

*The trail along the Eno River at the  
Occoneechee Speedway in Hillsborough*  
Laverne Zachary, Historic Speedway Group

## REVOLUTION AND TEXTILES--Segment 9 of MST

### BRYAN PARK IN GREENSBORO TO ENO RIVER STATE PARK AT PLEASANT GREEN ROAD IN ORANGE COUNTY

by Greg & Germaine Yahn and Kate Dixon

This 56-mile segment of the MST allows travelers to explore an area central to North Carolina's history leading up to and through the Revolutionary War and as a leader in the textile industry.

The western end of this segment is at Bryan Park at the end of 20 continuous miles of trail that follow Greensboro's watershed lakes. The eastern end is the MST trailhead at Pleasant Green Road in the Eno River State Park, which leads east-bound hikers to 105 continuous miles of trail along the Eno and Neuse rivers to Clayton.

### HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE

- Approximately 3.4 miles of trail along the Haw River, a beautiful river with rocks and rapids and abundant wildlife. Those rapids provided power to a vibrant textile industry from the 1850s to the 1980s. Hikers on this segment of trail walk through the heart of Glencoe, an 1880s mill village where almost all the historic mill buildings and homes have found new owners and modern uses. The village is complete with a guest house in the old barbershop and a Textile Heritage Museum, showcasing life in Carolina mill towns from the early 1800s.
- Approximately 1.1 miles of trail in the Town of Hillsborough, which was at the heart of the Regulator uprising against the British leading up to the Revolutionary War and was later home to the North Carolina Legislature during the war itself. The MST takes hikers through the center of town – past beautiful historic homes, over the Eno River, and past the Occoneechee Speedway, one of the first two NASCAR racetracks to open in the inaugural 1949 season. The town, with its shops and restaurants is a great place for resupply.
- The route passes by several parks: Guilford County's Northeast Park, Alamance County's Shallow Ford Natural Area, Mebane's Lake Michael Park, and Hillsborough's Gold Park.

Alamance County and its municipalities have made completion of the MST along the Haw River a priority, and they are regularly acquiring land for the trail. In Hillsborough, construction of the MST along the Eno River is underway. Orange County and N.C. State Parks are also working to extend the trail to the west and east of Hillsborough. FMST will update these directions to incorporate new sections of trail as they open.

**Total Distance: 55.9 miles (4.5 miles of trail; 51.4 miles of road)**

**Difficulty: Easy**

## Camping

### Mile 19.4

Shallow Ford Natural Area

Primitive camping, reservations 336-270-5124. Campsite is approximately 1.0 mile off trail route. <http://www.alamance-nc.com/recreation/parks/shallow-ford-natural-area/>

Several camping locations are available in the Eno River State Park which forms the eastern end of this MST segment. <http://www.ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/enri/activities.php>

## Lodging/Supplies/Services

### Mile 24.4

BarberShop Guest House, Glencoe

[http://www.rockworthhouse.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2&Itemid=4](http://www.rockworthhouse.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2&Itemid=4)

### Mile 38.0

The Old Place Bed & Breakfast, Mebane

<http://www.bedandbreakfast.com/north-carolina-mebane-theoldplacebedbreakfast.html>

### Mile 48.5

Inn at Teardrops, Hillsborough <http://innatteardrops.com/home/>

Lodging is also available in these communities (see “Additional Information”):

Greensboro/Guilford County

Burlington/Alamance County

Mebane

Hillsborough

## Water

The best sources of water on this segment are at water fountains at parks and bottled water purchased at convenient stores.

## Hunting

In this segment, the trail is not on any land that is open for hunting.

## Signs and Blazing

The road portions of this segment are not signed or blazed.

Miles 22.6 to 26.9 on the Haw River Trail are blazed with 3-inch white circles nailed to trees. Signs along this portion identify the route as Haw River Trail, not as MST.

Miles 50.6 to 51.4 along the Eno River in Hillsborough are blazed with 3-inch white circles painted on trees. The entry to this trail at mile 50.5 is signed as the Occoneechee Speedway Trail.

## Special Considerations

On road sections, watch for traffic and narrow shoulders.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Contact:

FMST office: 919-698-9024 or [info@ncmst.org](mailto:info@ncmst.org)

### Glencoe Mill Village and Textile Heritage Museum

<http://textileheritagemuseum.org/history.html>

### Haw River Trail

[http://www.thehaw.org/Land\\_trail/Land\\_trail.html](http://www.thehaw.org/Land_trail/Land_trail.html)

### Town of Hillsborough

<http://www.visithillsboroughnc.com/>

### Friends of Mountains-to-Sea Trail

<http://www.ncmst.org>

### Visit Greensboro

<http://www.visitgreensboronc.com>

### Visit Alamance Co. (Burlington)

<http://www.visitalamance.com>

### Bryan Park

<http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=1154>

### Northeast Park

<http://northeast.guilfordparks.com>

### Shallow Ford, Great Bend Park, & Stoney Creek Marina

[http://www.thehaw.org/Land.trail/Land\\_trail.html](http://www.thehaw.org/Land.trail/Land_trail.html)

### Lake Michael Park

<http://cityofmebane.com/lakemichaelpark.asp>

### Gold Park

<http://www.ci.hillsborough.nc.us/content/gold-park>

## PRIMARY PARKING LOCATIONS

Locations to Access Trail	Segment Mile	Available	Coordinates*
Greensboro Townsend			
Trail Trailhead parking area	0.0		N36.17121 W79.74339
Bryan Park Soccer parking area	0.1		N36.17056 W79.74288
Food Lion shopping center	4.7		N36.15266 W79.71111
Northeast Park, Guilford County	6.6		N36.16576 W79.61725
Shallow Ford Natural Area,			
Alamance County	19.4		N36.15284 W79.48850
Great Bend Park, Alamance County	23.7		N36.14370 W79.43333
Glencoe Paddle Access,			
Alamance County	24.9		N36.13693 W79.42647
Lake Michael Park,			
Mebane Parks Dept	37.6		N36.10881 W79.25210
Gold Park, Hillsborough	47.9		N36.07105 W79.11149
Historic Oconeechee Speedway			
Trail parking area	50.8		N36.07008 W79.08563
Eno River State Park boat launch parking area and MST trailhead	55.9		N36.04698 W79.01139

Camping 
 Lodging 
 Parking 
 Food 
 Restrooms 
 Supplies 
 Water 
 Picnic

\*Enter these coordinates in your mapping software just like a street address.














You can find a google map of the entire MST including this segment on the FMST website: <http://www.ncmst.org/the-trail/interactive-map/>.

In addition, here is a link to a map of the 3.4-mile trail segment along the Haw (see mile 22.6 in hiking directions): <http://www.thehaw.org/Multimedia/Documents/IVtoStoneyCreek%2027x36%206-2012.pdf>












Restored mill houses line the streets in Glencoe along the MST on the Haw River  
Photo by Preservation North Carolina

## Hiking Directions, Eastbound



- 0.0 Greensboro Townsend Trail trailhead parking area on Southshore Rd, get onto Southshore Rd. and head southeast
- 0.1 Continue on Southshore Rd. *Note:* Bryan Park soccer parking on left.   
- 0.3 Left onto Townsend Rd.
- 1.5 Right onto Bryan Park Rd.
- 2.2 Left onto Summit Ave.
- 2.8 Keep right onto Reedy Fork Pkwy.
- 3.3 Right onto Eckerson Rd.
- 4.7 Left onto Hicone Rd. *Note:* Right Go 0.3 mile for resupply at Food Lion shopping center.   
- 5.3 Cross Hines Chapel Rd. Continue on Hicone Rd.
- 6.6 Cross McLeansville Rd. Continue on Hicone Rd. *Note:* Northeast High School is on the left after going through the intersection.
- 7.3 Continue on Hicone Rd. *Note:* Plowfield Rd. & Unity Baptist Church on left.
- 8.2 Continue on Hicone Rd. *Note:* Convenience store is on left; Country Hills Golf Course on right.  
- 8.8 At T-Intersection, go left onto Huffine Mill Rd.
- 10.0 Cross High Rock Rd. Continue on Huffine Mill Rd. *Note:* Northeast Park is left 0.1 mile on High Rock Rd.   
- 10.9 Cross bridge over creek.
- 12.3 Continue on Huffine Mill Rd., passing Endwell Rd. on right.
- 12.8 At T-Intersection, go left onto NC 61. *Note:* Fire District 28 building on right.
- 13.9 Right onto Sockwell Rd. *Note:* Sockwell Rd. is first road on right; sign may be difficult to see.
- 14.8 Continue on Sockwell Rd. *Note:* Reedy Fork Organic Farm on right.
- 16.0 Cross county line, leaving Guilford and entering Alamance. *Note:* Sockwell Rd. changes to Shepherd Rd.
- 16.8 Continue on Sockwell Rd./Shepherd Rd. *Note:* R&R Concrete Company on right.






















