



PIEDMONT
LEGACY
TRAILS

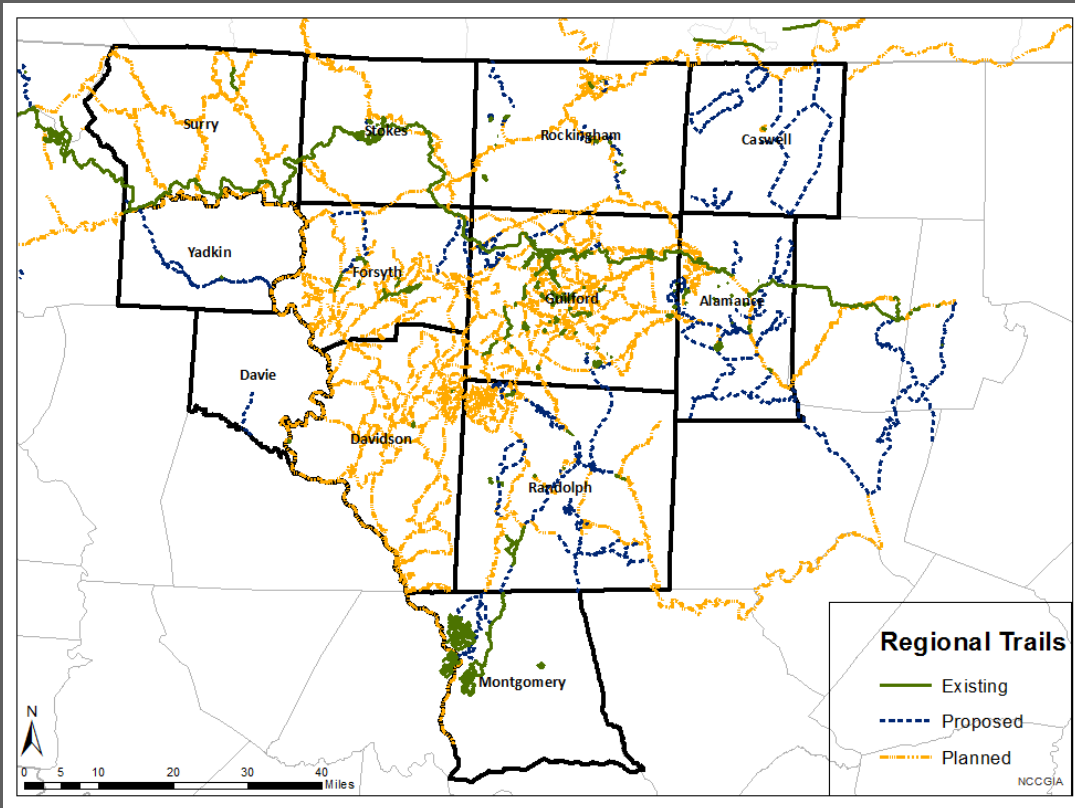
Connecting Communities Across Our Region



PIEDMONT TRIAD
REGIONAL COUNCIL

IMAGINE...

A regional network of connected trails across the Piedmont



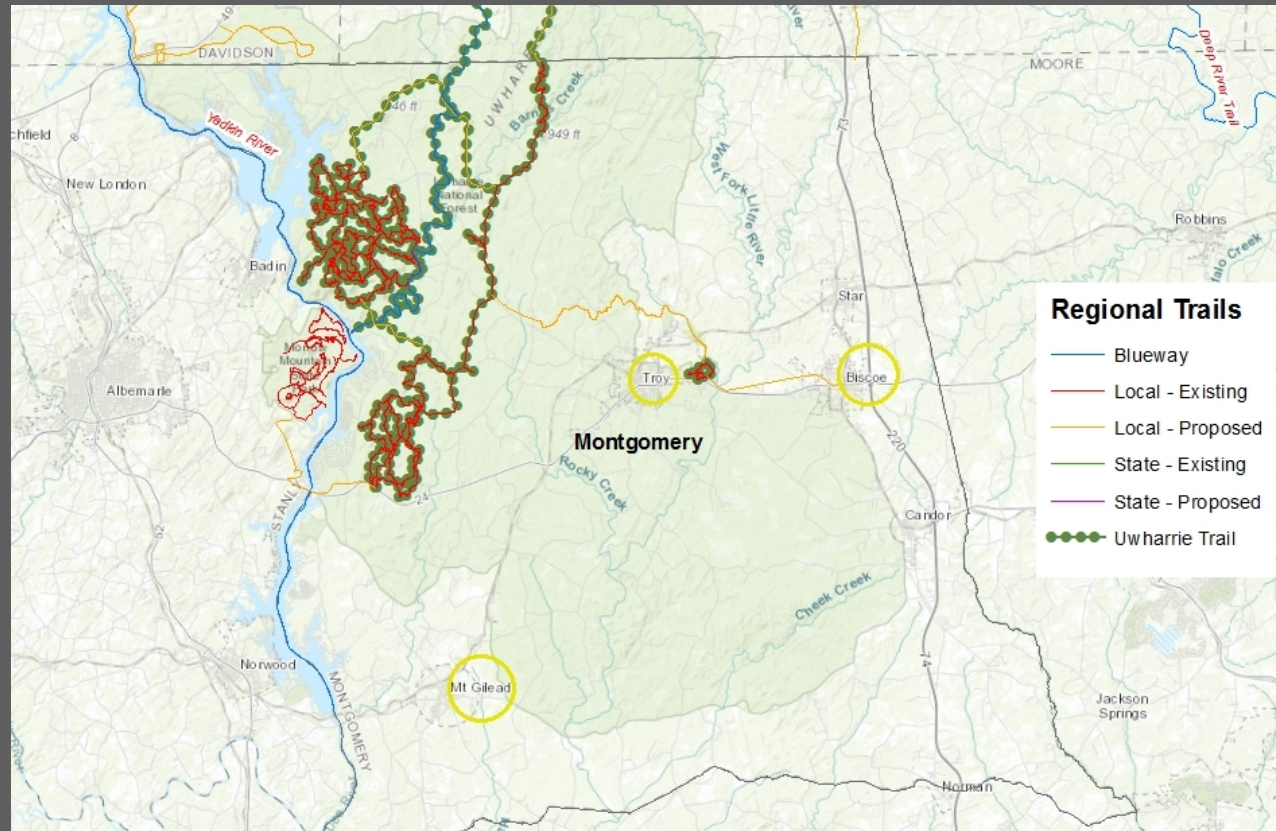
The Uwharrie Trail is currently approximately 20.5 miles long, and still a work in progress.

EXISTING TRAILS IN OUR REGION



- Our region already has hundreds of great existing trails.

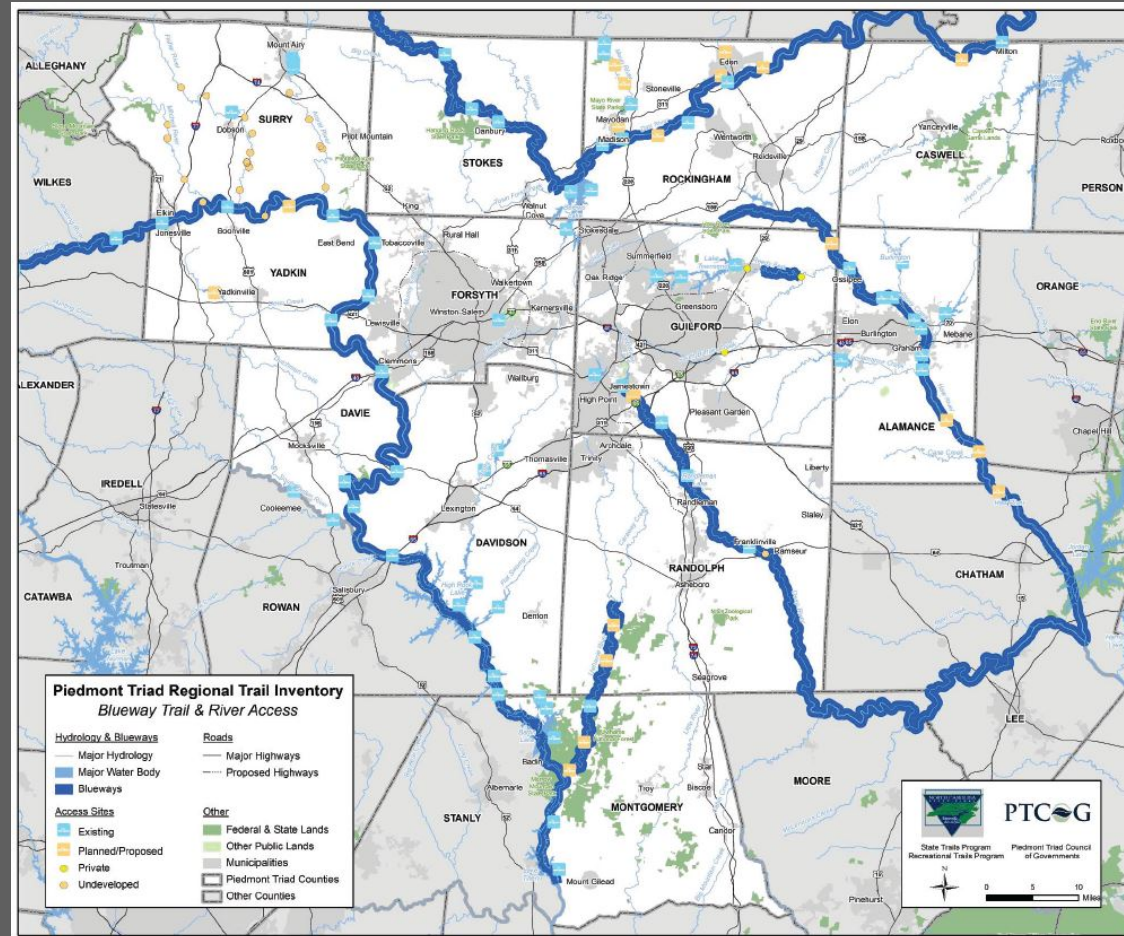
- ✓ State Parks
 - ✓ Pilot Mountain
 - ✓ Hanging Rock
 - ✓ Haw River
 - ✓ Mayo River
- ✓ Uwharrie Trail
- ✓ Deep River Trail
- ✓ Yadkin River Blueway
- ✓ Dutchman's Creek Trail
- ✓ Birkhead Mountain Trail



BLUEWAYS



- Blueways are an important part of the Piedmont's trail systems.
- Many people prefer the variety that a blueway offers with beautiful waterfront views and the opportunity to kayak, canoe, or even fish.



PIEDMONT LEGACY TRAILS



Mission:

Piedmont Legacy Trails advances regional connections and branding of trails through technical assistance, education, and resource support for trail projects throughout our region.



WHAT PIEDMONT LEGACY TRAILS DOES



PIEDMONT
LEGACY
TRAILS

- Local and regional advocacy
- Regional branding of trails
- Marketing and social media presence
- Working towards an interactive regional trail map
 - Web-based sharing of trail information
- Annual trail summits

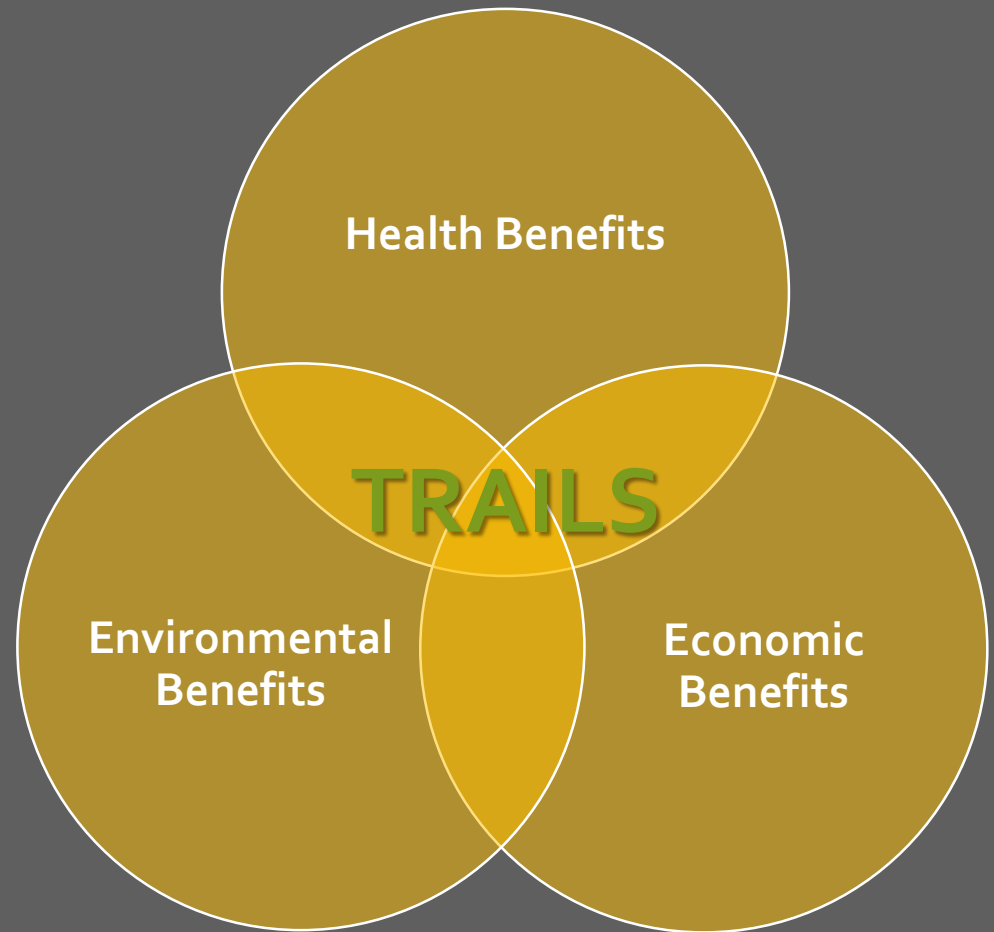


CONNECTING COMMUNITIES THROUGH TRAILS

WHY TRAILS?



