

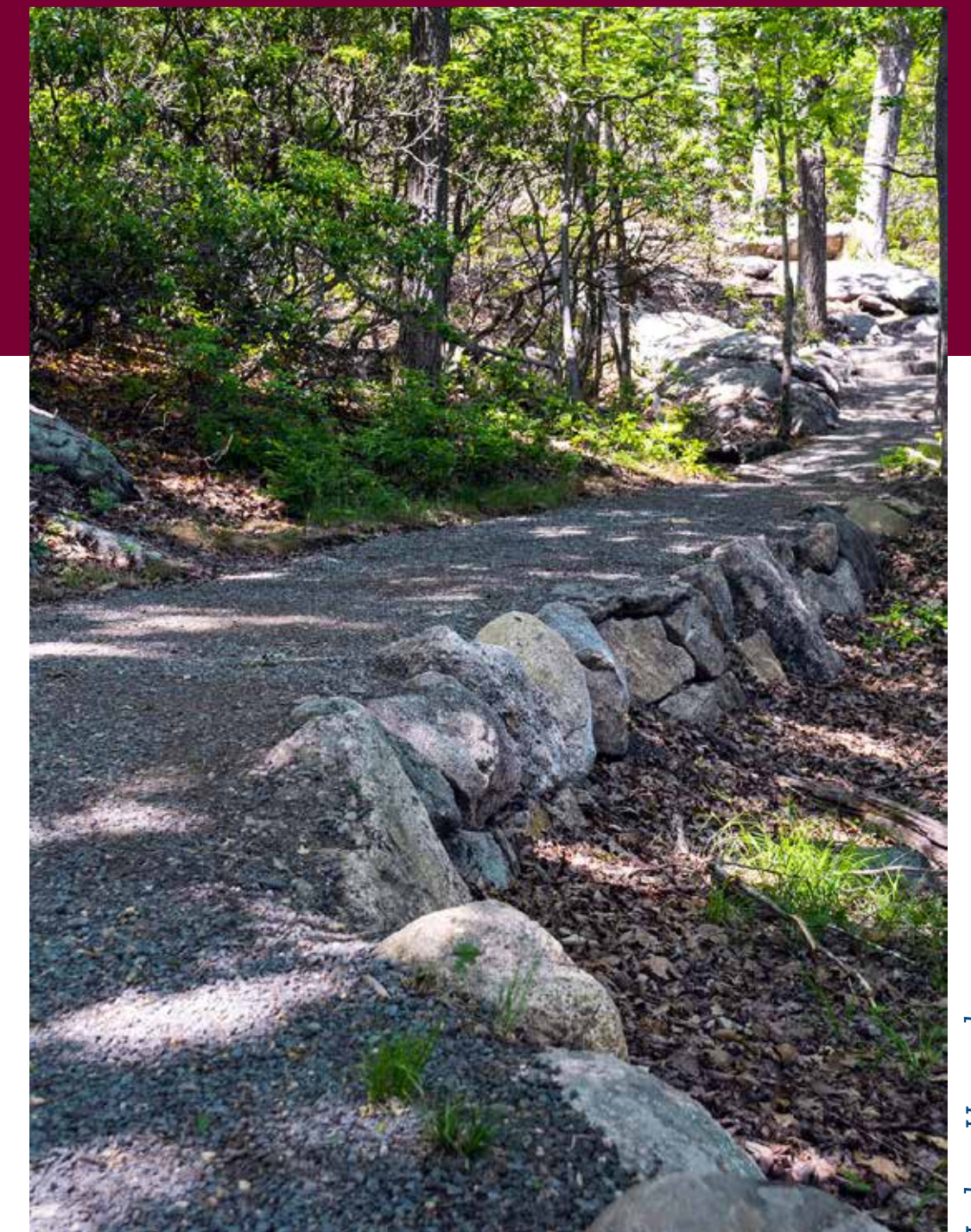
Crib Wall

Crib wall, commonly referred to as retaining wall, is a trail-building term for a wall built to hold up the tread, or walkway, of a trail. Crib walls can be constructed from logs or stone. Dry stone crib walls are held together by gravity and friction and can last for centuries. On the Appalachian Trail on Bear Mountain, there are thousands of square feet of crib wall built to provide tread across the steep, rocky slopes. When you are hiking up the Trail, look at the downhill edge – all of those stone walls were built by volunteers alongside trail-building professionals.

