

Heritage Greenway –

an interview with Executive Director of Southwest Renewal, Dorothy Darr

By FHP Intern, Katie Brownlee



When the pandemic hit the U.S, it hit us hard. Everything was shut down and people were ordered by their state governors to stay at home and not to leave unless it was essential. What was there to do if everyone had to stay home? I personally went on long walks around my neighborhood and did workouts outside to get some fresh air. As a college student at High Point University, I wanted to maintain the same level of activeness while enjoying the outdoors. Southwest Renewal Foundation is already ahead of us by funding and building the Heritage Greenway in Southwest High Point. The Heritage Greenway will be the perfect addition to the city of High Point, especially during this time where we are still encouraged to stay socially distant from everyone.

I had the honor to speak with Dorothy Darr who is the Executive Director of Southwest Renewal and she was able to provide great information about the foundation, Heritage Greenway and what to expect when the greenway is finished. The Southwest Renewal Foundation started in November 2011 and Dorothy has been with them almost from the beginning and started in January 2011. In the year 2012, Southwest Renewal Foundation became a non-profit and since then has worked on various amounts of projects around the High Point area. The foundation was a fiscal agent for two public art exhibitions in downtown High Point which featured seven granite and marble sculptures by local artist Chuck Foster, as well as four kinetic sculptures that are on permanent display in the Market District.

The Heritage Greenway is a large project that will consist of a 6.4-mile pathway that will connect six different parks and future trails along with a safer path to walk to two elementary schools that include Fairview and Oak Hill Elementary. This greenway will be by five intown residential neighborhoods and many different places to shop. Not only will the greenway be beneficial to those who live by it, but it will be financially beneficial for the city of High Point by bringing in revenue and creating jobs. The safety will not be an issue of the greenway due to the widened pathways where there will be a shared-use path for police to patrol in order to keep the greenway safe either on foot or on bicycle.



When asking Dorothy how the greenway will benefit downtown High Point, she stated, “The project will introduce a new economic driver in the downtown the complements High Point’s existing economy and heritage, but also adds new opportunities for economic growth that will raise quality of life, while also bolstering the number of out-of-town visitors to the city.” I am looking forward to seeing the final product of this greenway and to see how it will change High Point for the better.

Getting to know who Southwest Renewal is and learning how they are benefitting the High Point community was a great topic to learn more about. I am looking forward to seeing the final product of the Greenway and the positive reaction from the community. Heritage Greenway will create such a large traction for those who don’t know too much about High Point, NC and by adding this it will put High Point on the map.

If You Would Like to Learn More join them and become a Friend of the Heritage Greenway with a donation of any size to the Southwest Renewal Foundation, P.O. Box 778, High Point 27268. You can also visit their website to learn more about who Southwest Renewal is and how the Heritage Greenway will benefit High Point at: <http://highpointsouthwest.org/index.htm>



"Katie Brownlee is a Senior at High Point University who is studying Strategic Communication and plans on attending graduate school at High Point University to further her studies in the Communication and Business Leadership Master's Program."