

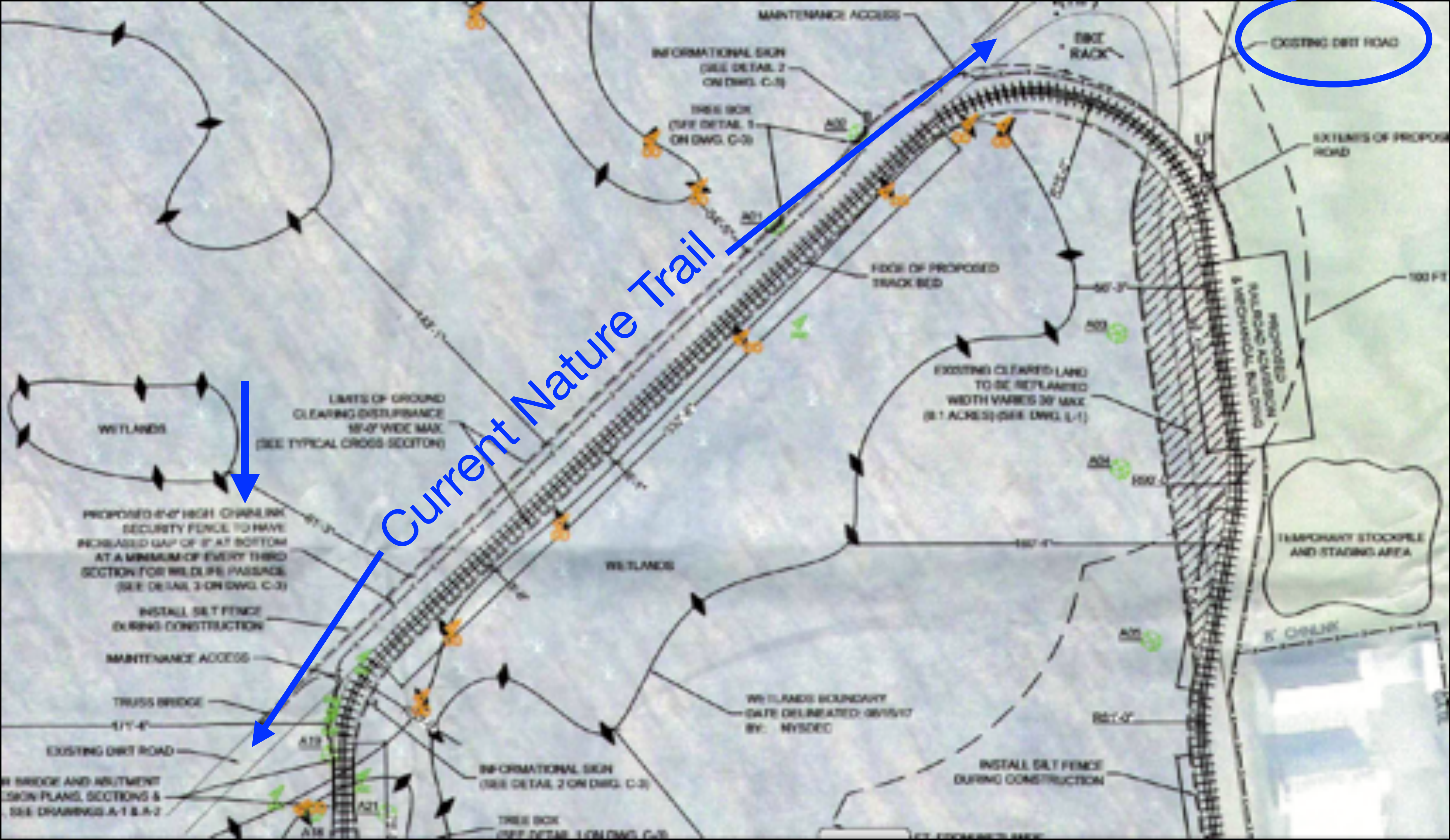
DEC Approved Mini -Railroad for Moores Woods

Mini-RR Tracks + service road + 6' High Chain Link Fence...

Where is the Nature Trail?

The project was surveyed on 6-28-21 to identify the outer edges of land that can be impacted, the edge to have a silt fence during construction. A contract will be prepared to transfer bidding authority from the Village to the Rotary who will fund & manage implementation. The tracks, trestle bridge & train will then be gifted to the Village to maintain & operate.

Friends of Moores Woods 7-12-21



Current Nature Trail

EXISTING DIRT ROAD

TRUSS BRIDGE AND RETAINMENT
SECTION PLANS, SECTIONS &
SEE DRAWINGS A-1 & A-2

Blue label & arrows were added to the DEC approved plan on previous slide.

Red arrows added on following slides to show where the pink flagged stakes were placed by the surveyor.

Will walkers need to create new trails by trampling fragile plantings?





