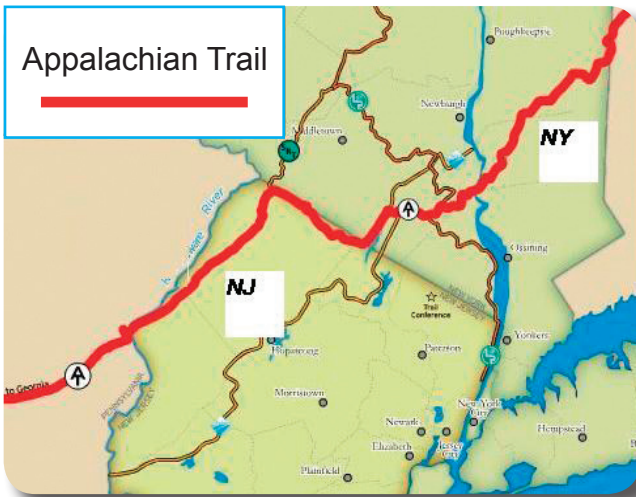


How can I help protect the Appalachian Trail?

- Walk the Trail and report any misuse such as dumping, land clearing, timber cutting, or use of motorized vehicles.
- Attend and participate in local zoning or planning board meetings. Report threatening development to Trail managers. Voice concerns about activities that might impact the Trail.
- Stay on top of local news; report emerging issues to Trail managers.
- If your property abuts Trail lands, please respect the boundary and do not mow, cut, or dump anything onto the A.T. corridor lands.
- Volunteer to assist with the efforts of your local management committee.
- Become a member of the ATC and the NY-NJ Trail Conference.



Interested?

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference
156 Ramapo Valley Road
Mahwah, NJ 07430
201.512.9348
www.nynjtc.org
info@nynjtc.org



Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
4 East First Street
Boiling Springs, PA 17007
717.258.5771
www.appalachiantrail.org

National Park Service
Appalachian National
Scenic Trail
P.O. Box 50
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425
304.535.6278
www.nps.gov/appal/



*Regulations can vary on segments of the Trail that cross lands owned by others (such as the Nature Conservancy or state agencies); if unsure, ask the appropriate landowner or local A.T. managers.

This brochure is funded through the L.L. Bean Grants to Clubs administered by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

Aware of a Trail incident?
E-mail atincident@nynjtc.org
In an emergency, contact **911**.

Did you know that you live near the most famous hiking trail in the country?



The Appalachian National Scenic Trail (A.T.) passes near you as it winds its way through 14 states along the Appalachian Mountains on its route from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Katahdin in Maine. Although the Trail is known for providing long distance hiking opportunities, neighbors like you use it more often and in far greater numbers. Whether they use it for fitness or just to be outside with family and friends, thousands more enjoy its proximity to their home. The Trail also is an important corridor protecting biodiversity which stretches the length of the east coast.

The Appalachian Trail is the longest continuously marked walking path in the world – 2,179 miles. Known affectionately as the A.T., it was built in the 1920-30's by volunteer hiking clubs. It is managed by a public-private partnership among four groups who have defined responsibilities:

- **National Park Service (NPS) Appalachian National Scenic Trail Park Office:** has overall responsibility for the A.T and its surrounding corridor of public lands. Its park headquarters is located in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.
- **Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC):** coordinates the private volunteer effort trailwide with headquarters in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia plus four regional offices.
- **31 hiking clubs in 14 states:** organize volunteers to manage and maintain the Trail and its corridor; in New York and New Jersey, the **New York-New Jersey Trail Conference** performs this role.
- **State Agency Partners.** In NY and NJ, important support comes from the NY-DEC, the NY OPRHP (state park agency), the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, the NJ-DEP and other state and local agencies; sections of the A.T. traverse public lands operated by these agencies.



Who takes care of the Appalachian Trail?

Answer: Volunteers! In NY and NJ, the 160 miles of the A.T. are managed by **three committees** comprised mainly of volunteers, plus state and local partners, with assistance from local agencies (law enforcement, fire suppression, and search and rescue agencies): (1) **New Jersey's Passaic, Sussex, & Warren** counties, (2) **New York's Orange & Rockland** counties and (3) **New York's Dutchess & Putnam** counties. The volunteers also provide a presence on the Trail as **maintainers** (caring for the footpath); **monitors** (overseeing the corridor lands, boundaries, or cultural and biological resources) or **caretakers** (managing the overnight use facilities).



Why does the Appalachian Trail need to be protected?

The A.T. is part of the National Park System. Although it is permanently protected from being fragmented, the A.T. and its surrounding lands (usually a few hundred feet wide) are monitored to avoid incursions and misuse. Like other national parks, timber cutting, hunting, and trapping are generally not permitted*. In the past, volunteers and neighbors have discovered timber theft, removal of stones from historic stone walls, timber cutting to open a view on adjacent property, construction of private driveways across trail corridor lands, dumping, and even squatters living on the land.

What are acceptable uses of the Trail?

- Passive recreation such as hiking, birding, and snowshoeing
- Overnight camping and fires are **only** allowed in designated areas.
- Use "leave no trace" practices. For more info, consult <http://www.lnt.org> on the web.
- **Prohibited:*** Horses and pack animals; bicycles; ATVs and other motorized vehicles.

How do I know that I am hiking on the A.T. or near its corridor lands?

The Trail is marked with 2" x 6" white paint blazes. Hikers' crossing signs and triangular A.T. signs appear at major road crossings. The buffer zone of NPS-owned corridor land is generally marked along its boundary with signs, monuments, and yellow-painted blazes on trees near the boundary line.

If you wish to know where the A.T. is or to hike it, maps and books are available at bookstores or check online at <http://www.nynjtc.org/atg16>



Markings along the boundary: Monument and sign on tree

