



Greenways Criteria Survey Results & Refined Criteria

Presented by

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PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

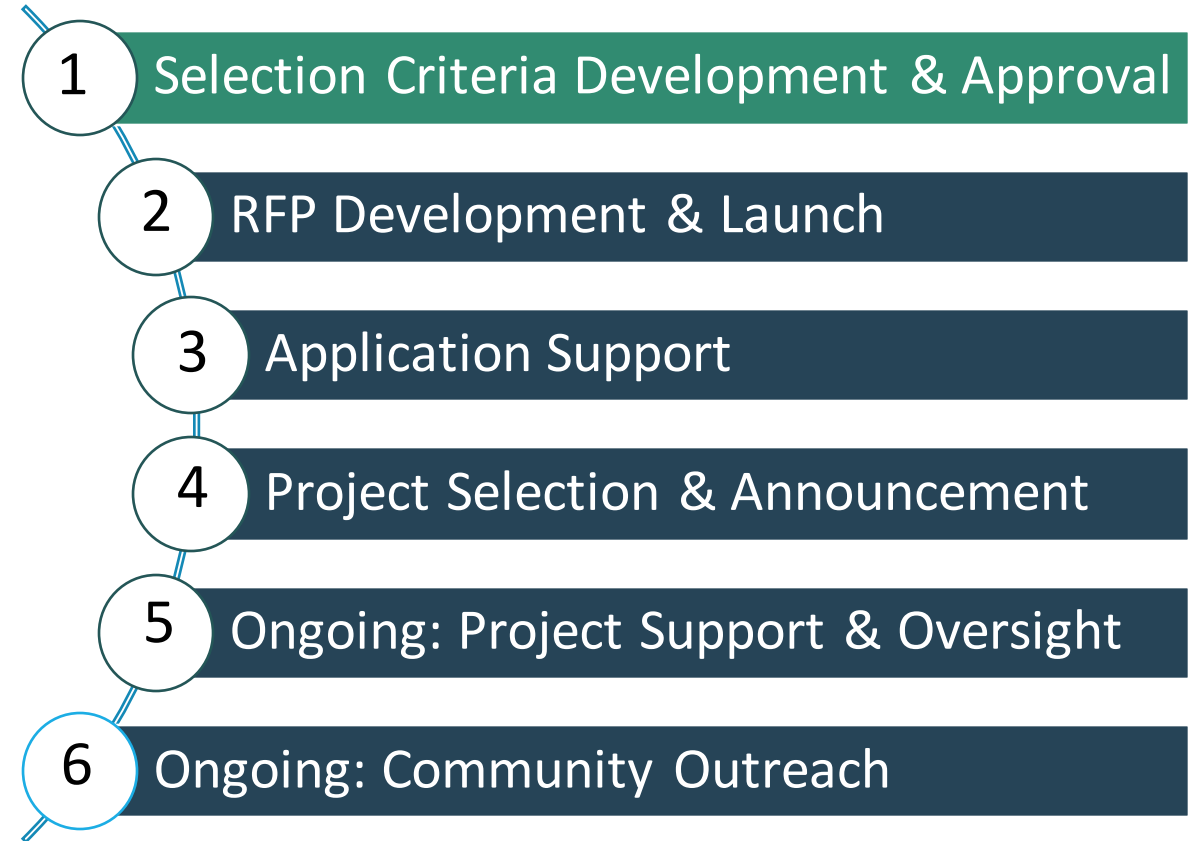
1. OPEN SPACE BOND OVERVIEW
2. GREENWAY CRITERIA PROCESS AND TIMELINE
3. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGN
4. COMMUNITY INPUT ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS
5. EVOLUTION OF THE GREENWAY CRITERIA
6. REVISED CRITERIA



