



Fonta Flora State Trail Plan: 2022-2027

Friends of Fonta Flora State Trail

- **Planned Length:** 100 miles
- **Complete the Trails Funds:** \$502,150
- **Miles Designated:** 18.7
- **Capacity Funds:** \$49,500

Capacity Building Funds:

F3ST will use our capacity-building funds to pay approximately 40% of the salary of our full-time Executive Director over FY 22–23 and FY 23–24. It is only through the support of our members and local municipalities that we are able to complete this full-time position funding.

The ED position will:

- Work with regional partners to identify, prioritize, and plan for FFST trail projects.
- Distribute Complete the Trails funds to regional partners for project completion.
- Act as a resource for regional partners who have received grant funds and maintain records, a timeline, and completion date for each project.
- Grow a Volunteer program for FFST and work with existing trail volunteers in local municipalities and other outdoor recreation groups.
- Build F3ST Membership to support our operational mission.
- Create and implement a yearly event calendar to fundraise for FFST projects, including providing matching grant funds.
- Apply for applicable grants for feasibility studies, trail design, construction, maintenance, signposting, and community needs.
- All other applicable organizational needs, including Board and administrative duties, as needed.

Trail Development

Segment 1: Morganton to Lake James (20 miles)

1. **FCNC Oak Hill Park:** (\$94,750) 3.79 miles; This proposed trail construction will connect FCNC's Oak Hill Park to an existing portion of FFST at the Morganton Greenway near Freedom High School.
2. **City of Morganton:** (\$25,000) 1 mile; This proposed trail construction will connect NC 126 from Stephens Rd to Independence Blvd.
3. **Burke County:** (\$20,000) 0.75 mile; This proposed trail construction will connect Oak Hill Park to Stephens Rd.

Segment 2: Lake James (30 miles)

1. **Canal Bridge Project:** (\$355,000) 0.2 miles (Partnership with OVT); 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. FFST will run across the bridge with a DOT-approved plan of a concrete sidewalk. Canal Bridge is a crucial connector for ensuring FFST users can safely navigate traffic and it will connect the two sections of Lake James State Park with FFST trail.
2. **Priority:** 1780/Enclave (\$213,696) 2.2 miles (Partnership with OVT); This proposed trail construction will connect existing FFST trail ending at Campbell's Trace to the McDowell County Line.
3. **Paddy's Creek Project:** (\$250,008) 2.5 miles (Partnership with OVT); This proposed trail construction will connect the future Benfields section of the FFST (described below) from roughly Corpening Chapel Road to Bridgewater Boat Launch.
4. **Benfields Project:** (\$337,910) 2.5 mile (Partnership with OVT); This proposed trail construction will connect the incomplete FFST trail at Lake James State Park – Catawba River and extend to Corpening Chapel Road.
5. **North Bend:** (\$225,522) 2.4 miles (Partnership with OVT); This proposed trail construction will connect completed/ existing FFST terminating at Harris Whisnant Road to the then eventual Powerhouse section of the trail, described below.
6. **Powerhouse:** (\$830,774) 2.1 miles (Partnership with OVT); This proposed trail construction will connect Powerhouse Road to the then completed North Bend section of the trail.

Segment 3: Lake James to Marion (20 miles)

1. **Black Bear Project:** (\$98,750) 3.5 miles; This proposed trail construction will join Duke Energy's FFST trail to the McDowell County Line.

Segment 4: Marion to Old Fort Depot

1. **Old Fort Trailhead/Park and Old Greenlee Connector:** (TBD – Dogwood Health Trust Feasibility Study) (Partnership with Town of Old Fort, McDowell County, and PARTF); This proposed trail construction will connect the Old Fort Park and FFST trailhead to Old Greenlee Road.

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Segment 5: Old Fort Depot to Black Mountain Depot

- 1. Commerce Street to Copper Ridge Trailhead:** (\$31,750) 1.27 miles (Partner with FCNC for Easements and Acquisition); This proposed trail construction will join Commerce St. in downtown Old Fort to the existing Copper Ridge Trailhead.
- 2. Copper Ridge to Point Lookout:** (\$16,250) 0.65 mile (Partnership with USFS); This proposed trail construction will join the existing Copper Ridge FFST trail to Point Lookout.
- 3. Ridgecrest Project:** (\$45,000) 1.8 miles; This proposed trail construction will connect the town of Black Mountain with the community of Ridgecrest from the corner of Charlotte Street and State Street and Ridgecrest Conference Center.

Segment 6: Black Mountain Depot to Warren Wilson College

Segment 7: Warren Wilson College to Asheville

- 1. River Ridge Complex Project:** (\$80,000) 1.29 miles (Partnership with Asheville Unpaved and City of Asheville); This proposed trail construction will join the be the inaugural FFST trail in the City of Asheville, connecting FFST to the Asheville Unpaved series of hubs and neighborhood connectors, a mixed-use unpaved trail system.
- 2. River Ridge Complex – Phase Two:** (\$4,000); This proposed bridge project will provide a footbridge for the River Ridge Complex Trail.
- 3. River Ridge Complex – Phase Three:** (\$35,000); This proposed bridge project will provide a multi-use bridge for the River Ridge Complex Trail.

Complete the Trail (CTF) Projects:

- 1. Canal Bridge Project:** (\$355,000) 0.2 miles (Partnership with OVT)
- 2. Commerce Street to Copper Ridge Trailhead:** (\$31,750) 1.27 miles (Partner with FCNC for Easements and Acquisition) (Dogwood Health Trust Feasibility Study \$90,000)
- 3. Copper Ridge to Point Lookout:** (\$16,250) 0.65 mile (Partnership with USFS) (Dogwood Health Trust Feasibility Study \$90,000)
- 4. River Ridge Complex Project:** (\$80,000) 1.29 miles (Partnership with Asheville Unpaved and City of Asheville)
- 5. 1780/Enclave:** (\$213,696) 2.2 miles (Partnership with OVT)

2023 Year of the Trail Celebrations Planned/Anticipated:

- **Canal Bridge Grand Opening:** September 1, 2023 River Ridge Complex (All Phases) – Spring 2023
- **Year of the Trail “Long Haul” Membership Campaign:** Membership campaign to help maximize trail on the ground funds in 2023. Incentives will include limited-edition F3ST swag for anyone who makes 12 recurring payments during 2023 (minimum of \$5/month).
- **Year of the Trail Photo Contest:** Anyone can take a picture of themselves on FFST and submit their entry on social media by tagging #FFST2023 and be entered to win a monthly prize chosen by F3ST BoD local and regional trail partners. Prizes will feature goods from local businesses to celebrate this wonderful region.
- **100 Mile Challenge (F3ST Version):** A continuation of our challenge from the past two years. Anyone can dedicate themselves to hiking 100 miles in 2023 on FFST or other trails, sign up for the challenge, keep a log, get F3ST swag, and be featured at our annual membership event in April 2024. Business and Corporations can also sponsor a team of up to five people to collectively log 100 miles.
- **History of Fonta Flora Hike-and-Learn:** A hike and learn by a professional historian around sections of FFST at Lake James to learn the history of the Fonta Flora community in the past and present.