



Adaptive Assessment Report

Date: 5/27/25

Chapter/Entity: Pine Hill Partnership

Network: Pine Hill Park

Trails Assessed: Escalator, Pond Rd, Crusher Rd, Trillium, Watkins Wood Rd, Freefall, Sore Elbow, Annex, Jersey Tpk (lower), Santa's, Jigsaw, Rembrandt's, Milk Run, Voldemort, Lower Ledges, Quartzite, Exit Strategy

Attendees:

Jeff Dickson - VMBA

Nick Bennette - VMBA

Jeff Alexander, VT Adaptive

Allie Kaye - VT Adaptive

Shelley Lutz - PHP

Sarah Graham - PHP

Nate Netsch - PHP

Description of Region: Pine Hill Park is a public network of multiuse trails on municipal land in Rutland, Vermont, with beginner and intermediate-friendly singletrack and carriage roads.

Summary of aMTB Compatibility and Upgrade Opportunities:

- **Overall:** A majority of the assessed trails are already Adaptive-friendly and will provide an excellent beginner and intermediate aMTB experience, with moderately tight and technical singletrack but low risk/consequence for someone looking to improve their skills. Several other trails will be Adaptive-friendly with a few modifications. With nearly 5 miles of assessed trails, this is an excellent location in central Vermont for adaptive programming.
- **Escalator:** Overall excellent and aMTB-friendly as a climbing trail. The trail is not yet aMTB-friendly when descending, due to a depression caused by a sump. This should be an immediate priority to fix since it is the only adaptive-friendly exit from the network.
- **Pond Rd:** Adaptive-friendly carriage road with no issues.
- **Crusher Rd:** Adaptive-friendly carriage road with no issues.
- **Trillium:** Adaptive-friendly singletrack trail with one set of snug trees to fit through. Could benefit from building up the trail tread slightly at the base of the trees, but otherwise rides well on an aMTB.
- **Watkins Wood Rd:** Adaptive-friendly carriage road with no issues.
- **Freefall:** Rocky and fast fall-line doubletrack descent will be aMTB-friendly after the removal of a single rock at the bottom/exit of the trail.
- **Sore Elbow (doubtrack):** Adaptive-friendly climbing trail with an optional technical section and a machine-built alternative, both of which are passable in their current condition.

- **Annex:** Adaptive-friendly singletrack descent with short technical and machine-built options.
- **Lower Jersey:** Adaptive-friendly singletrack with no issues.
- **Santa's Little Helper:** Adaptive-friendly singletrack with some fun techier features, all of which are rideable on an aMTB.
- **Jigsaw:** Adaptive-friendly singletrack requiring a small amount of benching in one area, and moving some rocks slightly wider in another area.
- **Sore Elbow (singletrack):** Adaptive-friendly singletrack with a couple of optional modifications to improve the aMTB experience
- **Rembrandt's:** Not yet adaptive-friendly due to two tree pinch points, and a tipping hazard caused by rocks when descending at speed.
- **Milk Run:** Nearly rideable but not yet aMTB-friendly because sumps are too close to the trail tread and rolling grade dips in the trail cause tipping hazards. Upsloping above sumps may be a good solution where drainage needs prevent pushing sumps wider.
- **Voldemort:** Tight and technical nearly aMTB-friendly singletrack with the exception of one right turn which needs to be widened at the entrance.
- **Quartzite:** Adaptive-friendly singletrack climb and descent except for a single rock at the bottom entrance/exit of the trail.
- **Exit Strategy:** Not adaptive-friendly due to two narrow bridges (passable as "skinnies") and one 3-point turn.

