

FOREST PRESERVE DETAILED PROJECT WORK PLAN

Fiscal Year 2025-2026
Project # CO-WP-398

<u>Region</u> Region 4	<u>Project Title</u> Little Spring brook Trail Reroute
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<u>Project Type</u> New Construction	<u>Town(s)</u> Colchester	<u>County</u> Delaware	<u>Management Unit</u> Delaware Wild Forest
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Description of Existing and Desired Condition(s) for Project

Existing Conditions

The Little Spring Brook Trail is a short .75-mile trail that follows Little Spring Brook and passes a beaver pond before continuing on to intersect with the Campbell Mountain and Pelnor Hollow trails. Both the Campbell Mountain and Pelnor Hollow trails are part of the Finger Lakes Trail. The Little Spring Brook Trail provides an access point to the Finger Lakes Trail system. This work plan outlines the relocation of a trail section in the vicinity of the beaver pond (see attached map). The trail is currently routed through the outlet of the beaver pond and along the edge of the pond. This section of trail is very wet and difficult to follow. If the beaver pond size were to increase, the current trail location would likely be flooded and impassible. The 1987 Cherry Ridge-Campbell Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (UMP) states that the Little Spring Brook Trail should be relocated around the beaver pond (in response to a public comment).

Desired Conditions

The desired conditions for this trail are to provide a safe, enjoyable hiking experience on a short, relatively easy trail, while providing opportunities to connect into a long distance trail system. Visitor safety is a concern in this area for the amount of water that can be on the trail near the pond, and the high vegetation and beaver stumps along the shore of the beaver pond. Rerouting the trail upslope of the beaver pond will avoid the wettest area of the pond outlet and allow hikers to avoid the vegetation that grows in the area, and often overtakes the trail. This minor reroute will improve visitor experience, as well as reducing the maintenance this trail will need during its lifetime. Trails and trail structures will consist of natural materials that blend in with the surrounding terrain and will be designed to sustain use without developing trail widening, trail braiding, erosion, or muddiness to a significant degree.

Description of Project Specifications

The trail reroute will be approximately 920 feet in length and will be designed and constructed as a foot trail. Stepping stones and two step over cross drains will be installed in wet areas. There will be approximately 500 linear feet of sidehill benching, with a finished tread that is 18-24” wide.

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

- A.) Trees to be removed: There are no trees greater than 3" DBH that need to be removed. 26 trees between 1"-3" DBH will need to be removed to reroute the trail (see attached tally). This tree tally is a high-end count of trees to be removed. During construction, tree removal will be minimized to the extent possible. Whenever practicable, the trail will be routed to avoid tree cutting and side limbing will be favored over total tree removal.
- B.) Earthwork and Disturbance, Including Identification of Work Outside the Project Footprint: There will be approximately 500 linear feet of sidehill bench cutting along the reroute on the hillside above the beaver pond. Step stones will be installed in wet areas (80 linear feet total), and there will be two instances of step over stone cross drains that will be installed.
- C.) Describe how the project will avoid or minimize Impacts to Streams, Waterbodies, and Wetlands: This project will relocate the existing trail so that it is farther away from a beaver pond and to a location that is generally drier and better able to shed water runoff. Trail hardening, including stepping stones and cross drains, will help to minimize the impacts in several locations where seeps and drainages are unavoidable.
- D.) Identification of Rare, Threatened or Endangered Species: This project is located in the vicinity of a beech-maple mesic forest, which is classified as a Significant Natural Community.

Analysis of Project Location and Design Alternatives

- 1) No Action - Leaving the existing trail in its current location is not the preferred alternative. Without any changes the trail will continue to degrade and the natural resource impacts and visitor safety will continue to be a concern.
- 2) Repair Existing Trail - Repairing the existing trail was considered, but it is not the preferred alternative. As the pond is a beaver created pond, and the beavers are currently active it is likely that the pond may continue to expand. If the beavers leave the area, the dam could eventually deteriorate which could potentially wash out the current trail. Relocating the trail to a higher elevation out of the path of the pond outflow and above the beaver activity will result in a more sustainable trail and a better user experience.
- 3) Alternate Location/design – An alternative location would require a longer reroute, placing the reroute farther upslope or routing the trail around the other side of the pond. Both of these options would be more costly and would require more tree cutting and earthwork. The proposed location minimizes the amount of tree cutting and earthwork required and allows the trail to remain in the vicinity of the beaver pond which is a valuable scenic and natural resource.

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

No motorized equipment or motorized vehicles will be used for this project.

Description of Applicable Standards for Accessibility by People with Disabilities

The Little Spring Brook Trail is existing and is not an accessible trail, and it would not be practical to make it such due to terrain. This relocated trail segment will be constructed with similar techniques to



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the existing trail, as it would not be pragmatic or serve to increase accessibility to construct just one portion of this trail to meet accessible trail requirements.

Other Relevant Considerations

None

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Date: 8/8/2025

Approvals:

Comments:

Bill Schryer

Regional Program Manager
Date: 9/9/2025

Sean Mahar

Regional Director
Date: 10/9/2025

Peter KA

On Behalf of the Division Director
Date: 10/2/2025

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

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"/>	Helena Mueller	Cherry Ridge-Campbell Mountain wild Forest UMP
	Tree Cutting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Helena Mueller	
	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>		





Current Little spring Brook Trail conditions.



Current Little Spring Brook Trail conditions



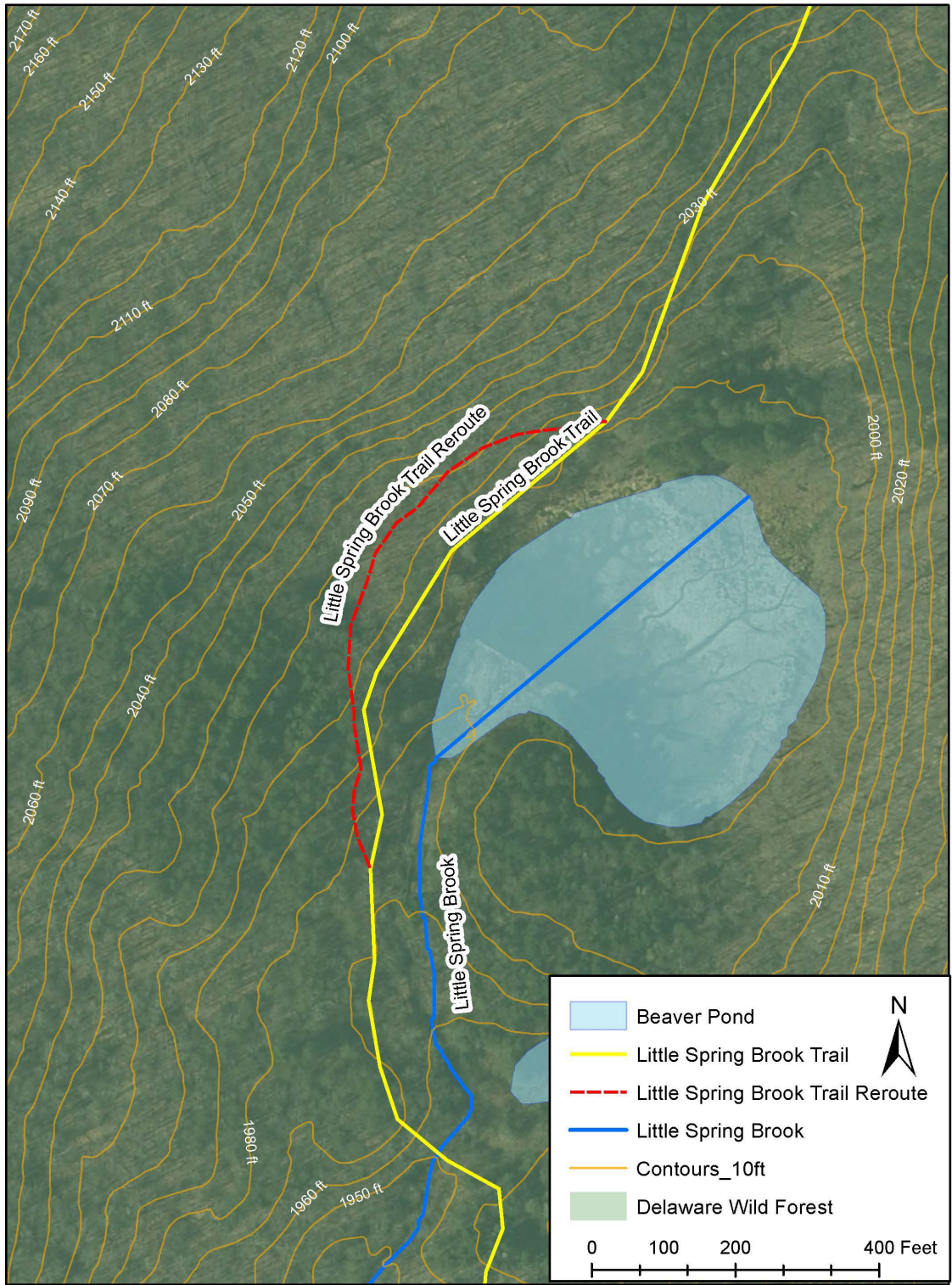


Section of Little Spring Brook Reroute trail



View of beaver pond from the trail reroute section

Little Spring Brook Trail Reroute



Helena Mueller
DEC Forester
8/27/25

FOREST PRESERVE WORK PLAN TREE TALLY

Project Name: Little Spring Brook Trail Reroute State Land Unit: Delaware Wild Forest

County: Delaware

Town: Colchester

Date Talled: 8/1/25 Talled By: Lena Mueller

Species	Diameter															
	1 to 3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	
Sugar Maple																
American Beech																
Total	26															26

Note: 1"- 3" size class are trees from 1.0" to 2.9" DBH. 4" size class are trees from 3.0" to 4.9". 6" size class are trees from 5.0" to 6.9".

Work Plan Tree Tally Rev. 03-25-2024