Parks & Community Enrichment Committee

JULY 8, 2026

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Public Forum

Community Garden Update

KATIE COX – GARDEN REPRESENTATIVE AND PACE MEMBER







Community Garden Update

We are continuing to have volunteer workdays each Saturday from 10-noon **new volunteer orientations are on the last Saturday of the month/by appointment (reach out to woodfincommunitygarden@gmail.com if interested)*

Volunteers assembled and installed 2 metal raised beds to grow cut flowers in for the community

Co-hosted a rain garden installation workshop in June with 20+ attendees (big thanks to Adrienne and Johnny for their help)

We are continuing to work with Riverlink to make improvements to manage stormwater runoff

The garden hosted the YMCA Advisory Board for their meeting and we provided them with a overview of the garden & garden tour

Received donation of 2 new picnic tables

Working on a seasonal garden newsletter

Lennie’s Law Update

ADAM SMITH – PACE CHAIRPERSON

Special Events and Traffic Calming Policy Updates

ADRIENNE ISENHOWER – PROJECT AND FACILITIES DIRECTOR

Policy Updates



Special Events Policy

Approved by Town Council as presented, including all PACE recommendations



Traffic Calming Policy

Town Council requested amendments to policy to be reviewed in July

- Definition of affected areas
- Required amount of signatures
- Funding options

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit Update and Public Engagement Opportunities

NATE OBLON – STORMWATER ADMINISTRATOR

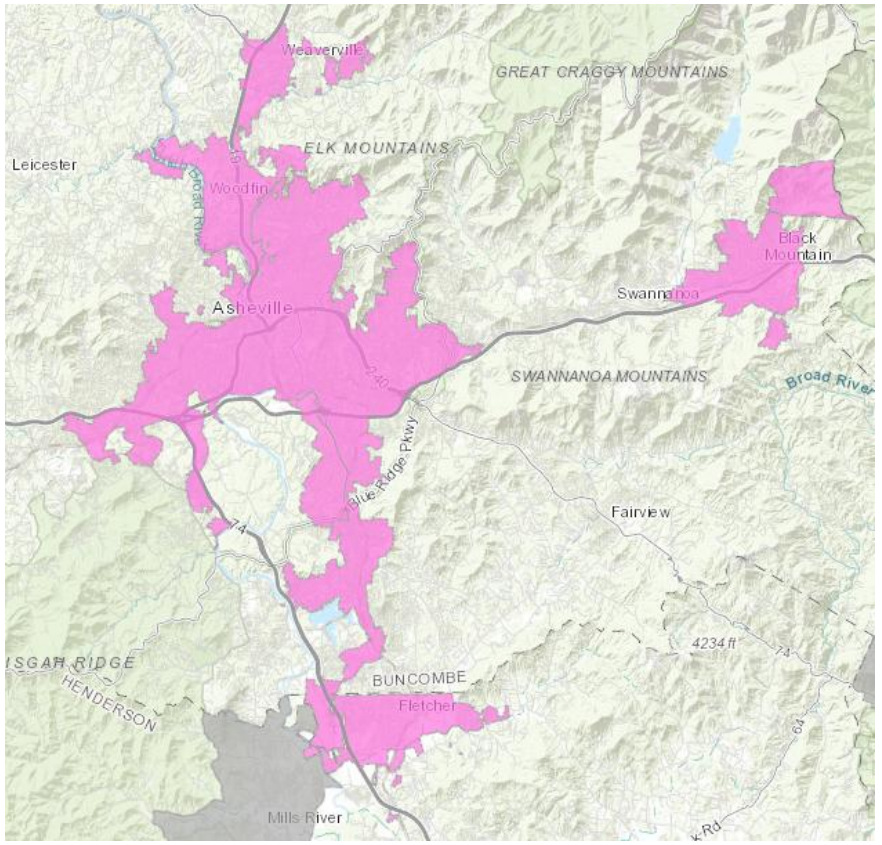
MS4 Program Overview

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase 1

- EPA introduced rules to regulate medium and large municipalities (typically 100k or greater)
- Requires implementation of stormwater management programs to control polluted discharges from these MS4s

NPDES Phase 2

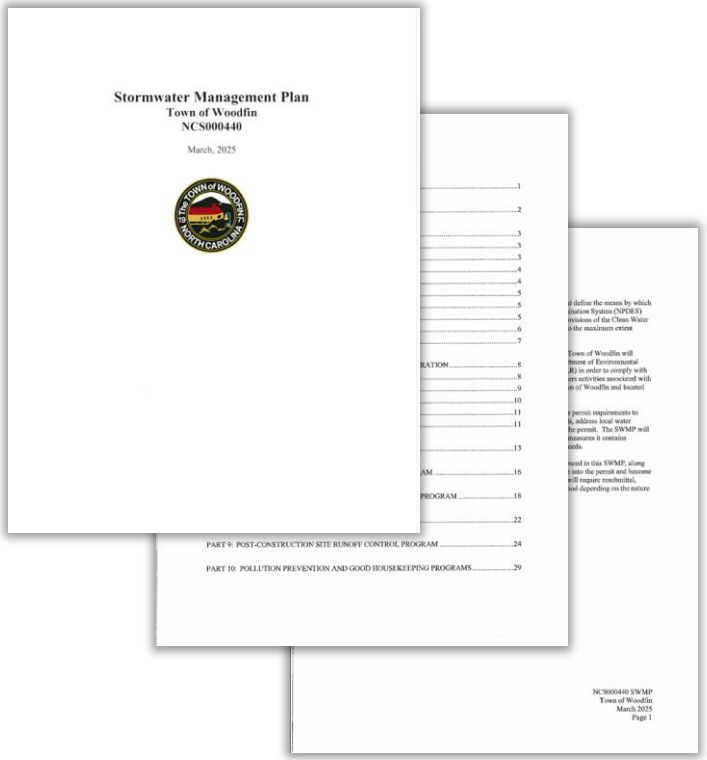
- Expands program to small MS4s nationwide located within urban areas with a population of 100k or less



