

Arkansas Trails System

Approved by Arkansas Trails Council July 2011

--

What is the Arkansas Trails System?

- ** A system of Arkansas Trails defined by the "Arkansas Trails System Act" 1979 (see full text in attachment 2) and maintained by the Arkansas Trails Council.
- ** The Arkansas Trails System list should support the primary objectives of the Trails Council, as stated in the by-laws, specifically:
 - ** Accordingly, the Arkansas Trails Council has further defined the Arkansas Trails System as a *representative* list of some of the most attractive trails in Arkansas, intended to:
 - reflect the wide diversity of trail experiences in Arkansas;
 - provide a resource to Arkansas Trail users to find data on Arkansas Trails;
 - serve as an attraction to draw trail users across the country to come to Arkansas for an exceptional trail experience.
 - ** The list should include representative samples of:
 - Trails for each user group: Hikers/walkers, backpackers, bicycles, mountain bikes, equestrians, motorized, canoes/kayaks, and multi-purpose.
 - Trails of various types: backcountry/wilderness trails; urban trails; health/exercise trails; wildlife/nature trails; scenic trails; water trails.
 - Trails representing each of the various managing agencies: National Park Service; US Forest Service; US Army Corp of Engineers; Arkansas State Parks; Arkansas Game & Fish; county, city, or local communities
 - Trails representing the six geographic regions of Arkansas: Ozark Plateau; Ouachita Mountains, Arkansas River Valley; West Gulf Coastal Plain; Mississippi River Delta; and Crowley's Ridge.

Baseline List

- ** The Arkansas Trails System shall establish a new baseline for the Arkansas Trails System list in 2011, based upon the guidance above.
- ** This baseline will include:
 - ** 34 National Recreation Trails;
 - ** Trails of over 20 miles;
 - ** The most representative trails reflecting the diversity of trail experiences in Arkansas;
 - ** At least one trail in each group above.
- ** This list will be published on the Arkansas Trails Council web site, with the intention of developing a new web page specifically for "Arkansas Trails System".
- ** The published list will take maximum advantage of existing databases and web-site descriptions by referring to existing databases, rather than recreating those data bases. For each trail on the list only the minimum information will be provided:
 - Name
 - Managing Agency
 - Location (Geographic Region and specific city, park, or county)
 - Length & Difficulty
 - Trail type and user groups allowed
 - Link to additional information (existing databases)
- ** The published list will include an invitation to the public and to trail management agencies to recommend additions to the list.

List Maintenance

- ** The Arkansas Trails Council will, on at least an annual basis, review the list and make changes as agreed to.
- ** The Arkansas Trails Council shall provide a public means for soliciting changes and recommended additions to the list. Application Form is shown as Attachment 2.
- ** The Council shall create a sub-committee, in accordance with Article VIII of the by-laws, to review these

applications as submitted and present recommended changes as a standing agenda item at quarterly council meetings. Changes approved by the Council at a quarterly meeting will be added to the web list as soon as practical.

Web Implementation:

- ** Initially, the Arkansas Trails System will be a separate section of Arkansas Trails Council web site with a definition of the Trails system and its intent, the baseline list, the procedure/application for additions and/or changes to the list, and links to other web sites with information on Arkansas Trails, data bases with information on Arkansas Trails, and trail management agency sites.
- ** It is the council's intent to ultimately develop a separate web site for the Arkansas Trails System. This new web site would help promote the objectives of the trail system and utilize the Trails system as an additional enticement for people to visit Arkansas. See Attachment 3 for a vision of this web site.

Att. 1: Application for inclusion in Arkansas Trails System List: See attached

Arkansas Trails System Application

Trail Name:

Managing Agency:

Location:

-- Select one of:

- Ozark Plateau
- Ouachita Mountains
- Arkansas River Valley
- West Gulf Coastal Plain
- Mississippi River Delta
- Crowley's Ridge

-- Specific (Name of town, park, etc.):

Length:

Difficulty:

Users Allowed (mark all that apply):

- Foot traffic** (walkers, hikers, backpackers)
- Bicycles** (mountain bikes or road bikes)
- Horses** (equestrians)
- Motorized** (motorcycles; ATVs; etc.)

