

SUMMER 2026 C4 REPORT



Our C4 crew just wrapped an incredible summer of trail work. Across ten different lands, our team and volunteers logged over 1,000 hours building staircases, hauling rock, removing invasive kudzu, and keeping climbing access sustainable for years to come at well loved climbing areas.

C4 SUMMER STATS

- 7 staircases built
- 6 retaining walls installed
- 1,100 square feet of invasive species removed
- 4,667 miles traveled by the C4 team this summer
- 1000+ volunteer hours logged



VOLUNTEER CREWS

The Knob Boulders Trail Daze of Summer Event



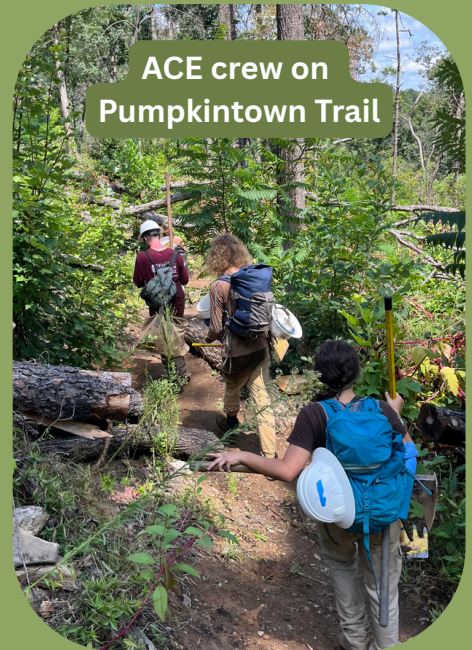
Ghost Town Trail Build



Laural Knob Trail Daze of Summer Event



ACE crew on Pumpkintown Trail



Linville Gorge Amphitheater Biological Survey



VOLUNTEER CREWS

Big Rock Trail Day



Sauratown Trail Daze of Summer Event



Buckeye Knob Trail Daze of Summer Event



Moore's Wall Sentinel Butte Trail Day



Jump Off Rock Graffiti Removal & Trash Pickup



SAURATOWN STEWARDSHIP



Our C4 crew and CCC volunteers spent 3 days working the trail at Sauratown, capped off by our Trail Daze of Summer event on July 11. Thank you to everyone who came out to dig, haul rock, and get their hands dirty. This work is made possible with support from the Dr. Dave Gilbert Sauratown Fund.

SAURATOWN SUMMER STATS

- 3 volunteer trail days
- 21 volunteers
- 195 hours of trail work
- 4 new rock structures built
- 3 retaining walls installed
- 100 square feet of invasive kudzu removed



SAURATOWN ROCK WORK

BEFORE



AFTER



SAURATOWN KUDZU REMOVAL



BEFORE



AFTER

Kudzu is a highly invasive plant that destroys the ecological integrity of forests. It also clogs trails and access points, and grows incredibly fast — a foot a day is common. This year, we've focused kudzu control efforts at Sauratown and Ghost Town.

Simply cutting the vine barely slows it down; real control means digging up the crowns or treating larger patches directly. Even then, clearing a single patch for good is a multi-year effort. We are committed to removing invasive kudzu on CCC lands!



BEFORE



AFTER

AMPHITHEATER STEWARDSHIP



This July marked the start of work on the Amphitheater Trail in Linville Gorge, a multi-season project that will run through summer 2028. Climbers share this landscape with rare and sensitive species, and the current phase involves partnering with biologists and trail specialists to finalize a trail alignment that avoids sensitive plant life in the Gorge. Access Fund will be supporting our work through a NC RTP grant. Thank you Access Fund! We will also hire the Access Fund Conservation Team to work on this project thanks to funding from the USFS. We're grateful to the Grandfather District of USFS, Wild South, Conservation Corps North Carolina, and Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards for their contributions to the project so far.



JUMP OFF ROCK



This summer, our C4 team, volunteers, and the crew from Basecamp Boulders in Hendersonville joined together for a major graffiti and trash removal effort at Jump Off Rock. The before-and-after photos say it all. Huge thanks to these volunteers!



TRAIL DAZE OF SUMMER



Trail Daze of Summer 2026 — By the Numbers

- 100+ volunteers engaged in stewardship
- 10 different lands stewarded by C4 and volunteers
- 1,000+ volunteer hours logged
- 17 volunteers attended at least 3 trail days this summer

The season wrapped up on August 29th with over 60 people at two simultaneous trail days, one at The Knob Boulders & Nature Preserve, one at Buckeye Knob. Both crews put in serious work at their climbing areas, then regrouped in downtown Boone for the End of Daze party.

Thanks to Black Diamond and On the Road and Off for making Trail Daze of Summer possible, to Footsloggers and Rock Dimensions Inc. for hosting End of Daze, and to Blue Ridge Conservancy for protecting The Knob (formerly Howard Knob) and partnering with us on this trail day. We can't wait to do it all again next summer!



ADDITIONAL SUMMER TRAIL WORK

- Pumpkintown: 2 miles of trail maintained
- Slick Rock: 1 mile of trail maintained, 1 retaining wall installed
- Wildcat: 2 staircases, 2 retaining walls installed
- Big Rock: 2 staircases installed



STEWARDSHIP SUPPORTERS



Thank you to the following partners for supporting stewardship at these areas.

All of work across the National Forests, including the Linville Gorge Amphitheater and south side of Looking Glass Trails, are supported by the National Forest Foundation and the USFS – National Forests in North Carolina.

Big Rock and Pumpkintown are supported by Pickens County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism.

Jump Off Rock and Laurel Knob Walk Off Path are supported by Trust for Public Lands.

Sauratown is supported by the Dr. Dave Gilbert Sauratown Fund.

Ghost Town Trail is supported by the Great Trails State Program, Conserving Carolina and the Complete the Trails Program, and Rutherford County TDA

Ghost Town Acquisition is supported by the Great Trails State Program, RHI Legacy Foundation, Access Fund, OnX Maps.

Moore's Wall Sentinel Buttress work is supported by Appalachian Climbing School

Buckeye and The Knob Trail Daze events are supported by On the Road and Off and Blue Ridge Conservancy

**Thank you to everyone
who worked on the trail
with us this summer!**

