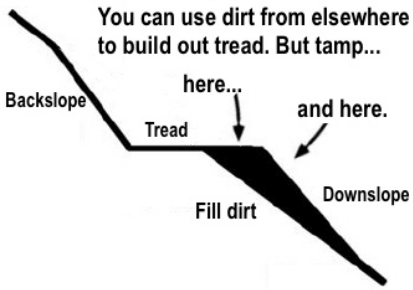
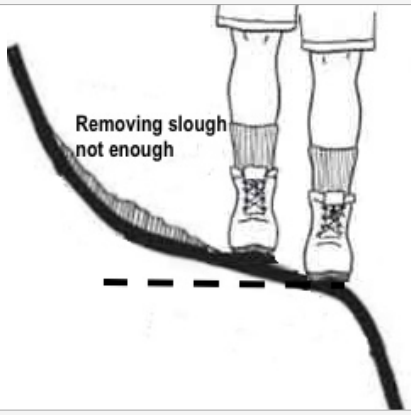
Goals:

- Help people enjoy themselves while helping maintain our trail system.
- Produce level 24-30” wide tread with good clearance, drainage, and sight lines.

For more info: ashlandtrails.org/trail-maintenance/

Tools	Good Use	Poor Use
Flat Shovel	Tread reshaping and leveling, tamping, dirt removal	Rocky soil, grubbing thick roots, thick organic matter, prying rocks
Rogue hoe	Grubbing and tamping, some root cutting	Dirt removal, prying rocks, tread leveling.
Pulaski	Loosening up soil, granite and old, firm tread, rock removal, some grubbing, root chopping	Dirt removal, tamping

Yes, do this:	No, please don’t do this:
Safety first. Plan and have a first-aid kit.	**Don't be unprepared.**
Pay attention to your group. Point them in the right direction. Praise good. Re-direct bad. Encourage pacing, hydration, calories. Touch base occasionally without hovering.	**Don’t be too focused on yourself.** Set aside some of your personal achievement goals. Don’t expect that your group will follow what you’re doing or know what to do.
Set your group up for success: some tangible product they can feel good about. Take pics.	Don't start to fix something you know you won’t finish…**don’t leave a trail unusable**.
Respect the tools.	**Don’t pry boulders with shovels and rogue hoes.** Don’t hack at rocks with shovels.
Think about other trail users beyond yourself. Taller, faster, riders, runners, etc. Pay attention to branches, leaning trees, overhead objects and how they affect those people.	**Don’t think just in 2-dimensions.** The space above the trail tread is important too. Not everyone is skinny and 5-foot tall. Or slow.
OK to leave some rocks and large roots. Cut staubs (vertical roots 1-inch or higher in tread) as these are hard to see and trip people.	**Don't build a garden path.** Rocks and roots can provide welcome challenges for MTB riders and runners and slow them down. Win, win.
Remove organic matter prior to fixing tread.	**Don't mix leaves, pine needles, etc in soil.**
Work in parallel with trail. This results in smoother surface.	**Don't work perpendicular to trail.** Results in uneven trail.
Try to maintain even tread width. Think ribbon.	**Avoid trail bulges.** No recently fed boa belly.

	**Don't not tamp.** And don't use double negatives. You can take slough from other areas, but note graphics on next page!
Tamp the outside edge of the trail, including downslope. Rogue hoe and flat shovels work. **Tamping is critical to good trail sustainability.**	**Don't just pile dirt on outside edge of tread** and expect that it will remain the same level as the rest of the tread. It will subside.
Add cribbing for chronically weak-edged areas or around trees in steep areas. But, cribbing is always temporary.	**Don't build "guardrails"** to keep people on trail. Lining rocks or logs along the edge won't last and seldom works.
Build grade reversals. 10+ feet in length. These are user-friendly and last. (But easier to add when trail first constructed).	**Water bars, drainage dips, nicks are rarely called for.** They don't last, often don't work and can be dangerous, esp to cyclists. Example: Hitt Rd.
Level entire width of tread. Ideally a solid, flat 24-30 inch width. See below. Cut along the dotted line…	**Don't just remove slough on inside of the trail.** That undermines the backslope, which will just cause more sloughing and leave a too-wide outward sloping trail.
	
Think about smooth flow of trail. Connect trail parts so someone can run/ride at 10mph. Look ahead and behind.	**Don't run trail into rock or tree** (this happens sometimes when widening tread and not looking ahead).
Lop aggressively, especially madrone and poison oak. Better still, remove small madrone and PO entirely.	**Trim branches so that it lasts a long time,** so we don't have to do it soon again. NOTE: in the summer, branches often sag from lack of water.
Build level tread.	**Don't build outslope into tread.** This used to be convention. We get outslope almost instantly.
Build wider diameter turns for shared use trails. Longer wheelbase bikes need room.	**Don't make tight turns for mt bikes.**