

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Greenways Commission *BW Ben BB*
Bill Bracey, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: Recommended Name Change for the Rail Trail

DATE: March 24, 2004

On March 24, 2004 the Commission voted unanimously (6-0) to recommend that the Council change the name of the Rail Trail to the Horace Williams Trail. We recommend this change for the following reasons:

- The name Rail Trail is deceptive. Much of the trail will not follow portions of the rail line.
- The name Rail Trail seems to imply that this is a Rails to Trails conversion such as the American Tobacco Trail in Durham. This is an active rail line. The trail is not anticipated to share the rail corridor. It is more of a trail adjacent to rails project.
- Unlike other Town trails this project has no single notable feature with which to identify it.
- We believe this is an opportunity to preserve for historical reference the name of Horace Williams who once owned the single largest tract of land along the project. The University now refers to the property as Carolina North instead of the Horace Williams Tract.
- We are in the process of developing recommended changes to the Town's Greenways Master Plan. If the Council agrees to a name change it would work well if any name change occurred in time to be included in a revised Master Plan.

The Commission requests that this recommendation be referred to the Council's Naming Committee for consideration.

Voting yes were: Bill Bracey (Vice Chair), Sarah Bergmann, Jim Earnhardt, Mary Ann Freedman, Glenn Parks, and Robert Verboon