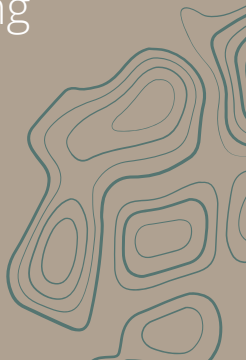


2022 Annual Report

Protecting, preserving,
and expanding climbing
opportunities in the
Carolinas since 1995.



Our Leadership

BOARD

President: AJ Jackson



Vice President: Tom Caldwell



Secretary: Seth Monteleone



Treasurer: Frost Walker



Northern Mountains Rep:
Carter Smith



Southern Mountains Rep:
Shannon Millsaps



Southern Mountains Rep:
Matt Chrestman



Northern Piedmont Rep:
Bryce Mahoney



Southern Piedmont Rep:
Sarah Ellingson



SC Rep: Adam Johnson



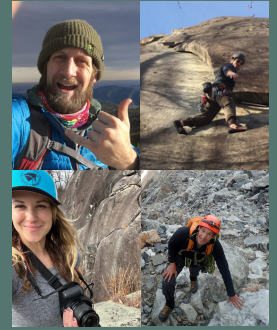
JEDI Rep: Alma Solis



Membership
Coordinator: Paul Klem



At-Large:
Lauren Striefel



STAFF

C4 Team:
Dan VanBrocklin
Dain Canter

Executive Director: Mike Reardon

Marketing & Events Coordinator:
Alycia Andrade

Since 1995, the mission of the Carolina Climbers Coalition has been to protect, expand, and preserve climbing access in the Carolinas and beyond.



Celebrating our Carolina Climbing Community

The Carolina Climbers Coalition were founded on the principle that our climbing areas are worth protecting and are meaningful to so many people. In our 27th year as a charitable nonprofit, we ask what does 'protection' of these areas mean, and what impact does our work have on people's lives? We continue to realize that protecting an area is multi-faceted, with lists of site-specific complexities longer than a Laurel Knob run out. Considering our collective experiences and our growing communities, do we have the physical skills and mental capacity to pull it off or are the many cruxes of climbing-lands protection too much to surmount? Do we retreat to safer ledges or push through with confidence, ascending our lands and access protection narrative with grace and skill? 2022 was a year where we were able to 'send' several long term projects and even surmount a few surprise cruxes. Whether it was a 'flash' or a 'flail', each climbing land protection project that we took on this year gave us an opportunity to learn and grow as a community.

This wasn't a year of solo climbs; it was you, the Carolina climbing community, who pulled it off. Let's look back on community events this year; the 2022 Rumble, the first ever NC Climbers Fest, Steep South showings, SC Climbers Fest, Night at the Museum, gym gatherings, and numerous other events that YOU organized, attended, and/or sponsored. Each of these gatherings gave us the opportunity to connect and strengthen our relationships, all while fueling our long term mission of protecting the lands we serve as a Coalition.



Let's also look back on our access work this year; we purchased and now own the Maibauer Boulders, we opened a brand new climbing area at Buffalo Creek Park, we maintained relationships with dozens of land managers at federal, state, and municipal levels, and we worked directly with private land owners to steward their land for the benefit of the public. We influenced the 20 year Pisgah Nantahala National Forest Plan, a planning document that provides a framework for federal land management of the national forest's one million acres, comprising some of our most beloved climbing resources. Our decade of work influencing the plan culminated in 2022, and we hope it has a positive impact on generations. Finally, our 8,000 plus hours of stewardship work you helped perform made it possible for us to build new access, improve parking lots, replace aging hardware, and monitor rare species. This work is critical in maintaining and protecting the lands we all owe so much to.

Can you imagine if places like Rumbling Bald or Sauratown or 'fill in the blank with your favorite crag' were not open to climbing? These wild climbing lands are often why we chose to live where we live, they provide motivations for being physically and mentally fit, they create an avenue for community connection, they give us a reason to patronize businesses and help create jobs, and perhaps time spent in these wild places gives us more personal introspection, helping us each balance humility with self confidence in a way that just may influence our greater human interactions. The growth of the climbing community has shown us the importance of protecting the areas that mean so much to all of us. Thank you, Carolina climbers, for offering your skills and passion to help us in this journey of protection.

Thank you,

Mike Reardon/ CCC Executive Director

2022 Impact at a Glance



Areas you helped the CCC purchase

Maibauer Boulders
(2022)

Buckeye Knob
(2019)

Hidden Valley
(2016)

Rumbling Bald West
(2009)

Laurel Knob
(2006)

Your Donations Support These Climbing Areas

Sauratown

Big Rock

Barn Boulders

Asheboro

Little Bearwallow Falls

Eagle Rock

Melrose Mountain

Pumpkintown

Table Rock State Park

Chimney Rock Village

Boulders

Rocky Fork

Whiteside Cove

McKinney Gap Boulders

Weaver Knob Boulders

Stony Mt Vineyard

Buffalo Creek Park

Explore all CCC-owned and managed climbing areas with our Story Maps feature. Scan the QR code to get the beta.



Stewardship Impact

Trailwork

Volunteer Hours
8,000 +

Volunteer Stewards
1,110

Graffiti Spots Removed
45



Pounds of Trash Removed
3,772

Community and Film Events
23

Parking Lots Built/Improved
3

Volunteerism and giving back to our crags is a keystone to our mission. Thank you for being a part of that. You helped **1,110 stewards** perform over **8,000 hours of stewardship in 2022** alone. These stewards built trails, made existing trails more sustainable, removed graffiti, carried out trash, monitored sensitive species, improved parking lots, and replaced aging fixed hardware.

23 Climbing Areas Maintained/Serviced in 2022

- Hidden Valley
- Stony Mt Vineyards
- Pilot Mountain State Park
- Stone Mt State Park
- Buffalo Creek
- Pumpkintown
- Table Rock SC
- Table Rock NC
- Melrose
- McKinney Gap Boulders
- Looking Glass
- Big Rock
- Maibauer Boulders
- Sauratown
- Laurel Knob
- Chimney Rock Village Boulders
- Weaver Knob Boulders
- Rocky Fork State Park
- Eagle Rock
- Rumbling Bald
- Crowders Mt State Park
- Moore's Wall

New Areas Opened to Climbing

Maibauer
Buffalo Creek Upper Boulders
Weaver Knob

Stewardship Impact

Parking Lot Building



Before

Maibauer Boulders
Love Valley, NC



Before

Carolina Climbers Coalition, Southeastern Trust for Parks and Land
American Alpine Club, Access Fund, REI Asheville
Weaver Knob Boulders, Burnsville NC



After

Maibauer Boulders Parking



After

Weaver Knob Parking

Parking is an access element of each of our climbing areas that needs ongoing care and attention. In 2022, we constructed both the Weaver Knob parking lot and the Maibauer Boulders parking lots.

These new parking lot builds were made possible by the American Alpine Club, Southeastern Trust for Parks and Land, REI, Access Fund, Triangle Rock Club, and Triple Crown Bouldering Series. We also provided support for the Town of Lake Lure's expansion of the Buffalo Creek Parking lot.



Buffalo Creek Parking

Stewardship Impact

Bolt Replacement



160 Bad Bolts Replaced in 2022.



Charlie Ritter replacing bolts at Hidden Valley, VA.

In 2022, you helped 160 rotting bolts get replaced on our cliffs! Climbers trust their lives to bolts, and replacing aging hardware is critical for safety. It also makes the climbing experience more enjoyable. Pictured on the front page of this report is Curtis Baird pulling aging bolts out of the rock and replacing new stainless bolts while utilizing the original hole. Huge thanks to our many bolt replacers like Charlie and Curtis who sacrifice personal climbing days to replace aging hardware. The American Safe Climbing Association helped support some of our bolt replacement costs this year.