Open Space Bond Overview

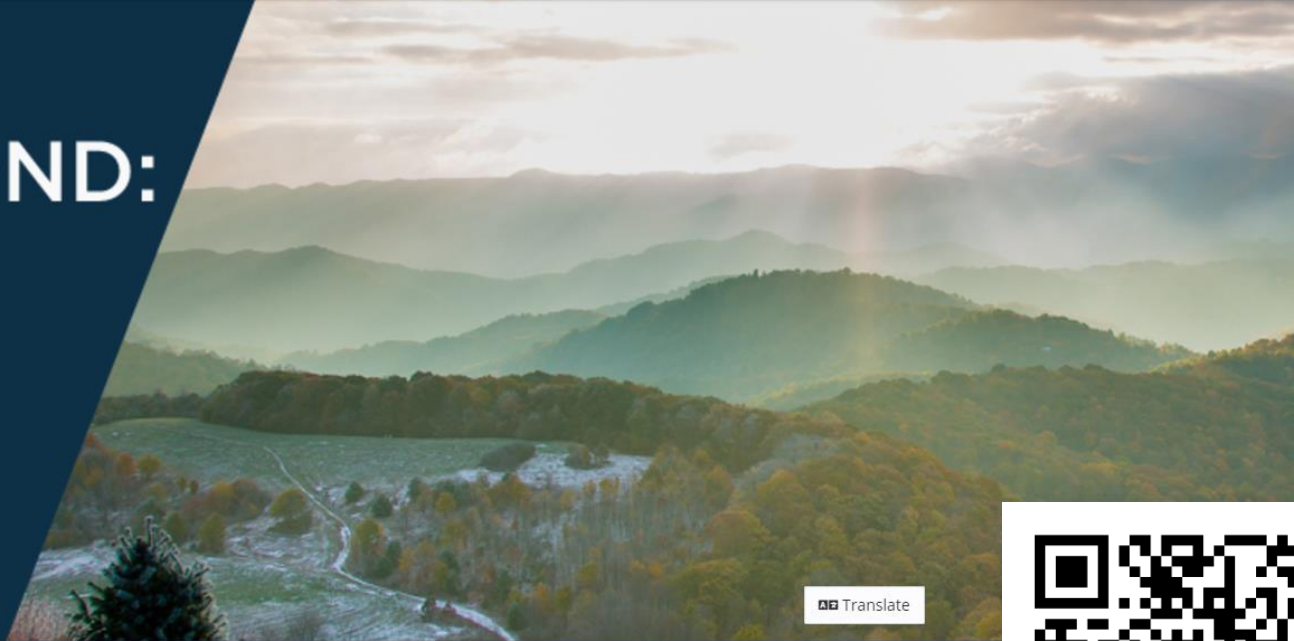
\$30M Open Space Bond

- Land Conservation
- Greenways
- Passive Recreation Lands



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGN

OPEN SPACE BOND: GREENWAYS, CONSERVATION, & RECREATION



Translate

- Overview
 - Greenways**
 - Conservation
 - Passive Recreation Lands
 - FAQs
 - Get Involved: Meetings
 - Boards and Oversight
 - News
- Documents and Presentations

