

**NATURAL BRIDGE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB**  
**TRAIL MAINTENANCE and ASSESSMENT**  
**CHECKLIST**

Trail Name or Section \_\_\_\_\_

Maintainer – Assessor \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**A) ACTIVITIES NORMALLY PERFORMED BY MAINTAINER**

1. Trail Obstructions (remove blowdowns, rock falls, etc., if feasible) When reporting blowdowns please note size and type of tree, exact location, can it be stepped over, have hikers been walking around it already?
2. Brush (cut back as required, cut woody and annual growth on uphill side of trail, consider leaving annual growth on downhill side of trail to encourage walking to the inside of the trail tread) (some canopy is desired for weed control)
3. Weeds (cut down as required, adhere to Wilderness Area regulations)
4. Water Bars and Other Erosion Control Features (clear as required)
5. Litter (remove pamphlets, solicitations, food and litter from shelter areas and trail)
6. Shelter Areas (remove litter, wasp nests, etc.)
7. Blazes (repaint as required, remove tree branches as necessary to maintain clear view of blazes)
8. Springs (clear and scoop out space large enough to fill water bottle)
9. Close off abandoned trail sections and short cuts on switchbacks

**B) ASSESSMENT POINTS AND OTHER MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES**

1. Safety problems such as trees ready to fall, particularly in shelter areas
2. Blazes, markers, cairns and posts (appropriate frequency, position, readable)
3. Signs and related posts (condition, frequency, accuracy)
4. Spring or other water source (how reliable)
5. Treadway Stability (Erosion Control) (coweeta dips, bleeders, drainage dips, waterbars, check dams and drainage ditches adequate in number and in good condition) (cupping of trail less than 3 inches) (outward slope of 5%)
6. Treadway Dryness (Drainage) (does treadway have wet areas?)
7. Treadway Width (18 to 24 inches)
8. Trailheads (road signs, signs in parking area, kiosks, litter, evidence of parking problems or illegal activities)
9. Bridges and Stiles (condition)
10. Shelters (evidence of leaks, missing shingles, repairs needed, paint, or evidence of unauthorized use)
11. Tent Sites (erosion problems, planned sites or boot leg, fire rings)
12. Privies (evidence of leaks, repairs needed, paint, fullness of pit)
13. Tables (condition)
14. Fire Pits and Grates (grate missing, fire pit full?)
15. Litter at trail heads, along trail and at shelters indicating large groups
16. Evidence of Unauthorized Usage (mountain bikes, horses, ATV's, structures, other)
17. Evidence of Possible Illegal Trails
18. Evidence of Switchbacks being cut

Report Work Hours via NBATC.org or directly to Emily Helms email [helms50@verizon.net](mailto:helms50@verizon.net) or phone 434-237-2180.

Report Trail Assessments or Requests for Maintenance Help to David Helms via email [davidahelms@verizon.net](mailto:davidahelms@verizon.net) or phone 434-237-2180 or by phone to Sam Ripley 434-237-4015.

**IMPORTANT: A maintainer should not attempt any work which the maintainer is not comfortable doing, he is not certified to do, is contrary to agency regulations, for which he does not have the proper PPE, or which may present a problem with safety. Chainsaws and weed eaters may not be used in designated Wilderness Areas.**