- 17.1 At intersection, continue east. Merge onto Gibsonville-Ossipee Rd. *Note:* Road signs missing; at triangle-island intersection, stay left and then merge.
- 17.5 Right onto Old NC 87. *Note:* Ossipee Baptist Church is 0.1 mile on left.
- 17.8 At triangle-island intersection, stay right & merge onto NC 87 South.
- 18.2 At traffic light, continue straight on NC 87. *Note:* Family Dollar & convenience store on left.   
- 18.7 Left onto Gerringer Mill Rd. *Note:* Western Alamance High School on right after turn.
- 19.4 Continue on Gerringer Mill Rd. *Note:* Entrance to Shallow Ford Natural Area on left. Area has trails, some of which will be part of the MST.    
- 20.3 At T-Intersection, go right onto Burch Bridge Rd.
- 21.2 Left onto Greenwood Dr. *Note:* Cashpoints (ATM) in parking lot of retail shops.
- 22.2 Right onto Indian Valley Dr.
- 22.6 Right onto Haw River Trail. Trail goes down steps and passes left of Indian Valley Paddle Access to Haw River.
- 22.8 Right onto Whispering Wind Rd.
- 22.9 Right onto Haw River Trail. Follow trail to golf course.
- 23.0 Go right and follow edge of the golf course to back of tee #7, where trail goes into woods.
- 23.1 Trail leaves woods and follows edge of the golf course along the rough of #6
- 23.2 Trail reenters woods.
- 23.4 Trail leaves woods and follows edge of the golf course along rough of #5.
- 23.6 Trail reenters woods from golf course behind tee #5.
- 23.7 Cross bridge into Great Bend Park. Stay right through clearing and enter woods. *Note:* Just after crossing bridge, access trail to Greenwood Dr. parking area is on left.   /portable toilet
- 23.8 Continue straight along old roadbed. *Note:* Paddle-access area with picnic table is on right.
- 24.0 Continue straight along old roadbed. *Note:* The 0.5-mile Island



*People enjoy festivities outside the 1844 Old Orange County Courthouse in downtown Hillsborough*  
Photo courtesy of The Alliance for Historic Hillsborough

- Trail is on the right.
- 24.0 Pass gate and continue straight on Mill Race Rd.
- 24.1 Left onto Hodges Rd.
- 24.4 Right onto Sarah Ryne Rd.
- 24.4 Right onto Glencoe St.
- 24.7 Slight left on Glencoe St. *Note:* Mill Village Water Tank on left.
- 24.8 Right onto Haw River Trail. Follow trail through woods to parking area.   /portable toilet
- 24.9 Cross parking lot and continue on Haw River Trail. Go past

