

North Country NST – Urban trail marking system

The National Park Service North Country Trail office has designed a trail marking system to be used in urban areas where standard composite posts are not practical. Local volunteers will need to work with the local municipality and/or utility company to ensure permission to mount the signage and what manner is obtained. The system consists of:

- a 4” wide by 12” high white powder coated steel plate with strapping brackets welded to the back
- Or
- a 4” wide by 124” high white powder coated steel plate with holes for bolts or screws (no strapping brackets)

- a new 3” by 9” white on blue “urban strip” with the trail name, seven state outline map showing the trail route, monochrome trail logo, and the words “Follow the Blue Blazes”

- and alternatively [for certified segments only] the 3” by 3” full color trail emblem above a 2” by 6” adhesive blue blaze.

Either sticker arrangement leaves room for a 3” directional arrow if needed.

Decal placement

The normal arrangement of the decals is centered both vertically and horizontally on the 4” x 12” plate, if an arrow is needed, the other decals begin at the top edge of the plate and the arrow is located at the bottom.

Only Certified segments may display the official trail emblem, where it is used we recommend it be intermixed with the urban strip at a 1 in 5 ratio. That is 4 urban strips and 1 Official emblem and plain blue 2” x 6’ blaze.

Sign placement

The plates need to be installed at roughly 1 block intervals at intersections. In all cases the signs must be placed for travel in either direction. Generally, they should be facing the direction of travel on the opposite side of the intersection, where the trail continues straight ahead this creates a “mirror image” on both sides of the street. If the trail turns a corner the plate may need to be mounted on the near side of the intersection with an arrow pointing in the correct direction on at least one side.



