

Adopt a Road

Bradford Conservation Commission

Fall 2019 Report

Acknowledgements

This report update is the product of Bradford citizens' efforts to monitor the condition and usage of our Class VI roads. The surveillance and report are a function of the Bradford Conservation Commission.

Fall Update

This report is an updated version of the monitoring reports for Fall 2018 and Spring 2019. Some of the previous documentation has been retained if there is an absence of substantial change as reflected in more recent observations.

Class VI Road Condition Definitions

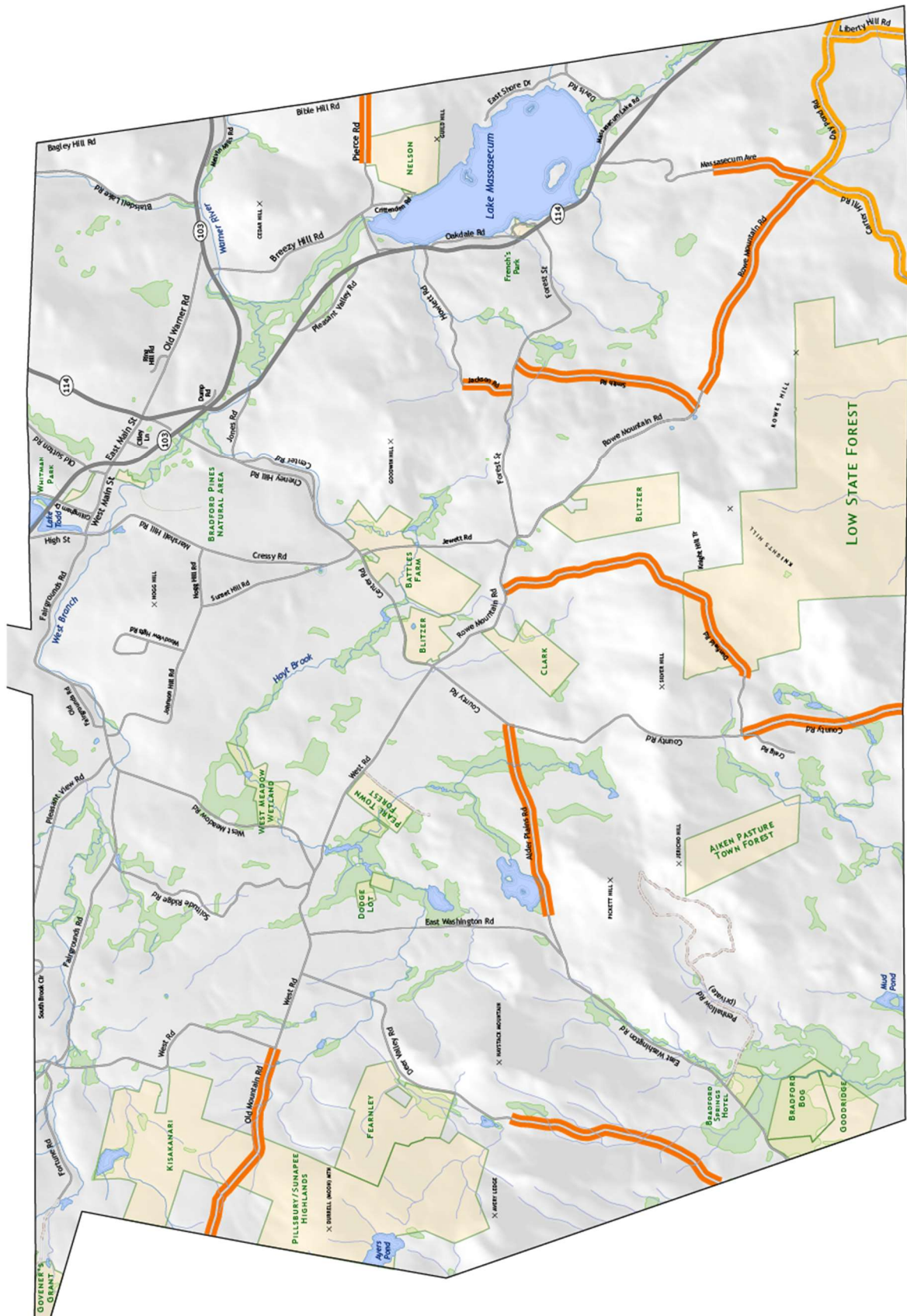
Road conditions may be classified by the volunteer road monitor based upon the following guidelines. The guidelines were developed to present realistic expectations for these gravel roads which are not maintained by the Town of Bradford.

