

On Thursday June 1, ten FOSM volunteers were joined by seven members from Talking Talons Youth Leadership/Youth Conservation Corps (TTYL/YCC) along a stretch of the Challenge Trail extension. The FOSM crew started the day by clearing corridor along some new realignments while Jenny gave trail-building pointers to the TTYL/YCC crew. The realignments bring the trail up off the old roadbed in places where drainage is poor; other sections of the roadbed have better drainage, allowing the line to stay low in those areas. In sections where the trail was moved up, the two crews closed off the roadbed, using limbs and other debris, to discourage trail users from leaving the new trail. Later, some FOSM crew members worked to further widen previously-built tread through what has been dubbed “the gravel pit,” a long steeply-sidesloped section of sandy gravel left over from constructing the Crest Highway, which is located just above the new trail. Sometimes it’s unavoidable, constructing trail through loose material (sand, gravel, etc). Along loose sections, water and user traffic will quickly erode the tread, so trail builders aim for wider tread in these areas. While the gravel pit construction was taking place, other FOSM crew members worked briefly where the crew had left off the previous Thursday on the east side of the culvert, before returning to the roadbed and sideslope sections where the TTYL/YCC group was working. Rain threatened at several points throughout the workday, but in the end everyone remained dry. Temps were cool and pleasant.

The FOSM volunteers were Dan Benton, Claudia Bergsohn, Jenny Blackmore, Don Carnicom, Sim Cook, Phil Cromer, Luis Cuadros, Byron Garner, Bruce Hansche and Eric Russell.

The TTYL/YCC crew were: Jared Moyers (crew leader), Kineo Memmer (assistant crew leader), Ella Cook, Levi Gloetzner, Robbie Larrison, Olivia Lopez and Mari Salley.

Photos by Jenny Blackmore unless otherwise noted.



Jenny says some words
about trail construction

Photo by Luis Cuadros

Meanwhile the FOSM crew clears
corridor along the realigned sections.

Phil shows off his truncated trunks.



No one's favorite task: the FOSM crew gamely collects material for roadbed "obliteration," affording the youth crew more time to practice trail construction (the youth crew closed off plenty of roadbed too).



Phil finds a limb



Sim finds a log



Dan finds a fort

The TTYL/YCC crew (fondly dubbed “the kids”) on a section of roadbed



Levi, Mari, Olivia, Jared, Robbie



Mari, Olivia, Jared, Robbie



...and practicing benching on sideslope
Mari, Robbie, Olivia, Ella



Robbie and Jared in foreground



Claudia and Bruce in “the gravel pit.” Not pictured: their compatriot Luis. Widening the tread also includes pulling material down from the backslope.



Before and after photos by Bruce Hansche. Pictures cannot do justice to the enormity of the task this crew accomplished! Without shovels!
(We didn't know we'd be working here today)



Sim on a realigned section



Eric and Dan on another



Jenny (L) with (back row) Jared, Kineo, Mari,
(front row) Olivia, Ella, Robbie, Levi

Photo by Luis Cuadros