

CONTENTS

A Note from the Author	1
What distinguishes a well-planned recreational trail?	2
What is “arid land” and why does it require special trail work techniques?	2
Before you head out to work	4
Corridor, Trailway, and Tread Clearing	6
Removing Plants	7
Trimming Shrubs	8
Pre-clearing Corridor	10
Trimming Trees	10
Felling Small Trees	12
Disposal of Removed Plant Material	13
Tread Construction & Maintenance	14
Tread Soil Assessment	14
Construction on a Hillside with > 10% Slope	15
Construction on a Hillside with 5-10% Slope	18
Construction on Nearly Flat Land (< 5% Slope)	19
Simple Crowned Treads	19
Crowned Tread with Trenches	19
Rock Steps and Stair Cases	19
Turns to Reverse Trail Direction	21
Climbing Turn	22
Switchback	23
Tread Maintenance and Repair	26
Rock Wall and Armor for Tread Support	28
Safely Moving Large Rock	28
One-Rock Wall	29
Buttressed One-Rock Wall	30
Multi-Course Rock Wall	30
Rubble Wall	32
Armor	32
Unstable Slope	32
Tread Surface	33
Tread Drainage	34
Grade Reversals	34

Grade Dip	34
Drain Dip	34
Micro-dip	36
Swale	36
Outflow	36
Drainages	40
Crossings	40
Stabilization	40
Way Markers	42
Guide Stones	42
Cairn	42
Trail Closure and Landscape Rehabilitation	43
GLOSSARY	44
BIBLIOGRAPHY	46
INTERNET RESOURCES	46