

MAUMELLE

RECREATION
VISION



PINNACLES

MASTER
PLAN

DRAFT MASTER PLAN
JUNE 2024

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Project Partners

Shea Lewis — Cabinet Secretary of Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage & Tourism
Suzanne Grobmyer — Chief of Staff, Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage & Tourism
Shealyn Sowers — Chief of Communications, Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage & Tourism
Katherine Andrews — Director, Office of Outdoor Recreation
Jeff King, Deputy Director — Arkansas State Parks
Jordan Thomas — Design Services Manager, Arkansas State Parks
Bill Holimon — Agency Director, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
Cindy Osborne — Data Manager/Environmental Review Coordinator, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
Raven Lawson — Watershed Protection Manager, Central Arkansas Water
Bryan Ruper — Land Conservation Coordinator, Central Arkansas Water
Roger Mangham — State Director, The Nature Conservancy - Arkansas Field Office
Anna Metrailler — Director of Protection, The Nature Conservancy - Arkansas Field Office

Cover Image: derived from photo taken by Joshua Kwekel

Project Stakeholders

Darrell Bowman — Recreation and Access Coordinator, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Kirsten Bartlow — Watchable Wildlife Coordinator, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Mitchell Allen — Interim Executive Director, Arkansas Park and Recreation Foundation
Casey Covington — Executive Director, Metroplan
Barry Hyde — County Judge, Pulaski County
Tab Townsell — Director of Public Works, Pulaski County
Travis Montgomery — Administrative Coordinator, Pulaski County
Leland Couch — Director of Little Rock Parks & Recreation, City of Little Rock

Consultant Team

Brad Peterson, P.E., CFM, LEED AP — Vice President of Engineering, Crafton Tull
Dave Roberts, ASLA — Senior Vice President of Business Development & Planning, Crafton Tull
Julie Luther Kelso, AICP, ASLA — Vice President of Planning, Crafton Tull
Isaac Sims, PCED — Planner, Crafton Tull
Aaron Schlosser, Associate ASLA — Planner, Crafton Tull
Seth Boles, P.E. — Civil Engineer, Crafton Tull
Phil Penny — Owner, Rogue Trails



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1.0 PROJECT OVERVIEW

Image Credit: Crafton Tull

PROJECT OVERVIEW

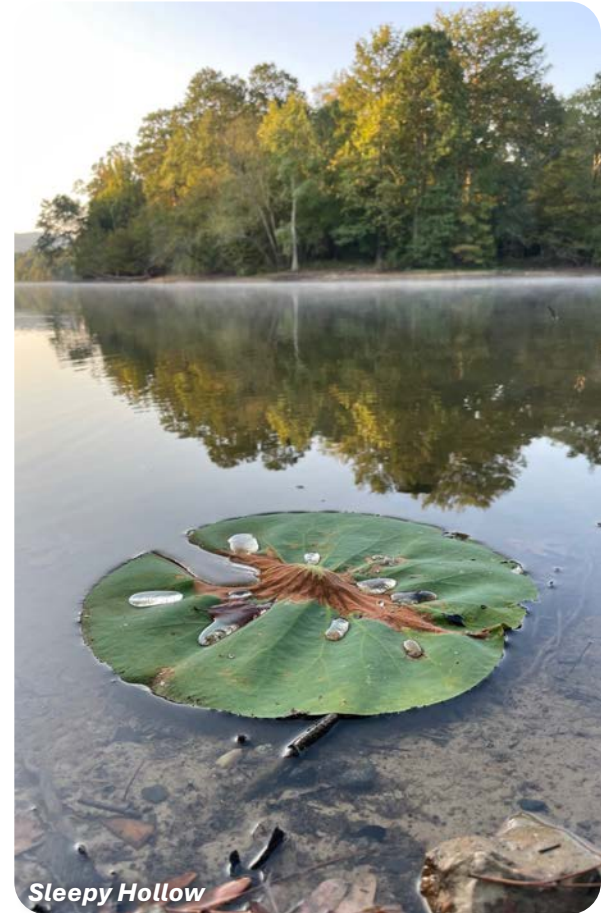
PROJECT AREA



The Maumelle Pinnacles Conservation Area (MPCA) comprises more than 24,000 acres of public land in phase 1 (and an additional 8,400 acres in phase 2) with multiple types of resources ranging from city, county, and state parks with a recreation focus to natural areas and a protected watershed for Central Arkansas's drinking water supply. The MPCA spans from the Big Dam Bridge on the east end to the west end of Lake Maumelle and Bringle Creek in its initial phase, eventually stretching further west to Lake



Sylvia within the Ouachita National Forest. A naturally vast and beautiful region, the foremost challenge for unifying the area in a navigable recreation system is balancing the priorities of the natural realm and the effects of the humans who interact with it. Trail infrastructure connecting users of all ages and abilities to the manifold recreation opportunities will interface with sensitive habitats and must be strategically implemented to minimize impacts. Similarly, creating a quality user experience complete



with equitable education opportunities at the forefront means allowing individuals into protected natural areas. This visioning plan outlines strategies for balancing these important priorities, creating space for them to coexist and provide enhanced access to the natural wonders of the MPCA and new opportunities for individuals to recreate in exciting ways with ample opportunities to stop to explore, learn, and appreciate the natural environment.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

PROJECT PURPOSE

The primary goal of the Maumelle Pinnacles Outdoor Recreation Vision Master Plan is to provide a unified vision and direction for balancing conservation of the natural realm with the recreation needs of the residents of Central Arkansas.

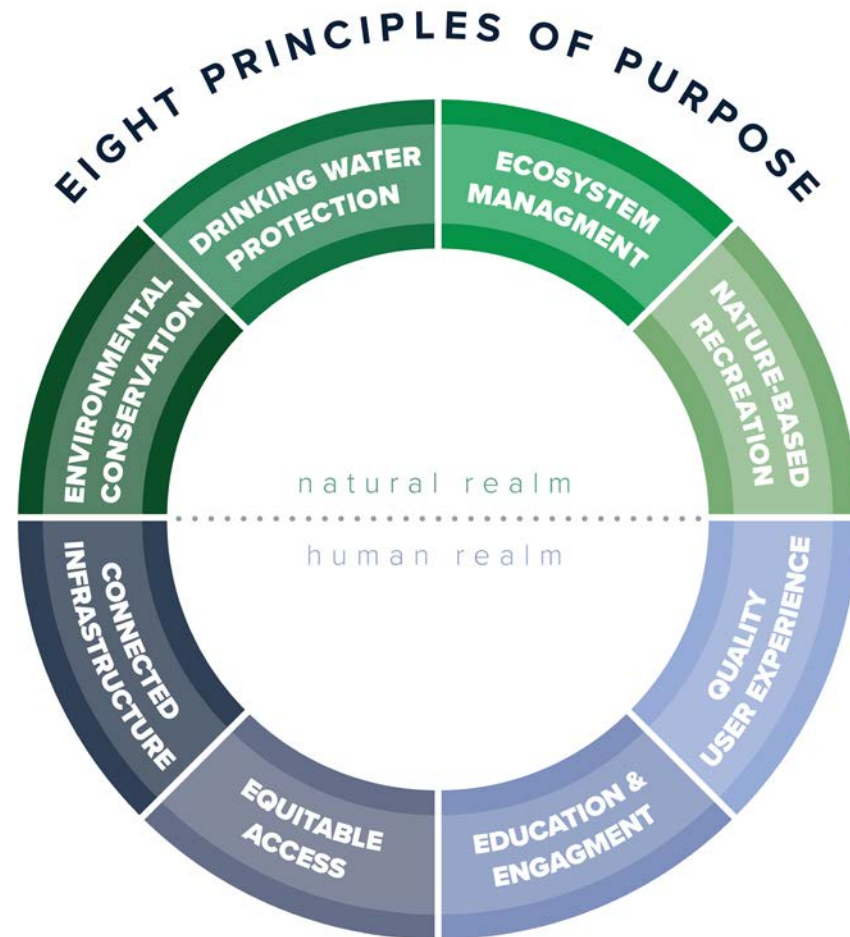
This plan explores the current and desired recreational amenities expressed by those who live and recreate in the region, as well as identify opportunities for investment in new types of recreation across the four goals related to the human realm:

1. **Connected Infrastructure** via bicycling, walking, and water trails
2. **Equitable Access** providing opportunities for all ages and abilities
3. **Education & Engagement** within the natural and built environments
4. **Quality User Experiences** providing comfortable and enjoyable options

These expressed needs will be balanced with the four goals for the natural realm:

5. **Environmental Conservation** avoiding over-development or harmful human activities
6. **Drinking Water Protection** reducing harmful impacts within the watershed
7. **Ecosystem Management** promoting forest management practices to maintain healthy ecosystems and wildlife
8. **Nature-Based Recreation** providing opportunities to interact and learn about the natural environment

Outdoor recreation is vital to a human's wellbeing: reduced heart rate and blood pressure, improved sleep quality, and improved cognition and creativity are just a few examples of proven health benefits associated with time spent outside. (Source: Frontiers, PubMed, Nature Sustainability)



Maumelle Pinnacles Conservation Area

Source: Crafton Tull

PROJECT OVERVIEW

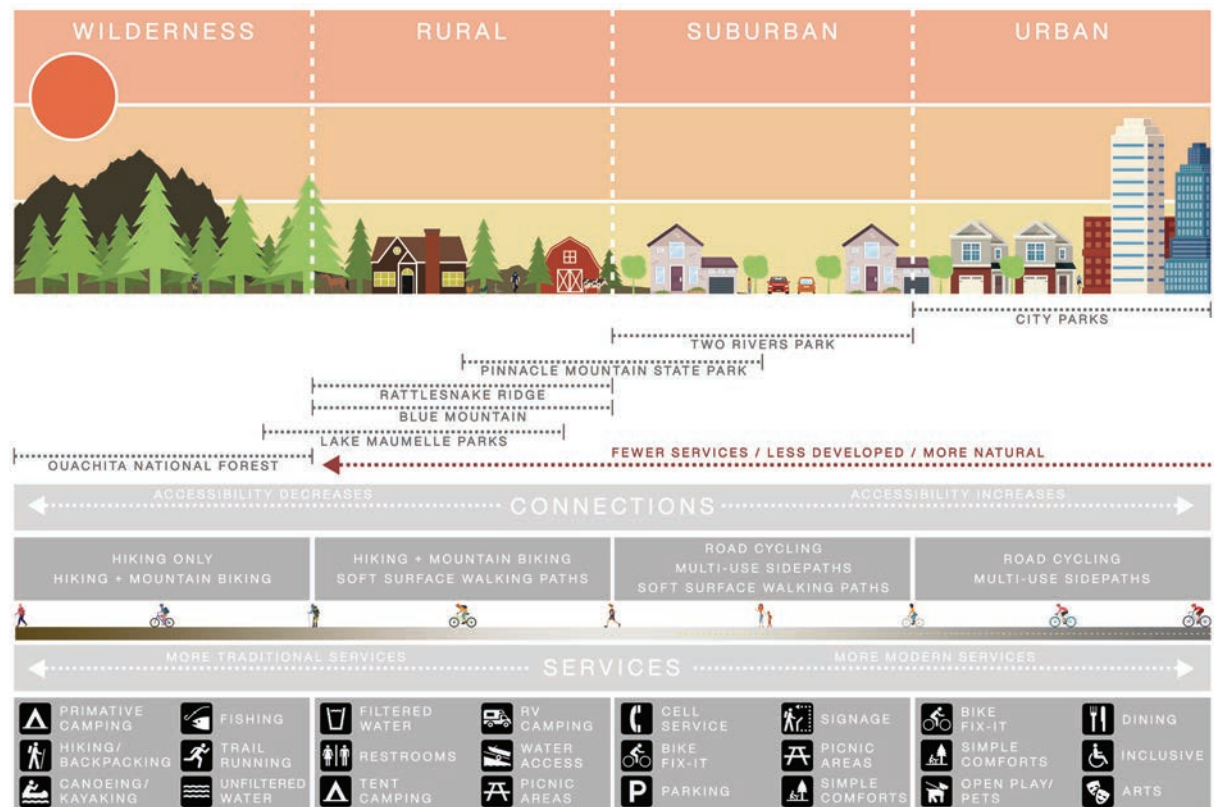
DIVERSE PARKS + NATURAL AREAS

Properties and Points of Interest

The Maumelle Pinnacles Conservation Area (MPCA) has a wide-ranging spectrum of recreation types, some resembling city parks in urbanized areas and others serving a more secluded and natural recreation role. This plan seeks to connect these many parks, conservation areas, and trailheads with an equally-diverse system of pathways. Mountain bike trails, paved bike and pedestrian trails, soft surface trails, and the 223-mile long Ouachita Trail are all different types of recreation amenities, and even serve as connecting corridors between some destinations.

The various destinations in the MPCA can be described with one of four “transects”: wilderness, rural, suburban, and urban. This transect not only delineates a geographical progression but reflects a progression of diminishing urbanity and increasing immersion into the natural landscape, a narrative showcased in the diverse natural areas within the MPCA: a collection of public lands spanning from the Big Dam Bridge to Lake Maumelle and beyond. In general, as one journeys from the Big Dam Bridge westward, environments transition from urban parks to more nature-oriented destinations.

The City of Little Rock parks on the east edge of the MPCA representing the urban transect (right) feature accessible comforts, inclusive spaces, artistic elements, and open play areas, complemented by recreational connections via road cycling and paved multi-use paths. The suburban transect, exemplified by Two Rivers Park and sections of Pinnacle Mountain State Park, have cell service, parking facilities, some simple comforts such as restrooms, picnic areas, pavilions, and playgrounds, enhancing connection with nature through soft surface hiking and mountain biking trails alongside paved paths. Rattlesnake Ridge, Blue Mountain, Bufflehead Bay, Vista Park, and segments of Pinnacle Mountain State Park are each examples of the rural transect, enhancing the outdoor experience with filtered water, limited tent camping, water access, and limited restroom facilities. Venturing deeper into the wilderness transect within the Ouachita National Forest and Ouachita Trail west of Lake Maumelle, primitive camping, hiking, backpacking, and hunting become more prevalent.

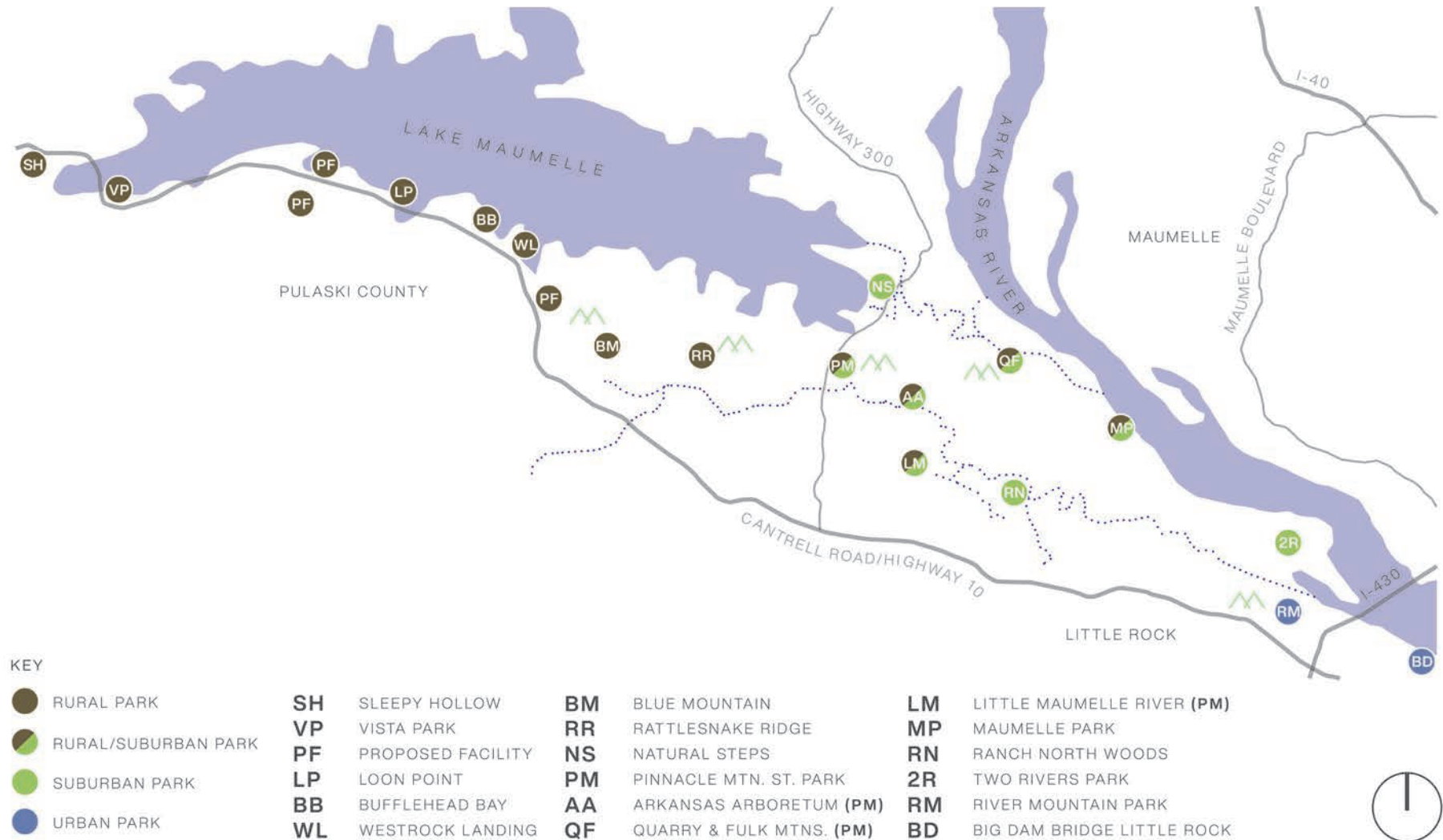


PROJECT OVERVIEW

DIVERSE PARKS + NATURAL AREAS

Destination Types within the Study Area

18 unique destinations within the MPCA offer an exciting range of recreation types. From immersive lakeside fishing at Loon Point on the west end to high-speed road cycling on the east end, exciting adventures await at each location. In the center of the map lie the three peaks, from east to west: Pinnacle Mountain, Rattlesnake Ridge, and Blue Mountain. These destinations have different areas within them, whether trailheads, trails, water access, or others.



Note: initial concept to be revised

PROJECT OVERVIEW

DIVERSE PARKS + NATURAL AREAS



Big Dam Bridge

As the longest bridge in North America dedicated solely for use by pedestrians and bicyclists, the Big Dam Bridge extends ninety feet above the Arkansas River and offers scenic views of the Maumelle Pinnacles area to the west and downtown Little Rock to the east.



Source: Campsitephotos.com

Maumelle Park

Maumelle Park is operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers and is the only destination within the MPCA with RV hookups. It is regularly utilized by visitors, and even features a Medical Loop reserved for convalescing patients of UAMS hospital. The park is on the Arkansas River and offers beautiful scenery of the north bank.



Source: Arkansas Tourism

River Mountain

River Mountain Park is one of the most popular recreation destinations in Little Rock. Located on the eastern urban fringe of the MPCA, it features a beautiful bridge spanning the merging Arkansas and Little Maumelle Rivers, a boat launch area, a hiking trail connected to nearby Conner Park, and bike trails.



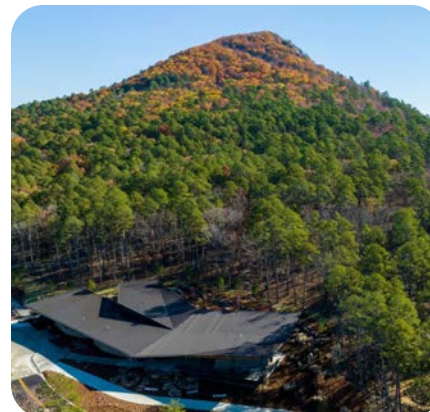
Ranch North Woods

Located at the end of Ranch Drive, Ranch North Woods is a conservation area with trails leading to the Little Maumelle River. Just upstream is the only float-in campground in the MPCA, with free kayaks available at a share station to use and then return after your float.



Two Rivers Park

Two Rivers Park is located close to River Mountain Park across the Little Maumelle River, connected by a paved bicycle pathway. Nearly 4 additional miles of trail weave among the scenic open fields perfect for running or bicycling and features an inclusive playground. Two Rivers Park has become a classic with families seeking a nearby adventure with their small children.



Pinnacle Mountain State Park

Located at the confluence of rivers, bayous, and sandstone barrens with glades nestled at its peak, Pinnacle Mountain State Park is the epicenter of the MPCA and the tallest peak in the region. Many outdoor activities can be found here: hiking, mountain biking, kayaking, playgrounds, nature trails, and even a new visitor center complete with Loblolly ice cream.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

DIVERSE PARKS + NATURAL AREAS



Source: Chase Carmichael

Natural Steps Soccer Complex

A popular destination for field sports such as soccer, lacrosse and ultimate frisbee, Natural Steps Soccer Complex can be found at the foot of the Lake Maumelle Dam. Its even terrain sees heavy recreational tournament use across its eight fields of varying sizes.



Lake Maumelle East Vista

The undeveloped eastern edge of Central Arkansas Water's property along the Highway 10 corridor offers a beautiful first glimpse of the lake. Currently an undeveloped pull-off, this high point may be formalized as an overlook and gateway into the Lake Maumelle corridor, introducing visitors to the watershed's critical role in drinking water supply.



Rattlesnake Ridge Natural Area

Although physically smaller than Pinnacle Mountain, Rattlesnake Ridge boasts untouched wonders that can be experienced on foot, bicycle, or up close while rock climbing. Rattlesnake Ridge was the first ANHC conservation area to include mountain biking trails. Today it has 5.8 miles of challenging trails for experienced riders.



WestRock Landing

Operating through a lease from Central Arkansas Water, WestRock Landing is the only motorized boating access on Lake Maumelle. Fishing tournaments are held on a weekly basis and are popular among tenants, as well as regular fishing reports provided by Arkansas Game & Fish Commission.



Blue Mountain Natural Area

The westernmost of the three pinnacles in the MPCA, Blue Mountain features beautiful vistas along hiking trails and beginner mountain biking trails that connect to Rattlesnake Ridge.



Bufflehead Bay

Immediately west of WestRock Landing, Bufflehead Bay features bank fishing and birdwatching opportunities along its 2.4-mile trail and wonderful views of Lake Maumelle at the trail's summit.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

DIVERSE PARKS + NATURAL AREAS



Loon Point

With beautiful views of Lake Maumelle, the Farkleberry Trail is the main attraction at Loon Point, located nearly half a mile west of Bufflehead Bay.



Vista Park

Settled on an inlet above Lake Maumelle, Vista Park has a small parking area and seating with plentiful shade to enjoy views of Lake Maumelle. Vista Park is a rest stop for travelers along the Ouachita Trail, which follows Highway 10 northwest to Highway 113.



Nursery Pond

The nursery pond is on Arkansas Game and Fish property and is stocked with young fish that are later released into Lake Maumelle.



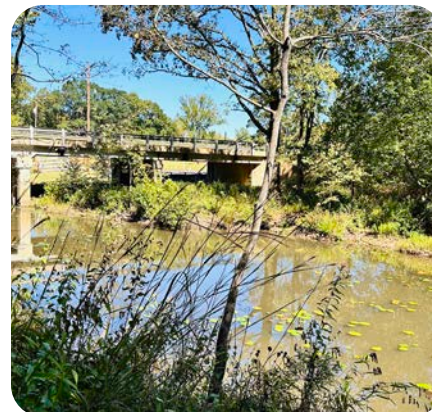
Sleepy Hollow Access

While there are picnic tables for enjoying a meal prior to departure or after the float, this destination is oriented around accessing the water to float the Sleepy Hollow Water Trail or boat fishing. The Maumelle River is placid, a great beginner float experience for young children or any who may be seeking unique waterfowl sightings.



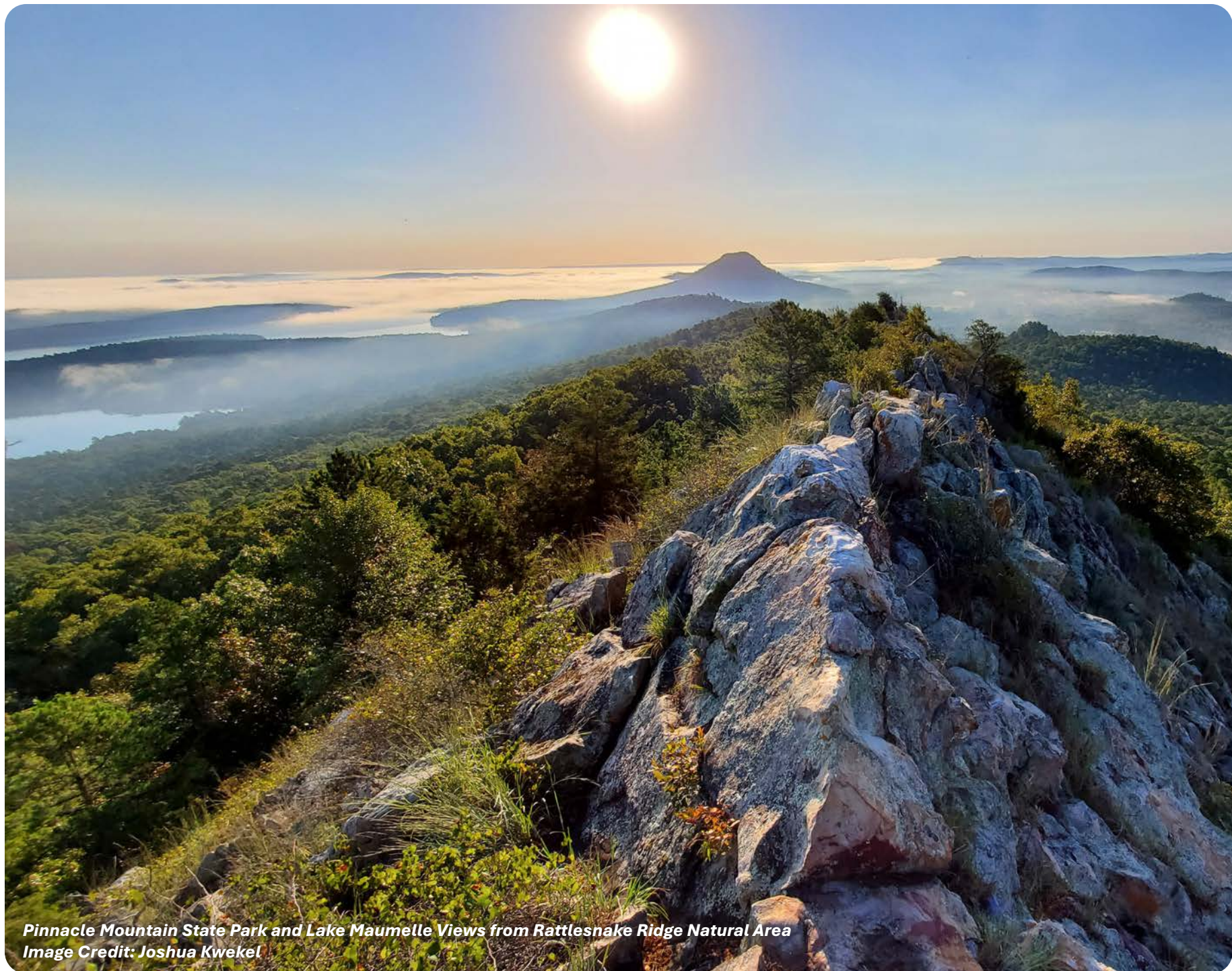
Old Jolly Rogers Site

A former marina site that currently has no structures and is not in use. This site may be utilized in the future as part of this plan. It is located along a quiet inlet along Lake Maumelle.



Bringle Creek

Bringle Creek offers remote hiking trails with some views of Bringle Creek and is utilized primarily for hunting.



Pinnacle Mountain State Park and Lake Maumelle Views from Rattlesnake Ridge Natural Area
Image Credit: Joshua Kwekel

PROJECT OVERVIEW

DIVERSE PARKS + NATURAL AREAS

Key

- Existing Amenity
- Proposed Amenity

		Size		Existing Trails (mi)						Recreation Types																		
		Acres	Length (ft)	Peak Elevation (ft)	Multi-Use Paved	Paved Walking Trail (under 10')	Mountain Biking *	Hiking	Other	Hiking, Walking, Trail Running	Paved Accessible Trail	Backpacking / Multi-Day Hiking	Mountain Biking	Gravel Riding Access Point	Road Cycling	Bank Fishing, Pack Fishing	Sailing, Boating, Fishing from a Boat	Kayaking, Canoeing, Paddle Boarding	Birding / Birdwatching	Rock Climbing	Horseback Riding	ATV Riding	Camping	Hunting	Parking	Restrooms	Potable Water Station	Kiosk / Orientation Signage
Existing Access Points	Abbreviation																											
Big Dam Bridge Trailhead	BDB	-	4226			1.7				●	●		●		●	●									●	●	●	●
River Mountain Park	RM	150	-	-			8.3	2		●	●		●		●	●	●	●	●						●	●	●	●
Two Rivers Park	2R	741	-	-	1.7	3.7	0.6	2.6		●	●		●		●	●		●	●		●				●	●	●	●
Maumelle Park	MMP	117	-	-						●	●				●	●	●	●				●		●		●	●	●
Ranch North Woods	RNW	240	-	-				3.7		●						●		●	●				●		●		●	●
Pinnacle Mountain State Park	PMSP	2069	-	1011	1.5	0.5	6.3	3	0.5	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PMSP Visitor Center	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	●		●	●		●										●	●	●	●
PMSP River View Center Area 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●						●	●	●	●
PMSP Arkansas Arboretum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	●	●		●		●	●			●						●	●	●	●
PMSP West Summit Trailhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	●	●				●	●		●	●		●				●	●	●	●
PMSP East Summit Trailhead 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	●					●	●									●	●	●	●
Natural Steps Sports Complex	NS	48	-	-						●		●			●										●	PP	●	●
Rattlesnake Ridge	RR	373	-	920			5.8	0.3		●			●		●	●			●	●					●		●	●
Blue Mountain	BM	457	-	901			3.6	3.5		●			●	●					●		●				●			●
WestRock Landing	WRL	44	-	-						●				●		●	●								●	●	●	●
Bufflehead Bay	BB	105	-	478		0.3		2.2		●	●					●			●						●	●	●	●
Loon Point	LP	21	-	-				0.5		●	●					●			●						●			●
Vista Park	VP	7.6	-	-						●		●				●			●						●		●	●
Sleepy Hollow	SH	2.2	-	-					5	●						●	●	●	●						●		●	●
Bringle Creek	BC	55	-	-				1.4		●	●					●								●	●		●	●
Future Access Points																												
CAW Hwy 300 Access	C300	-	-	-						●			●														●	●
Lake Maumelle Overlook Site	OL	-	-							●			●												●		●	●
Old Jolly Rogers Site	JR	64	-							●	●					●	●		●						●	●	●	●
Nursery Pond	NP	266	-							●							●											
Gravel Access Trailhead	GA	-	-											●											●		●	●
West Bay	WB	-	-							●		●				●		●	●						●		●	●

DIVERSE PARKS + NATURAL AREAS

[illegible]

* Hiking also permitted if indicated by an asterisk

11 River View Area includes Monument Trails Trailheads and Boat Ramp Area

2 East Summit Trailhead includes Educational Pond

PROJECT OVERVIEW

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



Ouachita National Forest



Arkansas River



Kingfisher Trail

Existing Natural Environment

The initial phase of the MPCA project extends from near the mouth of Little Maumelle River (confluence with Arkansas River) west past Lake Maumelle (generally along Highway 10) to Highway 113. This area represents a unique ecosystem that supports characteristics of several ecoregions, including Ouachita Mountains, Arkansas River Valley, and Coastal Plain. This unique combination results in a diversity of plant and animal species that are relatively rare within the region. Forest stands include bottomland hardwood, hardwood woodland, mixed pine-hardwood, mesic (north slope) hardwood, pine-bluestem, pine, and pine plantation. The Little Maumelle River and major tributary, Nowlin Creek support a diverse floodplain that support species such as bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and relatively large stands of river cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*). Showy shrubby plant species such as mountain silverbell (*Halesia tetraptera*), American snowbell (*Styrax americanus*), bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*), and red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*) are relatively common along riparian corridors and near wetland edges. Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

(ANHC) provided information of elemental occurrences of rare species within this area, including California bulrush (*Schoenoplectus californicus*), cypress knee sedge (*Carex decomposita*), purple fringeless orchid (*Platanthera psycodes*), Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*), Ozark trillium (*Trillium viridescens*), and southeastern bat (*Myotis austroriparius*). Note that Swainson's Warbler utilizes expansive cane brakes for breeding and foraging; this species is rare in the state and occurs most commonly east of the project area.

