



2026 GREAT TRAILS STATE DAY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Rutherford 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, Rutherford County's trails vary from the Broad River Paddle Trail to the 13.5-mile long paved Thermal Belt Rail Trail connecting the great communities of Ruth, Rutherfordton, Spindale, and Forest City, to the numerous miles of natural-surfaced trails found throughout Chimney Rock State Park and the western part of the County; 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 the third Saturday in October as Great Trails State Day 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;" and

WHEREAS, The Rutherford County Tourism Development Authority, the Rutherford Outdoor Coalition, Conserving Carolina, the Carolina Climbers Coalition, and Chimney Rock State Park, have special events planned leading up to October in support and recognition of the County's growing trail network;

THEREFORE, Be It Resolved that the Board of Commissioners of Rutherford County, NC do hereby proclaim October 17, 2026 as GREAT TRAILS STATE DAY in Rutherford County and commend its observance to all citizens in recognition of the positive impact trails have in our community.

FURTHER, We urge all citizens to explore trails in Rutherford County on this day and join other communities across North Carolina in celebrating trails on October 17.

Adopted this the 3rd day of August, 2026.

Bryan A. King, Chairman

ATTEST:

Clerk, Board of Commissioners

County Commissioners

Bryan A. King, Chairman

Alan Toney, Vice Chairman

Michael Benfield

Donnie Haulk

Hunter Haynes

Bryan A. King, Interim County Manager

Hazel S. Haynes, Clerk to the Board

Richard Williams, County Attorney