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Lots of persistence has finally paid off for Greenville resident Walley Morse (left) and the ATV enthusiasts of Washington County. Morse, along with Glenn Myers (right) of Munford, Ala., began construction of the trail Monday in the northeast section of Warfield Point State Park. The original perimeter of the trail is nearly 1.3 miles, but once completed, Morse plans to have nearly 10 miles of trail that will span 40 acres.

A dream coming true

A labor of love for Walley Morse, ATV course is under way

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GREENVILLE — If all goes well, Washington Countians will soon be able to enjoy the latest addition to Warfield Point Park.

Walley Morse, coordinator of special projects at Warfield Point Park, appeared before the Washington County Board of Supervisors Monday to give officials an update on the development of an all-terrain vehicle track.

According to Morse, the

track is currently under construction, and pending weather conditions, a grand opening has been planned for Labor Day weekend.

Construction on the track was expected to begin this past spring, but due to extensive flooding, plans were delayed.

The track has been a labor of love for Morse, who approached the board about its development well over a year ago. Supervisors gave Morse the go ahead to research



Walley Morse rides along one of the first trails Tuesday afternoon at Warfield Point.

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DREAM

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grants and funding for the track. In May 2007, officials announced that Washington County had secured a \$100,000 federal grant to develop an ATV course that will consist of nine or 10 miles on approximately 40 acres of land in a wooded area, away from the camp site at Warfield. An interpretive trail, which will begin in the park and extend down to an area overlooking the Mississippi River, and an observation platform, are also being considered for development, depending on funds.

A ribbon cutting for the track has been tentatively scheduled for 11 a.m. Aug. 29, Morse said.

In related news, the board agreed to increase the camping rates at Warfield Point Park.

There are a total of 59 camping sites that are equipped with complete electrical and water hook-ups. Nine of those sites are equipped for campers using tents only, and each site in the camping area has a concrete picnic table, grill, cooking table, steel lantern hangers and round fire pits filled with pea gravel. The park is also equipped with men's and women's restrooms, complete with showers. Five sites have permanent sewage

for the extended stay user.

The new rates are as follows: Daily rate is \$25 for campers; \$20 for seniors; and \$10 for campers using a tent. Monthly rates range from \$375 to \$400.

In other news:

■ Board members heard from Tommy Mills of Mills & Mill Architects of Greenville concerning much needed repairs to the courthouse, including an overhaul of the building's roof, complete with matching vintage roof tiles.

According to Mills, an estimated cost for the repairs is \$735,000. However, as the last survey on the building was done in 2006, Mills said the repairs could cost more. Mills recommended that the board look into acquiring grant money to help pay for the overhaul.

"Every little bit helps," Mills told the board.

■ The board denied the request of county public defender Carol White-Richard for a salary increase.

■ The board rescheduled hearings for a number of local entities which had objections to its real or personal property assessment. The new hearing dates are set for Aug. 26.