

The Green Way

The Newsletter of the Yadkin River Greenway Council, Inc.
Summer 1997

Funds Flow, Plans Progress for Phase I

Greenway Gaining Ground

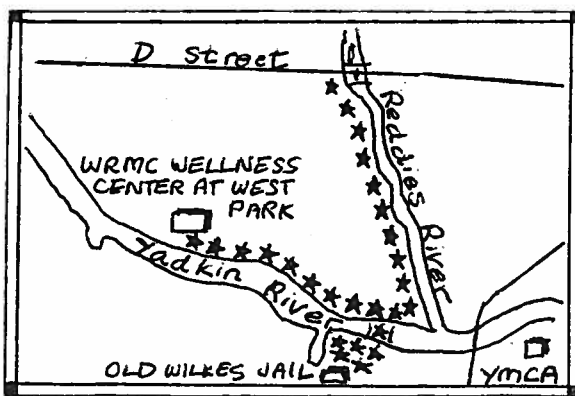
The Yadkin River Greenway movement **gained momentum** in recent months, as the project received political, financial and landowner support and plans were made toward a first phase of the project.

Local Governments Pony Up: The towns of North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro and the County of Wilkes have all either pledged or already provided funds to assist in greenway development. **Each governmental body has earmarked \$5,000** for the Yadkin River Greenway, in response to presentations by council members Dr. Phil Carlson and Russ Ferree in April and May. The \$15,000 will be used to develop a master plan for the greenway's first phase.

Renowned Greenway Planner Hired: The Yadkin River Greenway Council has contracted with Greenways, Inc. of Cary, N.C. for the development of a master plan for Phase I of the greenway. Chuck Flink, head of Greenways, Inc., is a **nationally-known expert** in the field of greenway construction who's headed successful greenway development projects across the USA.

Landowner Talks Continue: Six landowners whose land adjoins phase I gave permission for the land to be walked as a part of the master planning process, and **two major landowners along phase I have already expressed verbal support** for the greenway.

Phase I Route Explored: Yadkin River Greenway Council members braved ticks and poison ivy in late June as they walked the proposed route for Phase I of the greenway with planner Chuck Flink. The proposed route would link the Wilkesboros. It would run from the Reddies River bridge (near Bicycles Extreme and the Santa Fe Restaurant) along the west bank of the Reddies to the Yadkin and along the north bank of the Yadkin to the new Wilkes Regional Medical Center



★ POSSIBLE PHASE I ROUTE

Wellness Center at West Park. A bridge across the Yadkin will take a spur of the trail up the hill into Wilkesboro near the Old Wilkes Jail, linking to a proposed town park on Main Street. Several council members support including a trail extension to the Wilkes YMCA, as well. Route planning continues, and council members emphasize the Phase I route is far from a "done deal."

Greenway Plans Presented to Wilkes Chamber of Commerce

The Yadkin River Greenway project was recently presented to the Transportation Committee of the Wilkes Chamber of Commerce. YRGC Chairman Dr. Phil Carlson asked the Chamber to petition for the inclusion of the greenway in the seven year Transportation Improvement Plan developed by the N.C. Department of Transportation. Transportation Committee members will study the matter and make a recommendation to the full Chamber. NCDOT has funds earmarked for alternative transportation projects such as the Yadkin River Greenway. "It's a positive development we will work on as soon as we can," Dr. Carlson said.

Conservation Tax Credit Boost Good for the Greenway

Landowners along the Yadkin River Greenway route may soon have an added incentive to donate conservation easements, thanks to the North Carolina General Assembly. Legislation raising the ceiling on conservation tax credits passed the North Carolina House unanimously, with approval likely by the state senate. The General Assembly is considering raising the tax credit limit from \$25,000 to \$100,000 for individuals, with a new \$250,000 ceiling for corporations. Council member Freida Matthews has spoken with State Senator John Garwood, R-Wilkes, expressing YRGC support for the bill. Sen. Garwood supports the legislation, Mrs. Matthews reported.

Towns, County Invited to Designate Greenway Reps

The towns of North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro and the County of Wilkes have been invited to designate officials to attend Yadkin River Greenway Council meetings as *ex officio* members. New Wilkesboro Town Manager Julie Page represented her municipality at the July 10th greenway council meeting.

Yadkin-Pee Dee Lakes Project Director Visits

Alex Cousins, director of the Yadkin-Pee Dee Lakes Project, visited the greenway council meeting July 10th and expressed support for the Yadkin River Greenway. Cousins' organization promotes sustainable economic growth and environmental preservation in N.C.'s Uwharrie Lakes region. Cousins' group is revising the Yadkin River Trail Map. The Yadkin River Trail is a 240-mile canoe trail on the Yadkin covering 11 counties from Wilkes to the South Carolina line. The Yadkin River Greenway will be added to the map as a proposed feature, Cousins said.