The Perry N. Rudnick Nature Trail opened May 2002 on the 50 acres surrounding the UNC Asheville Kellogg Conference Center and the Craft, Creativity and Design in Hendersonville, North Carolina. The one-mile trail meanders through three distinct ecosystems—trillium and fern wetland, hardwood forest with rhododendron and mountain laurel, and wildflower meadow. Through a generous four-year grant from the Perry N. Rudnick Foundation, and the labor of the volunteer Carolina Mountain Club and residents from surrounding neighborhoods, bridges were built over streams, boardwalks over wetland, and a tumbledown larger bridge over pools was reconstructed. The Hendersonville Botanical Club created inventories of the plants and the Audubon Society tracked birds through the seasons.

The Perry N. Rudnick grant also supported the commissioning of art to be located throughout the trail as a demonstration of the ability of public art to enhance and/or interpret the natural environment on a trail or greenway. After 5 years there are 14 public art works on the grounds and trail. Two trail sculptures received support from the North Carolina Arts Council, Public Art and Community Design program.

This map provides information on the artists featured and their work. Information on plants are found on interpretive signs along the trail. Artist information and the plant and bird inventories can be found on www.craftcreativitydesign.org under Community.
The Perry N. Rudnick Nature and Public Art Trail

SURROUNDING THE CRAFT CENTER

1. David Nash, 2003
   Seven Charmed Lumps, charred locust
   David Nash, British wood sculptor and land artist, was selected for the first CCCD International Artist Residency. The three-week residency took place at Penland School of Crafts, with faculty and students from East Carolina University, UNC Asheville, Western Carolina University and Appalachian State University. 58 works were produced in the residency to form an exhibit that toured North Carolina in 2003. Nash has work in contemporary museums throughout the world.

2. Scott Strader, 2001
   Moonshadow, stainless steel
   Atlanta sculptor and UNC Asheville alumni Scott Strader donated the eight foot high sculpture at the entry to the Center for Craft, Creativity and Design galleries.

   Bound by Tradition, cement, bupart, steel, mosaic
   An outdoor sculpture by Fred and Kato Guggenheim, whose work has been recognized by numerous public and private collections including the Weatherspoon Museum, UNCG Greensboro, NC; North Carolina Zoological Park, Asheboro, NC; City of Raleigh and Maitland Museum in Maitland, FL. He and his wife, artist Jan Chenoweth, own two Oakes Studio in Chattanooga, TN. www.2oaksstudio.com

4. Vollis Simpson, 2004
   Whirligig, found and painted metal objects
   North Carolina folk artist, Vollis Simpson began his art career after retiring. His assemblages, some over 40 ft in height, have movable parts that are activated by wind. His work was selected for the Atlanta Olympic Park and is in the collection of the North Carolina Museum of Art.

5. Fred Guggenheim/Kato Guggenheim, 2004
   Seven Charred Lumps, charred locust
   Fred Guggenheim’s sculpture inspired by ferns opening in early spring was the first public art commissioned for the nature trail. Fred's curvilinear sculptures and mobiles in cement, steel and aluminum can be seen in numerous public settings throughout the east coast. The North Carolina Arts Council assisted in the placement of this sculpture by awarding a Creating Place: Community and Public Art and Design Implementation Grant. www.FredMcDaniel.com.

   Wetland Trail Bench, curved stainless base, curved mahogany top
   A 2003 graduate of UNC Asheville, a design by Robin for a commissioned bench on the trail was selected from student proposals from the three mountain campuses.

7. Dan Millspaugh, 1998
   Ruins, steel/bronze
   A founding board member of the Center for Craft, Creativity and Design, Dan contributed this sculpture to the trail following a outdoor sculpture exhibition in 2006. He received is MFA from, and has been a UNC Asheville sculpture faculty since 1981 directing and participating in iron pours throughout the region.

8. TRAIL HEAD—entry to the Rudnick Trail

9. Roger Halligan, 2004
   Trail Headstone, reinforced concrete, forged, welded steel
   The second public art commission for the Rudnick Nature Trail was designed to mark the trail head. The sculpture received his MFA from the University of Georgia and was an exhibit designer for the North Carolina Arts Council. Public Art and Community Design programs. As a bronze handle at the top of a mound of moss-covered stones is pulled and the bell sounds soft and muted in the hollow space beneath. A graduate of Clemson University and resident of South Carolina, Tilghma’s public art has been commissioned throughout the South.

    Meadow Trail Bench, welded scrap/ found metal
    This unique “bench” features a planter seat that is watered by rainwater through funnels. A second bench commissioned from student proposals, Sean, also known as “Jim,” graduated from UNC Asheville in 2004.

11. Rudy Rudisill, 2001
    The Mother House, fabricated steel washed with muriatic acid, coated in wax
    The fourth public art commission, Mother House, is by Rudy Rudisill, a working artist for over 25 years. The bulging lower section of the piece—you might say—is “pregnant with possibilities.” The opening on the lower side of the piece reveals a set of stairs representing the journey, the rising above from one generation to the next. His fabricated sheet metal sculpture has won international awards and can be found in public, corporate and private collections in North America, Europe, and Asia.

12. Cynthia Wynn, 2002
    Chair, welded and cut scrap metal
    Donation of work by Cynthia Wynn who studied with UNC Asheville sculptor Dan Millspaugh. Cynthia has won awards and commissions throughout the southeast with her furniture and sculpture created from scrap metal she has collected. www.iamfurniture.com