

Tar Heel Trails

North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation

James G. Martin
Governor



William W. Cobey, Jr.
Secretary

April 1990

Volume 2 Number 2

Governor Proclaims May As Trails Month

RALEIGH — Gov. Jim Martin has proclaimed as Trails Month in North Carolina.

"The trails which traverse our outdoors are an integral part of the recreation system in North Carolina and promote the public's access to, travel within, and enjoyment of remote areas of our state," Martin said in the proclamation.

Citizen involvement in the planning, construction and maintenance of trails in North Carolina is increasing through the support of the North Carolina Trails Association, the North Carolina Trails Committee, several state and federal agencies, and task forces.

Their purpose is to develop a system of trails from the mountains to the ocean and to expand the opportunities to enjoy regional trails in between.

"The expansion of the state system of trails offers an excellent opportunity for all North Carolinians to be exposed to the natural heritage of our state, to be in touch with nature firsthand," Martin said.

"It is indeed appropriate, therefore, that all citizens become involved in the development of trails within our state border."

The N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation and other groups have scheduled trails activities throughout the month.

State of North Carolina



JAMES G. MARTIN
GOVERNOR

TRAILS MONTH

1990

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

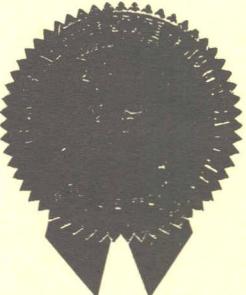
North Carolina is blessed with a variety of unique natural splendors and recreational opportunities, and our citizens have developed a deep appreciation for the outdoors, enjoying recreational pursuits of all types.

The trails which traverse our state are an integral part of the recreation system in North Carolina and promote the public's enjoyment of remote areas of our state.

Citizen involvement in the planning, construction and maintenance of trails in North Carolina is increasing through the support of the North Carolina Trails Association, several state and federal agencies, and trails' task forces. Their purpose is to develop a system of trails from the mountains to the ocean, and to expand the opportunities to enjoy regional trails in between.

The expansion of the state system of trails offers an opportunity for all North Carolinians to enjoy the natural heritage of our state, to touch nature firsthand. It is appropriate, therefore, that citizens become involved in the development of trails within our state borders.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JAMES G. MARTIN, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the month of May 1990, as "Trails Month" in North Carolina, and urge our citizens to become involved in the development of trails and to become aware of them as a valuable recreation resource.



James G. Martin
JAMES G. MARTIN

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this sixth day of March in the year of Lord nineteen hundred and ninety, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirteenth.

North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources

EHNR Plans "National Celebration Of The Outdoors" Events

In conjunction with the 20th anniversary of Earth Day, April 22, 1990, the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation and other Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources divisions are planning activities for the National Celebration of the Outdoors (NCO).

The NCO, scheduled April 22-29, 1990, is a citizen's movement led by America's conservation community and concerned citizens to bring renewed awareness of the need to protect our outdoor heritage.

This citizen's campaign will help in spreading the message of the 1987 President's

Commission on Americans Outdoors which concluded that Americans care about quality of life in the places that they live, work and play and that they are willing to take action to preserve the outdoors.

The celebration is designed to be a grassroots initiative to strengthen existing constituencies and create new ones in support of outdoor recreation and protecting our outdoor heritage.

Gov. Martin has proclaimed April 1990 as "Celebration of the Outdoors Month" in North Carolina and is encouraging communities across the state to participate in activities which recognize that outdoors are a vital aspect of the quality of life in North Carolina.

In addition, Gov. Martin has written a letter to all local park and recreation directors in the state and called on them to become involved in the future of our environment by participating in the celebration.

You too can make a difference by organizing a community project or special event based upon your community's outdoor recreation needs.

Activities may include park or trail dedications, litter cleanups, youth fishing contests, community picnics, concerts, art festivals and more.

Get out and enjoy the beautiful outdoor opportunities the state of North Carolina has to offer.

Division To Host Multi-Agency Trails Meeting In Asheville

The N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation will host a meeting in Asheville in April which will bring together many federal and state agencies which have trails on their lands or who administer trail programs.

State and national organizations which normally have input into the decision making process as it relates to trails in North Carolina have also been invited.

The planned outcome of the meeting will be a better understanding of the plans of each agency and how they relate to each other and a sharing of ideas on making the trails system in North Carolina the best possible.

Any organization interested in being represented at the meeting should contact Darrell McBane, state trails coordinator, at (919) 846-9991.

Trails Of Thought

Dear Fellow Trails Enthusiasts:

The major goal of the state's trails staff is to promote the development of trails. The greatest effect that we as a trails staff can have on the development of trails is to provide technical assistance and consulting services to the local trails organizations that are working in conjunction with their local units of government, state and federal agencies.

We are seeing the results of this citizen-government cooperation. This year the state will consider designation of 94.7 miles of trail. This includes the 53-mile Dan River Canoe Trail in Stokes and Rockingham counties; the 21.7-mile Neusiok Hiking Trail in Carteret County; the 5-mile section from Balsam Gap to Gray Beard Overlook in Buncombe County, and the 15-mile Tanawha Trail through Price Park to Cone Mansion to the town of Blowing Rock in Avery and Watauga counties.

These trails have become a reality because the local citizens were interested and dedicated enough to persevere. This is sometimes difficult but the results of continued work are visible.

One of our major responsibilities is to work closer with all city and county recreation and planning departments in the area of trail development and provide these important people with technical assistance and consulting services.

Our department has received many calls within the last year to assist these various city and county departments who have had requests from their citizens for trails. These requests have been for canoe accesses to rivers, hiking trails along streams and utility easements, circular trails around active recreation parks and the linking of two cities by a trail through a state park.

I am very excited that Roger Brown, director of Parks and Recreation for the city of Greensboro and one of the leaders in the field of parks and recreation, has written an article titled "Can Parks and Recreation Link Communities?" which appears in this issue of the Tar Heel Trails newsletter.

The development of trails will be greatly enhanced if all parks and recreation departments across the state actively promote, support, sponsor, build and maintain trails. I thank Roger Brown for his leadership.

The local parks and recreation departments can offer excellent leadership, are very familiar with their cities and counties and also understand the needs of their local constituents.

Each of you are in an ideal position to help develop trails for the fastest growing activities in the nation. I hope each of you will accept the challenge.

The trails staff is here to help you get started and to assist you along the way. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Darrell

Darrell McBane

Hikes, Bike Tours Planned For Trails Month Celebration

By Tom Potter
Trails Specialist

A variety of trails activities are being planned for May. These activities include hikes in state parks, county parks, U.S. Forest Service and national parks. Bike tours are planned for many areas of eastern North Carolina.

The highlight of our trails month celebration is the possible dedication of new trails. The Carteret County Wildlife Club has been working hard for years on the Neusiok Trail. This spring, thanks to the cooperation of the Wildlife Club, U.S. Forest Service and the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, a portion of this trail will be considered for designation by the North Carolina Trails Committee.

This trail is a segment of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail. The cooperative efforts of citizens and government agencies have served as the driving force of trail construction in North Carolina.

The Neuse Trails Association of Goldsboro and Wayne County has been hard at work in trail construction. The NCTC will consider a designation application for the trails they have constructed. The Neuse Trails Association has developed trails in Waynesborough State Park and through the city of Goldsboro. They have also constructed a greenway on the Stoney Creek Watershed as part of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

North Carolina Rails-to-Trails is sponsoring a trip to New River Trail State Park near Galax, Va. This trail, when completed, will be a 57-mile hiking, biking and horseback riding trail along the New River that was converted from an abandoned railroad.

The group plans to meet on May 26 at the Shot Tower State Historic Site. This is Memorial Day weekend, and, with the many camping facilities nearby on the Blue Ridge Parkway, this could be a wonderful family adventure.

For more information on all of the "May is Trails Month" activities, please refer to the enclosed calendar of events.

Let's show our appreciation for all the hard work trail volunteers have done by participating in the planned activities and enjoy some of the best experiences North Carolina has to offer from the mountains to the sea.

Rails-To-Trails

Rails-trails conversion groups are still working across the state to make the idea a reality.

The Gulf to Comstock abandonment has been attracting a lot of attention. The railroad has violated the Interstate Commerce Commission's public use exemption by removing a trestle before the 180-day exemption had expired.

North Carolina Railtrails and the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy contacted Norfolk-Southern Railway Company and the ICC to bring this action to a halt. The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy said this was the first time that a railroad company had violated the public use exemption. The railroad company has replaced the trestle.

A recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling should help all rail-trail conversion groups with the conversion process. "Interim use of a railroad right-of-way for trail use, when the route itself remains intact for future railroad purposes, shall not constitute an abandonment of such rights-of-way for railroad purposes," the ruling said.

Petitioners also sought review of the ICC's order in the Court

of Appeals for the Second Circuit arguing that Section 8d of the Trails Act is unconstitutional on its face because it takes private property without just compensation and because it is not a valid exercise of Congress' Commerce Clause Power.

The Court of Appeals rejected both arguments. It reasoned that the ICC has "Plenary and exclusive authority" over abandonments, and federal law must be considered in determining the property rights held by petitioners.

"For as long as it determines that the land will serve a 'railroad purpose,' the ICC retains jurisdiction over railroad rights-of-way; it does not matter whether that purpose is immediate or in the future," the ruling said.

Because the court believed that no revisionary interest could vest until the ICC determined the abandonment was appropriate, the court concluded that the Trails Act did not result in a taking.

Next, the court found that the Trails Act was reasonable adapted to two legitimate congressional purposes under the commerce clause: "Preserving Rail Corridors for Future Railroad Use" and "Permitting Public Recreational Use of Trails."

The decision by the Supreme Court should help everyone involved with rail-trail conversions.

City of Jacksonville

The City Council of Jacksonville has appointed a trails committee to study the feasibility of creating a trail or greenway program.

The committee is composed of eight citizens and four city employees. Their charge for 1990 is to develop a plan and present it to the City Council in December 1990.

The trails committee held its third meeting on March 5 and invited Tom Potter, eastern regional trails specialist, to attend. Potter outlined several options for developing an overall trails plan for the city.

Some of the concerns mentioned by the committee included using city utilities rights-of-way, abandoned railroad rights-of-way and watershed areas for trails.

Wells Is Named DPR Deputy Director

RALEIGH - The N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation has named Thomas R. Wells as the Division's deputy director.

Wells, 47, who started in his new position Feb. 5, had served as director of the Recreation Resources Service in the College of Forest Resources at North Carolina State University since 1987.

He served in a variety of capacities within the Division of Parks and Recreation from 1974 through 1987. During the 13-year span, the positions included office services supervisor, eastern regional supervisor, resource management planner, parks and recreation consultant and the Division's head of strategic planning.

Wells has a bachelor of science degree in parks and recreation administration from North Carolina State University.

As deputy director, Wells oversees the day-to-day activities of selected program units within the Division, including operations, design and development and staff development. He is also responsible for the management and operation of the Division in the director's absence.

Trails Specialist Accepts Jordan Lake Post

By Darrell McBane

State Trails Coordinator

Megan Harden, Central Piedmont Region trails specialist, has left the state trails program and accepted a position as superintendent at Jordan Lake State Recreation Area.

Megan Harden started work in this position on Jan. 15 and has definitely been missed in the program.

Megan was very successful during her time with the program. Her work with William B. Umstead State Park assisting with the \$75,000 reconstruction of horse trails in this park has already had a significant impact on the protection of our resources and the experience available to our visitors.

She was very interested in and worked closely with the greenway programs of the cities of Cary and Raleigh. Megan also provided a great deal of assistance to the state trails coordinator.

She assisted in the drafting of the North Carolina Trails System Guidelines and the North Carolina Trails Committee Guidelines. She was also responsible for the Adopt-A-Trail grant program and keeping up with the state wide trails inventory.

Megan is an 11-year employee of the state parks system. She was superintendent of Raven Rock State Park before leaving the Division due to pregnancy.

Smith Rogers Named As Trails Specialist

The N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation is pleased to

announce that Smith Rogers has been employed as the Central Piedmont regional trails specialist. She began her employment on March 5.

