



**Ozark Trail Association
Annual Board Meeting
USFS Potosi Office, Potosi, Missouri
Saturday, January 26, 2019**

An annual meeting of the directors of the corporation was held on Saturday, January 26, 2019, at 10:10 A.M., at the US Forest Service Ranger Station, Potosi, state of Missouri, for the purpose of electing board directors and officers, reviewing the prior year's business, discussing corporate operations for the upcoming year, and for the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting, pursuant to notice and in accordance with Bylaws of the Ozark Trail Association, A Missouri Nonprofit Corporation.

Ms. Hannah Smith was elected Chairman of the meeting and Mr. Jeff Goetter was appointed Secretary thereof.

The secretary announced that the meeting was held pursuant to notice; if and as required under the bylaws of this corporation.

The secretary announced that the following directors were present at the meeting:

Ms. Kathie Brennan
Mr. Mark Goforth
Mr. Dave Tobey

The secretary then announced that the presence of these directors at the meeting represented a quorum of the board of directors as defined in the bylaws of this corporation

The following persons were also present at the meeting:

Mr. Jeff Goetter
Ms. Abi Jackson
Mr. Matt Atnip
Mr. Roger Allison
Mr. Ken Kurtz
Ms. Hanna Smith
Mr. Mike Tobin
Mr. James Huffman
Mr. Jake Grossbauer
Mr. Greg Grimes
Mr. Jason Haney

The secretary announced that the minutes of the Special Board meeting held on November 17, 2018 were read at the meeting. After discussion, a vote was taken, and the minutes of the meeting were approved by the directors in attendance.

The first item of business was the opportunity for open public discussion by meeting attendees. There were no comments presented.

The next item of business in accordance with the BYLAWS OF OZARK TRAIL ASSOCIATION, A MISSOURI NONPROFIT CORPORATION Article IV Section B, Term and Election of Directors, elections were held for directors of the Board of Directors. After

discussion and the report from the nominations committee, see Attachments 9 and 10, the following persons were elected to serve as directors of the corporation:

Mr. Ken Kurtz
Mr. Mike Tobin
Mr. Jason Haney
Mr. James Huffman
Mr. Greg Grimes
Mr. Stephen Thompson
Mr. Jeff Howell
Mr. Jake Grossbauer

The chairman announced that the next item of business was the election of the officers of the corporate in accordance with the BYLAWS OF OZARK TRAIL ASSOCIATION, A MISSOURI NONPROFIT CORPORATION Article VI, Officers, Section A, Number and Elections. After discussion, the following persons were elected to serve in the following capacities:

Ms. Kathie Brenan, President
Mr. Mark Goforth, Vice-President
Mr. Jason Haney, Treasurer
Mr. Jeff Goetter, Secretary

The next item of business was the President report from Ms. Kathie Brennan. Ms. Brennan continues to meet with the USFS about the cost share, but the verbiage required changes and an amendment was proposed, however the recent US Government shutdown has delayed progress. See attachment 1 for the full report.

The next item of business was the Vice President report from Mr. Mark Goforth. See attachment 2 for the full report.

The next item of business was the Treasurer's report by Ms. Kathie Brennan. Discussion and approval were held on the 2019 budget. See attachment 3 for the Financial information discussed.

The next item of business was the Chief Operations Officer report by Ms. Abi Jackson, which summarizes Ms. Jackson's activities since the last meeting. See attachment 4 for the full report. There was also a discussion on the 2019 Annual Operating Plan, see attachment 11 for the report.

The next item of business was reports from the Standing Committees

The Communications Committee was reported on by Mr. Ken Kurtz. The corporation now has dedicated volunteers for our Social Media presence and a regular schedule of postings are being planned. There was additional discussion about the need to bring back the different publications and this will be an ongoing topic for meetings and the future strategic planning session. See attachment 5 for full report.

The Construction & Maintenance Committee was reported on by Ms. Kathie Brenan. See attachment 6 for the full report.

The Planning and Development Committee was reported on by Mr. Roger Allison. There was some discussion about the need to have official liaisons with other organizations – MVTA, OHTA, etc. See attachment 7 for the full report.

The Education Committee was reported on by Mr. Ken Kurtz. There has been a small group discussing the creation of short podcast videos to post as part of outreach program. It was also mentioned that the end of the Schoolcraft Trek reenactment is scheduled in Potosi on Monday, February 4. See attachments 8 and 10 for full reports.

The Fundraising committee was reported on by Mr. Ken Kurtz. A review of the coming fundraisers for the year was discussed, specifically the format changes to the Taum-A-Hawk now being the Devils Tollgate Challenge and the partnership with the Noah Foundation for a new type of MTB Race around Council Bluff. The 3rd Annual Challenge hike is progressing well, but there is a desire to get at least 20 participants.

The next item of business was a call for new business items.

A discussion was held on committee organization needs and, in an effort, to get the committees structure running correctly again, a list of suggested members will be sent out to the Board and to those suggested members to see if they are interested, if there is currently no chair for a committee, the Board member in the committee is asked to take the lead until the committee selects a chairperson.

After discussion April 20, 2019 was selected as the date for 2nd Quarter Board of Directors meeting and upcoming meetings were listed of other organizations for those who may wish to attend.

- Meramec Valley Trail Association, Wednesday, February 7 @ 6:30 PM
- Meramec River Recreation Association, Thursday, February 21 @ 1:00 PM
- Ozark Trail Council, Saturday, February 16 @ 10:00 AM

On motions duly made and carried by the affirmative vote of all directors in attendance at this meeting, the following resolutions were adopted by the directors entitled to vote at the meeting:

WHEREAS, the Bylaws of the Corporation provide that the Board has the power to fix the number of directors of the Corporation. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the number of directors constituting the Board is hereby changed from five (5) to thirteen (13) and in accordance with Article IV, paragraph B the years in which the terms of the directorships thereby created may be designated, the terms of Mr. Ken Kurtz and Mr. Mike Tobin will expire in 2022, the terms of Mr. Jason Haney, Mr. James Huffman, Mr. Greg Grimes, Mr. Stephen Thompson, and Mr. Jeff Howell will expire in 2021, and the term for Mr. Jake Grossbauer will expire in 2020.

RESOLVED, that all accounts held with US Bank, primary branch located in Potosi, Missouri, be, and is hereby, modified to authorize Kathleen Brennan, President, Mark Goforth, Vice President, Jason Haney, Treasurer, and Jeffery J. Goetter, Secretary to sign on behalf of the Corporation all checks, drafts, and other instruments obligating the Corporation to pay money. **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the foregoing resolution shall continue in full force and effect until rescinded or modified by a resolution of the board of directors of the corporation and a certified copy of such a resolution shall have been filed with said institution.

RESOLVED, that Ozark Trail Association, has authorized Jason Haney, Treasurer and/or Kathleen Brennan, President of the Corporation, to remove any former officers of the Corporations who are not listed as current officers as signatories on said accounts.

RESOLVED, that the Secretary be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to certify to the said institution the foregoing resolution and that the provisions thereof are in conformity with the Charter and Bylaws of the corporation as of January 26, 2019.

There being no other further business before the Board, on motion duly made seconded and carried, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffery J. Goetter
Secretary, Ozark Trail Association Board of Directors
<http://www.ozarktrail.com>

Attachment 1 - President Report

The past few months are usually down time due to the holidays, but activities continued in and out of the forest.

- Meet with MTNF concerning cost share agreement for the next 5 years. Changes were requested and received back to the OTA but is on hold due to the shutdown.
- Met with Janson as he presented a comparison report of financial outlook of the OTA compared to 9 other comparable trail groups.
- Attended the Open Space Council Open House at the Danforth Center in St. Louis
- Attended the Meramec River Recreation Association quarterly meeting at Shaw Nature Reserve
- Attended and partnered with Dave Tobey with at the ACA Paddling Clinic held at Echo Bluff SP. The OTA helped sponsor the 3-day event with over 100 in attendance. Dave and I partnered with a presentation on the "Hike and Float" opportunities that the new Current River Spur Trail is offering in the ONSR.
- Led an OTA sponsored "First Day/" hike on the Current River Spur trail with 10 participants.
- Led the first of the year maintenance event, "Ground Zero" with 10 volunteers on MDC land.
- Attended the first Terrain Outdoor Summit held at Union Station in St. Louis.
- Manned an informational booth with 6 other OTA volunteers at the Outdoor Expo for 2 days. Also provided space for the newly formed Meramec Valley Trails Association.
- Participated in the OTA Monthly Staff meetings.
- Overseeing an AmeriCorp trail crew week of January 22-30th with construction work on the connector from Round Spring to the Current River Trail in Echo Bluff SP.

