

Zane Walter, Troop 1

Eagle Scout Project Questions

1. When did you start planning the project? (what mo/year)

I first started this specific project when I went to the Trails Committee meeting in March of 2019. Before that, all I had was the idea that I wanted to do something with trails. I mark March as the beginning of the project because I went from the idea of wanting to do a project to actually having a specific project to work on.

2. How did you come up with the project idea? Why did you choose this project?

I wanted to do something that would improve the trails in town. I also wanted to do something that would be lasting. This project, when it was suggested to me by the Trails Committee, appealed to both of those desires. It was also just down the road from my house, so I have a personal connection with the area and care to see it improved.

3. How has the project evolved since you started (i.e., is it different now from what you first envisioned)?

Some of the holes for the posts to mark the parking area could not be dug, so we ended up running a chain between our existing poles instead. We planned to use Plexiglass for the sign but are now opting for polycarbonate, at the recommendation of Wayside Glass (It is very difficult to drill holes in Plexiglass without cracking it).

What have you learned the most from planning and executing the project? Did you develop any new skills or further expand existing skills?

I learned a lot about organizing a project. There were a lot of moving parts to this project that I had to manage at once. I had to schedule clearing the area, building the kiosk, and installing it. The actual work days were simple, I just had to step back and lead my volunteers. The planning of the project, however, forced me to try new organization strategies. I kept a spreadsheet and numerous checklists of my progress, so I could always look to them to see what to do next.

4. What were some of the biggest challenges you had to overcome?

Digging the holes we ran into a lot of roots and rocks that we had to cut through or remove. Some of these took lots of effort and loosening of the soil with pickaxes, spades, and digging bars. Despite this adversity, we managed to dig each hole deep enough to support the poles/kiosk.

5. What advice would you give a future Eagle Scout who's interested in doing a similar project?

I would warn them to be aware of the area they dig in. If at all possible, avoid digging close to trees. If you must, be willing to try a few different areas to make sure you can get your properly spaced holes deep enough.

6. How does this project impact the community?

By having a trailhead at the trail and parking, it encourages the use of the trails. I have heard people express surprise at the fact that a perfectly good trail was even there. Hopefully the trailhead will make it clear that the use of the trails is encouraged. The kiosk also has historical information, so the community can learn more about the land.

7. How do you feel about the outcome?

I am very pleased with the result. The kiosk looks great, the area that was totally overgrown is now clear for parking. I think it will be lasting and I hope it is successful in encouraging the use of the trails.

8. Anything else you want to share about the process, the project, the people you worked with or your experience?

The project had to be completed very quickly, so many thanks to Kathryn McKee for always being timely in her responses and beyond helpful, to Rik Kerstens for guiding me through the proposal, and to everyone who volunteered their time to help me on my workdays or through any other part of the project. I could not have done it without all your help.