



Putting the Pieces Together: Mountains-to-Sea State Trail Overview

Carol Tingley
Deputy Director
NC Division of Parks and Recreation

Superintendents Conference
2011



Conceived in the 1970's: the exciting, ambitious and forward-looking Mountains-to-Sea Trail



**From Great Smoky
Mountains National
Park**

**To Jockeys Ridge
State Park**





By the 1990's: significant progress but major gaps centered around the lack of public land through the North Carolina Piedmont.



2000 Addition of MST to the State Parks System

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 1999

SESSION LAW 2000-157
SENATE BILL 1311

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ADDITION OF THE MOUNTAINS TO SEA STATE PARK TRAIL TO THE STATE PARKS SYSTEM, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMISSION.

Whereas, Section 5 of Article XIV of the North Carolina Constitution states that it shall be a proper function of the State of North Carolina to acquire and preserve park, recreational, and scenic areas and, in every other appropriate way, to preserve as a part of the common heritage of this State its open lands and places of beauty; and

Whereas, the General Assembly enacted the State Parks Act in 1987, declaring that the State of North Carolina offers unique archaeological, geological, biological, scenic, and recreational resources, and that these resources are part of the heritage of the people of the State to be preserved and managed by those people for their

35 STATE PARKS



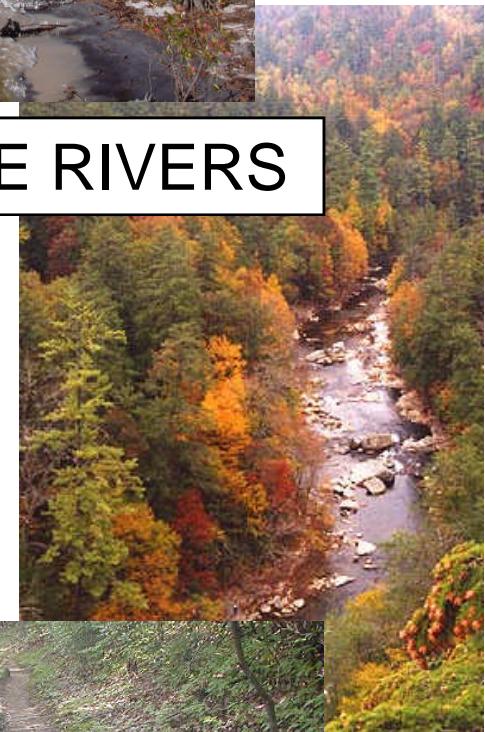
7 STATE LAKES



20 STATE NATURAL AREAS



4 STATE RIVERS



4 STATE RECREATION AREAS



4 STATE TRAILS



CHAPTER 113. CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
SUBCHAPTER II. STATE FORESTS AND PARKS
ARTICLE 2C.
STATE PARKS ACT

§ 113-44.7. Short title.

This Article shall be known as the State Parks Act. (1987, c. 243.)

§ 113-44.9. Definitions.

As used in this Article, unless the context requires otherwise:

- (1) "Department" means the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
- (2) "Park" means any tract of land or body of water comprising part of the State Parks System under this Article, including existing State parks, State natural areas, State recreation areas, State trails, State rivers, and State lakes.

(b) The General Assembly finds it appropriate to establish the State Parks System. This system shall consist of parks which include representative examples of the resources sought to be preserved by this Article, together with such surrounding lands as may be appropriate. Park lands are to be used by the people of this State and their visitors in order to promote understanding of and pride in the natural heritage of this State.

What the Authorization Bill Did:

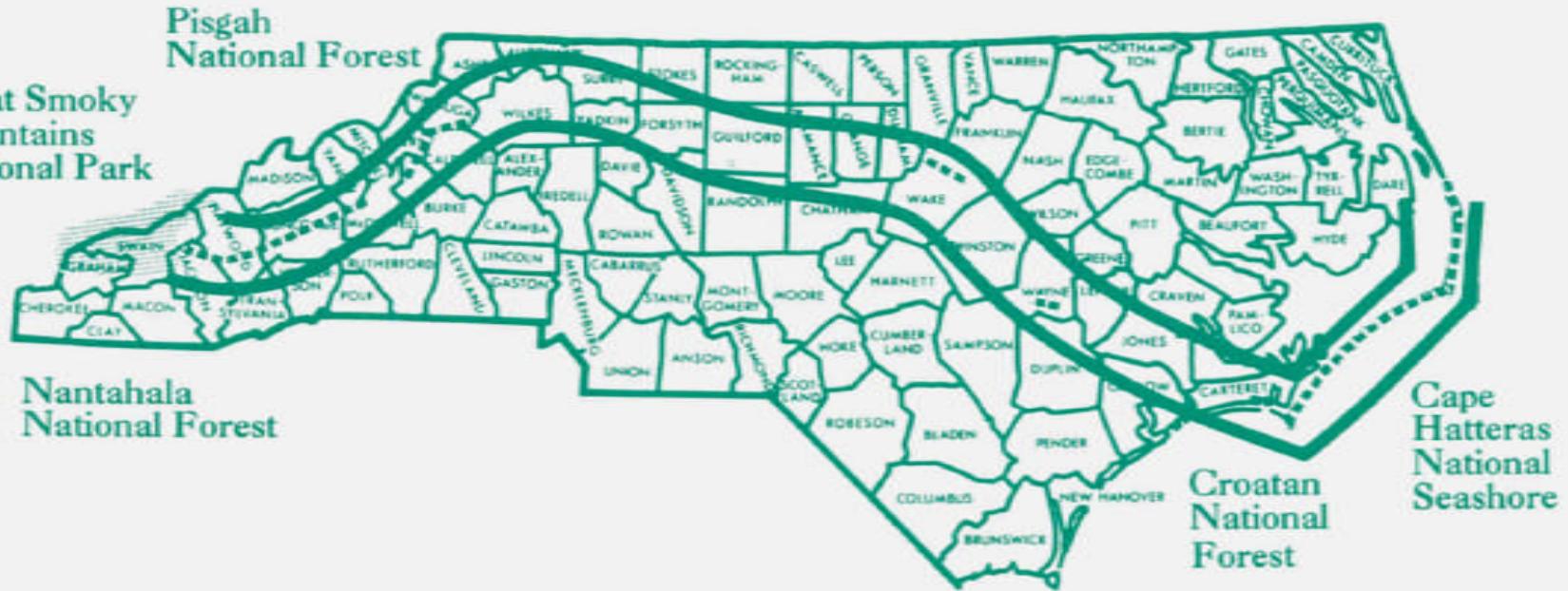
- Gave MST equal “standing” within the State Parks System
- Authorized DPR to acquire and manage land for the MST
- Made MST eligible for PARTF funding
- Enhanced DPR ability to work with partners

What the Authorization Bill Does Not Do:

- Obligate DPR to fund, acquire and manage the entire trail
- Automatically provide staff and budget
- Inhibit our partners' ability to manage the trail on their own land

The Mountains-to-Sea State Trail
cannot be completed without
partners!

Proposed MOUNTAINS-TO-SEA TRAIL corridor across North Carolina



MOUNTAINS-TO-SEA TRAIL PLANNING CORRIDOR



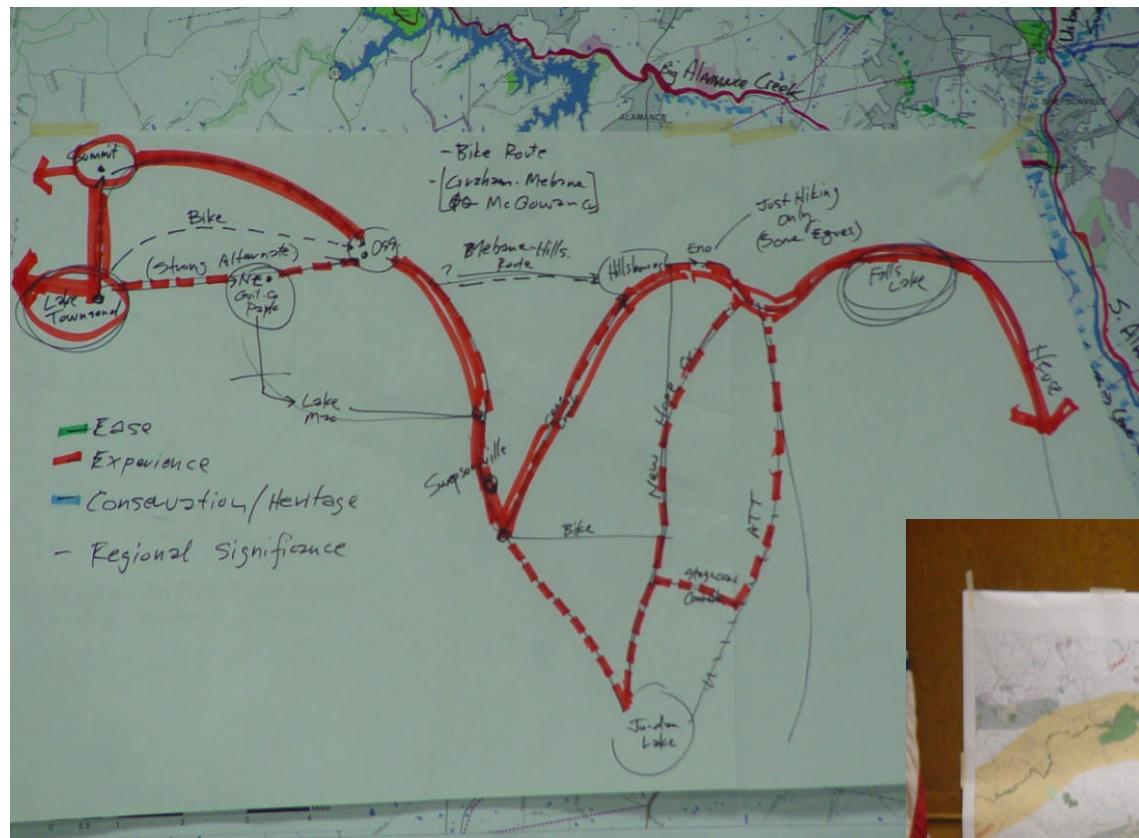
Completed sections of Mountains - to- Sea Trail

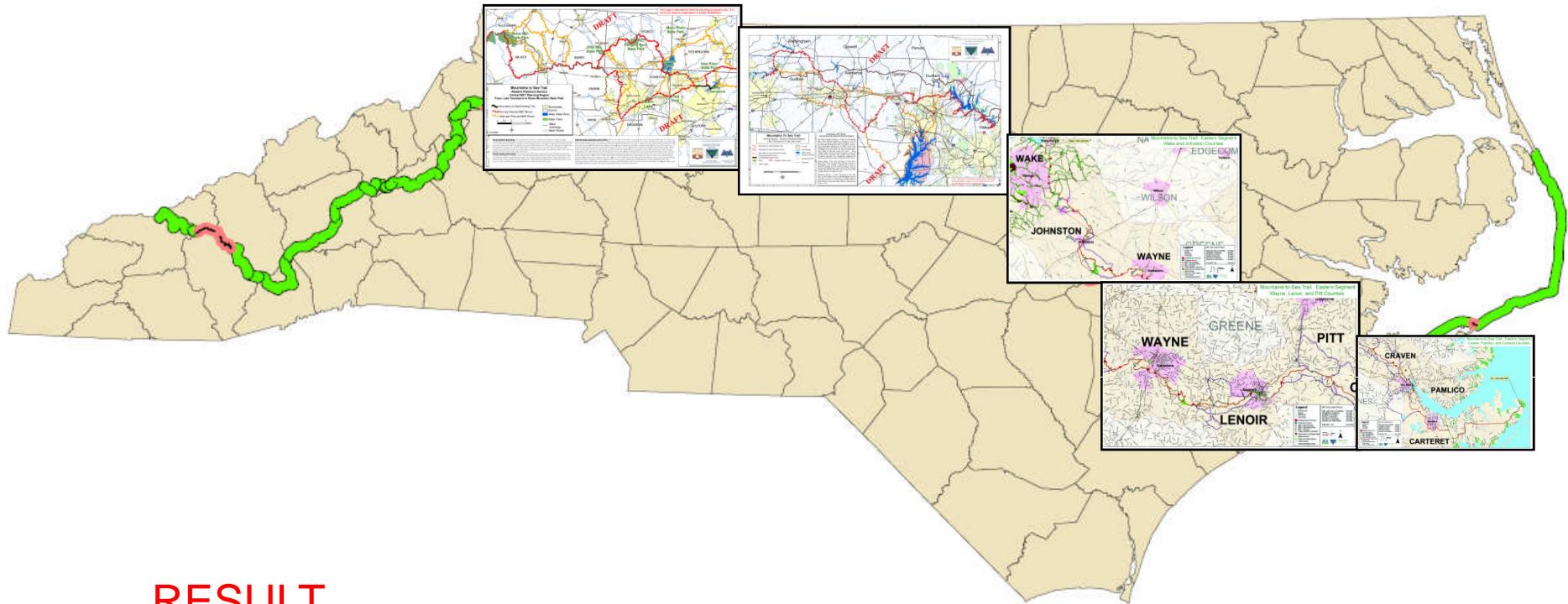


A series of regional meetings with stakeholders and land owners.

- Councils of Government
- Counties and municipalities
- State and federal agencies
- Land trusts
- Advocates and user groups



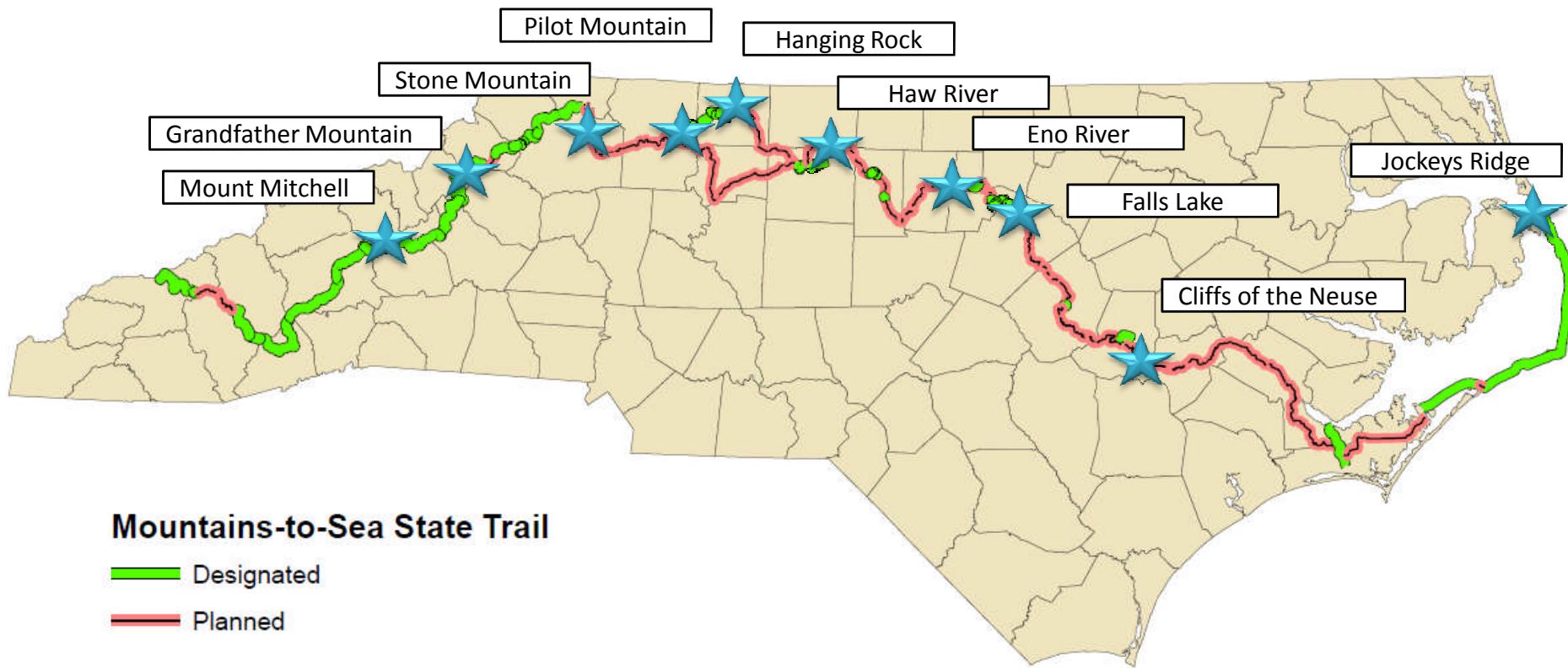




RESULT

Gaps are now represented by planned routes agreed upon by partners and ready for implementation.





