

ASHLEY RIVER HISTORIC DISTRICT RECREATIONAL TRAILS

Jaime Destefano and Will Hamilton

OBJECTIVE

THIS TRAIL WILL PROVIDE VISITORS WITH A RECREATIONAL AREA WHERE THEY CAN ENJOY THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATE THEMSELVES ON THE ECOLOGICAL SYSTEM NATIVE TO THE ASHLEY RIVER. INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION OF THE ASHLEY RIVER HISTORIC DISTRICT IS CRITICAL IN CONTINUING THE CONSERVATION OF THE REGION.

TRAIL SYSTEM

THE TRAIL SYSTEM INCLUDES TWO SIX-MILE LOOPS OF PLANTATION MIX SOIL, A VERY FINE MATERIAL CONSISTING OF GRANITE DUST AND GRANITE 789'S COMMON FOR WALKING TRAILS IN THE LOWCOUNTRY.

PARKING IS LOCATED AT BOTH THE NORTH AND SOUTH ENDS OF THE TRAILS FOR A SMALL FEE TO HELP MAINTAIN THE TRAILS (ANNUAL RECREATIONAL PASSES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE). SIDE TRAILS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WISHING TO WALK A SHORTER DISTANCE. RESTROOMS ARE LOCATED IN BOTH PARKING LOTS AND AT THE 1.5 MILE MARKER.

VISITORS ARE PROVIDED WITH INTERPRETATIVE TRAIL MAPS HIGHLIGHTING NATIVE VEGETATION AND HISTORICAL INFORMATION. AN INTERACTIVE WEBSITE ALLOWS VISITORS TO OBTAIN VALUABLE HISTORIC AND BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION PRIOR TO THEIR ARRIVAL. THE WEBSITE WILL ALSO OFFER VISITORS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE FEEBACK FROM THEIR EXPERIENCES OF THE TRAIL SYSTEM IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE BEST CONSERVATION AND MAINTENANCE.

GENERAL HISTORY

THE INITIAL SETTLEMENT OF CHARLES TOWN WAS LOCATED ALONG THE ASHLEY RIVER AT THE SITE OF ALBERMARLE POINT IN 1670. SURROUNDING THIS SETTLEMENT WAS 12,000 ACRES OF LAND GRANTED TO LORD ASHLEY COOPER, EARL OF SALISBURY. THE NETWORK OF ROADS AND SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED THE ECONOMIC FOUNDATION FOR THE COLONY. ALTHOUGH THE COLONY RELOCATED TO ITS CURRENT LOCATION AT OYSTER POINT, THE ASHLEY RIVER SERVED AS A CENTER FOR TRANSPORTATION AND TRADE. REMNANTS OF THE LOWCOUNTRY RICE CULTURE AND PLANTATION SYSTEM IS EVIDENT IN TODAYS LANDSCAPE.

ECOLOGICAL SYSTEM

THE MIXTURE OF WET AND DRY LANDS ALLOWED COLONISTS TO PLANT AND CULTIVATE RICE IN THE AREA WHICH LEAD TO A TRANSFORMTION OF THE SOIL AND TOPOGRAPHY. SIX CLASSES OF NATIVE VEGETATION EXIST WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PROPOSED TRAIL SYSTEM. THESE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:



LONGLEAF PINE



SIDE TRAILS

PINE SAVANNAH
LONGLEAF PINE FOREST
SOUTHERN MIXED HARDWOOD FOREST
SOUTHERN HARDWOOD SWAMP
FREASHWATER MARSH
TIDAL MARSH



PLANTATION MIX



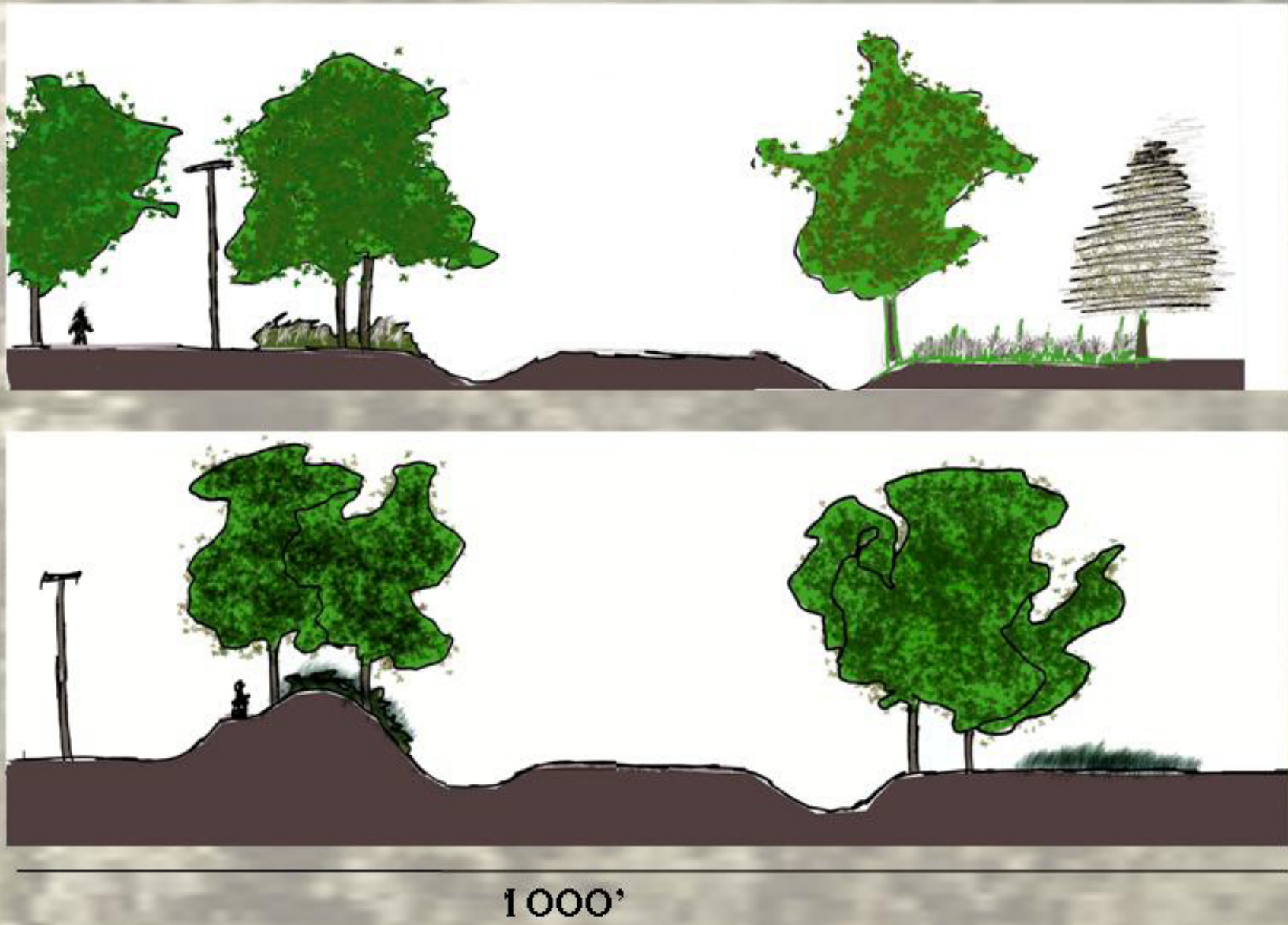
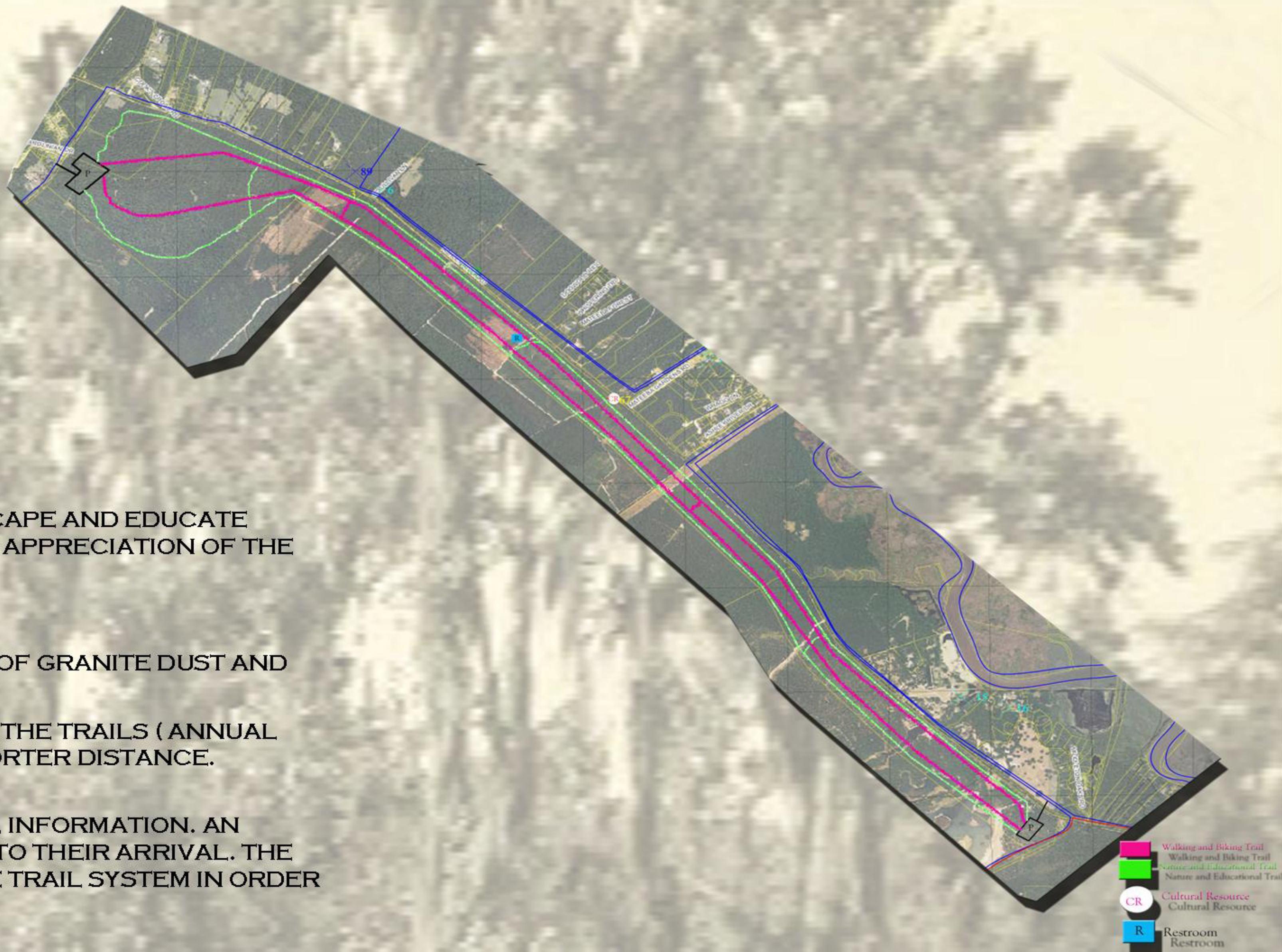
SOUTHERN HARDWOOD SWAMP



SWEETGRASS



SOUTHERN MIXED HARDWOOD FOREST



CROSS SECTIONS OF TRAIL SYSTEM INDICATIONG EXISTING BERMS WITHIN THE PROPOSED PROJECT AREA

BACKGROUND IMAGE AND GENERAL INFORMATION GATHERED FROM KATHERINE SAUNDERS' ASHLEY RIVER HISTORIC DISTRICT PRESENTATION AND ASHLEY RIVER AND SAVANNAS HISTORIC DISTRICT NATIONAL REGISTER FORM