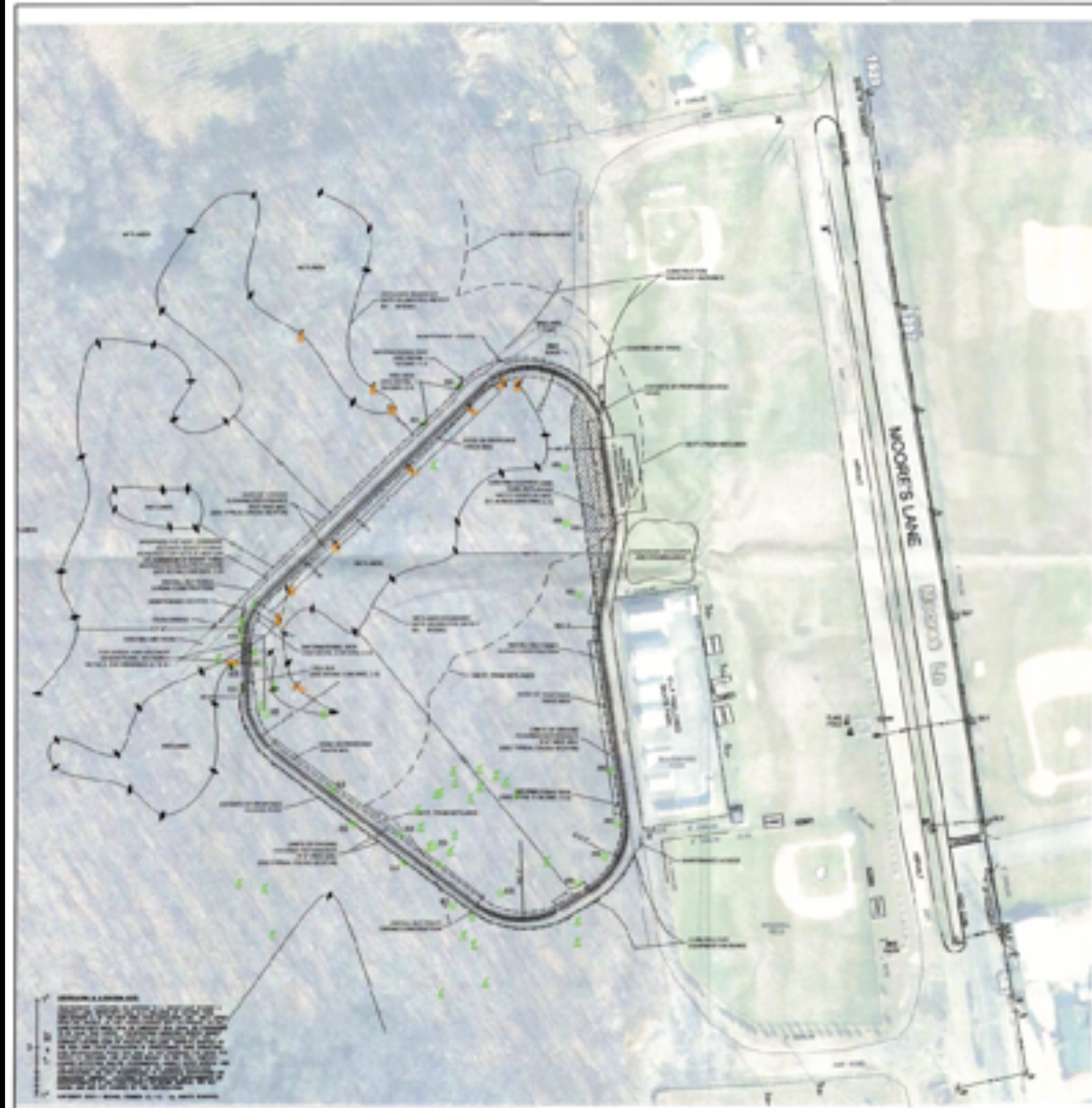
In choosing Moores Woods for the Mini-RR, DEC shifted the path away from wetlands to higher ground...the Nature Trail!

- The Nature Trail was created by the 1971-72 Ecology class winning a Presidential commendation.
- Moores Woods has only one entry from Moores Lane & for the school—The Nature Trail.
- It follows a 100 year old oyster-shell path.
- How can the woods be protected? How can nature lovers be welcomed and encouraged to stay on the path? And not see nature through a chain-link fence.



Frank Field's zig-zagging fun track-layout behind his house. Famous for Halloween decorations.





To avoid wetlands, track layout must be a simple loop.

No surprises.

View on one side through a 6' high chain link fence.

A low trestle bridge over one wetland crossing must be maintained by the Village, along with engines, tracks & staffing.



Is there an alternative location?

Yes.

It is outside DEC jurisdiction.

The Village owns it.

