

Trail Construction Specifications

Trail Spec: Trail Brushing

Rationale: Brushing a trail involves trimming back branches that have grown into the trail corridor. This action is typically done as part of annual maintenance on a trail.

Construction Specification:

Dimension: The dimension of Trail Brushing is directly tied to the type of trail that is being cleared. A singletrack trail typically has a 4' x 8-10' wide corridor whereas a multi-use bike trail can have a corridor as large as 14' x 12'. The corridor can range between these two dimensions due to the variety of trail widths found on a property. In general, the trail should be cleared 2' to either side of the trail tread and a height of 8-10' so as to prevent branches from hanging down when laden with snow.

Installation Sequence:

1. *Branch Trimming:* Branches from trees that line the trail corridor should be removed with a purposeful hand. It is possible to remove too much during Trail Brushing. Hand saws and pole saws should be used to remove branches back to the collar. Cuts should not include damage to the bark of the tree's trunk.
2. *Tree Removal:* On occasion, an entire tree will need to be removed. Typically, this is reserved for small saplings that can grow and encroach on the trail tread. Should a tree need to be removed, the tree should be flush cut with the ground.

Examples:



Monroe Bridge, MA

