
FOREST PRESERVE DETAILED PROJECT WORK PLAN

Fiscal Year 2024
Project # 2024-NV-008 CO-WP-336

<u>Region</u> 5	<u>Project Title</u> Fawn Lake Trail Improvements
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<u>Project Type</u> New Construction	<u>Town(s)</u> Lake Pleasant	<u>County</u> Hamilton	<u>Management Unit</u> Jessup River Wild Forest
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Description of Desired Condition(s) for Project

Fawn Lake is a popular multi-use trail located in the Jessup River Wild Forest. Its proximity to busy communities in Hamilton County and Forest Preserve assets in the vicinity (primitive tent sites, beach etc.) contribute to its popularity. In the winter months, the trail serves as a corridor snowmobile trail connecting Lake Pleasant to areas north. In the summer months trail use is primarily pedestrian- with destinations to the beach area, primitive hand launch, and multiple primitive tent sites.

Like most snowmobile trails in the region, the Fawn Lake trail was sited along an old road, in low lying terrain. Over the years, from lack of drainage, existing terrain conditions and increased use, many sections of the trail are becoming increasingly degraded. Multiple problem areas along the trail are characterized by deep mud, excessive trail widening, and standing water due to the creation of low spots. These depressions are likely the byproduct of years of snowmobile use and changing winter weather conditions (freeze thaw cycles increasing mud holes and resource degradation). In the snow free months, these conditions are exacerbated by pedestrians avoiding undesirable muddy conditions.

This project will address problem areas along the main Fawn Lake Trail. At this time, we will not be addressing management actions specific to snowmobiling, but rather address problems that interfere with pedestrian use.

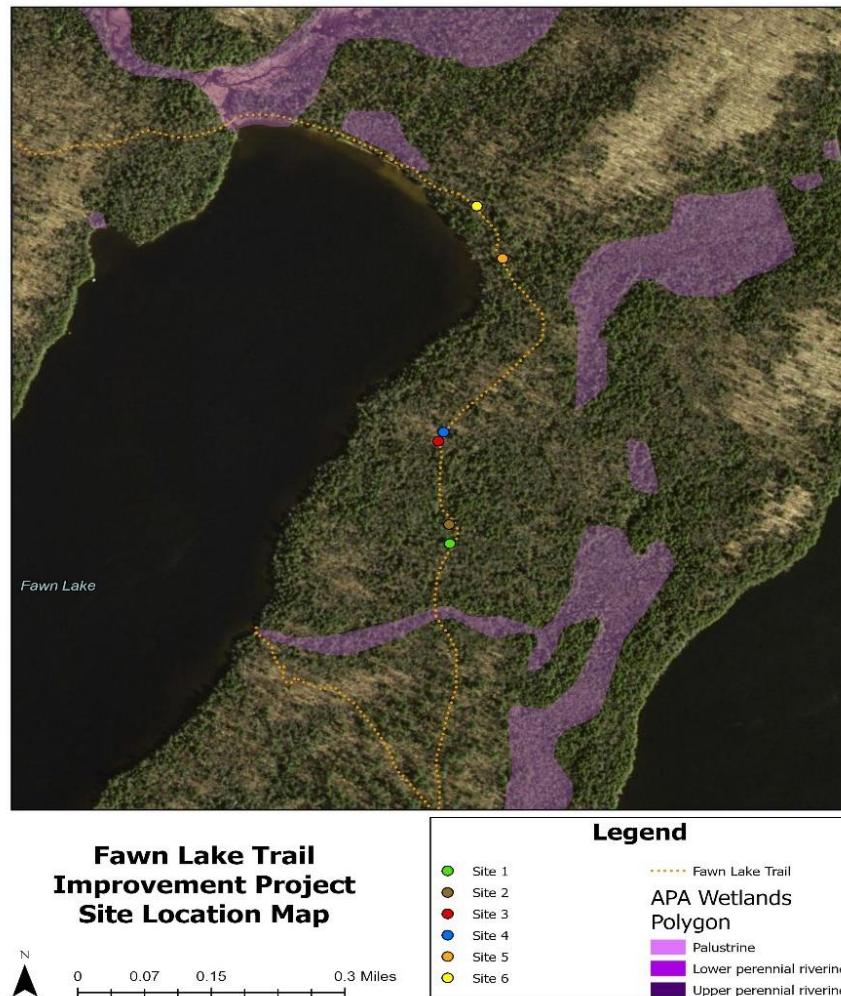
Site Specific Desired Conditions are to 1) provide a single hardened pedestrian path, coincident with the existing snowmobile trail, to reach destinations on the Fawn Lake Trail and 2) reduce environmental impacts associated with poor trail design, trail widening, and subsequent soil loss. This will be achieved by implementing trail hardening techniques such as bog bridging and turnpikes, and by addressing drainage issues.

