

Spartanburg County Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail Master Plan



November 2014



Cherokee County OVNHT at Lake Whelchel



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Spartanburg Area Transportation Study (SPATS)

City of Chesnee

Spartanburg Convention & Visitors Bureau

Carolina Foothills Artisan Center

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Spartanburg County Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail Master Plan outlines the steps necessary to promote the history of the trail, preserve natural amenities, conserve historic sites, and provide public recreation facilities through greenway and trail development. This plan is the first step in the process of developing a non-motorized trail that parallels or overlays the primary historic route travelled by the Overmountain men. The trail will allow county residents and visitors to experience history in a whole new way, by walking or biking close to or exactly where the volunteer militia men trod over 230 years ago.

This plan is the result of a six month planning process led by Stewart and the Spartanburg Area Transportation Study (SPATS) and developed by a municipally appointed steering committee made up of county stakeholders, residents, and local and regional representatives. The purpose of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail (OVNHT) is “the identification and protection of the historic route and its historic remnants and artifacts for public use and enjoyment” (Section 3 (c), National Trails System Act). The trail will also connect the people, businesses, and community organizations along the corridor in northeastern Spartanburg County and the City of Chesnee and will promote historical awareness and education, economic development, healthy lifestyles, and the protection of land and sites that make the region unique.

The primary deliverable produced through this planning process is a map that depicts

the recommended trail alignment connecting Spartanburg County residents to this historical Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail from the Spartanburg-Cherokee County Line to the Polk County, North Carolina line. The route was developed using the input provided by county stakeholders and residents, gathered throughout the planning process, as the primary source of guidance. On the Master Plan map, the Proposed Trail is represented with an orange line that is almost 8 miles in length. The pink line denotes the Potential Historical Trail, a trail segment that may be a remaining piece of the original trail travelled by the Overmountain men and requires further historical investigation. The green dashed lines represent Trail Connections to the Potential Historical Trail and Proposed Trail and mark connection opportunities to link the historical trail and the proposed trail. The exact placement of each trail along the corridor will be finalized by Spartanburg County, the City of Chesnee, and the individual land owners as trail segments are developed.

The Spartanburg County Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail Master Plan includes 7.92 miles of trails located along existing sidewalks, existing road right-of-ways and on proposed easements. In addition, a total of 1.35 miles of potential historical trail routes and connection opportunities have been identified.

The development of the Spartanburg County Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail Master Plan will occur over time. Trail segments



will probably be developed one at a time, focusing first on priority segments and taking advantage of trail development partnerships and funding opportunities. As development continues within the county and land uses evolve, trail segment locations and priorities may need to take better advantage of site conditions and connection opportunities. The following steps are recommended to begin the process of transforming planned trail segments into real trails. These steps outline a trail planning process that is fair, consistent, and achievable for the residents of Spartanburg County.

Adopt Master Plan

The Spartanburg County Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail Master Plan map has been approved by the Chesnee City Council. The map and document have been reviewed and approved by Spartanburg Area Transportation Study (SPATS) and the Steering Committee, and accepted by the National Park Service (NPS). By adopting the final master plan, Spartanburg County, the city of Chesnee, and the National Park Service underscore their support for the development of the trail segment within Spartanburg County. Each municipal entity is encouraged to revisit existing zoning and land development ordinances to consider modifications to their ordinances to create trail supporting initiatives. Floodplain development restrictions and regulations, land development regulations, zoning ordinance requirements, and open space dedication requirements should be modified, revised, or created for the protection of the county's environmental resources and development of trails.

Build Public Support

The Spartanburg County Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail Master Plan is a product of the stakeholders and residents of Spartanburg County. This plan was developed by a dedicated group of county stakeholders and residents who served on the Steering Committee. The location of the Spartanburg County OVNHT was based primarily on feedback received from county residents and validated by the steering committee through the master plan process. This master plan should be championed forward by county residents. The next step of the trail development process involves continued public involvement and support for the OVNHT in Spartanburg County.

It is the recommendation of this master plan that Spartanburg County create an Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail Commission or form a chapter of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association (OVTA), comprised of dedicated county residents, government officials, regional entities, local utility providers, state transportation agencies, and historians. This commission will provide input on all Spartanburg County OVNHT trail issues, provide feedback on trail related planning and acquisition decisions, build support for OVNHT trail implementation, and help coordinate the construction and maintenance of trails.

Partnerships with recreation providers and organizations involved with land preservation can be beneficial in the development of trails. Both groups share common goals with trail supporters.



Relationships with such organizations enable municipal entities to offset trail land acquisition, development, and maintenance costs by pooling available funds. Expertise offered by recreation and conservation partners can provide valuable insight for trail construction, trailhead development, access, and land or easement acquisition.

Plan and Develop Priority Greenway Segments

It is unrealistic to expect Spartanburg County and the City of Chesnee to develop the entire non-motorized trail within a short period of time. A phased implementation plan for land acquisition, funding, design, construction, and maintenance of trails is necessary. Initial greenway development efforts

should focus on OVNHT priority trail segments. The following criteria have been developed to identify the priority trail sections within Spartanburg County.

- Public Support
- Availability of Land/Right-of-Way
- Functional Connection
- Population Served
- Partnership Potential
- Funding Availability

Identify Funding and Financing

The completion of the Spartanburg County Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail Master Plan signals the end of the first step in trail development and the beginning of the crucial second step: funding and financing. Spartanburg County



OVNHT at Alexander's Ford - Polk County, North Carolina



must begin to identify funding sources for land acquisition, design, construction, and maintenance of the OVNHT. Many government entities are unable to fully fund the development of every mile of trail using in-house funds. It is recommended that Spartanburg County and the city of Chesnee develop a multi-tiered approach for funding trail development using a variety of financing options, including local, state, federal, private funding sources.

