**APPALACHIAN NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL**   
**LOCAL MANAGEMENT PLANNING GUIDE**

**Table of Contents**

[Introduction to Local Management Planning](#_Introduction_to_Local)

[The Appalachian National Scenic Trail Cooperative Management System](#_The_Appalachian_National)

[Cooperative Management System Partners](#_Cooperative_Management_System)

[How A.T. Cooperative Management Works](#_How_A.T._Cooperative)

[Local Management Planning](#_Local_Management_Planning)

[Partnership in Appalachian Trail and Volunteer Management](#_Partnership_in_Appalachian)

[Trail, Facilities, and Visitor Use Management](#_Trail,_Facilities,_and)

[General Trail Management](#_General_Trail_Management)

[Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance](#_Trail_Design,_Construction,)

[Accessibility](#_Accessibility)

[Trailheads and Parking](#_Trailheads_and_Parking)

[Relocations](#_Relocations)

[Side and Connecting Trails](#_Side_and_Connecting)

[Trail Signs](#_Trail_Signs_(treadway) (treadway related)

[Blazing](#_Blazing)

[Stream Crossings and Bridges](#_Stream_Crossings_and)

[Advertising in the A.T. Corridor](#_Advertising_in_the)

[Wilderness](#_Wilderness)

[Special Use Permits](#_Special_Use_Permits)

[Managing the Trail for a Primitive Experience](#_Managing_the_Trail)

[Litter and Graffiti](#_Litter_and_Graffiti)  (including abandoned personal property)

[Emergency Planning and Coordination](#_Emergency_Planning_and)

[Overnight Site Facilities](#_Overnight_Site_Facilities)  (shelters, campsites and sanitation)

[Visitor Use Management](#_Visitor_Use_Management)

[Public Information and Outreach](#_Public_Information_and)

[Animal-Deterrent Food Storage](#_Animal-Deterrent_Food_Storage)

[Organized or Sponsored Group Use](#_Organized_or_Sponsored)

[Land and Resource Management](#_Land_and_Resource)

[Agricultural Use on A.T. Corridor Lands](#_Agricultural_Use_on)

[Other Special or Unique Management Areas](#_Other_Special_or)

[Natural Resource Management](#_Natural_Resource_Management)

[Resource Management](#_Resource_Management)

[Wildlife Management](#_Wildlife_Management)

[Visual Resources Management](#_Visual_Resources_Management)

[Threatened and Endangered Species](#_Threatened_and_Endangered)

[Invasive Species and Pest Management](#_Invasive_Species_and)

[Vegetation Management](#_Vegetation_Management)

[Timber Management](#_Timber_Management)

[Prescribed Burn](#_Prescribed_Burn)

[Land Protection](#_Land_Protection)

[Corridor Monitoring](#_Corridor_Monitoring)

[Incidentally Acquired Structures and Dams](#_Incidentally_Acquired_Structures)

[Road Closures and Access Control](#_Road_Closures_and)

[Emergency Planning and Coordination](#_Emergency_Planning_and_1)

[Visual Resources](#_Visual_Resources)

[Climate Change](#_Climate_Change)

[External Threats](#_External_Threats)

[Impacts of Development](#_Impacts_of_Development)

[Cultural Resource](#_Cultural_Resource)

[Other Recreational Activities and Non-Permitted Uses](#_Other_Recreational_Activities)

[Horse, Pack Animal, and Bicycle Use](#_Horse,_Pack_Animal,)

[Other Recreational Activities](#_Other_Recreational_Activities_1)

[Non-Permitted Uses](#_Non-Permitted_Uses)

# 

# Introduction to Local Management Planning

Local management plans are the cornerstones for cooperative management of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (A.T.). The A.T. Comprehensive Plan describes the necessity of the local management plan to the decentralized partnership system for the trail’s management.

A management plan for each section of Trail describes the management tasks, defines and assesses each partner’s contributions to management, assigns responsibilities, and provides standard procedures for related trail, facility, and resource operations.

This edition of the Planning Guide is intended to outline the essential components, serve as a resource to additional information, and to offer sections below each topic for local area approach in order to expedite local management plan creation.

As clubs develop local management plans, Clubs will review USDA Forest Service Forest Land and Resource Management Plans and regional, forest, and district orders, [APPA Compendium](https://www.nps.gov/appa/learn/management/upload/2022_APPA_Compendium_020322.pdf) and related NPS plans, policies and agreements, as well as state partner regulations or guidance on trail management. Throughout the development of a local management plan, open discussions with land managers and ATC regional staff are needed to support the collaborative approach to the management of the A.T.

In developing its local management plan, a Trail club needs to consult with its agency partners, ATC, local officials, and other organizations concerned with Trail issues. The club should also provide opportunities for public input into the plan. That can be done formally, through a public meeting co-sponsored with an agency partner, or informally, through public notice of a club meeting focusing on planning issues. The club also must assume responsibility for writing the plan and amending it, as necessary, to reflect new club policies and goals. ATC, particularly through its regional staff, is available to assist in this process.

Techniques for planning are outlined in the section [Local Management Planning](#bookmark=id.1ksv4uv). That section outlines the basics of a local plan, what to include in the written plan, and the approach for approval of the final document.

# The Appalachian National Scenic Trail Cooperative Management System

The Appalachian Trail has been a cooperative enterprise since 1925, when the Appalachian Trail Conference was formed, with private individuals and federal agency representatives among its Board of Managers. In 1938, at ATC’s behest, the first Appalachian Trail agreement was signed by the National Park Service (NPS) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), sealing a commitment by the volunteer Trail community and the two principal federal partners that continues today.

Since that first agreement, many agreements have been executed among the maintaining Trail clubs, municipalities, landowners, states, federal agencies, and ATC. The National Trails System Act, passed in 1968 strongly encourages this activity:

*The Secretary… may enter written cooperative agreements with the States or their political subdivisions, landowners, private organizations, or individuals to operate, develop, and maintain any portion of such a… trail, within or outside a federally administered area.*

—Section 7(h) of the National Trails System Act, as amended 2009

The fundamental management principles of this cooperative management system are outlined in the [Comprehensive Plan for the Protection, Management, Development, and Use of the Appalachian Trail](https://www.nps.gov/appa/learn/management/upload/compplan_web.pdf) (usually referred to in this document as the A.T. Comprehensive Plan). Published in 1981 and republished in 1987, that document was prepared by the National Park Service Appalachian Trail Park Office and approved by the director of the National Park Service and chief of the U.S. Forest Service. The A.T. Comprehensive Plan commits the federal agencies to support the volunteer Trail community and the cooperative management of the Trail.

Within the A.T. Comprehensive Plan the National Park Service recognizes the strength of the public/private effort to meet the diversity of the resource and its myriad management actions, and recognizes that consolidation of existing volunteer/agency relationships into one system could endanger the traditional spirit of cooperation.

*“Crucial to the planning for the Appalachian Trail, and reflecting the decentralized partnership system for its management, are the planning efforts, occurring at the local and regional levels. Each trail club, with the participation of its agency partner, and where appropriate, the local community, is preparing a Local Management Plan, which documents and may expand the club’s traditional management of the Trail. This Plan describes the management tasks, assesses each partner’s contribution to management, assigns responsibilities, and provides a standard procedure to identify site-specific actions needed and the process to be followed.”*

--Section IV of the ANST Comprehensive Plan 1987

The A.T. Comprehensive Plan cautions that the local management plan should not be seen as an end, but an ongoing process of discussion and consultation between partners.

At any particular location on the Appalachian Trail, the Cooperative Management Partners include the local land manager, the local A.T. Club, and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

## Cooperative Management System Partners

The primary partners on any given section of the Appalachian Trail are usually the Trail club, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and the land management entity, which may be:

* state land-managing partners (if any),
* primary federal land managing partners (such as: NPS, USFS, US Fish & Wildlife, TVA, Smithsonian Institution).

Many secondary partners, such as state and local law-enforcement agencies, provide support and should be recognized in the local management plans.

The major roles and contributions of each partner are summarized in the rest of this chapter.

### Appalachian Trail Conservancy

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy’s mission is to protect, manage, and advocate for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail so that the A.T. and its surrounding landscape are protected forever for all to enjoy.

As the organization that carries much of the day-to-day management of the Appalachian Trail, enabled through cooperative agreements with the National Park Service, the Forest Service, Trail clubs, and states, the ATC develops and adopts policies and guidance by its Board of Directors to support the public and private partnerships in the continuous care of the resource in meaningfully consistent ways. The policies and guidance from the ATC are crafted through collaborative processes through ATC’s Stewardship Council and Regional Partnership Committees, and described in more detail in the [Policies](#bookmark=id.lnxbz9) section below.

ATC serves as the convenor of public and private partners and the connector through which information, initiatives, and action often flow.

### Appalachian Trail Club (Partners in A.T. and Volunteer Management)

The Trail clubs are responsible for keeping the A.T. “forever open, obvious, and narrowly passable for hiking” and for on-the-ground maintenance and management of associated facilities and lands. Trail clubs mobilize and manage local volunteers, serve as early-warnings for trail threats, are key grassroots advocates in trail protection, and ensure means for civic investment in *the People’s Trail.*

ATC and each Trail club have a signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) that defines the mutual agreement of responsibilities and formalizes the relationship between ATC and the club for the management of the A.T.

