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**On our cover:** *The Roundup Riders of the Rockies on an annual trail ride in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado. (Photograph courtesy of Chip Bromfield/ Pro-Motion, Ltd.)*

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## American Trails Magazine

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Editor: **Stuart H. Macdonald**

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## Editorial

### The Cow and the Steer and trails as public investment

In recent years we have heard a lot of talk about deficits, debt, and the perils of public spending. At all levels there have been cutbacks and an increasing aversion to public funding. Trails, too, are threatened with reduced funding. Meanwhile, your tax dollars are still paying for federal crop insurance programs for tobacco growers and price support for sugar.

This leads to the parable of the Cow and the Steer. A Steer is fed (often subsidized corn) and fattened only to become steaks and hamburger—consumed and gone. A Cow, on the other hand, produces milk year after year. When politicians criticize “spending” they imply that public money is consumed and gone—and indeed much of it is.

But we need to make the case for trails as a productive use of public funding. It is the investment in infrastructure—whether air traffic control towers, medical research, or preserving forests and floodplains—that brings a tangible investment return to the public year after year. Trails and greenways are an increasingly important part of this infrastructure.

As trails, open space, and greenway advocates, we need to convey that slightly more complex but vitally truthful message! America's outdoor recreation industry produces \$640 billion annually and employs over six million people. We need to have a few of these facts about the payback at our fingertips—see the wealth of studies on the American Trails website. We need to talk locally as well as nationally, be it a town council meeting or a letter to a member of Congress.

We need to ask questions like “Cities and towns across the nation are building quality greenways and trails networks. Can our community afford NOT to invest? What is the COST to us of NOT funding these projects that benefit all Americans? How much are we SAVING by creating green infrastructure to reduce health care costs, to reduce the cost of flood damage, and the human toll of wildfires?” Well, you get the picture—but trails need YOU to make the facts known.

— Robert Searns, American Trails Chair Emeritus

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# SUPPORTING TRAILS in CONGRESS



*For over 25 years, American Trails has been a collective voice for a diverse coalition of enthusiasts, land managers, advocates, conservationists, and friends of the outdoors and livable cities. American Trails will continue to keep you informed on both trail know-how and issues critical to the future of trails. With your help, we can increase funding for trails, keep more trails open, and improve the health and well-being of Americans of all ages and abilities.*

*Please join our efforts to be an active and positive voice in the next reauthorization process.*

## ■ Working together— works! There is strength in numbers!

Under MAP-21, Governors may choose to opt out of the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). The Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT), a federation of national and regional trail-related organizations, has tirelessly pursued strategies to protect the RTP in California and across the nation.

As a member of the Coalition for Recreational Trails, American Trails is pleased to tell you that thanks to thousands of supporters across the country helping Governors, State Legislators, and agency leaders understand the breadth and scope of support for the RTP, the only State in the country that is opting out of the program for FY 2014 is Florida.

Marianne Fowler and Derrick Crandall, Co-Chairs of the Coalition for Recreational Trails proclaim a positive future for the RTP. They state,

“RTP-funded projects serve millions. And the legacy of the RTP program is still greater. It has united equestrians and cyclists, hikers and snowmobilers, ATV enthusiasts and more around programs which meet the trail needs of the nation. It has inspired trail community volunteerism and contributions that help the nation connect with our great outdoors and be healthier, physically and mentally. RTP-aided trails support sustainable communities, attracting visitors and helping share stories about our land and our history.

“The RTP has a bright future. Strong support from dozens of national organizations and the good work of state and local agencies and trail enthusiasts give the program bipartisan support among America’s elected leaders. Our challenge is to help the program remain visible and understood.”

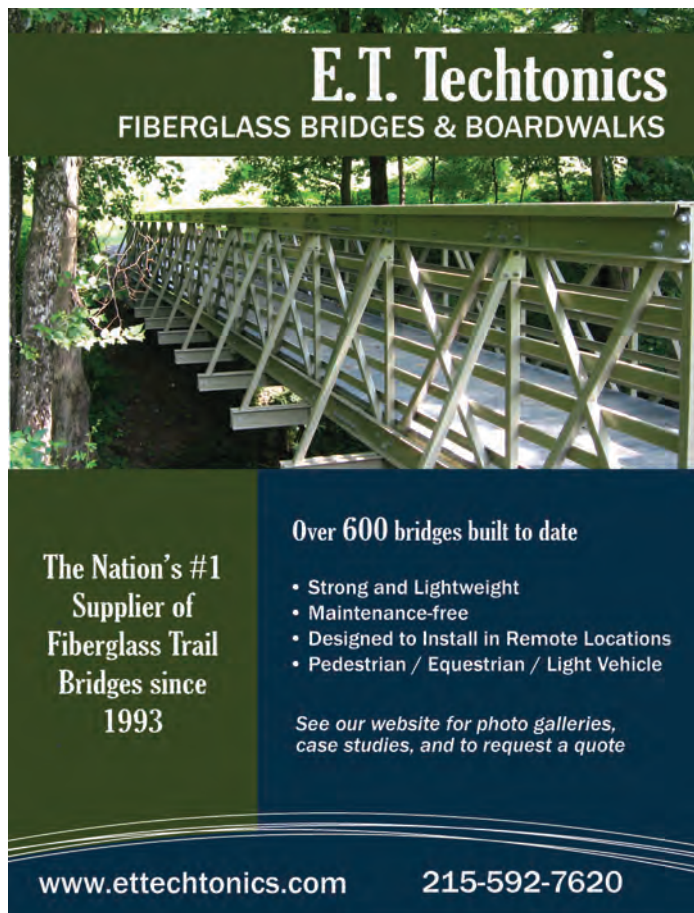
**Find RTP-funded projects in your State by visiting [www.recreationaltrailsinfo.org](http://www.recreationaltrailsinfo.org).**

## ■ Trails community welcomes Anthony Foxx as new Secretary of Transportation

Anthony Foxx joined the U.S. DOT after serving as the Mayor of Charlotte, North Carolina, from 2009 to 2013. During that time, he made efficient and innovative transportation investments the centerpiece of Charlotte’s job creation and economic recovery efforts.

As mayor, Mr. Foxx promoted a vision and advocated for policies to make the city more pedestrian and bike friendly to help attract new businesses, residents, and visitors. Foxx was confirmed by the full U.S. Senate in a unanimous vote of 100-0 on June 27, 2013.

Carmen Bray with the Carolina Thread Trail states, “The Charlotte region has embraced a vision to connect regional destinations, rural towns, urban cores, open spaces, and natural areas with trails, greenways, and blueways. Community, government, and business leaders alike wanted to help conserve green space, encourage people to explore the outdoors, attract visitors, and provide alternative transportation options for one of the fastest growing regions in our country.”

An advertisement for E.T. Techtonics, a company specializing in fiberglass bridges and boardwalks. The top half of the ad features a photograph of a long, narrow, light-colored fiberglass bridge with a wooden deck and railings, spanning a small stream in a wooded area. The text 'E.T. Techtonics' is prominently displayed in a large, serif font, with 'FIBERGLASS BRIDGES & BOARDWALKS' in a smaller, sans-serif font below it. The bottom half of the ad is a dark blue box with white text. It includes the claim 'The Nation's #1 Supplier of Fiberglass Trail Bridges since 1993', a list of features: 'Over 600 bridges built to date', 'Strong and Lightweight', 'Maintenance-free', 'Designed to Install in Remote Locations', and 'Pedestrian / Equestrian / Light Vehicle'. It also provides a website URL 'www.ettechtonics.com' and a phone number '215-592-7620'. A small line of text at the bottom right says 'See our website for photo galleries, case studies, and to request a quote'.

**Keep up to date on funding and legislation supporting trails:  
[www.AmericanTrails.org/support.html](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/support.html)**



# Leaving a Legacy Trail

By Scott Linnenburger, Kay-Linn Enterprises and American Trails Board

Like every trail project, it was a... process. More than a year in the planning, the 2013 International Trail Symposium Legacy Trail project left behind an incredibly beautiful one-mile trail on the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation lands, a timeless testament to partnership and the mission of American Trails.

The Fort McDowell Yavapai are a persevering people. Their tribal motto is "Never give up. Always give back." The tribe's recent history includes staying off a "public works" project that would have flooded their tribal lands and a successful fight to determine their economic future.

The idea of a conference client permanently altering their lands understandably raised their hackles in the "never give up" category. But the process of

building trust, sharing core values, and defining the benefits to all parties eventually brought the "always give back" to the fore.

A great idea to provide an intimate, natural experience to future visitors needed an action plan, and in came some of the leaders in the field. Local trail legend Rand Hubbell with Maricopa County Parks initiated discussions with the tribe.

Working with Professional Trailbuilders Association (PTBA) member Dennis Smith, President of Northwest Woodland Services, the group developed a vision for the trail that was in keeping with the tribe's respect for their Sonoran landscape. Smith worked closely with the Fort McDowell Yavapai to design the trail in manner that would highlight the land without damaging its cultural significance.

Noticing a priceless educational opportunity, the growing group of partners



**Dennis Smith at work with the trail-building machine**

decided the only way to build this trail would be to accomplish the task in its entirety during the Symposium. No easy feat with the very full program, but a great opportunity for the trails community to see the daily progress and craftsmanship of a professionally developed trail.

