

The StoryWalk Project

The StoryWalk Project was developed by Anne Ferguson in Montpelier, Vermont to encourage reading while enjoying physical activity. Last year, the Education Division of Community Council, sponsored by United Way of Alamance County, began discussing StoryWalk after hearing interest from several partners and stakeholders. A committee was formed to explore the possibilities of implementing the project and after a series of meetings; the outdoor track at the Mayco Bigelow Center (at North Park in Burlington) was chosen to be the first location for a StoryWalk.

This site is being funded through a student philanthropy grant at Elon University from the Citrone Family. The project has 16 stations of outdoor signage that will hold a children's picture book (the book is taken apart and mounted on the signs). Each station will be separated by about 20-40 paces to encourage children and their caregivers to experience the story by walking through the park. This project helps to build literacy skills, and provides an active, outdoor experience for families by changing the built environment.

Throughout the year the book will be changed in partnership with Alamance County Public Libraries. StoryWalks can be inside or outside, and can even be mobile for events. The StoryWalk committee members are very excited to continue this project in order to promote a culture of reading and healthy living in Alamance County. We hope to secure additional locations throughout the county. If you are interested in becoming a host site or sponsor, please contact April Durr, Director of Community Impact at United Way of Alamance County at adurr@uwalamance.org or (336)438-2000.

