Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program Grant - Deaverview

Presented by

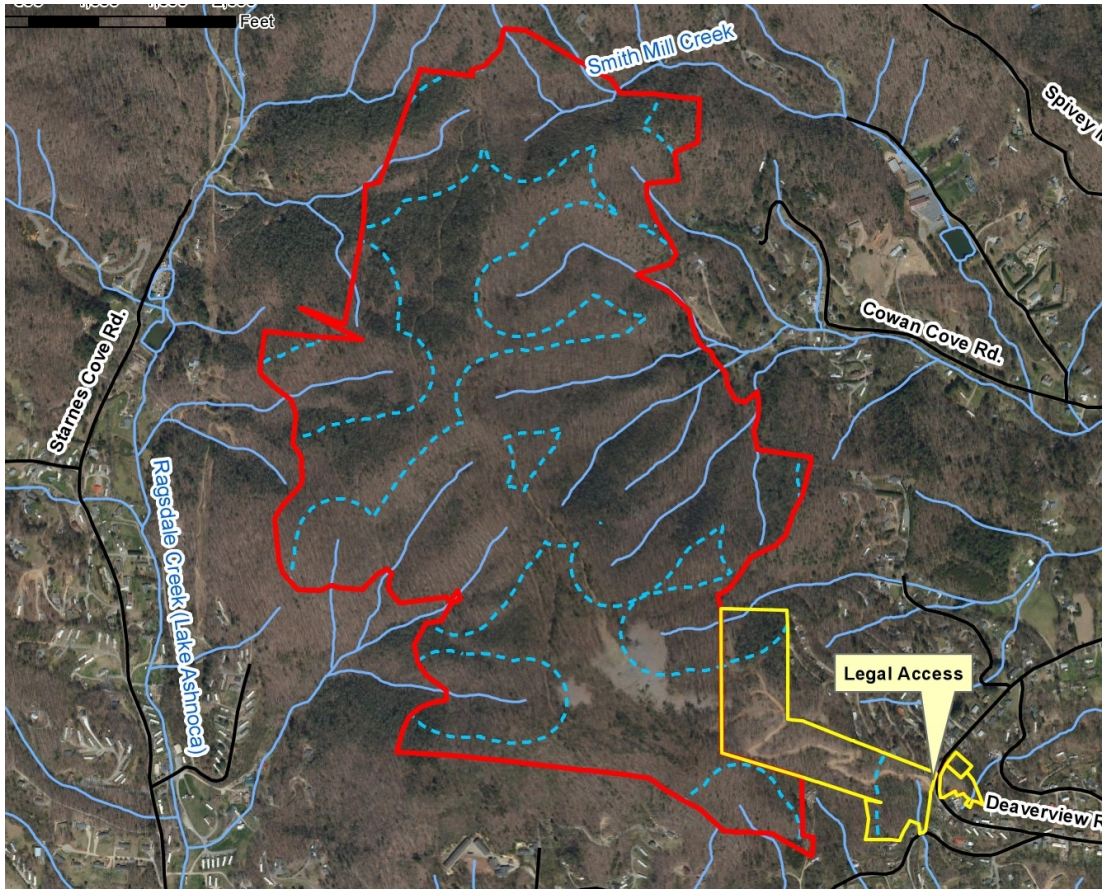
Allison Dains, Parks & Recreation Director