LINKING TOGETHER STATE PARKS

N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation: - Welcome to North Carolina State Parks - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.ncparks.gov/visit/main.php

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Search web...

pdforge Search PDFCreator eBay Amazon Options

Favorites Suggested Sites Web Slice Gallery

E N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation: - Welcome to N...

*Mountains-to-Sea State Trail

Legend

Camping	Roads
Parking	Showers
Picnic Area	State Park
Restaurant	State Trail
Restrooms	

Pisgah National Forest

Mount Mitchell State Park

Roads

Mount Mitchell State Park

128

80

Pisgah National Forest

Blue Ridge Parkway

N

Miles

0 0.5 1 2 3 4

Enlarged

* Represents a segment of the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail.

N.C. STATE PARKS

Internet 100%

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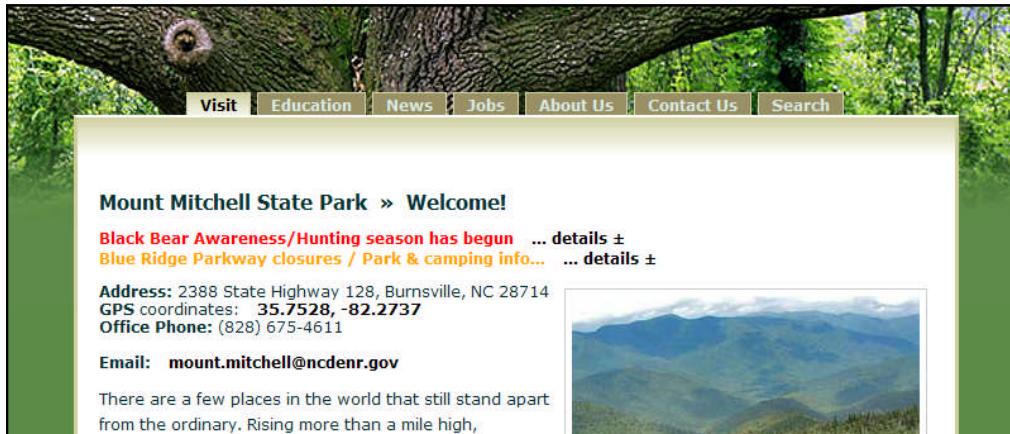
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Enlarged

* Represents a segment of the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail.

N.C. STATE PARKS

Internet 100%



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Mount Mitchell State Park » Welcome!

Black Bear Awareness/Hunting season has begun ... details ±
Blue Ridge Parkway closures / Park & camping info... ... details ±

Address: 2388 State Highway 128, Burnsville, NC 28714
GPS coordinates: **35.7528, -82.2737**

Office Phone: (828) 675-4611

Email: mount.mitchell@ncdenr.gov

There are a few places in the world that still stand apart from the ordinary. Rising more than a mile high, surrounded by the gentle mist of low-hanging clouds, Mount Mitchell State Park is one of these extraordinary places.

In the crest of the timeworn Black Mountains lies the summit of Mount Mitchell, at an elevation 6,684 feet it is the highest point east of the Mississippi. For those who horizon is a feast for the eyes—breathtaking views of valleys. Forested and forever misty, 1,946-acre Mount the most tranquil moments you'll ever experience.

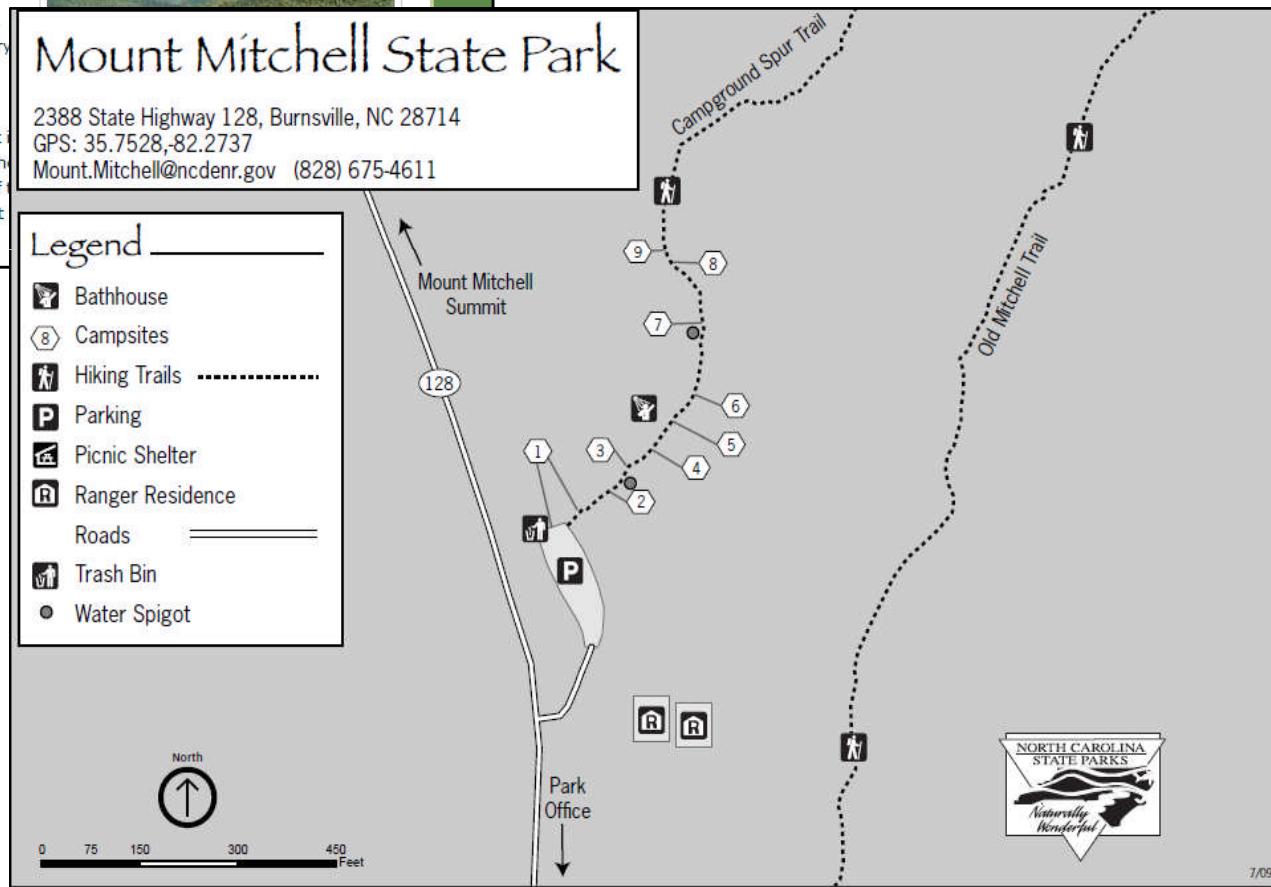
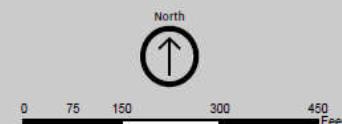


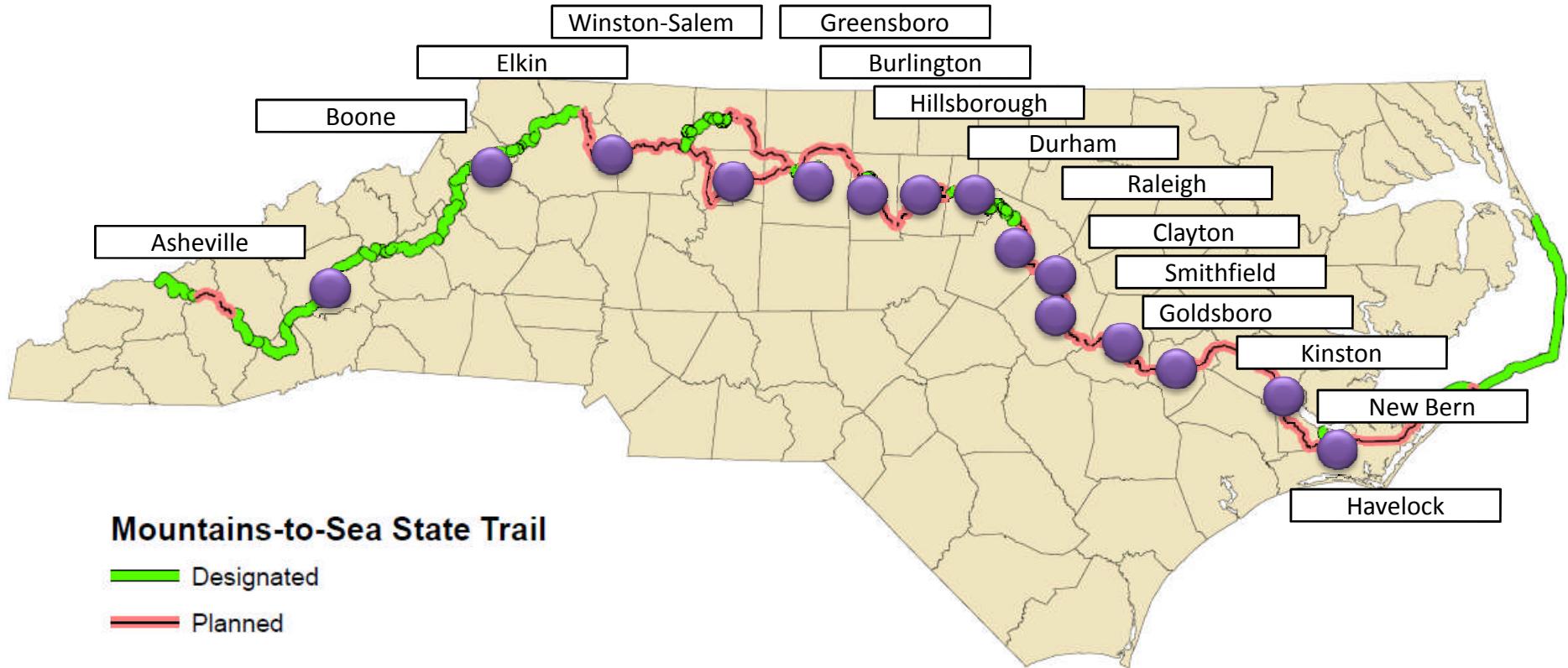
Mount Mitchell State Park

2388 State Highway 128, Burnsville, NC 28714
GPS: 35.7528,-82.2737
Mount.Mitchell@ncdenr.gov (828) 675-4611

Legend

- Bathhouse
- Campsites
- Hiking Trails
- Parking
- Picnic Shelter
- Ranger Residence
- Roads
- Trash Bin
- Water Spigot





LINKING TOGETHER COMMUNITIES

Upper Neuse Greenway Project Underway

POSTED BY TIM T. DAILY

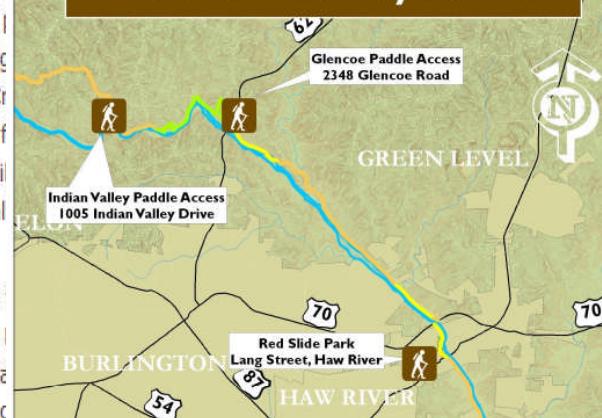
ON FEBRUARY - 6 - 2010



The City of Raleigh broke ground on Feb. 4 to fo
construction of the Upper Neuse Greenway Trail.
planned Neuse Riv
County line. Mayor
The groundbreakir
Lake, the starting j
trail will extend eig
Center on Perry Cr
wide asphalt trail f
watching. The trail
elevated boardwal
park furniture.
Connecting points
the Bedford, Falls |
also call for the tra
Road and Thornton Road and at the North Wake Landfill rec

More than 250 supporters gathered at
theatre in the
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the background was
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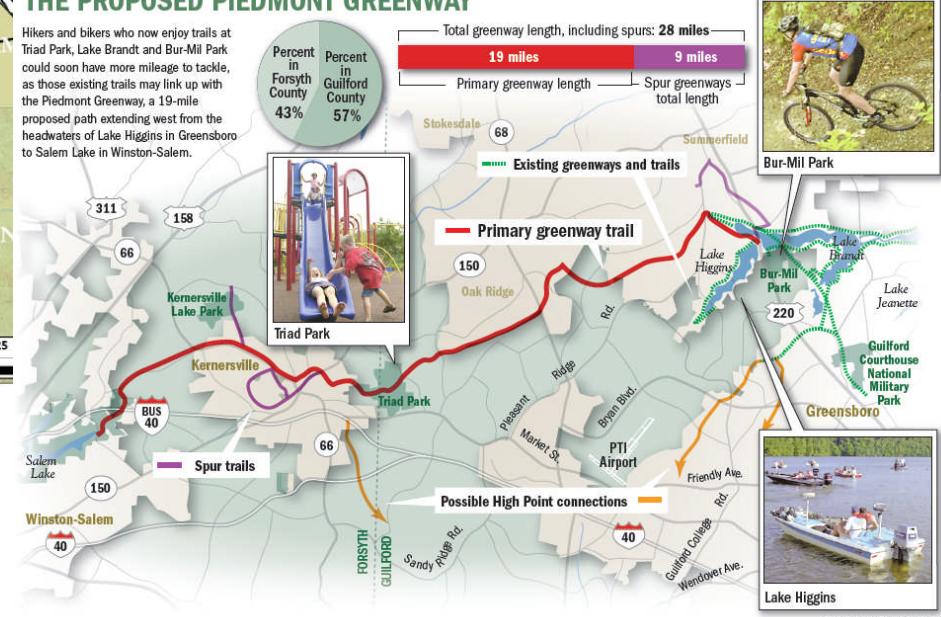
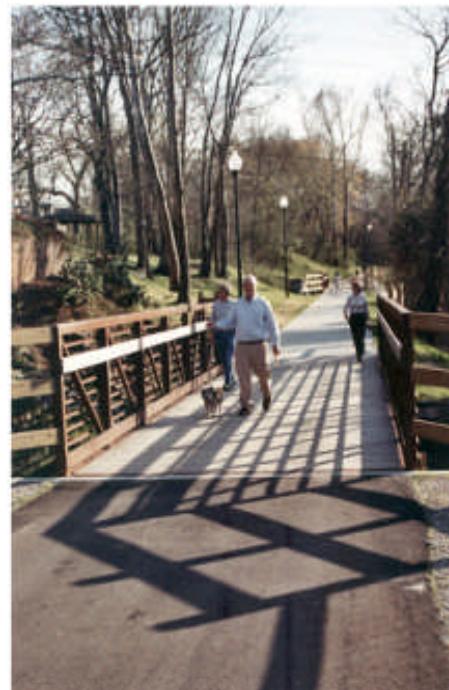
Haw River Trail Alamance County Section