This past year the OTA has accomplished much in front and behind the scenes. We had successes and disappointments. Our volunteers were engaged and provided the energy and drive to get tasks at hand accomplished. The 11-year RTP was completed beyond the scope of what was written. Trail completed beyond the RTP included all of the trail built in the ONSR, Current River SP and Echo Bluff SP. The 3.4 miles connector trail when completed in 2020 will finish the scope of the current RTP/project from its initial vision. The last details with the trail involve trail signage, kiosk and maps to be developed by DNR.

It was also a year of firsts as we acquired the rights and all involved with the OT Guide Book. DNR produced the long-awaited OT brochure that will need to be reordered soon from the initial shipment.

Financially, the OTA remained stable this past year as we pinched pennies and strived to be good stewards of our resources. We were also blessed to have a volunteer provided a generous donation for a much-needed pickup truck. Our fun raisers did well and due to several concerns as well as the OTIOO/50 MTB race just not coming together, it was decided to cancel and regroup with that event. Funding from grants as well as a few foundations has also helped with developing newer ways to capture needed information as well as fund operations. The OTA has opportunities with grants this year that will be developed and applied for.

The Ozark Trail Council was able to meet twice last year, and progress was made to get new MOU's from all the stakeholders. The Council is working through how each agency's role and involvement with the OT and the OTA and the future development of the OT.

Outreach and Education is just as important as our Construction and Maintenance events as the more involvement we have with new and old OTA volunteers, the word is passed along about what the Ozark Trail is and what its importance as a recreational destination in Missouri. Our social media presence has also increased with FB pages of groups that recreate on the OT.

Attachment 2 - Vice President Report

January 26, 2019 • Mark Goforth
Quarter 2018

1. Small kiosk materials were purchased and paid for through an RTP grant. Two large kiosks are planned and will be paid for by private donors. They will be built to USFS standards and construction will begin this spring. The large kiosks will be placed at Ozark Outdoors/Onondaga Cave SP and Bass' Resort trailheads. Small kiosks will be placed at road crossings TBD along the trail.
2. Sawing — continued to seek re-cert capability within our organization; also seeking to ensure regularly scheduled certification and re-cert programs.
3. OTC requested trail expansion plans in writing. After reviewing Steve Coates' June 2013 presentation, these are the plans I expect to share with OTC:
 - South to AR which Roger is currently working on.
 - East from Taum Sauk and Royal Gorge through the elusive, maybe flagged but not published, route to Crane Lake.
 - East and south from Marble Creek to Sam A. Baker and on to Wappapello and west through Victory.
 - The new Osage branch will include multi-use trail and "blue" water-trail.
 - The natural surface trail will proceed from Onondaga trailhead, across the low-water bridge on Onondaga Cave SP property through Nature Conservancy property and the 800-acre Ralph Heck property then east to head south across the Campbell bridge. From there, east through mostly absent private-owned property to Vilander Bluff and on to MDC which allows horses. We're planning to request multi-use access and there are two recreational commercial property areas which we believe will partner with us. 600' river bank easement precludes OT easement without property owner permission. Property owner concerns, such as cattle and farming, must be addressed.
 - The Osage Branch "blue" water-trail designation would be from the low-water bridge to Highway 185 on the Meramec River which requires identifying all ingress and egress points and distances.
 - 24x36 topographic maps of the overall area have been obtained, along with 8.5x11 assessor maps identifying property owners, to move forward with route design. We have identified friends of friends of property owners to speak on our behalf for trail easements.
 - MDC Taum Sauk re-route between Hwy 21 and Russell Mountain trailhead, as directed at the 2018 OTC meeting, must be re-routed from private land to MDC property. Matt Atnip and I have planned a route layout trip.
4. House maintenance continues, to include eliminating the sulfur odor from the water system. Exterior paint has been procured. I have concerns about the life-span of the HVAC system and since USÉS provided materials when we provided labor for roof replacement, I'd like to address the USFS participation in the HVAC unit when that fails.

Attachment 3 - Financial Report

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01/23/19

Accrual Basis

Ozark Trail Association Profit & Loss October through December 2018

	Oct 18	Nov 18	Dec 18	TOTAL
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
40000 - Donations				
40100 - Individual Contributions	1,450.01	6,622.41	3,846.39	11,928.81
40200 - Entity Contributions	75.76	679.34	517.85	1,472.95
Total 40000 - Donations	1,525.77	7,301.75	4,364.24	13,401.76
42000 - Grants				
42300 - Foundation Grants	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total 42000 - Grants	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
45000 - Recreational Trails Program				
45300 - RTP Reimbursements	0.00	0.00	30,142.19	30,142.19
Total 45000 - Recreational Trails Program	0.00	0.00	30,142.19	30,142.19
50000 - USFS Cost-Share				
50200 - USFS Cost-Share Reimbursements	0.00	6,138.87	0.00	6,138.87
Total 50000 - USFS Cost-Share	0.00	6,138.87	0.00	6,138.87
54000 - Merchandise and Misc. Sales				
54300 - Inventory Sales				
54340 - Map Sales	1,059.62	1,452.81	653.17	3,165.60
54350 - Merchandise Sales	581.54	92.42	145.80	819.76
Total 54300 - Inventory Sales	1,641.16	1,545.23	798.97	3,985.36
54400 - Cost of Inventory Sales				
54490 - Other Inventory Costs	0.00	-3,063.80	0.00	-3,063.80
Total 54400 - Cost of Inventory Sales	0.00	-3,063.80	0.00	-3,063.80
Total 54000 - Merchandise and Misc. Sales	1,641.16	-1,518.57	798.97	921.56
58000 - Special Events Income				
58001 - Mega Cash In	635.00	78.38	20.00	733.38
58015 - OTA MTS Cash In	20.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
58030 - Challenge Hike Cash In	895.35	1,478.61	1,358.97	3,728.93
Total 58000 - Special Events Income	1,550.35	1,557.00	1,378.97	4,486.32
Total Income	4,727.28	13,875.02	38,682.17	57,284.47
Expense				
70000 - Grants and Contracts				
70100 - Contracts - Program Related	1,975.24	1,200.00	1,440.00	4,615.24
Total 70000 - Grants and Contracts	1,975.24	1,200.00	1,440.00	4,615.24
72000 - Salary and Wage Expenses				
72200 - Staff Wages	2,921.72	2,918.22	2,921.72	8,759.66
72500 - Payroll Expenses	227.00	227.02	227.01	681.03
Total 72000 - Salary and Wage Expenses	3,148.72	3,145.24	3,148.73	9,440.69
74000 - Promotion and Awards				
74300 - Booths	165.00	0.00	0.00	165.00
Total 74000 - Promotion and Awards	165.00	0.00	0.00	165.00
75000 - Contract Services				
75200 - Accounting Fees	225.00	700.00	0.00	925.00
Total 75000 - Contract Services	225.00	700.00	0.00	925.00
81000 - Nonpersonnel Expenses				
81100 - Office Supplies	74.53	82.59	88.10	225.22
81400 - Postage & Shipping	198.28	64.51	88.00	298.79
81800 - Dues and Subscriptions				
81820 - IT Subscriptions	255.00	272.76	255.00	782.76
Total 81800 - Dues and Subscriptions	255.00	272.76	255.00	782.76
Total 81000 - Nonpersonnel Expenses	498.81	419.86	387.10	1,302.77
82000 - Facilities Expenses				
82200 - Utilities	94.50	18.83	188.98	292.29
82300 - Telecommunications	128.58	143.16	127.29	399.03
82600 - Facilities Maintenance	169.99	0.00	0.00	169.99
Total 82000 - Facilities Expenses	393.07	161.99	294.22	849.28
85000 - Other Expenses				
85500 - Insurance	0.00	871.17	869.59	1,740.76
Total 85000 - Other Expenses	0.00	871.17	869.59	1,740.76
86000 - Other Business Expenses				
86600 - Bank Fees	3.50	1.75	0.00	5.25
Total 86000 - Other Business Expenses	3.50	1.75	0.00	5.25
87000 - Special Events Expenses				

