



Bear Mountain Trails Project



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Deterioration of the Trails



Decades of heavy use have led to serious degradation of the trail and the surrounding vegetation. Without restoration, the deterioration of the trail would continue to accelerate, compromising visitor safety and environmental integrity. The photo to the left is of an untouched portion of the relocation which will be addressed during the final phase of construction.

The Bear Mountain Trails Project was conceived to address damage to the trail with a comprehensive rerouting and reconstruction of the Appalachian Trail on one of its most historic and heavily used segments. Crib wall is built throughout the rerouting to address the erosion which was making the trail unsafe for users.

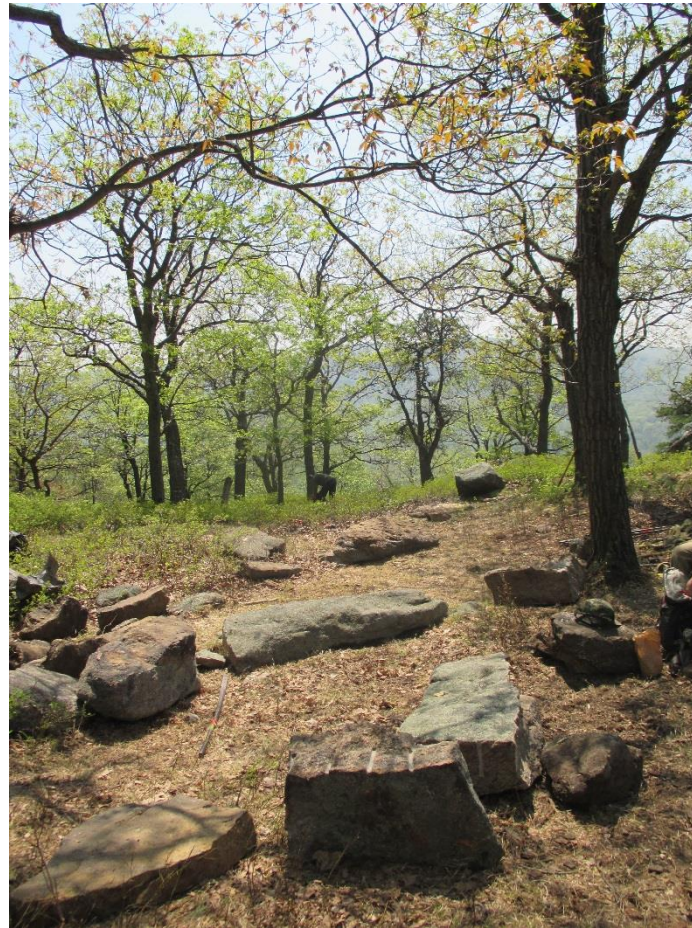




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Current Worksite

This is the stretch of land currently being worked on by volunteers, AmeriCorps and trail staff leading up to the remaining 1,145 linear feet left to complete the relocation of the A.T. over Bear Mountain. The landscape and terrain is similar to that pictured.

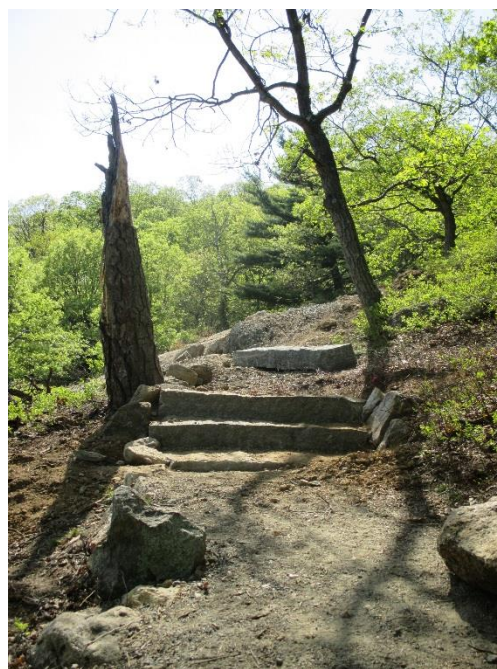


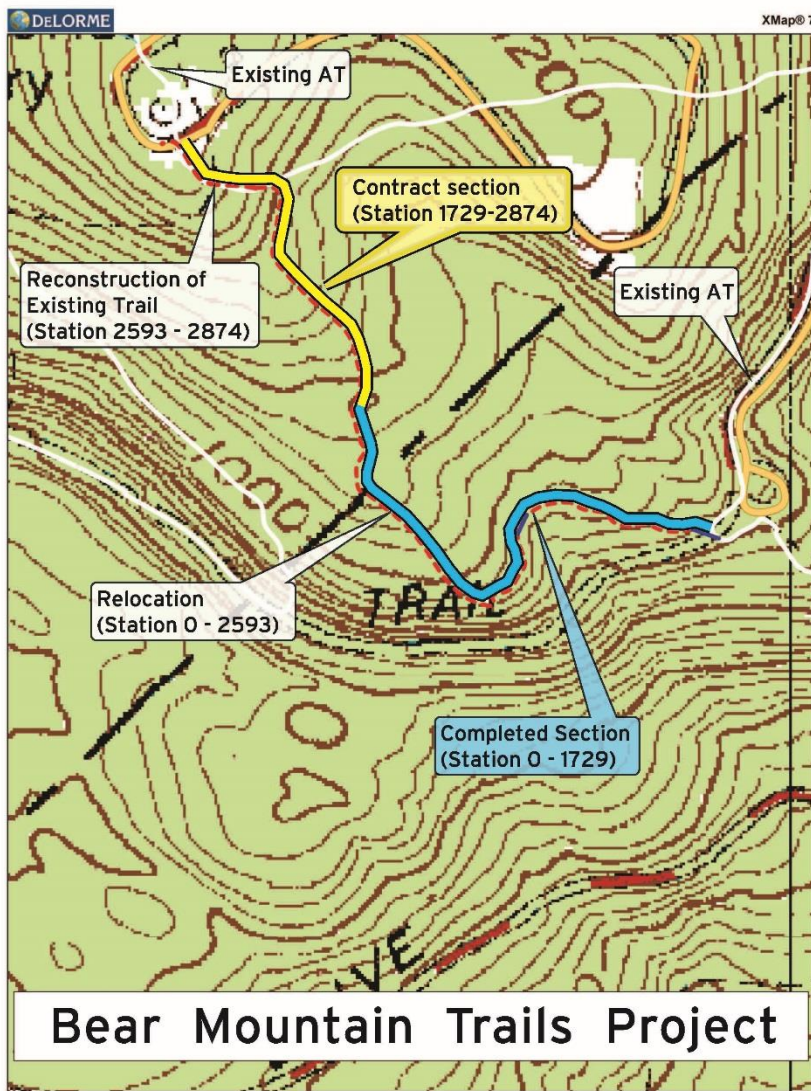


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Building and Relocating of the A.T.

The trail will range in width from 4 to 5 feet with running grades of 0 to 8 percent. Grades above 8 percent will have steps installed to prevent erosion. The large width has been chosen to accommodate the heavy foot traffic in Bear Mountain, specifically the 3 million visitors per year, and to allow traffic to pass from both directions. The trail layout will follow the principles of sustainable trail design with the added objective of creating a scenic and low maintenance route over Bear Mountain. 325 stone steps remain to be installed. To date over 1,800 stone steps have been completed and about 11,000 square feet of stone crib wall constructed. This construction will involve the splitting and transporting of local as well as imported stone.





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Contract Section
Completed Section





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