It is a temporary dump behind the water tower.



And it is mostly already fenced—though the LIRR has no fence.
The Village Administrator states it is required for safety.



Benefit to Village was to be public restrooms, funds still needed for them but Mini-RR rushing ahead.

- Maintenance to be funded by? Passenger fees? Volunteers? Taxpayers? What is the plan?

Limitations of choosing an area filled with wetlands:

- Must be a nature experience, no fun holiday decorations or artist installations that keep riders coming—with ticket revenue supporting staff & repairs.

Project: Greenport Nature Study Area

Greenport High School, Greenport, New York 11944

The creation of a nature study area in a woodlot used as a dumping ground. Plans proposed and completed:

1. Creation of 8,300 feet of wooded trail
2. 35 interpretive stops
3. 420 feet of wooden board walk over swampy areas
4. One 60 foot bridge, 10 feet above stream level
5. Planted 1000 tree white pine forest
6. Built parking area, landscaped with shrubs
7. Erected 8x10 feet road sign
8. Printed nature study guide booklet
9. Area visited by over 4,000 people last summer, created summer employment for 3 students as guides; other schools are using the nature study area.

According to the Faculty Sponsor, "In my opinion, this is one of the most meaningful teaching experiences of my career, and a program the students of Greenport will be proud of for years to come. We have plans for future development and long terms studies will now be initiated. Example—water testing upon completion of new treatment plant, growth rate of planted area, etc."



1971-2 Greenport Ecology Class Project

Paul Stoutenburgh's column from 2000

Moore's Woods: Greenport's hidden gem

Barbara and I decided to take advantage of a good day and headed for Moore's Woods just west of Greenport. We parked our car in front of the gate on the south end of the woods just off the Main Road and, with binoculars and cameras, headed along the shell-covered path that led to the woods. I couldn't help but think back to the labor and energy that had gone into the gathering of the soil above and soil below, and then the hours that went into opening them. The sunny dials of junco were then used along the trail to stabilize the soil clay soil that underlies these woods.

FOCUS ON NATURE
by Paul Stoutenburgh

We're told the reason Moore's Woods was never developed is that the heavy soil made drainage a nightmare. Throughout the woods we must see attempts at clearing the little vernal ponds that spotted the area. Most of the spongy patches were dugged up, making patches of water here and there.

A neat way into the woods we came to a large, deep, almost circular ditch that would parallel our path-way most of the way through the woods. Spotted here and there were the large green leaves of the duck callage whose early mandarin flowers are the first to bloom each year. Sometimes these early blossoms are caught in one of water's late snowfalls, but the plant pays little attention to this cold as it has its own chemical defense that keeps it from freezing. Quite a remarkable feat for any plant to perform.

In some places the ditch had to be dug right to 10 feet down so as to guarantee that the water flow by gravity to the sea. It was dug by hand, we're told, over 100 years ago by laborers from New York City and has stood the test of time to this day.

We could clearly see that the ditch had just recently been cleared out and it looked much better than it did when we were here a month ago. It must have been quite a job clearing the debris that had accumulated through many years of neglect. This drainage ditch starts at Silver Lake to the south and flows south, eventually going underneath Route 25. If they had in-

stead of a lovely salt marsh and eventually out into the water of Pipes Cove that lies between Greenport and Shelter Island.

It wasn't long before we spotted the bright pink flowers of the wild geranium. These delicate five-petaled flowers were sprinkled all along our path-way for the next quarter-mile. What a delightful addition it was to the greenery that draped our path-way as we walked along. Almost every year about the middle of May you can

see these early wildflowers to show up here.

These woods were the living laboratory of Roy Latham, that famous naturalist of Orient. Through his eyes he spent many hours and days roaming and classifying the plants and animals of the area. He is credited with being one of New York's great ornithologists here, as he was a well-kept secret.

As we walked along, the sunny soil of the coastal flycatcher caught my eye. This bird will be looking for a nesting site in any hidden hole or cavity that it can find. The call consisted one of the time many years ago when I photographed the large flycatcher in one of the woods. I had set up a blind near the flycatcher's nesting box so I wouldn't be noticed and upon the morning photographing the bird in a few back and forth to its nest feeding its hungry young. Each time it flew back with a particular orange-and-brown earth that some have been hearing out at that time. I had put that box up especially for the coastal flycatcher. It was a bird box that was half open on the front, making easy access. This coastal flycatcher is about the size of our ordinary tree toad and pale yellow below.

Walking along in the woods one, we looked for the familiar landmarks and

plants we'd seen in the past. There and there just in the distance showed their green petals that were still remaining. Later on, in the fall, they will have clusters of bright red berries in their petals. Hopefully some will find their way to the water ground and start a new group of geranium that will spread the good word.

