

2/18/2026

I am excited to be doing another EarthShare Earth Day volunteer project.

As a volunteer, I have been organizing trail work on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST) for more than 15 years with the Friends of the MST. We are so fortunate here in the triangle to have such a fabulous trail. It is 75 miles of natural surface trail along the Eno River and Falls Lake, and then another 25 miles of greenway along the Neuse River in Raleigh. The trail is well used by hikers, runners, families, children. The whole diversity of our community is out on this trail. It gives me great pleasure to go out on the trail and see the wildlife, the plant life, the hikers and runners out enjoying the trail.

My goal in the maintenance of the trail is to put in **a lot of work** to make this natural surface trail **look like no work has been done at all**, just a natural path through the woods. Though it is a fake natural path. What does that mean? A natural walk through the woods has holes in the ground, muddy low spots, trip rocks, logs, slippery slopes, poison ivy, etc. In building and maintaining the trail the trail surface is leveled, hardened, and designed to divert water off the trail. While poison ivy is a native plant, we cut it back from the trail so you can walk the MST along the Eno and not come in contact with it. We also have focused on removing trash and invasive plants. The route the MST follows was littered with trash when we first built the trail from years of trash dumping. We keep working on removing new trash, old trash, flood trash. In addition, there were more than a dozen species of invasive plants along the trail and the river, and we have worked year after year to remove these to allow native plants to flourish. Most people now walking the MST along the Eno will not notice that the trail is a solid, comfortable walk, not littered with trash and not overgrown with invasive plants. This is what I mean by doing **a lot of work** but making it **look like no work has been done at all**.



From a recent workday, some trash no longer along the trail and the river. Future hikers will not notice that it is not there.

We are pushing hard to get approval from North Carolina State Parks to complete the MST through Eno River State Park. This will complete the MST from Occoneechee Mountain in Hillsborough in Orange County across Durham County to Wake County and on down to Clayton. The only two gaps in this trail are at Eno River State Park.

See you on the trail.

Fred Dietrich fred.dietrich@duke.edu

In addition to the EarthShare Earth Day workday, we have regular workdays on this section of the trail.

Saturday Mar. 7th 2026 Eno River workday, contact fred.dietrich@duke.edu

Saturday Mar. 21st 2026 – possible joint trash removal project with the Eno River Association.

Details still being worked out, contact fred.dietrich@duke.edu

Saturday Mar. 14th 2026 Orange County workday, contact bill.boyarsky@gmail.com

Saturday Apr. 4th 2026 Eno River workday, contact fred.dietrich@duke.edu

Friday April 10th 2026 EarthShare Earth Day workday, contact fred.dietrich@duke.edu

Saturday Apr. 11th 2026 Orange County workday, contact bill.boyarsky@gmail.com

Saturday May 2nd 2026 Eno River workday, contact fred.dietrich@duke.edu

Saturday May 9th 2026 Orange County workday, contact bill.boyarsky@gmail.com

Saturday Jun. 6th 2026 Eno River workday, contact fred.dietrich@duke.edu National Trails Day

Saturday Jun. 13th 2026 Orange County workday, contact bill.boyarsky@gmail.com

For information on MST workdays along the Haw River, contact: Andrew Sam

asam30035@gmail.com

For information on MST workdays along Falls Lake, contact: Jeff Brewer

jdbrewer104@gmail.com

For information on the Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail go to:

<https://mountainstoseatrail.org/the-friends/>