

Slatemont GPS/Navigation System Issues

Due to increased traffic and dependency on GPS/Navigation systems, we are having guests or vendors often getting lost, off the road, in culverts or ditches, turning around in dangerous locations, getting on private property that is not part of Slatemont, etc. We are sometimes having damage to our community roads, culverts, and also damage to some private property owned by Slatemont members.

The two most-used GPS map systems are Google and Apple (Mac). We have determined for the most part, the systems that use Apple Maps are more accurate and reliable for Slatemont. Google Maps have some major flaws which seem to be causing some of the problems listed above. Because we are a private community, Google did not drive on the roads but rather used some planning documents and many of those older plans did not come to fruition back when Slatemont was being developed in the 1970s. Obviously, with all the devices, you can not control what maps your system is using.

Some of the larger issues with Google maps are:

1. Huckleberry Trail is not on some Google maps as part of Slatemont.
2. Shows a connection of Hickory Nut to Buck Trail. Does not exist.
3. Shows a connection of Fox Trot to Buck Trail. Does not exist.
4. Shows a connection Fox Trot to Hickory Nut. Does not exist.
5. Alpine Drive is not accurately located on the map.
6. Slatemont Drive is our exit, not the old exit down by the Burrow (private property)

Another issue is the confusion of Azalea Drive vs Azalea Lane and Alpine Drive vs Alpine Place. It's hard to understand why the small community of Meadows of Dan would have road names so similar. When one is entering the road information, many of these intuitive systems will select the wrong road name and you might easily find yourself 8-10 miles from Slatemont. This isn't causing any damage to Slatemont but is causing frustration for your friends, guests, or vendors.

We have attempted to be proactive with these issues with the following:

1. Placed a sign going up Huckleberry, that you are on Huckleberry, there is no exit or turn around and a steep incline is ahead.
2. Placed 2 directional signs indicating arrows to access Hickory Nut.
3. Placed 2 directional signs indicating arrows to access Alpine Drive.
4. Placed a sign going up Buck Trail indicating there is no access to other roads and no turn around.
5. Placed a sign past the mail boxes alerting that GPS and Navigation mapping for Slatemont may be unreliable.
6. Placed a sign advising that paper maps of Slatemont are located in the yellow community library box at the top of Slatemont Drive.
7. Added 2 exit signs with arrows at the top of Slatemont Drive pointing down to Highway 758 (Buffalo Mtn Rd.).
8. Gave 2 maps of the Slatemont community with house numbers to both the Meadows of Dan Fire Department and the Willis Fire Department.
9. Contacted Google to correct the major flaws listed above.
10. Added a map of Slatemont to the community website.

We Need Your Help!

1. Please be aware of the issues listed above.
2. Your friends, guests, deliveries, etc. may need more than a street address by making them aware of possible navigation issues. Specific turns and directions may be helpful once in the Slatemont community.
3. Mark specific directions to your home on a Slatemont map. Scan it and you have a version available. If you need a copy of a Slatemont map, a map of Slatemont has been added to the Slatemont website for you to print and use.
4. Make sure you and others are aware of the printed maps in the community library.
5. Make certain your house number is visible from your road.
6. Don't assume because your GPS is correct, that others will be accurate.

In summary, after a short period of time, homeowners can usually drive the mountain with ease but at times our guests and vendors, etc. get lost especially when arriving after dark and are often frustrated. In many instances, they are relying on GPS systems and our posted signs are overlooked. When damage is done that translates to repairs, repairs translate to costs, and costs translate to higher annual dues or having to neglect other maintenance needs. Our current Board diligently tries to keep our dues stable. Hopefully by raising awareness we can minimize this ongoing problem some are experiencing.

We are certainly open to suggestions for improvement. Please address any concerns you might have to any of the SPOA Board members. Thanks so much for your cooperation with this matter.