- UMP Management Plan actions:
 - *Assure that trail surfaces remain durable by addressing problem sections with suitable trail hardening techniques” (pg. 189)*
 - *Target trail maintenance to heavily eroded trails – develop a priority list based on resource need rather than on user convenience. Assure that trail surfaces remain*

durable by addressing problem sections with suitable trail hardening techniques. (pg. 189)

Description of Project Specifications

On the Fawn Lake trail, there are six sites along a 0.45-mile section of trail that will be addressed with suitable trail hardening techniques and drainage work. All the proposed work will occur within the existing eight-foot snowmobile trail corridor, but situated to the sides of the trail to avoid impacts to snowmobile use. Suitable trail hardening techniques will include turnpiking, where water can be successfully drained from the trail tread, and bog bridging where necessary.



Site specific details below:

Site 1: Trail tread will be hardened and defined with locally sourced crushed rock to the east side of the trail where a user created path is existing. Old planking and other debris will be removed from mud to encourage drainage. Drainage will be dug into the trail to facilitate water flow out of the trail corridor.

Site 2: A turnpike will be built into the east side of the trail corridor with locally sourced materials. Debris will be removed from mud to encourage drainage. Drainage will be dug into trail to facilitate water flow out of the trail corridor. A user created herd path to the left of the trail will be closed.

Site 3: A broken bog bridge will be removed from the west side of the trail corridor. A new bog bridge will be installed to the east side of the trail, approximately 50 feet long. Debris will be removed from the trail to encourage drainage. Drainage will be dug into the trail to facilitate water flow out of the trail corridor where feasible.

Site 4: Pedestrian route will follow an existing herd path along the east side of the trail. Minimal tread hardening with crushed stone will define the trail corridor. Debris will be removed from mud to encourage drainage. Drainage will be dug into trail to facilitate water flow out of the trail corridor.

Site 5: Turnpike will be installed along east side of trail corridor. Debris will be removed from the trail to encourage drainage. Drainage will be dug into the trail to facilitate water flow out of the trail corridor.

Site 6: Approximately 20 feet of bog bridging will be installed on the western side of the trail corridor. The tread will then be hardened and defined with crushed stone over roots and additional undesirable surfaces. Debris will be removed from mud to encourage drainage. Drainage will be dug into the trail to facilitate water flow out of the trail corridor.

Description of Measures Taken to Avoid, Mitigate and Minimize Impacts to Natural Resources

A.) Tree cutting will be minimal. **Two trees will be removed** at site location 6; this is necessary to facilitate the construction of a turnpike. The trees will be cut and dispersed in a manner to avoid visual impacts.

State Land Tree Tally															
Project: Fawn Lake Trail Improvements															
State Land Unit: Jessup River Wild Forest															
County: Hamilton								Town: Lake Pleasant							
Date Talled: 11/17/2023															
Talled By: Jaime Parslow															
Species	Diameter														Total
	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	
maple, red	1														1
spruce, red		1													1
Total	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

B.) Earthwork and Disturbance, Including Identification of Work Outside the Trail Corridor:
 Earthwork will include drainage efforts at each individual project site. Adequate drainage ditches will be dug into the corridor to allow standing water to drain off the trail into the surrounding landscape. All terrain modifications and earthwork will be blended to fit the natural environment. There will be no earthwork outside of the trail corridor. Earthwork will not change the appearance or use of the facility.

