





Pocket Trail Maintenance Manual



This is a quick pocket reference guide to the Trail Conference's Trail Maintenance Manual. Consider bringing this pocket reference with you on all your trail maintenance trips.

The following web address and the QR code on each card will take you to a directory containing the complete manual, outdoor safety guidelines, recommended paint colors, and other resources which should be used to supplement this quick reference guide.

www.nynjtc.org/tmm

We highly encourage reading the full manual before setting off on your first trip. These cards are intended as reminders, and the manual contains much more detailed information.

***Thank you for being a maintainer, and
have fun on the trail!***

May 2020



Trail Visit To Do's

- When to visit: spring, midsummer, fall (more frequently if heavy plant growth), and as needed (litter, storms, etc).
- Inspect trailhead for visibility.
- Inspect blazes for condition, visibility, and correct locations. Is re-blazing needed anywhere?
- Clean waterbars.
- Clip vegetation back to 4' wide x 8' tall corridor, cut close to trunk or ground to avoid poking and tripping hazards.
- Pick up litter.
- Remove small blowdowns that you can handle with a hand saw. Use photo and GPS to report ones that require help.
- Inspect structures for visible or obvious damage. Report problems.
- Report tread issues (muddy, eroded, etc).
- Take notes for reporting & future planning.
- Fix what you can and report the rest in a timely manner, asking for help if needed.



Checklist of Things to Bring

Safety

- Work gloves
- Eye or safety glasses
- First aid kit
- Trail map
- Mobile phone (for emergency contact and taking photos)
- Water
- Food and snacks

Tools

- Small hand saw, no chainsaws
- Clippers/loppers
- Digging tool
- Notepad and pen/pencil

Blazing

- Tag Blazes: Hammer, 2" galvanized nails
-or-
- Paint Blazes: Paint, brush, scraper

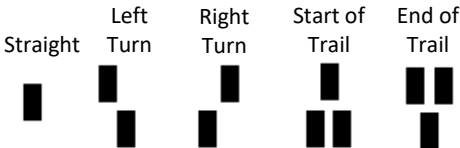


Safety First

- Make sure someone always knows where you are. Check-out with someone before heading out on a trip, and check-in again when you return home.
- Know your emergency numbers (911 for emergencies, local agency for other).
- Be familiar with your capabilities and surroundings, and don't do anything you're uncomfortable with.
- Stop working to let trail users pass.
- Stay hydrated.
- Stop working when you're tired.
- Bring proper equipment: gloves, eye or safety glasses, well-maintained tools.
- Protect yourself from sun and insects.
- Make sure the trail is safe for users.
- Don't use power tools unless specifically approved to do so. No chainsaws!
- Don't confront people involved in unauthorized/illegal activity, but do report such activity to your Trail Supervisor as soon as possible.



Blazing



- You are responsible for trail blazing.
- Plan a trip just for blazing. It helps to have someone along with you.
- Take a fresh look at the trail, as if it's being blazed for the first time.
- Blaze in both directions, one direction at a time to ensure you don't miss any.
- The next blaze should always be visible.
- Use turn blaze if trail bends more than 45°, & place confirmation blaze just after turn.
- Clear any branches blocking view of blazes.
- Ensure intersections are clearly marked.
- Use correct paint color/tag blazes.
- Tags: Nail the blaze halfway in.
- Paint: Carefully scrape bark.
- Standard blaze size is 2" wide by 3" tall (Long Path 2"x4", Appalachian Trail 2"x6").



Reporting

As a maintainer you are the eyes and ears of the Trail Conference. Your timely reports ensure resources go where needed most.

- All reports go to your Trail Supervisor.
- Fill in your Trail Maintainer Report (available at www.nynjtc.org/tmm) immediately after **each trip**.
- Report the following issues **immediately**:
 - Location & size of downed trees requiring chainsaw removal. Include GPS coordinates and photo if possible.
 - Severe storm damage.
 - Obvious damage to trail structures.
 - Improvement projects requiring help (drainage, treadway, etc.)
 - Illegal usage.
- Submit reports to your Trail Supervisor twice annually before the deadlines (**June 30** and **November 30**).
- If you ever have trouble getting in touch with your Trail Supervisor, email volunteer@nynjtc.org.