



Conservation and Trail Management Policy Litter and Graffiti

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The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), a §501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, works closely with Appalachian Trail volunteer maintaining clubs (“Clubs”) and other public and private partners to ensure the protection and stewardship of the natural, cultural, and experiential resources of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (known as ANST, A.T., or “the Trail”). Approximately fifty federal, state, or other public agencies have authority or jurisdiction over lands and resources within the protected A.T. corridor. ATC has a central management role by virtue of its Cooperative Agreement with the USDI National Park Service and its close working partnership with the USDA Forest Service and other agencies.

ATC's Trail management and conservation policies are meant to provide guidance for (a) dissemination to the public; (b) use and implementation by the ATC and the Clubs; and (c) recommendations for land-managing and other agencies. It is the agencies who work within their defined procedures to propose, administer, and enforce public policy. ATC policies are recommendations developed to support appropriate, coordinated Trailwide management.

Overview

This policy is intended to keep the Appalachian Trail and the lands it traverses completely free of litter, refuse, and graffiti along its entire length. The ATC and member clubs will make every effort to publicize a carry-in, carry-out litter policy to hikers and neighbors to the Trail.

Policy

Special efforts should be made with clubs and agency partners to remove accumulated litter and dumps at Trailheads and within the A.T. corridor, including taking steps such as educational signs, closure of dirt roads, and club ridgerunners and/or cooperative law enforcement to prevent future accumulation.

Note: Also see policy on Minimum Impact Backcountry Use.

For questions related to this policy please contact the Appalachian Trail Conservancy at www.appalachiantrail.org, or P.O. Box 807, Harpers Ferry, WV, 25425-807.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy’s mission is to protect, manage, and advocate for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.