Smith called on fellow trail builders, most often competitors in the open market, to come together to turn this concept into reality. PTBA members Northwest Trails, YRU Construction, Tony Boone Trails, and Kay-Linn Enterprises also hopped on the bandwagon (and machines).

Finally, with assistance from Okanogan Trail Construction and Sutter Equipment, the partners helped American Trails truly leave a legacy and a uniting symbol of two organizations that never give up, and always give back.

Many, many thanks to all that came together around this trail! Leaving a legacy requires an open mind, persistence, creativity, and humility—common traits that we see in every trail project around the world.



**The completed Legacy Trail through the scenic Sonoran Desert landscape**





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# Supporting the Symposium

## Sharing our trails experiences across world borders

Comments we have received report a highly successful American Trails International Trails Symposium! There were attendees from every State except Nebraska, and additional countries represented included Australia, Canada, China, Columbia, France, Japan, South Africa, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand!

In all, there were 520 attendees, including over 150 speakers and presenters. Among them were 118 generous sponsors, who provided 103 booths in the Exhibit Hall. And, we're grateful to the Arizona Planning Team and for the more than 150 incredible volunteers from Arizona and around the country!

Learn more about the Symposium speakers, programs, and events at [www.AmericanTrails.org/2013](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/2013).

## Thanking our Sponsors and Exhibitors

We would like to thank our many supporting businesses, organizations, and agencies who made the American Trails International Trails Symposium possible. Please take a look at the websites of our many sponsors along with their products and services. See all the contacts for our Exhibitors and Sponsors at [www.AmericanTrails.org/2013/sponsors.html](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/2013/sponsors.html).



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- Back Country Horsemen of America
- Black Canyon Trail Coalition
- California Trails and Greenways Conference
- Dayton, Ohio Region
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# A tail of a trail



## How Jefferson County Open Space Tamed and Transformed an Off-Leash Dog Park

By Jeff Golden and William Lebzelter,  
Jeffco Parks Communications Team

**T**he Elk Meadow Park Dog Off-leash Area (DOLA) is where fun is unleashed in the Rocky Mountain foothills west of Denver. People and pooches, together but untethered, enjoy long hikes amid old-growth Ponderosa pines on natural-surface trails, short jaunts on a crusher-fine loop with views of 14,264-foot Mount Evans, and the chance to romp and socialize in two fenced areas.

What's become a 107-acre canine wonderland—believed to be the largest off-leash park in the nation—has humble roots. In the early 1990s, responding to citizens' requests, JCOS set the property aside as an informal training area, separated from the rest of 1,657-acre Elk Meadow Park by a public road.

A neighbor, concerned over the safety

of off-leash dogs near a busy road, collaborated with a local fencing company to fund a one-acre fenced area in 2001. The fenced area came to be known as "Bark Park." JCOS expanded this to six acres in 2005.

Because dogs must be leashed in the rest of the Elk Meadow Park and throughout the JCOS system, the DOLA became an attractive option that rangers and volunteers could offer to leash law offenders. As word of the DOLA spread and interest in dog parks boomed, visitors from the foothills and Metro Denver area fanned out across the property in great numbers.

Several issues emerged. Miles of unsustainable paths crisscrossed the park, creating heavy erosion, hazards, and confusion for visitors. Nearby landowners complained of trespassing, trash, and conflicts between dogs.

In 2011, JCOS committed to making substantial improvements. JCOS is supported by citizen tax dollars, and community input is essential to any major park development. Through a

series of site visits and an open house, staff benefited from park visitors' insights and opinions.

Trail and park management plans were developed to provide for safe and enjoyable experiences while protecting natural resources and respecting neighbors' privacy and property rights. A four-page newsletter with park plans was sent to all on a "Friends of the Dog Park" email list, posted online, and printed as a park hand-out.

At the outset, a park inventory documented five miles of informal, erosive paths with 11 stream crossings. To study user patterns, motion-sensitive wildlife cameras were installed along a path that closely paralleled private property lines and near the border of adjoining JCOS land with a wildlife conservation easement, where unleashed dogs are not allowed.

The day after the path along private property was closed, wildlife returned to the area. Trails staff shared these results at an annual meeting of the Colorado Open Space Alliance.



## *A tail of a trail* continued

In the eastern section of the park, a 0.8-mile crusher fines trail was designed to steer visitors away from private property and provide a gentle trail experience with astounding views.

The trail meets accessibility guidelines with grades of five percent or less. Before construction began, a natural resources crew cut trees with dwarf mistletoe, a parasitic plant that plagues the Rockies, and thinned trees.

Trails staff cut more trees in the corridor with chain saws and a brush cutter, excavated the alignment with a SWECO trail dozer, then began compacting nearly 700 tons of gravel. Rock wall construction was necessary at the first switchback to maintain the gentle grade. Volunteers pitched in to groom the trail, which opened in 2011.

The bulk of trail construction and park rehabilitation took place in 2012. The trails crew winnowed 11 haphazard stream crossings to three safe, visually

appealing crossings that meet storm water regulations. The loop trail in the western section, popular with avid hikers, was realigned to extend more than 300 feet from the conservation easement, reducing wildlife encounters.

The Trail Stewardship Team, which employs county youth to build and maintain trails and establish a stewardship ethic, contributed more than 2,000 hours of hard labor.

Trails staff were empowered to innovate as situations dictated. Trails Supervisor Kim Frederick freed Team Lead Brian Conty to apply his 13 years of trail experience and background as a corporate project manager.

Seasonal staffers Lisa Sabella and Matt Woodhull were instrumental in trail alignment, while Trails Specialist Eric Fields and Seasonal Kaleb Anzick led the charge in excavating the final, "deep-woods" phase of construction. Where the grade reached 40 percent,

Trails Specialists Chris Barker and Joel Miller directed construction of a pair of winding staircases, 22 and 79 steps each. Visitors have taken to getting their workout in by running up and down the longer staircase, built from 6 x 6 pressure-treated timbers. For visitors with more limited mobility and slower paces, Park Services built log benches and installed them throughout the park.

Many informal paths remained open until the last 2.4 miles of designated, sustainable trails were completed and signed. When the new trails opened, visitor compliance and satisfaction were very high; erosion and instances of trespassing, drastically reduced.

Visitors are pleased with other improvements. A decommissioned well was retrofitted to provide drinking water for dogs at the trailhead. The fenced areas include innovative three-way gates for convenient leashing/unleashing entry and exit.

**A tail of a trail** continued on page 36



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## *A tail of a trail* continued

The parking lot was expanded and resurfaced with crushed asphalt donated by Lafarge North America, in a test case of the material. This permeable material has withstood all weather conditions. The entire park meets County Animal Control requirements for water, fencing, and shade.

Public information is vital to good park conduct. The trail-head kiosk was expanded to two panels to include messages about stewardship, safety, and responsible dog ownership, as well as a quick-response (QR) code to access the park map, a dog park YouTube video, and more.

The community has been engaged all along the way. Visitors contributed suggestions for the names of new paths, which came to be known as Waggin' Trail, Bone-anza, and Stagecoach Hollow Loop, a tribute to the land's past as an old stagecoach route.

Jefferson County Animal Control's "There Is No Poop Fairy" marketing campaign received national attention when it was featured on MSNBC's "The Rachel Maddow Show." Building on that momentum, Open Space asked visitors to craft a creative message that discouraged leaving bags of waste along the trail. Winners included "Trash the Poop, Not the Park" and "Nobody Likes Unfinished Business," and have been displayed on kiosks system-wide and on the park website.

The volunteer effort at the DOLA uses an innovative approach. After completing special training, volunteer park patrollers are permitted to bring a dog with them. Volunteers

and rangers hand out "Companion Animal Stewardship" gift certificates from a local pet store to owners displaying exemplary behavior. Today the DOLA offers visitors 3.2 miles of sustainable trails, an upgraded six-acre fenced "Bark Park," and all the amenities a visitor could desire— all completed two years ahead of schedule.

"The enhancements made to the Elk Meadow Park Dog Off-leash Area exemplify the strong relationship between Open Space, our staff, and the community," said Parks Services Supervisor Matthew Cox. "We listened to the concerns and worked together with the public to come up with solutions that satisfied all the vested parties, and now that the off-leash area is completed, the community support has been overwhelming."

But don't just take our word for it. On top of the positive comments that staff hears in the park and by e-mail, one visitor was moved to stop by the JCOS office with a hand-written note.

"I stopped by to personally thank you and all your crews for an outstanding job on the Elk Meadow Open Space dog park," Eric Bakke wrote. "It's a thing of beauty. The two stair features are a piece of art. As frequenters of the park since the early 90s, we are thrilled to experience the park daily with our mutts."

**For more information:** <http://jeffco.us/parks/parks-and-trails/elk-meadow-dog-off-leash-area>.







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# On the trails with Roundup Riders of the Rockies

## *65 years of good trails and good friends*

By Charles Scoggin

For the past 65 years, horsemen from over 20 states, ranging from Hawaii to Connecticut gather each July to ride Colorado Rocky Mountain trails. The week-long Roundup Riders of the Rockies “Big Ride” was originally started by Colorado business leaders and Hollywood celebrities to promote Colorado tourism.

Since that time, the Ride and the Roundup Riders has evolved into an organization of horsemen dedicated to the preservation and use of public lands and trails for the benefit of all citizens. The membership now encompasses a diverse group of riders ranging from businessmen, ranchers, doctors, lawyers, retired Forest Service personnel, veterinarians, law enforcement, university professors, and retired members of the military.

