



ONE HUNDRED COUNTIES. ONE GREAT TRAILS STATE.

The Great Trails State Plan will connect communities to the great outdoors while creating opportunities for active transportation, conservation, recreation, health, tourism and economic prosperity.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

VISION

The Great Trails State (GTS) is a planned network of shared-use trails of statewide significance connecting North Carolina's counties and population centers with state parks and important recreational assets. It is founded upon extensive local and regional efforts to plan and build trails. *The Great Trails State Plan will link communities to the great outdoors, while creating opportunities for transportation, conservation, recreation, education, physical health, environmental health, tourism, and economic prosperity.*

GOALS OF THE GREAT TRAILS STATE

The Great Trails State Plan and network seeks to connect all counties and key destinations throughout the state to a growing network of strategic greenways. Other principal goals of the plan include:

- Foster connections between urban and rural areas in all 100 counties
- Provide transportation options between where people live, work and play for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities
- Create opportunities for conservation, recreation, education, physical health, environmental health, tourism, and economic prosperity
- Identify resources needed to plan, design, construct and connect the system
- Facilitate multi-jurisdictional partnerships to support, develop, manage, and maintain the system



Prepared for the Integrated Mobility Division of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, with NC State Parks. Prepared by Alta and Stewart.

www.ncdot.gov/divisions/bike-ped/great-trails-state

KEY INPUTS

- Existing Trails
- Existing Trail Plans
- Key Destinations/State Parks
- Steering Committee Kick-Off Meeting
- Bicycle Level of Service Network
- Green Infrastructure Network

PLANNING PROCESS

40 COMMITTEE MEMBERS



provided direction, representing NCDOT's 14 Divisions, 7 RPOs and MPOs, and relevant statewide departments and organizations.

600+ STAKEHOLDERS



reviewed the proposed corridors, including town and county managers, planners, parks directors, land trusts, advocacy organizations, and many others.

11,000+ NC RESIDENTS



expressed support and shared ideas in public surveys, online input maps and plan review, including 850,000 of impressions on social media that generated awareness of the plan and process.

