

Mt. Philo State Park – Recreation Workshop – June 14, 2016

Group Discussion recorded at workshop

Topic 1: High Use – high visitation at Mt. Philo State Park impacts the state park infrastructure (parking, toilets, trails, etc.); the environment (forests, rare plants, wildlife, etc.); and the recreational experience.

Some questions to start you thinking on this topic:

1. How do increasing numbers of visitors effect the recreational experience, from your perspective?
2. Should the number of people be limited in some way? If so, how?
3. Should the same or more people be accommodated? If so, how would impacts (infrastructure, environment, experience) be mitigated?

Public comment received:

- 1.1 Parking up and down the road bothers some.
- 1.2 Some of the trails are wonderful. Reroute is good job.
- 1.3 Problem: dog waste on trail.
- 1.4 Where *the trail*¹ is close to road- people walking of trail shortcut.
- 1.5 People off trail at night w/ head lights.
- 1.6 Parking on *town* road is safety issue.
- 1.7 Reroute trail to avoid road walking.
- 1.8 Too much trail use- need to develop more trails to spread people out.
- 1.9 Almost never go when park is open- too crowded.
- 1.10 Use seems to go down when park is charging – busier at other times. Open park earlier.
- 1.11 Use of a park is problem we want to have.
- 1.12 Increase fees to prevent overuse.
- 1.13 Different fees for trails & road.
- 1.14 Limit parking on road to limit use.
- 1.15 More enforcement w/ more fees & funds.
- 1.16 Would be great to have a view tower but might attract more use.
- 1.17 Concern that infrastructure may change the rustic nature of the park.
- 1.18 Facilities are fine and views are fantastic.
- 1.19 Put infrastructure at base *of mountain*.
- 1.20 Not enough education info for # of people.
- 1.21 No expanded use of ATVs & motorized vehicles & no reroutes (no use of Allmon² road).
- 1.22 May need to use new solutions here.
- 1.23 Don't understand why road rally is allowed – damages resources and not in the spirit of the park.
- 1.23a Impacts v. high on trails.
- 1.24 Don't make fee a burden but use small increase.
- 1.24a "Regulars" know when to go, i.e. after hours & not on weekend.
- 1.25 Limit # of people per day rather than increase fees.
- 1.25a Concern over invasive species (parsnip) coming in. Mowing regime causes spread of invasive species. Need appropriate management.
- 1.26 Need info on management – mowing, etc.

- 1.27 Need overflow parking. Currently its dangerous. Capacity is regularly exceeding parking.
- 1.28 No parking on road.
- 1.29 Find new parking solutions.
- 1.30 Consider limiting parking.
- 1.31 There are unintended consequences to limiting parking.
- 1.32 Try different fee structure.
- 1.33 Try educational/ instructional videos @ entrance.
- 1.34 Be willing to accept some structural solutions to accommodate more people.
- 1.35 Advertise adjacent parks when reach "limit". Label them at top.
- 1.36 Space out large groups time-wise (reserve days for them and days free of them).
- 1.37 Consider more pit toilets.
- 1.38 Most popular vs. most used?
- 1.39 Like having people around at the park but concern about impacts to trails.
- 1.40 Would like to see fewer cars on the mountain road.
- 1.41 We should include as many people as we can.
- 1.42 People go to Philo to enjoy resources – need another new park to accommodate crowd.
- 1.43 Philo is a unique place to experience the view of VT.
- 1.44 Fewer cars going up mountain, but park is not at capacity- infrastructure is the challenge - improve parking lot.
- 1.45 Parking lot could be expanded to reduce parking on road.
- 1.46 Need sign letting drivers know that walkers are on road.
- 1.47 New parking and easy route to top would reduce walking on road.
- 1.48 Need places for people to stop and get off road on the way up.
- 1.49 Use signs that say "if you can hike, please do hike" to limit vehicle use.
- 1.50 Build hardened surface trail to the top.
- 1.51 Limiting use antithetical to the ideas of parks.
- 1.52 Local people use park most, but fees mostly target others/ 1-time visitor.
- 1.53 Need more money to fund infrastructure.
- 1.54 Money to the park should be proportional to use.
- 1.55 Mt. Philo- we don't want it to become a "Torrey Pines" (California).
- 1.56 May need to limit # people coming in.
- 1.57 There is plenty of room for people, don't need to limit.
- 1.58 Concern over the damage, not the # people – need to address damage.
- 1.59 Consider solutions to manage quality of trails.
- 1.60 Year-round fees + have friends organization to help fund improvements.
- 1.61 Need rangers year-round.
- 1.62 Don't need to re-direct to other parks.
- 1.63 Have sliding scale for annual pass based on income.
- 1.64 Do better job of educating on benefits of existing fees. "How much did the movies cost you last week?"
- 1.65 Fully evaluate the true cost of running the park.
- 1.66 Consider creative fund raising- name on bench, etc., a friends pass \$50 for example.
- 1.67 Create more places along the road to stop (gazebo).
- 1.68 More toilets at bottom and at middle.