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Excellent | Suitable for all "off-road" travel |
| Good | Suitable for "off-road" travel, but not excellent. May have isolated rocks and mud. |
| Fair | Appropriate only for Jeeps/4-wheel drive with high ground clearance |
| Poor | Only specialized Jeeps/4-wheel drive and non-motorized travel |

The Bradford Conservation Commission assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of these observations noting that a comprehensive professional assessment has not been done and road conditions change. Travelers must use their own discretion in traveling these roads and drive at their own risk.

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Alder Plains Road

Monitor(s): George Beaton, Kim Lowe, Patty Furness

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: October 2019

Erosion: The road has been improved since the last visit beyond the junk and trash piles. The ruts and standing water as seen in the last report's first 4 pics were not evident. Our first pic shows a freshly dug clay bank on the road side which was used to improve the road.



Obstructions: Standing water in some areas of the road.



Trash/Dumping: The junk and trash piles looked the same as the last report on 6/4/19.







Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: No

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: Tracks and ruts from very large tires -- earth moving equip or large trucks.

Other Conditions: There appears to be an occupied camp under development at 260 Adler Plains Road (map9, lot 15).



Bible Hill Road

Monitor(s): Tom Dunne, Doug Southard

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: October 2018

The Class VI section of Bible Hill Road appears to run through Warner with only the final brief (200 ft) section being in Bradford.

Starting at the beginning of the Class VI road in Warner, the following landmarks were noted.

Mile

- 0.0 Road maintained by Tom Dunne and is in EXCELLENT condition for a Class VI road.
- 0.3 Road converts to unmaintained and is in FAIR condition.
- 0.45 Warner/Bradford town line (approximately 800 ft from beginning of unmaintained road).
- 0.49 Apparent end of Class VI roadway (approximately 200 feet from town line).

Erosion: Mud/pot holes with some large rocks noted on the Bradford Class VI section.

Obstructions: No

Trash/Dumping: No

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: No

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: Some motorized tracks noted in the mud.

Carter Hill Road

Monitor(s): Peter Blank

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: October 2019

Erosion: Significant erosion from beginning to Hillsborough town line. Some sections essentially impassable except by articulated suspension.

Obstructions: One low lying area has roughly 6 inches to 2 feet of muddy water, perhaps 50ft by 30ft (see picture). Mud hole appears larger than last time.

Trash/Dumping: Some trash.

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: No

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: Significant tire tracks, including ATV and 4x4 truck\jeep.

Other Conditions: Road primarily consists of large stones, with small sections of sand or gravel interspersed. Likely impassable by smaller ATVs.



County Road

Monitor(s): Bob Hodges, Bob Blank

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: October 2019

Erosion: Road in very similar shape as the preceding years. The first section, personally maintained by the residents was in very good shape, culverts flowing, roadbed a couple of feet above the marsh, no problems, the last section, about one hundred yards, pitched down and is highly eroded to bedrock, some stone had been added years ago, but much of that is gone now. The roadbed has reached "rock bottom" there. It could get worse, but it's hard to imagine how.

Obstructions: No

Trash/Dumping: No

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: No

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: Yes, several residences are located on this road.

Other Conditions: First 0.4 miles is privately, well maintained at or above town standards, although somewhat single lane due to wetland (both sides).

Day Pond Road

Monitor(s): Doug Southard

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: November 2019

Starting at 4-way junction with Rowe Mountain Road, Carter Hill Road, and Massasecum Road.

Miles

- 0.0 Road generally in "FAIR" condition with some large rocks (8-12 inches) over the first .25 miles.
- 0.37 Appears to be old off-road damage near a water crossing on left.
- 0.96 Road enters 4-way junction with Liberty Hill Road and a private road before continuing on to Rt. 114. The last .25 miles moves from "FAIR" to "GOOD" in sections due to rip-rap placed after logging operations.

Erosion: Section closest to Rowe Mountain Road has significant erosion. Rip-rap placed on Liberty Hill end makes road a bit more stable.

Obstructions: No significant obstructions, however, erosion is so significant close to the Rowe Mountain Road junction, it could be considered an obstruction as noted above.

Trash/Dumping: No significant dumping noted.

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: One "snowmobile?" sign pointing to Henniker located at junction with Rowe Mountain Road. Trail sign needs to be labeled "Snowmobile".

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: Old off-road embankment damaged as noted above. No activity directly observed.