All Roundup Rider trail rides, whether the annual Big Ride or day rides during the year, rely on the time and resources volunteered by its members. Current president of the Roundup Ride, Jim Cage stated, “I am amazed by the hundreds and hundreds of hours that our members have, and will continue to, volunteer to making this organization and its trail rides such a success.”

### **The Annual Ride**

The Big Ride is usually in Colorado; however, on occasion Wyoming has hosted the Roundup Riders of the Rockies. The Ride is totally self-contained, including sleeping tents, shower and toilet facilities, a “big top” dining tent, and even a portable stage for evening entertainment.

In general, riders provide their own horses, and The Ride provides wran-



**Roundup Riders of the Rockies at recently opened Staunton State Park. (Photo courtesy of Charles Scoggin)**

glers, farriers, and veterinarians to care for the horses.

The farrier, veterinarian, and physician-riders accompany each day's ride. The Ride is broken into three-day and two-day segments of 15-23 miles a day. After three days of riding, a “Layover Day” allows horses and riders to relax, as well as participate in such things as a horse show, trail riding contest, and “rodeo” of equine games.

### **Minimizing impact; maximizing appreciation of backcountry**

The Ride in the backcountry of the Rocky Mountains focuses on estab-

lished trails and campsites. The Ride prides itself on minimizing impact of the camp, horse picket lines, and use of trails. Various volunteer committees coordinate such important functions as horse welfare, camp set up and removal, food services, and rider safety and health.

A key aspect of The Ride is the “Ride and Trail Committee” made up of senior riders. The committee plans rides at least two years in advance. It works closely with the United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and state and local leadership, as well as land owners, to identify trails and campsites that will provide approximately 100 miles of continuous trail to accommodate each annual ride.

All trails are ridden at least twice in advance of the Big Ride to judge distances, identify areas in need of repair, and places to enjoy lunch and other rest stops.

“Trails are chosen to ensure the Rider's scenic interest and safety, and to provide a memorable and enjoyable experience,” commented Darrel Wentz, Chairman of the 3R Trail Committee. The committee also seeks out special attractions along the way including scenic lakes and streams, alpine valleys, and high mountain vistas.



In addition to the annual Big Ride, Roundup Riders enjoy one-day rides in the spring and fall of the year. The fall "Aspen Ride" brings together Roundup Riders, families, and friends to enjoy the autumn colors of the Colorado high country.

Each January, the Roundup Riders of the Rockies participate in the annual National Western Stock Show parade through downtown Denver.

## The Heritage and Trails Foundation

In 1984, members of the Roundup Riders of the Rockies formed the "Roundup Riders of the Rockies Heritage and Trails Foundation, Inc." This foundation, totally independent of the Roundup Ride with its own governing board, has as its mission the provision of funding to local and

statewide organizations for trails and equestrian-related projects for public enjoyment and use.

As public funding for trails has fallen, the concept of public and private partnerships for trails has shown great value. Recent projects funded by the Heritage and Trails Foundation include grants to The Colorado Trail Foundation, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, the Colorado Youth Corp Foundation, and local chapters of the Back Country Horsemen of Colorado. In addition the foundation has provided an unrestricted grant to the Tongue National Forest in the Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming for trail maintenance and improvements.

As part of the philosophy of supporting public access and enjoyment of trails, support is given for trails that the Roundup Ride may never be on, for instance in Wilderness Areas.

## The next 65 years

The Roundup Riders of the Rockies enjoy a challenging annual ride emphasizing horsemanship in an atmosphere of camaraderie, and moving through beautiful country on good trails.

The Roundup Riders of the Rockies is committed to using its resources and membership to promote enjoyment of the scenic trails of Colorado and other western American states.

Through its Heritage and Trails Foundation, and other forms of support for improved—and even new—trails, the Roundup looks to provide a benefit to others who share a passion for adventure and appreciation of the value of trails.

**For more information on Roundup Riders of the Rockies and the Heritage and Trails Foundation, visit [www.roundupriders.com](http://www.roundupriders.com).**



*The Roundup Riders of the Rockies Heritage and Trail Foundation supports construction and management of public trails throughout Colorado and Wyoming. (Photograph courtesy of Chip Bromfield/ Pro-Motion, Ltd.)*



# People and trails in the news

See many more recent articles and studies at [www.AmericanTrails.org/resources](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/resources)

## Missouri's Governor promotes 100 Missouri Miles Challenge

Missouri was proud to be named the 2013 "Best Trails State" by American Trails. To celebrate this distinction and encourage Missourians to get outdoors and enjoy Missouri's nationally recognized trails, Governor Jay Nixon and First Lady Georganne Nixon are inviting Missourians to join them on the Governor's 100 Missouri Miles Challenge.

"From neighborhood greenways to backcountry hiking trails, Missouri's nationally-recognized trails can accommodate a wide variety of activities for all ages and interests," Gov. Nixon said. "This challenge is a great opportunity to enjoy Missouri's proud outdoor heritage, improve your health and — best of all — have fun with family and friends. Whether you run, walk, bike, paddle, or roll, I encourage all Missourians to join me and the First Lady as we explore 100 Missouri miles of trails this year."

The 100 Missouri Miles initiative challenges Missourians to complete 100 miles of physical activity by the end of the year. Missourians of all ages, interests, and ability levels can walk, hike, bike, paddle, or roll to success. Participants join the challenge and log their miles online. They can also compare their progress to the Governor's and their friends'.

Missouri State Parks offers almost 1,000 miles of managed trails and the state hosts more than 500 miles of National Recreation Trails designated by the U.S. Department of Interior. Notable trails include the Lewis and Clark, Trail of Tears, Santa Fe National Historic Trails, and the Katy Trail, the longest developed rail-trail in the nation.

The award also recognized Missouri State Parks for a project that began in 2008 to inventory and manage trails, which is being used in a statewide effort to consolidate and coordinate trail data. Missouri State Parks recently released *Trails of Missouri State Parks*, a publication that provides detailed information on more than 230 Missouri State Parks trails.

**Learn more about Missouri's thousands of miles of beautiful trails, greenways, and blueways at [www.100MissouriMiles.com](http://www.100MissouriMiles.com).**

## New book by Richard Louv

American Trails board member Roger Bell recently reviewed *The Nature Principle: Reconnecting with Life in a Virtual Age*, by Richard Louv, author of the widely acclaimed *Last Child in the Woods*. Bell says "the new book is equally compelling, loaded with revelations and insights, and offering timely remedies for the pervasive malaise Louv identifies. He focuses more broadly on adult culture, which he finds every bit as problematic."

**Read Roger Bell's review at [www.AmericanTrails.org/views](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/views).**

## Jan Hancock joins board of American Trails

Jan Hancock is the author of *Equestrian Design Guidebook for Trails, Trailheads, and Campgrounds*, published by the Federal Highway Administration and the U.S. Forest Service in 2008. She is an equestrian trails and facilities planning and design consultant in private practice, and provides services to landscape architecture and engineering companies, as well as land management agencies and private clients.

Jan has completed trail and trailhead design projects in Arizona, including the Queen Creek Horseshoe Park & Equestrian Centre, trails master plans for the Cities of Glendale, Peoria, and Scottsdale, as well as WestWorld Trailhead for the City of Scottsdale. She has also worked on trailhead projects for the City of Las Vegas, NV and Plano, TX, and is currently completing master plan projects for Big Bear Lake, CA and Santa Fe County, NM.

She has served on the board of directors of several trail and equestrian organizations, and was president of the Arizona Trail Association. Jan has also been a member of the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Board and Design Review Standards Committee.

**Read more about American Trails board members at [www.AmericanTrails.org/board.html](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/board.html).**



Jan Hancock and Shadow



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# COALITION FOR RECREATIONAL TRAILS

## Trail project awards for 2013

The Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) “Annual Achievement Awards” recognize outstanding use of Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds. Award winners were recognized at a special ceremony on June 4 in Washington, DC during the annual celebration for Great Outdoors Week. Seven trail projects and two State programs have been chosen as award recipients for 2013:

### *Maintenance and Rehabilitation:*

- **Northern Erie Sno-Seekers Trail Grooming Equipment (New York)**

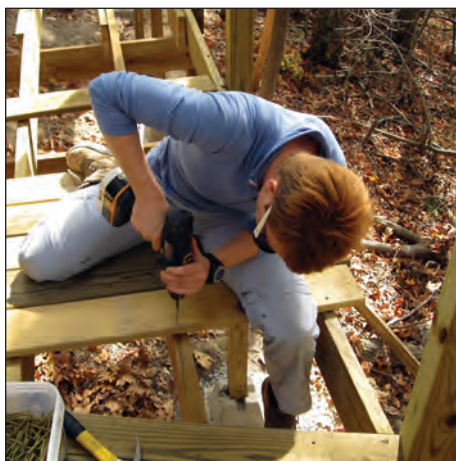
In Western New York, the Northern Erie Sno-Seekers, Inc. maintains over 120 miles of trails. This project, funded with \$151,128 from the RTP, strengthens stewardship of the statewide winter trails system. Equipment purchased with funding from the RTP grant enables more volunteers to groom the trails more often and more efficiently, reducing volunteer fatigue and enhancing the quality of trails.



