



WARREN LAND TRUST

Trail Maintenance Tips

We love our trails, but it takes work to keep them clear and enjoyable. You don't have to be an experienced trail crew member with a big pack and a chain saw to help keep our trails maintained and tidy. Here are some tips and tricks on how to help out on our preserves when you're out on a hike:



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Get Dirty

After snowmelt or wet spells, those muddy or waterlogged trails can prove hard to travel – but sometimes getting a little muddy can be half the fun! Come prepared with shoes appropriate for the trail conditions, and then be sure you're walking through any water or mud, not around. This helps preserve the plants on the side of the trails, and helps maintain the trail's integrity for drier times to come



Clear the Path

Coming in after a storm or adverse weather? Is the path clear, but littered with branches and other debris? Help us keep the trail clear by setting twigs and branches that you can safely move off to the side of the trail. For natural obstacles that are too big to safely move, make sure you stay on the trail by going over, under, or through them, rather than going off trail to avoid them.



Tired of seeing trash along your favorite trails? Turn collecting trash with friends and youngsters into a game! Bring a small trash bag along on your hike, and give yourself a point for every piece of trash you pick up. Play competitively, and see who's collected the most trash by the end of the hike. Wager a snack or a pint to make the game more interesting!

Each of these actions helps out WLT trail crews, so they can focus on larger projects – and making new trails!

Even the best trails deteriorate a little over time, but routine maintenance can keep them in top shape -- and limit the amount of time and resources we'll need to dedicate to them. A well-maintained trail is also a much safer trail. So, we establish a monitoring and maintenance plan, and educate our community to spot problems early.

Common trail problems

- Widening – the width of the trail increases, scarring the landscape.
- Short Cuts – short, side trails develop that are often steep and prone to erosion.
- Tripping Hazards - tree roots and rocks become exposed.
- Deep Trenching – the tread wears down creating a trench.
- Wet spots – swampy or muddy patches form.

Whenever you walk your trails, look for:

- Missing, damaged or unclear trail markers
- Indications of trespassers that can include trash, graffiti, fire rings or ATV tracks
- Bridges, boardwalks, or steps that might need repairs
- Large branches or trees that would need to be cleared with special equipment like a chain saw
- Areas that might need improvement due to soil erosion or water pooling up

Mark down the location of these issues, and then contact us at info@warrenlandtrust.org to let us know what you've discovered.