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**Ozark Trail Association
Profit & Loss**

01/23/19

October through December 2018

Accrual Basis

	Oct 18	Nov 18	Dec 18	TOTAL
87001 - Mega Cash Out	503.11	0.00	0.00	503.11
87015 - OTA MTB Cash Out	4,740.00	195.00	65.00	5,000.00
87020 - Work Outings Cash Out	0.00	0.00	172.55	172.55
Total 87000 - Special Events Expenses	5,243.11	195.00	237.55	5,675.06
88000 - Tools and Equipment				
88100 - Fuel	537.43	0.00	249.69	787.12
88200 - Maintenance	249.70	272.30	144.28	666.28
88300 - Repairs	165.91	0.00	0.00	165.91
88400 - Tool and Equip Purchases	0.00	1,789.49	0.00	1,789.49
88700 - Signage	0.00	1,739.01	4,877.04	6,616.05
Total 88000 - Tools and Equipment	953.04	3,800.80	5,271.01	10,024.85
Total Expense	12,800.49	10,493.81	11,548.20	34,742.50
Net Ordinary Income	-7,873.21	3,161.21	27,033.97	22,341.97
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
80000 - Other Revenue	517.50	0.00	0.00	517.50
Total Other Income	517.50	0.00	0.00	517.50
Net Other Income	517.50	0.00	0.00	517.50
Net Income	-7,365.71	3,161.21	27,033.97	22,859.47

2019 Proposed Budget

Revenues		
40000 - Donations	\$	18,000.00
40100 - Individual Contributions	\$	12,000.00 <i>Based on 2018 revenue</i>
40200 - Entity Contributions	\$	6,000.00 <i>Based on 2018 revenue</i>
42000 - Grants	\$	9,000.00
42100 - Business Grants	\$	1,000.00 <i>Bass Pro Grant</i>
42300 - Foundation Grants	\$	8,000.00 <i>Red Wing Foundation & LAD Foundation</i>
42500 - Nonprofit Grants	\$	-
45000 Recreational Trails Program	\$	56,155.00
		<i>2015 Final Reimbursement (\$12,745) & 2017 Reimbursements (\$41,910)</i>
45300 - RTP Reimbursements	\$	56,155.00
50000 USFS Cost-Share	\$	6,000.00
		<i>Funding only partial for first year of five-year agreement</i>
50200 - USFS Cost-Share Reimbursements	\$	6,000.00
52000 Membership Revenue	\$	8,500.00
		<i>Increased from 2018 revenue by \$1,000 based on increase in membership in January 2019</i>
52100 - Memberships	\$	8,500.00
54000 - Merchandise and Misc.	\$	12,500.00
54340 - Map Sales	\$	12,000.00 <i>Based on 2018 revenue</i>
54350 - Merchandise Sales	\$	3,000.00 <i>Based on 2018 revenue</i>
54440 - Map Costs	\$	-
		<i>Majority of merch cost has been donated by volunteers</i>
54450 - Merchandise Costs	\$	(2,500.00)
58000 - Special Events Income	\$	41,000.00
58001 - Mega Cash In	\$	2,000.00 <i>Based on 2018 revenue</i>
58010 - Trivia Cash In	\$	7,000.00 <i>Based on 2018 revenue</i>
58015 - One Eyed Dog MTB Race Cash In	\$	4,000.00 <i>Race Director Estimate</i>
58030 - Challenge Hike Cash In	\$	20,000.00 <i>Race Director Estimate</i>
58035 - Devil's Tollgate Race Cash In	\$	8,000.00 <i>Based on 2018 revenue</i>
Total Revenue	\$	151,155.00
Expenditures		
72000 - Salary and Wage Expenses	\$	77,703.97
72200 - Staff Wages	\$	37,953.97
72300 - Mower Wages	\$	9,750.00 <i>Includes 2017 RTP & Cost-Share 2017 RTP (Trail crew, supervisor & equipment operator)</i>
72400 - Trail Builder Wages	\$	25,000.00 <i>Based on 2018 expenditures & estimated increase for grant project</i>
72500 - Payroll Expenses	\$	5,000.00
74000 - Promotion and Awards	\$	1,300.00
74100 - AAT Promotion	\$	-
74200 - New Membership	\$	-
74300 - Awards and Gifts	\$	300.00 <i>Special Event Awards & Red Jackets (\$28/ea)</i>
74400 - Booths	\$	1,000.00 <i>Booth space and updated display boards</i>
75000 - Contract Services	\$	3,175.00
75200 - Accounting Fees	\$	3,175.00

75300	- Legal Fees	\$	-	
75400	- Other Professional Fees	\$	-	
81000	- Nonpersonnel Expenses	\$	7,200.00	
81100	- Office Supplies	\$	1,100.00	
81300	- Computer and IT	\$	600.00	<i>LAD Foundation grant purchase of laptop</i>
81320	- Hardware & Software	\$	-	
81390	- IT Subscriptions	\$	3,300.00	<i>Neon CRM Database, ESRI & Constant Contact</i>
81400	- Postage & Shipping	\$	1,200.00	
81700	- Printing	\$	1,000.00	
82000	- Facilities Expenses	\$	5,550.00	
82200	- Utilities	\$	2,000.00	
82300	- Telecommunications	\$	1,550.00	
82600	- Facilities Maintenance	\$	2,000.00	<i>Possible HVAC system maintenance</i>
83000	- Travel and Meetings	\$	-	
83600	- Mileage Reimbursements	\$	-	
85000	- Other Expenses	\$	10,470.00	
85100	- Advertising	\$	120.00	
85200	- Dues and Subscriptions	\$	350.00	
85500	- Insurance	\$	10,000.00	
86000	- Other Business Expenses	\$	30.00	
86600	- Penalties and Judgements	\$	-	
86700	- Organizational Expenses	\$	25.00	
86800	- Bank Fees	\$	5.00	
87000	- Special Events Expenses	\$	14,500.00	
87001	- Mega Cash Out	\$	2,100.00	
87010	- Trivia Cash Out	\$	1,600.00	
87015	- One Eyed Dog MTB Race Cash Out	\$	-	
87020	- Work Outings Cash Out	\$	2,200.00	
87025	- Workshops/Training Cash Out	\$	500.00	
87030	- Challenge Hike Cash Out	\$	4,000.00	
87035	- Devil's Tollgate Race Cash Out	\$	4,100.00	
88000	- Tools and Equipment	\$	9,150.00	
88100	- Fuel	\$	2,300.00	
88200	- Maintenance	\$	2,000.00	
88300	- Repairs	\$	1,750.00	
88400	- Tool and Equip Purchases	\$	2,500.00	
88500	- Equipment Rental	\$	-	
88600	- Safety	\$	200.00	
88700	- Signage	\$	150.00	
88900	- Tools and Equipment - Other	\$	-	
88800	- Kitchen Supplies	\$	250.00	
Total Expenditure		\$	129,078.97	

