



Paris Mountain State Park : Proposed Trail Path

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Abstract

Paris Mountain State Park is located in Greenville, SC and is one of the oldest protected areas in the state. The 1,275 acre park offers opportunities for camping, fishing, and swimming. It also has some steep and rewarding hiking trails that have spectacular mountain views. One of Paris Mountain State Park's main missions is to provide sustainable trails that allow for the widest range of users while having minimal impact on the environment. They also promote opportunities of connectivity to the community of Greenville, and try to protect diminishing green space, while allowing more and more people to use and enjoy Paris Mountain State Park within the scope of acceptable user loads. The goal of this project is to determine a potential trail path from Somerset Golf Course to Paris Mountain State Park.



Ty Houck, Paris Mountain State Park Ranger, consulting his map for the best use of a trail in Paris Mountain State Park.

Materials and Methods

The primary device used for data gathering was a handheld GPS unit (Navman 3450, see Fig. 1, bottom) that gathered not only location data, but elevation data as well. An afternoon was spent in the designated area with State Park Ranger, Ty Houck, traversing through the woods determining the best path of travel for the proposed trail. After the data was gathered it was then entered into the ArcMap 8.3 software, where it was then placed onto other various datasets. A final map was generated which included an aerial photograph, human structures, parcel data and the proposed trail path itself. The 3D view and animation of the mountain was also created using ArcGIS software. Raster data was converted into a TIN file that allowed the elevations to be seen and the aerial photos were draped on top. All data except for the new trail information came from Furman University's existing data files.

Figure 1. The Navman 3450 GPS unit used to gather the trail data.

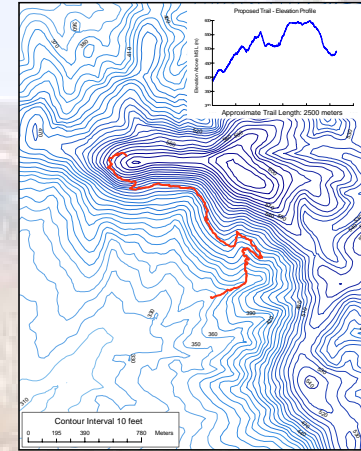
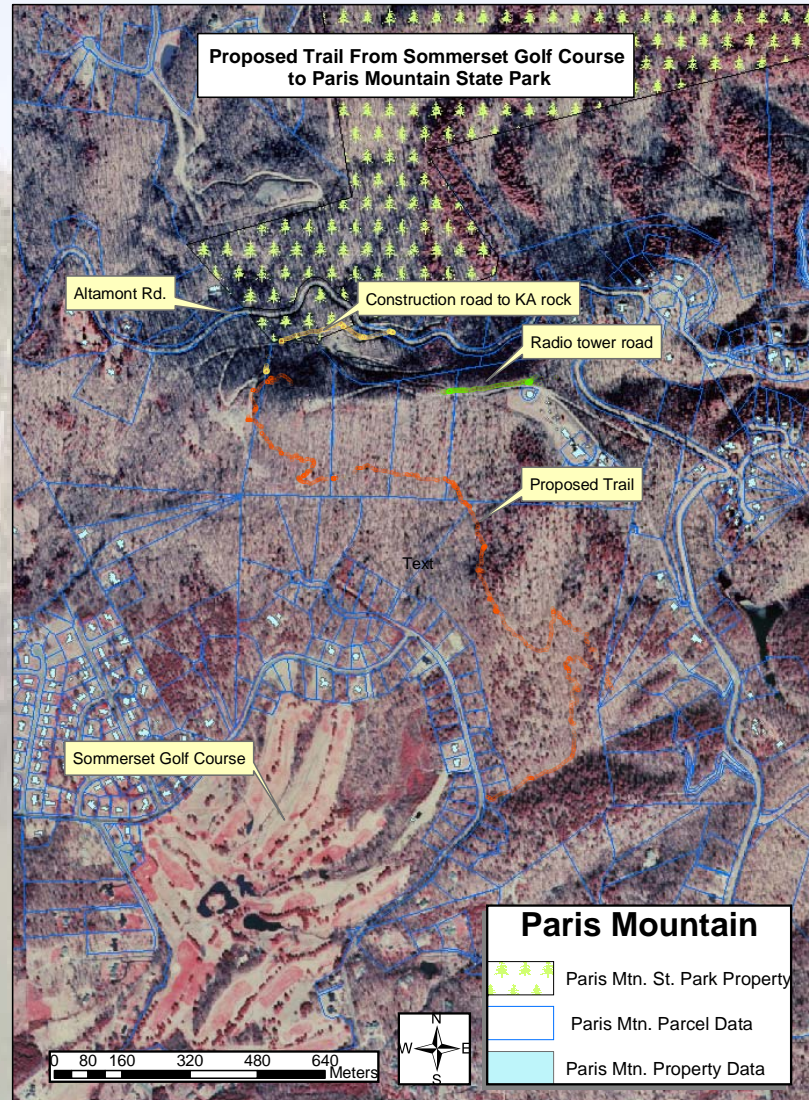


Figure 2. Elevation contour map depicting the proposed trail path on Paris Mountain.

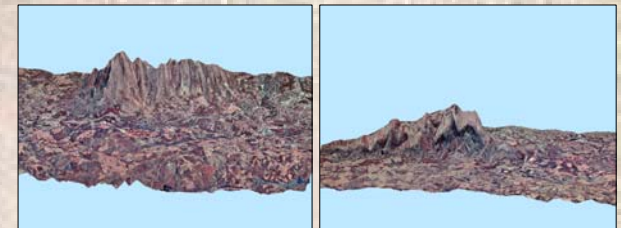


Figure 3. These two images show different views of Paris Mountain using the 3-D properties of the ArcScene program.

Discussion

The most important information derived from this project was obtaining a general feel for the terrain to see if the trail was even possible and secondly, to utilize the ESRI computer software enough so that an understandable representation of the data could be achieved. It was necessary to map the data alongside property parcel data, so that property owners could be notified of the proposed trail. It was also beneficial to utilize the 3-D capabilities of ArcScene to better understand the elevation dynamics of the terrain. The biggest hurdles in seeing this trail come to fruition will be gaining permission of property owners and overcoming the financial constraints that the State Park service has.

Acknowledgements: Ty Houck, George Bieldger, and Suresh Muthukrishnan

Sources: Paris Mountain State Park Friends (http://wilddave.com/friends/trail_plan.htm)

Hiking the Carolinas (<http://hikingthecarolinas.com/onlineguide.php>)

Discover South Carolina (http://areas.wildernet.com/pages/area.cfm?areaID=SCSPPM&CU_ID=1)