



Contact: Bill Crabtree
Telephone: (919) 435-9421
Email: bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR ADOPT-A-TRAIL PROGRAM

WAKE FOREST, NC – June 1, 2011 – The Town of Wake Forest is recruiting nature-minded individuals and groups to help maintain its system of greenways through the new Adopt-a-Trail program.

The initiative encourages scouting organizations, civic associations, school and church groups, nature clubs, and businesses seeking community service opportunities to adopt a section of trail and keep it clear of weeds, sticks, rocks, and other debris for one year.

The Town of Wake Forest provides nearly seven miles of greenways for the enjoyment of area residents and visitors, with more yet to come. These trails offer a wide array of scenic and recreational opportunities, from the quiet serenity of Miller Park to the stunning natural beauty of E. Carroll Joyner Park.

Thousands of area residents venture out to explore these trails each year, whether on foot, skates, or bicycle, so they must be maintained if they are to remain clean and safe. The Wake Forest Parks and Recreation Department provides normal maintenance, but volunteers are needed to provide the extra attention that makes these trails more attractive.

Nearly six miles of trail are available for adoption, including sections of Horse Creek, Joyner Park, Kiwanis Park, Miller Park, Richland Creek, and Smith Creek.

To adopt a trail, a group or individual must agree to pick up litter, debris and loose brush at least four times a year in the adopted trail section. Assignments are made on a first come, first served basis, but a trail section must be adopted for one year, renewable annually upon approval by the parks and recreation director.

Volunteers who adopt a section of trail will receive instruction in trail maintenance from Town staff. The Town will provide trash bags, gloves, safety vests, shovels, rakes, and free pick up of the collected trash.

Volunteers will not be paid but will be recognized on the Town's website and Facebook page, Community Channel 10, and during a special volunteer appreciation event.

Anyone with an interest in trails and nature is encouraged to participate and help provide safe, enjoyable access to the outdoors. Minors under age 18 may participate as long as a parent or guardian signs the “Youth Participation Release” in addition to the “Adopt-A-Trail Release Form.”

For more information, visit www.wakeforestnc.gov/residents/adoptatrail.aspx or contact Senior Planner Candace Davis at (919) 435-9513 or cdavis@wakeforestnc.gov.

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For more information about the Town of Wake Forest, contact Public Information Officer Bill Crabtree at (919) 435-9421 or bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov.