

Adopt-A-Trail



Sheltowee Trace National Recreation Trail Daniel Boone National Forest

ADOPT-A-TRAIL

Daniel Boone National Forest

There are approximately 243 miles of Sheltopee Trace Trail on the Daniel Boone National Forest available for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, and motorized vehicle use. The STA attempts to maintain about 220 of the 243 miles – the Red River Gorge Crew maintains the Trace in the Gorge.

Your Help is Welcome!

Individuals and groups can help maintain the Trace and restore or protect resources in our area by “adopting” a trail or a section of trail. Individual or as a group, you are asked to return on a continuing basis to ensure the trail that you adopt would remain open and accessible.

The Work

The type of maintenance needed on each trail always varies – even weather can determine what work is necessary – but you will remove rock and debris from the trail, cut out downed logs with hand saws or assist card carrying volunteers or Boone staff that are chainsaw certified, trim brush, and remove litter. Please refer to the attached Adopt-A-Trail standards.

Groups from time to time may camp for a weekend near the trail head or work location. Some like to camp along the trail with tools to enjoy their recreation activities between work periods.

Because the time you spend on the trail is your free time, we want you to enjoy it. It will involve working, learning, and socializing at the same time. Not only do we want your experience to be enjoyable, we also want it to be safe. Use this project as an opportunity to teach a safe work ethic to young and old alike. Safety doesn't spoil the fun, but accidents do. Work Safely!

The Adopt-A-Trail program is open to all; shared cooperatively by many people. All are of equal importance. Though we hope the bonds of friendship develop among trail builders, please try to work through conflict, too. We have come together in the most altruistic way to realize a common goal, to maintain a trail system that will provide a safe, enjoyable experience for many forest users.

How You Can Adopt a Trail

First, you and or your group decides you wish to work on the Trace and how much you're willing to take on. Then, an agreement is made between you and your group and the Sheltopee Trace Association. The STA provides technical direction, information about trail maintenance standards, basic training, and some tools or materials. You provide the time, muscle, supervision, and energy to keep the trail in good repair. It's also up to you to bring gloves and appropriate clothing and boots, food and water.

Adopting a trail is a real commitment. The STA relies on your group to accomplish all the work you sign up for – and appreciates every bit of your energy spent. You will find this work incredibly rewarding!

What's In This For You?

Individually or as a group, you will know how much work and care you put into that area. You will teach your children the value of contributing to the maintenance of their community's resources. You'll share a special time with friends, laughing and working together to improve a trail or lake for everyone. At the end of a day, you'll share stories, the warmth of your campfire, and the satisfaction of muscles sore with accomplishment.

INTERESTED?

Contact: Trails Volunteer Coordinator
Denise Combs
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859-699-6801

Sheltowee Trace Association

Adopt-A-Trail Standard

Maintenance Standards

1. Trail travelways (paths) are to be cleared of downed material for a minimum total width of 8 feet wide (4 feet from center line of trail) and 8 to 10 feet high. Material is to be completely removed from the trail tread so that it will not roll back onto the trail. Refer to the attached 'clearing Limits' description.
2. Brush along the trail should be cut off at the ground level so that it does not protrude into the trail tread and branches protruding in the travel way should be pruned to a height of 8 to 10 feet so that a person on horseback or biking will not hit the branch. Refer to attached "Clearing Limits" description. All material should be scattered randomly along the downhill side of the trail.
3. Clean existing waterbars (erosion control) structures by removing the soil that has accumulated on the uphill side of the structure and allowing water to flow away from the trail tread. With the permission of the STA trails team and the Forest Service, new rock or log waterbars needed should be installed as described in the attached diagram. Coordinating with the STA Trails Team and the Forest Service slides or sloughs that may present erosion potential by their continued existence or impair the trail tread and travel way should be removed.
4. The Adopt-A-Trail volunteer should examine all trail signs along their trail and contact the STA trails coordinator or Executive Director with information on repair or replacement needs. If the sign is leaning or on the ground, the volunteer should straighten the sign and attach it to the signpost or tree as appropriate.
5. The Trail Maintenance and Condition report should be completed for each section of trail maintained and turned in the trails coordinator at the end of the season.
6. Volunteers are expected to comply with travel restrictions when doing trail maintenance. Volunteers should expect to in most cases walk into their work area. In some cases, with permission, volunteers may be transported on OHV's.
7. Volunteers are no different than employees regarding safety. The Forest Service Safety and Health Code Handbook requires training and certification for people to operate chainsaws or cross-cut saws. Necessary training is annually held and structured specific for saw use on trail maintenance. Volunteers are encouraged and must attend to utilize these tools for trail maintenance work. The executive director and the Trails Team will coordinate with the land managers for certification classes.

Technical Specifications

- A. Definitions for non-motorized or 2-wheel motorized trails*

Obstruction – Any natural or unnatural material, which because of its shape, size, location, or existence which impedes, detours, prohibits or otherwise disturbs the normal movement of traffic along the travelway.

Trail Tread – That portion of the originally constructed trail surface, used as a path of travel, measuring a minimum of twenty-four (24) inches wide as measured twelve (12) inches from each side of the centerline of the path.

Trailway – That portion of the originally constructed travel route above the trail tread extending a minimum of three (3) feet wide, six (6) feet between trees, and ten (10) feet high for obstructions within the trailway (Exhibit 1).

Drainage Dip – A water diversion improvement directing water to the outslope, consisting primarily of a simple trench constructed at a 45-degree angle to the trail.

Waterbar – A water diversion improvement utilizing logs, rocks, concrete, or other long lasting materials constructed at a 45-degree angle to the trail tread which directs water towards the outslope.

B. Trail Clearing

Clearing will include removing all trees, logs, limbs, branches, shrubs, rocks, dirt, and other materials that obstruct foot, horse and two wheel bike traffic within the travelway, cleaning out existing drainage dips and waterbars, and removal of slides or sloughs that may present erosion potential by their continued existence.

C. Cutting and Removal

All shrubs and trees growing within the travelway will be cut as close as possible, flush to the ground and disposed of as stated in D. Disposal.

If a log, windfall, branches or shrubs are obstructing the travelway, if possible and using a hand saw they may be cut to the clearing limits, a minimum distance of four (4) feet horizontally from and perpendicular to the centerline on both sides of the trail (see exhibit 1). The portion of a log that remains on the uphill side of the trail shall be firmly anchored to prevent sliding onto the trail or moved across and off the travelway to the lower side of the trail as stated in D. Disposal.

If a limb is to be removed from a standing, live tree, it will be sawn flush with the trunk or limb leaving no stubs or “Hat racks”. Axes will not be permitted for this work. Pruning live trees shall be done in a manner to prevent tearing of the bark.

Remove by scattering randomly off the low side of the trail, and slides or sloughs less than ten (10) feet in length that cause or may cause erosion of the trail. The group shall notify the SAT trail coordinator through the end of work report of the location of any slides or sloughs greater than ten (10) feet in length.

Loose rocks greater than three (3) inches in length on the longest side and loose stumps within the trailway will be removed to the downhill side of the trail a minimum of four (4) feet from the centerline of the travelway.

D. Disposal

Cleared materials will be removed and disposed of by scattering randomly along the downhill side of the trail a minimum of four (4) feet from the centerline of the travelway. Logs and brush will NOT be cut to even lengths and stacked or decked adjacent to the

travelway in uniform or unnatural patterns. Cleared debris will be disposed of out of sight of the trail wherever practical.

E. Drainage

Maintain drainage dips, and log or rock waterbars that were originally constructed by cleaning out the upgrade side for a minimum distance of six (6) feet providing a minimum of four (4) inches freeboard measured from the top of the waterbar to the cleaned trough surface adjacent to the waterbar on the upgrade side. New waterbars should be installed where water drainage problems are damaging the trail tread. Installation must conform to Exhibit #2 or Exhibit #3. Please report any waterbars installed and/or needed on the trail maintenance and condition report.

F. Additional Requirements

If the individual or group plans to camp in the woods near the work site, leave no trace principals are expected to be observed. Fire pit lines and/or fire pans will be used for a campfire with cold ash and coals dispersed. No campfire rings allowed and all no-burnable garbage, including but not limited to, aluminum foil, pull tabs, metal container, cigarette butts, etc., will be packed out. Encountered fire rings will be destroyed and your campsite naturalized whenever you move and change camps. The group will be expected to pick up and dispose of all litter encountered along the trail.

ADOPT-A-TRAIL PROGRAM AGREEMENT
Daniel Boone National Forest

Adoptee:

Trail: _____ Ranger

District _____

On behalf of the Sheltopee Trace Association we welcome you to the Adopt-A-Trail program. The trail which you are adopting is: _____ # _____, (see map attached). You will be responsible for the section of trail from: _____ to _____,

A length of approximately _____ miles, for the period: _____ to _____.

Work will be complete according to the attached Adopt-A-Trail Standards.

Trail Crew Boss Designation

In meeting the requirements of the program, said individual(s) _____ (designated below) agree to supervise their group. These individuals will serve as trail bosses for the organization. They will, in turn, be responsible for the training of trail workers in proper techniques and safe work procedures, and will inspect the work of the group.

Crew Boss : _____

Address: _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Materials and Supplies

The STA agrees to provide the following materials and supplies.

The group/individual agrees to provide the following materials and supplies:

