

Stewards of the White Oak River Basin

2004-02-02 WEETOK TRAIL 2

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make a canopy that reduces brushy undergrowth and the topography is reminiscent of the Piedmont. There are some less attractive segments on Section 2, particularly near the fields off Long Point Road. The successional vegetation here is less attractive in winter and it corresponds to a rougher segment of the trail.

Section 2 generally is more of a footpath through the woods and only follows a fire break line for a couple of short segments. The trail is more challenging than Section 1, requiring a few short leaps over creeks and ditches. While some stepping stones are present on the first crossing north of Long Point Road, other crossings have dead tree limbs or nothing to aid in crossing. All crossings would be wet after a rain, and the log bridges may be floated away.

The trail is generally well marked, but there are a couple of places you have to stop and look for the markers. When we came up on these, we found the markers in short order. With leaves out, we suspect it would be a little more challenging to find the markers.

After you leave the field crossing (go straight through the middle of the field), you will find that there are several trail intersections. The trail markers, aluminum strips nailed to trees, generally only follow one path at an intersection. Sometimes they are less than obvious and it helps to have a GPS or compass to select the right one. We used our GPS just to reassure ourselves that the path we chose was in the general direction we wanted to go. We had Haywood Landing marked from our previous trip. We did not go on any intersecting trails to see where they went, or how or if they were marked. The trail (as we navigated it) comes out behind the restrooms at Haywood Landing. As you approach Haywood, the trail does become much more worn and obvious. The first creek (entering from Haywood) seems to be the stopping point for a lot of trail traffic, especially the bikes.

Section 2 is for anyone who is up for a three mile walk in a remote area and a few leaps on slippery surfaces. Definitely wear water resistant boots and a hiking stick would be helpful in negotiating the drainage features. There is much less opportunity to take an early exit from Section 2 than there is on Section 1. You do pass a deer stand near one of the fields where you could probably find your way out

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to Long Point Road. It might be an easier way out to continue on the trail to the field crossing and follow that out to Long Point Road. However, it is probably best just to turn around if you want an exit.

On Section 2, we observed very little littering. We didn't even find any energy bar or candy wrappers. This majority of Section 2 is obviously less frequently used than Section 1.

As before, we recorded some GPS points for the convenience of anyone using this trail for the first time. There are not enough points to use them to navigate, but if you ever got off the trail, or wanted to reach it from Long Point or Haywood Landing roads, they might be helpful. Because this section is more remote, we recommend marking the surrounding roads and your destination before entering. A cell phone is a good idea, too.

GPS points are on the next page.

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LOCATION	NORTH	WEST
Long Point Camping Area	34d 47.901'	77d 10.671'
Beginning of the trail going from Long Point north.	34d 47.988'	77d 810.531'
Point 1 - First point where trail is less than obvious.	34d 48.223'	77d 10.664'
Point 2 - A western peninsula on the trail.	34d 48.315'	77d 10.960'
Point 3 - Deer stand.	34d 48.484'	77d 10.716'
Point 4 - Trail intersection, turn left. Right may head toward Haywood Landing Road. Haywood Landing/Loopy Road intersection is due north.	34d 48.821'	77d 10.794'
Point 5 - Field, north end.	34d 48.636'	77d 10.765'
Point 6 - Westernmost point on trail.	34d 48.918'	77d 11.427'
Haywood Landing Parking Lot	34d 49.169'	77d 11.103'

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