The Little Maumelle River watershed originates in the Ouachita mountains west of Lake Maumelle and supports numerous first, second and third order streams that will be crossed by the trail system. These streams support numerous aquatic organisms and provide habitat for fish (especially in third-order streams), amphibians (frogs and salamanders), reptiles (water snakes and turtles), and aquatic invertebrates (molluscs, insects, and crayfish). The riparian zone of these streams, including Little

Maumelle River and Nowlin Creek, support rare species (elemental occurrences provided by ANHC) such as Ouachita indigo-bush, Ouachita bluestar (*Amsonia hubrichtii*), and leafy Barbara's buttons (*Marshallia caespitosa* var. *signata*). In addition, these riparian zones provide foraging habitat for tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), southeastern bat, and Swainson's Warbler (especially in cane brakes).

Area mountains and ridges, such as Pinnacle Mountain, Rattlesnake Ridge, and Blue Mountain exhibit pine barrens and glades that support several species rare to Arkansas, ANHC records include elemental occurrences of eastern collared lizard (*Crotaphytus collaris*), western diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus atrox*), southeastern bat, Wright's cliffbrake (*Pellaea wrightiana*), Arkansas twistflower (*Streptanthus squamiformis*), six banded longhorn beetle (*Dryobius sexnotatus*), Rufous-Crowned Sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps*), Ouachita indigo-bush (*Amorpha ouachitensis*), and Copeland's mold beetle (*Arianops copelandi*).

PROJECT OVERVIEW

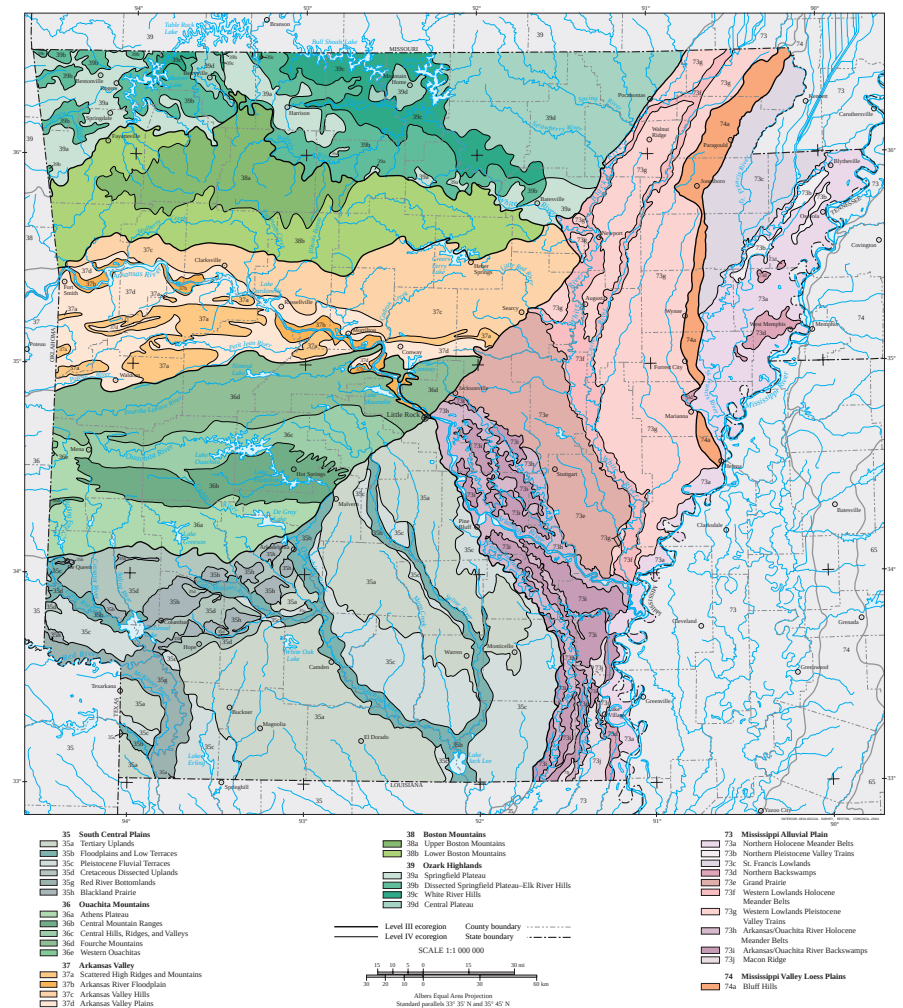
THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Barrens are characterized by extreme soil conditions; specifically, portions of the area support Ouachita Mountain Sandstone Outcrop Barrens, that are dominated by dry oak and oak-pine woodlands. Glades, which occur on all three ridges, are typically found in areas with shallow soils over bedrock. These areas supported unique desert flora such as false aloe (*Manfreda virginica*), rock pink (*Phemeranthus calycinus*), Arkansas yucca (*Yucca arkansana*), and eastern prickly-pear cactus (*Opuntia humifusa*), in addition to drought-resistant grasses and perennials. Glades are notable for their relatively high diversity of rare and endemic species.

Although the proposed trail system lies in close proximity to the Arkansas River Valley ecoregion (several characteristics of this ecoregion are present within the project area), the entirety of the project is located within the Ouachita Mountains. Covering approximately 8 million acres, the Ouachita Mountain physiographic region is characterized by its unique east-west trending mountain ranges, with elevations ranging from 500 to 2,700 feet. Specifically, the project is located within the Fourche Mountains (subset 36D) subsection of the Ouachita Mountains. The Fourche Mountains are composed of long, east-west oriented ridges comprised primarily of sandstone. North slopes support mesic forest dominated by oak-hickory, while south slopes are xeric, comprised of grassy woodlands that are often dominated by short-leaf pine (*Pinus echinata*).

The Lake Maumelle watershed supports the following forest classifications and acreage:

1. **Mixed Pine Hardwood: 8,036 acres**
2. **Pine Stand: 1,367 acres**
3. **Hardwood Woodland: 1,091 acres**
4. **Pine Plantation: 761 acres**
5. **Bottomland Hardwood: 629 acres**
6. **North Slope Hardwood: 559 acres**
7. **Pine Bluestem: 309 acres**



PROJECT OVERVIEW

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

SPECIES Source: NatureServe via ANHC		
Documented Species	Informal Taxonomy	Rounded NatureServe Global Status
<i>Noturus lachneri</i> Ouachita Madtom	Fishes - Freshwater and Anadromous Bony, Cartilaginous; Lampreys	G2: Imperiled
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> Northern Myotis	Mammals	G2: Imperiled
<i>Argynnis diana</i> Diana Fritillary	Butterflies and Skippers	G2: Imperiled
<i>Thalictrum arkansanum</i> Arkansas Meadowrue	Dicots	G2: Imperiled
<i>Myotis lucifugus</i> Little Brown Myotis	Mammals	G3: Vulnerable
<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i> Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat	Mammals	G3: Vulnerable
<i>Atractosteus spatula</i> Alligator Gar	Fishes - Freshwater and Anadromous Bony, Cartilaginous; Lampreys	G3: Vulnerable
<i>Myotis grisescens</i> Gray Myotis	Mammals	G3: Vulnerable
<i>Somatochlora ozarkensis</i> Ozark Emerald	Dragonflies and Damselflies	G3: Vulnerable
<i>Nemastylis nuttallii</i> Nuttall's Pleatleaf	Monocots	G3: Vulnerable
<i>Cypripedium kentuckiense</i> Southern Lady's-slipper	Monocots	G3: Vulnerable

PROJECT OVERVIEW

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Documented Species	Informal Taxonomy	Rounded NatureServe Global Status
<i>Carex decomposita</i> Cypress-knee Sedge	Monocots	G3: Vulnerable
<i>Amsonia hubrichtii</i> Hubricht's Slimpod	Dicots	G3: Vulnerable
<i>Callirhoe bushii</i> Bush's Poppy-mallow	Dicots	G3: Vulnerable
<i>Sternula antillarum athalassos</i> Interior Least Tern	Birds	T3: Vulnerable
<i>Trillium pusillum var. ozarkanum</i> Ozark Least Trillium	Monocots	T3: Vulnerable
<i>Liatris squarrosa var. compacta</i> Ouachita Blazingstar	Dicots	T3: Vulnerable
<i>Centronyx henslowii</i> Henslow's Sparrow	Birds	G4: Apparently Secure
<i>Anguilla rostrata</i> American Eel	Fishes - Freshwater and Anadromous Bony, Cartilaginous; Lampreys	G4: Apparently Secure
<i>Polyodon spathula</i> Paddlefish	Fishes - Freshwater and Anadromous Bony, Cartilaginous; Lampreys	G4: Apparently Secure
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> Bald Eagle	Birds	GS: Secure
<i>Polygala incarnata</i> Pink Milkwort	Dicots	GS: Secure

PROJECT OVERVIEW

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

SPECIES Source: ANHC Documented Sites		
Documented Species	Informal Taxonomy	State Status (S) Global Status (G)
<i>Perimyotis Subflavus</i> Tricolored Bat	Mammals	S1: Critically Imperiled G3G4: Vulnerable or Apparently Secure
<i>Carex Arkansana</i> Arkansas Sedge	Monocots	S1: Critically Imperiled G4: Apparently Secure
<i>Marshallia Caespitosa</i> var. <i>Signata</i> Leafy Barbara's Buttons	Dicots	S1: Critically Imperiled G4T4: Apparently Secure (species & subspecies)
<i>Aimophila Ruficeps</i> Rufous-Crowned Sparrow	Birds	S1: Critically Imperiled G5: Secure
<i>Carex Willdenowii</i> Willdenow's Sedge	Monocots	S1: Critically Imperiled G5: Secure
<i>Pellaea Wrightiana</i> Wright's Cliff-Brake	Ferns	S1: Critically Imperiled G5: Secure
<i>Arianops Copelandi</i> Copeland's Mold Beetle	Insects	S1: Critically Imperiled GNR: Unranked
<i>Carex Gigantea</i> Giant Sedge	Monocots	S1S2: Critically Imperiled or Imperiled G4: Apparently Secure

PROJECT OVERVIEW

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Documented Species	Informal Taxonomy	State Status Global Status
<i>Schoenoplectus Californicus</i> California Bulrush	Monocots	S1S2: Critically Imperiled or Imperiled G5: Secure
<i>Carex Decomposita</i> Cypress-Knee Sedge	Monocots	S2: Imperiled G3G4: Vulnerable or Apparently Secure
<i>Crotaphytus Collaris</i> Eastern Collared Lizard	Reptiles	S2: Imperiled G5: Secure
<i>Plantanthera Permoena</i> Purple Fringeless Orchid	Monocots	S2: Imperiled G5: Secure
<i>Gymnopogon Brevifolius</i> Short-Leaf Skeleton Grass	Monocots	S2: Imperiled G5: Secure
<i>Pseudacris Streckeri</i> Strecker's Chorus Frog	Amphibians	S2: Imperiled G5: Secure
<i>Lathyrus Pusillus</i> Low Vetchling	Dicots	S2: Imperiled G5: Secure
<i>Xyris Difformis var. Difformis</i> Bog Yellow-Eyed-Grass	Monocots	S2: Imperiled G5T5: Secure (species & subspecies)
<i>Dryobius Sexnotatus</i> Six-Banded Longhorn Beetle	Insects	S2: Imperiled GNR: Unranked

PROJECT OVERVIEW

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Documented Species	Informal Taxonomy	State Status Global Status
<i>Argynnis Diana</i> Diana Fritillary	Insects	S2S3: Imperiled or Vulnerable G2G3: Imperiled or Vulnerable
<i>Spilogale Putorius</i> Eastern Spotted Skunk	Mammals	S2S3: Imperiled or Vulnerable G4: Apparently Secure
<i>Crotalus atrox</i> Western Diamondback Rattlesnake	Reptiles	S2S3: Imperiled or Vulnerable G5: Secure
<i>Liatris Compacta</i> Ouachita Blazing-Star	Dicots	S3: Vulnerable G3: Vulnerable
<i>Amsonia Hubrichtii</i> Ouachita Bluestar	Dicots	S3: Vulnerable G3: Vulnerable
<i>Trillium Ozarkanum</i> Ozark Trillium	Monocots	S3: Vulnerable G3: Vulnerable
<i>Amorpha Ouachitensis</i> Ouachita Indigio-Bush	Dicots	S3: Vulnerable G3Q: Vulnerable (questionable taxonomy)
<i>Streptanthus Squamiformis</i> Arkansas Twistflower	Dicots	S3: Vulnerable G3T3Q: Vulnerable (species & subspecies, questionable taxonomy)
<i>Myotis Austroriparius</i> Southeastern Bat	Mammals	S3: Vulnerable G4: Apparently Secure

PROJECT OVERVIEW

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Documented Species	Informal Taxonomy	State Status Global Status
<i>Gratiola Brevifolia</i> Sticky Hedge-Hyssop	Dicots	S3: Vulnerable G4: Apparently Secure
<i>Toxolasma Parvum</i> Lilliput	Bivalves	S3: Vulnerable G5: Secure
<i>Uvularia Perfoliata</i> Perfoliate Bellwort	Monocots	S3: Vulnerable G5: Secure
<i>Lampsilis Powellii</i> Arkansas Fatmucket	Dicots	S3: Vulnerable G3Q: Vulnerable (questionable taxonomy)
<i>Limnothlypis Swainsonii</i> Swainson's Warbler	Birds	S3B: Vulnerable (breeding) G4: Apparently Secure
<i>Sternula Antillarum Athalassos</i> Interior Least Tern	Birds	S3B: Vulnerable (breeding) G4T3Q: Apparently Secure (species & subspecies, questionable taxonomy)
<i>Haliaeetus Leucocephalus</i> Bald Eagle	Birds	S3B, S4N: Vulnerable (breeding) or Apparently Secure (non-breeding) G5: Secure

PROJECT OVERVIEW

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

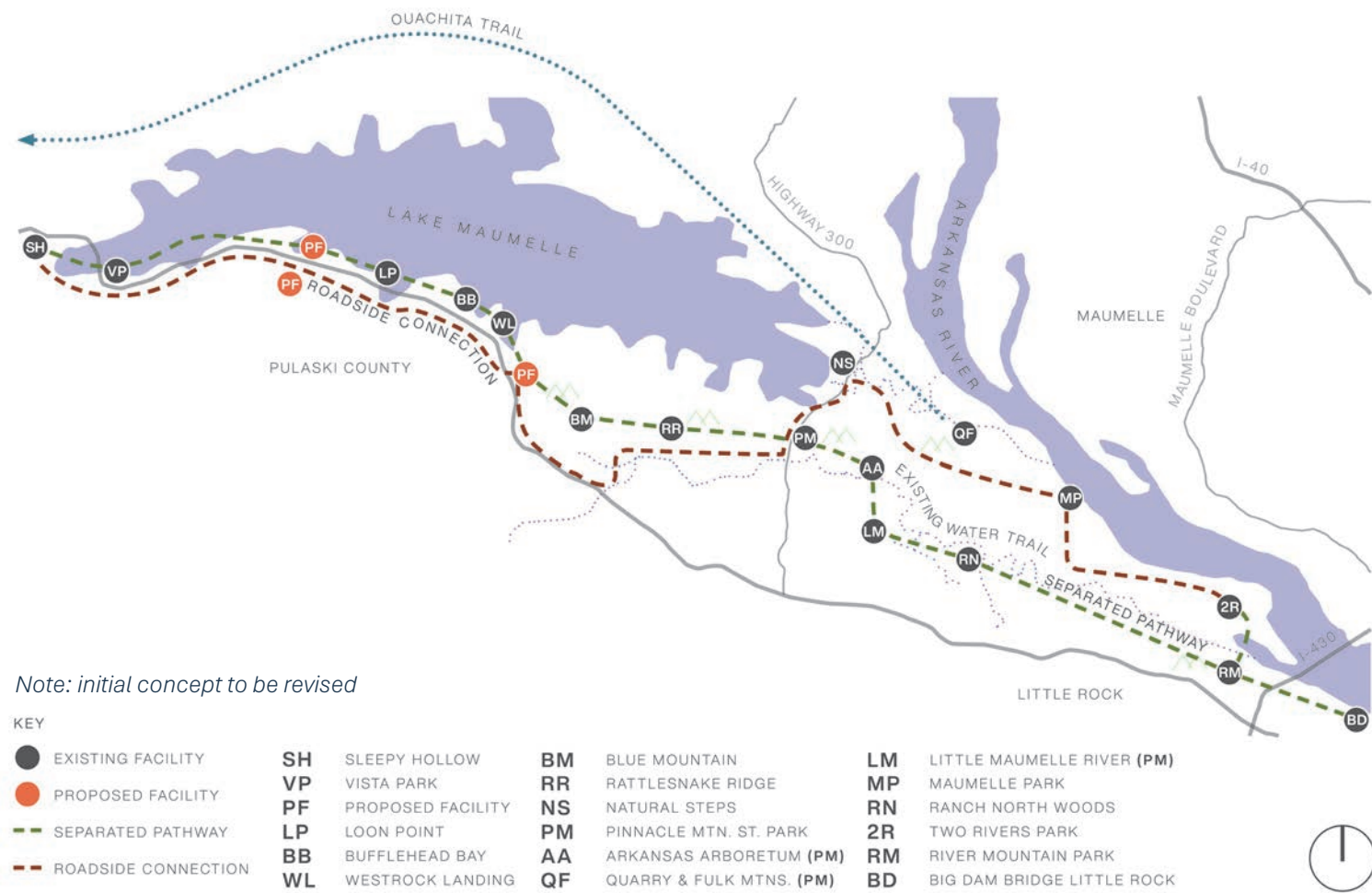
SPECIES		
Source: Crafton Tull, NatureServe		
Additional Species of Interest	Informal Taxonomy	State Status Global Status
<i>Manfreda Virginica</i> Flase Aloe	Monocots	SNR: Unranked G5: Secure
<i>Phemeranthus Calycinus</i> Rock Pink	Dicots	SNR: Unranked G5: Secure
<i>Yucca Arkansana</i> Arkansas Yucca	Monocots	S5: Secure G5: Secure
<i>Opuntia Humifusa</i> Eastern Prickly-Pear Cactus	Dicots	SNR: Unranked G5: Secure



Two Rivers Park Looking Towards Pinnacle Mountain and Rattlesnake Ridge
Image Credit: Crafton Tull

PROJECT OVERVIEW

CREATING A CONNECTED SYSTEM



The vision for a system of interconnected park destinations within the Maumelle Pinnacles Conservation Area will form a dynamic network of trails, enabling users to traverse the landscape and explore diverse recreational offerings in a variety of ways: clusters of nearby destinations within the area may be accessed by bicycling, hiking, or paved walking trails. Presently, cyclists can embark on a scenic journey from Two Rivers Bridge at River

Mountain Park westward to Pinnacle Mountain State Park, with opportunities to extend connectivity from Pinnacle to Rattlesnake Ridge and Blue Mountain. As a future system develops to link the numerous destinations within the MPCA, a series of various on- and off-road routes will serve not only as recreational amenities but also as enjoyable connectors between amenities. Through hiking, pedaling, or paddling

between parks and natural areas, people foster a deeper connection with the environment and cultivate excitement for the variety of experiences along the way. This comprehensive trail system will not only enhance local recreation but also encourage a broader appreciation for the natural surroundings and the thrill of discovery within the Maumelle Pinnacles Conservation Area.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

TELLING A STORY: PROJECT THEMES

The Maumelle Pinnacles Conservation Area is home to a variety of ecosystems and habitats. As part of this study, it has been simplified into three distinct areas of focus, each offering unique insights into the rich tapestry of the natural environment which provide the basis for numerous educational opportunities.

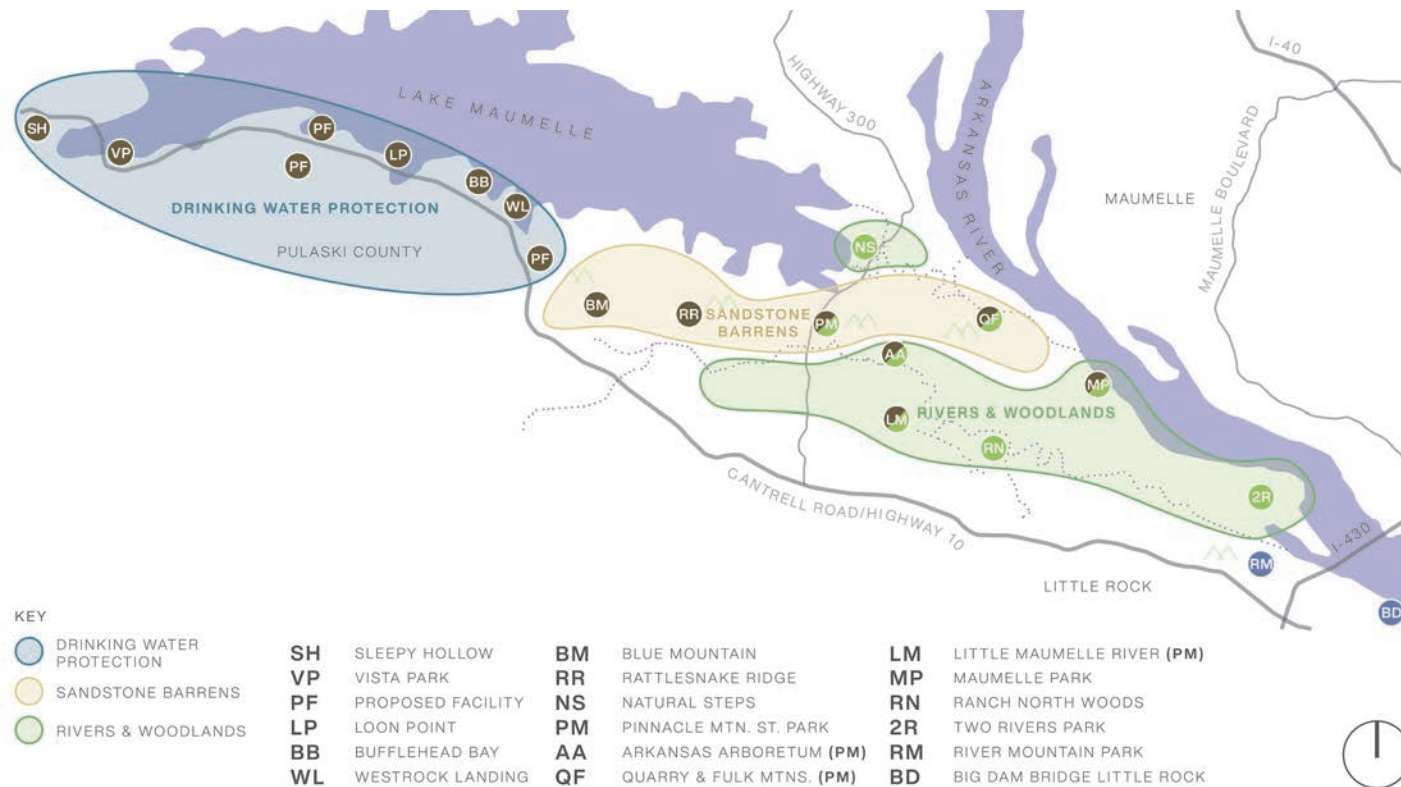
To the east, the Rivers & Woodlands area, featuring Two Rivers Park, Ranch North Woods, the southern undeveloped portions of Pinnacle Mountain State Park and the Arkansas Arboretum, showcases the beauty of low-lying areas along the Little Maumelle River, drawing kayakers and fishermen to its serene waters, lowland ecosystems, and upland forests.

The Ouachita Sandstone Barrens, encompassing Pinnacle Mountain and the Fulk Mountains, Rattlesnake Ridge, and Blue Mountain, are characterized by unique sensitive habitats and diverse terrain that draws hikers and mountain bikers with scenic trails and restful vistas.

The drinking water protection area adjacent to Lake Maumelle underscores the significance of safeguarding our local water source through limited and environmentally sustainable construction practices and forest management. Here, boating and fishing are permitted, while kayaking and canoing are embraced along established water trails, with Sleepy Hollow offering additional water exploration opportunities.

These areas provide an array of educational opportunities around the built and natural environments: emphasizing the importance of preserving drinking water sources, fostering conservation, and nurturing stewardship of delicate habitats and endangered species while acknowledging the area's history of human influences and its future for outdoor recreation opportunities.

Six unique themes should be explored throughout the MPCA, described on the following pages.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

TELLING A STORY: PROJECT THEMES

Ecosystems + Landscapes

Three distinct landscapes comprise the majority of the MPCA, including

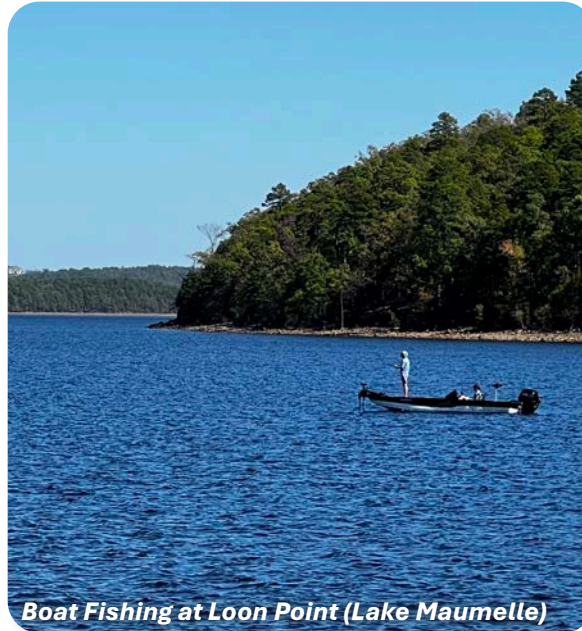
- Ouachita Sandstone Barrens and Glades
- Rivers, Bayous + Wetlands
- Woodlands

Ouachita sandstone barrens and associated glades are generally found along the upper elevations of the Ouachita Mountains. The three pinnacles within the MPCA feature both: Blue Mountain, Rattlesnake Ridge, and Pinnacle Mountain. Glades often occur in conjunction with these sandstone barrens, and each offer habitat to plants and animals not found in other areas of the MPCA.

Rivers, bayous, and wetlands are located along three principal waterways in the MPCA: Nowlin Creek, the Little Maumelle River, and the Maumelle River. Water-loving trees such as bald cypress are plentiful along these corridors, which traverse the base of the three pinnacles. Lake Maumelle was created along the Maumelle River, forming the primary drinking water source for Central Arkansas.

Woodlands and forests are plentiful throughout the MPCA, consisting of bottomland hardwood, mixed pine hardwood, and hardwood woodland forests, among others.

Each landscape provides habitat for a variety of flora and fauna and can be found in close proximity to one another throughout the MPCA.

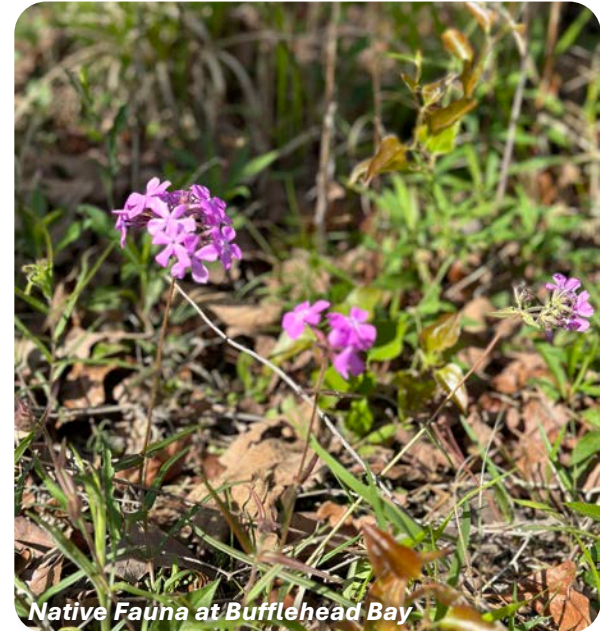


Boat Fishing at Loon Point (Lake Maumelle)

Conservation + Stewardship

Conserving open spaces throughout the MPCA is of paramount importance as western Pulaski County faces increasing development pressures. Four endangered species have been documented in the study area, which include bats, birds, and flowers.¹³ more documented species have been deemed vulnerable, and 8 more as sensitive. These flora and fauna reflect local residents' stewardship of the natural environment and must be protected as development continues. Specific conservation and stewardship topics should include:

- Sensitive Habitats
- Native Plants + Animals
- Species of Concern



Native Fauna at Bufflehead Bay

Drinking Water Protection

Serving more than 90% of Little Rock's fresh water, the location of Lake Maumelle within the study area poses important questions for the marriage of recreation and drinking water protection: What types of recreation are currently allowed near Lake Maumelle? How can recreation be expanded without impact drinking water quality?

Throughout this theme, the following topics should be explored:

- Environmental Considerations
- Human Use Considerations
- Recreation Considerations

PROJECT OVERVIEW

TELLING A STORY: PROJECT THEMES



Forest Management

Forest management practices are a regular occurrence within the MPCA. Central Arkansas Water, The Nature Conservancy, and Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission each engage in practices that aid in the health of the area's ecology. Prescribed burns remove old vegetation and make room for new growth by shifting nutrients in the soil to better accommodate new species. Invasive species are also deterred through prescribed burns while reducing the overall threat of wildfires and promoting understory health. These practices maintain safety and ecological health for the region's flora and fauna and ensure nearby residents' safety. Specific topics to be highlighted within the MPCA include:

- Prescribed Burns
- Invasive Species Removal
- Understory Health



Culture + Heritage

The recreation plan will honor the culture and heritage of the area, dating back to the Tunica and Quapaw tribes who resided in the area. Early French settlers provided the basis for the nomenclature of the natural environment that led to the naming of Little Rock itself, as well as the peaks within the MPCA. While most visitors access Pinnacle by car or bicycle, early visitation expanded greatly with the establishment of the railroad in 1890s that led to more hiking and interaction with the area. Opportunities to educate visitors about the past and modern history of the area, including a WWII-era plane crash site, are recommended in the form of signage, art, and plaza design. Specific opportunities for interpretation within the MPCA include the following:

- Native American
- Early European Settlers
- Modern History



Outdoor Recreation

A variety of nature-based outdoor recreation types exist or will be provided during the development of the MPCA Master Plan. These experiences vary according to location, natural context, and infrastructure. Clear orientation and wayfinding throughout the MPCA should present users the full spectrum of opportunities throughout the network, beyond the boundaries of each individual recreational destination. Specific outdoor recreation networks that should be clearly communicated include the following:

- Pedestrian + Bicycle
- Water-Oriented
- Specialized + Immersive

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2.0 RECREATION TYPES

Image Credit: Crafton Tull

RECREATION TYPES

A VARIETY OF EXPERIENCES

Choose Your Adventure

Hundreds of unique experiences await visitors in the Maumelle Pinnacles area, with options for moving throughout on bike or on foot, in a hammock along the Arkansas River with a rod in hand, or among the trees with a pair of binoculars. 129 miles of trails are ready to explore, whether experienced during a swift mountain bike descent at Rattlesnake Ridge, or at a leisurely pace on a hike overlooking Lake Maumelle. Your adventure can be tailored to include a stop for a bite to eat during an extensive gravel ride, an ice cream cone after a long, hot hike, or simply a quiet respite near the banks of the Little Maumelle River.

The area from the Big Dam Bridge to Vista Park at the west end of Lake Maumelle includes almost 129 miles of existing trails!

- 73 miles of soft surface + mountain bike trails
- 29 miles of the Ouachita Trail
- 7.5 miles of paved multi-use trails
- 13.5 miles of water trails
- 6 miles of on-road bicycle lanes

Linear Recreation

Linear experiences in the Maumelle Pinnacles Conservation Area involve movement along a trail, roadway, or waterway. These include various levels of intensity and time: Backpackers may invest multiple days on the Ouachita Trail for a relatively calm

experience, while mountain bikers will experience greater intensity in a much shorter window. Adventurers on the water in a motorboat can go further and with less effort than a kayaker.

Recreation Types: Linear Experiences

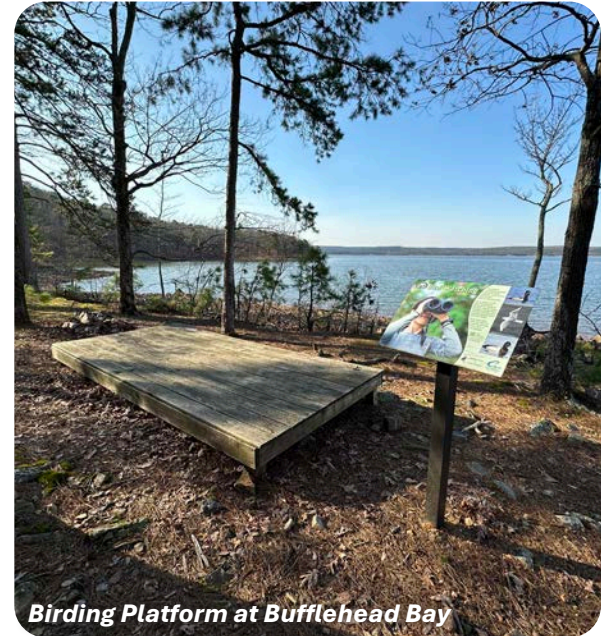
- Hiking, walking, trail running
- Road, gravel, or mountain biking
- Boating
- Canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding
- Horseback riding
- ATV riding

Stationary Recreation

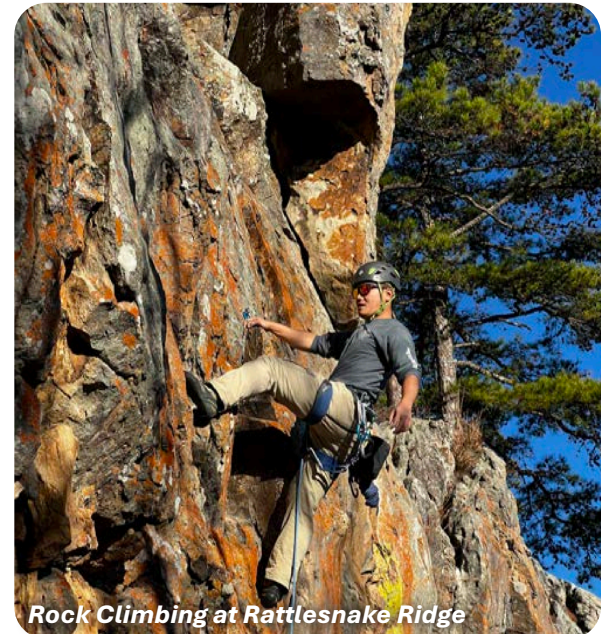
Some linear experiences culminate in a destination with a specific activity, such as bank fishing, birdwatching or climbing. Others involve only parking your vehicle, such as arriving at a playground or camping area. Some parking areas double as trailheads serving as gateways to stationary recreation types, and some need trails to deepen their connections to nearby, yet disconnected recreation types.

Recreation Types: Stationary (occurs within a particular area or the activity is enjoyed while not traveling)

- Group gathering, picnicking, play
- Fishing (bank, pack, boat)
- Birding
- Rock climbing
- Camping (RV, tent/campground, primitive)
- Hunting



Birding Platform at Bufflehead Bay



Rock Climbing at Rattlesnake Ridge

RECREATION TYPES

A VARIETY OF EXPERIENCES

Recreating in Harmony

If linear experiences equate to “recreation along the way”, stationary experiences can be described as “a unique activity in a unique place.” Birdwatchers and fishermen alike benefit from a quiet riverbank and coexist neatly together, and their experience may be punctuated by a passing trail runner. Harmony doesn’t always mean complete silence, but safety and predictability for trail users. Many soft surface trails may accommodate mountain bikers as well as hikers, if those on foot are aware that they may be required to yield to an oncoming biker. While there are few recurring conflicts among different recreation users in the Maumelle Pinnacles Conservation Area, planning for harmony amongst linear and stationary recreation activities is of utmost importance as Central Arkansas continues to experience growth.

Desired Destinations

To many visitors, nature itself is often the most sought-out destination, whether a vista atop Pinnacle Mountain or Rattlesnake Ridge, unique views from the Arkansas River of the East Quarry, the unique landscape of area’s glades, or even cliff-dwelling ferns usually found among limestone and granite in arid climates. Linear recreation serves as an accelerated overview as bikers, hikers and boaters pass along greenways and blueways, and stationary activities immerse visitors in the aura of a singular site. As west Pulaski County continues to urbanize, an approach must be adopted balancing appropriate access to the recreation opportunities in Maumelle Pinnacles area while safeguarding its natural beauty.

Destinations often popular with hikers include

- Overlooks, views, vistas
- Water access
- Waterfalls
- Unique or notable habitats



Boating at Lake Maumelle
Source: Bryan Rupar



Canoing in the MPCA
Source: Nature Conservancy

RECREATION TYPES

RECREATION TYPES & PREFERENCES

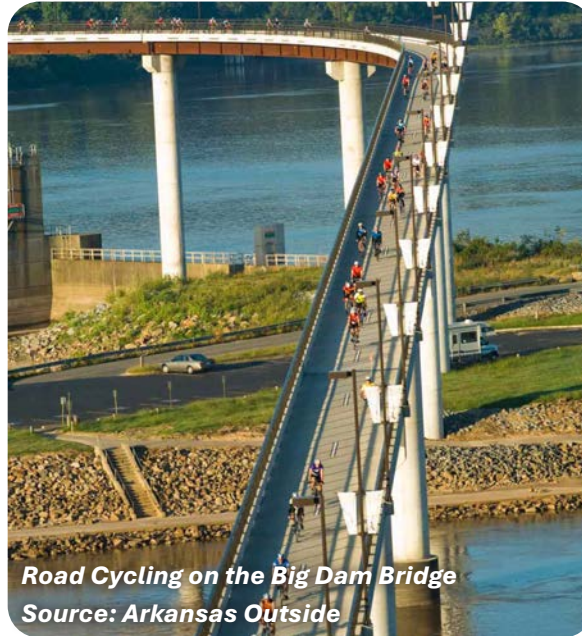
Recreation Types

Within the Maumelle Pinnacles Conservation Area visitors can hike, bike, swim, view, relax, exercise, experience, gather, climb, float, boat, and fish, and much more. Bicyclists can experience a leisurely ride on paved trails at Two Rivers Park to the bridge at River Mountain Park, and down to the Big Dam Bridge, while opportunities for more intense long-distance gravel and road cycling lie to the west on back roads. Intense cycling isn't only in remote areas: Monument Trails for world-class mountain biking can be found at River Mountain Park and Pinnacle Mountain State Park. Currently, most road and gravel riders travel more than 20 miles in a single ride, making for an intense and long experience. Other groups, such as water users on paddle boards and canoes and kayaks will spend surprising amounts of time on the water, sometimes more than 3 hours.

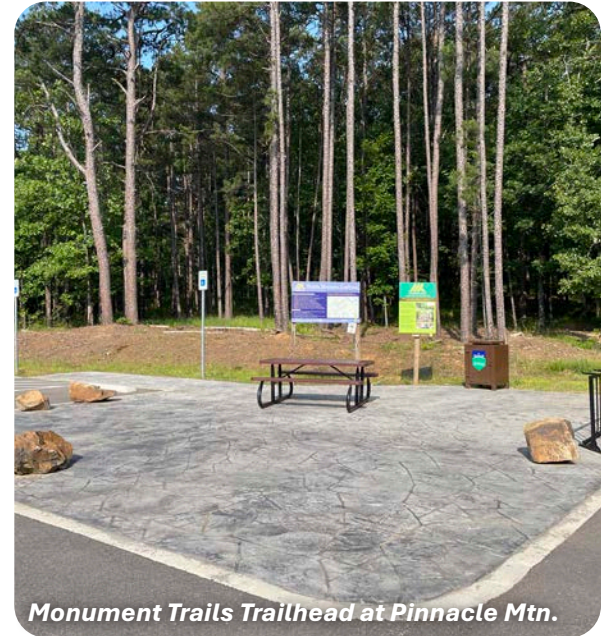
For stationary and linear recreation types alike, water, shade, restrooms, parking and wayfinding signage are the most requested amenities. These exist in some capacity throughout the study area, yet gaps exist where users naturally expect these to be.

The MPCA Inventory Table on page 14 summarizes where these recreation types and their amenities can be found throughout the Maumelle Pinnacles Conservation Area, and where they should be located in the future.

The following pages reflect the outcomes of a community survey aimed at understanding recreational use and desires in the MPCA, answered by over 1600 participants.



Road Cycling on the Big Dam Bridge
Source: Arkansas Outside



Monument Trails Trailhead at Pinnacle Mtn.



Kayaking



Kayaking on the Little Maumelle River

RECREATION TYPES

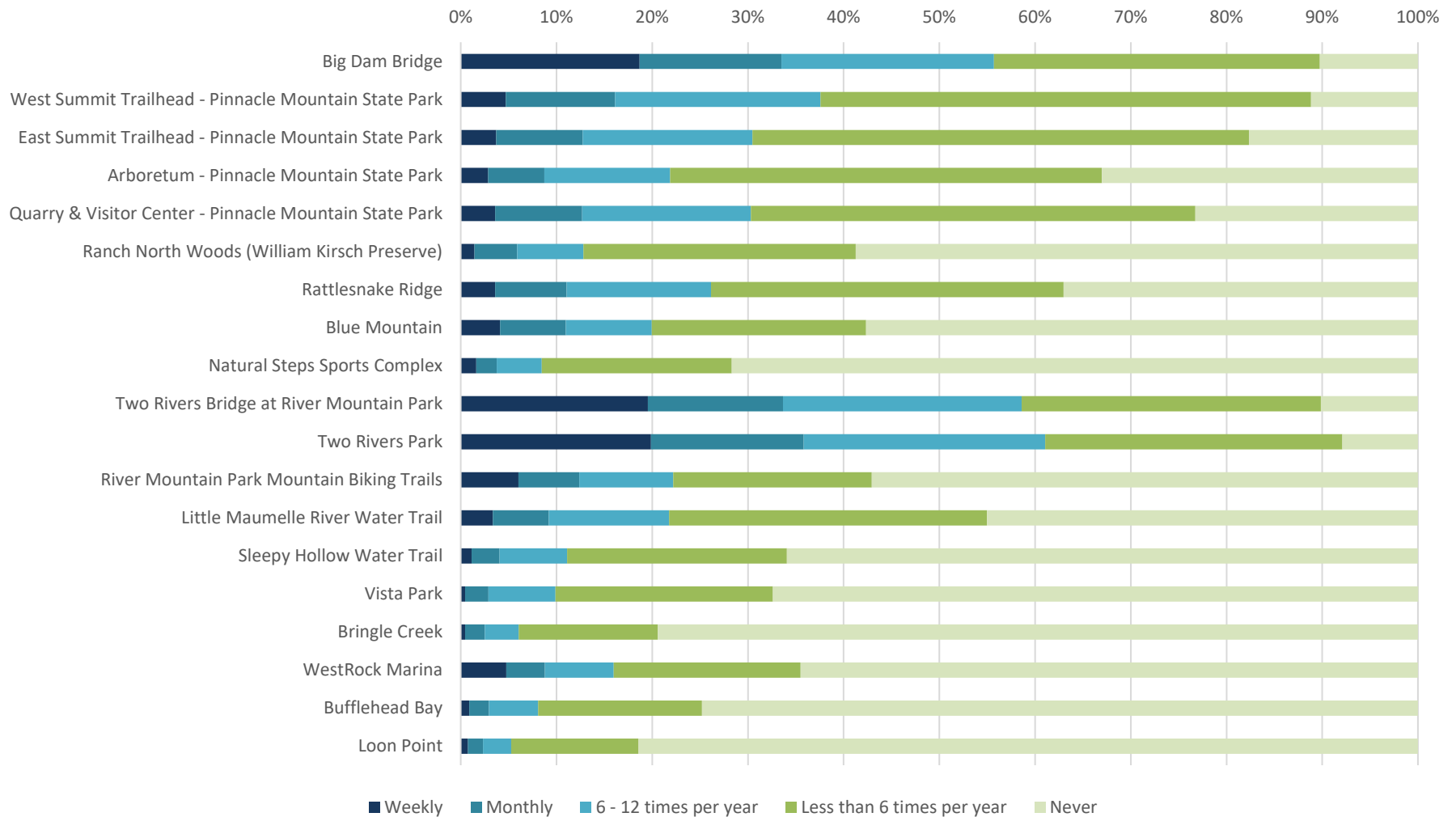
RECREATION TYPES & PREFERENCES

Frequency

Understanding visitation patterns, popular areas, and preferred recreation activities within the MPCA allows stakeholders to make informed decisions pertaining to recreation planning. Two Rivers Park, Two Rivers Bridge at River Mountain Park, and Big Dam Bridge have the highest weekly and monthly visitation

patterns, as well as a high number of respondents indicating they attended 6-12 times per year. Vista Park, Bringle Creek and Sleepy Hollow Water Trail are the three least visited destinations.

How often do you visit the following destinations in the Maumelle Pinnacles area?



RECREATION TYPES

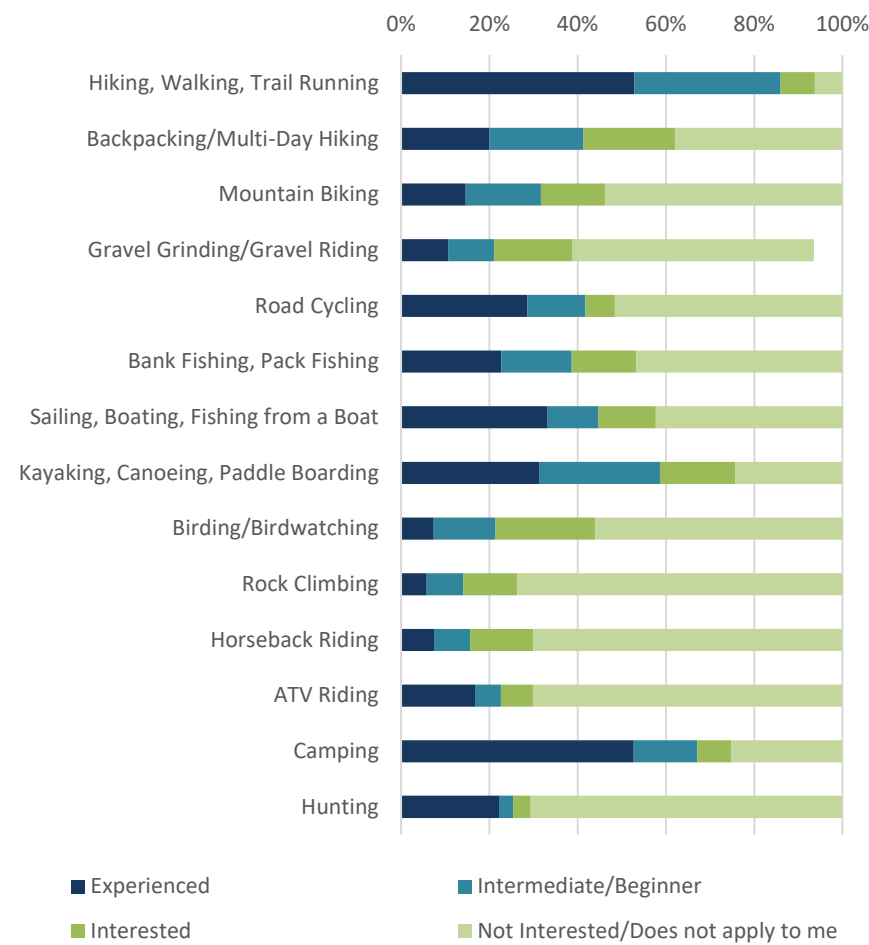
RECREATION TYPES & PREFERENCES

Recreation Experience

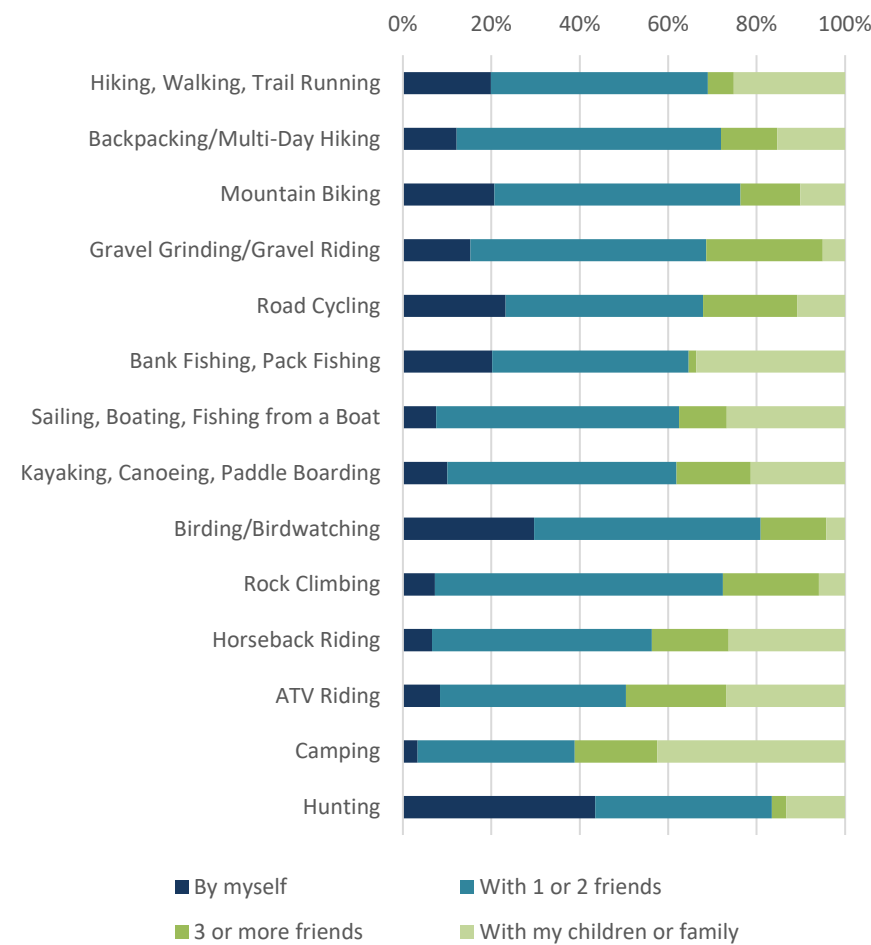
With several recreation experiences available in the MPCA, understanding the experience levels and preferred social experiences of visitors is another important component of an outdoor recreation plan. Hiking/walking/trail running and camping were the two categories wherein respondents indicated their high level of experience, revealing the popularity of these two activities. Rock climbing,

horseback riding and birdwatching emerged as the three most “niche” activities within the MPCA. Hunting and birdwatching are the two most solitary experiences, and the majority of other activities are preferred as experiences with one or two friends. Camping and fishing are the most family-friendly experiences.

What is your **level of experience** with each of the following activities?



What is your preferred **social experience** with each of the following activities?



RECREATION TYPES

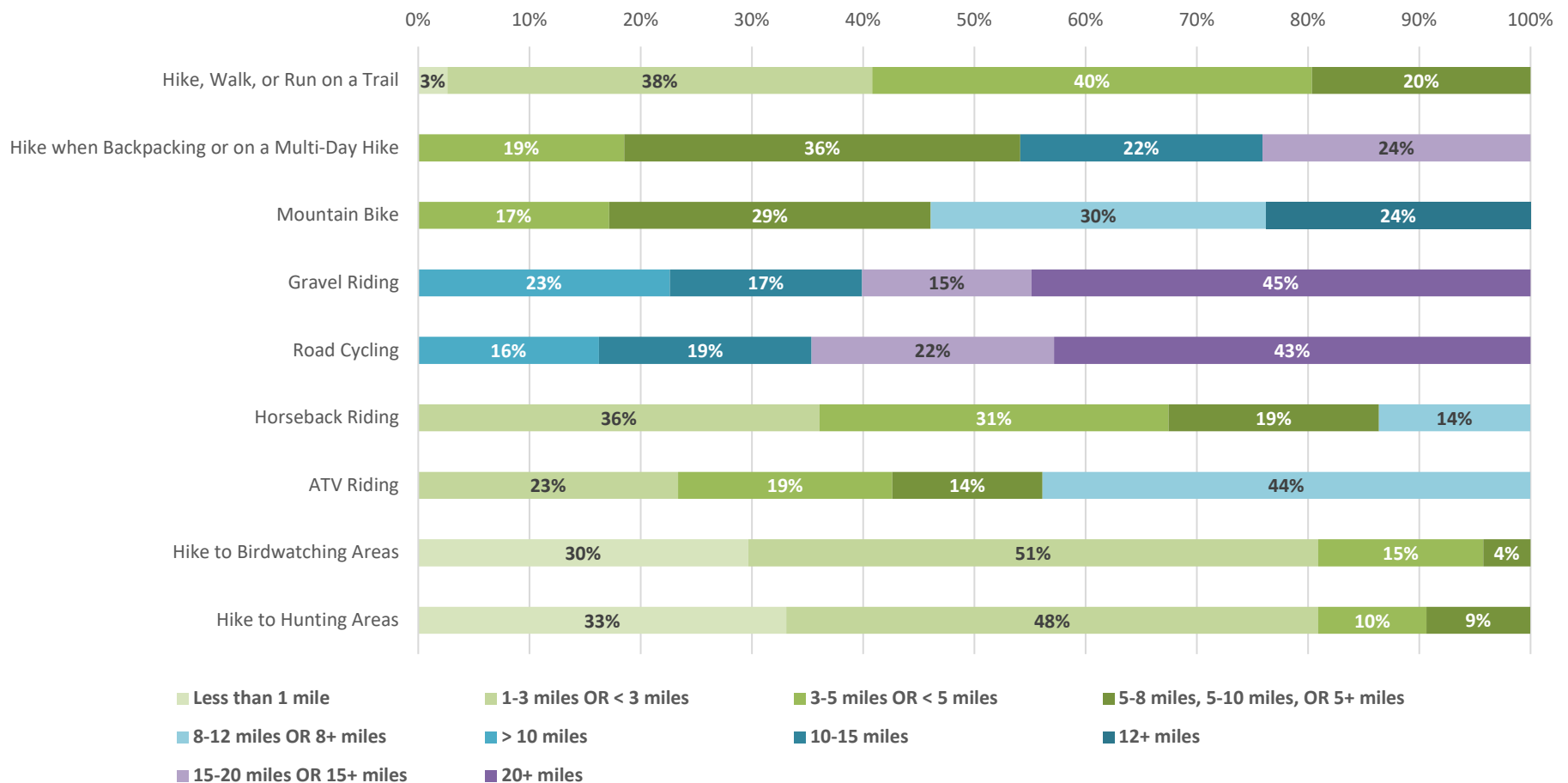
RECREATION TYPES & PREFERENCES

Distance Spent Recreating

The many activities and opportunities available within the MPCA require differing levels of commitment pertaining to distance. Many of the linear experiences such as biking, hiking, and boating can involve many miles of travel, while other experiences are stationary such as fishing, camping, or rock climbing and are measured in time dedicated for such an outing. Hiking, walking, or trail running respondents answered preferred distances of less than three miles and between

3-5 miles, with 20% preferring hikes longer than 8 miles. Similarly, mountain biking has a relatively even spread amongst riders preferring shorter rides and other rides up to 20 miles in a single trip. Hiking to birdwatching areas or to hunting areas were also similar: most hike between 1-3 miles, with another 30% hiking less than 1 mile to get to their preferred spot. Gravel riding and road cycling respondents prefer longer distances, with over 40% exceeding 20 miles in each category.

What distance do you travel while you...



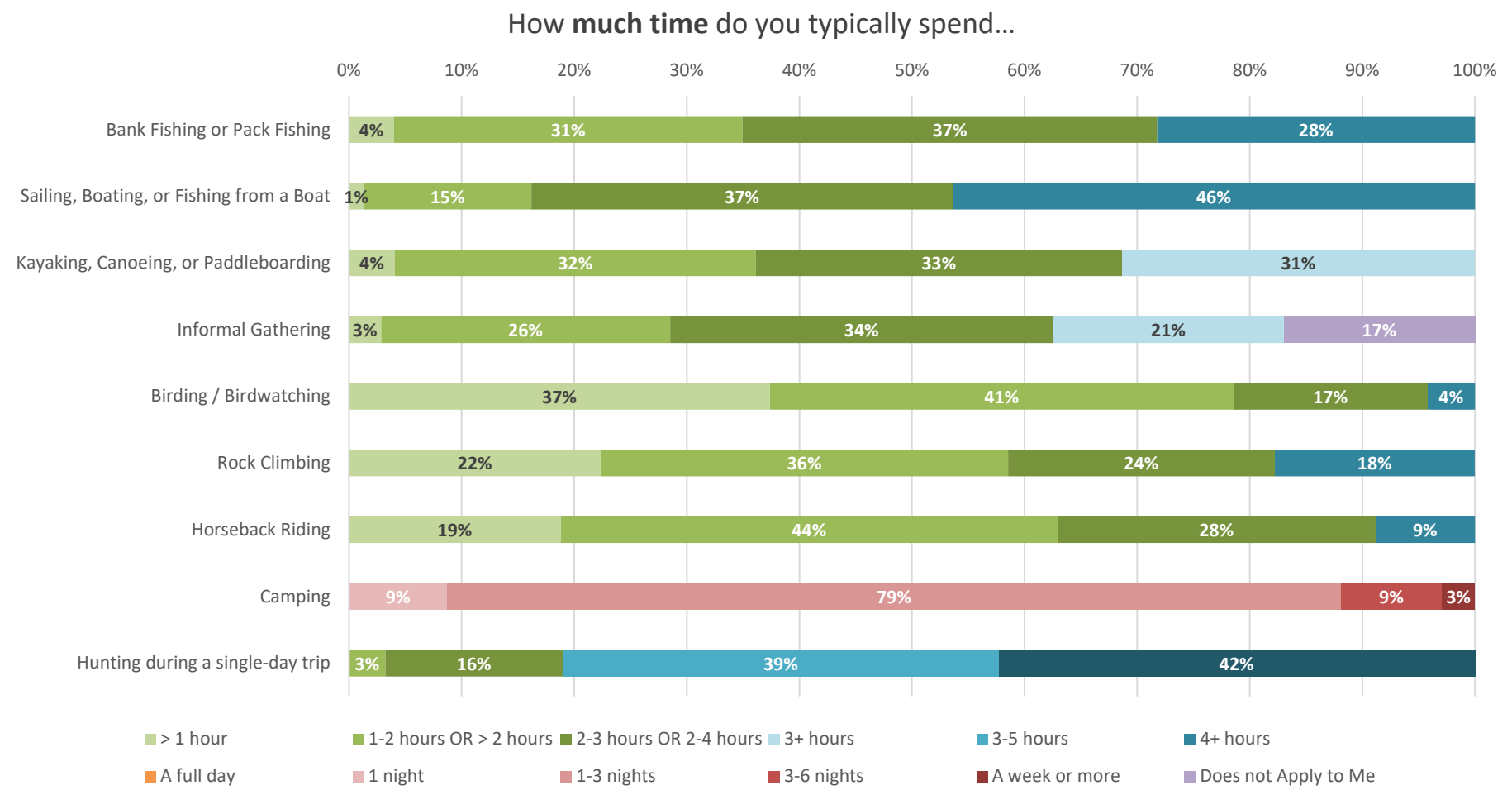
RECREATION TYPES

RECREATION TYPES & PREFERENCES

Time Spent Recreating

Synonymous with distance, many recreational activities available within the MPCA also required differing levels of commitment pertaining to time. Fishing was the most time-intensive sport with 4+ hours regularly indicated spent on the water or bank while fishing, and informal gathering, canoeing or sailing were the largest recreation categories where users spent 2-3 hours. Additionally, many users spent

1-2 hours kayaking, canoeing, and paddle boarding as well as informal gathering. The least time-intensive recreation activities (less than 1 hour) were birdwatching, rock climbing, and horseback riding. Camping was the obvious outlier, with a minimum of one night spent recreating.



