



**ENHANCING  
YOUR OUTDOOR  
CLASSROOM**  
CAMPAIGN *for*  
THE NATURE CENTER  
at SHAKER LAKES

## All People's Trail Construction: Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will there be construction noise throughout the project? Noise will be minimal and will mostly consist of back up beepers, and some machinery. The area of the construction is wetland so we don't expect to have ground movement or noise from that.
2. What environmental studies have been done prior to beginning construction on the APT? Wetland delineation; stream geomorphology; geotechnical survey; and tree and shrub survey.
3. What will traffic be like in and out of the Nature Center? There will be some construction traffic as workers come into and out of the site. However, we expect it to be minimal and concentrated to morning and late afternoon.
4. How will these projects impact parking and visitation? Our main building and Stearns Trail, in addition to all scheduled camps and classes, will remain open during construction. Parking will be limited during construction and part of the parking lot will be closed with construction fencing. Additional parking will be on South Park Blvd. to the south of the Nature Center and on West Park Blvd. to the southeast of the Nature Center. A parking map is provided on the construction update web page.
5. Why are the small trees being removed? Temporary matting will need to be installed adjacent to the existing APT trail during the construction project to allow equipment into the marsh. Thus anything in the path of the matting or new trail has to be removed.
6. When trees are replanted will the same species be used (for example: Ash/Beech)? Our Natural Resources Specialist is currently working on a habitat restoration plan, selecting species of the tree/shrub replacement. He will be using all native trees and shrubs suitable for our habitat and environment.
7. What will be done with the trees that were felled for the project? The trees that can be removed without disturbing the wetlands will be removed immediately. Others will be left in place to become part of the habitat ecosystem. If possible, some felled trees may be removed once the matting is down and the construction contractor is able to remove it.
8. How will this impact the wildlife and bird nesting sites? In the short term we will see a decrease in wildlife, but birds and other wildlife will utilize the nearby habitats within our 20 acres as well as the adjacent Shaker Parklands. Long term, after habitat restoration has been completed, we expect to see an increase in wildlife biodiversity throughout the marsh and forested areas.
9. Is this disrupting migration? No, the birds will utilize the nearby habitats like the mini-marsh and Lower Lake.
10. What was wrong with the trail that it needed to be replaced? The existing trail has reached the end of its life expectancy, which was 30 years, and is showing a lot of wear and tear. It also needs to be improved in order to bring it up to today's safety and ADA standards; provide larger gathering

spaces for classes and other programs; improve traffic flow on the trail; and make it more welcoming and user-friendly. Overall, the new trail will provide a better visitor and educational experience.

11. What are we doing with the old trail and construction waste? Unfortunately, in the early 1980s, pressure-treated wood was treated with arsenic, and there is a possibility that there may still be some residual left in the wood. The contractor will be responsible for hauling all the wood off-site, and it will be delivered to an EPA-approved facility to discard.
12. How are we controlling for pollution from construction equipment? The construction specifications for the APT project address hazardous procedures and specify that hazardous chemicals are not permitted as part of the project. We also have the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approval to work in the wetlands and stream and will be following their permit guidelines.
13. How is the trail going to be better? The new trail will be compliant with today's ADA standards; provide additional seating areas and a wider deck so that there is better traffic flow and will allow students on field experiences to make more observations while leaving plenty of room for visitors to pass by. The main entrance, hub and gazebo will be larger to hold entire classes of students and/or visitor groups for programs and events.
14. How long will the construction process take? We anticipate 6-7 months, beginning April 17, 2019 and ending by November 2019.
15. Will they be using booms out in the marsh during construction? There will be matting placed on the ground for equipment and to protect the existing wetlands. The contractor will be installing wooden piles.
16. How are construction costs for the new All People's Trail (APT) being funded? The capital construction costs are being funded through Board Trustees, Individual Donors, Grants, Foundations, and Staff.
17. Are the improvements funded with tax dollars? No, this is not a tax funded project.
18. How much will the trail reconstruction cost? \$2.5 million.
19. Is there a plan to do any work on the Stearns Trail after the APT is complete? Yes, we will begin the design process for the Stearns Trail in Fall 2019.
20. Where can we go to find updates? We will have updates in our *Rookery* newsletter, our Nature Break e-newsletter, our website, and our social media channels including Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
21. Will there be public opportunities to help with planting and restoration? Most definitely! Beginning this fall, our Natural Resource Specialist, Nick Mikash, along with volunteers, will begin habitat restoration. Contact Kristina Arthur, Volunteer Coordinator, or visit our website to sign up to volunteer.
22. When will restoration/habitat improvement begin? We have already started habitat restoration in the Outdoor Amphitheater and will begin working in the path of the new All People's Trail as soon as it is completed.
23. Will the Pavilion be available for people to use? The pavilion is not located within the construction fence and will be open to staff and visitors during construction of the APT.