

CATAWBA RIVER CORRIDOR PLAN:

Appendix A - Public Input

A.0 Overview A.1 Public Workshop #1 A.2 Public Workshop #2

A.0 Overview

The planning process included a significant public input component, offering the representatives and citizens of Mount Holly opportunity to contribute to the Plan's development. This input is manifested directly in the recommendations of this Plan. Kick-off meetings with the Mount Holly Community Development Foundation (MHCDF) and City of Mount Holly took place to establish visions and goals for this effort. A series of meetings with the MHCDF allowed for continued contribution and input from the Client. Two public workshops were held, one in June 2007, and the second in September 2007 to gain a perspective of greenway visions and ideas. A summary of public input is summarized in this appendix.

A.1 Public Workshop #1

Two public workshops were held over the course of project work. The first public workshop afforded participants the opportunity to provide early input into the process and explain their visions and goals. The second public workshop was held to present the Plan to the public for final review and feedback.

Workshop #1: June 6, 2007

Over 100 people from Mount Holly's residential, business, and local government community participated in a public open house workshop to learn about the Catawba River Corridor Plan and contribute to its development. Greenways Incorporated staff gave a brief presentation and answered questions. Citizens had the opportunity to speak with the consultant, fill out comment forms, and mark up

large format maps. Educational and concept boards were provided describing greenway definitions and opportunities along the Catawba River Greenway corridor.

Map Markups

Several recurring ideas and concepts can be found throughout the map markups. There is an interest in environmental and historical signage and interpretation, picnic areas, and fitness stations. Regarding a bridge over the Catawba River, most participants preferred the alternative that takes the bridge from Tuckasee Park to the Whitewater Center. More specific comment categories and comments are listed below:

General Comments

-Greenway is an excellent opportunity for Environment Education. Environment Education Center would be an excellent opportunity to provoke conservation-green space and outdoor recreation.



Consultants give a brief presentation of the Catawba River Corridor Plan and the Mount Holly Greenprint Plan at the June 2007 public meeting.

-Placing interpretive signage along the greenway is a great starting place to grab attention about environment issues.

-Fitness Education signage/stations on greenway – simple machines (permanent) with diagrams and water fountains

-Parks and Recreation could have Rental Station, like Jetton Park in Meck County.

-Dog clean up stations (baggies)

-Education as why water quality is important

-Tasteful picnic areas

-Can this plan better incorporate the downtown?

-Decking picnic areas along corridor on the water (written long the eastern bank on the north side of Bridge C)

-Highlight historical aspects of greenway

- Revolutionary War

- Gaston County Economic History

- Native American trade paths

- Dam the Catawba- changed the area, etc.

+“I second motion”

+“I third motion”

-Get scouts involved. (BSA)

+Eagle Projects, too!

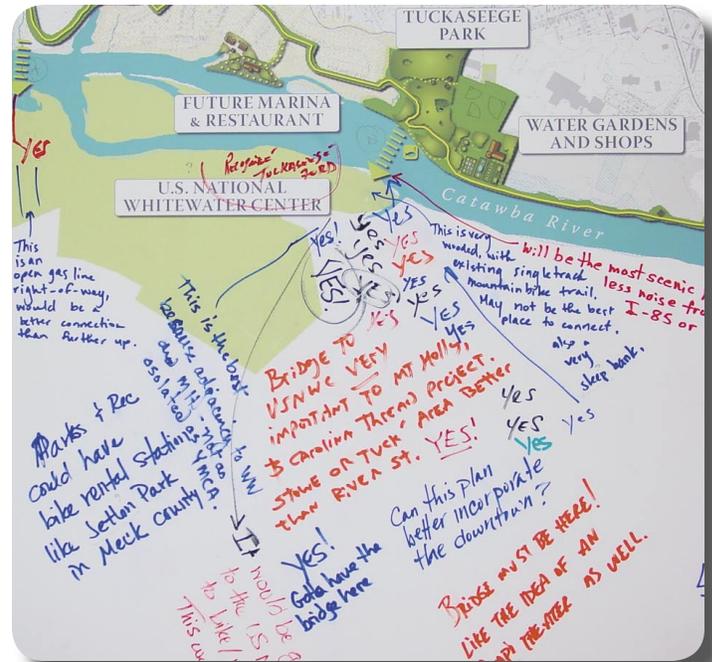
-Love the orientation of this map!

+Helps one see the neighborhood connections

+View is from Charlotte!

+Reads like a book.

Mount Holly Community members write their comments on maps at the June 2007 public workshop.



Comments from the June 2007 public workshop were documented on the large format maps (below) and comment forms.

Bridge A

-Yes!

-This is an open gas line right-of-way, which would be a better connection than further up. (written right on the east side of Bridge A)

Bridge B

-Yes!(19)

-Will be the most scenic place with less noise from either I-85 or NC 27.

-This is the best because adjacency to WW (U.S. National Whitewater Center) and MH (Mount Holly) – not as isolated as YMCA.

-It would be great to connect Tuckaseege Park to the US National Waterpark. We would extend to bike/walking trails to their existing trails. This would be very exciting!

-Yes! Gotta have the bridge here

-Bridge must be here! Like the idea of an amphitheater as well.

-Bridge to USNWC (U.S. National Whitewater Center) very important to Mt holly, and Carolina Thread project. Stowe YMCA or Tuckaseege Park better than River Street Park

-This is very wooded, with existing single track mountain bike trail. (Arrows Pointing right on the east side of Bridge B)

-May not be the best place to connect. (As above)

-Also a very steep bank (As above)

-Recognize Tuckaseege Ford (written along eastern bank on the south side of Bridge B)

Bridge C

-No! (3)

-Bridge not here

-Aquarium (Drawing a circle on the north side of the proposed Bridge C crossing the river)

River Street Park

-Great idea to follow the creek (with arrows pointing to trail along the river)

Creek

-Preserve any nature waterfalls on the creek (written along the Creek)

Trails around Mountain Island Park

-Wonderful vistas of lake from this point! (With Arrows pointing to the South end of the lake)

-Build stacked trail system for hikers and bikes

-Build single track parallel to greenway

-Make this a destination – 10-15 miles of single track will bring many travelling bikers who like to spend \$\$ (Written at the Cross Country Trail area)

-Build for sustainability

-Utilize volunteer trail builders

-As single track trails are built erosion problem can be corrected.

+True single track multiuse trails

-ATV vehicles have eroded area with fall line trails

+Have separate trails

-Lots of trash cans + mutt mits Fellowship with a local boy scout troop to help mountain park + trails. Have designated campsite in return.

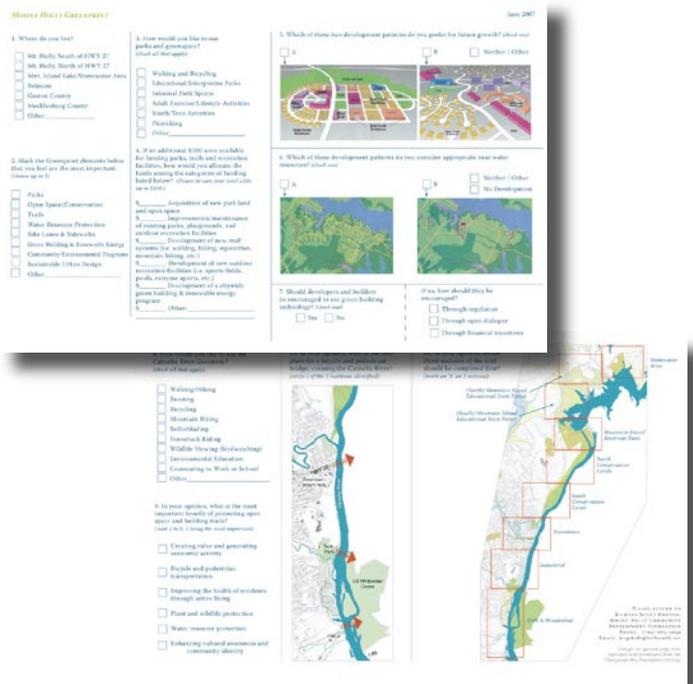
+Include Dog Park Somewhere

-Add horse trails! (With arrows pointing to the proposed Cross Country Trails)

-This area will attract many bikers, hikers from USNWC (U.S. National Whitewater Center) (With arrows pointing to Cross Country Trails)

Public Comment Form

Results from the public comment forms show that the workshop participants are very interested in a greenway for a variety of purposes. Participants were most interested in the greenway for walking, bicycling, exercise, nature viewing, and water/plant/wildlife protection. Overall, respondents were most interested in trail construction beginning around the Downtown area. As in the map markups, a majority of participants felt a bridge over the Catawba River would be best suited at Tuckaseege Park. It should also be noted here that when asked questions pertaining to the Greenprint Plan, that trails and open space were the highest priorities of participants.

