

STAND 1.

NATURE TRAIL REPORT

FOR

Greenbelt Homes, Inc.
Hamilton Place
Greenbelt, MD 20770

location

Off Ridge Road, between Laurel Hill
and Plateau, in Tax Unit B.

on

26 Acres

in

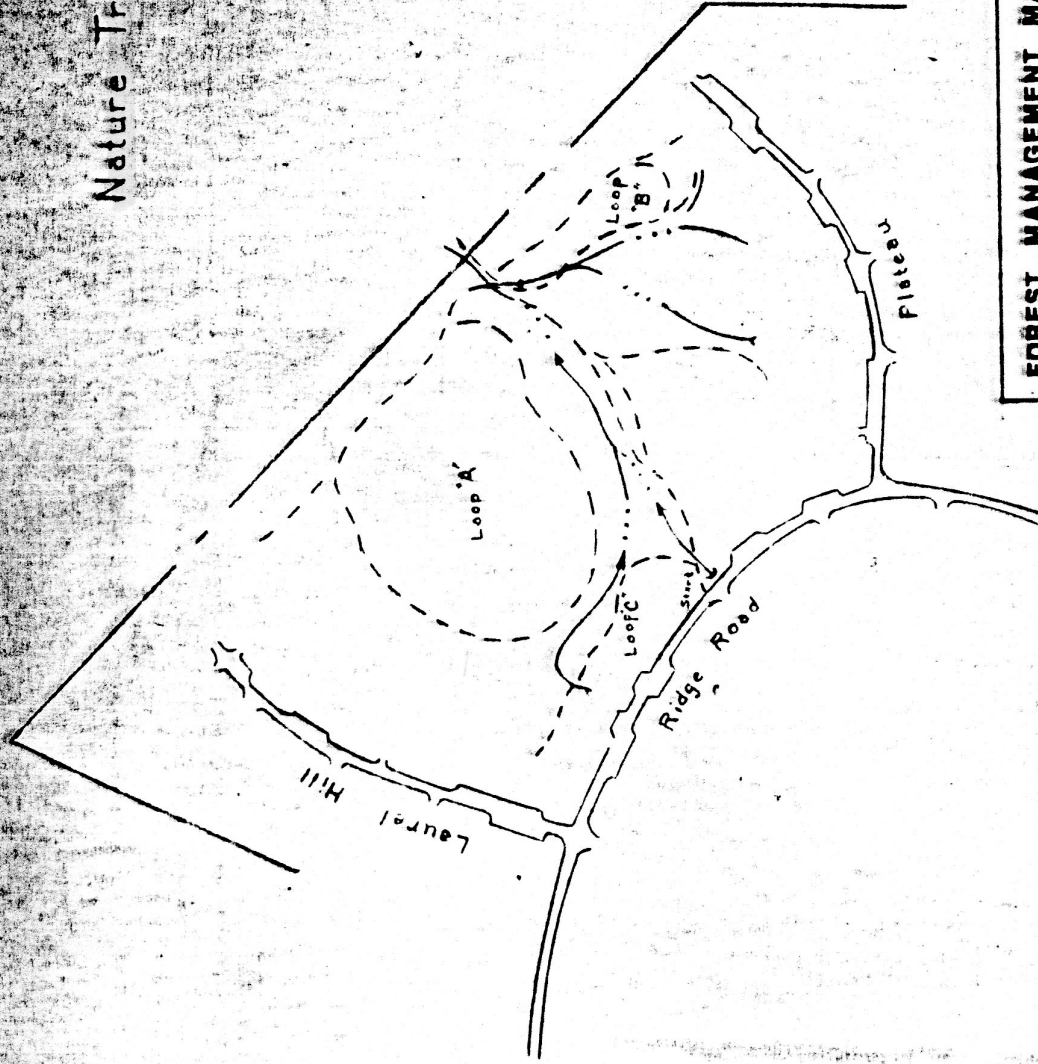
Prince George's County

Prepared by

Terrance W. Clark, Project Forester

July 25, 1975

Nature Trail Area



FOREST MANAGEMENT MAP

for
 Greenbelt Homes, Inc.
 Acres: 26 Scale: 1"=300'
 Prepared by: T. W. Clark
 Date: 7/25/75
 Maryland Department
 of
 Forests and Parks

