7/15/2017



Thompsons Station Preservation Park Trail Project

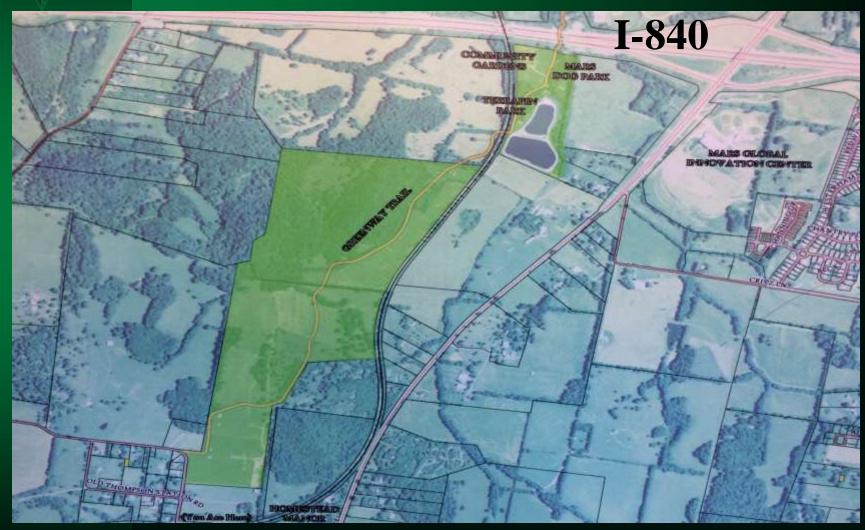
April 4, 2017

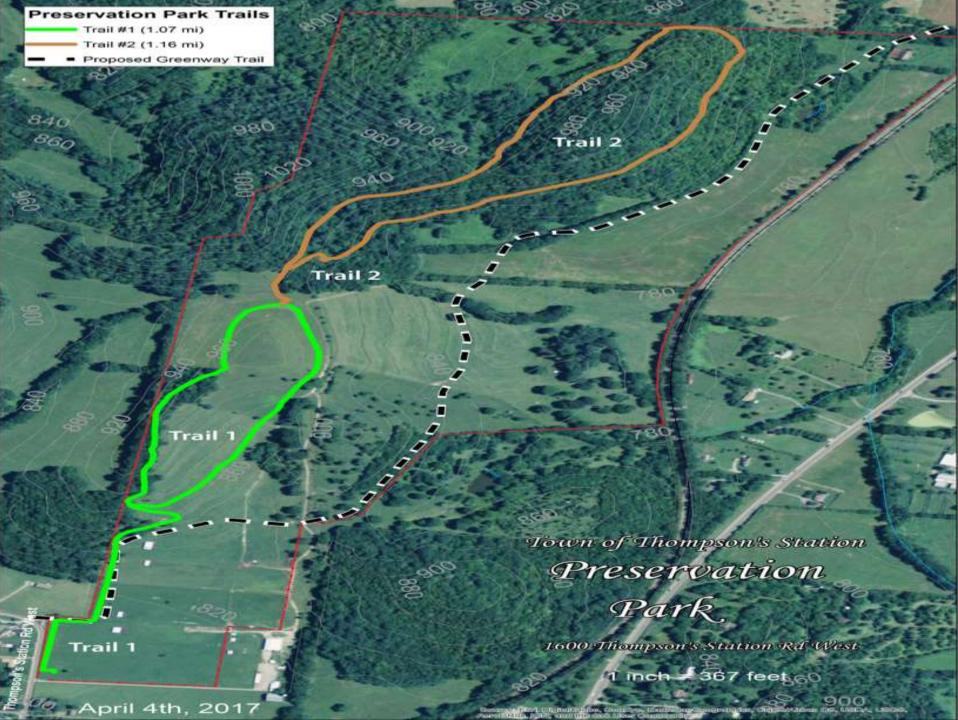


Preservation Park Trail Design Contract Signed March 7, 2017

- Project work started March 13th,
- 10 days on site, completed by March 30th,
- One day left in contract for trail construction inspection.
- All photos by Bob Richards











View from Southeast corner of the park



Trail Design Project includes: Boundary determination, Feature identification, **Control Point marking**, **Route marking of 2 trails** Trail construction training, working with Thompsons Station staff.



Total of over 2 miles of trail were marked.

Marking includes wood stakes painted orange, orange pin flags and 2" orange flagging tape. Green paint identifies trees to be cut out of trail corridor or invasive plants to be cut and herbicided.

Control points were marked with 2-3 orange flags tied on one tree.







Trail 1

Starts at the current parking area, follows western boundary, through 3 fences, overview for 2 picnic tables, follows old road to the top of Bald Knob, down around the backside of the Knob and back to the first part of the trail.



Trail 1 will be a grass trail with the trail corridor mowed 12 feet wide, the actual trail tread is 2-3 feet wide in the middle of the mowed area.

Some bench cut trail construction (3-4 feet wide) will be needed in select areas with steep side slopes.

Trail might be opened as soon as May 1st.









Trail 1, Loop Junction







Trail 1, View of old farm road





Trail 1, Bald Knob, South View, Town Hall has red roof





Trail 1, Bald Knob, East View





Trail 1, Marked route down from Bald Knob



Trail 1, Marked route on farm terrace





Trail 1, Marked route through fence



Trail 2 begins on the north end of Bald Knob,

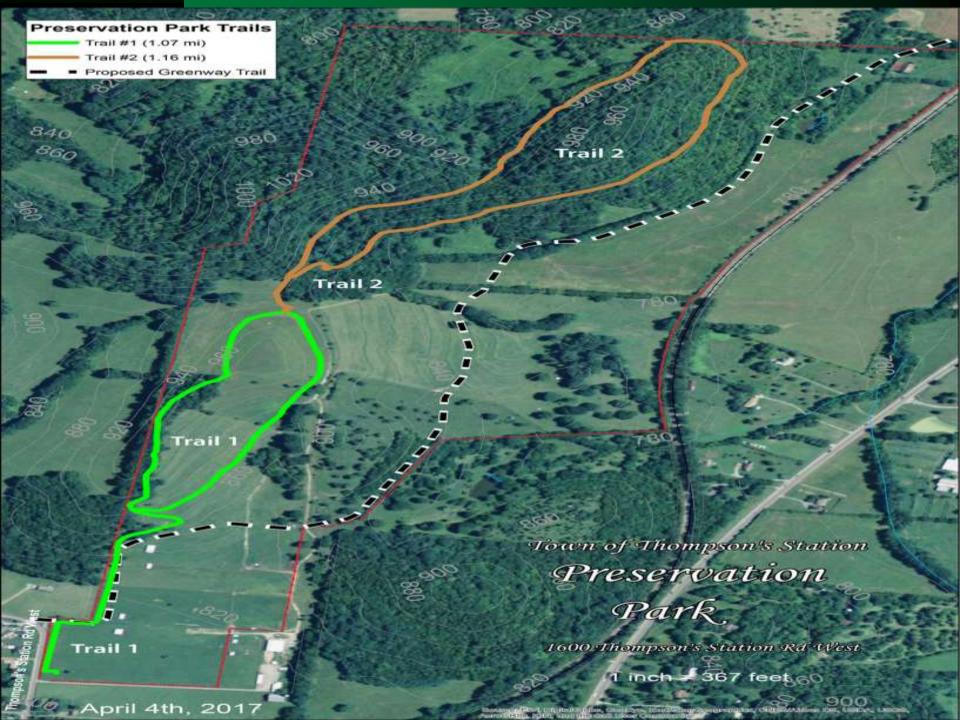
Crosses the field and enters the woods into the northern half of the property. The trail is routed on the eastern side of the ridge, goes through the saddle and over to the western side of the ridge and then loops around back to the beginning of the loop.



Trail Design Parameters

Trail Corridor (tunnel through the woods) will be 6-8 feet wide. No tree greater than 2" will be removed.

Trail Tread will be constructed primarily using hand tools and labor. There will be some sections machine built. Tread width to be 24-30".







Trail 2, Signature White Oak





Trail 2, marked route through fallen Bowdock Tree

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Trail 2, Marked route through open woods



No standing tree with orange flagging tape on it should be cut down. When in doubt, don't cut the tree.

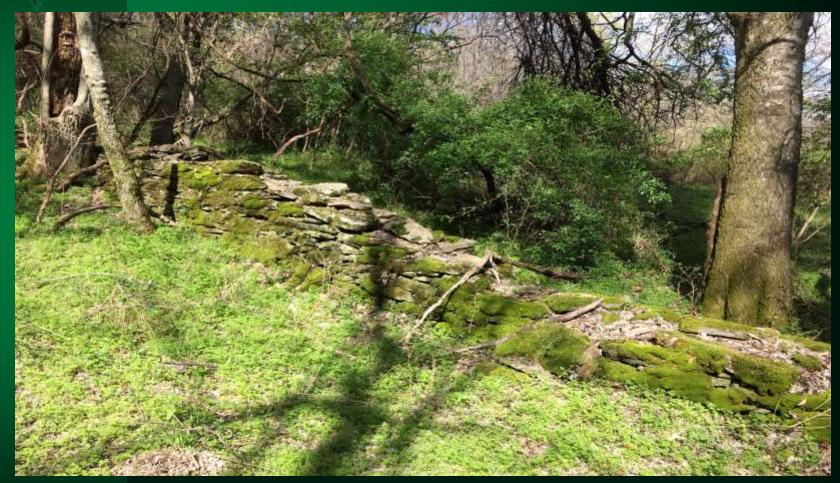
Trail route follows the side of the tree with the knot and the tail of the flagging.





