

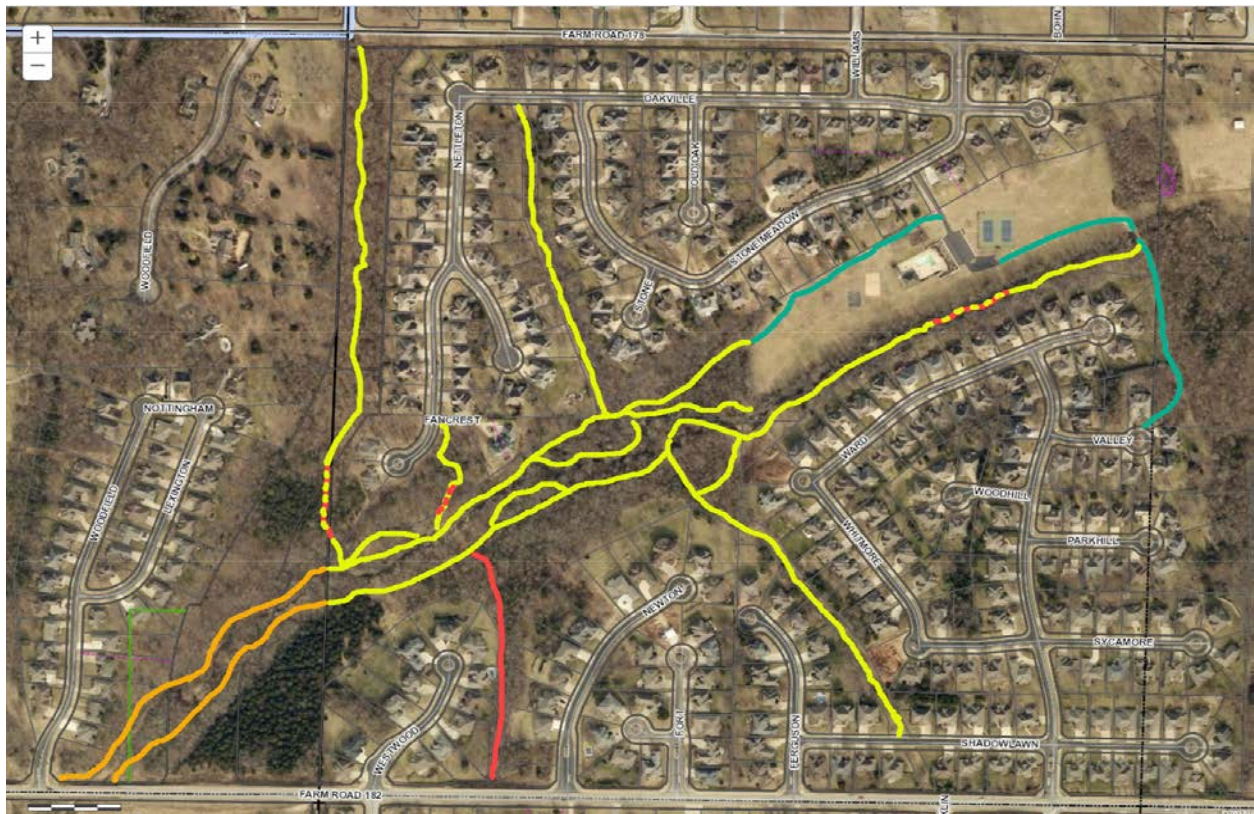
In our 2019 association survey, one of our member respondents included this in their comments . . .

“Stone Meadow is an oasis in a sea of suburban exploitation. Google Earth at a 10 mile radius. There is nothing else even close to the subdued quality of life that is provided.”

The board completely agrees with this assessment and believes that with just a small organized volunteer effort, our 30+ acres of neighborhood green space can be leveraged to improve and enhance our quality of life and property values to a FAR greater extent than it has been thus far.

We believe the key to this effort is the improvement and expansion of our neighborhood trail system currently covering in excess of 3 miles (see approximate routes shown below):

- Green indicates paved trails
- Yellow indicates clearly to lightly established unsurfaced routes (sections of these can be muddy or leaf obscured at times)
- Yellow/red dashed sections indicate more difficult, overgrown or risky sections needing attention
- Solid red indicates new proposed route
- Orange indicates traversal across private property (the board is not aware of any issues around the use of these trails, which connect to the southwestern most section of the paved Ozarks Greenways Trail system that runs nearly to Riverbluff)



If you haven't explored our trail system yet, you're missing out. In addition to the absolutely beautiful spring fed creek that runs year round across most of our valley, here's what you'll find

- A number very impressive trees that somehow escaped early logging and development activities, one in excess of 15 foot in circumference
- A truly beautiful limestone shut-in and waterfall that sits directly above a section of Ward Creek that disappears during dry periods (typically just a few months out of the year)
- A tranquil spring that flows out below an old Walnut stump and fills a long section of still water perched several feet above the creek bed
- A group of impressive forts build by neighborhood children
- Several sections of trails modified by a group of adolescent neighborhood mountain bikers
- All kinds of wildlife: deer, coyotes, hawks, owls, crows, etc.

Neighbors who have properties adjacent to a neighborhood trail are encouraged to create attractive connections from their properties to the trail. Those without fenced backyards may wish to consider plantings to create partial privacy buffers between their yards and the trail.

Beyond regular trail maintenance, periodic flooding sometimes creates challenges in our valley; the worst of which is unsightly volumes of trashed washed in from the city upstream. I have researched options and believe a good solution exists . . . the installation and maintenance of a trash catchment net system below the Weaver bridge over Ward Creek. I've been in contact about this with the city. They are aware of the solution but are only in the early stages of considering pilot tests. I've also attempted to contact The Ridge development to solicit their support.

If you're interested in contributing to the development and/or maintenance of our neighborhood trail system, please contact bill.melgren@gmail.com.