

Hebron Gardens & Trails:

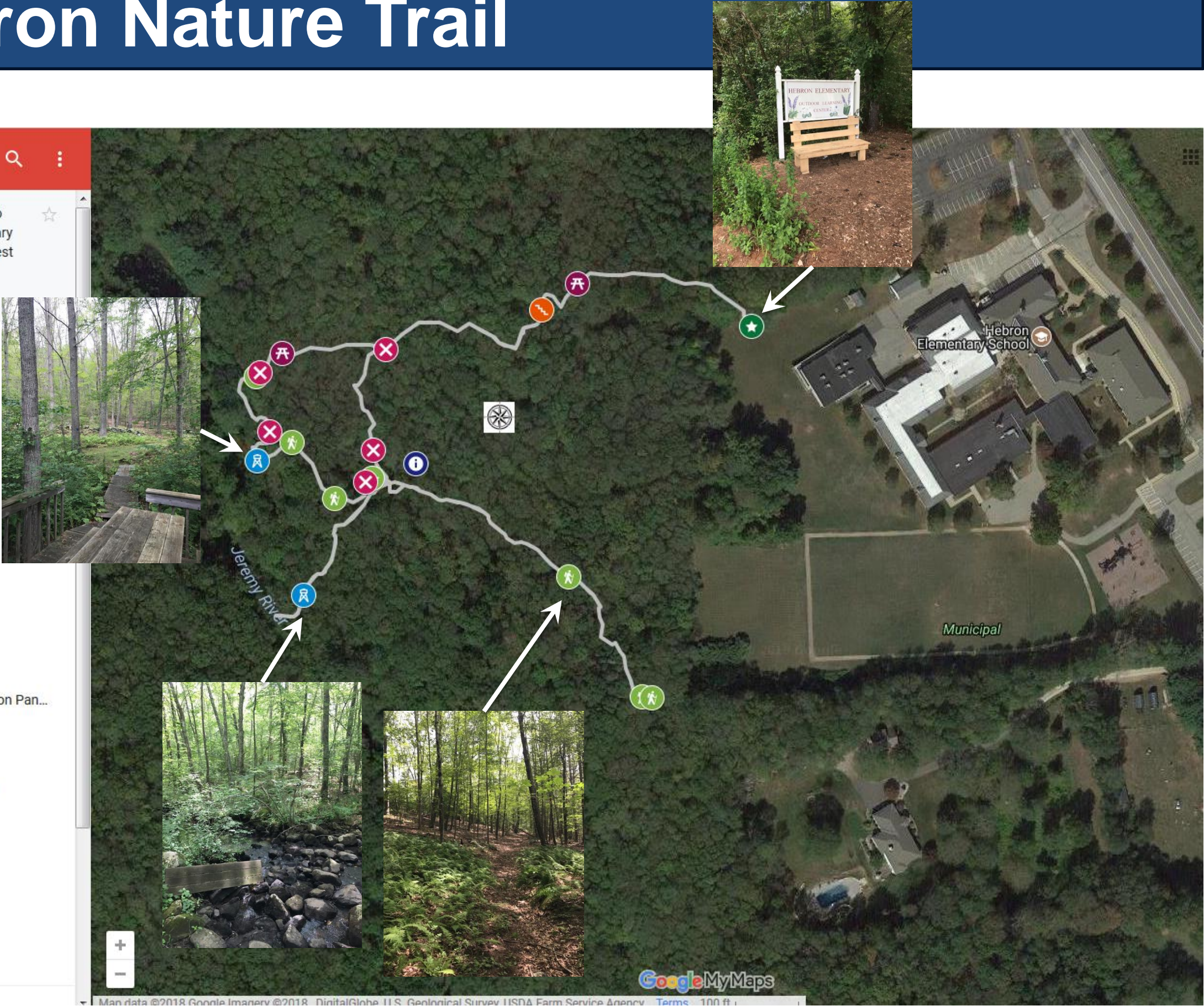
