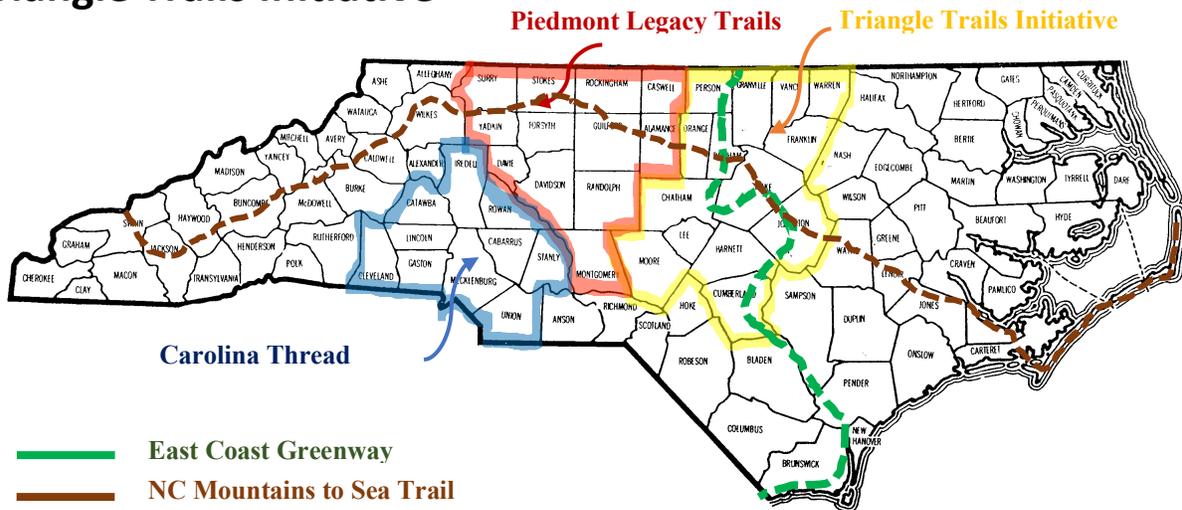


Triangle Trails Initiative



The Triangle Region is blessed with a well-developed network of trails and greenways that afford excellent access to regional outdoor resources. With a constructed network of approximately 400 miles of trails and greenways in use today, now is the time to establish a **regional organization** that can brand, promote, market, program and grow this network. **The Triangle Trails Initiative** (also known as TriangleTrails) is a newly launched collaboration between government, business, anchor institutions and civic leaders to make the Research Triangle Region a **national leader** in greenways and trails. TriangleTrails will work on behalf of the region to promote the extensive regional greenway system.

The Triangle Region joins a growing number of regional greenway organizations across the United States, and here in North Carolina, who are working to connect citizens and visitors to the wealth of close to home and work outdoor resources. TriangleTrails joins current efforts in the Charlotte-Metro Region, through the work of the **Carolina Thread Trail** (established in 2005) and efforts in the Triad region, through the work of The **Piedmont Legacy Trails** (established 2012) to link 38 counties in central North Carolina with a proposed interconnected greenway system. TriangleTrails also supports North Carolina’s two long distance greenways, the 1,000-mile east-west **North Carolina Mountains-to-Sea Trail** and the 3,000-mile, north-south **East Coast Greenway**, which intersect in our region near Falls Lake. TriangleTrails also supports the efforts of the NC Department of Transportation and NC State Parks to build and promote greenways and trails in all 100 counties under the recently launched **Great Trails State** initiative.

The goals of TriangleTrails are to Plan, Build, Use, and Promote the extensive network of greenways and trails found throughout our 14-county Initiative region (see map above). TriangleTrails is an ad hoc organization that is currently operated by volunteers. The Initiative is being established in partnership with the East Coast Greenway Alliance, headquartered in Durham, NC, which has offered to incubate our growth under its 501c3 umbrella. TriangleTrails is working towards a long-term organizational structure to best serve the needs of its members, supporters and regional citizens. Fourteen counties have, or are in the process of, adopting Resolutions of Support for the Initiative.

The AJ Fletcher Foundation provided seed funding to support the initial start-up of TriangleTrails. We are currently engaged in raising three years of operating funds. Our first financial pledge of support has been secured from the Research Triangle Park Foundation. Triangle Trails is actively seeking pledges to match the RTPF pledge.

