

FY2025 Buncombe County Tipping Point Grant Mid-Year Report

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Organization Name: | RiverLink |
| Project Name: | Southside Outside Festival |

| Activities Accomplished | Annual Goal | Amount Completed |
|--|-------------|------------------|
| Number of STEM experts leading experiential activities outdoors | 3 | 9 |
| Number of Southside community members engaged | 50 | 30 |
| Number of structured activities to connect people to each other using STEM/ecological themes | 3 | 9 |

| Expenses (please list <u>all</u> grant related expenses) | Amount Spent |
|---|-----------------|
| Expert Fees- \$350 X 9 activity leaders (includes AVL GreenWorks) | \$ 3,150.00 |
| Community member compensation | \$ 500.00 |
| Amazon- incentives for kids to visit every activity station | \$ 186.57 |
| Outside Festival stickers | \$ 92.02 |
| Kwik Copy: Promotional fliers | \$ 11.77 |
| Asheville GreenWorks- trees for tree planting demonstrations | \$ 80.00 |
| Sams Club- food | \$ 194.35 |
| Ingles- food | \$ 43.31 |
| WNC Farmers Market- 2 bushels of apples for cider making | \$ 85.68 |
| Max Force Forge- cider press | \$ 100.00 |
| Ice, snacks | \$ 34.12 |
| Project Administration: RiverLink staff | \$ 522.18 |
| | |
| TOTAL: | \$ 5,000 |

Narrative summary of grant related activities

The Southside Outside event was a great success. The event was held from 10am-1pm on Saturday, September 14th at Erskine Apartments and Herb Watts Park in the Southside Neighborhood. Nine experts led activities focused on: snakes, wetlands, dragonflies, birds, trees & pollinators, botany, Southern Appalachian ecology, and nature-themed mindfulness. RiverLink's education staff also brought our fun, interactive stormwater model. The topics and activities aligned well with the new green space that was created at Erskine Apartments as part of the Southside Community Stormwater Project in 2023. As a fun incentive for kids to visit every activity station, they received a nature-themed "prize" at every station to place in their bag. After visiting each station, the kids had built their own nature adventure kit with binoculars, a magnifying glass, insect temporary tattoos, a field guide to plants and animals, and more. One kid was overheard saying: "This is the best day ever"! Two community members grilled hot dogs and veggie burgers and provided made from scratch lemonade. The Southside Community Farm brought a cider press and made apple cider. We were unable to secure a DJ for entertainment, but pivoted to playing music on a bluetooth speaker. While we didn't reach our goal of 50 community members engaged, it was an impactful event for those who were able to participate. The weather likely played a role in attendance as there was light rain that morning. We also observed that more people were out and about in the afternoon, so we will plan for the next Southside Outside to start at noon or 1pm.