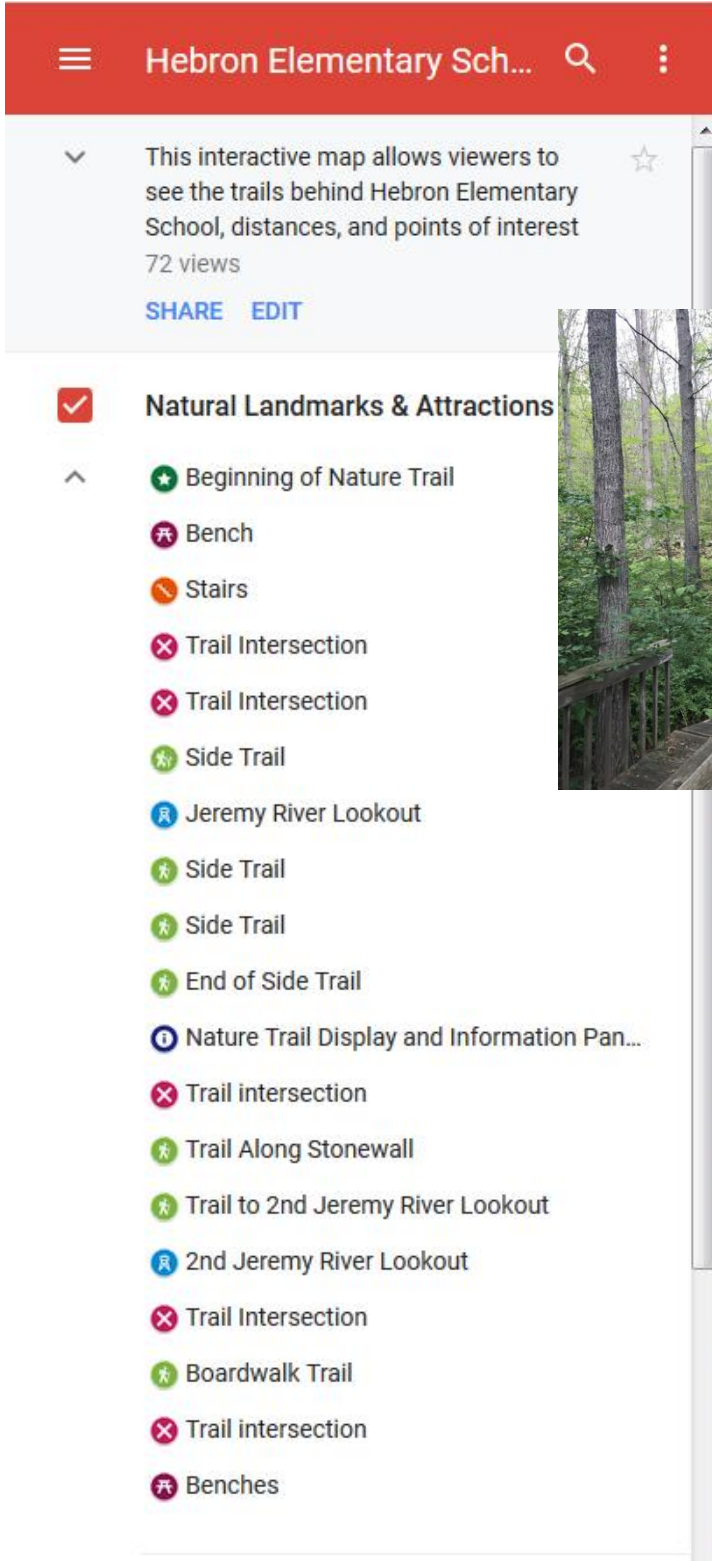
Encouraging the Local Community to Get Outside

