

Swanson Trail Day - 11/17/07

A tremendous thanks to all the 35+ gracious volunteers who came out on Saturday to help out with the major construction at Swanson, work took place between Tetanus Hill and the bottom of the old "Down Hill" trail section. Work started out with setting the new bridges into their locations over ruts caused by the "Old" downhill trail that fell into neglect and unuse due to the substantial erosion starting to form 4 years ago, the bridges aren't there to span huge gaping creeks or voids but serve to get us over the up to 24" deep ruts safely. The new downhill trail is now complete and ready to ride.

As our number grew we broke folks down into three teams total, the second one working to close the old turn around the cement drain and restoring the ability of surface water from rains and snow to get back to the drain instead of going down the long flat trail that leads in from the road crossing. The drain is there for a purpose and over the last couple of years the MTB trails have caused engineered drainage to fail and the water to go places we don't want it to go. The third team built some superb benching bringing the new trail extension back into the old trail just above the old downhill area.

We closed the old section coming out of the trees due to "tread creep" where in the past 4 years 4 new trails one higher than the next have formed due to the erosion going into the hard left corner leading to flat graveled trail going south.

Two teams then split up to complete the new trail extension by benching the entrance, weed wacking and removing some of the wheel catcher ruts from the new trail tread. Tremendous work completing that extension.

Some of our THOR tribal elders who have been there since inception of MTB trails at Swanson provided some great help leading benching teams to complete a smooth transition from the old downhill trail to the new. Thanks for your help guys we need that kind of talent and perspective of what happens over the long term to make the new reroutes and future trails maintainable and sustainable.

One of the final tasks was installing big black ugly silt screens in areas where we closed trails, and also decommissioning the old down hill trail with a series of major drains. The silt screens serve two purposes; first to actually block off the trail so there is no confusion that the trails are closed, and secondly which is more important to keep some of the dirt back where it belongs on the hills. If left unchecked by silt screens a lot of dirt and water would continue to erode the trails creating a large scar in the land and funneling water into sections of trail we plan to use for years to come by starting premature degradation of those trails.

Check out the photos from the [Swanson Trail Day](#).

Swanson Trail Day - 11/21/07

The Mid-West Cycling Community (High Gear and Trek store) folks volunteered their time

before work to complete a new trail bypass around the gully area. The gully trail where the two steep chutes drop into is at risk for total loss due to the creek eroding the bank where the trail is located. Steps have been taken to re-enforce the bank but only time will tell if the trail will survive a few more years or not. The new bypass is also meant to allow less experienced riders a way around the two challenging chutes to continue on the main trail, also this will become the new main trail if we lose the gully area permanently perhaps later down the road. Wow the new bypass which now uses a down hill section which was formally an uphill section flows really smooth, you then make a hard sweeping right and zig zag through a new tree section before dropping back into the large wooden bridge, I think more and more folks will choose that trail over the chutes due to the speed and fun. A big thanks to Mark S. for the bypass redesign and his crew for creating what is probably going to be a really fun new section.