



www.thehaw.org

What is the Haw River Trail Partnership?

In 2006, 10 governmental agencies signed a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to work together for the development of the Haw River Trail and the conservation of its land and waters.

In this spirit, the cities of Burlington and Graham have partnered with Alamance County, to fund a full-time position to coordinate conservation and trail efforts on the Upper Haw River. This newsletter, and our website: www.thehaw.org, are an effort to inform the public about the ongoing work stemming from the 2006 Memorandum of Understanding.

THE MOUTH OF THE HAW

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HAW RIVER TRAIL PARTNERSHIP

Winter 2013

DONATION OF TRAIL EASEMENT BRINGS HAW RIVER TRAIL TO SAXAPAHAW

The Haw River Trail will soon have an important piece of trail in southern Alamance County thanks to a generous donation in Saxapahaw. An approximately half mile section of trail was donated by Rivermill Village, LLC and Saxapahaw Utility Company. The donation will allow construction of the Haw River Trail behind Saxapahaw Rivermill.

For those unfamiliar with Saxapahaw, the former textile town is dominated by Saxapahaw Rivermill. The first mill was constructed here in the 1840's by John Newlin. The mill became known as Saxapahaw Cotton Factory and later Dixie Yarns before closing in 1994. Thanks to the efforts of the Jordan family and a talented community of entrepreneurs, Saxapahaw has been reborn as a regional center for culture, music, food and outdoor adventure. Saxapahaw has the makings of the type of "trail town" that make all long-distance trails unique. The addition of the Haw River Trail/Mountains to Sea Trail in Saxapahaw creates a truly mutually beneficial relationship between the trail and the town. Over time, the trail will bring more and more visitors to the growing number of restaurants, art studios and adventure outfitters in Saxapahaw. In turn, the proximity of the trail to the Rivermill provides an unparalleled platform to introduce an entirely new audience of locals and tourists alike to the Haw River Trail.



The trail itself begins at the Saxapahaw Mill Race Paddle Access, crosses Church Road and proceeds behind the Rivermill. The well-beaten path on the property reveals that the area has long been a draw for locals. However, the donation will allow the trail to be improved and maintained, while paving the way for connections further north and south along the river. The trail will connect to "Lake Louise" on the southern end, with several connections along the way to other trails that travel throughout the Saxapahaw community. Construction has already begun on the trail and the new section should be complete in 2013.

For questions, comments, or to remove your name from the mailing list, email info@thehaw.org or call 336/229-2229



THE MOUTH OF THE HAW

Page 2

www.thehaw.org

SLALOM COURSE TESTING UNDERWAY IN SAXAPAHAW

Volunteers from the Carolina Canoe Club embarked on an exciting new project in December. The club working with the Alamance County Recreation and Parks Department to test the installation of canoe/kayak slalom gates on the Haw River near the Saxapahaw Mill Race Paddle Access. Slalom is a sport that requires paddlers to navigate through a course of hanging gates in the fastest time possible. The CCC hopes that the narrow channel and constantly flowing water created by the race from Saxapahaw Dam, could create an ideal location for slalom on the Haw. Although the current gates access are only a test installation, several more gates could be added in the coming months is all goes as planned.



Quarterly Attendance at Haw River Trail Sites

September 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012

Altamahaw Paddle Access:

5,684

Shallow Ford Natural Area:

6,168

Great Bend Park:

3,200

Glencoe Paddle Access:

3,393

Town & Country Paddle Access:

1,299

Red Slide Park:

10,346

Graham Paddle Access:

5,955

Sweptsonville River Park-Upper:

10,500

Sweptsonville River Park-Lower:

7,932

Sax. Lake Paddle Access:

4,552

Sax. Mill Race Paddle Access:

3,230

Total Attendance For Period: 68,766

UPCOMING HRT PROGRAMS

Winter Hike - February 9th 10:00a.m.-11:00a.m., Shallow Ford Natural Area
Kim Brown with guide this hike showcasing the winter landscape along the Haw River. The hike will cover a variety of terrain but all skill levels are welcome. Pre-registration is required. Email kim.brown@alamance-nc.com or call (336) 270-5124 to sign-up.

BRIDGE BUILDING CONTINUES ON RED SLIDE SECTION

Construction on the final large bridge in the Red Slide Section of Haw River Trail was completed in December.

The 34-foot bridge spans a large creek draining the Challenge Golf Course. The bridge is the third bridge between 20 and 40 feet required on the section of trail between Red Slide Park in Haw River with I-40/85. Now that it is complete, the trail is nearly complete and should be open the public in the coming months. Thanks to Alamance County Recreation and Parks Staff for all their hard work building the bridge by hand.



For questions, comments, or to remove your name from the mailing list, email info@thehaw.org or call 336/229-2229