

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

KEY INPUTS

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



Network



- Confirmation of Network
- Identification of Gaps and Alternatives
- Connecting Across Divisions

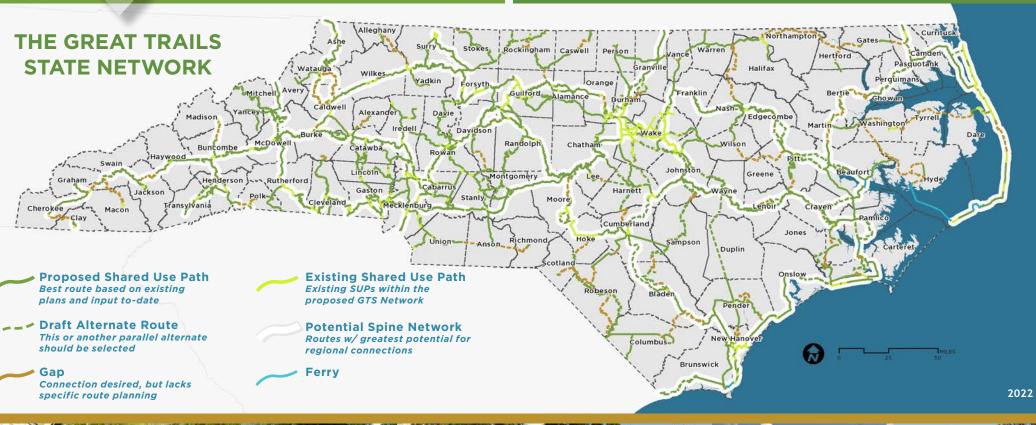
Draft Plan

Network

Review of Gaps and Alternatives by Steering Committee & Stakeholders

Rail Division Meetings

Public Input



PLANNING PROCESS

40 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

600+ STAKEHOLDERS

11,000+ NC RESIDENTS

provided direction, representing NCDOT's 14 Divisions, 7 RPOs and MPOs, and relevant

statewide departments and organizations.

reviewed the proposed

and county managers,

and trusts, advocacy

others.

organizations, and many

expressed support and

shared ideas in public

surveys, online input maps

and plan review, including

850,000 of impressions

generated awareness of

on social media that

the plan and process.

corridors, including town

olanners, parks directors,

- - 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:

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:

A VISIONARY PLAN FOR NORTH CAROLINA

- 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);

www.ncdot.gov/divisions/bike-ped/great-trails-state.