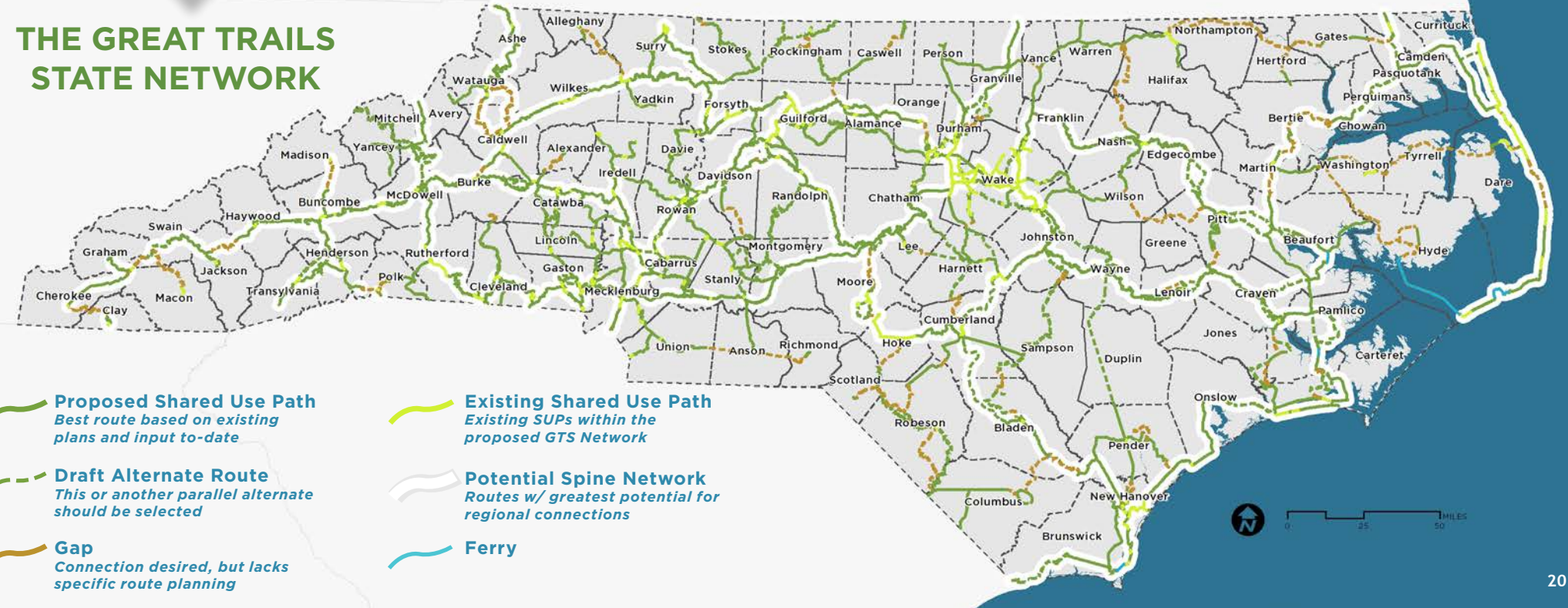
Preliminary Network

- 14 Division-Level Stakeholder Meetings
- Confirmation of Network
- Identification of Gaps and Alternatives
- Connecting Across Divisions

Draft Plan Network

- Review of Gaps and Alternatives by Steering Committee & Stakeholders
- Rail Division Meetings
- Public Input

THE GREAT TRAILS STATE NETWORK



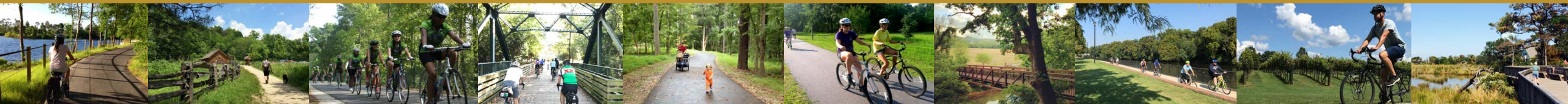
A VISIONARY PLAN FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Decades in the making, through hundreds of local plans and initiatives, the Great Trails State (GTS) is ready to become a reality. This plan, *for the first time in the state's history*, identifies a proposed network of trails that would:

- Connect all 100 counties throughout the state;
- Create lasting investments in rural and urban areas;
- Provide a return on investment of \$1.72 annually, for every \$1 of initial trail construction, from sales revenue at local businesses, sales tax revenue, and benefits related to health and transportation (source: NCDOT and ITRE, <https://itre.ncsu.edu/focus/bike-ped/sup-economic-impacts/>);
- Provide opportunities for healthy, active transportation (responding to a surge in trail use during the COVID-19 pandemic);
- Provide infrastructure to support North Carolina's \$28 billion outdoor recreation industry; and
- Improve health, safety, mobility, recreation, environment, and economic development, benefiting North Carolinians for generations.

The GTS Plan recommends recurring state funding for trail feasibility studies, right-of-way, design, and construction. A GTS Advisory Committee will be led by NCDOT and NC State Parks to implement the plan. To learn more, visit the plan web page and review the full plan at:

www.ncdot.gov/divisions/bike-ped/great-trails-state.





Integrated Mobility Division
N.C. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



