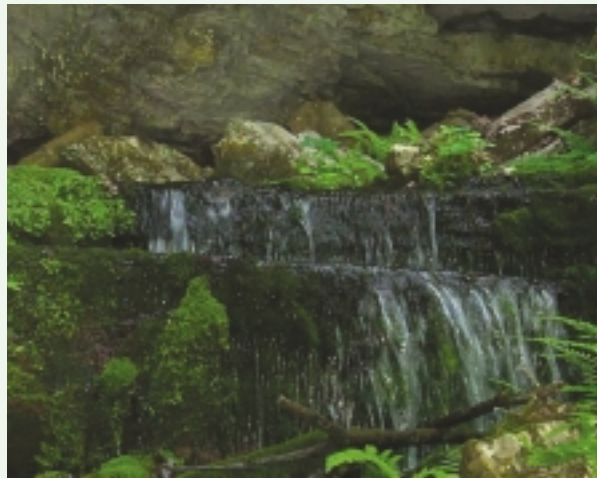




## Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission



**Preserving the  
Natural Landscape  
of Arkansas**



### About Our Mission

Even though the natural landscape of Arkansas has been altered, there are still areas within the state that remain relatively undisturbed. High-quality natural communities that remain, whether they are prairie or forest, swamp or glade, represent remnants of the original landscape. Besides providing us with a glimpse into what Arkansas used to look like, these areas also provide critical habitat for plants and animals that are now rare across the state.

One of our duties is to identify and protect these remaining exemplary natural communities.

As Arkansas continues to grow and develop, it is vital that we protect the best examples of our remaining natural heritage. By focusing our attention upon those natural communities and species that require the most protection, we can help to ensure that Arkansas's natural diversity is not lost.

### Tracking Natural Diversity

One method the ANHC uses to protect rare plants, animals and natural communities is by maintaining up-to-date information on their location and status.

This data is maintained within the ANHC's Natural Heritage Inventory, and can range from the location of an Interior Least Tern nest site on a sand bar to a remnant tallgrass prairie.

Information from the Inventory is a powerful conservation tool and can be provided, based upon a set fee schedule, to organizations and individuals

involved in conservation efforts, economic development, scientific research and education.

### Natural Areas

Lands within the ANHC's System of Natural Areas represent some of the best, and last, remaining examples of many of the state's original natural communities. For example:

Konecny, Railroad and Roth Prairie Natural Areas protect some of the last remaining acres of tallgrass prairie in eastern Arkansas. Only 1% of the original prairie that once occurred across this region currently remains.

Natural Areas also provide vital habitat for rare plant and animal species, some of which are now threatened or endangered, such as:

Pine City Natural Area which provides critical habitat for the only population of red-cockaded woodpeckers in the Mississippi Delta, and Warren Prairie Natural Area which contains the largest Arkansas population of the threatened plant, Geocarpon.

Natural Areas are managed to ensure they are preserved for future generations, while allowing them to be appreciated now. Some of the work that goes into maintaining these lands includes prescribed burns to mimic the incidence of fire before settlement and monitoring and removal of invasive plant species.

Public access to Natural Areas varies, as some contain terrain that could be treacherous. Others,

however, provide limited access for activities such as hiking and bird-watching. Some Natural Areas offer hunting opportunities according to regulations established in cooperation with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

Information about each Natural Area within the System, including driving directions, can be found on our website and in our Annual Report to the Governor and General Assembly presented on December 1st each year. Our latest report may be accessed from the website, or by requesting a copy via telephone or written request.

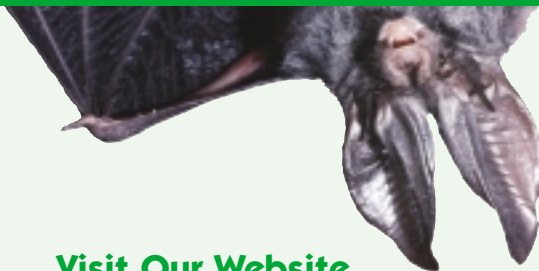
### Education

ANHC staff work with educators and students to provide information and develop resources specific to their needs. Available resources include:

- Curriculum guides, lesson plans, maps, posters and other printed materials
- Teacher workshops, classroom programs with hands-on activities and general presentations

Some locations within the System of Natural Areas even represent opportunities for students to learn in "outdoor classrooms."





## Visit Our Website

Our website contains additional information about our agency, as well as a diverse array of resources regarding natural diversity in Arkansas.

Downloadable resources include:

Latest Annual Report to the Governor and General Assembly

Comprehensive lists of rare species

Descriptions and Locations of Natural Areas

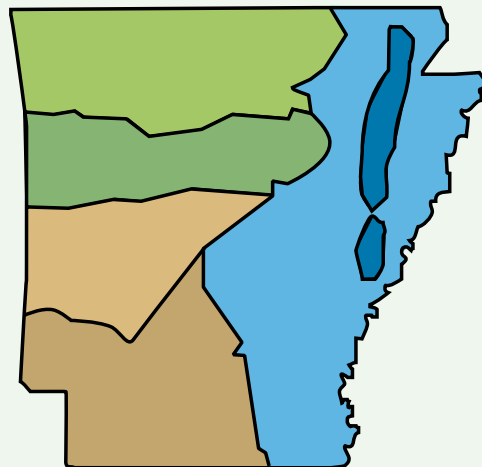
Natural Area maps

Fact sheets about Natural Areas and rare species

Teacher resources (activity guide, lesson plans)

Scientific publications by ANHC staff

## Natural Divisions of Arkansas



-  Ozark Mountains
-  Arkansas River Valley
-  Ouachita Mountains
-  West Gulf Coastal Plain
-  Mississippi Alluvial Plain
-  Crowley's Ridge

## Natural Arkansas at Your Fingertips

To learn more about us, visit our website.



[www.naturalheritage.com](http://www.naturalheritage.com)



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An agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage