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Title:

Comments:

Hello! I live in North Carolina and volunteer with the Carolina Mountain Club to keep the trails around Asheville walkable and safe. Our work extends to sections of the AT over at Max Patch, and I'm sad to report that Max Patch is in dire condition. It has become typical for camper density to exceed 100 tents on many weekends, and human feces, toilet paper, trash, and camping items are familiar sights left behind by each influx of campers.

The current parking area is unable to handle this many visitors, resulting in cars dangerously blocking traffic and preventing emergency vehicles from accessing the area. These issues of inadequate facilities are compounded by the campers leaving litter at the summit and destroying signage and fencing. Considering the high popularity of Max Patch, this lack of infrastructure is both worrying and unsafe.

I see many projects in NC on this list that rehab or build new toilets and parking on much lesser used sites. While I'm happy to see many familiar sites getting upgrades, this project is sorely needed and would have a higher impact on more visitors than many other toilet/parking projects on this list.

Our outdoors are especially important in times like these where reconnecting with nature can mean the world to someone alone in quarantine. I see great value and beauty in Max Patch, as do hundreds of campers and many of my friends in the Carolina Mountain Club, and I'd like you to help us keep it open and clean by adding Max Patch to your list of projects.

Best Wishes,
Harris Kopp