

Rutherford County Heritage Development Plan



Completed by
the Rutherford County Heritage Council
in partnership with
the



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Heritage Areas

National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior

Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Rutherford County Heritage Team Roster 2005

Name	Affiliation	Contact Information
1. Cindy Adair	Rutherford Town Revitalization	157 Fairway Drive Rutherfordton, NC 28139 cindydesigns@bellsouth.net (2004 - 2005)
2. Pat Allen	Union Mills Community Center, Inc.	830 Horn Mill Road Union Mills, NC 28167 nella@earthlink.net
3. Ann Almond	Rutherford County Tourism Development Authority	1990 US Hwy. 221 South Forest City, NC 28043 ann@rutherfordtourism.net
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5. Threatha Bennings	Grahamtown	129 Jackson Street Forest City, NC 28043 threatha@bellsouth.net
6. Alice Bradley	Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County	PO Box 938 Forest City, NC 28043 cbradley@blueridge.net
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8. Bill Byers	Rutherford County Historical Society	PO Box 100 Rutherfordton, NC 28139 hogwild@blueridge.net
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- | | | |
|----------------------|--|---|
| 13. Barbara Meliski | Chimney Rock Village | PO Box 55
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| 14. Keith Price | Forest City - Citizen | 407 W. Main Street
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| 16. Jeff Whiteside | African-American History | 198 Court Street
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| 17. Danielle Withrow | Town of Forest City
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New Heritage Council Members - 2006

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| 18. Robin Lattimore | Rutherford Historical Society
President | 224 N. Washing Street
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| 19. Jan McGuinn | Rutherford Cooperative Extension
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| 20. Lynn Padgett | Rutherford Outdoor Coalition | PO Box 186
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| 21. Darryll Hargrove | African American Cultural Center | 139 Jackson Street
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In addition, numerous other historians and advisors from each community have shared a wealth of information necessary to create the Rutherford County Heritage Plan.

Among advisers are

Pat Allen	Union Mills
Ann Almond	Mapping project
Frances & Palmer Bailey	Traditional music
Threatha Bennings	Grahamtown, Black history & mapping project
Alice Bradley	Colonial Dames of the 17 th Century
	Daughters of the American Revolution
	Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County & mapping project
Capt. Wilbur Burgin	Farm and early industrialization
Bill Byers	Pre-historic, Green Hill, county history & mapping project
Edith & Henry Edwards	Harris

Lucy Ellis	Golden Valley/Sunshine
Nancy Ferguson	Rutherford County Historian & mapping project
Maime Etta Gumbs	Black genealogy & the Thompson family
LaVella Hardin	Free people of color
Robin Lattimore	Plantations, Rutherford Hospital, Rutherfordton, county history
Tom Melton	Abraham Lincoln
Todd Morris	Chimney Rock Park
Lloyd Nanney	Gold and mining & Thermal City
Tom Padgett	Pre-historic/ retired archeologist
Keith Price	Racing, sports history, Forest City & mapping project
James Proctor	Lake Lure
Katie & Earnest Queen	Golden Valley/Sunshine
Bill Robertson	Civil War era
Janice & Marc Swing	Cliffside
James Ransom Tate	Sulphur & Holly Springs& mapping project
Ed & Catherine Washburn	Washburn Historic District
Phillip White	Cliffside
Bo Whiteside	Black musical traditions
William Withrow, Sr.(deceased)	Hollis
Danielle Withrow	Hollis, textiles, railroads, Forest City & mapping project
James Womack (deceased)	Farm history/general history
Others who have shared valuable information and insight	



Blue Ridge National Heritage Area

RUTHERFORD COUNTY

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Rutherford County located in the Southern Appalachian foothills at the southeastern corner of Western North Carolina is a county of 61,000 citizens covering 563 square miles, making it the state's third largest county. The diverse landscape ranges in elevations from 806 feet at Caroleen to 3,967 feet at Sugar Loaf Mountain and includes forests and fields, rivers and streams, a moderate thermal belt climate, mountains, resorts, small towns and communities, beautiful trees, rock, vistas and a rich history and heritage. Its neighbors are Burke, McDowell, Polk, Henderson, Buncombe and Cleveland County in North Carolina and Cherokee and Spartanburg County in South Carolina. The County is in close proximity to the metropolitan areas of Asheville, Charlotte, Greenville, Spartanburg and to several major highway corridors.

Human beings have inhabited this landscape for thousands of years and artifacts and mounds are testimony. White and black settlers arrived here in the 1730's through 1760's. The area was once the center of Tryon County, which was formed from Mecklenburg County in 1768. Rutherford County and Lincoln County were formed from Tryon in April 1779. Rutherford County is named for Brigadier General Griffith Rutherford of Rowan County, a famous Revolutionary War soldier and leader of the Rutherford Trace.

The County's formative years coincide with a drastic decline in the Cherokee and Catawba Indian populations largely attributed to epidemic diseases. The American Revolution began here with a conflict with the Cherokees encouraged by the British government. Some people were massacred and local forts were besieged. Settlers, attacked by both Indian and Tory, built forts as arsenals for protection. These forts included Fort McGaughey, Fort McFadden, Pott's Fort, Hampton's Fort, Munford's Fort and Earle's Fort. In the fall of 1776, in response to the conflict with the Cherokees, General Griffith Rutherford collected some 2,400 militia out of Rutherford and other counties and marched against the Cherokees destroying thirty-six (perhaps more) of their towns. This campaign is named the Rutherford Trace.

Many of the earliest settlers to Western North Carolina were of Scotch-Irish origin who traveled down the Great Wagon Road from Pennsylvania into the Carolina piedmont and then came west to settle the fertile lands of the foothills and mountains. Brittain Presbyterian Church, located in present-day Rutherford County, is documented as the oldest church chartered west of the Catawba River in North Carolina. Its congregation was formed in 1768, and it can be assumed that the community of Westminster that surrounds the church was one of the first permanent settlements in the region.

Gilbert Town was established as the county seat of old Tryon County in 1769 and as such is the oldest documented county seat in all of Western North Carolina. Rutherford County was formed from Tryon County in 1779 and Gilbert Town remained the county seat for Rutherford until 1787 when it was moved to a more suitable geographic location, renamed Rutherford Town (Rutherfordton), and a new courthouse constructed. This fact allows Rutherfordton the distinction of being the home of Western North Carolina's oldest continuing body of government.

When Rutherford County was formed in 1779 it encompassed, not only the land within its current borders, but territories originally belonging to Tryon County that have since become Polk County and parts of McDowell, Henderson, and Cleveland. In addition, when Rutherford County was originally formed, its western boundary extended into present-day Tennessee. It was only after Buncombe County's formation from Rutherford and Burke counties in 1791 that the remaining

counties of Western North Carolina were formed. Thus, Rutherford County shares the distinction with Burke County of being the mother of most of the territory of present-day Western North Carolina.

The County's Revolutionary War history continues with the Overmountain Men Victory March. Citizen soldiers assembled starting in Tennessee and adding recruits as they continued across what are now nine western North Carolina counties. They marched through Rutherford County on October 3-5, 1780. On October 7, 1780, these citizen soldiers, including those from Rutherford, met and defeated Major Patrick Ferguson and his Tory troops at the Battle of Kings Mountain. The battle is considered the turning point of Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War and the March is commemorated in the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. Eighteen miles of the historic trail traverse Rutherford County.

Gilbert Town has the distinction of being the only site in this Campaign where both Loyalists and Patriot forces encamped. Major Patrick Ferguson camped there and the British bivouacked there for several weeks. The Overmountain Men camped at Gilbert Town on their way to and from the Battle of Kings Mountain and early in 1781, following their brilliant victory at the Battle of Cowpens, the Patriot troops came to Gilbert Town to tend the wounded and confine their prisoners.

Gilbert Town's role in the history of this Revolutionary War Campaign is distinguished by the exceptionally large number of troops who passed through. It too is made prominent by the notable Revolutionary figures who are documented as being at Gilbert Town. These include John Sevier, Isaac Shelby, Daniel Morgan, William Washington, Francis Marion, Andrew Pickens, Patrick Ferguson, Banastre Tarleton, Griffith Rutherford, Benjamin Cleaveland and Felix Walker.

Following the Revolutionary War, citizens returned to their lands. Travel was difficult and roads were poor but the Broad, Second Broad and Green Rivers were waterways to the markets at Columbia, SC. In 1820, navigation on the Broad River between Twitty's Ford and the South Carolina line was improved with a state appropriation of \$5000. The Broad River was navigable and was a major transportation route especially for the farm and home products which were in demand in the Charleston and Columbia, SC markets.

In the 1830's the county prospered. Stagecoach routes carrying both people and the mail made traveling and communication easier. Stagecoach routes included one from Lincolnton through Hollis and to Rutherfordton and then on through the Hickory Nut Gorge to Asheville. Another route wound from Spartanburg across Island Ford to Harris, through Rutherfordton, Hickory Nut Gorge, and on to Asheville. Along these routes both post offices and way stations or inns developed. In addition, drovers followed the road from Morganton to Charleston, SC, where they sold or exchanged their surplus livestock for staple goods. Although economic conditions were difficult and the cost of land high, citizens were largely self-sufficient and signs of industrialization in the county began. Records indicate a large quantity of iron was produced at the High Shoals Iron Works near present day Henrietta. In 1829, the General Assembly appropriated \$12,000, to complete a road through Hickory Nut Gap to Asheville thus opening the western counties to travelers from the east, piedmont and foothills of North Carolina and to those from low country and mid regions South Carolina as well.

For a few brief years in the 1830's and 1840's, the hill country to the west and north of Rutherfordton led the entire United States in the mining of gold. Although raw gold was abundant, gold coins as a medium of exchange were not. No reliable, reputable, or accurate way to sell gold or to exchange it for good and services and no safe way to have it assayed existed. State and federal currency was scarce. Gold nuggets and gold dust poured from a quill were used to purchase items such as sugar, coffee and whiskey and merchants and miners often kept a set of pocket scales for weighing gold which was commonly used for payment.

Christopher Bechtler, his son Augustus, and a nephew, Christopher, Jr., came to North Carolina in 1830. Experienced German metal workers from the Grand Duchy of Baden, they first came to America in 1829 and settled briefly in Philadelphia. When in 1830 they opened a jewelry

store in Rutherfordton they apparently soon realized the need for a reliable means of economic exchange. In 1828, the US Congress had rejected a proposal by Samuel Price Carson to have a branch of the United States Mint established in Rutherfordton. Therefore, the Bechtlers decided to coin gold themselves and began the most important private mints ever operated in this country located approximately three and one-half miles northwest of Rutherfordton. In July 1831, using hand-crafted dies and presses, the Bechtlers began striking coins in at least two denominations - \$2.50 and \$5.00 pieces - and soon they coined the very first \$1.00 gold coins in America. The Bechtlers also manufactured necklaces, earrings, brooches, rings, buttons, cufflinks, watches, and a variety of firearms including several types of pistols sold in their store in Rutherfordton.

The Bechtlers minted \$2,241,850.50 in currency and fluxed an additional \$1,384,000 in raw gold between 1831 and 1840. They handled more North Carolina gold during the period than the Philadelphia Mint and the Charlotte Branch Mint (founded 1837) combined. The death of Christopher Bechtler, Sr. in 1842 and the decline of the gold industry in North Carolina following the discovery of gold in California in 1848 resulted in the closing of the Bechtler Mint.

Although North Carolina was the last state to join the Confederacy, 1,734 men from Rutherford County fought in the Civil War. In 1865, a campaign known as Stoneman's Raid occurred. Rutherford County's history includes two occurrences relating to this campaign. First a contingent made up largely of Southern recruits known as "home Yankees" led by General Gillem found themselves blocked at Swannanoa Gap near Old Fort. They entered Rutherford County from the Montford's Cove region of present day McDowell County and proceeded to Rutherfordton where they burned buildings and thoroughly trounced citizens. On the following day a group of regular Union troops led by General Palmer came into Rutherford from Mecklenburg following the Lincolnton stagecoach line. They apologized to the people of Rutherfordton for the actions of Gillem's troops. Palmer then proceeded to the Green River, reportedly stopping at the Green River Plantation, before continuing from present day Polk County on to Asheville.

With the end of the War came the building of railroads and the ability for people, produce and products to more easily be shipped to markets. At one time, five railroads operated in the County. During the post-war years, agriculture remained the principal industry. There were no banks and the railroads and public roads were in need or repair. However, by 1873, a system of post offices and mail -routes were re-established and schools were operating in various communities.

Rutherford County's economy began an upswing with the beginnings of the textile industry. In 1874, the first textile plant located in an old wheat mill on the Second Broad River near present day Henrietta opened. It manufactured cotton yarn and employed fifty persons but operated only a few months before being destroyed by fire. In 1885, R. R. Haynes and S. B. Tanner began their textile industry in the county with the building of a cotton mill near Henrietta. Along with the mill they built a mill village with homes for the workers, a school, and a company store. They even helped build churches. Other textile mills and villages began operations in Avondale, Forest City, Cliffside, Spindale, Rutherfordton and Ruth. Into the 21st century, textiles remained an important economic force in the county. The legacy of this industry, its people, products, and traditions remain an important part of the county's history and heritage. As a by-product of the textile industrialization, hospital insurance in the textile mills was "born" in Rutherford County.

In the early 1900's, the county experienced improvements in the area of education, roads and railroads. Rutherford Hospital opened in October 1906. Chimney Rock Park was conceived in 1922 by Dr. Lucis B. Morse with the idea of building a summer resort. The Lake Lure Dam covering one thousand five hundred acres of land was built in 1926. And while the Great Depression resulted the hardship of no work and no markets for the goods produced, the citizens of Rutherford relied on their resiliency and tradition of self-sufficiency. Despite the hardships, four of Rutherford County's banks did not close during this time.

In the 1930's, traditional music with banjo, mandolin and fiddle was a popular form of entertainment. Snuffy Jenkins was born in Harris and his and other Rutherford County musicians are known for the three-finger picking style, locally known as the Broad River style. Jenkins and other musicians participated in the Hollis Fiddler's Convention that was held for more than fifty years. The Ellenboro Fiddler's Convention is now held annually on the Saturday before Thanksgiving and traditional music and gospel are performed and taught in a number of venues throughout the county.

Well into the 20th century, agriculture and textiles drove the county's economy. During the 1940's, nearly 6,000 men and women from the county served in World War II. Residents produced "war crops" and plants manufactured war goods. The U.S. Government leased the Lake Lure Inn and surrounding buildings to house a "rest and recuperation" center for returning air corpsmen and about 5,000 men stayed in the Inn during this period.

Rutherford County's growth and prosperity has continued with the development of Isothermal Community College and the construction of new public schools including Rutherford-Spindale Central High with a performing arts facility. The Foundation, a performing arts center located on the Isothermal Community College Campus, opened in the 1990's and Rutherford Hospital has continued to enhance both the medical staff and services to the citizens of the area. The County has completed renovation of its court house, constructed a modern Senior Center, and been designated an e-community. A Business and Technology Center is slated to open in the near future.

Agriculture and tourism remain vital to the economic well being of the county. In addition, the County experienced diversification in its industry to include plastics, bearings and others. With the shift offshore of the textile, sewing operations and furniture industries, Rutherford County is in the process of redefining itself for the 21st Century. Citizens for whom arts and crafts and farming were an avocation are now relying on these previously avocations as their means of livelihood. The County is experiencing tremendous growth in the numbers of persons retiring to the area, purchasing second homes or locating primary residencies given the natural beauty, plentiful land, and convenient location. Growth and change were the impetus for the development a strategic plan created by the citizens of the County. The plan, **realizeRutherford**, is in place and identifies strategies for enhancing economic benefits and quality of life in the County. The plan is now in the implementation stage.

In partnership with the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Board of Directors; North Carolina Department of Commerce Division of Travel, Tourism, Film and Sports Development; Advantage West; Rutherford County Government; Rutherford Economic Development Commission and **realizeRutherford**; Rutherford Tourism Development Authority; Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce; Rutherford County Historical Society; Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County; Rutherford County Arts; Parks and Recreation Commission; Rutherford Outdoor Coalition; Isothermal Planning and Development Commission; Rutherford County Cooperative Extension; Community Centers of Rutherford County; Towns; Villages and Communities; the National Park Service; Foothills Conservancy; the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail; KidSenses Interactive Children's Museum; Isothermal Community College; WNCW-FM Public Radio and numerous other groups, individuals and organizations including historians and advisors from the county and from each community, the process of developing a Rutherford County Heritage Plan began. In August 2004, community leaders with the assistance of a consultant from Western Carolina University and Advantage West began the process of developing a county plan slated to become a part of the management plan for the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area. In November 2004, eleven communities meetings were held across the county. More than 180 persons attended meetings held in both daytime and evening at eleven locations. From the information gathered about community assets and needs and priorities, the Rutherford Heritage Council with the advice and assistance of countless community

advisors and historians, and representatives of numerous organizations and agencies have worked diligently for more than nine months to develop the Rutherford County Heritage Plan.

The Plan includes forty-nine worthwhile projects with a broad base of county support. Among these projects are facilities at which history and heritage may be retold; historical and genealogical projects; initiatives focusing on preservation and conservation, agricultural initiatives, community development projects; promotional projects including signage; beautification and cyber-tourism; and a series of trail and greenways/blueways initiatives as the beginning for a unified county trail system. The top three priorities that have emerged for are the preservation of Gilbert Town, the Bechtler history and heritage, and the preservation, protection and promotion of towns and communities as representative of the character that is Rutherford County.

While the Rutherford County Heritage Plan is monumental in sheer number of initiatives, the Plan represents the aspirations to preserve, protect and promote that which makes Rutherford County unique in the landscape and as part of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area. One challenge is that each project requires a champion or champions to see the project to fruition. Some champions have already emerged. Other volunteers and champions will be required. Keeping the enthusiasm that has been generated by the planning process and in the Gateway Training is critical to implementation. Although the Heritage Council is certain that funding to implement projects is “out there” the challenge is to focus on the many sources that exist.

Much has already been accomplished in the initial implementation. Meetings are scheduled and discussions are underway on numerous projects. Citizens and leaders are asking “how may I help.” Partnerships within the county and with neighboring counties have already emerged. The overall desire of the county partners and that of neighboring county partnerships is to work collectively to make these projects the catalyst for preserving the county’s and region’s unique identity, to protect each community’s “points of pride” and to utilize these to both enhance the quality of life and the economic well-being of the area known as the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area.

(Compiled from Sources: Notes collected from community meetings and comments from meeting participants; “A History of Rutherford County by County Historian Nancy E. Ferguson, 1990;” Rutherford County: An Overview: The Formative Years” by Bill Byers; “Home of the Nation’s First Gold Dollar by Robin Lattimore; Heritage Book of Rutherford County, Editor William Bynum; other collected information.)



Heritage Areas

National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior

**Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY
SUMMARY CHART INITIATIVES AND COSTS**

Initiative Name	Estimated Costs
FACILITIES INITIATIVES	
Rutherford County Heritage Center	\$8,000,000.00
Florence Mill Legacy	200,000.00
Village Museum/Visitors Center – Chimney Rock Village	500,000.00
Hickory Nut Gorge Museum & Visitors Center – Lake Lure	250,000.00
African American Heritage/Cultural Resources Center	560,000.00
Bostic Lincoln Center	100,000.00
Purple Martin Amphitheater - Rutherfordton	85,000.00
Chimney Rock Village Green	70,000.00
Florence Mill Pavillion - Forest City	1,500,000.00
CULTURAL INTIATIVES	
Preservation of Rutherford’s Musical Heritage	30,000.00
WNCW 88.7 FM Public Radio & Traditional Music	To be determined

Artists Studio Tour – Rutherford County	12,000.00
Craft Cooperative & Marketplace	25,000.00
KidSenses Heritage Programs	20,000.00
HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL INITIATIVES	
Historic Preservation Commission & Foundation	1,000.00
Support for RealizeRutherford Map Project	15,000.00
Development of Genealogical Resources	10,000.00
Oral History Project – Proposed Pilot Program	20,000.00
Community Driving Tour	5,400.00
Gold – Bechtler Mint/Mine/Homes Development	500,000.00
Gold Heritage & Thermal City Gold Mine	210,000.00
Archeological Survey of Prehistoric Sites	25,000.00
Hampton’s Fort – Green Hill School, Inc.	10,000.00
NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION	
South Mountain Area – Improved Access	100,000.00
Hickory Nut Gorge State Park – Support for Proposal	To be determined
Rutherford/Polk Highway 74 Broad Green Corridor Partnership	50,000.00
Gilbert Town Preservation	20,000.00

AGRICULTURAL INITIATIVES	
Agricultural Center & Multi-Purpose Arena	2,075,000.00
“Growing For You” – Educational Program	85,000.00
AgriCultural Tourism Development	23,000.00
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION INITIATIVES	
Rutherfordton - Comprehensive Master Plan	80,150.00
Spindale – Revitalization Plan – Stage 1	25,000.00
Downtown Forest City – 20/20 Vision	30,000.00
Vance Academy – Preservation for Present & Future Generations	7,000.00
Community Character: Pride in Place	5,000.00
Union Mills Learning Center, Inc.	1,109,420.00
Hollis Center for Rural Preservation (new 2006)	180,000.00
PROMOTIONAL INITIATIVES	
Cohesive Signage and Beautification Commission	22,500.00
Cyber-Tourism	10,000.00
Supporting Coalitions: Cultural, Heritage, Natural Resources, and Recreation	3,000.00
TRAIL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES	
Unified Trails System Plan	To be determined
OVT - Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail – Rutherford County	200,000.00
OVT – Rutherfordton Segment	175,000.00
Rutherford Trace Trail	13,000.00
Rails to Trails	100,000.00
Waterway Trails & Greenway	60,000.00
Road Bicycle Trails	15,000.00
Stoneman’s Raid Trail	9,100.00
Rocky Broad RiverWalk Extension – Chimney Rock Village	50,000.00
Town Center Walk-way – Lake Lure Phase II	130,368.00

Cherry Bounce Trail (new 2006)	5,000.00	
Grand Total	\$16,730.938	

Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Rutherford County Heritage Center
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Project Narrative:	<p>Rutherford County enjoys a unique place in the history and heritage of present day Western North Carolina. The County's rich history, its diverse culture and heritage and wealth of natural resources have been identified as assets by county residents in community meetings held across the County. Citizens have deemed these assets as "points of pride" worthy of preservation and celebration and those which should be shared locally and with persons who visit the County.</p> <p>The Rutherford County Heritage Center will be the focal facility or hub for several facilities planned in the County. Major stories and history, which have local, regional and national significance, will be retold here. It will house artifacts and collections depicting significant events, culture and traditions. It will serve as one of several visitor hubs throughout the County to fully serve local citizens and visitors to the area given the County's size in land area.</p> <p>The Center is proposed as public/private project. Potential partners will be developed thorough continuing dialogue and a feasibility study. Under consideration as partners to share resources and expenses are the Rutherford Chamber of Commerce, Rutherford County Historical Society, Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County, and the Rutherford County Arts Council which has a collection of artifacts stored.</p> <p>Anchor stories to be depicted are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early history: Pre-historic and Pre-tribal; Native America: Cherokee and others; Early Settlers: Scots-Irish and others; Historic homes, churches, forts and stockades; Land grants; Families and genealogy; Post offices; Stagecoach routes, inns and health resorts; County's place in the early history of Western North Carolina; Gilbert Town and its significance Revolutionary War Era; Overmountain Victory Trail; Bechtler Mint/House/Mine and Gold History; Stoneman's Raid; County firsts and noteworthy citizens; Early sports history and firsts; Music Heritage – five finger banjo playing, Hollis Fiddler's Convention, Ellenboro Fiddler's Convention, Golden Valley Music Park, Snuffy Jenkins, P. Sherrill, Ben Humphries and others; Plantations and plantation life; Natural Resources: waterfalls, rivers, streams, vistas, isothermal belt, conservation, native plants, endangered species; Black History: free colored, slaves, the Underground Railroad, and citizens of distinction, cemeteries, Black schools; Racing history: horse, motorcycle, auto; Traditions: Masonic, distilling, bartering, trade days, Boneyard, story telling; Legends, ghost towns and lost communities ;Communities: community centers,
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	<p>events, traditions; Special collections historical newspapers, memorabilia; Development of Lake Lure, Chimney Rock; Game lands; South Mountain; Rivers, streams, trails, railroads; Parks; Hickory Nut Gorge; Abraham Lincoln's birthplace on Puzzle Creek; others as identified.</p> <p>Each story will be emphasized in one of the proposed facilities. Some stories/events/locations of significance will remain stand alone projects for more intense interpretation of preservation. Other will be told at the Center or other proposed facilities through artifacts, collections, pictures, and living displays.</p> <p>Proposed Centers are :</p> <p>The Heritage Center - history and heritage of early and formative years</p> <p>The Afro-American Cultural/Heritage Center - history, heritage, and contributions of citizens</p> <p>The Florence Mill Center - the industrialization of the area including early industry, farming, textiles and the railroad</p> <p>The Chimney Rock Village Museum & Visitors Center - the development of the Village, Chimney Rock Park and natural wonders, natural resources, legends and folklore</p> <p>Hickory Nut Gorge Visitor's Center & Museum - the development of Lake Lure, the Dam, Lake Lure Inn, Arcade, Bottomless Pools, stagecoach inns, and other historical events and locations.</p> <p>Bostic/Lincoln Birthplace Museum - the Abe Lincoln and Nancy Hanks story</p> <p>Community Amphitheaters: venues for concerts, historical and other theater gatherings, display, and other community events.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purple Martin Amphitheater - Rutherfordton 2. Chimney Rock Village Amphitheater - Chimney Rock 3. Florence Mill Center Pavilion - Forest City
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Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To preserve and celebrate Rutherford County's history and heritage ▪ To provide a repository for collected artifacts, pictures, collections ▪ To enhance tourism to the area ▪ To provide central locations for operations of key private and public organizations 		
Person/Organization Responsible:		Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Heritage Center/ Museum Steering Committee ; Historical Preservation Commission; Heritage Coalition, Arts Coalition, Recreation Coalition; Chamber of Commerce; Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County; Historical Society		\$ 8,000,000.00	5 to 10 years

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
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1. Commissioners appoint steering committee	\$0.00	County
2. Conduct survey/create map of historical and heritage related sites	\$1500.00	Commissioners: Steering Committee
3. Appoint Board of Directors and seek 501 3C	\$500.00	
4. Raise funds for visioning plan and master plan	\$8,000,000	Bd. Of Directors Bd. Of Directors Consultant
5. Identify source of funding for vision plan and feasibility study for Heritage Center		
6. Employ consultant to prepare master plan		
7. Launch fund raising including capital campaign, grant seeking, etc.		
8. Purchase property to construct or to renovate		
9. Construct facility		
10. Seek funding for curator and collection		
11. Collect artifacts and related materials		

Performance Measures:	Steering committee appointed, non-profit organization established, public/private partners identified
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Status:	Concept: Potential public partners are exploring potential joint efforts. Potential matching funds for grants identified
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	The Florence Cotton Mill Legacy
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Project Narrative:	<p>A nonprofit organization will be formed as a part of the Florence Mill Redevelopment Project that will preserve the legacy of the past and develop a legacy for the future. Entitled Florence Mill Legacy, Inc., the organization will work to preserve, develop, enhance, and celebrate the importance of the mill to past and future growth of Forest City. Under the umbrella of Florence Mill Legacy, Inc. will fall a history society, garden club, and events committee.</p> <p>The first priority of the nonprofit is to be involved in the conceptual design of the public spaces, including the atrium, meeting room, pavilion, and gardens. Once the Florence mill is open, the organization will work to engage people in understanding the legacy of the mill, and cultivating community through events and activities for all ages and interests.</p>
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Goal:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preserve the history of the Florence Mill and its importance to the Town of Forest City. 2. Create an enduring sense and spirit of place at the Mill and through landscaping, design, amenities, and public art. 3. Celebrate community through events and activities in the public spaces, including the pavilion, atrium, and gardens.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
- 12 person board of directors - Town staff liaison - Danielle Withrow, Town Planner	Annual budget \$200,000	Opening Spring 2007 Ongoing

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
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1. Preserve the history of the Mill - Create a Florence Mill History Society - Oral History Project - Florence Mill Interpretative Center	Equipment for oral history project	FC Cultural and Historical Commission FM History Society
	Artifacts	FM History Society
	Funds for public art projects	FC Cultural and Historical Commission
2. Create an enduring sense and spirit of place at the Mill - Public art projects reflecting a sense of place - Incorporating textile history as part of the amenities (benches, playground, fountains) - The Gardens at Florence Mill	Funds for amenity development	Florence Mill History Society
	-Garden consultants -Heirloom pass along plants	Florence Mill Garden Club
	Sponsors for events	Florence Mill Legacy, Inc., the Town of Forest City, and Historic Downtown Forest City, Inc.
3. Celebrate community through events and activities - Sponsorship of cultural and heritage events - Florence Mill/Textile Heritage Lecture series		Florence Mill History Society

Performance Measures:	1. \$1,500,000 will be raised by September 2006 for the pavilion, amenities, and public art 2. Over 200,000 people will visit the Florence Mill in its first year (2007) 3. 300 volunteers will be involved in the Florence mill Legacy, Inc., the Florence Mill History Society and the Florence Mill Garden Club.
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Status:	- Nonprofit tax exemption 501(c)(3) has been applied for - \$250,000 has been secured for amenity development
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Chimney Rock Museum & Visitors Center
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Project Narrative:	<p>Chimney Rock Village situated in the center of historical Hickory Nut Gorge is located in a beautiful natural setting lying directly below the famous vistas of Chimney Rock Mountain and containing almost three miles of the scenic Rocky Broad River. With its magnificent display of rugged cliffs, native wildlife, a 400-foot waterfall and incredible rock formations, the Village also is the entrance of Chimney Rock Park which annually brings approximately 250,000 visitors to the Village.</p> <p>Hickory Nut Gorge is a textbook on rock formations and the geological history in the Eastern United States with both Chimney Rock and Bat Cave, the largest natural fissure case in the U.S. The area forms one of the few natural gaps in the mountains and was a passageway for people traveling west. It was important to the migration of people into other sections of Western North Carolina and into other states. Chimney Rock Village and the surrounding Gorge have a rich history including that of pre-tribal Indian inhabitants, Cherokee and Catawba Indians and, stagecoach routes, early tourisms is in the area, historic inns and way stations. In addition, many famous people have visted the area and movies have been made there. Artifacts and memorabilia and stories are plentiful to support this early history and heritage. And the area is rich in legends and oral history and intriguing stories.</p> <p>The Chimney Rock Museum/Visitor Center will be one of several facilities in the County at which the rich history and heritage will be preserved and shared. The facility will be developed in conjunction with ample parking for the town and public rest rooms. In addition, as a separate project a Village Green is to be constructed on land that has already been purchased by the Village. This will be the venue for festivals and performances and programs and community events.</p>
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Goal:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a visitors center/museum as a repository for artifacts, pictorial history and other local and regional history and tell the stories, legends and folklore of the area while celebrating the unique heritage of the Village and surrounding area. • Create new opportunities to encourage the approximate 250,000 persons who visit Chimney Rock Park annually to learn more about the Village and Gorge and Rutherford County's other heritage sites • Provide parking and public restrooms to accommodate visitors. • Provide a Village Green as a location for festivals, plays, performances re-creations of heritage and history of area.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Chimney Rock Development	\$500,000	1 to 3 years

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
Purchase property	Funding Planning	Chimney Rock Development Corp.

Performance Measures:	
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Status:	Planning in progress
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Hickory Nut Gorge Visitor Center and Museum Facility
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Project Narrative:	<p>The Hickory Nut Gorge Visitor Center, located in Lake Lure, is operated by the HNG Chamber of Commerce and is staffed by one part time employee and volunteers. It operates seven days a week. The facility is extremely small and inadequate to serve the 58,000 people who come into the facility on an annual basis.</p> <p>In order to more adequately serve the visitors, a larger facility which can house the Chamber and possibly a western TDA office, full and part time staff with pictorial displays about the heritage of the area are needed. We could then have a specific heritage "voice" for the area. Historical pieces that are scattered throughout the gorge area could then be centrally located and preserved.</p> <p>The TDA currently appropriates \$550/month towards the center. The Chamber is not structured nor appropriately funded for the expected growth of tourism in the Lake Lure Area.</p>
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Goal:	Establish a Hickory Nut Gorge Historic Preservation Foundation or private non-profit status to begin seeking grant funding. Seek approval from the Town of Lake Lure to allow the facility to be enlarged to accommodate the needs set forth above. Seek partnerships between the Hickory Nut Gorge Chamber of Commerce and the Rutherford County Tourism Development Authority to operate and staff the facility. Investigate partnership with Duke Power.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Hickory Nut Gorge Board, TDA	\$250,000	1 year

Action Items: 1.Establish a HNG Historic Preservation Foundation or non-profit status to begin seeking grant funding. 2.Seek approval from the Town of Lake Lure to allow the facility to be enlarged. 3.Seek partnerships between the HNG Chamber of Commerce & the Rutherford County TDA to operate and staff the facility. 4.Investigate a partnership with Duke Power.	Resources Required: Communication with Town Council	Who's Responsible: HNG Chamber Board of Directors. Rutherford County TDA
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Performance Measures:	Track any additional visitor activity, especially historical.
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Status:	Hickory Nut Gorge Chamber Board contacting Town Council. Committee formed
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RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Afro-American Heritage/Cultural Resources Center
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Project Narrative:	<p>The African American people in Rutherford County have a rich history of historic communities such as Grahamtown and Freeman Town, schools and churches, and landowners, business professionals, and farmers. In addition, an important history can be traced in the social and economic evolution of the African American people from the birth of the county to the present day.</p> <p>This initiative will pull together not only the history and contribution of the African American residents of the county, but work toward continuing that contribution to the cultural, economic, and social fabric of Rutherford County today.</p> <p>The focal point of the initiative is the creation of the Afro-American Cultural/Heritage Resource Center at the historic Old Dunbar School Community Center. The Center will be a place that will provide information depicting the evolution of the Afro-American historical heritage and culture through reading materials, pamphlets, maps, books, and other materials of interest. The Center will house displays of artifacts, crafts, and Afro-American art featuring artists and writers in the county. The Center will be open to the public, and in addition, tours will be made available to other places in the county that are worthy of historic recognition in depicting the lifestyles and culture of the Afro-American county resident.</p> <p>The purpose of this project will be to coordinate efforts to tell the complete story of Afro-American persons in Rutherford County from the earliest mentioned to the present day.</p>
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Goal:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research and document places, sites, communities, churches, people and events that are significant in the Afro-American history of Rutherford County. ▪ Commemorate and interpret these site, events, and people through audio-visual as well as print material with appropriate signage and interactive displays. ▪ To refurbish space at the Old Dunbar School Community Center as a focal point for this initiative and where the projects and spirit of the initiative can originate and radiate throughout the county. ▪ To equip the Afro-American and the community as a whole with the knowledge and understanding of the culture. ▪ To share multi-cultural values of the community as a whole through information, activities, and events that celebrate the cultural diversity of Rutherford County. ▪ Develop an Afro-American History Trail for Rutherford County, and include the sites in the TDA and Realize Rutherford Heritage mapping project ▪ Preserve, protect and promote this significant history through an oral and written history project. ▪ To use the restoration of the facility as a catalyst for community building by bringing together youth, construction workers, tradesmen, and businesses to create an avenue of progress for our future.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Board of Directors of the Afro-American Heritage/Cultural	\$560,000	Organization - December 2005 Projects underway – June 2006

Resource Center		Facility - June 2007
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Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
1. Develop a Board of Directors and by-laws for the non-profit organization.		Steering Committee
2. Apply for status as a NC nonprofit corporation and Federal 501(c)(3) status.		Board of Directors
3. Work with CEP to allocate a portion of the Old Dunbar School Community Center as the home for the Resource Center.		Board of Directors and CEP (Community Empowerment Project)
4. Conduct a board retreat to create a long-range strategic plan for the organization and its future programs.	Facilitator	Board of Directors
5. Conduct a facility feasibility study for approximately 6,000 SF of space.	Consultant/\$10,000	Board of Directors
6. Continue to document and preserve the Afro-American history of the county.	\$25,000	Board and volunteers
7. Develop and successfully conduct a capital campaign for the renovation funds.	\$500,000	Board of Directors
8. Develop an historic marker program with at least 25 markers throughout the county	\$25,000	
9. Use the renovation of the space as a model for how to build community and instill youth with a sense of purpose and lifelong skills.		

Performance Measures:	<p>1. The Center will have successfully empowered the community with knowledge of the historic social and economic development and the cultural heritage of the Afro-American community as a role model to other communities.</p> <p>2. There will be newly formed partnerships between the Afro-American community and schools (primary, secondary and higher education), and businesses.</p> <p>3. There is a positive link between businesses and the community to create a social and economic infrastructure to insure the survival of an historically African American neighborhood.</p>
Status:	The Board of Directors formed. Seeking location and sponsorships

RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Bostic-Lincoln Center
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Project Narrative:	<p>There is substantial evidence that Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States was born in Bostic, North Carolina. Biographies, testimonies, and affidavits have consistently pointed to his birthplace on Puzzle Creek, located off Walker Mill Road. Abraham Enloe farmed the surrounding area and had a homestead. Evidence of the cellar and stone work may still be seen. Nancy Hanks and her mother were in the care of Enloe. It is documented that when Nancy Hanks married Tom Lincoln, a young boy was at the ceremony. Abraham Enloe provided Tom Lincoln with \$500, a wagon and a team of horses for himself and his new wife, Nancy Hanks, to travel west.</p> <p>While Lincoln's parentage on his father's side has not been determined, efforts are underway with DNA testing that may indeed put the matter to rest. This will underscore the words of John Wilkes Boothe in his biography when he traveled through western North Carolina and called it the "land of Lincoln's birth". Interestingly, these assertions began prior to the Civil War</p>

Goal:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To cooperate with the organizations that are working to identify through DNA testing, Abraham Lincoln's parentage. 2. To preserve the site on Puzzle Creek 3. To further document the story of Nancy Hanks and Abe Lincoln in Rutherford County 4. To provide a location for on-going research on the stories of Lincoln's parentage.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Bostic-Lincoln Center	\$50,000	2008

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Form a committee in cooperation with the Town of Bostic which will include representatives from the county and the Town of Forest City 2. Secure a caretaker lease on the site 3. Secure the funds to purchase the site and conduct an archeological survey 4. Consider a museum facility in Bostic to interpret the story of Lincoln's association with Rutherford County 		Town of Bostic; Lincoln Birthplace committee

Performance Measures:	
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Status:	Committee seeking location; fundraising efforts on-going .
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Purple Martin Amphitheater – Rutherfordton
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Project Narrative:	<p>The Town of Rutherfordton with a unique history, especially during the period of the Revolutionary War, has more than 3 miles of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail running through it. While the commemorative motor route courses down Main Street or Hwy. 221 South, the original or historic trail followed the route between Green and Southern Streets along Cleghorn Creek. The property along Cleghorn Creek on the east side of Main Street is ideally suited for the construction of an open-air amphitheater, which can be constructed along a greenway running along the creek.</p> <p>The amphitheater is to be named the Purple Martin Amphitheater to recognize the family crest of General Griffith Rutherford for whom the town is named. The amphitheater can be utilized for historical presentation commemorating the Overmountain men and their successfully defeating the Loyalists led by General Patrick Ferguson at the Battle of Kings Mountain. In addition, the community can use the amphitheater for festivals, re-enactments, programs at large.</p> <p>The Purple Martin Amphitheater is one part of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail initiative proposed by the Town of Rutherfordton and will reflect the Town's Master Plan which will emphasize the Town's history and heritage. Appropriate signage and interpretative displays will echo this theme.</p>

Goal:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide a venue for community events, festivals, programs, concerts. • To preserve the history and heritage associated with the OVT and Rutherfordton's significance • To protect and provide green space for community enjoyment
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Town of Rutherfordton, Rutherford Town Revitalization, National Park Service, Paul Carson Superintendent of the Overmountain Victory Historic Trail	\$85,000.00	18 months

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
Develop plan with assistance of NPS; Secure	Funding. NPS	RTR/Town of

easements and/or property. Build amphitheater	assistance in planning; grant funding	Rutherfordon
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Performance Measures:	
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Status:	Trail planning stage nearing completion.
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Chimney Rock <i>Village Green</i>
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Project Narrative:	<p>Chimney Rock Village is nestled at the foot of Chimney Rock Mountain and in the beautiful natural setting of historical Hickory Nut Gorge. Within it's borders course three miles of the scenic Rocky Broad River and it is surrounded by a magnificent display of rugged cliffs, native wildlife, a 400 hundred foot waterfall and incredible rock formations. In the Village also is the entrance to Chimney Rock Park, a Blue Ridge treasure and a natural attraction bringing some 300,000 persons through the Village each year.</p> <p>In 2003, the Chimney Rock council purchased for \$400,000 a parking lot located on Main Street that will provide 100 additional spaces for the central business district across from the Chimney Rock Park Gates. Funding was provided by a grant from the North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources and from the Village Council. The parking lot will not only be used for public parking but also will be developed as a central village green space with an amphitheater. The Chimney Rock <i>Village Green</i> will be used as a venue for performances, festivals and presentations, gatherings and community events.</p> <p>A \$5,000 planning grant has been received from the Rural Center. Developing a plan, reviewing the proposed design, seeking grants to landscape and provide a sidewalk to the area, removing the apparatus remaining from a previously constructed chair lift on the property, and building a coordinating greenway are next steps in the process. Matching funds for many projects are raised by the Community Development Association which sponsors bingo games, sells hot dogs and actively volunteers in many aspects of enhancing their community. Their goal is to develop an image that is more reflective of the natural setting, the mountain heritage and culture of the area.</p>
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Goal:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To preserve and enhance the natural settings, the mountain heritage, history and culture of the village as a Blue Ridge National Historic Area community. • To provide a venue for performances, festivals, gatherings, concerts that promote the art, music, culture, history and natural beauty of the community. • To provide an improved experience for tourist who visit thus enhancing the economic benefits to the community.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Chimney Rock Village; Chimney Rock Development Association; Chimney Rock Park	To be determined in planning process \$70,000 estimate	2 years

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
1. Request Planning Grant 2. Prepare plan/design 3. Review design and hold public meeting 4. Landscape perimeter of parking lot 5. Remove chair lift mechanism 6. Build Village Green	1. Grant Received - \$5,000 2. Grants/public & private funds	Chimney Rock Village Council; Chimney Rock Community Development Association

Performance Measures:	
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Status:	Planning grant received; Consultant developing plan
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	The Florence Mill Pavilion
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Project Narrative:	<p>The Pavilion at Florence Mill will be a multi-purpose covered space that can be used for a variety of events and community activities. The pavilion is in the design stage and may be as large as 6,000 SF.</p> <p>The nonprofit group, Florence Mill Legacy, Inc. and the Town of Forest City, will manage the Pavilion. In addition to events sponsored by the Town and Historic Downtown Forest City, Inc., the Pavilion will be available for private groups and nonprofit organizations. Potential events include family reunions, weddings, book and health fairs, craft fairs, martial arts tournaments and any other event that would enjoy an out door setting with the possibility of being rained out. The pavilion setting will be attractive and heavily landscaped, surrounded by the Florence Mill Gardens.</p>
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Goal:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To create an outdoor space for both small, informal groups and large groups of people to attend performances and events. 2. To create an environment surrounding the Pavilion that is full of amenities, quiet space, and play spaces that attracts people and is well-used by families, couples, individuals, seniors and children. 3. To design the outdoor and indoor public spaces at Florence Mill to be gathering and meeting spaces which flow from and connect to the downtown Main Street.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
The Town of Forest city Florence Mill Legacy, Inc.	\$1,500,000	2007

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
1. Hold a design charette to involve the public with design professionals to develop the concept for the Pavilion, its uses, and setting	Dollars for the charette event are already budgeted \$20,000	Town of Forest City
2. Work with the Florence Mill Redevelopment Project developers and architect to execute the design conceived by the charette process.	\$20,000 design fees	Town of Forest City
3. Conduct as capital campaign for the funds to construct the Pavilion	\$1,500,000	Florence Mill Legacy, Inc. Town of Forest City

Performance Measures:	The Pavilion will be open in the Summer of 2007 with a full array of events in the inaugural season
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Status:	The Pavilion concept is in the master plan for the Florence Mill Redevelopment Project. The design charette will be held in the summer 2005
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Preservation of Rutherford County's Musical Heritage
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Project Narrative:	<p>As part of the Appalachian Mountains, Rutherford County has a rich heritage of both traditional music and dance. Natives of the county played an integral role in the development of the bluegrass music. Snuffy Jenkins, born in Harris in October 1908, is widely recognized as the pioneer of the bluegrass banjo. Two-finger picking style was as common in the county as well as throughout the mountains as “frailing” or “clawhammer” style banjo.</p> <p>The Rutherford County banjo trio of Snuffy Jenkins, Smith Hammett, and Rex Brooks played a different three-finger picking style of banjo. Snuffy Jenkins provides the direct link between old time string band music and bluegrass. A protégé of this banjo trio was a young Earl Scruggs of nearby Flint Hill in Cleveland County. Earl Scruggs perfected the style and in the mid-40s joined up with the “father of bluegrass”, Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys of Kentucky. Bill Monroe’s “high lonesome sound” became the distinctive and definitive sound of bluegrass as it is known today.</p> <p>String band music and later bluegrass, was well known in Rutherford County. The Hollis Fiddler’s Convention was begun by J.P.D. Withrow in 1924 and continued on through the 1960, s. A 19 year old banjo picker named Earl Scruggs was in the Carpenter Band that won first place one year at the Hollis convention. Ben Humphries picked up the tradition with the Harris Bluegrass festival in the 1970’s. Today, the tradition continues with the Ellenboro Fiddler’s Convention held each November. In addition, traditional music continues to be played at different venues in the County and is taught to young and old alike who are today learning to play the banjo, fiddle and mandolin.</p> <p>To honor and further promote traditional music, a weekend-long annual festival will be established which will attract performers, instrument makers, music historians and music lovers from across the county, as well as providing ongoing workshops and venues for local students and performers year-round.</p>
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Goal:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase awareness of Rutherford County as one of the places of origin of “Scruggs-style” banjo playing 2. Increase tourism revenues by attracting banjo enthusiasts and mountain music aficionados 3. Create gathering places for exchange of information and ideas and inspiring regarding all styles of banjo playing 4. Provide instruction and performance opportunities for local student musicians 5. Preserve older, more obscure musical styles
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Steve Metcalf/Ben Humphries; Rutherford County Tourism Development Authority; ASU & NC Folk	\$30,000	12 months-18 months

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
1. Develop inventory of traditional music venues and traditional musicians in the County 3. Create Board of Directors 4. Set date, time, location 5. Secure funding from corporate sponsors/NC Arts Council/patrons/grants/other sources 6. Develop promotional materials 7. Hold festival	\$2,500 (start-up insurance)	Metcalf /Clark/Almond

Performance Measures:	Attendance figures/break even in 2 years
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Status:	Concept; an inventory of traditional music venues and musicians is currently being developed in conjunction with cede Conway and ASU.
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	WNCW 88.7 FM Public Radio & Traditional Music
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Project Narrative:	<p>WNCW 88.7 FM is a broadcast service of Isothermal Community College in Spindale, NC. WNCW has a format that includes Americana music and traditional music of Southern Appalachia.</p> <p>It offers eight hours of bluegrass music on Saturdays during <i>Goin' Across the Mountain</i>, and bluegrass gospel music on Sunday mornings during <i>Gospel Truth</i>. <i>This Old Porch</i> offers three hours of Old Time music on Sundays. Throughout weekday music programming, during the WNCW Music Mix, the station incorporates blues, bluegrass, Celtic, jazz, reggae and world music among Americana artists and some rock musicians.</p> <p>WNCW's tower is located on Clingman's Peak of Mt. Mitchell, the highest point east of the Mississippi. Translators that expand the listening area are located in Boone, NC at 92.9; Greenville, SC at 97.3; and Charlotte, NC at 100.3. Building permits are approved for translators in Asheville, NC and Knoxville, TN.</p> <p>This public radio station is already in line with the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area's efforts to preserve and celebrate traditional music sounds. Through a partnership with the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area, WNCW indicates its willingness to continue to provide programming that meets WNCW's organizational goal to create an identity as an authority on the indigenous music of the Appalachian region, both recorded and live.</p> <p>All programming decisions made at WNCW are determined by the programming department with oversight from the Community Advisory Board; by becoming involved with the BRNHA, the BRNHA recognizes that WNCW's participation does not allow for any kind of outside influence or pressure on programming decisions.</p>
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Goal:	Celebrate the traditional music of the area by providing continued programming in the area of indigenous music of the Appalachian region, work toward the preservation of traditional music both recorded and live, and continue to perform responsibilities as a public radio station in Western North Carolina broadcasting from Rutherford county by serving as a dissemination point for news, arts and information about the region the station serves.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
WNCW –FM Public Radio, Isothermal Community College,	Grant funding for programming	1 to 10 years

Blue Ridge National Heritage Area,		
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Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact BRNHA Management to develop partnership 2. Continue partnering with organizations working to preserve traditional music, both recorded and live, as WNCW sees fit and to the degree with the station is able 3. Meet with BRNHA traditional music team to collaborate on traditional music preservation in the BRNHA when appropriate 4. Work with BRNHA traditional music initiative team to explore and secure grant funding 	Personnel Time Grant Funding	WNCW- FM, BRNHA

Performance Measures:	
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Status:	WNCW working collaboratively with BRNA
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Artist's Studio Tour
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Project Narrative:	<p>Rutherford County has artists of national and regional renown. To preserve and celebrate the diverse talents of painters, sculptors, potters, ceramicists, and other visual artists, the public is to have opportunity to visit the artists in their own studios, to learn about their art and have opportunity to purchase arts. The first Rutherford County Artist Tour, an event anticipated to be an annual event, is planned for May 5-6, 2006. The tour will be a cooperative effort of artists and Isothermal Community College which is helping to coordinate the event.</p> <p>The artists studio tour will be a weekend event. Friday night a reception will be held at Isothermal Community College's Foundation. The public will be able to meet the artists and view 1-2 of their creations. Tour participants may pick up a brochure with detailed directions and basic information about each artist. Brochures for the self guided tour will be available at other information points such as lodging, location, airport, visitor's centers and restaurants. A web site will showcase the event and the artists.</p>

Goal:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To enhance the appreciation of the artistic tradition in Rutherford County ▪ To provide an education in the artistic discipline by visits to the artist studio ▪ To provide opportunity for artists to sell their art work
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Fred Bayley, Isothermal Community College and Rose Tripoli Mueller	\$12,000.00	12 months

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
1. Commitment of artists 2. Set Date 3. Develop event theme 4. Design promotions and advertising 5. Develop web site 6. Secure sponsors 7. Develop reception	Time Design and Printing	Fred Bayley

Performance Measures:	1. Fifteen artists signed to participate 2. Proposed date is May 5-6, 2006 3. 300 people visiting studios
Status:	Inaugural studio held May 2006 a success. On-going

Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Craft Cooperative and Marketplace
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Project Narrative:	<p>Rutherford County has a tradition of handmade objects both functional and works of crafts including hand weaving, pottery, woodworking, basket making, rug making, quilting and other needlework. These have been documented in the County for more than 200 years. To this day, white clay is dug in Rutherford and supplies traditional potters here and in Lincoln and Catawba County as well.</p> <p>In the past, more than 100 artisans and crafts people have joined together in a facility related effort exhibiting their work, sharing the cost of operating a gallery and marketing their work. Now, an opportunity exists to form a non-profit Arts and Crafts Cooperative and a Marketplace. The purpose of this will be to provide a location for local arts and crafts to be sold and a place where a wide range of classes and seminars designed to preserve the tradition of locally made arts and crafts may be scheduled year round. Persons interested in becoming selling members of the cooperative may become eligible to display their works in the Marketplace after a jury process. Presently, there is very limited opportunity for artisans to exhibit work or space to teach classes.</p> <p>Rutherford County is one of the Southern Highland Craft Guild's 85 counties found in 13 states. A number of members of this organization make their home in the County. In addition, Chimney Rock village was a charter HandMade in America community and has served as a model to other regions of the state and nation. Many Rutherford County artisans are either listed in the HandMade publications or have a close relationship with the organization.</p>

Goal:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide an opportunity for artisans and crafts people to exhibit their work in a high quality setting. 2. Provide places for artisans and crafts people who want to teach and space to hold classes. 3. Preserve the traditions of handmade objects in the County and region. 4. Work with the Rutherford County Government through the Arts, Parks and Recreation Committee; Rutherford County Tourism Development; Rutherford County Economic Development Authority, Rutherford County Cooperative Extension for assistance in setting up organization and selecting Board of Directors. 5. Work with HandMade in America to recruit artisans and craft people who want to relocate to Western North Carolina to consider Rutherford County, particularly current and potential members of the Southern Highlands Craft Guild
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Cultural Coalition	\$25,000	12 months

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop list of crafts people and artisans 2. Survey artists to determine interest in forming a cooperative and marketplace 3. Form a Board of Directors 4. Receive 501-3C status 5. Locate appropriate sites for Marketplace 6. Begin operation 	Action Items 1-5 \$25,000	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rutherford County Tourism Development Authority and the Arts component of the Arts, Parks, and Recreation Commission 2. Arts components of APRC or Cultural Coalition; Isothermal Small Business Center and HandMade in America 3. RC EDC; RC Arts, Parks, Recreation Committee, RC Cooperative Extension

Performance Measures:	Increased sales or arts and crafts; improvement of local economy; classes and seminars are sold out
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Status:	In discussion as to potential sites
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	KidSenses Children's InterACTIVE Museum
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Project Narrative:	<p>KidSenses Children's InterACTIVE Museum is located in downtown Rutherfordton, North Carolina. It is dedicated to interactive learning enhancing classroom education with hands-on fun. The Museum seeks to provide an environment where children and adults are given a unique opportunity to play, learn and create together. By exposing children to a wide array of experiences in the area of arts, science, technology, culture and history, KidSenses seeks to instill in children a greater understanding of themselves and their world.</p> <p>KidSenses is the first project of its kind in this region of Western North Carolina. The Museum opened its doors to the public in early 2004. Incorporated in 1999, the 11,000 square foot hands-on Museum is a community-supported, child-centered educational resource for children to age 10, families, and child care organizations. It features twelve large interactive exhibits in art, science, math, technology, health, communications, culture, and history. The Museum collaborates with area school systems, universities and community colleges to develop and implement in-house and outreach education programs. These are designed according to the Standard Course of Study of the North Carolina education curriculum guidelines.</p> <p>The Museum is an active member of the Association of Childrens' Museum (ACM). It is governed by a 16 member Board of Directors including two members presenting Polk County, two from Cleveland, two from Rutherford and an 8-member Advisory Board. KidSenses is managed by Executive Director Stephen Saucier, M. Ed. and currently employees nine persons.</p>

Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
KidSenses Interactive Children's Museum	\$20,000	1 year

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop programs, activities, displays in cooperation with the thematic areas designated by the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area to assist in the preservation and promotion of the unique history, culture and natural resources of the region. 2. Work collaboratively with towns, educational bodies and the Heritage Council to develop programs, activities, events, etc. 		KidSenses Board of Directors; Executive Director; Staff

Performance Measures:	
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Status:	On-going
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Historic Preservation Commission and Foundation	
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Project Narrative:	<p>Rutherford County has many sites, homes, and facilities of significant historical interest. These are important to the development of the County, to Western North Carolina and to the history and development of the nation. In order to provide an orderly and systematic review of these assets and provide an organization through which funds received for preservation may be received, a request will be made to the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners that a Rutherford County Historic Preservation Commission and Foundation be established per North Carolina General Statutes 121-12. (Attachment 1).</p> <p>The Commission will work collaboratively with federal and state agencies, North Carolina Department of History and Archives, Rutherford County Board of Commissioners, Rutherford County Historical Society, Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County, Rutherford County Economic Development Commission and Tourism Development Authority, town governments and civic and community organizations, other historical associations and the citizens of Rutherford County to preserve, restore and protect these irreplaceable assets.</p>	
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Goal:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To preserve, protect and share Rutherford County's unique historical heritage • To survey, identify and document known resources • To obtain non-profit status for the Commission • To establish a foundation to serve as the recipient of private, public, foundation and grant funding for preservation or restoration and other historical and heritage related endeavors • To provide on-going education, training, and interpretation of historical assets of the County for residents, visitors and tourists • To serve the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners at their discretion by developing and/or authorizing by their vote any historical information to be dispensed under the auspices of the County, the Historical Society and Tourism Development Authority or any other County department. • To serve in an advisory capacity for any other non-profit organization and local government seeking assistance • To work cooperatively with already established preservation commissions in the County such as the Forest City Historic Resources Commission and serve in an advisory capacity with jurisdiction only in areas not currently covered by such a commission. 	
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Rutherford County Historical Society, Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County	\$10,000.00	1 year

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
Request RC Board of Commissioners pass resolution to establish a Commission according to NC General Statutes		Rutherford County Historical Society, Genealogical Society Board of Directors

Performance Measures:	
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Status:	Proposal under consideration by Heritage Council & Historical Society
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Support for <i>realizeRutherford</i> County Mapping Project
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Project Narrative:	<p>As part of the Rutherford County strategic plan, <i>realizeRutherford</i>, an interactive map of the county to showcase key economic growth and developments is to be developed. The map will be an interactive map online with multiple layers to illustrate a variety of information. One layer of the proposed map is to include information on historic features, community centers, and topography. When all map data is collected, <i>realizeRutherford</i> proposes to employ an engineer to develop a finished map product.</p> <p>In conjunction with this project, the Heritage Council has collected data and is developing a map identifying historical markers, sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places, sites of historical and cultural significance, trails, historic homes and churches. A physical map is being marked but the project will be completed in cooperative the Rutherford County GIS department. In addition the Arts, Parks and Recreation Commission has completed mapping of known trails, outdoor recreation areas and parks.</p>
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Goal:	To educate the local citizens, newcomers, prospective residents, business, and industry as to the richness of Rutherford County's history and heritage
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Rutherford County Heritage Council, Realize Rutherford, TDA	RR interactive web map \$10,000;TDA maps cost - TBD	18 months

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
1. Secure working maps 2. Set mapping committee sessions 3. Provide information to realizeRutherford 4. Participate in on-going update 5. Market the new interactive map on a local and regional basis 6. Keep information update on an ongoing basis through an online source.	1. GIS Department & NC DOT Maps 2. Volunteers 3. Cooperative effort	Ann Almond Heritage Council, RealizeRutherford
Performance Measures:	Maps secured, Heritage Council Mapping Committee meets 2 times, Map nearing completion, Take map to GIS or to realizeRutherford for development of project	

Status:	In progress
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Development of Genealogical Resources
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Project Narrative:	<p>The Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County is a nonprofit, membership-based organization and is currently located on the 3rd floor of a town-owned building in Forest City. The Town is planning to sell the building and a new home must be found for the Society that is handicapped accessible, climate-controlled and preferably closer to the county courthouse for deed searches.</p> <p>The valuable collection has been described by the North Carolina Division of History and Archives as the largest Private collection of genealogical and historical information west of Raleigh. The libraries holdings are not digitized, however, some materials are on microfilm. The library collection includes an extensive collection of land grants, census records for Rutherford and other counties that were Tryon County, marriage records, a variety of other historically significant records and books, as well as the private papers of several local records of distinction.</p> <p>Currently, genealogical resources are also housed in the Old Tryon Room at Isothermal Community College and the Rutherford County Public Library. This means that visitors doing research must go to four different sites in the county to conduct the research and two of the four sites do not have weekend hours when the demand is the highest.</p> <p>A fifth genealogical resource also exists in the county – the Mamie Etta Fine Arts Museum and Historical Society. This new facility is located in the historically African-American neighborhood of Forest City and has an extensive pan-African collection as well as resources on African-American families of the area. This facility will remain in private hands, however, a good deal of collaboration is possible between the two major repositories of family histories in the county.</p>
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County; NC Department of History and Archives; NC Department of Cultural Resources, Norris Public Library	Feasibility Study \$5,000	1 year

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
1. Form a steering committee to explore a permanent home for the Society 2. Conduct a feasibility study for the facility		Genealogical Society and Norris Library

Performance Measures:	A new facility will house the extensive genealogical collection and will be staffed and open with expanded hours.
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Status:	Genealogical Resources included in County Bechtler Heritage Planning Process
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Oral History Project
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Project Narrative:	<p>Numerous county residents, many of advancing age, have been identified in communities throughout the county as invaluable repositories of Rutherford County history and heritage that needs to be recorded before it is lost forever. In cooperation with Western North Carolina University; the Department of Travel, Tourism, Film and Sports Development Heritage Tourism Officer Ron Ruehl; the Rutherford County Historical Society; Isothermal Community College Radio/TV Broadcasting Program; Cleveland Community College TV Broadcasting Program; and students from other institutions, a pilot oral history project will be initiated beginning with Rutherford County. Approximately thirty individuals have been identified to date in Rutherford County.</p> <p>The project is proposed to encompass Rutherford, Polk, and McDowell Counties. The project will request the assistance of the Western North Carolina University Mountain Heritage Center's in a supervisory role and assistance from Appalachian State University Anthropology Department and folklorists with the potential of it serving as a pilot project for the entire Blue Ridge National Heritage Area.</p>
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Rutherford County Historical Society/Heritage Tourism Officers/ Proposed partnerships as described in goals	\$20,000.00	6 months with projected start date of Jan 2006

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
Action Steps: Organizational meeting – proposed September 2004	Interviewer/Volunteers Repository	

Performance Measures:	Identified histories collected and deposited in repository
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Status:	In progress
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Community Heritage Driving Tour Package
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Project Narrative:	Rutherford County's rich heritage is not available to historians, visitors and interested local folks in an audible format. Several efforts have been made to produce a driving heritage tour. However, in recent years even with the efforts of the TDA Historical Committee, the project was not complete This effort should be revitalized to produce a complete driving tour package.
Action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inventory of any/all historical sites. Use existing inventories, recheck for new sites 2. Group into North, South, East, West tours. 3. Create brochure and map conducive to directional tours. Color coded for N/S/E/W 4. Develop oral tapes for use in automobiles. 5. Create historical travel packages for visitors.

Goal:	Create a community driving heritage tour.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Historical Association/TDA/Arts Parks and Recreation/Cultural Coalition	\$5,400	1 year

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
Pull all data from former attempts for tours.	0	Historical Association (and TDA)
Inventory according to direction sectors of county (North, South).	0	
Research miles, correct directions, and accessibility of sites.	Mileage \$200	
Develop oral tapes/or CD's.	\$200	
Develop brochure/map.	\$3,000	
Promote existence of historical sites and all collateral materials.	\$200	

Performance Measures:	Number of tracked usage.
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Status:	Underway
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Gold: Bechtler Mint/Mine Site and Bechtler Home Development
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Project Narrative:	<p>The Bechtler Mint/Mine Site is located on Highway 221 North and the Bechtler Home is located on 6th Street in the Town of Rutherfordton. Both are significant in the history of Rutherford County and are integral parts of the history of gold in this region. This is one of several significant stories of regional and national significance to be told in the Heritage Center. In addition, a stand alone initiative/project will be developed as described here.</p> <p>Rutherford County presently owns the original three-acre site of the mine location. This initiative also will be developed in conjunction with the Town of Rutherfordton's revitalization and thematic branding project. It too will become a part of a larger regional project with the theme of mining, gold and minerals in the Blue Ridge National Historic Area.</p>
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Goal:	The project goal is to have the ability to tell this significant story and show artifacts relating to the Bechtler Mint and its history. Through the development of the two original Bechtler sites. As a part of a comprehensive county Heritage Center/Museum, an extensive exhibit highlighting this historical contribution will be developed. The purpose of the exhibit is to show the creativity, artistry, and economic impact the Bechtler family and the mint they established and operated in Rutherford County had on the region and nation.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Private/Public Partnership- Private Developer, Town of Rutherfordton, RC Historical Society, Rutherford County, RC Historic Preservation	\$500,000.00	2-5 years

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
1. Develop Plan	Artifacts, Land	North Washington
2. Raise Funds	Planning/ Museum	Street Properties/
3. Build Volunteer Base	Development/	Historical
4. Build/Renovate Facility	Curator/Grants/	Patrons/County & City
	Private donations	Government

Performance Measures:	Gather artifacts, Conduct marketing study, Establish museum
Status:	County Funded Bechtler Heritage Plan nearing completion.

Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	The Gold Heritage and Thermal City Gold Mine
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Project Narrative:	<p>Thermal City gold mine is a recreation gold mine, campground and mining supply store located on Hwy 221. The facility straddles the Rutherford and McDowell County line. The facility includes 100 acres in Rutherford and 30 acres in McDowell. It also offers a gem mining experience. Incorporated into the Gem Mine facility is a collection of rocks, gems and mineral specimens from North Carolina and around the world.</p> <p>The primary focus of the facility is gold mining since the location is one of the earliest gold mines in the area. Visitors have opportunity to pan for gold and also mine for gold using methods that are more complicated. Clientele travel from all over the United States and Canada to visit Thermal City. Visitors have also come from Japan, England, Germany and Australia. Regular customers visit for extended times every year from Ontario and Quebec, from Washington State, New Mexico, Maine, Florida, Texas and other areas. In an average year, the Thermal City Gold Mine had well over 1,000 visitors who stayed in the area for at least two nights. Some even stay for two or three months.</p> <p>Continuing expansion is the main goal at Thermal City Gold Mine. The Mine has a small collection of antique mining equipment that can be developed into a mining museum. Last year, we purchased adjoining property, which includes the site of the old Thermal City Train Depot and water tank on the now defunct Southern Railway. Adjacent to the depot was a twenty-eight-room hotel. The goal is to reconstruct a facsimile of the Depot to house the mining museum, railroad memorabilia and artifacts. Rebuilding the hotel is also in the longer-range plan.</p> <p>Another goal is to develop a site for festivals and outdoor shows such as the Western North Carolina Gold Festival, which has successfully been held for several years in McDowell County. This area would consist of an open grassy area with water and electrical hook-ups to accommodate vendors plus adequate rest room facilities. A parking area of about one-acre would be needed.</p> <p>The Thermal City Gold Mine is totally dedicated to preserving the gold and gem mining heritage of the Blue Ridge National Heritage area and to the continued successful operation of this operation.</p>
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Goal:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expansion of the gold mine facility. 2. Reconstruct a facsimile of the former Southern Railway depot to house mining and railroad memorabilia and antique mining equipment. 3. Reconstruct the 28 room hotel 4. Develop outdoor site for festivals and outdoor shows such as the Western North Carolina Gold Festival. Area to include water and electrical hook-ups for vendors. 5. Construct an acre parking area and adequate rest room facilities for the area
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Thermal City Gold Mine; Union Mills Community Center	1. Construct Depot/Museum \$90,000 2. Museum equipment and set-up \$80,000 3. Outdoor facility with restrooms and parking, water and electrical hook-ups \$40,000 Total: \$210,000.00	2-5 years

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
1. Develop written plans with detailed drawings 2. Seek grant funding and public/private partnerships	Funding	Lloyd Nanney

Performance Measures:	
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Status:	Adjoining land purchased and clearing has begun
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Archeological Survey of Prehistoric Sites
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Project Narrative:	The human occupation of the landscape that became Rutherford County has been occupied for thousands of years by prehistoric Native Americans before the appearance of Europeans or Africans on the North American continent. Abundant evidence, countless artifacts from all major archeological periods, mounds and sites exist across present day Rutherford County. A survey or surveys of this significant information is vital to documenting and preserving this rich prehistory of the area. In learning all we can of human history associated with the earliest land use and resources we can avoid the unwitting destruction of these important prehistoric treasures and avoid destruction of the sites.

Goal:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conduct a survey or surveys of prehistoric Native American sites. • To preserve and protect these sites and information • To document this history for future generations
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Rutherford County Historical Society;	\$25,000	18 months

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact NC Division of History and Archives and Tribal Preservation for support and assistance 2. Seek public/private funding and grant funding to conduct survey(s) 3. Employ a consulting archeologist 4. Document findings and provide information to appropriate repositories 		Rutherford County Historical Society & proposed Historic Preservation Commission

Performance Measures:	Sites surveyed, funds received, archeologist employed, information documents and distributed
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Status:	Historical Society Board to preview proposal
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Hampton's Fort - Green Hill School Community Center Corporation, Inc.
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Project Narrative:	<p>Green Hill School Community Center Corporation, Inc. is a bonafide 501 (C) 3 organization. (Tax ID 56-2197949).</p> <p>Green Hill is the fastest growing township in Rutherford County where the new arrivals are unaware of the historic landscape which includes a Revolutionary fort. Green Hill Community Center Corporation, Inc. would like to procure archeological Surveys to determine the sites and extent of remains at Fort McFadden (colonial and Revolutionary era) and Hampton's Fort, the fortified home of Col. Andrew Hampton, who is notable in the Rutherford Trace and the British occupation of nearby Gilbert Town. Interpretation of the findings are to be displayed at the Green Hill School building and artifacts repositied at an approved site for curation.</p>

Goal:	<p>The intent is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to preserve such heritage as is extent and promote a fuller understanding of the historical importance of the Green Hill community; to avoid the unknowing, tragic loss of the historic landscape
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Bob Morgan, Ph.D.; Debbie Haynes; Wilda Jo Hodge for Green Hill School Community Center Corporation, Inc.	\$10,000	1 year

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Secure funding Conduct survey Develop interpretation information Reposit artifacts for curation 	Funding Archeologist	Same as listed

Performance Measures:	
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Status:	Researching funding options
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	South Mountains Area Accessibility
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Project Narrative:	<p>A large portion of South Mountain gamelands is located in Rutherford County. The South Mountains State Park is in Burke County and is contiguous with the gamelands. The two tracts combine to form about 40,000 acres of state-owned land. The park has 80-foot waterfall; more than 40 miles of hiking trails, including 29 miles of bridle trails and 18-mile bicycling trail; 11 tent campsites, 20 backpack campsites, four group backpack campsites, 15 equestrian campsites with 37-stall barn. Stream fishing and picnic shelter. It is crucial that these amenities be made more accessible from the Rutherford County side. The gamelands have numerous trails and natural and historic features, but are not used often or visited because of difficult access.</p> <p>The issues include: 1) Southern portion of the park has no direct entryway - no access from Rutherford County 2) Approximately 1-hour drive from Rutherfordton to main park entrance. 3) The State Park is expanding to the west and will have a new access from U.S. 64 which will help. 4) The gamelands have no published maps and access is limited to walking/hiking in most areas.</p> <p>Rutherford County would benefit greatly from the opening of two multi-use corridors on the gamelands from Roper Hollow Road in McDowell County east and the Old CC road north from Golden Valley in Rutherford County. The Roper Hollow access is being improved by the Wildlife Commission, but at a slow pace because of budget and staffing limitations. The Old CC route is not being improved because of a private in-holding at the northern terminus of the road where it intersects with Roper Hollow. The Old CC road needs extensive re-grading and graveling to be usable a multi-use corridor.</p>
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Goal:	Improve Access to South Mountains Gamelands and South Mountain State Park
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Rutherford Outdoor Coalition	\$100,000	Four years+

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
Work with Wildlife Commission and State Parks to improve access		Outdoor Coalition
Publish Maps of Gameland Trails	Wildlife Commission GPS data	Outdoor Coalition
Alternative uses of Gamelands during offseason (i.e. Mt. Biking, horseback riding)		Outdoor Coalition

Performance Measures:	Track numbers using areas via new access routes
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Status:	On-going
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Hickory Nut Gorge State Park –Support for Proposal
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Project Narrative:	<p>Most recently, a coalition of conservancy and recreation groups, with the support of Senator Walter Dalton, has designated an area just west of Lake Lure to potentially become the Hickory Nut Gorge State Park. The cost to create the park a joint effort of the State of North Carolina, a coalition of conservancy groups and recreation groups, is estimated at \$50 million.</p> <p>For Rutherford County, a park would create: Greater recreational possibilities including rock climbing; Greater economic impact for Rutherford County; Preserves the land; Protect the environment. Therefore, the Heritage Council, Arts, Parks and Recreation Commission, Rutherford Outdoor Coalition and other groups and organizations are lending their support and encouragement to make this park a reality.</p>
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Goal:	Lend support and encouragement to make this park a reality. Promote the park when feasible.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Rutherford Heritage Council; Arts, Parks, and Recreation Commission; Rutherford Outdoor Coalition; Conservancy groups; NC Legislature; NC Department of Natural Resources	<p>Land acquisition estimate is \$50,000,000.</p> <p>Support efforts provided by volunteers, recreation groups, conservancy groups.</p>	5-7 Years

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
Work closely with key groups to identify key lands and assist with fund raising efforts	Volunteers, Grass Roots Support,	Same as Person/Organization Responsible

Performance Measures:	Committee formed. Additional property acquired.
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Status:	Ongoing
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
Rutherford County Heritage Plan Initiative

Initiative Title:	The Rutherford/Polk Highway 74 Broad Green Corridor Partnership Initiative
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Project Narrative:	Working through existing county offices and departments in both Rutherford and Polk Counties the initiative is designed to raise awareness of the unique natural capital of the Highway 74 Broad River / Green River corridor traveling through Rutherford and Polk Counties. Partnering with various organizations in both counties, the initiative strives to preserve, protect, and share with other communities this unique western North Carolina gateway corridor. Through developing inter-local agreements between Rutherford and Polk Counties and by surveying, identifying, and documenting historical buildings, sites, viewsheds, and natural resources within the corridor and conducting and promoting related activities at all educational levels, the Rutherford Polk Highway 74 Broad Green Corridor Partnership Initiative increases community awareness and involvement in natural resource preservation.
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Goal:	For Rutherford and Polk County governments to take the lead in developing a comprehensive program of natural resource preservation in Polk County, North Carolina and to work towards sustaining the program in partnership with local organizations, associations, and private citizens in Rutherford and Polk Counties and the surrounding area.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Various Rutherford and Polk County Government Departments, Offices, and partner organizations	Phase One \$10,000 Phase Two \$15,000 Phase Three \$25,000	Phase One 1 year Phase Two 2 year Phase Three 3 year

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By the Fall of 2005 organize principle partners in the initiative and define roles - Present opportunity to Rutherford and Polk County Commissioners - Pass joint resolutions in both Counties in support of opportunities by early 2006 	Administrative fees	Rutherford and Polk County EDC's and other partner organizations

Performance Measures:	Quarterly report on progress to County Managers and annual reports to County Commissioners
Status:	Ongoing

Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Gilbert Town Preservation
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Project Narrative :	<p>The American Revolution in Rutherford County began with a conflict with the Cherokees which had been encouraged by the British government. Some settlers were massacred and local forts were besieged. In response, General Griffith Rutherford collected some 2,400 militia out of Rutherford and other counties in the fall of 1776 and marched against the Cherokees, destroying 36 of their towns. This campaign was hence afterward called the “Rutherford Trace.”</p> <p>In 1780 occurred the next major local involvement of the Revolutionary War. It is now referred to as the Overmountain Victory March. Rutherford County’s first county seat, Gilbert Town, had the distinction of being the only site in this campaign where both the Loyalists and Patriot forces encamped. The British were bivouacked there for several weeks. The Overmountain Men camped there on their way to and from the Battle of Kings Mountain.</p> <p>In early 1781, following their brilliant victory at the Battle of Cowpens, the Patriot troops came to Gilbert Town to tend the wounded and confine their prisoners. What distinguished Gilbert Town’s role in the history of the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution is the exceptionally large number of troops who passed through it. In addition, to the thousands of soldiers there were included a number of striking, notable Revolutionary figures among whom were John Sevier, Isaac Shelby, Daniel Morgan, William Washington, Francis Marion, Andrew Pickens, Patrick Ferguson, Banastre Tarleton, Griffith Rutherford, Benjamin Cleveland and Felix Walker.</p> <p>The preservation of the Gilbert Town is important to the history and heritage of Rutherford County, the BRNHA, North Carolina and the United States as a whole. Its significance in the Revolutionary War is without question. Action steps will be taken to preserve, protect and interpret this important site.</p>
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Goal:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve, protect, interpret the landscape that is Gilbert Town • Work with the Battlefield Protection Agency, NC State Preservation Office, the National Park Service, property owners, county government, and local interested persons to develop a preservation plan. • Identify parcels, prioritize and either purchase property or seek conservation easements as appropriate to trail and/or other development . • Work with NCDOT to have access to any preserved areas from new four-lane Hwy.221.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
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Rutherford County Government, RC Historical Society, Heritage Coalition, Arts/Parks/Recreation Commission, Rutherford Outdoor Coalition, American Battlefield Protection Program of the National Park Service, National Park Service Trails Program; Foothills Conservancy; NC State Historic Preservation Office other national, state and regional historic preservation organizations	1. In-depth archeological Survey \$10,000 2. Preservation Plan development – Cost to be determined. Estimate \$10,000. Total \$20,000	3 to 12 months
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Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
1. Complete further extensive archeological survey based on current site nomination to the National Register of Historic Places 2. Complete preservation plan for significant sites through the assistance of the National Park Service and other partners 3. Work in partnership with other US, North and South Carolina groups and agencies including BRNHA counties with Revolutionary War history to develop trails and educational and heritage events and projects. 4. Form a committee to begin the process of setting aside areas within the boundaries of Historic Gilbert Town and in association work to establish trail formation in the area of the OVT and other trails.	1. \$10,000 2. To be determined 3. To be determined	Rutherford Historical Society & Gilbert Town Committee; American Battlefield Protection Agency; Foothills Conservancy

Performance Measures:	Gilbert Town is preserved
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Status:	Added to NRHP – Aug 23, 2006;OVTA submitting grant to American Battlefield Protection Agency to fund a preservation plan; Recreational/Cultural/Heritage Planner working with Foothills Conservancy.
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Agricultural Service Center with Multi-Purpose Arena
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Project Narrative:	<p>Description The Rutherford County Agricultural Service Center & Multi-Purpose Arena consists of two structures with a shared parking and loading area. The proposed location is the 7.5-acre tract of land, located within the town of Spindale, NC, adjacent to existing county office building. Other sites may be considered as well. In partnership, the Agricultural Service Center proposes to house the county offices of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service (NCCES), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Rutherford Soil and Water Conservation District.</p> <p>Justification and Rationale The local Center for the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service currently uses space within the building that houses the Senior Center. Senior Center activities limit the available times for educational programming and impact customer service.</p> <p>NRCS, FSA, and the Soil and Water District currently lease a small office structure, which is a converted steel frame structure that is limited in available space. The proposed Agriculture Service Center would put all four agricultural agencies within the same building. Also, FSA, NRCS and Soil and Water are rent paying agencies and would pay rent to Rutherford County when relocated to the centralized Agricultural Service Center.</p> <p>If the Center is built in the proposed location, the Multi-Purpose Arena will become the new home of the Rutherford County Farmer's Market . This will make the Market more accessible to customers and permit expansion as needed. The Farmer's Market is currently housed in an old structure that is in dire need of renovations and the site on which currently is located could be of greater value to county government for other uses.</p> <p>The Multi-Purpose Arena will be used to hold agricultural related events and activities, such as livestock shows and sales, and larger educational programs sponsored by the four agencies housed in the Ag Center. At present, no facility, either public or private, exists in the County for such activities. The Arena also may be used by other county departments and rented to other groups or organizations for other activities.</p> <p>Expected Results An Ag Center and an Arena will greatly improved customer service to the agriculture and related industries and provide for expansion of services to the residents of Rutherford County. Many customers currently use the services of at least two, if not all four of these agencies. There currently is no facility in the county like the proposed Multi-Purpose Arena. 4-H, and other groups or individuals scheduling events, activities, or educational programs related to animals are forced to use local</p>
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	<p>facilities not well suited for livestock related functions or go to facilities outside the County.</p> <p>Rutherford County agriculture brings in over \$13,000,000 (13 million) in cash receipts. The county ranks 22, out of 100 counties, in North Carolina with over 7,300 breed cows. It also ranks in the top 15 counties for total hay production. The county had over 61,000 acres of farmland and has a very diverse mix of vegetables, field crops, and horticultural products being produced. Over 1,600 individual landowners own forested property greater than 25 acres. In 1996, the last year an equine study was completed in North Carolina, Rutherford County had 1,900 equine with an inventory value of \$4,887,000. This number of persons relocating to the county who are part of the equestrian community is on the rise as the spill-over from neighboring Polk County which in 1996 had 1,500 equine valued at \$11,008,000. continues. With this growth has occurred an increase in related agricultural related commodities such as the growth and sales of hay and feed.</p> <p>Need for Federal Assistance</p> <p>Financial assistance from a variety of funding sources will be made to help offset the high cost of building and land. The region has largely been dependent on textile manufacturing, which has been hard hit in Rutherford County. Rutherford County lost over 5,383 jobs since 1998. Projects such as this will assist farmers who work in agriculture in both a full or part-time nature. This type of assistance is critical as the county transitions to a more diverse economy.</p> <p>The growing equine industry is another example of the need to provide an arena in the area. In 1996 in the state, there were 132,000 head of equine found in 26,300 places with an average of five horses per operation. The total value of horses in North Carolina in 1996 owned for recreational and commercial purposes was estimated at \$533 million dollars horse owners also spent approximately \$500 million to care for their animals and to participate in equine activities. By the year 2002, the projected value of North Carolina's equine population had rises to more than \$900 million with the total industry valued at nearly \$1.7 billion. The Equine Study Survey conducted in 1996 by the Equine Industry Commission established a multiplier of 1.61 to local economies for every dollar spent on horses and horse related activities.</p>

Goal:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve customer service and expand services to agricultural industry 2. Centralize offices of farm/agricultural/conservation/forestry related services which work in partnership 3. Provide expanded facilities for education and other agricultural, forestry, conservation activities 4. Support the agriculture, forestry and equine industry for their economic benefit to the county, state and region 5. Provide an in-county facility in the form of a multi-purpose arena
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
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Rutherford County; NC Cooperative Extension Services ; NRCS; Farm Services Agency	1. Ag Center \$2,000,000 2. Multi-Purpose Arena 3. Land Acquisition - \$75,000	3-5 years
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Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
1. Secure funding for feasibility study 2. Purchase land 3. Develop facilities plan 4. Secure public/private/grant funding	1. Rutherford BOC approval 2. NRCS, Farms Services approval of plan 3. Funds from as yet to be identified sources	Rutherford County Cooperative Extension Services, NRCS, Farm Services Agency

Performance Measures:	
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Status:	Funds in 2006-2007 RC budget to fund planning for facility.
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Growing For You
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Project Narrative:	<p><i>“Growing For You”</i> Project is a new, collaborative effort involving a multi-discipline N.C. Cooperative Extension Service Team composed of Agriculture and Family Consumer Education Agents from six counties consisting of Buncombe, Cleveland, Lincoln, McDowell, Polk and Rutherford. This education program's goal is the development and maintenance of regional communication in the promotion of the benefits of the local agriculture industry to the region's consumers(residents & tourists).</p> <p>The <i>“Growing For You”</i> Project encompasses four areas that will assist in the farm-to-table process: 1) Product Development & Utilization, 2) Food Safety, 3) Agricultural Focus, and 4) Youth Education. The Product Development & Utilization segment is concentrating on networking with the local and regional chefs in the preparation of locally-grown commodities, highlighting as well the value-added local products, and assisting with learning how to prepare fresh products. The Food Safety segment deals with providing a forum for addressing biotechnology/genetically-engineered commodities, organics, and pesticide residue issues. The segment focuses on safe food handling from farm to home. The Agricultural Focus segment is working on the development of grower networks in the sharing of production techniques: sustainable, organic, and conventional agricultural systems management. It is looking at the historic & cultural trends of agriculture within the region. The Youth Education segment is dealing with expanding the agricultural awareness to children and helping them understand where their food originates, how long it takes to produce the foods they eat, and how the raw product is made into the materials they consume.</p>
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Goal:	<p>At the focus of the program are the 369,000 residents within the six-county region. The Extension Team will be networking as well with the Tourism Industry as potential secondary audience. (During 1997, travel spending within the Buncombe, McDowell, Polk and Rutherford county area was \$493 million).</p> <p>The NC Cooperative Extension Service Team anticipates three major outcomes from the <i>“Growing For You”</i> Project: 1) Increased farm visibility and economic growth of the agricultural industry, 2) Increased consumer food safety practices and utilization of locally grown commodities, and 3) Increased consumer knowledge of agricultural production techniques as they pertain to biotechnology.</p>
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
NC Cooperative Extension Service	\$85,000.00	2-3 years

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Website Development - Program Marketing - Secure public/private/grant funding 	Participation of additional Extension Centers within the region, Culinary, Commodity Associations, Agricultural Agencies collaboration.	NC Cooperative Extension Service- Buncombe, Cleveland, McDowell, Lincoln, Polk and Rutherford Centers.

Performance Measures:	
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Status:	Project is underway. Regional – 6 county- marketing efforts underway.
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**Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
PRIORITY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET**

Initiative Title:	Agri-Cultural Tourism Development
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Goal:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop AgriCultural trails within Rutherford County • Assist local farmers and others associated with agriculture and horticulture by providing new and improved outlets for goods and services • Enhance the agricultural and cultural experience for visitors to the area. • Enhance the County's economy through increased tourism • Partner with other recreation, trails, civic and community groups to market goods and services • Enhance the Rutherford County Farm Museum to play a larger role in promoting agri-tourism
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Rutherford County Cooperative Extension; Rutherford County Tourism Development; Rutherford County Farm Museum	Maps \$8,000 Marketing - \$5000 Farm Museum - \$10,000	12 months

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schedule a meeting or persons/organizations 2. Contact potential sites to determine interest in participation 3. Request site visits and/or information and support from HandMade in America 4. Develop AgriCultural Trails 5. Prepare marketing plan and map 6. Implement trails 7. Conduct a planning process for the Farm Museum to increase their organizational and fundraising capacity 		Same as Persons/Organizations Responsible

Performance Measures:	Target for increased tourism is achieved; agricultural and horticultural producers and service providers experience measurable economic benefit
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Status:	Meeting underway; seminars scheduled; contacts with interested parties continuing.
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Rutherfordton - Comprehensive Master Plan
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Project Narrative:	<p>The Town of Rutherfordton has a unique opportunity to continue the revitalization of its downtown through a comprehensive set of improvements to its core downtown and Main Street area. These improvements to the public realm can yield not only a more beautiful and useful downtown, but corresponding, private development stimulated by this initiative.</p> <p>The Town of Rutherfordton's commitment to a Master Plan demonstrates a serious commitment to ensuring the continued vitality of its downtown well into the 21st century. The resolution of current and future infrastructure demands (traffic flow and parking), combined with the design and completion of streetscape and public space enhancements will create an appropriate and exciting setting for the town and its rich historic district. Also, it will create an attractive environment for cultivating private development interest and investment in downtown Rutherfordton.</p>

Goal:	To create a Comprehensive Master Plan for the Town of Rutherfordton

Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Town of Rutherfordton	\$80,150	12-18 months

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
Phase One: Project Start-up and Visioning Workshop		
A. Project Kick-off Meeting	\$2,880	
B. Site Evaluation and Analysis	\$2,690	
C. Preliminary Historical and Cultural Research	\$9,645	
D. Summary Opportunities and Constraints	\$3,870	
E. Community Workshop #1	\$4,020	
Phase Two: Preliminary Downtown Comprehensive Plan		
A. Component Plan Development		
1. Downtown Design Guidelines	\$9,925	
i. Architectural Character & Site Development		
ii. Signage & Storybuilding		
2. Parking & Circulation	\$4,000	

3. Infrastructure & Public Improvements	\$4,350	
4. Public Art & Monumentation Plan	\$6,700	
5. Streetscape, Trails & Open Space Plan	\$7,000	
B. Draft Master Plan Preparation	\$12,650	
C. Community Workshop #2	\$4,620	
Phase Three: Final Downtown Comprehensive Plan		
A. Final Downtown Comprehensive Plan	\$4,920	
B. Community Workshop #3	\$2,880	
C. Final Plan Preparation		

Performance Measures:	
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Status:	Master Plan complete; strategic committees now forming; priority projects identified; funding being sought.
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Spindale Revitalization –A Visionary Plan – Stage 1
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Project Narrative:	<p>The Town of Spindale has a long history of hard working people with a sense of community centered on the Spindale House, a much-loved library and a thriving retail district including the local pharmacy. However, the town has felt the economic impact of the nationwide closing of textile plants. The town's tax base has been textile driven; however, with the closing of five major textile manufactures the town's economic base has been devastated. In 2003, Spindale tax base decreased by 6% and in 2004 another 6% decrease. Town officials have expressed concerns that if the Town's tax base continues to decline, tax revenues will also and the Town will not be able to main vital services it provides to residents.</p> <p>The 3,900 residents of Spindale have a median household income of \$26, 205 and are among the 9.5 % (October 2004) unemployed persons in the County. The County's unemployment has exceeded by 70% the national rate and is the third highest unemployment rate in the state. Town residents cannot afford a tax increase and Spindale is seeking new strategies to enhance economy and revitalize the Town.</p> <p>The two primary components of plan developed by Town Councilman Toby Tomlin in cooperation town officials and government are to redevelop through a private/public partnership the old mill sites in the downtown area into condominiums and to develop an 18 hole golf course on the present industrial park site located on Ledbetter Road.</p> <p>Grant funding will be requested to fund many of the projects. In addition, the anticipated influx of new residents can bring small industry and small business and entrepreneurs into the community. The first step in the plan has occurred with the allocation of a \$25,000 planning grant from the NC Rural Center to conduct a feasibility study.</p>
Goal:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make Spindale a more desirable place to live • Make Spindale more attractive to business and industry • Offer residents the same amenities that larger cities offer • Maintain a small town atmosphere with a sense of community • Establish Spindale as a pilot program to test new economic development strategies • Reinvigorate the town's tax base through new development, business, and industry

Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Toby Tomblin	I.Feasibility Study - \$25,000;II Revitalization –to be determined	Feasibility Study – 6 months Revitalization – 2 to 10 yrs

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
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<p>I. Conduct a feasibility study of the revitalization plan</p> <p>II. Secure a grant to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relocate Manual Woodworkers and Elmore to old Stonecutter plant off Hawkins Street. 2. Purchase all property that is within the area surrounded by Oak Street, Spindale Street and Wilson Street 3. Remove identified mill buildings 4. Recycle building materials from old mill buildings 5. Build a lake 6. Convert old Spindale Mills property into condos, shops and office space 7. Construct walkway around lake with lights and benches 8. Build golf cart path from Spindale Mills along Spindale Street to Greer Street along sewer easement to golf course 9. Widen Stonecutter Street from Church Street to Old Ball Park Road 10. Build golf card path along Poplar Street and Elm Street to the East Main Street Business District 11. Revitalize the East Main Business District, front and rear facades of buildings 12. Place utilities underground in both East Main and West Main Business Districts 13. Reconstruct curbs along sidewalks on East Main and West Main to correct heights 14. Reconstruct ball fields on Old Ball Park Road to include sprinkler system and lights 15. Develop "Rent to Own" program 16. Upgrade swimming pool 17. Replace worn regulatory and street name signs 18. Assist business owners to transition from portable temporary signs to permanent signs 19. Pave the walking trail from one end of town to the other and construct a sprinkler system along the trail 	<p>\$25,000 from the NC Rural Center</p> <p>II.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. Water & Soil Conservation 6. Private developer 7. 8. NCDOT 9. NCDOT 10. NCDOT Fed Highway Admin. 11. 12. Duke Power and Rutherford Electric Membership Corp. 13. NCDOT & others 14. NC Department of Parks and Rec. 15. Rural Housing Center 16. 17. NC DOT 18. Small business grants; Small cities or Main Street Program 19. Rails to Trails, ROC, National Park Service, NC Dept Parks and Recreation 	<p>Town of Spindale</p> <p>Public/Private Partners</p>
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Performance Measures:	Feasibility Study completed; A working plan developed;
Status:	Parking and streetscapes improvements; new chain restaurant in operation; annual festival planned.

Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Downtown Forest City 20/20 Vision
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Project Narrative:	<p>Forest City was named by the US Department of Agriculture as one of the best planned and most beautiful small towns in the United States in 1927 as part of the City Beautiful Movement. The designation was primarily awarded because of the layout and beautification of the Town Square funded by the Forest City Betterment Club in 1917. Another factor was the presence of a large downtown Cotton Mill that did not impede on the beauty of Main Street.</p> <p>As Forest City's downtown moves toward development of a 2020 Vision Plan, the goal is to continue the legacy set by the 1927 designation as one of the best planned and most beautiful small towns in America.</p>

Goal:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distinguish Forest City within the region as a small town known for its unique downtown setting including the dynamic Florence Mill renovation. 2. Foster the rich heritage of downtown Forest City's built environment and let the architecture tell the story of the town's history. 3. Work toward the designation as a Great American Main Street Town by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the designation of an All-America City by 2010. 4. Work toward the designation as an All-America City by the National Civic League Municipalities by 2020.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Forest City Office of Downtown Development Historic Downtown Forest City, Inc. Florence Mill Legacy, Inc.	30,000	2010

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
1. Work with the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the residents of		Steering Committee for the site visit

<p>Forest City on the scheduled Design Assistance Team visit on determined the 2020 vision.</p> <p>2. Place special emphasis on the downtown when the Land Use Plan is updated in 2005.</p>		
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Performance Measures:	Forest City receives the designations of All-America City and Great American Main Street
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Status:	Forest City has been selected as one of 5 cities in the United States to receive an AIA resource team in 2005. Update of the Land Use Plan is underway.
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Vance Academy- Preservation for Present & Future Generations
Project Narrative:	<p>The Vance Academy, a one-room schoolhouse built in the late 1800's has a well built wooden frame and is 25X 35 feet in area and 28 feet high. The flooring, sides and rafters are pine and the sills are Western mountain hemlock. The schoolhouse is located slightly south of the Harris Community in Rutherford County on what was the farm of Isaac Miller who was a good friend of NC Governor Zebulon Vance.</p> <p>In school records from July 1899 when A.L Rucker was the first Superintendent of Education and the Board of Trustees were W.P. Kistler, D.H. Jenkins and A.B. Webster, Vance Academy which was in the Sulphur Springs school district received \$154.32 for expenses.</p> <p>Other records indicate that on October 2, 1899, the value of the school was \$50. The school had one teacher who boarded in one of the pupil's homes and 45 males and 37 students were enrolled. Surnames of the students include Alexander, Crawford, Duncan, Fowler, Harris, Henson, Huntsinger, Jenkins, McCraw, McDowell, McKinney, Miller, Padgett, Robbins, and Tate. (excerpts from Bicentennial History for Rutherford County People, 1979 and copied by Edith Roby Edwards, wife of W. Henry Edwards, May 2005)</p> <p>In order to preserve the building, in 1989, the W. Henry Edwards family whose ancestors were students at Vance Academy in the late 1800's, acquired permission from the owner of the land where the facility stood to move the building to their farm on Duncan Road in the Harris Community of Rutherford County, 1 ½ miles west of the Academy's original location on Jack McKinnery Road south of the Harris Community. The move was not an overnight job? It required much measuring, planning, and raising done by many helpers to ready the building onto a long trailer. The weather cooperated a sunny, May 15, 1998 when 48 people came together including the utility companies: Duke Power, Bell South, Northland Cable-TV, the Sheriff's Traffic Control, WLOS-TV, the newspaper folk – Daily Courier, friends, neighbors and individuals with cameras.</p> <p>The Academy is now situated on the Henry and Edith Edwards farm property directly in front of their home on Duncan Road. Western North Carolina stone masons were used to construct stone piers for the structure to rest upon. The original black board is still visible and the family plan to cover this with clear glass so that it may be viewed.</p> <p>The farmland on which the Henry and Edith Edwards live was a land grant from the King of England, July 1794. Generations of Edwards have lived on the land. The Edwards are also known for their use of kudzu. Mr. Edwards uses it as feed for his cattle and Mrs. Edward's is well known as the Kudzu Lady. She uses kudzu to make jelly, and other edible treats and the kudzu vine to make a variety of items including baskets and hats. The Edwards propose to utilize a portion of the building for their</p>

	<p>on-going project of researching uses of the kudzu plant.</p> <p>As the Edwards have said “ relatives, neighbors, friends will continue to help restore this antique treasure. Love and sweat will be involved and folks will reminiscence. It is a Rutherford County heritage project for all to enjoy.”</p>
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Goal:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To preserve the authenticity of the Vance Academy 2. To utilize a portion of the facility for the on-going project of researching uses of the kudzu plant. 3. To provide people with an opportunity to reminiscence and relish the history of this era. 4. Include in the Rutherford County self-guided historical driving tour project.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Henry and Edith Edwards, family and friends	\$7000.00 Sweat and love	1-2 years

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refurbish Vance Academy 2. Market farm, refurbished facility, kudzu products as part of a proposed AriCultural Heritage Trail 	Family and friends	Henry and Edith Edwards

Performance Measures:	Facility renovated, included in Trail and visitors and tourists utilize
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Status:	Renovation in progress; farm listed on RC agricultural asset list
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Community Character: Pride in Place
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Project Narrative:	<p>Flash back a time in rural Rutherford County prior to the 1960s and one would see vibrant, robust small communities that centered around the public school, general store, post office, or small shopping areas. Fast-forward to 2005 and many of these small communities have lost their anchors and centers – the schools and post offices have consolidated and the general store and small shops have closed.</p> <p>In Rutherford County, 75% of the residents live outside the population base of the three towns of Forest City, Spindale and Rutherfordton. In these more rural areas, residents proudly display their community's name as you enter and there is a sense of pride that comes with living there. These rural residents live in communities with names like – Henrietta, Caroleen, Ruth, Ellenboro, Bostic, Shiloh, Harris, Cliffside, Hollis, Camp Creek, Golden Valley, Westminster, and many more. Some communities like Washburn's Store have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places by their residents. Some are starting history societies like Golden Valley and Cliffside. Some are renovating their former public school into hubs of their communities once again. A number of these small communities have historic sites that visitors to the county would want to visit such as Washburn's Store, Abraham Lincoln's Bostic birthplace, the first NC monument to WWI veterans in Hollis, the Ellenboro Fiddler's Convention, and the Golden Valley Music Park.</p>
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Goal:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to provide a climate for collaboration among the communities and community-based centers in the county on fundraising and grant opportunities to expand their community centers and their assets that might interest visitors. 2. to develop, implement and promote family and visitor activities in the rural communities of Rutherford Count
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Realize Rutherford; Existing Community-based rural centers; Extension Service's Community Clubs; Handmade in America; Rural Deveopment; Rutherford County Cooperative Extension; NC Soil and Water Conservation; NC Farm Services	\$5,000 for planning	

Volunteer Fire Departments		
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Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
1. Form an organization for community-based centers in the rural areas 2. Conduct a planning process that involves a representative from the rural areas of the county 3. Develop a detailed action plan		

Performance Measures:	A plan is developed that outlines ways the rural communities can enhance their quality of life
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Status:	Former public schools in Gilkey, Dunbar, Green Hill, and Union Mills have met to discuss mutual interests; Cliffside received pre-planning funds and a site plan is being developed and the Village of Cliffside has several houses completed or under construction; Union Mills is conducting an oral history project and seeking funds for continued facility renovation; Grahamtown is forming revitalization efforts; see Hollis initiative.
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Union Mills Learning Center, Inc.
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Project Narrative:	<p>Union Mills Learning Center, Inc. is one of several Community Based Centers in Rutherford County which were former schools Union Mills, Gilkey, Green Hill, Dunbar and been provided at a nominal charge to communities to encourage “community pride” and continuing education. Also included is KidSenses, an interactive children’s museum located in Rutherfordton. Each is available for extended programs in each community and each has a designated program director to coordinate the Center’s activities.</p> <p>The Union Mills Learning Center, Inc. has a long, rich history of education. Founded in 1899 as Round Hill Academy, it was the only accredited school in the area. The graduating students were accepted at colleges and became ministers, doctors, teachers, bankers and leaders of industry and businesses, developing our towns in Rutherford County and influencing education across North Carolina. Ninety percent of the teachers in Rutherford County attended Round Hill Academy.</p> <p>In 1925, the school became Alexander Schools, Inc. and served as an orphanage, boarding school, home for troubled children and day students. Children were brought from all over the Eastern United States. The school closed in 1976 but has 800 alumni scattered all over the world. Those who can return each year for their annual tow-day reunion held the second Saturday and Sunday in August. From 1976 to 2000, the school served as an elementary and middle school and completed 200 years of education and in 2000 the school building, gym and 6.4 acres were given to the Union Mills Learning Center, Inc., a 501-(C) 3 non-profit organization.</p> <p>The buildings and grounds are being upgraded and education in music, dance, computer, history, and recreation, as well as, GED and after-school tutoring are available to all citizens. The auditorium is to be utilized by the community to demonstrate skills learned, for dance recitals, special meetings and gatherings including performances by local musicians and artisans. Currently a cadre of Center volunteers hands calls and conduct tours from both inside North Carolina and out-of-state as well. Plans are being developed to collect memorabilia, and artifacts donated both by school alumni and the community for a permanent display and an oral history program is planned.</p> <p>The Union Mills Community has a wealth of historical sites including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Britton Presbyterian Church • Westminster Boarding Academy 1902-1925, associated with Round Hill Baptist Church • Alexander Schools, Ins 1925-1976 • Flack Farm – home build 1889 – 300 acres, owned by 7th generation family Nell and Tim Bovender is in conservation easement • Weaver Farm first owned by H.G. Green in 1870, owned by third generation family • A.F. (Pete) Weaver who is 98 years of age • James Milton Webb home built 1825; he is a Baptist minister whose descendants founded Gardner-Webb University, Boiling Springs, NC • Go Van Harris home built 1854, on Bills Creek Road and owned by Mark Conner
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pott's Fort, located in Bills Creek Community; residents used the fort for protection when the village was attacked by Indians or Tories • Union Mills Post Office, organized 1892-2005 and still serving the community • Union Mills golden Valley located on Box Creek Road • Polly Spout Picnic Area, enjoyed by families and home to exotic plant nursery • Rocky Face, a mountain with interesting features and offering mountain hikes

Goal:	Renovate buildings and landscape Provide community facility for events, meetings, etc.] Develop permanent display to celebrate community history and people
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Union Mills Learning Center, Inc.	Phase 1. \$191,552. Phase 2.a \$91,370.00 Phase 2 b. \$242,998. Phase 3. \$340,000 Phase 4: \$243,500 Total \$1,09,420.00	Phase 1 – 2002 Phase 2a – 2005 Phase 2b – 2006 Phase 3 – 2007 Phase 4 – 2010

Action Items:	Resources Required:	
Phase 1: Open the Doors – New roofs on main building & gym; 20 handicap accessible restrooms; new appliances; computer lab with 7 computers. Phase 2: National Guard Project – Renovate auditorium, stage and balcony with handicapped ramp into auditorium; handicapped ramp to main building; build 2 retaining walls, repair sidewalks and add drains; replace dugouts on ball field; replace plumbing in gym showers and gym floor tiles; repour front steps to main office; treat for termites; add walking trails around ball fields and in woods; survey land, new doors to office, rent equipment to do work Phase 3: Add heating and air; replace windows; add alarm system; upgrade kitchen to commercial; renovate rooms and furnish according to planned use. Phase 4: Add lighting for ball field and elevator for all 3 floors; add landscaping, grading and paving.	1. Union Mills Learning Center, Inc. 2. UNLC & National Guard 3. UMLC, Inc. 4. UMLC, Inc. Union Mills Learning Center, Inc. 5. UNLC & National Guard 6. UMLC, Inc. 7. UMLC, Inc.	UMLC, Inc. Phase 2 – assistance from National Guard

Performance Measures:	
Status:	Phase 1 and Phase 2 are complete.



Blue Ridge National Heritage Area PRIORITY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Hollis Center for Rural Preservation
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Project Narrative:	<p>The community of Hollis (population 53), located in the northeast corner of Rutherford county is the epitome of a small, rural, farming center. It is nestled beneath the peak of Cherry Mountain, the hamlet is surrounded on three sides by this historic natural feature. Established in 1883, Hollis had one general store, two churches, elementary and high schools, post office and a cluster of houses. 100 years ago it had its own newspaper, The Hollis Educator.</p> <p>As Rutherford County continues to see rapid residential growth in this northeast corner of the county, including the Hollis area, it will be important to preserve, celebrate, and share the rural heritage of the county. Currently, the community is working to put Hollis on the National Register of Historic Places. The 101-year general store building will serve as the home for the Hollis Center for Rural Preservation.</p>
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Goal:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working to preserve, improve, and protect rural landscapes, cultures, and communities 2. Promoting farmland preservation and stewardship 3. Creating vital rural community centers of activity 4. Integrating change while preserving distinctive rural character 5. Create employment-based rural economic development strategies 6. celebrating heritage music, crafts, and foodways through events and activities at the former general store building.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Board of Directors	180,000	2007

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
1. Restore Hollis store building as a center for activity	\$100,000	Board
2. Develop a community canning facility	\$50,000	Board
3. Develop Family Farm Project	\$10,000	Committee
4. Workshops of collecting community history	\$ 5,000	Committee
5. Conduct student workshops on "Reading rural landscapes"	\$ 5,000	Committee
6. Resources for preserving rural character	\$10,000	Committee
Performance Measures:	The Hollis Center will be known for its innovative strategies to protect and celebrate the rural life	
Status:	Board has been formed and efforts are underway to renovate store building	

Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Cohesive Signage and Beautification Commission Establishment
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Project Narrative:	<p>Part I: Signage Rutherford County has historical, cultural, heritage sites, as well as trails, linear water trails that need designation through an overall cohesive system of signage. The signage will meet the needs of visitors, tourists or local residents by providing both information and directions. Signage will include identification of specific amenities, directions to nearby facilities, information handicap accessibility, and interpretive exhibits at historic sites or points of special interest. A plan for the overall cohesive signage system with design guidelines to appropriately integrate signage into the environment and enhance and not detract from the areas scenic beauty. Signage guidelines will adhere to state, county and local requirements and to design and signage placement guidelines to be developed.</p> <p>Part II: Beautification Commission It is recommended that a Rutherford County Beautification Commission be established by the Board of County Commissioners. This voluntary Commission is to be made up of designees from garden clubs, civic clubs and other county groups committed to the beautification of the County. It will work with communities, SWEEP and other county groups to assist in clean up efforts, to develop education and awareness campaigns on beautification as well as to develop guidelines for signage and beautification that may be voluntarily adopted for any gateway or entryway into the County or a community.</p> <p>The Beautification Commission will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with garden clubs and civic groups to upgrade/beautify community gateways/entrances throughout the county. With partners including SWEEP develop a countywide cleanup and education and awareness campaign With partners including the Cooperative Extension support, volunteer and involve youth groups within schools and churches in existing cleanup efforts including the lake and river. Develop a region-wide partnership with local corporate offices of fast food restaurants to promote litter reduction.
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Goal:	To develop a cohesive singage system in the County that enhances the area's natural beauty		
Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:	
	\$22,500		
Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:	
1. Request RC Board of Commissioners appoint a Rutherford County Beautification Commission to work cooperatively with SWEEP and with other groups. 2. Conduct countywide assessment of gateways and entryways for signage and for	1. Nominal 2. \$500 - mileage 3. \$1,000 postage, etc.	Rutherford County Beautification Commission; SWEEP; Garden and civic groups; other partners including Cooperative Extension;	

beautification potential. 3. Seek grant funding and public & private funding for project 4. Work with consultant to develop a plan for a unified signage system and create a manual w/ guidelines & design standards 5. Print and distribute signage/beautification manual. 6. Develop clean up educational and awareness materials and partner w/civic groups, youth organization, churches and SWEEP and NCDOT to sponsor cleanup and enhance beautification campaigns throughout the County 7. Partner with neighboring counties in effort w/fast food businesses to promote litter reduction.	4. \$7,000 to employee consultant 5. \$3,000 6. \$1,000 – ads 7. Nominal	Rutherford County, towns and communities, neighboring counties, outdoor and recreation groups

Performance Measures:	Gateways/entryways are beautified and natural beauty preserved
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Status:	SWEEP is active; towns have are adopting recommended design and signage for entryways
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Cyber-Tourism
Project Narrative:	<p>Tourism is a significant industry in the North Carolina. In 2004 the tourism industry generated 13.2 billion dollar in revenue and was responsible for 183,000 direct jobs statewide. Tourism was the 3rd largest private sector employer in the state in 2003. While the mountain region of the state received 2,900 million dollars in tourism revenues or only 16% of the state tourism revenue in 2004, it reported 38,336 people working in the industry. The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area is a wonderful opportunity for the western counties to increase the economic impact of the tourist industry in the region. The designation is the first such in NC and is one of only 26 in the Nation. Through the joint efforts of the Rutherford County Heritage Council, the Blue Ridge National Heritage Council, Realize Rutherford and private and public partners across the county, region and state, the goal is to utilize cyber-tourism and e-commerce to help increase tourism in Rutherford and other western NC counties for positive economic benefit.</p> <p>Increasingly, when anyone plans to on travel to a destination or vacation in an area, his or her first makes a stop on the web. According to leading marketing expert, Peter Yesawich who spoke at the 2005 NC Governor's Conference, 80% of all homes in the US have Internet access and 93% of the population will travel this year. Some 56% in 2004 used the Internet to schedule a trip. Moreover, in 2005, 93% of the US population will travel this year for leisure and 71% will spend more. Cyber-tourism can help Rutherford County gain maximum economic benefit from these travelers.</p> <p>The purpose of the cyber-tourism initiative is to fully develop the potential for heritage tourism in Rutherford County by using all available components of cyber-tourism. This project aim is to generate the "best" web pages to visualize a "space." Towns, communities, historical sites, performance venues, artisans, craftsmen and parks and recreation opportunity and private and public organizations that promote the history, heritage, natural resources in the county. These will be encouraged to develop full web potential. Different kinds of displays will be provided so that viewers can easily obtain the information they seek and can visually perceive the desirability of visiting the area themselves can be organized in a hierarchy so as to realize retrievals at different demanded resolutions.</p> <p>These entities will be encouraged to utilize the free web page design available through the Realize Rutherford initiative RutherfordInfo.com, to list tourism, recreational, and other events, tours, etc. on the Rutherford County Tourism Development Authority site and NC Department of Commerce Division of Travel, Tourism, Film Sports Development free web site, agricultural related on the NC Department of Agriculture, artisans and art events listed on the Department of Cultural Resources site and that when appropriate listed on all other sites. In addition, the state designation of Rutherford County as an e-commerce community will prove beneficial in this endeavor as the business and technology center is established providing training and computer access.</p> <p>Developing heritage tourism "visitor prepared sites" and featuring them in quality web pages and tourism sites such as <i>rutherfordinfo.com</i>, <i>rutherfordtourism.com</i> or</p>

	<i>VisitNC.com</i> is important to Rutherford County's economy. <i>In 2004, the NC Department of Commerce, Division of Travel, Tourism, Film and Sports Development web site, VisitNC.com</i> had a new look and easy access that is interest based. The results are it received 46% more visits last year and 51% of these visits resulted in specific inquiries. This is what cyber-tourism is all about and what it can do for Rutherford County.
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Goal:	To provide maximum benefit to efforts to enhance heritage tourism in Rutherford County.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
TDA, Cooperative Extension, Realize Rutherford	\$8,000-10,000	June – December 2005

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage locations to create free websites on Rutherfordinfo.com Market rutherfordinfo.com to the county as a whole through radio, banners, press, flyers, etc. Update rutherfordinfo.com to add features like mapping, business profiles, current events, etc. Market rutherfordinfo.com regionally to increase tourism traffic to the website Get more local businesses and organizations to add a link to rutherfordinfo.com which will result in higher ranking on "Google" etc. 	Training Funding Personnel and money Personnel and money Personnel	Foothills Connect Realize Rutherford, eRutherford, and Foothills Connect Open Page Design and Kerry Giles, EDC Foothills Connect Foothills Connect, eRutherford, Realize Rutherford

Performance Measures:	# of visitors to the website. In the first 3 months since it was launched the average is 2000 a month. Increased marketing should double that figure by December 2005.
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Status:	Working with web designer to update the features of the website.
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Supporting Culture – Cultural, Heritage, Natural Resources, and Recreation
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Project Narrative:	<p>Rutherford County is well known for establishing coalitions that bring non-profit and public agencies together around issues of mutual interest, such as housing, child welfare, education, and visioning.</p> <p>Through the efforts of the Rutherford County Arts, Parks and Recreation Commission, a Rutherford County Outdoor Coalition has been formed. The arts groups participating in the Arts, Parks, and Recreation Commission have also decided to form a Cultural Coalition.</p> <p>In developing the Blue Ridge Heritage Plan, the Heritage Council is recommending forming a third coalition around history and heritage. It is clear that some of the initiatives such as the Heritage Center will take the efforts of all the heritage-oriented organizations working together to accomplish.</p> <p>Each Coalition, will serve as an umbrella organization to promote the three broad areas of culture, heritage and natural resources and recreation. The Coalition will also work to advise the county government on matters concerning these three areas. In addition, there may be opportunities for all three coalitions to work together for the betterment of the county.</p> <p>Cultural Coalition:</p> <p>The Culture Coalition is to encompass the areas of visual and performing arts; theater, literary pursuits and organizations and citizens who are involved in the promotion and preservation of their creative genre, as well as performance and other venues at which cultural events and endeavors are offered. . At the present time Rutherford County has several organizations devoted to visual and performing arts, theater and literary groups, and organizations preserving and promoting art, music, culture, and traditions. Several other organizations provide venues for performances and displays. In addition, as part of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Plan for the County, three amphitheaters are to be developed.</p> <p>In order to provide a coordinated effort, a non-profit Rutherford Cultural Coalition will provide a cohesive umbrella organization that embraces, promotes and celebrates the economic impact these activities provide and the contributions they make to the quality quality of life in Rutherford County.</p> <p>Heritage Coalition:</p> <p>The Heritage Coalition will function as the umbrella organization for groups, clubs, organization and residents involved in the promotion and preservation of Rutherford County’s heritage. Representation will be broad based and include representatives from the Rutherford County Historical Society, MaimyEtta Black Fine Arts Museum and Genealogical Society, The Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County, Colonial, Dames, The Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the Confederacy, Forest City Historic Commission, and others groups or individuals involved in the preservation Rutherford County’s history, tradition, stories.</p>
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	<p>The Outdoor Coalition:</p> <p>The Natural Resources/Recreation Outdoor Coalition will function as the umbrella organization for all groups and organizations devoted to preserving the mountains, rivers, streams, vistas and natural beauty of Rutherford County for their natural beauty and as areas for recreation opportunity for citizens and visitors to the area. Among groups to be included are the town and county recreation departments, rock climbing groups, conservancy groups and other groups to be identified.</p>
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Goal:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To function as the umbrella organizations for persons of like interest in the areas of culture, heritage and natural resources/outdoor recreation. ▪ To develop a calendars of event for the County ▪ To coordinate fund raising efforts ▪ To share information, develop cooperative promotion strategies, share resources and enhance countywide participation ▪ To seek new avenues for grants and foundation funding ▪ To enhance the quality of life for County citizens ▪ To develop a cooperative for marketing and sales so as to enhance tourism
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Rutherford County Arts, Parks, Recreation Commission; Rutherford Heritage Council; Rutherford County Tourism Authority;	\$3,000	

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop application process for organizations to participate in each coalition 2. Establish Bd. or Directors for each coalition 3. Secure non-profit status for each coalition 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Time 2. Volunteers 3. Approximately \$1000 per Coalition 	Same as Person/Organizations Responsible

Performance Measures:	Cooperation is enhanced and community participation increases in these areas as means to implement Heritage Plan initiatives
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Status:	The Rutherford Outdoor Coalition has its non-profit status and will serve as a model for the other two coalitions. Plans for Cultural and Heritage Coalitions continue to be discussed.
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Unified System of Trails –County & Regional
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Project Narrative:	<p>Rutherford County has many existing and proposed trails and natural areas that can effectively be developed into a unified countywide system. This system will provide increased recreational opportunities for residents and serve to increase tourism in the County. The system will be developed to enhance the proposed Hickory Nut Gorge State Park at the northwest corner of the County, the proposed improved access to South Mountain State Park on the northwestern corner, and enhanced non-motorized trail access to South Mountain through the Rollins Track, a game land. Rutherford County already has a developed portion of Rails to Trails, 18 miles of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail some of which is certified, horse trails, stagecoach routes, bike routes, the Rocky Broad Riverwalk in Chimney Rock, the Lake Lure walkway and numerous other waterways and greenways that can be tied together to create a system of trails that traverse the entire county.</p> <p>Other projects already underway or proposed which will positively impact the establishment of a unified system include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rutherford Outdoor Coalition has designated and publicized a series of eight bike trails in the county and has now proposed a series of paddle trails on the Broad River that can be tied in to the existing Broad River Greenway in Cleveland County and with proposed trails on the Green River in Polk County. • The Town of Rutherfordton has proposed the development of a greenway connecting Rails to Trails and the OVT through town and on to its Crestview Park, • Spindale has developed a revitalization plan to include a golf course and varied golf cart friendly routes and Forest City with several green park areas is planning how to connect these to other exiting trails. • Forest City is proposing to extend the Rails to Trails into town and especially to tie in with the Florence Mill facility which will house a museum and artifacts celebrating the industrialization of the County including both textiles and the railroads. • Ellenboro is working to revitalize it's depot located on the rail line. • A non-profit group is forming to preserve the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln on Puzzle Creek near Bostic which was a railroad hub. • The County owns various pieces of recreational property through out the county, which could be utilized as green space. This land is in addition to five community centers, former public schools that have been provided to communities for various activities including recreation. • Rutherfordton proposes to work in partnership with Polk County to extend certification of the OVT trail to Alexander's Ford on the Green River, the location of a proposed arts and crafts school which will be located less about five miles from Rutherfordton and 10 miles from Forest City. • Cliffside owners propose revitalization of the former mill property on the Second Broad River.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duke Power’s purchase of property on the Broad as the potential site for another steam plant. • Rivers suitable for paddle trails and blueways including the Broad, and others. • Chimney Rock Village plans to extend the Rocky Broad RiverWalk. • Lake Lure is in the process of implementing the Town Center Walkway that includes a greenway, pedestrian and bicycle paths, as well as connection with existing walking trails in the area. <p>Rutherford County presently does not have a Recreation Department. However, the Arts, Parks and Recreation Commission was appointed by County Commissioner to survey existing recreational, cultural and tourism related opportunities in the county. This Commission with the assistance of Isothermal Planning and Development Commission has completed a Recreation Plan to be presented Commissioners in its entirety in the coming months. Therefore the Rutherford County Planning Director has scheduled a meeting for county officials, BRNHA Heritage Council members, potential trail partners and others groups and individuals to meet with representatives of the National Park Service to discuss potential assistance with planning a county-wide system.</p> <p>The Heritage Council project is to recommend to Commissioners that an agreement be made between Rutherford County and the National Park Service to develop a plan and provide information and guidance in locating public/private and grant funding to complete projects related to the trails and recreation and preservation of greenspace.</p>
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Goal:	Determine the feasibility of establishing a unified trail/green space system to both preserve the natural resources of the county while providing additional green space and more opportunity for recreational opportunity for residents and visitors.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Rutherford County Planner/Rutherford County Heritage Council/Rutherford Outdoor Coalition/Rutherford Arts Parks & Recreation Commission/Isothermal Planning and Development Commission	\$0.00 – No charge for NPS planning process	1 year

Action Items: 1. Contact NPS Deidre Hewitt \	Resources Required:	Who’s Responsible:
2. Schedule meeting	Time	Rutherford County
3. Notify participants	Attendance	Planning Department & Rutherford County Arts/Parks/Recreation Commission

Performance Measures:	
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Status:	Planning with NPS continues. Assets mapped. On-going
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail : County
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Project Narrative:	<p>The Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail was authorized by the U.S. Congress in September 1980 and commemorates the campaign that led to the American victory at the Revolutionary War Battle of Kings Mountain in the fall of 1780. Administered by the National Park Service the Trail is established and maintained through a variety of different partnerships. It consists of a Commemorative Motor Route which uses existing state highways, as well as, a non-motorized route. The latter is still being developed but will eventually stretch some 330 miles through four different states.</p> <p>Within North Carolina, there are 204 miles of the Commemorative Motor Route, as well as potentially 201 miles of the non-motorized trail. The trail passes through nine counties in North Carolina, all of which are included in the BRNHA. As of December 2004, 34 miles of the non-motorized route within the state had been established and were publicly accessible.</p> <p>Eighteen miles of the Overmountain Victory Historic Trail traverse Rutherford County. Certified areas of the trail in the county include the Brittain Presbyterian Church Cemetery, one mile of the original trail from Gilbert Town to Hwy. 64 following the present day Rails to Trails pathway, and three miles within the town of Rutherfordton. Some sites along the trail are marked but much opportunity exists for further interpretation and certification.</p>
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Goal:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To mark all 18 miles of the Trail in Rutherford County both motorized and non-motorized. ▪ Establish a walking trail commemorating the OVT on Marlin's Knob at Cane Creek and tie in with OVT from McDowell County. ▪ Install a roadside marker commemorating the Cane Creek valley history in relationship to the trail. ▪ Work with Brittain Presbyterian Church to further develop interpretive nature of cemetery site to tell the story of the soldiers who are buried there. ▪ Develop interpretive panels and/or in depth interpretation of Gilbert Town's significance in it history and association to the King's Mountain campaign. ▪ Develop interpretative displays and a monument or appropriate marker for the historic trail within Rutherfordton's town limits and with the assistance of the National Park Service and Rutherford County Arts, Parks and Recreation Commission determine feasibility of establishing a walking/hiking trail along the historic trail. ▪ Seek easements and conservancy trusts from private landowners to provide non-motorized access to historical sections of the trail. ▪ Work cooperatively with Polk County in development of the Alexander Ford site on the Green River which is approximately five miles from Rutherfordton by setting the trail section from Rutherfordton to Alexander's Ford as the top priority for certification and access acquisition.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
National Park Service, Rutherford County, Nine BRNHA Counties	\$200,000 – Rutherford County; \$1,000,000 in 9 counties.	10- 15 years

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
Establish Partnership with Polk and Rutherford County; join regional BRNHA OVT initiative	NPS Superintendent Partner Counties/Groups	NPS Superintendent

Performance Measures:	Continual addition of trail sections on ground annually, gradual development of interpretive media and special event scheduled annually
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Status:	In progress
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
PRIORITY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail – Rutherfordton Segment
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Project Narrative:	<p>Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail</p> <p>The Town of Rutherfordton was formed when the Constitution of the United States was just an idea, when Old Fort in McDowell County was the end of the world. In 1789 Patriot militia came through what is now the downtown area while hunting for the British Army. The Overmountain Victory National Trail commemorates the 14-day march of patriot militia across the Appalachians to the Piedmont region of North and South Carolina.</p> <p>By the fall of 1780, Charleston had been captured and with it the majority of the Southern Continental Army. Additional losses at Waxhaw, South Carolina on May 29th, and Camden, South Carolina, on August 16th left the Continental Army with only militia remaining to oppose the British.</p> <p>Victory for the Royal troops and an end to talk of independence seemed near. On September 30th Patriots from Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina met at McDowell House, Quaker Meadows. From there they headed south to Gilbert Town where the patriots expected to fight the British Army commanded by Major Patrick Ferguson.</p> <p>Ferguson had been warned about the Patriot militia and was not there when they arrived. Both armies shared the same campsite at Gilbert Town. The militia came through Rutherfordton on October 5, 1780 marching down through an area between Green and Southern Streets following the path of Cleghorn Creek. They turned between Court Street and Charlotte Road and headed up towards present day Rutherford Hospital.</p> <p>Two days later the Patriots found Ferguson’s Army on Kings Mountain. There they defeated British troops, setting in motion events that led to the British surrender at Yorktown and the end of the Revolutionary War.</p>
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Goal:	To recognize Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail’s impact and influence on the Town of Rutherfordton’s history.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
RTR/Town of Rutherfordton	\$175,000	18 months

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who’s Responsible:
1. Monument(s) commemorating our Revolutionary War heritage.	\$80,000	RTR
2. Complete certification of remaining portion of trail through Rutherfordton		National Park Service
3. Visibly mark OVT throughout the	\$10,000	RTR/Town of

Town limits		
4. Create a greenway with an amphitheater and a trail linking the Town's two parks to the OVT	\$85,000	Rutherfordton RTR/Town of Rutherfordton
5. Locate a historical wayside information marker for OVT		National Park Service

Performance Measures:	
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Status:	RTR/Town of Rutherfordton actively working with Deidre Hewitt of RTC-Blue Ridge Parkway and Paul Carson, National Park Service
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Trail of the Rutherford Trace in Rutherford County
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Project Narrative:	<p>General Griffith Rutherford came to Fort McGaughey in present day Rutherford County in August 1776 to amass troops especially awaiting those who were coming to join his effort from Surry and Guilford County. In late August he marched from Fort McGaughey southwest through Gilbert Town to Fort McFadden amassing more militia from the settlers who were in the forts to protect themselves and their families against Indians. From Fort McFadden the expedition went to Hampton's Fort on to Grant's Fort, Pott's Fort, all located in present day Rutherford County and on to Montford's Fort. The expedition then continued ultimately to Cathey's Fort in present day McDowell County. (Source: Powell, <u>North Carolina Gazeteer</u> and C.L. Hunter, <u>Western North Carolina Biographical Sketches</u>).</p> <p>The story of national and regional significance known as the Rutherford Trace is important to Rutherford County's history. This story is one of several to be told in the Heritage Center/Museum. In addition, appropriate supportive materials for citizens and for visitors to the area will be developed.</p>
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Goal:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retell and preserve Rutherford County's part in this story of national interest • Identify and appropriately mark with interpretive displays locations including forts that were of importance in this story. • Preserve artifacts from this era in the Rutherford County Heritage Center/Museum • Identify as part of the Rutherford Trace and the trails of the expedition. • Develop curriculum materials for students in Western North Carolina • Develop a brochure and other appropriate materials for distribution in the Heritage Center/Museum and at visitors centers and welcome stations.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Rutherford County Historic Resource Commission/Rutherford County Historical Society/Regional Committee on the Rutherford Trace, NC Department of History and Archives, Cherokee Preservation	\$13,000.00	2-3 years

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
1. Conduct Research 2. Develop Signage 3. Develop Brochure/Materials - materials currently being developed by regional committee may suffice	1. Regional/national committee working 2. \$10,000 3. \$3,000	

Performance Measures:	Signage in place/brochures developed and distributed
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Status:	In Progress
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Rails to Trails
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Project Narrative:	<p>Approximately eight miles of the old Southern Railway have been legally ‘banked’ and converted into a crushed gravel Rail Trail extending from Gilkey to Spindale.</p> <p>The project intends to extend that trail to the greatest extent possible, with extension from the Spindale end being most likely.</p> <p>The Rail Trail is an effective ‘spine’ from which other trails and greenways can be connect.</p>
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Goal:	Seek grant money and other funding sources to bank and extend the trail system and improve marketing of the trail for local use, tourism and events.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Bechtler Corporation; public/private partnerships	\$100,000	5 Years

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who’s Responsible:
Write grants and seek other funding sources		Bechtler and others
Improve marketing efforts		
Plan and implement events		

Performance Measures:	Track use and success in extending trail
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Status:	On-going
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Waterway Trails & Greenways
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Project Narrative:	The Broad River Paddle Trail is to be developed over the approximately 40 miles of the Broad River from the Lake Lure dam to the Cleveland County line. There will be 10 or more access sites for day use with potential for overnight campsites and small parks at access sites. This trail can be linked with Broad River Greenway in Cleveland County, as well as any land greenways and trails such as the Overmountain Victory Trail in Rutherford and neighboring Polk County. The paddle trail and greenway also may be linked with already established bicycle trails for dual-sport enthusiasts and as part of a proposed Rutherford County Unified Trail System.
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Goal:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To preserve the natural beauty and resources of the Broad River area 2. To provide enhanced recreational resources for the citizens, sports enthusiasts and tourists To work cooperatively with neighboring counties 3. To develop a plan for greenway development
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Rutherford Outdoor Coalition	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Construct access points for paddle trails/dual sports trails \$50,000 2. Develop Greenway Plan \$10,000 	3-10 years

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
Develop Plan Write grants Partner with county/state/landowners/National Park Service/public & private partners Publish map		Rutherford Outdoor Coalition (ROC)Rutherford County/National Park Service/ROC/Arts, Parks, Recreation Commission

Performance Measures:	Number of sites open and advertised, amount of use
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Status:	Underway with fours sites secured
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RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Road Bicycle Trails
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Project Narrative:	<p>The Rutherford Outdoor Coalition through a grant from the Tourism Development Authority recently published a map of road bike trails.</p> <p>Rutherford County is a very pleasurable place to road bicycle because of the variety of terrain and the light traffic. It is a naturally place for those from larger cities nearby to come ride.</p> <p>The ROC is also hosting an annual fall tour.</p>
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Goal:	<p>Seek grant money and other funding sources to place signs and markings on the trails.</p> <p>Further market the trails through the Internet and other media.</p>
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Rutherford Outdoor Coalition	\$15,000	2 Years

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
Seek grant money for signs	\$5,000	ROC
Market the trails	\$10,000	

Performance Measures:	Track use; 75 Tour de Pumpkin participants
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Status:	In progress. Fall 2006 Tour de Pumpkin successful
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Stoneman's Raid Trail
Project Narrative:	<p>In the Civil War campaign known as Stoneman's Raid, Union troops made their way into Rutherford County on two occasions. The first instance involved Civil War General Gillem leading a group of Southern recruits known as "Home Yankees". They had been recruited locally to fight on the Union side. After attempting to cross into Western North Carolina through to Asheville and finding themselves blocked at Swannanoa Gap near present day Old Fort, Gillem proceeded into Rutherford County coming from McDowell coming through Montford's Cove and thorough Nanneytown (near present day Thermal City). The troops probably followed Cathey's Creek down the road today known as Rock Road and arrived in the county seat of Rutherfordton where they burned buildings and "thoroughly trounced" citizens in the area now that is N.Washington Street. They continued on to Polk County following a route (present day Coxe Road) stopping at the Green River Plantation near the Rutherford/Polk County line. At the Plantation horse prints reported to be those of Union soldiers are seen in the parlor flooring. They then made their way up Howard's Gap into present day Henderson County.</p> <p>"One of the last great dramas of the War Between the States unfolded in stages in upstate South Carolina in the closing days of the conflict. On, Friday, April 29, 1865, a column of Federal calvary clattered into Spartanburg.They were part of a much larger force ordered into the Upstate in an effort to intercept President Jefferson Davis, who was known to be fleeing south from the Confederate capital of Richmond. Brigadier General William Palmer and his group of regular Union troops from Pennsylvania and Michigan came in to Rutherford County from Mecklenburg through Lincoln County following what is known as the old Lincolnton stagecoach route. "entered Spartanburg from Rutherford County by the way of Island Ford Road on the Broad River and the Cowpens Battleground section."(Foster Montgomery, 1998, "Last Drama of War"). (Note:Island Ford is located beneath the bridge over the Broad River on Highway 221 South in Rutherford County below Riverstone Business Park. Standing on the bridge, the actual ford can be seen today and in the background to the west is an impressive railroad trestle which was once the tallest trestle in North Carolina.)</p> <p>It is reported that Palmer and his regular soldiers apologized for the actions against the citizens of Rutherford that had occurred with the "Home Yankees."</p>

Goal:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preserve, protect, promote the route taken in both routes taken through Rutherford County in what is known as Stoneman's Raid ▪ Include the route in the Rutherford County unified trail system ▪ Mark the routes with appropriate signage ▪ Provide information to the Division of Tourism, Film, and Sports Development for inclusion in future Civil War publications
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Rutherford County Historical Society; Arts/Parks/Recreation Commission; Civil War Re-enactors; NC Division of History and Archives; NC Department of Commerce –Tourism Division	1. Signage - to be provided by Division of Tourism – local cost \$1100. Civil War Trails Project 2. Inclusion in unified trails system \$8,000 Total - \$9,100	1 year

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
1. Participate in Unified Trails Planning 2. Contact Division of Tourism		Bill Robertson/Historical Society ?

Performance Measures:	Signs contracted
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Status:	Two Civil War Trail Interpretative Signs contracted with NC Division of Tourism to be included in 2007 publication.
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Rocky Broad RiverWalk-Chimney Rock Village
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Project Narrative:	<p>The 1998 first phase of the Rocky Broad RiverWalk was completed and dedicated only two years after the area was devastated by a flood that not only affected the river and river access, but left structures along the river, roads and even the Chimney Rock Village sewer system damaged. With the assistance of Handmade in America, the NC Department of Parks and Recreation Adopt a Trail program, the assistance of the NC Department of Corrections inmates and of that students from Warren Wilson College, and under the leadership and support of Village residents and the Chimney Rock Village Community Development Association, access to the Rocky Broad from Main Street and a scenic walk along the river was opened to the public. It quickly a favorite place for hikers, walkers, fisherman and tourists.</p> <p>In 2004, as a result of Hurricane Francis, the area was flooded once again. With the assistance of the Federal Emergency Management Administration, matching funds from the Chimney Rock Community Development Association and assistance from Handmade in America, the RiverWalk with Main Street access has been rebuilt and now extends from the downtown area along the river, or in some places along the highway, to a location near the River Park, a picnic park behind the old fire station.</p> <p>The second stage of the RiverWalk remains to be constructed. It will provide access from the River Park on to the proposed Phase Two of the Lake Lure Greenway. This connection will form a single walking route from the center of Chimney Rock to the center of Lake Lure.</p>
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Goal:	To provide a continuous scenic RiverWalk and pedestrian way from the Main Street area of Chimney Rock Village to the proposed Phase Two of the Lake Lure Greenway.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Chimney Rock Village Council; Chimney Rock Community Development Association	\$50,000	2 to 5 years

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
1. Obtain easements and or properties as required 2. Construct RiverWalk second stage	Funding from grants, fund raisers, etc.	Chimney Rock Community Development Association

Performance Measures:	RiverWalk repaired following flooding 2006
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Status:	On-going
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RUTHERFORD COUNTY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Town Center Walkway – Lake Lure Phase II
Project Narrative:	<p>Lake Lure is a tourist resort community with high numbers of visitors in summer and fall seasons. Memorial Highway, a two-lane road, is the only route through Hickory Nut Gorge and the Town of Lake Lure. Because traffic volume is high and traffic speed is low, many people choose to either walk or bike through this congested area. Visitors and residents currently use the existing .3 mile wooden boardwalk from Morse Park to the Beach and the “town center” and have requested an extension of the pedestrian walk west toward Chimney Rock Village and east to the Lake Lure Post Office.</p> <p>The area also has numerous bicyclists in that Memorial Highway (US 64/74A) is a designated Scenic Byway. While bicycles are not allowed on the boardwalk, speed limits have been reduced to help ensure their safety; but safety for pedestrians and bicyclists along this busy corridor remain a concern. The proposed Lake Lure Town Center Walkway Project will provide a safe, convenient means for both pedestrians and bicyclists to travel through this congested center of Lake Lure.</p> <p>The project will parallel Memorial Highway (US 64/74A) beginning at the intersection with boys Camp Road, running easterly past Morse Park and along the shore of the harbor portion of Lake Lure through the town center to the Lake Lure Post Office. Right of ways or easements will be obtained as required with donations encouraged. The Town owns the remainder of the land adjacent to the highway and paved paths will be routed off the highway around two semi-circular, town-owned wooden areas to be developed as pocket parks with benches and picnic facilities. Appropriate signage, trash receptacles, water fountains and rest areas will be incorporated.</p> <p>McGill Associates of Asheville, NC completed a Master Plan for the Lake Lure Town Center Walkway in June 2002. At that time the total projected project cost was \$248,869. The project is to be completed in two phases: Phase I will run from Boys Camp Road to the ABC Store. The pathway will consist of a combination of asphalt and concrete sections which will run along Memorial Highway to the boardwalk, then along the Lake on the boardwalk to the Lake Lure beach house and then on to the ABC Store as an asphalt path along the fence constructed by Lake Lure Tours. Several crossings on the highway will be completed in embossed asphalt having the appearance of terra cotta paving stones. Also included in Phase I are landscaping and several drinking fountains and benches.</p> <p>Lake Lure made application to the Federal Highway Administration to receive Federal Highway Administration transportation enhancement funds under TEA-21, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Center. The application was approved NC Board of Transportation. Actual work on the project is awaiting NC Department of Transportation final review of design standards before l construction is begun.</p> <p>Phase II will include completion of the Walkway to the Lake Lure Post Office. The project will <u>also</u> eventually run from the Chimney Rock Village limits at Boys</p>

	<p>Camp Road where it will connect with the proposed extension of the Rocky Broad RiverWalk. In addition, the Town Center Walkway will tie in with existing walking trails in the Lake Lure area including a trail at the town park and a moderately strenuous .8 trail along the shoreline slated to loop around and connect to the Walkway.</p> <p>The completed Lake Lure Town Center Walkway will provide an alternative transportation system and encourage motorists to park and walk, will provide the benefit of enhanced exercise opportunities, as well as provide safe and convenient pedestrian access to locations within the town center and with neighboring Chimney Rock Village.</p>
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Goal:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop an alternative transportation system to encourage motorists to park and walk along the Scenic Byway. 2. Encourage visitors and residents to walk and bicycle for enhanced physical well being. 3. Reduce congestion on a state road along with decreased gasoline consumption and air pollution. 4. Provide safe and convenient pedestrian access to destination points in the heart of the community including historical sites, festival locations at which regional arts and crafts are displayed and sold, retail establishments, a medical center, and local and state government buildings. 5. Provide partnership with the neighboring community of Chimney Rock Village for enhanced economic benefit to both municipalities.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Town of Lake Lure; FHA;NCDOT; CDC, grant funding sources	Phase I - \$118,501 Phase II -\$130,368	Phase I – 2 year Phase II – to be determined

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design work for Town Center Walkway 2. Seek funding for Phase I 3. Phase I construction 4. Seek funding Phase II 5. Phase II construction 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete 2. Complete 3. NCDOT scheduling 	Town of Lake Lure

Performance Measures:	1. Design complete; 2. Phase I funding in place awaiting. NCDOT to schedule construction. 3. Lake Lure Recreation Board appointed.
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Status:	In Progress
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Blue Ridge National Heritage Area PRIORITY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	Cherry Bounce Trail
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Project Narrative:	<p>The Cherry Bounce Trail is a project of the 2005-2006 Leadership Rutherford Class. It is a 52 mile motor tour that could also be used for bicycle tours. The trail begins at the Rutherford County Courthouse and travels south on 221A to Charlotte Road, left on Charlotte Road, becomes Main Street Spindale, Hwy 74, at the Spindale City Limits, and continues through Main Street, Forest City. Turn left on the Bostic Sunshine Highway (initiatives are currently in place to rename this highway to something with Lincoln in the name as the initiative to promote Rutherford County as the birth place of Abraham Lincoln continues), continue thorough the town of Bostic, take a right on the Salem Church Road, at the end of this road, turn left on the Hollis Road, turn left on Duncan's Creek Road, turn right on the Bostic Sunshine Highway to Hwy 226. Highway 226 has been designated as scenic by the NC Department of Transportation. Continue on Hwy 226 to the Highway 64 connection. Go West on Hwy 64 to Rutherfordton, returning to Highway 221 South and back to the Rutherford County Courthouse.</p> <p>You may begin at any point along the route, but it is recommended you travel in this direction since Cherry Mountain and South Mountain and a ridge line are visible ahead and to the left almost all along the route when traveling in this direction. Traveling in the opposite direction puts most of the ridge views behind you.</p> <p>In the early 1800's there were many cherry trees on Cherry Mountain, and the property owner was known for his brewing of Cherry Bounce. Naming the route after the infamous Amos Owen's concoction makes the journey seem like an exciting and fun route to travel.</p> <p>The cities along this route are recognized for their beauty by the state and by the citizens, especially during the Christmas holidays. There is no more beautiful route to view fall foliage than along the Cherry Bounce Trail. Spring brings on many wild flowers and the meadows and hilltops along this route provide views often exceeding 70 miles.</p> <p>The project has also included application to the NC Department of Transportation to have the portion of Hwy 64 from the McDowell/Rutherford line to Hwy 64/74 in Rutherfordton designated as scenic. The application process is complete and has the support of the Rutherfordton town counsel, the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners, Senator Walter Dalton, the Economic Development Board and the</p>
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	<p>Tourism Development Authority.</p> <p>The trail goes directly by 11 historical markers and many others are less than one block off the route. It also passes the reported birth place of Abraham Lincoln which is marked by monument and passes through Golden Valley which was a gold producing community in days gone by and still has some individuals finding minimum amounts of gold in the local streams. The first WWI Veteran Memorial is located on this route as well and a portion of the Revolutionary War Victory Trail.</p> <p>Fund raising efforts are currently in progress to be able to produce and print brochures advertising this route and to purchase and mark the trail with professional signs. The website has been established and is also under construction – www.cherrybouncetrail.com. Many other websites have agreed to provide a link to this site.</p>
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Goal:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage tourists to visit our beautiful county and to make Rutherford County citizens more aware of the beauty that is in our own back yard. 2. To preserve the natural beauty of this area. 3. To encourage tourists to seek lodging and restaurant services in all cities in our county. 4. To join with other trails or projects to promote our County as a whole
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Leadership Rutherford (Originated by the class of 2005-2006)	Approximately \$5,000	Less than 1 Year

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
<p>Complete layout and publication of brochure.</p> <p>Order and install road signs designating the route.</p> <p>Complete the website.</p>	<p>Manpower to install road signs and distribute brochures.</p> <p>Soliciting for the funds to complete all tasks is ongoing.</p>	<p>Rose Mueller, Rheba Ward, Chris Fuller, the Leadership Rutherford Board, the Chamber of Commerce and the members of the Leadership Rutherford class</p>

Performance Measures:	Over \$3,000 has been raised toward this effort. A brochure is in draft stage and should be completed very soon. The web site is available and ready for GIS data to be entered.
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Status:	Underway. Signs in place. Brochures printed and distributed.
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ASSETS INVENTORY RUTHERFORD COUNTY

MUSICAL ASSETS

Nina Simone	Born Polk	Forest City connection
Earl Scruggs	Cleveland Count	Played at Hollis & other sites
Hollis Fiddler's Convention	Hollis	50 year tradition
Ellenboro's Fiddler's Convention	Ellenboro	Saturday before Thanksgiving
Timber Ridge Bluegrass		
Broad River Bluegrass		
Legal Grounds	Rutherfordton	musical venue
Tom Cowan		artist
WNCW-FM	Spindale	traditional blue-grass & old time music pro
WCAB-AM	Rutherfordton	Gospel, country, Pop
WAGY – AM		Country, gospel, etc.
Southern Gospel Association Concert	Rutherfordton	concert series
Ottis Cook Memorial Music Park	Golden Valley	Golden Valley Music Park
The Foundation	Spindale	performance venue
Community Concert Series	Rutherfordton	performance series by membership
RS Central High Auditorium	Rutherfordton	performance venue
Golden Valley Crusaders	Golden Valley	performers - gospel, traditional
Isothermal Singers	Spindale	community/college choir
Community Chorus	Spindale	annually perform Handel's Messiah
Dianna McEnnerney	Union Mills	pianist/organist/composer
David Cook	Forest City	jazz/pop - son of Bo Diddley
New Bethel AME Zion Church	Forest City	annual Pioneer Day
Flynn Dunham	Baltimore	80+ year old banjo player taught in Graham
Randy McCrayley	Forest City	original Platter
Boogie Fest	Spindale	annual event
Music on the Mountain	Chimney Rock	summer series
Little Symphony of Rutherford Count	Rutherfordton	members of all ages form community symp
Thermal City Brass Quintet		group of performers
Forest City Pipers		bag pipe players
Whitey Grant	Henrietta	Briar Hopper grew up in Henrietta
Dennis McIntyre	Union Mills	banjo and traditional sounds
Snuffy Jenkins	Harris	3-finger picking style attributed to him
WWOL - AM	Forest City	religious,gospel
Green Acres Music Park	Golden Valley	music venue - traditional music
Jeremiah & Mary Council		performers
Michael Reno Harrill		music
David Childress		music
Desmond P. Moller		music
Phillip David Ruff		popular/rock music

Ted Vaughn		music/theater/visual/audio/performing arts
Allen A. Youngblood		jazz/blues
Richard (Dick) Beard	Rutherfordton	instrument maker/dulcimer
Ben Seymour	Green Creek	instrument maker
Ben Humphries	Moorestown	Music historian
David Roach		Composer, pianist
David Cook Trio		classy jazz,
Coffee Crumbs	Chimney Rock	Music Venue - every Saturday night included
Legal Grounds	Rutherfordton	Music venue - www. legalgrounds.net
Becky's Restaurant	Rutherfordton	bluegrass - Earl Arrowood Thurs. 7-9 pm
Eric Bradley	Bostic	instructor/musician - traditional music
Chiketa & Rusty Collins		instructor/s/musicians
CRAFTS & ARTS ASSETS		
Rose Tripoli Mueller	Bostic	ceramic media
John D. Fisher	Cliffside	glass/stained glass
Beth Fisher		stained glass
Susan Waters		glass/jewelry
John King		clay
Kiowa Cilone		clay
Roscoe Conn	Rutherfordton	multi-disciplinary visual arts
Bob Bacon	Green Hill	sketch artist
Clive Hames		murals & tromp l'oeil
Scott Richard Fair		sculpture/architecture/video
Berhard Hauserman		painting
Fred Lee Mead, Jr		sculpture/glass/interior design
Lynn Tanner		modern dance/painting/poetry
Pell Tanner		visual arts
Robert J. Trotman		sculpture/design arts/woodworking
Doug Elliott		fiber arts/oral traditions/folk/traditional stories
Madge Hyatt		crafts
Nancy Kubale-Wicker		mixed media
Patsy McEntire		fiber arts
James E. Weitzel		painting/sculpture/plastics/woodworking/metal
Dr. Nancy C. Winker		oil
Everlyn Roberson		oil
John Griffin		watercolor
Donna Scofield		watercolor
Winifred J. Magaw		watercolor
Tika Tucker		basketry
Arts,Parks & Recreation Committee	County	education/coordination
The Painter's Gap Gallery	Rutherfordton	gallery – local artists
The Gallery	Rutherfordton	gallery – local artists

Blue Moon Gallery	Cliffside	art co-op
Wade Stacey		wildlife painting
Ben Seymour	Green Creek	luthier/instrument maker/musician
Richard (Dick) Beard	Rutherfordton	Instrument maker
Ruby Lowery		basketry
Tom Whitaker		ash glazed pottery
Dr. Joe Godfrey	Forest City	rocking chairs
Don Craig	Golden Valley	pottery - Burlon's son
Annette Francis		mixed media/art education
CHEROKEE ASSETS		
Rutherford Trace		
Flat Rock		
Artifacts	Various location	
Mounds	Various location	
Abraham Lincoln Story		Nancy Hanks -Rutherford County
Hickory Nut Gorge		
Legends or Little People		
White Clay for Pottery		
Plants for Crafts		
SCOTS-IRISH ASSETS		
Genealogical Society of Old Tryon C	Forest City	largest private collection west of NC Archiv
Brittain Presbyterian Church	Union Mills	oldest church west of Catawba
Presbyterian Churches	Other communit	
MaimeEtta Black Fine Arts Museum		
Historical Society	Forest City	
Forest City Pipers	Forest City	organization practice/play bagpipes
Linne'Ardan	Lake Lure	B&B with traditional Scottish hospitality, a
Ben Seymour	Green Creek	musical instruments

HISTORICAL ASSETS

Top Priorities Identified in Community Meetings

- Gilbert Town
- Bechtler Mine & Mint
- Towns and Communities

National Register of Historic Places

1. Main Street Historic District Forest City 1900-1924, 1925-1949, 1950-1974
(Roughly bounded by Blanton Alley, Huntley Street, Yarboro Street and Broadway Street. Includes city hall, meeting hall, dwellings, commercial bldg. Florence Mill site – re-development project)
2. Main Street Historic District Rutherfordton 1875-1899, 1900-1924, 1925-1949
(Roughly bounded by Taylor, Court, Washington and West Third Streets. Includes former city hall/fire station, commercial, government, retail.)
3. Forest City Baptist Church (First Baptist) 1900-1924, 1925-1949
301 W. Main Street, Forest City, North Carolina
4. Cool Spring High School 1900-1924, 1925- 1949

- (Rutherford County School Administrative Offices)
382 West Main Street Forest City, North Carolina
5. Watson, T. Max House 1925-1949
297 E. Main Street, Forest City
 6. Bechtler Mint Site 1825-1849 Hwy. 221 N
& Gilboa Church Road, Rutherfordton
 7. Gilbert Town (OVT) (now in process of being added to National Register) Area from Oak Springs Rd/Rock Rd/Broyhill Rd. Rutherfordton. Site of first county seat. Significant as site in Revolutionary War Battle of Kings Mountain as the only site at which both Tories and Patriots camped. Many notable Revolutionary War figures passed through
 8. Carrier-Ward House 1825-1849
Carrier-McBrayer House 1875-1899
415 & 423 North Main Street, Rutherfordton
 9. Cliffside Public School 1922, 1941, 1920
North Main Street Cliffside,
 10. Fox Haven Plantation 1800-1824
SW of Rutherfordton on SR 1157, Rutherfordton
 11. Ledbetter, James Dexter House 1900-1924
Off Hwy 74, Forest City. Traveling East on right before Public Service Corp.
 12. Melton-Fortune Farmstead Building 1750-1799, 1825-1849
SR 1006 South of NC 226, Golden Valley
 13. Pine Gables (AKA Logan House) 1800-1824, 1825-1849,
328 Boys Camp Rd. Lake Lure 1850-1874, 1875-1899, 1900 -1924, 1925-1949
Known as the Red Coach Inn – perhaps in the oldest inn in county faced the HickoryNutTurnpikestagecoach route.
Built about 1792. Old toll collection house near the Buncombe County line.
 14. Rutherford County Courthouse 1925-1949
Main St. between 2nd & 3rd Street, Rutherfordton
 16. Rutherfordton-Spindale Central High School 1900-1924, 1925-1949
Jct. Charlotte Rd (US 74 Bus) & US 74, NW corner, Rutherfordton
(Now RS Middle School)
 17. St. Luke's Chapel Building 1900-1924, 1925-1949
Jct. of Hospital Drive & Old Twitty Ford Road
 18. Trinity Lutheran Church Building 1825-1849
(AKA St. John's Episcopal Church) exceptional Greek Revival styling
702 N. Main Street, Rutherfordton
 19. Washburn Historic District 1900-1924, 1925-1949, 1950 -1974
2401, 2426, 2436 Bostic Sunshine Hwy
1391, 1392 Andrews Mill Road
126-156, 157 Salem Church Road, Bostic
 20. Logan, George W. House (AKA Jobe Hill) 1823-1849
SR 1555 at US 64, Rutherfordton
 21. Rutherfordton Town Hall & Fire Station – Application in process. (The Fireside Inn),
N. Washington St. Rutherfordton

Historical Markers

1. Ferguson Ridge Hwy. 221 N. near Hudlow Rd.
2. Gilbert Town Marker In front of Roberson House on Oak Springs Rd. past Tanner's

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| 3. First Gilbert Town Courthouse | State Historical Marker on Hwy. 221-Rock Rd. at bridge before Tanner's |
| 4. Bechtler Mine/Mint Site | Hwy. 221 N. on right going N. past high school |
| 5. St. John's Episcopal Church | Main Street, Rutherfordton at 5 th Street |
| 6. Bechtler House | 6 th Street Rutherfordton |
| 7. Joshua Forman | At Rutherfordton City Cemetery, N. Main Street past St. Francis Church |
| 8. St. Luke's Chapel | Hospital Drive at Twitty Ford Rd. |
| 9. Pott's Fort | Bills Creek Road |
| 10. Hampton's Fort | In front of Green Hill School Hwy 64/74 toward Lake Lure |
| 11. Biggerstaff's Old Tree | Hanging tree. Nine Tories hanged after Battle of Kings Mountain. 5 miles N.E. Bostic at Red Chimneys. Eight were buried in shallow trench ½ mile away. Whiteside Road area junction of Bostic /Sunshine Hwy. |
| 12. Fort McGaughey | At Brittain Church Hwy 64 toward Morganton |
| 13. Brittain Presbyterian Church | Hwy 64 toward Morganton |
| 14. Fort McFadden | Mt. Creek Road, Rutherfordton |
| 15. Tanner/Haynes | On Harris Henrietta Road |
| 16. First Baptist Church, Forest City | Main St/junction Church St. |
| 17. First Baptist Church, Rutherfordton, N. Main St. | Rutherfordton |
| 18. James Adair | Front of County Annex, N. Main Street Rutherfordton |
| 19. Stoneman's Raid | N. Washington St. Rutherfordton between 2 nd and 3 rd St. |
| 20. Elisha Baxter | 10 th governor of Arkansas. Main St. FC jct. Broadway |

New Markers to be erected 2005

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| 21. Susan Twitty | On Bell property near new bridge over Broad River. According to legend, she helped her brother and stepfather, Col. William Graham, defend Graham's Fort, their home, from a Tory raiding party in September of 1780. |
| 22. Clarence Griffith | County Historian (deceased) Forest City Downtown |
| 23. Robert Campbell | 96 year old shot Ferguson near Gilbert Town |
| Centennial Rd. | |
| 24. Samuel Richardson | Harris area |
| 25. High Shoals Iron Works | Broad River near Henrietta |
| 26. Cliffside | |
| 27. Town of Ayre | Site of tannery where saddles were made during Civil War era |
| 28. Rutherford Trace | Campaign led by Gen. Griffith Rutherford to remove Cherokee from area located at Ft. McGaughey site near Brittain Church, Hwy. 64 |
| 29. James Milton Webb home | Built 1825. He was influential in establishing Gardner-Webb University -Home of Joan and Ben Wall, Hwy. 64 |

OTHER HISTORICAL ASSETS

Overmountain Victory Trail – 18 miles
 Fairgrounds at Spindale
 Chimney Rock Park Gates
 Lake Lure Dam

Lake Lure Inn
 Lake Lure Arcade
 Bottomless Pool
 Potts Fort – Bills Creek (Rutherford Trace)
 Ayre – Post Office
 Pott's Fort
 Fort McFadden (Rutherford Trace)
 Fort McGaughey (Rutherford Trace)
 Hampton's Fort (Rutherford Trace)
 George C. McKinney House sits across from where British Col Dunlop and his men were ambushed. Located in historic Gil
 Town area scene of Rutherford County first court and site where Americans are buried on Ferguson Hill. Purchased from the
 Forney family, 1896.
 Andrew's Mill
 Puzzle Creek – legendary birthplace of Abraham Lincoln to Nancy Hanks (between Washburn & Bostic)
 Brickyard - Bostic
 Train yard (Pea Ridge)
 Ellenboro Depot
 Colfax Gin
 Hopewell Gin
 Bostic Train Station
 Bostic Bank
 Biggerstaff Store
 Rutherford Fair Ground and histories of Race Track
 J.W. Waters Rack Track
 Harris Race Track
 Stoneman's Raid
 Hollis World War I Monument
 Alexander Mills Ball Park – 1st lighted ball park in S.E.
 Harris Home place
 Sulphur Springs Hotel and Spa
 Lake Lure Golf Course
 Lodge on Lake Lure – Highway Patrol retreat used for R&R after WW II
 Rutherfordton Clubhouse
 Woodrow Jones Community Bldg
 Alexander School
 White Oak
 Union Mills Dobbsville Crab Apple Gap
 Tate House – instrumental in RR
 Spindale House
 The Front - Main Street Spindale
 Elmore House
 Salem & Forest City mustering grounds
 Vance Academy
 Rosemont House 1881 – Isaac Newton Home – orphanage
 Holly Springs gold mine
 Holly Springs school/hotel/spa
 Jarrett's Creek Campground
 Black Mountain House

Richard Hicks Home 1850
 Jason Cole Home 1900
 Jenkins Road House Snuffy Jenkins home – a government licensed whiskey distillery
 Hicksville Chase 1860
 Rutherford Hospital and the black community
 Tom Freeman Road
 Garfield Logan
 Sulfur Springs AMZ church
 Vance School
 Fowler Land Gin
 Clinchfield RR/Trestle
 Briscoe Farm

TEXTILE MILLS & MILL VILLAGES

Henrietta Mill 1	1885 – High Shoals	
Henrietta Mills 2	1896 – Caroleen	
Florence Mill	1897 – Coal	
Cleghorn Mill	1898-99 – Rutherfordton	Levi
Cliffside Mill & Railroad Yard	1900 – water powered	
Spencer Mill		
Spindale Mill		
Stonecutter Mill		
Sterling Hoisery Mill	Spindale	
Elmore Corporation		
Haynes Mill	Avondale	1916-1923
Alexander Mills		
Grace Mill	Rutherfordton	
Spinners Processing		
High Shoal Iron Works		
Alexander Mills Village	intact mill village	
Cliffside Mill Village	housing redevelopment on village infrastructure of mill village	
First Bank Carpenter & Morrow	Rutherfordton	1891
Second Bank Levi	Rutherfordton	1895, operated until 1900
1 st Bank in Forest City		1904

HISTORICAL ASSETS

Source Architectoral Survey of Rutherford (Note: Some buildings may no longer stand)

Early Homes

William Huddleston House – early log	Logan Store Township
Black House	Camp Creek Township
Andrew Logan House	Antebellum Camp Creek Township
Carson-Logan House	Logan Township
Fox Haven (NRHP)	Flemish bond brick/erected for John Morris 1823
Trinity Lutheran (St. John's)	Rutherfordton 1846 (Historical Society)
Cleghorn Mansion	1834 John Pike Murals
Holly Hill	Main St. Rutherfordton circa 1840
Alexander House	Revival farm house 1840
Dr. Ladson A. Mills House	1845

Florence Plant	1897	
Haynes Plant	1916	Avondale
Haynes Brick Store		High Shoals Township
<u>Mill Villages</u>		
Spindale	some structures remain	
Forest City		
Cliffside	redevelopment planned on old infrastructure of village	
	2006	
Avondale		
Caroleen		
Alexander Mills	only intact mill village in county	
<u>Camp Creek Township</u>		
Black House	1800	
Centennial UMC	1876	
Crawley-Smart House	1900 (S.P. Smart descendents)	
James Harvey Forney House	1859	
Guffey Lane House	1846	
Jesse Lane House	1855	
Andrew Logan House	1791	
Mills House	1900	
Dr. Ladson Mills House	1845	
Mr. Pleasant CME Church	1897	
Smart Guffey House	1771	one room, dove tail notch log home Guffey family
Tate- Holler House	1890	Jerome Holler
Thermal City UMC	1900	
Watson House	1896	
A.F. Weaver House	1890	
<u>Bostic</u>		
	Incorporated 1893 and named for George T. Bostic.	
	Town was a trading center along the Central Carolina Railroad	
Black Oak		
Biggerstaff's Store		
Presbyterian Parsonage	Located on Main Street	
<u>Chimney Rock Township</u>		
Chimney Rock Baptist Church	Built 1920 –est. 1785, oldest Baptist in Rutherford and	
one	of oldest in WNC	
Campbell House	1900	
Chimney Rock Park	1899 first owner Jerome Freeman built bridge	
	1900 Dr. Lucius B. Morris opened sanatorium	
	1904 D. Morris and two brothers purchased	
	property and built road	
1920 –built Cliff Dwellers Inn – stood until 1948		
	1926 CRP gates – architect D. Ellington	
W. C. Dalton House	1892	
Davenport- Edgerton House	1800, 1870, 1900	
Dr. T.R.Edgerton House	1860	
Esmeralda Inn and Bungalows		
Thomas Turner House		

Davis Wilson House
Kline Place

Logan House

John Logan House
The Lost Colony
John Lunch Log Home
Mt. View Inn Site
St. John's Missionary Baptist Church
Saluda Hotel
Toll Road House
Blue Rock House
George Washington Whiteside House
Robert E. Lee Whiteside House
Marion Whiteside House
C.E. Williams House

Colfax Township

David Beam House

Dr. A.C. Duncan House
Marcus Dickerson Carson House
Harrill House
Harrill-Bostic House
McKinney Mill

Cool Springs

Matt Carpenter, Sr. House
James Dexter Alexander House
Rose Hill Crusade Tabernacle
Walker's Mill

Duncan's Creek Township

Chitwood-Blanton House
Johnson Inn site
John Price Log Home

Wade Price Log House
James Withrow House

Ellenboro

in
Old Bank Bldg.
Depot Street Residences
Ellenboro Depot
David Harrill House
Knights of Pitheas Meeting House
Lenrich - Arstead House
R. Mooney Home

1920 built by Thomas Turner, owner of Esmeralda –
saddle-notch log house now in ruins.
c. 1870 burned but significant farm complex including
well house and log shed
1905 built by G. Nanney
1790 - 1860 – a colony of people migrating to Tenn.

1890 – 1916
1900 (and cemetery)
1860 foundation on Sugar Loaf Mt.
1800 – Asheville Turnpike
1908 – Asheville Turnpike
c. 1850
1884 (Pumpkin Center)
c. 1900
c. 1910 (G. Nanney house)

c. 1813 native of Switzerland built 2 story log
home
1900 – interesting polygonal corner turret
1904
1880
1880
1910 – heavily remodeled

1830
1914 Colonial Revival
1930
1850 – early grist mill in Puzzle Creek area

1853
1790 on Rutherfordton-Lincoln stagecoach line
1794
grant of 200 acres along Cub Creek bought for \$50
1826

1830 near Hollis
Grew up around expanding railroad system. Incorporated
1889 and named for Ellen Robinson daughter of Central
Carolina RR engineer who donated the bell to the school
his daughter's name.

1906
1900
c. 1884 organized
1890 perhaps Ellenboro's oldest resident
1903
1890 simple Gothic Revival
c. 1920

Forest City

First Baptist Church

Florence Mill

Forest City Business District

Griffin Theater

Dr. George P. Reid Home

1910

RR Southern Depot

J.H. Thomas House

CHURCHES

(Source: Clarence Griffith, History of Old Tryon County and Rutherford County, NC)

Seven (7) churches represent the “mother” churches of Rutherford County and Western NC

Brittain Presbyterian - 1768

Bills Creek Baptist - 1785

Mt. Creek Baptist - 1787

Oak Grove Methodist - 1792

Hopewell Methodist - 1800

Pisgah Methodist

Wesley Chapel (Walnut Grove) - 1802

OTHER EARLY CHURCHES

PRESBYTERIAN

Rutherfordton Presbyterian - 1835

Duncan’s Creek Presbyterian - 1807

Union Mills Presbyterian - 1902

Ellenboro Prebyterian

Forest City Prebyterian - 1896

Spindale Presbyterian - 1922

BAPTIST

Sandy Run Church Baptist - now Cleveland County 1800

Mountain Creek Baptist - Gilkey - 1787

Bill’s Creek Baptist - Chimney Rock - 1785

Haynes Memorial Baptist - Avondale - 1785

Camp Creek Baptist - 1822

Cane Creek - Logan Store

Big Springs Baptist - Hollis - 1818

Bethel Baptist - Ellenboro - 1847

Broad River - Sulphur Springs Township - 1889

Floyd’s Creek -High Shoals - 1870

Forest City Baptist (Cool Springs Baptist) - 1825

First Broad - Golden Valley - 1819

Fairview - Golden Valley - 1882

Goodes Creek - High Shoals - 1908

High Shoals - Henrietta - 1831

Mr. Olivet - Colfax - 1884

Mountain Creek - Gilkey - 1787

Mt. Harmony - Logan Store - 1860

Mr. Vernon - Logan Store - 1832

Pleasant Grove - Green Hill -1889
Rutherfordton - Rutherfordton Township -1914
Rock Springs - Chimney Rock Township - 1849
Round Hill - Union Mills - 1840
Shiloh - Union Township - 1834
Whiteside Valley Church - Chimney Rock Township - 1892 changed to Chimney Rock Baptist in 1926
Walls - Colfax Township 1844
Adaville - Cool Springs Township - 1909
Bostic - 1913
Caroleen - 1900
Dobbins - Colfax - 1918
Florence - 1922
Mountain View - Rutherfordton Township - 1915
Oak Springs - Gilkey Township - 1919
Piedmont - Rutherfordton Township - 1914
Smith Grove - Cool Springs Township - 1919
Southern - Ruth - 1910
Spindale First - 1917
Spencer - Spindale - 1926
Sulphur Springs - 1910

METHODIST

Oak Grove - 1792
Hopewell - 1800
Pisgah - 1802
Wesley Chapel - 1802 first called Walnut Grove
Gilboa - 1820
Providence -1825
Gray's Chapel -prior to 1825
Rutherfordton - 1825
Kistler's Chapel - 1830 (first called Black's Meeting House)
Salem - 1831 - known as Melton Camp Ground until 1865
Pleasant Grove - 1838
Union - 1846
Tanner's Grove - 1850
Cedar Grove - 1852
Centennial - 1876
Thermal City - 1881
Forest City - 1889
Henrietta - 1890
Caroleen - 1895
Mt. Hebron - 1898
Cliffside - 1901
Spindale - 1919
Avondale - 1919
Alexander - 1921
Bostic, Gilkey, Hollis, New Hope (unknown)

EPISCOPAL

St. John's Episcopal Church - Rutherfordton - 1851 (changed to St. Francis)

St. Gabriel's

OTHER

Dunkard Church

Huntley's Chapel

Avondale Methodist - 1924 - unique electric Neo-Classical motifs

AFRICAN-AMERICAN CHURCHES & CEMETERIES (Source: W.D. Floyd)

Buck Shoals Baptist Church & Cemetery

Cedar Grove Cemetery

Crews Cemetery

Doggett Grove Church & Cemetery

Gold Hill Church & Cemetery

Gray's Chapel Methodist Church & Cemetery (Black & White)

Haynes Grove Cemetery

Hopewell A.M.E. Zion Church 7 Cemetery

Jerusalem Baptist Church & Cemetery

Johnson Cemetery

Mt. Nebo Baptist Church & Cemetery

Mt. Pleasant C.M. E. Church & Cemetery

Webb Baptist Church & Cemetery

Spring Methodist Church & Cemetery

New Hope Cemetery

Whiteside Cemetery

St. John's Missionary Baptist Church & Cemetery

St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church & Cemetery

Union Hill A.M.E. Zion Church & Cemetery

New Salem Church & Cemetery

New Vernon Baptist Church & Cemetery

Piney Ridge C.M.E. Church & Cemetery

New Zion Baptist Church & Cemetery

NATURAL RESOURCES ASSETS

Hickory Nut Gorge Ecological treasure of national significance. Home to 37 rare plant species, 6 rare natural community types, 4 rare animal species

Broad River and Broad River Watershed

Green River

Second Broad River

Rocky Broad River

Cathey's Creek and Cathey's Creek Watershed

Green Hill

Flat Rock Largest granite outcropping in NC

White Clay Used by local and regional potters

Lake Lure

Cherry Mountain

South Mountain

Yellow Mountain

Rumbling Bald

Hickory Nut Falls	
Waterfalls	
Broad River Valley	
Isothermal Belt	Moderate climate
Bat Cave	Longest fissure cave in the world
Union Mills Dobbsville Crab Apple Gap	
Golden Valley	
Rocky Faced Mountain	
Thermal Valley	
Vistas	
Chimney Rock	
Timber land and virgin forest	
U.S. Fish & Wildlife	
(Engangered Species)	Indiana Bat, White Irisett, Rock Gnome Lichen
(Threatened Species)	Dwarf-flowered heartleaf, Small whorled pogonia
(Federal Species of Concern)	Cerulean warbler; Eastern small-footed myotis, Green salamander, Northern pine snake, Southern Appalachian Woodrat. Plants : Butternut, Carolina saxifrage, Divided-leaf ragwort, Granite dome goldenrod, Mountain catchfly, Sweet pinesap
Lakes (natural and man-made)	Lake Lure, Forest Lake, Hayes Lake, and others
Creeks and Streams	Cane Creek, Mill Creek, Holland's Creek, Pool Creek, Buffalo Creek, Cedar Creek, Cove Creek, Richardson Creek and others
Trout	
Rocky Broad River	
Fresh Water Fish	
Public /Private Lakes	
Diversity of Altitude	
Caroleen	806 feet
Forest City	860 feet
Spindale	960 feet,
Rutherfordton	1075 feet
Chimney Rock	2,280 feet,
Sugar Loaf Mt.	3,967 feet

AGRICULTURAL ASSETS	Town	Information
Rutherford Farmers Market	Spindale	Tues & Friday - June- Aug
Farm Museum	Forest City	Antique farming and household implements, appliance, etc.
Colfax Free Fair	Ellenboro	Sept. 1 week/farm products displays
Sunnyside Peach Orchard	Rutherfordton	seasonal
Colfax Gin	Ellenboro	working cotton gin & farm supply business
Kudzu Cow Farm	Rutherfordton	beef cattle/kudzu forage/products
Wells Jenkins Wells	Forest City	meat packing house/slaughter house

