

# Southwestern Community College Walking Trail

The Southwestern Community College (SCC) Walking Trail began in 1998 as a nature trail developed by SCC. Beginning in September of 2005, the students and staff at SCC worked to expand the trail to include newly added wooded sections and urban sidewalks on campus. Over 55 students, employees and community members volunteered to re-establish and expand the trail, which is now a 1.87 mile loop. The main trail work began in September and was completed in October 2005 by the SCC Outdoor Leadership Club, with participation from SCC employees.

SCC established a virtual plaque on their Web site to spotlight employees and students who walk 100, 200 or 500 miles. In addition to being noted on the virtual plaque, students and staff who reach these milestones are rewarded with a SCC polo shirt with the trail logo.

SCC took advantage of its student and employee resources when completing the trail. Wren Haney, a Advertising & Graphic Design student, designed the trail logo, and SCC surveying students designed the trail map. SCC also partnered with its existing clubs, including the Outdoor Leadership Club, to help complete the trail project.

The trail opened officially in December of 2005, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and inaugural hike led by college president Cecil Groves. The opening ceremony – a ribbon cutting and hike – was led by the college president, and marked a major milestone of achievement for the SCC community.

## Key steps

- SCC's Outdoor Leadership Club helped to complete the trail.
- A trail logo was developed by a graphic design student at SCC. This logo helps to mark the trail visibly around campus.
- The trail is very accessible because the route is clearly marked out on individual brochures and oversized maps available at each trail head.
- SCC has provided the trail not only for its staff and students, but also for the surrounding community.
- The trail was opened to the public by a ribbon cutting and hike led by the SCC president, Cecil Groves.
- Employees and students are rewarded for using the trail on an SCC Web site "virtual plaque."
- Score cards are available online for employees to track their mileage. As of May, 2007, 15 employees have completed 100 miles and four have joined the "200 mile club."

Visit the SCC Trail Web site:

<http://www.southwest.cc.nc.us/info/walking-trail/index.htm/>