accompanied with recycling - (one bag of recyclable materials for one bag of household trash) otherwise, household trash needs to be taken to the Transfer Facility for disposal.
- Recycling: All plastic containers (#1-7), Gable top/carton containers, Aluminum and steel cans, Mixed paper, Cardboard, Batteries (rechargeable and non-rechargeable), Antifreeze, Used motor oil and used oil filters, Cooking oil, White goods (please leave appliances upright), and scrap metal, Computers, office equipment, telephones, stereos, compact discs, etc., Mercury thermostats
- Recycle Household Hazardous Waste: Henderson County Solid Waste Department determines the schedule for collection days, typically held monthly during the spring and summer.

Items accepted include: pesticides, fertilizer, household cleaning products, and liquid paint (\$1.00/Gallon)

- Holiday Items Recycled from December 26 – Early January
- Citizens are encouraged to recycle Christmas trees, greenery & wreaths.
- Trees are dropped off in Jackson Park in parking lot of Field 3.
- Chipped into mulch and offered to residents free of charge.
- Sponsored by Mountain True in cooperation with Henderson County Parks & Recreation Department.
- The Henderson County 4-H Club accepts old and broken strands of Christmas lights for recycling. Discarded lights are collected at the Cooperative Extension office in Jackson Park.

Heritage –

Preserving Your Past for Future Generations

Henderson County Heritage Museum

- Housed in the Historic Henderson County Courthouse on Main Street.
- Offers public displays, artifacts, lectures, collections, archives, libraries, demonstrations, and other similar exhibitions relating to the history, culture, heritage and story of the founding settlement and development of Henderson County.
- The Heritage Museum Board of Directors is a working board of volunteers.
- Volunteers act as tour guides and help with special events and fundraisers.

Historic Henderson County Courthouse

- Richard Sharp Smith, the supervising architect of Biltmore House, designed the 1905 Historic Henderson County Courthouse.
- The Courthouse was built of brick in a neoclassical revival style featuring six Corinthian columns on the front and four columns for each of the two side porticos.
- The focal point of the Courthouse is atop of the copper dome, a 6-foot statue of “Lady Justice.” The statue is the Greek goddess Themis (“The Greek Goddess of Divine Justice and Law”) who is without a blindfold, holding a sword in her right hand and scales in her left.
- Lady Justice is believed to be only one of only three in the United States without a blindfold, statues of Themis/Justice are blindfolded to typify that Justice should be impartial.
- Listed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 10, 1979.

Farm City Day

- Free, family-oriented educational event.
- Offers both urban and rural displays, antique and modern farm equipment & tools, live music, square dancing, clogging, arts and crafts, children’s activities, games, wagon rides, demonstrations, displays, competitions, food and learn about agriculture.
- North Carolina Cooperative Extension and Henderson County Parks and Recreation work together to coordinate and acquire sponsors for the event.

Floral Displays –

Henderson County Tourism Development Authority (Visitor Center)

- The TDA operating monies are derived from the 5% occupancy tax, ad and product sales.
- In 2013 domestic tourism in Henderson County added \$233.25 million to the local tax base. This is an increase of 6.67% over 2012 figures.
- Henderson County ranked 15 out of 100 counties in tourism expenditures in 2013.
- Provides hospitality to nearly 150,000 guests every year.
- Open seven days a week, 362 days a year.
- Over 40 volunteers act as ambassadors for our community and our attractions. Volunteers assist visitors by answering questions, giving maps & directions, assisting with hotel reservations and offering travel, dining and entertainment information.
- The Center is stocked with Vacation Planners, maps, and area brochures.
- Volunteers also assist the Visitor Center with Special Events to fill key positions at Garden Jubilee, Music On Main Street, and the Street Dances.

Contacts

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Kerrie Roach, Henderson County Cooperative Extension, Agent (828) 697-4891
Beth Carden, Henderson County TDA, Director (828) 693-9708
Karen Baker, Henderson County TDA, Assistant Director (828) 693-9708
Mia Freeman, Hendersonville AIB Coordinator (828) 768-4413

Hendersonville



Introduction to Hendersonville:

The City of Hendersonville received its charter from the North Carolina General Assembly and was officially recognized as the county seat of Henderson County on January 7, 1847. Having easy access from the lowlands, Hendersonville quickly became a vacation destination for tourists to spend the summer months escaping the sweltering heat in a milder, cooler climate. Hendersonville has been welcoming guests for more than a century, creating a strong tourism-based industry. Today's economy is based on tourism, manufacturing, agriculture and retirement.

