

## Triangle Rails to Trails- 2009 End of Year Report

Dear TRTC Member or Volunteer,

Season's Greetings!

It has been an eventful year for the American Tobacco Trail. Phase F of the trail, the Chatham County section, should be completely finished by end of this month. As you know this includes a little under five miles of improved trail surface and the decking of two trestles. Whenever I'm down at the Northeast Creek I have to rub my eyes - I still can't believe I can walk across the creek. I've also been bowled over by the use of this section of trail. While spending only a few minutes at the bridge last month, I spoke with several riders heading north from Cary. Amazing!

It wasn't that long ago when we heard from some that it was a fanciful idea to expect people to walk or ride the trail in Chatham County. You always knew the potential of the trail there and provided valuable input into its design, helped TRTC to clear it ahead of Phase F and pushed local officials to make it happen. Without your time, money and letters of support it would not have happened.

This year saw the completion of another milestone for TRTC - transfer of the Fayetteville Road Parking Lot to the City of Durham. TRTC members and volunteers spent countless hours transforming the site from a dilapidated house to a functioning and useful trailhead for the ATT. As with Phase F, this facility would not have happened without your sweat, funding and support.

In addition to these items, 2009 saw action on these items:

- Initial work on new trail connections,
- TRTC advocacy at several festivals,
- Assistance with the developing Deep River Rail Trail in Franklinville,
- Provided labor to improve trails that connect to the ATT, which included installing fence and bollards on the Duke Park trail and improved signage on connecting Durham trails,
- Continued workdays on various sections of the trail.

The main focus of 2010 will be getting construction of the final Durham section (Phase E) started. TRTC will continue to monitor the progress and alert you all if the project hits any snags. Hopefully the city will be able to advertise for construction bids before mid-year, but as we all know, estimated timelines are never as firm as we'd like.

Aside from that, TRTC has several projects in the works for 2010:

- Construction of a paved connection to the trail at the junction of Lawson St & South St. We recently won an Adopt-a-Trail reimbursable grant and expect to finish this project by June.
- Maintenance assistance on the Chatham section of the trail. We plan to work with Cary to keep the trail clean.
- Signage. TRTC plans on working with Cary and Durham to install signage that will encourage safety and etiquette.
- C.M. Herndon Park Connection. We plan to build an improved connection between the ATT and the northeast side of the park.
- Continued maintenance on the trail in southern Durham in advance of the construction.
- Continued advocacy for completion of the trail and safe enjoyment of the trail.

As you can see, we've got several projects on our plate this year. We are excited about these projects and think they will improve the ATT experience. As with past projects, we will continue to need your time and support.

We appreciate that budgets are tight these days, but your continued membership or contributions will be of great assistance to us. Your contributions help us to match grants, to use reimbursable grants, to buy materials and to attend festivals. We also welcome your sweat equity on workdays. Lastly, please check out our monthly board meetings and consider becoming a board member. Below are links to our website where you can learn how to contribute or volunteer.

<http://www.triangletrails.org/MEMBERS.HTM>  
<http://www.triangletrails.org/VOLUNTEERS.HTM>

We appreciate your time during the busy Holiday season, and look forward to talking with you this month or in the coming year about our 2010 projects.

Daniel Clever  
President  
Triangle Rails to Trails Conservancy  
[www.triangletrails.org](http://www.triangletrails.org)