Through Sponsored Group Agreements, also called Volunteer Service Agreements (VSA) with federal land managers, clubs agree to specific volunteer management requirements, including, a current volunteer roster via OF301A form, reporting of hours, annual work planning meeting, and a volunteer safety program and training.

### National Park Service: Appalachian National Scenic Trail

Administrator of the ANST: The National Park Service (NPS) retains the primary authority and responsibility for the acquisition, development, and administration of the Appalachian Trail. Under the National Trails System Act, the Secretary of the Interior is responsible for administration of the entire Appalachian Trail, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture. As a result the National Park Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Interior, oversees the Appalachian Trail and works in consultation with the Forest Service, an agency of the Department of Agriculture.

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail (APPA), located in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, is the NPS unit with the overall responsibility of the Trail. The park superintendent carries out the duties and authorities of the Secretary in administration of the A.T., including land acquisition outside of established federal units and management direction on NPS-APPA acquired lands.

APPA is responsible for law enforcement, land acquisition, boundary surveys, and compliance with environmental laws and regulations such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The park superintendent and his/her staff are bound by the same regulations that are in effect for all national park system lands, as enumerated in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, “Parks, Forests and Public Property,” and in the regularly updated A.T.-specific Orders. The park superintendent also reviews Trail club LMPs to ensure that the policies and practices identified in the LMPs comply with NPS regulations. Furthermore, pursuant to review and acceptance of the LMP by the park superintendent, LMP designations could have force-of-law on NPS lands and may be enforced by the appropriate authorities.

Primary APPA planning documents, including the A.T. Comprehensive Plan ([part 1](https://www.nps.gov/appa/getinvolved/upload/AT-Comprehensive-Plan-1981-Part1.pdf)) ([part 2](https://www.nps.gov/appa/getinvolved/upload/AT-Comprehensive-Plan-1981-Part2.pdf)), the [Foundation Document](https://www.nps.gov/appa/getinvolved/upload/APPA-Foundation-Document-2015.pdf), and [APPA Business Plan](https://www.nps.gov/appa/getinvolved/upload/APPA_2015_Business_Plan_page_version.pdf). These and other planning resources are also available at APPA’s [Planning Process](https://www.nps.gov/appa/getinvolved/planning.htm) page. The [APPA Facility WebApp](https://nps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=cea61820e75c4ce997f866eea3aaf5b3) is a valuable tool in the management of the A.T. The WebApp captures the trail, facilities, and land ownership along the length of the Trail.

APPA as a land manager: Land acquired for the protection of the ANST has often become lands managed by NPS via APPA (if not transferred to USFS). When APPA is a land manager to specific sections of the A.T. the management direction is under NPS policy and direction.

### National Park Service: Other Units

The Appalachian Trail crosses six established units of the national park system, each of which is overseen by a park superintendent: Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Blue Ridge Parkway, Shenandoah National Park, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, C&O Canal National Historical Park, and Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. The parks retain oversight of the A.T. within their boundaries as part of their overall management of the park and participate in the day-to-day affairs of the Trail, including active involvement in local management planning with the Trail clubs. They are primary partners as signatories on cooperative agreements. Clubs must work in close consultation with the individual park units so that the policies, practices, and actions identified in their local management plans are coordinated with those developed for the park’s general-management and resource-management plans (“park within a park”).

### U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

Approximately 1,015 miles of the Appalachian Trail cross eight national forests, two in the Eastern Region (USFS Region 9) and six in the Southern Region (Region 8). The Trail crosses lands in Virginia, West Virginia, Vermont, and New Hampshire that were acquired by the National Park Service for the Trail but have been administratively transferred from the NPS to the USFS. Each national forest is made up of several ranger districts, the local level of interaction with A.T. Clubs.

The U.S. Forest Service is a multiple-use agency—that is, it manages lands for many different uses, including timber management, watershed protection, wildlife habitat, range, and recreation opportunities. Beginning in the mid-1980s, primary direction for the management of the A.T. has been included in the *Forest Land and Resource Management Plan* (FLMP) for each national forest. In each plan, the A.T. and the lands surrounding it are identified as either a “management area” (MA) or a “management prescription” (MRx). Clubs with responsibilities on U.S. Forest Service lands should check with their respective Forest for the latest version of its plan.

The A.T. management area or management prescription is a defined area around the Trail, within which the primary management objectives are the protection and enhancement of the A.T. The USFS has developed many innovative techniques for involving the public—including ATC and the local A.T. clubs—in management decisions and for balancing multiple resource objectives in planning forest activities. Examples of those techniques include scoping and request for comments as a part of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis on proposals, and the Scenery Management System (SMS), which is used to define the boundaries of the A.T. management area or management prescription on most national forests, and to evaluate potential visual resource impacts as viewed from the A.T. on all national forests.

Clubs with responsibilities in Forest Service lands must participate in Forest Plan revisions, as well as be responsive to scoping notices that may impact the A.T. Ranger district personnel are primary partners in the preparation and review of LMPs.

### Other Federal Agencies

Other federal agencies may have trail management interest on their land. These entities may include US Fish & Wildlife, Tennessee Valley Authority, the Smithsonian Institution.

### State Agencies

#### Land and Resource Management Partners

Primary management of state lands is usually carried out by the relevant state park, forest, or local fish and wildlife office. State agencies administer state lands under different authorities, and the degree of emphasis given to Trail matters varies from agency to agency. Because of this wide variation in agency charters, a need has been identified for “A.T. management zones” or “corridors” on state-owned lands in order to establish consistent policies and regulations for lands within the A.T. corridor.

#### Secondary State Agency Partners

These partners can include state and local agencies with responsibilities or activities that may affect the A.T. in some way, e.g., natural and cultural/historic management departments, departments of transportation, law-enforcement agencies, search-and-rescue agencies, fire-control agencies, and fish-and-wildlife agencies. Each affected agency should be consulted during the local management planning process and offered an opportunity for review and comment. Local law-enforcement officials and emergency-response personnel should participate in the development of strategies for handling emergencies and other incidents on the Trail. Close cooperation with State Historic Preservation Offices and Natural Heritage or Resource Offices is also a necessary component of A.T. management.

**The State’s Role in Preparation of the Local Management Plan:** All state agencies that own and manage land traversed by the A.T. should take an active role in development of the local management plan. The Trail club should contact them early in the planning process and get a clear understanding of state policies and regulations affecting lands crossed by the Trail. Regardless of whether a cooperative agreement is in place, state agencies should be offered the opportunity for review and comment on the plan in its draft form, and relevant comments should be incorporated into the final version of the plan.

Detail your state partners here:

|  |
| --- |
| **State Partner Entities List** |
|  |
|  |
|  |

Contact your Regional ATC office for support in identifying your state partners and their intersection with local area management.

## How A.T. Cooperative Management Works

Local Management: Central to the management of the A.T. is the local management of the Appalachian Trail. This Cooperative Management System is composed, at any given location, of the local A.T. Club, ATC, and the land managing agency (whether federal, state, or local). This local consortium gathers at least annually, though some local partnerships gather twice annually, to plan work, track accomplishments, and ensure timely review processes. For example, the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club works on three USFS districts; twice annually the club plans a meeting that includes participation from its leaders, district personnel, and ATC. If a club’s responsibility is to a single large land manager of a different agency, such as Shenandoah National Park, that club may meet separately for its planning meetings with ATC and that unit, from other lands that it manages.

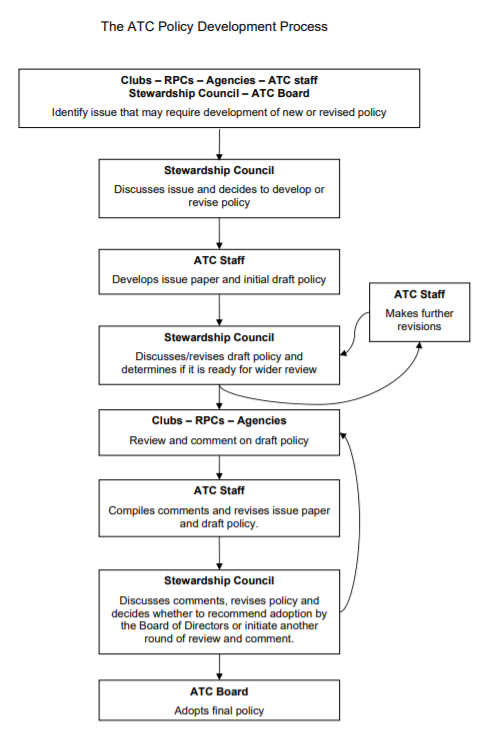
These meetings, separate from ATC Regional Partnership Committee meetings, help establish and maintain local relationships, trust, and close communication about important issues and opportunities.

