

### **What is Trails K12?**

Trails K12 is a comprehensive initiative aimed at increasing access to natural learning environments for students, providing them with an opportunity to learn and grow in the great outdoors. The initiative was designed to empower educators and students to utilize natural environments for learning while also focusing on academic achievement.

### **Who founded Trails K12?**

In 2020, as the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic became evident, the Rockingham County Education Foundation and RoundRock saw the need for alternative and safe learning environments. Together, they launched Trails K12. However, this initiative wasn't just a reaction to the pandemic; it embodied a vision to change how students interact with their surroundings at school. These professionally constructed trails not only set a refreshing stage for academic activities but also become havens where students can connect with, appreciate, and enjoy nature, ensuring their physical and mental well-being regardless of the challenging times.

### **How can I gain buy-in from school administrators for Trails K12?**

To gain buy-in from school administrators, present the educational, health, and developmental benefits of Trails K12. Highlight academic outcomes, student well-being, and the long-term advantages of fostering an appreciation for the outdoors. Share testimonials or success stories from other schools and educators. Collaboration and open dialogue are key – consider organizing informational sessions or site visits to showcase the trails.

### **How much maintenance do the Trails K12 require?**

We understand that maintenance is a common concern for institutions considering the addition of a trail. Our Trails K12 are meticulously designed with sustainability and ease-of-care in mind. Under typical conditions and with regular use, these trails require little to no maintenance. Of course, like any outdoor space, there can be occasional challenges, such as major storms causing tree falls. However, outside of these rare events, you'll find that our trails remain accessible and user-friendly with minimal upkeep.

### **How can I get involved or collaborate with Trails K12?**

Thinking about introducing a school trail to your institution but not sure how to begin? Reach out to Rockingham County Education Foundation or RoundRock at [jenny@helprockinghamstudents.org](mailto:jenny@helprockinghamstudents.org). Even if we cannot construct the trail for you (and we may be able to), we're equipped to offer expert guidance on bringing your vision to life. Additionally, we can organize field trips to a Trails K12 trail, allowing both you and your students to experience a Trails K12 trail firsthand.