- 1.69 Monitor off-season use, consider year-round management and fees - 4 months “on”/ 8 months “off”.

Topic 2: Trails – Mt. Philo State Park is a very popular location for hiking, walking, snowmobiling, sledding, snowshoeing, etc. There are four designated hiking trails (*House Rock Trail* to summit, *Devil’s Chair Trail*, *Campground trail* to summit, *Overlook Trail* and one designated VAST snowmobile trail.

Some questions to start you thinking on this topic:

1. These hiking trails are not designed for the number of people or size of groups that hike them. Should this use be limited? If so, how?
2. There are ways to construct trails to withstand higher numbers of hikers. Some of these measures include widening the trail, hardening the surface (gravel), building more structures (stairs) into the trail so that it is better able to accommodate increased use. Would that change in trail character change your use?
3. Are the number of designated trails sufficient? Need more? Need less? Just right? How would this impact forest fragmentation?
4. Winter use at Mt. Philo includes snowmobiling, sledding, snowshoeing, skiing, sliding, etc. These uses occur on the same road system and often overlap, and are sometimes in conflict. How would you propose addressing this conflict? Do you believe there is a conflict?

Public comment received:

- 2.1 Off-season it doesn’t seem to crowded.
- 2.2 Large groups (schools) effect trail experience.
- 2.3 Some places require sign up before using.
- 2.4 Would be very labor intensive to achieve.
- 2.5 More signs on why they should stay on the trail - ‘fragile vegetation’.
- 2.6 Close off short cuts and side trails.
- 2.7 Timing is big-spring might be time to keep people off *the trails*.
- 2.8 Create alternative trail to summit. Devil’s chair to summit would allow loop to campground trail.
- 2.9 More day user fees. Use fees to do trail upkeep.
- 2.10 Ask for additional donation for trail specific functions. PR materials (include users as stewards ideas).
- 2.11 Move structures would change ‘feel’, experience.
- 2.12 Keep in mind aesthetics-> not urban.
- 2.13 When you see and hear other people that is too many *trails*.
- 2.14 Put trail on Allmon *parcel/acquisition*.
- 2.15 Go to trails committee in Charlotte to coordinate.
- 2.16 Part of the ‘rural’ experience as a kid was to sled and watch for snowmobiles/ and maybe get a tow 😊.
- 2.17 Snowmobiles pack down snow for skiers and sledders.
- 2.18 State police snowmobile patrol has had a presence- this is good.
- 2.19 Don’t promote Philo anymore.

