The Maxwell Historical Trail is eight and one-half miles in length and ranges in interest from nature to the aerospace age. Parking is available across the street from the start of the Trail. A sign marking the start can be found near the first point of interest.

The Trail begins near the corner of Maxwell and Magnolia Boulevards, follows Poplar Street to the Maxwell Air Park, continues around Chennault Circle, follows the perimeter road (March Street) around the airfield to the Kelly Street Gate, turns left on Kelly Street, right on Chanute Street, left on Selfridge Street, right on Avenue "C", and left on Second Street. After passing Air University Headquarters, the Trail turns left on Maxwell Boulevard, right on First Street, right on Ash Street, right on Eighth Street, and left on Maxwell Boulevard, returning to the start of the Trail.

HISTORY OF THE TRAIL

Maxwell Air Force Base history is rich with memories of famous people and events from DeSoto’s visit to the space age. Since 1540 when DeSoto visited the Indian town of Tawasa on the banks of the Alabama River, the flow of leaders in history to this site has continued. Explorers, early pioneers, and present day pioneers have returned time and again.

In February 1910 Wilbur Wright came to the Kohn Plantation, the location of Tawasa, in search of a suitable site to establish a year-round flying school. With the assistance of local businessmen, land was donated and a wooden hangar built to house the Wright aircraft. On March 15, 1910, the first plane arrived, and shortly thereafter, Orville Wright came to Montgomery to take charge. On March 26, 1910, the Wright Brothers Flying School began operations with five students and one mechanic. In late May Orville Wright returned to Ohio to supervise flying activities at Wright Field and the Montgomery flying site became inactive for a period of eight years.

In 1918 the U.S. Government purchased the flying field for a military depot, and on November 8, 1922, the field was officially named in honor of Second Lieutenant William C. Maxwell, a native of Atmore, Alabama. While on a training flight in the Philippine Islands, Lt Maxwell’s plane developed engine trouble. When an emergency landing was attempted, he saw children playing directly in the path of his aircraft. He deliberately swerved the plane, struck a pole which broke his wing, and crashed, being instantly killed. Maxwell Air Force Base is a tribute to his heroism.

In 1927 an expansion program began, thanks to the foresight of Major Walter Reed Weaver, the Commander of Maxwell Field. This man, later to become a major general, initiated and urged the construction of permanent rather than temporary type
SITUATION ALERT

The below measures are intended for your use in emergencies.

RUELS OF THE TRAIL

Emergency Notice

acquaintance or unfamiliar with the layout of the park or the trail. If you are unsure of the trail, find someone who is, or contact local park authorities for assistance.

Ensure that the parking area is well-lit and visible. Keep a group of at least four people together, and notify someone of your route and estimated return time.

To ensure a safe trail experience, it is recommended to hike with a group of at least four people. If you are hiking alone, please make sure you tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.

Walking on a dirt trail or on the grass can damage the trail. Make sure to wear appropriate footwear and clothing.

Appreciate the natural beauty of the area. Avoid littering and respect the environment. Do not disturb wildlife or vegetation.

Avoid leaving litter behind after hiking. It is the responsibility of all visitors to ensure that the trail remains clean.

Follow park rules and regulations. No pets, no smoking, and no fires are allowed. Keep a safe distance from wildlife.

In case of emergency, call 911 or contact the nearest park authorities.

Additional information can be found on the park's official website or by contacting the park directly.

To ensure a safe and enjoyable trail experience, please follow these guidelines.
was an instructor at the Air Corp Tactical School between
summer of 1934 and spring of 1936. He was also
assigned to the Air Force General Staff, and
then to the Air Corps Tactical School, where he
served as an instructor in 1936-37. He then
joined the faculty of the Air Corps Tactical
School in 1937.

In 1942, he was seconded to the Naval Air
Base in China as an instructor in tactical
aviation. He served there until the end of the
war in 1945. After the war, he returned to
the Air Corps Tactical School, where he
continued to teach until his retirement in
1955.

Throughout his career, he held various
positions in the Air Force, including:

- Assistant C-in-C (Air Corps)
- Deputy Chief of Staff (Air Forces
  Pacific)
- Director of the Air University
- Deputy C-in-C (Air Combat
  Command)

He was also a recipient of several
awards, including the Distinguished
Service Medal, the Legion of Honor,
and the French Croix de Guerre.

In his retirement, he continued to
be involved in the Air Force, serving
as an advisor to the Office of the
Secretary of Defense and the
Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Throughout his career, he was
active in civilian aviation groups,
including the National Aeronautic
and Space Administration and the
American Association of University
Professors.
Support in Upgrading the Maxwell Historical Trail

Special Thanks to the 3800 Air Base Wing at Maxwell AFB for

22 and 26, the points of interest on the abbreviated trail are 1-22, 26.
Return to the parking area at the end of the trail.

This concludes the points of interest. Follow the map to
Community College of the Air Force Point of Interest #29

ABBREVIATED HISTORICAL TRAIL

Start at the right and go half mile hike. If so, read on.
You may have a real desire to view the historically

left in length and importance of reformed conditions.
NOTE: We emphasize that this map is not to scale. March Street (Perimeter Road) is approximately five miles long. Wear good hiking shoes!
Request permission to hike the Maxwell Historical Trail on ________ (Date) for Pack/Troop/Post __________ from _________________.
We anticipate _________ youth and _________ adults to hike the trail. Our unit belongs to the __________________________ Council.
We are aware that the local Boy Scout Troop, Troop 23, sells a patch as depicted above for $3.00 each. We are also aware the patch is approved for wear by the Boy Scouts of America. Enclosed is our check for $___________ to cover the cost of _________ patches.

1st Ind; 3800 ABW/SPD

TO: Requester

Permission is hereby granted for your unit to hike the Maxwell Historical Trail as requested above. If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to call me at (205) 293-2895.

JAMES L. MARCHAND, Major, USAF
Wing Commander's Youth Representative