



www.thehaw.org

What is the Haw River Trail Partnership?

In 2006, 10 governmental agencies signed a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to work together for the development of the Haw River Trail and the conservation of its land and waters.

In this spirit, the cities of Burlington and Graham have partnered with Alamance County, to fund a full-time position to coordinate conservation and trail efforts on the Upper Haw River. This newsletter, and our website: www.thehaw.org, are an effort to inform the public about the ongoing work stemming from the 2006 Memorandum of Understanding.

THE MOUTH OF THE HAW

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HAW RIVER TRAIL PARTNERSHIP

Fall 2010

SHALLOW FORD NATURAL AREA GRAND OPENING SEPTEMBER 18

As work winds down at Shallow Ford Natural Area, the Haw River Trail Partnership gets set to open its first natural area. Slated to open on **September 18**, the natural area contains approximately five miles of hiking trails and extends the Haw River Trail/Mountains-to-Sea Trail by over a mile.

In addition to hiking trails, the natural area also includes two paddle accesses, backcountry camping and picnic areas. The development of Shallow Ford Natural Area provides a critical connection for the Haw River Paddle Trail. The access provides a much needed take-out for paddlers putting in at Altamaha Paddle Access, one of the most challenging and beautiful on the entire river. The access also creates a great put-in for paddlers taking out at Indian Valley. The section of the Haw River between Gerringer Mill Road and Indian Valley Paddle Access is very calm, and an excellent stretch for beginning paddlers.



SHALLOW FORD cont. on pg. 2

ACQUISITION OF FOUR PARCELS ADDS TO HAW RIVER TRAIL

The Haw River Trail Partnership acquired several key pieces of property this month with the completion of an agreement with Copland Industries. The Partnership purchased property and easements on four parcels between Carolina Mill and Goat Island north of Burlington.

One part of the acquisition completes the route from Carolina Mill to Stoney Creek Marina, traversing the areas formerly called Gray Hill and Midway, due to the proximity of Midway between Carolina and Hopedale.

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The new acquisition adds to the longest section of Haw River Trail between Indian Valley and Stoney Creek Marina

For questions, comments, or to remove your name from the mailing list, email info@thehaw.org or call 336/229-2229



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Thanks to Our Newest Paddle Access Sponsor



Alamance County Convention and Visitors Bureau

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SHALLOW FORD CONT. FROM PG. 1

Located on Gerringer Mill Road, the purchase of the almost 200-acre tract in 2009 was a joint effort by Haw River Trail Partnership members, North Carolina State Parks and Alamance County. Conservation of the property protects approximately a mile of frontage on the Haw River, as well over 7,000 feet of perennial streams. As one of the largest privately owned tracts still remaining on the Haw River, the tract was identified as a “high priority” property by the Haw River Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan conducted by the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments in 2005.

In addition to the recreational and conservation benefits the natural area offers, the location of the land also presents a wealth of environmental education opportunities. The property is located within a mile of Western Alamance High School and Western Alamance Middle School.

“This is a milestone in the creation of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail in central North Carolina. We’ve known all along that creating the trail wouldn’t be possible without partnerships of state and local governments and conservation groups,” said Lewis Ledford, state parks director. “Alamance County has been among the first to step forward and help us to see real progress.”

Linda Massey, Chair of the Alamance County Board of Commissioners, stated, "On behalf of the County of Alamance, we are very excited to be a part of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail project. The Haw River is a vital resource historically in Alamance County and especially in the small town of Haw River. The creation of this trail can be very beneficial for many small towns that the river runs through as more and more land is designated and developed as recreational. We look forward to the continuance of our partnership."

The name, “Shallow Ford”, refers to the natural crossing that once existed in the area. Prior to the installation of modern bridges, the Shallow Ford was an important crossing for travelers, traders and soldiers in the 18th and 19th centuries. Over time, a small community called Shallow Ford arose near the crossing. The Shallow Ford Post Office was a short distance northeast of the park. The park is named in remembrance of the crossing and the travelers who used it.





HAW RIVER TRAIL PARTNERSHIP ACQUIRES PROPERTY FOR NEW PADDLE ACCESS

During the dog days of Summer, low water levels on the Haw can turn many sections of the Haw River Paddle Trail into little more than a maze of rocks. Luckily, the dams that once powered textile mills along the Haw now provide flat water sections that offer paddling during even the deepest droughts. New property acquired this month by the Haw River Trail Partnership will provide access to such a stretch along Great Alamance Creek and the Haw River. The 2.8 acre parcel is located on Hwy 87 South, immediately south of Living Landscapes nursery.

This unique site forms the confluence of Great Alamance Creek and Little Alamance Creek. These two creeks comprise the drainage basins for the majority of citizens in Alamance County, including much of Burlington and Graham, as well as the Village of Alamance and the Bellemont community. Great Alamance Creek then flows east to its confluence with the Haw River at Swepsonville River Park. The property offers a world of potential for helping citizens in these municipalities better understand where the water flows after it leaves their yards and roads.

Funds for the acquisition were provided by a number of sources, including a bargain sale by the property owner, donations from private citizens and local corporations, and fundraisers such as the Yee-Haw! River Paddle and the City of Graham's "Run for the Haw." Thank you to our donors for making the new access possible. Construction on the new access will begin this year with a planned opening date in the Summer of 2011.



COPLAND CONT. FROM PG. 1

Once trail work is completed, the section will add to the longest segment of Haw River Trail and will create a 3.5 mile segment of open trail from Indian Valley Golf Course to Stoney Creek Marina. The other parcels acquired from Copland will allow for the future southern expansion of the trail. Public trail easements on two parcels between Stoney Creek and the Town of Haw River will add .75 miles to the trail upon completion.

Funds for the acquisition were provided by a grant from the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund which matches donations of local citizens on a 1 to 1 ratio. Donations from the Tarheel Land Group and City Lake Baptist Church created the matching funds for this acquisition. Thank you to our donors, and to Copland Industries, for their willingness to help grow the Haw River Trail.

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flickr

To see and share more pictures of the Haw River Trail, visit the Haw River Trail Group on Flickr.com.



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www.thehaw.org

Help Us Grow!
Buy Some Stuff!

Help us meet our goals and show off your trail gear at the same time by giving the gift of Haw River Trail merchandise. These items are available online at shop.thehaw.org

YEEEE-HAW!
T-Shirt
\$18.00



HRT Hiking Stick Medallion
\$5.00



HRT Bumper Sticker
\$1.00



BLUE RIBBON DINER SELLS HAW RIVER MUD FOR THE HAW RIVER TRAIL



Blue Ribbon Diner's *Haw River Mud* is a very special dessert. Not only is it mouth-watering and delicious, but it will also help to protect the Haw River.

In celebration of the grand opening of Shallow Ford Natural Area, from **September 18 through October 2**, whenever you enjoy a Haw River Mud dessert at either Blue Ribbon Diner locations, **\$1.00** will be donated to the Haw River Trail to acquire land and easements along the Haw River. The Haw River Trail is based on the idea that if we get people to enjoy the river, they will help us protect it. By building hiking trails and paddle trails, we are working to conserve the river we are enjoying.

So what exactly is *Haw River Mud*?

Well, unless you've been under a rock for the last 20 years, you know that Blue Ribbon Diner's Haw River Mud is a huge, fresh-baked brownie topped with Breyers vanilla ice cream, Hershey's chocolate syrup, whipped cream and a cherry!

Enjoy your dessert. Enjoy your river.



Thanks to Blue Ribbon Diner for their support and generosity!

Two locations:

2465 S. Church Street, Burlington
1004 Mebane Oaks Road, Mebane

www.bestfoodintown.com

LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PRODUCES VIDEO FOR THE HAW RIVER TRAIL

A new promotional video completed this Summer highlights the beauty of the Haw River Trail and the mission of the Haw River Trail Partnership. The four minute video was produced by local student, Baden Piland, as part of his senior project at Williams High School. In addition to promoting the Haw River Trail, Baden has also helped to build the Haw River Trail, constructing steps at the Altamahaw Paddle Access for his Eagle Scout Project in 2009. The video is an excellent introduction to the Haw River Paddle Trail and Haw River Land Trail, and a great way to showcase the river to newcomers. You can see the video at <http://vimeo.com/12274071>. Please take a moment to leave a comment and thank Baden for his hard work.