Blazing Trail Junctions

Policy Council

November 5, 2019
Trail Junctions

- Hikers often miss trail junctions and become lost

- Some simple measures can be very helpful
  - Wider trimming of vegetation, better blazing, signage, cairns

- Some parks use special blazing at junctions

- Your RTC meeting is a good place to talk about the options and how to find the best solution
Making Trail Junctions More Visible

Clear confirmation blazes for both trails

More foliage clearing near junction

Sign, post, or cairn

- Provide greatest visibility, but can be costly and subject to vandalism
- May be appropriate for major or difficult to find junctions
Special Blazes for Trail Junctions

• Some parks use special blazes to mark junctions

• The following pages show some examples
  - There is no universal convention at present
  - These can be useful, but many beginning hikers don’t even understand our current blazes

• Trail chair or supervisor must work with the land manager about whether to use special blazes and which to use and must instruct the maintainers
Trail Crossing without Special Blazing

No indication of approaching trail crossing

Red Trail

Blue Trail
Trail Crossing with Special Blazing

One type of special blaze to indicate the upcoming blue trail crossing
Option 1 (double arrow)
Option 2 (two arrows)
Option 3 (two horizontal)
Option 4 (two vertical)
Option 5 (three vertical)