# New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

## Draft Trail Standards Policy

## I don’t know what this is. An overall policy that might be Trail Management Policy? To be presented to the Policy Committee for consideration or their eventual request to us to submit a draft? And ultimately to be approved by the Council as noted. Surely superior to what we are struggling over at the moment

Approved by Board xx/xx/xxxx

### Policy

The Trail Conference recognizes three types of trail standards: design, construction, and maintenance. **What we are writing now is not Trail Standards, needs another name- perhaps “Trail classification levels, Definition and requirements for” Nor is it design. Does it refer to something like Layout and Design- somewhat similar to various (outside) courses covering such principles? To my knowledge there is no design standard; such a standard would be detailed in how to build stone steps, water control, define standard or options for sidehilling, etc**. Each standard will be followed during the appropriate phases of trail work. Trail standards rely on the assessment process defined in the Trail Management Guide. **Is this assessment process indeed currently usefully defined? I agree that it is a category that should exist, and as such should have its own heading such as those below.**

* ~~Design~~ All trails are assigned to a particular classification using the USFS classification system. as amended in the Trail Level ~~Management~~ Guide, particularly noting ADA/ABA accommodation **which we need to add of extreme(?)** trails and trail usage. Existing trails will be assigned**- by whom and when; is it our intention to at this time insist on and establish this requirement? Are we getting ahead of ourselves?** best fit classification. New trails and relocations will be designed to fit the most appropriate classification based on desired user experience, expected usage, aesthetics, safety, accessibility, resource protection, physical constraints, cost, and landowner mandates. There will be a process for changing a trail’s classification.
* Construction: The physical parameters of the trail construction are as ~~specified~~ developed from ~~in~~ the USFS manual: width, height, slope, grade, obstructions, surfaces, etc. as amended by special requirements for ADA/ABA trails and local practices documented in the Trail ~~Managemen~~t Level Guide. They will use best practices specified in the following documents (latest editions) with particular attention to universal design, low impact on the environment, and sustainability: **Is this not rather to be instructions as a heading below to be used in creation of the various subset of standards, such as the Trail Level standards (just using a tentative name to be consistent throughout)**

1. Proudman
2. SCA
3. ...

* Maintenance: All trails will be maintained to their design standard classification using the procedures in the Trail Maintenance Manual. **Procedures are not defined in this document with which we are struggling.** If not classified yet, then they are maintained to their current state, e.g. fixing small deficiencies and reporting large ones. Maintainers must then be notified of the standard chosen for their trails or if changed . **Where is the mechanism for this to be defined? occur?**

Budgetary Impact

It is recognized that trail construction, maintenance and standards compliance must be prioritized and budgeted for and that these considerations will affect what is done.

### Legal References

All new trails must be evaluated ~~for~~ with respect to ADA/ABA compliance or other applicable local, state or federal laws or regulations, including environmental and cultural assessments as apply.

### Procedures

This policy mandates the production and maintenance of a Trail Management Guide **or whatever we name it**, and Maintenance Manual which specify best practices and procedures. These manuals should contain **Lots of new stuff which has not been considered so far, let’s first think about it;** sections on record keeping, reporting requirements, certification **also all new**, to be defined of people doing the work, and training for participants.

### Review

All trails should be assessed at least every 5 years and suggested changes to classification scheduled.

**So what are all of the subsidiary documents required? And each should be named, given a heading, and defined herein similarly to what is done for Construction, Maintenance, etc. It would be worthy to try to do so.**

This policy must be renewed within 5 years from the last approval date.