

Appendix D9. Trail Maintenance & Construction Review & Compliance Guidelines for APPA Land (NPS, July, 2012)

A. Routine maintenance and repair activities that involve no special circumstances do not require advance review. Examples include:

- Clean A.T. drainage structures, including waterbars, grade dips, and drainage ditches.
- Cut plant growth along the A.T., including woody growth, such as branches, saplings, and blackberry canes, and soft annual growth.
- Remove fallen trees that block the Trail.
- Renew or replace A.T. blazes, using only the minimal number needed.
- Check signs for damage; repair or replace as needed.
- Pick up and pack out litter along the Trail and at overnight areas; clean and restock privies.
- Break up illegal fire rings, scatter the rocks and ashes, and pack out any litter.
- Brush in shortcuts and walk-arounds.
- Remove loose rocks or roots from the Trail treadway; if possible bury (rather than cut) solid exposed roots in the Trail treadway to prevent tree damage, erosion, and tripping.
- Clean out water sources.
- Return the treadway to its original location where overgrowth has forced hikers off the path.
- Restore proper outslope and tread width where soil is sloughing from the cut bank.
- Rebuild the treadway to remove the outside berm of gullied treadway and restore smooth, gently outsloped treadway, using tamped mineral soil.
- Add or replace waterbars, grade dips, steps, check dams, and cribs to divert and slow water.
- Add or replace stone steps, short bog bridges, ditches, turnpike, or culverts to cross temporarily inundated areas (does not apply to recognized wetlands).
- Eliminate braided trails or shortcuts and re-establish single treadway.
- Minor repairs to existing, non-historic structures that do not change the structure's scale, appearance, location, footprint, or principle characteristics.
- Replacement in kind of small-scale, non-historic structures and facilities (e.g. shelters, lean-tos, privies, signs, fences, kiosks, sheds, foot logs, and campfire circles and grills) with little or no change in location, capacity, or appearance.

B. Routine maintenance and repair activities that do involve special circumstances *sometimes* require advance review. Examples include any activity that

- requires clearing in excess of four feet wide and eight feet high or extensive disturbance outside the established trail prism.
- requires significant or extraordinary reconstruction/rehabilitation of treadway. Factors to consider include whether the activity requires a large amount of harvested materials (logs, stones, etc.), requires mobilization of a trail crew,

multiple days of labor, a cut slope that will be greater than four feet away from the edge of the trail, and projects that are identified in annual trail assessment/FMSS.

- occurs in a natural or cultural resource priority zone, including recognized wetlands, rare or protected species habitat, historically significant sites (e.g. battlefields, CCC shelters, charcoal hearths, homesteads, etc.)
- requires any relocation of the treadway (there are no “minor” relocations nor “minor” side trails)

C. Major projects *always* require advance review. Examples include

- new or expanded bridges and water crossings.
- relocations.
- side, connecting, access, alternate or spur trails.
- new or expanded shelters or campsites.
- new or expanded privies.
- new or expanded parking areas.