HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

The Knobstone Trail (KT) is Indiana’s longest footpath. The 60-mile backpack hiking trail traverses Clark State Forest, Elk Creek Public Fishing Area and Jackson-Little Joe Creek and Washington counties in southern Indiana, the trail extends from Deam Lake, just north of State Road 60 in Clark County, to Delaney Park, just east of S.R. 135 in Washington County.

WATER SOURCES

Reliable water sources can be found at the Deam Lake, Elk Creek, Spurgeon Hollow and Delaney trailheads. Contours are at 10 foot intervals. Lines darken as elevation increases. Scale = 1:24,000

This does not mean the water is safe to drink without being treated. This water can be clear, cold and free of pathogens. These methods include boiling, using water purification plates, private donations and General Assembly funds. The KT is maintained and enhanced with the help of volunteers from hiking clubs and other organizations.

Recreation as the managing agency of the KT because most of the trail traverses State Forests. Indiana operates its State Forests under a “GREEN” CERTIFIED FORESTS recognition standard.

State forests are active and busy places. Forest management operations can make finding your way difficult. There are nine trailheads providing parking areas and restrooms. Trail management operations can make finding your way difficult.

BEAM LAKE

New Salem - Miller Fork - Bartle Knob Run - South Branch Big Ox Creek - Middle Poplar Branch - South Poplar Branch - New Chapel - Lodge Creek - Right Branch Blue Lick Creek - Middle Ox Creek - Caney Fork

TORNADO DAMAGE

An F4 Tornado on March 2, 2012, left a 49-mile path of destruction. A 2013 backcountry map depicts trail sections that were damaged. For updates on trail conditions, closures and reroutes, please call Jackson-Washington State Forest at (812) 358-2160, Clark State Forest at (812) 294-4306, or Deam Lake State Recreation Area at (812) 674-6842.

In some areas, the trail follows a narrow corridor of public property. This map shows the boundaries. Hikers are responsible for helping maintain good relations with property owners.

The tornado destroyed 4.5 miles of the KT in Clark County. Since Oct. 11, 2013, backcountry hikers have been able to use the trail.

For public safety, trails or facilities directly affected by the tornado damage may not be safe to use. These closures may cause. If you have questions, please call Jackson-Washington State Forest at (812) 358-2160, Clark State Forest at (812) 294-4306, or Deam Lake State Recreation Area at (812) 674-6842.

Trail closures are posted on the official KT website at dnr.IN.gov/forestry/4224.htm.

PERMISSIBLE USES

The Knobstone Escarpment makes for steep climbs and descents. These ridges are typical of the Knobstone Plateau. The KT is marked by 2-inch by 6-inch white blazes painted where the trail changes direction at an intersection with other trails or roads.

SOUTH CHAPEL

NEW CHAPEL

CAUTION

The KT is not a firebreak. Hikers should not expect to find handcut switchbacks. The trail is marked by 2-inch by 6-inch white blazes painted on trees, logs, rocks and also in the dirt where the trail changes direction at an intersection with other trails or roads.

UF follows the trail.

It is not possible to keep a continuous trail. There are sections where the trail is open due to lack of maintenance. The US Forest Service is working to improve trail maintenance. There are times the trail and reroutes may use county highways to gravel county lanes. Use caution when entering these roads. This can be a safety hazard for hikers, horseback riders, bicyclists and motorized vehicles.

There are no continuous trails providing parking areas and restrooms. The trail is not open to horses, bicyclists or motorized vehicles.

Tornado damage on March 2, 2012, left a 49-mile path of destruction. A 2013 backcountry map depicts trail sections that were damaged.

The damage to the trunks of the trees that created the tornado was shown in 2014 by the DNR Forestry Initiative Inc.

The damage to the trunks of the trees that created the tornado was shown in 2014 by the DNR Forestry Initiative Inc.

The damage to the trunks of the trees that created the tornado was shown in 2014 by the DNR Forestry Initiative Inc.

The damage to the trunks of the trees that created the tornado was shown in 2014 by the DNR Forestry Initiative Inc.