DRAFT Great Trails State Network

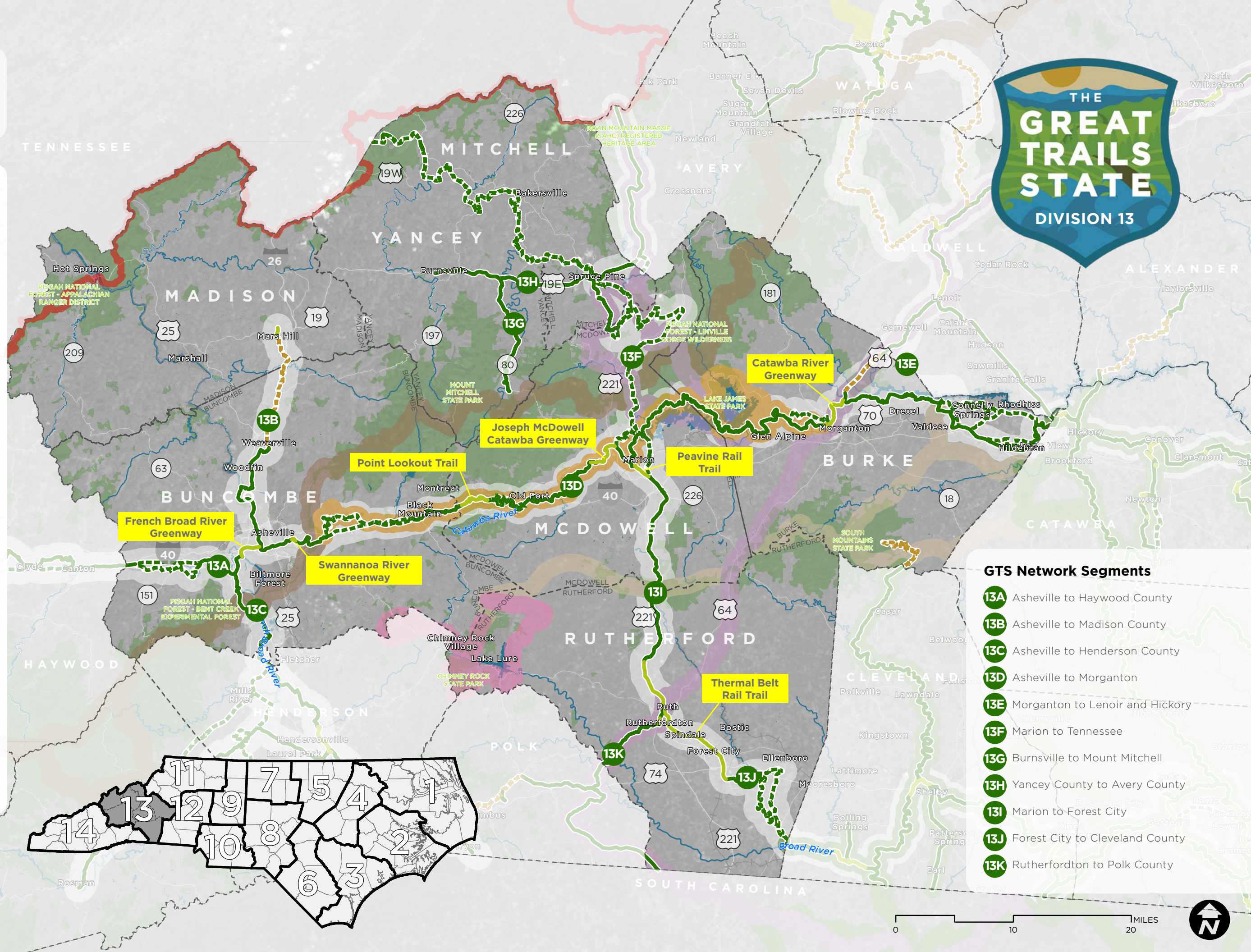
- Proposed Shared Use Path
- Draft Alternate Route
- Existing Shared Use Path
- Gap
- Potential Spine Network

State & National Trails

- Overmountain Victory State Trail
- Mountains to Sea State Trail
- Fonta Flora State Trail
- Wilderness Gateway State Trail
- Hickory Nut Gorge State Trail
- Appalachian Trail

Other Features

- Municipalities
- Managed Areas
- County Boundary



GTS Network Segments

- 13A** Asheville to Haywood County
- 13B** Asheville to Madison County
- 13C** Asheville to Henderson County
- 13D** Asheville to Morganton
- 13E** Morganton to Lenoir and Hickory
- 13F** Marion to Tennessee
- 13G** Burnsville to Mount Mitchell
- 13H** Yancey County to Avery County
- 13I** Marion to Forest City
- 13J** Forest City to Cleveland County
- 13K** Rutherfordton to Polk County

