

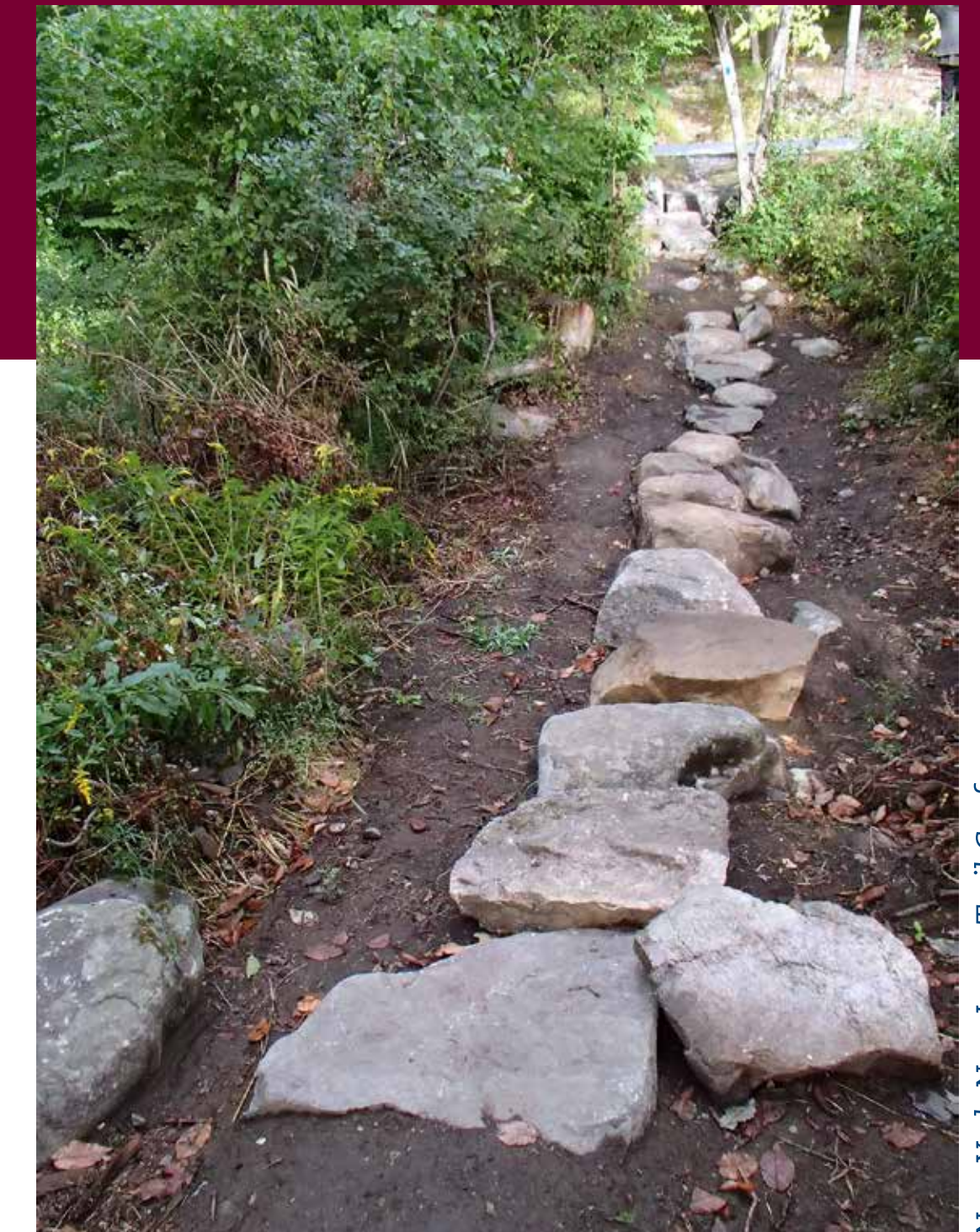
Stepping Stones

Stepping stones are simply large rocks with flat surfaces. Carefully chosen and placed, they allow hikers to walk over streams and muddy areas without getting wet and dirty. A suitable stepping stone weighs at least 200 pounds. If the stones are too small or not properly set in the ground, they can wobble or be washed away by streams – or be ignored by the people they were intended to help. In muddy areas where rocks are not available, log “cookies” – cut sections of tree trunks – may be used instead.

