**DHASH 2018 Winter Season User Survey**

Available in the first half of April 2018 to winter 2018 users of Dutch Hill, announced through email and Facebook. We received a total of 60 responses.

**Question 1: How many times did you visit Dutch Hill this winter?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Answer Choices | Responses % | Responses # |
| 1 | 38% | 22 |
| 2 | 15% | 9 |
| 3 | 15% | 9 |
| 4 or more | 32% | 19 |
| Total |  | 59 |

**Question 2: What was your primary activity at Dutch Hill? Check all that apply.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Answer Choices | Responses % | Responses # |
| Backcountry skiing/riding (downhill/turning) | 81% | 48 |
| Cross country skiing (touring) | 17% | 10 |
| Snowshoeing | 15% | 9 |
| Sledding | 10% | 6 |
| Other (please specify) | 5% | 3 |
| Total |  | 59 |

**Question 3: Briefly tell us about your experience(s) at Dutch Hill. What was good and what was not so good? Why?**

Summary: Just about all comments were overwhelmingly positive. People liked the opportunities that were created, and the variety of terrain. People would like to see some signage, more trees cleared on some runs, and additional terrain opened up.

**Positive:**

Great! I went one time along (hiking) and once with Bill B. I wish I'd went more!

It was great, it started backcountry skiing much earlier and made it last much later into the season.

It was great.

AWESOME

Great resource, extremely accessible

Love it there- trails are easy to follow and not crowded

It was great. We were there in March and brought back many fine memories

It’s all good thanks to Rebirth of mountain The Yankee skied awesome so pretty perfect cutting the bad is I need to work to afford gear wanting more trails can’t wait

It was great. I love skiing this type of place. Can't wait to go back

The skiing was great at times and always fun. Nice choice of terrain. I wish non-skiers would stay off the up track and that the parking was reliably plowed. Sam B

All good.

It was great.... walk up for the kids was tough

My first day there I was a little disappointed with the length of the run. Then after my second day I started discovering more and more. By the end of the season I really grew to enjoy the area I believe it is well thought out and coming together very nicely

Went during an inter storm period early in the winter. The snow conditions were challenging.

Loved the terrain being reopened

All good!

Just really enjoy exploring small ski areas. Open ones and abandoned ones. The lack of big crowds and connection to nature is appealing.

It was great! So happy to have this type of area in southern Vermont, close to home. Easy up route, and fun descents.

It was good. Though the current conditions were a bit poor due to warm spell.

I skied Dutch Hill a few times before DHASH and it was a lot of fun, and nobody knew about it. Since DHASH more area been cleared, but with the increased traffic, more of the old trails need to be cleared to accommodate.

Nice to see the efforts of the group being used. Having people on the hill is great

The Good: Dutch Hill provided skiing when other locations did not allow. Because of snowfall totals and geography, Dutch Hill became the most consistent turns of the season. The Bad: None, except the more gladed terrain the better.

Day 1—Fantastic, 15” fresh powder Day 2–fun, but crusty conditions Day 3–solitude, only one there for afternoon ski, soft snowy turns.

It was great! My son-in-law and I, with his two young sons went sledding. They didn't want to leave - we had a great time and met others also enjoying the mountain. They loved it and can't wait to visit it again next year. I went with 3 other grandchildren but it was pretty slushy that day. It was not good sledding but it was a beautiful day and we stayed and hiked around a bit.

Group trip led by Sam & Marie Bartlett was excellent and an opportunity to become familiar with Dutch Hill.

great experience

Trails are lovely, the map & information available online were perfect to help us navigate. Due to warm temps on the days we skied the out track back to the parking lot was a bit wet.

It was cleared well, and easy access. I live near the Mt.so I went up at least 10 times this winter. It was nice to see no snow mobiles on the trails.

Loved it. Fun trails easy access.

Everything was great - fun place to go and fun people hang out there.

AWESOME!! great people, great terrain, great conditions!

Great safe BC area. 25 plus runs. Keep up the good work. Also quite popular and met a lot of avid skiers

37 inches of snow was crazy. magical experience under blue skies...

