

Trail Volunteers:

We had a productive workday last Saturday on the Eagle Spur Trail and got a lot accomplished. However thanks to the recent high lake levels and the amount of time since we performed major maintenance we still have a lot to do. We could definitely use a LOT more "hands" to help out this coming Saturday. The long range weather forecast looks perfect!

The Eagle Spur is the remnant of the original rail grade that was abandoned with the construction of Jordan Lake and runs from Stagecoach Road 2.3 miles to the lake. The land is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and managed by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Triangle Rails-to-Trails Conservancy has taken the responsibility for maintaining the trail. See map from our site <http://www.triangletrails.org/pdfs/EagleSpur.pdf>

If you have hiked the Eagle Spur recently you will have noticed several washed out drainage culverts that are blocking access to the end of the trail if the lake level is up even slightly from normal pool level, which has happened a lot lately. We have plans to replace these culverts. The replacement culverts are about 3 feet in diameter and 20 feet long and weigh about 350 pounds each. These will have to come in via Stagecoach Rd. on a trailer.

However, before we can think about moving the replacement culvert pipe we need to re-establish a suitable working width of the corridor to accommodate the trailer. In a lot of places the trail is only

single-track thanks to the growth of a lot of "dog-hair" saplings. The

current work efforts are focused on clearing these saplings and widening the trail. This is the same type of work that we did when we did the clearing of

the American Tobacco Trail in Chatham and Durham Counties 10 to 15 years ago.

Tasks for this workday will include cutting saplings, brush, and vines and removing them from the trail. The recent high lake levels also floated a fair amount of logs and similar debris that has to be cut up and removed from the trail. If you happen to hate seeing trash and litter in the woods, we'll have trash bags and you can have all of the job security you want!

No experience or special skills are required. We provide on the job training! About all you need is regular hiking attire, water and work gloves. If you happen to have loppers, a bow saw or metal garden rake you can bring them. If not we will probably have enough to share.

If you would like to come and join the party to help out please reply to this message. This way I will have an approximate headcount and can plan

tasks and work assignments. I will also be sending an email out later in the week to those responding that has further details and meeting location, parking, etc.

Thanks,

Steve Lund
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