



Building Municipal Support for Rural Trails

Rockingham County, NC

What We Talk About In the Next 15 Min ... Go!

- Trails Serving the Public Interest in Rockingham County
- Trail Quality, Sustainability & Local Assets
- Right People, Right Place, Right Time
– Seizing Opportunity



Trails in Rockingham County – Then & Now

- Prior to 2011, approximately 11 miles of trail
- Currently approximately 23 miles of trail
- Serves hikers, runners/joggers, mountain bikers



Varieties of Rockingham County Trails – Designed to Serve the Public Interest

- Stoneville Connector Trail: Purpose to connect their municipal park with downtown
- Nature/preserve: Knight Brown Trail by Piedmont Land Conservancy: Purpose to open up Preserve for public enjoyment
- Animal Shelter Trail: Purpose to provide canopied trail for volunteers to walk shelter dogs
- Wentworth Post Office Trail: Purpose to provide alternative transportation between County Administration Building and new town post office



Varieties of Rockingham County Trails – Designed to Serve the Public Interest

- Lake Reidsville Hiking & Biking Trail: Purpose is to build upon a trail started by volunteers
- Mayodan Mountain Bike Trail: Purpose is provide Rockingham County
- Madison Schools Trail: Purpose to create walking access between 2 elementary schools & 1 middle school; outdoor classroom on Big Beaver Island Creek to serve more than 700 students (not broken ground yet)
- Gaps: Equestrians and Off road vehicles



Right People, Place & Time

- Planner understood the need for a local catalyst for implementation
- Project manager and a landscape architect teamed up to move priority trails forward, continuing planning work with local stakeholder group
- Local support for trails through organizing a citizen planning group and local MTB club
- Visionary county, city, town managers & elected officials



Planning Principles in Rockingham County Trail Movement



- Local leadership building (through West Rock Rivers & Trails Group)
- Involve citizens early in the planning process & continue to involve them. Citizen feedback continues to inform the projects (through public meetings & R&T Group)
- Trails and marketing includes sustainable principles with continued work to benefit entire community (Tony continuing education)
- Implementation uses a variety of human & financial resources (Jenny corporate, foundation, municipal & citizen support)

Trail Quality, Sustainability, Building Up Local Assets

- Trails have to be built with users in mind and build on local assets: "trail town" visual signals concepts in planning for businesses
- Sustainability question has to be answered for the municipality (how often will we have to maintain & what will we need to do?)
- Rake & ride no longer sufficient to attract users from other areas. Recreational trail movement has matured and demands high quality trails.



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