

Friends of the Blue Hills

Trail Volunteer Work Report

Work date (mm/dd/yy): 12/25/08

Report date: 12/27/08

Your name: Jim Kaemmerlen

List Volunteers working with you:

0

Trail Name: Hancock Trail

Section Name/Description:

Blue Hill - 1000's

Work Completed (Please be specific with location of work. Note hazards & potential hazards addressed if applicable):

Trimming and branch removal from skyline, over Hancock summit, to marker 1204.

Total Hours (# of people x hours worked): 1.00

Work Remaining:

The north-south summit trail over Hancock continues to be poorly defined, and people therefore take several routes. My suggestion is that some cutting be done to both make the original trail more obvious, and provide interesting lines of sight. There are also a few spots where some stone work would improve the footpath. I had an awkward fall, and realized that it's simply a bad trail there. The freelance blazes of a few years back were very ugly and on the wrong path for part of the way, and the few attempts to establish cairns have been futile. Perhaps a few small "TRAIL" signs could be added, without changing the character of the area. Two things that continue to make this hilltop a challenge are that there are so many good viewing spots off trail and at least one geocache which is off trail. I had the personal experience of being one of 4 rangers who kept their eyes on their GPS device as we trampled vegetation on our separate ways to the geocache site.

Other comments (areas of concern, wildlife sightings, trail markings and signage condition, need for re-route, possible encroachment):

The "duplicate marker" 1201, from the trail assessment report, was placed there, because the DCR map indicates a crossroad intersection rather than the two T intersections that actually exist. This prompted a freelance trail blazer to cut a new trail that never actually linked back to the main trail, back in 2001, or so. That effort was short lived, and abandoned.

Forward completed electronic form to: Dexter Robinson @ dexpcdoc@gmail.com