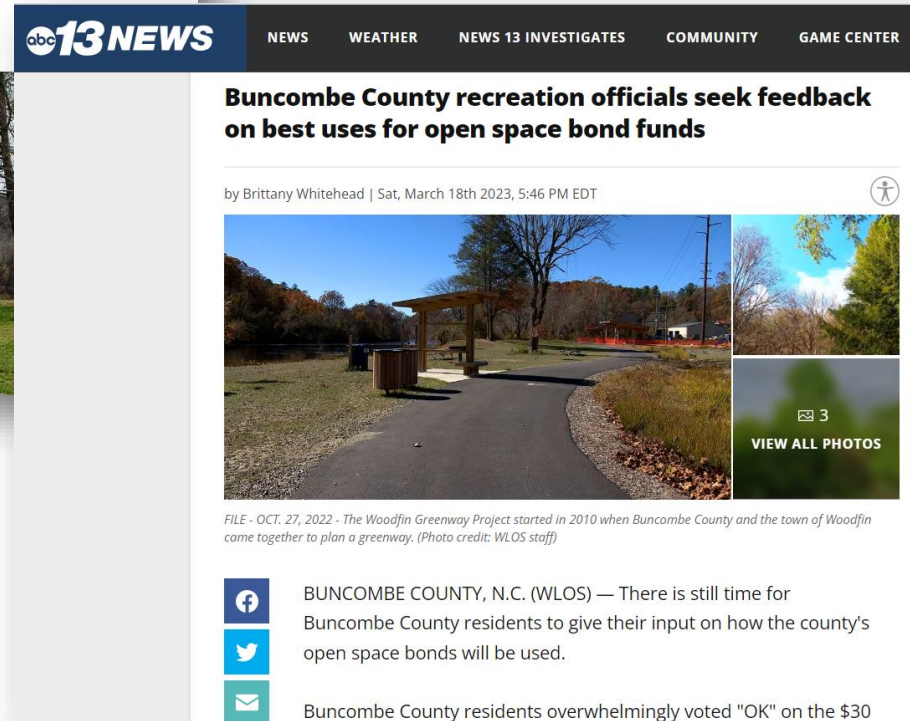
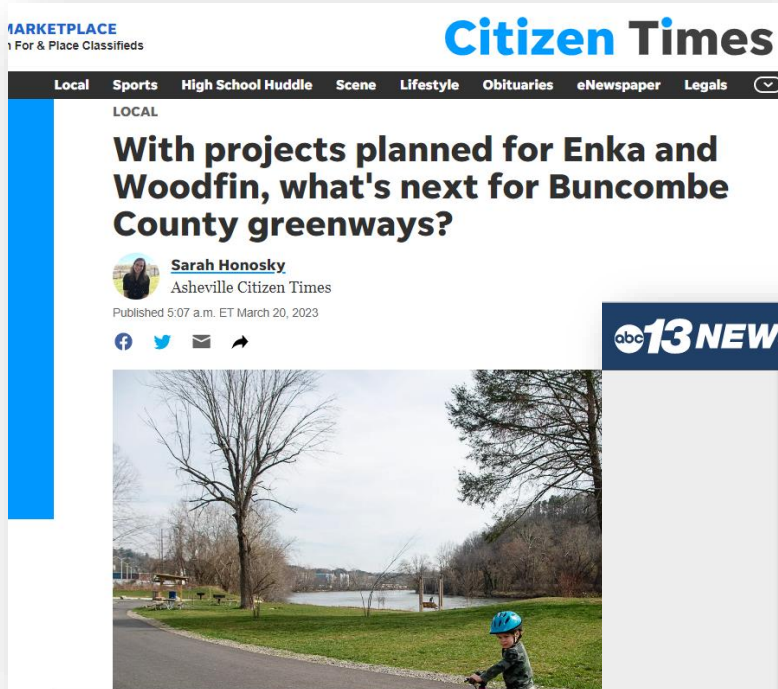


Open Space Bond: Greenways, Conservation, and Recreation

In November 2022, Buncombe County voters had the opportunity to vote on the Open Space Bond, a funding project that would increase conservation of



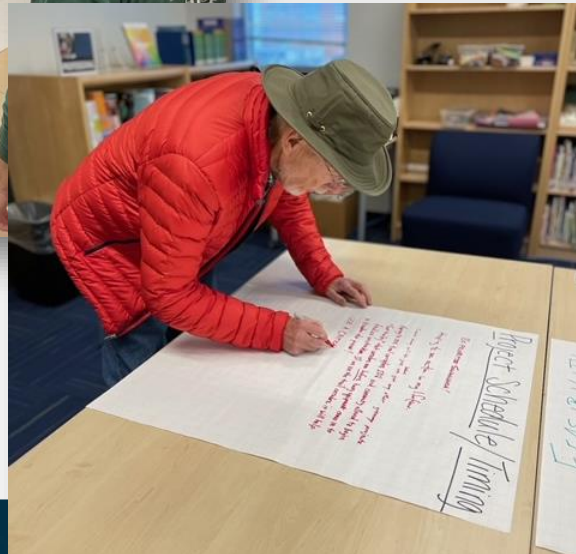
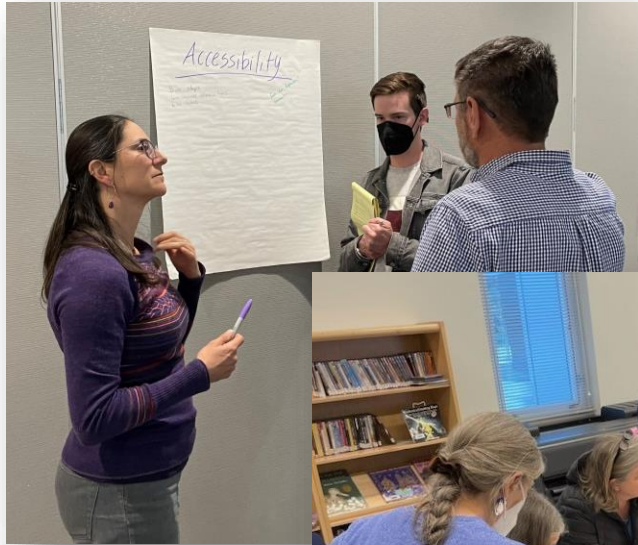
Media Coverage



