

# DAVIDSON NEWS.NET

## Spring opening planned for River Run greenway

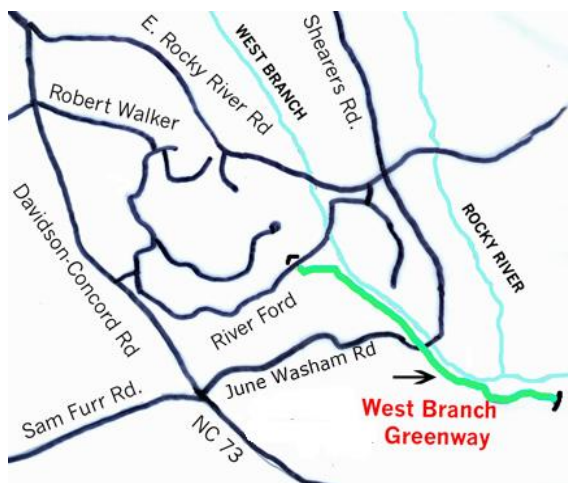
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By David Boraks



*Section of greenway looking east toward Shearer Road. Photos by David Boraks, DavidsonNews.net.*

Construction is nearly complete on the 1.1-mile **West Branch Rocky River Greenway**, which snakes through the River Run neighborhood and along the river east of downtown Davidson. Mecklenburg County Parks & Recreation is constructing the trail with the help of \$1.1 million in federal stimulus funds.



Workers from Blythe Construction this month completed most of the planned paving and were working on a wooden boardwalk along the river's edge in the middle of the curving greenway. The trail is not yet open; a formal dedication is planned this spring, according to Gwen Cook, Mecklenburg County Greenway Planner.

The new biking and walking trail runs from River Ford Drive near the 13th tee of River Run Country Club and eastward along the West Branch of the East Rocky River. Until more trails are developed in the future, it will end just east of the new bridge over the river at Shearer Road, in the planned River Run Phase 5.

The greenway won't connect directly with the Southeast Greenway or other off-road greenways in Davidson, but it will be reachable via local streets.

"It's really going to be a lovely greenway, because of the topography. One place has ferns on a vertical bank, and there's a boardwalk there," Ms. Cook said. "It's a nice experience."

Ms. Cook said she has talked with Davidson Parks & Recreation Department officials about enlisting residents' aid in putting native plants in the area.

Davidson Parks & Rec will operate and maintain the greenway, Ms. Cook said.

Mecklenburg County Parks & Recreation received \$1.1 million in federal stimulus funds through the N.C. Department of Transportation last year to build the trail, which is part of the [Carolina Thread Trail](#), a planned network of greenways in the county and region.

River Run Property Owners Association also chipped in \$8,000 to help spruce up the trailhead off River Ford Drive, according to the association's president, Mickey Pettus.



*A boardwalk runs along a fern-covered hillside on the left and the river on the right.*

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