

Friends of the Blue Hills

Trail Volunteer Work Report

Work date (mm/dd/yy): 6/6/09

Report date: 6/16/09

Your name: Bob Mazairz

List Volunteers working with you:

Ben, Cathy?, Kristen

Trail Name: Doe Hollow Path item #53

Section Name/Description:

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

This work site was initially believed to have up to three culverts and was flooded when work began. The major accomplishment this day was to drain the water. Once drained, only one culvert had been positively identified the next day - an old ceramic pipe with fractures from 8" to 12" at both ends. The shards have been left at the site above each end of the culvert. They are visible from the trail to allow others easy identification of the culvert's location for further assessment. I would presume DCR would want to replace this fractured culvert. Not only had water been running over the trail, it has undercut the trail - possibly in two places. During the follow-up visit the next day, I realized we drained the water through one of the bypasses under the trail - not through the culvert itself. Since only one culvert has been identified, and since downstream of the trail there are two actively flowing water sources exiting from underneath the trail, it is possible that the trail is undercut in more than one place. Each downstream outflow has a peculiar geology that appears decorative style located only at this location rather than a standard CCC installation. The water flows out of a roughly foot-tall crevice approximately 2" wide between two sturdy rocks. To reinforce this concept, the upstream location through which we drained the water also exhibits this crevice-between-two-sturdy-rocks-quality. What has happened is that a rather substantial tumbledown has occurred downstream concealing that end of the culvert. That end of the culvert is buried. I reached into the outflow up to my elbow to feel the end of the culvert with my fingertips. I'm pretty certain the water is not flowing through the culvert, but adjacent to it. Upstream has a large rock blocking the upstream end of the culvert. I was unable to locate a second culvert at the second outflow by reaching in as far as I could. I suspect this is another substantial tumbledown which would require removing rock to find the potential culvert. Upstream we investigated two suspected inflow areas for this second outflow source. Both areas are west of the identified culvert. We'll call then the western and middle location. We dug at the western location near large rocks suggestive of the mentioned stylistic quality. We peeled back massive root overgrowth to expose the submerged rock. We dug down an entire shovel-head deep alongside one rock that was sloped and oriented just so as to imply a skilled craftsman or an artist laid it there lining the approach to a culvert - boy were we duped. Even though we were able to penetrate the gap somewhat and were able to identify waterflow (which we thought was through the other culvert) I have since downgraded this observation to water percolating into the soil or undercutting the path. Our hole is visible upstream of the trail at this western location. The middle location was also cleared of surface debris. The root-growth here is not your typical growth we clear from drainage ditches - it is substantial implying it invaded the alleged middle culvert's location immediately during the 1930s - or soon thereafter. I wonder that the two trees upstream of the trail are actually on top of the as-yet-unidentified second culvert. The middle location has substantial roots and a very mature soil-root matrix with a few medium-sized holes in between. One can reach into a holes and splash their hand in the pools of standing water underneath. Our goal this day quickly turned into exploration and problem-solving - not invasion. We did not cut or dig through the mature soil and root matrix in the middle location near the base of the rather mature trees (greater than one-foot diameter) hoping to find a buried culvert. We also did dissect the downstream rock tumble to find the second suspected culvert. (I no longer believe there are three culverts). Rather we moved to clearing drainage ditches of leaves on Bugbee Path between 2135 and 2140. Please note, I compared Bugbee Path north of this jobsite to observe they have two culverts that are not parallel. The upstream inflows are approx. 12' apart, and the downstream outflows are approx. 9' apart.

Total Hours (# of people x hours worked): 10.00

Work Remaining:

Needs re-assessment and additional inspection to positively ascertain if there is a second culvert.

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

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