OZARK HIGHLANDS TRAIL ASSOCIATION

The Ozark Highlands Trail Association (OHTA) is a private, nonprofit volunteer organization that was organized in 1981 to build, maintain, and enjoy the Ozark Highlands Trail. Since that time, thousands of our volunteers from twenty states have contributed over 350,000 hours of work to this trail project. Our members are all ages, come from different parts of the country, and have many backgrounds and interests.

OHTA is an outings club too. These casual trips will take you to some of the most scenic spots in the Ozarks, as well as other regional natural areas.

We are also an educational organization, with emphasis on teaching low impact camping and hiking techniques, and helping to ease those who are new to the sport of hiking into the backcountry. Beginners welcome!

All outings and meetings are open to the public, and there is never any charge. We have monthly meetings, a web page, newsletter, and an expanding program of work trips, day hikes, and overnight backpack trips for hikers of all ages and abilities.

If this sounds like the group for you, download the membership application at the link below and mail it in.


http://ozarkhighlandstrail.com/

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OHTA is a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization.
Mind the Gaps… and Close Them.

The Ozark Highlands Trail (OHT) is one of the most scenic hiking trails in the United States. Construction of the trail began in 1977 by the U.S. Forest Service, but soon funding disappeared and OHTA volunteers took up the torch. The main section of the trail was completed in 1989 and was dedicated as a National Recreation Trail. David’s Trail opened in 2009 along the route to Missouri, currently expanding as the Ozark Keystone Trail, is a multipurpose trail adjacent to Norfork Lake designed to encourage an active lifestyle for all ages. Work continues—upgrading sections, creating loops and spurs, conducting ongoing maintenance, and undertaking efforts close the gaps to connect with the Ozark Trail and ultimately extend to St. Louis, Missouri—creating the envisioned Trans-Ozarks-Trail system of over 700 miles!

The OHT builds and maintains the growing Ozark Highlands Trail across northern Arkansas, from Lake Fort Smith State Park to Norfork Lake, where it will connect with the Ozarks Keystone Trail/David’s Trail and the Ozark Trail, being built in Missouri, to create the Trans-Ozarks-Trail.

Is a “Golden Spike” opportunity in the foreseeable future to connect the trails?

About 270 miles of trail are built in Arkansas as of 2021. However, about 51 miles remain to be built in Arkansas, including 21 miles in the Lower Buffalo Wilderness, 8 miles between Matney Knob and the Norfork Dam, and 32 miles along Norfork Lake in Arkansas. The good news is that all but 8 miles are on federal lands and two grants have been awarded for about 20 more miles of David’s Trail along Norfork Lake.

The 8-mile gap between Matney Knob (near the town of Norfork) and the Norfork Dam is among the most difficult of the remaining gaps because there is so much private land along the potential routes.

If you want to assist in any way, please contact James Hodges, OHTA Trail Completion Representative, at 870-421-0579 or JHodges93@yahoo.com.