- 2.20 Sign new switchback as 'area recovering'.
- 2.21 Spend more \$ on trails rather than limiting use.
- 2.22 Add more trails- whole backside of Mt. Philo is "untrailed".
- 2.23 # of visitors and use is not commensurate with what is spent.
- 2.24 No more trail heads.
- 2.25 Make trail on Allmon 'official' trail.
- 2.26 Allmon road was never permitted, needs to be 'undone' and damage repaired (drainage issues/ culverts).
- 2.27 Would be great to walk 'Allmon' road (through blue gate down road and over to parking lot).
- 2.28 Limit mud season hiking.
- 2.29 Circumferential *trail* possibility.
- 2.30 Not too many trails yet.
- 2.31 Philo is a regional park not state. Have (*create*) others parks is Chittenden County.
- 2.32 SCORP 27% hiking-
- 2.33 Looks like park has given up trying to keep people from cutting switchback, creating social trails.
- 2.34 Central Park hold a lot of people- it's for people.
- 2.35 Park is also for natural resources.
- 2.36 Best way to use park is for everyone's benefit- don't mind snowmobilers.
- 2.37 Love sledding/ skiing- haven't seen snowmobiles.
- 2.38 In favor of VAST trail- they (*snowmobilers*) are respectful.
- 2.39 Don't increase motorized use.
- 2.40 Don't increase use of traila by snowmobiles
- 2.41 Road race- long past due to stop- not an appropriate use especially on that fall weekend.
- 2.42 Like the car race. Do think it should be moved to early summer.
- 2.43 Realistic collection of funds based on use -> year round fees.
- 2.44 How can we keep pace with the increase in trail use?
- 2.45 How many people are there off season because no fees?
- 2.46 Ask for donations.
- 2.47 Put up signs or close in mud season.
- 2.48 Or close at other times to give them (*trails*) a break.
- 2.49 Keep the trails more natural.
- 2.50 Educate people to stay on trail.
- 2.51 Being able to walk road is a benefit.
- 2.52 Trails still being used when icy.
- 2.53 Could trails be closed in winter?
- 2.54 Improve personal safety in park on trails (there has been *parking lot* break-ins)
- 2.55 Trailhead parking should have security cameras.
- 2.56 Newspapers- use them for press releases, as educational material, public relations.
- 2.57 Skateboarders with 'cams'- scary.
- 2.58 New position for security/ policing/ education.
- 2.59 Sand should be available on road for winter use (as trail) for safety/ ice.
- 2.60 Snowmobilers and skiers can get along.
- 2.61 Designate the Allmon road/ blue gate/ path to parking lot *as trail*.
- 2.62 Get onto Allmon road from main trail.
- 2.63 *Provide* Stumps and fence sections for older people to sit/lean on as you go up *the trail*.

- 2.64 Park should brush hog from blue gate (or don't) to control parsnip.
- 2.65 Snowmobile club would like to come down Allmon trail from blue gate + could brush hog in return (*as part of trail maintenance*).
- 2.66 Have VAST trail go off eastside onto Titus property (by well).
- 2.67 This past October's work was great.
- 2.68 Keep doing work to trail.
- 2.69 Don't like hardened trails- changes the feel *of the experience*.
- 2.70 Like the 'little rough around edges' *feel to the trail system*.
- 2.71 Could we revitalize old trails?
- 2.72 Like some steps and gravel for those with different abilities- it's for everyone.
- 2.73 Charge a higher rate for trail use.
- 2.74 Increase # of trails.
- 2.75 Trails to new Allmon property might take the pressure off.
- 2.76 If trails were longer there might be less use.
- 2.77 Create trail off to 'right' south of road.
- 2.78 *Create* trail to east.
- 2.79 Are any of social trails developable?
- 2.80 *Create* trail to north.
- 2.81 The 'lower trail' and 'upper trail' should meet, *creating a loop*.
- 2.82 Maintain fencing at overlooks for safety. Also on spot below overlook.
- 2.83 Get to view of East and North.
- 2.84 Build tower.
- 2.85 Not a fan of chain link on lower west view.
- 2.86 Move gate up road to eliminate need for fencing (*at bottom*).
- 2.87 Keep VAST trail where it is.
- 2.88 Post as 'no snowboarders'. Too many people- no room.
- 2.89 Snowboarders go off trail rip out trees and shrubs.
- 2.90 Have almost been run over by a sledder, too.
- 2.91 Bikers ride way too fast downhill (over speed limit).
- 2.92 *Post signs @ trailhead 1) stay on trail 2) etiquette 3) trail erosion.*
- 2.93 Would like no motorized vehicles on upper meadow of Allmon Property (though Blue Gate) or on the west meadow of Allmon Property near Mt. Philo Rd. All new trails should be come off existing trails or roads from parking lot.

Topic 3: Dogs – Hiking with dogs or bringing them to Mt. Philo State Park for exercise is a popular and growing use and an important part of the recreational experience for many. For others this is a source of conflict and concern.

Some questions to start you thinking on this topic:

1. How does the presence of dogs or ability to bring your dog affect your experience at Mt. Philo?
2. Currently Vermont state park rules state that dogs must be on leash at all times. Do you think we need to do something different with leash/dog rule enforcement? If so, what?
3. Some parks (in some parts of the country) address this through zone management – banning dogs from some trails. Do you think dogs should be banned from trails at Philo? All trails? Certain trails?