Today, youth spend half as much time outdoors as previous generations. The intended focus & goal of this project is to engage the local community and get more people into nature by: (1) using technology to excite & make the public aware of a school trail & (2) planting a native garden in a school park to attract both local community members & pollinators!

Digitizing a Hebron Nature Trail

Procedures

- **Approval:** Spoke with town officials to create an interactive map
- **Site:** Hebron Elementary School Nature Trail
- **Mapping:**
 - Mapped trail system and marked natural landmarks/attractions using a smartphone GPS app (track kit: <http://track-kit.net/>)
 - Took pictures that were linked to each waypoint/landmark
- **Editing:** Uploaded the map to google maps & refined icons & pop-up window to make it interactive
- **Publishing:** Worked with Town Planner to make map available on town website
- **Interactive map:** goo.gl/JACh1v



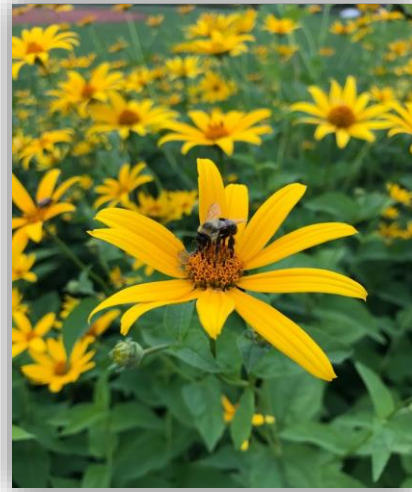
Native Planting at Local Memorial Garden

Additional Background

- **Pollinators:** Crucial to the reproduction of flowering plants
- **Types of local pollinators:** Bees, butterflies, beetles & birds
- **Purpose:** Pollination is necessary for about 75% of the world's crop production
- **Stressors:** Loss of natural habitat, increased agricultural demand, exposure to certain pesticides
- **Implications:** Loss of pollinators will affect the natural resources that humans depend on for survival



(Upper photos) Before, during & after planting of (left) periwinkle & (right) spring snow trees.



Local examples of pollinators: (left) Monarch butterfly & (right) Honey bee.

Procedures

- **Goal:** Plant a garden area that would attract bees & butterflies
- **Approval:** Got approval from school administrators
- **Site:** Memorial Garden at RHAM High School
- **Picking trees and ground cover:**
 - Multiple visits to Pride's Corner (a local nursery) to discuss pros & cons of pollinator trees
 - Worked with master gardener Laura Gauthier
 - Decided on trees rather than native plants because they are maintenance free
- **Community involvement:** RHAM Leos' Club (youth organization of the Lions' Club), Hebron Parks & Rec
- **Layout planning:** RHAM HS principal, school grounds crew, Hebron Parks & Rec, Leos' Club & Pride's Corner Farms
- **Planting process:**
 - Measured & painted 3 six ft. circles for trees
 - Parks & Rec dug holes for trees
 - Set cobblestones & mulch to prevent weeds
 - Planted 3 Spring Snow (*Malus 'X'*) trees & Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) groundcover

Results & Next Steps

- Trees will have white flowers & the groundcover will have purple flowers in the spring, attracting bees & butterflies
- Adds to the beauty of the Memorial Garden
- Leos' Club will add & maintain pollinator friendly perennial flowers in the spring

Acknowledgements: Laura Cisneros (Program Coordinator for Natural Resources Conservation Academy), Laura Gauthier (Master Gardener), Scott Leslie (RHAM High School principal), Mike Schlehofer (RHAM Director of Facilities), Rich Calarco (Hebron Parks & Recreation Director), Rich Griswold (Leo's Club Leader), RHAM Leos' Club members, Tom Erikson (Pride's Corner Wholesale Yard Manager), Karen London (Pride's Corner Office Assistant), Wild Bill's, Andy Tierney (Hebron Town Manager), Donna Lanza (Hebron Director of Administrative Services) and Mike O'Leary (Hebron Town Planner).

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