Regional Partnership: Regional Partnership Committee (RPC) meetings, held twice annually, bring together a group of geographically organized A.T. Clubs, as well as regional ATC staff, regional land managers, and personnel from the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. The four RPCs respectively include one primary and one alternate representative from each of the A.T. maintaining clubs in their region. RPCs serve as the inter-communication link between clubs, as well as the information conduit between ATC and agency partners. RPCs serve as the voice of volunteers to advise ATC regional staff, as needed, and provide an important role in either recommending or refining Trail management and conservation policies to the ATC Stewardship Council. A.T. Clubs select their own representatives to the RPC, and each RPC selects its chair as well as a representative to the Stewardship Council.

Trail-wide Stewardship Guidance: The ATC Stewardship Council’s role is to advise ATC staff and Board of Directors regarding policy and programs related to the conservation and stewardship of the A.T. and surrounding lands. The Council is the forum for cooperation, coordination, and communication among the partners in the A.T. shared stewardship community.

ATC Policies: The ATC adopts policies in order to state ATC’s position on issues affecting the Trail and to facilitate consistent management of the Trail through 8 national forests, 6 national parks, 14 states and numerous state and local jurisdictions. The policy process is driven by issues that arise at the local, regional, or Trail-wide levels. For some issues, less-prescriptive guidance, or suggestions, rather than formal policy, are developed.

With policies in hand, ATC is best able to provide guidance and coordination in decision-making of all partners by working with federal and state partners to understand the rules and regulations and find acceptable compromises and adaptations between legal requirements and the unique volunteer-based resource managers dedicated to the Trail.



## Local Management Planning

### Plan Development

The end result of the local management planning process for the Appalachian Trail is a document called the “local management plan.” Most Trail clubs have patterned their plans after the format of this document. However, any format for the written plan is acceptable. Trail club local management plans should be updated at least once every ten years.

Recently, some A.T. Clubs have successfully organized their local management plan in a shared cloud drive (e.g. Google Drive or Dropbox) in a LMP-labeled folder. The sub-folders of the LMP can then organize files by topic issue. Separately, clubs often have a historical documents-labeled folder in the cloud to host interesting tidbits from the past. By scanning historic resources and other hard copy references, as well as digitizing the LMP, clubs are able to relinquish the “box of stuff” that has traditionally been passed from leader(s)-to-leader(s).

A typical Local Management Plan includes the following components:

*Introduction*—State the purpose of the local management plan: to guide the club in fulfilling its responsibility for the maintenance and management of a specific section of the Appalachian Trail in cooperation with its agency partner(s). Reference the documents that provide the authority for the local management plans—the National Trails System Act (Public Law 90-543, as amended), the 1981 A.T. Comprehensive Plan, and the agreements that delegate responsibility for maintenance and management of the Appalachian Trail to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and its member Trail clubs. Include a short paragraph on the planning process—who was involved in preparing the plan, how the public was given an opportunity to participate, and how often the plan will be updated and reviewed.

*Background*—This section contains two basic components: a description of the Trail route and a short history of the club's involvement in maintenance and management of the Trail. The description of the Trail route should identify important physiographic features and jurisdictions of land-managing agencies. A map or set of maps showing the Trail route, corridor, and access routes should be included, either in this section or as an appendix. At minimum, link to the WebApp/Web Map of the Trail Asset Inventory, and include your club’s section. It may be helpful to produce inventories of each asset type for inclusion in an appendix. It is advisable that you include a list of inventoried roads that are included in the Trail Asset Inventory since they do not appear in the WebApp.

*The Partners*—The roles of the primary partners, which include the local Trail club, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the state agency, and the federal land-managing agency, should be briefly outlined and any cooperative agreements or other documents defining management responsibilities should be referenced and included as appendices. If appropriate, club’s own local-area committees, such as the Orange/Rockland County A.T. Management Committee or the Maryland A.T. Committee, should be mentioned.

* *[Responsibilities Matrix](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1vlKxl_nxXH_Ui20rSvQi0wTVs6iB3M36y65kyvztjlQ/edit?usp=sharing)*
* *Agreements Supporting Partnership and A.T. Management*—Consult ATC regional staff for a list of current documents, and their initiation and expiration date-if known. Include your group’s Volunteer Service Agreements and MOUs with partners, as well as other documents that support the partnership in its shared care of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

*Topic Area Management Principles and Action Plans*—These are the heart of the local management plan. Based on the Topic Areas in this Guide, the club prepares a short issue statement on its management philosophy or principles, as well as corresponding action plans for fulfilling the defined statements. Text in red is offered as a template for adaptation by clubs. Change the text color and add appropriate information.

Within this guide, topic areas are presented in a table and allow for A.T. Clubs to expand on each topic area in the section that follows. For each section, it may be helpful to remind readers that the trail inventory for each topic is found on the WebApp, sorted to club and topic feature.

###### **A Sample Format for Topics Related to a Club’s Management of the A.T.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policies** | **Land Manager Policies or Plans** | **Reference Resources or Training** |
| *Linked list* | *Initial linked list* | *Linked list* |
| *May require additional club research* |  |

Management Principles:

Action Plan:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A few samples are available below from Local Management Plans to help illustrate the process are found in sections for the topics [Trail Management](#bookmark=id.qsh70q), [Climate Change](#bookmark=id.41mghml), and [Unmanned Aircraft](#bookmark=id.37m2jsg). The example text is presented in gray and is a different font to help offset the sample content.

### Local Management Plan Review and Approval

Local management plans undergo a review process to ensure consistency with the aims and objectives of ATC, the policies in this Planning Guide, and those of the land-management agencies. This process is similar for any important Trail stewardship decision as described above.

The final step in preparing a local management plan is to obtain a formal endorsement of the plan from ATC. [An approval form is found here](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/lmp-approval-form.pdf). At a minimum, the following individuals and organizations should have reviewed the plan before it is submitted for endorsement:

* The Trail club’s officers
* The appropriate representative(s) of the land-managing agency partner(s)
* The National Park Service APPA Office
* The ATC regional director
* The ATC Vice President of Regional and Trail Operations, or other individual, if delegated.
* The Regional Partnership Committee

Perhaps the most effective method for obtaining review and comment prior to endorsement of a local management plan is informal consultation: contact individuals in the Trail club, ATC, the NPS APPA Office, the land-managing agencies, and members of the public who would have an interest in the plan; offer to let them review a draft and provide comments before the plan is finalized. When review is formally requested, reviewers should be given at least 30 days to comment.

### Before Beginning

Before embarking on any Local Management Plan, A.T. Club leaders should ensure they have refreshed their familiarity with the [Comprehensive Plan](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ATCompPlan.pdf) and the [Foundation Document](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/APPA_Foundation-Document_December_2014.pdf), as well as other relevant management documents for land managers.

# 

# Partnership in Appalachian Trail and Volunteer Management

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy and Guidance** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Trail Assignment and Reassignment Policy](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Trail-Assignment-and-Reassignment-Policy.pdf)  [Management Plans and project approval](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Management-Plans-Project-Proposals.pdf)  [Trail Crew Safety and Skills Training](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Trail-Crew-Safety-and-Skills-Training.pdf)  [Check-in, Check-out Policy](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Check-in-Checkout-Policy.pdf)  [Chainsaw and Crosscut Saw Training and Certification](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Chainsaw-and-Crosscut-Saw-Training-and-Certification.pdf) | [Volunteers in Parks Act](https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/STATUTE-84/pdf/STATUTE-84-Pg472.pdf)  [Volunteers in Forests Act](https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Volunteers%20In%20The%20National%20Forests%20Act%20Of%201972.pdf)  [NPS Director’s Order 7](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/volunteer/do7-rm7.htm)  [NPS Director’s Order 45](https://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DO_45.pdf)  [USFS Manual 1830 Volunteer and Service Programs](https://www.fs.usda.gov/im/directives/fsm/1800/wo_1830_Amend-2020-Volunteers%20and%20Service%20Programs.docx)  [Welcome to the Forest Service: A Guide for Volunteers](https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/catt/pdf/documents/VolunteerOrientationBooklet.pdf)  *Volunteer Service Agreements - specific to club/managers* | [A.T. Partner Resources for Volunteer Management](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/volunteer-management/)  [Volunteer Safety and Training](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/safety/)  [A.T. Volunteer Engagement Platform](http://www.appalachiantrail.org/waystovolunteer) |
| *\*Include any state land manager partner resources related to volunteering* |  |

**Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Action Plan (near and/or long-term) / Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by club

# Trail, Facilities, and Visitor Use Management

## General Trail Management

**Philosophy**

[ATC Policy on Trail Design Construction and Maintenance (1979)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Trail-Design-Construction-and-Maintenance.pdf): *The Appalachian Trail in its entirety shall be kept forever open, obvious, and narrowly passable for hiking. The treadway shall pass lightly over the land to provide for the least disturbance to the natural setting. The Trail shall be marked and cleared to offer passage that may be both enjoyable for the reasonably prepared and in harmony with the natural environment...so that a visitor unfamiliar with the area can discern the direction of the route and the location of water sources and facilities.*

[2006 NPS Management Policies](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf) 9.2.2.2

*Trail design will vary to accommodate a wide range of users and be appropriate to user patterns and site conditions…Backcountry trails will offer visitors a primitive outdoor experience and should remain unsurfaced and modest in character. The use of nonnative materials in trail design or maintenance is not permitted.*

[2009 USFS FSM 2300, Chapter 2350 Trail, River and Similar Recreation Opportunities:](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5403594.pdf) *Manage each trail to meet the Trail Management Objectives (TMO) identified for that trail, based on applicable land management plan direction, travel management decisions, trail-specific decisions, and other related direction, as well as management priorities and available resources. For each NFS trail or NFS trail segment, identify and document its TMOs, including the five Trail Fundamentals, Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications, design criteria, travel management strategies, and maintenance criteria [2353.12].*

[Comprehensive Plan, Section II, 5](https://wildeast.appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ATCompPlan.pdf): *Trail design, construction, and maintenance should reflect a concern for safety without detracting from the opportunity for hikers to experience the wild and scenic lands by their own unaided efforts, and without sacrificing aspects of the Trail which may challenge their skill and stamina. Attempts to provide protection for the unprepared lead to a progressive diminution of the experience available to others*

### Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance

From its beginnings, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy has considered as its main responsibility ensuring that the Appalachian Trail is well-maintained and well-marked for visitor use. ATC has viewed Trail design, construction, and maintenance as the primary job of the Trail-maintaining clubs, and a well maintained and well-marked section of Trail as the basic measure of a club’s success.

