

DCR Division of Water Supply Protection
Student Conservation Association 2008 Summer Work Project
Quabbin Reservoir – Swift River Trail Improvements



The Swift River Trail from the Rotary at the base of Winsor Dam to the Swift River Discharge Channel was a steep, highly eroded, multi-pathed and potentially dangerous section of trail. To address this issue, the DCR worked with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) Crew to reroute the trail slightly, and then placed a series of terraces and steps in the trail bed. The many paths were consolidated into one clearly identified trail. This improved footing, reduced erosion and enhanced safety. Funding for the project was obtained from the DCR Recreational Trails Program.



The old braided trail (above and above left).



The new trail route is marked and cut (above), then roughed in (right). Terrace timbers are cut, then placed in trail before being secured with pipe posts and rocks (below). The trail takes shape (below right).





Steps along the steepest portion of the trail are cut into the bank, placed and secured (above). The upper terraces are put into place, leveled secured with pipe pins on the corners and stabilized from beneath with rocks and soil (below).



The 2008 Quabbin SCA Trail Crew (l to r): Rosie Mooney, Lindsay Kerns, Karl Helander, Kara Reynolds and Mary Warner.



The trail bed is finished off with a layer of wood chips.



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