

# Doe Mountain Great Trails Workshop Descriptions

**May 15–17, 2026 | Doe Mountain Recreation Area | Mountain City, Tennessee**

The Great Trails Workshop is a three-day, hands-on training that brings together trail managers, volunteers, recreation professionals, and trail enthusiasts to learn the principles and practices of sustainable trail stewardship. Participants will engage in a combination of classroom instruction, group discussions, and field-based learning while exploring the multi-use trail system at Doe Mountain Recreation Area.

## **Day 1 – Trail Forum & Trail Planning and Design**

**May 15 | 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM**

The workshop begins with a collaborative **Trail Forum**, an organized and structured discussion that brings together trail managers, recreation professionals, and trail enthusiasts to share ideas and perspectives on trail stewardship. Participants will explore current issues and opportunities related to trail development, management, sustainability, and recreation access. This facilitated conversation allows participants to learn from one another while examining real-world challenges and solutions used by trail programs across the country. During the afternoon session, the workshop shifts to the fundamentals of **trail planning and design**. Participants will begin with a classroom presentation that introduces key trail layout principles such as trail alignment, grade control, sustainable trail design concepts, and how to evaluate terrain when planning a trail corridor. Following the classroom session, participants will travel to a nearby field site where they will work in small teams to **practice trail layout techniques using clinometers and flagging**. This hands-on exercise allows participants to apply design concepts in real terrain as they identify sustainable trail alignments and explore how terrain, drainage, and user experience influence trail design decisions.

## **Day 2 – Trail Construction**

**May 16 | 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

Day two focuses on the **principles and techniques of sustainable trail construction**. The morning session begins in the classroom with an overview of trail construction fundamentals including tread development, outslope, backslope, corridor clearing, and the different kinds of tools commonly used in trail building. After the classroom session, participants will travel to an active field site where they will take part in a **hands-on trail construction project**. Working alongside instructors, participants will learn how to safely and effectively use hand tools to construct and finish a section of trail. Instruction will focus on proper tool use, teamwork, and building durable trail tread that will hold up to use and weather over time. This field-based experience allows participants to see firsthand how sustainable trail design concepts are translated into real trail construction on the ground.

**Day 3 – Trail Maintenance: Erosion Control & Vegetation Management**  
**May 17 | 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

The final day of the workshop focuses on **trail maintenance and long-term trail stewardship**. Participants will begin the day with a classroom session reviewing common trail maintenance challenges and the techniques used to keep trails functioning properly over time. Topics will include **erosion control, drainage maintenance, vegetation management, and identifying trail maintenance needs before they become larger problems**. Following the classroom session, participants will travel to a field location where they will apply these concepts through a hands-on maintenance project. Working in teams, participants will use hand tools to perform maintenance activities such as restoring trail outslope, improving drainage features, and managing vegetation within the trail corridor. This session emphasizes the importance of regular stewardship and provides participants with practical skills that can be applied to trail systems in their own communities.