**Northern Erie Sno-Seekers maintain 120 miles of New York trails**



**Turf trail for horses adjoins the paved Lingle Trace Trail in Mississippi**



**Working on Beaman Park boardwalk in Tennessee**

### *Construction and Design:*

- **East and West Twin Creek Bridges (Michigan)**

The replacement of the two Twin Creek bridges addressed soil erosion and sedimentation issues and allowed for the continued and safe use of over 140 miles of designated motorized trails in Lake County, Michigan. The Little Manistee and Lincoln Hills Motorcycle Trails and Route system provides important OHV and snowmobile riding opportunities on state forest lands.

### *Education and Communication:*

- **School Messaging Project (Minnesota)**

This project funded colorful, 5-by-5 foot posters in elementary, middle, and high schools in Minnesota. They didn't publicize summer school, the final baseball game of the season, or prom. They promoted off-highway vehicle safety, and were seen by over 20,000 students, plus their teachers, school administrators, and parents. They were part of a pilot project between a large contingent of Minnesota OHV organizations, the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council, and a company called School Media.

### *Multiple-Use Management and Corridor Sharing:*

- **Lingle Trace Equestrian Trail (Mississippi)**

The Pearl & Leaf Rivers Rails-to-Trails Recreational District manages this multi-use trail on an abandoned railroad line in southeast Mississippi. Volunteers, along with RTP funding, helped extend and improve a 23-mile dirt equestrian pathway parallel to the asphalt trail.



#### *Environment and Wildlife Compatibility:*

- **Seneca Bluffs Trail and Trailhead Facility (Maryland)**

The trail was planned by several trail user organizations together with Seneca State Park to accommodate horses, hikers, and bikers. While the park was riddled with old unauthorized trails, this new Seneca Bluffs Trail was situated along the ridge line to provide an alignment that would protect the watershed from undue erosion while providing trail users a fabulous view high above Great Seneca Creek.

#### *Accessibility Enhancement:*

- **Beaman Park Accessible and Interpretive Trail (Tennessee)**

The project was to construct a paved, accessible trail and boardwalk at the Beaman Park Nature Center, and improve the connection between the park's new nature center and the existing trail system. Volunteers contributed over 1,500 hours of labor, valued at \$25,000, in completing the work.

#### *Use of Youth Conservation/Service Corps:*

- **Leicester Hollow Loop Trail (Vermont)**

This collaborative effort relocated a historic trail out of a floodplain along with watershed restoration and expanded recreation access on the Green Mountain National Forest. RTP funding helped support eight Vermont Youth Conservation Corps crews, totaling 65 crew members, to complete the Leicester Hollow Loop Project over a span of three years.

#### *Outstanding State Trail Program:*

- **West Virginia State Trails Program**

The program is administered by West Virginia Department of Transportation. For 20 years, the state's RTP program has been staffed by personnel who backpacked, rode mountain bikes, used kayaks, and hunted and fished in their personal lives. This high level of project knowledge and credibility for the program management has facilitated a wide variety of successful projects for all types of trail users, including water trails. Also, the Transportation Enhancement/Alternatives staff and the RTP personnel share the same administrative unit, and work on projects from both programs.

#### *Outstanding State Recreational Trails Advisory Committee:*

- **Wisconsin State Trails Council**

Council members are deeply active in their respective associations, and bring an intimate knowledge of the individual, and often quite localized, issues facing their respective member groups and communities. Because of the members' strong ties to their trail groups and users, the Council is well respected

by the Wisconsin Legislature and offers a strong voice in promoting the RTP trail grant program, shaping the grant program's parameters, and evaluating RTP projects and grant applications.

**Nomination forms for next CRT awards will be available early in 2014 for projects that have been funded through the Recreational Trails Program. See details on the awards at [www.AmericanTrails.org/rtp/crtawards.html](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/rtp/crtawards.html).**

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**Read more and see photos of the CRT award winners at [www.AmericanTrails.org/awards/CRT13awards](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/awards/CRT13awards)**



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Patent # 6,099,203

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## NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS



*Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Water Trail, Wisconsin*

## NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS

# Trails added to system for 2013

Why are we emphasizing National Recreation Trails? Because trail managers and supporters agree that the NRT Program is a great way to celebrate America's trails, greenways, and blueways. Even as we struggle with budgets and priorities, more people than ever are using trails, and we need more recognition for our parks and public lands.

Every kind of trail activity is represented among designated National Recreation Trails. Besides hiking and bicycling, the system includes water trails, motorized routes, snow tracks, greenways, and equestrian paths. The NRT program showcases the diversity of trails across America, from our cities and suburbs to deserts, waterways, and mountains. See details of these and over 1,200 other trails on the NRT website at [www.AmericanTrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails).

*For 2013, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Director of the National Park Service Jonathan B. Jarvis, announced the designation of these 28 trails in 18 States as National Recreation Trails:*

### ALABAMA

- **Harvest Square Recreational Preserve Trail System**  
2.3 miles in Harvest Square Recreational Preserve in Madison County
- **Forever Wild Coldwater Mountain Trail System**  
11.5 miles of multi-use trail near Anniston
- **Phenix City Riverwalk**  
1.2-mile trail along the Chattahoochee River
- **Turkey Creek Nature Preserve Trail System**  
2.13 miles showcase the beauty of Turkey Creek Nature Preserve in Pinson

### CALIFORNIA

- **Nadeau Trail**  
28-mile trail on BLM land for OHV riders, wilderness hikers, and packers

### DELAWARE

- **Junction and Breakwater Trail**  
4-mile rail trail in Cape Henlopen State Park
- **Northern Delaware Greenway Trail – Brandywine Creek**  
2.5-mile section of trail in Brandywine Creek State Park
- **Northern Delaware Greenway Trail – Wilmington**  
7.22-mile trail links parks between the Delaware River and the Brandywine River
- **Pomeroy and Newark Rail Trail**  
4.2 mile rail trail links Newark's city parks with the University of Delaware and White Clay Creek State Park

### FLORIDA

- **Chipola River Greenway - Butler Trail**  
3.5 mile trail features rock formations, caves, sink holes, and wetlands



- **Chipola River Greenway - Hinson Conservation and Recreation Area Trail System**  
4 miles of community trails in the city of Marianna on the west side of the Chipola River

### IOWA

- **Sugar Bottom Mountain Biking Trail System**  
13 miles of trail at US Army Corps of Engineers' Coralville Reservoir on the Iowa River
- **Volksweg Trail**  
Connecting the city of Pella to Lake Red Rock on the Des Moines River

### ILLINOIS

- **General Dacey Trail**  
4-mile multipurpose trail at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Lake Shelbyville

***2013 National Recreation Trail designations***  
***Details at [www.AmericanTrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails)***



# NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS

## MAINE

- **Timber Point Trail**  
1.4 mile nature trail on Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge

## MASSACHUSETTS

- **Hellcat Interpretive Trail**  
Over a mile of boardwalk at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

## MICHIGAN

- **North Eastern State Trail (NEST)**  
71-mile rail trail from Alpena to Cheboygan features snowmobiling

## MISSOURI

- **Pomme de Terre Multipurpose Trail**  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers trail in Bolivar Landing at Pomme de Terre Lake



*Mud Pond Trail, New Hampshire*



*Sugar Bottom Mountain Biking Trail System, Iowa*

- **Running River Trail**  
3.1-mile looped trail meanders along the Pomme de Terre River and through woods

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

- **Mud Pond Trail**  
Accessible trail and boardwalk at Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge

## NEW MEXICO

- **Sierra Vista Trail**  
29-mile trail runs on BLM land along the west slope of the Organ Mountains just east of Las Cruces

## NORTH CAROLINA

- **Kings Mountain Gateway Trail**  
5 miles of community walking, hiking, and biking trail with scenic overlooks

## PENNSYLVANIA

- **Kiski-Conemaugh Water Trail**  
88-mile water trail through historic sites and river gorges

## SOUTH CAROLINA

- **Three Rivers Greenway**  
6 miles of pathways where the Broad, Saluda, and Congaree Rivers meet in Columbia, SC

## TEXAS

- **Brownsville Historic Battlefield Trail**  
9-mile hike and bike path through Brownsville to Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park

## VIRGINIA

- **High Bridge Trail State Park**  
31-mile rail trail featuring the 2,422-foot long High Bridge over the Appomattox River
- **Tobacco Heritage Trail - South Boston**  
2.6 miles of scenic and historic rail trail features Virginia history

## WISCONSIN

- **Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Water Trail**  
280-mile water trail traverses 15 counties and 40 municipalities



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# 21st NATIONAL TRAILS AWARDS

Presented at the 2013 American Trails International Symposium



*Suh Myung Sook, founder of the Jeju Olle Foundation of South Korea, receiving the International Award*

**T**he National Trails Awards Program is one way American Trails recognizes the tremendous contributions of volunteers, professionals, and other leaders who are working to create a national system of trails for all Americans. The awards were announced at the American Trails International Trails Symposium Awards Banquet April 16, 2013. See details and photos of the award-winning people and projects from around the world at [www.AmericanTrails.org/awards/2013awards](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/awards/2013awards).

