



# 2023 YEAR OF THE TRAIL PROCLAMATION

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

WHEREAS, the trails that span across our state are an integral part of the recreational possibilities in North Carolina and promote an enjoyment of scenic beauty by our residents and our visitors; and

WHEREAS, the parks, greenways, trails and natural areas across our state are welcoming to all and provide a common ground for North Carolinians of all ages to access the state's rich and diverse natural, cultural, historic resources.

WHEREAS, North Carolina's natural assets and resources are integral to climate education and protection and integral to recovery and resiliency efforts for future generations.

WHEREAS, the state's nature trails vary from less than a mile in length to the Mountains-to-Sea Trail that stretches more than 1,000 miles from the mountains to the coast; range from rugged footpaths on mountain ridges to bikeways along abandoned railway corridors, from canoe trails down our state's rivers to bridle trails in the rolling Piedmont, from trails through state parks to footpaths and greenways through local neighborhoods; and

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

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Trails Program is dedicated to helping residents, organizations and agencies plan, develop and manage all types of trails ranging from greenways and trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding to paddle trails and off-road vehicle trails; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina also boasts many arts, history and cultural trails that celebrate the state's unique arts, history and culture; 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, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim 2023, as "THE YEAR OF THE TRAIL" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.