So pleased with all the trail improvements!

meeting up with friends for skiing, snowboarding, sledding, and jack jumping. great family fun this winter .... clearing more trails would help.

It was awesome. I am all about self-powered fun, really enjoyed my split board here this year.

It was good. There could have been more trees thinned out

I loved the variety of terrain; fun woods, couple steep bits, and great open/wide meadow. The established skin track when I was there was also quite pleasant through the birch stand.

Good snow in March. Terrain is nice, but needs more area cleared for skiing.

The snow is better than any other local backcountry opportunity, and the mountain is west-facing so you can ski there in the evening after work.

So exciting to ski the terrain I helped clear in the fall, and (going back a wee bit further in time) where my father first learned to ski in the 1950s!

**Suggestions:**

The transformation has been great. I would love to see expanded trails and some trail signs.

Diana here - Good - Top to bottom! Not so good - you have to know where things are - need signs.

Loved it! We weren’t sure where we were going, some signage or online maps would be helpful, mainly for where we should be skinning.

Lots of snow this year. would love to see some designated snowshoe/uphill paths to keep the post holers/sledders off the main ski/downhill trails

As someone who learned to ski at Dutch Hill, it was fantastic to experience the mountain and ski down it once again. I think it would be good to have an expert trail that is free of trees, similar to Thunderbolt, even though the gladed experience is special. Eventually trail signs would help, especially if the trail openings are not clear cut.

It was good but lift line has a lot of potential but needs to be thinned out on the sides of the trail.

Needs lot more work on trails so the average skier can enjoy the areas. Could be taken care of like the bolt

Awesome little mountain with lots of potential. Still a bit too tight on the upper half in regards to the trees...got to make some quick decisions and quick turns. The lower half seems real nice.

like the versatility of available terrain, would like to see more trails opened up and more glade clearing

Awesome sweet powder, skied from summit. Signage is complicated but I’m sure I can learn what all those marks on the trees mean. Should block off trail that runs into private property off northeast side...that was also very sweet, despite the snowmobile tracks. I would definitely like to join and come up to help with trail maintenance. I have been very active on the Petersburg pass area but there is no organization there.

**Question 4: Help us plan for future recreational opportunities. What would you like to see at Dutch Hill and beyond?**

Summary: nearly all the comments were for more trails and glades; quite a few wanted more signs and trail makers.

**Trails:**

Thin those saplings on the skin up, maybe I can help, but still need to finish my chainsaw training.

More trails be cut for downhill and cross country skiing and snowshoeing.

Glades on steeper section. Glade expansion on southern sections to get more vertical.

Trail signs

Diana here - Would love some nice XC loops. Would like to develop a Marlboro College to Hogback trail.

1. Create system of maintained glades from summit and then down on the fall line. 2. Possibly small lean at the upper clearing

Thinner glades.

beautiful open glades and deep snow

More runs open, blueberry heath expanded, kiosks

absolutely

More trails Maybe some signage telling of the dangers of backcountry and the gear to have so people realize it’s not like ripping resort also post cost of rescue just to start to drag you off think this is good to see! point people to training to be better prepared??

More trails. Marked skinning route.

More trails would be great. Maybe more easy glades on the lower mountain. No snowmobiles!

More Dutch Hill open terrain, both down-mountain and XC.

Expanded skiable terrain. More trails.

Possible on snow Demo with help from Berkshire Outfitters??

Continued clearing/glading efforts at D.H. would be nice. Glading efforts that extended to areas of the southern G.M.N.F. other than D.H. would also be nice.

More trails accessible, such as Windmill and Christy

More ski expansion

More open, steeper terrain

I would love to see more terrain open up at Dutch hill or elsewhere in the area.

All the old trails cleared for downhill skiing.

I would like Dutch Hill to continue to evolve with more trails/glades established. The current model works and I look forward to more terrain being available in the future.

I don’t know...maybe clearing out more trails. I think DHASH is so cool and I’m so happy to BCXC there.

more glades

Would love to see a few more ski trails maintained

More trails opened.

Opening some more of the other older trails.

