

History of the Bella Vista Foundation's involvement with Bella Vista trails and trail benches.

2014 – the Master Trails and Greenways Plan for Bella Vista was funded by the Walton Family Foundation with development of the Plan coordinated by the Bella Vista Foundation. The Bella Vista Foundation retained Alta Planning & Design to help develop the Plan. Several public meetings were held to solicit public input for locations and address safety and privacy issues.

2015 – The Master Trails and Greenways Plan was completed and a 99 page booklet detailing the Plan was created and made available to the public. The City of Bella Vista and Bella Vista POA formally accepted and adopted the Plan which included 155 miles of soft surface trails in Bella Vista and an extension of the hard surface Razorback Greenways trail.

The Bella Vista Foundation began soliciting funds for trail fixtures, principally benches, with Foundation Director Bill Long leading this effort.

The Walton Family Foundation provided a grant to the Trailblazers to construct 40 miles of soft surface trails on the East side of Bella Vista which was named the Back 40 trails.

2016 – The Back 40 trails were completed by the Trailblazers. The Bella Vista Rotary Club contributed funds for trail benches.

2017 – The Bella Vista Foundation received sufficient donations from Bella Vista organizations and individuals to purchase and install 13 trail benches. The Walton Family Foundation provided funding to the Bella Vista Foundation for trees along the trails system as part of the Benton County Tree Planting Master Plan.

2018 – Additional funding was received for 4 additional benches with 2 benches installed on the Back 40 trails and the remaining 2 benches designated for future trails. The middle section of trails had a ground-breaking in September and has been named the Sugar Creek trails.

The Walton Family Foundation provided a grant to the Bella Vista Foundation for an Arboretum at Blowing Springs Park as part of the trails system.

2019 – The Arboretum was completed in March. Total donations received by the Bella Vista Foundation funded 22 trail benches thanks to Bill Long's efforts.

2020- The Bella Vista Foundation received additional funding from the Walton Family Philanthropy Group for tree planting on trails. The Bella Vista Foundation received an

anonymous donation for an additional 16 trail benches. The plaque on the benches donated by the anonymous donor have the inscription “Live Your Dream”.

When all benches have been installed, Bella Vista trails will have 38 trail benches; with total donations to the Bella Vista Foundation for trail benches of more than \$47,000.

This wonderful community endeavor will provide enjoyment for trail users for many years to come.

The Bella Vista Foundation continues to encourage donations for trail benches with Order Forms posted on the Bella Vista Foundation website: [thebellavistafoundation.com](http://thebellavistafoundation.com).

The Foundation greatly appreciates the assistance and cooperation of the City of Bella Vista and the Bella Vista POA for their efforts in completing the purchase and installation of trail benches.

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