



Lake Ouachita Vista (LOViT) Trail



Hiking

Biking



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Trail Total Length: About 19.5 miles, one way (including all loops and spurs).

Travel time one-way: About 12 to 14 hours (less if loops and spurs are eliminated).

Surface type: Unsurfaced.

Trail Marking: White rectangles

Difficulty Level: The west end is easy to moderate. The east end is moderate to difficult. See Trail Summary on next page.

Recommended Season: Fall through spring.

Safety: Treat water from springs, streams and lakes before drinking.

Beware of traffic at road crossings.

Trail Highlights: The Lake Ouachita Vista Trail (LOViT) travels up, down and along mountain slopes through a mixed hardwood and pine forest, opening up at several places to spectacular views of the lake before you.

Beautiful displays of wildflowers await hikers and bikers during the spring and summer months.

Along the trail, pits left by quartz speculators and the remains of a moonshiner's still are evidence of the area's colorful history.

Plans call for the trail to extend 35 to 40 miles along the shores of Lake Ouachita, running through private resorts and public campgrounds and ultimately to Blakely Dam to the east.

Surrounding Areas:

- **Lake Ouachita** offers visitors a broad array of water sports opportunities, restaurants, and overnight accommodations.
- Camp, swim, and picnic at **Tompkins Bend Recreation Area** (closed in winter) on **Lake Ouachita**.
- **Charlton Recreation Area** (closed in winter) on Highway 270 also offers opportunities for camping swimming and hiking. The **Charlton Trail** begins at **Charlton Recreation Area** and ends at **Crystal Springs Campground** on **Lake Ouachita**.

For More Information:

Womble Ranger Station
1523 Highway 270 East
Mount Ida, AR 71957
(870) 867-2101

(1 mile east of Mount Ida on U.S. Highway 270.)

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U.S. Forest Service
Ouachita National Forest

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Vicksburg District



Trail Summary

Mile 0 - Mile 4.75: This trail segment begins at the Denby Bay trailhead and ends at the Tompkins Bend trailhead. Terrain is easy to moderate difficulty and is suitable for most age groups and abilities. Hikers and bikers who arrange to take the Sunset Vista spur at sunset can watch the sun disappear slowly into the lake.

Mile 4.75 - Mile 9.75: While suitable for most age groups, the trail does become more difficult. After leaving the Tompkins Bend trailhead, it crosses spring-fed streams and passes old quartz crystal mines on its way to the Joplin Trailhead. During winter months, the view from the Eagle Vista Spur often includes bald eagle sightings.

Mile 9.75 - Mile 14: With five creek crossings and one mile of steep climbing that includes two switchbacks, the trail becomes very difficult for both hikers and bikers. After arriving at the picnic area at the Hickory Nut Mountain trailhead, a 1.1 mile hike brings visitors to the spectacular views from Lake Ouachita Vista.

Mile 14 - Mile 19.5: From the Hickory Nut Mountain trailhead, the trail passes by the site of the Hickory Nut fire tower, crosses Road 50 and then follows a small creek with rock outcrops.

Directions to West End Trailheads from Hot Springs:

Denby Bay Trailhead: Go west on Hwy 270 for about 22 miles, turn right on the road to Tompkins Bend Recreation Area. Go about one block and turn left. The road terminates after about 0.5 mile at the trailhead parking lot.

Homestead Trailhead: Follow the above instructions except stay on the road to Tompkins Bend Recreation Area for about 1.5 miles until you see the trail signs.

Tompkins Bend Trailhead: Follow the above instructions except stay on the road to Tompkins Bend Recreation Area until you reach the trailhead at the Tompkins Bend Campground entrance.

Directions to West End Trailheads from Mount Ida:

All trailheads: Go east from Mount Ida on Hwy 270 for about 9 miles, turn left on the road to Tompkins Bend Recreation Area and follow the above instructions to the trailhead of your choice.

Directions to East End Trailheads from Hot Springs:

Joplin Trailhead: Go west on Hwy 270 for about 19.5 miles, turn right on Mountain Harbor Road at Joplin. Go about one block and turn right at the first road. Trailhead parking is about 0.4 mile on the right.

Hickory Nut Mountain Trailhead: Go west on Hwy 270 for about 17.5 miles, turn right on the road to Hickory Nut Mountain/Lake Ouachita Vista. Go about 3.5 miles and turn left to the Hickory Nut Mountain picnic area. Trailhead parking is past the picnic area.

Road 47 and 47A: Go west on Hwy 270 for about 17.5 miles, turn right on the road to Hickory Nut Mountain/Lake Ouachita Vista. Go about 1 mile and turn right on Road 47. Go about 2 miles and park at the junction of roads 47 and 47a.

Directions to East End Trailheads from Mount Ida:

Joplin Trailhead: Go east on Hwy 270 for about 12 miles, turn left on Mountain Harbor Road at Joplin and follow the above directions to the trailhead.

Hickory Nut Mountain Trailhead: Go east on Hwy 270 for about 14 miles, turn left on the road to Hickory Nut Mountain/Lake Ouachita Vista and follow the above directions.

Road 47 and 47A: Go east on Hwy 270 for about 14 miles, turn left on the road to Hickory Nut Mountain/Lake Ouachita Vista. Go about 1 mile and turn right on Road 47. Go about 2 miles and park at the junction of roads 47 and 47a.

