



Crooked Creek Water Trail



Crooked Creek is known for smallmouth bass fishing but it offers much more for visitors seeking solitude, exploration and a float trip down a river. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission designated the 22-mile Crooked Creek Water Trail in 2012.

RIVER CONDITIONS

Under normal conditions, paddlers can expect to cover about 2 miles per hour on this stream with deep pools, fast chutes, riffles and small waves. The water level in the creek depends entirely on rainfall. This peaceful stream can turn into a raging torrent very quickly, especially during heavy spring rains. Paddlers should seek weather and water-level information before beginning their trip.

A U.S. Geological Survey gauge reads conditions near Kelley's Slab at the Fred Berry Conservation Education Center on Crooked Creek: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/>. A moderate level for floating the creek is 12-12.5 feet. Use caution at Kelley's Slab, which can be hazardous under some conditions.

DON'T GET A TICKET!

According to Arkansas law, children 12 and under must wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket and everyone aboard must have one ready to use. Vessels 16 feet and longer must have a throwable life preserver aboard. Glass containers are illegal in boats such as canoes and kayaks, which can be easily swamped. Paddlers must securely fasten cooler lids, use attached, closeable trash containers and put beverages in floating holders.

EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION

The Fred Berry Conservation Education Center on Crooked Creek covers 421 acres along a 2.75-mile bend on the creek. The center includes interpretive trails, outdoor and indoor learning areas, and access to the creek.

FISHING

Crooked Creek—a Blue Ribbon Smallmouth Bass Stream—is well known for its feisty smallmouth bass. Check current AGFC fishing regulations. Crank and spinner baits retrieved across riffles, or live bait and soft plastic lures worked in deep holes with large rocks and other structures, are recommended. The creek is home to largemouth bass, Ozark bass, green sunfish, bluegill and catfish.

CAMPING

For those planning longer routes, primitive camping is available at Snow Access and Brooksher Crooked Creek Preserve, which has no road access. The Brooksher property is on river right between mile markers 36 and 35, just upstream from the railroad trestle. *Paddlers also may camp at Fred Berry Conservation Education Center on Crooked Creek with permission from the center's manager. Camping is limited to one night in each camping area.

WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

The creek flows through rolling pastureland, cedar glades, bluffs and tree-lined banks. Oak-hickory forests, willow, hackberry, pawpaw, catalpa and black walnut provide habitat for mink, beaver, deer and river otters. Watch for belted kingfishers, ospreys, wood ducks and herons. Bald eagles migrate from fall to early spring; some are year-round residents.



Smallmouth bass

Mike Wintroath



Photos by Jeff Williams

Important Numbers

- Marion County EMS 911
- Marion County Sheriff 870-449-4236
- Stop Poaching Hotline 800-482-9262
- Fred Berry Conservation Education Center on Crooked Creek 870-449-3484

Our Partners

Partners in this project are the Arkansas Canoe Club and The Nature Conservancy.



Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
2 Natural Resources Drive
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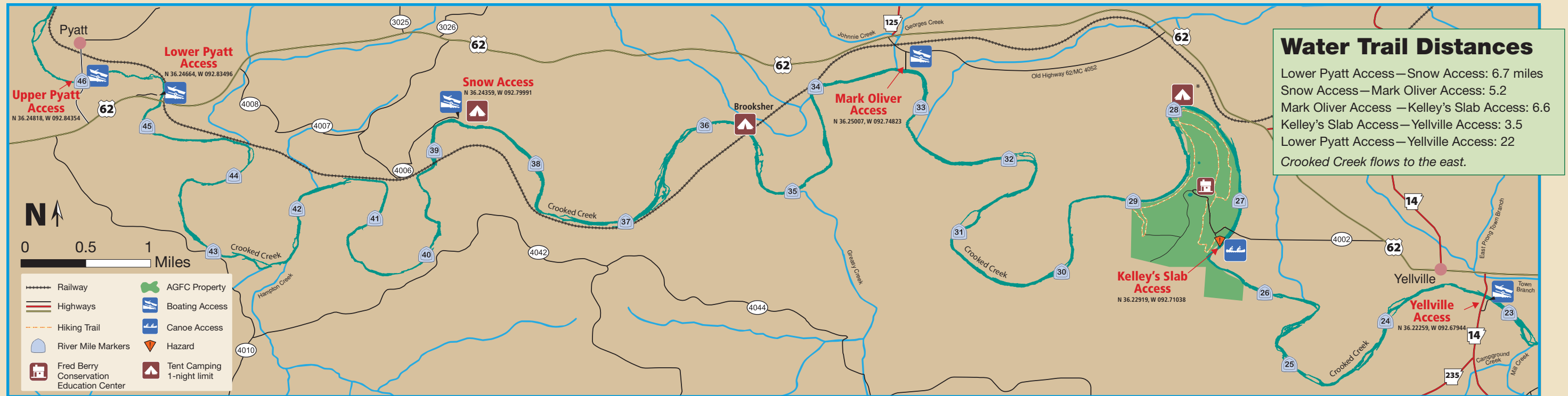
agfc.com/watertrails



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PYATT ACCESSES



Jeff Williams

Upper Pyatt Access, a primitive launch site, is about a mile upstream of Lower Pyatt Access. It's on the east side of the U.S. Highway 62 Spur bridge south of Pyatt. Lower Pyatt Access is on the north side of the U.S. Highway 62 bridge over Crooked Creek in western Marion County.

SNOW ACCESS



Jeff Williams

From Snow on U.S. Highway 62 in western Marion County, take Marion County Road 4006 south. Continue on 4006 (bear left at 4007 split) about 1.3 miles and turn left at railroad tracks. Continue about 0.7 miles to access.

MARK OLIVER ACCESS



Jeff Williams

From U.S. Highway 62 in western Marion County, turn south on Old U.S. Highway 62/MC 4052 and watch for the Mark Oliver Access sign.

KELLEY'S SLAB ACCESS



Kirsten Bartlow

To reach Kelley's Slab, turn on Marion County Road 4002 from U.S. Highway 62 at the western edge of Yellville. Continue 1 mile to Crooked Creek. The access is on the east side of the creek at the slab, slightly downstream of the 4002 bridge.

YELLVILLE ACCESS



Mike Wintroath

The access is in Yellville City Park, which is reached via Arkansas Highway 14 immediately south of Yellville.