










STATE TRAILS IN NORTH CAROLINA

What is a State Trail?

A State Trail is a linear corridor on land or water, protected from vehicular traffic, providing public access for non-motorized recreation or transportation. All State Trails must be authorized by the General Assembly.

Where are the State Trails?

Currently, there are nine State Trails in North Carolina:

- **Deep River State Trail** from Jamestown to Moncure 
- **Fonta Flora State Trail** from Morganton to Asheville, circling Lake James on the way 
- **French Broad River State Trail** in Transylvania, Henderson, Buncombe and Madison Counties 
- **Hickory Nut Gorge State Trail** in Henderson, Rutherford, and Buncombe Counties 
- **Mountains-to-Sea State Trail** stretching from Clingman's Dome to Jockey's Ridge State Park 
- **Northern Peaks State Trail** will connect Boone to West Jefferson along a series of mountain peaks, including Elk Knob State Park and Mount Jefferson State Natural Area. 
- **Overmountain Victory State Trail** traces the route used by patriot militia in North Carolina during the Kings Mountain campaign of 1780. 
- **Wilderness Gateway State Trail** connects Chimney Rock State Park and the Hickory Nut Gorge State Trail to South Mountains State Park, Valdese and Hickory. 
- **Yadkin River State Trail** in Wilkes, Surry, Yadkin, Forsyth, Davidson, Rowan and Davie Counties 

Not all sections of a state trail are open to bicycle or equestrian use. Please check with the land manager before you go.

These trails share legal status as components of the State Parks System. This distinguishes them from other regional and local trails and pathways. These trails offer opportunities for regional connectivity and public access to some of North Carolina's most significant and scenic landscapes.

Who manages State Trails?

State Trails epitomize partnerships. While a State Park is operated and managed by the Division of Parks and Recreation, a State Trail is comprised of multiple connected sections and each section of the trail is sponsored by a state or federal agency, local government or private landowner.

Section sponsors build, maintain and manage their section of the trail. This includes location, design, surface, permitted uses and amenities. Section sponsors retain authority on lands under their jurisdiction. They are encouraged to showcase places of natural, scenic, historic and cultural significance; to feature the diversity of the natural communities and landscapes in the state; to consider the needs of both long and short distance hikers; and to employ recognized standards of sustainable trail design and construction. Often, and ideally, section sponsors are supported by dedicated volunteers.

The overall trail corridor planning and coordination are the responsibility of the Division of Parks and Recreation. The Division will provide guidance, coordination and assistance for the multiple section sponsors whose individual and diverse sections link together to form the State Trail. Working together on connecting sections of a State Trail is a way for communities to leverage their investments in trails to maximize the value for their citizens.

Please contact the state trails program if you have any questions about state trails.



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