

## Implementation Strategies

### Development of the Isothermal Regional Trails Plan

Isothermal Planning and Development Commission collected all of the available data on existing and planned trails, bike routes, parks and public lands and produced base maps for each county and for the region to use in public workshops. IPDC held four public meetings throughout the region to garner input from elected officials, outdoor enthusiasts, and the general public. This information was gathered, digitized, and prioritized before it was presented at a meeting in April of 2010.

The group chose five regional priority trails (in no particular order)

- a. **Catawba River Corridor**
- b. **Overmountain Victory Trail**
- c. **Thermal Belt/Pea Vine Rail to Trail**
- d. **Green/Broad Blueways**
- e. **The Saluda Grade Rail to Trail**
- f. **Carolina Thread Trail**

A significant component of the Isothermal Regional Trail Plan is the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail (OVT). The OVT is part of the National Trails System, and when complete will consist of 330 miles of trail commemorating the 1780 march of the patriot militia through Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina.



Image Courtesy of The Overmountain Victory Trail Association

Implementation of the Isothermal Regional Trail plan will require the efforts of many partners. State and Federal land managers, local governments, land conservancies, organized trail groups, private property owners, land developers, and individual citizens have a stake and role in the trail plan.

Local governments in the Isothermal region are encouraged to take the following actions:

1. Officially adopt the Isothermal Regional Trails Plan.
2. Share the Trail Plan with Parks and Recreation Boards, Planning Boards, and other interested parties in their jurisdictions.
3. Incorporate the Trails Plan into local land-use, recreation, transportation, and comprehensive plans.
4. Require trail easements in new developments where applicable.
5. Commit to plan, acquire land, design, build, and manage recommended trail segments in their jurisdictions.
6. Promote the plan on websites and other local outlets.
7. Support the efforts of trail advocacy groups in their jurisdictions.



The Isothermal Region is home to many natural and man made attractions. The "Old Roads" provide a vital link to North Carolina's past.



The region will be a vital connection between residents of the Charlotte, NC region and residents in the Asheville, NC region.

NC State Trails Program (Main Office)  
NC Division of Parks and Recreation  
1615 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1615  
(919) 715-8699

NC State Trails Program (Asheville Office)  
DENR Asheville Regional Office  
2090 US Highway 70  
Swannanoa, NC 28778  
(828) 296-4692

Isothermal Planning and Development Commission  
P.O. Box 841  
Rutherfordton, NC 28139  
(828) 287-2281

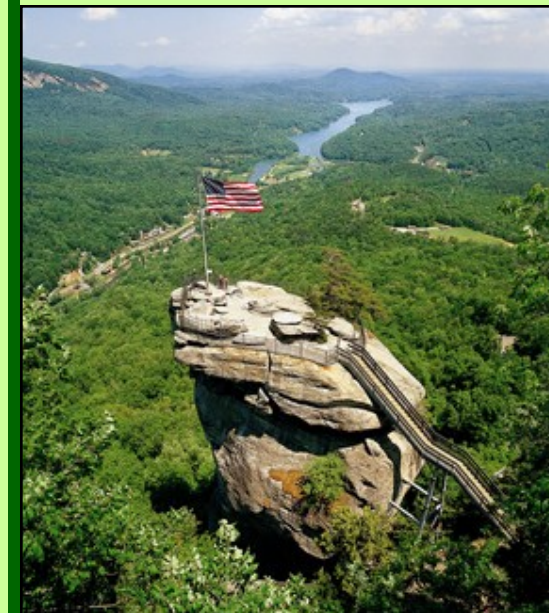


# Isothermal Regional Trails Plan

## Background and Purpose

The North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation - State Trails Program is working with various agencies across North Carolina to develop regional trail systems that will interconnect in a state wide trail network. The goal of these regional plans is to guide federal, state, and local efforts for trail development. Building on the successful Mountains to Sea Trail project, the regional plans provide a blueprint for connecting public lands, communities, and significant natural features across the state.

Trails provide communities with many benefits, including public health, economic development, recreational opportunities, and transportation options. Developing a coordinated plan for future trails will help ensure efficient use of limited state and local resources.



The Isothermal Region is home to Chimney Rock State Park, one of the top visited natural attractions in North Carolina.

Image Courtesy of Chimney Rock State Park

## Isothermal Region

The Isothermal region includes Cleveland, Rutherford, McDowell, and Polk counties in western North Carolina. Our region is steeped in history from Native American times through the modern era. Significant larger trail systems transverse our terrain, the Mountains to Sea Trail weaves its path through the rugged mountainous terrain of our northern county, the Overmountain Victory and Carolina Thread trails unite our region through our history and unique natural features. Local trails will complete these vital connections between communities and counties and weave them together into a truly unified system.

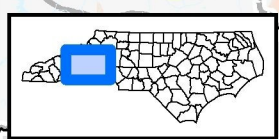
# Innovate: Trails

## Trails Map

**Trails**

- Existing Statewide Trail
- Proposed Statewide Trail
- Existing Regional Trail
- Proposed Regional Trail
- Existing Local Trail
- Proposed Local Trail
- NC Bike Route
- Railroad
- Stream/River
- Pond/Lake
- Publicly Owned Land
- Private Conserved Land

Key	Name
A	NC Mountains to Sea Trail
B	Overmountain Victory Trail (NPS)
C	Carolina Thread Trail
D	McDowell County Greenway
E	Mt. Mitchell AXIS Trail
F	Isothermal Rail Trail
G	Cliffside Heritage Trail
H	Broad & Green River Blue Way
I	Palmetto Trail
J	Saluda Grade Trail



For planning purposes only  
 IPDC, 2010.  
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