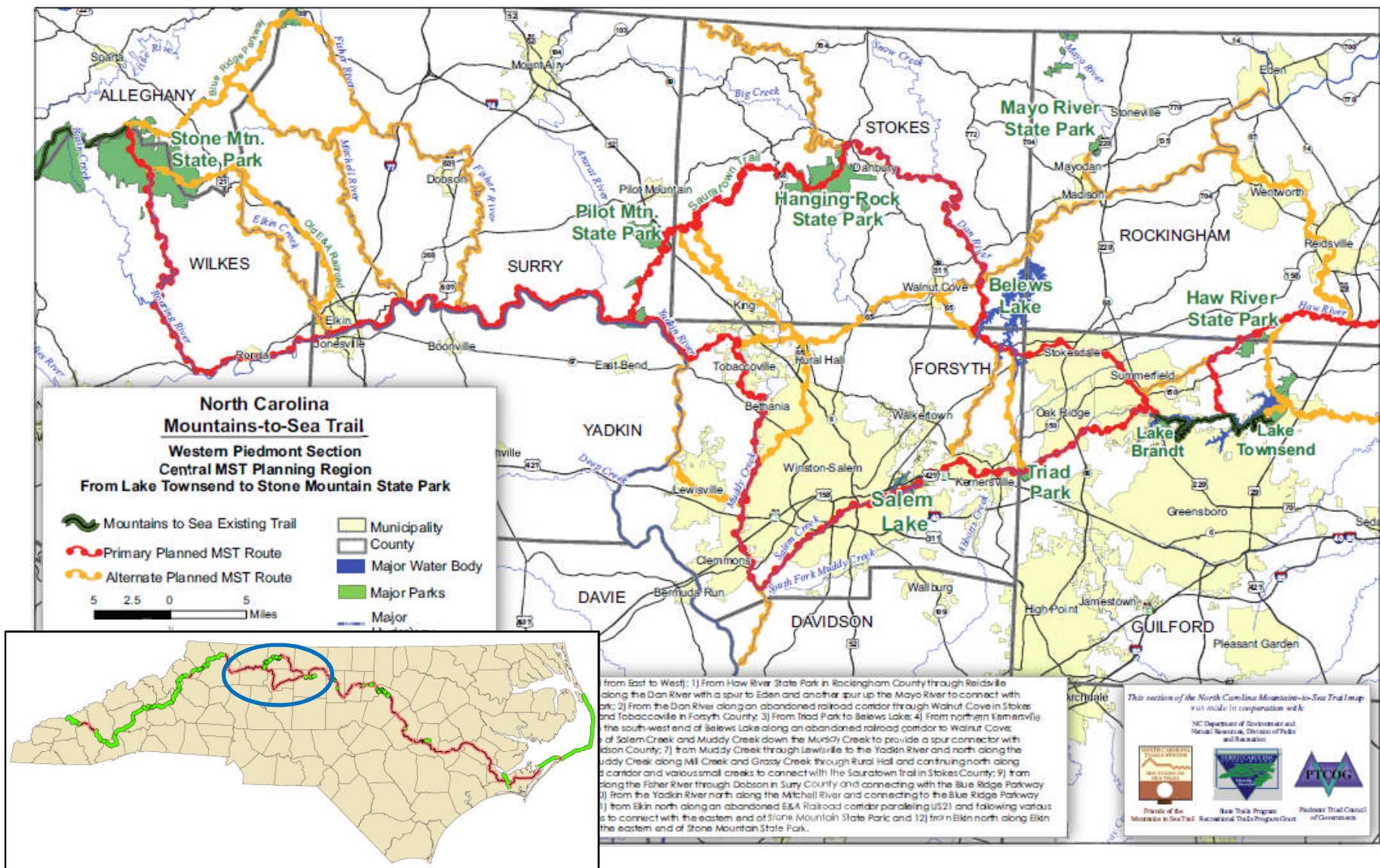
SMITHFIELD CHRISTENS COMPLETED RIVERWALK AND GREENWAY TRAIL

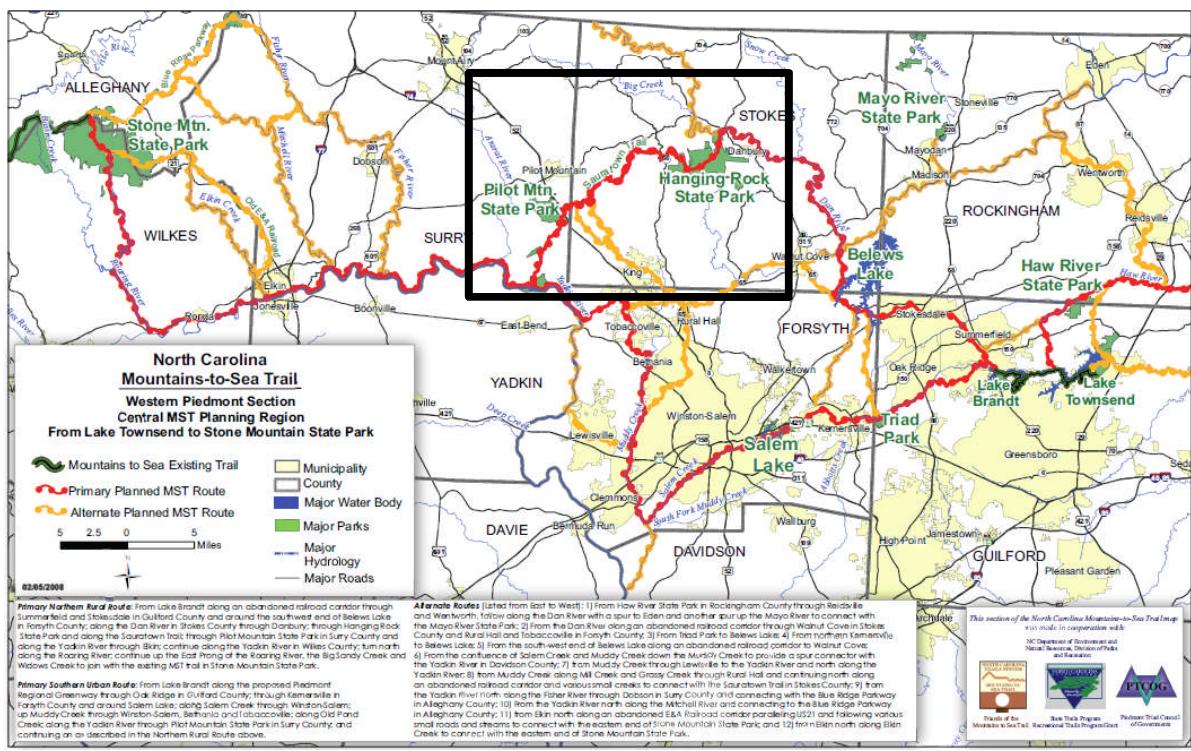
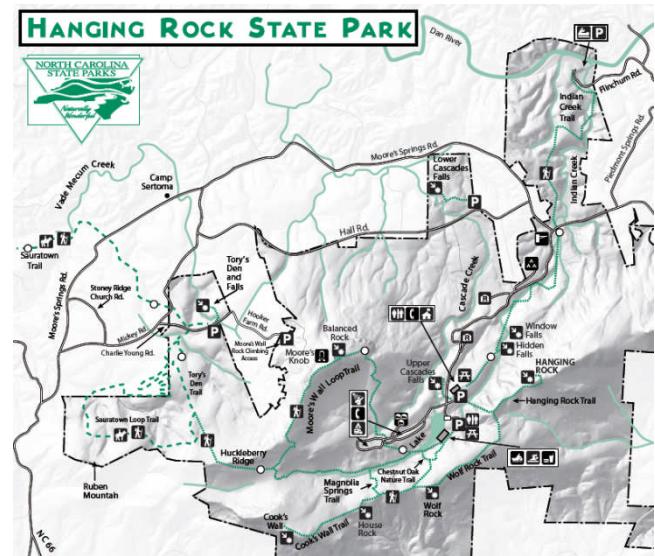
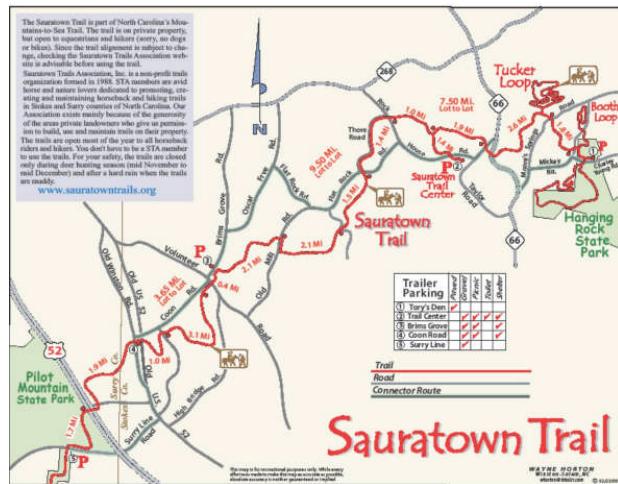
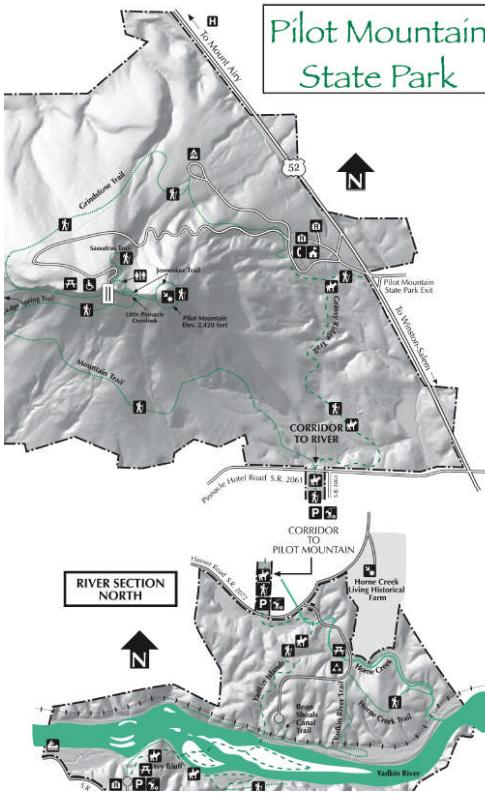
More than 250 supporters gathered at
theatre in the
own Commons
n, March 24 to
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o Creek Greenway.
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the background was
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travels from the
Smithfield
links northern and
residential
town parks, and
also serves as a
North Carolina
ail.

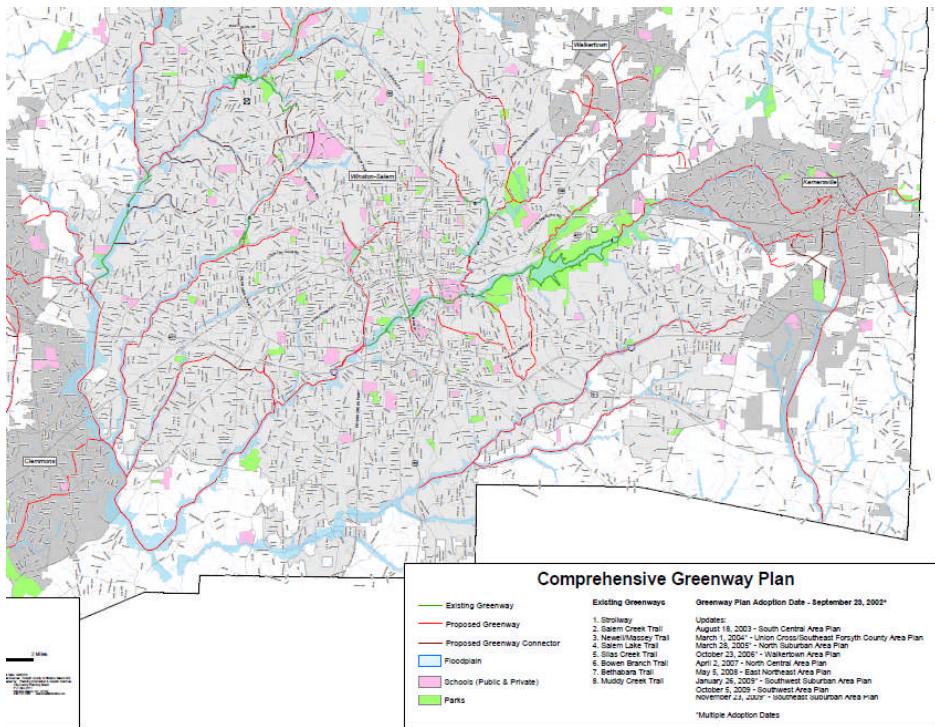


MST Piedmont West Plan





Winston-Salem Greenway Plan



THE PROPOSED PIEDMONT GREENWAY

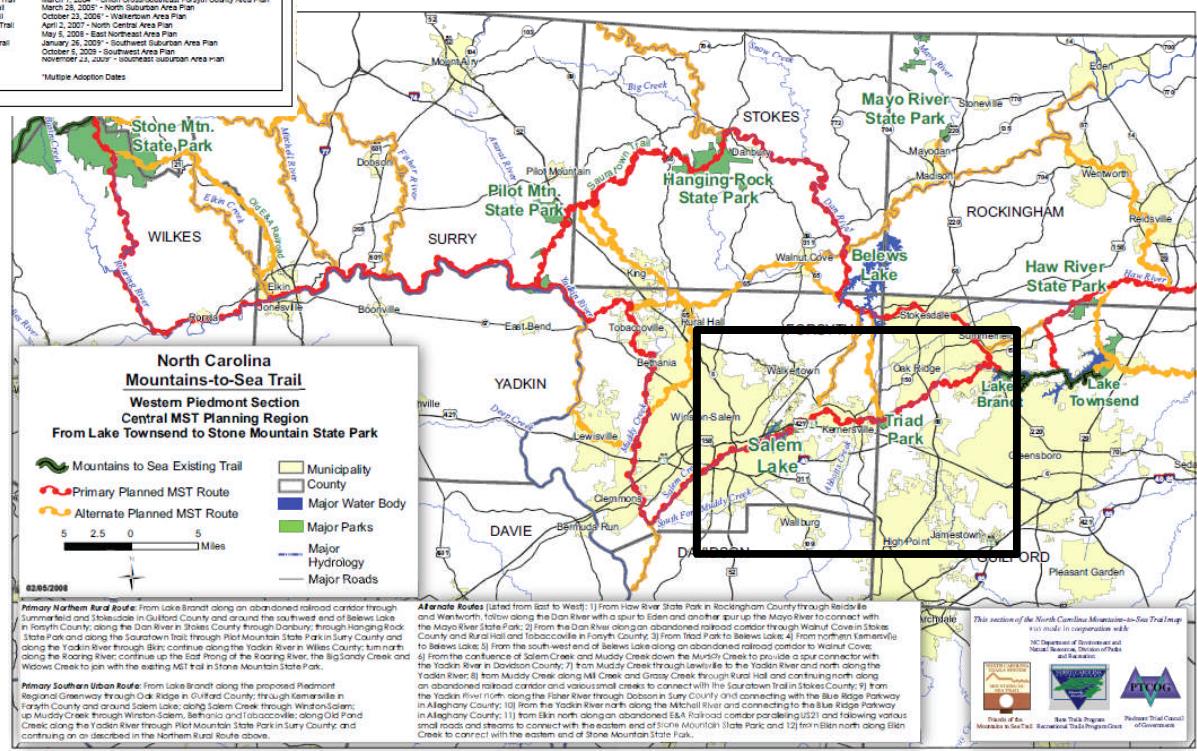
Hikers and bikers who now enjoy trails at Triad Park, Lake Brandt and Bur-Mil Park could soon have more mileage to tackle, as those existing trails may link up with the Piedmont Greenway, a 19-mile proposed path extending west from the headwaters of Lake Higgins in Greensboro to Salem Lake in Winston-Salem.



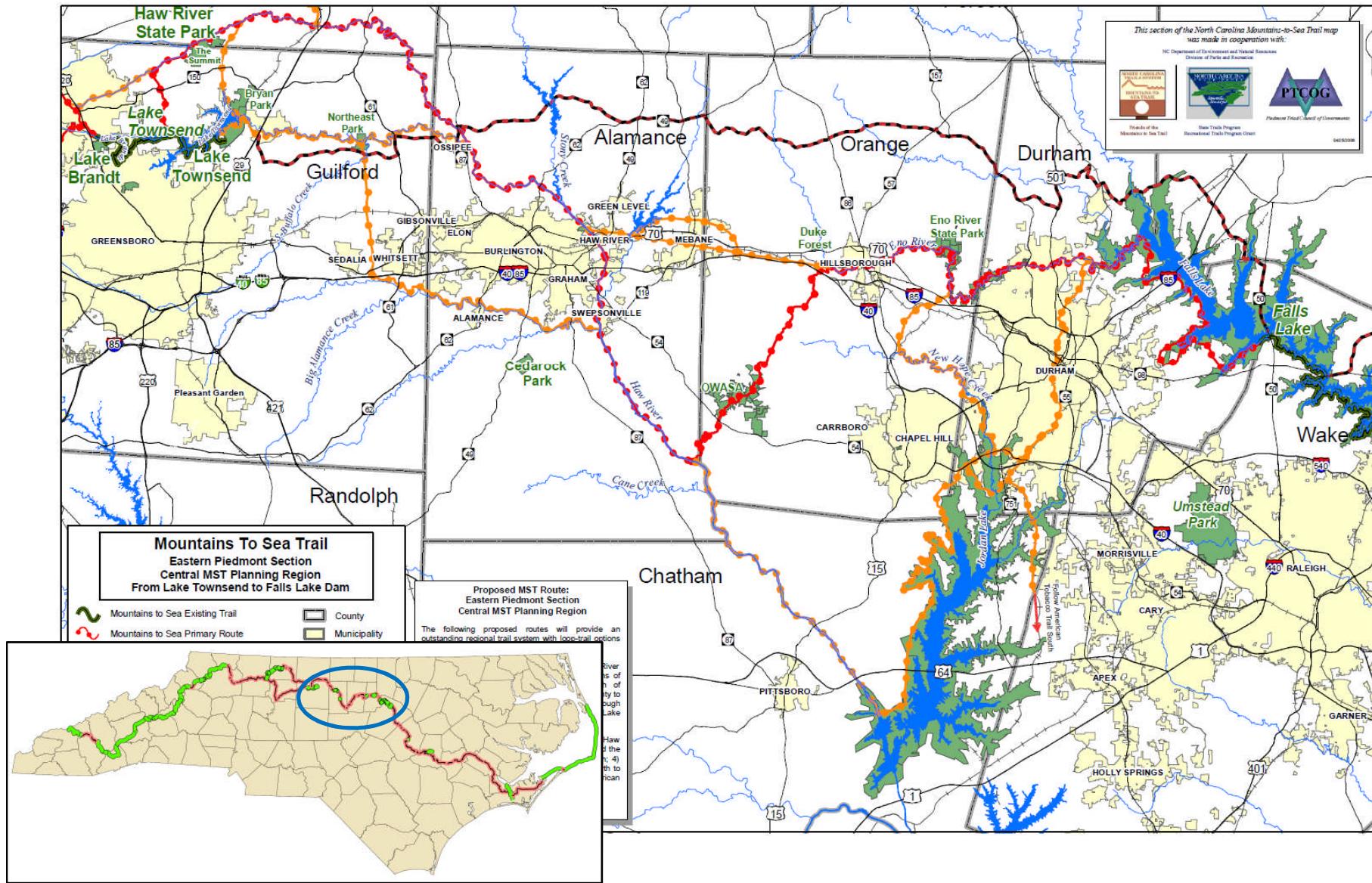
BUR-MII Park

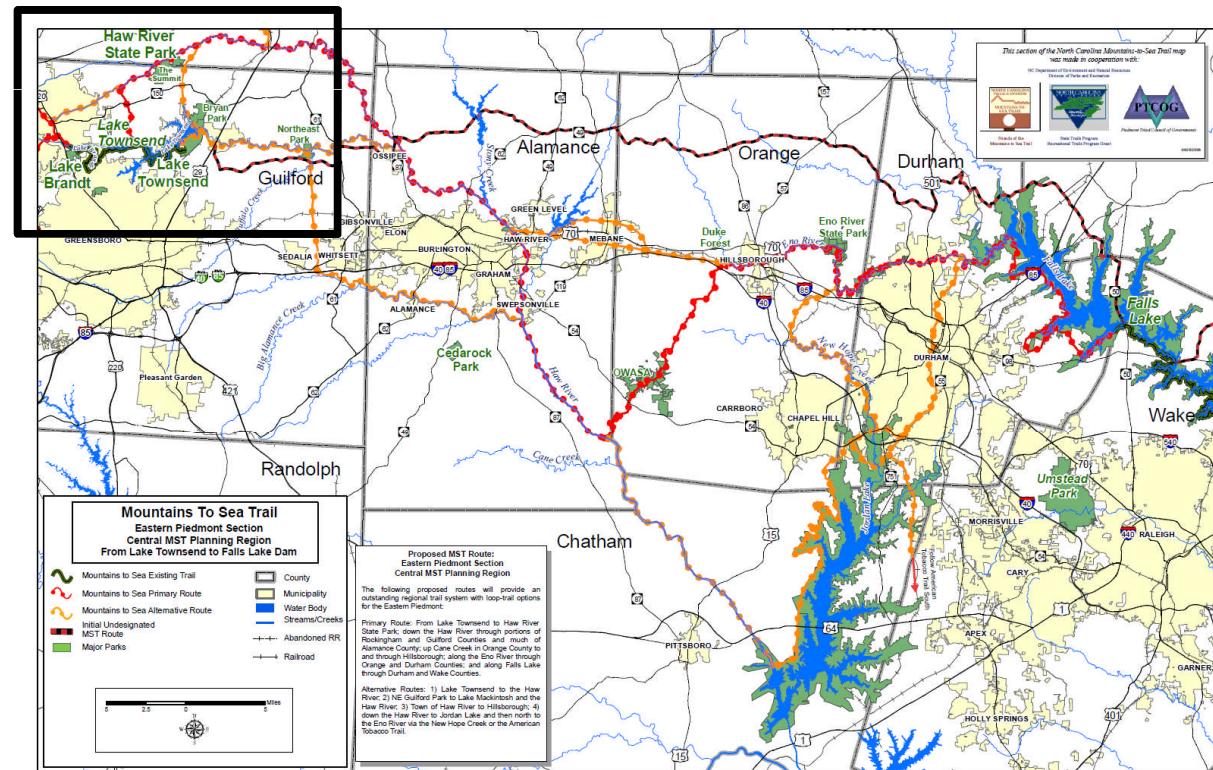
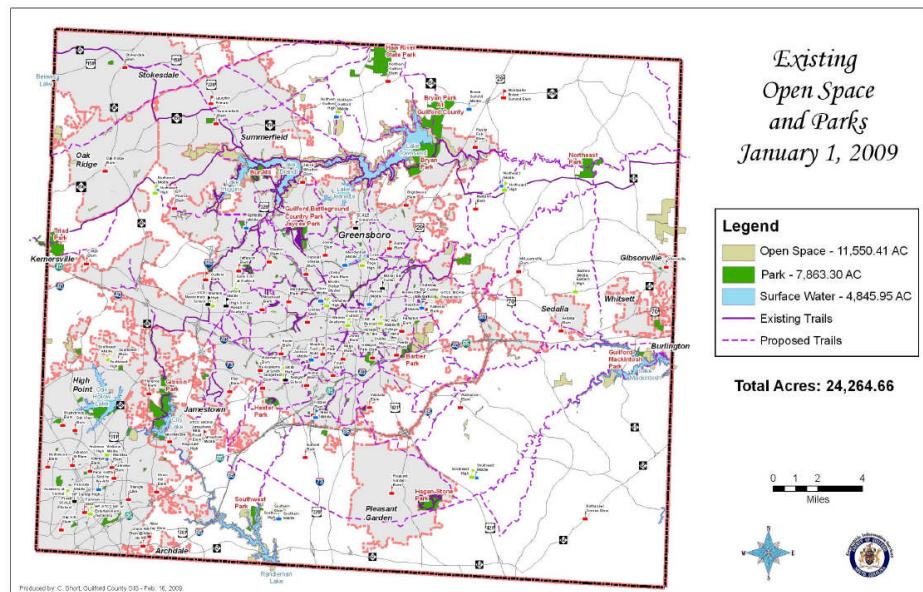
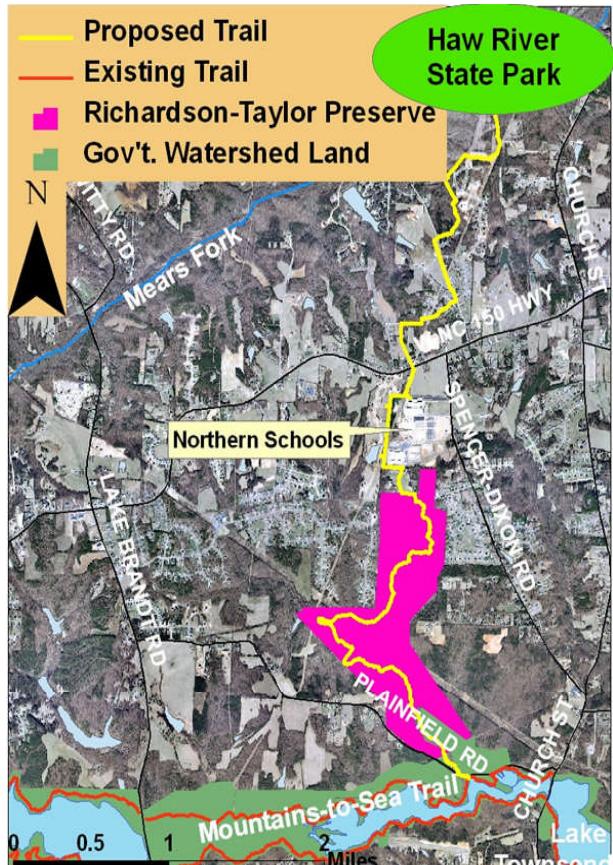


TIM DICKARD (Hans R. Dillard)

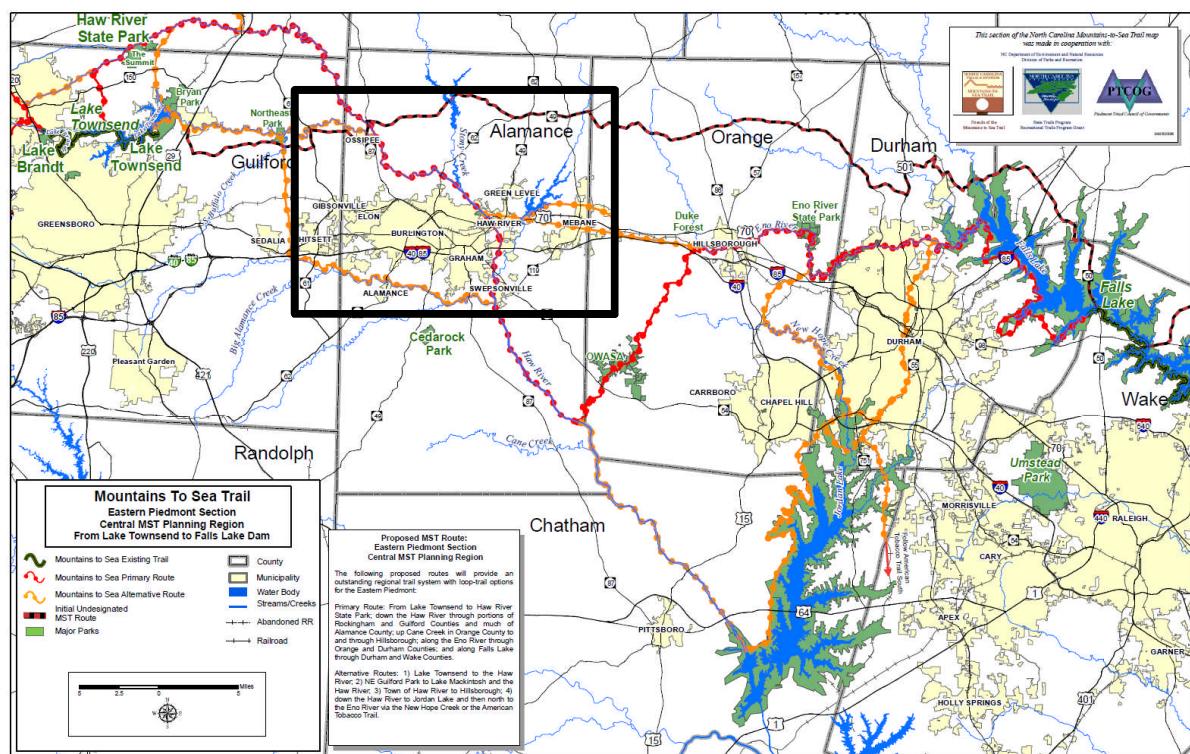
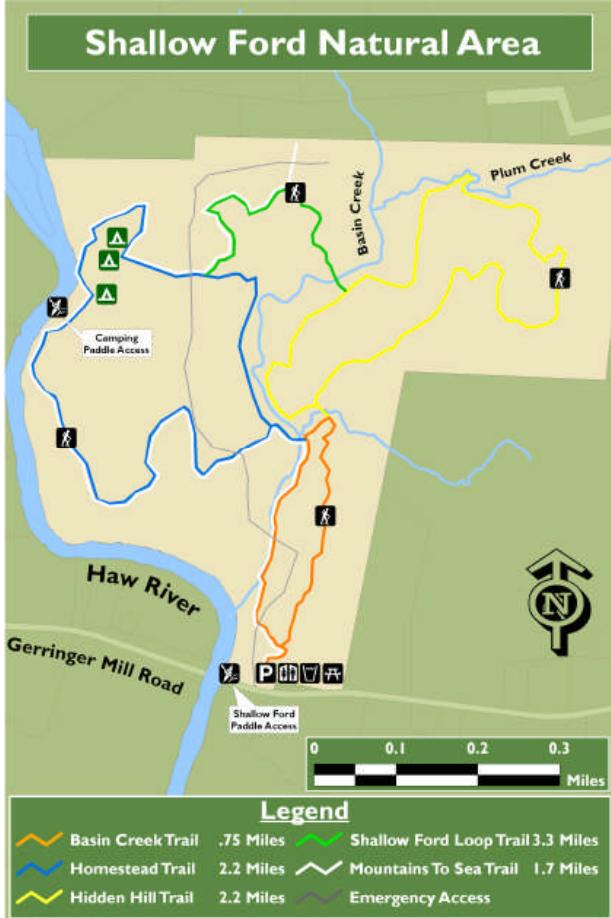


MST Piedmont East Plan



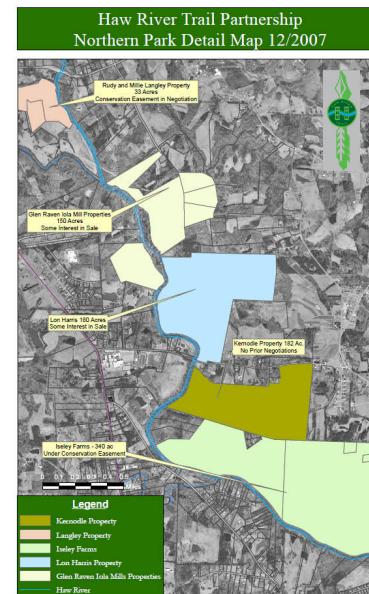
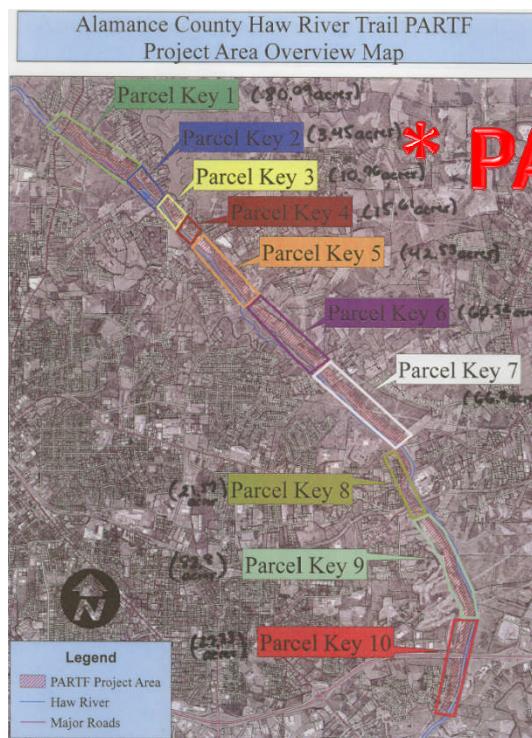


Alamance County



* PART \$

Alamance County



Newsletter for the

Burlington, NC

Pedestrian Plan

Project Contact Information:

Mike Nunn,
Planner
City of Burlington/
Burlington MPO

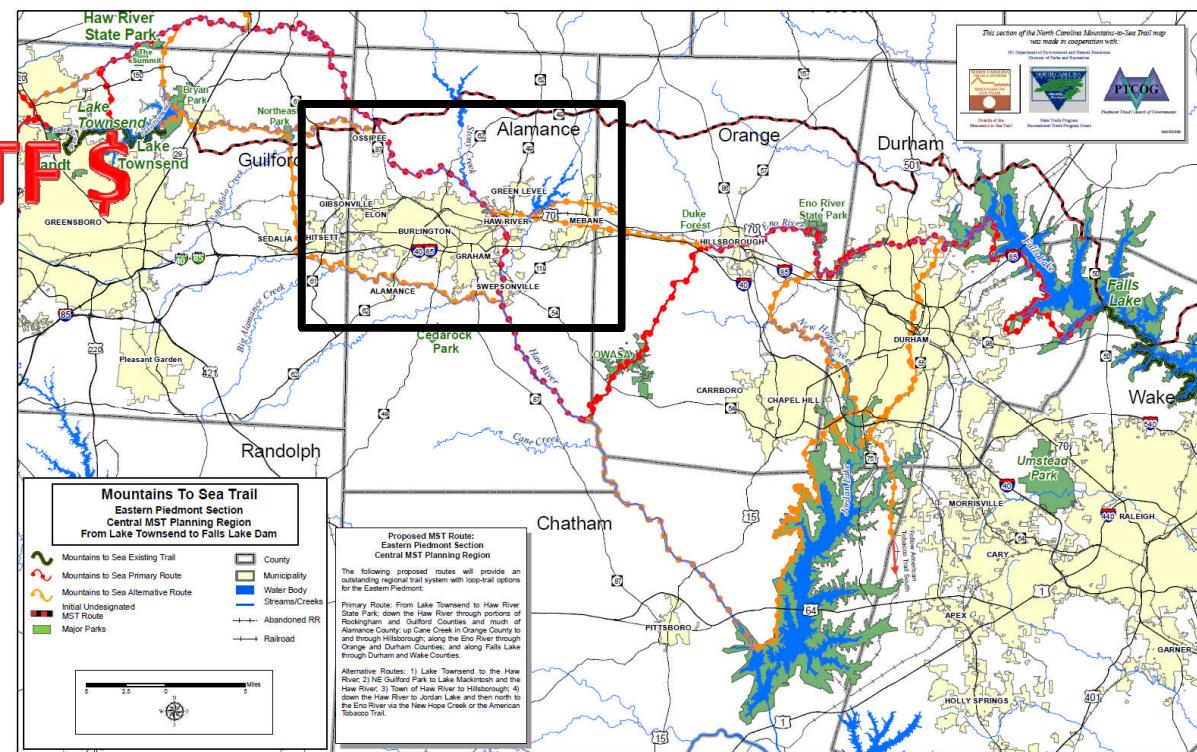
By Mail:

425 South Lexington
Avenue;
Burlington, NC 27215

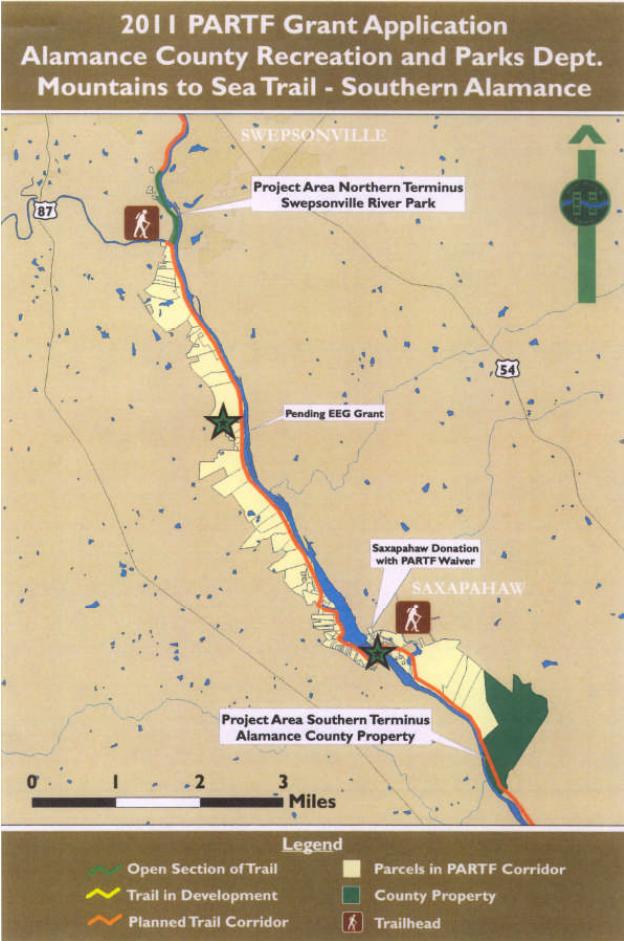
Project Background

This study will identify major opportunities and constraints for walking in Burlington. An action plan will be developed that includes recommendations to improve pedestrian connectivity and safety. These recommendations will include future sidewalks, greenways, crosswalks, policies, and programs (education, encouragement, and enforcement).

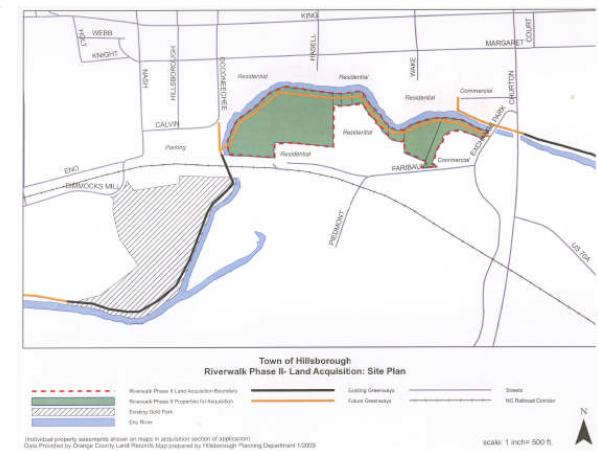
Project Vision



SPRING 2011

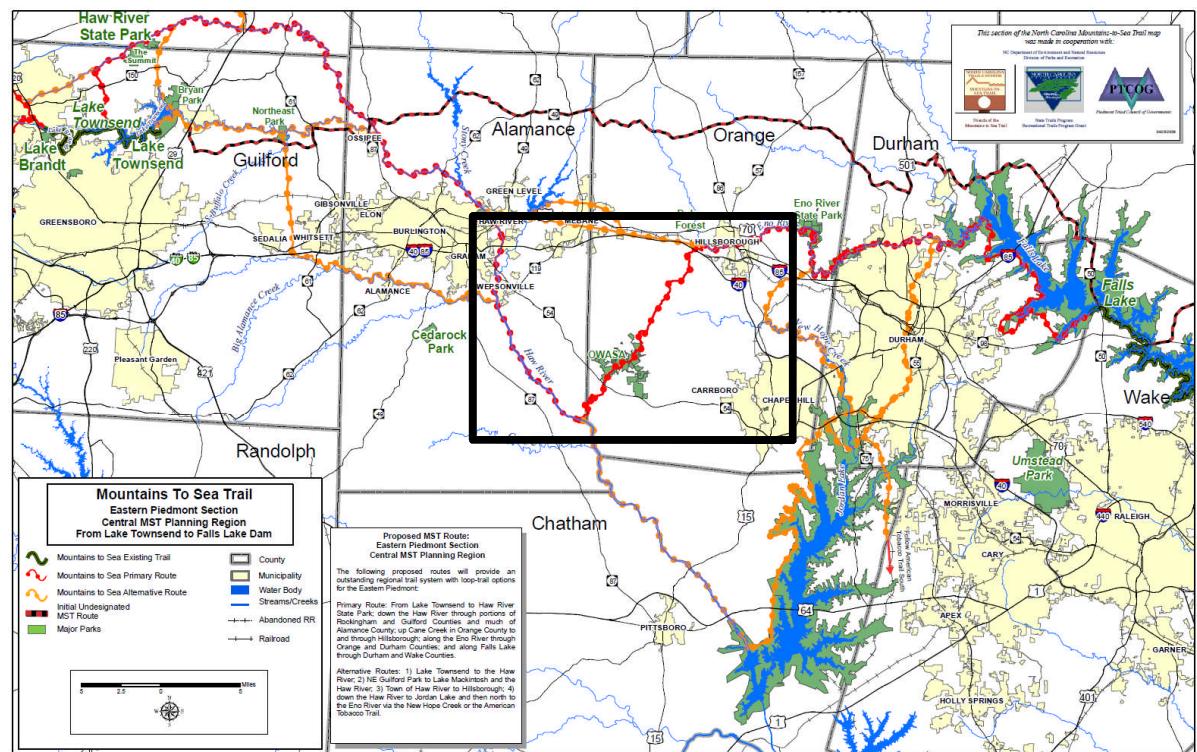


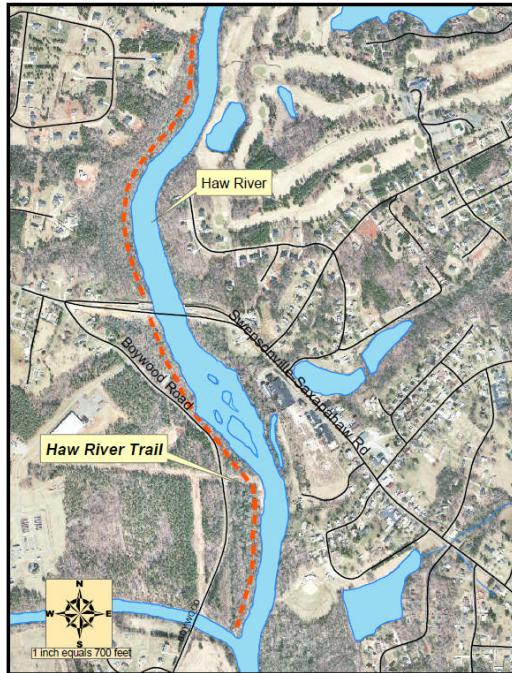
* PARTF \$



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Hillsborough's River Walk





Town of Swopeville NC Home Page

The website header includes the town's name, a logo, and links for Page, Safety, Tools, and Help. The main content area features a photograph of a paved trail next to a stream, a welcome message, and a photograph of a sign for 'SWOPEVILLE RIVER PARK' and the 'HAW RIVER TRAIL'.

October 6, 2011

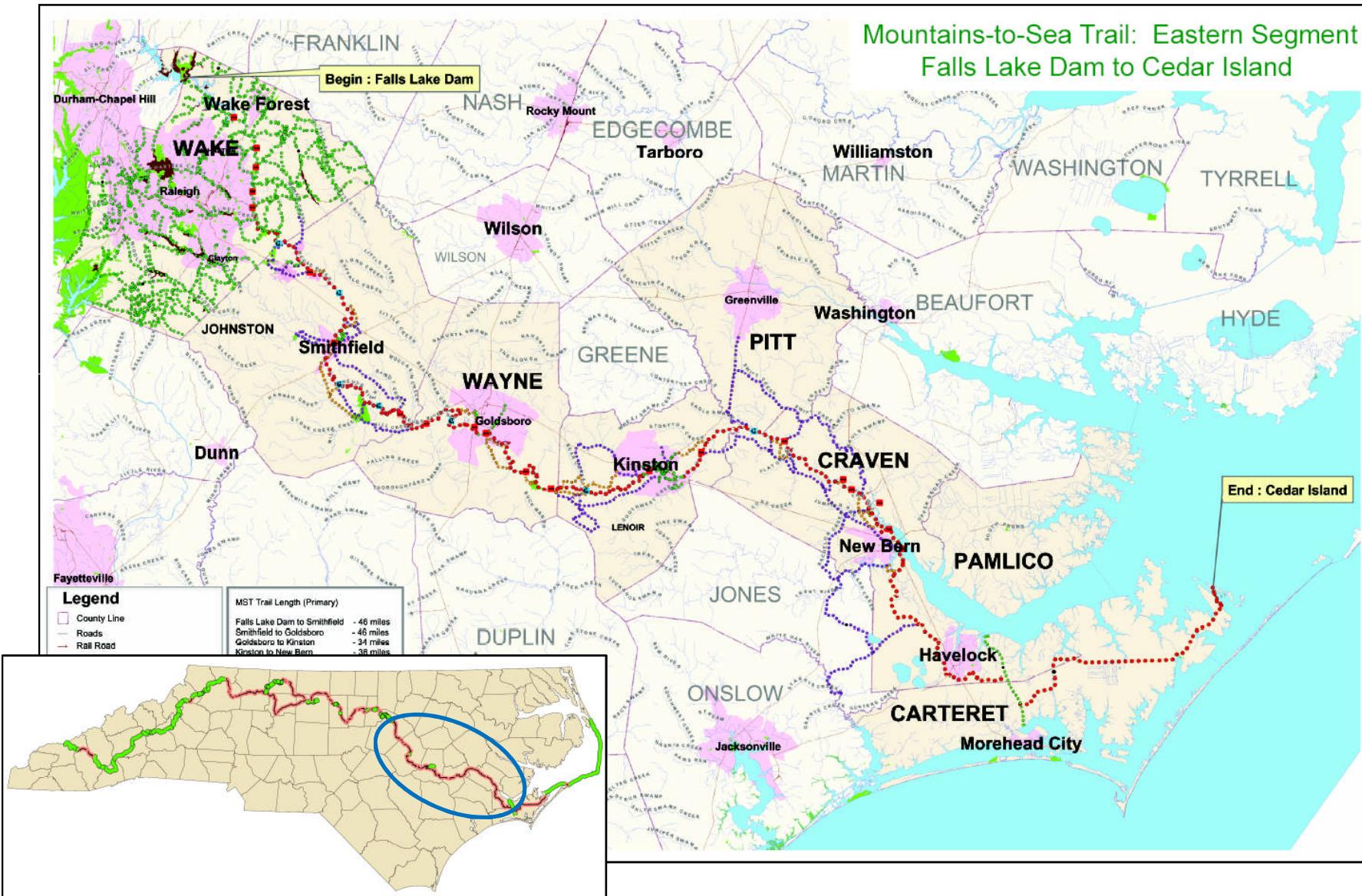
PO Box 282
Swopeville, NC 27359
(336)578-5644 Fax:(336)578-5196
Email: swopevilletown@triadbiz.rr.com

