

TRAIL ASSESSMENT FORM

Doc. #	1002-Rev.1	Trail Name	South Skyline Trail	Trail Type:	Wide Trail -H	Condition	good
Route:			Hillside Street-1156-1094-1083-1066-Elliot Circle				
Recent Weather:			Light rain yesterday				
TRAIL LANDMARKS			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail leaves from Hillside Street – There is a granite marker noting the South Skyline Trail on the north side of the road 1/8 mile west of DCR Headquarters. Treadway is blazed with blue rectangles. Rkw wb crosses treadway at .01 miles. L to R with dt on right. Dp crosses the treadway at .02 miles. R to L with dt on left. Treadway enters a section of rkw steps at .05 miles. Treadway enters a section of treadway bordered by rwk at .07 miles. Treadway passes through a rock wall at .09 miles Treadway enters a section of rkw steps at .10 miles. Treadway enters a section of rkw steps at .11 miles. Treadway diverges into two treadways at .12 miles. Treadway on the right is the intended trail. Treadway on the left is a bootleg trail going around a rock outcropping avoiding a large sloping step up without hand holds. Recommend closing bootleg trail and adding handholds on the rock face to keep people on the intended treadway if desired (1). Series of log steps in the treadway follows the rock outcropping at .15 and .16 miles. Log wb crosses the treadway R to L at .17 miles just prior to intersection. The South Skyline Trail enters an unnamed wide trail (Houghton Hill Path) at .18 miles at the height of land on Houghton Hill. The South Skyline Trail turns left (west) at this point onto Houghton Hill Path and shares the same treadway for .05 miles. Unnamed path (Houghton Trail) leaves on the left at footpath width at intersection marker 1156 at .22 miles The South Skyline Trail leaves the wide road width Houghton Hill Path on the left (west) at footpath width following the blue blazes at .23 miles. The South Skyline Trail crosses Houghton Path at .38 miles continuing to descend Houghton Hill Treadway crosses a small brook over a series of stepping stones at .46 miles. The South Skyline Trail crosses Coon Hollow Path at intersection marker 1123 at .49 miles. Bn at .55 miles. Pine boughs extending into the treadway. The South Skyline Trail crosses an unnamed wide trail at .56 miles. Treadway crosses a bog over three sections of a bog bridge at .72 miles. The South Skyline Trail reroute turns left (south) here at intersection marker 1094 at .74 miles. South Skyline reroute signage is located at this point. Intersection marker 1094 is not shown on the latest DCR Map (09/09) however is in the field (2) Treadway continues at path width over a bog bridge and a stream and enters the Wildcat Notch Path at .75 miles. 				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At this point the South Skyline Trail and the Wildcat Notch Path share the same road width treadway. • Treadway enters an intersection at .79 miles. One section of the Wildcat Notch Path continues straight (south) towards Hillside street. The other section turns right (west) and shares the same treadway as the South Skyline Trail. South Skyline reroute signage is located at this intersection. • RD located in the treadway at this point controlling runoff as treadway begins ascending • RD crosses the treadway at .84 miles. L to R, dt on right. • RD crosses the treadway at .88 miles. L to R, dt on right. • RD crosses the treadway at .90 miles. L to R, dt on right. • The Brookwood Trail enters on the left at footpath width at .94 miles. • Treadway enters an intersection at intersection marker 1083 at .95 miles. At this point, the Wildcat Notch Path turns right (north) and the South Skyline Trail continues straight (west) ascending Great Blue Hill at footpath width following blue blazes. South Skyline reroute signage is located at this point. • Treadway enters an area of Rw steps at .96 miles and begins ascending aggressively. • Unnamed path leaves on the left at 1.08 miles. • Treadway diverges into two footpaths with minor erosion at 1.09 miles. • Treadway enters a clearing at a rock outcropping affording wonderful views at 1.06 miles. • The South Skyline Trail ends with its intersection with Elliot Circle and intersection marker 1066 at 1.14 miles. There is a granite marker to the left of the treadway at this point labeled South Skyline Trail 		
MINOR PROBLEM AREAS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Treadway diverges into two treadways at .12 miles. Treadway on the right is the intended trail. Treadway on the left is a bootleg trail going around a rock outcropping avoiding a large sloping step up without hand holds. Recommend closing bootleg trail and adding handholds on the rock face to keep people on the intended treadway if desired (1). 2. Intersection marker 1094 is not shown on the latest DCR Map (09/09) however is in the field (2) 		
MAJOR PROBLEM AREAS			
DISTANCES TO MAJOR INTERSECTIONS	<p>Hillside Street to intersection marker 1156 - .22miles</p> <p>Hillside Street to Houghton Path - .38 miles</p> <p>Hillside Street to Coon Hollow Path and intersection marker 1123 - .49 miles.</p> <p>Hillside Street to intersection marker 1094 - .74 miles</p> <p>Hillside Street to intersection marker 1083 - .95 miles.</p> <p>Hillside Street to – Elliot Circle and intersection marker 1066 - 1.14 miles</p>		
Report prepared by:	Ken Jones	Assessment date:	12/14/2009

TRAIL ASSESSMENT FORM

Doc. #	1002	Trail Name:	Skyline Trail South	Trail Type:	Wide - H	Condition	good
Route:		Hillside Street-1156-1123-1094-1083-1066-Elliot Circle					
Recent Weather:		Light rain yesterday					
TRAIL LANDMARKS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail Leaves from Hillside Street – There is a granite marker noting the Skyline South trail on the north side of the road 1/8 mile west of DCR Headquarters. • lbd on left side of trail 60 feet from TH. Not a problem other than ascetically. • Rkw steps and rw define treadway nicely 100-250 feet from TH . Bn as well as possible replacement of some deteriorating log treads. • Treadway becomes very wide 250 – 400 feet from TH. Erosion is minor. Consider extending prior rkw and rw. (1) • Treadway follows 2 distinct trails at .09 mile. Blazed trail requires scrambling over angular boulders posing in my opinion a significant safety concern particularly on descent. Alternate treadway is safer however has caused some serious erosion issues. Recommend we review for alternatives.(2) • Unnamed wide trail enters on right at .1 mile on Houghton Hill. • Unnamed wide trail enters on right at .17 mile on Houghton Hill at 1156 intersection however no intersection marker could be found. • Houghton Path crosses at .35 mile • Deteriorated br over stream at .4 mile. Replace br or position stepping stones in stream. (3) • Coon Hollow crosses at 1123 at .45 mile. • Unnamed wide trail crosses at .46 mile • Treadway follows 2 distinct trails at .49 miles. Recommend additional blazes to keep hikers on designed treadway. (4) • Trail enters drainage area at the intersections of the South Skyline and Wildcat Notch path at .43 miles. Possible bog bridge opportunity between 2 large boulders that fills up in the spring. Nice to have category though. • Wildcat Notch Path via a connector enters on left at 1094 at .66 miles. • The trail between 1094 and 1083 is an area of major concern. (5) Although an area of significant attraction during the spring runoff with the beauty of the stream, it offers some significant challenges for trail location year round. My preference would be to keep this area of the trail open through thoughtful planning rather than relocating it although these options are available. • Blaze in incorrect location in middle of stream at .69 miles. (6) Needs to be relocated. Correct stream crossing is at the next blaze at .70 miles. • Two sbd's across trail at .74 miles and need to be removed. Additional sbd's in area should also be removed (7) • Treadway forks into two trails at .75 miles and rejoins main treadway in 100 yards. Additional Blazes would correct this. (8) • Wildcat Notch Path crosses at 1083 at .77 miles. • rkw steps and rw define treadway nicely to .79 miles. At this point, 					

	<p>sections of rock scrambling while descending particularly have increased the treadway significantly. We will need to meet better define a line for the trail through this area. (9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Trail splits into 2 increasing treadway 400 feet from Elliot Circle. Improved blazing would reduce the tendency for hikers to not follow the trail. (10)Elliot Circle crosses trail at a granite marker at 1066 at .94 miles.		
MINOR PROBLEM AREAS	<p>(1) Minor erosion due to increased treadway. Consider extending rw</p> <p>(3) Deteriorated br over stream. Replace or provide stepping stones in stream.</p> <p>(4) Minor erosion due to increased treadway. Recommend additional blazes.</p> <p>(6) Blade in incorrect location. Relocate.</p> <p>(7) Remove sbn's</p> <p>(8) Minor erosion due to increased treadway. Recommend additional blazes.</p> <p>(9) Minor erosion and safety concerns in this area. Recommend site review for recommendations.</p> <p>(10) Minor erosion due to increased treadway. Recommend additional blazes.</p>		
MAJOR PROBLEM AREAS	<p>(2) Serious erosion and safety concerns in this area. Recommend site review for recommendations.</p> <p>(5) Serious trail erosion concerns between 1094 and 1083. Recommend site review for recommendations.</p> <p>12/26/08 update from Jim Kaemmerlen:</p> <p>Dexter had mentioned this trail as being a water problem, and I offer this suggestion. Leave the footpath exactly where it is, because this is one of the very few of out trails that follows a steep streambed. It is very nice indeed for a visitor to stay close to the water and hear its pleasant sounds. What we can do is "mine" the streambed for right-sized stone with which to establish a boundary and height difference between stream and trail. This would be a big group activity, and a great opportunity to offer instruction in stone placement and care for the natural aspect of the stream. Basically you don't want to dig too much, because the critters like all the little pools and waterfalls. After the stones are set, we tamp them in with gravel and duff, for a drier and pleasing footpath.</p>		
DISTANCES TO MAJOR INTERSECTIONS	<p>Hillside Street to Houghton Hill (1156) at .17 miles</p> <p>Hillside Street to Coon Hollow (1123) at .45 miles.</p> <p>Hillside Street to Wildcat Notch Path Connector (1094) at .66 miles</p> <p>Hillside Street to Wildcat Notch Path (1083) at ..77 miles.</p> <p>Hillside Street to – Elliot Circle (1066) - .94 Miles</p>		
Report prepared by:	Ken Jones	Assessment date:	11/27/2007

Abbreviations:

Usage type: foot traffic only (H), multi-use (M)

waterbars (wb)
culverts(cv)
rolling dips (rd)

small blowdowns (sbd)
large blowdowns (lbd)
rock work (rkw)

bridges (br)	bridge building (bbd),
bog bridges (bb)	culvert replacement (cr)
rock stairs (rs)	trail relocation (tr),
cribbing (cb)	building new trail drainage (ntd)
retaining walls (rw)	brushing needed (bn)
ditches (dt)	excessive erosion (ee)
	leaning tree (lt)