More trails cleared.

light touch pruning in the woods to open it up but not by very much!

Steeps, more options

clearing of trails. bigger sledding area for the kids

I signed up for the emails so I can go help clear more trail this year and open up more terrain!!!

Open up trails west of the lift line

Any expansion (glades, reclaim old trails, etc.) would be great! It would be great to have more permanent trail signs and maybe more informational signage encouraging hikers/snowshoers away from ski trails (uphill and downhill).

More glades, i.e. cut the underbrush and lower branches, so people can ski between the bigger trees.

I would like to see more thinning for more sustained pitches - Many of the existing runs have long, gentle runouts that seemed not quite steep enough with fresh snow. It would be exciting to thin out the trees on Christiania enough to ski through them.

more trails

More trails being cleared! More trail markers!

Keep doing what you are doing

More open and connected bc trails.

More glades opened enough to ski safely

**Other:**

Hiking tours in the fall foliage season

Open to fat biking?

Not sure at this point. Something to make the climb up for us older people.

If the parking lot were plowed out, that would have helped. Felt a little dangerous being super close to the highway with my 3-year-old. Opening up easier ski terrain for young kids would be appreciated.

•Year round activities •full moon skin/ski/bonfire night •Sledding parties for kids •Summer hikes for both kids and adults Snowman building party Hike w your dog day Etc. etc. Activity advertising in advance

Allow snowmobiles on a separate path to help young kids get up to top so they will do more than 1 run down lol

**Question 5: During your trip to Dutch Hill, did you visit any businesses in Readsboro or Stamford?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Answer Choices | Responses % | Responses # |
| Yes | 39% | 22 |
| No | 61% | 34 |
| Total |  | 56 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Readsboro | | Stamford | |
| Business | # of People Visited | Business | # of People Visited |
| Readsboro General Store | 6 | Billmonts | 3 |
| Readsboro Inn | 9 | Stamford store/gas | 1 |
| Always Emma’s | 3 | Brookside Auto Repair | 1 |
|  | | | |
| Not specified | |  |  |
| Gas Station | 3 |  |  |
| Local Food Marts | 2 |  |  |

Billmonts, Readsboro general store, Readsboro Inn.

Readsboro Inn, Jezebels and Dot’s

Diana here - Always Emma's and Readsboro Inn

Readsboro inn

The gas station.

Always Emmas, the General Store and the Readsboro Inn.

Stamford store/gas station Brookside Auto Repair in Stamford

Readsboro General Store

Local food marts

Readsboro inn

readsboro inn

Stamford - Billmont’s Wilmington - The Crafts Inn

readsboro general store

Gas & groceries in Readsboro

Always Emmas, Readsboro General store

Readsboro

The general store / gas station.

Billmonts

The Readsboro Inn

3 families ate dinner at readsboro inn

We went to Timber Creek for some cross country skiing.

**Question 6: Are you a member of the Catamount Trail Association (CTA) or Dutch Hill Alliance of Skiers and Hikers (DHASH)?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Answer Choices | Responses % | Responses # |
| CTA and DHASH | 32% | 19 |
| CTA only | 12% | 7 |
| Neither | 56% | 33 |
| Total |  | 59 |