Public Comment Received:

- 3.1 Borders park - feels fine as long as they are under control.
- 3.2 Like dogs as long as they are under control.
- 3.3 Challenging when crowded with both *people and dogs*.
- 3.4 Presence *of dogs* enhances experience. Mitigate pressure by *keeping dogs* under control/leashed during park hours (daily).
- 3.5 When park is closed there is a problem with lack of clean up (*dog waste*).
- 3.6 Important to have dogs on leash 24/7 and cleaned up after.
- 3.7 Feels intimidated with dogs not on leash and dogs impact her experience, prefer 24/7 *dog leashing*. (feeling hurt by interaction). Owner should carry out dog bags.
- 3.8 Dogs at Philo is a good ice-breaker and a great way to meet people. Accepted everywhere.
- 3.9 Thumbs up.
- 3.10 Emphasis placed on off-leashed dog parks in current document. Agrees Philo working well with on-leash during daily hours. Would not push problem to an off-leash park.
- 3.11 Consider tickets for rule violations.
- 3.12 Community focused management. Constant reinforcement of visitors to encourage proper use.
- 3.13 Add more ways to encourage proper use.
- 3.14 Current rule division between campground and day use - 24/7 in campground and day hours only for leash for day visitors.
- 3.15 All waste should be carried out by owner.
- 3.16 Nice to require and sign to have pets on leash.
- 3.17 Have bags available for people (*for pet waste*).
- 3.18 Have bags and place to drop off in refuse.
- 3.19 Have people arguing regarding rules and resist rule.
- 3.20 Add more refuse for dog bags.
- 3.21 Create a "no dog" zone.
- 3.22 Monitor and zero-tolerance for pets in vehicles.
- 3.23 Hiking trails without dogs.
- 3.24 Trail from parking lot to mid-vista w/ no dogs. A non-established trail.
- 3.25 Implementing ideas will require more control.
- 3.26 Future change or usage requires year round staff. Possible part-time and/ or volunteer.
- 3.27 Small off-lease area for multi-use meeting of other dogs, etc.
- 3.28 Use new property (Allmon) to expand branches of trail within current *trail* system.
- 3.29 At base, trail could be zoned dog-free with new trail construction or on existing trail.
- 3.30 Dog on leash may increase or not decrease dog vs. dog, but does decrease dog vs. people incidents.
- 3.31 Education regarding proper handling with dogs on leash.
- 3.32 Class for dog users for proper etiquette.
- 3.33 Can lead into park interpretation with dog-user class.
- 3.34 Would use park less if no dogs *allowed*.
- 3.35 Dogs should be under control, not necessarily on leash.
- 3.36 People are getting better at picking up pet waste.
- 3.37 Trend is not all bad.
- 3.38 On leash is good/fine.
- 3.39 Pets not under control: they should be on leash/under control.

