



Paved Trail Maintenance Standards and Implementation Plan

The Park District considers four primary management goals in the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of trails.

- User Safety
- Providing High-Quality Experiences
- Protecting Natural Resources
- Protecting Trail Infrastructure & Investment

Due to the outdoor environment in which trails exist, trail surface conditions can vary from day to day reflecting current weather impacts, i.e. wet, icy, and dusty. The presence of natural materials, such as dirt, leaves, and branches on the surface can be expected, reflecting the natural surroundings adjacent to the trail and weather impacts such as wind and rain. Weather conditions may also affect the durability of pavement markings. Scheduled maintenance activities are not designed to immediately address all weather related trail impacts.

General Maintenance Standards

- **Surfaces:** Trail surfaces will be maintained in a condition that will enable users to have an enjoyable experience, generally smooth with limited cracks, bumps, potholes, and other irregularities. Debris will be blown, swept, or otherwise removed from the trail on an as needed basis.
- **Safety Inspections:** Trails will be visually monitored regularly for safety concerns. All safety concerns will be mitigated as soon as practical. Safety concerns that can't be immediately dealt with may require additional signage or other markings, and/or temporary trail closure.
- **Signage:** Trail signage will be monitored regularly and repaired or replaced as needed to maintain the integrity of the signage system.
- **Trail Crossing Pavement Markings and Center Stripping:** Trail crossing and warning markings should be legible. Deteriorated trail crossing pavement markings, not the responsibility of the Park District, will be reported to the responsible agency. Center stripping will be inspected annually and reapplied as needed.
- **Support Structures:** Trail support structures such as bridges, boardwalks, culverts, retaining walls and fences will be inspected at least annually with appropriate actions taken to address

identified issues. Major structures will be included in the Park District's Asset Management Program to ensure long-term sustainability.

- **Amenities:** Trailside amenities, such as benches, kiosks, water fountains, and trash containers, will be maintained in a clean and safe condition. Garbage will be collected on a scheduled basis depending on trail use.
- **Drainage/Erosion:** Trails will be regularly monitored for drainage and erosion issues. Plans will be developed to address problems as soon as practical.
- **Clear Zones:** Trail shoulders will generally be mowed or maintained to provide a minimum 3 ft. wide clear zone and overhanging vegetations will generally be maintained to provide a 10 ft. high clear zone. Exceptions may be maintained consistent with the trail design.
- **Weed Control:** The Park District will treat for noxious weeds as needed. The Park District generally does not treat for broadleaf weeds but will evaluate and treat areas on an as needed basis in response to safety and other concerns.
- **Vandalism:** Trail related vandalism will be reported to Park District Public Safety and addressed on a timely basis.
- **Encroachments:** Trails will be regularly inspected for encroachments, which will be reported to Park District Public Safety and addressed on a timely basis.
- **Pavement Management:** Trail surfaces will be included in the Park District's Pavement Management Program and will receive scheduled striping, crack filling, patching, seal coating and redevelopment according to Park District standards.

Paved Trail Maintenance Implementation Plan

- **Shared Organizational Responsibility:** Paved trail maintenance is a shared activity within the Park District's organizational structure with elements of responsibility assigned to the Departments of Maintenance, Natural Resources, Public Safety and Planning and Development.
- **Work Plans:** Routine trail maintenance work plans are created by Maintenance Supervisors to reflect the needs of a trail section based on trail use and other factors relative to the particular section. Inspections and condition checks are scheduled to meet Park District standards.
- **Extraordinary Circumstances:** Extraordinary and emergency maintenance will occur in response to storm damage, vandalism, or other unplanned circumstances.
- **Routine Work Schedule:** Routine maintenance tasks are generally scheduled to occur two times per week between Memorial Day and Labor Day and may be reduced to once per week during the remainder of the season. Trail use, weather, budget, and other factors will be taken into consideration when determining frequency of maintenance tasks.
- **Winter Maintenance:** The Park District's present policy provides for the operation of regional trail corridors from March 15 – November 15. Local municipalities have the option to

apply for a winter trail operations permit from Three Rivers Park District. If winter operations are permitted, the local municipality is responsible for operations and maintenance.

The Park District may choose to permit public use of regional trails during the winter season under a "no maintenance" condition.

- **Adopt a Trail Program:** The Park District provides the opportunity for the public to participate in the cleanup of trails. The program is coordinated by the Park District Volunteer Office and Trail Maintenance Supervisor.

Program objectives:

- Promote and develop citizen and community support for the regional trail system of Three Rivers Park District;
- Establish an organized and self-sustaining method for bi-annual clean up of trash and litter on the regional trail system; and
- Provide interested sponsor groups and individuals with an ongoing service opportunity that benefits the community, region, and the environment.

The program plan establishes that sponsors must commit to at least two clean up days per year, preferably one in the spring and one in the fall. The Park District supplies a training presentation, garbage bags for the clean-up, and pick up of trash once the clean up is complete. All sponsors are recognized on the trail through signage.