

Pigeon River Fund Grants

Since 1996, the Pigeon River Fund has invested \$6,188,597 in projects addressing water quality in Haywood, Buncombe, and Madison counties. The members of the fund advisory committee (the "PRF Advisory Board") are appointed by the Secretary of the NC Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ). CFWNC administers the grant program under a contract with NCDEQ as required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license that established the Fund in 1995 as settlement for the utility's continued diversion of water from the Pigeon River to power the Walters Power Plant in Haywood County.

FALL 2016

Asheville GreenWorks - \$27,000 to continue the Youth Environmental Leadership Program (YELP). YELP engages youth from low-income communities in water-quality testing, riparian zone restoration, educational programs and environmental clean-ups, including the Trash-Boom project and establishing a live-stake nursery along Hominy Creek in cooperation with the Franklin School of Innovation.

Environmental Quality Institute - \$17,800 to support the Volunteer Water Information Network (VWIN) and SMIE biomonitoring projects that engage volunteers in monitoring water quality and provide data that assist partner organizations working on water quality in Buncombe, Madison and Haywood counties.

Haywood Waterways Association:

- \$60,000 to continue coordinated community efforts to address water quality issues, implement the Haywood Watershed Action Plan and increase public appreciation of water resources through educational programs and publications.
- \$39,600 toward the costs of repairing failing septic systems for low-income homeowners. Projects are identified by the Haywood County Environmental Health Department.

Madison County - \$25,000 to install stormwater best management practices on three school campuses. Each project will involve student participation in the classroom and onsite and will end with a community celebration.

Maggie Valley Sanitary District - \$25,000 toward transactional costs associated with the purchase and conveyance of the 558-acre Wilder Tract which protects the Jonathan Creek watershed.

MountainTrue - \$7,700 toward the purchase of live-stakes, a raft, and other equipment needed for stream bank planting along the Hominy and Cane creeks.

Mountain Valley Resource Conversation and Development Council (MVRC&D) - \$45,000 to support various programs, such as water monitoring in the Ivy River watershed, septic repair, and youth

education programs. MVRC&D will also introduce an electronics amnesty day in partnership with the landfill.

ReCreation Experiences Missions and Ministries - \$25,000 toward material costs for septic system repairs for low-income homeowners in Madison County.

Southwestern NC Resource Conservation and Development Council:

- \$24,815 toward the 2017 *Envirothon* and Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES!) Camp programs that engage middle and high school youth from Haywood, Madison and Buncombe counties in hands-on learning about water quality issues.
- \$12,720 toward the development of the Beaverdam Creek Watershed Action Plan.

SPRING 2016

Haywood Waterways Association - \$11,000 to assess stormwater run-off problems and design improvements to reduce excess sedimentation in a stream that flows into Lake Junaluska.

Southwestern NC Resource Conservation and Development Council:

- \$21,500 to complete engineering and permitting tasks for removal of the Beaverdam Creek dam near the confluence with the Pigeon River in Canton.
- \$22,500 to complete design and engineering plans for stream bank improvements on Shingle Cove Branch as part of the renovation of Chestnut Park by the Town of Waynesville.

Maggie Valley Sanitary District – \$20,000 toward transactional costs associated with the purchase and conveyance of 710 acres, comprised of two “Queen” tracts, which protect the headwaters of Jonathan and Campbell creeks in Maggie Valley.

The Conservation Fund – \$40,000 toward transactional costs associated with the purchase and conveyance of the 172-acre “Gowing” tract and the 783-acre “Williams” tract that protect tributaries of Jonathan Creek in Maggie Valley.

Asheville GreenWorks – \$21,830 to continue the Trash Boom Project in Buncombe and Haywood counties and to design and construct a “trash trap” on Hominy Creek to address the litter problem in our creeks and streams.

Madison County – \$25,000 to upgrade the Town of Hot Springs’ wastewater infrastructure by installing a dual pump station at the red bridge across the French Broad River.

North Carolina Arboretum Society – \$6,700 for native plants and interpretive materials as part of the renovation of the Stream Garden at the Arboretum in Asheville.