- Press release
- WLOS Story
- Citizen Times Story
- Internal Buncombe County Article
- Asheville FM interview



Community and Stakeholder Events



Stakeholders Meeting

- March 8
- East Asheville Library
- 17 attendees

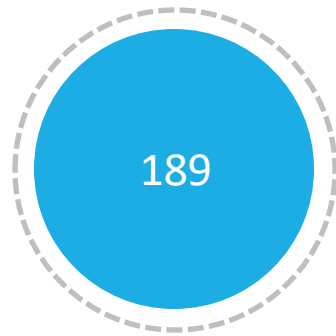
Public Meeting

- March 15
- Community High School
- 30 attendees

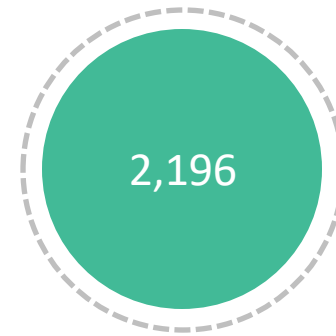


General Survey Data

Respondents



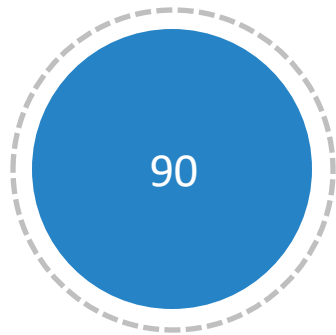
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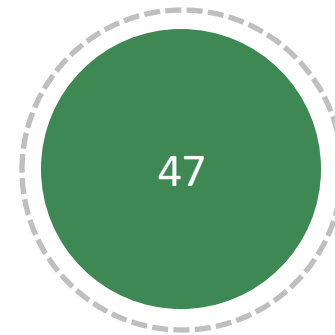
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Page Views

Open Space Bond Subscribers



90



47

In-person Meeting Attendees



DYNAMIC REPORT

Please rank the proposed greenway criteria in order of importance

Priority	Criteria	Avg. Rank
#1	Connectivity	2.73
#2	Environmental	3.39
#3	Accessibility	3.57
#4	Feasibility	4.36
#5	Priority	5.29
#6	Equity	5.36
#7	Costs	5.60
#8	Timing	5.67



DYNAMIC REPORT

Greenways provide many benefits to the community. In your opinion, which of the benefits below is more important when considering greenways projects?

Please rank the benefits below in order of importance:

Priority	Benefit	Avg. Rank
#1	Community Connection	2.38
#2	Environmental Conservation	2.60
#3	Multimodal Transportation	2.72
#4	Public Health	2.74
#5	Economic Development	4.31



What does Equity mean to you?

- Investment in Underserved Neighborhoods
- Accessibility in terms of location, features, and ADA compliance
- Connection
- Reduce Harms to both neighborhoods and environment
- Access to benefits of economic development



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

(LEGAL, BUDGET, EQUITY, SENSITIVITY ISSUES)

- Safety as theme of concern.
- Longer range geographical connections (Hellbender trail, connecting local municipalities and other counties) are popular.
- Long term maintenance.
- Focus on local, cultural, and historical context, prioritizing the “local story” rather than just appealing to tourists.



Recreation Advisory Board 2/07/23

Draft Criteria

- Identified as county need
- Feasibility
- Equity
- Connectivity
- Costs
- Project Schedule/Timing
- Environmental Impact



Stakeholder Meeting 3/8/23

Draft Criteria

- Identified as county need
- Feasibility
- Equity
- Connectivity
- Costs
- Project Schedule/Timing
- Environmental Impact
- Accessibility



Public Meeting 3/15/23

Draft Criteria

- Identified as county need
- Feasibility
- Equity
- Connectivity
- Costs/Leveraging of Funds
- Project Schedule/Timing
- Environmental Impact
- Accessibility



Updated Criteria 4/11/23

Qualifying Criteria

- Leveraging of Bond Funds
- Project Scheduling/Timeline
- Feasibility Study
- Geographic Location

Weighted Criteria

- Connectivity – 20%
- Environmental Impact – 20%
- Accessibility – 15%
- Feasibility – 15%
- Identified as Countywide Need/Opportunity/Priority – 10%
- Equity – 10%
- Leveraging of Bond Funds and Project Costs – 5%
- Safety – 5%



Qualifying Criteria (4)

- **Leveraging of Bond Funds**

Will bond funds be leveraged to effectively utilize other funding sources?

