



2023 GREAT TRAILS STATE DAY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Chatham County's natural beauty is critical to its residents' quality of life, health, and economic wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, the trails that span across our community are an integral part of the recreational and transportation possibilities of our area and promote an enjoyment of scenic beauty by our residents and our visitors; and

WHEREAS, the parks, greenways, trails and natural areas in our community are welcoming to all and provide a common ground for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to access our rich and diverse natural, cultural, and historic resources; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County's nature trails vary from birding and natural surface trails, to greenways to blueways; and

WHEREAS, trails offer quality-of-life benefits to all as expressions of local community character and pride, as outdoor workshops for science education, as tools for economic revitalization, as free resources for healthy recreation, as accessible alternative transportation, and as sites for social and cultural events; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly designated 2023 as the Year of the Trail in North Carolina to promote and celebrate the state's extensive network of trails that showcase our state's beauty, vibrancy and culture; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is known as the "Great Trails State;"

WHEREAS, although Chatham County is a year-round nature destination with parks, state recreation areas/spaces, forest, and of course, trails, we herald this day, October 21, as one everyone will enjoy. Trails, for our area, are so much more than land. We consider all of nature - from the acres of water at Jordan Lake - to our section on the NC Birding Trail, and preserved lands. As part of the Great Trails State Day, the annual Chatham County Challenge will be held from October 1-31, with a Kick Off Walk on October 1 at Northeast District Park. Other activities and events will be self-guided and guided tours. During October 15-21, a few organized events such as paddling excursions will take place; and

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim October 21, 2023 as "GREAT TRAILS STATE DAY" in Chatham County, and commend its observance to all people.

FURTHER, I urge all citizens to explore trails in Chatham County on this day and join other communities across North Carolina in celebrating trails on October 21.

DATED THIS 16 day of October 2023

