

ARM – GR Newsletter

September 15, 2025

Garden Railroad Progress Update

Work on rebuilding the Phillip Pratt Memorial Garden Railway layout is ongoing, with about 120 logs installed so far. Initially, we received enough utility poles for Xcel to create over 90 six- and eight-foot logs, covering roughly half of the planned layout before needing more poles. On September 10, a new supply of logs arrived, which Ken Watson, Chris Childress,

Chris Mitchel, and I processed into 130 additional 6' logs, now ready for installation. Tracy Ball handled excavation, and Kenneth Berry provided the bandsaw for log preparation. .



Figure 1 Xcel delivery of more utility poles



Figure 2 Utility poles staged for reduction to 6' lengths



Figure 3 Chris Mitchel working the saw mill to slab logs

Log Installation

Significant progress has been made on the rebuilding of the Phillip Pratt Memorial Garden Railway layout, with approximately

120 logs installed so far. The inner wall of the retaining structure has been reinforced with landscape fabric, asphalt felt, and, in some areas, shingles to ensure greater stability and effective containment for the soil fill planned within the retaining walls.



Figure 4 Ken Watson's trusty Bob Cat moving logs for sawing



Figure 5 Interior loop of retaining wall being prepared for soil installation



Figure 6 Exterior view of retaining wall, straps used for setting poles

Membership and Recognition

The membership drive continues to show positive results, with Dr. Frank and Pat Gilstrap of College Station, Texas joining as the newest members. Recognition is also due to Turfmaker Corporation of Rowlett, Texas for their generous contribution of a rail car, supporting advertisement and promotion efforts for the ARM-GR garden railroad.

More next month: mce editor