MS4 Program Overview

Phase 2 Requirements

- Obtain general NPDES permit coverage
- Implement stormwater discharge management controls
- Include clear, specific, and measurable permit requirements
- Implement a stormwater management program that meets each of the six minimum control measures



MS4 Program Overview

Six Minimum Control Measures

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Participation/Involvement
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Runoff Control
5. Post-Construction Runoff Control
6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping









MS4 Program Overview

Clear, Specific, and Measurable permit requirements

- 38 total BMPs, each contains:
  - Description
  - Measurable Goal
  - Schedule for implementation
  - An annual reporting metric

Permit Ref.	3.7.2: Spill Response Program Measures for facilities and operations that store and/or use materials that have the potential to contaminate stormwater runoff if spilled. The permittee shall maintain written spill response procedures and train staff on spill response procedures.			
BMP No.	A Description of BMP	B Measurable Goal(s)	C Schedule for Implementation	D Annual Reporting Metric
32.	**Spill Potential and Response Procedures**			
	Any municipal facility that stores or works with materials which have the potential to contribute to polluted run-off shall be identified and written spill response procedures put in place.	1. Create written spill response procedures and provide to staff. Consider pertinent locations to post document.	1. Permit Year 2.	1. Yes/No/Status
		2. Review procedures with all relevant staff.	2. Permit Years 2-5.	2. Yes/No/Status
Permit Ref.	3.7.3: MS4 Operation and Maintenance Program Measures to minimize pollutants in the stormwater collection system. The permittee shall provide operation and maintenance staff training on stormwater awareness and pollution prevention, perform MS4 inspections, maintain the collection system including catch basins and conveyances; and establish specific frequencies, schedules, and standard documentation.			
BMP No.	A Description of BMP	B Measurable Goal(s)	C Schedule for Implementation	D Annual Reporting Metric
33.	**Staff Training for Operation and Maintenance Activities**			
	Create a list of operation and maintenance activities to be performed by the Public Works staff. Train staff in maintenance procedures, stormwater awareness and pollution prevention.	1. Create an inspection form and maintenance work order system.	1. Permit Year 1.	1. Yes/No/Status
		2. Inspect and maintain the MS4 collection system. Document inspection dates and where the maintenance took place.	2. 20% of the MS4 system each year, to accomplish full maintenance of the entire system within the 5-year permit period.	2. Report number of inspection and maintenance activities.

MS4 Permit Required Outreach

BMP No 5.:
Participate in a Public Event

- Planning permit year 2
- Implementation permit years 2-5
- The Town will pass out general stormwater awareness literature at one public event lead by the Town
- Plan to handout during Woodfin 5k



BMP No 12.:
Create a Town Park and Riverbank Clean-up Day Along French Broad River

- Planning permit year 2
- Implementation permit years 3- 5
- The Town will plan and implement an annual clean-up day for one of the Town's Parks adjacent to the French Broad River



Volunteer Options Discussion

Lower Beaverdam Creek Trash Collection; and Streambank Restoration Identification

Pros:

- One property owner permission for access
- Creek is easily walkable
- Roadway runs parallel to creek
- Low-cost materials
- Can use the cleanup to determine locations where streambank restoration work could be completed

Cons:

- Waiters/waterproof boots to be required
- Smaller trash likely not-present, may have large items that require further equipment to remove



Volunteer Options Discussion

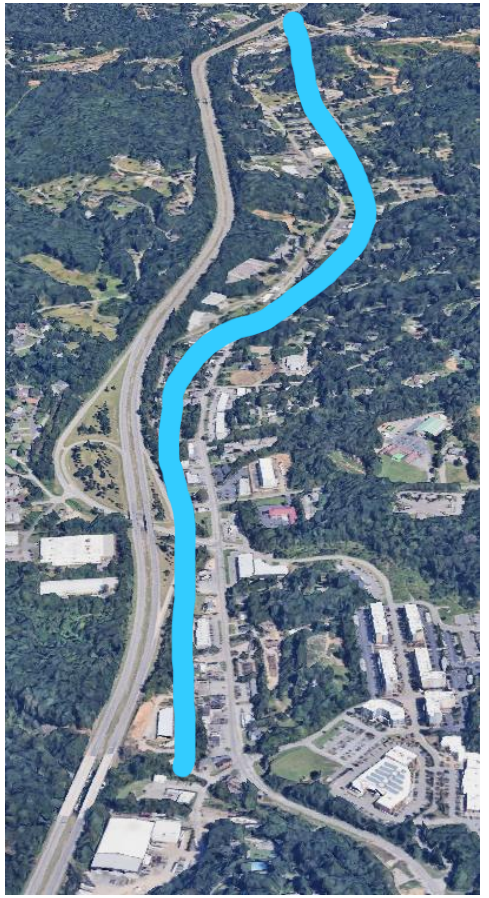
Upper Beaverdam Creek (along Weaverville Rd)

