



GMC'S GUIDELINES FOR THE COMPLETION OF TRAIL MANAGEMENT WORK IN THE AGE OF COVID19

When to begin your trail management in the time of COVID-19

- Are Trails dry enough? (start with lower elevation/south facing trails) and avoid work in mud season.
- Defer scouting trips to areas you already know will require work later in the season.
- If you adopt a high popularity trail, check it early since the trails are already seeing heavy use. If you have questions about trail closure or trailhead signage contact GMC staff.
- Only focus on your adopted trails/section. If you can't get to your trail let GMC staff know and they will build a contingency plan.
- This is not a time to travel long distances or from out-of-state to do your adopting work. If you live out of state or a long distance from your trail let GMC staff know that you will be delaying your spring walk-through.
- Be more conservative than normal in your trip length and the skill level of the work you take on.

What trail management work to address at this time

At this stage work to ensure human health and safety and protect the trail infrastructure is what you should prioritize. This includes removing obstructions from the trail, clearing waterbars, drainages, and ditches, boundary maintenance and easement monitoring, and regular maintenance at privies and shelters.

COVID-19 Additional and Emphasized PPE and Work Practice Standards

1. Masks – cloth mask or face covering required when in visible contact with any people that are not members of your household. We have been advised specifically that “buffs” don't count.
2. Social distancing required. You must maintain minimum separation of 6 feet from any non-household member
3. Add sanitizer to standard first aid kit supplies if not already included, and include more than your normal allotment
4. Avoid carpooling
5. Avoid sharing tools and gear
6. Limit group size to two people

Public Messaging and Interaction Guidance

Be prepared that we have had some people express frustration with the club and our land management partners for trail closures during this pandemic. If you are confronted by a member of the public about being out on a closed trail, please explain that you are a GMC trail volunteer:

- *Based on the Governors order GMC staff and volunteers are permitted to do essential trail work to prepare for the hiking season. Questions can be directed to: Director of Field Programs, Keegan Tierney. ktierney@greenmountainclub.org or (802) 241-8320 x120*
- *When you go out please take photos and relay stories to GMC's communication staff. Please make sure you have all your PPE on in photos*
- *Social media protocol in this time – please don't post on social media about your trail maintenance activities at this time as the trail system is still closed to the public and we don't want to encourage more use or promote that the trail is “ready”.*
- *Keep work trips to active volunteers and don't advertise for new volunteers for this particular work*

**This vehicle belongs to a
GMC trail volunteer who
is conducting authorized
early season trail
management activities in
accordance with guidance
from Vermont Agency of
Commerce & Community
Development.**

For more information please visit <https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-stay-home-stay-safe-order>

Or contact GMC Director of Field Programs, Keegan Tierney.
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