The photos below provide visual examples of typical Trail Class scenarios. Remember that Trail Classes are general categories reflecting development scale, arranged along a continuum, with no hard and fast lines drawn between the classes. The photos below can be used as visual aids to assist in consistent application of trail classification.

**Trail Class 1**

**TC1 – Tread:** Tread intermittent and indistinct.

**TC1 – Obstacles:** Obstacles common, naturally occurring, often substantial
**TC1 – Constructed Features:** Constructed features minimal to non-existent.

**TC1 – Signs:** Route identification signing limited to junctions. Route markers present when trail location is not evident.
Trail Class 2

TC2 – Tread: Tread continuous and discernible, but narrow and rough.

TC2 – Obstacles: Obstacles may be common and substantial. Blockages cleared to define route and protect resource. Vegetation may encroach into trailway.
TC2 – Constructed Features:  Structures are of limited size, scale, and quantity.
**TC2 – Signs:** Route identification signing limited to junctions. Route markers present when location is not evident.

**TC2 – Typical Rec. Environment / Experience:** Recreation environment natural and essentially unmodified.
Trail Class 3

TC3 – Tread: Tread continuous and obvious.

TC3 – Obstacles: Obstacles may be common. Vegetation cleared outside of trailway.
TC3 – Constructed Features:
Trail structures (walls, steps, drainage, raised trail) may be common and substantial.

TC3 – Signs:
Route identification signing at junctions and as needed for user reassurance. Route markers as needed for user reassurance. Destination signing likely outside of wilderness.
Trail Class 4

**TC4 – Tread:** Tread wide and relatively smooth, with few irregularities.

**TC4 – Obstacles:** Obstacles infrequent and insubstantial. Vegetation cleared outside of trailway.
TC4 – Constructed Features: Structures frequent and substantial. Trailside amenities may be present.
**TC4 – Signs:** Wide variety of signs likely present, informational signs likely, interpretive signs possible.

**TC4 – Typical Rec. Environment / Experience:** Recreation environment may be modified.
Trail Class 5

**TC5 – Tread:** Tread wide, firm, stable, and generally uniform. Commonly hardened with asphalt or other imported material.

**TC5 – Obstacles:** Obstacles not present. Grades typically < 8%.
TC5 – **Constructed Features**: Structures frequent or continuous; may include bridges, boardwalks, curbs, handrails, trailside amenities, and similar features.

TC5 – **Signs**: Wide variety of signs present, information and interpretive signs common.

TC5 – **Typical Rec. Environment / Experience**: Recreation environment may be highly modified.