- Investments in trail infrastructure produce remarkable returns and have transformative effects for communities.



HEALTH BENEFITS



- Accessible trails encourage an active lifestyle
- Provide free and accessible recreation
 - In NC, walking for pleasure is #1 reported recreation activity, 61% of people participate in walking and 59% participate in hiking trails (SCORP, 2015-2020)
- East Coast Greenway Example
 - Changed the ability of residents to get out and live active lifestyles.
 - A boost in wellness has saved over \$14 million in healthcare costs per year.



of increased bike trips, walk trips per year. Health care cost savings.
Source: The Impact of Greenways in the Triangle

ECONOMIC BENEFITS



- Trails provide an opportunity for new businesses to develop and allow current businesses to grow and thrive.
- Studies confirm that every dollar spent building multi-use trails returns a multiple of that yearly.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS



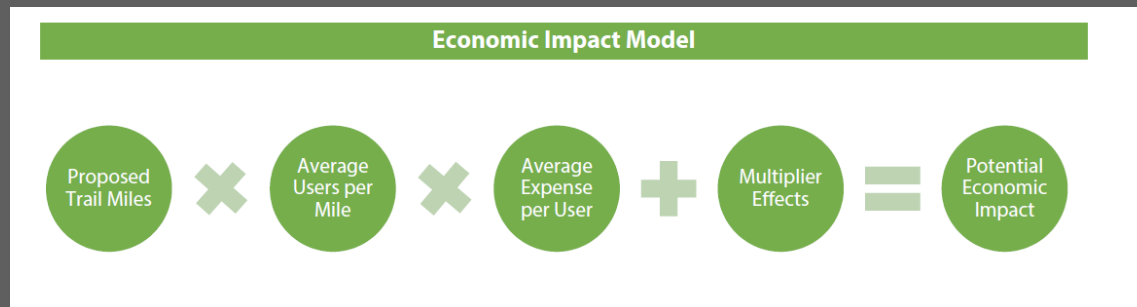
- **Habitat protection**
 - ✓ Trails protect important habitats, protect clean freshwater, and provide corridors for people and wildlife.
- **Greenways serve as natural floodplains**
 - ✓ Potential to remove up to 50% more nutrients and pesticides.
- **Education**
 - ✓ Opportunity for education experiences for both young and old.
- **Pollution prevention**
 - ✓ By reducing vehicle trips AND promoting growth of trees.



TOURISM BENEFITS



- **Enhanced tourism**
 - Opportunity for events to create revenue streams (paddles, outdoor festivals, 5k's, triathlons, bicycle rides, nature hikes)
- **Stimulate economic development**
 - Trail users need equipment related to recreational activity (equestrian, bicycling, running)
 - A trail system can brand an area as a "trail town" or trails destination.



COMMUNITY BENEFITS



- Trails are a community asset.
- Trail communities attract younger, professional, motivated citizens.
- **Trails are the new “town square”**
 - ✓ People naturally congregate here, meeting family and friends away from the TV.
 - ✓ Trails help make connections between neighbors, foster pride in the town, and build a better community.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS



▪ Enhance quality of life

- ✓ Trails are #1 desired neighborhood amenities.
- ✓ Communities that have trails and greenways often experience increases in property values and revenue (NCDOT, 2016)
- ✓ A study in Colorado found that \$1 invested in open space provided \$6 of public benefits (The Trust for Public Land)



CASE STUDY:

ELKIN AREA ECONOMIC IMPACTS



- **Building a network of trails in Wilkes, Surry and Yadkin Counties.**
 - ✓ (1) E & A Rail Trail, (2) Stone Mountain Trail, (3) Overmountain Victory Trail and (4) Yadkin River Trail
- **Visitation on the E & A Trail**
 - ✓ October 2013 = 50 October 2014 = 2,200
- **Other Impacts**
 - ✓ 16 new business in the last 3 years in Elkin (examples include bike shops, restaurants, etc.)
 - ✓ Increase in paddling outfitter businesses
 - ✓ Start of birding program and hatchery supported trout stream in the area

WHY PIEDMONT LEGACY TRAILS?



Piedmont Legacy Trails

Home About Why Trails? Who's Involved Important Links Contact Us

Piedmont Legacy Trails

Connecting communities across our region through technical assistance, education, branding of trails, and resource support for trail projects.

Our Goal

What is Piedmont Legacy Trails? It is an effort to promote trails and connectivity across the Piedmont in order to create a regional trail network. This is so important because trails are not only beneficial to people, but they can also be beneficial to the local economies, as well as the environment. When people get...

Resolutions of Support

In an effort to move forward and progress, members of the Piedmont Legacy Trails Steering Committee are currently in the process of presenting our Resolution of Support to city and county boards. The first county to adopt the Resolution was Randolph County in early November. Presentations will carry on through the beginning of 2018 and...

Finding a Trail Near You

Our region is home to hundreds of great existing trails. Piedmont Legacy Trails' main focus is connecting and enhancing those trails that already exist. If you are new to the area, visiting, or just looking for some exciting places to explore, it is important to be able to find trails in your area that are...


Progress of the Piedmont Legacy Trails

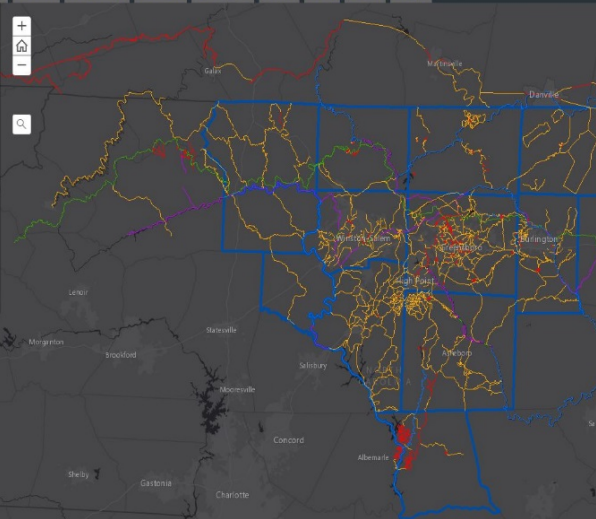
Overview of Progress | Alamance | Caswell | Davidson | Davie | Forsyth | Guilford | Montgomery | Randolph | Rockingham | Stokes | Surry | Yadkin | Gallery

The purpose of this story map is to inform you of what trails already exist, what's being worked on, and what plans are in place for the future in the Piedmont Triad.

This map illustrates the 12 counties that are included within the Piedmont Legacy Trails network. The trails shown here either already exist or are still in the planning stage. Each category of trails is further explained in the Legend on the right hand side of this map.

Navigate through the tabs above to travel to each county to learn more about their various current trail efforts!

If you would like to zoom to a specific address or city, you can click on the search button  to the right of this text box and type it in. Give it a try once you get to the Rockingham County tab using the addresses of the existing trails there!



Guided by 12 county steering committee

CONNECTING PEOPLE THROUGH TRAILS & MOVING FORWARD



Connecting your family and friends through trails.

“Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt.” – John Muir

ADOPT OUR RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT



RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

Whereas _____ is committed to enhancing the quality of life for its citizens and recognizes that supporting Piedmont Legacy Trails will help create a regional network of trails, including greenways and blueways; and

Whereas, trails provide key amenities to neighborhoods and safe areas for our citizens and children to travel, exercise, play and connect with nature and communities; and

Whereas, trails have significant impact on the economic viability of the region through increased tourism, enhanced property values, as well as the ability to attract and retain businesses to the region due to improved quality of life; and

Whereas, committing to this Resolution may help leverage funding from federal, state, local and private sources for trails; and

Whereas, Piedmont Legacy Trails is coordinated by Piedmont Land Conservancy which is dedicated to preserving important natural areas, and Piedmont Triad Regional Council, which is a regional planning organization.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that _____ supports Piedmont Legacy Trails in partnership with neighboring communities to implement a system of regional trails that connects our communities, people and regional points of interest for years to come.

Name

Date

Title



Piedmont Legacy Trails

*A project of Piedmont Land Conservancy and Piedmont Triad Regional Council
www.piedmonttrails.org*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Any Questions?



Credit: D Burden
BikePedImages.org

- Dr. Bill Blackley, EVTA
- Dabney Sanders, Action Greensboro
- Alta Planning and Design
- Greenville County Rec
- East Coast Greenway Alliance
 - ✓ “Impact of East Coast Greenway in the Triangle”

