

We hope you'll get to visit Damascus soon, find your brick, and be as pleased as we are with the improved sidewalk.

This order of bricks was installed in the sidewalk between 116 East Laurel Avenue and 124 East Laurel Ave. Photos of the finished sidewalk are attached, with thanks to Damascus Town Manager Gavin Blevins for overseeing installation, and Town Clerk Tuesday Pope for sharing these photos. Those who have been coming to Damascus for many years will recall the green awning and wood paneling in the foreground as the former location of the Town Library. Next door at 122 E. Laurel Ave is Eula's Hair Salon, who was very helpful during the installation.

This final round of bricks was installed two blocks away from the previous installments--so please take the details about your brick's location with you when you go to Damascus. If you're looking for your brick near the Town Hall and BB&T bank, you're in the wrong block and need to follow the white blazes northbound past Reynolds Street and S. Shady Avenue.

As an added benefit, with this installation the town was able to remove a large street tree which had overgrown the space between the sidewalk and curb. The tree's massive roots caused the sidewalk to crack and buckle in a way that was becoming hazardous for pedestrians. As you can see in the photo, the new brick sidewalk is smooth and safe (not to mention full of A.T. history and hiker pride).

The Community Pathway Project was launched in May of 2014, and we are happy to celebrate its successful completion with the installation of this final round of bricks. As soon as we've crossed all the t's and dotted all the i's, I will send another update announcing the total proceeds and sharing more photos. I've had several inquiries about whether or not there will be another brick project: at this time nothing is planned, but the A.T. Community partnership may revisit the idea in the future since this campaign was so successful.

No doubt your brick has already welcomed several A.T. hikers to "Trail Town USA", and will continue to do so this spring. Thank you again for supporting the A.T. Community of Damascus, Mount Rogers Appalachian Trail Club, and ATC!

Sincerely,

Kathryn Herndon-Powell
Education and Outreach Coordinator
Appalachian Trail Conservancy