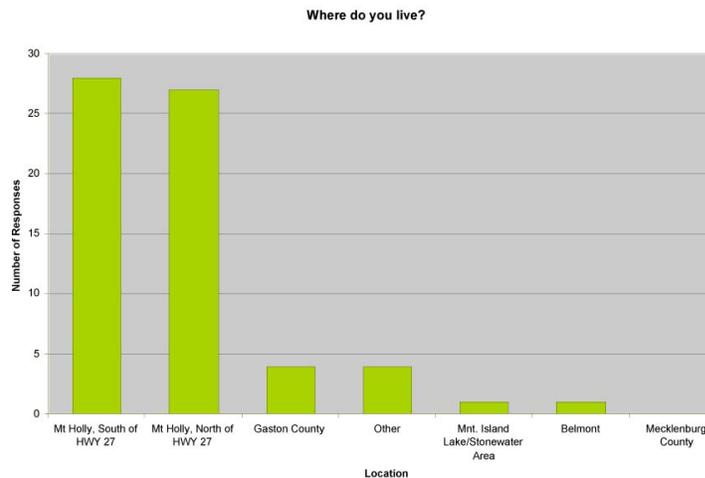


Comment forms (above) were another method of gathering feedback from the public at the June 2007 public workshop.

Graphs and summaries are provided below for questions 1 and 8-11 (questions pertaining to the Catawba River Corridor Plan).

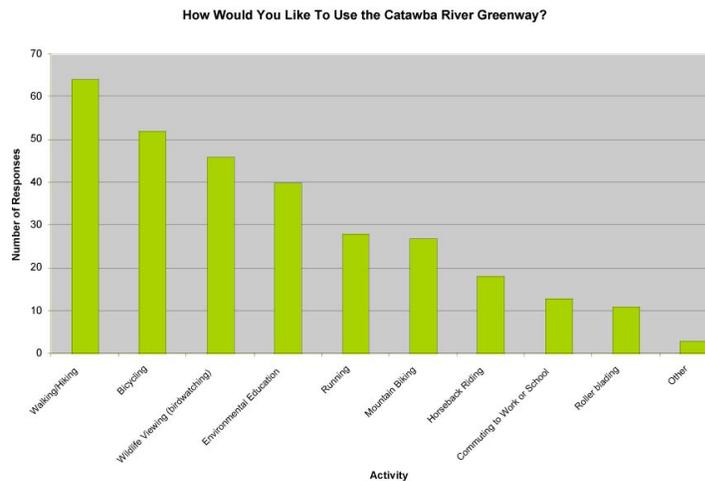
1) Where do you live?

The large majority of participants were from Mount Holly, with an even proportion from both north and south sides of US 27.



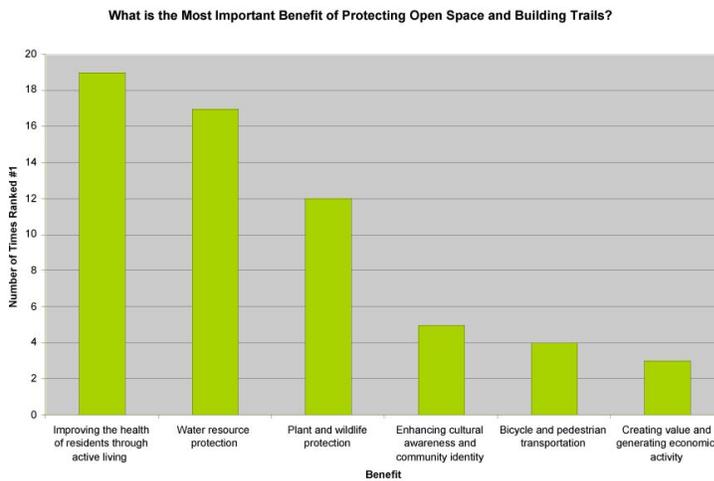
8. How would you like to use the Catawba River Greenway?

There were a large variety of responses for this question with walking, hiking, and bicycling ranking highest. Wildlife viewing and environmental education were also popular interests.