Attachment 4 - Chief Operations Officer report

COO Report January 26, 2019 • Abi Jackson 4th Quarter 2018

1. Managed current RTP projects, which included: invoicing, quarterly reporting, purchasing, and financial tracking.
 - 2011 RTP Round Spring Spur Trail Construction: This project has officially been closed out and the final reimbursement of \$30,142.19 has been deposited.
 - 2015 RTP Berryman Re-route Phase 4 & Volunteer Brushing/Mowing: Trail markers, road number signs, Carsonite posts, USFS trail signs and small kiosk sign materials were purchased. Installing this signage will be one of OTA's major projects for 2019. The final invoice for \$12,745.67 has been submitted and a final inspection with DNR has been scheduled for January 31st.
 - 2017 RTP Round Spring to Echo Bluff State Park Trail Connector Construction (and Trail Connector Rehabilitation): Volunteer timesheets are being collected to complete the first invoice. Work on this project will continue throughout 2019.
2. USFS Cost-Share
 - Mowing: Managed completion of the summer mowing program. Duties included planning, mapping, camping, payroll, and budgeting. 138.75 miles of trail were cleared of trees and mowed/brushed between July and October of 2018.
 - Invoicing: Cumulative funds have been spent and the final two invoices totaling \$6,138.87 have been paid to close out the current five-year agreement. The annual performance report was submitted on November 28, 2018 and a meeting was held with USFS representatives and the Executive Committee to discuss the new agreement. Once the USFS determines how much funding they'll be able to provide in FY19, they will prepare the financial plan.
3. Assisted with special events.
 - 2019 OT Challenge Hike: Continued assistance and communication with Steve Liescheidt and participants to support the 2019 OT Challenge Hike. Updated sponsor graphics on social media and kept a detailed spreadsheet of sponsors, donations, and registrants, and processed credit card payments as needed.
 - Trivia Night: Created an event flyer and communicated with donors for auction/raffle items
 - OT100MTB: Issued refunds to all race participants and sent donation acknowledgements to those that donated their entry fees.
4. Submitted hours, along with age, ethnicity and race data, for USFS annual volunteer report. OTA had a total of 2,428 hours on USFS land from Oct 1, 2017 through Sept 30, 2018.
5. Continued work with Ted Meyer to create an electronic registration system for events. Ted has created an Excel file that uses macros to collect volunteer information for OTA records and to efficiently report to partner agencies.
6. Accounting

- Bookkeeping: 4th quarter banking information has been entered into Quickbooks. All payables, receivables and deposits have been tracked and coded to the appropriate categories in the chart of accounts and there are organized electronic files of all documents.
 - 990: Communicated with accountant throughout the quarter on financials and the 990. Submitted a detailed list of payables and receivables coded to the appropriate categories in the COA. A copy of the 990 was sent to all board members for review on November 5, 2018 and a signed copy was e-filed on November 12, 2018.
7. Continued updating of membership database, mailed new member kits and gifts and emailed membership thank yous.
 8. Grant management.
 - L-A-D Foundation: A grant request was submitted, and the OTA was awarded \$2,000 to cover the cost of CRM software for one year and a Chromebook to assist with event registration.
 - Bass' Pro Shops: A grant request was submitted and a check for \$1,000 was received for general operating support.
 - Submitted a grant proposal to Hydro-Flask for \$30,000 operational support. OTA was not chosen to receive this award.
 9. Attended various meetings: Met with DNR to discuss RTP statuses and concerns. Also attended the USFS Collaborative Partnership meeting and met afterward to discuss the 2019 Cost-Share agreement. Met with Executive Committee and Ryan Hanlon to discuss future promotion and communications ideas.
 10. Assisted with prep for Mega Event. Coordinated volunteer paperwork, crew leader packets, radios, sign-in sheets, crew lists, etc. Attended Mega on October 13, 2018.
 11. Posted updates to Facebook, sent email blasts and updated ozarktrail.com news.
 12. All other general and miscellaneous office duties have also been completed during this time.

Board Report January 2019

Website/Database

The move to use the Event Calendar plugin was successful and works better for the OTA than Neon's Event Module. After some frustration in being able to bulk upload some data for events I started to look for other plugins to assume roles currently on Neon with the goal to eventually get off it completely. The store has been moved back to the website now but waiting for final proofing. In addition, I found another plugin that seems to accomplish everything else that Neon did, only it's free. Most of the individual contact records, membership records have been migrated, with only organization records remaining to be moved. As soon as all the appropriate pages and forms can be created and functionality proofed, all will be activated. Some time in the next month, maybe two.

Once all is migrated, the Neon subscription will be cancelled. That will save the OTA \$230 a month.

However, one more problem has arisen. We have been using a spam filter for our forms called Captcha. It has been free, but they made a change and it appears to have opened a new hole that has been utilized. We are now getting a significant amount of crap email. A new filter subscription is likely going to be needed and they cost about \$10 a month. I'm still researching.

Outreach

The Mississippi Valley Bike and Outdoor Expo happened despite the bad weather. We had a great response and were busy greeting visitors the entire time.

Eureka Pacific had a public viewing of possible trail designs on Jan 24 with another scheduled for Feb 20. The OTA display was set up to answer questions regarding the OT plans.

University of Scouting is Jan 26 but I wasn't able to get the OTA display handed off for Rick Schuh to attend.

Coming up:

Alpine Shop Spring Expo on March 2

MO Botanical Gardens April 6 and 7

Shaw Nature Reserve April 27

Arcadia Valley Music Festival May 18?

Live Life Outdoors GRG June 8

No Workshops scheduled for this year.

For 2019 we will be looking for improvements in our display capabilities for future exhibits.

Attachment 6 - Construction & Maintenance Committee

Construction & Maintenance

- 10 maintenance and construction events planned through June 7th
- First maintenance event January 5 with 10 participants
- AmeriCorps 9-day trail crew January 23-30 working on the RS to EBSP connector
- RS connector construction weekend January 26/27 based out of CRSP. 14 signed up
- Reroute construction of the Midco Hollow with the MTNF March 23/May 18 ●
National Traits Day event will be June 1

Round Spring Update

Trait is completed to the scope of the 2011 RTP. The trail is marked with orange DNR trail markers from Hwy 19 to Brushy Creek. Trail directional signage and kiosk needs are still being assessed by the land managers. Maps are to be developed by DNR and LAD Foundation. OTA Volunteers and AmeriCorps continue to work on the RS to EBSP connector. The entire trail corridor was cut and cleared this past fall by a 5-day AmeriCorps crew which now allows for any construction events to continue without having to clear corridor.

Attachment 7 - Planning and Development Committee

OTA Planning and Trail Development Committee Report; January 26, 2019

The OTA Planning and Trail Development Committee supports the OTA Mission by providing long range planning for the further development of the Ozark Trail, providing GIS and mapping support for OTA operations such as construction and maintenance, coordinating environmental clearance and review for OTA projects and assisting in coordination of OTA operations with those of the land managers.

OTA PLANNING TASKS 2019-2023

Summary

The following is a list of planning tasks/projects that have been identified for the next five years. The subsequent sections give a more detailed description of each project's scope and objectives, the planning tasks that have been identified for the project and current project status.

1. Prepare a white paper on the state of the art of conservation easements for trails for the OTA Board of Directors.
2. Establish a comprehensive geo-spatial database for the existing trail that includes ownership, trail section management objectives, trail conditions, maintenance and rehabilitation requirements.
3. Develop and market to local government an on-road route between the Eleven Point Section and the North Fork Section.
4. Develop plans for filling in the eastern loop with possible spurs to recreation sites in the St. Francis River Basin with identification of private property owners of right of way required for the plan
 - a. Ketcherside Mountain to Crane Lake/Marble Creek routing.
 - b. Spur trail from Marble Creek to Mill Gardens CA
 - c. Resurrect plan for trail to the south border of Mark Twain National Forest in Madison County
 - d. Develop a route and alternative routes between Mark Twain National Forest and Sam A. Baker State Park.
 - e. Develop a connection from Wappapello Section to Victory Section
 - f. Develop a connection from Victory Section to Between the Rivers Section
5. Develop plan for route and alternate route from Huzzah Conservation Area to Pacific.
6. Develop plan for a route and alternate route from North Fork Section to the Arkansas Border.

Tasks Completed 2018

The following tasks were substantially completed in 2018

1. Support USFS-Mark Twain National Forest in renewing National Recreation Trail Designation. Provided MTNF a draft report by updating the 2008 report for the original designation to take into account the 10 year since the original designation as well as expanding the scope of the designation. MTNF Staff will need to request concurrence from the other land managers to complete the re-designation process.
2. Coordinate final environmental review of the 2017 RTP, Round Spring to Echo Bluff segment of the Current River Trail. A completed environmental review checklist was submitted to Missouri DNR and a notice to proceed was issued for the project.
3. Final trail layout for Round Spring to Echo Bluff

Project Descriptions

1. White Paper on Conservation Easements for Trails.

Scope:

Closing the gaps in the Ozark Trail will require acquisition of “right of way” across private property. One possible tool for obtaining right of way is a conservation easement for trail use. This project will provide the OTA Board information on state of the art

of easements from private property owners for trails. The proposed white paper will cover (1) typical easement terms used in the United States to include topics such as, incentives given to property owners, indemnification of the private property owners (grantors), rights of grantee to assign easement to public entities such as USDA/USFS or state departments of conservation, (2) typical enabling legislation, (3) any case law regarding such easements, (4) a comparison to the state of the art and current practice in Missouri and a recommended strategy for changing Missouri practice in appropriate.

