PARIS MOUNTAIN STATE PARK, PROPOSED TRAIL AND INTEREST POINTS

BONNIE O'NEILL, FURMAN UNIVERSITY

Introduction:

Paris Mountain State Park is one of the oldest protected areas in South Carolina. Before its establishment as a park in 1935 it served a watershed for the city of Greenville. The park was developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the depression and spans 1540 acres. It features large stands of old growth hardwood forests. It also hosts several hiking and biking trails as well as a family campground and picnic areas. Many of the park's buildings display the CCC's rustic style of architecture and stonework. In recent years the popularity of the park has grown. The park service has responded to the increase in traffic along paths by creating a new hiking trail. My GIS project involved the mapping of this recently established trail which spans from the camping ground to the Park Center. This project required field work in the park using a GPS system to gain specific information regarding the path the trail will take. The park also showed interest in creating a map showing points of interest along the trail in the park. This project will be used by the park service and the public.

Picture #1: Another beautiful day along North Lake Trail.

Picture #3: Sulphur Springs Trail path. Its great for biking!

Picture #6: Enjoy the view of Mountain Lake after hiking.

Picture #11: Picnic Bench on Mountain Creek Trail.

Picture # 4: Listen to the creek along Brissey Ridge Trail.

Picture #12: Enjoy Park events at the Amphitheater.

Picture #9: Stop and have lunch at Picnic Area A&B.

Picture #15: Watch water pour over the dam at Lake Placid.

Paris Mountain State Park: Trails and Points of Interest

0 700 1,400   2,800   4,200   5,600
Feet

Bonnie O'Neill Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic

Figure 1.0
This map shows the hiking and biking trails and waterways within the park. The new trail, Turtle Trail which traverses from the camping area to the park center is included. The entire map is overlain with an aerial photograph of the park.

Picture #2 Marvel at the spectacular colors along the trail that circles the Reservoir.

Picture #7: The vista at Mountain Lake is worth the hike along Sulphur Springs Trail.

Picture #5: Here are fall maple leaves along Brissey Ridge.

Picture #8: There are plenty of areas sit and appreciate nature such as the Picnic Area

Picture #10: Enjoy a leisurely walk back to the Park Center along Turtle Trail.

Picture #10: Sit and enjoy the outdoors at one of the many lookouts.

Picture #16: Take a walk along the Lake Placid Loop.

Picture #13: Walk along the rustic Bridge.

Figure 1.1
This graph is a terrain profile of Turtle Trail. The trail is not very strenuous. It winds parallel to a stream towards the Park Center. It is a 15 minute hike approximately.

Materials and Methods:

The primary device used for this project was a handheld GPS unit that gathered not only data location but elevation as well. Several afternoons were spent in the park taking pictures along the trails and collecting GPS location points. After the data was gathered it was entered into the ArcMap 9.1 software, where it was placed on a dataset. The dataset included contour lines, park boundaries, park trails, and raster data. A final map was generated indicating nice places to hike, facilities available, and the newly created trail. A profile graph was created to show the terrain of the new trail. Also, a webpage was created with the trails and links to the pictures. All data except the new trail data and pictures came from Furman's existing database or Greenville's database.

Conclusion:

Paris Mountain is a great place for people desiring a quiet place to relax in a mountain setting. My goal is for people to see my website and be inspired to venture out into the outdoors. Hopefully the project will enhance the public's appreciation of the park.

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