



The Mouth of The Haw

The Newsletter of the Haw River Trail Partnership



Haw River Trail Hours Extended! Fall Hours: 8am-8pm

**NEW
EXTENDED HOURS!**

NOVEMBER - MARCH: 8AM-6PM
APRIL: 8AM-8PM
MAY - AUGUST: 8AM-9PM
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER: 8AM-8PM

**ALAMANCE
PARKS**



We are excited to announce that all Alamance County operated Haw River Trail locations are now open an hour longer each evening!

Visitation numbers to the trails have soared this spring as the community has embraced outdoor recreation and activity during the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent quarantine. Exercise and recreation are vital to maintaining strong mental and physical health and we want the parks to be available for you when you need them. Take a break and come visit one of the amazing Haw River Trail hiking or paddle trails located here in our local community.

We Want to Hear From You!

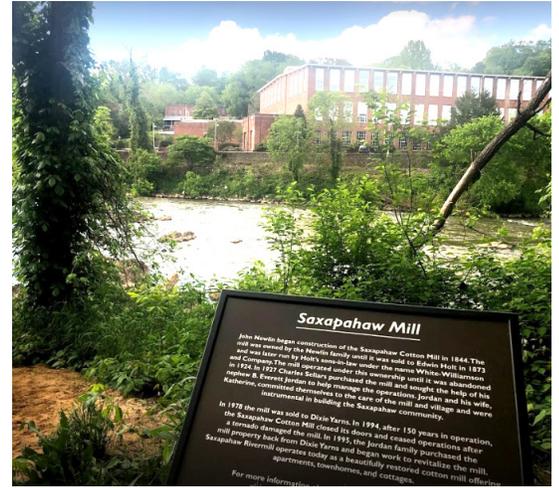
See something interesting along the trail?
Please send us your photos!

Tag #HawRiverTrail on Facebook & Instagram or
email info@thehaw.org

Haw River Trail Updates

The Department continues to focus on acquiring trail easements in Northern Alamance County in order to provide additional trail connections.

Recent Haw River Trail facility updates include renovation at the Glencoe Paddle Access, a new gate and fence at Great Bend Park, and new river access stairs at Union Bridge Paddle Access. Additionally, new interpretive signage was installed this spring throughout Saxapahaw Island Park providing details on the history and natural resources of the park.



Left: New steps were installed at Union Bridge Paddle Access
Right: New interpretive signage was added throughout Saxapahaw Island Park



Altamahaw Paddle Access Reopens

After months of construction, the Altamahaw Paddle Access is now open! The Altamahaw to Shallow Ford Natural Area is a good stretch for paddlers with Class I experience eager to take on a Class II. For more information about this section, visit thehaw.org/paddle-trail/river-section-guides/altamahaw-to-shallow-ford-natural-area.



20

MILES OF LAND TRAIL COMPLETE

40

MILES OF PADDLE TRAIL COMPLETE

15

RECREATIONAL PARKS & TRAILHEADS OPEN

1

AMAZING LOCAL RESOURCE

For a list of all trailheads, access points and to download maps, visit: www.thehaw.org

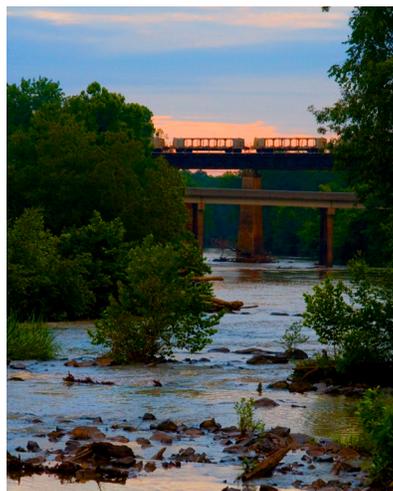
Renovation of Granite Mill

The area surrounding Granite Mill in the Town of Haw River is perhaps the most historically significant place in Alamance County. The area was a prominent river crossing on the Indian Trading Path that predates white settlement of the area. By the early 1700s, the area became known as "Piney Ford." The Trollingers, a key family in the history of the Haw River, came to this spot in 1745 and began operation of a grist mill on the west bank of the river. Granite Mill was originally constructed in 1844 marking the beginning of the textile industry in the village. The mill was one of Alamance County's largest manufacturers, employing up to 2,000 people in its prime. In 1936, the Granite Mills produced 10% of all the cloth manufactured in the United States. By the late 1970s and early '80s, the mill produced more corduroy than any other plant in the world. The plant was closed in 1983.

The closure of Granite Mill led to decades of economic hardship for Haw River. The lack of jobs made it harder to attract businesses and new residents to the town. However, that hardship also created an opportunity. One of the goals of the Haw River Trail Partnership is to create a sustainable economic engine for our riverside communities by creating unique places that attract people and investment. With that goal in mind, the Haw River Trail Partnership began working with the Town of Haw River and local landowners to create Red Slide Park. In 2009, Red



Top: View of Carolina Mill from Red Slide Park
Bottom: Community Park at Red Slide



Red Slide at Sunset

Slide Park was opened on the west bank of the river, immediately across from Granite Mill. That park now draws 35,000 visitors a year to downtown Haw River. According to the team redeveloping Granite Mill, the park had a significant influence on the decision to invest in Haw River.

Granite Mill is now being revitalized to create a new residential apartment complex and commercial space. Construction on The Lofts on Haw River began in December 2018 and includes apartments, an on-site restaurant, and a coffee shop. Renovation efforts aim to bring the buildings to modern living standards while preserving much of the original structure and character of the mill.

Haw River's Granite Mill has become a success story for the Haw River Trail. It is a perfect example of how trails bring energy and investment to small towns and how those towns, in turn, can ensure the long-term success of the trail.

Conservation Through Recreation

Founded on the idea of conservation through recreation, the Haw River Trail (HRT) is a land and paddle trail connecting Haw River State Park to Jordan Lake State Recreation Area. Much of the trail is still under development. The trail captures the natural resources, history, and culture of Alamance County and the surrounding region, and serves as a critical resource for connecting the community to its heritage.



Upcoming Event

Haw River Trail Run - Virtual 5K

OCTOBER 3 - OCTOBER 24, 2020

**Sponsored by Haw River Police Department
Benefiting Special Olympics Alamance County**

Calling all runners and supporters of Special Olympics of Alamance County! Please join us for the virtual Haw River Trail Run 5K. Special Olympics Alamance serves 400 adult and children athletes with developmental disabilities. Special Olympics Alamance provides year-round athletic competition in 13 sports and provides the opportunity to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience joy at all levels and at no cost.



Visit: runsignup.com/Race/NC/HawRiver/SpecialOlympicsofAlamanceHawRiverTrailRun



In early September the wildflowers were in full bloom at Swepsonville River Park!

*Top: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Bottom from Left:
Littlebell, Asiatic Dayflower, Autumn Clematis.*



We Want to Hear From You!

**For questions, comments, or to edit your subscription to the HRT mailing list,
email: info@thehaw.org**

Visit us online at: www.facebook.com/hawrivertrail or www.thehaw.org