



WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Trail Maintenance

Purpose

About 60% of our 309 kilometer trail requires maintenance. Maintaining our trail is a great way to get outdoors, have physical exercise and enjoy the fellowship of the association. Safety of our volunteers is our primary concern. This guide will help you understand your responsibilities as 'trail maintenance'.

Why Volunteer for Trail Maintenance?

Establishing a trail route is only the first step in developing a trail. To keep the trail open and safe for people to use and enjoy it is necessary to have a regular program of maintenance: cutting grasses and saplings, trimming trees, clearing debris and chain sawing fallen trees. Maintenance crews build stiles to go over farm fences, shelters for protection and bridges across bogs and streams. They also maintain signage to make the trail easy to follow.

Teamwork in the fresh air provides exercise and camaraderie. Many find it a more intimate and bonding experience than hiking in a large group. There are always challenges with machinery and materials in a rugged environment. Another plus is the encounter with wild birds and animals that are frightened off by the larger hiking groups. There is time to savour the farmland, parklands and the wild green spaces.

It always feels good to give of ourselves for the common good. Trail maintenance is community minded, team building and environmentally responsible. We are always willing to train people to expand their skills with a chainsaw or weed eater.

Train Maintenance Details

We have a group of volunteers who maintain the trail.

This involves clearing dead fall and beaver fallen trees from the trail; installing and replacing trail signage; trimming brush and weeds from the trail, mowing the trails. We also install and repair bridges and fence crossings.

The tools we use are Chain saws, Mowers, Weed eaters, Clippers, Hammers, and small hand tools. We will train you in the use of any tools. All the volunteers have WCB coverage.

We usually go out to the trail site as a small group with the required maintenance equipment, leaving Edmonton about 09:00 and returning by late afternoon. You can work as many or as few days as you want. We usually work about 6 to 8 days in May/June and a few more in Sept/Oct. We schedule our work to when people are available working week days as well as Saturdays.

This is a good country outing for those who enjoy working with a small dedicated group of volunteers.