- 3.40 People have different ideas about 'under control' and some dogs don't like other dogs: appreciate leashed dogs.
- 3.41 Current policy is pretty good.
- 3.42 Pet waste should be picked up more year around.
- 3.43 People (not even dog owners) are picking up dog waste.
- 3.44 Enforcement of rules, maybe even a fine (\$5-\$10).
- 3.45 Idea: limit dogs to the road → multiple yes's (agreement).
- 3.46 Off-leash before *park* hours is great.
- 3.47 Educate people about managing their pet (leashing them in appropriate situations).
- 3.48 People are too far away from their dogs.
- 3.49 Need a few more waste stations.
- 3.50 Put *pet waste* stations at the top.
- 3.51 Extend *park* operating season for more of the year (move management).
- 3.52 *There are* large groups of dog: not under control.
- 3.53 Never seen anyone enforce Vermont state park leash rule.
- 3.54 Would need more staff and revenue to increase enforcement.
- 3.55 Impact is also erosion, vegetation damage etc. from off-leash/off-trail dog use.
- 3.56 *Conduct* an experiment to extend season.
- 3.57 Experiment and evaluate banning dogs on certain trails. Evaluate after a certain amount of time.
- 3.58 Regular dog walkers vs. day visitor's behavior.
- 3.59 *Support* no change in way dogs are using park.
- 3.60 Enshrine current dog policy.
- 3.61 Make it a dog friendly park. Don't fight what's happening.
- 3.62 Are dogs a problem? What is the environmental impact?
- 3.63 No to restricting dogs on trails.
- 3.64 Only reason we went park and had dog off-leash in off-season.
- 3.65 Before 10am is good for off-leash.
- 3.66 Signage so people know the rules.
- 3.67 Dog-owners are different. Might be better to have 24/7 leash rule (enforcement).
- 3.68 It would be change of culture to have 24/7 rule enforcement.
- 3.69 Dogs on leash in winter is dangerous (icy).
- 3.70 Educate people about other places to take their dogs.
- 3.71 Create an off-leash dog park enclosure either there (parking area) or the Burns property.
- 3.72 Two new trails: alternate route to top and have a designated dog-free trail.
- 3.73 Dog waste is a big deal - signs and education.
- 3.74 Provide bags there and trash can.
- 3.75 Take waste home.
- 3.76 Volunteer picking up waste in off season.
- 3.77 Front Porch Forum discussion about waste.
- 3.78 Off-leash, well behaved and under control dogs are great.
- 3.79 Current culture/policy is well-known and obeyed – really like this.
- 3.80 Have surprisingly few issues - we'd lose a lot of local support if we enforced leash rule.
- 3.81 Enshrine defacto rules.
- 3.82 Prudent to have a sign about leash rule enforcement during certain hours/ seasons.
- 3.83 Issue citation/fine for certain dogs or repeat offenders.

- 3.84 Improve this culture by creating no dog trails.
- 3.85 Ban dogs from one trail and evaluate. Hard to choose trail because some aren't accessible/desirable.
- 3.86 Revenue generator through fines/ enforcement.
- 3.87 Fee for dogs: season pass/ special tag for dog.
- 3.88 Pet classes and (serve food).
- 3.89 Education/ Signage /reminders about good dog management.
- 3.90 Signs encouraging good cooperation and behavior especially in off-season. Need self-policing.
- 3.91 Neighbors had off-leash dogs attack chickens.
- 3.92 Enhances
- 3.93 Signage. Early morning policy is good.
- 3.94 Parking problem? Trail ok (occupancy?) maintenance. Should or be limited?

Topic 4: Other Ideas

Some questions to start you thinking on this topic:

1. What ideas do you have regarding recreation use and management at Mt. Philo State Park that have not been recorded in the other stations?

Public Comment Received:

- 4.1 More viewing areas in the park also along roads/trails - like the old covered porch sites. History lesson. Structure that folks could donate money towards *for its* construction/ maintenance.
- 4.2 Get snowmobile trails off part of mountain (see 2014). Avoid conflict with other users.
- 4.3 Haying of fields along Mt. Philo Road. Some local interest.
- 4.4 Lumber road restored to avoid environmental impacts and improve neighborhood relations.
- 4.5 Look for a solution to parking safety concerns.
- 4.6 Fire tower → vistas.
- 4.6a *Tower* removed 1969. Get back long range views.
- 4.7 Tree cutting, is it necessary to leave tree? Impacts aesthetics and experience.
- 4.8 Year round management.
- 4.9 Count down to 100 years (*as state park*) - (start now 2016) marketing, fundraising.
- 4.10 Mowing schedule led to invasive plant growth. Need to reconsider mowing timing.
- 4.11 More interpretation at the base of the mountain. Set the stage for experience.
- 4.12 New trails.
- 4.13 Signage → trails, history, culture.
- 4.14 Improve visibility of eastern mountains → maintain.
- 4.15 Reinstall fire tower.
- 4.16 Do campgrounds fit into the future of park?
- 4.17 Info on proper use of the park - ex: waste cans
- 4.18 Move gate up road.
- 4.19 Increase parking.
- 4.20 Security presence during day, maybe camera for evenings.
- 4.21 2nd parking lot only opened the capacity is reached.
- 4.22 Improve vistas by increasing global warming to raise level of Lake Champlain.

