

# HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

The Knobstone Trail (KT) is Indiana's longest footpath. The 60-mile backpack hiking trail traverses Clark State Forest, Elk Creek Public Fishing Area and Jackson-Washington State Forest.

Located in rugged and forested land in Clark, Scott and Washington counties in southern Indiana, the trail extends from Deam Lake, just north of State Road 60 in Clark County, to Delaney Park, just east of S.R. 135 in Washington County.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources developed the KT as a cooperative effort between its divisions of Forestry, Fish & Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation. The original 32-mile segment opened in 1980. In the early years, The Nature Conservancy helped acquire land necessary to complete the current trail corridor. Indiana Heritage Trust (IHT) funding has allowed the DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation to team with the DNR Division of Forestry to acquire land. IHT is funded by the sale of Environment License Plates, private donations and General Assembly appropriations.

The KT is maintained and enhanced with the help of volunteers from hiking clubs and other groups. Much of the original trail was built by the Young Adult Conservation Corps.

In 2015, DNR Forestry replaced DNR Outdoor Recreation as the managing agency of the KT because most of the trail traverses State Forest lands.

**DNR FORESTRY MANAGEMENT**  
Indiana operates its State Forests under a multiple-use/multiple-benefit philosophy, conserving and enhancing our natural resources for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations. This philosophy allows for renewable wood products, watershed protection, diverse wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities and conservation of unique resources.

**"GREEN" CERTIFIED FORESTS**  
Indiana's state forests are recognized under the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC-C012858) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI1®) program (www.sfi.org) as well-managed forests that meet a rigorous set of internationally recognized certification standards.

**SAFETY AREAS - RESTRICTED ACCESS**  
State forests are active and busy places. Forest conservation, restoration and other management activities occur regularly. Timber harvesting, prescribed fires, hunting and other types of recreation, and road and trail work are among the most visible activities.

For public safety, trails or facilities directly affected by management activities may be temporarily closed. When that happens, notices will be posted at prominent locations. DNR Forestry offices can also advise of trail closures.

We apologize for any temporary inconvenience these closures may cause. If you have questions, please call Jackson-Washington State Forest at (812) 358-2160, Clark State Forest at (812)294-4306, or Deam Lake State Recreation Area at (812) 246-5421.

Trail closures are posted on the official KT website at [dnr.IN.gov/forestry/4224.htm](http://dnr.IN.gov/forestry/4224.htm).

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**  
The trail traverses land with extreme relief distinguished by narrow, relatively flat-topped ridges. These ridges are typical of the Knobstone Escarpment, a knobby slope between the Norman Upland and Scottsburg Lowland, which are two of southern Indiana's natural land regions. The escarpment is one of Indiana's most scenic areas, rising more than 300 feet above low-lying farmland in some areas as it snakes northward from near the Ohio River to just south of Martinsville. A central upland, mixed-hardwood forest (oak-hickory and beech-maple association) dominates. "Knobstone" shale, which is a combination of weathered brown shale, sandstone and siltstone, is common in the area, and gives the escarpment its name.

**PERMISSIBLE USES**  
The KT is developed and managed for foot traffic only. To protect from erosion and damage to structures, and for hiker safety, horses, bicycles and motorized vehicles are prohibited.

**CAUTION**  
Please check the DNR Knobstone Trail website for updates on trail conditions, closures and re-routes. Timber management, weather-related damage, public safety concerns and trail maintenance are primary reasons for changes and modifications along the trail. There are times the trail and re-routes may use county roads—be mindful of traffic.

The Knobstone Escarpment makes for steep climbs and descents. This can make the KT a rugged, difficult trail. It is managed and maintained at backcountry standards. The straight up-and-down sections are in the process of being converted to switchbacks.

The trail crosses several roads, varying from state highways to gravel county lanes. Use caution when crossing.

**TRAILHEADS**  
There are nine trailheads providing parking areas and direct access to the trail. The southernmost trailhead is located inside the Deam Lake State Recreation Area with modern camping facilities, beach and a gated entrance. Another is within Delaney Park, a Washington County Park that also offers camping, cabins and a gated entrance. The Elk Creek Lake trailhead is located at a DNR public access site. Each of the other trailheads has a small gravel parking area.