Tasks:

- Internet searches for data on Conservation Easements for Trails to attempt to identify states that have addressed this issue. (e.g.: PA; <https://conservationtools.org/guides/140-trail-easements>).
- Research on Conservation Easements in general to gain a broader understanding of their use. This will include communication with the Land Trust Alliance and other similar organizations.
- Research on typical legislation and case law.
- Make recommendations on strategy, possibly proposed legislation.

Status:

Just starting. Hope to have completed white paper ready for summer board meeting.

2. Comprehensive Geo-Spatial Database

Scope:

Establish a comprehensive geo-spatial database for the existing trail that includes ownership, trail section management objectives, trail conditions, maintenance and rehabilitation requirements. The objective is to be better able to visualize trail conditions and needs of the trail in a geographic sense and to improve communication and coordination with land managers. OTA has obtained ArcGIS licenses from ERSI as part of its non-profit program.

Tasks:

- Convert OTA's current mapping line work to ArcGIS shape file(s).
- Develop a set of attribute fields to assign to shapes (trail sections).
- Obtain ownership overlays from land managers.
- Split sections into shape files differentiated by ownership.
- Split sections into shape files differentiated by AAT segments.
- Document the database.
- Gather data from AAT volunteers and users on trail conditions, needed repairs etc. and develop a repair and rehabilitation shape file with appropriate attributes.
- Provide analysis to Construction and Maintenance and land managers.

Status:

Continuing to learn ArcGIS software. Provided data in GIS format to Missouri Trails Project, MO Parks Association.

3. On-road route between the Eleven Point Section and the North Fork Section

Scope:

The objective of this project is to provide a degree of connectivity between the two sections. It would allow through hikers or bike packers an opportunity for increased mileage. It would establish a presence in Howell, Oregon and S.W Shannon counties that might lead to favorable relationships with local landowners for development of backcountry trail.

Tasks:

- Develop presentation materials for local government and business leaders
- Coordinate with MDC on possible use of Thomasville Tower site as a way-point.
- Schedule meetings with local government regarding sign road route.

Status:

Steve Coates outlined a road route and presented the OTC in June 2013. We have the mapping of the route. The proposed route is being reviewed by interested OTA volunteers.

4. Filling in the eastern loop

Scope:

Detailed scope to be developed further. Six significant projects identified:

- a. Ketcherside Mountain to Crane Lake/Marble Creek routing. Partial built by MDC in 1980's and then abandoned due to lack of progress on connection. Private property access needed to bridge between MDC and MTNF.
- b. Spur trail from Marble Creek to Mill Gardens CA. Discussed by OTC in 1980's. There is a 2.33 mile road gap from Marble Creek TH east on Highway F to where a route on continuous Forest Service property could travel Silver Mines.
- c. Resurrect plan for trail to the south border of Mark Twain National Forest in Madison County. A route was flagged in the 1980's but not built. Some topo maps show the trail. However, a final routing should be coordinated with d. below.
- d. Develop a route and alternative routes between Mark Twain National Forest and Sam A. Baker State Park. There is about 6.5-7 miles of straight line gap of private property between MTNF boundary and Graves Mountain State Forest. GMSF is on the north side of Big Creek.
- e. Develop a connection from Wappapello Section to Victory Section. This would be a short road connection.
- f. Develop a connection from Victory Section to Between the Rivers Section. A challenging gap of private property to be closed.

Tasks:

- Further develop the scope definition for each sub-project and project task lists
- Develop a relationship with the SEMO Regional Planning Commission
- Obtain access to property ownership overlays for Iron and Madison Counties
- Develop a relationship with Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission
- Obtain access to property ownership overlays for Carter, Butler and Wayne Counties.

Status:

- Not started

5. Huzzah Conservation Area to Pacific.

Scope:

Develop a connection with trails and road connections from Huzzah/Onondaga SP to Pacific/St. Louis County line. Southside of Meramec, Northside or both?

Tasks:

- Identify points of interest and public lands in the corridor.

- Develop relationships with local officials and planning agencies.
- Partner with the Meramec Valley Trail Association in developing a trail plan.

Status:

- Committee members have attended MVTA meetings. Mark Goforth has done some preliminary planning of routes.

6. North Fork Section to the Arkansas Border.

Scope:

Develop a connection with trails and road connections from the North Fork Section to the Arkansas Border.

Tasks:

- Identify a road route from southern terminus of the North Fork Section to Dawt Mill
- Identify a trail route on North Fork Lake, USACE property.
- Coordinate with USACE for approval of route.
- Obtain NEPA clearance for USACE trail.

Status:

- Rick Henry has scouted a road route to Dawt Mill.
- Steve Coates has drawn a trail route using Google Earth.

Additional from Matt Atnip

- involvement with the Meramec Valley Trail Association,
- working with Springfield area volunteers and groups like the OHTA and TOT groups to be sure the OTA has a proper voice,
- Defining remaining re-routes needed on the Berryman to refresh the volunteer support from St Louis and encourage IMBA to re-designate the Berryman as an Epic Trail,
- work with the Forest Service on upcoming timber sales to ensure funding for repair and increased ongoing maintenance are considered.

Attachment 8 - Education Committee

NPS is scheduled to give the Hike-Float Options presentation at Canoecopia in March and will have an information table set up there. Additionally, pre-site visits to schools for the Hiking Through History education program will start as soon as the government shutdown is over. They will schedule 10 to 15 schools for the program this Spring which will include close to 1,000 students. Junior Ranger Day is scheduled for May 3rd.

Winter Paddling Clinic and First Day Paddle, December 30 – January 1, 2019

Contact: Jennifer Hahn, Team River Runner Central USA Regional Coordinator,
Jennifer.hahn@teamriverrunner.org, cell number 314-807-3063

Activities for the Missouri ACA (American Canoe Club) Winter Paddle Clinic and First Day Paddle were held at several locations on the Upper Current River on December 30 through January 1st. Partners hosting the clinic included Missouri paddling clubs from Kansas City, St. Louis, and Springfield. Team River Runner, One Planet Adventures, Ozark Trail Association, and the Alpine Shop also co-hosted the events. A total of 403 people attended the twelve clinic sessions which were held at Echo Bluff Lodge in the Nixon Room. Formal presentations included the following.

- Paddling in Missouri State Park by Justin Adams, Missouri ACA Director and MO Natural Resource Manager
- Living a Life Full of Adventure by Ivan Bartha, One Planet Adventures
- Fly Fishing on the Upper Current River by Mark Van Patten, Feathercutter Farms
- Missouri Stream Team Activities presented by Stream Team Members
- Following Henry Schoolcraft's Ozark Journey by Rick Mansfield, Ozark Heritage Project
- St. Louis Canoe & Kayak Club Report by David Haessig, Club President
- US Coast Guard Water Safety Programs by Todd Wilkerson, Flotilla 02-05
- ACA Dry Land Basics by Perry Whitaker, Alpine Shop
- Adaptive Paddling Techniques by Jennifer Hahn, Team River Runner Regional Coordinator
- Hike-Float Options on the Current River by Kathie Brennan and Dave Tobey, OTA
- Paddling Club Reports by Club Presidents and Representatives
- Winter Paddling Equipment by Ivan Bartha, One Planet Adventures

Special recognition was given to Missouri paddlers during the final session.

Missouri Stream Team members Ted Haviland, Bernie Arnold, Rick Mansfield were awarded "Stream Team Hero" recognition for their tireless efforts to keep our streams clean.

Club Presidents were recognized for their leadership. Recipients included Marty Zerr from Ozark Mountain Paddlers, Christy Kurtz from Paddle KC, and Dave Haessig from St. Louis Canoe and Kayak Club.

