



Green Trails Criteria STARTER

Updated: 16-6-2024

1. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

Regular trail maintenance to address erosion and prevent degradation

1. **Inspection Frequency:** Documented schedule showing that trail maintenance inspections occur at least monthly.

- **Evidence:** Maintenance logs or inspection reports.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Number of inspections completed per month.

2. **Erosion Control Measures:** Implementation of erosion control measures such as water bars, retaining walls, and drainage ditches.

- **Evidence:** Photographic documentation and maintenance records.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Count of erosion control features installed and maintained.

3. **Trail Surface Condition:** Assessment and grading of trail surface condition to ensure it is free of significant erosion or degradation.

- **Evidence:** Condition assessment reports.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Percentage of trail length meeting predefined acceptable condition standards.

Awareness of and adherence to local environmental regulations

1. **Regulatory Compliance Training:** Training sessions provided to maintenance staff on local environmental regulations.

- **Evidence:** Training records and attendance logs.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Number of training sessions held annually.

2. **Permits and Approvals:** Verification that all necessary permits and approvals for trail maintenance activities are obtained and up-to-date.

- **Evidence:** Copies of permits and approval documents.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Number of valid permits and approvals on file.

3. **Environmental Impact Assessments:** Conducting environmental impact assessments before undertaking significant maintenance activities.

- **Evidence:** Impact assessment reports.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Number of assessments conducted per major maintenance activity.

Basic waste management practices, including trash removal and recycling

1. **Trash Collection Points:** Installation and maintenance of trash collection points at trailheads and along the trail.

- **Evidence:** Inventory of trash bins and their locations.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Number of trash bins installed and regularly emptied.

2. **Recycling Facilities:** Availability of recycling facilities at trail access points.

- **Evidence:** Records of recycling facilities and their usage.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Quantity of materials recycled versus general waste collected.

3. **Litter Patrols:** Regular patrols conducted to remove litter from the trail.

- **Evidence:** Litter patrol schedules and logs.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Frequency of litter patrols and volume of litter collected.

2. CULTURAL AND HERITAGE PRESERVATION,

Respect for cultural sites, heritage, and indigenous communities

1. **Site Preservation Measures:** Implementation of measures to protect and preserve cultural sites and heritage areas.

- **Evidence:** Documentation of protective measures (e.g., fencing, signage).

- **Measurable Indicator:** Number of protected sites with implemented measures.

2. **Community Consultation:** Regular consultations with indigenous communities regarding the preservation of cultural sites.

- **Evidence:** Meeting minutes and agreements with indigenous community representatives.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Number of consultations held annually.

3. **Monitoring and Reporting:** Regular monitoring and reporting of the condition of cultural sites.

- **Evidence:** Monitoring reports and condition assessments.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Frequency of monitoring reports (e.g., quarterly) and any noted changes in site conditions.

Integration of educational materials highlighting local history and traditions

1. **Educational Signage:** Installation of informational signage at cultural sites detailing local history and traditions.

- **Evidence:** Inventory and content of educational signage.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Number of signs installed and maintained.

2. Distribution of Educational Materials: Availability and distribution of pamphlets, brochures, or digital content about local history and traditions.

- **Evidence:** Copies of educational materials and distribution records.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Quantity of materials distributed per month.

3. Guided Tours and Workshops: Offering guided tours or workshops that focus on local history and traditions.

- **Evidence:** Schedule and attendance records of tours and workshops.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Number of tours/workshops conducted and participant feedback.

Encouragement of cultural sensitivity and respectful interactions with local communities

1. Cultural Sensitivity Training: Provision of training for staff and volunteers on cultural sensitivity and respectful interaction.

- **Evidence:** Training program content and attendance logs.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Number of training sessions conducted annually.

2. Visitor Guidelines: Development and dissemination of guidelines for visitors on how to interact respectfully with local communities.

- **Evidence:** Copies of visitor guidelines and records of distribution.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Frequency and methods of guideline dissemination.

3. Feedback Mechanisms: Implementation of mechanisms for local communities to provide feedback on visitor interactions.

- **Evidence:** Feedback forms and summary reports of received feedback.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Number of feedback instances received and actions taken in response.

3. SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Well-marked trails with clear signage and safety information

1. Signage Inventory: Complete inventory and map of all trail signs including safety information, directional signs, and informational boards.

- **Evidence:** Documentation of signage locations and content.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Total number of signs per kilometer of trail.

2. Signage Visibility and Condition: Regular inspections to ensure signs are visible, legible, and in good condition.

- **Evidence:** Inspection reports and maintenance logs.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Percentage of signs rated as "good" or better in condition assessments.

3. Safety Information Updates: Updating safety information on signs to reflect current conditions and hazards.

- **Evidence:** Logs of safety information updates and changes.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Frequency of updates to safety information (e.g., quarterly).

Regular maintenance to ensure trail conditions and safety measures

1. Trail Condition Inspections: Scheduled inspections to assess trail conditions and identify safety hazards.

- **Evidence:** Inspection schedules and reports.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Number of inspections conducted per month.

2. Hazard Mitigation: Prompt identification and mitigation of safety hazards (e.g., fallen trees, washouts).

- **Evidence:** Maintenance logs and incident reports.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Average response time to mitigate identified hazards.

