

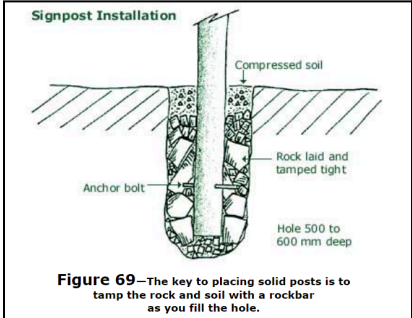
# RBNC Signage Guidelines


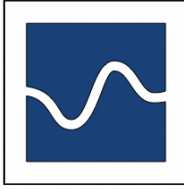

Information accessed from:

*Sign and Poster Guidelines for the Forest Service.* United States Department of Agriculture: Forest Service. (2013, October).

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3810021.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3810021.pdf)

## General Guidelines:

Placement of Trail Signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Include the trail name and directional arrow</li><li>● 2-6 feet off the right edge of the trail</li><li>● 4-5 feet off the ground</li><li>● Perpendicular to the trail direction</li><li>● Place in an unobstructed area</li><li>● Place in the shade when possible to avoid wear and tear</li><li>● Place about 30 inches into the ground to avoid upheaval as the ground freezes and thaws</li><li>● Try to locate the post in relatively flat surroundings to reduce the effects of snow creep</li><li>● Insert an anchor/bolt for further stabilization (pictured below)</li></ul> 
Sign and Lettering Sizes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1-inch letters for nonmotorized/pedestrian trails</li><li>● For motorized, bicycle, and cross-country trails:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Minimum letter size: 2 inches</li><li>○ Minimum symbol size: 12 inches</li><li>○ Minimum sign size: 12x12 inches</li></ul></li></ul>
Frequency of Placement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Place at every trail intersection and at the start of each trail</li><li>● Reassurance markers are useful at junctions with non-system (informal) trails or where multiple trails cause confusion.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Pedestrian markers can be natural, while cross-country ski trails should be blue and bikes should be brown with white text</li></ul></li><li>● Mile markers are not necessary for the length of RBNC trails</li></ul>

<p>Accessibility Information</p>	<p>It can be helpful to display accessibility information at the start of trails. USDA recommends these features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Typical and maximum trail grade.</li> <li>• Typical and maximum tread cross slope.</li> <li>• Minimum clear tread width.</li> <li>• Tread surface type and firmness.</li> <li>• Any major height obstacles (as appropriate)</li> <li>• Trail distance is recommended but not required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Show destination mileages for each destination as fractions to the nearest 1/4 or 1/2 mile for destinations up to 3 miles.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Can also consider creating a legend based on trail difficulty:</p> <div> <div> <p>Easiest DD-1</p>  </div> <div> <p>More Difficult DD-2</p>  </div> <div> <p>Most Difficult DD-3</p>  </div> </div> <p>Figure 5-10—Simplified difficulty symbols.</p>
<p>Information for warning signs and retroreflectivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use a positive and educational tone, rather than restrictive/prohibitory</li> <li>• Regulatory and warning signs must comply with MUTCD <a href="#">standards for retroreflectivity</a> (for roads)</li> <li>• Signs for roads, motorized trails, urban cross-country ski trails, paved bicycle trails, and mountain bike trails, as well as other signs intended to be seen at night, shall be retroreflective to show the same shape, color, and message both day and night.</li> <li>• Aluminum material is preferred.</li> <li>• For more information, see Table 5-3.</li> </ul>
<p>Additional features for signs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail maps</li> <li>• Attractions alongside the trail</li> <li>• Community bulletin board for upcoming events</li> <li>• Point of contact for trail maintenance</li> <li>• Rules and regulations (positive tone)</li> <li>• Warnings (eg, hazards like poisonous plants)</li> <li>• Historical information</li> <li>• Key points of interest</li> </ul>

## Sign Material Guidelines

Material	Replacement Time	Maintenance	Recommended Use
Aluminum	Every 7-10 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequency: Bi-monthly</li> <li>• Clean with soap and water using a soft cotton or microfiber towel on the signs</li> <li>• Glass cleaner is also effective</li> <li>• Make sure there are no streaks after wiping the signs</li> <li>• Frequent cleaning will extend the life of the signs.<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulatory and warning signs</li> <li>• Road signs</li> <li>• Trail maps</li> <li>• Scenic point information</li> <li>• Trail histories and descriptions</li> </ul>
Wood (white oak or cedar)	Every 5-10 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequency: Monthly</li> <li>• Dust off the sign with a dry microfiber cloth to remove dirt. Then, clean with soap and water.</li> <li>• Long-term protection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yearly maintenance</li> <li>○ Lightly sand with 400 grit sandpaper to remove high spots and debris</li> <li>○ Apply a new clear coat of epoxy to protect from water damage and UV rays.<sup>2</sup></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trailheads</li> <li>• Trail intersections</li> <li>• Mile markers</li> <li>• Indications of scenic points</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> <https://arteest.ca/how-to-maintain-aluminum-signs/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.knillcraftdesigns.com/general-5>

## Additional information on regulatory and warning signs:

\* Limit use of on-trail regulatory signs and posters to the minimum needed in order to:

- Ensure consistent protection of the trail and adjacent resources.
- Provide for the safety and enjoyment of the user.
- Provide for the enforcement of regulations.
- The traffic management strategies of “discourage” and “eliminate” may be preferable to the use of regulations in some cases.
- Place regulatory signs at the point of regulation.
- Larger signs may be used for increased visibility or strong emphasis when need has been determined.

**Table 5-3—Regulatory and warning sign requirements**

Trail type	Sign face	Minimum size (inches)	Color	Shape or sign type
<b>Hiker/pedestrian pack and saddle</b>	Retroreflective not required; use for added emphasis	Warning: 12 x 12	If used, follow MUTCD colors	If used, follow MUTCD shapes
<b>Wilderness</b>	Never retroreflective	Regulatory: limited use at trailhead Warning: do not use	NA NA	NA NA
<b>Cross-country ski, urban setting or night skiing</b>	Shall be retroreflective	Warning: 12 x 12	Shall follow MUTCD colors	Shall follow MUTCD shapes
<b>Cross-country ski, semi-primitive motorized and nonmotorized ROS</b>	Retroreflective not required; use for added emphasis	Warning: 12 x 12	If used, follow MUTCD colors	If used, follow MUTCD shapes
<b>Bicycle, paved or coincident with roads</b>	Shall be retroreflective	Shall follow MUTCD table 9B-1	Shall follow MUTCD colors	Shall follow MUTCD shapes
<b>Mountain bike</b>	Shall be retroreflective	Warning: 12 x 12	Shall follow MUTCD colors	Shall follow MUTCD shapes
<b>ATV/motorcycle</b>	Shall be retroreflective	Warning: 12 x 12	Shall follow MUTCD colors	Shall follow MUTCD shapes
<b>Snowmobile retroreflective</b>	Shall be	Warning: 12 x 12 MUTCD colors	Shall follow MUTCD shapes	Shall follow
<b>Water</b> Shall follow MUTCD shapes		Shall be	Warning: 12 x 12 retroreflective	Shall follow MUTCD colors