Introduction to Historic Hendersonville

- Recognized as a Main Street Community and was entered into the National Register of Historic Places in March 1988.
- Downtown features interesting architecture from the early twentieth century, delightful shops, museums, and locally-owned restaurants.
- The serpentine Main Street features planted areas and boxes brimming with seasonal flowers and trees, tables and chairs for relaxing, and two water features.
- The Downtown hosts many activities throughout the year including art shows, an antique show, car shows, Garden Jubilee, Rhythm and Brews music series, the North Carolina Apple Festival, Music on Main, summer street dances, and parades.
- Downtown was included in the 2014 America in Bloom Best Ideas Book

Awards / Accolades

2014 America in Bloom – 3 Blooms

2013 - USA Today Retirement Living: 5 great (unknown) Places to Retire – Hendersonville Rated #1

2013 - Blue Ridge Magazine 2013 Best of the Mountains readers poll for Silver Best Main Street, Platinum Best Retirement Town, and Silver Best Small Town

Floral Displays – Attracting Attention with Colorful Plants

Main Street Plantings

- Hendersonville contracts with a professional landscaping company to maintain numerous trees, planters, and other planting beds throughout the downtown district.
- Flowers are changed out three times a year with spring bulbs, summer annuals, and fall/winter pansies and other plants.
- During the Christmas season white LED lights are added to the trees.

Hanging Baskets

- Hanging baskets are used on major streets where it is not feasible to have ground plantings.
- These are in place from spring through fall on Church Street, the avenues off Main Street, and in the historic section of Seventh Avenue.

Garden Jubilee

- Each Memorial Day weekend the Henderson County Tourism Development Authority hosts over 200 vendors selling thousands of annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs and hard to find plants on every block of the festival.
- Vendors sell handmade lawn furniture, jewelry, garden tools, yard art, planters, wind chimes, birdhouses, as well as soaps, and pottery.
- Garden Jubilee offers garden clinics, a plant sale, a hands-on kids clinic, beautiful yard displays and outdoor equipment.
- Nationally known lawn and garden product specialists will be offering free one-on-one advice.

2015 PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

City Population: 13,473
Website: www.cityofhendersonville.org
Contact Name: Mayor Barbara Volk
Area in Square Miles: 7.14

Services Provided by City Government: Public Works, Two Fire Stations, Police Department, Planning, Zoning, Water & Sewer

List of Civic Clubs & Organizations: American Red Cross-Henderson County Chapter, Blue Ridge Literacy Council, Boys & Girls of Henderson County, Four Season Rotary Club, Henderson County Habitat for Humanity, Hendersonville Elks Lodge #1616, Kiwanis Club of Hendersonville, Rotary Club Of Hendersonville, Four Seasons Toastmasters, United Way of Henderson County, Knight of Columbus, Hendersonville Shrine Club, VFW Post 5206, American Legion Post 77, Hendersonville Lions Club, Hendersonville Civitan Club, Pardee Hospital Auxiliary GFWC, Forrest Woman's Club, and League of Women Voters

Active Recreation: The City maintains nine public parks including: Berkeley Park, Boyd Park, Dr. Martin Luther King Park, King Memorial Park, Lenox Park, Patton Park, Pets' Own Place on Seventh Avenue, Sullivan Park (Green Meadows), and Toms Park.

Both Henderson County and the City of Hendersonville maintain the Oklawaha Greenway Trail, spanning from two of the more prominent parks in the county.

Landscaped Areas – Designed Tree, Shrub, Turf, and Perennial Plantings

Dogwoods on Fifth

- First of many significant and comprehensive neighborhood-specific endeavors the Tree Board intends to pursue as part of a national movement called “NeighborWoods.”
- Dogwoods have been planted in the front yards of participating residents on Fifth Avenue West, who have expressed their enthusiasm and pride of the new trees.

Landscape Awards

- The Hendersonville Tree Board annually presents certificates and monetary awards to both residential and commercial property owners who beautify their yards with plantings.

Urban Forestry

Hendersonville Tree Board

- The Tree Board consists of seven members who are residents of the City or extraterritorial jurisdiction or own property in the City.
- Volunteers planted 70 trees along Bearcat Loop Parkway and 50 on Upward Road.