Smith has an undergraduate degree in biology and a master's degree in environmental management from Duke University. Her experience has been with the Nature Science Center in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Smith's interests are in hiking, canoeing, wildlife rehabilitation and swimming.

Her first task will be to get out into her region and meet each of you who are working diligently to put trails on the ground.

Smith Rogers, we welcome you to the Division of Parks and Recreation.

Falls Lake Trail

A new section of the Falls Lake Trail has been scheduled to be designated as a state trail in May. The length of the section is three miles and runs between N.C. 50 and New Light Road.

When all sections of the Falls Lake Trail are completed, it will be 67.5 miles long. One highlight of the new section is the unique groundcover vegetation encountered while hiking.

Partridge berry, running cedar, and a variety of ferns are all found in this segment.

The trail is being constructed and maintained by the Triangle Greenways Council.

Trails Acquisition Task Force Reviews Private Land Issues

By Darrell McBane

State Trails Coordinator

The inaugural meeting of the Trails Acquisition Task Force was held in Raleigh on March 7. The purpose of creating the task force was to resolve issues related to the establishment of state designated trails on private land.

The meeting brought together a number of key leaders of trail development in North Carolina. James Hallsey, chief of Operations for the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, presented a history of the trails movement in North Carolina as well as goals of the task force.

The major objective of the meeting was to acquaint the participants with the issues currently facing the state in trails acquisition.

The primary issue involves liability - primarily that of the owners of any private land containing state designated trails.

The James Booth Trail in Stokes County was used as an example of the conflict between a land owner's desire to be completely absolved of any liability related to a state trail on his property and the state's legisla-

tion designed only to limit liability.

Another liability issue involves volunteers during the trail construction phase. The group decided that a formal opinion from the Attorney General on the liability issue was needed. They also suggested that the trails staff research methods that other states use to deal with this issue.

In addition to formulating specific questions that need to be addressed, the task force selected a subcommittee to review the information gathered by the trails staff and the opinions of the Attorney General.

The participants contributed valuable insights based on their wide experience with trails. The future of the state-designated trail system will certainly be affected by the findings and action of the Trails Acquisition Task Force.

Participants in the task force include James McKey, Department of Transportation Bicycle Program and member of the North Carolina Trails Association board of directors; Bill Flournoy, environmental section chief of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources and a member of Triangle Greenways Council;

Joe Henderson, Office of State Property, Department of Administration; Ed Gavin, Office of Legal Counsel, EHN; Allen de Hart, chairman of North Carolina Trails Committee; R.M. Collins, president of the Sauratown Trails Association; Sue Regier, resource management specialist with the Division of Parks and Recreation; Scott Daughtry, Central District superintendent with the Division of Parks and Recreation; Chuck Roe, Natural Heritage Program, and

Trails Committee Meets To Discuss Adopt-A-Trail Applicants

The North Carolina Trails Committee met on March 30 in Raleigh.

Agenda items for this meeting included but were not limited to consideration of 1989-1990 Adopt-A-Trail applications, consideration of trail designation applications, review of the Trails System Annual Report and a report from the subcommittee on the North Carolina Trails Association recommendations and resolutions.

Dan River Trail Considered For State Designation

By John Shaffner
Trails Specialist

The Dan River Trail will be considered for designation as a state river trail during the May is Trails Month activities.

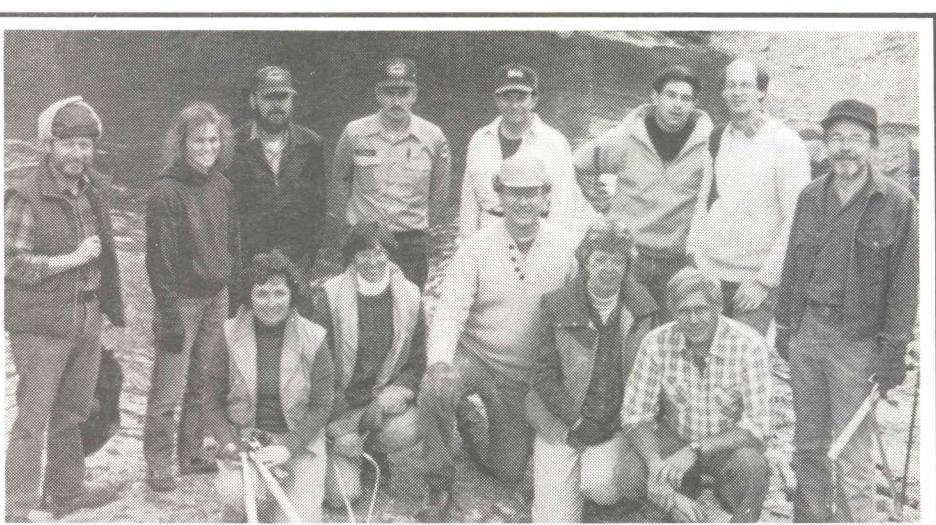
In July 1985, the Dan River trail subcommittee, formed from the ranks of the original Rockingham County Water Resources Committee, began to identify potential access sites along the river for the purpose of building a recreational trail. The subcommittee has been successful in its venture.

Today, the 90-mile trail, which flows through Stokes and Rockingham counties, has 10 completed access sites with two additional sites approved for development.

The trail is an example of private, public and corporate partnerships. Sponsored by two counties, four municipalities, the Division of Parks and Recreation, Duke Power Co., a private campground, and a private golf course, the trail has received more than \$80,000 in funding from the N.C. Division of Water Resources.

In 1986, the Friends of the Dan and Mayo Rivers was established with more than 300 members. Membership continues to grow and with it the concern for the preservation of the natural resource.

William W. Cobey Jr., secretary of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, is expected to be the featured speaker at the dedication. The ceremony is scheduled to take place May 12. Final arrangements for the dedication/designation are pending.



STONE MOUNTAIN CLEANUP - Members of the Foothills Sierra Club group pose after the cleanup at Stone Mountain State Park.
(Photo by John Shaffner)

Foothills Sierra Club

Members of the Foothills Sierra Club held a service outing Jan. 27 at Stone Mountain State Park to repair some of the storm damage from Hurricane Hugo.

They worked on two trails - the Widow Creek Trail and the Garden Creek Trail. Of the two trails, the Garden Creek Trail was most heavily damaged by the storm.

Under the careful supervision of rangers and a trails specialist, Tom Macon, Molly Diggins, Joel Wooten, Helen Saelinger, Maribeth Weiman, Hal and Kathy Boyd, Tom Clauzet, Carson Snyder, Mitch Davidson, Mike Sachazeski and Bob Cowan, cleaned, trimmed, snipped, straightened and hauled brush.

Also, recognizing the needs of the park and its lack of resources, the group has decided to adopt Stone Mountain as their special project.

To that end, the Sierra Club group has applied for an Adopt-A-Park grant to buy tools, which would be stored at the park and used exclusively for their cleanups.

From Stone Mountain State Park and the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, we offer the Foothills Sierra Club Group our warmest thanks. Keep up the good work!

Elkin

Elkin Town Manager Ed Burchin and Debbie Carson of the Foothills Nature-Science Society were among a group of local officials who hiked along Big Elkin Creek to gauge the trail's potential as a nature trail.

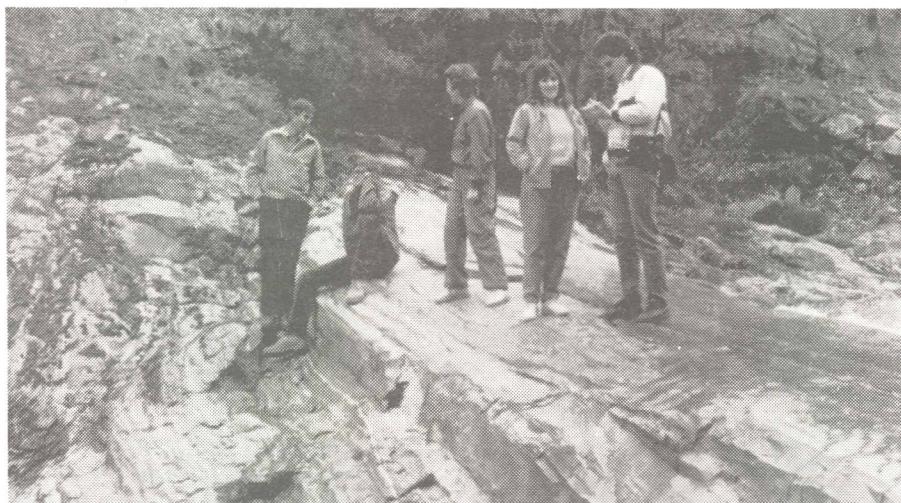
Others participating in the hike were Riley Fillingame, director of Elkin Parks and Recreation; State Biologist Joe Mickey and John Shaffner, regional trails specialist.

Not only would the trail give Elkin residents and visitors a chance to observe the area's natural beauty, but would offer them as well a clear and visible history of the community.

"You may not realize it, but some of Elkin's first mills and factories were built along this creek," Burkins said. "We'd like a trail to examine the history that surrounds the creek."

Carson said she saw the remains of an old shoe factory and an iron forge.

"Placing historical markers along the trail is one option that could be considered,"
(See *Western Piedmont ...*, Page 8)



TOUR - Trail advocates from the city of Elkin hike along Little Elkin Creek. They hope to build a nature trail along the creek.
(Photo by John Shaffner)

Task Force Requests Designation For Trail Segment

By Dwayne Stutzman
Trails Specialist

The Northwest Mountains Task Force has requested that a 10-mile segment of trail along the Blue Ridge Parkway connecting Price Memorial Park and the Town of Blowing Rock be designated as a component of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

The portion of trail, which begins at the junction of the Blue Ridge Parkway's Tanawha Trail and Boone Fork Trail, travels through Price Memorial Park.

It utilizes a 3-mile section of the Boone Fork Trail and a combination of the old historic John's River Road and new trail and travels to a junction of the new trail and the historic carriage roads on the Parkway's Moses Cone Mansion Park.

It follows the carriage roads through Cone Park to the junction of U.S. Highway 321 and the Parkway.

If the trail is approved for designation by the secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, the dedication ceremony will be held along with other "May Is Trails Month" activities during May 1990.

Carolina Mountain Club

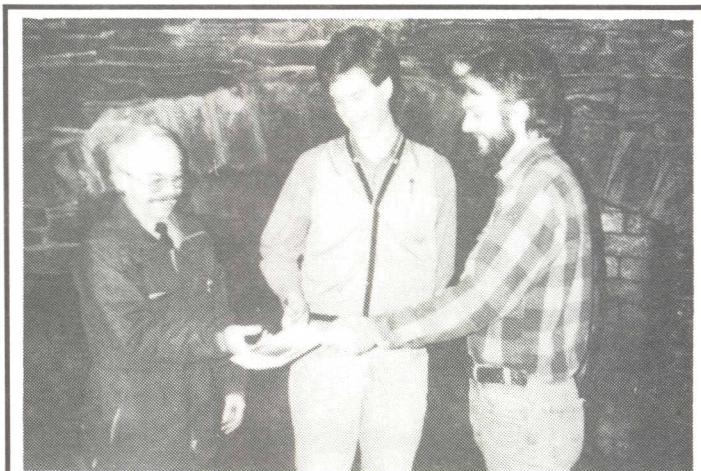
Four members of the Carolina Mountain Club have been awarded citations by the U.S. Forest Service for their work on trails over the past eight years.

The four - Dwight Allen, Phil Babcock, Harlow Hoskins and Dick Roberts - have each contributed in excess of 10,000 hours of volunteer labor on the Pisgah National Forest.

Pisgah District Ranger Art Rowe presented the awards at the Carolina Mountain Club's 1989 annual meeting.