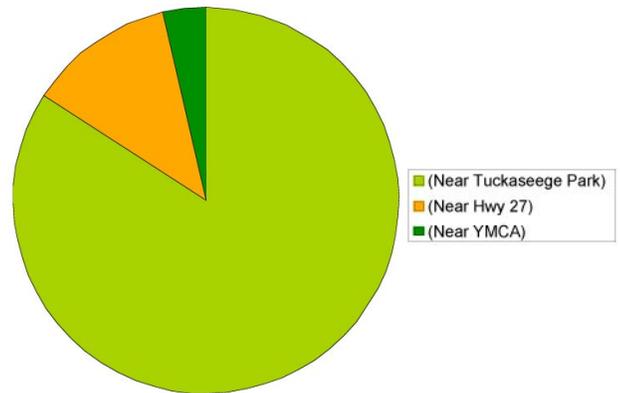
9. In your opinion, what is the most important benefit of protecting open space and building trails? (rank 1 to 6; 1 being the most important)

Improving the health of residents through active living, water resource protection, and plant and wildlife protection were most often ranked the highest; far more than the other three options.



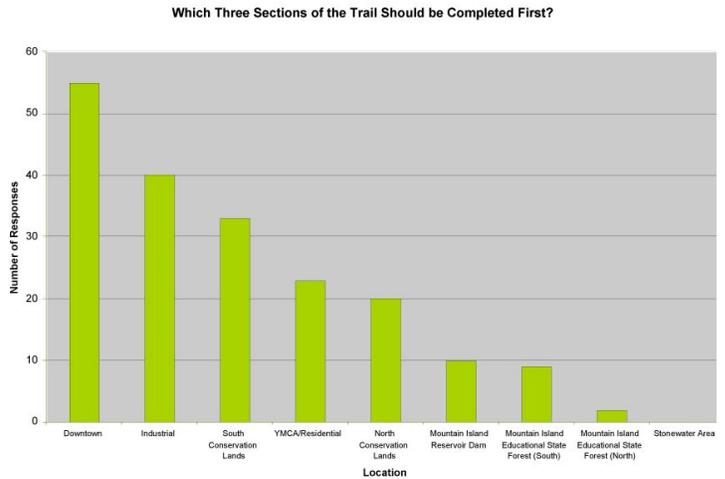
10. In your opinion, what is the best place for a bicycle and pedestrian bridge, crossing the Catawba River? (circle 1 of the 3 locations identified)

An overwhelming majority (84%) felt that the bridge should be near Tuckasee Park.



11. In your opinion, which three sections of the trail should be completed first? (mark an 'X' on 3 sections).

In general, participants chose the sections of trail closest to the Downtown and central Mount Holly area. Downtown itself was the most often chosen section of trail to be completed first. The Industrial segment, South Conservation lands, and YMCA sections were ranked the next three highest.



A.2 Public Workshops #2

Workshop #2: September 13, 2007

The second public workshop was held on a Thursday evening to present the final Plans to the public for final review and feedback. A large turnout of over 100 participants attended to listen to presentations about the Catawba River Corridor Plan and the Mount Holly Greenprint Plan as well as fill out a one page comment form.

Public Comment Form #2

Forty-eight participants filled out the one page comment form that was designed to determine activities to get the public involved in the implementation of the Mount Holly Greenprint and the Catawba River Corridor Plan. The majority (92%) of participants were interested in helping with implementation of the two plans.

**MOUNT HOLLY GREENPRINT & CATAWBA RIVER CORRIDOR PLAN:
Comment Form #2**

"The Sustainability Committee will consist of a well-organized and committed group of citizens who will work with the Foundation and City officials to implement the action steps of the Greenprint and Greenway. Broadly speaking, they will take action on issues such as water quality, alternative transportation, clean energy, waste reduction, and future greenway development."

1. Would you be interested in working with the Mount Holly Community Development Foundation to implement the Greenprint and Greenway?
Y N

2. If so, please select the activities that most interest you: (circle as many as apply)

- a. Trail building workshop
- b. Trail maintenance activities
- c. River/creeks clean-up events
- d. Water quality monitoring
- e. Wildlife/plant species inventory
- f. Trail advocacy/fundraising

3. If the MHCDF hosted a speaker for environmental education, what topics would most interest you? (circle as many as apply)

- a. Green building home renovations
- b. Community gardens
- c. Water quality monitoring
- d. Grant writing
- e. Clean energy
- f. Safe Routes to School Program
- g. Natural Heritage Program
- h. Local history of the Catawba River
- i. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)
- j. Biofuels

4. Would you like to receive more information about serving on the future Sustainability Committee, or attending Sustainability Committee meetings?
Y N

5. Please feel free to leave any additional comments about the Greenprint and the Greenway plan below.

If you would like to be contacted, please provide your contact information below:
Thank you for your interest!

Name: _____
Email Address: _____
Phone: _____
Mailing Address: _____

Graphs and summaries are provided below.

