

Fonta Flora State Trail – Progress Update

Implementation Work

Terra Tek Trails, a professional trail contractor, began work on the Fonta Flora State Trail – Lake James Section at the Burke County Fonta Flora Park on June 1st. First, small trees, vegetation, and brush in the trail corridor were cut and removed with a chainsaw. Next, a small trackhoe began digging a five foot wide trail tread where trail users will walk, run, and ride. Terra Tek Trails has completed approximately three of the five miles that are planned within the County Park.

In early October, Tri-State Company, Inc., will begin work on trail sections connecting the Fonta Flora County Park with the entrance of the Southpointe Community and the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail (MST). The connection with the MST will allow Fonta Flora County Park visitors to hike to the Linville Gorge and beyond.

Design and layout work will continue through the winter across Lake James State Park and along the Catawba River east of Bridgewater Access. The current plan is to have a total of approximately 10 miles of new trail constructed and an additional 10 miles designed by the summer of 2017.



Planning Work

While design work and construction have been taking place on the ground, Burke County Community Development staff have also been assisting other local governments with planning to begin the efforts to extend the Fonta Flora State Trail from Morganton to Asheville. Resolutions of support for the concept of the State Trail have been passed by Burke County, City of Morganton, Town of Glen Alpine, McDowell County, City of Marion, Town of Old Fort, and the Town of Black Mountain. Buncombe County and the City of Asheville are currently working on and gaining support for resolutions of support as well.



The Town of Black Mountain is currently working with the City of Marion, McDowell County, Town of Old Fort, and Buncombe County to secure grant funding to complete a planning study for the section of the Fonta Flora State Trail that will connect the Old Fort Train Depot with the Black Mountain Train Depot.

On Thursday, December 8, 2016, from 1:00 – 4:00 pm, Burke County will be hosting a stakeholder meeting for the Fonta Flora State Trail at the Community House in Morganton. Local government and land management agency staff, elected officials, and other stakeholders along the planned corridor of the Fonta Flora State Trail will gather to learn more about the history, planning, and current status of the trail.