**FOLLOWING THE TRAIL**  
The map shows the general route of the trail and the topography of the area. Minor re-routes have been constructed over the past few years to avoid problem areas, and they are not on the map. On the ground, the trail is marked by 2-inch by 6-inch white blazes painted on trees, near eye level. Two blazes on a tree show where the trail changes direction at an intersection with another trail or forest road. Attempts are made to mark the trail so that it is easy to follow; however, trees that fall because of natural events or changes due to forest management operations can make finding your way more challenging. Use both the map and the blazes.

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

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# TORNADO DAMAGE

An F4 tornado on March 2, 2012, left a 49-mile path of destruction, killing 11 people. It also damaged approximately 7,500 acres of forestland, including 1,300 acres in Clark State Forest.

The Knobstone Trail was in the tornado path that moved from Pekin to Henryville.

The tornado destroyed 4.5 miles of the KT in Clark State Forest, including the popular section on Round Knob hill and the Jackson Road Trailhead.

The DNR divisions of Forestry and Outdoor Recreation worked with volunteers from the KT trail crew, Hoosier Hikers Council, Burris Laboratory School, Ball State University and Wilderness Outreach to restore the trail and trailhead. The groups have logged 1,000 volunteer hours in trail repairs.

DNR Forestry completed a salvage and recovery of nearly 4 million board feet of tornado-damaged timber during 2012-2013.

Since Oct. 11, 2013, backcountry hikers have been able to hike through these damaged sections and see the destruction and watch the recovery process. These sections are marked with orange posts with reflective arrows.

# UTM COORDINATES

Mile Marker	UTM Coordinates
0	592218, 4257725
1	600250, 4258365
2	600636, 4259683
3	600490, 4260703
4	599863, 4261933
5	598886, 4262611
6	599236, 4263308
7	599236, 4264485
8	600169, 4265137
9	600942, 4265531
10	601167, 4266596
11	601743, 4267463
12	601479, 4268537
13	601995, 4269408
14	600751, 4269600
15	600955, 4270555
16	599921, 4270975
17	598664, 4270458
18	597494, 4270798
19	597173, 4272126
20	596900, 4273267
21	597468, 4273684
22	597195, 4274797
23	497870, 4275680
24	597588, 4276967
25	597072, 4277528
26	596733, 4278358

# KNOBSTONE TRAIL WATER SOURCES

Reliable water sources can be found at the Deam Lake, Elk Creek, Spurgeon Hollow and Delaney trailheads. This does not mean the water is safe to drink without being treated. This water can be clear, cold and free-running, and may look, smell and taste good, but it could be contaminated by microorganisms. There are different methods with different levels of effectiveness in treating water to remove microorganisms that could be pathogens. These methods include boiling, using filters and tablets, or a combination of the three.

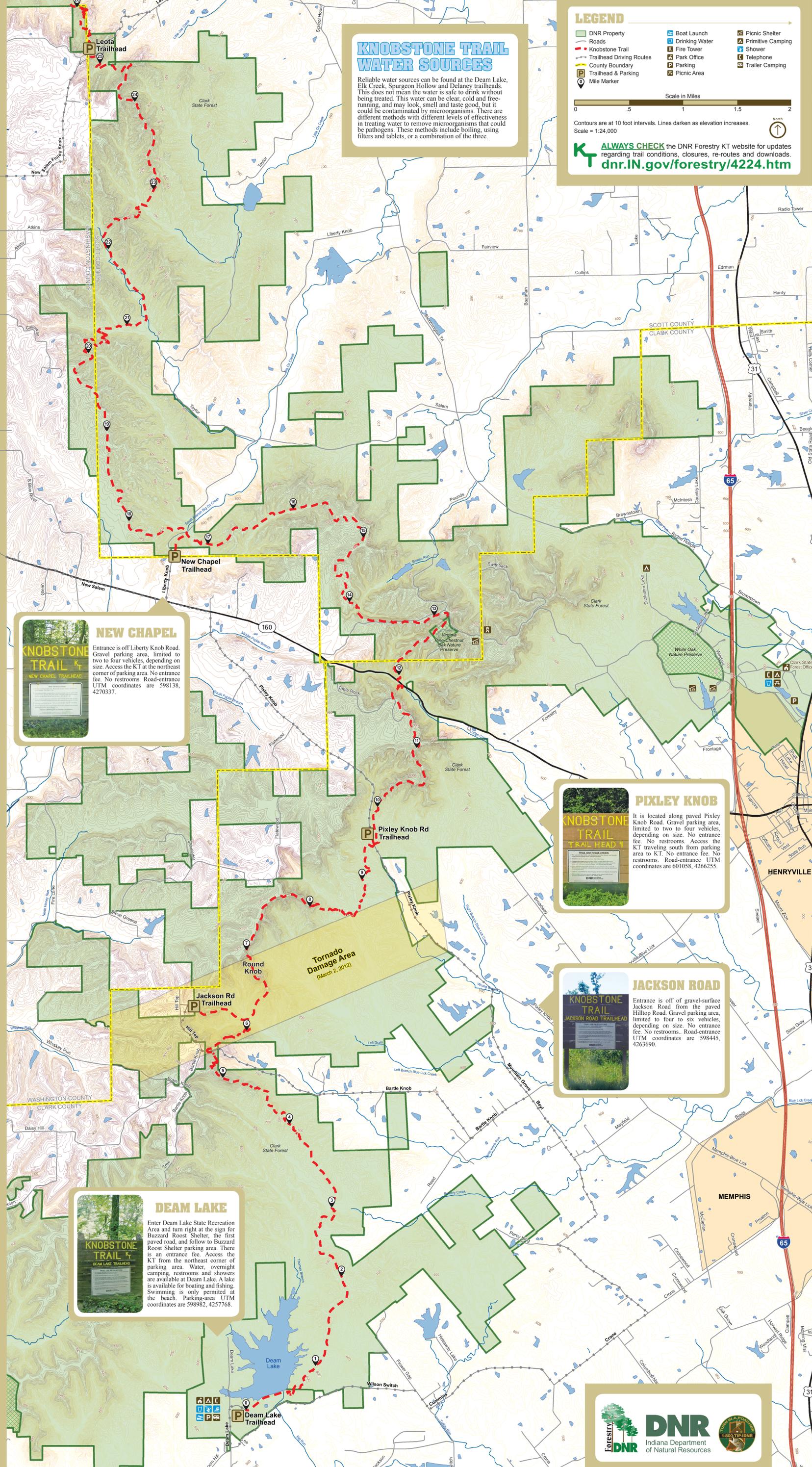
**LEGEND**

DNR Property	Boat Launch	Picnic Shelter
Knobstone Trail	Drinking Water	Primitive Camping
Trailhead Driving Routes	Fire Tower	Shower
County Boundary	Park Office	Telephone
Trailhead & Parking	Parking	Picnic Area
Mile Marker		

Scale in Miles

Contours are at 10 foot intervals. Lines darkened as elevation increases.  
Scale = 1:24,000

**ALWAYS CHECK** the DNR Forestry KT website for updates regarding trail conditions, closures, re-routes and downloads.  
[dnr.IN.gov/forestry/4224.htm](http://dnr.IN.gov/forestry/4224.htm)



**NEW CHAPEL**

Entrance is off Liberty Knob Road. Gravel parking area, limited to two to four vehicles, depending on size. Access the KT at the northeast corner of parking area. No entrance fee. No restrooms. Road-entrance UTM coordinates are 598138, 4270337.

**PIXLEY KNOB**

It is located along paved Pixley Knob Road. Gravel parking area, limited to two to four vehicles, depending on size. No entrance fee. No restrooms. Access the KT traveling south from parking area to KT. No entrance fee. No restrooms. Road-entrance UTM coordinates are 601058, 4266253.

**JACKSON ROAD**

Entrance is off of gravel-surface Jackson Road from the paved Hilltop Road. Gravel parking area, limited to four to six vehicles, depending on size. No entrance fee. No restrooms. Road-entrance UTM coordinates are 598445, 4263690.

**DEAM LAKE**

Enter Deam Lake State Recreation Area and turn right at the sign for Buzzard Roost Shelter, the first paved road, and follow to Buzzard Roost Shelter parking area. There is an entrance fee. Access the KT from the northeast corner of parking area. Water, overnight camping, restrooms and showers are available at Deam Lake. A lake is available for boating and fishing. Swimming is only permitted at the beach. Parking-area UTM coordinates are 598982, 4257768.

