

Rock Splitting

Have you noticed half-circle markings on some rocks along the trail? Those stones were once part of a much larger rock, and the other half of that circle is probably on a rock nearby. Volunteers wielding electric rotary hammer drills powered by small generators have drilled hundreds of thousands of holes and hammered in just as many sets of feathers and wedges to split the rocks that built this trail. After each stone is carefully placed, all that is left as a reminder of their thousands of hours of hard work are the drill holes trail builders chose to keep visible.



New York-New Jersey
Trail Conference

LEFT Trail builders drill holes into a rock, then insert feathers and wedges to split the stone in half.

BEFORE



AFTER



RIGHT Large rocks can be split to create smaller stones that are perfect for stairs.

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference