



Ozark Trail Association
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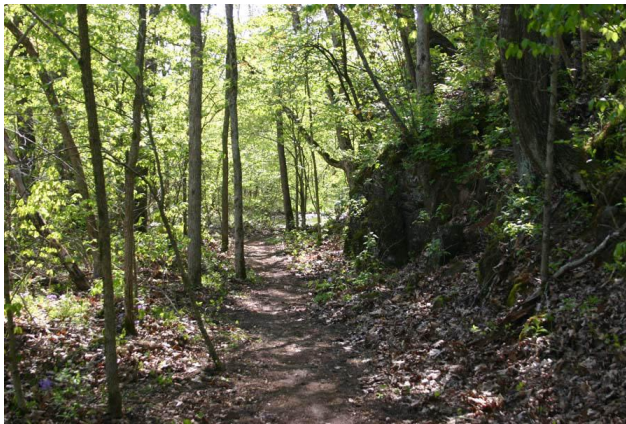
PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MISSOURI'S OZARK TRAIL DESIGNATED AS A NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL

*Our
 Mission
 To develop
 maintain,
 preserve,
 promote and
 protect
 the rugged,
 natural beauty
 of the
 Ozark Trail*



Near Neals Creek, a prime location for viewing beaver dams, on the Middle Fork section of the Ozark Trail



NRT markers appear on "trails that connect people to nature, to each other and to our shared histories and cultures."

In an announcement this month, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior designated 262 miles of the Ozark Trail as a National Recreation Trail . The 360 total miles of the Ozark Trail pass through some of the most scenic areas in the Ozarks and include 225 miles of contiguous through-trail. The trail stretches from Crawford County, near Steeleville to Howell County, near West Plains, Missouri. When completed Ozark Trail is anticipated to begin in St. Louis and connect with the Ozark Highlands Trail at Fort Smith, Arkansas, for an estimated 700 total miles.

National Recreation Trails are designated to recognize exemplary trails of local and regional significance as part of America's trail system. NRT-designated trails are listed on a national register kept by American Trails (www.AmericanTrails.org), which includes descriptive information, maps, and photographs. The Ozark Trail joins 15 other National

MORE



Recreation Trails in Missouri and is the second-longest trail managed by the U.S. Forest Service. All sections of the Ozark Trail are available for hiking and many sections of the trail are open for equestrian and bicycle use; motorized vehicles are prohibited on the trail.

The Ozark Trail Association (OTA) web site at www.ozarktrail.com includes trail information, maps, an interactive trip planner and a schedule of upcoming events and other information for volunteers. The majority of the trail is located on the Mark Twain National Forest, with portions of the trail on lands managed by Missouri Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Missouri Department of Conservation, the National Park Service, Pioneer Forest and private landowners.

About the Ozark Trail Association

The non-profit volunteer Ozark Trail Association (OTA) was founded by the late John Roth in 2002 with the mission to **develop, maintain, preserve, promote and protect the rugged natural beauty of the Ozark Trail**. OTA volunteers have contributed over 60,000 combined hours of work including laying out and flagging proposed new trail; building trail with hand tools; and performing maintenance through the OTA's "Adopt-A-Trail" program; managing OTA "MegaEvents" (weekend-long camping and trail-building events); and other work outings for volunteers. For more information about the Ozark Trail and the OTA, and for trail maps, an interactive trip planner, a schedule of upcoming events and other information, see www.ozarktrail.com.

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Editor's Note: High-resolution images of the OTA logo, trail maps and photographs are available online at www.ozarktrail.com/mediakit.php. Requests for additional artwork and photographs can be made to the Ozark Trail Association, 573-436-0540 or emailed to Abi Jackson, abi.jackson@ozarktrail.com.