

POLICY FOR REASSIGNMENT OF CLUB MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES
(As adopted by the Board, April 2001)

A section of the Appalachian Trail that has been assigned by ATC to a particular maintaining club may be reassigned either (1) with the consent of the affected club(s) or (2) following determination that the club is unable to fulfill its management and maintenance responsibilities as defined in the ATC/club memorandum of understanding.

I. Change of Trail Assignment With Consent of Maintaining Club(s)

- A. Any A.T.-maintaining club wishing to change its existing assignment shall submit a written request for that change to the vice chair of the region in which the Trail section is located.
1. If the change would affect multiple A.T.-maintaining clubs, the written request shall be signed by the presidents of all affected clubs. The request should state the reasons for the proposed change, the specific location of the section to be reassigned, and the affected mileage.
 2. If the request involves assignment of a section of the A.T. to a club that has had no previous Trail-maintenance assignment, the request should also contain information to substantiate the club's capabilities to manage the Trail section, including the size of the club's membership; trail construction, maintenance, or management experience; and prior activities in behalf of the Appalachian Trail, if any.
- B. Upon receipt of a request for change of Trail assignment by consent, the regional vice chair shall convene a Regional Trail Assessment and Reassignment Committee (RTARC), which shall consist of the regional vice chair (as chair) and the regional members of the ATC Board of Managers. The regional representative shall serve upon the RTARC in a staff advisory capacity.

The RTARC shall review the request for change of Trail assignment. If the RTARC approves the request, the details of the proposed change and the recommendation of the RTARC shall be submitted to a vote by the ATC Board of Managers at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

II. Change of Trail Assignment Without Consent of Maintaining Club

- A. (i) If a request for change of Trail assignment is not accompanied by the consent of the maintaining club(s) affected by the requested change, or (ii) if the regional vice chair is made aware of the need for a change of Trail assignment because of complaints from hikers, agency partners, regional field staff, or others, the regional vice chair shall convene the Regional Trail Assessment and Reassignment Committee (RTARC).
1. The RTARC shall inform the maintaining club in writing of the request. The maintaining club will be asked if it is willing to relinquish the involved section of the Trail. If not, the maintaining club will be asked to provide the RTARC with information to substantiate the club's capabilities to manage the Trail section, including the size of the club's membership; trail-building or -maintenance experience; and other management activities it has undertaken in behalf of the Appalachian Trail.
 2. The RTARC will evaluate the need for a change and will make a recommendation to the ATC Board of Managers whether to make the change. The primary considerations of the RTARC shall be the condition of the Trail section and the manner in which the maintaining club carries out its management responsibilities as a maintaining club of ATC.
 3. If the physical condition of the Trail section is the complaint, the RTARC will conduct a site visit to assess the Trail section. At least one member of the ATC Board of Managers for that region, at least one representative of the maintaining club, and the ATC regional representative shall participate in the site visit. The vice chair shall notify all parties of the date of the site visit.
 4. After completion of its inquiry, the RTARC shall make a written recommendation to the maintaining club of a course of action to cure the problem(s), an offer of assistance by ATC or other local maintaining clubs, and a schedule for correcting the problem(s).
 5. In the event the maintaining club is unwilling or unable to cure the problem(s) defined in the recommendation of the RTARC, within the parameters required by the RTARC, the RTARC shall report that failure to the chair of the Appalachian Trail Conference with a recommendation to withdraw the maintenance responsibility of the maintaining club. The recommendation shall either identify the successor trail club that will assume this maintenance responsibility or indicate the steps that have been and will be taken to identify such a successor Trail club. A final decision on the recommendation will be made by the ATC Board of Managers.