

Trails Plan Implementation Update

Last summer, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) authorized closure of a segment of the Reservoir Trail within Middlesex Fells Reservation. The work was all done with hand tools and consisted of dislodging stone steps and placing fallen branches across a segment of the trail to discourage future use. A sign was added to explain the trail closure. No heavy equipment was used for this work and soil disturbance was minimal. No additional work is planned by our agency, nor is any anticipated to occur on that trail segment in the future.

DCR's intent with the Reservoir Trail re-route and closure is to prevent further erosion of the steep slope and to protect nearby wetland resource areas. Closure of this segment will protect this slope and help to prevent potential impacts to down gradient wetlands from sedimentation. The Department strives to provide all members of the public with sustainable and enjoyable recreational activities, while protecting our native habitats.

DCR staff is continuing to monitor this site and no erosion or movement of sediment from this trail closure work has been observed and none is anticipated. The Reservoir Trail segment closure has not adversely impacted any wetland resource areas and the trail closure is intended to increase protection of nearby wetlands.

DCR trail management activities are done in accordance with the Resource Management Plan for the Middlesex Fells Planning Unit, dated January 2012. The management principle as stated in this approved plan is to "... protect the cultural and ecological resources at the DCR Middlesex Fells Reservation and provide diverse recreational opportunities that are compatible with resource protection." Middlesex Fells trail system recommendations are discussed in Section 6 of the Resource Management Plan, available through our website: <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/rmp/rmp-midfells.htm>