

Domain Management

The adage Reduce, Reuse, Recycle has been used a lot over the years. It is rare when a project can tap all three aspects of the sustainability trifecta. Recently, Domain management has been **Reducing** the amount of material headed to the landfill by **Reusing** old construction debris as fill in an abandoned railroad corridor being **Recycled** into a pedestrian and bicycle path.

As most everyone in Sewanee knows, the Mountain Goat Trail is a bicycle and walking path that will eventually be 40 miles in length and connect the towns of Palmer and Cowan. On the Domain, there is currently 1.7 miles paved, 0.8 miles that are walkable gravel, and just over a mile that has, until recently, been impassible due to erosion.

This impassible mile was used for many years as access to our property on the side of the mountain headed toward Cowan. A series of clogged culverts over the last 10 years washed it out to the point that it was very difficult to travel, even on foot.

In early 2019, as the construction on the new Wellness center began, contractors reached out to Domain Management to see if they could find a place to dump the old sidewalk, parking lots and concrete blocks that would be generated in the renovation.

A reuse idea was born. Over the last 12 months, contractors have been dumping waste sidewalk, parking lot, and curb material in low areas on the trail. More than 50 dump truck loads of material have been brought in.

The results have been amazing. Many impassible sections have gone from this:



Left: Piles of rubble waiting to be put in place

To this:

Right: Area after concrete is smoothed with heavy equipment



From a Domain Management perspective, the project had a short-term goal of creating vehicle access to the side of the mountain. There is a large amount of trash and exotic species that were inaccessible for

remediation when the road was inaccessible. Now that access has been restored, there are options for cleanup and restoration.

The long-term goal is to open the area as part of the Mountain Goat Trail. To further that goal, Domain Management solicited help from the Mountain Goat Trail Alliance. They agreed to provide rock to cover the concrete and begin the transformation of the area toward an accessible bike and pedestrian trail. To date, the Mountain Goat Trail Alliance has pledged \$6,500 in rock to improve the trail. Work is ongoing as weather permits, so look for continued improvement over the next several months.

Right: The area after rock donated by Mountain Goat Trail Alliance