## **International Award: Jeju Olle Foundation, South Korea**

The Foundation has been working diligently to develop trails since its founding in 2007 on the South Korean island of Jeju. In less than five years, the foundation has overseen the construction of 25 trail sections, totaling 411 kilometers of pathways, which circumnavigate the island. The foundation is also responsible for organizing the 2011, 2012, and 2013 World Trail Conference, and is initiating the World Trail Network that will aid in the dissemination of knowledge among trail professionals across the globe.

## **Honorable Mention: New Zealand Cycle Trail Team**

The New Zealand Cycle Trail is over 1,700 kilometers long, creating 20 great cycle paths across the country.

## **Honorable Mention: Trans Canada Trail**

Over the past 20 years, Canada has constructed over 16,800 kilometers of the Trans Canada Trail, which connects every province and territory in the country.

## **Developer Awards:**

*Recognizes quality, well designed, multi-use trails systems that are integrated into private developments.*

### **Desert Mountain, Scottsdale, Arizona**

Desert Mountain is an active outdoor lifestyle community with 30 miles of walking, jogging, and biking paths. The community's 3,000 acres of upper Sonoran Desert will be preserved and enhanced with a multi-use trail system.

### **The Parkway at Blue Ravine, Folsom, California**

The Parkway has developed the Humbug-Willow Creek greenway within the community, which preserves woodlands and riparian habitat as well as providing an important link to the elementary school, parks, and other community amenities.

## **Best Trails State Award: Missouri**

The State of Missouri places a high value on trails, recognizing their potential to support healthy, thriving communities. With its extensive trail system and beautiful landscapes, Missouri has much to offer trail users. The state's continued commendable dedication to the design, construction, and maintenance of trails is what allows Missouri to offer such a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities.

## **Lifetime Service Award: Steve Elkinton**

Steve Elkinton serves as Program Leader for the National Trails System with the National Park Service. Since being appointed to the position in 1989, Steve's remarkable dedication and leadership has guided the development of the National Trails System. He has prompted interagency collaboration, fostered partnerships, encouraged communication, increased awareness, and strongly advocated for trail interests. Steve's exemplary service and commitment to trails and parks has positively impacted the lives of countless trail users.



*Steve Elkinton (right) with Candace Mitchell and Bob Searns*

**See details and photos of the National Trails Awards  
at [www.AmericanTrails.org/awards/2013awards](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/awards/2013awards)**





*The High Trestle Trail Steering Committee, Iowa*

### Trails and the Arts Award: High Trestle Trail, Iowa

The High Trestle Trail Steering Committee, partnered with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, RDG Dahlquist Art Studios, and Shuck-Britson/Snyder and Associates to raise \$15 million to complete the 25-mile rail trail project. The trail includes a beautiful 13-story high art bridge. It features six observation decks and a scenic overlook, as well as artistic elements illustrating railroad history. The new High Trestle Bridge has become the iconic symbol of the trail system.

### Hulet Hornbeck Award: Pat O'Brien

*This award is for an individual who, like Hulet Hornbeck, exemplifies long-standing vision and wisdom in support of trails.*

Pat O'Brien is a highly accomplished leader and long-time figure in the parks and recreation industry. His support for trails, open space, and the environment has garnered him much recognition as has his legislative advocacy. He served as General Manager for the East Bay Regional Park District for 22 years, during which time he expanded the park district by over 30% to 102,000 acres with over 1,100 miles of trails. He leaves a legacy that will serve as a model for future generations.

### State-of-the-Art Technology Award: Gerry Wilbour and the Northwest Trails Crew

Gerry Wilbour served as President of the Professional Trailbuilders Association for several years. Gerry's innovative capacity is exemplified by his design of a custom "Trail Cat." This modified machine provides greater power and has the capacity to do work other trail building machines cannot do. Gerry is also responsible for creating a new and efficient bridge fabrication system, developing more efficient construction methods, and applying geotechnical engineering solutions to challenging environments.

### Trails for Health Award: Chinese Mountaineering Association

The association manages, organizes, and promotes public outdoor sports and encourages the public to lead healthy, active lifestyles. A subsidiary, Outdoor Sports Department, is involved in planning and building high-quality trails and sports fields. Since 2010, seven of these trails have been completed with four additional trails in progress. All constructed trails are open to the public with the aim of encouraging community members to enjoy the outdoors.

### Outstanding Media Award: Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Over the past two years, the department has promoted positive public exposure of Michigan's trails, highlighted specific trail design projects, established statewide partnerships, and generated renewed interest in trail use. In partnership with Pure Michigan, the state's travel bureau, the department established a website highlighting Michigan's many trails. The website serves as a new interface for trail users to explore Michigan's wonderful trail network.

### Kids and Trails Award: Home Place Adventures

This summer program organized by Jeff Falyn and Lyndsay Dawkins serves to inspire youth and teens to connect with nature and gain a new appreciation for the outdoors. Participants learn environmental awareness, sustainable living concepts, and leadership skills, and participate in community giving projects. Over the years, Jeff and Lyndsay have helped transform the lives of hundreds of young people, encouraging them to become outdoor enthusiasts and introducing them to the trails community.



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*Volunteer event sponsored by Yamaha Motor Corporation*

### **Corporate Award: Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A.**

Yamaha Motor Corporation established the Yamaha OHV Access Initiative in 2008 to support the OHV community nationwide. In the past four years, the Initiative has supported thousands of miles of trails, maintained and rehabilitated riding and staging areas, built bridges over streams, and partnered with local riding communities across the country to improve the OHV experience. The Initiative's GRANT Program has now invested in 37 different states, contributing over two million dollars in funds to community projects. In addition, Yamaha Motor Corporation's employees have volunteered over 500 hours to the improvement of OHV trails and the planting of trees in the San Bernardino National Forest.

### **Outstanding Trail Sharing Award: Colorado "Stay the Trail" Program**

Established in 2002, the Stay the Trail OHV Education Program was developed by the Responsible Recreation Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, BLM, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. The program encourages responsible trail and land use in the state of Colorado. Its outreach activities include towing educational trailers throughout the state, maintaining the program's website, and advertising to increase awareness and discourage irresponsible OHV use on public lands. In addition to educating the public, Stay the Trail works directly with local land managers and recreation staff to provide innovative solutions to trail issues. The program's success has prompted other states and organizations to use it as a model for their own awareness programs.



*A scenic section of the Trans Canada Trail*

### **Trails for Public Service Award: Roger Sabine**

Roger Sabine has been an integral part of the west Michigan trails movement since the 1980s. His role has involved bringing ideas together and building consensus, motivating and inspiring others, assembling the needed project resources, and removing obstacles that stand in the way of his trail building goals. In the past two years, Roger has negotiated for the reconstruction of Kent Trails, aided in the construction of the Fred Meijer Millennium Park Trail Network, advocated for the building of the M-6 Trail Bridge, and ensured the completion of additional trail connecting projects.

### **Partnership Award: Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, REI, Chipotle Mexican Grill**

The partnership organized two REI Ridge Trail Service Days to build, improve, and maintain the Bay Area Ridge Trail. In addition to increasing public awareness for the trail, the two service days also introduced volunteers to local parks and

open spaces to which they could donate their time and skills. The service days proved a great success with more than 1,600 participants of all ages volunteering a total of over 7,100 hours. Dozens of miles of trail were restored, greatly aiding in the push to complete the 550-mile trail.

### **Planning/Design Award: Feasibility Study Salida to Leadville Trail Corridor**

The study's vision is to establish a 64-mile long public access trail following the historic Leadville Stage Road and portions of the Colorado Midland Railroad. Over the course of two years, the study has sought out potential partners, encouraged and initiated public involvement, addressed public concerns, and produced recommendations for the planning of the project.

**See details and photos of the National Trails Awards  
at [www.AmericanTrails.org/awards/2013awards](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/awards/2013awards)**



## Community Service Award: Pinetop-Lakeside TRACKS

In 2011 alone, TRACKS contributed 1,823 volunteer hours on Arizona's White Mountains Trail System and 7,915 hours on other community projects, including implementing an emergency response system; assisting in a Forest Service tree growth study; shouldering more responsibility for National Forest trail maintenance and construction; assisting an annual mountain bicycle race; supporting "Save Our Park" campaign; constructing trails for local ecology education site; teaching Boy Scouts trail building and maintenance; and designing and building a new community trail for Show Low.