RECREATION TYPES

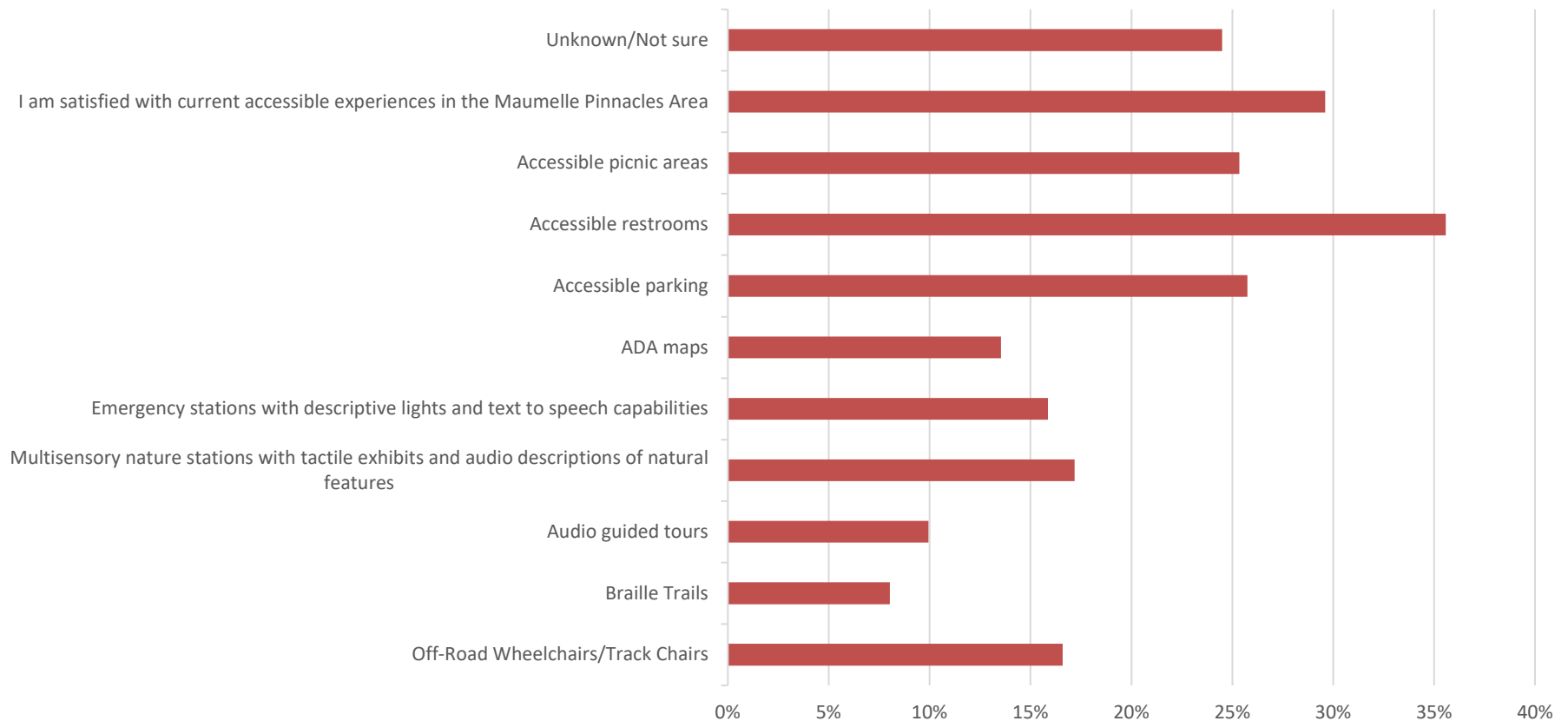
RECREATION TYPES & PREFERENCES

Accessibility

The MPCA strives to be an inclusive destination for all ages and abilities. Creating accessible spaces to allow impaired or disabled users to experience the natural beauty of the area reinforces the agency partners' commitment to equity. While nearly 30% of respondents indicated their current satisfaction with accessible experiences in the MPCA, accessible restrooms, parking areas, and picnic

areas are three amenities that received high numbers of responses. These are essential considerations that must be implemented throughout the entire system at strategic trailheads. Other ideas that received some interest from survey respondents include off-road wheelchairs, also known as track chairs, to allow wheelchair users to experience a soft surface trail in a new and exciting way.

Q2. What accessible experiences would you like to see implemented in the Maumelle Pinnacles area? Please select all that apply.



RECREATION TYPES

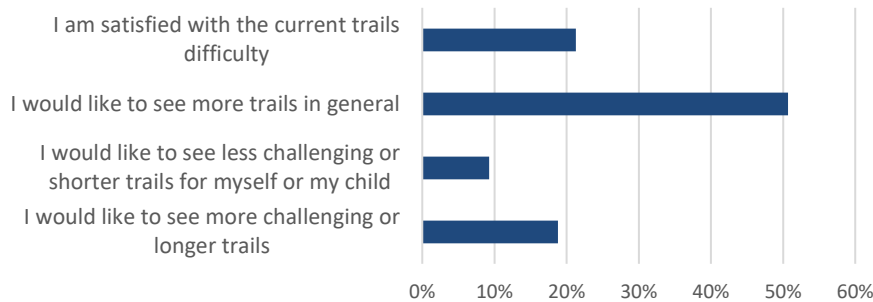
RECREATION TYPES & PREFERENCES

Other Preferences

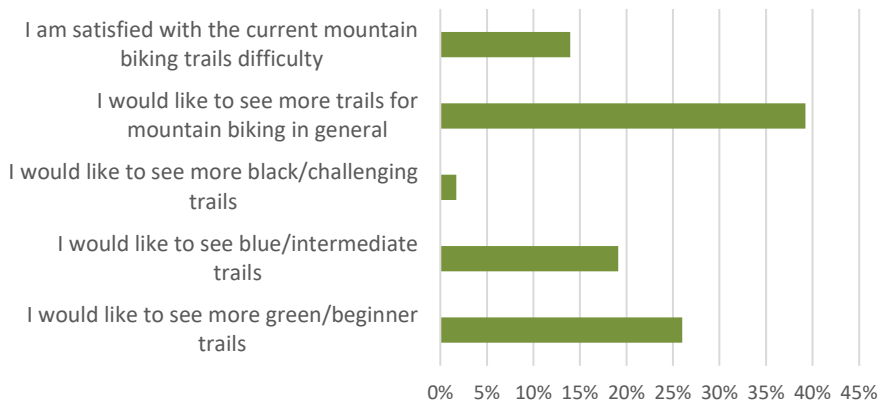
Some experiences present varying degrees of difficulty for users, and can be planned and designed to offer a variety of difficulty levels. When asked about hiking and running trails in the MPCA, most users indicated that they would like to see more trails in general, more so than having easier or more difficult trails. When a similar question was presented to mountain bikers, most responded in a similar way that they would like to see more mountain biking trails in general, but

also more green/beginner trails. Rock climbing as well saw a similar response: some indicated current satisfaction, but most responses want to see more routes installed for both sport and bouldering. Additional information pertaining to camping preferences was also solicited. Most responded that they would like spots for tent camping, with another high response rate for primitive or wilderness tent camping.

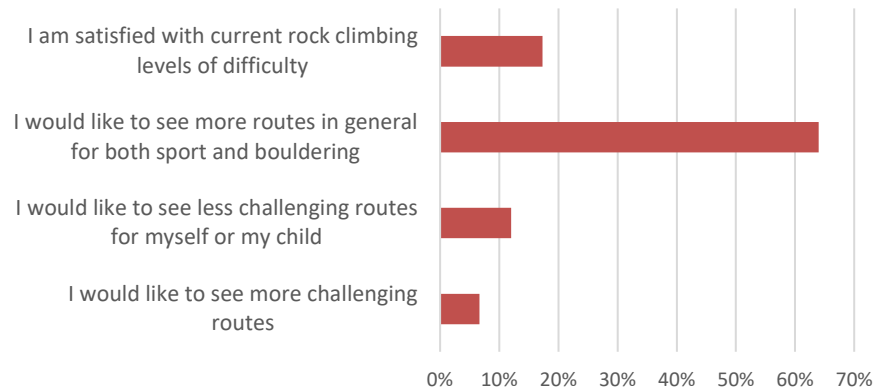
Q6. What are your preferences regarding difficulty for hiking or trail running in the Maumelle Pinnacles area?



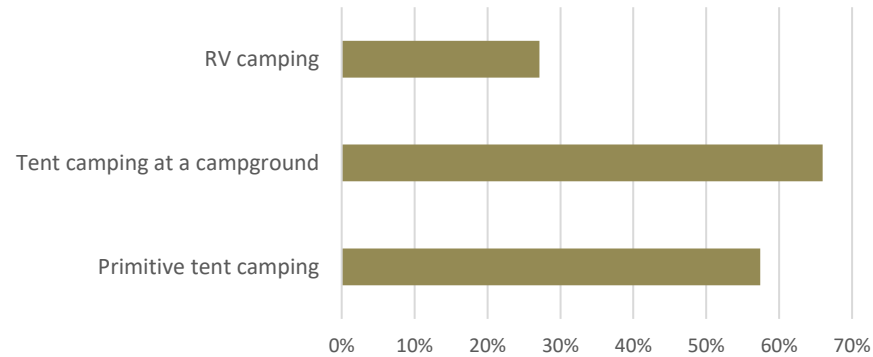
Q17. What are your preferences regarding mountain biking difficulty in the Maumelle Pinnacles area?



Q57. What are your preferences regarding rock climbing difficulty in the Maumelle Pinnacles area?



Q72. What type of camping do you prefer?





3.0 ACCESS + AMENITIES

Image Credit: Joshua Kwekel

ACCESS + AMENITIES

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

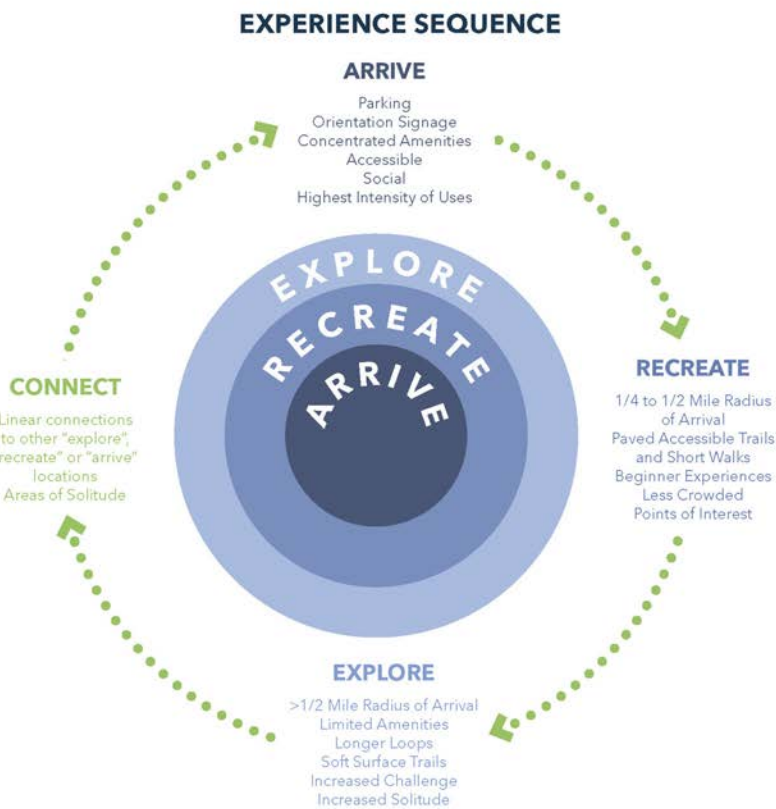
Intent

Access throughout the MPCA is multimodal by nature: multiple destinations may be reached by multiple recreation transportation options. For example, after parking your car at the Pinnacle Mountain West Summit trailhead, the Arkansas Arboretum may be reached by a 1.3 mile-long trail. But if you instead chose to put in a canoe to experience the Little Maumelle River Water Trail, you would reach Ranch North Woods after a 2.7 mile-long float. On-road bicycle routes are available as well: continuing north on Highway 300, along Barrett Road, or around the mountain and east to Two Rivers along Pinnacle Valley Road.

Creating designated space for these multiple recreation modes of transportation is paramount to overall recreation organization, but also to ensure ongoing user safety. While water trails are mostly dependent on the Little Maumelle and Arkansas Rivers, proper planning for bicycle and pedestrian facility types around the MPCA area will clearly communicate who should be using what facility. Pedestrians and wheelchair users are not meant to travel on Highway 300 or even Pinnacle Valley Road; These bicycle lanes are reserved for experienced bicyclists. These unique facility types also require unique amenities, such as bicycle repair stations along multi-use and mountain bike trails, but not hiking-only trails.

Arrival Sequence

The user experience begins at any park when they orient themselves to nearby recreation opportunities. Orienting features may exist as informational and directional signage, accessible pathways, playgrounds, short loop trails, or other experiences. This results in a concentration of recreation options for ease of accessibility and maximum social opportunities. Beginner-level experiences may extend short distances from the arrival point and include well-known points of interest, whereas higher-intensity trails may take users to another park several miles away. Moving further into the park or natural area, visitors will experience trail loops or soft surface trails that offer a more serene and sometimes more challenging environment.



TRAIL TYPES & USE

FACILITY TYPE	USER							
	Children	Special Needs	Walker	Hiker	Birder	Pack Fisher	Road Cyclist	Gravel Cyclist
Soft Surface Trail								
Single Track: Green								
Single Track: Blue								
Single Track: Black								
Dirt Road								
Paved Multi-Use								
Roadside or On-Road								

DISTANCE								
Short (Recreate)								
Medium (Explore)								
Long (Connect)								



ACCESS + AMENITIES

ACCESS POINTS

Access Point Types



Trailhead at Pinnacle Mountain Visitor Center

Major Nodes

Destinations within the MPCA offer varying intensities of use. Similarly to the way multi-use pathways are designed for the highest diversity of users and require a greater degree of investment, Major Nodes provide the most diverse offerings and may include commercial vendor sites. These may be the site of an outfitter and provide concessions with views of Lake Maumelle at WestRock Landing and the Old Jolly Rogers site, or a front-porch view of the Little Maumelle valley. Major Nodes serve as starting points for your adventure: boat launches may be available in close proximity to a mountain biking or hiking trail. Major Nodes may also exist along a trail and function as the perfect rest point for a long bike ride, hike, or sailing excursion. Proposed Major Nodes include:

- Pinnacle Mountain Visitor Center
- Pinnacle Mountain River View Center
- River Mountain Park
- WestRock Landing
- Old Jolly Rogers Site



Two Rivers Recreation Hub

Recreation Hubs

Recreation Hubs will have a smaller footprint than Major Nodes, but the notoriety of its attractions, including views, playgrounds, and beautiful natural spaces will ensure plentiful parking, as well as restrooms and drinking water access. Two Rivers Park currently functions this way and even has biking, hiking, and boating access. Others, such as Bufflehead Bay will have only hiking access, but offer access the future Lake Maumelle Hiking Trail, as well as opportunities for bank fishing. Proposed Recreation Hubs include:

- Two Rivers Park
- Ranch North Woods
- Arkansas Arboretum at Pinnacle Mountain State Park
- Rattlesnake Ridge
- Blue Mountain
- Bufflehead Bay



Trailhead at Loon Point / Farkleberry Trail

Trailheads

The most basic access point, trailheads include simple parking access and informational signage, as well as seating, shade and water. Loon Point and Vista Park are examples of trailhead access points. Save for picnic tables and some informational signage, parking areas are the only sign of traditional development. While some future Major Nodes will provide direct access to solitary recreation amenities such as the Ouachita Trail, hiking, birdwatching and bank fishing, Trailheads will specialize in these areas due to their remote location and emphasis on minimizing human impact. Proposed Trailheads include:

- Pinnacle Valley Access
- East Pinnacle Road
- CAW Overlook
- Loon Point
- Gravel Access
- Vista Park

ACCESS + AMENITIES

ACCESS POINTS

Organizing Access Points

Current and Future Access Points

While some access points will be located at existing parks and trailheads, future locations will be oriented around a variety of natural features, with consideration for commercial support services. Notable natural features within the MPCA are prime opportunities for new access points, including views of water or peaks, or the convergence of two unique terrains. These visual touchpoints allow users to orient themselves within the area and with the assistance of wayfinding signage, decide where to go next.

Commercial Support Services

Major Nodes on State properties will be reserved for opportunities outlined in the Natural State Initiative providing commercial support services. Food, drink, supplies, outfitting, and other low-impact commercial services will be provided at Major Nodes at strategic destinations throughout the area, whether as destinations in themselves, or stopping points for weary hikers or bicyclists. Commercial opportunities nestled in these areas, if planned accordingly, can enhance economic development within Central Arkansas while minimizing ecological impact and may occur on City, County, CAW, or other agency properties.

LID + Sustainability

When bringing the built environment into the natural, low impact development will be utilized to ensure proper stewardship of ecological attractions and resources within the MPCA. Multiple strategies are available for organizing a holistic recreation system. High traffic multi-use pathways may be designed to capture stormwater runoff and mountain biking trails to reduce natural erosion caused by rainfall. Parking spaces at access points should feature permeable pavement for groundwater capture, and landscaping around commercial vendors should include rain gardens near structures to collect roof runoff. Even buildings can be constructed with mass timber to reflect the environment, with signature buildings featuring green roofs as a unique and ecologically sensitive design element.



ACCESS + AMENITIES

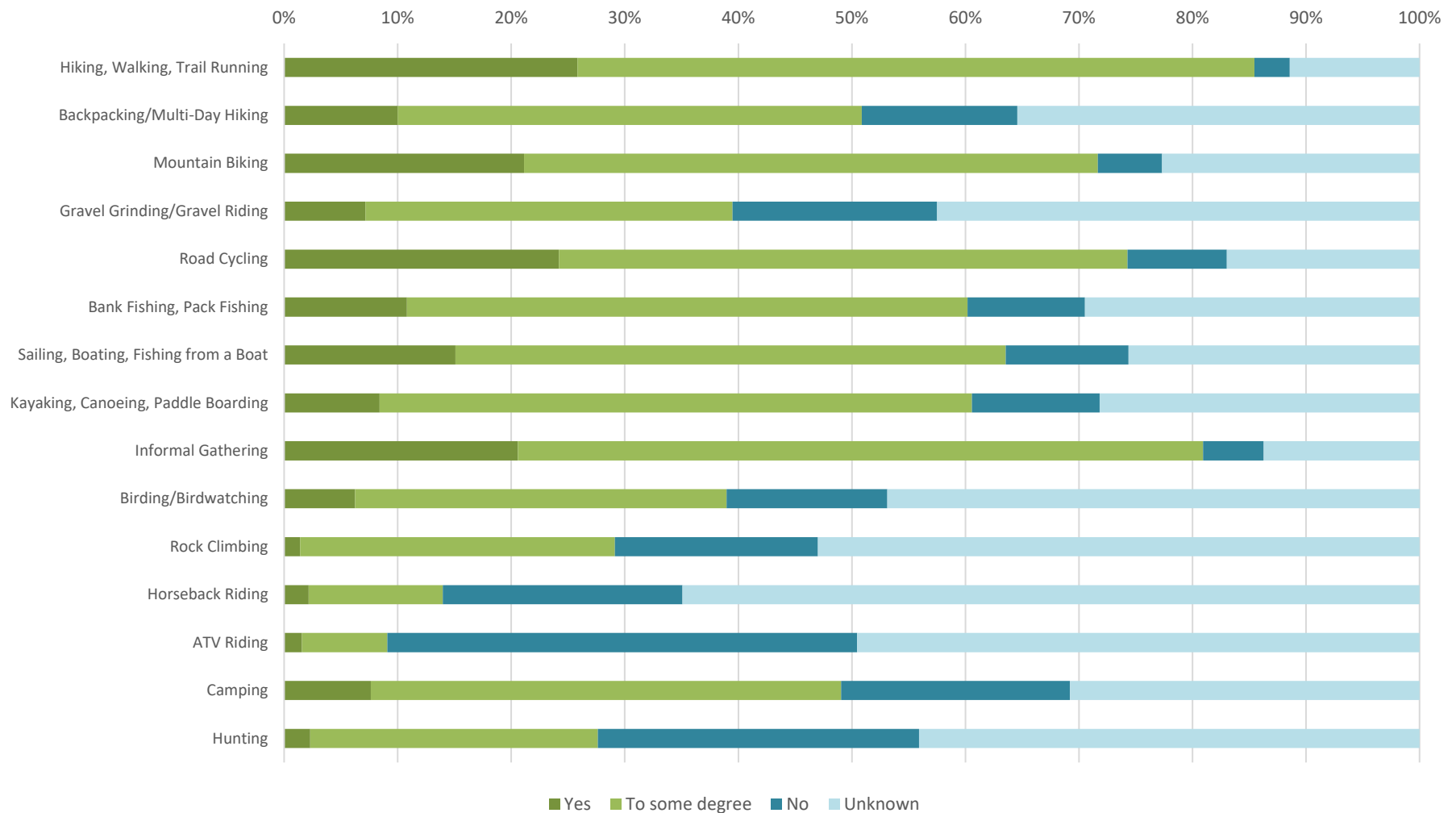
AMENITIES

Amenities

Survey respondents were asked what amenities were most important to them for a variety of recreation types (see pages 46-53). They were then asked whether their those important amenities were available throughout the MPCA These responses are summarized in the table below. The recreation types that incorporate users'

most important amenities include those associated with informal gathering, road cycling, mountain biking, and hiking. Amenities for activities that were indicated as lacking throughout the MPCA include those associated with ATV riding camping, hunting, rock climbing, and gravel riding.

Are your preferred amenities available for each of the following activities?



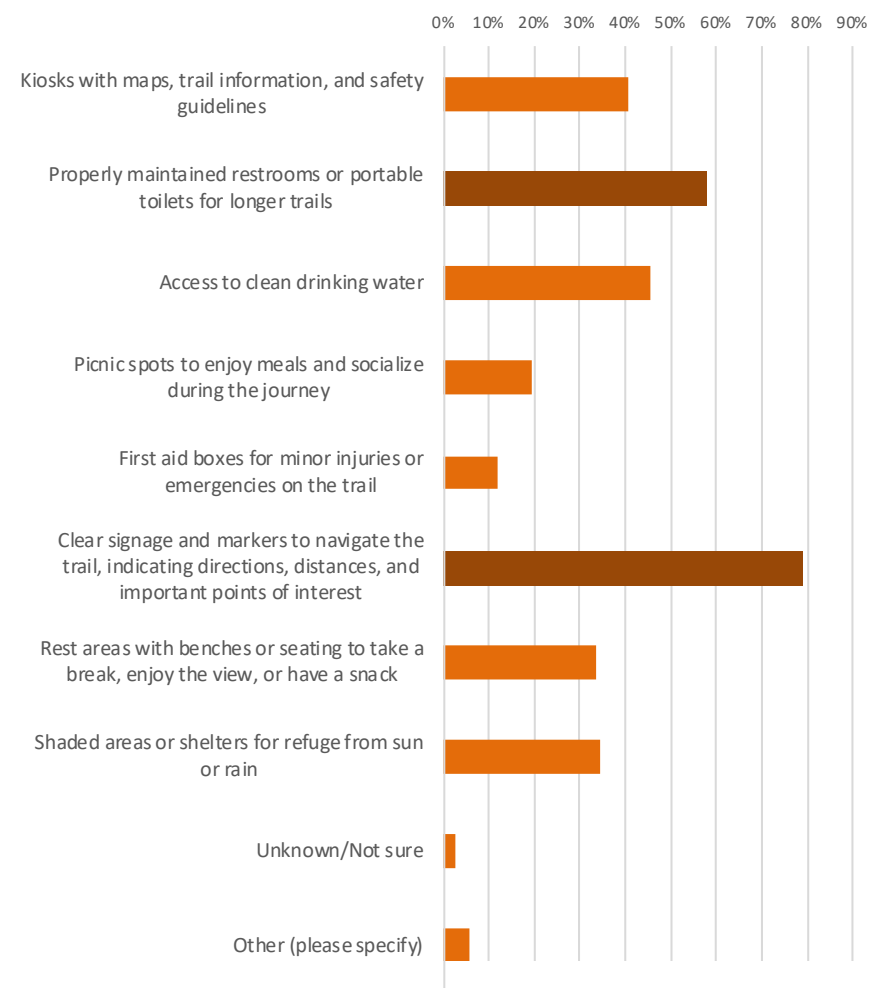
ACCESS + AMENITIES

AMENITIES

Hiking, Walking, Trail Running, and Mountain Biking

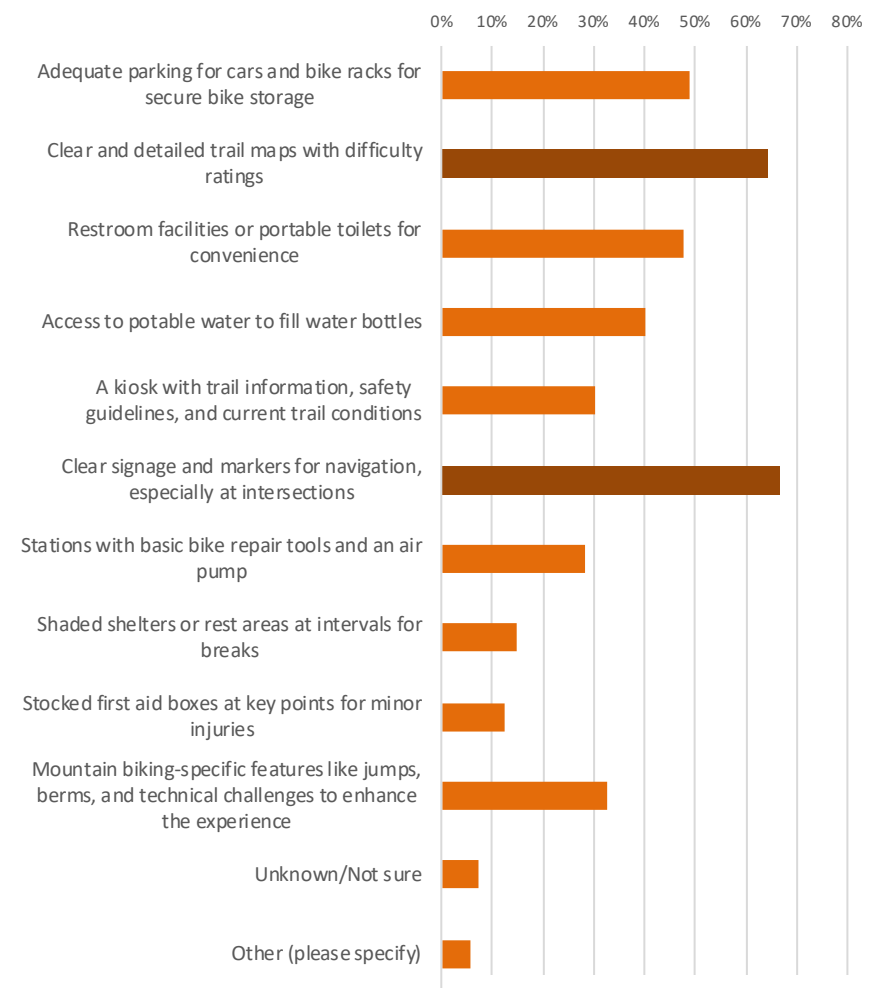
For amenities such as hiking, walking, and trail running, survey respondents indicated that clear signage and markers to navigate the trails was the most desired amenity, closely followed by properly maintained restrooms or portable toilets. Kiosks and access to clean drinking water also scored highly.

Q7. What are the most important hiking, walking & trail running amenities to you?
Please select all that apply.



For mountain biking, respondents indicated that they also most desired clear signage and markers for navigation. Trail maps with difficulty ratings placed second, followed by adequate parking and bike racks and restroom facilities or portable toilets.

Q18. What are the most important mountain biking amenities to you? Please select all that apply.



