

Tennessee Trails Association
Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
May 11, 2025
Via Zoom

The meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order by President Will Latham at 3:00 pm ET. Present were Will Latham, Steve Turner (Vice President), June Callahan (Treasurer) and Susan Woods (Secretary).

The Executive Committee met to consider the Evans Means Grant Program (EMGP) request from the Rotary Park Clarksville, Montgomery County Parks and Recreation (copy attached) .

This grant request had previously been reviewed by the EMGP Committee with the following findings:

- Although the request was received after the deadline, is not the typical type of expense to cover, and the amount is well above average, the EMGP Committee considered that the need is in part due to a natural disaster and that the chapter has a close working relationship with the park.
- The EMGP Committee found the application compelling and the attending members of the EMGP unanimously voted to recommend that the grant be awarded with an understanding that this should be viewed as a rare exception and not setting a new norm in regards to timing and amount awarded.
 - Present at EMGP meeting - Jenny Fitzgerald, Mark Hubbard, Jane Coffey, Karen Shoemaker, Wayne Drown.
 - Absent from EMGP meeting - Rob Richards.

As a note, and as the proposal mentions, the short window of opportunity and request for funding is created by three factors:

- The Trail Maintenance team has completed other work in the park ahead of schedule leaving an opening to complete other activity within the park.
- A key member of the Montgomery County Facilities team will be on extended vacation from 12th June. After return from vacation, they will be allocated to work in other Montgomery Park Facilities, so not able to complete the funded work for many months.
- Montgomery County budget for rental equipment is fully depleted due to reclamation work from recent flooding.

Because of his work in helping bring the request to the EMGP Committee, Steve Turner recused himself from voting on this issue and left the meeting.

The remaining Executive Committee members discussed the funding request and the recommendation of the EMPG.

June Callahan moved (2nd by Susan Woods) that the grant request be funded for \$2,500.00. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm ET

Tennessee Trails Association

Request for Funding from the Evan Means Grant Program

Date: 5 May 2025

Grantee: Rotary Park Clarksville, Montgomery County Parks and Recreations.

Sponsoring Chapter: Clarksville

Grant Amount Requested: \$2,500.00

Grant Utilization: Rental of Mini Excavator Equipment

Grant Request Date: 12 May 2025

Key Contact: Katie Netti - Natural Resources and Program Supervisor

(Montgomery Parks and Recreation)

Overview: Rotary Park is a key partner with the Clarksville Chapter of TTA. Rotary Park provides meeting facilities free of charge to the chapter and encourages promotion of TTA by providing stands and facilities at Rotary Park events. In addition, Clarksville Chapter offers monthly guided hikes in Rotary Park for both beginner and intermediate hikers, with co-sponsorship of hikes. Clarksville Chapter has benefited from new members joining through these events.

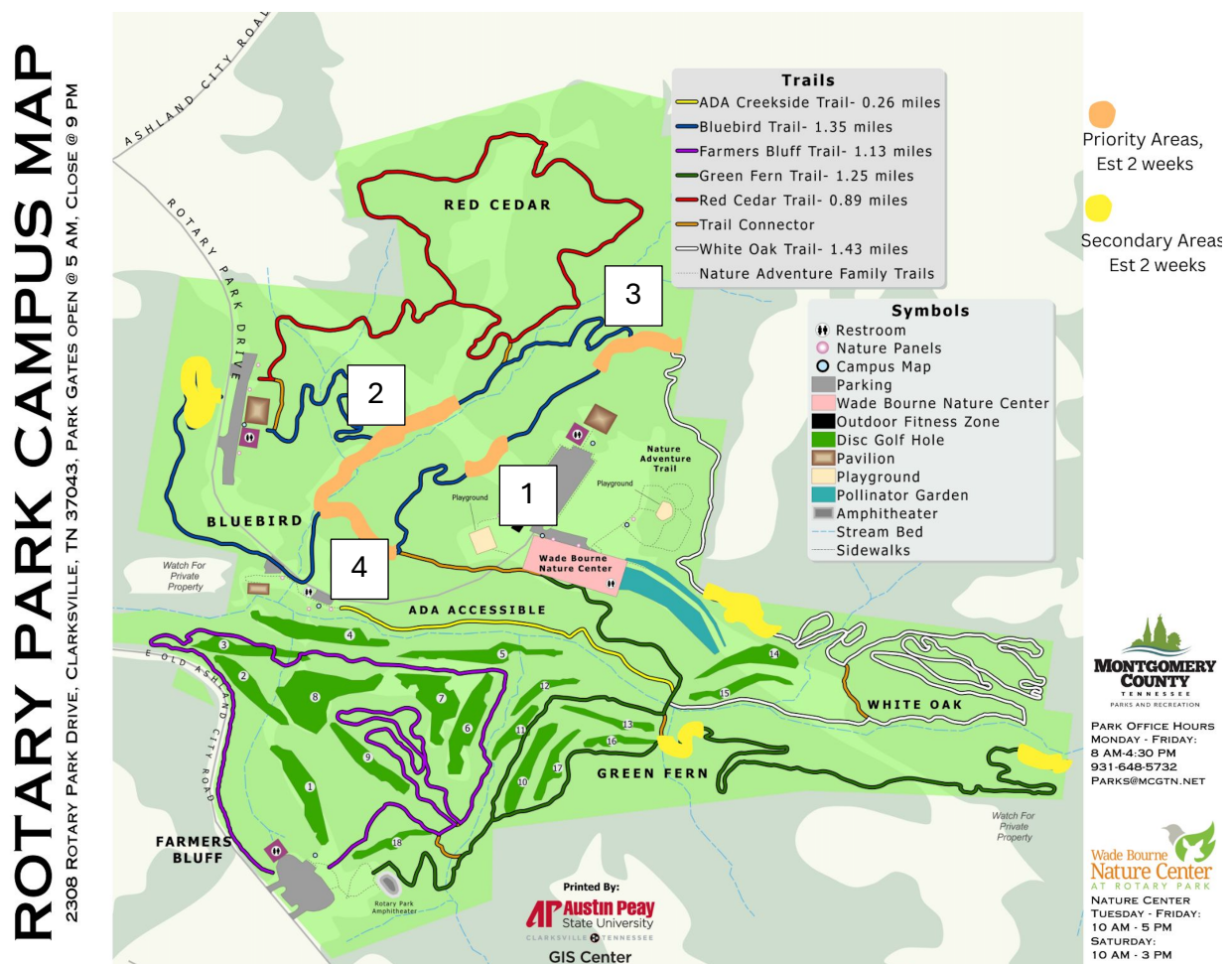
Rotary Park is working to improve sections of Trails within its boundary, in particular the Bluebird trail which is a popular route in the park. This is part of the parks overall plan to increase its utilization and visitation numbers. These trails are utilized by members for Clarksville TTA as well as the local community.

