

# Trail Standards/Guidelines

## List of Trail Resources

Includes multiple uses, human powered, equestrian, off-highway vehicle, snowmobile, waterway and wetland, accessibility guidelines and other)

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### **Trail Design Guidelines for Multiple Uses:**

United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS) Trail Construction & Maintenance Notebook: 2007 Edition.

[https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/publications/fs\\_publications/07232806/toc.cfm](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/publications/fs_publications/07232806/toc.cfm)

USFS Trail Fundamentals and Trail Management Objectives. 2011. USFS. [Trail Fundamentals and Trail Management Objectives | US Forest Service \(usda.gov\)](#)

Vermont Town Forest Trail Design Guide

[https://vtcommunityforestry.org/sites/default/files/pictures/Town\\_Forest\\_Toolkit/Implementation\\_Pod/trail\\_design\\_guide.pdf](https://vtcommunityforestry.org/sites/default/files/pictures/Town_Forest_Toolkit/Implementation_Pod/trail_design_guide.pdf)

Wetland Trail Design and Construction.

[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/publications/fs\\_publications/01232833/toc.cfm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/publications/fs_publications/01232833/toc.cfm)

National Park Service Resources

[Sustainable Trails \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

### **Human-Powered (Hiking/Running/Pedestrian/Biking Trails)**

Federal Highway Administration's Trail Construction and Maintenance Notebook - 2007 Edition

[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/publications/fs\\_publications/07232806/index.cfm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/publications/fs_publications/07232806/index.cfm)

Appalachian Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance.

[A.T. Design, Construction, and Maintenance - Appalachian Trail Conservancy \(atctrailstore.org\)](#)

### **Mountain Bike Trails:**

Best management practices in mountain bike trail construction using International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) guidelines, with resources available online:

<http://www.imba.com/resources>

International Mountain Bike Association's (IMBA's) Trail Solutions: IMBA's Guide to Building Sweet Singletrack: <https://imba.com/resource/trail-solutions>

National Park Service, Guide to Sustainable Mountain Trails: Trail Assessment, Planning, and Design Sketchbook, September 2007.

[http://www.nps.gov/dsc/docs/GuideToSustainableMountainTrails\\_2007.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/dsc/docs/GuideToSustainableMountainTrails_2007.pdf)

### **Cross-Country and Back-Country Ski Trails:**

USFS Trail Fundamentals and Trail Management Objectives. 2011. USFS. [Trail Fundamentals and Trail Management Objectives | US Forest Service \(usda.gov\)](#)

Catamount Trail Association Chief Handbook

<http://catamounttrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/TrailChiefHandbookUpdatedNOV2016.pdf>

Cross-Country Back-Country Ski Trail Etiquette:

<https://catamounttrail.org/ski-the-ct/trail-etiquette/>

### **Equestrian Trails:**

Equestrian Design Guidebook for Trails, Trailheads and Campgrounds. December 2007. US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service.

[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/publications/fs\\_publications/07232816/index.cfm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/publications/fs_publications/07232816/index.cfm)

Recreational Horse Trails in Rural and Wildland Areas: Design, Construction, and Maintenance by [Dr. Gene W. Wood](#), Professor Emeritus, Clemson University

### **Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trails:**

ATV/OHV Trail planning, design, development, and management guidelines from the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council: [Online Resource Hub – NOHVCC](#)

### **Snowmobile Trails:**

VAST Trail Policy Manual:

<https://vtvast.org/Forms/2019/Trail%20Policy%20Manual%206-26-18.pdf>

VAST Best Practices for the Development of Snowmobile Trails:

<https://vtvast.org/Forms/2020/Trails%20Manual2019.pdf>

Guidelines for Snowmobile Trail Signing & Placement:

<https://vtvast.org/Forms/2020/Guidelines%20for%20Snowmobile%20Trail%20Signing%20&%20Placement%20FY19.pdf>

International Association of Snowmobile Administrators (IASA) Resources:

<https://www.snowiasa.org/guidelines-resources/>

## **Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities (Paved bike paths, roadways and their associated facilities):**

Vermont Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities. 2002. VTRANS.

[http://vtransengineering.vermont.gov/sites/aot\\_program\\_development/files/documents/ltf/PedestrianandBicycleFacilityDesignManual.pdf](http://vtransengineering.vermont.gov/sites/aot_program_development/files/documents/ltf/PedestrianandBicycleFacilityDesignManual.pdf)

AASHTO, Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 3rd Edition, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, Washington, DC; 888-227-4860, [www.aashto.org](http://www.aashto.org), 1999.

## **Waterway and Wetland Trails:**

Best Management Practices for Duck Blinds, Fences, Catwalks and Docks. Vermont Wetlands Division [http://www.vtwaterquality.org/wetlands/docs/wl\\_catwalk\\_bmp.pdf](http://www.vtwaterquality.org/wetlands/docs/wl_catwalk_bmp.pdf).

Wetland Trail Design and Construction. 2001. USDA Forest Service Publication.

[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/publications/fs\\_publications/01232833/toc.cfm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/publications/fs_publications/01232833/toc.cfm)

Logical Lasting Launches: Design Guidance for Canoe and Kayak Launches. 2004. National Park Service Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program.

<http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/helpfultools/launchguide.pdf>

Developing Water Trails in Iowa. Revised 2010. Iowa DNR.

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Recreation/CanoeingKayaking/WaterTrailDevelopmentTools/WaterTrailsToolkit.aspx>

USFS Standard Trail Plans & Specifications:

<https://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/trails/trailmanagement-tools/trailplans>

## **Accessibility**

Guidelines found in the Accessibility Guidebook on Outdoor Recreation & Trails online at:

<https://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/accessibility/pubs/pdfpubs/pdf12232806/pdf12232806Pdpi300.pdf>

For Adaptive Mountain Bike (aMTB) Trails: Trail Information and Rating Systems Adaptive Trails (US based rating and trail reviews) <https://adaptivetrails.com/ratings>  
Break the Boundary (Based in Australia) <https://breaktheboundary.com>

## **Other:**

A long list of FHWA resources, guidance and manuals can be found at:

[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/guidance/manuals.cfm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/guidance/manuals.cfm)

American Trails is the leading national clearinghouse for trail information and provides additional professional resources: <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/accessible/index.html>

Ontario's Best Trails: Guidelines and Best Practices for the Design, Construction and Maintenance of Sustainable Trails for All Ontarians  
[Microsoft Word - TAOC Draft C 2006-11-07.doc \(recpro.org\)](#)

Trail Planning, Design & Development Guidelines. 2007. MN DNR, Trails & Waterways Div., St. Paul, MN. [Parks and Trails publications | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](#)