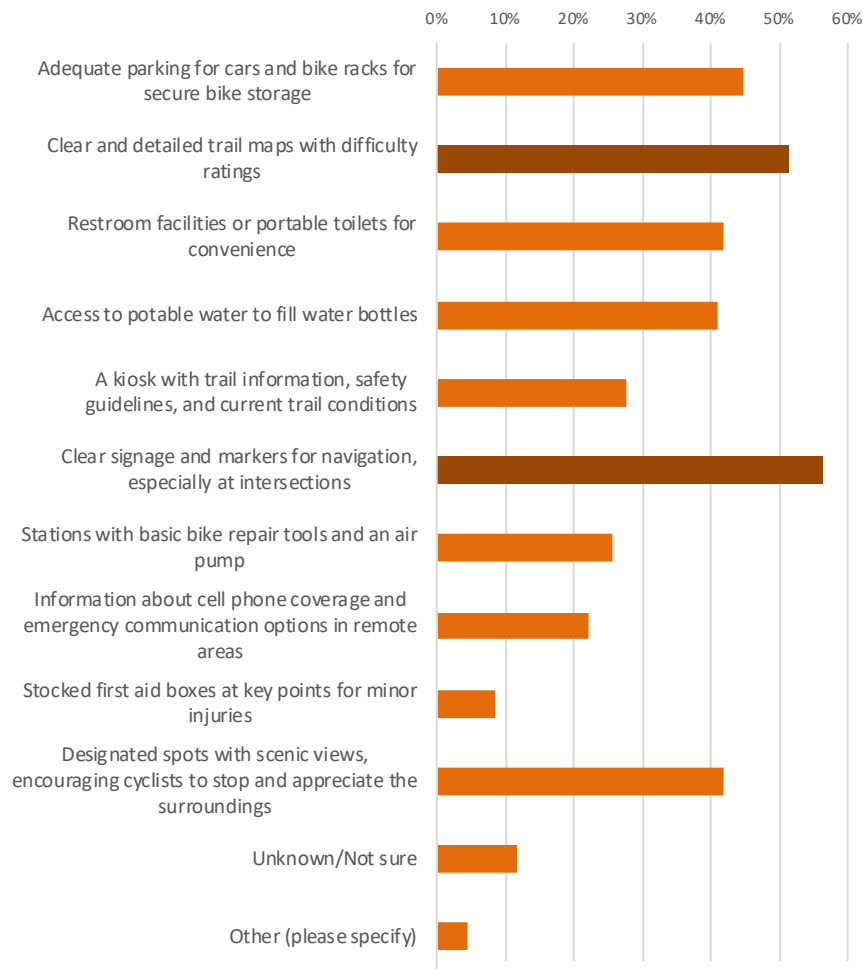
ACCESS + AMENITIES

AMENITIES

Gravel Riding and Road Cycling

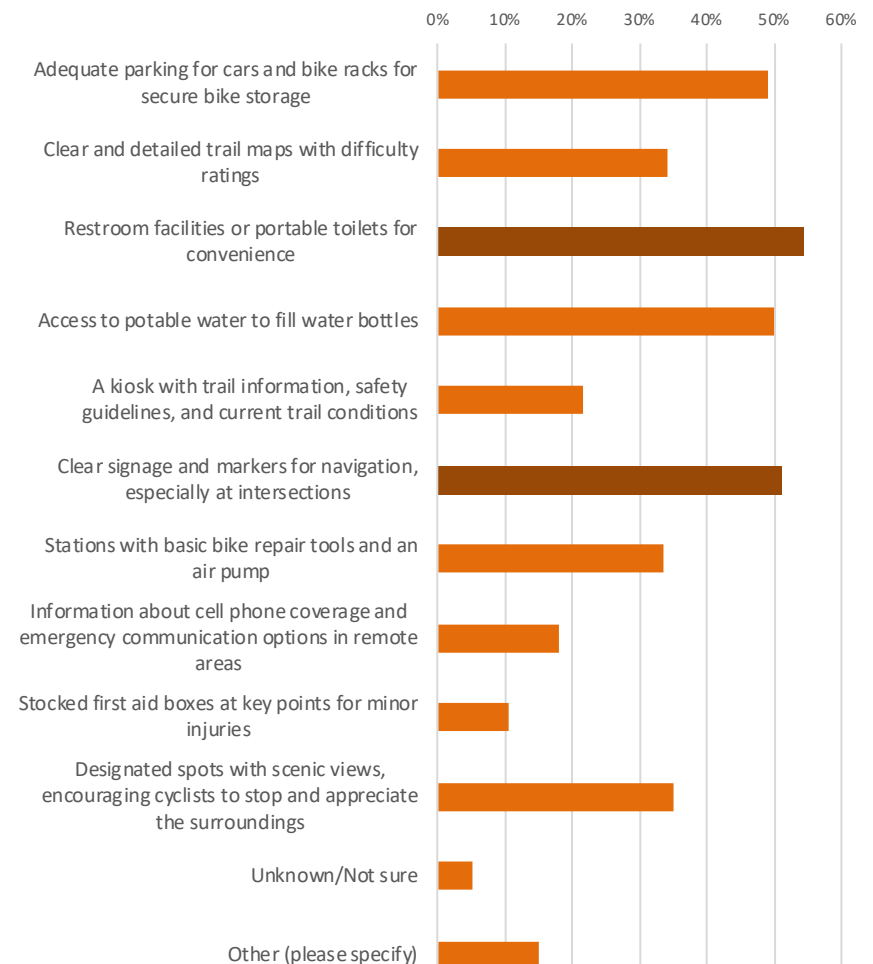
People experienced or interested in gravel riding indicated that their most desired amenities were clear signage and markers for navigation as well as clear and detailed trail maps with difficulty ratings. The desire for increased parking as well as more restroom facilities was also communicated.

Q23. What are the most important gravel riding amenities to you? Please select all that apply.



Road cyclists had similar desires as gravel riders, with more restroom facilities or portable toilets being the most desired amenity, followed by clear signage. Water bottle fill stations was also a popular response, as well as increased parking and clear trail maps with difficulty ratings.

Q28. What are the most important road cycling amenities to you? Please select all that apply.



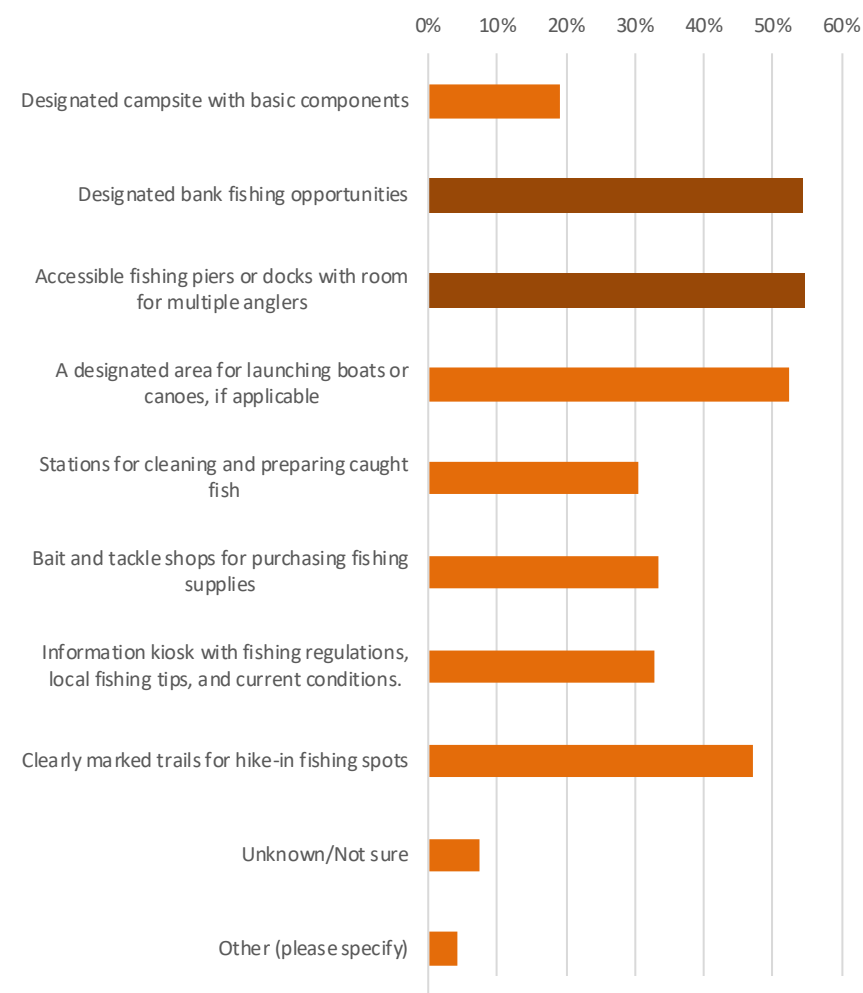
ACCESS + AMENITIES

AMENITIES

Bank Fishing, Boat Fishing, Pack Fishing, Sailing, & Boating

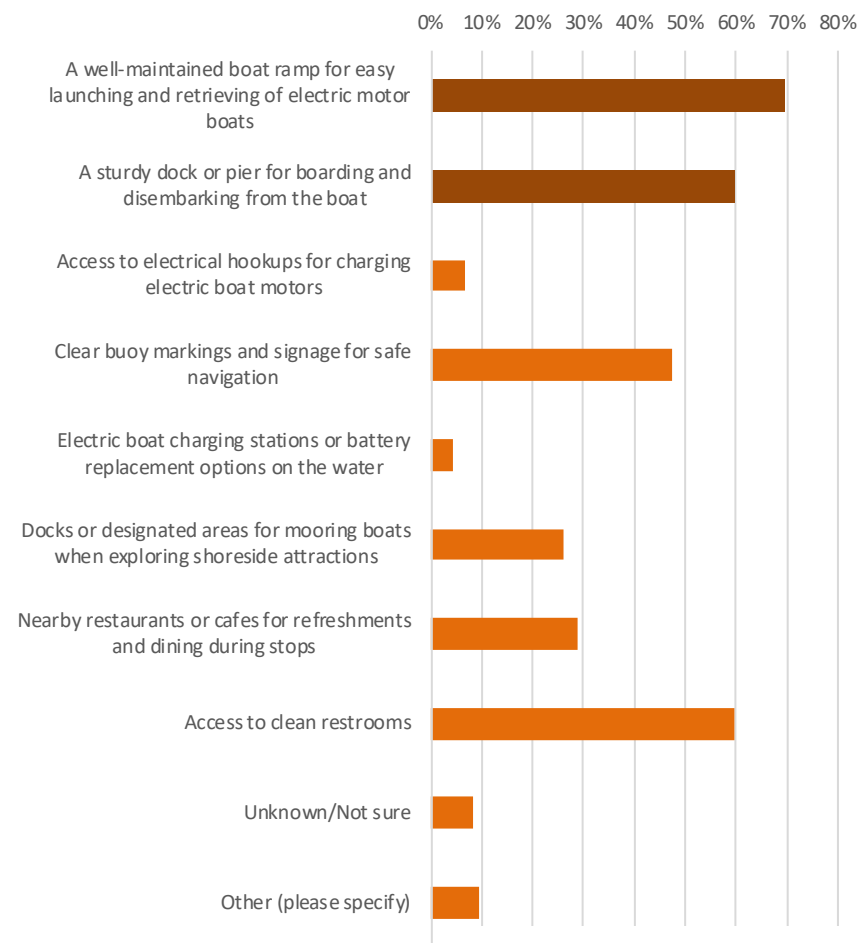
Bank fishers and pack fishers in Central Arkansas indicated in the survey that their most desired amenities were designated bank fishing opportunities and accessible fishing piers or docks with room for multiple anglers. These top two responses were followed closely by designated areas to launch boats or canoes.

Q33. What are the most important bank fishing or pack fishing amenities to you?
Please select all that apply.



For sailing, boating, or fishing from a boat, individuals who took the survey indicated that a well-maintained boat ramp and a sturdy dock or pier were their most desired amenities. Access to clean restrooms also placed highly on the survey results.

Q38. What are the most important amenities for sailing, boating, or fishing from a boat to you? Please select all that apply.



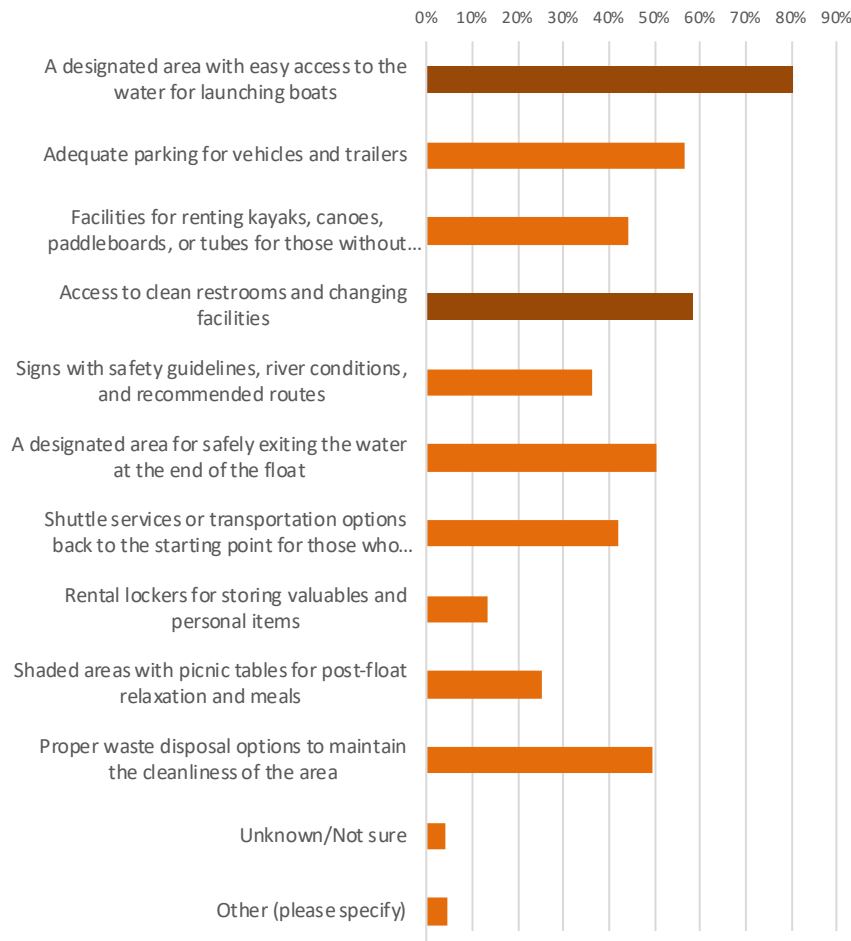
ACCESS + AMENITIES

AMENITIES

Kayaking, Canoeing, Paddle boarding, & Informal Gathering

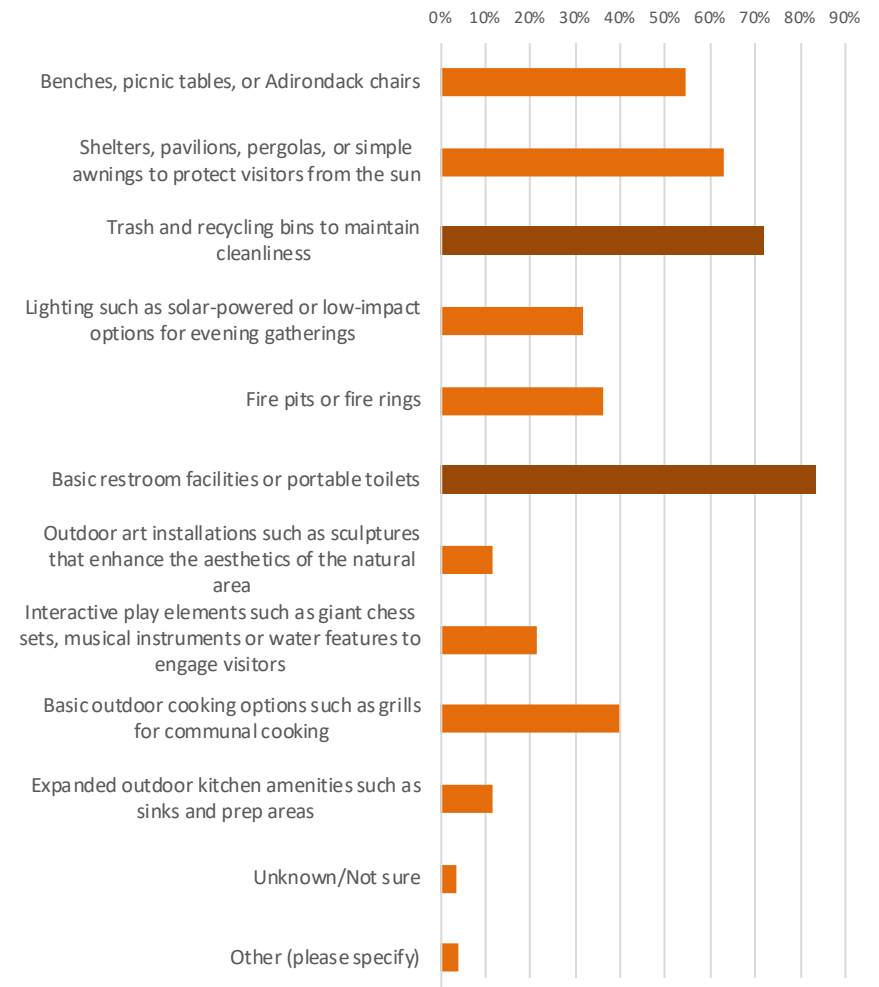
Individuals who kayak, canoe, or paddle board indicated that designated boat launching areas and access to clean restrooms and changing facilities were the most important amenities to them. There also was a desire for increased parking and designated areas to safely exit the water.

Q43. What are the most important amenities for kayaking, canoeing, or paddleboarding to you? Please select all that apply.



For informal gathering, amenities such as basic restroom facilities and trash receptacles placed highest in the survey results. Individuals also indicated a need for shade from the sun as well as areas to sit.

Q46. What are the most important amenities for informal gathering to you? Please select all that apply.



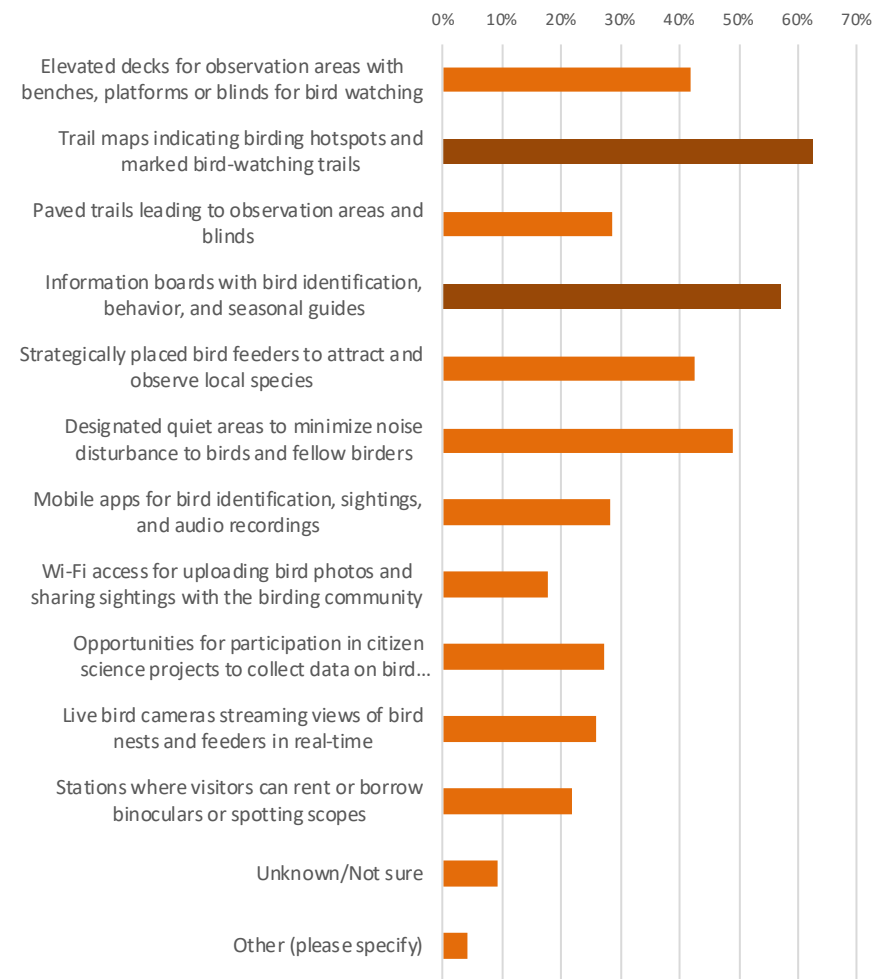
ACCESS + AMENITIES

AMENITIES

Birdwatching and Rock Climbing

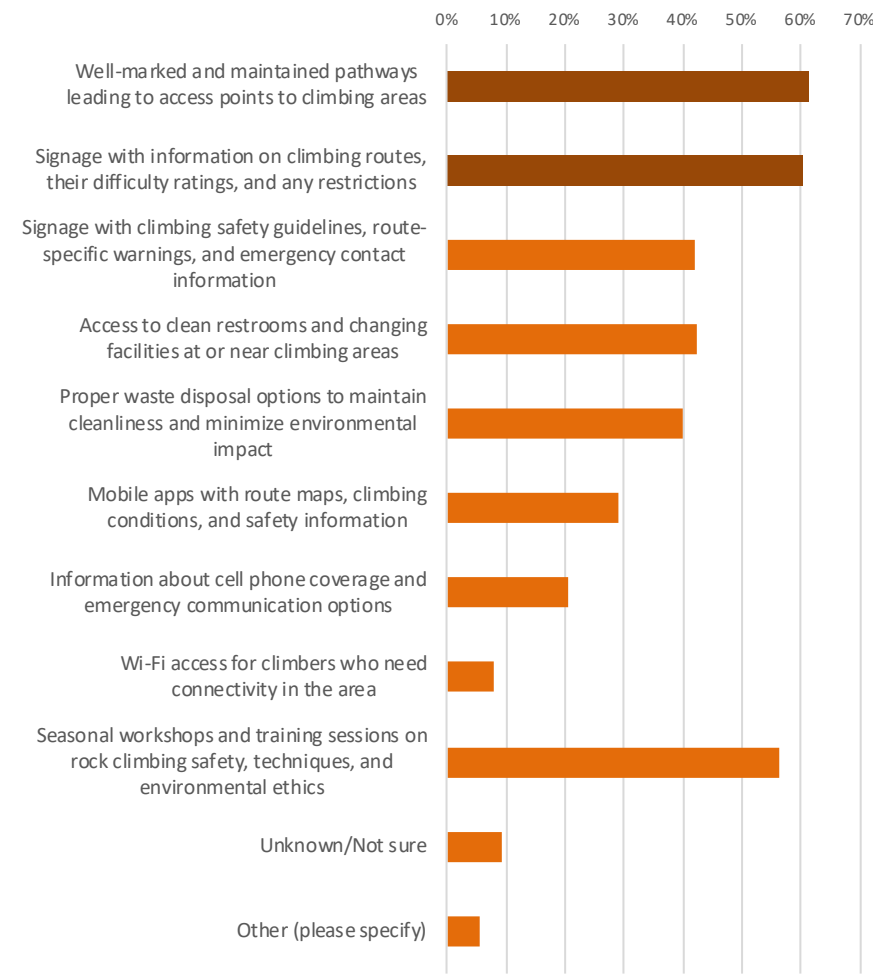
When taking the survey, birdwatchers indicated that the two most important amenities were trail maps that indicate birding hotspots and information boards with bird identification information. They also desired designated quiet areas as well as elevated decks for observation areas.

Q52. What are the most important birding/birdwatching amenities to you?



Individuals interested in rock climbing prioritized well-marked pathways leading to climbing areas and signage with information on climbing routes. Other amenities that were important included seasonal workshops and training sessions and access to clean restrooms.

Q58. What are the most important rock climbing amenities to you?



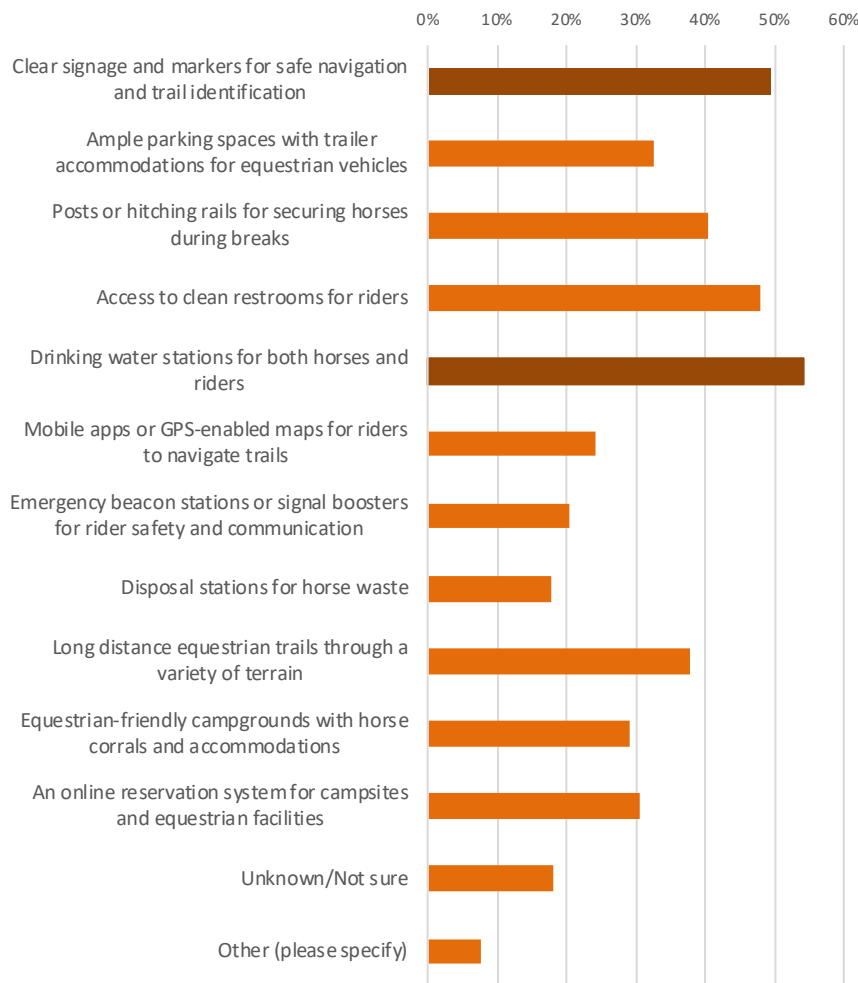
ACCESS + AMENITIES

AMENITIES

Horseback Riding and ATV

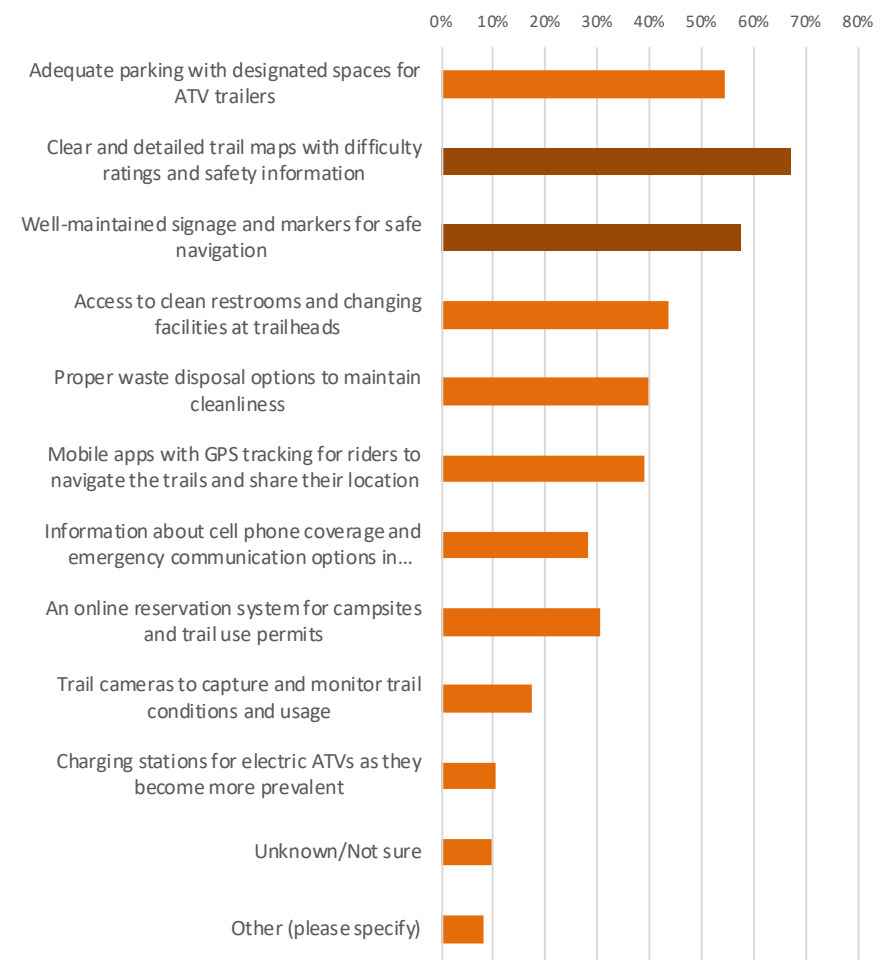
When considering amenities for horseback riding, individuals interested indicated that drinking water stations and clear signage and markers for safe navigation were the two most desired amenities. Many other amenities also ranked highly, such as access to clean restrooms and hitching rails for securing horses.

Q64. What are the most important horseback riding amenities to you?



ATV riders in Central Arkansas indicated that clear and detailed trail maps and well-maintained signage and markers as their two most desired amenities. They also expressed a desire for increased parking, access to clean restrooms, and proper waste disposal options.

Q69. What are the most important ATV amenities to you?



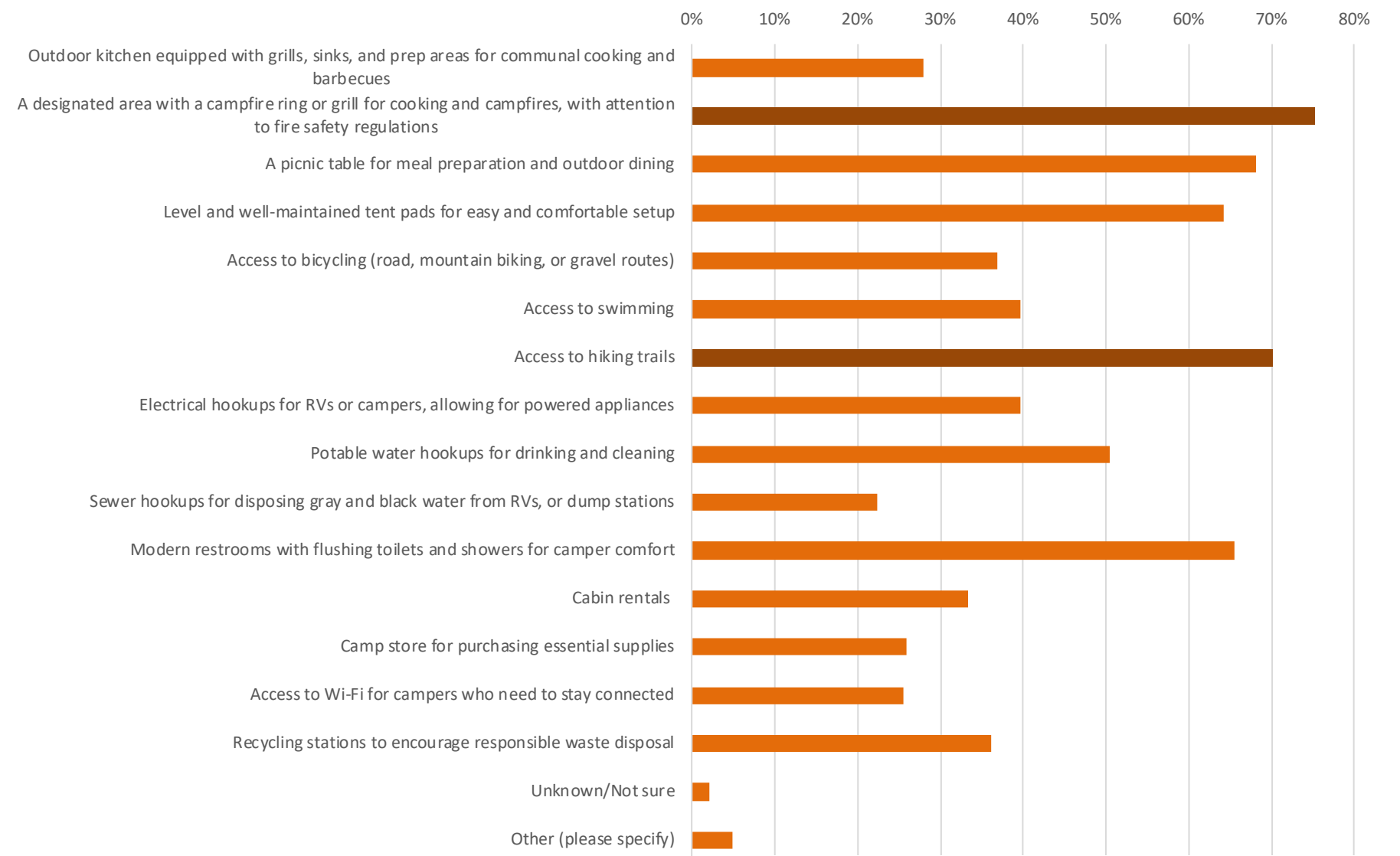
ACCESS + AMENITIES

AMENITIES

Camping Amenities

The most desired camping amenities were well-diversified, with many amenities garnering a large amount of votes. However, a designated area for campfires or grilling and access to hiking trails placed the highest. Individuals also indicated that they desired amenities such as picnic tables, tent pads, modern restrooms, and potable water hookups for drinking and cleaning.

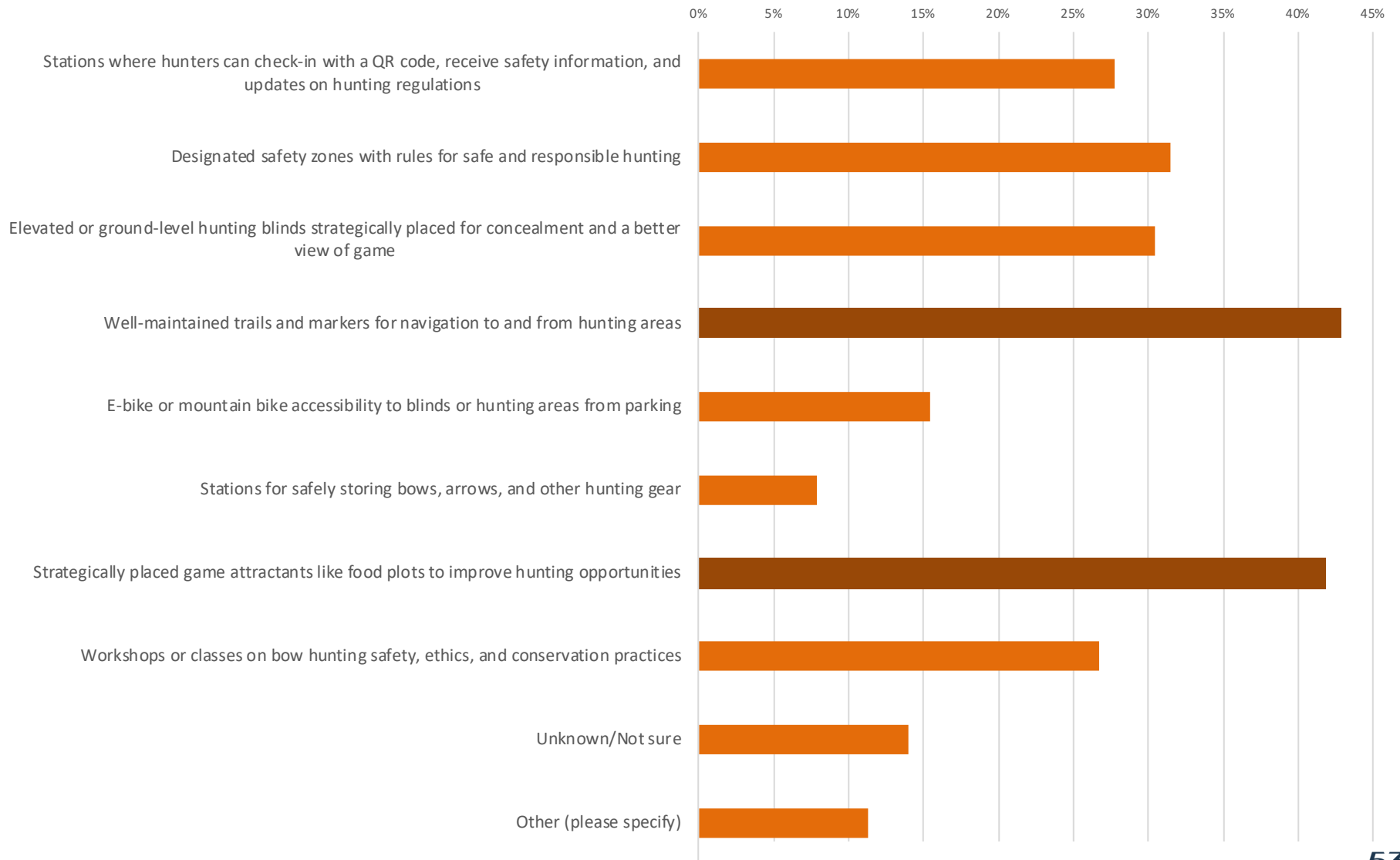
Q75. What are the most important camping amenities to you?



Hunting Amenities

When taking the survey, hunters indicated that their two most desired amenities were well-maintained trails and markers for navigation and strategically placed game attractants. They also rated other amenities highly, such as designated safety zones, elevated or ground-level hunting blinds, and stations where hunters can check-in with a QR code.

Q82. What are the most important hunting amenities to you?



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4.0 CONNECTIVITY

Image Credit: Bryan Rupar

CONNECTIVITY

BASIC TENETS

Intent

Establishing an organized, safe, recognizable and state of the art trail system to allow visitors to explore every cave and valley within the MPCA is the uniting system guiding this visioning process. The plan fulfills the number one priority of the 2006 Pulaski County Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan: connecting the Ouachita Trail from the Quarry Trailhead at the former visitor center (now the Riverview Center) to downtown (pages 42-50 of the plan) by establishing a connection through Ranch North Woods to Pinnacle Valley Road, which leads to the Arkansas River Trail and the downtown districts of North Little Rock and Little Rock. Connecting both downtowns to Talimena State Park in Oklahoma signals Arkansas' commitment to both preservation and cutting-edge recreation that invites visitors from around the world.

New and invigorating experiences will be created in the rural transect, as well. The proposed soft surface trails in the western edge of the MPCA along the south side of the lake will create a soft surface trail system that will tie into the Ouachita Trail and circle the entirety of Lake Maumelle. This presents Ouachita Trail backpackers an opportunity to choose their desired route, educators the opportunity for wilderness exploration right down the road, and open new bank fishing and birdwatching opportunities along the way.

“Move Through” or “Stop & Explore?”

Movement along trails defines the experience of the MPCA, whether hiking, mountain biking, road cycling, trail running or floating on the Little Maumelle Water Trail. Some trails lead to immersive activities such as fishing, birdwatching, or rock climbing, with water playing a key

role in uniting many of these activities. Trails allow visitors to move through the region as well opportunities to stop and explore: a unique form of recreation that leads to even more choices and moments of discovery. Different types of connectivity impact the user's experience and perception of the destination. On-road bicycle routes allow cyclists to travel as fast as they like, making the route itself the experience rather than reaching a specific destination. Other trails are designed for slower travel, such as soft surface trails, which makes arriving at a new trailhead a unique experience.

Urban vs. Rural Applications

The MPCA contains a variety of proximity to development, physical terrain, soil types and interactive opportunities with water. Recreational trails and parks are located within floodplains, on or around steep terrain, intersecting at various points with more urban or more rural contexts depending on the location. Generally as one travels west from River Mountain to Lake Maumelle, development transitions from urban to more rural, and paved trails generally give way to more soft surface trails as space expands for hiking and mountain biking. In other areas such as River Mountain Park, hiking and mountain biking trails are actively bringing nature into an otherwise urban area near Interstate 430 and Highway 10. This plan establishes strategies for applying the correct trail types according to its rural or urban application so that urban trails may be brought into the MPCA in an inviting and environmentally sustainable manner to connect many destinations, and conversely, to continue bringing nature into urban areas with soft surface pathways.



*Coler Mountain Bike Preserve
Source: Peel Compton Foundation*



Coler Mountain Bike Preserve

Connectivity Types

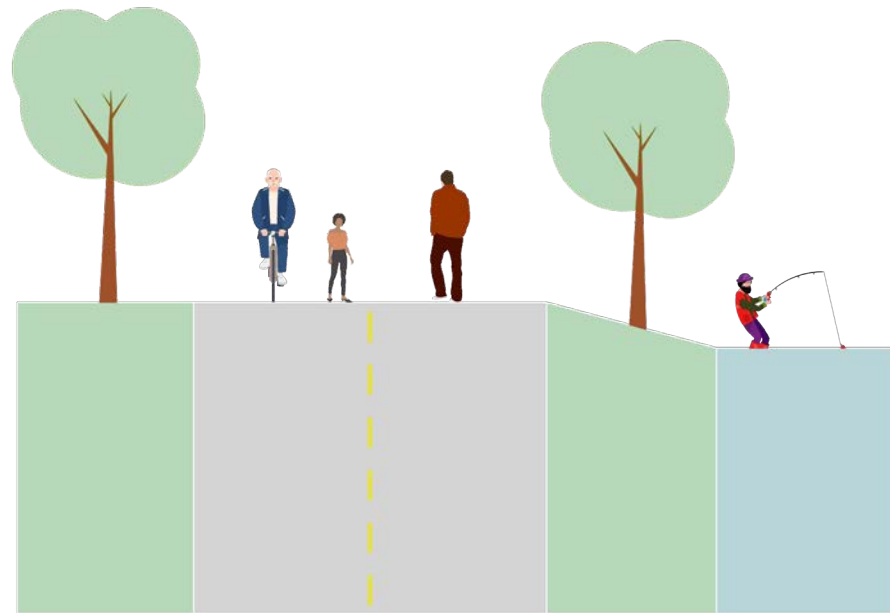
Utilizing the correct trail type for the correct activity, from hiking to road biking leads to proper use, enhanced safety, and many options for users to choose. Volume, speed, and material are all considered when examining new trail locations.

Multi-use Trails & Boardwalks

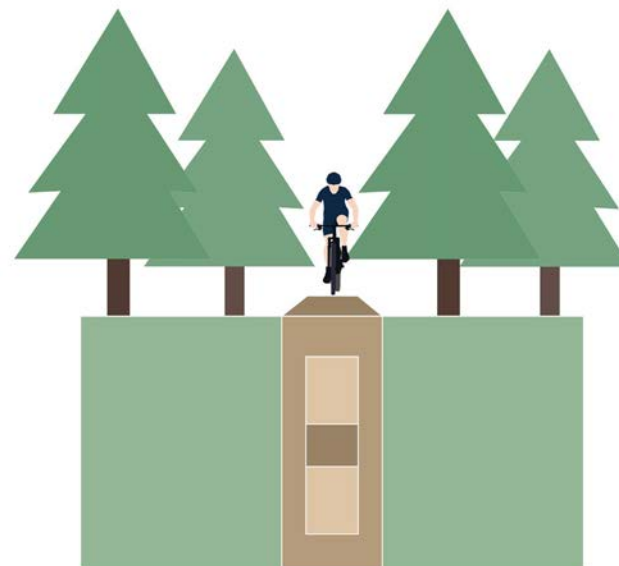
Multi-use trails and boardwalks require a detailed design and construction process and allow use by the greatest diversity of travel modes, with boardwalks providing access specifically in wet and low-lying marshy areas. Although bicyclists can ride here, they may have an unpleasant experience if deck materials are not smooth.

Soft Surface Trails

Soft surface hiking trails will vary depending on their use: hiking trails permit large rocks and more uneven terrain for travelers to navigate at a slower pace, whereas beginner mountain biking trails will mostly be dirt and/or crushed gravel. Blue and black-rated mountain biking trails will feature more rock features and challenging terrain. Opportunities for gravel routes within the MPCA are located on existing gravel roads in the southwest portion of the study area.



Multi-Use Trail Plan-Section



Soft Surface Trail Plan-Section

CONNECTIVITY

TYPES

Connectivity Types

On-Street Applications

On-street facilities are suitable for bicyclists only. Signed bike routes are on Highway 300 and portions of Pinnacle Valley Road, occupying an important segment of the Big Dam Bridge 100 annual ride. Bike lanes can be found on Pinnacle Valley Road and County Farm Road. While no sharrows currently exist in the MPCA, these white markers are painted on the road to indicate that the road is to be shared with vehicles and cyclists alike. Sharrows may be utilized as temporary connections while multi-use applications are being negotiated.

Accessible Trails

Accessible trails can be either paved or unpaved, allowing wheelchair access to otherwise inaccessible destinations. Paved accessible trails must be a minimum of three feet wide (but should be wider for comfort and if accommodating multiple types of users) and are best suited for applications with gradual descent or ascent to a desired destination. Soft surface accessible trails are constructed by laying finely crushed gravel or other material on a cleared dirt pathway allowing for wheelchair access along flat or gently rolling terrain.



Sharrow Plan-Section



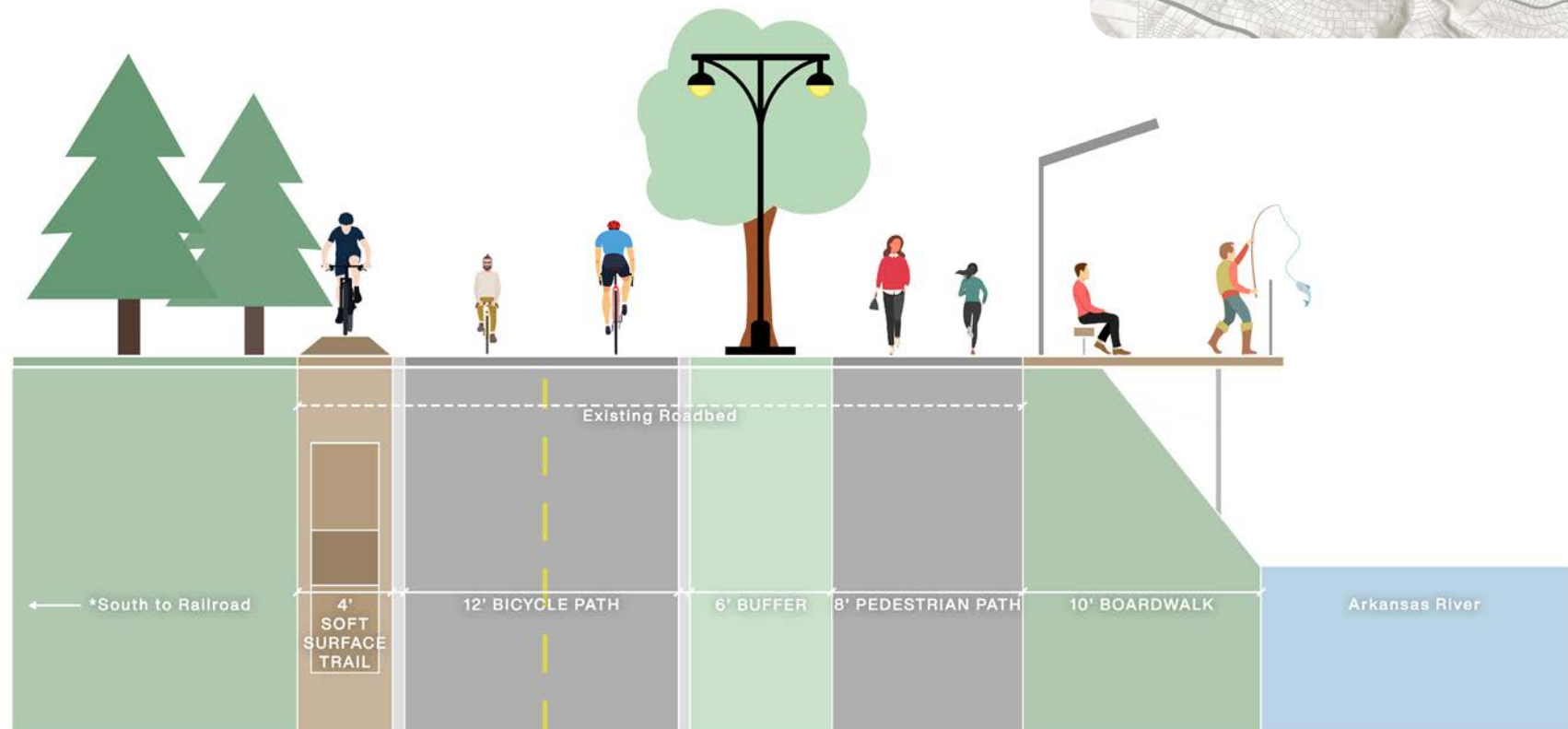
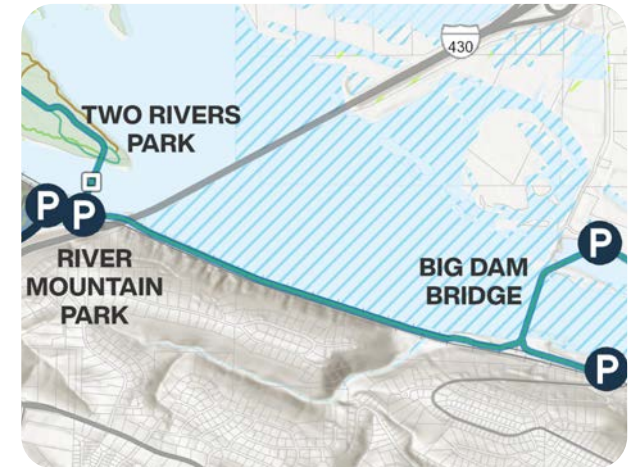
Bicycle Lane Plan-Section

Project Segments

Big Dam Bridge to River Mountain

Comprised mainly of a former portion of River Mountain Road, the Arkansas River Trail extending from the south side of the Big Dam Bridge to River Mountain is a scenic linear experience along the Arkansas River. Some portions of the former roadbed are exposed to erosion along the river's edge, and some maintenance is required to eliminate weeds and plants growing through pavement. The crown of the road is still evident, and at its widest the trail offers almost 28' of dedicated bicycle and pedestrian pathway.

The future cross section of this segment includes three parallel paths to separate users and minimize conflicts: a walking path with occasional overlooks/ fishing piers along the Arkansas River, a two-directional bicycle path, and a parallel soft surface mountain bike path, allowing overflow parking at the Big Dam Bridge when River Mountain Park parking is at capacity.



CONNECTIVITY

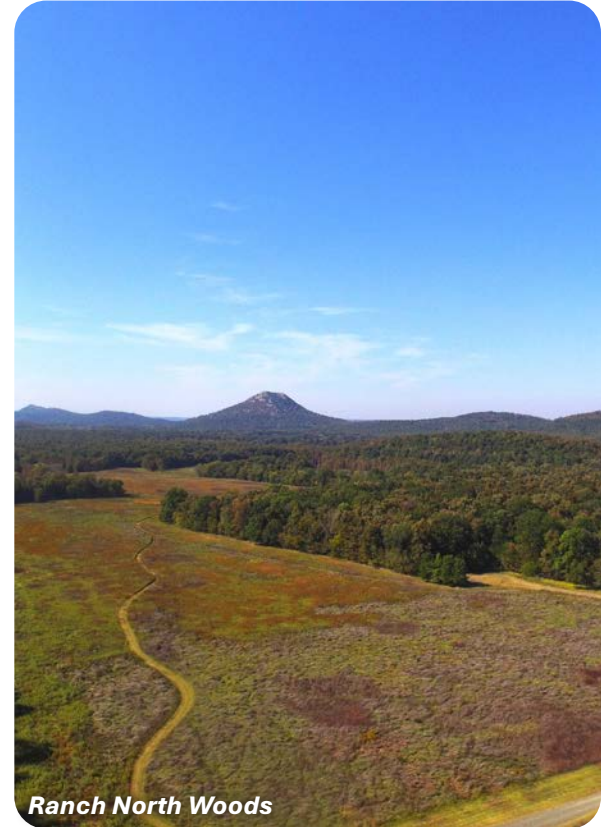
ALIGNMENT



River Mountain Park



Two Rivers Park



Ranch North Woods

Project Segments

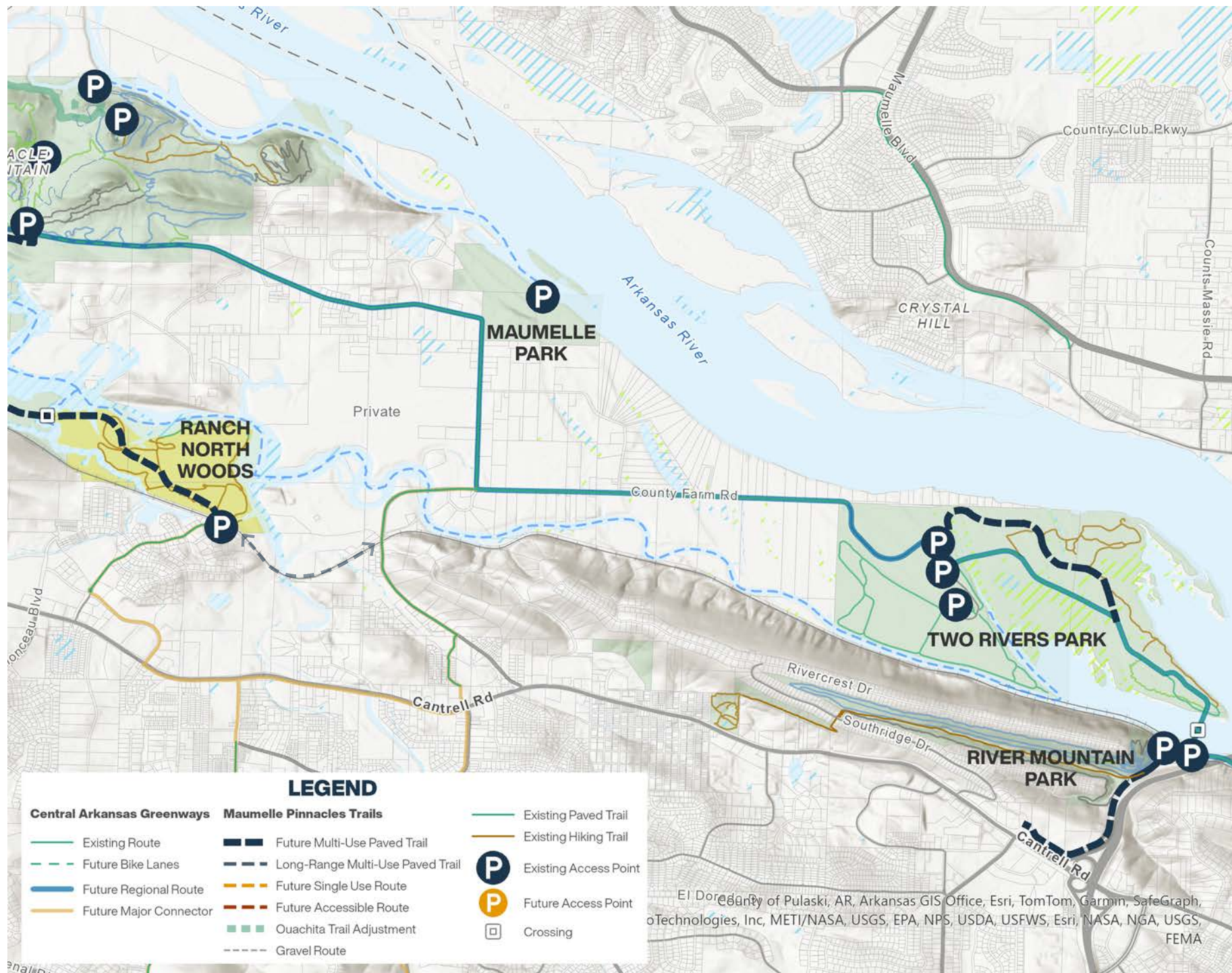
River Mountain to Ranch North Woods

Connecting River Mountain to Ranch North Woods includes a variety of project and facility types.

Providing a connection from River Mountain to Rodney Parham North via a multi-use trail provides a separated route that provides a continuous route from the Arkansas River Trail to neighborhoods, schools, and goods and services.

Providing a second trail alignment through the most crowded portions of Two Rivers Park will allow the separation of pedestrians cyclists. The park's low-lying topography presents obstacles in permitting a second paved path or widening the existing path, however, constructing a boardwalk trail roughly parallel to the current alignment may be an implementable solution to relieve overcrowding while minimizing impacts to the natural environment.

Utilizing existing bicycle lanes to move westward along County Farm Road, this route crosses the Little Maumelle River on Pinnacle Valley Drive. A final segment parallel to the railroad tracks is necessary to complete the connection into Ranch North Woods.



County of Pulaski, AR, Arkansas GIS Office, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, Technologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS, Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA

CONNECTIVITY

ALIGNMENT

Project Segments

Ranch North Woods to Arkansas Arboretum

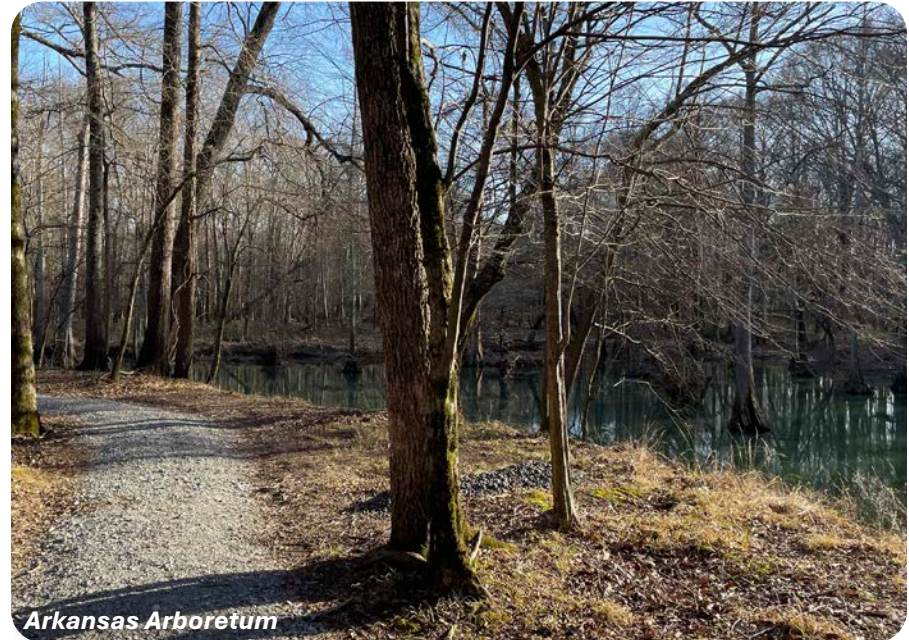
Ranch North Woods is a preservation area within the floodplain of the Little Maumelle River. It offers hike-in canoe and kayak access as well as soft surface trails and boardwalks. Connecting this beautiful preservation area to the Arkansas Arboretum will require the installation of boardwalk through Ranch North Woods and Pinnacle Mountain State Park, a necessary yet significant investment. Ample opportunity exists along the way to highlight the unique and plentiful flora and fauna through educational signage or stations designed along the boardwalk to stop and learn while resting and communing with nature among the cypress trees.

Arkansas Arboretum to Pinnacle Mountain Visitor Center

The 1.3-mile long multi-use trail between the Arkansas Arboretum to the Pinnacle Mountain State Park Visitor Center will soon be under construction, offering a seamless connection to the 71-acre site and a barrier-free interpretive trail. Many individuals are unaware of this gem and its representation of Arkansas' 6 major natural divisions. The trail itself traverses alongside the Little Maumelle River in the shadow of Pinnacle Mountain and leads to the West Summit Trailhead, where restrooms, water, picnic tables, the Little Maumelle River Trail float launch, and the Kingfisher Trail are located. This trail, while shorter than previous segments, is expected to receive a high amount of use due to the popularity of Pinnacle Mountain and the Monument Trails, located just east of the Arboretum near the old quarry.

