

## Press Release

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### **New Leaf Society to Enhance Historic Webb Avenue Bridge**

**BURLINGTON, N.C.** – New Leaf Society has partnered with North Carolina Railroad and Norfolk Southern to enhance the West Webb Avenue Bridge area in the Glen Raven community. The project involved cleaning all steel surfaces, applying highly resilient primer and painting concrete abutments and wing walls for preservation. New Leaf Society will frame the bridge with fresh landscaping, including more than 150 evergreen shrubs chosen for both aesthetic value and erosion control.

A private non-profit organization, New Leaf Society focuses on enhancing Alamance County through various beautification projects. Endeavors are selected by a technical advisory committee, voted on by a board of directors and funded through private donations. The Webb Avenue Bridge rehabilitation was identified as a high-impact project that would preserve a historic railroad landmark and add value to the community for years to come.

According to Rett Davis, the organization's president, this was an incredible opportunity to invest in the city of Burlington's architectural heritage and landscape.

"Many people don't realize that this is one of only three steel truss bridges remaining in the state of North Carolina," he said. "This project was not only about function, but about preserving an important piece of our transportation history."

Built in 1938, the bridge has two concrete abutments supporting a ballast deck steel truss, which spans approximately 170 feet. With North Carolina Railroad's significant investment in the bridge, beautification efforts were a high priority. New Leaf Society began rallying for the cause in 2013, leveraging support from partnerships, donors and friends in the community and ultimately incurring an investment of more than \$32,000 for landscaping.

"It was evident that the City of Burlington cared deeply about the significance of this bridge," Davis reiterated. "Instead of becoming an eye sore or getting torn down, it is being restored to its former glory – and that is something our entire community can be proud of."

To learn more about New Leaf Society, visit [www.newleafsociety.org](http://www.newleafsociety.org).