In 1981, ATC produced *Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance* to serve as a guide to volunteers who were involved in designing, constructing, or maintaining portions of the Appalachian Trail. Shortly thereafter, ATC published an abbreviated version of the guide, called The *Appalachian Trail Fieldbook*, to provide Trail workers with a handy field manual. The original book has since been updated and the 2000 version was renamed *Appalachian Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance,* and is referenced many times in this document. The *Fieldbook* was republished in 2003.

**Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance (continued)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [ATC Policies on Trail Design Construction and Maintenance Summary](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Trail-Design-Construction-and-Maintenance.pdf) | [2006 NPS Management Policies](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf) 9.2.2.2  [2009 USFS FSM 2300, Chapter 2350 Trail, River and Similar Recreation Opportunities](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5403594.pdf)  [Comprehensive Plan, Section II, 5](https://wildeast.appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ATCompPlan.pdf) | [Appalachian Trail and Facilities Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/trail-management/), includes   * APPA Trail Construction and Environmental Review Compliance Guidelines and flow chart * APPA Facilities Update Procedures   *Appalachian Trail Design Construction and Maintenance*  ATC *Fieldbook*  [USFS *Trail Construction and Maintenance Handbook*](https://www.fs.usda.gov/t-d/pubs/pdfpubs/pdf07232806/pdf07232806dpi300.pdf)  (your club’s) Visitor Experience Matrix |
|  | SAMPLE of State Guidance (for reference): CMR 12.05: Rules of Conduct on DCR Properties – Appalachian Trail (1) The Appalachian Trail is intended primarily as a primitive footpath and is managed and maintained for that purpose |  |

**Trail Design Construction, and Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

**Management Principles** (Example)

The AMC Western-Mass Chapter’s A.T. Committee accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance as our own as of {date} with the exception that local modifications to standards found within *A.T. Design Construction and Maintenance* must be approved by the A.T. Committee and DCR.

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:** (Example)

1. Inspection of the condition of the Trail is the responsibility of the A.T. Committee, and will be performed at regular intervals.

2. A.T. Committee volunteers will regularly visually inspect designated overnight sites, parking areas, trailheads and other areas of congregation for physically compromised, diseased, dead or dying trees. The results of these inspections and corrective actions taken will be documented. Agency partners will conduct training to assist volunteers in identifying potentially hazardous trees and assist in their removal at the request of the A.T. Committee. Sites where trees are an eminent danger may be closed by the land-managing agency until the issue is resolved.

3. The A.T. Committee organizes the selection and training of volunteer maintainers for each section of trail. Maintainers are responsible for maintaining clear blazes, removing litter, keeping the pathway clear, housekeeping of overnight sites, clearing drainage structures of debris and minor trail hardening.

4. Maintainers are further responsible for identifying and reporting to their Coordinator any problems or recommendations that are beyond their abilities to carry out. Maintainer Coordinators and the A.T. Committee will use this information to establish a schedule of work parties each season to complete major footpath projects.

### Accessibility

This section of resources relates to all aspects of trail and facility management on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ATC Policy and Guidance | Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans | Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any |
| [Accessibility Policy, 1995](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Accessibility.pdf)  [Guidance for Increasing Opportunities for Access on the Appalachian Trail (2007)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/increasing-opportunities-for-access-on-the-appalachian-trail-a-design-guide.pdf) | [Accessibility - Appalachian National Scenic Trail (U.S. National Park Service)](https://www.nps.gov/appa/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm)  [2006 NPS Management Policies](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf) 8.2.4 | [Appalachian Trail and Facilities Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/trail-management/), includes   * APPA Trail Construction and Environmental Review Compliance Guidelines and flow chart * APPA Facilities Update Procedures   [USFS Accessibility Resources](https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/national-forests-grasslands/accessibility/resources)  [US Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines](https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/FSTAG-2013-Update.pdf) (FSTAG)  [US Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines](https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/FSORAG-2013-Update.1.pdf) (FSORAG)  [Accessible Facilities Guidelines and Drawings](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/appendix-i-accessible-facilities-guidelines-and-drawings.pdf)  *Appalachian Trail Design Construction and Maintenance*  ATC *Fieldbook*  [USFS *Trail Construction and Maintenance Handbook*](https://www.fs.usda.gov/t-d/pubs/pdfpubs/pdf07232806/pdf07232806dpi300.pdf) |
|  | Additional resources: |

**Accessibility Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Trailheads and Parking

Careful planning of Trailheads is important for two main reasons: (1) location of Trailheads is a powerful tool for controlling where and how much use the Trail receives; and (2) Trailheads are the most visible evidence of the Trail for the general public and provide the first impression of the Trail to its visitors. If a Trailhead cannot be maintained by the Trail club, agency partner, or someone else on a regular basis, then the Trail is probably better off without a Trailhead at that location.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ATC Policy and Guidance | Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans | Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any |
| [ATC Policy on Trailheads and Parking](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Trailheads-and-Parking.pdf) | [2006 NPS Management Policies](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf)  9.2.2.8, 9.2.4  APPA Wayfinding information | [Appalachian Trail and Facilities Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/trail-management/), includes   * APPA Trail Construction and Environmental Review Compliance Guidelines and flow chart * APPA Facilities Update Procedures   *Appalachian Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance* |
| Additional land manager policy/plans, etc: | Additional resources:  State/Local DOT requirements |

**Trailheads and Parking Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Relocations

ATC serves as guarantor that the primitive quality of the Appalachian Trail is maintained or enhanced in the relocation process. ATC cooperates with federal agencies in completing the environmental analyses and consultations required by National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), etc.

ATC and the Forest Service developed an “Optimal Location Review” process to ensure that the optimal A.T. route was selected before acquisition. (This process is still used on USFS lands in the Southern region of the Trail). Trail clubs should check with their ATC regional office for guidance.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ATC Policy and Guidance | Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans | Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any |
| [ATC Guidance on Relocations](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Relocations-Guidance.pdf) |  | [Appalachian Trail and Facilities Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/trail-management/), includes   * APPA Trail Construction and Environmental Review Compliance Guidelines and flow chart * APPA Facilities Update Procedures   [Optimal Location Review](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/optimal-location-review-process.pdf)  *Appalachian Trail Design Construction and Maintenance*  *ATC Fieldbook*  [USFS *Trail Construction and Maintenance Handbook*](https://www.fs.usda.gov/t-d/pubs/pdfpubs/pdf07232806/pdf07232806dpi300.pdf) |
| Additional land manager policy/plans, etc: | Additional resources: |

**Relocations Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Side and Connecting Trails

The National Trails System Act makes specific reference to the formal designation of side and connecting trails as components of the National Trail System. Formal designation is the responsibility of the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture (if that trail is located within national forest proclamation boundaries) or the U.S. Secretary of the Interior (on all other lands).

The following definitions of designated side and connecting trails are consistent with the legislation:

* Designated side trail—Any trail formally designated as such by action of the Secretary of Agriculture or Secretary of the Interior that intersects the Appalachian Trail and provides additional access to the Appalachian Trail from outside the Appalachian Trail corridor.
* Designated connecting trail—Any trail formally designated as such by action of the Secretary of Agriculture or Secretary of the Interior that connects the Appalachian Trail and another National Scenic, Historic, or Recreation Trail.

Other trails intersecting the A.T. do not require formal designation at the Secretarial level. They may include:

• Spur Trails--Provide passage to points of interest or Trail facilities.

• Access Trails-- Access Trails are typically local trails that intersect the A.T. and are formally recognized and maintained by a local Trail club or another Trail management partner. These trails may originate and travel on public land, private land, or cross both before they connect to the A.T. Often informally referred to as “side trails”.

• Coaligned Trails--Other trails that share the same treadway and protected corridor as the A.T.

Spur and Access Trails as described above are often referred to informally as “side trails” and are not intended to be an extension of the National Trails System—that is, are not intended as Designated Side Trails or Designated Connecting Trails, and therefore do not require action by the Secretary. However, planning for construction of any new Spur or Access trails must include the same formal review process noted above for Relocations.