Trail Specific Upgrade Opportunities:

Trail	GPS Point	Photo(s) (folder)	Recommendation
Escalator	43.36'59"N - 72.59'35"W	Photo	Depression caused by sump is a tipping hazard when descending
Trillium	43.37'2"N - 72.59'41"W	Photo	Space between trees is snug but passable
Freefall	43.36'55"N - 72.59'38"W	Photo	Move single rock on the left of trail exit
Annex	43.36'57"N - 73.0'5"W	Photo	Optional improvement: bump out berm on exit to turn
Jigsaw	43.37'3"N - 73.0'6"W	Photo	Bench in backslope
Jigsaw	43.37'2"N - 73.0'7"W	Photo	Collection of rocks on backside of larger rock is a bit hidden snug
Sore Elbow (single)	43.36'58"N - 73.0'2"W	Photo	Remove rotten stump

Sore Elbow (single)	43.36'55"N - 73.0'3"W	Photo	Widen bridge/culvert approx. 6-8", or create ride-around to the left and add aMTB caution sign
Sore Elbow (single)	43.36'54"N - 73.0'1"W	Photo	Bench in backslope a bit if possible
Sore Elbow (single)	43.36'54"N - 73.0'0"W	Photo	Level trail tread if possible
Sore Elbow (single)	43.36'53"N - 73.0'0"W	Photo	Raise trail tread or push rocks outside right
Rembrandt's	43.36'53"N - 72.59'59"W	Photo	Remove one small inside tree
Rembrandt's	43.36'54"N - 72.59'58"W	Photo	Widen trail to the width of the small tree on the right side
Rembrandt's	43.36'55"N - 72.59'56"W	Photo	Trees are too narrow, ride-around needed inside turn
Rembrandt's	43.36'55"N - 72.59'50"W	Photo	Bench in backslope
Rembrandt's	43.36'49"N - 72.59'50"W	Photo	Rocks on right are a tipping hazard at speed, need to be removed
Milk Run	43.37'1"N - 72.59'58"W	Photo	Sump catches right wheel, trail needs to be widened
Milk Run	43.36'56"N - 73.0'1"W	Photo	Mellow out dips in trail, slightly aggressive left-to-right on aMTB
Milk Run	43.37'1"N - 72.59'55"W	Photo	Widen trail opposite sump
Milk Run	43.37'2"N - 72.59'56"W	Photo	Widen trail opposite sump, upslope after sump is also a tipping hazard
Milk Run	43.37'1"N - 72.59'55"W	Photo	Bench in, clear out backslope
Milk Run	43.36'58"N - 72.59'54"W	Photo	Trim backslope to level out
Milk Run	43.36'57"N - 72.59'51"W	Photo	Entrance to turn is pinched; turn itself is OK but rocks on rider's right could be lowered
Milk Run	43.36'56"N - 72.59'51"W	Photo	First rock on the right acts as a curb and needs to be replaced with a smaller rock that can be rolled over more easily

Milk Run	43.36'57"N - 72.59'50"W	Photo	Push sump back and raise trail tread
Voldemort	43.37'8"N - 72.59'49"W	Photo	Turns goes but is slightly tight; benching out entrance slightly (just after rock) to set rider up earlier
Quartzite	43.37'11"N - 72.59'42"W	Photo	Rock creates pinch point at bottom of trail
Exit Strategy	43.36'57"N - 72.59'37"W	Photo	Widen bridge - we recommend 42"
Exit Strategy	43.36'58"N - 72.59'37"W	Photo	Turn is too narrow, requiring 3-point turn
Exit Strategy	43.36'59"N - 72.59'35"W	Photo	Widen bridge - we recommend 42"

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 two designated accessible parking spots.

Kiosk: The kiosk has a large and easily readable map pointing in a downward angle that should be easily viewable on an aMTB. A suggested route for aMTB riders would be a beneficial addition at some point.

Bathroom: There was one accessible porta potty adjacent to the parking lot.

Signage: Trail signage throughout the network is good, and maps are low to the ground and easily viewed from an aMTB. VMBA utilizes [these signs](#) to not only help rate trails but to assist with way-finding. There was some discussion of using a CNC machine to recreate them in the character of existing signs.

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 perfect location for programming in Rutland. Nearly all of the trails are already adaptive friendly, but a tipping hazard when descending Escalator would make it difficult to exit after enjoying the trails. Otherwise, we believe these trails would be ideal for a beginner and intermediate rider with minimal work.

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 - 5/28/25