3. Trail Surface Maintenance: Regular maintenance activities to maintain trail surfaces, such as grading, filling, and erosion control.

- **Evidence:** Maintenance records and work orders.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Total kilometers of trail surface maintained annually.

Consideration of accessibility features, such as accessible trail sections and facilities

1. Accessible Trail Sections: Documentation of sections of the trail that are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

- **Evidence:** Accessibility assessments and maps.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Length of accessible trail sections in kilometers.

2. Accessible Facilities: Availability of facilities such as restrooms and picnic areas that are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

- **Evidence:** Facility inspection reports and accessibility certification.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Number of accessible facilities available along the trail.

3. User Feedback on Accessibility: Collection and analysis of feedback from users with disabilities regarding trail accessibility.

- **Evidence:** Feedback forms and summary reports.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Number of feedback submissions and percentage of positive feedback regarding accessibility.

4. RESPONSIBLE VISITOR BEHAVIOR

Education and communication on Leave No Trace principles

1. **Educational Workshops:** Regularly scheduled workshops or information sessions on Leave No Trace principles.
 - **Evidence:** Workshop schedules and attendance records.
 - **Measurable Indicator:** Number of workshops conducted annually and participant attendance.
2. **Information Dissemination:** Distribution of Leave No Trace educational materials (pamphlets, brochures, digital content) at trailheads and visitor centers.
 - **Evidence:** Copies of materials and distribution logs.
 - **Measurable Indicator:** Quantity of materials distributed per month.
3. **Signage and Notices:** Placement of Leave No Trace principle signs along trails and at campsites.
 - **Evidence:** Inventory of signage locations.
 - **Measurable Indicator:** Number of signs installed and maintained.

Promotion of responsible camping practices, including designated campsites and fire safety guidelines

1. **Designated Campsite Information:** Clearly marked and mapped designated campsites with guidelines on responsible camping.
 - **Evidence:** Maps and signage.
 - **Measurable Indicator:** Number of designated campsites with proper markings.
2. **Fire Safety Education:** Provision of fire safety guidelines at campsites, including information on fire bans and safe fire practices.
 - **Evidence:** Fire safety guidelines documents and notices.
 - **Measurable Indicator:** Number of fire safety guidelines posted and distributed.
3. **Regular Patrols:** Conducting regular patrols to ensure compliance with camping practices and fire safety guidelines.
 - **Evidence:** Patrol logs and compliance reports.
 - **Measurable Indicator:** Frequency of patrols and number of compliance issues recorded.

Respect for wildlife and adherence to guidelines on wildlife viewing and interaction

1. **Wildlife Guidelines Distribution:** Distribution of guidelines on wildlife viewing and interaction at trailheads and visitor centers.
 - **Evidence:** Copies of guidelines and distribution records.
 - **Measurable Indicator:** Number of guidelines distributed per month.

2. **Signage on Wildlife Interaction:** Installation of signs along trails with information on respectful wildlife viewing and interaction.

- **Evidence:** Inventory of signage locations and content.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Number of signs installed and maintained.

3. **Monitoring Visitor Behavior:** Implementation of a system to monitor and report visitor behavior related to wildlife interaction.

- **Evidence:** Monitoring reports and visitor feedback.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Number of incidents reported and actions taken.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ECONOMY

Collaboration with local communities in trail planning and management

1. **Community Meetings:** Regularly scheduled meetings with local community representatives to discuss trail planning and management.

- **Evidence:** Meeting agendas, minutes, and attendance records.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Number of meetings held annually.

2. **Community Feedback Mechanism:** Implementation of a system for collecting and incorporating community feedback into trail planning and management.

- **Evidence:** Feedback forms, surveys, and reports on feedback integration.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Number of feedback submissions and actions taken based on feedback.

3. **Partnership Agreements:** Formal agreements or partnerships with local community organizations for trail management activities.

- **Evidence:** Copies of agreements and partnership documents.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Number of active partnerships or agreements.

Promotion of local businesses and services that align with sustainability principles

1. **Local Business Directory:** Creation and distribution of a directory of local businesses and services that adhere to sustainability principles.

- **Evidence:** Copies of the directory and distribution records.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Number of businesses listed and directories distributed.

2. **Collaborative Events:** Organization of events or markets that feature local businesses and promote sustainable practices.

- **Evidence:** Event schedules, participant lists, and promotional materials.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Number of events held and participating businesses.

3. **Marketing and Promotion:** Marketing campaigns to promote local sustainable businesses to trail visitors.

- **Evidence:** Marketing materials and campaign reports.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Reach and engagement metrics of marketing campaigns (e.g., number of flyers distributed, social media engagement).

Consideration of community benefits and opportunities for local employment or involvement

1. **Employment Opportunities:** Creation of employment opportunities related to trail management and tourism for local residents.

- **Evidence:** Job postings and employment records.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Number of local residents employed in trail-related positions.

2. **Volunteer Programs:** Establishment of volunteer programs for community members to participate in trail maintenance and management.

- **Evidence:** Volunteer program details and participation logs.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Number of volunteers and volunteer hours contributed.

3. **Community Benefit Assessments:** Conducting assessments to evaluate the benefits of trail activities for the local community.

- **Evidence:** Assessment reports and data.

- **Measurable Indicator:** Number of assessments conducted and key findings related to community benefits.