

2023 TRAIL HEAD LANE Project as of August 9, 2023

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

All SCTA owned and maintained trails are open to the public so that we may preserve our unique and valued National Park entrances. South Fork Properties retained ownership of approximately 1,400 feet of the Spruce Creek trail on either side of Trail Head Lane. (400' on the East Side and 1,000' on the West Side of Trail Head Lane.) This piece of trail has been maintained by/has been part of the SCTA trail system and open for public use for the 20 years that the SCTA has been in existence. This section of trail is heavily used as there are five horse/hiking trails available at the Cumberland Valley Trail Head. In addition to Spruce Creek community usage, it is also a major access for the Campgrounds on the other side of 297.

In 2022, SFP implemented restrictions for access to this trail (and part of another trail-Tee Pee Loop) with signs indicating "private property: no campers, no day riders, cameras in use". Therefore, the SCTA formed a committee and began looking at alternative routes if necessary. After a year of discussions, SFP requested that we remove these trails from our map as the restrictions would not be lifted.

Ned and Leslie Helm, property owners on Trail Head Lane, offered to allow a trail on their property. This new trail will be covered by a Land License, similar to the one the SCTA holds for the Wild Cat Den Trail with the Sloan family. The NEW trail will be open to the public, with no restrictions.

OBJECTIVE:

This project will create a trail from Trail Head Lane to replace the 400 feet of trail lost on the East side. The new trail will join with the approximately ½ mile of trail owned by the SCTA that provides access to the BSF at the Cumberland Valley Trail Head. This new trail will eliminate approximately ½ mile of road riding along 297 to reach the BSF Cumberland Trail Head. (See attached drawing.)

WORK PLAN OVERVIEW

Work with a legal firm-to create a Land License. (Laurie)

Complete 6-13-2023 Guffey Law prepared Land License. Signed and filed at the courthouse.

Mark the proposed trail -for approval by Helm

Completed 5-28-2023 5 hours on two days: Ribbons placed, discussed with Leslie (Samantha, Cindy, Daniel, Monica, Laurie)

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Install a culvert-in the drainage ditch along Trail Head Lane and add rock and soil to create a level/safe access from the road to the trail.

Complete 7-18-2023 SCTA paid for the 20' plastic culvert. (purchased from Potters) The county installed and provided the rock. (Fentress County)

Cut the new trail-completed over 2 days, Used DR Trimmer and chain saw to removed several trees. (Daniel)

Move existing electric fencing-to accommodate trail route, minimizing drainage/terrain damage. Total 6 hours on two work days-: Complete 7-27-2023 Installed 7 fence posts for stability; installed new insulators; restrung electric fences. (Daniel, April, Arlen, Laurie, Monica)

Trail Preparation-work day scheduled: Two Hours-Used clippers to clear branches (sides and overhead). Raked and cleared debris. Complete 7-15-2023

Trail Opening-photo op. and place temporary trail directional signs-at Trail Head Lane and off of Spruce Trail. Complete 7-29-2023 Announcement and pictures posted on our Facebook page and sent as an e-blast.

EXPENDITURE	ACTUAL COST	ESTIMATED COST
Land License Prep. & filing	\$142 (125 + 17)	\$200
Culvert	\$335	\$500 (approved 6/12/2023)
Load Rock (not needed)	\$0	\$350
Fence Posts	\$77 (7 X \$11)	\$250 (10X \$25)
Fence Materials (insulators)	\$164 (109+27+28)	\$0
Fence Concrete (not needed)	\$0	\$60
*Gas/Oil – for equipment	<u>\$100</u>	<u>\$100</u> (approved 6/20/2023)
TOTAL	\$818	\$1,460

* Had some difficulty obtaining estimates to clear/chip the new trail. Received one estimate of \$1,500. Board member, Daniel Johnson, volunteered to do the clearing. SCTA reimbursed him for gas and oil for the DR Trimmer.

Note: Water bars may be needed-will be reviewed after several months of usage and to assess erosion areas. Water bars are “in stock” behind the pavilion, so no additional costs should occur.

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Note: Will need permanent directional signage. Trail Signs on-hold as some trail names may change. Will work with Jay Light and Rick Chapman when names are finalized.

End of Trail Head Lane by 297

Entrance to Trail off of Tail Head Lane

Entrance to Trail off of Spruce Creek Trail

Cul-de-sac on Trail Head Lane