

Stickney Land Trails Assessment Notes

Ruth Stickney Land/Canoe Launch

3/24/19....54 deg Sunny, slight breeze with residual ice

The trailhead and parking of the Stickney land trails was well defined with several parking slots available. At the beginning of the main trail it divides in three directions...to right along shoreline (blue blaze); straight ahead up a ravine; and to left which is the return of the main loop. The shoreline trail is well defined and blazed with blue paint which is fading. At the NW corner of the trail the trail intersects an old field road and heads south to Rt 111 up a gradual hill. The trail was defined with ATV traffic which enter off Rt 111. The loop trail then turns straight east with no visible blazing and parallels Rt 111 back to the entrance of Lakeside Dr. Along the way there are several branches which return to the trailhead. Along this trail section there both motorcycle and mountain bike activity. On some of the branch trails there were bike jumps setup for jumping over rocks and downed trees. On the return route from Lakeside Dr. the trail passes by hilltop depression that appeared to be an active "gathering" spot containing a fire pit, chairs, hammock, and saw and shovel hanging from a tree. The trail continues around the contours of the hill back to the trailhead. The Stickney land trails are essentially two loop that parallels Rt 111: one along Big Island Pond and the other around a couple of rocky hills. Overall, the trails are in good shape, possibly maintained by the mountain bikers (downed trees cut with saws to open trail), but require new blazing. Checked on the canoe launch site and the dock has been repaired, on dry land with the lowering of the Pond for the winter, and parking was plowed and in good shape with new gravel. However, canoe launch signs has been vandalized, removed from tree and toss on the ground

1. Blazing

Primary loop trail requires new blazing with branches blazed with complementary colors

2. Trails

Hiking trails are fairly well defined and clear from obstructions. Only one secondary branch tree needs to be cleared

Westside trail is an active field road and is in excellent condition

Primary and branch trails receive mountain bike traffic and are clear of debris

3. Trail Expansion

Future trails could be developed west of the Westside field road nearly connection canoe launch area

Trail entrance points off Lakeside Dr. and Water Edge roads but no available off road parking

4. Boundary Markers

Markers are needed on east end of forest along Lakeside Dr and along Rt 111 inside the state highway woven wire fence