Pros:

- Creek is easily walkable
- Roadway runs parallel to creek
- Low-cost materials
- Can use the cleanup to determine locations where streambank restoration work could be completed

Cons:

- Require multiple property owners' permission for access
- Waders/waterproof boots to be required
- Smaller trash likely not-present, may have large items that require further equipment to remove



Volunteer Options Discussion

Invasive Species Removal

Pros:

- Various locations available including public and private property
- Low-cost equipment (basic gardening tools, gloves, and boots)
- Can transition to park property once parks are open to the public

Cons:

- Most locations exist on private property (would need property owner permission)
- Many invasives can be almost impossible to completely remove without chemical methods
- Would likely be an ongoing annual effort





Volunteer Options Discussion

Creation of Pocket Park on Unused Town Parcel

Pros:

- Creation of further park area

Cons:

- Complete development plan would be needed
- Adjacent property owner input would be appreciated



Volunteer Options Discussion

Smaller Volunteer Project Options

- Elk Mountain Road cleanup
- Future Silverline and Riverside Park trash and invasive cleanup
- Adopt a storm drain, culvert, or swale



Other Volunteer Option Recommendations?

What recommendations does PACE have for alternative volunteer options?

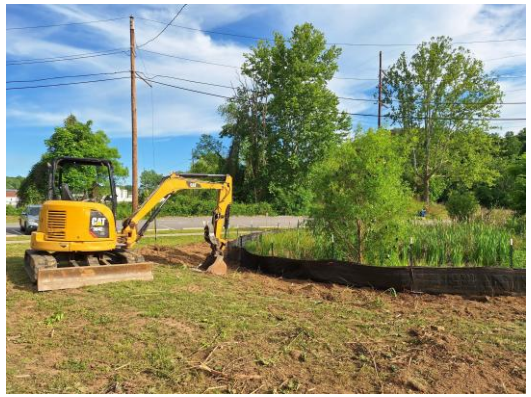
Staff Reports

ADRIENNE ISENHOWER









Silver-Line Park

- Construction underway with substantial completion target of late August/early September

- Initial tasks include rough grading for restroom facility, planting, and assessment of playground upgrades and repairs

- Planning to complete testing of rubber matting

- Existing wooden play equipment will likely need to be replaced

- Additional grading required to reach level of compaction necessary for restroom

- Coordinating with restroom facility contractor on construction and delivery

Taylor’s Wave

Received authorization from Norfolk Southern for temporary construction easement

Coffer dam flipped and dewatered for construction of bypass channel

- Additional water management necessary at tie-in to existing structure but manageable

Engineer on-site last week to review progress

- Possibility of additional bank stabilization work necessary due to effects of Helene
- Request being reviewed by relevant permitting agencies

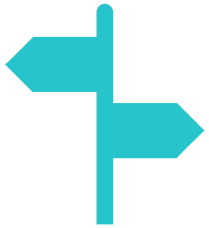
Plan to remove material in riverbed that is causing safety concerns



Riverside Park



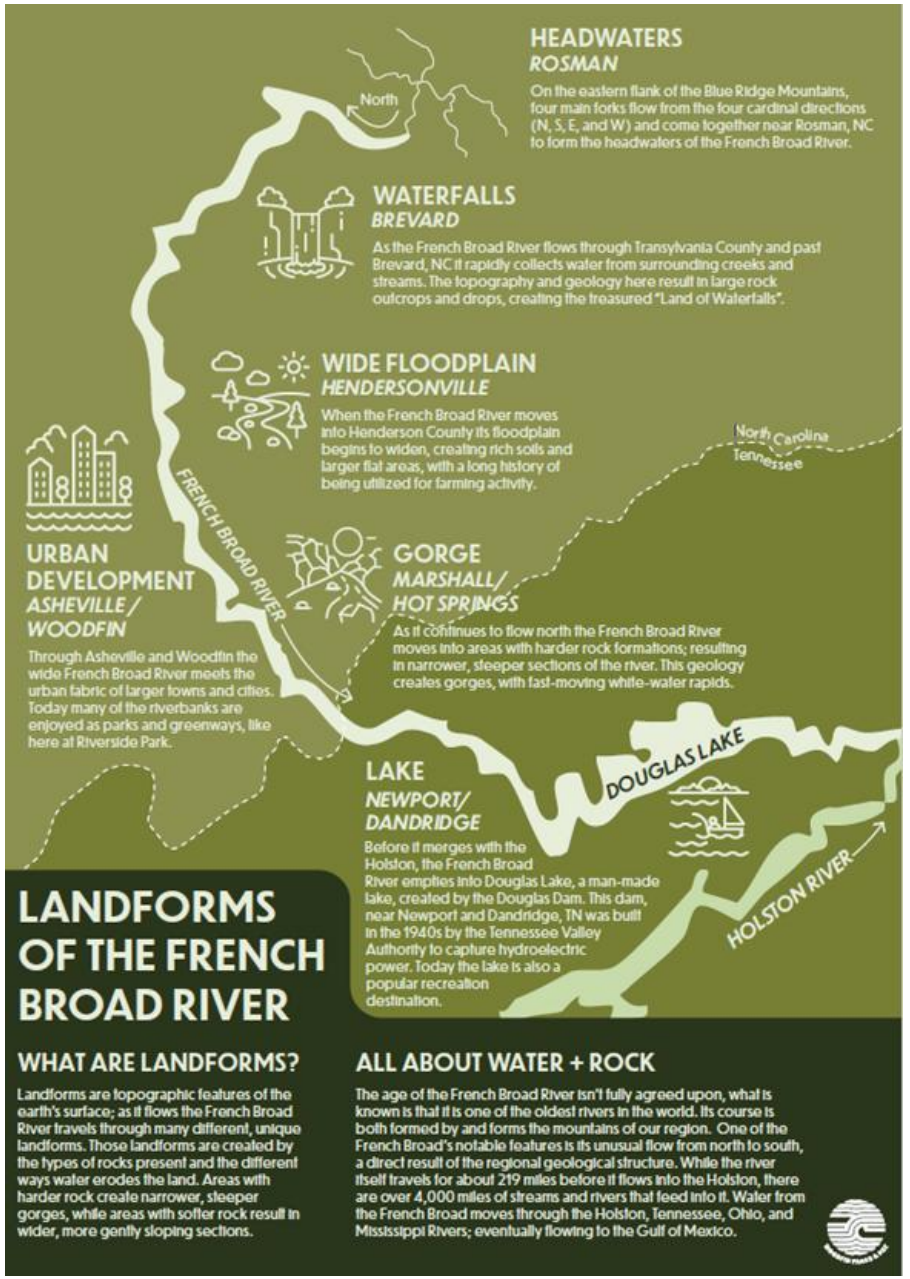
Meeting with NCDOT about construction easement within bridge right-of-way