Tree City USA

- Hendersonville is recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA community for its commitment to urban forestry.
- Hendersonville has earned this national designation for 24 years and has met the four standards to become a Tree City USA community.

Environmental Effort – Sustainable Development and Awareness

Recycling

- Comprehensive recycling program for residents and businesses.
- Provides 64-gallon roll-out recycling containers to all residents and those businesses using City trash collection services.
- All recyclable materials—glass, metal and plastic—excepting only Styrofoam, are collected curbside weekly.
- Materials are taken to Henderson County’s Convenience Center.
- Collects yard waste and leaves and turns them into mulch, which is available for purchase for a nominal fee.
- LED street lights are being used on Main Street, Patton Park, Fire Station #1 parking Lot, and the Maple Parking Lot
- The City uses a broadleaf herbicide in some locations to help with weed control.

Certified Bee City USA

- On May 7, 2015, Hendersonville City Council voted unanimously to adopt a resolution to become the 7th Bee City USA certified community in the nation.
- The Public Works Department, Tree Board, and Environmental Sustainability Board worked together with numerous organizations including the America in Bloom Committee, Henderson County Cooperative Extension, Henderson County Master Gardener Volunteers, Henderson County Beekeepers Association, Bullington Gardens, Historic Johnson Farm, and Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy.
- A letter of support from the Henderson County Board of Commissioners accompanied the City's application and resolution.
- Hendersonville Tree Board also coordinates the Tree City USA program.
- Hendersonville will publicly acknowledge commitment to the Bee City USA program through signage, web links, public educational events about pollinators throughout the year, and encourage pollinator habitat plantings on city property and on private lands.
- For example, the City's Oklawaha Greenway landscape plan has been designed to include plantings of approximately 500 native trees and more than an acre of flowering meadows to benefit pollinators.
- Henderson County Public Schools and the Henderson County Education Foundation offers educational programs to school children highlighting the essential role of pollinators in our ecosystem and in crop production.
- The America in Bloom Committee and Master Gardener Volunteers will maintain demonstration gardens including many pollinator friendly plants and continue their efforts to educate the public about proper selection, placement, and maintenance of plants to help support pollinators.

Heritage

Preserving Your Past for Future Generations

North Carolina Apple Festival

- Hendersonville is the official home of the Annual North Carolina Apple Festival, a four-day celebration in honor of the North Carolina Apple, held during Labor Day weekend.
- The NC Apple Festival features a street fair on Historic Main Street including continuous live musical entertainment, arts & crafts, apple growers selling apple products, children's & youth activities, special exhibits & open houses, food, and the King Apple Parade.
- North Carolina is the 7th largest apple-producing state in the nation and Henderson County is the largest apple-producing county in North Carolina, growing 65 percent of the apples in the state.
- Today Henderson County is home to approximately 200 apple growers.
- According to Henderson County Extension Service statistics, there are about 5000 acres of apple trees planted in Henderson County.

The Henderson County Curb Market

- Unique farmers market in continuous operation since 1924.
- Vendors must be Henderson County residents, and all items sold at the market must be either handmade or locally grown.
- Vendors offer variety of goods such as crafts, baked goods, jellies, plants, flowers, toys, and produce.
- The Curb Market hosts three annual events, two Ol' Timey Days and the Ol' Timey Christmas Open House.

Historic Preservation Commission

- Oversees the safeguarding of the City's heritage by preserving property that embodies important elements of its culture, history, architectural history or prehistory; identifies properties which are of special historical significance and which possess integrity of design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling and/or association, and to designate such as historic landmarks and districts; and promotes the use and conservation of such landmarks and districts for the education, pleasure and enrichment of the residents of the city, county, and state as a whole.

