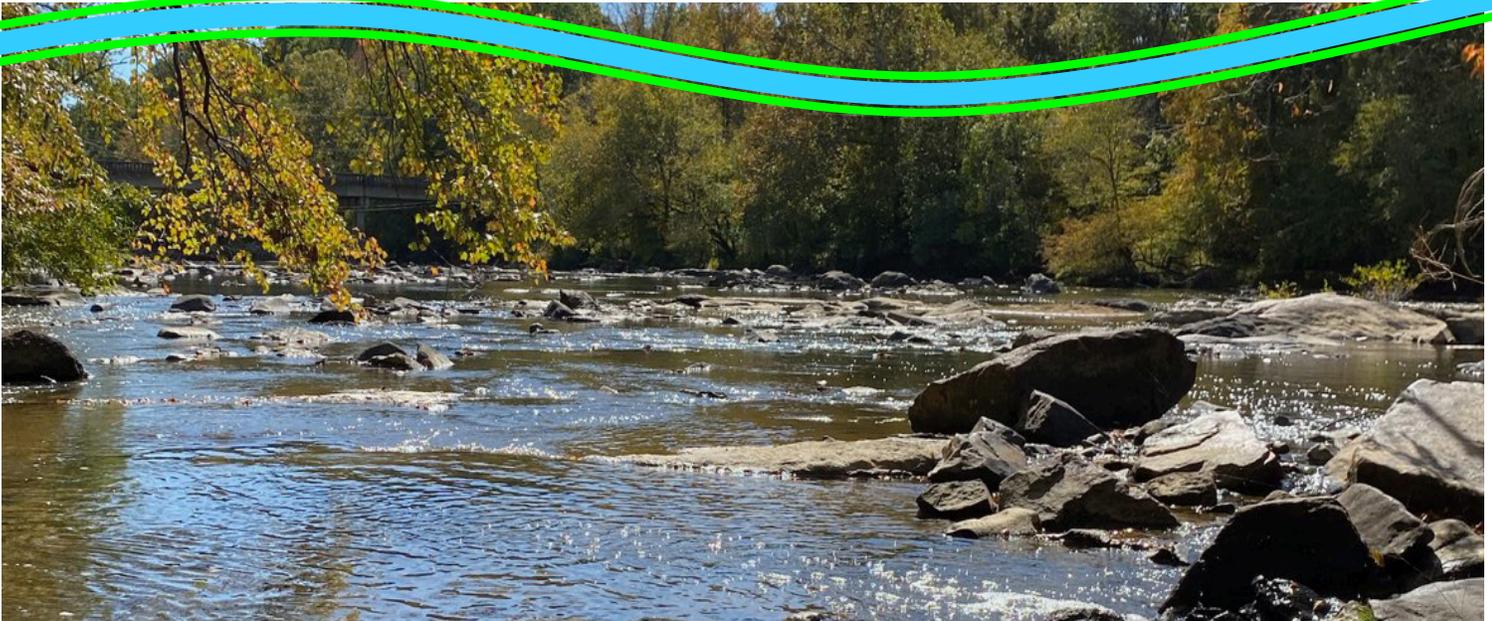




# The Mouth of The Haw

The Newsletter of the Haw River Trail Partnership



Great Bend Park, Glencoe. Photo Credit: Zack Tucker

## Haw River Trail Updates

It has been a busy season of progress for the Haw River Trail. During the past few months, we have secured the following acquisitions and easements:

- Glen Raven has donated an easement along their 11.5 acre property in northern Alamance County above Shallow Ford Natural Area. The easement includes 0.6 miles along the riverbank.
- Thurmon Leath and his family provided a 0.3 mile easement from their property on Leath Road toward the river.
- Property was secured along the river north of Shallow Ford Natural Area using PARTF (Parks and Recreation Trust Fund) Grant funding. The property is around 13 acres and will enable the extension of the trail northward. Signage along the trail will recognize the family history that has taken place here.
- Gravity Renewables has donated an easement on both sides of the Saxapahaw Hydro Dam. On the west side, we will work to build trail going north to connect to existing easements. On the east side of the river, we will work on rerouting the kayak portage and maintaining the existing community trail.

Thank you to all of the landowners and businesses who have invested in the trail. Your generosity helps further the mission of "Conservation through Recreation"

## What is the Haw River Trail Partnership?

The Haw River Trail Partnership was formed with the goal of helping the public enjoy and conserve the natural resources of the Haw River corridor.

The Partnership is the result of a signed Memorandum of Understanding between ten governmental agencies agreeing to work together for the development of trails along the river and conservation of the river and lands within the watershed.

The MOU renews every ten years. The current MOU effective January 2022 through December 2032 has 80% of signatures completed.

Learn more at [thehaw.org](http://thehaw.org)

## Alamance County Friends of the Mountain-to-Sea Trail Task Force

### 1 Year Anniversary - September 2022

The Alamance FMST Task Force celebrated its First Anniversary on September 17, 2022. During the last year the following projects were undertaken:

- A trail re-route was begun along Valley Golf Course to move the Haw River/Mountains-to-Sea Trail off the fairway and closer to the river.
- New steps were constructed on the Glencoe-to-Carolina Mill trail to replace rotted railroad ties that had deteriorated to the point they were hazardous for hikers ascending and descending the mill race.
- A rock causeway was constructed across a break in the mill race near Carolina Mill allowing hikers to continue hiking on the mill race when the lower trail was inaccessible due to flooding on the Haw River.
- Two existing pedestrian bridges on the Glencoe-to-Carolina Mill trail were re-decked and hand rails were replaced.
- Construction of trail re-route was initiated between Carolina Mill and Copland Mill, so the trail will parallel the Haw River instead of going up to Stony Creek Marina.
- Routine trimming was done along the trail, as well as several teams sent to remove trees that had fallen across the trail.