Deer Valley Road

Monitor(s): Meg Fearnley, Will Kranz, George Beaton

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: November 2019

Erosion: Heavy erosion in places, water crosses road in 2-3 locations; pooling in one spot. Deep erosion (often 1' ruts) on each side of road in the steep downhill section in the first 2 miles after Jim Bibbo's farm.

Obstructions: One gate across road, closed but not locked.

Trash/Dumping: No

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: No

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: Occasional ATV tracks, not recently heavily used.

Other Conditions: Landowner at Bradford end of Class VI Deer Valley Rd. states he owns the road, but there is a public right-of-way.



Dunfield Road

Monitor(s): Sandy Luckury

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: November 2019

Erosion: Water bars continue to be doing a good job. There was one that needed to be unblocked, which I did the best I could with no tools. Did notice it had been flagged, so possibly someone is planning to get to it (Photo #1). Also, one end of the pipe on the east end of Dunfield Road is above ground and doing no good at all (Photo #2).

Obstructions: A few trees have come down - some we were able to get out of the way, but not the 2 shown in Photo #3.

Trash/Dumping: No

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: No

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: ATV activity seems to be at a minimum and there was no sign of damage to the road from the few that I have noticed going by.

Comments: Overall, I felt the condition of the road was very good. And we saw a moose! Just stood there watching us for a bit and then wandered off.



Dec. 3, 2019

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Fortunes Road

Monitor(s): Brooks McCandlish

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: June 2019

Erosion: No

Obstructions: No

Trash/Dumping: No

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: No

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: The Class VI portion of Fortune Rd (past the McDonald residence) is maintained in excellent condition and used year-round by the Nowell's to reach their place in Newbury, just over the Bradford line.

Jackson Road

Monitor(s): George Beaton

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: October 2019

Erosion: Yes, in multiple places. Overall, the road is "GOOD" with the exception of some significant mud holes.

Obstructions: None noted

Trash/Dumping: None noted

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: None noted

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: Appears to have a modest amount of residential and recreational traffic.

Other Conditions: #243 Jackson are full time residents plus 2 other seasonal residents plus 1 trailer



Liberty Hill Road

Monitor(s): Doug Southard

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: November 2019

Starting at Bradford/Henniker Town Line

Miles

- 0.00 Road in "FAIR" condition with frequent pools of water and rocks 4-8 inches. ATV trail signs formerly present have been removed.
- 0.14 Rip-rap appears to have been placed secondary to a logging operation. Road is close to "GOOD" from this point forward.
- 0.2 Substantial off-road damage has been done to embankment on West side of a bridge over a small stream.
- 0.5 LHR ends at 4-way junction with Day Pond Road (both ways) and a private road.

Erosion: Section closest to Henniker has significant erosion. Crushed rock placed on Bradford end makes road a more stable.

Obstructions: No significant obstructions, however, erosion is so significant close to the Henniker line, it could be considered an obstruction as noted above.

Trash/Dumping: No significant dumping noted.

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: There are "No ATVs/Dirt Bikes" signs placed at the junction with Day Pond Road, however, not on Liberty Road itself. End of ATV trail sign previously installed at the Bradford/Henniker town line is again missing. Will contact Jennifer McCourt at the Contoocook Valley ATV Club in the Spring regarding a replacement.

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: Embankment damaged as noted above. No ATV activity directly observed at this time.



Dec. 3, 2019

Massasecum Ave

Monitor(s): Bindy Glennie, Doug Southard

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: October/November 2019

Mileage from junction with Rowe Mountain Road, Carter Hill Road, and Day Pond Road is 0.73 miles to what appears to be end of town maintenance where snowmobile trail goes off to the left. This end point needs to be confirmed.

Erosion: Road in generally "GOOD" condition with isolated rocks and water bars. May have declined a bit since Spring 2019.

Obstructions: No

Trash/Dumping: Occasional and isolated.

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: Snowmobile trail signs at transition to Class V section of the road. Regular transit of Jeep/truck caravans on weekends.

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: Regularly used for motorized access by both residents and recreational.

Old Mountain Road

Monitor(s): Carol Meise, Brooks McCandlish

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: December 2019

Starting at West Rd:

Mile 0.0 to 0.4 - The road is maintained by abutting homeowners (Bill Lucas). The road surface is currently in "EXCELLENT" condition to Jane Lucas' driveway. There have been problems in the past with road maintenance disturbing the bank of the adjacent stream (Hoyt Brook), and with road material washing into the brook.

