



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - 3/28/2023

State of the Trails Presented to County Council

On Tuesday, 3/28/2023, KC Trails presented their first "State of the Trails" report to the Kershaw County Council. KC Trails was founded in 2019 in support of Kershaw County Council's goal to make Kershaw County a great place to live, work, play, and raise a family, and to transform the way Kershaw County citizens think and act to realize healthy outcomes.

Formed as a citizen's advocacy group, KC Trails actively promotes more trails in Kershaw County. We have worked closely with the County on trail initiatives and LiveWell Kershaw Coalition and Wholespire to help implement the Community Health Improvement plan (CHIP).

KC Trails' mission is tied directly to the objectives in the CHIP, in particular:

- Provide an environment that promotes a healthy life, and
- Provide opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy recreation

KC Trails supports Kershaw County's goals, which have included:

- Continue to implement objectives of the trails plan, with a goal of 15 miles of paved walking trails
- Empower individuals to improve their own health through responsible choices
- Develop a plan to enhance outdoor recreation facilities throughout the county
- Promote and support LiveWell Kershaw Coalition (LWK) and the implementation of the CHIP.

The State of the Trails Report was introduced as a "progress report" and highlighted some of the progress made in Kershaw County both in developing trails and in getting people outdoors and on the trails. The report, which includes photos of many of the parks and trails in Kershaw County, highlights some of the parks that have developed and improved over the last few years, including Wateree River Veterans Park, Camden Riverfront Environmental Park, Goodale State Park, and Historic Camden and Battlefield sites. Additionally, the report highlighted Nature as Teacher Preserve, which is over 800 acres of riverfront property and is not open to the public on designated Open Trail Days.

The State of the Trails Report also highlighted a number of events designed to get people outdoors. Wateree River Veterans Park has become a gathering place for the community and has featured several popular family-friendly events, including "Jack O' Lantern Jamboree", "Touch a Truck", and "Tinsel Trail", and a StoryWalk® built through a grant to the Kershaw County Library. Additionally the report highlighted Kids to Parks Day, which is a national program recently started in Kershaw County, and the solemn "Ride of Silence", an event spearheaded by Fiona Martin, and dedicated to improving safety for bicycles through road design, road conditions and driver behavior.

KC Trails' presentation was led by Bob Giangiorgi, Director of KC Trails, and Tom Sliker, owner of [Broadstreet.net](https://www.broadstreet.net), who shared the report with the council. The report also presented a "wish list" of projects and ideas for more trails in Kershaw County and asked for the County Council's continued support for trails in the county.

For more information about KC Trails, you can visit [KCTrails.org](https://www.kctrails.org) or visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/kctrails>

You can view or download the report at [kctrails.org/state-of-the-trails-2023](https://www.kctrails.org/state-of-the-trails-2023)