BELOW In tricky conditions like a fast-moving stream, large stepping stones may be lowered into place using a highline system.

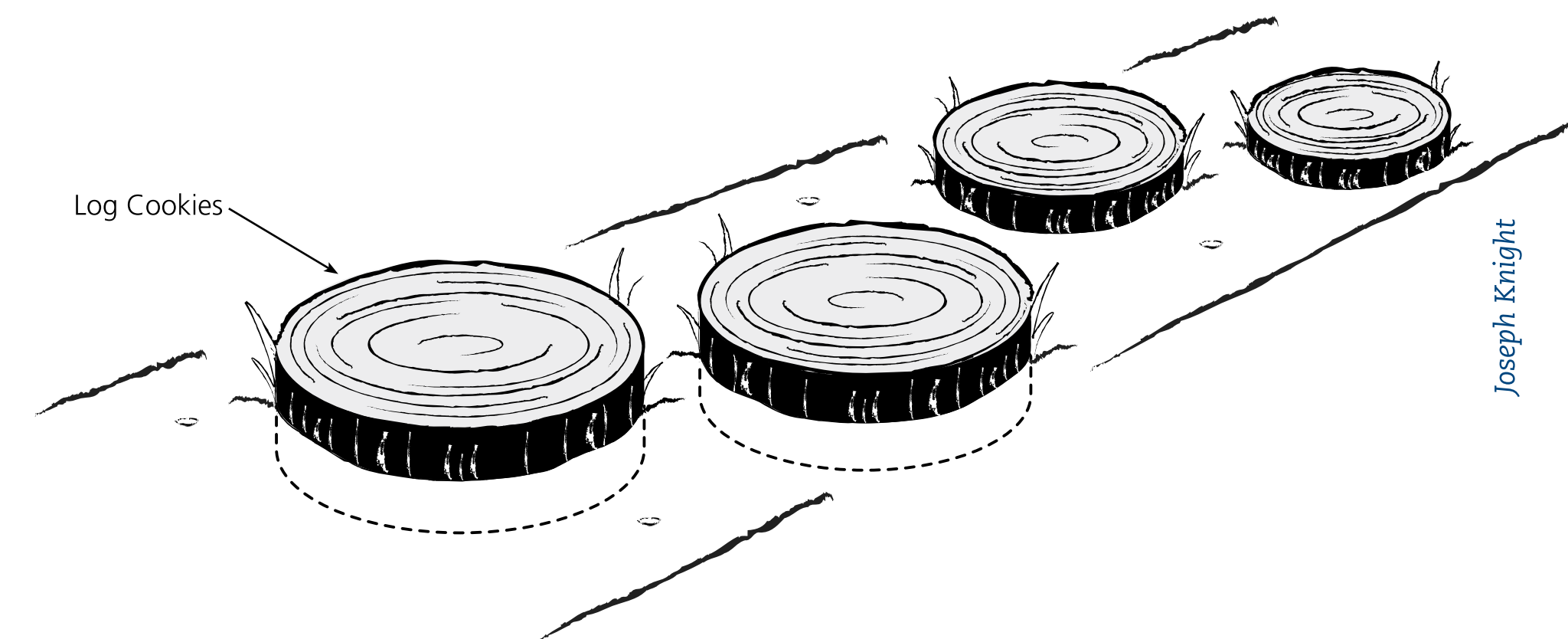


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New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

ABOVE Stepping stones help minimize human impact by limiting hiker disturbance of fragile soils.



Joseph Knight