

Polk County Parks and Recreation held its monthly general trails meeting at Saluda Outfitters. More than 20 people were in attendance. We discussed the current state of Little White Oak Mountain, planned a community hike for mid-April, talked about the upcoming river steward program and the status of ongoing trail workdays and the status of the trails in Polk County.

An update of the status of our local trails was given as well as the times of future trail workdays.

- Overview of trails
  - Vaughn Creek Greenway is muddy and has some puddles breeding biting insects.
    - Repairs are pending on dry weather. Watch out for volunteer workday.
  - Alexander's Ford is now **open** thanks to the NC Forest Service
    - Trees still remain on edge of trail so be careful driving up to the parking lot.
  - Tryon Missing 40 is open with some minor work still to be done
    - Tree down in river and broken steps further in the trail.
  - Woodland Park has large tree blocking the red path
    - Can be navigated around. Working on a fix.
- Little White Oak Mountain
  - Grants are being submitted and worked on. Parks & Rec are optimistic about the grant possibilities and the development of the trail system on the property.
- Community Hikes are being planned for Weed Patch Mountain and the Palmetto Trail.
  - Weed Patch Mountain hike is possibly going to be on April 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Shuttle will be provided
  - RSVP will be sent out when the dates and times are set.
- Possible climbing/bouldering trail(s) off of Hogback Mountain Road has optimistic outlook, pending official approval from Town of Tryon. The area has potential for other recreation including picnicking and hiking.
- Green River Stewardship is in the conversational stage with looking at having an official public launch site for paddling on the lower Green River
  - Look for upcoming Community River Meeting
  - Looking at working with Mountain True, Wilderness Cove Tubing and other organizations to have the entire Green River “adopted” in sections for cleanup and monitoring.
  - An update was given about a possible river access at the Hwy 9 bridge below Lake Adger. The bridge is being replaced and the county is working

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with NC Wildlife and the NC DOT about a future river access. State funding is tight for money from NC Wildlife due to extensive work being done in the Eastern part of the state since Hurricane Florence.