





Trail Type Classification (for Asset, Resource Conservation, and Visitor Experience Management)





General Description and Technical Details

Element / Trail Type	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	TYPE 4	
Trail Type Definition	Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paved or hard packed surfaced double track trail, all weather use, with no obstacles in surface. Use compacted crushed rock, mineral soil, asphalt or chip-seal coat surface. Minimum trail width of 1.5 metre. Provide interpretive and directional signs, benches, and viewing areas where appropriate. Machine- or hand-built and maintained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural surfaced packed single track trail or double track trail. Use natural mineral soils or rock for surfacing, or native material from site. May be a paved surface Minimum trail width of one metre. Provide interpretive and directional signs, benches, viewing areas where appropriate. Machine- or hand-built and maintained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural surface single track trail. Trail tread may be constructed or established by clearing a corridor and marking the route. Whenever possible use natural native material from site. Minimum trail width of 0.25 metre. Provide minimal signage. Hand-built and maintained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No construction. Suggested trail route. Trail tread may consist of wildlife paths or may not exist. Provide minimal or no signage or facilities. Not maintained.
	Park Zone (applies to National Parks only)	Zone III, IV, and V (Natural Environment, Outdoor Recreation, and Park Service). <i>May be found in Zone II (Wilderness) under special circumstances.</i>	Zone II, III, IV, V (Wilderness, Natural Environment, Outdoor Recreation and Park Service)	Zone II, III, IV, V (Wilderness, Natural Environment, Outdoor Recreation and Park Service). <i>May be found in Zone I (Special Preservation) under exceptional circumstances.</i>	Zone I, II, III, and IV (Special Preservation, Wilderness, Natural Environment, and Outdoor Recreation).
	Typical Visitor Type	Suitable for all visitors including those with no trail experience. Visitor may be prepared for trail or may not be prepared (<i>proper equipment and water</i>).	Suitable for most visitors with some basic trail experience who are generally prepared (<i>proper equipment and water</i>).	Suitable for visitors who have trail experience and are prepared (<i>proper equipment and water</i>).	Suitable for visitors who have exceptional trail and navigation experience and are well prepared (<i>proper equipment and water</i>).
	Trail Rating	Easy or Moderate	Easy, Moderate, or Difficult	Moderate, Difficult or Route	Difficult or Route
	Image	 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Crushed rock or natural mineral soil surface</i></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Crushed rock or natural mineral soil surface</i></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Natural mineral soil surface</i></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Suggested route</i></p>
Technical Details	Distance (km / m)	Typical distance of trail does not exceed 10 km. <i>In certain cases a Type 1 trail may exceed 10 km.</i>	Typical distance of trail does not exceed 20 km. <i>In certain cases a Type 1 trail may exceed 20 km.</i>	May exceed 20 km.	N/A
	Trail Profile (general description and typical elevation gain)	Flat to gently rolling	Gently rolling with short steep sections	Rolling with steep sections that may continue for long periods	N/A
		Typical Elevation Gain	Typical Elevation Gain	Typical Elevation Gain	Elevation Gain
		0 – 100 metres <i>May be greater in certain situations.</i>	0 – 1,000 metres	0 - 1,000+ metres	N/A
	Trail Surface (Material Type and Typical Average Width)	Paved or surfaced • Hard packed and stable	Surfaced or natural • Firm and stable	Natural • May be loose in areas	N/A
		Typical Average Width	Typical Average Width	Typical Average Width	Average Width
		1.5 – 3.0 metres	1.0 – 1.5 metre	0.25 – 1.0 metre	N/A
	Quality of Marking (General Signage and Information Provided)	Trailhead information, interpretive panels, route markers, trail orientation maps • <i>Maximum information provided</i>	Basic trailhead information, route markers, and trail orientation maps • <i>Moderate information provided</i>	Basic trail head information and minimal route markers, or no signage provided • <i>Minimal or no information provided</i>	N/A
Obstacles or Stairs	Few or no obstacles, no stairs or minimal use of stairs	Infrequent obstacles, stairs may be present	Obstacles common, stairs may be present	N/A	
Visitor Facilities	Parking lot, washroom, bridges, benches • <i>Maximum visitor facilities</i>	Parking lot, outhouse/pit toilet, bridges • <i>Moderate visitor facilities</i>	Bridges or other water crossing including fording • <i>Minimal visitor facilities</i>	N/A • <i>No visitor facilities</i>	
Level of Use	High to Very High	Moderate to High	Low to Moderate	Low	