- 4.23 Welcome center at bottom with park information, bathroom, interpretation.
- 4.24 Crowd control.
- 4.25 Scheduled interpretive programs/ walks.
- 4.26 Better information about forestry management plans.
- 4.27 What are the impacts of large events → maybe limit/year.
- 4.28 Hike in, hike out only.
- 4.29 Install a funicular (*railway*) instead of vehicle traffic.
- 4.30 Pass holder only park.
- 4.31 Charge by head instead of by car.
- 4.32 Limit timing of dog walking.
- 4.33 Fee schedule idea continued → charge more for drive ups, dogs.
- 4.34 More trails northeast side.
- 4.35 Rather than adding trails on the north that would impact neighbors, I suggest revitalizing the old trails.
- 4.35a Address invasive *species* impact on new property.
- 4.36 New trail from Devil's chair to summit → safety concerns → or reestablish old trail.
- 4.37 Whole loop trail to reduce impact and new trail on new property (primitive to reduce erosion)
*starting from parking lot *starting from House Rock Trail.
- 4.38 Leasing fields along Mt. Philo road for agriculture.
- 4.39 Address vandalism → security, surveillance.
- 4.40 Increased interpretation across park, ex. Geology.
- 4.41 Informational signs along roads and trails about resource (culture, historical, environmental).
- 4.42 EMS mile markers along trails.
- 4.43 Interpretive info at base of mountain including info about experience → trails, etc.
- 4.44 Maintain vista from meadow on new property (*Allmon*) and have other vistas to reduce summit traffic.
- 4.45 Address parking along *town* road → safety.
- 4.46 Previous view sheds have been growing in. Reestablish sight lines and unique views, ex. Overlook trail.
- 4.47 Completely remove cut down trees.
- 4.48 Grazing field instead of mowing.
- 4.49 Parking lot (lower) has trail up through new property - less steep, heads to meadow.
- 4.50 Maintaining vistas at meadow on new property.
- 4.51 Clearer delineation of boundaries with neighbors.
- 4.52 Buffer with neighbors for new trails.
- 4.53 Improving road on new property (*Allmon*) - adds value.
- 4.54 Reinstate pond.
- 4.55 Mountain bike path on Mt. Philo.
- 4.56 Frisbee golf course in park.
- 4.57 Wedding facility on north slope.
- 4.58 Wooden gazebos along road, natural materials, correct anesthetic.
- 4.59 More opportunities for evening events.
- 4.60 Benches along road.
- 4.61 Bathrooms at base of mountain; not out-houses.
- 4.62 Welcome center at park.

- 4.63 Dog waste receptacle.
- 4.64 Fire tower.
- 4.66 Keeping park low key.
- 4.67 Interpretive information on birds, plants, wildlife.
- 4.68 Nature center.

Additional comments (yellow post-its):

- 1. Keep Mt Philo dog friendly – it is great as it is.
- 2. Zone management – Dogs – too difficult to manage as what exists, is not done well yet.
- 3. Clean up brush along Rd from ice storm '98.
- 4. Dog waste
- 5. 27% hike
- 6. VAST has trouble keeping signs up.

At the close of the workshop participants were asked to write down – “3 Ideas that resonated with me...”

- 1. Managed operational use expanded to cover full year.
 - 2. Facility at bottom of Philo provides educational opportunity to make public aware of erosion and ecology.
 - 3. Enforced rules- dogs on leash, trail managed to protect from erosion.
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- 1. Gazebos (2 maybe) on the way up Philo – natural construction, maybe designed after those on the mountain in the 1930's .
 - 2. Increased infrastructure spending to match Philo's attendance figures- better parking lot, nature center.
 - 3. Fewer motorized vehicles – welcoming more hikers with dogs on leash.
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- 1. Additional trails.
 - 2. Open view corridors from top**
 - 3. Add overflow parking.
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- 1. Close trails off when park is closed for winter.
 - 2. Keep people off trails when wet/muddy.
 - 3. Leash dog all the time.
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- 1. Less car traffic driving up the road, also slower driving.
 - 2. Circumferential trail around park.
 - 3. Dogs can be off leash before park hours.
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- 1. New trail from north end of parking up to meadow by blue gate possibly connecting to campground trail.
 - 2. Additional parking and porta-potties at base of hill.
 - 3. Create some “dog-free” trail designations.

