

## **KENNESAW MOUNTAIN TRAILS ACCOMPLISHMENTS FY 2020**

**9/18/20**

Work in FY 2020 was significantly reduced due to restrictions necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, some significant work was accomplished as follows:

### **10/12/19 NOSES CREEK WORKDAY**

Led by 12 crew leaders, volunteers continued work on the Noses Creek Trail. Work consisted of sloping the trail into the drainage ditches, cleaning up several areas north of the creek, repairing ruts south of the creek by building 4 dips, and removing invasive plants.

The 11/19 workday was cancelled due to rain.

### **12/14/19 WORKDAY 12/14/19**

The work was mostly to do light maintenance work on the trails in the north section of the Park. 13 crew leaders led about 40 or so volunteers to do maintenance on the north section of the Park. Work included cleaning muddy ditches and building a “knick” on the Brumby Trail to deal with a large new spring that would have iced the trail this winter, cleaning out ditches and drainage features on the Lower Mountain Trail; repairing the drainage at the Picket Line Trail and the Lower Mountain Trail, reorganizing fencing materials.

### **JANUARY 2020 TRAIL EVENTS**

On January 11, a Crew Leader Workshop was held for 18 new and experienced crew leaders. On January 9, 3 crew leaders built a new dip, cleaned out a ditch, and tuned up an old water bar. A January 21 workday was cancelled due to rain and cold.

### **2/8/20 WORKDAY**

The 2/8/20 workday was cancelled due to snow and cold. However, 8 Crew Leaders cleaned and reorganized the tool shed.

### **MARCH WORKDAY CANCELLED**

The March workday was cancelled due to forecasted rain and due to concerns about the coronavirus pandemic. *All workdays were cancelled until further notice.*

### **May**

6 crew leaders spread mulch around the Administration and Superintendent/law Enforcement buildings.

### **7/11/20 24 GUN BATTERY**

A small group of Crew leaders performed some trail maintenance on the 24 gun battery trail while practiced performing trail work under the social distancing rules and other procedures having to do with coronavirus.

### **8/8/20 EQUIPMENT TRAINING**

Mike Christman of the staff held a training/safety session on operation of the Gators and ditch witches for 12 crew leaders.

**8/26 & 28/20**

**24 GUN BATTERY BRIDGE REPAIRS**

Four of the five bridges on the 24 Gun Battery Trail were generally built at the lowest elevation as they crossed the creeks and ditches. As a result, mud, water and muck flowed down the trails and collected on the bridges, making them messy to cross and contributing to rotting in some cases. Previous attempts to divert the water proved unsuccessful. Also, the original side rails served to keep the water and mud on the bridge. Further, artificial berms had been constructed at the bridge approaches that contributed to the problem. On 8/26 and 8/28 half-a-dozen crew leaders each day repaired and corrected the bridges.

One crew lifted four of the bridges off their foundations and inserted concrete half-blocks underneath to raise the bridges 3.6" so that water and mud could not get up on the bridges. Then, a carpentry crew cut the side rails to allow water to flow off the bridges and built a new, continuous rail on top of the existing rail. The carpentry crew also replaced some rotting deck boards. Finally, the dirt crew moved gravel and dirt to build small "ramps" to aid equipment when it drives over the bridges, and to make a smoother trail for hikers. The dirt crew also stated removing the berms at the approaches. There is still some final grooming to be done that can be done when we next work on that trail.

As Tropical Storm Sally passed through (6" rain) I went out to inspect the bridges. Except for one small corner of the Gilbert Road Bridge, there was no standing water or mud on any bridge. Please see the before and after photos in the newsletter.

Each December, we will send out a couple of people to rake the leaves off the bridges -easy-peasy.

**OTHER**

Other miscellaneous work was accomplished from time to time by individuals. A small number of Crew Leaders performed invasive plant removal. Danny and Eric filled in the puddle and cleaned out the ditch at Old Mountain Road and it looked good after Tropical Storm Sally passed through. Several crew leaders participated in trail assessments for each trail in the Park. Half a dozen work plans have been drafted and will be submitted when volunteer workdays resume.