LEGEND

- Property boundary ————
- Stand boundary ————
- Stand number ③
- Hard road ————
- Farm lane ————
- Woods road ————
- Stream line ————
- Fence ————
- Railroad ————

GREENBELT NATURE TRAIL

MAIN TRAIL

1. This northern red oak is a double tree. It probably grew from two sprouts on the same main stem or from two trees which grew very close together and joined.
2. Tulip-poplar is one of the tallest and straightest trees that can be found in the eastern states. It gets its name from the flower it bears in the spring. Long boards from this tree are often used for siding on barns.
3. One of the pioneer trees on worn out farm land is black locust. It can survive because it takes nitrogen from the air. This also makes it a soil builder. Wood from this tree is durable and is often used for fence posts.
4. Andrew Jackson was called "Old Hickory" because he was as tough as the wood from this tree. Hickory nuts are commonly eaten by squirrels. A scar at the base may have been caused by a fire or some other type of injury. The vines growing around it with fuzzy looking stems and leaves in three's is poison ivy.
5. Some trees produce a large number of sprouts as this American Elm. Normally only one or two of the most vigorous stems live. On this tree, several sprouts lived and are now beginning to fuse along their trunks.

LOOP A

6. Occasionally two different species of trees appear to be growing together. Unless they are very closely related, the faster growing tree surrounds the other and eventually kills it. This leaves a deep scar on the surviving tree. These trees are pitch pine, with long needles, and Virginia pine, short needles.

This portion of the forest is of the oak-pine association. It is one step in natural vegetative succession. Eventually oaks will replace the pines completely unless there is a fire or some other natural disaster which kills the oaks.

7. In Maryland, southern tree species and northern tree species are often mixed. Southern red oak or Spanish oak is at the northern end of its range in Maryland. It is often found in mixtures with Virginia pine.

8. Red maple is commonly used as a shade tree. It is also valuable for furniture making in some places but is often hollow in Maryland. A twisted tree also makes poor lumber because it warps and twists when the boards are dried. Red maple leaves are opposite each other on the stem.
9. Trees are often named for some feature. Scarlet oak turns a bright red in the fall. Limbs have knots in lumber when a tree is sawn into boards. This makes scarlet oak less valuable than some other oaks.
10. Sassafras tea is made by boiling the roots of this tree. Scrape a stem and smell the distinctive odor. Sassafras is a pioneer along with black locust.
11. You have seen this tree species already (pitch pine). It is an old tree that was once girdled but managed to heal and survive. The flattened top shows that it has reached its full height.
12. Leaves on this tree are long and thin as are those on a willow tree. But look around; it has acorns. Willow oak is another tree that got its name from an unusual feature. It is now a very popular shade tree.
13. The State Tree of Maryland is the white oak. It was named for its light colored bark. Wood from this tree is very hard and strong and is used for many things. Acorns from white oaks sprout when they fall giving them a head start in the spring.
14. Many people have difficulty distinguishing black oak from red oak. As you can see, black oak has rough dark bark. It also has an orange colored inner bark. Acorns from this tree have a fringed cap.
15. Flood plains are the flat areas along the streams that form from years of flooding. Ravines are steep eroded hillsides at the heads of streams. Eventually the sides of the ravine will be flattened into a flood plain. Here we see the two meet.
16. Looking at the star-shaped leaf on this tree can cause people to mistake it for red maple. The leaves on this sweetgum alternate along each side of the stem and not opposite each other as in the red maple. In the fall, the leaves turn any color from purple to red to yellow - all on the same tree. Sweetgum grows where it is wet.

17. About 15 feet up the hill from this tulip-poplar tree is a patch of Indian pipe. This is a delicate white flower that blooms in woodlands in the summer.

