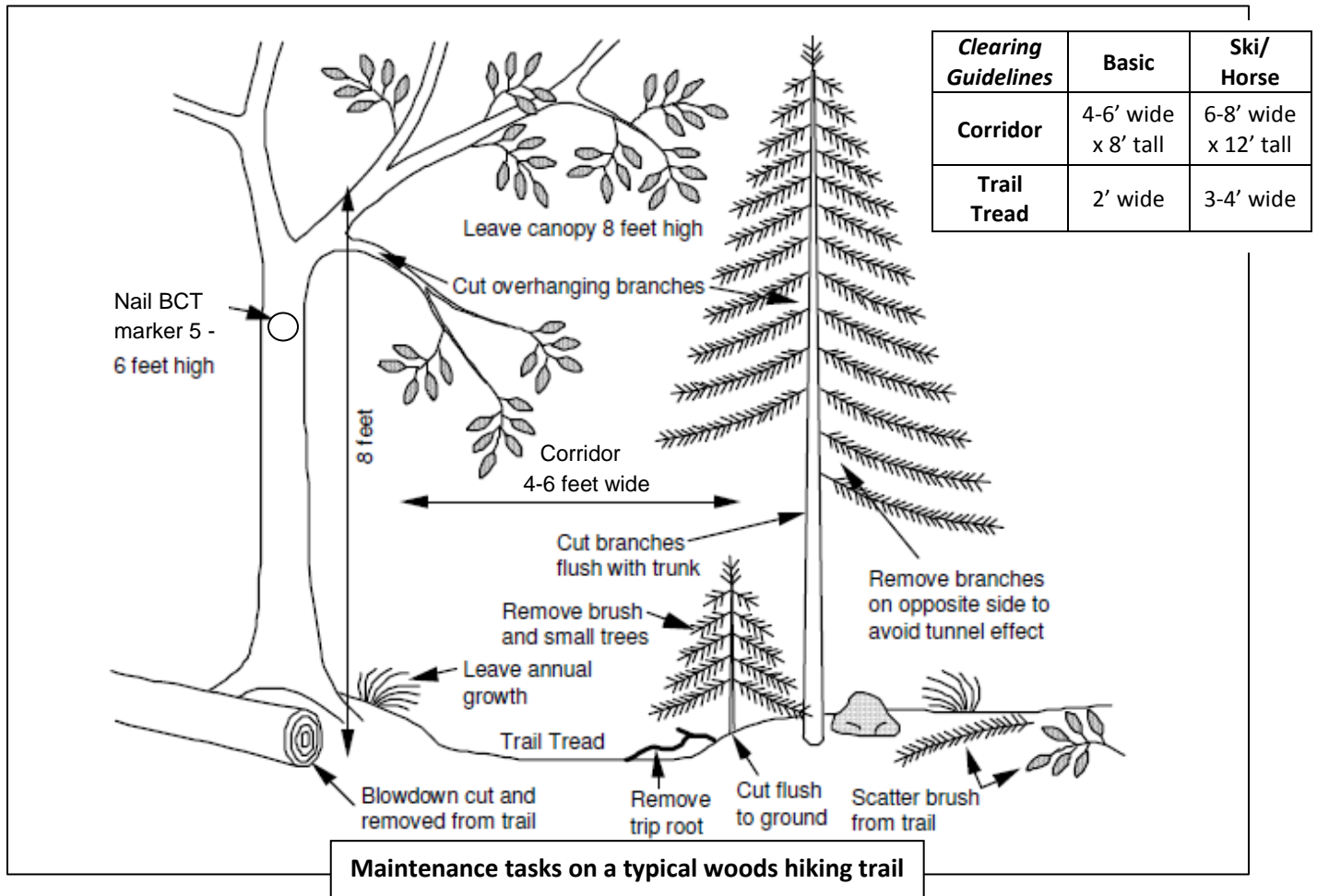


## CLEARING THE TRAIL CORRIDOR



**OBJECTIVE:** Create an open, standard-size trail corridor by clearing obstacles and overgrown vegetation—the reason this is also called *standardizing* and *brushing*. Imagine a large trail user coming along...will they brush into branches or brush? Do they have clear footing?

### SUGGESTED TOOLS

- Loppers
- Hand pruners
- Saw – folding hand saw, bow saw and/or pole saw
- Swizzle stick (for green vegetation, especially in late summer)

### KEY POINTS:

- Blowdown trees can be hazardous and complex. Exercise extreme care; assess the situation before acting. Report anything beyond your ability or the capability of your tools for the land manager to remove.
- Cut branches almost flush with the tree trunk or node (where a branch splits) – avoid “coat hanger” stubs
- Cut shrubs or small trees flush with ground—avoid pointed stumps
- “When in doubt, take it out.” Plants will keep growing if not cut back. If a small tree needs excessive pruning, remove it entirely. Conversely, use your judgement in leaving some attractive trees or shrubs.
- Remove cut vegetation from the trail. Disperse 10-15 feet off trail.