



National Park Service News Release

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Appalachian National Scenic Trail seeks public input on Virginia's Triple Crown Visitor Use Management Plan

Harpers Ferry, West Virginia – The National Park Service and partners are beginning a planning process to address how to best manage visitor use on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail just west of Roanoke, Virginia. This segment includes Dragon's Tooth, McAfee Knob, and Tinker Cliffs, and is known as Virginia's Triple Crown.

The trail segment is experiencing increasing visitor use levels, negative impacts to resources, overcrowded facilities, and safety concerns at road crossings. The planning process will explore how to address these concerns while balancing visitor use and conservation of the Trail's resources.

"We are thrilled that so many visitors are enjoying this section of the AT. We have also noticed and heard from our stakeholders that there are real concerns about overcrowding that we want to address so that the Trail continues to be an accessible, enjoyable, and sustainable resource for the region now and into the future," said Wendy Janssen, superintendent of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. "In order to develop our plan for the future of this section of trail, the AT partners will take a look at strategies for managing high levels of visitor use."

The planning team is seeking public input on how to address these issues. Strategies could include examining the feasibility of hiker shuttles, modifying or adding new campsites, actively managing parking, and trail rerouting.

NPS invites residents and visitors to learn more about the project, meet the planning team, and provide feedback by joining a virtual meeting. Meeting information may also be found on the project [website](#).

- March 9, 5:30pm, Virtual meeting
 - Join by internet: <https://doitalent.zoomgov.com/j/1616663147>, Meeting ID: 161 666 3147, Passcode: 466890
 - Or join by phone: 1-646-828-7666 US (New York), Meeting ID: 161 666 3147, Passcode: 466890

- March 17, 10:30am, Virtual meeting
 - Join by internet: <https://doitalent.zoomgov.com/j/1619235175>, Meeting ID: 161 923 5175, Passcode: 708055
 - Or join by phone: 1-646-828-7666, Meeting ID: 161 923 5175, Passcode: 708055

The public is also encouraged to [review materials](#) and comment [online](#) through March 31.

“We are fortunate to have passionate outdoor recreation and environmental stewards in our community who are engaged in this planning effort,” said Janssen. “Strategies for addressing visitor use will evolve as we receive input from community members.”

www.nps.gov

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 419 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov, and on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

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