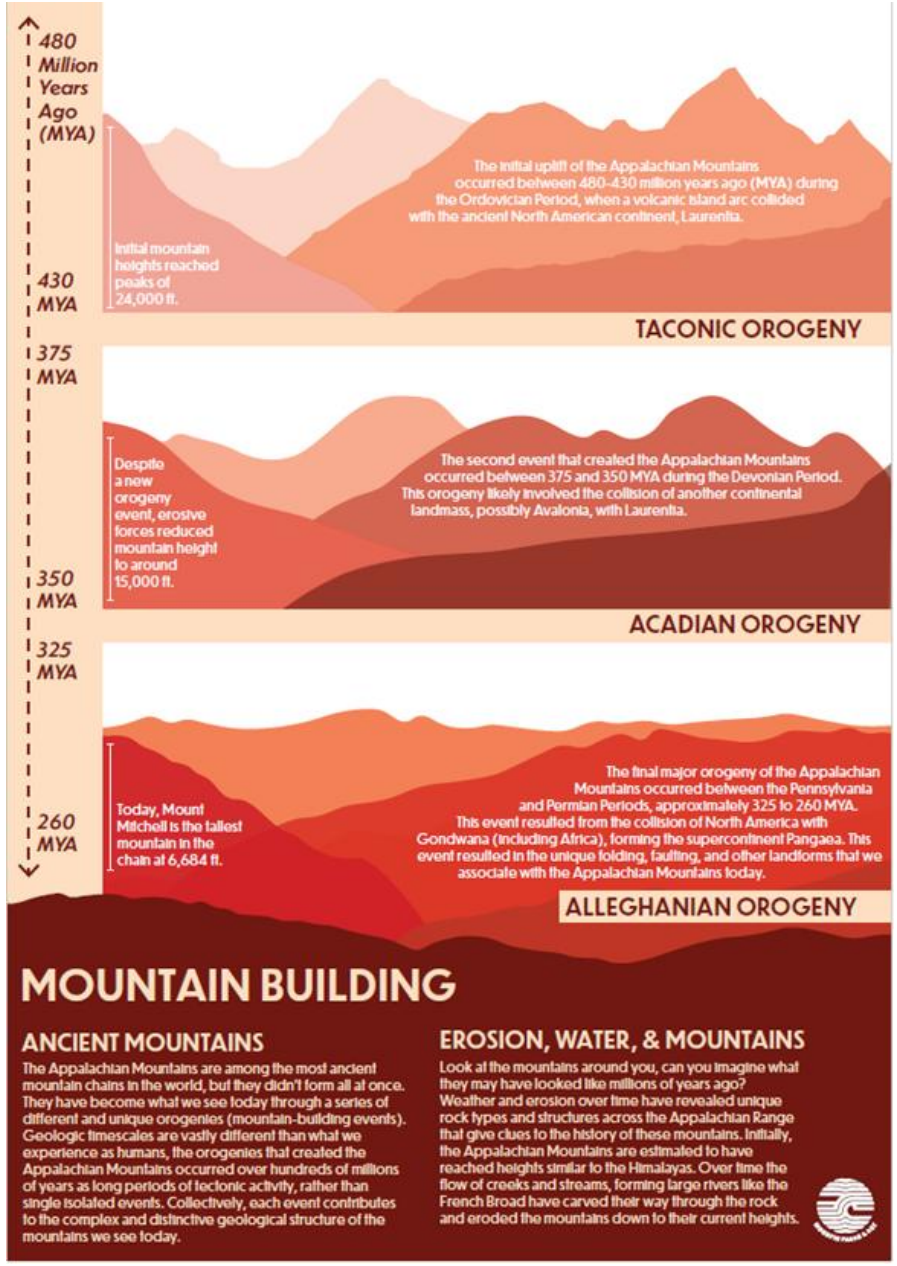


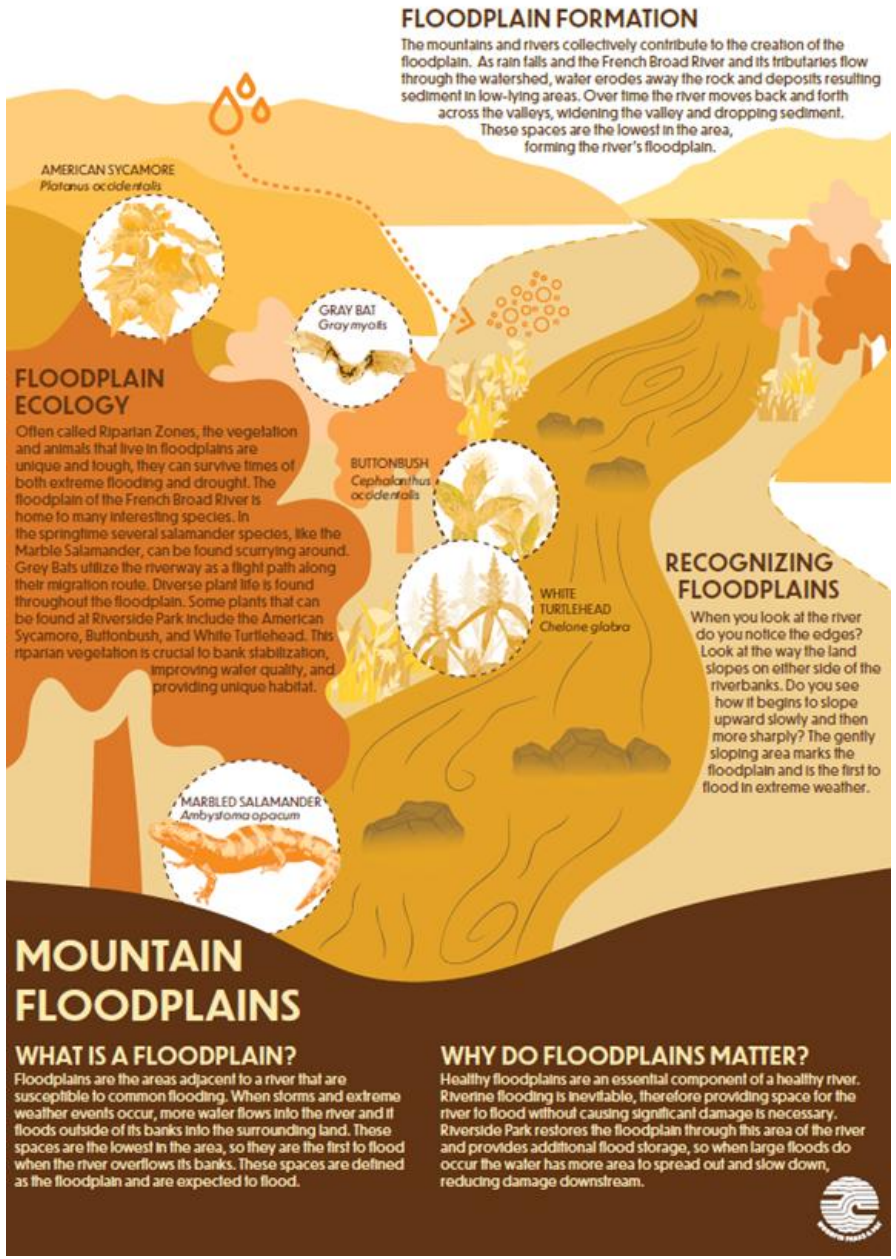
Revisited options for park signage both interpretive and regulatory