1. Would you be interested in working with the Mount Holly Community Development Foundation to implement the Greenprint and Greenway?

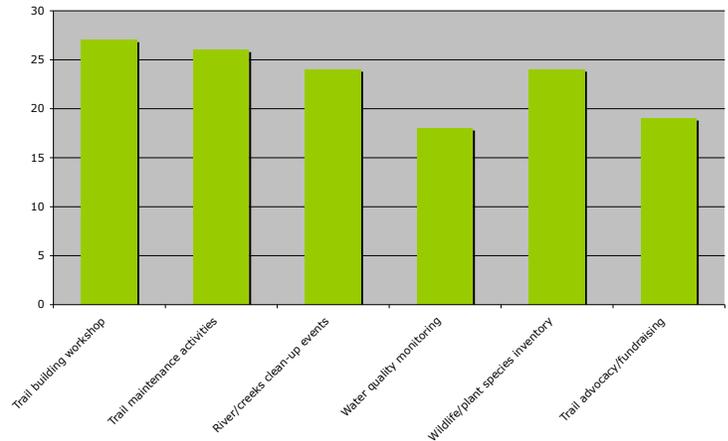
An overwhelming majority answered 'Yes' to their interest in helping with implementation.



Consultants give presentations of the final Catawba River Corridor and Mount Holly Greenprint Plans.

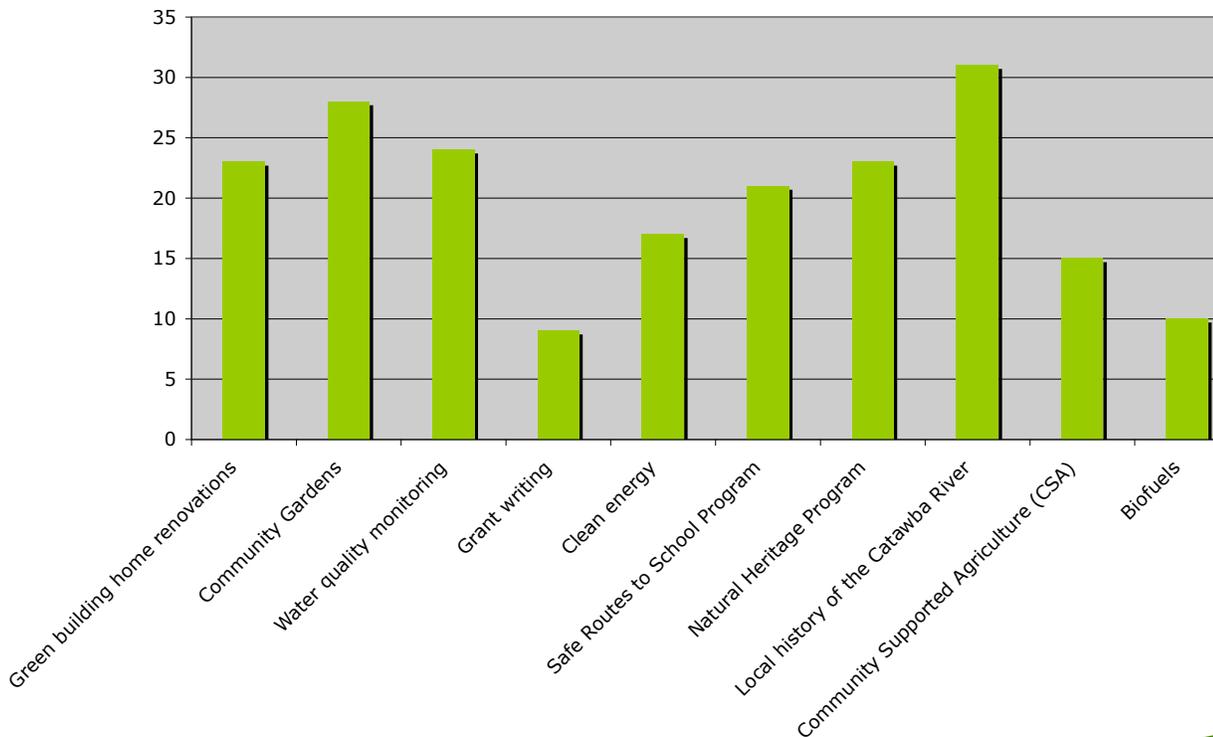
2. If so, please select the activities that most interest you: (circle as many as apply)

There was interest in all activities. The two most popular activities selected involved working directly with trail development (trail building workshop and trail maintenance activities). The next two most popular activities involved working in the natural environment (river/creek clean-up events and wildlife/plant species inventory).



