



Job Description: **Trail Maintenance**

Volunteer work performed in this discipline will involve one or more of the following: mowing, brushing, pruning, sawing, re-painting tree blazes, clearing culverts of debris, water bar rehabilitation, and litter pickup. All work is to be done to standards in the *Ice Age Trail Handbook for Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance*. Daily work may involve any or all of these specific tasks at various dates and times:

- **Prune/Brush:** (JHA #2).
- **Mowing:** May be accomplished by either side-discharge lawn mower, motorized weed-eater, or non-motorized weed whips, dependent upon size/complexity of job, and skill level/certification of operator. (JHA #3).
- **Sawing:** clear trail of downed trees, large branches, or hazardous leaning trees. May be accomplished by either chainsaw or non-motorized saw, dependent upon size/complexity of job, and skill level/certification of saw operator. ***Chainsaw operators must have current certification through an approved course/instructor, as well as current certification in First Aid and CPR.*** (JHA #2, 6).
- **Blazes:** repaint/replace tree blazes that are faded or missing. (JHA #4).
- **Culverts:** clear culverts of all debris so that proper water flow/drainage is restored. (JHA #1, 2).
- **Water Bars:** (JHA #2).
- **Litter:** Remove debris from old dump sites located along the trail, and/or pick up current trash found along trail segments. (JHA # 5).

Cumulative list of JHA's: #1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Tools commonly used in Trail Maintenance may include one or more of the following, depending upon complexity of the task and training/certification of the volunteer: DR Field Mower® or Trimmer, side-discharge lawn mower, chainsaw, brushsaw, Pulaski, McLeod, Council Rake, pick mattock, cutter mattock, Hazel Hoe, Suwanee Sling, shovel,

lopper, hand pruner, pruning saw, bow saw, crosscut saw, pole pruner/saw, axe, weed whip, crow bar, wheel barrow, and paint brush.

Physical Demands involved with Trail Maintenance range from light exertion to arduous exertion depending upon the task. Volunteers and the work they perform will be appropriately matched regarding their personal interests and abilities. In general, trail maintenance often involves frequent stooping, lifting, reaching, bending, carrying, and repetitive motion. Distances walked may frequently exceed several miles per day, often while carrying tools or other equipment. Objects weighing more than 50 pounds may need to be lifted or otherwise moved.

Working conditions involved with Trail Maintenance may encompass all types of weather, from hot and humid to wet and cold. Work will occur across uneven terrain, including hills, slopes, grades, and wetlands in both forested and open areas, which may present numerous slipping and tripping hazards such as rocks and tree roots, mossy stones or logs, mud and water, or loose gravel. Exposure to long periods of sunlight, wind, dust/dirt, insects, motor noise, exhaust, or gas/paint fumes is possible.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Trail Maintenance tasks includes: first aid kit, sturdy work gloves, and sturdy leather work boots. Use of any gasoline-operated power tool/equipment will also require the proper use of eye protection and hearing protection. Additionally, in the case of chainsaw operation, a hard hat and saw chaps are also required for the faller (boots, gloves, hard hat, eye protection, and hearing protection required for “swampers”). Individual volunteers and work crews are strongly encouraged to carry cellular phones, radios, or other communication devices whenever and wherever possible/practical in case of emergencies.

Job Hazard Analysis (JHAs) will be made available by the Work Leader or VIP Coordinator to each volunteer for the specific work being performed, and will be covered during “tailgate” safety briefings. Additionally, safety considerations such as proper hydration, heat disorders, hypothermia, insect/animal bites & stings, and Lyme disease awareness should be discussed as appropriate given the local work environment, season, and geographic location. Refer to “Tailgate Safety Series” materials for talking points on these subjects.