The Sassafra Paddle Award was presented to paddling club member for their contributions during 2018. They included Konstantin Gregorian from Paddle KC, Terri Bradley from Ozark Mountain Paddlers, and Eileen Lenkman and Robert Meyers from St. Louis Canoe and Kayak Club.

Attachment 9 –Rebecca Landewe Reports

Ozark Trail Association

Report to the Board

Submitted by: Rebecca Landewe

January 25, 2019

Volunteer of the Year

We created an online survey to receive nominations for the 2018 Volunteer of the Year. As of January 25, 2019, we have received 5 submissions with 4 nominees. The survey was sent to all Adopters on January 7th and it has been publicized on Facebook. The intent is to present awards at the February 9th Trivia Night. Mark Seesing and I would welcome additional committee members to help evaluate the nominations. One guideline we followed last year that I propose we continue this year is to highlight the efforts of non-Board members with this award.

Adopt-A-Trail

With the cold weather, holidays, and government shut-down, Adopter reports have been slow. I have a couple people waiting on follow-up from me for inquiries into becoming new Adopters. We had a request by a user to Adopt two connector trails near Council Bluff Lake. There was general agreement among the Board via email to add these segments to our Adopter network, though they would not be signed as OT since they are connectors. The trail is 93% Adopted and 7% available for adoption, primarily on the Wappapello Section. Here is a summary of the Adopted and Available Mileage:

Section	Total Miles	Adopted Miles	Adopted Miles	Designation
Courtois	47.6	47.6	0	Backbone
Trace Creek	26.45	26.45	0	Backbone
Middle Fork	23.6	23.6	0	Backbone
Karkhagne	28	28	0	Backbone
Blair Creek	20.7	20.7	0	Backbone
Current River	30	27.87	2.13	Backbone
Between the Rivers	29	25.6	3.4	Backbone
Eleven Point	34.4	34.4	0	Backbone
North Fork	23.97	20.97	3	Backbone
Taum Sauk	36.9	36.9	0	Backbone
Marble Creek	11.8	11.8	0	Backbone
Wappapello	38.9	20.7	18.2	Backbone

Victory	18.27	18.27	0	Backbone
Berryman	13.1	13.1	0	Spur
Council Bluff	11.6	11.6	0	Spur
TOTAL	394.29	367.56	26.73	

Trail Patches Competition

After the launch of the Trail Patches competition, It was brought to the attention of the Board that Benchmark Special Awards has an existing collection of trail patches designed specifically for the Ozark Trail and its Sections. This may be an opportunity to partner with the company. Email conversations with the owner indicates he's interested in partnering with the OTA. For example, we could discuss with him the idea of raising the price per patch to allow for some revenue to be redirected back to the OTA to help support the trail.

Board Nominations Committee

We have several people that have expressed interest in joining the board, having attended the December Board meeting and/or submitted an application for consideration. The list is as follows:

- Jason Haney
- Greg Grimes
- Mike Tobin
- James Huffman
- Jake Grossbauer
- Stephen Thompson
- Ken Kurtz
- Jeff Howell

Each of these individuals can bring skills and energy to the Board. The current Board members reviewed the applications and would recommend a motion to approve these applicants as members of the Board and solicit their involvement in any committees or positions that match their skills and interest.

Strategic Planning Date

Saturday, May 18th, is currently the best date for the Board members that participated in the survey. I recommend conferring with the new Board members to see if this fits within their schedule. If not, then I would propose we look for a date later in the summer.

Attachment 10 –Dave Tobey Reports

Ozark Trail Association Board Nomination Committee Report
January 25, 2019

The following individuals expressed an interest to serve as members of the Ozark Trail Association Board. On January 18, 2019 Board President, Kathie Brennan, sent an email to OTA board candidates asking them to indicate their level of interest and to submit a short bio. Responses are listed below.

- Ken Kurtz
- Stephen Thompson
- Mike Tobin
- Jake Grossbauer
- Greg Grimes
- Jeff Howell
- James Huffman

Responses:

Ken Kurtz: Yes, I'm still interested in rejoining the board. I already have my bio for the webpage from before.

Stephen Thompson: Still very much interested in helping out where I can. Either the chair / board position or both works fine. I am currently planning on attending the meeting next weekend as well. I will follow up this week with the short bio as requested.

Mike Tobin: I will be at the board meeting on Saturday. I have attached my quick little write up to add to the website. Excited to help out!

Mike's Bio: The idea of connecting the Ozark Trail with the Ozark Highlands Trail in Arkansas, as well as the completion of the Ozark trail so all trails connect, has been something that has really captured my imagination since my first pack trip between Taum Sauk and Johnson Shut in 's in the 90's. I know that most likely in my lifetime I will not see this vision to completion, given the scope of the work involved. That being said, building a strong OTA and helping other to see how they can be good stewards is like the idea of planting a tree that you will never see grow big enough to personally enjoy the shade. I may not see the trails ever connect with my own eyes, but the idea of being a part of a legacy that future generations can enjoy really inspires me.

An avid pack and kayaker, I have packed most of the Ozark Highlands Trail in Arkansas and a good portion of the Ozark Trail, as well as having kayaked the entire Buffalo River. I love and live on the trail and on the rivers- the idea of conserving these very special, spiritual places for future generations to enjoy and live on is why I am involved with the OTA.

When not out on the trail somewhere, Mike is the CEO of True Strengths, based out of St. Louis Missouri. Mike works in the private and not for profit sector helping groups build engagement to sell more naturally, retain more employees... and have fun while they are d

Jake Grossbauer: Kathie, had asked that I contact you in regard to building a profile for the OTA board page. Do you have an outline or bullet points to hit in regard to building this?

Greg Grimes: Born and raised in St. Louis, Greg graduated from the University of Missouri in 2008. He enjoys hiking and trail running and is passionate about completing and preserving construction of the Ozark Trail. As a board member, Greg works to raise funds for and

awareness of the Ozark Trail Association and its mission to build, maintain, and promote the Ozark Trail.

Jeff Howell: Here you go. I'm still interested, Dave. Also, I'll be at trivia night to defend my championship belt. I'll also have a membership check for you.

NPS is scheduled to give the Hike-Float Options presentation at Canoecopia in March and will have an information table set up there. Additionally, pre-site visits to schools for the Hiking Through History education program will start as soon as the government shutdown is over. They will schedule 10 to 15 schools for the program this Spring which will include close to 1,000 students. Junior Ranger Day is scheduled for May 3rd.

Winter Paddling Clinic and First Day Paddle, December 30 — January 1, 2019

Contact: Jennifer Hahn, Team River Runner Central USA Regional

Coordinator, Jennifer.hahn@teamriverrunner.org, cell number 314-807-3063

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- ACA Dry Land Basics by Perry Whitaker, Alpine Shop
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- Hike-Float Options on the Current River by Kathie Brennan and Dave Tobey, OTA
- Paddling Club Reports by Club Presidents and Representatives
- Winter Paddling Equipment by Ivan Bartha, One Planet Adventures

Special recognition was given to Missouri paddlers during the final session.

Missouri Stream Team members Ted Haviland, Bernie Arnold, Rick Mansfield were awarded "Stream Team Hero" recognition for their tireless efforts to keep our streams clean.

Club Presidents were recognized for their leadership. Recipients included Marty Zerr from Ozark Mountain Paddlers, Christy Kurtz from Paddle KC, and Dave Haessig from St. Louis Canoe and Kayak Club.

The Sassafras Paddie Award was presented to paddling club member for their contributions during 2018. They included Konstantin Gregorian from Paddle KC, Terri Bradley from Ozark Mountain Paddlers, and Eileen Lenkman and Robert Meyers from St. Louis Canoe and Kayak Club.

Calvin Brennan won the kayak donated by the Alpine Shop and Jennifer Judd won the paddle donated by AquaBound through One Planet Adventures.

Over 100 paddlers and hikers participated in outdoor activities. Last Day paddles on December 31 included a paddle from Pulltite to Current River State Park hosted by Ozark Mountain Paddlers and a short paddle down Sinking Creek. On January 1st there were several hikes hosted at Echo Bluff, Current River State Park and on the Round Spring spur. Several people hiked from Echo Bluff to Current River State Park (4 miles) and joined a larger group of paddlers at CRSP who had started at Putitite that morning. They all continued from Current River State Park to Round Spring that afternoon.
(picture attached)

Attachment 11 – 2019 Operating Plan

Ozark Trail Association, Inc.