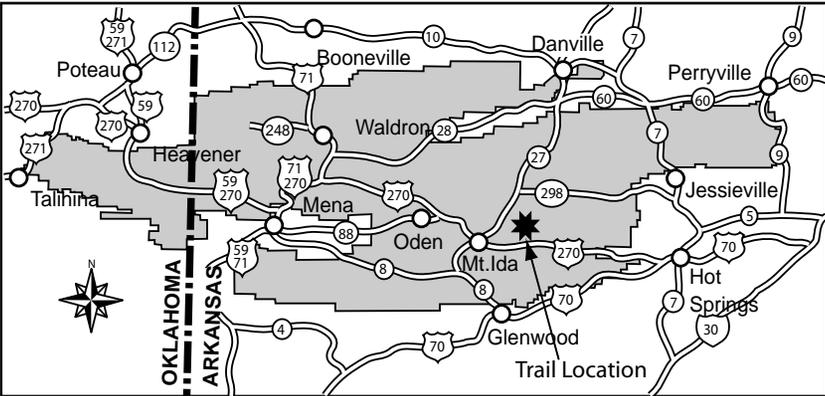


USGS 7.5 minute Quadrangle: McGraw Mountain

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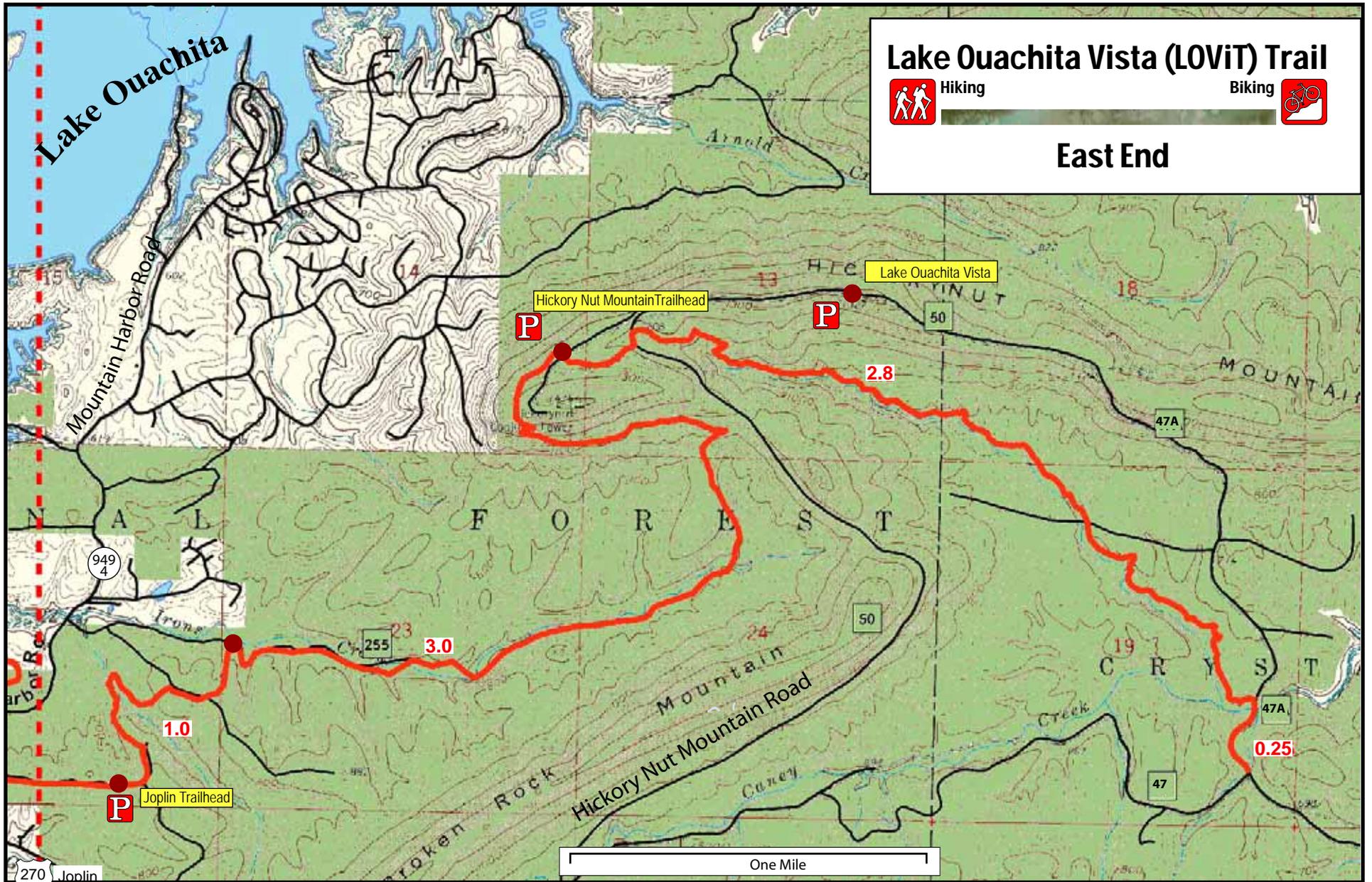
Hiking Biking

West End



0.25	Trail with Segment Mileage	162	County Road
	Parking/Trailhead	949/3	State Road
	Federal Highway		National Forest

- The Lake Ouachita Vista Trail is a joint project of the:
- Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee
 - Montgomery County
 - Mount Ida Chamber of Commerce
 - Montgomery County Health Advisory Board
 - Lake Ouachita Resort Owners Association
 - Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
 - Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism
 - Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - Ouachita National Forest (U.S. Forest Service)



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East End

Hot Springs
About 21 Miles →

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