

Randolph County Trails Update



"Creating a Culture of Wellness
One Step at a Time"

**Asheboro Randolph
Chamber
October 22, 2022**

Hope Haywood
County Commissioner
Randolph County

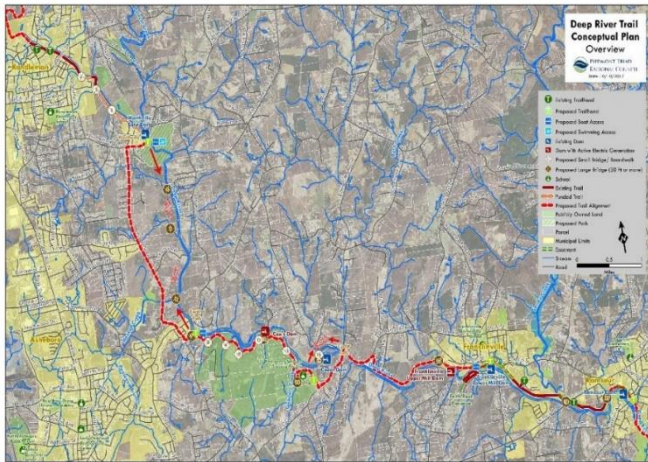
Randolph County Trails



"Creating a Culture of Wellness
One Step at a Time"

Deep River State Trail

Background



In 2017, TDA funded the Conceptual Plan with 15 miles of land and 15 mile of water trails.

- Randolph County doesn't have a Parks and Recreation program. Depend on the eight municipalities to provide.
- Randolph County Tourism Development Authority (TDA) chose the Deep River corridor as an Initiative area in 1998. Worked to have it designated a State Trail in 2007.
- Franklinville, Randleman and Ramseur began constructing trails. TDA set up Task Force to coordinate efforts in 2015.

Deep River State Trail

Funding



- Randolph County put together a Strategic Plan in 2016 in which Trails were mentioned in
 - Health/Wellness
 - Economic Development
 - Quality of Life
- In 2017 created a Strategic Planning Implementation Fund (RCSPIF) and funded the #1 priority - preliminary engineering study for the Sandy Creek bridge connecting Franklinville to Ramseur.

Deep River State Trail

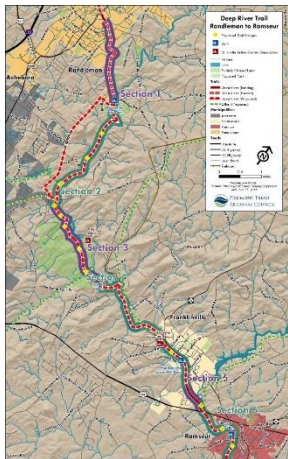
Funding



- In 2019, created a Trails Coordinator position as part of the County Wellness Program.
- Also, established the County Trails Advisory Council with reps from the eight municipalities, TDA, Piedmont Legacy Trails, Uwharrie TrailBlazers and other trail associated groups.
- Received County SPIF monies for Sandy Creek Bridge construction, Seagrove sidewalks and Creekside Greenway bridge.

Deep River State Trail

Recreational Trail Program



- Since DRST municipalities struggled with cash flow for RTP grants which are on a reimbursement basis, the County agreed to make application and administer RTP projects.
- Worthville to Central Falls Paddleway.
- Randleman Deep River Greenway Phase III
- Sandy Creek Bridge construction

Deep River State Trail



COVID 19 Pandemic

- Bright spot was five miles of trails along Deep River for family and friends to have a safe place to go outdoors.
- Increased DRST usage reached between 200% and 300%.
- Trails are no longer “nice” amenity; essential to not only physical but also mental, emotional and spiritual health and wellness.

Deep River State Trail

EXPLORE 5 MILES OF TRAIL
along the Deep River in Randleman,
Franklinville, and Ramseur.

Faith Rock Trail

0.75 mi

Let's Explore.

Cornered by the Tory Army atop this 50ft high blue stone outcrop, Andrew Hunter was desperate to escape capture and certain death. It was the midst of the Revolutionary War in 1782. He turned and rode his horse straight off the rock into the Deep River and miraculously survived. You can stand where he stood before taking this daring "leap of faith," the namesake for the rock.

This trail is an easy 3/4 mile loop that has a big payoff. Cross over the historic bridge, take in the beautiful views of the river, and go back in time from the top of Faith Rock.