LOOP B

18. Along with sweetgum, this red maple, as well as, sycamore, elm and several other species, grow together in what is called a bottomland timber association.
19. Pin oak is often planted as an ornamental although the drooping lower limbs are a problem along roads. The acorns are eaten by many animals. Notice that you are returning to the oak-pine type of forest again.
20. What tree is this with the shaggy bark? It looks like a hickory with the nuts and compound leaves. Could it be shagbark hickory? No! Shellbark hickory is sometimes called false shagbark hickory because of the rough bark. However, shagbark hickory has much larger plates.
21. One way to tell one pine from another is to count the number of needles in a bundle. Several species of pines have long needles in groups of three but pitch pine is the only one that normally has tufts of needles sprouting from buds on the trunk.
22. Few seedlings can survive in the deep shade of a mature forest. Blackgum is one of these. This sapling will continue to grow until it is as tall as the oaks. Unless the black oaks die from a disease or some other cause, they will grow up in the shade of the oaks until there are no oaks left. Hickory and beech trees do the same. This process is vegetative succession.
23. From this point you can see several different species of trees and trees of all different sizes. This is an uneven aged or all aged stand. It demonstrates the process of forest succession. One group of trees, each with different needs and different uses replaces the previous stand.
24. A few shrubs grow in openings in the forest. This one is arrow wood viburnum. A cluster of small white flowers bloom in the spring and produce a cluster of blue berries. The berries are eaten in the winter by many animals. Viburnums have opposite branching similar to the maples.

18
FOOL B

25. Let's see how observant you are. How many different species are there in this patch of sapling along the trail ahead. I count 10.

26. Another tree that grows in the shade or understory of the forest is the dogwood. Many people look forward to its blossoms in the spring. What appears to be the petals are not petals at all. They are the bracts that surround a cluster of smaller flowers. You must look closely to find the truth.

27. Bluebeech has many names. Look at the twisted shape of the trunk. If we name this tree for the way it looks, muscle wood would be a good name. A more universal name is American hornbeam. It is another tree that grows in the understory.

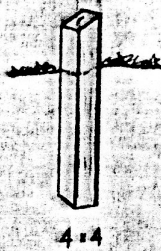
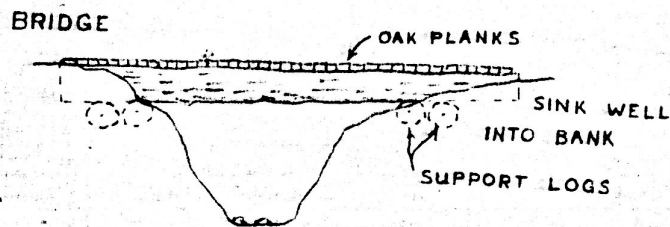
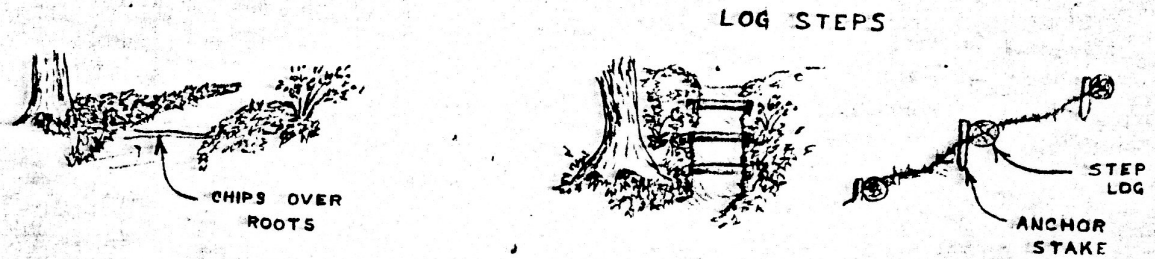
SILVER
28. Here's a tree you've seen before. It's a pin oak. How old do you suppose it is? About 110!

LOOP C

1. Leaves on this tree are long and thin as those on the willow tree. Look around. This tree has acorns! Willow oak is a tree that got its name from an unusual feature. It is now a very popular shade tree. The acorns are popular with many large birds like blue jays.
2. There are several kinds of wild cherry. This one is called sweet cherry. The berries are eaten by birds. Cherrywood can be made into fine furniture.
3. One of the pioneer trees on worn out farm land is black locust. It can survive because it takes nitrogen from the air like other members of the pea or legume family. This fact makes it useful as a soil builder. Wood from this tree is very durable making it popular for fence posts. The vines winding around the tree are honeysuckle and poison ivy. Poison ivy has three leaves to a group and "hairy looking" vines.
4. Old Virginia pine trees are often broken off in heavy wind storms. This happens because Virginia pine is attacked by a wood rotting disease as it grows older. The disease is called red heart. Once the heartwood is rotten, the stem is not strong enough to withstand a heavy storm.
5. Red maple is commonly used as a shade tree. It is also valuable for furniture making in some places, but is usually hollow in Maryland. The leaves on a red maple twig are opposite each other. Red maple has small red flower early in the spring.

