

Trail Maintenance Guidelines

Carlisle Trails Committee

Thank you for adopting a trail in Carlisle. We have over 60 miles of trails in Carlisle, and we need your help in maintaining the trails. Trail vegetation and especially invasive plants such as buckthorn, bittersweet vines, and multiflora roses grow very rapidly and must be trimmed, to keep the trails open. Native species such as highbush blueberry also grow near trails; these are slow growing, and must be identified and conserved. Thank you for keeping our trails open and beautiful.

Safety. When doing trail work we recommend you wear gloves, eye protection, sturdy shoes, and long pants. During tick season, tuck your pants in your socks and use an insect repellent generously before cutting brush. Carry water to stay hydrated.

Useful Equipment. Most trimming can be done with long-handled loppers and handsaws. The Trails Committee has found that an arborist type folding handsaw to be superior to bow saws for branches up to 8 or 10 inches in diameter. Low non-woody vegetation such as ferns can be cut using a swing-blade.

Maintenance Guidelines. Trail width should be as wide as your two arms outreached. No vegetation should touch you when walking the trail. Trim branches and shoots growing into a trail. Cut side branches near the trunk and shoots at ground level – stubs are tripping and snagging hazards. All trimmings and blowdown branches should be removed from the trail and hidden from sight. For buckthorn, it is best to remove the entire plant at the roots if possible by hand pulling or a weed wrench. Be very careful cutting or removing poison ivy if you are allergic.

Some trails are on private lands or near homes. Be careful and respectful of these homes and do not create any eyesores or brush piles. Place all cuttings out of sight of any homeowner.

Branches and trees occasionally are blown down by storms. Please cut them up and drag them off the trail and away from sight. The cut end should point away from the trail and not be visible. Do not create obvious piles of brush but put the branches in many different places spread over a wider area, farther away from the trail.

Some of the trees that fall are large and dangerous, particularly those not fully on the ground. Do not tackle a tree you are not absolutely sure you can handle. Trails Committee members can safely cut some of these trees, and sometimes we request the assistance of an experienced professional arborist. Please notify the Carlisle Trails Committee if you want assistance with any downed trees at carlisletrails@comcast.net.

If you notice trail signage that is damaged or missing, please notify the Trails Committee. Also please notify the Committee of problems with bridges and boardwalks on your trail.

The Carlisle Trails Committee will answer any questions and support you in your trail maintenance in any way that we can. Thank you for helping to keep our local trails properly maintained for all to enjoy.

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