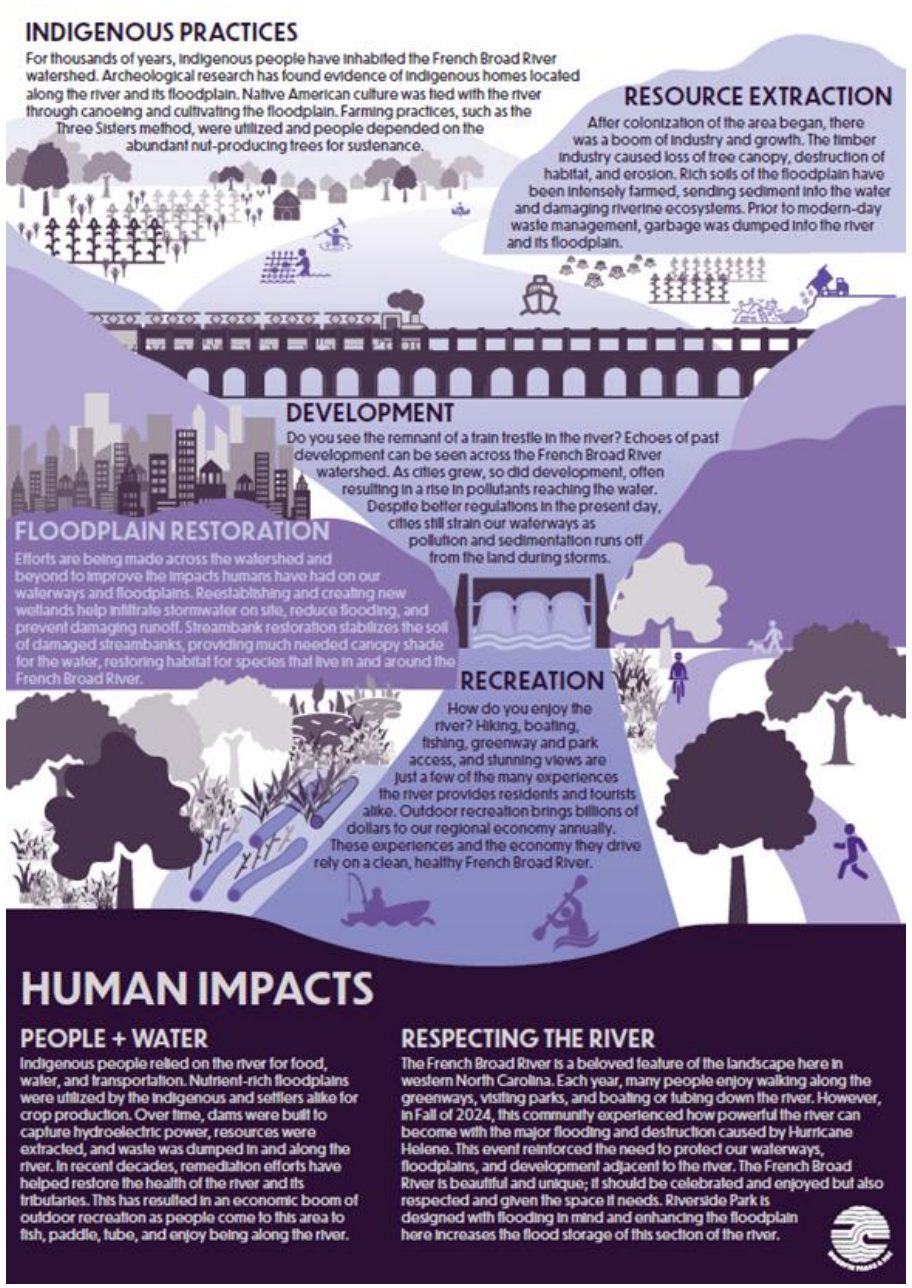


Quote approved for repair to existing restroom facility


HEADWATERS
ROSMAN
On the eastern flank of the Blue Ridge Mountains, four main forks flow from the four cardinal directions (N, S, E, and W) and come together near Rosman, NC to form the headwaters of the French Broad River.
North
WATERFALLS
BREVARD
As the French Broad River flows through Transylvania County and past Brevard, NC it rapidly collects water from surrounding creeks and streams. The topography and geology here result in large rock outcrops and drops, creating the treasured "Land of Waterfalls".
WIDE FLOODPLAIN
HENDERSONVILLE
When the French Broad River moves into Henderson County its floodplain begins to widen, creating rich soils and larger flat areas, with a long history of being utilized for farming activity.
North Carolina
Tennessee
FRENCH BROAD RIVER
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
ASHEVILLE / WOODFIN
Through Asheville and Woodfin the wide French Broad River meets the urban fabric of larger towns and cities. Today many of the riverbanks are enjoyed as parks and greenways, like here at Riverside Park.
GORGE
MARSHALL/ HOT SPRINGS
As it continues to flow north the French Broad River moves into areas with harder rock formations; resulting in narrower, steeper sections of the river. This geology creates gorges, with fast-moving white-water rapids.
DOUGLAS LAKE
LAKE
NEWPORT/ DANDRIDGE
Before it merges with the Holston, the French Broad River empties into Douglas Lake, a man-made lake, created by the Douglas Dam. This dam, near Newport and Dandridge, TN was built in the 1940s by the Tennessee Valley Authority to capture hydroelectric power. Today the lake is also a popular recreation destination.
HOLSTON RIVER
LANDFORMS OF THE FRENCH BROAD RIVER
WHAT ARE LANDFORMS?
Landforms are topographic features of the earth's surface; as it flows the French Broad River travels through many different, unique landforms. Those landforms are created by the types of rocks present and the different ways water erodes the land. Areas with harder rock create narrower, steeper gorges, while areas with softer rock result in wider, more gently sloping sections.
ALL ABOUT WATER + ROCK
The age of the French Broad River isn't fully agreed upon, what is known is that it is one of the oldest rivers in the world. Its course is both formed by and forms the mountains of our region. One of the French Broad's notable features is its unusual flow from north to south, a direct result of the regional geological structure. While the river itself travels for about 219 miles before it flows into the Holston, there are over 4,000 miles of streams and rivers that feed into it. Water from the French Broad moves through the Holston, Tennessee, Ohio, and Mississippi Rivers; eventually flowing to the Gulf of Mexico.


