NC GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAKES HISTORIC INVESTMENT IN TRAILS

The North Carolina General Assembly's 2023-2025 budget passed last week invests a total of $54.9 million to advance trail and greenway infrastructure in North Carolina, including creating a new $25 million Great Trails State Program that will offer competitive grants for paved and natural surface trails. This historic investment will provide benefits to communities across North Carolina! See the full press release [here](#).

October is all about **Great Trails State Day**, with an inaugural celebration on October 21st (third Saturday). We hope this will become an annual holiday just for North Carolina's trails. Many events are already planned, and the goal is for there to be an organized and individual trail activity in all 100 counties on that day!

October's monthly theme is "**Celebrating Trail Innovators, Past and Present.**" While delivering wide-ranging and impactful benefits, trails can be complicated and expensive to get on the ground. We will be sharing stories about how trails are built from trail leaders and communities working hard every day to bring more trails to North Carolina. Look around

your community to figure out who your local trail innovators are and tell their stories. Don't forget to email or tag the campaign - info@greattrailsnc.com or @GreatTrailsNC on social media.
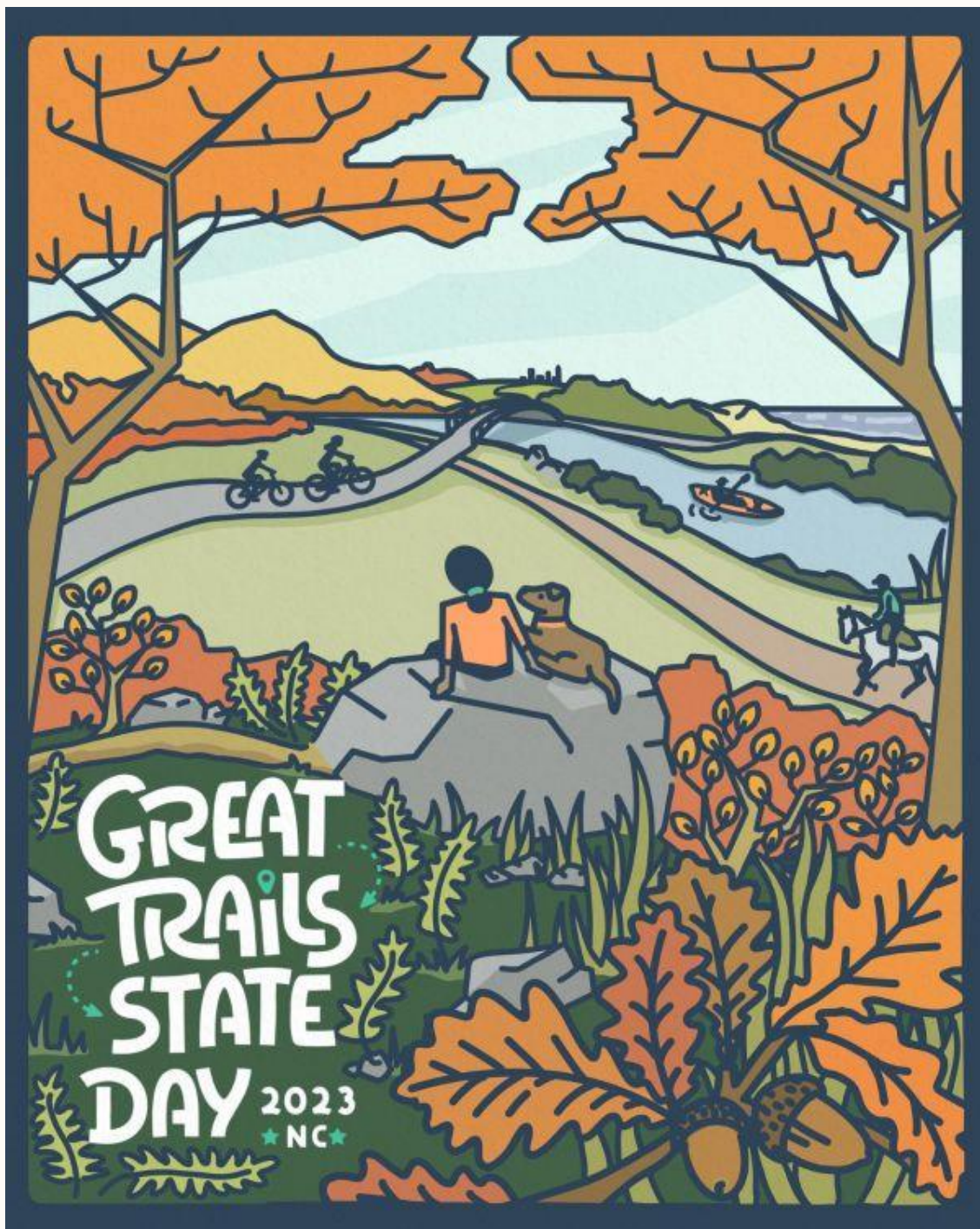

