

TOMAHAWK TRAIL

12-Mile Circular

Rated for: Scouts and Venturers

Historical Note

The original Tomahawk Trail ran from the now-closed Lion's Den Scout Camp off Hwy 21 to Beaumont Reservation over country roads. The trail was established in 1956 by Post 430 of the former Grant District and was the first named trail for Scout hiking in the Council area. In 1961, after several years of operation by Post 430, the trail was incorporated in the Council's trails system. The trail was established under the leadership of Lester O. Hoffmann, Advisor of Post 430. Mr. Hoffmann subsequently served for many years as the Council's Hiking Merit Badge Subject Director and was a long time member of the Historic Trails Committee.

In 1966, the Tomahawk Trail was closed because of the increased automobile traffic. More than 15,000 Scouts and leaders hiked the trail between 1956 and 1966. In 1975, a new Tomahawk Trail, using the same trail patch design with some minor color changes, was re-opened in Beaumont Reservation as a memorial to Mr. Hoffmann and his Explorer hikers. This memorial project was conceived and headed up by Robert E. Howard, Advisor of Brentwood Post 339 and a long time member of the Historic Trails Committee. The new Tomahawk Trail was opened for hiking on May 15, 1975.

Trail Information

This 12+-mile circular forest trail lies entirely within Beaumont Reservation. Much of the trail follows scenic ridge tops and up or down at 10% or less grade in most places. The trail is marked with white 2" x 6" Appalachian Trail-style paint blazes. Occasional "double" blazes indicate that the trail makes an abrupt turn or intersects another trail. A double blaze warns hikers to stop and make sure of the course before proceeding. The trail qualifies as one of the "five, ten mile trails" required for the Hiking Merit Badge. At the present time the trail is marked in the clockwise direction with 2"x 6" blazes and 2" square blazes in the reverse direction where the slope is 10% or less.

Other Reservation trails share the Tomahawk route at various points, and some of these trails are also marked with paint blazes. Hikers on the Tomahawk Trail will encounter green, blue, yellow, red, orange, and pink blazes, as well as metal horse trail signs of several colors. Tomahawk Trail users should follow the route marked by rectangular white paint blazes.

The designated starting and finish point for the Tomahawk Trail is the Shippey Trail Center, which is about 100 feet west of the swimming area. However, because the Tomahawk Trail is circular, hikers may start at other points. Alternative starting points are: Ray Nature Lodge parking lot and Nusser and Laemmli camporee areas. Parking space is available at each of these access points. Trail camping with water is available at the Laemmli and Nusser camporee areas. Reservations for hiking and camping along the trail should be made through the Camping Department. Other points along the trail offer dry camping opportunities such as Blackberry Hollow, Toad Hollow, and south of trail on east side of road opposite the pasture at Nagel. (Sometimes there is water for putting out fires at Blackberry Hollow and Toad Hollow. It is advisable to make sure of the conditions before depending on the water supply.) Groups should maintain visual contact at all times along the trail. **GROUPS SHOULD STAY TOGETHER.**

Be alert for minor route changes that attempt to eliminate steep grades or to move trail off roads into woods to reduce weed cutting during summer. Just follow the white blazes. These changes will be put on the next revision of the map.

