

## TRAIL MARKING

### TRAIL MARKER TIPS

1. Install BCT markers so that a hiker can follow the trail without referring to the guide text. Trail markers should “effortlessly guide the hiker along the route without intruding on the natural experience” (*AMC’s Complete Guide to Trail Building and Maintenance 4th Edition*).
2. If you are marking the trail for the first time, walk the route and plan how you intend to mark it.
3. Mark the trail in one direction at a time. A partner is helpful to determine appropriate marker placement. After you have finished marking the trail, have another hiker unfamiliar with the BCT follow the route.
4. Frequency of markers depends on the character of the trail. In general, a user should at minimum be able to see the next trail marker less than three minutes after walking past the previous marker.

\* When marking an area with an ill-defined pathway or with a maze of intersecting trails, markers may be more abundant so that the hiker can always see the next marker.

\*When marking a clearly defined path with no intersecting trails, markers may be spaced farther apart.

5. Try to use separate trees for north and southbound markers so that if a tree falls, the other direction marker remains.
6. Before installing markers on a tree, look up and see if the tree is healthy.
7. When nailing markers to trees, leave 3/4"+ of exposed nail to allow for tree growth.
8. Install the markers at eye level, 5-6’ high.
9. Align markers facing the hiker so that the marker is seen when looking down the path. Do not place markers at right angles to the direction of travel.
10. Immediately after a crossing or turn at a road, brook or trail junction, add a confirmation marker for reassurance. Add a second marker 20-50 feet away in sight from the crossing/turn in case the first marker disappears.
11. In general, use turn arrow markers only when there is a trail intersection and turn in the route.
12. Brush out obstructions in front of trees or poles where markers are located.
13. Pull old nails out slightly, or replace before tree growth buries the nail head. Aluminum nails are soft and may be hard to remove. Carry out and dispose of old nails and markers, or cut nail flush with trunk.

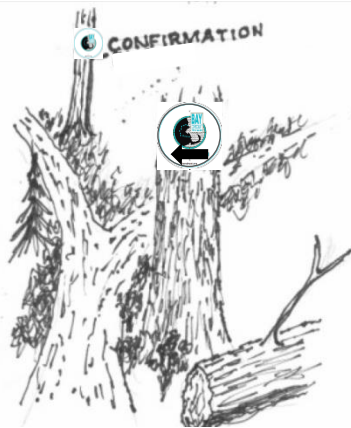
### SUGGESTED TOOLS

- Trail markers
- Nails (BCTC recommends aluminum 2")
- Claw hammer
- Trash bag
- Loppers/pruners/hand saw
- Diagonal cutters, pliers or small pry bar for cutting flush or removing old nails

### Order of priority for transition from old white plastic blazes to new aluminum logo markers

1. Install a new logo marker when an old plastic blaze is damaged, missing, or growing too close to a tree trunk.
2. Install new logo markers when cutting/designating a new BCT section, or for sections that lack marking entirely.
3. Replace old blazes with new logo markers on a complete trail section (within a full property, between road crossings, etc).

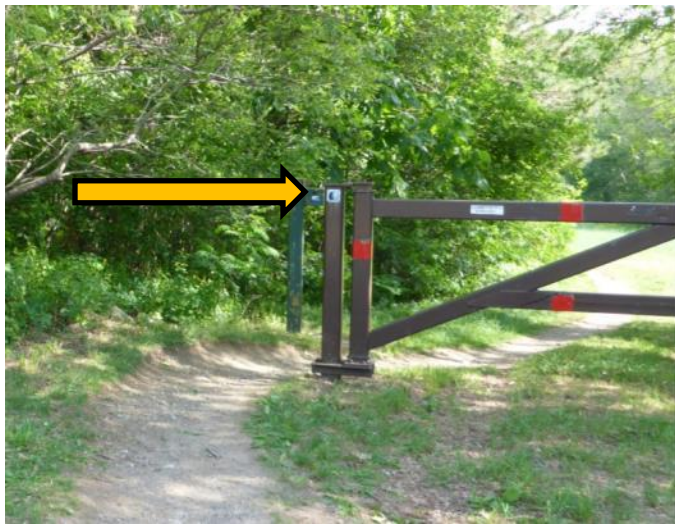
AT A JUNCTION, USE A TURN ARROW (OR LOGO MARKER OR STRAIGHT ARROW IF APPROPRIATE) FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY A...



... CONFIRMATION BLAZE AFTER THE INTERSECTION



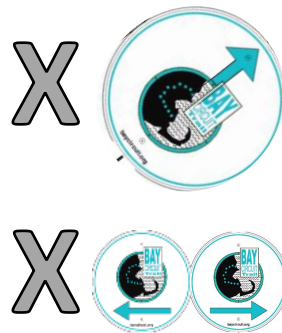
LEAVE 3/4" OR MORE OF THE NAIL EXPOSED



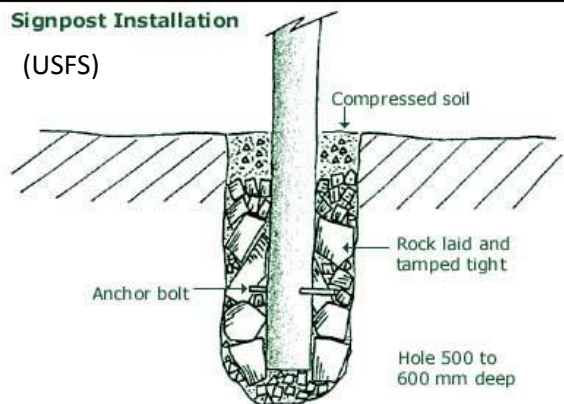
PLACE LOGO AT TRAIL ACCESS LOCATIONS: PARKING LOTS, TRAILHEADS, ETC.



AVOID PUTTING MARKERS ON TWO SIDES OF A SINGLE TREE IN CASE IT FALLS. PICK HEALTHY TREES.



INSTALL MARKER SO LOGO IS UPRIGHT. USE APPROPRIATE CONFIRMATION MARKER TO AVOID ANGLED ARROWS. PLACE MARKERS IN SIGHT ALONG DIRECTION OF TRAVEL (NO 2-WAY ARROWS).



IN OPEN FIELDS OR ABSENT MATURE LARGE TREES, CONSIDER INSTALLING A 4x4" PRESSURE TREATED MARKER POST (WITH LAND MANAGER APPROVAL). YOU MAY BEVEL POST TOP 45 DEGREES FOR WATER DRAINAGE.