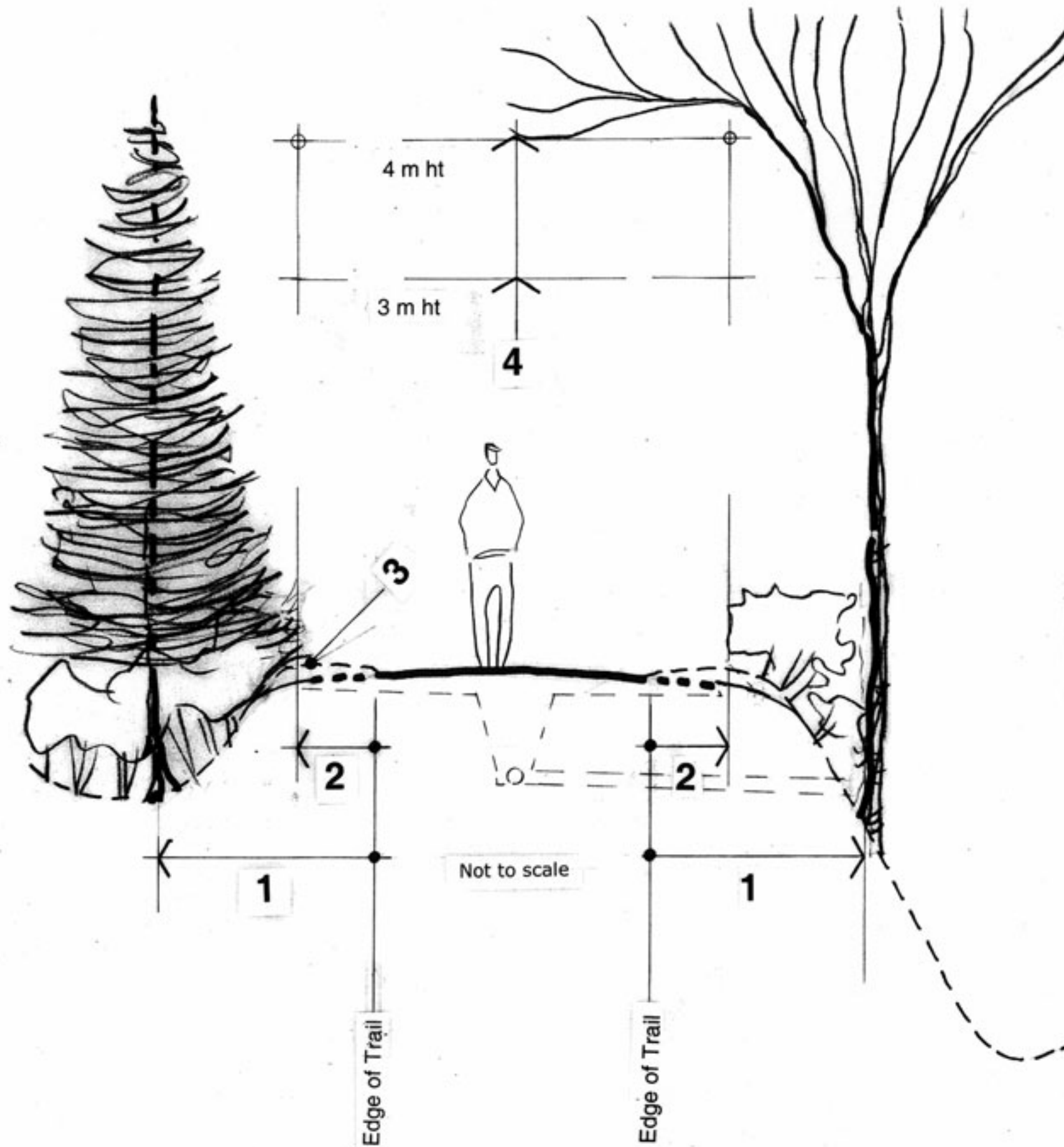


**Vegetation Clearing and Management:
Upland Conditions**



Prepared by Heartland Environmental Design
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1. Clearance to Tree Trunks

The clearance from edge of path to both coniferous and deciduous tree trunks should be minimum 1.5 metres (5'). Trunks become a safety issue regarding head injuries once they reach 35 mm (1 1/2 ") diameter, one metre above the ground. Prior to that they can be considered shrubs.

Tree trunks that are leaning over the path are acceptable as long as they are out of the clear zones. They should be inspected regularly for indications of poor health and instability and should be cut immediately.

Upland tree species are typically slower growing and not as prone to suckering when cut. Close cutting to the ground, followed by mowing of any suckers that may occur, will usually prevent the tree from establishing. Firewood obtained during the initial clearing may be an asset for fundraising or to offset clearing costs. Coniferous trees, particularly red cedar, do not respond well to pruning and should be removed by close cutting to the ground. They will not re-grow.

2. Clearance to Shrub Growth

The clearance from the edge of the path to both coniferous and deciduous shrub growth should be maintained at a minimum of .6 metres (2') Particular care should be paid to the zone between 1 metre and 2.5 metres, where eye contact is more likely. Typically, this vegetation would be cut back to 1 metre or greater, and then allowed to grow in over the season to the .6 metre clearance limit.

3. Existing shoulders

Much of the trail is poorly drained due to the presence of soil shoulders, which remain elevated, as the path has been worn down by motorized vehicles. Where drainage is satisfactory these may remain for most of the trail, but channels will be required at regular intervals to drain snowmelt and flash rainwater. The existing sods can be salvaged and re-set at the lower level to resist erosion.

4. Clearance to Overhead Growth

All overhead growth within 3 metres above the ground should be removed for standard trail use. This height should be increased to a minimum of 4 metres if equestrian use is included. Once upland trees have been limbed, re-growth is less vigorous.