Historic Districts and Buildings

- Hendersonville has seven designated historic districts, three of those on the National Register. The City's Oakdale Cemetery is also on the National Register.
- Established in 1885 by the city commission and surrounded by historic residential neighborhoods, the cemetery encompasses 20.8 acres located to the south of Sixth Avenue West.
- The most well-known feature of the cemetery is Thomas Wolfe's angel. Author Thomas Wolfe's first novel was *Look Homeward, Angel*. In the book there are constant references to an angel statue carved from Italian marble. Thomas Wolfe's father, W.O. Wolfe, sold the statue to the Johnson family to mark the family

Contacts

Barbara Volk, City of Hendersonville/Mayor bvolk@cityofhendersonville.org

John Connet, City Manager (828) 697-3000, jconnet@cityofhendersonville.org

Mia Freeman / Hendersonville, AIB Coordinator (828) 768-4413

Village of Flat Rock



Introduction to Village of Flat Rock:

Established in 1807, the community of Flat Rock began when affluent Charlestonians, Europeans and prominent plantation owners of South Carolina's low country built large summer estates. These families came to Flat Rock to escape the sweltering heat and the epidemic of yellow fever and malaria. The Low Country gentry affectionately called Flat Rock "The Little Charleston of the Mountains." Included in the National Register of Historic Districts, Flat Rock strives to preserve the Village as small, quiet historic village situated in a wooded scenic landscape blending quality residential homes and open spaces.

Landscaped Areas

Designed Tree, Shrub, Turf, and Perennial Plantings

Flat Rock Playhouse Gardens

- Cared for by Henderson County Master Gardeners and volunteers of the North Carolina State Theatre Garden Club.
- Various gardens 'rooms' include a rain garden, pollinator, woodland, native, white garden, harlequin, moss and shade garden, as well as the Vagabond Trails garden, which features a topiary of Playhouse founder Robroy Farquhar and his pets, Boots and Snodgrass.
- Volunteer hours are estimated at 3,000 per year. Projects include a yearly fund raising garden and craft sale to benefit the gardens
- The Poppy Project of Flat Rock Playhouse is a fundraising project to raise money for the services provided by the Veteran's Restoration Quarters of Asheville. The project is organized by volunteer gardeners who make poppies from recycled items, which include LP records and wine corks. Poppies can be purchased for \$25.00 each to memorialize a veteran or active duty soldier. These larger than life poppies will be planted among the gardens of the playhouse. The organizers of the project intend to raise \$2,500 in May 2015 when their real poppy garden will be in bloom. The program will run from 2015 to 2018.
- Founded in 1952, the Flat Rock Playhouse, the State Theatre of North Carolina, is considered one of the "Top Ten Playhouses in the Country." The theatre is a 5013c non-profit doing business as The Vagabond School of Drama and incorporates the Youtheatre for young students from 5years old, to a 2 year apprentice program and also provides housing for these talented youngsters, who have been known to move on to Broadway.

Urban Forestry

The Park at Flat Rock

- The 67-acre Park at Flat Rock and former 9-hole golf course has undergone numerous phased improvements since its acquisition by the Village of Flat Rock in 2013.
- The Foundation established a fundraising campaign, Enjoyment for Every Generation and a goal of raising \$900,000 in grants and gifts over a three-year period.
- The Village received a grant from NCDENR Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) to assist with the purchase of the park. Other grant monies are being sought from NCDENR, NCDOT and other organizations for further development of park amenities.
- 2014 park improvements included: a 1.5-mile perimeter walking path, landscape buffering and signage, reforestation, stream restoration and the protection of wetlands.
- During FY 2014-2015 the Village contracted with the North Carolina Forest Service to complete a 5-acre reforestation project in the park, which included planting of 1500 seedling trees. The species of trees planted were all native trees and included White Oak, Chestnut Oak, Bald Cypress, Red Maple, and White Pine, among others.
- A committee of Village volunteers formed in 2014 to conduct a yearlong inventory of the flora and fauna that call the park home. The data gathered would assist the Village with park planning that will support and maintain the natural beauty of the park.
- In 2014 the Village worked in coordination and conjunction with a residential subdivision that adjoins the park property to complete a stream channel stabilization project, which was designed by the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The project addressed severe stream bank erosion problems
- In April 2014 the Village sponsored the first event at the park, a celebration of Earth Day. The public was invited to attend the event, which included speakers, youth from the local middle and high school planted a tree.
- In 2014, 717 volunteer hours were given.
- The Flat Rock Middle School 8th grade Builders Club and Student Council created the first park brochure. These brochures were placed at the park for the public to learn about the park, including current and future amenities. A special education class from the local high school volunteered at the park to spread mulch in flowerbeds.