TRAILHEAD:
1806 Andrew Hunter Road, Franklinville, NC 27248

Visit the Heart of North Carolina

Heart of North Carolina Visitors Bureau
500 Albemarle Road
Asheboro, North Carolina 27203

Release date June 2020; Version 1

DEEP RIVER
State Trail

COVID 19 Response

- Although the DRST had 5 miles of constructed trails, the segments were in three municipalities.
- To assist people in finding the segments, in 2020 the County worked with the Piedmont Legacy Trails to design a DRST Brochure and the TDA to print and distribute it to visitors center statewide.

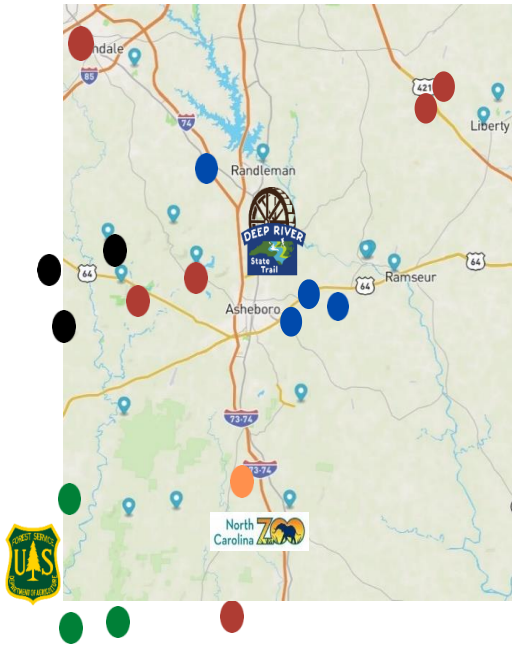
Deep River State Trail



COVID 19 Response

- In addition, the City of Asheboro worked with the other three municipalities to design the DRST logo and produce 27 trailheads and directional signs.
- The DRST Brochure and Signage were celebrated before Labor Day 2020.
- All three State legislators, two County Commissioners, the four mayors along with TDA, PLT and State Trails celebrated all three sites.

Randolph County Trail Guide



piedmontrails.org

- Creekside Park Trails and Greenway
3 mile paved trail. 214 Park Dr. Archdale.
- Randleman Section | Deep River State Trail
1.5 mile fine gravel trail. 117 Presnell St. Randleman.
- Franklinville Section | Deep River State Trail
1.75 mile fine gravel. 1306 Andrew Hunter Dr, Franklinville.
- Faith Rock Trail. 0.75 mile natural surface trail. 1306 Andrew Hunter Dr, Franklinville.
- Ramseur Section | Deep River State Trail
0.65 mile fine gravel trail. 5960 US 64, Ramseur.
- Freedom Park Trail
0.5 mile fine gravel loop. 800 Hamilton Dr. Liberty.
- Paul Henry Smith Park Trail
0.25 mile fine gravel loop. W Dameron Ave. Liberty.
- Mount Shepherd | Check-in Required
1.5 mile natural trail. 1045 Mt Shepherd Rd, Asheboro.
- Ridge's Mountain Preserve | By Appointment Only
0.9 mile natural trail. Ridges Mountain Trail, Asheboro

Deep River State Trail

\$1 million Request for County ARP Funds



- To address demand for trails that provide safe places for exercise and peace of mind, need to invest in more trail construction.
- In 2021 requested \$1 million in ARP funds for “investment ready” DRST projects.
- Most have matching funds to stretch County funds by leveraging \$400,000.
- Later switched to Strategic Planning Implementation Fund to allow more flexibility.

2023
YEAR OF THE TRAIL



Great Trail State Coalition

- 2023 NC Year of the Trail
- Complete the Trail Fund
 - \$29.25 mil for State Trails
 - \$50,000 for Capacity Building

