

Doe Farm Trails Inventory and Recommendations

A Report to the Durham Land Stewardship Subcommittee

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and
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On May 1, 2018, Ellen Snyder and Lew Shelley walked the Doe Farm property trails to assess condition and develop recommendations for improvements.

This is a very pleasant area with a mixed forest that includes fine views and access to the Lamprey River. It receives non-motorized use year round and even has the potential for additional sections of trail. There is also potential for accessible trails in the future. Adjacent properties can also be accessed from this parcel but negotiations and agreements with other landowners will be necessary.

Our walking route began at the parking area on Bennett Road and followed the road that parallels the railroad tracks and then entered the woods and went directly to the river. From there, we followed the trail to the right that ends at the railroad tracks and a bridge over the river. We backtracked to the intersection and then went counter-clockwise around the southernmost loop. From there, we took the next loop to the north, also in a counterclockwise direction. The final section was the northeast corner of the property where the trails lead to other land that abuts Doe Farm.

General Recommendations

- Brush out single-track trails to be clear of vegetation to 4-foot tread minimum width, with additional 2 feet of vegetation trimmed back
- Maintain double-track trails with 8-foot wide tread
- Make trails more sustainable and user friendly
- Wood chips are a poor choice for trail tread. They eventually rot and create additional organic matter that becomes mud
- Pressure treated (PT), white oak, or black locust are good choices for bridge material
- Maintain the trails on a semi-annual basis. Spring and fall are best. Volunteers can easily prune back growth and keep drainages open with a minimum of instruction. Watch for issues (trash, fires, etc.) at sites accessible from the river. Monitor riverbank erosion/degradation
- Post safety warnings at any site along the railroad where access is possible.
- If future logging will take place, determine how to minimize impact to the trail network. Create trail corridors that are crossed at right angles in predetermined locations.

Site-Specific Recommendations (shown on attached map) developed by Lew and Ellen

1. **Main Trail:** double track and single track
 - At steep trail section and wetland crossing suggest small re-route to the right (west)
 - Remove existing corduroy (logs) in wet area
 - Replace with approx. 3-foot wide by 22-foot long bridge
 2. **Railroad Bridge Trail:**
 - Good potential for a trail loop back to cemetery area
 - Bridge area presents safety issues; suggest barrier and signage that shows in both directions
 - Emphasize safety concerns with railroad and bridge
 3. **Moat Island Trail Link:** (available at low water conditions)
 - Boardwalk needed to cross a wet area
 4. **Lower Loop Trail:**
 - Consider short re-routes or bog-bridges to cross wet area/roots
 5. **Upper Loop Trail:**
 - Consider short re-routes or bog-bridges to cross wet area/roots
 - Eliminate trail that crosses wetland and leads to campsite; remove the rotting and broken bog bridge across wetland
 6. **Upper Ski Trail:**
 - East of the clearing the trail crosses a wetland drainage that was used during a logging operation years ago. Logs used to cross a stone bridge were left in place and beyond the bridge the trail is rutted and wet for about 50 feet.
 - Remove the old logs
 - Evaluate condition of stone bridge; add new rock/stone to raise level of bridge crossing
 - Re-route section of trail beyond bridge
 - Maintain an 8-foot wide trail tread to accommodate x-country ski groomer; Requires brush-cutting trail several times during growing season
 7. **and 8,9 Lower Ski Trail:**
 - Brush out trail to establish 4-foot wide tread
 - Clear downed trees
 - Install short bridge across ravine
 - Clean-up campsite; develop criteria for use of the campsite
 - Eliminate trail that crosses wetland to Upper Loop Trail as not needed to access campsite; remove the rotting and broken bog bridge across wetland
- LaRoche Trail**
- Seek permission to include trail on Doe Farm Trail map
 - Maintain an 8-foot wide trail tread to accommodate x-country ski groomer; Requires mowing trail

Doe Farm Trail Map

Durham, NH

