

## REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

### HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**MEETING DATE:** October 2, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Proclamation - North Carolina's Year of the Trail

**PRESENTER:** Janna Bianculli, Senior Planner

**ATTACHMENTS:** Yes  
1. Proclamation - 2023 Year of the Trail

#### **SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

On August 10th, 2021, the NC legislature passed HB 554, designating 2023 as the "North Carolina Year of the Trail." This historic designation underscores the tremendous energy behind showcasing, promoting, and celebrating North Carolina's trails, both in terms of their positive impact on quality of life for NC residents, as well as significant economic impact on individual communities who benefit from 'trail tourism'.

Henderson County joins communities across North Carolina in celebrating the 2023 Year of the Trail, a statewide campaign inviting every North Carolinian to get outside onto the trails, greenways, and blueways that stretch across the state. Henderson County is home to two of the twelve state trails in North Carolina; the French Broad River State Trail, which is a 115 mile long blueway, and the Hickory Nut Gorge State Trail, which will be built in Chimney Rock State Park with the assistance of Conserving Carolina and other partners.

In celebration of these state trails, the upcoming groundbreaking of the Ecusta Trail, and the momentous funding for trails across the county, Henderson County is requested to proclaim 2023 as the Year of the Trail.

#### **BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

Staff requests the Board of Commissioners approve the proclamation.

#### **Suggested Motion:**

*I move the Board approve the proclamation for North Carolina's Year of the Trail.*

# Henderson County Board of Commissioners

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Rebecca K. McCall  
Chairman  
J. Michael Edney  
Vice-Chairman



William G. Lapsley  
Daniel J. Andreotta  
David H. Hill

## PROCLAMATION – 2023 YEAR OF THE TRAIL

- WHEREAS,** Henderson 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,** Henderson County staff, management, elected officials, and its partners have worked to receive over \$27 million in grant funding specifically for the Henderson County side of the Ecusta Trail; and
- WHEREAS,** Henderson County’s natural assets and resources are integral to disaster recovery and resiliency for future generations; and
- WHEREAS,** Henderson County’s nature trails vary from the Oklawaha Trail that traverses County and City parks, connects to areas of employment, and provides habitat for native species; to the French Broad River State Trail, a “blueway” designated by the state that showcases the clean waters of Henderson County; to the Ecusta Trail that connects neighborhoods and creates alternative transportation to schools and jobs, will draw visitors and boost economic development, and is a safe space for recreation to benefit the health of residents and visitors alike; 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,** 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;”

**NOW, THEREFORE,** the Henderson County Board of Commissioners, hereby proclaim 2023 as "THE YEAR OF THE TRAIL" in Henderson County and commend its observance to all people.

Adopted this 2nd day of October, 2023.

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REBECCA MCCALL, CHAIRMAN  
HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

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DENISA A. LAUFFER, CLERK TO THE BOARD