**Side and Connecting Trails (continued)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy and Guidance** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Side and Connecting Trail Policy 2017](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Connecting-Spur-Side-Access-and-Coaligned-Trail-1.pdf) |  | [Appalachian Trail and Facilities Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/trail-management/), includes   * APPA Trail Construction and Environmental Review Compliance Guidelines and Flow Chart * APPA Facilities Update Procedures   *Appalachian Trail Design Construction and Maintenance*  *ATC Fieldbook*  [USFS *Trail Construction and Maintenance Handbook*](https://www.fs.usda.gov/t-d/pubs/pdfpubs/pdf07232806/pdf07232806dpi300.pdf) |
| Additional land manager policy/plans, etc: | Additional resources: |

**Side and Connecting Trails Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

**Inventory of Side Trails Maintained/Managed by Trail Club**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Trail Signs (treadway related)

Traditionally, ATC has encouraged the use of simple directional signs, in addition to blazing, to help hikers find their way and locate side trails, shelters, and drinking-water supplies. Informational and regulatory signs are used to inform hikers, Trail neighbors, and potential trespassers about restrictions that apply on the Appalachian Trail and corridor lands. Good planning can ensure that a sign system conveys the necessary information in a pleasing, unobtrusive manner. “Sign pollution,” in which there are more signs than necessary to direct and inform hikers and other users of the Trail lands, should be avoided.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy and Guidance** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Trail Signs (1995)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Trail-Signs-Policy.pdf)  [Wilderness (1991)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Wilderness-Policy.pdf)  Consult your land manager and ATC if you need regulatory signs | [2006 NPS Management Policies](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf) 6.3.10.4 (pg 85/180)[Wilderness] and  9.3.1.1 (pg 145/180) [General]  [USFS Sign and Poster Guidelines](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1exbaGUW5J0RMSIPVg4xk-W7XcPgd5czD/view?usp=sharing)  Chapter 5A (pg 311/681). 5B for Wilderness Areas | [Appalachian Trail and Facilities Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/trail-management/), includes   * APPA Facilities Update Procedures   *Appalachian Trail Design Construction and Maintenance*  *ATC Fieldbook*  [USFS *Trail Construction and Maintenance Handbook*](https://www.fs.usda.gov/t-d/pubs/pdfpubs/pdf07232806/pdf07232806dpi300.pdf) |
| Additional land manager policy/plans, etc: | Additional resources: |

**Trail Signs Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Blazing

The Appalachian Trail shall be marked and cleared to offer passage that may be both enjoyable for the reasonably prepared and in harmony with the natural environment... so that a hiker unfamiliar with the area can discern the direction of the route and the location of water sources and facilities.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy and Guidance** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Trail Design Construction and Maintenance Policies](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Trail-Design-Construction-and-Maintenance.pdf)  [Trail Signs (1995)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Trail-Signs-Policy.pdf)  [Wilderness (1991)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Wilderness-Policy.pdf) |  | *Appalachian Trail Design Construction and Maintenance*  ATC Fieldbook  [USFS *Trail Construction and Maintenance Handbook*](https://www.fs.usda.gov/t-d/pubs/pdfpubs/pdf07232806/pdf07232806dpi300.pdf)  [Appalachian Trail and Facilities Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/trail-management/) |
| Additional land manager policy/plans, etc: | Additional resources: |

**Blazing Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Stream Crossings and Bridges

Traditionally, stream crossings have provided hikers with varying degrees of adventure and tales to be told around campfires. A simple, well-designed ford or a few step-stones suffice for most stream crossings during all or most of the year, except after heavy rains or spring runoff. Others cannot be safely crossed without bridging. However, bridges are expensive and need frequent maintenance. They are usually artificial intrusions into a natural environment and occasionally can be the object of graffiti or other vandalism.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy and Guidance** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Stream Crossing and Bridges (2011)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Stream-Crossings-and-Bridges.pdf)  [Managing the Trail for a Primitive Experience (1995)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Managing-the-Trail-for-a-Primitive-Experience.pdf)  [Wilderness (1991)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Wilderness-Policy.pdf) | [2006 NPS Management Policies](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf)  9.2.2.9 Trail Bridges | [Appalachian Trail and Facilities Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/trail-management/), includes   * APPA Trail Construction and Environmental Review Compliance Guidelines and flow chart * APPA Facilities Update Procedures   *Appalachian Trail Design Construction and Maintenance*  *ATC Fieldbook*  [USFS *Trail Construction and Maintenance Handbook*](https://www.fs.usda.gov/t-d/pubs/pdfpubs/pdf07232806/pdf07232806dpi300.pdf)  [USFS Standard Trail Plans and Specifications](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fs.usda.gov%2Fmanaging-land%2Ftrails%2Ftrail-management-tools%2Ftrailplans&data=05%7C01%7Cljoyner%40appalachiantrail.org%7Cce4582ee758d4caa4c8008da351b0494%7Cd243d5bafa56443b9f470b1c9e11b548%7C0%7C1%7C637880688086256582%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Jj2pW2G0jysdAVKLxbB7ylDEVXRTn4X6pMKRJLzsaVg%3D&reserved=0)  [NPS Inspection Guidance: Trail Bridges](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/nps-2200-trail-bridges_inspection-guidance-2012-08-17.pdf) |
| Additional land manager policy/plans, etc: | Additional resources: |

**Stream Crossing and Bridge Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Advertising in the A.T. Corridor

Both the National Park Service and Forest Service prohibit advertising on federal lands. ATC and the clubs should take steps to ensure that those longstanding prohibitions in federal regulations are clearly disseminated, implemented, and understood by hikers, Trail neighbors, and affected area businesses or individuals. The services provided to hikers by commercial businesses are valuable, and reliance on some of those services (such as hostels) have always been accepted as part of the Trail experience. Long-distance hikers in particular should be able to access information about services available in nearby communities. Appropriate ways of disseminating this information without affecting the natural and remote character of the A.T. must be found.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy and Guidance** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Advertising in the AT Corridor (2001)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Advertising-in-the-Appalachian-Trail-Corridor.pdf)  [Litter and Graffiti (1984)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Litter-and-Graffiti.pdf) | [2006 NPS Management Policies](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf)  9.3.5 Advertising  [CFR :: 36 CFR 5.1 -- Advertisements.](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-36/chapter-I/part-5/section-5.1) | *Appalachian Trail Design Construction and Maintenance*  *ATC Fieldbook*  [USFS *Trail Construction and Maintenance Handbook*](https://www.fs.usda.gov/t-d/pubs/pdfpubs/pdf07232806/pdf07232806dpi300.pdf)  [Appalachian Trail and Facilities Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/trail-management/)  [*Comprehensive Plan II, 2.,(d)*](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/CompPlan_web.pdf) |
| Additional land manager policy/plans, etc: | Additional resources: |

**Advertising in the A.T. Corridor Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Wilderness

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy and Guidance** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Wilderness (1991)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Wilderness-Policy.pdf) | [2006 NPS Management Policies](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf)  2.3.1.10  [USFS Wilderness Info Page](https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/wilderness)  [Wilderness Act](https://wilderness.net/learn-about-wilderness/key-laws/wilderness-act/default.php)  [Wilderness.Net search tool for Wilderness Plans](https://wilderness.net/practitioners/wilderness-areas/search.php) | *Appalachian Trail Design Construction and Maintenance*  *ATC Fieldbook*  [USFS *Trail Construction and Maintenance Handbook*](https://www.fs.usda.gov/t-d/pubs/pdfpubs/pdf07232806/pdf07232806dpi300.pdf)  [Appalachian Trail and Facilities Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/trail-management/)  [*Comprehensive Plan II, 3.,(a)*](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/CompPlan_web.pdf)  *Carhart National Wilderness Training Center:* [*Wilderness Stewardship Desk Guide*](https://wapps.umt.edu/winapps/media2/wilderness/NWPS/documents/FS/FS%20Stewardship%20of%20Wilderness%20Desk%20Guide.pdf) |
| Additional land manager policy/plans, etc: | Additional resources: |

**Wilderness Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Special Use Permits

Special Use Permits (SUP) on Federal Trail lands are issued by APPA or USFS. Typically those encountered by clubs are of two varieties:

**Agricultural:** A Special Use Permit is typically for pre-AT existing farming operations on Corridor lands acquired for the Trail. There may be specific Trail-related requirements for the club and the SUP holder. Clubs may or may not have access to the SUP documents. See **Agricultural Use on A.T. Corridor Lands,** below.

**Activity:** A Special Use Permit is typically required for non-hiking activities on Trail lands, including research, filming, organized events, and access for non-trail related maintenance or repairs. Generally, commercial endeavors are not an acceptable component in the Trail Corridor. Examples of activities that are not an appropriate use of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail are: commercial guiding; fundraising events; “Awareness” events or hikes; some commercial videography or photography; and commercial outdoor instruction/education.