GREAT TRAILS STATE DAY
October 21, 2023

Get ready for our first annual Great Trails State Day on the 3rd Saturday of October this year to celebrate trails across the state. If that Saturday is too action-packed, plan an activity during the week leading up to Great Trails State Day. This is our day for our NC trails. **Let's reach the goal of having trail events and activities in all 100 North Carolina counties!** Check out all of the Great Trails State Day resources and assets on the Great Trails State Day page of the Year of the Trail website. Don't forget to upload your Great Trails State Day events to the Year of the Trail events page!

Looking for some event ideas? Here are a few of our favorites:

- **Pinecone Pathways**
- **Men on the Move**
- **Valdese Lakeside Park 1,000-mile challenge**
- **Walk and Talk About Trails in Johnston County**

Great Trails State Day graphic by guest artist Brianna Haferman, Director of Communications and Engagement for Piedmont Land Conservancy and a regular contributor to Year of the Trail artistic needs. Thank you, Brianna, for sharing your talent and love for trails and nature! Find the

graphic to download on the Year of the Trail [Great Trails State Day webpage](#) and use it how you wish!

For a run with a friend!

Call a neighbor or friend, lace up your shoes or boots, get on a bike, borrow a kayak, or saddle up your horse and get outside on a trail! And, don't forget to smile and say, "hello!" to others you may see out there!

CONTENT IDEAS FOR OCTOBER

Trails are complicated and often involve years of planning, but once they are on the ground, they deliver health, quality of life, economic, transportation and environmental benefits year after year. With this month's "**Trail Innovators, Past and Present**" theme, we invite you to dive into how trails came to be in your community:

- **Tell the Story of Your Community's First Trail:** Look back into your archives to see where and how trails began in your community. Was your first trail a greenway? A walking path? A nature preserve? How did it come to be? Who led the charge?

- **Tell the Story of Your Community's Future Trail Aspirations:** Has your community created a vision for a future trail or a network of trails? Share the "what ifs" for your community for trails. Visions are inspirational and help get support.

- **Share a Special Trail Story:** Do you have a particularly interesting trail story to tell about how a trail came to be? Every trail is different, and every community is different. See how these communities in Randolph County developed trails in this Year of the Trail video below.

Cities, Towns & Counties for Trails Working Group meeting is October 18, 12:00 PM

Learn more about the 2023-2025 NC Budget and what's next for trail funding!

Click HERE to Register for the October 18th Virtual Meeting.

YEAR OF THE TRAIL STORIES FROM
THE GREAT TRAILS STATE

Did you miss PBS NC's Ten to Try documentary? **See it by following this link!** It features ten different types of trails across North Carolina that showcase some of our most dynamic landscapes and urban areas. Thank you to the **State Employees Credit Union Foundation** for sponsoring this partnership!

PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

Lake Crabtree Park in Cary has undergone a remarkable transformation, now offering mountain biking trails accessible to riders of all abilities. Brian Parks, a seasoned mountain biker, expressed the joy of witnessing his children, including his daughter Audrey, enjoy the trails together. This achievement was made possible by Wes Hall, CEO of North Carolina Adaptive Sports (NCAS), along with 67 volunteers dedicating 487 hours and nearly $7,000 in supplies over the past year.

Supported by sponsors and Wake County Parks, the initiative aimed to enhance trail accessibility by widening bridges and removing tight turns, ensuring everyone can enjoy the thrill of nature on two wheels. NCAS is now fundraising to expand their adaptive bike fleet, furthering their mission of making outdoor adventure inclusive for all. Their next goal is to improve accessibility at Harris Lake's mountain biking trails, setting a precedent for an inclusive outdoor experience for the entire community.