- 52.
6. The Maryland State Tree is the white oak. It was named for its light colored bark. Wood from this tree is very strong and hard and is used for many things. Acorns from white oaks sprout when they fall giving them a head start in the spring. The leaves on an oak tree alternate down each side of a twig.
 7. This is a grove of elm trees. Although trees are still dying from Dutch elm disease, these seem to have escaped for now. Scattered around the grove are wild multiflora rose bushes. The rose seed pod, or hip, is excellent winter food for wild animals who spread the seeds where ever they go.

GREENBELT NATURE TRAIL
Trail, Marker, and Sign Construction



MARKER



SIGN

As recommended by Mr. Cliff Dennis in his management plan for Tax Unit B, a nature trail was laid out for the use of the community residents. The trail begins off Ridge Road near the outfall pipe at the edge of the woodland. From that point it makes use of existing trails as much as possible; however, some additional trails will need to be constructed to create loops. The stops on the trail are marked with numbers painted on the trees. In addition, the portion of the trail that requires building was flagged. The total ground distance of the trail is approximately 3/4 mile with two loops off 1/4 mile each running to the east and west of the main trail which is 1/8 mile long. The primary design of the trail is such that a visitor could select one loop or the other. By doing this, the hiker would either make 17 or 16 stops instead of the total of 28 for the entire trail.

In addition, a separate small trail was selected for use by school children. It begins at the same point as the other, but runs to the west nearly parallel to Ridge Road. It is about 400 feet long with seven stops.

Greenbelt Homes, Inc. will be involved in the construction of the trail, the placing of signs and trail markers, the preparation and distribution of a trail brochure, and trail maintenance.

CONSTRUCTION

The construction of the trail simply involves removing the leaves along the path so that the way may be easily seen. Small shrubs and seedlings should be removed and low hanging branches should be pruned. Large trees should be avoided. Wood chips can be used to protect the soil if they are available. Where the going is steep, small logs buried across the trail act as steps and help to check erosion. Four simple bridges will be needed to cross the streams.

MARKERS AND SIGNS

The markers for the stops can be made of treated 4x4's or of a post from a durable wood such as locust or cedar. They should be about four feet long. When placed in the ground, three feet should be covered and tamped soundly with one foot protruding. The number of the stop can be routed or carved on the top of the post or simply painted on. The top of the post should be cut at a 45 degree angle toward the trail so that the number will be visible. Markers are often vandalized. By sinking the posts deep and setting them firmly, they will remain in place. If the lumber is defaced, the top can be smoothed and repainted.

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A sign can be made from a routed piece of 2x6 which is long enough to say "nature trail" in large letters with an arrow to indicate the direction. It should be about three feet high and in a visible location. Normally such signs are stained a redwood color with white or cream colored letters; however, any natural looking combination of greens, browns, or other colors is satisfactory.

Trail markers at junctions will be needed to distinguish between routes. These can be marked on posts similar to those for the stops.

TRAIL BROCHURE

The trail brochure is necessary for the interpretation of the self-guided trail. It should be attractive and informative without being too complicated for general use. Once every few years it should be revised to see that it is current. A series of mimeographed sheets makes a simple and inexpensive guide booklet. Booklets should be made readily available to the general public. A box attached to the sign post for the trail would be a possibility. If vandalism is a problem, the corporation may wish to have a supply in the office entry room, at the schools, in the office entry room, at the schools, in local stores, the library, and other commonly visited locations.

Each of the stops has been listed with a minimum of information because the local Boy Scout troop has expressed an interest in preparing a more detailed pamphlet. Samples from several existing nature trails have been included as guidelines.

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance consists of whatever is required to keep the trail safe and effective. This would include the repair of stop markers and the other trail signs as needed, the covering of exposed tree roots with dirt or wood chips, the updating of the brochure and other activities of this nature.

ASSISTANCE

It is recommended that as many community service groups and clubs be involved in the project as possible. This encourages people to consider it as their own. None of the work is complicated or dangerous. Also, the project forester or his assistant will be available with advice on the planning and construction of the trail if needed.

For assistance, contact:

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