ATC and Clubs are generally consulted before this type of SUP is granted.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy and Guidance** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Agricultural Use on A.T. Corridor Lands](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Agricultural-Use-on-AT-Corridor-Lands.pdf)  [AT Experience and Non-Hiking Recreational Use (1993)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/A.T.-Experience-and-Non-Hiking-Recreational-Uses-of-Trail-Lands.pdf)  [Organized Group Use Policy (2015)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Organized-Group-Use.pdf) | [2006 NPS Management Policies](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf)  2.3.1.10  [Doing Business With the Park APPA Webpage](https://www.nps.gov/appa/getinvolved/dobusinesswithus.htm)  [Comprehensive Plan, II](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/CompPlan_web.pdf) | *Appalachian Trail Design Construction and Maintenance*  *ATC Fieldbook*  [USFS *Trail Construction and Maintenance Handbook*](https://www.fs.usda.gov/t-d/pubs/pdfpubs/pdf07232806/pdf07232806dpi300.pdf)  [Appalachian Trail and Facilities Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/trail-management/)  [*Comprehensive Plan, V.*](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/CompPlan_web.pdf)  [*ATC Corridor Stewardship Manual*](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/a-t-corridor-stewardship-field-book.pdf) |
| Additional land manager policy/plans, etc: | Additional resources: |

**Special Use Permits Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Managing the Trail for a Primitive Experience

Trail managers should take into account the effects of Trail‐management programs and policies on the primitive and natural qualities of the Appalachian Trail and the primitive recreational experience the Trail is intended to provide

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy and Guidance** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Managing the Trail for a Primitive Experience (1995)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Managing-the-Trail-for-a-Primitive-Experience.pdf)  [Trail Magic Guidance (2007)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Trail-Magic-Suggestions.pdf) | [2006 NPS Management Policies](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf)  [APPA Foundation Document](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/APPA_Foundation-Document_December_2014.pdf)  [USFS Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Guide](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5335339.pdf) | *Appalachian Trail Design Construction and Maintenance*  *ATC Fieldbook*  [USFS *Trail Construction and Maintenance Handbook*](https://www.fs.usda.gov/t-d/pubs/pdfpubs/pdf07232806/pdf07232806dpi300.pdf)  [Appalachian Trail and Facilities Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/trail-management/)  [*Comprehensive Plan*](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ATCompPlan.pdf)*, II, Management Philosophy* |
| Additional land manager policy/plans, etc: | Additional resources: |

**A.T. Experience Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Litter and Graffiti (including abandoned personal property)

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

Trail clubs should promptly remove apparently abandoned gear from the treadway, overnight sites and Corridor lands. Unattended food should be removed.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy and Guidance** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Litter and Graffiti (1984)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Litter-and-Graffiti.pdf)  [Minimum Impact Backcountry Use (1998)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Minimum-Impact-Backcountry-Use.pdf)  [Trail Magic Guidance (2007)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Trail-Magic-Suggestions.pdf) | [Compendium of Orders](https://www.nps.gov/appa/learn/management/upload/2022_APPA_Compendium_011022.pdf) [36 CFR 2.22, a(2)]  36 C.F.R. § 2.14 -Sanitation  and Refuse  36 C.F.R. § 2.22 - Property  36 C.F.R. § 2.31 - Trespassing, Tampering and Vandalism | [ATC Volunteer Safety Page](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/safety/)  [Appalachian Trail and Facilities Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/trail-management/) |
| Additional land manager policy/plans, etc: | Additional resources: |

**Litter and Graffiti Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Emergency Planning and Coordination

**As it relates to Search and Rescue**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy & Guidance** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Emergency Planning and Coordination 1997](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Emergency-planning-coordination.pdf) | [NPS Management Policies 2006](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf) 8.2.5 | [Incident Guide](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Incidents-Guide.pdf)  [Guidance on law enforcement & proprietary jurisdiction](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Proprietary-Jurisdiction.pdf)  [USFS 1590 Disaster and Emergency Operations](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ltrKgT-9jKH1O4Ybc2aHICD0Qh5ZwjHQ/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=112917498022674987807&rtpof=true&sd=true) See Section 1596 for Search and Rescue |
| Each USFS Forest Plan |  |

**Emergency Planning and Coordination Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

## Overnight Site Facilities (shelters, campsites and sanitation)

Managing overnight-use areas constitutes an important part of Trail club efforts. Numerous factors must be considered in locating and designing overnight-use areas, including proximity to the A.T., soils, vegetation, topography, expected visitor use, proximity to water, distances to roads and other overnight sites, and use of adjoining lands.

Trail clubs and agency jurisdictions generally regulate camping in two ways:

* Designated Camping: A camping management strategy where camping is permitted only at specifically designated sites. These are typically indicated on maps and with signage. Tentsites within designated campsites may or may not be specifically built or indicated.
* Dispersed Camping: There is no formal designation of specific sites, although it encourages campers to use existing campsites and tentsites rather than creating new tenting areas. More rarely, policy may include “unconfined camping” management that permits visitors to camp at locations of their choosing. Dispersed Camping usually includes restrictions such as minimum distances from surface water, trails and roads.

**Overnight Facilities (continued)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy and Guidance** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Managing the Trail for a Primitive Experience (1995)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Managing-the-Trail-for-a-Primitive-Experience.pdf)  [Sanitation (1999)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Sanitation.pdf)  [Locating and Designing Formal Shelters and Campsites (2007)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/locating-and-designing-shelters-and-formal-campsites-2007.pdf)  [Drinking Water (1993)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Drinking-Water.pdf)  [Minimum Impact Backcountry Use (1998)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Minimum-Impact-Backcountry-Use.pdf)  [Backcountry Food Storage (2022)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/ATC-Food-Storage-Policy-2022-FINAL.pdf)  [Accessibility](#_Accessibility) | [APPA Foundation Document](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/APPA_Foundation-Document_December_2014.pdf)  [USFS Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Guide](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5335339.pdf)  [2006 NPS Management Policies](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf)  9.1.5.1 Wastewater; 9.3.3 Comfort Stations; 9.2.2.2 Backcountry Campsites;  See also [NPS Director’s Order #83](https://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DOrder83.html#:~:text=NPS%20unit%20managers%20will%20reduce,monitored%2C%20and%20deficiencies%20promptly%20corrected.) (Public Health)  [Region 8 Limits of Stay for Shelters](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd873405.pdf)  APPA Superintendent’s Compendium | *Appalachian Trail Design Construction and Maintenance*  *ATC Fieldbook*  [USFS *Trail Construction and Maintenance Handbook*](https://www.fs.usda.gov/t-d/pubs/pdfpubs/pdf07232806/pdf07232806dpi300.pdf)  [Appalachian Trail and Facilities Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/trail-management/)  [*Comprehensive Plan*](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ATCompPlan.pdf)*, II, Management Philosophy*  [Appalachian Trail and Facilities Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/trail-management/), includes   * APPA Trail Construction and Environmental Review Compliance Guidelines and flow chart * APPA Facilities Update Procedures   [ATC Backcountry Sanitation Manua](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/backcountry-sanitation-manual-2-0-august-2014.pdf)l (2014) |
| Additional land manager policy/plans, etc: | Additional resources: |

**Overnight Facilities Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### 

## Visitor Use Management

Topics in this section address permitted and non-permitted visitor activities, visitor education methods and strategies, and methods for measuring and managing visitor impacts to the biophysical, social and managerial settings that affect the hiking experience.

Caretakers and Ridgerunners: ATC actively supports a number of ridgerunner and caretaker programs as cost-effective, educational, and preventative approaches to the protection of the Trail, its resources, and its users. In addition, many trail clubs and land managers also use ridgerunner, trail ambassador, and caretaker programs as part of their regular trail-maintenance and management efforts. These can range from a few volunteers who provide basic information to hikers along the Trail to summer-long or full-time paid individuals who monitor and manage most aspects of a high-use site or Trail section.

The primary mission of the ridgerunners (mobile) and caretakers (stationary at campsites and shelters) is to educate hikers. To help them practice Leave-No-Trace minimum-impact camping techniques, understand and adhere to local regulations, and to ensure that problems are solved before they become critical. They enhance the experience of novice hikers, while reducing the potential for problems.