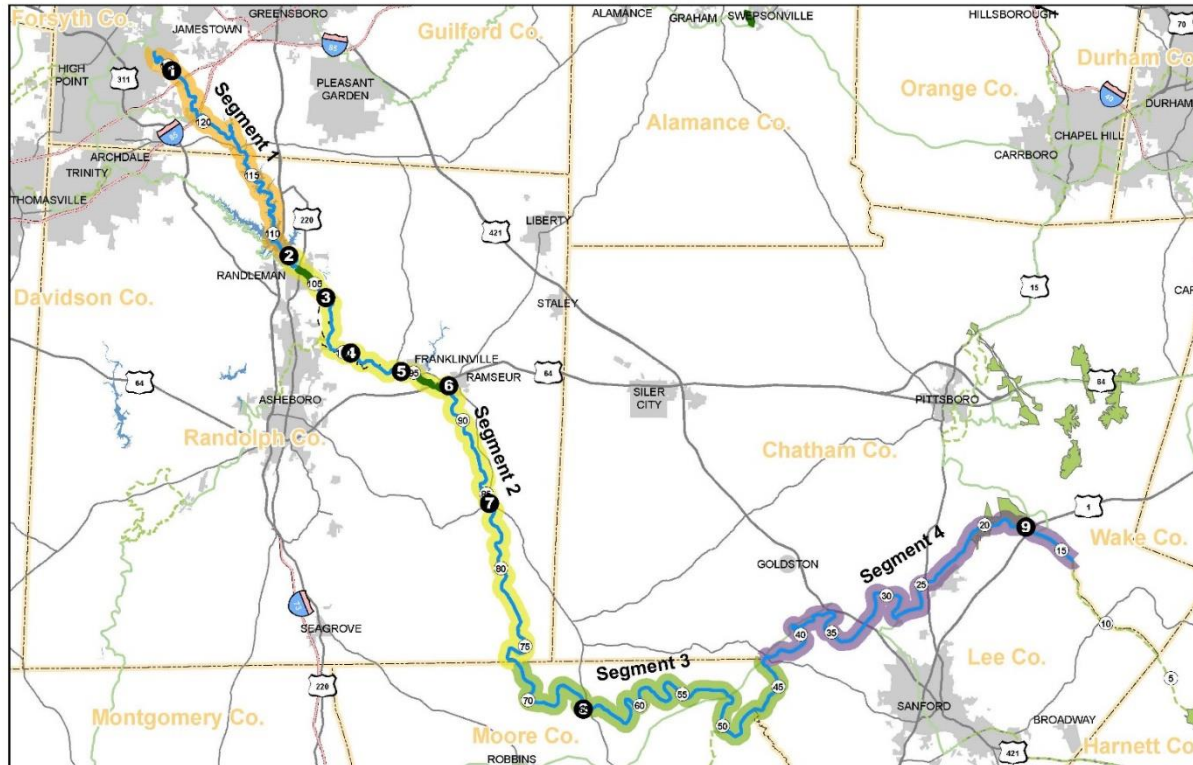
Deep River State Trail



Complete the Trail Fund

- Trail Construction - \$860,828
- Capacity Building - \$49,500

Deep River State Trail



5 2.5 0 5 Miles

LEGEND

Paddle Trail Corridor, Planned

- Segment 1
- Segment 2
- Segment 3
- Segment 4

--- Deep River Hiking / Biking Trail, Planned

- State Trail, Existing
- Deep River
- NCDOT Trail Plan
- Proposed
- Alternate/ Gap

- State Parks Unit
- Randleman Reservoir
- County Line
- Municipality

- 1 Oekdale Mill Dam
- 2 Randleman Dam
- 3 Worthville Dam
- 4 Central Falls Dam
- 5 Franklinville Dam
- 6 Ramseur Dam
- 7 Coleridge Dam
- 8 High Falls Dam
- 9 Lockville Dam

○ River Miles

- 125 miles stretching from Jamestown to Moncure
- Set up Steering Committee that includes Randolph, Guilford, Moore, Chatham and Lee Counties, High Point and Piedmont Triad Regional Water Authority



