



Hub City Connector of the Palmetto Trail



Mary Black Foundation Rail Trail

Length: 1.91 miles

Location: Intersection of Henry and Union streets to Country Club Road

Access: Parking available at Henry/Union; Pine Street YMCA; Forest Avenue and Country Club Road.

Use: Walking, Running, Bicycling, Rollerblading, Baby Strollers, Wheelchair Access. Skateboarders are welcome on the trail, but please do not skate on the site furniture.

Destinations: See maps for bicycle routes or pedestrian paths to Mary H. Wright Greenway, Barnet Park, Cottonwood Trail and Duncan Park.

Accessibility Information

Surface: Asphalt 8 to 10 feet wide

Average Grade: 0 to 1 percent

Average Cross Slope: 0 percent

Total Road Crossings: Trail includes 3 at-grade crossings at Marion St., Andrews and Country Club

Overall elevation: Approximately 700 feet

Welcome to the Mary Black Foundation Rail Trail segment of the Hub City Connector! This 1.91-mile greenway is a former railroad corridor owned and operated by Norfolk Southern Corporation.

The railroad – once known as the Spartanburg-Union Railroad – is one of the oldest in Spartanburg. According to the 1940 Work Projects Administration Book, “A History of Spartanburg,” it was initially proposed in 1849. After many delays and money problems, a crowd of 8,000 to 15,000 packed into Spartanburg to witness the arrival of the first train on a November afternoon in 1859.

The railroad served Spartanburg until the late 1990s when the final shipping customers along the line either closed or converted to truck. The Palmetto Conservation Foundation began negotiating with Norfolk Southern Corporation in 1999 to convert the line and was greatly aided by Spartanburg businessman George Dean Johnson. The line is now protected by federal railbanking statute and has been donated to the Palmetto Conservation Foundation by Norfolk Southern.

