

What is a String Trimmer?

A **string trimmer**, also called a weed-whip, whipper-snipper, weed-whacker, weed eater, line trimmer (in Australia and New Zealand) or a strimmer (in the UK and Ireland), is a **tool** which uses a

flexible monofilament line instead of a blade for cutting grass and other plants near objects, or on steep or irregular terrain. It consists of a



cutting tip at the end of a long shaft with a handle. The string trimmer was invented in the early 1970s by George Ballas of Houston, Texas, who conceived the idea while watching the revolving action of the cleaning brushes in an automatic car wash. His first trimmer was made by attaching pieces of heavy-duty fishing line to a popcorn can bolted to an edger. Ballas developed this into what he called the "Weed Eater", since it chewed up the grass and weeds around trees.

Large trimmers, used for cutting roadside grass in large areas, are often heavy enough to require two hands to operate, and some are even fitted with a harness enabling the user's torso to bear some of their weight. These very large trimmers are often referred to as brush cutters. Brush-cutter types are usually made so that a metal blade can be attached instead of the "string" (or monofilament). A metal blade enables cutting heavier woody brush.

Trimmers that have nylon or metal blades usually require straight driveshafts to handle the higher torque required to turn the heavier disk, and because of the shock loads that are passed back from the blade to the drive shaft and its gearbox. Smaller line trimmers have curved driveshafts to make holding the cutting-head at ground level much easier and with less strain on the operator.

– [From wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org)

The Spooky Beavers utilize both string trimmers and brush cutters with nylon blades to cut back vegetation that grows on the sides of trail beds, bridges and boardwalks in order to keep this vegetation from growing in on the trail.

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.