

# The Crew Leader's Guide

## to Trail Corridor Clearing at *Boulevard Woods*

Here's the information crew leaders need to share with volunteers:

1. Everyone who works on site is required to sign a liability waiver.
2. Everyone should have a water bottle or know where to get water.
3. Everyone should have the right equipment. (See Equipment box)
4. Review *The Five Essential Rules* with volunteers.

### The 5 Essential Rules

1. **Follow the pink wire flags.** The pink wire flags mark the exact center of the trail corridor. The path has been precisely plotted. Frequently check the distances and locations of the flags to make sure you're working in the right spot. Take care that flags are not dislodged.
2. **Do not cut brush to ground level in the trail bed.** This is the part of the trail corridor that people will be walking on. It extends 12 inches on either side of the pink wire flags. (See Figure 1.) You might think it makes sense to cut flush to the ground here, *but don't do it!* For larger shrubs, cut to leave trunk about two feet high. For skinnier shrubs, cut to leave about 6 inches high. This will enable the trail builders to easily locate and permanently remove these stumps later. Outside the trail bed, it's OK to cut shrubs short.
3. **Every stem or trunk you cut must be immediately treated with herbicide (glyphosate).** This will kill the roots and prevent re-sprouts, keeping the trail corridors clear of obscuring growth. Each stem or trunk should be wetted with glyphosate as quickly as possible, preferably within 15 seconds. Be sure to adjust nozzle to spray, not stream.
4. **"Lopperize" the brush pile.** A compact brush pile will decompose quickly. Use loppers to remove branch from main stem and arrange stems parallel so that the pile can compress and settle. Think of it as a recycling project.
5. **Pay attention to your surroundings, and drink water.** When working close together with other people chopping, cutting, spraying and dragging things, it's a good idea to stay aware of what's happening around you. And please make sure to stay hydrated!

#### Equipment

Garden gloves  
Water bottle  
Tool bucket and/or tool holster  
Spray bottle filled with glyphosate  
Hand pruners  
Loppers  
Handsaw  
Safety glasses

#### Clothing

Sturdy, closed-toe shoes  
Long pants  
Long sleeves  
Garden gloves  
Safety glasses  
Hat or cap  
Full water bottle

#### Brush Pile Guidelines

1. Select a site for brush pile that is out of the way, but near the trail section where you are working. (When appropriate, use pile location to reinforce definition and direction of trail corridor.)
2. Prepare site by cutting and treating all stems where the brush will be laid.
3. "Lopperize" stems and branches. Arrange in parallel fashion.
4. Place larger, heavier logs on top to compress pile.
5. It's OK to place inflexible dead/stiff branches in separate pile or just toss aside.

#### Flag Key

Pink = centerline of the trail corridor.  
White = stormwater courses. Do not pile brush piles here.  
Blue = native or valuable plant. Do not cut.  
Yellow = old trail or hazard. Do not work in this area

#### Job Descriptions

Crew leaders get volunteers ready, select work area, supervise (and work, too)  
Cutter-sprayers cut and spray  
Dragger-lopperizers drag cut material away, lopperize it, and place on brush pile  
*One dragger/lopperizer to every two or three cutter-sprayer seems to work well.*

#### Advance Checklist for Crew Leaders

- ✓ Bring tools to site.
- ✓ Bring extra safety glasses
- ✓ Bring extra garden gloves
- ✓ Fill spray bottles with glyphosate
- ✓ Bring water and snacks.
- ✓ Bring copies of liability waiver and pen
- ✓ Bring insect repellent spray
- ✓ Bring Ivy-X

#### Work Checklist for Crew Leaders

- ✓ Follow pink wire flags, select corridor section
- ✓ Find suitable location for brush pile, prepare it
- ✓ Decide on division of labor
- ✓ Quit on time, 1 or 2 hours
- ✓ Check work area for left-behind tools or other items.