Deep River State Trail



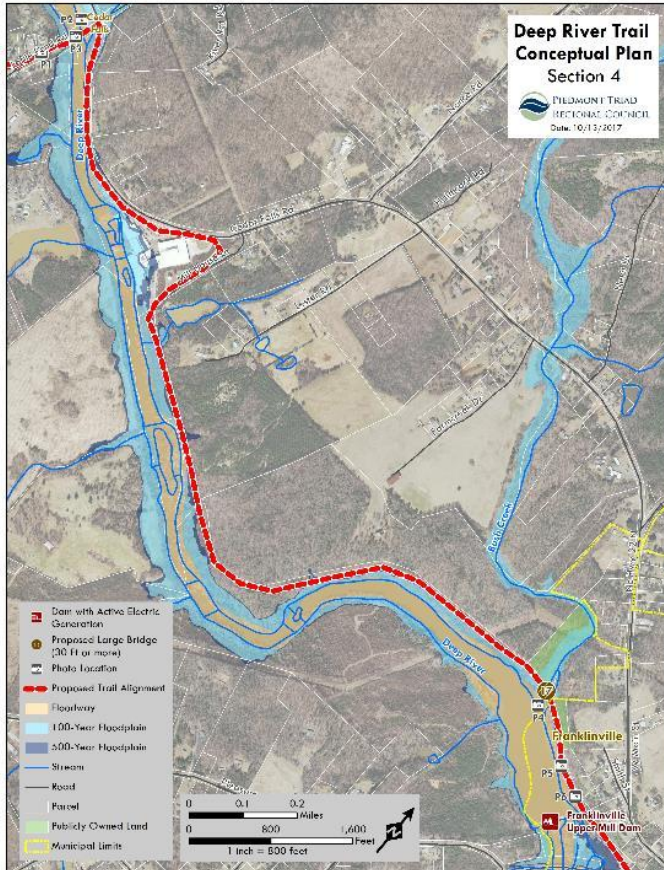
- **DRST Partner** - Every State Trail is required to have a nonprofit partner. Piedmont Land Conservancy which has protected land on Deep River and in Randolph County agreed to be the DRST Partner.
- **Complete the Trail Funds** – As the DRST Partner, PLC administers the Complete the Trail Fund grants including the Capacity Building Grant
- **Capacity Building Grant** – Each State Trail receives \$49,500 for two years
 - Trail Coordinator - \$20,000 per year
 - Maps - \$2,750
 - Adm - \$5,750
- **DRST Coordinator** – PLC is contracting with Randolph County.

Deep River State Trail



- Five Year Plan Approved
 - Met with six organizations on Steering Committee
 - Plans and projects
- DRST Master Plan being finalized

Complete the Trail Fund Project



Franklinville to Cedar Falls

- Franklinville - 2.5 mi
- Extend to Sapona – 2 mi
- Extend to NC Textile Museum - .75 mi
- Complete Sandy Creek Bridge to Ramseur - .75 mi
- **TOTAL – 6 MILES**

Complete the Trail Fund Project



#1-Franklinville to Sapona

- Two miles of Trail
- Bush Creek Bridge
- Trailheads at Franklinville and Sapona
- **TOTAL \$700,000**



Complete the Trail Fund Project



#2-Sapona to NC Textile Museum

- .75 mile of Trail
- Trailhead at NC Textile Museum
- River Access near Loflin Pond Rd bridge
- TOTAL \$250,000



Randolph County \$1 Million

Sandy Creek Pedestrian Bridge



- Top priority of DRST Conceptual Plan
- Connect Franklinville (1.75 mi/Faith Rock .75 mi) to Ramseur (.75 mi) near US 64 bridge for total of 2.5 mi
- Total Cost - \$400,000 with \$100,000 RTP grant
- Mattern & Craig Engineers have completed bridge and trail alignment and preliminary design.
- Projected Opening Dec 2023

Randolph County \$1 Million

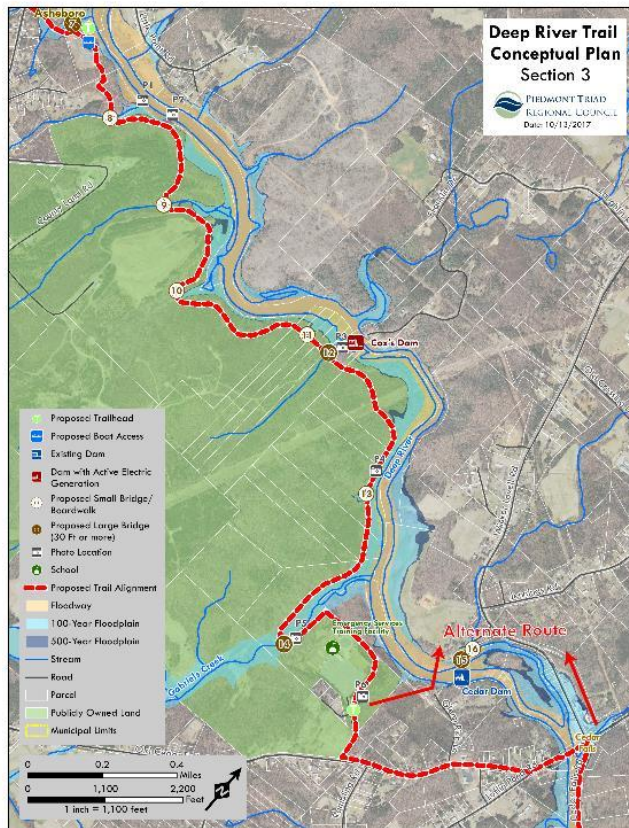
Preliminary Engineering for Bridges



- Conceptual Plan calls for 19 stream crossings with at least five major bridges requiring preliminary engineering reports (PERs) similar to Sandy Creek Bridge.
- Have contract with Wetherill Engineering starting with Bush Creek on the Franklinville to Cedar Falls Section.
- Wetherill has completed survey and working on bridge design options.
- Other four are Harlan, Cox, Gabriel, and Hasketts Creeks.

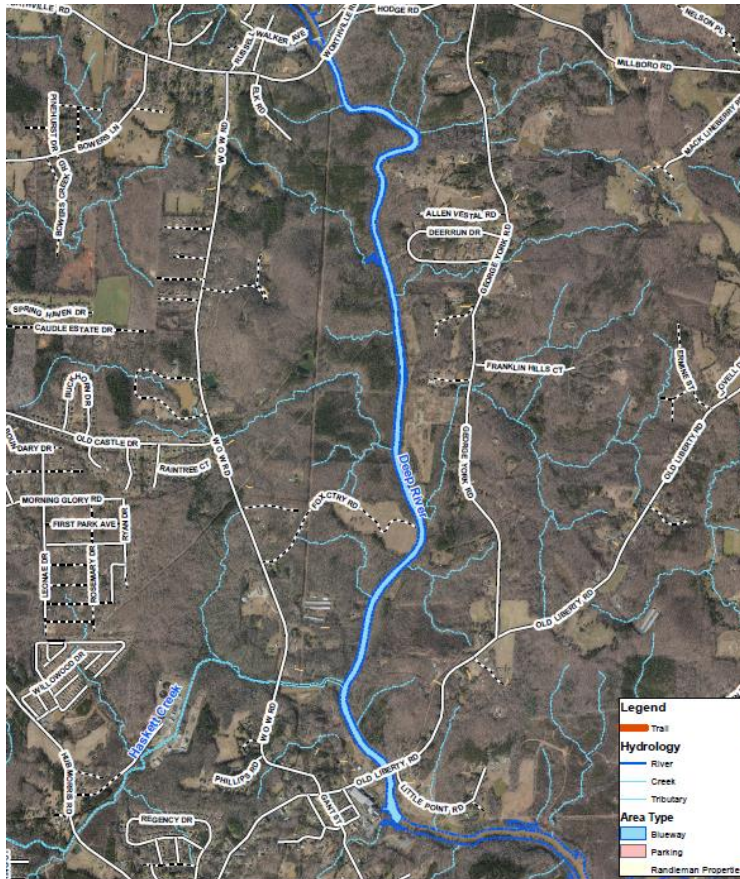
Randolph County \$1 Million

Conceptual Plan for County Section



- The County owns three miles along Deep River from Central Falls to Cedar Falls as part of the Landfill property.
- Since it is undeveloped land, a conceptual plan is needed to provide the alignment of the trail.
- Piedmont Triad Regional Council that did the DRST Conceptual Plan has completed a draft trail alignment including stream crossings/bridges.

Worthville to Central Falls Deep River Blueway



Funding - \$100,000 RTP and \$25,000 Randleman and Asheboro

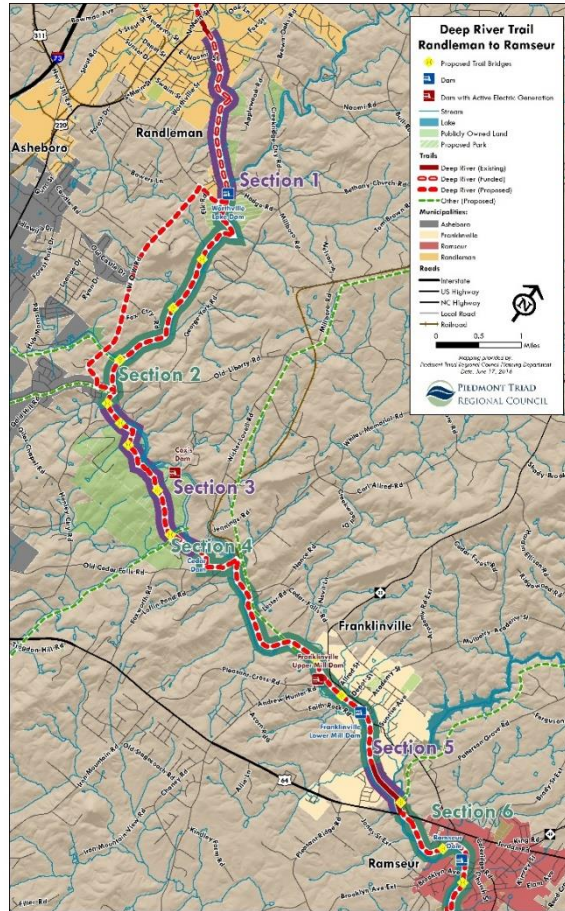
Worthville Access

- NC Wildlife Resources has begun construction downstream of Worthville Rd bridge and will maintain.