Stewardship Impact

Species Monitoring

Our peregrine falcon work reflects our ongoing desire to protect this unique species, and ensure that climbers are able to assist in the health of the species. We work directly with NC Wildlife and USFS to monitor peregrine sites annually, identify appropriate route closure zones, collect specimens for biological reviews, and install game cams to help biologists understand reasons for mating success and failures. These images show CCC volunteers working with biologists on peregrine work at the Looking Glass and Laurel Knob eyries. It is a rare opportunity for climbers to own property like we do at Laurel Knob, and it is even rarer for that property to host a successful peregrine falcon eyrie. We are honored to conserve land that provides habitat for this endangered species.

8 Days of Rare Species Monitoring



CCC volunteers work with NC Wildlife biologists to monitor peregrine falcons on Looking Glass Rock.



CCC volunteers work with NC Wildlife biologists to monitor peregrine falcons on the CCC-owned Laurel Knob.



Stewardship Impact

Boots on the Ground Support

Our on-the-ground access and stewardship work could not be conducted without great partners. Dozens of organizations like the French Broad River Academy (pictured here) help us maintain existing access areas and build new access to various wildlands throughout the Carolinas. Dozens of land management agencies like NC State Parks and USFS work with us to allow climbing access and stewardship activities on public lands. Thank you to all organizations who have contributed people power to improving the lands we serve.



French Broad River Academy students working with the C4 crew to build the Upper Boulders Trail at Buffalo Creek park.

47 Boots on the Ground Access Supporters in 2022

- French Broad River Academy
- Youth Works
- Christ School
- American Conservation Experience
- Triple Crown Bouldering Series
- Triangle Rock Club
- American Alpine Club Triangle Chapter
- American Alpine Club Boone Chapter
- American Alpine Club Atlanta Chapter
- Access Fund
- B.R.A.G.
- Tryon Fire and Rescue
- Town of Tryon
- Town of Lake Lure
- Climb@ Blue Ridge
- Pisgah Conservancy
- Millsaps Creative
- Fixed Line Media
- Central Appalachian Climbers Coalition
- Inner Peaks
- Fox Mountain Guides
- Pisgah Climbing and Outdoor Guides
- NC Wildlife Resource Commission
- United States Forest Service
- NC State Parks
- Table Rock State Park, SC
- Rocky Fork State Park, TN
- NC State Gamelands
- Conserving Carolina
- YMCA Camp Hanes
- Blue Ridge Parkway
- Wild South
- Clemson Climbing Club
- NC Outward Bound
- Climbers for Christ
- Naturaland Trust
- American Safe Climbing Association
- Conservation Fund
- Southeastern Trust for Parks and Land
- Friends of Stone Mountain State Park
- Steep South
- REI Asheville
- Stony Mountain Vineyards
- Parker Sign Solutions
- Food For Adventures
- Destination By Design
- Rutherford County Trails Collaborative
- Horton Designs
- Trango

CCC Sponsoring Businesses

Financial Support from Partners in 2022



\$20,000+
RHI Legacy Foundation

\$15,000+
Triangle Rock Club

\$10,000+
Trango Climbing

\$5,000+
Access Fund
Dr. Dave
Southeastern Trust for Parks and Land
REI Asheville
Steep South
American Alpine Club



\$1,000+
Rutherford County Tourism and Development
Fox Mountain Guides
Black Dome Mountain Sports
Ground Up Publishing
Brayack Media
The Riveter
Climb@ Blue Ridge
Inner Peaks
Coastal Climbing
First Hand Climbing



\$500+
Rock Dimensions
American Alpine Club Boone Chapter
Cultivate Climbing
New Belgium
Burleap Printing
BloHaven
Metolius
On the Road and Off
ProjectRock
Rumbling Bald on Lake Lure
BlueWater Ropes
Organic Climbing
Misty Mountain Threadworks
Clemson Climbing Club
Progression Climbing
Mast General Store



Outstanding Members of Our Community

Kayah Gaydish spent much of her time selflessly devoted to caring for wild places in the Carolinas.

