

Open Culvert



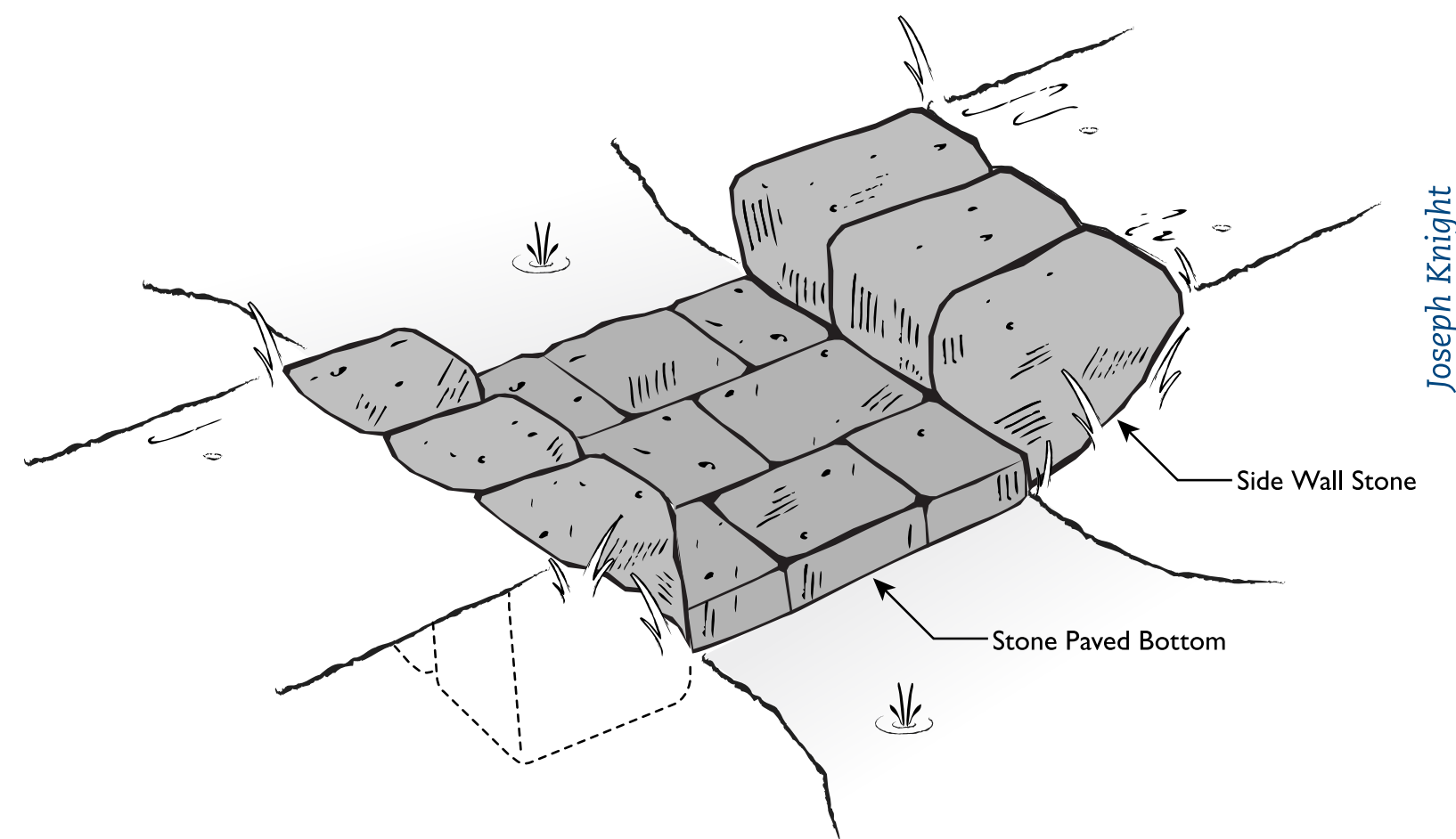
New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

BELOW A common type of closed culvert is a pipe buried beneath the trail, which allows water to flow under the treadway.



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ABOVE Culverts can be made entirely of wood.



Joseph Knight

An open culvert creates a channel that allows a small stream to pass through the walkway. Slabs of stone are used to build the bottom and sides of the structure to ensure the trail tread doesn't wash away. Open culverts are easy to step over and keep clear of debris. Meanwhile, closed culverts, which are essentially buried pipes, have a tendency to clog. Both open and closed culverts made entirely of stone can be found on the Appalachian Trail on Bear Mountain. Sometimes culverts can be hard to spot — look for them while you hike!