

**Pigeon River Fund  
Spring 2021 Awards**

**Eleven Grant Awards Totaling \$236,250**

*Since 1996, the Pigeon River Fund has invested \$8,213,873 in projects addressing water quality in Haywood, Buncombe, and Madison counties. Members of the PRF Advisory Committee 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.*

**\$28,000 to Asheville GreenWorks** to modify the design of the Trash Trout to make it more durable and to install more of these litter-capturing devices in Buncombe County. Grant funds will also recruit, train, manage and outfit volunteers as part of the new StreamKeepers Program.

**\$10,000 to Buncombe County Soil and Water Conservation District** for the Envirothon and Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES!) Camp programs that engage middle and high school youth in hands-on learning about water quality issues.

**\$6,500 to Haywood Waterways Association** to repair two failing septic systems in the Pigeon River Watershed near Canton, NC.

**\$30,000 to Haywood Waterways Association** for planning, engineering design, permitting and education for the Hominy Creek Stream Improvement Project.

**\$10,000 to Laurel Community Center Organization** to turn a creekside classroom into the Laurel River Room, an aquatic-themed natural sciences/STEM classroom for public education and appreciation of the Big Laurel Creek/Laurel River Watershed in Madison County, NC.

**\$30,000 to Maggie Valley Sanitary District** toward acquisition and permanent protection of the 24.5-acre McGaha property in Haywood County.

**\$12,080 to MountainTrue** to continue Swim Guide, a weekly water quality monitoring program focused on sampling for E.coli bacteria at popular river accesses.

**\$25,670 to MountainTrue** to improve its E. coli monitoring work by establishing a real-time testing location and conducting follow up to identify possible sewer leaks documented from two infrared imaging flights.

**\$30,000 to RiverLink** to complete an engineered design for the Southside Community Stormwater Project, identified as a high priority opportunity to solve flooding issues and improve surface water quality in Town Branch, also referred to as "Nasty Branch."

**\$24,000 to Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy** toward the costs of surveying a 109-acre conservation easement on the Crabtree Bald Geers property in Haywood County.

**\$30,000 to The Conservation Fund** to assist in protecting the 25.1-acre Finger property in Haywood County.