*Alamance Volunteer Task Force volunteers construct a rock causeway near Carolina Mill*

Between January 1 and September 2, 2022, over 1,875 hours of volunteer time were contributed to maintaining and improving the Haw River/Mountains-to-Sea Trail between the Valley Paddle Access and Copland Mill at Hopedale.

In addition, a subset of volunteers worked one morning a week constructing the new Pioneer Trail in the Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area Park. This new trail is close to being completed and will be open next year. Between January 1 and September 2, 529 volunteer hours were contributed.

*Contributed by Bob Ellis, September 2022*

### FRIENDS OF THE MOUNTAINS-TO-SEA TRAIL MONTHLY WORK TRIPS

*The Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail - Alamance County Task Force meets monthly to work on trail projects. New volunteers are welcome. No previous experience is necessary, and tools will be provided. For more information and to volunteer, contact Andrew Sam at: [asam30035@gmail.com](mailto:asam30035@gmail.com)*

20

MILES OF LAND  
TRAIL COMPLETE

40

MILES OF PADDLE  
TRAIL COMPLETE

15

RECREATIONAL PARKS  
& TRAILHEADS OPEN

1

AMAZING LOCAL  
RESOURCE

For a list of all trailheads, access points and to download maps, visit: [thehaw.org](http://thehaw.org)

**2021-2022 Alamance FMST Photo Highlights**



*Volunteers work to clear a tree.*



*The crew rebuilds a bridge.*



*Above Left and Right: Completed rebuilt bridge on the Glencoe to Carolina Mill Trail.*

**Conservation Through Recreation**

Founded on the idea of conservation through recreation, the Haw River Trail (HRT) is a land and paddle trail connecting Haw River State Park to Jordan Lake State Recreation Area. Much of the trail is still under development. The trail captures the natural resources, history, and culture of Alamance County and the surrounding region, and serves as a critical resource for connecting the community to its heritage.



## Cotton Mills of the Haw River: Glencoe

Glencoe was the last of ten water-powered cotton mills built along the banks of the Haw River. The remaining mill buildings and residences, now encompassing 105 acres, are classified on the National Register of Historic Places.

James Adams built a grist mill and dam on the Haw River at what is now Glencoe before 1809. In 1819 he sold the mill to Daniel Huffman, who built a new dam around 1854. The "Company Mill" as it was known at the time, changed hands twice before Joseph S. and Levi A. Vincent sold the grist mill and dam, including 38.9 acres of property, to E. M. Holt & Sons Cotton Manufacturing Company in 1878 for \$8,000. The Holt family named the site Glencoe.



*Aerial view of Glencoe Mill  
(Photo Credit: Jack Hutchinson, Triad Drone Works)*

James H. Holt and William E. Holt, Edwin M. Holt's sons, were largely responsible for establishing Glencoe Cotton Mills and the surrounding village. Glencoe developed at a time when there was a shift from water to steam, and Glencoe was the last of the county's cotton mills to be developed using water power.

The Holts extended the mill race to approximately 600 yards. They continued to use the existing log and stone dam, which backed up water for the gristmill's pond. The dam was approximately 250 feet long and eight feet high, giving a fall of 13.5 feet at the new mill site. In 1881 the Holts purchased a 66-inch turbine with shafts and bearings to power the plant, which produced a maximum of 130 horsepower. The current concrete dam was constructed in 1951.

Glencoe Mills began operation with 3,120 spindles and 186 looms. Between 1890 and 1930s the mill employed between 110 and 150 workers. In 1889 the mill employees worked six eleven-hour days, and men earned between one to two dollars a day, women earned from 50 cents to a dollar, and children earned 40 cents per day. By 1924 Glencoe employees were working 55-hour weeks with men earning between \$2.10 and \$6.60 per day, and women between \$2.10 and \$2.38. During its seventy-four years of operation the mill produced napped cotton cloth, flannels, and woven plaids.

Due to the isolation of the factory, housing had to be provided by the mill owners. The original mill village community consisted of about 41 houses varying in size from three to six rooms, and some had detached kitchens. None of the early structures had plumbing and residents used outhouses behind their homes. Wells provided water to the community. Rent in 1924 was \$1.40 to \$2 per month.

Mill operations were sporadic during summers when the river flow was too low to provide adequate power to the turbine. The mill gradually added a boiler and steam engine in 1903, and in 1906 the mill purchased a larger steam engine to provide water and electricity.

Glencoe Mill closed in 1954, and the property was dormant until it was acquired by Preservation North Carolina in 1997, which sought families willing to restore and occupy the dilapidated structures. Glencoe is now one of the best preserved cotton mill villages in North Carolina.

In the next edition of *The Mouth of The Haw*, we will explore the history of the Carolina Mill.

*Contributed by Bob Ellis*