

National Trails Day 1996 on the Bells Mountain Trail

National Trails Day on June 1st, 1996 the Chinook Trail Association held a work party to install a new bridge on the Bells Mountain Trail. Almost 50 people showed up for this work party.

This was part of the huge effort to build the Bells Mountain Connector Trail. This bridge is the first as you climb up the trail from the Moulton Falls Trail which goes from the Hantwick Trailhead to Moulton Falls Park.

Corporate sponsor was the Linear Products Division of the HB Fuller Company.



Part of the work crew performing brushing and basic treadwork on the uphill side of the bridge.



Performing brushing on the uphill side of the bridge.



The man in the checkered shirt is Roger Anderson. Here one of the sills is being set.



The crew is checking the first stringer for placement.



Doing stringer work.



This is preliminary work on the third stringer.

Left to right, Jerry deRuyter, and Larry Swatosh in the purple sweatshirt.



The crew is using a highline to “fly” the stringers in place. Jerry deRuyter set the highline for the bridge work.



Larry Swatosh is checking on the preparation of the stringers for the bridge.

Larry designed this bridge and all of the other timber bridges on the Bells Mountain section of the Chinook Trail.



The crew is setting the large pressure-treated stringers that will support the bridge decking.



A gasoline powered drill is being used to bore holes in the stringers for the bridge.



Putting the decking on the bridge. you can see the decking is still loose.



Craig Pridemore is helping to construct the bridge. The bridge decking is done and the crew is preparing to install the kick rail.



From left to right is Larry Swatosh, the next 3 people are unknown, the 5th person is Jerry DeRuyter with a chainsaw and the next two people are unknown. From the right side of the group is Roger Anderson on the far right with a gas powered drill. Next of Roger is Bob Scullin.



Here is the bridge in early 2023, almost 27 years after installation.