- Glencoe Paddle Access and under NC 62.
- 25.0 Cross two small bridges, followed by steps and boardwalk.
- 25.1 Go down steps made of railroad ties.
- 25.2 Go up using rocks as steps.
- 25.4 Cross boardwalk and bridge.
- 25.7 After two sets of steps, trail enters open area behind Mill Building. Trail goes behind building and follows telephone poles paralleling Carolina Mill Rd.
- 25.9 Trail crosses Carolina Mill Rd.
- 26.0 Trail crosses Carolina Rd. *Note:* Carolina Christian Church is on left 0.1 mile.
- 26.6 Go right as you enter Stony Creek Marina, and then take right through gate onto Faulkner Rd. *Note:* If gate is closed, take side trail around gate.
- 26.9 Left onto Carolina Rd. *Note:* City Lake Baptist Church is on right 0.1 mile.
- 27.0 Left onto Carolina Mill Rd.
- 27.0 Right onto Sandy Cross Rd. *Note:* A convenience store is on left; ask for permission to park.
- 27.8 Right onto Haw River Hopedale Rd.
- 28.0 Continue on Haw River Hopedale Rd. *Note:* Riverdale Baptist Church is on right.
- 29.6 Continue on Haw River Hopedale Rd. *Note:* Taylor Rd. is on left.
- 30.7 Go right onto Keck Rd.
- 30.9 Left onto Roxboro Rd. *Note:* Convenience store. 
- 31.0 Go right and then immediate left onto Bason Rd.
- 31.1 Continue on Bason Rd. past Lamb's Chapel on left.
- 32.1 Continue on Bason Rd. *Note:* Dewitt Dr. is on left.
- 32.8 Continue on Bason Rd. *Note:* Cross bridge over Graham Mebane Lake.
- 33.8 At T-Intersection, go right onto Mebane Rogers Rd.
- 34.7 Continue on Mebane Rogers Rd. *Note:* Eastern Alamance High School is on left.
- 36.1 Straight on West Stagecoach Rd. *Note:* Mebane Rd. changes to West Stagecoach Rd.
- 36.5 Cross North 1st Street (NC 119). West Stagecoach becomes East Stagecoach Rd. *Note:* Food Lion shopping center on right, just after crossing N. 1st St.   
- 37.4 At T-Intersection, go left onto W. Lebanon Rd.
- 37.6 Continue on W. Lebanon Rd. *Note:* Entrance to Lake Michael Park on right.  
- 39.2 Continue on W. Lebanon Rd. past Lebanon United Methodist Church on left.
- 40.9 Continue on W. Lebanon Rd. *Note:* White Cross Church is on right.
- 41.8 Right onto N. Efland Cedar Grove Rd.
- 43.4 Straight to cross US 70. *Note:* Efland Presbyterian Church is on right.
- 43.5 At T-Intersection, go left onto Forrest Ave.
- 43.7 Right onto Mt. Willing Rd. and cross railroad tracks.
- 43.8 Continue on Mt. Willing Rd. past convenience store on right. 
- 44.1 Go straight to cross under I-85/40.
- 44.2 Left onto West Ten Rd./Dewey Rogers Rd.
- 44.8 Left onto I-85 Connector.
- 44.9 Straight to cross under I-85/40.
- 45.0 Right onto Ben Johnston Rd.
- 46.5 Continue on Ben Johnston Rd. to cross river. *Note:* Ben Johnston Rd. goes through Kings Highway Park.
- 46.8 At intersection, go straight on Dimmocks Mill Rd. *Note:* Ben Johnston Rd. ends.
- 47.9 Stay on Dimmocks Mill Rd. *Note:* Entrance to Gold Park is on right.   
- 48.0 Left onto S. Nash St. *Note:* Restaurant on left. 
- 48.2 Right onto W. King St.
- 48.9 Right onto S. Churton St. *Note:* Intersection is in downtown Hillsborough, also NC 86/Business US 70. 
- 49.0 Stay on S. Churton St. *Note:* At traffic light, Weaver Street Market is on right.   
- 49.3 At traffic light, go left onto NC 86/Business US 70. *Note:* Stay on S. Churton St. to I-85 interchange for restaurants and lodging.    
- 49.5 Left onto Tuscarora Dr.





The Haw River flows over a remnant of the Virginia Mill dam in Swepsonville  
Photo by Brian Baker

- 49.8 Straight as road name changes to Clayton Dr. *Note:* You enter new residential development.
- 49.9 Right onto Morelanda Dr.
- 50.0 At T-Intersection, go left onto NC 86/Business US 70.
- 50.1 Left onto Elizabeth Brady Rd.
- 50.4 Right into Historic Occoneechee Speedway Trail parking area. Foot trail begins just to left of kiosk. **P**
- 50.6 Right onto MST at gate with juncture of three trails. See kiosk for map of area.
- 50.7 Cross bridge over Cates Creek at sign for James M. Johnston Nature Preserve. Cross another bridge in about 200 feet.
- 50.8 Begin steep ascent through mountain laurel grove.
- 50.9 Stay left at top of climb *Note:* Private property sign on right.
- 51.1 Trail is along bank of Eno River. After beginning ascent, there is a large rock on left side of trail, which provides a good place to break and enjoy the view.
- 51.4 Cross stream, pass "trail ends here" sign and follow route marked with red flagging tape up a very steep, rocky slope to the bridge on US 70.
- 51.5 At roadway, go right to follow US 70 East.
- 52.1 Straight to cross Lawrence Rd. *Note:* Traffic light visible for 0.1 mile either direction.
- 53.2 Straight past Wayside Baptist Church on right.
- 53.3 At flashing light at junction of US 70 and US 70 Business, go straight to stay on US 70.
- 54.1 Go straight and pass Redhill Lane on right.
- 54.5 Straight to cross Linden Rd.
- 54.9 Straight past convenience store on right. **🏪**
- 55.0 Straight past New Horizon Church on left.
- 55.5 Left on Pleasant Green Rd. *Note:* Bull City Radiator on left at traffic light.
- 55.9 Left to Eno River State Park boat launch parking area and MST trailhead. *Note:* See Brown Guide sign on left. If you cross the bridge over the Eno River, you have gone too far. **P**