



## Name that Creek

RiverLink's Name that Creek program is a local, grassroots program in which communities submit name suggestions for unnamed creeks and vote for the most fitting name. After a name is chosen, it is submitted first to Asheville City Council and Buncombe County Commissioners for approval, and then to the USGS Board of Geographical Names for consideration. Once approved, the creek name will appear on official USGS maps. Since the program's inception, RiverLink has sponsored eight successful creek naming campaigns with the help of community volunteers.

In 2017 RiverLink hosted a Name that Creek campaign for a tributary of the French Broad River that flows behind the River Arts District Visitor Center. RiverLink asked members of the River Arts District Business Association (RADBA), the River Arts District Artists (RADA) and the West End/Clingman Avenue Neighborhood (WECAN) to submit names. After a month, RiverLink gathered the name suggestions and created a city-wide poll to select the official name. City residents were made aware of the poll through RiverLink's website, newsletter, and social media pages. Details are below.

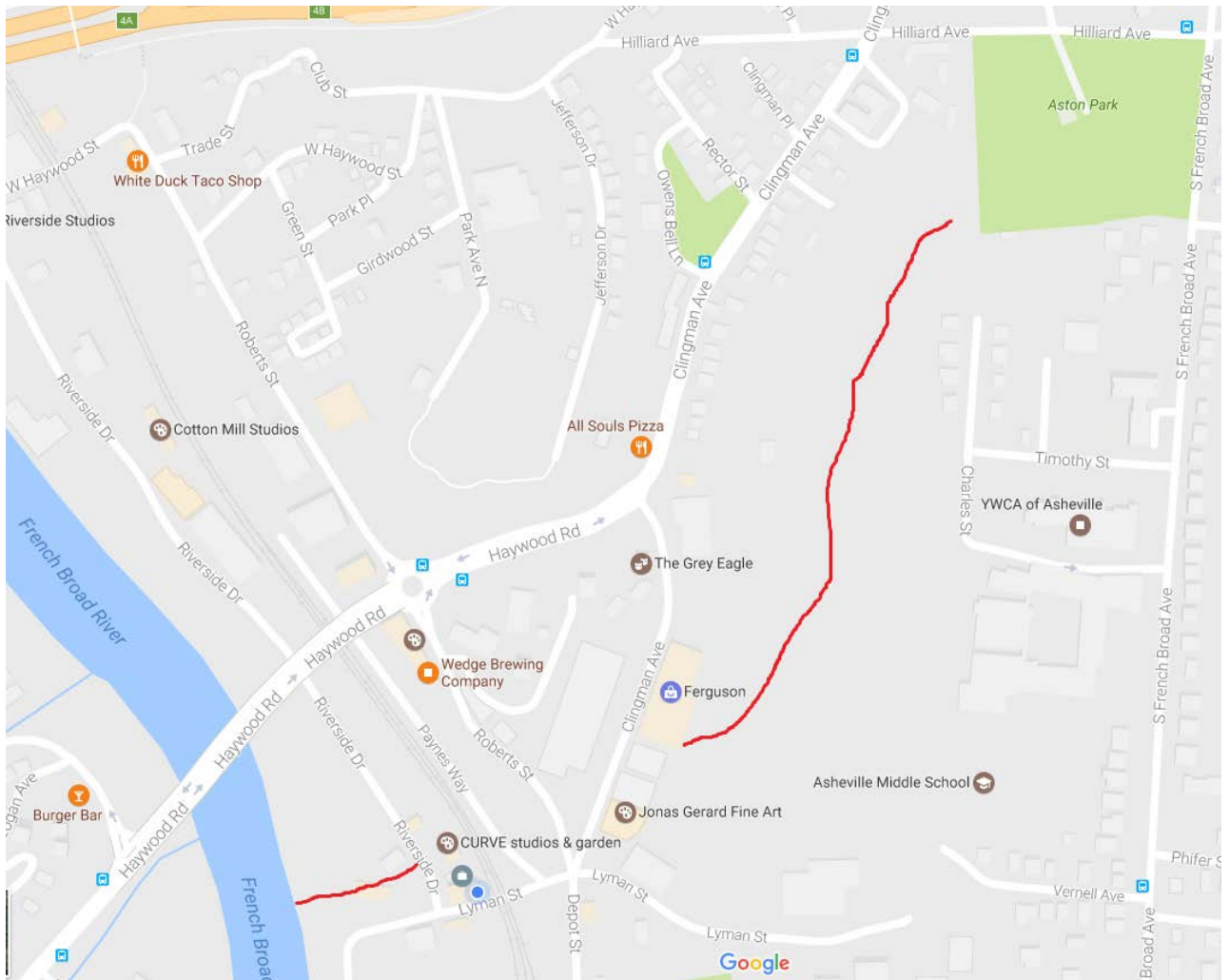
Location: The stream begins in Aston Park near the intersection of Hilliard and Clingman Avenues in Asheville. It parallels Clingman before ducking under several buildings, Clingman Avenue and Riverside Drive, flowing into the French Broad near 14 Riverside Drive, which is the site of the River Arts District Visitor Center.

Proposed Names: Bacoate Branch, WECAN Branch, Jessie Branch, Lowery Creek, Arno Creek, Yarrow Creek, Inspiration Creek, Creation Creek

Winner: Bacoate Branch won with 34 votes out of 90 total votes.

Name Significance: The creek was named to honor Osie W. Bacoate. Osie was a beloved teacher, cosmetologist, and WECAN neighbor since 1953. Osie is the mother of Matthew Bacoate, Jr., a civil rights activist & proprietor of the largest African American owned business in Asheville's History, AFRAM, which was housed in what is now WEDGE Studios.

# RIVERLINK



**Figure 1. Map of Bacoate Branch. Red line indicates where stream is above ground.**