WELCOME to the Town of Swopeville Web Page

SWOPEVILLE RIVER PARK
2472 BOYWOOD ROAD
HAW RIVER TRAIL
ESTABLISHED MAY 2004



MST East Plan



Raleigh's Neuse River Greenway

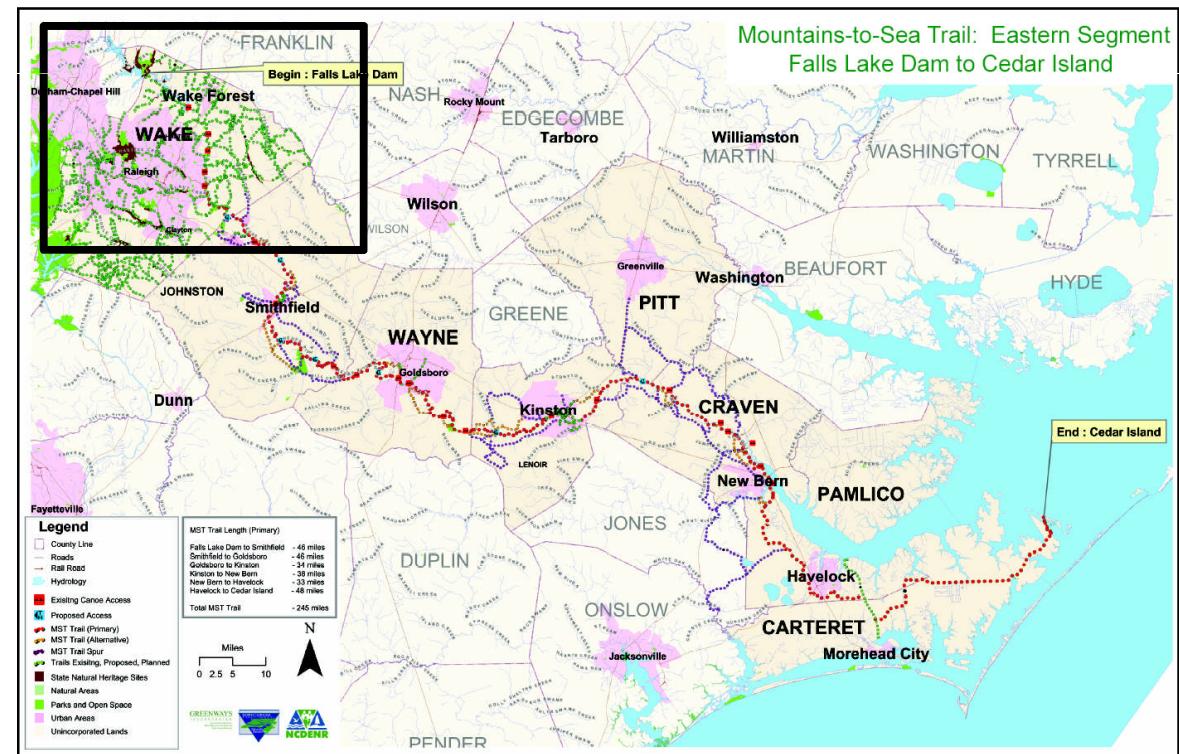


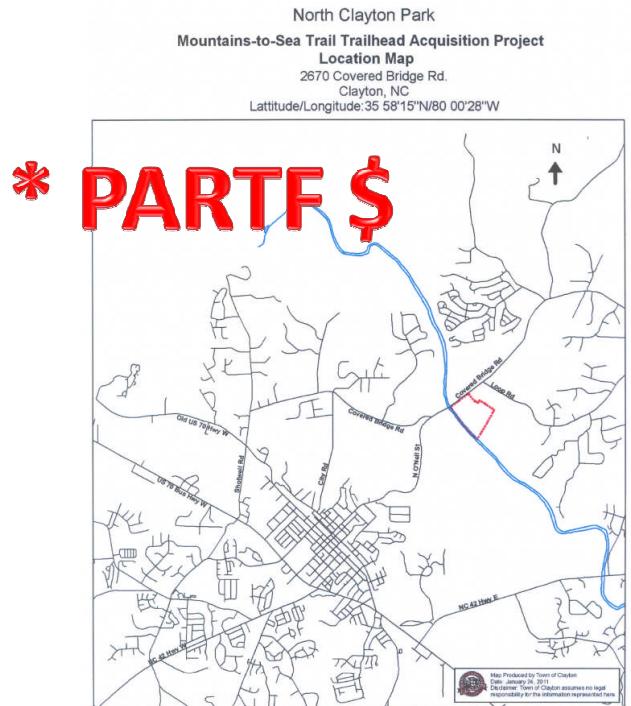
Neuse River Greenway Land Acquisition
City of Raleigh, North Carolina

Site Location Map / Site Plan

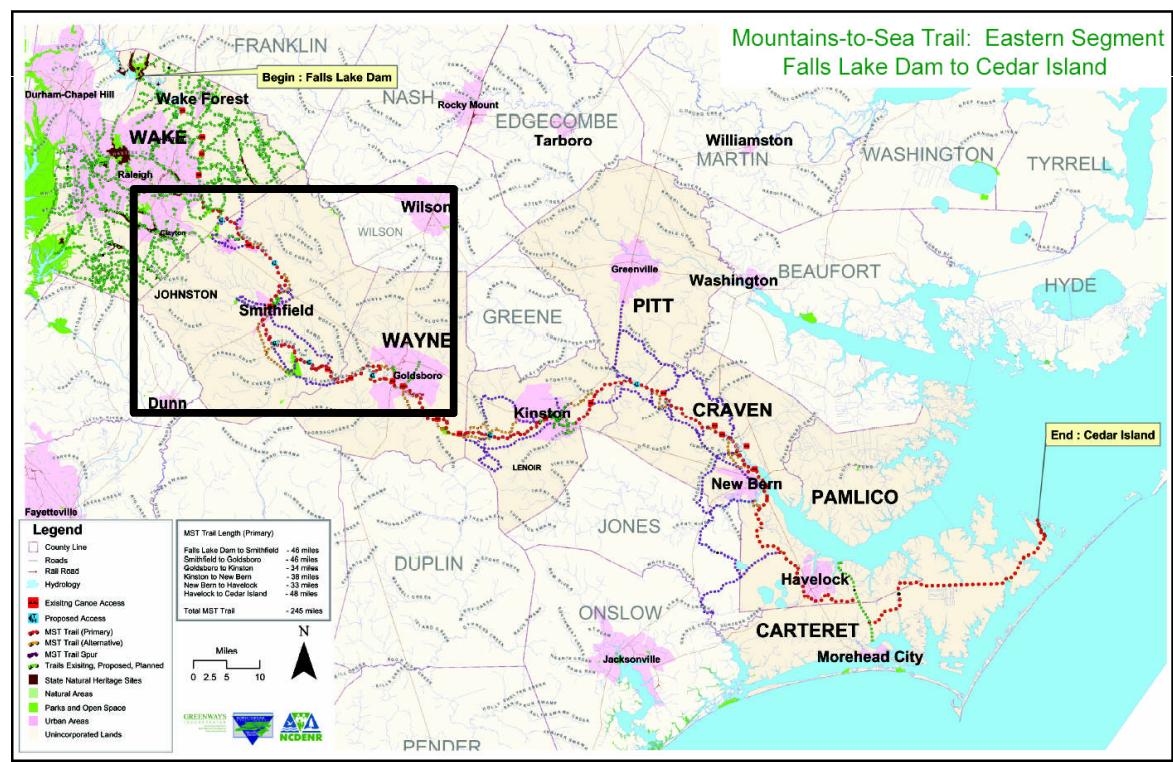
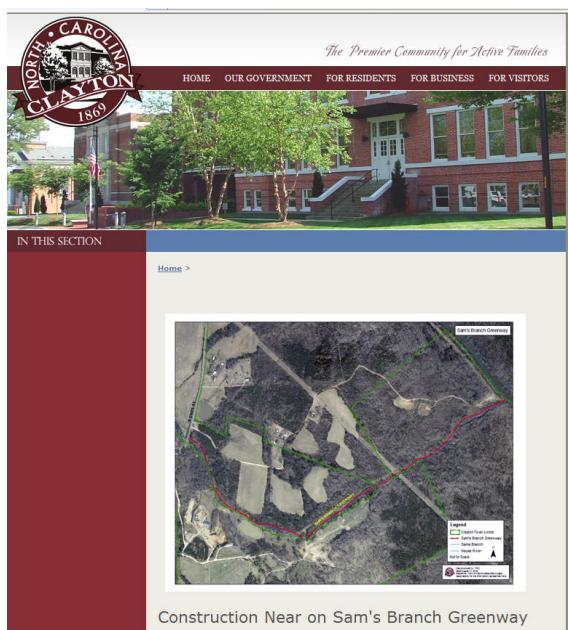
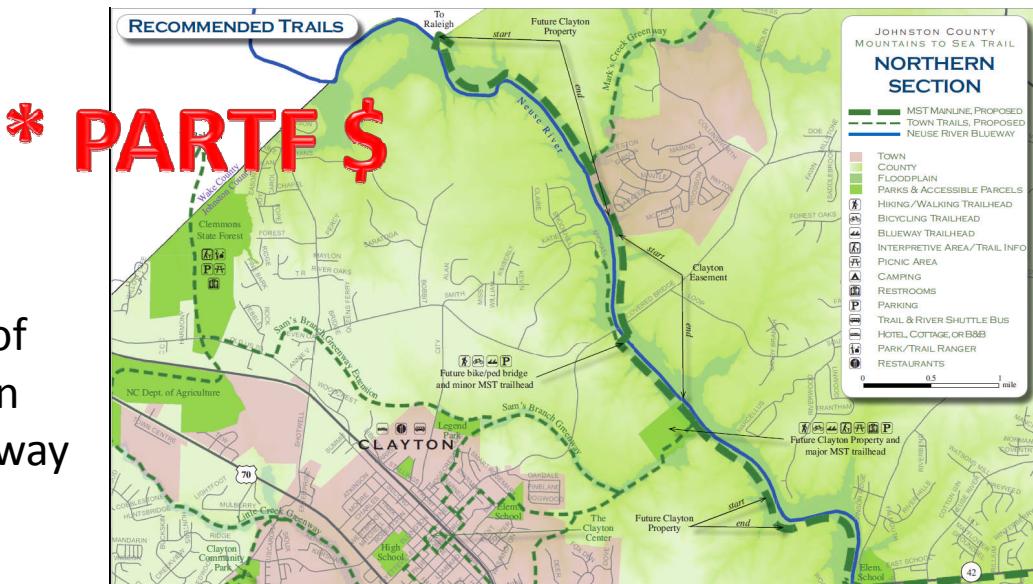


* PARTF \$





Town of Clayton Greenway Plan





Welcome to Smithfield-Selma:
A Neighborhood of the Greater Research Triangle Area

THE CHAMBER | MEMBERSHIP | ADVOCACY | RELOCATION | ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | EDUCATION

Chamber News

Education News

Community
News

Economic
Development
News

New Members
News

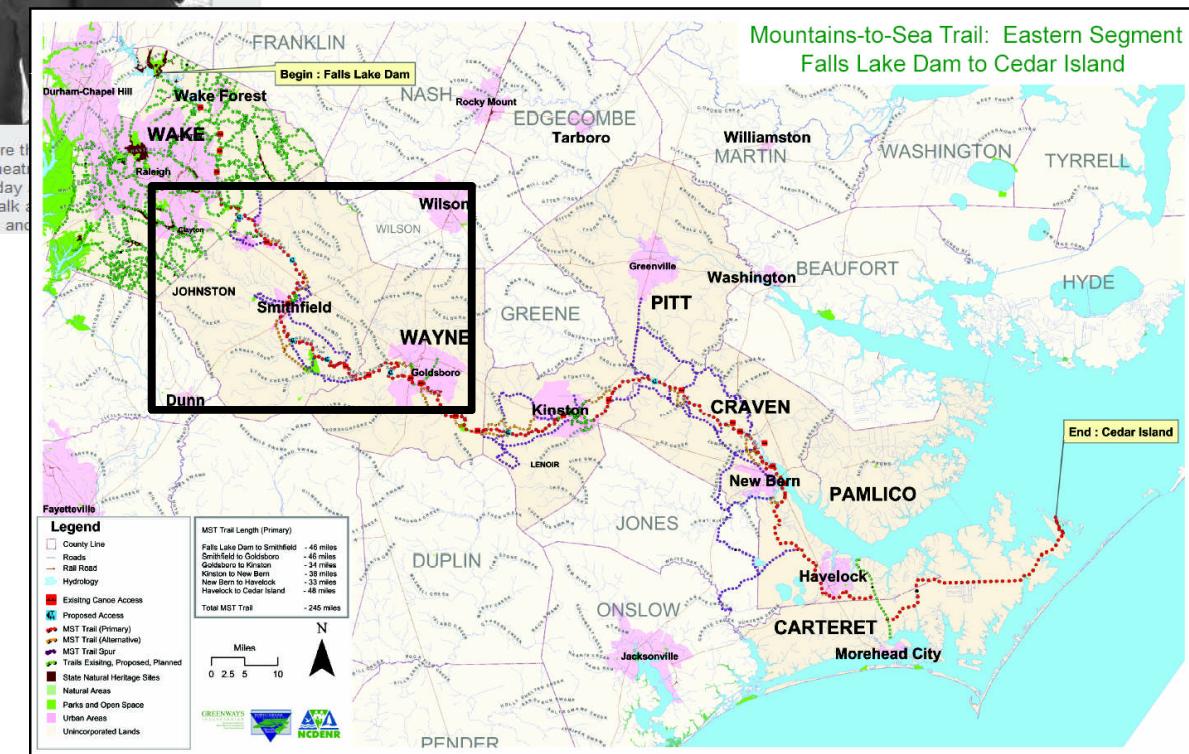
Members in the
News

Buffalo Creek Greenway officially opens

The 3-mile trail connects the Neuse Riverwalk with Smithfield Community Park.



Smithfield's Buffalo Creek Greenway





Sept 13th, 14th & 15th
PUBLIC
OPEN HOUSE
WORKSHOPS

for the CROATAN REGIONAL BICYCLE PLAN + TRAILS PLAN

Share your ideas for regional trails and bicycle routes!

- Please drop-in anytime during one of these workshops to receive information and provide input for these regional plans.
- Community staff and project consultants will be on-hand at each workshop to gather public input for each plan.
- Participants are encouraged to ask questions, share ideas, write and draw on public input maps, and learn about future opportunities to stay involved.

The counties of Carteret, Craven, Jones, Onslow, and Pamlico (and local municipalities) invite area residents to attend any of four public open house workshops for the Croatan Regional Trails Plan and the Croatan Regional Bicycle Plan. The four opportunities to attend are in different locations throughout the region, but each will contain the same basic information:

September 13th 4:30-6:30 PM
Jacksonville City Hall (Conf. Rooms A and B)
815 New Bridge Street
Jacksonville, NC 28541

September 13th 4:30-6:30 PM
Beaufort Train Depot
614 Broad Street
Beaufort, NC 28516

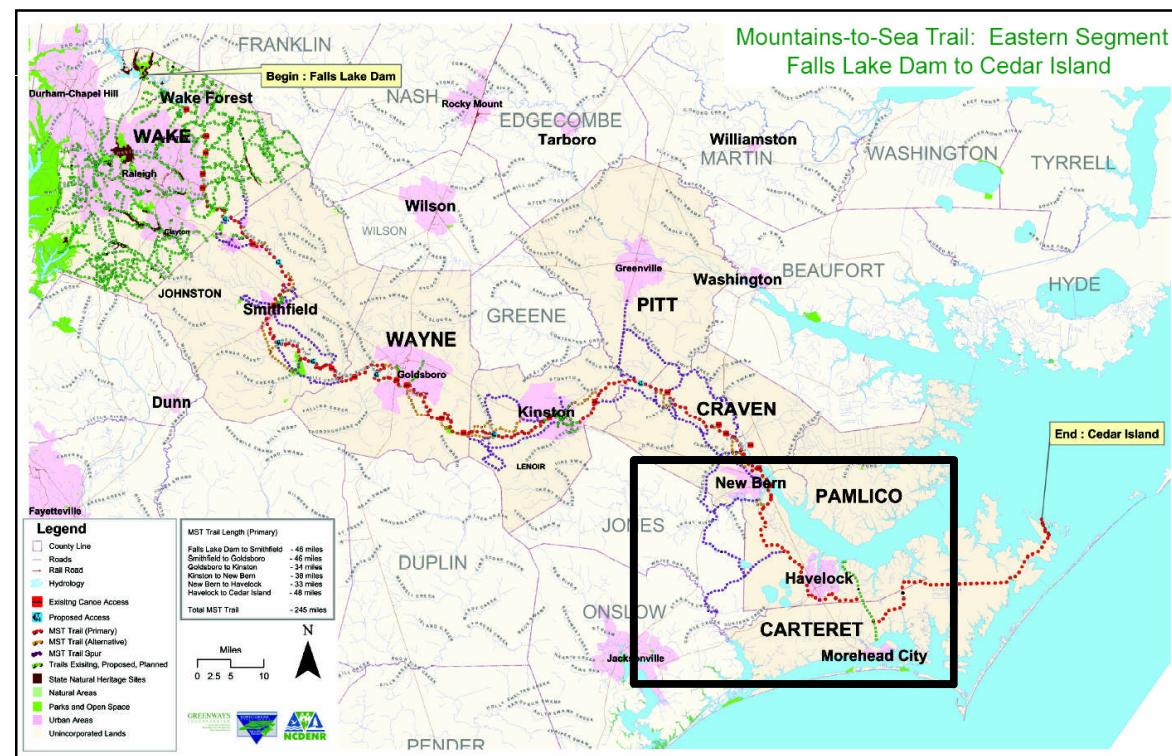
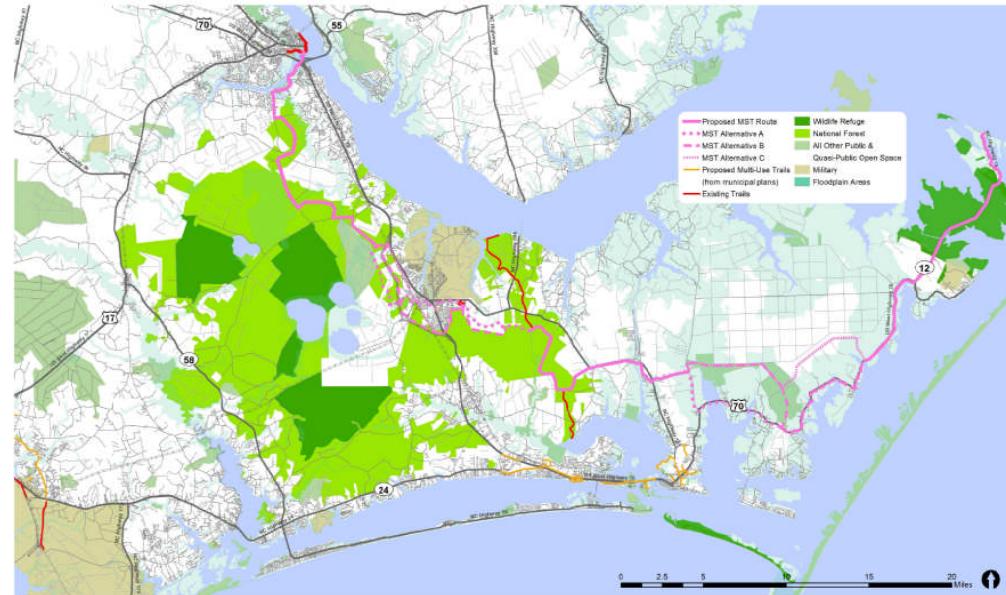
September 14th 5:00-7:30 PM
New Bern Convention Center (Ballroom B)
203 S Front Street
New Bern, NC 28563

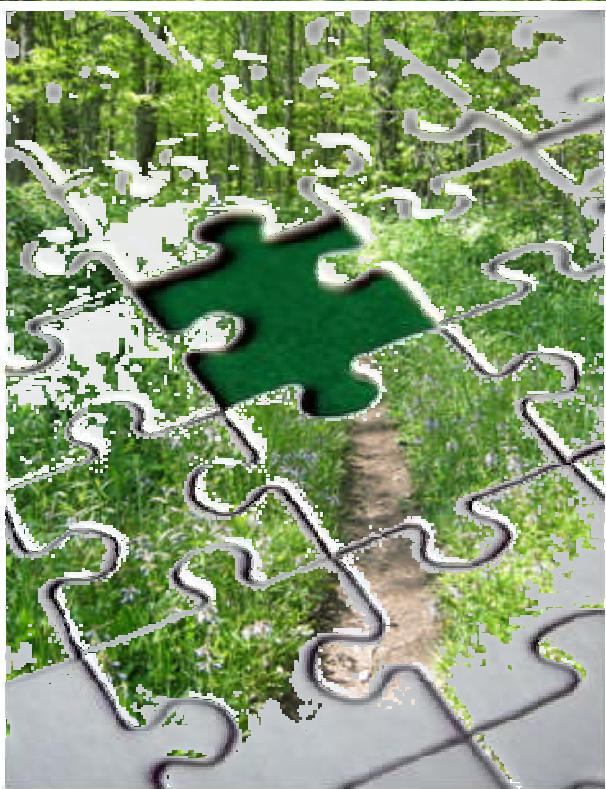
September 15th 5:00-7:30 PM
Pamlico Community College (Delamar Center)
5049 Highway 306 South
Grantsboro, NC 28529



Find these events on Facebook under "Croatan Bike Trails Plan" and 'Like' us to keep in touch with plan activities and progress.

Project contact: Alex Rickard, Planning Director,
Eastern Carolina Council, 252.638.3185 ext. 3021, arickard@eccog.org

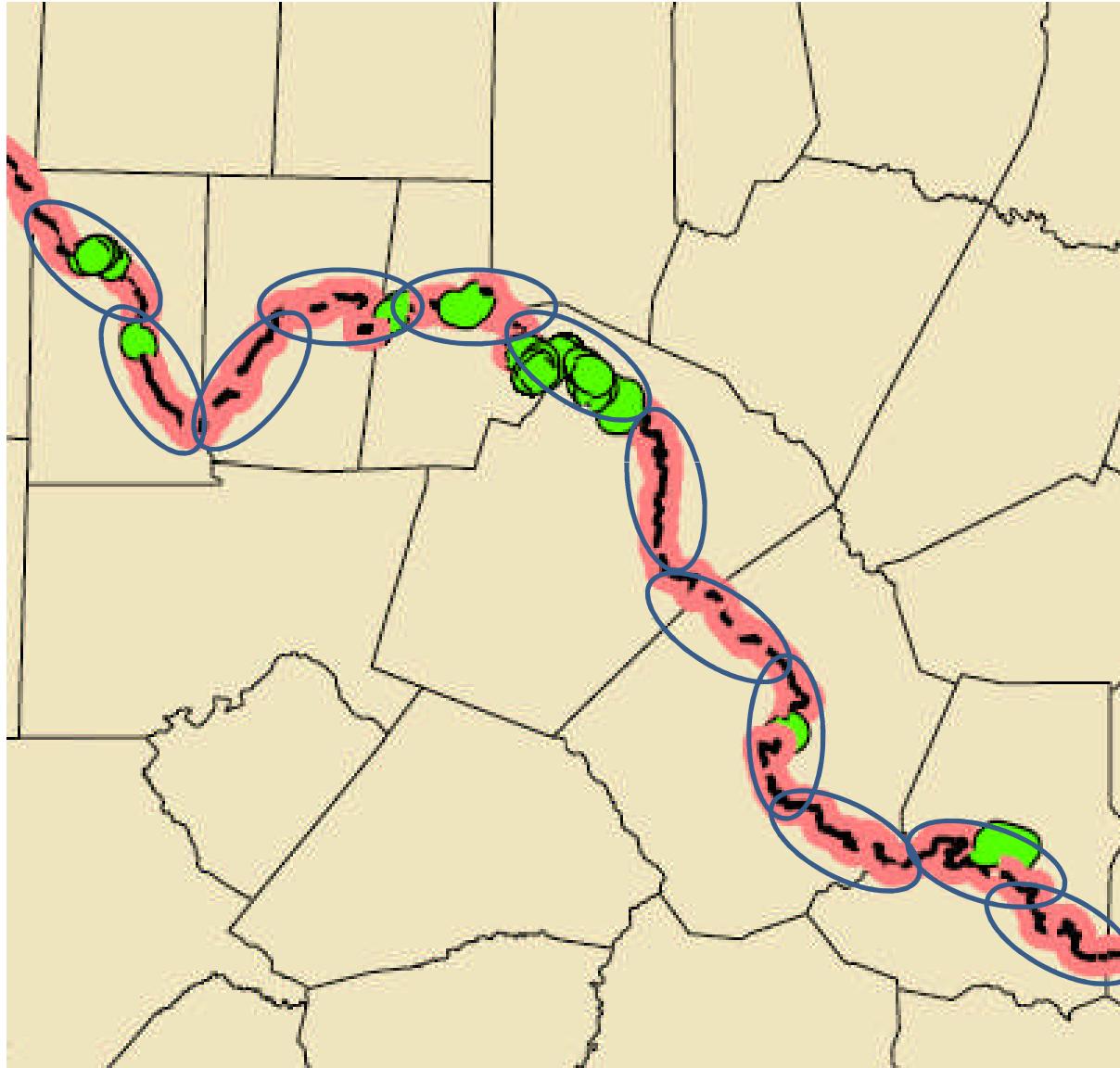




NEXT STEPS

- ★ Each Segment Needs a Committed Manager
- ★ For Each Segment, the Manager Needs to:
 1. Secure the Right of Way
 2. Build the Trail
 3. Request Designation
 4. Cut the Ribbon!

Each Segment Needs a Committed Manager



- ✓ Alamance County
- ✓ Burlington
- ✓ Swepsonville
- ✓ Orange County
- ✓ Hillsborough
- ✓ Eno River State Park
- ✓ Durham
- ✓ Falls Lake Game Land
- ✓ Falls Lake SRA
- ✓ Raleigh
- ✓ Clayton
- ✓ Smithfield
- ✓ ??
- ✓ ??
- ✓ ??

[Home >](#)

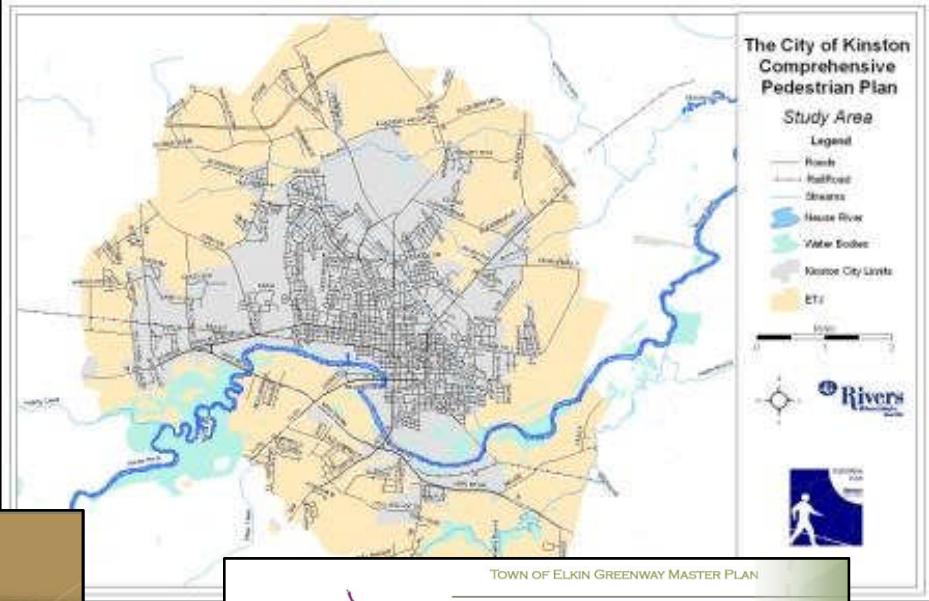
Great Time to Join Town's Trails Committee

A photograph showing a paved walking or biking trail curving through a dense forest. The trail is light-colored and appears well-maintained. The surrounding trees are tall and green, creating a shaded path. The foreground shows some grass and more trees.

Does thinking about being able to walk across Clayton--or Johnston County, or to the mountains or to the coast--without traffic or highways give you a bit of a thrill?

If so, the Clayton Trails Committee might be a good way for you to get more involved in the community. A number of trails and greenways--from new ones right here in Clayton to the Mountains to Sea Trail that is nearing completion--are getting built or are in the planning stages, and town officials are asking residents to get involved to help make them happen..