Central Falls Access

- Asheboro working to acquire three lots on Old Liberty Rd.

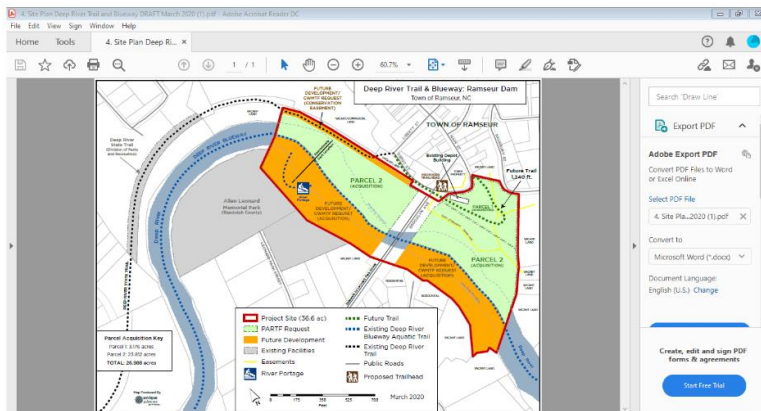
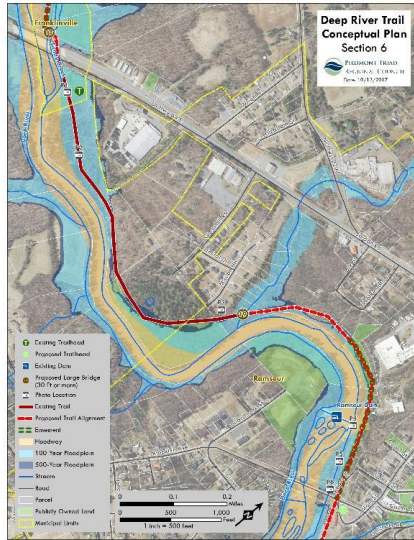
Randleman Deep River Greenway Phase III



Worthville to Randleman

- Received \$100,000 Recreational Trail Program grant with \$25,000 match from Randleman
- Will use Worthville river access for trailhead
- Plan to begin construction late 2022.

Ramseur Deep River Trail Extension and Trailhead



- Project is to purchase of Ramseur Dam and both sides of Deep River for extension of Ramseur Rail Trail to downtown, a trailhead at Old Depot, and portage at dam at Leonard Park
- Received \$128,000 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant matched with \$87,000 NC Land & Water Fund grant and \$50,000 from General Assembly for total of \$261,000
- Unique Places 2 Save is administering the grants and has begun the acquisition. Trail improvements projected to begin Summer 2023.

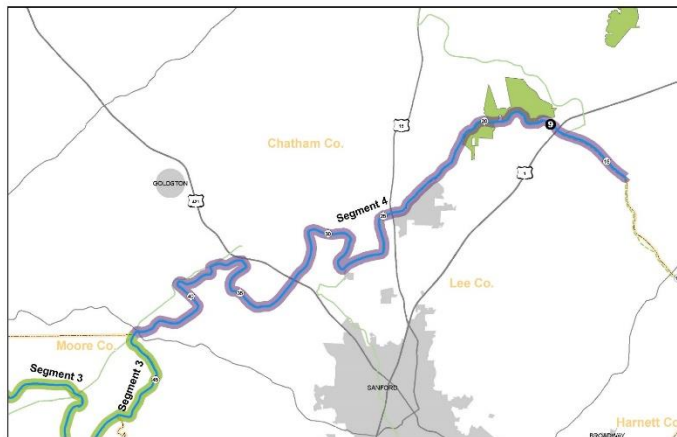
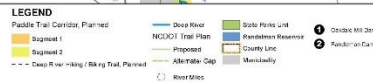
NC Textile Museum



NC Textile Museum

- **\$500,000 for 2 years**
- **Trailhead for the Cedar Falls to Franklinville section of DRST**
- **River access at Loflin Pond Rd Bridge.**

