This session focused on the principles of proper planning, design and construction of horse and multi-use trails. This includes keys for a successful trail, steps to build a trail, terminology, the right tools for the job, and how to rehab an old trail.

**Steps to Build Trail**

- Scout trail corridor (the fewer the people the better)
- GPS and flag purposed corridor
- Clear trail (chain saws and rakes needed)
- Construct the trail with the proper tools and necessary manpower
- Keep records of all work and volunteer hours
- Take pictures before and after trail construction

**Terminology**

- Bench cuts
- Rolling grade dips
- Geotech fabric
- Armoring
- Crib wall
- Fall line
- Duff layer

**Right Tools for the Job**

- Ditch witch
- Clinometer
- McLeod and Pulaski shovels
Welcome to the Great Lakes Training Institute

Equestrian Trails
In this session you will learn the principles of proper planning, design and construction of horse trails and multi-use trails.

Introductions

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Principles

- Identify who you are and what you are planning
- Decide the Trails purpose and who it will benefit
- Identify the property owner
- Know the rules of the property i.e. DNR, Federal, County, City, Private, Corporate
- Obtain Permission

Keys to a Successful Trail

- How will the trail work be funded
- What is the timeline for completion
- How do you patrol the trail
- Public participation (public comment and volunteer cooperation)

Identify

- Who will benefit from the trail
- Who will manage the trail once it is built
- How long will it take to complete this project
- Where will the trail be located
Steps in Building the Trail

- Scout the trail corridor
- GPS and flag the purposed corridor
- Clear the Trail
- Construct the Trail
- Sign the Trail
- Keep records of all work and volunteer hours
- Take pictures before and after

Terminology

- Bench cuts
- Rolling Grades Dips
- French Drains
- Geotech fabric
- Armoring
- Angles (do not exceed 5%)
- Level (digital)
- Crib Wall
- Fall line
- Duff Layer

Terminology

- Building on the contour
- Erosion
- Grade 10% (do not exceed)
- Slide slope
- Grade reversal
- Debris
- Water sheeting across trail and not down the trail tread
- Rehabbing old trail
- Reroute
- Bench cut and back blend
- Stump grubbing

Tread Terminology

- Tread: The actual surface of the trail
- Grade Slope expressed by %
- Fall Line: the prevailing slope and direction water will naturally flow
- Side slope: The natural slope of a hillside measured on the fall line.

The right toys for the job.

- Digital Level for angles
- Ditch Witch
- Clinometer
- Shovel

THE RIGHT TOYS FOR THE JOB
Forestry Supply
http://www.forestry-suppliers.com/

Flagging the trail

Bench cut and back blend

Rehabbing an old trail

French Drain
PREPARING THE TRAIL TREAD FOR A HARDENED CREEK CROSSING

Making the first cut

Preparing to lay the geotech

Streambank Stabilization

Armored with Geotech Fabric

Artificial Rolling Grade Dip

Final trail tread
Overview of the crossing

Cutting the trenches to hold the geotech in place
One year later after many floods

References

• Trail Solutions by IMBA
  • www.imba.com

• Equestrian Design Guidebook for Trails, Trailheads, and Campgrounds
  • www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails/traipub.htm