

Benefits of the trail

A safe place for outdoor physical activity. Many towns are short on sidewalks and offer few safe places to get out and walk. Rail-trails provide a great opportunity to be active without the risk of motorized traffic. Phase 1 of the **Deep River Rail-Trail**, at 1.34 miles in length, will provide an excellent resource for pedestrian activity. It may also encourage local residents to participate in the county health department's "Weekday Walking Program".

A place to enjoy nature. Trails and greenways often provide wildlife habitat. The **Deep River Rail-Trail's** location along the river will also encourage protection of this exceptional natural resource.

A place for recreation. The first phase of the **Deep River Rail-Trail** will pass through Riverside Park on the Deep River in Franklinville – a great spot for picnicking and for canoeists to put in. There is also river access on the trail for fishing the Deep River.

An aid to economic development. Companies increasingly seek, and counties and towns try to provide, living environments that provide amenities contributing to quality of life. Trails and greenways are one of the most sought-after amenities. Longer trails become popular regional draws.

Benefits of the trail (cont.)

An educational resource. The rail-trail will provide a natural educational resource for elementary school students to learn about the environment.

Rail-trail issues

Successful rail-trails depend on addressing concerns from adjacent landowners and the public. These concerns may include trail acquisition, adjacent landowner property and privacy rights, trail security, trail liability, and hunting on the trail. Sensitivity to landowner and local concerns is critical to the development of successful trails.



Photographs taken along the Deep River Rail-Trail by Perry Conner, September 2007

The Deep River Rail-Trail



A riverside trail through a small community...running along the beautiful Deep River.

A chance for people to get out of their cars and experience the outdoors: trees, shade, birdsongs and the river.

A haven for walkers, cyclists, runners, birdwatchers and more, away from the noise and the risk of vehicle traffic.

An important link in a developing multi-county state trail system.

A boon to the daily quality of life in Randolph County.

The Vision

The **Deep River Rail-Trail** now being planned will be a jewel in the necklace that is North Carolina's newest state trail, the Deep River State Trail authorized by the legislature in the summer of 2007.

The rail-trail will provide, to walkers, runners, cyclists and other non-motorized users, a popular amenity that makes a considerable contribution to quality of life. Trails and greenways elsewhere in the state, such as the American Tobacco Trail in Durham and the Dunn-Erwin rail-trail in Harnett County, are treasured where they exist. Typically, people become enthusiasts once they get out and experience the trails for themselves.

State support for the trail

The state Division of Parks and Recreation is working on a comprehensive plan for the Deep River State Trail and encourages the involvement of local community members and governments in creating a state trail, both land-and water-based, along the Deep River. The **Deep River Rail-Trail** will be one of the first land-based portions of the state trail and its development is welcomed by the state and the county.

The Route

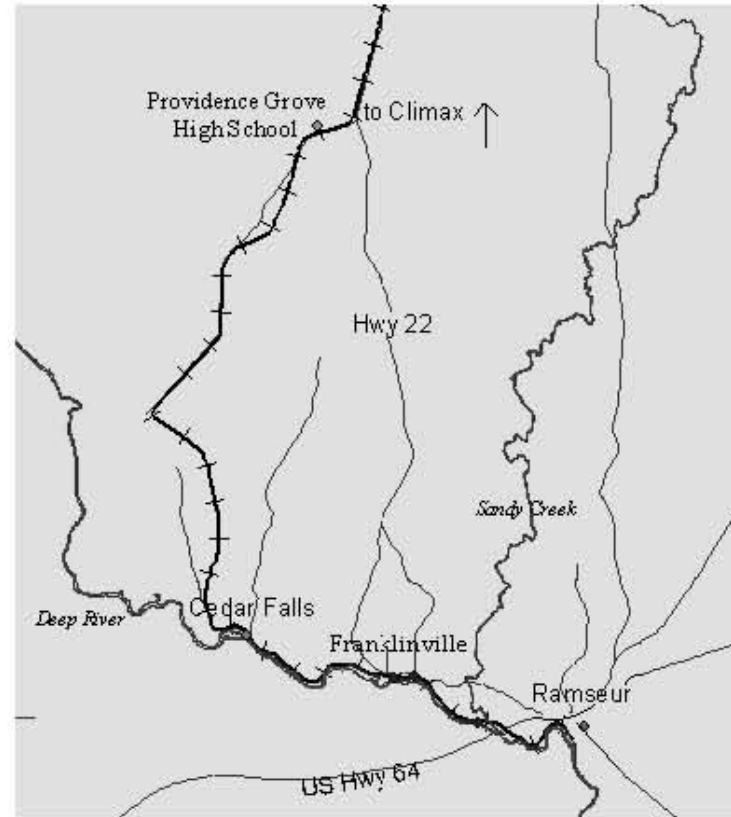
The rail-trail uses the former right-of-way of the abandoned rail corridor once used by the historic Atlantic & Yadkin railroad.

Phase 1 of the rail-trail, 1.34 miles in length, runs along the Deep River in Franklinville from Riverside Park to Sandy Creek.

Phases 2 and 3 will extend the trail across Sandy Creek to the old NC Wildlife landing on Highway 64, then to the old railroad turntable in Ramseur, the end of the line for the old A&Y.

Phase 4 goes west to Cedar Falls, lengthening the trail to approximately 4 miles.

Phase 5 extends the trail north to Providence Grove High School. The final phase will have the rail-trail running north to Climax in Guilford County, for a total trail distance of 15 miles.



How You Can Support the Trail and the Vision

Successfully built rail-trails in North Carolina have received state and county support. However, they would not have come into being without significant support from people in their local communities who helped in many ways, from trail construction and weekend maintenance, to making phone calls and attending meetings, to donations of money, land easements, and other goods and services.

The **Deep River Rail-Trail** is no exception. The state of North Carolina has already committed itself to a significant donation of funds for the trail. However, the project will also require help from people who can see its remarkable potential. It is not far from being a wonderful, easily accessible contribution to the area's quality of life. Our goal is to have phase 1 of the **Deep River Rail-Trail** open to all by the next National Trails Day, Saturday June 7th, 2008.

To make the **Deep River Rail-Trail** a reality, please consider lending your support. For more information, contact:

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