

## Tweetsie Railroad Open Through 2010

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Tweetsie Railroad will remain open through 2010, despite skyrocketing land prices. Tweetsie was up against a 2007 deadline to renew land leases or close.

Owners negotiated deals so the family-run park could operate for at least a few more years at its current location. The park will celebrate its 50th season of entertaining families when it opens May 4. Park general manager Chris Robbins called it a long battle saying this is just one more step toward a final resolution. Since its opening in 1957, much of the park has been on land just south of Boone that was leased by Robbins' father and two uncles. With land prices soaring in Watauga County in recent years, it was unclear whether Robbins and his immediate family would be able to negotiate a renewal of the leases on the two parcels of land they do not own. The park has identified and secured a site in Wilkes County for possible relocation if additional long-term agreements on the current leases don't work out.