In her honor, we highlight some stand-out stewards of the Carolina climbing lands and community.

2022 Kayah Gaydish Award Winners

Eric Dudley
Matt Bielejeski
Wes Calkins
Anne McLaughlin & Tom Drewes
Steven Pope



Tom Drewes and Anne McLaughlin

Wes Calkins

Steven Pope

Eric Dudley

Matt Bielejeski

Special thanks to Our Crag Stewards

Jonathan Gerst
Brian Fritz
Jeremiah Haas

Charlie Ritter
Jim Horton

Will Rodgers
Chris Pitts

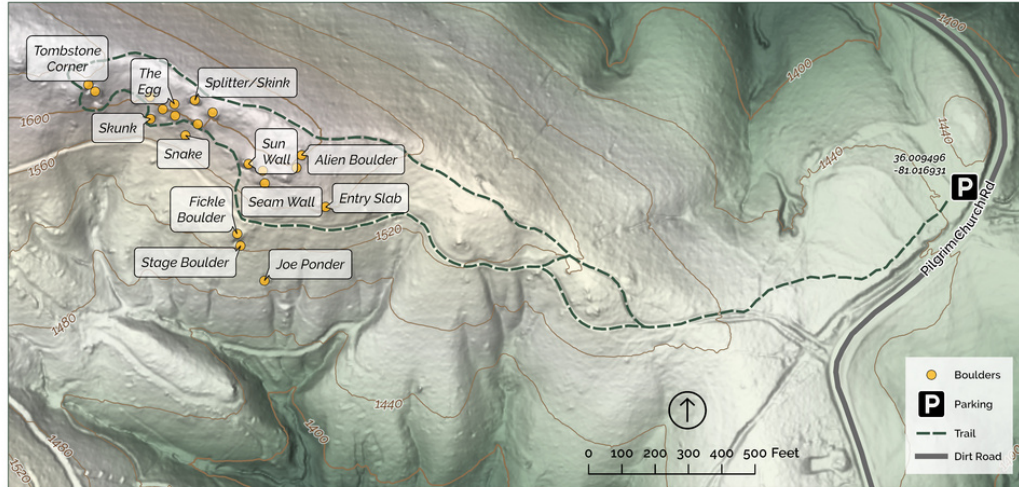
Matt Bielejeski
Wes Calkins
Forrest Stavish

Bryan Townsend
Alexi De Seze

Access Wins in 2022

Maibauer Boulders

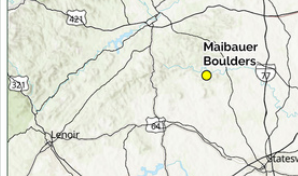
Love Valley, North Carolina



History of Maibauer Boulders

Carolina Climbers Coalition's purchase of the Maibauer Boulders secures 32 acres of hardwood forests topped with a compact cluster of high-quality boulders within the Brushy Mountains. Previously, access was only available to a small number of climbers who knew the landowner. Development of the Maibauer Boulders began in the 1990s. Today, more than 100 boulder problems can be found scattered along the ridge. These documented problems range from V0-V9 including many excellent problems in the V3-V6 range.

Disclaimer: This map does not represent a legal survey. Follow all on-the-ground signage and do not trespass on adjacent properties.



Updated 7/19/2022
brian@accessfund.org

Maibauer Boulders

- In 2022, the CCC purchased this 32-acre boulder field via an Access Fund loan.
- A parking lot was built and completed in Sept 2022. Thanks to Access Fund for the \$5000 grant that made this possible!
- Triangle Rock Club made a generous \$10,000 matching donation for this project.
- Trail/ infrastructure for the area are now complete.
- Total raised in 2022: \$50,705
- Steep South fundraiser: \$7550
- Big thanks to Triple Crown Bouldering and Horton Design for support with this land acquisition!



Maibauer Boulders Grand Opening, January 2023.



Chad Wyckle and Jim Horton present a check to the CCC for the Maibauer Boulders.

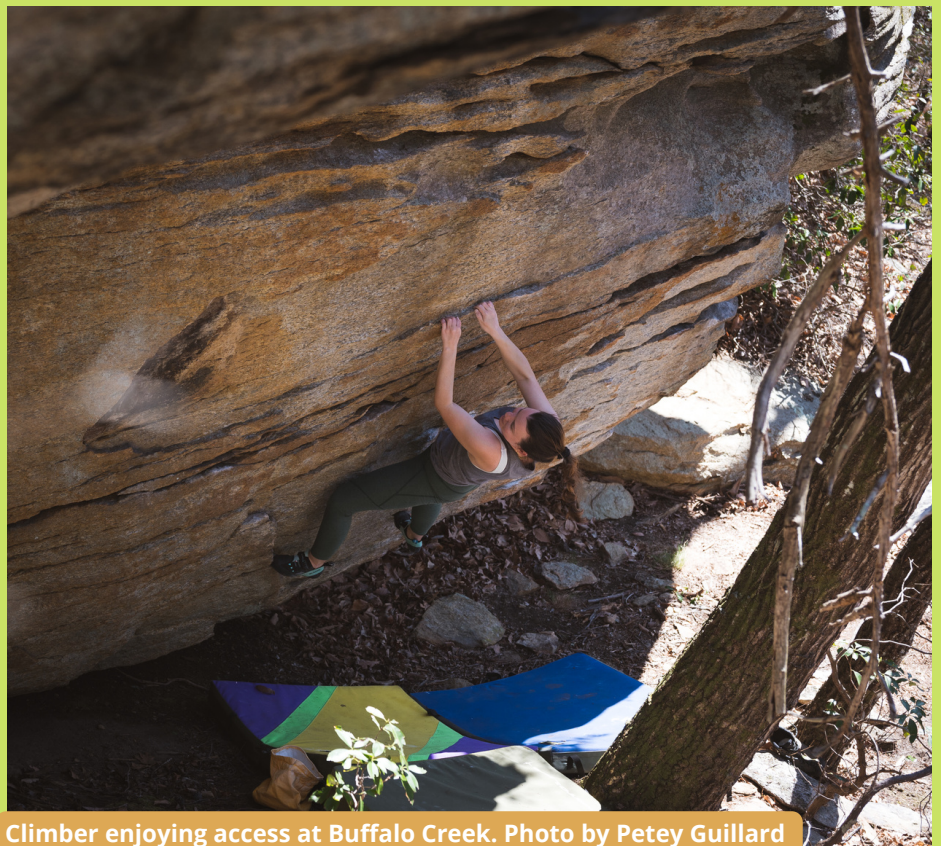


Maibauer Boulders Grand Opening, January 2023.

Access Wins in 2022

Buffalo Creek Park

Buffalo Creek Park's Upper Boulders Trail: CCC confirmed this brand new access area in coordination with the Town of Lake Lure. We are currently building a 1.4 mile new trail accessing this newly discovered boulder field and route climbing area, with an estimated 150+ boulder problems and 20+ climbing routes. Big thanks to Richard Carpenter for discovering the potential and coordinating with Lake Lure and the CCC to build a great new trail to offer public access. The timing could not have been better. The Town of Lake Lure expanded the parking lot to Buffalo Creek in the summer of 2022. Thank you to Rutherford County TDA for your support with this project!



Climber enjoying access at Buffalo Creek. Photo by Petey Guillard



Climber enjoying access at Buffalo Creek. Photo by Petey Guillard.



Buffalo Creek parking lot ribbon cutting. Photo by Destination by Design.



Climber enjoying access at Buffalo Creek. Photo by Petey Guillard.

Community Events

The Rumble 2022



1st Annual NC Climber's Fest



Night at the Museum with Black Dome



SC Climber's Fest 2022



Forest Service
Chainsaw Certification



Gym to Crag Education Events



Partner Spotlight



Mike Reardon and Karl Hesse (former owner of Maibauer Boulders land) celebrating access at Maibauer.



