

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

January 9, 2014

STAFF DIRECTIVE 14-1

TO: Division Staff

FROM: Carol Tingley, Acting Director



SUBJECT: Regional Greenways and Trails to Connect to DPR Trails

Regional trail systems and community greenways are increasing in popularity and use. Several statewide and multi-state trails supporters and representatives have requested connections to state parks in recent years, such as the Carolina Thread Trail at Crowders Mountain, Lake Norman and Morrow Mountain state parks; the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail at Lake James State Park, and the East Coast Greenway at William B. Umstead State Park.

In order for these trail connection requests to be handled in a consistent manner, a set of required conditions and criteria have been developed. It is important that these trail connections, when approved, be implemented in a consistent manner across the Division; that they meet the Division's trail and sign standards; and they not negatively impact park operations or visitor experiences.

Attached is a list of proposed conditions by which the Division will allow these trail connections. This proposed list was developed with input from selected park superintendents, the district superintendents, the state trails program manager and chief of Planning and Natural Resources. These general conditions shall be incorporated as part of the DPR Trails Guidelines or included as an addendum.

CT/mdl

Attachment

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

General Conditions for Regional Trail and Greenway Connections to DPR Trails

January 9, 2014

- The Division of Parks and Recreation values local and regional efforts to link communities and State Parks – State Parks are natural points of interests on many local, regional and state (NCDOT BikePed) trail plans.
- The Division will consider and review individual requests from agencies and organizations to connect local or regional trails (existing or planned) to State Parks lands and trails.
- The Division will discuss opportunities for trail connections and the possible promotion of existing (or new) park trails as a segment within a larger system of trails (i.e. East Coast Greenway or the Carolina Thread Trail).
- The Division will document such decisions with agencies/organizations via Letter of Commitment or a Memorandum of Understanding.
- The Division will determine the most appropriate use of trails for those sections within state parks; i.e. hiking, biking, equestrian, multi-use, etc.
- The Division will consider opportunities to collaboratively sign the entry/exit points of local, regional or state trails at the park boundaries in accordance with Division sign guidelines.
- Internal sections of state park trails will retain standard trail names, signs and blazes in accordance with DPR Sign Guidelines, unless otherwise approved by the Chief of Operations.
- The Division will determine the most appropriate type of trail surface (natural surface, gravel, paved, etc.) for the sections of trail within state parks.
- The Division will work with the requesting agency or organization to develop and approve consistent trail information for display in trail head signs or wayside displays at the entry and exit points to the park, and information will be included on the Division website.
- The Division is appreciative of agency or organization offers to bear or share the expense of new trail entry point signs and/or wayfinding displays that display Division-approved information indicating to trail users they are entering an NC state park, list the appropriate rules and regulations, provide a map of all of the trails in the state park, and specifically indicate where the outside trail enters and exits the park.
- The Division reserves the right to review all promotion or advertising of the trail connections and portions within the park, to include printed literature and website information.