



# Overmountain Victory State Trail Plan: 2022-2027

## OVNCST-Friends

- **Planned Length:** 225 miles
- **Miles Designated:** 0

- **Complete the Trails Funds:** \$1,614,053
- **Capacity Funds:** \$49,500

### Capacity Building Funds:

OVNCST-Friends will use our capacity building funds to hire a part-time Executive Director to complete administrative duties and cover administrative costs for FY 22–23 and FY 23–24. Funding will also be used to develop a website to increase awareness of the organization and trail and fund a contractor for project development and oversight services as needed.

#### Deliverables:

Deliverable	Cost
Part-time Executive Director (15 hours/month @ \$30/hour)	\$10,800
Administrative Costs (PO Box, 3-5 year plan development, etc.)	\$11,500
Website Development and Hosting (contract)	\$15,000
Project Development Services (contract)	\$12,200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$49,500</b>

### Trail Development

#### Elizabethton to Spruce Pine (18 miles – NC portions only)

1. **Section Master Plan:** Avery/Mitchell Counties (\$100,000) 18 miles; A section master plan needs to be completed for the OVT from the NC state line to Spruce Pine.

#### Spruce Pine to Lake James (56 miles)

1. **Blair Property Project:** Mitchell County (\$97,152) 2 miles; The proposed trail construction project will cross Tom Blair's property beginning at Halltown Road and ending at Cathis (Cathy's) Creek.
2. **Grassy Creek Boardwalk:** Mitchell County (\$34,500) 200 linear feet; The proposed boardwalk project will be constructed along a portion of the existing Grassy Creek Trail segment.
3. **Lynn Gap Trailhead:** Mitchell/McDowell Counties (\$57,500); The proposed construction project will develop and formalize an existing trailhead at Lynn Gap.
4. **Big Lynn Lodge Project:** McDowell County (\$15,144) 0.25 miles; The proposed trail construction project will be constructed from the existing Lynn Gap trailhead to the Big Lynn Lodge property line and interpretive sign.
5. **Minerals Museum Trailhead:** Mitchell County (\$57,500); The proposed construction project will develop and formalize an existing trailhead at the BRP Minerals Museum.
6. **North Cove Land/Easement Acquisition Project:** McDowell County (\$50,000); This proposed land acquisition project will connect FCNC property and existing OVT trailhead to USFS property leading up to Linville Mountain.
7. **North Cove Elementary School Project:** McDowell County (\$99,581) 2.05 miles; The proposed trail construction project will connect North Cove Elementary School along American Thread Road to Good Road and the existing North Fork of the Catawba River Mountains-to-Sea State Trail bridge crossing.
8. **North Fork of the Catawba River Project:** McDowell County (\$194,304) 4 miles; The proposed trail construction project will connect the existing North Fork of the Catawba River Mountains-to-Sea State Trail bridge crossing to the existing designated OVT segment on NCWRC game lands north of Black Bear Access Area.
9. **Black Bear Project:** McDowell County (\$170,016) 3.5 miles (Partnership with F3ST); This proposed trail construction will join Duke Energy's FFST trail to a gravel USFS road to the east.
10. **Old 105 Trailhead:** Burke County (\$34,500) (Partnership with FMST); This proposed trail construction project will develop and formalize an existing trailhead for the MST/OVT along old Hwy 105.
11. **Paddy's Creek Extension Project:** Burke County (\$48,576) 1 mile; This proposed trail construction project will connect Lake James State Park with FCNC property upstream on Paddy's Creek.
12. **Paddy's Creek Land/Easement Acquisition Project:** Burke County (\$1,000,000); This proposed land acquisition project will connect FCNC property upstream on Paddy's Creek to USFS property bounded by old Hwy 105.
13. **1780/Enclave:** Burke County (\$213,696) 2.2 miles (Partnership with F3ST and Burke County); This proposed trail construction will connect the existing OVT/FFST trail ending at Campbell's Trace to South Mountain Institute Road at the McDowell County Line.

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### Lake James to Morganton (20 miles)

1. **Canal Bridge Project:** Burke County (\$355,000) 0.2 miles (Partnership with F3ST and Burke County); This proposed bridge project will connect the completed/existing portion of trail from Lake James State Park – Paddy’s Creek to Lake James State Park – Catawba River. The OVT/FFST will run across the bridge with a DOT-approved plan of a concrete sidewalk. Canal Bridge is a crucial connector for ensuring OVT/FFST users can safely navigate traffic and it will connect the two sections of Lake James State Park with the OVT/FFST trail.
2. **Paddy’s Creek East Project:** Burke County (\$250,008) 2.5 miles (Partnership with F3ST and Burke County); This proposed trail construction will connect the future Benfields section of the OVT/FFST (described below) from roughly Corpening Chapel Road to Bridgewater Boat Launch.
3. **Benfields Project:** Burke County (\$337,910) 2.5 mile (Partnership with F3ST and Burke County); This proposed trail construction will connect the incomplete OVT/FFST trail at Lake James State Park – Catawba River and extend to Corpening Chapel Road.
4. **North Bend:** Burke County (\$225,522) 2.4 miles (Partnership with F3ST and Burke County); This proposed trail construction will connect completed/existing OVT/FFST terminating at Harris Whisnant Road to the then eventual Powerhouse section of the trail, described below.
5. **Powerhouse:** Burke County (\$830,774) 2.1 miles (Partnership with F3ST and Burke County); This proposed trail construction will connect Powerhouse Road to the then completed North Bend section of the trail.

### Elkin to W Scott Kerr Reservoir (28 miles)

1. **Smoot Park Trailhead Gateway:** Wilkes County (\$57,500) (Partnership with Town of North Wilkesboro); This proposed trailhead project will enhance the existing trailhead to increase awareness of the OVT.
2. **Cub Creek Connector:** Wilkes County (\$89,700) 0.75 miles (Partnership with Town of Wilkesboro); This proposed trail construction project will connect the planned Yadkin River Greenway with Cub Creek Park in Wilkesboro at the confluence of the Yadkin River and Cub Creek.
3. **Little Cub Creek Connector:** Wilkes County (\$82,800) 0.6 miles (Partnership with Town of Wilkesboro); This proposed trail construction project will connect the Cub Creek Connector above south to the Cub Creek Park boundary.
4. **Cub Creek Bridge:** Wilkes County (\$143,750) 125 linear feet (Partnership with Town of Wilkesboro); This proposed bridge project will connect planned greenway on each side of Cub Creek along the Yadkin River corridor.
5. **Smoot Park Bridge:** Wilkes County (\$460,000) (Partnership with Yadkin River Greenway Council); This proposed 150’ bridge project will connect Smoot Park across the Yadkin River to existing Yadkin River Greenway.

### W Kerr Scott Reservoir to Lenoir (25 miles)

1. **Section Master Plan:** Wilkes/Caldwell Counties (\$100,000) 25 miles; A section master plan needs to be completed for the OVT from the W. Kerr Scott Reservoir to Lenoir.

### Lenoir to Morganton (20 miles)

1. **John’s River Game Lands Project:** Burke County (\$388,608) 8 miles; This proposed trail construction project will cross NCWRC property beginning at Putnam Road and ending at Johns River Access Area.
2. **Significant Infrastructure for Wetlands Area:** Burke County (for above segment) (\$1,150,000); This proposed wetland infrastructure project will provide sections of boardwalk trail across wetland areas on the Johns River Game Lands trail segment.