Trail 2, Marked route over stream





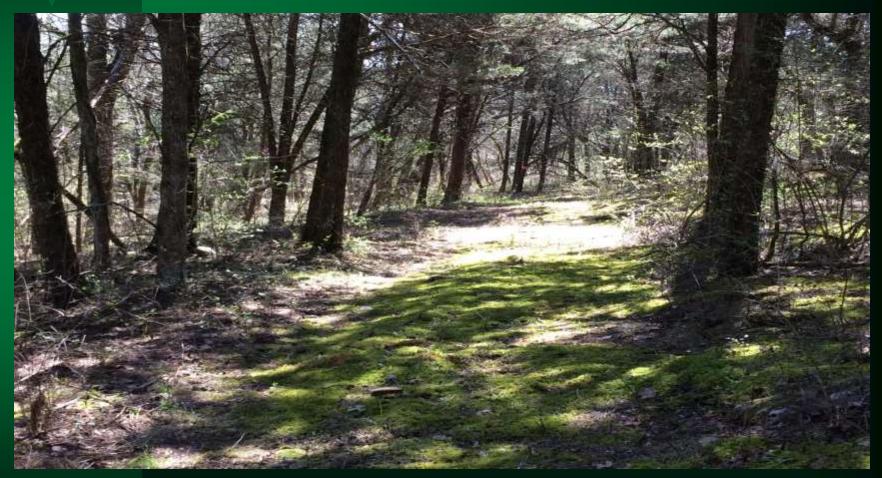
Trail 2, historic stone wall





Trail 2, View to Northeast





Trail 2, Marked route on old farm road





Trail 2, Buck rubbed antlers on small tree

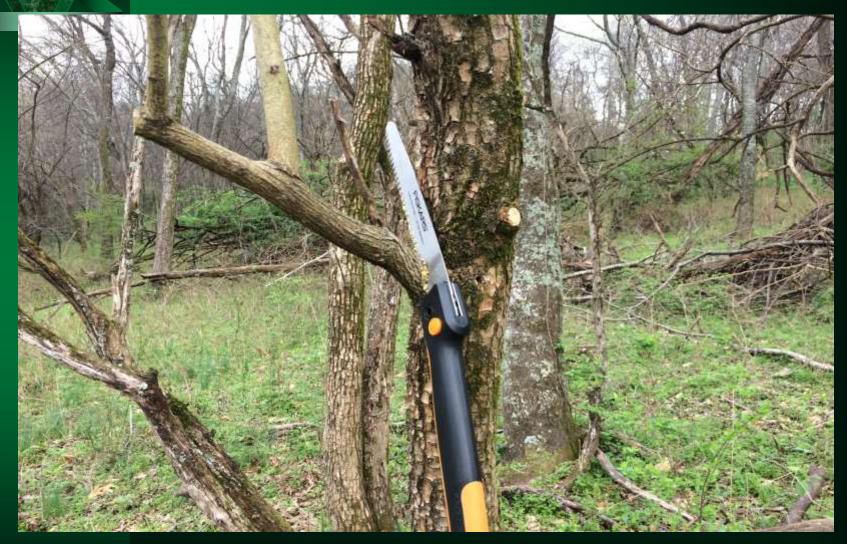




Trail 2, East view of the park



Trail 2, Spring Wildflower



Trail 2, Proper limb pruning technique





Trail 2, Pawpaw tree bloom



Issues at the Park Non Native Invasive Plants

- Tree of Heaven
- Privet
- Bush Honeysuckle
- Multi Flora Rose

Recommendation is to begin an eradication program with annual funding allocated.





Trail 2, Tree of Heaven to be cut down





Trail 2, Bush Honeysuckle to be removed



Issues at the Park

Another recommendation - Review current mowed areas of the park.

Current mowing schedules may be able to be adjusted, thus reducing the amount of time spent mowing. Mowing vs Bushhogging several times per year may still keep the open effect that people enjoy.

Recommendations for the future:

- Staff of Thompsons Station to build Trail 1
- Decide who will build Trail 2, Private vs Staff, if staff builds the trail, proper equipment must be rented. 3rd party on site project specification overview is imperative.

Decide what happens to the Barn

 Determination of best locations for new park facilities as noted in the Master Plan.





1 Ton Mini Excavator for trail building



1 Ton Mini Excavator for trail building



Recommendation:

- Trail 2 should be built using a private trail construction company, or
- Use trained volunteers to build portions of the trail in the more sensitive sections.



Thank you for the opportunity to be of service to the Town of Thompsons Station with the design and routing of the new trails!

Bob's Trails, Trees & Gardens



For more Information

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