Pinnacle Mountain Visitor Center to Rattlesnake Ridge

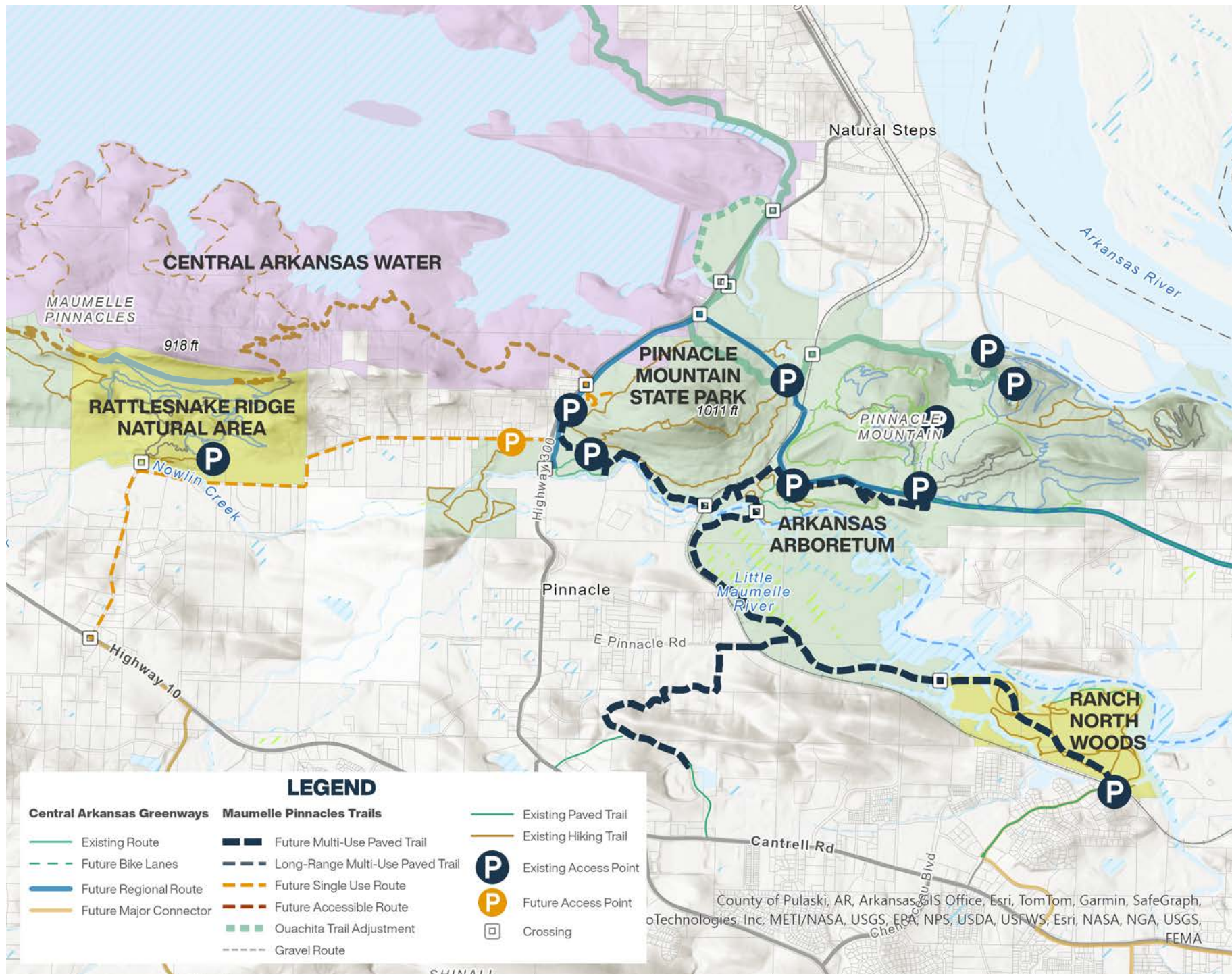
Routes between the Pinnacle Mountain State Park Visitor Center and Rattlesnake Ridge provide a variety of experiences. Immediate and short-term connections include the continued use of Barrett Road as an on-road signed bicycle route. A planned soft-surface hike and mountain bike connection on Central Arkansas Water property from Highway 300 to WestRock Landing will provide connections to Rattlesnake Ridge and Blue Mountain. A long-term paved multi-use path should be considered to provide a connection from Pinnacle Mountain to Blue Mountain, linking all three Maumelle Pinnacles.



Arkansas Arboretum



Boardwalk at Lake Atalanta in Rogers, AR



CONNECTIVITY

ALIGNMENT

Project Segments

Rattlesnake Ridge to Blue Mountain

Like the routes planned between Rattlesnake Ridge and Pinnacle Mountain, various future routes may connect Rattlesnake Ridge to the third notable peak in the MPCA, Blue Mountain. The combination of soft surface hiking and mountain biking trails planned and/or constructed at Rattlesnake Ridge, Blue Mountain or Central Arkansas Water form a chain to connect each area. Long-term, on-street and paved multi-use paths utilizing other routes and potentially other properties should be considered. These additional routes would provide universal access as well as expand users to include those on bicycles.

Blue Mountain to WestRock Landing

Planned trail connections between Blue Mountain and WestRock Landing are located north of Highway 10, far enough from the roadway to feel remote, but close enough for emergency vehicles to access should an accident occur. This paved segment measures approximately 2 miles, the perfect length for bicyclists to ride to enjoy food, drink, and relaxation at WestRock Landing after a mountain biking excursion at Blue Mountain. The challenge at this segment is constructing a multi-use trail with minimal impacts on the lake and at grades that are comfortable to traverse by bike or by foot. “Did you know?” signage should be considered on this trail to assist in educating visitors as to the expansive work accomplished by Central Arkansas Water to ensure quality drinking water for the majority of Pulaski County.

WestRock Landing to Old Jolly Rogers Site

From WestRock Landing west to Highway 113, plans for immediate trails are soft surface and located on the north side of Highway 10, with long-term plans for a paved trail on the south side of Highway 10 to connect future access points and provide a safer route for cycling along Highway 10. Access to this trail would cross over Highway 10 near WestRock Landing, continue westward, and would provide an additional crossing opportunity near Old Jolly Rogers before proceeding west to Vista Park on the south side of the road.

Soft surface trails on the north side of Highway 10 will be constructed to minimize impact on drinking water caused by erosion while offering users beautiful views of Lake Maumelle. An accessible paved trail loop is planned immediately near the Old Jolly Rogers Site to allow wheelchair users the ability to reach the low-lying banks of Lake Maumelle to fish. This entire section measures nearly 3 miles long and includes fishing opportunities and a scenic vista at Bufflehead Bay, fishing at Loon Point along the Farkleberry Trail, with even more fishing at Old Jolly Rogers.



Hiking Trails at Blue Mountain



Multi-Use Trail at Two Rivers Park



*Informational Signage
Source: MKSK*



CONNECTIVITY

ALIGNMENT

Project Segments

Old Jolly Rogers to Highway 10 Bridge

Between the Old Jolly Rogers Marina and the Highway 10 bridge over Lake Maumelle lie more opportunities for fishing along the planned soft surface trail. At 4.1 miles, this is the longest segment of soft surface trail in the MPCA and will present prime opportunities for trail running and additional bank fishing opportunities, with one ideal segment for hike-in fishing. Accessible trails are planned immediately west of the Old Jolly Rogers Marina to allow wheelchair users to reach the low-lying banks of Lake Maumelle to fish. This section terminates at Vista Park and offers beautiful views of Lake Maumelle. The long-term paved multi-use path from WestRock Landing would include a crossing over Highway 10 to provide access to Old Jolly Rogers. It will also continue west toward Vista Park and the Highway 10 bridge over Lake Maumelle.

Highway 10 Bridge to Highway 113

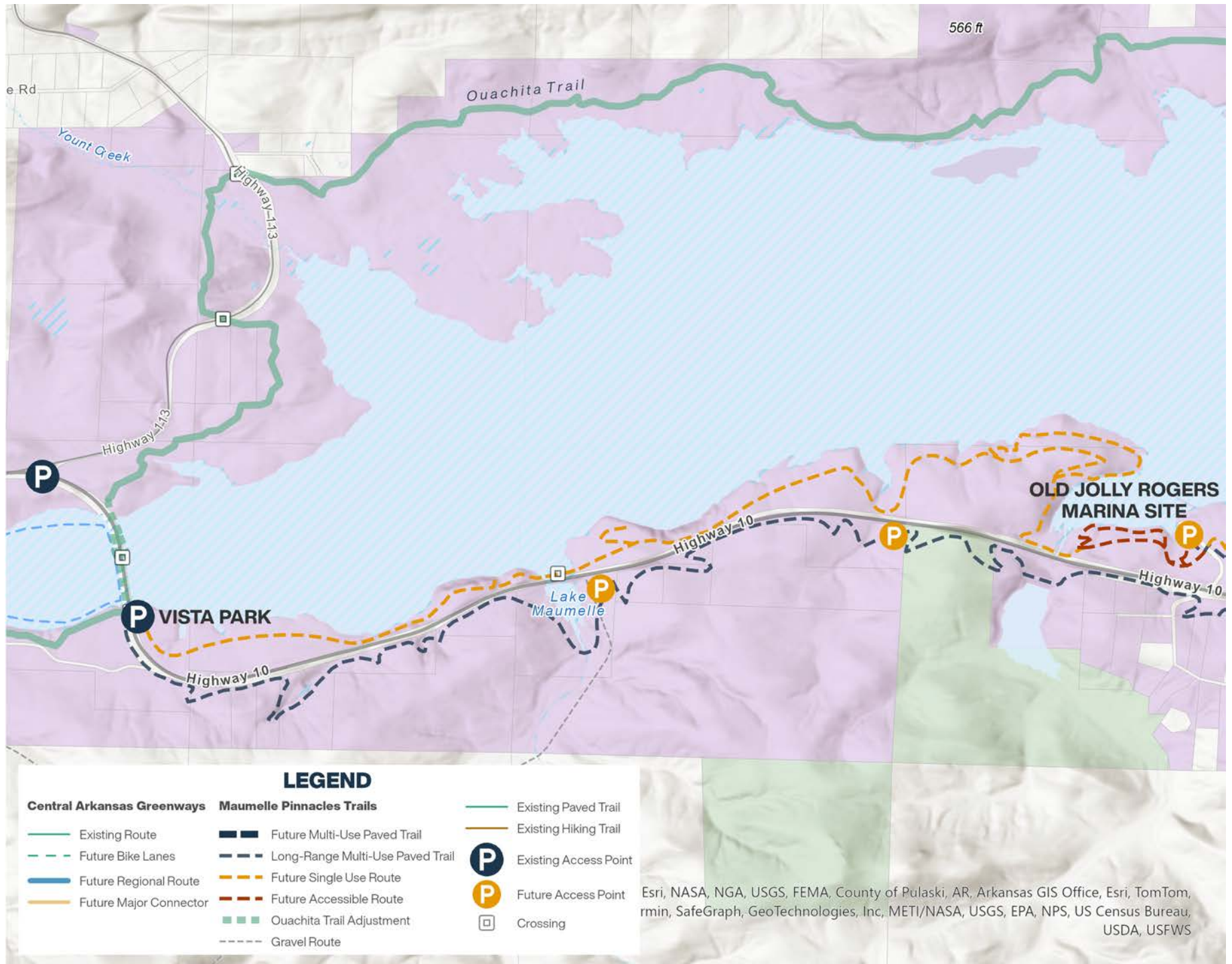
Between Vista Park and Highway 113 are beautiful views of the entirety of Lake Maumelle and fishing spots. Currently the Ouachita Trail's most dangerous segment, the trail merges with Highway 10 passing over the lake, posing a significant safety risk for hikers forced to share the road with passing cars on the narrow berm. This section could provide a trail that parallels the highway on its west side before crossing underneath Highway 10 and loops underneath at the bridge and to the east side before paralleling the east side of the highway to the continuation of the Ouachita Trail. This will provide hikers safe passage separated from speeding vehicles, and ease of access for those who wish to explore north of their parking spot at Vista Park. Additional birdwatching opportunities may be found along the potential bridge along the west side of the highway.



Ouachita Trail near Vista Park



Accessible Fishing Pier
Source: TVA



Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA, County of Pulaski, AR, Arkansas GIS Office, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc., METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS

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5.0 OUTCOMES

Image Credit: Crafton Tull

OUTCOMES

SYSTEMWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS



Green Flush Restroom Option

Provide Drinking Water & Restrooms

Providing visitors with essential needs is ground zero for a holistic recreation system. Traditional or waterless restrooms are necessary to providing privacy for users before, after, or even in the middle of their recreation experience. Specific locations have been indicated within the table on page 14. Similarly, potable water should be located at predictable intervals at trailheads and along trails where possible.

Emphasize Major Nodes for Commercial Service Vendors

In keeping with the Natural State Initiative established in 2023, the MPCA will support the investment of capital by partnering with local businesses to offer quality concessions at strategic park locations. An early and successful example of this is the opening of Loblolly Creamery at the new Pinnacle Mountain State Park Visitor Center. This document provides a starting point for exploring which high-visitation destinations in the system should be considered as the next commercial service vendor, whether as a restaurant, outfitter, or even brewery. These generally occur at “Major Nodes” indicated in Chapter 3: Access, particularly since the somewhat remote location of several access points are not privately served by traditional convenience stores.



Loblolly Creamery at the new Pinnacle Mountain Visitor's Center

Invest in Sustainable Construction Methods

To protect the natural environment, low impact development best practices should be implemented at every trailhead. Permeable paving should be implemented in parking lots, pathways, and other areas where human access is required. Bioswales or rain gardens should be utilized to slow, reduce, and cleanse runoff and encourage ground infiltration. Additionally, minimizing site disturbance and maintaining existing vegetation during construction and restoring native landscapes post construction provide additional ecological benefit.

OUTCOMES

SYSTEMWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Expand Connectivity Beyond Vehicular Parking

In natural areas where parking expansion may not be feasible due to site or related environmental constraints, expanding connectivity is a creative solution to increasing access to beautiful destinations throughout the system. Coler Preserve in Bentonville, Arkansas, is a prime example of this: a paved trail extends less than a mile from the vehicular parking area to a beautiful modernist coffee shop seamlessly nestled in the hillside where visitors can relax and congregate around, and even on top of the shop. Signature destinations throughout the system are primed for access by bike, foot, or even floating, rather than relying solely on vehicular parking. Appropriate amenities to secure bicycles, canoes, or kayaks should be provided at these locations.

Strategize Progressive Amenities

The MPCA should feature world-class recreation opportunities connected by world class trails, complemented by equally renowned supporting amenities. Bicycle storage should feature covers for protection from the elements, and floating piers at launch points should have identifiable areas to secure watercraft. Fix-it stations for bicycles should be at access points as well as in select remote trail segments to prevent users becoming stranded. Striving for immersive experiences in nature can coexist with broadband technology by incorporating hotspots at remote trailheads for safety purposes. Ideally, a comprehensive MPCA user application would provide in-depth detail as to the nearest amenities pertaining to their selected recreation types, such as docks for floating and fishing, or water fountains for a backpacker or hiker.

Utilize Wayfinding Signage to Establish Hierarchy

A complete study of wayfinding signage design, placement, distances from various destinations, orientation and context-specific information will be completed in Phase 2 to provide consistent user orientation throughout the system. A hierarchy of destinations will be provided on each sign, including nearest destinations, as well as the distances to the epicenters of the MPCA: Pinnacle Mountain, Rattlesnake Ridge and Blue Mountain. Wayfinding signage can be integrated with an official recreation system smartphone app to offer educational, practical, or safety information that can be accessed with a QR code.



Wayfinding Examples
Source: North Star

OUTCOMES

SITE PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS

Big Dam Bridge to Pinnacle Valley Road

1. River Mountain/Two Rivers Bridge

Already highly popular destination, River Mountain Park has the necessary ingredients to become a landmark recreation node similar to Coler Preserve, with commercial services including a cafe, brewery, or similar attraction. A multi-use connection to Rodney Parham North is proposed, as well as expanded outfitter space and rental lockers. Refer also to page 53 for details regarding the proposed connection between River Mountain and Big Dam Bridge.



2. Two Rivers Park: City of Little Rock

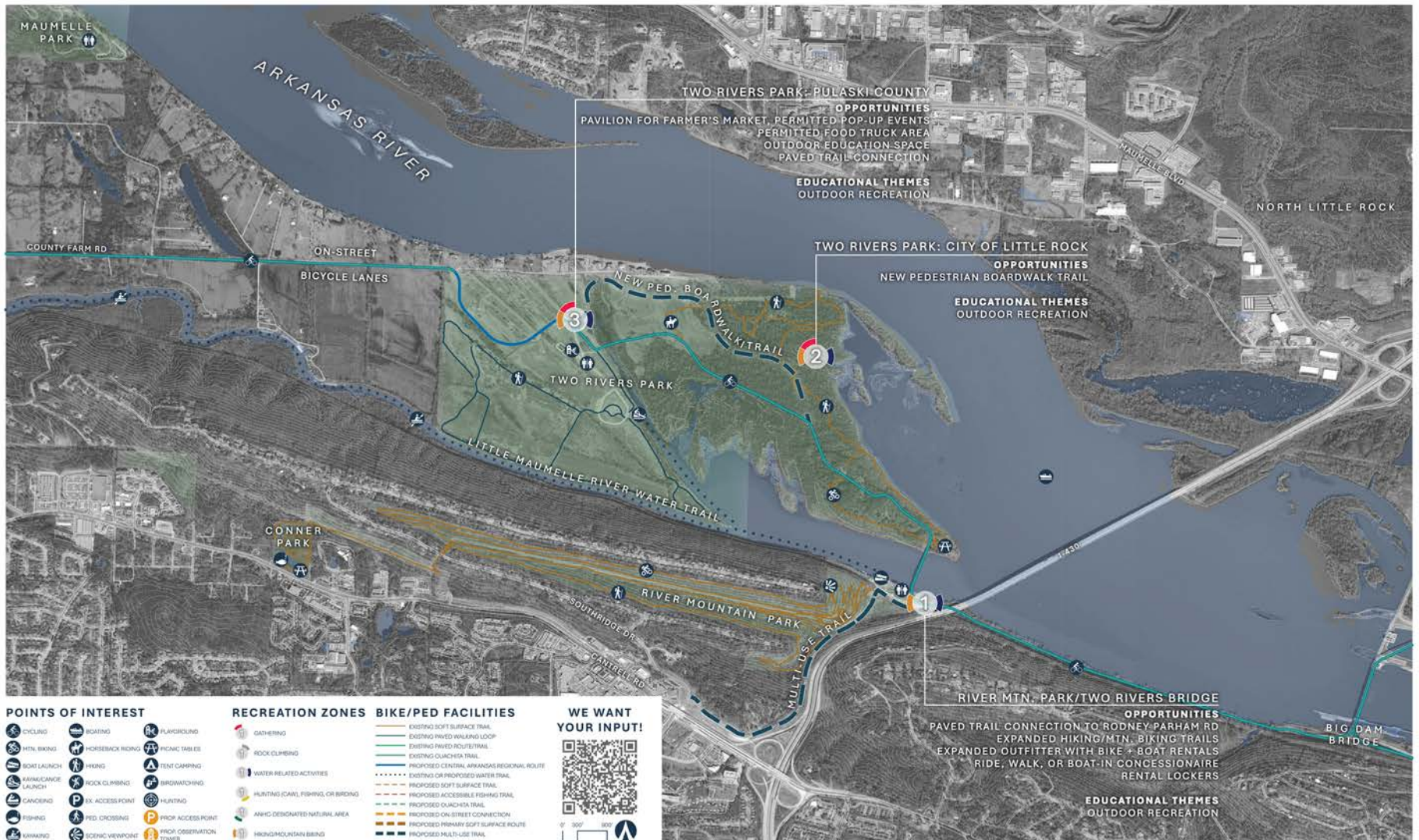
Two Rivers Park (east side) is home to a well-loved and highly trafficked multi-use trail, enjoyed by families, dog walkers, and people riding bicycles alike. Much of this trail wanders through wetlands and low-lying areas, making its expansion to minimize user conflicts difficult. Adding a second parallel trail consisting of a combination of on-grade pavement and boardwalk through more sensitive areas provides a chance to separate those on foot from those on a bicycle.



3. Two Rivers Park: Pulaski County

Two Rivers Park (west side) was once the home of the old County Farm, now featuring over 300 community garden plots, numerous trails, a large inclusive playground, restroom, and a pavilion. Proposed additions include an additional pavilion that could house a farmers' market or other permitted pop-up events, a permitted food truck area, outdoor education space, and additional trail connections.





OUTCOMES

SITE PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS

Ranch North Woods to Pinnacle Mountain State Park

4. Ranch North Woods

Ranch North Woods is known for its low-impact recreation opportunities along the Little Maumelle River, including unique opportunities for kayaking, canoeing and a float-in campground. Improvements to upgrade the waterfront trail to a boardwalk are underway, and future opportunities could include additional educational signage, a small gathering area, and an additional connector trail to the south side of Pinnacle Mountain State Park.

5. River View Center

With the new Visitor Center located further west along Highway 300, the former building (River View Center) is equipped with the necessary amenities to support new endeavors and programming opportunities, including concessionaires, bicycle rental, outfitter opportunities, and rental lockers. Additional site opportunities near the River View Center include a natural playground constructed with rocks, timber, and other native materials, a quarry deck outdoor eating area, and a man-made rock climbing and/or bouldering area.

6. Pinnacle Mtn. State Park Boat Ramp

The boat ramp area near the River View Center includes a pavilion, boat launch, fishing pier, kayak vending machine, restrooms, and playground. Additional opportunities include upgraded interpretive signage depicting the Native American activity and early European settlement of the site, Thomas Nuttall influence, and the naming of the area by early

explorers. Though the Ouachita Trail terminates at the River View Center and passes in close proximity to the boat launch area, the expansion of the trail to the pavilion then looping back to the River View Center can create a short hiking opportunity and better integrate the two resources.

7. Pinnacle Mtn. E. Summit Trail & Education Pond

The East Summit trailhead provides parking and a temporary restroom before embarking on the trail up the rocky and challenging east side of Pinnacle Mountain. The addition of a permanent restroom and additional seating are recommended. The education pond offers fishing, open fields, and seating opportunities and should remain as a fishing resource for the park.

8. Arkansas Arboretum

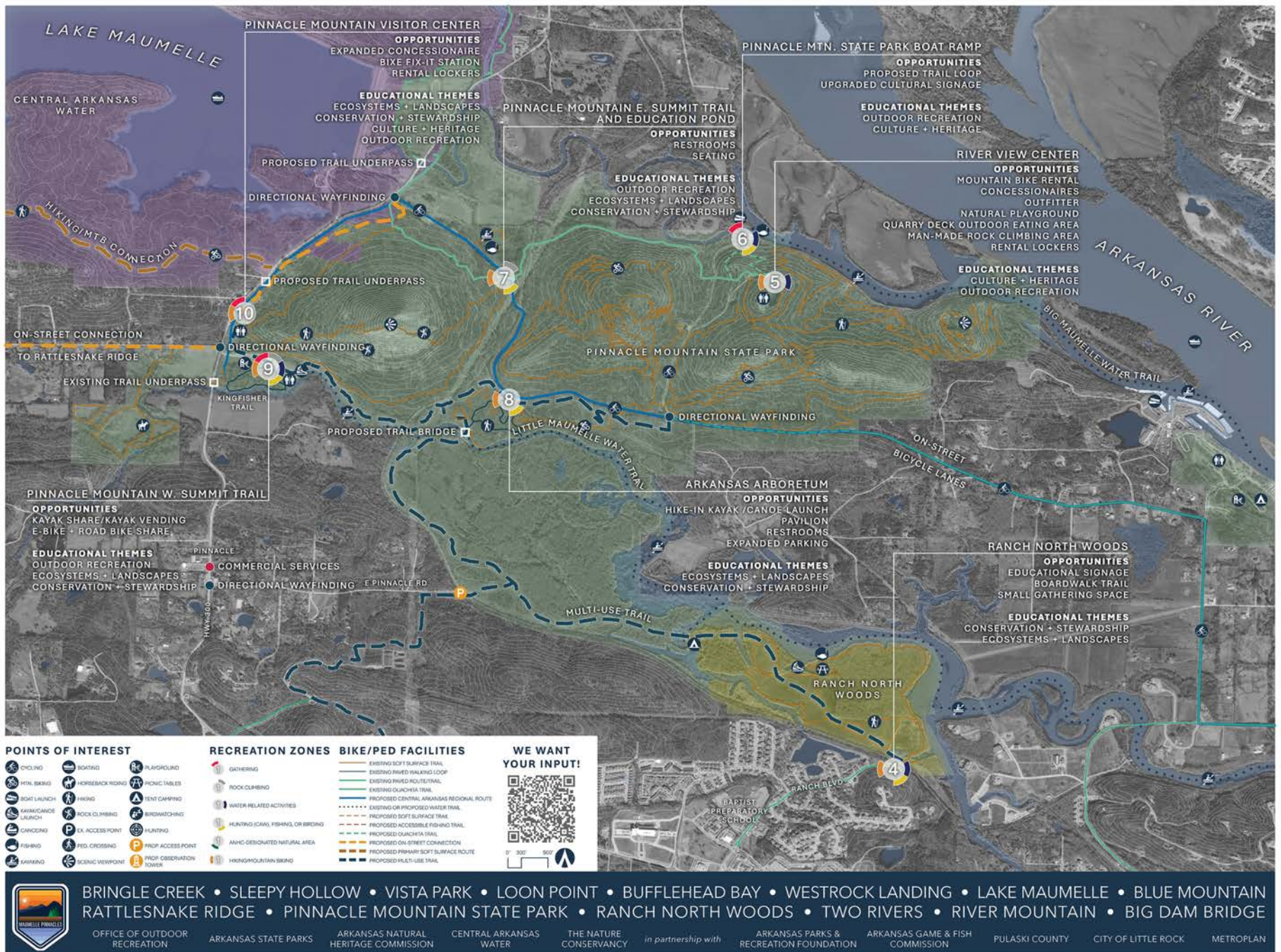
The Arkansas Arboretum features interpretive signage exploring Arkansas plants and trees across the state's ecoregions and is a popular walking area in the park. The paved trail includes seating and access to smaller soft surface loops. Providing an expanded parking area to accommodate more users is recommended as future multi-use trails and mountain bike trails connect the Arboretum to the River View Center, the West Summit Trail, and Ranch North Woods, making the Arboretum the central-most hub within the park. Additional opportunities may include a hike-in kayak launch, a pavilion near the parking area, and restroom facilities as the location grows to function as a trailhead.

9. Pinnacle Mtn. W. Summit Trail

The West Summit Trail area is the busiest access area within the State Park. The popular trailhead launches visitors up the busy West Summit Trail, across the Base Trail, or to the paved Kingfisher Trail along the Little Maumelle River. It includes a series of parking areas, a playground, restrooms, a kayak/canoe ramp and pavilions and picnic areas. Additional opportunities include a kayak vending machine and a bike share station.

10. Pinnacle Mtn. Visitor Center

The new Visitor Center opened in November 2023 and features indoor and outdoor interpretive areas exploring the natural and cultural history of the park, a gift shop, restrooms, and a concessionaire space operated by Loblolly Creamery. The West Summit Trailhead entrance will be consolidated with the Visitor Center entrance to form the park's primary entrance. New mountain bike trails depart from this center, and additional connections from the Visitor Center to the Base Trail then to the Ouachita Trail will create a new route for Ouachita Trail users. A paved multi-use trail from the Visitor Center to the West Summit Trailhead and on to the Arkansas Arboretum is in development. Additional opportunities may include a bicycle fix-it station and rental lockers. A grade-separated crossing under Highway 300 via a concrete box culvert north of the Visitor Center can connect the center to the hiking and mountain biking trails being constructed by Central Arkansas Water that will provide a soft surface connection to Rattlesnake Ridge and Blue Mountain Natural Areas.



OUTCOMES

SITE PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS

Pinnacle Mountain State Park to Blue Mountain Natural Area

11. Central Arkansas Water: East End

The east end of Central Arkansas Water's property currently has restricted access south of the lake. With the addition of soft surface trails, hiking and mountain biking connections will be formed adjoining the Pinnacle Mountain Visitor Center with the Rattlesnake Ridge and Blue Mountain Natural Areas and will continue westward to WestRock Landing. Future opportunities include a minor access point (by foot or bike only) with signage and seating near Highway 300 and may include opportunities for small wilderness observation towers offering views of Lake Maumelle and the three Maumelle Pinnacles while being short and discreet to blend into the surrounding environment.

12. Rattlesnake Ridge Natural Area

Rattlesnake Ridge is an Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission-designated Natural Area and is the first of its kind to incorporate mountain bike trails. This destination includes hiking and rock climbing, with future opportunities for additional interpretive trail signage, a water bottle fill station, and a small outdoor education space near its parking area. Its primary focus will continue to be a species and habitat protection area, particularly within the glades atop the ridge.

