

9 Trail Improvements

The purpose of this Section is to discuss opportunities to incorporate location-specific improvements along the proposed trail corridor.

9.1 Erosion Control

Many of the unimproved watershed access and fire roads have been severely degraded due to uncontrolled stormwater runoff and the lack of maintenance. The sandy soils and steep slopes exacerbate this issue.

At a minimum, it is recommended that the Town:

- Restore the road bed using a dense graded crushed stone or fine rock;
- Raise the road profile grade slightly above the surrounding ground;
- Provide a sufficient cross pitch or crown to ensure the water drains off the road surface; and
- Construct new, vegetated swales along the road edge.

The open, vegetated swales will capture runoff and promote groundwater recharge and infiltration. The swales will also serve to control flow from the upslope area on either side of the road when the corridor is located in a cut section.

There are also alternative measures that can be used to reduce and repair erosion along the corridor. Such measures include the use of soil stabilizers, erosion control fabrics and mats, cellular confinement systems (such as geocell), or placed stone (riprap or modified rockfill). The effectiveness of these measures varies based on roadway slope, vehicle loading, and existing underlying soils.

The appropriate erosion control measure will need to be selected depending on the extent of the erosion and location-specific conditions. Regular, routine maintenance on a year-round basis will be required to sustain trail and road conditions.

9.2 Signage

Informational and directional signage could be installed at decision points along the trail to direct users to key destinations and other points of interest. A trail marker and signage program will also increase user safety and awareness within the more isolated sections of the trail alignment, such as through the watershed property.

The placement of ground mounted interpretive signage at points of interest can give a trail a unique character and increase users appreciation of the corridor's history and natural resources.

9.3 Amenities

There may also be opportunities to enhance the recommended alternative through the proper siting of site furniture, signage, and other user amenities.

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Primary considerations for recommending amenities should include:

- Appropriateness
- Functionality
- Attractiveness of design
- Desired materials (i.e. natural and/or sustainable materials)
- Durability
- Maintenance requirements
- Cost

Site furniture could include benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, or bike racks. These amenities should be strategically placed in areas along the alignment where the Town specifically wants people to gather. For example, picnic tables and/or benches could be placed in the small Town-owned park at the intersection of Routes 28/39. If this site is developed in the future, then this site furniture could be relocated to a different location.

Public comfort facilities are a welcome addition for users along trail corridors. It is typically recommended that such facilities be installed where users would tend to gather and/or begin/end their trip. The existing seasonal restrooms at Eldredge Park near Orleans Center will fulfill this need.