

## Summary of Blount County Greenway Plan Study

Blount County received a state grant for a regional greenway plan to find the best way to create greenway links north to Knox County and east toward Heritage High School and eventually Townsend and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. There will be a public meeting on this plan October 8 at 6:30 PM at the Blount County Public Library.

The plan will look in detail at how to link the Maryville & Alcoa greenway system to the planned Knox/Blount Greenway. (The Knox/Blount Greenway has been funded, and portions will be built by the City of Knoxville, Knox County and the Tennessee Department of Transportation. It will connect from the Neyland Greenway in downtown Knoxville to the Knox/Blount County line.)

The Blount County greenway plan will also look at potential greenway routes between the Maryville & Alcoa greenway network and Heritage High School, which is on the way to the Townsend Greenway. We expect that an additional study will be needed to determine the best route from Heritage High School and on to Townsend.

The plan will identify public lands to be used in making these connections, and will also identify what easements may be needed to complete the desired linkages.

This greenway plan will help further the goal of creating a Knoxville-to-the-Smokies Greenway, which will be the first regional greenway in East Tennessee and will be a major tourism destination. The greenway plan will also look at connections to schools and parks, McGhee Tyson Airport, numerous creeks and neighborhoods.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation has provided a \$20,000 Recreational Trails Program grant to fund this study. Local match for the grant has been provided by the Great Smoky Mountains Regional Greenway Council, Blount County, and the Cities of Alcoa and Maryville.

Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon will create the plan for Blount County.