Mile 0.4 to 0.6 - The road crosses the brook and climbs a steep hill to another stream crossing. This section of road has washed out and subsequently rebuilt by abutters at least three times in the last thirty years, to provide access for forest management. It is currently in "GOOD" condition — the three-foot culvert now at the top is holding, but water bars on the hill are starting to fill and some erosion has started starting.

Mile 0.6 to 0.9 - This section is relatively flat and has been maintained by abutters to the driveway to the Butler camp. It is in "FAIR" to "GOOD" condition, with some wet sections where water ponds, and with fords across seasonal streams.

Mile 0.9 to 1.2 - From the Butler driveway to the Washington town line, the road is in "POOR" condition. The roadway has become a stream bed flowing for much of the year, and it has eroded to boulders, rocks and cobbles.

Several abutters, the Road Agent, a Selectman, and the Chair of the Conservation Commission met with a representative from the NH Fish & Game Department to review the condition of the stream and culverts. Everyone seems to be on the same page at this time.

3' culvert at top of first hill – Mile 0.6



Looking west from Mile 0.9 (after Butler camp)



Pierce Road

Monitor(s): Brad Keller and Patty Furness

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: November 2019

Pierce Road is approximately 0.45 miles long.

Erosion: The lower 100 yards is fair with one long rut running through the center of the roadway. As one goes further up the road the road becomes heavy rocks and washed away. Further up still there are several water beds that have cut across the roadway making it pretty well impassable.

Obstructions: There are a couple of trees down but we keep them from blocking the road

Trash/Dumping: We keep any trash picked up

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: None - all land area along road is posted No Trespassing.

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: Occasional. Brad walks this road daily. No visible evidence of ATV/non-motorized activity. However, the Nelson Easement is being logged on both sides of Pierce Rd. The skidder has crossed the road in one location.





Rowe Mountain Road

Monitor(s): Doug and Barb Southard, Miranda Levin

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: November 2019

Starting at the beginning of the Class VI section of RMR from the Class V Section

Miles

- 0.0 Road initially level and then climbs up a significant hill. Overall road condition in the first 0.25 miles is "GOOD" due to crushed rock being laid associate with a timbering operation. From 0.25 miles to 0.5 miles the road appears only "FAIR" as the crushed rock was minimal compared to the first 0.25 miles. Snowmobile trail off Southard property enters at about 0.15 miles.
- 0.65 Snowmobile detour to the left (Northside).
- 0.75 Road conditions deteriorate substantially. Gentle downslope with significant rock outcropping, ledge and general erosion. Road condition is "POOR". See pictures.
- 0.94 1st camp noted on right (Southside). Some crushed rock on road and conditions improve to "FAIR".
- 1.0 End of detour which comes in from the left. Road conditions improve to "GOOD".
- 1.7 RMR ends at four corners with Massasecum Road, Day Pond Road, and Carter Hill Road. Junction is "FAIR to GOOD" depending upon time of year and weather conditions. Can become a mud hole.

Erosion: Entire road suffers from erosion, however, the section from 0.75 to 0.94 is extremely eroded. Rocks/ledge drops of 1-2 feet are frequent in this section.

Obstructions: No significant obstructions at this time, though several trees appear ready to drop at any time.

Trash/Dumping: No significant dumping noted.

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: Snowmobile signage noted off Southard property and at 0.65 mile point as noted above. Gate in place at Southard property. Signage also at end of Rowe Mountain Road near the junction with Massasecum, Day Pond and Carter Hill Roads.

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: Weekly Jeep/truck caravans and dirt bikes from May till December. Occasional ATVs.



Smith Road

Monitor(s): George Beaton; Barb and Doug Southard

Date of Most Recent Monitoring: October 2019

Road Conditions: Starting at the Junction of Smith Road and Rowe Mountain Road

Miles

- 0.38 Intersection with Tuttle Road – FAIR
- 0.48 Hill with significant erosion – FAIR/POOR
- 0.70 Smith Cellar Hole – FAIR
- 0.72 Old logging landing – GOOD
- 1.22 Ends on Forest Ave – GOOD

Erosion: Yes, in multiple places, particularly significant on hill about 0.5 miles from Rowe Mtn. Road junction. Some more recent ruts in sections crossed by logging rigs in Summer 2019. Crushed stone /gravel has been placed at the Forest St junction and a few other places.

Obstructions: None noted

Trash/Dumping: None noted

Recreational Vehicle Trail Signage: Snowmobile trail signs placed at cutoff for new trail through Southard property toward the intersection with Rowe Mountain Road.

Motorized/Non-motorized Activities: Weekly Jeep/truck caravans and occasional ATV.

