

Rivanna Trails Foundation

Trail Adopter

General Goals: Enjoy the trail and be an advocate.

The trail adopter is expected to both maintain and keep an eye on their section of trail, as maintenance requirements can occur which will require a larger RTF response than is expected of the adopter. Besides a general once a month walk of the section to check for needed maintenance, it is a good idea to check the trail following large storm events as limbs, whole trees, and/or drainage damage can and does occur. If a large tree or limb is blocking the trail that is beyond the means of the adopter to clear, simply contact RTF and it will be scheduled into a workday project.

Maintenance: Keep the trail foot bed clear of obstructions – generally try to maintain about an open 18” footpath and approx 2ft clear on each side and 6ft tall. One person should be able to walk along with their arms outstretched. For most sections of trail this can be accomplished by simply walking along with hand clippers to keep the corridor open during the growing season. Areas that traverse a field or have lots of sun may require swing blades or power trimmers (see tool section).

Trail sections with bridges or stream crossings should be monitored and any damage reported so that an RTF crew can repair it: examples would be broken slats or railings in the bridge, or rocks moved after high water.

Safety: Be aware of trail users when doing any maintenance activity and defer to allow passage.

Trash: Clearing trash is not an expected requirement of an adopter (but certainly encouraged). If there is a large amount of trash, or someone seems to be dumping – report to RTF.

Tools: Available at the RTF shed (organize with Jeff Wilbur – klondike4@aol.com):

- clippers, loppers, saws, fire rake, shovel, adze
- Power tools w/permission: weed whacker