2015 PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Village Population: 3,127
Website: flatrocknc.govoffice3.com
Area in Square Miles:7.9 square miles
Contact Name: Bob Staton, Mayor,(828) 697-8100
..... mayor@villageofflatrock.org

Services Provided by Village Government:Kudzu Control Program, Zoning, & Served by three Fire Departments
Parks: The Park at Flat Rock

Environmental Effort

Sustainable Development and Awareness

Village of Flat Rock Office

- Shred Day – the Village office hosts two community shredding days per year (Spring and Fall). These events give residents an opportunity to dispose of sensitive documents in an environmentally responsible way. In 2014 over 5,000 pounds of documents were shredded.
- Kudzu Control
- Recycling Program
- Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance
- In 2014 a total of 68 volunteer hours were contributed toward environmental efforts (includes kudzu committee work and work on shred day events)

Heritage

Preserving Your Past for Future Generations

- Flat Rock Historic District –In 2014 Flat Rock’s original 1973 district nomination, one of the first in North Carolina, was renominated and in 2015 was accepted by National Park Service as a National Historic District. The renomination included an adjustment of boundaries and a broadening of the period of historic significance for parcels included within the boundaries. The period of significance was broadened to include homes built through 1964 and now includes 1,575 resources within the revised historic boundaries. The period of significance begins with Flat Rock’s oldest home, Mountain Lodge, built in 1827.
- In 2014 Historic Flat Rock, Inc., a nonprofit group dedicated to preserving Flat Rock’s heritage, purchased the Mountain Lodge estate from bankruptcy court and later sold the home to owners willing to renovate and restore the home. The home’s Preservation Agreement will ensure its historic character will be preserved.
- St. John in the Wilderness was built as a private chapel in 1833. Many well-known members of southern aristocracy have family plots in the churchyard associated with the Confederacy as well as family members of three signers of the Declaration of Independence.
- Flat Rock’s 28th Historic Home and Garden Tour, the first tour since 2006, was held by Historic Flat Rock, Inc. in July 2014. The tour included four historic homes and gardens as well as St. John in the Wilderness Church and Churchyard. Ticket sales funded the preservation efforts of historic properties in the Village of Flat Rock.
- Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site - Carl Sandburg, American poet, historian, author, and lecturer spent the final 22 years of his long and productive life at his estate, Connemara, in Flat Rock, NC. The home, originally built in 1838, displays the Sandburg’s furnishing as they lived at Connemara from 1945-1968, including Carl Sandburg’s collection of 12,000 books. A tour of the home shares Sandburg’s life as a writer, journalist, folk singer, social activist and Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and biographer. Open year round visitors can take a tour.
- 4-H F.R.E.S.H. (Flat Rock’s Exceptional Sandburg Helpers) Henderson County 4-H partnered with the Carl Sandburg Home to develop job and people skills for 39 youth ages 11-16. They work with park rangers and adult volunteers, giving approximately 1500 hours over the summer.

Floral Displays

Attracting Attention with Colorful Plants

The Elizabeth House

- Is a 19-bed inpatient hospice facility opened in 1999
- The home-like environment provides a comfortable, soothing atmosphere for patients and families.
- It also a place where respite care is provided for the benefit of both the patient and loved ones.
- The House remain is supported by the community.
- Indirect volunteer opportunities include: office assistances, gardening, sewing products, baking, Hospice Home Store, Faith Community Representatives, Special Events & Fundraising Activities.

Contacts

Village of Flat Rock Contacts:

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Ginger Brown, The Park Advisory Board gingerbrown@villageofflatrock.org

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Town of Laurel Park



Introduction to Town of Laurel Park:

In 1888, W.A. Smith, a prominent lawyer and civic leader in Hendersonville purchased a 350-acre tract of land on Echo Mountain. Initially, Laurel Park was a nearby natural recreation area accessed by horse and buggy from Hendersonville, which made a visit an all-day adventure. By 1902, a streetcar rail line (called the “Dummy” because it had to back up to return to Main Street) had been constructed out Fifth Avenue from Hendersonville to Laurel Park bringing day-trippers and summer visitors to Rainbow Lake, Crystal Spring and the nature trails. In 1909, W.A. Smith further enhanced his park by adding a second lake, called Rhododendron Lake and a canal to connect Rainbow and Rhododendron Lakes. He also installed a counter-balance railway to take visitors to the Park Heights observation tower overlooking Hendersonville and the distant mountains. Visitors to Hendersonville and Laurel Park could now enjoy swimming, boating, dancing and other recreational pursuits. With over 10 miles of roads and trails, visitors could access the following recreational and scenic areas in Laurel Park:

