



APPALACHIAN TRAIL



## LOCAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

DUTCHESS and PUTNAM COUNTIES

NEW YORK

Prepared by

Dutchess County/Putnam County Appalachian Trail

Management Committee

Appalachian Trail  
Local Management Plan  
First Combined Edition  
Dutchess-Putnam Counties  
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Text Printed on Recycled Paper

Parking will be encouraged at designated parking areas only. DPATMC will encourage the appropriate state, county and town departments to establish and enforce no-parking signs or ordinances where safety or abuse of private property is a recognized issue.

Designated parking areas requiring new construction will be small (3-9 cars) in size, and their construction will be undertaken by DPATMC. Assistance by OPRHP, DEC, and/or DOT will be requested when appropriate. The capacity of any parking area constructed on NPS lands will not be changed without the approval of DPATMC, and only after DPATMC determines that the trail is capable of sustaining increased levels of use.

DPATMC will implement a system to identify and review problems or inadequacies relating to parking in conjunction with the local municipality on an as-needed basis.

No trash barrels will be provided for trail users. DPATMC will encourage a "Carry In-Carry Out" philosophy through its various publications.

A map indicating access points, road crossings and designated parking areas will be provided to all law enforcement units, rescue squads and fire departments by DPATMC.

Most paved roads that cross the trail will be marked with AT road crossing signs as well as state "hiker crossing" signs.

#### **4.7 Connecting and Side Trails**

There are at present no officially designated AT connecting trails and none are contemplated. Any such future officially designated trails will be maintained to the same standards as the AT.

There are several short blue trails listed in the inventory which go to points of interest, overnight use areas and water sources. These trails are maintained by a designated maintainer as if they were part of the AT.

There are two longer NYNJTC trails which together with the AT form a loop trail which can be done as a day hike. These are the Osborn Loop Trail on Canada Hill and the 3-Lakes Trail in Fahnestock State Park south of Route 301. A short loop hike is available on Hosner Mountain. The Pawling Nature Preserve also has numerous connecting trails.

There is currently a major effort in the Hudson River Valley to produce an interconnected greenway system. The Trail in Putnam County will be a significant part of the greenway and the

situation may eventually have implications which have to be considered in more detail. The DPATMC is actively cooperating with initiatives in both counties.

#### **4.8 Overnight Use - Shelters, Campsites and Privies**

The section of the Trail through the two counties is expected to receive a high level of use based on accessibility, population and trail quality. DPATMC will designate overnight use areas in accordance with NPS regulations. Camping is not allowed except at these designated sites.

The designated overnight use areas are spaced so that each through hiker has some flexibility in the distance to be travelled. DPATMC recognizes that there will be significant use of these sites by short term overnight hikers, e.g. scout groups, as well as through hikers capable of going longer distances. It is desirable to concentrate overnight use at designated locations to minimize adverse environmental impacts.

Besides shelters and campsites, there is one hostel adjacent to the Trail. Graymoor Monastery presently has an open invitation to through hikers to spend the night, eat dinner and breakfast, and take a shower. This arrangement is subject to the policies of the monastery personnel. Contributions are accepted.

There are no shelters in Putnam County and none are planned because of the short distances between roads and the possibilities of abuse. In addition, at town meetings in the early 1980's there was widespread opposition to shelters. In Dutchess County, four shelters and two tent sites are located at varying intervals along the Trail. The current complete list of overnight use facilities is listed in the inventory in Appendix 9.8. The guidelines below are the criteria used for selecting these sites and any future ones:

Designated overnight use areas will be provided by DPATMC at intervals not to exceed twelve miles. Campfires and camping will be permitted at these sites only.

The criteria for selection of a location as a designated overnight use area include:

- the availability of a year-round source of water within one-quarter mile, which has reasonable protection from external contamination.
- maximum possible distance from roads, vehicular traffic and private dwellings, except where on-site management is available.
- the existence of soils suitable for the development of sanitary facilities.
- ease of access to, but preferably not within sight of, the main trail.
- the avoidance of environmentally sensitive areas and sites having a high fire potential in any season.
- a preference for existing overnight use areas where these meet most of the above criteria.

zoning boards are required to notify the NPS of requests for zoning changes on adjacent land. Although local permits, licenses, etc. are typically not required for projects on NPS lands, the DPATMC will continue the practice of obtaining appropriate permits and adhering to local regulations whenever possible. Also, local law enforcement agencies retain their authority to enforce all local and state laws within the Trail corridor.

### **3.3.6 County Agencies**

The counties provide additional law enforcement support through the sheriff's office. DPATMC also interacts with the county health departments on issues of water purity and sanitary facilities.

## **3.4 Roles and Responsibilities of Other Parties**

### **3.4.1 Abutting Landowners**

Abutting landowners are treated by DPATMC as Trail corridor neighbors. Efforts are made to communicate with landowners so that they may be involved in AT related matters. Several informal trails lead from adjacent landowners' property or developments to the Trail. See Appendix 9.4.1 for an MOU concerning one of these.

### **3.4.2 Nuclear Lake Management Committee**

The management of the Nuclear Lake property is discussed briefly in this LMP but all recommendations involving this property are subject to the reports and recommendations of a separate advisory body, the Nuclear Lake Management Committee (NLMC). This separation is due to its size, unique characteristics and the need to study additional uses. To date, the NLMC has made various recommendations to the NPS concerning the use of this property. Appendix 9.5 of this plan includes a copy of all recommendations issued to date, a list of all testing reports available, and a copy of the current version of the Nuclear Lake brochure that the DPATMC has prepared to meet the recommendations. The DPATMC is committed to supporting the NLMC, and has assisted in implementing the NLMC's recommendations whenever possible.

### **3.4.3 Private Groups**

The Nature Conservancy, the Oblong Land Conservancy, the Trust for Public Lands, the Trust for Appalachian Trail Lands, the Open Space Institute and the Manitoa Nature Preserve have been involved with the protection and management of the AT or adjoining lands. Provisions will be made for their continued involvement through formal or informal cooperative arrangements.

## **9.4 Cooperative Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding**

### **9.4.1 Pink Arrow Trail**

June 23, 1990

M. Carlton Van Patten/Richard Lougheed  
Old Albany Post Road  
Garrison, NY 10524

Dear Mr. Van Patten and Mr. Lougheed,

As Overseers of the Appalachian Trail in Putnam County we have noticed the construction of a side trail to the Appalachian Trail from property that you are developing off of Old Albany Post Road. Strictly speaking, you should have contacted us before the construction of a trail on U.S. Government property since we are the local managers of that property. In practice, we are happy to have trail neighbors use the Trail and help protect the resource. Local neighbors are likely to see threats to the Trail and trail lands before our monitors and maintainers.

We would like you to formally request permission for a side trail. This can be done by attending one of our meetings, sending back a signed copy of this letter (if you can accept the conditions mentioned here), or writing your own letter proposing other conditions. We would like to accept the side trail with the condition that our monitors and maintainers be allowed to use it for trail access at most of few times a year each. They would contact either you or one of the landowners near the side trail before using the side trail and leave an identifying marker on their car. Such access would be useful to us because your side trail is near the midpoint of a three mile section. We will not mention the side trail in any of the trail literature such as guide books to hopefully keep curious hikers from using the trail. We would suggest that you post no trespassing signs at your property boundary. We are particularly concerned with mechanized or horse access to the trail so anything you can do to prevent such access through your property would be appreciated.

Please feel free to contact us to discuss this issue or report any problems that you observe.

Sincerely,

Walt & Jane Daniels  
Putnam County Appalachian Trail Management Committee  
914-245-1250

cc: John Taube  
Sam Gordon