Bridge

Foot bridges allow us to cross over muddy areas, flowing water, and dangerous conditions such as steep valleys or roads, all while remaining clean, dry, and safe. A variety of techniques and materials go into constructing bridges of all sizes, but the ones found on trails are often built from trees felled nearby. Once the best placement for a bridge is determined, abutments – the structures upon which the bridge sits – are built. Trees are cut down, branches and bark removed, and logs are placed across the stream, often with the aid of special equipment known as rigging and highlines. Once the logs are secured, decking and railings are added.

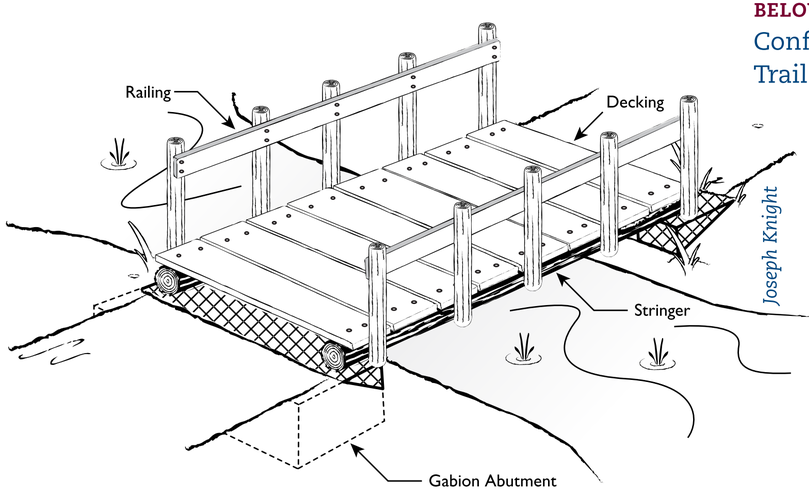
BELOW A king post bridge can be identified by the triangular shape of its construction. The king post extends vertically from a crossbeam to the apex of the triangular truss.

Jeremy Apgar

Marcy Dubinsky

ABOVE A suspension foot bridge is one of the most complex kinds of bridges you will find on a trail.

BELOW The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference's all-volunteer West Jersey Trail Crew built this simple log bridge.



Joseph Knight

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference