

TRAIL ASSESSMENT FORM

Doc. #	2033	Trail Name	AMC Footpath South	Trail Type:	Narrow – H	Condition	Poor Route Finding
Route:		Unnamed path – 2194 – 2182 - 2165					
Recent Weather:		Sunny in the 40's. – No precipitation last 48 hours					
TRAIL LANDMARKS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trailhead is located off of an Unnamed path that parallels Chickatawbut Road, .1 miles east of intersection marker 2175 at its closest point to Chickatawbut Road. Intersection maker 2175 is accessed via a road width path directly across from Forest Street at a granite marker labeled Forest Path. • Although the location of this footpath is shown on the latest (9/09) DCR map, it is still shown as an unnamed trail. Future maps will reflect this as the AMC Footpath. This trail is a wonderful woodland walk. • The AMC Footpath leaves this unnamed trail on the right (south) at a small partially buried boulder, bordered by small old downed limbs. This trailhead as well as several sections of this trail should be better identified. Downed leaves may have hampered route finding. The treadway was lost several times during the assessment and if it were not for the help of several worn orange circular blazes, the assessment could not have been completed. (1) • Overhead bn immediately leaving the trailhead. • Sbd crosses the treadway at 41 feet with overhead bn continuing. • Sbd crosses the treadway at 170 feet. • Treadway becomes difficult to follow at 380 feet. Faded orange circular blazes are noted. Tied surveyor tape on tree. • Treadway crosses a rock wall at .16 miles. • Treadway enters Forrest Path at intersection marker 2194 at .17 miles. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At this point the AMC footpath turns left (SE) and shares the same treadway as the Forrest Path for approximately 20 feet. It then turns right (S) at footpath width at a no mountain biking signage placard at .18 miles. • Treadway begins to climb Buck Hill following this intersection again following faded orange blazes. • Treadway again becomes difficult to follow at .22 miles. Need more blazes. (2) • Treadway continues as a deer trail through .27 miles. • Overhead bn at .29 miles. • Side and Overhead bn at .31 miles. • Treadway enters an intersection with the Buck Hill Path at intersection marker 2182 at .33 miles. The AMC Footpath continues south on the opposite side of Buck Hill Path at the no mountain biking placard while continuing to ascend at footpath width. • Bn at .37 miles. Pine boughs extending into the treadway. • SBD crosses the treadway at .40 miles. Can be stepped over. Two 8" diameter. • Treadway begins to enter low scrub requiring minor brushing at .43 miles. • Treadway enters a clearing with a large rock outcropping at .46 miles with 					

	<p>beautiful views of Ponkapoag Pond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unnamed path leaves on the left (east) from this rock outcropping while the AMC Footpath continues straight (south). • Treadway enters another clearing with a large rock outcropping at .48 miles. • From this rock outcropping, the AMC Footpath continues straight (southwest) on a lightly traveled path through scrub with bn. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additionally, from this rock outcropping, an obvious well-worn unnamed path leaves on the left (southeast) to the summit cairn of Buck Hill in .03 miles. • Unnamed trail leaves on the left to summit at .49 miles. • Treadway becomes almost non-discernable with significant brushing required at .50 miles. • Treadway is lost in heavy scrub at .52 miles. Had to bushwhack a heading of 240 degrees magnetic to the visible intersection marker 2165 to regain footpath. (3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The treadway from .48 miles through .53 miles is in need of major brushing. Treadway would not be navigable during the summer months in this area. Decision needs to be made whether to perform this extensive brushing to portray the treadway as shown on the map or to ascend Buck Hill the way people currently do from the well traveled footpath leaving the rock outcropping at .48 miles. • Scrub reenters the AMC Footpath just prior to a large boulder and ends at the Skyline Trail at intersection marker 2165 at .53 miles. 		
MINOR PROBLEM AREAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None noted 		
MAJOR PROBLEM AREAS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The AMC Footpath leaves this unnamed trail on the right (south) at a small partially buried boulder, bordered by small old downed limbs. This trailhead as well as several sections of this trail should be better identified. Downed leaves may have hampered route finding. The treadway was lost several times during the assessment and if it were not for the help of several worn orange circular blazes, the assessment would not have been completed. (1) 2. Treadway again becomes difficult to follow again at .22 miles. Need additional blazes. (2) 3. Treadway is lost in heavy scrub at .52 miles. Had to bushwhack a heading of 240 degrees magnetic to the visible intersection marker 2165 to regain footpath. (3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The treadway from .48 miles through .53 miles is in need of major brushing. Treadway would not be navigable during the summer months in this area. Decision needs to be made whether to perform this extensive brushing to portray the treadway as shown on the map or to ascend Buck Hill the way people currently do from the well traveled footpath leaving the rock outcropping at .48 miles. 		
DISTANCES TO MAJOR INTERSECTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trailhead to Forrest Path at intersection marker 2194 - .17 miles • Trailhead to Buck Hill Path at intersection marker 2182 - .33 miles • Trailhead to Skyline Trail at intersection marker 2165 at .53 miles. 		
Report prepared by:	Ken Jones – 11/26/2009	Assessment date:	11/24/2009

Abbreviations:

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

waterbars (wb)	small blowdowns (sbd)
culverts(cv)	large blowdowns (lbd)
rolling dips (rd)	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)	