2019 Operating Plan

This document presents the Ozark Trail Association's plan for accomplishing its mission "to develop, maintain, preserve, promote, and protect the rugged, natural beauty of the Ozark Trail."



Introduction:

The 401 mile Ozark Trail (OT), one of the 20 longest backcountry trails in the nation and a National Recreation Trail, traverses 12 rural counties and is a gateway to the interior of the Missouri Ozarks. The OT provides opportunities for backpacking, mountain biking, trail running, horseback riding and many other outdoor activities. The citizens of the state of Missouri and the surrounding region benefit from having the Ozark Trail in their communities. The NPS Ozark National Scenic Riverways area, alone, has 1.25 million people visit annually supporting over 700 jobs. The OT enhances the recreation opportunities of the parks, benefiting trail towns in the area and the many outfitters near the corridor. Trails serve as hands-on environmental classrooms for people of all ages and trail building is a great opportunity for youth to get outdoors.

The Ozark Trail Association is a 501©(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to develop, maintain, preserve, promote, and protect the rugged, natural beauty of the Ozark Trail. The OTA plays the leading role in the construction and maintenance of Missouri's 401 mile premier long distance multi-use backcountry trail. The OTA provides volunteer resources to Ozark Trail land managers and the organization's top priorities are trail maintenance, further development (through construction of new connections in the trail system) and promotion of the trail as a regional recreational asset. The OTA's secondary focus is the long term vision of a trail stretching from St. Louis to the Arkansas border connecting the Ozark Trail to the Ozark Highlands Trail to create a 700+ mile thru-trail.

OTA volunteers keep the trail in top shape for users who will benefit from the positive impact on their health and wellness offered by the trail. Trail work brings together state, federal and private landowners to create an area for future generations to enjoy that is unique and nationally significant. The Ozark Trail Association is a family-friendly resource for all ages and individuals from a multitude of backgrounds and lifestyles that are passionate about conserving the great outdoors for the next generation. Over the last several years, the OTA's volunteers have contributed an average of 10,000 volunteer hours annually to construct and maintain the trail. The value of OTA volunteer hours alone over the first 10 years totaled \$1.7 million.

The OTA has received recognition from the USDA Forest Service as their National Volunteer Group award winner for 2013, along with the Region 9 awards for 2013 and 2008. Volunteers have also won several individual awards for their efforts from the National Park Service, American Trails, and American Hiking Society. Missouri was designated Best Trails State at the 2013 International Trails Symposium, thanks in part to our dedicated OTA volunteers.

In 2018, the OTA completed an 11 year-old trail project that consisted of constructing 13 miles of new trail. This section was a top priority because of the indisputable value it added to the OT as a trail of national significance.

The Ozark Trail Association is governed by a Board of Directors. The purpose of this operating plan is to describe what OTA intends to accomplish in 2019 towards the furtherance of its

mission, how it will go about it, what resources will be required, and who will be responsible for executing the OTA's programs. The operating plan provides valuable information to OTA's partner agencies, stakeholders, members, and donors.

OZARK TRAIL ASSOCIATION PROGRAMMATIC BUSINESS MODEL

As a non-profit organization, the OTA has been granted tax exempt status by the IRS by providing services for the public good through its programs. The OTA's programmatic business model was developed to describe the OTA's programs, the typical sources of funds for each program and the types of expenses usually incurred by each program. The model lists the following three programs for the OTA:

1. CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF NEW AND EXISTING TRAILS
2. PROMOTION OF THE OZARK TRAIL
3. DEVELOPMENT OF THE OZARK TRAIL

The OTA is a non-profit business which incurs general administrative expenses, overhead costs, and provides services for the public good. These overhead costs include insurance, cost of maintaining an office and website, accounting fees, and other costs associated with being a responsible business.

Revenues generated by non-profits are either "restricted funds" or "unrestricted funds." Revenue streams are also differentiated as either "program revenues" or "general revenues."

These terms are defined as follows:

- Restricted Funds: Occasionally donors may request that their donations go toward a specific program or purchase. The OTA honors these requests.
- Unrestricted Funds: These funds are generated by membership dues, general fundraising and some program revenues. The OTA pays in advance for project expenses associated with the Recreational Trails Program and the USFS Cost-Share Program out of unrestricted funds. Once these projects have been completed, the OTA is issued reimbursements which replenish the unrestricted fund. Unrestricted funds are important to any nonprofit and in particular to the OTA for the following reasons:
 1. Unrestricted funds can be used to cover any overhead costs not absorbed by program revenues.
 2. The OTA can allocate unrestricted funds to essential programs as directed by the board.
 3. Unrestricted funds can finance programs until reimbursement is received.
- Program Revenues: These are revenues generated through a specific program. For example, grants for construction of new trail or the mowing program. More details of expected program revenue can be found in the respective section of this Operating Plan.

- General Revenue: Examples of this type of revenue are membership dues, merchandise sales, or nonspecific donations in support of OTA's operations, i.e. all of its programs.

On the expenditure side, program expenses are detailed in the specific program budgets. It should be noted that the COO's salary is allocated between programs, fundraising and general administrative tasks.

2019 Operating Plan

General:

The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation, responsible for execution of OTA's programs as coordinated by the Operations Committee. Day-to-day activities, including operations and administrative functions, will be performed by the Chief Operations Officer.

MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING TRAILS

This task will be headed up by the Construction and Maintenance (C&M) Committee. Construction and maintenance tasks include monitoring and reporting trail conditions, overseeing the Adopt-a-Trail and sawyer programs, and ensuring that the trail is blazed according to policy. Furthermore, the C&M Committee has established standards for training and certifying crew leaders and event leaders, and recruiting individuals to serve in that capacity. They will oversee acquiring, maintaining and distributing all needed tools, including safety and first-aid equipment, and providing training in the use of such tools, including safety and first-aid equipment, procedures and policies, and are tasked with initiating and supervising work outings for both construction and maintenance projects of all types, including Mega events.

After trail is constructed, the Adopt-A-Trail Program plays a vital role in ensuring the corridor remains open, the path is properly signed and the organization is informed of trail conditions. 79% of the Ozark Trail is currently adopted and our goal is 100% adoption.

Since its inception, the OTA has constructed over 65 miles of new sustainable, single track trail. This mileage includes some re-routes of existing trails, but also involves filling in significant gaps like the 23-mile John Roth Memorial - Middle Fork Section completed in 2005. Currently, the OTA is working on the 3.5 mile Current River Spur of the Ozark Trail which will ultimately link the Ozark Trail to two state parks, Echo Bluff and Current River, which is the western terminus of this section. All of these accomplishments have primarily been completed by volunteers who have provided both design and layout services along with construction labor. In 2019, the OTA will continue its tradition of constructing new trail and maintaining over 401 miles of backcountry trail in Missouri, including the Ozark Trail and other connected spurs and loops.

Planned 2019 maintenance projects are described below:

1. Current River Spur of the Ozark Trail from Echo Bluff to Round Spring: The C&M Committee's current major project is trail construction of a 3.5 mile gap in the scenic Current River valley. This piece of trail will connect two state parks and the National Park Service Ozark National Scenic Riverways to the Ozark Trail, providing new

opportunities for hike-and-floats. 13 miles of this trail have been completed over the last few years and construction of the last piece of this section began in fall of 2018 and will continue throughout 2019 with two Mega events and several smaller events. This project is funded by a 2017 RTP grant administered by MoDNR, Division of State Parks and is expected to be complete by December of 2020.