**Visitor Use Management (continued)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy and Guidance** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Visitor Use Management (2016)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Visitor-Use-Management.pdf)  [Managing the Trail for a Primitive Experience (1995)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Managing-the-Trail-for-a-Primitive-Experience.pdf)  [Locating and Designing Formal Shelters and Campsites (2007)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/locating-and-designing-shelters-and-formal-campsites-2007.pdf)  [Backcountry Food Storage (2022)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/ATC-Food-Storage-Policy-2022-FINAL.pdf)  [Recreational User Fees Policy](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Recreational-User-Fees.pdf) | [2006 NPS Management Policies](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf)  8.2.2.4  [APPA Foundation Document (2014)](https://wildeast.appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/APPA_Foundation-Document_December_2014.pdf)  [USFS Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Guide](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5335339.pdf) | *Appalachian Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance*  [Appalachian Trail and Facilities Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/trail-management/)  [ATC Management and Zoning Information](https://appalachiantrail.org/register-blog/visitor-use-management-on-the-a-t/) General Info  [*Comprehensive Plan*](https://wildeast.appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ATCompPlan.pdf)  *VI Use of the Appalachian Trailway*  [*Interagency Visitor Use Management Plan*](https://visitorusemanagement.nps.gov/) |
| Additional land manager policy/plans, etc: | Additional resources: |

**Visitor Use Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Public Information and Outreach

#### The Appalachian Trail Conservancy, trail-maintaining clubs, and agency partners seek to make others aware of the Trail and its possible attractions for them, promote access to the A.T. for all, and motivate users to treat the Trail, its resources, and other users properly for the greater enjoyment of all.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy and Guidance** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Managing the Trail for a Primitive Experience (1995)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Managing-the-Trail-for-a-Primitive-Experience.pdf)  [Minimum Impact Backcountry Use Policy (1998)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Minimum-Impact-Backcountry-Use.pdf)  [Organized Group Use Policy (2015)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Organized-Group-Use.pdf)  [Trail Magic Guidance (2007)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Trail-Magic-Suggestions.pdf) | [2006 NPS Management Policies](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf)  Chapter 7, Interpretation  [APPA Compendium of Orders](https://www.nps.gov/appa/learn/management/upload/2022_APPA_Compendium_011022.pdf)  [APPA Foundation Document](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/APPA_Foundation-Document_December_2014.pdf)  [USFS Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Guide](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5335339.pdf) | [*Comprehensive Plan*](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ATCompPlan.pdf)*, II, Management Philosophy*  [Making Public Contact JHA ATC Volunteer Safety Webpage](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/APPA-JHA-Making-Public-Contact-04-01-21.pdf) |
| Additional land manager policy/plans, etc: | Additional resources: |

**Public Information and Outreach Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Animal-Deterrent Food Storage

Trail visitors must be responsible for preventing animals from accessing their food during overnight stays.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy and Guidance** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Backcountry Food Storage (2022)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/ATC-Food-Storage-Policy-2022-FINAL.pdf)  [Minimum Impact Backcountry Use Policy (1998)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Minimum-Impact-Backcountry-Use.pdf) | [2006 NPS Management Policies](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf)  4.4.2 Management of Native Plants and Animals  APPA Compendium of Orders | [*IGBC Info*](https://igbconline.org/programs/bear-resistant-products/) |
| Additional land manager policy/plans, etc: | Additional resources: |

**Food Storage Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Organized or Sponsored Group Use

“Organized group use” is defined as recreation use sponsored by a nonprofit organization, business, or government agency. Poorly managed organized group use on the A.T. can disproportionately impact natural and cultural resources as well as the Trail experience for all hikers.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy and Guidance** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Organized Group Use Policy (2015)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Organized-Group-Use.pdf)  [Managing the Trail for a Primitive Experience (1995)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Managing-the-Trail-for-a-Primitive-Experience.pdf)  [Minimum Impact Backcountry Use Policy (1998)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Minimum-Impact-Backcountry-Use.pdf)  [Trail Magic Guidance (2007)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Trail-Magic-Suggestions.pdf)  [Recreational User Fees (2014)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Recreational-User-Fees.pdf) | [2006 NPS Management Policies](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf)  Chapter 7, Interpretation  [APPA Foundation Document](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/APPA_Foundation-Document_December_2014.pdf)  [USFS Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Guide](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5335339.pdf)  [Comprehensive Plan, II](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/CompPlan_web.pdf)  [APPA Compendium of Orders](https://www.nps.gov/appa/learn/management/upload/2022_APPA_Compendium_011022.pdf) (group size) | *Appalachian Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance*  [Appalachian Trail and Facilities Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/trail-management/)  [Managing Organized Group Use Manual](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/organized-group-management-manual-first-edition.pdf)  [*Comprehensive Plan*](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ATCompPlan.pdf)*, II, Management Philosophy* |
| Additional land manager policy/plans, etc: | Additional resources: |

**Organized or Sponsored Group Use Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

# Land and Resource Management

The following section addresses topics related to natural resource management, land protection, cultural resources, and non-hiking recreational uses.

### Agricultural Use on A.T. Corridor Lands

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Agricultural Use on A.T. Corridor Lands 1996](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Agricultural-Use-on-AT-Corridor-Lands.pdf) | Each USFS Forest Plan  [NPS Management Policies 2006](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf) 8.6.7 | *See also* [*Special Use Permits*](#_Special_Use_Permits) *topic area in this document.*  [A.T. Land and Resource Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/landresource/) |
|  |  |

**Agricultural Use on A.T. Corridor Lands Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Other Special or Unique Management Areas

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Guidance on Special and Unique Areas](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Special-and-Unique-Areas-Guidance.pdf) | Each USFS Forest Plan  [NPS Management Policies 2006](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf) 4.3  [ANST Resource Management Plan](https://www.nps.gov/appa/learn/management/upload/appalachian_trail_resource_management_plan.pdf) | [A.T. Land and Resource Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/landresource/) |
|  |  |

**Special or Unique Areas Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

## Natural Resource Management

### Resource Management

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Resource Management (1988)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Resource-Management-Policy.pdf) | Each USFS Forest Plan  [NPS Management Policies 2006](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf) 4.1  [*ANST Resource Management Plan*](https://www.nps.gov/appa/learn/management/upload/appalachian_trail_resource_management_plan.pdf) | [*A.T. Natural Resource Condition Assessment*](https://appalachian-trail-natural-resource-condition-assessment-clus.hub.arcgis.com/)  [A.T. Land and Resource Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/landresource/) |
|  |  |

**Resource Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Wildlife Management

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Wildlife Management](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Wildlife-Mangaement.pdf) | Each USFS Forest Plan  [NPS Management Policies 2006](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf) 4.4  [*ANST Resource Management Plan*](https://www.nps.gov/appa/learn/management/upload/appalachian_trail_resource_management_plan.pdf) | [A.T. Land and Resource Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/landresource/) |
|  |  |

**Wildlife Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Visual Resources Management

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Open Areas and Vistas (1985)](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/open-areas-and-vistas-1985.pdf) | Each USFS Forest Plan  [NPS Management Policies 2006](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf) 4.4.2.4 | [A.T. Land and Resource Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/landresource/)  *See also the* [*Special Use Permits*](#bookmark=id.3as4poj)  [USDA Handbook 701 “Landscape Aesthetics: A Handbook for Scenery Management”](https://naldc.nal.usda.gov/download/CAT11132970/PDF) |
|  |  |

**Visual Resource Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Threatened and Endangered Species

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Threatened and Endangered Species 1989](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Rare-Threatened-Endangered-Species-Policy.pdf) | Each USFS Forest Plan  [NPS Management Policies 2006](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf) 4.4.2.3  [*ANST Resource Management Plan*](https://www.nps.gov/appa/learn/management/upload/appalachian_trail_resource_management_plan.pdf) | [A.T. Land and Resource Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/landresource/) |
|  |  |

**Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Invasive Species and Pest Management

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Invasive Species and Pest Management 2011](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Invasive-Species-and-Pest-Management.pdf) | Each USFS Forest Plan  [NPS Management Policies 2006](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf) 4.4.5  [*ANST Resource Management Plan*](https://www.nps.gov/appa/learn/management/upload/appalachian_trail_resource_management_plan.pdf) | [*A.T. Natural Resource Condition Assessment*](https://appalachian-trail-natural-resource-condition-assessment-clus.hub.arcgis.com/)  [A.T. Land and Resource Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/landresource/)  [*EDDMapS.org*](https://www.eddmaps.org/) |
|  |  |

**Invasive Species and Pest Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Vegetation Management

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Vegetation Management 1989](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Vegetation-Management.pdf) | Each USFS Forest Plan  [NPS Management Policies 2006](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf) 4.4  [*ANST Resource Management Plan*](https://www.nps.gov/appa/learn/management/upload/appalachian_trail_resource_management_plan.pdf) | [*A.T. Natural Resource Condition Assessment*](https://appalachian-trail-natural-resource-condition-assessment-clus.hub.arcgis.com/)  [A.T. Land and Resource Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/landresource/) |
|  |  |

**Vegetation Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Timber Management

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Timber Management 2008](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Timber-Management.pdf) | Each USFS Forest Plan  [NPS Management Policies 2006](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf) 1.1  [*ANST Resource Management Plan*](https://www.nps.gov/appa/learn/management/upload/appalachian_trail_resource_management_plan.pdf) | [A.T. Land and Resource Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/landresource/) |
|  |  |

**Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Prescribed Burn

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Prescribed Burn 2018](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Prescribed-Burns.pdf) | Each USFS Forest Plan  [NPS Management Policies 2006](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf) 4.5  [APPA Fire Management Plan](https://www.nps.gov/appa/learn/management/upload/APPA_FMP_04-23-13.pdf) | [A.T. Land and Resource Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/landresource/) |
|  |  |

**Prescribed Burn Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

## Land Protection

### Corridor Monitoring

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Corridor Monitoring 1981](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Policy-on-Corridor-Monitoring-1.pdf) | Each USFS Forest Plan  [NPS Management Policies 2006](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf) | [A.T. Corridor Stewardship](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/boundary-program/) |
|  |  |

**Corridor Monitoring Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Incidentally Acquired Structures and Dams

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Incidentally Acquired Structures and Dams 1989](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Incidentally-Acquired-Structures-and-Dams.pdf) |  | [A.T. Land and Resource Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/landresource/) |
|  |  |

**Incidentally Acquired Structures and Dams Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Road Closures and Access Control

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Road Closures and Access Control](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Road-Access-and-Control-Guidance.pdf) | Each USFS Forest Plan  [NPS Management Policies 2006](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf) 9.2.1 | [A.T. Land and Resource Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/landresource/) |
|  |  |

**Road Closures and Access Control Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Emergency Planning and Coordination

**as it relates to resource protection**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Emergency Planning and Coordination 1987](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Emergency-planning-coordination.pdf) | Each USFS Forest Plan  [NPS Management Policies 2006](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf) 8.2.5 | [Incident Guide](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Incidents-Guide.pdf)  [Proprietary Jurisdiction](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Proprietary-Jurisdiction.pdf) |
|  |  |

**Emergency Planning and Coordination Related to Resource Protection Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Visual Resources

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| Visual Resource Policy (under development). | Each USFS Forest Plan  [NPS Management Policies 2006](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf) 1.4 | *See also Visual Resource Management above.*  [A.T. Land and Resource Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/landresource/)  [USDA Handbook 701 "Landscape Aesthetics: A Handbook for Scenery Management"](https://naldc.nal.usda.gov/download/CAT11132970/PDF) |
|  |  |

**Visual Resources Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Climate Change

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [ATC Climate Change Policy](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Climate-Change.pdf) | [NPS Management Policies 2006](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf) 4.7.2 | [NPS Climate Change Response Program](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/climatechange/response-strategy.htm)   * [NPS Climate Change Response Strategy](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/climatechange/upload/NPS_CCRS-508compliant.pdf)   [USFS Climate Change](https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/climate-change)  [A.T. Land and Resource Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/landresource/) |
|  |  |

**Climate Change Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

**Management Principles (Example)**

{Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Clu-Specific Resources (Example)**

Encourage carpooling.

Agreeing with/following a particular policy is difficult when the policy is so vague.

## External Threats

Any number of A.T. Management partners, or trail neighbors, might identify or flag a potential threat to the Trail. This is the typical framework for responding to external threats. Volunteers, A.T. Clubs, ATC members, staff, other organizations, or staff with agencies should alert ATC to known or suspected threats to A.T. natural or cultural resources. ATC will ensure that appropriate federal or state agency personnel are alerted for issues of national significance, or respond according to severity in issues of local or regional significance.

### Impacts of Development

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Impacts of Development 2002](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Impacts-of-Development.pdf)  [Roads and Utilities 2000](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Roads-and-Utilities.pdf)  [Wind Energy Facilities 2007](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Wind-Energy-Facilities.pdf)  [Pipeline Crossings 2015](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Pipeline-Crossings-of-the-A.T..pdf) | Each USFS Forest Plan  [NPS Management Policies 2006](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf) 9.1.5, 9.2.1  [NPS Management Policies 2001, 4.9, Soundscape Management](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/sound/soundscape-management-policy_4-9.htm) | [Doing Business With the Park APPA Webpage](https://www.nps.gov/appa/getinvolved/dobusinesswithus.htm)  [A.T. Land and Resource Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/landresource/)  [Landscape Aesthetics: A Handbook for Scenery Management](https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML1224/ML12241A377.pdf) |
|  |  |

**Impacts of Development Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

## Cultural Resource

The lands crossed by the Appalachian Trail have a rich history. Parts of the Trail were major travel routes and habitation sites for Indigenous Peoples and for settlers pushing west to explore the new frontiers of our country in the 18th and 19th centuries. Those sites, and the objects and other physical evidence left behind by these travelers and settlers, are an important part of our cultural heritage. Management protocols and policies are not yet developed. The Appalachian National Scenic Trail is eligible for the National Register.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Cultural Resources 1989](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Cultural-Resources-Policy.pdf) | Each USFS Forest Plan  [NPS Management Policies 2006](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf) 5.0  [APPA Compendium](https://www.nps.gov/appa/learn/management/upload/2022_APPA_Compendium_011022.pdf)  FSM 2309 ch. 40, 36 CFR 68.  FS Handbook 2309.12.40 36 CFR §68” | [National Register of Historic Places](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/database-research.htm)  [Section 106 Compliance](https://www.nps.gov/history/tribes/Documents/106.pdf)  [*ANST Resource Management Plan*](https://www.nps.gov/appa/learn/management/upload/appalachian_trail_resource_management_plan.pdf)  [A.T. Land and Resource Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/landresource/) |
|  |  |

**Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

## Other Recreational Activities and Non-Permitted Uses

### Horse, Pack Animal, and Bicycle Use

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Horses and Pack Animals 1985](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Horses-and-Pack-Animals.pdf)  [Bicycle Use Policy 1991](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Bicycle-Use-1.pdf) | Each USFS Forest Plan  [APPA Comprehensive Plan](https://www.nps.gov/appa/learn/management/upload/compplan_web.pdf)  [NPS Management Policies 2006](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf) 8.2.2.8, 8.2.2, 9.2.2.4  [APPA Compendium](https://www.nps.gov/appa/learn/management/upload/2022_APPA_Compendium_011022.pdf) | [GRSM Horse Use MOU](https://www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/horseriding.htm)  [Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Compendium - Horse Use](https://www.nps.gov/choh/learn/management/superintendent-s-compendium.htm) Section 2.16  [Virginia Creeper Trail Horse Use](https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gwj/specialplaces/?cid=stelprdb5312878#:~:text=Rules%20of%20the%20Trail&text=Horseback%20riders%20should%20allow%20bicyclists,their%20bikes%20if%20conditions%20dictate.)  [Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Compendium - Bicycle Use](https://www.nps.gov/choh/learn/management/superintendent-s-compendium.htm) Sect. 4.30  [Virginia Creeper Trail Bicycle Use](https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gwj/specialplaces/?cid=stelprdb5312878#:~:text=Rules%20of%20the%20Trail&text=Horseback%20riders%20should%20allow%20bicyclists,their%20bikes%20if%20conditions%20dictate.) |
|  |  |

**Horse, Pack Animal, Bicycle Use Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Other Recreational Activities

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [A.T. Experience and Non-Hiking Recreational Uses 1997](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/A.T.-Experience-and-Non-Hiking-Recreational-Uses-of-Trail-Lands.pdf)  [Hunting 1992](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Hunting.pdf)  [Geocaching 2008](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Geocaching.pdf)  [Hang Gliding 1996](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Hang-Gliding.pdf) | Each USFS Forest Plan  [NPS Management Policies 2006](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf) 8.2, 4.4.3, 8.2.2.6  [APPA Compendium](https://www.nps.gov/appa/learn/management/upload/2022_APPA_Compendium_011022.pdf)  [APPA Comprehensive Plan](https://www.nps.gov/appa/learn/management/upload/compplan_web.pdf)  [Individual State Gun Laws](https://www.nps.gov/appa/learn/management/lawsandpolicies.htm) | [A.T. Land and Resource Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/landresource/)  [Trail and Facilities Management Resources](https://appalachiantrail.org/get-involved/volunteer/partner-resources/trail-management/) |
|  |  |

**Other Recreational Activities Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

### Non-Permitted Uses

(requires land manager permission)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATC Policy** | **Federal and State Land Manager Policies, Management Plans** | **Reference Resources (curated) Training(s) if any** |
| [Motorized Uses](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Motorized-Use.pdf)  [Unmanned Aircraft](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Unmanned-Aircraft.pdf)  [Military Maneuvers 1989](https://appalachiantrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Military-Maneuvers.pdf) | Each USFS Forest Plan  [APPA Comprehensive Plan](https://www.nps.gov/appa/learn/management/upload/compplan_web.pdf)  [NPS Management Policies 2006](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf) 8.2.2, 8.2.3, 8.4, 8.6.9  [APPA Compendium](https://www.nps.gov/appa/learn/management/upload/2022_APPA_Compendium_011022.pdf) | *See also* [*Special Use Permits*](#bookmark=id.3as4poj) *topic area in this document.*  [APPA Unmanned Aircraft Policy](https://www.nps.gov/appa/learn/management/upload/Policy_on_Unmanned_Aircraft_2014.pdf)  USFS [Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Desk Guide](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd562921.docx) |
| Example: [BLRI - Compendium](https://www.nps.gov/blri/learn/management/compendium-cfr-1-5.htm) |  |

**Non-Permitted Uses Management Principles:**

{Our Club} accepts the ATC Policy and Guidance above as our own as of {Date}.

Or

{Our Club} accepts the ATC and Policy Guidance above as our own as of {Date} with the following changes:

**Trail Club Operating Practices and Club-Specific Resources:**

1. Provided by Trail Club

**Management Principles (Example)**

{Club}accepts the ATC Unmanned Aircraft Policy above as our own as of {Date}.

**Action Plan (Example)**

* The Club will encourage its federal, state, and municipal partners to make permanent any existing prohibitions on UAV operations proximate to all segments of the Trail and to institute new prohibitions where there are none present.
* The Club will request authorization from the appropriate land manager for any administrative, scientific, or emergency UAV use.
* The Club will discourage recreational UAV use on USFS managed lands.