



# THE MOUTH OF THE HAW

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HAW RIVER TRAIL PARTNERSHIP

Summer 2009

www.thehaw.org

### What is the Haw River Trail Partnership?

In 2006, 10 governmental agencies signed a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to work together for the development of the Haw River Trail and the conservation of its land and waters.

In this spirit, the cities of Burlington and Graham have partnered with Alamance County, the Elon University Center for Environmental Studies and the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation to fund a full-time position to coordinate conservation and trail efforts on the Upper Haw River. This newsletter, and our website: [www.thehaw.org](http://www.thehaw.org), are an effort to inform the public about the accomplishments and goals of these positions and the ongoing work stemming from the 2006 Memorandum of Understanding.

### RED SLIDE PARK GRAND OPENING THIS SATURDAY

The Haw River Trail's newest park is set to open this weekend in downtown Haw River. Almost three years of work will culminate in the grand opening of Red Slide Park on May 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. Red Slide Park was funded by a Recreational Trails Program grant from the State of North Carolina in 2007. The grant funds, along with matching funds from the Town of Haw River, purchased nearly 15 acres of property on Lang Street, across the Haw River from the historic Granite Mill complex.



View of Haw River from Red Slide Park

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### ALTAMAHAW PADDLE ACCESS SET TO OPEN

The Haw River Paddle Trail is close to becoming quite a bit longer. Altamahaw Paddle Access, scheduled to open on Saturday, June 20, adds approximately 6 miles to the northern end of the Haw River Paddle Trail. The section of river between Altamahaw and the next access at Indian Valley is one of the most beautiful on the entire Haw River. Navigable only at elevated water levels, the stretch challenges paddlers to navigate substantial rock gardens on the narrow river. The section also encompasses one of the largest elevation drops on the paddle trail.

The new northernmost access was made possible by a lease agreement between Haw River Trail Partner, Alamance County Recreation and Parks Department, and Glen Raven, Inc., which was finalized last summer. The 2.8 acre parcel is located on the west side of Highway 87, at the road's intersection with the Haw River.

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"Before" Picture - Summer 2008



"After" Picture—Summer 2009



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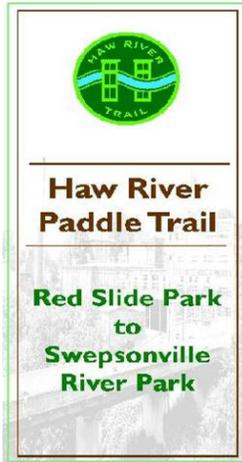
[www.thehaw.org](http://www.thehaw.org)

**Trailblazers  
Work day  
Planned for  
National Trails  
Day—June 6th**

The newly formed Haw River Trailblazers will be doing trail work on June 6th. The crew will be putting the final touches on the trail from Glencoe Paddle Access to Carolina Mill. Work should include root and stump removal, small grade changes and trash removal.

For more information or to volunteer contact Chris Clark at [chris.clark@alamance-nc.com](mailto:chris.clark@alamance-nc.com).

## NEW PADDLE GUIDES ILLUMINATE HAW'S HISTORICAL, NATURAL RICHNESS



One of the most popular sections of the Haw River Paddle Trail has a new draw for summer paddlers. The Haw River Trail Partnership has completed the first in a series of paddle guides that highlights the historic, natural and community points of interest between Red Slide Park in Haw River and Swepsonville River Park. The guide is coordinated with a series of mile markers placed in 2008 which orient the paddlers to the land they are passing through. Between each mile marker on the five mile stretch, the guide describes important historic events that happened along the river and educates paddlers about the river's natural heritage areas and key species. The mile markers and the guides were made possible by a grant from the Kodak American Greenways Program in 2008. The guides can be downloaded from [thehaw.org](http://thehaw.org) and are available at both Red Slide Park and Swepsonville River Park.

### “Red Slide” Continued

The park will host the Haw River Trail/Mountains to Sea Trail, as well as a new access to the Haw River Paddle Trail. Park visitors will also be able to explore the stone remnants of the old dam across the Haw that once created a lake reaching as far as Stoney Creek in the community of Carolina. Once the site of the easternmost terminus for the streetcars from Burlington and Graham, the park promises to restore the land as a community gathering place.

Please join us on the 30<sup>th</sup> for a celebration of our newest park.

## SECOND YEE-HAW! RIVER PADDLE ANOTHER SUCCESS

The weather was perfect for an early season trip down the Haw for the 2009 Yee-Haw! River Paddle. The warm temperatures and good water levels made the day a pleasure for both beginners and experts. Approximately 115 people came together for the event, paddling between 4 and 9 miles before descending on Swepsonville River Park. There they were met with great music by Red Rover, great food by The Barbeque Joint and the ever-popular wine by Benjamin Wineries.

The event introduced many newcomers to the Haw including visitors from the Triangle, Triad and several from Southern Pines. Thanks to our sponsors, the paddle raised almost a thousand dollars for the Haw River Trail Partnership.

