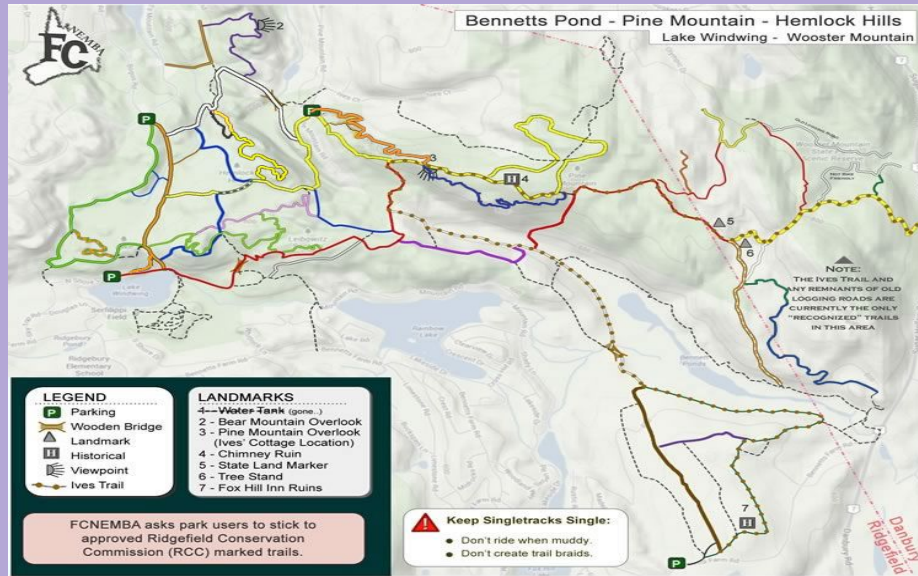# Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Bear Mountain Trail – Eagle Project

By Katie Bitner

Brief Introduction

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My name is Katie Bitner. I'm 16 years old and am currently in junior year at RHS. I have been a part of Troop 19 since it started up and am so grateful to have been given an opportunity like this! I recently achieved Life rank and am now working towards my Eagle Project which will take place at the Bear Mountain open space!
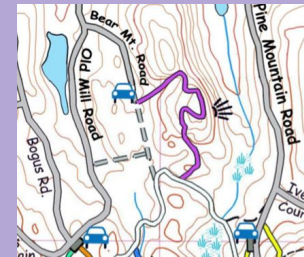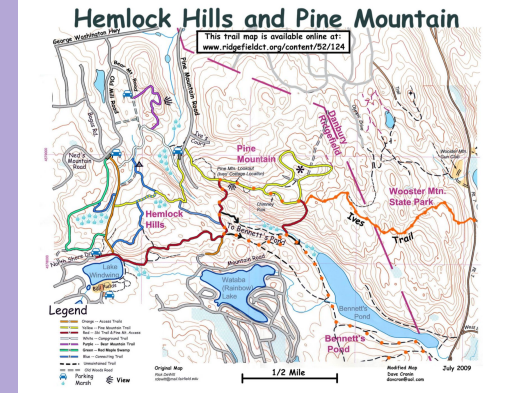
Project Overview

Description of Project

I'm going to be clearing a new trail in an open space at Hemlock Hills and then blazing it to make it clear to future hikers!
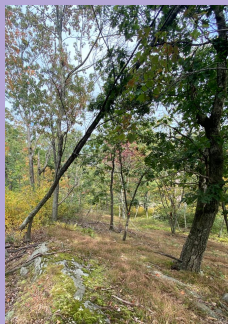
-Define and mark the trail/make it clear where the paths go to avoid confusion.

-Clear dead branches off of the trail and reposition or remove other large obstructions such as hazardous trees.

-Create natural buffers with dead wood or vegetation found lying around for erosion control.

-Blaze the trail clearly.

Map of Hemlock Hills

Pictures

Hazards/Obstacles:

Other Before Pictures:

Benefits

-Providing hikers in Ridgefield with a new and exciting trail to explore!

-The trail will have a couple of scenic overlooks which give hikers nice places to stop for a lunch break!

-The area would be appreciated by myself and other hikers for years to come!

Tools/Materials

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-Loppers/Pruning Shears

-Saw

-Orange tape for marking trail up

-Chainsaw for big trees in the way of the path

-Paint and paint brushes to mark trails

-Trail Blazing Template

-Work gloves

-Bug spray/sunscreen

-WATER!!!

-Food for lunch and snacks

-Thermometer

-First Aid Kits

Timeline & Phases

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I am aiming to start my project either the 17th or 18th of October and am hoping to finish that weekend with my family members who are coming to help if it doesn't all get finished over that weekend.

Phase 1: Come up with basic project plan.

Phase 2: Finalize path and make the decisions about which side of an area I want to clear.

Phase 3: Begin clearing the path and making the paths look more defined using borrowed tools and natural objects like wood as makeshift trail edges.
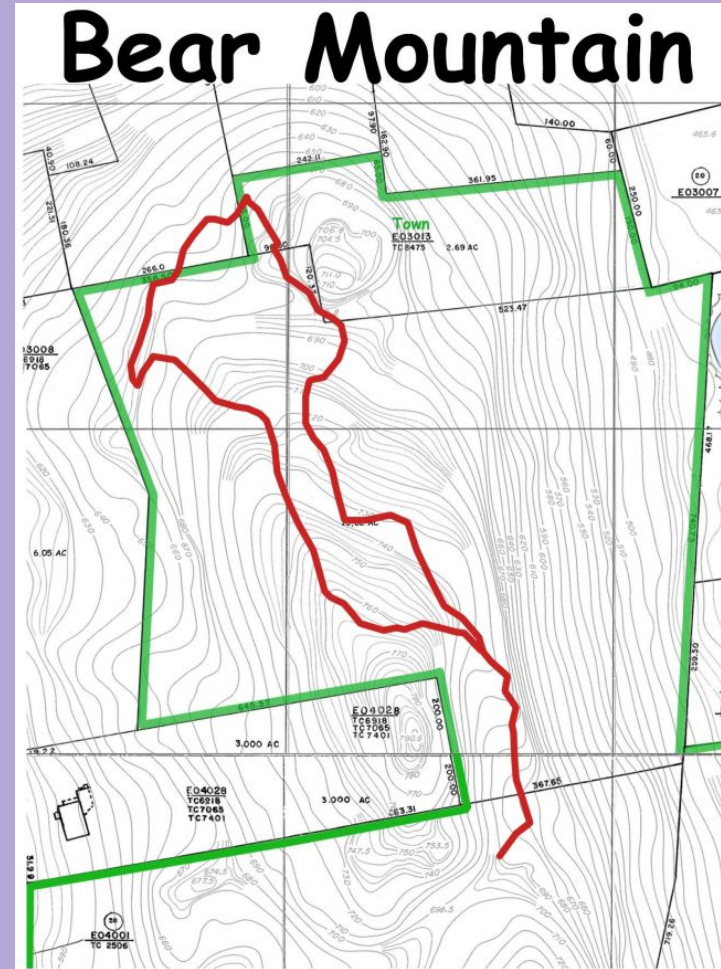
Phase 4: Paint on the blazes.

Phase 5: Get trail onto a map!

One Important Detail

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Mr. Cronin let me know that the path we had originally thought would work seems to go into private property. What should I do about this? I'll probably need to check it out and come up with a different plan.

Update: Mr. Cronin and Mr. Sharp rerouted the trail to fix it so it should be fine now!

Closing

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Thank you for your time today!