Board of County Commissioners Meeting

August 16, 2025

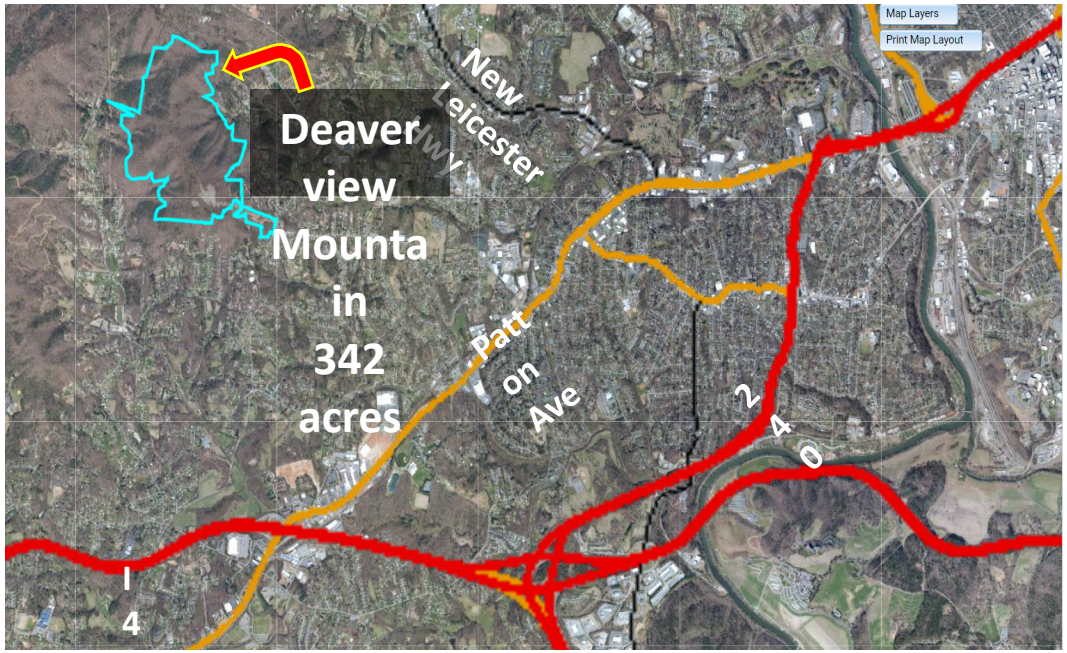
History

- Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC) requested a partnership with the County to secure funding for the acquisition of the Deaverview Mountain property
- April 18, 2023 Board of Commission passed a resolution to explore creating a county park or preserve out of Deaverview Mountain
  - Directed Parks Staff to work with SAHC to seek state and federal funding for the acquisition of the approximately 342+ acre property
  - County worked with the State on the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) grant to acquire the property
  - BOC allocated $7.4 million from GO Bonds for the development of Deaverview Mountain.



Funding Status

- County applied for ORLP Grant through the State of NC for $4,475,000
  - Parks & Recreation received the official Letter of award for ORLP funds
- Agreement needed with SAHC to utilize Land and Water funds to serve as the 1:1 matching funds requirements of the grant



Project Timeline

August 2025
BOC accept ORLP Award

October 2025
Create MOU with SAHC

November 2025
SAHC finalizes LWF funds

December 2025
County works through acquisition of Deaverview

February 2026
Master Plan for Deaverview

Request for Board Action

- Accept the ORLP Grant Award for acquisition of Deaverview Mountain
- Approve budget amendment as presented
- Approval to enter into an agreement with SAHC to utilize their grant funds as matching funds with County grant resources for the acquisition of the Deaverview Mountain property.