- The Dummy Line* transportation to and from Hendersonville
- Crystal Spring* natural spring noted for its pure water
- Rainbow Lake* casino, boating, dancing
- Rhododendron Lake*dancing, swimming
- Park Heights Tower* observation tower
- Cascade Falls* 400 feet of natural falls
- The Canal* gondola ride between Rhododendron & Rainbow lakes
- Jump Off Rock* scenic overlook that holds an Indian legend

Landscaped Areas– Designed Tree, Shrub, Turf, and Perennial Plantings

The Laurel Green Park

- Planned park that has adjacent stream confluences as boundaries.
- In 1993 community volunteers developed the park plan with assistance from a landscape architect and other specialists.
- The plan utilizes material that blooms throughout the year employing various native and introduced species.

Environmental Effort – Sustainable Development and Awareness

First Congregational Church Vegetable Garden

- The First Congregational Church created a community garden in 2010, for the purpose of helping feed struggling families.
- The garden continues to expand due to local enthusiasm, volunteers and need.

Jump Off Rock

- Scenic overlook which provides a panoramic view of the Blue Ridge and Pisgah mountain ranges.
- Holds an Indian legend that has been passed down for many, many years. Over 300 years ago a young Cherokee Indian maiden received word that her young Indian Chief had been killed in battle, so she climbed to the edge of the rock and jumped off. Indian legend has it that on moonlit nights you can see the ghost of the maiden on Jump Off Rock.
- There are three hiking trails at Jump Off Rock, varying in length and difficulty.

Rhododendron Lake Park (RLP)

- Grants were procured in 2012 to relocate an existing stream within RLP in order to minimize erosion, which was undermining adjacent roadways.
- Work on this grant was completed in 2013 thus stabilizing the embankments and minimizing further siltation downstream.

2015 PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Town Population: 2,186

Website: www.laurelpark.org

Contact Name: Carey O’Cain, Mayor

AIB Committee Co-Chair: Carol Elliott

Area in Square Miles: 2.87

Active Recreation: Laurel Green Park

Services Provided by Laurel Park Government:

Police Department & Public Works

Contracts with Valley Hill Fire Department, Henderson

County EMS, & Solid Waste Management

Acres of Passive Recreation: Jump Off Rock, Rhododendron Lake Park, Crystal Spring – 24 acres

- A matching Grant was just awarded to Laurel Park by the State from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF).
- Work has commenced on this phase of work which includes cleaning up the existing lake bed, creating a bottom discharge of cooler water downstream, highlighting wetlands and focusing on educational signage and videos.
- Laurel Park continues to work with CWMTF, Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy (CMLC), Trout Unlimited and Town Volunteers on this project.
- Phase I of the Rhododendron Lake Park project has been completed, with the planting of 160 trees and 200 shrubs within the conservation easement located on either side of the newly relocated stream.

Recycling

- Weekly curbside recycling collection is provided each Thursday.
- Laurel Park residents have increased the amount they recycle by 70% in the past five years. Solid waste disposed of in the landfill has decreased 11% in the same timeframe.
- Brush and leaves that the Town collects are composted and ground into mulch that is then made available to residents.

Removal of Invasive Plant Species

- The Town initiated a program to identify and remove invasive plant species on Town property as well as an educational program for Town residents to identify invasive species and the nature of these undesirable plants.
- The program started at the Rhododendron Lake Park removing large tracts of Kudzu, Oriental Bittersweet, Multiflora Rose and others. A more recent focus is on the plethora of English Ivy stands around Town.
- Volunteers and Town maintenance personnel are tackling Town owned properties and developing pictorial examples of the proper removal

Heritage

Preserving Your Past for Future Generations

Historic Markers

- Initiated a Historic Marker project in 2009 identify and highlight historically significant locations throughout Town.
- Currently 24 historic sites have been identified around the Town and 9 markers have been erected.
- The Town in conjunction with the Laurel Park Civic Association (LPCA), a Town non-profit volunteer group, anticipates erecting two signs each year.

Floral Displays

Attracting Attention with Colorful Plants

Entrance to the Town of Laurel Park

- The Town collaborated with the First Congregational Church to add trees, shrubs and groundcover on the North side of the roadway to better define the main entrance into the Town of Laurel Park.
- Anticipated future improvements include lighting and additional plantings of trees, shrubs and perennials.