Trail type or special features:

List things such as urban or back-country; wilderness; wildlife appreciation; scenic highlights, etc.

Why do you think this trail should be included in the Arkansas Trails system List?

Submitted by (Name):

Representing: Email:

Address:

Submit this form to Executive Secretary, Arkansas Trails Council:

(insert email and mailing address)

Att. 2: Text of AR Code Title 22: Public Property (Aug 2009)

Section 4-400: AR Trails system

Subchapter 4 — Arkansas Trails System

- 22-4-401. Title.
- 22-4-402. Definitions.
- 22-4-403. Administration.
- 22-4-404. Arkansas Trails Council — Creation — Powers and duties.
- 22-4-405. Criteria for acceptance into the Arkansas Trails System.
- 22-4-406. Classifications of trails.
- 22-4-407. Public access to private lands.
- 22-4-408. Legislative intent and purpose.

22-4-401. Title.

This subchapter may be cited as the “Arkansas Trails System Act”.

History. Acts 1979, No. 132, § 1; A.S.A. 1947, § 9-603.1.

22-4-402. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter:

- (1) “Right-of-way” means the strip of land over which a trail is constructed whether acquired by easement or fee simple title; and
- (2) “Trail” means any road, pathway, route, or other identifiable linear facility designated, constructed, and maintained to provide

specific recreational experiences to the public. Trails may be established for hiking, biking, boating, canoeing, motorcycling, horse riding, use by individuals with disabilities, and other trail-oriented uses.

History. Acts 1979, No. 132, § 2; A.S.A. 1947, § 9-603.2; Acts 1997, No. 208, § 24.

22-4-403. Administration.

A statewide trails system to be called the “Arkansas Trails System” is authorized to be administered by the State Parks Division of the Department of Parks and Tourism. The administration shall include:

- (1) Coordination of trail development between state, federal, county, municipal, and private entities;
- (2) Development of a wide variety of types of trails to provide maximum trail opportunities for the citizens of Arkansas;
- (3) Establishment of an interconnected trails system by developing new trails or by connecting existing trails or recreation areas;
- (4) Encouraging the development of trails in or near population centers;
- (5) Providing technical assistance for trail development and maintenance; and
- (6) Providing information about Arkansas trails.

History. Acts 1979, No. 132, § 3; A.S.A. 1947, § 9-603.3.

22-4-404. Arkansas Trails Council — Creation — Powers and duties.

- (a) An advisory body to the State Parks Division of the Department of Parks and Tourism, to be known as the “Arkansas Trails Council”, is created for the purpose of informing the division, other trail-providing agencies, and the public at large of public need, use, and ongoing and planned trail development and to provide a public forum for discussion of trail-related issues.
- (b) The council is a voluntary organization open to representatives of all state and federal agencies with an interest in or potential for trail development, to all local governments with interests in trails, to public or to private utility companies the rights-of-way of which hold trail potential, to private landowners, and to trail users.
- (c) The Department of Parks and Tourism's representative on the council shall serve as the council's executive secretary.
- (d) The council may make suggestions to the division concerning methods to meet trail needs within the state and shall assist the division in coordinating trail development within the state.
- (e) (1) The council shall review nominations to the Arkansas Trail System and make recommendations to the division regarding the acceptance or rejection of each application based on criteria outlined in § 22-4-405.
(2) The Director of the State Parks Division may add a qualifying trail to the system after a review of recommendations made by the council.
- (f) The council shall periodically review the components of the system and submit information concerning those trails of superior quality to the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service of the United States Department of the Interior for consideration as components in the National Trails System.
- (g) The council shall assist in updating the Arkansas Trails Plan, a part of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- (h) The council shall periodically review member trails of the system for compliance with §22-4-405 and shall report its findings to the division in order to maintain high quality within the system.
- (i) Trails accepted into the system which do not fulfill the requirements established in this subchapter or prescribed by the division and the council may be removed from the system by the division after consultation with the council and after appropriate opportunity has been given for correction of the inadequacies.
- (j) The council shall not have the power of eminent domain.