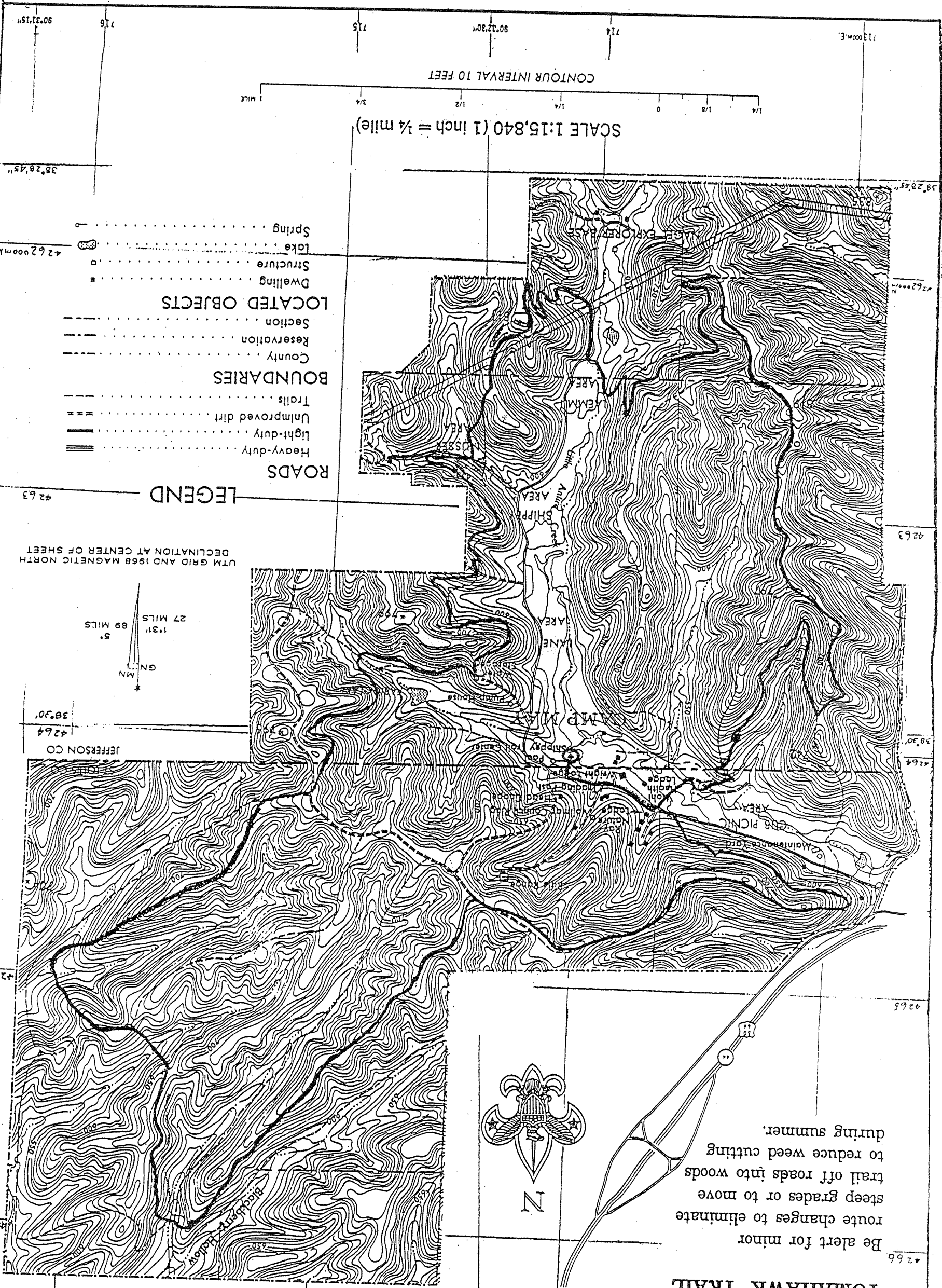
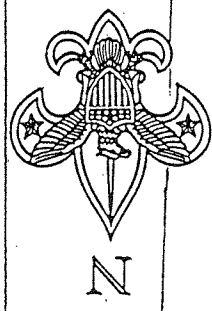
Trail route (starting from Shippey Trail Center)