Thank you to all communities celebrating trails in so many creative ways!

SHARE YOUR STORIES

Tell us how you are celebrating trails in your community! We would love to highlight _YOUR_ creative ideas in our next partner newsletter! Just send us a message to info@greattrailsnc.com

COMMUNITY TOOLKIT

A comprehensive guide for promoting Year of the Trail in your community!

Get Toolkit

Year of the Trail - Events By County
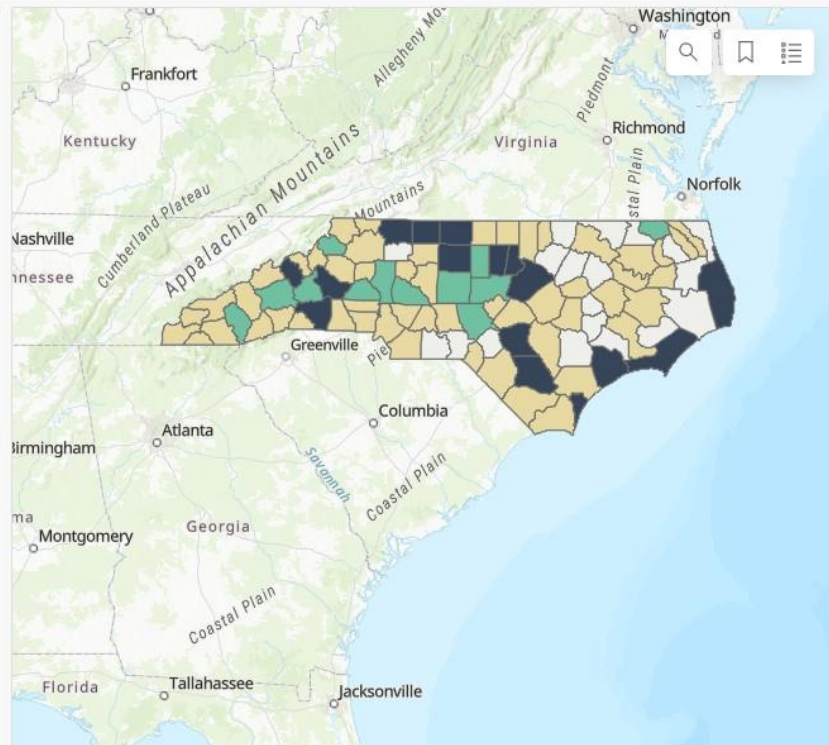
Select a County
None

Counties with Events

Total # of Events

1.3k

In All Counties

So far, there have been a total of 1,400 events registered on the Year of the Trail events page! That's awesome! Keep them coming! Congratulations to Dare County with a whopping 142 Year of the Trail events so far!

This interactive map show above is online and shows the number of events that have already taken place. We have 18 more counties to fill in! If you see a neighboring county that hasn't had an event, reach out and offer to help. Please let us know if we are missing any events and **please remember to fill out the event survey** after to help collect important data and improve future events! One interesting thing we are learning from the surveys is that 25% of people attending Year of the Trail events did not know about the trails prior to the event.

SPONSORSHIP

Join others and align your organization with this campaign on why, how, and where to get out on North Carolina's trails.

A big *THANK YOU t*o the **Village of Sugar Mountain** for joining as a campaign sponsor!

Your support helps us inspire people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to try trails and advocate for the importance of trails to elected officials. Please consider donating today. Together, we are making North Carolina safer, healthier, and more inclusive as
The Great Trails State!

Learn More & Get Involved!

YEAR OF THE TRAIL GEAR

Looking for YOTT gear and merch? We've got you covered!

10% OFF *ALL* ORDERS $50 AND **OVER!**
20% OFF *ALL* ORDERS $100 AND **OVER!**

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Cap - Navy

Year Of The Trail Sticker -
designed by Scott Partridge

Year Of The Trail Sticker -
designed by Gabriel Eng-

Year Of The Trail Notecards

Year Of The Trail Notebook

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Lindsay Anderson

[PRINT] Year Of The Trail -
Autumn Cobeland

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Year of the Trail Store

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Thank you to all of the sponsors who are making Year of the Trail happen!

GREAT TRAILS STATE COALITION N★C