TRAIL BLAZES

The trail is identified by paint blazes based on rectangles 2" wide by 6" high, 5' from the ground on trees or poles.

Paired rectangles should be separated by 1", and vertical offsets should be 2".

A single blaze marks the trail where the route is fairly straight or obvious, while a double blaze marks a turn with the upper blaze offset to indicate the new direction. A double blaze with no offset simply means pay attention - the trail route may not be obvious.

You should be able to see the next blaze while standing next to one but preferably not more than that one. When there is no tree available to accommodate full-size blazes and separation, all may be reduced proportionately. A blaze can be applied to a tree on either the right or left side of a trail, and if visible from both directions and if the tree is large enough, can be applied to the front and back of the same tree.

Whenever possible, paint shall be a type designated for trail blaze use. Colors should be highly visible and should be consistent for the length of that named trail; blaze colors should be indicated on the park's trail map(s).

Unless the tree bark is extremely dirty, flaky, or shaggy, no surface preparation is needed.