1. Clean up downed brush along the road.
 2. More trails.
 3. Bathrooms at bottom.
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1. Dog park @Allmon property.
 2. Snow trail on Allmon property off down/up section completely.
 3. Hard surface (gravel) west section of trails.
 4. East side trail use for hikers/ dogs.
-
1. If the park is being over used year round, then the park needs to be monitor/manager and fee charged for usage year round. Every time someone hikes/uses the park, they should be contributing to its up keep.
 2. Add new trails.
 3. Increase education about the responsible and stewardly use of the park.
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1. New trail on "Allmon" property to afford additional view options + alleviate use in the forest.
 2. Allow for park users to share in the stewardship process. Make people responsible.
 3. Have a way for people to donate additional monies to a fund specifically for Mt. Philo State Park.
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1. Alternate trail via Allmon property to view point and to top.
 2. Sheep grazing on lower field (new parcel) to control invasive + keep as field.
 3. Doggy pass for good/well-behaved good. Extra fee for dogs with owner misbehavior.
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1. Pick up dog waste during winter too.
 2. Additional trails needed to reduce use of existing trails.
 3. Better signage for: (1) trail use/ erosion (2) picking up dog waste (3) historical signs or pictures of park.
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1. Keep Mt. Philo dog friendly this make it people friendly- it's why it is so popular.
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1. I would love to see improved (or even any) fencing between park land + neighbors. Especially since I am your neighbor!
 2. Visitors come into the meadow on the north side- which is beautiful + great to have them but then they wander into our backyard or their dog (not so great for our chickens).
 3. Is there any plan for fencing along border?
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1. More parking in lot to get cars off Mt Philo Road- safety issue.
 2. Create new a new trail to have a "loop" to hike and to distribute impact.
 3. Porto-lets at parking lot – or pit toilets.
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1. More trail – circumferential -gravel -no cars.
 2. Benches.
 3. More information signs like the ones near the western overlook.
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1. Less vehicular traffic/ separate foot vehicular.

2. \$ funding based on use impact – consider another regional/ county park.
 3. Expand existing parking.
1. Mt Philo is hugely popular with dogs + dog lovers. Best way to meet people – love it.
 2. More money for trails & parking-lot to the north of Philo.
 3. Nature booth (info) on bird and vegetation.
1. Remove Allmon trail head, create off-shoot trails onto Allmon donated woods from trailhead at base of park to distribute trail impacts, and protect woodland edges and mitigate parsnip vector up Allmon’s road.
 2. Maintain amazing view from Allmon’s meadow.
 3. Add parking lot below existing lot and fenced leash free dog enclosure at base of mountain.
1. Make a new trail that is more gradual + longer from parking lot to top.
 2. Increase fees in order to enforce your polices.
 3. Consider limiting # people at a time – perhaps by limiting the parking.
1. Pick just a few thing and them well.
 2. Experiment - try for short periods like 2 weeks – limiting dogs to certain days/ weeks – limit dogs on trails, etc.
1. Dogs on leash 24/7.
 2. Spend more \$ on trail maintenance.
 3. Bring gazebos back to road.
1. New trail to take pressure off existing trail.
 2. Signage for picking up dog waste.
 3. No parking on Mt Philo Rd or lawn when parking lot is full.
1. More trails especially in recent acquired area.
 2. Create dog times where dogs will be off leash since this is what happens anyway. At other times would be welcome but on leash.
 3. Educating area better at marking of trails as well as information on park etiquette.
1. Expand parking lot. Surveillance in parking lot.
 2. Cut back trees to open views.
 3. Develop alternate trail up the mountain for people with dogs (or trail that is dog free).
1. Develop view to east -new tower on east; cut trees; Maintain open view on new property
1. Limit motorized vehicles to current use.
 2. Maintain buffers from neighbors for any new trails or facilities.
 3. Increase parking lot keep cars off main roads.
 4. Stay open until end of October.

1. Dog owner stresses dog “control” + need time out (open dog cage @ parking lot) (keep dogs at distance from other dogs).
2. 4 months open/8 month closed - OMG → 92 years + soooo much of each year LOST REVENUES.
3. Think twist 2 waitresses asking “everything ok” OR ask: what little thing would make time at park “more better”

¹. italics – clarification added

². Allmon property – 69-acre property acquired in 2010 as addition to Mt. Philo State Park along its northern boundary.