Balsam Trail Brochure

The Elisha Mitchell Chapter of the National Audubon Society



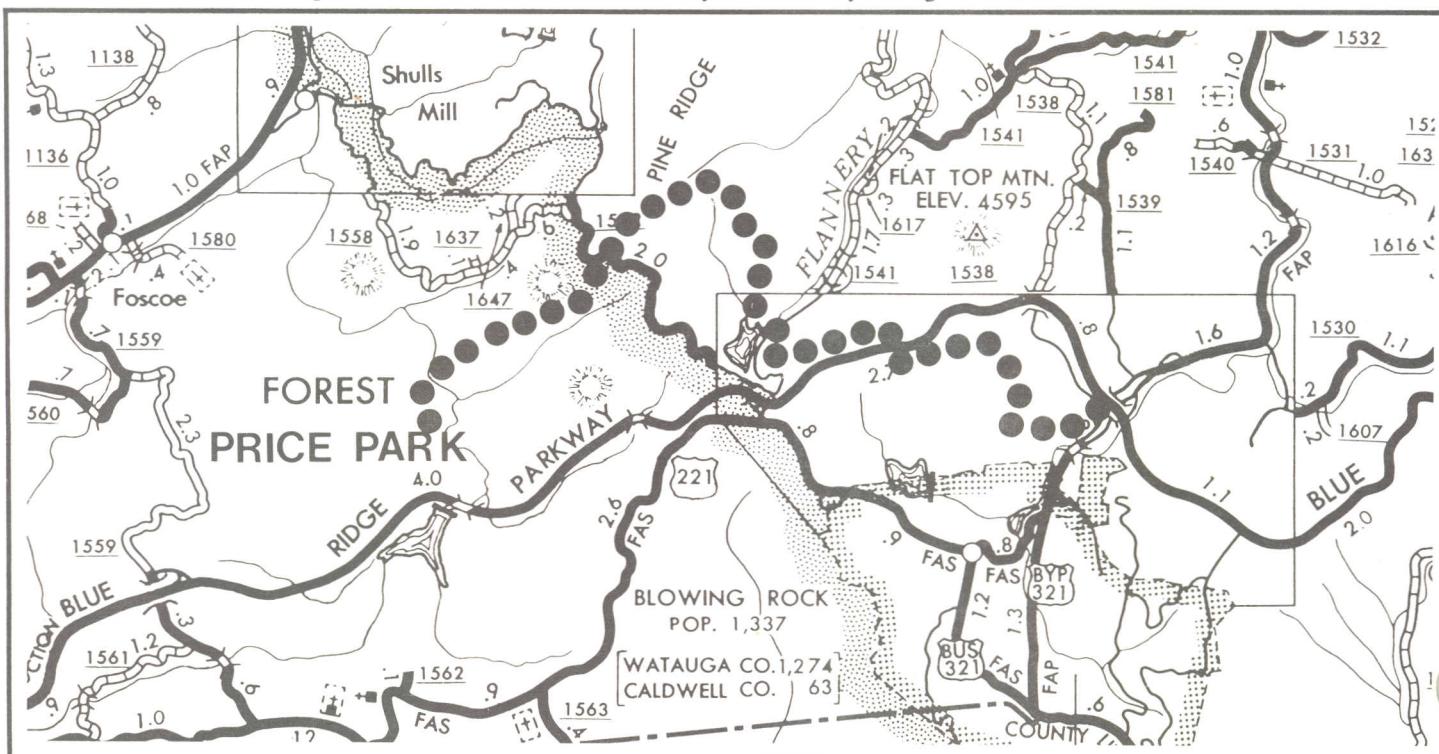
BROCHURE - John Sharpe, left, superintendent at Mount Mitchell State Park, accepts a brochure for the Balsam Trail from members of the Elisha Mitchell Chapter of the National Audubon Society.

(Photo by Dwayne Stutzman)

has presented Mount Mitchell State Park Superintendent John Sharpe with a brochure for the Balsam Trail, a 3/4-mile interpretive trail near the summit of Mount Mitchell, which, at 6,684 feet, is the highest peak in Eastern North America.

The brochure, a 12-page book which describes 22 stations along the trail, was funded by an Adopt-A-Trail grant made from the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation to the Asheville-based Audubon chapter.

The brochure will be available for 50 cents at the concession stand at the summit parking area. The concession stand is open daily between Memorial Day and Labor Day and on weekends from Labor Day through October.



Trail Connecting Price Memorial Park with the town of Blowing Rock

McKnally Outlines Park System Needs To Study Commission

By Don Reuter
Public Information Officer

RALEIGH — The North Carolina trails system continues to grow with the development of additional sections of the Mountains-To-Sea Trail and other locals trails and greenways, according to Phil McKnally, director of the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation.

"The conversion of abandoned railroad right-of-way to trails has become an important issue for both transportation and recreation officials," McKnally told members of the State Parks and Recreation Areas Study Commission at its first meeting Jan. 5.

As with parks, the safe enjoyment of trails requires that visitors be accurately informed of trail locations, conditions and facilities, according to McKnally, who summarized critical needs of the trail system for the committee.

"Trail maps and guides to the state trails system are essential to providing this information," he said.

Open Space Is Not Empty Space



Backcountry Publications, Vermont

Despite what some people may tell you, open green spaces are essential to our community. They provide critical wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities and a break from our hectic daily lives.

Don't take open spaces for granted. Join millions of Americans April 22-29, 1990, in a week of local activities to celebrate our great outdoors. Plant a tree. Adopt a park. Build a bike trail.

For more information, contact:
The National Celebration of the Outdoors, 1250 24th St. NW, Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20037; toll-free 1-800-628-LAND.



Trails System Needs

Some of the more critical needs of the trails system are summarized below:

- Install uniform trail signing in all state parks in compliance with system guidelines. \$80,000
- Develop and publish a state trails guide indicating the location of all public trails on a state map showing types of use, distance/difficulty and managing agency. \$8,000
- Repair, renovate or relocate severely deteriorated trails in state parks. A preliminary estimate indicates that 15 percent of the park system's 183 miles of trail are in critical need of repair. \$250,000/year X 5 years
- Provide increased volunteer training, additional technical assistance and local government coordination by expanding services provided through the regional trails specialists, state trails coordinator and North Carolina Trails Committee. \$70,000/year
- Develop a rails-to-trails right-of-way acquisition trust fund to support local government efforts to preserve rail corridors and provide for interim compatible uses. An initial investment of \$1 million into the trust, similar to Florida's program, would provide \$100,000 annually. \$1 million

In other business, McKnally said North Carolina's state parks system does not have to rank first in the nation in per capita spending in order to meet the needs of its visitors.