## State Trail Advocacy Awards

*This award recognizes individuals for successful efforts to influence public policy relating to trail planning, protection, development, or management.*

- Alabama - Danny J. Hubbard
- Arizona - Dave Hicks
- Arkansas - Mayor Patrick Henry Hays
- California - Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich
- Colorado - Dave Wiens
- Delaware - Karl Lehman
- Florida - Mickey Thomason

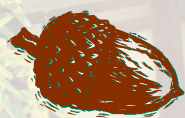
- Georgia - Terry Palmeri
- Idaho - David Gordon
- Kansas - Cecilia Harry
- Louisiana - Jimmy L. Anthony
- Michigan - Jim Radabaugh
- Minnesota - Mary Straka
- Missouri - Dan and Connie Burkhardt
- Montana - John Brewer
- Nevada - Bill von Phul
- New York - Parks & Trails New York
- North Carolina - Morgan Sommerville
- Ohio - Robert A. Fonte
- Oregon - Chuck Frayer
- South Carolina - Staci Williams
- Tennessee - Daniel Reese
- Texas - Friends of Northaven Trail
- Virginia - Larry Miller
- Wyoming - Jeff Wiggins

## State Trail Worker Award

*This award recognizes individuals in either the private or public sector who have made outstanding contributions to trail planning, development, or maintenance.*

- Alabama - Erin Wiggins
- Alaska - Barth Hamberg
- Arizona - Troy Dymock
- California - Bill Carter
- Connecticut - Russ Waldie
- Delaware - Meinrad Leckie

- Florida - Charles and Anne Thrash
- Hawaii - Fred Bannan
- Illinois - Eileen Weyhrich
- Indiana - Milan Kruszynski
- Kansas - Bunnie Watkins
- Kentucky - Mike Bossert
- Louisiana - Freddie Paul
- Maine - Sally Jacobs
- Massachusetts - Scott Monroe
- Michigan - Ed Morse
- Minnesota - Jeff Klein
- Missouri - Russell and Tammie Martin
- Montana - Hillary Hanson
- Nebraska - Dale Rabideau
- Nevada - Suzanne Shelp
- New Jersey - David and Monica Day
- New Mexico - Tom Mayer
- New York - Jane Daniels
- North Carolina - RG Absher
- North Dakota - Jamie Wetsch
- Ohio - Greg Jackson
- Pennsylvania - Stephen P. Pohowsky
- South Carolina - Christine Ellis
- Tennessee - Jim Johnson
- Utah - Adam Stoldal
- Washington - Robert Pacific
- West Virginia - Charles L. Dundas
- Wisconsin - Dick Kroener
- Wyoming - Bruce Burrows



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# New Resources

See many more recent articles and studies at [www.AmericanTrails.org/resources](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/resources)

## Presentations from Symposium now online

The American Trails International Trails Symposium featured 18 in-depth Core Tracks, along with 10 Featured Workshops and 50 Concurrent Sessions. Dozens of these presentations are now available on the American Trails website. These are online slide shows from the presentations provided by speakers. Topics cover the full range of trails of all types, with an emphasis on new technology, planning techniques, enhancing tourism, and managing trails.

See links to presentations at [www.AmericanTrails.org/2013/core.html](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/2013/core.html) and [www.AmericanTrails.org/2013/concurrent.html](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/2013/concurrent.html).

## Forest Service trail needs studied

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a study in June of how the U. S. Forest Service is meeting trail maintenance needs. The new report identifies several challenges, including many miles of trails that “were built on steep slopes, leaving unsustainable, erosion-prone trails that require continual maintenance.”

The effective use of volunteers is highlighted as one of the solutions. However, the report notes “the agency’s lack of standardized training in trails field skills, which limits agency expertise.” In addition, “managing volunteers can decrease the time officials can spend performing on-the-ground maintenance.”

Key GAO recommendations for the Forest Service are to:

“(1) analyze trails program needs and available resources and develop options for narrowing the gap between them and take steps to assess and improve the sustainability of its trails, and (2) take steps to enhance training on collaborat-

ing with and managing volunteers who help maintain trails.”

The report is titled *Long- and Short-Term Improvements Could Reduce Maintenance Backlog and Enhance System Sustainability*. The Wilderness Society and Back Country Horsemen of America originally requested the study from members of Congress.

“Trails contribute over \$80 billion each year to the outdoor recreation industry but they receive a paltry investment in return,” said Paul Spitler of The Wilderness Society. “In this era of budget-constraints, additional funding for trail maintenance may be difficult to acquire but it’s incredibly important. At the same time we need to investigate other creative solutions to help supplement limited funds and stretch every dollar further,” he said.

“We’ve seen first-hand how partnerships with the Forest Service bring people together and leverage resources more effectively,” said Jim McGarvey, chairman of the Back Country Horsemen. “Congress and the Forest Service should encourage the use of creative partnerships whenever possible to get more out of every dollar, empower our volunteer networks, and ensure existing resources are used more efficiently.”

Read more at [www.AmericanTrails.org/resources/fedland](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/resources/fedland).

## The 21 partnership success factors

As the Superintendent of Golden Gate National Parks, Brian O’Neill and his staff earned a reputation for developing effective partnerships as a way of thinking about how best to accomplish the park’s mission and build a community of stewardship. The 21 partnership success factors cover all the basics of building long-term partner relationships.

Read more at [www.AmericanTrails.org/resources/advocacy](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/resources/advocacy).

## San Antonio’s greenway vision

Funding for much of the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trail System in San Antonio has been through a 1/8-cent local sales tax. The greenway network is named after former Mayor Howard W. Peak, who began formulating the idea of a ring of hike and bike trails in flood zones along city-owned creeks while working in the City’s Planning Department and while serving on the Zoning Commission.

The sales tax initiative approved by voters in 2000 raised \$20 million, enough to fund 11 miles of trails. In 2005, Peak led a campaign to renew the tax for \$45 million to add 38 miles of trails, and again in 2010 the voters approved the continuation of the sales tax designation to build an additional 30 miles of trail. The overall system goal is to ultimately yield 130 miles of trails and greenways along the stream corridors.

Read more at [www.AmericanTrails.org/resources/greenways](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/resources/greenways).



San Antonio River greenway





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# Trails training opportunities

***The National Trails Training Partnership is a nationwide coalition committed to improving skills for trail work.***

## American Trails "Advancing Trails Webinar Series"

American Trails is committed to bringing you the latest in state-of-the-art information on all aspects of trails and greenways. We are now pleased to offer webinars available for purchase through our online store.

We understand that during these tough economic times we cannot always travel in or out of state to attend important and informative meetings in the trails industry. You can purchase an archived webinar session if you missed it on the date and time it was held. American Trails members receive a discount on webinar registration fees!

### Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

We are pleased to now offer Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for our 2013 webinars (included in the fee) through the Texas Recreation and Park Society, an authorized independent CEU provider through the International Association for Continuing Education and Training. CEUs are only available when attending a live webinar and NOT for archived webinar purchases.

### Upcoming webinars

- OCTOBER 2013: *Natural Surface Trail Tread Maintenance ~ Part 2 of 3* (presented by Chinook Associates LLC)
- NOVEMBER 2013: *Equestrian Design and Construction* (presented by Hancock Resources LLC)
- JANUARY 2014: *Creative Fundraising for Trails* (presented by Conservation Planners and Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation)
- FEBRUARY 2014: *User Conflict ~ Part 3 of 3* (presented by Chinook Associates LLC)

### Archived webinars

- Sustainable Trails
- The Third Mode: Connecting Greenways, Trails, and Active Mobility
- Water Trail Accessibility
- Interpretive Panels for Trails
- Making the Case for Trails in Tight Economic Times

Check the American Trails website for more details and how to purchase an upcoming or archived webinar at [www.AmericanTrails.org/nttp/webinars-american-trails.html](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/nttp/webinars-american-trails.html).



## Sustainable Trails for All Conference at Crotched Mountain

A two-day, in-depth, field-oriented conference September 24-25, 2013 will cover the proposed Federal Trail Accessibility Guidelines, assessment for trail accessibility, and hands-on skills for planning and constructing accessible trails. Federal agencies, communities, and land trusts need to know how to sustainably build hiking trails that provide access for everyone. The location is the Crotched Mountain Foundation trail system in Greenfield, New Hampshire.

**For more information call (603) 547-3311, ext. 1481 or visit [www.crotchedmountain.org](http://www.crotchedmountain.org).**

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***For classes, conferences, and training opportunities: NTTP online calendar at [www.TrailsTraining.net](http://www.TrailsTraining.net)***



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**See more on our sponsors at [www.AmericanTrails.org/patrons.html](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/patrons.html)**

## Trails Training: Fall 2013 highlights

**For details of these and more training events, see the National Trails Training Partnership online calendar at [www.TrailsTraining.net](http://www.TrailsTraining.net).**

**September 15-17** – Pennsylvania Greenways & Trails Summit  
Franklin, PA

**September 21** – Trail Layout & Design  
• Minnewaska, NY

**September 24-25** – Sustainable Trails For All Conference  
• Greenfield, NH

**September 25** – American Trails Webinar: Introduction to Trail Maintenance Management Planning ~ Part 1 of 3

**September 28** – Florida National Scenic Trail Symposium  
• Sanford, FL

**October 1-3** – 2013 Walking Summit  
• Washington, DC

**October 2** – Mississippi Bike Summit  
• Jackson, MS

**October 4** – New England Bike-Walk Summit  
• Providence, RI

**October 8-10** – NRPA Congress and Exposition  
• Houston, TX

**October 9** – International Walk to School Day

**October 17** – Navigating MAP-21 Workshop  
• Omaha, NE

**October 24** – American Trails Webinar: Natural Surface Trail Tread Maintenance ~ Part 2 of 3

**October 25** – Wisconsin Bike Summit  
• Madison, WI

**October 27-30** – Mid America Trails & Greenways Conference  
• Matteson, IL

**November 2-7** – National Scenic & Historic Trails Conference  
• Tucson, AZ

**November 13-14** – Wildlife Habitat Council 25th Annual Symposium  
• Baltimore, MD



# Welcome new American Trails Patron Members!

More details at [www.AmericanTrails.org/patrons.html](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/patrons.html)

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## Tuolumne County Transportation Council

As the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for the County of Tuolumne and the City of Sonora, California, the TCTC is intended to act as the lead planning agency for

transportation projects and programs. The purpose of the planning process is to identify and develop transportation improvements that meet the region's mobility needs, contrib-

ute to the economic health of the region, and preserve the environmental quality of the region. Contact: Tyler Summersett, Trails Coordinator at (209) 533-5557 or [tsummersett@co.tuolumne.ca.us](mailto:tsummersett@co.tuolumne.ca.us)

## Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries



The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is constitutionally charged with the conservation and enhancement of the natural resources of the state. That includes providing recreational resources and opportunities to the citizens of Louisiana, including hunting, fishing, and outdoor activities such as hiking, trail riding, and enjoyment of our diverse ecosystems.

