



Helping Communities Leverage Their Outdoor Recreation Assets



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BAILEYS TRAIL SYSTEM FAQs

Trail Conditions & Weather Conditions

Do trails close for rainy or muddy conditions?

- Trail closures are determined by the Wayne National Forest and typically only occur seasonally. Each trail fares differently in the rain, some can get very wet and some will be fine! We ask people to use their best judgment. Typically, if shoes or bike tires are sinking into mud that would be a section of trail we recommend avoiding as to not cause damage that requires repair. If you can reroute or walk your bike that would help prevent damage.
- The local group Athens Bicycle Club has a [facebook group](#) where you can ask and answer questions and share information around trails. They would be a good group to ask about your concerns and if anyone has observed subpar conditions on the Baileys they could be able to refer you to other local trails that may be in better condition. You can also check the [Baileys Trail System](#) page on TrailForks.
- Check out weather conditions on the trails here: <https://baileystrailssystem.org/trails/trail-conditions/>

Why don't new trails open immediately?

- When a trail is new, it needs to go through a very important process called compaction. Compaction is caused by trail users traveling along the trail surface and compressing the trail surface during dry conditions. While all the trails are compacted using a plate compactor when they are built, it is the repetitive use during dry conditions that facilitates long-term trail

sustainability. New trails that are not yet compacted do not shed water as effectively as older, already-compacted trails.

- When trails are used when they are wet, this can cause damage, as trail users will create ruts or divots in the trail surface which hold extra water and create further ruts and divots. This is when we see extra erosion, trail users going around mud spots causing widening, and deep puddles which impact the user experience. We need good, consistently dry conditions to open our new trails so they can appropriately be compacted and avoid long-term damage.
- Use of the trails in wet conditions causes costly damage that impacts the quality of the trail for everyone after just a single wet trail rider. Should trail users ride the new trails during this closure period, potential solutions to mitigate trail damage could include opening the mountain bike season later in the year at the Baileys, investing funding that could be used for more miles instead in trail repairs to unopened trails, or keeping new trails closed longer.

Trail Closure Information

Which months are the trails open for mountain biking?

- We typically open for the season at the beginning of April and close the trails to mountain biking in early January. It is ultimately up to the discretion of The Wayne National Forest.

Why does the Baileys close in the winter to mountain bikes?

- The Baileys Trail System closes in the winter month to mountain bikes to protect the trails over the long term. The Baileys Trail System has been constructed to the highest standard in the industry by professionals, however, dirt trails are extremely prone to rut damage during winter because of the freeze thaw cycles process soils experience during colder months.
- Freeze thaw cycles refer to the thawing and refreezing process soils experience during colder months. Ruts in a trail collect and channel water causing increased erosion of the trail surface and trap water, creating long-term damage. Fixing these areas eats up trail volunteer time and funding that could be used for building more miles, instead of trail repairs.

It is important to recognize that all user groups have an impact on trails, so while we stay open to foot traffic in the winter we encourage hikers to be aware of the freeze thaw cycle to protect these resources so they can be available for all to enjoy for many years to come!

When will the Baileys adopt a “frozen: go, mud: no” policy?

- We understand that many folks would like us to adopt a similar policy to CORA's to improve our online condition reporting measures. At this time, our seasonal closure is mandated by the Forest Service as our trails are located on USFS land, which follow a similar pattern of seasonal closures across the country.

What is the purpose of prescribed burns?

- Prescribed burns are intentional fires that are set and managed by professional wildland firefighters. They also emit less harmful smoke and have less severe impact on the environment. They help reduce fuel buildup, protect communities, and promote healthier ecosystems. It's a controlled process with positive outcomes. For the safety of the public and wildland firefighters, the Baileys Trail System is typically temporarily closed to visitors for several days beginning on the day of each prescribed burn. Specific dates of each prescribed burn will be announced 1-5 days in advance as determined by forecasted weather conditions.

Trail Safety

How can I make a trail report?

- There are a few ways you can make a trail report! Email info to reports@baileystrailssystem.org , call (740) 677- 0113, or follow the link below.
<https://baileystrailssystem.org/make-a-trail-report/?fbclid=IwAR21D1pCArBkCIBJF5nA7hYCNSM0CswbitF45-s2PbIBkbXJW-aMK3uAR-8>

Restrictions

Are dogs allowed on the trails?

- Except for seeing eye dogs, all pets must be placed on a leash no longer than six feet when using designated trails, at trailheads, or within any developed recreation areas.

Which areas are private property?

- When you're out enjoying the Bailey's Trail System, please always make sure you, your pets, and your vehicles are actually on National Forest System land! The national forest is a patchwork of public lands interspersed with privately-owned lands and we want to respect our neighbors. It's your responsibility to know where you are and to not trespass.
- Get a free, downloadable map of National Forest System lands here: <https://data.fs.usda.gov/.../states-regions/states.php>
- The red marks you may notice while on the trails are boundary markers created and maintained by the Forest Service. Red paint is the Forest Service's universal marker signifying a boundary between private National Forest System lands.

Can you hunt for deer during gun season along any of the trails?

- Hunting is generally allowed anywhere in the Wayne National Forest, with a few key exceptions. Hunting is not permitted in or within 150 yards of a building, campsite, developed recreation site (such as campgrounds, picnic areas, designated swimming areas, etc.), or occupied area (such as parking areas and trailheads). Discharging a firearm is also prohibited from, into, or across any parking area, trail, boat ramp, or road. Everywhere else is public hunting land!

