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Crusher Fine Surface Built Trail Design Specifications

The construction sketches for a crusher fine surfaced, built trail have been provided courtesy of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. This type of trail has been in use on trails managed by that agency with great success for many years. This district is located in the near Chicago suburbs and their trails receive heavy shared use by a wide variety of users – hikers, families walking, joggers, serious running groups, children on bicycles, mountain bikers, horseback riders, bird watchers, fisherman trekking to the “best” places, cross country skiers, etc. No motorized use is permitted on their land or trail system. Additionally these trails are part of a flood control and wildlife greenway system.

When properly constructed, the trail drains well and requires minimal maintenance. The surface is forgiving enough to be “foot and hoof friendly,” but solid enough to be good for bicycles.

During wet weather, the surface will be rutted from bicycles and pock marked from hooves and boots, however, if left untended and in use, it will “heal” itself back to a smooth surface. (Courtesy flyers are posted requesting that trails not be used during wet weather, but these generally have little effect on local users – or on the actual trails.)

The use of culvert pipe is recommended in low areas. Culverts should be installed so that the trail itself remains level and not create a “hill” that may cause wash away to be a problem at the sides of the culvert. It is also recommended that culverts extend at least two feet beyond the side of the actual trail and that visible flanges be installed for safety and water control.

For additional information regarding this type of multi use trail, please contact the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource. They can be reached at P.O. Box 335, Galena, IL 61036; Tel: 815-776-0150; Fax: 815-776-9420; e-mail: info@elcr.org.