Triangle Rock Club sponsored the Maibauer Boulders Grand Opening.

Triangle Rock Club Multi-Year Commitment

Triangle Rock Club has been matching donations up to \$10,000 for the Maibauer Boulders conservation loan fund.

Over the next 3 years, Triangle Rock Club has committed to donating **\$50,000** to the CCC.

In November 2022, Triangle Rock Club staff joined the C4 crew for a day of trail work and climbing at the Maibauer Boulders.

Thank you, Triangle Rock Club!

Partner Spotlight



Trango Multi-Year Commitment

Over the last 4 years, Trango donated \$10,000 toward all of our programs and acquisitions.

Thank you, Trango!



CCC van purchased with assistance from Trango's generous donation. This van allows CCC staff and volunteers to safely travel around the SE for stewardship projects and community events.

Partner Spotlight

STEEP SOUTH

Steep South Filling the Void Chapter 2: Rumbling Bald

Stunning imagery of Hickory Nut Gorge and incredible climbing footage came together in this film to tell the story of inspiring conservation achievements.



Elaine and Nathalie of Steep South at the Riveter opening screening.



Jamar Woods climbing at Rumbling Bald for the filming of Steep South.

Steep South - Filling the Void film screenings in 2022 raised over \$7,500 for the Maibauer Boulders Loan Fund. Thank you, Steep South!

2022 Progress on Multi-Year Initiatives

Pisgah Nantahala Forest Management Plan

Since 2012, the CCC has shared a seat with the Access Fund working to influence the outcome of the 2023 Land Management Plan for Pisgah Nantahala. This document will serve how 1 million acres of National Forest land is managed, which includes beloved climbing areas like Linville Gorge, Looking Glass, Cedar Rock, Whitesides, and much more.

Our continued involvement with the Pisgah Nantahala Forest Planning Partnership has helped greatly improve climbing management objectives within the Forest Plan. We are excited to see the plan released in 2023 and excited to start implementation with on the ground projects like Table Rock.



**Sam Dospoy climbing in the Linville Gorge
Wilderness. Photo by Fixed line Media.**

2022 Progress on Multi-Year Initiatives

Table Rock, NC Trail Project

With years of collaboration with Wild South, Access Fund, and USFS, the National Environmental Protection Agency surveys have been approved and this historic base trail is now ready for work.

The climber access trail along the base of Table Rock has been used since at least the 1950's by climbers but has never been a 'system' trail. Now that it is placed on the system thanks to the NEPA process, we are able to maintain the trail for sustainability, access, and rescue purposes.



CCC volunteers working on Table Rock Trail.



A hiker enjoying the CCC-built Upper Boulders trail at Buffalo Creek Park in Hickory Nut Gorge.