Go north from the Trail Center at a magnetic bearing of 8 degrees to the main valley road. Turn left and continue westward along left side of the road. Watch for a large culvert just past Ray Nature Lodge. After passing this culvert, the trail leaves the road to the right and ascends a major east-west ridge at a 10% maximum grade to an almost level shelf half way up the hill. From here, it continues westward to Mud Cave. At this point, the trail turns toward the east and continues eastward along the ridge to a clearing at the top of the hill. The trail goes to the right toward the woods along the clearing and eventually comes out on the unimproved ridge road. Turn right along the road to the first ridge off to the left. Follow this ridge northeast toward Blackberry Hollow. About 5/8 mile along this ridge the trail veers off to the left at a 10% or less grade. About 100 yards before reaching Blackberry Hollow, the trail turns east across the valley and then goes south at a 10% or less grade up the west side of the next ridge dirt road toward Blackberry Hollow and the dry creek bed to the west side of the next ridge (so as not to disturb those that may be camping at Blackberry Hollow). The trail then goes south at a 10% or less grade up the west side of this ridge for about 3/8 mile. About 300 feet after the trail reaches the top of the ridge, the trail turns sharply to the left down a hill and up to the next ridge. Here the trail turns left and follows the ridge down the nose to Toad Hollow. About 100 feet past the pump house at Toad Hollow, the trail goes sharply to the right up the ridge to the southwest. The trail follows the ridge and joins the Green Trail about 1/8 mile before reaching the Ridge Trail. The trail crosses the Ridge Trail and goes down at about a 5% slope to the pipeline clearing. Cross the clearing at an angle and continue slowly down to the upper end of Fabric Lake Valley. Cross the wet weather creek and continue west up the side of the next ridge at a 10% or less grade to square water storage tank. Cross the trail coming up the hill and continue more or less contour wise south to the east edge of Nusser Area going through a fence along with the Pioneer Trace Trail. Turn right and go about 600 feet on the north side of the road to the west edge of Nusser Area. Turn left across the road and proceed up the ridge past the high voltage power cut on top of the ridge toward the fenced area. Go through the gate in the fence. Be sure to close the gate after passing through it. The trail goes through the woods to the right around the high point and then switch backs down to the main camp road. The trail parallels the road north to the Laemmlli Area. Head northwest across Little Antire Creek. About 35 feet past the creek, the trail goes sharply to the right north to the edge of a draw. The trail then goes 100 yards south-southwest and then back north crossing the Blue Trail and switching back at the fence. From here the trail goes up at about 5% grade around the cove up to just north of the power cut where the trail switches back west up to the west ridge. It follows the west ridge to the saddle south of the Cub Tower by-passing several high spots to eliminate steep parts. (Along this ridge are several pits thought to have been used by the Indians as a source of flint.) From the saddle, the trail goes south about 1/4 mile and then turns north bypassing Cub World. The trail switch backs down the hill between Camp Grizzly, Cub World, and Camp May. At the bottom of the hill the trail follows the left side of a rotted rail fence, which is part of Camp May Tree Trail and part of the Pathfinder O.A. Chapter Nature Trail. Cross Little Antire Creek on the automobile bridge following the road past the Sunnen archery and BB gun range to the Ray Nature Lodge parking lot. When you reach the camp road, turn right and return to the Shippey Trail Center. If you started at a point other than the trail center, continue diagonally across the Ray Nature Lodge parking lot, thru the woods, and cross the main camp road where the trail enters the woods to proceed to Mud Cave.

Beaumont Scout Reservation Greater St. Louis Area Council

TOMAHAWK TRAIL

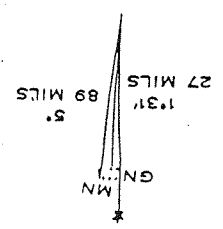
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LEGEND

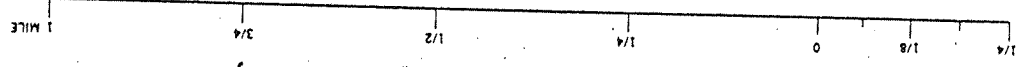
- ROADS**
- Heavy-duty
 - Light-duty
 - Unimproved dirt
 - Trails
- BOUNDARIES**
- County
 - Reservation
 - Section
- LOCATED OBJECTS**
- Dwelling
 - Structure
 - Lake
 - Spring

UTM GRID AND 1968 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



SCALE 1:15,840 (1 inch = 1/4 mile)

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET



713000 E 714 715 716 90° 31' 15" 90° 32' 30" 90° 33' 45" 90° 35' 00"

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