Urban Forestry

Greenways Board

- Established the Laurel Park Parks and Greenways Board in 2007. The mission of the board is to “promote for the specific benefit of the Laurel Park community, the expansion, preservation, protection, and balanced use of open space, parks, and natural resources within the town”.
- In 2011 Town Council adopted the Parks and Greenways Comprehensive Plan.
- The Parks and Greenways Board, in conjunction with the LPCA identified connected walking trail locations for the lower, middle and upper parts Laurel Park.
- The trails utilize the locations of the Historic Marker project to provide further interest and education.
- The Town supports the development of these trails for the resident’s health, neighborhood interaction and civic involvement.

Community Involvement and Volunteers

- Each year the Town has Volunteer Work Days encouraging our residents to participate in Town and resident defined projects.
- Work typically includes clean up of Town parks, weeding, pruning trees and shrubs, planting shrubs, dividing perennials and the creation of wildflower gardens.
- In addition, the LPCA organizes volunteers, with support from organizations such as the local Boys and Girls Club and the Boy Scouts to accomplish their bi-annual roadside clean ups.
- These projects provide some financial support to these organizations and more importantly provide community interaction to these young adults.

Contacts

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Bonnie See, Laurel Park AIB Coordinatorbonniesee@bellsouth.net
Carol Elliott, AIB Coordinator828-243-8226

Mills River



Mills River is among the oldest communities in Henderson County with its first landholder receiving a deed from the State of North Carolina in 1787. Mills River was considered the seat of public education in Henderson County, and was once a thriving agricultural community, often called the “fertile crescent”. Many families living here today are direct descendants of the early settlers of the Mills River area and Henderson County, and continue to own land that has been in their families since the 1700’s. Jesse Rickman, William Mills, and other early settlers fought in the Revolutionary War.

Introduction to Mills River:

- Incorporated in 2003.
- Historically, the community was predominately agricultural. This remains a key cultural element to the Town.
- Dairy farming was a large part of the local economy for many years, and though the area still remains true to its agriculture roots, it is more diverse with traditional crops as well as ornamental plants, sod, and herbs.
- Organic farms and horse farms are also becoming more prevalent in the community.

Floral Displays

Attracting Attention with Colorful Plants

Bed & Breakfast on Tiffany Hill

- Bed & Breakfast on Tiffany Hill is situated on 6 acres of pastoral property that was a prior dairy farm.
- Transformed in 2009, the owner created a purposely-designed bed & breakfast along with 7 garden vignettes for guests to enjoy. They include an Herb Garden, Birdhouse Pavilion, Circle of Trees, Birdhouse Garden, Secret Garden, Beyond the Secret Garden and Circle of Laughter Garden.
- Listening to the contours of the property and the native plant life, walking trails were created for guests to be able to enjoy each garden as well as a massive area of native ferns.
- Bed & Breakfast on Tiffany Hill was selected as Southern Living’s 1st B&B in the Southern Living Hotel Collection.

Environmental Effort – Sustainable Development and Awareness

Van Wingerden International

- Grower and supplier of Nature’s Heritage plants and flowers.
- Grows over 150 varieties of plants, including bedding plants, foliage, hanging baskets, African violets, mums, poinsettias, spring bulb crops, perennials, and many other flowering indoor plants.
- They utilize biological insects in every range and all water is captured and recycled.
- A storm-water wetland has been constructed on site to remove pollutants, minimize the risk of flash flooding and enhance water quality before water is ultimately released to the river.

Sierra Nevada

The Sierra Nevada Brewery property encompasses approximately 215 acres; 26 acres have been developed for Brewery and customer service in accordance with LEED standards

- Grounds development includes sustainable practices, such as:
 - Water capturing system
 - 12 above-ground 6500 gallon cisterns (78,000 gallons total) that capture roof rain water to be re-used in gray water system in Brewery
 - One 460,000 gallon under-ground cistern that captures ground water; half of water captured is stored and used for irrigation system; remaining water is released through engineered stream bed and returned to French Broad River
 - Permeable pavers and rain gardens throughout Brewery parking lot either 1) channel water to underground cistern, or 2) allow water to be returned to ground
- On-site waste water treatment facility
- Sustainable landscape design
 - Grasses, wildflowers, trees and shrubs installed throughout landscaped portion of property were chosen strategically to accommodate the regional weather and natural conditions, which will result in 1) less product being applied over time (the majority of which is organic, which will restore soils to a self-sustaining condition) 2) fewer emissions due to minimal mowing, leaf blowing, et cetera, and 3) minimal water used for irrigation (which is plumbed from the underground cistern)
- Broader grounds includes restorative management practices, such as:

