



## ONE HUNDRED COUNTIES. ONE GREAT TRAILS STATE.

The Great Trails State Plan will connect communities to the great outdoors while creating opportunities for active transportation, conservation, recreation, health, tourism and economic prosperity.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### VISION

The Great Trails State (GTS) is a planned network of shared-use trails of statewide significance connecting North Carolina's counties and population centers with state parks and important recreational assets. It is founded upon extensive local and regional efforts to plan and build trails. *The Great Trails State Plan will link communities to the great outdoors, while creating opportunities for transportation, conservation, recreation, education, physical health, environmental health, tourism, and economic prosperity.*

#### GOALS OF THE GREAT TRAILS STATE

The Great Trails State Plan and network seeks to connect all counties and key destinations throughout the state to a growing network of strategic greenways. Other principal goals of the plan include:

- Foster connections between urban and rural areas in all 100 counties
- Provide transportation options between where people live, work and play for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities
- Create opportunities for conservation, recreation, education, physical health, environmental health, tourism, and economic prosperity
- Identify resources needed to plan, design, construct and connect the system
- Facilitate multi-jurisdictional partnerships to support, develop, manage, and maintain the system



Prepared for the Integrated Mobility Division of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, with NC State Parks. Prepared by Alta and Stewart.

[www.ncdot.gov/divisions/bike-ped/great-trails-state](http://www.ncdot.gov/divisions/bike-ped/great-trails-state)

#### KEY INPUTS

- Existing Trails
- Existing Trail Plans
- Key Destinations/State Parks
- Steering Committee Kick-Off Meeting
- Bicycle Level of Service Network
- Green Infrastructure Network

##### Preliminary Network

- 14 Division-Level Stakeholder Meetings
- Confirmation of Network
- Identification of Gaps and Alternatives
- Connecting Across Divisions

##### Draft Plan Network

- Review of Gaps and Alternatives by Steering Committee & Stakeholders
- Rail Division Meetings
- Public Input

#### PLANNING PROCESS

##### 40 COMMITTEE MEMBERS



provided direction, representing NCDOT's 14 Divisions, 7 RPOs and MPOs, and relevant statewide departments and organizations.

##### 600+ STAKEHOLDERS



reviewed the proposed corridors, including town and county managers, planners, parks directors, land trusts, advocacy organizations, and many others.

##### 11,000+ NC RESIDENTS



expressed support and shared ideas in public surveys, online input maps and plan review, including 850,000 of impressions on social media that generated awareness of the plan and process.

#### A VISIONARY PLAN FOR NORTH CAROLINA

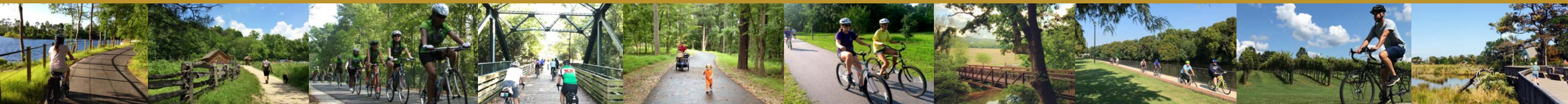
Decades in the making, through hundreds of local plans and initiatives, the Great Trails State (GTS) is ready to become a reality. This plan, *for the first time in the state's history*, identifies a proposed network of trails that would:

- Connect all 100 counties throughout the state;
- Create lasting investments in rural and urban areas;
- Provide a return on investment of \$1.72 annually, for every \$1 of initial trail construction, from sales revenue at local businesses, sales tax revenue, and benefits related to health and transportation (source: NCDOT and ITRE, <https://itre.ncsu.edu/focus/bike-ped/sup-economic-impacts>);
- Provide opportunities for healthy, active transportation (responding to a surge in trail use during the COVID-19 pandemic);
- Provide infrastructure to support North Carolina's \$28 billion outdoor recreation industry; and
- Improve health, safety, mobility, recreation, environment, and economic development, benefiting North Carolinians for generations.

The GTS Plan recommends recurring state funding for trail feasibility studies, right-of-way, design, and construction. A GTS Advisory Committee will be led by NCDOT and NC State Parks to implement the plan. To learn more, visit the plan web page and review the full plan at:

[www.ncdot.gov/divisions/bike-ped/great-trails-state](http://www.ncdot.gov/divisions/bike-ped/great-trails-state).

### THE GREAT TRAILS STATE NETWORK







### GTS Network Segments

- 10A** Gaston County to Northlake
- 10B** Gaston County to Indian Trail
- 10C** Davidson to Charlotte
- 10D** Harrisburg to Pineville
- 10E** Davidson to Stanfield
- 10F** Kannapolis to Harrisburg
- 10G** Waxhaw to Marshville
- 10H** Charlotte to Norwood
- 10I** Misenheimer to Norwood
- 10J** Norwood to Wadesboro
- 10K** Marshville to Richmond County
- 10L** Cabarrus County to Lincoln County
- 10M** Gold Hill to Reed Gold Mine

CTT segments  
east of  
Cornelius  
(multiple)

Safrit Park Trail

Falcon Trail

Irish Buffalo  
Creek Greenway

McEachern Greenway

Snyder Greenway

Long Creek  
Preserve Trail

Toby Creek Greenway &  
Shaw Trail

Pharr Family Preserve Trail

Oakboro Rail Trail

Irwin Creek & Stewart  
Creek Greenway

Little Sugar Creek  
Greenway

McAlpine Creek & Camp-  
bell Creek Greenway

Riverbend Farm Trail

Four Mile Creek Greenway

Twelve Mile Creek Greenway

### DRAFT Great Trails State Network

- Proposed Shared Use Path
- Draft Alternate Route
- Existing Shared Use Path
- Gap
- Potential Spine Network

### State & National Trails

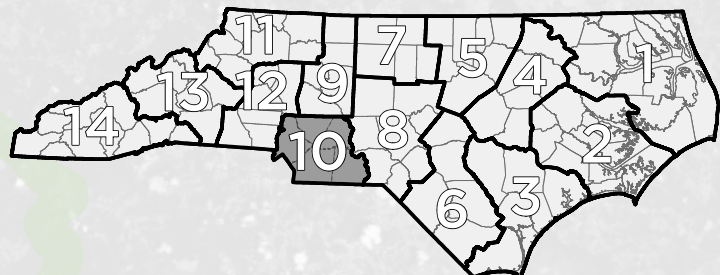
- Carolina Thread Trail

### Other Features

- Municipalities
- Managed Areas
- County Boundary



Integrated Mobility Division  
N.C. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



0 10 20 MILES

