



THE MOUTH OF THE HAW

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HAW RIVER TRAIL PARTNERSHIP

Spring 2016

What is the Haw River Trail Partnership?

The Haw River Trail Partnership was formed with the goal of helping the public enjoy and conserve the natural resources of the Haw River corridor.

The Partnership is the result of a signed Memorandum of Understanding between ten governmental agencies agreeing to work together for the development of trails along the river and conservation of the river and lands within the watershed.

Conservation through recreation

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NOW OPEN! HRT'S NEW SELLERS FALLS SECTION

We are excited to announce the recent opening of Sellers Falls, the newest section of the Haw River Trail/Mountains-to-Sea Trail. This 4-mile stretch of HRT/MST connects the Glencoe Section and Stoney Creek Marina to Red Slide Park, meandering through mature hardwood forest with prominent views of the Haw River. It adds the finishing touch to a total of 8 miles of contiguous trail from Glencoe South to Red Slide. This is the longest continuous stretch of HRT currently open.

This section of trail was built with the help of more than 100 volunteers from the Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, representing over 2,000 hours of clearing, leveling, situating stepping stones, and constructing ten bridges (three of which are more than 20 feet!). We thank the Friends for their commitment to the HRT/MST.

You can access this section of trail from Stoney Creek Marina, located at 1785 Faulkner Dr., Burlington, NC 27217. From the Stoney Creek Marina trailhead, walk Faulkner Dr. to Carolina Rd., following the blazes marked on the pavement to reach the trail. The HRT blazes are blue diamonds with the HRT logo in the center. The Mountains-to-Sea Trail blazes are white circles. Keep an eye out for these blazes on trees along the trail to know you're on the right track. Paper maps are available at the trailhead.

Please note when exploring this section that the crossing over the Haw River at Highway 70 is not approved for pedestrian use at this time. Please refer to the map to locate this section. Additionally, the crossing at Boyd's Creek is currently a stepping stone footpath across the creek. During high water events, the creek may be difficult or impossible to pass. Please use caution or turn around if the water is too high.

Enjoy exploring this beautiful new section of trail!



Map of the Sellers Falls Section.

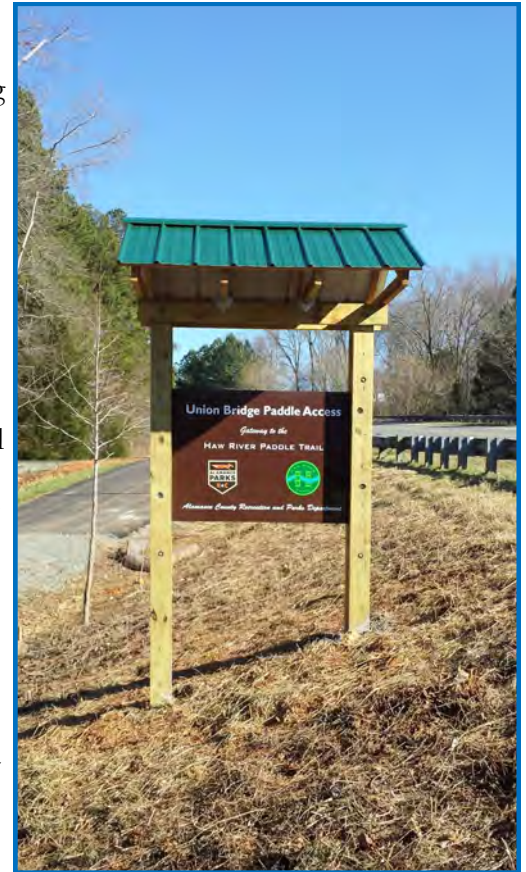


UNION BRIDGE PADDLE ACCESS COMPLETES THE ALAMANCE COUNTY PORTION OF THE HAW RIVER PADDLE TRAIL

The Union Bridge Paddle Access on Greensboro-Chapel Hill Road is the 14th and final Paddle Access in the Alamance County portion of the Haw River Trail, completing almost 40 miles of Paddle Trail through the County. The Paddle Trail starts at Brooks Bridge Paddle Access on the Guilford-Alamance County line and ends at Union Bridge on the Alamance-Orange County line. The access will be completed by the end of February 2016.

The Union Bridge Paddle Access is designed much like the other HRT Paddle Accesses in Alamance County. It offers a parking area that can accommodate several vehicles, informational kiosks with maps of the paddle trail, and a steel staircase leading down to the river for easy put-in and take-out. This access provides a halfway point between Saxapahaw Mill Race Paddle Access and the 15-501 Paddle Access at Bynum Dam, currently an 11-mile stretch.

The paddle from Saxapahaw Mill Race Paddle Access down to Union Bridge Paddle Access is approximately 5 miles and is recommended as an intermediate section. This is a fun paddle with intermittent rapids and moving water, as well as a few leisurely sections with beautiful views of the river and its wildlife. The minimum recommended USGS gauge level for this section is 2.1 feet at Haw River. To check the USGS gauge visit our website at thehaw.org.



The welcome kiosk at the new Union Bridge Paddle Access.

More About Rivers

What is a Floodplain?

A floodplain is an area adjacent to a stream or river which floods when the water level reaches flood stage. This may happen after high levels of rain or discharge cause the waters to overflow their banks. The Haw River is at flood stage when the water reaches 18 feet.

Floodplains are home to rich and diverse ecosystems thanks to the nutrients left behind after floodwaters pass through.

What is a 100-Year Flood?

A 100-year flood is a flooding event that has a 1% probability of occurring in a given year- often thought of as a flood that will happen once in the course of 100 years.

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WELCOME TO GUIL JOHNSON, HAW RIVER TRAIL COORDINATOR

The Haw River Trail Partnership welcomes Guil Johnson as Haw River Trail Coordinator. Guil joined the HRT last fall after working for Alamance County Recreation and Parks as a Park Technician. He graduated from Appalachian State University with a B.S. in Recreation Management and a concentration in Recreation & Parks Management. Guil is also a Certified Park and Recreation Professional.

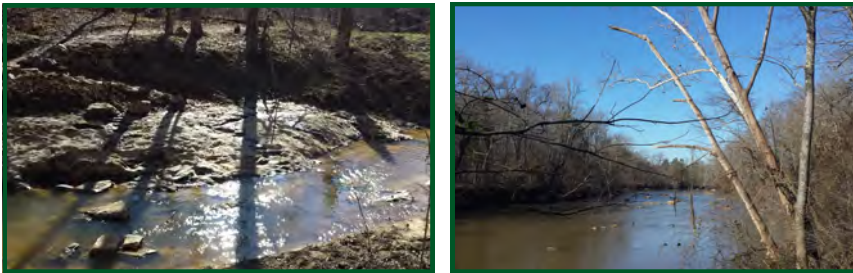
Guil was raised in northern Alamance County where he attended Western Alamance High School. He has previously worked with Burlington Recreation and Parks, Watauga County Parks and Recreation, and the Town of Haw River Parks and Recreation. In his free time, Guil enjoys rock climbing, kayaking, and backpacking with his two dogs Kota and Haw.



A LOOK AT THE RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE HAW RIVER LAND AND PADDLE TRAIL

The Haw River Land and Paddle Trails rely on community support, the generosity of local landowners and private donors, financial support from various granting agencies, and the hard work of volunteers and staff. We'd like to share a look at the hard work that goes into making this amazing resource available to our community and the final fruition of these efforts. You can view more photos on our Facebook Page, www.facebook.com/hawrivertrail.

LAND TRAIL - SELLERS FALLS



PADDLE TRAIL - UNION BRIDGE PADDLE ACCESS



Quarterly Attendance at Haw River Trail Sites

Sept. 2015-Jan. 2016

Altamahaw Paddle Access
6,578

Shallow Ford Natural Area
11,560

Great Bend Park
4,901

Glencoe Paddle Access
4,948

Red Slide Park
7,122

Graham Paddle Access
7,169

Sweptsonville River Park-Upper
16,104

Sweptsonville River Park-Lower
10,522

Great Alamance Creek Paddle Access
3,373

Sax. Lake Paddle Access
11,216

Sax. Mill Race Paddle Access
11,403

Total Quarterly Attendance:
94,896

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UPCOMING EVENTS

TRAIL BENEFITS

TRAILATHLON- REGISTRATION STILL OPEN!

Saturday, March 19th, 8:30am
| Saxapahaw | For information or to register visit thehaw.org

Join the Haw River Trail and the Community of Saxapahaw for the 2nd Annual Trailathlon. This multi-sport adventure race brings together families and athletes of all abilities and skill levels to enjoy the Haw River. The untimed race starts with a 2-mile round trip paddle on Saxapahaw Lake, followed by a 7-mile rolling countryside bike ride, and finishes with a hilly 5K trail run. Pre-race events include a yoga session from the Bridge and bike maintenance from Performance Bike.

Proceeds will support the HRT's new Saxapahaw Island Park. Registration is open online at thehaw.org. For more information please call or email (336) 229 2380/info@thehaw.org.



YEE HAW! 2016 RIVER PADDLE- SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, May 14th, 9:30am & 1:00pm
| Saxapahaw Lake | Family & Beginners' Paddle
| Saxapahaw Mill Race to Union Bridge Paddle Access | Yee Haw! River Paddle
More info & registration available soon at thehaw.org



COMMUNITY TRAIL ACTIVITIES

FIRST SATURDAY HIKES



Join Park Technician Kim Brown for guided hikes at various Haw River Trail locations. Hikes start at 9:00am and last about an hour. If interested, please register for each hike through RecDesk at <https://alamance.recdesk.com>. Locations TBD (these will be posted on RecDesk). Hikes will take place April 2nd, September 3rd, October 1st, and November 4th.

SAXAPAHAW ISLAND PARK COMMUNITY WORKDAYS

As plans progress for Saxapahaw Island Park, we will hold open workdays for building the various park elements. Community members are invited to join the planning group and HRT staff to help out. Stay tuned to the HRT website and Facebook Page for more information throughout the year.

For questions, comments, or to add/remove your name to/from the HRT mailing list, email info@thehaw.org.

What is the Haw River Trail?

Founded on the idea of conservation through recreation, the Haw River Trail (HRT) is a land and paddle trail connecting Haw River State Park to Jordan Lake State Recreation Area. Much of the trail is still under development.

The trail captures the natural resources, history, and culture of Alamance County and the surrounding region, and serves as a critical resource for connecting the community to its heritage.

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recreation*

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