

SCTA is a totally volunteer, not for profit. Board members are volunteers doing their best to support our members, neighbors and the horse-riding/hiking community. 😊

RECENT MAP CHANGES

**1. What has recently Changed on the SCTA managed trails/map?**

Removed approx. 2 miles of Tee Pee Loop Trail and approx. 1,200’ of Spruce Creek Trail to BSF Cumberland Trail Head. South Fork Properties requested trails they own be removed – to not confuse campers, day riders/others no longer allowed access.

Also removed first ½ mile of Tee Pee Loop -on Tee Pee Lane-now private Rd – owed by adjacent property owners

Removed SCTA signs

**2. Has anything else changed on SCTA owned/managed trails?**

Nothing-all the remaining trails on SCTA map are open to the public (including those shown across 297)

**3. Have other trails been removed in the past 20 years?**

YES, those on private land as requested (Laurel Fork, Montgomery Rd, Willie Lee, Sandy Rock) + numerous reroutes

There were no written agreements for above trails or SF Properties trails

Grateful to all who allowed past usage of their private property

**4. Could we have more trails removed/access limited due to private land ownership?**

NO, these 2 pieces are the last of which we are aware

All trails remaining on map: owned by SCTA/have easement/license/formal agreement/county rd. shoulder

**5. What Signs have been posted recently concerning these trails?**



**What is the TN statute 39-14-405 cited on these signs?**  
Criminal Trespass Class C misdemeanor \$50 fine and up to 30 days in jail

Other signs: "POSTED! Private Property & Trails. No campers or Day Riders beyond this point. Cameras in Use"

The trails removed and any other "private" trails are not part of SCTA trail system and do not have access to the BSF. The land owners may grant/restrict/change access/usage-anyway, at any time, they wish.

**6. How long was Tee Pee Loop and Spruce Creek Trail on SCTA map-who was maintaining?**

On SCTA Map since the beginning (20 years) SCTA provided funds/manpower to maintain-until Oct. 2022 when no longer open to all our members/the public

SPRUCE CREEK TRAILS ASSOCIATION (SCTA)

**7. Why does the SCTA encompass more than just Spruce Creek?**

**Not an HOA:** Designed from the beginning (2003) to accommodate PARK requirements –we have **unique** “ride in” horse/hiking entrances-**direct access to 300+miles of NPS trails-obvious positive impact for long term land values**

**8. How does the SCTA encompass more than just Spruce Creek?**

TN NFP business Charter/by-laws/mission statement built to include surrounding community

In Charter and by-laws 4 required **CLASSES** of membership:

**A** Spruce Creek Property Owners

**B** Spruce Creek Commercial Property Owners (horse related businesses are allowed in Phases 1-5)

**C** Non Spruce Creek Property Owners

**D** Non Spruce Creek Commercial Property Owners

**Historically, approx. 25% of our membership are NON Spruce Creek (C & D)**

**9. Do ALL SCTA members have a vote?**

**Yes. You must be a member to vote.** Each membership is awarded a vote(s) for annual election of Board members as well as all matters presented to the membership. One exception: Only Spruce Creek property owners (classes A & B) can vote on matters pertaining to acquisition/disposition/maintenance/construction/control of land designated as trails.

**10. Could the SCTA charter/by-laws be changed to remove non-spruce creek members or other exclusions?**

Yes, but TN law requires that any changes to membership CLASS rights be voted in by that CLASS

TRAIL ACCESS: SEE DOCUMENT: WHY ARE SPRUCE CREEK TRAILS OPEN TO PUBLIC? (4-2023)

**11. WAS THE BSF PARK POISED TO CLOSE THE PROCTOR RIDGE ENTRANCE LAST OCT?**

**YES** due to SFP restrictive signs on Tee Pee Loop. As of Dec. 2022 SCTA now owns the trail connecting to the PARK-Rains family donated 20 X 700 ft piece of trail-now connects to easements and our trails which are all “open to the public” – with no restrictions- now meets the BSF requirement-entrance to PARK is preserved

**12. If SCTA were to limit access to the SCTA owned/managed trails, what would be the consequences?**

Our Trails have direct entrances to BSF. NPS REQUIRES all accesses/entrances be open to the public-or they will be closed. Would never reopen as our entrances do not meet NPS criteria for parking lots, usage studies, etc.

Our 401C 4 Fed. NFP status requires serving a larger “community” HOA’s do NOT qualify

Would lose Fed. NFP status and have to pay Federal and State business taxes (rate of 33-80%)

**13. Could SCTA charge for using our Trails (pay per ride, frequent riders pay upcharge, Campground rider fee)**

PARK would close entrances: NPS does not allow any fees to be charged by others for use of PARK or entrance

**14. How are we different from other local equestrian communities?**

They do not have direct access to the PARK. Ridge Top (although borders the park- only access via county Rd-Darrow Ridge) Highlands, East Fork-no PARK access-trails are on private property-maintained by the developer

**TRAIL MAINTENANCE**

**15. Who/what is the cause of the most damage/maintenance on our trails?**

Biggest impact: mother nature-rain/drainage

Trails not always located in the best terrain for sustainability

Riding when the trails are wet can cause serious wear

Larger horses, as well as gaiting, cantering, galloping increases stress on the trails

In general, trails with “low spots” and creek crossings require the most maintenance

**16. Do we have usage statistics for SCTA trails?**

NO, Have never monitored who/how often/where they live/if they are members/how they ride

In general, traffic heaviest on 3 summer holiday weekends and Sept/Oct. Also, busiest time for campgrounds and increased traffic from PARK riders/campers. Campgrounds are generally slow the rest of the year.

**17. Are the local campgrounds members of the SCTA?**

Yes, Most have been members since early years of the Assoc. “Commercial” memberships are higher @ \$75 currently

**18. Do the local campgrounds make additional contributions to SCTA and the Trails?**

Most have been very generous with additional donations, fundraising, trail materials and workday manpower. **Examples**



2016 Work Day – includes True West and SE Pack Trips volunteers

Timber Ridge: \$1,000 donation (2012)

Buck Run/Saddle Valley/SE Pack Trips: 2022 Yard Sale Auction donations

SE Pack Trips: 2022 spread 2 loads gravel/graded Evergreen

Since 2011 Saddle Valley: owns/maintains Gum Branch/SV Trail with public access for all to use (approx. 1 mile)

Interesting to note: Staying at local campgrounds introduced many to Spruce Creek/surrounding area

MISCELLANEOUS

**19. Do riders from non-Spruce Creek properties, campgrounds, rental units, PARK Trail Head Parking lots affect liability? Are the campgrounds required to provide insurance (liability ) to the SCTA?**

NO, the TN Equine Liability Law protects equally-regardless of where you mount a horse.

**20. Why did the SCTA fence in/lock area in back of the pavilion?**

Boards responsibility to protect SCTA assets: currently have over \$2,000 in materials, plus signs, fabric, culverts

(4 loads rock @\$350=\$1,400, 20 water bars @\$20=\$400) Also bought new lock for storage/bathrooms

Consolidate materials/increase parking/improve view from the street (complaints about loads of rock in front area)

Estimate and approved \$2,500 (4-2021) **ACTUALLY SPENT \$1,211.97** Used less expensive fencing, volunteers and DONATIONS:

Danny Hatcher: dozer and operator to widen driveway, clear trees (6-2019)

Craig Fletcher: tractor and clearing work (2018/2019)

Lloyd Hayes: gate (2021)

Many volunteers to install fencing (2021)

Multi-year project: **Originally Proposed/approved 9-2018**

Suspended due to funding/Covid 8-2019 to 3-2021

Completed 6-2021

**Interesting facts about our area: Per TN property tax data base (not an exact science as does contain errors-but close)**

412 Properties with "Spruce" Creek as subdivision

280 Property Owners (many own multiple lots)

160 are full time "residents" (58%)

120 are part time (42%)

32 New property owners in 2022 (11%)