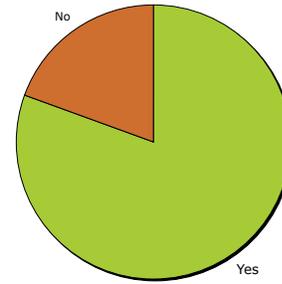
3. If the MHCDF hosted a speaker for environmental education, what topics would most interest you? (circle as many as apply)

The most popular response was the topic of Local History of the Catawba River, followed by Community Gardens, Water Quality Monitoring, Green Building Home Renovations and the Natural Heritage Program.



4. Would you like to receive more information about serving on the future Sustainability Committee, or attending Sustainability Committee meetings?

The majority of participants (80%) were interested in receiving more information regarding a future Sustainability Committee, whose function is described in greater detail in the sidebar.



4.a. If so, what would you be most interested in helping the committee to achieve?

- Water quality and alternative transportation
- Alternative transportation and future greenway development
- Water conservation and protection
- Clean water and future development
- Future greenway development
- I'd be glad to support in any way I can -- it is definitely a learning experience for me
- Clean energy and future greenways
- Conservation efforts
- Minimizing sustainability time and cost efforts
- Community capacity building for the future
- Recycling, water conservation, drought resistant gardening/ landscaping
- Helping Mt. Holly become the premier destination for sustainable living
- Economic growth without destroying "hometown" feel
- Not sure - make sure growth is smart and environmentally friendly

“The Sustainability Committee will consist of a well-organized and committed group of citizens who will work with the Foundation and City officials to implement the action steps of the Greenprint and Greenway. Broadly speaking, they will take action on issues such as water quality, alternative transportation, clean energy, waste reduction, and future greenway development.”

-Getting Phase 1 built!

-Accurate representation of WQ impacts of paved vs. natural trails - with caveat that natural trails are built to strict IMBA standards

-Any goals

-Any goals

-Building phase 1

-Habitat restoration

-Water quality and clean-up issues

-A balance between the city, government agencies and community action/support

-Awareness of need for government, industry, business and citizen working together

-My experience in land conservation (12 conservation easements over 25 years) and trail-building (65 miles of trails on a preserve)

-Leadership in water quality, stormwater management and education

-More green areas, less new housing

-All

5. Please feel free to leave any additional comments about the Greenprint and the Greenway plan below.

-Great plan

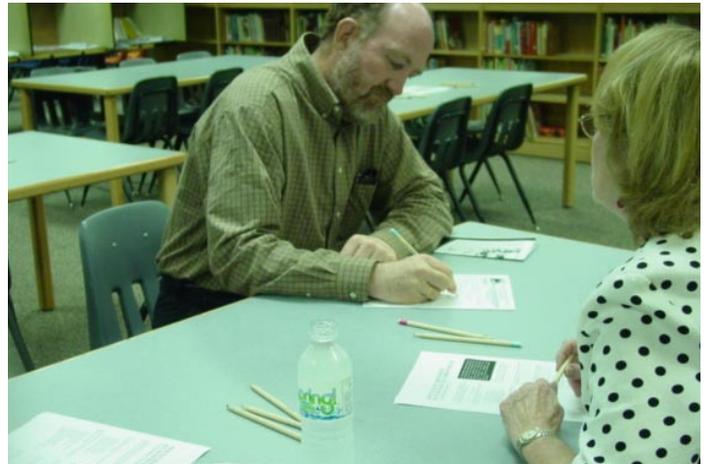
-Proud to be a part of a great project!

-Wonderful - something to really build on

-This is very important for our town

-Very comprehensive and forward looking - looking forward to seeing the greenway completed

-I'm very excited about the plans. Looking forward to walking and bicycling on the greenway!



Participants fill out the one page comment form at the second Public Workshop.

Participants listen to presentations by the consultants at the second Public Workshop.



- Best of luck towards your greenway*
- Great community attitude and support*
- Looks good - keep it going*
- Great - exciting stuff - the reason we moved to Mt. Holly*
- Mountain bike trials need to be true single track to keep people coming back and enjoying the trail*
- Exciting times! Great job*
- Exciting and an impressive turnout for the meeting*
- I would like to get more involved to help my newly adopted community*
- Our 750-acre farm/nature preserve could be important to Mt. Holly in the future, especially with a Fites Creek Greenway.*
- Let's get going!*
- Try access area for water before greenway*