2. Summer Mowing and Brushing- Mark Twain National Forest: This program will be planned in conjunction with the Mark Twain National Forest and is funded through the USFS Cost-Share. Plans this year include contracting paid labor by trail section. This process will be executed by the Construction and Maintenance Committee. (THIS SECTION WILL BE DEVELOPED FURTHER AFTER WE MEET WITH THE USFS ABOUT FINALIZATION OF THE BUDGET)
3. Blair Creek Mowing and Brushing: This C&M Committee project is funded by the 2017 RTP grant. This funding will help to maintain additional areas outside the Mark Twain National Forest and will assist in the rehabilitation of 26 miles of trail surface along the Blair Creek section of the Ozark Trail, including 1.5 miles of the Himont Trail and the white connector of the Brushy Creek Loop Trail.
4. Maintenance Outings: The OTA has scheduled eight maintenance outings for this spring and will continue volunteer maintenance events year-round to address non-adopted sections of trail and problem areas due to erosion, seasonal growth, and/or abuse. This activity is coordinated with OTA agency partners.
5. Adopt-A-Trail Program: The Adopt-A-Trail (AAT) Program is vital to maintaining the Ozark Trail. The majority of trail is currently adopted and opportunities to adopt are ongoing. AAT activities include keeping the surface free of sticks, rocks and other debris, pruning small limbs from the trail corridor, cleaning water bars and drainage ditches, and in cutting back encroaching vegetation to maintain a trail corridor. Other responsibilities include litter clean-up, maintaining the trailhead area, replacing missing trail signage and reporting vandalism and ATV damage. This program is organized and executed by the AAT Program Coordinator.
6. Sawyer Program: The sawyer program annually clears hundreds of miles of deadfall and hazard trees along the trail corridor. Over 30 volunteers have been certified through the USFS. The OTA hopes to coordinate at least one sawyer re-certification training in 2019. To help ensure timely re-certification and more regular trainings for new sawyers, the OTA Sawyer Coordinator has requested to become certified through the USFS as a sawyer trainer, along with one other volunteer. The OTA owns saws, safety gear and supplies and a sawyer report is sent out regularly to monitor/report results. The Sawyer Coordinator works with all OTC agency partners to identify problem areas and deploy sawyers.

7. Road Signing Project: Remaining 2015 RTP funds were re-allocated to include the purchase of trail signage. Trail signs for all road crossings, along with Carsonite posts, were purchased in the fall of 2018. These signs will be helpful for trail users, especially in the case of an emergency. Placement of these signs will involve coordination with partner land agencies and will engage the OTA's trail adopters.
8. Crew Leader Training: OTA held its first Crew Leader Training in August 2004. Crew leaders are trained in the standards of building sustainable trail. Recognizing the value of crew leaders to the organization, the C&M Committee will be making plans to hold a training session in 2019.

Program Budget Summary:

Program Revenues:	\$58,772.00	Program Expenses:	\$42,000.00
		Volunteer Hours: 10,054	Value: \$86,704.00
			Total Value: \$128,704.00

PROMOTION OF THE OZARK TRAIL

This program consists of efforts to promote the use and awareness of the Ozark Trail. Education and outreach support OTA's efforts to maintain the trail since a well-used trail is easier to maintain. Athletic events help to enhance its reputation as an outdoor recreational opportunity in the region and the nation.

Planned 2019 promotion projects are described below:

1. Special Events: The Ozark Trail Association has four special events scheduled for 2019. These events attract folks from around the country and are a significant generator of unrestricted funds. These events are coordinated by the Special Events Committee.
 - a. *Trivia Night*- The annual Trivia Night will be held on February 9th at the Affton Elks Lodge. Last year, there were nearly 300 in attendance. The evening's activities include trivia, silent auction and a raffle. This event is a great opportunity for OTA volunteers to introduce their friends and family to the organization.
 - b. *OT Challenge Hike*- On May 4th, the OTA will hold the third annual OT Challenge Hike, based out of Bass' River Resort and directed by Steve Liescheidt. This event involves a 17.5 mile hike on the Courtois section and each participant is required to raise \$1,250. This is the OTA's biggest fundraiser and has been a very successful and fun event. New participants to the Challenge Hike have also expanded their involvement to other OTA special events and work outings.
 - c. *Devil's Tollgate, The Race*- Following the success of the Taum-A-Hawk Hiking Race, this will be an expansion to also include trail running. This event is based out of Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park and is scheduled for June 8th. Teams will race from Taum Sauk Mountain SP to the Hwy N trailhead. Participation in the

race more than doubled from 2017-2018 and is expected to grow even more in 2019 with expanded race categories. Trail runners, Ryan Maher and Jake Grossbauer, are co-directors of this race.

- d. *One-Eyed Dog Mountain Bike Race*- This race is will be a changeover from the OT100/50 mile mountain bike race and will be a partnership with the Team Noah Foundation. This partnership will benefit two non-profits with worthy causes and will keep the OTA involved with the mountain biking community. The OTA will continue to benefit from promotion and fundraising from this event. Matt Johnson, Team Noah Foundation President, will serve as race director and the OTA will assist in securing the USFS permit and volunteer resources preparing for the race.
2. Publications and Merchandise: The OTA has created section maps, which are available for purchase by trail users to aid in planning and safety during hiking. The OTA has also recently acquired the Ozark Trail Guidebook publication. Merchandise displaying the OTA brand is also available for purchase which helps to publicize the organization and our mission.
3. Social Media Outreach: With a dedicated following on Facebook of more than 9,000 “likes”, the OTA’s Communications Committee is transitioning to an improved communications style and more consistent brand throughout social media platforms. Regular email blasts will continue to be sent to 2,100+ subscribers via Constant Contact and improvements are continually ongoing to the website (ozarktrail.com) which receives more than 24,000 hits per month.
4. Booths & Outreach Events: The Education and Outreach Committee makes several public appearances throughout the year spreading word of the work of the OTA and the recreational opportunities available on the OT. These opportunities include Junior Ranger Day at Alley Spring, MV Bike & Outdoor Expo, Bass Pro Fitness Expo, Meet Me Outdoors Festival and more.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE OZARK TRAIL

This program focuses on the long term vision of the trail as a long trail extending from St. Louis to the Arkansas border and connecting to the Ozark Highlands Trail. To protect the trail, the OTA advocates for public policy that provides adequate resources for trails on public land.

Planned 2019 development projects are described below:

1. Ozark Trail Council Meetings: The OTA is scheduled to hold Ozark Trail Council meetings twice per year. OTA is chair of the Ozark Trail Council, whose purpose is to promote the Ozark Trail; to establish guidelines for its construction, maintenance, marking, and mapping; to publicize the trail; and generally to provide an organizational framework within which all matters relating to the Ozark Trail in Missouri can be discussed and resolved. The OTA works in partnership with landowners, land managers, and trail users,

which are all represented on the Council. Key members include: Mark Twain National Forest, Ozark National Scenic Riverways, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Pioneer Forest, the Sierra Club, the Ozark Society, the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, Missouri Backcountry Horsemen, and the Conservation Federation of Missouri.

2. Ozark Highlands Trail Communications: The OTA will continue communications with the OHTA, who has shared quite a bit of recent success in their plans to connect the OHT to the southern end of the OT. Once they reach the state line, there is 15 miles of Army Corps' land near Tecumseh, MO where trail can be built. North of there, is a piece of property that may require a bushwhack route due to environmental concerns before reaching private land along the Norfolk River near the southern terminus of the OT. Development of trail from the North Fork section south to the Arkansas border is an ongoing project.
3. Planning and Trail Development (PTD) Committee: This Committee will meet throughout 2019 and is responsible for recommending to the Board the future course of the trail, including trail design, layout and general scope within the vision promulgated by the Corporation/OTA. The PTD Committee applies for and maintains appropriate Memorandums of Understanding, easements, usage and public access commitments, and other needed agreements with various land managers and owners, and maintains and updates the status and designation of the Ozark Trail as a National Recreation Trail.
4. Advocacy & Representation Statewide: The OTA President regularly represents the OTA at federal and state meetings, as well as seminars, in the area surrounding the OT. Those partners include the USFS Collaborative Partnership, Meramec River Recreation Association, Meramec Valley Trail Association, American Trails' International Trails Symposium, and the MO Department of Conservation Collaborative. The President continues communications with AmeriCorps St. Louis, the Aurora, CO National Civilian Conservations Corps, and the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. The OTA maintains membership in the following organizations: MO Bike & Pedestrian Federation, the Open Space Council, and the Conservation Federation of Missouri, along with various trail towns' Chambers of Commerce.

Program Budget Summary:

Program Revenues:	\$58,772.00	Program Expenses:	\$42,000.00
		Volunteer Hours: 10,054	Value: <u>\$86,704.00</u>
			Total Value: \$128,704.00