NC DOT Great Trail State Plan



- NC DOT's GTS Plan connects all 100 counties and county seats via trails
- Working on designating five natural surface trail pilot projects
- Nominated two on DRST
 - Randleman to Randleman Lake and Randleman HS
 - Rocky River to Moncure in Chatham/Lee Counties

Archdale Creekside Park



- Received \$450,000 to complete extension of Creekside Park Greenway to AT Middle School
- Construction on 2000' loop at Creekside to be completed by Spring 2023
- 1st anniversary of Creekside parkrun, an international 5K event run by volunteers every Saturday at 9 am

Seagrove Downtown Sidewalks



- **County Strategic Planning Implementation Fund Grant for the remaining \$108,000 needed to construct 1 mile of sidewalks in the Downtown**
- **Highest priority in the Seagrove Pedestrian Plan**
- **Connects potteries, other businesses, the library and Seagrove Elementary School**
- **Use public parking at newly relocated Depot**

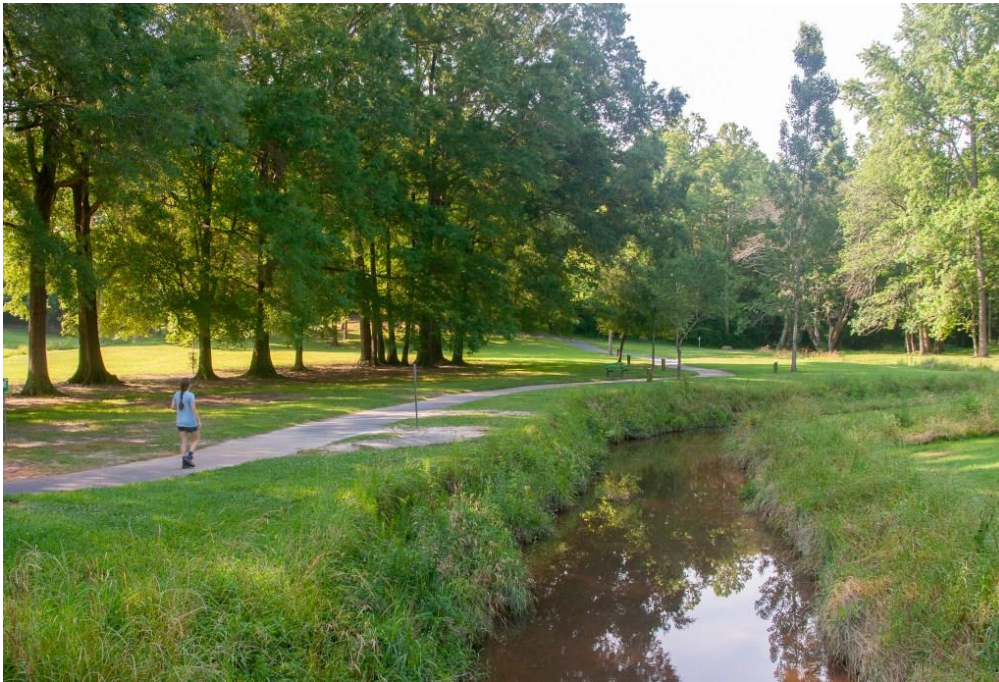
Liberty Freedom Park Improvements - LWCF



Freedom Park

- Liberty received a Land Water Conservation Fund grant for improvements at Freedom Park
- Includes splash pad, amphitheater and pickle ball courts

Asheboro Zoo City Sportsplex



- Phase I which is underway includes part of the 2 mile trail system planned.
- One trail paved and ADA compliant
- Another trail is natural surface.
- Projected to open Spring 2023

