

Boxborough Conservation Trails Maintenance Guidelines

These guidelines are intended to apply to typical conditions and locations. Occasionally, site specific conditions may require different treatment and/or methods to achieve the desired results. Any deviations from these guidelines should be reviewed and approved by the Conservation Commission prior to implementation.

Width/Height: 3' x 8'

Trail widths and height clearances vary by parcel and type of trail. The objective is to create a clear corridor for trail users (walkers, mountain bikers, horseback riders) so that branches and ground vegetation do not interfere with passage or sight lines. Some of our trails will be narrower and some wider than the “norm” due to topography, ease of maintenance, or former life (as a utility easement or farm road, for example).

Routine Maintenance

The Conservation Commission has purchased hand saws, loppers, hand clippers and manual weed whackers for use in maintaining the trails.

Remove any vegetation in trail or overhanging the trail. This includes saplings up to 3” in diameter. Larger trees would require permission of the Conservation Commission. Sticks and branches that have fallen onto the trail should also be removed. Beware of poison ivy!

Fallen Trees

Fallen trees should be removed by chain saw. Advise Land Steward coordinator of any fallen trees before removing, or if help is needed to remove. With some very large trees, DPW can be contacted for safe removal.

Wet Areas

Many of our trails have wet areas some or all of the year. Identify problem areas. The installation of board walks or the addition of wood chips can be arranged.

Trail Markings

The trail system is marked using 2” x 2” colored plastic markers. Each marker has an arrow in the center. Trails leading in from a trail head/parking area are marked with red arrows. The main trail is marked in yellow. Side trails are marked in blue. Markers are placed on tree trunks alongside the trail with sufficient frequency to make the trail easy to follow.

Maps

Maps are located at kiosks at most trail heads. Maps should be monitored to see that they are current and readable. Trail maps are available on the town’s website and maintained by the Town Planner. For new trails, a member of the Conservation Commission will walk the trail with a GPS recording device for the Town Planner to upload to the town’s GIS system for incorporation into the appropriate conservation parcel map.