**Question 7: What is your ZIP code?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ZIPcode** | **Town** | **Number** |
| 01001 | Agawam MA | 1 |
| 01002 | Amherst MA | 2 |
| 01039 | Haydenville MA | 1 |
| 01220 | Adams MA | 1 |
| 01237 | Lanesborough MA | 1 |
| 01247 | North Adams MA | 7 |
| 01256 | Savoy MA | 1 |
| 01330 | Ashfield MA | 1 |
| 01337 | Bernardston MA | 2 |
| 01346 | Heath MA | 1 |
| 01473 | Westminster MA | 1 |
| 02891 | Westerly RI | 1 |
| 03055 | Milford NH | 1 |
| 05201 | Woodford VT | 3 |
| 05252 | East Arlington VT | 1 |
| 05261 | Pownal VT | 1 |
| 05301 | Brattleboro VT | 2 |
| 05342 | Jacksonville VT | 1 |
| 05343 | Jamaica VT | 1 |
| 05346 | Putney VT | 1 |
| 05350 | Readsboro VT | 5 |
| 05356 | Dover VT | 2 |
| 05361 | Whitingham VT | 3 |
| 05464 | Jeffersonville VT | 1 |
| 05491 | Vergennes VT | 1 |
| 05777 | West Rutland VT | 1 |
| 06033 | Glastonbury CT | 1 |
| 06111 | Newington CT | 1 |
| 06340 | Groton CT | 1 |
| 06416 | Cromwell CT | 1 |
| 06447 | Marlborough CT | 1 |
| 06478 | Oxford CT | 1 |
| 06875 | Redding CT | 1 |
| 07739 | Little Silver NJ | 1 |
| 10509 | Brewster NY | 1 |
| 12054 | Delmar NY | 1 |
| 12211 | Albany NY | 1 |
| 12571 | Red Hook NY | 1 |
| 12866 | Saratoga Springs NY | 1 |
| 19067 | Morrisville PA | 1 |
| 20906 | Silver Spring MD | 1 |

**Question 8: Any other comments you have for us?**

Great work! Working on trails in Bennington, but hoping to spread the love this year. Silvia

I knew this was going to be a great recreational opportunity, what I was equally impressed by was how it was a community building opportunity as well, it connects residents socially in a location and time of year when it is challenging to do so.

Thank you! Will be joining as a CTA/VMBA combo this season.

Great first season! Can’t wait to see what the future holds

Diana here - parking and signage.

I would like to join pay dues etc. David L Herman 38 woodstream drive Delmar NY12054 Dlherman10@gmail.com

Keep up the good work. Post your trail maintenance days.

I will become a member of DHASH soon!

East west trail?

We look forward to joining the organization this year. Great job

so glad it is making a comeback we skied and hiked Dutch for many years till we moved further away but will be sure to visit more often as it has the best snow locally

Keep up the good work restoring our history thanks ⛄️

Keep up the good work! I hope to get down there for a trail day in the fall.

Thank you for the great work you've done!

A great start to support more awareness, knowledge and use of the areas outdoor recreational offerings.

Will be joining both

If it helps, I think a larger fundraiser targeting people who once skied Dutch Hill might be successful. If you want to give away something, I created retro t-shirts with the old Dutch Hill logo that you can use. I posted a link on the DHASH Facebook page, or you can message me at jonbuoni@aol.com Thanks for all the hard work! I will look out for future volunteering times. Jonathan Buoni

Facebook is a great way to get the word out. Hope to possibly help with a DHASH trail clearing event. Thank you! This is a great thing for Vermont as the larger mountains get gobbled up by big time outside investors.

Loved the place, hope to ski it more next season and participate in the fall cleanup and trail prep. Backcountry is a blast!

Extremely appreciative of the current state of Dutch Hill and hope the area can continue to grow and foster an authentic Vermont skiing experience.

Thank you for all the hard work involved. I plan to help on trail work days in the fall.

Everyone agrees it’s great to have such a great place close by and it is very enjoyable. We look forward to some summer hiking.

Awesome job with the trails and your social media presence.

Great to see the Mt. used for back country use.

Keep up the good work!

thanks for all the great work so many have put in to this lovely gem!

Keep up the good work, Glades are cut very very well

I'll be back next winter

Thanks!

I just found out about DASH and look forward to visiting for the first time next season.

thanks for all the hard work that has been done at Dutch hill... it was a big improvement from last winter... our whole family had a great time there this winter

Looking forward to this coming year and more turns.

Good Job!!!! Open up more trails

The Dutch Hill revitalization is a really exciting development, and I always see happy people up there using it. I definitely will join DHASH and I hope I can make more of a contribution.

Keep up the great work! I'd visit more often, but Greylock is closer to me.

Thanks you guys and gals are doing a great job. Keep up the good work and we will be up in the fall for some help with trail work

Thanks for all the hard work-- we hope to volunteer in the future.

Thank you!

Would love to come by more.

Thank you all who initially cleared and opened up DH.

Thanks for supporting this innovative community initiative