



Adaptive Assessment Report

Date: 6/23/25

Chapter/Entity: Ludlow Area Sports Trails

Network: Back 40

Trails Assessed: Climbing Trail, Buttermilk Flow, Black River Run, The Tank (Beginner Loop)

Attendees:

Jeff Dickson - VMBA

Jeff Alexander - VT Adaptive

Greg Durso - KBF

Tim Calabrese - LAST

Kyle Kennedy - LAST

Tim Banker - LAST

Shon Racicot - LAST

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Description of Region: The Back 40 trails are a small (less than 2-mile) beginner- and intermediate-friendly network on public land in Ludlow, Vermont.

Summary of aMTB Compatibility and Upgrade Opportunities:

- **Overall:** The majority of the network is currently adaptive-friendly and will provide an excellent beginner or intermediate experience after certain switchbacks and off-camber areas of trail are improved. The large parking area and tiny beginner loop at the base could be a great location for adaptive programming for beginners. The beginner-friendly climb, and the combination of hand-built singletrack and machine-built flow on the descent, would be a great addition to an area of the state lacking significant adaptive-friendly options., while
- **Climb (name TBD):** Essentially aMTB-friendly and suitable for beginners, requiring only a handful of turns to be widened to eliminate either a 3-point turn or going off trail at the exit.
- **Buttermilk Flow:** Buttermilk Flow is a fun, primarily hand-built intermediate descent with good support in the turns but requiring a bit more leveling of the trail tread in certain areas to keep the rider on trail.
- **Black River Run:** Black River Run is a beginner-friendly machine built flow trail but requires three important modifications to be adaptive-friendly.
- **The Tank (beginner loop):** Very short loop that is adaptive-friendly as-is will be a great introduction to an aMTB.

Trail Specific Upgrade Opportunities:

Trail	GPS Point	Photo(s) (folder)	Recommendation
Climb	43.23.49"N - 72.41'13"W	Photo	Bridge is passable as-is but would benefit from widening to a minimum of 42"
Climb	43.23.55"N - 72.41'10"W	Photo	Turn is too narrow, exit needs to be wider
Climb	43.23.58"N - 72.41'12"W	Photo	Slightly narrow between trees, raise trail tread at base of trees
Climb	43.24'4"N - 72.41'15"W	Photo	Turn is too narrow, requiring 3-point turn. Very easily accomplished with zero risk, and a good teaching point, so not imperative. Widen entrance or exit to eliminate 3pt.
Climb	43.24'4"N - 72.41'14"W	Photo	Turn is too narrow, widen/bench in exit
Climb	43.24'9"N - 72.41'10"W	Photo	Turn is too narrow, widen entrance to allow inside approach
Buttermilk Flow	43.24'21"N - 72.41'10"W	Photo	Too off camber approaching and navigating around tree. Fill in hole before tree and/or widen outside of turn
Buttermilk Flow	43.24'17"N - 72.41'14"W	Photo	Tipping hazard to the left. Fill in left side at apex of roller to level tread
Buttermilk Flow	43.24'13"N - 72.41'12"W	Photo	Too off camber, level tread more
Buttermilk Flow	43.24'13"N - 72.41'13"W	Photo	Too off camber, sending rider left off trail. Level tread more
Buttermilk Flow	43.24'11"N - 72.41'13"W	Photo	Area with rocks is too off camber, downhill side needs bumper/catch berm to keep rider level/on trail
Buttermilk Flow	43.24'11"N - 72.41'12"W	Photo	Tread is too off camber, needs downslope bumper to keep rider level/on trail
Buttermilk Flow	43.24'9"N - 72.41'15"W	Photo	Tread is too lumpy and off camber where jump was built. Connect takeoff and landing (i.e. build tabletop)
Black River Run	No GPS	Photo	Optional: First RH turn is a bit too flat when entering turn and requires awkward braking.

			Add more downslope to entrance.
Black River Run	43.24'1"N - 72.41'12"W	Photo	Add sign warning of intersection
Black River Run	43.23'58"N - 72.41'15"W	Photo	S-turn is too tight and severe, needs to be opened up significantly or an alternate aMTB line created through the inside of the switchback
Black River Run	43.23'58"N - 72.41'15"W	Photo	Berm sends rider into tree at exit. Extend/connect berm exit to tree.
Black River Run	43.23'55"N - 72.41'14"W	Photo	Off camber between trees is a very dangerous tipping hazard. Level tread downslope.

Parking Area Access: The parking area is immediately off the main paved road and well-signed.

Parking: The parking area is very large, flat, and wide, with one designated accessible parking spot.

Kiosk: No kiosk or signage exists currently but is in the works. It is important to consider aMTB sightlines when constructing kiosks, and we recommend including a suggested aMTB route/loop on any map or kiosk if feasible.

Bathroom: No restrooms or portapotties were present.

Signage: No signage exists in the network but is in progress. Recommend keeping signs low enough for aMTB sightlines. VMBA utilizes [these signs](#) to not only help rate trails but to assist with way-finding.

Landowners and Land Managers:

Please keep in mind this assessment is performed from a trail-building and maintenance perspective. Please work with the relevant landowner(s) and/or land manager(s) to ensure you have approvals as needed to conduct any significant work.

Additional:

Next Steps:

VMBA, Vermont Adaptive, and KBF believe the proposed changes listed above would optimize this trail system for adaptive users, making it a go-to for programming in Ludlow. At this point in time, the trails are nearly adaptive friendly already but require a handful of modifications to be truly safe and fun for adaptive riders. We believe these trails would be ideal for a beginner and intermediate rider with minimal work, aside from the S-turn on Black River Run.

As a part of the VMBA/VT Adaptive/KBF Adaptive Assessment program, Chapters are eligible for the [KBF Adaptive Upgrades Grant](#). These grants help to fund up to \$4,000 in upgrades and

are expected to be utilized within one year of the award. If the request is less than \$1,000, the VMBA office can award that amount without any grant application.

We would recommend implementing these changes and inviting us back to ensure the work is passable upon completion. We are also available for questions about the process/changes proposed.

Please visit the ['What To Expect'](#) description and/or [Kootenay Adaptive](#) for additional information on what your next steps should look like and recommendations for how to make suggested alterations!

Approved and Written by:

Jeff Dickson - VMBA - 6/24/25