

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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HOUSE BILL 1577

Short Title: Central Park of North Carolina Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Goodwin, Culp, and Gibson (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Appropriations.

May 2, 2005

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO ESTABLISH THE CENTRAL PARK OF
3 NORTH CAROLINA.

4 Whereas, the Central Park Strategy was created by a consensus of the region's
5 leadership to restructure the economies of seven rural counties in central North Carolina
6 through new entrepreneurial growth based on the natural and cultural resources of the
7 region; and

8 Whereas, the seven central North Carolina counties of Richmond, Stanly,
9 Anson, Rowan, Davidson, Montgomery, and Randolph that are included in the Central
10 Park of North Carolina have collectively lost more than 18,000 jobs over the last five
11 years and many more during the previous decade as manufacturing jobs, particularly
12 textile jobs, were exported overseas; and

13 Whereas, there is a great need for new entrepreneurial business growth that is
14 based on the natural and cultural resources of the Central Park region and that will not
15 be exported from our State; and

16 Whereas, researchers at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte
17 predicted that the development of the Central Park Strategy will conservatively generate
18 an additional 25,700 jobs and \$2.1 billion of annual economic impact by 2025; Now,
19 therefore,

20 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

21 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to The
22 Yadkin/Pee Dee Lakes Project, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, the sum of seven hundred
23 seventy-five thousand dollars (\$775,000) for the 2005-2006 fiscal year and the sum of
24 seven hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$775,000) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.
25 These funds shall be allocated for the biennium as follows:

- 26 (1) \$650,000 for recycling of an abandoned textile mill in the
27 Montgomery County Town of Star for use as a creative enterprises
28 incubator known as STARworks.

- 1 (2) \$500,000 for the Central Park Small Town Area Revitalization
2 program, which will transform seven rural communities through civic
3 engagement, entrepreneurial development, tourism infrastructure
4 creation, historic preservation, and community design.
- 5 (3) \$250,000 for the development of four themed Central Park heritage
6 trails that will incorporate nine of the State's Scenic Byways into a
7 Settler's Trail, Birding and Natural History Trail, Transportation and
8 Industry Trail, and an Agriculture Trail, with interpretive kiosks and
9 signage.
- 10 (4) \$100,000 for the "Preservation through Transition Agricultural
11 Initiative," which will restore farm incomes, preserve farmland,
12 promote community-based food systems, and strengthen rural
13 communities and farmers by connecting them to the State's urban
14 markets.
- 15 (5) \$50,000 to support the development and promotion of cycling
16 opportunities in the Central Park because cycling is an extremely
17 attractive demographic and the fastest growing active outdoor pursuit
18 in the United States.

19 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2005.