Mt. Philo State Park
Hiking Trail Design
2019
Summit Trail System

Design by
Timber & Stone LLC, Tahawus Trails LLC

Legend
- existing hiking trails
- Benched_Trail_with_Stone_Cribbing
- Upper_Summit_Trail_Relo
- Picnic_Trail
- Campground_Trail
- Stone_Stairs_with_Landings
- Stone_Stairways
- Crushed_Stone_Tread_No_Other_Structures
- Full_Bench_Sidehill
- Lower_Summit_Trail_Relo
- Picnic_Trail
- Stone_Cribbed_Stairs
- Trail_Closures

see accompanying table for segment design description
Mt. Philo State Park

**Sustainable Trail Design (2019)**
Trail design by: Timber and Stone LLC & TAHAWUS Trails LLC

The healthy forests and spectacular views of Mt. Philo State Park provide a valued setting for high-quality, well-managed, hiking-focused recreational experiences that are sustainable, compatible with natural resources, and engender a strong sense of stewardship among visitors. The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation (DFPR) strives to provide opportunities for these experiences and is engaging trail and landscape design consultants to develop thoughtful plans for creating and maintaining sustainable opportunities at the state park.

During 2019, DFPR has worked with trail contractors, Timber and Stone LLC and TAHAWUS Trails LLC, to develop a design for the upper summit trails. These trails were chosen as a first step in upgrading the trail systems to a more sustainable design, commensurate with the high visitation that is experienced at the state park. Prioritization was based on the need to improve safety, address erosion, enhance visitor experience, improve sustainability, and vary hiking experience by developing loop opportunities. This work will set the stage for a high-quality trail system. Future work will build on this effort.

**Project Components:**

- **House Rock Trail** – The design focuses on the Summit trails but begins at the end of the House Rock Trail at its intersection with the park “down” road will be upgraded to improve the transition from this trail to the new Summit Trail.

- **Summit Trail** – The lower Summit Trail will be relocated from its current alignment to the location shown as “B” on the map. This will allow the trail to continue across the road directly and then follow a sustainable alignment toward the summit. The old Summit Trail will be restored and naturalized.

- **Picnic Trail** – This trail will be reconfigured at its intersection with the Campground Trail and at the upper end where it coincides with the proposed accessible trail.

- **Accessible Trail** – New Trail - the proposed accessible trail will connect the summit area with the upper parking lot and follow an old road alignment below the shelter. The construction of this trail will be in concert with the summit landscape design that is currently underway.

- **Devils Chair Trail** – The Devils Chair Trail will continue to be accessed as it is currently (“C”) but will be disconnected from the Summit Trail. Its value is as an alternate hike through unique terrain in a quieter setting.

All segments will include sustainable trail design features including trail tread surfacing, stone stairs & cribbing, stone pavers, & drainage. Trail segments shown in white on the map will be closed, restored & naturalized. New signage will be installed to guide hikers on a variety of hiking and loop opportunities.
### Mt. Philo State Park Trails

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Map Segment</th>
<th>Description – reference map for segment location</th>
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| **A** | Terminus of House Rock Trail - upgrade existing trail:  
  • Surface trail tread  
  • Limit trail widening by naturalizing surrounding area  
  • Install new stone steps at trail approach to park road  
  • Install split rail fence to protect/restore water line corridor |
| **B** | Relocate Lower Summit Trail (from ‘down’ road to campground spur trail):  
  • Begin at edge of road, across from House Rock Trail for an improved trail transition  
  • Clear & bench tread to 5’ width  
  • Follow contour for improved trail alignment and grade  
  • Install stone stairs & landings (10% grade or less)  
  • Install stone cribbing, turnpiking, surfacing & stone pavers in identified locations to create sustainable tread |
| **N** | Campground Trail upgrade (at intersection of O & B):  
  • Realign trail intersection for improved transition from one trail to another  
  • Install stone steps & landings  
  • Align trail on cross slope and install stone cribbing |
| **K** | Upper portion of Summit Trail relocation:  
  • Align trail on cross slope, bench to a trail width of 5’  
  • Install stone cribbing on downhill side of trail to support tread  
  • Blend into existing trail |
| **E, F, G, H** | Upper Summit Trail reconstruction:  
  • Realign some segments to improve grade  
  • Bench tread to 5’ width  
  • Install stone steps & landings  
  • Install stone cribbing to support tread  
  • Blend alignment to access developed summit  
  • Realign and define trail to western overlook |
| **J** | Trail restoration and upgrade:  
  • Realign intersection with N, J & K  
  • Align trail on cross slope, bench tread to 5’ width  
  • Install stone steps & landings  
  • Realign intersection with I (accessible trail) |
| **O** | Campground Spur Trail  
  • Junction with B & N  
  • Align on cross slope, bench tread to 5’  
  • Alignment crosses pipeline corridor and continues to campground |
| **I** | Accessible trail – new trail:  
  • Align trail on existing bench and clear to 5’ width  
  • Install stone cribbing to support trail tread  
  • Install 20’ bridge over depression & culvert for trail drainage  
  • Surface entire trail  
  • Join trail at parking |