



Pine Mountain Backcountry

Strategic Plan 2011

This 2010 document established a comprehensive strategic plan to guide long range investments and sustainable program development in the Pine Mountain Backcountry (PMBC) at the Gerald I. Lawhorn Scouting Base.

***Strategic Vision:** Create a sustainable outdoor recreation environment in the Pine Mountain Backcountry for Flint River Council high adventure programs through strategic planning and action.*

The 2010-11 investment projects have greatly improved backcountry access, safety and sanitation for existing activities. Programs and backcountry usage is expected to expand significantly starting in 2012 as new activity promotional materials and maps are widely distributed through displays, newsletters and social media outlets.

2011 Accomplishments

The Ini-To Lodge Executive Committee (LEC) received a \$1450 matching National Order of the Arrow Service Grant for 2011. The PMBC Trail Committee coordinated with the LEC, Scout units and community volunteers to organize OA service weekends and trail service days for the Service Grant projects. A total of 1,026 volunteer hours accomplished the following infrastructure developments to improve access to the Pine Mountain Backcountry for sustainable recreation outdoor programs:

- Conducted detailed ground survey to support trail and camp maintenance projects.

- Completed 4 trailhead kiosks and erected 3 information kiosks at points of interest.
- Constructed 3 complete Philmont-style campsites at Meadow View Camp, Indian Camp and Riverside Camp. Infrastructure improvements included clearing the campsites, and adding composting latrines, adding waste water sumps, bear cables and fire rings.
- Surveyed and refurbished 13 primitive campsites by clearing forest debris and access trails, with 13 campsite location posts and designated campfire rings.
- Constructed steps descending 85 feet to the base of Moss Falls and also to the upper falls section, installed two safety hand ropes spanning 120 feet and erosion controls.
- Established a trail blaze and rating system following national standards. Marked 17 miles of trails with color blazes, and installed 26 trailhead and intersection posts for safety.
- Cleared downed trees and tree roots, cut back overhanging branches, mowed grass and corrected erosion problems on 16.2 miles of trails.
- Surveyed and created 1.5 miles of new multi-purpose trails.
- Developed backcountry visitor guides for hiking to Moss Falls, Geocaching, Backpacking, Flint River Float Trips, and the Woodbury Meteorite Impact Crater.
- Distributed over 600 copies of the Moss Falls Trail Guide and 100 copies of the Geocaching Guide to Scout leaders and the Camp Staff.
- Constructed 3 ladder bridges for hikers and bikers to cross Matt Branch creek.
- Developed new backcountry geocache activity program with 12 caches.
- Established locally the Teaching Resources and Individual Leadership (T.R.A.I.L.) **Boss** program to harness community volunteers interested in contributing to trail maintenance.

2012 Trail Ahead

The In-Trail Executive Committee has committed for 2012 to the following resources and projects during service weekends and trail service days:

- \$2,000 projected budget, including donations received
- Construct an Adirondack shelter and composting latrine at Matt Branch campsite
- Continue trail improvements and maintenance