

Saint Louis  
**COUNTY**  
**PARKS**

**TRAILS  
DEPARTMENT POLICY**

**POLICY:**

The St. Louis County Department of Parks & Recreation shall plan, develop, sign and manage a system of trails within County Parks and Greenways and linking parks for purposes of recreation, transportation and education. In response to public needs these trails shall be of varying design, length and difficulty to provide for a diversity of abilities, interests and opportunities

**TRAIL CATEGORIES**

1. Maintained Trails: Those trails that have been approved as official park facilities, and hence designed, managed, patrolled, signed and maintained as safe and attractive features at the park.
2. Un-Maintained Trails: Social and access trails that are recognized, but are not maintained as official park trails.
3. Shared Trails: Are trails that are authorized and in conjunction with other organizations requiring joint cooperation. These trails may be managed by St. Louis County Parks or other organizations, with written agreements with regard to each entities responsibilities, rules and security.
4. Unauthorized Trails: Are trails that actually exist in parks but are not designated as official park facilities and are not maintained. Use of these trails shall be discouraged. Unauthorized trails may be upgraded to authorized status or closed to use.

**TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS**

St. Louis County trails may be classified on the basis of function, much as road systems are.

Backbone Trails (main, major, arterial) are defined as the primary trail within a park or region serving the purpose of connecting major open spaces into a regional trail network. Other trail types such as those mentioned below will intersect with backbone trails. Backbone trails are often the most heavily used and extensively developed trail, frequently offering multiple uses.

Feeder Trails (minor, secondary) are defined as trails that link the backbone trail to public trailhead access sites, to residential areas, schools, retail areas, etc. This trail type may be less or equally as developed as the backbone trail.

Specialized Trails (loop, wilderness, nature, primitive) often form a loop beginning and ending on the backbone trail. They often have a special purpose such as mountain biking, historical, educational, and equestrian, etc., and are usually less developed than the backbone trail.

## TRAIL CHALLENGE RATINGS

St. Louis County Park trails or major trail segments have been rated for difficulty per the following criteria.

**EASY** Level or gently rolling, requiring low physical challenge. Tread is smooth and wide, with obstructions cleared and elevation change minimal and gradual. All ADA trails would fall under this category but not all Easy trails are ADA accessible.

**MODERATE** Rolling terrain requiring moderate physical challenge. Tread surface is smooth. Most obstructions are cleared and elevation change is moderate, involving rolling hills.

**DIFFICULT** Hilly terrain requiring considerable physical challenge. Tread surfaces may be narrow with rock and root obstructions likely. May include stairways. Elevation gain or loss may be severe.

Trail maps and literature will display the difficulty rating of all authorized trails or major trail segments. Standards to be utilized are:

Easy:	green, circle
Moderate:	blue, square
Difficult:	black, diamond

## PROCEDURE

### Rules

The rules listed below as well as rules specific for an individual trail will be posted at the trailhead(s) as well as included in trail literature.

1. Approved trail uses will be posted.
2. Trails may only be used at times when the park is officially open per County ordinance.
3. Motorized vehicles (except maintenance and emergency types) are prohibited. Motorized wheel chairs are permitted.
4. Individuals using a trail shall move at a speed that does not endanger the life or property of another user. Individuals shall not impede the flow of traffic on a trail.
5. On trails with lane markings, individuals shall remain on the right and pass on the left.
6. Trails may be closed for general public use for authorized special events, construction, hazardous weather or natural condition. Upon closure the trail will be properly posted. The trail will be reopened as soon as feasible.
7. All trail users yield to equestrians. Bicycles and roller sports yield to pedestrians.
8. Painting or marking of trees, stones, etc. is prohibited. Nailing into trees is prohibited.
9. Trail repair or improvement work may only be completed by personnel authorized by the park supervisor and may include volunteers under department supervision.

10. Users must remain in the trail tread.
11. Users must alert others when passing from behind.
12. Helmets are required for juveniles on all wheeled conveyances per County Ordinance 616.175 and recommended for all bikers.

