



## French Broad River State Trail Plan: 2022-2027

### MountainTrue

■ **Planned Length:** 115 miles

■ **Complete the Trails Funds:** \$210,375

■ **Miles Designated:** 115\*

■ **Capacity Funds:** \$49,500

*\*All accesses still need to be designated*

### Capacity Building Funds:

Hire paddle trail recreation manager to oversee the implementation of the state funds, as well as organize and coordinate all aspects of managing the paddle trail. This will include coordinating with partners, business and marketing planning, reservation system coordination, upkeep on access points and campsites, paddle trail guidebook management, and website upgrades

### Trail Development

MountainTrue will work closely with our partners to improve and expand the paddle trail in several areas. The first will be developing a business and marketing plan for the next five years. Next will include improving the existing infrastructure that already exists along the paddle trail. This includes several of the existing campsites and access points. Finally, we will work to expand access and paddle trail amenities, including a new access in Transylvania County, permanent public access in Hot Springs and the proposed Woodfin Wave.

### Segment 1: Transylvania County (36 miles)

- Implement mileage signage for the entire river trail in coordination with state paddle trail designs and with local governments.
- Coordinate with NCDOT and partners to implement signage on bridges where permitted, able and applicable.
- Upgrade paddle trail website
- Riverbend campsite – add additional campsites, new steps, viewing platform, boat slide, and drinking water
- Little River campsite – new steps, boat slide, and drinking water
- Transylvania County River access improvements – work to implement a portion of the Transylvania County River access improvements identified in a recent study for the county.
  - Fundraise for this effort from the Transylvania County Tourism Development Authority.
- Work on construction of new Transylvania County access

### Segment 2: Henderson County (19 miles)

- Implement mileage signage for the entire river trail in coordination with state paddle trail designs and with local governments
- Upgrade paddle trail website
- Coordinate with NCDOT and partners to implement signage on bridges where permitted, able and applicable
- Mud Creek campsite – water, boat slide, upgrade compost toilet, and upgraded river access, and potential river access on mud creek
- Open up Mud Creek from debris jams and install access points and signage

### Segment 3: Buncombe County (31 miles)

- Implement mileage signage for the entire river trail in coordination with state paddle trail designs and with local governments
- Coordinate with NCDOT and partners to implement signage on bridges where permitted, able and applicable
- Upgrade paddle trail website
- Firefighter Island campsite – new river access
- Woodfin Wave – work with a diverse coalition of partners to help fundraise and push along the Woodfin Wave project

### Segment 4: Madison County (29 miles)

- Implement mileage signage for the entire river trail in coordination with state paddle trail designs and with local governments
- Coordinate with NCDOT and partners to implement signage on bridges where permitted, able and applicable
- Upgrade paddle trail website
- Evan's Island campsite – rebuild compost toilet and new river access
- Stackhouse river access improvements to allow for additional private boater parking and improved access
- Work with NOC and other partners for permanent public access is Hot Springs

## *French Broad State Trail Plan 2022-2027*

### **Complete the Trail (CTF) Projects:**

1. Hire French Broad Paddle Trail manager – \$50,000
2. Complete business and marketing planning and implementation – \$10,000
3. Upgrade paddle trail website – \$15,000
4. Implement river access signage – \$15,000
5. Complete improvements to Riverbend campsite – \$15,000
6. Complete improvements to Little River campsite – \$12,000
7. Complete improvements to Mud Creek campsite – \$20,000
8. Complete improvements to Firefighter Island campsite – \$10,000
9. Complete improvements to Evan's Island campsite – \$10,000
10. Implement Transylvania County new river access – \$25,000 (funds leverage from Transylvania County tourism development authority, Conserving Carolina and NC Wildlife Resources)
11. Open up Mud Creek from debris jams and work on signage and new river access points - \$35,000
12. Complete improvements to Stackhouse river access – \$35,000
13. Work to implement Woodfin Wave project – \$50,000
14. Work for permanent public access in Hot Springs – \$75,000

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

- Host a public paddle to highlight paddle trail improvements in Transylvania County
- Host an overnight guided trip to highlight and discuss history and evolution of the paddle trail
- Host a forum and paddle in Madison County with river managers and water quality experts to discuss next current management, future challenges, and next steps
- Submit press release and social media highlighting the paddle trail improvements

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

- Possible help coordinating with NC DOT on bridge signage for paddle trail