

# Pathways to the Future



## Session Descriptions

### Wednesday

#### **Swamp Rabbit Trail (4:00pm)**

The Greenville Hospital System Swamp Rabbit Tram Trail runs between Travelers Rest and the city of Greenville, SC. Advocates of the trail claim that it is helping to revitalize communities, grow tourism and make people healthier. Learn more about the trail and its story of success.

Brian Graham, City of Greenville

Ty Houck, Greenville Recreation Commission

#### **Keynote Speaker: Bob Powell (6:30pm)**

##### **Trails and Greenways: Architecture for a Sustainable Future**

Unplanned and uncoordinated land development often leads to the erosion of environmental infrastructure and the social fabric that underpin quality of life. One tool for overcoming these challenges is the through the development of trails and greenways. Not only can trails and greenways enhance environmental quality and improve the provision of ecosystem services, but they may also restore community cohesiveness, build social capital, and support long-term economic development. Ultimately developing extensive networks of greenways and trails may provide communities with the architecture for a sustainable and resilient future.

### Thursday

#### **Concurrent Sessions 1 (8:30-9:45am)**

##### **Case Study: The Forks Area Trail System**

Built for mountain bikers, by mountain bikers. FATS offers 25 miles of swooping turns and rolling hills in the Sumter National Forest with options for beginner through advanced riders. Learn from the planners and builders how this incredible system was funded, developed and managed FATS' impact on local retail businesses and how it improves the fitness of the locals who use the trails.

Bill Victor, Long Cane Trails

Phil Cohen, Chain Reaction Bike Shop

### **So you want to convert a Railroad bed to a Trail**

Since 1983 thousands of miles of abandoned railway corridors in the United States have been converted into hiking/biking trails under the federal National Trails System Act, often referred to as the Railbanking Act. For trail proponents, the Railbanking Act has proven to be an invaluable resource. Learn from PCF's experiences about the intricacies of railbanking, defending the right-of-way, and working with landowners.

Cary Hall, Wyche Law Firm  
Furman Miller, PCF Trail Maintainer

### **Planning, Partnerships, and Overcoming Hurdles**

Join Dr. Bob Powell as he discusses developing effective landscape-scale coordination and planning for your project. This session focuses on how to attract, motivate, and coordinate "stakeholders" to work across sectors and traditional jurisdictional boundaries.

### **If We Build it, Will They Ride? Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts that Count**

This session will provide an overview of trail user counting methodologies; the benefits of establishing counting practices to ensure public, political, and financial support of continued trail building and maintenance; and the types of information on trail users (or potential trail users) that counts and user surveys can reveal.

John Cock, Alta Planning  
Jean Crow Crowther, Alta Planning

### **Mobile Workshops 1 (10:00-12:00)**

#### **Managing an Urban Forest for recreation – the Cottonwood Trail**

How do you manage a 118-acre nature preserve with many varied habitats, urban runoff, streambank erosion, invasive species and still provide a great hiking and educational experience? Ask SPACE.

Mary Walters, Spartanburg Area Conservancy

#### **Urban Rails to Trails –Mary Black on the Palmetto Trail**

Check out the most popular two miles in Spartanburg, learn how non-profits made this happen and how business has responded.

Curt McPhail, Mary Black Foundation  
Eric Turner, owner of Bike Worx

#### **Bike Tour**

Take a spin down the Glendale Greenway, around town, and out into the country to clear the cobwebs and experience Spartanburg in October – beautiful! Bring your own bike or use one of ours.

Paul LeFrancois, Palmetto Cycling Coalition

### **Luncheon Speaker: Chuck Flink, President of Greenways, Inc. (12:30-1:30pm)**

Greenways and greenspace are often times characterized as a "luxury" that communities can afford when economic times are good. Chuck will explore the wide range of economic benefits about greenspace and greenways - how greenspace effectively reduces the public sector costs

associated with providing services, adds value to local landscapes, and generates new sources of revenues that can serve to grow the local economy.

### **Mobile Workshops 2 (1:45-3:45pm)**

#### **Multi-Use Trails at Croft State Natural Area**

Combining horses, bikes, and walkers can be a challenge. Learn from them about how Croft manages peaceful co-existence among the groups.

John Moon, Park Manger

Jim Majors, Palmetto Conservation

#### **Mill Village Rail Trails of Inman and Lyman**

A walking loop, connections to North Carolina, a new pedestrian bridge over the Tyger River, and rail-trail plans and a “Trail Leadership Strategy” will be seen and explained on the trip to Inman and Lyman.

Lisa Bollinger

#### **Kayak trip**

Enjoy a guided kayak trip along the Lawson’s Fork Creek/Pacolet River. We will provide all of the gear. This trip is limited to the first 15 participants to sign up. You will be notified in advance if you are chosen to participate in this paddle.

Nick Hewson, guide

David Oiler, guide

### **Concurrent Sessions 2 (4:00-5:15pm)**

#### **Case Study: Virginia Creeper Trail & Eco-tourism**

The Virginia Creeper Trail National Recreation Trail, a 34-mile, successful rails-to-trails project has been an economic lifeline for Abingdon and Damascus. Successful partnering with state and federal agencies to purchase easements, rights-of-way and property helped create the perfect setting for a town where trails meet and people flock to visit.

Garrett Jackson, Dir. of Planning, Abingdon, VA

#### **It’s a wet state - Building trail bridges that last**

What are some environmentally and financially sustainable means to cross that creek? How and when to use them? Is that bridge really necessary?

[Deno Contos](#), Benchmark Trails

#### **Funding Options for Trail Building**

The most difficult part of building trails can be funding them. Money is tighter than ever. Hear from the experts what is happening on the federal, state, and regional levels and how clever communities are making trails happen.

Vonie Gilreath, BCD Council of Governments

Ronda Pratt, SCPRT State Trails Program

Shane Belcher, Federal Highway Administration

## **Making Trail Connections**

This session will provide case studies and strategies for planning trail systems across jurisdictional lines. From county-wide plans to trails that link municipalities and counties, more trail and more trail benefits for your buck result when you plan for systems that connect multiple jurisdictions.

John Cock, Alta Planning

Maya Agarwal, Alta Planning

Laura Ringo, Partners for Active Living

Ann Browning, Carolina Thread Trail

## **Friday**

### **Blue Trails: Innovative Tools and Messaging Strategies for Protecting Riverside Land (8:00-9:00am)**

Communities that value their natural resources are more likely to protect them. American Rivers is working to build support for river protection by closely tying together land protection along the river with Blue Trails, the water equivalent to hiking trails. This presentation will explore how SC's Waccamaw River Blue Trail is protecting riverside land, educating landowners, increasing community involvement, and providing opportunities for families to enjoy the outdoors together.

Staci Williams, American Rivers

### **Glendale-Pacolet Blueway (9:00-10:15am)**

It's all happening on the banks of Lawson's Fork Creek – a paddling trail, greenway, nature preserve and the Goodall Environmental Studies Center. Learn how all the partners came together to create a major force in Glendale's revitalization.

Elaine Harris, Mayor of Pacolet

George Fields, Palmetto Conservation

### **Tour of Glendale Shoals (10:30-11:45)**

Stroll down to the Shoals and see what all the excitement is about.

Tour guide: George Fields