Uwharrie National Recreation Trail



Uwharrie TrailBlazers

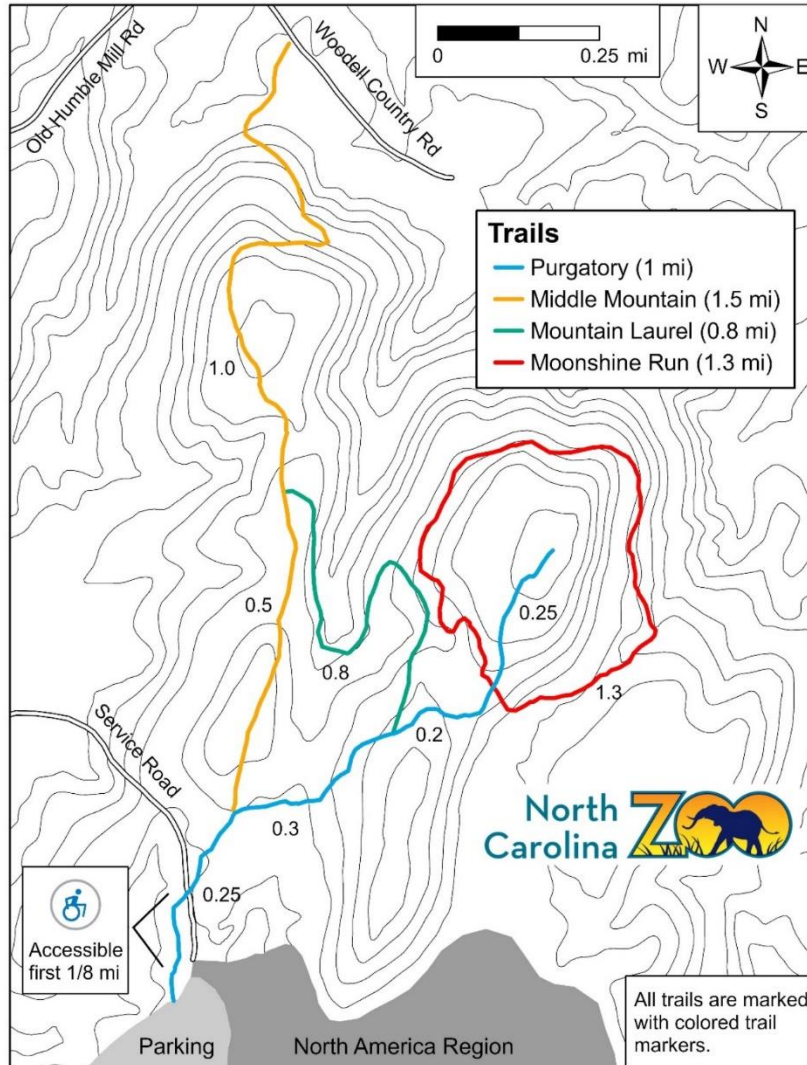
- October Thru Hike – 40 miles in 4 days
- Trail Maintenance – 4200 volunteer hours in 3 yr. Used as match for RTP funds
- NC 109 to King Mtn Rd – USFS contracted major work
- Fourth and Final Gap – Working to fill gap between Walker's Creek and Birkhead Wilderness

Heart of North Carolina Visitor Bureau 2022 Travel Guide



- Cover of 2022 Travel Guide
- Several Travel Writer articles
- Visit NC/Outdoor NC – Outdoor Itineraries

North Carolina Zoo Trails



NC Zoo Trail Additions National Trail Day June 4, 2022 Opening

- Moonshine Run
- Middle Mtn
- Mountain Laurel

Year of the Trail National Trail Day June 3, 2023 Opening

- Spring Trail

Caraway Creek Preserve



- **Piedmont Land Conservancy purchased 100 acres in Spring 2021 and 90 acres in Fall 2022**
- **Located between Mt Shepherd and Caraway Mtn**
- **Currently 3 miles of trail constructed, 3 more planned**
- **Projected to open Spring 2023**

2022 Mayor's Fitness Challenge Get Outdoors for Your Wellbeing



● Walks with Mayors Saturdays 9 am

- Oct 1 – Archdale (Rained Out)
- Oct 8 – Ramseur
- Oct 15 - Liberty
- Oct 22 - Asheboro
- Oct 29- Randleman
- Nov 5 – Seagrove
- Nov 12 - Trinity

● Hikes meeting at Farmer's Market at Sundays 1:30 pm

- Oct 9 – Franklinville/Faith Rock
- Oct 16 – Birkhead Wilderness
- Oct 23– Purgatory Mtn at the NC Zoo
- Oct 30– Mt Shepherd
- Nov 6 – Caraway Mtn



Archdale Creekside Greenway – Outer Loop*

Randleman

- Worthville Blueway*
- Phase III Greenway*

Franklinville

- Franklinville to Sapona*
- Sandy Creek Bridge*

Ramseur Trail Extension and Trailhead*

Liberty - Freedom Park Improvements

Asheboro - Zoo City Sportsplex

Seagrove - Presnell Park or Downtown Sidewalks

Trinity - Trinity Uwharrie Greenway Phase I*

NC Zoo - Purgatory Mtn Spring Trail*

Uwharrie Trail - Thru Hike

PLC - Caraway Creek Preserve*

*Ribbon Cuttings

Randolph County Trails



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One Step at a Time"