Are e-bikes allowed on the trails?

- Electric bicycles (e-bikes) are not permitted on the Baileys Trail System. National Forest Service policy classifies e-bikes as a motorized vehicle. Because of this classification, e-bikes are only allowed on National Forest System trails designated as "motorized trails."
- The Baileys Trail System is not designated as a motorized trail. It is also placed in a portion of the Wayne National Forest that does not allow motorized recreation. In order to allow e-bikes, the trail system would need to be re-designated as a motorized trail, and the management unit direction in the Wayne National Forest's land and resource management plan would need to be changed.

The process to make these two changes would involve amending the land and resource management plan, going through the environmental review process, performing public engagement, updating the motor vehicle use map, and other procedural steps. This would require significant investment. At this time, there are no plans to redesignate the Baileys Trail System, or amend the land and resource management plan.

Trail Building Information

What makes the trails so expensive to build?

- The Baileys Trail System was designed by the leading professionals in the industry and is currently being built by professional trail-building companies with machines. Trail costs per mile range from \$25,000 - \$40,000, not including the cost of construction oversight and trail builder mobilization to and from the site.
- Costs range due to various factors including special features, contractor availability, design specifications (ex., number of creek crossings / armored sections or culverts), and variability of ground surfaces to build on.

Design and construction by professionals ensure the Baileys Trail System is built according to industry best practices, which will reduce maintenance needs and solidifies the longevity of the investment in the trails due to the potential for extra long-term trail sustainability and user enjoyment.

Location & Lodging

Where is the Baileys located?

- Our trails are located throughout the Appalachian foothills of Southeast Ohio, with 58 miles of trails currently open.
- We have two trailheads, the Chauncey Dover Park Trailhead is located at 8443 W Baileys Rd, Millfield, Ohio. The Doanville-York Trailhead can be found at 5034 W Baileys Rd, Nelsonville, Ohio. A third trailhead is planned in the Village of Buchtel, connecting to the Snowfork Event Center.

Is dispersed camping allowed at the Baileys Trail System?

- Dispersed camping is allowed at the Wayne National Forest except in developed areas or areas marked as day-use only. Campers can park their vehicle fully off the road and then set their tent up on National Forest System land. Visitors must not block Forest Service gates when they park. There is a 14-day limit to dispersed camping.
- The Utah Pond in the Baileys Trail System is a day-use-only site, so camping is prohibited. However, the rest of the Baileys within the National Forest is open to dispersed camping.
- Campers should be aware of what land they are on at all times, as there are many private land inholdings in the forest, and there are no established primitive campsites at this time.
- Learn more about dispersed camping at the Wayne National Forests website:
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/activity/wayne/recreation/camping-cabins/?recid=6203&actid=34>

Are there lodging options close to the Baileys?

- We have some lodging recommendations on our website:
<https://baileystrailsystem.org/explore-the-region/>
- There are additional options listed on the Athens Visitor Page:
<https://athensohio.com/stay/>
- Other camping information can be found here:
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/activity/wayne/recreation/camping-cabins?fbclid=IwAR1AINC3fdpH7hwTsd7tX4YORF5III95FyJfTURhERkviS-Q7sfpny-bccE>

Where are other places I can camp for the weekend?

- There is camping at Strouds Run State Park, in the Wayne National Forest at Burr Oak Cove Campground, and additional private campgrounds in the area can be found on Hipcamp.
- Other local lodging options include Bicycle Barn Tiny House, Baileys Basecamp, and Benton's on the Baileys.

Bike Rentals

How much do bike rentals cost?

- Youth bikes cost \$25 per day and adult bikes start at \$40 per day.
- A 35% discount will be available for students, upon presentation of a valid student ID, and residents of the following local Ohio counties: Athens, Morgan, Washington, Meigs, Vinton, Hocking, and Perry, upon presentation of a valid driver's license or government-issued ID. Discounts will be applied upon bike pick-up.

Are there kids bike sizes available to rent?

- We have 7 total different youth bikes currently. View the sizes and styles of our different youth bikes here: www.baileystrailsystem.org/bike-rentals/

How can I get involved/support the Baileys Trail System?

[VOLUNTEER:](#)

- Maintaining our network of high-quality trails is only possible through the generous stewardship of our volunteers.

[BECOME A MEMBER:](#)

- Support the Baileys Trail System by becoming a member! Your membership fee goes directly to building new trails and maintaining existing ones. A membership is active for one year following purchase. Contributor, Supporter and Advocate memberships are available.

[BECOME A SPONSOR](#)

- SUPPORT OHIO'S THRIVING OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMY

[MAKE A DONATION](#)

- Your donation supports the trail system's development, maintenance, and mission to integrate conservation, outdoor recreation, and economic development to strengthen and inspire communities in Appalachian Ohio.

Events

What is ORCA and why was it created?

- ORCA is a council of governments created by multiple Athens County jurisdictions that agreed to holistically and sustainably utilize outdoor recreation assets in Appalachian Ohio to provide communities economic, social, environmental and health benefits..
- Current ORCA members are within Athens County where we secure investments to manage and develop the Baileys Trail System in partnership with the Wayne National Forest.
- ORCA utilizes a multi-sector skilled advisory board, made up of a regional coalition of 17 partner counties, and a dedicated nonprofit partner to sustainably plan, develop, manage, and promote outdoor recreation assets in Appalachian Ohio.
- ORCA was able to advance the development of the Baileys Trail System due to citizen and stakeholder support, proven viability of the project's tailored plan, and hard work and determination of staff and project partners.