For information on ATV trail riding opportunities on the Louisiana Wildlife Management Area system, please visit [www.wlf.louisiana.gov](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov) or contact John Leslie at [jleslie@wlf.la.gov](mailto:jleslie@wlf.la.gov) or (225) 763-8584.



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Please visit [www.trailbuilders.org/northwest\\_trails](http://www.trailbuilders.org/northwest_trails) or contact Gerry at (360) 739-1123 or [northwesttrails@hotmail.com](mailto:northwesttrails@hotmail.com).





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# Twenty-something vision: The next generation of leadership

*Youth Scholars enliven the 2013 American Trails International Trails Symposium*

By Jeff Spellman

City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation, retired

After almost two long years in the making, this symposium was the first for American Trails to be dubbed “International Trails Symposium” as it was held on the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and hosted attendees from around the world including Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, France, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, South Korea, and the United Kingdom.

Through funds provided by generous sponsors, American Trails was proud to offer 18 scholarships from the American Trails Hulet Hornbeck Youth Scholarship Fund to youth between the ages of 18-26 to attend the 21st International Trails Symposium held at Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Radisson Hotel near Fountain Hills, Arizona.

In addition to attending the Symposium, chosen scholarship winners experienced a one-day field trip immersion focused on all types of recreational trails and resource management issues. They hiked and biked various desert trails and also paddled water trails on the lower Salt River. They learned about off-highway vehicle issues and they even experienced archery trails at Usery Mountain Park. To enhance the total experience the youth all stayed at the beautiful and historic Saguardo Lake Ranch at the base of Stewart Mountain Dam.

As a service-learning project, they worked on the Phon D. Sutton trail in the Tonto National Forest under the expert mentorship of our very own City of Phoenix park rangers Mike Faustich and Allyson Brennan. What is so cool about this particular project is that the trail has been adopted by the ASU Parks and Recreation Student Association, and the skills students learn at the symposium will continue to benefit this trail for years to come.

*“Our success in passing on leadership for conservation and outdoor recreation will boil down to respectful listening, solid understanding of the history of the field, clear expression of ideas, open-mindedness, trust, and commitment—just like the rest of life.”*

— Cate Bradley

*“As we professionals enter the waning years of our careers, we need to stop and listen to the young people. We have much to offer in mentoring them, but we need to do it through their eyes.”*

— Jeff Spellman

American Trails has always encouraged youth participation in their trails symposiums, but to grow this effort to the magnitude that we have accomplished this year was due first and foremost to the dream and vision of two very talented and passionate professionals: Cate Bradley of the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, and Phyllis Ralley of the Bureau of Land Management.

These ladies worked tirelessly to raise the funds necessary to support the American Trails Hulet Hornbeck Youth Scholarship Fund. They also assembled a team that would provide unique training and mentoring opportunities to inspire young adults to choose a career path so they, too, can leave a lasting legacy on the world—as Hulet did.

Bradley, whose job at the RTCA supports community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects, serves as the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Bradley has worked on many worthwhile projects, “but this one challenged and excited me on many levels,” she said.

Bradley loves the opportunity to work with youth to create bridges and bridge gaps between their perspectives and burgeoning experience to existing professional knowledge and the legacy of systems—natural, organizational, social, and political.

She continued, “Our success in passing on leadership for conservation and outdoor recreation will boil down to respectful listening, solid understanding of the history of the field, clear expression of ideas, open-mindedness, trust, and commitment—just like the rest of life.”

Hulet Hornbeck enjoyed a distinguished career as Chief of Land Acquisition for the East Bay Regional Park District from 1965 through 1985, and was well-known for his many years of volunteer efforts on behalf of trails. He was a key



player in organizing the first National Trails Symposium in 1971, and was a founding board member of the National Trails Council, predecessor to American Trails.

Hulet then actively and enthusiastically served on the National Trails Council for 17 years and on the Board of Directors for American Trails for over 16 years. He inspired the American Trails Board throughout the years with his zest for life, integrity, wisdom, passion for trails, and unwavering vision for preservation.

Hulet's vision was clear from the beginning of his career. "I am well aware of the potential of open lands and the experience they can provide," he said. "I believe they are essential to the well-being of our citizens and future generations." To prepare our next generation of leadership to care for the land as Hulet did, we need to listen to what our youth are saying about the future.

Sometimes we professionals think we have all the answers and that young people can only learn from us. Sometimes we might even doubt their integrity or passion for the land and natural resources we care so deeply about. Truth be told, the young people do realize how important open space is to the next generation and they are often out experiencing the wonders of nature on a regular basis.

They hike, bike, ride, run, climb, and do just about anything else you can imagine on trails as they have a passion for the outdoors that can't be matched. How they will approach our profession in the future is certainly different than how we have approached it.

**The next generation** continued on page 36



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## The next generation of leadership *continued*

As we professionals enter the waning years of our careers, we need to stop and listen to the young people. We have much to offer in mentoring them, but we need to do it through their eyes. To do just that, our 18 youth scholars worked in teams of two or three to seek out Symposium attendees with expert knowledge of the program themes to learn more about the best practices of the different fields, as well as future trends and needs. On the last day of the Symposium, during a three-hour “20-Something Vision” session, the youth teams presented their perceptions and experiences along with what they see as the needs for the future.

As the planning committee had hoped, the benefits of this youth scholarship program went well beyond what the youth gained from attending. What professionals in the field learned from the interactions with these youth during the Symposium was summed up in a thank-you note sent to the youth from Bob Ratcliffe of the National Park Service, whose agency helped to sponsor the youth program:

*I just wanted to express my thanks for your hard work during the International Trails Symposium — your participation greatly enlivened, enriched, and energized the proceedings and networking for all. I know I very much enjoyed my day outdoors recreating and learning so much from all of you. It was the best day of my year so far — and it will be hard to beat!*

*I wanted to especially thank again Jeff, Amy, Cate, Candace, Phyllis, Bill, John, Lelia, and all the mentors and others — particularly the staff of American Trails — who helped make the program a success. I also wanted to share that many times during the conference I was approached by folks who told me how impressed they were with all the emerging young leaders — your collective energy, enthusiasm, professional skills, and dedication to the spirit and importance of trails inspired many.*

*I hope that our paths cross in the future and wish you all the best success as you pursue combining your passion with your careers. Happy Trails!*

— Bob Ratcliffe, Chief, Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Programs, National Park Service

And, of course, none of this would have been possible without the financial support of our sponsors. The scholarship committee had this to say about their commitment:

*We would like to thank you and your staff for your assistance with the full and rewarding activities day on April 13. We have just received our follow-up survey back from those emerging leaders and they were unanimous in rating their day in the field “AWESOME!” Your kindness in comping the activity, or greatly reducing your fee, allowed us to make sure they had a well-rounded, informative and fun, fun, fun day! A full list of the scholarship sponsors can be found on the American Trails website.*



**Youth scholarship recipient Miya Akiyama with mentor Michael Haynes, Director of TransActive Solutions in Canada**

I asked the other half of the dynamic duo what her vision is for the next generation of leadership. Phyllis Ralley told me,

*In reviewing the over 70 applications that we received for the scholarships, I paid special attention to their essays.*

*I was blown away by the passion expressed by this group of trail lovers. Many of them credited their parents with taking them to the outdoors. Some have only recently come to know and love the natural world.*

We often hear the distress voiced by advocates like Richard Louv, author of

*“Last Child in the Woods,” admonishing that we must take young people to the land so that they get it, understand the value, and go on to protect and defend it. I can tell you that this group of scholarship winners gets it, boy do they get it, and if we can just stay out of their way, I am confident they will go forth and save the world, the natural world.*

The Symposium Youth Scholarship Committee members were honored to have this opportunity to serve:

Amy Camp, American Trails Board  
Cate Bradley, National Park Service  
Jeff Spellman, City of Phoenix (retired)  
Phyllis Ralley, Bureau of Land Management  
Bill Gibson, Bureau of Land Management  
John Favro, Chairman, American Trails Board of Directors  
Candace Mitchell, Symposium Communications Specialist  
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# American Trails Member Organizations

Our members are continuing to help us advocate for your interests and making it possible to provide you access to thousands of trails and greenways resources on the American Trails website!

Join and review all the benefits online today at [www.AmericanTrails.org](http://www.AmericanTrails.org) or fill and mail in the membership form on page 33.

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- East Bay Regional Park District
- East Coast Greenway Alliance
- Erie Canalway NHC
- Exacta, Colombia
- Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition
- Forest Preserve Dist. of DuPage Co.
- Forever Green Council
- Georgia River Network
- Jeffrey Goetter
- Going Coastal, Inc.
- Greens Bayou Corridor Coalition
- Gail Hanna
- Robert & Bonnie Hargis
- Headwaters Trail System
- Hike BC / National Hiking Trail of BC
- Kansas Horse Council
- David Kaplan
- Tom Kohley
- Land Use Recreation Planning Support
- League of American Bicyclists
- Local Motion
- Bill Manning
- Meyerson Consulting
- Miami and Erie Canal Corridor Association
- Theodore Mitchell
- Morton Trails
- Jane Murphy
- National Coast Trail Association
- National Trail of Canada
- Native Trails, LLC
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection - Green Acres Program
- Northern Forest Canoe Trail
- Northumberland County Forest
- Adam Nutting
- NY-NJ Trail Conference
- Oakland County Parks and Recreation
- Jeff Olson
- Outdoor Recreation Council
- Overmountain Victory Trail Association
- Palmetto Conservation Foundation
- Parks & Trails Council of MN
- Phyllis Wheatley Community Center
- Pima Trails Association
- Polk County Conservation Board
- Quad Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Nancy Ream
- Ride with Respect
- Riparian Systems Consulting
- Brandon Ross
- Salmon Valley Stewardship
- Santa Clara County Open Space Authority
- Santa Fe Trail Association
- Saskatchewan Parks Service
- Ingrid Schneider
- Schuylkill River National & State Heritage Area
- Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship
- Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals
- Southwest Conservation Corps - Arizona
- Jim Stone
- Student Conservation Association - Idaho
- Student Conservation Association - Virginia
- Tahoe Pyramid Bikeway
- Teton Valley Trails & Pathways
- The Corps Network
- The Outside Las Vegas Foundation
- Town of Marana
- Trails & Bikeways Council of Greater Redding
- Trails for Illinois
- Trans Canada Trail
- Tread Lightly!
- Eric Troyer
- Volunteers for Outdoor California
- Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado
- Volunteers for Outdoor Missouri
- Tim Watson
- Terry Whaley
- Wheels on Trails Organization
- Whiterock Conservancy
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Young American Conservation Corps

## AFFILIATES

- Adventure Cycling Association
- Advocacy Advance
- Alberta TrailNet
- Allegheny Ridge Corporation
- American Discovery Trail Society
- American Hiking Society
- Appalachian Trail Conservancy
- Atvquadswap.com
- Lee Ayres
- Bay State Trail Riders Association



# Carolina Thread Trail System

In recent years the Charlotte region has embraced a vision to connect regional destinations, rural towns, urban cores, open spaces, and natural areas with trails, greenways, and blueways. Community, government, and business leaders alike wanted to help conserve green space, encourage people to explore the outdoors, attract visitors, and provide alternative transportation options for one of the fastest growing regions in our country.

Through that extensive community planning effort, the Carolina Thread Trail was born. Known locally as The Thread, this 15-county, two-state initiative will ultimately link an estimated 2.3 million people with more than 1,400 miles of trail. Today, people can bike, walk, or hike the 119 miles of open trails that are part of The Thread.

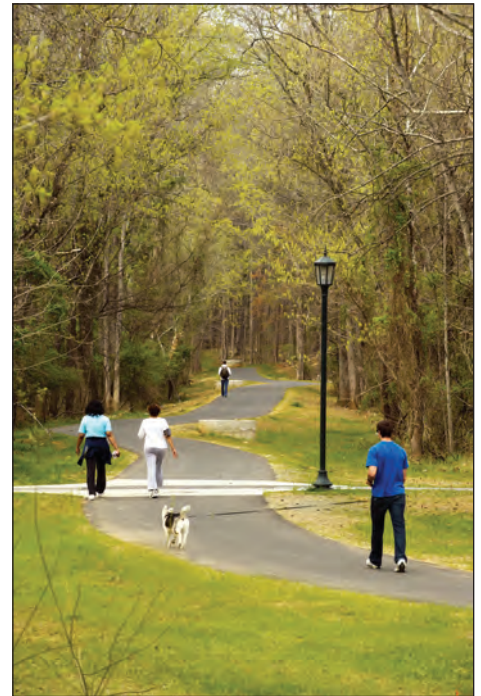
The system highlights the diverse topography, distinct rural landscapes, and ecologically rich areas that are preserving important waterways. It also links economic centers, businesses, and retail shops within our cities and towns. The Thread provides a pathway to discover local natural treasures and places of historic and cultural significance.

Through plans adopted by 78 local governments, leaders are reaching across

jurisdictional lines to create a connected network. Local leaders are working together to ensure the planning and development of trail segments reflect the character and aspirations of each community. A strong volunteer core—more than 600 and growing—is contributing sweat equity to build and maintain stretches of natural surface trail.

More than \$23 million in funding has been committed through federal, state, and local sources. The Thread's own privately funded grants program has already provided more than \$3 million to local communities to help leverage other funding sources. Many local businesses welcome trails near their establishments and some even offer discounts to users and name products in reference to popular trails.

In the City of Charlotte, commitment and support started from the top with former Mayor Anthony Foxx, now U.S. Transportation Secretary. As Mayor, Foxx promoted a vision and advocated for policies to make the city more pedestrian and bike friendly. He also championed and won support for funding a 26-mile cross-county trail through Charlotte. This trail represents the central segment of The Thread's 140 mile north-south spine.



***Along the popular Ruth G. Shaw Trail located north of Uptown Charlotte***

The Thread was among the legacy initiatives highlighted during the 2012 Democratic National Convention to promote walkable, bikeable, and sustainable communities. As a trail user and biker, Secretary Foxx regularly led other officials on bike tours around the city to educate and highlight alternative transportation options and the city's bike and eco-friendly projects.

The Carolina Thread Trail board and staff congratulate and thank Secretary Foxx for being a friend to The Thread as a councilman and mayor of Charlotte. As someone who knows the economic and community importance of trails and alternative transportation, we believe Secretary Foxx will be an ally and asset to our country's efforts to make trails and greenways important in his comprehensive and balanced approach to our nation's transportation progress.

***Learn more about the Carolina Thread Trail at [www.carolinathreadtrail.org](http://www.carolinathreadtrail.org).***

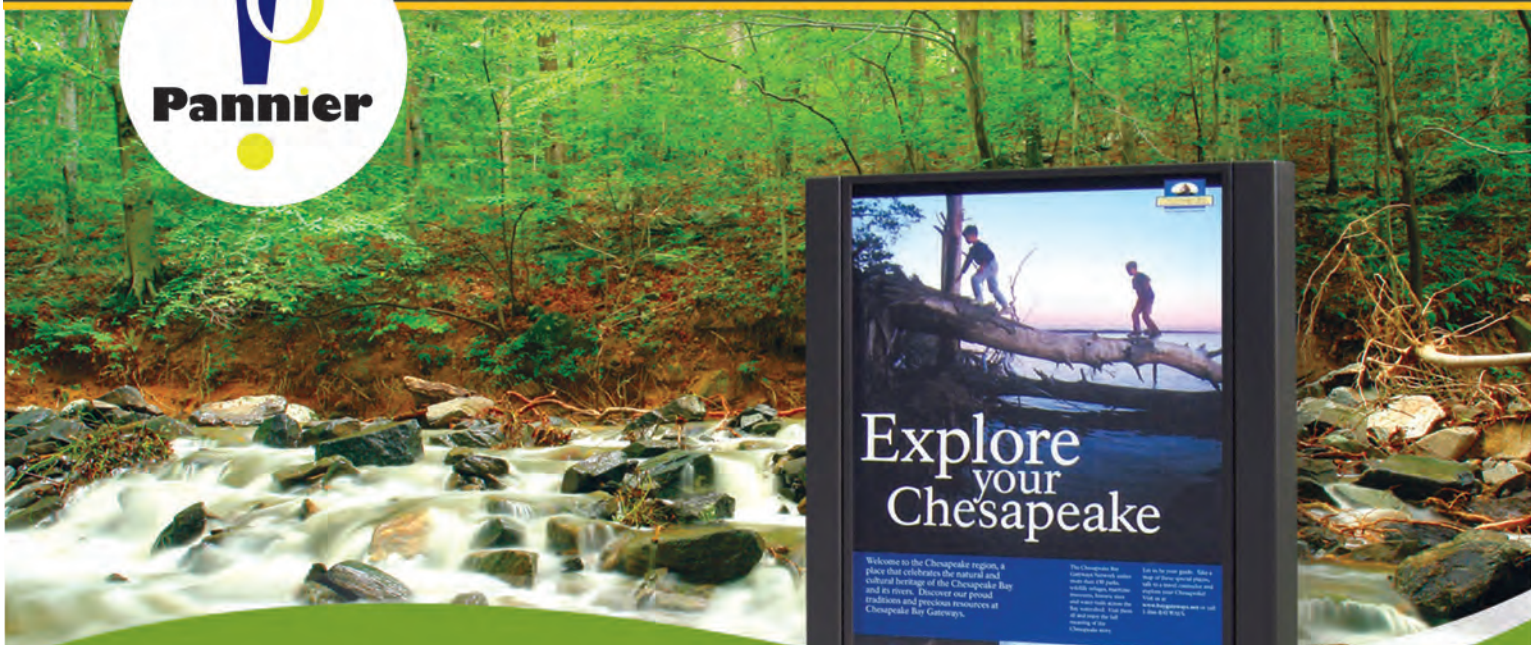


***The Little Sugar Creek Greenway connects trail users to businesses, restaurants, parks, and natural areas along six miles of the now restored stream corridor***





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