### **TRAIL DESIGN STANDARDS**

- Trail Type 1 Asphalt surfaced, 12' wide tread.
- Trail Type 2 Asphalt surfaced, 8' wide tread.
- Trail Type 3 Crushed rock surfaced, 12' wide tread.
- Trail Type 4 Crushed rock surfaced, 8' wide tread.
- Trail Type 5 Earth or woodchip surfaced, 8' wide tread.
- Trail Type 6 Special/Primitive/Resource. 3-4' tread, earth surfaced.
- Trail Type 7 Unique (pavers, concrete, stairways, overlooks, etc.)

Type of use of each trail will be limited as noted in the appendix.

An individual trail may consist of two or more of the above standards.

Standard construction documents are available for Types 1-5. Trail specific construction documents will be prepared for Type 6 and 7 trails.

User limits for over-used trail segments may be considered as damage may warrant.

### **Trail Support Facilities**

- Bridges/Culverts Site specific construction documents will be prepared for each drainage crossing.
- Gates/Bollards Site specific construction documents will be prepared where control structures are desired.
- Benches Department standards may be used, or site specific benches may be authorized.
- Fences/Railings Site specific construction documents will be prepared as necessary at overlooks, steep side slopes, drainages, etc.
- Fitness Courses Site specific construction documents will be prepared.
- Boardwalks/Stairs Site specific construction documents will be prepared.
- Landscaping Site specific construction documents will be prepared.

Trailheads

Trailheads are public access points to trails or trail systems. Normally they consist of an access road, parking lot, water source, restrooms, an interpretive structure (small shelter, gazebo, bulletin board), benches, trash receptacles, sign boards and/or possibly picnic tables and grills. A mix of standard and site specific construction documents will be prepared for each trailhead. Trailheads may serve multiple functions, also serving, for example, as river or lake accesses.

**TRAIL SIGNAGE**

Trail signs are to be kept at a minimum in size and number to not detract from the features of a trail, yet should provide adequate information to trail users. Design may be in compliance with a sign plan for the park that the trail is located in or may comply with a Department standard design plan.

Trail mileage will be incorporated on trail signs and on trail maps.

Authorized trails will have an official name that should be appropriate to the park or features along the trail. Trail names must be approved by the Director. Trails may also have a unique, department approved design or logo that will be used on signage and literature.

Below are guidelines for sign types and locations.

Access Points

A sign identifying the trail and it showing its symbol should be located at points where trails begin.

Intersections

At points where trails intersect guidance signs with arrows should direct trail users.

Guidance

At points where users may be unsure of the exact trail route, guidance symbol signs with arrows should be used.

Mileage

It may be desired to indicate mileage on backbone trails. When done an official start point (Mile 0) must be identified. For Types 1 and 2 trails, mileage may be painted on trail surfaces. On other trail types the guidance symbol signs should indicate one mile intervals.

Features

Special signage may be desired for overlooks and interpretation of natural or historic features. Site specific signs shall be **of approved** design.

Trailheads

Trailhead structures should provide space for extensive information about the trail or trail system. Data to be included are maps, approved trail uses, difficulty, length, names, rules, interpretation and, if available, handout materials.

**NEW TRAIL DEVELOPMENT**

New trails may be proposed by the Department staff or citizens through proper channels to the Trails Committee and Senior Staff. An initial approval is required by the Director or Assistant Director to initiate work on the proposal. All new trail development should meet ADA Guidelines when possible. Below is an approved list for not meeting ADA guidelines.

1. Where compliance would cause substantial harm to cultural, historic, religious, or significant natural features or characteristics.
2. Where compliance would substantially alter the nature or the purpose of the facility, or portion of the facility.
3. Where compliance would require construction methods or materials that are prohibited by Federal, State, or Local regulations or statutes.
4. Where compliance would not be feasible due to terrain or the prevailing construction practices.

### General Concept

A temporary task force shall be assembled to complete a preliminary review of the proposal. A short report with a recommendation should include data on need, purpose, proposed approved uses, proposed classification, likely difficulty rating, proposed trail type, compliance with the Strategic Plan, the park master plan and regional plans. The task force should be made up with appropriate individuals from the following groups:

- Trails Committee
- Design & Planning staff
- Natural Resources staff
- Staff from park where trail is proposed
- History staff (if applicable)
- Citizens

The General Concept should be presented to the Director for approval.

### Conceptual Plan

Upon approval a Reconnaissance Team is assembled to develop a more detailed Conceptual Plan. It should include updated information from the original proposal, a detailed trail route based on fieldwork, trail length, desired trail type and support facilities, sign plan, landscaping, land acquisition needs, an environmental review/concerns and development of construction and maintenance budgets. The construction method, whether in-house or contract should be determined. The Reconnaissance Team should include 4-5 individuals that could include:

- Trails Committee
- Design & Planning staff (lead)
- Staff from park where trail is proposed
- Park Ranger staff
- Natural Resources staff
- History staff (if applicable)
- Citizens

The Conceptual Plan should be submitted to the Director for approval.

### Budget

Upon approval Fiscal Services and other appropriated staff will seek funding for the project based on the budget estimate. Funding will be sought via grants, gifts, capital improvement funds and the regular Department budget.

### Final Plans

When funding has been identified the Project Manager will be assigned and final plans prepared. Members of the earlier Reconnaissance Team will continue to assist and review the project. The final plans and development time schedule require the approval of the Director.

### Development

An individual, usually the Project Manager, will handle construction administration as the trail is constructed.

## **EXISTING TRAIL RENOVATION**

Existing authorized trails will periodically require repairs and renovation for the continued safe and enjoyable use of the public.

### Minor Renovation

Minor renovation is defined as maintenance of an existing trail. This includes such work as erosion control, resurfacing, water management techniques, small relocations, repair of existing culverts, bridges, signs, and other facilities associated with trails, trimming and removal of vegetation to maintain a clear corridor.

### Major Renovation

Major renovation is defined as large repairs and upgrading requiring assistance from Design & Planning, consultants, contractors, etc. This may include: changing the trail type or surface, changing the trail classification, large relocations of trail segments, and replacing or adding major components such as trailhead structures, bridges, culverts, etc.

## **TRAILS MANAGEMENT**

Each park shall establish a trail inspection program with user safety being the primary concern. Regular inspections of trails should be done in accordance to site and usage. Special inspections should be conducted following storms and floods. Hazards, such as deadfalls and washouts, should be corrected immediately. Serious hazards may warrant temporary trail closures trails. In addition to staff, volunteers may assist with inspections and repairs. These inspections include all trail support facilities.

Vegetation should be kept clear from the trail surface to a height of 10 feet above the trail surface (12 feet for equestrian trails) and 3 feet back from the edges of the trail tread. Dead trees or branches overhanging the trail should be removed.

Asphalt surfaced trails (Types 1 & 2) are to be swept of leaves and debris as needed. Mud on surfaces as a result of floods and storms is to be cleaned as soon as possible. Trails will not be cleared of snow and ice.

Crushed rock trails (Types 3 & 4) and earth or natural trails (Types 5 & 6) are to be regraded mechanically as needed.

Asphalt surfaced trails should be budgeted and scheduled for a maintenance surfacing treatment at seven year intervals.

Maintenance of the tread of Type 6 trails is to be completed primarily by hand.

### **TRAIL SECURITY**

Trail security patrols (via foot, bicycle and equestrian) should be conducted at a frequency determined by the season, immediate weather conditions, day of the week and use volume.

Park Rangers, in cooperation with other Park staff, should assist with trail inspections.

Park Rangers should enforce park and trail rules and regulations while conducting security patrols. Rangers should also assist users by providing information and printed materials.

Park Rangers and park staff are to work in cooperation with Trail Watch volunteers.