### Morganton to Rutherfordton (29 miles)

1. **South Mountains State Park Project:** Burke County (\$97,152) 2 miles (Partnership with FCNC–WGST); This proposed trail construction project will cross SOMO property from the proposed Roper Hollow Road trailhead north to the property boundary (may offer a short loop option).
2. **Roper Hollow Road Trailhead:** Burke County (\$345,000) (Partnership with FCNC–WGST); This proposed construction project will develop a trailhead for hikers and equestrians at SOMO at the intersection of US-64 and Roper Hollow Road.
3. **South Mountains Game Lands:** North – Burke/McDowell Counties (\$291,456) 6 miles (Partnership with FCNC–WGST); This proposed trail construction project will connect the Roper Hollow Road Trailhead with the existing NCWRC US-64 Trailhead.
4. **South Mountains Game Lands – South:** McDowell County (\$170,016) 3.5 miles (Partnership with FCNC–WGST); This proposed trail construction project will connect the existing NCWRC US-64 Trailhead to the US-64 WGST Trailhead.
5. **US-64 WGST/OVT Trailhead:** McDowell County (\$172,500) (Partnership with FCNC–WGST); This proposed construction project will develop a trailhead for hikers on FCNC property adjacent to US 64 and serve both the WGST and OVT.

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- 6. US-64 Land/Easement Acquisition Project:** McDowell County (\$1,000,000) (Partnership with FCNC–WGST); This proposed land acquisition project will connect gaps along US-64 for the WGST and OVT including Cane Creek Battlefield if needed.
- 7. Camp Bud Schiele Connector:** Rutherford County (\$97,152) 2 miles; This proposed trail construction project will connect BSA Camp Bud Schiele to Brittain Presbyterian Church.

### Rutherfordton to Chesnee (30 miles – NC portions only)

- 1. Norris Recreation Complex:** Phase I – Rutherford County (\$30,360) 0.25 miles (Partnership with Town of Rutherfordton); This proposed construction project will cross the Norris Recreation Complex property.

### Complete the Trail (CTF) Projects:

- 1. Section Master Plan:** NC State Line to Spruce Pine (\$100,000) 18 miles
- 2. Section Master Plan:** W. Kerr Scott Reservoir to Lenoir (\$100,000) 25 miles
- 3. Norris Recreation Complex:** Phase I (\$30,360) 0.25 miles; The Town of Rutherfordton has secured funding from local partners and submitted a 2022 PARTF application to help fund park development on this town-owned property.
- 4. Cub Creek Connector:** (\$89,700) 0.75 miles; Questions about funding eligibility for this project due to existing certified trail. The Town of Wilkesboro has secured funding for a portion of this project.
- 5. Smoot Park Trailhead Gateway:** (\$57,500); The Town of North Wilkesboro may be completing additional improvements at Smoot Park in the near future.
- 6. Black Bear Project:** (\$170,016) 3.5 miles (Partnership with F3ST and Burke County)
- 7. Old 105 Trailhead:** (\$33,000) (Partnership with FMST)
- 8. Cathis (Cathy's) Creek Project:** (\$97,152) 2 miles
- 9. Grassy Creek Boardwalk:** (\$34,500) 200 feet
- 10. Lynn Gap Trailhead:** (\$57,500); Possibly leverage with MCTDA funds.
- 11. Big Lynn Lodge Project:** (\$15,144) 0.25 miles; Possibly leverage with MCTDA funds.
- 12. US 64 WGST/OVT Trailhead:** (\$172,500) (Partnership with FCNC–WGST)
- 13. South Mountains Game Lands South:** (\$170,016) 5 miles (Partnership with FCNC–WGST)
- 14. Paddy's Creek East Project:** (\$250,008) 2.5 miles (Partnership with F3ST and Burke County)
- 15. Benfields Project:** (\$337,910) 2.5 mile (Partnership with F3ST and Burke County)
- 16. North Bend:** (\$225,522) 2.4 miles (Partnership with F3ST and Burke County)
- 17. Powerhouse:** (\$830,774) 2.1 miles (Partnership with F3ST and Burke County)
- 18. Canal Bridge Project:** (\$355,000) 0.2 miles (Partnership with F3ST and Burke County)

*\* Estimated costs are for the entire project. Partnerships with other agencies and organizations will reduce OVNCST-Friends costs if costs are shared.*

### 2023 Year of the Trail Celebrations Planned/Anticipated:

- OVNCST will assist partners to have all existing NPS certified sections of trail designated as State Trail.
- Canal Bridge Grand Opening – September 1, 2023

### Needed technical/other assistance needed from State Parks:

- Facilitation of discussions with co-aligned State Trails to address maintenance needs.