Thanks to all the participants, sponsors and staff for making this year's event successful. We look forward to seeing you again next year.



**Tony Laws tests a sit-on-top kayak at the Yee-Haw! River Paddle**



## GRAHAM SPONSORING “RUN FOR THE HAW”

**G**raham Recreation and Parks is hosting the first Run for the Haw on June 6<sup>th</sup>. The Run for the Haw is an effort to encourage physical activity of community members and out of town visitors, increase visibility of the Graham community and bring awareness to Haw River Trail. The event includes a 5k run and a free 1-Mile Fun Walk beginning at 8 am. All proceeds from the 5K race will be used to benefit the development of the Alamance County portion of the Haw River Trail.

Top overall male and female finishers will be named in each group (19 and under, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55 and over). For more detailed information please visit [www.grahamrecreationandparks.com](http://www.grahamrecreationandparks.com)



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flickr

To see and share more pictures of the Haw River Trail, visit the Haw River Trail Group on Flickr.com.

## LOCAL SCOUT EARNS EAGLE WORKING ON HRT

**E**very weekend, many young people can be found on the Haw River Trail hiking, fishing or paddling the river. However, one teen has spent his weekends this year actually building the Haw River Trail.

As a Life Scout in Burlington’s Troop 1, Baden Piland’s last remaining requirement to attain the rank of Eagle was to organize and complete a community project. Baden chose to build two sets of steps at the new Altamahaw Paddle Access. Baden organized volunteers and solicited donations and technical advice to complete the project at relatively little cost to Alamance County. The project was not only a learning experience for him, but a great benefit for visitors to the new access. Thanks from everyone at the Haw River Trail Partnership to Baden and Troop 1 for all the hard work.



New Eagle Scout Project at Altamahaw Paddle Access

## LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MAKE HAW RIVER TRAIL POSITION PERMANENT

**T**he Haw River Trail Partnership took a step towards securing the future of the Haw River Trail this month by making the Haw River Trail Coordinator a permanent position. For the past three years, the Haw River Trail Coordinator position has been hosted by the Elon Center for Environmental Studies and partially funded by a grant from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. Financial and in-kind support from Alamance County, the City of Burlington and the City of Graham served as a match for the grant. After three years, the grant from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation is expiring this summer.

In light of the success of the HRT, Alamance County approved the position on a permanent basis beginning in the 2009-10 fiscal year. Financial support will continue from Burlington and Graham. Thanks to all of you who expressed your support for the position during the budget process.



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## Please Send Us Your Trip Reports

For visitors and first-time paddlers on the Haw River Paddle Trail, knowing what water levels are required for each section of the river can be difficult. To help, we are considering placing gauges near the accesses that display proper water levels. We need your help to determine what water levels to recommend. Next time your on the Haw, take a quick minute to tell us what section you paddled, what the water level was (or when you paddled) and whether that level was acceptable. Please email trip reports to [info@thehaw.org](mailto:info@thehaw.org) or call 336/229-2229.

### “Altamahaw” Continued

The Alamance County Recreation and Parks Department has made substantial improvements to the site, adding a parking area, removing invasive plants and replanting of the site. The “new” pedestrian bridge across the race was donated by Burlington Recreation and Parks, another Haw River Trail Partner. It was removed from Burlington’s North Park, then renovated and installed by the NC Department of Transportation. Steps leading from the bridge to the paddle access and on the portage trail around the dam were constructed by Eagle Scout Candidate, Baden Piland. With the addition of a new gazebo and picnic tables, Altamahaw Paddle Access is a beautiful location to enjoy an afternoon of fishing, a trip on the Haw River, or watching wildlife. Altamahaw Paddle Access also creates safe portage around the Glen Raven dam, the only remaining stonework dam on the Haw River in Alamance County.

The access completes the northern end of the Haw River Paddle Trail in Alamance County. Over the past three years, the Haw River Paddle Trail has grown from three paddle accesses to eight, adding almost 18 miles to the trail. Two additional accesses are already in development at Saxapahaw and Greensboro-Chapel Hill Road. These accesses will complete the Alamance County portion of the paddle trail, and provide safe, legal access to the entirety of the river’s thirty-seven mile span across the county.



Canada Geese preparing for the change in season near Red Slide Park in Haw River

## GET OUTDOORS HOSTS REEDY FORK CLEAN UP

Greensboro outfitter Get Outdoors held a clean up on Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The volunteers cleaned the Reedy Fork and Buffalo Creeks between NW Park in Gibsonville and the dam at Ossipee, near the confluence with the Haw River.

The Reedy Fork is the drainage basin for a large portion of Greensboro and Guilford County. As a result, Reedy Fork is the one of the largest sources of the trash that ends up in the Haw River. Brandon Knutson of Get Outdoors reports the group encountered a substantial amount of trash including a freezer door, a spare tire, a syringe, a couple of stuffed animals and about 40 balls.



A fine collection of balls rescued from Reedy Fork by Get Outdoors volunteers