



This is a different email from us. You may have noticed that the last two trail workdays have been at the Colella property, clearing something called a “cattle run”. Here’s some info.

The Town of Hopkinton recently acquired the Colella property, just north of (and adjacent to) the Hughes Farm Trail property. When we looked at LIDAR images of the property (which show terrain), we spotted what appeared to be a path running across it (red dots in the image above). A preliminary recon visit found a wide path bordered by parallel stone walls. It’s a cattle run, a passageway for cattle to move through, and it originally ran out to Hayden Rowe Street.

So, a ready-made path. Great, huh? With some connections to the existing Hughes Farm Trail, a loop could be made. There was one problem however. The run was severely overgrown with vines and thorns, and filled with fallen trees and other debris.



Our first workday turned into a more extensive recon visit, assessing the scope of the work to clear the cattle run and scoping out possible connections to the Hughes Farm Trail. It quickly became apparent that this would be a long-term project, and it would involve more than just the Trails Club. The land is managed by the Open Space Preservation Committee, and we're talking trails, so the Hopkinton Trails Committee has an interest as well. There are wetlands, which brings in the Conservation Commission. Finally, the Town's Historical Commission and Historical Society have obvious interests.

Long story short: This is gonna take some doing, but we're up for it. We showed up with tools for the second workday and opened up 540 feet of the run.



For our next workday (April 5), we'll go after the final overgrown stretch of the cattle run. Our progress will depend upon how many helping hands show up, and that's really the point of this email. This is one of those trail work projects where anyone can contribute. No special skills required. There's a lot to do, and more folks helping means more gets done. Scouts & others looking for community service hours? This is perfect for you. Got an interest in history? Come help restore some of Hopkinton's past. Just looking to spend a few hours outdoors contributing to the community? This is your opportunity.

We hold a trail workday the first Saturday of every month, starting at 9AM, and this project is sure to be featured on many of them for several months to come. [Details are on our website.](#) Please come out and lend a hand.