

ECIA Greenbelt Trails Standard

Greenbelt trails should be created in a sustainable manner that does not detract from the natural setting. Design uses include hiking, jogging and biking. Although equestrian use is allowed, it is deemed to be infrequent enough to be incidental and therefore not part of the design standard.

Location:

Where possible trails should be:

- screened from view by adjacent homes
- not located along bottom of natural drainages
- located on the contour of adjacent slopes
- located a minimum of 20' from adjacent private property lines, measured from center of trail. (Trails within access easements are exempted from this requirement.)
- greenbelt projects should incorporate existing "tracts" connecting trails heads with the greenbelt. If work is going to be performed within the access tract, and County Assessor's Office aerial photos appear to show a resident's land sharing tract boundaries, a survey shall first be conducted to accurately identify the boundary of the tract. Projects, which include a terminus within the greenbelt, such as an intersection with the community hike/bike path typically won't require any such survey, because all tracts involved typically belong to ECIA.

Tread Design:

Tread should be out-sloped approximately 5%

Tread relatively smooth with few irregularities.

Obstacles should be infrequent and insubstantial (rocks and roots removed from tread.)

Where possible, tread should accommodate two people walking side by side (design tread width 36" - 48".)

Tread composed of native earthen material, gradient reversals or "rolling dips" may be required for erosion control. Imported rock or wood may be required for erosion control adjacent to the trail.

Trail Parameters:

Design Grade: 2% - 8% (Up to 12% along short pitch)

Design Clearing: 6' - 8' (Cactus and thorny vegetation may need to be removed up to 10', if within "fall zone" associated with curves or obstacles)

Design Turns: 4' - 8' Radius

Miscellaneous:

Sequentially numbered trail markers shall be placed alongside trail every 1/10th of a mile. Markers shall be constructed using native materials such as rock or wood. This is a Santa Fe County requirement for 911 emergency response. The County Fire Department should be contacted to provide them an opportunity to approve of such markers before we install them.

Vegetation adjacent to the trail may need to be trimmed or removed to provide sufficient line-of-sight. However, greenbelt trails are not the same as a hike/bike path, and cyclists' speeds are expected to be moderate. Restraint should be applied so as to preserve the natural vegetation of the greenbelts.

Construction Methods:

Trail cut where possible with tractor using tow-behind box ~ 5' wide or other trail making machine.

Trail should be finished with hand tools (i.e. removal of roots, rocks from tread and berms along edge, creating "nicks" where needed for erosion control and other finishing touches.)

May be hardened with roller during construction process.

Maintenance:

Even well-designed and built trails require periodic maintenance. Community volunteers can help assess trail conditions while they're recreating on the greenbelt trails. Erosion, incursion of weeds and shrubs, faded or missing signs are problems that can be noted to the ECIA. In many cases preventative maintenance can save a lot of work later on.

Clearing weeds and brush is a maintenance task that should be performed once a year if possible. ECIA tractors can assist with this by mechanically mowing the trail corridor. Restoring tread, knocking down berms, clearing existing drainage structures and creating "dips" or "nicks" to divert water off the trail are typical maintenance tasks that should be done every couple years. Where possible, erosion control structures should be created by hand using available soil and rocks. Water and tampers may be needed to help create a durable tread.

Handbook for Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance, US Department of Interior, National Park Service
<https://www.nps.gov/noco/learn/management/ncttrailconstructionmanual1.htm>

Trail Solutions: IMBA's Guide to Building Sweet Singletrack, International Mountain Biking Association
<https://www.imba.com/resources>

Caring for Good Trails, Jan-Willem Jansens, Santa Fe Conservation Trust
<http://www.sfct.org/>

Signature

Date

Title



3/7/19

BOARD PRESIDENT