"Being funded number one wouldn't mean that we would have the best state parks system," he said.

"There are vast differences in state park systems. Some states, like Kentucky and Tennessee, operate resort parks which require much larger budgets to operate. It would be awfully nice to get to about the middle. Then, we would be in good shape to serve our visitors."

A report released by the National Association of State Park Directors ranked North Carolina last in the country in per capita expenditures for its state park system. The 1989 Annual Information Exchange, prepared by the NASPD, provided statistics reported for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1988. The report does not include appropriations made by the 1989 General Assembly.

According to the report, North Carolina spent \$1 per citizen on its state parks, compared with the national average of \$4.26 per citizen.

Members of the legislative study commission said they recognized the funding woes faced by the state park system.

"We face a monumental task as we try to extricate ourselves from that unenviable position of ranking 50th in the nation in per capita spending," said Rep. Narvel Jim

Crawford, D-Buncombe, who serves as co-chairman of the committee.

Sen. Jim Kemp Sherron Jr., D-Wake, serves as the other co-chairman of the committee.

Dr. McKnally also provided legislators with an initial briefing, which outlined the system's mission; a system description; the park system's development, personnel and fiscal profiles; a summary of the 1989 legislative session, 1989 initiatives and highlighted needs.

Those needs include ranger reclassification and retirement benefits; interpretation and education enhancement; the capital improvement and land acquisition programs; state trails; the natural and scenic rivers program; state park system planning; Lumber River State Park and state river; life-guard services and seasonal wage rate increases.

Meanwhile, Suzanne Riley, president of the North Carolina Trails Association, presented a video on trails work by the Balsam-Highlands Task Force and thanked lawmakers for the appropriation of Adopt-A-Trail funds.

Other members serving on the study commission include Rep. Jo Graham Foster, D-Mecklenburg; Rep. Daniel Howard DeVane, D-Hoke; Sen. Betsy Lane Cochrane, R-Davie; Sen. Ted Kaplan, D-Forsyth; Sen. Robert G. Shaw, R-Guilford, and Sen. Austin Murphy Allran, R-Catawba.

Can Parks And Recreation Link Communities?

Written by Roger Brown
Director of Parks and Recreation
City of Greensboro

The answer is yes. The direction has been established by the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors. Towns and cities throughout North Carolina have begun the link. It is occurring through trails - walking, hiking, biking, water and equestrian.

Trails use is the fastest growing activity in Greensboro today. I suspect this is the case throughout the state. Trail enthusiasts are vibrant, energetic and exciting people to work with, and as professionals we have a commitment to be as attentive to their needs as we are to the soccer players, those involved in the arts, or any other program within parks and recreation.

In Greensboro, the variety of trail experiences is expanding almost daily. Traditionally, we have had walking trails through the city, around the lakes and in our parks. We have bike trails, equestrian trails and a trail for the visually impaired.

As an indication of the interest in trails by our citizens, Guilford County has passed a bond referendum for the purchase of parkland that includes the construction of a walking/biking trail that will link the trail system around the lakes in Greensboro with those in Jamestown and High Point.

Southern Railroad is abandoning rail lines in Greensboro and there is an effort being made to preserve these rail corridors for trail use. This has opened up a whole series of new opportunities (and challenges). Our long range goal is to provide for our citizens and visitors the opportunity to walk/bike completely around the City through our Greenways and Open Space.

The state of North Carolina has increased its support for these efforts by employing a state trails coordinator and four regional trails specialists (located in the Health, Environment and Natural Resources regional offices in Asheville, Winston-Salem, Raleigh, and the East District Office of the Division of Parks and Recreation at Cliffs of the Neuse State Park in Seven Springs).

These specialists, within the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, are available to communities who need help in establishing trails systems and trail support groups.

Other services of the state include the Adopt-A-Trail Grant Program that provides funding for volunteer trail clubs, local parks and recreation trail programs, and other agencies and organizations developing trails for public use. For information concerning the Adopt-A-Trail Program and other services of the state, contact the state trails coordinator.

The North Carolina Trails Committee, a seven-member committee appointed by the Secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources, represents the interests of hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, and canoeists across the state.

This committee meets on a quarterly basis and advises the secretary on matters related to trails.

The North Carolina Trails Association, a state-wide citizen organization of trail users, is another good source of information and assistance.

This organization can provide you with a list of established trails organizations around the state. Their board of directors has representatives of various trail users as well as greenways and rails-to-trails.

This group of volunteers is working hard to make the Moun-

tains-to-the-Sea Trail a reality by linking the trails of communities with connector trails.

Trails are an integral part of good land use planning and we in parks and recreation should be involved. Trail use can provide for educational, health, recreational and leadership development for families, individuals, youth groups, church and other special groups.

If you have not already done so, I encourage you to seek out those in your community interested in the trails movement. Listed below are some contacts to help you get started. I am convinced that parks and recreation can, and should, provide leadership and support in this area.

Darrell McBane, State Trails Coordinator, 12700 Bay Leaf Road, Raleigh, N.C. 27614, (919) 846-9991, or North Carolina Trails Association, Suzanne Riley, President, 825 South Alpen Street, Lincolnton, N.C. 28092, (704) 732-4728.

Western Piedmont ...

(Continued from Page 5)

she said.

Though no specific decisions have been made with regard to acquiring the trail to this point, the town would have to get permission from landowners to use the land. The first step in doing that is to identify the landowners and make sure written permission is granted before any part of the land is used.

On Feb. 21, officials met some of the land owners and showed them David Drexel's video, "North Carolina Trails."

The landowners seemed interested in the proposed Big Elkin Creek Trail, but some did express a fear of opening their land "intruders."

"The three main possibilities we're looking at for this trail," Burchins explained, "are nature, history, and the sporting potential. But, at the same time, we want to preserve it."

The city officials also expressed interest in the Adopt-A-Trail grant program.

Greenway Conference Planned For Winston-Salem

The Winston-Salem City-County Planning Board will host the 1990 Greenways Conference May 16-18. This year's theme will be "Builders_and Users."

The conference is expected to attract planners, trail activists, recreational professionals, elected officials and interested citizens from all over the triad who are presently building or planning greenways in their communities.

It will focus on the benefits of these "conservation corridors" and provide "nuts and bolts" information on their construction.

The conference will be held at the Ramada Inn at 420 High Street in Winston-Salem. Registration fee will be \$55.00. Discount lodging for registrants may be obtained by calling the Ramada Inn at (919) 723-7911.

For more information on the Greenways Conference, contact Judy Hunt or Margaret Bessette with the Winston-Salem City-County Planning Board, at P. O. Box 2511, Winston-Salem, N. C. 27102, or call (919) 727-2087.

Division Of Parks And Recreation Trails Program

Plans Trail Construction And Maintenance Workshop

The N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation's Trails Program will present a Construction and Maintenance Workshop for all interested volunteers.

The workshop will be held June 2-3 at Pilot Mountain State Park, located 24 miles north of Winston-Salem on U.S. Highway 52.

The leader of the workshop will be Bob Proudman, trails maintenance coordinator for the Appalachian Trail Conference and co-author of the Appalachian Trail Conference's "Trails Design, Construction and Maintenance Manual," the Bible of trail construction and maintenance practices.

Proudman has been a guiding force for years in the continued upgrading of maintenance technique and skills for trail volunteers. Assisting Proudman will be ATC's Southern Region Field Representative Morgan Sommerville and N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation Western Regional Trails Specialist Dwayne Stutzman.

The workshop is free and is open to anyone interested in sharp-

ening their trail skills or who wants to learn how to build or maintain a trail.

If you would like to participate in this opportunity to gain a better knowledge in the areas of construction and maintenance of trails, please fill out the attached Registration Form and return it no later than May 15, 1990 to: Dwayne Stutzman, Regional Trails Specialist, 59 Woodfin Place, Asheville, N.C. 28801. You must register to participate.

Camping is available at the park with restaurants and motels nearby in the towns of Pilot Mountain (4 miles north) and King (7 miles south). You may call Pilot Mountain State Park Superintendent Larry Milton at (919) 325-2355 between 8:30 a.m. and 12:20 p.m. for further details on camping and fees. As with all state parks, the park gates are closed at 9 p.m. and open at 8 a.m. in June. Meals and lodging reservations are the responsibility of individual workshop participants.

NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION TRAILS CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP JUNE 2-3, 1990 PILOT MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

I plan to attend the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation's Trails Construction and Maintenance Workshop.

I plan to camp at the Park _____

Number of camp sites needed _____

I do not plan to camp at the Park _____

Names of persons attending workshop

DEADLINE OF REGISTRATION
MAY 15, 1990

May Is Trails Month

TRAIL DEDICATIONS

There will be a dedication ceremony for a portion of the Neusiok Trail on Croatan National Forest as a segment of the Mountains-To-Sea Trail.

There will be a dedication ceremony for a portion of the Mountains-To-Sea Trail from Waynesborough State Park to the Goldsboro Greenway to the Neuse River.

TRAIL CONSTRUCTION

Falls Lake Trail

Every Saturday in May. Meet at the end of Bayleaf Road at the gate. Contact Chris Brackwell at (919) 831-6854 for more information.

HIKE

Morrow Mountain State Park

Call the park for schedule of programs and hikes during May at (919) 982-4402.

May 4-6

Foothills Sierra Club

Roan Mountain Wildflower Hike - Contact Linda Anderson at (919) 924-9129.

May 5

Crowders Mountain State Park

Day Hike - Meet at park office at 9 a.m.

Crowders Mountain State Park

Spring Bird Count - Meet at park office at 9 a.m.

Pettigrew State Park

Leisure Hike - Meet at the park office at 2 p.m. for a leisurely hike to look at wildflowers and other plants. For more information, call (919) 797-4475.

Hammocks Beach State Park

Seashell Walk - Hike along the shores of Bear Island and discover nature's seashore gifts. Meet at the bathhouse at 1 p.m. For more information, call (919) 326-4881.

May 6

Pilot Mountain State Park

In Search of Ravens - Meet in the summit parking lot at 2 p.m.

New River/Mount Jefferson State Park

Hike through History - Meet at the summit picnic area at 2 p.m.

Stone Mountain State Park

Spring Wildflower Hike - From 10 a.m. until noon. Meeting location announced at later date.

Merchants Millpond State Park

Wild Orchid and Swamp Species Hike - Meet at the canoe rental area at 2 p.m. For more information, call (919) 357-1191.

Weymouth Woods-Sandhills Nature Preserve

Trails Appreciation Day - Meet in the main building at 2 p.m. Contact park staff at (919) 692-2167.

May 10

Bladen County Park, Highway 701, south of Elizabethtown

Spring Hike - Meet at 3 p.m. at the picnic shelter. For more information, contact Terry Rich at (919) 633-0131.

May 12

Foothills Sierra Club

Day Hike - Contact Tom Macon at (919) 725-5736.

Crowders Mountain State Park

Spring Wildflower Hike - Meet at park office at 9 a.m.

Cape Hatteras National Seashore

Nature Trail Hike - One-hour hike beginning at 10 a.m. at the Buxton Woods Nature Trail parking lot. For more information, contact Craig Shelton or Marcia Lyons at (919) 995-4474.

Hammocks Beach State Park

Bear Island Hike - Hike a section of Bear Island and learn about its history, wildlife and more. Meet at the bathhouse at 1 p.m. For information, call (919) 326-4881.

Croatan National Forest

Island Creek Trail Hike - For more information, contact Terry Rich at (919) 633-0131.

May 13

New River/Mount Jefferson State Park

Mothers Day Hike - Meet Wagoner Road Access at 2 p.m. Bring good hiking shoes and your mother. Call park office, (919) 982-2587, for further details.

Pilot Mountain State Park

Hike along Bean Shoals Canal - Meet at picnic area at 10 a.m.

Foothills Sierra Club

Catawba Falls Day Hike - Contact Linda Anderson at (919) 924-9129.

