

## TRAIL CUTTING IN THE HUNTING SWAMP – 7/29/2019

On Monday morning, July 29<sup>th</sup>, Martha Butterfield spent a few minutes removing some more material from a pile of decaying limbs near to the entrance to the Hunting Swamp and soon was joined at 8:30 by Bob Lyons, Sandy Blanchard, Deb Eastman-Proulx and Denis Proulx for their weekly morning work session on the trail system there.

Bob had considered whether more bog-bridging might be needed on the short stretch of rutted logging trail near the dug canal and had placed some of Sandy's leftover hemlock boards there, just to see how they might fit. Denis then commented that the trail could be widened slightly on the right (as seen in the top photo in the spot where Bob was standing) to avoid stepping in the rutted area, and Bob agreed. They then removed a few small trees and branches, thus improving that section of the trail without the need for more bog-bridging.

The group resumed their work further up the trail at the junction of the 'lower farm trail' and the 'fern hill trail', which formed the start of the 'main trail loop', and they decided to continue clearing the 'lower farm trail' heading north through the forest. On the way, Denis and Bob used their chainsaws to cut up several large trees that had fallen across the trail years ago, and Sandy, Deb and Martha were busy moving the cut pieces out of the way, as well as cutting back protruding brush, branches and rotted material.

Over a short period of time, the group had managed to clear a long stretch of trail between the southern end of the main loop and the end of a narrowed section of the trail that had dwindled to a blueberry path, as more bushes were growing there in the northern part.

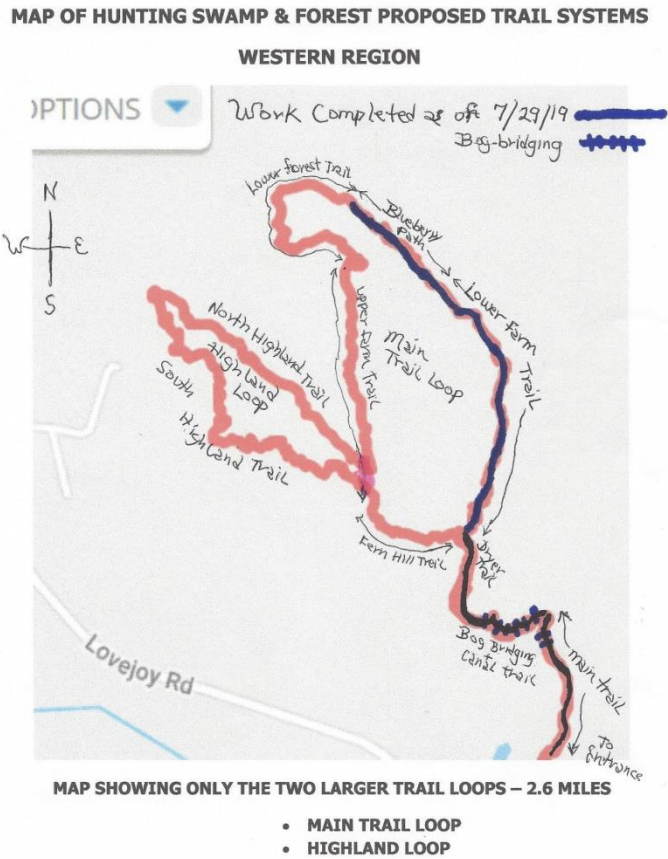
The area they'd just completed working on was close to a mile's hike from the trail's entrance off of Lovejoy Road. The entire length of the two-loop main trail system in the western region of the Town's property is about 2.6 miles.



The map on the right shows the proposed main trail system in the Hunting Swamp and the hilly forest next to it. The dark line on the right side of the map shows approximately how far the trail had been cleared as of July 29<sup>th</sup>. The red area on the left shows where work is yet to be done on the 'lower forest trail', the 'upper farm trail', the 'highland loop' and the 'fern hill trail'.

As Monday marked the middle of a heat wave with an extra high heat index that day, the group wisely decided to stop working a little earlier than normal and ended their work session at 10:45 after two hours and 15 minutes' work, a combined total of almost 14 hours worked by five people that week, including travel to and from the site.

On Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, Martha walked along the trail and took the following images showing the improved conditions along the 'lower farm trail' and 'blueberry path' after the removal of downed trees and brush during Monday's hot, sweaty work session. She also added more orange ribbon markers along the entire two-loop trail system.





Martha Butterfield 7/31/19