

# Nolde Forest Adopt a Trail

Below are instructions and some best practice suggestions for your time spent working out on the trails at Nolde Forest. Most importantly, please work at a level that is comfortable and safe for you at all times - especially if you are working alone!

1. You are welcome to use your own tools, but tools will be available to you at the park if needed. There are not always work gloves available in the volunteer shed, so that is something you will probably want to grab on your own to be sure that you are protected as you work.
  - a. If working from 8-4 Monday-Friday, the main parking area by the Park Office should be open, along with the maintenance area that houses the Volunteer Toolshed.
  - b. There will be a locked storage box available by the Sawmill parking area at any time.
  - c. There will be a locked storage box available by Firegate 5 at any time.
2. Pick tools appropriate to your task for the day. These might include:
  - a. Pruners (held in one hand and used for trimming small branches)
  - b. Loppers (used with two hands and used for cutting larger branches)
  - c. Shears (used with two hands and used for trimming scrub)
  - d. Rake (used to clear debris from the trail and/or culverts)
  - e. McLeod (used to clean waterbars)
  - f. Hand saw (used to cut through large branches or small logs)
  - g. Shovel (used to clean waterbars or clear culverts)
  - h. Grass cutter (used to trim high grass or weeds along the edge of the trail)
  - i. \*\*Recommend not to carry more than two tools with you at a time - it may not feel like it when you pick them up, but after walking to your assigned trail they will get heavy faster than you think
3. Proceed to your assigned trail, and complete the following tasks (as you feel comfortable):
  - a. Trim any branches / scrub away from the trail to create an obstructed path (using loppers, pruners, shears, or saw as appropriate). Clear back slightly beyond the existing edges of the trail, and dispose of trimmings well off of the side of the trail. If possible, throw trimmings onto a downslope rather than uphill (they will just roll back into the trail eventually). Try to be mindful of wildflowers or other fragile plants as you dispose of your trimmings.
  - b. Pull invasive weeds such as Garlic Mustard or Japanese Stiltgrass from the edges of the trail. Dispose same as 3A above.
  - c. Trim any high grass / weeds that are not particularly invasive (as in 3B above) using a grass cutter.
  - d. If your trail includes waterbars - use a rake, shovel, or McLeod to remove debris away from the upper side of the bar. There should be a small channel along the

top side of the bar which extends out beyond it so that water will be slowed and drained from the trail. \*\*this can be a hefty task, so if you do not feel comfortable doing the cleaning yourself please simply inspect the waterbars and report back via your report if they require cleaning

- e. If your trail includes culverts - use a rake or gloved hands to remove any leaves or debris so that water can flow through easily. \*\*if there is a major clog, report back via your report
  - f. Remove any sticks and small debris from the trail. Report any downed logs too large to be moved via your report. Do your best to describe the location and type of debris - i.e. "large single log across trail about halfway between Middle Road and Kissinger Road" or "tree downed with branches near Sheerlund Trail signpost". Make your best guess, it's not always easy to tell exactly where you're at along the trail.
4. Once finished for the day, return tools to wherever you retrieved them from.
  5. Complete the Trail Service Form here: <https://forms.gle/mpDiphZsNtgQJ67B8>

If you have any questions, concerns, problems throughout the summer as you work, please send an email to [noldetrails@gmail.com](mailto:noldetrails@gmail.com)! Thank you for helping us to keep the park safe and enjoyable for all to visit.