For more information, please contact Parks & Recreation Director Larry Bailey at 553-5777 or by email at lbailey@townofclaytonnc.org





CRAVEN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

PRESERVATION

HOME WHAT'S NEW THE BOARDS DEPARTMENTS ONLINE SERVICES COMMUNITY

Wednesday, October 12th 2011 Translate  Emergency Notification Sign Up

[Health Home](#)

[2011 Departmental Briefing to Board of Commissioners](#)

[Health Department Calendars](#)

[Administration](#)

[Adult Health](#)

[Child Health](#)

[Dental Health](#)

[Environmental Health](#)

[Health Education](#)

[Home Health](#)

[Hospice](#)

[Laboratory](#)

[WIC/Nutrition](#)

Walking Trails

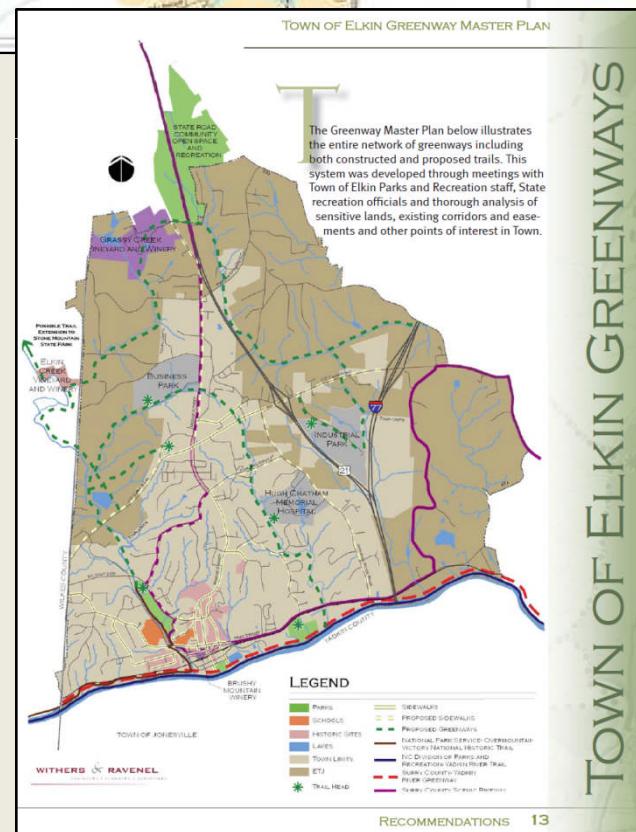


Healthy Craven Now

Walking Your Way Towards Good Health

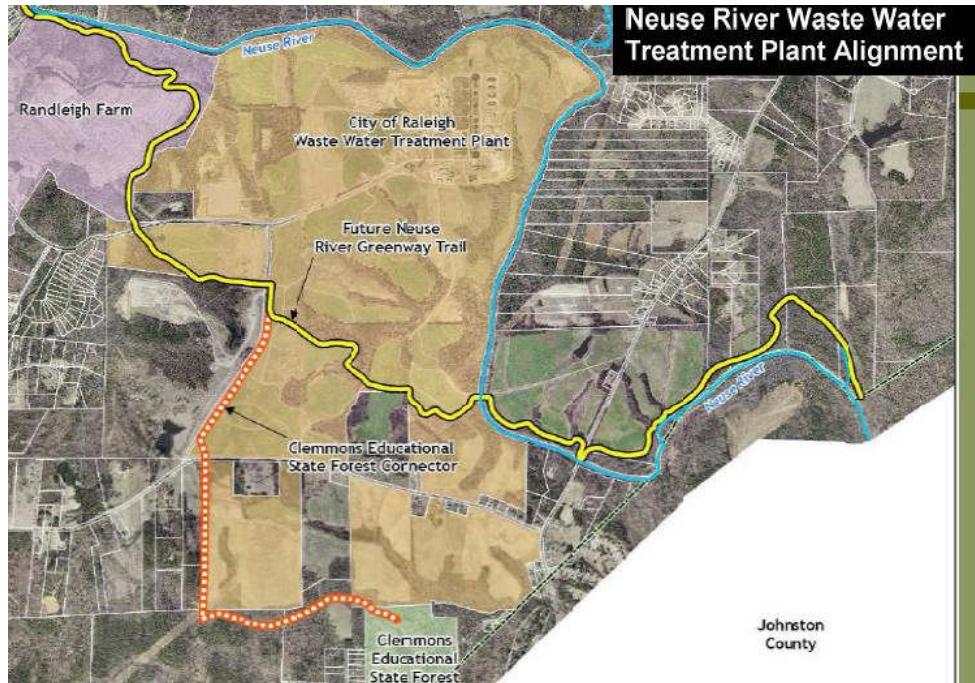
Healthy Craven Now is a walking initiative designed to encourage, support, and promote walking thirty minutes or more a day.

Physical activity is a healthy activity that helps to prevent chronic disease. Walking is one of the easiest and safest activities to start walking towards good health. These walking maps are provided by the Craven County Health Department and ENRICH (Healthy Carolinians in Craven & Pamlico Counties)



For Each Segment, the Manager Needs to:

1. Secure the Right of Way



Study landforms, ownership patterns, potential obstacles and costs to select the most feasible, cost-effective route. Talk to landowners about donations, easements or sale of the needed right-of-way. Seek funding for needed land acquisitions.

For Each Segment, the Manager Needs to:

2. Build the Trail

Volunteers are Awesome!



Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail »

FMST Friends of the MOUNTAINS-TO-SEA TRAIL

HOME THE TRAIL THE FRIENDS GET INVOLVED STORE [donate now](#)

 Photo by Ted Richardson/The News & Observer

1st ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST
Submit by OCT. 31
[Click for details...](#)

The Mountains-To-Sea Trail – A Great Way To Discover North Carolina

The Mountains-to-Sea Trail stretches 1,000 miles from Clingmans Dome in the Great Smoky Mountains to Jockey's Ridge on the Outer Banks.

Today, more than 500 miles of footpath are built. With temporary connectors on back roads and state bike routes, people can now hike across the state.

Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail brings together volunteers and communities to help build this simple footpath across North Carolina. Won't you [join with us](#) to complete and maintain the trail?

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LATEST NEWS

Hiker speeds from the mountains to the sea

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For Each Segment, the Manager Needs to:

3. Request Designation

The official designation process is established in the North Carolina Trails System Act, and is administered by DPR's State Trails Program.



**APPLICATION
FOR
NORTH CAROLINA STATE TRAIL
DESIGNATION**

Date: _____

Applicant: Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail, Inc. (FMST), South Ashe Task Force
Address: 775 Bear Ridge Trail, Fleetwood, NC 28626; 336.877.8831; jhalsey@skybest.com

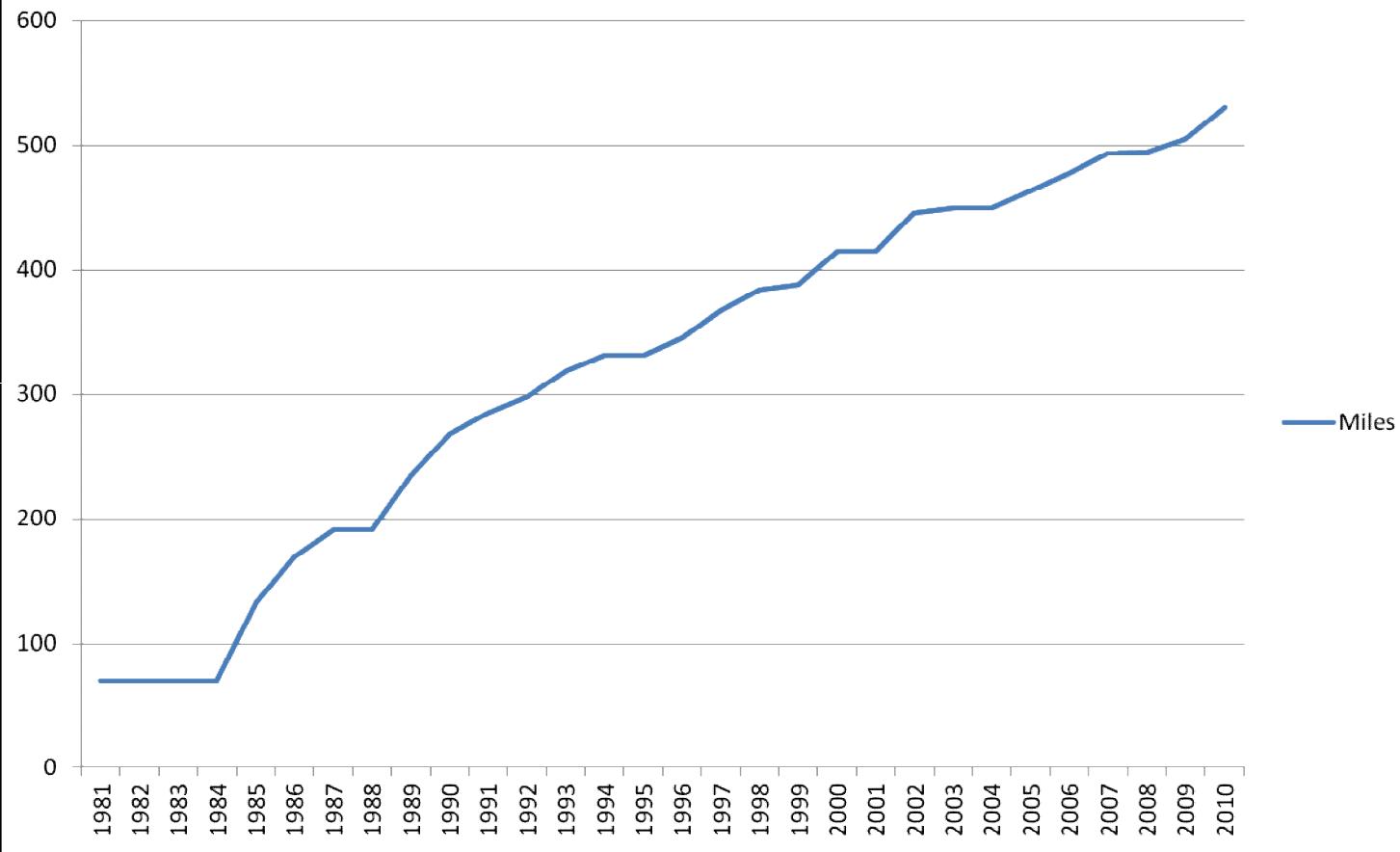
Contact: Jim Halsey

1. Name of Trail:
Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST)
2. Agency or Organization Responsible for Management of Trail:
This section of the trail is located entirely on federal land administered by the National Park Service, Blue Ridge Parkway. The Blue Ridge Parkway has principal management responsibility for the trail with assistance from the NC Division of Parks and Recreation. The Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail, Incorporated will assume primary responsibility for the maintenance of the trail through the South Ashe Task Force of the FMST or other affiliated volunteer trail crews.
3. Describe ownership of trail right-of-way:
The trail parallels and crosses the Blue Ridge Parkway for approximately fifteen miles between US 421 and NC 16 in Ashe, Watauga and Wilkes counties, North Carolina. The trail is located entirely on land owned by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.
4. Describe location of trail in relation to urban areas and give the known or estimated population within a 2-hour driving distance of the trail:
The South Ashe section of the Mountains to Sea Trail is within ½ hour drive from the county seats of Ashe, Wilkes and Watauga counties, North Carolina (Jefferson, Wilkesboro and Boone respectively). The trail is within a 2 hour drive of the Winston Salem, Greensboro, Asheville and Charlotte metropolitan areas. According to the 2000 United States Census, the population within a 2 hour driving distance is 3,252,760. This includes twenty-five North Carolina counties, four Tennessee counties and seven Virginia counties and separate townships.
5. List recreational and non-recreational uses of the trail right of way:
The trail is designed and maintained only for use by hikers and walkers. No motorized vehicles, horses or bicycles are allowed on the trail. Approximately two miles of the trail traverse the E.B.

May 31, 2010

Page 1

MST Miles Designated



For Each Segment, the Manager Needs to:

4. Cut the Ribbon!!



A LOT HAS HAPPENED SINCE 2000

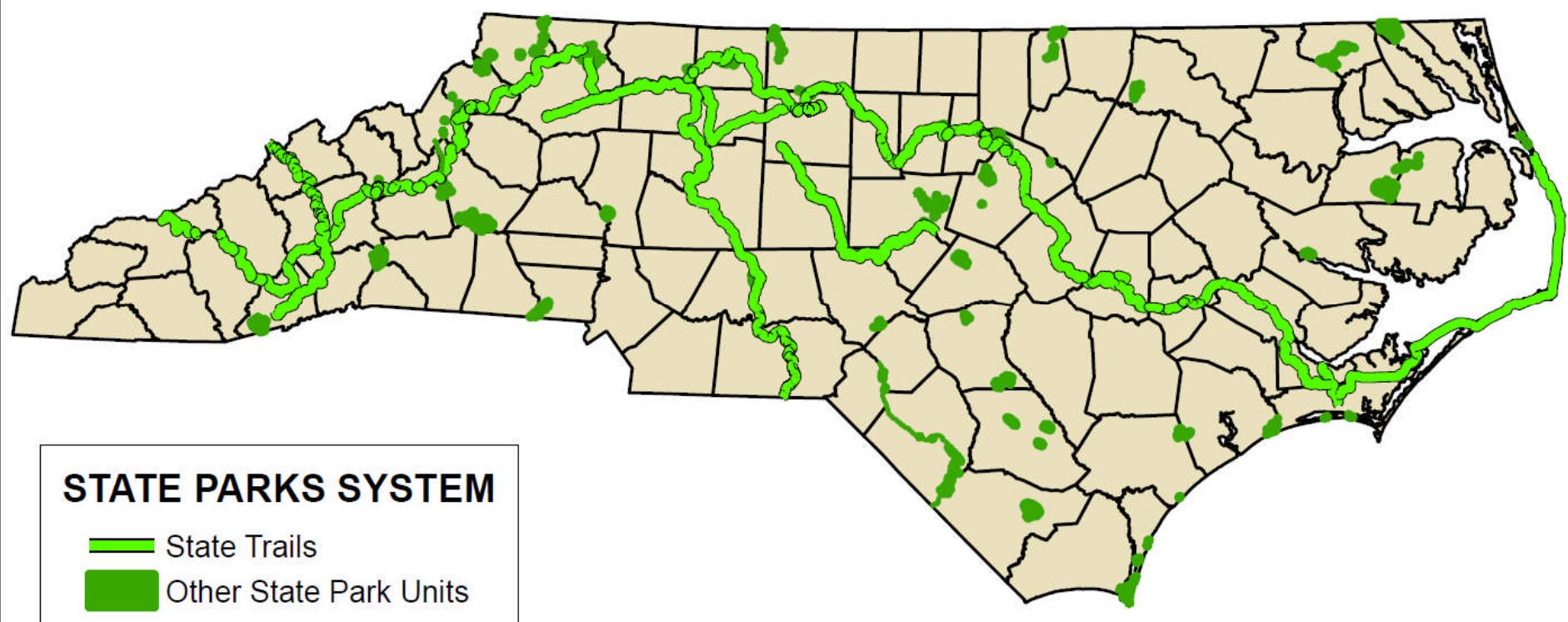
- 2000 MST Added to State Parks System
- 2001-2004 MST East Plan
- 2004 MST East Task Force
- 2005 \$1.6 million for MST from Federal Highway Funds
- 2005 Johnston County MST Plan
- 2005-2006 MST Piedmont East Plan
- 2006 First PARTF local grant for MST – Hillsborough's River Walk
- 2007 MST Piedmont West Plan
- 2007 COPS Funding Awarded for MST
- 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 More local PARTF grants for MST





The number of people who can hike the entire trail will always be a special few. But almost everyone can hike on part of the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail.







4 STATE TRAILS

MOUNTAINS-TO-SEA

DEEP RIVER

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

YADKIN RIVER



State Trails – An opportunity:

- ★ to protect important resources, especially riparian corridors, and provide popular public recreation at a reasonable cost
- ★ to partner with local governments, state and federal agencies, and enthusiastic volunteers, building new constituencies and relationships
- ★ to create something that is more than the sum of the parts, maximizing the benefits of public investments in trails and greenways