The most effective method for funding the OVNHT and other local trails within Spartanburg County will involve a combination of public and private funding sources. A summary of potential funding sources can be found in Appendix V.

Evaluate Land or Right-of-Way Acquisition Options

The acquisition of land for trail development is an important and necessary step of the trail development process. Land acquisition provides the land resources necessary for development of trails, protects sensitive environmental and natural resources, and preserves historic and cultural treasures. Spartanburg County should utilize a variety of land acquisition methods, which may include purchases, donations, zoning and development regulations, developer contributions, and/or utility easements for the protection and preservation of land for trail development.

Design, Construct, and Maintain Trails

As Spartanburg County, the city of Chesnee, and their partners select a segment(s) of the OVNHT and acquire necessary land and/or easements for the trail, the design and construction of the trail can begin. The county and its trail partners will need to determine the desired use or uses for each trail segment. The trail width and trail surface material will be determined by the desired use(s), existing site conditions, cost of construction, and required level of maintenance. Typical trail surface materials include natural surface, crushed stone, asphalt, and concrete. Appendix VI of the Spartanburg County Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail Master Plan provides further description and trail design guidelines for the development of trails within the Spartanburg County section of the OVNHT.

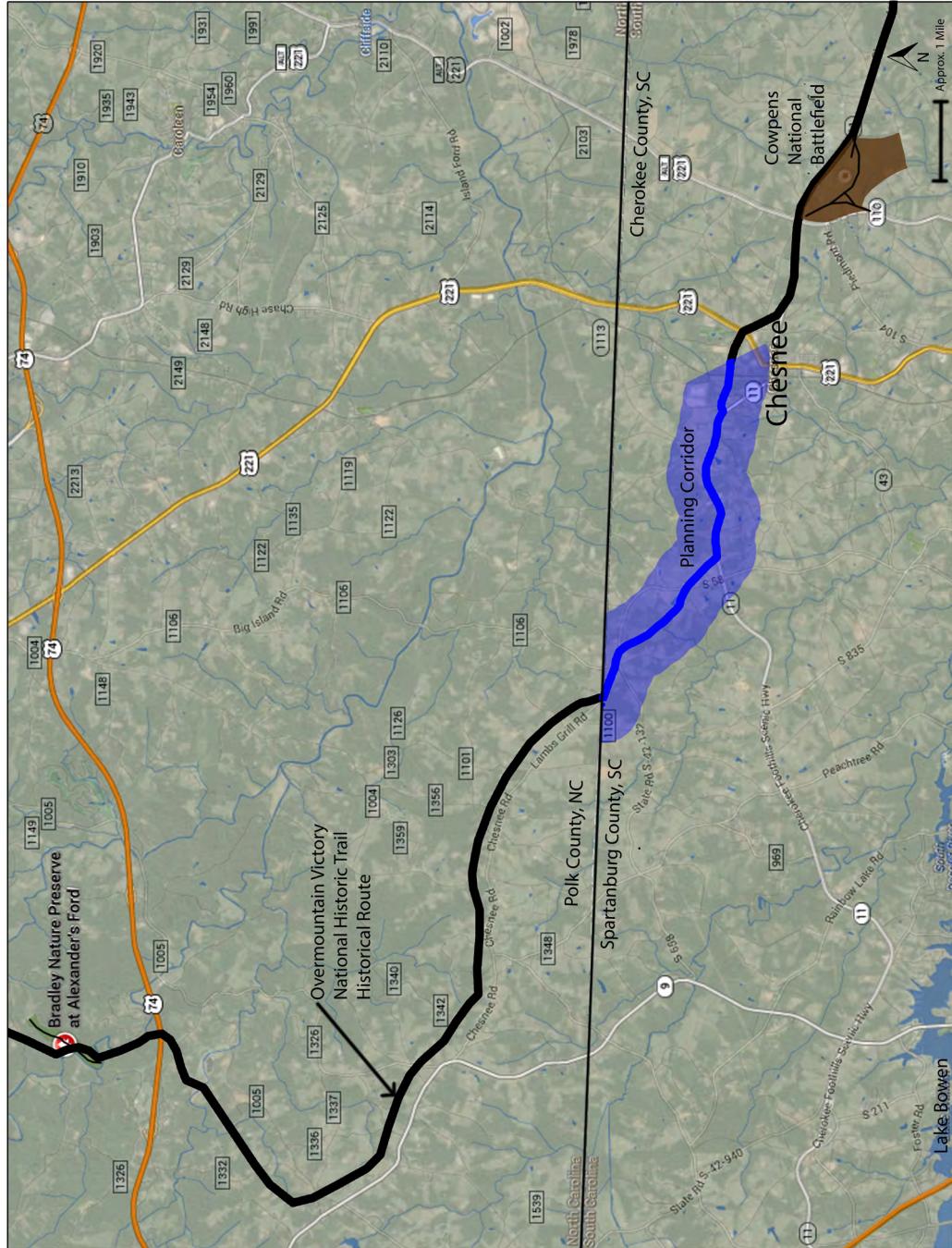
Conclusion

The Spartanburg County Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail Master Plan represents a citizen led collaborative planning process for the development of the OVNHT trail in the northeastern section of Spartanburg County. Now that the master planning process is complete, the next steps are for the stakeholders and citizens of Spartanburg County and the City of Chesnee to transform this plan from lines on a map to trails on the ground. The OVNHT will provide an important historical connection for the region, linking residents to the history and places that make the county and region unique.

JULY 20, 2014
**OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL
VICINITY MAP**

PREPARED FOR:

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PREPARED BY:





OVNHT at Cowpens National Battlefield