2015 PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Town Population:6892

Website:www.millsriver.org

Contact Name:Larry Freeman, Mayor

Area in Square Miles: 22.41

Services Provided by the Town of Mills River:
 Fire protection by contract with Mills River Fire and Rescue, law enforcement by contract with the Henderson County Sheriff’s Department, provides planning and zoning services, installs street lights at key intersections and along key routes throughout the Town, and Mills River Park

Active Recreation: The town of Mills River Town Complex, Westfeldt Park & Mills River Area - Pisgah National Forest

- Invasive non-native plant removal
- Native seed and plants installed where forest rehabilitation efforts are necessary
- Riparian buffer restoration along approximately 1-mile French Broad River (that borders Sierra Nevada property)

The Mills River Partnership

- The Mills River Partnership (MRP) is a board membership, non-profit organization whose mission is “To Coordinate Resources to Monitor, Preserve, Protect, and Enhance the quality of the Mills River through voluntary participation of stakeholders”.
- The Mills River Watershed consists of both Pisgah National Forest (77%) and privately owned (23%) lands, with more development in the lower part of the watershed.
- This watershed provides potable water to 82,000+ taps in both Henderson County and parts of Buncombe County, while also being home to a large farming community.
- Through its watershed coordinator, the MRP works with partners
 - 1) *help farmers to install water protection projects on working farms*
 - 2) *conduct outreach and education to both adults and children about water quality*
 - 3) *monitor water quality and do evaluations of water protection projects*
 - 4) *to strive toward the goals in our 10-year Watershed Management Plan to also address other water quality issues.*

Heritage – Preserving Your Past for Future Generations

Mills River Day

- Mills River Day is a free event to educate the community about the river and water quality issues in the watershed, help build a stronger sense of community, and raise awareness of local agriculture.
- The event is held by the Mills River Partnership and is hosted by a local working farm, North River Farms.
- The event includes fun-filled water quality educational activities for kids of all ages, hayride to see trout fishing demonstration and agricultural water protection projects, a book signing by a local author about the local national forest history, live music, farm animals, farm equipment and demonstrations, and water testing demonstrations.
- Mountain True, Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy, Henderson County Soil and Water Conservation District, Cradle of Forestry Interpretative Association, and North River Farms organize the event.

NCSU Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Extension Center

- NCSU Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Extension Center was established in 1949 and is now 377 acres.
- It is one of the largest greenhouse complexes in the state for conducting research in greenhouse and nursery crops.

- The Center has a touch and smell herb garden, ornamental display gardens, and arboretum.
- It partners with food banks to provide produce to those in need. Participates in the Governor’s Community Work Program providing free labor from Correctional Centers. Hosts Fresh Market Tomato and Vegetable Field Days annually with Apple and Peach Field Day and Nursery and Landscape Field Day held every other year.
- The Research Station is recognized worldwide for its tomato research program and is a leader in apple research in the southeast.
- Production of high-value specialty crops and organics are increasingly important and work reflects the growing interest in culinary and medicinal herbs, native woodland botanicals, traditional wild foods, heirloom vegetable varieties and organic crops.
- The nursery/greenhouse industries are a major source of crop income for farmers and researchers are focusing on development of new nursery crops with superior pest resistance, and greater tolerance to environmental stresses.
- Evaluation and development of environmentally friendly production practices is an important aspect of this research.

Contacts

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A C K N O W L E D G M E N T S

City Of Hendersonville

Carol E. Elliott

Dawn 'Mia' Freeman

Henderson County Tourism Development Authority

1898 Waverly inn

Town Of Flat Rock

Town Of Laurel Park

Town Of Mills River

N.C. Cooperative Extension Service

Vanwingerden International

Mayor Barbara Volk

Mayor Carey O'Cain

Mayor Larry Freeman

Mayor Robert Staton

City Manager, John Connet

Henderson County Business & Community Development Director,

John Mitchell

Chairman Tommy Thompson,

Henderson County Board of Commissioners