- **Project Scheduling/Timeline**

Project will be completed within the limits established by Bond Requirements?

- **Feasibility Study Complete**

Project has a completed feasibility study

- **Geographic Location**

Project located within Buncombe County



Weighted Criteria (8)

CONNECTIVITY – 20%

- Connectivity to other greenways, regional trail systems, state trails
- Connections between jobs, schools, commerce, community services, parks, and neighborhoods
- Connections along transit corridors/commuter routes
- Connections made within multimodal transit systems (bus routes, sidewalks, etc.)
- Connect neighboring municipalities
- Connect to blueways



Weighted Criteria (8)

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT – 20%

- Minimize stormwater runoff. Incorporate SCMs & raingardens
- Land management/maintenance plans. Invasive plant mitigation and management
- Interpretation and education opportunities (educational signage, programming)
- Low impact development techniques
- Opportunities for pollinator gardens, rain gardens, community gardens along the alignment
- Consideration of river ecosystems
- Consider projects impact on reduction of vehicular traffic



Weighted Criteria (8)

ACCESSIBILITY – 15%

- ADA accessible trailheads and access points
- Greenways safe and accessible for wheelchair users, strollers, and cyclists
- Accessible to traditionally underserved communities
- Accessible transitions from bus stops to trailheads
- Adequate parking with ADA spaces
- Bathroom facilities and potable water available
- Sense of safety is key factor in being truly accessible to all
- Access points provided to/from blueways



Weighted Criteria (8)

FEASIBILITY – 15%

- Partners/Stakeholders along greenway corridor willingness to participate
- Environmental status of parcels along greenway corridor
- Topography, hydrology, geographic features that may present obstacles along the greenway corridor
- Design, ROW, and Construction fully funded
- Right of ways, bridges, railroads, roads, and other crossings



Weighted Criteria (8)

IDENTIFIED AS COUNTYWIDE NEED/OPPORTUNITY/PRIORITY – 10%

- Identified in the Buncombe County Greenways and Trails Master Plan
- Identified in a regional greenway or multimodal master plan
- Identified in a municipal greenway master plan
- Not identified by any existing plans as a countywide need but recognized by review committee and county staff as a new countywide need



Weighted Criteria (8)

EQUITY – 10%

- Directly serves traditionally underserved communities
- Unincorporated communities traditionally at a disadvantage
- Adjacent to existing and planned low-income and senior housing
- Design for safety have an action plan for safety so that all feel welcome
- Community engagement and inclusion throughout the design process
- Connections to all neighborhoods along greenway corridor
- How were communities engaged prior to or during feasibility study?



Weighted Criteria (8)

LEVERAGING OF BOND FUNDS AND PROJECT COSTS – 5%

- Project cost include planning level contingencies
- Including Buncombe County Open Space bond funds, is the project 100% funded
- Optimal leveraging ratio
- MPO, TPDF, PARTF, NC Land and Water Fund also used
- Project cost estimates up to date



Weighted Criteria (8)

SAFTEY – 5%

- Design for safety to mitigate potential pedestrian and vehicular conflict
- Design for safety to mitigate crime
- Maintenance plan and litter management
- Emergency call kiosks
- Public information and signage for greenway etiquette



Updated Criteria 4/11/23

Qualifying Criteria

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Weighted Criteria

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- Feasibility – 15%
- Identified as Countywide Need/Opportunity/Priority – 10%
- Equity – 10%
- Leveraging of Bond Funds and Project Costs – 5%
- Safety – 5%



NEXT STEPS & TENTATIVE TIMELINE

- APRIL:** County staff to refine criteria based on feedback
- MAY:** Recreation Advisory Board approves final criteria
- JUNE:** Commissioner adoption of criteria



Q&A



QUESTIONS?



THOUGHTS



FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

