

December 2022



Our Mission: To develop a system of walking and Hiking Trails that protect and connect the natural settings and historic sites of the Highlands Plateau.

The Highlands Plateau Greenway

a 501 (c) 3 non profit organization
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Highlands Greenway News

The dedicated volunteers of the Highlands Plateau Greenway have been busy this year creating new trails and maintaining the beloved trails that connect our community. Our volunteer workforce completed a total of 691 hours, participating in 26 workdays over the past year. These volunteers are the Greenway Heroes, and we sincerely thank them for all the hard work.

This year we completed Quin's Loop, a new trail dedicated in memory of our co-founder and friend Hillrie Quin. Quin's Loop is in the Kelsey Preserve, a property owned by the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust at the end of 5th Street. Hundreds of volunteer hours have been invested in scouting, grading, and refining this trail to open it for the public. If you have not had the opportunity to visit, we encourage you to put your boots on and take a hike on Quin's Loop.

We are so thankful for our many volunteers, donors, and supporting organizations who keep the Greenway trail system an important part of the Highlands community. We hope you will join our monthly workdays and become a part of the team. Notify us at highlandsgreenway@gmail.com to be included in our monthly workday email notices.

We have exciting plans for the future, including an ambitious project to connect the communities of Highlands, Cashiers and Clayton by way of a long-range trekking trail. Stay tuned for more updates soon! **Please Donate Today!**

Community Partnership



In September, Jim Chance sponsored a rock class taught by the Jolly Rovers from New York. Participants gained knowledge and the Botanical Garden got several new steps.



Goals for 2023

Maintain our Trails

Improve Trail Signage and Map

Thoughtful Expansion Planning

A Tribute to Richard Melvin

We mourn the loss of Richard Melvin, one of the Greenway's most devoted supporters, who passed away on October 1st. Since its founding in 2008, the Greenway had benefited from Richard's services as legal counselor and volunteer for trail construction. Richard was known for his generosity, integrity, curiosity, kindness, and encyclopedic knowledge of Highlands and its history. He spent his high-school years in Highlands, earned his undergraduate degree in English from Duke University and law degree from the University of Florida, and served as Lt. Commander in the Navy during the Vietnam War.

For fifty years Richard served Highlands as an attorney. His devotion to his clients led him to use his considerable talents to improve not only their lives but the community of Highlands as well. His daughter described his overriding goal as "seeking to accomplish some part of a greater good." Indeed, she reveals, he began conversations with her each day with the urgent question: "Did you do any good today?"

Richard's academic thesis and lifelong interest was in 16th-century Spanish exploration of America. Even on work days for the Greenway trail, he was ever ready to defend his claim that DeSoto led his army through the mountains south of Highlands. And considering his 60 years of research into the claim, he may in the end prove correct.

By Ran Shaffner



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New Trail Signage

If you are a regular user of the trail, you may have noticed the appearance of new posts along the trail. These new signposts will host our new and updated signage! We have been working with designers and fabricators to develop better, clearer signage along the trail, and will have our new directional signage installed soon.

With new signage comes a new map. Efforts are underway to design a new map for the Greenway to help visitors and new hikers navigate the Greenway and plan their adventures.



Steve Cathcart models signage mockup



Trail Worker of the Year
Mike King