

# Paths and Walkways



One option for pathway materials includes setting stepping stones into a crushed stone base. The crushed stone allows runoff to infiltrate, and the stepping stones are comfortable for bare feet.



Runoff diverters like waterbars can help prevent runoff from concentrating on steep paths.

## Purpose:

Meandering and switchback pathways are a viable solution to stabilize high traffic areas. Properly designed pathways direct foot traffic, redirect/absorb water, reduce the rate of flow, and protect soil. Pathways not only offer aesthetic value but will help reduce erosion and minimize the amount of pollutants flowing from your property into local streams and lakes.

## Materials:

Two common path materials are erosion control mulch (ECM) and crushed stone. ECM is a mix of wood fibers, soil, and gravel, which holds up to runoff and has a natural look. Erosion control mulch suppliers can be found on the DEP website linked to in the QR code. Crushed stone is available from your local gravel pit. Use of crushed stone pathways may be restricted within 75' of a lake – check with your local Code Enforcement Officer or Maine DEP Field Services staff before you install crushed stone.



## Installation:

- 1: Choose a location on your property that would benefit from a pathway. Look for areas that experience high foot traffic or show signs of erosion or soil compaction.
- 2: The ideal pathway width is 3-4' wide and follows a winding path. Paths cannot be more than 6' wide in the shoreland zone. Mark the desired outline of your path with stakes or rocks.
- 3: The walking surface should be covered with 3"-4" of material such as ECM, pine needles, bark mulch, crushed stone, wood chips, or other material. This will define the path, guide foot traffic, and reduce soil erosion.
- 4: The path should be clearly marked with strategic plantings, stones, or other markers along the edges to encourage use.

NOTE: For steeper paths, consider incorporating Infiltration Steps or Runoff Diverters (see separate fact sheets).

## Maintenance:

Periodically remove accumulated debris. Mulched pathways may need to be re-shaped and additional material may be needed to replace what has washed or worn away.

Scan here for  
more information



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From Sebago Lake to Casco Bay