

Ridgefield Trail System - Design Specifications by Trail Classification

Engineering Standards Vol. 3 - Parks, Trails, and Recreation Design and Construction Requirements

Adopted 05/22/2025

	Multi-Modal Trails		Recreational Trails	
	Arterial Trail	Collector Trail	Hiking Trail	Semi-Primitive Trail
Overview	10-12 Feet Wide Asphalt Surface 5% Maximum Grade High-Capacity Transportation Focus	10-12 Feet Wide Asphalt Surface 5% Maximum Grade Medium-Capacity Transportation Focus	6-8 Feet Wide Asphalt Surface 5% Maximum Grade (Up to 12% with Exceptions) Medium-Capacity Recreation Focus	Other USFS Trails (i.e. Mountain Biking, etc.) Low-Capacity Recreation Focus
Definition	High-capacity, asphalt multi-use trails connecting major city destinations and forming the backbone of the trail network.	Mid-capacity, asphalt trails linking neighborhoods and local sites to Arterial Trails, enhancing system connectivity.	Fully developed, double-lane asphalt trails for hiker and pedestrian use.	Low-impact, soft-surface trails with flexible designs for specialized recreation like biking or equestrian use.
Standards Ref.	WSDOT Shared-Use Paths	WSDOT Shared-Use Paths	USFS Trail Design Parameters	USFS Trail Design Parameters
USFS Design Use	N/A	N/A	Hiker / Pedestrian	Varies
USFS Trail Class	N/A	N/A	Class 5	Varies
Right-of-Way	60" beyond edge of pavement	60" beyond edge of pavement	48" beyond edge of pavement	See USFS Trail Standards Based On Designed Use and Trail Class
Design Tread Width	10' (12' preferred)	10' (12' preferred)	6' - 8'	
Design Surface	Asphalt (Concrete or other hard, non-slip surface permitted for bridges or other trail constructed features)	Asphalt (Concrete or other hard, non-slip surface permitted for bridges or other trail constructed features)	Asphalt (exempted from trail constructed features) with no protrusions or obstacles	
Design Grade	5% Maximum (When within road right of way, path slope may match road grade)	5% Maximum (When within road right of way, path slope may match road grade)	Target Grade of 2%-5%; Short Pitch Maximum no greater than 5%-12% with compliance with FSTAG Maximum Pitch Density of 0%-5%	
Design Cross Slope	2% Maximum	2% Maximum	Target Cross Slope 2%-3% (or crowned) with Maximum Cross Slope of 3%	
Design Clearing	8'-10' above trail surface; 60" beyond edge of pavement	8'-10' above trail surface; 60" beyond edge of pavement	8'-10' above trail surface; 60" beyond edge of pavement	
Design Turns	6'-8' Radius Minimum	6'-8' Radius Minimum	6'-8' Radius Minimum	
Design Surface Material	Hot Mix Asphalt (Exempt for trail constructed features)	Hot Mix Asphalt (Exempt for trail constructed features)	Hot Mix Asphalt (Exempt for trail constructed features)	
Design Tread Depth	3" Minimum	3" Minimum	3" Minimum	
Base Material	Crushed Aggregate	Crushed Aggregate	Crushed Aggregate	
Base Material Depth	3" Minimum	3" Minimum	3" Minimum	
Compacted Native Surface Width	Extends a minimum of 3' beyond edge of pavement	Extends a minimum of 3' beyond edge of pavement	Extends a minimum of 2' beyond edge of pavement	
Vegetation Barrier	Not applicable to asphalt surfaces	Not applicable to asphalt surfaces	Not applicable to asphalt surfaces	
Shoulder Width	Extends a minimum of 2' beyond edge of pavement at grade and gradually tapers off to native surface thereafter	Extends a minimum of 2' beyond edge of pavement at grade and gradually tapers off to native surface thereafter	Extends a minimum of 1' beyond edge of pavement at grade and gradually tapers off to native surface thereafter	