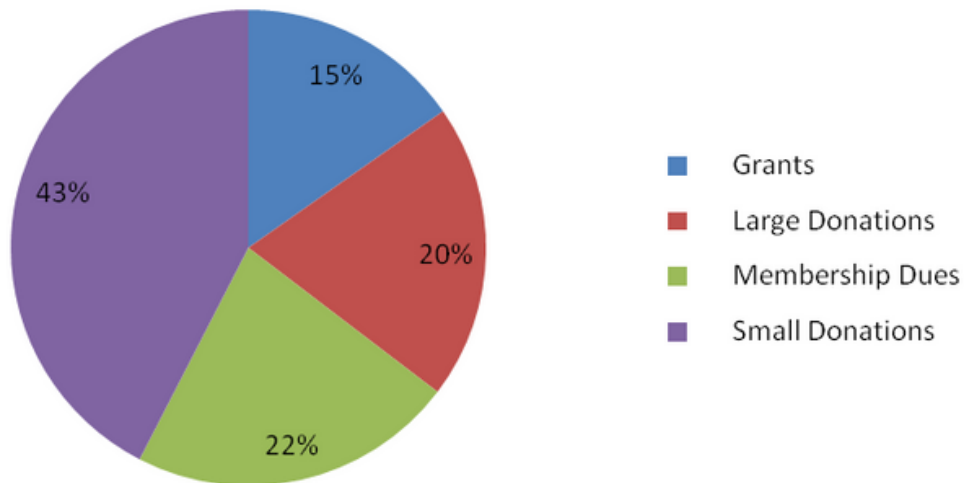
Hickory Nut Gorge Access Expansion

We are continually working with various partners to preserve and expand climbing access within the greater Hickory Nut Gorge. Since 2021, we have been involved with the Rutherford County Trails Collaborative and have spearheaded many great access and stewardship projects with partners such as the Rutherford Outdoor Coalition, Conserving Carolina, Chimney Rock State Park, the Town of Lake Lure, and the Village of Chimney Rock. We look forward to expanding climbing access in the Hickory Nut Gorge.

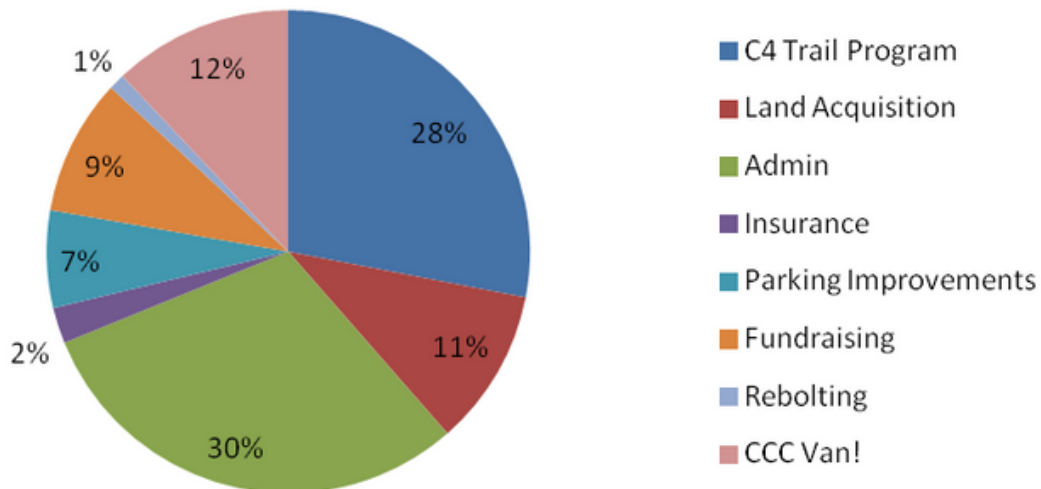
2022 Financial Summary

Your Support in Action

2022 Revenue \$242,253

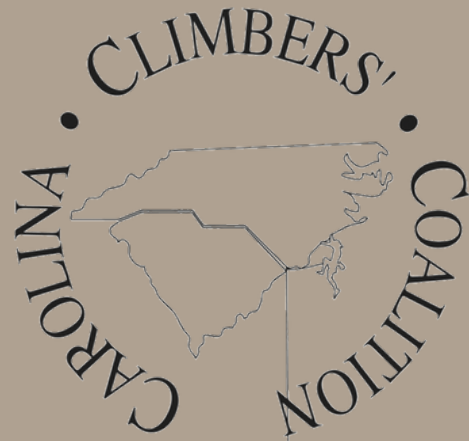


2022 Expense \$245,000



Become a CCC Member

Membership dues are the primary way we fund acquisitions and initiatives that preserve and protect the climbing areas we treasure in the Carolinas. Support the CCC with your annual membership! Scan the QR code or go to carolinaclimbers.org/join to become a member.



Stay in the Loop. Follow Us on Social Media

IG @carolinaclimberscoalition

FB @Carolina Climbers Coalition

YouTube Carolina Climbers Coalition