Level of Service, Visitor Safety and Visitor Experience Tools

Element / Trail Type		TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	TYPE 4
Level of Service	Level of Service	High	Moderate	Low	N/A
	Inspection	Weekly/monthly or upon visitor comment	Seasonal or as required upon visitor comment	Yearly or as required upon visitor comment	N/A
	Deadfall Clearing	As required	As required / seasonal	Yearly	N/A
	Infrastructure	Major (bridge, boardwalk, viewing platform)	Moderate (bridge, boardwalk, viewing platform)	Low or none (bridge, boardwalk)	N/A
	Trail Materials and Surface Preparation	Asphalt, concrete or crushed rock <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair cracks, fill holes, repack surface, create drainage, clear corridor 	Crushed rock or natural mineral soil and rock <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fill holes, repack surface, create drainage, clear corridor 	Natural mineral soil and rock or natural ground cover <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create drainage, clear corridor 	N/A
	Equipment	ATV, mechanized equipment, horse, hand or bicycle	ATV, mechanized equipment, horse, hand or bicycle	Non-motorized, horse, hand or bicycle	N/A
Visitor Safety	Visitors Definition	Visitor may not understand all risks and may not be self-reliant in the event of an incident.	Visitor may have a general understanding of some risks and may be partially self-reliant in the event of an incident	Visitor has an understanding of most risks and may be self-reliant in the event of an incident	Visitor has an understanding of risks and will be self-reliant in the event of an incident
	Risk Mitigation	Maximum effort made to mitigate risk.	Moderate effort made to mitigate risk.	Low effort made to mitigate risk.	Low too little effort made to mitigate risk.
	Risk Identification <i>(Cautions and Warnings)</i>	High detailed explanation of risk – typically provided at trailhead, on maps and at areas of risk along the trail.	Moderate detailed explanation of risk – only significant risks identified. Information typically provided at trailhead and at areas along the trail	Low detailed explanation of risk – only site-specific or unusual risks. Information typically provided at trailhead.	Low detailed explanation of risk – only site-specific or unusual risks. Information typically provided at trailhead.
	Risk Inspection	Weekly/monthly or upon visitor comment. <i>Risk inspection can occur during level of service inspection</i>	Seasonal or as required upon visitor comment. <i>Risk inspection can occur during level of service inspection.</i>	Yearly or as required upon visitor comment. <i>Risk inspection can occur during level of service inspection.</i>	N/A
Describing the Trail	Targeted Visitor	Family-friendly, suitable for all visitors looking for an easy trail experience.	Suitable for most visitors who are generally active and have some basic trail experience.	Suitable for visitors who have trail experience and are active.	Suitable for visitors who have exceptional trail experience and are very active.
	Trail Highlights	<p style="text-align: center;"><small>The purpose of this section is to give visitors a sense of what they can expect along this trail, but to describe it in a non-technical way. This section should provide the highlights of the trail, a sense of what the visitors will see. It helps to inform visitors about why they might want to choose to hike this particular trail.</small></p> <p>Example: <i>This trail is an easy walk through a conifer forest and will bring you to a beautiful sand beach along Lake Superior.</i></p> <p>Example: <i>An enjoyable hike that will allow you to discover the animals of the boreal forest. Observe a beaver lodge, be on the lookout for a wide variety of songbirds and if you are lucky, you might catch a glimpse of some moose.</i></p> <p>Example: <i>A challenging trail that winds through a variety of terrain from valley bottoms to scenic hill top views. Enjoy lunch while taking in some scenic ocean views; be on the lookout for whales and seals.</i></p> <p>Example: <i>A challenging and spectacular route that the park recommends for experienced backcountry travelers. Route finding skills are essential since there are no trails or route markers to show the way. Weather in the mountains can also quickly reduce visibility.</i></p>			

Trail Rating Classification (for the Visitor)

Element / Rating		EASY	MODERATE	DIFFICULT	ROUTE
Trail Rating Definitions	Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suitable for all visitors including those with no trail experience. Visitor may be prepared for trail or may not be prepared (<i>proper equipment and water</i>). Hard packed surface with no obstacles and minimal stairs. Estimated time to complete the trail is no longer than two hours. Little or no elevation gain or loss. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suitable for most visitors who have some basic trail experience and are generally prepared (<i>proper equipment and water</i>). Mostly stable surface with infrequent obstacles, stairs may be present. Estimated time to complete the trail is no longer than five hours. May experience moderate elevation gain with some short steep sections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suitable for visitors who have trail experience and are prepared (<i>proper equipment and water</i>). Variety of surface types including non-established surface. Estimated time to complete the trail may exceed five hours. May experience major elevation gain with long steep sections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suitable for visitors who have exceptional trail and navigation experience and are well prepared (<i>proper equipment and water</i>). Non-established tread only a suggested trail route, not maintained. Estimated time to complete ranges from 1 day to 10 days or longer. May experience a variety of terrain including wet areas, loose rocks, exposure, and thick forest.
	Symbol				
Rating Details	Distance (return)	0 – 5 km	0 – 15 km	0 – 15+ km	N/A
	Trail Profile	Flat to gently rolling	Gently rolling with short steep sections	Rolling with many steep sections that may continue for long periods	N/A
		Typical Elevation Gain	0 – 100 metres	100 – 500 metres	500+ metres
	Trail Surface (material type and average width)	Paved or surfaced •Hard packed	Surfaced or natural surface •Firm and stable	Natural surface •May be loose or may not exist	N/A
		Typical Average Width	1.0 – 3.0 metres	0.5 – 1.5 metre	0 – 1.0 metre
	Quality of Marking (general signage and information provide)	Trailhead information, interpretive panels, route markers, trail orientation maps • Maximum information provided	Basic trail head information, route markers, and trail orientation maps • Moderate information provided	Basic trail head information and minimal route markers, or no signage provided • Minimal or no information provided	N/A
	Obstacles or Stairs	Few or no obstacles, minimal use of stairs	Infrequent obstacles, stairs may be present	Obstacles common, steps common	N/A
	Visitor Facilities	Parking lot, washroom, bridges, benches • Maximum visitor facilities	Parking lot, outhouse/plat toilet, bridges • Moderate visitor facilities	Bridges or other water crossing including fording • Minimal visitor facilities	N/A • No visitor facilities
	Recommended Experience Level or Service	Little or no experience required High	Some experience recommended Moderate	Experience recommended Low	N/A