

Friends of the Ashe County Public Library

The Ashe County Public Library will use the grant funds to expand its Walk and Read Program, creating “Story Walks” in three counties. The Story Walks concept is simple: A storybook is taken apart and its pages mounted in frames which are then placed outside (often in a park) along a path. A child, with or without a caregiver, follows the path, reading the book as he/she goes. Stories are changed monthly. The program encourages and rewards outside activity, at the same time increasing literacy skills. In addition, Easy Reader Science books will be used for some Story Walks to encourage early familiarity with science concepts. The library also erects temporary Story Walks at festivals, outside events, and around the libraries, or at sites unsuited for permanent installations. This grant will impact Ashe, Watauga, and Wilkes counties.