

Friday Evening and Saturday

Trailwork 101: Basics and Laying Out the Work

Friday: Introductions. The basics: safety, plans, breaks, food & water. Tools!

Saturday: Our main focus will be repairing, or if needed, replacing a bog bridge (or two, time permitting) along the Back 80 near the easternmost beaver pond.

What might we see when people pass through an area where we've worked? What happens when drains fail? When something blocks the trail? What choices were made when planning? Just what was done to create the trail? Can you suggest improvements?

Hierarchy of trailwork within AMC (see illustration a few pages ahead)

Personal protective equipment

- Gloves

- Goggles / safety glasses

- Hard hat

- Footwear

- Other (standard hiking, but OK with mud) clothing

- Emergencies: trailwork first aid kit

Tool count, identification, functions, inspection

Hand tool safety

- Carrying

- “Circle of death”

- Use: dos and don'ts

The pre-hike

- What do you want to accomplish?

- What sort of team will you have?

- What problems will you find?

- How will you prioritize the work?

- What will you put off for another day?

- What needs additional resources?

- Take notes and use an app for details.

Basic brushing

- Trail dimensions

- Location

- Hat racks, stubs and punji sticks; the “windswept” look

- Think ahead (tree injury and regrowth)

Basic drain clearing

- Shape

- Outflow

- Different types

Bog bridges, turnpikes

Treadway

Hiker psychology

Your phone can help

Sunday

Trailwork 102: Finish the Job

Continue work from Saturday.

What should you consider when a simple ditch or waterbar is not possible? What other structures will we see on a trail? How do different kinds of trails differ in their needs? What's in the future for this trail? Can you suggest improvements? What options have we for situations which are beyond our capabilities or for when we run out of time.

The job isn't done until tools are cleaned and put away and the paperwork is filed!

Splitting the group
Multiple leaders
“Leapfrogging”
Switching tasks/jobs

Dirt
Duff
Soil
Subsoil

Water diversion
Where to install
What type to install

Water crossings, intro to mud
Bog bridges
Bridges
Turnpikes

Sidehilling

Rocks
Steps
Scree
Impediments
Hiker psychology

Trees
Communication
Think ahead by years

Blazing
Proper materials, color, shape
Placement
Cairns

Signs

Brushing in
Block unwanted trail or herd path
Trail delineation
Hiker psychology

Power tools
Certification
Communication

Hiking trails vs. {ski | bike | equestrian | ABA accessible}

Trail dimensions
Drainage
Streams
Hardening
Surface

LNT vs. LMT

Rules and regulations
Organizational
Land owner
State
Federal

Reports
Take notes as you work!

Wrapping up

Tool return, TLC, and maintenance

Power tools
Leadership skills
Becoming a NH trailwork leader
AMC trailwork opportunities
AMC training & certification
Adopting a trail
Other trailwork groups in NH
Advertise, evangelize, recruit!