Appendix

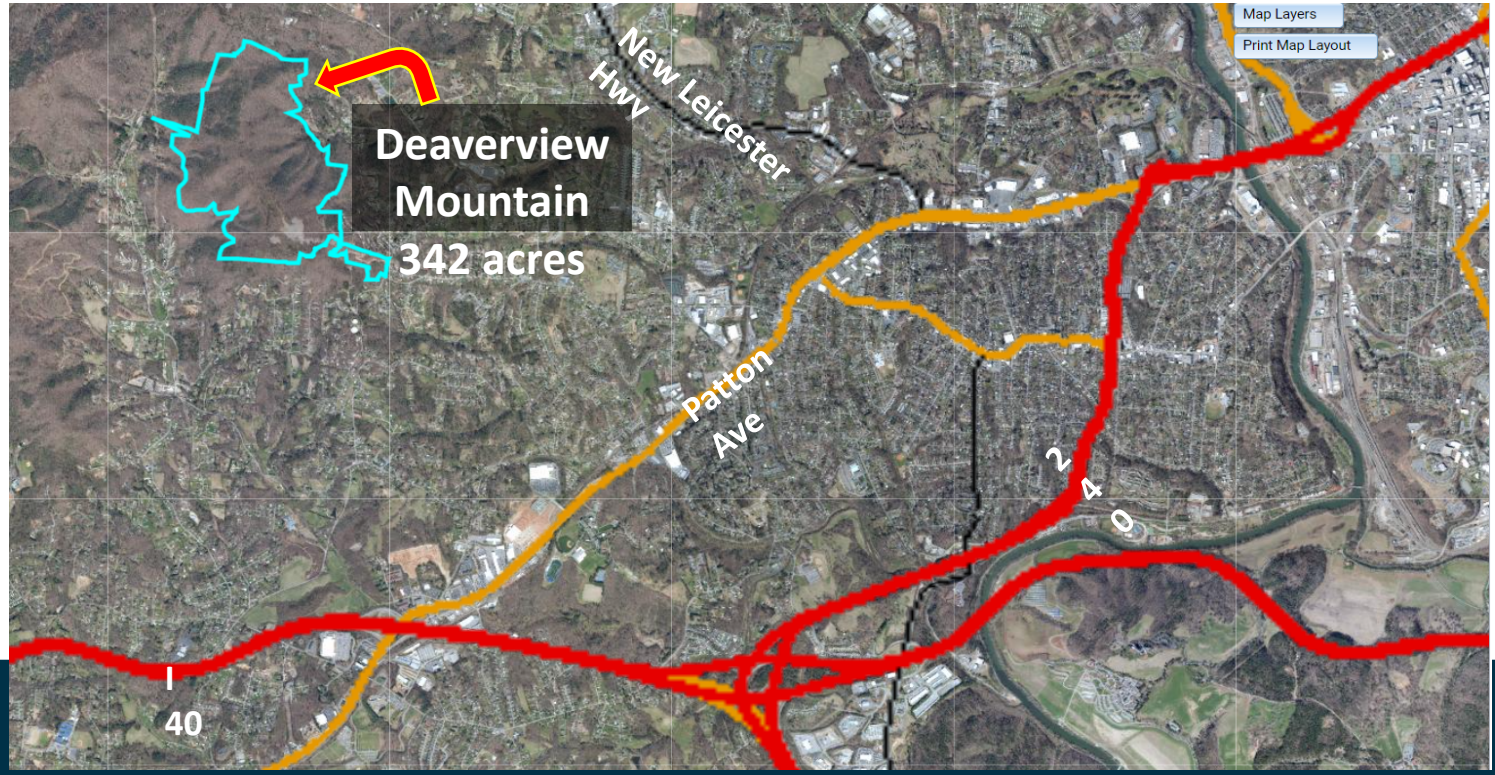
Deaverview Mountain Property

Property is in the Deaverview Community

- 5.2 miles from Downtown Asheville
- 7.5 miles from Leicester
- 7.9 miles from Candler







Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program (ORLP)

Program

- Federally funded through Land and Water Conservation Fund
  - created to aid disadvantaged, urban communities that lack access to close-by outdoor recreation.
  - Funds can be used for the acquisition and/or development of, or substantial renovation of, public parks and other outdoor recreation spaces.
  - Dollar-for-dollar matching grant program
- 2024 Grant program moved from every year, to every-other year.

Requirements

- **City Population Minimum** – Incorporated area or county having a population of 30,000 or more, per the 2020 U.S. Census.
- **Disadvantaged Community** – Project sites and the communities served must be located within a disadvantaged community (Census tract 25.06)
- **Perpetuity Outdoor Recreation Use** - project sites assisted with these funds must be maintained and accessible exclusively for public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity.
- **Matching Share** – Each dollar of federal share requested must be matched by a dollar of non-federal share.