

Ticklers for an Annual Maintenance Calendar

Winter

- Review previous year's work:
 - What went well?
 - What could you do differently and better?
- Replace and sharpen worn tools.
- Buy needed tools.
- Preview maintenance projects for the coming year.
- Attend a trails conference.
- Hold a GPS and measuring wheel workshop for trail logging.
- Have a potluck dinner for trail volunteers to celebrate the past year, give awards, and watch a slide show of volunteers in action.
- During snowmelt, close wet trails, post advisories at trailheads and websites (and send them to bike shops and outdoor stores) to encourage trail users to stay off the trail during Mud Season. Especially mountain bikers need to learn that having a mudfest is a bad thing for wildlife, the woods and the trail.

Spring

- Walk the trail from end to end to update your Trail Log. See Trail Log Template. Also see Shopping List for Trail Log Gear.
- Draft trail work schedule and budget based on the log results.
- Clear deadfalls from winter storms.
- Trim back encroaching vegetation before it leafs out.
- Remove invasive, exotic plants before they leaf out. (Remember that poison ivy is toxic even without leaves.)
- Plant native vegetation.
- On National Trails Day (first Saturday in June), hold a fun trail workday and/or outing to attract new volunteers and build community awareness.

Summer

- Before it gets too warm, take on your most important or safety-related trail work.
- In late summer or early fall, take on work near streams or in wet areas, while flows are low and the ground is dry.

Fall

- Clear encroaching vegetation.
- Plant native vegetation.
- Once the weather cools, take on a strenuous project.