Project Overview:

Rotary Park is seeking to rent a CAT 302 mini excavator that will be used to improve grade reversals, address problematic drainage areas and mitigate future erosion issues. Further improvements will be made to other trail segments for improved sustainability. Only Montgomery County Employees of Rotary Park will be permitted to operate the equipment. The equipment will be rented for a period of one month from



Thompson CAT at a cost of \$2,500. The below map shows the intended work areas in Rotary Park during the project.



Below describes the major changes needed on the Bluebird Trail. Areas marked in Yellow will also be addressed as a second priority if there is sufficient time remaining.

Area 1 – Bluebird Trail

Erosion and water damage. Trail surface is below the grade, increasing the erosion taking place. Will also remove small bridge over stream and replace with rocks.



Area 2 – Bluebird Trail

Significantly eroded section of the trail undercutting the natural level, creating increased erosion and exposure of tree roots.

This approximately 50-yard section will require the trail to be diverted with switchbacks to enable a better profile and water management.



Area 3 – Bluebird Trail

Approximately 100-yard section of the Bluebird Trail. The trail was built some years ago without any proper water management. The trail will be moved and regraded to be closer to the tree line on the right side of the images

In addition, the bridge will be removed and replaced with rocks to limit future work.





Area 4 – Bluebird Trail

This heavily eroded section of trail will be allowed to go back to nature. New trail will be put in place with improved water management. The new trail will include switchbacks and water management.



Start Date: 12th May 2025

Completion Date: 12th June 2025

Total Rotary Park Man Hours Required: 160 hours

TTA Volunteer Hours: Estimated 50 hours – depending on availability

Equipment Required: Excavator cost \$2,500 per month

Clarksville Chapter will provide volunteer labor for hand-finishing tasks including shaping, tamping and fine-tuning trail surfaces after the machine work is completed. Estimated hours of Volunteer activity is 50 hours depending on availability. TTA Chapter Members will not operate any machinery for these projects.

Rotary Park would like to commence the project by 12th May and be complete by 12th June.

The short window of opportunity and request for funding is created by three factors

- a) The Trail Maintenance team has completed other work in the park ahead of schedule leaving an opening to complete other activity within the park.
- b) A key member of the Montgomery County Facilities team will be on extended vacation from 12th June. After return from vacation, they will be allocated to work in other Montgomery Park Facilities, so not able to complete the funded work for many months.
- c) Montgomery County budget for rental equipment is fully depleted due to reclamation work from recent flooding.

In support of this we are requesting that funding be made available by around 10th May to allow for time to organize the rental equipment early enough to complete the project by 12th June.

Equipment Rental and Rental Liability

We propose that funding be provided to the Clarksville Chapter, which will pay directly for the equipment rental. All receipts will be provided and will refund any residual amounts should there be any.

The rental agreement will be with Montgomery County Parks and Recreations so that insurance and liability will be placed with that organization. This will be verified at the time of equipment rental to ensure that TTA carries no liability.

Post Project Completion Activities

All rental equipment will be returned within the agreed rental period.

Receipts for all equipment will be provided to the Chapter and the Evan Means Grant Committee.

Rotary Park will work with the Clarksville Chapter to ensure that the improvements made are photographed and documented with plans to report to the Evan Means Grant Committee and include articles in the TTA Newsletter.

Rotary Park and Clarksville Chapter Representatives will work together to publicize the work and support from Tennessee Trails Association, this will include

Notes on our monthly guided hikes that TTA has partially funded the improvement of the Trail System within Rotary Park

Signage on the Blue Trail to indicate that the Trail has been supported by Tennessee Trails Association. This will include a sign on the Trail to show support from TTA in renovating the trail and Trail Marker Signs indicating TTA Support for the Trail. Rotary Park will have final approval on any signs and placement.

Notes in Support from the Clarksville Chapter Leadership

Rotary Park is where we hold our Chapter Meetings and has become central to our presence in the community. We have been working hard to gradually build a great relationship with the Park Leaders and Staff, since these benefit TTA and the community in General. Clarksville Chapter has given funding to Rotary Park in the past, including \$500 towards the implementation of a Fish Tank in 2023.

On several occasions during the past two years, we have proposed that TTA could provide funding and or support for Projects. This is our first opportunity to be able to provide such funding through the Evan Means Grant Fund, so we would very much like to help and support Rotary Park on this occasion.