History. Acts 1979, No. 132, §§ 4, 7; A.S.A. 1947, §§ 9-603.4, 9-603.7.

22-4-405. Criteria for acceptance into the Arkansas Trails System.

Trails accepted into the Arkansas Trails System shall meet criteria as established by the Arkansas Trails Council and the State Parks Division of the Department of Parks and Tourism, which shall include:

- (1) A guaranteed right-of-way for public use for a minimum period of five (5) years;
- (2) Trail operation and maintenance for a minimum period of five (5) years by an acceptable responsible organization;
- (3) Adherence to state trails standards and guidelines for the trail type designated;
- (4) Readiness of the trail for public use;
- (5) Proper marking and signing; and
- (6) Conformity of the trail with goals established in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan or the Arkansas Trails Plan.

History. Acts 1979, No. 132, § 6; A.S.A. 1947, § 9-603.6.

22-4-406. Classifications of trails.

Trails in the Arkansas Trails System shall be classified according to their designated use and shall include, but not be limited to, the following classifications:

- (1) Interpretive trail — a route having natural, cultural, or historical points of interest identified to the public through the use of markers, plaques, brochures, or other readily recognizable means;
- (2) Hiking trail — a route designated, designed, and maintained for foot travel;
- (3) Bicycle trail — a route designated, designed, and maintained primarily for bicycle travel;
- (4) Motorcycle trail — a route designated, designed, and maintained primarily for trail activity by motorcycle;
- (5) Boat trail — a separate route or lane designated and maintained for trail activity by boat;
- (6) Canoe trail — a route designated and maintained for canoeing experiences;
- (7) Automobile trail — a properly marked roadway designated and maintained for recreational automobile travel;
- (8) Equestrian trail — a route designated, designed, and maintained for trail activity for horse riding;

(9) Handicap trail — a route designated for trail activity by special groups as well as the general public; and

(10) Recreational trail — a route designed to meet specific recreational and physical fitness needs.

History. Acts 1979, No. 132, § 5; A.S.A. 1947, § 9-603.5.

22-4-407. Public access to private lands.

Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to give the public any greater right or privilege of access to private lands than that permitted by easement granted by the landowner.

History. Acts 1979, No. 132, § 8; A.S.A. 1947, § 9-603.8.

22-4-408. Legislative intent and purpose.

The General Assembly hereby acknowledges that many of the laws relating to individuals with disabilities are antiquated, functionally outmoded, derogatory, and ambiguous or are inconsistent with more recently enacted provisions of the law. Consequently, it is the intent of the General Assembly and the purpose of this act to clarify the relevant chapters of Titles 1, 6, 9, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20, 22, 23, and 27 of the Arkansas Code Annotated of 1987.

History. Acts 1997, No. 208, § 1.

Att. 3: Web Site Vision:

The Arkansas Trails System website will be an attractive page that draws the user into the world of Arkansas Trails. The site will be recognized as a single-source point of information for Arkansas trails. It will be an information source for Arkansas trail users, and a beacon drawing out-of-state users to Arkansas. It should have a web address that is simple and clearly indicative of its purpose (e.g., arkansastrails.org). It should be visually attractive with heavy use of photos and graphics to enhance its purpose.

Content:

*** Definition / Explanation of the Arkansas Trails System**

**** Full Trails System List**

*** sort able by: region, user, manager

*** ideally, an interactive state map like the State Parks site "park finder"

**** Invitation to recommend updates / changes / corrections**

*** automated application form, and/or downloadable 'pdf'.

*** Identification of other available Arkansas Trails databases:**

**** Links to on-line resources such as AR State Parks trails database; USFS trail maps and information; National Park Service sites; National Recreation Trails database for Arkansas; municipal sites; private or organizational sites.**

*** Explanation of Arkansas Trails Council (and link to Trails Council web site)**

*** Photo/ Graphic content to enhance purpose**