Azalea City Application

Section A

Legal Municipality Name: Town of Robbinsville
North Carolina

County/Parish: County of Graham

Mailing Address: 12 North Main Street
Robbinsville, NC 28771

Application Maker: Town of Robbinsville
Revonda Williams
Vice Chair
Graham County Travel & Tourism
Azalea City Application

Section B

Robbinsville and Graham County will be a unique Azalea City by having the ability to promote our Native Azaleas. We have already helped with preservation of a special stand of Native Azaleas that are also easily accessible by the public. This accessibility allows visitors to view some of the best Rhododendron Calendulaceum found in the mountains. The Hooper Bald Project has attracted national notice and has received two awards from the U.S. Forest Service.

Robbinsville and Graham County Volunteers, the local Chapter of Boy Scouts along with the Azalea Society members aided in the Great Azalea Planting of 2011 when Huckleberry and Oak Knob were planted with local Native Azaleas.

Robbinsville and Graham County are also planning a Native Azalea Festival for 2018. This Festival will be specifically to highlight the rare species we have growing on Hooper Bald and Oak Knob. In conjunction with the Graham County Travel & Tourism, a few members of the Azalea Society planted almost 20 Native Azaleas throughout town in October, so the beautiful blooms would be visible as visitors traveled into and around Robbinsville.

The main thrust of this Azalea City will be on the use of our Native Azaleas in the landscape and in the Project of preservation of the Native Azaleas stands in Graham County. This Project also addresses the Federally
Endangered habitat of the Northern Flying Red Squirrel and landscape restoration for the threatened and endangered species. There are 20-40 acres of early successional habitat that has proven to also improve the conditions for pollinators and recreational users. The trees invading the Bald were seen as a negative resource for the azaleas, but a positive monologue among all the agencies involved. The Project was able to find a compromise action, primarily improve the conditions for the Native Azaleas and protect nesting habitat for the flying squirrel. The Hooper Bald Project united five agencies into a single project that had been addressed unilaterally by the U.S. Forest Service. In terms of volunteers and work hours, this was the largest restoration project attempted in the Nantahala National Forest in the last twenty years. The Project has gained national recognition for its success from the American Rhododendron Society.