Effective Date: 01/02

Revision Date: 10/02

Revision Date: 03/03

Revision Date: 04/03





































































Revision Date: 03/10

Revision Date: 04/10
















































































## Appendix A




















### USES:

 Pedestrian, 
  Bicycles, 
  Equestrian, 
  Roller Sports, 
  Fitness

PARK	TRAIL	USES	LENGTH-MILES	SURFACE	CHALLENGE
Bee Tree	Mississippi	 	0.50	Earth	Moderate
	Crow's Roost	 	0.80	Rock, Chips & Asphalt	Easy
	PawPaw	 	0.50	Earth	Moderate
	Cedar	 	0.10	Earth, Rock	Easy
	Fisherman's	 	0.80	Asphalt & Rock	Easy
Bellafontaine	Maple Tree	 	1.40	Asphalt	Easy
	Cardinal	   	1.20	Asphalt	Easy
	Maline Creek	  	0.50	Asphalt	Easy
	Fox Den	  	0.30	Asphalt	Easy
Buder	Meramec Greenway	  	1.90	Asphalt	Easy
Castle Point	Castle Point	  	0.30	Asphalt	Easy
Champ	Fleurdelis		1.30	Earth, Chips	Moderate
Cliff Cave	Spring Valley	  	3.00	Earth	Moderate
	River Bluff	  	1.00	Earth	Moderate
	Mississippi River	  	5.10	Asphalt	Easy
	Nature	 	1.40	Earth	Easy
Clydesdale	Bottomland	  	0.60	Asphalt	Easy
	Fox Run	   	0.80	Asphalt	Easy
	Twin Bridge	  	0.40	Asphalt	Easy
	Heritage	  	0.30	Asphalt	Easy
	Deer Path	 	0.36	Earth	Moderate
	Hawks Rest	 	0.36	Earth	Easy
	Hickory Hollow	 	0.58	Earth	Moderate
Creve Coeur	Lakeview Loop	  	3.70	Asphalt	Easy
	Meadows Loop	  	2.80	Asphalt	Easy
	Creve Coeur Connector	  	2.80	Asphalt	Easy



	Mallard Lake Loop	  	2.60	Asphalt, Rock	Easy
Faust	Governor Bates		1.00	Rock, Earth	Difficult
Ft. Bellefontaine	Ft. Bellefontaine	 	3.00	Rock	Moderate
Grant	Grant	  	5.80	Asphalt	Easy
Greensfelder	Deer Run	  	2.50	Earth	Difficult
	Eagle Valley	  	3.60	Earth	Difficult
	Beulah	  	2.10	Earth	Difficult
	Overlook	  	0.80	Earth	Difficult
	Dogwood	  	2.60	Earth	Difficult
	Mustang	  	1.70	Earth	Difficult
	DeClue	  	6.70	Earth	Difficult
	Green Rock	  	7.80	Earth	Difficult
Jefferson Barracks	Dennis Schick-N	   	1.60	Asphalt	Easy
	Dennis Schick-S	   	1.10	Asphalt	Easy
Laumeier	Sculpture Trails		1.93	Chips	Easy
Lemay	Lemay	   	1.00	Asphalt	Easy
Lone Elk	White Bison		4.00	Earth	Difficult
Love	Chipmunk		0.60	Earth, Chips	Moderate
Lower Meramec	Meramec Greenway	   	2.00	Asphalt, Chips	Easy
	Tall Timbers	  	1.20	Earth, Chips	Easy
McDonnell	McDonnell	  	1.60	Asphalt	Moderate
NoCo Bikeway	Ted Jones	  	2.20	Asphalt	Easy
	Share the Road	  	10.40	Asphalt	Easy
Queeny	Hawk Ridge	  	4.40	Asphalt, Rock	Moderate
	Owl Creek	  	1.00	Rock	Moderate
	Fox Run	  	0.60	Rock	Moderate
	White Oak	  	0.60	Rock	Moderate
	Dogwood	  	0.40	Rock	Moderate

Sherman Beach	Al Foster		3.40	Rock	Easy
	Stinging Nettle		1.40	Rock	Easy
	Connector Trail		0.20	Earth	Easy
Simpson	Blue Heron		0.80	Asphalt	Easy
	River Walk		1.30	Asphalt	Easy
Sioux Passage	Black Buffalo		2.54	Earth	Moderate
	Nature Trail		0.50	Earth	Easy
Spanish Lake	Lakeside		1.60	Asphalt	Easy
	Spanish Trace		1.90	Earth	Moderate
St. Vincent	Walkway		1.10	Asphalt	Easy
	Greenway		1.20	Asphalt	Easy
Tilles	Fitness		1.00	Rock	Easy
Unger	Greenway		1.00	Asphalt	Easy
West Tyson	Chubb		6.50	Earth	Difficult
	Flint Quarry		3.00	Earth	Difficult
	Prairie Loops		1.50	Earth	Easy
	Connector		0.50	Earth	Moderate
	Chinkapin		0.50	Earth	Difficult
	Low Water Route		0.90	Earth	Moderate
	Castlewood Loop		2.80	Earth	Easy
Winter, George	Meramec Greenway		0.30	Asphalt	Easy
	Walking Trails		0.45	Earth	Easy