BELOW The more contact a stone has with the stones next to, above, and below it in a crib wall, the more friction there is, and the longer the wall will last.



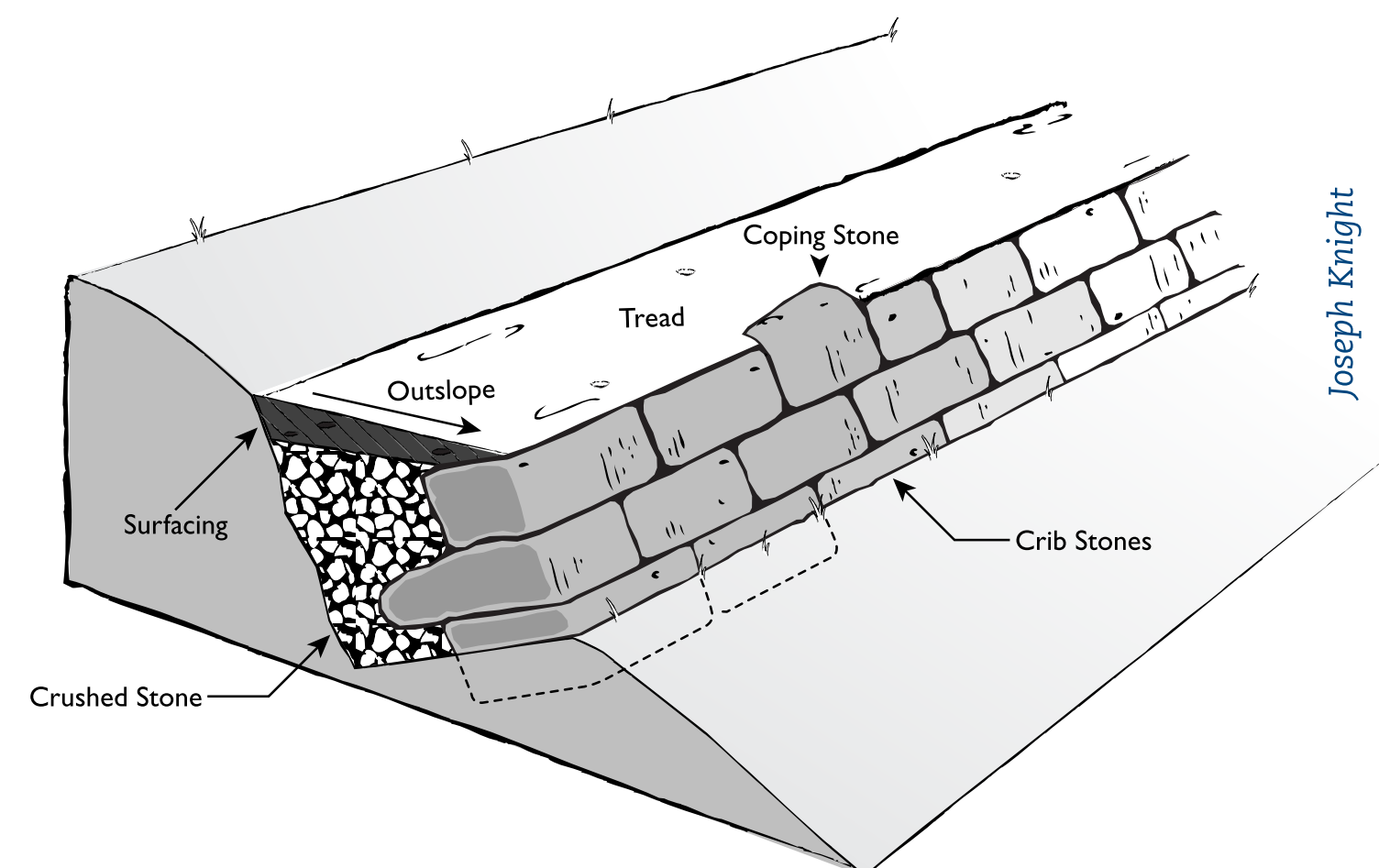
New York-New Jersey Trail Conference



Joshua Howard

ABOVE Crib walls hold up the tread of the trail.

BELOW No stone placed in a crib wall may wiggle – not even when jumped upon.



Joseph Knight



New York-New Jersey Trail Conference