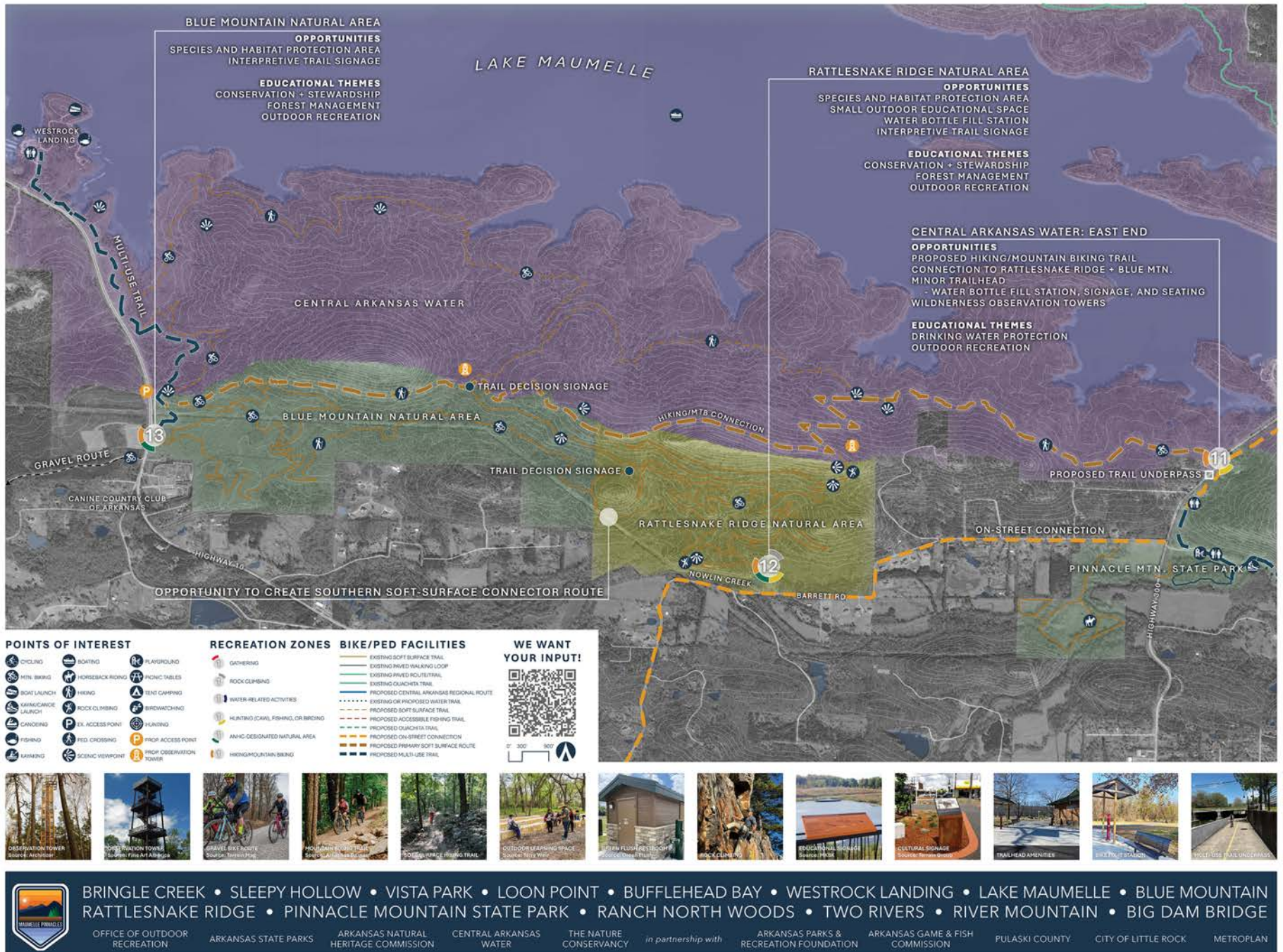
13. Blue Mountain Natural Area

Blue Mountain is also an Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission-designated Natural Area. This property's primary focus is the protection of species and habitat atop Blue Mountain. At lower elevations, beginner mountain bike trails traverse the land. These mountain bike and hiking trails along the south side of Blue Mountain connect to the trails along the south side of Rattlesnake Ridge, creating an extensive soft surface network. Future opportunities may include additional interpretive trail signage to highlight the area's conservation and stewardship efforts, forest management techniques, and balancing the coexistence of the natural environment and outdoor recreation.

Potential Gravel Routes

An opportunity for a network of future gravel routes may be present utilizing timber roads south of the Highway 10 corridor, stretching from the Blue Mountain trailhead westward to Highway 9 in Perry County and further to the Ouachita National Forest. Such a network could create three segments totaling approximately 30 miles.





OUTCOMES

SITE PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS

Blue Mountain Natural Area to Old Jolly Rogers Site

14. Lake Maumelle Overlook

Immediately west of the Blue Mountain trailhead, at the crest of Highway 10, lies the first views of the Lake Maumelle watershed from the Highway 10 corridor. Currently a gravel pull off area, this high point has the potential to be developed into a gateway of the Lake Maumelle southern corridor. Opportunities here include an overlook, seating, interpretive signage exploring watershed protection and forest management, and a specialty water bottle fill station with educational opportunities addressing the region's water source.

15. WestRock Landing

WestRock Landing is the primary water access area for Lake Maumelle, featuring a boat launch, a small concessionaire, restrooms, docks, boat storage, a pier, and fishing areas. A major destination for lake-goers, future opportunities for WestRock include a new fishing pier, boat ramp upgrades, a boat wash station, a sandwich shop/deli, outdoor eating space, expanded restrooms, a bike fix-it station, and upgraded parking.

16. Bufflehead Bay

Bufflehead Bay, immediately west of WestRock Landing, includes paved and soft surface trails and is popular for fishing and bird watching. A birding platform is located at the end of a short paved trail that includes seating for viewing or fishing. A soft surface trail provides a loop to the top of a hill providing views to the other Maumelle Pinnacles particularly

during winter months. Future opportunities include expanding the soft surface path westward, a second minor trailhead with parking, signage, and a water fill station, and expanded bank fishing areas.

17. Loon Point

Loon Point offers a short soft surface out and back trail, bank fishing, bird-watching opportunities, and lake views. The creation of a linear soft surface trail connecting WestRock Landing to Vista Park provides an opportunity to create a loop trail at Loon Point, doubling its current length.

18. Old Jolly Rogers Site

The site of a former marina, the old Jolly Rogers site offers a variety of operational, recreational, and educational opportunities. Atop a rising slope from the lake's edge, the site is adjacent to a small bay and has 180-degree lake views. Redevelopment opportunities include a learning hub with outdoor programs, gathering spaces, pavilion(s), an accessible fishing pier, an accessible bank fishing trail and loop along the soft surface connector trail, a walk-through 3D archery range, an amphitheater, and restrooms, among other opportunities for CAW's business operations.



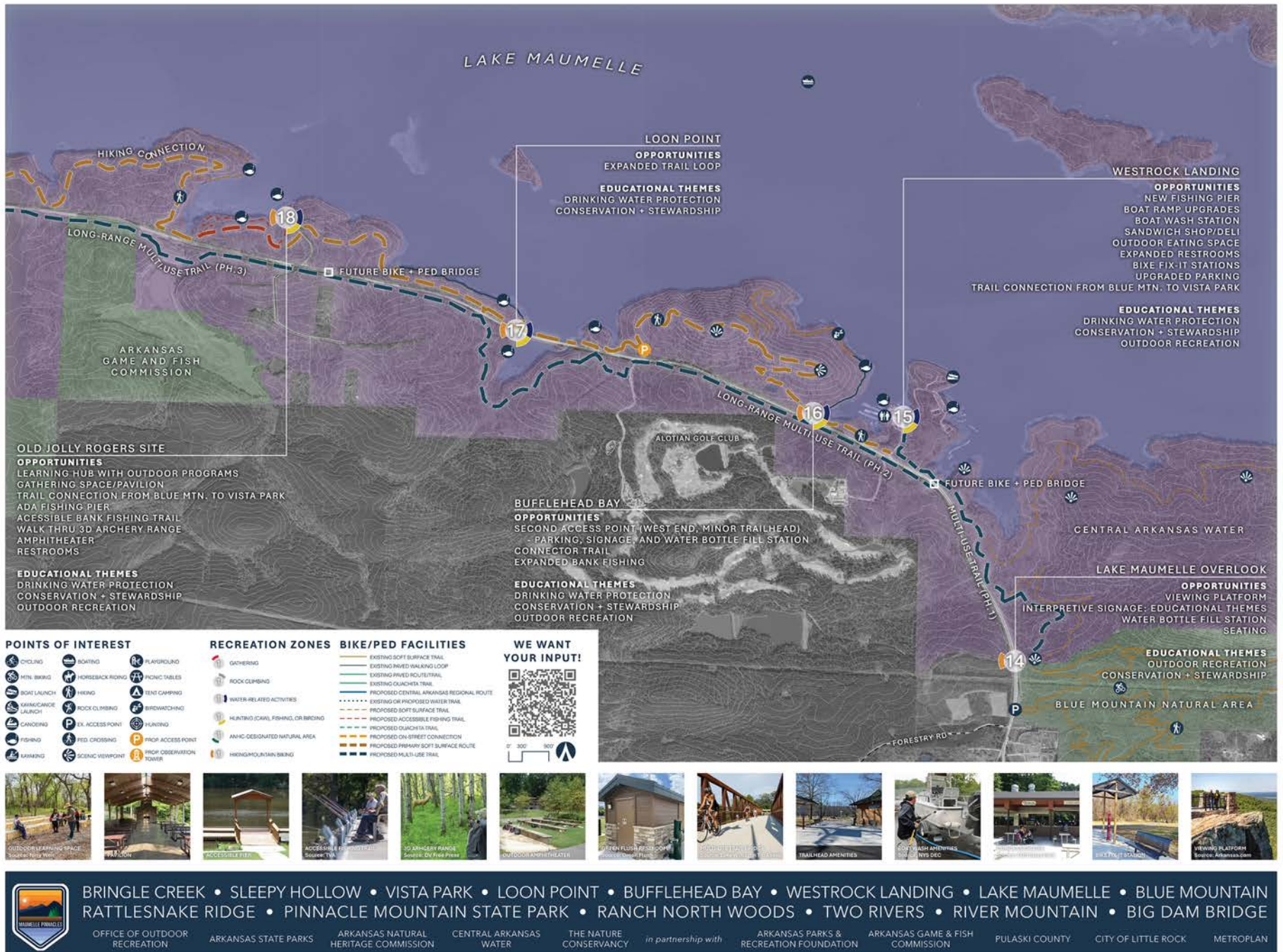
Viewing Platform
Source: Arkansas.com



Small Amphitheater/Gathering Space
Source: Terry Wier



Boat Wash Amenities
Source: NYS DEC



OUTCOMES

SITE PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS

Old Jolly Rogers Site to Bringle Creek

19. Vista Park

Vista Park is across Highway 10 from the Ouachita Trail, and it has picnic tables, swings, and views from the lake's west end eastward toward the dam. Opportunities here include additional play equipment, an upgraded crossing for the Ouachita Trail, and a pavilion.

Highway 10 Bay Bridge

Currently, the Ouachita Trail enters the south side of Lake Maumelle from the south side of Highway 113, just east of Highway 10. Trail users must cross the 1/4 mile waterway by utilizing the Highway 10 bridge with no pedestrian accommodations and no shoulder, or they must walk along the earthen embankment along the east side until reaching the 130' bridge span that must be crossed utilizing vehicular lanes until reaching the east embankment on the south side of the bridge. The Ouachita Trail then crosses from the east side of Highway 10 to the west side in the Vista Park area with no crosswalk or pedestrian accommodations. The proposed upgrades to this water crossing include a paved multi-use path that utilizes the east bank on the north end of the bridge, then crosses to the west beneath the vehicular bridge, turns northward to climb back up the embankment then curves 180 degrees to parallel Highway 10 continuing southward along the west side, bridging over the water and the lower trail bridge before continuing southward toward to the bank. This western portion should also include piers for fishing and bird watching.

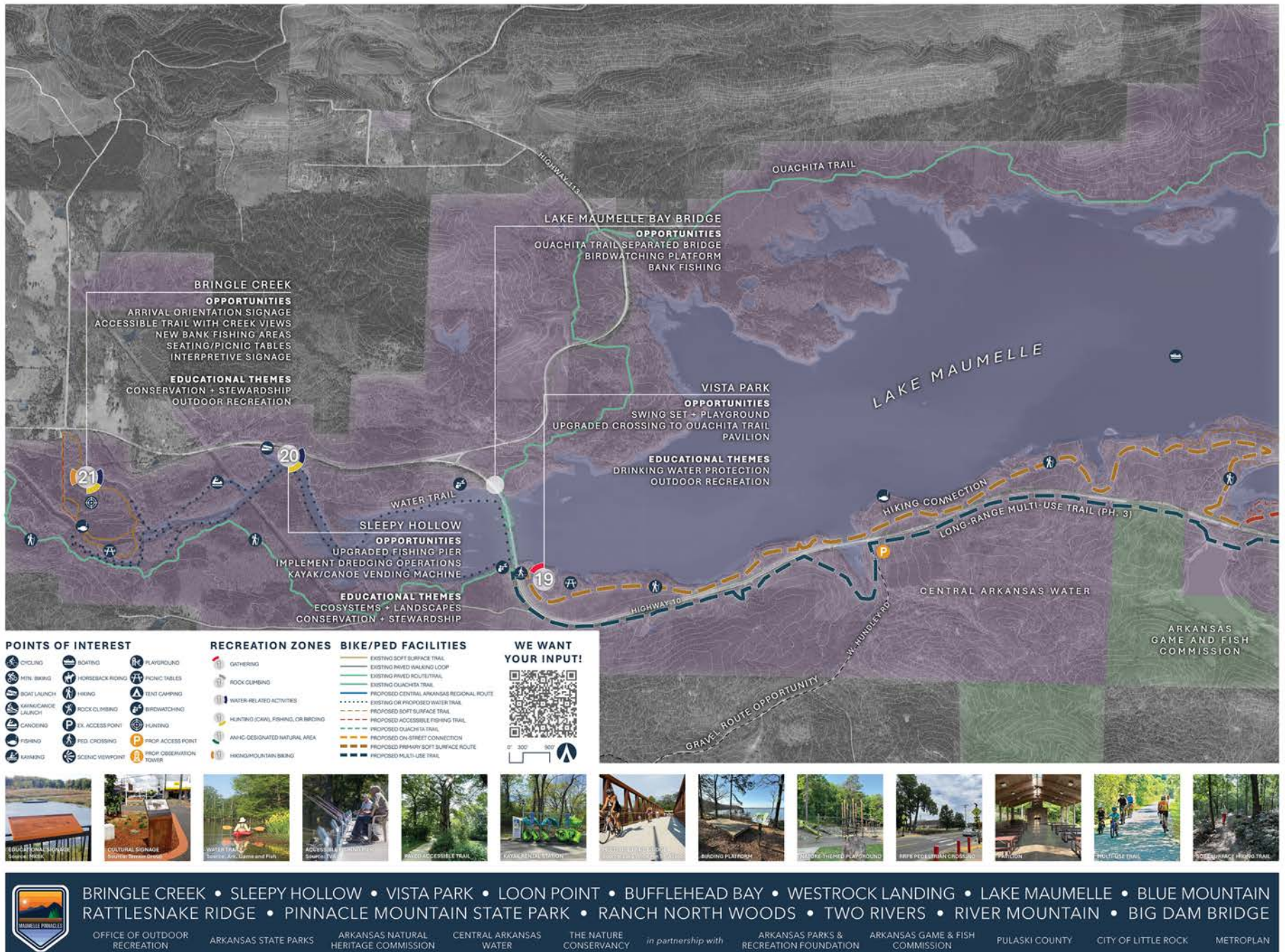
20. Sleepy Hollow

Sleepy Hollow is west of Lake Maumelle along the Maumelle River. It is home to the only public boat launch, a kayak/canoe launch, picnic tables, and a deteriorating fishing pier. Future recreational opportunities include an upgraded fishing pier and a kayak/canoe vending machine. Dredging in this area will help improve boat access from the launch to the lake.

21. Bringle Creek

At the western end of the initial study area, Bringle Creek contains a soft surface loop and is used primarily for hunting. Future opportunities include arrival orientation signage, an accessible trail with creek views, new bank fishing areas, seating, picnic tables, and interpretive signage.





OUTCOMES

PROJECT LIST: SITE SPECIFIC + CRITICAL

Project	Detail	Partner Lead: Negotiation	Partner Lead: Construction	Partner Lead: Maintenance
Critical Interconnectivity Projects (East to West)				
East CAW Multi-Use Corridor: Blue Mountain to WestRock Landing	Design	n/a	CAW	CAW
Gravel Route(s) Approval	Access agreements	OOR	n/a	n/a
Internal Site Projects (East to West)				
River Mountain Park	Commercial vendor space, improvements	n/a	City of Little Rock	City of Little Rock
Two Rivers Park	Pavilion, Food Truck Court	n/a	Pulaski County	Pulaski County
Pinnacle Mountain State Park: River View Center (Former)	Programming, commercial vendor space in progress, site improvements	n/a	AR ST PK	AR ST PK
Pinnacle Mountain State Park: Boat Launch Area	River View Center to Boat Launch trail loop	n/a	AR ST PK	AR ST PK
Pinnacle Mountain State Park: Arkansas Arboretum	Pavilion, toilets, parking expansion, hike-in canoe launch	n/a	AR ST PK	AR ST PK
Pinnacle Mountain State Park: East Summit Trail and Education Pond	Toilets, seating	n/a	AR ST PK	AR ST PK
Butterfield House Renovation	Renovation, commercial vendor space	n/a	ADPHT	ADPHT
CAW: East End	Wildlife viewing platform	n/a	CAW	CAW
WestRock Landing	Rehabilitation, expansion, redesign	n/a	CAW	CAW
Old Jolly Rogers Site	Programming, design, pavilion, fishing pier, amphitheater, toilets	n/a	CAW	CAW
Major Early Trail Crossings (East to West)				
Little Maumelle River Crossing	South Pinnacle Mountain State Park near Arboretum	n/a	AR ST PK	AR ST PK
Highway 300 Box Culvert	North of visitors center into CAW property	ASP	AR ST PK	AR ST PK
Highway 10 Bridge	West end of Lake Maumelle	OOR	ADPHT	ADPHT

Site Specific: Critical Interconnectivity Projects

Two impactful early projects have been identified to provide interconnectivity or add a new recreation type to the MPCA's portfolio of offerings.

Eastern CAW Multi-Use Trail Corridor

Central Arkansas Water's soft surface trails project has been partially funded and will connect Pinnacle Mountain State Park to WestRock Landing, tying to Rattlesnake Ridge and Blue Mountain Natural Areas along the route while offering a diversity of experiences and lake views. Although the distance between Blue Mountain trailhead and WestRock Landing is not significant, the steep terrain between the two will require careful design to accommodate a multi-use pathway with favorable grades and minimal site disturbance.

Gravel Route(s)

With the dramatic increase in gravel riding around the world, the MPCA can become home to the first official series of gravel routes in Pulaski County on Forestry Road to Highway 9, connecting the Blue Mountain to the Lake Sylvia gravel route in the Ouachita National Forest and providing a new form of recreation in the corridor. Access agreements are recommended to make this a reality. Blue Mountain Trailhead on the east end, a new trailhead on Central Arkansas Water property, and Lake Sylvia on the west end can provide access to a series of three 8-10 mile segments. See page 84 for routes.

Site Specific: Internal Site Projects

Internal Site Projects

Each property identified on pages 72-81 includes a list of potential project opportunities to enhance recreational access and amenities. These areas are classified in the table with a brief overview of each, with further improvements detailed earlier in this chapter.

Site Specific: Major Early Trail Crossings

Three major early crossing projects will enhance access and demonstrate MPCA's dedication to user safety and access. These are described below from east to west.

Little Maumelle River Crossing

Near the northernmost segment of the boardwalk connector between the Pinnacle Mountain State Park near the Arboretum and Ranch North Woods to the south, a significant bridge designed for bicyclists and pedestrians will be required over the Little Maumelle River with adequate clearance for those floating the river in a kayak or canoe.

Highway 300 Crossing

To prioritize safety and user comfort while traveling east from Pinnacle Mountain to access mountain bike trails along Central Arkansas Water property to Rattlesnake Ridge and beyond, an underpass is proposed north of the new visitor center underneath Highway 300 to connect existing and future trails.

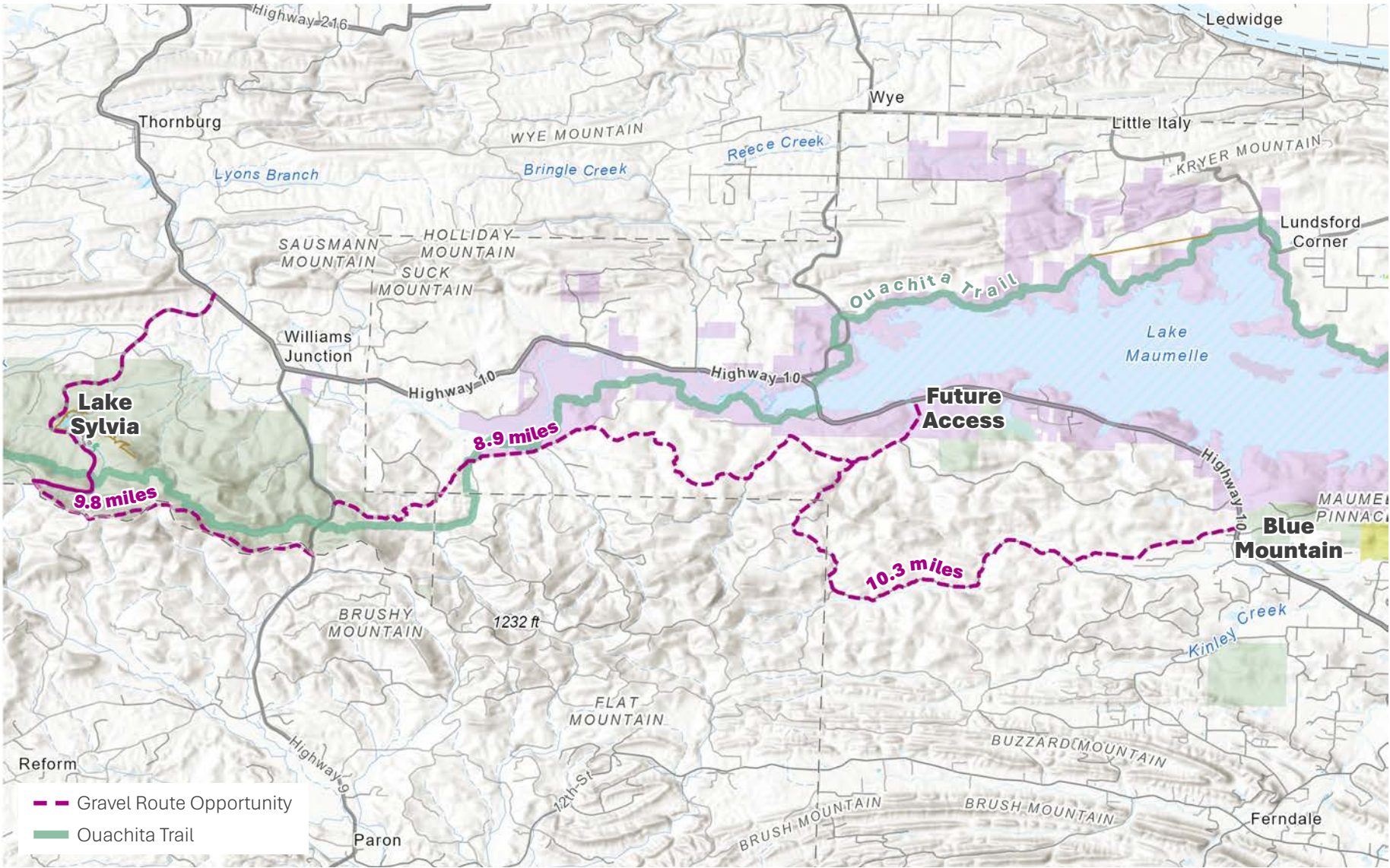
Highway 10 Bridge (Lake Maumelle Bay)

The Highway 10 bridge at the west end of Lake Maumelle is a major barrier to users of the Ouachita Trail. The construction of a parallel bridge for bicyclists and pedestrians can ease this safety barrier as well as provide additional birdwatching opportunities along the west side of the road.

OUTCOMES

PROJECT LIST: SITE SPECIFIC + CRITICAL

Gravel Route(s) Opportunities Diagram



OUTCOMES

PROJECT LIST: TRAILS

Trail Project (East to West)	Detail	Phase	Partner Lead: Negotiation	Partner Lead: Construction	Partner Lead: Maintenance
Big Dam Bridge to River Mountain	LRPR Trail User Separation	2	-	LRPR	LRPR
River Mountain to N. Rodney Parham	Connection from park to N Rodney Parham Bike Lanes	2	-	LRPR	LRPR
Two Rivers Park: Trail Widening	Two Rivers Bridge to proposed Boardwalk Trail	2	-	LRPR	LRPR
Two Rivers Park: Boardwalk Trail	LRPR Trail User Separation	2	-	LRPR	LRPR
Ranch North Woods Through Trail	Trail Expansion to PMSP border	1	-	TNC	TNC
Pinnacle Mountain: Ranch North Woods border to Arboretum	Trail Expansion from RNW border to Arkansas Arboretum connector trail	1	-	AR ST PK	AR ST PK
Pfeifer Connector Trail to City of Little Rock	Pinnacle Mtn State Park Property	3	-	AR ST PK	AR ST PK
Pfeiffer Connector Trail to City of Little Rock	Entergy, Street ROW	3	City of LR / Pulaski Co	City of LR / Pulaski Co	City of LR / Pulaski Co
Pinnacle Mountain: Pinnacle Valley from Boundary to PMSP Drive	Road Widening for Bicycle Lanes	3	-	AR ST PK	AR ST PK
Pinnacle Mountain: Pinnacle Valley from PMSP Drive to Arboretum	Separated paved multi-use trail	3	-	AR ST PK	AR ST PK
Pinnacle Mountain Connector: Visitor Center to Ouachita Trail and CAW Trail	Utilizes portions of the OT and Base Trail to connect the OT to the Visitor Center	1	-	AR ST PK	AR ST PK
CAW Connector Segment: Hwy 300 to Blue Mountain Trail (see map)	Southern Route plus connection to Rattlesnake Ridge	1	-	CAW	CAW
Blue Mountain to WestRock Landing: Ph 1 Multi-Use Trail	Multi-Use Paved Trail	3	-	CAW	CAW
WestRock Landing to Old Jolly Rogers: Soft Surface	Utilizes a portion of Bufflehead Bay Trail; does NOT include 1284' gabion structure	3	-	CAW	CAW
WestRock Landing to Old Jolly Rogers: Long-Range Ph 2 Multi-Use Trail	Long Range Phase 2	5	-	CAW	CAW
Old Jolly Rogers to Vista Park: Soft Surface	Does NOT include 489' gabion structure, bridge	4	-	CAW	CAW

OUTCOMES

PROJECT LIST: TRAILS

Trail Project (East to West)	Detail	Phase	Partner Lead: Negotiation	Partner Lead: Construction	Partner Lead: Maintenance
Old Jolly Rogers to Vista Park: ADA Section	Route includes a portion of a proposed paved ADA-accessible fishing trail	4	-	CAW	CAW
Old Jolly Rogers to Vista Park: Long-Range Ph 3 Multi-Use Trail	Long Range Phase 3	6	-	CAW	CAW
Hwy 10 Bridge to Hwy 113: Multi-Use Trail	Completes connection from Hwy 113 to downtown Little Rock/North Little Rock	2	-	CAW	CAW

Assumed partner lead is designated on each phase of the project. ADPHT is utilized when the project isn't located specifically within the purview of the Office of Outdoor Recreation, Arkansas State Parks, or the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Connectivity Projects (East to West)

The tables above list the phasing and responsible party for each corridor project described on pages 59-67. Phasing is denoted as a numerical value between 1 and 6 with the following timeframe assumptions:

Funded or in development: Not listed on the table nor phased.

Phase 1: Immediate - 3 years

Phase 2: 3-5 years

Phase 3: 5-8 years

Phase 4: 8-12 years

Phase 5: 12-15 years

Phase 6: 15-20 years

Phasing is intended to demonstrate the order in which projects should be implemented to maximize connectivity while allowing time to plan and fund future projects. Project phasing may be adjusted as project opportunities and funding sources become available.

Additionally, lead agency designations are provided for acquisition and negotiation, construction, and maintenance roles.

Crossing Projects (East to West)

The tables on page 87 lists all trail crossings anticipated as trails traverse public lands within the MPCA. Each crossing is phased with the same assumptions for Connectivity Projects (left) and includes lead agency designations for acquisition and negotiation, construction, and maintenance roles.

OUTCOMES

PROJECT LIST: CROSSINGS

Trail Project (East to West)	Detail	Phase	Partner Lead: Negotiation	Partner Lead: Construction	Partner Lead: Maintenance
River Mountain Parking Lot Crossing	MTB Trailhead to Two Rivers Bridge	2	-	LRPR	LRPR
Little Maumelle River Crossings near Ranch North Woods & PMSP boundary	Requires additional culverts under trail across low areas (quantity unknown)	1	-	AR ST PK	AR ST PK
Little Maumelle River Crossing at Arkansas Arboretum	16' wide Bike Ped Bridge	1	-	AR ST PK	AR ST PK
Pinnacle Mountain State Park: Pinnacle Valley Crossing at Pinnacle Mtn St Pk Dr	Crossing Pinnacle Valley Rd from River View Center to Arboretum	1	-	AR ST PK	AR ST PK
Highway 300 Box Culvert	North of visitors center into CAW property + ARDOT coordination	1	AR ST PK	AR ST PK	AR ST PK
Pinnacle Valley Road Crossing near Hwy 300	Ouachita Trail crossing of Pinnacle Valley Rd + ARDOT coordination	2	AR ST PK	AR ST PK	AR ST PK
Ouachita Trail Crossing under Hwy 300 Bridge at Pinnacle Mtn St Pk	Ouachita Trail realignment + ARDOT coordination	3	AR ST PK	AR ST PK	AR ST PK
Ouachita Trail Spillway Crossing at Natural Steps Sports Complex	Ouachita Trail realignment, 16' wide Bike Ped Bridge over spillway	3	-	ADPHT / LRPR	ADPHT / LRPR
Long-Range: Crossing over Hwy 10 east of WestRock Landing	16' wide Bike Ped Bridge over Hwy 10 + ARDOT coordination	5	OOR/CAW	CAW	CAW
Eastern Inlet Crossing	Near Loon Point; boardwalk with 95' bridge over inlet	3	-	CAW	CAW
Long-Range: Crossing over Hwy 10 at Old Jolly Rogers Site	16' wide Bike Ped Bridge over Hwy 10 + ARDOT coordination	6	OOR/CAW	CAW	CAW
Western Inlet Crossing	Between Old Jolly Rogers and Vista Park	4	-	CAW	CAW
Hwy 10 Crossing at Vista Park	upgraded crossing, relocated slightly	1	-	CAW	CAW
Hwy 10 Bike Ped Bridge over Lake Maumelle	16' wide Bike Ped Bridge + Trail across bay + ARDOT coordination	2	-	ADPHT / CAW	ADPHT / CAW
Hwy 113 Crossing	Southbound lane crossing + ARDOT coordination	5	ADPHT	ADPHT	ARDOT

Assumed partner lead is designated on each phase of the project. ADPHT is utilized when the project isn't located specifically within the purview of the Office of Outdoor Recreation, Arkansas State Parks, or the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

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6.0 SYSTEM SUPPORT

Image Credit: Bryan Rupar

SYSTEM SUPPORT

WAYFINDING EXAMPLES



Wayfinding Options
Source: JRC Design

SYSTEM SUPPORT

WAYFINDING EXAMPLES



Wayfinding Options
Source: JRC Design

