

2021 MAINTENANCE SUMMARY

The 2021 season was a good one for the Over the Hill Gang. There were no severe weather-related issues like landslides, flooding of blocked drainage pipes. Routine work from grooming the trail in the spring to blowing off leaves in the late fall was carried out efficiently by the Gang. Drainage ditch cleaning, downed tree removal, mowing and all the other routine jobs were always completed in a timely manner.

Through the generosity of the R. K. Mellon Foundation and the Trail Volunteer Fund, matched by WYTC dollars, a new John Deere 3049R model tractor was purchased. It will provide additional capability for mowing and other maintenance tasks. The 22-year-old John Deere tractor has incurred extensive repairs over the past several years but is still in useable condition. In 2022 it will be repositioned to a storage container in Van Meter in order to provide maintenance services more quickly and easily to the southern end of the WYTC section of the GAP.

Major repairs to two other pieces of equipment totaled over \$6500 for the year. The excavator needed new treads and the Ventrac tractor required repairs to the exhaust and ignition systems. Other plans for 2022 include construction of a memorial site near the West Newton Station, installation of drains below the West Newton Cemetery, and replacement of the doors on the kiosks in West Newton, Cedar Creek Park and the Smithton Trailhead.

Many, many thanks to the members of the Over the Hill Gang who show up every Wednesday morning to perform routine maintenance work and who show up to help in emergency removal of trees.