

2012/2013 Season XC Ski Trail Year End Grooming Report



RASC Volunteer Ski Trail Grooming started this season on December 9, 2012 and concluded on March 22, 2013. Skiing continued on groomed trails through March 24. Inconsistent snow, rain and freeze/thaw cycles were the hallmarks of this year's ski season. We were able to ski in low-snow conditions through much of December however thaws and rain came in early January converting trails to solid ice leaving January and February a challenge to groom. We were able to get trails into reasonable conditions with light snow and the steady snowfalls in March provided some of the best late season skiing we've ever experienced in Rochester. Grooming highlights are summarized below.

2012/2013 Grooming Summary	
Number of Ski Days	71 December = 17 January = 10 February = 20 March = 24
Number of Grooming Outings	61
Estimated Volunteer Grooming Hours	~240

Breakdown of Grooming Outings by Trail						
Trail ->	Quarry Hill	Essex Park	Heintz Fields	Eastwood GC	Chester Woods Lake	Soldiers Field GC
# of Grooming Outings	27	22	5	2	4	1

We used 2 tracked ATVs for the majority of grooming and both performed very well even in icy conditions. We did experience problems with the Quarry Hill actuators that control the groomer implements and these will be serviced over the summer.

We were also able to accomplish a significant amount of remote grooming this year using the RASC trailer acquired last fall. In addition to the Quarry Hill and Essex Park trails, we transported equipment and groomed at Eastwood Golf Course, the Heintz Center Football Fields, Chester Woods Lake, and Soldiers Field Golf Course. Grooming was limited to rolling and combing new snow. In the future, we will be looking into a light-weight groomer with renovation capability that can be trailered along with an ATV. We did acquire a pull-behind track setter that can be used with the roller in low snow conditions. We'd like to offer our sincere thanks to the Rochester Park Department and the Chester Woods Park Staff for their cooperation in allowing us to groom these additional areas.

Trail Condition Reports were moved to a Facebook page (Rochester Nordic Ski Trails) this year. This was well received by the local skiing community and provided a unified forum to communicate grooming status as well as allow skiers to comment on trail conditions and ask questions.

Our sincere thanks go to the RASC volunteer grooming staff for their many hours of hard work:
Darald Bothun, Eric Counselman, Mark Foley, Chris Flood, Dave Greymont, Joe Gyura, Matt Hawkins, Brennan Kelly, Joey Kiellor, Barry Knapp, Lisa Luetmer, Eric Reeve, John Resman, Jeff Robertson, Al Schmidt, Bruce Walk, Henry Walker, Andy Wood, Laura Zumbrunnen

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