C.) Impacts to Streams, Waterbodies, and Wetlands: The proposed project will not impact APA classified wetlands. This project will reduce trail widening by providing a single, hardened passageway through perpetually wet areas. Herd paths will be closed, allowing for terrain adjacent to the trail corridor to revegetate.

D.) There are no known occurrences **of rare, threatened, or endangered species** within ¼ mile of the project site.

Analysis of Project Location and Design Alternatives

The desired outcomes of this project are to provide resource users a single hardened pathway to Fawn Lake and protect natural resources from degradation caused by pedestrian traffic along the trail corridor. To achieve these conditions the following actions were considered.

Alternative 1: Design pedestrian specific reroutes outside of the existing trail corridor.

This alternative would establish two separate trail reroutes around the problematic areas to the east of the existing snowmobile corridor. This alternative was not chosen for the following reasons:

- The duplicative nature of a parallel pedestrian path would create unnecessary environmental impacts. The current trail is a direct and known route and it is likely most users will continue to take the existing trail to Fawn Lake.
- The alternative route would traverse through sensitive wet areas adjacent to the existing trail and would still require trail hardening and probable increased tree cutting.
- Although the existing trail corridor has multiple problematic areas, conditions surrounding the wet areas are stable and firm and require no additional maintenance.

Alternative 2: Harden specific problematic areas along existing corridor (preferred option).

See project specifications above.

Description of Use of Motorized Equipment and/or Motor Vehicles (if any)

A combination of motor vehicles, motor equipment and hand tools will be used to construct drainage features and turnpikes. All motor vehicle use will occur with CP-17 approval and will be properly documented. All efforts will be made to have work occur under dry trail conditions.

Description of Applicable Standards for Accessibility by People with Disabilities

In accordance with the US Department of Justice's ADA Title II regulations, all new DEC facilities, or parts of facilities, that are constructed for public use are to be accessible to people with disabilities. *Full compliance is not required where DEC can demonstrate that it is structurally impracticable to meet the requirements [28 CFR § 35.151 (a)].*

This project is a modification to a trail that is not currently built to ADA standards. It would be structurally impractical to modify the entire trail system. All new structures will be built to provide access for as many abilities as possible.

Other Relevant Considerations

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Date: 1/19/2024

Approvals:

Comments:



Regional Program Manager
Date: 3/29/2024



Regional Director
Date: 9/24/2024



Division Director
Date: 06/25/2024

REGULATORY CLEARANCE CHECKLIST – STATE LANDS and CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROJECTS

PROGRAM	PERMIT	REQUIRED		SECURED BY	COMMENTS
		YES	NO	(NAME)	
Air Resources	Restricted Burning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Mineral Resources	Mining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Materials Management	Solid Waste Mgt. Fac.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Water	Dam Safety Review	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Const. in Flood Hazard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Public Water Supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	SPDES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Spills Management	Petro. Bulk Storage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Lands and Forests	Unit Management Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NYS DEC	2006 Jessup River Wild Forest
	Tree Cutting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	J.Parslow	
	Protected Native Plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Historic Preservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Fish and Wildlife	Freshwater Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Wild Scenic & Rec. River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Compliance Services	Other Protection of Waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	EAF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Negative Declaration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Env. Impact Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Water Quality Cert.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
DEC (other)	CP-17	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NYS DEC	Blanket CP-17 for Wild Forests #1302
	Commissioner (aircraft,motorized equipment)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Flight Request	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Contract Clearance Sh.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	DOB Exemption	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Other Agencies	APA MOU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	APA Wetlands Permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Corps. of Engineers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Building Permits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Local Permits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Easements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Highway Enter DOT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Wastewater Disposal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			