

What is a Chainsaw?

A **chainsaw** is a portable, mechanical saw which cuts with a set of teeth attached to a rotating chain that runs along a guide bar. It is used in activities such as tree felling, limbing, bucking, pruning, cutting firebreaks in wildland fire suppression and harvesting of firewood. The origin is debated, but a chainsaw-like tool was first made around 1830 by

German orthopaedist Bernhard Heine. This instrument, the osteotome, was used to cut bone.



The earliest patent for a practical "endless chain saw" (a saw comprising a chain of links carrying saw teeth and running in a guide frame) was granted to Samuel J. Bens of San Francisco on January 17, 1905. His intent was to fell giant redwoods. Other important contributors to the modern chainsaw are Joseph Buford Cox and Andreas Stihl; the latter patented and developed an electrical chainsaw for use on bucking sites in 1926 and a gasoline-powered chainsaw in 1929, and founded a company to mass-produce them. Chainsaws have almost entirely replaced simple man-powered saws in forestry. – [From wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org)

The Spooky Beavers, along with NPS employees, utilize chainsaws to keep the trails clear in Prince William Forest Park. However, one must pass a 32 hour NPS chainsaw training course and a HeartSaver First Aid/CPR/AED course as well as be approved by the park superintendent before they can use a chainsaw in PWFP. These certifications must be periodically renewed.

Check back here often as we will be describing various tools that the Spooky Beavers utilize when doing trailwork in Prince William Forest Park, VA.