Further along we found hemlock, these ancient plants that have changed little through some of time. The soil edge is a good place to find these rela-



Like the regularity of the stream, each spring wildflowers can be found in their usual locations to brighten your days. Pictured above is the wild pink geranium that grows along the path-way in Moore's Woods.

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Time to slow down

Halfway up the main trail I decided my leg was not doing its best, and I stopped to Barbara she go back and get the car and drive up Moore's Lane, then head west of the North Road where I would eventually meet her. This would save me having to release my steps all the way back to the car.

Wild strawberries blossom during the upper part of the trail and took the place of the wild geranium that was so prevalent at the beginning of our walk. It was all very easy walking as far as the path-way went, with only occasional trail holes where small vehicles had tried to go. Yet with a little maintenance they would be filled in and the area would make a beautiful walk on Maple Lake.

The trail, accessible from the North Road, the Main Road or by the water trail sign on Moore's Lane, takes but an hour to walk. It is well worth the time to explore. It is truly the last old woodlot left on the North Fork.

PS. Like all outside areas, including your own back yard, take an annual, so stay on the path-way and enjoy the splendor about you.

East End Tick & Mosquito Control

ORGANIC SOLUTIONS

765-9700
www.tickcontrol.com

A history of Moore's Woods

Moore's Woods was given to the Moore family in 1840 by a great uncle King Moore, and has got its name. Around 1870, Mr. William Moore donated to Greenport Silver Lake, as around the time Moore's Woods and the surrounding area was a dense swamp and a great insect problem. He had inherited from New York City to dig ditches to drain Silver Lake, thereby drying up the woods and relieving the insect problem. Unknown to him, Silver Lake is spring fed, and it impossible to drain. This attempt was known as Moore's Folly.

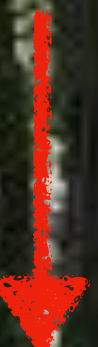
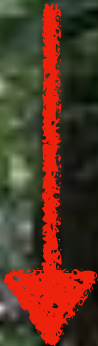
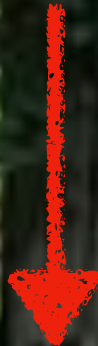
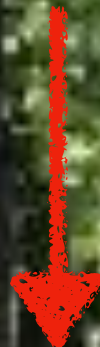
The other was taken from the Greenport Nature Study Area booklet. The 20-acre parcel of land is today owned by the Greenport Water Authority, and is used as a wastewater treatment plant. In 1977 the Greenport High School ecology class was given permission to use the woods and develop it as a nature study area.

An project of the ecology and earth science students of Greenport High School, 1977-1978, this guide to Moore's Woods was dedicated to the Greenport Village Board for its insight and wisdom in keeping this unique area in its natural state as a living laboratory for the generation and their knowledge.

The other was taken from the Greenport Nature Study Area booklet.

The Rest of the Survey Markers...

Red arrows added on following slides to show where the pink flagged stakes were placed by the surveyor.





























Why is Moores Woods important to Greenport? Our forest...

1. Holds carbon storage to influence climate change;
2. Purifies water and air;
3. Provides wildlife habitat: great for birdwatchers and its vernal ponds uniquely support amphibians; offers enough acreage for deer hunting to help control overpopulation and ticks.

4. Benefits our mental and physical health:

“Many seek out the tranquility of forests as places to find solace, stress relief or spiritual sanctuary. The mental and physical benefits of exposure to nature are well documented for people of all ages. And spending time in a natural setting such as a forest can be particularly beneficial to children, for both learning and development.”

<https://oregonforests.org/forest-benefits>

1. Spending time outside improves mental health

There is scientific evidence that shows that exposure to forests can actually reduce human stress levels, help us recover from attentional fatigue and generally improve overall mood. Spending time in green spaces has also been thought to mitigate the effects of attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder.

2. Taking a walk through the forest can benefit physical health

In addition to improving overall mental state, spending time in forests has been shown to have genuine physical health benefits. People say they feel less stressed in forests, but it turns out that this is linked to an actual reduction in the levels of the stress hormone cortisol. This leads to quicker rehabilitation times for people who are ill or injured. Forest visits can also actually strengthen the human immune system, so people don't get sick in the first place.

<https://www.nationalforests.org/blog/five-ways-forests-benefit-human-health>

After hugging the proposed 6' high chain link fence for 350', the path will continue on....







Mountain Laurel
blooming in June



Benches from
decades-old Rotary
project





“In the woods we return to reason and faith.” Ralph Waldo Emerson











“Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt

It is a wholesome and necessary thing for us to turn again to the earth and in the contemplation of her beauties to know the sense of wonder and humility. Rachel Carson

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves.
Proverbs 31:8-9

We must protect the forests for our children yet to be born, we must protect the forests for those who can't speak for themselves such as the birds, animals, fish and bees.”
Qwatsinas, Nuxalk Nation