Raven Rock State Park

Mother's Day Discover Hike - Meet at main park area at 2:30 p.m. Contact park staff at (919) 893-4888.

May 19

Hanging Rock State Park

Hike to Cook's Wall - Contact John Shaffner, regional trails specialist, at (919) 761-2351.

Crowders Mountain State Park

Day Hike - Meet at the fishing lake at 9 a.m. Contact park office for further information at (704) 867-1181.

Merchants Millpond State Park

Hike and Slide Program - A hike and slide program on frogs and toads. Meet at the canoe rental area at 7 p.m. For more information, call (919) 357-1191.

Kerr Lake State Recreation Area

Old Still Trail - Meet in Bullocksville area at the ranger station at 10 a.m. Contact rangers at (919) 438-7791.

May 20

Pilot Mountain State Park

Celebrate Trails Month on the Jameokee Trail - Meet park office staff at the summit area parking lot at 2 p.m.

New River/Mount Jefferson State Park

Tour of the New River - Meet at the Wagoner Road Access at 2 p.m. to explore the river's inhabitants. Call the park office for further details at (919) 982-2587.

Cliffs of the Neuse State Park

Hike - A short hike and talk through geologic time at the cliffs. Meet at the park museum for a 45-minute hike and talk. For more information, call (919) 778-6234.

Jordan Lake State Recreation Area

Plants and Birds - Meet at the parking lot at Table Shelter (Ebenezer Church area nature trail) at 9 a.m. Contact Dan Stamm at (919) 362-0586.

May 23

Raven Rock State Park

Seniors Stroll - Meet at the picnic area at 10:30 a.m. Hike and bring your own picnic lunch. Contact park staff at (919) 893-4888.

May 26

Foothills Sierra Club

Memorial Day Backpack to Panthertown - Contact Molly Diggins at (919) 761-2400.

New River/Mount Jefferson State Park

Wildflower Walk with a Ranger - Meet at summit picnic area at Mount Jefferson State Park at 2 p.m.

New River State Trail, Galax, Va.

N.C. Rails-to-Trails Hike - N.C. Rails-to-Trails plans a trip to New River State Trail near Galax, Va. New River State Trail is a 57-mile trail on an abandoned railroad right-of-way. Plan to meet at 10 a.m. at the parking lot at Shot Tower off Interstate 77. There are several campgrounds in the area. Bring the family and join with other trail enthusiasts. For more information, contact Al Capehart at (919) 493-6394 or Tom Potter at (919) 778-9488.

Carolina Beach State Park

Fly Trap Trail Hike - Hike the Fly Trap Trail at a time when many wildflowers will be in bloom. Plants that bite back, such as Venus Fly Traps, sundews and butterworts will be seen. Meet at the nature trail parking lot at 10 a.m. for this one-hour hike. For more information, call (919) 458-8206.

May 27

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Wildflower Walk with a Ranger - Meet at the summit picnic area, Mount Jefferson State Park at 2 p.m. Wear warm clothing and good hiking shoes.

Foothills Sierra Club

Hike Stone Mountain State Park - Trail TBA. Meet at the Thruway Shopping Center at 9 a.m. Contact Peggy Low at (919) 768-3151.

Medoc Mountain State Park

Stream Trail Hike - Meet at the picnic shelter at 2 p.m. Contact park staff at (919) 445-2280.

BIKE

Fitness Center Cycling Club will sponsor a tour of historic Edenton every Saturday during May. For more information, contact Keith Zimmerman at (919) 482-8820.

River City Cycling Club will sponsor bike tours around Elizabeth City every Sunday at 2 p.m. during May. For more information, contact Connie Adams at (919) 482-7615.

May 6

Fleetwood to Todd along the New River - Meet at Thruway Shopping Center in Winston-Salem, N.C., at 9 a.m. - Contact John Shaffner, regional trails specialist, at (919) 761-2351. Bike helmets preferred.

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Lewisville to Eastbend - Meet at the Oaks Shopping Center in Lewisville, N.C., at 2 p.m. - 25 miles round trip. Contact Peggy Low at (919) 768-3151. Bike helmets preferred.

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Stokes County Loop - Meet at fire station parking lot, Highway 66 and Flat Shoals Road in Stokes County at 2 p.m. Loop is approximately 25 miles. Bring your strongest legs and lungs -- you'll need them for this tough little loop. Contact John Shaffner, regional trails specialist, at (919) 761-2351. Helmets preferred.

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WORKSHOPS

May 12

New River/Mount Jefferson State Park

Cold, Wet and Wild - What's special about amphibians - Learn what tricks amphibians use to survive. Meet at Wagoner Road Access at 2 p.m. Dress warmly.

Goose Creek State Park

Environmental Field Day - Six different aspects of the environment will be discussed. Meet at the picnic area. Time to be announced. For more information, call (919) 778-6234.

May 16-18

Winston-Salem

1990 Greenway Conference - Contact the City/County Planning Board, P.O. Box 2511, Winston-Salem, N.C., 27102 or Judy Hunt or Margaret Bessette at (919) 727-2087.

May 19

New River/Mount Jefferson State Park

Life in the Fast Stream or There Are Strange "Beasties" Out There -- Who Needs Them and Why? - Meet at the Wagoner Road Access at 2 p.m. and join a ranger for a closer look. Dress warmly.

May 20

Stone Mountain State Park

Fly Tying Seminar - Meet at the registration center at 1 p.m. on the Fish-For-Fun stream. From 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

(May 19-20)

Club Presidents Meeting - Harpers Ferry - A must for potential PATH presidents, a full weekend on the operation of the Appalachian Trail Conference. Contact Danny C. Booker, (703) 349-5893, by March 18.

May 26

Pilot Mountain State Park

Astronomy Program - Meet at the park entrance at 9 p.m. The gate will be open for 15 minutes - program will last until 11 p.m. Dress warmly

CLEANUP

May 5

Dan River Clean-up - Meet at Moratock Park at 8 a.m.

RUN

May 19

Pleasure Island 5-mile Run - Run in a race sponsored by Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation. For more information, call (919) 458-7416.

600 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of \$210 or \$0.35 per copy

Public Information Office
N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 27687
Raleigh, N.C. 27611-7687