Verdura Llama Farms	Rutherfordton	breeder/alternative agriculture/Farmland Preservation member
Berger's Alpacas @ Foxhaven	Rutherfordton	alternative agriculture venture/breeder
Dobbins Beef Cattle	Rutherfordton	Farmland Preservation member
White Pine Ranch	Rutherfordton	horse stable and training facility
Helton Farm	Ellenboro	raises boar goats/Farmland Preservation members
Possum Hollow Cattle Farm	Rutherfordton	Rutherfordton
Teensy Winery	Rutherfordton	smallest winery in NC/only 100 cases per yr.
Bovender Farm	Union Mills	land grant (Flack) continues as farm
PPossum Hollow Working Dogs	Rutherfordton	herding/livestock dogs training/sheep, goats, ducks, etc.
Farm/City Day	Spindale	annual event
Hoyle Farm	Rutherfordton	sheep, goats, rabbits, parakeets
Bill Elliott Farm		beef cattle
Harvey Guffey Farm		
McFadden Dairy Farm	Rutherfordton	dairy cattle
Conley Farm	Moorestown	hay/general farming
Riverside Riding Stables	Lake Lure	Sales/boarding/training
Shingle Hollow Farm	Rutherfordton	horse
Williamson Stables	Moorestown	horse
Cedar Creek Riding Stables		horse
Parris Day Lilies		perennials
Savoy Day Lilies	Forest City	perennials
Green Mountain Growers	Rutherfordton	large & unique plants
Piney Ridge Nursery	Bostic	ornamental shrubs
Plants - a Plenty	Forest City	rhododendrum, native azalea, native plants
Meadowbrook Nursery and Farm	Rutherfordton	exotic plants
Wilkie's Greenhouses	Ellenboro	annuals/seasonal
Horn's Garden Supply & Specialties	Forest City	annuals/seasonal
Pumpkin Center	Rutherfordton	pumpkins & gourds
American Dairy Goat Association	Spindale	membership organization
Pete Weaver Farm	Union Mills	
Hamlin Dairy Farm		
Andy Moss Farm		
Gene Adair Blueberry	Caroleen	Pick your own blueberries on C.H. Hamrick Rd.
Chimney Rock Park		Primarily wholesale but plants are collected locally by Park
Native Plant Nursery	Chimney Rock	Naturalist and nursery curator
Chimney Rock Park Design Studio	Chimney Rock	botanical inventories, environmental assessments, tree evaluations
Horselogging & Sawmilling Fun/Field Day	Various	annual event
Lone Mountain Petting Farm	Golden Valley	
Plant Masters	Rutherfordton	Shrubs, evergreens

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Rutherford County Kick-Off for Blue Ridge National Heritage Area

November 16, 2004

Rutherfordton 1 pm 15 ATTENDEES AND 7 pm 20 ATTENDEES (35)

Frank Keel

Priorities:

1. Rutherford Trace
2. OVT
3. Historic Churches, Historic Properties, Historic Sites
4. Community Schools
5. Music Tradition
6. Bechtler Mint

Flip Chart Notes:

- 9.5 miles of Existing Rails to Trails. Rails to Trails Spindale thru Forest City is the next section to be complete. It will include an exercise yard links and a health concept Bechtler Dev Corp – nonprofit handling
- Florence mill – Textile Museum
- Rutherford Outdoor Coalition's function is broader than rivers. It includes hiking biking climbing horse trails river access, and rails to trails – conceptualized already. We need to get a copy of there development plans to include in the heritage plan.
- Rutherford Trace sites & needs
- OVT 3 miles must be expanded to include Gilbert Town campsite & church – purchase (regional project) near trail. Paul Carson has already ID all sites & needs. Invite him to the next meeting.
- Old City Hall (OVT)
- Saint Francis Church – Tiffany glass windows (OVT)
- Broad River – (OVT) regional
- Green River - (OVT) regional
- St. John's Church is on historic register (OVT)
- Carrier Houses 1835-1879 are both on Nat'l Register (OVT)
- Municipal Cemetery is important b/c Six Tories buried there (OVT)
- Hospital Museum and Chapel and Chapel at Saint Luke's (OVT)
- Combine 221 access to tie OVT theme – DOT funds
- Bechtler Mint (OVT). Bechtler mint and gold story: regional theme gems & mineral 288-I228 Richard Dale. Identify collection opportunities – coins exist. Determine where to tell story. In Rutherfordton or at the Florence Mill site. Site for welcome center/museum in conjunction w/221 by-pass. Gold coins are a good thematic/branding idea for Rutherfordton or have decorated gold coins like Hendersonville Black Bears.
- Historic DT Rutherfordton Nat'l register (OVT)
- Gilbert Town – battlefield (OVT)
- R-S middle school – Nat'l register
- Brittain Presbyterian Church – oldest documented church west of Catawba River
- Rutherfordton is older than state of NC and US Constitution
- 1st gold 1\$ coin minted here
- NC Preservation – Troutman House across from the church

- 1832 Kim's House
- Genealogy society - *Good set of resources
- Kidsense Children's Museum * = get report, developed plan
- Chimney Rock Gorge
- Music strong music tradition * especially Bluegrass and Southern Gospel. Gospel is doing particularly well. There is a significant Fiddlers Convention in Ellenboro
- Storytelling
- Arts Center at The foundation
- Globe Theatre
- Dr. Washburn books – are good for trail development-thematic
- Town festivals are important to the community- May fest- Hill Top Fall festival Storyfest
- Green River Plantation
- Old plantation houses including e Fox Haven Plantation
- School Buildings that are not in use, especially those that have been gifted by the county to the community as community centers. Each has a plan and we need to include these in the heritage report. Cool Springs School – old – school admin offices
- Old churches – map & guide sign Haynes Memorial
- Old houses - map & guide sign
- Old schools - conversion to community centers throughout county
- Rutherfordton Club House
- Woodrow Jones Community Hall
- Pumpkin Center was in NC history book
- Sunnyside Peach Orchard
- Farm Museum
- Farmer's Market
- Emu Farm
- Lincoln tradition birthplace
- Forest City, Spindale, Cliffside Haynes family
- Realize Rutherford Plans need to be examined particularly old school conversion and re-use
- Horse industry
- Retirement Community amenities
- County Courthouse – has been restored

Rutherfordton 7 pm

Frank Keel

Priorities:

1. Rev War era
2. Pre-civil war
3. African American history
4. Agriculture
5. Oral history

Flip Chart Notes:

- Rutherford Churches – Civil War
- Brittain Church
- Saint Francis tiffany windows
- Rutherford Hospital – black community

- Cemeteries
- Kid Senses Museum
- History of railroad
- Architecture
- Rutherford County symphony
- Foundation/performing arts center / r/s/ central community concert series
- Rutherford county little theatre
- Music/ bluegrass
- Jump shot invented here
- Bechtler mint/gold rush
- Revolutionary war era/ forts
- Gilberttown preservation
- OVT
- St Johns Church
- Rutherford County Courthouse
- Storytelling
- Festivals and reenactments
- Rivers/streams/plantations
- Old Tryon County
- Diverse cultures --story of each
- Rutherfordton clubhouse
- Puzzle creek--Abraham Lincoln birthplace
- Genealogy -- African American history
- Some of 1st African American schools 1850-1870
- Greenhill
- Freeman Tom Road
- Garfield Logan
- Nancy Ferguson – -oral history
- Oral History project is needed to collect information and biography of senior residents.
- Small towns
- Natural Resources – -roads/trails
- Lake Lure + dam at Lake Lure
- Hiking/walking trails
- Old working farms

Pat Allen 18 ATTENDEES AND 4 ATTENDEES (22)

Union Mills 1pm

Priorities:

1. South Mountain
2. Yellow Mountain (white irisette plant)
3. Biggerstaff Mountain- Loyalists hung following battle of Kings Mountain
4. Rutherford Trace
5. Overmountain victory trail – 18 miles historic route/23 driving route
6. Tim & Nell Boyender Farm - Kings Land Grant farm – Farmland Preservation
7. Pete Weaver Farm
8. Alexander School

Flip Chart Notes:

- Gilbert town
- Round Hall Baptist church
- Brittain Presbyterian church
- Grant fort
- White Oak
- Fort McGaughey
- Potts Fort
- Bills Creek – oldest Baptist church 1768
- Ayre – Town of
- Union Mills – Dobbsville Crab Apple Gap
- Rutherfordton post office est. 1798 was the 4th PO in state
- St. Johns Church built 1847
- Union Mills - post office building is 85 years old still serving as PO
- Rutherford County - parent county to 16 other county and gateway to WNC was through Rutherford County
- Intact Mill Villages

Union Mills 7pm

Pat Allen and Nell Leatherwood

- Chip Mill devastating the environment. Need community education about sustainable land management practices and replanting of trees. No clean-up of cut areas is presently required.
- Gravel Pitt at Sandy Mush going in near a new 7 million dollar school
- Union Mills Life Long Learning Center development plans are a top priority for the community
- Historic buildings have been assessed by Nancy Ferguson. Nancy has much history in her head and needs to be recorded.
- Kay Hooper local writer
- Tim and Nell Bovender Farm was established with a Kings Grant to the Flack Family
- Pete Weaver Farm will not be included in 221 expansion because of historic value
- OVT came up Centennial Road and passed near at Brittain Church
- Many historic properties are not on the national register and not signed or interpreted. Need signage and maps
- Tate House was instrumental in the RR
- Harris Family in Whiteside House building during Civil War
- South Mountain State Park needs an entrance from Rutherford. The only entrance in from Burke County side. A development plan is needed or we need to get a copy of the current plan if one exists. The property is in a Land Trust.
- Rocky Face Mountain in Thermal Valley is a good site for preservation. Nancy Ferguson is in process of getting a sign put up because of important battle fought there. OVT related site as well. Relative of Nancy Ferguson was in the battle.
- Sandy Mush Flat Rock is the largest outcropping of granite in NC and should be conserved and put into public lands. The rock quarry wants to buy it. Caroline Edwards and Butch Moore are lead group in this effort
- Craft, music and dance traditions are strong
- Oral histories have been collected by historical society

Green Hill 17 attendees and 18 attendees (35)

Bill Byers**Priorities:**

51 votes	Green Hill School & Community Center
56 votes	Revolutionary Sites – Gilbert Town, Biggerstaff
47 votes	Scenic landscapes and waterfalls. Need to develop guide books and maps
45 votes	traditional rural life (make dinner, social gathering)
40 votes	Historic churches (includes OVT forts)
37 votes	Revolutionary forts
34 votes	Recreational resources (hiking, canoeing, biking)
32 votes	Historic mines, mills, store (Hardin store)
31 votes	Scenic resorts (Lake Lure, Chimney Rock, Rumbling Ball, Bottomless Pools)
31 votes	Historic churches
29 votes	Bechtler Gold Mine
27 votes	KidSenses museum
25 votes	Unique geological sites (Rumbling Bald, Flat Rock)
25 votes	Rutherfordton history
21 votes	Historic homes (Whitehouse, Abe Lincoln, Green River Plantation, McFadden Houses, Guilford Nanney homes)
20 votes	Pre history
19 votes	Afro-American history
15 votes	Broad river valley natural & historic
16 votes	ICC
11 votes	Green River Plantation
8 votes	Distilling

Spindale (4)**Bob and Sharon Decker****Priorities:**

- Spindale House
- Lake Lure/ Chimney Rock
- Cox Plantation
- Cleghorn Plantation
- Mitchell (mall before its time)
- Drugstore and other stores in downtown business district
- Main Street
- Masonic tradition
- Textiles 4-5 mills in town
- American Dairy Goat Association
- Cathy's Creek
- Depot
- Spindale Sun
- Spindale School
- Business district the front thriving Daviney Oil
- Fire Department
- Elmore House – Robert Mebane's Mother
- Spindale Drug
- The Christmas traditions of all three towns – Miss Merry Christmas

- Rutherford county owls – semipro baseball team
- Hamlin Dairy Farm - Dairy on the Front
- Moss farm (Andy)
- Moonshine – Cherry Mountain, Golden Valley
- Movie Making – Dirty Dancing, Last of Mohicans
- Isothermal College
- Music Bluegrass festival in Cliffside
- Boneyard tradition
- Mitchell County Building – a company store
- Yelton Milling
- Stamey’s Department Store

Needs:

- Neighborhood makeup is different – housing
- Co-operation from other communities to enhance to facility & county
- Signage
- Restore & designate Cleghorn other structures – cabin
- Art – promote Tom Cowan
- John Pike – preserve mural at Cleghorn
- Re-establish “the Front”
- A place to house all copies of The Spindale Sun
- Museum to place artifacts – the additions of The Sun
- Spindale House - front is preserved part of Coxe Summer Home
- St Francis Church – Tiffany windows
- Gilbert Town
- Bechtler Mint
- Agriculture / horticulture and forest resources
- American Goat Association
- Unique crafts
- Brick Yard
- Hand-crafted dulcimers
- Quilters
- Specialized clay-white Wedgwood clay
- Old homes – Ledbetter, Whitehouse
- Hanging Tree – Biggerstaff’s Old Fiel
- Lincoln heritage
- Churches – very old
- Rails to Trails
- Owls – Smoky Burgess
- Interview people who remember our heritage
- Preserving old culinary techniques
- Organization
- Write down histories
- Detailed by older people
- Models
- Museum
- Craft Co-op
- Exhibits

- Publicity
- People's interest
- Local government support and cooperation
- Preserve land intact - need wide-open spaces
- Make long term goals for preservation of heritage

Ellenboro Summary 20 interviews by phone and 2 attendees (22)

Keith Price

Top Five Assets

- Bostic - Lincoln Birthplace
- Music and Sports including gospel and bluegrass Earl Scruggs and Bill Monroe learned here from flat picking and three finger style from Snuffy Jenkins. Rutherford had the first lighted baseball park in the southeast, important sport figures like Smoky Burgess. Belus Smally invented the Basketball Ball jump shot
- Historic Properties including Washburn Store and home, Andrews Mill and home, Brittain Church, Fort McGaughey which is the beginning of the Rutherford Trace. General awaited the arrival of troops. Also Fort McFadden is a colonial fort near the Thompson's Quarry . There is a 2nd colonial fort in Union Mills related to the Rutherford Trace.
- Historic Sites including Gilbert Town, Rutherford Trace, Bechtler Mint, Mustering Grounds in Salem and Forest City, Sites of burned churches and b) biggest site for hangings And Forest City hangings.
- Railroad was very important. Many different trains came through. Bostic has a depot as does Ellenboro. Many other depots have been lost.

Needs of Assets:

- To become visitor friendly.
- Historic sites are being desecrated and must be preserved and protected. Historic site research is needed. Sites need to be interpreted and preserved.
- Enhance visitation in everyway
- Build a museum and edifices-interactive displays

Projects:

- Fundraising
- Develop historical properties and make them secure and visitor friendly
- Museum
- Support existing efforts with Rutherford Historical Society and Genealogical Society

Ann Almond

Harris Community at 1pm 8 attendees and 14 attendees (22)

Priorities

- Historic Sites
- Old Schools
- Old Homes
- Vance Academy Building
- Countywide Heritage Day

Flip Chart Notes:

- Late 1860's only black Methodist American Zion in Sulfur Springs goes back to slavery era. There is an important cemetery near Harris property. Black school named Harris. Vance named because Black school already named Harris. It moved to Doggett's Grove in 1860's
- Textiles 1910-13. Victor Oil Company, Wilkins bought from Victor. - Harris Ice & Gin Co. - Wilkie's Cotton Gin - Grose Cotton Gin; Shiloh Cotton Gin near Watson's Store - Fowler Land - Water wheel gin
- 1948 - Harris Raceway still operated 2 NASCAR sanctioned races
- 1750's - Rock Springs campground interdenominational religious gatherings
- 1907 Sulfur Springs Hotel near Sulfur Springs Baptist Church
- Sunday School founded in 1900 near hotel
- Agriculture - farming and molasses making
- Industry - the train
- Zaddock Harris - 1773-75
- Vance Academy - 1890-1924
- Flat Rock Indian artifacts
- Bluegrass music 1920's
- Train CC& O, Clinchfield, CSX 1905
- Royal land grants from King of England
- Black school /church 1868 - opened as Hopewell Church then Harris
- Campground graveyard 1780

Needs:

- Funding
- Volunteers
- Physical preservation
- Research/location/ID
- Central processing
- Oral history "the way we lived"
- Road driving tour w/markings
- Relocating a priority to make buildings more accessible

▪

Harris 7pm

Ann Almond

- 1773 Zaddock Harris, back part, kitchen (Ledbetter house) oldest house in county
- Cherokee Indian 5000years 10000years Flat Rock - Indian artifacts - plants - largest granite outcropping in US
- 1920's Snuffy Jenkins
- 1897-8 county gave 157.00 to support school Vance Academy now located - on Edward's Farm
- 1770 King/England royal land grant of to ancestors of Henry Edwards land presently farmed by Edith/Henry Edwards
- 1770 Royal land grant - Jenkins farm (Jean White)
- 1905 paid 10 cents/hour to lay track . Train at 9:09 - 4:45 Clinchfield RR/trestle Per Henry Edwards train went thru more governing bodies then any other RR in world
- 1881 Rosemont House - lodging nursery, school care orphanage - brick - known as Isaac Newton Home (Duncan Edwards)
- 1880's-90's post office first at Island Ford then to Harris post office won bid to process mail

- 1780 Gilbert Town Revolutionary War Site
- 1830 Bechtler Mine
- Mid-1800 molasses making, press John Henry Camp (black) had wagon, went countywide 40 & gallon. This only ended recently
- 1930's goldmine in Hollis Spring's area. Largest nugget found in Sulfur Springs Township 1 sold for \$35k,
- 1830's Sulfur Springs hotel/school because of healthy water and a spring still there.

Needs:

- Funding
- Public access
- Education/awareness
- Historical markers
- Preservation
- Volunteers
- County wide heritage day
- FAM tour internal
- Written history
- Museum (consolidate efforts, farm museum)
- Preserve Vance Academy, relocate
- Natural area conservation – conservation easements

Projects to Undertake:

- Architecture study for relocating Vance school
- 2005 100th celebration for area
- General clean-up
- Living antique farm
- Flatrock
- Old schools
- Trains/trestles
- Cemeteries
- Old mill pond
- Sulfur Springs Hotel (meds)
- McDowell House
- 1910+- Timber Ridge blue grass
- Snuffy Jenkins & Hollis
- Huntsinger
- 1700's cemeteries
- 1948 Harris Racetrack. Pearson and other racing legends raced there before becoming famous.
- 1860 Old Mill Pond
- 1881 Rosemont House
- Flat Rock and adjacent cemetery
- Colonel Alexander
- Late 1800's first crossing of Floyd's Creek south 75 yards of 221 hwy
- 1880's Rev Barney Hamrick home relocated to Tom's Lake Road restored
- 1900's Jason Cole home-Dwayne Harris lives now
- Smoky Burgess – baseball legacy
- 1850's Richard Hicks home chestnut logs refaced
- Sulfur Springs Hotel baptism still
- Schools

- 1800's
- Wilkins
- Holly Springs
- Sulfur springs
- Vance Academy @ Edith's
- Hampton (black)
- 1750 Rock Springs Campground
- 1780 Jarrett's Creek Campground Black Mtg House Kistler's Chapel
- 1750 McDowell House bricks between planks to protect from Indians
- Music
- David Roach – recording artist
- Holly Springs now
- Circa 1865 legal whiskey making – Jenkins Road House – Snuffy Jenkins lived there
- Rail road trestles/train
- Floyd's Creek – body in concrete
- Broad River
- Depots
- Hicks Grove Section
- Harris lowest point of Rail Road, highest Floyds Creek
- Early 1900's quilting bees (Miss Emmy) some quilts still here
- Winery
- Briscoe Farm
- Airport – early history
- Ferry Road
- Various planes
- Dr. Romeo Hicks MD
- 1860's Hicksville Chase
- William Duncan funeral director made pine boxes and his wife made funeral clothes.

Forest City 3 attendees and 4 attendees (7)

Danielle Withrow (Need to get notes from facilitator)

- Bechtler Mint
- Gilbert Town
- Old Flag
- Mill Village
- Farm Museum
- Consolidated Countywide Museum. A decision needs to be made about location of the museum and where the story of the Bechtler Mint and gold mining will be told.

Lake Lure/Chimney Rock 1:00 pm (10 ATTENDEES)

Mary Jaeger Gales

#1 Top Five Cultural Heritage assets or resources in Lake Lure/Chimney Rock area and number of votes received for each:

- Pine Gables/Old Post Rd./Stage Coach Run - 10
- Lake Lure Inn/Arcade (Military Use of Location) - 10

- Chimney Rock Village - 13
- Chimney Rock Park -14
- Rumbling Bald Mountain - 7
- Lake Lure Lake/Development of area/ aster Plan - 8
- Bat Cave Community
- Recreation -1
- Lost Colony
- Rocky Broad River and Riverwalk - 4
- Families who settled here (even before Morse family) - 4
- Movies made here/novels - 5
- Waterfalls - 1
- Bottomless Pools - 3
- Bat Cave/Cave
- Rock Outcroppings/Geology - 4
- Isothermal Climate - 1
- Indian Lore - 1

Top 5 Priorities for question #1:

1. Chimney Rock Park
2. Chimney Rock Village
3. Lake Lure Inn/Arcade etc.
4. Pine Gables (and other historic stops) along the Old Post Road (stagecoach run) through the Gorge.
5. Lake Lure Development Plan

#2. Specific Needs of Cultural Heritage Assets/Resources

- 2 Publicity
- 5 Cohesive Marketing Plan
- 1 Colleges U.S.A/Education
- 1 (Indirect “Song Catcher”)Native Music
- 2 Research story of Stagecoach Run
- Identify and inventory all pertinent components of Gorge history
- 2 Get more things on Historic Register
- 1 Information on and directions to all these things/signage
- 2 Communication/create the stories
- 3 Educate locals to allow others to find out about these things
- 5 Build positive relationships and get buy in with builders, developers/otherstakeholders
- 2 Additional seasonal lodging
- Protection/Rehabilitation
- 4 Preservation of buildings/historic resources

Top Priorities for #2:

1. Marketing plan to include publicity
2. Strengthen internal communications
3. Identify and preserve significant historic buildings/places
4. Build partnerships with newcomers, builders, etc. so that know before they start to help protect our heritage

#3 Projects Rutherford County (specifically Lake Lure/Chimney Rock area) needs to undertake to preserve and protect resources/assets:

1. Very informative Visitor Center in a conspicuous location with exhibits/museum/archive of historical information
2. Capturing history/telling the story
3. Branding for all of Hickory Nut Gorge
4. Celebration of Small Town Events/Community
5. Bring back street dances
6. Preservation education to inform folks about available money for rehabilitation
7. Communication/Publicity Plan
8. Exhibit - relics and voices of related individuals

Top Priorities for #3:

1. Build a Visitor's Center with exhibits to showcase and share our history and culture
2. Brand Hickory Nut Gorge as a place to come to visit and live
3. Document the history of the Gorge through oral history, relics, etc.

Sunshine/Golden Valley 3 attendees and 8 attendees (11)

Debbie Hollifield

1pm

Debbie Hollifield

Priorities

Traditions : Barn raising, box suppers, ice cream socials, community gatherings

Rally in the Valley

Gold and Revolutionary War history

People

Land, Churches, and Mountains

Needs

1. Preserve landscape, beauty of area;
2. Collect stories from old timers before too late
3. Tell story of Bechtlers and gold and gold mining
4. Abraham Lincoln story retelling

7 pm

Debbie Hollifield

Priorities

Natural beauty/resources of area

Community spirit (ex. Rally in the Valley)

Abraham Lincoln story

Revolutionary War history (ex. Biggerstaff's Hanging Tree and Overmountain March)

Gold history

Assets

Community spirit

History of area and county

People

Beauty of area

Needs

Community Events such as Heritage Day

Preserve oral histories

Historians

Mr & Mrs. Queen

Lucy Ellis

Tom Melton

C.C. Brackett

Cliffside 1 am and 7 pm (0 attendees)

Danielle Withrow

Cliffside is in a period of transition. In March 2005, Frankie McWhorter met with Mark and Janice Swing, John Fisher, and representatives of the Dark Horse Gallery to ascertain information about Cliffside assets, needs and priorities. Town property has been sold to individuals, the old mill is being demolished and plans are being formulated to re-develop parts of the area. The gallery is now restructuring as well.