



North Carolina News



Hickory Nut Gorge. Photo: Hickory Nut Gorge Trail Guide, Facebook

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2014



CURRENT PROJECTS

- Hickory Nut Trails Coalition**
Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy
- Topsail Beach Kayak Trails**
University of North Carolina Wilmington

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Program staff provide technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.

Recent Successes

Kings Mountain Gateway Trail - National Recreation Trail

Recently designated by the Department of Interior as a National Recreation Trail, the Kings Mountain Gateway Trail, Inc. and partners have developed five miles of multi-purpose trail for walking, hiking, and biking.

Several scenic overlooks offer excellent views of Kings Mountain and Crowder's Mountain. More than 12,000 walkers use the fitness loop in the trailhead park each month. Cleveland County, Carolina Thread Trail, two corporations, two state parks, a national park, and a number of private citizens are key trail partners. Over \$800,000 in trail easements were donated to the county by four large corporate landowners since project conception.

“Becoming a National Recreation Trail has brought us to the forefront of trails in the state of North Carolina. We are extremely honored to have this designation and truly be a destination for recreation, health, wellness, and conservation.”

- Shirley Brutko, Director of Kings Mountain Gateway, Inc.,

We're Here For You!

Could your project benefit from NPS Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.

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2013 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,357 Miles of Trail Developed

736 Miles of River Conserved

20,270 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

Find more information online at www.nps.gov/



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Current Projects

1. Hickory Nut Trails Coalition

Project Partner: Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy

NPS Contact: Charlotte Gillis

Location: Gerton, Hendersonville, Asheville, Lake Lure

Congressional Districts: NC - 10, 11

Project Goal

Hickory Nut Gorge Trails Coalition (HNGTC) is a proposed coalition of land conservancies, community organizations, government agencies, trail building and hiking clubs, small businesses, private landowners, interested citizens, and volunteers working collaboratively to promote the sustainable development and management of the Hickory Nut Gorge (HNG) trail system. The proposed coalition aims to protect HNG's abundant and unique natural resources, and plan, build, manage, protect, and promote over fifty miles of public recreational trails in the HNG.

NPS Role

Assist the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy in assessing and engaging partners and stakeholders, building consensus and priorities, and developing an organizational structure for community outreach and participation.

2. Topsail Beach Kayak Trails

Project Partner: University North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW)

NPS Contact: Bill Lane

Location: Topsail Beach

Congressional District: NC - 7

Project Goal

Develop a conceptual plan for three kayak trails, design water trail interpretive signage, and develop educational outreach material for local school systems. Through both outreach materials and interpretive water trail signage, the Topsail Beach Kayak Trail will provide the public with a greater

understanding of the fragile local estuarine ecosystem and its economic importance.

NPS Role

Partner with the Town of Topsail Beach, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and UNCW students to develop a series of water trail interpretive signs, site improvements to existing water access points, and a marketing plan for promoting the kayak trails at both the local and regional levels.



Kings Mountain Gateway Trail. Photo: Shirley Brutko, Kings Mountain Gateway Trail Inc.