

## Mineral Springs Greenway

### "Sneak Peek"

#### In conjunction with the Catawba Lands Conservancy

When: Saturday, June 12, 2010

10:00 AM

Where: Copper Run Subdivision  
At the dead end of Crofton Dr.

[Click for directions](#)

Join us for a "sneak peek" of the town's newly-acquired open space, nature preserve, and future greenway!

The town of Mineral Springs has for the past five years been piecing together some of the most beautiful natural land available along the Wolf and Bates Branches. In cooperation with Carmel Brothers (Harrington Hall) and Niblock Homes (Copper Run), who donated creek-fronting property and made other upland property available at discounted prices, the town has acquired nearly 60 acres dedicated to conservation and intended to be open for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding.



Through the efforts of the Catawba Lands Conservancy and a \$307,000 grant from the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF), we have been able to purchase larger upland tracts and supplement the narrow floodplain portions of the property. We are close to being able to connect five new and existing subdivisions to this growing network of trails, and we have reserved land at McNeely Road and Pleasant Grove Road to provide future trailheads.

Saturday's event will start in the approximate center of the trail system, at the portion of the property that was purchased with the CWMTF grant. Depending on attendance, we expect to offer a choice of two guided hikes of approximately one hour each.

One route, led by a horseback rider, will head north (downstream) along the creeks, along an old mill sluice, and to a loop at a wider section of the floodplain. Participants will have the opportunity to experience both the floodplain ecosystem with ferns, walnut trees, and towering pines, as well as the upland ecosystem of mature hardwood trees and more wide-open spaces.



The other route will head south, upstream along the Wolf Branch. The topography here is steeper and the trail narrower. This route skirts the back of the Harrington Hall subdivision (which is under construction) and demonstrates how much conservation can be accomplished within a sometimes very narrow corridor.

All of our trails are unpaved, and many stretches are still under development. The hikes are easy to moderate-easy, but hiking boots or sneakers with tough rubber soles are recommended.

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