FALL 2015

Haywood Waterways Association:

- \$70,000 to continue coordinated community efforts to address water quality issues, implement the Haywood Watershed Action Plan and increase public appreciation of water resources through educational programs and publications
- \$40,000 toward the costs of repairing failing septic systems for low-income homeowners, with projects identified by the Haywood County Environmental Health Department

Southwestern NC Resource Conservation and Development Council:

- \$19,474 toward the 2016 *Envirothon* and Youth Environmental Stewardship Camp programs that engage middle and high school youth from Haywood, Madison and Buncombe counties in hands-on learning about water quality issues
- \$11,630 toward the development of the Lower Pigeon River Watershed Action Plan that will identify and prioritize projects for implementation to improve surface water quality in the Fines Creek area

The Conservation Fund - \$20,000 toward transactional costs associated with the purchase and conveyance of Mashie Stomp Creek, a 409-acre property that contains three tributaries of Jonathan Creek in Maggie Valley

Asheville GreenWorks - \$27,000 to expand the Pigeon River Youth Environmental Leadership Program that engages youth from low-income communities in water-quality testing, riparian zone restoration, educational programs and environmental clean-ups

Environmental Quality Institute - \$17,800 to support the Volunteer Water Information Network and SMIE biomonitoring projects that engage volunteers in monitoring water quality and provide data that assist partner organizations working on water quality in Buncombe, Madison and Haywood counties

Land of Sky Regional Council - \$20,000 to support the WNC Storm Water Partnership to develop regional stormwater management strategies, educate citizens about stormwater issues and train stormwater management professionals in Haywood, Buncombe, and Madison counties

Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District:

- \$20,000 toward installation of a replacement septic system for the Changing Hearts Boarding School in Barnardsville
- \$15,000 for a pilot program to support agricultural best management practices with landowners to reduce pollution and sedimentation issues in rural creeks

MountainTrue - \$14,470 toward the Muddy Water Watch program which will train volunteers to identify and report sedimentation and erosion violations for follow-up by agencies responsible for monitoring compliance with sedimentation controls at construction sites in Haywood and Buncombe counties

RiverLink:

- \$25,000 toward a Watershed Planning Study of the Smith Mill Creek Watershed that will identify and prioritize projects for implementation to improve surface water quality and reduce flooding problems
- \$27,500 toward a streambank restoration project in the Falconhurst neighborhood to decrease erosion and sedimentation into Smith Mill Creek in West Asheville

SPRING 2015

Asheville GreenWorks: \$14,500 to pilot the use of floating debris-containment booms to reduce the amount of trash from stormwater runoff in three urban tributaries of the French Broad River.

Haywood Waterways Association:

- **\$40,000** toward the costs of repairing failing septic systems for low-income homeowners. Projects are identified by the Haywood County Environmental Health Department.
- **\$31,290** to create plans to stabilize the river bank and reduce erosion, capture and treat stormwater runoff, improve river access, increase wildlife habitat and educate the public about river ecosystems and water quality as Phase I of Site Improvements for Town of Clyde's River Edge Park.

Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District: \$5,720 to support on-going water quality monitoring research with Mars Hill University students and community volunteers.

MountainTrue: \$10,370 to reduce sedimentation by live-staking some eroding river banks on Cane Creek and Hominy Creek in Buncombe County.

Mountain Valleys Resource Conservation and Development Council:

- **\$27,500** for operating support of the Ivy River Partners that are working to improve water quality in the Ivy River Watershed by developing projects that reduce non-point source pollution and raise community awareness and increased stewardship.
- **\$24,500** toward installation of storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs) and stream restoration work at Barnardsville Elementary School in Buncombe County (*contingent upon securing additional funds to complete the project*).

RiverLink: \$25,000 toward construction of a new river access point at Amboy Road Park and streambank restoration as part of the French Broad Paddle Trail.

Southwestern NC Resource Conservation and Development Council:

- **\$20,000** to complete the landslide inventory and susceptibility maps for the Fines Creek/Walters Lake and East Fork of Pigeon River areas as part of the Haywood County Geological Stability Mapping Program.
- **\$25,000** for demonstration water quality improvement projects in Maggie Valley, including stormwater BMPs on commercial properties and planning stabilization of eroding streambanks on Jonathan Creek.
- **\$8,675** for stream access, riparian plantings, and educational signage as part of the Town of Maggie Valley's new Mountain View Drive Greenway.
- **\$12,050** to complete closing costs for the acquisition of the Raccoon Creek Wetlands in Haywood County and to begin planning for an environmental education facility on the site (*contingent upon securing funding from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund or other sources to purchase the land*).