



Conservation and Trail Management Policy Sanitation

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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 promote safe and healthful conditions, free from unnecessary, preventable pollution at shelters, designated campsites, and water supplies, particularly at areas of repeated, overnight use by the hiking public and along Trail sections where pollution from outside A.T. boundaries may be a threat.

Policy

ATC, the clubs, and the land-managing agencies should visually evaluate and endeavor to ascertain where existing sanitary conditions may not be acceptable and, to the extent practicable, initiate actions to eliminate or mitigate preventable sanitary problems.

ATC, the clubs, and land-managing agencies should install privies or toilets, that are located and designed to meet local conditions, where other options to maintain sanitary conditions are not effective.



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ATC, the clubs, and the land-managing agencies should conduct educational programs for the hiking public about proper sanitary techniques and the challenges of maintaining and improving sanitary conditions.

ATC will work with the clubs and land-managing agencies to collect management information on successful, efficient techniques and methodologies for managing sanitation and overnight use, will encourage the development of new techniques and methodologies, and will share this information among partners that cooperatively manage the Appalachian Trail.

[Note: See also Overnight Use Areas guidance]

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.