480 Million Years Ago (MYA)
The initial uplift of the Appalachian Mountains occurred between 480-430 million years ago (MYA) during the Ordovician Period, when a volcanic island arc collided with the ancient North American continent, Laurentia.
Initial mountain heights reached peaks of 24,000 ft.
430 MYA
TACONIC OROGENY
375 MYA
Despite a new orogeny event, erosive forces reduced mountain height to around 15,000 ft.
The second event that created the Appalachian Mountains occurred between 375 and 350 MYA during the Devonian Period. This orogeny likely involved the collision of another continental landmass, possibly Avalonia, with Laurentia.
350 MYA
ACADIAN OROGENY
325 MYA
Today, Mount Mitchell is the tallest mountain in the chain at 6,684 ft.
The final major orogeny of the Appalachian Mountains occurred between the Pennsylvania and Permian Periods, approximately 325 to 260 MYA. This event resulted from the collision of North America with Gondwana (including Africa), forming the supercontinent Pangaea. This event resulted in the unique folding, faulting, and other landforms that we associate with the Appalachian Mountains today.
260 MYA
ALLEGHANIAN OROGENY
MOUNTAIN BUILDING
ANCIENT MOUNTAINS
The Appalachian Mountains are among the most ancient mountain chains in the world, but they didn't form all at once. They have become what we see today through a series of different and unique orogenies (mountain-building events). Geologic timescales are vastly different than what we experience as humans, the orogenies that created the Appalachian Mountains occurred over hundreds of millions of years as long periods of tectonic activity, rather than single isolated events. Collectively, each event contributes to the complex and distinctive geological structure of the mountains we see today.
EROSION, WATER, & MOUNTAINS
Look at the mountains around you, can you imagine what they may have looked like millions of years ago? Weather and erosion over time have revealed unique rock types and structures across the Appalachian Range that give clues to the history of these mountains. Initially, the Appalachian Mountains are estimated to have reached heights similar to the Himalayas. Over time the flow of creeks and streams, forming large rivers like the French Broad have carved their way through the rock and eroded the mountains down to their current heights.


FLOODPLAIN FORMATION
The mountains and rivers collectively contribute to the creation of the floodplain. As rain falls and the French Broad River and its tributaries flow through the watershed, water erodes away the rock and deposits resulting sediment in low-lying areas. Over time the river moves back and forth across the valleys, widening the valley and dropping sediment. These spaces are the lowest in the area, forming the river's floodplain.
AMERICAN SYCAMORE
Platanus occidentalis
GRAY BAT
Gray myotis
FLOODPLAIN ECOLOGY
Often called Riparian Zones, the vegetation and animals that live in floodplains are unique and tough, they can survive times of both extreme flooding and drought. The floodplain of the French Broad River is home to many interesting species. In the springtime several salamander species, like the Marble Salamander, can be found scurrying around. Grey Bats utilize the riverway as a flight path along their migration route. Diverse plant life is found throughout the floodplain. Some plants that can be found at Riverside Park include the American Sycamore, Buttonbush, and White Turtlehead. This riparian vegetation is crucial to bank stabilization, improving water quality, and providing unique habitat.
BUTTONBUSH
Cephalanthus occidentalis
WHITE TURTLEHEAD
Chelone glabra
RECOGNIZING FLOODPLAINS
When you look at the river do you notice the edges? Look at the way the land slopes on either side of the riverbanks. Do you see how it begins to slope upward slowly and then more sharply? The gently sloping area marks the floodplain and is the first to flood in extreme weather.
MARBLED SALAMANDER
Ambystoma opacum
MOUNTAIN FLOODPLAINS
WHAT IS A FLOODPLAIN?
Floodplains are the areas adjacent to a river that are susceptible to common flooding. When storms and extreme weather events occur, more water flows into the river and it floods outside of its banks into the surrounding land. These spaces are the lowest in the area, so they are the first to flood when the river overflows its banks. These spaces are defined as the floodplain and are expected to flood.
WHY DO FLOODPLAINS MATTER?
Healthy floodplains are an essential component of a healthy river. Riverine flooding is inevitable, therefore providing space for the river to flood without causing significant damage is necessary. Riverside Park restores the floodplain through this area of the river and provides additional flood storage, so when large floods do occur the water has more area to spread out and slow down, reducing damage downstream.


INDIGENOUS PRACTICES
For thousands of years, indigenous people have inhabited the French Broad River watershed. Archeological research has found evidence of indigenous homes located along the river and its floodplain. Native American culture was tied with the river through canoeing and cultivating the floodplain. Farming practices, such as the Three Sisters method, were utilized and people depended on the abundant nut-producing trees for sustenance.
RESOURCE EXTRACTION
After colonization of the area began, there was a boom of industry and growth. The timber industry caused loss of tree canopy, destruction of habitat, and erosion. Rich soils of the floodplain have been intensely farmed, sending sediment into the water and damaging riverine ecosystems. Prior to modern-day waste management, garbage was dumped into the river and its floodplain.
DEVELOPMENT
Do you see the remnant of a train trestle in the river? Echoes of past development can be seen across the French Broad River watershed. As cities grew, so did development, often resulting in a rise in pollutants reaching the water. Despite better regulations in the present day, cities still strain our waterways as pollution and sedimentation runs off from the land during storms.
FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION
Efforts are being made across the watershed and beyond to improve the impacts humans have had on our waterways and floodplains. Reestablishing and creating new wetlands help infiltrate stormwater on site, reduce flooding, and prevent damaging runoff. Streambank restoration stabilizes the soil of damaged streambanks, providing much needed canopy shade for the water, restoring habitat for species that live in and around the French Broad River.
RECREATION
How do you enjoy the river? Hiking, boating, fishing, greenway and park access, and stunning views are just a few of the many experiences the river provides residents and tourists alike. Outdoor recreation brings billions of dollars to our regional economy annually. These experiences and the economy they drive rely on a clean, healthy French Broad River.
HUMAN IMPACTS
PEOPLE + WATER
Indigenous people relied on the river for food, water, and transportation. Nutrient-rich floodplains were utilized by the indigenous and settlers alike for crop production. Over time, dams were built to capture hydroelectric power, resources were extracted, and waste was dumped in and along the river. In recent decades, remediation efforts have helped restore the health of the river and its tributaries. This has resulted in an economic boom of outdoor recreation as people come to this area to fish, paddle, tube, and enjoy being along the river.
RESPECTING THE RIVER
The French Broad River is a beloved feature of the landscape here in western North Carolina. Each year, many people enjoy walking along the greenways, visiting parks, and boating or tubing down the river. However, in Fall of 2024, this community experienced how powerful the river can become with the major flooding and destruction caused by Hurricane Helene. This event reinforced the need to protect our waterways, floodplains, and development adjacent to the river. The French Broad River is beautiful and unique; it should be celebrated and enjoyed but also respected and given the space it needs. Riverside Park is designed with flooding in mind and enhancing the floodplain here increases the flood storage of this section of the river.

SILVER REDHORSE

Moxostoma anisurum



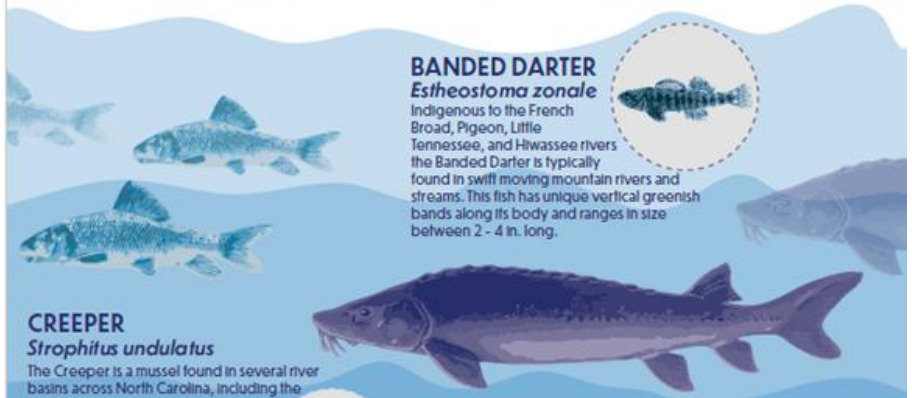
The Silver Redhorse is one of 29 species of suckers across North Carolina. This species is indigenous to the French Broad, Hiwassee, Little Tennessee, and Nolichucky rivers. Silver on the sides and growing to between 1.5 to 2 feet in length, the Silver Redhorse is an indicator of good water quality.

LAKE STURGEON

Acipenser fulvescens



Native to the French Broad River the Lake Sturgeon was extirpated from the river until 2015, when it was reintroduced. It is among the largest of the freshwater fishes in our area, reaching between 7 - 8 ft. The Lake Sturgeon is potamodromous, meaning it migrates up and down the river to and from its spawning grounds.



BANDED DARTER

Estheostoma zonale

Indigenous to the French Broad, Pigeon, Little Tennessee, and Hiwassee rivers the Banded Darter is typically found in swift moving mountain rivers and streams. This fish has unique vertical greenish bands along its body and ranges in size between 2 - 4 in. long.

CREEPER

Strophitus undulatus

The Creeper is a mussel found in several river basins across North Carolina, including the French Broad. Its range includes the Broad, Catawba, Cape Fear, French Broad, Neuse, Tar-Pamlico, Roanoke, and Yadkin-Pee Dee rivers. Like other mussels, it releases its larvae to attach to a host, the Creeper larvae have been known to attach to fish and amphibian hosts.



APPALACHIAN ELKTOE

Alasmidonta raveneliana



The Appalachian Elktoe mussel is found only in the Nolichucky, Toe, French Broad, and Little Tennessee river watersheds. It lives in the riffles, runs, and shallow pools of cool, clean, moderate to fast flowing waterways. The Elktoe has a unique relationship with the Sculpin and relies on them as host fish for its young.

FISH PASSAGE

WHAT IS A FISH PASSAGE?

A fish passage ensures that fish swimming upstream can pass through an area of the river. A designed fish passage mimics the naturally occurring geology of a riverbed and helps restore previously damaged riverine environments. At the Woodfin Riverside Park this fish passage is an important piece of the riverfront revitalization and Taylor's Wave. The inclusion of a fish passage with the whitewater wave ensures this section of the French Broad is open for aquatic species to travel upstream. Do you see fish in the river?

HOW IS IT DESIGNED?

This fish passage was designed to accommodate as many of the species found in the French Broad River as possible. To do that, representative species were chosen and examined for their swimming ability, presence in the river, and ecologic significance. Collectively, 67 species were researched for this fish passage including small-bodied fishes, lamprey, sunfishes, fusiform river fishes, and big river fishes. This data was compiled and combined with hydrodynamic models (models that simulate water movement through an environment), ensuring this fish passage would successfully allow fish of the French Broad River to move through the area and upstream.

Adjourn