

# Trail Monitoring & Rubbish Busting Instructions

Perform a trail assessment hike while picking up any litter and use the Trail Assessment Form(s) provided. Groups need to bring their own gloves, trash bags, water bottles, bug spray, sunscreen and such as we do not have a budget for this. Wear appropriate clothing and dress for the weather (some areas may be muddy if there has been a recent rain). Take a pen/pencil along with the form which has a map provided to help you record problem areas and issues that you observe along the trail(s) while you are out at the location. You may request to borrow a clipboard from our nature center/office.

Attached are some hints of things to keep a lookout for and to write down on your Trail Assessment Form. You will use the inset map to mark and label areas of special concern and write a corresponding description of issues in the space provided. Any areas with hazardous problems should be reported directly to staff upon your return. Put any trash you collect in the closest trash bin. If the bin is full then leave it bagged (tied/closed) next to the bin and mention that on your form.

Trail sections are labeled by color/ title (**Red, Blue, Green, Orange, Edesess, OR Coffer Dam**) and may have been assigned individual letters (letters A—N, 13 sections total). Staff will make recommendations as to what trail(s) your group will do. This may also depend on how many hours your group wants to volunteer as well as whether or not your group can split up and do different trail sections.

**When finished, turn the form into the Ornithology Center (OC) or Earth Discovery Center (EDC) staff who will forward it to the Volunteer Coordinator.**

Restrooms and water fountains are available at both nature centers (Monday-Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sundays 1:00-5:00 p.m.) and are also available all hours at the Marina.

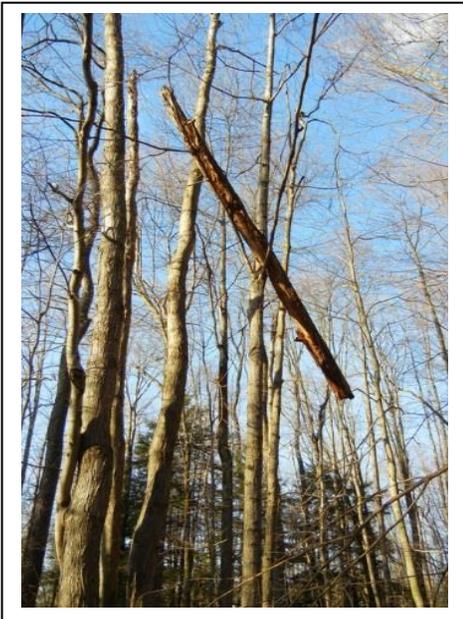
THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO PRESERVE THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF EAGLE CREEK PARK!

## Reading a Trail

While walking the trails, you are asked to look at the trail conditions and issues. Please note any problem areas such as those listed below and mark them on the inset map.

### **Downed Trees**

Any trees that have fallen and are blocking the trail should be reported directly to staff as soon as possible.



### **Widow Makers**

Keep an eye out above you for snags (dead trees/ tree branches). If they are hanging over the trail or ready to fall, they should be reported directly to staff as soon as possible.

### **Standing Water**

Other than after periods of heavy rain, if there is standing water on a trail then it is not draining properly. Standing water also contributes to other problems, such as erosion and widening.





### **Heavy Erosion**

Erosion refers to the wearing away of the top layer of soil and degradation of the preferred slope of a trail.

### **Widened Trail**

Often, when a trail has standing water, hikers walk around the puddle, rather than through it. This unnecessarily widens the trail and increases drainage problems. It is also harmful to plants along the edge of the trail.



### **Improper or Missing Trail Signage**

Confusing or unmarked trails can get hikers lost. We want to make the trail easy to follow.

### **Unmarked or Confusing Paths**

Deer trails or unwanted man-made paths that deviate from the main trail can mislead hikers. Fallen limbs near the area may be placed across/over any such paths to discourage use.



### **Excessive/Heavy Trash**

Please pick up any trash you can fit in a bag. An *excessive* amount of trash concentrated in one area or too heavy to pick up should be marked on the inset map so Department of Public Works (DPW) workers can be notified.

