



The Mouth of The Haw

The Newsletter of the Haw River Trail Partnership



2023 Is The Year of the Trail

Have you heard the news? 2023 is the Year of the Trail in North Carolina! Year of the Trail celebrates North Carolina's vast network of trails, greenways, and blueways which showcase our diverse landscapes – grand mountain vistas, quiet rivers, vibrant urban greenways, coastal forests, and the rolling hills of the Piedmont.

The Haw River Trail Partnership is excited to participate in this year-long celebration of our area's numerous outdoor recreational attractions and trails.

Learn more about Year of the Trail at greattrailsnc.com.

Haw River Trail Partnership MOU Renewed

The Haw River Trail Partnership was formed with the goal of helping the public enjoy and conserve the natural resources of the Haw River corridor. The Partnership is the result of a signed memorandum of understanding between eleven governmental agencies agreeing to work together for the development of trails along the river and the conservation of the river and lands within the watershed.

In March, the Haw River Trail memorandum of understanding was officially renewed through December 31, 2032. The following organizations are members of the Haw River Trail Partnership:

Alamance County, Chatham County, Guilford County, Orange County, Rockingham County, City of Burlington, City of Graham, City of Greensboro, Town of Haw River, Town of Pittsboro, Town of Swepsonville

Thank you to all of the communities along the river who work together to create this partnership possible!

Haw River Trail Updates

Haw River Trail Authorized as State Trail

This spring, two bills were introduced in the NC General Assembly to authorize the Haw River Trail as a State Trail. Senate Bill 100 was introduced by Senator Amy Galey of Alamance County on February 14th and was also sponsored by Senator Natalie Murdock of Chatham County. A companion bill House Bill 124 was introduced by Representatives Stephen Ross and Dennis Riddell of Alamance County on February 15th and was also sponsored by Representative Robert Reives of Chatham County.

The bill was approved by the North Carolina General Assembly on May 31 and will now be sent to Governor Cooper for his signature. Next, the trail will be reviewed for designation after completion and inspection by a state trail planner and the NC Trails Committee.

In addition to giving the trail more status and marketing recognition, this designation means the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources “shall support, promote, encourage, and facilitate the establishment of trail segments” and “the State may receive donations of appropriate land and may purchase other needed lands for the Haw River State Trail”.

The planned Haw River Trail corridor extends approximately 80 miles along the Haw River from Haw River State Park on the Rockingham-Guilford County line through Alamance County to Jordan Lake State Recreational Area in Chatham County. The HRT is part of the state-wide Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST) which allows hikers to travel across the state from Clingman’s Dome to Jockey’s Ridge. Approximately 40 miles will pass through Alamance County once complete.

For more information about the bill and state designation, further reading is available at:

lowerhaw.org/news

chathamnewsrecord.com/stories/new-bill-could-bring-funding-recognition-to-haw-river-trail,15668



On March 15th, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Energy, and Environment approved SB 100 Authorize Haw River State Trail. Present to support the bill were: (L > R): Bob Brueckner with Carolina Canoe Club, Alamance County Assistant County Manager Brian Baker, Bill Holman with The Conservation Fund, Senator Amy Galey, and Senator Buck Newton. (Photo Courtesy of Gretchen Smith)



Jamie Elliott participates in the Haw River Camp & Klean.



The new outdoor classroom at Saxapahaw Island Park



Sweptonville River Park (Photo Credit Lauri Daughtry)

Haw River Trail Updates

Camping & Boat Rentals at Great Bend Park

Camping is now available on the Haw River Trail at Great Bend Park in Glencoe! Enjoy some of the best views of this section of the river. Three campsites are available and include a 12'x 12' tent pad, picnic table, and a fire ring. All sites are shaded by hardwoods and are just a short walk from the Haw River and Glencoe Dam.

For campsite reservations, visit alamance.recdesk.com.

Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company, a local outfitter and partner, offers boat rentals for those looking to paddle the river during their stay. **Book your boat rental by calling Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company at (336) 260-6465 or visiting hawrivercanoe.com.**



CAMPING & BOAT RENTALS

Alamance County Friends of the Mountain-to-Sea Trail Task Force • Spring Update



Volunteers from the Alamance County Task Force of the Friends of the Mountain-to-Sea Trail have completed a reroute of the Haw River Trail/ Mountains-to-Sea Trail. Construction of the new trail started in early September 2022 and was completed on February 20, 2023. The reroute runs between Carolina Mill and Copland Mill, along Carolina Mill Road close to the east bank of the Haw River. The new reroute will allow hikers to avoid crossing Carolina Mill Road and Carolina Road and provide a more intimate experience with the river.

The Alamance County Task Force spent six months building the reroute, with a total of 1,185 volunteer hours contributed. This section of trail was difficult to clear since parts of it are located on the steep riverbank of the Haw which was covered with dense vegetation. The Task Force also removed a lot of trash that had accumulated along Carolina Mill Road.

In March, the Alamance Task Force began work in Saxapahaw on a new trail going north on the west side of Saxapahaw Dam, which will eventually connect with existing HRT/MST at Longmeadow Trail Parking Lot in Graham. Work on this trail will continue throughout the spring and summer.

Contributed by Bob Ellis

FRIENDS OF THE MOUNTAINS-TO-SEA TRAIL MONTHLY WORK TRIPS

The Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail - Alamance County Task Force meets monthly to work on trail projects. New volunteers are welcome. No previous experience is necessary, and tools will be provided. For more information and to volunteer, contact Andrew Sam at: asam30035@gmail.com

Cotton Mills of the Haw River: Carolina Cotton Mill

George W. Swepson bought a mill site from Joseph Trollinger in 1865, and resold it to the Holt family in 1866. Edwin Michael Holt's sons: James Henry Holt and William Erwin Holt, opened Carolina Cotton Mills in 1869, which by 1996 was operating with 3,073 spindles and 58 looms. The mill originally produced blue denim, though Alamance plaids were added later.

A wood frame dam with stone abutments was constructed in 1868 measuring about 200 feet long and six feet high. A millrace approximately three-quarters of a mile long was dug which provided a fall of 15 feet at the mill, where 150 horsepower was generated. The mill was expanded in 1904 to contain 8,000 spindles and 500 looms, making it one of the largest cotton mills in Alamance County. A steam generator was also installed in 1904 to provide power when water flow was inadequate to maintain operations.

On the hill behind Carolina Mill are the remains of a residential community and commercial buildings, which at one time constituted 35 structures. The former mill's water tank is located in the middle of Carolina Mill Road.

The dam was destroyed prior to 1950 and the mill was closed by 1960 and all the houses were privatized. The property is now owned by Carolina Mill LLC, a subsidiary of Capital Broadcasting in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The Haw River Trail/N.C. Mountains-to-Sea Trail crosses the Carolina millrace below the Highway 61 bridge at Glencoe and follows it to the back of Carolina Mill, alternating between running on top of the millrace and following next to the Haw River.

For more information about this section of trail, visit the Haw River Trail website:
thehaw.org/land-trail/land-trail-maps/glencoe-sellers-falls/

Contributed by Bob Ellis



*Above: Aerial Views of Carolina Cotton Mill
(Photo Credit: Jack Hutchinson, Triad Drone Works)*

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.



June 3 is National Trails Day



June 3 • National Trails Day

CEDAROCK PARK • HAW RIVER TRAIL
CANE CREEK MOUNTAINS NATURAL AREA

American Hiking Society's National Trails Day provides the perfect opportunity to set off on a local trail with others in your community. Join the nationwide movement to give back to trails and build a world where everyone feels welcome and has access to enjoy the great outdoors.

Take the pledge of commitment to leave the trails and outdoor community better than you found them at americanhiking.org/national-trails-day



We are excited to introduce new Haw River Trail t-shirts! The shirts are available in tan or light blue, sizes S-XXL, and are \$20 each. All proceeds go to the Haw River Trail.

Thank you to The Shirt Lab - NC for printing the shirts and to Bryan Ickes for the awesome design. We couldn't be more pleased with the final result.

Shirts can be purchased from the Cedarrock Park Visitors Center, the Alamance Parks Administrative Office (at Cedarrock Park), and the Textile Heritage Museum gift shop (in Glencoe).

Coming soon, new Haw River Trail Hats!

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