

Introduction to sectional Track maintenance

Once constructed and in use, any trail requires ongoing maintenance to keep it safe and functional. Over time, environmental processes and the impacts of use will inevitably cause deterioration in the trail.

Regular routine maintenance optimises walker safety and prolongs the life of the trail. Minor maintenance and early detection of problems can often help prevent a major reconstruction job. Every sectional maintenance volunteer is therefore an important link in the chain.

In a nutshell, your role is to:

-  Be the 'eyes on the ground' – regularly inspect the condition of your section. Identify any new or developing problems and collect information to be reported.
-  Undertake maintenance tasks – as required and within your capacity.
-  Communicate with us – submit your report/s after each maintenance visit.

Visit frequency

Please aim to visit your section at least every 3 months (i.e. 4 times a year). You should try to visit regularly throughout the year, although the exact timing of visits is up to you. Visits may be scheduled whenever most convenient – weekday or weekend.

Visits should be avoided over the hot summer months, for safety reasons.

Each visit will likely take ½ - 1 day to walk the section and carry out most maintenance tasks. However, depending on the location and work required, you might need to allow 1-2 nights away from home to complete the trip.

As you get to know your section, you will develop a feel for the seasonality of the work usually required, and whether more frequent visits are required. Sections with greater maintenance workload may require more frequent visits.

If you are unable to commit to four visits per year, the responsibility may be shared with others, by arrangement with us.

The sectional team



Each section has a '**Team Leader**' (at least nominally) who is the first point of contact between the BTF office and the sectional team. The Team Leader is responsible for scheduling and coordinating visits, and for ensuring that reporting is completed.

Every other volunteer allocated on the section is considered a '**Team Member**'.

You will be notified of the Team Leader for your section, whether it is you or another volunteer. If you are the only allocated volunteer on your section, you are categorised as a Team Leader.

Maintenance capacity

We recognise that each individual volunteer differs in physical work capacity and skillset.

During the recruitment and allocation process, we try to match each volunteer to the needs of the section.

If you find that – after all – you are not well matched to your section, then please get in touch with us. Perhaps you would prefer less work – or perhaps more! We are willing to discuss the options and alternatives.

Keeping up your engagement and familiarity with induction and training resources is likely to support your perspective and motivation.

Ultimately, any maintenance task beyond the capacity of the sectional volunteer is referred to the PaWS (DBCA) District work centre; or attended to by BTF Support Volunteers. This is, however, a slower process to completion than what you can achieve on the day of your visit.

Reporting

Maintenance reports should be submitted as soon as possible after each visit. Reports are usually submitted by the Team Leader (or a delegate).

For each visit, we need **one** Track inspection report; and **one** campsite inspection report, where appropriate.

Reports should consider that each element has been considered, including any work done and/or any issues or problems which need further attention. Include all the information you collected (including photos) about new or developing problems.

In addition to the inspection report/s, **every member** of the maintenance team submits their own times using their personal profile.

All necessary details regarding the website and reporting are found in various factsheets on this topic.

Temporary inactivity

The best laid plans sometimes go awry... despite your ongoing commitment, there may be a time when you have extended travel away, health issues, or intensive family commitments. If you are aware that you will not be able to visit your section for greater than a four-month interval, please let us know.

For this gap in care of the section (or longer), we would facilitate alternative volunteer cover... so the section remains adequately inspected and maintained.

Releasing your section

If you can no longer commit to maintaining your section, please contact us as soon as possible, so your section can be reallocated.